

# Police Service Dogs On Tour

by H.H. Ruitenbeck,  
Assistant Liaison Officer, The Hague, Netherlands

S/Sgt. G.G. Radke, head trainer, RCMP Police Dog Service Training Centre, Innisfail, Alberta, and Sgt. R.J. Sheppard, RCMP Headquarters Training Research Unit, Ottawa, Ontario, visited the United Kingdom, Hungary and the Netherlands from February 21 to March 12, 1993, observing police dog training procedures and facilities in those countries.

Their tour commenced with a week in London, observing the training procedures and facilities. Next they travelled to Budapest, to see how they handled police dog training in that country. The last stop was the Netherlands, where they spent the third week of their hectic tour. One of the highlights of the tour was their visit to the Municipal Police Training Centre in Rotterdam, to study the science of odour/scent detection.

The technique goes something like this: a suspect drops a gun, knife or some personal item(s) at the scene of a crime. The items are retrieved, individually wrapped in a piece of special preserving cloth and placed in air-tight containers. Later, when suspects are brought in, each one is asked to handle a small metal pipe, on which their scent is collected. Each handled pipe is wrapped in preserving cloth and individually sealed in air-tight containers. Next, the metal pipes containing the odour of the suspect or suspects are

arranged in a row at the edge of a table. A specially-trained dog is then allowed to smell a piece of cloth containing the odour from an item retrieved at the crime scene. If the dog detects a match between the scent on the cloth and one of the pipes he will indicate this by some predetermined sign, such as a bark or sitting.



(L-R): S/Sgt. Radke, Adjudante J.C. de Bruin and Adjudante J. Sterk, Rotterdam Training Facility, and Sgt. Sheppard.

This particular technique has proven extremely successful and highly beneficial to the judicial authorities as well as the police in the Netherlands, and is currently being studied for its evidence and criminal identification potential by the Force. ■