

in 1916 that "... Police dogs had proved a distinct acquisition to the Force."⁸

The British police canine units were in limbo during World War II as the nation geared for war and military production while undergoing aerial bombings. Immediately after the war, however, several units were made operative. One of the first was the Metropolitan Police District which, in 1946, put six trained Labradors into service.⁹

The Lancashire Constabulary, then the second largest in the United Kingdom, began its program in 1951. Previously it had experimented with four bloodhounds for tracking and ten Labradors for patrol but had little success with either breed. In 1951, Lancashire Constabulary officials stopped using these two breeds in favor of Doberman pinschers and German shepherds.¹⁰ The Cheshire,¹¹ Kent¹² and Buckinghamshire¹³ constabularies also started canine units in 1951, but on a smaller scale than in Lancashire.

In 1954, Britain's Home Office noted how these five canine programs, as well as units in 23 other of the 126 forces in England and Wales, were

operating and began an evaluation. In that year, 266 dogs were operational in the 28 forces, including 140 in the Metropolitan Police alone.¹⁴

The police in the United Kingdom have found the use of dogs important in protecting the public. In fact, in 1981 there were 1,968 dogs attached to forces in England and Wales. Of these, 1,712 were used for police patrol purposes while 256 were used for such specialist duties as searching for drugs, explosives and buried bodies. However, the majority were trained to assist in general patrol duties and to seek missing children and adults, suspected criminals, and escaped prisoners. By far the greatest number of the UK's 1,968 dogs were German shepherds.¹⁵ Other breeds used included Labrador retrievers, Doberman pinschers, border collies, Rottweilers, Bouviers and Groendaels.

Police Dogs in the United States

Police canine units have taken the United States by storm. In fact, since the first program in 1907, more than 1,000 American forces have had units at some time, or presently do.

There have been two distinct eras in United States police canine programs. The Early Era ran from 1907 to 1952 and included 13 programs in 12 forces. The Modern Era began in 1954 and continues today. There were no canine programs in the United States from 1952-1954.¹⁶

8. *The Police Review* 24 (February 25, 1916), p. 90.

9. Sir John Nott-Bower, "Development and Use of Police Dogs in London," *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, 24 (September 1955), p. 6.

10. Lancashire County, Lancashire Constabulary. *Report on the Lancashire Constabulary Dog Section*, (n.d.), p. 1.

11. R. W. James, *To the Best of Our Skill and Knowledge: A Short History of the Cheshire Constabulary 1857-1957*, p. 103.

12. *The Kent Police Centenary: Recollections of a Hundred Years*, 1957, p. 95.

13. Information obtained in correspondence with Chief Constable Peter M. Imbert, of the Thames Valley Police, England, to John Woodcock, chief constable of the South Wales Constabulary, Bridgend, on January 18, 1983.

14. Great Britain. Home Office, *Working Party on Police, Report*. London: Whitehall, June 20, 1957, p. 2.

15. *Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary for the Year 1981*. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, July 20, 1982, section 2.24.

16. Samuel G. Chapman, *Police Dogs in America*. Norman, Oklahoma: The Bureau of Government Research, University of Oklahoma, 1979, p. 6.