

in 1939. It was then that Dale was reunited with Sergeant Cawsey to live out his final days.⁴⁸ Dale was humanely destroyed on September 6, 1941, after suffering from an internal growth for some time. He had given nine years of outstanding service, and had been adjudged the best canine policeman in Canada. He held a Diploma of Honour from the Dog World of Chicago and had also been awarded "... the Humane Society Certificate for rescuing an Alberta girl from drowning, and for his general proficiency in police work, as well as in life-saving tests".⁴⁹

The RCMP got the Formal Era off to a good start. Individuals such as Sergeant Cawsey and Superintendent Ernest W. Bavin and superior animals like Dale and Black Lux saw to that.

Did the Formal Era Start Earlier?

There is mounting evidence which suggests that the RCMP program of 1935 was not the first one in Canada. For example, in 1951, RCMP dog trainer Corporal G. A. Teeft noted that: "A few Canadian municipal law enforcement bodies tried out one or two dogs [before 1935] but no great progress was made."⁵⁰ Corporal Teeft added that he thought tracking dogs would have been helpful to forces that dealt with the Doukhobor disorders in British Columbia in 1931. He wrote: "... the Chief Constable of the New Westminster City Police... had a personal know-

ledge of the capabilities of trained dogs...."⁵¹

There could well have been a program predating 1935 in New Westminster. A letter, set out below, appeared in a book apparently prepared for advertising purposes by a California dog trainer who had had an earlier role with the New Westminster Police Department's police dog training school.⁵²

POLICE DEPARTMENT

John Cameron, Chief of Police

New Westminster, B.C., May 11, 1931

To the Chiefs of Police or Sheriffs:

The bearer, Mr. C. A. Roy, is en route to Mexico with a number of Doberman pinschers (Police Dogs) Mr. Roy has been the trainer of our Police Dog Training School for a number of years and the dogs he has with him have been used by this department in a number of cases with excellent results.

I would ask as a special favour to allow him to demonstrate their capabilities, especially the dog "Arno." This dog has worked with me on several cases; also the dog "Artis," who for trailing has no equal.

*Yours truly
S. W. BASS
Deputy Chief of Police.*

Current New Westminster Police Department dog handler Constable Elmer Lazar has attempted to secure details of the program. As yet, however, the program has not been confirmed with

48. R. C. Rathbone, "The Silent Partner," *RCMP Quarterly*, 4 (July 1936), pp. 50-51, and "Canine Old Timer Passes On," *RCMP Quarterly*, 9 (October 1941), p. 210.

49. "Canine Old Timer Passes On," *op. cit.*, pp. 209-210.

50. Teeft, "Dogs of the RCMP," *op. cit.*, p. 192.

51. *Ibid.*, p. 194.

52. Charles A. Roy, *Unrevealed Secrets About Training Your Dog*. San Francisco: Alex Dulfer Printing Company, 1936, p. 31.