

Metropolitan Police Dog Training Establishment

Official opening. - Sir John Nott-Bower K.C.V.O.

Dog Demonstration

(1) Obedience by handlers under training

P.C. Brown	- 'X' Division	- Dog Harvey
P.C. Stanners	- 'W' Division	- " Pepi
" Hackett	- Royal Ulster Constabulary	- " Bruno
" McClean	- " " "	- " Bruce
" Roche	- Glasgow City	- " Prince
" Boulton	- " "	- " Shan

- * P.C. William Hackett is attached to the Office.
of the Commissioner R.C. Belfast.
P.C. William McClean R.C. Belfast.
P.C. James Roche is attached to Eastern Division.
Glasgow City Police.
P.C. Frederick Boulton is attached to Northern Division.
Glasgow City Police.

(ii) Obedience by trained handlers

- P.C. 236 Holman 'W' Division Dog "Rex III".
Has over 70 arrests. Most recent the arrest of
armed man.
- P.C. 368 Cahill 'X' Division Dog "Alexis".
Used as patrol in residential area Harrow. Credited
with 5 arrests.
- P.C. 536 Grimshaw-Brown 'X' Division Dog "Rap".
Appeared in film "Street Corner." Has 34 arrests.
More recent arrest of man in connection with smash
and grab. Commended at Sessions for arrest of
factory breakers.
- P.C. Hodge 'T' Division Dog "Earl".
Used as patrol dog at Ealing. Has over 30 arrests.
Concerned in round-up of youth in Hyde Park with
dog Rajah.
- X
P.C. 447 Durman 'Z' Division Dog "Trigger".
Used mainly in Kenley area.
Credited with 4 arrests.
Good scent - found stolen handbag in undergrowth.
- tracked from hospital to find missing nurse.
- P.C. 325 Watson 'V' Division Dog "Rajah".
Now used in Surbiton and Esher areas.
Credited 66 arrests. Concerned with "Earl" in
round-up in Hyde Park.
- P.C. 140 Churchman 'V' Division Dog "Rex 7".
Used in Wimbledon district. Credited with
21 arrests. Good tracker, was responsible for
arrest of 2 men found in outside W.C. of dwelling
house after long search of gardens.
- P.C. 184 White 'K' Division Dog "Sabu".
Used in Forest Gate area - built up.
Credited with 6 arrests mainly lead stealers
from bombed buildings.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DOGS

The first duty of the Police is to prevent crime. Since the war the Metropolitan Police have been fighting crime in a densely populated area of nearly 750 square miles with nearly 4,000 men short of their authorised establishment. The employment of dogs has been one answer to the manpower problem - an answer which in the Metropolitan Police District has given cause for satisfaction.

Dogs were first used by the Metropolitan Police in 1938, when an experiment was made on one Division with two Labradors. There was no proper training, however, either of the dogs or of police officers to handle them, and the experiment was abandoned, the two dogs eventually being handed over to the Cheshire Constabulary.

In 1946 six Labradors were put through a course of training which lasted about 3 months, at the end of which they were posted to various Divisions. They were put to good use in Hyde Park, where handbag snatching had been a problem for a number of years. In 1948, 219 cases of handbag larcenies came to the notice of police in Hyde Park. In 1953 the number of cases was down to 46.

Alsations have been found to be an ideal breed for general police work, but Labradors and other types of dogs are also used. The Labradors have been found excellent for protection duties and duties in Central London where they are multi-handled, i.e., each dog being handled by a number of police officers.

Metropolitan Police dogs perform a variety of duties. Their main job is to detect and detain criminals but they are also trained for security work and in assisting their handlers on ordinary beat duties in the recovery of property, anti-hooliganism and also as a deterrent to crime by their presence alone in any area.

Tracking wanted or missing persons even on a trail left a number of hours previously is an important feature of police dog work.

Except for certain special duties, all dogs live at the homes of their handlers, where they are provided with kennels. These dogs can track, search and chase equally well. Normally each dog patrols a beat for seven hours a day with its handler, and in effect provides the Officer with an extra pair of eyes and ears, and a really efficient nose. With their uncanny knack of sensing the presence of strangers, and their ability to scent and ferret out persons hiding, the dogs have proved of great assistance to the P.C. on beat at night, and have provided him with excellent company.

The P.Cs employed as handlers receive no extra pay, but there are always plenty of volunteers. Most of the handlers have had some experience with dogs or animals. Some were gamekeepers, shepherds or dog breeders before joining the Metropolitan Police. Each man undergoes preliminary training for three months with a dog before taking up regular patrol duties with the dog. His duty then consists of eight hours - seven hours on the beat, and one hour for grooming and individual training of his dog. One day a fortnight each handler and dog receives refresher training.

The training of Metropolitan Police dogs is under the general direction of Captain J.M. Rymer-Jones, C.B.E., M.C., one time Inspector-General of the Palestine Police, and now Assistant Commissioner at New Scotland Yard. This officer has had a comprehensive experience in connection with the training and use of police dogs in the Middle East.

The authorised establishment of dogs in the Metropolitan Police is 158. The present strength is 122. The establishment will not be completed for some time, as each dog has three months training, and only a limited number can be put through the course together at the Training Centre.

Dogs and handlers have been trained by the Metropolitan Police for provincial and overseas forces.

New Scotland Yard.
June, 1954.

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