

Name _____ Date _____

Dox - “Il Gigante”

One of the greatest crime fighters of all time was a police dog named Dox. Dox lived in Italy. Italian thieves called him “Il Gigante” (the giant). His owner Maimone, a policeman, trained him well. Dox tracked down so many thieves that the police gave him the rank of corporal. Even as a pup, Dox could track anyone his owner asked him to. His keen nose was soon well known in that part of the city where his owner lived. He won many contests for Maimone.

Word of this amazing dog reached the police of high rank. They told Maimone that he could use Dox in police work. The dog’s first test came in Turin, a city in northern Italy. A shop had been robbed of jewels. Dox picked up the scent of the thieves and led the police on a wild chase. Within an hour he had tracked the robbers to their hiding place on the other side of the town.

One day Dox was out for a stroll with Maimone. All at once he gave a tug at his leash. Then he was off and running. He had picked up a scent. He stopped at the door of a restaurant. Maimone thought the dog had simply smelled the food, but dashed through the open door and charged one of the diners. The man was a thief Dox had helped to capture six years ago. The thief had just escaped from prison. Dox had picked up his scent on the crowded street. He had recognized it and given chase. Once again, the thief had been caught.

This amazing dog even helped to solve a crime that caused a stir in many countries. Norman Donges had been a spy for the United States. He was found dead in the front seat of his car not far from Rome. He had been choked to death. The crime was talked about in many countries. Maimone and Dox were put on the case. Dox sniffed around the car at the scene of the crime. The scent he picked up was too faint to be followed. Dog and master returned to Rome.

There they began to search through the streets of the city. The hunt went on for three days. Then, as they entered a huge crowded square, Dox picked up the scent. Tugging hard on his leash, he broke through the crowd and cornered three young toughs who were hanging around the plaza. When they were questioned by the police, one of the men confessed that he had killed Donges in a fight.

After Dox had tracked down sixty persons who were wanted by the police, thugs decided to kill him. A hired gunman watched until Dox was alone. Then, close up, he fired at him. The dog collapsed, and the gunman fled. He was certain that he had killed “Il Gigante.” Imagine his surprise when, after he had traveled a good distance away from where Dox was lying, a bolt of grey fury shot at him from bushes at the side of the road. Dox’s right paw had been shattered, but he had trailed the gunman on three legs. He stood over the man, teeth bared, and waited for Maimone to catch up.

Dox stopped working at the age of thirteen. He had seven bullet wounds in his furry body. He had won dozens of ribbons in tracking contests with police dogs from many countries. He was, without doubt, one of the greatest crime fighters of all.