

developments, but in view of the allegations against Stokes members of the R.C.M.P. kept the barns under close observation.

For several days nothing happened. Then, on the evening of Apr. 22, 1947, two investigators took up positions some 40 yards apart in a bush about 30 yards from a highway and 300 yards from the barns. This location, midway between the barns and Stokes' home, was the nearest hiding-place from which the investigators could see what was going on without being seen themselves.

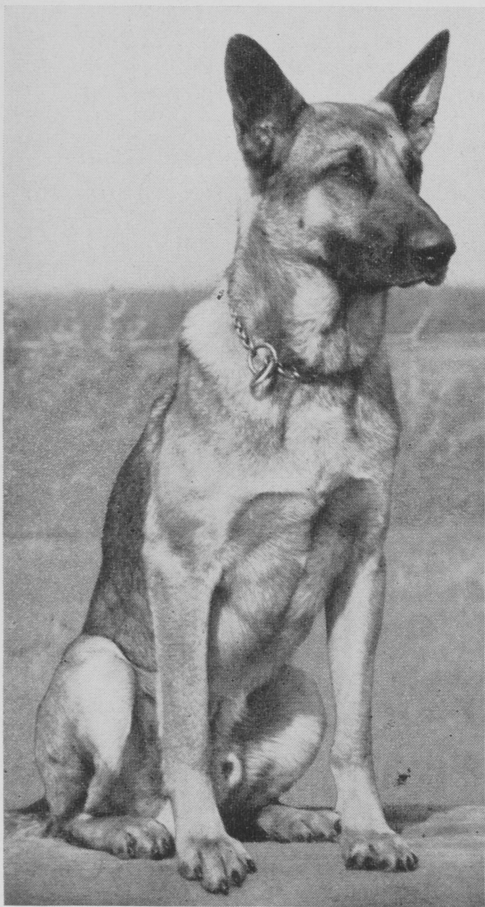
There was no moonlight, but the night was calm and clear. About 10.15 footsteps sounded, coming down the highway not far from where one of the in-

vestigators was concealed. As the steps drew nearer a man recognized as Stokes was seen to leave the road in the direction of the barns and disappear in the darkness.

A few minutes later and before the culprit could be located, the investigators saw flames issuing from one of the barns and heard running steps coming toward them on the road. The fleeing man, when about 75 yards away apparently saw them, for he jumped across a ditch and headed across a stretch of marshland. By the use of flashlights Stokes was recognized and pursued, but he was too far ahead and eluded capture. The investigators turned their attention to the flaming barn, but it was beyond saving; within a few seconds it had become enveloped by fire.

Inquiries at Stokes' home shortly afterwards revealed that he was not there, so with the assistance of Chief of Police J. A. Bowes of Sackville the place was kept under surveillance. Half an hour after midnight Stokes was seen to emerge from among some trees about 150 yards away and to walk down the road to his house. He was arrested upon arrival and it was noticed that he wasn't in possession of a grey overcoat which he had worn immediately before and during the fire. He had evidently been in some deep grass or bushes, for his pant legs were wet almost to the knees. However, he would admit nothing beyond stating he had gone for a stroll and that his pants got wet when he took a short cut on the way home.

Police Dog Wolf was put to work on the case. Given the scent the dog was led to the spot where the suspect was first seen returning home. He picked up the trail without trouble and backtracked over it through fields, woods and swamps to a tree stump on the side of the highway that goes past the destroyed barn. The missing coat was hidden under this stump, and a pair of woollen gloves taken from one of its pockets was saturated with kerosene—



Reg'n. No. 167-Y, Police Service
Dog Wolf.