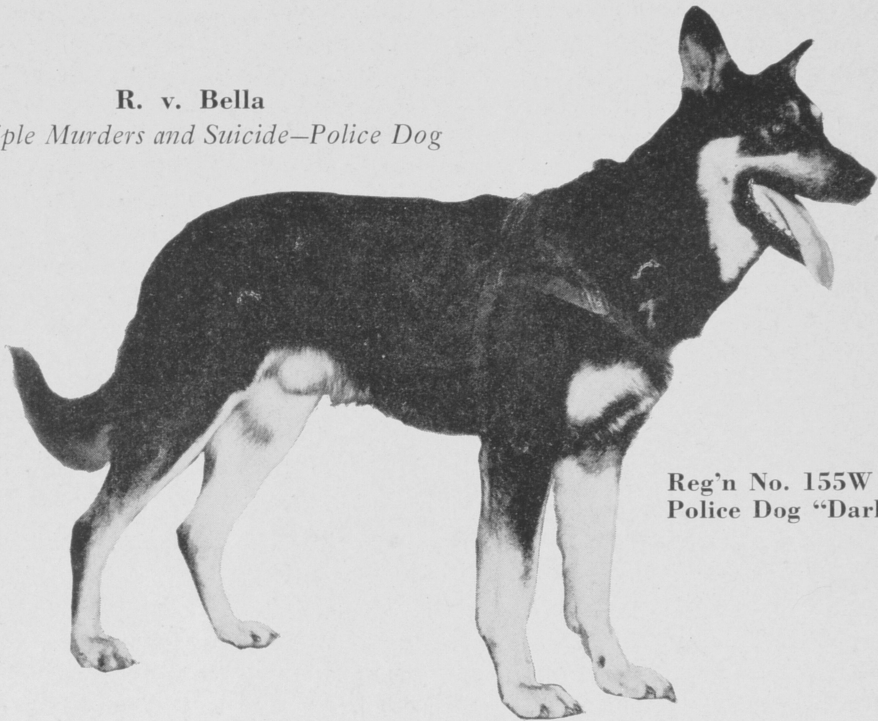


Notes on Recent Cases

R. v. Bella

Multiple Murders and Suicide—Police Dog



Reg'n No. 155W
Police Dog "Dark"

This case in which 20 members of the R.C.M.P. joined in a man hunt for a dangerous murderer illustrates the value of properly trained dogs in police work.

On June 1, 1944, the peaceful district of Brewer, Sask., was shocked by the brutal slaying of three of its citizens and the wounding of another. About 9.30 p.m. little Elmer Mann told a neighbour that a man had killed his "mama and grandma with a gun". The R.C.M.P. at Yorkton were immediately notified, and soon afterwards the bodies of two women were found on a lonely side road north of Melville, Sask. Each had died from a gunshot wound inflicted by a .22 calibre rifle, and Anton Osicki, a farmer who lived nearby, identified them as his wife and married daughter. He was worried about his other daughter who had left Brewer earlier in the evening but had not yet reached home.

A wagon and team were found in the

bush not far from where the dead women had been discovered and in the box of the wagon was the body of Helen Osicki, who also had died from a gunshot wound in the head. Just prior to this latter discovery word was received that John Woloschuk, the son of another farmer in the district, had been shot and wounded.

Pte. Julius Bella, a soldier home on farm leave, was suspected. Jealous of the attentions Woloschuk had been paying to Miss Osicki, he had previously threatened her, and on the night of the crimes was seen on a bicycle in the vicinity of the Osicki home.

A heavy rain fell during most of the all-night search that ensued. At dawn when the suspect's home was surrounded and searched under a warrant it was learned that his father owned a .22 calibre rifle which was missing as were 24 rounds of ammunition. The bicycle was found abandoned near a community