

would've gotten out whether I would have wanted to stay or not.

Sure enough, at the end of the five years, I would have loved to have stayed. Of course I could have stayed but ...

E.R.: But you decided to transfer out.

E.H.: I asked to come out, after five years in the North. I had taken an instructor's course, came out at the top of that class, and they gave me a promotion. So right away, they sent me to National Defence Headquarters in Calgary.

E.R.: After you'd left the North, did you ever keep in touch with Insp. Eames and the Vervilles? Did you correspond with them?

E.H.: Not too much. I wasn't too good at writing letters and that type of thing. Dr. Urquhart was different; he came to see me and the wife in Calgary. Dick North and I have been in touch; we're exchanging letters to this day.

E.R.: I understand that you are very good friends with Mr. North. He has another book out called, *Track Down: The Search for the Mad Trapper*.

E.H.: Yes, that's his second one. It's a really good book. I think it's the best research work done into who the Mad Trapper was.

E.R.: There is one last question that needs to be answered. From what I understand, they're trying to exhume the Mad Trapper's body to get more identifying evidence, to try to confirm his identity. Hopefully one day they'll be able to do it, but there's a lot of comparisons to different individuals in this new book. I think one of them in here — I won't go into any more details for the people who want to read the book and find out for themselves — one character will maybe shed light on who Albert Johnson really was.

E.H.: I think he could be correct at that. Mind you, I don't know, except that his shooting, his marksmanship indicates that he was on a very snapshot-type of way.

E.R.: Now, thinking back, on the whole Mad Trapper incident, was there anything that you thought of that could have changed the outset of it? Like something that could have been done in a different way, that may have changed and maybe even shortened the search for him, or that may have prevented the time and manpower from being expended?

E.H.: No, I would think not. And I give a great deal of credit to Insp. Eames. He was a great leader, the best type of man to be in charge. He was a good traveller, he understood the North and he handled men well.

E.R.: This is truly a remarkable story, Major Hersey. I found the story fascinating, but unfortunately there's a lot of people out there that don't know the story. I was one of those until I met Gerry McMillan and he told me about you and I got the chance to read some books. It's an amazing piece of Canadian History and it was really an honor to meet you and to get a first-hand explanation of what happened. I've enjoyed the experience.

G.M.: Is there anything Major Hersey that maybe you felt should be said, or is missing in all the books that have been printed on this story?

E.H.: Well, in all the stuff that has been written so far, I don't think that proper credit has been given to Insp. Eames. It was a tough job for the RCMP. It couldn't have been tougher. To have a man like that turn up there, in that territory, miles and miles away ... It was a very difficult situation for the RCMP. ❖