
The Death of Constable Counsell

THE NAME of Reg. No. 11298 Constable Frederick Gordon Frank Counsell now has to be added to the Roll of those in this Force who have given their lives in the performance of their duty. Constable Counsell was instantly killed in the early morning of May 22. He was endeavouring to arrest Charles M. Hanson at the latter's farm about two miles southwest of Parkland, Alberta.

Hanson had shot and fatally wounded his son on the evening of May 21, following a domestic quarrel, and Constable Counsell was a member of a party sent to the scene of the crime from Lethbridge Sub-Division H.Q. When police tried to take Hanson into custody, he sought refuge in the attic of his home. After searching the lower floors, the courageous Constable was ascending the attic stairway when Hanson shot him through the head. Hanson was later shot and wounded by another member of the party who had taken cover in a nearby building, and fired at the slayer as he showed himself at a window. Later Hanson was found dead, apparently a suicide.

The late Constable was born at Vancouver, B.C., on August 15, 1909. He joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on March 21, 1932. After completing his training at Regina, he was stationed at Banff and also at Field, B.C., being transferred to Lethbridge on December 28, 1936. Here he served until his death.

Prior to joining the Force Constable Counsell was for two years with the Royal Canadian Air Force, at Camp Borden, with rank of Aircraftsman. He was keen and intelligent and showed a marked aptitude for police work. A carpenter by trade, he was regarded also as a very good soldier. Only last October Counsell married Miss Audrey Blake, daughter of Reg. No. 4016 ex-Staff Sergeant G. E. Blake.

Constable Counsell leaves to mourn him his mother, Mrs. Louisa Wise, of Vancouver, B.C., and his young widow. The sympathy of all his comrades goes to these grief-stricken relatives so suddenly bereaved.

The funeral service was conducted in St. Augustine's Anglican Church, Lethbridge, on May 25, 1940, the Reverend P. C. Wade officiating. Burial took place in the R.C.M.P. plot, Anglican Cemetery. Members of Lethbridge Sub-Division composed the Firing Party and acted as pallbearers. The funeral was attended by a host of citizens, including representatives of the City Police; Lethbridge Garrison, C.A.S.F. The latter unit furnished a trumpeter for the sounding of the Last Post.

Among the mourners were his father-in-law, Mr. Blake; Mr. Geo. Henwood, Deputy Attorney General of Alberta; Assistant Commissioner W. F. W. Hancock and Inspector J. Brunet.

