

# I Remember Jack Bigg

by E. H. ANDREW



**Ex-Sgt. Jack Bigg.**

I read an obituary notice in the Quarterly, Volume 40 No. 4, concerning an old friend, ex-Sgt. F. J. "Jack" Bigg. Jack was a friend of mine for many years, and more than being just a friend, he was quite a man as well. Much more should be said about him than can be written in the space allotted for an obituary notice.

I've known Jack since he rejoined the RCMP in 1947, after serving in the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery from November, 1939. He had been a member of the British Expeditionary Force in France, and was safely evacuated to England shortly before Dunkirk. Prior to serving with the army, Jack had been a member of the RCMP from June 1935 to October, 1939.

He was always interested in community affairs where he resided. In Ottawa, he was a Rector's Warden at All Saints Church in Sandy Hill. The Rector at the time was C. H. Hepburn, CBE, MC, who

had been Chaplain General of the Canadian Army overseas during World War II. Jack was also an expert philatelist, and spent many hours visiting a boy's reform school, getting the young residents interested in setting up and running their own stamp club.

In 1950, he attended the University of Toronto Law School, graduating in 1953 with a Bachelor of Law degree. After leaving the Force in 1958, Jack was elected to the House of Commons, representing the Athabasca, Alberta constituency, and after redistribution, the constituency of Pembina, Alberta. With each election, right up to his retirement in 1972, his margin of victory increased. Whilst a member of Parliament, he served on a number of important parliamentary committees, including the Veterans Affairs Committee. He is well known for his tremendous amount of work in support of pensions for Canadian war veterans, particularly those who had been prisoners of the Japanese after the fall of Hong Kong, in 1941. For his services, the Canadian Hong Kong Veterans Association made him an honorary life member.

Perhaps the greatest tribute was paid to the Honourable member for Pembina on February, 5, 1971, when the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, while addressing the House said, "We have representatives of the law in the House. We have a former distinguished member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Hon. member for Pembina (Mr. Bigg). In the discharge of his responsibilities throughout the years he has been, above everything, considerate of the rights in individuals. Indeed, that is the background and essence of members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as a whole." A compliment indeed, since the integrity of the entire Force was enhanced through the devotion of one of its men.