



## Obituary

### Reg. No. 10063, Constable Charles James Johnstone

After weeks of uncertainty and anxiety, hope can no longer be held that Cst. Charles Johnstone survived the sinking of the S.S. *Nerissa* on Apr. 30, 1941. *En route* to England as a replacement in No. 1 Provost Company (R.C.M.P.), he is the Force's first casualty as a result of enemy action. The ship was torpedoed in the North Atlantic.

Born in Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, England, on Aug. 11, 1903, "Charlie" came to Canada as a youth, was employed as a clerk by the Robert Simpson Company, Western Ltd, and later by the Ford Motor Company, Ltd, Regina. Interested in boys' welfare he had been scoutmaster of the Lieutenant Governor's Division Troop prior to joining the Force.

On Jan. 30, 1924, he joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at Regina and for thirteen years was a member of "G" Division. He served at many northern posts: Fort Chipewyan, Alta; Arctic Red River, N.W.T.; Good Hope, N.W.T.; Fort Norman, N.W.T. After attending an instructional class at Regina in November, 1932, he was transferred to Minto Barracks, Winnipeg, to act as assistant drill instructor. In June two years later he returned to the north in charge of Resolution Detachment, N.W.T. In August, 1937, he was transferred to "Depot" Division, Regina, and the following year was stationed at Ottawa. While working in the central registry, headquarters, since March, 1939, he won many friends by his cheerful manner and even-tempered nature.

On Jan. 23, he was selected, upon application, as a reinforcement for No. 1 Provost Company (R.C.M.P.) as private C 30759. But Fate ordained that he was not to arrive in England. Denied even the satisfaction of coming to grips with the enemy, he made the supreme sacrifice.

He is survived by his widow, the former Miss Helene Dunne of Regina, Sask., whom he married on Apr. 29, 1933; a brother, R. W. Johnstone, Calgary, Alta; and his mother Mrs Philip Prince, Lloydminster, Sask.

### Reg. No. 3304, ex-Corporal William James Buxton

A heart attack brought about the death of Wm J. Buxton in St John's Hospital, Edson, Alta, on Apr. 19. He was 64 years old.

Born in Ireland, where he gained some experience in handling horses, Mr Buxton came to Canada and on June 1, 1898, engaged with the N.W.M.P. for a five-year term. He was then twenty-one years old. He rejoined the Force for a two-year period on Sept. 16, 1914, having in the meantime lived at Esterhazy, Sask. When discharged as Corporal in September, 1916, he joined the 77th Battery, Canadian Field Artillery. From this unit he was discharged as a casualty in October, 1917.

### Reg. No. 3432, ex-Constable Harold Huston Strong

As a result of a spinal injury sustained in a fall at Stillwater, B.C., ex-Cst. Harold H. Strong, age 62, died at his bungalow near Vancouver on May 3, 1941. Immediately following the accident, he was taken to the hospital where he remained for several days. Shortly after returning home, death occurred, apparently from internal haemorrhage.

Born in Prince Edward Island, Mr Strong was engaged as a labourer on the C.P.R. before joining the North West Mounted Police on July 1, 1899, at Regina. He was stationed at Indian River, Y.T. in 1905 and took his discharge at Dawson, Y.T. on June 30, 1904. Here he had served under Asst Commr Z. T. Wood, the present commissioner's late father.

A veteran of the South African War, he served as an officer in the Second Canadian Mounted Rifles and as a lieutenant with the Yukon Motor Machine Gun Battalion in the Great War.