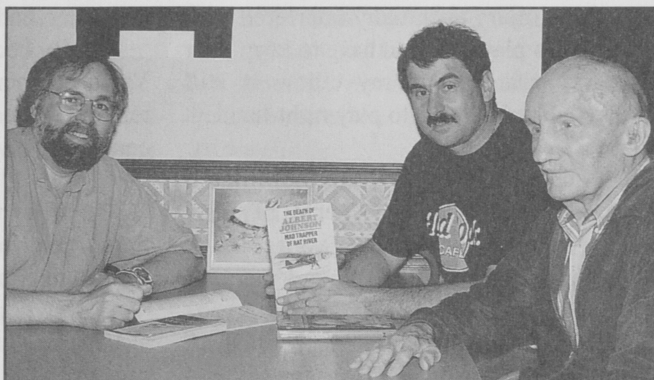


(L-R): Rev. McMillan, Cst. Rebiere, Major Hersey.



were following the chap down.

E.R.: So really, the pilot was a target himself?

E.H.: He could have been. But I think that Johnson was too busy worrying and realized that his time had come. I don't recall his rifle going up in the air at all.

E.R.: Now you recounted to me earlier, when we had talked once before, about Cst. May, not May the pilot, but Cst. Sidney W. May from the RCMP Detachment at Old Crow, who eventually showed up on the scene with some dogs. Do you recall what happened there?

E.H.: Oh yes, he was one of the last to arrive. His dog team was very slow because they were not accustomed to travelling in the deep, deep snow and I guess, I understand that May used to ride these dogs. So you can understand that the team was going to go really slow compared to our teams. I'm very sorry about what happened next. ...

When Cst. May drove, he committed a terrible error, as far as I'm concerned. I don't know if it was he or his inspector, but he drove his dog team up along the side of Verville's dog team and there was a terrible fight, a terrible dog fight. My lead dog was bitten through his nostrils. He had trouble breathing for three or four months.

E.R.: So there was another battle along the Eagle River that day?

E.H.: Yes, that's right! Well, that was an awful thing. You never, never drive two dog-teams along side of one another. You never do that.

E.R.: I guess that's what you call a "faux pas" in the etiquette of dog-sledding?

E.H.: That's right, a major faux pas.

E.R.: When they loaded you on the aeroplane to be flown back to Aklavik, what happened then? Do you remember? Were you conscious the whole time?

E.H.: Yes, and oddly enough, the pain — the doctor told me afterwards — it was because of the nerves, because the bullet had gone through my knee. My knee was terribly painful. The elbow, no. Chest, no. I knew I was bleeding, but my knee was terrible.

Jack Bowen was May's engineer for the aircraft, and he had stayed with us so often, you see, that we knew one another very well. Eventually he and I tried putting my knee in various positions; finally I ended with my knee up on him, on his lap like that, where it seemed to be less painful. He sat in that position all the way to Aklavik, three quarters of an hour. I really appreciated that.