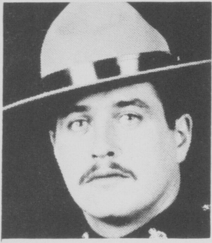


## In Memoriam



Joseph Perry  
Brophy



Barry Warren  
Lidstone

Hoyt, New Brunswick, is a fairly quiet little town, located about fifteen miles south of Fredericton. But in the late evening of January 6, 1978, violence erupted that left two RCMP members and two civilians dead, and a little girl wounded.

The trouble began when Leslie Charles Crombie threatened to keep his nine year old daughter, Wanda, away from his estranged wife who had custody. His wife, Bonita, and a friend summoned help from RCMP members in Fredericton to get the girl back. Cpl. Barry Lidstone and Cst. Barry Brophy answered the call, hardly realizing it would cost them their lives.

When Cpl. Lidstone and Cst. Brophy arrived at Crombie's mobile home about 11:00 p.m., they were invited inside and everything appeared calm, so much so, they signalled to Mrs. Crombie, waiting in a car outside, to come in and get Wanda. She had just entered when Crombie said, "Wait a second, I'll be right back, I have a surprise for you." A few seconds later he reappeared, holding a high-powered rifle. Cst. Brophy died instantly from a gunshot wound to his head. Cpl. Lidstone was shot twice, the fatal wound being to his head. Neither member fired his revolver, although Cpl. Lidstone had time to partially draw his.

Crombie then shot at his wife, wounding both her and his daughter in the ankle. He opened the outside door, shot at the car his wife had come in, but by this time Mrs. Crombie's friend had escaped to call for more police assistance from a neighbour's house. Crombie then phoned his father to come and pick up Wanda. The elder Crombie complied, left his son and daughter-in-law alone with the two dead policemen, and took Wanda to the hospital.

Mrs. Crombie died about forty minutes later, from another gun shot. And in one last possibly sardonic gesture, Crombie put his arm around his dead wife, then killed himself.

Cpl. Lidstone, married with two children, had first been stationed at Inverness, N.S., in 1966. Subsequent transfers had taken him to Frobisher Bay, Griesse Fiord, Yellowknife, Fort Rae, Grand Falls and Igloolik, before being posted to "J" Division this year. He was working his third shift at Fredericton when he died.

Cst. Brophy had been Chief of Police at Slackville, N.B., a community 100 miles north of Fredericton, before joining the Force in 1976. He, also, was married and had two children.

One can only wonder why such a tragedy had to happen to a family. But an even more perplexing question is why two policemen, neither directly involved in the confrontation nor prepared for it, had to die as well.

*On behalf of the Quarterly's staff and our many readers, we extend our deepest sympathies to both families. Ed.*