
The Death of Sergeant Barker

IT IS WITH profound sorrow that we have to record the violent death of another member of "F" Division. The entire Force, as well as the general public, has been deeply shocked at the circumstances surrounding the passing of Reg. No. 7606, Sergeant A. J. Barker, who was shot and killed in the lobby of a Shaunavon, Sask., hotel in the evening of March 16, 1940. The trial of the alleged assailant has not yet come before the courts.

Sergeant Barker, who was just 50 years of age, was well known in the Force and throughout Saskatchewan where he had served for many years. His death comes as a distinct loss to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and to those who came within his sphere of influence.

Arthur Julian Barker was born on August 26, 1889, at Westmill, England. On coming to Canada he worked as cowboy, rancher and horse-trainer. He first joined the Force at Big Muddy, Sask., on August 17, 1914, as a Special Constable, serving there and at Wood Mountain. A year later he joined the U.S. Army, Remount Dept., serving 17 months. He then signed up with the Imperial Cavalry and spent three years overseas.

Upon demobilization he engaged in the R.N.W.M.P. as a Constable on April 10, 1919, at Regina, Sask. In addition to his skill as a rider, he exercised considerable influence over men around him and was promoted to Corporal on May 22 while riding "remounts" in "Depot" Division. He was a fine rough-rider and had the distinction of riding a broncho before the former King Edward VIII on his visit to Regina in that year. He held the post of rough rider for over a year.

During February, 1920, he was married to Miss Gladys Carlson of Cedoux, Sask.

The following year he was placed in charge of Big Muddy detachment. He purchased his discharge on April 26, 1921, and a few months later joined the Saskatchewan Provincial Police with Regimental Number 190. He remained with that organization until its absorption in the R.C.M.P. in June 1928. While in the S.P.P. he was stationed at Weyburn, Diamond Crossing, Estevan, Carnduff and Preeceville, gaining much experience in active police duties.

On June 1, 1928 Barker re-engaged in the R.C.M.P. as a Constable and until his tragic death he was stationed consecutively at Sturgis, Val Marie, "Depot", Assiniboia, and Shaunavon, proving himself over and over again to be reliable, trustworthy and full of initiative in the discharge of his duties.
