

He was wounded again on November 2, 1896, at Cardston, while hunting for the notorious Indian murderer, "Bad Young Man", otherwise known as "Charcoal". This desperado had wounded Indian Agent MacNeill at Blood Reserve and killed another Indian. "Bill" was attending his horse at the stables when a bullet fired from behind a water-trough grazed him. This occurred two days before the fatal shooting of Sergeant Wilde at Twin Butte near the North Fork of the Kootenay. Armer wrote Wilde warning him to take no chance as Charcoal was bad and meant to kill. In spite of this his friend paid the supreme sacrifice at the hands of the Indian.

Later Bill was stationed at Saltcoats detachment for three years. He met Mary Frances Trowell, formerly of Surrey, England, at Saltcoats about 1900. They were married in Lethbridge on October 13, 1904.

As Staff Sergeant, he was in charge of Pincher Creek detachment at the time of the Frank Slide on April 29, 1903.

After some months in charge of Kipp detachment, he succeeded the late Staff Sergeant Chris. Hilliard at Standoff detachment in 1904. At this time Bill made patrols on the adjoining Blood Reserve for the notorious outlaw Ernest Cashel, incorrectly reported to be hiding in the locality. He remained at this post until the fall of 1911 when he returned to Macleod where he was Sergeant Major for the remainder of his service.

In 1901 the deceased headed the escort which accompanied the Earl of Minto through the old rebellion battleground at Batoche and other points. The Earl presented him with a tie pin bearing his monogram and crest.

Later in the fall of that year he had charge of the escort that attended the Duke and Duchess of York during their visit to Banff. The Duchess of York, the present Queen Mother, personally presented him with a tie pin with the White Rose of York centered by a diamond.

Two years after, Armer spent a month in charge of the escort provided for Lord and Lady Grey when they visited Bull Park in the Gap. The party was forced to leave the Gap owing to a raging forest fire which to this day has marred the scenic beauty of this picturesque spot. Earl Grey presented Bill with a silver tobacco box as a token of appreciation.

In 1924, Mr. Armer was in charge of the Jubilee parade celebrating Macleod's 50th anniversary of the arrival of the North West Mounted Police.

Ex-Sergeant Major Armer was awarded the long service and good conduct medal on September 13, 1935, in Macleod.

From the time when Edward MacNeill, formerly of the Indian department of the Blood and Crooked Lake Reserves, was wounded by "Charcoal", 'til Bill's death, the two were good friends. About a quarter of a century ago, Bill said:

"Mac, we've been old friends for many years. If I die first I want you to come to my funeral and if you die first I'll come to yours."

Though he celebrated his eightieth birthday on February 20, this year, Mr. MacNeill braved the trip from his home west of Standoff through bitterly cold weather to fulfill the pact, and also to act as pallbearer. He said of his old friend:

"I liked him because he was always pleasant and jolly, not vicious or mean in any way. He was well liked both by the Indians and the Whites."

Those who knew Armer—the number was great—will agree that this tribute is no more than the truth.

A uniformed detail of five members of the R.C.M.P. attended the church and graveside services. Flowers from various organizations and sympathizers graced the casket. The church was crowded. Many old timers were there, anxious to pay last respects to one who had spent so many years among them. Interment was made in the family plot at Union Cemetery, Macleod.

Surviving are his widow, two sons and six daughters.