



Alberta Aviation Museum Association

11410 Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5G 0X4

Tel: (780)-451-1175 Fax 780-451-1607 • aama@live.ca

• Website: AlbertaAviationMuseum.com

For immediate release

Thursday, December 29, 2011

December 31, 1931: Start of the hunt for the Mad Trapper

80 years ago, on December 31st, 1931 RCMP Constable King was shot at a remote cabin near Fort McPherson, N.W.T in an exchange of gunfire while attempting to serve a search warrant on a person known as Albert Johnson.

This all began a few weeks earlier when complaints of trap line tampering had been made against Albert Johnson by members of the Louchoux Natives whom Johnson had apparently made a habit of threatening and terrorizing.

RCMP members King and Bernard had been sent to speak to Albert Johnson and investigate the complaints. It took roughly a week to reach Johnson's cabin and upon arrival, Johnson refused to answer the door or speak with the RCMP members, leaving them no option but to return to Aklavik for a search warrant, supplies and reinforcements; which leads to the RCMP's fateful return on December 31, 1931 and the shooting of RCMP Constable King while attempting to serve the warrant.

So started what became the largest police manhunt in Canada and created the legend of the Mad Trapper.

Edmontonian Wop May came to play a pivotal role in the manhunt assisting the search by air and providing support with both supplies and medical transport...but let's not get ahead of the story.

Over the next number of weeks the Alberta Aviation Museum will be creating a special display to be unveiled February 17th, 2012 on the "Search for the Mad Trapper", along the way we will add parts of the story as the dates fall into place.

Thomas Hinderks
Executive Director
Alberta Aviation Museum
Media contact: 780-907-8455

Additional information at:

<http://www.wopmay.com/adventures/madTrapper.htm>

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/hist/hh-ps/trap-eng.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Johnson_%28criminal%29

http://www.nwtandy.rcsigs.ca/stories/rat_river.htm

<http://www.nwtandy.rcsigs.ca/stories/may.htm>

http://www.nwtandy.rcsigs.ca/stories/flight_log.htm