



## **Alberta Aviation Museum Association**

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### **Hunt for the Mad Trapper - Part Three - The Saga continues January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1932 brings another chapter of the Hunt for the Mad Trapper to light.**

After using the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals (RCCS) radio communications to arrange for additional personnel and supplies, the RCMP returned to Rat River. This time communications is considered an important priority and the RCCS has equipped the party with a specially set up two way radio.

#### **Co coordinated Communications have entered the search.**

Twenty-one men, including 11 Louchoux Natives, return to the cabin; Albert Johnson is simply not there. It is assumed that Johnson has escaped, probably heading for the Alaskan border. The onsite investigation reveals the reasons for the previous failure to enter and apprehend Albert Johnson; his cabin is built like a pill box.

The cabin was quite small but the floor had been dug down two or three feet (60 or 90 cm) below the surrounding ground level, the roof well-packed with earth roughly one foot (30cm) thick. The base of the cabin at ground level was built using a double row of logs with earth packed between them. With the ground frozen the earth became much like concrete, creating the pill box or bunker like structure and strength.

#### **Little wonder rifle fire and the explosive charges had no effect.**

With enough food and supplies for nine days Millen, Riddell (a soldier), and two trappers set out to search for the elusive Johnson. The remainder of the party, now staying in radio communication with the RCCS in Aklavic arranged for aerial re-supply.

#### **Aerial re supply/support enters the search**

What had started as a simple investigation on trap line tampering is now beginning to set the pattern for coordinated police searches for the future.

#### **But things will get much worse before the story ends...**

Compiled using information from these sources and a great sources of additional information on the "Hunt for the Mad Trapper".

<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...%28criminal%29>

[http://www.nwtandy.rcsigs.ca/stories/rat\\_river.htm](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](http://www.nwtandy.rcsigs.ca/stories/flight_log.htm)

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