

Cpl. Galloway J.W.G.



GALLOWAY, JAMES (Jim) WILBERT GREGSON - CPL. Regimental No. 27332
February 28, 2004 - Spruce Grove, Alberta Age:55

Cpl. Jim Galloway was born in Montreal, Quebec, July 26, 1948. He completed his high school in Lachine, Quebec. Through his growing years, Jim had a keen interest in dogs, helping his father raise Beagles, Springer Spaniels, and English Pointers.

Jim joined the RCMP on May 6, 1969, intent on serving in the Police Dog Service Section. After completing Depot Training in Regina, he was posted to the Governor General's Troop, Protective Services, "A" Division, Ottawa, then to operational policing, at Elbow Detachment, "F" Division, in October 1970. While at Elbow, Jim married Margaret Bromley Edwards in 1971. The couple adapted well to this small rural setting, a big change from urban Montreal. In 1972, they were blessed with the birth of a son, Jason, followed by a daughter, Karen, in 1973, and another son, Cory, in 1976.

After gaining some field experience Jim applied, in 1973, for a tour of duty with the Police Dog Service Section. Noted in his personnel interview were the usual attributes required of a dog handler - being physically strong, loving outdoor activities, particularly hunting and fishing, and being mentally alert. In addition, Jim was noted to possess and openly exhibit a streak of stubbornness, an attribute the Staffing Officer of the day felt would help, rather than hinder, his tenaciousness as a dog handler.

Following another general duty posting at Swift Current Detachment, from July 1973 to December 1975, Jim was accepted to the Police Dog Service Section. His first dog handler post was to "C" Division (Quebec), Security Services, Dorval Airport. Anxious to get more involved in operational work, Jim accepted a promotional transfer in September 1977 to "K" Division, St. Albert Sub/Division Dog Section (Ft. Saskatchewan).

Cpl Galloway remained in "K" Division for more than 26 years in the capacity of dog handler, posted to Edmonton Support Services, Northern Alberta District Dog Section (Sherwood Park), and "K" Division Police Dog Service (Strathcona County). He provided exemplary service to the Police Dog Service Section, with his leadership, tenacity, strong work ethics and outstanding dedication. Since November, 2002 Cpl Galloway held the role of Acting Program Manager, "K" Division. Throughout the years, dogs handled by Cpl Galloway included Klia, Shep, Max, Danko, and Cito.

Cpl. Galloway held, consistently, the highest success rate amongst handlers in "K" Division, from missing children and wayward hikers, to fleeing suspects and searching of crime scenes. His success rates were attributable to his knowledge, dedication, expertise, and overall professionalism. Being a dog handler was a way of life for Jim; it was his passion. He loved to participate in school talks and spent countless hours practicing with civilian search and rescue personnel to perform in public venues, most often the opening act to the Musical

Ride. He was always ready to assist in whatever means possible; being paid to do a job he loved to do was clearly a bonus to him.

In addition to these regular police duties, Cpl Galloway managed the RCMP Civilian Search Dog Association Program in Alberta. He was an active member and team coordinator for the Northern Alberta Wilderness Search and Rescue, instrumental in training and certifying, to an approved standard, numerous civilian search dog teams in Alberta. Cpl Galloway's consistent, thorough, and professional approach to any task was his trademark. He thrived on improving upon techniques and developing new methods, recognized by the RCMP Police Dog Service Training Centre for his expertise in search and rescue. Jim was instrumental in developing a training standard for cadaver training. In recognition for his commitment to the RCMP CSDA, he received a Certificate of Achievement in Search and Rescue at the 2002 National Search and Rescue Conference in the Maritimes.

One of the duties assigned a dog handler is responding to Emergency Response Team (ERT) and Tactical calls. Cpl. Galloway was a designated dog handler with Edmonton Emergency Response Team, and held this role since 1977. Cpl Galloway took a leadership role in these calls, always arriving first to assess the scene, ensure necessary perimeter security measures were in place, and provide assistance to the ERT. This was the case on Feb 28, 2004, when Cpl Galloway responded with the Edmonton ERT to a call of a lone male barricaded in a home in Spruce Grove, Alberta.

After being holed up for many hours in his residence, the suspect attempted to flee the scene, opening fire on the Emergency Response Team. In responding to this armed flight, Cpl Galloway was shot by the rifle bearing suspect. He succumbed to injury on site, as did the suspect, who was fatally shot by the ERT.

The tragic events of February 28, 2004 sadly brought an end to a "K" Division and Force legend, that of Cpl. Jim Galloway, the resounding voice behind 3E11 (Jim's vehicle call #).

A regimental funeral was held on March 5, 2004, in honour of Cpl. Galloway. Well over 4600 people attended to pay their respects, including Commissioner Zaccardelli and dignitaries Honourable Lois Hole, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Honourable Anne McLellan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, and Honourable Heather Forsyth, Solicitor General for the Province of Alberta. Over 90 police dog handlers, posted Canada wide, attended with their canine partners, to bear witness to Cito making one last march with his master.

On a personal note, Jim liked nothing better than to relax with a fishing rod in hand, on the lake where he and Margaret had bought a cabin. He had recently taken up ice fishing, and as with anything Jim did, he approached it wholeheartedly. He also found time to operate a small picture framing business and many prints and certificates that he framed, hang in detachments throughout Alberta. Several medals were awarded to Jim throughout his career, they are:

125 Canada Anniversary Medal	- 1992-12-12
Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal	- 2002-09-06
25 year Alberta Long Service Medal	- 2002-09-06
RM 20 Yr Long Service Medal	- 1989-05-07
RM 25 Yr LSM Bronze Clasp	- 1994-05-05
RM 30 Yr LSM Silver Clasp	- 1999-05-03

Jim is survived by his loving wife, Margaret, his three children, Jason, married to Michelle, Karen, married to Mike, and Cory, married to Jamie. The Galloways have eight grandchildren - Eric, Jordyn, Reid, Brody, James, Duncan, Riley, and Danielle, as well as his sister in Montreal, Carolyn Galloway. Jim was predeceased by his parents, Lucy and Duncan Galloway.

While our hearts are still heavy over Jim's sudden passing, the memories we cherish of a man whose life resonated with zest and character, and a tinge of red-headed temper, will live on forever.

Jim Galloway was awarded his gold clasp for 35 years service, posthumously, on June 24, 2005.