

Mounted Police Recipients for the Imperial Service Medal

Reg. No.	Rank	Name	Year Awarded	Years served
265	Cst.	John Clisby	1905	26
965	S/Sgt.	George Fraser	1905	27
301	S/Sgt.	Harry Keenan	1905	29
858	S/Sgt.	Henry Thomas Ayre	1908	25
568	Sgt.	Odilon St. Denis	1908	26
766	Cst.	Daniel Sullivan	1908	26
990	Sgt.	James Walton Davis	1908	26
806	Cpl.	Walter William Smith	1910	27
924	Sgt.	George Samuel Pook	1910	25
1239	S/M	James Flintoff	1912	26
3069	Sgt.	William Henry Burke	1917	25
2349	S/Sgt.	John Storm Piper	1918	27

After the last recorded Mountie to be awarded the Imperial Service Medal (S/Sgt. Piper in 1918), there is a 16-year gap until the institution of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in 1934. Theories accounting for this apparent dead period include:

1. In August 1919, the Canadian Government petitioned King George V to "cease and desist" the award of honours conferring titles to Canadians (except for purely military achievements). Hence, the Imperial Service Order became part of our "Colonial" past, but the Imperial Service Medal, which conferred no title, continued to be awarded until the early 1950s (despite a 1931 Canadian petition to have it abolished). Possibly the Force took the 1919 petition more seriously than other branches of the "civil service" and ceased putting names forward in 1919.

2. In April 1918, the RNWMP was put on a war footing and authorized to raise a mounted unit for overseas service. Possibly due to this event the Force forfeited its "civil Service" status and hence eligibility for award of the ISM.

3. In 1917, the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta assumed the policing duties of their own territories. Many experienced RNWMP members joined the new provincial police forces when their term of enlistment with the RNWMP expired rather than sign on for another term. At this period, it appeared that the Force's period of usefulness was over and that it would be just a matter of time until it was disbanded.

4. It is possible that the Imperial Service Medal was granted during the period 1918-1934, but records relating to its award have been lost or destroyed? (RCMP and the records of the Secretary of State in the National Archives show no Mounted Police awards beyond 1918.)

5. It is possible that the Comptroller and the Commissioner deemed that none of the members who retired during the 1918-1934 period were "eligible."

Whatever the reason(s), the result is that the Imperial Service Medal