

# Canadian forces role in mapping

A governmental committee in 1919 estimated that a detailed survey of Canada would cost 180 billion dollars (over five times the price of putting a man on the moon) and take approximately 3,600 years. In the turmoil of publicity of Canada's centennial year the fact was largely overlooked that this job had been completed—3,552 years early, and for a fraction of the estimated cost. By the end of 1967 all 925 sheets, which in total cover Canada at one inch to four miles, were available. The Canadian Armed Forces were a major partner in this magnificent undertaking, and helped spur Canada to world leadership in the application of aerial photography to mapping.

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For about five years after World War II, Army survey teams trekked to remote survey areas by pack train, isolated for as long as five months.

