

On July 18, 1980, the tenth commissioner of the RCMP passed away at Victoria, British Columbia. Commr. Charles Edward Rivett-Carnac, (Rtd.), 78, was born in Eastbourne, Sussex, England, on August 31, 1901, and from that time until the moment of his death, led a varied and exciting life.

At the age of sixteen he joined the Section Sanitaire Anglaise of the French Army and served as a front-line ambulance driver during the Great War. Upon demobilization he joined his father, the deputy inspector-general of the Imperial Indian Police, in Assam, India. There he worked for the Assam Saw Mills and Timber Co. Ltd., where, placed in charge of elephant camps, he was engaged at timber extraction from the Indian jungle until he immigrated to Canada in 1923, and enlisted with the RCMP on July 25th as regimental no. 9935.

He immediately volunteered for northern service, applying for the position of engineer on the "Lady Borden" motor boat out of Chesterfield Inlet, N.W.T. This was not to be, and he was sent to "N" Division, Rockcliffe, Ontario, for recruit training, then on to Edmonton, Alberta, for duty in the Mackenzie Sub-District of "G" Division in June of 1924. There he served at Norman and Fort Smith Detachments before coming out of the North on August 1, 1926, and being posted to Vancouver because of his knowledge of Hindustani and Assamese. While in "E" Division he served primarily at Penticton Detachment in the West Kootenay Sub-District, until December 1, 1928, when he was posted to Depot Division, Regina. Just prior to this transfer he was promoted to corporal on November 1st. On May 1, 1929, he was sent to "B" Division for duty at Mayo, Dawson and Carmacks Detachment in the Yukon Territory. He was promoted to sergeant February 1, 1931, and inspector (reg. no. 0.235) March 1, 1931, subsequently returning to Depot on April 1, 1931.

On June 1, 1933, he was returned to the western Arctic with a posting to Dawson Detachment to take command of the Western Arctic Sub-Division. On November 1, 1935, he was transferred to "A" Division, Ottawa, as Intelligence Officer, and later, on August 1, 1939, returned to Saskatchewan and took command of Regina Sub-Division. In August of 1940 he became "F" Division Intelligence Officer and was promoted to superintendent on September 1, 1942. On May 1, 1943, he was transferred to "D" Division, serving at Winnipeg until his posting to "A" Division on July 1, 1944, to take charge of the Intelligence Section of C.I.D. During that command he took charge of the famous Gouzenko case and its espionage investigations. On November 1, 1947, he returned once again to Regina, this time as the C.O. of "F" Division, and was subsequently promoted assistant commissioner on November 16th. Shortly after the Force's takeover of policing responsibility in British Columbia he became C.O. of "E" Division, moving from Regina to Victoria April 4, 1951. On September 1, 1956, he was promoted to deputy commissioner and returned to Ottawa. Three years later, upon the resignation of Commissioner L. H. Nicholson, he was promoted commissioner of the Force, April 1, 1959. During his tenure as commissioner he was able to visit various divisions of the Force in Canada, as well as London, England and Paris, France, as the elected vice-president to Interpol. He retired to pension with thirty-seven years service on April 1, 1960.

After establishing residence in Victoria, B.C., he took up writing his autobiography, and thus a portion of Force history, entitled, "Pursuit in the Wilderness", published by Little, Brown and Company in 1965.

Commissioner Rivett-Carnac was interred in the Force's cemetery at Depot Division on July 29, 1980.