

training of the Cadets (i.e., Cadet Training Officer or OIC Applied Police Sciences), the Sergeant Major, or in certain cases, the Acting S/M (I have had the opportunity to be acting S/M and I can assure you that it is an honour to be able to pose with the newest recruits), and the two or three team leaders of the troop. Just ask any member of any troop how important these individuals are in their eyes.

Traditionally — I do not know where this may have started — in any group picture, the majority of subjects seem to be surrounding a few individuals. These individuals may hold any rank or status, but somehow have always been placed in front, or should I say, in the middle of the group. The intention is not, and I am sure never has been, to give them more importance. I would even suspect that if they were placed randomly in the group that this would detract the attention from the whole of the group.

Furthermore, by allowing staff members to be in the picture, it allows "Quarterly" readers to perhaps see some of their former troop mates or colleagues with whom they may have lost touch over the years. I personally believe that the present photograph format does not take anything away from the subject matter (graduates), does not make any kind of statement to reinforce the hierarchy of the Force, but simply reflects another one of the many RCMP honoured traditions.

Yours in the Force,

Sgt. François Desfosses

✉ **TOKEN OF APPRECIATION**

Dear Editor,

The store supplying quilts and quilting kits has had a very favourable response to the article that appeared in the Fall 1997

Quarterly, especially from many of our members serving in isolated posts who do not have access to regular stores. As a token of their appreciation, and a sign of their support of the Force, the store is donating a queen-sized Mountie quilt to the RCMP Centennial Museum in Regina. Plans are being made for the owner, Marion Martin, to present this work during the 125 celebrations this summer.

Once again, thank you for running the article.

Cpl. Peter Kidd
Milton, Ontario

✉ **MAD TRAPPER OF RAT RIVER**

Dear Editor,

I have been a *Quarterly* subscriber for more than 25 years. I was always interested in your articles, especially the one on Robert George McDowell who played a role in the apprehension of the Mad Trapper of Rat River. When the chips were down, he played a magnificent role in rescuing his partner, Cst. A.W. King who was severely wounded. What I found really interesting was his mad dash to get help — at that time, there wasn't the convenience of travelling in a hurry.

What I also remember well is that I was just 15 years old at the time when I heard the news on the radio. I had gone in to Ledinham's Drug Store in Russell, Manitoba, we were living there at that time, to pick up a flashlight that I had bought. This is where I heard that Albert Johnson had been finally brought down after a reckless fight in which Cst. Edgar Millen was killed and an army volunteer, S/Sgt. H.F. Hersey was wounded.

I was always concerned about what had happened to Cst. McDowell and Cst. King. It is nice to hear that both are still alive. (...)