

the subsequent 13 years, only an additional 11 names were put forward to receive the Imperial Service Medal. Initially, lists of applicants were requested bi-annually, but on February 8, 1906, it was decreed that lists be submitted on a quarterly basis.

Invariably, after the initial submission of Clisby's name in April 1905, it fell to the potential Imperial Service Medal recipient to take it upon himself to get an influential personage, such as the Lieutenant-Governor of his province, to petition the Force authority on his behalf. The Comptroller and Commissioner of the Force, after viewing the applicant's service record, had the ultimate decision as to whether the man deserved and received the medal. An indication of the weight of the Comptroller's decision can be seen in the following letter:

*The Under Secretary of State
23rd May, 1914
Ottawa, Ontario*

*Sir,
I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date reporting that Mr. Isaac Forbes, formerly a member of the R.N.W.M. Police has been recommended by the Lieut. Governor of Saskatchewan for the Imperial Service Medal and asking whether I consider him eligible for and deserving of the distinction.*

Isaac Forbes served in the Police Force from 17th June 1878 to 14th August 1913, a period of 35 years and 59 days but personally I would not recommend him for the above medal.

*Comptroller
R.N.W.M. Police*

Staff Sergeant Isaac Forbes was not awarded the Imperial Service Medal.

On the other hand, Staff Sergeant Storm Piper's petition to his Member of Parliament, W.A. Buchanan, outlining the high points of 26 years and 300 days with the Force, fell on fertile ground. The Comptroller and the Commissioner concurred and Piper was awarded the medal. An excerpt from Piper's petition could almost stand as a statement to the diligence and achievement of the Old Force:

"Some of the cases that I was employed on were the hardest kind to ferret out but after years of work, success was obtained and the guilty parties brought to justice. I refer principally to the murder of Constable Wilmett at Frank, Alberta on the 12th day of July 1908. Other cases I helped to ferret out were the Labelle/Fournier murder case in the Yukon in 1902-03, the Slorah murder case of 1900 in Dawson City. In 1904 I left the Yukon to return to Mcleod to clean up cattle and horse thieves."

Most obvious, the Force was more than a little discriminating when it came to recommending its retired personnel for award of the Imperial Service Medal. Members of the Old Force were trusted, respected, hard-riding lawmen, but considering the nature of the frontier society and the fact that, "single men in barracks don't grow into plaster saints," the opportunities for a Mountie to have his name penned into the defaulter's book were legion. With the Comptroller and the Commissioner's "carved in stone" interpretation of the terms of award of the Imperial Service Medal, it's almost surprising that 12 men were actually recommended and awarded the medal.