

☒ **PRIVATE CITIZEN PROMOTED TO S/SGT.**

Dear Editor,

I noticed with interest the letter from William F. Mellberg of Park Ridge, Illinois (*Quarterly*, Fall 1998). You commented that Mr. Mellberg is one of only two private citizens “promoted” to the rank of staff sergeant, but did not identify the second person. You may have had in mind the individual I want to tell you about.

In the late 1980s, a combined-forces charity ball was organized and hosted by Thunder Bay Detachment, where the keynote speaker was Dave Broadfoot — perhaps better known to many as Sergeant Renfrew [from the *Royal Canadian Air Farce*]. Following his remarks, “Sgt. Renfrew” was presented with a certificate signed by Commissioner N.D. Inkster promoting him to the rank of staff sergeant.

A/Commr. R.M. Culligan (retired)
Thornhill, Ontario

☒ **THE RANK OF SUB-CONSTABLE**

In response to enquiries from readers on the variations in the RCMP’s rank system, we contacted Glenn Wright, RCMP Regimental Historian, to shed some light on the matter. — Editor

In the modern RCMP, there shouldn’t be any sub-constables. It was the lowest rank of constable when the NWMP was established in

1873, but was done away with in the late 1870s. Beginning in the 1920s (I suspect), constables began their careers as third class constables, and very quickly moved through second class to first class. It was, however, all one rank — that of constable. The different levels denoted experience and differences in pay. Many of our colleagues presently working around us started as third class constables.

As to the nature of the rank sub-inspector: again, I am not certain exactly when this rank was introduced, but it was not eliminated until the late 1960s. It was a commissioned rank below that of inspector.

It’s interesting to note that, prior to 1879, there were five ranks of constables: sub-constable, acting constable, constable, staff constable and chief constable!

Glenn Wright

☒ **RESPONSE TO VC ARTICLE**

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to read the article “Museum Honours Mountie VCs” by Ray Dick (*Quarterly*, Fall 1998). I have included in my letter a photo of the plaques mounted on the wall of the RCMP Museum in Regina. I thought it would be of interest to your readers.

Ex-S/Sgt. W.K. Barker
Regina, Saskatchewan



The plaques dedicated to the three former members of the RCMP who received Victoria Cross medals for their service in the Boer War and the First World War.