

tenacity, and a well-informed and intelligent mind were the keys to his success.

Robert Simmonds chose a career in the RCMP almost by accident. Born in Hafford, Saskatchewan, on April 6, 1926, his first love was flying, and after serving with the Royal Naval Fleet Air Arm for almost a year at the end of the Second World War, he had hopes of continuing as a pilot. Frustrated at not finding such an opportunity he joined the Force on April 23, 1947, with intention of serving only a few years. Instead, he found police work most rewarding, and his talents were soon recognized by his superiors. He progressed through the ranks rapidly, serving in a number of postings in "K" Division, Alberta. Rewarding sojourns from police work came with stints on the Musical Ride in 1948, and a trip to England in 1953 as part of the RCMP contingent attending the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

On July 1, 1966, Robert Simmonds was commissioned, and served in several posts in British Columbia, gaining both command and administrative experience. In 1975, he was appointed Commanding Officer of the lower mainland district of B.C., achieving the rank of chief superintendent. Progress was rapid thereafter. On July 1, 1976, he was brought to Headquarters as Deputy Commissioner (Administration), and a year later he became Commissioner.

After becoming Commissioner, Robert Simmonds received many honorary distinctions. Among these are receipt of the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977, and appointment as Officer of the Order of Canada in 1987. Commissioner Simmonds was also made Commander of the Order of St. John, Honourary vice-president of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, and an Honourary Patron of PRIDE Canada (Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education). The Commissioner also served on the executive of Interpol for three years as vice-president for the Americas.

Commissioner Robert Simmonds retired from the Force on August 31, 1987, his 10 years of service making him the fourth longest serving of the 17 Commissioners of the Force. In Ottawa, to join his father in marking his retirement was his son, Constable Robert Irven Simmonds of the RCMP, currently serving in "K" Division.

Robert Simmonds is far too energetic and dynamic to devote his retirement to relaxation. He has been appointed a research fellow of the Resources Development Research Centre at Carleton University, which is investigating the problem of drug abuse in Canada. In this, and in any future endeavours, he is likely to continue to contribute to our country and our society. We wish him well. ■