

Before and during the war with France when Britain was her "... natural enemy", the Fort was captured and recaptured four times — in 1686 by the French, in 1694 recaptured by the British and retaken by the French, recaptured by two English Men-of-War in 1696 and burnt.

In 1713 the Fort was restored to the British by the Treaty of Utrecht. In 1730 a new Fort was built on Factory Island, but it was no sooner occupied when a cook, over-indulging on "the demon rum" and trying to cook at the same time, had a mishap, and fire again destroyed the Fort. Business continued however. The Fort was restored again in 1735, and was never again to leave British hands. In 1886, Factory Island was ceded to the Hudson's Bay Company.

Only one group ever seriously challenged the Hudson's Bay Company — The North West Company. Formed in the 1780's by Canadian traders who claimed the fur trade belonged to all British subjects, they quickly made their way out to the great plains and canoed and portaged their way across a continent. By 1810, Alexander Mackenzie, Simon Fraser and David Thompson had reached the Pacific. "These men were hardy, courageous, shrewd and proud. They spent a good part

of their lives travelling incredible distances in birchbark canoes, shooting rapids or navigating inland seas. Yet they conquered half a continent and built up a commercial empire the like of which at least North America had never seen."

The struggle between the North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company did not end on the battlefield, but in London. The Bay's routes to the interior of the continent were much shorter and they had more capital behind them where the Nor'Westers did not have these advantages. In March, 1821, the two Companies amalgamated.

The Company had been reorganized in 1810 and Moose Factory had become the headquarters of its "southern factories". After the North West Company-Hudson's Bay Company merger, Moose Factory became the residence of the governor-in-chief of the Company's Southern Department. After that Department was discontinued near the turn of this century, Moose Factory became the headquarters of the James Bay District. But three years after the completion of the Temiscaming and Northern Ontario Railroad and trade goods could reach Moose Factory by rail rather than through the Hudson Bay, it was reduced in status to a fur trade post. Into this historic settlement the RCMP sent a man to open a detachment.

Regimental Number 9359, Cst. Ronald L. Trolove, a sturdy, dedicated young man, was picked to establish an RCMP Detachment in Moose Factory. Born December 29, 1901, Cst. Trolove had joined the RCMP July 31, 1920. Serving in several different divisions he quickly earned a reputation that once a goal was established, he tackled it with alacrity and determination which saw the task through to the end. Moose Factory was such an assignment. Transportation facilities being what they were in those days, there was no way of laying any groundwork beforehand. Cst. Trolove left Toronto by rail and travelled to the end of steel; at that time the railroad had reached as far as Island Falls, 40 miles north of



S/Cst. Jimmy Sack, left, and Cpl. Bob Beckwith discuss the various tasks to be done that day.