

On Feb. 26, 1926, he left Norway House Detachment on an arduous 1,000-mile dog-sled patrol to Trout Lake in Northern Ontario for which area he held a commission as a magistrate. His purpose was to investigate the cases of two Indians reported to be insane. Details of the general vicinity the inspector was to go to were meagre, but he located the objects of his search, one of whom was brought outside and actually improved in health and spirits on the journey. This Indian subsequently recovered fully and was returned to his tribesmen.

During his absence from "D" (in the post-war distribution this letter was used to designate Manitoba District) Mead had been transferred to Lethbridge, "K" Division. Immediately after his return to Winnipeg he went on to that point, from where on Nov. 1, 1928, he was transferred to Vancouver, B.C., to be in charge of the Criminal Investigation Branch, including the Divisional Preventive Service. His work in this respect proved to be a real bulwark in the vigorous fight he launched against narcotic rings and international drug smuggling. While at the West Coast, he made a host of friends in all walks of life whose cooperation, coupled with the widened experience he gained there, was to be an invaluable asset to him in future years.

On Apr. 1, 1933, he was promoted superintendent and three weeks later assumed command of "C" Division with headquarters at Montreal, Que. In this province also his reputation was enhanced as he continued to wage a telling war against drug peddling and illicit traffic in alcohol, through the Force's preventive service arm which enforces the laws concerned for other departments, thereby saving the Dominion Treasury large sums of money.

Promoted assistant commissioner on Nov. 1, 1936, he remained in "C" Division two more years and then took over the command of "H" Division (Nova Scotia), and from Halifax, N.S., he carried on his campaign against the illicit drug and alcohol traffic with his usual energy and drive.

On Nov. 11, 1941, he was transferred to the R.C.M.P. Headquarters, Ottawa, Ont., and appointed to the important post of Director of Criminal Investigation and Officer in Charge "C" Department. After the attack on Pearl Harbour on the 7th of the following month, security measures made it imperative that all Japanese residents be removed from protected areas on Canada's Pacific Coast. A representative of the Force was sought to complete the British Columbia Security Commission of three formed under authority of the Federal Minister of Labour, and the Commissioner showed his appreciation of Assistant Commissioner Mead's character and ability by selecting him for this key assignment. It was a happy choice, for Mead's understanding of the West Coast Japanese proved invaluable in this gigantic undertaking. The mass migration got underway in March, 1942, and that phase of the task was completed by October without mishap and with reasonable celerity. More than 21,000 persons were moved inland in this evacuation.

On Feb. 2, 1944, Assistant Commissioner Mead was appointed Deputy Commissioner, and in this the second highest rank in the R.C.M.P. he had further scope to demonstrate his fine sense of judgment, balanced independence of mind and keen appreciation of the broad practical factors involved in the discharge of new and greater responsibilities.

Thus the bare record of service and a few of the high spots of a stirring career that stands as an inspiration for members of the Force to emulate. Mr. Mead's rich and varied experience over the years has given him a rare insight into the frailties of human nature and an understanding out of which was borne a desire to shield others, especially the young, not so much from the standpoint of juvenile delinquency as from one which would recognize, appreciate and defend our rich heritage of existing liberties. A prime mover in the now two-year-old Youth and the Police program, his interest in Canadian youth resolved into definite action and he is largely responsible for the idea being implanted in the young minds of this country that "A boy's best friend is the policeman".