

Editor's Notes

COMMR. L. H. NICHOLSON (RTD.) With deep regret we announce the death of Commr. Nicholson on March 22, 1983. His last article, which appears on page 27 of this issue, was edited for *the Quarterly* during the last few months of his illness with cancer. Commr. Nicholson, who was visited by several officers (e.g.: see page 40) and numerous friends during his illness, was beloved and revered by many. His service to the RCMP and many other institutions is renown. Unfortunately, this magazine was already completed for publication at the time of his death, and, therefore, an account of his service to Canada and an obituary will have to appear in our next issue, Summer '83.

RCMP MEMBER SERVICE FILES All Government of Canada records must be identified for retention and disposition, and authorized by the Dominion Archivist. The RCMP retention/disposition schedules are determined by negotiation between Records Management Branch, the various RCMP policy centres having prime responsibility for the file content, and the Public Archives of Canada.

The Dominion Archivist has approved recent amendments to the retention/disposition schedule dealing with RCMP member service files. The service file will now be retained until the file subject reaches or would have reached the age of 100 years, at which time it will be examined for either further retention or for destruction. The file will be retained for a further retention period if:

- (1) the file is identified as historical or of special interest (officers, members killed on duty, those who have received a significant award, those who have achieved renown),
- (2) any claim has been made within the previous five calendar years against the Force or government,
- (3) any RCMP pension is still being paid.

To ensure all obligations of (2) and (3) have been met, no service file dealing with a claim or pension will be destroyed while the member is living, while his spouse is living, and until all dependant children are over 25 years of age.

All files identified as historical will then be retained in perpetuity by the Public Archives of Canada.

The new policy ensures the availability of a service file from which the *Quarterly* will be able to compose an obituary. And once in *the Quarterly*, it will "live on" indefinitely.

OBITUARIES The editorial board has decided to include all awards, notable community service, and any laudable accomplishments in members' obituaries, if such facts are known to *the Quarterly* by way of the members' service files or correspondence from the deceased's family or friends. In this fashion, we will get a more interesting and overall picture of the deceased and what he did during his lifetime. However, I hasten to point out that we can only include in an obituary what we know at the time of composition. We cannot continue to comment on a member's past service or activities after his obituary has been published.