

### Service in Second World War

The force also contributed a provost company to the Armed Forces as part of the First Canadian Division, which provided the bulk of provost officer personnel to all staff formations. Besides discipline enforcement, traffic duty, collecting information on convoy movements and unit locations, they were employed at detention barracks, training depots and special investigation units. In co-operation with the Allied Military Government in occupied countries, they helped reorganize and direct civilian police systems, fire departments and civil defence.

A major task of the force during the war was the safeguarding of essential industry, by the implementation of anti-sabotage and protective measures. The RCMP not only kept check on draft evaders and deserters but engaged in counter-espionage work, with such success that authorities were able to announce in 1945 that subversive activities in Canada had been almost wholly disrupted by the speedy arrest of hostile elements. To cope with the tremendous responsibility with which they were faced, the force had to improvise and, with the assistance of specially-engaged personnel, they guarded vulnerable points and executed wartime legislation.

Following hostilities, both the air and marine arms of the RCMP were reorganized. The Air Division has grown to a unit of 22 aircraft, including several with short-takeoff-and-landing (STOL) capabilities. Stationed at 16 locations across Canada, they fly over two million air-miles a year on police operational duties.

Thirty-three RCMP patrol vessels now perform law-enforcement duties in Canadian territorial waters on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and on inland waters. Over 300 smaller boats are employed on lesser waterways.

With the additional responsibility of provincial police duties in both British Columbia and Newfoundland in 1950, RCMP jurisdiction took on a truly national flavour. Its character has certainly changed greatly in 100 years, but the force still reflects much of the glamour of the frontier through its northern and far-flung detachments.

Modern assignments range from Arctic patrolling to preventive policing in larger centres, from Criminal Code policing in many cities and towns to the enforcement of laws against narcotic drug, counterfeiting, illicit distilling and customs evasion, as well as the identification of criminals anywhere in Canada.

To aid in these duties the RCMP has an extensive force-wide radio network connecting posts and teleprinter and facsimile systems. Transports, planes and ships are radio-equipped. Modern technology is available in the form of duplexed computer equipment at the Canadian Police Information Centre, RCMP Headquarters, Ottawa. It provides the force, and other law-enforcement agencies in Canada, with immediate access *via* remote terminals to information on stolen vehicles, licences, identifiable stolen property and wanted persons.