

After the Boer War, in which many members of the force served conspicuously with Canadian regiments, settlement of the West accelerated as some 300,000 homesteaders made their homes on the plains. A total of 84 detachments stretched from the U.S. border to the Arctic and from Hudson Bay to Alaska.

World recognition came when a Mounted contingent rode through London on Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. In 1904, King Edward VII bestowed on the force the prefix "Royal" in recognition of its service. A year later, the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were formed and, with Manitoba, divided the Western plains into the three Prairie Provinces. For the next ten years, the Mounted Police carried out their many varied and often hazardous duties of law enforcement and mercy, covering thousands of miles on horseback, by dog-team, canoes and boats. The First World War reduced the strength of the force owing to enlistments in the Canadian and British armed forces, as it was not until 1918 that the Canadian Government authorized the dispatch of two squadrons of RNWMP for service in France and Siberia. After the war, the total strength rose to 1,200.

#### Present Name Adopted

Canada-wide jurisdiction was extended to the force in 1920, and with this came the present name of Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the modern era involving operations by land, sea and air over an area as large as Europe. Famous patrols in 1924 pushed deep into the Arctic regions, and in 1928 the police schooner *St. Roch* undertook supply and patrol duties in northern waters. In 1931-32, the RCMP took over provincial police duties in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba and the three Maritime Provinces (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island), and absorbed the Preventive Service of the Department of National Revenue.

A marine section was formed in 1932, which played an important role until the Second World War in cutting revenue losses through smuggling, which had been costing the Federal Treasury millions of dollars. During the war, 209 officers and men, with 33 ships and boats, were transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy for coastal and seagoing patrols. They filled key positions, as reflected in their casualty rate of 41 per cent. In 1942 the RCMP *St. Roch* became the first ship to navigate the Northwest Passage from West to East. She completed the return voyage in 1944, becoming the first vessel to sail the Passage in both directions.

Long, tedious overland journeys through difficult terrain became less frequent with the advent of air travel and the formation of an Air Division in 1937. When the Second World War began, the Royal Canadian Air Force took over most Air Division personnel and equipment. Despite this depletion, the RCMP continued to make many flights into the North on police and defence missions until the Division was reformed in 1946.