

Depot 1935

by ex-S/Sgt. E.C. Parker



Reg. No. 12640, ex-Staff Sergeant Ernest C. Parker joined the Force June 26, 1935, and upon completion of training, was posted to "K" Division, Alberta, until June 25, 1940. Parker then served with the Royal Canadian Air Force — September 9, 1940 to July 13, 1945 — and rejoined the Force May 1, 1946. He was posted to "F" Division, Saskatchewan, and on October 1, 1957, was transferred to "K" Division. Parker retired to pension January 1, 1963.

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Recently, an ex-member friend of mine loaned me 20 RCMP *Quarterly* magazines to peruse in my spare time. I have found it a real treat, reading about police

operations and events over the years. I must admit that I enjoy *the Quarterly* now more than when I was an active member, about 29 years ago. I even have the urge to write something, which I have never had before.

I joined the Force at Edmonton with five other chaps, only one of whom I had known previously, the late R.W.P. Jones. We left for Regina during the evening via the CNR, and arrived on the barracks square at Depot the next evening about 8 p.m. Transport from downtown Regina, in an open-air truck, was provided by a character well-known to most members, the late Cst. Waddy.

At this time, Depot was jam-packed with members from all over the Western provinces preparing for anticipated trouble with the hundreds of "On to Ottawa" unemployed who were arriving in Regina daily via freight trains. The Regina Riot occurred a few days later, on July 1, 1935.

Our arrival on the square attracted considerable attention from the members of "B" Block, hanging out of the windows, who felt impelled to convey words of good-natured greeting such as "suckers!" One of them was the late Superintendent George MacKay, who became our "A" Squad marker all through drill and PT recruit training for the next 10 months, until we joined the Mounted Section.

If I remember correctly, we were met on the square by the division orderly (DO),