

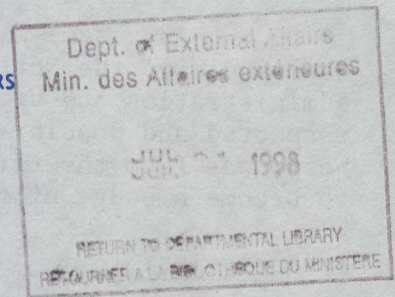
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## THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Canada's federal police force, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, is a modern organization as well as a living tradition and a colourful reminder of the romantic aspects of its country's past.

Originally formed to keep order in the vast expanse lying beyond the western boundaries of Manitoba, the RCMP now enforces federal laws in all ten Canadian provinces and polices the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. Under contract, it also acts as the provincial police force in eight provinces and does local policing for about 150 municipalities. Directed and administered from headquarters in Ottawa, 11,500 uniformed members, civilian members and special constables are complemented by 2,500 public servants and civilian employees.

Soon after the passing of the British North America Act in 1867, the newborn Federal Government acquired from the Hudson's Bay Company an enormous and potentially rich territory stretching from the Red River Valley in Manitoba west to the Rockies and north from the United States border to the Arctic archipelago. However, before these resources could be developed, law and order had to be established throughout this vast region. The Government at Ottawa needed an instrument for the assertion of its authority, the enforcement of the laws of Canada and eventually the safe construction of a transcontinental railroad -- British Columbia's price for entering Confederation.

### North West Mounted Police

Credit for the peaceful settlement of Western Canada rightly falls to the North West Mounted Police, who were organized in 1873 to administer justice in the regions ceded by the Hudson's Bay Company. In July 1874, 275 men rode westward from Fort Dufferin, Manitoba, their mission to pacify the warring tribes and protect the plains country from adventurers. By autumn of the same year, they had made their presence known as far west as the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Two years later, the force had become firmly established and had won the confidence and respect of native chiefs and their people. Devoid of the arrogance and brutality so often displayed by newcomers to the West, the NWMP endeavoured to make law-abiding citizens of both white and red men.

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As a semi-military body, modelled partly on the Royal Irish Constabulary, the North West Mounted Police followed the army style in administration and dress. The scarlet tunic, worn earlier by the highly respected and popular soldiers of Queen Victoria during their years in the West, was from the first an important part of the NWMP uniform, and was destined to become a badge of friendly authority.

### An Early Test

A test for the infant force was not long in coming as thousands of Sioux under Sitting Bull sought refuge north of the United States border following the Indian uprising in 1876. Fear of retaliation drove them to Canada after the battle of Little Big Horn, where a U.S. cavalry regiment under Lieutenant-Colonel George A. Custer was annihilated.

Upon 214 officers and men of the North West Mounted Police weighed the threat of untold bloodshed and strife. Tactful handling of the situation, combined with the loyalty of Crowfoot, chief of the great Blackfoot confederacy, whose friendship had been cultivated with clear foresight, led to the Blackfoot Treaty, perhaps the most important Indian treaty in Canadian history. By 1880, the North West Mounted Police had established Canadian sovereignty over the West, and the transition from buffalo hunting to farming was under way.

Less than a decade had passed, however, when this peaceful period came to an end. Construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway heralded settlement of the Prairies, which in turn created reservations and stirred up Indian and Métis resentment against the intruding Easterners. Demanding redress or compensation for their grievances, the Métis rebelled in the spring of 1885 under the leadership of Louis Riel. Once again, however, the Blackfoot remained loyal and the NWMP were able to bear the strain until militia arrived from the East to quell the uprising.

With the defeat of the rebels and the capture of their leaders, the rebellion came to an end and rapid change and development of the Northwest territories followed. New settlers swarmed onto the high plains, which are ideally suited to wheat farming and cattle ranching. Soon a network of patrols spread out from NWMP detachments linking the settlements.

### Gold Rush Days

By 1895, the northern regions of Canada came within the scope of the force, and in particular the Yukon, as thousands of prospectors flocked to the gold-fields. The NWMP moved quickly into the region and established posts at strategic points. Once again, by vigilant and determined law enforcement and a ban on firearms, fewer than 250 members kept murder and serious crime to a minimum. Among their many tasks, the NWMP carried mail to the scattered camps, adding 64,000 miles in one year alone to patrols branching out by boat and dog-sled over the North.



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.



### 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.



Canada's representative in INTERPOL is also the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

### Recruiting Methods

For such a variety of tasks, men of many talents are required, yet each candidate must possess personal integrity, a high degree of intelligence and a sense of responsibility. The selection of recruits is made from applicants possessing the basic qualifications by means of educational examinations, psychometric tests and interviewing.

To qualify, an applicant must be a British subject or Canadian citizen resident in Canada, between the ages of 18 and 29, single, at least 5'8" in height, physically fit and able to speak, read and write English or French. Members of the RCMP cannot marry until they have served two years and are 21 years of age. The initial enlistment period is for five years and a member is eligible for a life pension after 20 years service under the provisions of the RCMP Act. Careful selection at recruit level is followed by periodic interviews throughout the entire career of the member. The recruit's six months of training includes drill, firearms instruction, criminal law, investigation, public relations, swimming, physical training and a great variety of academic and social subjects.

The training and development program is of very wide scope and of a continuing nature. Advanced training in investigation, management and specialized instruction is provided. In 1938, the RCMP instituted the Canadian Police College, which provides courses in Ottawa to members and selected personnel of other police forces in Canada and around the world.

The *RCMP Quarterly*, which is available to the public by subscription, is a popular and much-quoted magazine. The RCMP Musical Ride has been acclaimed in Britain, Japan and North America as a fine display of horsemanship. The force's band, first established in 1876, has evolved into an élite concert ensemble and plays to a live audience approaching half a million a year.

Despite its many extracurricular activities, the RCMP remains the "Silent Force", unpretentious and unobtrusive. Quietly and without fanfare it lives up to the motto: "Maintiens le Droit".

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