

Larry Burden's – This Day in the RCMP

Former RCMP Larry Burden, Sgt. (Rtd. #35982), has spent over ten years researching and summarizing these achievements/events by specific date.

In an effort to share his research to a large group, Larry has agreed to permit the RCMP Veterans' Association, Ottawa Division to share his work on our digital platforms (Facebook and our website).

If you wish to contact Larry Burden or provide additional information about his research, please email him at larryburden8@gmail.com.

January 1st

1875 - #247 Sub Constables Frank Baxter and #228 Thomas D. Wilson were granted leave for Christmas and were traveling back to Fort MacLeod by horseback from Fort Kipp.

Both men had celebrated the season in style and had consumed their share of beverages. They were on their way back to their post when they were caught in a sudden blizzard and the temperature dropped. The severely frost-bitten men struggled on and in hopes of finding shelter but did not make it. A search party found them and transported them to the hospital at Fort MacLeod but they died on New Year's Day and were buried at Fort MacLeod.

1885 - As part of Supt. Sam Steele's crew that were policing the construction of the CPR, #557 Constables Ernest Percival and #760 William Ross were camped at Palliser, B.C. located midway between present day Field and Golden British Columbia. During the night Constable Ross froze to death and became the first member of the NWMP to die in BC.

The unsubstantiated story is that the two men had some liquor and did a bit of celebrating on New Year's. Ross was buried at the campsite and the railway and history moved on forgetting about the young constable. In 1953 Golden Detachment member #16721/O.795 John "Jack" W. White discovered the overgrown grave of Constable Ross on a hillside behind the oil storage tanks in the Canadian Pacific Railway yards at Golden. Constable White then wrote to Ottawa and made a request to have the grave moved to Golden Cemetery. In 1955, official permission was granted and #14891 Corporal Al Jensen dug up the grave and re-interred the remains in the Golden Cemetery.

1904 - While working in Norway House Manitoba, located 456 kilometers (285 miles) north of Winnipeg, #1714 Cpl. David Bennett “Daisy” Smith was promoted to Sergeant in recognition of his outstanding service and commitment to duty. The isolated community was stricken by an outbreak of diphtheria and scarlet fever and Cpl. Smith had to act as both a doctor and undertaker to numerous residents who were taken ill. Sgt. Smith served from 1885 to 1910 and died in 1942 at Melfort Sask.

1935 - The Criminal Code of Canada is amended, requiring the registration of all pistols and revolvers. As a result, the Firearms Section was established at RCMP headquarters and within two years, there were 150,000 records on file.

1938 - #10570 Cpl. Robert Christy loses all his effects in fire at Fort MacPherson, NWT.

1947 - Canadian Citizenship Act comes into effect, officially creating Canadian citizens; Canadian citizenship becomes paramount to being a British subject.

1974 - #13863 / O.484 Maurice Jean Nadon becomes the sixteenth Commissioner, having assumed acting command of the RCMP. He was born in born in Mattawa, Ontario on July 8, 1920 and joined the RCMP on January 3, 1941. He became Commissioner during a controversial and turbulent time in the history of the Force when the media directed a great deal criticism at the RCMP for allegedly targeting politicians and its actions during the War Measures Act during the FLQ Crisis in Quebec. During his short term as Acting Commissioner he stressed the need for a war on organized crime, and enabled women and married personnel to join the Force and he introduced the concept of a preventive-oriented policing. He retired on August 31, 1977 when his successor Commissioner Robert Henry Simmons was named.

1995 - The Abbotsford B.C. Detachment headed by #23563 S/Sgt Franklin Stacey closes its doors for good after the public votes to keep the Matsqui Police in favour of the RCMP. The new police force is named the Abbotsford City Police.

January 2nd

1884 - #2453 Cst. Walter Samson Lee was fined \$10 in Service Court by Superintendent Deane at Lethbridge for falsely reporting that he was sick. A tidy sum when you are making 50 cents a day.

1938 - The Hollywood movie “Death Goes North” starring Edgar Edwards as Sgt. Ken Strange is released by Warrick Columbia Pictures. The movie tells the tale of two

Mounties and the son of Rin Tin Tin who join forces to solve a complex mystery where a lumber heiress finds herself victimized by two rivals who are after her land.

1979 - Two members save the lives of a suicidal man. Constables #32256 Robert Anthony Norman and #34776 David Willson respond to a complaint of a man standing on the girders of Pattullo Bridge over the Fraser River between Surrey and New Westminster BC.

While Cst. Willson talked to the jumper from the bridge deck below, Cst. Norman climbed the bridge girders 45 feet above deck and caught subject as he fell. The jumper was found to be drunk. Cst. Norman received a Commissioners Commendation for his actions.

1989 - After a man fell from a barge into the ocean near Nanaimo BC, Constables #38815 Shelly L. Mason and #37186 Gary R. Styles dove in and attempted to rescue him from the icy waters. For their efforts in attempting to save him, Constable Mason was awarded a Commissioners Commendation and Styles received a Commanding Officers Commendation.

January 3rd

1879 - #O.40 Samuel B. Steele, # 86 John H. Holtorf, #93 George B. Mills and Metis guide Foley were caught in a blizzard east of Fort MacLeod. They struggled for four days without food and finally made it to the MacFarland ranch 4 miles east of the Fort.

1947 - Canada's tenth Prime Minister, William Lyon Mackenzie King becomes the first Canadian to take the Oath of Citizenship, in the Supreme Court, from Chief Justice Thibaudeau Rinfret. Ever since members of the RCMP have been present in dress uniform for most citizenship ceremonies.

1951 - Commendation to #16590 / O.584 Jack Routledge for excellent judgment in overcoming obstruction by individual resisting arrest.

1964 - Honour Roll Number 125

#22055 Constable Joseph Pierre Francois Dubois age 22 was killed in a police car accident, at Fauvel Quebec.

The cause of the accident that killed him and the two prisoners he was transporting was never determined.

The most likely theory is that he may have fallen asleep at the wheel during the 150-mile trip. The accident investigation revealed that he lost control of his vehicle five miles west of New Carleton, on the Gaspé Peninsula when it veered to the left and traveled over 100 feet without any signs of braking. The vehicle then traveled 43 feet through the air over a ravine and after hitting the other side fell backwards onto its roof 18 feet down into the bottom of the ravine. He had been in the RCMP for only 2 ½ years and was buried in the Roman Catholic Cemetery in his hometown of St. Antoine Abbe, Quebec.

1987 - Mrs. Mary Larsen christens the new Canadian Coast Guard ice breaker ship the “Henry Larsen” at the launching ceremony at the Versatile Pacific Shipyard in North Vancouver BC. The new ship is named in honour of the late #10407 / O.347 Superintendent Henry Asbjorn Larsen (1899-1964) the famous captain of the RCMP vessel St. Roch. The 8200-ton ship is powered by three medium speed engines that drive the ship at a cruising speed of 13.5 knots and has a range of 15,000 nautical miles. The \$92 million-dollar ship replaced the Coast Guards oldest icebreaker the “Labrador”. Some of the past and present members of the Force who were present at the launching include #27668 Sgt. William A. Van de Braak, #37352 Constable Andrew Lamb and veterans #12846 Frank N. Brien and St. Roch crew member #10372 Joe Olsen.

2005 - After the devastating Tsunami in the South Pacific on Boxing Day 2004, the RCMP sent a team of Forensic Identification experts to Thailand to assist in the gruesome but necessary task of identifying the numerous people killed in the tidal wave. The members of the team included O.2075 George Fraser and O.2082 Brian Andrews #28513 Gerald Tucker, #35688 Serge LaRoque, #41818 Geoffrey Ellis, #34819 Robert Rix, #39108 Dave Thompson, #41870 Jacques Neri, #45531 Navjeet Hothi and #46053 Dianne Cockle.

January 4th

1897 - #418 / O.104 Inspector Arthur Murray Jarvis and #894 Constable Samuel Hetherington left Fort Saskatchewan by dog team for the first extended patrol into the MacKenzie District. The four-month patrol takes them down the Athabasca River to Fort Chipewyan, Lake Athabasca, and north to Slave River and Great Slave Lake to Fort Resolution a distance of over 2,000 miles. Inspector Arthur Jarvis joined the NWMP on June 25, 1880 and saw service in the Northwest Rebellion of 1885 and the South African War. His career in the north was so profound that Jarvis Glacier, in British Columbia (Lat: 59·27·00N Long: 136·32·00W), Jarvis Park, in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, Jarvis River, in Yukon and Jarvis Street, in Whitehorse Yukon are named after him.

1983 - Changes to the Canadian Criminal Code replace rape with three categories of sexual assault and provides equal protection to both men and women. It also enables women to have their husbands charged with sexual assault.

1986 - Two members in Qualicum Beach, BC earn commendations for bravery.

At approximately 3 a.m., & #34952 Rudolph Reginald Widdershoven, MB along with other members of the detachment responded to the scene of a murder. Suddenly shots rang out and Police Dog handler #29808 R. E. Corporal Flack was hit in the leg.

Without hesitating and fully aware of the fact that he was exposing himself to the gunman, Cst. Widdershoven rushed to the wounded officer and dragged him to cover. He then used his belt as a tourniquet and then left his wounded colleague and went to get help. Finding # 23594 P. A. Sergeant P. A. Seefried the two men rushed back to Flack and working together, they carried him to a secure area and waited for an ambulance. The gunman's body was found later where he had committed suicide.

Both Widdershoven and Seefried were awarded Commissioners Commendations for their bravery and Cst. Widdershoven was awarded the Medal of Bravery.

January 5th

1849 - Sir Samuel Benfield Steele 1849-1919 was born on this day in Purbrooke, Ontario. Arguably, the most famous Mountie in the history of the Force. Educated at Toronto's Royal Military School Sam Steele began his military career when he joined the Canadian militia during the Fenian invasions in 1866, and went west in 1870 as a Private with the Red River Expedition. On October 2, 1873 he joined the newly created North West Mounted Police, as #5 and was given the rank of Sergeant-Major. In 1879 he was put in charge of Fort Qu'Appelle, where he and his men protected the CPR construction program and was then promoted to #O.40 Superintendent in 1885. In 1898 he was transferred to Dawson and he and his men brought law and order to the Klondike gold fields. In 1900 he received leave from the NWMP and helped organize and then command the Lord Strathcona's Horse for service in the Boer War. He continued to serve in the military and was eventually knighted and retired in 1918 after leading the Second Canadian contingent to World War I as a Major General. He died in London England Jan 30, 1919 and was buried in Winnipeg Manitoba.

1935 - Rin Tin Tin Jr's, newest movie "Skull and Crown" is released. This time the dedicated super dog helps out the Mounties.

1957 - Honour Roll Number 91.

#17298 Cst. John Roland Cobley age 24 was killed when he was struck by an automobile on the highway, near Salmon Arm, B.C.

He and his partner #17071 Cst. Nick Hrycyk was dealing with a truck they had pulled over for driving erratically on Highway # 1 near Salmon Arm. As Cobley was dealing

with the truck two other vehicles pulled in behind them and in the glare of the headlights Cobley thought he saw someone throw some bottles out of the vehicle. While Cst. Hrycyk obtained names from the occupants, Cobley walked across the road to look for the liquor bottles.

While he was looking, a Volkswagen Beetle traveling in the opposite direction came upon the scene and did not see the policeman on the road and hit him with enough force to throw him up against the windshield and propel him over 130 feet. Cst. Cobley was rushed to hospital and was pronounced dead on arrival. The native of Winnipeg had been in the RCMP for nearly six years and was buried with full honours at the Anglican cemetery in Kelowna BC.

January 6th

1978 – Honour Roll Numbers 153 and 154

#24526 Corporal Barry Warren Lidstone age 34 and **#33554 Constable Joseph Perry Brophy** age 28 were shot and killed, while investigating a domestic dispute, near Hoyt, New Brunswick.

The two policemen had gone to a mobile home in the rural community of Hoyt, 15 miles south of Fredericton to assist Bonita Crombie in getting her daughter Wanda back from her estranged husband. The Crombie's volatile relationship had ended six months before and Wanda had spent Christmas with her father. Bonita and her new boyfriend followed the policemen to the home and waited in their car while the officers spoke to Leslie Crombie about returning his daughter. Finding Crombie sober and cooperative they called Wanda into the trailer to get her daughter. Just before she was about to leave, Leslie Crombie stated "Wait a second, I'll be right back. I have a surprise for you." Nobody thought anything of it and assumed he was going to get a Christmas present for his daughter. That was a fatal error. When Crombie came out of the bedroom, he was armed with a 30-30 caliber rifle and began shooting. His first shot struck Cpl. Lidstone in the head and he then shot Cst. Brophy in the leg. As the constable attempted to draw his revolver from his parka, Crombie shot him in the head killing him. Crombie then went to the door and fired several shots at his ex-wife's new boyfriend and then turned his attention to her. Demanding to know who the boyfriend was, he shot her in the leg, but the bullet shattered and struck his daughter too. Realizing what he had done Crombie phoned his father who came over and whisked his granddaughter away for medical treatment. When the police stormed the trailer later, they discovered that Crombie had taken Wanda into their bedroom and killed her and then lying on the bed with his arm around her he shot himself in the head.

Corporal Barry Warren Lidstone had 12 years' service in the RCMP and had spent much of it in the Arctic and was only on his third shift at the Fredericton Detachment when he was murdered. His remains were cremated and placed at the Peoples Cemetery in Dartmouth Nova Scotia.

Constable Joseph Perry Brophy had only been in the RCMP for two years having previously served with the Newcastle and Blackville New Brunswick police departments. Survived by his wife and their two young daughters he was buried in Blackville.

1983 - #43261 Cst. Robert Melvin McAuley MB of Cumberland House Detachment in Saskatchewan saved a mother and her child from drowning in the Bigstone River. After being dispatched to the scene Cst. McAuley rushed down to the shore and observed a woman in the river desperately clinging to the broken ice doing her best to struggle against the strong current. Without hesitating, he crawled nearly meters on the thin ice in an attempt to reach the woman. While he proceeded to pull her from the water, he saw the child's head appear near the surface. Cst. McAuley then grabbed the child and lifted the unconscious boy onto the ice. After helping the woman and child to safety, he then applied cardio-pulmonary resuscitation to the boy and succeeded in reviving the child. For his heroism Cst. Robert Melvin McAuley was awarded the Medal of Bravery.

January 7th

1904 - Commissioner Perry sentenced three Constables #3440 William Warren Piper, #3876 Frank William Phillips and #3951 David Reginald Leslie along with #O.52 Gilbert Edward Superintendent Sanders for their roles in allowing convicted murderer Ernest Cashel to escape from cells while he was awaiting the hangman. Constable Piper received twelve months hard labour and constables Phillips and Leslie received six months hard labour. All three were then dismissed from the Force with ignominy and Supt. Sanders received a written reprimand. Ernest Cashel was later captured after being shot by Constable #3743 John Garnet Welseley Biggs. (See January 24, 1904)

1905 - #3613 Constable Albert Pedley arrived at Fort Saskatchewan Alberta from Fort Chipewyan after a 21-day journey of 380 miles (612 kilometers) having escorted a missionary who had gone insane and had to be tied in a sleeping bag and transported by dog sled. Pedley had to endure five days of slush and water then severe snowstorms and temperatures dipping below fifty degrees below zero. His charge refused to eat and he had to force feed him. In order to prevent him from escaping he had to lash him to a tree at night. One time the man escaped and led Pedley on a quarter mile chase before he caught him, bound his hands and feet and then carried him thrashing and ranting back to the dog team.

Throughout the ordeal Constable Pedley and his interpreter had to build large fires every night to keep the wolves from attacking and had to listen to the missionary's incessant ranting. The enormous physical and mental strain took its toll on Pedley. On the return trip to Fort Chipewyan, he broke down and went insane himself at Lac La Biche and was hospitalized for six months. After being released from the hospital he took three months leave and then returned to duty.

Pedley's arduous 1905 patrol caught the interest of Hollywood screenwriters when Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer produced a movie in 1952 named "The Wild North". In usual Hollywood tradition, the movie starring Stewart Granger and Wendell Corey loosely based on his epic had little to do with the facts, and tells a story of how an amiable French-Canadian woodsman brings in a Mountie who was sent out into the wild to bring him in.

Pedley joined the NWMP in 1900 and after retiring as a Sergeant in 1924, he returned home to Salisbury, England.

1940 - # 11396 Constable Arthur F. McDuffee saved the lives of two elderly Vancouver women who were overcome by smoke inhalation in their burning home. For his courage and personal bravery in entering the burning building and carrying the women out to safety, he was promoted to Lance Corporal.

1982 - While vacationing in Hawaii, #33436 Constable Lorne Harper saw a man struck by a large wave and slipped below the surface. Harper dove in and dragged the man to shore and revived him with CPR but the man died later of broken neck. For his efforts, he received Royal Canadian Humane Testimonial.

January 8th

1941 - Federal Minister Ian Mackenzie announces that as a matter of national security under the War Measures Act, all Japanese Canadians in British Columbia will have to be registered by the RCMP. They are later ordered by the Federal government to be moved inland to detention camps.

1944 - Honour Roll Number 79.

#12965 Constable Gordon Evan Bondurant age 35 died from wounds he received in action while serving with the RCMP Provost Corps in Ortona Italy during World War Two.

Canadian troops were subjected heavy door to fighting with crack Nazi troops in the Italian town of Ortona and members of the RCMP Provost corps were no strangers to danger. Routine duties often put these men in harm's way where they were subjected to shellfire, mortar attacks and small arms fire. After a week of bitter combat Ortona was captured on December 28, 1943, but the danger was not over and later that day Lance Corporal Bondurant was struck by bomb fragments from an aerial attack on a bridge outside of the town. Badly wounded Bondurant was rushed to the field hospital and died ten days later. The bitter fighting that same December day resulted in the deaths of three other members of the RCMP Provost Corps, constables, Terence Watts, Edison Cameron

and David Moon (See December 28) Constable Gordon Evan Bondurant was interred with his three buddies in the Moro River Canadian War Cemetery near San Donato in Italy.

1979 - Honour Roll Number 158.

#30791 Constable Lindberg Bruce Davis age 25 was killed in a train/car collision, at Portage La Prairie, Manitoba.

The exact cause of the collision between the police car and Canadian National freight train has never been determined. The constable was either preoccupied or he tried to beat the train but the end result is the same, he died of a ruptured aorta from the impact of the crash. Cst. Davis a native of Gander Newfoundland had been in the RCMP for six years and worked at Selkirk Detachment, Winnipeg Drug Section and Portage La Prairie. Leaving behind his wife of six months, Cst. Davis was buried in his hometown cemetery in Gander Newfoundland.

1986 - Honour Roll Numbers 178 and 179.

#S/2427 Pilot S/Cst. Wayne Philip Boskill age 33 and **#S/3015 Co Pilot S/Cst. James Frederick Wilson** age 30 were killed in a police aircraft crash, at Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan.

Both men had been regular members and converted to special constable status when they joined the air division. What should have been a routine flight ended up as a tragedy that claimed the lives of the two pilots and their two passengers; Jim Murray, the assistant property manager for "F" Division and Arvid Lundquist of the Department of Public Works. The men had traveled to Wollaston Lake near the border of the Northwest Territories to inspect the construction of a new detachment building. As the de Havilland Beaver took off it suddenly banked and appeared that they were trying to return to the runway but the wig tip clipped the lake ice and the plane crashed killing all four men. The investigation determined that the crash was likely due to engine failure.

Wayne Boskill was buried in the community cemetery in North Battleford, Saskatchewan and James Wilson was interred in the Brookside Cemetery in Winnipeg Manitoba. Both men were married and had young children.

January 9th

1899 - Manitobans suffer under a record low temperature of minus 52.8 Celsius (minus 63 Fahrenheit).

1965 - Local RCMP members and rescue crews are kept busy when a mountain avalanche wipes out the Hope-Princeton Highway near Hope BC. The Hope Slide occurred after an earlier avalanche had forced people to stop their vehicles a few miles southeast of the town. While they waited for cleaning crews to arrive a small earthquake dislodged the mountain's southwestern slope. The resulting slide screamed down the mountain burying four people and their cars under 85 meters of mud, rock, and debris that was 3 kilometers wide. One of the largest landslides in Canadian history filled a nearby lake and carried up the other side of the valley, and then sprang backwards and slopped up the original slope before settling. Two of the four people killed were never recovered and they lay entombed under the debris to this day.

January 10th

1969 - While on leave from his detachment in Tisdale Saskatchewan, #25442 Constable Edward Gary Jette went for a ride-along with his troop mate #25443 Constable Terrence M.A. Barter who was stationed in Burnaby BC. During the patrol they received a report of a suicide. When they arrived at the scene they were directed to the garage where they found a woman lying on the rear seat of a car that had all the windows up and the engine had been running. Constable Barter then went to request an ambulance and Constable Jett decided to attempt to revive the woman with mouth - to - mouth resuscitation. After a few breaths she began breathing again but then stopped. Jett continued with the resuscitation and succeeded in reviving her. He was awarded a Meritorious Certificate from The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

1975 - After receiving a call from a frantic mother who reported that her 2 ½ -year-old son was choking, three Sherwood Park Alberta constables rushed to the scene. When #25352 Wayne J. Norris, #26029 Richard G. Perrett and #31635 G.I. Morse arrived they found the lifeless child and learned that Everett Wolski had been eating potato chips and that some chips became lodged in his throat. The men then cleared the child's obstruction and revived him using artificial respiration. The three policemen were later honored with Certificates of Merit from the Royal Canadian Humane Society.

1977 - As a result of a RCMP investigation into spying, Canada expels four Cubans, including two diplomats.

1983 - #35725 Constable J.R.D. Houle along with Grand Bay New Brunswick Police Constable E.P. George and civilian Mr. Douglas Wallace risked their lives in rescuing a local resident, Graeme Scott from drowning in the frigid Saint John River. The trio were awarded citations from The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

1990 - #33084 Constable J.C. Rae and #31233 R.J. Ogilvie earned Commanding Officers Commendations for outstanding service for their role in conducting surveillance and arresting two-armed robbery suspects in Vancouver, BC.

January 11th

1815 & 1891 - Two Canadian Prime Ministers share the same birthday today; Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John Alexander MacDonalld 1815 -1891 and its twentieth, Jean Chrétien 1934.

1983 - After responding to the scene of an accident involving an overturned car in a water filled ditch on the Trans-Canada Highway near Chilliwack BC. Sumas Highway Patrol Constable Dale J.C. Hanson learned that the victim, Mr. Wayne Becker had been pulled from the vehicle by three civilians and they were attempting to revive him using CPR. Constable Hansen relieved the exhausted nurse Joanne Toews and continued performing CPR and succeeded in reviving him shortly before the ambulance arrived. Meritorious Certificates from The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem to Grant Stamford, Joanne and David Towes and Constable Hanson.

1985 - Tenacity and perseverance are the qualities that make a good policeman, and these qualities were demonstrated by #22268 Staff Sergeant Paul Michael Omilon of the Forensic Laboratory in Winnipeg.

He wasn't satisfied with the investigative results of a shooting at Fort Smith NWT where police officers had believed the story that a man had been shot in the chest by his wife after an argument and that she then killed herself. Refusing to believe the theory and through painstaking work utilizing numerous photographs and radiographs of the victims' wounds along with blood spatter patterns he proved that she had been shot twice in the head and that the man had shot himself to make it appear that he was the victim. Due to Omilon's efforts the man confessed and was convicted of murder. Staff Sergeant Paul Omilon was awarded a Commissioners Commendation for Outstanding Service.

1990 - After a child had fallen through the ice on Bissett Lake in Halifax County NS, #33549 Constable R.W. Pattison dove under the ice and searching in the frigid blackness located the child's body and returned him to the surface. Unfortunately, the child died in the hospital the next day. In recognition of his selfless courage Constable Pattison was awarded the Commanding Officers Commendation for bravery.

January 12th

1960 – Honour Roll Number 100.

#19731 Constable Colin Eric Lelliott age 21 was shot and killed at Cambridge Bay, N.W.T., while attempting to arrest an escaped prisoner.

Cst. Lelliott had been in the RCMP for nearly three years when he was transferred to Cambridge Bay. The small detachment consisted of a Corporal and two constables and had no jail. Prisoners slept on the couch in the same building as the two constables and the Corporal and his family resided in a second building. For several days a notorious Inuit prisoner; Jimmy Ayalik slept on the couch awaiting his day in court for “Assault Causing Bodily Harm with intent to Kill”. While he was there, he had ample time to observe where the members kept their firearms and ammunition.

On January 12th, Ayalik appeared in court and was released on his own recognizance, whereupon he promptly got drunk and made advances towards a local woman. The woman’s husband didn’t appreciate his behavior and the two began to argue and fight but continued to drink and fight throughout the night. In the morning the woman went to report the matter to the police, #15293 Cpl. Robert “Bob” Milmine was busy, so he sent Cst. Lelliott to deal with the matter. Ayalik put up such a fight with the young policeman that Cpl. Milmine had to be sent for to assist. Finally, the two policemen got him under control and dragged him back to the detachment and made him lie down on the couch and sleep himself sober. When the corporal left the building Jimmy Ayalik jumped Cst. Lelliott and stabbed him with a knife and then ran out of the building. The two policemen then chased the assailant towards the sea ice but as they closed in on him Cpl. Milmine realized that Ayalik had a rifle and as he shouted a warning to Cst. Lelliott, Jimmy Ayalik turned and fired a hip shot that struck Lelliott in the arm and passed into his chest. Cpl. Milmine rushed his mortally wounded partner to the local nursing station but he died shortly thereafter. Then Cpl. Milmine, #19345 Cst. Dominick French and Inuit guide Sammy Anouyak tracked the murder over two miles where he threw down his rifle and gave himself up. When they examined the rifle and ammunition, they discovered that it had been stolen from the detachment.

While awaiting his trial for the murder of Cst. Lelliott, Jimmy Ayalik’s first victim died, but Crown Counsel only proceeded on the charge of murdering the policeman. Much to the dismay of the community Jimmy Ayalik only received a five-year sentence. When he was released from prison, he committed his third murder.

Constable Colin Eric Lelliott was given a military funeral and lies buried in Hatley Memorial Gardens in Colwood British Columbia.

2003 - While off duty #33829 Staff Sergeant Joseph Marcel Norman Boucher responded to the cries for help from two people whose snowmobile broke through the ice

on the Rideau River in Manotick, Ontario. Grabbing a ladder, he ran down to the river and crawled out to the victims on the thin ice and succeeded in grabbing onto the woman while lying on the ladder. After dragging her to shore he crawled back out onto the ice. While lying in several inches of freezing water he made several attempts to reach the second victim and eventually managed to grab onto him after the ladder slid further into the water. Though he was becoming hypothermic himself, he refused to let go of the man and held onto him until other rescuers could reach them with a rope and drag them back to safety. Unfortunately, the second victim did not survive the ordeal.

January 13th

1947 - Great Britain's Privy Council rules that Canada is within its rights in passing legislation making the Supreme Court of Canada the final court of appeal.

1961 - Shortly after midnight the RCMP received a report that a man was climbing up the bridge structure on the Pattullo Bridge which spans the Fraser River between Surrey and New Westminster BC.

When Constables #20836 Robert Laurence Marshall and #20602 Gary Michael Bell arrived on the scene the man had climbed 75 feet up the bridge superstructure and was threatening to jump over 200 feet to the river below. The two constables then climbed up the superstructure and Marshall proceeded to try and talk the man down. Their supervisor #11105 Sgt. J. Brucker arrived on scene and took charge of things below as well as climbing up the structure several times to counsel the 22-year-old policemen. When the man began to climb higher Constable Bell climbed 20 feet higher than the deranged man and succeeded in discouraging him from climbing any further. While Constable Marshall talked to the distraught man, the two policemen remained perched in their precarious positions for over an hour and eventually succeeded in convincing him to come down to the bridge deck. In recognition of their courage both constables were awarded the Commissioners Commendation for Bravery.

1977 – It was after 7:00 pm, North Vancouver BC Dog Master Constable James G. Brewer left his house with his police dog “Bandit” to start his shift. Less than an hour later members of a surveillance team observed two local criminals carrying two rifles and a revolver, enter the house the team was watching. Shortly thereafter the suspects left in their car so team members followed them in unmarked cars and eventually stopped and arrested them. A search of the vehicle recovered the two rifles but the revolver could not be found. After obtaining a search warrant for the house the team members called Constable Brewer and asked for his assistance. At 10:40 pm Brewer and Bandit searched the house and much to his shock and amazement he eventually located a shotgun and a rifle that looked very familiar. They then found an RCMP “Sam Brown” belt and holster and eventually his own service revolver in the pocket of a prostitute's coat. (Dog masters are issued snub nose revolvers for operational duty) Constable Brewer then rushed home

and discovered that his house had been broken into 15 minutes after he left for work and his original issue revolver and personal hunting weapons had been stolen.

1985 - Honour Roll Number 176.

#30318 Cst. Allen Gary Giesbrecht age 32 was shot and killed, while investigating a domestic dispute, at Vegreville, Alberta.

At approximately 5:30 p.m. four members of the Vegreville Detachment responded to the scene of complaint where a neighbour had been threatened by a well-known, unstable man, armed with a shotgun. Forty-four-year-old Tom Zaiec was no stranger to the police and had a lengthy history of erratic behavior and hatred towards police. When Constables #29757 Kimberly Connell, Allen Giesbrecht, #25537 Cornelius Kikkert and #25537 Bob Pike arrived they found the house locked and even though they could see Zaiec's mother sitting at the kitchen table, they couldn't get anyone to answer the door. The four constables then forced their way into the house and located Zaiec in his darkened bedroom at the back of the house.

The elderly woman was found to be alive but was muttering incoherently and proceeded to wander around the house aimlessly as the officers tried repeatedly to get Zaiec to come out of his room. When Cst. Giesbrecht attempted to peek around the corner he was a shot with a .270 caliber rifle projectile, striking him on the right side of the chest, between the flaps of his body armour. As the other officers exchanged gunfire with Zaiec, Cst. Giesbrecht stumbled back into the kitchen and collapsed, mortally wounded. Then Cst. Kikkert was wounded as well.

Unfortunately, the members could not extricate Giesbrecht from the scene for nearly an hour, due to the gunman's heavy firepower. When he was finally transported to hospital the medical staff realized that he was bleeding internally and that they could not treat him because the small hospital did not have enough blood or plasma in stock. Cst. Giesbrecht was then transport by ambulance to Edmonton, but he died at 8:45 p.m.

The Edmonton Emergency Response Team attended to the scene and a standoff occurred wherein they repeatedly tried to get Zaiec to speak with them. Eventually they established a telephone link with him but he refused to surrender. At 9:00 a.m. the following morning, Tom Zaiec shot and killed himself. Cst. Allen Gary Giesbrecht had nearly 12 years' service and was married with two sons under the age of three. He was buried in the community of Slave Lake Alberta.

January 16th

1886 - On this day Northwest Rebellion veteran #985 Constable Joel Julest was injured while riding a bucking horse at Calgary Alberta.

1899 - #2830 Cst Harry A. Lee (served 1892 – 1900) is one of several members to receive a good conduct badge. In the early days of the Force the “Good Conduct Badge” was a gold star signifying five years of service and good conduct. Back then the star shaped badge was worn on the lower right sleeve, whereas now the service stars are worn on the upper left sleeve. Relatively few members earned the good conduct badge because very few men stayed in the NWMP for more than five years and even fewer managed to avoid service court!

1927 - A three-man dog sled patrol including #O.195 Inspector Theodore Victor Sandys-Wunsch, #9261 Sergeant John Rowland Paton and #9587 Constable William Arthur Cooper left the Liard Detachment to take winter mail 160 miles south to the nearest post office at Porter’s Landing on the Dease River. Battling extreme cold weather Sgt. Paton developed badly frostbitten hands while breaking trail for the dog team resulting in gangrene setting in. To save his hand, Inspector Sandys-Wunsch amputated part of one of Sergeant Paton’s fingers.

1939 - The third Sgt. Renfrew movie “Crashing Thru” is released by Monogram starring James Newill and Jean Carmen. The plot; six people are in on a gold robbery and half of the crew double-cross the others. Sgt. Renfrew goes after them alone after his partner Kelly is wounded.

1941 - #10941 Sergeant Earle Carter Clendenning received a commendation for recapturing an escaped mental patient.

2004 - #41748 Constable Desmond R. Burrige came to the aid of the Highways Department in a severe winter storm and assists in evacuating the area adjacent to Hampden Newfoundland where the sea was washing over the highway.

January 17th

1986 - Mounties seldom rest. While off duty #27058 Sgt George W. Mallett arrests a fraud suspect that had eluded the Nepean Police and receives a commendation.

1993 - With only two years’ experience #43661 Constable Bruce Grant Pitt-Payne successfully negotiated the release of eight hostages who were being held gunpoint in the Health Centre, in Brooks, Alberta.

Constable Pitt-Payne convinced the deranged gunman who was armed with AK47 to release the hostages and then convinced him to surrender. For his actions he was awarded the Commissioners Commendation for bravery.

January 18th

1899 - #2353 / O.185 Inspector Kristjan Fjeldsted Anderson arrived back at Fort Saskatchewan after traveling with two dog teams from the Fort to Peace River via Athabasca Landing & Lesser Slave Lake and then returning with the mail. The mail patrol covered over 800 miles.

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1953 - Monogram Pictures releases their newest movie "Fangs of The Arctic" The movie has nothing to do with the Arctic but instead has two undercover Mounties, Corporal Rod Webb (Kirby Grant) and Constable Mike Kelly (Robert Sherman), along with Chinook the Wonder dog. Together they travel to Blackfoot Crossing country to find the killer of a trapper Antonie Dubois, and investigate reports of illegal deals in beaver pelts. Monogram releases another classic; "Yukon Vengeance" a year later.

1961 - A United States Air Force C-47 enroute to Frobisher Bay NWT transporting 12 people encountered engine problems and was forced to crash land on the ice. The pilot managed to send out a "mayday" to the nearby radar station before the plane crashed. Miraculously everyone aboard survived the crash but all twelve people had to flee the wreckage and brave the nearly 50 below zero weather because the ice beneath the plane began to breakup. Aboard the plane was a Canadian Air Commodore, eight American Air Force personnel and three USO performers, Betty and Jean Amos and Judy Lee Schreiber. The 12 survivors huddled in a circle in a futile attempt to stay warm and waited in vain expecting to freeze to death before a rescue team could find them.

Fortunately for them RCMP pilot #15969 / O.633 Robert Lorne Fletcher flying a twin engine Otter with skis was in the area and managed to locate the downed aircraft and safely landed his plane on the ice nearby. When the survivors realized that only nine of them could fit in the rescue plane and that the plane would not be able to come back until daylight the next day they refused to get aboard if they all could not be rescued then. Fletcher then piled all twelve into his plane and with American Colonel Victor Milner acting as co-pilot he revved up the engines and began taxiing in circles on ice to gather up enough speed so they could lift the severely overloaded aircraft off of the ice. As the plane lifted off, they nearly crashed when one of the skis collided with an ice boulder and ripped the ski off of the plane.

Fletcher managed to keep the plane airborne and began circling to gain some altitude before flying ten miles to the Resolution Island radar station. As the Otter approached the air strip Fletcher realized he was going to have to make the landing of his career because

the runway was very short and had a 200' drop off at the end of it. With everyone aboard whispering prayers, he brought the plane safely home on one ski.

On March 2, 1961, Lorne Fletcher was presented a Scroll of Appreciation from US Consul General for his courage in rescuing the twelve survivors.

January 19th

1943 - Princess Margriet of the Netherlands is born in Ottawa while the Dutch Royal family is living in exile from the NAZI occupation of Holland. The maternity ward of Ottawa Civic Hospital was temporarily declared to be officially part of the Netherlands so that the princess would be born on Dutch soil. The third child of Queen Juliana of the Netherlands and Prince Bernhard was named after the marguerite, (the oxeye daisy *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*) the flower worn during the war as a symbol of the resistance to Nazi Germany. In 1945, the Dutch royal family began the annual tradition that is continued to this day of sending 100,000 tulip bulbs to the people of Ottawa as a gesture of thanks for having housed the Royal Family and declaring the maternity ward where Princess Margriet was born Dutch territory. As a result of this gift in 1953 the City of Ottawa began holding what has now become the largest Tulip Festival in the world.

1987 - Member of Parliament the Honorable Erik Nielsen resigns as MP for the Yukon after serving 30 years in politics. The former Deputy Prime Minister in the Clark Government of 1972 was the brother of Hollywood actor/comedian Leslie Nielsen. Their father was a member of the RCMP # 8098 – Retired Constable Ingvard Everson Nielsen who later joined the Alberta Provincial Police.

January 20th

1899 - The first group of about 2,000 Russian Doukhobors lands in Halifax Nova Scotia enroute to the west where they settle in Alberta and eventually in British Columbia. 5,400 additional members follow shortly thereafter. These first members of this mystical Christian sect (the name means 'spirit wrestlers'), are sponsored by Count Leo Tolstoy, the novelist and author of War and Peace.

1943 - Honour Roll Number 105.

#11371 Corporal Laurence Percival Ryder age 39 died of complications resulting from a cerebral hemorrhage he received when he was attacked at Woodstock, N.B. on September 2, 1943.

Cpl. Ryder had spent ten years in the RCMP most of which was served in the Fredericton area. On September 2nd 1943, Ryder was working in Woodstock when, without

provocation he was attacked from behind by Arnold Blaney, who grabbed him and turned him around slugging him on the jaw. The impact of the unexpected blow nearly rendered him unconscious and as he fell backwards, he slammed his head on the bumper of his car. As the policeman attempted to get back on his feet, his assailant hit in the face a second time. Undaunted, Cpl. Ryder managed to get to his feet and fought with his cowardly assailant and eventually overpowered and arrested him for assault. After delivering Blaney to cells, Cpl. Ryder went home to his wife Vera because he was feeling ill. Though Cpl. Ryder never filed a sick report he continued to suffer from constant pain in the back of his head. Four months after the incident Laurence Ryder fell seriously ill and on January 13th, he suffered a stroke and began hemorrhaging. He later developed pneumonia and eventually slipped into unconsciousness and died.

Arnold Blaney could not be charged with manslaughter because he had already been sentenced to six-month jail term for assault causing bodily harm.

Laurence Percival Ryder was buried in the Rockland Cemetery in McAdam Junction leaving behind his wife and 12-year-old son.

1984 - Constables #36610 P.A. Snow and #37770 David W. Bellamy of Langley BC attempted to save the life of someone trapped in a burning building. For their efforts they were awarded Meritorious Certificates from The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

January 21st

1900 - #2821 S/Sgt Frank (Old Sex) Sexton a veteran member of the 2nd Canadian contingent to the Boer War died this day while serving at Lethbridge of “ashmatical bronchitis”. He was buried in the Mountain view Cemetery in Lethbridge Alberta in the Mounted Police section in Section P1-17, Row1, Lot 1N.

1974 - After receiving a complaint of an overdue hunter Frobisher Bay detachment members #21351 Corporal Carl A. Lentowicz and Constables #27694 David I. Gallant, and #25081 Ken Munro organized a search party of local volunteers and at 0430 a.m. headed out on snowmobiles in the -35 degree weather to search for the man who was 80 miles away. At 10:45 a.m. #23607 Staff Sergeant Dan Hickey the pilot of CF-MPF located the missing man and dropped him a note advising him to stay where he was because a search party was coming for him. Hampered by engine problems with their new snowmobiles the search party finally reached the hunter at 1:30 p.m. and began treating him. The hunter had walked all night in an attempt to prevent his feet from freezing, but by the time the rescue party arrived large portions of his feet and fingers were frozen. The rescuers then headed back to Frobisher Bay but several of them ended up walking the final seven miles because the snowmobiles had broken down again. All of

the rescue party finally made it back safely well after midnight, wishing that the Force had not replaced sled dogs with snowmobiles.

1985 - Montreal Drug Squad member #30610 Constable Mike Fletcher was named the “Police Officer of the Year” by The National Association of Chiefs of Police of the United States. He was honored for his distinguished public service and dedication and work with the “Blue Knights Motor Cycle Chapter in Detroit Michigan. Cst. Fletcher is the first Canadian peace officer to be elected President of the 7000-member international law enforcement motorcycle club.

1988 - #33667 Cst. Al R. Malcomson earned a Commanding Officers Commendation after he disarmed a dangerous, unstable man who had barricaded in house in Port Alberni BC. Constable Malcomson calmly negotiated with the suicidal man and convinced him to surrender and come out of his home.

January 23rd

1941 - German prisoner of war Franz von Werra escapes from a train near Prescott Ontario and evades the RCMP and military personnel and he makes it back to Germany, only to die in action a year later. Franz von Werra the only German POW to make a successful escape in Canada.

1956 - A newly created Mace is presented to the tenth session of the Council of the North-West Territories by Governor General Vincent Massey and is carried into the House of Commons by #12763 Sgt. James N. Reid who acted as Sergeant-at-Arms and presented it to Mr. R.G. Robertson, Commissioner of the North-West Territories. The Mace was commissioned by the Governor General and given as a gift to the people of the North-West Territories and presented to their legislators as a symbol authority. The 5 ½ foot high mace though similar to the traditional emblems found on other maces used in the Parliaments of Canada and England is unique in its workmanship and the materials used in its construction. The Mace or “Anaotalok” the great club was made by nine Inuit artists from Cape Dorset (Oshawetuk Ipeelie, Lutka Qiatsuk, Kovianaktuliak Parr, Ashevak Ezekiel, Peter Pitseolak, Nungoshuitok, Qavaroak Tunnillie, Moses Tauki and Kovianatuliak Ottokie) who were paid \$70 each and was made with a variety of materials from across the territories. The shaft is made from a narwhal tusk from the Foxt Peninsula. It includes free cooper from the shores of the Arctic Ocean, and pure gold from the mines of the Mackenzie District in the design of the crown. Musk-ox horns and carved whalebone decorated with porcupine quillwork from Yellowknife support the crown and orb. The foot of the mace is made from a piece of oak recovered from the Sir William Parry’s ship “HMS Fury” that was wrecked on Somerset Island in 1825 and found by the crew of the RCMP St. Roch. Governor General Vincent Massey requested that the mace be carried by a member of the RCMP because of the long association the Force has had with the north. This was a very special privilege that bestowed on the

Force and for Sergeant J.N. Reid a veteran of several years' service in the north, a truly great honour. The original Mace became too fragile to continue being used and was replaced with a replica in 1959 and is now stored at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

1978 – Honour Roll Number 155.

#32104 Constable Dennis Anthony Onofrey age 27 was shot and killed at a motel, in Virden, Manitoba, while investigating a suspected stolen motor vehicle.

Cst. Dennis Onofrey had just over three years' service when he was murdered and three of his comrades were injured in a shootout with two criminals from British Columbia. While working night shift in Virden, Cst. Onofrey cruised by a local motel and ran the licence plates on the vehicles in the parking lot and got a "hit" on a van with British Columbia plates. Suspecting that the vehicle was stolen he made enquires with the Motel office and learned that the room was registered to a Mr. and Mrs. Crystal. He then called for backup and when #25435 Cpl. Russ Hornseth and Constables #34034 Candice Smith and #28827 John O'Ray arrived the members went to the hotel room and knocked on the door. At first the lights came on but were then suddenly turned off and Onofrey became cautious and pulled his revolver out of his holster and pointing it at the door knocked on the door several more times.

When a man partially opened the door Cpl. Hornseth told him to step outside so they could talk to him. Before Cst. Onofrey could react the man produced a shotgun and shot him in the chest from killing him instantly. As Cpl. Hornseth ran for cover the gunman continued to shoot and hit him in the face imbedding several pellets in his forehead and destroying one of his eyes. Constable Smith found herself pinned up against a wall managed to fire a few shots before she was shot twice in the abdomen and rendered unconscious. Cst. O'Ray quickly dove over a snow bank and then circled around neighboring houses and came back to help Cpl. Hornseth as the two fugitives ran out of their room and tried to get into one of the police cars. O'Ray fired and hit the woman in the back but she was dragged into the patrol car and they sped away.

The pair then stopped at three different farmhouses and changed vehicles and took a hostage who they forced to take them to the local doctor's house. Shortly afterwards the RCMP surrounded the house and agreed to take the wounded fugitive Dorothy Malette to the hospital. The standoff continued for another four days when H. Bruce Arthur, finally gave himself up.

Both were convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to 25 years in prison with no chance of parole, but Arthur died in 1991 of complications from surgery and Malette received parole after serving 15 years.

Dennis Onofrey was buried in Assumption Cemetery in Winnipeg Manitoba leaving behind his wife Paula who was six months pregnant and their two-year-old daughter.

January 24th

1904 - Escaped murderer Ernest Cashel was captured and taken back to jail. Cashel escaped from jail on Dec 26 1903 after his brother slipped him two loaded revolvers. His escape resulted in three constables being sentenced to serve hard time and then be dishonorably discharged. (See January 7th)

1964 - Child birth has always been a challenge but when there are complications and you are in isolated locations such as Grise Fiord NWT it can be deadly.

After the wife of S/Cst Peeyameenie delivered her baby, she began hemorrhaging and was in danger of dying. Due to the fact that there was no medical help available locally the detachment contacted United States Air Force base at Thule, Greenland by radio. Following the instructions from the base doctor relayed by Cst. #21791 Smith, Constable #20799 Robert C. Currie cleaned the placenta off the uterine wall with a kitchen spoon. After the operation Mother and baby were later flown to Winnipeg where she recovered fully. #O.865 Robert C. Currie joined the RCMP in 1959 and retired an Assistant Commissioner in 1994.

1979 - For their roles in the planning of XI Commonwealth Games at Edmonton Alberta #19702 Sergeant Ronald G. Easton and #23148 Staff Sergeant Colin E. Killam received the Commanding Officers Commendation and #17912 / O.949 Inspector Ronald A. McIntyre was awarded the Commissioners Commendation for outstanding service.

1997 - #32523 Corporal Barry Gray Shannon is awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. Corporal Shannon served as a Police Monitor for the UN Protection Force Civilian Police (UNPROFOR CIVPOL) in Sarajevo, in the former Yugoslavia from November 1992 to May 1993. While working at the Civilian Police Station at Sarajevo Airport, Cpl. Shannon and his associates were subjected to constant heavy shelling. In January of 1993 Corporal Shannon risked his life on two separate occasions, while dodging artillery fire, he went into harm's way to the rescue UN monitors who had become disoriented during sniper attacks. With his assistance, the monitors were led back.

January 25th

1935 - RCMP veteran #5694 Sergeant Major Frederick Anderton, is made a Member of the Order of the British Empire.

1968 - #16974 S/Sgt Guy Houde received a commendation for assisting Scotland Yard, in the arrest of 33-year-old Charles Wilson at Rigaud Quebec. Charlie Wilson was a notorious underworld figure and one of the masterminds behind one of the greatest robberies in British history “the Great Train Robbery” when over £2.5m was stolen from a Royal Mail train on August 3rd, 1963.

Wilson along with twelve other accomplices were identified and eventually rounded up by police as a result of their finger prints being left at a farmhouse. Sentenced to 30 years in prison he made his escape on August 12, 1964 after serving only four months when a gang of three men who broke into the jail in the early hours of the morning. With a stolen ladder they broke into the grounds of a mental hospital next to the prison, and used a rope ladder to scale the 20ft (6.1 metre) high prison wall. After his escape he fled to Canada and hid out for four years before Scotland Yard was tipped off when his wife made the mistake of telephoning her parents in England. After his capture in Canada Wilson returned to jail in the UK, where he served out the rest of his sentence. When he was eventually released from prison he moved to Spain and was shot dead by a hit man on 23 April 1990 as he relaxed by his swimming pool.

The criminal exploits of Charlie Wilson were detailed in the 2004 book “Killing Charlie”: The Bloody, Bullet-riddled Hunt for the Most Powerful Great Train Robber by Wensley Clarkson.

2004 - Fraser Valley Traffic Services member #47796 Cst. Chad William Greig was on highway patrol duties in the town of Hope British Columbia when he encountered a suicidal woman on the bridge over the Fraser River. Backed up by Cst. Kevin Page (looking for reg #) he succeeded in getting close enough to the woman to grab her by her jacket as she attempted to jump into the raging river. In the process Cst. Grieg was nearly dragged over the bridge railing by the woman who repeatedly beat on him in an attempt to free herself from his grasp. Fortunately, two other police officers rushed in and as the woman continued her struggle, the policemen were able to pull her back to safety. In recognition of his courage, Cst. Greig was awarded both the Commissioners Commendation for Bravery and on October 13, 2006 he was presented the Medal of Bravery.

January 26th

1924 - The “Red Ensign” becomes Canada’s official flag and is in use until the present flag is introduced in 1965.

1940 - As King George VI was preparing to leave the Canadian headquarters at Aldershot, England after spending five and a half hours visiting the Canadian Division, he recognized #11288 Sergeant Andrew Drummond-Hay and singled him out. Sergeant Drummond-Hay had acted as one of his Majesty’s bodyguards during his Royal Visit to

Canada in 1939. In addition, the King greeted another member he remembered, the Company #9894 Sergeant Major Charles Graham who was in charge of the No.1. Provost Company (RCMP) motorcycle escort squad.

1975 - #20255 Constable R.B. Cooke of Valleyview Alberta Detachment encountered a 13-year-old boy driving his father's car. When Cooke took the child home to his parents, he discovered that the father was intoxicated and hostile to the police. A struggle occurred when the man attempted to take the car keys from Cst. Cooke and failing to get the keys, he retreated into his house and came out pointing a loaded rifle at the policeman. Cst. Cooke succeeded in talking the man into dropping the weapon and then arrested him and took him into custody. In recognition of his courage and restraint Cst. Cooke was awarded a Commanding Officers Commendation.

1979 - When a neighbour's house in Vernon, British Columbia caught on fire, #32920 Cst. Charles Neil Duncan, and Auxiliary Constable Dieter Juergen Nieswand rushed into the burning building in an attempt to save a two-year-old child. Entering through the front door they were initially driven back by the intense smoke and heat. Undeterred Aux. Cst. Nieswand tried to crawl into the kitchen on his hands and knees but was soon overcome by the smoke and had to be pulled out by his partner who then crawled back inside the house with a wet towel wrapped around his head but he too was driven back outside by the blaze. Refusing to give up, both men went back inside again and Cst. Duncan succeeded in finding the child and passed him to Aux. Cst. Nieswand, and then they rushed outside to safety. For their heroism in saving the life of the child both men were awarded the Medal of Bravery.

1981 - Constable #30909 R.X. Jerrett is awarded a Commanding Officers Commendation for his thorough fraud investigation into a case involving a scheme to procure money from the Yukon Government.

1985 - Around 1:00 a.m. a woman called the detachment in Meadow Lake Saskatchewan reporting that a man armed with a rifle was ringing her doorbell. When the police officers arrived, they conducted a quick search of the property and discovered a broken basement window. While the other constables searched the outside area for the suspect, #27367 Corporal William C. Cameron went inside the house with the owner to check on the broken window and see if anything had been stolen. As they were leaving the basement, the homeowner was confronted by the man holding a rifle. When she screamed, Corporal Cameron shoved her aside and placed himself in the line of fire. He then grabbed the barrel of the rifle and knocked the gunman to the floor and arrested him. When they checked the rifle, they discovered that it was loaded and the hammer was in the cocked position. Corporal Cameron was awarded a Commanding Officers Commendation.

1987 – Honour Roll Number 185.

S/1550 Special Constable Gordon Zigmund Kowalczyk age 35 was murdered on duty at Calgary, Alberta, during a routine traffic stop.

Gordon Kowalczyk had joined the RCMP as a Special Constable in 1975 and was assigned to the Calgary Airport. On the night that he was brutally murdered he had responded to a complaint of a “gas and dash” at nearby gas station. When he attended to the scene, he learned that the suspects had left in a pickup truck without paying for \$20 worth of gas. Shortly afterwards he radioed that he was checking a black Ford pickup on Highway 2A. A few minutes later passing motorists found his body lying in the middle of the road and called the police. The investigation revealed that Cst. Kowalczyk had been shot six times at close range with a shotgun and the killer had stolen his service revolver. The investigation quickly stalled due to lack of any witness to the murder but nearly a month later the police got a big break in the case when a man and a woman robbed a pizza parlor in Edmonton. The robbers fired a shotgun blast into the air during the robbery and the ejected shell casing matched those found at the murder scene and this time a witness could provide the police with a vehicle description and a licence plate number. The trail quickly led to a farmhouse near Crossfield Alberta and to the arrest of a mother and her son. The investigation determined that 43-year-old Linda Marie Bowen and her son Andrew Kay were responsible for several armed robberies and the night Cst. Kowalczyk was murdered they had intended on robbing the gas station he was dispatched to. Andrew Kay was in a stolen pickup truck and his mother was across the street in her car acting as the lookout, but whereas the station was closing, Kay panicked and drove off without paying for the gas.

When he was stopped a short time later Andrew Kay shot Cst. Kowalczyk at point blank range and then stepped out of the vehicle and fired five additional rounds into the policeman as he lay on the highway.

Kay was convicted and sentenced to 25 years and his mother to 13 years in prison for the senseless murder of a policeman. Gordon Zigmund Kowalczyk had three young children and was remarried. He was buried with full military honours at Queen’s Park Cemetery in Calgary Alberta.

1991 – Body armour stops more than bullets. #24385 Cpl. R.C. Toner is patrolling on rainy highway near Cole Harbour, NS, when a Jaguar car struck a passing van, then crashed into driver’s door of Toner’s police car pushing the door in and bending frame. He is saved from serious injury by his Kevlar body armour.

January 27th

1988 - Sergeants, #23868 Dale E. Dichrow and #25825 Thomas M. Wagner earned Commissioners Commendations and Commendations from the Vancouver City Police for the rescue of the occupants of a burning house in Vancouver, B.C. Both members were conducting drug surveillance on a building when they saw that it was on fire and rushed into the blaze and succeeded in getting all of the occupants out safely.

January 28th

1965 - Canada receives Royal Proclamation replaces the Red Ensign with the new Maple Leaf flag as the official flag of Canada.

1976 - Constables #24609 John Hay and #30669 Louie S. Racz responded to a call for assistance at a farm near Yorkton, Sask. Shortly after they entered the house a very agitated and emotionally charged man came in brandishing a loaded high-power rifle. Though the man was acting irrationally and at times incoherently, the two policemen managed to calm him down enough that he laid down the rifle. In recognition of their actions, both constables were awarded Commanding Officers commendations.

January 29th

1941 - #13375 Constable Brian Patrick Barry O'Callaghan while serving as a Private in the Number 1. Provost Company in England was granted a testimonial from the Royal Canadian Humane Association, for saving the life of Maurice I. Henning who was drowning in the Harmon River on near Nampa Alberta on January 29th 1941. Constable O'Callaghan joined the Provost Company in the thirteenth draft in October 1941.

1985 - New Brunswick Premier Richard Hatfield found not guilty in provincial court in Fredericton NB of possession of marijuana. The drug was discovered by #25087 Cpl. Eugene Hoffman in the Premier's personal suitcase on September 25th in Moncton, N.B., during a security search of HRH's, the Queen's plane. Premier Hatfield claimed it was planted.

January 30th

1911 - # 3948 Sergeant Stafford Eardley Aubyn Selig age 31, died of an unknown infection on Herschel Island, NWT.

1932 - Honour Roll Number 51.

#9669 Constable Edgar Millen age 31 was killed near Rat River, N.W.T., while attempting to apprehend Albert Johnson.

Cst. Millen was a casualty in one of the most famous manhunts in Canadian History; the hunt for “the Mad Trapper of Rat River”. By the time the ordeal was over a policeman and a soldier would be shot and wounded, Cst. Millen would be killed and the murderer tracked for six weeks through the bush aided by a WW1 flying Ace.

Trapper Albert Johnson was a reclusive American who had appeared in the Yukon in 1927 and had his first encounter with the policeman he would later kill when he arrived in Fort McPherson in July 1931. Johnson brought attention to himself because of his elusiveness and eccentric behavior and the fact that he was spending enormous amounts of cash. Constable Edgar Millen the commander of Arctic Red Detachment decided to check out the newcomer and after an interview that consisted mostly of vacant stares and few words; Millen advised Johnson that if he was going to trap in his detachment area he would require a trapping licence. It didn't take long for Johnson to scare off the locals and in December local Indians came to the detachment and reported that Johnson had destroyed their traps and threatened to kill them if they didn't leave his trapping area.

On December 26th Cst. Millen then sent his two men the eighty miles to Johnson's cabin to investigate. After constables #10211 Alfred Wheldon “Buns” King and Special Constable Joseph Bernard arrived two days later, they found a fortified cabin that was dug three feet into the ground and equipped with peep holes to shoot out of. Even though smoke was coming out of the cabin, Johnson refused to answer the door, so the men decided to travel 80 miles to the RCMP Headquarters in Aklavik and obtain a search warrant. Inspector #5700/O.209 Alexander Neville Eames issued the warrant and then ordered Constables #10269 G. Robert McDowell and Special Cst. Lazarus Sittichiulis to return to the scene with the other two men and arrest Albert Johnson.

The four men arrived back at the fortified cabin on December 31st, but the trapper still refused to respond to their calls. When Cst. King approached the cabin door to serve the Search Warrant, Albert Johnson shot him in the chest through a peephole. As the other three men opened fire on the cabin, they managed to pull their wounded comrade to safety and then rushed him to the All-Saints Mission back in Aklavik and miraculously he survived.

On January 5th, 1932 eight policemen and seven trappers returned to the scene armed with guns and 20lbs of dynamite and after a 15-hour siege involving heavy gunfire and blowing off part of the cabin roof Albert Johnson was still alive and shooting. Running low on supplies the men decided to return to Aklavik and came back eleven days later with a posse of 21 men. Upon their arrival the police discovered that Johnson had fled the scene and was headed towards the Alaskan border. Refusing to be deterred, Inspector Eames equipped a squad of four men led by Constable Millen with enough supplies to

last nine days and with the thermometer reading 50 below zero they set out to pursue the fugitive. When the men caught up to Johnson a gunfight occurred and Cst. Millen was killed by a shot from Johnson's high-powered rifle.

After Millen's body was returned, the manhunt became a national story and the search for the Mad Trapper of Rat River gained a new intensity. Canada's war hero Wilfred "Wop" May, the ace who had challenged the Red Baron in France was brought in from Edmonton over 1000 miles away with his Bellanca airplane, and hired to lead an aerial search. With the bush pilot's assistance, the posse closed in on Johnson on February 17th and in the shootout that followed Albert Johnson was riddled with bullets.

The story of the hunt for Albert Johnson was made into a bestselling book "The Death of Albert Johnson, Mad Trapper of Rat River". Even Hollywood got in on the act when in 1981 they released the movie "Death Hunt" starring Lee Marvin as Millen and Charles Bronson as Albert Johnson. Using poetic licence, they promoted Millen to sergeant and subtitle the movie as "the saga of two rivals who clash as enemies and triumph as heroes", The movie tells how a reluctant Lee Marvin is forced to pursue Charles Bronson in the manhunt across the Canadian wilderness.

Edgar Millen a native of Belfast Ireland was initially buried in Aklavik but on February 29, 1932 he was re-interred with full military honours at the Beechmont Cemetery in Edmonton Alberta.

1964 - A terrorist group calling itself "Comité révolutionnaire du Québec" raid the armoury in Montreal and steal weapons and ammunition.

1966 - The Canadian Government announces that over 100,000 Canadians aged 69 are now eligible for \$75 Old Age Security pensions. This is welcomed news to retired members of the Force who are receiving meager pensions for their service in the RCMP and the RNWMP

1970 - At approximately 11:00 p.m. #18044 Corporal William R. Colvin was conducting a routine patrol on the Trans-Canada Highway near Regina when he encountered a 16-year-old boy hitchhiking.

When he questioned the lad, he discovered that he was a runaway from Hope, British Columbia. He had the boy get in his car and was returning him to Regina when suddenly the boy produced what Colvin thought was a .45 revolver and pointed at him and ordered him to stop the car. Instead of easing the car to a stop Cpl. Colvin slammed on the brakes while traveling at over 60 miles per hour and wrestled the gun from the youth's hand. In recognition of his courage and determination in safely disarming the assailant Cpl. Colvin was awarded the Commissioners Commendation for Bravery.

1971 - Often stories of heroism seldom get told let alone recognized with an award. One such incident involving #25593 Constable Brian Shouldice of Frobisher Bay, NWT was noted by Mr. Justice W.G. Morrow in an article he wrote in 1975, entitled "Courage in Red". In his article he commended a number of constables he had encountered in his career as a judge including Cst. Shouldice who had responded to complaint of a break and enter. When he walked into the house, he was confronted by an intoxicated man who was lying on the floor pointing a rifle at him and threatening to kill him. Cst. Shouldice quickly removed himself from the house and then set up surveillance. Instead of confronting the drunken man left the building with the rifle, he followed him at a safe distance and when the gunman tripped and fell, Shouldice rushed him and grabbed the .303 hunting rifle. When he examined it, he discovered that the bolt was missing. Even though the weapon was harmless, Cst. Shouldice had no way of knowing that. The judge noted that individual courage and restraint that he demonstrated, exemplified the professionalism of many members of the Force who deal with situations like this on a regular basis.