

Larry Burden's – This Day in the RCMP

Former RCMP Larry Burden, Sgt. (Retd. #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.

February 1st

1883 - Members of the NWMP have had to endure severe weather conditions in the course of their duties. But this day in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan sets a new record when the mercury drops to a bone chilling -56.7 degrees Celsius.

1915 - Like so many of his peers #5685 Cpl. Michael O'Leary obtained a discharge from the NWMP so he could serve in WW1 with "A" Company of the Irish Guards. On this day while fighting at Cuinchy, France, 26-year-old Lance-Corporal O'Leary rushed a German machine gun position and killed five Germans who were holding the first barricade. Then he attacked a machine gun position 60 yards further on killing three more enemy soldiers and taking two others prisoner.

His valour resulted in him being awarded the Victoria Cross and a promotion to Sgt. and then he was transferred to the Connaught Rangers and promoted, to 1st. Lieutenant. His heroism was again recognized when he was serving in Salonika and he was awarded the Russian Cross of St. George.

O'Leary's image and reputation were used to recruit Irishmen into the Army. They even tried to use his father as a recruiter but canned him after only one speech when speaking in the Inchigeela district, he urged the young men to join the British army stating; 'If you don't', he told them, 'the Germans will come here and will do to you what the English have been doing for the last seven hundred years'."

After ending the war as a Captain, he eventually returned to Canada with his wife Margaret Hegarty, where he became an Inspector in the Ontario Provincial Police. In 1925 they went to Michigan, USA, and he joined the Michigan Central Police. Eventually he returned to England. In WW2, he served with the Middlesex Regiment and retired at the end of the war as a Major. He died in England in 1961 and is buried in Paddington Cemetery.

1920 - The Royal North-West Mounted Police becomes the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and assumes the responsibility of enforcing federal laws in all nine Provinces and both territories, instead of only the four western provinces. The new Force absorbs the Dominion Police, which had guarded government buildings and enforced federal statutes since 1868. The headquarters of the new Federal Police Force is moved to Ottawa while training stays in Regina. The size of new Force is set at 2,500 men.

1924 - Inuit murderers Alikomiak and Taimagana were hanged at Herschel Island NWT for the murder of Cpl. W.A. Doak and two other men on April 21, 1922. The pair who had been previously convicted of murdering four Inuit in 1921 committed the murders while they were being held in custody. Previously the government had been lenient on the sentencing of Inuit murderers, by having death sentences commuted to life in prison. In this case it appears that their fate was sealed before the trial for their graves had been dug and their defense counsel stated publicly “that the law should take its course and those Eskimos found guilty of murder should be hanged in a place where the natives will see and recognize the outcome of taking another life.”

1935 - International Pictures release the movie “SILENT CODE” starring Kane Richmond as RCMP Corporal Jerry Halea Mountie who is reassigned to a district he had been run out of earlier forcing him to leave his girlfriend and be accused of murder.

1940 - #12647 Constable Hans William Metcalfe was promoted to Lance Corporal for his bravery in attempting to arrest an insane man in the Yukon. Metcalfe served from 1935 to his death while serving as a Corporal in Swift Current Saskatchewan on May 21, 1951.

1961 - 20th-Century Fox releases the movie “The Canadians” in DeLuxe Color. The hero of the flick is Inspector William Gannon starring Robert Ryan who has to deal with the problems created when the Sioux come to Canada. He lets them stay if they promise to be peaceful, but cowboys kill all inhabitants of one of their villages and create problems for the Mounties.

1962 - #14037 Staff Sergeant Major J.E. Fernand Roy received a commendation for an Excise Act investigation in which resulted in the seizure of an illicit still and 800 gallons’ alcohol. He served from 1941 to 1964 & died on October 3rd, 1997 at St Laurent, Que.

February 3rd

1912 - #4751 Constable Edward R. Clark's stint as the NCO in charge of the Town Station Detachment at Maple Creek, Saskatchewan did not go well. The man was brought up on charges by #O.116 Superintendent F. J. Horrigan, who convicted him in Service Court on charges that lost one handcuff key. After finding him guilty the officer confined him to barracks for seven days and ordered him to pay 20 cents for a new key.

1916 - Fire destroys the wooden Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, killing seven people. The Parliamentary Library is saved by a quick-thinking clerk, who closes the iron doors. The tragedy is widely blamed on German wartime saboteurs. A new building, containing the Commons and Senate, is rebuilt of stone in the Gothic revival style, and completed in 1920.

1942 - #13438 Cst. William Henzie is drafted into the RCMP Provost Corps, during the 10th reinforcement draft during WWII. 1947– Another chilly day for members of the RCMP when the lowest temperature ever recorded in Canada registers in at -64C (-83F) in Snag Yukon.

1998 - To celebrate the 125th anniversary of Force Corporal #35273 Jacques Maillet, constable #45072 Manuel A. Pizarro-Arellano, #45083 Cliff R. Chastellaine and Mr. Richard Getzkow, of Gibsons, BC climb Mount Aconcagua in Argentina. Climbing the highest peak (6960 meters) in the Americas is no easy feat at the best of times but climbing in a fierce blizzard with high winds is treacherous. They barely survived the climb while other nine climbers who were attempting the same feat perished. For their efforts they raised over \$23,000 for Children's' Wish Foundation.

2011 - Constable James Alan Moir, M.B. – After a period of freezing rain, Constable James Alan Moir was on the scene where several cars had skidded into the ditch near Yale, BC. A passing truck also lost control on the icy road and slid towards a girl, who was standing nearby. Constable Moir reacted quickly and pushed her out of harm's way before she was hit by the truck, while rescuing the girl Cst. Moir was pinned between two vehicles. Fortunately, bystanders were able to pull the trucks apart to free the injured constable.

For his quick thinking and bravery in saving the life of the girl, Constable Moir was awarded the Medal of Bravery.

February 4th

1972 - Constable Dale Edward Dickrow earned a Commanding Officers Commendation after he removed a bomb from a public locker in the Vancouver International Airport.

1988 - #37945 Constable L.J.B. Beck nee Brown revived a prisoner in cells who had stopped breathing by using CPR and was awarded the Meritorious Certificate from the Most Venerable Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.

1993 - #31859 / O. J.E.G. Rochette rescued stranded child from cliff side near Vedder Crossing, B.C.

February 5th

1911 - Inspector Francis J. Fitzgerald the leader of the ill-fated “Lost Patrol” made his last entry in his diary “only go a few miles a day”.

1984 - Commendation to #28082 Robert Gallup, #30252 J.M.R. Potvin, #31157 J.R.J. Garneau, #33492 J.D.P. Boudreau & #37615 A.J. Cote for safely arresting a hostage taker in Moncton, N.B.

1986 - Constables #28797 Garry J. Kingsbury and #31946 D.R. Gormley apprehended a dangerous mental patient who had taken medical staff hostage at the hospital in Winkler, Manitoba and threatened their lives. For their bravery in arresting the violent man without incident, both men were awarded Commanding Officers Commendations.

February 6th

1916 - Constables #4005 William MacBrayne and #5535 Samuel Whitley were both awarded \$25 from the Fine Fund for meritorious service in the George Leek murder investigation.

1932 - WW1 flying Ace W.R. (Wop) May is recruited to assist the RCMP in the search to find and capture Albert Johnson, the Mad Trapper of Rat River. With his assistance Johnson is cornered and killed in a shootout.

1952 - King George VI dies in his sleep and Princess Elizabeth who is on safari in Africa accedes to the Throne as Queen Elizabeth II. After her coronation the crest of the RCMP is redesigned to include the St. Edward crown replacing the Imperial State crown.

1975 - Members of the RCMP in “K” Division and the residents of Alberta become the envy of the rest of Canada when the Provincial government cuts personal income tax by 28%, making Albertans lowest-taxed Canadians.

1975 - After eight boys from Conception Bay Newfoundland decide to play on the sea ice, they find themselves in serious trouble when the ice flow they are on is carried out to sea. Fortunately for them RCMP helicopter pilot Staff Sergeant Doug McKay along with his mechanic Special Constable Tom Manning find the boys and pluck them off the ice and return them home safely.

1978 - While off duty in Winnipeg Manitoba #27207 Cst. L.S. Reissner, witnessed a robbery and though he was unarmed, arrested Raymond Andre after he tackled and disarmed earning himself a Commanding Officers Commendation.

1995 - While serving with the United Nations as instructors at the National Police Academy in Haiti Sergeant Kenneth Charles Gates, and Constable Bradley Ernest Kent were called upon to apply first aid to a recruit who had an infected knee. When the men examined the knee, they recognized that the knee was seriously infected and without proper medical treatment the cadet would likely die. They immediately transported the man to the hospital, and in the process saved his life. A few days later, Cst. Kent was instrumental in saving another recruit’s severely infected arm.

Two weeks later both policemen were relaxing at a local beach on their day off when they saw a swimmer struggling against an undertow. Recognizing that her life was in danger the men rushed into the water and despite the strong wind and choppy water they swam out to the distressed woman and brought her back to safety.

In recognition to their professionalism and a ready willingness to help those in need both men were awarded the Meritorious Service Medal on August 28, 1999.

February 11th

1926 - TV/Movie actor, comedian Leslie William Nielsen is born at Regina Saskatchewan. Nielsen was raised in Fort Norman in the Yukon, where his father #08098 Ingyard Nielsen was the Detachment Commander. One of his two brothers, Eric, was the deputy Prime Minister of Canada in Joe Clark’s government in 1979. He died November 28, 2010 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. A member of the RCMP was present for his funeral.

1966 - Honour Roll Number 131.

#20388 Constable Thomas Percy Carroll age 28 was killed in a plane crash at Cyril Lake, Manitoba.

At the time of his death Tom Carroll had been in the RCMP for nearly eight years and was married with a young son. A native of Nelson British Columbia, Cst. Carroll had transferred to Churchill Manitoba ten months before. Carroll was returning from a three-day patrol in the isolated Native community at Shamattawa and traveling with him was the 38-year-old Indian Agent, Donald McEwen. Their chartered flight was to take them to the town of Ilford where they would catch a train for the 50-mile trip back to Churchill. Around 3:00 p.m. the pilot put the plane down on the ice on Cyril Lake because he was running low on fuel and radioed for someone to bring him fuel by tractor.

The fuel arrived three hours later and after filling his tanks the pilot decided to take off in the dark over the concerns of ground crew. Using the lights of the tractor, the plane lifted off the ice and began a steep climb to 150 feet when the plane stalled and then plummeted into the ice and burst into flames. All three men were killed instantly.

Thomas Percy Carroll was buried in his family plot at the Nelson Cemetery.

1977 - A Fisherman in Nova Scotia catches the world's heaviest known crustacean. The monster lobster weighs in at 20.2-kg.

1978 - As the Pacific Western Airlines Flight 314 was landing in a snow storm at the Airport in Cranbrook BC, the crew suddenly noticed a snow plow on the runway. The pilot immediately initiated a "go-around" procedure, but the aircraft's thrust reversers did not stow away properly because all hydraulic power on the aircraft was automatically cut off during lift-off. The Boeing 737-235 managed to miss the snowplow, but overran the runway, crashed and burned. Forty-two of 49 people aboard were killed including #18535 Sgt Ron Riddell who was returning to Cranbrook, from his father's funeral.

One of the Cranbrook Detachment members who rushed to the scene and helped rescue survivors was #25563 Cst. W. Harold Bowes who received Commanding Officers commendation for his actions.

February 12th

1885 - Parliament grants amnesty to Louis Riel, W. B O'Donoghue, and Ambroise-Dydime Lepine for their roles in the March 1870 execution of adventurer Thomas Scott at the Red River Settlement.

1955 - A United States Air Force B-47 Stratojet with 4 crew members aboard exploded and crashed in northern Saskatchewan. The bomber (tail number 17013) was flying as the number two aircraft in a formation of eleven B-47's enroute from Thule Air Base, in Greenland to March Air Force Base in California.

As soon as the crash was reported the Royal Canadian Air Force initiated a search and rescue mission code-named "Big Sandy Lake" and shortly thereafter a RCAF Dakota dropped a para-rescue team who located two survivors and the body of a third crew member killed in the crash. The first aircraft capable of landing near the crash site was a RCMP de Havilland single Otter "CF-MPP", from Churchill Manitoba, piloted by #16312 S/Sgt Arnold Noel Beaumont and co-pilot #15969 / O.633 Robert Lorne Fletcher. The two survivors were loaded into the Otter and they were flown out to The Pas, Manitoba. The fourth B-47 crewman was located and rescued by helicopter 72 hours after the crash, having parachuted into a cluster of trees some distance from the crash site. S/Sgt Arnold Beaumont was subsequently awarded a Certificate of Meritorious Achievement by the USAF for his part in the rescue.

1978 - While making a routine patrol in Prince George, B.C. #29536 Cst. C. James Delnea saw flames and smoke billowing out of a window on the top floor of the MacDonald Hotel.

Delnea radioed his partner #25168 Cst. Orville Smith who rushed to the scene and the two policemen rushed into the hotel and began waking the patrons and advising them to get out of the hotel. As the pair continued to bang on doors the smoke increased in its intensity forcing them to crawl on their hands and knees as they worked their way outside for some fresh air. After catching their breath, the soot covered men rushed back into the burning building and continued to bang on doors alerting the sleeping patrons.

On the second attempt, they heard a woman screaming for help and a man shouting at her to get down on the floor. As they proceeded to make their way to her room the firemen arrived wearing breathing apparatus and directed them to the fire exit. Once outside Cst. Delnea assisted the firemen in getting a ladder up to the couple's room and they were rescued. In recognition of their heroism both constables were awarded Meritorious Certificates from the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.

February 13th

1942 - Honour Roll Number 104.

#10155 Cst. Albert Joseph Chartrand age 37 died of a heart attack aboard the R.C.M.P. Schooner St. Roch which was frozen in at Pasley Bay, N.W.T.

Many men have worked in the Arctic but there were very few as accomplished in dealing with the rigors of northern life as Constable "Frenchie" Chartrand was. The outdoor

adventurer from Ottawa Ontario had joined the RCMP in 1926 when he was 21 and he spent 15 of his 16 years in the Force serving in the western Arctic in Aklavik, Herchel Island, Coppermine and Cambridge Bay. He quickly gained a reputation as an expert dog musher and breeder and set speed records delivering the mail across the western Arctic, once traveling over 1100 miles by dog sled in only 32 days! Every year the young policeman traveled over 5000 miles by dog sled and patrol boat and was known and loved by nearly every Inuit family in the western Arctic. His skills as a musher, fisherman and seal hunter led to his being assigned to the RCMP Schooner St. Roch commanded by #10407/ O.346 Sergeant Henry Asbjørn Larsen. In 1940 the St. Roch was ordered to traverse the Northwest Passage traveling from Vancouver BC to Halifax Nova Scotia, a feat that had never been done before. On June 21, 1940, the St. Roch set sail with Larsen as captain, and crew members; #10607 Cst. Frederick Sleigh Farrar first mate, #8406 Cpl. Myles Frederick Jack Foster chief engineer, Cst. #12704 George William Peters second engineer, #13013 Cst.E.C. Dean Hadley wireless operator, #7756 Cst. William John Parry cook, and Frenchie Chartrand and #12740 Cst. Pat G. Hunt as seamen. The story of the St. Roch history making voyage went on to become that of legend, but the trip was interspersed with periods of rough weather, being frozen in ice for months, attending to police patrols conducting a census of the Inuit people and dog sled patrols lasting up to 62 days and covering over 1100 miles in bone chilling weather.

While the ship sat frozen in the ice of Pasley Bay the crew went about their daily routines. Cst. Chartrand had always been the picture of health but the morning he died he sat on the edge of his bunk and complained to Pat Hunt that he had indigestion. After Cst. Hunt went topside for a few minutes he returned to find Frenchie lying dead on the floor, having suffered a massive heart attack.

Being the only Roman Catholic in the crew, his comrades decided that he had to have proper burial so Sgt. Larsen and Cst. Hunt traveled over 400 miles to the community of Pelly Bay and asked the Catholic Priest, Father Gustav Henry to come to Pasley Bay to conduct a funeral service for their friend. The priest agreed to travel there to conduct the service but advised them that he could not go until May because there were not enough food supplies available for him to make the arduous journey and he and his dogs would starve. Reluctantly the two policemen agreed that the funeral would have to wait and headed back to their ship, arriving three weeks overdue and having nearly starved to death. True to his word Father Henry arrived in May and with an altar set up on the ship's deck he conducted the service with the crew singing "Onward Christian Soldiers" and "Nearer my God to Thee". Afterwards he went up the hill to the cairn the men had built and blessed the grave.

On October 11, 1942, the St. Roch arrived in Halifax having traveled 9,745 nautical miles nearly two years after leaving Vancouver. In recognition of their historic voyage every member of the crew was awarded the Polar Medal. Constable Frenchie Chartrand still lies buried beneath the rock cairn on a lonely wind-swept bluff at Pasley Bay.

1970 - The RCMP Air Division takes delivery on its first de Havilland Twin Otter.

The first of six (CF-MPB, MPC, MPF, MPH, MPL and MPN) 20 passenger short takeoff and landing aircraft (STOL) are powered by two Pratt and Whitney PT6A-27 turbo prop engines and cruise at an average speed of 175 mph. The Twin Otter becomes the work horse of northern flight operations and are based out of Yellowknife, Regina, Frobisher Bay, Inuvik, Whitehorse and Edmonton.

By the end of 1974 the fleet has flown over 23,320 hours and ten pilots; Inspector N. Brisbin, Staff Sergeants B.M. Thomson, E.H. Wright, R.D. Sanders, G.M. Hayden, N.C. Muffitt, D.J. Klancher, L.D. Hickey and Sergeants L.A. MacCulloch and N.R. Cross had been awarded 1000-hour certificates from the de Havilland Aircraft Company.

1986 - While driving to Fort Langley, BC #36579 Cst. R.R. Young noticed headlights glowing in a water filled ditch. When he stopped, he discovered a submerged car and observed a woman struggling in the cold water with child. Cst. Young jumped into the water and pulled them out of the vehicle and then proceeded to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to the unconscious child and revived her. For his actions in saving the pair he was awarded the Meritorious Certificate from the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.

February 14th

1911 - Honour Roll Numbers 34, 35, 36, and 37.

Members of the Lost Patrol **#2127 S/Cst. Samuel Carter** age 42, **#2218 Insp. Francis Joseph Fitzgerald** age 41, **#4582 Cst. George Frances Kinney** age 37 and **#4346 Cst. Richard O'Hara Taylor** age 29 died from starvation, exposure and exhaustion, during the ill-fated MacPherson - Dawson patrol.

This ill-fated patrol was doomed from the beginning, because Inspector Francis Fitzgerald had decided that he was going to set a new speed record on the 325-mile dog sled trip and therefore lightened the load by reduced the rations needed to feed the four-member patrol and their 15 dogs. This annual patrol between Fort MacPherson NWT and Dawson City Yukon was a vital link to the outside world for what was known as the most isolated points in Canada, for it was the only time the mail, packages and other documents were delivered to these remote northern locals.

Previously the patrol had run south to north from Dawson City, but Fitzgerald who was the officer in charge of the MacKenzie River Sub-District wanted to travel to Dawson, so he could use their telegraph service.

Francis Fitzgerald qualifications as a northern traveler were impeccable, as he was one of the most experienced and celebrated adventurers in the Force, having served nearly his entire career in the north except when he was granted leave to serve in the Boer War. Fitzgerald chose three men to accompany him on the patrol, two of whom were serving

members of the Force; Constables George Kinney and Richard Taylor. The fourth member of the patrol was former Constable Sam Carter who had served in the Force for ten years and was rehired as a guide and made a Special Constable because of his extensive experience in the north and because he had made the journey five years before. Inspector Fitzgerald also hired a Native guide named Esau to guide the party as far as Mountain Cree and then Sam Carter would guide the patrol the rest of the way. The decision to use Sam Carter as the guide would ultimately prove to be a mistake that would cost all of the men their lives.

The men left Fort MacPherson on December 10th with three sleds pulled by teams of five dogs each and were making good time despite the bitter cold and heavy snow when they were spotted by a group of natives on New Year's Day. Everything was going well for the group who expected to reach Dawson City within 20 days, but then they missed the crucial turn at Forrest Creek. This mistake cost them five days of travel while they searched up and down the Wind River trying to find the correct tributary. On January 17th, the Inspector recorded in his diary that Sam Carter was completely lost and that they were running low on food. The next day the group decided to turn around and head back to Fort MacPherson over 264 miles away. Battling tremendous winds and temperatures ranging between -45 to -65 degrees below zero Fahrenheit they tried to retrace their path over trails that had been covered over with snowdrifts. By February first the men had killed and eaten eight of their dogs. The Native guide Esau had guided the patrol to the Mountain Creek as agreed and was paid for his services and Esau then rejoined his own party and carried on with them to Dawson arriving on February 20th surprised to learn that the patrol had not arrived ahead of him.

On February 28, 1911 #3193 Cpl. W.J.D. Dempster; led a search party consisting of #4937 Cst. J. F. Fyfe, former Constable F. Turner, and Native guide Charles Stewart to find the overdue men and on March 12th they found one of the patrols overnight camps. Over the next several days the search party found several more camp sites and determined that the patrol had headed back towards Fort MacPherson. On March 21st, they found the bodies of Constables Kinney and Taylor lying side by side. Kinney had frozen to death and Taylor had shot himself with his rifle.

The following day the search party found the bodies of the other two men ten miles further down the Peel River. They determined that the men had attempted to struggle on to get help for their two comrades and perished themselves only 25 miles from Fort MacPherson. Sam Carter had died first and was found with his arms were crossed over his chest and a handkerchief placed over his face. Inspector Fitzgerald's frozen body was lying nearby wrapped in a couple of blankets.

The bodies of all four men were discolored and emaciated from starvation and exposure and the feet of two of the men were swollen to twice their normal size.

One has to wonder if the 38 pounds of tobacco that was included in their meager supplies had been food instead, whether this could have changed their fate?

The four bodies were transported back to Fort MacPherson where they were buried side-by-side outside of the Anglican Church. The subsequent investigation into the tragedy concluded that their deaths were the result of traveling with insufficient provisions and the failure to use an experienced guide. In 1938 the grave site was cleaned up and the graves were cemented over to make a single tomb with a monument erected to their memory.

The story of the Lost Patrol was covered in detail in 1978 when writer Dick North published his book “The Lost Patrol – The Mounties Yukon Tragedy”.

A more recent book on this subject was published in 2013 titled “Death Wins In The Arctic” by Kerry Karram. Her Grandfather #9959 Andrew D Cruickshank was a member of the Force in the 1920’s and now her son # 59493 Andrew Karram is a member as well.

1959 - The Florida newspaper the “St Petersburg Times” published an exciting review of former Constable #3691 Frank Crocker about his criminal catching career as a “Mountie”. He neglected to mention that he only served from 1900 to 1903 when on February 27th he deserted from Coutts Detachment.

February 15th

1936 - The Whitehorse Detachment barracks was consumed by fire, destroying the building and all its contents. The detachment quarters were all that remained of the original “H” Division buildings that were built in the late 1890’s.

1943 - Columbia Pictures releases “Riders of the Northwest Mounted” starring Russell Hayden as “Lucky Kerrigan”.

1946 - As a result of information received from Igor Gouzenko, a former clerk at the USSR Embassy in Ottawa, Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King tells Parliament about Soviet spy ring activities in Canada. The RCMP investigates and charges are laid against 21 people, and 11 are convicted. The first time Gouzenko tried to report the matter to the RCMP he wasn’t believed and was shown to the door.

1950 - Motion pictures were admitted as evidence for the first time in a Canadian Court. Chief Justice Farris of the British Columbia Supreme Court admitted films as evidence citing that motion pictures as evidence are equivalent to still photos which are used in court to explain the evidence given by witnesses.

1965 - After a two-year debate and many proposed designs Canada’s new Maple Leaf flag is unfurled in ceremonies on Parliament Hill.

1978– Honour Roll Number 160.

#31641 Constable William Iraneus Seward age 22 was killed in a police car accident at Toronto, Ontario.

Members in plain clothes sections are often called upon to follow suspects or rush to scenes to back up other members. Traveling in unmarked cars they either do not have or want the increased visibility a marked police car provides while trying to get through traffic quickly. While working in the Toronto Airport Drug Section Cst. Seward was involved in a head-on collision and was killed instantly when he tried to pass another vehicle while driving eastbound on Steele's Avenue thereby ending his two- and half-year career in the RCMP. He was buried in the Resurrection Cemetery at Sydney Forks near his home town of New Waterford, N.S.

February 16th

1918 - Honour Roll Number 41

#5548 Constable Alexander Lamont age 30, died at Herschel Island, Y.T., from typhoid fever, contracted while nursing the Arctic explorer and anthropologist Vilhjalmur Stefansson.

In addition to the isolation and boredom, members in far-flung locations such as Herschel Island were often called upon to provide medical care as best, they could. Scottish born Cst. Alexander Lamont joined the Force in 1910 and was posted to Herschel Island, the remote whaling station on the windswept island in the Beaufort Sea. By 1916 he had had enough of life in the Arctic and in August he applied for and received a transfer out of the far north, but two years later he was still waiting to be moved. In January 1918, the highly contagious disease typhoid fever was rampant throughout the western Arctic and many aboriginal people had died from the dreaded disease.

When the famous Canadian born Arctic explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson contracted the disease and was brought to the Mounted Police Detachment for medical care, Cst. Lamont volunteered to care for him. For nearly a month the constable stayed by the explorer's side doing his best to nurse him back to health and then on February 5, 1918 Lamont contracted typhoid as well. Afterwards both men shared the same sick room while Cst. J. Brockie and a prisoner tended to their needs. Eleven days later Lamont died and was buried in the local Anglican Mission Cemetery.

After Lamont died, Vilhjalmur Stefansson was moved to Fort Yukon, Alaska where he recovered from the disease and never returned to the Arctic. He lived for another 44 years dying at the ripe old age of 93. Sadly, the young Mountie who gave his life in an effort to nurse him back to health has gone unrecognized by nearly all historians and Stefansson's

biographers, and if this event in the life of this extraordinary man is mentioned at all, it is only as a footnote that he had a serious illness.

1982 - Constables #32004 T.J. Hanley and #31404 D.G. Phillips responded to a break and enter into the Hudson's Bay Company store at Fort Simpson NWT and caught the suspect inside. Instead of surrendering to the police, the man smashed open the firearms display case and armed himself with a 12-gauge shotgun and three high powered rifles and then began shooting at the police. When the shooting began both constables made an attempt to escape from the store, but Constable Phillips found himself trapped in the foyer. Staying as close as possible to his partner Constable Hanley took cover outside while the suspect blasted away. Throughout the ordeal Constable Phillips had the opportunity to shoot the gunman but waited patiently until he could tackle him. After firing over 70 rounds at the two policemen the deranged gunman was overpowered and taken into custody. For their courage, restraint and discretion both constables were awarded the Commanding Officers Commendation.

February 17th

1915 - #6327 Cst Robert Dunn found himself in Orderly Room at Kindersley, Saskatchewan, charged with falsifying an expense receipt of 75 cents. For his crime #4381/O.174 Inspector William Craysfort "Bill" Proby sentenced him to 3 months hard labour and then dismissed him from the Force.

Ironically Inspector Proby was himself dismissed from the Mounted Police in 1922 and his officer number was reassigned to another officer.

1932 - Albert Johnson, 'the Mad Trapper of Rat River,' was killed by RCMP in shoot-out after 48-day 240 km manhunt in 40 below weather. Johnson had been charged with killing one Mountie, #9969 Constable Edgar (Newt) Millen (HR51) and wounding #10211 Constable Alfred Weldon 'Buns' King. The manhunt was the first ever to be broadcast live on Canadian radio. Albert Johnson was believed to be 31 years of age but was never actually identified. No family member ever came forward to claim the body even though he had over \$2000 cash and a quantity of placer gold in his possession. (See January 30, 1932)

1988 - Member of Parliament, The Honourable John Crosbie presented Pilot / Special Constable #43056 / O.1885 Colin N. MacLeod a Commendation from the Canadian Port and Harbour Association and the Certificate of Merit from Department of Transport for his rescue and evacuation of a seriously injured crew member from Motor Vessel "Humber Arm" during blizzard. In addition, Pilot MacLeod was presented the Commanding Officers Commendation for "actions above and beyond the call of duty".

February 18th

1900 - #3165 Constable Zachary Lewis was killed in action at Paardelberg Drift, South Africa while serving with the 2nd Special Services Battalion, in the Boer War. He was one of seven Mounties killed in the South African War.

1967 - Police Dog handler #19758 George Hawkins and #21108 Cst. Alfred Erickson to scene of shooting. Upon their approach, the man fired shotgun at them with pellets striking Hawkins. His dog attacked. Hawkins fired warning shot and man surrendered.

1965 - Members from the Stewart B.C. Detachment assist in the recovery of victims of an avalanche on Grandue Mountain located 48 km north of Stewart. The avalanche killed 26 people at the Oranduc Copper Mine camp.

1983 - #31471 Constable Gordon Henry Gavin responded to a robbery in progress at a local store in Enderby, BC. He overpowered and disarmed the gunman who was armed with a rifle. His efforts earned him a Commanding Officer's Commendation.

February 19th

1889 - Gabriel Dumont 1838-1906 the Saskatchewan Metis leader and associate of Louis Reil is pardoned by the Crown for his role in 1885 Rebellion.

1908 - Constables #4247 William Cashman and #4312 John O'Neill head out from Norway House, Manitoba and travel to Keewatin NWT by dog sled to arrest four men wanted for murder. They make it back to their detachment in only 26 days, having traveled a distance of over 600 miles. One of the accused was sentenced to death, another one committed suicide while awaiting trial and the remaining two accused were sentenced to serve time in prison.

1970 - Canada formally claims jurisdiction over waters of Northwest Passage, and between islands of Arctic Archipelago. The formal claim is made as a show of sovereignty, even though the Mounted police have patrolled the area for decades.

1995 - Commendations to #42958 Terry Jacklin and #44422 Nick Lee for attempting to rescue passengers of submerged car in the icy waters of the Birkenhead River, B.C.

February 20th

1882 - #419 Cpl Tom LaNauze and constables #358 John Leader and #578 Robert Wilson opened first detachment at Fort Stand-Off, N.W.T. (Alberta).

1907 - Cst. #4488 Archibald Gairdner and Special Constable DeCouta left Lesser Slave Lake traveling by dog sled to carry the mail to Peace Crossing, Fort St John and Fort Graham. They returned May 17 after traveling 530 miles.

1966 - Often stories of heroism seldom get told let alone recognized with an award. One such incident involving Constables #22349 K.D. Gill and #20072 B.C. Pope at Fort Smith N.W.T. as 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. Constables Gill and Pope response to a complaint where an intoxicated youth ransacked his parent's house and then got hold of several rifles. The boy then proceeded to riddle the area with over 400 rounds of ammunition shooting at anyone he saw including the local Priest, the local doctor and the policemen. The matter was finally brought to a conclusion when the officers fired tear gas into the house, thereby forcing the boy to surrender. The judge praised the policemen for their restraint and commented that in many other countries the boy would have been shot many times over by the police.

1978 - Corporal# 23660 Blain Alfred MacKeil saved the life of 16-year-old Calvin Tomlin from Verigin District in Saskatchewan after he choked on a wad of chewing gum and couldn't be revived by artificial respiration. Cpl. MacKeil arrived on scene and utilizing the Heimlich maneuver succeeded in dislodging the obstruction. He was awarded the Meritorious Certificate from The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

1989 - Constable #30404 Joseph A. Martin earned a Commissioners Commendation for Bravery after he rushed into a burning building in Murray River, N.S and saved the life of Mr. Lemuel Butler.

1989 - Honour Roll # 186.

#31162 Cpl. Derek John Flanagan age 36 died because of injuries he sustained while on special duty in Chang Mai, Thailand.

Derek Flanagan was a member of Vancouver Drug Section and was assigned to a joint international drug investigation working undercover in Thailand. While he was attempting to make a purchase of a large quantity of heroin in the back of a truck, the

driver became suspicious when he saw other members move into the area. The driver began to drive off and a struggle ensued between Cpl Flanagan and the drug dealer. In the process Flanagan was tossed from the moving vehicle resulting in him receiving serious head and spinal injuries. He died in hospital shortly thereafter.

As a result of the investigation, he was involved in, six criminals were sent to prison and over 2½ kilograms of heroin was seized.

February 21st

1991 - While off duty Constable #43284 R.F. Harris rushed into his neighbors burning house in Bella Coola, BC, and using a fire extinguisher from his own home he doused the flames thereby saving the woman home. In recognition of his selfless actions, he was awarded the Commanding Officers Commendation for bravery,

2004 - #46172 Cst. Jamie Vacon, during the largest snow storm ever recorded in Cole Harbour Nova Scotia. Came to the aid of Melanie Edwards, an expectant mother who was in labour and could not get to the hospital. Thinking quickly, he drove a front-end loader snow plow up to her house and loaded her into the bucket and then delivered her to the waiting ambulance.

February 22nd

1978 - Staff Sergeant Paul Kouri was admitted as a Serving Brother of the Order of St. John by the Governor General of Canada Jules Leger.

1988 - The Commissioner of the RCMP, Norman Inkster attended a Regimental Dinner in Whitehorse Yukon and presented Commissioners Commendations for bravery to #25085 Sergeant E.E. Wasylenka, #28582 Corporal J.M Lloyd and #Constable Y.T. Archibald for their role in apprehending an armed man at Watson Lake Yukon.

2002 - On this day #47737 Constable Michael Templeton was shot in the face while attempting pull over a stolen vehicle near Oakville, Manitoba.

Two criminals, Michael Regamy and Danile Courchen and juvenile female were responsible for a home invasion and several vehicle thefts in Winnipeg and were driving a stolen car when Cst. Templeton encountered them near Oakville, about 20 kilometres east of Portage la Prairie. When he tried to pull them over Michael Regamy began shooting at the police car with a .22 caliber weapon hitting the Constable in the face and neck.

Constable Templeton's shooting generated a Province wide police search which, ended two weeks later after a seven-hour standoff at an apartment building in Winnipeg's north-end, when the suspects surrendered.

Michael Regamy, pleaded guilty to attempted murder and was sentenced to 12 years in prison. Daniel Courchene, was sentenced to 10 years in prison in May 2004 after pleading guilty for his role. The teenage girl who was with them was charged with attempted murder as well. She was sentenced to two years of supervised probation.

Constable Templeton survived his wounds and later returned to duty.

February 23rd

1981 - Commissioners Commendation to #32523 Constable Barry Gray Shannon at Burnaby, BC who pursued and arrested one of two suspects who had shot at Vancouver City Police car while attempting to escape.

Shannon also received the Meritorious Service Medal (see January 24, 1997) while serving in Sarajevo in 1993 for two separate acts of bravery for dodging artillery fire to rescue police monitors and leading them to safety from snipers.

February 24th

1899 - As a bugler at Depot, #3101 Constable James Burke was charged by Superintendent Howe in the Orderly Room for sounding reveille four minutes late. For his heinous crime he was fined one dollar.

1976 - The Federal government tables' new criminal legislation, including abolition of hanging, increased minimum sentences for murder, stricter gun control and greater wire-tapping power for police.

1983 - While off duty doing paper work at the Morinville, Alberta Detachment, #37999 Constable Allen Wayne MacDonald responded to a call for assistance at the scene of an overturned propane truck on Highway 28. When he arrived on the scene, he was faced with a burning truck that was leaking propane and several people were milling about. Recognizing that the truck was going to explode, he immediately ordered the people to get away from the truck. When a bus load of people arrived Cst. MacDonald placed himself in considerable danger and directed people away from the scene. When the truck exploded, he was blown into the ditch and received several scrapes and bruises. For his courage and above average dedication in saving several lives Constable MacDonald was awarded the Commanding Officers Commendation.

1985 - Commendation to #30661 Brian Garvie, #34321 Gordon Mitchell, #34669 Brian Gabriel and #36947 Walter Dona for saving two men from Fraser River near Hatzic, B.C. (Looking for more detail)

February 25th

1940 - Monogram Pictures releases another "Sgt. Renfrew" movie called Murder in the Yukon.

1960 - Commissioners Commendation to #20232 Constable George Rugenius who responded to call to assist QPF near St Bernard, Quebec. Upon his arrival, a man on a porch armed with .22 rifle & ice pick taped to it as a bayonet fired shots at the police. Rugenius climbed stairs and as the man lunged with the rifle, he grabbed the rifle and as he was turning it aside, the suspect fired a shot. The suspect was then subdued and arrested.

1963 - Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker was made a Freeman for the City of London England. A squad of four members which included; #16736 Sgt. Ralph Cave and Constables #21188/O.1118 John D. Moodie, #21310 J.E. Dunn, and #21515 K.B. Kardish were selected to escort the Prime Minister and Mrs. Diefenbaker's horse drawn carriage through the streets of London to the official ceremony at Guildhall.

1966 -Twin brothers #24612 Denis Malcolm and #24613 Donald Brian Schlecker are sworn in as regular members of the RCMP at Stoney Plain Alberta. They are not the first brothers to be sworn in, but are believed to be the first twins to join the Mounties on the same day.

February 26th

1926 - Inspector #5117 Frederick Mead left Norway House, Manitoba by dog team and traveled 1000 miles to Trout Lake, in northern Ontario to investigate a complaint about two insane natives.

1940 - #12921 Constable Howard Ade took the first police dog to 'L' Division (Prince Edward Island) as the first dog master of that division.

1940 - #10960 Constable Ed Williams was among those in the first reinforcement draft to Provost Corps WWII.

1942 - The Federal Government starts evacuating 21,000 Japanese Canadians from coastal regions of British Columbia to interior work camps; under War Measures Act.

February 27th

1977 - The RCMP arrest and charge Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones rock group with possession of heroin with intent to traffic and possession of cocaine. 22 grams of heroin, 5 grams of cocaine and narcotics paraphernalia were seized. Richards is released on \$25,000 bail and is convicted in court, but instead of going to jail he is released on condition the Stones play two benefit concerts for the blind.

1979 - Constable Kolstad responded to a report of a two-year-old boy who was choking on the Nut Lake Indian Reserve.

Kolstad had to revive the child three times using CPR. He was awarded the Meritorious Certificate from The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

1979 - Constables #31204 W.D. Murphy and #33955 R.C. Raike earned Commanding Officers Commendations for bravery after they responded to a disturbance and were met by man with shotgun. Using tact and patience they succeeded in convincing him to surrender.

2005 - #43132 Corporal Brent Sawatzky won a Silver Medal in the 34th Annual Goodwill Karate-Do Championships, in Costa Mesa, California.

February 28th

1916 - As a result of their “very good service” in the investigation of a cattle rustling case near Calgary Alberta Staff Sergeants #3120 Joseph Dubuque and #4436 John Goodrich were awarded \$25.00 from the Fine Fund. In those days, a \$25 bonus was considered a considerable sum.

1979 - Meritorious Certificates from The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem were awarded to #19586 Staff Sergeant Tom K. Vickers and #23388 Corporal Gordon A. Smith for rendering of first aid to #25363 Corporal Larry R. Bennett who was seriously injured in police car accident at Grand Harbour, New Brunswick.

2004 - Honour Roll Number 203.

#27332 Dog Handler Cpl. James Wilbert Gregson Galloway, age 53 was shot and killed, while assisting the Edmonton Emergency Response Team, in Spruce Grove, Alberta.

Around noon the Spruce Grove Detachment received a complaint of a car being riddled with bullets from a nearby house. When the police arrived at the scene a woman ran out of the house and told the officers that her husband was armed with a rifle. The Edmonton Emergency Response Team was called and soon the house was surrounded. One of ERT members who arrived at the scene was Cpl. Jim Galloway. The members settled in for what was expected to be a lengthy period of negotiations when suddenly suspect, Martin Ostopovich, suddenly rushed out of the house, and fired a shot. The ERT members immediately returned fire and killed the gunman.