

Brief History of RCMP at Red Deer, Alta.

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1886 - A temporary Detachment was located at this point during part of August and September, 1886 when some members from Fort Macleod were dispatched to the Red Deer River crossing to improve the road and to provide a fresh supply of rations and forage for both "C" and "D" Divisions which were to meet at that point on transfer. "C" Division left Fort Macleod on September 2, 1886 on transfer to Battleford and "D" Division left Battleford for Fort Macleod, on September 1, 1886. The two Divisions arrived at the Red Deer River simultaneously and were aided in making their respective crossings by the temporary Detachment located at that point. We do not know how many men were involved.

1887 - The first permanent Detachment was established at Red Deer in 1887. We do not know the exact date. The Distribution State contained in the 1887 Annual Report for the year ending November 30 shows that 1 Sergeant and 4 Constables were located there under "G" Division Headquarters at Fort Saskatchewan. Supt. Griesbach was the Commanding Officer. No mention is made of the type of accommodation.

1888 - One N.C.O. and five men were stationed at Red Deer which was 103 miles from Calgary and 105 miles from Edmonton, on the Calgary-Edmonton Trail. Their duties were to escort the mail

going North and South and to patrol to the Spruces, Little Red Deer and Blind Man River Settlements.

1889 - The strength of the Detachment remained the same during the year. The patrolling is noted to be to Little Red Deer settlement, 25 miles west; Buffalo Lake, 35 miles east; Blindman's Settlement, 8 miles north and Stoney Reserve, Wolfe Creek, 40 miles north. Mention is made that quarters at Red Deer were good, however, it is not known if they were owned by the Force, rented or if the men were boarding.

1890-. During the year, the Calgary & Edmonton railroad was completed as far as Red Deer. It is noted that the detachment used wood for fuel and obtained their water from the river. Also it is said that 17 new settlers had arrived during the year, and the place was growing. The duties, as given in the

Annual Report " are to escort the mail north as far as Blind Man's River, and south as far as the Ross' stopping place. This detachment also patrols the Buffalo Lake Trail and Icelandic Settlement, the latter monthly; also, the Calgary Trail as far north as the Stony Reserve at Wdfe Creek and both sides of the Red Deer River, west as far as the Medicine River".

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1891 - In 1891, the strength was the same. It is noted that a small town had sprung up at the railroad crossing of the Red Deer River which was about three miles from the police post. One Constable met all passing trains and visited the town daily. During this year, a detachment of one Constable was stationed at Little Red Deer and his duties were to visit the settlers at Little Red Deer, including the Icelandic Settlement, Poplar Grove and neighbourhood. From Red Deer there were patrols to Swan Lake, Medicine River, Tail Creek, Buffalo Lake, Quill Lakes, along the Calgary Trail as far as Battle River and to other places in that portion of the district. It is mentioned also that the telegraph line was almost completed from Edmonton to Calgary via Red Deer. The ferry was still being used at Red Deer. It is noted that the population was increasing, 107 new settlers having come in, about 75% going to Poplar Grove and Little Red Deer, some 15 to 20 miles south and west of the town of Red Deer. Five settlers went to Tail Creek near Buffalo Lake; four to Quill Lake and the remainder were evenly distributed about the Red Deer Settlement. It is noted that the small town of Red Deer, being just half way between Calgary and Edmonton, would no doubt become a point of some importance. It is also mentioned that there was a fairly large increase in cultivated acreage, from 677 acres in 1890 to 1,527 acres in 1891.

1892 - One N.C.O. and *four* Constables were stationed at Red Deer Post and one Constable *at Red Deer Town*. The latter *member* met all trains and was *responsible for* good order in the town. Patrols from Red Deer River visited *Swan Lake*, Innisfail, Little Red Deer and Lone Pine to the south; *Quill Lakes*, Buffalo Lake,

Tail Creek & spotted Creek to the east, & Blondman, Lacombe, Wolf Creek & Battle River to the north. Settlers were finding their way into all theses places.

1893- The detachment of one N.C.O. and three constables was moved in July from the Old Red Deer Crossing to the town of Red Deer. It

is noted that the N.C.O. in charge of the detachment was also fishery guardian.

- 1894 - The N.C.O. and three Constables at Red Deer patrolled to Lone Pine, Devil's Lake, Quill Lakes, Buffalo Lake, Tail Creek and Spotted Creek to the east; Blindman, Lacombe, Wolf Creek and Battle River to the north. It is noted that a new bridge was built across the Red Deer River early in the year.
- 1895 - In 1895 and 1896, one N.C.O. and two Constables were stationed  
1896 at Red Deer. The 1896 Annual Report mentions that patrols from Red Deer visited Innisfail, Penhold, Lone Pine, Devils Pine Lake, Edwell, Quill Lakes, Horse-shoe Lake and Little Red Deer to the south; Buffalo Lake, Lammerton, Tail Creek, Spotted Creek,

Blindman River, Lacombe, Wolfe Creek, Battle River, Hobbema, Holbrooks and Gull Lake to the north and east and to the Icelandic and Swede colonies, Burnt Lake, Snake Lake and Medicine River to the west.

- 1897 - One N.C.O. and one Constable were at Red Deer. It is noted that eight new elevators had been built along the railroad line between Red Deer and Edmonton.
- 1898 - The detachment at Red Deer consisted of one N.C.O. only during  
1899 these two years.
- 1900 - On October 1, 1900, Red Deer and Innisfail Detachments were transferred from "G" Division at Fort Saskatchewan and still under the command of Supt. A.H. Griesbach, to "E" Division at Calgary under the command of Insp. J.O. Wilson. The strength at Red Deer Detachment at that time was one N.C.O. and one Constable. One Constable was stationed at Innisfail.
- 1901 - From 1901 to 1912, little mention is made of the Red Deer  
1903 Detachment. We do know that only one member was stationed at  
1906 this Detachment during these years. No mention is made of the accommodation. It is noted in 1903 that Red Deer had become a thriving town and in 1906 the population was 1,418.
- 1912 - In December of 1912, Insp. J.A. Macdonald joined "E" Division and was stationed, with a Constable, at Red Deer. Insp. Macdonald

supervised the Detachments between Red Deer & Calgary on the railway and all those lying to the Eastward north of the C.P.R.

1914 - In 1914 the strength consisted of Insp. MacDonald and one Corporal.

1915 - The strength was increased by the addition of two constables, This was no doubt due to the increased war

duties which included the registration of aliens.

1916 - The strength remained the same in 1916, but in 1917 the strength  
1917 ~~was~~ reduced to an Inspector and a Sergeant.

1918 - On April 5, 1918 after permission had been given for members of  
the Force to volunteer for overseas service, most of the detach-  
ments in Saskatchewan and Alberta were withdrawn. Red Deer was  
one of these.

1932 - The Alberta Provincial Police took over the provincial police  
duties in Alberta from 1918 till 1932. We do not know if they  
maintained a Detachment at Red Deer during this entire period,  
but we do know that there was an A.P.P. Detachment there when  
we took over on April 1, 1932. At the time of the take-over  
a Red Deer Sub-Division was set up with 12 Detachments under the  
command of Insp. F. Humby. However, just a few months later,  
it was found necessary to reduce the number of Sub-Divisions and  
Red Deer Sub-Division was abolished on September 30, 1932. The  
12 Detachments were divided between Edmonton and Calgary.

The Red Deer Detachment building ~~file~~ *beginning with the takeover*  
of the A.P.P. in 1932. The Detachment quarters formerly used  
by the A.P.P. consisted of two offices and two cells in the  
basement of the Old Court House Building which was owned by the  
Provincial Government. A 10-room house used as living quarters  
was rented from John Baile, 10042 83th Avenue, Edmonton, for  
\$40 a month. Sub-Division staff consisted in part of Insp.  
Humby and Sgt. R.G.B. Johnson, Regimental Number 6220, who was  
Sub-Division clerk. Acting Sergeant F.V. Vernon, Regimental  
Number 6656, was in charge of the Detachment.

On September 30, 1932 the Old Court House offices and the Detach-  
ment quarters were vacated when the Sub-Division closed. The  
Detachment occupied quarters in a 7-room brick house, referred to as  
the "Grant" House, 62 Ross Street East, Red Deer, on October 1,  
1932. This building was a two-storey structure, approximately  
28 x 34, and was leased from the city of Red Deer for two years  
for \$55 a month. This building was apparently rented until  
April 1943 but was then included in the contract for policing  
the city of Red Deer. Considerable renovations were made in 1937.

The strength of the Detachment from 1932 to 1941 varied from one

to two men. In 1942, the strength was one sergeant and three constables. In ~~1943, it~~  
~~jumped to one sergeant and three constables.~~ In 1943, it jumped to one sergeant, One  
corporal and six constables, presumably due to our taking over the policing of the town  
of Red Deer. A Cell block located in two rooms across the street from the detachment,  
was taken over on April 1st., 1943.

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1951 - Red Deer Sub-Division again *came* into existence and the first offices were occupied on the 1st of October 1951 on the second floor of the Snell Block, 4920 Gaetz Avenue (later 50th Avenue).

The Detachment offices, cells, radio room and a 5-room suite for the N.C.O. in charge of the detachment (16 rooms total) was taken over in August 1951 on the second floor of the Government Building (Post Office Building) on Ross Street. The strength of the detachment by this time was one Sergeant, one Corporal and ten Constables.

In December of 1951, the second floor of the city owned public building of 4822 Ross Street was taken over for quarters for eight members. An additional four rooms were rented in the Snell Block in December 1954, for Sub-Division space.

The construction of a new administration building and garage was commenced at 4300 55th Street, on the 6th of October 1964 and was taken over by this Force on September 24, 1965. In 1964, 64 men were stationed at Red Deer, 19 in the Sub-Division Headquarters, 19 on the rural detachment and 26 under city contract. On April 1, 1971, the establishment of the Force at Red Deer was 89 with 30 of these in or attached to Sub-Division Headquarters.

April 1, 1971