

HOW TO GET YOUR MAN —1953

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BECAUSE the Royal Canadian Mounted Police zealously guards its reputation for reticence regarding its activities, it's only natural that few people in Vancouver realize that the famed force's third national training school has become a permanent part of the local scene.

The new school is moulding raw recruits into constables, the job previously handled only by the RCMP's long-established training depots at Regina and Rockliffe.

Back in April, 1952, the force announced that Fairmont Barracks on the west slope of Little Mountain would become a small training centre to give an indoctrination course to the members of the old B.C. Provincial Police who had been absorbed into the RCMP when the latter assumed provincial duties in August, 1950.

First formal announcement that the school is handling fresh recruits has still to be made—yet Fairmont took in its first load of rookies in September, 1952, and is presently running its third course.

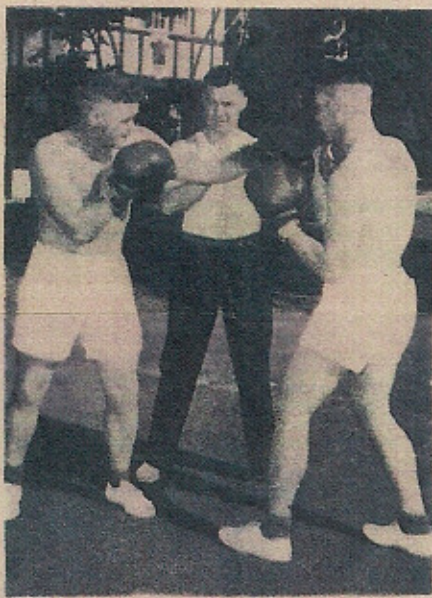
It's not that the RCMP has anything to hide; rather, it's a deep-rooted reluctance to toot its own bugle. It's tradition as much as anything. In a recent RCMP booklet for recruits, Commissioner L. H. Nicholson said maintaining that reputation for reticence "should be the aim of all members."

Perhaps this traditional reticence is one of the reasons for the world-wide reputation of the efficient force for tourist planners annually make requests for "officers in scarlet, preferably on horses." The requests constantly over-tax available resources for most horses have been replaced by gas-fired steeds and regular police duties usually demand every last member in the work-a-day brown.

Officially the picturesque barracks at Thirty-



PROUD MOMENT for Constable W. McDowell comes when he's fitted for uniform.



SERGEANT G. M. GLANVILLE instructs J. A. E. Souve and J. E. Driemel in boxing.

INSPECTOR E. H. STEVENSON, MBE
... heads Fairmont Training Subdivision



FLEET OF CARS have replaced most horses in the force. Here Sgt. Glanville instructs Const. D. R. Murray and Const. T. A. Cormack.



FAIRMONT TRAINING Subdivision headquarters is this dignified building, once a boys' school. It has also been subdivision H.Q.

third and Heather is dubbed "Fairmont Training Sub-Division."

The force has occupied the buildings since back in the 1920s and, until the historic takeover of the BCPP, the barracks served as B.C. headquarters for the force as it supported 53 Federal laws.

Only the occasional visit from an attorney-general has attracted outside attention since the school got down to the business of making civilians into mounties and making mounties into better mounties.

To date, the school has whirled 210 men through indoctrination courses; another 90 members have taken refresher classes; 22 constables, corporals and sergeants from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island finished an unprecedented traffic course; and, by the end of July, 90 recruits will have finished initial training.

The man directing this complicated training centre is a husky inspector who took his schooling in New Westminster and who signed on with the RCMP in the very room he now occupies as commanding officer.

He is Inspector Edward H. Stevenson, MBE, 40-year-old training expert who joined the force 19 years ago. His background makes him a natural for the assignment.

HE WENT to Regina as a recruit in 1934 and in 1935 returned to Vancouver for duties in connection with the waterfront strikes. Then he went to Ottawa and for the next few years he was with the famed RCMP Musical Ride, the show which took a role in the Coronation.

In 1939, he took leave of absence and went overseas with the all-RCMP No. 1 Provost Corps.

In the Dieppe Raid of 1942, Major Stevenson's heroism earned him the MBE. He was leading part of No. 2 Provost Corps which had 23 out of 30 members wounded and one officer killed.

After the war, Stevenson headed detachments in Saskatchewan before his B.C. posting.

His school here, after operating for 14 months, is clicking like a veteran. The stables behind the barracks house only cars and storerooms now—head of the horses they quartered in the 1930s. The school is turning out competent men who get through the courses at Fairmont can't help but know their business.

The ex-BCPP men had many subjects to learn in their six-week courses. Lectures ranged the full police field but the courses entirely new were on RCMP history, rules and methods. From two Regina laboratory experts the trainees get an insight into the power behind modern-day detectives.

The experts showed them how minute glass fractures, hair and tool marks are regularly solving the previously impossible cases.

"We were dealing with experienced policemen so we just had to guide them into our system," said Inspector Stevenson. "There are about 100 ex-BCPP still to go through the course and they'll be handled next winter."

MEMBERS chosen for refresher courses brush up on past training and learn new procedures and aids adopted by the force. They get five hours of public speaking instruction to help them in court and community appearances.

Oakalla Prison Warden Hugh Christie gave one recent course a talk on penology—the first time the science has figured in an RCMP refresher course.

The refresher students also got lectures on international communism, shadow work, contacts, cattle brands, mine detectors, laboratory aids and a long list of assorted police subjects. Lecturers for the course came from the Washington State Patrol, Vancouver City Police, RCMP Staff-Sergeant Monty Locke who recently attended the Northwestern University traffic school in Illinois, and barristers and traffic experts from Vancouver and Victoria.

And the recruits. At Fairmont, a gong rouses them from slumber at 5 a.m. and they whirl through a busy schedule until 4:30 p.m. Then night duties on telephone or guard details are regular as they carry on training under rigid discipline.

Recruits are still being accepted at Fairmont and, believe it, 'cause it's true, the RCMP now accepts shorter recruits than any police force anywhere—5 feet 8 inches. ● ● ●



BARRACKROOM parade finds recruits standing at attention awaiting inspection. From left, Consts. F. A. Gallagher, R. S. Medhurst, R. C. Riley, W. R. Dunlop. Note kit laid out neatly.



CLASSROOM STUDIES are necessary to keep pace with the scientific side of crime detection and prevention, which is becoming more important every day. Recruits are given laboratory training.



CAVALRY DRILL finds recruits marching four abreast, just as they would parade if mounted. Instructors take recruits in hand and quickly turn squads into units which march like vets.