

MAP SHEWING
**MOUNTED POLICE
 STATIONS & PATROLS**
 1888



FORT WALSH, 1878 — Built in 1875 by Capt. J. M. Walsh near the site of the "Cypress Hills Massacre" of 1873 that had hastened the formation of the Force, Fort Walsh was Headquarters of the NWMP from 1878 to 1882. Mandated in 1883, its site was re-occupied 60 years later and used as the Force's horse breeding station until 1908. It is now a National Historic Site.



BOUNDARY COMMISSION 1873 — Supporters of the North American Boundary Commission building a "boundary mound" in 1873. These mounds marked the 50th Parallel and thus indicated the limit of jurisdiction of the U.S. Cavalry to the south and the North West Mounted Police to the north.



N.C.O.s AT FORT WALSH — In front of the Commissioner's residence in 1878. This building was built in 1878 when the Headquarters of the Force was moved from Fort Macleod.



NWMP ARTILLERY DETACHMENT AT FORT MACLEOD DECEMBER 17, 1880 — The brass mortars and 5-pounder cannons illustrated were brought west by the Force on the great trek of 1874.



BATTLE CREEK (FORMERLY TEN-MILE) 1891 — First established under canvas in 1875 on the Boston trail at the Battle Creek crossing, this detachment continued as a summer outpost until 1890 when several log buildings were erected. It was occupied almost continuously until the end of 1917.

When the North West Mounted Police set out across the western plains in 1874 very little was known of the geography of the vast territory that had become their responsibility for law and order. The locations of the major features of the topography were recognized — the Rocky Mountains to the west, the forests to the north of the plains and the courses of the larger rivers. There was a well-established trade route from Fort Garry along the North Saskatchewan River to Fort Edmonton.

A detailed knowledge, however, of the enormous tract of land which Canada had purchased from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1870 was known only to the fur traders and Indians. One of the more remote and less known areas was the foothill country of what is today Southern Alberta, the home of the Blackfoot, the scene of the shabby trade and Fort Whoop-Up, the object of the Force's westward march.

To assist him in finding Fort Whoop-Up, Commissioner G. A. French, who commanded the newly formed Force on its epic march, had two maps. The first had been drawn by Capt. John Palliser following his expedition across the prairies in 1857. The second was the result of Col. Robertson-Ross' reconnaissance of the west in 1872.

Both maps eventually proved to be inadequate. When the Force reached the country north of the Cypress Hills which was unfamiliar even to the accompanying Métis guides, French began plotting his own course with the aid of a sextant. In the end, Fort Whoop-Up was only found with the help of a bow-legged, half-Blood Indian, half-Scottish guide named Jerry Potts. Until the appearance of reliable maps, the NWMP became dependent upon the Indian and Métis guides. These guides were key men, and some like Jerry Potts and the Léveillé brothers, Pierre and Louis, became well-known figures in the history of western Canada.

After 1885 the task of policing the Northwest Territories began to change rapidly. The suppression of the Riel Rebellion in that year ended the violent era of the frontier. With the Indian tribes settled on their reserves and the Canadian Pacific Railway completed, a growing stream of settlers began to arrive to seek a new life in the West. Soon the prairies were dotted with new towns, villages and farming communities.

To meet these changing conditions, Commissioner L. W. Herchmer, who took over the command of the Force in 1886, organized a network of police patrols. Operating from small detachments, these mounted patrols of one or two men endeavored to provide a systematic coverage of all settlements and trails. The police gave advice and help to homesteaders, and collected a vast quantity of information which was forwarded to Headquarters in Regina to aid in preventing crime and to assist new settlers. In 1888 these patrols covered over one million miles on horseback.

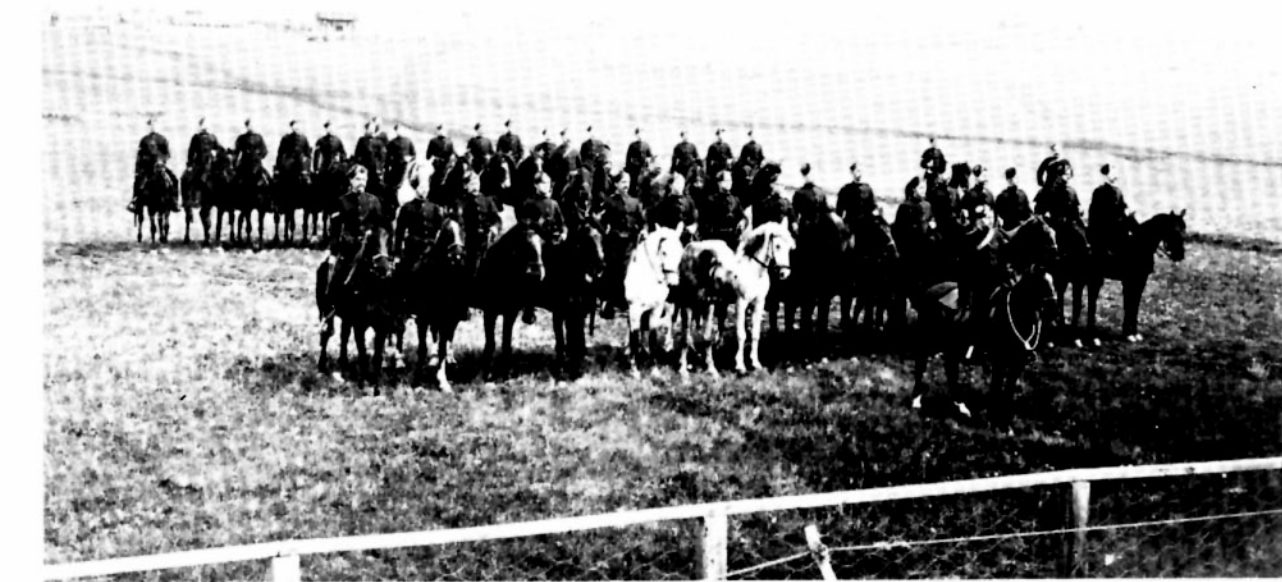
To publicize the patrol system, a series of maps were produced. These showed the patrol routes, location of police posts, railway and telegraph stations. The first of the maps appeared in 1886. New editions were produced every two or three years until 1906 when they were replaced by the three miles to the inch maps which had been drawn by them for most of the prairies. The maps were designed to show that the Northwest Territories were under effective police protection and that would-be settlers need have no fear of the earlier lawlessness and violence. They also provided travellers and prospective homesteaders with valuable information on vegetation, water, soil conditions and travel routes.

The edition on the opposite side of this sheet is the map of 1888. It shows the patrol system at its fullest development. It also displays the period of transition, showing many of the features of the old western frontier before the growing tide of settlement had radically changed the appearance of the land.

One of the most important features on the map is the location of the 49th Parallel of Latitude, or the Medicine Line, as the Indians called it. This was surveyed in 1872-74 by the North American Boundary Commission, which marked the line by a row of earth mounds, about six feet high, every two or three miles. At the height of the patrol system, the entire border area from the Ontario boundary 800 miles westward to the Rocky Mountains was covered by the North West Mounted Police. One result was a significant reduction in smuggling and horse stealing, two of the most common crimes of the period.

This replica of the 1888 map is published to commemorate the One Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of the North West Mounted Police on August 30, 1873.

Location of Places Mentioned in Text or in Picture Captions	Name	Lat.	Long.
Cypress Hills		49°	109°
Fort Edmonton		53°33'	113°30'
Fort Garry (Now Winnipeg)		49°50'	97°09'
Fort MacLeod		49°43'	113°25'
Fort Saskatchewan		53°40'	113°15'
Fort Walsh		49°45'	109°53'
Fort Whoop-Up		49°37'	112°50'
Pincher Creek		49°29'	113°57'
Prince Albert		53°12'	105°46'
Regina		50°27'	104°37'
Ten Mile Post (Now Battle Creek)		49°25'	109°50'
Wood Mountain		49°22'	106°23'



MOUNTED DRILL AT REGINA IN 1885 — A riding school was built at Regina in 1880, facilitating the training of recruits during the winter months. "Duke" Division at Regina has been the main training centre of the Force since 1883.



NWMP DETACHMENT TEAMS LEAVING REGINA FOR WOOD MOUNTAIN, MAY, 1885 — Under the patrol system set up by Commissioner Herchmer, it was customary for outposts to be opened in outlying areas for the summer and withdrawn in the autumn. In 1885, Regina district members patrolled 553,000 miles with horses.



COMMISSIONER L. W. HERCHMER, 1886-1900 — Born in England in 1840 Lawrence William Herchmer served in a British regiment in India before coming to Canada in 1862. He was Commissioner of the Northwest Territories from 1872 to 1874 and later Inspector of Indian Agencies in the Northwest Territories. Appointed Commissioner in 1886, he was a strict disciplinarian and under his command the Force attained a standard of efficiency and smartness that had never before been achieved. After his retirement in 1900 he lived quietly on the West Coast until his death in 1915.



SUPERINTENDENT A. H. GREENBACH, COMMANDING OFFICER, "C" DIVISION, FORT SASKATCHEWAN, AND SERGEANT MAJOR FLYNTOFF IN 1885 — Superintendent Greenbach was the first man to enlist in the NWMP at Lower Fort Garry on November 3, 1873. He served as Regimental Sergeant Major until 1875 when he was commissioned. He retired in 1903.