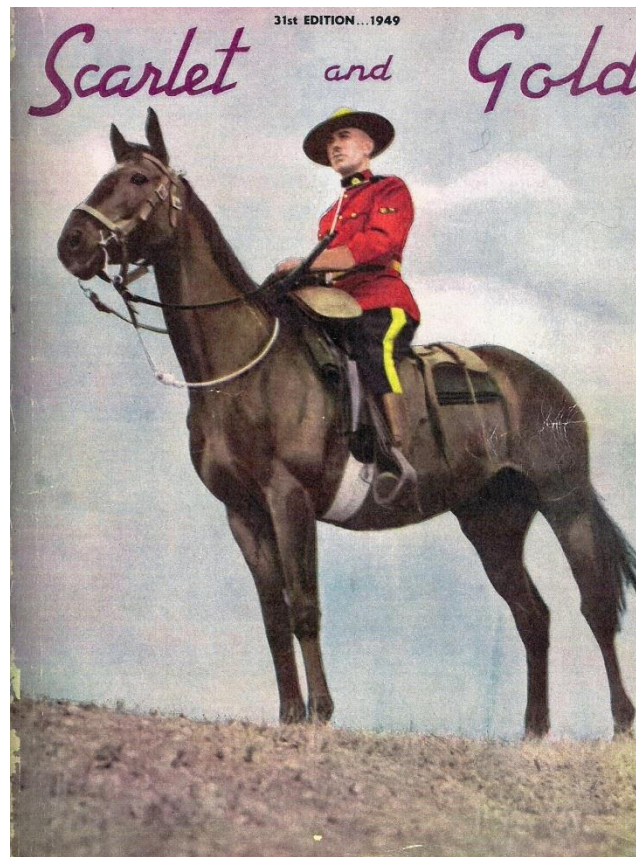


History of the *Scarlet and Gold* magazine



The history below of the *Scarlet and Gold* magazine was found in a box of old Vancouver Division RCMP Veterans' Association correspondence. I have re-produced it, as it is yellowed and in very rough shape, no doubt written on an old Underwood typewriter. The author of the document is not named. This history as written in 1972, based on dates included, appears to have been written as a prelude to the upcoming 100th anniversary of the Force in 1973.

"*Scarlet and Gold* began its history in 1919 as a means of telling the history of the early years of the Force and of obtaining some revenue to assist the Veterans in their benevolent activities. It is true to state that without the financial support which they receive from the publication there would not have been any funds available to assist those retiring after years of service in the Force. In years past, the pay was small and the pensions limited.

The arduous work of a police officer left many of the older members broken in health. Although they played an important role in making Canada a safer place to raise a family and permit the orderly development of a young nation, no less is it true that a somewhat less than benevolent government did little to assist these men in their years of retirement.

Approximately thirty years ago the present publisher (*Note: W.E. Gladstone MacDonald, 675 Davis St., Vancouver*) took over and gradually developed the purposes of the publication into a wider field, and this effort has proven to be one of great value.

With the passing years it became clearly evident that the early history of the Force and the part played by the original Northwest Mounted Police and the present Royal Canadian Mounted Police was not sufficiently recorded, and the great value of the Force to Canada over the last 98 years was almost unknown, in a practical way, to Canadian-born citizens and more importantly to new Canadians.

For the 52 years that *Scarlet and Gold* has been published many articles have been written by ex-members of the Force concerning their actual activities while in the Active force. Without exceptions, in every issue we have fostered a sound respect for our police forces.

In 1973 the 100th anniversary of the Force will be celebrated and the Canadian public will be asked to pay tribute to the role which Canada's great law-enforcement agency has played in our orderly development and economic success. That the foundations of our democracy were not undermined during these 100 years is due largely to the wise and capable leadership provided by the executive of the Force.

Scarlet and Gold is the oldest police publication of its kind in the world. It is unusual in a number of respects, it is an annual and is of the same trim size as it was 53 years ago; also its editorial policy is the same. The results of the policies of promoting respect for law and order and the people who enforce it are evident in many instances. In the 52nd edition tribute is given by the greatest archivist in Western Canada - Major J.S. Matthews of Vancouver, who died recently at the age of 93. He spoke of the publication with authority and we have published some of his comments in a letter to the editor.

Scarlet and Gold is probably one of the few publications that have been able to meet its obligations and this in spite of continuing increases in printing and postal costs. The reason for this is due to the support of the small advertiser and it is this support that enables the publication to carry on and be of service not only in a financial way to Veterans themselves, but provides a continuing vehicle to promote the work of police organizations. It is time to instill in the minds of Canadian citizens a pride in the men (*clearly written prior to the announcement of women being able to join the Force*) who so ably performed their duties in protecting the lives and properties of Canadian citizens."

Interesting to note this paragraph: *"That the foundations of our democracy were not undermined during these 100 years is due largely to the wise and capable leadership provided by the executive of the Force."* I wonder if members serving today, and those that came before them, have the same thoughts.

Reproduced by:

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