

MOUNTED POLICE RESEARCH & CONSULTING
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Research and Consulting in the history of the
North West Mounted Police - Royal North West Mounted Police
Royal Canadian Mounted Police

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Make: **Winchester** Serial No. **44165**
Model: **1876 Carbine** Calibre: **.45-75**

This carbine formed part of Order Number 19589, which consisted of 150 carbines shipped to the **North West Mounted Police {NWMP}** on March 28, 1885.

Following the outbreak of the North West Rebellion on March 26, 1885, a significant quantity of Winchester Model 1876 carbines, ordered by the NWMP, was transferred to the Canadian Militia.

In the April 20, 1885 memorandum to the Deputy Minister of Militia, NWMP Comptroller Frederick White wrote, in part:

... the 150 Winchester carbines and 100,000 rounds of Cartridges for the same, which were ordered for the N. W. Mounted Police, but which the Minister of Militia desires to have transferred to his Department, should arrive in Winnipeg in a day or two.

If you will be good enough to inform me of the Minister's wishes as to the disposition of these arms and ammunition, I will give the necessary instructions to the Officer of the Mounted Police to whom they are consigned in Winnipeg.

I enclose for the information of the Department a copy of the report of the Inspector, and a schedule of the numbers of the carbines ...

Schedule of 150 Winchester Carbines, shipped from New Haven, Conn. To Winnipeg, March 28, 1885.

...
Case 112

44162
63
64
65
...

An additional 350 carbines, from April 1885 deliveries to the NWMP, were transferred to the Canadian Militia on April 17, 1885.

The North West Rebellion officially ended on July 3, 1885 although hostilities had ceased several weeks earlier. In a memorandum to the Deputy Minister of Militia, dated July 13, 1885, Comptroller White wrote, in part:

... if the Winchester carbines which were transferred from the Mounted Police to Militia Stores at Winnipeg during the recent troubles are still there, and are not now required for Militia service, [writer's emphasis] we can receive back One hundred of them at once, as that number and possibly more, will be required for the Recruits now being engaged for the Force ...

A significant number of the carbines were returned to the NWMP. A memorandum to Comptroller White, dated July 14, 1885, from the Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence read, in part:

... I have the honor to inform you that instructions have been issued from this Department to retransfer to the Mounted Police 100 of the Winchester Carbines received from your department in April last.

The whole of these Carbines {150} with their 100,000 rounds of ammunition can be delivered to you if required.

That same date, Comptroller White wrote a memorandum to the Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence which read, in part:

... with reference to the Winchester Carbines and ammunition now is Militia Stores at Winnipeg.

We can take over the whole of these Carbines viz- 150 at once and I shall feel obliged if you will be good enough to telegraph the authority at Winnipeg to deliver them to Inspector Norman there ...

With reference to the 100,00 rounds of Winchester ammunition, we shall require that quantity but it will be a convenience to us if you will allow it to remain in the Magazine at Winnipeg for the present ...

On July 14, 1885 the following message was sent to the Superintendent of Militia Stores at Winnipeg:

Deliver to Inspector Norman of the Mounted Police one hundred & fifty Winchester carbines.

This carbine was among those returned to the NWMP and later was on charge to:

"H" Division {Fort Macleod} on February 12, 1894.

"D" Division {Fort Macleod} on February 5, 1897.

An inventory of Model 1876 carbine serial numbers, which included serial number 44165, was reproduced in a book. The author noted the inventory was from "H" Division and that "... this Division was assigned to Whitehorse, in the Yukon Territory [YT] during the gold rush period."¹ Although not specifically stated, the writer inferred that the inventory originated in "H" Division, headquartered at Whitehorse, YT however, available evidence did not support that theory.

"H" Division was headquartered at Fort Macleod, North West Territories {now in SE Alberta} from 1885-1897; at Tagish, YT from 1898-99 and Whitehorse, YT from 1900-1909.

The carbine serial numbers on the inventory in question, when compared to carbine serial

¹Yearout, Lewis E. Winchester's North West Mounted Police Carbines And Other Model 1876 Data. p. 123

numbers included in the February 12, 1894 inventory from "H" Division {Fort Macleod}, left no doubt as to the source. Both lists were identical! In the opinion of the writer, that confirmed the inventory in question originated in "H" Division {Fort Macleod} *circa* 1894.

The butt stock carried the standard NWMP crescent stamp, as well as the stamp APP 163. The latter indicated it was among the carbines sold to the Alberta Provincial Police in 1919.

No additional information was located.



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NOTE:

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