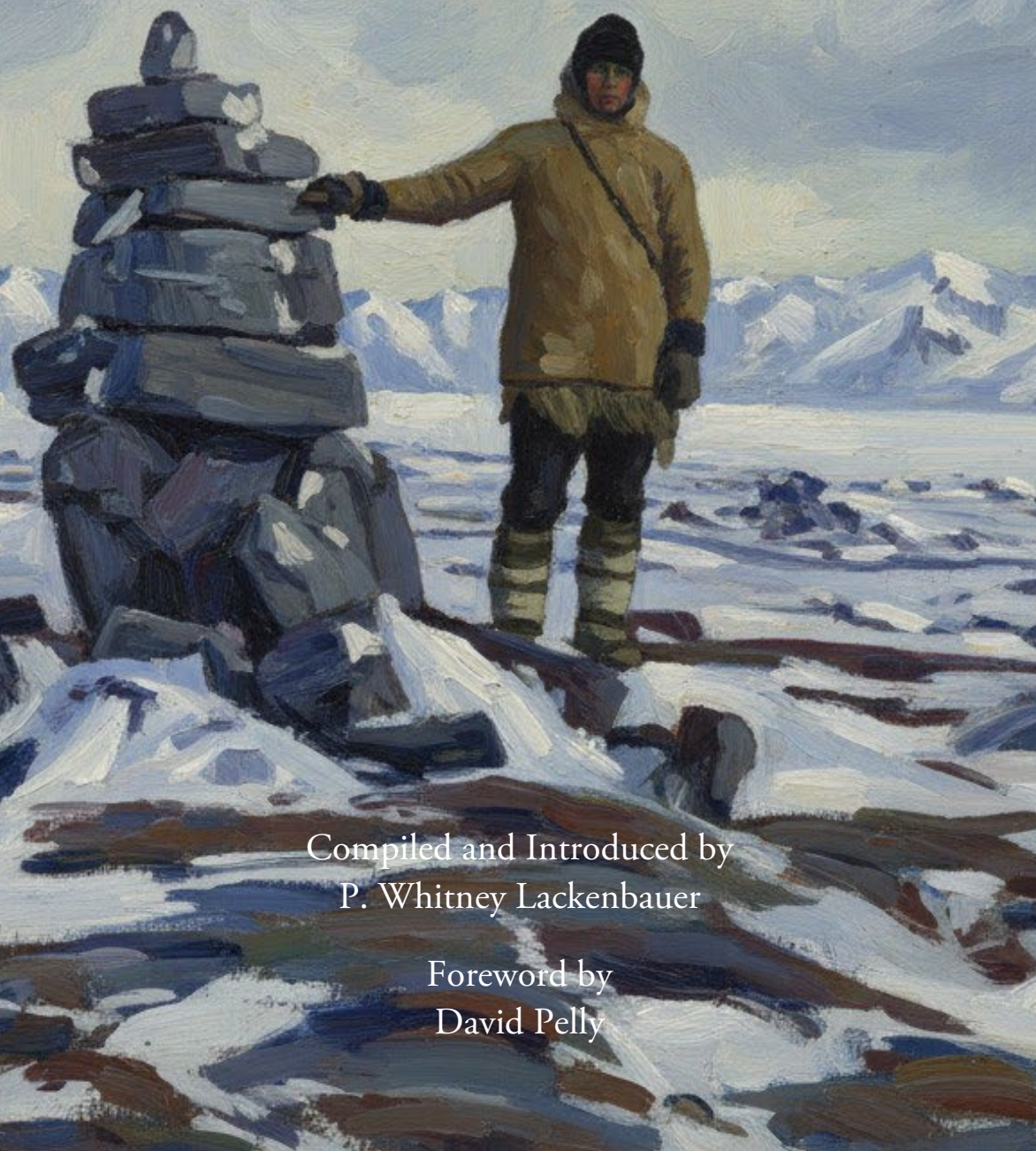


Sensible Justice

Investigating the Murders of Radford and Street,
1913-1918



Compiled and Introduced by
P. Whitney Lackenbauer

Foreword by
David Pelly

Sensible Justice

Investigating the Murders of Radford and Street,
1913-1918

Frost Research Centre
School for the Study of Canada
Trent University
1600 West Bank Dr.
Peterborough, ON
Canada K9L 0G2

Copyright © the authors/editor, 2026
All rights reserved. Permission policies are outlined on our website

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Title: Sensible justice : investigating the murders of Radford and Street, 1913-1918 /
compiled and introduced by P. Whitney Lackenbauer ; foreword by David
Pelly.

Names: Lackenbauer, P. Whitney, editor. | Pelly, David F., 1948- writer of foreword.

Description: Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: Canadiana (print) 2026022068X | Canadiana (ebook) 2026022071X |
ISBN 9781989811481 (softcover) | ISBN 9781989811498 (PDF)

Subjects: LCSH: Murder—Canada, Northern—History—20th century. | LCSH:
Murder—Investigation—Canada, Northern. | LCSH: Trials (Murder)—
Canada, Northern. | LCSH: Inuit—Legal status, laws, etc.—Canada,
Northern. | LCSH: Criminal justice, Administration of—Canada, Northern. |
LCSH: Canada, Northern—Social conditions—20th century.

Classification: LCC HV6535.C22 N86 2026 | DDC 364.152/30971955—dc23

Cover credits: Library and Archives Canada

Sensible Justice

Investigating the Murders of Radford and Street,
1913-1918

Compiled and Introduced by
P. Whitney Lackenbauer

Foreword by
David Pelly



“Sgt. Major Caulkin at cairn erected by Radford and Street from their starting point on Wegg Island, Hudson’s Bay, when they left on their journey to the Arctic ... from which they never returned.”

Clark Cook / RCMP Veterans’ Association Vancouver Division.

Contents

Foreword by David Pelly	i
Acknowledgements	x
Introduction: The Radford and Street Murders <i>by P. Whitney Lackenbauer</i>	xi
Crisis in the Era of Contact: Historical Context	xii
Harry Radford and Thomas George Street	xiii
W.J. Beyts, Francis H. French, and “The Longest Patrol”	xvii
Other Investigations and Trials: A Firmer Colonial Hand	xxv
Names Appearing in the Text	xxix
List of Acronyms	xxxiii
THE DOCUMENTS	1
1. H.V. Radford’s Letter to Hudson’s Bay Company, 3 October 1911	2
2. H.V. Radford to Mr. S. Ford, 10 December 1911	2
3. “Has Harry V. Radford Been Forsaken By His Guides in the Barren Lands,” <i>Western Associated Press</i> , 9 March 1912	4
4. Western Associated Press: Disbelieves Report of R.N.W.M.P Desertion, 9 March 1912	4
5. “Fears Entertained for An Ottawa Man,” <i>Western Associated Press</i> , 10 March 1912	5
6. “No Word of Radford,” <i>Edmonton Daily Bulletin</i> , 11 March 1912	5
7. R.H. Hall to Lieut. Col. A. Bowen Perry, 12 March 1912	6
8. Radford to Mr. S. Ford, 13 March 1912	6
9. “Radford Does Not Appear to be Lost” and “Explorer Radford Has Again Been Located,” <i>Edmonton Bulletin</i> , 14 March 1912	7
10. RNWMP re Edmonton Daily Bulletin, 14 March 1912	8
11. T.A. Wroughton to Commissioner, RNWMP, 18 March 1912	10
12. Assistant Commissioner, RNWMP, to Officer Commanding, RNWMP Athabasca Landing, 19 March 1912	10
13. Radford to Mr. S. Ford, 25 March 1912	11
14. H.V. Radford to Mr. S. Ford, 3 June 1912	12
15. Insp. F.H. French, Crime Report, 11 August 1912	13

16. Sergt W.G. Edgenton to Commissioner, RNWMP, 31 May 1913.....	14
17. RNWMP Crime Report, 29 July 1913	16
18. N.H. Bacon, Fur Trade Commissioner, HBC, to Commissioner A.B. Perry, RNWMP, 8 September 1913	18
19. Telegram from A.B. Perry to Comptroller, 8 September 1913	19
20. A.B. Perry to Officer Commanding, RNWMP, Athabasca, 8 September 1913	19
21. Telegram from Commissioner A.B. Perry to RNWMP Comptroller, 9 September 1913.....	20
22. A.B. Perry to Fur Trade Commissioner, HBC, 10 September 1913	20
23. Mrs. F.R. Leland to RNWMP, 13 September 1913.....	21
24. George Comer to Laurence Fortescue, 14 September 1913	21
25. Z.T. Wood to Mrs. F.R. Leland, 18 September 1913	22
26. F.J.A. Demers, RNWMP, to Mrs. F.R. Leland 18 September 1913	23
27. Commissioner, RNWMP, to Supt. F.J.A. Demers, 8 December 1913	24
28. S. Ross Cuthbert, handwritten note & newspaper excerpts, 16 December 1913	24
29. F.J.A. Demers to RNWMP Commissioner 24 January 1914.	25
30. F.R. Leland to Z.T. Wood, 20 February 1914	26
31. Z.T. Wood to F.R. Leland, 23 February 1914	27
32. F.J.A. Demers to RNWMP Commissioner 17 March 1914.....	27
33. A.B. Perry, RNWMP Commissioner, to Comptroller, 1 April 1914	28
34. Memorandum Re Murder of Messrs. Radford & Street, 22 April 1914.....	29
35. N.H. Bacon to Laurence Fortescue, 23 April 1914.....	32
36. "Request that the Health Exhibit Goes to France," <i>Ottawa Journal</i> , 28 April 1914.....	33
37. RNWMP Comptroller to Commissioner, 2 May 1914.....	34
38. Rt.Hon. Robert Laird Borden to Rt.Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, 29 April 1914.....	34
39. Rt.Hon. Wilfrid Laurier to Rt.Hon. Robert Laird Borden, 4 May 1914 ...	35
40. Rt.Hon. Robert Laird Borden to Laurence Fortescue, 5 May 1914	35
41. RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 8 May 1914.....	36
42. RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 12 May 1914.....	36

43. A.B. Perry to Comptroller, RNWMP, 14 May 1914.....	37
44. Royal North West Mounted Police Memorandum, 19 May 1914.....	37
45. Macleod Detachment to Inspector Beyts, 19 May 1914.....	38
46. "R.N.W.M.P. Inspector to Travel Thousands of Miles to Bring Murderers to Justice," <i>Ottawa Citizen</i> , 19 May 1914	40
47. Memorandum from Comptroller of RNWMP, 28 May 1914.....	40
48. J.C. Street to A.B. Perry, 1 June 1914.....	42
49. L. Fortescue to A.B. Perry, 9 June 1914	43
50. RNWMP Commissioner to Inspector W.J. Beyts, 12 June 1914	43
51. RNWMP Commissioner to Inspector W.J. Beyts, 12 June 1914	44
52. RNWMP Comptroller to Commissioner, 13 June 1914.....	45
53. A.B. Perry to L. Fortescue, 13 June 1914.....	45
54. A.B. Perry to Inspector W.J. Beyts, 13 June 1914	46
55. RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 15 June 1914.....	47
56. "To Seek Slayers of Radford and Street," <i>Ottawa Citizen</i> , 16 June 1914....	47
57. RNWMP Comptroller to Mrs. F.R Leland, 16 June 1914	48
58. A.B. Perry to Inspector W.J. Beyts, 17 June 1914	48
59. RCMP Comptroller, Memorandum, 24 June 1914	49
60. Privy Council Order, 27 June 1914	50
61. Comptroller to William J., 29 July 1914.....	51
62. RNWMP Comptroller to Commissioner, 31 July 1914.....	51
63. Theall & Beam, Lawyers, to Samena Fortescue, 19 August 1914.....	51
64. Inspector W.J. Beyts to O.C. "M" Division, RNWMP, 8 January 1915 ...	52
65. S/M T.B. Caulkin to O.C. RNWMP, Baker Lake Sub District, 5 March 1915	53
66. Commissioner A.B. Perry to Inspector LaNauze, 10 May 1915.....	56
67. James Walsh, "A Young Catholic Explorer" (1915).....	58
68. Sergeant-Major T.B. Caulkin to O.C. RNWMP, "M" Division, 16 August 1915	70
69. F. Herbert Morris to M. Fortescue, 9 October 1915	73
70. Comptroller to Mrs. F.H. Morris, 9 October 1915	74

71. M. Fortescue to Miss L.M. Street, 12 October 1915.....	74
72. Lea Street to M. Fortescue, 13 October 1915.....	75
73. "How Ottawans Met Death," <i>Ottawa Evening Citizen</i> , 1 November 1915	75
74. "Capt. Lockhart Back From Far North Journey, Visits Ottawa," <i>Ottawa Journal</i> , 1 November 1915.....	76
75. RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 10 November 1915.....	77
76. "Mounted Police Found Cairn of 2 Murdered Men," <i>Montreal Star</i> , 26 January 1916.....	78
77. Telegram to RNWMP Commissioner A.B. Perry, 26 January 1916.....	79
78. Telegram from RNWMP Commissioner A.B. Perry, 26 January 1916	79
79. Inspector W.J. Beyts to O.C. RNWMP "M" Division, Port Nelson, 31 January 1916.....	80
80. Inspector Charles A. Rheault to O.C. RNWMP "N" Division Athabaska, 6 March 1916.....	86
81. Inspector Beyts' Report, 17 April 1916	87
82. Commissioner's Report on RNWMP Patrol Failures, 5 May 1916	90
83. RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 5 May 1916.....	97
84. RNWMP Commissioner to Acting Comptroller, 5 May 1916.....	98
85. RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 5 May 1916.....	99
86. Comptroller, Memorandum re: Baker Lake Expedition, 10 May 1916.....	99
87. C.D. La Nauze to O.C. RNWMP Athabaska, 23 May 1916.....	100
88. Statement From F. Johansen, C.A.E., 15 June 1916	101
89. Great Bear Lake Patrol Crime Report, 17 June 1916	102
90. Great Bear Lake Patrol Crime Report, 17 June 1916	107
91. Bernard Harbour Crime Report, 21 June 1916.....	108
92. Inspector W.J. Beyts Report, 6 July 1916	110
93. "Officers Were Slain in Arctic," <i>The World</i> , 16 July 1916	113
94. Inspector La Nauze Crime Report, 23 July 1916	115
95. Telegram, RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 18 August 1916.....	116
96. Comptroller to RNWMP Commissioner, 23 August 1916	117
97. RNWMP Commissioner to Officer Commanding, Port Nelson, 25 August 1916.....	117

98. Telegram, RNWMP Commissioner to Officer Commanding, Port Nelson, 26 August 1916	118
99. Comptroller, RNWMP, to A.E. Blount 1 September 1916.....	118
100. RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 13 September 1916.....	120
101. L. du Plessis to A.E. Blount 30 September 1916	121
102. Telegram from A.B. Perry to RNWMP Comptroller, 22 September 1916	122
103. RNWMP Letter to Commissioner: Forwarding Reports to Inspector French, 8 October 1916.....	122
104. Planning the Bathurst Inlet Patrol: Inspector's Report, 17 November 1916	123
105. Constable W.O. Douglas to Officer Commanding, Port Nelson, 8 May 1917	124
106. Inspector French, Crime Report and Witness Statements, 20 June 1917	125
107. Inspector La Nauze, Crime Report, 20 June 1917.....	144
108. Telegram, RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 23 July 1917	146
109. Comptroller to Commissioner, RNWMP, 22 August 1917	147
110. RNWMP Commissioner to Col. Hugh Clark, 22 August 1917	147
111. Corporal P.R. Conway to O.C. RNWMP, Herschel Island, 23 August 1917	148
112. RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 8 October 1917	149
113. J.W. Phillips to Commissioner, 8 February 1918	149
114. Telegram to RNWMP Comptroller, 1 March 1918.....	151
115. Telegram, RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 20 March 1918 ...	151
116. RNWMP Comptroller to Mrs. F.R. Leland 1 June 1918	152
117. Deputy Minister to RNWMP Comptroller, Ottawa, 4 June 1918	152
118. RNWMP Comptroller to Commissioner, 11 June 1918	153
119. RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 15 June 1918	153
120. Rev. Edward Hester Statement, 5 October 1918.....	154
121. Commissioner A. Bowen Perry, Report of the RNWMP, 18 November 1918.....	156
122. Report of the RNWMP, 1918	158

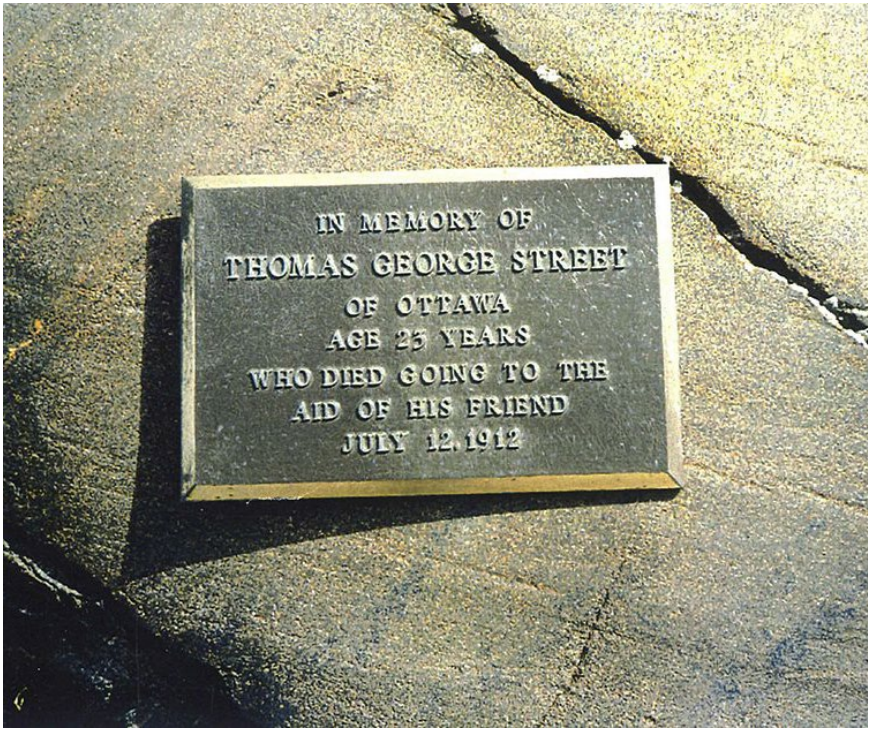
123. Report of the Bathurst Inlet Patrol 1917-1918.....160

124. Charles D. La Nauze, “The Bathurst Inlet Patrol,” 1932.....191

125. Harwood Steele, *Policing the Arctic*, 1936 (excerpts).....199

Further Reading217

About the Editor220



Foreword

David F. Pelly¹

Thomas George Street was a young man from Ottawa in search of adventure, in the early 1900s. By the time his quest ended on the shores of the frozen Arctic Ocean, he had found more than his share of “adventure.” By then, he had already lived a story worth telling. At age 20, he joined a Transcontinental Railway work party, where he gained a reputation in the North Country as a good outdoorsman, a skilled canoeist, a fearless, strong and a willing worker. He was short but muscle-bound, able to carry more than his share. It is said that he regularly portaged loads weighing 90 kilograms (200 pounds). No surprise then, that Frank Crean recruited Street for a government survey party setting out to explore northern Saskatchewan and Alberta in June 1909. Crean had been mandated by the federal government’s Department of the Interior to “assess the agricultural capabilities” of the region, with a view to encouraging new settlers.

At the season’s end, Street returned to Ottawa to visit family, arriving just in time for Christmas. A few months later, in April 1910, he headed west again to join the New Northwest Exploration Party, a follow-up venture again led by Frank Crean. That autumn found Street and his fellow “explorers” — that is how they saw themselves — settled at Fort Smith for the winter, as a base from which to conduct more surveys by dog-team. Their work would be finished in the spring and summer, so they all anticipated returning to Ottawa by summer’s close.

Then Harry Radford arrived in Fort Smith, from New York, looking for an able assistant to join his scientific expedition out to the barrenlands. He was not in town for long before Street’s reputation reached his ears. A new and even bigger adventure appealed to the younger Street — he was immediately tempted to join,



Harry Radford. *Canada Monthly*
(November 1913).

¹ Originally published as “The Expedition of Radford & Street,” originally published in *Above & Beyond*, part I in July/August 2003: 29-32, and part II in September/October 2003: 30-33. Reproduced with permission.

principally for the opportunity to go farther north, but no doubt attracted by Radford's liberal offer of payment. Frank Crean agreed to release Street only if approval was received from his family back in Ottawa. "Street's a fool" to undertake this hazardous trip, all of his mates agreed. But his mind was made up and his family several thousand miles away had no real understanding of what he was contemplating.

Radford, a wealthy "sportsman" (in the jargon of the day), had come north to collect zoological specimens for the Smithsonian Institute and the U.S. Biological Survey. "Collect," bluntly put, simply meant he wanted to hunt for big game, while making a name for himself as an explorer. The "science" underlying his expedition was rather more a cover. His brash and overconfident manner did not win Radford any friends in Fort Smith. While there, he shot a 1,092-kilogram (2,402-pound) wood bison, reportedly the largest ever killed, and proudly posed with his trophy — talk in town suggested he was just lucky to see the animal, and certainly there was little skill in killing it. One rumour had it that, in fact, Radford emptied his rifle into the animal, after which it was still standing, so an old Métis man came to his assistance and felled the massive bison for him. By all reports, he was not a very good shot, but this success, such as it was, added fuel to his self-portrayal as the Great White Hunter.

He came from an intriguing background of money, education and the clubby appreciation for wilderness which was a hallmark of the upper classes at the time. Although raised in New York City, he had spent his youthful summers in the Adirondacks of upstate New York. "He longed to be a great explorer of the Stanley type, to have the world watch his disappearances into dangerous wilds and speculate upon his chances of survival and return," says one biographer. He was precocious, but "his brusqueness (sic) had the charm of boyhood frankness." Harry Radford sought the limelight. He knew that notoriety in the public eye was necessary if his explorations were to be heralded as successful. He wrote for *Field & Stream*, mostly on wilderness themes grounded in the Adirondacks, where the wealthy played. At age 18, while at college, he launched a quarterly publication called *Woods and Waters* which, within 10 years, grew to a circulation of 20,000 readers, people who wanted stories about the hunting and fishing guides of the Adirondacks, and about Radford's campaigns to reintroduce moose, elk and beaver, and to protect the black bear (out of hunting season!). He became well known in the region and well connected. Still today, legends associated with "Adirondack

Harry” are part of the public consciousness around Saranac Lake in upstate New York.

But in Fort Smith, he arrived among strangers who were unimpressed by his background, and he was about to venture forth into a region where such baggage offered no help whatsoever. At some level, he understood the danger. He required George Street to sign a contract obliging Street: to forego his full share of the food, should they run short; to refrain from keeping a journal of the trip (with this, it is believed, Street did not fully comply, but Radford’s concern, almost certainly, was to ensure that he, and he alone, stood to benefit from any publication of their story); and to protect Radford’s life even if it meant endangering his own. The last clause proved to be prescient. It was understood clearly that Radford was in charge and Street was his life-support system.

They set out for the barrenlands, departing from Fort Smith in an 18-½-foot Peterborough canoe, on June 27, 1911. The canoe, ironically, they named “Hope.” Initially, a local Indigenous man accompanied them, but he went no farther than Fort Resolution on Great Slave Lake. From there, the two “explorers” struck



Thomas George Street. *Saskatchewan Archives Board photo S-B 9049.*

out on their own, eastward the length of the lake and over the arduous portages into Artillery Lake, with Street doing most of the work. At Artillery Lake, Radford hired two Dene men with a birchbark canoe to accompany them. He feared the overloaded Peterborough, as large as it was, might be swamped by the lake’s high winds. A few months later, the two Dene showed up back in Fort Resolution, having abandoned Radford, saying “We are not dogs to work like that” and complaining about his mistreatment of them. Street, once again, was forced to do the lion’s share of the labour, the more so because his leader had infected a finger, and then his whole arm, with some of the arsenic he carried for preparing zoological specimens. Radford recorded the situation in some detail.

The task before Mr. Street was now indeed monumental, for we were then at the beginning of a long series of dangerous rapids, and portages; and the river was so low — the season being already advanced — and the load in our canoe (about 1,300 pounds) so great, that the navigation of

the rapids became exceedingly difficult. Yet, realizing that I was a helpless cripple and unable to render assistance either in the canoe or on the portages, Street resolutely expressed his willingness to undertake to navigate the canoe single-handed and to carry every pound of our outfit across the portages.

My wound steadily improved [Street had opened and cleaned it] but for several days I could give but little assistance. How we escaped disaster in some of the rapids is a mystery to me! Mr. Street rose to every occasion and literally did the work of two men under the most trying conditions. About the third of September we reached the head of Schultz Lake on the lower Thelon ...

From this point on downriver they were accompanied by three Inuit men until they reached Hudson Bay, where, by prior arrangement, Radford hoped to find some supplies transported north for him by the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC). It was very late in the season to be travelling by canoe. In fact, rumours had already begun circulating in HBC circles that perhaps the two men were lost in the barrenlands somewhere, never to be seen again, when suddenly on September 30, 1911, they showed up at the newly established HBC post at Chesterfield Inlet. The anticipated onset of winter, however, dictated that the two men could not set out immediately across the barrenlands, as planned, for the shores of the Arctic Ocean, and west to the Mackenzie River. Instead, they returned to Schultz Lake on the Thelon River, to spend the winter with Inuit there. The head man of the camp was Akulak, who undertook to care for the two strange travellers.

Harry Radford's next objective was to arrange for Inuit guides to take them overland to the Arctic Coast. The Inuit of the Thelon valley were reluctant, suggesting that there were insufficient caribou to the north to sustain both men and dogs for such a long journey. Radford pressed, and eventually convinced two men, whom he called Cockney and Boozer, to take him. When the time came, Boozer wanted Radford to compensate his family, who would be left behind without their principal hunter and provider. Radford refused, and instead pointed his rifle at the Inuk demanding that he obey orders. The stand-off was resolved eventually by the head man, Akulak, agreeing to accompany the party as well.

On March 26, 1912, Radford and Street, with guides Akulak, Toolooktook and Tavinaq, set off for the Arctic coast, travelling on two sleds pulled by 22 dogs. One of the sleds bore their canoe, "Hope." Akulak later reported that "they saw lots of game, obtaining fresh supplies almost every day, and only lost four dogs during the whole journey." On June 3, Radford

wrote a letter for Akulak to carry back to Chesterfield Inlet, addressed to the H.B.C. trader there. In it, the American explorer reported having arrived safely in Bathurst Inlet, to be well received by local Inuit at Quagyuk (Young Island), and expressed his gratitude for all the assistance received previously at the HBC post. The plan now, he said, was to proceed west, and eventually, over the course of the following winter, to arrive at Dawson City in the Yukon. Radford's letter, however, was not delivered for a long time.

Before Akulak departed, the people of Bathurst Inlet held a celebration. According to some pages recovered from one of the explorers' diaries (probably Street's, which he was keeping contrary to his contract with Radford),

...about 35 Eskimos arrived on the island. A large tepee (sic) was erected, that night a dance was held, as many came in as the tepee would allow leaving a large space in the centre four feet in diameter... both men and women sang and danced... after the dance we all partook of refreshments, boiled meat of the larger species of seal [ugjuk, bearded seal].

Several months passed without news of the two white men. More than a year later, on July 11, 1913, Akulak arrived at the trading post in Chesterfield Inlet to deliver Radford's letter, and informed the traders there that Radford and Street were dead. Shortly thereafter, newspapers in the South were reporting that Radford and Street had been murdered. It would be much longer, however, before details of their demise were fully known, following a prolonged investigation by officers of the Royal North West Mounted Police (RNWMP). The starting point was Akulak's story, which implicated several men among the Bathurst Inlet Inuit.

An RNWMP memorandum written in Ottawa in April 1914 outlined the task ahead of the police force.

If steps are to be taken this year to identify and bring the perpetrators to justice, immediate action is necessary. It will entail a large expenditure. A strong party consisting of an Officer and at least 10 men with an interpreter fully equipped for an absence of a year or more, with extra supplies for the subsistence of prisoners and witnesses, would have to be despatched from Churchill, travelling by schooner to the head of Baker Lake, via Chesterfield Inlet, a distance of 550 miles, where a main base would have to be established for the storage of the bulk of the provisions. From this point to Beverly Lake, a distance of 150 miles would be made by canoes, where another base would be necessary, and from here by canoes and dog trains to Bathurst Inlet, a distance of 250 miles. If any arrests were made, the prisoners, witnesses and their families would have

to be maintained at Baker Lake until they could travel to Chesterfield Inlet, or Fullerton, where the trial would probably take place.

By the time all these costs were tallied up, the estimated expenditure “to identify and bring the perpetrators to justice” was \$70,656, the equivalent in 1914 dollars of \$1.2 million today. If that were not deterrent enough, the upper echelons of the RNWMP raised another significant issue. “From the evidence so far obtained it appears that the murders were not committed for the sake of gain, but were the direct result of the aggressive action of one of the white men assaulting a native, and therefore, in the opinion of the undersigned, no judge or jury would convict the murderers who could claim they acted in self-defence and in accordance with the custom of their tribe.”

The memo found its way to the Prime Minister’s office. Judgement on how to proceed with this case apparently called for consideration at the highest levels. It was a time when the Canadian government was only just learning that its citizens included unknown numbers of “Eskimo” in the remotest reaches of the land. Little was known of the way of life or the culture of these people. Conservative Prime Minister R.L. Borden decided he wanted to confer with his Liberal predecessor, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, “who had experience in like matters during the 15 years of his Government.” In due course the answer came back and direction filtered down to the policemen in the field. The Commissioner of the RNWMP, A.B. Perry, wrote to his subordinates on June 12, 1914: “It is assumed that Messrs Radford and Street, by their attitude and actions, caused their own deaths. If this is the case, it is not the purpose of the Government to proceed with prosecution.”

Writing his final report three years later, Inspector Francis H. French said: “My instructions re the murders of Messrs Radford and Street were to the effect that I was to make no arrests but investigate the case and get what evidence was possible.”

The attempt to conduct an RNWMP patrol to Bathurst Inlet began in the summer of 1914 when Inspector W.J. Beyts and Sgt-Major Thomas B. Caulkin sailed from Halifax, bound for Baker Lake, inland from the western shore of Hudson Bay. From that point, their every effort was frustrated by



Insp. Francis H. French.
RCMP Veterans' Association.

raging Arctic storms and inadequate equipment. Beyts eventually succumbed, and in the autumn of 1916 Inspector French relieved him. That winter was spent in preparations at Baker Lake, and finally on March 21, 1917, French and Caulkin and their four Inuit assistants – including a woman to sew their caribou-skin clothing – set out across the barrenlands in search of answers to the mysterious disappearance of Radford and Street, who had last been heard from nearly five years before. The patrol's three sleds, pulled by 25 dogs, were heavily laden with two canoes, a month's food, fuel and camping equipment.

By mid-May, after a gruelling trip – they were attacked by wolves, ran out of food and fuel, suffered snow-blindness, lost their way, and encountered melting snow which made progress all but impossible for the dogs – French and Caulkin met up with the Inuit of Bathurst Inlet, who numbered somewhere between 100 and 150 at the time, many of whom had never before seen any qallunaat (white men). The policemen went straight to work collecting official statements from at least a dozen informants, all of whom agreed on the basic facts surrounding the tragedy of 1912. Ultimately, their version of events was further corroborated by other statements collected somewhat farther west, in the region where the Canadian Arctic Expedition was operating at the time, led by Diamond Jenness.



Sgt-Major Thomas B. Caulkin in winter dress on the Barrens.
RCMP Veterans' Association.

In the end, the RNWMP was able to piece together what had happened. When Akulak left the two white men at Quagyuk in Bathurst Inlet, in early June 1912, preparations were underway for the expedition to continue west. The sea in Bathurst Inlet was still frozen. In fact, the ice did not go out that summer until the beginning of August. Arrangements had been made for Hala and Kaniak, two local Inuit men, to transport the expedition by dog-team along the coast to the west until open water was reached, where Radford and Street could once again launch the canoe they had carried with them from the Thelon River. Previously, Kaniak had traded his bow and arrows to Radford,

but a confrontation with Radford over one of the arrows increased tensions disproportionately – Kaniak said it was not one of those traded; Radford insisted it was. As a result, Kaniak threatened not to go, to which Radford reacted with violence. On the appointed day, Hala set off first, and then Kaniak announced definitively that he would not go, because his wife had fallen on the ice and injured herself badly, so he could not leave her. At this, Radford balked, and then lost his temper. He hit Kaniak viciously about the head with the handle of a dog-whip, shouting loudly. Street tried to subdue his partner, but in the confusion Inuit onlookers thought that the two white men together were going to push Kaniak into open water at a large crack in the ice. Fearing for his life, two friends rushed to his aid – Okaitok grabbed Radford and held him, and Halalak stabbed a double-edged knife into the raging man's back three times. Lying on the ice in a pool of his own blood, Radford was still not dead, so someone, possibly Halalak again, slit his throat.

Seeing this, Street began to run. He was headed for the loaded sled. He could have been fleeing, but in the excitement, the Inuit men thought he was going for a rifle. They also realized that if he left, he could eventually carry news of what they had done to the outside. Okaitok ran after and caught him. Another man, Amigainik, took up the chase and stabbed Street in the back with a snow knife. The two dead men were left on the ice covered with caribou skins. Some people from the camp set out the next day to find Akulak, who had already departed to the south, so that he would know what had happened. It was Akulak who eventually brought word of the murders to Chesterfield Inlet.

All of the Inuit informants agreed on one other detail. They described Radford as “bad, always mad, and shouting all the time” whereas Street was thought to be “quiet and inoffensive,” really a “good” man, whom they liked. Even today, oral-history accounts from Bathurst Inlet preserve these opinions. As the RNWMP papers have it, “everyone who came into contact with Mr.



Halalak. *NWT Archives N-1993-008-0006*

Radford has stated that his manner in dealing with the natives was most overbearing and injudicious and that they are not surprised at his meeting his end in the way he did.” Unfortunately, he took Street with him.

Inspector French did not make direct contact with any of the suspects, although several informants suggested it would not be hard to find them. True to the original instructions, in consideration of the clear provocations on Radford’s part, the RNWMP officer decided to exonerate the murderers. However, he also took the opportunity to advise the Inuit he met that killing white men who annoyed them would not be tolerated in future – “the culprits would be taken away and would never return,” he declared.

French’s journey back to Baker Lake was even worse than the outgoing trip. Temperatures dropped to -50°C and stayed there. The men were badly frostbitten. Caribou were scarce in the country that year; even the wolves were going hungry. The police patrol ran out of food. They had to kill half their dogs, to feed the others. The men nearly failed to survive. At one point, French wrote in his journal “It looks like our last patrol.” But fortunes changed just in time, and on January 29, 1918, the desperate party reached Baker Lake, after 315 days on the trail, more than 8,000 kilometres travelled – the longest, most arduous patrol ever undertaken by the Mounties.

Curiously, French did not, in keeping with RNWMP tradition, “get his man.” Instead, he dispensed what should be seen as remarkably sensible justice. In his report, he wrote: “Had Radford, instead of resorting to chastisement, used discretion when Kaniak said he did not want to go with him, and tried to get another native, I believe he would have succeeded in so doing and that Messrs Radford and Street would be alive today.” The government of the day, and the RNWMP, had clearly taken into account the reality of a changing time in Canada’s North, realizing that the arrival of southern society, and its impact on Inuit culture, was as much (if not more) responsible for these deaths as were the men who held the knives.

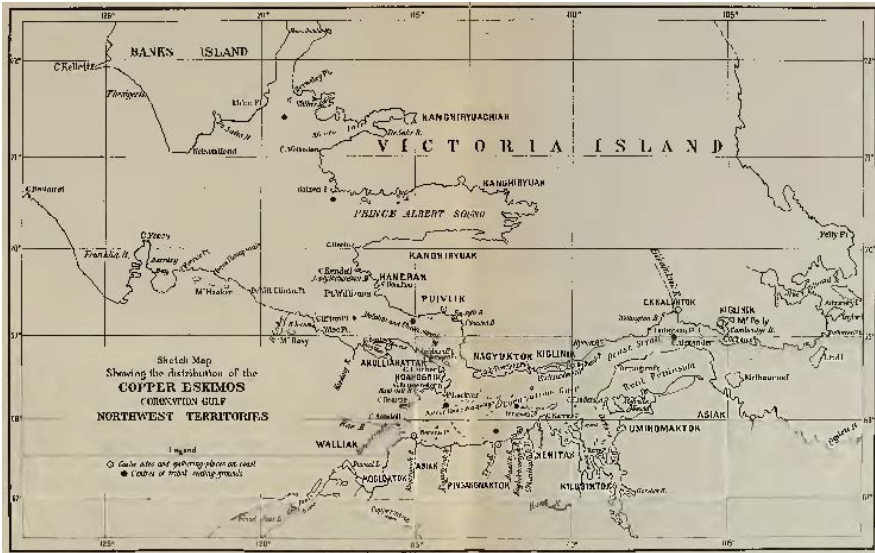
* * *

There is a touching footnote to this story. Amigainik, wanting to offer an apology as best he could, took an opportunity 10 years later to send a matched set of white-fox furs down to Street’s family in Ottawa, his way of expressing regret and sympathy.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Grace Chapnik for digitizing various files at the Library and Archives Canada, to Alicia Carefoote for transcribing the documents, to Jennifer Arthur-Lackenbauer for designing the covers and providing a map, and to Harrison Lackenbauer for producing a name list and list of acronyms. I am grateful to David Pelly, an esteemed writer, researcher, and historian, for contributing a foreword that evocatively tells the story of Radford and Street and the police investigation into their fate.

Whitney Lackenbauer
May 2026



Map 1: Sketch map showing the distribution of the Copper Eskimos, Coronation Gulf region, Northwest Territories. Diamond Jenness, *Report of the Canadian Arctic Expedition 1913-18, vol. XII: The Life of the Copper Eskimos* (Ottawa: F.A. Acland, 1922).

Introduction

The Radford and Street Murders

P. Whitney Lackenbauer

This volume is one of a trilogy covering three landmark cases involving Inuit who killed *qallunaat* (outsiders) in the Kitikmeot region of what is now Nunavut in the early twentieth century. As the documents in this collection explain, the Government of Canada thoroughly investigated but decided not to charge the Inuit men who killed American explorer Harry Radford and Canadian Thomas George Street after Radford had struck one of his guides in June 1912, with the Royal North West Mounted Police (RNWMP) concluding that Amegealnik and Hululark had acted in self-defence. Radford and Street had been dealt with according to the principles of Inuit law, Inspector Francis French discerned, but he insisted that Inuit who killed or harmed *qallunaat* in the future “would be taken away and never return.”

The purpose of this collection is to bring together and make publicly accessible primary documents related to the RNWMP’s investigation of the Radford and Street murders. Previous volumes have reproduced materials related to the trials of Uloqsoq and Sinnisiak, and those of Alikomiak and Tatamagina. By contrast, Uloqsaq (Uluksuk) and Sinnisiak were the first Inuit tried under Canadian law for the 1913 murders of Roman Catholic missionary priests Guillaume Le Roux and Jean-Baptiste Rouvière near Bloody Falls. The RNWMP responded to stories of the priests’ fate, dispatching patrols to investigate in 1915, locating and arresting Sinnisiak and Uloqsaq in 1916, and bringing the Inuuk¹ south for trial in 1917. The jury at the first trial in Edmonton for the murder of Father Rouvière acquitted Sinnisiak and Uloqsaq. A later trial in Calgary for the murder of Father Le Roux yielded a conviction for murder – and a commuted sentence of life imprisonment for which the Inuuk served two years before returning to their homes. A third trial, that of Alikomiak and Tatamagina for murders committed in 2022, was held on Herschel Island in July 1923. After this show trial, where the federal government sought to demonstrate Canadian sovereignty and show Inuit that the authorities would no longer tolerate

¹ Singular: *Inuk*, $\Delta\text{ᐅ}^b$, dual: *Inuuk*, $\Delta\text{ᐅ}^b$, three or more: *Inuit*, $\Delta\text{ᐅ}\Delta^c$.

murder, led to a guilty verdict and the hanging of Alikomiak and Tatamigana.² Our hope is that teachers, students and scholars will use this material to discuss and debate the legal aspects of these cases, the media coverage of them, and the interactions between the legal cultures of Inuit and the Canadian state.

Crisis in the Era of Contact: Historical Context

The first recorded contact between Euro-Canadians and the Kitikmeot Inuit (historically referred to as the Copper Inuit) who live in what is now the central Canadian Arctic (western region of Nunavut) came in the summer of 1771. Samuel Hearne, an explorer with the Hudson's Bay Company, accompanied a party of Chipewyans (Dene) into the Coppermine River area where Hearne's companions spotted an encampment of Inuit and massacred them. Hearne named the site Bloody Falls, thus marking the place as one of violence.³ A half century later, Captain John Franklin reached the lower waters of the Coppermine and tried to establish friendly relations with Inuit that he encountered there, but most of them fled rather than dealing with him. Subsequent European exploration of the Kitikmeot coastline by ship and land in the ensuing decades brought limited engagement – although John Richardson, John Rae, Robert McClure, and Richard Collinson enjoyed positive interactions mid-century. After 1852, however, interest in the Northwest Passage waned following the search for Franklin, and no *qallunaat* explorers visited the Coronation Gulf region for a half century.⁴

² P. Whitney Lackenbauer and Kristopher Kinsinger, eds., *Arctic Show Trial: The Trial of Alikomiak and Tatamigana*, introduced by Ken Coates and William R. Morrison (Calgary: Documents on Canadian Arctic Sovereignty and Security (DCASS) No. 9, Arctic Institute of North America, 2017), <https://live-arts.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/25/dcass9.pdf>; and P. Whitney Lackenbauer and Grace Chapnik, eds., *"It is necessary that they should understand that they are under the Law": The Murder Trials of Sinnisiak and Uloqsak, 1917* (Peterborough: Frost Research Centre Press, 2023), <http://lackenbauer.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-PWL-GC-sinnisiak-uluksuk-upload.pdf>.

³ See Ian S. MacLaren, "Samuel Hearne's Accounts of the Massacre at Bloody Fall, 17 July 1771," *ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature* 22, no. 1 (1991): 25-51; and Emilie Cameron, *Far Off Metal River: Inuit Lands, Settler Stories, and the Making of the Contemporary Arctic* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2015).

⁴ Diamond Jenness, "The Cultural Transformation of the Copper Eskimo," *Geographical Review* 11, no. 4 (1921): 541-43.

Extended contact between Inuit and *qallunaat* began in the Kitikmeot region in the early twentieth century. Among the first to arrive were trappers and hunters such as Joe Bernard, Christian Klengenberg, John Hornby, and D'Arcy Arden. Ethnologists, interested in the anthropological study of peoples still largely untainted by Western society, soon followed, with Vilhjalmur Stefansson and Diamond Jenness arriving in the Coppermine River region in the late 1900s and early 1910s. The Southern Party of the Canadian Arctic Expedition (CAE, 1913-1918) quickly forged positive relations with the local people – and noted that Inuit legal practices differed from elsewhere in Canada. Jenness concluded that “the maintenance of order in a Copper Eskimo community rests purely and simply on the basis of force. No man will commit a crime, save in the heat of passion, unless he believes that he can make good his escape until the affair blows over, or else that his kinsmen will support him against any attempt at revenge.” He also noted that “the majority of murders that occur are committed in a momentary heat of passion provoked by some scornful or sarcastic remark.”⁵ Whatever the cause, the land of the Copper Inuit soon elicited a reputation for wanton bloodshed and the image of a lawless frontier. From 1914-1930, legal historian Sidney Harring calculated that six *qallunaat* and an estimated forty Inuit were murdered in the region — a staggering rate of violence “in a small, closed and traditional society of approximately 700 Inuit.”⁶

Harry Radford and Thomas George Street

Among the first outsiders to die in the surge of killings were American Harry Radford and his Canadian counterpart Thomas George Street, killed on an island in the mouth of Bathurst Inlet in June 1912 by three Inuit men.

As David Perry outlines in the foreword and James Walsh explains in detail in his 1915 article,⁷ Harry Radford was a wealthy sportsman from New York who headed north in 1909 to hunt and explore (under the pretext of collecting specimens for the United States Biological Survey and the Smithsonian Institution). Known as “Handsome Harry” or “Adirondack Harry” (because he had done most of his exploring in the Adirondack

⁵ Diamond Jenness, *Report of the Canadian Arctic Expedition 1913-18, Vol. XII: The Copper Eskimos, Southern Party 1913-16* (Ottawa: F.A. Acland, 1922), 96, 234.

⁶ Sidney L. Harring, “The Rich Men of the Country: Canadian Law in the Land of the Copper Inuit, 1914-1930,” *Ottawa Law Review* 21, no. 1 (1989): 4.

⁷ James J. Walsh, “A Young Catholic Explorer,” *Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia* 26, no. 2 (1915), reprinted as doc. 67.

Mountains), he saw the Canadian North as a path to enhance his reputation.⁸ Boastful and arrogant, he did not impress everyone. The police saw him as “insensitive, easy to anger, a difficult and headstrong man,” historian Kenn Harper notes. “Radford had an ambitious plan. He and his companion would paddle and portage from Fort Smith to Chesterfield Inlet on the Hudson Bay coast, then sledge north-west to Bathurst Inlet, continue from there along the coast to Fort McPherson in the Mackenzie Delta, and on to the Yukon.”⁹

Twenty-two-year-old Thomas George Street was working as a general utility man for a surveying party in Smith’s Landing, Alberta, when Radford arrived in 1911. Radford proposed that he join him for a 5,000-kilometer, two-year expedition into the largely unexplored Barren Grounds. The provisos: Radford would get most of the food if they ran short, Street was obligated to protect Radford even if this meant risking his own life, Street would keep no journal, and Radford alone would retain the rights to publish the story of their expedition. “Street immediately agreed to accompany Radford even though his coworkers in Smith’s Landing thought he was ‘plumb crazy’ to do so,” historian Lawrence Millman recounts, and the local Mounted Police Corporal Arthur Howard Llewellyn Mellor declared that “the gentleman [Radford] is utterly helpless.”¹⁰

The two men departed Smith’s Landing at the end of June 1911, heading by steamship to Fort Resolution. Famed Yukon poet Robert Service interacted with the two men on this leg of their journey, later recording that Street was both “water-wise and wood-wise,” making him “one of the best guides in the North.” Radford, by contrast, was “an amateur explorer who aimed to become a real one,” and “was pushed by the idea of exalting himself in his own eyes, if not in the eyes of the public.” He was young, rich, handsome, eager to make a bid for fame,” and the poet noted “something arrogant and tactless in him.” Service recounted the morning that Radford and Street started out:

⁸ In January 1910, Radford shot a bull wood bison, which he boasted was the “largest wild animal of which record exists ever killed on the American continent,” and was preparing to kill another before the police ordered him to stop. He complied. Alan Phillips, *The Living Legend: The Story of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police* (Toronto: Little, Brown and Company, 1954), 322; “Annual Report of Superintendent G.E. Sanders, D.S.O., Commanding ‘N’ Division, Athabaska Landing,” 3 October 1910, *RNWMP Annual Report 1910*, 51.

⁹ Kenn Harper, “Taissumani: A Day in Arctic History June 27, 1911 – Radford and Street Leave Fort Smith,” *Nunatsiaq News*, 24 June 2005.

¹⁰ Lawrence Millman, “The Radford and Street Disaster: Death of a Good Man,” Explorersweb, 15 January 2024, <https://explorersweb.com/radford-street-murders/>.

The day was sunny and serene, and the canoe was deep in the water. The explorer looked glum and subdued. I think he was scared at the thought of the job he had undertaken. I accompanied them a little way ..., and as I waved a final farewell I felt a sudden empathy for him. Sadly I watched his canoe dwindle to a speck in the distance. There! he was off on a two-thousand mile trip into the unknown.¹¹

The duo paddled their canoe east to Artillery Lake, then along the Hanbury and Thelon Rivers and north to Chesterfield Inlet on the coast of Hudson Bay. Their plan had been to make it to Bathurst Inlet before winter, but they only made it as far as Schultz Lake. There they overwintered with the Inuk leader Akulak, who accommodated them in his multi-room snowhouse. Here, the contrasting personalities of the two *qallunaat* became readily apparent. Street was positive, unfazed by the cold, enjoying the food, and finding the Inuit affable and resourceful. Correspondence to his family from Chesterfield Inlet indicate a sincere interest in and appreciation for Inuit culture. "Eskimo children never quarrel or cry, and their parents never reprove or punish them," he explained in one letter. "In fact, they [the Eskimos] are the most contented people you can imagine."¹² By contrast, Radford was temperamental and impatient.¹³ While staying at Schultz Lake, Radford threatened to shoot Bosun (or Boozer), an Inuk who offered to act as guide for the spring sledging trip to Bathurst Inlet but then withdrew his services after Radford refused to provide for his family during his absence. Enraged, Radford reached for his rifle and threatened to shoot Bosun if he did not guide him, but the Inuk called his bluff and Radford backed down.

Ultimately, Akulak agreed guide them on the six-week trip to Bathurst Inlet. They arrived near the southern end of the inlet in early May, when Radford wrote that he began mapping this "last strip remaining unexplored of the continental coast of North America."¹⁴ Less than two months later, Akulak reported to Herbert Hanley Hall, the HBC post manager at

¹¹ Robert W. Service, *Ploughman of the Moon: An Adventure into Memory* (London: Ernest Benn, 1946), 353-54.

¹² Quoted in Millman, "The Radford and Street Disaster."

¹³ Robert Service noted rumours that Radford had been "inconsiderate to the natives and had accepted presents from the Eskimos without giving anything in return." Service, *Ploughman of the Moon*, 353.

¹⁴ Quoted in Harper, "Taissumani: A Day in Arctic History June 27, 1911."

Chesterfield,¹⁵ that Bathurst Inlet Inuit or Killinimuit had killed Radford and Street. In turn, Hall passed along the information to the federal authorities.

The murders are described in detail in the documents reproduced in this volume. Steamfitter-turned-missionary William H.B. “Billy” Hoare later described in a letter to Street’s family that an Inuk named Okaitok (Kaniak) had agreed to guide Radford and Street but then changed his mind when his wife fell on the ice and he needed to tend to his injured partner. Radford became enraged, beat Okaitok with a dog whip, and (despite Street’s efforts to restrain Radford) dragged Okaitok to a hole in the ice. Fearing that Radford intended to drown his friend, Halalak (Hulalak) stabbed Radford three times in the lower back with a snow knife, later cutting his throat. “Street tried to stop Radford,” Hoare wrote in his letter, “and since he had no luck in doing this, he went to his sled and started off a little with it. Hulalak and a man named Amelgeanik [Amigainik] ran up, caught him, and stabbed him because they were afraid the white people would come and finish them [the Inuit] all off if he got away and told the authorities what happened to Radford. Both bodies were thrown into the sea. The Eskimos all say Street was a good man.”¹⁶

Radford’s threatening and violent behaviour had broken Inuit rules about self-control. In Inuit traditional law (*Inuit Maligait*), the concept of self-control is a fundamental social and legal requirement, especially with respect to managing anger and aggression. For historically isolated Inuit societies, an individual’s loss of self-control—manifested as threatening or violent behaviour—was considered a severe breach of the societal moral code and a threat to communal survival.¹⁷ “This was an incredibly foolish thing for anyone who knew anything at all about the Inuit to do,” historian William

¹⁵ Valerie Green, “Goliath of the Wilderness,” *Up Here* (February/March 1993): 37.

¹⁶ Quoted in Millman, “The Radford and Street Disaster,” based on letters from Hoare in the possession of his daughter Sheila Thompson. Other sources suggest that Inuit wrapped their bodies in skins and left them on the ice.

¹⁷ See, for example, Jean Briggs, *Never in Anger: Portrait of an Eskimo Family* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1971); Mariano Aupilaarjuk, Akisu Joamie, and Emile Imaruittuq, *Perspectives on Traditional Law* (Iqaluit: Language and Culture Program, Nunavut Arctic College, 1999); Natalia Loukacheva, “Indigenous Inuit Law, ‘Western’ Law and Northern Issues,” *Arctic Review on Law and Politics* 3, no. 2 (2012): 200-217; Joe Karetak, Frank Tester, and Shirley Tagalik, eds., *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit: What Inuit Have Always Known to be True* (Peterborough: Fernwood, 2017); and Sharon Angnakak, “Inuit Perspectives in and on ‘Arctic Show Trials’” (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Ottawa, 2024).

Morrison observes. "It was well known that Inuit who maintained their old ways, in which the communal virtue of even temper was prized, and bad temper was a serious threat to the group, believed that if a man spoke harshly to you he had it in his mind to kill you. It was thus only sensible, and quite proper, to defend yourself by killing him first."¹⁸

In late summer 1913, Canadian and American newspapers began to publish rumours that the men had been murdered, framing the central Canadian Arctic as a lawless frontier where "civilized" outsiders who ventured into the region faced serious risk. Opinions were mixed about what course of action the Government of Canada should follow. Some commentators insisted that Inuit murderers needed to be apprehended and punished or "no man's life will be safe hereafter in the far northern Frontier."¹⁹ Others insisted that "men who go into such a country like that must take chances of such a fate, and can hardly look for governmental protection."²⁰

Ottawa took questions of sovereignty seriously and called on the vaunted Royal North-West Mounted Police (RNWMP) to investigate – "but not with a punitive intent," Morrison astutely observed.²¹ Instead, the motivation was to find out who was responsible for the killings, "establish friendly relations with the tribe, secure their confidence, and carefully inquire into all the circumstances."²² Long distances, the lack of communications, and looming winter conditions meant that information would take a long time to secure.²³

W.J. Beyts, Francis H. French, and "The Longest Patrol"

In July 1914, a special RNWMP patrol comprised of Inspector Walter J. Beyts, Sergeant Major Thomas Caulkin, Constable Alfred B. Kennedy, and Constable Ernest Pasley set out from Halifax.²⁴ They established a base camp at Baker Lake over the winter of 1914-15, and eventually an advance camp on

¹⁸ William Morrison, *Under the Flag: Canadian Sovereignty and the Native People in Northern Canada* (Ottawa: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1984), 98.

¹⁹ Excerpt from *Edmonton Bulletin*, 15 December 1913, doc. 28.

²⁰ "Punishing the Eskimos," *Edmonton Journal*, 15 December 1913, doc. 28.

²¹ Morrison, *Under the Flag*, 99.

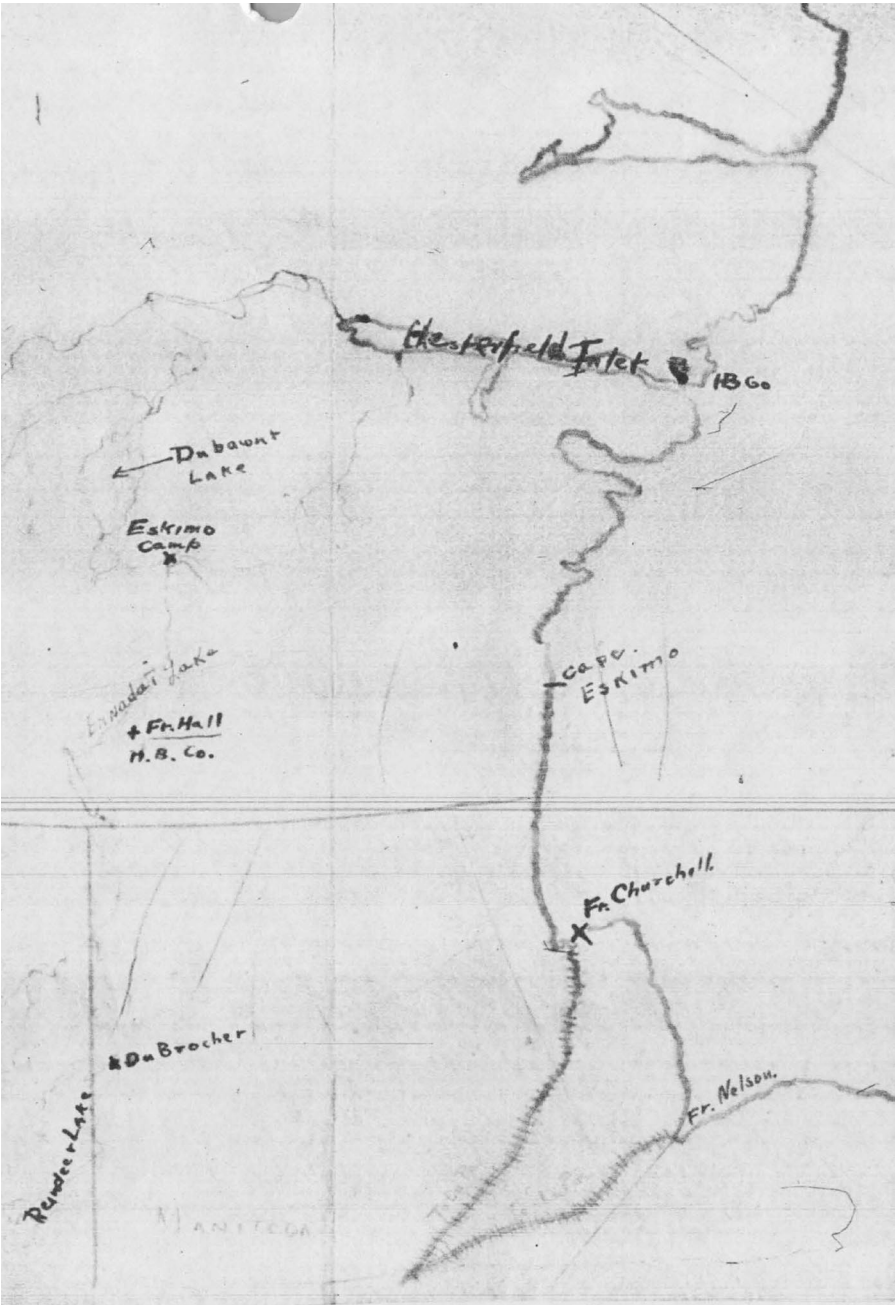
²² Commissioner Aylesworth Bowen Perry in *RNWMP Annual Report 1914*, 23.

²³ Walsh, "A Young Catholic Explorer," 111.

²⁴ See Sheldon Boles, "Cpl. Ernest Pasley's Contributions," RCMP Veterans' Association Vancouver Division, 18 October 2012,

<http://www.rcmpveteransvancouver.com/cpl-ernest-pasleys-contributions/>.

the Thelon River. “For two years [Beyts] and his men battled the unfriendly Arctic in an effort



Map 2: Sketch copied from Dept of Interior Map “Dominion of Canada” 1912.



Insp. William J. Beyts.
RCMP Veterans' Association.

to reach Bathurst Inlet, until Beyts, exhausted and sick with chronic pleurisy and bronchitis, was relieved of his command" in June 1916, Millman summarized. "His replacement was Inspector Francis H. French, and the misfortune that had dogged Beyts soon began to dog the new patrol. Surviving wolf attacks and snow blindness, and living on raw caribou meat," French, Sergeant Major Thomas Caulkin, and four Inuit guides (Quashak, Bye-and-Bye, Joe, and Soloman) with twenty dogs "finally made it to Bathurst Inlet" in May 1917.²⁵ They received a reassuring welcome when local Inuit raised their arms in a peaceful greeting. After Caulkin handed out gifts, French asked through an interpreter: "Do you know of two white men who passed

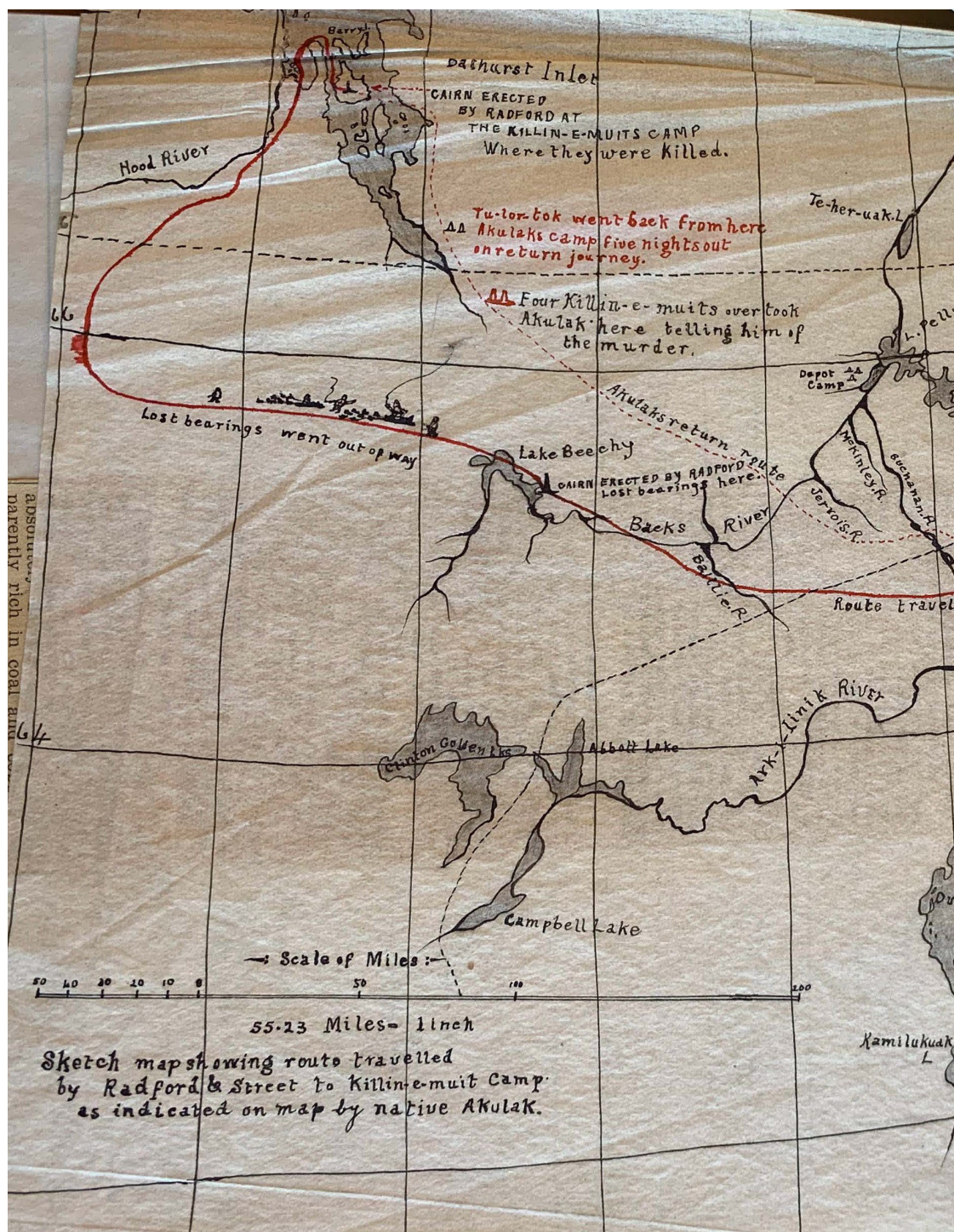
this way, said to have been killed?" RCMP historian Alan Phillips recounted that "the headman nodded. He brought forward a woman and three men, eyewitnesses to the murder of Radford and Street. The moccasin telegraph had not lied."²⁶

French and his team dedicated the following month completing their investigation around Bathurst Inlet. When they questioned Inuit about the murders, the witnesses confirmed the general accuracy of the information passed on to the police in 1913. Radford or Ishumatok ("the one who thinks") was bad tempered, invoked fear, and acted foolishly. Officials reports concluded that he "had all along showed ignorance of the proper manner of dealing with natives," with Radford striking one of the Inuit on the day of the affray and precipitating the scuffle that led to his and Street's deaths.²⁷ Street or Kiuk (or "wood" in reference to his physical strength) was a good man, but

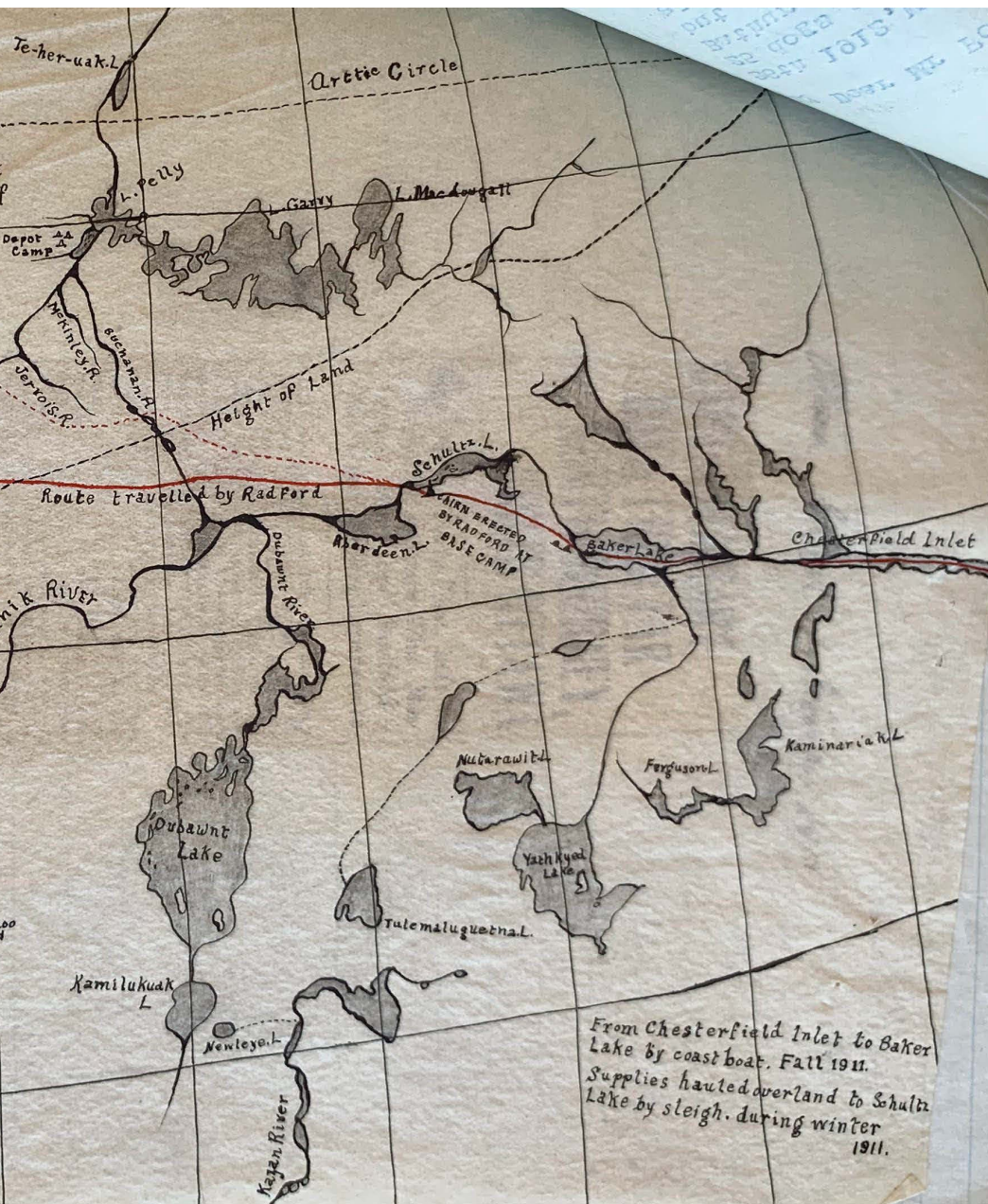
²⁵ Lawrence Millman, "Pursuing Justice in the Arctic," *Smithsonian Magazine* (30 April 1998), <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/pursuing-justice-in-the-arctic-57951112/>; Howard Steele, "The Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the Arctic," *Empire Club Speeches*, 26 January 1928, <https://empireclubfoundation.org/speech/the-royal-mounted-police-in-the-arctic/>.

²⁶ Phillips, *The Living Legend*, 324-25.

²⁷ *RNWMP Annual Report 1918*, appendix A, 18 (doc. 122); Harwood Steele, *Policing the Arctic* (Toronto: Ryerson Press, 1936), doc. 123.



Map 3: Sketch map showing route travelled by Radford & Street to Killine-e-miut Camp as indicated on map by native Akulak. *Library and Archives Canada, Record Group 18, vol. 556, file 240-3.*



Inuit could not tell when he ran for the sled whether he was going to get his gun or was seeking to flee. Whatever the case, he was killed as a consequence of Radford's bad judgment.

Effective inter-cultural communications required an acknowledgement of language barriers, different legal philosophies, and the applicability of colonial frameworks to Inuit realities. During their investigations, the police encountered many Inuit who had never met *qallunaat* before (including as late as 1918 in the vicinity of Kent Peninsula and Bathurst Inlet). "Neither Mr. Radford nor Mr. Street understood these people's language, nor how to deal with them, and intercourse between them had been limited to signs," the RNWMP official report for 1918 concluded. "The tribe in question, the Killin-e-muits, is exceedingly primitive and had had next to no dealings with white men before; the white men lived amongst them without molestation until the quarrel arose." For his part, Inspector French appreciated the candour and honesty of Inuit, emphasizing that he "was favourably impressed with this tribe, which, he points out, treated his small party excellently, despite the delicate nature of the mission upon which it came amongst them."²⁸

The patrol itself was a landmark achievement for the RNWMP, who covered more than 5000 miles by dog team, canoe, and walking. Frequently referred to as the "longest patrol," the triumphalist narrative produced by historian Harwood Steele later framed the mission as a heroic expansion of Canadian sovereignty and the rule of law into the Far North.²⁹ The RNWMP annual report for 1918 provides a succinct summary of the "remarkable

²⁸ *RNWMP Annual Report 1918*, appendix A, 18. This is in sharp contrast with Knud Rasmussen's depiction, which suggests that "the leader of the police patrol" did not "meet the actual murderers himself, but only some others of their tribe and these he characterizes as born thieves, terrible liars and altogether unreliable; indeed he would not be surprised to hear of more murders before long, as any one of them would sell his soul for a rifle." The Danish-Greenlandic explorer explained that he "had, while at Malerisiorfik, lived for nearly a month with two of the wanted murderers, Hagdlagdlaog and Qanijaq ... and we found them both kindly, helpful, and affectionate; thoroughly good fellows all around. It must always be borne in mind that these people take an entirely different view of human life...." Knud Rasmussen, *Across Arctic America: Narrative of the Fifth Thule Expedition* (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1927), 250.

²⁹ Harwood Steele, *Policing the Arctic. The Story of the Conquest of the Arctic by the Royal Canadian (formerly North-West) Mounted Police* (Toronto: The Ryerson Press, 1936), doc. 125.

achievement in the way of travel,” with Inspector French computing the distance traversed on the outward journey from Baker Lake to Bernard Harbour as covering 2483 miles: 1835 travelling over routes, 284 deer hunting, 114 seal hunting, and 250 looking for Inuit camps. “The return journey was carried out in the early winter under conditions of great hardship,” the report noted soberly. “It was impracticable to carry full stocks of provisions, and the party, Inspector French, Sergt.-Major T. B. Caulkin, and several natives were forced to rely for much of their subsistence upon the game and fish they could procure.”³⁰ They arrived at Baker Lake on the verge of starvation, and had to sacrifice many of their dogs to feed the remainder. In his diary, French noted: “Could I have foreseen or realized the immensity of that journey, could I have but visualized its hundreds of perils and hardships, had I but a glimpse of the gaunt spectre of hunger, cold and starvation, and nameless fear for my party, then I might have decided that life was too short to be walking side by side with fate. But duty must be done.”³¹

As the documents reveal, French’s investigation overlapped and was coordinated with that of Inspector Charles La Nauze, who was investigating the 1913 murders of Roman Catholic Oblate priests Jean-Baptiste Rouvière and Guillaume Le Roux in parallel to the Radford and Street case. La Nauze led the 1915-1916 “Great Bear Lake Patrol,” a grueling journey that led the Mounties to the mouth of the Coppermine River and Bernard Harbour. Through interviews and statements from Inuit informants (including Angavrana and Uluksak), La Nauze learned that Radford and Street had been killed by Inuit at Bathurst Inlet in June 1912. Inuit statements indicated the killings were not for material gain but were the direct result of Radford’s aggressiveness. Witnesses described Radford losing his temper and physically assaulting a guide, prompting his killing in self-defence. La Nauze also learned that the Inuit generally regarded Street as a “good man” who had tried to restrain his partner’s violent proclivities. Ultimately, La Nauze’s findings suggested that the explorers might have “brought on the crime by their own untactfulness,” consistent with Inspector French’s assessment that the Inuit involved had acted according to their own custom and to pre-emptively mitigate a violent threat.

La Nauze’s detailed reports from Bernard Harbour in June 1916 officially “solved” the mystery of the explorers’ disappearance, but Inspector French furnished the final report after completing his patrol to Bathurst Inlet. The

³⁰ *NWMP Annual Report 1918*, appendix A, 18.

³¹ Quoted in Philips, *The Living Legend*, 328.

thorough investigation yielded the conclusion that Radford had precipitated the murders by treating Inuit with disrespect, and the scared Inuit had responded according to their cultural and legal norms. The instructions had been clear: if Inuit had been provoked, the Government of Canada did not intend to prosecute them. Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden sought the advice of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, his predecessor and now opposition leader, and advised the RNWMP that Laurier “considers the Eskimos a very peaceable race, and thinks that ... no jury would convict them. He thinks the way you suggest—to quietly bring these people under the influence of the law—is the only course to be followed.”³² In short, Borden instructed the Mounties to follow a pragmatic and diplomatic course to establish a permanent police presence and to educate the Inuit on the Canadian legal system rather than punishing them. “Because of the complete candour of the Inuit,” Morrison concluded, “the police had no doubt that their version of events was correct, so other than lecturing them on Canadian law (which they did with every Inuit they encountered) and telling them that the government would not forgive their ignorance of Canadian law a second time, they took no further action. It was, all things considered, a sensible disposition of the case, and one which showed commendable sensitivity to Inuit culture.”³³

While the paternalistic and colonial tone of official statements about the case is jarring today, contemporaries held up the mission as a successful exercise in establishing Canadian sovereignty through presence rather than punishment. The RNWMP Commissioner's report noted that, while the patrol did not result in any trial or conviction, it had proven useful. “After completing his investigation, Inspector French proceeded as far west as Bernard Inlet, visiting the different tribes en route to whom he explained the ‘white man’s’ laws and customs,” Commissioner Aylesworth Bowen suggested. “This patrol, as well as that of Inspector La Nauze the previous year, has had



RNWMP Commissioner
Aylesworth Bowen Perry.
RCMP Veterans' Association.

³² Rt. Hon. Robert Laird Borden to Comptroller Lawrence Fortescue, 5 May 1914, LAC, R6113-0-X-E, MG26-H, C-4381, 98817, doc. 40.

³³ Morrison, *Under the Flag*, 100.

a marked effect on these barbarians, but on the whole kindly people. Friendly relations have been established which will be of much value in the future.”³⁴ The reference to “barbarians” revealed the racist mindset of the time, but the emphasis on congenial relationships spoke to an underlying expectation of peaceful coexistence, cooperation, and compliance.

Other Investigations and Trials: A Firmer Colonial Hand

Concurrent and subsequent police investigations into murders in the Kitikmeot region reinforced the expansion of Canadian authority over Inuit Nunangat. Unlike French, who recommended against prosecution in the Radford case due to the explorer’s violent provocation, La Nauze arrested the two Inuit men involved in the murders of Catholic priests Le Roux and Rouvière in 1916 and brought them south to Edmonton and Calgary for high-profile trials the following year. His findings revealed that while the priests had been aggressive and had physically threatened the hunters, the Canadian legal system required a formal conviction to assert federal sovereignty over the Arctic, marking a significant shift toward the imposition of colonial law in the North. As historian Richard Diubaldo noted, “both men were sentenced to death, but this was a formality, and the sentences were commuted to life imprisonment.” Because the accused “did not know our ways, that they did not know what our laws are,” the judge decided that the ‘Big Chief far away’ would not put them to death.”³⁵

Government officials hoped that when Sinnisiak and Uloqsaq returned to Inuit Nunangat (the Inuit homeland in Canada), they would spread the word of the ‘white man’s law’ among their people and murders would cease. The experience of colonial justice, however, did not have the desired effect.³⁶ Corporal W.A. Doak, who had supervised the Inuuk while they served their sentences and “became quite attached” to them, soon became “caustic in his criticism of the leniency” shown to them. “Now they are big men amongst the natives, and the Huskies seem to think that all they have to do if they want a

³⁴ Commissioner’s report in *Annual Report for 1918*, quoted in Cornelia Schuh, “Justice on the Northern Frontier: Early Murder Trials of Native Accused,” *Criminal Law Quarterly* 22, no.1 (1979): 93.

³⁵ Richard Diubaldo, “The Government of Canada and the Inuit, 1900-1967” (Ottawa: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1985), 22.

³⁶ Uloqsaq allegedly became a bully and a thief, boasting that he did not fear the police and would not mind killing again. Kenn Harper, *Thou Shalt Do No Murder* (Iqaluit: Nunavut Arctic College Media, 2017), 265.

good time at the white man's expense is to commit murder," he suggested. "First thing you know it won't be safe for any white men in Coronation Gulf."³⁷

When Alikomiak and Tatamigana were convicted for the 1922 murder of Doak and trader Otto Binder in 1923, Ottawa did not commute their death sentences. In this "show trial," the federal government sent a more resolute statement that murder would not be tolerated by sending the lumber to build the gallows and a hangman to join the court party.³⁸ "Finally, Inuit had been hanged for their crimes," historian Kenn Harper lamented. "The Arctic would be safer for white men. British justice had come to the Arctic coast."³⁹

By this point, Copper Inuit life had already changed from the time when Radford and Street had first entered the Kitikmeot region. After the arrests of Sinnisiak and Uloqsak in 1916, Rev. Herbert Girling took over the CAE station at Bernard Harbour to make it an Anglican mission, the Hudson's Bay Company established a trading post in the region, and several *qallunaat* trappers and traders operated along the Kitikmeot coast. A second RNWMP patrol visited Coronation Gulf the following year, and the police established a post at Tree River in 1920. With Inuit now "acquainted ... with the agents of civilized law," Jenness asserted, "the solitary traveller may now wander with impunity everywhere provided that he exercises a reasonable amount of tact and prudence."⁴⁰

The anthropologist also lamented the transformation of Copper Inuit society as the *qallunaat* world encroached on the Kitikmeot region. "Rapid changes are taking place in the culture of the natives, and implements of iron and steel, rifles, fish-nets, open boats, European textiles and sewing machines, European foods, cheap musical instruments and the development of trapping at the expense of hunting and sealing will work a complete transformation within the space of a very few years," Jenness predicted. "Already the new culture elements and the new teachings that are filtering in from the west have profoundly modified their social and religious ideas," he observed, and "in throwing open their country to outside invasion we have incurred a heavy

³⁷ See also similar quotes in Harper, *Thou Shalt Do No Murder*, 264-65.

³⁸ See Ken Coates and Bill Morrison, "'To Make These Tribes Understand': The Trial of Alikomiak and Tatamigana," *Arctic* 51, no. 3 (1998): 220-230, reproduced as the foreword to Lackenbauer and Kinsinger, eds., *Arctic Show Trial*.

³⁹ Harper, *Thou Shalt Do No Murder*, 271.

⁴⁰ Jenness, *Report of the CAE Southern Party*, 242.

responsibility towards the natives ... Clearly, for better or for worse, the new era has dawned....⁴¹

By the 1920s, the RCMP served as the primary instrument of Canadian sovereignty across Inuit Nunangat, transitioning from a transient patrol force to a more permanent administrative presence with the establishment of strategic outposts in the High Arctic and Baffin region. Tasked with enforcing the “White Man’s Law” and “disciplining” Inuit through state-managed systems, the police systematically replaced traditional *Inuit Maligait* with the Canadian criminal code, a process punctuated by the high-profile “show trial” and 1924 execution of Alikomiak and Tatamigana. Beyond their policing duties, police officers also functioned as multi-purpose colonial agents who managed census data, distributed relief, and enforced increasingly restrictive hunting and game laws. While most Canadian commentators saw this increased police presence as a positive extension of the liberal state into Inuit Nunangat, it also served to undermine the collective power and control of Inuit over their lives – an appropriation of self-determination that Inuit began to reverse in the late 1960s in a process that continues today.⁴²

Editorial Note

The writing styles and turns of phrase in the following sources reflect the era in which they were written, and I have wielded a very light editorial hand to preserve that context. Certain parts of this volume contain what Library and Archives Canada describes as “historical language and content that some [readers] may consider offensive, for example, language used to refer to racial,

⁴¹ Jenness, *Report of the CAE Southern Party*, 242, 248. For a similar sentiment, see Inspector LaNauze’s report of 1 August 1916 (doc. 36). On changes, see Scott McLean, “Beyond Neglect: Building Colonial Rule in the Kitikmeot, 1916–52,” *Canadian Historical Review* 101, no. 1 (2020): 49-75, and McLean, “‘The Advent of Civilization Amongst Them Will Not Tend to Their Betterment’: Understanding Representations of Colonial Contact in the Kitikmeot,” *Journal of Canadian Studies* 55, no. 3 (2021): 481-506.

⁴² McLean, “Beyond Neglect”; Morley Murray, “The Instructor Draws a Curved Line on the Flipchart: Nunavut Sivuniksavut,” *Our Schools/Our Selves* (Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 2005); Qikiqtani Truth Commission, *The Official Mind of Canadian Colonialism: Government Authorities and the Qikiqtani Region, 1950-1975* (Iqaluit: Inhabit Media, 2013).

ethnic and cultural groups.”⁴³ For example, the word “Eskimo” was still in common usage, and, although it has now been replaced by “Inuit,” I have retained the original term as it appeared in the original documents. Similarly, various commentators adopted the pejorative term “Husky” or “Huskie” to refer to Inuit. The identifier “Indian” is used to refer to various First Nations, as are old names such as Dog Rib (for Tł̥ch̥q), Hare (Sahtú Dene), or Loucheux (for Gwich’in). Nevertheless, I have retained the language from the primary sources “to ensure that attitudes and viewpoints are not erased from the historical record,”⁴⁴ with full anticipation that this material should invite and stimulate further discussion.



Baker Lake, 1916. Back (left to right): Akular, Cpl. Conway, Cst. Kennedy, Cst. Pasley and Joe. Front: Insp. Beyts and Sgt-Major Caulkin. *Library and Archives Canada, RG 18, vol. 2160, file 20-28.*

⁴³ Library and Archives Canada (LAC), “Historical language advisory,” <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/about-us/aboutcollection/Pages/notices.aspx#lang>.

⁴⁴ LAC, “Historical language advisory.”

1. H.V. Radford's Letter to Hudson's Bay Company, 3 October 1911

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

Spurrell Harbour,
Mouth of Chesterfield Inlet,
Hudson's Bay,
October 3rd, 1911.

R.H. Hall, Esq.,
Fur Trade Commissioner,
Hudson's Bay Company,
Winnipeg.

Dear Sir:-

With my assistant, Mr. T. George Street, I arrived here by canoe from Fort Resolution, Great Slave Lake, three days ago; and found the relief supplies which you were so kind to send up in the "Pelican" and have landed here for me, all in good condition, in Mr. Ford's keeping.

For this valuable assistance you have my warmest gratitude. These will enable me to continue my way for Northern exploration for at least a year. I trust that my results may be such as to reflect credit upon the great Company which so generously came to my assistance.

Yours truly,
(sgd) H.V. Radford.

2. H.V. Radford to Mr. S. Ford, 10 December 1911

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 556, file 240-3

LETTER NO 2.

Igloo of Chief Akulak.
Head of Schultz Lake. N.W.T,
Dec 10th 1911.

My dear Mr Ford,

I am sending Mr. Street to the head of Chesterfield Inlet, because Kau-mack would not promise to bring our canoe, when he returned, and it was impossible to find two natives who would go after it. In the dead of winter, as you know, it is difficult for a white man to travel long distances with any comfort, and Mr Street is such a faithfull [*sic*] assistant, and companion, that I do not wish to impose upon

him, greater hardships than is necessary. I am sure there-for that you will forgive Mr Street and I for not paying you another visit this winter.

There is one other point I wish to speak to you about since Kau-mack has raised the issue:- Owing to the great distance and the difficulties and uncertainty of the food supply for men and dogs along the line of March, we are experiencing great difficulty in finding any natives from this locality, who will accompany us, either part or for the whole journey. None of the natives here know anything about the Arctic Coast trending westwards, they have heard rumours that it is inhabited by murderous Eskimos, that it is a starvation country, and full of other terrors. They point to the fact that a white man named Caldwell set out with two natives from the Baker Lake District, about four years ago, destined for the Arctic Coast and that none of the party have been heard of since.

They also say that after Hanbury's natives left him, and turned back to return here, they underwent terrible hardships, and were obliged to winter on the coast, in a strange locality, [devoid] of deer, and that they were nearly starved to death.

I need not explain to you, that if we cannot induce any native to undertake the journey with us, we shall be obliged to abandon it, and you can appreciate what a severe disappointment this would be, after the elaborate preparations, and large sacrifices of time, and expenditure I have made in getting ready for this long journey.

There is one man here, the Chief Akulak, in whom I have a chance of success, he is more intelligent, and seems to be bolder than the others, besides he has sledges, dogs, and local influence, elements that are of the utmost importance to me. I have found out that it would be impossible to get any Eskimos to undertake this long journey with me, unless I were to include their wives and families, in the party.

.....#####.....

From this letter it may be gathered also, the difficulty Radford experienced in getting natives to go with him, also the evident terror this part of the country seems to hold upon the natives, this side of the Arctic Circle.

[Sgd.] T.B. Caulkin S/M¹

¹ *Editor's note:* Caulkin added this notation in March 1915.

3. "Has Harry V. Radford Been Forsaken By His Guides in the Barren Lands," *Western Associated Press*, 9 March 1912

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-3

HAS HARRY V. RADFORD BEEN FORSAKEN BY HIS GUIDES IN THE BARREN LANDS

NEW YORK. March 9th. Harry V. Radford, Arctic explorer, member of the American Geographical society, secretary and member of the Arctic club who left this City on February 12th 1909 to engage in four years of exploration and hunting in Northern Canada, is reported to have been forsaken by his guides in the heart of the barren Lands between Chesterfield Inlet on the northern end of Hudson Bay and Great Bear Lake about 500 miles inland. He is believed to have been left without provisions and fear is expressed for his welfare. A letter written by A.J. Bel, Canadian Agent at Fort Smith, Northwest Territory, Canada, telling of Radford's plight reached the Arctic club here to-day. The letter dated January 15th last, said Bell had received word that two Indians hired by Radford last summer to accompany him for one year to the Barren Lands had visited Fort Resolution last month and stated that they had deserted Radford last fall owing to a disagreement.

Radford has twice visited Edmonton since he went North from here in 1909. The last time he came into the City he brought with him the hide and bones of the giant wood Bison, which he shot in the vicinity of Fort Smith. It will be remembered that the advance notices of Radford's intention to explore the North country stated that he intended to make an effort to reach the North Pole from here. The despatch read that he would "leave Edmonton in June travelling with dogs and on Snow shoes and taking with him as food, concentrated chocolate, on which he will subsist during his sojourn in the wilderness."

4. *Western Associated Press*: Disbelieves Report of R.N.W.M.P Desertion, 9 March 1912

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-3

DISBELIEVES REPORT OF R.N.W.M.P. DESERTION.

REGINA, Sask. Mar. 9. Commissioner Perry of the R.N.W.M.P was shown the despatch from New York reporting the desertion of Harry V. Radford of the Arctic Society in the Northern part of Canada, and expressed doubt as to the truth of the report. He was aware of the presence of Radford in the North Country, the mounted police having given him every assistance possible. No word has reached

headquarters of any untoward incident, and had anything happened, it would assuredly have been reported here at the earliest possible moment. Sergt. Heller has just returned from Fort Smith and brought no report concerning Radford, so it is presumed that the Mounted Police posts here heard no reports of his movements.

5. "Fears Entertained for An Ottawa Man," *Western Associated Press*, 10 March 1912

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-3

FEARS ENTERTAINED FOR AN OTTAWA MAN

George Street, Who Went North With Radford of New York, May Also Be Lost
If Report Regarding Radford Is True.

Ottawa, Mar. 10 -- The reported desertion by the R.N.W.M.P. of Harry V. Radford of New York in the barren lands of northern Canada has led to fears for the safety of George Street of Ottawa.

Street was with Radford when the latter started on his dash across the barren lands towards the Arctic regions. He is a son of C.J. Street of Ottawa, a former official of the department of finance and a brother of Lieut. Col. D. R. Street of this city.

George Street went north a year ago as one of an exploration party headed by F. J. P. Crean, of the interior department. He has the reputation of a hardy and experienced traveller, having made a number of successful trips into the north country and having been one of the few to negotiate the difficult overland trail into the Yukon.

Since his last departure, his relatives here have been informed of his movements at rare intervals and not always directly. The last letter written in July from Fort Resolution at the foot of Great Slave Lake, arrived in October. Street's friends here refuse to believe he has been abandoned, although it is practically certain that whatever fate has overtaken Radford has been the lot of the Canadian also.

6. "No Word of Radford," *Edmonton Daily Bulletin*, 11 March 1912

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-3

EDMONTON DAILY BULLETIN, MARCH 11th 1912

NO WORD OF RADFORD.

Commissioner Perry Discredits the Report That He Has Been Deserted by
R.N.W.M.P.

Regina, March 9. -- Commissioner Perry, of Royal Northwest Mounted Police, was shown the despatch from New York reporting the desertion by the police of Harry V. Radford, of the Arctic society, in the northern part of Canada, and expressed doubt as to the truth of the report. He was aware of the presence of Radford in the North country, the mounted police having given him every assistance possible. No word has reached headquarters of any un-toward incident and had anything happened it would assuredly have been reported here at the earliest possible moment. Sergeant Heller has just returned from Fort Smith and brought no report concerning Radford, so it is presumed that the mounted police post there heard no report of his movement.

7. R.H. Hall to Lieut. Col. A. Bowen Perry, 12 March 1912

Source: LAC, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

The Hudson's Bay Company
Fur Trade Commissioners Office
Winnipeg March 12th, 1912.

Lieut. Col. A. Bowen Perry,
Commissioner,
Royal North West Mounted Police,
Regina.

Dear Sir:-

I have recently seen in the papers some reports to the effect that Mr. H.V. Radford had probably perished. The attached letter just to hand from him will relieve his friends from any uneasiness.

Yours faithfully,
[Sgd.] *R.H. Hall*
Fur Trade Commissioner.

[Attached copy of Letter from H.V. Radford, 3 October 1911, doc.1]

8. Radford to Mr. S. Ford, 13 March 1912

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 556, file 240-3

LETTER NO 3.

Akulak's Igloo,
Head of Schultz Lake,
(Udi—uk—tellig)
March 13th 1912.

My dear Mr Ford,

Akedewik, an eskimo of the Fort Churchill district, is leaving here this morning, he says he will visit your post sometime this summer, and has agreed to take this letter to you. I write very hastily to inform you, that I have succeeded in raising a party of Eskimos (3 men, including Akulak, two sledges, and two trains of dogs). Mr Street and I will start with them for the Arctic coast in about five days; we hope to reach the coast at the head of Bathurst Inlet. As soon as the first community of coast Eskimos are met (we hope in Bathurst Inlet) our three men from here will turn back (they would not agree to go farther) with one sledge, and we will endeavour to get some of the Coast Huskies² to go on with us westward along the coast—our ultimate destination being Fort MacPherson and Dawson.

.....% % % % % %.....

Then follow a number of requests asking Mr Ford to send his mail and articles of science, to their various destinations.

[Sgd.] T.B. Caulkin S/M³

9. “Radford Does Not Appear to be Lost” and “Explorer Radford Has Again Been Located,” *Edmonton Bulletin*, 14 March 1912

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-3

Extract from Edmonton “Bulletin” 14-3-1912.

RADFORD DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE LOST.

WINNIPEG. Mar 13. Harry V. Radford reported deserted in July by his Indian guides in the Barren Lands, writes to Fur Commissioner Hall, of Hudson's Bay Company under date of October 3rd, from the mouth of Chesterfield Inlet, telling

² *Editor's note:* The derogatory colonial term “husky” originated as an etymological corruption of “Eskimo” (or *Ehuskemay*) in the first half of the 19th century, when English sailors and traders abbreviated the word “Huskimaw” and shortened it to “Husky.” Over time, this word was applied specifically to the sled dogs bred by Inuit.

³ *Editor's note:* Caulkin added this notation in March 1915. “Husky,” *Oxford English Dictionary*, https://www.oed.com/dictionary/husky_n1?tl=true.

of receiving a year's supplies there, sent by the Hudson's Bay Company, which he says will enable him to continue his Northern exploration another year.

Extract from Edmonton "Bulletin" 14-3-1912.

EXPLORER RADFORD HAS AGAIN BEEN LOCATED.

**Writers to the Hudson Bay Co's Commissioner at Winnipeg Under Date of
October 3rd Last. Has Received His Provisions.**

WINNIPEG. Mar 13. All doubts as to the fate of H.V. Radford, the explorer of the Arctic Club, whom New York despatches heralded as on the way to the North Pole, with milk chocolate for food, have been set at rest by the receipt of the following letter from Radford by H.R. Hall Fur Commissioner of the Hudson's Bay Company, Winnipeg.

[Reprint of Radford letter from 3 October 1911, doc.1]

10. RNWMP re Edmonton Daily Bulletin, 14 March 1912

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-3

Royal North-West Mounted Police,
"N" Division Athabaska Landing
March 14th, 1912

The Commissioner,
R.N.W.M. Police,
Regina, Sask.
Sir; -

I have the honour to enclose some cuttings from the Edmonton Daily Bulletin of the 11th inst. with regard to Harry V. Radford. On the 11th inst. I sent you a copy of a report which I received from Smith Landing giving an account of Const. Walters' patrol to Fort Resolution. In it he states, "Two Indians Noel and Susie Benjami who Mr. Radford engaged to take him from the east end of Great Slave Lake to the Thelon River came into Fort Resolution at Christmas saying that they had had a row with Radford and Street and that they had left them in the night and returned to their home at the east end of the Lake".

Personally I know nothing of this man Radford, but he seems to have been a difficult man to have any dealings with. Sp. Const. Darell at Dawson was at one time in communication with Radford who very much wanted him as a guide and

dog runner. But the negotiations fell through, Darell telling me that he could not make satisfactory arrangements with Radford.

I believe he threatened Col. Sanders with an action for damages for forbidding him to shoot a second wood bison. He endeavored *it is reported* to sell the one he did kill to one or other of the American Museums or institutions.

I believe the Hudsons Bay Co. put him up at Fort Smith for a time but finally had to get rid of him as he was not a pleasant individual to have any dealings with. Insp. Field in his report dated July 24th 1911, states, "Mr. H.V. Radford and George Street left Fort Resolution July 10th for Chesterfield Inlet. He took two natives from Resolution to assist him across the Lake to the First Portage, they return from there, Radford and his assistant Street proceed from this point alone without a guide. He has only one canoe with him and about three months provisions, he expects to receive a fresh supply at Chesterfield Inlet. There is great speculation in the country as to whether these men will get through or not. Street is an experienced canoe man, Radford is totally inexperienced. They expect to reach Chesterfield Inlet early in September."

This man Radford is the same individual that the practical joke was played on going, down the Athabaska River, some two years ago, when he shot at a dummy bear rigged up by some of the crew and was greatly excited to think he had actually shot a bear, which turned out to be a log, disguised in an old fur coat.

In addition to the cutting from the Bulletin I enclose a cutting from the Journal, note the difference.

The whole thing seems to me to be a malicious slap at the Police Force.

That the Police did all that was possible for the man is beyond question. That he requited all kindness shown him by ingratitude and vindictiveness is evident in his threat to institute proceedings for damages against Col. Sanders.

It is impossible to say where Radford is at the present time. The Indians are reported to have returned to Resolution about Christmas time and Radford and Street should be either at Fullerton or Churchill long before this.

As there is no report that any of the Police ever travelled with these people, there can be no question of desertion by them although it is more than possible that Radford's treatment of the Indians was the cause of their leaving as they did.

I have written to Insp. Field, sending copies of the cuttings and asking for a report.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
T.A. Wroughton. Supt.
Commanding "N" Division.

P.S. There is nothing on record to show that this man Radford was ever at Great Bear Lake.

(sd) T.A.W. Supt.

Marginalia: *"Tell Supt Wroughton that Radford has been known [prior?] at Chesterfield Inlet H.B. Police but [no note ?]."*

11. T.A. Wroughton to Commissioner, RNWMP, 18 March 1912

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

Royal North-West Mounted Police

Athabasca Landing

Mar.18 1912

Commissioner,
R.N.W.M. Police,
Regina, Sask.

Sir;-

Re - H.V. Radford, reported deserted by the Police.

I have the honour to report that since writing you re the above man, the enclosed cuttings have appeared in the Edmonton Bulletin and the Calgary News Telegram. From these it would appear that Radford and his companion Street reached their destination safely.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

T.A. Wroughton Supt.

Commanding "N" Division.

12. Assistant Commissioner, RNWMP, to Officer Commanding, RNWMP Athabasca Landing, 19 March 1912

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

19th March, 1912.

Memorandum to
The Officer Commanding,
R.N.W.M. Police,

Athabaska Landing.

Re Harry V. Radford, Reported missing by the Press.

Adverting to your letter of 14th inst., the Commissioner wishes me to say that Radford has been heard from at Chesterfield Inlet, Hudson's Bay.

The Police had nothing to do with his trip.

(sd) Z.T. Wood.

Assistant Commissioner.

13. Radford to Mr. S. Ford, 25 March 1912

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 556, file 240-3

LETTER NO 4

The following are further quotations from a letter to Mr Ford from Radford, which is headed Schultz Lake. March 25th 1912.

"I thank you also for taking Kau-mack in hand regarding his interference in my efforts to have Akulak accompany us to the coast, what you told him seems to have had good effect, as since his return here, his disposition towards us is much altered and for the better.

I have succeeded in inducing Akulak, and two others, to go with us as far as Bathurst Inlet, they would not go farther, and we start tomorrow (Schultz Lake. March 26th 1912) with two sledges, our canoe on one of the sleighs, and 22 dogs.

Upon arrival at Bathurst Inlet where we hope to meet Eskimos the three men from here will turn back with one sledge, and we will endeavour to persuade the new found huskies of the Inlet to continue westward with us along the Arctic Coast, or at least, as far as the next Eskimo community, our ultimate destination being Dawson, Yukon. But if we should be unlucky enough to find no Eskimos in Bathurst Inlet, then of course Mr Street and I would have to return here (Schultz Lake) with Akulak, in which case we should probably go out to Spurrell Harbour in July or August, and return to civilization by the Company's Steamer "Pelican".

I believe in my last letter to you sent by Kau-mack, I requested you to forward any mail, received by you for me, to Dawson, Yukon, care of the Royal North West Mounted Police, marked "Please hold until Mr Radford arrives". I will write to the Police there myself.

Then follow further request as to the depositions of certain mails, and curios, sent by Radford to Mr Ford, to be sent outside by steamer, then at the conclusion of these requests, Radford goes on to say: "Our life here has not been exactly one of comfort and ease, but we have lived along, and are at present in fit condition to undertake the Arctic trip, yet I cannot say that I am in love with igloo life." ⁴

.....% % % % % %.....

[Sgd.] *T.B. Caulkin* S/M

14. H.V. Radford to Mr. S. Ford, 3 June 1912

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 556, file 240-3

LETTER NO 5.

Camp Grey: Bathurst Inlet.

Lat 67° .5 N.

June 3rd 1912.

My Dear Mr Ford,

Leaving Udi—uk—tellig, head of Schultz Lake, March 26th 1912, Mr Street and I, with Chief Akulak, and two other Eskimos 25 dogs and two sledges, reached the Arctic coast, near head of Bathurst Inlet on May the 13th, we did not suffer greatly from cold but as caribou were scarce, we often had it hard to keep our dogs alive, in fact we lost eight during the trip. We found an encampment of Eskimos on an island in Bathurst Inlet, and I have already arranged, that two of these natives will go on with us westward, along the Arctic Coast towards the MacKenzie Delta. We will resume the journey in a few days. Akulak and the other two natives will return to Schultz Lake next winter. I am giving him a supply of trade articles, over and above the payment agreed upon, for his services in accompanying us here. I think Akulak would make a good trader for you. He is sometimes hard to please, but keeps his agreements faithfully, and has good judgment, and is carefull of property. He is a very good hunter and trapper.

Akulak will take out to your post, my letters, and the specimens collected during the journey, which I would ask you to forward out for me.

This is followed up by a few requests of no importance. Radford asks Mr Ford to forward a lost diary to the "Manhattan Warehouse & Storehouse Coy, 42nd St & Lexington Ave. New York. U.S.A.

Then at the foot of this letter follows the P.S.:—If Akulak delivers to you the 3 boxes, and bag in good order, please give him \$10.00 worth of flour, or any kind of supplies, as he may prefer, as a reward. I have given him plenty of valuable

⁴ *Editor's note:* Caulkin added this notation in March 1915.

articles, more than enough to pay him for all his services, this \$10.00 in trade from you, is just to make him pleased, when he reaches your Post.

Sgd H.V.R.

This latter quotation accounts for the various articles of value, belonging to the white men, said to be in Akulak's possession when he arrived at Chesterfield Inlet from Bathurst Inlet, these were stated as being such articles as Primus lamp, leather grip, two thermometers, a pedometer, for which Akulak received trade in exchange for these from Mr Ford.

From this letter may be gathered the fact that these men were met friendly by the Killin-e-muits, and treated so, while staying at their camp, and Radford apparently had little trouble in obtaining two more natives from their camp to permit him to continue on his journey westward, had not the alleged episode occurred [*sic*] at the time of their departure.

[*Sgd.*] T.B. Caulkin S/M⁵

15. Insp. F.H. French, Crime Report, 11 August 1912

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-3

ROYAL NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE

Prince Albert.

Crime Report.

The Pas Detachment.
11-8-1912.

Re: ESKIMOS ALLEGED UNLAWFUL KILLING OF SAME

Yesterday Mr H.H. Hall of the H.B.Co., recently arrived from the ARCTIC, made the following statement to me:-

Statement:- I am in charge of the H.B.Post of Fort Hall, 200 miles North of Brochet. In the winter of 1909 I learnt from an Eskimo by name Kaml employed by us that a band of Eskimos had that same winter through something resulting in jealousy amongst themselves, participated in a murderous fight. This particular band of natives is supposed to be living South of the Arctic coast.

Eskimos living on the Hoylon [*sic*] River say that all male members of the above band took part in the aforementioned fight and that 28 of these as a result fell hors de combat.

⁵ *Editor's note:* Caulkin added this notation in March 1915.

All natives coming from the North have made the same assertions to me. I have questioned several Northern Eskimoes re the fight and they inform me that same took place N.W. of the Dubaunt River.

In December 1910 Hudson Bay Co's Hunters and Traders to the number of five men and their families left Fort Hall to go and trade with the Northern Eskimoes. These were to have returned in February of this year, but up to the present they have not done so.

Natives coming in from Dubaunt River and the district report not having seen anything of this part, and we (the H.B.Co) have received no work of any kind from them, and it looks as if something serious has befallen the party in question.

(sd) H.H. Hall

Any further information on the above can be obtained from Mr Hall H.B. Co's store, Prince Albert

(sd) F.H. French, Insp.
Commanding Le Pas Sub District.

16. Sergt W.G. Edgerton to Commissioner, RNWMP, 31 May 1913

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-3

R.N.W. Mounted Police

"M" Division.

Fullerton. 31st May /13

CRIME REPORT.

Re Supposed killing of travellers.

The following information was gathered from Native "Kah-muck" living at the head of Schultz Lake :-

Messrs Radford and Street, who have been collecting specimens of birds, animals, etc. for the United States Biological society of Washington, during the winter of 1911-12: around Schultz Lake had been killed by a band of Eskimo, somewhere in the vicinity of Bathurst Inlet.

Mr Radford and his partner left "Kah-mucks" camp on Schultz Lake on March 27th 1912, with 3 Eskimo and 22 dogs, with the intention of travelling towards Bathurst Inlet, from there with fresh guides to Fort Macpherson and there on to Dawson City. He left word with Mr Ford, Manager of the Hudson's Bay Co at Chesterfield Inlet, to forward all mail to the R.N.W.M. Police at Dawson, to await his arrival.

"Aku-lak" the Eskimo guide to Bathurst Inlet gave the following information to "Kah-muck" on his arrival at Schultz Lake. Messrs Radford and Street and party

arrived safely at Bathurst Inlet, and had made arrangements to go on to Macpherson, but had not started when "Aku-lak" left, he was unable to get back to Schultz Lake and had to camp for the summer, a little south of Bathurst Inlet.

During the summer, whilst out hunting they came across a party of Eskimo (Kimilimiuts) who were at Bathurst Inlet when they had left, who told them that Radford and his partner were killed. The cause of this was some trouble between Mr Street and the dog driver, who was to have gone with them.

All preparations had been made and the party were about to start in fact the wide had started, when the dog driver refused to go Mr Street [*sic*] took the dog whip and started to whip him.

It is supposed Mr Radford [*sic*] went to stop him, but the native overpowered him (Radford), and killed him by a spear being driven through his back.

Street started to run towards the sled evidently to get his rifle when he was killed in the same way, and also having his throat cut.

"Aku-lak" and his party were threatened that if they told anyone about this, they would be killed, in fact they had to tell them that these white men did not belong around any of the different posts, but were strangers, before they would let them go. "Aku-lak's" party say they saw some of Mr Radford's effects amongst these Eskimo, a rifle and also some parts of his canoe. The names of the men who actually killed Messrs Radford and Street are "Hul-ta-ark" and "Ameglu-arm-ik".

These men hunt Musk-ox around the Backs River, but never trade at the different posts.

The only way information can be gathered, is through the different Eskimo traders "Ka-ka-me" "Kah-muck" "Partridge" and a few others.

(Signed) W.G. Edgenten. Sergt
Reg No 4103.

Forwarded for the information of the Commissioner.

Supt. Commanding "M" Division.

Churchill, Man.

12/7/13.

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

R.N.W.Mounted Police.
Division, Churchill
Churchill, Man. 29-7-13.

Re supposed killing of travellers.

The following is a copy of a letter received at York Factory by Mr. G. R. Ray (Manager of the Hudson's Bay Company for the Nelson River District) from Mr. H.H. Hall, Manager of Chesterfield Inlet.

Chesterfield Inlet, 11-6-13.

G.R. Ray, Esq.,
Officer in charge,
Nelson River District.

Dear Sir,

The Eskimo Akulack who took the Radford party from Schultz Lake to Bathurst Inlet arrived today, and reported that both Mr. Radford and Mr. Strteet were murdered by the Bathurst Inlet Eskimo, Cow-muck, Mr. Ford's trader at Schultz

Lake was the first to bring down the news, but as I generally take little stock on Indian yarns, I placed very little confidence in it until I saw Akulack myself.

Both Mr. Ford and I questioned him twice today and his version of the story was practically the same as Cow-mucks'. Akulack left Mr. Radford about the 5th of June and spent the summer a little south of the Eskimos but came in contact with them several times, and also bought a wife from them, sometime after the murder, who he bought and paid for with a rifle. When Akulack parted from Mr. Radford, it appears that everything was in good order; he had his men engaged, and all preparations were completed for his departure, the two men engaged were supposed to guide him to a whaler that was wintering some 60 miles west of Point Burrow, and with whom the Bathurst Eskimos sometimes traded.

Mr. Radford was about to make a start, in fact, the man supposed to go ahead had started, when the other backed out, and would not go and Mr. Radford to enforce obedience struck him with the handle of a whip, a fight ensued and Mr. Radford was speared in the back by another Native. Mr. Street made a run for the sleigh but was murdered before he had time to put up any kind of fight. According to the story told by Akulack by one of the Natives who was supposed to witness the fight (Ne-ve-lie) and by the father of his new wife, Mr. Radford put up quite a fight before he gave in, and had to be speared several times before he fell and as life still lingered while he lay on the ground, he got the finishing touch by getting his throat cut. Akulack, on being asked why the Eskimo refused to accompany Mr. Radford, said that the man's wife was suddenly taken ill and Mr. Radford not understanding the Eskimo language must have taken a wrong meaning and tried to enforce obedience. Akulack named the principle murderers as Hull-la-lark and Am-me-ker-nic. This report, like all others from the Indians might be false, but as Akulack is considered a first class and reliable Eskimo and as I tried to impress upon him the consequences resulting from any false statements made by him on such persons as Mr. Radford and Mr. Street, and the determined way in which he excluded his wife's relations from all blame, and his unwillingness to go back into that country as a trader; I have no doubt that there is a certain amount of truth in his statements. While I was inland I had an Eskimo trading with the same band named Ka-k-ame, and from what I learned from him, the majority are still in their primitive state, and are still using bow and arrow, and that all quarrels and disputes are generally settled by the death of one or the combatants.

If this report is true, there is one thing I can say, that Mr. Radford showed very poor judgement when he tried to enforce obedience by striking an Eskimo, so far from civilization. Mr. Radford wrote to Mr. Ford from Bathurst Inlet, dated June 3rd, and everything seemed to be o.k., he also expressed his thanks for the assistance given him. Conditions must have changed very quickly for 5 day's after Akulack's

departure they were all murdered. If Mr. Radford has reported his safe arrival at some of the McKenzie River Posts, then all the statements are false.

I remain,
Yours faithfully
(sgd) H.H. Hall.

The Commissioner,
Forwarded for his information.

(sgd) F.J.A Demers, Supt.
Commanding "M" Division.

Churchill, Man.
29-7-13.

18. N.H. Bacon, Fur Trade Commissioner, HBC, to Commissioner A.B. Perry, RNWMP, 8 September 1913

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

Hudson's Bay Company
The Fur Trade Commissioner's Office
Winnipeg. September 8th, 1913

Confidential.

Sir,

I beg to enclose herewith, for your information, copies of letters which have just come to hand from York Factory and Chesterfield Inlet.

I will be glad to know if you have had any information from the Detachment under you at Chesterfield Inlet regarding the rumoured murder of Messrs. Radford and Street.

It would appear from Mr. Hall's letter that all this must have happened last summer.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
N.H. Bacon.
Fur Trade Commissioner.

Lieut. Col. A. Bowen Perry,
Commissioner,
Royal North West Mounted Police

Regina.

19. Telegram from A.B. Perry to Comptroller, 8 September 1913

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

TELEGRAM.

Regina,
8-9-13.

The Comptroller,
R.N.W.M. Police,
Ottawa.

Have received reports from Superintendent Demers which state an Eskimo named Akulak informed Manager of Hudson Bay Company [*sic*], Chesterfield Inlet that Messrs Radford and Street were murdered by the Bathurst Inlet Eskimos at Bathurst about fifth June 1912. Radford & Street were en route to Fort McPherson. The circumstantial account of fight seems authentic. All Eskimo reports are necessarily received with caution. Superintendent Demers was going to Fullerton and intended making careful enquiry.

(sgd) A.B.Perry.

20. A.B. Perry to Officer Commanding, RNWMP, Athabasca, 8 September 1913

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

TELEGRAM.

Regina,
8-9-13.

The Officer Commanding,
R.N.W.M. Police,
Athabasca.

Please enquire from Inspector Beyts if anything had been heard at Fort McPherson up to time of his departure, from Messrs Radford and Street, explorers, who left Chesterfield Inlet on March 27, 1912 to proceed via Bathurst Inlet to Fort McPherson.

(sgd) A.B.Perry.

21. Telegram from Commissioner A.B. Perry to RNWMP Comptroller, 9 September 1913

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

YORK FACTORY, 28th July, 1913.

The Fur Trade Commissioner,
Winnipeg.

Rumoured Murder of Messrs. Radford and Street.

Dear Sir,

I enclose copy of a letter received from Mr. H.H. Hall for your information.⁶

Yours truly,
(signed) Geo. R. Ray.

TELEGRAM.

Regina,
Sept. 9th 1913.

The Comptroller,
R.N.W.M. Police,
Ottawa.

Inspector Beyts wires that nothing had been heard of Radford and Street when he left McPherson.

(sgd) A.B.Perry.

Transmitted over
phone to Const. Horton
10.30 a.m.

22. A.B. Perry to Fur Trade Commissioner, HBC, 10 September 1913

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Regina, Sept. 10th. 1913.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, your Reference 9452, enclosing a copy of a letter written by Mr. H.H. Hall, dated at Chesterfield Inlet, 11th June last, with reference to the rumoured murder of Messrs Radford and Street by the Bathurst Inlet Eskimo.

⁶ *Editor's note:* See documents 1 and 8 for letters.

I thank you very much for letting me have this correspondence. A few days ago I heard from our detachment at Cape Fullerton, but they give no more information than that contained in Mr Hall's letter.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(sgd) A.B. Perry.
Commissioner.

The Fur Trade Commissioner,
Hudsons Bay Company,
Winnipeg, Man.

23. Mrs. F.R. Leland to RNWMP, 13 September 1913

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

*Sept. 13th 1913
Bryn Mawr, Wash.*

*Chief of North West Mounted Police
Winnipeg – Canada*

Dear Sir:-

According to newspapers reports two members of the N.W. Mounted Police have been sent to Lake Schultz to investigate the rumored murder of Mr. Harry V. Radford.

As his nearest living relative and being in charge of his affairs I am very anxious to know if the investigators have returned and, if not when they may be expected.

I should be glad if you would place this inquiry in the hands of whomever is best able to give me the earliest information in the matter.

*Yours truly
Faunie Radford Leland
Bryn Mawr
King Co. Wash.*

24. George Comer to Laurence Fortescue, 14 September 1913

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

GEORGE COMER.
Mount Parnassus.

East Haddam, Conn., Sept., 14th, 1913.

Honorable. Laurence Fortescue

Dear Sir,

The News Papers report the death of two men, Radford and Street, said to have been killed by the Eskimos.

Should this be true I have not the least doubt but that it was brought about by fault of their own actions.

It is my wish to state to you (what you no doubt are aware of) that they came in to the country overland and then came down Chesterfield Inlet and got their provision from a station which the Hudson Bay ship had just put up there in charge of Sam Ford, the ship having brought up food for these two men, Radford and Street, they then returned up the Inlet and wintered near Baker Lake.

During the winter they engaged two natives Cockney and Boozer to go on a sledge journey when it came towards Spring. When the time arrived Boozer asked as to who would take care of his family while away, and one of the white men said let the other natives look out for them, but Boozer thought that the white men should make provision for them, and said he would not go unless they did, then one of the white men went and got his Rifle and threatened to shoot Boozer, and Boozer said go ahead and shoot and stood facing the man who found that he could not frighten him. These Natives belong to the Kenepatu tribe and are well known to me, as I have cared for Boozer and fed he and his foster parents several winters.

Of course I did not see this incident take place as I was wintering at Cape Fullerton that winter 1911 & 12[. T]hat was the winter when the Police failed to arrive.

But I heard of it at the time and from natives whom I have employed many years part of them passed the winter in the vicinity.

It is no exaggeration to say that I am well acquainted not only with the Iwilic and Kenepetu Tribes but with many others.

If I am intruding by writing to you it is because I know these people so well that they would not commit such an act as that charged to them without great provocation. This I know that the white men made a bad impression when they threatened to shoot as the native would take it serious and not as a bluff.

Yours very sincerely,
Sgd. George Comer.

25. Z.T. Wood to Mrs. F.R. Leland, 18 September 1913

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

Royal North West Mounted Police.

Regina Sept. 18th. 1913.

Re Harry V. Radford. & Street

Dear Madam,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 13th. instant. regarding the above named, and would say that no party has started, nor can they started before winter sets in. A year will then elapse before they will be able to return.

I have the honor to be,
Madam,
Your obedient servant.
(sgd) Z.T. Wood.
Asst. Commissioner.

Mrs. F.R. Leland,
Bryan Maur, Kings County.
Wash., U.S.A.

26. F.J.A. Demers, RNWMP, to Mrs. F.R. Leland 18 September 1913

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

Sept.18th 1913

Re Harry V. Radford & Street

Dear Madam,-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant regarding the above named, and would say that no party has yet started nor can they start before winter sets in. A year would then elapse before they would be able to return.

I have the honor to be,
Madam,
Your obedient servant
(sgd) Z.T. Wood
Assistant Commissioner.

27. Commissioner, RNWMP, to Supt. F.J.A. Demers, 8 December 1913

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

8th. December. 1913.

Sir:—

re: Radford & Street.

I have the honour to request that you will forward me by return patrol a full and up-to-date report with regard to the above men.

The Department has now under consideration an expedition for the purpose of making a full enquiry into the alleged death of these men, and of bringing the guilty parties to trial.

I shall be glad to receive from you any recommendation as to how this expedition should be carried out.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

(sgd) A.B. Perry.

Commissioner.

Supt. F.J.A. Demers,
R.N.W.M. Police,
Fort Churchill.

28. S. Ross Cuthbert, handwritten note & newspaper excerpts, 16 December 1913

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-3

Commissioner

Forwarded for your information. Editorial notes below are in reference to a Regina despatch published some days ago to the effect that it was unlikely the Eskimos would be brought to justice according to the great cash involved & that the Government had issued no instructions & had made no appropriations for the purpose.

The despatch was alleged interview with the Commissioner.

S. Ross Cuthbert

16/12/13 Alberta Court

PUNISHING THE ESKIMOS

Little hope is held out by the Mounted Police that they will be able to bring to justice the Eskimos responsible for the death of Radford and Street in the Barren Lands up close to the Arctic. This would be too much to expect of the force. Men who go into a country like that must take chances of such a fate and can hardly look for governmental protection against the native races. But if they possess any knowledge of the latter and exercise any degree of tact in dealing with them, they are not likely to be exposed to any serious danger.

Edmonton Journal, 15th Dec. 1913

Reports from Ottawa suggest that, owing to the cost, no inquiry may be made into the murder of Radford and Street by Esquimos. It is to be hoped the report is without warrant. Justice in Canada is supposed to be administered without regard to cost, and ought to be. If the slayers of these men go unpunished no man's life will be save hereafter on the far northern frontier where the Esquimos make their home. They should be brought to trial, if it costs a million.

Edmonton Bulletin, 15th Dec. 1913

29. F.J.A. Demers to RNWMP Commissioner 24 January 1914.

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

Royal North-West Mounted Police

Churchill, Man. 24th January 1914.

The Commissioner.

R. N. W. Mounted Police.

Regina, Sask.

Sir,

re: Radford and Street

I have the honour to report that no further communication has been reported from Sergt Edgenton of the Fullerton detachment upon this subject.

Sergt Edgenton has been instructed to return to Churchill by dog train this winter, and on his arrival any further reports he may have to make upon this matter will be at once submitted to you.

Should the Department decide to send in an expedition, it would be necessary for this expedition to be thoroughly equipped for 3 years. A schooner of 100 to 200 tons would be able to take the party to the head of Baker Lake, where their

base would have to be situated, from this point canoes or dog trains would have to be used.

Portable houses for the use at the base would be required, and everything for the use of the expedition obtained before it leaves civilization, for the Hudson's Bay Company's post at Chesterfield Inlet would be a considerable distance from their base, and no dependence can be made upon them for supplies.

Included in the supplies, coal would be required, the head of Baker Lake being in the Barren lands. Coal oil would also be required not only for lighting purposes, but for use of winter patrols in the Primus lamps.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your obedient Servant
[F.J.A. Demers,] Supt.
Commanding "M" Division.

30. F.R. Leland to Z.T. Wood, 20 February 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

*Bryn Maur. Wash.
Feb. 20th 1914*

*Z.T. Wood.
Commissioner's Office
Regina, Sask.*

Sir:-

I am writing you to make inquiry about Mr Harry V. Radford –

Has any one started north, to investigate the murder of Harry V. Radford - and if so will you let me know about when they started, and when I could hear = I am so anxious about my nephew, as I have not heard anything since the report of last Sept-1913.

*Yours truly
Mrs. F.R. Leland
Bryn Maur.
Wash.*

31. Z.T. Wood to F.R. Leland, 23 February 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

Royal North-West Mounted Police,
Commissioner's Office,

Regina, Sask., 23rd Feb. 1914.

Dear Madam,

In answer to your letter of the 20th instant:

I beg to inform you that no-one has started from here to make enquiries after your nephew Mr Harry V. Radford, who it is rumoured was murdered by Bathurst Inlet Eskimos.

A party may have left from the Hudson's Bay [*sic*] but we have no information at present.

The Hudson Bay is a very isolated point, and communication can only be had about twice or three times during the year.

I have the honour to be,
Madam,
Your obedient servant.
[*Z.T. Wood*]
Asst. Commissioner.

Mrs. F.R. Leland
Bryn Maur
Washington

32. F.J.A. Demers to RNWMP Commissioner 17 March 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

Churchill, Man. 17th March 1914.

The Commissioner,
R.N.W. Mounted Police.
Regina, Sask.

Sir,

Re Radford and Street.

I have the honour to report that no further communication upon this matter has been received from the detachment at Fullerton.

I understand that some specimens were brought into the Hudson's Bay Company at Chesterfield Inlet by Eskimo, from these men, but that owing to the absence of a steamer at that place last summer, it was impossible to forward them to their destination.

I recommend that any expedition organised to look into this matter, should go in to the country disguised as traders, the uniform would tend to frighten the Natives, who have a distinct aversion to any white man, other than traders.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your obedient servant
[F.J.A. Demers,] Supt.
Commanding "M" Division.

33. A.B. Perry, RNWMP Commissioner, to Comptroller, 1 April 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

Royal North West Mounted Police.

1st. April, 1914.

Sir:-

I recently transmitted to you a report submitted by Supt. Demers commanding at Churchill, dated 24th. January, with regard to the death of Messrs Radford and Street. Supt. Demers makes some general recommendations with regard to the organization of the expedition, if one is sent to inquire into this matter.

I have given the subject some consideration, and I am of the opinion, as I have already expressed to you, that an inquiry should be made into the reported murder of these gentlemen.

We have now only the version given by the Eskimo AKULACK to the Manager of the Hudson Bay Trading Post at Chesterfield Inlet.

It might be found on enquiry that the Esquimaux are quite blameless in the matter, and that they ought not to be proceeded against. On the other hand it may be found that it is a case of murder, if so, they ought not to go unpunished.

A wise discretion will have to be exercised by the Officer in command of the expedition. I recognise that the cost will be considerable.

In addition to making an enquiry into the reported deaths, the expedition might be of value in exploring the unknown country lying between Baker Lake and Bathurst Inlet. One or two scientists could be attached to the party, and valuable results obtained.

You will remember that Hanbury reports several very valuable deposits of copper on Bathurst Inlet.

If the Department arrives at a conclusion that an investigation is to be made. I respectfully point out that there is no time to lose.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your obedient servant.
(sgd) A.B. Perry

The Comptroller.

R.N.W. Mounted Police
Ottawa.

34. Memorandum Re Murder of Messrs. Radford & Street, 22 April 1914

Source: LAC, R6113-0-X-E, MG26-H, C-4381, 98809

ROYAL NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE

Ottawa, 22nd April, 1914.

Memorandum re murder of Messrs. Radford & Street by Bathurst Inlet Eskimos, June, 1912.

Owing to the wreck of the Hudson's Bay Company's schooner last Autumn, Superintendent Demers was unable to proceed from Churchill to Chesterfield and Fullerton last September to make further inquiries and collect such evidence as was available.

Sergeant Edgenton, stationed at Fullerton, was also to make inquiries at Chesterfield Inlet and to proceed by dog train to Churchill last winter with the information he had been able to procure. Unfortunately he also failed to get through and we are still without further details.

If steps are to be taken this year to identify and bring the perpetrators to justice, immediate action is necessary.

It will entail a large expenditure. A strong party consisting of an Officer and at least 10 men with an interpreter, fully equipped for an absence of a year or more, with extra supplies for the subsistence of prisoners and witnesses, would have to be despatched from Churchill, travelling by schooner to the head of Baker Lake, via Chesterfield Inlet, a distance of 550 miles where a main base would have to be established for the storage of the bulk of the provisions, etc.

From this point to Beverly Lake, a distance of 150 miles, would be made by canoes, where another base would be necessary, and from there by canoes and dog trains to Bathurst Inlet, a distance of 250 miles.

Portable houses for use at the main base would be required. Coal must be carried, as the head of Baker Lake is in the Barren Lands, in fact, everything necessary for the subsistence of the party for the whole time they are away would have to be transported from Churchill, as the Hudson's Bay Company's Post at Chesterfield Inlet could not be relied upon.

If any arrests were made, the prisoners, witnesses, and their families would have to be maintained at Baker Lake until they could travel to Chesterfield Inlet, or Fullerton, where the trial would probably take place.

From the stories of the two natives (which agree, with the exception that one states that Radford struck the native, and the other that Street did so, - but the undersigned does not consider this of much importance as it would no doubt be hard for them to distinguish between the two white men) it appears that an Eskimo, who had been hired as a dog driver, was struck by one of the white men with a whip, and the aggressor in turn was killed by a spear being driven through his back. His companion, coming to his assistance, was killed in the same manner.

Mr. H.H. Hall, the Manager of the Hudson's Bay Co's Post at Chesterfield, in reporting the story as told by the Eskimo "Akulack," states he is a reliable and trustworthy man whose word may be relied upon, and he further remarks that the Eskimo in question were still in their primitive state and that all quarrels and disputes are generally settled by the death of one of the combatants. He also says that if the report is true, Mr. Radford showed poor judgment when he tried to enforce obedience from an Eskimo so far from civilization.

From the evidence so far obtained it appears that the murders were not committed for the sake of gain, but were the direct result of the aggressive action of one of the white men assaulting a native, and therefore, in the opinion of the undersigned, no judge or jury would convict the murderers who could claim they acted in self-defence and in accordance with the custom of their tribe.

Unfortunately, everyone who came into contact with Mr. Radford has stated that his manner in dealing with the natives was most overbearing and injudicious and that they are not surprised at his meeting his end in the way he did.

Captain Comer, of the whaler "Gifford," reports that during the previous winter one of the two white men threatened to shoot a native whom he had engaged to go on the journey, because he declined to proceed until his family were provided for — the usual custom in such cases — and makes the remark that if Radford has been killed he has not the slightest doubt it was brought about by his own fault.

As an alternative, the undersigned respectfully submits that instead of attempting to arrest and bring the murderers to trial, an Officer and one or two

Constables, with an Eskimo guide and interpreter, make the trip to Bathurst Inlet, travelling as light as possible, and mix there with the natives for a short time, explaining through the interpreter, who they are and why they have come: That the natives be informed that the Government are aware of the murder of the two white men, but that as the provocation appears to have come from them in the first place, no action will be taken in the matter.

The Natives should further be made to clearly understand that they must abide by the laws of the country and that assaults upon white men will not go unpunished in the future. It should also be clearly explained to them that if they have any complaint against a white man, they must not take the law into their own hands, but communicate with the police, who will see that justice is done.

The undersigned has been informed by a gentleman who has resided in the neighbourhood of Bathurst Inlet for some years that Mr. Stefansson told him that the Eskimos in that vicinity have a species of vendetta among themselves, so that in the event of the police capturing the murderers a vendetta would no doubt be carried on against lone, wandering, white men, by their relatives and therefore travelling through the country would be fraught with an additional danger that has not existed before.

It is extremely difficult to calculate what the expedition would cost to endeavour to arrest and bring the murderers to trial, but the undersigned quotes below the approximate amount he considers would be required:-

Subsistence

15 Police, Guides, & Interpreters. ... 18 months @\$2.00 per diem.	\$16,410.00
50 Natives, prisoners, witnesses, & families. 1 year @ \$ 2.00 per diem.	\$36,600.00
Dog feed for 24 dogs. 18 months @ 75¢ per diem	\$9,846.00
Portable houses.	\$2,000.00
Coal, 50 tons.	\$1,000.00
24 Dogs.	\$100.00
Harness & sleds.	\$300.00
Stoves, general stores, canoes, medicines, etc.	<u>\$4,000.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$70,656.00</u>

* It would be necessary according to the custom of the country to feed the wives and families of any Natives arrested and held as prisoners or witnesses.

Respectfully submitted,
[Laurence Fortescue]
Comptroller

35. N.H. Bacon to Laurence Fortescue, 23 April 1914

Source: Source: LAC, R6113-0-X-E, MG26-H, C-4381, 98813

The Hudson's Bay Company
Fur Trade Commissioner's Office,
Winnipeg, 23rd April, 1914.

In your reply refer to No.208

Sir,

Referring to my letter No. 68 of the 28th January, I beg to append an extract from the journal of Mr. H.H. Hall, the Hudson's Bay Company's Clerk in Charge at Chesterfield Inlet, on a trip inland during the summer of 1913, which throws further light on the murder of Messrs. Radford and Street.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Sd) N.H. Bacon.
Fur Trade Commissioner

L.Fortescue, Esq.,
R.N.W.M. Police,
OTTAWA

* * * * *

"The Eskimo I am taking with me accompanied the Radford expedition to Bathurst Inlet, and further certifies Akulack's statement regarding the murder of both Messrs. Radford and Street. This Eskimo further states that on several occasions Mr. Radford nearly came to blows with the Bathurst Inlet Eskimos in trading small articles from them, and was advised several times by Akulack to be more careful, as these Eskimos were still in their formative state.....

We immediately proceeded to the camps and found a small band of Kil-liu-num-muto or Bathurst Inlet Eskimos. When we were close by two kyaks came out to meet us. They asked us who we were and whether we were friendly, but as they immediately recognised the man who had accompanied the Radford expedition, they gave their well known grunt of satisfaction, and as soon as we landed they invited us to their camp and immediately set to work boiling a kettle of meat.

These were the first Eskimos I had ever seen who were entirely without firearms....

These men did not actually see the Radford party, but by meeting other natives on the way in, they heard that both Radford and Street were killed, and that the

white man started the fight first. According to the natives description of the affair and looking at their side of the story, Mr. Radford, it appears, was going to pound civilization into the Kil-liu-num-muto in one day. On questioning these men closely and taking everything into consideration the whole affair seems to have been planned. A row was started just as they were about to start west, Mr. Radford threatened to throw a man into an opening in the ice, than took a dog whip to another, a fierce fight followed - several men grappled with mr. Radford while Street made a run for the sleigh, I suppose to get a gun, but was overtaken, stabbed and killed instantly. All tell about the same story. Mr. Handbury [*sic*] was the only white man these men had ever seen before.

36. "Request that the Health Exhibit Goes to France," *Ottawa Journal*, 28 April 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

REQUEST THAT THE HEALTH EXHIBIT GOES TO FRANCE

Former Member of R.N.W.M.P. says it would take Five Years to Find Murderers of Street

The government of France has extended an invitation to have the provincial Health Exhibit, now at the Y.M.C.Ca, brought over to the city of Lyons.

This information was given this morning by Dr. P.J. Moloney and Mr. E.H. Jones who are conducting the exhibit here.

The latter, who is staying at the New Russell hotel, is a former member of the North West Mounted Police, and was for seven years stationed in the Klondike during the stirring days of '98.

From his experience and knowledge of the Eskimos. Mr. Jones concurs in the belief that it would perhaps take five years for the scarlet riders of the plains to run down the murderers of Street, the ex-Ottawan, and Radford, the American explorer.

In speaking of the force, Mr. Jones said that many a gallant action was daily performed in the land of the midnight sun, that equalled in courage and fortitude, the exploits of polar explorers. It was quite true, he said, that in the ranks of the N.W.M.P. were many aristocratic "Ne'er do wells," and the life either made or broke them.

37. RNWMP Comptroller to Commissioner, 2 May 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240

Royal North West Mounted Police
Office of the Comptroller
Ottawa 2nd May, 1914.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose herewith, for your information, copy of a letter from the Fur Trade Commissioner of the Hudson's Bay Company, dated, Winnipeg, 23rd ultimo, and its enclosure, with reference to the murder of Messrs. Radford and Street.

The subject is now under the consideration of the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister and I hope in the course of a few days to inform you definitely of the action the government decide to take in the matter.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
[Laurence Fortescue]
Comptroller

38. Rt.Hon. Robert Laird Borden to Rt.Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, 29 April 1914

Source: LAC, R6113-0-X-E, MG26-H, C-4381, 98815

Ottawa, Ont., 29th April 1914

My dear Sir Wilfrid Laurier:

I now beg to enclose the memorandum from the Comptroller of the Royal North West Mounted Police to which I alluded in conversation today, and which I would be glad to have you consider.

Believe me.

Yours faithfully,
[R.L. Borden]

Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, P.C., G.C.M.G., M.P.
House of Commons,
Ottawa

Encl.

39. Rt.Hon. Wilfrid Laurier to Rt.Hon. Robert Laird Borden, 4 May 1914

Source: LAC, R6113-0-X-E, MG26-H, C-4381, 98816

CONFIDENTIAL

Ottawa, May 4th. 1914.

My dear Borden,

With reference to these alleged murders by Eskimos. The view taken by Fortescue seems to me eminently wise. The Eskimos are known to be a very peaceable race, and what we know of the occurrences justifies the supposition that they acted in self-defence and no jury would convict under such circumstances. The way which Fortescue suggest - to quietly bring those people under the influence of the law - seems to me the only course to be followed.

Believe me ever,

Yours very sincerely,

[Wilfrid Laurier]

The Right Honourable

R.L. Borden, K.C., K.G.M.G. P.C.

Prime Minister of Canada,

Ottawa

40. Rt.Hon. Robert Laird Borden to Laurence Fortescue, 5 May 1914

Source: LAC, R6113-0-X-E, MG26-H, C-4381, 98817

Ottawa, Ont. May 5th, 1914

Dear Mr. Fortescue,-

As the question of arresting the Eskimos who are accused of murdering two men, Radford and Street, is of importance, I thought it best to discuss the question with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who had experience in like matters during the fifteen years of his Government. In doing so, I explained to him that I concurred in the views expressed in your memorandum and asked him to give the subject his consideration. He has expressed to me his entire concurrence and states that the views which you take seem to be eminently wise. He considers the Eskimos a very peaceable race and thinks that the information which we have of the occurrence justifies the supposition that they acted in self-defence. Under such circumstances he believes no Jury would convict them. He thinks the way you suggest - to quietly bring these people under the influence of law - is the only course to be followed.

Yours faithfully,
[R.L. Borden]

Laurence Fortescue, Esq.,
Comptroller, R.N.W.M.P., Ottawa, Ont.

41. RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 8 May 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

Royal North West Mounted Police
Office of the Comptroller
Ottawa 8th. May, 1914.

Confidential.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose herewith copy of a memorandum, approved by the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, on the subject of the murder of Messrs. Radford and Street, at Bathurst Inlet, and to request that you will be good enough to take the necessary steps to have the Minister's wishes carried out.

The selection of the Officer is left to yourself. May I suggest that Inspector Beyts would appear to be well qualified for this service.

Please keep me advised of your action in the matter.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
[Laurence Fortescue]
Comptroller.

42. RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 12 May 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-3

Regina.
12th May 1914.

Comptroller.
R.N.W.M. Police.
Ottawa

Your letter 8th in order to carry out instructions essential that detachment with ample supplies be established at Baker Lake or if found practicable at Beverley Lake. To do this schooner absolutely required.

(Sgd.) A.B. Perry.

43. A.B. Perry to Comptroller, RNWMP, 14 May 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

Royal North-West Mounted Police
Head Quarters.
Regina, Sask.
14th May 1914.

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that Inspector Walter James Beyts has been selected to proceed to the Hudson's Bay for the purpose of coming into contact with the Eskimoes who killed Messrs Radford and Street.

I propose to send with this Officer, 1 non-commissioned officer and two constables.

In accordance with my telegram sent to you on this subject, I propose, with the concurrence of the Department, to establish a base at the head of Baker Lake or further West if possible. From this point, I am of the opinion that Inspector Beyts will be able to come into contact with the Eskimoes with certainty and with the least risk.

I shall submit to you at an early date a list of the stores required, and outline in more detail particulars of the proposed expedition.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
[A.B. Perry]
Commissioner.

44. Royal North West Mounted Police Memorandum, 19 May 1914

Source: LAC, R6113-0-X-E, MG26-H, C-4381, 98821

ROYAL NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE

Ottawa, 19th May, 1914.

Memorandum re murder of Messrs. Radford & Street by Bathurst Inlet Eskimo, June, 1912.

=====

The Government has decided to send an experienced Officer in charge of a small party to the scene of the murder, travelling via Chesterfield Inlet, Baker and Beverley Lakes, a distance of 750 miles from the coast, to investigate as far as possible the circumstances.

Information already received is to the effect that the murder of these unfortunate men was the direct result of one of them striking with a dog whip a native who had been employed as a guide to Fort McPherson. A fight ensued ending in the death of both white men — it being the custom among the tribe of Eskimos inhabiting the country between Backs River and Bathurst Inlet that a blow struck invariably ends in the death of one of the combatants.

The Officer in command will collect all available information, with a view to ascertaining whether the reports already received are correct. He will also give the natives to understand that they must abide by the laws of the country and that assaults on white men will not go unpunished in the future.

It will also be explained to them that if they have any complaint against a white man, they must communicate with the police, who will see that justice is done.

The patrol will be a long and arduous one and the party will probably have to remain in the vicinity of Bathurst Inlet during the coming winter, but that will be left to the judgment of the Officer in command, according to circumstances as they arise.

45. Macleod Detachment to Inspector Beyts, 19 May 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-4

Royal North-West Mounted Police,

MACLEOD.
19th. May. 1914.

My dear Beyts,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 16th. inst. and attach herewith a list of the articles that I think would be most useful for trading purposes.

The main articles of trade of which you will want a good supply are, matches, ammunition, tea, sugar and tobacco. In dry goods, of which you should have a certain amount, or, in fact, in anything, I would not take anything not of good quality, and with a certain amount of variety in pattern. The Eskimo are intelligent, as you know, and know good articles when they see them. They are not so fond of bright, showy colours as are in the Indians.

I am making the list from memory, of course, and there may be some things which escape me. You will find the question of snow shoes a hard one to arrange, as you will of course require some. Those generally sent from the East to us were useless, but you might be able to get some made specially. I send you herewith a photograph of some which are of use and some which are no good.

Yours sincerely,
[signature illegible]

Royal North West Mounted Police.

List of some trade goods suggested for Inspt. Beyts' trip.

PROVISIONS. (in addition to ordinary supplies)

Sugar
Tea.
Flour.
Biscuit (hard tack)
Molasses.
Syrup.
Tobacco. (T. & B.)

AMMUNITION, AND HARDWARE.

.44 Winchester, this is the kind mostly used.
.303 soft nose, a few,
45-75 Winchester. A few have some of our old rifles, but not many.
Powder.
Reloading caps for .44 Winchester.
Lead, for making bullets.
Few strong pocket knives, good quality.
Few handsaws.
Butcher knives, large.
A few watches, from \$5.00 to \$15.00, but have only the one kind.
A few field glasses. good quality
A few .44 Winchesters.
A few enamel cups, plates; and spoons, (large)
Toilet soap.
Perfumes, small bottles.
Beads. Not the glass variety, these are useless, but the composition ones, all colours, a good supply.

They can be had from Hodson, Sumner, and Murphy (I am not sure of this last name) St. Paul Street, Montreal.

DRY GOODS.

Handkerchiefs, silk, coloured large.

" Cotton " "

Assortment of print.

" " flannelette.

Dress goods, not too heavy material.

Ribbons, assorted colours.

46. "R.N.W.M.P. Inspector to Travel Thousands of Miles to Bring Murderers to Justice," *Ottawa Citizen*, 19 May 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-1

**R.N.W.M.P INSPECTOR TO TRAVEL THOUSANDS OF MILES TO
BRING MURDERERS TO JUSTICE.**

Government decides to take men who killed Radford and Street.

Regina, Sask., May 18.- Inspector Beytes, of the R.N.W.M.P., here has been given three years' commission to go to the Northernmost part of Hudson Bay and find the murderers of Radford and Street, two explorers who were believed to have been killed by Eskimos two years ago.

Beyts will go to Chesterfield Inlet, the farthest point north on the Hudson Bay inhabited by white men, and from there take three years' supply of provisions and travel thousands of miles through the interior. The trip will be one of the most dangerous and trying ever undertaken by an officer of the Mounted Police, involving investigations among savage Eskimo tribes, at whose hands the two lost explorers met death.

George Street one of the murdered men was an Ottawa boy.

47. Memorandum from Comptroller of RNWMP, 28 May 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

Royal North West Mounted Police

Ottawa, 28th May, 1914.

Memorandum for

Assistant Commissioner Wood,
R.N.W.M. Police, Regina.

Re expedition to Baker Lake and the Interior.

1. Inspector Beyts has been selected to the command of this expedition, the object of which is to establish a small post at the head of Baker Lake and further in the Interior if found practicable.
 2. His party will consist of one Non-commissioned Officer and two constables, and if found necessary he may take on two Esquimaux Special Constables, as interpreters and guides.
 3. A schooner, with auxiliary 60 horse power engines, named the "Village Belle" will be secured at Halifax for the use of the Force in Hudson's Bay.
 4. A Captain and crew will take the schooner to Hudson's Bay and at the end of the season will return to Halifax, by steamer from Nelson.
 5. Insp. Beyts and his party will travel by the schooner which will sail from Halifax about the 1st July.
- Insp. Beyts will report to this Comptroller at Ottawa on the 20th June for instructions.
6. The schooner will be loaded with a portable house for Baker Lake and all supplies of food, fuel, etc. to establish the detachment.
 7. Dogs, sleds and harness will be purchased on the Labrador coast.
 8. The schooner will proceed direct to Chesterfield Inlet and up that Inlet into Baker Lake, discharge her cargo and land Insp. Beyts and party. She will then return to Fullerton where she will load with coal; thence to Churchill, take on supt. Demers and family and proceed to Port Nelson. Demers and family, together with captain and crew will take passage by steamer to Montreal.

The schooner will be taken charge of by a crew of our own men, with Const Hyatt, who is a Master Mariner. She will then proceed to Churchill and discharge coal and be laid up for the winter.

9. Particular care must be taken to place the schooner in a safe position for the winter.
10. The men to accompany Inspector Beyts must be carefully chosen. They must have two years to serve from 1st Sept, 1915. Must be physically sound, sanguine temperament and handy as canoemen, etc. In a word fitted for service in that region.

Serg. Major Caulkin has asked to revert to Sergeant in order that he may be eligible. If otherwise suited he may revert. Const. Kennedy of "D" Division appears a likely man, as he is said to have a competent knowledge of surveying, is capable of finding latitude and longitude, etc. He is to be supplied with sextant, etc. as he may require.

Inspector Beyts is to be allowed a choice of men within the limits discussed by us.

11. Officers and men are to take their own bedding. Anything special in the way of sleeping bags for travel must be requisitioned for at once.

12. Sergt. Edgenton now at Fullerton may be taken by Insp. Beyts if he so desires. Sergt. Edgenton has been granted leave but he might consent to postpone for a year. I suggest Edgenton as he has long experience in Arctic travel. It might be advisable to take the Esquimaux guides and interpreters from Fullerton.

Commissioner.

Copy to be supplied Insp. Howard.

48. J.C. Street to A.B. Perry, 1 June 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-4

Thorold, Ont.,
June 1st, 1914

A. B. Perry, Esq., C. M. G.,
Commissioner,
North West Mounted Police, Regina, Ont. [sic]

Dear Sir,

I have learned that Inspector Beytes of your staff has been commissioned to go to the northern part of Hudson Bay to find the murderers of Radford and my brother George Street.

I am an "Ontario Land Surveyor" and a graduate in Civil Engineering. I have also had experience on surveys in northern Ontario during the winter months, and am strong and healthy.

Would you kindly let me know if there is any possibility of my being appointed to accompany Inspector Beyts in case I can arrange to leave here.

I expect to know in a few days whether or not my private affairs will permit my taking this trip.

I am unmarried and strictly temperate.

I remain,

Sir,

Yours Truly,

J.C. Street,

Assistant Engineer,

Welland Ship Canal.

49. L. Fortescue to A.B. Perry, 9 June 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-4

Royal North West Mounted Police
Office of the Comptroller
Ottawa 9th June, 1914.

Dear Mr. Perry,

I have your letter of the 6th instant re Baker Lake Stores.

I have as yet no reply from Mr. Borden about the schooner, but am sure that it will be all right. She will not leave Halifax until about the 12th July.

Beyts' estimate for camp equipment and transport includes 18 sets of dog harnesses, 18 sleight bells, 3 dozen dog chains, and 4 dog whips. It would be useless to attempt to get these in Halifax. Do you think that the Hudson's Bay Co. in Winnipeg would supply them? Will you attend to this?

In connection with transport, his estimate is for boats and canoes, but no number is given of either. This is not very explicit. The same remark applies to oars, paddles, and rowlocks.

In his estimate for Natives he asks for six .44 Winchester rifles and in the Miscellaneous Stores for three Winchester rifles (.303 British, Model 1895). Do you think that all these rifles are required?

Yours sincerely,

[Laurence Fortescue]

50. RNWMP Commissioner to Inspector W.J. Beyts, 12 June 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-4

Royal North West Mounted Police
Regina. 12th June 1914.

Inspector W.J. Beyts,
R.N.W.Mounted Police,
Regina.

Sir:

I have the honour to enclose for your information and guidance, report relative to the death of Messrs Radford & Street at Bathurst Inlet. I also enclose copy of memorandum submitted by the Comptroller to the Right Honourable Prime Minister with the regard to the action to be taken by us in this matter.

The object of establishing a post at Baker Lake is to enable the instructions as set out in the Comptroller's letter to be carried out. You will see by the reports

which I attach that the information we have received is more or less indefinite and that it is come through several sources.

It will be your duty to get in touch at the earliest possible moment with the tribe said to be responsible for the deaths. You will make enquiries and take such statutory declarations as may seem necessary, in order to obtain a full and accurate account of the occurrence. It is assumed that Messrs Radford and Street, by their attitude and actions, caused their own deaths. If this is the case, it is not the purpose of the government to proceed with prosecution. If after making full enquiries it is found that there was no provocation and that the murders were committed without any justifications, then Government will consider what further action is to be taken.

You will not enter prosecution without definite instructions from Headquarters.

I desire that your enquiries shall be of the fullest description, and that they be made with the diligence.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
[Sgd.] *A.B.Perry*
Commissioner

51. RNWMP Commissioner to Inspector W.J. Beyts, 12 June 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-4

12th June 1914.

Inspector W.J. Beyts,
Royal North West Mounted Police,
Regina.

Sir:

The Comptroller has requested the Department of Customs to appoint you a preventative Officer in their service in order that you may enforce the Customs laws in the territory to which you are about to proceed.

He has also requested the Meteorological Dept. to supply you with a set of instruments so that a record may be kept of the Climate conditions and proper returns submitted by you.

On arrival at Ottawa, you will be good enough to request the Comptroller for your appointments and for the instructions which will be required.

As an Officer of the Force, you have the powers of two Justices of the Peace in the North West Territories.

The Commissioner of the North-West Territories has been requested to appoint you a Coroner.

You will take with you the following books:

Consolidated Statutes of Canada with Amendments,

Boys on Coroners,

also the necessary forms.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

[A.B Perry]

52. RNWMP Comptroller to Commissioner, 13 June 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-4

Royal North West Mounted Police

Office of the Comptroller

Ottawa 13th June, 1914.

Dear Mr. Perry,

About Beyts. As I wrote you yesterday, it is certainly no good his being here before my return, but this I leave to you.

He ought to be in Halifax for some days from about the 1st proximo to select a whale boat and other things and see to the shipment of stores.

Yours sincerely,

[Laurence Fortescue]

A.B. Perry, Esq., C.M.G.,

Commissioner,

R.N.W.M. Police,

Regina, Saskn.

53. A.B. Perry to L. Fortescue, 13 June 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-4

13th June, 1914.

Dear Mr. Fortescue,

I have your note of the 9th last re Baker Lake Stores.

(1) With regard to dog harness and so forth, I shall arrange to have these purchased in the east and ship to Halifax.

(2) With respect to transport, I have already written you with regard to a whale boat. With regard to canoes, one would be sufficient. It should be supplied with a sail, one pair of oars and six paddles also a spare set of row-locks.

(3) With respect to rifles. The six .44 Winchester rifles are intended for trading with the natives. As you know, the Eskimo in that part of the country depends entirely on hunting for their subsistence, and they very much appreciate modern weapons, as it is not possible to pay them in cash but only in trade, it was thought that a certain number of rifles should be taken in.

With regard to the three Winchester rifles, .303: These were intended for the use of our men, and if you will remember, we discussed the number when I was in Ottawa, and thought three would be sufficient.

Yours sincerely,
[A.B. Perry]

54. A.B. Perry to Inspector W.J. Beyts, 13 June 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-4

Royal North West Mounted Police
Regina. 13th June 1914.

Memorandum to
Inspector W.J. Beyts
R.N.W.M. Police.
Regina.

re: Baker Lake Detachment.

You will be good enough to open a set of books and take on all the stores which you take with you to that detachment.

You will make the same returns as were made at Fort McPherson. These returns will be sent to the Officer Commanding "M" Division, Churchill.

With regards to trade goods: I desire that you should be most particular in dealing with them, that you are to fix the values in accordance with the values of the Hudson Bay Co., at Chesterfield Inlet, and that there must be no private use made of these except for the purpose of paying natives for their labour.

[Sgd] A.B. Perry
Commissioner.

55. RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 15 June 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-4

Royal North-West Mounted Police,
Commissioner's Office

Regina, Sask., 15th June 1914.

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that Inspector Beyts will leave here on Saturday evening the 20th instant, and will report to you at Ottawa on the morning of the 23rd instant.

The other members of his party will not proceed until I have received instructions from you that they are to report at Halifax.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

[A.B. Perry]

Commissioner.

The Comptroller,
R.N.W. Mounted Police,
Ottawa.

56. "To Seek Slayers of Radford and Street," *Ottawa Citizen*, 16 June 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-1

TO SEEK SLAYERS OF RADFORD AND STREET

Inspector Beyts Chose to Lead the Mounted Police Expedition.

Dangers and hardships such as seldom fall to the lot of the riders of the far northern plains will be faced by Inspector Beyts and officers of the Royal North West Mounted Police, who have just been commissioned to search for the slayers of Harry V. Radford, an American explorer, and George Street, his Ottawa companion. The two men were speared to death by Eskimos, while traveling in the Schultz Lake district of the Arctic Circle country, two years ago, on the way from Copper Mine river to Hudson Bay.

To provide a more convenient base of operation among the natives near the top of the world, the station at Cape Fullerton will be transferred to Chesterfield Inlet on Hudson Bay. The inspector will have full charge of the expedition, which is to be provisioned for a stay of at least three years. The Dominion government has ordered a thorough search for the slayers and during the session just closed voted money for the purpose.

Inspector Beyts has had 21 years' experience with the Royal North West Mounted Police. Until recently he was stationed at Athabasca Landing, 96 miles north of Edmonton. He joined the force in Regina, Sask., in 1893, afterward being detailed to Macleod, Alta., where he remained until 1900, when he went to South Africa as a member of the Canadian Mounted Rifles. Returning to Regina in 1901, he was dispatched to Dawson. He was sent to Herschell Island in 1911, having charge of the lonely outpost until early this year, when he returned to Regina, going thence to Athabasca. Those who know him best say he is fitted in every way for the perilous work in the Arctic ocean country.

57. RNWMP Comptroller to Mrs. F.R Leland, 16 June 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

16th June, 1914.

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter of the 7th instant, I regret to inform you that there is no doubt that Mr. Harry V. Radford met his death in an altercation with an Eskimo at Bathurst Inlet, North West Territories.

A police patrol will leave shortly to investigate the matter and any information obtained will be forwarded to you, but it is not likely that the party will return for a long time, probably a year or more.

Yours very truly,
Comptroller

Mrs. F.R. Leland,
Bryn Mawr,
Washington, U.S.A.,

58. A.B. Perry to Inspector W.J. Beyts, 17 June 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, 30-4

Royal North West Mounted Police

Regina. 17th June 1914.

Memorandum to Inspector W.J. Beyts,
R.N.W.M. Police,
Regina.

If you succeed in reaching the place where these unfortunate explorers met their death, please try and locate their graves and have them suitably marked and identified.

If the remains were not buried, please collect them and given them decent burial.

Try and obtain all the effects of the explorers especially those which might be valued by their relatives.

[Sgd.] A.B. Perry.
Commissioner.

59. RCMP Comptroller, Memorandum, 24 June 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

Royal North West Mounted Police
Ottawa, 24th June, 1914.

Memorandum re expenses of the Police patrol from Baker Lake to Bathurst Inlet, N.W.T., to inquire into the murder of Messrs. Radford and Street.

The undersigned having been instructed by the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister to make all necessary arrangements for a Police patrol, consisting of an Officer, 3 or 4 non-commissioned Officers and Constables, and 2 Natives to act as guides and interpreters, begs respectfully to report as follows:-

The purchase of a schooner being absolutely necessary for the performance of the above duty, the undersigned obtained an offer of the schooner "Village Belle", now in Halifax, for the sum of \$8,000.00.

She has been inspected by the Hull Inspector of the Department of Marine & Fisheries, who reports her in every way suited for the purpose intended, having been extra heavily built for the Alaska Sealing Trade, and estimates her value from \$8,000 to \$10,000.00.

To perform the work required it is necessary that she should have auxiliary steam power and the owners offer to instal [*sic*] a 60 horse power Remington Oil Engine for a sum not exceeding \$3,400.00, which the Chairman of the Board of

Steamship Inspection reports as fair and just. The schooner will therefore cost the total sum of \$11,400.00.

She will take from Halifax, N.S., to Baker Lake, via Chesterfield Inlet, provisions for the party for two years, together with a portable house for erection at Baker Lake, the main base, and the necessary fuel and miscellaneous stores for the expedition, which the undersigned estimates will cost about \$20,000.00; thus making the total cost the patrol \$31,400.00, and the undersigned, in accordance with the terms of an Order in Council of the 15th instant with reference to the expenditure for the fiscal year 1914-15, respectfully recommends that the authority of Council be obtained for the spending of the sum of \$31,400.00 in connection with the above service.

The undersigned hopes to be able to pay this amount from the appropriation already granted for the service of the R.N.W.M. Police for the current fiscal year, but it may be found necessary later on to ask for a Supplementary Estimate at the next Session of Parliament for at least a portion of these expenses.

Respectfully submitted.

Comptroller.

60. Privy Council Order, 27 June 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

P.C. 1665

(certified copy of a report of the Committee of the Privy Council approved by His Royal Highness the Governor General on the 27th June, 1914.)

Privy Council
Canada.

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a memorandum, dated 24th June, 1914, from the Right Honourable the President of the Privy Council, submitting the annexed report from the Comptroller of the Royal North West Mounted Police, of even date, on the subject of the expenses to be incurred in connection with the Police patrol to Bathurst Inlet via Chesterfield Inlet and Baker Lake, N.W.T., to inquire into the murder of Messrs. Radford and Street by Eskimos.

The Minister recommends that authority be given for the expenditure of not exceeding \$31,400 in connection with this service.

The Committee submit the same for approval.

Sgd. Rudolph Boudreau
(Clerk of the Privy Council)

61. Comptroller to William J., 29 July 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

29th July, 1914.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 25th instant, I enclose herewith a copy of the latest report received in connection with the murder of Messrs. Radford & Street at Bathurst Inlet, North West Territories.

A Police expedition is leaving Halifax to-day for the scene of the murder to collect all possible information on the subject.

No reports can be received here of the result during the present season, but I will take care that when you are received you will be informed of their contents.

Yours very truly,
Comptroller

William J. Deevy, Esq.,
2 West 129th Street,
New York,
U.S.A.

62. RNWMP Comptroller to Commissioner, 31 July 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, 30-4

Ottawa, Ont.
31st July, 1914.

Commissioner
R.N.W.M. Police
Regina.

Baker Lake Expedition sailed from Halifax yesterday afternoon.

Sgd. F. Fortescue

63. Theall & Beam, Lawyers, to Samena Fortescue, 19 August 1914

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

THEALL & BEAM.
Attorneys & Counsellors at Law
United States Trust Co. Building.
45 & 47 Wall Street.
New York.

August 19th, 1914.

Estate of Harry V. Radford.

Samena Fortescue, Esq., Comptroller
Royal North West Mounted Police,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir:-

We represent the immediate relatives of Harry V. Radford, the explorer who, it was reported, was killed about June 19th, 1912, with his companion, Mr Street, at Bathurst Inlet, in an altercation with some of the eskimos of his party.

We are about to commence proceedings to prove his Will in this City, and must convince the Court of his death by all the facts and circumstances surrounding the tragedy and the inferences to be drawn therefrom.

We noticed in the Public Prints a few months ago that a police patrol of your force was on the point of starting to the scene of the murder for the purpose of investigating the matter and apprehending the murderers, if possible. From this we take it that you are convinced that Mr. Harry V. Radford is dead, and that the information concerning it in your possession leads you to no other conclusion.

We would like a communication from you to that effect which would be of service to us in our proceeding to prove the Will. Of course, the patrol, if not recalled by the war, will not return for a year or more, but we must proceed in order to conserve his estate on the facts as presently developed.

Yours very truly,
Theall & Beam

64. Inspector W.J. Beyts to O.C. "M" Division, RNWMP, 8 January 1915

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

Royal, North. West. Mounted. Police.	
"M" Division.	Baker Lake Detachment.
Port Nelson.	Chesterfield Inlet.
	January 8 th 1915.

CRIME REPORT

RE:- Killing of H.V. Radford & T.G. Street, by Killin-e-muit Eskimos.

Relative to the above case, have made several inquiries since our arrival at Chesterfield Inlet, but so far have been unable to obtain any further information, than has already been submitted.

The native "Akulak", who accompanied Radford & Street to Bathurst inlet, is now in the employ of the Hudson [sic] Bay Coy here, and is away at present, trading with the natives inland.

Mr Ford the agent of the Post states that he expects Akulak here during the month of February, when I will obtain a full statement from him re this case.

With regard to the native Tu-lor-tok, and the third native who accompanied these men, nobody appears to know their present whereabouts, but Tu-lor-tok is said to be generally camped around Baker or Schultz Lakes.

On Jan the 7th I walked across the sea ice to Wegg Island, situated in the mouth of the Inlet, where I was told Radford & Street made their first camp on leaving this point.

Going over the island I came across a rather tall cairn, built of rocks, and upon close examination, found a piece tin tied to the cairn with the names of these men and the date of their encampment there, which was perforated through the tin with a nail, or some sharp instrument.

I looked around, but saw no other articles they may have cached, I took a photo of the cairn, and also the tin inscription, of which I attach to report.

[sgd] T.B. Caulkin S/M

The Officer Commanding,

R. N. W. M. Police,

"M" Division,

Port Nelson.

Forwarded.

[sgd] W.J. Beyts Insp,

Commanding Baker Lake Sub District

[Then forwarded to the Commissioner.]

65. S/M T.B. Caulkin to O.C. RNWMP, Baker Lake Sub District, 5 March 1915

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 556, file 240-3

Royal. North. West. Mounted. Police.

"M" Division

Port Nelson.

Baker Lake Detachment,

Chesterfield Inlet.

March 5th 1915.

To/

The Officer Commanding,
Baker Lake Sub District,
Hudson Bay.

Sir/

I have the honour to attach herewith, a number of quotations from letters received by Mr Ford, the agent of the Hudson Bay Coy, from Mr. H.V. Radford, through different natives, during their tour inland to Bathurst Inlet.

My idea in submitting these several quotations, is that, [from] them, many items of interest maybe [*sic*] gleaned by parties interested in the case, also from them, it can be seen that they corroborate to a certain extent, with the statements of the natives Akulak, and Tu-lor-tok, during their trip, and stay with the Killin-e-muits at Bathurst Inlet.

I have the honour to be,

Sir/

Your obedient servant,

[*sgd*] *T.B. Caulin*, S/M

In charge of Detachment

The Officer Commanding,

R.N.W.M. Police.

“M” Division,

Port Nelson.

Forwarded.

[*sgd*] *W.J. Beyts* Insp,

Commanding Baker Lake Sub District.

Forwarded from Commander “M” Division, Fort Churchill, to the Commissioner on 24-8-15.

LETTER No 1.

Part of a letter from Mr H.V. Radford to S.A. Ford, the Agent of the Hudson Bay Coy at Chesterfield Inlet.(No date) but evidently written from Schultz Lake, as follows:

Akulak tells me that you have instructed Kau-mack, to tell all the Eskimos, not to go with us, but to stay at home and catch fur, and there is no doubt that Kau-mack is using his influence against me. I can understand Kau-mack’s natural wish to keep all the people (especially the good hunters)

here, but I am entirely unwilling to believe that you instructed him to try to prevent Akulak, or any other native, from going with me on the Arctic journey.

Personally I know you would not wish to me such an injury, and as a representative of the H.B. Company, I am equally sure that you would not wish to undo for me, what they have already done, in delivering my supplies, etc, by making it impossible for me to perform the journey for which the supplies were sent.

However, his (Kau-mack's) "butting in", aggravated me considerable, and I was tempted to hand him a little chastisement Street and I, finding that his influence is being used against us decided to give him some mild punishment, and since then he has been excluded from our igloo.

I am quite sure that you are not so narrow minded as to believe that you could gain anything, by trying to keep natives of my choice from accompanying us, or otherwise interfering with my plans, and on the other hand, even if you did believe, some small advantage might be made by such interference, I am quite unwilling to believe that you would seek such advantage, at the expense of a traveller, endeavouring to fight his way, against obstacles through a difficult country.

I quote this part of Radfords [*sic*] letter, to show that he evidently experienced difficulty in obtaining natives to accompany him, also Radford alludes to Ford as endeavouring to stop certain natives from going with him. This fact has been brought to my notice by different people since coming here, in fact I have seen this method applied in the case of a Mr Laden, a travelling scientist, going through this country in the interests of the Canadian, and Norweigan [*sic*] Governments, this no doubt is done to keep the native at hunting for furs. The man Kau-mack alluded to in Radford's letter, is, or, was a native trader employed by the H.B. Co around the Baker and Schultz Lake Districts, untill he died during January 1914.

[*Sgd*] T.B. Caulkin S/M.

Marginalia: "H.B. Company are not favourable to the entry of white men into this District." [*name illegible*]

[*See documents 2, 9, 14, and 15 for the other letters*]

66. Commissioner A.B. Perry to Inspector LaNauze, 10 May 1915

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2159, file 15

Memorandum to
Inspector LaNauze,
c/o R.N.W.M. Police,
Edmonton.

You have been selected to take charge of a patrol to go in search of the Rev. Father Leroux and the Rev. Father Rouviere who are reported to be missing.

These Priests left Fort Providence for their station at Great Bear Lake two years ago, and they have not been heard of since. It has been reported that some of the Indians in that district have been seen in possession of their effects.

The Rev. Bishop Breynat has requested that a patrol be sent to enquire into the alleged disappearance of the priests, and to take such action as may be found necessary. The Rev. Father Ducout, Fort Norman, who is Superior of the missing priests, has expressed the opinion that these priests did not meet with any misfortune, because it was their intention not to come back for two years, and that perhaps they would follow the Esquimaux as far as the Arctic Coast. I think this is altogether likely, and it is quite likely you will meet the priests on their way back to Fort Norman. In case however that this should not happen, your patrol is being despatched. It will consist, under your command, of Corporal Joy, Constable Churchill or Constable Wight. Corporal Joy and Cst. Churchill are now at Fort Simpson. Constable Wight is ordered to join you at Edmonton.

As it is quite apparent that I am unable to give you detailed instructions as to how you are to carry out the duty assigned to you, it would appear that your best course is, after reaching Fort Norman, to make full enquiries from the Rev. Father Ducout and then decide upon your action. You should secure an interpreter who is acquainted with the language of the Indians and other natives with whom you are likely to come in contact with. If possible this interpreter should be an efficient guide.

Without undue delay, you should leave Fort Norman for the huts reported to have been constructed and occupied by the priests, taking precautions that you should meet all Indians travelling to Fort Norman from Great Bear Lake.

If on making enquiries you find the Rev. Fathers have met with misfortune or perished, you should take steps to make a full enquiry and attempt to bring to justice the Indian or Eskimo who is responsible.

As a Justice of the Peace in the North West Territories, you will be able to hold a preliminary examination and if sufficient evidence is procurable, commit the guilty parties for trial. They should then be brought to Fort Norman, suitable

quarters secured there and the accused held until you can report the action taken and receive the necessary instructions as to trial. If you find the Priests are alright, but that their goods only have been stolen or destroyed, you should take such action as you think the circumstances justify. I would suggest that if the guilty parties could be convicted, that you should try them summarily as a J.P. and impose a small fine or suspended sentence. It would probably be as well not to commit them to gaol as this is the first succession the enforcement of the law has taken place in that remote district.

I ask you to be very careful of the safety of the patrol. You should not undertake any trip for which you are not properly outfitted. The season in the far North is very short and I do not think it at all practicable for you to try and make the sea coast this season. If you find a journey there necessary, further provision would have to be made for it, unless you can get the supplies of dogs and guides necessary to make the patrol a safe and certain one.

You have been authorised to purchase at Edmonton, necessary supplies for four men for one year, from the Hudson Bay Co., also the necessary canoes and camping outfit. The vouchers for those supplies should be certified by you and sent to the O/C "N" Division, Athabasca.

You will keep a diary in which you will enter everything of moment in connection with your patrol. You will also, from time to time, as opportunity permits, forward reports to the Officer Commanding your Division, accompanied if possible by sketches of the country through which you travel, and photographs of interesting points.

No police patrol has ever before been sent into Great Bear Lake, consequently your reports will be of more than ordinary interest.

I enclose copy of all the correspondence with regard to the missing priests, for your information.

I also enclose copy of all the correspondence with regard to the death of Radford and Street. You are aware that Inspector Beyts' party are at Chesterfield Inlet for the purpose of enquiring into the death of these explorers. It is possible you may obtain some very valuable information from the natives with whom you will come in contact. Read these reports carefully and if you get an information, please see that it is complete and exact, and taken in the form of statements from the different persons you interview.

I rely upon you to carry out the patrol with certainty and despatch. Your experience in the North ought to teach you to avoid undue risks and also what precautions are necessary to provide for the safety of the patrol.

(sd) A.B. Perry

Commissioner.

67. James Walsh, "A Young Catholic Explorer" (1915)

Source: Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia, vol. 26, no. 2 (June 1915): 111-130

A YOUNG CATHOLIC EXPLOYER

BY JAMES J. WALSH, M.D., PH.D., SC.D.

In the late Summer of 1913 the newspapers of Canada and the United States began to publish some rather vague rumors that a young American explorer of what are called the Barren lands of North Central Canada had been killed by the Eskimos. The name of the explorer was reported as Harry V. Radford and in the first reports, while it was declared that the rumors that had come were so circumstantial as to make it almost certain that there had been a murder, there were rumors too that Radford had been seen at one of the outposts of civilization, and readers were warned not to take the story as thus told for absolute truth until further confirmation was secured. The Mounted Northwest Police were said to be investigating the story and more definite information would later be available, but owing to the fact that the winter was opening and travel was difficult and communication almost impossible, the confirmation or contradiction of the original story might be delayed for a considerable period, even perhaps until the following Spring.

As a matter of fact it was not until well on in the Springtime of 1914 that absolute confirmation of the first report was secured and the murder of Radford and his companion indubitably demonstrated. At first the reason for doubting the story was that the experience of travelers with the Eskimos had always been such as to make it almost incredible that the murder had taken place. In spite of the fact that travelers in the frozen north have had to confide themselves to these almost absolutely uncivilized people, under circumstances where their possessions were likely to tempt the greed of their guides because of the many valuables in the eyes of the Eskimos which they necessarily carried with them for their expeditions, the Eskimos had always proved faithful. Notwithstanding even that frequently the white man had to call for sacrifices and submission to very great hardships and dangers for his sake, the natives had always been true to their trust. White men had been able to look forward with almost complete confidence to the uncivilized guides and companions sticking to them through thick and thin, nursing them when sick or wounded and bringing them back to civilization according to contract, sometimes at the cost of immense suffering and even occasionally maiming, injury or death to themselves.

With the confirmation of the death of young Radford I suppose that to the general public it seemed that a comparatively unimportant chapter in biography

had thus been closed. Many people doubtless concluded, especially after reading the account of Radford's expedition and its unfortunate fatal termination, that after all this was only the end of the tale of a young fellow who from his early youth had had the wanderlust, the spirit of the wanderer and pioneer, who preferred to travel in places where others had not been rather than over the ground where many generations of travelers had found interest and satisfaction. Most people doubtless reflected that of course the world owes much to the brave and daring pioneer, but after all they felt that it is his nature that prompts him and there is not so very much to his credit when he succeeds : while if he fails, he is only one of the many who have gone down in the struggle with nature in the effort to open new lands to mankind. To a great many readers doubtless Radford's fate meant little less than this. It was only one of the many stories of tragedy that come up in the newspapers and that we have grown so used to from reading them every morning for breakfast, that death means very little unless it happens to strike home to someone near us. As the French say so cleverly, "People die, oh yes, other people".

Harry Radford had been a particular friend for nearly fifteen years, when the confirmation of the story of his murder closed a very interesting chapter in acquaintanceship. I met him originally at the New York Catholic Authors Guild, which, though very probably few are now aware of the fact, for it has gone the way of all things for years now, held a series of meetings under the patronage of Father John Talbot Smith in the latter years of the nineteenth century. There are at least three other valuable acquaintanceships besides those of Father Smith himself and Radford that I owe to the New York Catholic Authors Guild, so I am quite sure that such an organization would at any time and everywhere prove a distinct benefit to those of sympathetic purposes and allied pursuits.

When I met him, Harry Radford (at the age, I think, of about seventeen and still a student at Manhattan College) was editing and publishing a little magazine called " Woods and Waters." He not only wrote most of the matter for this magazine, but he drummed up advertising for it, succeeded in getting associate editors and contributors and made the paper pay its own way. He had lots of push; indeed I suppose his energetic initiative would be called "nerve", for he did not hesitate to tackle anyone in order to secure material and good-will for his little paper. He was a thorough boy in many ways and particularly in his utter disregard for many of the conventions that would restrain the maturer youth from doing what he did.

He had spent his summers for years in the Adirondacks fishing, hunting, associating with guides and backwoodsmen and he had become enamored of the wild life. At the very beginning of the back-to-nature movement which now is sending so many people into what they call their bungalows in the North woods, there came to him the realization that the presentation of the joys of living in the

wilderness for a certain time every year could be made attractive to men, even to the confirmed city dweller. Hence his little paper. He used it as a lever to move the New York legislature to reintroduce moose into the Adirondacks and in the days when Mr. Theodore Roosevelt was Governor of New York State, succeeded by personal lobbying in securing the passage of the bill for this purpose. By the time he had reached his majority, had graduated at college, he felt that his little magazine had accomplished all that he wished from it, so he allowed it to merge with another one of the outdoor journals. Above all, its publication would have tied him down in New York and he wanted to be free to make extensive trips into wild countries to bring back specimens of hitherto unknown animals and to investigate as a pioneer hitherto unexplored country.

Radford was graduated from the Civil Engineering Department of Manhattan College in 1901 with the B. S. in Civil Engineering. He returned later to complete a higher course for which he received the degree of C. E. in 1906. Brother Potamian tells me that his thesis for this latter degree was a very elaborate one on "The Preservation of Timber." This would serve to show a certain practical bent of mind, for though he spent his time in the Adirondacks mainly in hunting and fishing, he became very much interested in the preservation of the forests and particularly their protection against the forest fires which so often ravaged the Great North Woods to the unfortunate destruction of immense quantities of most valuable timber and the reduction of animal life in the woods. I remember his talking to me once with regard to the European preservation of forests and the science of forestry and I called his attention to the fact that in Germany they had perfected the art and science of forestry to such a degree that their forests, in spite of the much greater density of the population, far from disappearing as our own are, were constantly growing in size and in value, though as a rule the land that was used for this purpose would be of comparatively little value for other purposes.

Father Talbot Smith who got to know him very well in connection with his publication of "Woods and Waters," for which he was a persistent seeker for articles, and not to be denied, as all of us who were doing any writing found, has written me a letter with regard to him which, because it sums up Harry's character as it appealed to a man of a good deal of experience with men of all kinds and characters, seems worth while reproducing.

Dr. Smith said:

"The occasion of my acquaintance with the young man arose from a publication called 'Woods and Waters,' which he had founded while a student in Manhattan College. He wanted advice and contributions at an expense to himself. I gave him a little of both, and a good deal of encouragement. I found later that, he needed nothing of the last-named, because of all the stubborn, determined youngsters, I have ever met easily

he took the palm. He ran the magazine until he got tired of it, found associate editors and contributors, secured advertising, and made the thing pay its way. In the innocent way of a boy he discovered at an early date that the good-natured will stand for anything, that push and pull are two notable factors in life, and he had no more concern about the feelings of the people whose sympathies he enlisted than if they were Hottentots. He made his way into every circle, had his own opinions about everything from capitalism down, usually had the wrong view, and held to it in face of the world. I think this was done in a teasing spirit, when he saw that his opponent was deeply interested. Early he made up his mind for the exploration business. All his thoughts were on adventurous travel, not merely on travel. He saw Italy and laughed at the popular enthusiasm about it, declaring that the Adirondacks were as beautiful. After studying the lives of great explorers he discovered that press publicity has much to do with the art of exploration, and therefore he sought the limelight with the eagerness of a theatrical celebrity. Taking an interest in him, I pointed out the faults in his method, the size of his head, the likelihood of his becoming a bore, etc. He snapped his fingers at such philosophy. Life was a battle, and one must fight by any and every means in his power. Nevertheless he felt his religion earnestly, although I fear it would not continue long under the strain of so impudent a personality. He was frank and engaging in speech and manner, always on the wing, with new schemes, laughing at his own mistakes and the world, full of tricks upon editors and tuft-hunters, proud of his ability to play the game with the best of them. He was an extraordinary mingling of innocence and shrewdness and common sense, without knowing much about these qualities. He just grew up like Topsy, under the strong impulses of his nature, and seemed to yield joyously to them. He was a good boy, and readily admitted the swelled head. I warned him often that this defect was most serious and would wreck the best planned enterprises. He could admit that, but never really understood it. I tried to bring him under my influence, but his nature would accept nothing in that line. He would come to me for praise and approval but never for direction. He was a member of the Catholic Authors Guild and read some essays before it. Some of the members thought him an impertinence, but standing up before a group of literary lights, at the age of nineteen, and telling them something he thought worth while, he looked the incarnation of perpetual youth and hope and confidence. At his age I would have shrunk before such an audience. He reveled in it. Vainly I tried to tell him that his dream of exploration and consequent fame must depend upon fine qualities, finer than he then possessed, but which in time he might possess.

He laughed at me. All one had to do was to go ahead and win. He became interested in "Adirondacks Murry," the Boston ex-minister who made the Adirondacks famous, lapsed into poverty and obscurity, and died at Guilford, Conn. Harry wrote a short biography of him, published it himself, and introduced a parenthesis which was larger than the text itself. He used to tell me a lot about Murray, and probably helped him in his last days. I think he was at the funeral. Such are my recollections of Harry; the other things have faded from my mind, but they must have been many, because he was never done with schemes."

After his graduation at Manhattan College, Radford traveled for some months in Italy, for it so happened that through his mother he had an independent income; but, instead of being won over from nature to art, came back to laugh at the popular enthusiasm about European travel, declaring that the interest in it was mostly put on and that the Adirondacks were at least as beautiful as any of the natural scenery that he had seen in Europe. With regard to art, he felt as many people do with regard to music that most of those who talk so much about it and parade their admiration for it are mere pretenders to a taste the possession of which they think stamps them as more cultivated than the generality of people.

After this European travel episode some years were spent in the Adirondacks with his mother, one of the gentle retiring creatures whom it is a surprise to find as the mother of a wanderer like Radford and who must find it above all hard to explain how this can be her flesh and blood. The idea of her loneliness if he should leave her for any length of time—for she was wrapped up in him—kept him from any great expedition. I know that he was thinking about it, planning for it, hoping to get the chance to do something in pioneering that has never yet been done, but still living quietly with his mother. Unfortunately she developed cancer and then for a year he was the most devoted of sons. Twice I went to see her in the Adirondacks and Harry's devotion to her showed another side of his character that was strikingly interesting. The marriage had been unhappy, a separation had taken place, and mother and son were all in all to each other. When I saw them they were living together at a little farmhouse and finding the fulness of life in each other. Harry was much disturbed over his mother's death and exhibited an entirely other side to his character, for as a rule he seemed little thoughtful of others or their feelings and yet showed that he had a deep filial affection.

His mother died about ten years ago and then he proceeded to take some of the long trips into the wilderness he had been longing for. He went to Labrador, and later to the Pacific Northwest, always avoiding the much-traveled routes and hunting big game of unusual kind. When he came back reports were made to the Smithsonian and to various societies for the cultivation of the outdoor life in New York, Toronto and Montreal. The income left him by his mother was not large,

but it made him practically independent. While he had the desire to wander and to do pioneer work, he had also a very curious and frankly expressed craving for fame and he did not always make as nice a distinction as might be expected between fame and notoriety. He often talked of Stanley and the other famous explorers and finally he resolved that he would do, as far as it was left to do, for the region of North Central and Western Canada what Stanley had done for Africa. About five years ago he planned to take a trip along the Mackenzie River between the Arctic circle and to spend at least three years away from civilization.

He laid his plans broadly and deeply and secured some sort of an official connection with the Canadian governments as an exploring pioneer in what concerned zoology particularly and promised to bring back specimens for the National Canadian Museum. He also secured some official connection with the Smithsonian Institution, I believe, and they were also to benefit by the specimens that he might bring back. He came to me to get letters of introduction to the Jesuit Provincials here in the East and in the Rocky Mountain region and a general letter to the White Fathers of the Missions along the Mackenzie River. He hoped frequently to see them and to fulfill his religious duties as far as was possible.

I remember talking with him about the loneliness of the solitudes because at this time he expected that he might have to be alone with none but his Eskimo guides and without any of the consolations of civilization, or the ordinary diversions of men, or the entertainments that are supposed to be so necessary for anything like satisfaction in life. I suggested that homesickness would spoil the satisfaction of his trip, but he assured me that New York was the most tiresome place that could be. There was the mad rush after money during the day and after so-called fun at night. Most of the fun was so trivial as to be quite childish and some of it consisted of overeating or indulgence in something else quite harmful for human nature, and the night entertainments simply took it out of one to such an extent that no wonder people got up tired to face the next day rather despondently and be ready for the same trivial diversions, so as to get away from themselves the next evening.

On the other hand he assured me that nature in the great solitudes was a never-ending source of consolation and companionship. To camp near a little purling stream and hear the waters, as all the evening one lay thoroughly tired in one's tent, to watch the setting sun through the trees, or over the distant hills or mountains, to hear the birds and all the varying sounds among the trees in the forest at night and to wonder what they were about—all this was real entertainment and recreation for him. Once when I visited his mother professionally in the Adirondacks, he had me sleep with him in a lean-to that he had erected for himself in the shelter of a neighboring hill. Our only mattress was a shakedown composed of a mass of hemlock and spruce branches. I cannot say that I enjoyed it particularly though I don't mind a railroad train a bit, and when I awoke in the morning at five o'clock

it was fully light. Radford assured me that long before that time he had been awake and for over an hour had been listening enraptured to the songs of the birds and wondering how I could possibly sleep through it all.

He had the true woodsman's instinct and above all lacked most of the instincts of our so-called civilization. His income would have been quite enough to have enabled him to live in moderate price bachelor quarters as a man about town doing anything that he liked—or nothing if he wished to be as unoccupied as many others. Supposedly this would enable him to enjoy what so many people would think fun. Whenever he was brought in touch with this mode of life however, he found it a nuisance. He felt as with regard to painting and music that people really auto-suggested themselves into a mood in which they thought they liked these things because they saw others either actually enjoying them as few did, or pretending to enjoy them. He declared that it was all a following of fashion and that the fashions in amusements change, that people went after the new modes because other people did so and they had not originality enough to think out anything for themselves. While they did not really enjoy what they were doing it was at least an occupation of mind that kept them from thinking too much about themselves and they felt reasonably safe in their pretense of interest because so many other people were exhibiting the same interest.

His thirst for fame is very well illustrated by his interview with a reporter for a New York paper the evening before he started on this last long and, as it unfortunately proved to be, fatal journey. He liked to suggest a possible comparison with Henry M. Stanley and other well known explorers, though this was youthful aspiration rather than conceit. He put the loud pedal down firmly on all that he would have to suffer on the trip, telling that he would have nothing but raw meat and fish to eat and be absolutely devoid of human companionship. I can just imagine now how he must have rolled out that expressive phrase and insisted emphatically that for the next several years while he traveled through districts where no white man had ever been and gathered experiences not only novel to him, but almost novel to the race, he would be adding important details to world information and enlarging the bounds of geographic, zoo-logic, and general botanical knowledge. Phrases appeal to youth, and Radford had in his close intimacy with nature, rather than man—above all men in the cities—missed a good deal of the sophistication that comes to the young so soon now, to conceal their natural tendencies, and retained the flavor of older times and something of the knight-errant spirit.

Radford left New York toward the end of the year 1910, having come to tell me something of his plans and that I need not expect to hear from him for several years. If I did not hear from him in three years however, I was to try and obtain information with regard to his whereabouts; for it might possibly be of help to him

in some difficult position to look up the last word received from him. Perhaps even government influence might need to be appealed to. After this I had a letter from him from Ottawa in the early part of 1911 and then nothing more. He had almost literally gone out into the vast unknown, but I had little solicitude about him for he was in excellent health ; he had youth and strength ; he had had considerable experience in such expeditions away from civilization and he had a reasonable amount of prudence in spite of the impulsiveness of character that was after all the main factor sending him on his expedition. Besides, though he talked so calmly of being out of touch with civilization for several years, knowing something about the missions of the White Fathers along the Mackenzie River, I felt sure that scarcely ever would more than three months pass without his seeing white men and having an opportunity to send messages to friends. I was just beginning to be uneasy about him however, when the first disquieting news of the possible fatal termination of his expedition came filtering into civilization as yet unconfirmed and without such control as would make one give up hope.

The last portion of his exploration which was, as proved subsequently, to have a fatal termination, began on July 10th, 1911, from Fort Resolution, when Radford, accompanied by Thomas George Street, started out to go through what is known as the Barren Ground and reach Hudson Bay. Some of Mr. Radford's letters supply the important details of the trip and Miss Madge Macbeth in her article on "The Radford-Street Expedition" in the *Canada Monthly* for November, 1913 (London and Toronto), supplements the letters by a running comment that makes the narrative continuous.

"A half breed and one Indian accompanied us as far as Artillery Lake, at the edge of the Barren Grounds. We had a heavy load of supplies for a two years' residence in the Barrens and the Arctic, since I could not be sure that the relief supplies which I had requested to be delivered at Chesterfield Inlet would reach their destination, although the Hudson Bay Company at the last moment had very generously promised to endeavor to carry them to that point in their steamer, and land them at the Inlet for me.

"At Artillery Lake, the half-breed and Indian turned back , . . I managed to engage two Yellow-Knife Indians whom we found encamped in Artillery Lake to accompany us through Artillery and Clinton-Colden Lakes and down the Hanbury River as far as the junction of the Thelon River. Paying them in advance for this service, they took with them a very small birch-bark canoe which could only carry a fraction of our load ; but the Indians were expected to be of much service in helping us across the numerous portages on the Hanbury."

This portion of the journey was rendered even more difficult than it would have been under ordinary circumstances, owing to the increasing sulkiness of the Indians

and the fact that Radford's finger became poisoned through the handling of a quantity of arsenic intended for preparing zoological specimens. One night about the middle of August they deserted. There were three reasons why they could not be pursued and brought back—Mr. Radford was virtually a cripple, the poison having spread from his finger all through his arm, and he could not be left alone; the chance of overtaking the deserters was remote and it was essential to push on with all possible speed to reach Chesterfield Inlet before freeze-up. In Radford's words:

"The task before Mr. Street was now indeed monumental, for we were then at the beginning of a long series of dangerous rapids, and portages ; and the river was so low—the season being already advanced—and the load in our canoe (about 1,300 pounds) so great that the navigation of the rapids became exceedingly difficult. Yet, realizing that I was a helpless cripple and unable to render assistance either in the canoe or on the portages ... Street resolutely expressed his willingness to undertake to navigate the canoe single-handed and to carry every pound of our outfit across the portages."

The afternoon of the same day upon which the Indians deserted, George Street actually did pack the whole outfit across the portage on which they were encamped.

"My wound steadily improved (Street had skilfully opened and cared for it—pioneers must be amateur surgeons as well as cooks and hunters and everything else) but for several days I could give but little assistance. ... How we escaped disaster in some of the rapids is a mystery to me ! Mr. Street rose to every occasion and literally did the work of two men under the most trying conditions.⁷

⁷ Thomas George Street, who was with Radford and shared his fate, was another one of the young men with the *Wanderlust*, a lover of outdoors, full of the spirit of adventure, keen to search out spots off the beaten track, lightly undertaking whatever hardship might be entailed. As a boy of sixteen he joined a transcontinental railway-survey party working around Grand Lake. His powerful physique and great strength soon gave him a reputation among the men. He had been in a series of expeditions as the consequence of the reputation thus gained and happened to arrive at Smith's Landing in August, and was engaged on work in that neighborhood when at the beginning of fall Radford came seeking a companion for his exploration trip which he at once announced he expected would occupy a period of two years and cover a distance roughly speaking of 3,000 miles by canoe, sledge and on foot. It had been difficult to get a companion, many men of experience, white native and half-breeds having refused, but Street took the proposition at once, and the rest of the winter was employed in preparation. In July to the two set out. No higher tribute could be paid to Street's character than that which is to be found in these letters of Radford's sent off to friends without any idea that they would ever be communicated to Street's friends or to the world.

“About the third of September we reached the head of Schultz Lake on the lower Thelon and here to our great satisfaction we found an encampment of Eskimos, at a crossing place of the caribou, known as Od-e-uktellig.”

Some of the difficulties of Arctic travel may very well be realized from an incident which happened to Radford at this time. While at Od-e-uk-tellig Radford made arrangements to secure the supplies which the Hudson Bay Company had promised to land for him. It was not easy to find them. There could be no specific directions given as to where they should be landed, as there was no station for them and it was only a question of the master of the vessel selecting a spot on the inlet where he thought the supplies would most easily be found and then leaving them there with such signs of their presence as he thought might attract attention. As is not difficult to understand under the circumstances it actually took weeks to find them. After staying for two days at Od-e-uk-tellig he went with a crew of three Eskimos at the beginning of the second week of September to Chesterfield Inlet. “We searched the entire length of the Inlet for our relief supplies, and on the last day of September found them at the Inlet’s mouth, on the shore of Hudson Bay, where the Hudson’s Bay Company, faithful to their promise, had landed them three weeks previously from their Steamer Pelican.”

The fatal part of their journey came very near what they hoped would be the end of it. They were preparing for the final stage of their journey, which was to take them from the Mackenzie Delta to Dawson in Alaska, where of course they would be in civilization and would be able to continue their journey home by the ordinary modes of transportation. In order to reach the Mackenzie district however, they had to travel from Bathurst Inlet and hired as guides and companions some Eskimos. With regard to these Eskimos Radford had written to a friend that they were quite primitive, had been very little in touch with civilized man and had a number of the primitive customs. They did not possess rifles and hunted as of old with a bow, spear and harpoon. All they had as utensils were stone kettles and knives of hammered native copper and they made their fire with flints and timber or by rubbing a pointed stick into another piece of wood until the latter becomes heated enough to ignite. The natives were considered to be perfectly trustworthy however, and no solicitude was expressed in his letters as to their safety. Toward the end of this letter Radford expressed the hope that Dawson City would be reached in the Winter of 1912-13. A striking element in the tragedy, a sad commentary on human hopes when they seem nearest fruition, is that within a few hours of the expression of this hope the man who uttered it and his companion lay dead, slain by the Eskimos who were to guide them. In the meantime the letter was sent off by a

native runner, was delivered into government hands and was after many months eventually delivered. Another striking coincidence is that within twenty-four hours after the postman left it at the door of the relative to whom it was written, word was flashed to the newspapers of the strong suspicion which had been aroused and was apparently growing to a certainty that the explorers had met their death at the hands of their guides.

It is easy to understand how hopefully and with what light hearts they were ready to start on this last stage of their journey. All the preparations were made, the dogs were actually harnessed, the sledges which had been partly loaded the night before were made thoroughly secure and they were just about to start when a delay occurred. One of the dog-drivers refused to go further. According to the account that has since come to us the man had just heard that his wife was ill and refused to go on. As he had already been paid and was under contract to go and as his explorers did not understand his language, his attitude was thought at first to be simply one of unwillingness and perhaps laziness that sometimes comes over the natives, a condition that usually has to be treated by firm measures.

Impatient over the delay, the story is that Radford went forward and insisted that the man should go on. Under the circumstances the man felt justified in his stubbornness and Radford either struck him or cracked his whip at him. The man, who had been walking away, turned suddenly, it is said, and plunged his spear through Radford's breast. His companion Street grasped his rifle and sprang forward to aid Radford, but the other Eskimo closed in and Street met his death from a spear in the back.

As the explorers were not to arrive in Dawson until the Winter of 1912-13 no solicitude as to their safety was felt, though when they did not reach there by the time the Spring had set in there began to be some anxiety lest something should have happened to their party. Foul play was scarcely thought of, as the Eskimos have proved so faithful. Chief Akulak, who had accompanied them from Chesterfield Inlet the preceding year to near the head of Bathurst Inlet, has the custom of making yearly treks into the interior to barter with Bathurst Inlet Eskimos who up to this time have had no dealings whatever with white men. Chief Akulak made his journey as usual toward the end of the winter 1912-13 and inquired when he met the natives if they had heard of Radford and Street. The replies did not satisfy him and becoming suspicious he succeeded in finding an Eskimo who gave him some inkling of the murder. He also saw some of the materials which the explorers had had with them. When he came out of the wilderness from his trip he confirmed some rumors that had already reached the Hudson's Bay post of the fate of the explorers. On his report the Royal Northwest Mounted Police sent a detachment into the Bathurst Inlet region to investigate the matter. It was not long before they came back with full confirmation of it. It seemed

almost incredible at first, for treachery is the last thought associated with the Eskimos. From the earliest days of Arctic exploration the white men have trusted the Eskimos under the most trying circumstances and practically never have been deceived.

It seems very probable that even in this case it was the disturbance of mind produced by the illness of his wife and the failure of the explorers to get rightly in touch with him that was responsible for the deed. Not understanding his language they did not comprehend his protests and thus led to the unfortunate fatality. Radford himself while extremely gentle in all his ways had a certain impatience that sometimes led him to do rash things. I remember once that he telephoned me down to New York from some distant place in the Adirondacks where he was hunting that he had acquired an infected wound of the hand which he feared was going to interfere with his hunting the next day and he had treated it by wrapping a bandage dipped in a rather strong solution of carbolic acid around it. This had produced the usual result. It first deadened the external nerves in the skin and then set up a highly inflammatory process likely to end in gangrene of the external tissues at least. He wanted to know from me by return telegram what he should do for it and I telegraphed to him at once to take the next express train into Albany and be treated without delay at the Hospital or he might lose his thumb. He did so, but bore ever afterwards the mark of the rather serious gangrenous condition of the skin that had been produced.

This account of Radford's death was fully confirmed by the investigation that was made. The man who had killed him and probably also his companion who was responsible for Street's death were themselves the victims of accidents during the following winter and no process of legal justice was possible.

I have always felt that Radford deserved a better fate and that his indomitable spirit, his utter lack of sympathy with the trivialities of our time, his intense absorption in all outdoors and the things of nature, might have made of him a magnificent pioneer explorer to help in opening the Canadian Northwest. Destiny has otherwise determined and so there is only the possibility now of laying this tribute to his memory, so that in the future some account of him and what he so bravely tried to do may be available for those who are interested in learning something about the young men of our time who were disgusted with the life of cities and tried to make life something more than a round of superficial pleasure even though it might be at the cost of severe hardships and trials, labors and difficulties. Radford was a type of youth, feeling itself immortal, so far as any fear of death was concerned, ready to do anything no matter how dangerous, so long as the prospect was one of successful and satisfactory endeavor with prestige at the end of it.

68. Sergeant-Major T.B. Caulkin to O.C. RNWMP, "M" Division, 16 August 1915

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 556, file 240-3

	Royal. North. West. Mounted. Police.
"M" Division	Chesterfield Inlet
Port Nelson	August 16 th 1915.

CRIME REPORT

Re:- Reported further murders of white men by Bathurst Inlet Eskimos.

On Agut [*sic*] the 15th a whale boat arrived at this point, having travelled down Chesterfield Inlet, from the Schultz and Baker Lake districts.

The boat contained several inland huskies, who had been travelling during the past winter, collecting furs for the Hudson Bay Co here, and had now brought their furs to the Company's Post.

Amongst these natives arriving were Akulak, and Tu-lor-tok, who were the guides to Radford & Street to Bathurst Inlet and with them, also, was a native of the Shan-ing-i-on-muits, named An-ing-at, whose location is on Backes River.

This native (An-ing-at) reported that he had been informed that two more white men had been killed, during the summer of 1914, by huskies of the Bathurst Inlet tribe, also he further stated that he had been informed that one white man, travelling with two natives had all been done to death some time ago, by natives of the same community.

In an interview with this native (An-ing-at) through Mr S. Ford as interpreter, I learned that whilst camped at Shultz Lake, last spring, together with Tu-lor-tok, both engaged hunting caribou, they came up with eight huskies, travelling from the North with their wives and families, by dogteam, they were bringing down furs to trade. These huskies were Killin-e-muits from the Arctic Coast west of Bathurst Inlet, and they stated that they had come in contact with the Bathurst Inlet Eskimos during the past winter, and that the said Bathurst Inlet Eskimos had informed them that they had killed two more white men, since the Radford & Street affair. Further, that the two white men were travelling in a small boat along the Arctic Coast from the direction of the mouth of the Coppermine River, they had no natives with them.

These Bathurst Inlet huskies also related to An-ing-at that sometime ago that they had killed one white man, and two huskies who were travelling in their community, but An-ing-at's memory of this conversation with them was not very clear, altho he said they told him, the white man and the two natives came from Chesterfield Inlet, and that the natives were of the Kinipitoo Tribe, they said it

was a long time ago since this had occurred [*sic*], and could give no definite month or year.

This latter part of his statement, I presume, would be Mr Caldwell and the two natives, who are reported to have left here some years ago, for Bathurst Inlet, and are said to have never been heard of since, as it is said that the two natives accompanying Caldwell were of the Kinipitoo tribe, one of them being, Police native Oug-juk's brother, neither of these natives have been heard of since.

Through Mr S.Ford (as interpreter) I took the following statement from An-ing-at:

At Shultz Lake during the spring of 1915 (about April) I was camped with-Tu-lor-tok and a few more men we were hunting deer, when eight huskies with four sleds arrived at our camp with their families. The huskies were Killin-e-muits and they started a conversation with us, they asked us if we had heard of the two white men who had been killed, since the Radford and Street murder, by their tribe. We answered that we had not heard about it, they then told us that the two white men were traders, and travelled in a small boat along the Coast from the Coppermine River, towards Bathurst Inlet, and that they were killed by the Kille-shik-to-muits on the west Coast of Bathurst Inlet.

They said that after the natives had nothing further to trade, they commenced to demand articles from the white men, that they saw in their boat, the white men refused to give them the articles demanded, and then the party of huskies, which was said to be large, pounced upon the two white men, and stabbed them, killing them both. They did not say what happened to the white men's property. They said they were killed in the mosquito season in the year 1914,(about August). They further informed us that the names of the natives who had informed them of the murder were E-let-chak and Kina-ro-lik.

This native appeared quite clear as to what he had heard them saying, even to remembering the names of the huskies alluded too.

It will be noticed that he mentions the names of E-let-chak, and Kina-ro-lik, as being the informants to the eight huskies who informed them, these natives are also the ones of the party of Killin-e-muits who overtook, and told native Akulak of the Radford & Street murder, while they were on their return journey from guiding Radford to Bathurst Inlet. The man Kina-ro-lik was the spokesman of this affair, as will be seen in C.R.'s already rendered on the Radford & Street case.

Strange to say that on the date of receiving this information, the Hudson Bay Co's coastboat arrived back here from York Factory and Fort Churchill bringing in mail for the Roman Catholic Missionaries here, and amongst, letters they received, was an epistle from the Rev Father Robin, of Fort Good Hope. McKenzie District, stating that two of the R.C. Missionaries, namely, Fathers Rouviere and

La Roux, had disappeared from their Mission in the Dease Bay district. I obtained an extract of this letter from the Rev Father La Blonde, which is dated Fort Good Hope. Jan the 30th 1915, and, reads as follows:-

“We heard that Fathers Rouviere and La Roux who had started a Mission on the east side of Great Bear Lake in Dease Bay, had disappeared. They had gone to follow the Eskimos who come to hunt deer in that vicinity every summer, and return in the winter months, by the mouth of the Coppermine river, in Coronation Gulf. In Nov 1913, following the orders of M. Breynat these two fathers followed the Eskimos, two or three days after they had departed, they, being impressed, that it was the only way to learn the language, and come in contact with that tribe. They were supposed to go up to Victoria Land, and come back in the following spring. Since that time we have had no news of them. In August 1914 a prospector by name of Carden whose brother is supposed to have been killed by the Eskimos in your country, went to prospect in Dease Bay, he met the Eskimo which party appeared to be more fierce, and primitive, than those met by the Fathers, in the proceeding year, 1913. These Eskimo robbed him of his rifle, carbine, ammunition etc, and he was forced to return. He saw some Eskimos walking, one with a cassock cut off from the waist, which he was wearing like a vest, others of them had Church vestment garments on, another was carrying Father Rouviere’s carbine. Some Indians are said to have seen the bodies of the dogs which the Fathers set out with.

Mr Arden went into the Mission, built by the Fathers, everything was in good order, the door locked, and appeared as if it had not been entered. An Indian who knew a little Eskimo asked an Eskimo who had Father Rouviere’s carbine, some questions but he got no answer, he asked them where the Fathers were, some said they did not know anything, others said they were on the seashore, with other white men.

The Indians there, recognize some of those Eskimos that they had [seen] the year before, but most of them were new faces.

You might see if you can obtain any news of this matter in your district.

(ends)

Upon receipt of this information, An-ing-at was further questioned regarding the two white men killed, and was asked if the natives he had spoken too, had given any description of the two men, to this An-ing-at said he did not hear them say how the white men were dressed, but they did remark, that one was rather old, and nearly blind, and that one had a beard.

Further questioned he stated that the eight huskies he spoke with re this affair, were all dressed in deerskin clothes and wearing the short arteki, as generally used by the Killin-e--muits, he said none of them had any white mens clothing, or property.

He gave the names of the eight huskies as follows: Ig-var-luk. King-mi-oot. Kar-yu-ina. Al-aing. Nar-e-uk, Poong-uk, Neu-e-lik. and Kup-tar-tuk.

The native Tu-lor-tok was questioned re this matter, and his statement was the same as An-ing-at's.

These natives stated they asked no questions of these natives as they were scarred of them, and thought they get suspicious.

[sgd] *T.B. Caulkin* S/M

The Officer Commanding,
R.N.W.M. Police,
"M" Division,
Port Nelson.
Forwarded.

[Sgd.] *Beyts* Insp.
Commanding Baker Lake Sub District.

The Commissioner
Forwarded.
[*D.M. Howard*] Supt.
Commdbg "M" Division.

69. F. Herbert Morris to M. Fortescue, 9 October 1915

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

*Newstead,
Winsloe,
P.E.I.
Oct: 4th, 1915.*

Col. Fortescue

Dear Sir:

I don't like to trouble you so often but we are anxious to know if any word has been received from Inspector Beyts! March the 11st is the last we heard from him!

What chance of sending mail is there?

Hoping we are not troubling you too much.

*Sincerely yours,
F. Herbert Morris.*

70. Comptroller to Mrs. F.H. Morris, 9 October 1915

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

9th October, 1915.

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter of the 4th instant, Inspector Beyts and his party were, last month, landed at the east end of Baker Lake and will proceed to their destination during the coming winter, but there is no probability of reports being received from him until next summer. There is no way of communicating with him by mail.

Yours very truly,
Comptroller.

Mrs. F.H. Morris
Newstead,
Winsloe
Prince Edward Island

71. M. Fortescue to Miss L.M. Street, 12 October 1915

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

12th October, 1915.

Dear Miss Street,-

I have received a telegram that Inspector Beyts and party have got through Chesterfield Inlet and have been landed at the east end of Baker Lake, from whence they will proceed to Bathurst Inlet this winter, so that it is probable that next spring you may receive some definite information with regard to the murder of your unfortunate brother.

Yours sincerely,
[Comptroller]

Miss L.M. Street
Finance Department
Ottawa, Ont.

72. Lea Street to M. Fortescue, 13 October 1915

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

Ottawa, 13 October

My dear M. Fortescue,

Very many thanks for your kind thoughtfulness in writing to tell me of the telegram you received from Inspector Beyts and party had got safely through Chesterfield Inlet and landed at the east end of Baker Lake.

On the receipt of your letter, I again took out the map. You kindly gave me sometime ago and traced Inspector Beyts' Trip thus far, as Father and I always did upon receiving news from of George.

I often think of the present expedition and hope and pray that each members of the party will have a safe return and that their hardships will not be to severe. Against thanking you and assuring you of my appreciation of your many kindnesses.

*I remain yours sincerely,
Lea Street.*

73. "How Ottawans Met Death," *Ottawa Evening Citizen*, 1 November 1915

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

HOW OTTAWANS MET DEATH

Shore Eskimos' Version of Fatalities in the Far North Told by Capt. Lockhart.

Capt. W.E. Lockhart, of the R.N.W.M.P., arrived in Ottawa today from Port Nelson, Hudson Bay. Capt. Lockhart was one of the party which escorted Inspector Bates and his five men to Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, in September of this year, to go inland to find the Eskimos who killed Street and Radford, the young Canadian explorers, two years ago.

The captain brings with him the story of the deaths of Street and Radford as told by the Eskimos themselves, not members of the actual tribe with whom the two young men had dealings, but the shore Eskimos of the Hudson Bay. According to Capt. Lockhart, the Eskimos claim that Street and Radford were about to start farther inland with sleighs and dogs. But one of the Eskimos whom the two white men had chosen to accompany them on their trip asked to be excused for a time owing to the fact that his wife was sick. Young Street, so the story goes, would not listen to the plea, and after an altercation struck the Eskimo across the face with a dog whip. There was a struggle and Street got the Eskimo down, forced him over

a hole in the ice and threatened to push him down. It is taken for granted that Street had no intention of doing this, but the Eskimos, not knowing English, thought he was serious. Then one of them took a spear and used it with the result now known. The rifles had been strapped down on to the sleigh, and Radford, seeing the situation, went to the sleigh to get a rifle to retaliate. The Eskimos saw his move, and fearing that it would mean death to some of them, turned upon Radford and he met his death also. That is the shore Eskimos' version of the affair.

Capt. Lockhart is accompanied by Mr. L.S. Michie, steward of the Village Belle, auxiliary schooner, which was the first ship to penetrate Chesterfield Inlet, going 200 miles inland. Capt. Lockhart reports "millions" of caribou in that district. Coming out from Nelson to Ottawa, the captain had a most strenuous trip. The water in the Nelson river was the lowest, according to the Indians, in 60 years. He is here to report to the comptroller before going home to Nova Scotia. He said the purpose of the expedition to the Kidlemute Eskimos was educative rather than punitive. They would be taught that there was a "white man's law."

74. "Capt. Lockhart Back From Far North Journey, Visits Ottawa," *Ottawa Journal*, 1 November 1915

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

CAPT. LOCKHART BACK FROM FAR NORTH JOURNEY, VISITS OTTAWA

*Was one of Party That Left to Round up Eskimos Who Murdered Street and Radford —
Had Some Thrilling Experiences*

Two years ago last July the auxiliary schooner Village Belle, Capt. W.E. Lockhart, left Halifax for Hudson's Bay, carrying Inspector Bates of the Royal North-West Mounted Police and a party of four Chesterfield Inlet in order that the Esquimos who had murdered Street and Radford, the New York prospectors, the year previous might be brought to justice.

To-day Captain Lockhart, the first of the party to reach civilization, again is in Ottawa, and with him L.S. Michie, steward of the Village Belle, which is now drawn up ashore at Port Nelson. The mariners came out by canoe to the head of the Hudson's Bay Railroad, taking some twelve days to reach the rail head.

Relating his experiences to *The Journal* to-day, Captain Lockhart's a simple unadorned story with unassuming modesty, despite the fact that he is the first white man to taken even a canoe up the two hundred mile long Chesterfield inlet to Baker Lake. But it was not a canoe that he took; rather a two hundred a fifty ton boat, and he had to feel his way up every inch by soundings.

Three Months' Trip.

He reached Chesterfield Inlet after a three month trip, and as it was too late to enter, put the police party ashore for the winter and ran for Port Nelson. This spring he returned to the Inlet, picked up the party and took them to Baker Lake, charting the Inlet as he went. At the mouth of Baker Lake he was forced to leave the little police force and returned to Port Nelson again.

Captain Lockhart stated that Inspector Bates, together with Sergt. Major Crocken, Corpl. Conway and Constables Kennedy and Paisley determined to build a house at the seaward end of Baker Lake, then cross the 75 mile expanse in canoes and winter on the north shore. Then they will strike 200 miles further north after the marauding tribe and expect to return to Baker Lake next summer and be picked up by a boat from Port Nelson.

Rich in Copper.

Chesterfield Inlet, says Capt. Lockhart, is a magnificent stretch of over 200 miles of fresh water. It is 30 miles wide at the mouth and narrows to a quarter of a mile after a hundred miles. The shores are mountainous, absolutely devoid of timber, but apparently rich in coal and copper. The number of deer, he avers is phenomenal, and they are so tame that they will swim out and around an anchored vessel just out of curiosity.

Captain Lockhart is in Ottawa to report to the Comptroller of the R.N.W.M.P., after which he will return to his Nova Scotian home.

75. RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 10 November 1915

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

10 November 1915

Sir:

re: Killing of H.V. Radford and T.G. Street by Killin-e-muit Eskimos.

I have the honour to enclose herewith for your information, the following reports in the above connection, received this day.

Report of Sergeant Major Caulkin, dated January 8th 1915 (together with photographs therein referred to).

Report of Sergeant Major Caulkin, dated March 5th 1915, giving quotations from letters received by Mr Ford, the Agent of the Hudson Bay Coy.

I also enclose rough sketch map showing the route travelled by Radford and Street as well as the return rote of Akulak from Bathurst Inlet.

A previous Crime report under the above heading, dated Chesterfield Inlet February 20th 1915 also received to-day has been forwarded you for inclusion in the Annual Report.

For obvious reasons I did not consider the reports herewith sent, should appear in the Annual Report.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
A.B. Perry [sgd]
Commissioner.

The Comptroller,
Royal North West Mounted Police,
Ottawa.

**76. "Mounted Police Found Cairn of 2 Murdered Men," *Montreal Star*,
26 January 1916**

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

MOUNTED POLICE FOUND CAIRN OF 2 MURDERED MEN

Special to *Montreal Star*. 26 Jan 16

REGINA. Jan. 26. - Constables Hyatt, White and Chinn, of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, arrived here last night from Hudson's Bay, where, during last year, they have been doing patrol duty. With the arrival of these officers comes the first story of the finding of a cairn of Radford and Street, two Americans, who were murdered by Esquimaux three years ago. The officers were members of the Mounted Police escort of the party of Inspector Beyts sent north to investigate the murder.

The party travelled to Baker's Lake, beyond Chesterfield Inlet, and located the cairn of Bradford and Street. Their names were found pinned to the wall of the cairn and some articles belonging to the two explorers also were found. No news of the Esquimaux was obtained.

TWO TO ENLIST.

Constable Hyatt has returned to secure his discharge from the famous force and intends to enlist in the naval service, Constable White will also enlist.

Constable Chinn, just at the time the expedition started from Port Nelson, had his leg shattered when the flywheel of the boat engine burst.

The officers say that, although the stories concerning the bad temper of the two explorers had been cast abroad, there appeared to be little foundation for them, as the men were known as two of the “white” men on the Bay and were held in high esteem by all.

77. Telegram to RNWMP Commissioner A.B. Perry, 26 January 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

Canadian Pacific Railway Company's Telegraph

Ottawa, 26th January 1916.

The Commissioner,
R.N.W.M. Police,
Regina, SASK.

Reported that Police have found a cairn with bodies of Radford and Street. Do you know anything about this.

Marginalia: Cairn referred to herein is probably the one mentioned in Insp. Beyts' report enclosed with the [illegible] letter of 10th Nov. 1915. R.S.B.

78. Telegram from RNWMP Commissioner A.B. Perry, 26 January 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-3

Canadian Pacific Railway Company's Telegraph

b41 ra em 36 collect rush
Regina Sask Jan 26-16
Comptroller R.N.W.M.P,
Ottawa.

Constables Hyatt, Chinn and White arrived at Regina last night Constable Hyatt reports that cairn found on promise island with names of Redford and Street stamped on tin. report that bodies were found not true.

A.B. Perry.

**79. Inspector W.J. Beyts to O.C. RNWMP "M" Division, Port Nelson,
31 January 1916**

Source: RNWMP Annual Report 1916

Baker Lake Detachment,
January 31, 1916.

The Officer Commanding,
R.N.W.M. Police,
"M" Division,
Port Nelson.

Sir, — I have the honour to make the following report of a patrol made from here, to a few miles below Lookout point, on the Thelon river, for the purpose of making a cache of grub, also procuring dog feed for a trip to Bathurst inlet in the month of March.

On the 9th of December, Reg. No. 4217 Corporal Conway, P.R., and natives Joe Akular and Harry and myself, with three dog teams of eight dogs each, left the detachment at 8.40 a.m., and camped at 3 p.m. on Small Cock island. Fair going 16 miles. Mild. Snowing all day. South wind. Dogs fed deer-meat.

December 10. Cold, northwest wind. Left camp at 7.50 a.m. Travelled northwest by west. Made an igloo at- 2.15 p.m. at Big Hill point, where the doghouse is. Good going, 20 miles. Lost an axe to-day. Dogs fed deer.

December 11. Cold. Left camp at 8.30 a.m. Travelled west. Camped at 3 p.m. on upper end of small brush island. Going good, 26 miles. Picked up two cases of bacon, 200 pounds flour, 36 pounds candles, 5 pounds potatoes, 35 pounds beans, 1 case coal oil, 44 pounds tobacco, and sundry tools to cache on the Thelon river. Dogs fed deer,

December 12. Cold and cloudy. Left camp at 8.10 a.m. Travelled across Baker lake until 10.30 a.m., then went across land to Little creek, and camped at 3 p.m. Going good on lake, but heavy on land. 25 miles. Dogs fed deer.

13th instant. Very cold. Left camp at 9 a.m., travelled on creek for two hours, then across land for two hours, north-west. Camped on E-teu-lik lake at 5 p.m. Pair going, 28 miles. Dogs fed deer.

14th instant. Very cold. Snow drifting. Left camp at 8.30 a.m. and travelled across a chain of lakes, northwest and west, had to camp at noon as it got too stormy to travel. 14 miles.

December 15. Very cold. Very strong southwest wind. Snow drifting. Too stormy to travel. Natives out hunting, but saw no signs of game. Dogs fed deer.

16th instant. Very cold, west wind. Left camp at 9.30 a.m. Travelled across land struck Schultz lake at 1 p.m. ; travelled on it. Made camp at 3.30 p.m. Saw three deer, but could not get near them. 20 miles. Dogs fed deer.

17th instant. Very cold, southeast wind. Left camp at 8.30 a.m., and travelled across land most of the time; made narrow part of lake at 1 p.m. Passed Beacon put up by Radford and Street, Camped at 4 p.m. Fair going. 26 miles.

18th instant. Very cold east wind. Both lamps not working good, could not get breakfast until 10 a.m. Left camp at noon. Struck native fishing camp on inlet, between Aberdeen and Schultz lakes (Igloogulik), but saw no natives; went on and camped at 4 p.m. Fed the last of our deer to the dogs. Good going. 12 miles

19th instant. Very cold. Corporal Conway and natives out bunting, and looking for native camp. Corporal Conway and Akular returned at 4.30 p.m. with fish for the dogs. Joe returned at 6.30 p.m. having shot 2 deer. Dogs fed fish.

20th instant. Very cold and stormy. Left camp at 10 a.m. and travelled southeast past native fishing camp, and on to small lake where natives have their igloos. Made camp at 1 a.m. Eight families camped here. Bought 48 fish, and told natives to fish for us, as there is no deer in this part of the country. 10 miles. Dogs fed fish.

21st instant. Very cold and stormy. Snow drifting. Every one stayed in camp. In p.m. traded with natives for fish. Dogs fed fish.

22nd instant. Very cold. Natives Joe and Akular out hunting; did not see a track. Natives out fishing, but did not bring their catch home, so we will have to stay another day.

23rd instant. Cold. Northwest wind. Police natives out fishing, but only got 3 between them. Traded with natives, this p.m., for fish. Dogs fed fish.

24th instant. Cold. Left camp at 8 a.m. and travelled west over land. Camped at 12.30 p.m. on small lake, on account of breaking sled. Good going. 10 miles. Dogs fed fish.

25th instant. Very cold. Left camp at 8.10 a.m., and travelled across land until 10 a.m., and then travelled on Aberdeen lake. Made camp at 4 p.m. on a point. Good going. 25 miles. Dogs fed deer.

26th instant. Cold. Left camp at 8.50 a.m. and travelled along Aberdeen, passed two Eskimo families making an igloo at 3 p.m. Saw deer tracks. Camped at 4 p.m. Fair going. 21 miles. Cached 24 fish. Dogs fed deer.

27th instant. Very cold, clear. Left camp at 8.30 a.m. and travelled along Aberdeen lake, came to Narrows in p.m. Saw deer; camped at 2.45 p.m. on mainland. Fair going, 15 miles. Cached 24 fish. Dogs fed fish.

December 28. Very cold. Corporal Conway and natives out hunting; Akular shot one deer. Dogs entered cache and ate parts of 14 sets of harness, repaired harness in p.m. Dogs fed fish.

29th instant. Very cold. Left camp at 8.30 a.m. and travelled along a chain of lakes, saw three deer, and natives shot them, picked up deer shot yesterday. Camped at 3.20 p.m. on river between the two lakes. Fed two deer to dogs, and had a fresh feed ourselves. Cached 48 fish. 12 miles.

30th instant. Very cold. Southeast wind. Drifting in a.m. Left camp at 8.40 a.m. (Travelled across lakes, and into Dubawnt river. Made Beverly lake at noon, and travelled across. Camped at 4.45 p.m. off an island. Fair going. 20 miles. Dogs fed fish.

December 31. Very cold and stormy. East wind, stayed in camp. Dogs fed fish.

January 1, 1916. Very cold. West wind. Left camp at 8.40 a.m., travelled along lake, and made Thelon river at noon. Camped at 4 p.m. on west side. Ice on river rough. Cached 48 fish. 18 miles.

2nd instant. Very cold and stormy. Head wind. Left camp at 8.30 a.m.; travelled up river. Camped at 3.30 p.m. Good going. 20 miles. Dogs broke into cache during night, and got away with 36 pounds bacon. Broke a thermos bottle. Cached 24 fish.

3rd instant. Very cold and stormy. North wind. Snow drifting. Stayed in camp, fixing up axes. etc. Dogs set about and killed Dog, Beg. No. 86 (Mite) this a.m. Dogs not fed.

4th instant. Very cold. Too stormy to travel. Stayed in camp. Joe out hunting, saw no tracks. Dogs not fed.

5th instant. Very cold. Northwest wind. Left camp at 8.30 a.m. and travelled up river. Trail rough and heavy. Made camp on edge of timber belt at 5.30 p.m. 15 miles. Dogs fed deer. Broke lantern to-day. Polly ate a set of harness.

6th instant. Very cold. North wind. Corporal Conway and Joe looking for a place to build cache. Akular repairing tent, which caught fire this a.m. Dogs fed deer and fish.

7th instant. Very cold. Corporal Conway and natives building cache, finished cache and piled stores on. Dogs fed bacon.

8th instant. Very cold. North wind. Left camp at 9 a.m. and travelled down river. Passed our old igloo at 3 p.m. Camped at 4.30 p.m. on an unchartered river on north shore. Fair going. 20 miles. Dogs fed bacon.

9th instant. Very cold. North wind. Ground drift. Left camp at 7.50 a.m., travelled down river, passed beacon on island, near end of river at 2 p.m. and camped on south side of Beverley lake at 4 p.m. Picked up fish from cache at noon. Fair going. 26 miles. Dogs fed fish.

10th instant. Very cold west wind. Snow drifting. Left camp at 9 a.m. and travelled across Beverley lake, from west side to islands, between lakes. Camped at 4 p.m. on a point. Picked up fish from cache. Fair going. 20 miles. Dogs fed fish.

11th instant. Very cold. Southwest wind. Ground drift. Left camp at 8.10 a.m.; reached cache on point of island, lost an hour and a half cutting out fish from the ice, travelled across necks, and camped on Aberdeen lake at 5 p.m. Dog Murphy played out to-day, and was turned loose. 22 miles. Fed dogs fish.

12th instant. Very cold. Southeast wind. Left camp at 10 a.m., reached cache at 10.45 a.m., left again at 11.30 a.m., travelled across Aberdeen lake till 2.45 p.m., then across a chain of lakes, and camped at 5.45 p.m. at our old igloo. Lamp on the buck. Supper 11.30 p.m. Dog Murphy failed to follow. 30 miles.

13th instant. Very cold. Left camp at noon. Slight north wind when we started, and turned into a blizzard after a while. Akular and myself with head team got separated from the others. About as soon as I lost sight of them I stopped and sent Akular back to look for them, and he returned at 5.45 p.m. without finding them. We made camp at once. Corporal Conway and two teams passed us and camped at 4.30 p.m. on side of a hill. Akular's dogs not fed, others fed fish. I had no bedding tonight, as it was on one of the other sleds. Nothing to eat but biscuits. Lamp out of business. No tools with us. 3 miles.

14th instant. Very cold. Strong north wind. Too stormy to travel. Our dog team not fed, others fed fish. Dog Shy-uk, with Corporal Conway's outfit, died during the night.

15th instant. Very cold north wind. Left camp at 9.45 a.m., and travelled along Aberdeen lake. Met other dog teams at noon. We all had a bad time for the last two days, as they had all the grub, with the exception of the biscuits, and we had the lamp, but no kettles, and the lamp would not burn. I was the worst off, as I had no bedding for two nights. Camped at 3 p.m. in the narrows. Saw one deer and Akular shot it. Dogs fed deer, fish and bacon. Most of the dogs all in. Will have to cache a sled tomorrow. Ten dogs buried in a snow drift during the night, and three were pretty near gone when dug out, but recovered in the fresh air, and followed behind. Corporal Conway and Joe hitched on to sled. Fair going. 11 miles.

16th instant. Very cold. Very strong east wind. Snow drifting. Too stormy to travel. Dogs not fed.

17th instant. Very cold. Strong north wind. Snow drifting. Left camp at 9 a.m. and travelled on lake, and across point. Made native camp at noon, and made igloo. Dogs fed fish. 10 miles. Traded this p.m. with natives for fish. Left one sled behind.

18th instant. Very cold. North wind. Stayed in camp. Had natives out fishing for return trip. Our natives mudding sleds. Dog Bright sick ; would not eat. Dogs fed fish.

19th instant. Very cold. North wind. Stayed in camp, waiting for natives to bring in fish. Traded with natives in p.m. for fish, also for one dog. Dog Bright sick. Dogs fed fish.

20th instant. Very cold. Northwest wind. Dog Bright died during the night. Two natives out hunting, but saw no tracks. Joe repairing harness. Traded in p.m. with natives for fish, and two dogs. Natives brought in sled. Tu-lor-tok's wife gave birth to a girl. Dogs fed fish.

21st instant. Very cold. North wind. Waiting for natives to bring in fish, traded in p.m. for fish. Dogs fed fish.

22nd instant. Very cold. Northwest wind. Ground drift. Left camp at 9 a.m. and travelled across land, and along Schultz lake. Camped on Big island at 4.30 p.m. Passed three igloos. 20 miles. Dogs fed fish.

23rd instant. Very cold. West wind. Left camp at 10 a.m. Travelled east across land. Camped at 3.45 p.m. on Little bay. Fair going. 20 miles. Dogs fed fish.

24th instant. Very cold. West wind. Fine in a.m. snow drifting in p.m. Left camp at 8.50 a.m. and travelled east across land and a chain of lakes. Camped at 3.30 p.m. on Deer Trap lake. Bough going. 18 miles. Ka-tuk-tuk riding on sled. Slim and Shorty running loose. Fed fish.

25th instant. Very cold. West wind. Snow drifting. Left camp at 10 a.m. and travelled across land. Camped on a creek at 3.45 p.m. ; Ka-tuk-tuk on sled, refused to eat at night, so had him shot as he was suffering from the cold. Slim and Shorty running loose. Dogs fed fish. 12 miles.

26th instant. Very cold west wind. Snow drifting. Too stormy to travel. Dogs fed fish.

27th instant. Very cold west wind. Snow drifting. Left camp at 7.50 a.m., travelled across land, and then across Baker lake. Made camp on mainland at 4.45 p.m. Brownie, and Shorty running loose. Slim carried on sled all day, and then I had him shot as he was freezing. Fair going. 33 miles. Dogs fed fish. Broke our last Thermos bottle.

28th instant. Cold west wind. Slight drift. Left camp at 9.30 a.m., and travelled along Baker lake. Camped at doghouse at 3 p.m. Three dogs running loose. Fed dogs bacon. 12 miles.

29th instant. Cold west wind. Slight drift, Left camp at 7.30 a.m. and travelled along Baker lake. Arrived at detachment at 5.45 p.m. Fair going. 40 miles. Five dogs running loose. Dogs fed deer.

General.

I left the detachment with 10 days dog feed, which consisted of deer meat, as it was all we could carry, as we had quite a load with our own rations, and the other supplies I intended cacheing at the timber. I expected we would encounter deer on the journey, but they were very scarce this winter; we only got seven on the whole trip. We ran into a native encampment at the foot of Aberdeen lake, and they informed us that the deer were very scarce this winter, and advised me not to go any further, also our natives wanted to turn back, but as they were catching quite a

quantity of fish, I stayed at their camp for three days, and got what I thought sufficient to carry us to the timber and back to their camp, also relying on a few deer on the way, but again deer were scarce, and the nearer we got to the timber the signs became extinct. I intended caching 350 pounds of bacon there, but when I reached the timber, and reckoned the number of days getting there, and what it would take to get back to the native camp, I only left 50 pounds, as I found I would need the rest for ourselves and the dogs. When we got to the timber we found it very small, and not at all suitable for building. I erected a cache, and cached the following: 200 pounds of flour, 50 pounds bacon, 30 pounds beans, 40 packages matches, 15 pounds tea, 21 pounds lard, 4 pounds butter, 200 cartridges, 20 pounds candles, 20 pounds molasses, stove, tent, and a few tools.

On our return to the native camp, we learnt from the natives that we went up a blind branch of Thelon river, and that there was better timber on the main branch. I did not stay there as long as I intended, as we were short of dog feed, and the weather was extremely cold, and the snow too deep and soft for cruising around. On my return to the native camp, I found the natives had not put up the fish they had promised for my home trip, and we were lucky that night to get a feed for the dogs. I stayed there four days before we could get enough to see us to the doghouse. I carried a tradebox and paid the natives for the fish.

There are 8 families of Kinipitu's camped there, and they reported that at times this winter, they were very hungry, as they got no deer in the fall of the year, and had been living on fish all the time. These natives had no flour, tea, or tobacco, and lived on fish straight. I traded them tea, tobacco, and matches, and hardware, but could not spare any flour, as they would have taken all I had. They live a very hard life, and have no fire in their igloos but the kettle is boiled with moss as a fuel, in an out igloo. All their wet clothing and new deerskins are dried on them in bed.

On the home trip I met three natives from the Backes River country, and traded with them for two dogs, and also for fish. They reported game very scarce since last spring, and that at times they were starving. Fish has been their principal diet. Neither of the natives we met knew anything fresh about the Killin-o-muit tribe, but the Backes river ones expect to meet some of them this spring. We experienced very cold weather on our trip, especially on the return journey, when we encountered a lot of stormy weather, and travelled a lot of days that we should have stayed in camp, but did not do so, owing to being short of dogfeed.

On our return trip, our dogs started to get very thin, and getting played out, I only missed feeding them four days on the trip of 52 days. The cold weather and the strong winds seemed to knock the life out of them, also being fed frozen fish, as we had no means to thaw them out for them. I lost six dogs on the trip, and think we were lucky, as it is sure a hard trip on the dogs, as they have no shelter of any kind.

We all enjoyed good health on the trip, but felt the cold, as there is no warm fire at night to warm up by. This sure is the hardest country to travel in that I have experienced in the force: for instance, we have breakfast between five or six, and at noon a couple of biscuits, with a quarter of a pint of Oxo, and then comes supper, anywhere between 6 and 11 p.m., owing to what luck we have with the Primus lamp, as they are always going out of order, and cannot be depended on.

There is only a difference of about 15 degrees in the temperature of the igloo and out in the open. Of course these igloos are built tight, and hardly any wind gets through. Even with a lamp burning you cannot have it very warm, as the heat all ascends and then the roof starts dripping, and you have to put out the lamp, or make a couple of holes for air to come in.

We travelled about 328 miles going to the timber on the Thelon river, and about 257 miles returning, as we came back a shorter way. We were 52 days on the trip, and we were very glad to see the detachment building heave in sight, to enable us to thaw out once again.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
W. J. BEYTS, Inspector,
Commanding Baker Lake sub-district.

80. Inspector Charles A. Rheault to O.C. RNWMP “N” Division Athabaska, 6 March 1916

Source: RNWMP Annual Report 1916

Great Slave Lake Sub-District.
Fort Fitzgerald, (On Great Slave River), March 6, 1916.
The Officer Commanding,
“N” Division, Athabaska.

Sir, — I have the honour to submit the following report of a patrol made by me from Fort Fitzgerald to Fort Norman and return.

... I inspected the Fort Resolution detachment, the report of which has already been forwarded to you.

I found the Indians in fair circumstances, all having made good catches of fur. Nearly every Indian had a silver fox. ... Mr. A. Loutit, manager of Messrs. Fairweathers, Ltd., told me that, by what information he had gathered from the Indians, the eastern Eskimos pursued by Inspector Beyts in his search of the murderers of Street and Radford were working towards Great Slave lake, and on that account the Chipewyans will not now go as far inland as they used to do.

CHARLES A. RHEAULT
Inspector.
In Command of R.N.W.M.P. Patrol.

81. Inspector Beyts' Report, 17 April 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-2

Royal. North. West. Mounted. Police
Baker Lake Detachment.
April 17th 1916.

The Officer Commanding,
R.N.W.M Police,
"M" Division,
Port Nelson

Sir/

I have the honour to make the following report of a patrol made from here to Aberdeen Lake, and return.

On the morning of the 31st of March, Reg. No 4217 Corpl Conway, P.R, and natives Akular, Joe and Harry, and myself, left the Detachment at 3.45am, with three dogteams of eight dogs each.

We travelled across Baker Lake, and camped on ice at 3pm. Fair going, West wind, snow drifting, Dogs fed deer ... 22 miles.

April 1st. Cold W. Wind. Left camp at 8 am, and travelled west, making the doghouse on Big Hill point at noon. We cut away snow from house and got things ready for morning. Dogs fed deer.

Mileage 18 miles.

2nd April. Cold west wind. Left camp at 7 am, and travelled west over Lake. Camped at 4 pm on upper end of small Brush Island. Going good. Saw a bunch of deer, and shot three which we brought to camp. Fed dogs deer. Mileage 26 miles. Took the following from doghouse:- 165lbs bacon; 15 galls oil; 3 caddies tobacco; 25lbs of tea.

3rd inst; cold west wind left camp at 7.45 am with two teams, Cpl Conway and native Joe with team left to hunt for deer, Travelled across Lake and then went across to Little Creek, and camped at 8 pm. Cpl Conway and Native arrived at 4 pm with three deer. Going fair, Dogs fed deer. Mileage 20 mls. Dog "Bosen" sick would not eat.

4th inst; cold. left camp at 7.10 am Travelled across land N.W, and across lakes, camping at 4 pm, on Football Lake. Fair going. Fed dogs deer. Dog "Bosen" died during night. 28 miles.

5th inst; Cold and stormy. S.E. Wind, snow drifting. Left camp at 7.20 am, travelled overland and onto Schultz Lake, camping at 4.10 pm. Fair going. Fed Dogs deer. Mileage 30 miles. Shot dog Rambler as he was useless.

6th inst; cold and fine. left camp at 7 am, travelled along lake and across land, passed native camp at 11 am, on neck between Shultz and Aberdeen Lakes. Natives reported that they had no fish for us, and that they were only just catching enough for themselves. camped at spliced point at 3.30 pm; Fair going; Dogs fed deer; Mileage 30 miles.

7th inst; cold and stormy. S. Wind, snow drifting. Left camp at 6.45 am, and travelled along Aberdeen Lake, camped at 11 am on Little Lump Point. No signs of deer, will return in the morning, as we have only two nights dogfeed left. Heavy going. Dogs fed deer; Mileage 16 miles.

8th inst; Cold and stormy, snow drifting. Left camp at 6.40 am Travelled along Aberdeen Lake, and across land to Schultz Lake, along it, and camped at 3.45 pm. Heavy going Dogs fed deer. Mileage 35 miles.

9th inst; cold, slight snow, left camp at 6.30 am travelling along Schultz Lake and across land, camped at 4.30 pm on Big Long Pt Natives camped ahead of us. Fair going. Dogs fed deer. 40 miles.

10th inst; cold and stormy, very strong S.Wind, snow drifting, too stormy to travel. Dogs fed bacon.

11th inst; cold and stormy, Winds. E. Left camp at 6.40 am, travelled across a chain of lakes, camped at 4 pm on Deer Lake, going heavy. Fed dogs bacon. Met some natives and gave them biscuits, as they were hungry. Mileage 30 miles.

12th inst; cold and stormy. S.E. Wind Left camp at 6.40 am, travelled across lakes and down the crook onto Baker Lake, camped at 4 pm on Small Brush Island. Met a Backes River native and his wife, also a Kinipitu family, they all report, no deer, and that they were living on fish straight. Heavy going. 38 miles.

13th inst; cold. Left camp at 6.40 am, and travelled across Baker Lake, arriving at the doghouse at 3 pm and camped. Cut away snow from door, and closed out snow and frost that had accumulated inside. Fed dogs bacon, fair going, ... 26 miles.

14th inst; cold E. wind, Slight ground drift. Left camp at 6.30 am and travelled along north shore for about six miles, then east over Lake, and arrived at Detachment at 4 pm. Hunted for canoe for two hours, but could not find it as snow was too deep. Found portable motor, and brought it home, fair going ... 40 miles.

It was my intention on leaving the Detachment, to make as near as Bathurst Inlet as possible, if we could obtain dogfeed enroute, I took 30 days rations for my party, and besides carried bacon, etc, and relied on picking up the supplies left in cache on the Thelon River during the early part of the winter. On arriving at the

head of Schultz Lake, I found the natives, who had promised to have a supply of fish ready for me, but they were in a starving condition, and were barely catching enough to eat themselves.

I went on as far as Aberdeen Lake in the hopes that conditions may improve, but there were no signs of deer or any other game in the country, so I decided to return, as we had only two night dogfeed left, and it would have been too risky to go on.

The weather during the trip was cold, but was good for travelling. One of our dogs (Bosen) died, during the trip from some inside trouble, and I shot "Rambler", as he was useless and not worth feeding, this is one of the dogs left here by the Churchill patrol. The remainder of the dogs returned in good shape.

I would like to point out the general conditions existing throughout this inland country during the past winter, relative to the scarcity of game of any kind, which we are forced to depend on, and make progress towards reaching Bathurst Inlet.

The past winter has been very bad all over as far as the game supply has been experienced, the settlements of natives I have come into contact with on these patrols were barely existing, being only able to catch a few fish from the lakes on which they were camped, they had practically no dogs, these having succumbed from starvation. In one instance I saw a party moving camp with one dog, two women, and a native hitched to the sledge. Another instance I encountered was that only six dogs were left amongst ten families. During our first attempt, when we succeeded in reaching the Thelon River, we saw no tracks of deer whatever, and from this point to Bathurst Inlet, it is about 300 miles as the crow flies, but about 500 miles as the native travels, and it is this part of the country which is absolutely barren, and void of any settlement whatever, with the exception of a few natives camped on Backes River, one of these natives I met, and he informed us that he was coming south to hunt game, as all the others on Backes River were starving, and their dogs dying, owing to shortage of food.

On the face of this and the prevailing conditions experienced so far on our journey, it would have been courting, disaster to have attempted this stretch of country, with no dogfeed on hand at the outset, and the possibilities of obtaining any, enroute, practically nil. The natives accompanying me on this trip have worked with a will, but desire to return, long before I consented, as they stated that it was too risky to continue, and we would lose all our dogs, and be stranded. One of these natives "Akular" who accompanied Radford & Street to Bathurst Inlet when they were killed, informed me that when he was on the way with the white men, they saw lots of game, obtaining fresh supplies almost every day, and only lost four dogs during the whole journey.

This native was thoroughly afraid of our continuing any further, in fact under no conditions would he consent to accompany me a past the timber edge, and as

no other guides were to be got who would undertake the whole journey, it was my intention to endeavour to get into touch with the Backes River eskimo: and endeavour to hire some of them to take me on the other half of the journey to Bathurst Inlet, but as before stated I found this impossible to do, owing to the lack of dogfeed.

During the two journies I have made inland I have had to feed all the bacon to the dogs that I carried for cache purposes and even with this I have barely managed to keep the dogs in working condition to permit us to make the return trip.

Deermeat is a very poor dogfeed, containing little or no nutriment, and not possessing the staying qualities as found in seal and walrus meat, and one cannot pack much deer meat on a sled for dogfeed, on a long patrol across a country void of game with no likelihood of obtaining fresh supplies.

I have the honour to be,

Sir/

Your obedient servant,

[W.J. Beyts] Insp,

Commanding Baker Lake Sub District

The Commissioner

Forwarded.

[Moodie] Supt.

Commanding "M" Division

Port Nelson.

29-7-16.

82. Commissioner's Report on RNWMP Patrol Failures, 5 May 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-2

ROYAL NORTHWEST MOUNTED POLICE,
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

Regina, Sask.

5th May 1916

Sir:

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report dated Baker Lake, February 6th 1916 from Inspector Beyts in command of the patrol to enquire into the death of Radford and Street. You will remember that the last reports received from this officer were to the effect that he had been taking stores from Chesterfield Inlet, where he wintered in 1914/15 up to the West end of Baker Lake by the schooner

“Village Belle”. His instructions were to establish a depot at the West end of Baker Lake and an advanced post on the Thelon River, at the first timber. He was then, in March of this year, to proceed to the Arctic Coast and attempt to get in touch with the Eskimos who were responsible and to make a thorough enquiry into the alleged murders.

I am sorry to say that this Officer has not been able to entirely accomplish his instructions. Owing to the very rough weather on Baker Lake and the breaking down of the Motor boat, he was not able to establish his depot at the West end of the Lake.

Owing to the lack of deer he was unable to place any large amount of supplies in the timber on the Thelon River. Travelling in that country, deer is of the greatest importance as it is the principal source of food for the dogs.

Inspector Beyts was apparently of the opinion that nothing further could be done by him during this Winter, for he says as follows:

“I do not think that we will be able to get to Bathurst Inlet this winter, as our dogs are about all in, and none of the natives so far, will go beyond the first timber. I gave our men double pay on our trip to the timber belt and return, so as to persuade them to go further, but so far have been unsuccessful. Another drawback we have to encounter is, that the deer are not very plentiful this year, and we have to have this to feed our dogs. I intend making another try when the dogs return from the patrol to Chesterfield. I think it would be advisable to try and get into Bathurst Inlet from the other side as they can procure dog-feed and transport their supplies easier than from this side, as we have to pack oil for fuel, and cannot depend on the country for anything.”

It is apparent that he has lost confidence in the success of the expedition. I would not like to cast any strictures upon him, because there is no doubt he has had great difficulties to encounter, but it is quite evident to me that he is now not likely to success because of want of confidence.

He suggest that it would be advisable to go into Bathurst Inlet from the other side. By this he means from Great Bear Lake, assuming that there are less difficulties by that route than by the one he is pursuing.

He says in his report of the 31st January on his patrol to the Thelon River that the tribes living on the Backe’s River expect to meet the Killin-e-must tribe this Spring. It is the Killin-e-must tribe which is supposed to have murdered Radford and Street.

I therefore recommend that Inspector Beyts be relieved of his command, and Inspector French should be assigned to it. Inspector French has had long experience in the North, is young and native, and I am sure would shew energy in carrying on this work. Inspector French would go in by the “Nascopie” and would thus be able to see that he had all his stores, boats and supplies necessary to carry on the work.

With regard to Inspector Beyts. I would order him to Port Nelson to remain there for the present Winter, relieving Superintendent Moodie, who was only sent in to take temporary command and who it was intended should return next September to Regina.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
[sgd. A. Bowen Perry]
Commissioner.

Royal North-West Mounted Police,
Bake Lake Detachment.
January 18th 1917.

The Officer Commanding,
R.N.W.M. Police,
“M” Division,
Port Nelson.

Sir/

I have the honour to submit herewith my report extending over the period from my arrival at Chesterfield, per the “Nascopie” on Sept 9th, to Dec 31st 1916.

On arrival at Spurrell Harbour we encountered very stormy weather, which greatly impeded the work of landing our supplies, this kind of weather lasted for eight or nine days, but we managed to get all our stores safely beached, the only mishap occurring, was with the H.B.Co’s coastboat which got blown ashore during a heavy gale, and was damaged somewhat.

After landing our stores from the “Nascopie” I had what stores I could possibly manage, put in the H.B.Co’s warehouse such stores as coal, coal oil, and gasoline, canoes etc were left on the beach, and will be gathered up next summer.

I hired a number of natives and commenced to haul a part of the supplies to Baker Lake, towing four whaleboats behind the motor launch “Lady Borden”. The motor launch has worked satisfactory from the commencement, and we should have succeeded in getting up most of the provisions and general stores, if the weather had held good, and allowed to make a second trip, but owing to the lateness of the season, and storms prevailing this was impossible to attempt without considerable risk to the motor boat and also the supplies carried. Leaving Chesterfield we made good headway half the distance up the Inlet, but the weather changed, the water became rough, and the loaded whaleboats were in danger of being swamped, it was risky to keep on going, whoever was at the wheel, steering the launch, was exposed to a constant shower of biting cold spray, and from time

to time the boats we were towing were out of sight between the waves, while this weather lasted. I lay at anchor, and with the launch ran up the Inlet to the Detachment at Baker Lake, and got another whaleboat, to take off some of the stores from the other boats which I considered too heavily laden. This was managed alright, and we eventually got the outfit to Baker Lake and unloaded, during this time we had been subject to several snow flurries, and the surrounding country was taking on a wintry aspect. I might here add that it is risky work trying to freight supplies up Chesterfield Inlet by whaleboats being towed, it is almost impossible to believe that such stormy waters could be encountered in an inland water.

After unloading the outfit it was my intention to try and get in another trip to Chesterfield and bring up more of the stores, but in this I was forestalled by N.N.W. Blizzard which raged for six days, and we were forced to lay up, and I deemed it advisable to pay off the hired natives, and abandon the project as the ice was already beginning to form along the shores of the Inlet, and I had to consider the motor launch, and the chances of getting it safely beached for the winter. This latter part we have managed successfully, with blocks and tackle, and have stripped it of all gearing likely to be come affected by the frost etc.

On my arrival at Baker Lake Detachment I found S/M Caulkin in charge, and Const Kennedy as duty constable. Work was immediately commenced in preparing for the coming winter, and fixing up the different quarters, as far as we were able.

The Detachment I found to be too small, comparing the number of men to be quartered therein, and the amount of stores which should be kept inside, but which have to be kept in cache outside. The Detachment needs many improvements to make it anything like warm and comfortable, when one has to spend any lengthy period indoors this is essential in a country like this.

With the lumber we brought in with us I hope to make it comfortable for next winter, as soon as we can get the lumber here from Chesterfield, and it is essential to have a good storehouse to keep such stores as flour oatmeal etc in, as the one now in use is beyond description.

Time has been taken up in endeavouring to get together a sufficient number of dogs to make up the teams for the Bathurst Patrol, and in making and repairing harnesses, I have had all the harness made husky fashion, which I consider more easier [*sic*] on the dogs for long patrols.

The great difficulty I have experienced so far in this country, is the dogfood proposition, it is useless to think of depending on the country, this is just a matter of luck, and white men who have made trips to the Arctic coast previously have happened to strike a continuous run of luck in obtaining food for both men and dogs. So far I have managed to feed our dogs regular, both at the Detachment and on the patrols already done, this would have been impossible had it not been for the walrus meat I was able to purchase from the Hudson Bay Co at Chesterfield, as

we have only known two deer to have been killed in this country since last September. And the deermeat we have so far managed to procure from native has been those killed last summer and put into caches, and then hauled in as soon as was possible to use a sleigh. I have had a number of patrols made to Chesterfield during the winter, and have freighted up some of the stores still at that point, also the two canoes which I intend to take on the Bathurst Inlet patrol. I also mdae a patrol to Fullerton, accompanied by S/M Caulkin, last December, and went over the premises there, I met Mr Cleveland there, the trader, he informed me that there was a likelihood of his having to close down next summer, as he had not heard from his employers, and had received no supplies to carry on another year, he also informed me that nothing had been heard of the "Gifford", which left his post in the fall of 1915, to return to New Bedford. U.S.A.

If this post closes down it would leave all our building and different stores outside, such as lumber and coal, etc, at the mercy of the natives, should they feel inclined to run the gauntlet of helping themselves, without being caught. I would like to have the lumber that is lying on the beach there it would be handy for making a good big storeroom for Baker Lake.

HEALTH

The health of all members has been good.

DISCIPLINE

The conduct of the men has been good, they have all worked well in conjunction, with the various duties required of them, and are quick to adapt themselves to the routine work of this country.

NATIVES

Generally speaking, few natives seem to be on the move this winter, they appear to have settled in winter quarters were the deer are expected to show up. At Baker Lake only the Police natives are located, being visited occasionally by the huskies from the outlying camps in the district. All the natives report no deer in the country, and are moving onto the big lakes hoping to catch a few fish to exist on, as I presume they must be very hungry.

I have received word from the Quoiich River district of a number of Kinipitu's that are in a bad fix, practically starving they have not seen deer since last summer, and are depending on a few fish they manage to jig through holes in the ice in the lakes.

During my patrol to fullerton I visited the Chesterfield settlement, which was very small, only three families of Aivilliks and four of Kinipitu's being settled there, the Kinipitu's being in the employ of the H.B. Co, and the Aivillike depending on the seal hunting at the floe. While at Chesterfield I heard that the Aivilliks camped on Baker Foreland, and at Rankon Inlet were all practically starving, also as were

the Pad-li-muits further south along the coast. During the patrol to Fullerton we met no natives, none being camped on the various islands between, at Fullerton there were four families of Aivvilliks, these are in the employ Mr Cleveland the trader, and are attending traps for him. I am informed that there are a number of natives gone over to Southampton island to hunt bear and white fox, this island yielded pretty good last year, and the different traders are offering good payments for these species of fur. The health of the natives has been good as far as I can tell, and in accordance with other native elements I have come in contact with. I have treated several cases since my arrival here, but none of a very serious nature.

One peculiar case which arose, I heard of a Kinipitu woman that could not walk, being abandoned by her husband, and left on the Baker Lake. I immediately despatched S/M Caulkin and native "Joe" with a dogteam to investigate the matter. From the results it appears that both man and wife are unable to walk, only on their knees, having lost the use of one leg, from some peculiarity.

The husband stated he was moving camp and had only two dogs. He left his wife on the lake, but intended to return and get her, he did not intend to leave her to freeze, his load was very heavy, the woman remained out on the Lake overnight and managed to build herself a small igloo with a piece of bone she found, she had tried to crawl and reach the spot where her husband had built his igloo.

S/M Caulkin brought this woman into camp, and she was taken in by the Police natives, it was found that she had frozen one of her knees very badly, when crawling on them, I have been treating this case since and it is now slowly improving, and in the course of time will be allright again. The natives have made the woman a set of crutches, which will be better than having to crawl about.

GAME

At present, and also for sometime, there has been no deer in the country at all, and no tracks have been seen. I am afraid things are pretty hard amongst the natives in the outlying settlements, unless they are successful in catching fish on the lakes.

DOGS

We have at present 35 dogs on charge, 30 of which are in good shape and capable of doing long patrol work, these I hope to keep in condition for the Bathurst Inlet patrol in March next. Separate report with nominal roll attached is forwarded with returns, pertaining to this subject.

FUEL

Our stock of coal is sufficient to see us over the winter. We have still coal at Chesterfield that we were unable to get up last fall. Wood for kindling purposes, is scarce, only boxes being available.

Patrol have been made to Spurrell Harbour. Chesterfield Inlet, and Fullerton, we have hauled some stores from the H.B. Post to Baker Lake. A patrol will be sent

to meet the Churchill patrol next feb, I also intend to make what caches of dogfeed I possibly can spare along the route to Schultz Lake, this will be used on the patrol to Bathurst Inlet, which I hope to commence on as soon as the days begin to lengthen out.

STORES

Stores are in fairly good condition, a quantity of the old stores such as flour, has from time to time become wet in the storeroom and will have suffered to some extent, we have sufficient supplies to last us untill September next. Requisitions are included in the Returns for the 1918 stores required.

TRANSPORT

The "Motor launch "Lady Borden" is in good shape, and has proved herself well in the work performed already. The black Nelson motor boat needs overhauling and a few repairs made, we have the required repairs to hand, and these will be inserted in the spring as soon as the weather gets warmer. We have the two new whale boats brought in on the "Nascope" last fall, also the old Fullerton Whaleboat, which is unseaworthy, being old and rotten.

The Detachment whaleboat which was brought in by Insp Beyts, was slightly damaged in a gale at Chesterfield last fall, this boat will be repaired, and handed over to ex Police native "Oug-juk" for wages due him, while with the Police.

We have five canoes, all in good serviceable condition two of these I am taking with me on the patrol to Bathurst Inlet patrol, in case we cannot get back with dogteam.

Two portable "Caille" motors, one in good running order, and one requiring repairs, which we have already too hand.

GENERAL

I have little now to report on the Radford & Street case, other than which has already been dealt with. I have interviewed one or two natives from the Backes River, and one from the Ok-oo-shik-shellig-muits, who are located on the Arctic Coast, east of the Killin-e-muits. From these natives I gleaned only similar stories to those already heard, that the white men were the aggressors in the matter, but this they had only heard from other natives.

I hope to make a successful trip, commencing in March next, my only difficulty is the inevitable dogfeed question, which seem to rise at every point a man moves in this country, so devoid of timber or vegetation. If I can only procure the game along the line of march, I feel sure I shall be able to bring the patrol to a successful termination. We shall not be able to carry enough rations for the return trip, and will have to take our chances along with the dogs in this respect, and depend on the country.

As far as being able to establish a friendly feeling amongst the Killin-e-muits, I have not the slightest doubt, if we can only get across the barrens dividings us, without hitch.

I would like to point out the short season that is open for us to navigate the Inlet, and allow us to get our things up from Chesterfield. The inlet is only navigable for, from 5 to 8 weeks each summer, according to the season, there is only about four weeks that the Inlet is practically free from ice, and safe for navigation. Winter commences in the latter part of September, and the breakup does not commence untill the latter part of June.

The ice does not go out of Baker Lake untill the latter part of July, or the first part in August. The Inlet can be navigated in the latter part of July, but it would not be safe to anchor in Spurrell Harbour at Chesterfield, at that time, as the ice jams in this harbour with every tide.

On the 7th of November it started to snow here, with an east wind, and the weather got quite mild, and by one o'clock, it had turned to a very heavy rain, which lasted untill about 2 am of the 8th inst. At Fullerton and at Chesterfield, on those dates they had a very severe thunder storm, and very heavy rains, a native spear which was standing in front of a camp was struck by lightning. The natives were all very much scarred, as they had never seen anything like this before, at the time of the year.

I was talking to Mr Cleveland at Fullerton, and he informed me that in the 25 years that he had been in this country he had never seen anything like it before. Thunderstorms are rather unusual in this part of the country, and it is no wonder that they natives were all frightened, considering that there was about four feet of snow on the ground.

I have the honour to be,

Sir/

Your obedient servant,

[F.H. French] Insp,

Commanding Baker Lake Sub District

83. RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 5 May 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-2

5th May 1916.

Sir:

re: Patrol from Baker Lake to Thelon River

In transmitting the enclosed report from Inspector Beyts, I desire to point out the very dangerous and difficult trip which he has performed. The weather conditions were most rigorous: there was no supply of fuel and there was great difficulty in feeding the dogs. It is remarkable that Inspector Beyts is able to report that they all enjoyed good health. Incidentally he mentions they felt the cold as there was no warm fire at night.

The patrol occupied 52 days and covered 685 miles.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
[sgd A. Bowen Perry]
Commissioner

84. RNWMP Commissioner to Acting Comptroller, 5 May 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-2

Royal North-West Mounted Police

Regina, Sask.

5th May 1916

Dear Mr du Plessis,

I am forwarding you herewith some photographs which I have received from Inspector Beyts and which I would ask you to shew to the Prime Minister.

The boat views are of Baker Lake and shew the difficulty which Beyts had in trying to move some of his stores from the east to the west end. He did not altogether succeed because of the rough water.

The snow scenes deal with his trip from his present headquarters on Baker Lake up the Thelon River.

I have marked one as suitable for reproduction in the Annual Report.

Yours sincerely,
[sgd A. Bowen Perry]

L. du Plessis Esq.,
Acting Comptroller,
R. N. W. Mounted Police,
Ottawa.

85. RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 5 May 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-2

Extract from a letter from the Commissioner dated at Regina, 5th May, 1916, to the Comptroller, re Detachment at Chesterfield Inlet. *Ref. No. 114/1916*

I am therefore of the opinion that the detachment at Chesterfield Inlet should not be established this year, but that the headquarters of Inspector Beyts should remain at the eastern end of Baker Lake.

I attach the photograph of the building, which, from Inspector Beyts's reports, is apparently quite comfortable.

The supplies requisitioned for in Chesterfield Inlet will be used for Inspector Beyts at Baker Lake. A few supplementary requisitions are being forwarded.

86. Comptroller, Memorandum re: Baker Lake Expedition, 10 May 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-2

Royal North West Mounted Police.

Ottawa, 10th May, 1916.

Memorandum re Baker Lake Expedition.

The undersigned has the honour to submit, herewith, for the information of the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, correspondence received from the Commissioner covering the latest reports from Inspector Beyts, on his patrol to inquire into the death of Messrs. Radford and Street.

It was expected that this Officer would have completed his work in March last, but owing to the difficulties encountered in transporting supplies across the rough waters of Baker Lake, this was not done.

The Commissioner does not wish to pass any stricture upon Inspector Beyts but recommends that he be relieved of his command and that Inspector French be assigned thereto.

Inspector French has had long experience in the North, is young and active, and the Commissioner feels sure that he would show energy in carrying on this work. He would go in by the S.S. "Nascopie" and thus be able to see that he had all his stores, boats and supplies necessary to carry on the work.

With regard to Inspector Beyts, the Commissioner would order him to Port Nelson to relieve Superintendent Moodie who is there in temporary command, and who it was intended should return next September to Regina.

Inspector Beyts' failure to complete his work was apparently due to the inadequate means of transporting his supplies across Baker Lake and was the Commissioner's expectation that the same difficulties would not be met with this coming season, as the powerful motor boat which was being sent in would greatly facilitate the work.

The Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, a few days ago, approved of a memorandum from the undersigned, dated the 4th instant, suggesting that, as so much time had been lost in endeavouring to obtain suitable plans and specifications for a motor boat, the boat be not sent in until next season, but from the correspondence attached hereto it will be observed that it was very necessary that a powerful motor boat be provided to carry on the work this summer.

Until the receipt of the reports attached hereto it did not appear that the necessity of a motor boat was so essential and the undersigned respectfully requests to be informed whether the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister will alter his decision and authorize the following procedure:-

That an immediate attempt be made to get quotations from the three prospective motor boat builders – with whom the undersigned had been in communication, before the decision above referred to was arrived at – for a boat similar to one which has already been used and given satisfaction in the waters of the Hudson Bay on the hydrographic survey, blue prints and specifications of which have been obtained from the Department of the Naval Service. This boat would, in the opinion of the undersigned, with some slight alterations which can be designated in a letter, be very suitable for Police work.

If such a course is approved copies of the blue prints and specifications can be sent to the tenderers immediately, and quotations asked for guaranteed delivery in Montreal by the first week in July; failing which it would seem that there is nothing left to be done but to purchase the new whale boat with an engine and a new engine for the whale boat already at Baker Lake, referred to in the annexed telegram from the Commissioner dated at Regina the 8th instant, but the undersigned fears that this alternative will not meet with any better success than last year.

Respectfully submitted,
[sgd L. Du Plessis]
for Comptroller.

87. C.D. La Nauze to O.C. RNWMP Athabaska, 23 May 1916

Source: RNWMP Annual Report 1916

GREAT BEAR LAKE PATROL,
ISLAND N.E. MOUTH OF COPPERMINE RIVER,

CORONATION GULF,
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, MAY 23, 1916.

The Officer Commanding
R.N.W.M. Police
Athabaska.

Sir, — I have the honour to report that we have at last solved the mystery of the missing priests.

At present I can only give you the briefest of summary of our work, as I have a murderer on my hands while I am writing this, and I am conveying him to a place of safety with all speed.

I have instructed Constable Wight to tell you the full details in case he should reach headquarters before me. As already reported in my reports to you of my probable plans, I left Great Bear lake on March 29, accompanied by Special Ilavinik and Constable Wight.

... We got important information on the Radford- Street murder, but I am shorthanded now and it is too late to try and connect with Inspector Beyts.

Trusting the exigencies of the situation will excuse my short report for the present.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
C. D. La NAUZE, Inspector.

88. Statement From F. Johansen, C.A.E., 15 June 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-2

ROYAL NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE.

Great Bear Lake Patrol.
Bernard Harbour. N.W.T.
June 15th, 1916.

Crime Report
Re: The Death of Messrs, Radford and Street

Mr. F. Johnsen, Naturalist, C.A.E. States as follows:-
June 15/16

I am a naturalist of the C.A.E. On March 25th, 1916 I was taking some compass bearings on Murray Point, Victoria Land, and I saw an Eskimo come from the east

across the ice in Wellbank Bay heading for me. He came up to me and told me his name was Kauta and told me he had seen Mr. Jenness a short time ago in Coronation Gulf, he accompanied me to my tent. He was living with several others in snow huts out on the ice in Wellbank Bay. The next day I saw most of the others, who came to my tent. There was also a man here named Katak and a man named Hullah a son of Holorak, these people were quite peaceful.

Sgd. FRITZ JOHANSEN.

Note

Spl. Const. Ilavinik interpreted Uluksak's (Mayuk) statement and Mr. Jenness interpreted the location of Koguit as nearly as he could at the time as Spl. Cst. Ilavinik had no knowledge of the Bathurst Inlet Country and Uluksak did not understand maps.

C.D. La Nauze Inspt.
I/C Patrol.

89. Great Bear Lake Patrol Crime Report, 17 June 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-5

R.N.W.M.P.

Can. Arctic Expd.
Bernard Harbour.
N.W.T.

June 17/16

CRIME REPORT

RE: DEATH OF MESSRS RADFORD AND STREET.

Acting under instructions received from the Commissioner on May 10th/15. I have endeavoured to obtain all information possible with regards to the deaths of Messrs Radford and Street.

I had during the winter instructed Spl Const Ilavinik regarding the facts of the case and after I had partly settled the case of the "Missing Priests". I instructed him to make a few inquiries.

While on the trail on the 14th May he asked Uluksak's (Mayuk) wife Kukilua if she had ever heard of any other white men being killed, and she promptly told him that two white men had been killed eastward and one of the murderer's names was Hull-la-lark that she knew him and had heard stories of the murder as she came from that part of the country. I knew then by this that her husband must know of the affair. On May 17th I asked my guide Uluksak (Mayuk) if he knew anything regarding the affair as he had told me he had been East the fall the priests had been

murdered. He promptly said "Oh yes, I heard all about it and know the two men who killed them well." and he gave me a statement which I attach.

Mr. D. Jenness. Ethn. C.A.E. happened to be at Bernard Harbour at the time Uluksak gave me the statement and it was in his presence that Uluksak stated he had travelled to the next village with Ameraingnik and Ameraingnik had told him of the affair, though no doubt Uluksak knew of it before this. I attach Mr Jenness' statement that I took from him at the time and also Mr Johansen's statement with regard to him seeing Kattak and Kautak on Victoria Land.

In casual conversation with the prisoner Uluksak I asked him if he knew a man named Kaneak. "Oh yes I know him very well and he was a very good man and could kill many caribou with either rifle or bow, he was a very great hunter and lived eastward he had met him in the previous summer inland from Bathurst Inlet on the west side." Did he know Hull-la-lark? "Oh yes I saw him in the summer with Kaneak in Bathurst Inlet and saw him on the ice when the sun was absent. He had gone east with Kaneak." Later on I asked him if he knew Ameraingnik. "Oh yes he had not long left his camp before he came west to go to the Coppermine River. He was a very good man and his right eye was sore; he was going to summer near Tree River."

From other sources I have also learned the Ameraingnik had intended to summer in the Tree River country. On June 16th I received further information re Hull-la-lark and Kaneak from an Eskimo named Higlu whose statement I attached. Later on with Mr Jenness acting as interpreter I asked Uluksak and Higlu the exact location of Koguit. Mr Cox, Topg. C.A.E. who had just returned from Bathurst Inlet with Dr O'Neill, was present and decided the location of Koguit is as follows. "Koguit is the first big island directly to the south of the southern Kanuyuk Islands. On the present charts it is about west of Gordon Bay in the southern arm of Bathurst Inlet."

Without a doubt Hull-la-lark and Ameraingnik are still at large and were seen on the ice in the vicinity of the Jameson Islands and the head of Bathurst Inlet during last winter. There would then have been no great difficulty in locating them from this point. As a matter of fact, where I met Corpl. Bruce on May 2nd last, was only about 40 miles from the place Ameraingnik was then stopping at. By the time however I had the murderers of the "Missing Priests" arrested and in a place of safety I had no opportunity to take up the other case as I could not then have connected with Insp. Beyts.

On June 10th inst., Dr. J.G. O'Neill, Geogl. C.A.E. handed me two sheets of a diary which he had obtained from an Eskimo named Mingilgaq in Bathurst Inlet, which reads as follows.-

"Eskimo Dance in Bathurst Inlet.

On June the 2nd and 3rd about 35 Eskimos arrived —— Island. A large tepee was erected, that night a dance was held, as many came in as the tepee would allow leaving a large space in the centre four feet in diameter. The affair was somewhat similar to those held at Odenkellig and around Baker Lake except both men and women sang and danced instead of only the women singing and only the men dancing as I had seen before. The air and wording of their songs was quite different, perhaps more pleasing or less monotonous. They displayed more interest or energy, the man, woman and child, dancing, beating the drum and shouting until he was exhausted when another replaced him; after the dance we all partook of refreshments, boiled meat of the larger species of seal “Aig-e-uk”, I found the meat which I eat for the first time, very good. At all the dances at Odenkellig and around Baker Lake no refreshments were produced.”

“Bees and spiders carry their young on their backs.

Last summer (1911) when we put a large sized spider in the insect bottle, numerous small spiders which had been clinging to its back unnoticed, began crawling about in all directions. The same thing happened when we put a large bumble bee in the bottle in June, the old parent died quickly but the young crawled about unaffected by the fumes considerably longer.”

The first few lines have been spoiled by Eskimo children but I copied it as above.

Regarding the sheets obtained, Dr O'Neill states as follows.-

“I am the geologist of the Canadian Arctic Expedition. About May 1st 1916 while working with Mr Cox on an Island five miles due east of Cape Wollaston we met a number of Eskimos. One man named Mingilgaq had in his possession a few pages of apparently a diary. I bought two sheets with some English writing on them for a few matches, the same which I gave to you. He had two or three more blank sheets but said the children had lost a sheet which my native Ikey had copied some time previously. I did not see the natives on the former occasion. He was very vague in stating where he had obtained the papers, finally deciding with the help of the others that he got it from an Eskimo named Kaksavina who visited our headquarters this winter. He said that the hieroglyphics on the front page of the sheet were made by his children. These people were going to hunt in the vicinity of the Inlet this summer, and the Eskimo name of the Island I met them on is Igloruulig. We found the natives living east from the Tree River to be much more agreeable than those living in the vicinity of the Coppermine. Some we met had not seen white men before Others had seen them for the first time this winter upon visiting our Headquarters at Bernard Harbour; they were much better supplied with white mens' goods than the people to the west, stating they traded most of their stuff from the natives to the south and east. They all said that they knew of no white men being in Bathurst Inlet in recent years. The people we met were by no means

hostile and were quite friendly. They urged us to tell the other white men that they were all good people, that they never stole and wanted the white man to come in and trade.”

SD. John J. O’NEILL.

Later.

“My native key never told Mr Cox or myself anything about him seeing other pages of the diary on the former occasion or the leather bag; if we had have known this we would have done all in our power to get them.”

SD. JOHN. J. O’NEILL.

On the same date I received from Dr O’Neill’s native Ikey, a sheet out of his own diary. He stated he had copied this from a leaf of a note book he had seen in the possession of the Eskimo Mingilgaq before Dr O’Neill met him; the page reads as follows. - “July 12/12.

Information obtained from aged Coast Eskimos in Bathurst Inlet

“They know nothing and never heard of Franklin visited the head of the Inlet, nor of any stuff cached at Wilberforce Falls on Hood River. They say two ships entered the Inlet one was small which entered two years ago, manned by one white man and a crew of Eskimo. It was run by steam and travelled day and night, it ran ashore somewhere on the coast between here and the Coppermine. One Eskimo was drowned the white man and the rest of the crew went away after wintering.”

Regarding the page Ikey states as follows.-

“I am an Eskimo employee of the C.A.E. from Point Hope, Alaska. On the 26th of April I was south of Lewis Island while working for Messrs Cox and O’Neill in Bathurst Inlet, they were not with me at the time. Here I met twelve Eskimos. An Eskimo named Mingilgaq showed me a few pages of a white man’s diary and I copied one page into my diary the same one which I gave to you. He had some more pages with plenty of writing on but he took them back quickly and put them in a small leather white man’s case he had. I saw the case, it was yellow cow skin, it was about 12 in by 8 in by 4 in. I just picked up one sheet and wrote it out and I saw he had plenty more sheets with writing on but he put them away quickly and I did not ask him for them. He told me he had bought the papers and case from another Eskimo whose name I forgot. I just heard the name once and did not write it down. I saw these Eskimos again later on and Mr Cox bought the other pages with writing on from Mingilgaq. He told us the pages I had seen previously had been torn up by children. I did not ask him about seeing any white men in Bathurst Inlet. At this camp I saw two Eskimo brothers named Katteak and Kautak, they said they were going to spend the summer near there on the land.”

SD. IKEY ANGOTICIAK.

I am convinced the sheets received from Dr O'Neill are part of the diary of the unfortunate George Street and if it had not been for the stupidity of the Eskimo Ikey Dr O'Neill might have secured the whole diary.

Both Dr O'Neill and Mr Cox were very much annoyed when I told them of Ikey's statement. Both gentlemen stated that Ikey had told them nothing about seeing any more papers or seeing a leather bag in the possession of Mingilgaq. They stated that Ikey was never a very reliable interpreter and did not show much initiative.

It is quite likely that many of the Eskimos of Coronation Gulf know of the Radford and Street murder indirectly and that there would be no difficulty in obtaining information with a reliable interpreter.

As it was in the case of the "Missing Priests" what one knows they all know, and the Eskimo have such a wide range that news must travel to all parts of the Gulf. Their range has been shown by the arrest of the murderers of the missing priests and the travels of the two men Kattak and Kautak seen by Mr Johansen on S.E. Victoria Land and later on in Arctic Sound by Dr O'Neill's party.

The members of the C.A.E. could not get any news of Inspector Beyts' party in Bathurst Inlet although both Dr Anderson, Dr O'Neill and Mr Cox made extensive enquiries.

In May '16 Dr Anderson kindly left a message for Inspt Beyts in Bathurst Inlet telling him of the presence of the Expedition in the Gulf and of my presence as he had met Mr Chipman's party at Tree River while en route to Bathurst Inlet and he had informed him of the presence of my party. The message was placed inside a tin can and tied to a wooden cross and placed in a conspicuous position. The location of it is the tip of Cape Wollaston on Banks' Peninsula on the East side of Arctic Sound. He also gave a note to an old Eskimo named Kingorallik who was going to the foot of the Inlet, instructing him to give it to the first white man he saw.

Further information regarding the natives of Bathurst Inlet from the members of the Canadian Arctic Expedition and from Natives is as follows.-

They do not carry on any winter sealing operations in the Inlet but go out on the open sea ice N.E. and towards Victoria and the seal because they state seals are hard to get down in the inlet in winter. That a large settlement of these people is usually to be found in the neighbourhood of the Jameson Islands in the winter; that in the spring they start to come into the Inlet from the sea and may be found on the ice and islands of Arctic Sound and in the vicinity of the Kanuyuk Islands. In their summer hunts not many of them go as far south as the Arkinilik River but hunt inland east and west of Bathurst Inlet, Hodd and Tree Rivers, some hunt East of Point Everitt, which is known to them as Uming-muktor and all state that fish and caribou are plentiful in these parts. Recent Eskimo signs were seen by the

members of the C.A.E. in August 1914 on the Hood River, and Eskimos hunting were viewed through field glasses from Kater Point.

The approximate census of the inhabitants of Bathurst Inlet is between 100 and 150 people, that they appear to be quiet and inoffensive and are anxious for traders to come to the country.

Although I have gathered this information with comparative ease it has taken the members of the C.A.E. two years of careful work to obtain it and I have been fortunate to obtain such good authority.

SD.

C.D. La Nauze. Inspector

Gt.

In Charge of / Bear Lake Patrol

90. Great Bear Lake Patrol Crime Report, 17 June 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-2

ROYAL NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE.

Great Bear Lake Patrol.

Bernard Harbour N.W.T.

June 17th, 1916.

Crime Report

RE: DEATH OF MESSRS. RADFORD AND STREET

Notes on pages of Diary obtained from Bathurst Inlet.

The date of the page copied by Eskimo Ikey is July 12th. 1912.

Upon consulting the Radford and Street file I find that Radford wrote to Mr. Ford on June 3rd. from Bathurst Inlet in 1912, this shows that the explorers were probably alive up to the middle of July 1912. and that they might have been in the vicinity of Arctic Sound waiting for the ice to go out before proceeding by canoe. Radford evidently did not follow Hanbury's route from Baker Lake to the Arctic Coast but intended to proceed North from the foot of Bathurst Inlet as is shown by the location of Koguit.

While stationed at Peace River Crossing in 1910 I had a conversation with Mr. Radford then on his way north. He informed me that he was not going to follow Hanburys [*sic*] route to the Coast but was going to make a more extended trip, and intended to follow the Arctic Coast up to the mouth of the Mackenzie.

The members of the C.A.E. have informed me that in 1915 the ice did not leave the head of Bathurst Inlet until August 1st. which probably accounts for Radfords [*sic*] presence in the Inlet over a month later than his letter dated June 3rd. 1912.

The Eskimo information evidently received by Street re the ships having been seen in 1910 is probably an Eskimo version of the arrival of Capt. Joe Bernards schooner "Teddy Beaz" which wintered twenty miles east of the Coppermine River in 1910-11. Bernard was the only white man and had a large family of western Eskimos with him. Our information does not show that Radford had an interpreter with him and probably the interpretation of the aged Eskimos remarks is Streets own interpretation. One can carry on a sign language quite easily with the Eskimos but upon going over the conversation later with a reliable interpreter one frequently finds that one's own translation is quite wrong. I have experienced this myself.

Referring to the pages received from Dr. O'Neill I have very little doubt that this is George Streets own writing, I knew Street personally having met him at Grand Rapids Athabasca in 1910 and know that he was very interested in nature and a keen observer. There ought to be no difficulty in getting the hand writing identified; had the whole diary been secured it would no doubt have been of great interest.

C.D. La Nauze, Inspt.
I/C Patrol.

91. Bernard Harbour Crime Report, 21 June 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-2

Royal North West Mounted Police
Herschel Island Detachment.
Canadian Arctic Expedition.
Bernard Harbour, N.W.T.
June 21st, 1916.

CRIME REPORT

RE: THE MURDER OF MESSRS RADFORD AND STREET

On March 27th. /16 at Bernard Harbour I obtained from one Ilachiak, a "Copper" Eskimo on Bathurst Inlet, a Roman Catholic Prayer Book, in English.

Ilachiak States:-

"In the Spring about four years ago, I and my boy Nachin and my wife were traveling alone at Bathurst Inlet: here we met two white men and three Eskimos travelling with two Eskimo sleds. The Eskimos were named Tabvina and Eskimo

of “Utkusikaalik”, Akullah of “Kairngnik” and Tuloktok of “Sagavaktok.” One of the white men gave the book to my boy to amuse him, he was about ten years old then. I gave them some tom-cod in exchange. I never heard of them again and I dont know where they came from or where they went to.

Sgd. W.V. Bruce, Corp'l.

NOTE.

This man Ilachiak is an old man and the most powerful “ANGTKOK” or “SHAMAN” in the country. He arrived at the Expeditions camp at Bernard Harbour N.W.T. with his 15 year old son Nachin on March 23rd. 1916. and left again for Bathurst Inlet on March 30th 1916.

W.V. Bruce Corp'l.
Re[g]t'l No. 4600.

To the Officer Commanding,
R.N.W.M Police,
“N” Division,
Athabasca.

Bernard Harbour
June 21st. 1916.

It is very likely this Prayer Book belonged to the ill-fated Radford and Street. I know both men personally and knew them to be strict Roman Catholics. The Eskimo “Akullah” mentioned is probably the man “Akulach” who reported Radfords and Streets murder and accompanied them. I have no doubt Ilachiak is lying when he mentioned not knowing what became of the white men.

C.D. La Nauze, Inspr.
I/C Great Bear Lake Patrol.

The Commissioner,
R.N.W.M. Police.
Regina, Sask.
Forwarded for your information.
[R. Field] Inspector.
For O.C. “N” Division, A.O.L.
Peace River Sept. 11th. 1916.

92. Inspector W.J. Beyts Report, 6 July 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-5

Royal.North.West.Mounted.Police

Baker Lake Detachment.

July 6th 1916.

The Office Commanding,

“M” Division,

R.N.W.M.Police,

Port Nelson.

Sir/

I have the honour to submit herewith my for the period extending from January 1st, to June the 30th 1916.

The winter has been much the same as last year, with the exception of the prolongation of the stormy periods, which has been very noticeable. The usual cold snaps were experienced on our thermometers registered on average, from 35 to 45 below zero during January and February, the Min temperature being 62 below on Jan 25th/16. Ground drifts have been very frequent throughout. During the latter part of April, a fresh fall of deep snow occurred, and remained for sometime, and it was impossible to travel without using snowshoes. During May we had some very good weather, the sun getting more power, the snow glare was bad and most of the native element suffered from this. June has been very backward, continually dull, cloudy, and showery, and so far has placed the season late, the ice in the Lake and Inlet taking longer to break up than usually experienced, according to the natives, in consequence of this we are not able to proceed anywhere by water at present.

During the spring I have had the whaleboats brought in from Baker Lake, where they were left last fall when we were caught, while establishing our supply depot across Baker Lake, these boats together with the Detachment whaleboat, have now been thoroughly overhauled, scraped and painted, and I hope will be far more serviceable than last year. The motor launch has been temporarily fixed up, and is at present going, but it cannot be relied upon definitely [*sic*].

During the past winter our building has been far warmer than last year, and the coal usage far smaller, the improvements made last fall have helped considerably, but there still remains room for improvement if we had the lumber and paper to carry out these. During the spring when the general thaw set in, we were simply deluged inside the Detachment with water, melting from the ice which had gathered from time to time on the roof interior. The paper between the ply of boards on the sides of the building, became very wet and remained so for some

time. I took some photographs of this which I am sending out with Returns. During such periods as these, constant watch has to be kept on all things inside, and necessitates the removal of stores from time to time, otherwise our provisions, instruments, etc would become damaged and useless.

The outside of the roof is very flimsy, being covered only by cheese cloth and painted, and having been handled so many times, in and out of the "Village Belle" it has suffered considerable, and during the rainy spells it is very leaky. I would ask for further material to cover the roof. The health of members has been good, a few minor ailments, such as effects from snowglare have been treated.

The conduct of members has been good, with the exception of Reg No 5720 Const Pasley.E, who was brought before me for assault[ing] Police native "Joe". Depositions of this matter will be found under separate cover. No natives other than those employed with the Police have been camped here this winter. From time to time natives have arrived from such points as Quoiich [?] and the Kazan rivers, and Chesterfield, they have all reported a poor winter, and no deer in the district.

I have treated a few cases of sickness among them, mostly of the usual type, costiveness, colds, snowblindness, etc. Game during the winter has been very scarce, and in fact, has remained so, until the present time. We have been fortunate at the Det in being able to secure a sufficient supply to feed our dogs when they have been off patrol. Of late there has been no deer or tracks seen in the district, and the natives are practically in a state of starvation. We are now totally out of deermeat for dogfeed, and are not able to turn to sealmeat etc as is similar on the coast.

We have been rather unfortunate with our dogs, having lost a number, through rabies, which have been prevailing throughout the district, separate reports with nominal rolls attached showing purchases, casualties, and those remaining on hand, are forwarded amongst the returns.

We have sufficient fuel to tide us over the summer, the remainder of our supply (about 22 tons) being still on the beach at Chesterfield, and will be required to be brought up for winter use.

Patrols have been made regularly throughout the past winter and two attempts have been made to reach Bathurst Inlet. Patrols have been made to Chesterfield and Fullerton, separate reports on these are forwarded with returns. A series of smaller patrols have been made, such as a week or ten days deerhunting, patrols to the doghouse nor[th] west across Baker Lake, and bringing in the whaleboats from different points.

All stores are in fairly good condition, although now greatly reduced, some articles have become entirely exhausted. The flour was very damp during the spring, and had to be moved outside and dried to prevent it from becoming mouldy. All stores are correct and correspond with Detachment Form 12.

Since my last report I have had all boats and canoes brought in, together with their gear, these have been thoroughly overhauled, caulked, scraped and repainted, and I trust will be greatly improved upon than last year. The Fullerton whaleboat is very old, and is almost beyond repair, as the ribs are rotten and watersoaked, and is not fit for further Police service, this boat should be condemned. The motor engine in the launch has been overhauled, and is at present in going order, but is unreliable.

The two canoes are in good condition, also one portable motor engine, the other motor requiring repairs which have been requisitioned for, before it can be used. All sleighs, two native and two flat[,] are in good shape.

The season being much later than that experienced last year on the coast, we have not, as yet, been able to proceed anywhere by boat, as there is very little open water at present, there is a constant rush of big ice pans on the Inlet opposite the Det, the weather remains cool, and the non arrival of gamebirds is noticeable, in comparison with that of last years experience.

As soon as the open water arrives, I intend to have patrols made by whaleboat to different points in the district, with a view to getting deermeat for dogfeed, owing to the rush of ice from the Lake we are not yet able to put our nets out for fish.

I have little news to report re the Radford & Street deaths, as none of the natives have been inland further than ourselves, and I have not as yet, heard of any Kill-in-a-muit being down this spring, as the natives from Schultz Lk have not been this way yet.

The Police patrol from Churchill, consisting of Natives Albert & Parker, arrived on the 17 Feb, and were met there by S/M Caulkin, Const Kennedy and Native Akular, and exchanged mails.

I might add that we received no fresh mail by this patrol only the mail that came in on the "Nascopie" in the summer, and which had been left at Churchill.

I think a Constable should be put in charge of the Patrol, as the natives do as they please when by themselves, for instance, native Albert went out of his way, some 60 miles, last winter to visit friends, and relations, and gave away nearly all of their grub, and then returned to Chesterfield and expected to get a second outfit, but none was given to him, as he would have done the same again, and he had to live on the country.

We received two extra mails through the courtesy of the employees of the Hudsons Bay Company.

A series of surveys have been executed during the past winter and spring by Const Kennedy, in connection with the navigation of Chesterfield Inlet by vessels of deep draught, charts etc have been forwarded from time to time showing the work performed. Surveys have been made of the coves in the Det vicinity and drawing made of same, also a series of soundings have been made across the channel

of the Inlet near the Lake entrance, and show that a vessel of deep draught could pass into the Lake, the deepest sounding being twenty five feet, at high tide, there is a fall of about twelve feet here, at tide change, so it would be necessary to pass through at slack water of high tide. I have permitted Const Kennedy to go out over the Lake at different times to take angle and levels etc, in connection with this work, and he informs me that he does not think, from the formation of the ice, that the "Village Belle", or a vessel drawing as much water could proceed more than 15 miles across the Lake, as there appears to be a bar right across the Lake near the center.

A tracing of the work completed out of the Lake is being forwarded.

During his survey work on Chesterfield Inlet, Const Kennedy has located several islands, which were not on the chart rendered by Tyrell, these have been inserted, and also the soundings carried out on the "Village Belle" showing the course taken last fall, when proceeding to this point. Const Kennedy informs me that further work of completing his survey on the Inlet is held up for want of a Astromical Almanac of some kind, and the instruments requisitioned for last year.

I have the honour to be,

Sir/

Your obedient servant,

[W.J. Beyts] Insp,

Commanding Baking Lake Sub District

The Commissioner,

Forwarded

[Moodie] Supt.

Commdg. "M" Divn.

PORT NELSON.

26-9-16.

93. "Officers Were Slain in Arctic," *The World*, 16 July 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240

OFFICERS WERE SLAIN IN ARCTIC

*Const. Lockhart, Pilot for Police Searchers, Declares Radford and Street Were Victims of
Kilwoot Eskimos*

THEY SET UPON AMERICANS, WHO HIT ONE WITH DOG WHIP

Trailing Party Expected Back This Fall if They Are Not Murdered

Capt. William E. Lockhart, a bluff and rugged Nova Scotian seafaring man, standing 6 feet 10 inches in his stocking feet, gave to *The World* yesterday a vivid

account of his adventures with the Canadian Northwest Mounted Police searching for the Eskimos who murdered the American explorers Henry W. Radford and George Street several years ago.

For eighteen months Lockhart piloted the police far up into Hudson Bay and other Arctic regions, finally leaving them to penetrate into the country of the savage Kilwoot Eskimos, who are accused of the murders.

The Captain was seen on board the barge *Gloosca* of Farrensboro, N.S., lying at the King Plaster Mill dock, Staten Island. As the guest of his friend, Capt. James Elwood, he is resting from the strain of his adventures.

The Canadian Government detailed Inspector William Bates, Sergt. N.S. Cocken, Constable John Elwood, Constable John Kennedy and Constable George Pailsey to pursue the murderers. They left Halifax on the auxiliary schooner *Village Belle*, with Capt. Lockhart in charge. Dogs, sledge, Eskimos and supplies for two years were taken.

Gale Damages Ship

"The voyage was fine," said Capt. Lockhart, "until we reached Cape Chitfield. There we ran into a northwest gale which carried away our topmast, but we rode safely through it into Burwell Harbour on the extreme end of Labrador, where we made repairs.

"When we started again we ran through a field of icebergs and had many narrow escapes from shipwreck."

Reaching Spearl Harbor, Hudson Bay, in September, 1914, too late to proceed to Chesterfield Inlet, the party landed its supplies, built houses for the mounted police, Eskimos and dogs and went into winter quarters. At the Spearl Harbor trading post Lockhart met Pelook, an Eskimo who had been the guide of the murdered explorers, and from him obtained the story of the double tragedy.

"He told me," the Captain continued, "that Radford and Street were anxious to continue the journey further north, but the Kilwoot Eskimo guide did not want to go on. He said his wife was sick. Radford grew impatient, and after coaxing had failed struck him with a dog whip.

"Other Eskimos attacked Radford with spears and knives and killed him. Street ran towards the sledge, where his rifle was lashed. Then the Eskimos attacked him. The women helped to kill Street. Then they divided the dogs and the outfit among the tribe. Pelook escaped death by marrying into the tribe."

Police to Return in Fall.

Fearing the Eskimos would kill him, Pelook refused to accompany Inspector Bate's [*sic*] party into the country of the Kilwoots. The party left winter quarters in the spring of 1915 and proceeded to Chesterfield Inlet. According to Lockhart, the *Village Belle* was the first sailing vessel to navigate the inlet.

"We discharged our cargo," he went on, "and helped erect the houses for Inspector Bates's party, the Eskimos and dogs. They were to stay there until October, when the snow and ice would enable them to travel into the Kilwoot country.

"On Sept. 25 we said goodby to Inspector Bates and his men. They have not been heard from since. They are expected back this fall, if they are not murdered by the Eskimos.

"I came back to Spearl Harbour with the Village Belle and left her there. With a party of Indian guides I made a canoe trip through a trackless wilderness 700 miles to Steele, the nearest railway station, thence to Montreal, and then home."

Capt. Lockhart's home is at Avenport, N.S. Twenty-five of his forty-one years have been spent on the sea.

94. Inspector La Nauze Crime Report, 23 July 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-2

Royal North West Mounted Police

Great Bear Lake Patrol

July 23rd 1916

S.S. "Alaska"

CRIME REPORT

RE Murder of Radford & Street.

Before our arrival at Herschel Island I took the advantage of the services of the halfbreed Eskimo boy "Patsey" as Interpreter to ask the prisoner Uluksuk what he knew regarding the above affair. He promptly gave me the following statement.:-

I heard all about the two white men being murdered at Koguit from other people. I know the place well, you can see Koguit from Kanuyuk. The white men wanted a man named "Kaneak" to go with them and he did not want to go and the white man took a dog whip to him and started to whip him.

Then a man Okitok held one of the white men and Hull la lack stabbed him, Ameraingnik or A me raing a hik stabbed the other white man.

There were many people at the place as it is a good hunting place and the people left the bodies on the top of the ice. A man name Harla took the white mens dogs and the other people took the stuff. The people broke up the white mens rifles and made them into tools when they had finished the cartridges. The white men had a small boat with them on the sled. The white men were good but the people were afraid when they whipped Kaneak.

Ameraing a luk has his right eye sick he can open it a little bit. I hunted east with Kaneak last summer and he had a fish net from these white men and he caught fish.

I saw Ameraingalu this spring near Tree River and he was going to hunt in the country East from there.

I know where these men would stop in the Winter on the ice and I could find them there.

A man named Nar-meuk-ke-tinuah has the white mans field glasses, he lives on Victoria Land opposite Bathurst Inlet.

The people went away some time after they had killed the white men and the bodies were still on the ice when they left.

Signed Patsey Klengenber
Interpreter
C.D. La Nauze Insp.

This story corresponds generally to the other information obtained by me. It goes to prove the theory that "What one Eskimo knows, they all know".

He remarks the bodies were left on the ice which is the only information I got regarding what became of the bodies.

Sgd C.D. La Nauze Insp.
In Charge of Patrol

95. Telegram, RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 18 August 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-2

Edmonton, Alta., Aug. 18/16/

The Comptroller R.N.W.M.P.
Ottawa.

Following telegram received from Nome, Alaska, begins:-

"Priest murdered on Copper Mine November nineteen thirteen. Two Copper Eskimos both murderers arrested pleaded guilty and now in custody at Herschel. Met expedition on coast and got transportation for self and prisoners. Party sent out via Norman secured important information on Radford case. Am informed verbally that I am to take this district. No mail received yet but will stay reports forwarded with expedition. signed Inspector LaNauze. Ends."

(Sd) A.B. Perry,
Commissioner

96. Comptroller to RNWMP Commissioner, 23 August 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-2

Royal North West Mounted Police
Office of the Comptroller.
Ottawa, 23rd August, 1916.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram, dated, Edmonton, the 18th instant, with regard to a telegram received from Nome, Alaska, in which Inspector La Nauze reports that the party sent out via Norman secured important information on the Radford case.

May I suggest that if you receive the information above referred to in time that you telegraph Supt. Moodie at Port Nelson instructions to send a patrol to Churchill to meet the "Nascopie" and transmit the information to Inspector French. The "Nascopie" goes to Churchill first, then to Chesterfield and thence to Port Nelson.

If this cannot be done perhaps the information and your instructions could be sent by wireless to the "Nascopie" direct, from Port Nelson. The "Nascopie" is equipped with wireless.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
[L. du Plessis]
For Comptroller.

The Commissioner,
R.N.W.M. Police,
Regina, Saskn.,

97. RNWMP Commissioner to Officer Commanding, Port Nelson, 25 August 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-5

25th August, 1916.

The Officer Commanding,
R.N.W.M. Police,
Port Nelson.

Re Murder of Radford & Street.

I forward for your information a duplicate copy of a report received today from The Great Bear Lake Patrol, one of which please forward as seen as possible be Inspector French.

Is not Akolaklu possibly the same man as “Akular” who accompanied Inspector Beyts or his patrols to Aberdeen Lake and the mouth of the Chesterfield Inlet, reports of which he submitted under dates the 17th April and the 27th March respectively?

Commissioner

98. Telegram, RNWMP Commissioner to Officer Commanding, Port Nelson, 26 August 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, file 30-5

Regina, 26th August, 1916

The Officer Commanding,

R.N.W.M. Police,

Port Nelson, via The Pas.

Murderers of priests have been arrested.

Great Bear Lake Patrol forwards statement made by Eskimo Angavrana implicating one Akolaklu as murderer of both Radford and Street. Akolaklu probably same man as Akula whom Beyts mentions accompanying him on his patrols to mouth of Chesterfield Inlet and Aberdeen Lake in his reports dated 27th March and 17th April respectively. Two other Eskimos Akaituk and Ammigainuk assisted in murder of Street. Communicate this information by wireless to French on Nascopie.

(sgd) A.B. Perry

99. Comptroller, RNWMP, to A.E. Blount 1 September 1916

Source: LAC, LAC, R6113-0-X-E, MG26-H, C-4382, 98885

Royal North West Mounted Police

Office of the Comptroller

Ottawa

1st September, 1916.

Dear Mr. Blount,

I enclose, herewith, for the information of the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, copy of a statement received from Regina, made by one Eskimo Angavrena, relating to the murder of Messrs. Radford and Street.

This information was obtained by the Great Bear Lake Patrol while endeavouring to arrest the murderers of the two Roman Catholic priests – the preliminary reports on which have been forwarded today.

Yours faithfully,
[L. du Plessis]

A.E. Blount, Esq.,
Privy Council,
Ottawa.

Statement of Eskimo Angavrena.

Eskimo Angavrena states as follows:-

I joined the Coppermine Eskimo last Winter, 1915, but previous to that I stayed with the Bathurst Inlet Eskimo for four winters and while at Kaluktualok or Tree River on Winter I heard that someone had killed the Whitemen. The Whitemen came in with three Eskimo named Soluktuklu, Akolaklu and Tavinalu. The Bathurst Eskimo first met the Whitemen somewhere in Bailey Bay and from here they went to the North end of Goulburn Island or Koalayit where they wanted two more men, Kanerk and Halla. Nalla wanted to go and at first Kanark said he would go but after the Whitemen were all packed up ready for starting Kanark's wife did not want to go and Kanerk also said that he did not want to go because his wife was crying. One of the Whitemen the biggest of the two and the Boss of the party (this would be Radford I think) asked Kanark the reason he did not want to go and started to hit him with the whip. Kanark only had a thin shirt on at the time and the whip hurt him and left marks on his back and frightened him very much. Kanark put up his hands to stop the Whiteman from using the whip but could not stop him. By this time the other Whiteman the smaller of the two (Street I think this would be) tried to stop his companion from using the whip on the Eskimo, but Radford still continued to use it. Thereupon the other Whiteman (Street) walked away all the Eskimos now were very much afraid and Kanark thought the Whiteman Radford was going to kill him. Two Eskimos got hold of the Whiteman Radford one by each arm while another Eskimo named Akolaklu struck him several times with a knife. The small man Street run to a large rock followed an Eskimo named Akaituk who caught and held him while another Eskimo named Ammigainek came up and struck him through the chest with a spear.

Akalakla having by this time killed the big man Radford, ran up to the small man Street, and finished him off with a knife.

After both white men were dead an Eskimo named Alick cut out throats and wrists of both men. All the Eskimos then ran after the sled which had gone a little ahead in charge of an Eskimo.

There was an Eskimo village where the murders took place. Angavrena states that he afterwards saw the body of one of the Whitemen in the water and one leg close to the shore. Evidently the body had been torn by the animals as according to Angavrena statement there were not mutilated in any way, except the throat and wrists cut. Angavrena also states that he could show the place where the murder took place.

His
Eskimo Angavrena.
Mark.

Witnesses.

J.F. Wight Constable.

Spl.const. Flavenic.

Interpreter.

Sgd. D. Withers, Const.

In Charge of Bear Lake Patrol.

For Insp. LaNauze A.O.D.

100. RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 13 September 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-2

Royal North-West Mounted Police,
Commissioner's Office
Regina, Sask.
13th September 1916

Sir:

re: Murder of Radford and Street

As requested in your letter of the 23rd August, I wired to the Officer Commanding at Port Nelson as follows:-

"Murderers of priests have been arrested. Great Bear Lake Patrol forwards statement made by Eskimo Angavrena implicating one Akolaklu as murderer of both Radford and Street. Akolaklu probably same man as Akula whom Beyts mentions accompanying him on his patrols to mouth of Chesterfield Inlet and Aberdeen Lake in his reports dated 27th March

and 17th April respectively. Two other Eskimos Akaituk and Ammigainuk assisted in murder of Street. Communicate this information by wireless to French on Nascopie.”

and have the honour to inform you that I am to-day in receipt of the following telegram from Superintendent J.D. Moodie, Port Nelson

“Nascopie could not get wireless message for French at Churchill”

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

[Sgd A. Bowen Perry]

Commissioner

The Comptroller

R.N.W.M. Police,

Ottawa, Ont:

101. L. du Plessis to A.E. Blount 30 September 1916

Source: LAC, LAC, R6113-0-X-E, MG26-H, C-4382, 98921

Royal North West Mounted Police,

Office of the Comptroller

Ottawa 30th September, 1916.

Dear Mr. Blount,

I enclose, herewith, for the information of Sir Robert, copies of reports received from the Commissioner with regard to information obtained by Insp. La Nauze's party on the subject of the alleged murder of Messrs. Radford and Street.

Inspector French and the members of his patrol, with stores, etc., were safely landed at the mouth of Chesterfield Inlet this Summer and will follow up the work commenced by Insp. Beyts to ascertain the true facts regarding the disappearance of Radford and Street.

Yours faithfully,

L. du Plessis.

A.E. Blount, Esq.,

Privy Council,

Ottawa.

102. Telegram from A.B. Perry to RNWMP Comptroller, 22 September 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-2

RxRegina.
22nd Sept. 1916.

Comptroller
R.N.W.M. Police,
Ottawa Ont.

Inspector Beyts arrived Nelson. Superintendent Moodie will transfer command to him and report here.

A.B. Perry.

103. RNWMP Letter to Commissioner: Forwarding Reports to Inspector French, 8 October 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, 30-5

Royal North-West Mounted Police,

Port Nelson, Man., Oct: 8th, 1916.

The Commissioner,
R.N.W.M. Police,
Regina,
Sask:.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 20th., forwarding reports of Inspector La Nauze, together with statements, relative to the Radford and Street Murder.

In accordance with your instructions two copies of the report, etc., will be forwarded, by the winter patrol, to Inspector French at Baker Lake.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
[W.J. Beyts] Insptr.
Commanding "M" Division.

104. Planning the Bathurst Inlet Patrol: Inspector's Report, 17 November 1916

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-1

Baker Lake detachment.
N.W. Territories.

November 17th. 1916.

Officer Commanding,
R.N.W.M. Police,
"M" Division.
Port Nelson

Sir,

re patrol to Bathurst Inlet

I have the honour to submit the following report on the above matter.

Since my arrival here I have given this matter considerable thought and study, and I propose to leave here next March, as soon as the deer start North. My chief reason for this is that it is quite impossible for us to carry sufficient dog feed with us, and I will have to rely on the deer for this. Another reason is that we shall have much better weather for travelling, longer days, and no storms to speak of.

The party will consist of myself, Sergt. Major Caulkin, Police native Joe, Police native Bye-and-Bye, and a Back's River native if I can get him to come, and also native woman Salomum, who belongs to that Kidlingermuit tribe. This woman was brought by present Police native Akoulak from Bathurst Inlet after he had accompanied Messrs. Radford and Street to that place. She has been in contact with white men ever since she came into this part of the country about three years ago; and I think that taking her with me will help considerably in establishing friendly relations with this tribe of Kidlingermuit. This is a forlorn country, where man is cast entirely on his own resources and has to prepare himself as far as possible for any emergency that may arise while on patrol.

Up here it is impossible to depend on the weather, or tell if it is going to be a late or early spring; so I am preparing myself in advance by taking two canoes and three dog teams of ten dogs each. I shall also carry with me fishing nets, hooks, lines, etc. because I expect that on the return trip we shall have to depend largely on the country for our living.

If the spring should be early we shall in all probability be caught at Bathurst Inlet and be unable to return by dog team, and if we were unable to return by water as well, it would mean that we would have to camp on the Arctic coast all next summer, or else proceed west along the coast as far as the Coppermine River, and then follow Hanbury's route to Fort Norman. This of course would only be done as a last resort. On the other hand, if there should happen to be a late spring, we

should be able to return here by the end of next June, even if we should only be able to get as far back on our way as the Back's river by dog team before the spring break up caught us. For from there, by making the twelve mile portage over the height of land, we can travel by canoe, into Baker Lake. If this should be the case we should not be able to get back to Baker Lake till the end of July or the first part of August.

Arrangements will also be made during this winter for caches at the end of Baker Lake and Schultz Lake.

In the absence of Sergt. Major Caulkin and myself, Regt. No. 5626 Constable Kennedy, A.B. will be in charge of the detachment. He will be fully instructed before my departure as to his duties in regard to getting up our supplies and freight which is at present lying at the Hudson Bay Co.[']s. post at Spurrell Harbour.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
your obedient servant.
[F.H. French] Inspector.
Commanding Baker Lake Sub-district.

105. Constable W.O. Douglas to Officer Commanding, Port Nelson, 8 May 1917

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-1

ROYAL NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE

"M" Division.

Baker Lake Detachment

May 8th 1917.

The Officer Commanding,
R.N.W.M. Police,
Port Nelson.

Sir:

I have the honour to report that on March 21st 1917 Inspector French, S/M Caulkin and four natives with three police dog teams left here to make the Bathurst patrol, a native passing through the camp stated that he met the police four days north of here, and at that time everything was going well... Since then up to date I have received no further word of the patrol.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(sgd) W.O. Douglas.

Cst.
i/c Detachment.

The O/C "F" Division. Forwarded for your information.

(sgd) W.J. Beyts, Insp.

Commanding H.B. Sub-district.

Port Nelson, Man:

18-7-1917

The Commissioner, Forwarded for his information

(sgd) W.H. Routledge. Supt.

Commanding "F" Division.

August 3rd 1917.

FORWARDED to the Comptroller for his information.

[sgd. A. Bowen Perry]

Commissioner.

Regina.

6-8-17

106. Inspector French, Crime Report and Witness Statements, 20 June 1917

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-1

M Division.

R.N.W.M. Police.

Baker Lake Detachment.

Bernard Harbour

June 20th 1917

CRIME REPORT

Re Murder of Messrs H. V. Radford and Geo. R. Street by

Kilim-e-muit Eskimos of Bathurst Inlet

Relative to the above case and the investigation of same. I left Baker Lake Detachment in the a.m. of March 21st 1917 accompanied by Reg No 4557 Sergt-Major Caulkin. T.B. and four Eskimos of the Aivillik tribe.

After a journey of nearly two months duration across the Barren Lands we reached the Arctic Coast on May 7th 1917 but it was exactly seven days before we located the first Killin-e-muit igloos at the Mouth of Bathurst Inlet on an island off Cape Croker. It was very difficult to locate camps as the weather was very misty and continually blowing, always covering any recently made native tracks over, that we came upon from time to time, and having no guide made matters more difficult.

It was noon on May 14th when we saw the first encampment (Oo-shine-mu-ya) which consisted of 36 natives. Only the women were in the camp as the men were about a mile away at the seal holes hunting. When the women sighted us they ran into their and igloos but seeing us raise our hands above our heads they came out and our natives approached them and commenced talking.

The men all ran from the seal holes and gathered around an elderly native (apparently a headman) and then advanced towards us at a double in extended order, each carrying a seal spear or snow-knife at the trail, but seeing that our attitude was freindly [*sic*] everything was all right and our natives understood them pretty well when talking.

Practically at all the encampments visited this formula had to be gone through a native from both sides would advance with hands extended above the head showing that the meeting was freindly [*sic*].

While standing talking with these natives the majority of whom had never seen a white man before, another band of Killin-e-muits arrived with 5 sleds from the west side of Bathurst Inlet and there were 27 in this party.

All natives greeted us in a freindly [*sic*] manner and when we camped alongside of them, they were all eager to help in building our igloos and fixing our camp and when they heard that we were out of coal oil they sent us bladders of seal oil for the small native lamp we had in our possession and they always appeared anxious to furnish any information we required, but this was before they knew who we were or what our business in that vicinity was. We spent a whole month travelling with and amongst these people meeting bands of Killin-e-muits and Killi-shik-to-muits from the west side of Bathurst Inlet and Wad-le-ar-ing-muits who range between Bathurst and Coppermine River.

From May 14th 1917 until our arrival at Bernard Harbour on June 15th we were constantly meeting fresh bands of natives and carrying out our investigation of the murder of Messrs Radford and Street. We took many statements from natives some of whom were present when the white men were killed and practically all the natives had heard of the affair and their stories were all the same and corroborated the information previously received from different sources and to insert all those statements would make this report of a very lengthy character.

The most important being those who were present in the camp and eyewitnesses to the affair when the unfortunate Messrs Radford and Street met their fate, and these statements I have incorporated in this report.

In the first encampment I took statements from three men and one woman who were present at the affair the first being a native named 'An-ing-nerke' who was a headman and had under his control a band of 35 people at the time of our meeting and when questioned gave us his statement which is herewith attached as interpreted by Police Native Joe.

Police Native Joe is not what I would call a first-class interpreter but taking him all round he did very well.

Oo-shing-mu-ya Camp
May 14th 1917

Statement of An-ing-neck, Bathurst Inlet Native

About 5 winters ago two white men came from the South and they had three huskies with them and they came to an island on the salt called Kwog-juk. One was named Ish-yu-mat-ok and the other Ki-uk. The one white man called Ish-yu-mat-ok was bad, but the other-white man named Ki-uk was good. The three huskies who came with the white men went away again to the South and the white men could not speak to us and we did not understand them but they made us understand a little by making signs.

They wanted two men to go away with them to the west two men Har-la and Kan-e-ak were going with them but Kaneak's wife was sick, she had fallen on the ice and was hurt, and Kan-e-ak did not want to leave her then. The white man called Ish-yu-mat-ok got very mad and ran at Kan-e-ak and hit him with a whip, the other white man (Ki-uk) tried to stop him. The white man was shouting all the time. He dragged Kan-e-ak to the water edge, the other white man went with him, they were going to throw Kan-e-ak in the water. Everybody was frightened the two white men were going to kill Kan-e-ak, two men Ok-it-ok and Hui-a-lark ran out and stabbed Ish-yu-mat-ok, he fell on the ice, the other white man ran off shouting towards the sleigh and Ok-it-ok ran after him and caught him and Am-e-geal-nik stabbed him with a snow-knife, he was running towards the sleigh, he tried to get a rifle. The two white men were covered over and left on the ice. I do not know what became of their property, some the huskies took and some I think was left on the island, their rifles were broken up and made into tools after the cartridges were used up. One husky named Har-muk-tin-u-ar has the white men's field-glasses. He is away on the other side of the salt water (Victoria Land)

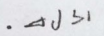
I do not think that this would have happened if the white men had not beat Kan-e-ak with the dog-whip or if had understood the white men, Kib-gol-u-yok had some paper of the white men, he is in camp now. Kan-e-ak and Hul-a-lark are away on the salt ice and (probably Victoria Land or East of Kent Peninsula) An-e-geal-nik I think is away to the west near the big river (probably the Coppermine) I think these men will be here when the ice breaks up if the white men want them. We do not want trouble with the white men, we want them to come here and trade with us I cannot remember all as it is a long time ago now, there were only a few men in the camp, the others were away hunting when the fight started. We went and told the huskies who came from the south with the white men what had happened to the white men.

His
Signed. An-ing X neak
Mark

Witness:-

[sgd: F.H. French, Insp]

I certify the above is a true interpretation of what I have heard and interpreted to you from the above named witness.

Signed. 

Police Native Joe. Interpreter.

In the same encampment I took statements from natives Tet-ib-yok, Ow-nak, Ut-oo-gow, Sherk, Keg-lu-i-ar, and Nu-e-lu-ug-ar, but none of these natives were present when the murder took place, they stated they had been told about it and their statements were similar to those already obtained and were always freely given. Much difficulty was experienced in getting details as it is a long time ago to these natives since the murders took place and our interpreter said it was difficult for him to put the questions as we required. To insert all these statements would make the report too voluminous so these will be omitted and they are precisely the same as each other and also the same as those already obtained.

I took a statement from An-ing-nerk's wife Nu-at-te, which is herewith attached.

Statement of Nu-at-te, Bathurst Inlet Eskimo

I am the wife of An-ing-nerk and belong to the Killin-e-muits. I remember the two white men being killed at Kwog-juk, and I was there when the fight took place and saw it from inside our tent. The two white men were called Ishumatok (Radford) and Ki-uk (Street). They came to Kwog-juk with three huskies from the south and I think about 5 winters ago.

The white man Ish-yu-mat-ok was bad, and always seemed mad, but the other white man was good. We could not understand them only by making signs. I remember the white man Ish-yu-mat-ok had sore feet when he came to Kwog-juk as his boots were worn out and he seemed to walk as if his feet were sore. I did some sewing for the white men while they were there. They stayed at Kwog-juk for some time, but I cannot say how long. The three huskies who came with them left to go south shortly after they came.

The white men wanted two men to go with them to the west, they wanted good hunters. Kan-e-ak and Har-la were going with the white men. It was sometime after that the white men were going away, I saw them getting ready to

go, I stood outside our tent, our tent was close to the ice. I remember seeing Har-la start off with one sled, but Kan-e-ak did not want to go, as his wife was sick and he did not want to leave her she had fallen on the ice and hurt herself.

I saw the white man Ish-yu-mat-ok (Radford) catch hold of Kan-e-ak, he was talking loudly and he had a dog-whip in his hand and hit Kan-e-ak on the head and face with it many times. Kan-e-ak sat down on the ice and the white man still beat him with the whip and the other white man went up and tried to stop Ish-yu-mat-ok. The white man Ish-yu-mat-ok then started to drag Kan-e-ak towards a large crack in the ice, he was calling to the other white man Ki-uk (Street). The Ish-yu-mat-ok was holding Kan-e-ak over the hole, the other man Ki-uk went up and caught hold of Kan-e-ak and also helped, we were afraid that they were going to kill Kan-e-ak. There were not many men in the camp, I think about six, as the other huskies were away at the seal-holes hunting. I remember seeing a man Ok-it-ok run out and catch hold of Ish-yu-mat-ok and I saw Hul-a-lark stab him in the back with a knife, and the white man fell on the ice. I do not remember seeing any more. I was very frightened, and I went into the tent and cried.

I did not see what happened to the other white man Ki-uk (Street). I only know what I was told, that he was stabbed by Am-e-geal-nik. I did not see the white men again I saw where they were laying, covered over with deerskins on the ice, and this was when we were leaving Kwog-juk the next day. We went to the south and we have not been to Kwog-juk since. I do not know what became of the white men's stuff. I heard the natives took some and some was left at Kwog-juk. I think Gib-gol-u-ok had some paper belonging to the white men.

I do not know where the men who killed the white men went to, but I heard that Hul-a-lark and Kan-e-ak had gone up to the big water to the north.

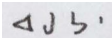
Her

Signed. Nu-a- X te

Mark

Witness:- [sgd: F.H. French, Insp]

I certify that the above is a true interpretation of what I have heard and interpreted to you from the above named witness

Signed. 

Police Native Joe. Interpreter.

The witness Nu-at-te was an elderly person and seemed to remember the occurrence well, only occasionally needing assistance when endeavoring to obtain the most important details. This woman evidently did some repairs for Messrs Radford and Street while staying on Kwog-juk Island.

The native Gib-gol-u-ok who was said to have some paper belonging to Messrs Radford and Street and the following statement was taken from this man.

Statement of Gib-gol-u-ok Eskimo, Bathurst Inlet.

I remember the two white men Ish-yu-mat-ok and Ki-uk coming to Kwog-juk as I was camped there. There were not many camped there when the white men came. After the white men came many Eskimos came there as it is a good place for seals in spring.

I do not know how long the white men came. It was a long time and the three huskies that came with them returned to the south. The one white man Ish-yu-mat-ok (Radford) was always mad and shouting loudly at the natives and the other white man Ki-uk (Street) was good. We did not understand the white men's language but sometimes they made signs and we understand.

They wanted two men who were good hunters to go away with them to the west and Har-la and Kan-e-ak were to go. When the white men were ready to leave, Kan-e-ak did not want to go as his wife had fallen on the ice and hurt herself and he did not wish to leave her. Har-la had left the camp with one team. I remember seeing the white man Ish-yu-mat-ok pick up a dog whip and catch hold of Kan-e-ak and commence hitting him over the head and face, the white man shouting all the time. Kan-e-ak sat down on the ice, and the other white man Ki-uk (Street) went up and tried to stop the Ish-yu-mat-ok.

I saw the Ish-yu-mat-ok catch hold of Kan-e-ak and drag him to a wide crack in the ice and hold him over it. We were afraid the white man was going to kill Kan-e-ak. The other white man Ki-uk caught hold of Kan-e-ak and they both commenced to push him down towards the water. I was on the side of the hill behind the tents and saw Ok-it-ok and Hul-a-lark run out from the camp. Ok-it-ok caught hold of Ish-yu-mat-ok and Hul-a-lark stabbed him with a snow knife. He stabbed him in the back. The white man fell on the ice. The other white man ran away toward the sled that Har-la had left with, Ok-it-ok ran after him and caught hold of him and Am-e-geal-nik stabbed him.

The white men were put on the ice and covered over with their deerskins. I did not see anybody cut either of the white men's throats. The huskies took some of the white men's stuff and some was left behind. I have some paper that belonged to the white men. I do not know of any more of their stuff, the rifles were broken up and used by the natives. I heard that Hul-a-lark and Kan-e-ak were away hunting on the sea ice to the East and I do not know where Am-e-geal-nik is.

We did not want to have any trouble with the white men and if the white men could have spoken our language I do not think it would have happened as we want to have the white man come and trade with us.

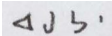
His

Signed. Gib-gol- X u-ok
Mark

Witness:-

[sgd: F.H. French, Insp]

I certify that the above is a true interpretation of what I have heard and interpreted to you from the above named witness

Signed. 

Police Native Joe. Interpreter.

This native Gib-gol-u-ok was a young man and could not have been more than 17 or 18 years of age when the murders were committed and the paper mentioned in his statement, I obtained from him and this happened to be a book belonging to Mr Radford containing scientific notes on birds and animals encountered during their journey to the Arctic Coast. He stated he obtained this book from a native named Ming-el-oo-yak but did not know where this native was now.

I endeavoured to obtain any parts of the murdered men's property and diaries but this book was the only article I was successful in obtaining. I did not see any goods amongst them that might have belonged to Messrs Radford and Street.

I was told that some writings had been taken up by members of the Canadian Arctic Expedition who had been in the vicinity of Bathurst Inlet during the winter of 1915-1916

I believe that the members of this Expedition tried to obtain any articles they could that was these men's property.

It was useless to try and obtain the numbers of days or hours long back as the Eskimo mind does not grasp these things. I could not find out how long Messrs Radford and Street remained on the island of Kwog-juk from the time of their arrival till the time they met their deaths. I would judge it must have been some time in the neighbourhood of a fortnight at least. Most of these natives being unable to count more than 5 or 6 on their hands and so after much trouble these details had to be passed over, as it seem to be impossible for these people to remember details and of time they seem to be unable to keep any record. The majority of these natives as far as I have come in contact with them have no means of keep[ing] any such record. As far as I was able to learn [they] keep no record of time only by the seasons, which with them is Spring, Fall, Winter and Summer and even over these they seem to mix up. The rest-as far as these natives are concerned as regards time has to be guessed at.

At our next encampment I took statements from the following natives, El-et-chak, Al-ik, Ting-me-ar,

Statement of El-at-chak (Headman) Bathurst Inlet Eskimo.

I remember the two white men Captain and Ki-uk who came to Kwog-juk Island, it was a long-time ago and I think about 5 winters ago. I was on my way down to the land south of Kwog-juk to hunt. I do not know how long the white men stayed at Kwog-juk, but they were alive when I left Kwog-juk to go to the south. I had left the Island one day when the fight happened and I heard all about it afterwards. If I had been at the island at the time, the white men would not have been killed as I am the Chief and would have stopped the men and all my young men obey me. The Captain (Radford) was always mad and was always fighting and scaring the huskies. The white men did not understand the language and we did not understand them. Ki-uk (Street) was a good man.

The white men wanted two huskies to go with them to the West and two man named Har-la and Kan-e-ak were going as they were good hunters. Before starting off, Kan-e-ak's wife got sick, she fell on the ice and hurt herself and Kan-e-ak told the white men he did not want to go with them and leave his wife. The white man, Captain (Radford) got mad and started shouting loudly and commenced beating Kan-e-ak with a dog whip, Kan-e-ak lay on the ice and the other white man tried to stop the Captain from beating Kan-e-ak. The huskies all thought that the white man was going to kill Kan-e-ak.

Two huskies ran out to the white man who was beating Kan-e-ak Ok-it-ok was one and Hul-a-lark was the other. Ok-it-ok caught hold of the white Captain and Hul-a-lark stabbed him with a snow knife and he fell to the ground dead.

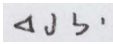
The other white man started to run to the sled and a husky named Am-e-geal-nik ran after him and stabbed him as he thought he was going to get a rifle. The white men were laid on the shore and covered with deerskins I do not know what became of the while men's property and what I have told you is only what I heard from the other huskies. There were not many huskies in the camp when the fight happened, as some were on the land hunting, some were away at the seal holes and some were after fish[.]

His
Signed. El-et- X chak
Mark

Witness:-

[sgd: F.H. French, Insp]

I certify that the above is a true interpretation of what I have heard and interpreted to you from the above named witness

Signed. 
Police Native Joe. Interpreter.

This native El-et-chak is an elderly Eskimo and appears keen and intellectual and seemed to be held in respect by the native element in this encampment. He holds the position of medicine-man or conjuror amongst his tribe an exhibition of which he gave us as he informed us that he had seen a bad spirit following our sleds as we were coming up to the camp. He stated that if he had been present when Radford had been beating Kan-e-ak he would have tried to have stopped him and no violence would have been used, but the perpetrators of the deed were scared and thought that the white men meant to kill Kan-e-ak and probably some of the others as well. We camped alongside with these natives for a day and a half and were treated in a very freindly [*sic*] manner and were assisted along in every way possible. We traded for seal-Skin boots Etc., and experienced no trouble in this matter and we paid them at a smaller rate than is recognised in the south and they seemed satisfied with their payments.

The next statement taken was that of Native Al-ik and is herewith attached.

Statement of Native Alik, Bathurst Inlet Eskimo.

I remember the two white men who were killed at Kwog-juk as I was there when the fight took place. The white men came to the island about 5 winters ago and they had 3 huskies with them. I forget the white men's names. They stayed at Kwog-juk some time I cannot say how long.

I remember the two white men wanted two huskies to go to the west with them, they wanted two good hunters and Har-la and Kan-e-ak were going with them. They were all ready to go and Har-la had started off with one sled around a point of the island. Kan-e-ak did not want to go as his wife had fallen on the ice and hurt herself. The white man Ish-yu-mat-ok (Radford) got mad and caught hold of Kan-e-ak and beat him with a dog-whip, he struck him lots on the head, and Kan-e-ak lay on the ice near the shore and the other white man tried to stop Radford from beating Kan-e-ak but could not. The white man (Radford) then dragged Kan-e-ak to a wide crack in the ice and tried to put him down under the water. The white man (Radford) called to the other white man to help him, he would not go at first but after a while he went and helped the Ish-yu-mat-ok (Radford) to put Kan-e-ak under the water and we were all scared that the white men were going to kill Kan-e-ak.

Ok-it-ok and Hul-a-lark ran out and Ok-it-ok caught hold of Ish-yu-mat-ok and Hul-a-lark stabbed him with a snow-knife. He did not die right away.

The other white man ran towards the sled which Har-la had started off with, to get a rifle and Ok-it-ok ran after him and caught hold of him and Am-e-geal-nik stabbed him with a snow knife and he died right away. The other white man

(Radford) still lay on the ground, he was not dead and Hul-a-lark went up and cut his throat as he did not want to see him in pain. After they were killed they were carried to the shore and covered with deerskins. Next day all the huskies left Kwog-juk Island and made another camp further away.

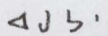
We were all scared and that was why we left the island. We did not want to kill the white men but we could not understand them and thought they were going to kill us. Hul-a-lark and Am-e-goal-nik and Kan-e-ak are good men and would not have fought if the white men had not started. The huskies took all the white men's goods and divided it, and the rifles were broken up and used as tools. After the two white men were dead we were very much afraid and we went after the huskies who came with the white men, but who had left our camp to go to the south, and told them all about it. This is all I can remember. I do not know where the men Hul-a-lark and Am-e-goal-nik are, I saw them last when the ice began to come (fall of 1916) and they said they might go to the big island across the salt (Victoria Land) Kan-e-ak is in the Inlet somewhere, I think, but I have not seen him this winter.

His
Signed. Al- X ik
Mark

Witness:-

[sgd: F.H. French, Insp]

I certify that the above is a true interpretation of what I have heard and interpreted to you from the above named witness

Signed. 

Police Native Joe. Interpreter.

This native further stated that there were not more than 6 or 8 huskies in the came when the fight took place, and he said he saw the whole occurrence as he was sitting on a rock at the rear of the tents on a hill and he emphatically denied having taken any part in the fight, as in statement given by Native Akular who accompanied Radford to Bathurst Inlet and it was said that this native (Al-ik) had cut Radford's throat and finished him off. This native further remarked that he had heard that the Police were coming to look for the white men. By several natives I have been told that they do not use this camping ground since the affair took place but make a camp further along the island to the south and on the other side as they were afraid the white men's spirits would came back there.

I engaged a native (Ar-nak) to take us to Kwog-juk island and show us where the murder took place. This was done but nothing whatever was to be found. It is

evident, that if the bodies were placed where this man pointed out, they must have been carried into the waters of the Inlet by the first stormy period and carried out to sea. Kwog-juk Island is a long narrow strip of land in the southern part of Bathurst Inlet to the west of Gordon Bay and in places has very precipitous heights and is a noted sealing-place as it opens early on the west side in the channel which is narrow between the island and main land. Since writing the above re our visiting Kwog-juk Island to look for the remains of Messrs Radford and Street, I have been informed by Mr Phillips, Post Manager of H.B.Co at Bernard Harbour, that some huskies went to Kwog-juk the next spring and collected the remains of the bodies and threw them into the sea. This was said to have been done so that any white man coming to look for the white men's bodies, would not find them.

The next statement taken was that of Native Ting-me-ar and is herewith attached.

May 17th 1917

Statement of Ting-me-ar, Killin-e-muit Eskimo

I remember all about the white men Ish-yu-mat-ok (Radford) and Ki-uk (Street) who were killed at Kwog-juk. It is 4 or 5 winters ago but I am not sure. I was in the camp when they came and they stayed with us some time but I do not now how long. The white men wanted to go to the west and wanted the two best hunters to go with them. The three huskies who came with them went away again. Two men Har-la and Kan-o-ak were going with the two white men and I remember that when they were ready to go, Kan-e-ak did not want to go with the white men as his wife had fallen on the ice and hurt herself. Har-la had left the camp with one team. The white man Ish-yu-mat-ok got very mad at Kan-e-ak and commenced talking loudly but we did not know what he was saying.

I was sitting on a rock outside my tent restringing my bow and saw all what happened. I saw Ish-yu-mat-ok take hold of Kan-e-ak and commence hitting him over the head with a dog-whip and Kan-e-ak sat down on the ice. The other white man went up and tried to make Ish-yu-mat-ok stop but he would not. After a while Ish-yu-mat-ok caught hold of Kan-e-ak and called to Ki-uk (Street). He (Radford) then dragged Kan-e-ak to a wide crack in the ice and commenced pushing his head down towards the water and he was calling to the other man Ki-uk all the time. After a while the white man Ki-uk went up and also caught hold of Kan-e-ak and they both held him over the hole. We all became afraid and thought that the white men were going to kill Kan-e-ak. I saw a native Ok-it-ok run out and catch hold of Ish-yu-mat-ok and another native named Hul-a-lark stabbed him in the back with a snow knife and he fell on the ground and the other white man started to run after the sleigh that Har-la had started off with but Ok-

it-ok ran after him and caught hold of him and another native named Am-e-geal-nik stabbed him and he fell on the ice and died. The other white man Ish-yu-mat-ok did not die right away but lay groaning on the ice and Hul-a-lark went up and cut his throat and finished him off.

They were all very much afraid and did not know what to do as they did not wish to kill the white men. We carried the white men up to the land and covered them with deer skins I did not take any of the white men's stuff but some took the rifles and some huskies took the other things. There were not many men in the camp at the time as they were all out over the ice hunting.

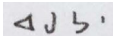
Some huskies went away to tell the three huskies who came with the white men from the south about it. I left Kwog-juk after this happened and went to the foot of the Inlet. This is all I know and I cannot say what became of the white men's bodies as I have not been to Kwog-juk since.

His
Signed. Ting- X me-ar
Mark

Witness:-

[sgd: F.H. French, Insp]

I certify that the above is a true interpretation of what I have heard and interpreted to you from the above named witness

Signed. 
Police Native Joe. Interpreter.

This man seemed an upright, honest native and appeared eager to furnish all details as far as he could recall the affair. It is difficult to obtain direct answers to questions in the Eskimo language as asked by us but Ting-me-ar gave his statement in a very straight-forward manner. He stated that as far as he knew Hul-a-lark and Kan-e-ak were on the coast to the east and did not know where Am-e-geal-nik was.

Ig-lu-re-ar-el-ik Camp

May 29th 1917

Statement of Ar-vok. Bathurst Inlet Eskimo

I have heard all about the two white men who were killed at the Island called Kwog-juk. I was not at Kwog-juk when they were there. I was on a river An-ne-or-shor-vik to the east of Kwog-juk, deer hunting and I was there with other Killin-e-muits, Kan-nat, and Kar-tak when the two white men came to our camp and

they had three Eskimos from the south and they wanted me to go with them to the island called Kwog-juk but I did not wish to go. I had not seen white men before and was afraid of them and I could not understand them.

The tall man Ish-yu-mat-ok was shouting at me and I was afraid and ran away from him and I do not know what he was calling after me. Kan-nat and Kar-tak went away to Kwog-juk with the two white men and I stayed at the river An-ne-or-shor-vik and I heard that the white men had been killed at Kwog-juk, by Hui-a-lark and Am-e-geal-nik because they were fighting Kan-e-ak because he did not want to go with them to the west.

I know the men Hul-a-lark and Am-e-geal-nik and do not think they would trouble the white men if they had not tried to kill Kan-e-ak as they are both good men and hunters.

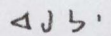
I do not know where these men are now excepting they are up on the big salt water to the north.

His
Signed. Ar X vok
Mark

Witness:-

[sgd: F.H. French, Insp]

I certify that the above is a true interpretation of what I have heard and interpreted to you from the above named witness

Signed. 
Police Native Joe. Interpreter.

This statement was obtained from the above named native whom we met in an encampment on Bank's Peninsula, Arctic Sound and my reason for submitting this natives story is to show that evidently Mr Radford used very little discretion or judgment in handling these natives when trying to obtain their services, and he appears, at all times to have used rough methods all along his route of travel from Chesterfield Inlet, as I have heard stories of previous occurrences of a similar nature happening which I believe are contained in reports already forwarded from Baker Lake Det. one of these reports referring to Mr Radford as threatening to shoot a native named 'Bosun' at Baker Lake because he would not accompany him from that, place to Bathurst Inlet and also chasing a native at Schultz Lake because the native had cheated him out of a fish in a trade deal.

Speaking from my own experience with these people whom I have studied closely whilst living amongst them. I must say it is dangerous to ever attempt such methods as those Mr Radford employed when endeavouring to make his way amongst them.

Furthermore no white man or men who cannot speak the language should attempt to mingle with these natives unless he has an interpreter with him. White men travelling amongst these natives as a rule obtain a smattering of their language and if one should happen to speak a syllable to them they immediately come to the conclusion that one speaks the whole language and commence jabbering away.

These natives are very simple and primitive and full of fear of the white man, and extremely curious and when they meet a white man travelling amongst them they want to examine everything in his possession to see how it is made, and they want to look into every box and bag and I must say that some of them are not above stealing if a chance occurs. Their curiosity often becomes annoying, and this I experienced myself, but it is impolitic to lose one's temper.

The next statement was taken at the same camp from Kat-ak who is mentioned in the above statement.

Ig-lu-re-el-ik Camp

May 29th 1917

Statement of Native Kan-nat. Bathurst Inlet Native.

I remember about the two white men who were killed at Kwog-juk but I was not there when the fight took place I only heard of it from other huskies.

I saw the two white men Ish-yu-mat-ok and Ki-uk when they came to our camp on the An-ne-or-shor-vik (a river on the east side of Bathurst Inlet) It was in the early spring when they came and they wanted to go on with them to Kwog-juk. They had three huskies from the south with them. Ar-vok did not want to leave his wife. The white man Ish-yu-mat-ok seemed to get mad and started talking loudly but we did not understand what he was saying. Ar-vok ran away and the white man picked on a snow knife and ran after him shouting and the other white man Ki-uk ran up and stopped the Ish-yu-mat-ok. After a time myself and another husky named Kar-tak agreed to go to Kwog-juk with them. We went to Kwog-juk with them and stayed there a day, when we left and came back to our camp on An-e-or-shor-vik, the two white men were alive.

It was some time later that I heard the two white men had been killed at Kwog-juk by Hul-a-lark and Am-e-geal-nik. I do not know where these men are now, they might be up on the Coast by the big salt.

His
Signed. Kan X nat
Mark

Witness:-

[sgd: F.H. French, Insp]

I certify that the above is a true interpretation of what I have heard and interpreted to you from the above named witness

Signed.

ⓐ ⓑ ⓓ

Police Native Joe. Interpreter.

[T]his statement was taken from this native who volunteered this information and corroborates the remarks I made at the foot of the preceding statement. The river alluded to is running into Gordon Bay on the east side.

The following statements were taken at a much later date at the Coppermine River.

Coppermine River

Sept 13th 1917

Statement of Kina-rolik.

I am a Killin-e-muit Eskimo, and I remember the two white men who were killed, coming to Kwog-juk Island. I was in camp on the island when the two white men were there and I saw them many times. The one white man we called Ish-yu-mat-ok (Radford) and the other we called Ki-uk (Street). No one had any trouble with the white men while I was in the camp and I do not think the white men would have been killed if I had been there. I was away from the camp when the fight happened but my wife was there and saw the fight. I only know what I heard from the natives who were in the camp when the white men were killed. I heard that the white men wanted huskies to go travelling with them and Kan-e-ak and Har-la were to go but Kan-e-ak's wife got sick and he did not want to leave her.

The Ish-yu-mat-ok got mad and hit Kan-e-ak across the face with a whip handle and afterwards tried to put him down a hole in the ice. The white men were killed by Hul-a-lark and Am-e-geal-nik. I know both these men and they are good men and have never had trouble before. They thought the white men were going to kill Kan-e-ak. If I had been there I think I could have prevented the killing of the white men as I am a chief amongst these natives and they would do as I say.

His

Signed.

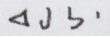
Kina X rolik

Mark

Witness:-

[sgd: F.H. French, Insp]

I certify that the above is a true interpretation of what I have heard and interpreted to you from the above named witness

Signed. 

Police Native Joe. Interpreter.

This man is an elderly native and seems honest and jovial and he was employed by the Canadian Arctic Expedition in 1915-1916 and they speak well of him as a servant.

Statement of Native Woman O-kok

I am the wife of Kina-rolik and was in camp with my husband when the two white men came to Kwog-juk with three huskies from the south. It was 5 or 6 winters ago when they came to the island and they wanted natives to go with them to the west after they had rested up.

Kan-e-ak and Har-la were going with them, and I was in the camp the day they were to go but there were not many natives in camp as most of them were away hunting. I saw what happened from the tent.

Kan-e-ak's wife had fallen on the ice and hurt herself and Kan-e-ak did not want to leave her and go with the white men. The white man Ish-yu-mat-ok (Radford) seemed to get mad and was shouting at Kan-e-ak, I saw the white man Ish-yu-mat-ok pick up a dog whip and hit Kan-e-ak across the face. Kan-e-ak laid down on the ice and the Ish-yu-mat-ok shouted to the other white men Ki-uk and after a time they dragged Kan-e-ak to a crack in the ice and held him over it. We all were very frightened and thought the white men meant to kill Kan-e-ak. I saw a native name Ok-it-ok run out and catch hold of Ish-yu-mat-ok and another man named Hul-a-lark stabbed him with a snow-knife in the back and he fell on the ground and the other white man started to run to the sleigh which was a short way out from the camp driven by Har-la. Ok-it-ok ran after him and caught him and a man named Am-e-geal-nik ran up and stabbed him and he died right away, but the Ish-yu-mat-ok lived some time after he was stabbed.

They were carried up on the shore and their tent and deer-skins were placed over them. I do not know what became of their goods but I think it was divided up amongst the men. Nothing would have happened if the white man had not hit Kan-e-ak as we do not wish to have any trouble with the white men.

Her
Signed. O X kok
Mark

Witness:-

[sgd: F.H. French, Insp]

I certify that the above is a true interpretation of what I have heard and interpreted to you from the above-named witness

Signed.

4 J 5'

Police Native Joe. Interpreter.

This completes the statements which I obtained.

From these statements it will be seen that Mr Radford appeared to be regarded as a bad man by the natives while they spoke of Mr Street as a good man; undoubtedly the previous incidents occurring along the route had been told to the Killin-e-muit people by some of the natives accompanying Messrs Radford and Street to Bathurst Inlet. Hiring natives as guides to accompany one on a journey through the north is often likely to be the source of great annoyance as one of the natives may back out at the last minute and not want to go as was evidently experienced by Messrs Radford and Street when trying to engage native Kan-e-ak to go west with them and I myself have had a similar experience myself whilst on this patrol. A native I had engaged to go with me from the mouth of the Coppermine to Cape Krusenstern backed out and did not want to go as he had hurt his leg. Through our interpreter I told this native that I did not want him unless he came willingly as I am sure the excuse of the lame leg was a false hood. However the matter dropped right there and then. Had Mr Radford used discretion when Kan-e-ak said he did not want to go with him and tried to get another native I believe he could have succeeded in so doing instead of chastising the native I am firmly convinced that Messrs Radford and Street would be alive to-day.

Conscientiously speaking, of all the many different tribes with whom I came in contact whilst patrolling the Arctic Coast and Bathurst Inlet, I place the Killin-e-muits, members of which tribe murdered Messrs Radford and Street, as the best class of natives I met.

We were continually meeting large bands of them sometimes numbering somewhere from 15 to 40 adult males and at no time did they shew any desire to take advantage of the fact that we were two lone white men in their midst. Of the other tribes to the west of Bathurst Inlet, such as the Killi-shik-toe-muits, Wad-le-ar-ing-muits and some of the Victoria Land natives whom we found camped to the west of Cape Krusenstern I found them of a different calibre many having come in contact with white men at different periods and showed an inclination to make themselves obnoxious by turning over our effects and examining them and

generally speaking were altogether too familiar and unless handled by a person possessing an ample supply of patience and self-possession, I will not hesitate in saying that we shall hear more of these natives' doings with the lone white man who may from time to time be making his way amongst them.

I did not like the looks of some of the bands of Wad-le-ar-ing-muits we met and these are the people who are responsible for the murder of the two Roman Catholic Missionaries. There appears to be a number of young bucks amongst them who are looking for a way to notoriety. All the different bands I met, I held meetings, calling them together and delivered a lecture to them through our interpreter regarding the whiteman's law concerning murder, stealing etc., and informing them that we should be in there again in the event of any more white men being molested and that the culprits would be taken away and would never return.

They seemed deeply impressed by what was told them and said that they would see that future white travellers going amongst would be respected. However it remains for the future to show what effect our visit amongst them has had.

They had all heard of Inspt La Nauze and party being in and taking out the murderers of the Roman Catholic Priests and this has had a great impression on them, the benefit of which the future will show, although I have to blame Inspt La Nauze's Patrol for my inability to get in contact with the actual murderers of Messrs Radford and Street; these natives having gone over to Victoria Land and have in all probability changed their named presuming no doubt that they were to be apprehended. Should these men Hul-a-lark and Am-e-geal-nik be required it will take rather a long time to effect their arrest as in the event of their having gone to Victoria Land it would require at least a party outfitted for a year to work out from the mouth of Bathurst Inlet.

The reason for this is that the Eskimos know every inch of the country and could avoid arrest for some time. Since arriving here I have heard that the murderers of Messrs Radford and Street have left Bathurst Inlet and have gone to the N.E. of Victoria Land and are supposed to be living on some islands between Victoria Land and King William's Land.

It is very doubtful if these men were arrested and brought to trial if it would be possible to convict them before any judge and jury as the only evidence we have is the statements of natives and these all go to show that Radford was the aggressor and that the natives acted in self-defence against brutal treatment and when they thought that one of their band was going to be killed.

From the evidence we have, Radford wrote to Mr. Ford at Chesterfield Inlet from the Island where he was murdered, this letter was dated June 3rd, 1912 and stated that he had been well received by the natives of this camp.

The last date recorded in his diary which Inspt La Nauze got from Dr O'Neil is July 12th 1912 which goes to prove that he lived with these people for over a month without any harm coming to him and also the fact that there were very few natives in the came at the time of the murder goes to prove that it was not premeditated.

From the statements enclosed and from the conversations I had with different natives along the Coast I would judge that they only acted in self-defence and to protect themselves, as the only law they know is self-protection.

I spent more time than I intended among these natives on account of the early thaw in May and I was unable to get out of the country as all the snow has gone. I had plenty of time to observe and study these natives and I found them to be honest and always willing to assist us in every way they could. The Killin-e-muits are far superior in every way to the natives living to the west of Bathurst Inlet and as far as I could find out there are three tribes living in Coronation Gulf and on my patrol I came in contact with all of them and found them to be born thieves and fearful liars and not to be trusted out of one's sight and I should not be surprised to hear of some of them committing more murders before long as anyone of them would sell his soul to possess a rifle but at present the whole thing hinges on whatever happens to the murderers of the two Roman Catholic Priests. If these two men are turned loose and return to this country it will not be safe for a lone white man to travel amongst them as they would take the first opportunity to murder him to get his outfit.

My instructions re the murders of Messrs Radford and Street were to the effect that I was to make no arrests but investigate the case and get what evidence was possible. This I have done and I tried my utmost to come in contact with the two murderers as I wished to get their statements but in this I was unsuccessful. From the information that I have obtained from natives in Bathurst Inlet, is that Kan-e-ak ,Hul-a-lark and Am-e-geal-nik are living on some islands between east Victoria Land and King William's Land and this appears to be their winter hunting ground. Kan-e-ak and Hul-a-lark were seen last summer on the Ellis River and this river is shown on the map enclosed with my reports. They apparently hunted there for the summer and then returned to the Arctic Coast, this information I obtained from Ul-uk-sak.

If the arrest of these two murderers are desired it will require a party of Police equipped with at least two years' provisions to effect this. They might be arrested in one month but in all probability it would take considerably longer and a patrol might have to go as far east as Adelaide Peninsula or Frankland Isthmus or to N.E. King William's Land as these men will know long before this that the Police are after them and they are going to make themselves scarce and keep out of the way,

and as they know every inch of the country and unless they are surprised and arrested I am afraid it would be a long, hard case before they are captured.

Signed, [*F.H. French*] Inspt.
O.C. Bathurst Inlet Patrol

The Commissioner
Forwarded for his information
Prince Albert 20.5.18

107. Inspector La Nauze, Crime Report, 20 June 1917

Source: LAC, RG18, vol.2162, f.30-5

Crime Report by Inspector La Nauze, June 20, 1917

ROYAL NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE

Fort McPherson N.W.T.
June 20th, 1917.

CRIME REPORT

Re Murder of Messrs. Radford & Street

Upon arrival at Fort McPherson June 19th, I received the following letter from Mr. G. Phillips, Hudson's Bay Co.'s Agent at Bernard Harbour, Dolphin & Union Straits N.W.T. The letter was brought from that point by the Rev Mr Girling of the Church of England Mission who arrived at McPherson in May.

Fort Bacon Bernard Harbour
Dolphin & Union Straits,
15th February 1917.

Inspr. C.D. La Nauze
R.N.W. Mounted Police
at Fort McPherson.

My Dear Inspector,

Thinking that perhaps you did not get the following details of the Radford and Street affair last spring when you were in here, I take this opportunity of recording the story as told by one of the murderers to Mupfa one of the men Dr. Andersen had working for him last year and who was highly recommended to me by the Dr. as honest and trustworthy otherwise I would not put much stock in it.

Radford and Street presumably arrived in Bathurst Inlet with dogs and hauled a Peterboro canoe, when about to leave again, it appears that the wife of one of the two men they had hired to take them to Bear Lake was about to give birth to a child. Her husband told the Boss (Radford) that he did not like to leave his wife just then but that there were plenty of other men he could get, if he would wait a few days longer.

The Boss immediately flew into a fierce temper and although the other white man tried to stop him, attacked the native, who thinking that the Boss had gone crazy took his knife to protect himself, and finally stabbed (Radford).

He knew at once that the other people with him would want to kill Street, and he tried his best to prevent them, but another man slipped in and got Street in the back. Street it appears was popular with them and Amegailignaluk the murderer of Radford and the narrator of this story sorrows for his death as he was good to them and it was none of his fault that the other man was killed.

This man is now living at Tree River but belongs to the Ekallugtogmiut tribe who live on the S.E. coast of Victoria Land.

Hadlilah Street's murderer is an Umingmuktogmiut and is still living on the East shore of Bathurst Inlet. The murders took place in Young Island, right in the bottom of Bathurst Inlet. Some few hours after the murders another man came along and gashed Radford's throat and cut him in the chest. For this they give no other reason than that he was angry with Radford for causing the trouble.

One of their rifles, an automatic is held by a man named Katak. The other one and the canoe are reported to be useless now having been used up. It was not known who had the sled and dogs.

This is the story which I hope may prove of use,

Sincerely yours,
W. G. Phillips

The following information is further added by Mr. Phillips at a later date.

Fort Bacon 4th March 1917.

My Dear Inspector,

Since writing you before another fellow has turned up with the information that Radford and Street's bodies were thrown into the water and covered or weighed down with rocks so that the white men would not find them.

Yours sincerely,
Sgd W.G. Phillips.

I have answered Mr. Phillips letter and thanked him for his information[.] "Mupfa" I know and he seemed to be reliable.

In a letter from Captn Joseph Bernard (Schooner Teddy Bear), who is wintering in Coronation Gulf, I received the following information re the Radford and Street murders when Captn Bernard left Herschel Island last September; I asked him to make indirect enquiries as to their movements.

“As for the information you desire I have the following: A-mea-re-na-lonch was seen at Tree River by Ikey (Charley Klengenberg's Son in Law) last December, he had been with there all Summer.

Hull la lark, these people all know him, they say he went East last Summer.

Captn Bernard hopes to make the Northwest passage this Summer returning via the Atlantic to his home at Ingnish P.E. Island.

Ikey is the young man who secured the page of the diary of the late George Street when working for the C.A. Expedition in 1916.

This is all the recent information I have secured re the Radford and Street Murder. I have no doubt the men could be located from Coronation Gulf.

Sgd. O.D. La Nauze Insp.,
Commdg. McKenzie River Sub District.

The Commissioner

R.N.W.M. Police

Regina.

Forwarded for information.

[*R. Field*] Insp.

Commanding “N” Division

Peace River August 14th 1917.

108. Telegram, RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 23 July 1917

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-1

1 RX D 31 coll rxRegina Sask

23 July 1917

The Comptroller

RNWMP

Ottawa Ont.

I have no instructions for Baker Lake as I fear they would interfere with Inspector French's plans. Constable Crome left here via Port Nelson to replace Constable Kennedy who is coming out.

A B Perry.

109. Comptroller to Commissioner, RNWMP, 22 August 1917

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 2162, 30-5

22nd August, 1917.

Sir,

RE: Murder of Messrs. Radford and Street.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your minute of the 18th instant forwarding a report received from Inspector La Nauze under date the 30th June, 1917, on the above subject.

Would it not be well to send a copy of this report to Port Nelson for transmission to Inspector French by the first opportunity, if you have not already done so.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

[L. du Plessis]

for Comptroller.

The Commissioner,
R.N.W.M. Police,
Regina, SASKN.

110. RNWMP Commissioner to Col. Hugh Clark, 22 August 1917

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 556, file 240-1

The Commissioner,
R.N.W.M. Police,
Regina, SASKN.,

22nd August, 1917.

Dear Colonel Clark,

I enclose, herewith, for the information of Sir Robert Borden, copy of a report dated Fort McPherson, June 30th, 1917, received from Commissioner Perry with regard to information obtained by Inspector LaNauze on the subject of the alleged Murder of Messrs. Radford and Street.

I may state that on the 30th September last copies of reports received from Inspector LaNauze were sent to Mr. Blount for submission to the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister.

Yours faithfully.

AA.

Colonel Hugh Clark, M.P.,
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.
OTTAWA.

**111. Corporal P.R. Conway to O.C. RNWMP, Herschel Island, 23
August 1917**

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-5

R. N. W. M. Police,
"N" Division, Herschel Island Sub. Dist.
Baillie Island, Aug. 23rd 1917

The Officer Commanding
R.N.W.M. Police,
Herschel Island.

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Schooner Port McPherson cannot go any further East this season as the ice is packed here off Cape Bathurst. The H.B.Co has landed all the freight here and the Missionaries have decided to wait for the ice to go off shore, and go on, on a native schooner, and I am going on with them, they are paying the native the sum of \$200.00 for the trip from here to Bernard Harbour. I hope to reach Port Bacon Bernard Harbour anyhow before I return to Herschel Island.

From a conversation I had with Mr Herbert a H.B.Co's trader from Bernard Harbour, he told me that one of the Eskimo who killed Mr Radford and Mr Street was near Fort Bacon Bernard Harbour last winter and the other murderers are in the vicinity of the Coppermine River. I have all the statements of Ackular and Sur-lo-look, taken at Baker Lake 1915, and the names of all of the natives who killed Messrs Radford and Street. Mr Herbert told me all about the native Kumik who killed the native woman Kadlak, he thinks that I can locate him this season.

I have certified the accounts re freight and my meals on Schooner Fort McPherson from Herschel Island to Baillie Island.

I hope to get back to Herschel Island and report to you with the murderer Kumik next Spring. Trusting that this will meet with your approval. Do not be uneasy about me.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Sgd) P.R. Conway, Corpl
Bernard Harbour Patrol,

Forwarded,
Sgd J.M. Tupper, Insp.
Commanding McKenzie River Sub. Dist.
Aug. 27th 1917.

112. RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 8 October 1917

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file RCMP-1918-240

ROYAL NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE

Commissioner's Office.

Regina, Sask. October 8, 1917.

Sir:

Re Murder of Messrs. Radford and Street.

In connection with the reports received from Inspector La Nauze forwarded with my letter of the 20th September, 1916, I now have the honour to forward herewith the original sheets from the diary referred to on page 2 of the report dated June 17th, 1916.

I also send you under same cover the prayer book referred to in the attached report, copy of which was sent you on the 15th September, 1916.

These were handed to me by Inspector La Nauze who stated that they should have been forwarded to Regina by ex-Superintendent MacDonnell.

As both Radford and Street were devout Roman Catholics possibly one of their friends or relatives would like to have this prayer book as a remembrance.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your obedient servant,
[A.B. Perry]
Commissioner.

The Comptroller,
Royal North-West Mounted Police,
Ottawa, Ont.

113. J.W. Phillips to Commissioner, 8 February 1918

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-1

ROYAL NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE

Fort MacPherson, N.W.T.

February 8th 1918.

“N” Division.

The Commissioner

R.N.W.M. Police,

Regina

Sir:

re: Inspector French's Party.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your telegram of the 18th December last having reference to the patrol under command of Inspector French.

I received a communication from Sergeant Johnson of Fort Norman on the 6th instant and in his letter he states that some Indians had just arrived at Norman from Bathurst Inlet and were carrying mail from Inspector French to you.

Sergeant Johnson gathered from these Indians that they had met Inspector French, Sergeant Major Caulkin and four natives at Bathurst Inlet, in November last. The patrol was at that time returning South to their base at Baker Lake. From what Sergeant Johnson could gather from the Indians, he (Sergt. Johnson) was under the impression that Inspector French had effected the arrest of the murderers of Messrs Radford and Street.

The mail referred to by Sergt. Johnson has gone out by the MacKenzie River route and should reach you by the end of March.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(sgd) J.W. Phillips.

Inspector.

114. Telegram to RNWMP Comptroller, 1 March 1918

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-1

77 rn. g. 98 - collect.

Regina, Sask. March 1st, 1918.

Rx.

The Comptroller,
R.N.W.M. Police,
Ottawa.

Following from Supt. Knight today - Begins, - Inspector Tapper and McPherson patrol arrived today. All well. Reports Stefansen sick at Herschel Island barracks - supposed influenza. Delirious twenty second January last. Report has outfitted for two years ice trip towards Siberian Coast following 200 miles north Karlunk drift. Remainder party at Barter Island, Alaska. Stefansen and other mail goes forward first stage. Letters received McPherson seventh Feb. from Sergt. Johnson, Fort Norman, states Indians from Great Bear Lake with mail for you from Inspector French. Reported Radford and Street affair cleaned up. Tupper requests three months leave Vancouver.

115. Telegram, RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 20 March 1918

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-1

295 RAO 54 collect Regina Sask Mar 20/18

The Comptroller R N W M Police
Ottawa Ont

Following from Beyts twentieth March begins: Hudson Bay Company's Chesterfield packet arrived last evening. Inspector French and party returned Baker Lake January twenty ninth. All well. Visited Bathurst Inlet, Bernard Harbour and vicinity. Actual murderous [*sic*] not seen but from five witnesses report Radford undoubtedly brought about murder by his tyranny. Will forward these reports first opportunity. Ends.

A.B. Perry

116. RNWMP Comptroller to Mrs. F.R. Leland 1 June 1918

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-1

1st June, 1918.

Dear Madam,

I enclose, herewith, an envelope containing one book, the property of Mr. H.V. Radford, who met his death in an altercation with an Eskimo at Bathurst Inlet, N.W. Territories.

This book was received from Inspector French, who was in command of the party sent in search of the murderers, and as you are Radford's nearest relative I deem it well to send it to you, as you may care to have it in your possession.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. F. R. Leland,

Bryn Mawr,

Washington, U.S.A.

117. Deputy Minister to RNWMP Comptroller, Ottawa, 4 June 1918

Source: LAC, RG18, Vol. 556, file 240-1

June 4th, 1918.

Sir,-

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo enclosing copy of letter from Inspector F.H. French, Commanding Baker Lake Sub-District, respecting certain articles obtained by him from the cache of the Canadian Arctic Expedition at Bernard Harbour.

In reply I beg to advise that at the present time I have not had a report from Mr. Stefansson regarding this matter, but as soon as same is received and prices are known, I will render an invoice.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

[signature illegible]

for Deputy Minister.

The Comptroller

Royal North West Mounted Police,

OTTAWA.

118. RNWMP Comptroller to Commissioner, 11 June 1918

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-1

Royal North West Mounted Police
Office of the Comptroller
Ottawa, 11th June, 1918.

Sir:-

Referring to Asst. Commissioner Wilson's letter of the 27th ultimo, enclosing reports from Inspector French in connection with the Baker Lake Patrol, I beg to state that Page No. 7, Crime Report dated Bernard Harbour, June 20th, 1917, re Murder of Messrs. Radford and Street by Eskimos of Bathurst Inlet, has been omitted.

Please be good enough to have a copy of this page of the Report forwarded to me in complete my office file.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
[Signed]
Comptroller.

The Commissioner,
R.N.W.M. Police,
Regina, Sask.

119. RNWMP Commissioner to Comptroller, 15 June 1918

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-1

June 15th 1918.

Sir:

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 11th inst, and now enclose herewith copy of Page 7, Crime Report dated Bernard Harbour, June 20th 1917, re murder of Messrs Radford and Street by Eskimos of Bathurst Inlet, as requested.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Commissioner.

Comptroller
R.N.W.M. Police,
Ottawa, Ontario.

120. Rev. Edward Hester Statement, 5 October 1918

Source: LAC, RG18, vol. 2162, file 30-2

ROYAL NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE.

Fort Macpherson.

October 5th 1918.

The Officer Commanding.
MacKenzie River Sub-District.
Fort MacPherson Detachment.

Sir.

Re: Murder of Messrs Radford and Street in 1912

I have the honour to submit herewith a statement handed to me by the Revd E Hester, whilst I was camping in the vicinity of Bernard Harbour Coronation Gulf, in 1918.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

[sgd] P.R. Conway Corpl.

Reg No 4217.

The Officer Commanding
"N". Division.

Forwarded. I am under the impression that the above matter has been investigated and the case satisfactorily wound up by a Police patrol from "F". Division.

Further investigation can be made if so desired from here this summer.

[sgd] G.W. Phillips Insptr.

Commanding "N". Division. Sub-District

Forwarded from Commander "G" Division, Edmonton, to the Commissioner, Regina, April 3rd. 1919.

[Handwritten statement from Rev. Edward Hester]

On January the 16th 1918 I arrived at Bathurst Inlet and found a large village of Eskimos, camped not so very far from the Back's West River. These people were the Kilusiktogmiut, amongst them I saw Kaniak who was implicated in the Radford-Street affair of 1912.

After a few days other Eskimos came into camp and with them Alalak the actual murderer of Radford. On January 23rd I got all those concerned in the murder together, and this is the story they told me.

The actual place of the murder was named by them Kuakyuit which I gathered to be an island not far from the mainland.

The trouble began with Kaniak who was engaged to go down part of the trip with Radford. He declined to go any farther making it his (excuse) that his wife was unwilling and not ready to go. Radford tried to force Kaniak with threats of violence. I understand that he struggled with the man, plenty of men were about, and the whole affair was witnessed by them. Radford and his party did not proceed far that day.

The day following Kaniak absolutely declined to go a step farther, he had previously traded his bow and arrows to Radford for curios, but he went to the sled to take an arrow which he declared was his own, and not one traded. Radford claimed it as his property, and dared Kaniak to take it. Kaniak however got hold of the arrow, and a struggle began for its possession. Radford struck Kaniak with a dog whip a time or two, then closed with him, and endeavoured to bear him towards the water's edge to give him a ducking.

Street endeavoured to pacify Radford & tried to get the whip away from him. Still the struggle went on, then Akulak who amongst the crowd made haste to Alalak's tent, and awoke him, for he was sleeping at the time, and Akulak told Alalak what Radford was doing to his friend Kaniak. Alalak rushed out, and came upon them Radford was at this time pushing Kaniak with all his might to the water's edge, they shewed me how Radford held him by grabbing my shoulders, and pushing me backwards. Alalak ran at him (Radford) behind, and stabbed him 3 times in the middle of the back with a double edged knife, the like of which he shewed me. Radford fell, then Ningilapaluk stabbed him twice, still he lingered, at last a third man named Alek cut Radford's throat, he said he did it out of pity, Radford died at full noon, when the sun was high up in the heavens, so I guess that the deed was done in the full spring-time. They indicated to me the position of the sun. Radford they named Kowingmouak⁸. Alalak told me [he] attacked Radford to save his own friend Kaniak.

When Mr. Street saw Radford fall he streaked to the sled and stood by it in hesitation, some doubtless thought that he had gone for his gun, and so attacked him

⁸ Editor's note: Ishyumatok in the testimonies.

then, but I do not think that his murder was decided on until they had thought it out amongst themselves that they had better kill Street too, or he would tell on them when he got outside. This is certainly what they told me, so they followed Street who moved a little way out, possibly to return to camp. Amongst the natives who followed Mr. Street were Katak, Okaitok, Manik, and Amigainuak⁹. It was decided to kill Street, and as far as I can gather Amigainuak is responsible for the deed, he also struck two or three times once between the shoulder blades, three in the back, he also told me that he slit his throat with the knife, he did not strike him with a spear as stated. Amigainuak was in my company for weeks, he accompanied us on the journey, we knew of his deed before we saw the others, one or two tried to shield him at the actual enquiry by stating that they also put in a stab or two, and thus confound the business, but we learnt from careful enquiry, from the manifest stance of our [illegible], and from his own statement that Amigainuak is the actual murderer of Street, the reason given as above they feared that if he got outside Radford [sic: Street] would tell on them, so they determined to hush it up.

Eventually they disposed of the bodies by shoving them into the water. All the natives who knew Mr. Street confessed that they liked him, they said that he was a good man = imogiktok, he was quiet and in offensive, and was much appreciated by them all. The murderers said the same thing of him. They all stated that they were sorry that it was deemed expedient to put him to death.

I then spoke to them of the law of murder, manslaughter, and infanticide etc. etc.

With respect to Akulak who is mentioned in the crime of leaving aroused Alalak and brought him into the tragedy we have ascertained that he came from Baker Lake way, no other Eskimo is known by that name, and he is the only one spoken of as coming from that direction as a trader to the Back's River district.

I have written this out at the request of Corporal P.R. Conway, who wintered with us, and has himself seen the people concerned in the murders.

Signed

(Rev) Edward Hester

(Missionary to the Eskimo East of Coppermine River in Coronation Gulf, Missionary and Translator of the Eskimo language for the Church of England in Canada.)

121. Commissioner A. Bowen Perry, Report of the RNWMP, 18 November 1918

Source: RNWMP Annual Report 1918 (Queen's Printer, 1919)

⁹ Editor's note: Amigealnik in testimonies, Amigainik in Pelly article.

It is with great relief that I am able to record the return of the Baker Lake patrol from Bathurst Inlet. Inspector French's report should be printed because of its special interest and the magnitude and importance of the patrol. I have had much pleasure in bringing to your notice the valuable services of Inspector French and Sergeant-Major Caulkin.

The patrol was made into the Arctic regions primarily to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the death of Messrs. Radford and Street in June, 1913, at Bathurst Inlet, while exploring the Arctic coast; and also to visit the different Eskimo tribes for the purpose of instructing them in the laws of the country, and gradually bringing them under their influence.

The report of the death of the explorers was first received by the Officer Commanding at Port Nelson in July, 1913. Nothing could be done at that time as Bathurst Inlet is so remote that only a well-organized expedition could accomplish the necessary journey.

Under instructions of the Government, this was organized under command of Inspector Beyts, in 1914, and sailed from Halifax on July 31. It was decided to establish a base at the east end of Baker Lake, and forward supplies to depots well in advance. Owing to adverse weather conditions, it was not possible to reach Baker Lake in the season of 1914, so that this expedition proceeded to Port Nelson.

In 1915, it again proceeded and passing up Chesterfield Inlet, established the base and during the winter of 1915-16, threw out its advance depot on the Thelon River. The following summer, Inspector French replaced Inspector Beyts in command. In March, 1917, the patrol set out and returned to its base in January, 1918, having successfully performed its mission. Inspector French reports that the result of the inquiry was to establish that Messrs. Radford and Street were killed by the natives on the shores of Bathurst Inlet in June, 1913, and that there was great provocation. In accordance with the instructions of the Government, he did not arrest the actual offenders.

The following were the instructions : "It will be your duty to get in touch at the earliest possible moment with the tribes said to be responsible for the deaths. You will make inquiries and take such statutory declarations as may seem necessary in order to obtain a full and accurate account of the occurrence. From information received, it is assumed that there was provocation. If this is found to be the case, it is not the intention of the Government to proceed with prosecution. If, however, there was found to be no provocation, the Government will consider what further action is to be taken."

After completing his investigation, Inspector French proceeded as far west as Bernard inlet, visiting the different tribes en route to whom he explained the "white man's" laws and customs.

This patrol, as well as that of Inspector La Nauze the previous year, has had a marked effect on these barbarian, but on the whole, kindly people. Friendly relations have been established which will be of much value in the future.

The post at Baker Lake was closed during the summer because of the difficulty in forwarding supplies, and that at Cape Fullerton was reopened.

The maintenance of this far-flung outpost is very necessary. It protects the Eskimos as well as exerting a beneficial influence over them, and it is the only point in the vast area tributary to the northern part of Hudson Bay, where there is an established authority. There are many evil customs among the Eskimo people which ought to be eradicated. Killing of female children is the most abhorrent, and it is freely practised. They make no effort to hide it, and claim it is an immemorial custom, resulting from their nomad life and precarious existence.

Inspector French recommends that an outpost be established at Lake Harbour, Baffins Land, and that a properly equipped vessel be secured for the purpose of patrol work in the northern areas. This would entail heavy expenditure, but would be justified if carried out in conjunction with work by the Mining, Geological, and Naval departments.

With regard to policing the Arctic coast around Coronation Gulf and the interior, I am of the opinion that outposts should be established at Fort Norman, Dease Bay on Great Bear Lake and Bernard Harbour and, if practicable, at the mouth of the Coppermine. This portion of the country is being invaded by traders, who find their operations very profitable. The mineral resources of this region are said to be very valuable, especially in native copper which, owing to the high price, the traders have been purchasing.

In conjunction with the establishment of these proposed outposts, the Department of Mines might find it convenient to use them as bases for a thorough examination of the mineral resources.

122. Report of the RNWMP, 1918

Source: RNWMP Annual Report 1918 (Queen's Printer, 1919), appendix A, 18-19.

Inspector French's successive reports of his patrol in connection with the murder of Messrs. Radford and Street are published in a separate volume. ...

The patrol was a remarkable achievement in the way of travel. Inspector French computes the distance traversed on the outward journey from Baker lake to Bernard harbour thus:

Distance travelled over routes	1,835	miles
“ “ deer-hunting	284	“
“ “ seal-hunting	114	“

“	“	looking for native camps	250	“
			2,483	“

No computation for the return journey is given by him, but the distance cannot have been much less than when outward bound; against the distance travelled in searching for native camps is to be set a certain amount of movement by the patrol along the Arctic coast. Altogether, it is fair to estimate the total travel at fully 4,500 miles. The return journey was carried out in the early winter under conditions of great hardship. It was impracticable to carry full stocks of provisions, and the party. Inspector French, Sergt.-Major T. B. Caulkin, and several natives were forced to rely for much of their subsistence upon the game and fish they could procure.

The investigation confirmed the accuracy of the information obtained by the R. N. W. M. Police in 1913. In brief it was that Mr. Radford, the elder of the two men, and the leader of the expedition, had all along showed ignorance of the proper manner of dealing with natives and that on the day of the affray, being irritated at one of the natives, he struck him, and thereby precipitated a scuffle in which both white men were killed.

Neither Mr. Radford nor Mr. Street understood these people's language, nor how to deal with them, and intercourse between them had been limited to signs. The tribe in question, the Killin-e-muits, is exceedingly primitive and had had next to no dealings with white men before; the white men lived amongst them without molestation until the quarrel arose. The statement of one native, Gib-gol-u-ok, may be given; the others agree closely with it:—

“I remember the two white men, Ish-yu-mat-ok and Ki-uk, coming to Kwog-juk as I was camped there. There were not many camped there when the white me:i came. After the white men came many Eskimos came there, as it is a good place for seals in spring.

“I do not know now how long the white men came. It was a long time and three huskies that came with them returned to the south. The one white man Ish-yu-mat-ok (Radford) was always mad and shouting loudly to the natives, and the other white man, Ki-uk (Street), was good. We did not understand the white man's language, but sometimes they made signs and we understand.

“They wanted two men who were good hunters to go away with them to the west, and Har-la and Kan-e-ak were to go. When the white men were ready to leave, Kan-e-ak did not want to go as his wife had fallen on the ice and hurt herself and he did not wish to leave her. Har-la had left the camp with one team. I remember seeing the white man Ish-yu-mat-ok pick up a dog whip and catch hold of Kan-e-ak and commence hitting him over the head and face, the white man shouting all the time, Kan-e-ak sat down on the ice, and the other white man, Ki-uk (Street) went up and tried to stop the Ish-yu-mat-ok.

"I saw the Ish-yu-mat-ok catch hold of Kan-e-ak and draw him to a wide crack in the ice and hold him over it. We were afraid the white man was going to kill Kan-e-ak. The other white man, Ki-uk, caught hold of Kan-e-ak and they both commenced to push him towards the water. I was on the side of the hill behind the tents and saw Ok-it-ok and Hul-a-lark run out from the camp. Okit-ok caught hold of Ish-yu-mat-ok and Hul-e-lark stabbed him with a snow knife; he stabbed him in the back, the white man fell on the ice, the other white man ran away towards the sled that Har-lu had left with, Ok-it-ok ran after him and caught hold of him and Am-e-goal-nik stabbed him.

"The white men were put on the ice and covered over with their deerskins. I did not see anybody cut either of the white men's throats. The huskies took some of the white men's stuff and some was left behind. I have some paper that belonged to the white men. I do not know any more of their stuff, the rifles were broken up and used by the natives. I heard that Hul-a-lark and Kan-e-ak were away hunting on the sea ice to the east, and I do not know where Am-e-goal-nik is. We did not want to have any trouble with the white men and if the white men could have spoken our language I do not think it would have happened as we want to have the white man come and trade with us."

Inspector French adds that all the evidence obtainable bore out this version. He was favourably impressed with this tribe, which, he points out, treated his small party excellently, despite the delicate nature of the mission upon which it came amongst them.

123. Report of the Bathurst Inlet Patrol 1917-1918

Source: RNWMP, Report of the Bathurst Inlet Patrol 1917-1918 (Ottawa: King's Printer, 1919).

REPORT OF THE BATHURST INLET PATROL ROYAL NORTHWEST MOUNTED POLICE 1917-1918

Introduction.

In 1911 two white men, Mr. H.V. Radford and Mr. T.G. Street, undertook a journey in the Far North. Mr. Radford was an American who had done some exploring in the northern areas, and had made collections for the United States Biological Society of Washington; Mr. Street, who was a younger man, was a

Canadian, a native of Ottawa. They wintered near Schultz Lake, and early in 1912 reached Bathurst Inlet, intending to proceed westward along the Arctic coast to Fort McPherson; at Bathurst Inlet they found an encampment of Eskimos of a tribe which had had little intercourse with white men. The Eskimos who had brought them on their way from Schultz Lake turned back; the travellers had arranged to procure assistance in travelling from the Eskimos among whom they now found themselves. This was in the first days of June, 1912.

Next spring reports reached civilization that they had been murdered by the Eskimos on 5th June, 1912. Under date of 31st May, 1913, Sergeant W.G. Edgerton, who was in command of the post at Fullerton, reported the occurrence, the particulars as he received them proving to be substantially accurate. A few days later one of the Eskimos who had travelled with the ill-fated men from Schultz Lake came to Chesterfield Inlet, and gave a statement to Mr. H.H. Hall, the manager of the Hudson's Bay trading post there; this was reported by Mr. Hall to his immediate superior in the following letter, under date of 11th June, 1913:-

[See document 17]

For some time uncertainty prevailed as to the truth of this account, and one or two false reports as to the reappearance at remote places of one or both of the missing men had to be investigated. The region where the tragedy occurred is peculiarly inaccessible; and it was recognized that the work of investigation would be difficult and tedious. Superintendent Starnes, in September, 1913, estimated that the capture of those responsible would take "the best part of two years," and recommended that the party comprise: one officer; one N.C. officer of experience with Eskimos, winter travelling and boating; two or three constables, good winter travellers; a good interpreter.

Superintendent Starnes suggested that a small schooner be sent to Churchill, should load supplies for two years for the party and its prisoners and witnesses, and should then go as far up Chesterfield inlet as possible and establish a base of supplies. From that point the party should work by boat or canoe to the end of the open water, and there establish a second base of supplies from which the overland journey with sleds and dogs could be made.

A little later Superintendent Demers, commanding "M" Division, with headquarters at Churchill, reported that the expedition should be equipped for three years.

A number of untoward circumstances, which included the wreck of the Hudson's Bay Company's schooner in the autumn, prevented further investigation in 1913.

Early in 1914 the Government approved the sending of an expedition, on the general lines suggested by Superintendent Starnes, and approved by Commissioner Perry. Inspector W.J. Beyts was appointed to lead the expedition, and he sailed on

31st July, 1914, from Halifax in the schooner *Village Belle*, which had been purchased for the purpose; the party which left Halifax comprised Inspector Beyts, one non-commissioned officer and two constables. Owing to unusually bad weather, the party did not reach the Hudson Bay coast until too late in the season to carry out the plan of establishing a post at Baker Lake.

In 1915 Inspector Beyts completed the task of establishing the advanced post at Baker Lake; this proved an unexpectedly tedious task, partly owing to very rough weather on Baker lake, and partly owing to the exceptional difficulties of transportation which were encountered. In the winter of 1915-16, Inspector Beyts made two attempts to make the journey from Baker Lake to Bathurst Inlet, but these were frustrated, principally by the scarcity of deer which prevailed in that region in that year. The party had to rely upon game for dog-feed, it being impossible to transport a sufficient supply of this with them, and the deer are capricious in their movements. The natives suffered severely from the absence of these animals, losing most of their dogs from starvation. "In one instance," reported Inspector Beyts, "I saw a party moving camp with one dog, two women, and a native hitched to the sledge. Another instance I encountered was that only six dogs were left amongst ten fatalities." A circumstance which aggravated the difficulties experienced was the absence of fuel.

In the summer of 1916, Inspector Beyts was relieved by Inspector F. H. French; the latter arrived at Baker Lake on 20th September. The autumn and winter were spent making preparations. Writing in January, 1917, Inspector French observed:

"I hope to make a successful trip, commencing in March next; my only difficulty is the inevitable dog-feed question, which seems to rise at every point a man moves in this country, so devoid of timber and vegetation. If I can only procure the game along the line of march, I feel sure I shall be able to bring the patrol to a successful termination. We shall be able to carry enough rations for the return trip, and will have to take our chances, along with the dogs, in this respect, and depend on the country. As far as being able to establish a friendly footing amongst the Killin-émuts, I have not the slightest doubt, if we can only get across the barrens dividing us, without hitch."

It is at this point that Inspector French's reports take up the story.

It may be added that during this period additional information about the murder from time to time was obtained. For instance, Inspector LaNauze in his patrol to arrest the murderers of Fathers Rouvière and Le Roux (which was made from the direction of Great Bear Lake) heard an account of it which coincided in its main outlines with the story as heard in 1913, and with the conclusions reached by Inspector French after the careful investigation which is recorded in the ensuing pages.

The commissioner's instructions to Inspector French were as follows: "It will be your duty to get in touch at the earliest possible moment with the tribes said to be responsible for the deaths. You will make inquiries and take such statutory declarations as may seem necessary in order to obtain a full and accurate account of the occurrence. From information received, it is, assumed that there was provocation. If this is found to be the case, it is not the intention of the Government to proceed with prosecution. If, however, there was found to be no provocation, the Government will consider what further action is to be taken."

LETTER OF TRANSMISSION.

ROYAL NORTHWEST MOUNTED POLICE,
COMMISSIONERS OFFICE,
REGINA, SASK., May 27, 1918.

SIR, —I have the honour to forward herewith the following reports just received from Inspector. French:-

1. Crime Report, dated Baker Lake Detachment, January 31, 1918, covering the period from June 13, 1917, to September 1, 1917.
2. Crime Report, dated Baker Lake Detachment, January 31, 1918, covering the period from September 1, 1917, to January 29, 1918.
3. General Report, dated Bernard Harbour, Northwest Territories, June 16, 1917.
4. Crime Report, dated Baker Lake Detachment, June 20, 1917.
5. Crime Report, dated Baker Lake Detachment, July 5, 1917.
6. Crime Report, dated Baker Lake Detachment, July 5, 1917.
7. Crime Report, dated Baker Lake Detachment, July 5, 1917.
8. One envelope containing one book, the property of H. V. Radford, referred to in the report.

I would specially call attention to the strenuous work of Inspector French, Sergeant-Major Caulkin, and the members of this—I believe one of the greatest patrols ever made by the Police.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAS. O. WILSON,

Asst. Commissioner.

The Comptroller,
R.N.W.M. Police,
Ottawa, Ont.

(Note.—These reports have been arranged in their chronological order.)

FIRST REPORT—THE JOURNEY TO THE ARCTIC.

“M” DIVISION, R.N.W.M. POLICE,
BERNARD HARBOUR, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES,
DOLPHIN AND UNION STRAITS, June 16, 1917.

The Officer Commanding,
R.N.W.M. Police,
Port Nelson.

SIR, I have the honour to forward to you a general report of a patrol made from Baker Lake, -N.W.T., to Bernard Harbour on the Arctic Coast.

On March 21, 1917, I left Baker Lake Detachment with Reg. No. 4557 Sergt. Major Caulkin, T.B., Police Natives “Joe” and “By and Bye,” and hired native “Quash-ak” and native woman Solomon, taking three teams of police dogs (25), sleds, and two canoes.

We proceeded west across Baker lake, calling at our first cache, where we took up most of our supplies and coal oil for the patrol. One month’s rations for six were all we were able to leave with, as with all our camp equipment and coal oil we were heavily loaded. After the month’s rations were finished we were to subsist as best we could if game were procurable.

We reached the west end of Baker lake at 9 p.m. on March 22 and camped for the night. As we were not able to reach our first cache of dog-feed, and not having any dog-feed with us, we were unable to feed our dogs.

On the morning of March 23 I sent Sergt.-Major Caulkin to a Kinipitoo encampment on the northwest end of the lake, and here he was able to purchase 10 large deer, and also to procure the services of a native with a dog-team to accompany us as far as Schultz lake and to assist in carrying our dog-feed and coal oil. We cut overland from Baker lake to Schultz lake, following a series of small lakes, striking a deer bay on the southeast shore on March 26, where we made camp.

The weather from March 21 to March 26 had been clear and cold, but on this latter date it commenced to storm and continued to do so till April 2, when we were able to break camp, proceeding to Aberdeen lake. During this part of the patrol it was continually storming and we were frequently held up. We reached the east end of Aberdeen lake on April 5 and there found an encampment of Shan-ing-i-ong-muits and one Pad-i-muit family. We built our igloo alongside and camped with them.

On April 6 I sent Sergt.-Major Caulkin and natives deer-hunting and they returned in late afternoon having shot 12 deer. From the time of our arrival at Schultz lake we had been able to kill sufficient deer to feed ourselves and dogs on fresh meat, although the deer were not very plentiful, so that as a precaution against a shortage of dog-feed I was compelled to carry two or three days' dog-feed in advance on our already heavily-laden sleds.

On April 7 I made arrangements with a native to come with us two days with his dog team and carry dog-feed and also act as guide across the land, as from this point I decided to proceed overland and make for lake Garry on Backe's river. The native was only agreeable to come on the condition that his son could accompany us as well, accordingly I had to accede to his request, to obtain the assistance urgently required.

Leaving Aberdeen lake on April 8 we proceeded in a northwesterly direction overland, having to follow a zig-zag course along ravines as there was no snow on the ridges. The weather was fine and clear and travelling fairly good, although it became apparent that the quantity of snow on the land in this part of the country was smaller than any we had found since leaving Baker lake. The deer appeared to be getting more plentiful as we proceeded farther north, and the prospects generally were good.

On April 10 our native guide and his son returned to their camp, and we were now alone in a strange country, with which none of my natives were acquainted, so we had to travel by compass and endeavour to pick our way as near as possible by this means.

On this date (April 10) the weather changed and became very foggy and stormy, and we were unable to continue. We made a start on the 12th but had to camp again at 2 p.m. owing to a blizzard coming on which continued unceasingly until April 15, when we were again able to continue on our journey to the northwest; but on this date the travelling was very bad and it was surprising to see how little snow there was on the land hereabouts; ahead of us appeared to be a long stretch of absolutely barren rocky country, which we found, upon coming nearer, impossible to cross over, so that we were forced to make a wide detour of this barren area to the northeast. Eventually we arrived on April 16 at lake Garry, although it does not compare in any way with the map we carried. The weather became very foggy and we could not see far ahead, thus making it difficult to obtain the lay of the country and get our bearings.

Our object in view now was to endeavour to locate the Shan-ing-i-ong-muit encampment, and we spent two days (April 17 and 18) looking for this, but without result. On April 10 we proceeded west to lake Pelly, and as it still continued foggy we were unable to locate the outlet from this lake into Backe's river, so we made camp and spent the next day looking for this outlet, which we could not find owing

to fog. It remained foggy until April 24, when we made a break and found the outlet into Backe's river, down which we continued until we arrived at the encampment of Shaning-i-ong-muits, where we built our igloo.

At this time I had made up my mind to follow Backe's river up to lake Beachey and strike north from there, as it appeared to me that we were losing considerable time, what with fog and storms and having no knowledge of the country beyond; from the general aspect of the country as far as the quantity was concerned, I felt anxious as to whether we should get back as the snow was now beginning to melt off the land.

However, on meeting the natives at this point, I was told that to proceed upon such a course was impossible, for between lake Beachey and Bathurst inlet there was a large stretch of country consisting of high, barren, rocky hills on which there was usually very little snow and practically considered impossible by the natives for sleds, so that they consequently never used this route.

One of these natives informed me that the route travelled over by the natives coming south from the Arctic coast followed a river which extended inland east of Bathurst inlet and also stated that he himself knew this river and had been along the route as far as the Arctic coast.

I endeavoured to obtain this man's services as guide across country to this river; at first he demurred, saying that it was a country of starvation and hardship, but I offered him a rifle and ammunition to accompany us, and it was not before considerable more conversation had ensued that he consented to do so.

We left this camp on April 26 and proceeded north, and on April 27 we struck a large lake and then continued northwest until May 1, when we were held up for a day by a very bad blizzard. On May 3 we reached the river before mentioned by the native - and down it we continued most of the way to the Arctic coast except in some places where we cut across points, as this river in some places is very winding.

On May 4 we were again held up for one day by a northwest blizzard but made another start on May 5, travelling along the west bank of the river, the country being even and sandy but devoid of vegetation of any kind.

We finally came out on the Arctic coast on the night of May 7, and as far as I am able to judge from the map we hit the coast about 15 miles west of the mouth of the Ellis river. The river we travelled on is undoubtedly the Ellis river; it is known to the natives as Coog-nay-ok, but this I did not find out until I got a copy of Hanbury's map at Bernard harbour. Hanbury's map is more reliable than any of the Government maps supplied as he uses the Eskimo names and this in compiling my own map I have endeavoured to do.

This brought us out on Queen Maud's sea, and we continued northwest up the coast and camped on the small islands off point Brown on May 8. On May 9, while

deer-hunting, we touched Melbourne island and there killed some deer and a little later we picked up some recently-made native sled-tracks. These we followed, and they took us down into a deep, narrow bay; we continued to follow this and it finally brought us out in Blue inlet; from there we made our way into Melville sound.

On May 10 we were held up by a blizzard, but on May 11 we again proceeded to the west; but as the blizzard again came on we were forced to camp at 2 p.m. This storm continued till the night of May 12, during which time we had to remain in our igloo. May 13 broke fine and clear; in fact it was our first experience of a really warm day since starting out.

However, we left camp and in the morning we came across some recently-made sled tracks; but there we eventually lost, so we struck northwest to the west end of Kent peninsula and made a detour of several islands, hoping to find some signs of a native camp.

On May 14 we saw several sled tracks going in a southwesterly direction towards Bathurst inlet; these we followed and eventually came upon a large Eskimo encampment situated on an island in the mouth of Bathurst inlet.

These natives were Killin-o-muits, and we were received in a very friendly manner, although we had to go through the formula of showing friendly intentions by extending the arms above the head upon approaching the camp, and our natives were soon engaged in conversation with them.

May 15 was spent in investigating the Radford and Street case, and we traded with these natives for footwear and seal-line, etc., our own being pretty well played out. We also traded and procured a native stone lamp and some blubber, but this method of cooking was so slow that after several attempts to boil a kettle, consisting of an all-night vigil, we eventually abandoned the lamp and found small twigs growing on the islands in the inlet, sufficient to make a small fire.

The weather now appeared to become warmer and finer, as we were going south again, and one could notice the snow disappearing off the land—in fact so much so that I concluded we had no time to lose if we were to get back out of the country before the snow cleared off altogether.

On May 16 we struck south down Bathurst inlet, and on May 17 we came up with a large band of Killin-o-muits who were travelling in our direction. We were greeted as before by these Eskimos; in fact, they were a little too friendly and insisted on travelling with us all day, and they camped alongside at night. On May 18 we were held up by a rain and sleet storm, which cleared in the afternoon but we stayed in camp and traded with these natives and I was fortunate in being able to procure from them some fish for dog-feed, as we were now entirely out, and did not know how soon we would come across deer again.

On May 18 I proceeded south again, leaving camp at 9 p.m. and as we got farther south down the inlet we came into water on the ice from 3 to 5 inches deep, and we saw that nearly all the snow had gone off the land. We made camp at 6.30 a.m. of May 19, and this was our last igloo built during the journey, for it collapsed during the heat of the day and fell in on us while we were all asleep; so we pitched our tent for the first time, which we continued to use although they were wretched conditions under which we camped owing to the wet condition of the land.

We continued on down the inlet, crossing over the centre of Kwog-juk, the island where Messrs. Radford and Street met their deaths; at this place we came across bare land and had great difficulty in getting our sleds over.

We travelled as long as we could and camped when the conditions were favourable, going on two meals of half-raw deermeat during the day, and found it not very agreeable to keep on the go for 14 or 16 hours between meals.

From May 18 the travelling got very bad; the sea-ice became bare and jagged and cut the dogs' feet, so that the majority were lame. I had an outfit of sealskin boots made and put on all the dogs, but the ice was so sharp that they would wear out a pair in one night, as was also the case with our own footwear, and it was fortunate that we were constantly coming in contact with natives and able to trade for footgear and to get repairs made.

We arrived at the foot of Bathurst inlet in the morning of May 21, and here we found that the ice was covered with water 15 inches deep which was coming down from the Weston river, which runs into the inlet at this point.

On the night of May 22nd we proceeded up the Weston river for about 25 miles, travelling along the snow on the sides, and having to cross frequently at the bends; these were over knee deep in fast-running water, which, was entering our sled loads. We made camp and examined the land to the south; we found it to be practically devoid of snow and absolutely impossible to travel across with dogs and sleds.

I considered the Weston river too dangerous to continue along any further, so eventually we decided to return to the south end of Bathurst inlet and wait there for open water and endeavour to get out by canoe; in that event I would be obliged to abandon the dog sleds and part of the outfit.

We reached the foot of the Inlet on May 24 and met a band of natives who had followed our trail down the Inlet. These natives had come from the west, and from them we learnt that there were 3 ships along the Arctic coast to the west, which they said were about nine days' travel.

As we were entirely out of supplies and living on a straight meat diet which was not agreeing with either Sergt.-Major Caulkin or myself, and also finding our .303 ammunition to be insufficient to return with, I decided to make west to these ships and try to obtain supplies and ammunition sufficient to last me through the

summer, then to return again to the foot of Bathurst inlet and then wait till freeze-up next fall and return overland to Baker lake.

From amongst the band of natives I hired one of them to travel with us as far as the ships, and going north again up the west side of Bathurst inlet towards Coronation gulf, crossed the mouth of Arctic sound and rounded the inlet on to the Arctic coast, continuing west.

The dogs were beginning to show signs of lameness again, and we changed to day travel, as going at night was harder on their feet than during the day, when the sun thawed out most of the pointed ice. We met many bands of natives of different tribes, Killin-o-muits, Killi-shik-to-muits and Wad-le-ar-ing-muits and several others. These were camped at different points along the coast, and some we met on islands in the gulf.

I did not like the looks of some of them and was told that they were born thieves, although as soon as they were told who we were they were very meek and did not attempt to purloin anything from our outfit.

At all these encampments I stayed and gave them a lecture on the murdering of the white men, and regarding pilfering from them and also dwelling on the laws of civilization generally. They appeared to be greatly impressed. They had heard of Inspector LaNauze's patrol in there and the taking out of the murderers of the Roman Catholic missionaries, and this seems to have created a great impression amongst them, the extent of which remains to be seen in the future. The weather was now getting very warm with continual rain and sleet; the sea-ice was getting rotten in places and large cracks opened up, and much difficulty was experienced in getting the dogs and sleighs over; sometimes we had to go several miles out of our way to get over some of them.

On June 2 it commenced to snow heavily and continued to do so throughout the next day; we were unable to travel until June 4. The snow was about 8 inches deep on top of the ice and the cracks were covered over and impossible to discern. On this date we had to refrain from walking ahead of the dogs, for Sergt.-Major Caulkin and two natives fell down cracks in the ice and were wet through, whilst employed in this way.

We reached Tree river on the night of June 4, meeting a small encampment of Killi-shik-to-muits on an island in the mouth of this river. These natives told us there was a white man living along the river and so we proceeded up about 5 miles and met a Swede by the name of Albin Kihlman, who was employed trapping. This man told us there was a trading vessel three days west from his camp, where he thought that we would be able to get some supplies.

At this point we traded for some barren ground grizzly bear meat from the natives and were made very sick from eating it; although the meat tasted pretty good there was something about it that was not good for the stomach.

On June 5 we continued west from Tree river along the coast, and it rained and snowed alternately all day, but on June 6 it became worse and we had to remain in camp. At this point we met a band of Wad-le-ar-ing-muits, amongst whom was a native named Ul-uk-sak, and this man informed me that he had assisted Inspector LaNauze in making the arrest of the murderers of the Roman Catholic missionaries. This man is, I presume, the same person referred to in Inspector LaNauze's report of June 17, 1916.

On June 7 we continued on west and travelling was very heavy on account of all the fresh fall of snow, which seemed to stay on the ice but disappeared very quietly off the land.

Our total kill of deer during the journey from Schultz lake, where we first came into contact with them, was 168, and these were used for dog-feed and our own consumption.

Also in the vicinity of Bathurst inlet and along the Arctic coast to Bernard harbour we had shot nineteen seals up to the time of our arrival here.

NATIVES.

The first natives we came into contact with on leaving the Thelon river were the Shan-ing-i-ong-muits, who claim their area of hunting ground as extending from lake McDougall to near lake Beachey on Backe's river, and south to the Thelon river.

These people are but a small band now, consisting of about 29 persons, and as far as I could ascertain most of them never leave the Backe's River vicinity and have never seen the sea. They said that they had seen white men once before and from what they told me it was D. T. Hanbury's party they alluded to. These natives still hunt with the bow and arrows, although in one camp I saw a rifle which I was told three men had a share in.

From April 24 we met no more natives until May 14, and then these we met were the Killin-e-muits who are located on an island off Kent peninsula; there were 11 tents in this encampment containing 63 souls in all. From this date onwards we were continually amongst them till the time we reached Bernard harbour on June 13. We had many natives travelling with us from time to time, Killin-e-muits and Killi-shik-to-muits from Bathurst Inlet, and Wad-le-ar-ing-muits from the Coppermine, and the Arctic Coast, and the Pu-ib-lo-muits from Wollaston Land. At Bernard harbour we found an encampment of No-ah-ko-min-muits, whose hunting ground extends from Cape Krusenstern and inland from the Arctic coast.

Some of the Killin-e-muits had not seen a white man before, and had very few white men's goods in their possession, but I noticed that two had two old muzzle-loading rifles which they said that they had obtained from traders (native) coming from the west and also some long butcher knives made into snow knives for

building their igloos. Most of their arrow heads were made of bone or native copper which they obtain in Bathurst inlet. Those natives appeared very clean, seemed industrious, and well clothed, and the men were tall and of fine physique.

When going up Bathurst inlet towards Coronation gulf we met some Killishikto-muits, and the men were big fellows, well dressed, and were armed with rifles of modern type, one a 40-40, another a 30-30, and one had an automatic which he had got from Capt. Bernard's trading schooner. The natives we met from here on along the Arctic coast were well possessed of white men's goods, having come in contact with the Canadian Arctic Expedition during 1915-1916; also they had traded at Capt. Bernard's schooner, and nearly all of them had rifles; these were all calibres and conditions, both new and old.

Some natives I met I did not like the looks of, and these were the Wad-le-ar-ingmuits of the Coppermine river; they were altogether too familiar, and I do not think they would hesitate to try to take advantage of a lone white man travelling amongst them. It was from this particular tribe that the murderers of the two Roman Catholic [missionaries] hail. I gave them a long lecture respecting our laws.

All Eskimos we met seemed well supplied with meat, either seal, fish or deer meat, and were all looking as if they had had a successful winter as far as hunting was concerned.

Different from the natives of the Hudson's Bay district, I notice that these people all look ahead and make caches of blubber, etc., during spring and summer for the coming winter when the days are so short, while with the Hudson's Bay Eskimos the morrow provides for itself and they generally find themselves going hungry.

One thing I noticed in particular about these Arctic Eskimos is the absence of infants, particularly of the female sex, and from different sources I found out that it is correct that they do away with the majority of female born babes. I lectured them severely on this matter, endeavouring to show them how eventually their tribes would become extinct. On this matter I have dwelt more fully in a separate report and I think that steps should be taken to stop this practice as the result is that polyandry is now resorted to amongst them, and I noticed a huge number of marriageable huskies who were without wives.

This leads to dissatisfaction also, and creates jealousy and I am informed that during the past winter a woman was stabbed to death by her husband in this very vicinity owing to some trouble arising in another quarter. This matter also I have gone more fully into in a separate report.

As is the case with the Eskimos of the Hudson's bay, I find that there are also natives here who are inclined to be light-fingered and will pilfer from the white man and even amongst themselves when the chance occurs.

I am informed that the members of the Canadian Arctic Expedition had some experiences in this direction. Natives appeared to be on the alert for chances to steal despite the generous treatment that I believe was accorded them. I feel convinced that a few examples made of the culprits found would quickly eradicate this practice, if handled in the right way.

In giving an estimation of the total number of Eskimos, men, women, and children with whom we came into contact during this patrol, including those we met from Victoria Land. I would say approximately 450 souls.

This does not mean that we saw all the Eskimos of Coronation Gulf, as upon inquiries at the various camps I was informed that there are some camps now moved inland, deer hunting and fishing on the many lakes. I am informed by Mr. Phillips of the Hudson Bay Company's post that there was a camp comprising 127 igloos and about 500 souls, during the past winter on the ice off Cape Kruttsenstern; it broke up towards spring, the natives dispersing in the directions where they would make their summer camps. These natives were mixed tribes and gathered from all points along Coronation Gulf to partake in the seal hunting, which is said to be good at this point.

In travelling amongst and with those Eskimos we never experienced any trouble with them. They are always eager to trade with the white men and display a desire to inspect all of one's outfit, which might be misunderstood by some white men travelling amongst them and liable to lead to some trouble unless they are able to talk to them and tell them they are doing wrong when endeavouring to peep into boxes and bags contained in one's outfit.

This country has not been visited much by white men in the past, other than a few explorers, prospectors and scientists from time to time, but it is my belief that there will be numerous parties visiting there as it offers a fair field for prospectors, traders and trappers, and in the event of this being so it would require a number of police to maintain law and order between the two factions and it would be necessary for them to be stationed at different points along the coast.

WHITE SETTLERS.

We met no white settlers during our journey until reaching Tree river on the Arctic Coast on June 4, when we met one, Albin Kihlman, a Norwegian engaged in fishing and trapping.

This man was at one time under Capt. Bernard on the schooner *Teddy Bear* as mate, but was now working for himself, and he was in possession of a whaleboat in which he stated he intended to sail to Bernard Harbour as soon as the break-up rimmed and go out on the first available vessel arriving at that point this summer.

The next white persons we met were Capt. Bernard and one of his crew on the schooner *Teddy Bear*, frozen in the ice east of the mouth of the Coppermine River.

Capt. Bernard had arrived in from Nome, Alaska in the previous summer (1916) and was engaged in trading with the natives for furs and curios.

He informed us that this occupation had not turned out as well as he had expected and that he intended to proceed further east this summer and eventually go out to civilization by way of the Hudson's Bay. He stated that he was amply provided for in the way of provisions to undertake this.

Leaving the Teddy Bear we proceeded around Cape Krusenstern, where we met a Mr. J. Anderson who was living in a small sod house on the west side of the cape. This man was an American citizen and was a member of Capt. Bernard's vessel and was also engaged in trading and trapping, which he informed me had not been a successful venture during the past winter. He intended to return to the schooner *Teddy Bear* and proceed east with Capt. Bernard this summer.

From here we proceeded to Bernard Harbour, where we met Mr. Phillips, post manager of the Hudson Bay Company, who had arrived in the previous summer and opened up a trading post under the supervision of Herschel Island. Mr. Phillips was a married man and his wife was residing with him at the post. Also at this point were two lay preachers of the Church of England who intended opening up a mission for teaching I amongst the Eskimos of Coronation Gulf under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Girling, who had gone by sled to Herschel Island during the past spring to confer with the Archdeacon in connection with their work.

No mission house had yet been built, Mr. Hoare and Mr. Merritt occupying the sod house left by the Canadian Arctic Expedition, in which they held meetings with the natives. Also they conducted a service each Sunday at the Hudson Bay Company's post, which we attended during our stay at Bernard Harbour.

TOPOGRAPHICAL

With reference to the country we passed through on this patrol the land is as follows—

From Baker lake to Schultz lake the land is rough and broken with rock outcropping in many places, and some of these outcrops rise to a height of from 200 to 700 feet. The lower lands in the hollows and ravines are generally covered with moss, and in some places a rank growth of grass was seen.

From Schultz lake to Aberdeen lake the country is very uneven and rough and broken, in some places very high and in others very low, and in general formation it [is] practically the same as the preceding stretch of country, i.e., the country around Baker lake.

From Aberdeen lake to Lake Garry the land is fairly high, consists of sand and gravel ridges and is studded with many small lakes. The land is generally very undulating, with deep ravines running in every direction. The sand and gravel

ridges were devoid of snow and impossible for us to cross with our sleds, so we were forced to follow the ravines.

The height of land which we had to cross is covered with large broken boulders, and we were forced to make a long detour to the east and then come back to the west.

Near the height of land there is a large lake laying east and west; it is about 35 miles long and about 8 miles wide, and it is surrounded by very high sand-stone hills.

On the north side of the height of land there is another fairly large lake which we crossed; it is bounded on the northwest side by a high range of sandstone hills. Between this lake and Lake Garry the land is flat in most places and covered with boulders, which make it very hard to travel through.

There are several large boulder hills in this vicinity which in clear weather are very fine observation places, as they are about 300 feet high.

The shores of Lake Garry are generally very low and flat except in one or two places where there are gravel hills from 200 to 300 feet high.

This lake is studded with many small islands of rock and some of boulders.

The shores of Lake Pelly are very low and flat and it is also studded with islands of rock and boulders, and the southwest end of this lake is all sand and sandstone.

Backe's river for 30 miles up from Lake Pelly runs through sand hills; the mouth of this river where it enters lake Pelly is very narrow and is only about 300 feet across, but it widens out from 300 to 500 yards with many bays further up.

From Backe's river to the Arctic coast the country is rolling and consists generally of gravel and sand ridges and there were three large lakes observed through the glasses, two of which we crossed, but from information received from our guide I would think it to be about 40 miles long and 30 miles across. I named this Lake Cuthbert after our late assistant commissioner.

The next lake we struck is about 90 miles long and 25 miles wide and has a large river running from it to the Arctic coast to the east of Kent Peninsula. This lake has low flat shores with a high range of hills to the northeast of it. I named this Lake Perry after the commissioner of the force.

About 10 miles northwest of Lake Perry we struck the south end of a very large lake which appeared to run from the northeast to southwest. From information obtained from the natives this lake is anywhere from 100 to 150 miles long and 40 miles wide. This lake also has a river running from it to the Arctic coast. I have named it Lake Borden after our premier.

From Lake Borden we struck west and struck the river referred to by our native guide, which is known by the natives as Coog-nay-ak. This river runs through sandstone and granite and has an average width of 200 yards. In several places it runs through rocky chasms with perpendicular walls from 100 to 200 feet high and

in places is not more than 50 feet wide. As we got nearer to the sea coast this river widened out and appeared to have many shoals. About 40 miles from the Arctic coast the river divides; one branch goes nearly due east and the other branch goes north to Melville sound.

The approximate location of these lakes above mentioned is shown on the map accompanying this report. The country to the east of the river Coog-nay-ak is high and has ridges of sand and gravel, whereas the land to the north-west is formed of high terraces of broken granite which keep getting higher towards Bathurst inlet and Melville sound. It is quite impossible to get into Bathurst inlet from the east as this range of mountains is bare of snow and impassable for sleds.

The south shore of Melville sound is very high and rugged and barren, and the sound itself is strewn with islands. The south end of Bathurst inlet is altogether different from the maps in our possession, the shore line being a great deal more indented with bays and small inlets than what these maps show.

The coast here is very high and rugged and in most places is composed of granite and is absolutely barren. In the mouth of Bathurst inlet and in the inlet itself there are a great many more islands than are charted; these islands are mostly very high and nearly all have perpendicular cliffs, from 200 to 500 feet high.

On most of the islands visited native copper was seen, and this seems to be distributed over a large area, from Melville sound to just south of Gordon bay.

Some of these islands show a fine illustration of the secondary resting upon the primitive rock, for the lines of stratification appear as evenly drawn as in a work of art.

The west side of Bathurst inlet is high and rugged in places and at other point the shore gradually slopes to a height of from 400 to 800 feet.

Cape Barrow is very high, being about 1,000 to 1,500 feet high. The coast line from Cape Barrow to the Coppermine river is fairly high and very broken in places, and gradually gets lower as one proceeds west.

On the east side of Epworth point there is a large beacon, about 16 feet high and built of flat rocks with an arm pointing north and south. From the general appearance of this beacon and by the growth of moss on the rocks I would judge it had been built by some of Franklin's men in 1821, as it is very old.

NATIVES IN POLICE EMPLOY.

The natives that accompanied me on this patrol from Baker lake to the Arctic coast were all natives from the Hudson's Bay, as I was unable to get any of the inland natives around the district of Baker lake to accompany me. I do not think I could have made a better choice of three men, as they were all willing workers and were always willing to travel when instructed which way to go, for once these men got inland they were lost, but not once did they suggest turning back.

The native woman was also of great assistance to us on the travel, mending our clothes at night and keeping them generally in repair. She was also of great assistance to us when we came in contact with the Killin-e-muits who were responsible for the murders of Messrs, Radford and Street, as she herself belongs to this tribe.

The native An-ing-at whom I hired as guide from Backe's river was of great assistance to us, both as guide, and when we came in contact with the Arctic Coast Eskimos, as he was known by most of them, and he and the native woman backed up anything I told these natives.

Before closing this, report I wish to respectfully bring to your notice, Sir, the assistance given to me by Reg. No. 4557, Sergt.-Major Caulkin, both in the organizing of this patrol before leaving Baker lake, and afterwards on the trail. I always found him willing to do his duty under the most trying circumstances and to assist in every possible way to make the patrol a success.

His knowledge of the Eskimo language was also of great service to me and I have found him since he has been under my command to be a most competent N.C.O. Trusting, Sir, that my action on this patrol will meet with your approval.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. H. FRENCH, Inspector,

O. C. Bathurst Inlet Patrol.

The Officer Commanding

R.N.W.M. Police,

Prince Albert, Sask.

Forwarded.

W. J. BEYTS, Inspector,

Commanding Hudson's Bay Subdistrict.

Port Nelson, Man., 20-3-18.

The Commissioner: Forwarded for his information.

W. H. ROUTLEDGE, Supt.,

Commanding "F" Division,

Prince Albert, 20-5-18.

SECOND REPORT—INVESTIGATION OF THE MURDERS.

M Division, R.N.W.M. Police,

Baker Lake Detachment.

Bernard Harbour, June 20th 1917

CRIME REPORT.

Re Murder of Messrs H. V. Radford and Geo. R. Street by Kilin-e-muit Eskimos of Bathurst Inlet.

Relative to the above case and the investigation of same, I left Baker Lake Detachment in the a.m. of March 21, 1917 accompanied by Reg No 4557 Sergt-Major Caulkin, T.B. and four Eskimos of the Aivillik tribe.

After a journey of nearly two months duration across the Barren Lands we reached the Arctic Coast on May 7, 1917 but it was exactly seven days before we located the first Killin-e-muit igloos at the Mouth of Bathurst Inlet on an island off Cape Croker. It was very difficult to locate camps as the weather was very misty and continually blowing, always covering any recently made native tracks over, that we came upon from time to time, and having no guide made matters more difficult.

It was noon on May 14 when we saw the first encampment (Oo-shine-mu-ya) which consisted of 36 natives. Only the women were in the camp as the men were about a mile away at the seal holes hunting. When the women sighted us they ran into their and igloos but seeing us raise our hands above our heads they came out and our natives approached them and commenced talking.

The men all ran from the seal holes and gathered around an elderly native (apparently a headman) and then advanced towards us at a double in extended order, each carrying a seal spear or snow-knife at the trail, but seeing that our attitude was friendly everything was all right and our natives understood them pretty well when talking.

Practically at all the encampments visited this formula had to be gone through a native from both sides would advance with hands extended above the head showing that the meeting was friendly.

While standing talking with these natives the majority of whom had never seen a white man before, another band of Killin-e-muits arrived with 5 sleds from the west side of Bathurst Inlet and there were 27 in this party.

All natives greeted us in a friendly manner and when we camped alongside of them, they were all eager to help in building our igloos and fixing our camp and when they heard that we were out of coal oil they sent us bladders of seal oil for the small native lamp we had in our possession and they always appeared anxious to furnish any information we required, but this was before they knew who we

were or what our business in that vicinity was. We spent a whole month travelling with and amongst these people meeting bands of Killin-e-muits and Killi-shik-to-muits from the west side of Bathurst Inlet and Wad-le-ar-ing-muits who range between Bathurst and Coppermine River.

From May 14, 1917 until our arrival at Bernard Harbour on June 13 we were constantly meeting fresh bands of natives and carrying out our investigation of the murder of Messrs Radford and Street. We took many statements from natives some of whom were present when the white men were killed and practically all the natives had heard of the affair and their stories were all the same and corroborated the information previously received from different sources and to insert all those statements would make this report of a very lengthy character.

The most important being those who were present in the camp and eyewitnesses to the affair when the unfortunate Messrs Radford and Street met their fate, and these statements I have incorporated in this report.

In the first encampment I took statements from three men and one woman who were present at the affair the first being a native named An-ing-nerke who was a headman and had under his control a band of 35 people at the time of our meeting and when questioned gave us his statement which is herewith attached as interpreted by Police Native Joe.

Police Native Joe is not what I would call a first-class interpreter but taking him all round he did very well.

[Statements by Bathurst Inlet Inuit – see document 106.]

... This completes the statements which I obtained.

From these statements it will be seen that Mr. Radford appeared to be regarded as a bad man by the natives while they spoke of Mr. Street as a good man; undoubtedly the previous incidents occurring along the route had been told to the Killin-e-muit people by some of the natives accompanying Messrs. Radford and Street to Bathurst inlet. Hiring natives as guides to accompany one on a journey through the North is often likely to be the source of great annoyance, as one of the natives may back out at the last minute and not want to go as was evidently experienced by Messrs. Radford and Street when trying to engage native Kan-e-ak to go West with them. I myself have had a similar experience myself whilst on this patrol. A native I had engaged to go with me from the mouth of the Coppermine to Cape Krusenstern backed out and did not want to go as he had hurt his leg. Through our interpreter I told this native that I did not want him unless he came willingly as I am sure the excuse of the lame leg was a falsehood. However, the matter dropped right there and then. Had Mr. Radford, instead of resorting to chastisement, used discretion when Kan-e-ak said he did not want to go with him

and tried to get another native, I believe he could have succeeded in so doing, and that Messrs. Radford and Street would be alive to-day.

Conscientiously speaking, of all the many different tribes with whom I came in contact whilst patrolling the Arctic coast and Bathurst inlet, I place the Killin-e-muits, members of which tribe murdered Messrs. Radford and Street, as the best class of natives I met.

We were continually meeting large bands of them, sometimes numbering anywhere from 15 to 40 adult males, and at no time did they show any desire to take advantage of the fact that we were two lone white men in their midst. As for the other tribes to the west of Bathurst, such as the Killi-shik-to-muits, Wad-le-ar-ingmuits and some of the Victoria Land natives whom we found camped to the west of Cape Krusenstern, I found them of a different calibre, many having come in contact with white men at different periods. They showed an inclination to make themselves obnoxious by turning over our effects and examining them and generally speaking were altogether too familiar and unless handled by a person possessing an ample supply of patience and self possession I will not hesitate in saying that we shall hear more of these natives' doings with the lone white man who may from time to time be making his way amongst them.

I did not like the looks of some of the bands of Wad-le-ar-ing-muits we met; these are the people who are responsible for the murder of the two Roman Catholic missionaries. There appear to be a number of young bucks amongst them who are looking for a way to notoriety. Among all the different bands I met, I held meetings, calling them together and delivered a lecture to them through our interpreter regarding the white man's law concerning murder, stealing, etc., and informing them that we should be in there again in the event of any more white men being molested and that the culprits would be taken away and would never return.

They seemed deeply impressed by what was told them and said that they would see that future white travellers going amongst them would be respected. However, it remains for the future to show what effect our visit amongst them has had.

They had all heard of Inspector La Nauze and his party being in and taking out the murderers of the Roman Catholic priests, and this has made as great impression on them, the benefit of which the future will show. I have to blame Inspector La Nauze's patrol for my inability to get in contact with the actual murderers of Messrs. Radford and Street; these natives have gone over to Victoria Land and have in all probability changed their names, presuming no doubt that they were to be apprehended. Should these men, Hul-a-lark and Am-e-geal-nik, be required it will take rather a long time to effect their arrest, as in the event of their having gone to Victoria Land it would require at least a party outfitted for a year to work out from the mouth of Bathurst inlet.

The reason for this is that the Eskimos know every inch of the country and could avoid arrest for some time.

Since arriving here I have heard that the murderers of Messrs. Radford and Street have left Bathurst inlet and have gone to the northeast of Victoria Land and are supposed to be living on some islands between Victoria Land and King William's Land.

It is very doubtful if these men were arrested and brought to trial if it would be possible to convict them before any judge and jury, as the only evidence we have is the statements of natives, and these all go to show that Radford was the aggressor and that the natives acted in self-defence against brutal treatment, and when they thought that one of their band was going to be killed.

From the evidence we have, Radford wrote to Mr. Ford at Chesterfield inlet from the island where he was murdered and this letter was dated June 3, 1912, and stated that he had been well received by the natives of this camp.

The last date recorded in his diary, which Inspector La Nauze got from Dr. O'Neil, is July 12, 1912, which goes to prove that he lived with these people for over a month, without any harm coming to him, and also the fact that there were very few natives in the camp at the time of the murder goes to prove that it was not premeditated.

From the statements inclosed [*sic*] and from the conversations I had with different natives along the coast, I would judge that they only acted in self-defence and to protect themselves, as the only law they know is self-protection.

I spent more time than I intended among these natives on account of the early thaw in May, and I was unable to get out of the country as all the snow had gone. I had plenty of time to observe and study these natives, and I found them to be honest and always willing to assist us in every way they could. The Killin-e-muits are far superior in every to the natives living to the west of Bathurst inlet, and as far as I could find out there are three tribes living in Coronation gulf. On my patrol I came in contact with all of them and found them to be born thieves and fearful liars and not to be trusted out of one's sight, and I should not be surprised to hear of some of them committing more murders before long, as any one of them would sell his soul to possess a rifle; but at present the whole thing hinges on whatever happens to the murderers of the two Roman Catholic priests. If these two men are turned loose and return to this country, it will not be safe for a lone white man to travel amongst them, as they would take the first opportunity to murder him to get his outfit.

My instructions re the murders of Messrs. Radford and Street were to the effect that I was to make no arrests, but investigate the case and get what evidence was possible. This I have done, and I tried my utmost to come in contact with the two murderers as I wished to get their statements, but in this I was unsuccessful. The

information that I have obtained from natives in Bathurst inlet is that Kan-e-ak, Hul-a-lark and Am-e-geal-nik are living on some islands between east Victoria and King William's Land ; this appears to be their winter hunting ground. Kan-e-ak and Hul-a-lark were seen last summer on the Ellis river; this river is shown on the map inclosed with my reports. They apparently hunted there for the summer and then returned to the Arctic coast; this information I obtained from Ul-uk-sak.

If the arrest of these two murderers is desired it will require a party of police equipped with at least two years' provisions to effect this. They might be arrested in one month, but in all probability it would take considerably longer, and a patrol might have to go as far east as Adelaide peninsula or Frankland isthmus or to northeast King William's Land, as these men will know long before this that the police are after them and they are going to make themselves scarce and keep out of the way.

As they know every inch of the country, unless they are surprised, I am afraid it would be a long, hard chase before they are captured.

The Commissioner.

F. H. FRENCH, *Inspector,*
O.C. Bathurst Inlet Patrol.

PRINCE ALBERT, 20-5-18.

The Officer Commanding, R.N.W.M. Police, Prince Albert, Sask.
Forwarded.

W. H. ROUTLEDGE, *Superintendent,*
Commanding "F" Division.
Forwarded for his information.

W. J. BEYTS, *Inspector,*
Commanding Hudson's Bay Sub-district.

PORT NELSON, Man., 20-3-18.

THIRD REPORT—INFANTICIDE.

...

FOURTH REPORT—THE MURDER OF THE MISSIONARIES.

...

FIFTH REPORT—ALLEGED MURDER OF ESKIMO WOMAN.

...

SIXTH REPORT—PATROLLING THE ARCTIC COASTLINE.

"F" DIVISION, R.N.W.M. POLICE,

BAKER LAKE DETACHMENT, January 31, 1918.

The Officer Commanding,
R.N.W.M. Police,
Port Nelson.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward herewith a report covering the period from June 13, 1917, to September 1, 1917, whilst the patrol was in the Bernard harbour vicinity on the Arctic coast.

It was June 13 when we arrived at Bernard harbour, and we pitched camp near the Hudson's Bay Company's post. From this date forward the natives were kept busy hunting either seals or deer for dog feed, and while the ice remained we managed to get ample seals for this purpose.

I purchased a few supplies from time to time from the Hudson's Bay Company for the patrol the vouchers for which I will forward later.

The ice offshore was now showing signs of breaking up and seal hunting on the ice was almost finished. I learned of a small river running out on the coast about four miles east of the harbour where fish were caught; this river was said to be a resort of the natives during summer.

On July 9 we moved camp to this river and found quite a camp of No-ah-ho-minmuits gathered, engaged in spearing fish as they entered the river.

We pitched camp on the opposite side to the natives and in the days following were employed tending our fish nets or spearing the fish in the river, the same as the natives. Our catches were not at all large, but were sufficient to keep ourselves and dogs in meat. We were engaged in this manner until July 30, when the fishing petered out and we broke camp and returned to Bernard harbour.

At Bernard harbour we put out our fish nets. There were very few fish, but we were kept busy taking them up from time to time on account of the ice blowing into the harbour. We also built a 16-foot beacon on the west side of the harbour, which will serve as a good landmark for any vessel coming along.

Our deerskin clothing was unfit for further service, so I purchased a number of deerskins from the Hudson's Bay Company and put our natives scraping the same and got them made into clothing for all members of the party for use as soon as the fall commenced.

Time went on, the natives hunting and getting an occasional seal or deer. Up to August 31 no vessel had put in an appearance, so I made up my mind to take an outfit of supplies and move the whole of my outfit down to the mouth of the Coppermine river; at this point I would fish until freeze-up and then return overland to Baker Lake; I would be able to get driftwood for fuel at this point, as they only had a small quantity of oil at Bernard harbour for our lamps.

Mr. Phillips, of the Hudson's Bay Company, very kindly loaned me his shotgun and we purchased shell from the Hudson's Bay Company, and as a result we were able to keep ourselves fairly well supplied with ducks and geese and other water fowl.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. H. FRENCH, *Inspector,*

O.C. Bathurst Inlet Patrol.

The Officer Commanding,

R.N.W.M. Police,

Prince Albert, Sask.

Forwarded.

W. J. BEYTS, *Inspector,*

Commanding Hudson's Bay Sub-district.

PORT NELSON, Man., 20-3-18.

The Commissioner.

Forwarded for his information.

W. H. ROUTLEDGE, *Supt.,*

Commanding "F" Division.

PRINCE ALBERT, 20-5-18.

SEVENTH REPORT—THE RETURN TO BAKER LAKE.

"F" DIVISION, R.W.M. POLICE,

BAKER LAKE DETACHMENT, January 31, 1918.

The Officer Commanding,

R.W.M. Police,

Port Nelson.

SIR,—I have the honour to render herewith a report covering the period from September 1, 1917, to January 29, 1918, in connection with Bathurst Inlet Patrol.

During the latter part of August while at Bernard harbour all game such as deer, fish, seals, etc., began to get scarce and as the supplies at the Hudson's Bay Company's post were little more than sufficient to carry them through the coming winter, I determined to move camp to the Coppermine river and wait there till freeze up.

I purchased about two months' supplies from the Hudson's Bay Company for the party, and I also took a small quantity of foodstuffs from the cache of the

Canadian Arctic Expedition at Bernard harbour, a list of which I forwarded with reports. I was unable to get ammunition for our .303 rifles and so I was forced to purchase two 30-30 rifles from the Hudson's Bay Company; I also procured a quantity of fish nets for use at the Coppermine river while waiting for freeze up.

Through the kindness of Mr. Phillips, Hudson's Bay Company's post manager at Bernard harbour I obtained the use of two whale boats to convey our outfit to the Coppermine, a distance of 150 miles.

On September 1, 1917, we left Bernard Harbour and I sent three natives with our dogs across country to the Coppermine. Our party arrived safely on September 4 and included a new member in the person of a white man named Albin Kihlman, of Norwegian nationality, whom I have previously mentioned as having met him at Tree River last spring.

This man was left by Capt Bernard, of the schooner *Teddy Bear*, and owing to no vessels arriving was unable to get out to civilization ; he did not possess sufficient supplies to see him through the oncoming winter, so I considered it better to see him out of the country overland, as in all probability he would have become destitute if left on the coast.

During the early part of our stay at the Coppermine we hauled a quantity of driftwood, sufficient to tide us over until we were ready to start south. We employed our time in fishing and made good in this respect and put a quantity on racks and in rock caches along the river. Also we had to make new harness for all our dogs and refix the sleds and overhaul the outfit generally, preparatory to returning overland to Baker lake.

I intended to leave as soon as possible either overland from the Coppermine and strike the south end of Bathurst inlet, or, if the coast froze up first, to follow it as before.

Whilst at the Coppermine I got the canoe that was left by Inspector LaNauze and this was very handy for us when tending our nets. The two canoes I carried from Baker lake I disposed of to the Hudson's Bay Company, at Bernard harbour, rather than haul them back again. During our stay at this point a large encampment of Wad-le-ar-ing-muits were at Bloody falls, about 12 miles up the river, and these natives were employed fishing below the falls.

Also whilst here a band of seventeen Indians arrived overland from Fort Rae and Great Bear Lake district on a visit to a white settler who is located at the mouth of the Coppermine river, by the name of Charles Klinkenberg, of Danish extraction, employed in trapping and trading in a small way.

These Indians after a short stay returned to the above-mentioned places, and I gave one of them, who spoke a little English, a letter giving a few details of our patrol and instructed him to give it to the first white man or member of the force he might meet, thinking in this way I might get word outside of our whereabouts.

During the early days of October it began to get colder and ice began to form along the river. The encampment of natives who were at Bloody falls, moved down to the mouth of the river, waiting for freeze-up. During their stay I gave them lectures regarding civilized laws, etc., through our interpreter, Joe. It was from this tribe the two natives came, who were responsible for the murder of the two Roman Catholic missionaries.

On October 16, 1917, we made our start by sled from the Coppermine River, proceeding east along the shore about 8 miles. On October 17 and 18 we proceeded in a southeast direction and experienced a very rough and rocky passage, as the rivers and lakes were hardly frozen enough to bear the sleds; in fact, the country was so bad that we only covered 16 miles in two days, travelling 8 hours per day. In view of this and the fact that the country ahead appeared rough also, I considered it advisable to return to the Arctic coast and continue along the sea ice. On October 20 we arrived back at the coast about 18 miles east of the Coppermine and made camp on a small river.

Here we remained until October 28, and while here we made a trip back to our old camp at the mouth of the Coppermine and hauled up two sled loads of fish from the caches we had left there, and also hauled driftwood for cooking. Our dogs, 30 in number, were all in fair condition to commence the overland patrol, and I considered they would take us through if we could procure game until we reached Thelon river.

On October 28 we again broke camp and proceeded along the Arctic coast towards the mouth of Bathurst inlet. I would not have started so early, but I wished to reach the head of Bathurst inlet by the time the gulf became frozen over as then the deer would begin to cross from Victoria and Wollaston lands, and we would have them travelling south with us.

Our journey along the coast was very strenuous, as a man had to proceed ahead of the teams with spear and test the ice and many times we had a narrow shave of a sled going through.

On October 31 we saw the first deer crossing over from Victoria land, one huge herd and several smaller bands, and we hunted same and procured 11 heads.

The weather up to this time had been mild and it seemed to be a late season considering it was so far north of the Arctic circle; in some places we experienced some difficulty in getting through on account of the poor condition, of the ice and the lack of snow on the land. Also we had had storms at times, the snow melting as soon as it landed and wet our clothes and most of our outfit.

We reached Tree river on November 6, and at this point we had to make a detour inland and back again to the coast, owing to a gale having broken up the ice and driven it out to sea.

On November 12 we reached Bathurst inlet. Our dogs had not been very well fed of late and were beginning to look somewhat poor after the hard hauling they had had along the coast. On this date, about 3 p.m., we saw five deer in the inlet and shot them, which came in time to give our dogs a good feed.

The travelling down Bathurst inlet was very heavy, the snow soft and deep, and we made very slow progress. On November 15 we camped on the south side of Arctic sound and met some Killin-a-muits, with whom we traded for some dried deer meat, fat and skins. November 18 our grub was getting low and not one-third of our journey was completed. I abandoned the canoe left by Inspector LaNauze on November 19; this I had brought with me along the coast in case we should require to ferry the outfit over any open waters we might meet. I also cast a broken thermos flask and a double-wick oil lamp; these were left near the island where Messrs. Radford and Street were murdered. On this same date we arrived at an island west of Gordon bay at which we found a camp of three igloos, one native being U-luk-sak, who was employed by Inspector LaNauze on the Roman Catholic missionaries' case. I traded with these natives for dried deer meat and cache deer meat, also deerskin clothes, etc.

At this point also were several relatives of the native woman Solomon, who had so far accompanied the patrol. Owing to the fact that she had been suffering from an abscess in the ear all summer and fall the natives said it would be best to leave her with her uncle. This I deemed advisable as we did not know what was ahead of us and had yet a long way to go and the natives stated they would repair their clothing the best way they could. She is to be brought back to Baker lake by her uncle in the spring.

It had been our intention when starting out to proceed to the foot of the inlet and south from there, but we heard from the natives that there was a river in Gordon bay which took its source from somewhere near the Coog-nay-uk or Ellis river, so I determined to proceed along this as I thought the sooner we struck land the better off we should be for obtaining fresh deer meat. We broke camp November 21 and travelled southeast over Gordon bay; on the 22nd we reached the mouth of the river, above mentioned, and here we found a large quantity of deer carcasses strewn all along the banks of the river under the snow. These had evidently been speared from ki-aks by the natives before freeze-up and their skins only taken. It was a great waste of meat, but it came handy to us, and we made camp and turned our dogs loose, and we also picked out a few good ones and packed them on the sleds. Previous to our arrival here there had been a great gathering of wolves, wolverines and ravens, etc., all feasting on the carcasses.

On November 23 we proceeded along this river in a southeasterly direction through very high, rocky embankments. This river proved very winding and on the 24th we quit it and went overland. On the 25th and 26th November, we shot six

deer, and this cheered everybody up, as we were very low on food; in fact we had been eating slightly rotten dried deer meat for some days and to get a feed of fresh deer meat put life and new vigour into all. On the 27th we continued overland, but found the going so rocky that we were compelled to return to the river again. At this point we were molested continually by bands of wolves ; these same animals are the biggest species of wolf I have ever seen. They are dark brown and rangy, and bigger than a timber wolf, and they got away with one of our dogs while we were passing through these mountainous regions.

November 29 we left the river and proceeded in a southeasterly direction overland, following a series of small lakes with very rocky portages. November 30 we saw seven deer about noon and hunted and shot them and gave the dogs a good feed.

On December 1 we continued on over a very rocky and barren country on which there was very little snow. The weather was very fine and calm and clear, and continued so throughout the month, much to our sorrow, as we were not able to get near the deer and obtain food and dog meat, which was so badly needed for the upkeep of our outfit. On December 4 we reached and crossed the Ellis river. Our clothes by this time were showing signs of needing repair, as they had been wet with the fall travelling and now were continually frozen since meeting up with the cold spells.

I left the Coppermine river with 15 gallons of coal oil (all I could obtain) and had to be very careful with this, as I knew it would not see us home.

I had a horror of using moss again after last spring, so our clothes had to remain wet or frozen as the weather chose to let them. Our footgear was the one cause of worry, as we only had a small quantity and with the continual walking we were kept busy patching up the same.

On December 5 we sent the natives deer hunting and they stated that they saw huge herds of them but owing to the calm, clear weather could not get near them and only after shooting lots of ammunition at long range did they succeed in knocking down some.

December 12 we reached Backe's river, striking it about where Baillie river runs in from the south. The weather still remained fine and clear and our dogs were not getting the meat they should have to keep them in condition to meet the oncoming severe weather.

December 12 and 13 we proceeded east along Backe's river and made camp near Gervois river and fed our dogs the last small portion of dried meat. December 15 we left Backe's river and proceeded south, heading for the Thelon river, intending to try and locate Inspector Beyts' cache made at the timber in November, 1916. If we could reach this and find it intact it would mean a lot to us. December 14 and 15 our dogs were not fed but on December 16 Sergt.-Major Caulkin

managed to drop one deer and this we fed to the dogs, who were now showing signs of weakness and matters looked tough.

We abandoned one sled and tarp, and split the dogs amongst the other teams. During the past week all spare men were out in extended order ahead of the teams endeavouring to get close to the deer, which were plentiful, but all to no avail. It was hardly creditable but we could not get near them and they would be off, as it was so calm and clear, and one could not avoid the deadly scrunch of feet on the snow which always alarmed the deer and put them to flight.

On December 17 we had no luck again and got no deer, and we had to resort to a method of feeding our dogs which struck deep into all of us, for we shot five of the weakest dogs and skinned them for the night's dogfeed.

December 18 the dogs were not fed and they stole a bag of deerskin clothing which they ate.

December 19 there were three men ahead of the sleds all day but only saw three deer and the Sergt-Major succeeded in bringing one of these down, which we fed the dogs that night.

December 20 we were proceeding over rolling prairie land and very level, but we saw no game and very few tracks. December 21 was the same and we fed the dogs one deerskin cut up in small pieces. On this date we came upon a river running south and presume this ran into Thelon river. December 22 we continued along this river and came on to the first signs of stunted spruce trees. Several dogs were exhausted and fell from time to time. At noon we saw fresh musk-ox tracks crossing the river and going to the westward. I sent two natives on foot to look for same and proceeded about 10 miles farther along the river to where we could be near some timber and get water and there we made camp to await the return of our two hunters. On this night we shot five of the exhausted dogs and skinned and fed them to the other dogs. Our own food supply consisted of about 15 pounds of frozen deer-meat. December 23 we stayed in our igloo and two natives dragged a load of spruce trees to the igloo.

At 2.30 p.m. our two hunters arrived from the west and (almost knocked us down with the news that they had shot 20 musk ox about 10 miles from the igloo. On December 23 I sent all natives and dogs up to the scene of the killing, here they were to dress the musk ox, feed up and rest the dogs. On December 25 natives Quashak and Joe arrived with two sled loads of musk ox meat and we enjoyed a big feed for Christmas night. We remained in this locality until January 3, 1918. The dogs were getting all they could eat and were picking up again. On December 31 Sergeant-Major Caulkin and Native Joe went southwest with team to look for the cache of supplies put in by Inspector Beyts in November, 1915, which they found about 16 miles from the igloo.

The cache had broken down and what remained of the stores was under snow, but they salvaged about 70 pounds flour, 4 tins of Oxo, 10 pounds H.B. tobacco, 4 pounds chewing tobacco, and 13 pounds candles. This was all that could be found, for the wolves had evidently been at the cache, for the Sergt.-Major reported that one sack of flour was scattered, the lard pails were bitten through and cleaned up, even the molasses keg was shattered and the tops were off the tins containing salt, pepper, baking powder, etc., and those latter were all scattered on the ground and unfit for consumption.

However, we greatly appreciated what we did get as we were out of tobacco and had been smoking dried-out tea leaves for some time and to get a meal of bannock from the flour was a great boon to us.

On January 2 all teams arrived from the musk ox camp, all meat was hauled down to our igloo with the exception of three musk ox which were left in cache, as I intend to send up in the spring for the remainder of Inspector Beyt's cache, such as tools, tent stove, etc., and we made a cache here also of everything, loading up meat and sleeping bags on three sleds.

On January 3 we started and arrived on the Thelon river in the early morning, and proceeded east along same towards Beverly lake, but going was slow owing to heavy loads of meat carried.

On January 4 one dog, who had swallowed pieces of bone took sick and died. January 5 we reached Beverly lake and camped on island in centre. Here we were held up two days by a heavy blizzard, the first storm since leaving the Arctic coast. We were fortunate in being able to find a little driftwood on this island. On January 10 we reached Aberdeen lake as we were making better progress by this time as our loads of meat were getting smaller each night. On this date we saw deer for the first time since leaving the height of land, but it was too calm and we could not get near them.

On January 11 and 12 we travelled east over Aberdeen lake; on the 12th there was a heavy drift from the northwest which later developed into a bad storm and it was during this storm, which lasted for several days, that our natives got lost and took us some 70 or 80 miles south. We should not have travelled any other time in such weather had it not been for the fact that our dog food supply at this time was again getting low, and we wished to push on and get as near as possible to Baker lake with the dogs. On January 15 we were somewhere south of Schultz lake and we broke up and burned a sled, leaving us now with two sleds.

On January 16 our dogs were getting down again in condition and I was forced to kill three dogs to feed the others. On January 17 one bitch, Tac-chack, had a litter of 7 pups and these were all eaten up by the dogs. On the 18th we saw native signs and two igloos and came to the conclusion that we were getting in the vicinity of the Kazan River natives. This was the first day since January 12 that we had been

able to see any distance. January 18, 19 and 20 we were down to soup only and none of us were feeling any benefit from it, although it kept us alive, but we felt rather groggy about the knees towards night after tramping all day and we were now feeling the cold and our clothing was sadly in need of repairs.

Good fortune again came our way on January 21. We were heading on a northeast course to Baker Lake when we came over a high hill and saw a band of 15 deer on a flat below us ; we hunted same and shot 10 after some smart manoeuvring. This put a new aspect on matters and the natives were much brighter, as they had been very downhearted and ready to quit us. In fact, native Joe told me that two of the huskies wanted them to take some of the meat and run off and leave us, as they were still under the impression that we were going in the wrong direction.

However, the 10 deer cheered us all up, the dogs were well fed and we had a big banquet of back steak and blood soup. January 23 we travelled northeast. On the 24th we remained in our igloo as it was very stormy and cold. Native Bye and Bye went 10 miles northeast and found a river running north with several sled tracks on it. On January 25 we proceeded along this river to the north; its banks are very low and in some places it was so wide that it resembled a lake instead of a river. On January 26 we continued along it, and at 9.30 a.m. we came to the mouth and found ourselves at the southwest end of Baker lake. The day was fine and clear and we could see the island where the Hudson Bay Company's post was and we were all greatly overjoyed to see some land we knew after an absence of over ten months.

We made the Hudson Bay Company's post in the afternoon and were kindly greeted by Mr. Ford, the post manager and given the best of food.

We stayed there the 27th January, and thawed out a little. January 28 we made a long point on the south shore. On the 29th we arrived at the detachment all well and glad to get home.

I have not attempted to make these reports flowery or go into descriptive details, but have simply dealt with cold-blooded facts. I again respectfully wish to bring to your notice Reg. No. 4557, Sergt.-Major Caulkin, T.B. This non-commissioned officer has been of the greatest assistance to me and I have always found him absolutely trustworthy and reliable and he has at all times proved himself to be a man. I also wish to bring to your notice Police Natives Joe and Bye and Bye. These natives put their heart entirely in the trip and under the most trying circumstances always stood by me and I consider that they should receive some suitable reward over and above their wages as a recognition of their services.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. H. FRENCH, *Inspector,*

O.C. Bathurst Inlet Patrol.

W. J. BEYTS, *Inspector,*
Commanding Hudson's Bay Sub-district.

W. H. ROUTLEDGE, *Supt.,*
Commanding "F" Division.

124. Charles D. La Nauze, "The Bathurst Inlet Patrol," 1932

Source: The Police Journal 5, no. 13 (1932): 13-23.

SINCE the formation of the North West Mounted Police in 1874 glamour and romance have been its constant companions. They came with the first bugle call and rode with champing bit and jingling spur as the scarlet coated force made its first march across the plains. They were its anxious companions in its infant years and in the stirring days of the North West Rebellion. They accompanied the Force in the rapid development of the West and the formation of the new Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. When the Force was sent further north and the Yukon and North West Territories given its protection, cold and privation only increased its romantic glamour. To-day, in spite of the fact that by evolution the whole life and duties of the Force have been changed, glamour and romance still cling to the successors of the men of '74.

The reason for this is that Canada, though a practical country, has a great romantic background and with such a setting as the Canadian north west, artists, fiction and scenario writers have seized upon the Mounted Police as the decorative heroes of their imaginations. This has been exploited to such an extent that the popular conception of the Force is that they are a hard riding, cold-resisting crowd of supermen who 'always get their man.'

There are two terms that are anathema to the Mounted Police ; the first is the term 'Mountie' and the second the supposed motto of the Force, 'Get your man.'

The term 'Mountie' is not taken seriously and is generally considered as used by the public for an abbreviation or a friendly nickname. The term 'Get your man' is cordially detested, for the motto of the Force is 'Maintiens le droit' as inscribed on its collar badge. No Police Force is super, and the Mounted Police are no exception to the rule. It is true that the Force have been successful in solving some serious crimes, but only the remote and spectacular setting of such crimes have been responsible for the exaggeration 'they always get their man.' There are Patrols and cases where the Mounted Police did not succeed. Patrols whose efforts have not been successful in spite of hard work and hardship, cases which only add to the official records of unsolved crimes.

Among the many long and difficult northern patrols undertaken by the Mounted Police which did not obtain the spotlight of publicity perhaps the Bathurst Inlet Patrol is the most striking.

This patrol was at the outset spectacular, it took some years to accomplish and was successful in its object, but because it did not contain the 'get your man' finish it was passed over by the feature writers as lacking in sensation.

The Bathurst Inlet Patrol commenced in 1914 and was concluded in 1918. It travelled thousands of miles by land and sea. It cost the Dominion Government thousands of dollars, the loss of a schooner and the complete time of an officer, non-commissioned officer and several employed natives. The patrol was brought about by the following circumstances :

In 1909 a young and inexperienced American sportsman named Harry V. Radford came to Fort Smith in the North West Territories with official sanction to kill a wood buffalo for scientific purposes. The Mounted Police had recently been established there, and part of their duties was the protection of this world's last herd of wild buffalo who ranged the vast timbered country north and west of Fort Smith. The police gave Radford every assistance, they let him accompany them on their buffalo patrols, and their work of protection was not made any easier among the Indians who could not understand why the strange white man should be allowed to kill a buffalo, while they were strictly forbidden.

Radford eventually got his buffalo and became so enamoured with the country and the romance of its early exploration that he determined to head a scientific expedition to the Arctic Coast that would rival previous exploration.

At this period he was joined by Mr. T. G. Street, a virile young Canadian whose experience on survey work had proved his worth. Street too was burning to make a great trip, and readily became Radford's assistant.

The Radford-Street projected expedition was from the east end of Great Slave Lake across country to Chesterfield Inlet on Hudson Bay, from Hudson Bay overland to Coronation Gulf and then westward along the Arctic Coast to the MacKenzie Delta.

The expedition started from Fort Smith in 1911 and travelled by canoe to Reliance on Great Slave Lake. There they engaged Indians to help them over the divide to where the waters of the Thelon River flow towards the Hudson Bay.

The same winter Indians came into Resolution trading post on Great Slave Lake and reported that 'they had left the white men on a portage near where the waters flowed to the eastward, that they had found the head white man too hard on them, too anxious to travel and gave them no time to rest or smoke, that the other white man was genial and a strong worker, that they had left them while the white men slept.' In other words they had deserted Radford and Street somewhere on the barren lands.

No further news of Radford and Street was heard until late in 1912 when reports were received through the Hudson[s] Bay Company that they had arrived safely on Hudson Bay in the fall of 1911, had picked up supplies and guides and had reached Bathurst Inlet in the spring of 1912. There their guides had left them and returned to Hudson Bay carrying reports that all was well.

In those years news did not flash through the air. The only news carrier was 'Moccasin Telegram,' the spoken word, conveyed and relayed by travelling natives. 'Moccasin Telegram' does not lie, and a year later its message came padding down from the Arctic Coast that two white men had been killed by Eskimo 'out on the ice' in Bathurst Inlet.

This rumour, combined with the failure of Radford and Street to arrive in the MacKenzie Delta, caused considerable uneasiness and the Dominion Government decided to dispatch a Mounted Police Patrol to clear the mystery up.

The obvious course for the police to pursue was to follow the missing party from their starting point and with this in view a small, well-equipped expedition was organized. A schooner and supplies were purchased and a patrol under command of the late Inspector W. J. Beyts sailed in July 1914 from Halifax, Nova Scotia, for Chesterfield Inlet, Hudson Bay.

The party met with reverse at every turn. Terrible storms caused a failure to reach Chesterfield Inlet that year and it was not until 1915 that the patrol established a base on Baker Lake. In the winter of 1915-16 two attempts were made to pierce the barren lands between Baker Lake and Bathurst Inlet, but scarcity of caribou and imminent danger of starvation caused complete failure. It looked as if the police were beaten.

The patrol had, however, received considerable further information by 'moccasin telegram' to the effect that Radford and Street had been murdered through Radford's misunderstanding of a primitive Bathurst Inlet Eskimo guide. These reports were all sifted, and when Inspector F. H. French came to relieve Inspector Beyts, who was ill, in the summer of 1916 he carried the following direct instructions from Commissioner Perry :

'It will be your duty to get in touch at the earliest possible moment with the tribes said to be responsible for the deaths. You will make inquiries and take such statutory declarations as may seem necessary in order to obtain a full and accurate account of the occurrence. From information received it is assumed there was provocation. If this is found to be the case, it is not the intention of the Government to proceed with prosecution. If, however, there was found to be no provocation, the Government will consider what further action is to be taken.'¹⁰

¹⁰ Report of the Bathurst Inlet Patrol R.N.W.M.P. 1917-18, Ottawa, 1919.

It will be seen by the above that there were no arbitrary instructions 'to go and get your man.'

Sergeant-Major Caulkin, now Inspector, who had been with the patrol since its inception, had by this time become an experienced northern traveller. Adversity had only hardened him, he had learned the Eskimo language and was ready for any eventuality. Inspector French consequently had a hardened and experienced non-commissioned officer at his disposal. The patrol put in the first part of the winter at Baker Lake and awaited the lengthening days before they could start for Bathurst Inlet. They found it impossible to secure guides, but this did not deter them, as Caulkin had acquired considerable local knowledge and knew where natives might be found *en route*.

The patrol left Baker Lake on March 21, 1917, and was composed of Inspector French, Sergt.-Major Caulkin, three police-employed Eskimo and twenty-five dogs.

To travel a great distance across the heart of the barren lands at any time of the year is no pleasure trip. Guides, if available, are useful, but the barren lands are not a country where guides are easily secured. Eskimo have certain limits for travel and seldom go beyond their own hunting areas. The Eskimo who accompanied the patrol were all natives from Hudson Bay, and, while good travellers, were entirely dependent on the police to guide them over a new country.

It was impossible to carry supplies for the whole duration of the projected journey, the patrol had at all times to face the thought of the uncertain food supply ahead ; retreat meant either failure or disaster. The finding of the Barren Land caribou meant everything to the patrol and in this they were usually successful. The patrol travelled northward with the migrating caribou upon which the men and dogs subsisted.

Each day meant an early start and the steady advance of the five deerskin-clad specks of humanity crawling over a great white bare land. Each night the toil of building a snow house, the unloading of sleds, the feeding of dogs, the preparation of the one good meal of the day, an attempt to soften and dry out frozen travelling gear, and finally the weary bodies crawling naked into their sleeping robes.

Winter was loath to give up its white hold of the land to approaching spring, for it sent down storm after storm up on the patrol and it was not till April 5th that Aberdeen Lake was reached.

Blizzards followed by dull and foggy days were next in order, but the patrol crawled on northward, fighting snow-blindness. They reached a rocky impassable area devoid of snow which forced them off their direct route to Bathurst Inlet. On April 24th they found a small encampment of Eskimo at the head waters of Backs River. Here they were directed to the best route to the coast, and on May 7th they stood on the ice of the Polar Sea some distance east of the Kent Peninsula.

The backbone of their journey was now broken, they had reached the coast at the time when the Eskimo were all living on the ice and they must now try and find them.

The patrol travelled on west across the Kent Peninsula and on May 14th saw a large Eskimo encampment on an island at the mouth of Bathurst Inlet. Only the women were present and they fled to their igloos as the patrol approached. Strangers are always quickly recognized by Eskimo, and the men who had been sealing in the distance came running across the ice carrying a spear or a snow knife in hand.

The patrol gave the peace sign by holding the arms well above the head and when their employed Eskimo advanced and spoke, all was well and the party heartily welcomed.

The time had come to prove if 'moccasin telegram' had spoken the truth.

It is not necessary for the police to adopt any so-called 'detective methods' in dealing with Eskimo. The Eskimo do not understand anything but the truth and if they are willing to talk they will speak quite freely. Tact, patience and an understanding of the Eskimo mind are the police requirements and at this the patrol's first meeting with the Bathurst Inlet Eskimo, they found three men and one woman who were actually eyewitnesses of the murder of Radford and Street.

'Moccasin telegram' had not lied, and the information obtained then and hereafter by Inspector French proved conclusively that Radford and Street had been murdered through lack of tact and the misunderstanding of a primitive Eskimo by Mr. Radford.

For over a month the patrol travelled up and down Bathurst Inlet, travelling and living with Eskimo, all of whom were conversant of the murder and nothing but corroborative evidence of provocation was obtained. The simple truth in the statement of an eye-witness named Aningnerk is tragic in its brevity and simplicity.

'About five winters ago two white men came from the south and they had three Eskimo with them ; they came to an island on the salt called Kwog-juk. One was named Ishumatak, and the other Kiuk. The one white man named Ishumatak was bad, but the other white man named Kiuk was good. The three Eskimo who came with the white men returned to the south ; the white men could not speak to us and we did not understand them, but they made us understand a little by making signs. They wanted two men to go away with them to the west. Two men Harla and Kaneak were going with them but Kaneak's wife was sick ; she had fallen on the ice and was hurt and Kaneak did not want to leave her then. The white man called Ishumatak got very mad and ran at Kaneak and hit him with a whip ; the other white man Kiuk tried to stop Ishumatak. The white man was shouting all the time, he dragged Kaneak to the water's edge, the other white man went with him,

they were going to throw Kaneak in the water. Everybody was frightened that the two white men were going to kill Kaneak. Two men, Okitok and Hulalark ran out and stabbed Ishumatak and he fell on the ice ; the other white man ran off shouting towards the sleigh and Okitok ran after him and caught him and Amegealnik stabbed him with a snow knife ; he was running towards the sleigh ; he tried to get a rifle. The two white men were covered over and left on the ice. I do not know what became of their property, some the Eskimo took, some we left on the island their rifles were broken up and made into tools after the cartridges were used up.

‘I do not think this would have happened if the white man had not beat Kaneak with the dog whip or if we had understood the white men. Kaneak and Hulalark are away on the salt ice land. Amegealnik is far to the west.’

The term ‘bad’ as applied by the Eskimo to Radford must not be translated too literally. What really was meant was that he had not got on well with the people, and the interpreter translated poor Radford’s description in the only terms he knew.

The calling of Radford by the name of Ishumatak is not unusual. The literal translation of the name is ‘the man who does the thinking’ or the leader of the party. The word Kiuk as applied to Street means ‘wood,’ and was a tribute to his strength and hardihood.

The mystery that had shrouded the disappearance of the Radford and Street expedition had now been cleared and the duty of the patrol concluded.

The principals in the murder were all reported to be far to the northward and their abode uncertain. This was not surprising, for a year previously a Mounted Police patrol had come overland from Great Bear Lake to Coronation Gulf and had arrested and taken away two primitive Eskimo who had murdered two priests in 1913. ‘Moccasin telegram’ of this happening soon reached Bathurst Inlet, and there is little doubt that the Eskimo who had killed Radford and Street had fled northward in terror. Inspector French had received sufficient information of the circumstances of the Radford and Street murder, his instructions were clear, and no good purpose would have been served by jeopardizing his patrol in an indefinite search for these men. The scene of the murder was visited, but as nothing was found there it was concluded that the bodies had been carried out to sea.

Plans for the patrol’s return journey to Baker Lake had now to be considered. The party was completely out of supplies and subsisting entirely off the country. Their fuel oil was finished and they were obliged to subsist on half raw-meat tediously prepared over an Eskimo stone blubber lamp. They fell in with some Eskimo who told them of a trading post to the westward and it was decided to attempt to reach this post while travelling was still possible on the sea ice.

The patrol travelled up Bathurst Inlet and followed the coast westward. After a hazardous journey through June snowstorms and over invisible ice cracks they

reached the newly established Hudson['s] Bay Company's post at Bernard Harbour in the Dolphin and Union Straits on June 15th. The patrol had then been eighty-three days on the trail and had covered over 2000 miles on foot.

A limited amount of supplies and some fresh clothing were secured at Bernard Harbour and with properly cooked food the patrol soon recuperated from their long journey. It was hoped that they would secure a passage to Herschel Island by the Hudson['s] Bay Company's expected supply ship.

The brief Arctic summer passed and the ship failed to arrive. On September 1st the patrol made its only boat voyage of 150 miles eastward to the mouth of the Coppermine River, where they went into camp to fish and await the freeze-up.

On October 28th the patrol with four sleds and thirty dogs began their return journey to Bathurst Inlet and Hudson Bay. Progress was slow and dangerous over the newly-formed sea ice once they were forced to travel overland when a storm drove the ice out to sea, and they reached Bathurst Inlet on November 12th.

The caribou were moving south from Victoria Island and the patrol hoped again for their company on their long march south, but they were to find them uncertain companions. Caribou meant everything to the patrol ; they had themselves and thirty dogs to feed, and like the outward journey could only carry a very limited amount of supplies. What was worse was the rapid shortening days which gave only a few hours of daylight for travel and the ever necessary hunting.

The snow was soft and deep as they plodded down Bathurst Inlet, and it was not until November 22nd that they reached the land at Gordon Bay almost out of food and only one-third of their journey accomplished.

At Gordon Bay they learned from Eskimo that by following the course of a small river flowing south it would take them near the Backs River which they crossed on the outward journey. It was apparently the shortest route south, and as time meant everything, the journey across the barren lands was commenced at this point.

For a week they painfully followed the course of this river, sometimes overland, sometimes on its frozen surface. They killed six caribou just when they were needed and passed on through a desolate and mountainous country. Their only companions were the great barren land wolves, sinister grey shapes that skirmished on the flanks of the patrol and stole one of the sled dogs at night.

December remained calm and clear throughout. Hunters were ever ahead of the sleds trying to stalk the caribou, but a deathlike stillness enveloped the barrens ; it was impossible to approach noiselessly and the caribou were always just out of range. December 12th found the patrol on Backs River and entirely out of dog feed.

Caulkin managed to kill one caribou on the 16th and the dogs were fed, but they were weakening rapidly. A sled was abandoned and the dogs split up with the remaining three sleds.

On the 17th the patrol for the first time had to resort to killing off five of the weakest dogs in order to feed the rest.

On the 19th Caulkin shot another caribou, but the state of the patrol was getting desperate. The tantalizing uncertainty of killing caribou was ever with them, for the elusive animals were disappearing, their clothing was in bad shape and no fuel oil could be spared to dry out frozen foot-gear. It was dried as best it could be next to the men's bodies as they slept.

On December 22nd the patrol struck a small river flowing south and the presence of a few stunted spruce trees made their whereabouts somewhere near the Thelon River.

They were completely out of food and their dogs falling down in harness when they struck the fresh tracks of a band of musk oxen moving westward. The natives were at once sent to follow them. The patrol built an igloo and shot and skinned out for dog feed five more exhausted dogs.

In 1821 while making their terrible overland journey from the head of Bathurst Inlet to the headwaters of the Coppermine, Sir John Franklin's party were partially saved from disaster by the killing of a few musk oxen. Ninety-six years later the Bathurst Inlet patrol was saved by the killing of the same animals. Musk ox when approachable are easy to kill, and the patrol's Eskimo, threatened with starvation, had found a herd of twenty animals and had killed them all.

Christmas Day found the whole party in camp and men and dogs revelling in quantities of fresh juicy meat.

The patrol remained at Musk Ox camp resting and feeding up the dogs until December 31st. On this day Caulkin explored south, found the Thelon River and a small cache of supplies that he and Inspector Beyts had placed there in 1915. The cache had been destroyed by animals, but 70 lbs. of flour, four tins of Oxo and a few pounds of welcome tobacco were salvaged.

On January 3rd, their three sleds loaded down with Musk Ox meat, they pushed eastwards towards Baker Lake.

On January 11th they struck Aberdeen Lake and a series of blizzards; they went eighty miles off their course, due to being forced to travel through the storms. Their food was again running low and their dogs weakening.

On January 16th a sled was used for fuel, three more dogs were killed for dog feed, a bitch gave birth to seven pups which were at once devoured by the ravenous dogs.

On January the 18th to the 20th the patrol had nothing but the Oxo and the dogs starving. The weather was very cold and they all felt the strain of the continual tramping.

On January 21st they at last found caribou near Baker Lake and surrounded and killed ten. This put a change of heart into all, for the Eskimo were losing courage and were insisting that the patrol was headed in the wrong direction.

On January 26th they at last saw familiar country in the south-west of Baker Lake and reached the Hudson[']s Bay Company's post the same afternoon. They rested there for two days and arrived at the police post on January 29th after an absence of ten months.

The patrol had travelled over 4000 miles on foot over a practically unknown Arctic territory.

They had successfully accomplished their mission, they had suffered from cold, starvation and hardship; but they did not technically 'get their man': and that is why the story of the Bathurst Inlet Patrol is unheard of and unsung.

125. Harwood Steele, *Policing the Arctic*, 1936 (excerpts)

Source: Toronto: The Ryerson Press, pp. 168-69, 174-75, 176-77, 180-81, 184-86, 190-91, 193-99

Murder of Radford and Street Reported; 1913

The advance of civilization did not deceive the Commissioner. He was still hammering away for a vessel large enough to go to sea in Hudson Bay (a specially built schooner with auxiliary power). Were not the supply and mail arrangements for Fullerton ruined by the storms which now delayed the steamer Fort Churchill?

And absolute security was not yet. Murder's ugly head arose above that skyline. To the Hudson's Bay Company post manager at Chesterfield came, on June 11th, one Akulack, with a grim tale of bloodshed far away in Bathurst Inlet, where the world's most primitive Eskimos still lived in the Ice Age: Two explorers, Radford and Street, had set out, with Akulack and others, to travel from Shultz Lake to the Mackenzie via the Arctic coast. When the time came to leave Bathurst Inlet, one of the Eskimos refused to go on because his wife was unfit. Radford struck him with a whip. A fight followed in which Hull-la-lark and Am-me-ker-nic speared Radford to death, then killed Street as he ran for his rifle.

The post manager at once passed on this statement to the officer in charge of the Company's Nelson River district, with the remark that he had previously heard of this crime but had not believed the rumour till Akulack confirmed it. Thence the report passed to Edgerton, to Superintendent Demers, now commanding in Hudson Bay, and to Perry.

Demers thought a special patrol, "strong enough to make all necessary arrests" and prepared to remain in the Barrens perhaps two years, would have to investigate this story.

Radford, who had been several years in the North, was well known to the Force. It was also known that he did not get on with natives. Eighteen months before, Constable L.M. Lloyd-Walters, patrolling between Smith's Landing and Fort Resolution, had reported meeting two Indians who told him that "they had had a row with Radford and Street," their employers, then in that country. Recalling this and noting that up to July 26th Fort McPherson had no news of the explorers, the Commissioner agreed that the murder story might be true.

But careful consideration had to be given to every factor before action was taken. Bathurst Inlet was new territory to the Force and very remote. Also this was the first serious crime committed by the Eskimos since the Force first met them ...

Bathurst Inlet (Beyts) Patrol (continued); 1914

The plan for the Bathurst Inlet patrol to deal with the killers of Radford and Street was simple – at least in conception. An auxiliary schooner, the *Village Belle*, was to carry an officer and three other ranks, fully supplied and equipped, from Halifax to the mouth of Chesterfield Inlet. There the party was to erect winter quarters, establish a base as far inland "as circumstances would permit," and from it gain touch with the Bathurst Inlet Eskimos and ascertain the "real facts of the alleged tragedy."

The difficulties lay in the certain opposition of the smashing storms and withering cold of Hudson Bay and Baker Lake; the vast, rough distances to be crossed; the known absence of helpful natives on much of the route, the known shortage of deer. The undertaking equalled many famous achievements of the great explorers.

The honour of leading this patrol, and so beginning the final stage of the Force's conquest of Canada's mainland west of Hudson Bay, fell to Inspector Beyts. Under him were Sergeant-Major T.B. Caulkin, Corporal Conway and Constable E. Pasley.

A proven veteran of many years' service in the Yukon and elsewhere, tall, strong, and popular, Beyts was a fine selection.

July sent the *Village Belle* out of Halifax, August menaced her with signs of winter.

... Carrying on, Beyts found himself dumped on unfriendly Chesterfield Inlet – too late to do more that year than erect winter quarters. His portable building developed all the defects with experience had taught the Force were inseparable from buildings put up hastily in that climate, while still wet. Like Belcher's Chilcoot cabin, it leaked incessantly and was bitterly cold. Only a very active patrol programme would keep the party warm ...

Strenuous Chesterfield Inlet-Port Nelson (Beyts) Patrol; 1915

His equally modest report of his preliminary activities completed, Beyts, on January 2nd, left his ice-house at Chesterfield Inlet to take that report to Port Nelson. With him went Pasley and Eskimos Bye-and-Bye and Sullivan. All four well knew what they might expect, patrolling Hudson Bay at that season. But all four also knew that the report must go through.

The intense cold proved incessant. Mile after mile of rough ice wore out the dogs, as they strained at the heavy sledged. Dog-feed failed on the 22nd. Still the patrol pushed on, hoping always to meet game. Day after day limped by without a sign of it. The teams were dying on their feet, Beyts fed them a mouthful of precious bacon, a few rabbits. On again – and still no game. One famished dog went mad. They shot him. Four more succumbed to starvation. Pasley and the natives took their places in harness, struggled on. Still no game – and the patrol now had no food to spare. Disaster leered, wolf-like, ahead. Beyts killed two of the weaker dogs, threw them to their ravenous mates to tear and devour. Other dogs lay down utterly done. Beyts turned them loose. Frantically the long whips beat the rest back into the collar – for to quit now was to die.

The lights of Churchill twinkled through the sub-Arctic night of February 2nd not one hour too soon.

Port Nelson still lay eight hard days' march to southward. Beyts spared the rest of his patrol that further agony. But he did not spare himself. After only six days' rest he took the trail again with Corporal E.J. Cronk, native Joe and Hall of the Hudson's Bay Company. One grave trouble – the failure of seven dogs, through sickness – made this second stage hard and anxious.

At Port Nelson, Beyts spent nearly a month arranging next summer's campaign. That done, he turned northward with Cronk and Joe on the homeward run. From Churchill, the original patrol marched on Chesterfield. Drifting snow, merciless head winds, more rough ice, more piercing cold, two storms that pinned them for days in camp were encountered. Yet the return went swiftly, compared with the outward journey. It had taken forty-six days to patrol from the Inlet to Port Nelson. To return, in spite of a dour-day halt at Churchill, took only twenty-seven. On April 9th they were back at Chesterfield ...

Bathurst Inlet (Beyts) Patrol (continued); 1915

And far away, beyond the barrens, Beyts heroically fought, literally foot by foot, towards them. Caulkin had obtained authentic statements, bearing out the original report, from the native companions of Radford and Street. Among many patrols, Beyts had made an April inspection-trip to Fullerton's closed detachment, and had sent Caulkin and Pasley on a June whale-boat voyage to get dog-feed in an exciting hunt among ferocious walrus. Of misery he had plenty – his house had become a

shower-bath in the spring thaw – and of delay more than enough – for the *Village Belle*, supposed to bring fresh supplies and assist in placing the base on Baker Lake, met so many accidents that she did not reach him till August 19th – just in time for the first great storms.

The Commissioner, inspecting Port Nelson where the *Village Belle* had wintered, declared himself “much impressed with the hardships of Hudson Bay service.” So at least he understood Beyts’s handicaps.

Battling the Gales; 1915

The expedition at once loaded the schooner with everything Beyts wished to take from Chesterfield. Eleven days of strenuous toil completed this transfer; and on August 30th they sailed up the Inlet. The voyage was one violent battle with autumn gales. On September 8th winter was so near that the ship dared remain no longer. Yet they were not even on Baker Lake – though it was less than two miles off.

Fling Beyts and his all ashore, the *Village Belle* on the 13th fled for Port Nelson.

An eight-day blizzard swooped, mercilessly. Somehow, the expedition survived and, in the frigid aftermath, ran up their portable house. The screws had rusted, the holes enlarged; the only course was to spike it together.

Still, there was – or might be – time before freeze-up to establish a supply depot at the head of the Lake. Hastily loading his motor-boat and two whale-boats, Beyts left on the 25th with Conway, Pasley and two natives to attempt this mission.

Almost at once (next day) the motor broke down. After repeated efforts to make it work, the cursing, sweating party found it hopelessly smashed. Undefeated, Beyts fetched two canoe-motors, fitted them to the motor-boat. One motor failed, the other “helped quite a bite.” Thus equipped they drove into the heart of a blustering head wind. The fight ended on October 10th, winter barring the way with irresistible seas. Smash went the tiller of the motor-boat – smash went two oars – overboard went the boat-hook – and they almost lost the boat itself. They landed, established the depot – only forty miles west of the detachment.

The return voyage brought still fiercer war. Before their eyes the swift cold froze the surging waves into one vast level of shining steel. They twisted, charged and smashed to escape this icy trap – in vain. On the 12th the boat stuck fast, six miles from shore, thirteen from the detachment. By titanic efforts, hacking a way with axes through solid ice, one boat was beached, the others worked landward three more miles. Beyts thereupon brought in the men and sent Caulkin, Pasley and two natives to secure the abandoned craft for the winter in a better place.

Disheartening though these checks were, Beyts did not despair. Perry, too, had faith that the patrol would complete its task “by next summer.”

Bathurst Inlet (Beyts) Patrol (continued); 1916

Beyts had now determined to make his attempt to reach Bathurst Inlet next March. First, though, he must establish a cache on the Thelon and procure dog-feed, to ensure getting through. This meant that Arctic horror, another mid-winter patrol. Conway and three natives, with twenty-four dogs, in only “fairly good condition,” accompanied him. They left on December 9th.

Misery on Misery; 1916

The country proved almost completely bare of game. Every native met dismally reported it very scarce. The cold was dreadful.

Storms raged almost continually. Often the weather was unfit to travel; but, drive on by the desperate need of finding game for the dogs, they travelled, all the same. Timber was so wanting that there was “no warm fire at night to warm up by”; and, from the depths of this hell, Beyts cried out that here was “the hardest country to travel in that I have experienced in the Force.”

Still worse, the oil-stove, essential for cooking, repeatedly failed. The famished huskies, though somehow the patrol managed to feed them for all but four days, devoured parts of fourteen sets, followed by a complete set, of harness, and tore one of their mates to pieces. One by one every thermos bottle broke; the lantern broke; the tent caught fire; snow drifted perpetually across their course. The patrol accidentally split in two. One half had this, the other that necessity. For two nights, thanks to this mishap, Beyts had no bed, no tools, nothing to eat but biscuits.

Reunited, they hoped for better things. Instead, the dogs worn out by exposure and sheer exhaustion, sickened alarmingly. Six died. Natives who promised faithfully to put up a cache of feed for the poor brutes to eat on the return march failed utterly to do so. And, in the middle of it all, the wife of a native helper suddenly gave birth to a girl.

Had a living Satan ruled that Inferno, his ingenuity could have gone no farther. It was as if the Arctic, knowing that her weaker defences to westward were falling before La Nauze and Bruce, was determined to hold her eastern front with everything she had.

These experiences revealed what would have happened to Pelletier had he been caught in the Barrens.

Yet Beyts succeeded. He killed only seven deer; but he planted his cache in the timber on the Thelon. In face of that awful accumulation of miseries, endured for fifty-two days and 585 miles, it was an achievement.

On January 29th they “were glad to see the detachment building heave in sight, to enable us to thaw out again.”

Thawed out, Beyts put his torments on paper, explaining that, because of the exhaustion of the dogs and because “none of the natives, so far, will go beyond the

first timber," he no longer thought it possible to reach Bathurst Inlet that winter. Alternatively, he recommended trying "from the other side," whence "they can procure dog-feed and transport their supplies easier than from on this side, as we have to pack oil for fuel and cannot depend on the country for anything."

How Street and Radford Died; 1916

One more task remained [for La Nauze] before leaving Bernard Harbour with the prisoners: to learn all that was possible of Radford and Street.

Here La Nauze was greatly aided by the Canadian Arctic Expedition. The Inspector generously acknowledged this assistance: "Although I have gathered this information with comparative ease, it has taken the members of the Canadian Arctic Expedition two years of careful work to obtain it, and I have been fortunate to obtain such good authority."

Several natives volunteered statements. La Nauze took affidavits. Strangest of all evidence were two pages from Street's diary and an Eskimo copy of a third, which O'Neill had recovered from the natives.

All the evidence wonderfully corroborated the data gathered in Chesterfield Inlet, 600 stormy, empty miles away.

Radford and Street had been alive up to the middle of July, 1912. They had been killed at Koguit Island.

"Ishumatak (Radford) was always angry when travelling." When Kaneak refused to march on account of his wife, Radford dragged him to the open water, as if to drown him, and beat him. Street remonstrated, took the whip away. Both whites then continued dragging Kaneak towards the water, probably only to frighten him. The other natives thought Kaneak doomed. To save him they rushed furiously on the explorers. Hulla and Americanguik "killed the two white men with knives."

La Nauze was sure the diary was Street's. He recognized the handwriting.

This data obtained, the Inspector committed the murders of the priests for trial and, leading them aboard the Alaska, sailed with his comrades and the prisoners to Herschel Island, on the first stage of the long journey to the far-away land where the white man's awful power awaited them.

Perry, learning of the patrol's success, wrote the Prime Minister:

"I cannot speak too highly of the manner in which Inspector La Nauze and all members of his party carried out their duties ... I trust that you will suitably recognize their work."

Had he known this, Beyts, still held at bay, must have envied them. Nothing but disappointment followed his efforts. Kennedy, an old Naval man, supervised a most valuable survey and charting of part of Baker Lake and hitherto uncharted waters of Chesterfield Inlet, the results of which were transmitted to the Department of Naval Affairs; and three whale-boats patrols, two of them to meet

the *Village Belle* at Chesterfield, were also made. But this was all Beyts could manage. And in August, as he awaited her there, he learned that she was not coming. Beyts thereupon arranged with the Hudson's Bay Company to replenish Baker Lake with coal and walrus meat. On September 9th French arrived, in the *Nascopie*, with a fine sea-going motor-boat, three constables – and instructions to take command of the Bathurst Inlet patrol.

Beyts duly handed over and retired to Port Nelson. This was sure: struggling against an overwhelming series of misfortunes as cruel as any ever met by the Force, he had broken the trail which guaranteed his successor at least a chance of success.

THE FORCE'S LONGEST PATROL

Bathurst Inlet (French) Patrol: Preparations; 1917

FRENCH, in appearance, antecedents and experience, was an ideal leader for the Bathurst Inlet patrol.

He looked like a handsome Indian master of Northern travel, was the son of a distinguished Mounted Police officer, and had led many difficult, dangerous patrols already.

But never had he led anything as difficult or dangerous as this winter journey over thousands of miles of almost unknown, sparsely inhabited country.

For all that, he was very confident.

"My only difficulty," he said, "is the inevitable dog-feed question ... We shall not be able to carry enough rations for the return trip and will have to take our chance along with the natives in this respect and depend on the country."

His followers were Caulkin and four Eskimos – Joe, Bye-and-Bye, Squashak and a woman – Solomon. Caulkin's qualities were well known, the natives had proved themselves on many strenuous police patrols.

After months of preparation, including the establishment of caches, they loaded three sleds with provisions, dog-feed, outfit and two canoes, harnessed twenty-five dogs and on March 21st, 1917, swung out of Baker Lake detachment, to face the far unknown.

Spending their nights in igloos, their days in travel or hunting, picking up and laying down caches here and there, they marched westward over frozen Baker, Schultz and Aberdeen Lakes. The dogs were fed exclusively on deer meat. Bright sunshine on dazzling snow struck the whole party snowblind for three weeks, storms repeatedly held them in camp, unable to travel, deep snow made the going very heavy...With smarting, streaming eyes they struggled on.

Outward Journey; 1917

April 16th was sunny, fine and almost warm. Revived, but not over-anxious to be caught in the Barrens by the break-up, the patrol hurried over an unknown lake. Somewhere about should be an outlet from the lake and an Eskimo camp. The igloo collapsed on the 21st; a joke this, but a joke that said "Hurry!"

For eight weary days they sought that outlet, found it on the eighth day, marched on between Lakes Pelly and Garry and – came at once to the expected native camp.

French spent the 25th arranging for a guide to Bathurst Inlet. Meanwhile, the native women plied swift needles to mend foot-gear and clothing.

Wasting no time, French left the camp next day, pushing north-west from Back River. Two nights later the din of devils smashed their sleep. They seized rifles, tumbled out – to find the dogs at war with a pack of wolves – a sight almost unknown, even in the Arctic. Shots stabbed the uproar, drove the wolves off, left one dead.

Still hunting, still catching deer-meat, French followed Lake Pelly. May Day broke the pleasant weather – another impenetrable blizzard. But, out again on the 2nd, they drove "north-west towards Arctic coast. Very barren and rocky." One the 3rd they reached Ellice River. That night the Arctic harried them to cover, and held them storm-bound, with clothing and bedding drenched, all through the 4th. Released, they followed Ellice and on the 7th –

"Came within sight of Arctic Ocean at east side of Kent Peninsula at 6.30 p.m. and camped."

Investigations; 1917

"Like stout Cortez, when with eagle eyes he gazed at the Pacific," French might well have felt elated. That ice-clad stark old ocean said that nearly half his task was done and that with reasonable luck, he would soon meet the killers of Radford and Street. It told him, too, that no mean feat lay behind him. But he simply entered the bare sighting in his diary, with the terse appendix:

"Living on deer-meat straight, all civilized grub gone, oil out."

The sledges that had seen them through so far grated [the] next day over a new trail – the sea ice. Two more checks, from storms on the 10th and 12th; in that later storm, the keenly searching natives found sled tracks and an igloo. Eagerly, French followed the tracks through the 13th and the 14th (five years after Radford and Street fell dead, three years after Beyts sailed from Halifax) overtook their makers – thirty-six Killinemuits – the people he sought.

As others had done before him, French found them "very friendly."

With characteristic vigour he began his enquiries that same afternoon; completed them in twenty-four hours.

His simple findings confirmed previous reports. Radford, the elder and leader, had all along shown ignorance of the proper manner of dealing with natives. Neither he nor Street could talk to them except by signs. Prior to the fatal quarrel there had been no trouble.

Hullalark, Amerianguik and Okitok did the killing. As there had been great provocation and the Government, that that case, did not mean to prosecute, French made no arrests.

Instead, he decided to push on to Bathurst Inlet, haranguing the Eskimos on the white man's laws and customs and investigating their condition. Seal-meat, blubber, foot-gear and other necessities were secured by trade. Another guide was hired and, on the 16th, the patrol marched with an escort of Killinemuits and "a good send off."

March to Bernard Harbour; 1917

The dogs, at the end of the day, had their first seal-meat meal.

The weather, growing steadily milder, melting all snow, and the state of the dogs, "showing symptoms of sore feet," soon forced French to admit "chances of returning to Baker Lake look bad." On the 23rd the return march was definitely abandoned and he began a retreat to the coast.

Sometimes resting and tending those sore feet, sometimes trading with the natives for supplies, and once crashing through the opening ice ("three members of patrol down cracked and wet"), they followed the west shore of the Inlet, reached Coronation Gulf, found a lone Swede, A. Kihlman – the first white seen since leaving their base – and, through belated snow-swirls, which for one day held them storm-bound, headed for the Coppermine. Natives, still met with, had told them of a schooner froze in the coast. They reached this welcome vessel on June 8th – Captain J. Bernard's *Teddy Bear*.

French bought supplies here and after three days' rest pushed on for Bernard Harbour. A trading post was there. All being well, he could re-outfit and summer at that post, getting ready for the long return march to Baker Lake.

On the 13th he reached Bernard Harbour – and all was well.

With Caulkin he wrote reports, drew maps. All hands fished and hunted. On September 1st the patrol left in whale-boats for the Coppermine. Here it settled down to await the freeze-up and make final preparations.

Homeward Journey; Preparations and Beginning; 1917

Entirely dependent on itself, it worked with skill and energy. The whale-boats had to be sent back to Bernard Harbour. But they had native umiaks (large skin-boats) and the canoes, including one left behind by La Nauze. They looked for natives able to provide dogs, caught and dried large quantities of fish, gathered

boat-loads of driftwood, made sleds, snow-shoes, clothing, dog-harness. And, under date of October 2nd, French scribbled a pencilled note “to any member” of the Force or “any white man,” reporting his experiences and plans, with the request that it be forwarded. “If we are able to kill deer,” he wrote, “we will be able to make out all right.” That big “if” stated, he handed the note to visiting Indians bound for Great Bear Lake.

The ice now set, and on October 16th, accompanied by Kihlman, the patrol began its homeward march.

Rough travel overland soon forced them back to the coast. Here the failure of the sea ice to set held them up till the 28th. The season’s first blizzard next forbade travel. The hungry dogs, during this siege, raided the stores and ate all the dry deer-meat. On the 31st French marched on. Though twice storm-bound for one day, forced on November 18th down to “rice and fish straight. Grub very low,” forced also to abandon their canoe, the 19th saw them at Kowg-guit Island.

Natives sometimes helped them; Indians in Bathurst Inlet agreed to carry mail to Fort Norman; and on the 22nd they found a small herd of deer, dead of exhaustion from efforts to get out of the heavy snow. This gift from the Arctic gods was thrown to the dogs, “to give a good feed.” More marching; two days in camp, while the natives fished through the ice; on again, by a river and several small lakes, following a course made winding by rocky country; and, in a week’s steady plodding, they reached the Ellice.

Disaster Threatens; 1917

It was now December 4th. They were miserable – faces frost-bitten, “clothing and bedding wet and frozen and all feeling the cold very much.” After two days’ halt to effect general repairs, they resumed their journey, by more lakes, to Back River and towards Jervis River.

The return march, so far, had lasted two months – about as long as men and dogs can stand without proper food, warmth and rest. Yet they were barely half-way to Baker Lake; and, in spite of the occasional kill of deer, trouble was in sight. On the 14th French wrote: “Dogs showing signs of hunger and suffering from the severe cold.” Next day, to lighten his load, he abandoned a sled and tarpaulin – like Fitzgerald. Deer were still seen, but they were wild and unapproachable.

On the 17th French copied Fitzgerald in earnest – shot five dogs to feed the rest, “now very weak and pulling very little.”

Unless lucky radically changed they would never reach Baker Lake – still many weeks’ march away.

Its “first sign of spruce trees” – of shelter and firewood – gladdened the patrol on the 21st. But terrible disaster – too often the price of devotion to duty – threatened, for the dogs, since the 17th, had eaten only one deer, one skin and some

stolen clothing. Five more dogs on the 22nd went to feed their starving mates. The patrol could not devour its own legs, like this, much longer, and still retain that mobility essential to escape.

Saved; 1917-1918

But what was French to do – unless the capricious Arctic had pity –
He stated at the haggard snows – and there, in the sudden tracks of musk-oxen,
read “Hope.”

French ordered two natives to trail these animals. The rest of the patrol, in a fever of anxiety, waited.

At 2.30 p.m. next day, the 23rd, the hunters returned, “reporting killing twenty head and seeing musk-ox in great herds.”

With reason, French wrote: “General feeling in camp much better, as regards our dog-feed and self.”

For the time, at least, they were saved.

Poor “A. Kihlman (next day) went for wood, got lost, stayed away overnight” and “returned to igloo in a.m.” of the 25th “feeling very cold.”

But, with plenty of meat and very full dogs, Christmas Day became, all at once, really merry – perhaps the merriest of their lives.

French, wisely, spent a whole week preparing for the last stage to Baker Lake, gathering firewood and musk-ox meat, repairing clothing. The Thelon, said Joe, was near.

They marched again on January 3rd via the Thelon, picking up Beyts’s cold cache; reached Beverley Lake and Aberdeen; pushed on through three very stormy days.

Trouble returned. Once more French copied Fitzgerald, abandoning another sled and tarpaulin. They gained a large lake, so misty that no one could identify it. Almost lost, his teams obstinately dying again, French killed three more dogs to feed their mates.

Safely Home; 1918

“January 17th ... Going slow on account of soft snow and tired dogs. Bitch Tak-Sak had seven pups in late p.m. Killed same and fed to dogs.” “January 18th: Mist cleared. Still could not identify lake. It is presumed that we are on the south side of the Thelon River and close to Baker Lake.” A comfortable assumption –

“January 19th: Patrol reduced to soup only, all meats finished”; and all the dogs had was one deer, taken, of dire necessity, from a native cache.

French resolved to stake everything on a final desperate effort. On the 21st he cached “all but sleeping bags, ammunition and rifles,” struck out again – “dogs very groggy.” Deer- suddenly – through brought down ten – another flash of lucky –

fed the heads and guts to the famished dog-survivors. The 22nd was a day of rest. Barring accident the worst was over.

At 3 p.m. on the 26th, all uncertainty gone, they came, as men back from the dead, to the Baker Lake post of the Hudson's Bay Company, there to be "well received by Mr. H Ford and given a royal feast."

Officially, this unprecedented patrol ended on the 29th, the day on which it "arrived detachment 2.30 p.m. All Well."

Perry, anxiously staring northward for a glimpse of the little party which had set forth so resolutely into the terrible Barrens on so hard a task, had to wait seven weeks before (March 20th) someone handed him the first tidings, wired by Beyts from Port Nelson:

"Hudson Bay Company's Chesterfield packet arrived last evening. Inspector French and party returned Baker Lake January 29th all well ..."

Rewards; Achievements; 1918

Thereafter, confirmation from far-off points – French's note of October 2nd, given about the 9th to D'Arcy Arden, on Dease River, and forwarded on January 1st to Perry, whom it reached on April 11th; confirmation too from Phillips, reporting that on February 6th Sergeant Johnson at Fort Norman had heard from French's Bathurst Inlet Indians, gathering from them that French had been homeward bound in November, with the killers. This letter left Phillips on February 8th, reached Perry on April 25th.

The Commissioner felt "great relief" that this "most hazardous and dangerous" journey was over. With pleasure he drew the "valuable services" of Inspector French and Sergeant-Major Caulkin to the Prime Minister's notice, with still greater pleasure found them granted something almost unknown to the Force – an honour – the Imperial Service Order to French, the King's Police Medal to Caulkin.

None would dispute that they were earned, not so much by the investigation into the killing of Radford and Street, which in itself was not difficult, but by the patrol's feat of travel. Few men, if any, had accomplished so long a journey through Polar regions in winter, without breaking it by recuperation in a comfortable post. French had safely taken his entire party, living largely off the country and in native style, across the sinister Barrens and back. He had been absent over ten months, spent six on the trail, covered 5153 miles, 4055 of these in actual travel, the rest in hunting, seeking natives camps and the like. Finally –

He had made the Force's longest patrol and, almost undoubtedly, the longest ever made by a police force.

Further Reading

- Angnakak, Sharon. "Inuit Perspectives in and on 'Arctic Show Trials.'" Ph.D. dissertation, University of Ottawa, 2024.
- Aupilaarjuk, Mariano, Akisu Joamie, and Emile Imaruittuq, *Perspectives on Traditional Law*. Iqaluit: Language and Culture Program, Nunavut Arctic College, 1999.
- Coates, Ken, P. Whitney Lackenbauer, William R. Morrison and Greg Poelzer. *Arctic Front: Defending Canada in the Far North*. Toronto: Thomas Allen Publishers, 2008.
- Coates, Ken, and William R. Morrison. "'To Make These Tribes Understand': The Trial of Alikomiak and Tatamigana," *Arctic* 51, no. 3 (September 1998): 220-230.
- Damas, David. "Copper Eskimo." In *The Handbook of North American Indians*, vol. 5, ed. David Damas, 397-414. Washington: Smithsonian, 1984.
- Diubaldo, Richard. *Stefansson and the Canadian Arctic*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1978.
- Diubaldo, Richard. *The Government of Canada and the Inuit, 1900-1967*. Ottawa: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1985.
- Dominion of Canada. *Royal North West Mounted Police Annual Reports*.
- Douglas, George M. *Lands Forlorn: A Story of an Expedition to Hearne's Coppermine River*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1914.
- Douthwaite, Louis Charles. *Royal Canadian Mounted Police*. Toronto: Ryerson, 1939.
- Godsell, Philip. *Arctic Trader*. Toronto: Macmillan Company of Canada, 1946.
- Godsell, Philip. *They Got Their Man: On Patrol with the North West Mounted Police*. Toronto: Ryerson Press, 1932.
- Grant, Shelagh. *Arctic Justice: On Trial for Murder, Pond Inlet, 1923*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queens University Press, 2002.
- Harper, Kenn. *In Those Days: Arctic Crime and Punishment*. Iqaluit: Inhabit Media, 2015.
- Harper, Kenn. "Taissumani: A Day in Arctic History June 27, 1911 – Radford and Street Leave Fort Smith." *Nunatsiaq News*, 24 June 2005.

- Harper, Kenn. *Thou Shalt Do No Murder*. Iqaluit: Nunavut Arctic College Media, 2017.
- Harring, Sidney. "The Rich Men of the Country: Canadian Law in the Land of the Copper Inuit, 1914-1930," *Ottawa Law Review* 21 (1989): 1-64.
- Jenness, Diamond. "The Cultural Transformation of the Copper Eskimo," *Geographical Review* 11, no. 4 (1921): 541-550.
- Jenness, Diamond. *Report of the Canadian Arctic Expedition 1913-18, vol. XII: The Life of the Copper Eskimos*. Ottawa: F.A. Acland, 1922.
- Jenness, Diamond. *Report of the Canadian Arctic Expedition 1913-18, Vol. XII: The Copper Eskimos, Part B: Physical Characteristics of the Copper Eskimos*. Ottawa: F.A. Acland, 1923.
- Jenness, Stuart, ed. *Arctic Odyssey: The Diary of Diamond Jenness, 1913-1916*. Hull: Canadian Museum of Civilization, 1991.
- Johnson, Rebecca, and Lori Groft. "Learning Indigenous Law: Reflections on Working with Western Inuit Stories." *Lakehead Law Journal* 2, no. 2 (2017): 117-144.
- Karetak, Joe, Frank Tester, and Shirley Tagalik, eds. *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit: What Inuit Have Always Known to be True*. Peterborough: Fernwood, 2017.
- Lackenbauer, P. Whitney, and Grace Chapnik, eds., "*It is necessary that they should understand that they are under the Law*": *The Murder Trials of Sinnisiak and Uloqsak, 1917*. Peterborough: Frost Research Centre Press, 2023.
- Lackenbauer, P. Whitney, and Kristopher Kinsinger, eds. *Arctic Show Trial: The Trial of Alikomiak and Tatamigana*, Documents on Canadian Arctic Sovereignty and Security (DCASS) No. 9. Calgary: Arctic Institute of North America, 2017.
- La Nauze, Charles D. "The Bathurst Inlet Patrol." *The Police Journal* 5, no. 1 (1932): 13-23.
- La Nauze, Charles D. "A Double Murder in the Arctic Regions." *The Alberta Military Institute Annual Journal* (1931): 12-21.
- La Nauze, Charles D. "Murder in the Arctic." Four-part series in *The Annals of the Propagation of the Faith* (June-July 1937, August-September 1937, December 1937-January 1938, February-March 1938).
- Loukacheva, Natalia. "Indigenous Inuit Law, 'Western' Law and Northern Issues." *Arctic Review on Law and Politics* 3, no. 2 (2012): 200-217.

- MacBeth, Roderick George. *Policing the Plains: Being the Real-Life Record of the Famous Royal North-West Mounted Police*. Toronto: Hodder & Stoughton, 1921.
- Millman, Lawrence. "The Radford and Street Disaster: Death of a Good Man." Explorersweb, 15 January 2024.
- Morrison, William R. *Showing the Flag: The Mounted Police and Canadian Sovereignty in the North, 1894-1925*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1985.
- Morrison, William R. *Under the Flag: Canadian Sovereignty and the Native People in Northern Canada*. Ottawa: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1984.
- Moyles, R.G. *British Law and Arctic Men*. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1979.
- Phillips, Alan. *The Living Legend: The Story of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police*. Toronto: Little, Brown and Company, 1954.
- Rasmussen, Knud. *Intellectual Culture of the Copper Eskimo. Report of the Fifth Thule Expedition 1921-1924 The Danish Expedition to Arctic North America in Charge of Knud Rasmussen*. Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel, 1929.
- Rasmussen, Knud. *Across Arctic America: Narrative of the Fifth Thule Expedition*. New York: G.P. Putnam, 1927.
- Schuh, Cornelia. "Justice on the Northern Frontier: Early Murder Trials of Native Accused." *Criminal Law Quarterly* 22, no. 1 (1979): 74-111.
- Service, Robert W. *Ploughman of the Moon: An Adventure into Memory*. London: Ernest Benn, 1946.
- Steele, Harwood. *To Effect an Arrest: Adventures of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police*. Toronto: Ryerson Press, 1949.
- Steele, Harwood. *Policing the Arctic. The Story of the Conquest of the Arctic by the Royal Canadian (formerly North-West) Mounted Police*. Toronto: The Ryerson Press, 1936.
- Walsh, James J. "A Young Catholic Explorer," *Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia* 26, no. 2 (1915).
- Whalley, George. *The Legend of John Hornby*. Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, 1962.

About the Editor

P. WHITNEY LACKENBAUER, Ph.D., is Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in the Study of the Canadian North and professor in the School for the Study of Canada at Trent University, and the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group (1CRPG) based in Yellowknife. He received the Polar Medal from Canada's Governor General as well as the Trent Distinguished Research Award in 2026. He has (co-)written or (co-) edited more than seventy books and more than



one hundred academic articles and book chapters. His recent books include *Non-Arctic State Policies and Strategies: Alignments with Canada* (edited 2026), *TAKUNIQ: The Canadian Rangers and Canada's High Arctic in an Era of Strategic Competition* (2025), *Northwest Passages: Navigating the Canadian Arctic from Gjøa to Harry DeWolf* (edited 2025), *Canadian Arctic Defence and Foreign Policy: Recent Developments* (edited 2025), *Canadian Arctic Sovereignty and Security, Volume 2: Historical and Legal Perspectives* (edited 2024), "It is necessary that they should understand that they are under the Law": *The Murder Trials of Sinnisiak and Uloqsak* (edited 2023), and *The Joint Arctic Weather Stations: Science and Sovereignty in the High Arctic, 1946-72* (co-authored 2022). www.lackenbauer.ca



Sensible Justice

Investigating the Murders of Radford and Street,
1913-1918

Compiled and Introduced by P. Whitney Lackenbauer

Foreword by David Pelly

The Royal North West Mounted Police (RNWMP) investigation into the 1912 deaths of explorers Harry Radford and George Street represented a pivotal moment in the projection of federal authority in the central Canadian Arctic. Between 1913 and 1918, the federal police mounted patrols to determine what led to the killings and, simultaneously, to assert an official presence in parts of Inuit Nunangat where Canadian sovereignty had previously been largely symbolic.

Frost Research Centre Press

ISBN 978-1-98911-49-8