



## Search and Rescue Aboard P/V Pearkes

by Cst. J. D. Palmer

*Constable J. D. (Dan) Palmer is presently serving at Resolute Bay Detachment, "G" Division... life on a P/V along B.C.'s beautiful coast was exchanged for the austere beauty of the high Arctic. He had previously served at Alert Bay and Mackenzie Detachments, both in "E" Division.*

In the past decade Marine Services of the RCMP has evolved from the Marine Division of years ago and is now considered a "support service." As such, it may be the smallest and least known support service in the RCMP, but nonetheless a valuable entity of the Force with a tradition all its own.

Marine Division, as it was known from 1947, was dissolved approx-

imately ten years ago and today Marine Services is staffed by regular members of the Force who express a desire to work in the service. There are ten patrol vessels on strength; the majority of them serving on the West Coast, off British Columbia.

Although the operational costs of crewing and maintaining a vessel are high, the Force must maintain active policing in Canadian waters. Many P/V's (Patrol Vessels) are required to cover vast areas and perform various tasks. A few of the statutes that P/V personnel routinely enforce are: the Narcotic Control Act, the Canada Shipping Act and Small Vessel Regulations, and the Customs and Excise Act. They police those small coastal villages that