

success and complete surprise to everyone. The "Mounties" received a standing ovation and a handshake and congratulations from Commissioner L.H. Henderson.

Now, 33 years later, though the faces are still familiar, the names have faded. I would certainly like to hear from these

girls, many of whom married members. Where are you now?...

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## A Christmas Story

by ex-Sgt. R.M. Ettles, Riverview, New Brunswick

### 16:30 — Wednesday, December 20

It seems like it will not be a very good Christmas at our house. Dr. Guy Leblanc has just advised me that my left eye requires emergency surgery. By 20:00, I am on the plane, bound for the eye clinic at the Halifax Infirmary in Nova Scotia.

### 11:00 — Thursday, December 21

Dr. Brian Horsman confirms a detached retina, and in the process, deflates my Christmas balloon. I am 200 miles away from my family, in a strange city, soon to be flat on my back for several days recovering from major surgery. And all at Christmas time. I am not a "happy camper."

Then, a ray of light at the end of the tunnel... Dr. Horsman advises that a fairly new procedure, performed in two stages, is now available. First, a bubble of expanding gas is injected into the damaged eye, and hopefully forces the retina back into position. If this is successful, stage two "welds" the retina in

place using a surgical laser. Stage one takes several days. Dr. Horsman studies my case closely, and decides that I qualify for the procedure. At 13:00, I am taken to the operating room, where the injection is given in a 10-minute procedure, under local anesthetic.

### 09:00 — Friday, December 22

Stage one appears to be successful, but results will be confirmed later in the afternoon. In the meantime, I can make tentative plans to go home. There are two exceptions to the means by which I will be allowed to travel; because of the expanding gas, I cannot fly and because of the position in which I have to hold my head, I cannot drive.

Enquiries at the bus depot and train station confirm that both are deluged with Christmas travellers. The cost of hiring a car and driver is prohibitive. My last alternative seems to be my 17-year-old daughter who recently obtained her driver's licence. But she has no extensive highway driving experience, and to ask