

# News of the arts

## Band of "the Van Doos" makes mark in the South of France



The band of "the Van Doos" parades in front of Monaco's royal palace as Prince Rainier and Prince Albert watch from a window.

Thousands of French citizens were entertained by the band of Canada's celebrated Royal 22nd Regiment (affectionately known as "the Van Doos"), during a brief concert tour of southeastern France this spring.

As the first Canadian military band to visit the area, the ensemble participated

in the twenty-seventh International France-Canada Congress, held in Toulon in May. The occasion merited a large military welcome attended by Commander Jenssen of the Musique des équipages de la Flotte, Canadian Consul General F-X. Houde, and a delegation from the France-Canada Association.



Performing at one of their outdoor concerts during a recent tour of the south of France is the band of Canada's Royal 22nd Regiment.

Although committed to a rigorous schedule, the Canadians enjoyed occasional respite, attending several receptions and the traditional *fête des maïs*, an annual celebration held each Sunday in May in the gardens and arenas of Cimiez. This year, the presence of the Canadians attracted crowds of more than 11,000. After parading through the streets, the band went to the gardens where the Consul General and the Mayor were the guests of honour. During the reception that followed, the municipality presented to Mr. Houde the gold medal of the city of Nice, while Major Pierret, bandmaster, received the city's coat of arms. Each musician was given a souvenir medal.



Canadian Consul General in Marseilles, F-X. Houde (left) receives the emblem of the Royal 22nd Regiment from bandmaster Major Pierret.

Earlier in Toulon, the band took part in a ceremony commemorating the Canadians who died during the Second World War and, later, they performed with the Musique des équipages de la Flotte in a public outdoor concert.

In Marseilles, the musicians were in concert before an invited audience in the garden of the Château du Pharo and later, at a huge stadium, they paraded before television cameras, which filmed the performance.

The tour continued in Monaco, where the band paraded outside the royal palace, watched by Prince Rainier and his

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