

Ireland, were described as "super" and "beyond expectation" by members, who marvelled at the beauty of the show site and the enthusiasm of the capacity crowds. Other special events included participation in the Lord Mayor's parade, receptions hosted by Ireland's Minister of Justice, the Commissioner of the Garda Siochana (Ireland's federal police force), Mr. Dennis McDermott, Canada's ambassador to Ireland, and the Allied Investment Bank.

The board of directors and organizers of the Royal Dublin Society said they were impressed by the calibre of the Ride, on and off the performance site.

Royal Stables

Always prepared for changes in plans, the Musical Ride horses flew from Dublin to London, England, because of a British ferry strike. The horses were stabled at Windsor Castle, and were visited

repeatedly by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip and Prince Edward. Insp. Boivin was a guest at the Royal Mews, Windsor, and S/Sgt. Gerry Ogilvie rode "Centennial", the horse presented to Her Majesty by the RCMP at Windsor Castle in 1977, as a result of a special request from the Queen. Performances at the Royal Windsor Horse Show included a performance for Queen Elizabeth.

While in London, the Musical Ride provided a mounted escort for Canadian High Commissioner Roy McMurtry who, accompanied by the Queen's head coachman, Arthur Scholl, made several official courtesy calls. During the escort, the Ride had to enter the City of London, that mile square of city in the centre of the sprawling metropolis, and as has been the custom since the beginning of that city, were challenged by a "mounted" Chief Constable, before permission was granted to enter.

The final stop for the Ride in England was the Devon County Fair. Located in Exeter, this particular show has been a regular stop for the Ride, and the 1988 Ride continued the tradition — drawing large crowds at the shows and at the stables, for a closer look at the RCMP horses.



The Commissioner of the Garda, Dublin, presents Insp. L. Boivin a plaque commemorating the Ride's visit to Ireland, while Canadian Ambassador Dennis McDermott looks on.

Photo by UPPA LTD, London

The next stop was Lahr, West Germany, and the logistics for transporting members and horses from Exeter posed some interesting problems. The horses were shipped from Harwich by ferry to Holland, and then trucked overland to Lahr. While some members travelled with the horses, the others went by boat to Calais, France, and then overland by bus to meet up with the horses at Lahr. The reception at Canadian Forces Base Lahr was warm, notwithstanding the fact that the base commander took the final salute at that performance in the pouring rain. It may be noted in the log book that