

"N" Division, R. C. M. Police, Rockcliffe Musical Ride, National Horse Show in New York

Compiled from Official Reports and Newspaper Clippings

by A/SUPERINTENDENT V. A. M. KEMP

FOR THE first time in the history of the Force a mounted Detachment was officially sent to participate in the National Horse Show in Madison Square Garden, New York, when a party of 36, all ranks, under the command of Superintendent J. M. Tupper, left Ottawa on the 4th November, 1934, for New York. The National Horse Show, which attracts entrants from various parts of the globe, is possibly the biggest show of its kind on the continent.

The presence of a mounted Detachment from the Force attracted very considerable notice. Some idea of this may be gained from the fact that one of the largest American magazines sent an artist from New York for the purpose of correctly portraying the uniforms and the general appearance of a member of the Force.

Thirty-two mounted men turned out on parade. The remainder of the party were performing executive duties or acting as spare men. Thirty-four horses were shipped by train, thus allowing two extra horses for emergencies. It is very gratifying that the entire party, both men and horses, were moved without any hitch and the horses returned apparently sound and well.

The appearance of the ride evoked considerable admiration and, according to the press items, the journalists experienced some difficulty in selecting superlatives with which to describe their views.

Not a few telegrams were received from residents of New York recording their appreciation. One ex-Sergeant, now living in New York, wired as follows:—

"The outfit, perfectly appointed, has turned in two absolutely faultless and spectacular rides about which even blase New York is enthusiastic and for which a box office should show tangible appreciation."

The party were housed at comfortable hotels and the horses accommodated at the stables attached to Madison Square Garden. The personnel attending were lavishly entertained by different citizens and officials of the National Horse Show Association.

A perusal of the Press Cuttings which have come in justifies the belief that the presence of the R. C. M. Police Detachment in New York created an entirely favourable impression, not only with the general Public but also with those who are competent to judge a military turn-out.

A number of those taking part in this ride have only recently returned from service in the Eastern Arctic and the large majority of the others have only been on the Force a short time.

The ride was trained by A/Staff Sergeant Soame whose efforts justly received very favourable notice in the Press.

One of the results of the performance has been the arrival at Headquarters of a great number of applications for engagement in the R. C. M. Police, from young men, residing in and around New York. These have had to be informed politely that only British Subjects at present resident in Canada can be considered for enlistment.