



# RCMP Participation in

# Anniversary Ceremonies Marking End of WWII

Manitoba Sacred Music Choir with Cst.  
E. MacKenzie (L) and Cst. R. Lane (R).

by Cst. E. MacKenzie, Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba

In January 1995, Cst. E. MacKenzie and Cst. R. Lane, Lac du Bonnet Detachment, were asked by the Manitoba Sacred Music Choir if they would be interested in accompanying the choir on a trip to Holland, to participate in a number of local Liberation Day celebrations marking the end of World War II. Sponsors of the choir, both in Canada and in The Netherlands, recognized the symbol of the red-coated "Mountie" as being uniquely Canadian. They had therefore requested that two Mounties, willing to make this trip on their own time, participate in the singing and act as goodwill ambassadors.

After the initial portion of the trip in Holland, where the members would participate in many public functions in Red Serge, the choir was then scheduled to con-

tinue on through Europe by tour bus, with singing performances at a number of locations.

Following approval by Ottawa, the members were occupied over the next three months with many hours of practise in their spare time, requiring a 240-km round-trip to Winnipeg, sometimes twice a week. Both of the members' wives, Donna MacKenzie and Cindy Lane, who are also talented singers, became interested in the choir and also joined the group.

Early in May, the choir which consisted of more than 70 singers, departed from Winnipeg for the Netherlands, flying overnight on British Airways to London, then to Amsterdam. From the moment the group arrived in Holland, until they left for Paris five days later, the hospitality they