

RCMP Meet Their "First Lady"

by S/Sgt. Garth Hampson



On the steps of "D" Block, Her Majesty is greeted by C/Supt. R. G. Moffatt, Director of the Canadian Police College. Standing beside the Queen is Commr. R. H. Simmonds.

It is rare for any Royal Visit to deviate from its rigid schedule and run overtime. But this happened at RCMP "N" Division on a cold Monday morning, October 17, 1977.

The visit to the RCMP was just a small segment of a hectic five day Silver Jubilee Royal Visit to the National Capital by the Queen and Prince Philip. And though the visit brought Her Majesty before thousands of loyal Canadian subjects who showed sincere warmth and affection at each stop along the way, in the flood of press which is always a part of royal occasions, it was evident that her happiest moments were spent in the formal, yet relaxed, surroundings of "N" Division.

Perhaps the Queen delayed leaving because of her love of both children and horses. C/Supt. Roy Moffat had invited a number of schools to participate in the welcome, and the invitation was taken up by school children from places as far away as Smiths Falls. All were bussed in for the

occasion and were delighted to play hookey for the day so they could see their Queen.

Her Majesty and Prince Philip arrived shortly after 10:00 a.m., riding through the crowd in a convertible, with a 12-man RCMP mounted escort. The leaden skies and cold temperatures didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the welcome and the children cheered wildly as she stepped from the car to be greeted by the Solicitor General, Francis Fox; and Commissioner and Mrs. Simmonds. The RCMP Band, which had kept people's spirits up with appropriate selections prior to the arrival, led the assembly in the singing of "O Canada". After meeting senior personnel of the Force, the Queen and Prince Philip were escorted inside "D" Block, where she once again met the members of her Coronation Contingent.

The members and their families had travelled to Ottawa at their own expense



... with friends at "N" Division stables. (Canadian Press Photo)