

Canadian centres from coast to coast, at Wembley in England, in New York City, San Francisco and other cities in the United States.

In 1939 they were exceptionally busy when in addition to other engagements one ride from "N" Division, Rockcliffe, performed at the World's Fair in New York City while a detachment from "Depot" Division, Regina, performed at the San Francisco World's Fair.

The present day ride takes from 11 to 20 minutes, but the full performance may last approximately 40 minutes. It is an interesting spectacle, and many people have seen it more than once. It is set to music at the trot, walk and canter, and requires constant alertness on the part of horse and rider. There are 32 horses, though on occasion the performance has been executed on a smaller scale and required fewer horses. The men are carefully selected from members who have gone through a rigid course in physical training, drill and equitation. The riding master, S/Sgt. C. Walker has had years of experience in musical rides and is a graduate of the British Cavalry School at Weedon, England.

Each rider is dressed in Review Order and carries the regulation cavalry lance, a slender bamboo pole with steel point and butt, from which flutters a pennon of red and white.

The horses are also dressed for the occasion—regulation saddlery with added brass bosses, white browbands on the headgear, plus a blue and gold saddle blanket.

The music is specially selected. In former years it included pieces such as *The King's Horses*; *Parade of the Wooden Soldiers*; *Bonnie Dundee* and *Wedding of the Painted Doll*. Today, the score used is made up of the following numbers: *Keel Row*; *Anonymous*; *Money Musk*; *Every Little Movement* (from *Madame Cherry*); *Country Gardens*; *Danube Waves*; *Bonnie Dun-*

*dee*; *St. Patrick's Day* and *Campbells are Coming*.

The principal formations of the ride are: The Bridal Arch in which one half of the ride passes under an archway of lances formed by the other half; the Dome in which the performers ride in a close-packed circle with raised lances pointing towards the centre; the Maze which calls for the whole ride to keep moving in ever-decreasing circles, smaller and smaller until the leader reverses and leads out through lanes formed by the diminishing circle; the Star which consists of four sets of eight riders in line, each set forming a point of a star and cantering in a circle; the Gates which resembles revolving doors, made up of riders in eights in line, cantering from each end of the arena down the centre until they meet and circle in line; the Shanghai Cross which is formed by four sets of eight riders cantering from all corners of the arena in single file, meeting in the centre, one ride crossing the other; the Charge in which the ride forms up at the quarter marker on a 16-horse frontage, then at a trumpet call the riders in the front rank lower their lances to the engage position and the whole ride advances at a gallop the full length of the arena. The March Past is the final movement. In this the ride forms at the quarter marker on a 32-horse frontage, then at a signal from the centre guide, the entire troop marches forward at the walk. The salute—eyes right or left—is given during this movement, after which the ride forms sections and leaves the arena.

Due to circumstances created by World War II, training of the musical ride was suspended in 1939. However in the spring of 1948 the Commissioner, having received many requests from organizations in Canada and United States, gave the necessary permission to re-open at "Depot" Division the training exercises.

It has long been the Commissioner's wish that all horses in the ride be black.