

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride

The RCMP Musical Ride is performed by a mounted troop of 32 members of the force drawn from detachments across Canada for a two-year tour of duty. The horses, which are three-quarter thoroughbred, are raised on the force's ranch at Pakenham, Ontario, and both men and horses train together for four months before any engagements are undertaken.

The Ride is composed of a variety of intricate movements executed at the trot and canter to an appropriate musical accompaniment. The figures performed are derived from cavalry drill and demand the utmost in control, timing and co-ordination.

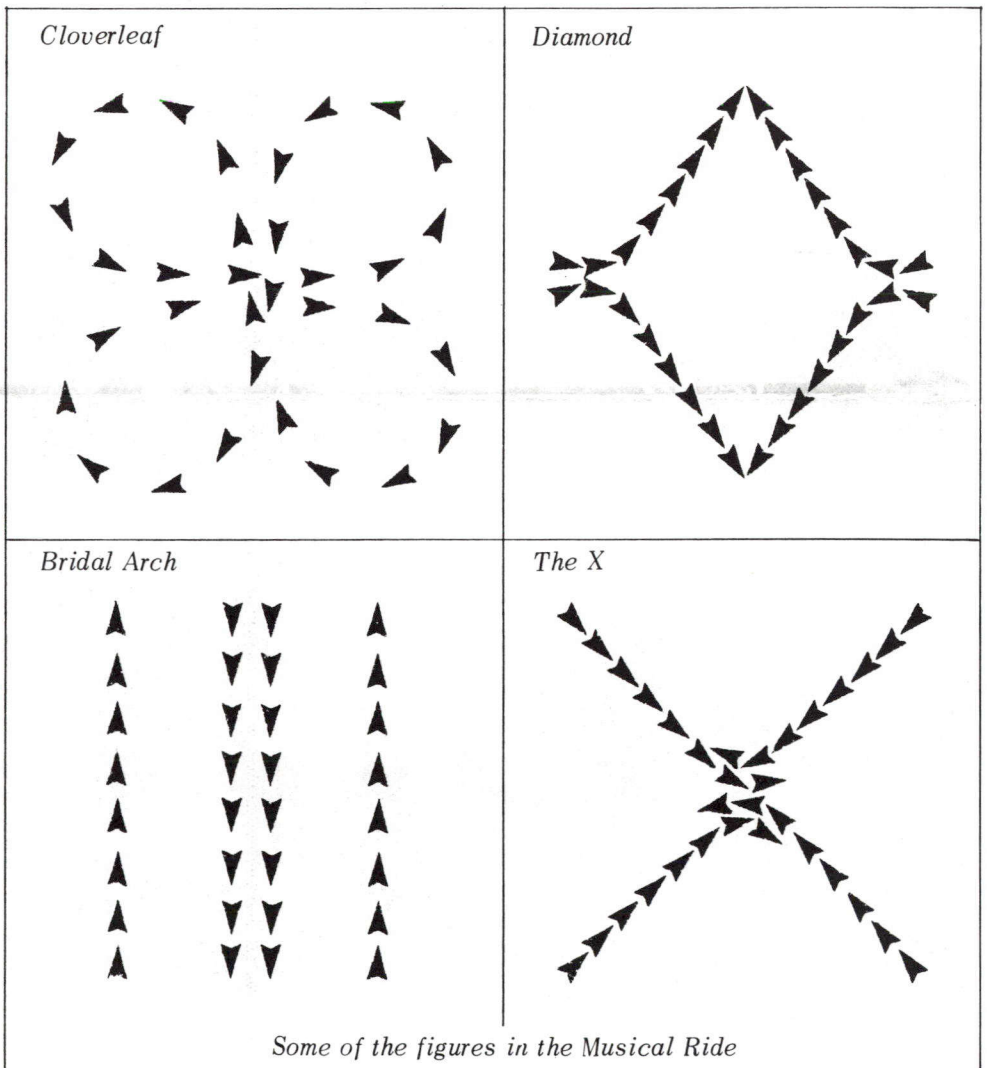
Although it is recorded that a North West Mounted Police musical ride was performed in 1876, it was not until 1904 that the Ride was put on public display.

In the ensuing years, mounted troops of the force journeyed abroad to participate in various functions and in recent years the RCMP Musical Ride has become a familiar sight in the United States and Britain.

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Some of the figures in the Musical Ride