


The RCMP Band (Ottawa)

Returns to the East

By Cst. E. T. PARKER

 ON Aug. 22, 1957, the Ottawa Band of the RCMP commenced its second tour of the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland. Because bandmaster S/Sgt. H. A. Blackman was away in the United Kingdom with the Musical Ride, S/Sgt. C. C. Bryson, bandmaster of the Regina Band, along with Cpl. G. H. Graham were seconded to the Band for the tour. The Band was under the direction of Insp. E. J. Lydall, Supervisor of Music for the Force.

Transportation consisted of a Capital Coach bus, a truck carrying instruments and equipment, and last of all a duty car which preceded the bus and truck to make accommodations and final arrangements regarding engagements.

It was a beautiful sunny morning that first day out and spirits were high on the way to Quebec City for the first concert and marching display of the tour. The first concert had ideal settings for any vacationers in the Chateau Frontenac with the Band playing on the stand under the windows of the hotel and the marching display prior to the concert taking place on the boardwalk in front. Insp. R. Allard took the salute in the marching display and introduced the Band and acted as announcer.

Inspector Allard accompanied the Band to Rimouski next day where the tour ran into its first major opposition in the form of the opening day of the local exhibition. Barring this counter attraction, the Band drew good crowds. Inspector Allard introduced the Band to the audience at the evening concert and Mayor E. Cote welcomed the group on behalf of the town.

A swim had been scheduled for the next day at Luceville, Que., but with water temperatures reported around the 45 degree mark, the Band pushed on to

Campbellton, N.B. In Campbellton, the Band staged a marching display and concert with Insp. J. R. Roy introducing the Band and Mayor J. W. Howard responded for the town. A delightful reception was held in the Legion Hall rooms after the concert through the kind efforts of the B.E.S.L. Ladies' Auxiliary. Mr. Charles Van Horne, Federal M.P. for Restigouche-Madawaska, town councillors, members of the local detachments and other dignitaries were at the reception.

The next day instead of putting on a marching display in Moncton, the Band did a short route march down the main street. The papers had advertised the fact that the Band would officially open the new ultra-modern band shell just constructed, but due to inclement weather the concert was played in the Moncton arena, much to the disappointment of the city fathers.

Having left the soil of New Brunswick, the Band boarded the SS *P.E.I.* for the trip to the "island". As fate would have it, the bus developed a cracked valve about 35 miles from Charlottetown and all personnel filed out and pushed it to the side of the road. Traffic slowed down to a crawl, with 38 Mounted Policemen on the roadside, but presently through a passerby, additional transportation and a tow truck had been sent for.

The marching display in Charlottetown was staged in front of Richmond Street Court House, after a short route march from the hotel. The evening concert was attended by the Lieutenant-Governor of P.E.I., the Hon. T. William L. Prouse.

The next day saw the Band move to Summerside where a marching display was put on at 4.30 p.m. Originally scheduled for the Auditorium being built