

R.C.H.A. Band Concert (cont'd)

with the permission of Major General W. J. McGill, D.S.O., C.D., G.O.C. Prairie Command.

The proceeds from the concert will be used by Kiwanis for district welfare work. No fee is charged by the Band.

There is no question that this band is a first class band and that a really enjoyable concert is in store for everyone.

Following is a brief outline regarding the history of this famous band:

..... The Royal Canadian Horse Artillery Band, one of Canada's leading military bands, was organized in 1905 at Kingston, Ontario. Under a Trumpet Major MacKinnon, it was made up of one sergeant, one lance-sergeant, a corporal and 22 bandsmen. The band is now stationed in Winnipeg, Manitoba and has a strength of 50 musicians.

The band became famous in Eastern Canada for both its standard of musicianship and its distinctive dress. The full dress consists of a gold trim blue serge jacket, blue and red overalls, half-Wellington boots and dress spurs. The headdress is a fur busby with a plume of red vulture feathers surrounded by a gilt ring at the base and surmounted by a white ostrich feather.

While stationed at Kingston, the R.C.H.A. band participated in parades and inspections at Royal Military College. On state occasions, it took part in functions at Government House at Ottawa as well as other State occasions in the Nation's capital.

The band was a feature at the Quebec Tercentenary in 1908, the Toronto Exhibition in 1932 and the unveiling of the Vimy Memorial in France in 1936. On that tour the band also played in Paris and London.

Following 1940 the band moved to Petawawa, Ontario, where it was attached to A-1 Canadian Artillery Training Centre. It was greatly reduced in size when most of its members proceeded overseas.

In late 1946 the R.C.H.A. band moved to Shilo, Manitoba. It then totalled 20 members. Meantime, Captain Horace Tidman had taken over command from Major F.W. Coleman in 1942. Captain Tidman remained with the band until October 1945, when Bandmaster (Warrant Officer I) B. J. Lyons was appointed. Captain Tidman returned to the band in 1947.

In November, 1950 the band was moved to Winnipeg after a policy increasing the size of the armed forces' military bands had been adopted.

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Today the band includes many outstanding instrumentalists from famed symphony orchestras. Many musicians are composers, arrangers and conductors in their own right or experienced bandsmen from historic regiments.

Because of the musicians' versatility the 50-piece R.C.H.A. band can form many combinations. Besides the concert band they have a male voice choir, a jazz band, Dixieland, South American and modern dance orchestras and string ensembles.

Late in January, 1954, the R.C.H.A. band completed a seven months' tour of duty with Canadian troops in Germany. While there the band was employed on all ceremonial occasions, including the opening of the new Canadian camps at Soest. Before departing for Germany Captain C. A. Holt took over command from Captain Tidman and in January 1956 he was succeeded as director of music by Lt. Armand J. P. Ferland.

Lt. Ferland, a native of St. Boniface, Man., enlisted in the regular force in 1951 at the age of 25. After obtaining his B.A. degree from the University of Manitoba he had studied for four years at the Provincial Conservatory of Music and Dramatic Arts in Montreal where he was awarded first prize for clarinet and first silver medal for advanced theory.

He is also a graduate of the Royal Military School of Music (Kneller Hall), England, having passed the three-year bandmasters' course and having been awarded their bronze medal for composition. While studying in England, Lieutenant Ferland also became a Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music (L.R.A.M., performer) and of the London Guildhall School of Music (L.G.S.M., conductor). WOI Arnold North, cornet soloist for the band, is assistant director of music.

C R E D I T U N I O N H O U R S

Tuesday and Friday 7 to 9 p.m.

N O T I C E T O C U R L E R S - There will be a general meeting of all Curling Club members Tuesday, Oct. 1st, at 8:00 p.m. in the Curling Club Lounge