

CITY OF GLASGOW POLICE PIPERS TO TOUR FRANCE

The City of Glasgow Police Pipe Band, nine times World Champions and present holders of the title, are to make a goodwill tour of France for a fortnight during June.

Members of the Band, who are expert Highland dancers as well as champion pipers, are to give a series of performances of piping and dancing in Paris, at Angers and Saumur and at Versailles.

Sponsored by the Scottish Tourist Board in co-operation with the British Travel and Holidays Association and Monsieur H. Ingrand, Commissaire General au Tourisme for France, the tour, the arrangements for which were initiated by Mr. James Maxwell, Chairman of the London Committee of the Scottish Council, is being undertaken to promote increased tourist traffic from France to Britain and particularly to Scotland.

Elaborate plans are being made in France to welcome the pipers on their arrival and at their public appearances during the nine days they remain in France.

Chief Constable Malcolm McCulloch and Chief Superintendent Fraser Farquharson are to accompany the Band on their tour which has been sanctioned by Glasgow City Corporation. They will participate in a series of official receptions at which Sir Alexander Maxwell, Chairman of the British Travel and Holidays Association, and Sir Hector McNeill representing the Scottish Tourist Board and Mr. James Maxwell will be present.

Members of the band, who will travel to London by motor coach on Thursday, June 5, will cross to France on Friday, June 6, and will arrive in Paris shortly after 6 p.m. They will be accommodated at the headquarters of the Prefecture du Police.

During/

During their entire stay in France, members of the Band will be the guests of Monsieur Ingrand.

The provisional programme so far arranged for the band will include:-

Friday, June 6 -

9.30 a.m. Leave London

6.17 p.m. Arrive Paris.

Dinner and accommodation at the mess of the Prefecture
du Police

Saturday, June 7 -

9 p.m. Public performance at the Tuileries

Sunday, June 8 -

3 p.m. Public performances at the Champ de Mars

9 p.m. Public performance at the Roman Arena or the Luxembourg
Gardens

Monday, June 9 -

11 a.m. Reception by Paris Municipal Council at the Hotel de Ville.

Tuesday, June 10 -

9 a.m. Departure from Paris for Angers

Wednesday, June 11 -

Visit Saumur

Thursday, June 12 -

Leave Saumur for Paris

Friday, June 13 -

Visit Versailles

Saturday, June 14 -

Leave Paris for London

The Band, after spending a night in London will return by motor coach to Glasgow on Sunday, June 15.

The City of Glasgow Police Pipe Band, which is the oldest civilian pipe band in the world - it was formed in 1885 - enjoys a remarkable reputation. Early in their history, the Band won a contest promoted by the famous Glasgow Rangers Football Club, but it was not until after World War I that they participated in serious competitive events. In 1920 they achieved their first big success when/

when they won the World Championship at the Cowal Highland Gathering, Dunoon, and in the same year they won the Open Pipe Band Championship at Scotstoun, Glasgow. For a number of years they did not compete, but in 1936 they again won the World Championship, a feat which they repeated in 1937, 1938, 1939, in 1946 and 1947 and in 1949 and 1951. In 1951 they not only won the World Piping Championship but also the World Drumming Championship. The record they created is without precedent in the history of pipe bands.

Members of the Band are certain to create a fine impression in the course of their tour, as the majority of them are over six feet in height. Many of them are individual champions and the majority of them, born in the Highlands and Western Islands of Scotland, are fluent Gaelic speakers.

Inspector John MacDonald, the 54 year old Pipe Major of the Band, is a native of South Uist. During World War I he served with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders at Arras, the Somme, Ypres and Soissons. He joined the band in 1920, the year in which it won its first World Championship.

Sergeant John MacMillan, who like the Pipe Major was born in South Uist, is a noted Gaelic writer. He has already written six Gaelic plays.

Other members of the band are Sergeant Charles Scott, born at Dalmuir, Dunbartonshire, Sergeant Duncan Gillies, born at Tarbert, North Morar, Constable Piper Angus Morrison, born at South Uist, Constable John Johnston, born in Islay, Constable Piper John Garroway, born at Chelsea Barracks, London, where his father served with the Scots Guards, Constable Piper George Whyte, born at Old Kilpatrick, Dunbartonshire, Constable Piper Hector MacDonald, born in the Isle of Skye, Constable Piper Malcolm MacPhail, born at Islay, Constable Piper John Greenshields, born on the Isle of Skye, Constable Piper Alexander MacDonald, born at Moidart, Constable Piper Thomas Grant, born at Ardlui, Dunbartonshire, Constable Piper Angus MacDonald, born at North Uist, Constable Piper Iain MacLeod, born in the Isle of Lewis, Constable Bass Drummer Norman Black, born in Glasgow, Constable Leading Drummer Alexander McCormick, born at Clydebank, Constable Drummer Milliken Corbett, born at Glasgow, Constable Tenor Drummer Lachlan Goudie, born at Glasgow, Constable Drummer Robert Seton, born at Glasgow, Constable Drummer John Whalley, born at Glasgow, Constable Tenor Drummer Adam Anderson, born at Glasgow and Constable Drummer Robert Brown, born at Peebles.

The Band, who wear the Royal Stewart tartan, previously visited France in 1947 when they took part in a fete organised by the French Red Cross at Morlaix, Brittany, in aid of the War Orphans' Fund of the Celtic Association of the French Combattante (Sao Breiz).

The Band has enjoyed the privilege of playing and giving displays of Highland dancing before members of the British Royal Family at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh, and at the famous Royal Braemar Gathering

GLASGOW PIPE MAJOR HAS FRENCH LINK

An interesting link exists between Pipe Major John MacDonald of the City of Glasgow Police Pipe Band, which is to tour France early in June, and the father of Marshall MacDonald, Duke of Taranto, the famous French soldier of the Napoleonic Wars who was exiled from Scotland with Prince Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie). Both were born in the little Hebridean village of Daliburgh in South Uist, which lies off the north-west coast of Scotland.

When the City of Glasgow Police Pipe Band tour France they will wear the colourful Royal Stewart tartan. This is the tartan of the British Royal Family and is also worn by the Pipe Band of the Scots Guards and other Scottish Regiments. The clan to which it belongs is one of considerable antiquity, dating from the twelfth century and they are descendants of Walter, son of an Anglo-Norman Baron. Walter was appointed High Steward of the Royal Household of Scotland by King David I, an office which was confirmed and made hereditary by a charter from King Malcolm IV in 1157.

Walter, the sixth High Steward of Scotland, married Princess Marjorie, daughter of King Robert the Bruce, and from this union were descended the Royal House of Stewart, which included the two most tragic and romantic figures in Scottish history - Mary, Queen of Scots and Prince Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie). The spelling of the name as "Stuart" by the Royal Family appears to have been introduced by Mary, Queen of Scots.

The Royal House of Stewart became extinct on the death of Henry, Cardinal, Duke of York, and younger brother of Prince Charles, who died in Rome in 1807.

At the Union of the Crowns in 1603, King James (Stewart) VI of Scotland became James I of England and thus the Stewart line was perpetuated in the Crown of England.

Members of the Pipe Band, the majority of whom are over six feet in height, and who look even taller in their magnificent feather bonnets, are looking forward with interest to their French tour which begins at Paris on Friday, June 6.