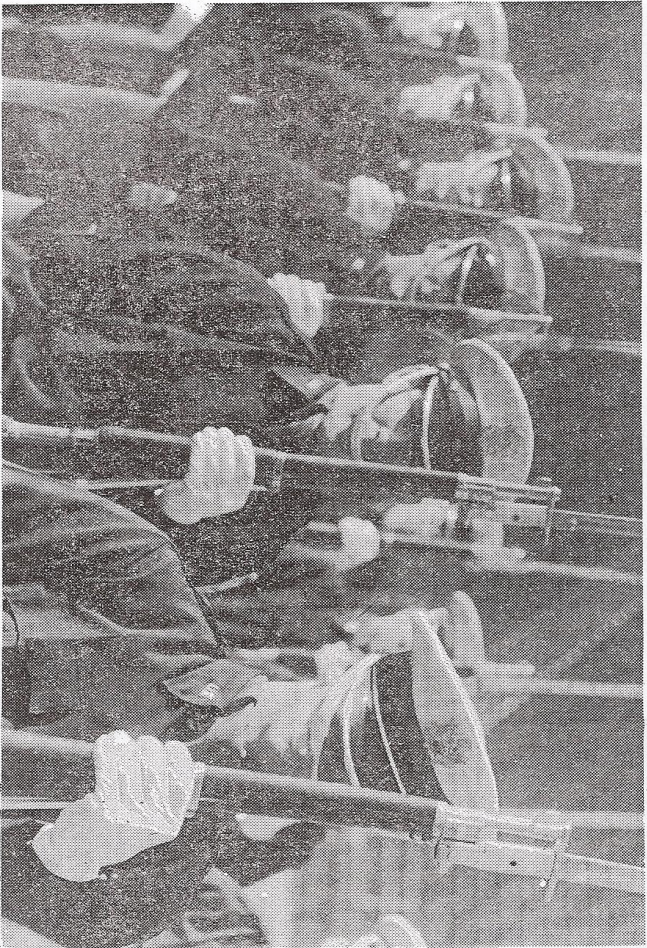


LOCAL



CONCENTRATION — Rick Costa, foreground, executed the remaining half of the eight-minute drill in this fashion, refusing to detract from the group's performance by as much as the

movement to straighten his slipped hat. Such discipline and precision have earned the group an all-expense-paid trip to Australia to perform in the Melbourne Military Tattoo.

Home News photos by Neil Cramer

Drill team in top Down-Under form

NEW BRUNSWICK — Rutgers University's 21-member Queens Guard Rifle Drill Team will leave for the Melbourne Military Tattoo in Australia on Saturday, March 15.

The all-expense-paid trip to Melbourne is headed by John Howell, director of its activities. Howell will be paying the team on the return. He will be there alternate members of the team and university's vice president for public affairs, Donald Edwards, and Rutgers University executive vice president Paul Pearson.

The team will arrive in Australia on the 17th and return to the U.S. on April 2 after giving daily performances at the International Festival, said Verne

James of Sayreville, executive commander of the group.

During their stay in Australia, the team will meet with Australian and British dignitaries as well as the U.S. ambassador to Australia, said James.

Also performing in the military tattoo are the Greek Army Band, the Royal Australian Air Force Band, the New Zealand Air Force Band, the Concert Party and representatives of the Singapore Air Force, according to James.

The only American marching contingent invited to appear in the 12-day Melbourne show, the group will perform its silent, eight-minute precision marching routine. During the course of

the routine, intricate rifle movements are executed by the team, using 1903 Springfield rifles with fixed 16-inch bayonets.

Yesterday, the drill team gave a command performance at the Rutgers University football stadium at the Busch Campus in Piscataway for university president Edward Blostein and other university officials.

After their return in April, the team will appear Saturday, April 26 at 8 p.m. at the Monson Sports Arena in Morris town. For ticket information, call Jean Sobolowski at 822-5179.

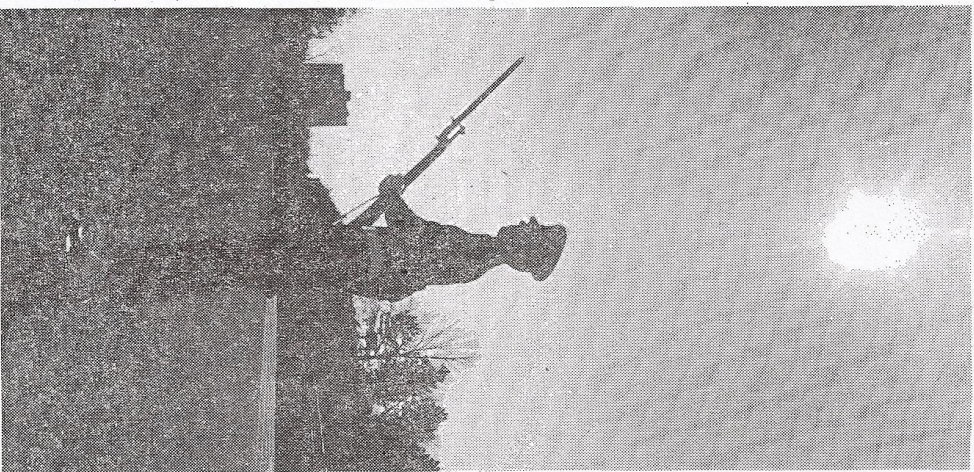
Another \$7,000 remains to be raised for the team to perform at the military

tattoo in Edinburgh, Scotland in August, James said. The team has already raised half of the money for the \$14,000 trip.

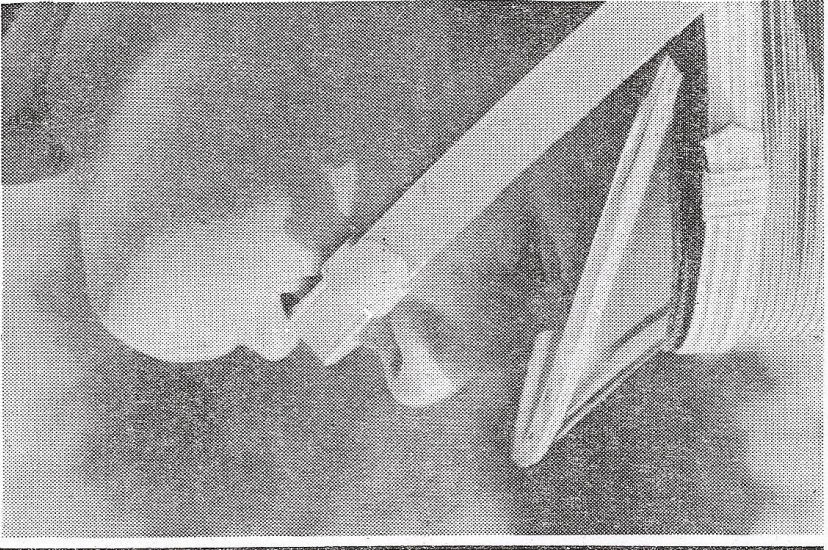
The team was invited to perform in Scotland after Lt. Col. Leslie Dow of Edinburgh viewed their routines while he was in New Jersey last May.

The Rutgers group previously performed in the Edinburgh tattoo in 1973. Three years ago, the team participated in the colorful, Tasmania Military Tattoo in Australia.

Area residents who are members of the drill team are: Al Morgan of Edison, Greg Zehn of Scotch Plains and Peter Verbitzki of East Brunswick.



LONE LEADER — Verne James, the executive commander of the 21-member Rutgers University Queens Guard issues silent commands during a late-afternoon performance for university officials yesterday at the football stadium on the Busch campus, Piscataway.



HOME NEWS PHOTO

Tom Berardinelli, commander of the Rutgers University Queens Guard, will leave with the 21-member rifle team for the Melbourne Military Tattoo in Australia Saturday. Yesterday, the guard performed for University President Edward Bloustein and other university officials at the football stadium on the Busch campus. Photos on page 21.

Yesterday's performance by the Rutgers University Queens Guard came less than a week before the 21-member group will leave for the Melbourne Military Tattoo in Australia, where they will perform with guards from around the world. Story and photo on page 19.

