



The display by the Queens Guard, Rutgers University, during the Military Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle.

DARING U.S. CADETS ADD SPICE TO SPECTACLE

In a spectacular blaze of colour Edinburgh Tattoo will tonight swing into its twenty-second season to the stirring sound of 200 pipers and drummers from eight Scottish regiments and an amazing "suicide" rifle-and-bayonet display by American cadet officers.

The big "blaw" is the largest display of massed pipes and drums ever held at the Tattoo. Against the floodlit backdrop of the Castle the display set-piece of bandsmen (a thistle shape within an oblong) and the splash of regimental tartans (Royal Stuart, Hunting Stuart, Leslie, Black Watch, Cameron of Erracht and Gordon) make an impressive sight.

Sixteen broadsword dancers complete the trimmings. The only Scottish regiment not on parade are the Royal Highland Fusiliers, whose pipes and drums are making ready for an American tour.

TELEVISED

It should, weather permitting, be the highlight for the B.B.C.'s first TV colour coverage of an outdoor night event like the Tattoo.

The show will be televised tomorrow, when the salute is to be taken by the Duke of Norfolk and the programme is to be distributed to Eurovision.

Clutching rifles with 14-inch bayonets attached, and whirling them like the propellers of an aircraft, the drill team of 32 from the cadet force of Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, add the spice of danger to the Tattoo.

One could almost feel the tension of the crowd at the tattoo dress rehearsal, when in complete silence, apart from the swish of the encircling rifles, a column of cadets ran the gauntlet of two columns; the deadly blades of the bayonets flashing past within inches of their faces.

The remainder of the Tattoo programme is in comparison rather disappointing.

Despite the installation of a new sound system to "blanket" the Esplanade arena with sound instead of distributing it from various points, the strength and tone of a choir from the 1st Battalion, The Welsh Regiment, was lost at the rehearsal.

There are a few minutes of light-hearted fun in a military

driving contest for "The Scotsman" Trophy in which 48 teams drawn from Scottish Territorial and Regular Army Units will be taking part during the Tattoo. The contest is being run on a league basis with the final taking place on the last night of the Tattoo.

The teams — two take part each performance — have to hitch a Land-Rover to a light trailer, shoot up five balloons with blank ammunition, change a wheel, wiggle-waggle the vehicles through a line of barrels, reverse into a bay and then return down the course with the drivers blindfolded before stripping the Land-Rover down to drive under a narrow "tunnel."

During the rehearsal, one driver almost lost the way back to his vehicle after being blindfolded, while the other crashed down the line of barrels.

During a rehearsal performance by the bands of the Royal Corps of Transport, The Royal Air Force Regiment and 1st Battalion, The Welch Regiment, many of the spectators took the title of one of the tunes to heart. It was "Up, up and away."

A spirited display was put on by the Brigade of Gurkhas but the special tribute to the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the Royal Air Force must have been an embarrassment to those associated with the flyers.

It is a very poor effort indeed, relying mainly upon a few curt sound effects and mumbled lines for effect.

The salute at the first performance tonight is to be taken by Lt-General Sir Derek Lang, G.-O.-C. Scotland; Princess Alexandra is to take the salute on September 6 at the second performance, the first that day being taken by Mr William Ross, the Secretary of State for Scotland.