

Tartan spectacular

This year's Edinburgh Military Tattoo is as spectacular as ever, thanks to the 230 pipers and drummers who are on parade, for 1972 is strictly a "no gimmicks" year.

Though the regular home patrons will miss some of the colourful overseas contributions of recent years, this "Tartan special" is certain to appeal to the thousands of visitors who will be among the Tattoo's 250,000 spectators over the next three weeks.

They will not be disappointed when, after the opening mounted fanfare, pipers and drummers from six of the Scottish infantry regiments, and the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, are joined by 100 cadets from Scots College, Sydney, Australia, as they skirl and beat their way over the drawbridge and on to the castle esplanade.

Equally colourful are the massed bands from six regiments under the direction of Captain R. A. Ridings, of the Royal Engineers (on left, in the spotlight).

Their arrival in the past has always been the signal for spectators to join in a sing-song, but at Wednesday night's preview, neither "Lady of Spain" nor "Tyrolean Tavern" proved suitable numbers to

bring much response from the packed stands.

When one recalls the enthusiasm shown to some of the Beatles hits, a change to one of the current "pop" tunes might get the spectators in the mood.

The Queen's Guard of Rutgers University, New Brunswick (bottom picture) made an immaculate welcome return with their drill display.

Another highlight, apart from the finale (top picture), is the display of Highland and country dancing. (Piper B. J. Shearer, KOSB, is caught, below, in mid-leap.)

The action, though brief, comes from the Royal Navy (above), in a display illustrating the capture of a gun-running junk in Far East waters.

This year's historical note, "Scotland in Arms," depicts the notable events and achievements in the histories of nine Scottish regiments, and Scotland.

The Tattoo, whose organisers have already received bookings as far in advance as 1975, opens officially tonight, and continues until Saturday, September 3. The Saturday afternoon matinee performance, held specially for young children, is on September 1.

