



● ABOVE: Army cadets from America's Rutgers University go through their precision drill routine in preparation for tonight's opening of the Tattoo.

THEY came in buses, they came in cars, they came by tram and train. Some even walked.

Pensioners by the thousands converged on the MCG last night for the official preview of the 1980 Melbourne Military Tattoo.

Many handicapped people from institutions and private homes were also there to add their voices to the cheers for the militaristic splendor of the Tattoo.

They saw spectacular

dancing and acrobatics by members of the Singapore armed forces, highland dancing, massed pipe bands, a display of Maori music, singing and dancing, Greek bandsmen and dancers, brass bands and, finally, a volley of rifle fire that woke every

sleeping grandchild in the stands.

A highlight was a display of precision rifle drill by members of the

Queen's Guard trick drill team from Rutgers University in the U.S.

The Tattoo, organised by the Festival of Victoria, in affiliation with the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, will continue nightly until March 30.

Can't beat a Tattoo...

By BOB CRIMEEN