

THE SEARCHLIGHT TATTOO 1950

MASSED BANDS

of

The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment

The Lancashire Fusiliers.

The Royal Sussex Regiment and

The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire).

under the Conductor, Mr. E.G.R. PALMER A.R.C.M.

The Loyal Regiment.

MUSIC

- Slow March Scipio
Quick Marches Viscount Nelson and 56 Brigade.
Band Selections Third Act Lohengrin, Sabre Dance,
Selection from the operas.

THE MASSED BANDS

Music designed to promote orderly marching, to enliven the spirits and so minimize fatigue, has been used from early times. But it was not until 1762 that Bands were used by the British Army, and a custom introduced of employing negroes to play drums, cymbals and similar instruments. These "sable" musicians were dressed in a highly picturesque manner which was quite fantastic. The drummers twirled their drumsticks above their heads and wore tiger skins, two features that have survived to this day in the swinging of their sticks and the wearing of tiger skins by the Tenor and Bass Drummers.

All Regimental Bands were unofficial until 1857. It was not until Massed Bands taking part in a Review, were ordered to play "GOD SAVE THE QUEEN" that it was realised that no two versions or keys of our National Anthem agreed. This discovery resulted in the order for the formation of a Military School of Music. Kneller Hall, at Twickenham, was requisitioned and is, to this day, the establishment where all Bandmasters and most of the Soloists of the Armies of the Empire are trained.