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THE FESTIVAL OPENS:

The Eleventh Edinburgh Festival opens with a military Tattoo as international as the Festival itself. But Scotland plays its proper part, with a display of piping and highland dancing by combined teams of seven Highland regiments.

Next, the Royal Danish Life Guards give a drill display. The Danish Life Guards are the only regiment of foot guards in the Danish Army - and their history goes back to 1658. In those three centuries, they have fought both with and against the British.

The rank and file of the Royal Danish Life Guards are national servicemen, and nearly all the N.C.O's are non-regulars. Only half a century old are the King's African Rifles - but that half century has been filled with distinguished action. In the Second World War, the Regiment grew to 43 battalions. Their programme includes tribal dancing.

These are the first Turkish soldiers ever to appear in a foreign Tattoo. The band are members of the Corps of Janissaries, which was the Sultan's bodyguard six centuries ago - and incidentally, invented the Military Band.