

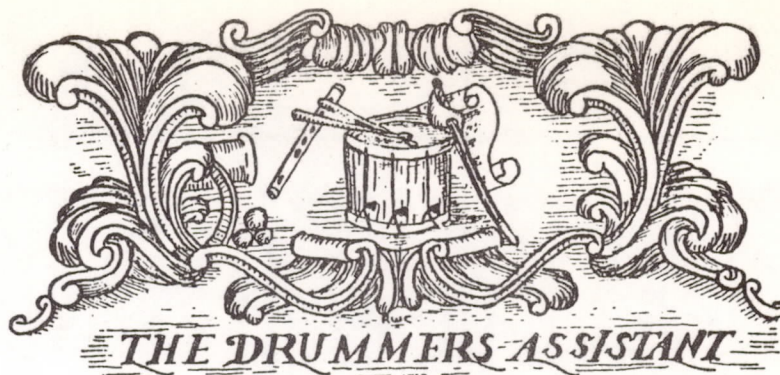
*THE DRUMMERS ASSISTANT*

VOLUME III

SPRING, 1964

NUMBER I





VOLUME III

SPRING, 1964

NUMBER 1

"Headquarters, Williamsburg, Mar. 27th, 1776"

"They are to Practice the young Fifers and Drummers between the  
Hours of 11 & 1 O'Clock"

- ANDREW LEWIS ORDERLY BOOK

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I.

THE ANCIENT'S HALL OF FAME

SENIOR CITIZENS

By - Ed Olsen

Many of you may not be aware of the wonderful store of drum corps fact, fiction and anecdote that awaits the fortunate corpsman who will take the time to visit, and get acquainted with some of the many retired fifers and/or drummers that can be found, in such great supply, once the trouble has been taken to locate them.

For Instance:



## THE DRUMMER'S ASSISTANT

Jack Behan ran the only bus from Saybrook to Middletown, back in 1915, and was long known for his outstanding prowess as both ball player and bass drummer. Actually, he seemed to fare better over in "York State", than in Conn. In 1909/1910 and 1911 he was crowned N.Y. State Champ, on the bass...the same years, we might add, that the famous Frank Fancher was topping all comers on the snare. Jack admitted to being one of the first of the "young bloods" accepted for membership by the "Famous" old Deep River Corps..."And there weren't many corps around that could call themselves 'Famous'". He recalled the time, back in 1902, that he and some other local kids were "fooling around, like, with a bunch of pots and pans..." This was when he was spotted by Capt. Jack Johnson, of the old DR Corps and it wasn't long before he was on his way. "I joined the Pratt Read Corps first, then Sime Francis asked me to join Deep River. He promised to teach me. I walked down there, knee deep in snow, and learned drummin' at the Francis' kitchen table, with little Paul Francis watching me, from his high chair. He's a gray haired old man, now." These days Jack still has his memories and clippings, but living alone as he does, in a deserted building on Middletown's Main Street, he delights in the opportunity to recall the good old days, while in the company of an interested member of a latter corps-generation\*\*\*\*\*

"You know, I'm drummin' better now, than when I was eighteen years of age," was the gleeful information, imparted by Pete Mietzner, a white tressed drummer with the Conn. Spirit of '76. Crediting his improvement to the free time granted by his retirement and the three year recovery period that followed a serious back operation. "The surgeon told me I'd had a broken back since I was a young lad. That was the reason I could never march in a straight line, all these years." Sixty-nine year old Pete delightedly added, "I marched a mile, with Moodus, on Memorial Day, last year." A student of the famous Dr. U. S. Cook, ("a cancer doctor. 'Doctored' with herbs"), of Moodus, back around 1910. Pete drummed his way through a good bit of drum corps history and is ready, now, to step out all over again. With little else to occupy his time, he putters around, in his Manchester, Conn. home, repairing and refinishing old drums...making hoops and leather ears,(or "buffs", as he calls them)...usin' only the finest and most expensive English saddle leather."

The two Von Deck brothers, Bob, of Bolton, Conn., and Ralph, of Manchester, were busily drumming away, in Bob's basement, when we called. They welcomed joyously, the advent of a fifer to their percussion duet. "You can't really enjoy drumming, unless you can hear the fife" said one, while the other eagerly agreed. Long familiar figures, on the Conn. scene, (Bob was Nat'l. A.L. snare champ, in '37), they revealed that they had been born at Woodhaven, L.I. and went on to tell of a well remembered uncle who had been an outstanding fifer, many years ago, with the Richmond Hill, L.I., FD Corps. Never having been adherents of the "rote" school, they had a stack of drum books on hand, that ran the gamut from "Duty" to Scottish Pipe Band drumming... A fair indication of the directions their enthusiasms, and lively curiosities, had led them. "It may seem hard to understand", said Ralph, but, the first Deep River Muster I went to, after I came back, from those years in Florida, brought tears to my eyes"...Sitting around "Old Betsy",



## THE DRUMMER'S ASSISTANT

the snare drum of such generous proportions, we doubt that anyone in the room found it the least bit difficult to understand\*\*\*\*\*

"Have a drink me' lad. And I wish I could have ten with ye." How typical of Bill Sinnamon, the "Auld Orange Flutist of Manchester." Still suffering the effects of a severe shock, recently compounded by high blood pressure, Bill maintains that merry twinkle and loves to recall the "Old lady, who kept bangin' me on the back and shoutin', 'Ye'r the best fifer here today." His early days with a country "flute and drum band" in County Armagh were relived...his stint with the Center Flute Band, in Manchester. "We played 'parts', but I always liked the Jigs and Reels better than the marches."...and finally, the Warehouse Point Corps which he helped revitalize through an infusion of old-country "chunes."..."I'm not done yet, I'll be down to Deep River in July," was the parting assertion. "And I'll send ye the music t' Johnny Cope, if I hafta' write it wi' me left hand."\*\*\*\*\*

Although confined to the Aaron Manor Rest Home, in Chester, Conn., seventy-eight year old Al Berg still keeps in close touch with his old outfit and the Chester Corps has certainly not forgotten the man who majored them, for over thirty years, and did so much to gain them their place in the public eye. A few months back, the corps gave a special concert, at the Manor, honoring their ex-leader..."I'm thankful it didn't bust up...'cause if I ever get rid of this arthritis, I'm going t' start marchin' again." Al went on, expressing his pleasure with the corps and its new drum major. "I told him, 'Always put the drum corps first and think of yourself last'" Reminiscing once again..."Fred Stillman was Fife sergeant, when I joined. His brother organized the corps. in '68. Didn't have no uniforms, so I helped raise some money and soon we bought 'em. Tan 'military' uniforms, with choke collars... How the men hated them choke collars."..."Did you know that old Clayt Holmes is here too?"\*\*\*\*\*

We found the 91 year old drummer downstairs in the TV room. "I was so tickled t'see you, when you walked in, that I like t'jump outa m'pants. 'Cept there's some old ladies here." Clayt, truly a holdover from another era, talked up a storm, keeping us regaled with his sage observations and rapid-fire Yankee witticisms..."Bin drummin' since I was fifteen, mother bought me m'drum, made by Eli Brown, an' I still got it. It's the easiest drummin' drum...Enoch Sawyer taught me how t'drum an' I keep m'sticks on the table, side m'bed. How good they feel in my hands...I'll taken any two, out of that corps right now, an' put 'em outa business. If you don't know the beats, you can't drum right. Gotta have daddy, momma, uncle John." Happy one minute, reflective the next..."By God, I want t'play with the corps once again. How I come t'get knocked out this way...can't chop my own kindlin'. No more huntin'...that's all gone wide." The old feuds are slow to die, and a careful dropping of names never fails to produce results..."Him? He'd never make a drummer. Ain't in 'im. Whatever comes handy to a man, it'll come out if he practices, but it's goot be in 'im."..."Oh sure, he played bass. Clumsy devil. Never could place his feet right."..."Hah! Darned old fool...come over to my house, brought a couple of cord-wood sticks aud dented up my dinin' room table tryin' to show me



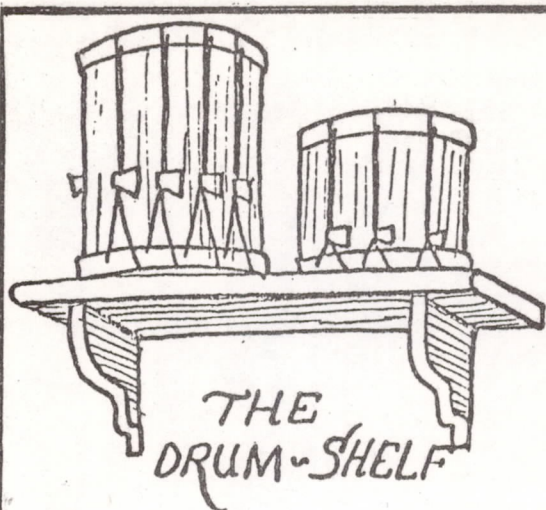
## THE DRUMMER'S ASSISTANT

the beats. Had some green lookin' devil along with 'im, for company." And so he went on and on. Ancient American unfolding for anyone quick enough to grasp at it. "I learnt' the whole damned business. There's thirty beats you have t'learn perfect, by gosh...everyone of 'em. And I had a good teacher too. Used t'call 'im 'Een'...We used t'have some good times. Darned if we didn't.\*\*\*\*\*

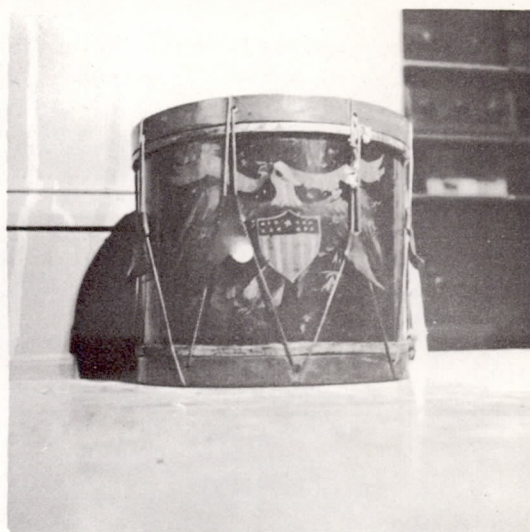
"Why I played mounted snare drum with the Ringling Bros. Circus and I'll never forget the time we played Chicago. What year was that? 1896!" Surely this must have been said in error, but no...with the aid of some rapid calculations, we realize that our next "interviewee" was actually twenty-five years old, in 1896. Ninety-three year old Alec MacKenzie is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, drum corps men around. Residing at the Odd Fellows Home, in Groton, Conn., his major regret is that there are no other musicians in residence, with which to exchange reminiscences. "Aw, they're all half dead, here," he satily observes, and then goes on to recollections of those days "before 'talkies'", when he was regarded as the top trombonist, in Newark, N.J. Music has always been "Mr. Mac's" life...ever since his childhood days under his Civil War veteran father's tutelage..."When he left the service he resided in New York city for a time and while there he took a few drum lessons from a professional drummer...so I got my first knowledge about drumming from my Dad." A life member of two Musician Locals, in New Jersey, he trouped the length and breadth of the country, as well as the British West Indies and South America. He has only recently disposed of his trombone, but never his drum sticks, or fife. When he arrived, he was in the process of oiling his trust old one-piece "Cloos-Crosby"... "Had it made special', for me"...and easily demonstrated his continued proficiency by running the scale up to a clear, firm high "B", which could make fifers, generations his junior, green with envy. And memory?... "Haven't you made a mistake when you state the date of the Hartford Battle Flag Day parade as July 10th, 1879? My father took brother and myself to this celebration and according to the date on a small medal which was issued at that time, it was Sept. 17th, 1879...I was only seven years at the time but I do remember a fife and drum corps passing and they were playing a tune in 6/8 time that somehow stuck in my memory and when I got older and understood music better, I wrote it from memory and taught it to the boys in Torrington," (the Torrington FD Corps, a "Zouave-clad" corps which he organized, and taught, back in 1897)... "I asked an old fifer in Torrington the name of it and he told me the name was 'Old Danbury'". Though he played, and taught, both fife and drum, the fife was evidently his favorite. Many were the books of intricate compositions and exercises published under his name, (we know that a number of the metropolitan N.Y. area readers will remember his "Southern Rose Polka"). Unable to get a lift, to last year's Deep River Ancient Muster, he has high hopes of making it this year, so that he may, once more, rub shoulders with his kind of people and hear, again, the vibrant sounds that have so long been a part of him. "We old fifers and drummers," he added, with a warm hand shake and a wink, "have to stick together."

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By - ERNEST JOHNSON



II.

This is a photo of a fine little Mexican War drum in the collection of the State Historical Society at Madison, Wisconsin. Size is: 13" high, 14-3/4" diameter and 1-3/8" rims (included in height). It has six gut snares, with a leather piece on one side to hold them in place, and a metal bracket screwed to the drum holds the other end. The leather tighteners are 3" high by 2-1/4" across. The eagle is painted on a very dark blue, almost black, background. The beak holds a red banner with white lettering, "E. Pluribus Unum". There are red berries on the laurel branch, three arrows in other claw, 13 4-pointed stars in the shield, and 6 red and 6 white stripes. Condition is fine. No maker's label, however.

By - FRED BENKOVIC

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Here is a photograph of a most interesting pair of snare drum sticks. They appear to be of ebony, with a silver finial on the butt-end of each, and the shell 'theme' of this ornament is repeated in carvings carried on down the shaft of each stick about 1/3 the length towards the tip.

The very elaborate and interesting design of these unusual sticks obviates the very nature of their use, as it would be most uncomfortable, to say the least, to do any amount of drumming with them.

Because of this fact, it is surmised that they were originally intended for use in a drum major's baldric-type sling, and therefore ornamental only. For some years the latter named type of sticks have been made in miniature only, so this leads us to suppose them to be at least 100 years old, and possibly even older.



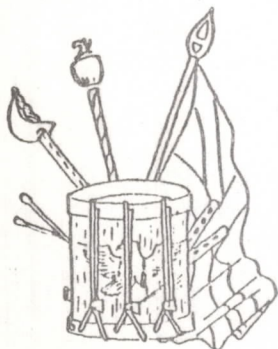
## THE DRUMMER'S ASSISTANT

The photo of these was forwarded to the Drummer's Assistant by CMH Governor Hermann W. Williams, Jr., for which we are most grateful. Mr. Williams incidentally, has one of the finest privately owned collections of snare and bass drums.

If the subscribers know of any other instrument or accoutrement of interest, the editors and readers of the "Assistant" would be most happy to hear from them.

The sticks were photographed by CMH Fellow Bluford W. Muir.

By - - George P. Carroll



CORPS CORNER

### "ANCIENT BELT"

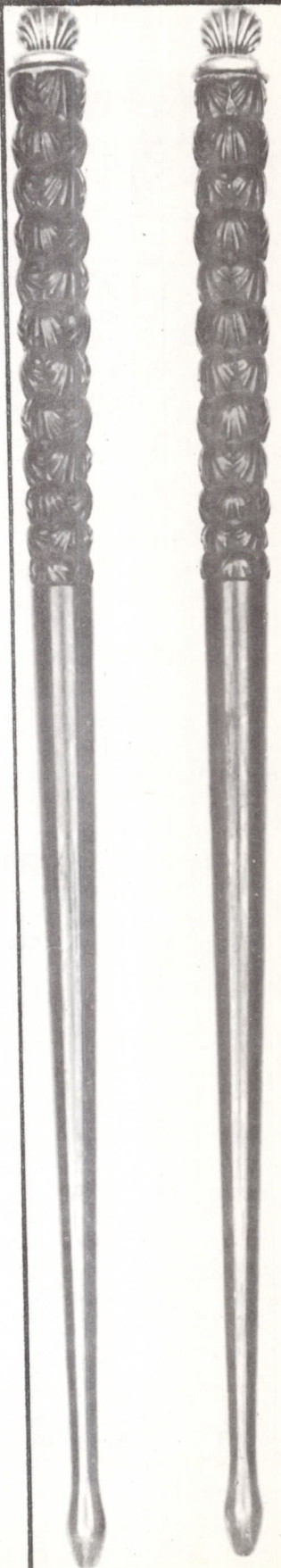
III.

By-ED OLSEN  
ANCIENT MARINERS  
CORPS

Never a group to conform to seasonal restrictions, the N.Y. Regimental F&D Band will be making a winter appearance out in the wilds of Long Island, hard upon the heels of their overwhelmingly well received exhibition for the Brooklyn Historical Society, Nov. 9th). This ability to garner such lucrative gigs, throughout the lower rim of the Empire State, must be discomfoting to the Ancients quartered therein. Perhaps the Sons of Liberty, (B'klyn.) or Minute Men, (Long Island), can turn-about and pull some chestnuts from out the coals of Manhattan or the Bronx ...the "Reggie's" bailiwick.\*\*\*\*\*

Incidentally, a photo of a recent M&M Bugle and Drum contest was published on the Obituary page of the New Haven Register. Significant?\*\*\*\*\*

Following a prolonged period of Drum Corps retirement, Harold Ripperger has broken loose once more and is now swinging his mallets within the ranks of the Lancraft, (North Haven, Ct.) bass line. One of New York State's top bass drummers, before WWII, and long a name of consequence in the famous old Chas. T. Kirk Corps of B'klyn.N.Y., Hal has been traveling the country and hasn't had much of an opportunity to get back in harness. Now that his firm has transferred





him to Connecticut, things have changed for the better. Being a double threat man...bass and snare ...he would have been welcomed by any number of units.\*\*\*\*\*

The wooden canteens, sported by members of the Deep River, (Conn.) Corps., insure the members against dehydration on those long hot parades, but that keg, carried in the Guilford Ancient Mariners' (Conn.) Boarding Party, looks as though it could do far more damage.\*\*\*\*\*

The most colorful Military affair of the season will be getting underway at about the same time that this edition of the Assistant goes to press. Therefore, we can do little more than make a brief mention of the 138th Annual Ball sponsored by the Old Guard of the City of New York. Held, as usual, at N.Y.C.'s. Hotel Commodore, this soiree will attract uniformed military and patriotic units from throughout the original thirteen states. Though not actually a drum corps affair, we feel sure that the fifes and drums will be echoing through hall and transom until the 3:AM-heavy tread of the House Officer tells the revelers that the time has arrived. Anticipated participants will include members of the Mattatuck Drum Band, (Waterbury, Conn.), N. Y. Regimentals, Veteran Corps of Artillery Field Music, (N.Y.C.), and Guilford Ancient Mariners.\*\*\*\*\*

Have you noticed? Westbrook's (Conn.) street beat, (borrowed, incidentally, from Frederick Fennell's record), is the most effective in the area. But then, anything is a welcome relief from you know what.\*\*\*\*\*

Brief oases in the desert of winter appeared, in the Nutmeg State, in the form of occasional joint corps rehearsals. Lancraft invited members of Stony Creek and Deep River to one such get-to-gether (with eight Riverites and no Creekers making the trip) and at another, Mattatuck hosted to Plainville and Lancraft. This latter gathering, we are told, was so well...so overly well attended that entrance to the "Band's" drum loft was virtually impossible and countless corpsmen attained little more than the crisp cold outside night air warmed, intermittently by blasts of sound and smoke surging from between the clapboards of the barn.\*\*\*\*\*

The recently reactivated Essex, (Conn.), Corps seems to be rolling along in fine fettle. Only a few months old and they are in the process of drawing up papers for incorporation. With a sequence of well attended rehearsals and the heritage of two fine old town corps, (R.H. Comstock, ca. 1890's and the Essex A.L., ca, 1930's), behind them, they'll soon be taking their place among the ranks of the better known.\*\*\*\*\*

The Warehouse Point, (Conn.), crew still ranks as probably the most active small corps in the state. Hardly a week goes by, most summers, that the outfit hasn't made two, or more, turn-outs.\*\*\*\*\*

John Golet, fifer with the Conn. Spirit of '76 and the Moodus DF Corps, is undergoing a painful recuperation from a motorcycling accident. He's currently confined to the Middlesex Memorial Hospital, at Middletown, Conn., and has spent, what must have seemed, an interminable amount of time in traction.\*\*\*\*\*



## THE DRUMMER'S ASSISTANT

Although in existence some ten months, we hear of no activity within the frame work of the "Honorary Social Society of Ancient Corpsmen", and this is indeed a shame. It sounded great, when the notices went out, but to date...nothing. The possibilities are still as boundless as ever. What will it take to arouse the sleeping giant?.....\*\*\*\*\*

Wakefield, Mass. drum maker, Ralph Eames, may be repopularizing a once important facet of Ancient martial music, with his Lynn Village Drum Band, which many of you saw at the 1962 Deep River Ancient Muster. These fife-less aggregations were considered standard enough, back in the old days, to be granted a separate competitive classification... "Drum Corps without Fifes"...\*\*\*\*\*

With the appearance of members of the Guilford Ancient Mariners and Capt. Buxton, (Uxbridge, Mass.), FDCorps, at the Conference of New England Historical Societies, held within the confines of Old Sturbridge Village on Nov. 9th & 10th, we might well view portents of an increased interest in historical authenticity, within the membership of the New England Ancients. A wise direction for the locals to consider, inasmuch as our Virginia brethren have left us so far behind, in this field...\*\*\*\*\*

The traditional sound, produced by the Bethpage Colonials, (L.I. N.Y.) belie the once authoritarian dictum: "You can't be Ancient, and play harmony." Using historic arrangements, gleaned from the Library of Congress, by the Minute Men's Frank Zampino, the corps is one outfit really worth listening to. Let's hope that their fine medley of Common Times will help reintroduce these long forgotten standards to the rank and file throughout the Ancient Belt.\*\*\*\*\*

The last of the old-time drum majors, Jack Clapp, of the Veteran Corps of Artillery Field Music, is back on his feet, once again, following some weeks under the weather. Just in time too, for where would the old V.C.A. be, without Jack to whip them into line, at the Old Guard Ball?\*\*\*\*\*

The Guilford Ancient Mariners' three McGowan brothers, Frank, Bob and Dennis, have taken temporary leave of their fife, snare and bass and are appearing every Friday night, at the New Haven Hofbrau, replete with banjo, guitar and the Hootenanny bit...\*\*\*\*\*

Biggest Ancient triumph, of last year, came with the Deep River Corps' trip to the Texas State Fair, at Dallas. With ranks beefed up by members of the Germantown, (Danbury, Conn.), Corps, they made the thirty-six hour non-stop bus trip in time to arrive on Oct. 5th, for the commencement of festivities. Undoubtedly the first continentally clad FD Corps to perform in the Lone Star State, they were received with wild acclaim, greeted personally by Gov. Connally, and were still receiving enthusiastic fan letters long after their return to Conn. As an indication that profound impressions are not one way streets, it might be mentioned that DR's Foxee Carlson is still wearing a ten gallon hat...lo, these many months after the trek...and there is some rather serious speculation as to



whether or not he actually wears it while sleeping, and dreaming of another grand tour, way down South...\*\*\*\*\*

Tho' the thermometer was anywhere but at a degree calculated to give rise to thoughts of cold beer, and street parades, the Deep River Ancient Muster Committee held its kick-off meeting, for the '64 Muster, on Monday night, the 27th of January. So be advised, one and all, the '64 DRAM will be held on Saturday, the 18th of July. And remember, July comes early, this year...\*\*\*\*\*

The N. Y. Regimentals are said to be working on a new medley, entitled "Ready or Not". Making use of a full chromatic scale, and time changes not usually associated with drum corps work, the Gothamites will be giving John McDonagh's new ten-hole fife a bone rattling shake down cruise...\*\*\*\*\*

The Ancient World's newest and probably most unique, corps made its official debut with a military review, at their Chinatown, N.Y. Hq., on Nov. 30th. Officially titled the "Chinese American Continental Ancient Fifers and Drummers", the corps, "in a desire to wed the Oriental to the Occidental" wears uniforms featuring Chinese jackets and tri-cornered hats. Sponsored by the True Light Lutheran Church, the group promises to add a dash of Eastern spice to the traditional drum corps scene...\*\*\*\*\*

Another corps, with a review in the offing, is the Good Shepherd Ancients, of Plainview, L.I. The scheduled date is Friday night, the 28th of Feb. and a quantity of extremely handsome engraved invitations have already been mailed out...\*\*\*\*\*

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#### MUFFLED DRUM

Albert F. Hotkowski, 44, of 14 Castle Heights, Deep River, Conn., died Sunday, the 12th of January, at the West Haven Veterans Hospital after a long illness.

He was born Feb. 19th, 1919 in New Haven, a son of Mrs. Laura Hotkowski and the late Stanley Hotkowski.

He was a member of the Father Kuster Council, K. of C. and the Deep River Fife and Drum Corps.

"Butch", as he was known to his countless drum corps friends, will be missed by the many corpsmen who came to know him as an energetic, cheerful and tireless member of the Muster Committee. The passing of this popular bass drummer is a sore loss to the fraternity of drum corps, that he leaves behind.

(see photo next page)



MUFFLED DRUM(cont'd)



CORPS CORNER

"BEYOND THE PALE"

IV.

By - GEORGE P. CARROLL

A most pleasant experience was afforded your correspondent on Saturday evening last, (the 1st. of Feb.), when The Band of Musick of Colonial Williamsburg played for the General Assembly of Virginia with the families and Senator Byrd and Governor Albertus S. Harrison in the newly completed Virginia Room of C.W.'s Conference Center.

Although the band has been in various stages of development for the past two and a half years, it was last Saturday that saw it really come into it's own. Whether it was the importance of the audience or the fine reception accorded this group is difficult to say, but the unit really exceeded the expectations of it's Musick Master and put on a very professional performance using reproduction instruments. These included fifes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons, trumpets, horns, trombones, serpents and the usual number of drums and percussion.



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The programme consisted of Brandywine Quickstep as a curtain raiser, The President's March (Hail Columbia) both by full band, a medley of quicksteps, including 1st Troop, City Cavalry's March by the Brass and percussion, Washington's 3rd. Co. March (Band), and Belles of Newport by fifes and drums. Third on the programme was a serpent solo, Washington Guards 2nd Co. Grand March, and the short display was supposed to end with the band and brass being featured on a hymn and trumpet tattoo. Something quite unforeseen happened, however, when a standing ovation was accorded the group, and three encores were demanded. Another medley of quicksteps (Brandywine, Successful Campaign and Yankee Doodle) Dixie by request on fifes and drums, and The Downfall of Paris by band.

This most successful concert saw the end of a day of music for Colonial Williamsburg's musicians, as the Va. Assembly was greeted at the Colonial Capitol with the Militia Company, Fifes and Drums for the session of legislation held in it's ancestral home once every four years.

\*\*\*\*\*

Robert Florence, fifer of The Potomac Field Music, spent the week-end in Williamsburg with his mother, where he got together with the fifers, drummers and musicians.

\*\*\*\*\*

After having discovered that Col. Christian Febiger had a band of musick made up of his field musicians, it has been decided to dress the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes, Drums and Band in reproductions of the 2nd Va., the Colonel's regiment in the Revolution.

\*\*\*\*\*

Promotions for the CW Fifes & Drums are as follows:

To Fife Major - - Andrew Bradley  
To Sergeant Major - - Jimmy Holler  
To Fife Sergeant - - Richard Haas  
To Drum Sergeant - - Bart Denoy  
To Sergeant - - Ed Clay, Leslie Jensen, Ernest Johnson, Billy Rorer  
To Corporal - - Wayne Nunn, Dennis Roberts, Bruce Myers, Paul Frazier,  
Charles Miller, Stuart Smith, Dean Roberts, Maynard  
Benjamin, Earl Boyd.  
To Drummer - - Tom Sager  
To Fifer - - Russell Brasted, Cary Sternberg  
To Private - - Ben Legum, Ricky Hopke, Bruce Ranes, John Buriak, Bobby  
Singley, Ted Baxter, David Davis, Michel Sternberg  
Welcome to New Recruits - - Chris Laubach, Jack Degges, Mike Moyles,  
Robert Clay, Robert Berry, John Hill,  
Mark McBride.

I recently received word from a CMH member at Ft. Ord, California, that a small fife & drum group has been unofficially organized, and has been playing for weekly retreat formations at that post. It is made up of trainees.



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This, of course, brings to mind the 3rd. Inf.(The Old Guard) Fife and Drum Corps, which also has not received official status. It is a great shame that the Marine Corps and Air Force can muster official drum and bugle units, and the latter service even a pipe band, without any of our services recognizing the very first "musick" of this country. Something really should be done to get The Old Guard F & D on official footing before some economy-minded official in the Pentagon decides it's too costly, and disbands it. I'm still waiting for some official press release on this corps which has long ago been promised by the Fort Myer P.I.O.

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F&D Corps of Sahuaro District - Phoenix, Arizona.

By - MR. CHADWICK

### FEBRUARY

Saturday, Feb. 1 Parada Del Sol parade in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Tuesday, Feb. 4 We will play at the American Legion Post at Luke Greenway Post in Phoenix. The Legion is having a special meeting and we have been asked to play for the advancing of the Flag and also to play some patriotic selections.

Wednesday, Feb. 5 Playing for Women's Harmony Club luncheon. We will play for the presentation of Colors and also give an exhibition.

Monday, Feb. 17 We will play again for Flag ceremonies and a few patriotic selections at North High School P.T.A. of the Phoenix Union system.

Saturday, Feb. 22. We have once again been invited to play on George Washington's birthday at Legend City. This day has also been set aside for all of Washington District's school children.

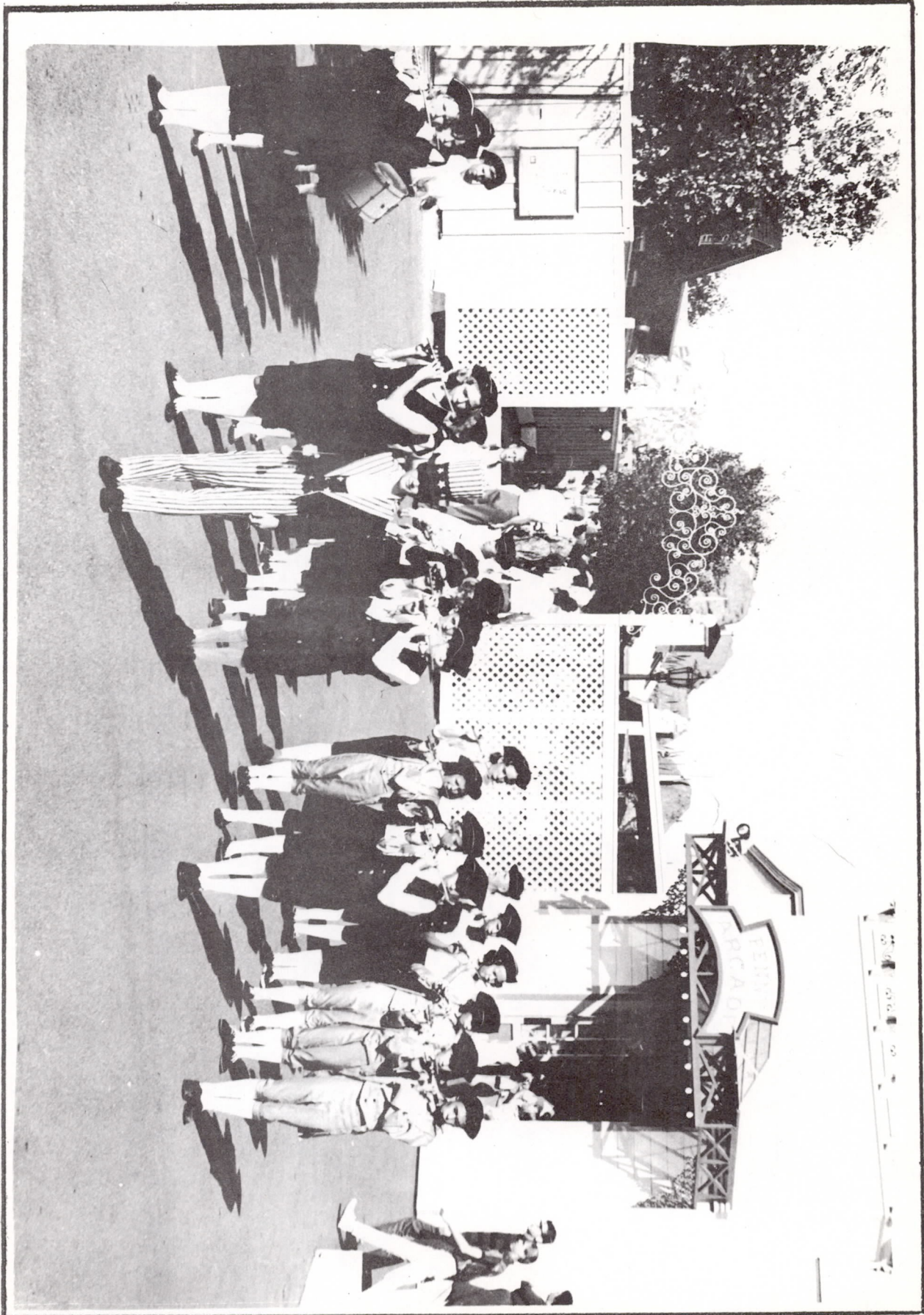
Tuesday, Feb. 25. We will give a COMMAND PERFORMANCE FOR THE GOVERNOR, PAUL FANNIN AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE, WESLEY BOLIN at the State Capitol Building.

The American Legion has expressed an interest in taking the fife and drum corps to Nogales for their state convention. This may or may not come about but if it does, they will charter a bus and pay for meals and expenses for the children.

(photo of Corps on next page)



THE DRUMMER'S ASSISTANT





THE DRUMMER'S ASSISTANT

V.

A FAMOUS CIVIL WAR FIFE & DRUM BOOK -

"THE DRUMMERS' AND FIFERS' GUIDE" - - 1862

(Part 3) (Pull-out Section)

By - Geo. B. Bruce and Dan D. Emmett

No. 13. "Major Riley's"

Musical score for No. 13, "Major Riley's". The score is written for two staves, likely representing a fife and drum. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The music consists of several measures of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The score is divided into two systems, each with two staves.

No. 14. "Capt. Palmer's"

WALTZ

Musical score for No. 14, "Capt. Palmer's". The score is written for two staves, likely representing a fife and drum. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The music consists of several measures of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The score is divided into two systems, each with two staves.

CUT ALONG THIS EDGE



THE DRUMMER'S ASSISTANT

FOURTH ARTILLERY. No. 15.

Musical score for 'FOURTH ARTILLERY. No. 15.' consisting of six systems of two staves each. The music is in 2/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second note runs, and rests.

LARRY O'BRIEN. No. 16.

Musical score for 'LARRY O'BRIEN. No. 16.' consisting of five systems of two staves each. The music is in 2/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features dynamic markings such as *pp*, *f*, and *f f*. The notation includes complex rhythmic patterns with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes.

THE MUFFLED DRUM. No. 17.

Musical score for 'THE MUFFLED DRUM. No. 17.' consisting of two systems of two staves each. The music is in 2/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second note runs, and rests.

N. B. In the foregoing No. 17, the beats marked thus, (e) are to be played only on the muffled Drum.

CUT ALONG THIS EDGE



THE DRUMMER'S ASSISTANT

CUT ALONG THIS EDGE

FORT McHENRY QUICKSTEP. No. 18. (As beat by Drum-major Geo. Rioss.)

BEELY SIMPKINS. No. 19. Drum Major "Juba Clark's" Army 2-4 time Quick Step. "EMMETT"

HERES TO OUR FRIENDS. No. 20. Drum-major "Juba Clark's" army (6-8 time) Quickstep.

\* The author would suggest that this tune might appropriately be played upon the meeting of Regiments, or Companies, who have "seen service" together.



THE DRUMMER'S ASSISTANT

DIXIE. No. 21.

Composed by the Compiler, DANIEL D. EWERT, and as beat by G. B. BRUCE.

Musical score for 'DIXIE' (No. 21). It consists of six systems of two staves each. The first staff of each system is the melody in G major, 2/4 time. The second staff is the accompaniment, featuring a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

H-LL ON THE WABASH. No. 22. (As played by Drum Major, J. SERRA.)

Musical score for 'H-LL ON THE WABASH' (No. 22). It consists of three systems of two staves each. The first staff is the melody in G major, 2/4 time. The second staff is the accompaniment. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

CUCKOO'S NEST QUICKSTEP. No. 23. (As beat by Drum-major HAY. CORLISS.)

Musical score for 'CUCKOO'S NEST QUICKSTEP' (No. 23). It consists of three systems of two staves each. The first staff is the melody in G major, 2/4 time. The second staff is the accompaniment. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

CUT ALONG THIS EDGE



THE DRUMMER'S ASSISTANT

CUCKOO QUICKSTEP. No. 24. (As beat by Drum-major Bence.)

SOLE-LEATHER QUICKSTEP. No. 25. (As beat by Drum-major D. GARNHAM)

"SIDE BEATS."

The following beats answer for the "DRUM CORPS," the Fife Tactic.

KING WILLIAM. No. 1.

PRINCE EUGENE No. 2.

CUT ALONG THIS EDGE



THE DRUMMER'S ASSISTANT

PRINCE EDWARD. No. 3.

BRITISH GRANADIERS. No. 4.

HOG-EYE MAN. No. 5.

CUT ALONG THIS EDGE



VI.

SIXTH MASSACHUSETTS REGIMENT

By - DR. GEORGE A. SNOOK

The Sixth Massachusetts Regiment of Continental Line is a re-created Revolutionary War Regiment based primarily in Northampton, Massachusetts, but incorporating many cities and towns in western Massachusetts.

The unit was organized in May of 1959 primarily as a unit for demonstrating the technique and use of Revolutionary War firearms. The original members of the group were, for the most part, muzzle-loading weapon enthusiasts; but this soon changed to include many members interested primarily in military history including ancient music. We feel that this group is the oldest recreated Revolutionary War unit that actually shoots original Revolutionary War weapons.

From its original group of approximately ten members, the group has now grown to approximately 35 members and includes three basic units: an infantry platoon, an artillery crew, and the field music. The infantry and field music uniforms are patterned after the 1780 pattern of Massachusetts uniforms. This consists of a blue uniform coat with white facings for the infantry and a white coat with blue facings for the drums and fifes. The artillery wears blue hunting shirts and, when actually firing their muskets, the infantry will wear white hunting shirts. The infantry drill is the standard Revolutionary War Musket Drill from an original Revolutionary War von Steuben Manual currently in the possession of one of the members.

The smallest unit is the field music which, at the present time, consists of three snare drums, one bass drum, and two fifes (though new members are slowly being recruited). The music used is that of the early colonial period as compiled by George Carroll, drum major of the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes and Drums.

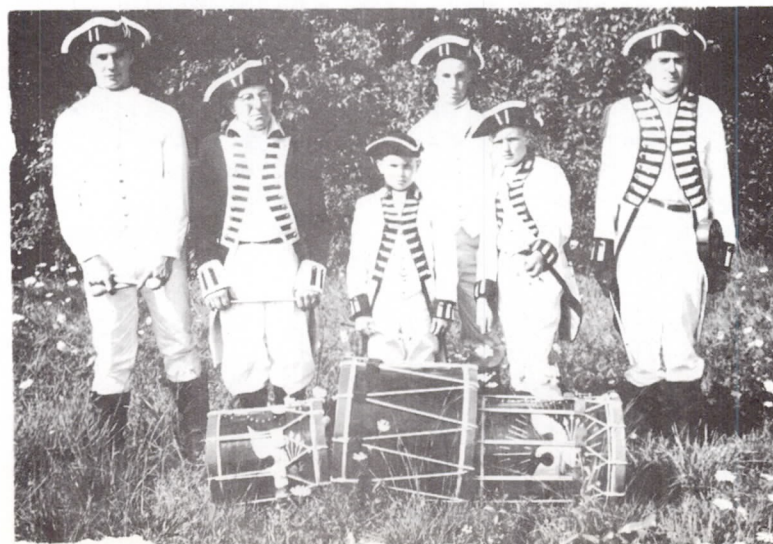
Recently the unit has joined the newly formed Brigade of the American Revolution and took part in the recreated Battle of White Plains in October of 1963. Prior to joining the Brigade of the American Revolution, the unit had made appearances from Johnstown, New York, to Lexington, Massachusetts; and, at Lexington and Concord on each Patriot's Day, they assist in firing the "shot heard 'round the world." The group also participates in the Annual Deep River Ancient Muster in July of each year, giving demonstrations of field music, musketry, and artillery drills of the Revolution.

(see pictures of the Corps on following page)



THE DRUMMER'S ASSISTANT

SIXTH MASSACHUSETTS REGIMENT





VII.

THE ANCIENTS HALL OF FAME

American Legion in Berrien Springs preserves

THE SPIRIT OF '76

By - MARIANNA PRATT

Because Parades and patriotic affairs are popular and effective means of renewing a commitment to our country's past and present, a group of dedicated men in Berrien Springs, Mich., founded in 1954 the "Spirit of '76" Fife and Drum Corps to present authentic martial music from the pages of history. Sponsored by American Legion Post No. 85 of Berrien Springs, the Corps appears regularly at festivals, parades, fairs and other special events throughout Michigan and Indiana.

Inspiration for the group's name comes from the well-known painting done by Archibald M. Willard for the Revolutionary War Centennial in 1876. Originally titled "Yankee Doodle," it shows battered but proud Continentals escorting Old Glory back home at the war's end. Using this canvas as their guide, the Berrien Springs "Spirit of '76" has appeared many times with its color section (color guard plus flag bearers) costumed as the intrepid heroes of the Willard painting, followed by the fifers and drummers wearing the authentic buff and blue uniform and tri-cornered hat of the Continental Army of the United States.

NOW, IN HONOR of the Civil War Centennial continuing through 1965, and, more specifically, the Midwest's famed Black-Hatted Iron Brigade, the "Spirit of '76" Fife and Drum Corps is appearing in authentic dress of the Civil War era. The color section wears the garb of the frontiersman - - coonskin caps, black-belted hunting shirts, and fringed leggings. The color guard carries Civil War muskets, powder horns, and bullet pouches, all the property of Berrien Springs collector Larry Stover.

The Black-Hatted Iron Brigade, which was made up of three infantry regiments from Wisconsin and one each from Indiana and Michigan, saw action at Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and the siege of Petersburg, Va. One-hundred men from Berrien County served with this brigade.

A POIGNANT honor was bestowed on the 24th Michigan regiment of the Iron Brigade when, in April of 1865, it was chosen to escort President Abraham Lincoln's body from Washington to Illinois.

True to its name, the Black-Hatted Iron Brigade wore the standard dark blue tunics and light blue trousers of the Union Army, but in place of the general-issue stiff-billed dark blue forage cap the Brigade substituted a wide-brimmed, high crowned black felt slouch hat. Permission to select their own style of headgear was an award granted only to outstanding units. The Iron Brigade was permitted not only the



The Spirit of '76





choice of hat, but individual companies could determine the angle of brim and whether or not the crown would bear a finger indent.

The Civil War uniforms of the "Spirit of '76" Fife and Drum Corps are accurate reproductions of the uniforms of the Iron Brigade, with one interesting exception. The brass buttons on the tunics and the insignia on the belt buckles and hats of the Corps members are real Civil War general issue. This came to light recently when the Z. M. Military Supply Co. of New York City located a cache of such items tucked away in a Manhattan warehouse for almost a century.

Until 1870 a hitch in the infantry was "a hitch under the horn," so-called because the infantry insignia then was a brass hunting horn worn on the hat or cap. The familiar crossed-rifles came into use in 1870. The "Spirit of '76" Corps sports the authentic curved hunting horn of the Civil War Infantry on jaunty black felt hats, plus the authentic brass eagle buttons and U. S. insignia on the belt. While the Corps' badges of rank and divisional identification are reproductions, they are made in the style of the Union Army. At that time rank insignia, while containing the same elements as at present, was much larger.

According to "Spirit of '76" Drum Major Dan I. Porter, the U. S. militia traditionally has been organized into 100-man units with one fifer and drummer in each unit. Ten units formed the regiment, with the fifers and drummers uniting to make the regimental band. The fifers and drummers, in addition to providing a marching cadence, served the very necessary function of communicating command orders in battle and duty signals in camp.



AMONG PORTER'S prized possessions is a drum that was used in the Civil War. He took up the drum sticks when he was a boy so that he would accompany his dad's fife.



## THE DRUMMER'S ASSISTANT

DAN PORTER, retired Berrien Springs building contractor and currently building inspector for Oronoko Township, acquired an interest in martial music when, as a child, he was pressed into service on the drums to accompany his fife-playing father. A great-grandfather of Porter's, according to family legend, was a drummer in the War of 1812. One of the special drum beats Porter learned as a boy he was later able to authenticate as one used in that war.



An Endicott, N.Y., music instructor, Acton E. Ostling, has collected traditional fife and drum corps music, much of which is used by the "Spirit of '76". Favorites include "Yankee Doodle," "Wearing of the Green," "Yellow Rose of Texas," and "Golden Slippers," plus General Custer's favorite, "Gary Owen," and "The Girl I Left Behind Me."

According to Porter, the fife, forerunner of all wind instruments, probably was used as far back as the Crusades. Originally of wood, it is now usually made of metal. Glen(Bud) Arnold, formerly of Berrien Springs, now of Grand Rapids, was the original fife instructor for the Corps. Because the fife is a much simpler instrument to learn than the flute and the piccolo, Arnold was able to teach men with no previous musical background in a relatively short time. The Corps includes both accomplished professional musicians and ardent amateurs.

To Dan Porter and to all who have belonged to the Corps or assisted it with uniforms and properties, the rewards for their time and effort



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are written in the faces of the children who view the unit on parade.

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VIII.

THE SUFFOLK REGIMENT

Courtesy - Military Band Historical Research Society of England.

DRUM MAJOR

THE SUFFOLK REGIMENT

HELMET. Dark blue; brass fittings.

TUNIC. Scarlet; yellow collar; white piping;  
gold lace.

BELT. Brown; brass plate.

SASH. Crimson.

WORD. All-steel.

STAFF. Brown; gold ornaments.

TROUSERS. Blue; red piping.

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(See photograph next page)



THE DRUMMER'S ASSISTANT





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