## The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo 2015

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If you can get a ticket for this year's Tattoo then do. It is a fun show with great talent from across the world from China to South Carolina. This is a newly energised Tattoo on offer and you would be mad to miss it.

☑ The theme is East meets West. One of the many highlights is the fabulously energised dancing from the Bollywood dancers, and the dragon dancers who were captivating. The Changxing Lotus Dragon Dance Folklore Group is visiting Scotland for the first time and told the story of a great dragon emerging from a pond covered in beautiful lotus flowers.

■ The Military Band of the People's Liberation Army of China are also in attendance and were applauded loudly when their part of the programme ended.

But one of the prettiest and loveliest performances was given by the fiddles from Shetland. 40 fiddlers making up "Hjaltibonhoga' aged from 14 to 60 play at the Tattoo for the second time this year.

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We attended the press night when photographers and those with video cameras of all shapes and sizes are allowed on the esplanade to wander in and out of the performers. Here is our little taster to whet your appetite for more:

The Edinburgh Reporter NEWS from Phyllis Stephen on Vimeo.

We were warned that bayonets would be fixed, and if we fell

over then something might run us down. So we were all pretty careful to run to the appropriate places usually following the official photographer who knew the timetable best of all.

Some got caught out, but we think we captured one of our best shots when pinned against the side barrier by a bunch of approaching pipers! We hope our video gives you a flavour even if the nearest you get to the Tattoo this year is watching the fireworks over the Castle at the end.

There will be flypasts on 8,10,14,15,19,20 and 21 August with RAF aircraft of all kinds from transport planes to Typhoons scheduled to make an appearance.

Tickets available from £25 to £63 on the Tattoo website. Click <u>here</u> or phone 0131 225 1188 and mention us when you call!