REGIMENTAL BAND

The duties of the first bands at Ohio State included performing at the huge military reviews during the spring quarter. Later the Regimental Bands served as training units for the Marching Band. In recent years, with the increased enrollment, a separate band has been maintained especially for military events.

The Regimental Band is made up entirely of Military Science students and performs at University military parades, basketball games and special civic functions. Captain Howard Hundemer is the military instructor to the band. He is assigned by the Air Science department.

The Regimental Band performed for the dedication of "Rodger Young Hall" at Fort Hayes in Columbus. Rodger Young was the Clyde, Ohio soldier who gave his life in World War II and was honored for his outstanding service to his country. Captain Hundemer is pictured in the left foreground with the band during the ceremony.

A necessary part of any military review is the band. Here we see the Regimental Band leading the 1953 May Day parade on the campus Oval. Normally the band participates in four parades a year. Dave Baker is drum major of the band. The Regimental Band assists the Activities Band in providing music at the university basketball games.
Military band provides stepping stone

By Donna Korn 5-21-50
Lantern staff writer

Most Buckeye fans know that OSU has "the best damn band in the land," but few people realize that the marching band is a spin-off of the military band, a band that has existed on campus since 1896.

Willie Sullivan, director of the military band, said that the band has nothing to do with the military aside from playing for a few ROTC events. He said the name military band is retained out of tradition.

Sullivan said the OSU Military Band "is one of the best kept secrets on campus."

He said most people assume the military band is really the marching band.

He said the military band was introduced as Ohio State's Marching Band at this spring's Dayton football scrimmage.

"It's always been that the marching band performs in the fall, and the military band performs at winter and spring functions," said Sullivan.

He said the military band plays at women's and men's basketball games, hockey games, various ROTC functions, the spring football scrimmages and assorted special events such as the recent Jesse Owens track meet.

The military band will be spotlighted Wednesday, when NBC will televise the national College Bowl championship finals live from St. John Arena, said Sullivan.

The band is scheduled to play the opening College Bowl theme while standing in the formation of the letters "CB."

Sullivan, who is also the assistant director of the marching band, said that much of the mistaken identity of the military band can probably be explained by the fact that both bands share the same uniforms except for different belts and cap ornaments.

He said the two bands also share the same basic marching style, and the same music, although the music performed by the Military Band may have been performed several years earlier by the Marching Band. However, there are some very big differences between the two bands.

Sullivan said the most obvious difference is that the military band incorporates woodwind instruments; the marching band has been an all-brass and percussion band since it broke away from the military band in 1934.

Another distinguishing factor is that the military band does not require potential members to audition.

"Military band is open to any student who wants to register for Music 197 (the band's course title)," said Sullivan.

"We only require they know which end of the instrument is which," he said.

"And they have to be able to read music, or have a really good ear."

He said the number of military band members must be kept to around 250 because of the space limitations of the stadium band room, which is where the group practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"Sullivan said the marching band practices five days a week."

"He said military band enrollment is traditionally lower spring quarter because many winter quarter members drop out after basketball season. Right now the band has 100 members.

Sullivan said because the military band does not make cuts, many of its members must work extremely hard to polish their playing skills, learn march formations and memorize music.

He said 50 or 60 of the military band members are carry-overs from the marching band, and these students offer a great deal of help to the inexperienced band members.

"The amazing thing is that most members are not from the marching band and they have to develop their skills in the first four or five weeks of a quarter to be ready to perform at a game," said Sullivan.

"What you see is what you get," he said with a chuckle.

"I would say out of my eight years here directing the band, this is the best playing and marching group we've ever had," he said.

Sullivan said many students join the Military Band because they did not qualify for the marching band or because they hope to improve their playing and marching skills before trying out for the Marching Band in the summer.

Cheryl Moore, a senior from Dublin and an alto horn player in the military band, said she joined the band to gain experience as a squad leader.

Moore, who is also a member of the marching band, said by helping teach inexperienced military band members the music and marching moves, she feels she will be a better squad leader for the marching band next year.

"I enjoy it. It gives me a way to accomplish something and it's an outlet from studying. I can't say enough good about it," Moore said.

Tom Hartman, a junior from Berea and a baritone player for the military band, said the band has improved greatly this year.

"The shows are getting harder, and the candidates for the marching band are better too," he said. "There even seems to be more of a sense of pride in 'things like the upkeep of uniforms,'" he said.

Renee Roberson, a senior from Kendall, N.Y., and secretary of the military and marching bands, said Sullivan has the most to do with the vast improvement of the military band.

"He puts his whole heart into it," she said.