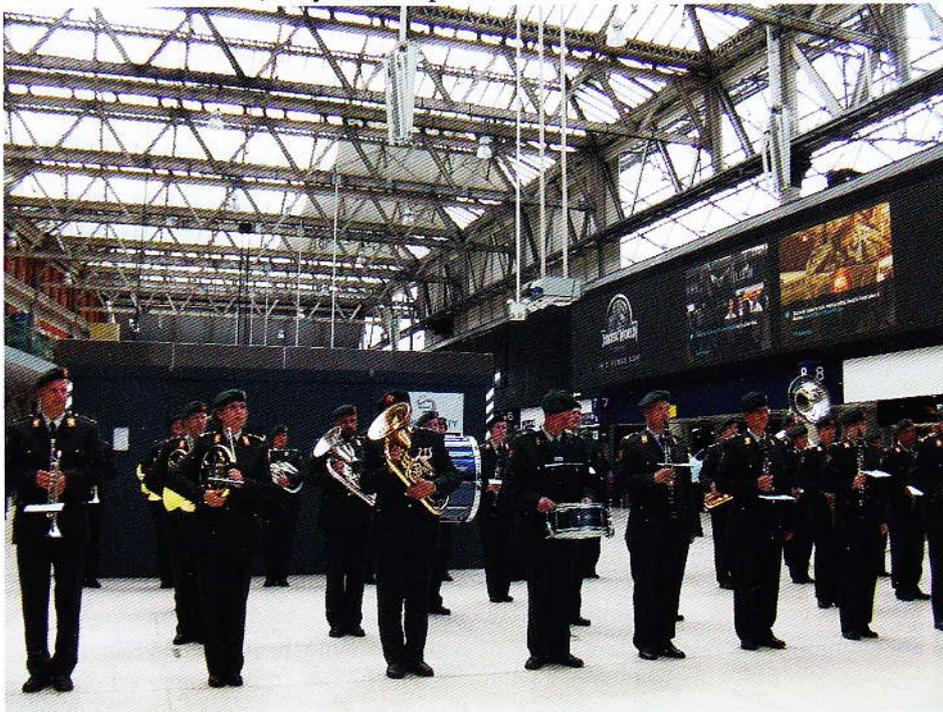


# WATERLOO 2 00

## The Waterloo Parade Report by Nigel Lilywhite

For your writer the long day started with the performances on the concourse of Waterloo Station. As they developed it was so reminiscent of the former times of “Bandstand” occasions while one enjoyed (?) a seaside holiday complete with parents, or perhaps grandparents, who were happy enough to rest in a deckchair and let the sounds of music wash over them.

Today's were in the presence of a varied selection of railway passengers who, naturally, changed as their trains came and went, they met or parted from friends or relations, or simply intended to pass through but were attracted by the sounds of music.



However, there were some who stayed the course being international or UK members of our Society, including Committee members. It was pleasing to find like minded people to meet.

The first band to perform was the Royal Netherlands Army “Johan Willem Friso” band. This is claimed to be the best band in the Netherlands Army. They were clad in their khaki uniforms with berets in contrast to their later appearance during the evening parade of which later.



The second band to appear were the Bydgosz Band of the Polish Army. Their uniforms were a considerable change ! Dark blue and purple were the predominant features with each man wearing gold epaulettes. Their Director of Music was different – a white jacket being notable. For some the spectacle was reduced as they did not bring their lovely headdress.



top: **The Representative Band of the Finnish Navy**



centre: **The Bydgosz Band from Poland**

bottom: **Johan Willem Frisco Band from The Netherlands**

page 57

top: **Johan Willem Frisco Band from The Netherlands**

bottom: **The Bidgosz Band from Poland**



Their long programme was divided in two. The first part being kept in order by the "Drum Major" whose white staff was bedecked with red and white national colours. He, following a widespread European style, set out the tempo of each piece by vertical movements of his staff. The second part was conducted in more normal ways by the DoFM.

Timings were considerably at variance with the detail which had been made public which might well have affected some intending viewers. It was rumoured that this was due to arrangements at Wellington Barracks in connection with Guard Mounting.

After a break for lunch the afternoon performance did go ahead as scheduled. This was by, as the Director of Music announced, the "Representative Band" of the Finnish Navy. A complete contrast in colour as the Band appeared in very smart all white "summer" uniforms.

All three bands covered a wide spectrum of music. Individual programmes are not identified by your writer, but the sounds varied from standard marches through what one associates with "Big Band", dance style, and near "jazz". Certainly well known refrains in varied arrangements echoed through the station.

As a non musical layman it was of interest to see different instrumentation in use by the three bands. I must let other more knowledgeable persons comment further.

From the station to the Mall, and the question where to position oneself. As early as 15.45 considerable numbers were already taking up their places along the barriers and a decision was made to stop opposite Horse Guards Approach which would give the opportunity to video bands as they came up from Horse Guards and wheeled round to head for Buckingham Palace.

Now published information at my disposal went completely awry ! Things happened unexpectedly, and timings were out !

The Rifles band appeared first to take part in a ceremony on the Pall Mall level and went their way.

To my surprise bands could be heard approaching from the Palace direction. This was true, and international bands marched to Horse Guards to take their positions for the main Parade. Not all bands did this, but it gave many people "two bites of the cherry" as they played in both directions.

A delay caused by a "missing band" came as the Parade Marshals were trying to organise the start.

Of course being a "big occasion" there had to be a flurry of panic ! The Royal Marines band had started out when, on the wrong side of the road, an official van came bearing down for a head-on confrontation. Hasty signals and the driver was diverted, the "Royals" had a clear path and all was well.

Now we were to see ceremonial dress in full as the Netherlands Army band and the Bydgosz Polish band stood out with bearskins and gold frogging, and "Lancer" helmets respectively. Apart from the already mentioned naval band from Finland there was another large block of immaculate white "summer" uniforms in the form of the Swedish Navy Cadet Band. I heard that they made a great impression at their performance earlier in the week at the Tower of London. White again appeared in the parade in the form of spats and lanyards of the DSV, Katwijk band from the Netherlands – the splash of colour contrasting with their green uniforms.

A serious comment to be made here is regarding the sizes of the bands. The Europeans certainly were large to very large ! Numbers of persons on parade are difficult to judge when one is faced with a band which may have empty files in its midst. To my eyes the largest contingents were the Swedish Navy Cadet Band and the City of Zurich Police Band. A modern British army band does not seem to have those resources in man/woman power.

I certainly do not play down the very large Brentwood Imperial Youth Band, or the Scottish pipe and drum bands which took part and made a very good impression.

At the end of the procession came "The Lone Drummer Boy". The significance of his presence went completely over the heads of many. "Oh he was late", "Oh poor lad got lost", "He must have been to the toilet" were comments made in my vicinity by middle aged female voices.

The rearguard was held back as it was The Rifles and their speed of march would probably have caused a tail end collision had they set off at the interval previously adopted.

So bands from Great Britain, Finland, France, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, and Switzerland had produced a unique marching spectacle for London.

Apart from the Sunday parade some bands had given performances around the capital and these contributions must be acknowledged.

I have posted a video on Youtube : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRh3kDEPkfE>



The Swedish Navy Cadet Band



DSV, Katwijk Band from The Netherlands



Brentwood Imperial Youth Band



**French Artillery Band**



**Zurich City Police Band**

**Editor's note:**

I apologise if I do not have the titles of the bands correct. The author of the article, Nigel Lilly-White was unable to obtain an official programme but did manage to photograph most of the bands, this alone was a great achievement.

Any help in identifying the various bands will be most welcome.