BWOAILL BACCAGH

A dance for six men noted by Mona Douglas from various persons but most complete description and demonstration of steps and figures were from Ceasar Cashin, James Quine and William Quane, Peel.



Music Movements

A1 Bars 1-8 Men dance round on a circular track and form two lines facing each other. The step is R.L.R. flick – similar to reel step, but with a quick flick forward instead of a hop. Each man carries a short fisherman's knife tucked into his belt.

B1 Bars 1-8 1st man (top left) draws his knife and throws it down in front of him so that it's point is embedded in the ground and it is upright. Opposite man, who should be about two feet down the line, does the same immediately after him. This is continued down the line. Positions should then be:

	2 4 6	
	\diamond \diamond \diamond	
TOP	****	knives
	\Diamond \Diamond \Diamond	
	1 3 5	

Dancers step back on R foot, close up L and spring high on both feet, coming down on R foot with L stretched out behind and arms flung out to salute the knives. Similar to salute of the sword in the dirk dance. Then all drop into squatting position.

C1 Bars 1-8 In squatting position men perform the difficult 'frog' step i.e. kicking feet forward. All spring to upright position on the last beat.

A2 Bars 1-4 Men dance to opposite places, each man passing his own knife by the right, using step with flicks, on the last beat spring high, turning to face knives.

5-8 Repeat as in bars 1-4 back to place. On the last beat spring high, turn and drop into squatting positions.

C2 Bars 1-8 All dance squatting step but with side kicks instead of forward kicks, spring upright on last beat.

A3 Bars 1-4 1st man takes up his knife in R hand and faces down the line. 2nd man takes up his knife and faces up the line to 1st man. 1st man dances down the line in 1-2-3-flick step tapping the other's knives passing R and L shoulders alternately, others stepping in and picking up their knives in turn. On the last beat, when No. 1 should be at the bottom of the line, all spring high and turn to face No. 1.

5-8 1st man dances back up the line tapping knives as before. All dancing 1-2-3-flick step No. 1 travelling, others on the spot, falling back into two lines at the end.

C3 Bars 1-8 All with knives tucked into their belts dance the 'frog' step on the spot with arms folded, springing upright on the last beat.

A4 Bars 1-4 All arm R crossing over into opposite places in 1-2-3-flick step.

5-8 All arm L back to place.

B2 Bars 1-8 Each dancer draws his knife in the same order as for the first throw down, but this time on the last three beats they spring down, take their knives in their R hands and spring upright in a line and hold their knives above their heads and shout 'hogh'.