

TROOPING THE COLOUR

The Trooping the Colour is a Guard Mounting ceremony and dates from the Eighteenth Century when the battalion finding Guards for the day trooped the colour which was to be carried on the King's Guard.

This custom is still kept up during the latter half of May and beginning of June. These parades are really the carrying out of the old Guard Mounting ceremony and should not be confused with the rehearsals for the King's Birthday Parade.

Many years ago it became customary to find the public Guards on the King's Birthday from the flank companies of the whole Brigade and the ceremony of Trooping the Colour on His Majesty's Birthday originates from this tradition.

The Guards this year are being found from the 1st. and 2nd. Battalions, The Coldstream Guards, The 1st. Battalion, The Grenadier Guards and from the 2nd. Battalion, Scots Guards.

The 1st. Battalion, The Coldstream Guards.

The 1st. Battalion, The Coldstream Guards formed part of the 7th Guards Brigade in 1940. They were on the extreme left of the British line on the River DYLE and fought their way back to DUNKIRK in May.

As a tank unit the 1st. Coldstream landed in NORMANDY in June, 1944 with Guards Armoured Division. They were on the extreme right of the British Second Army when it broke out on the SEINE bridgehead. The battalion was heavily engaged at BEVERLOO near BOURG LEOPOLD and fought at NIJMEGEN under command of 82nd United States Airborne Division. With the 5th Battalion The Coldstream Guards they took part in the bitter fighting for LINGEN Bridge where Captain D. Liddle (5th Coldstream) won his Victoria Cross.

The final surrender found the 1st. Battalion The Coldstream Guards at CUXHAVEN where they accepted the surrender of the German 7th Parachute Division.

The 2nd. Battalion, The Coldstream Guards.

The 2nd. Battalion, The Coldstream Guards were in Belgium and France in 1940 and took part in the retreat to DUNKIRK. They landed in North Africa with the 1st. Guards Brigade, were launched against the heavily defended LONGSTOP Hill near MEDJEZ-el-BAB and captured the hill after one of the most violent close-quarter actions of the war. In December, 1942, the battalion with 1st. Guards Brigade joined 6th British Armoured Division and fought on through the remainder of the North African campaign until the fall of TUNIS.

In January, 1943 the 2nd. Coldstream arrived in Italy. In their first action on MONTE ORNITO the battalion for over a week beat off desperate German counter-attacks holding on to the bare, rocky hill-top in the face of a tempest of shell and mortar fire, intense cold and driving snow.

The battalion played a vital part in the battle for CASSINO and in the drive from that town along Highway 6. They helped to capture MONTE PICCOLO and MONTE GRANDE and then fought the entire way up Italy until the final surrender on May 2nd., 1945.

The 1st. Battalion, The Grenadier Guards.

The 1st. Battalion, Grenadier Guards, landed in France in September 1939 and fought in Belgium and France until the evacuation from DUNKIRK. As a Motor Battalion this famous unit landed in NORMANDY with Guards

Armoured/...

Armoured Division in June, 1944 and fought with great brilliance and gallantry throughout the North-West European campaign.

The 1st. Grenadiers advanced through NORMANDY to the SEINE and pursued the enemy to BRUSSELS. With the 2nd. Battalion (Armoured) they captured WAAL Bridge at NIJMEGEN, a daring operation in the face of great odds. When the enemy finally surrendered the Battalion was at CUXHAVEN whence it moved to BERLIN for the Victory March.

The 2nd. Battalion, Scots Guards.

At the outbreak of war the 2nd. Battalion, Scots Guards were stationed at CASR-el-NIL, BARRAILUS, CAIRO.

The Battalion took part in the 1940 campaign in Egypt. As part of 4th Armoured Brigade which was largely responsible for the defeat of the German armour in 1941, the 2nd. Scots Guards crossed the Libyan frontier on November 19th, 1941 and were soon involved in the Battle of SIDI RESEGH. This was the beginning of the swinging desert battles which were to last until ALAMEIN finally settled the fate of the Afrika Corps.

In 1942 the Battalion had severe losses in the "Knightsbridge" box after which they went to Syria for rest and re-equipping.

They travelled over 2,800 miles in 28 days with no mechanical breakdowns to take part in the attack on the MARETH Line and then fought on until the Germans were defeated in North Africa.

The 2nd. Battalion, Scots Guards helped to crush the German counter-attacks at SALERNO and forced their way through the gorges to the NAPLES Road. They crossed the VOLTURNO on October 16th, 1943 and during November took part in the series of actions that raged over MONTE CAMINO. There they had to assault the three ridges known as Murder Mountain. Some elements fighting beside the Grenadiers were out off for several days from the main body of our troops and though food and ammunition could not reach them they kept the enemy at bay and finally fought their way out of an apparently hopeless position. In April, 1944 after 5½ years overseas the battalion returned to the Home Establishment. In January, 1945 the 2nd. Battalion, Scots Guards went to North Western Europe and remained there until December, 1946, when they returned to the United Kingdom after carrying out occupational duties in the COLOGNE and HAMBURG areas.

-----

In command of the parade is Lt-Colonel Viscount DALRYMPLE, MBE, 2nd. Battalion, Scots Guards, Field Officer in Brigade Waiting.

Lt-Colonel Viscount DALRYMPLE joined 1st. Battalion, Scots Guards on 15th February, 1926.

He served with distinction as Brigade Major, 16th Infantry Brigade during the early fighting in the Western desert and in Syria.

He was appointed to command the 1st. Battalion and took them overseas on the North African expedition. He subsequently served on Viscount Alexander's staff in Italy.

Lt-Colonel The Viscount DALRYMPLE was appointed to command the 2nd. Battalion, Scots Guards on 25th May, 1946.

-----

The Major of the parade is Major R.F. MORTIMER, 2nd. Battalion The Coldstream Guards.

Major MORTIMER commanded a Rifle Company in the 1st. Battalion in its first action on the River Dyle in May, 1940. During the withdrawal/.....

drawal he was left for dead but was subsequently found lying unconscious by the Germans and taken prisoner. He was a prisoner for the remainder of the war.

-----

The Adjutant of the parade is Captain A. I. D. FLETCHER, Adjutant 2nd. Battalion, Scots Guards.

Captain FLETCHER was commissioned in 1943 and served in North-West Europe with the 3rd. (Tank) Battalion, Scots Guards. He was appointed Adjutant, 2nd. Battalion, Scots Guards in December, 1946.

# PRINCESS WEARS "GUARDS UNIFORM" FOR PARADE

## RIDE TO TROOPING THE COLOUR

Princess Elizabeth, riding side-saddle, yesterday made her first appearance on horseback at an official ceremony. With the King and the Duke of Gloucester, she rode from Buckingham Palace to Horse Guards Parade for the Trooping the Colour on the King's official birthday.

It was the first time the ceremony had been held for seven years, and it was a battle-dress parade instead of the gold and scarlet of pre-war days.

The Royal party, with a Sovereign's Escort of the Household Cavalry, left the Palace shortly after the Queen, Princess Margaret, the Duchess of Gloucester and Prince William had driven to the parade in an open carriage.

By invitation of the King a number of American airmen on a goodwill visit to Britain attended the ceremony.

Upright and graceful, Princess Elizabeth sat her bay horse superbly. She wore a long habit of dark blue, the colour of the Guards' undress uniform, with a jacket cut as a replica of that of an officer of the Grenadier Guards, of which she is colonel. It had buttoned pockets and the single gold button of the Grenadiers at the cuffs.

Her cap, too, was on Guards officers' lines, with a soft cloth top and gold-braided peak. On her shoulder were her badges of rank as a Colonel of the Grenadiers. The four ribbons she wore included the Imperial Order of the Crown of India bestowed on her yesterday by the King.

The King, also riding a bay charger, wore the uniform of Colonel-in-Chief of the Coldstream Guards, since it was the Coldstream Colour that was being trooped.

### QUEEN MARY WATCHES

Followed by the commander and second-in-command of the Escort, the Duke of Beaufort, Master of the Horse, and the Earl of Athlone, Gold Stick in Waiting, they rode across the parade-ground to halt facing the window where the Queen, Queen Mary and other members of the Royal family were sitting.

The King, Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Gloucester saluted. Then they turned their horses round and the entire parade gave the Royal Salute as the massed bands played the National Anthem.

After the inspection the long, intricate ceremony of Trooping the Colour went forward without a hitch on the lines it has followed for over 200 years. All the time the Princess sat her horse almost motionless, except when occasionally she leaned forward to pat the charger's neck.

As the parade drew to its close Lt.-Col. Viscount Dalrymple, of the Scots Guards, who, as Field Officer in Brigade Waiting, was in command, rode over, saluted the King and reported: "The parade is ready to move off, Sir."

Clearly across the ground came the King's voice: "Carry on."

Mr. Attlee watched the ceremony from a stand outside the garden wall of 10, Downing-street with several members of the Government and their wives.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE, June 12.

His Majesty was present at the King's Birthday Parade on the Horse Guards Parade this morning. The King was accompanied by the Princess Elizabeth, Colonel, Grenadier Guards, and the Duke of Gloucester, Colonel, Scots Guards, Personal Aide-de-Camp. His Majesty was attended by Gen. Sir Charles Loyd, Colonel, Coldstream Guards, Brig.-Gen. the Earl of Gowrie, V.C., Colonel, Welsh Guards, Maj.-Gen. J. C. O. Marriott, G.O.C., London District, and the London District Staff.

The Duke of Beaufort, Master of the Horse, Maj.-Gen. the Earl of Athlone, Gold Stick in Waiting, Col. Sir Dermot McMorrough Kavanagh, Crown Equerry, Lt.-Col. Sir Terence Nugent and Maj. Michael Adeane, Equerries in Waiting, and Col. H. Abel Smith, Royal Horse Guards, Silver Stick in Waiting, were also in attendance.

Col. R. B. R. Colvin, commanding Grenadier Guards, Col. L. Bootle-Wilbraham, commanding Coldstream Guards, Col. G. F. Johnson, commanding Scots Guards, Col. J. O. E. Vandeleur, commanding Irish Guards, Col. Sir Alexander B. G. Stewart, Bt., commanding Welsh Guards, and the Silver Stick Adjutant and Regimental Adjutants of Foot Guards were present.

The troops on parade, under the command of Lt.-Col. the Viscount Dalrymple, Scots Guards, Field Officer in Brigade Waiting, received the King with a Royal Salute.

The Queen, accompanied by the Princess Margaret, the Duchess of Gloucester and Prince William, and attended by the Lady Hyde, the Lady Margaret Seymour and Maj. Arthur Penn, drove to the Horse Guards and witnessed the King's Birthday Parade.

On the conclusion of the Parade, his Majesty rode back to Buckingham Palace at the head of the King's Guard, preceded by the combined bands of the Brigade of Guards. On arrival at Buckingham Palace, the King's Guard entered the forecourt and formed up opposite the Old Guard, the remaining Guards defiling past his Majesty.

A Royal Salute was given as the King's Procession passed between the Old and New Guards in the forecourt of the Palace. Royal Salutes were fired to-day by the Riding Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, under the command of Maj. J. Norman, in Hyde Park, and from the Tower of London saluting battery by the Honourable Artillery Company, under the command of Maj. A. G. P. Lincoln.

The King invested the Princess Elizabeth and the Princess Margaret with the Insignia of Members of the Imperial Order of the Crown of India.

Sir Ulick Alexander, Keeper of the Privy Purse, and Maj. Michael Adeane, Assistant Private Secretary to the King, had the honour of being received by his Majesty, when the King invested them with the Insignia of a Knight Commander and a Companion respectively of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (Civil Division).

Wing Commander Peter Townsend, Equerry to the King, and Lieut.-Commander Peter Ashmore, R.N., Equerry to the King, also had the honour of being received by his Majesty when the King invested them with the Insignia of a Commander and a Member (Fourth Class) respectively of the Royal Victorian Order.

The King, accompanied by the Queen and the Princess Margaret, attended by the Viscountess Hambleton and Wing Commander Peter Townsend, opened the Royal Tournament at Olympia this afternoon.

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, June 12.

Queen Mary, accompanied by Princess Alexandra and Prince Michael of Kent and attended by Maj. the Hon. John Coke, drove to the Horse Guards and witnessed the King's Birthday Parade this morning.

**TROOPING THE COLOUR.** A DAILY TELEGRAPH photograph of the scene on Horse Guards Parade yesterday, when the King (indicated by arrow), accompanied by Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Gloucester, took the salute. RIGHT: The Princess, who is Colonel of the Grenadier Guards, riding side-saddle, wearing a specially designed habit undress dark blue.

