

Press release



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
News and Information Bureau,
Australia House, Strand, W.C.2.
TEMple Bar 2435

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AUSTRALIANS TO MOUNT PALACE GUARD NEXT TUESDAY

Members of the Army component of the Australian Coronation Contingent will mount guard over Buckingham Palace and St. James's Palace next Tuesday, May 26.

The honour has fallen to the Australians of mounting the first of the series of Commonwealth guards which will be provided for the Royal Palaces by members of the various Commonwealth Contingents.

At 10.30 a.m. on May 26, in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace, the Australian guard, 54 strong and wearing the famous Digger uniform of khaki battle dress and broad-brimmed slouch hat, will take over from the Second Battalion of the Grenadier Guards. The scarlet jackets and black bearskins of the British guardsmen will mingle with the khaki and slouch hats of the Australians to impart novelty and new colour to the traditional changing-of-the-guard ceremony.

The Australian guard will be under the command of Captain Robert Taylor, M.C., of the Royal Australian Infantry, who will have three other officers. The remainder of the 54 will be warrant officers, N.C.O's and privates from practically all Corps of the Australian Army, including men with service in Korea.

Music for the guard change will be provided by the Band of the Coldstream Guards and drums by the Corps of Drums of the First Battalion, Grenadier Guards. The famous Australian folk song, "Waltzing Matilda", will be played for the slow march.

The Australians will mount guard over the Palaces for 24 hours, handing over to the New Zealanders in another colourful ceremony at 10.30 a.m. on May 27.

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