

47/48TROOPING THE COLOUR

In London, the King's official birthday is celebrated by Trooping the colour on Horse Guards Parade. The King, in the uniform of Colonel of the Coldstream Guards, rides on to the parade ground, followed by Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Gloucester. The pictures of Princess Elizabeth wearing her insignia as Colonel of the Grenadier Guards, were taken by Pathe's 56" lens.

The giant lens follows the King, the Princess and the Duke of Gloucester riding to the saluting base.

Following the counter-marching massed bands, the ceremony begins. The colour to be trooped in the manner of the 18th century daily guard-mounting routine, is that of the 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards. In dress uniform, his sword drawn, the Regimental Sergeant Major hands the colour over to the ensign of the colour escort. Since the King's Birthday Parade in 1939, the Guards have been far afield.

Two years after the end of the war, 1947 marks the return of pre-war army ceremonial.