

THE GUARDS RETREAT.

Buckingham Palace will never look quite the same again. The Guards have performed their duty for the last time outside the railings, where they were almost in touch with the public. That was the trouble, as we shall see. So now the guards took up position in the forecourt. That didn't mean that some desirable residences were really to let, but future guards outside the railings will be volunteers. Or is that just another shaggy dog story?

In case you think it isn't like the guards to retreat, remember that it's good tactics to fall back to a stronger position; one which future detachments can hold without trouble. The Brigade by the way, has provided the guard at the Palace since Queen Victoria moved in, in 1837. Outside the Railings, they became one of the attractions that no self-respecting tourist would miss. Not only tourists, either. The sentries had cameras peked within inches of their noses, and when the foot of one of them was said to have come into contact with a tourist, few people blamed the poor soldier. Life was awful. Sometimes even a saint would have been tempted to do something about it....Dear little fellows aren't they?