

Would the weather hold? As the Queen Mother with Princess Margaret, ~~and~~ Prince Charles and Princess Anne, drove from Buckingham Palace --- the day stayed fair. The Queen --- as usual --- was riding the police horse, Winston. And she came out to the Mall escorted by the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Gloucester, for this celebration of her official birthday ~~saluted by a trumpeters' fanfare.//////~~

First of all, upon the Horse Guards Parade, the Queen inspected her rocklike ranks of Guardsmen; Coldstream Guards and Grenadiers; Life Guards and Royal Horse Guards; with Scots, Irish and Welsh Guards also represented in the ~~xxxxx~~ Massed Bands. ////

From a window overlooking the great parade, the royal family watched every moment of this centuries-old tradition. ////

Now the Massed Bands carry out their spectacular march --- first in slow time. ////

Then in quick time --- march and countermarch.////

✓ This year the Colour to be trooped is that of the 1st Battalion ^{Guards,} ~~the~~ Coldstream, which also provides the Escort. This Colour was presented to the Battalion by the late King George VI. ////

The Colour is now handed to the Ensign --- 2nd Lieutenant Egerton-Warburton. ////

Now --- the actual ceremony of the Trooping, along the ranks of Guardsmen.////

The march past. In command of the parade, is Lt.-Colonel Crichton, M.C., Field-Officer-in-Brigade-Waiting. ////

Next --- the trot past of the Household Cavalry --- Life Guards and Royal Horse Guards. ////

And then --- following the Massed Bands --- the Queen rides at the head of her column of Guards, back to Buckingham Palace. ////

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The ceremony is over; the Queen turns and rides in across the forecourt. And almost on the instant --- the smiling June day brings back its April showers.

For the fly past --- three jet squadrons of the ^{Royal} Auxiliary Air Force fly straight up the Mall; adding the salute of our modern age to the pageantry of years gone by.