

A Birthday Tribute to Her Majesty The Queen

Windsor Castle
Saturday 13th June 2020





Her Majesty The Queen

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Foreword

Major General C J Ghika CBE

Major General Commanding the Household Division

Trooping of the Colour has marked the official birthday of the Sovereign since 1748. The circumstances of the requirement to perform the Birthday Tribute at Windsor Castle this year are clouded in tragedy. The effects of Covid-19 have been devastating in terms of loss of life and the threatening of livelihoods of so many across the country. People have had to endure separation from loved ones, great uncertainty and the suspension of so much of what is special about our national life.

However, it is with great pride that I present this recording of music from a Birthday Tribute to Her Majesty The Queen. It represents an unique opportunity - within the parameters that the current situation demands - for the Household Division to thank Her Majesty for her guidance in these difficult times, and to reaffirm our relationship with the Sovereign.

For the Welsh Guards, this Tribute will be a moment of enormous pride at being able to Troop their Colour in the presence of Her Majesty. The Battalion and many of those on parade have recently been deployed within the United Kingdom as part of the nation's response to the virus and so the context of the ceremony is particularly poignant.

The pieces of music themselves are truly uplifting and I believe represent the best of what the Household Division Bands have to offer. "The Rising of the Lark", "Les Huguenots" and "Men of Harlech" are some of most recognisable pieces that evoke the intended spirit of the tribute and the involvement of the Welsh Guards.



History of the Household Division

The Household Division of the British Army comprises the two Mounted Regiments of the Household Cavalry: The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals, and the five Regiments of Foot Guards: the Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, Scots Guards, Irish Guards and Welsh Guards. The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, are Household Troops of Her Majesty The Queen.

Each regiment has a distinguished service record that extends back across generations. The Guards trace their earliest roots back to the 17th Century and the forces raised by Charles II in exile or to those who fought for Parliament in the English Civil War.

Guards Regiments have served continuously as the Sovereign's personal guard since the Restoration of King Charles II in 1660 and have participated in every major campaign conducted by the British Army ever since.

Members of the Household Division continue to serve both on operations and on ceremonial duties in London.



The Regiment

Major General R J Æ Stanford MBE
Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Welsh Guards

This year is an historic year in so many ways; the traditional calendar of events across the UK has been interrupted, postponed or cancelled. For us as Welsh Guardsmen the Covid-19 measures have prevented us from Trooping our Colour on Horse Guards to mark the Queen's Official Birthday on 13th June. However, some events must be marked whatever the prevailing circumstances and we are honoured to be able to mark this very special day at Windsor Castle to pay tribute to Her Majesty. In 2015, during our Centenary year, Her Majesty presented new Colours to the Regiment at Windsor Castle. The Queen's Colour is on parade today back in the Quadrangle.

The Welsh Guards were the last Regiment of Foot Guards to be formed in 1915 and since then we have fought in almost every major campaign the British Army has been engaged in. This includes both World Wars, Aden and Egypt in the late 40's and 50's as well Northern Ireland, Kosovo, Bosnia and more recently Iraq and Afghanistan. The Regiment has earned 47 battle Honours including our last, the Falklands' Campaign in 1982. A total of 21 of those Battle Honours are borne on our Colours.

The motto of our Regiment is "CYMRU AM BYTH" which in English translates to "WALES FOR EVER". Our Regimental cap badge is the leek, the national emblem of Wales.

Our Regiment is almost entirely recruited from Wales which gives us a very special identity which is embedded with Welsh spirit and culture. We look to the future with confidence and are proud to be on parade today for our Colonel-in-Chief.



The Battalion

1st Battalion Welsh Guards

State and Ceremonial Duties

The Battalion returned to its ceremonial role in March 2019. Since then it has been heavily involved in all aspects of State Ceremonial and Public Duties. Guards at the Royal Palaces and the Tower of London see members of the Welsh Guards routinely on parade.

Through the course of 2019, the Battalion was at the centre of all major State Events including the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, State Visits by foreign heads of State, the State Opening of Parliament and street-lining The Mall for Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Parade.

Saturday 13th of June 2020 marks the 11th occasion that the Battalion is formally involved in a State Celebration of Her Majesty's Birthday Parade.



The Battalion

1st Battalion Welsh Guards

Operations Home and Abroad

Having returned from our third and most recent Operational tour to Afghanistan late in 2018, while simultaneously delivering our ceremonial role, we have continued to maintain our active capability.

Through the autumn of 2019 half the Battalion was deployed to the Falkland Islands to help maintain the UK's standing commitment to the security of the Falkland Islands.

In the early part of this year we deployed a large Company Group on exercise to the jungles of Belize.

In autumn 2020 the Battalion begins mission-specific training in earnest for our planned second operational tour to Iraq in 2021, further underlining our unique dual role we have as members of the Household Division.



History of the Colours

The word 'Colour' refers to the regimental flags of the British Infantry. Flags have been used as rallying points for military units since the time of the Kings of Babylon. In 1707, during Queen Anne's reign, the number of Colours was reduced to two per regiment. Colours were last carried into action by the 58th Foot in South Africa in 1881. Up until that time they witnessed all the varying fortunes of their Regiment and were often torn by enemy fire, acquiring an almost religious significance. The Colours are still highly regarded today and are always carried by an officer and accompanied by an armed escort.

The Welsh Guards have 47 Battle Honours, of which 21 are displayed on The Colours. Battle Honours are awarded by the Sovereign in recognition of a particular Regiment's involvement or contribution to a battle. The Regiment's first Battle Honour was awarded for its notable participation in the Battle of Loos in 1915 and its most recent Battle Honour was awarded for the action the Regiment saw in the Falklands in 1982. The Queen's Colour on parade today was presented to 1st Battalion Welsh Guards by Her Majesty The Queen at Windsor Castle on 30 April 2015, which was also the Regiment's Centenary year.



State Ceremonial Musicians

For hundreds of years the Bands of the Household Division have been at the forefront of military music. Renowned for their performances at high profile engagements from The Queen's Birthday Parade and the Beating of the Retreat on Horseguards Parade in the summer, to the National Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph and the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall in November - the Bands of the Household Division are an iconic part of our national heritage.

Music for the various State Ceremonial Events that take place throughout the year is provided by the six bands and one orchestra of the Household Division.

These comprise the Band of the Household Cavalry, the Bands of the Grenadier, Coldstream, Scots, Irish, Welsh Guards and the Countess of Wessex's String Orchestra.

All the Bands of the Household Division perform for regular duties such as the Changing of the Guard, including the Band of the Household Cavalry which parades dismounted. For larger events such as Trooping of the Colour, the Band of the Household Cavalry performs mounted.

The Countess of Wessex's String Orchestra provides musical support for occasions such as Investitures, State Banquets and other events held within the Royal Palaces.

Caernarfon Castle



A Birthday Tribute to Her Majesty The Queen

March On

The Guards' Colours

W Hughes

William Hughes served as a musician in the Band of the Scots Guards between the wars and is best known for his march '*To Your Guard*'. *The Guards' Colours* was last played on the parade in 1936, the one and only birthday parade for King Edward VIII.

Auxiliary Territorial Service March

E Spooner

This march was chosen for the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1945 by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother. Her Majesty The Queen, or as she was then, Princess Elizabeth served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service making this her Regimental March.

Incidental Music

Welsh Airs & Graces

Arr Maj T Davis

Major Davis arranged *Welsh Airs and Graces* to be played at the Queen's Birthday Parade in 1998 for the Slow Inspection. Sadly, he died a few weeks before the parade after a short illness at the age of just 47. The melodies include *Jenny Jones*, *Megan's Fair Daughter*, *The Dove* and *The Ash Grove*.

Trumpet Tune & Air

H Purcell Arr P Carroll & Lt Col S Haw MBE

Henry Purcell (1659-1695) is widely considered to be one of the greatest English composers. He was to have a strong influence on English composers of the mid-20th century, notably Benjamin Britten, whose '*The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*' is based on the Rondeau from Purcell's '*Abdelazar*'. His *Trumpet Tune and Air* has become a popular choice for state occasions for its regal quality.

Men of Harlech

Traditional

The Slow March of the Welsh Guards '*Men of Harlech*' was originally a song which is said to describe events during the seven-year siege of Harlech Castle between 1461 and 1468. Commanded by Constable *Dafydd ap Ieuan*, the Garrison withstood the longest known siege in the history of the British Isles.

Arrival of Her Majesty The Queen

Royal Salute

The National Anthem

Arr Lt Col Brown OBE

Like many aspects of British constitutional life, even ‘*God Save the Queen*’ derives its official status from custom and use, not from Royal Proclamation or Act of Parliament. The variation in the UK of the lyrics to ‘*God Save the Queen*’ is the oldest amongst those currently used and forms the basis on which all other versions used throughout the Commonwealth are formed.

The Troop

The Guard Repositions

The Rising of the Lark

Arr J Kappey

‘*Codiad yr Ehedydd*’ or ‘*Rising of the Lark*’ was established as the Regimental Quick March of the Welsh Guards upon the Regiment’s formation in 1915. It was arranged by Jacob Kappey who also published the book ‘*Short History of Military Music*’ in 1894.

Slow Troop

Les Huguenots

G Meyerbeer Arr D Godfrey

The Slow Troop ‘*Les Huguenots*’ is the traditional musical starting point for the Trooping of Colour. It has been played every year on the parade since 1936 and on numerous occasions before this dating back as far as 1869.

Quick Troop

Triple Crown

T Brien

In Rugby Union, the Triple Crown is an honour contested annually by the “Home Nations” of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. This march has been used as the Quick Inspection on two previous occasions when the Welsh Guards have Trooped their Colour (1973 and 1998).

The Guard positions to receive the Colour

The British Grenadier

Arr J Kappey

The exact origins of the tune are disputed but generally date to the early 17th century. The debate is best summarised by the composer Ernest Walker in 1907 who described the melody as “three centuries evolution of an Elizabethan tune”. The melody was introduced into Britain as a military march during the 1689–1702 reign of William III.

Trooping the Colour

Escort to the Colour

E Waldteufel Arr Lt Col R Ridings OBE

To reduce the repetition of the ‘*Grenadiers’ Slow March*’, a new arrangement made by Major Richard Ridings, the then Senior Director of Music was introduced in 1978 to be played from the point when the Escort to the Colour step off in slow time to the point when the remaining Guards ‘Present Arms’ as the Colour is trooped along the ranks. The march is based on themes from Waldteufel’s waltz ‘*The Grenadiers*’, thus maintaining the Grenadier connection with this part of the ceremony.

Grenadiers’ Slow March

Arr Lt Col F Harris OBE

This march was adopted by the Regiment in 1815, having repulsed the French Imperial Guard at Waterloo, the First Guards became a The Regiment of Grenadiers.

Royal Salute

The National Anthem

Arr Lt Col Brown OBE

(As previously described)

The March Off

The Rising of the Lark

Arr J Kappey

(As previously described)

The Welshman

Arr Lt Col P Hannam MBE BEM

‘*The Welshman*’ was written for the Welsh Guards’ 75th Anniversary in 1990 and is based on several well-loved Welsh melodies. Lt Col Peter Hannam was awarded the British Empire Medal while on active service in Cyprus as a Corporal with the Band of the 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment. He subsequently became the Bandmaster of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and the Prince of Wales’s Division before becoming Director of Music of the Queen’s Division, followed by the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and subsequently the Welsh Guards. He became the Senior Director of Music, Household Division in 1989.

Harlech Castle



Acknowledgements and Credits

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Musicians of the Household Division performed by kind permission of Major General C J Ghika CBE, Major General Commanding the Household Division.
This recording was made on 20 & 21 May 2020 in the Guards' Chapel, with kind permission of The Reverend John Vincent CF, Senior Chaplain, London District and Chaplain to the Household Division.

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A Birthday Tribute to Her Majesty The Queen

The Guards' Colours - W Hughes

Auxiliary Territorial Service March - E Spooner

Welsh Airs & Graces - Arr Maj T Davis

Trumpet Tune & Air - H Purcell Arr P Carroll & Lt Col S Haw MBE

Men of Harlech - Traditional

The National Anthem - Arr Lt Col Brown OBE

The Rising of the Lark - Arr J Kappey

Les Huguenots - G Meyerbeer Arr D Godfrey

Triple Crown - T Brien

The British Grenadier - Arr J Kappey

Escort to the Colour - E Waldteufel Arr Lt Col R Ridings OBE

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