Changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace

First Edition
British Library Cataloguing in publication data
A Catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 0 9529578 0 9

Copyright ©1999 (IPMS) International Partnership in Marketing Services
Written by J.R. Sullivan-Tailyour
Edited by S.M. Honey and R.J.R. Miller
Designed by Nomad Graphique
Printed in Great Britain by Ian Rourke Print Management

Published by International Partnership in Marketing Services (IPMS), 766a Fulham Road, Fulham, London, SW6 5SJ.
Partners: J.R. Sullivan-Tailyour, S.M. Honey and R.J.R. Miller

All rights reserved. Without limiting the rights under copyright reserved above, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into any retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise), without the prior written permission from the publishers, IPMS, 766a Fulham Road, Fulham, London SW6 5SJ.

Disclaimer
Every effort has been made by the Publishers to ensure that the information contained herein is as accurate and up to date as possible. However, the Publishers are unable to accept any responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury sustained by anyone as a result of the advice and information given in this guide.
Changing the Guard is one of the most colourful ceremonies you are ever likely to see. The responsibility of guarding the Sovereign by the Household Troops (as they were known at the time) dates back to the time of Henry VII (1485-1509). Changing the Guard is not just a ceremony, it is also a tradition that the most highly trained soldiers guard the King or Queen.

These are some of the best soldiers in the British Army and have fought in virtually every major area of conflict with great distinction since the 17th Century. They also take an active role in protecting their Sovereign, at night they patrol the grounds of both Buckingham Palace and St. James’s Palace.

It is an honour and a privilege to introduce you to a part of Great Britain’s grand heritage. We hope you enjoy Changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace and all it represents. If you are interested in learning more we recommend you visit both The Guards Museum and the Household Cavalry Museum (see pages 28 & 29). For a limited time each summer Buckingham Palace is open to the public and is well worth visiting.
Soldiers of the Household Division are renowned for the efficiency with which they carry out ceremonial duties. Yet, while upholding the traditions of the past, the Household Division has mastered the skills of modern soldiering and is equally at home driving tanks, armoured cars or parachuting. These men, resplendent in their uniforms, mounting Queen's Guard or Trooping the Colour in disciplined ranks, are the same men who perform operational duties worldwide.

The Household Division is made up of seven Regiments. These comprise: The Household Cavalry Regiment - The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals; and five Regiments of Foot Guards - The Grenadier Guards, The Coldstream Guards, The Scots Guards, The Irish Guards and The Welsh Guards. As soldiers they are second to none, respected throughout the world for their self-discipline, smartness and reliability.
Changing the Guard is a ceremony where the soldiers who have been mounting the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace (the 'Old Guard') are relieved by the 'New Guard'. When the Sovereign is in residence the Guard will consist of 3 officers and 40 men. Otherwise it will consist of 3 officers and 31 men. If the flag above the Palace is flying, the Queen is 'at home'.

The Queen's Guard is divided into two detachments. One detachment is responsible for Buckingham Palace and the other is responsible for St. James's Palace (the official residence of HRH Prince of Wales).

11.00am A detachment of the 'Old Guard' parades at St. James's Palace and is inspected by the Captain of the Guard, ready to march to Buckingham Palace for the ceremony.

11.00am The main detachment of the 'Old Guard' parades in front of Buckingham Palace.

11.15am The St. James's Palace detachment of the 'Old Guard' marches to Buckingham Palace.
11.30am  The ‘New Guard’ arrives at Buckingham Palace through the right hand gates led by a Regimental Band and Corps of Drums, having come from ‘Wellington Barracks’, their base. The ‘New Guard’ will halt facing the ‘Old Guard’.

The Officers at Buckingham Palace salute the Captain on Parade with their swords, before proceeding to the Guard Room where the keys to Buckingham Palace will be symbolically handed over. The Band will then play a selection of music, allowing the ‘Old Guard’ sentries to be replaced by the ‘New Guard’ sentries.

12.05pm  The ‘Old Guard’ leaves Buckingham Palace led by the Band, departing through the centre gates and returning to Wellington Barracks (the home of the Guards Museum) where they will ‘Fall Out’ in front of their impressive barracks.

The ‘New Guard’, henceforth known as The Queen’s Guard, split into two. One marches to St. James’s Palace where they Fall Out*.

*Falling Out is a military term for being dismissed from duty.