

The Queen's Guard

By Dolores Eamets, Silver Põlgaste and Liina
Reimann

Who is The Queen's Guard?

- The Queen's Guard is the name given to the contingent of infantry responsible for guarding Buckingham Palace and St James' Palace in London.
- The guard is made up of a company of soldiers from a single regiment, which is split in two, providing a detachment for Buckingham Palace and a detachment for St James' Palace.
- The Guards have served ten Kings and four Queens.



History

- The Queen's Guard have served Sovereign and the Royal Palaces since 1660.
- Until 1689, the Sovereign lived mainly at the Palace of Whitehall and was guarded there by Household Cavalry.
- In 1689, the court moved to St James' Palace, which was guarded by the Foot Guards.
- When Queen Victoria moved into Buckingham Palace in 1837, the Queen's Guard remained at St James' Palace, with a detachment guarding Buckingham Palace, as it still does today.

The Household Cavalry Regiments

There are two Household Cavalry Regiments - The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals.



The Guard changing ceremony at Buckingham Palace

- It takes place at 11.30 am.
- The handover is accompanied by a Guards band.
- It is also known as 'Guard Mounting'.
- The New Guard, who during the course of the ceremony become The Queen's Guard, march to Buckingham Palace from Wellington Barracks.
- During the Changing the Guard ceremony one regiment takes over from another.



The Guard changing ceremony at St James' Palace

- It takes place daily at 11.00 am (10.00 am on Sundays).
- It lasts about half an hour.
- It is normally held by the arch of Horse Guards Building at Whitehall.



Guardsmen's clothes

- The black bearskin cap
- The scarlet tunic has a dark blue collar, shoulder strips pipped in white, and cuffs of blue and white.
- The dark blue trousers have a red stripe down the seam of each leg.
- A white leather buff belt
- Gold buttons that bear The Queen's insignia



Fun facts

- Four sentries are posted when the Queen is in residence, two are posted when she's not at home.
- During Henry VII's reign Changing of the Guard was actually called the Changing of the Gourd, a title referring to the large marrows or gourds that the watchmen originally wore as protection on their heads.
- The army have equipped each guardsman with a device they call a Disposable, Individually-wrapped, Army Personnel Excretion Receptacle or D.I.A.P.E.R.



Fun facts

- The Queen's Guard belong to one of five regiments of Foot Guards - Scots Guards, Irish Guards, Welsh Guards, Grenadier Guards and Coldstream Guards.
- All guardsmen wear a full dress uniform yet it's possible to identify the guard's regiment by its clothing. Each regiment dons a different color plume, distinctly shaped badges, and the buttons on the front of their tunics are spaced in a unique fashion.



Sources

- Wikipedia <http://en.wikipedia.org/>
- The Baltimore sun <http://www.baltimoresun.com/>
- The official website of The British Monarchy
<http://www.royal.gov.uk/>
- Project Britain <http://projectbritain.com/>