

BLUE PLUME

The Music of the Irish Guards



BAND OF THE IRISH GUARDS

Director of Music: Major Bruce Miller BMus (Hons) LLCM (TD) LRSM ARCM psm

FOREWORD

COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT HRH PRINCE WILLIAM, DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE KG KT ADC



KENSINGTON PALACE

The music of the Irish Guards forms an important part of our heritage and I am delighted to see that much of it is being preserved on this recording for you and future generations.

The Regimental Quick March, *St. Patrick's Day*, was selected soon after the Regiment's formation in 1900 and the Regimental Slow March changed to *Let Erin Remember* in 1902. There has been a wealth of other music composed, arranged or adopted over the past 117 years and each Company of the 1st Battalion is proud to have its own march which forms a vital part of establishing its identity.

Many of the Regiment's Directors of Music have contributed to the wealth of music now associated with the Irish Guards, none more so than Lieutenant Colonel C H (Jiggs) Jaeger with his arrangement of *If You're Irish*, a key part of all our Regimental parades.

This tradition continued in 2017 with some fine new music from Major Bruce Miller which helped to make the Queen's Birthday Parade that extra bit special with the Queen's Colour of 1st Battalion Irish Guards being trooped, inspiring the Guards to maintain the highest standards, despite the tremendous heat.

I hope that you will enjoy this compact disc and that it will help capture the spirit of our great Regiment.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lily'.



THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

MAJOR BRUCE MILLER BMus (Hons) LLCM (TD) LRSM ARCM psm

Major Bruce Miller began his military career in 1989 as a clarinettist in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Upon successful completion of the three-year Bandmaster Course he was appointed Bandmaster of the Band of The Dragoon Guards followed by Staff Bandmaster at Headquarters Corps of Army Music. He was commissioned in 2002 and appointed Director of Music of the Band of the Hussars and Light Dragoons, which upon amalgamation became the Light Cavalry Band before taking up his next appointment as Director of Music, Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers. Appointments at Headquarters Corps of Army Music along with Chief Instructor of the Royal Military School of Music combined with a tour at the Minden Band of the Queen's Division before taking up his current role as Director of Music for the Band of the Irish Guards in March 2015.

Major Miler has travelled extensively throughout many European countries including several tours of Northern Ireland. He has also visited Abu Dhabi, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan and taken part in two operational tours in the Middle East.

Major Miller is married to Andrea who is a Senior Medical Writer for Cancer Research UK and has one daughter, Kerry who is in her final year at Sheffield University. His interests are cycling, chess and his family. He is also a season ticket holder for Northampton Saints Rugby Club.



BANDMASTER:

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE ANDREW WILLIAM PORTER

BMus (Hons) FTCL

Andrew Porter was born in Belfast enlisting into the Army in 2003 as a euphonium player, serving with the REME Band. He was invited to Washington DC in 2006 to perform recitals at the United States Army Band Tuba and Euphonium Conference, returning in 2007 to perform a concerto in the presence of the composer, Neal Corwell, with the United States Army Orchestra.

His first assignment as a Bandmaster was to the Band of The King's Division from where he deployed on Op HERRICK 18 in 2013 and was assigned to the Afghan National Army Officers Academy (ANAOA) in Qargha, Kabul.

Following his operational tour, Andrew was appointed Bandmaster of the Band of the Irish Guards in February 2014. In his spare time Andrew is a keen fun runner and he enjoys working with and helping community based bands in their musical output and activities.

He is married to Carol, a full-time mum to James (12), Ruby (9) and Aoife (2).

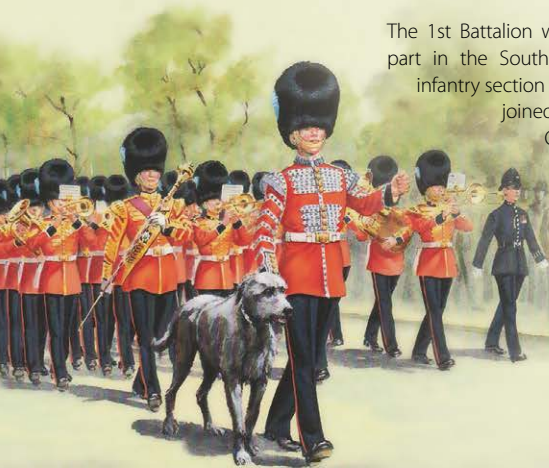


IRISH GUARDS

The Irish Regiment of Foot Guards was raised on 1st April 1900 by command of Queen Victoria to commemorate the bravery shown by the Irish regiments which had fought in the South African Wars in 1899 and 1900. It inherited the great heritage of the three existing regiments of Foot Guards, while soon establishing its own customs and traditions to mark its unique identity.

The first recruit, James O'Brien of Limerick, was enlisted on 21st April 1900 and many Irishmen serving in the regiments of the Brigade of Guards and regiments of the line took the opportunity to transfer; the officers were chosen from the other regiments of the Brigade of Guards.

The 1st Battalion was not formed in time to take part in the South African Wars but a mounted infantry section of one officer and 32 other-ranks joined the Guards Mounted Infantry Company and took part in several actions. The battalion received its first Colours from King Edward VII during the King's Birthday Parade in 1902.



The Battalion embarked for France on 11th August 1914 and the Irish Guards took part in nearly every major battle, earning four Victoria Crosses. A total of 293 officers and 9,430 other ranks fought in the War, of which 115 officers and 2,235 other ranks lost their lives. The Regiment again fought with distinction during the Second World War, the 1st Battalion serving in North Africa and Italy, taking part in particularly bitter fighting at Anzio, while the 2nd and 3rd Battalions formed part of the Guards Armoured Division which was to lead the way in liberating Belgium and The Netherlands in 1944. A further two Victoria Crosses were awarded.

1st Battalion Irish Guards carried out internal security duties in Palestine during 1947/48 and, in recent years, have been involved in many tours of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Universally known as 'The Micks', the Irish Guards are distinguished on parade by wearing tunic buttons bearing the Harp of Ireland, arranged in two groups of four, with a shamrock on the collar and a blue plume worn on the right side of the bearskin.

The Irish Guards Capstar is an eight-pointed star of the Most Illustrious Order of St. Patrick with the motto, *Quis Separabit* (Who Shall Separate Us), taken from the Bible (Romans Chapter VIII, Verses 35-39). The Regiment is unique in the Household Division in being led on parade by an Irish Wolfhound as the Regimental Mascot.



BAND OF THE IRISH GUARDS

The first Bandmaster, Mr. Charles Hassell, was appointed on 21st November 1900 and the Band began to form, largely from bandsmen transferring from regiments of the line.

The first mention of the Band appearing came on 1st April 1901: *'The lately-formed Band of the Irish Guards has been ordered to provide the musicians for the Sunday Parade Services of Wellington and Chelsea Barracks for six months'*. On Thursday 9th May the Band of the Irish Guards *'will parade with the Band of the Grenadier Guards and the two bands will be massed for Trooping the Colour'* (Guard Mounting from Horse Guards). Following the parade, they joined with the other bands of The Brigade of Guards at St. Peter's Institute, Buckingham Palace Road, to begin massed bands rehearsals for the King's Birthday Parade.

The Band formed part of the Massed Bands at the King's Birthday Parade on 24th May, the first for King Edward VII and the first at which the Sovereign took the salute on Horse Guards Parade. However, its first major parade on its own took place on Wednesday 12th June 1901 for the presentation of South African War medals by King Edward VII on Horse Guards Parade, supporting a Guard of Honour provided by 1st Battalion Irish Guards.

The Band quickly gained a reputation for excellence as evidenced by the glowing press reports in 1905 from what turned out to be the first of many tours of Canada. The citizens of Toronto were so impressed with its performance that they presented the Band with an ornate silver cup, which to this day remains one of its cherished possessions.

On the outbreak of the First World War the Band was kept very busy sustaining morale at home and encouraging recruitment. On 29th July 1916, and again on 21st December 1917, it took its turn with the other Foot Guards bands to undertake a three-month tour of duty with the Guards Division in France and Belgium, giving numerous concerts

to the men during their rest periods to help raise their spirits and inject some small element of normality into their lives. In May 1917 it was part of the Massed Bands that made a visit to Paris at the request of the French government and this was the first time that all five Foot Guards bands had been on parade together. A similar visit was made to Rome in February 1918.

During the Second World War the Band sailed to Algiers on 27th October 1943 and gave numerous concerts to the troops during the North African and Italian campaigns, reaching Naples, and finally returning home in May 1944. In 1948, the Band travelled to Palestine to support the Guards battalions involved in the troubles. In more recent times, three members of the Band served in the first Gulf War of 1990/91, and in June 1999 the Band deployed to Kosovo as part of a NATO peacekeeping force.

It is believed by the BBC Archivist that the Irish Guards was the very first military band to broadcast, the programme going out 'live' on the 23rd January 1923 on the 2LO station. Since that day, the Band appeared regularly on programmes such as *Music While You Work*, *Listen to the Band*, *Marching and Waltzing* and *Friday Night is Music Night*. In 1953 it was chosen for what was a landmark broadcast, with the UK premier performance of Paul Hindemith's *Symphony in Bb for Concert Band*.



The Band has also made numerous appearances on television and in a number of films including *The Prince and the Showgirl*, *The Ipcress File*, and *Oh! What a Lovely War*, as well as being engaged to whistle *Colonel Bogey* for the soundtrack of *The Bridge on the River Kwai*.

Over the years the Band has toured extensively, including a four-month 'World Tour' in 1957, which included visits to Australia, Canada and the United States. During its visit to Japan in 1972, the Band was accorded the honour of being the first foreign band ever to play in the Imperial Palace in the presence of the Empress and the two Crown Princesses. In 2010 it undertook an eleven week coast-to-coast tour of North America.

The Irish Guards celebrated its centenary in 2000 and the Band made history by performing a concert in the National Concert Hall in Dublin with the Irish Defence Force's Number One Band. This was the first visit to Ireland by a British Army band since 1922 and was a great success, filling the 1,200-seat hall to capacity.

A number of former Band members have continued their careers with national orchestras, including the Hallé Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Throughout its proud history the Band's prime duty has been to play for the 'Changing the Guard' at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, and it has always been at the forefront of the great national occasions, whether joyful, such as Coronations, Jubilees, Birthday Parades and National Celebrations, or perfectly reflecting the sombre mood at State Funerals or remembrance events.

In common with the other Guards bands, it forms one of the great icons of the nation and a valuable part of the United Kingdom's 'shop window'.





THE DRUMS AND PIPES OF 1ST BATTALION IRISH GUARDS

DRUM MAJOR JOHN WINSTON LENNON SMILLIE

PIPE MAJOR ROBERT JAMES FLEMING RVM

The Battalion had a Corps of Drums (drums and flutes) from its early days. In early 1916 a number of sets of Irish War Pipes were presented to the Regiment by John Redmond MP, and men of the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion were trained by the Pipe Major of the London Irish Rifles and posted to the 1st and 2nd Battalions in France during May 1917. The Pipes were financed by the officers until 1918 when they were placed on the establishment table.

Pipers first wore Home Service Clothing (i.e. full dress) on St. Patrick's Day 1921. In 2012 the use of crimson pipe banners was approved bearing the company colour emblems.

Pipers and Drummers are primarily infantry soldiers and four of their number lost their lives in Iraq: Pipers: Lance Corporal Ian Malone and Piper Christopher Muzvuru, and Drummers: Lance Sergeant Chris Casey and Lance Corporal Kirk Redpath.

BAND OF THE IRISH GUARDS

Flutes/Piccolo

Musn Elizabeth Ward
Musn Nikki King
CSgt James Dutton Δ

Oboes

Sgt Naomi Phelan
Musn Nancy Johnston †

Cor Anglais

Musn Nancy Johnston †

Solo Clarinets

Sgt Matthew Pithers
LSgt Sarah Crewe
WO2 (BSM) Garry Bowman §

Repiano Clarinets

Musn Michael Badley
Cpl Nicola Jenkins §

2nd/3rd Clarinets

Musn Adelle Foster
LCpl Bevis Anthony
LCpl Mark Hayes §

Bass Clarinet

LCpl Bevis Anthony

Saxophones

LCpl Andy Braet
Musn Kimberley Cochrane
Musn Aloysius Atwal
CSgt Ian Ballard
CSgt Wen Gregson †

Bassoons

Musn Jack Wild
LCpl Alan Hughes

French Horns

LSgt Mark Skinner
LSgt Christopher Sheldon
LCpl Joseph Parkin
SSgt Tony Lamb §
Musn Jo McDermott §

Cornets/Trumpets

Sgt Scott Walker
LSgt Simon Gray
LSgt James Scott
LSgt Mark McLauchlin
Musn Harvey Hassan
WO2 (BSM) Ralph Brill

Tenor Trombones

CSgt Paul Hooper
Sgt Matthew Snell
Musn Laura Eads

Bass Trombones

Sgt Steven Clarke
LSgt David Lockwood

Euphoniums

WO1 (BM) Andrew Porter
LCpl Liam Grunsell

Tubas

Musn Alexander Boyall
Musn Catherine Whittingham

Percussion

LSgt Jody Haycocks
LCpl Ryan Duffield
Musn Thomas Allison
Musn William Parsons*

Keyboards

LCpl Alan Hughes

Double Bass

Musn Jerelle Jacob †

* Denotes musicians from The Band of the Grenadier Guards

Δ Denotes musicians from The Band of the Scots Guards

† Denotes musicians from The Band of the Welsh Guards

§ Denotes musicians from The Band of The Royal Yeomanry

Corps of Drums:

Side Drum

Drum Major John Smillie
Drummer Dean Kirk

Flutes

Sergeant Paul Carson
Lance Corporal Stuart Dawson

Drums and Pipes:

Pipes

Pipe Major Robert Fleming RVM
Lance Sergeant Christopher Duddy
Lance Corporal Daniel Hearne
Piper Sean Quinn

Side Drum

Lance Sergeant Gareth Chambers
Drummer Carson MacIlhatton

PROGRAMME NOTES

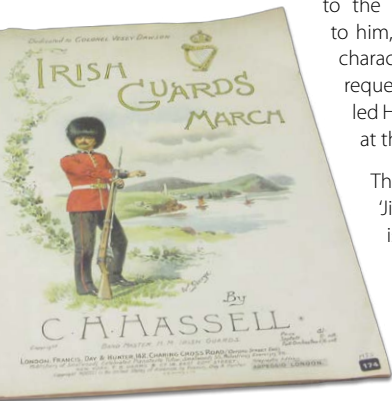
1. IF YOU'RE IRISH/BEGORRAH (Trad. arr. C.H. Jaeger)

*If you're Irish come into the parlour,
There's a welcome there for you;
If your name is Timothy or Pat,
So long as you come from Ireland,
There's a Welcome on the mat*

These are the first lines of the chorus from one of Ireland's best loved songs, composed in 1919 by Shaun Glenville and Frank Miller.

The Band would like to dedicate this track to the Regimental Adjutant, Colonel Tim Purdon OBE, who is due to retire early in 2018 after many years of distinguished service to the Regiment. The song has particular significance to him, as he and his brother Pat were named after the characters in the lyrics. It was at Colonel Purdon's special request that this march was played as the Massed Bands led Her Majesty and Her Guards off Horse Guards Parade at the end of the Queen's Birthday Parade 2017.

This march arrangement by Lieutenant Colonel 'Jiggs' Jaeger combines the song with *Begorrah* and is played by the Band on numerous parades and marching displays.



Captain Charles
Hazard Hassell,
OBE, RVM

2. THE IRISH GUARDS MARCH (C.H. Hassell arr. Andrew Porter)

Captain Hassell was very much the 'father of the band' and, although his compositions and arrangements can occasionally be seen shown on concert programmes from his era, none have survived in the Band Library. A piano score of *The Irish Guards March* has long been displayed in the Museum of Army Music at Kneller Hall and this was borrowed to be scored for military band by the current Bandmaster for this recording, representing an important link with the Band's beginnings. The march was published in 1901 and dedicated to Colonel Vesey Dawson CVO, the first Lieutenant Colonel Commanding the Irish Guards, and includes the *Regimental Call* and *St. Patrick's Day*.

3. IRISH GUARDS PATROL (Charles Le Thièrre arr. Andrew Porter)

The 'patrol' was a popular item at band concerts in years gone by, normally including snippets of appropriate tunes, with the music starting softly as the band was heard in the distance, building up as they march past, and then fading away into the distance. The *Irish Guards Patrol*, in which you will recognise *The Minstrel Boy* and *Garry Owen*, was written in 1901, soon after the Regiment's formation and was forgotten by the Band for generations until the Regimental Adjutant recently produced a piano score for it to be arranged for this recording by the Bandmaster.

4. THE IRISH GUARDS SONG (Sir Edward German arr. Bruce Miller)

Rudyard Kipling had a very close affinity with the Regiment, as his son John served as an officer with the Irish Guards during the Great War and was killed at the Battle of Loos. His poem, *The Irish Guards* became very well-known:

*We're not so old in the Army List,
But we're not so young at our trade.
For we had the honour at Fontenoy
Of meeting the Guards' Brigade.
'Twas Lally, Dillon, Bulkeley, Clare,
And Lee that led us then,
And after a hundred and seventy years
We're fighting for France again!*

At Kipling's request, the poem was set to music for voice and piano accompaniment by Sir Edward German (1862-1936), one of the great composers of his era, best remembered today for his *Welsh Rhapsody* and the comic opera *Merrie England*. It was published in 1918, by Chappell, London. Kipling's wife's diary records, for 28th January 1918: '*Finishes the Irish Guards song*'; and for 4th February '*Edward German calls, about setting the Irish Guards to music*'. According to the biographer Andrew Lycett, this was completed in time for a matinee performance in March.

This arrangement for military band has been made specially for the recording by the Director of Music.

5. THE IRISH GUARDS (Albert Shrimpton arr. Ian Mitchell)

Drum Major Albert Shrimpton was one of the most prolific composers for Corps of Drums and composed *The Irish Guards* circa 1910. It was scored for military band for the Queen's Birthday Parade 2005 by Mr. Ian Mitchell when Bandmaster of the Irish Guards, and was heard again in The Mall after the 2017 parade as played here, by the Band and Corps of Drums combined.

6. SOLDIERS (arr. M.G. Lane)

The medley, *Soldiers*, has been played at the Queen's Birthday Parade, Beating Retreat and for the march past the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, and comprises popular songs with very appropriate titles: *There's Something About a Soldier*; *When the Guards are on Parade*; *They're Changing Guard at Buckingham Palace*; *The Changing of the Guard* and *Soldiers of the Queen*.



Lieutenant Colonel
Michael Gerald Lane,
ARCM, psm

7. MESSINES RIDGE (Bruce Miller)

This march was specially composed by the Director of Music for the Queen's Birthday Parade 2017 to be used as the Quick Troop, with the very effective addition of the Pipers for the final refrain. The title refers to the Battle of Messines, fought between 7th and 14th June 1917, almost exactly one hundred years before the parade, and the march was written to commemorate the inclusion of the Irish regiments in World War One.



8. **STAR OF ERIN** (E.G. Horabin)

Star of Erin was composed for the Queen's Birthday Parade 1974 and was played again at the parade in 2017.



Major Edmund
Gerald Horabin,
LRAM, ARCM, psm

9. **PROUD HERITAGE** (Bruce Miller)

Another original composition by Major Bruce Miller for the Queen's Birthday Parade 2017, this march was originally intended as the second of the slow marches but The Major General was sufficiently impressed to ask for it as the first, so some adjustments were needed to double its length to avoid a lot of repetition. This was cleverly achieved by incorporating the song *Come Back to Erin*, the original Regimental Slow March of the Irish Guards until changed in 1902.

10. **AT KITTY O'SHEA'S** (Johan de Meij)

A suite of Irish folk songs, this was written by the eminent Dutch composer, Johan de Meij. The legendary bar *Kitty O'Shea's* at the Hilton and Towers Hotel in Chicago has long been the favourite meeting place for the revellers of the annual *Midwest Band & Orchestra Clinic*, regularly attended by the composer who formed many friendships there. This selection was featured by the Band throughout its tour of Northern Ireland in 2016 and always proved very popular. The songs used are as follows:

The Darling Girl from Clare
Deirín De
The Star of the County Down
Siúil a Rún (Walk my Love)
The Kerry Dances
Finale: Jigs & Reels

11. **I'LL TELL ME MA** (arr. S.C. Barnwell)

St. Patrick's Day 2008 was a little unusual as the Regimental Band received a last-minute request for a concert for the 1st Battalion, who were in the process of completing a pre-deployment Exercise at Bodney Camp in Norfolk. After a period of 48 hours out in the field with little or no sleep, the last thing the Guardsmen wanted was being ordered to sit through a band concert and they made no effort to disguise the fact.



Lieutenant Colonel
Stephen Clifford
Barnwell, BBCM, psm

The Band took to the stage with a little trepidation, dressed in Combat 95 and ready to play off cards and lyres. Major Barnwell had planned the evening carefully with much of the concert taking the form of a singalong. He had done his homework, taking advice from the Quartermaster as to the songs popular with the boys, and made the appropriate arrangements including *I'll Tell Me Ma!* which helped contribute to what proved a highly successful but unusual Paddy's Day which, for the Director of Music, was "the most special night of my entire career".

*I'll tell me Ma, when I go home
The boys won't leave the girls alone
They pulled me hair and stole my comb
But that's alright, till I go home*

12. BELIEVE ME, IF ALL THOSE ENDEARING YOUNG CHARMS (arr. Bruce Miller)

A beautiful traditional Irish air, first printed in a London songbook in 1775, the lyrics were added by Thomas Moore in 1808 and published in *A Selection of Irish Melodies*;

*Believe Me, if all those Endearing Young Charms,
Which I Gaze on so Fondly Today,
Were to change by Tomorrow, and Fleet in my Arms,
Like Fairy-gifts, Fading Away!*

This arrangement was played as Her Majesty began the inspection of Her Guards at the Queen's Birthday Parade 2017. The tune is known to pipers as *My Lodging is in the Cold, Cold Ground*.



Lieutenant Colonel
Cecil Harry Jaeger,
OBE, Mus Bac, LRAM,
ARCM, psm

13. BLUE PLUME (C.H. Jaeger)

On the formation of the Irish Guards, the original intention was that the Regiment would wear green plumes but as these were already worn by officers of the Royal Irish Fusiliers in their bearskins, it was decided to adopt the blue of the ribbon of the Order of St. Patrick, which was Ireland's principal order of knighthood. This proved to be an inspired choice as the plumes of 'St. Patrick's Blue' stand out and enhance the uniform as no other could.

N.B. A biography of Colonel Jaeger, written by Colin Dean, is available from: Ron Shooter, 21 The Uplands, Bricket Wood, St. Albans, Herts, AL2 3UW. £20.00 including UK postage – cheques payable to 'IMMS UK Branch'.

14. CARRICKFERGUS (arr. M.J. Henderson)

Carrickfergus is an Irish folk song which takes its title from the town in County Antrim, famous for its impressive Norman castle with a history dating back more than 800 years. This beautiful setting by Major Henderson has additional significance as the title *Baron Carrickfergus*, was conferred on HRH Prince William of Wales, Colonel of the Irish Guards, on his wedding day in 2011. Appropriately, this is one of the tracks conducted by the Bandmaster, who hails from Carrickfergus.

*I wish I was in Carrickfergus
Only for nights in Ballygrand
I would swim over the deepest ocean
Only for nights in Ballygrand*



Major Michael
John Henderson,
psm

15. FOLK SONGS OF ERIN (arr. Bruce Miller)

This is the second of the Inspection tunes from the 2017 Queen's Birthday Parade, with the Massed Bands changing to quick time for this march which combines two songs from the south, *The Kerry Dance* and *Sweet Dublin Bay*.

16. SARAFAND (G.H. Willcocks)

Sarafand is named after a town in Palestine where Bandmaster Willcocks was stationed with the South Wales Borderers in the 1930s. The march took on a certain poignancy in 1947 when the Band of the Irish Guards served there during the troubles and Lance Corporal Ted Jones, a cornet player in the Band, was killed by a sniper.



Major George Henry Willcocks, MVO, MBE, ARCM, psm



Major Philip David Shannon, MBE, BA (Hons), DipMus (Open) LRAM, ARCM, psm

17. ERIN MY HOME (arr. P.D. Shannon)

Erin My Home was specially written by Major Shannon for the march off from the Queen's Birthday Parade 2009 and timed to take the massed bands fully into The Mall. The tunes are: *Lanigan's Ball*, *Rory O'More*, *The Holy Ground*, *The Bog Down in the Valley-O*, *The Hills of Connemara* and *I'll Tell Me Ma*.



18. PADDY'S DAY (C.H. Jaeger)

Every year, operations permitting, 1st Battalion Irish Guards parade on St. Patrick's Day to receive the Royal gift of Shamrock, originally from Queen Alexandra but in recent years, from HRH The Duchess of Cambridge. The day is known in the Regiment as 'Paddy's Day' and in 1960, Colonel Jaeger took the theme of the Regimental Quick March and 'elongated' it (his word) into this full length march.

19. REGIMENTAL CALL: IRISH GUARDS (soloist: WO2 Band Sergeant Major Ralph Brill)

20. COMPANY MARCHES OF 1ST BATTALION IRISH GUARDS

(edited and arranged by James Scott)

By continual usage, certain tunes have become associated with each Company of the 1st Battalion. These are normally played when the relevant Company is marching by itself, for example, marching off parade after being inspected, or during a Battalion march past. They are played by the Band, Drums and Pipes as a medley on special occasions, notably as they lead 1st Battalion Irish Guards onto Horse Guards Parade for the Queen's Birthday Parade.

a. Headquarters Company: *The Star of the County Down*

The lyrics of *The Star of the County Down* were written by Cathal MacGarvey (1866-1927) who lived in Donegal. The title refers to *Rosie McCann from the banks of the Bann* who the singer considers to be the most beautiful girl in Ireland and with whom he soon develops an infatuation.

*From Bantry Bay up to Derry Quay
And from Galway to Dublin town
No maid I've seen like the sweet colleen
That I met in the County Down.*

b. No. 1 Company: *The Holy Ground*

The Holy Ground is a traditional Irish folk song made famous by a number of groups including The Dubliners and The Clancy Brothers. It takes its name from an area of Cobh, County Cork, which was once a major stopping point for ships crossing the Atlantic and the large number of seafarers passing through made it a preserve of ladies of the night.

c. No. 2 Company: *The Boys of Wexford*

This ballad commemorates the Irish Rebellion of 1798 with lyrics composed by Patrick Joseph McCall and music by Arthur Warren Darley; it was first published in 1872 in a book of Ancient Irish music.

*We are the boys of Wexford,
Who fought with heart and hand
To burst in twain the galling chain
And free our native land.*

d. No. 3 (Support) Company: *The Green Glens of Antrim*

The title refers to an area of natural beauty, nine glens (or valleys) that radiate from the Antrim Plateau to the Irish coast from the mountainous heartland of the county. This beautiful song was composed by Kenneth North in 1950 and tells of a traveller who has left Ulster and longs to return to the beautiful scenery of the glens that he left behind.

*Just imagine the picture of Heaven it would be
When the Green Glens of Antrim are calling to me.*

e. No. 4 Company: *South Down Militia*

The 5th (or South Down) was a Militia battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles and one of the few Militia battalions to serve in the South African wars. The song is believed to date from 1867 and the lyrics of the chorus are:

*You may talk about your King's Guards, Scots Greys and a'
You may sing about your Kilties and your gallant Forty Two
Or any other regiment under the King's command
But the South Down Militia is the terror of the land.*

21. REGIMENTAL SLOW MARCH: *LET ERIN REMEMBER*

Let Erin Remember became the Regimental Slow March in December 1902, replacing *Come Back to Erin*, which had been used for the first two years.

*Let Erin Remember the Days of old
Ere her faithless sons betrayed her;
When Malachi wore the collar of gold,
Which he won from her proud invader,
When her kings, with standard of green unfurled,
Led the Red-Branch Knights to danger!
Ere the emerald gem of the western world
Was set in the crown of a stranger*



22. REGIMENTAL QUICK MARCH: *ST. PATRICK'S DAY*

The Irish Guards chose as a quickstep a tune having traditional connections with all Irish regiments, *St. Patrick's Day*. It was played by the Irish pipes at the Battle of Fontenoy in 1745, though it was a popular Irish patriotic song earlier than that.

23. *LAST POST*

24. *ROUSE*

Last Post signals the end of the soldiers' day, normally being sounded at 10pm. The call *First Post* was traditionally sounded to warn soldiers that the Picquet Officer's inspection of the Night Guard had commenced at the first sentry post, while *Last Post* signalled its completion at the final post.

Last Post has come to be particularly associated with funerals and services of remembrance, the significance being that it marks the end of a soldier's life in this world. After a short interval, *Rouse* is normally sounded, signifying the Christian faith in the Resurrection.

The calls are sounded here by WO2 Band Sergeant Major Ralph Brill.

Booklet notes by Colin Dean



Band of the Irish Guards (all tracks)

Director of Music: Major Bruce Miller

BMus (Hons), LLCM (TD), LRSM, ARCM, psm

Bandmaster: Warrant Officer Class One

Andrew William Porter BMus (Hons), FTCL

Corps of Drums of 1st Battalion Irish Guards:

Drum Major John Winston Lennon Smillie (5/20/22)

Drums and Pipes of 1st Battalion Irish Guards:

Pipe Major Robert Fleming RVM (7/20/22)

All tracks conducted by DOM except tracks 2, 3, 8, 14, 17 and 18
which were conducted by the Bandmaster

Venue: The Royal Military Chapel (The Guards' Chapel),

Wellington Barracks, London

by permission of the Senior Chaplain, Reverend SJH Dunwoody CF

Dates: 28/29 September 2017

Producer and Editor: Mike Purton

Recording Engineer: Tony Faulkner

Recorded in 24 bit sound

The Band records by permission of Major General B.J. Bathurst CBE,

The Major General Commanding the Household Division

Photographs and original paintings by Sean Bolan and Trevor Morrison

(provided by courtesy of Colin Dean)

Booklet design: Hannah Whale, www.fruition-creative.co.uk

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and Mike Purton Recording Services. www.mikepurtonrecording.com