

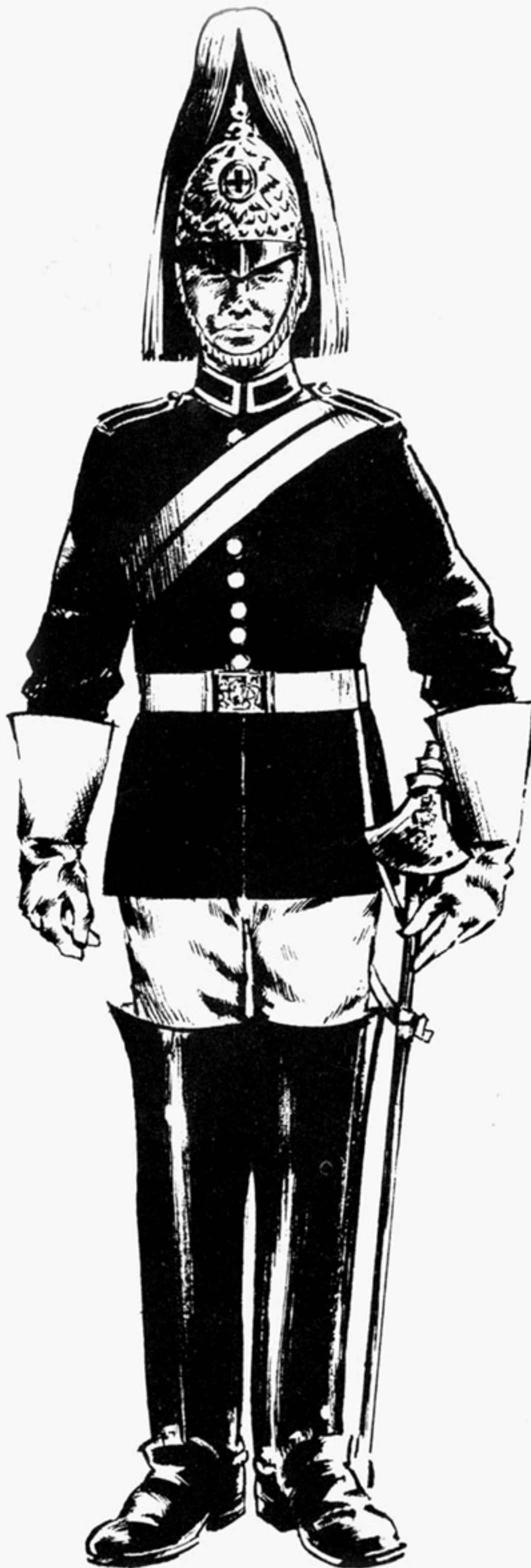
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**FAMOUS
BRITISH
REGIMENTS**



**THE
HOUSEHOLD
CAVALRY**



LIFE GUARD

HORSE GUARD (The blues)

White plume.

Scarlet plume.

The decorative steel helmets are the same for both regiments.

The silky looking plumes on the helmet are made from shredded whalebone.

Scarlet tunic.

Blue tunic.

The cross-belt over the left shoulder, with a red cord through the centre, was once used to suspend a flask of gun-powder.

White buckskin breeches are worn by both regiments.

Mid-thigh pattern boots are blackened and highly polished.

Although the cavalry sword is now only used for ceremonial purposes, it was originally designed specially for fighting on horseback.



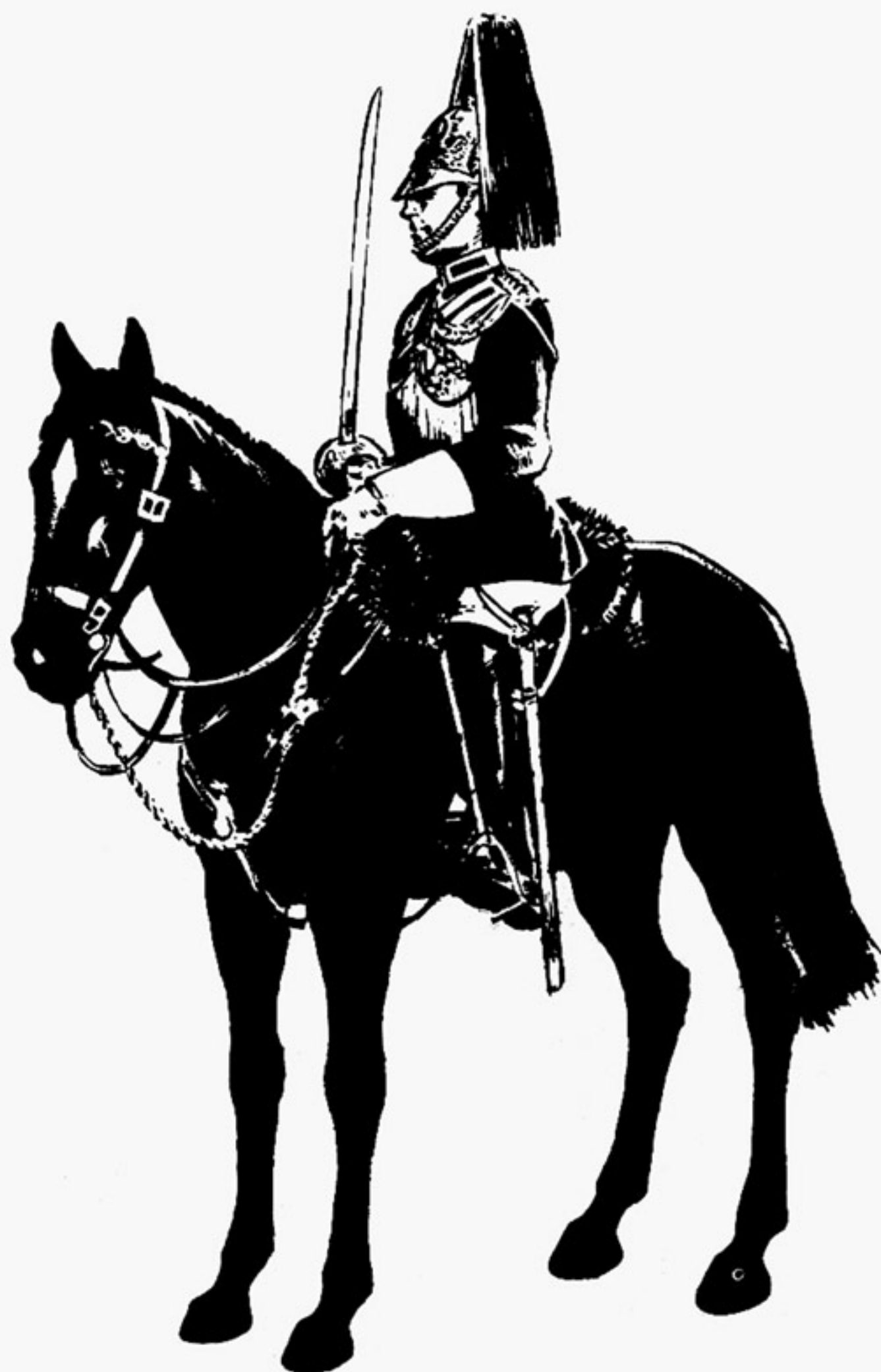
The Household Cavalry is the collective title of the two senior Regiments of the Army, The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals.

The Life Guards were formed in Holland by King Charles II, some weeks prior to his restoration to the throne. They were exclusively commissioned from Royalist noblemen who accompanied the King in France and Holland between 1652 and 1660. The Troops of Horse Guards, as they were then called, were augmented after the Restoration. A Scottish Troop was also formed in 1661. In 1678, Troops of Grenadier Guards were added to Troops of Horse Guards as part of the establishment of the then Household Cavalry. The Horse Grenadier Guards were trained to fight dismounted but throughout their history (they were disbanded in 1788) they fought alongside the troops of Horse Guards as cavalry. In 1788, the Troops of Horse Guards, which had been reduced to two Troops in 1746, were reformed as the First and Second Regiments of Life Guards. These two Regiments were amalgamated in 1922 and from 1927 have had the official title of The Life Guards.

The Blues and Royals were formed by an amalgamation of the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) and The Royal Dragoons (1st Dragoons) in March, 1969.

The Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) were originally a Parliamentary cavalry Regiment, raised in the North East in August 1650, and in 1660 took sides with that part of the Parliamentary forces supporting the King's return. When King Charles II appointed Royalist officers to replace Roundheads in July 1660 the Regiment was given the title of Royal Regiment. It was one of the last old regiments to be disbanded in December 1660 but within one month was re-raised as the Royal Regiment of Horse, commanded by the 20th and last Earl of Oxford from the ancient family of de Vere. The Regiment acquired the nickname "The Blues" on account of the dark blue coats they have always worn. In the early days of the regular army they were the only regiment to wear this colour of coat. The Blues became Household Cavalry in the last two decades of the reign of King George III, who frequently wore the uniform of the Regiment and appointed himself a Captaincy of a Troop.

It is said that the uniform worn by male members of the Royal Family when the court is at Windsor, called Windsor Uniform, owes its origin to this predilection of George III for the uniform of The Blues.



A squadron of the regiment is horsed for guard and ceremonial duties.

The Royal Dragoons trace their origin to a Troop of Horse raised by proclamation of Charles II, and were formed in the Borough of Southwark in October 1661, as part of the garrison at Tangier. From 1662 to 1682 they were known as The Tangier Horse and increased in strength to four Troops. In 1683, on their return to England, they became officially known as "Our Owne Royall Regiment of Dragoons". The term "Dragoon" was derived from "Dragon" or 16th century musket suitable for mounted infantry. During 1862 The Royal Dragoons were confirmed as Heavy Cavalry, although in 1889 the distinction between light and heavy cavalry was abolished. 1940 saw The Royal Dragoons reviving their original reconnaissance role as Dragoons by becoming an Armoured Car Regiment. In 1962 The Royals converted to Centurion Tanks to become an Armoured Regiment. In 1961, having attained their Tercentenary, the Privilege of the City of London was granted to them – this honour now having passed to the new Regiment, The Blues and Royals.

The Life Guards are currently serving at Windsor as an Armoured Car Regiment and The Blues and Royals are serving as an Armoured Regiment, with the latest Chieftain Tank, in B.A.O.R.

In addition to their operational roles, both Regiments also provide a detachment, of squadron strength, which together comprise the Household Cavalry Regiment (Mounted) stationed in London. This Regiment provides the mounted and dismounted men who carry out the old traditional ceremonial duties of the Household Cavalry – The Queen's Life Guard (at Horse Guards, Whitehall), the Sovereign's Escorts to Her Majesty The Queen whenever she travels by carriage; and the dismounted detachment lining the processional route in the Lower Ward at the annual Garter Ceremony at Windsor Castle.

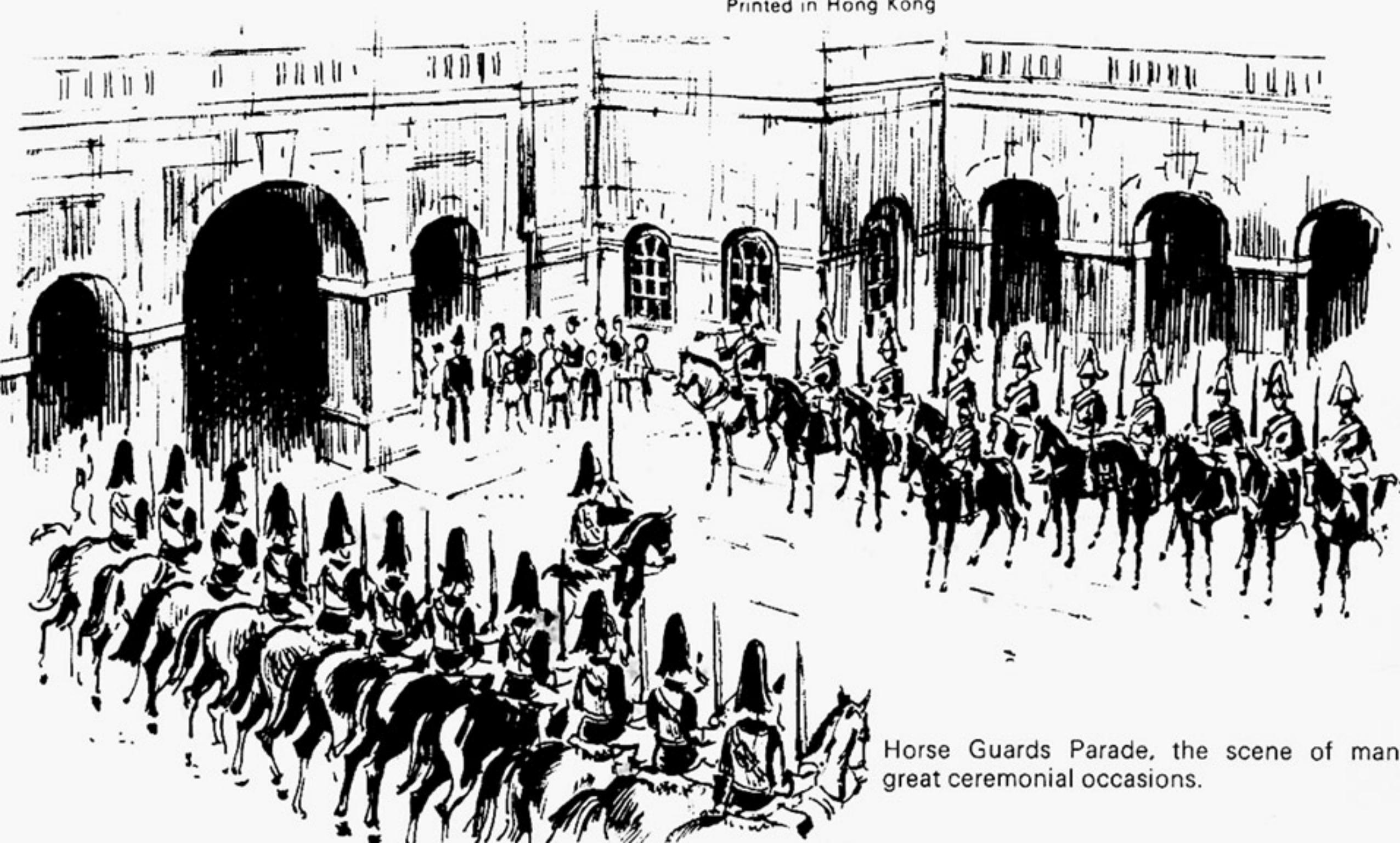
The Household Cavalry has a very long connection with Windsor, which extends over three centuries, and in 1965, both Regiments of the Household Cavalry were given the Freedom of the Royal Borough, "in recognition of the long and close association between the Royal Borough and the Regiments", and of the Regiments' distinguished achievements in the cause of the Nation and the Commonwealth".



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Horse Guards Parade, the scene of many great ceremonial occasions.