

CEREMONY OF BEATING RETREAT

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ORIGIN OF THE CEREMONY

THE ORIGIN of this ceremony is very obscure, but it is doubtless one of the earliest to be instituted in the Army. It is mentioned under the title of "Watch Setting" in the "Rules and Ordynaunces for the Warre" dated 1554.

Originally the call was beaten by drums alone. At a later date fifes and then bugles were introduced. The present ceremony, which frequently includes a band, is a comparatively modern innovation.

In times gone by darkness put an end to the fighting for the day, and so the object of the call was to collect the necessary guards for the camp for the night. In addition it was a warning to all those still outside to retire to the protection of the camp.

There is some confusion between "Retreat" and "Tattoo," as the French used the word "Retraite" to indicate a similar call to our "Tattoo," but it is fairly certain that "Retreat" is quite separate from "Tattoo" and was always meant to be beaten at sunset.

In the General Orders of the Duke of Cumberland a distinction is made between the two ceremonies; "The Retreat is to beat at Sunset," whereas "Tattoo [is] to beat at ten [nine or eight] o'clock at night."

In 1799 General Regulations and Orders for the Conduct of H.M. Armed Forces in Britain laid down that "Retreat shall be beaten at Sunset," and this is repeated in all editions of King's/Queen's Regulations down to the present day.

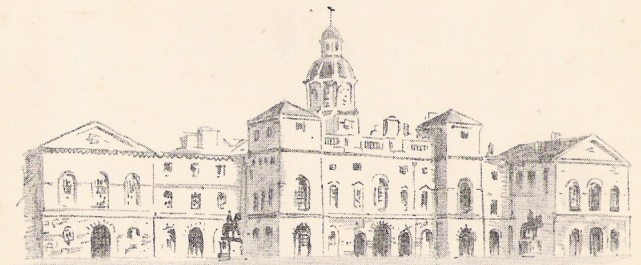
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Ceremony of BEATING RETREAT

HORSE GUARDS PARADE
LONDON

FRIDAY, JUNE 6th and
SATURDAY, JUNE 7th, 1952
at 7.30 p.m.



*The Horseguards Parade
Whitehall.*

PRICE SIXPENCE

PROGRAMME

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|--|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1 MARCH ON by the Massed Bands | "Old Comrades" | 10 QUICK MARCH by the Pipes and Drums | "The Inverness Gathering" |
| 2 MARCH ON by the Massed Drums | "Sons of the Brave" | 11 STRATHSPEY by the Pipes and Drums | "Lord Blantyre" |
| 3 MARCH ON of the Points | | 12 REEL by the Pipes and Drums | "Sandy Duff" |
| Regimental Quick March of the Royal Horse Guards | | 13 QUICK MARCH by the Pipes and Drums | "Blue Bonnets" |
| 4 FANFARE OF TRUMPETS | | 14 MARCH OFF of the Points | |
| by the State Trumpeters of the Household Cavalry | | Regimental Slow March of the Royal Horse Guards | |
| 5 RETREAT | Sounded by the Massed Bugles | 15 QUICK MARCH by the Massed Bands | "Coronation Bells" |
| 6 RETREAT MARCH by the Massed Drums | "The Ash Grove" | 16 STATIC PIECE by the Massed Bands | Handel's "Largo" |
| 7 SLOW MARCH by the Massed Bands | "Greensleeves" | 17 MARCH OFF by the Massed Bands | "Soldiers of the Queen" |
| | "Skye Boat Song" | 18 MARCH OFF by the Pipes and Drums | "Haughs O' Cromdale" |
| 8 QUICK MARCH by the Massed Bands | "Manhattan Beach" | | |
| 9 STATIC PIECE by the Massed Bands | "Petite Valse" | | |

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(Senior Director of Music, Brigade of Guards)

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