

UNIQUELY BRITISH

*A year in the life of the Household Cavalry
from the Royal Wedding to the Diamond Jubilee*

*This book is dedicated to all those Household Cavalrymen who have lost
their lives or been injured whilst serving their country.*



UNIQUELY BRITISH

*A year in the life of the Household Cavalry
from the Royal Wedding to the Diamond Jubilee*

Foreword by
Her Majesty The Queen

Edited by Lieutenant Colonel Dan Hughes

Written by The Officers of the Household Cavalry & Christopher Joll



UNIQUELY BRITISH
*A year in the life of the Household Cavalry
from the Royal Wedding to the Diamond Jubilee*

Design © 131 Design Ltd
www.131design.org
Published by Tricorn Books
www.tricornbooks.co.uk

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in any retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright holder for which application should be addressed in the first instance to the publishers. No liability shall be attached to the authors, the copyright holder or the publishers for loss or damage of any nature suffered as a result of the reliance on the reproduction of any of the contents of this publication or any errors or omissions in the contents.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from
The British Library.

Edited by Lieutenant Colonel Dan Hughes.
Sub-editor: Captain Thomas Davie.

Written by The Officers of the Household Cavalry & Christopher Joll.
Design & layout: Dan Bernard & Gail Baird, Tricorn Books.

Photographs © Julian Calder, Dan Bernard,
Jasper Dalgliesh, Chris Allerton, Anya Campbell, Sergeant Jason Nilsson,
Mitzi de Margary, Gail Baird, Captain Simon Lukas, Lance Corporal of Horse Dan Short,
Tom Craig, Bob Martin, Tom Lovelock, Nico Morgan, Heathcliff O'Malley.

With images by kind permission of MOD-Crown©
©www.royalimages.com Julian Calder
Project Officers: Captain Martin Dansey and Captain Simon Lukas.
Text © HCMR

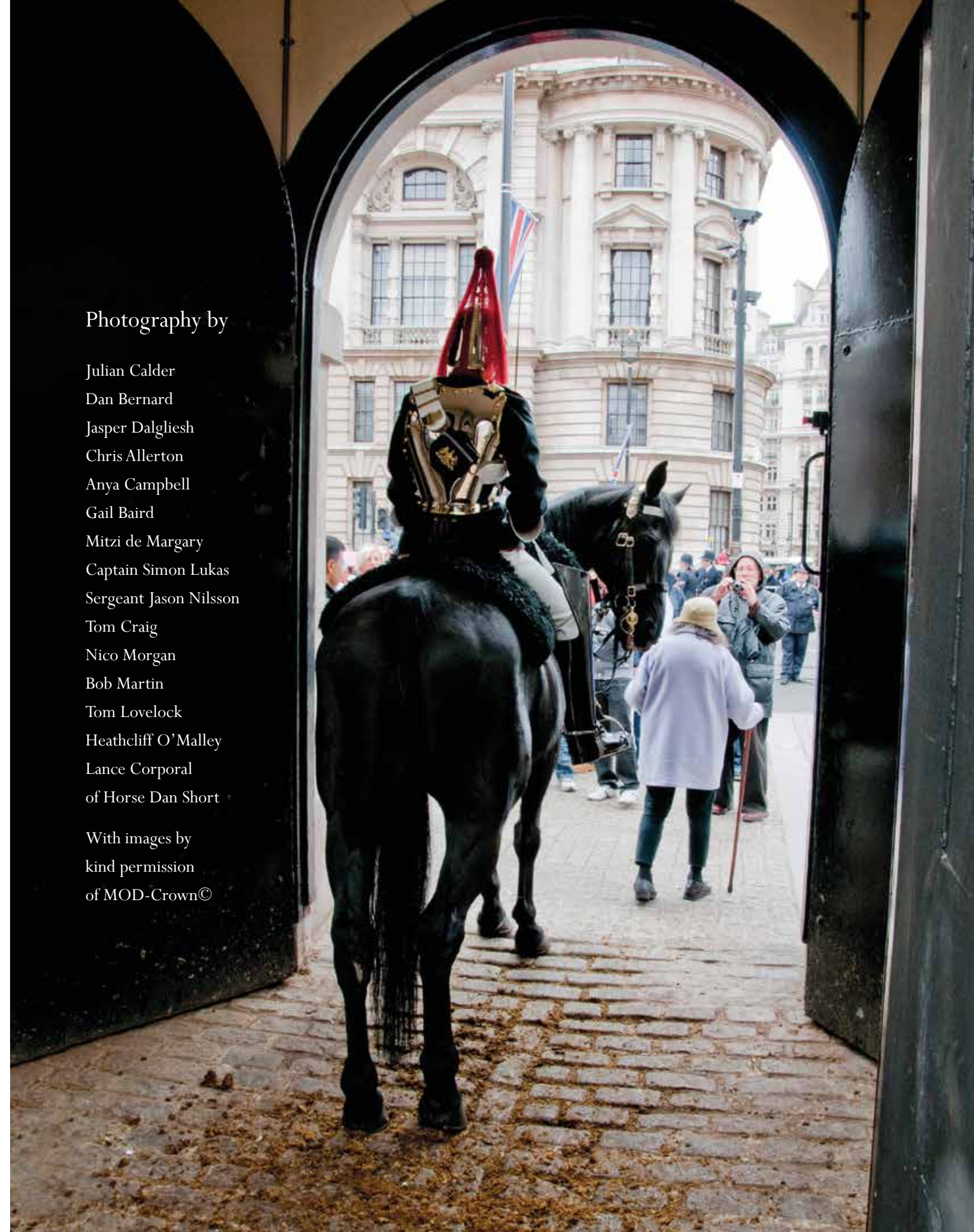
ISBN 978-0-9571074-0-3
Published 2012 by Tricorn Books,
a trading name of 131 Design Ltd.
131 High Street, Old Portsmouth, PO1 2HW

Printed & bound by W&G Baird Ltd in the UK

Photography by

Julian Calder
Dan Bernard
Jasper Dalgliesh
Chris Allerton
Anya Campbell
Gail Baird
Mitzi de Margary
Captain Simon Lukas
Sergeant Jason Nilsson
Tom Craig
Nico Morgan
Bob Martin
Tom Lovelock
Heathcliff O'Malley
Lance Corporal
of Horse Dan Short

With images by
kind permission
of MOD-Crown©





Every Household Cavalryman is first and foremost an operational soldier: proudly wearing the operational service medals from Former Yugoslavia, Northern Ireland, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Contents

Foreword by Her Majesty The Queen	ix
Introduction	xi
Foundation Message	xii
Sponsor’s Message	xiii
Chapter 1	
<i>The Royal Wedding</i>	1
Chapter 2	
<i>Learning the Ropes</i>	29
Chapter 3	
<i>History & Heritage</i>	47
Chapter 4	
<i>Earning The Queen’s Shilling</i>	59
Chapter 5	
<i>Pomp & Circumstance</i>	75
Chapter 6	
<i>Trooping the Colour</i>	103
Chapter 7	
<i>On the Front Line</i>	117
Chapter 8	
<i>Regimental Training</i>	135
Chapter 9	
<i>Standards of Excellence</i>	149
Chapter 10	
<i>Off Duty</i>	161
Chapter 11	
<i>The Mounted Bands</i>	177
Chapter 12	
<i>For our Colonel-in-Chief</i>	193
In Conclusion	203



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

As Colonel-in-Chief of the two distinguished Regiments that make up the Household Cavalry, The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals, I have been able to observe over many years the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment carrying out State Ceremonial and Public Duties to the highest of standards, a role that reflects upon the distinctive characteristics and heritage of the United Kingdom. This volume celebrates that tradition of excellence, built up during 350 years of loyal service to the Crown, and which forms a unique part of this Country's military tradition. This heritage reflects the values, standards and actions of the Regiments on active service and is continued today by the Household Cavalry Regiment on current operations, for which they prepare to deploy to Afghanistan in 2013.

The individual and collective skills of man and horse, which the book portrays, will be seen extensively during this, my Diamond Jubilee year, but we should also remember that vital operational role of the Household Cavalry during times of conflict. I am therefore pleased to acknowledge this tribute to its former and current soldiers, and especially to those who have died or been wounded in the service of our Nation. That is why the cause which the book supports is a noble one, and has my full support.

Elizabeth R

June, 2012.



INTRODUCTION

HRH The Princess Royal KG KT GCVO
Colonel The Blues and Royals



General the Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank GCB LVO OBE DL
Colonel The Life Guards

The public's perception of the role of the Household Cavalry is largely driven by the frequent sight on London's streets of soldiers on black horses in full ceremonial dress with helmets, swords and cuirasses glinting in the sun. Whilst it is true that, traditionally, the first duty of the Regiments of the Household Cavalry was to provide close protection to our Sovereign and Colonel-in-Chief, expressed today through the delivery of matchless mounted and dismounted ceremonial duties, it should not be forgotten that the Household Cavalry has always been required to perform on the front line in the defence of our country. Consequently we have been engaged in every major war, and most of the minor ones, over the 350 years since our formation around the time of the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660.

Warfare is rarely glamorous, so it is difficult to illustrate in a book of this type the commitment and sacrifice that has been and continues to be made by the officers and soldiers of the Household Cavalry in the defence of this country. We hope that in the pages that follow, and in particular through the interviews with our soldiers, you the reader will fully appreciate the dual role of the Household Cavalry in both the ceremonial and operational arenas. The imbalance in the photography between these two roles should not be allowed to hide the fact that every Household Cavalryman is a fighting soldier first – and the troops participating in ceremonial parades are fully trained, operational troops who may only recently have been in armoured vehicles in the harsh terrain of Afghanistan.

The proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to fund the launch of the Household Cavalry Foundation, a new charity that will bring together all our welfare activities, whether in support of serving soldiers, operational casualties, veterans or even our horses. We thank you for your support of this cause and hope you enjoy this new book about our unique organisation.

Colonel
The Life Guards

Colonel
The Blues and Royals



“Supporting our soldiers, casualties, veterans, horses and heritage”

The Household Cavalry Foundation has been set up to care for the soldiers, families, horses and heritage of Britain’s Senior Regiment. It will allow a much needed evolution in the way we support serving and retired members of the Household Cavalry and their dependants. Whether caring for soldiers injured on operations, or providing relief to veterans and their families, the Household Cavalry Foundation will provide an umbrella of support to the Regimental family. The Foundation has five charitable aims:

- **Soldier Welfare:** Provide support to, and promote the efficiency of, serving members of the Household Cavalry. Whether to relieve hardship or distress, assist those injured on training or in peacetime, or to encourage sport, adventure training or charitable endeavour, the Foundation will care for all 900 soldiers of the Household Cavalry serving at home or abroad.
- **Casualty Welfare:** Provide financial support to injured soldiers and their families, including those who have lost their lives on active service.
- **Veterans Welfare:** Relieve past members of the Household Cavalry and their dependants who are in need, hardship or distress, or those who have become seriously ill, or have broader welfare needs.
- **Horse Welfare:** Provide financial and other support to organisations and individuals involved in the welfare of our horses.
- **Heritage and Tradition:** Maintain the fabric of the Household Cavalry by preserving our heritage and ethos, museums and archives, and regimental property.

www.hcavfoundation.org



The Household Cavalry has captured the imagination of the public for longer than any of us can remember. Those of us who see them in action are acutely aware that they are watching something which is both remarkable and unique. I have long been an admirer of all that the Household Cavalry and the Household Division stands for, whether it is the highest standards of excellence and steadiness they display on parade, or the courage and professionalism with which they fight in today’s complex operations.



I hope that you will enjoy this rare look behind the scenes of the Household Cavalry. It is a timely and ground-breaking book, and one that not only celebrates a unique period in British ceremonial history, but also provides a unique view of the pageantry and heritage for which Great Britain is so famous.

The Household Cavalry Foundation is a new flagship charity to provide care and support to all parts of the Household Cavalry family, whether it is serving soldiers, veterans, casualties or retired horses. It is therefore fitting that a proud global brand, JW Marriott, should be supporting the Household Cavalry Foundation in achieving its charitable aims.

I hope you enjoy this exclusive account of life in the Household Cavalry, and that it helps convey to you the matchless military and ceremonial inheritance that is Uniquely British.

J.W. Marriott Jnr.

UNIQUELY BRITISH

*A year in the life of the Household Cavalry
from the Royal Wedding to the Diamond Jubilee*





CHAPTER 1

The Royal Wedding

Friday 29th April 2011 could have been just another Friday in London; tourists jostling for position outside Buckingham Palace, busy Londoners making their way to work, and the soldiers and horses of the Household Cavalry preparing for another day.

But this Friday was different. His Royal Highness Prince William of Wales, one of our fellow officers and second-in-line to the throne, would be marrying Miss Catherine Middleton in Westminster Abbey. Over one million people were expected to be lining the processional route, with the ceremony and festivities being covered by 8,500 journalists and broadcast to one of the largest-ever global TV audiences.

Playing a leading role in this historic event were over 200 horses and soldiers of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment. Our main role was to escort the bride and groom, Her Majesty The Queen and other members of the Royal Family from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace after the ceremony.

Although the wedding was not a full state occasion, it featured many traditional ceremonial aspects, including the use of the state carriages of the Royal Mews, the Household Cavalry and Foot Guards. As Prince William was not the heir apparent to the throne, many details were left to the couple to

decide, including a specific request for four friends within the Regiment to command their personal escort during the procession.

Despite the high profile nature of the event, this was not the first Royal Wedding we have been involved in during our long history: the marriage of King Charles II to Catherine of Braganza in 1662 takes that award. As Samuel Pepys reported in his diary:



The Troops of Horse were drawn up in Hyde Park, a very noble sight in all capacities. Most of that great body had formerly been at war, and so were more than fit to be guard and escort to the couple most excellent.

members of the Household Cavalry were deployed on the frontline in Helmand Province in Afghanistan. The fact that it was D Squadron, Prince William's former squadron, made it all the more poignant.

Although it was not our first Royal Wedding, it was one of the biggest. None of us had actually taken part in a parade of this size before, although some of the old boys remembered the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales 30 years previously. All we knew was that it was big – and when we left the barracks we realised just how big as we heard a thundering swell of noise coming from the centre of Hyde Park, where huge crowds had gathered to watch live footage of the wedding ceremony which was already under way in the Abbey. We hadn't gone more than 200 metres before the crowds were 10 deep on each side of the road and still a kilometre from the main parade route.

However, whilst the public expects to see the style, elegance and precision that are the hallmarks of British pageantry, we had made no such assumptions. From the Commanding Officer to the most junior trooper, there was a sense of trepidation as we departed the barracks to take up our positions outside the Abbey.

Not all had gone according to plan during rehearsals. The horses had refused to settle, especially when confronted with flag-waving soldiers in Hyde Park. With huge crowds expected on the big day we became more and more concerned!

In the end, the painstaking time we spent in preparation – from cleaning and checking the kit to early morning rehearsals – meant that for



Above: 'Everybody scatter!' The horses take matters into their own hands. Part of the challenge of the Royal Wedding was the effect on the horses of the huge crowds and noise. As we undergo crowd training in Hyde Park, members of the band try replicating the noise of one million spectators! There were mixed reactions but the horses became more tolerant after much practising. **Previous page:** The newly-wed Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are escorted home by the Officer Commanding the Captain's Escort.

the most part everything went smoothly on the day. Our abiding memories are the wall of noise from the cheering crowds and military bands on the Mall as we approached Buckingham Palace, and the enormous sense of relief as we entered Hyde Park Barracks after a successful parade: definitely one to tell the grandchildren about.

