

# HER MAJESTY'S GUARDS



**O**ne of the two crack regiments which make up the Household Cavalry, the Life Guards were added to the strength of the Regular Army in 1661. They were formed originally from Cavaliers who went into exile with Charles Stuart, later Charles II, and returned with him. The principal task of the regiment has been the escorting and the guarding of the Sovereign and the Royal Family. In photo Lieutenant William Richard Edgedale, in Mounted Review Order, wears a white-plumed silver helmet, red tunic, armorplate, ornamental loops of braided gold lace, scrolled belt, State sword, white buckskin pantaloons, jackboots and long, white buckskin gloves. Only part of equipment needed, uniform would cost about \$2,800 now.



**T**he oldest permanent force still existing, the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard, was formed by Henry VII as a personal protection. The uniform has changed little since Tudor times. It resembles uniform of Yeoman Warder of the Tower of London except that Bodyguard wears belt from left shoulder. Belt once supported a gun. Other armament: sharp-tipped staff and sword. As a senior n.c.o., Sergeant-Major Dobson (r.) has stick instead of a staff. Every guard must have served at least 21 years in the Regular Army, Royal Marines or RAF, have Long Service and Good Conduct Medals and have seen active service. Captain, a political appointment, is always a Peer; Churchill chose the Earl of Onslow.



**A**s part of the Parliamentary Army, the Blues were destined to be disbanded, but the order was never carried out; in 1661 they became part of the Standing Army. Among traditions still maintained is the unusual naming of n.c.o.'s. A Corporal of Horse is equivalent to the rank of sergeant, Squadron Quarter Master Corporal to a staff sergeant, Squadron Corporal Major to C.S.M. and Regimental Corporal Major to R.S.M. Maj. John Knevet Duxford (r.) wears a red yak-hair plume on his helmet. A box, worn at the back and attached by gold lace belt, was once used for holding the key to the Royal carriage. During State processions the Sovereign was locked in the carriage and the key held in safe custody by the escort.