

The United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple
and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta
in England and Wales and Provinces Overseas

Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master
HAROLD DEVEREUX STILL, G.C.T.

Very High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal
Rt. Hon. THE LORD SWANSEA, D.L., G.C.T.



Provincial Priory of Warwickshire

Provincial Prior

R.E.Kt. JOHN EDWARD MARSTON, J.P., K.C.T.

Provincial Sub-Prior

E.Kt. Dr. NORMAN ALFRED BAMFORD, P.Gt.A.-de-C.

Eminent Preceptor

E.Kt. WILLIAM JOSEPH WHITTALL, P.Gt.A.-de-C.

Consecration Dinner
of

Prætorian Preceptory No. 565

WARWICKSHIRE MASONIC TEMPLE
STIRLING ROAD, EDGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM

THURSDAY, 13th DECEMBER, 1990

Consecrating Officers

R.E.Kt. J. E. MARSTON, *J.P.*, **K.C.T.**
Provincial Prior

E.Kt. Dr. N. A. BAMFORD, **P.Gt.A.-de-C.**
Provincial Sub-Prior

Bro.Kt. Rev. F. A. CARROLL Prov. Prelate
E.Kt. E. E. HYNETT Prov. 1st Constable
E.Kt. A. E. STOCKTON Prov. 2nd Constable
R.E.Kt. A. W. M. BALES, **K.C.T.**, P.Prov.Prior as Prov. Vice-Chancellor
E.Kt. P. B. HODGKINSON, **P.Gt.Her.**, Prov.Mar. (Worcs.) as Prov. Marshal
E.Kt. J. L. LEWIS, *O.B.E.*, **Gt.Her.**, Prov.Dep.Mar. (Worcs.) as Prov. Dep.Mar.
E.Kt. P. H. R. TURNBULL, P.Prov.2nd.Cm. as Prov. Herald
E.Kt. B. B. WILLS Prov. Standard Bearer (B.)
E.Kt. D. G. PAGET Prov. Standard Bearer (V.B.)
E.Kt. H. N. RAYNER Prov. Banner Bearer
E.Kt. W. E. GIBBONS, P.Prov.Chan. as Prov. Sword Bearer
E.Kt. G. G. de la MARTELL, P.Prov.A.-de-C. (Worcs.) Prov. Captain of the Guard

Arch of Steel under the direction of

E.Kt. R. G. H. GODDARD, **G.M.B.G.**, P.Prov.Her.(Worcs.),
Commander of the Provincial Prior of Worcestershire's Bodyguard

Bro.Kt. E. J. BATE, *M.B.E.*; Bro.Kt. A. K. WYER; Bro.Kt. B. SHERMAN;
Bro.Kt. J. M. GREENFIELD; Bro.Kt. K. D. DUNHAM; Bro.Kt. K. A. HAWKARD;
Bro.Kt. M. J. A. HARRIS; Bro.Kt. D. PATERSON; Bro.Kt. R. K. BRIGGS;
Bro.Kt. D. BISHOP

Menu

Melon

Goujons of Sole
Tartare Sauce

Roast Loin of Pork
Seasoning and Apple Sauce
Roast Potatoes
Roast Parsnips
Brussels Sprouts

Fresh Fruit Salad
with Cream

Stilton and Cheddar Cheeses
Celery

Coffee and Mints

Muscadet, Claret, Port

Toasts

1. The Queen.

Proposed by E.Kt. W. J. Whittall, **P.Gt.A.-de-C.**, Eminent Preceptor.

2. The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Harold Devenax
Still, Knight Grand Cross of the United Orders.

Proposed by E.Kt. W. J. Whittall, **P.Gt.A.-de-C.**, Eminent Preceptor.

3. The Very High and Right Eminent Great Senechal, Rt.Hon. The
Lord Swansea, *D.L.*, Knight Grand Cross of the United Orders,
and the rest of the Officers of Great Priory, Present and Past.

Proposed by E.Kt. W. J. Whittall, **P.Gt.A.-de-C.**, Eminent Preceptor.

4. The Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. John Edward Marston, *J.P.*, Knight
Commander of the United Orders.

Proposed by E.Kt. W. J. Whittall, **P.Gt.A.-de-C.**, Eminent Preceptor.

Response by the Provincial Prior.

5. The Provincial Sub-Prior, E.Kt. Dr. Norman Alfred Bamford,
P.Gt.A.-de-C., and the Officers, Present and Past, of the
Provincial Priory of Warwickshire.

Proposed by E.Kt. W. J. Whittall, **P.Gt.A.-de-C.**, Eminent Preceptor.

Response by the Provincial Sub-Prior.

6. Praetorian Preceptory No. 565.

Proposed by E.Kt. Dr. N. A. Bamford, **P.Gt.A.-de-C.**, Prov. Sub-Prior.

Response by the Eminent Preceptor.

7. The Visitors.

Proposed by E.Kt. D. C. Hooker, **P.Dep.Gt.Swd.B.**, Prov. Vice-Chan.

Response by E.Kt. R. G. H. Goddard, **G.M.B.G.**, P.Prov.Her.(Worcs.)

Practarian Preceptory No. 565

Founders and First Officers

E.Kt. W. J. WHITTALL, P.Gt.A.-de-C. , P.Prov.Chan., Prov.Mar.	Preceptor
E.Kt. W. K. WOODTHORPE, P.Gt.A.-de-C. , Prov.Reg.	I.P.E.P.
E.Kt. G. C. HOOKER, P.Prov.Her.	Chaplain
E.Kt. D. C. HOOKER, P.Dep.Gt.Swd.B. , Prov.Vice-Chan., P.Prov.Chan.(Worcs.)	First Constable
E.Kt. W. H. MEADOWS, P.Prov.2nd.Con.	Second Constable
E.Kt. R. ROOKE, G.M.B.G. , P.Prov.Capt.Gds., P.Prov.St.B.(V.B.)(Worcs.)	Treasurer
Bro.Kt. W. J. ROGERS, D.S.C., D.S.M.	Registrar
E.Kt. A. E. YORKE-BROOKS, G.M.B.G. , Prov.Dep.Mar.	Marshal
E.Kt. R. E. ALBUTT	Deputy Marshal
E.Kt. F. T. NOCK, P.Prov.Her., P.Prov.Reg.(Glocs. & Hereford)	Almoner
E.Kt. D. R. BOSTON, P.Prov.1st.Con.	First Herald
E.Kt. G. P. JAMES, P.Prov.Swd.B.	Second Herald
E.Kt. C. W. HADLEY, P.Prov.St.B.(B.)	Standard B.(B.)
E.Kt. A. C. BATE	Standard Bearer(V.B.)
Bro.Kt. R. V. WALLIS, J.P.	Captain of Guards
E.Kt. J. L. WHITTAKER, P.Prov.St.B.(B.)	Organist
Bro.Kt. M. J. COTTON	Steward
Bro.Kt. H. A. SATTERTWAITE, D.F.C.	Steward
Bro.Kt. W. W. BLACKBURN	Steward
Bro.Kt. P. WARING	Steward
Bro.Kt. L. HAWKER, M.C.	Steward
Bro.Kt. R. L. WALLINGTON	Steward
Bro.Kt. A. M. McDOWALL	Steward

E.Kt. D. W. HILL, P.Prov.St.B.(V.B.)
E.Kt. F. M. A. WHITTALL, J.P., P.Prov.2nd.Con.
Bro.Kt. J. C. VINER
Bro.Kt. J. E. BEASLEY, P.Prov.A.-de-C.
Bro.Kt. K. H. GOODFELLOW
Bro.Kt. W. FORSTER JONES, J.P., Prov.A.-de-C.
Bro.Kt. F. B. CAPES

Honorary Members

R.E.Kt. J. E. MARSTON, J.P., K.C.T., Provincial Prior
E.Kt. Dr. N. A. BAMFORD, P.Gt.A.-de-C. , Provincial Sub-Prior
E.Kt. P. B. HODGKINSON, P.Gt.Her. , Prov.Mar.(Worcs.)
E.Kt. R. G. H. GODDARD, G.M.B.G. , P.Prov.Her.(Worcs.)

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THE PRAETORIAN GUARD

Origin

The Latin word *praetor* means 'he who goes before', hence a leader. Formerly a military title as far back as the fifth century BC, it came to be the designation of one of the most important magistracies in the Roman system of republican government. The term *Cohors Praetoria*, literally 'troops of the leader', existed by the beginning of the second century BC and designated firstly those officers on the staff of the commander and then, as these expanded in number, the general's bodyguards - for example, the personal staff of Scipio Aemilianus in the middle of that century amounted to some 500 men.

Foundation

It was in 27 BC that the first emperor, Augustus, created a permanent corps of these cohorts, stationing them around Rome and placing them under his direct personal command. There were at first nine such cohorts, each originally of 500 but later of 1000 men, three in Rome itself and the other six in adjacent towns. They served a double function: as the imperial bodyguard, and with one cohort dressed in civilian clothes and acting as the Emperor's orderlies at his palace on the Palatine. In time of need they could also serve as an additional police force for the city.

History

In 2 BC Augustus relinquished direct personal control, appointing two prefects (of Equestrian rather than Senatorial rank) to command the Praetorians; but this dual control did not last for long. On the accession of Tiberius in 14 AD Sejanus became joint Prefect with his father, but two or three years later took sole command. An ambitious man and with aspirations of succeeding the emperor, he fostered personal loyalty among the Guard and in 23 AD succeeded in concentrating all nine cohorts in one large rectangular barracks covering 39 acres near the Porta Viminalis; three of its walls can still be seen. Although subsequently executed for treason, Sejanus can be credited with enhancing the prestige of the Guard - its members were paid at three times the rate of the normal legionary soldier as well as receiving frequent bonuses (*donativa*) of up to five times their pay on the accession of a new emperor - and in launching the status of the Praetorian Prefect on the road to becoming the emperor's second in command with a wide variety of civil and military functions. Indeed, the Guard and its Prefect became notorious in their role of making and unmaking emperors.

The first such instance was in 41 AD when they were directly responsible for the accession of Claudius. They played a prominent part in 69, the Year of the Four Emperors, and were responsible for the lynching of Domitian's murderers in 97. But their worst excesses occurred in 193. Having murdered the competent imperial incumbent Pertinax after a reign of only three months, they then installed the totally ineffectual Julianus in his place solely on the grounds that he agreed to pay them a larger bounty than his rival. He survived little more than two months, however, before being executed by the same Guard on the orders of the Senate. At this juncture Septimius Severus took Rome in a bloodless coup and promptly instituted a thorough reform. Previously the Praetorians had been recruited from Italy and the older Roman provinces. Severus now disbanded the old Guard and replaced it by a new one drawn at first from the Illyrian legions and then from all those serving on the frontier. This had the initial effect of breaking the 'favouritism' and 'connection' by which the Guard had come to operate, but it did lead to conflict between these new 'foreigners' and the Roman citizenry. And in time even this new Guard came to indulge in the excesses of its predecessor.

Demise

After Diocletian's reorganisation of the empire in 293 and the imperial rivalry to which it led, Constantine determined to put a stop once and for all to any source of potential threat. Accordingly, in 312 and after a chequered career of nearly three and a half centuries, the Praetorian Guard was disbanded for good.

2 November 1990

Richard E. M. Dodard
E.M. Boddyford, P. Pr. Her.