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Ten Cents

Queens Guard team drills with precision

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Spreading the University's name across the world, the Queens Guard has garnered a long list of awards for its precision drills since its inception 25 years ago.

At the prestigious Royal Tournament in London this summer, the Queens Guard performed before thousands of spectators, including the Royal Family, and millions of people watching the British Broadcasting Corp. television broadcast.

Armed with 13-pound 1903 A3 Springfield rifles, the team performed a nine minute silent drill that included more than 1,300 steps and maneuvers, according to John A. Young, the former executive commander.

As the Guard flanked the red carpet receiving line, Queen Elizabeth of England expressed her amazement that the group was composed entirely of college students, Young said.

In England, the regimentation of drill teams is executed by individuals who dedicate their lives to the profes-

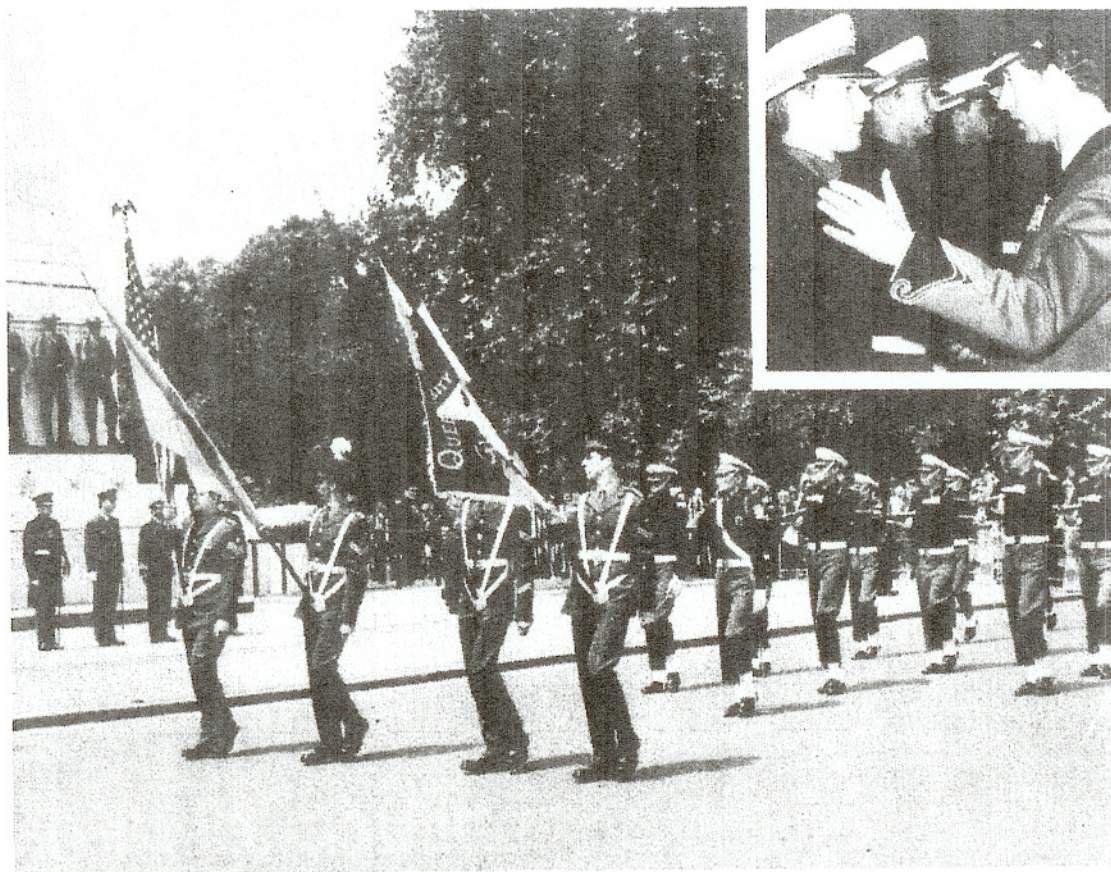
sion, Young noted.

The Guard's famous "suicide" maneuver consists of three straight lines, two facing forward and the other facing backward. Then, while twirling their rifles fixed with 16-inch bayonets, the center line marches through the outer parallel lines in the precision maneuver.

In the "silent drill," 1,300 maneuvers are executed in silence, broken only by the clicking of rifles touching the ground. Each guardsman's routine is unique, and the individual must keep track of his routine by counting each step.

Although their uniforms are military in appearance, the Guard has no military connections and is named after Queen's College, the original name for Rutgers University, Young said.

The Guard has a much stronger recognition outside of the University community, but does perform on each college campus. Tentative plans have been made to perform before University crowds during half-time
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The Queens Guard Trick Drill Team parades past Major-General Langley, commander of the London Armed Forces this summer during a parade around London's West End. (Inset) Guard member Joseph Carlani chats with Prince Charles during the 1982 Royal Tournament in London.

Drill team marches with precision

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at several basketball games in the spring, Young said.

The Guard also performed before Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands during her visit to the University in June.

The group will return to London next summer, and has already been invited to attend the next Royal Tournament in 1987. According to Young, plans are being made for performances in Paris in 1984, and Scotland in 1985.

Funding for the trips is often made possibly by some support from the University, but most of the money for overseas travel is raised by doing benefit performances and other fundraising projects, Young said.

A long list of honors make the intensive hours of practice worthwhile, the former executive commander noted. From 1974 to 1981, the Guard was undefeated in intercollegiate competitions and won 12 national championships.

The team competes in about five tournaments throughout the spring, and the University's invitational meet is held in the Elizabeth Armory rather than on campus because of special limitations.