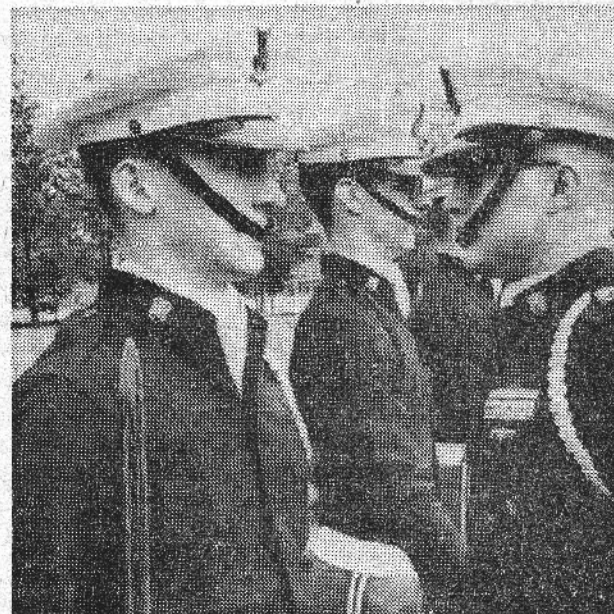
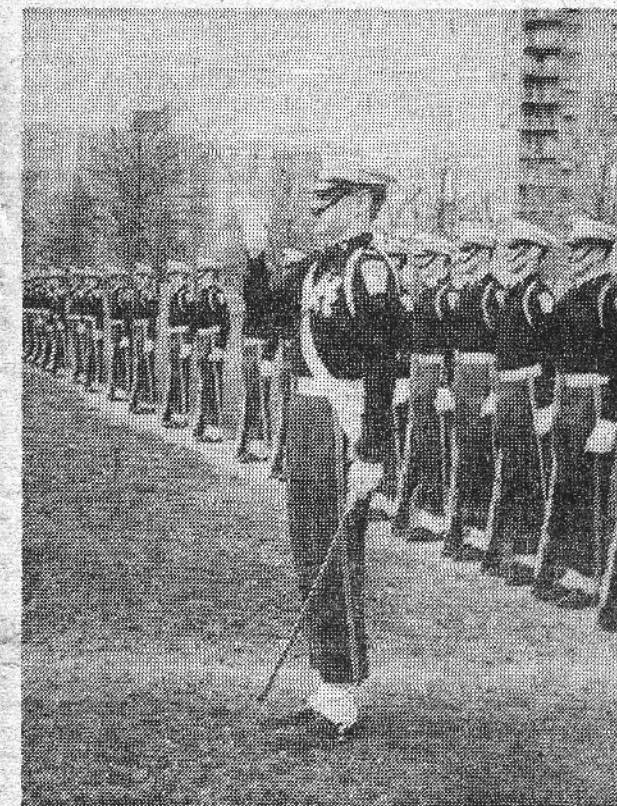


QUEENS GUARD—NATIONAL CHAMPS — Members of Queens Guard, Air Force ROTC drill team, presents arms in drill at Buccleuch Park as unit prepares to defend national championship at Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington on April 15. The team won the championship in 1961 and last year.

Drill Team Puts Best Foot Forward



INSPECTION — Cadet Lt. Col. John M. Weissmuller, who is commander of Queens Guard, right, inspects Cadet Richard M. Jobbins of 244 Old Post Road, Edison. Weissmuller is a senior, Jobbins a junior.



SWORD SALUTE — Cadet Col. Gary A. Dietze in role of Guard's acting commander gives sword salute. He's a senior.

Queens Guard Seeks Third Straight Cherry Blossom Title

The Queens Guard, the Air Force ROTC drill team at Rutgers University, hopes to give its alma mater a big 200th birthday present on April 15 by winning the National Intercollegiate Drill Championship for the third time at the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington.

The smart, blue and white uniformed Guard, which is the nation's top ROTC drill team and the only Rutgers team to win in national competition, also will march in the Parade of Princesses in Washington on April 16 and will be the only drill team in a new Cherry Blossom Festival pageant being staged in the capital on April 16-17.

Top Contender

Formed in 1957, the Queens Guard went to its first Cherry Blossom Festival in 1958 and has been a top contender in the National Intercollegiate Drill Championships ever since.

In 1961 and again last year, the Guard won the championship in Washington in competition with more than 50 other teams, a distinction matched by only one other collegiate drill team. But

that team from Purdue was a multi-service unit, whereas the Guard is the only single service team to win twice.

The Queens Guard is the only team to score two victories in the national competition and also to be selected as the top marching unit in the Parade of Princesses at the Cherry Blossom Festival. It won that national parade championship in 1963.

The Guard has appeared on national television 10 times in the last four years, including a performance on the Ed Sullivan Show. The Guard represented New Jersey in the inaugural parades of both the late President John F. Kennedy in 1961 and President Lyndon B. Johnson last year.

First in Brooklyn

Under the command of Cadet Col. Milton A. Magaw of South River, the Queens Guard scored 865 of a possible 1,000 points to win the national championship last April and also won an award as the top Air Force drill team at the Cherry Blossom Festival. Magaw, who graduated last June, will complete his navigational training on May 21 at Mather Air Force Base in California.

The present Guard, which is under the command of Cadet Lt. Col. John M. Weissmuller of Union, won first place at the sixth annual Pratt Institute Invitation Drill Meet in Brooklyn on March 19.

He attributes the drill team's success to "just pride in the Queens Guard as a whole and tradition," Weissmuller declares. "The tradition requires high standards and we demand it of them."

The ace AFROTC drill team, which is now preparing to defend its national title at the Cherry Blossom Festival, consists of 26 Rutgers students—the commander, a 24-man team and an alternate. Six of them are seniors, three juniors, six sophomores and eleven freshmen.

Membership on the team is open to any student, who can make the grade. Most of them naturally are in the AFROTC Detachment at Rutgers, but one is a student who's physically disqualified for ROTC.

The students regard their elite drill unit as a semifraternity

and have their own badges, mugs and sweatshirts. Their white hats and accessories stand out and highlight the precision of the drills.

The Guard, which practices eight to 10 hours a week throughout the college year, has several unique and dangerous drill routines that it uses in competition.

Trademark of the Queens Guard is the suicide drill, which members originated in 1960. Twelve men march through a tunnel formed by 12 others with spinning, bayoneted rifles. A present member of the drill team required 12 stitches in his chin, because of a misstep.

The most dangerous drill in the Guard's bag of tricks is the cave, that was used once in 1964 and perfected last year. One group forms a cross with open ends and four lines march into it—all with spinning, bayonet-tipped rifles.

The Queens Guard has a new drill trick too that it will spring as a surprise in the eight-minute drill for the national championship at the National Guard Army in Washington on April 15.