

Field Marshal Lord Harding of Petherton (1896-1989)

Lord Harding prepared the following autobiographical notes in instalments in 1974, which he sent to Hanna Nicholas

ASSORTED ARTICLES, LETTERS, EXTRACTS:

Field-Marshal Sir John Harding, GCB, CBE, DSO, MC

In 1957, Lord Harding was appointed Colonel of The Life Guards and therefore to the ceremonial job of the Gold Stick to HM the Queen.

THE HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY Regimental Standing Orders 1956:

"A senior is appointed by the Sovereign as Colonel to each of the Regiments of Household Cavalry (The Life Guards, Royal Horse Guards (The Blues)). These two officers hold the title of Gold Stick, and are appointed as being "in-waiting" each month by roster".

The Gold Stick-in-waiting's duties are to protect the person of the Sovereign any orders relating to the Household Cavalry and pass them to the Silver Stick-in-waiting for promulgation. In practice this meant attending the Queen at the Trooping of the Colour, mounted on horseback and carrying a baton - no easy feat when you have several fingers missing.