

Compliments

The Origin

The salute with the hand, the present arms and the salute with the sword were methods by which the person paying the compliment could show the person to whom the compliment was paid to that no offence was meant. They are all gestures symbolic of loyalty and trust, a salute is in fact the normal gesture between comrades in arms, the salute that is given when a cadet meets an officer is a basic matter of discipline, that the salute is smartly given is a matter of training. Failure by an officer in uniform to insist on being saluted is a breach of discipline. Failure by an officer to return a salute shows lack of courtesy on his part. All compliments derive from the sovereign, to whom the highest compliment the Royal Salute is paid.

Who Compliments Are Paid To

Because of their link with the sovereign the following are also paid some form of compliment.

- a. Members of the Royal Family
- b. Governors and Ministers to whom the Sovereign delegates authority. (i.e. Members of the government)
- c. Formed bodies of troops on the Sovereign's business.
- d. All Standards, Guidons and Colours of Regiments of the Army and their equivalent in the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and RAF.
- e. All officers, as holders of the Sovereign's commission.

When Compliments Are Paid

- a. National Anthem. (Till music stops)
 1. When on parade or in an organized party, all ranks will stand to attention, but only officers and warrant officers will salute. NCOs will only salute if they are in charge of
 2. An organized party.
 3. When not on parade, but in uniform, all ranks will salute.
 4. When not on parade, and in plain clothes, all ranks will stand to attention.
- b. Military Funerals. All cadets in uniform, when passing a military funeral will salute the bier (What carries the coffin, till bier has passed)
- c. Standards, Guidons and Colours. These are entitled to the highest compliments.
 1. Formed bodies on the march will give "Eyes Right" or "Eyes Left".
 2. Individuals will halt, face passing Standards, Guidons or Colours and salute, or if passing will salute to the right or left. The same compliments will be paid to the Colours of the other two Services.
 3. When Boarding Her Majesty's Ships. All ranks boarding any of Her Majesty's ships are to salute the quarterdeck.