

## N.W. Study Period at Police HQ

From MAJOR K. C. RUSSELL, TD

NEARLY 200 Regular, Volunteer and ACF officers of the North West spent a weekend in the "nick" during March. They were welcome guests at the Lancashire Constabulary's headquarters and Police College at Hutton near Preston.

A model for police forces throughout the world, this exemplary force opened up its HQ as a weekend home and lushly equipped study centre for the District's annual "Wild Rose" exercise, setting the scene for one of the most successful study periods held by the District.

Keynote of the exercise was a discussion of the political and military background against which the Army, and particularly the TAVR, had to operate. A



Maj.-Gen. James Wilson, GOC North West District, chats with Mr. Ian Gilmour, Under-Secretary of State for the Army, at the conclusion of the North West Study Period "Exercise Wild Rose."

secondary but no less important topic parochially was the North West's task in TAVR expansion—a subject that brought wry grimaces from the many in the audience whose units already groaned administratively with overflowing strengths.

Bringing global concepts to the primary discussion were speakers headed by Mr. Ian Gilmour, Under Secretary of State (Army), in a literally flying visit, descended gallantly to the floor of the house after his talk to answer brisk questioning. Another was Dr. J. W. Wallace, a lecturer in international politics from the University of Manchester, with his academician's cool appraisal of world politics in the years ahead.

But it was Brig. P. Hudson, until lately commander of 39 Bde. in Belfast's streets, who brought the mixed army and police audience to the edge of its seats. As a kind of *quid pro quo* for their hospitality senior police officers sat in on many of the presentations.

The GOC, North West District, Maj. Gen. James Wilson, set the pace of his study period when he encouraged lively, practical Lancastrian and Cheshire

minds to questioning—and questions there were, aplenty. But not during the pleasantly relaxed if formal annual District Dinner held in the Police College, midway through the exercise, where the GOC's guests included the Chief Constable of Lancashire, Mr. W. J. Palfrey, and several of his senior officers; the Bishop of Blackburn, Dr. Charles Claxton; and the GOC-in-C, Western Command, Lt.-Gen. Sir Napier Crookenden.

A general comment heard as the students left their week-end's comfortable "incarceration" was . . . "the best ever, let's have more of these".

## "TA" WELCOMED BACK TO FARNHAM

### *Drill Hall reopened*

"I SPEAK for the town as a whole when I say how pleased we are that the TA has returned to Farnham," said Mr. F. A. Bettin, Chairman of Farnham Urban Council.

The occasion was the official reopening of the town's Drill Hall in Guildford Road.

Mr. Bettin went on to say how concerned the Urban Council had been, that such a fine building had stood empty and unused, and how delightful it was to see the TA return to its rightful home.

### "An Increase"

The hall was reopened by Lord Munster, Lord Lieutenant of Surrey. He explained that the reopening of the Drill Hall had been possible because of a Government decision to increase the TA Volunteer reserve by a further 10,000 men. "In the S.E. we already have the 5th Bn, The Queen's Regiment, fully equipped and ready to reinforce BAOR at short notice and we are forming one other battalion—the 7th—the headquarters of which will be at Horsham," he said.

The Battalion will have one Company in Folkestone, one in Crawley and one in Farnham.

Lord Munster added that Farnham had always been an area where the TA got tremendous support, and that he saw no reason why the TAVR should not get this support now. The Farnham company will be known as (The Queen's Surreys) "A" Company of the 7th Bn. The Queen's Regt.

General Fergus Ling, president of the Queen's Royal Surreys Regimental Association, assured the Company that it would get the fullest possible support. The occasion, he said, was a very happy one not only because the Drill Hall was being reopened but because the Queen's Regiment was being welcomed back to Farnham.

During the function it was disclosed that the Company establishment was 110. Twenty-three men had enrolled the previous evening.

## FALL OUT, THE WELCH !

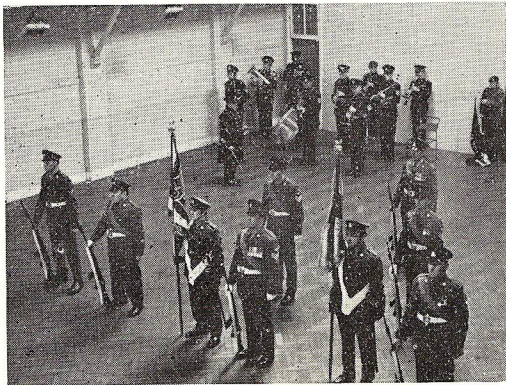
### 4 Welch Cadre change their Cap Badge

IN a moment of deep emotion, with the band playing *Auld Lang Syne*, with the Colours being slow-marched off parade, **The Welch Regiment** finally disappeared into history.

Even after the formal amalgamation of the Welch Regt. with the South Wales Borderers to form the Royal Regiment of Wales, the Welch name and cap-badge stayed in existence, worn by the men of the two cadres—5/6th Welch at Pontypridd, and 4th Welch in West Wales.

Just recently, 5/6th Welch cadre amalgamated with 3 RRW, and 4th Welch cadre grew into a battalion—**4 RRW**—in a moving ceremony at the Drill Hall in Llanelli.

For eight men of the Cadre, it was a moment of triumph, though. The eight loyal "sospan" (every Llanelli man is known as a "sospan" from the town



*The Colours of 4th Bn. the Welch Regiment on parade for the last time at the Drill Hall, Llanelli, where the Cadre formed a nucleus for the new TAVR battalion, 4 RRW.*

rugby club's war-song!), had struggled against decimation and disappointment, fought off mergers, and won their way through to Battalion status again.

In the Drill Hall, the eight men, watched by civic dignitaries from all over West Wales, fell in wearing the badge of The Welch Regiment. The Colours of the old 4th Welch were marched on, and the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. G. R. Miles (who had commanded the Cadre throughout its existence) took over the parade.

Then came the moment when the old order changed, irrevocably and forever. Lt.-Col. Miles gave the order, "Remove head-dress". Eight caps swirled off. The CO moved along his men, giving each his new cap, with the badge of the Royal Regiment of Wales, the tight, upright cluster of three feathers which would replace the more flamboyant Welch spray.

"Replace head-dress!" The new caps went on, and at the back of the hall, the regimental flag of the Welch came down, the flag of the Royal Regiment of Wales broke at the mast-head.

The old colours of 4th Welch were slow-marched off. Officers saluted. There were misty eyes—on and off the parade—as The Welch Regiment passed into memory.

But for all this, it was an occasion for rejoicing, as the padre, the Rev. E. H. Brown, pointed out in his short service. There has always been a strong tradition of TAVR service in West Wales, and to be part of the Royal Regiment of Wales means a great deal to Lt.-Col. Miles and all ranks in his unit. A telegram of welcome from Prince Charles, Colonel of the RRW, greeted the new battalion, and all ranks of the 1st Bn. RRW have expressed their delight at this strengthening of the Regiment.

## Welcome for New 'TA' Unit

THE Mayor of Wandsworth, Alderman G. Passmore, gave a reception at Wandsworth Town Hall on April 19th for members of the 6th Bn. The Queen's Regt. whose headquarters are accommodated in the Borough of Broomhill Road.

In welcoming the new Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. D. G. Wilson, TD, the Mayor said:

*"Wandsworth has always been very TA conscious. There used to be 14 units within the Borough and I am particularly pleased that this new unit has been raised in my year of office. I spent five years in the Royal Navy flying Swordfish aircraft and then trained eight years as a gunner in the TA. I am proud to say my contact with the Army continues in my present capacity as a Pikeman in the Honourable Artillery Company. Wandsworth welcomes the new regiment and can be assured of every co-operation in the future."*

In reply Lt.-Col. Wood, Chairman of the Greater London TAVR Association reported that in addition to the HQ establishment, there would be four sub-units which will require a total of 600 recruits, of which nearly 100 had already been raised.

In addition to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and other officers and Councillors, there were senior representatives from the Headquarters TAVR in attendance, including Gen. Sir Richard Craddock, who is the Colonel of the Regiment.

## FORMATION SIGNS ON COMBAT DRESS

It has been decided that previous doubts on the wearing of formation signs on combat dress applied only during operations, and it is acceptable that such signs should be worn at other times, it is stated.

With immediate effect, therefore, formation signs may be worn on combat dress except during operations.