

LORD MAYOR VISITS 6 (V) QUEEN'S



Something that doesn't happen very often. The official flag of the Lord Mayor of London against a background of the entrance to the HQ of 6 Queen's in S.W. London, outside the confines of the City of London

It is not very common for the Lord Mayor of London to pay a visit outside the City Walls with his flag flying but, on 17th February, 1973, he did just that when he arrived, not in his coach but in his official Rolls-Royce, at the HQ of the 6 (V) Queen's Regt., at Wandsworth in S.W. London to watch a Saturday afternoon exercise.

To give him his full title, the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of London, The Lord Mais, an ex-Territorial of some distinction, was received by the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. D. G. Wilson, TD, and by the Training Major, Maj. M. E. Girling, when he came to see a signal exercise which was based—in a somewhat macabre fashion—on the flooding of Greater London under the imaginary conditions of a super high tide and a strong easterly gale.

The exercise started in the Command Post at Bn. HQ with somewhat awe-inspiring messages covering the rise of the water, the dislocation of normal communications and the (near) panic departure of refugees ordered to move in an inevitably arbitrary fashion by the powers-that-be. (We, as editor of the TAVR MAGAZINE, were privileged to be present and we have to admit that the production was worthy of one of the better Hollywood periods.) It was definitely frightening but, at the same time, very satisfying. It was clear that potential danger to the civilian population was a matter of serious interest to the Volunteer soldiers. The vehicles, located in a variety of outlying spots all round the capital, kept feeding in a most detailed story of the disaster as it built up, coupled with a more than intelligent appreciation of a situation which no one could describe as simple.

The exercise went on all the weekend but the Lord Mayor could only devote a few hours to it. Nevertheless, having seen the operation at HQ he went on to see how C Bty, at Flodden Road, Camberwell (London, S.E.) was coping. Before doing this he was good enough to give the TAVR MAGAZINE a statement which we reproduce here in full with our appreciation for his interest. (*Just about the time this issue comes off the presses we shall be with the Lord Mayor again when he adds his very considerable influence to the Recruiting Campaign being organised for the TAVR in the City of London in April.*)

"Being an ex-Territorial myself, I could, I suppose be accused of being somewhat biased, but as I have said on more than one occasion recently, and I repeat it here, it is my firm belief that the TAVR provides a fine training for a young man, teaches him to be self-reliant and in many other ways helps to build his character.

"I hope I shall see the reconstruction of the TAVR and many of the units which have ceased to exist reformed. I would even go so far as to suggest that some form of National Service, with the option of carrying it out either with the Regular Forces or

IN MEMORY

In memory of an officer who died for his country, please help 'Sister Agnes' to find additional funds to meet increasing costs and the maintenance of the enlarged Hospital, which enables us to admit officers' wives and widows, as well as officers of all three Services.

KING EDWARD VII's HOSPITAL FOR OFFICERS

(SISTER AGNES, FOUNDER)

Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Beaumont House
Beaumont Street, London, W.1.



*The Lord Mayor talking to the CO, Queen's (V) Regt.,
Lt.-Col. D. G. Wilson, at the HQ at Wandsworth*

the TAVR should be seriously considered.

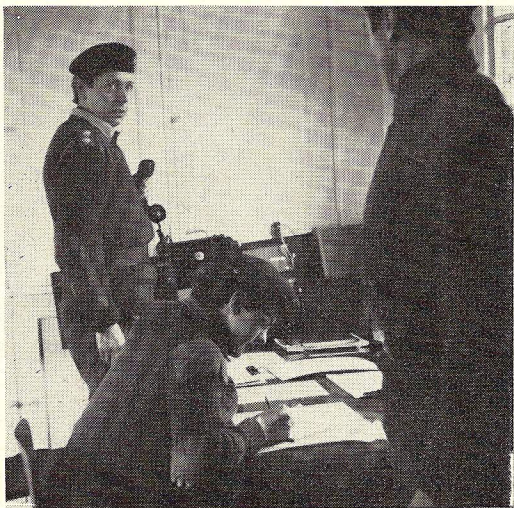
"I do not think that the Regular Army want National Service restored, no doubt for the best of reasons. However, though I appreciate that any type of enforced service is not popular with the majority of the population, I have strong reasons for believing that many of the younger generation would enjoy being in the TAVR if it were not for the fact that certain of the more vocal elements denigrate anyone who volunteers for anything of a patriotic nature. Consequently, there could be many potential volun-

teers who would join willingly if it were a commitment which applied to all. And even those who were not enthusiastic would probably find enjoyment once they were in a good unit.

"The 6th Queen's, is a unit which has inherited the traditions of a number of famous regiments. It is a great pleasure for me to be here this afternoon, and see the unit which has given up the whole of their weekend to an exercise, for it shows that there are still plenty of young men who will give of their free time to public service, and I would congratulate them most sincerely for doing it.

"I firmly believe that this generation is one of the best we have ever had. If their energies and ability could be directed into a reformed TAVR, I believe it would be the finest force we have ever had."

*The Control Centre at Wandsworth, Lt.-Col. Wilson
in the background*



*A not very good picture of the Lord Mayor talking to
Pte. I. M. Ross during his visit to Wandsworth*

