



THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

INFORMATION OFFICE

• LONDON ZOO •

• REGENT'S PARK NW1

Telephone: PRIMROSE 3333

6th February, 1962

A MASCOT FOR THE 5th BN THE WELCH REGT. T.A.

A male, white Goat will be presented to the Commanding Officer of the 5th Bn The Welch Regt. T.A., Lt Col.W.R.Davies, M.C., T.D., at a short ceremony at 2.15 p.m. today at London Zoo.

The Goat is to become the Mascot of the Regiment and by tradition will be re-named "Taffy" - the Fourth. After a short speech of thanks by the Commanding Officer, "Taffy" will be handed to the Goat Major and the Regimental Sargent Major who will dress him with silver horn tips, a headplate, head collar and scarlet coat. The Goat Major and his new charge will then march off, preceded by three drummers.

The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Major General C.E.R. Hirsch, C.B., C.B.E., will be present at the ceremony.

The Battalion is stationed at Pontypridd, and the party will return to Wales by the 3.55p.m. train from Paddington, arriving at Cardiff General Station at 6.53 p.m. and will then complete their journey to the T.A.Centre, Pontypridd.

"Taffy" is descended from a herd of Cashmere Goats established at Windsor Park in 1828. The Prince Consort took a personal interest in the herd and it is reported that at one time over a thousand persons were engaged in the making of shawls from the fine wool obtained from the goats; (the males produce about 4 ozr. and the females half that weight in twelve months.)

The first goat of the Welch Regiment was a Russian goat adopted by soldiers of the 41st Regiment of Foot, later to be known as the Welch Regiment, during the Crimean War. This goat followed the Regiment through many campaigns and was finally killed by enemy action. On hearing this, Queen Victoria was so impressed that she decreed that in future the 41st Regiment of Foot would receive as its mascot a white goat from her own herd in Windsor Great Park.

In 1936 Edward VIII, presented ten goats from this herd to the London Zoo and since 1942 fourteen goats, born at London Zoo, have been presented to the Battalions of both the Welch Regiment and the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

"Taffy" was born at London Zoo in January 1959. He has been undergoing training for his new roll in recent weeks and has had daily walks with his Keepers. He is responding well to discipline and now steps out proudly on parade.

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WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
HEADQUARTERS, WESTERN COMMAND

TAFFY IV JOINS UP

The 5th Bn The Welch Regiment, a Territorial unit which has its headquarters in Pontypridd, will be getting an important new recruit on Tuesday (6 February).

His name will be Taffy. His number IV. He is to be enlisted as the Battalion's goat mascot, with rather more ceremony than is shown to most new recruits.

A party of eight, including the Commanding Officer, Lieut.Colonel W.R. Davies, the adjutant, Captain R.P. Smith, Regimental Sergeant-Major J. Holt, Goat Major E.D. James, two drummers and two flautists will travel to London to receive him at Regent's Park Zoo.

Taffy will be handed over by a representative of the Royal Zoological Society and Lt. Colonel Davies will make a short speech. Then will come the march-off, the military dignity of which will depend very much on Taffy's behaviour.

The Welch Regiment's tradition of goat mascots began in the Crimea, when some soldiers of the 41st Regiment, as it then was, adopted a young white goat that was wandering round their camp. It became a great favourite in the Regiment, but was killed by enemy action in the last weeks of the campaign.

When Queen Victoria read of the goat's death in the Crimea dispatches, she decreed that from then on the Welch Regiment would continue to have a white goat as mascot and that it would be provided from her own herd in Windsor Great Park. This herd is now kept in Regent's Park.

It is only recently that the Territorial battalions of the Regiment have been honoured with a goat mascot of their own. This is why this Taffy will be only Taffy IV.

When he is trained, he will lead the Battalion on all ceremonial parades, dressed in his scarlet coat, his silver headplate and silver horn tips. He will be taught to kneel when the National Anthem is played. And he will receive a ration of two cigarettes a day - to eat, not to smoke.

NOTE TO EDITORS. The ceremony at Regent's Park will take place at 2.15 p.m. on Tuesday. The party will arrive at Pontypridd by rail at 6.45 p.m. the following day.

CHESTER.

1st February, 1962. Tel. Chester 24666 Exts. 102, 262 and 272.