

Part 2: The Militia

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1. General Remarks.

Although the origins of the militia lie in the very early medieval period, and its control was one of the major issues that gave rise to the Civil Wars of the mid 17th Century, it was not until the Militia Act of 1757ⁱ that it became a force founded on counties and parishes rather than individual landowners' influence. However its control ultimately still lay with the crown, through the lords lieutenant, and as such it acted as a balance to the standing army under the control of Parliament. From this time on, its officers and men began to dress much as regular soldiers would and its officers appeared in the published Army Lists. It rested on a degree of compulsion in that each county and parish carried out a militia ballot to raise the men for its required quota.

The Militia was embodied for service at home during the Seven Years' War, the American Revolutionary War and the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, acting as a reserve of trained manpower and releasing regular troops for more demanding duties. However it was not until after 1802 that under a new Militia Actⁱⁱ, officers and men of the militia were able to volunteer for active service abroad with regular regiments, which they did in large numbers until 1815. During these years there was only one regular Welsh regiment – the Royal Welch Fusiliers – and it is not surprising therefore that most if not all of the Welsh Militia Regiments identified with the 23rd: five of the twelve regiments – those of Anglesey, Caernarvonshire, Carmarthenshire, Flintshire and Pembrokeshire – went so far as to change their names to incorporate “Fuzileers” in their title. During this period there were also a number of regiments of “local militia” whose duties and affiliations were to their own district rather than to the Army or to any regular regiment. They are not therefore recorded here but details of their Colours can be found in Geddes, Part III, pages 261 – 264.

After 1816, the Militia declined in training and stature until the Militia Act of 1852.ⁱⁱⁱ This act revived the force, replaced compulsion with voluntary enlistment and ensured annual training. Over the coming years many regiments were converted from infantry to artillery or engineers and in 1871,^{iv} direct control was transferred to the Crown. After this, the militia was paid and clothed according to the same regulations laid down by Royal Warrants as the regular army.

In 1881, the attachment to the regular army was formalised, with militia regiments becoming battalions of infantry regiments. In the case of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, the militias of Anglesey, Caernarvon, Merioneth,

Montgomery, Flintshire and Denbighshire formed the 3rd and 4th Battalions of the Regiment. In 1907 the Reserve Forces Act^v disbanded many of the old militia regiments and battalions and converted the remainder into the Army Special Reserve, whose task was to bring regular units up to strength in time of war. This left the Royal Welch Fusiliers with only the 3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion with its headquarters in Wrexham. The battalion provided soldiers during the Great War, was disembodied in 1919 and finally disbanded in 1953.

The description of Colours that follows therefore covers only the periods of mobilisation and alignment to the 23rd during the French wars of 1793 – 1815; and then to the period from 1881 to 1953 when the Militia and Special reserve formed an integral part of the order of battle of the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

2. The Royal Anglesey Fusiliers, 1792 – 1810.

The Regiment was embodied from 1793 – 1802 and again from 1803 – 1814. It served at Omagh in Ireland from 1811 – 1813. Only two stands of two Colours are known. The first stand was issued in 1763 and remained in service until 1804. The King's Colour was the Union, six feet on the pike and six feet six inches flying; the regimental Colour was of the same dimensions, a blue sheet with the arms of the Lord Lieutenant of the county painted or embroidered in the centre. In 1762 this was Sir Nicholas Bayley (2nd Baronet). Between 1793 and 1804, this was Henry Paget, Earl of Uxbridge and later 1st Marquis of Anglesey.

Figure 23: the Arms of the Earl of Uxbridge.



Around 1804 a new King's Colour was issued of the same size as before, but incorporating the red saltire of St Patrick into the Union. The Regimental Colour also remained the same size as before but in common with other Welsh militia regiments and with the 23rd Fusiliers, it now bore the Plumes, Coronet and Motto of the Prince of Wales and the Regimental

title. Neither the fabric nor any illustrations of these Colours have survived.^{vi} In 1810, the regiment became a light infantry corps and its direct connection with the 23rd Foot lapsed.

3. The Brecknockshire Militia, 1793 – 1798.

The first stand of Colours was issued around 1759. The King's Colour was the Union, six feet on the pike and six feet six inches flying; the Regimental Colour was of the same dimensions, a green sheet with the arms of the Lord Lieutenant of the county painted or embroidered in the centre.^{vii} In 1759 this was Thomas Morgan Esq; in 1793 the lord lieutenant was Henry Somerset, 5th Duke of Beaumont, whose arms are shown below.

Figure 24: the Arms of Somerset.



In 1798 the Regiment was amalgamated with the Monmouth Militia (see below); the Colours of the Monmouth Militia prior to this date are not recorded here since Monmouthshire was an English county.

4. The Caernarvonshire Militia 1793 – 1800, Royal Caernarvon Fusiliers 1800 – 1804 and the Royal Caernarvonshire Militia 1804 – 1810.

The Regiment was embodied from 1804 – 1814 and served at Longford in Ireland 1811 – 1814. Two stands of Colours are known. The first stand was issued in 1762 and the King's Colour was the Union of the same dimensions as for the Anglesey Militia; the Regimental colour was the arms of the Lord Lieutenant, Thomas Wynn, 1st Baron Newborough, on a white ground,^{viii} which were three silver fleur-de-lys on a black ground with the crest being an arm in armour holding aloft a fleur-de-lys, supported by two red lions and the motto *Suaviter in Modo, Fortiter in Re* (gentle in manner but strong in deeds).

The second stand was issued in 1804. The King's Colour was the same size as before, but incorporating the red saltire of St Patrick into the Union. The Regimental Colour also remained the same size as before but

was now blue silk because of the regiment's Royal designation. The union appeared in the first canton and in the centre, the union wreath incorporating the title ROYAL CARNARVON MILITIA in gold.

Figure 25: the Regimental Colour of the Royal Caernarvon Militia, 1804 – 1812.^{ix}



These Colours remained in the militia stores until 1840, when in that year they were trooped through the town on 10 February, the regiment having become first a light infantry corps in 1810 and then later a rifle corps. Later they were held in the militia barracks in Caernarfon until they were laid up in the garrison church of St Mary in 1885. The Colours were never hung in the church but were placed on either side of the altar where they remained until the church was redecorated at the time of the Investiture of the Prince of Wales in 1969 when they were removed to the old vestry. Various efforts were made with the late vicar to have them properly hung and cared for as they were in poor condition and very fragile.^x At some time in the 1980s they were returned to the Regimental Museum.

5. The Cardiganshire Militia, 1760 – 1804; the Royal Cardiganshire Militia 1804 – 1812.

The Regiment was embodied 1792 -3 – 1802 and 1803 – 1816. It served at Limerick and Loughrea in Ireland 1811 – 1813. The first stand of Colours was issued to the regiment in 1762 and measured six feet two inches on the pike and six feet six inches flying. The length of the pikes, including spear points, was nine feet ten inches and both Colours were decorated with crimson and gold silk cords. As usual, the first Colour was the Union, at this time without the saltire of St Patrick which was incorporated after the Act of Union on 1 January 1801. The Regimental Colour was a sheet of green silk bearing the arms of the lord lieutenant. From 1762 to 1800 this was the Hon Wilmot Vaughan, later 1st Earl of Lisburne, shown below;

after 1779, the regimental facing changed to blue and so did the Regimental Colour.

Figure 26: the Arms of the Earl of Lisburne.



From 1804 to 1812 it is likely that the Regiment's Colours conformed to the pattern of the 23rd Fusiliers and the other Welsh regiments of militia, although no details survive other than that it is known that the facing colour changed to blue. The King's Colour would again have been the Great Union, now incorporating the saltire of St Patrick. The Regimental Colour would have been a sheet of blue silk with the union in the first canton and in the centre, the plumes, coronet and motto of the Prince of Wales, enclosed by a union wreath and the regimental title. The regiment became a light infantry corps in 1812 and therefore ceased to carry Colours and their fate is not known. They may well have been stored in the Militia Barracks in Borth Road, Aberystwyth and been lost when fire destroyed the barracks and all the regimental records.

6. The Carmarthen Militia, 1793 – 1804; The Royal Carmarthenshire Fusileers, 1804 – 1815.

The Regiment was embodied 1793 – 1802 and 1803 – 1816. The first stand of Colours carried by the regiment was issued on or about 3 July 1759 and measured six feet two inches on the pike and six feet six inches flying. The length of the pikes, including spear points, was nine feet ten inches and both Colours were decorated with crimson and gold silk cords. As usual, the first Colour was the Union, at this time without the saltire of St Patrick which was incorporated after the Act of Union on 1 January 1801. An Ordnance Warrant^{xi} described the Regimental Colour as a sheet of blue silk bearing the arms of the lord lieutenant. From 1755 to 1799 this was the Welsh MP and courtier George Rice of Llwyn-y-Brain, Carmarthenshire. This is described as a silver shield, with an ermine chevron, three black ravens (two above the chevron and one below). The crest was a rampant red lion holding a black bar-shot; the family motto was *Cadarn yw fy ffydd y Portha duw y gigfrain*.^{xii} These Colours may

have been replaced by a second stand of the same design in 1779 when the regiment was embodied during the American Revolutionary War^{xiii} and it is these that would have been carried during the early years of the Great French War.

The third stand of Colours was issued around 1804. The King's Colour was again the Great Union, now incorporating the saltire of St Patrick. The Regimental Colour was a sheet of blue silk with the union in the first canton and in the centre, the plumes, coronet and motto of the Prince of Wales, enclosed by a union wreath and the regimental title in common with the 23rd Fusiliers and the other Welsh regiments of Militia. The regiment became a rifle corps in 1852 and was converted to artillery in 1861.^{xiv} Its Colours were deposited in the great hall of Dynevor Castle where they were last seen around 1920.

7. The Denbighshire Militia, 1793 – 1803; the Royal Denbighshire Militia 1804 – 1809.

The Regiment was embodied 1793 – 1802, 1803 – 1814 and 185 – 1816. The first stand of Colours carried by the regiment was issued on its formation in 1760 and measured six feet two inches on the pike and six feet six inches flying. The length of the pikes, including spear points, was nine feet ten inches and both Colours were decorated with crimson and gold silk cords. As usual, the first Colour was the Union, at this time without the saltire of St Patrick which was incorporated after the Act of Union on 1 January 1801. The Regimental Colour was a sheet of red silk bearing the arms of the lord lieutenant.^{xv} In 1793, the lord lieutenant whose arms were borne on the Regimental Colour was Richard Myddleton, M.P. for Denbigh, succeeded in 1796 by Sir Watkyn Williams-Wynn, 5th baronet. The Myddleton arms are described as a silver shield with three silver wolves' heads on a green pile with the crest being a gold ducal coronet from which a right had extended.^{xvi} The Williams-Wynne arms are as shown below.

Figure 27: the Arms of Williams-Wynne.



A new stand of Colours was issued about 1803. There is very scant information on these Colours and the description is therefore largely deduction.^{xvii} The King's Colour was again the Great Union, now incorporating

the saltire of St Patrick. The Regimental Colour was a sheet of blue silk, since this was the facing colour, with the union in the first canton and in the centre, the plumes, coronet and motto of the Prince of Wales in common with the 23rd Fusiliers and the other Welsh regiments of Militia, with a scroll bearing the title ROYAL DENBIGH MILITIA in gold letters on a red ground. This in turn was enclosed within the union wreath.

The regiment became a light infantry corps in 1809 and a rifle corps in 1813 when it ceased to carry Colours. The fate of the 1803 Colours is not known; if they passed to the Williams-Wynne family they will have been destroyed in the great fire at Wynnstay Hall in 1858;^{xviii} if they were lodged in the militia barracks at Wrexham, they have long since mouldered away.

8. The Flintshire Militia, 1793 – 1803; the Royal Flintshire Militia, 1804 – 1805; the Royal Flint Fuzileers 1805 – 1806.

The Regiment was embodied 1793 – 182, 1803 – 1814 and 1815 – 1816. The first stand of Colours carried by the regiment was issued on its formation in 1759 and measured 6 feet two inches on the pike and six feet six inches flying. The length of the pikes, including spear points, was nine feet ten inches and both Colours were decorated with crimson and gold silk cords. As usual, the first Colour was the Union, at this time without the saltire of St Patrick which was incorporated after the Act of Union on 1 January 1801. The Regimental Colour was a sheet of green silk bearing the arms of the lord lieutenant.^{xix} These Colours were replaced in March 1778 by a new stand measuring six feet on the pole and six feet six inches flying but in all other respects these Colours were the same as those of 1760 except that the Regimental Colour was changed to blue to conform with the facing colour. In 1793, the lord lieutenant whose arms were borne on the Regimental Colour was Sir Roger Mostyn, 5th baronet, succeeded in 1796 by Lloyd Kenyon, 1st Baron Kenyon.

Figure 28: the Arms of Mostyn and Kenyon.



A third stand of Colours was issued around 1804. The King's Colour was again the Great Union, now incorporating the saltire of St Patrick. The Regimental Colour was a sheet of blue silk with the union in the first canton and in the centre, the plumes, coronet and motto of the Prince of Wales in common with the 23rd Fusiliers and the other Welsh regiments of Militia, with a scroll bearing the title ROYAL FLINT MILITIA in gold letters on a red ground. This in turn was enclosed within the union wreath. No remnant of these Colours has survived although they are listed by as being held in the Regimental Museum.^{xx}

9. The Glamorgan Militia, 1793 – 1803; the Royal Glamorgan Militia 1804 – 1815.

The Regiment was embodied 1793 – 1802, 1803 – 1814 and 1815 – 1816. The first stand of Colours carried by the regiment was issued on its formation in 1760 and measured 6 feet two inches on the pike and six feet six inches flying. The length of the pikes, including spear points, was nine feet ten inches and both Colours were decorated with crimson and gold silk cords. As usual, the first Colour was the Union, at this time without the saltire of St Patrick which was incorporated after the Act of Union on 1 January 1801. The Regimental Colour was a sheet of blue silk bearing the arms of the lord lieutenant, Other Lewis Windsor, 4th Earl of Plymouth. These Colours were replaced in 1778 by a new stand measuring six feet on the pole and six feet six inches flying but in all other respects these Colours were the same as those of 1760. In 1793, the lord lieutenant whose arms were borne on the Regimental Colour was John Stuart, Lord Mount Stuart and from 1794 onwards 1st Marquess of Bute. These were a silver shield bearing a blue lion rampant, with the crest of a red rampant demi-lion, supported by two golden stags and with the motto *Nobilis est Ira Leonis*.^{xxi}

A third stand of Colours was issued in 1804. The King's Colour was again the Great Union, now incorporating the saltire of St Patrick and the royal cipher "GR" in the centre. The Regimental Colour was a sheet of blue silk with the union in the first canton and in the centre, the plumes, coronet and motto of the Prince of Wales in common with the 23rd Fusiliers and the other Welsh regiments of Militia, enclosed by a circle or garter bearing the title ROYAL GLAMORGAN MILITIA in gold letters on a red ground. This in turn was enclosed within the union wreath and the whole surmounted by a royal crown.

Figure 29: the Regimental Colour of the Glamorgan Militia, 1804.^{xxii}



These Colours remained in service until 1854, after which they were retained in the Officers' Mess of the regiment. No trace of the King's Colour remains; however fragments of the Regimental Colour are held in the museum collection of the Welch Regiment.

10. The Merionethshire Militia c1760 - 1803; the Royal Merionethshire Militia 1804 - 1815.

The Regiment was embodied 1804 - 1814 and served at Cranagh in Ireland 1811 - 1813. There is very little information available on the early Colours of the Merioneth Militia it is known that in common with other regiments, it was issued two Colours by the Board of Ordnance on its embodiment during the Seven Years' War in 1762.^{xxiii} These Colours would have measured 6 feet two inches on the pike and six feet six inches flying. The length of the pikes, including spear points, would have been nine feet ten inches and both Colours would have been decorated with crimson and gold silk cords. The first Colour would have been the Union, at this time without the saltire of St Patrick which was incorporated after the Act of Union on 1 January 1801. The Regimental Colour would have been a sheet of blue silk bearing the arms of the lord lieutenant, William Vaughan Esq. In 1793 the lord lieutenant of Merioneth was Sir Watkyn Williams-Wynne, 5th baronet, who was concurrently lord lieutenant of Denbighshire (see Figure 27).

A new stand of Colours was issued on 23 April 1807, measuring six feet on the pike and six feet six inches flying; these Colours were painted rather than being embroidered. The King's Colour was again the Great Union, now incorporating the saltire of St Patrick with the union wreath and the

royal cipher "GR" in the centre. The Regimental Colour was a sheet of blue silk with the union in the first canton and in the centre, a crowned union wreath enclosing the Garter and motto and within this, the prince of Wales's coronet, plumes and motto. Below, across the Colour in two straight lines

ROYAL MERIONETH
MILITIA.^{xxiv}

The Colours of the regiment were returned to the Board of Ordnance in the Tower of London in 1839 when the regiment amalgamated with the Caernarvonshire Militia. The Regimental Colour only survived and passed to the care of the Royal United Services Institute who held it until 1948 when it was returned to the Regiment. It is now held in the Regimental Museum, much faded and mounted under glass.

Figure 30: the Royal Merionethshire Militia Regimental Colour 1807.^{xxv}



11. The Monmouth and Brecon Militia, 1798 – 1807; the Royal Monmouth and Brecknock Militia, 1807 – 1815.

In 1798, the Brecknock and Monmouth Militias were amalgamated. The new Regiment was embodied 1793 – 1802 and 1803 – 1813 and served in Ireland 1811 - 1815. Unusually, the new Regiment, consisting of four companies from Monmouth and three from Brecknock, did not receive Colours until 1813. These were not issued by the Ordnance, but presented by the Colonel, the 6th Duke of Beaufort, at a cost to him of £50.^{xxvi} The King's Colour appears to have been the Great Union, now incorporating the saltire of St Patrick. The Regimental Colour, rather than displaying the devices of the Prince of Wales, appears to have conformed to the older custom of displaying the arms of the Duke – whose family was of ancient royal blood – on a blue silk sheet. In 1853 the Colours were withdrawn pending a new issue. The old King's Colour was retained at Monmouth Castle and the Regimental Colour sent to Brecon Cathedral.^{xxvii}

Figure 31: the Regimental Colour of the Royal Monmouth and Brecon Militia, 1813.^{xxviii}



12. The Montgomeryshire Militia, 1793 – 1803; the Royal Montgomeryshire Militia, 1804 – 1811.

The Regiment was embodied 1793 – 1802 and 1803 – 1814 and served at New Grove in Ireland 1811 – 1813. The first stand of Colours carried by the regiment was issued in 1763 and measured six feet two inches on the pike and six feet six inches flying. The length of the pikes, including spear points, was nine feet ten inches and both Colours were decorated with crimson and gold silk cords. As usual, the first Colour was the Union, at this time without the saltire of St Patrick which was incorporated after the Act of Union on 1 January 1801. The Regimental Colour was a sheet of blue silk bearing the arms of the lord lieutenant, Edward Clive, 1st Earl of Powis. This stand was replaced in 1778 by a new stand issued from the Board of Ordnance with minor variations in size, as per the regulations described earlier, but no change in design.

A third stand was issued by the Board of Ordnance on 26 March 1792 which were those carried during the first period of embodiment and affiliation with the Royal Welch Fusiliers. These were similar in design to those of 1778, the arms of the lord lieutenant being those of George Herbert, 2nd Earl of Powis. The arms were the same as those of the family of Herbert of Chirbury, already shown, but with a crest of a wyvern holding a severed hand in its beak and supported by two lions, one silver, one blue.^{xxix}

A new stand of Colours was issued around April 1804, measuring six feet on the pike and six feet six inches flying; these Colours were painted rather than being embroidered. The King's Colour was again the Great Union, now incorporating the saltire of St Patrick with the union wreath and the royal cipher "GR" in the centre on a Georgian style shield and surmounted by a royal crown. The Regimental Colour was a sheet of blue silk with the union in the first canton, superimposed on which was a shield bearing a lion rampant and shield, surrounded by an open union wreath. In the centre, a crowned union wreath enclosing the royal cipher GIIIR and surmounted by a royal crown. Below the wreath were three scrolls, one above the other, bearing the title ROYAL MONTGOMERY MILITIA.^{xxx}

The regiment became a light infantry corps in 1811 but reverted to the line in 1816. It became a rifle corps in 1853. The Colours of 1804 were preserved in the Militia Barracks in Welshpool until 7 May 1872 when they were laid up in St Mary's Church. They were still there in 1972 but their current whereabouts are not known.

Figure 32: Fragment of the Royal Montgomery Militia King's Colour c1804.^{xxxii}



13. The Pembroke Militia, 1759 – 1804; the Royal Pembroke Militia, 1804 – 1807; The Royal Pembroke Fuzileers, 1808 – 1811.

The Regiment was embodied 1793 – 1801 and 1803 – 1814 and served at Ballinasloe and Limerick in Ireland 1811 – 1813. The Regiment's first stand of Colours was issued on or about 11 December 1759 and measured 6 feet two inches on the pike and six feet six inches flying. The length of the pikes, including spear points, was nine feet ten inches and both Colours were decorated with crimson and gold silk cords. As usual, the first Colour was the Union, at this time without the saltire of St Patrick which was incorporated after the Act of Union on 1 January 1801. The Pembroke Militia Colour was unusual in that it had the royal cipher "GR" at its centre. Ordnance Warrants^{xxxiii} state that the Pembroke Militia carried two Regimental Colours: both were a sheet of blue silk, one bearing

the arms of the county, not the lord lieutenant and the other the arms of the town of Pembroke (although Pembroke is not the county town – this is and was the borough of Haverfordwest).^{xxxiii} Carrying three Colours was highly unusual and would have made the regiment unique in Wales. The only regiment in the regular army to carry a third Colour was the 2nd or Queen's Royal Regiment of Foot. At least one more stand was issued between 1762 and 1799 but no details are available.

The third stand of two Colours was issued to the regiment in 1808. The King's Colour was again the Great Union, now incorporating the saltire of St Patrick. The Regimental Colour was a sheet of blue silk with the union in the first canton and in the centre, the plumes, coronet and motto of the Prince of Wales, in common with the 23rd Fusiliers and the other Welsh regiments of Militia; and the title ROYAL PEMBROKE FUZILEERS below this, enclosed by a union wreath. The regiment became a rifle corps in 1811 and ceased to carry Colours. It was converted to artillery in 1853. The Colours were preserved in the Officers' Mess for many years and were laid up in St Mary's Church, Haverfordwest, on 13 June 1909,^{xxxiv} but later transferred to the Pembrokeshire County Museum.^{xxxv}

Figure 33: the Regimental Colour of the Royal Pembroke Fuzileers, 1808 – 1811.^{xxxvi}



14. The Radnorshire Militia, 1793 – 1802; the Royal Radnor Militia, 1803 – 1810.

The Regiment was embodied 1793 – 1802 and 1803 – 185; it served at Armagh in Ireland 1811 – 1813. The first stand of Colours carried by the Regiment was issued in 1763 and measured 6 feet two inches on the pike and six feet six inches flying. The length of the pikes, including spear points, was nine feet ten inches and both Colours were decorated with crimson and gold silk cords. As usual, the first Colour was the Union, at this time without the saltire of St Patrick which was incorporated after the Act of Union on 1 January 1801. The Regimental Colour was a sheet of blue silk bearing the arms of the lord lieutenant, Howell Gwynne Esq. In 1793 until 1803 this was the Hon Thomas Harley, a younger son of the Earl of Oxford, whose arms are shown below:

Figure 34: the Arms of Harley.



A new stand of Colours was issued in 1803 when the Regiment became royal, measuring six feet on the pike and six feet six inches flying. The King's Colour was again the Great Union, now incorporating the saltire of St Patrick. The Regimental Colour was a sheet of blue silk with the union in the first canton and in the centre, a crowned union wreath enclosing the title RADNOR MILITIA.^{xxxvii}

Figure 35: the Regimental Colour of the Radnor Militia, 1804.^{xxxviii}



The Regiment became a light infantry corps in 1810 and ceased to carry Colours. These Colours were retained by the Regiment until they were laid up in the church of St Andrew, Presteigne on 24 February 1877. In 1958 the surviving fragments were preserved and framed by the then lord lieutenant and returned to the church, where they remain.^{xxxix}

15. The 3rd (Royal Denbigh and Merioneth Militia) Battalion, 1881 – 1890; the 3rd (Royal Denbigh and Flint Militia), 1890 – 1908.

The battalion was formed in 1881 by the amalgamation of the Denbigh and Merioneth Regiments of Militia, which had earlier absorbed the militias of Flintshire and Montgomery. In 1890, Merioneth passed to the 4th Battalion and Flint re-emerged in the title. The battalion received its Colours at Wrexham in 1885. These followed the 1858 regulations, four feet on the pike and four feet six inches flying and were of the same design as those presented to the 1st Battalion in 1880 except for the battalion number. The battalion received the battle honour "SOUTH AFRICA 1899 – 1902" for its role in providing men to the 1st Battalion in that war. The battalion was re-designated as the 3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion of The Royal Welch Fusiliers in 1908.

16. The 4th (Royal Caernarvon Militia) Battalion, 1881 – 1890; the 4th (Royal Caernarvon and Merioneth Militia) Battalion, 1890 – 1908.

The battalion was formed in 1881 from the amalgamation of the Royal Caernarvon Rifle Corps and the Royal Merioneth Rifles. These two regiments had in turn absorbed, respectively, the Anglesey Rifles and the Royal Montgomeryshire Militia. The Battalion was disbanded on 31 March 1908.

The battalion received its Colours on 21 May 1885 from Mrs. Platt, wife of the Commanding Officer, on Cae Toplis Field, Caernarfon, on 21 May 1885. These followed the 1858 regulations, four feet on the pike and four feet six inches flying and were of the same design as those presented to the 1st Battalion in 1880 except for the battalion number. The battalion received the battle honour "SOUTH AFRICA 1899 – 1902" for its role in providing men to the 1st Battalion in that war.

Following the disbandment of the battalion the Colours were laid up in Christ Church Caernarfon on 7 April 1908, where they remained unmounted by the altar until 1960 when they were hung horizontal high on the north wall of the north Aisle. The butt end of the pikes were each housed in a carved oak Minden rose boss, the weight of the colours being taken by a fine high tensile wire suspended from the roof timbers. This wire was almost invisible.

In 1985 Christ Church became redundant and, in spite of strong recommendation that the Colours should be removed to the museum stores for safe keeping, they were left in the church. Inevitably vandals broke into the church and tore the Colours down. The pikes and oak bosses appear to have been burned on a fire lit on the floor in the centre of the church and both colours, ripped from their respective pikes, have both lost their sleeves and cords. The Queen's Colour is damaged but could be repaired but the Regimental is in a desperate condition, the greater part of it is missing. The colours were salvaged by a local contractor who

handed them to Colonel J.N. Egan TD ADC. They are now in the Regimental museum store.^{xi}

17. The 3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion (Denbigh and Flint Militia), 1908 – 1953.

The battalion took on the Colours of the 3rd (Royal Denbigh and Flint Militia) Battalion to which were added the ten selected Great War battle honours in 1925. The battalion was placed in suspended animation in 1919, and disbanded in 1953. The Colours were retained in the Regimental Depot at Hightown Barracks, Wrexham, until they were deposited in the Eagle Tower at Caernarfon Castle for safe keeping on 21 February 1951 (see Figure 22) where they later formed part of the Regiment's memorial to H.M. King George VI. This memorial was moved to the Chamberlain Tower in 1978.^{xii}

Figure 36: the Regimental Colour of the 3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, 1885, modified in 1903 and again in 1925.



18. Addendum to Part 2: The Order of Precedence of the Welsh Militia Regiments.

	1782 – 1793	1793 – 1802	1803 – 1833
Anglesey	4	69	69
Caernarfonshire	16	16	16
Cardiganshire	27	27	27
Carmarthenshire	17	39	39
Denbighshire	47	7	4
Flintshire	19	19	19

Glamorganshire	30	5	42
Merionethshire	65	65	65
Monmouth and Brecon	29	14	18
Montgomeryshire	57	13	26
Pembrokeshire	54	54	54
Radnorshire	23	23	50

When militia regiments became battalions of line regiments after 1881, their precedence became the same as that of their regular parent Regiment.

ⁱ Act 30 George II.

ⁱⁱ Act 56 George III.

ⁱⁱⁱ Act 15 & 16 Victoria.

^{iv} Act 34 & 35 Victoria.

^v Act 7 Edward VII dated 2 August 1907.

^{vi} Bryn Owen *History of the Welsh Militia & Volunteer Corps 1757 - 1908: 1. Anglesey and Caernarfonshire* (Caernarfon, 1989), p 37.

^{vii} Theophilus Jones, *A History of the County of Brecknock (Glanusk Edition) vol 1, (Brecon, 1909)* pp 129, 137.

^{viii} Bryn Owen *Anglesey and Caernarfonshire*, p 79 – 80.

^{ix} Bryn Owen *Anglesey and Caernarfonshire*, p 81.

^x Kirby, Major E. L., *A Report on the Location of the Colours of The Royal Welch Fusiliers and some of the Units associated with the Regiment, together with brief notes on their housing and condition*, March 1986, note 34.

^{xi} TNA WO55/427.

^{xii} *The General Armory*, p 851.

^{xiii} Bryn Owen *History of the Welsh Militia & Volunteer Corps 1757 - 1908: Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire & Cardiganshire (Part 1)* (Wrexham, 1995), p 54.

^{xiv} Bryn Owen *Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire & Cardiganshire*, p 55.

^{xv} TNA WO55/427.

^{xvi} *The General Armory*, p 720.

^{xvii} Bryn Owen *History of the Welsh Militia & Volunteer Corps 1757 - 1908: Denbighshire & Flintshire (Part 1)* (Wrexham, 1997), p 49.

^{xviii} See Denbighshire Record Office, Wynnstay MSS, online at http://www.archiveswales.org.uk/anw/get_collection.php?inst_id=29&coll_id=1175&expand.

^{xix} Bryn Owen *Denbighshire & Flintshire*, p 74 – 75.

^{xx} James D. Geddes, *Colours of British Regiments, Volume III*, (privately published, 2000), p 117.

^{xxi} *The General Armory*, p 982.

^{xxii} Geddes, III, no page numbering.

- xxiii Geddes, III, p 279.
- xxiv Royal United Service Institute Archives 2502; Geddes, III, p 120.
- xxv Geddes, III, no page numbering.
- xxvi W.F. Noel *Some Records of the Royal Monmouthshire Militia (Monmouth, 1886)* p 50, Online at <http://archive.org/details/somerecordsofroy00noel>
- xxvii W.F. Noel, p 65.
- xxviii Geddes, III, no page numbering.
- xxix *The General Armory*, p 480.
- xxx Bryn Owen *History of the Welsh Militia & Volunteer Corps 1757 - 1908: Montgomeryshire Regiments of Militia, Volunteers & Yeomanry Cavalry* (Wrexham, 2000), p 43 - 44.
- xxxi Geddes, III, no page numbering.
- xxxii TNA WO55/427 and HO51/443.
- xxxiii Geddes, III, p 279.
- xxxiv Bryn Owen *Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire & Cardiganshire*, p 87.
- xxxv Geddes, III, p 123.
- xxxvi Bryn Owen *Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire & Cardiganshire*, p 88.
- xxxvii Bryn Owen *History of the Welsh Militia & Volunteer Corps 1757 - 1908: Montgomeryshire Regiments of Militia, Volunteers & Yeomanry Cavalry* (Wrexham, 2000), p 43 - 44.
- xxxviii Geddes, III, p 123.
- xxxix G. Archer Parfitt *Radnorshire Volunteers. A Regimental History of Radnorshire 1539 - 1968* (Radnor T&AFA, Hay-on-Wye, 1968), p 12 - 13.
- xl Kirby, Note 9.
- xli *Regimental Records vol VI*, p 311.