

# 51 OFFICERS PASS OUT AT GWELO

Midlands Reporter

Gwelo, Friday.

IT WAS a busman's holiday in Gwelo today for Lt-Gen. Peter Walls, the Commander of Combined Operations, who took the day off from his military duties to attend a passing-out ceremony at the School of Infantry.

Fifty-one officers have just completed a rigorous four and a half months' course at the school.

The cadets at the ceremony were addressed by the commandant of the school, Lt-Col. E. M. Sobey, who told them that the achievement of a settlement was in the hands of the politicians.

"I believe this year is a critical year and even if we get the ultimate prize of a settlement the next two or three years are not going to be easy," he said.

Col. Sobey urged the young officers to go out of their way to bring the African majority on to their side.

"For every mistake you make in the operational area can have a tremendous effect against the ultimate aim of achieving a settlement. For every mistake you make we have a potential enemy against us," he said.

He said they were fighting

for their country and for a future for everyone, irrespective of their race or colour. The alternative was communism. "If we fall then Africa has a problem and so has the Western world."

Today's new officers are the cream of the 900 men who reported to Llewellyn Barracks on Intake 160 in January.

Of those, 171 attempted the officer selection board and 95 were selected to start the course at the school. During the course 35 returned to Llewellyn.

The commandant's plaque was awarded to the man on each of the four courses who was adjudged to have the best officer potential.

They were: G. Wellburg, P. Cochran, T. Fox and M. D. G. Ross.

Forty-eight of those commissioned today were national servicemen and have the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. Three are now regulars, N. R. Dunn and R. Stannard are now acting lieutenants and R. J. Sumpter is a lieutenant.

## Timetable

Parents arrive	: 8.30 for 9.00
Opening Address by Lt Col E.M. Sobey	: 9.00 to 9.30
Tea	: 9.30 to 10.30
Demonstration	: 10.30 to 12.30
Lunch	: 12.30 to 14.00

Afternoon free

Sherry Party : 7.00 for Buffet Dinner  
at 8.00

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Bring woollies



The P.M.C. and Members of the  
School of Infantry Officer Cadets' Mess, Gwelo  
request the pleasure of the company of

MR AND MRS J LIDERSIDGE AND DAUGHTER  
at SCHOOL OF INFANTRY PASSING OUT PARADE  
on FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MAY at 8.30 a.m. hours

R.S.V.P.:

The Secretary,  
School of Infantry Officer Cadets' Mess,  
P.O. Box 734, Gwelo

Dress: FORMAL