



BRAGANZA



1st BATTALION THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

FIRST ISSUE

OMAGH 1982-83



**NORTHERN IRELAND
RESIDENT TOUR
1982 — 1985**

COMMANDING OFFICER'S FOREWORD

This is the first of two editions of Braganza that we plan to publish to mark our tour here in Northern Ireland. This copy will reach you as we pass beyond the halfway point, and we will produce a final epic edition as we pack our boxes and sail off into the sunset towards the Mediterranean.

I am well aware that this is a hard and demanding tour for the Battalion, both for us soldiers and perhaps more so, for our families here with us in Omagh. We are working long hours with a great deal of separation for many of you, at an often thankless and for the most part uneventful task. But this is the very nature of soldiering here in the Province. Your unstinting efforts and vigilance mean that life can return to normal here, and the very fact that we are not involved in constant aggro (with the exception of whenever Tangier Coy is deployed to Fermanagh) means that we are succeeding in our mission and that is what counts.

I thank you all most sincerely for your efforts over the last 14 months. The next 12 months will be harder still if we are to keep up our enthusiasm, cheerfulness and professionalism until we leave the Province. Young Private Biddle's murder in Omagh at the start of our tour will not have been in vain if it hardens us in our determination and resolve in all these respects in the face of the IRA's propaganda and constant threat against us all.

Enough of being serious! I hope you all enjoy this Braganza and are inspired by the nonsense within. Our warm thanks are due to your hard pressed and pea brained editor Captain Nick Keyes.

Good luck to you all for 1984!



The Commanding Officer.

EDITORIAL

Now that the editor's job is finished, I would like to thank: LCpl Ayears for a lot of hard work. He took most of the photographs under considerable pressure and constant rabbiting from me; LCpl Thompson took some of the rest; the Int Section for their patience and help; all those who contributed articles, cartoons or photographs and gave me ideas; and lastly

the troops who cheerfully answered silly questions and posed in the rain.

If your photograph isn't in this BRAGANZA, your find didn't get a mention, and you aren't even named . . . it's probably because you've been doing the work, on sentry duty, patrolling or checking cars; while we've been out photographing the play. So if you are an

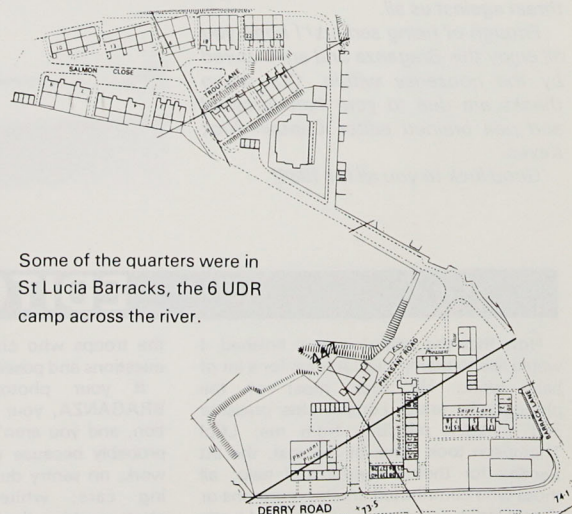
unsung hero, remember on this tour it's the Sangar not the Song.

The thing to do, of course, is make sure the next editor of BRAGANZA doesn't leave you out. Who is he? Well, the next time the Commanding Officer mentions the subject, he will be the last man out of the room . . .

LISANELLY BARRACKS, OMAGH THE BATTALION'S NEW HOME

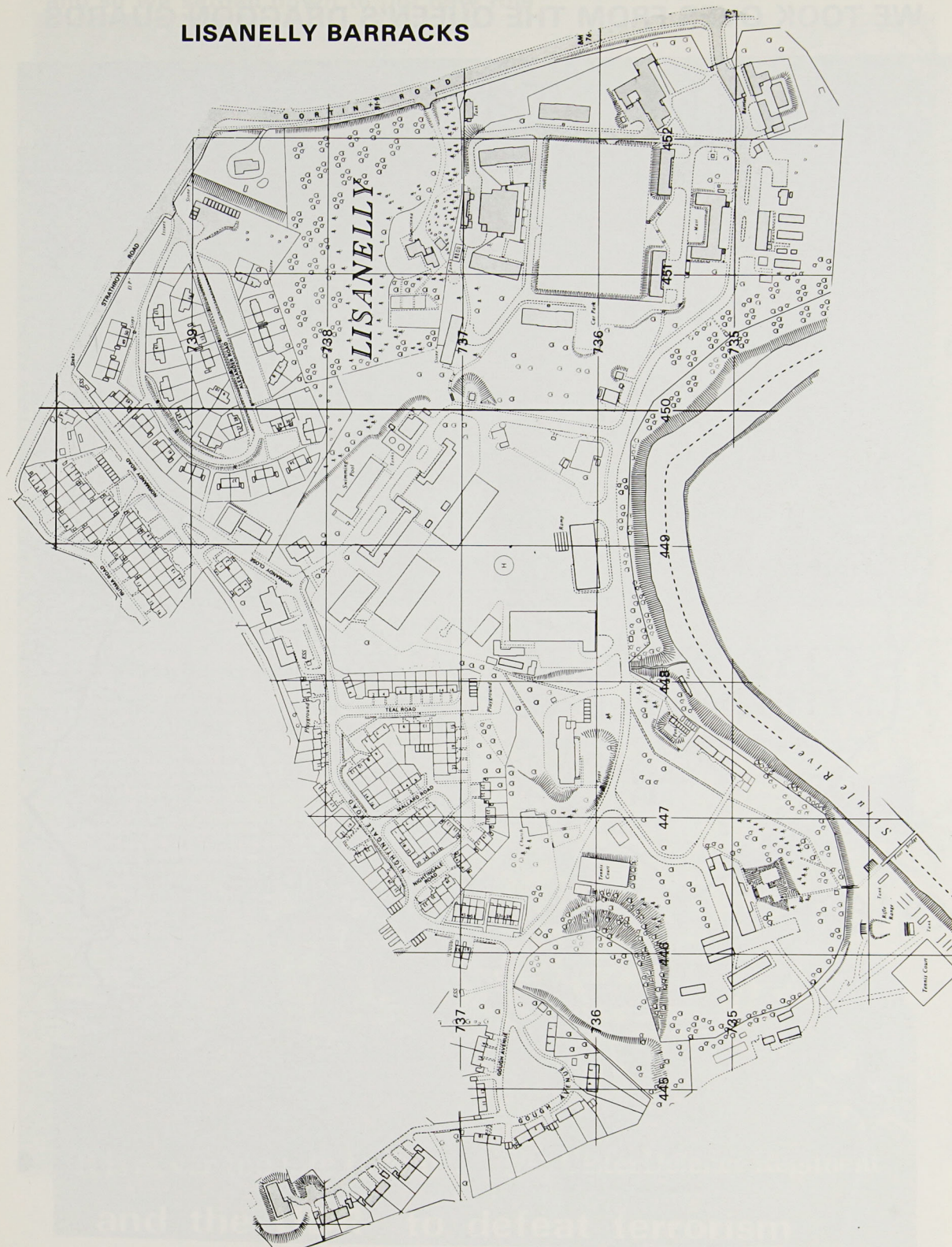


A view of Omagh from the Battalion square.

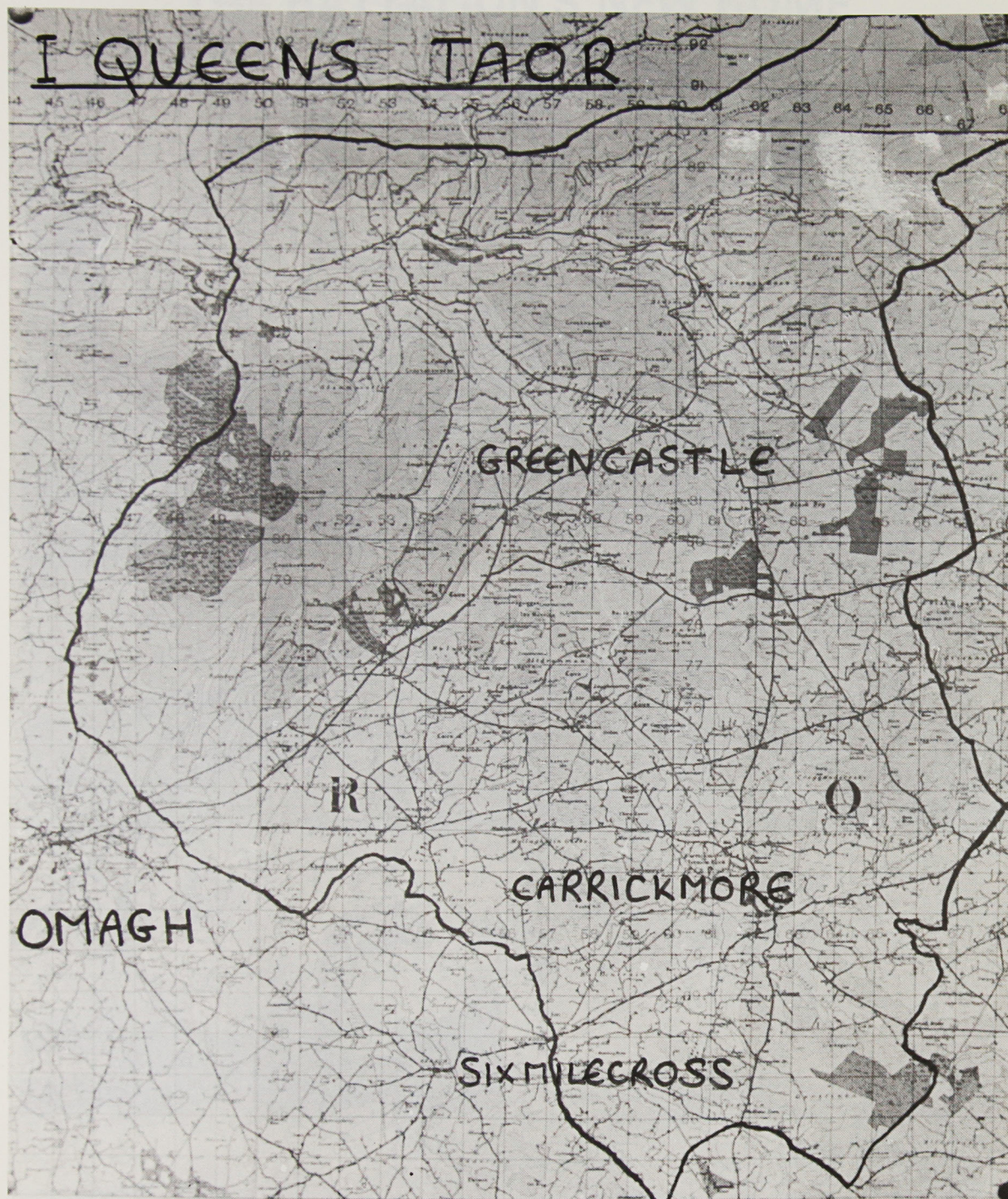


Some of the quarters were in St Lucia Barracks, the 6 UDR camp across the river.

LISANELLY BARRACKS



WE TOOK OVER FROM THE QUEEN'S DRAGOON GUARDS



This was our patch from November 1982 to February 1983.

and so we settled down to our new role



helping the RUC

The Ulster Defence Regiment gives you...

- * the chance to play your part in defeating violence and restoring peace to Northern Ireland
- * the pride and comradeship that comes with serving in the youngest and largest Infantry Regiment in the British Army
- * expert military training to the highest standards
- * the best equipment available
- * pay and allowances, equivalent to Regular Army Rates, for the time you spend on operations. You also get paid for training
- * the opportunity to take part in a wide variety of sports
- * an enjoyable social life in the comfort of your own Company Headquarters

HELP PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY...

With the 6th (County Tyrone) Battalion

St. Lucia Barracks,
Omagh,
Co. Tyrone.



It is never too late to join...



Ulster Defence Regiment

and the UDR to defeat terrorism

**We also operated the Permanent Vehicle Checkpoint
at the Hump in Strabane and patrolled the town**

Ditties from 8 platoon in Strabane

On one patrol, 8 Platoon's CPV broke down in Strabane High Street (of all places) and had to be towed away by 'green vehicles'. Various comments heard in the back of the van were as follows:

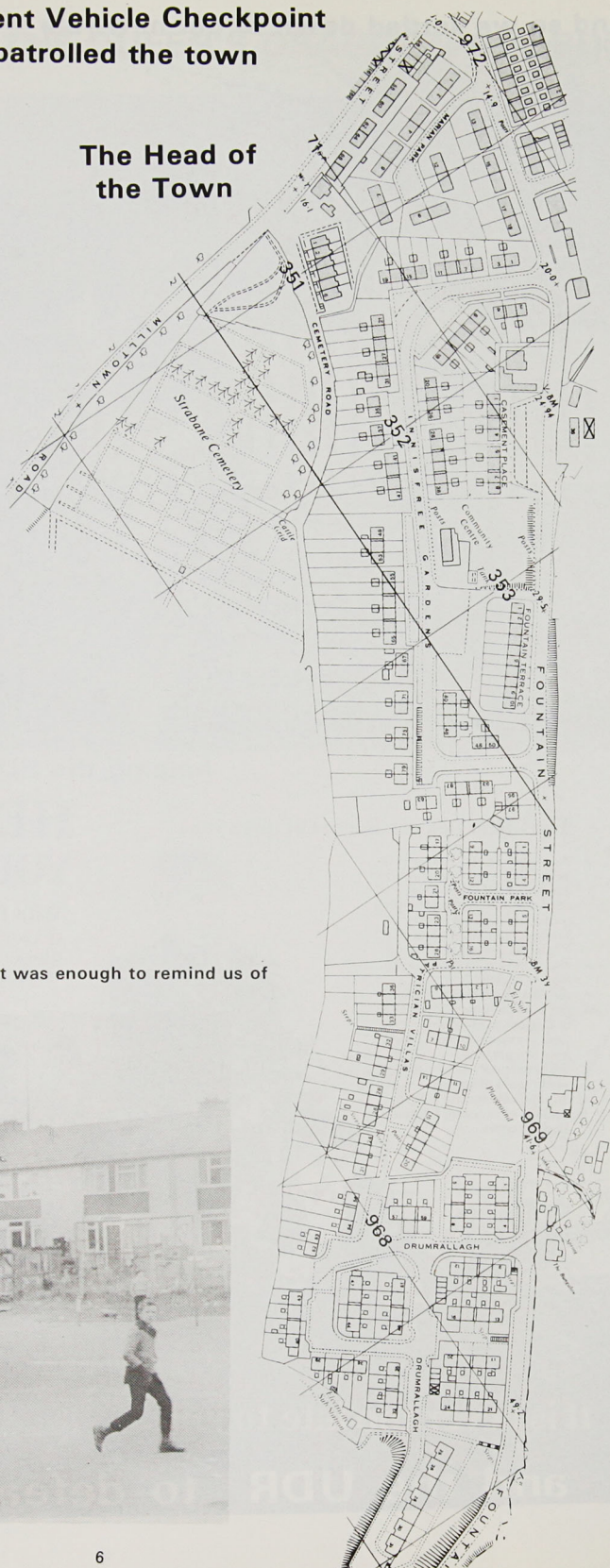
"Let's get the soup out".
 "This should go in Braganza".
 "I think I'm going to be sick".
 "Did you first parade the van?"



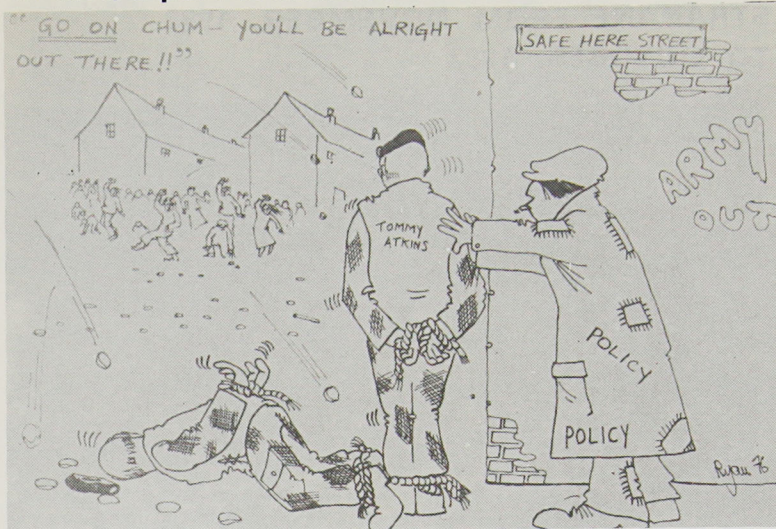
The aggro mostly came from small children but it was enough to remind us of the Battalion's previous experience.



The Head of the Town

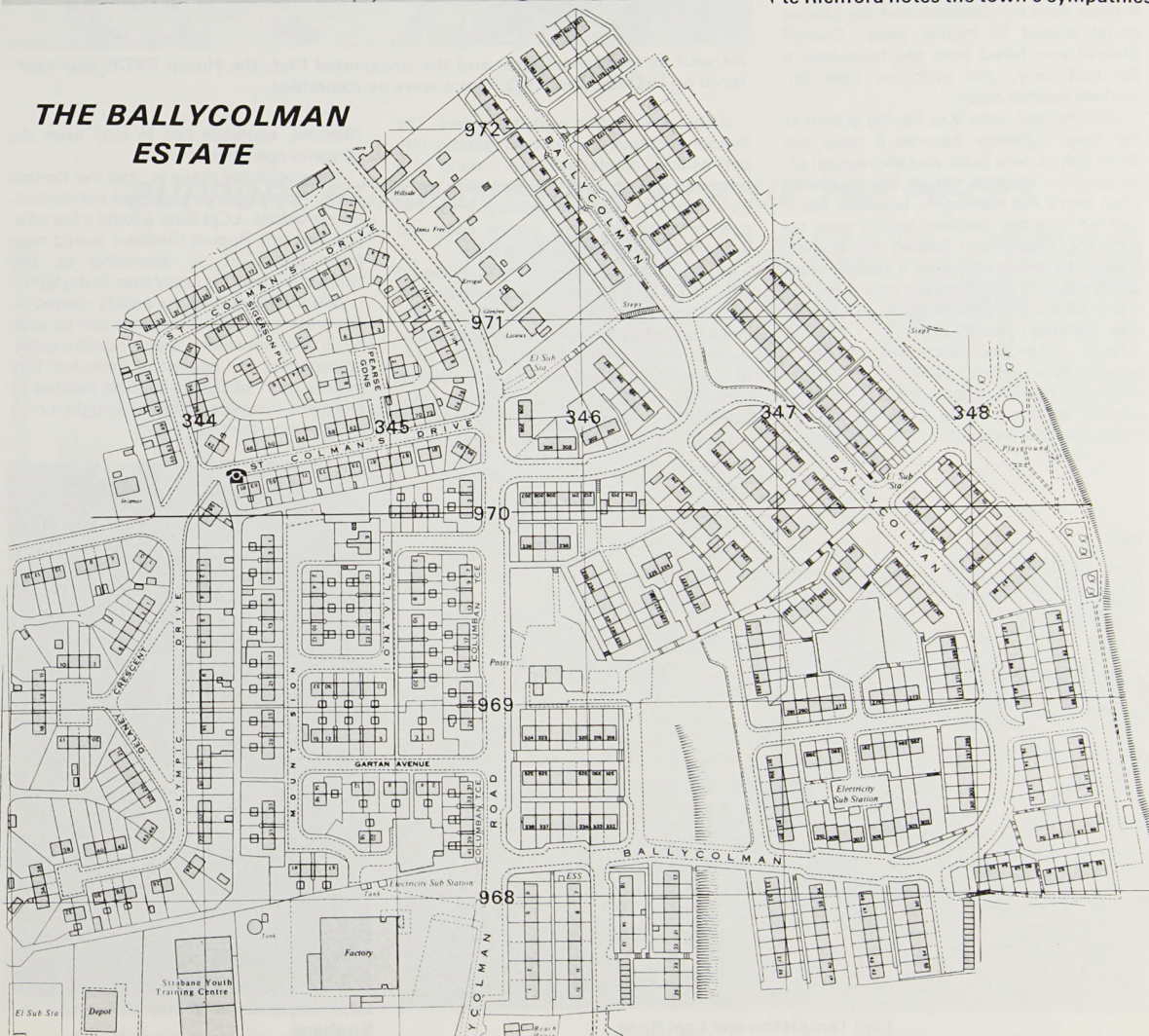


In fact, a past contributor to BRAGANZA said it all in 1976



Pte Richford notes the town's sympathies.

THE BALLYCOLMAN ESTATE





MORTARS MORTARED

by Lt Patrick Crowley

"Add 100" was certainly not the cry heard from the Mortar Pl at midnight on 19 Dec last. For the Mortars were themselves mortared in Strabane that night; fortunately there were no casualties and the nearest round landed 50 metres away. Crump! Crump! was heard from the baseplate, a flat bed lorry, and everyone took immediate evasive action.

LCpl Russell, who was having a bath at the time, suddenly became a deep sea diver! Brightmore (who was showering) attempted to pothole down the plughole! Then came the waiting — seconds, yet it seemed minutes. Soldiers rapidly gave up watching videos and looked for shelter. Covington ended up under a bed (Professional soldier!) whilst others found shelter under tables, inside lockers — or even in their mattress cover (Merry).

Next — The explosions. No one could say exactly how many (In fact it was eight). Windows rattled, doors quaked, ceilings buckled as brave white faces stared out from under blankets G.S.

THE BATTALION WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR STRABANE FROM NOVEMBER, 1982 TO OCTOBER, 1983



As well as frequent aggro, and the occasional find, the Hump PVCP was mortared on 19 December 1982. There were no casualties.

All quiet; everyone waits for orders. The Platoon Commander (caught getting into bed when it all started) runs around with boots on but no socks; Sgt Walker stags on at the Ops Room wondering if the PM ever receives as many phone calls and radio messages all at the same time.

Action! Clear, Cordon, Control; Nitesun, QRF, ATO and RESA. The aftermath has begun and the visitors arrive. There is the initial rush and then the quiet early hours of the morning. The specialists have left, only to return like scavengers to the battlefield early the next day. For LCpl Templeton and Burtenshaw the night is worth one hour's "feaster" in the back of the ambulance.

(Besides, someone has to look after the vengeful operators!)

The specialists move in, and the Cordon waits. Hours pass by and there are controlled explosions. LCpl Russ adopts a fire position that any Roman Gladiator would have been proud of — surprising as this Strabane "mole" is rarely seen in daylight.

Mid-afternoon and the area is cleared — the craters and the base-plate can be seen by all. We were lucky. Eight rounds exploded together, the nearest of them just fifty metres short of the camp. The realities of Northern Ireland had been brought home to us early in the tour.



LCpl Templeton and LCpl Russ.



LCpl Drylands and Pte Wilkinson in Strabane.



And Sion Mills RUC Station (a few miles to the south of Strabane) was blown up by a car bomb on 27th January 1983. No casualties again.

Heard in Strabane by 8 Platoon.
 Boy: "Hey soldier, is that an SLR?"
 Soldier: "Yea, why?"
 Boy: "Well, my Dad's got an M60".

Heard by 8 Platoon in the Choggies Shop: Said by OC C Coy. "I better buy a bar of soap, I've been meaning to for ages". You can make your own deductions from that.

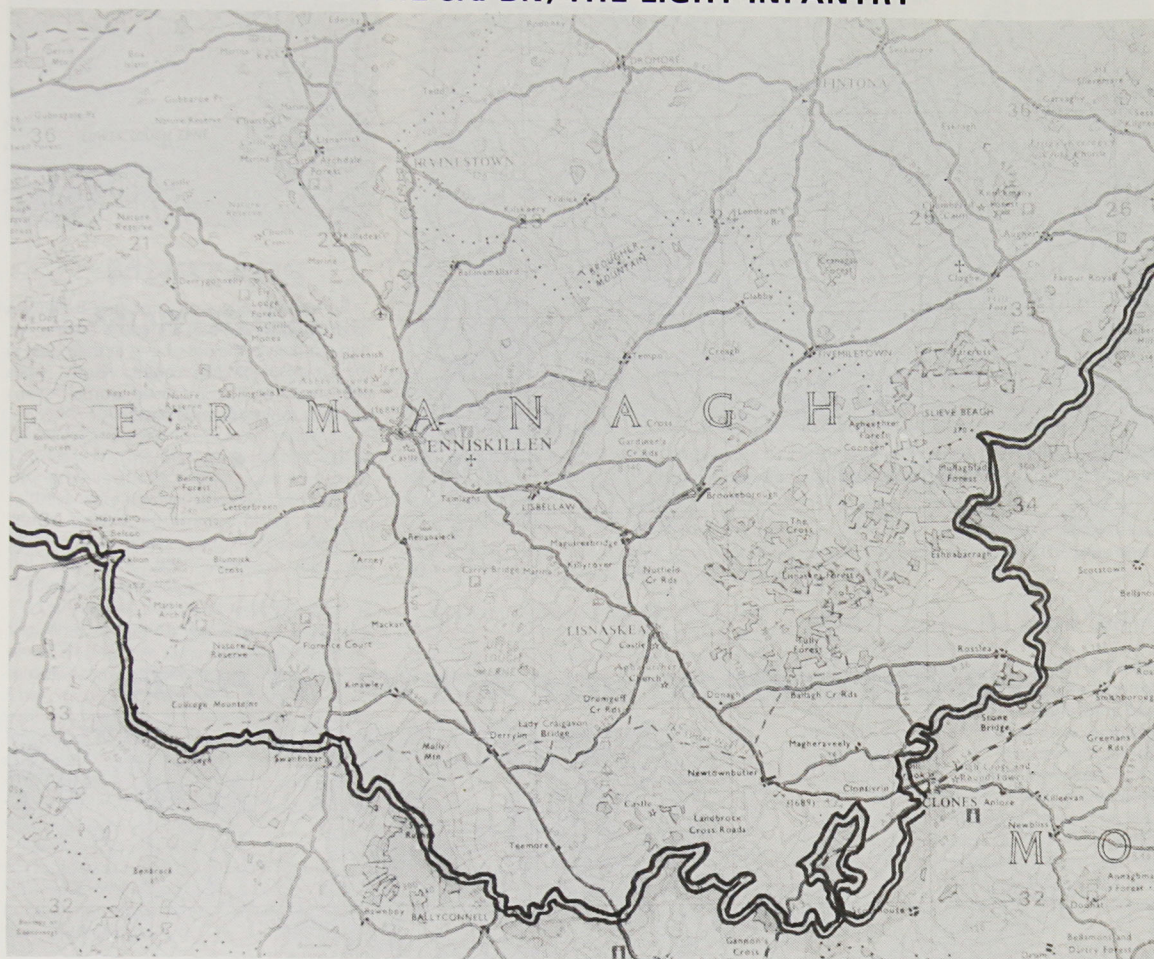
So far in our tour of Strabane, 8 Platoon have caught, on two different occasions, two couples in the act of ----- in their cars in the middle of the night. Both were challenged by the immortal words "Can I see your driving licence please".

SUPPORT COMPANY HELP PICK UP THE PIECES



Another attempt with a car bomb was made on 30 September 1983. This time only the detonator went off.

**THEN IN FEBRUARY, 1983, WE TOOK OVER SOUTH-EAST FERMANAGH
FROM THE 3rd BN, THE LIGHT INFANTRY**

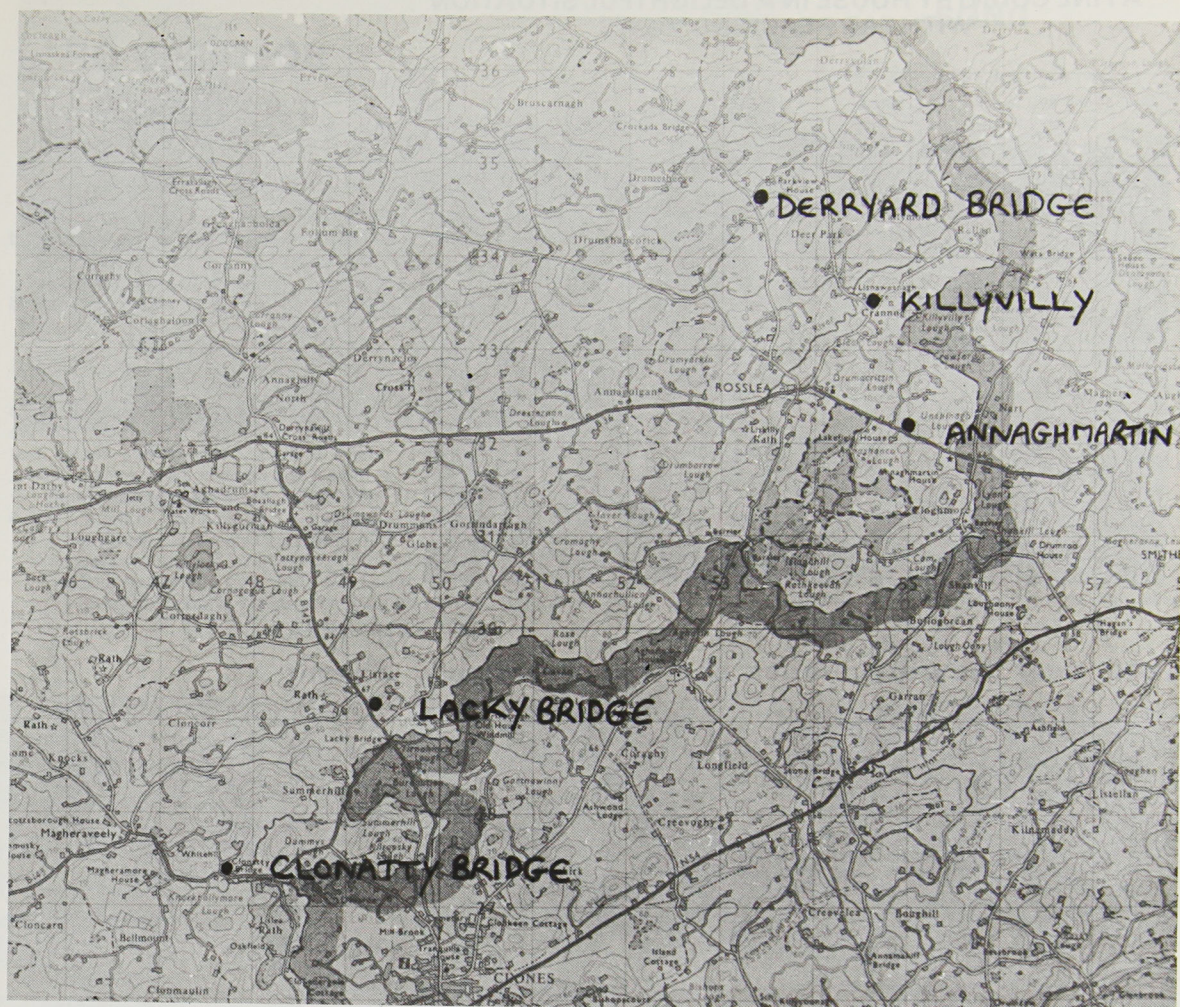


The Company Headquarters at Lisnaskea RUC station.



LCpl Ilbury.

Permanent Vehicle Checkpoints along the Border

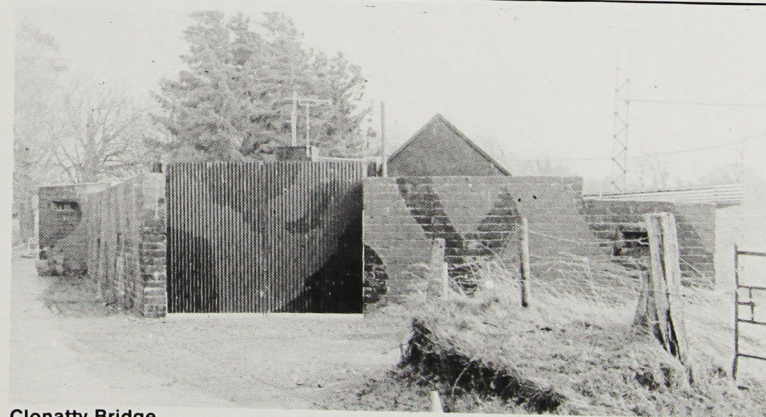


COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. CLXXIV No. 4484

SUPPLEMENT—1

JULY 14, 1983



Clonatty Bridge.

A magnificent house occupying a totally secluded situation with outstanding views

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11

Gymnasium. Sauna.
Conservatory. Staff wing.
2 paddocks.

About 12¼ acres

Price in excess of £200,000

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**A FINE COUNTRY HOUSE IN A DELIGHTFUL SITUATION
WITH FAR REACHING VIEWS**



Kiltürk.

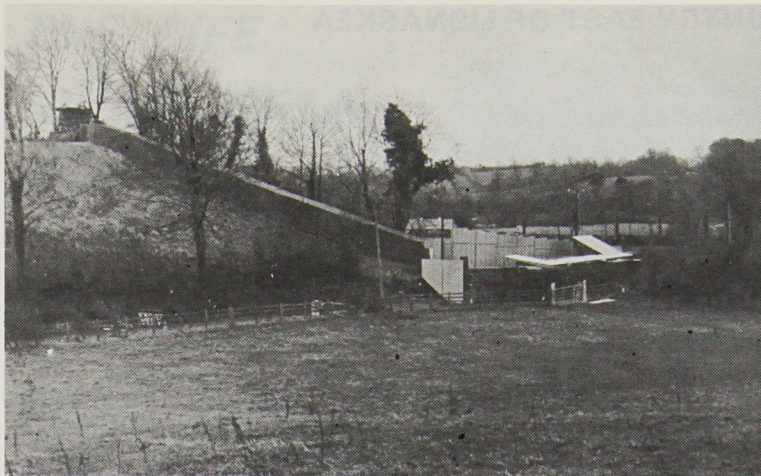
SOLDIERS OF THE QUEEN

Words by C Company

We are the soldiers of The Queen my Lads.
We've searched their cars, we've searched
their pads
And in the quest for finds and glory lads
We have tabbed and tagged and tabbed
and tagged
And when we say there's NTR
In field and barn, in house and car
The INT will turn around and say
'I can't say much but rest assured, this is
top level information mind you, that we
have it from a very reliable source that
there'll be a bomb or a shoot or something,
possibly somewhere on the border or
elsewhere, any time now in the next 9
months, don't say I didn't warn you . . ."

and near Newtownbutler and the Drummully Salient





Lacky Bridge, one of Fermanagh's busiest tourist attractions.

A distinguished country house with exceptional recreational facilities.

4 reception rooms, 8 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, oil central heating, 2 garages, indoor swimming pool and sauna complex, gymnasium, stabling for 9, hard tennis court, 4 bedroom cottage, garden, woodland, paddocks.

ABOUT 49 ACRES.

FERMANAGH WARRIORS

*I came down to Fermanagh
With 30 days to push.
Fell over on my first patrol
And got a cowpat in my Mush.*

*I came down here from Omagh
A doss that I had known.
I passed the weary faces
Of others going Home.*

*6 Platoon, 6 Platoon
Scared and all alone.
16 days more or less
Then we're going Home.*

*The air was cold and windy
The ground was soft and wet.
Ten times I cursed my rucksack
And wished I was in bed.*

*I learned to Lurk near houses,
In bushes, in the ground.
I snuggle up in my Dossbag
All snug and warm and sound.*

*Our sergeant says we're a Legend
But not as good as 5.
But looking at it truthfully
We're not worth a Six Five Jive.*

*They say there'll always be a Fermanagh
I hope they're very wrong.
To all the men of 6 Platoon
I dedicate this song.*

*6 Platoon, 6 Platoon.
Scared and all along.
Today I catch my freedom bird
Today I'm going Home.*

THE FERMANAGH SONG

Words by Pte McGuinness
Sung to the tune of Cliff Richard's
"Summer Holiday"

Chorus:

We're all going to Fermanagh
We're going to stag on for a week or two
Fun and laughter in Fermanagh
Rosslea, Lisnaskea and Lacky Bridge Too
It's the place for you.

Verse:

We'll fly from Omagh by chopper
And land in a field where there's dew.
And the first thing a full screw tells you
Is stag on you, you, you!

The days all pass by slowly
And the only words that ring true
Are "Sir, would you kindly let me
Inspect your bonnet and boot". Oh!

The main think that keep us going
Is knowing that we're on leave soon.
And the troops have a phrase they keep
saying
That "days to do are few".

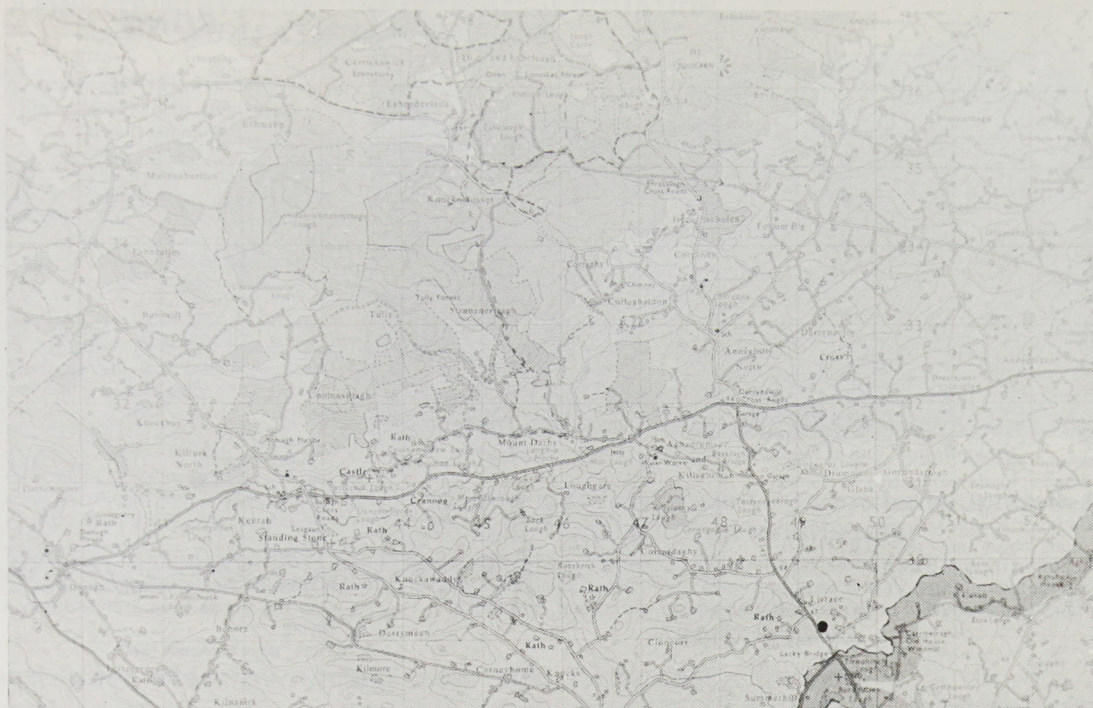


Derryard Bridge — a desirable country residence . . .



. . . requiring some modernisation.

THE COUNTRY EAST OF LISNASKEA



The Knocks Hill, the Dipper, the Dash and the village of Donagh.



Rosslea RUC station, with the Rosslea Arms in the distance.



ANTI SANGER SOCIETY

It was here ASS was formed by 2 soldiers hoping to recruit more men. 2 enterprising heroes, men so brave, good looking, intelligent, so modest, they have decided to speak up about Sangars. Due to the secrecy of ASS these men wish to stay anonymous (McCartney first thought of it and he had brainwashed Bromige). Bromige decided to set it up. Now ask yourself these questions.

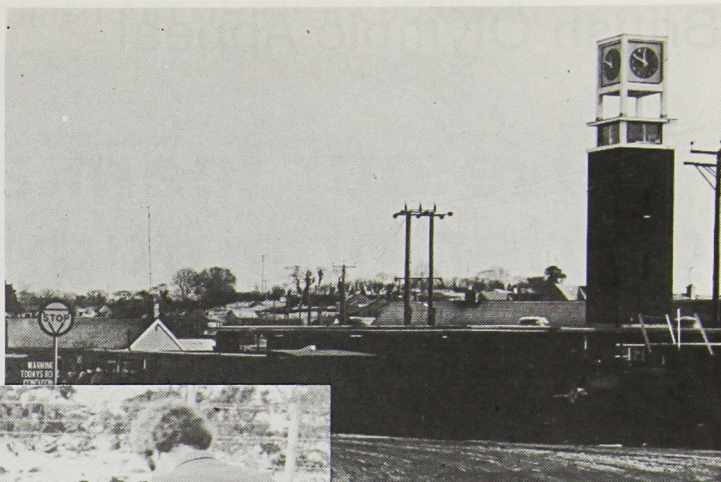
1. Do you get a feeling of impending doom just before going on stag?
2. Do you keep falling down steps of sangars (McCartney does)?
3. Do you come off stag with eyes like Dog Balls?
4. Do you get brownd off with Brass asking dumb questions — then asking what your name is?

If your answer is 'Yes' to every question, then brother, you've got problems. Join ASS! For a mere subscription of £100 we could send you details. Write to:

ASS
McCartney and Bromige,
C/o The Guardroom,
1 Queens,
BFPO 804.

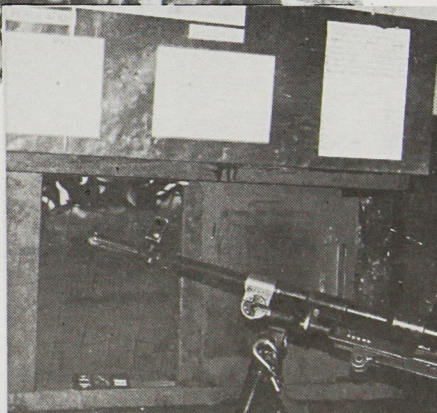
THE LIFE CYCLE OF A QUEENSMAN

Guards and duties



Brigade Reserve

Fermanagh



Leave

British Olympic Appeal

**Give our team a
golden opportunity**



SUPPORT THEM WITH YOUR DONATION

Army Form P 1954
(Revised 5/80)

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Particulars of Soldier		L	▽	N Ø
A	Number	Rank	Catalogue/NATO Stock No	
			Description of Article	

THE ANCIENT IRISH ART OF RIVER CROSSING



The Support Company way.



The B Company method.



And the C Company technique.



The Golly Shop (proprietor: Mr. Anwar Afzal), Lcpl Ruffy, Sgt Rice and Csgt Carter drop in for a cuppa.



The Battalion Guardroom: a sentry calls the faithful to prayer.



Sgt Smith makes his final preparations for his 6 month tour in Belize.

£10,000
to be won

SPOT THE DIBBLE! EXCELLENT PRIZES

10 goes a
penny

★ Including £10,000 CASH PRIZE ★
Video Recorder, Colour 22in. T.V.,
Sick-Chit for Bft & Runs, and many
more . . .

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MARK AN X WHERE YOU
THINK THE FOLLOWING ARE: I.O., A.I.O., AND
CPL WOOLTON



**All winners will be notified by the I.O.
from Lisnaskea on Friday afternoon**

**MEMBERS OF THE INT CELL ARE EXCLUDED FROM
ENTERING**



Statement on the Defence Estimates



Major McGhie says farewell to Tangier Company . . .



. . . and has a drink with the Company veterans.

Mastermind

Tonight's programme comes to you from Wattle Bridge PVCP, deep in the heart of wettest Fermanagh. Our hosts are members of the 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment. May I have our first contestant please:

"Your name?"

"Pte Snooze."

"Occupation?"

"Area Cleaner."

"And your chosen subject?"

"The life and times of Wattle Bridge PVCP."

"Pte Snooze you have two minutes on Wattle Bridge starting now."

"Whey did you come on stag?"

"12 hours ago, and I'm knackered."

"Correct. When did you last fire your weapon?"

"It's not mine, I borrowed it from the cook!"

"Correct. Which direction is North?"

"Pass, some idiot has painted the arrow out."

"Correct. Who lives in the white house?"

"Er., Seamus Connolly?"

"Wrong, you berk, what's happened to your sangar map board anyway?"

"We're using it as a wind shield in the khasi."

"Correct. How's your wife?"

"Sir, I'm not married, Sir."

"Wrong — she had a baby yesterday. Where are you going on leave?"

"Two weeks in Florida Sir, two



weeks in the Bahamas Sir, one week in Spain, then a few days in Paris, then home to Guildford for a bit, then . . ."

"Correct. What are your arcs of fire?"

"Pass."

"Who is your Platoon Commander?"

"Pass."

"Which direction is the Border?"

"What Border, Sir?"

"I'll take that as a pass. Why are you in this sangar anyway?"

"Pass."

"When did you last fire a Schermully Flare?"

"Four years ago, and that was a blind."

"God save us. Fire one now, boy!"

"Sir, the CSM will kill me!"

"Correct. Where's your IR torch?"

"Sir, I ditched it Sir, the batteries are dud."

"Correct. What are you using for night viewing?"

"No need Sir, I keep the shutters closed."

"Correct. What is this PVCP here for?"

"Sir, I thought you would never ask. It's been designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty and we are here to stop it being vandalised by the locals."

"Wrong, boy. It's here so that the CO and your Company Commander can visit you at all hours of the day and night, interrupting your kip and asking you a string of damn fool questions."

(Buzzer sounds . . .)

"You passed a bit, which is a first class effort for someone who has only been to Fermanagh about 50 times. Take 3 weeks extra leave . . . and give the cat some warm milk while you're at it . . ."





The Potential NCOs cadre.



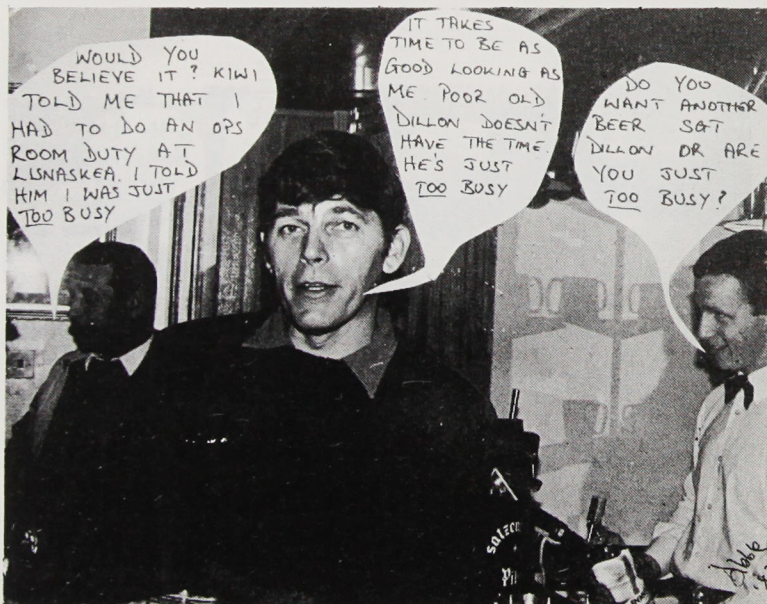
Lcpl Edwards on the NCOs cadre.



Battalion Headquarters welcomes the Colonel of the Regiment.



Csgt (now WO2) Hayward receives his Long Service and Good Conduct medal from the GOC.



Onward Christian soldiers
 Marching as to guard,
 Creases in their combats
 Faces shaved, unmarred,
 12 hours stag is hectic
 Troops all toe the line,
 RSM's inspecting
 Stickman won't be mine,
 "Why ain't you in Barrack dress?"
 Here the Provo cry
 "We're in Northern Ireland"
 Comes a quick reply,
 "What's that got to do with it?"
 Jots a name with Quill,
 "Get some smart uniform on
 This is not a drill!"

Onward Christian soldiers
 Marching as to nick,
 Should've dressed much smarter
 Now mark time you twit
 Rasman's in a temper now
 March them to the CO,
 "Never seen baggier sandbags
 One month's loss of sough,"
 Onward Christian soldiers . . .

OC A: Company saw a Fermanagh farmer
 cutting huge amounts of peat
 OC A: What do you do with all this peat?
 Irishman (astonished): Oh, I burn it.



NORTHERN IRELAND
VISOR
 Services Magazine
 Edition 504 ★ ★ ★ January 4th, 1984

MAGGIE'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE
 TO THE SECURITY FORCES -

**"You shine like a
 beacon of hope"**

Just after we went to press before Christmas the Prime Minister came to give the season's greetings to members of the security forces in Armagh and Tyrone as part of a surprise visit to the Province in which she



WARNING: This camp is guarded by war dogs.



Cpl Janes, the Movements Clerk and scourge of British Airways.

From a Company Commander's newsletter:

I would like to thank the Company Wives for the tremendous support you give your husbands. I do appreciate how difficult it is with your men away so much. However, I know from my own experience how marvellous it is to have ones wife there on those occasions that one is in Omagh.



Some members of the Tightliners Fishing Club.

THE ANTI-TANK PLATOON, 1983.



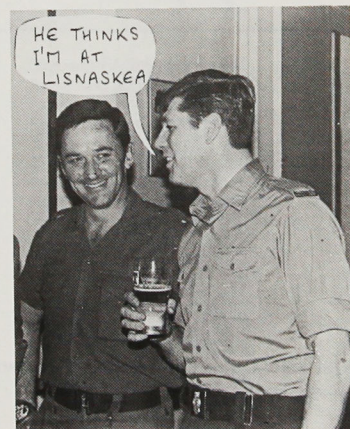
Cooke, Wilkinson, Hunter.

Harrison, Langridge, McKenzie, Milsom, Batt Parker.

Lee, Duffy, Rogers, Wheatland, McCullum, Thomas Addison.

LCpl Manners, LCpl Day, Cpl Foster, Sgt Copeman, CSgt White (Platoon Commander), Sgt McCulloch, LCpl Evans, LCpl Tunstall.

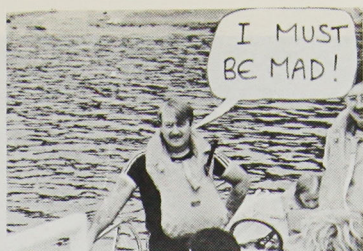
'C' COMPANY SEARCHING A DERELICT



Q. How does a Paddy get £1000 from the Army?

A. When he runs over two soldiers in a vehicle checkpoint.

Ask Ptes Hatton and Fitzandrews what they think about it.



LCpl Burbridge prepares for the Falklands.

True Stories

LCpl Smithurst was sent as 2IC of PV4, and discovered the joys of firing schermulys. The CSM hastily brought him back to Lisnaskea when he asked to be moved to a PV with a 2 inch mortar.



Osman, Nichol and Ryan keep the Messes going.



Anti-Tank Platoon Old Comrades Association: LCpl Smithurst, LCpl Walker, Pte O'Toole.



"Excuse me sir could you . . ."



Ptes Blizard and Barrett at Clonatty Bridge (The R & R centre).

A Marine Tale

(The scene is a dinner party given by the Duke of Clarence, in the reign of George III)

"The King's health, gentlemen!
And now Her Majesty the Queen's!
Another Magnum, steward, and
Clear away you dead Marines!"

Thus to his guests, the sailor Duke,
But 'ere they gained their feet
A soldier at the table leapt
In anger from his seat.

"Before we drink, Sir, I would ask
Your Royal Highness why
A useless empty bottle should
Be held to typify . . ."

"Yourself," laughed Clarence, "Surely, Sir
The inference is plain?
And both have done your duty
And will tackle it again."

WHEN YOU NEED US, WE'LL BE
THERE



Fly ARMY

Promises,
Promises



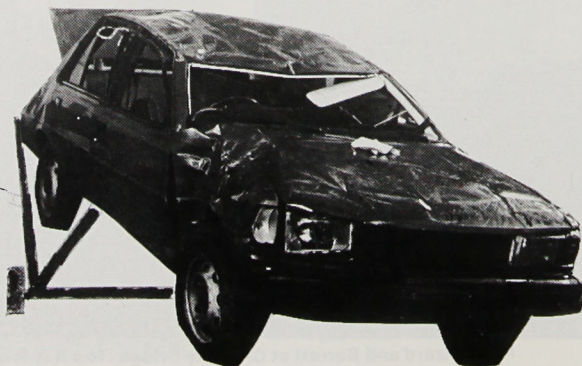
LCpl Locke, Ptes Plunkett and Humphries declare Lucky Bridge a nuclear-free zone.



Lt Wright puts in.



"Tell MTO the intelligence party has returned".



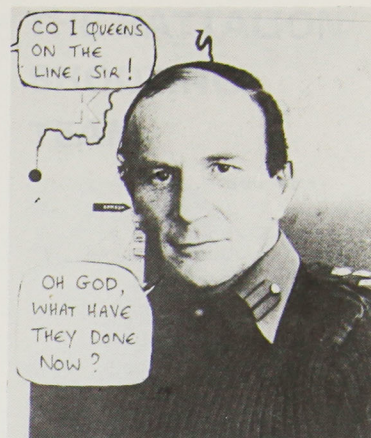
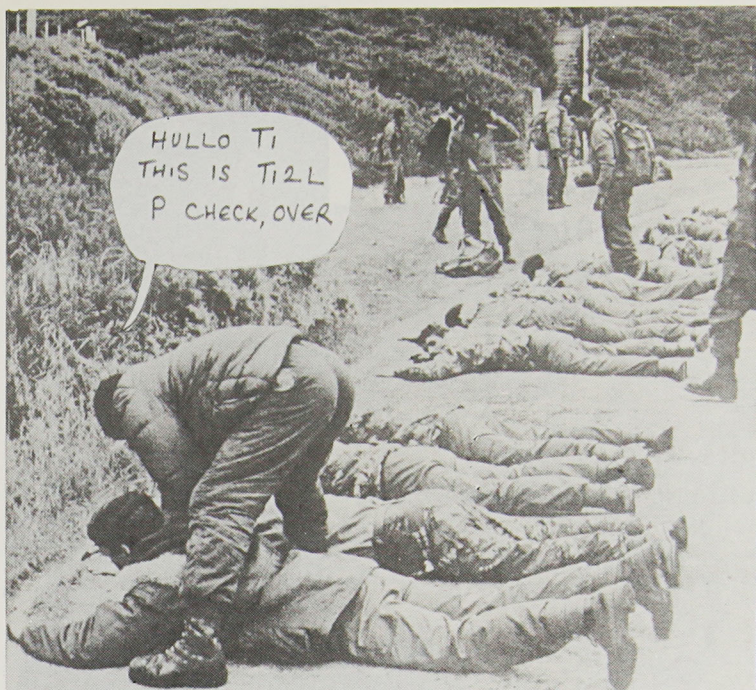
Please note...

STAINS

Though we have cleaned this article thoroughly, we have been unable to remove the stains completely.

We do not advise further treatment because of the risk of damage to the material.

BB 99



Brig C G Mattingley OBE, Comd 8 Bde.

LCpl Mumford to OC C Coy
Hello LCpl Mumford, nice to see you,
you're always asleep when I visit.
"Yes sir that's the general idea."

NORTHERN IRELAND INTERMEDIATE NOVICES — 1983 RUNNERS-UP



Rear Rank: LCpl Chapman, Pte Grant, Pte Hammond, Pte Bonner, Pte Cracknell.
Front Rank: LCpl Else, Pte Kent, LCpl Phillips ACC (trainer), Pte Brightmore, Cp. Brown.
The team lost 6-3 to the Cheshire Regiment.

RESTRICTED

KSA VKSA 002
KSA 002
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O 232359Z JUL 83
FM 1 QUEENS
TO 8 INFBDE
INFO 4 UDR
8 UDR
ZEN/6 UDR
BT

RESTRICTED

SIG IAA

1 QUEENS L DIV EAST

NIREP 1 SITREP FROM 222359 83 TO 232359 83

SITREP NO 841

1. AN INCREDIBLY DULL DAY, RELIEVED ONLY BY LIGHT RAIN SHOWERS

2. A. NIL

B. NIL

C. (1) A. 304

B. 13

C. NIL

D. NIL

E. NIL

(2) NIL

(3) NIL

(4) NIL

(5) NIL

D. NIL

3. NIL

4. NIL

BT

COMM CEN

24 JUL 1983

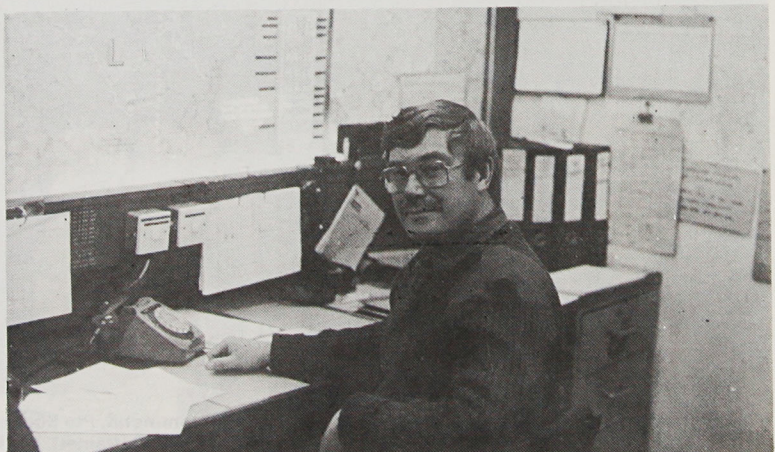
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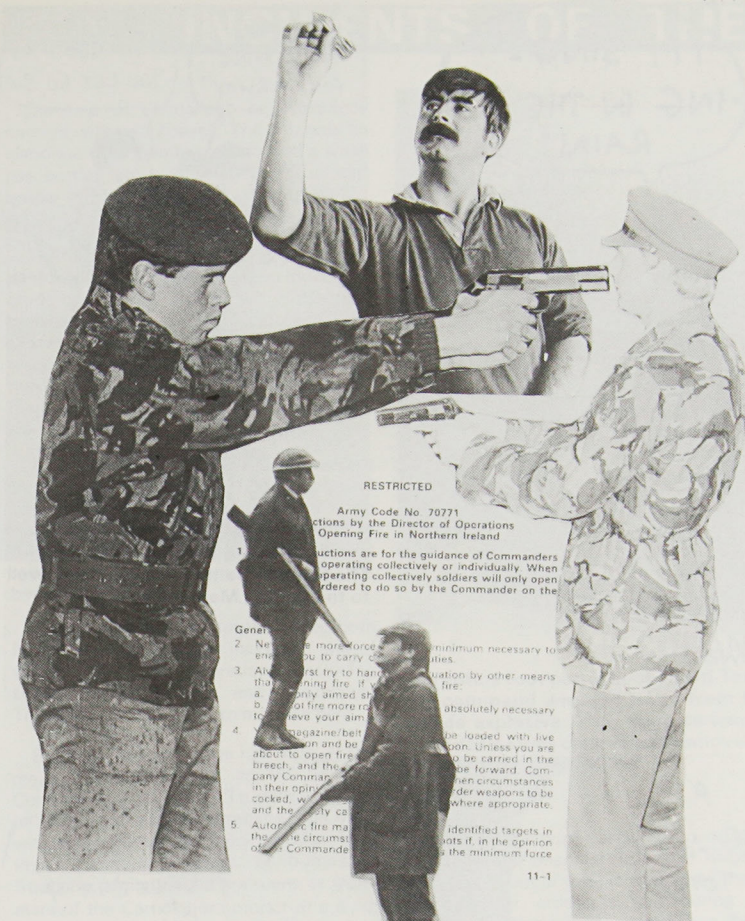


Pte Grant about to go on stag at Rosslea.



CSM Brown in Lisnaskea Ops Room.

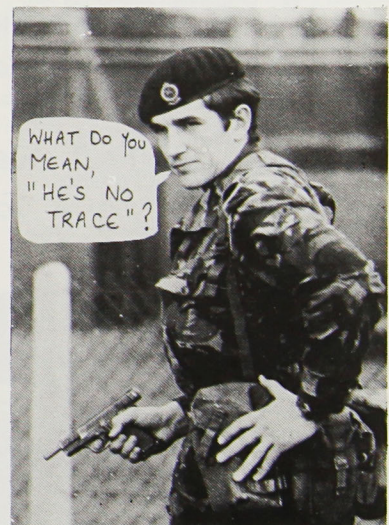
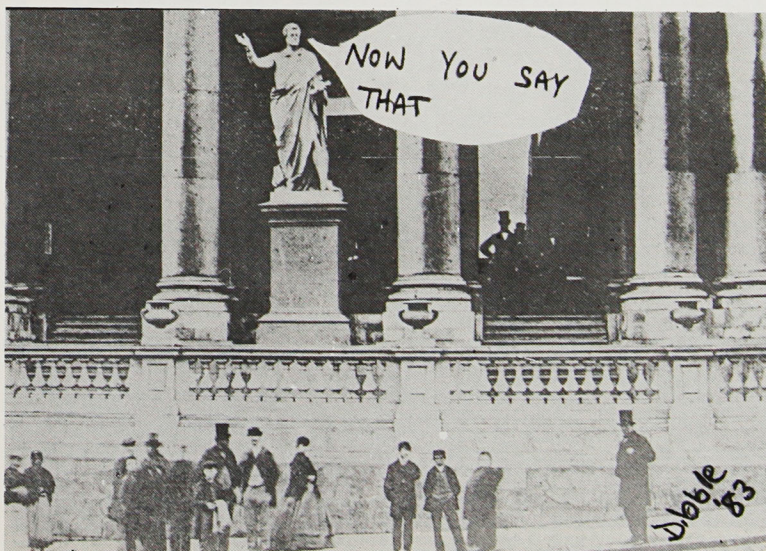
THE BATTALION SHOOTING TEAM



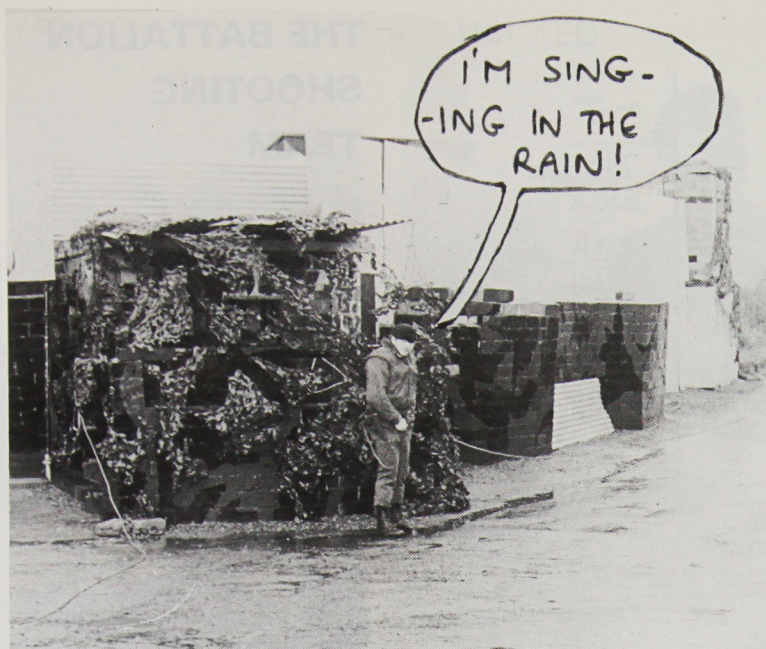
YELLOW CARD



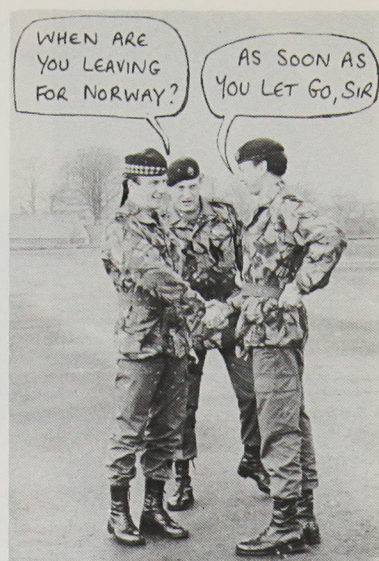
Sgt. Clark.



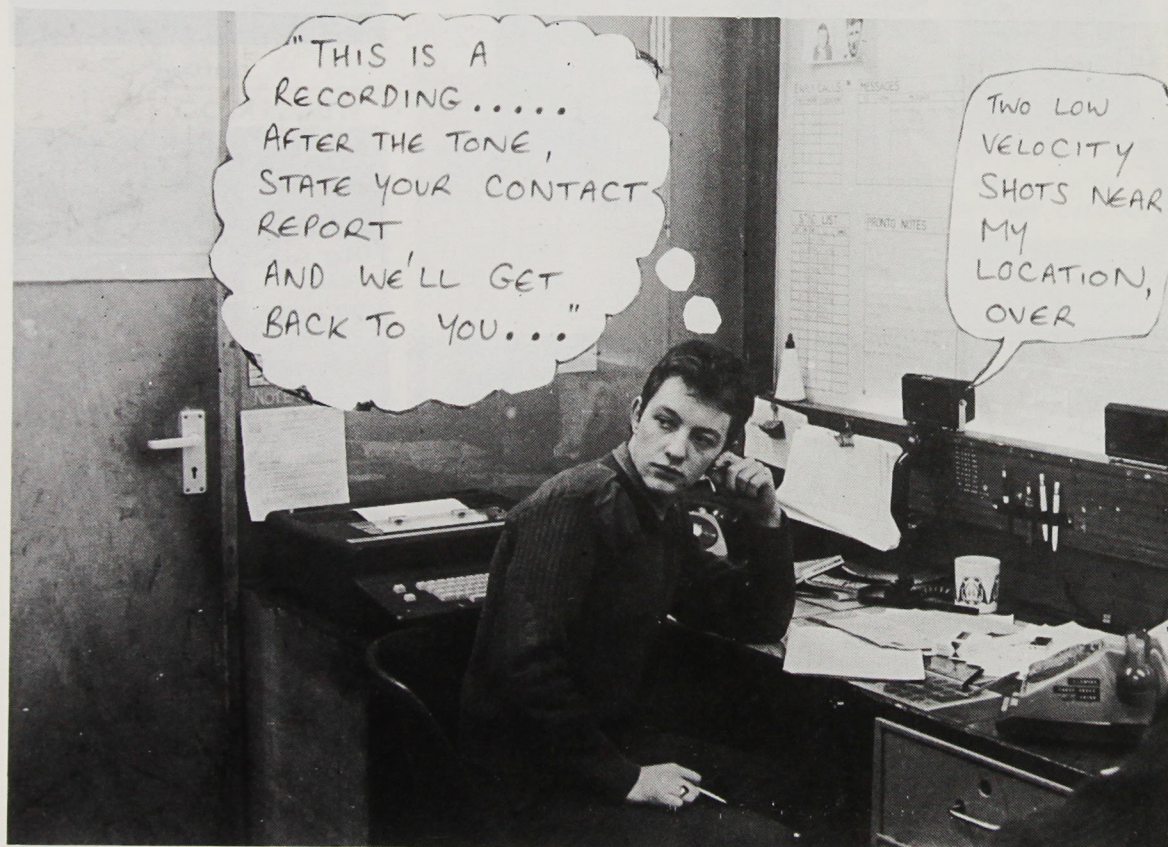
Definition of Flap.
Cpl Thomas when told by Craig that he had left his weapon in the car which had just left the PVCP.



Pte Craig at Killyvilly.



The Brigade Commander says farewell to the Bn 2IC, Major Low.



Pte Handley in Lisnaskea Ops Room.

INCIDENTS OF THE TOUR

Our tour of Fermanagh began quietly enough with two hoaxes. The first was an elaborate hoax bomb, made out of a small gas bottle, which was left at the closed border crossing near Lacky Bridge PVCP. A Company did the cordon and clearance.

The second, again cleared by A Company, was a bag of clay made to look like a crude car bomb. This was left in the back of a GPO van which was hijacked near Clonatty Bridge PVCP. The two youths responsible were caught by the Gardai as they walked back across the border to the town of Clones. Also captured were the weapons: an air rifle and a toy pistol!

A Company also dealt with Fermanagh's first real bomb. This was a 10lb device fixed to the side of a silage barn, fitted with a trip wire. The farmer, a part-time member of the UDR, noticed the trip wire as he was reversing his car towards it. Happily, the bomb was defused.

B Company and C Company have both had their share of minor incidents, and of course their own operations, including several large searches and clearances. These are too numerous to mention here.

Support Company have had most of the major incidents so far, as OC Support Company will tell you: "To date, the Coy has been mortared in Strabane, has dealt with two attempts to blow up Sion Mills Police Station, a series of bombs in Strabane, and attended the scene as guest stars of the Carrickmore mortar attack. In our own patch, we have dealt with the Coranny Lough IED, the Ortine Hotel car



THE CORANNY LOUGH BOMB

A routine foot patrol by the Anti-Tank Platoon discovered this device. 450 metres of command wire led away from 6 beer kegs each containing 10lbs of home-made explosive. They were concealed in some bushes by the side of the road. The device was cleared and removed on 28th April, 1983.

bomb, Brookborough car bomb, found ammunition, and become experts at helping the Sappers out of trouble when they try to close Border crossings. So during a, thankfully, relatively quiet year, we have had enough to do to remind us why we are here."

FIND

On 25 August 1983, a Support Company foot patrol was rummaging near a barn in the Newtownbutler area. They found: 102 x .303 rounds; 15 x .303 armour piercing rounds; 9 x .22 rounds; 1 x .38 round; 5 x .303 empty cases and 16 x .303 blank.



On the 7th May, 1983, a car bomb exploded outside the Ortine Hotel in Lisnaskea. No one was injured. Here OC Support Company surveys the scene.

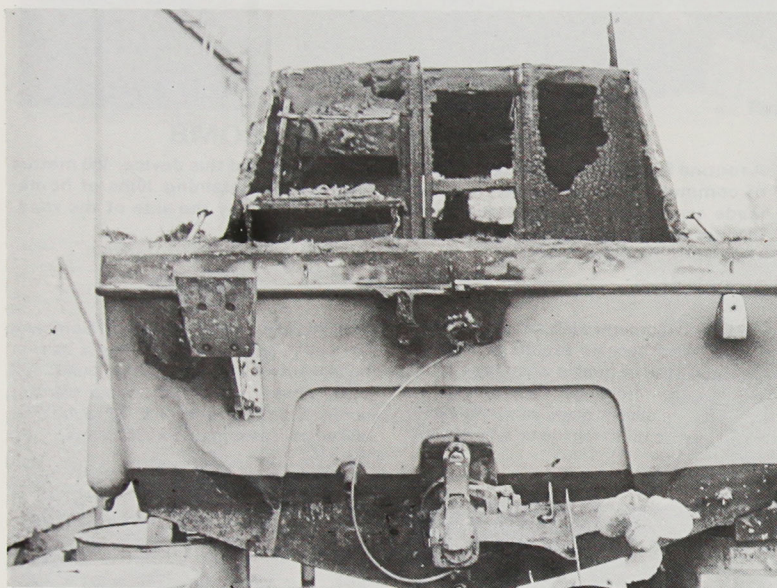


FIND

LCpl Young of the Anti-Tanks with what he found on a foot patrol on 27th August, 1983: 13 x .303 rounds, 1 x 7.62 round, 6 x 7.62 empty cases, 5 x 7.62 clips, 3 x .303 clips, 2 x 7.62 wooden ammo cases, 1 x 36 grenade, and a firearms certificate.



PIRA decided to celebrate the founding of the Queen's Regiment (in 1661) by blowing up Omagh Courthouse on October 14th, 1983. No-one was hurt.



On 5th November, 1983, an incendiary bomb set fire to the Boathouse at Lisnaskea.

And Omagh makes the "Republican News".

BOMB BLASTS OMAGH

Omagh town centre, in County Tyrone, was devastated on Friday night, December 16th, when a 150lb bomb exploded outside the Royal Arms Hotel in High Street.

An IRA active service unit breached the tight security around Omagh's business heart to place the 150lb bomb. A 40-minute warning was given at 6.15pm to ensure against civilian injuries and the bomb detonated at 6.55pm, leaving an eight-foot crater in the road.

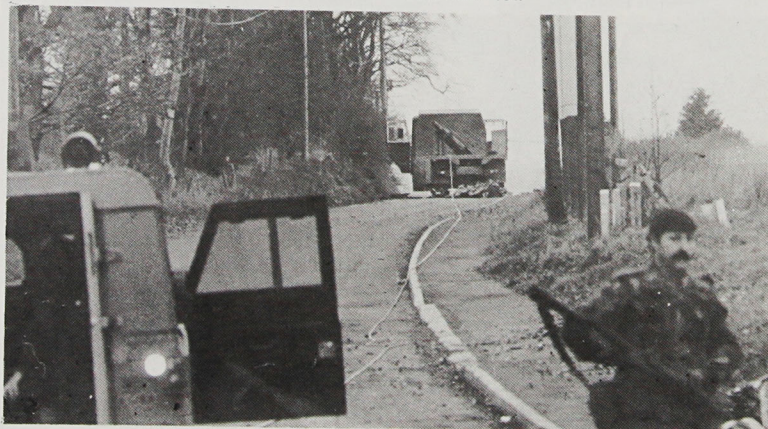
The Royal Arms was specially chosen as

OMAGH BOMB WARNING



An attempt was made on the "Silverbirch Hotel," just opposite the main gate of Lisanelly Barracks, on December 1st, 1983. The device was defused by ATO.

In a statement issued through the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau in Dublin, the IRA said that its Tyrone Brigade was responsible for the bomb at the Silverbirch Hotel in Omagh on Thursday night, December 1st.



Back in our old patch, Carrickmore RUC Station was mortared on 12th November 1983. Sadly, one policeman was killed and others injured. 1 Queens helped with the cordon and clearance.

it was frequently used by both British troops and the RUC. Earlier commercial buildings in High Street, Bridge Street and Market Street were also damaged.

It was estimated that damage caused by the attack was in excess of £1 million.

COMBAT SOLDIER

He stealthily picks his way through the undergrowth in his new boots. They are made of the finest Tibetan leather, they never leak and are extremely warm in wet and cold weather conditions.

He pauses as a sudden gust of rain forces the rain to whiplash against his face. Once again he thinks how wise he was to purchase a complete SAS windproof suit from a surplus shop two months before the tour began.

He also thinks how lucky he was for his parents to have given him a Gortex waterproof and thermal pile jacket for his birthday. He is wearing both items at that moment and hence is as warm and dry as toast.

As the light level decreases he quickly glances at his wrist compass to check that the patrol is on course. It is still raining but he knows that he is going to have a comfortable night even if the others aren't.

The patrol reached the woods and began setting up a harbour. Almost everyone immediately crashed out in their green maggots. He, however, had a waterproof sleeping bag and a Gortex bivi bag and was going to be the only dry soldier in the morning.

Dawn breaks but the weather is still foul. Soldiers can be seen attempting unsuccessfully to light their hexamine burners; except, that is, the one who slept well that night. He was already sipping a hot brew. Once again his flint and magnesium fire starter had got him out of a miserable situation.

The route to the pick-up point was short but it was criss-crossed with thick hedge rows. This did not cause any problem to him as he used his brother's old pair of gardening clippers to blaze a trail.

Out of the mist a chopper can be heard but visibility is extremely difficult. Time to use the Firefly — **at last** a piece of issue kit!



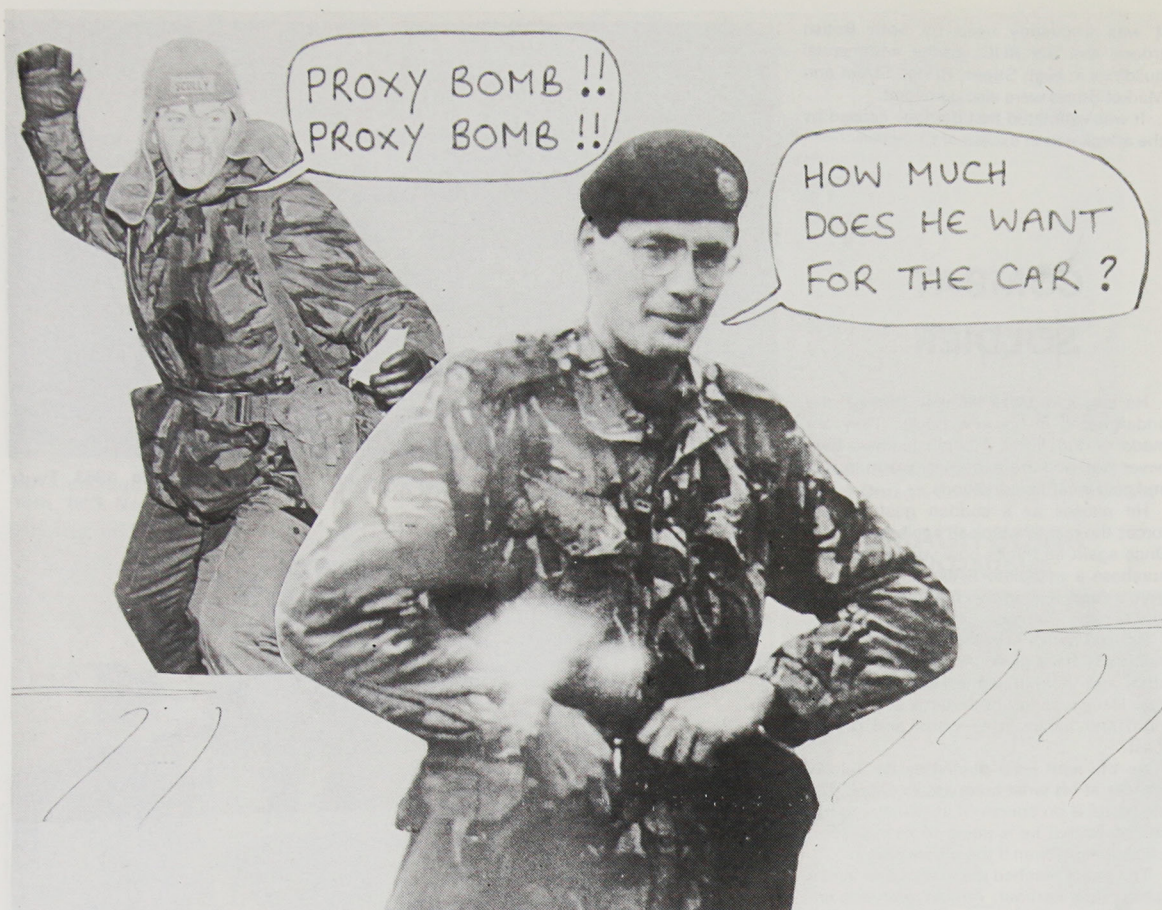
The "Royal Arms" was blown up by a car bomb on December 16th, 1983. Two civilians were slightly hurt.



The "Royal Arms" was serving drink the next day!



A car bomb exploded in the quiet, mainly Protestant village of Brookeborough, on the night of 23rd December, 1983. No one was hurt.



Sgt Scully and Lt Rogers dealing with an incident.

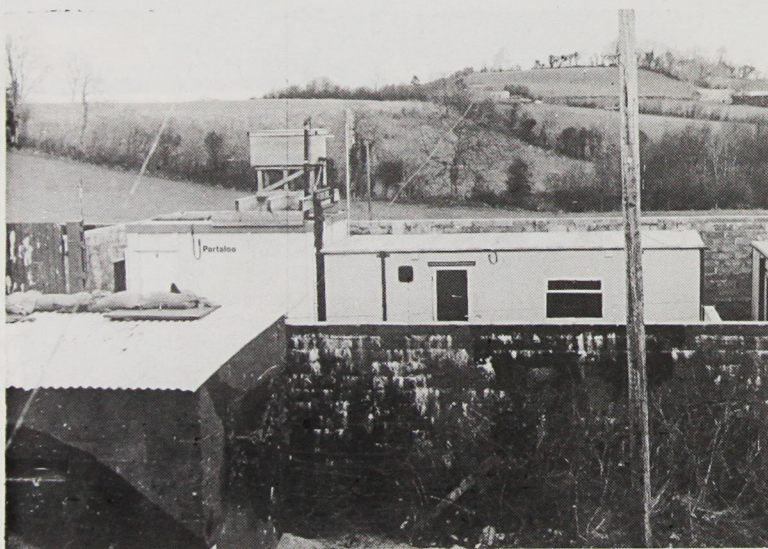
To OC B Coy via Braganza.

RECOMMENDATION FOR A GONG FOR CPL FISHER

I would like to recommend myself for a gong for my heroic part in the finding of two .22 empty cases, plus a photo of some Southern Irish soldiers. I think the citation should read as follows:

"Whilst carrying out vital duties at PV3 in the highly dangerous area of Annaghmartin, Cpl Fisher was informed of the find of an empty case. Far from being panicked by this disclosure Cpl Fisher swung into action like a well oiled machine, informing Tango 2 only minutes after this important find. He went on to direct the operation like the true veteran he is. Once the second empty case was found Cpl Fisher still kept an icy control of his nerves and went on to complete this very crucial operation".

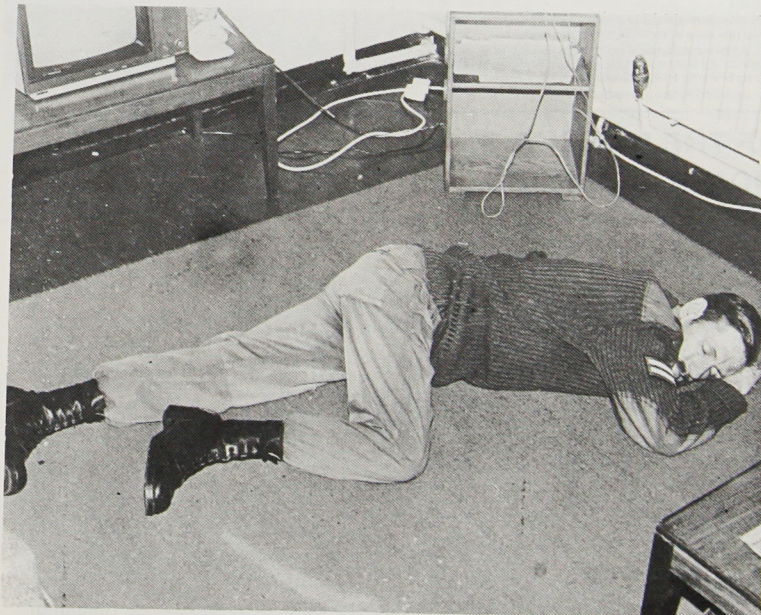
I'm not worried what gong they give me but a VC would look nice on the mantle piece. I hope you can rush this through. Sir.



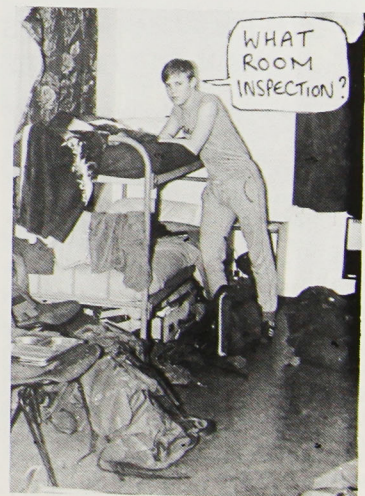
Annaghmartin: North-facing and with all modern conveniences.



Rear Rank: Cpl Magee, Pte Brown, Pte Hayman, Cpl Blake, Pte Goldsmith, Cpl Enoch.
Front Rank: Capt Golding RAMC, Sgt Jones, Capt Salmon RAMC, Nurse Bottomley.



Cpl Blake demonstrating the first signs of stress in Ops Rooms.



Pte Welt at Lisnaskea.

The Bn Football team make "VISOR" again!

1 Queens beat off Aldergrove attack

1 Queens opened up their account with an excellent 2-1 victory over the highly fancied RAF Aldergrove side in the first round of the NI Cup.

RAF Aldergrove, fielding a much improved side from last season, arrived at Omagh in buoyant mood after disposing of a strong 1 Cheshire side 4-2. 1 Queens on the other hand, had beaten a competent 3 UDR side 4-0 in their opening league encounter.

The match kicked off in good conditions with 1 Queens taking advantage of a slight breeze to test the RAF defence and long range efforts from Rutherford and Fitzmaurice brought an early response from the RAF goalkeeper.

After only eight minutes and completely against the early run of play, Aldergrove took advantage of an uncharacteristic hesitancy within the 1 Queens defence to score an opportunist goal.

The second half began with the RAF side playing with a strong wind at their backs and prepared to adopt a more open attacking policy than that of the first half. But despite this advantage the RAF were making no headway against a strong and uncompromising 1 Queens defence, superbly marshalled by their experienced skipper, Jennings. A strong individual run by the enterprising Rutherford ended with Williams scoring an equaliser with a looping header in the 68th minute.

Finally, with the seconds ticking away and a draw seeming inevitable, 1 Queens won their fifth successive corner and a well struck ball from Robinson was met by Jennings to score a magnificent winner, which gave the RAF goalkeeper no chance whatsoever.

In the next round of the NI Cup 1 Queens will meet their rivals 2 Queens, which, going by their recent meetings should prove to be a hard and entertaining game.



1 Queens—Good start against favoured RAF side.



FEELING JUMPY?

Look a bit tense, don't they? Well, maybe you would if you were about to take a tumble a thousand feet.

Appearances are deceptive, however, by the end of Exercise Eagle's Wing these student sky divers from Northern Ireland had gained enough experience to stay cool and make the most of the clear air over North Carolina.

Major Dick Trigger, centre, with Cpl Dave Wilkinson (left) and Pte Bill Bryne took a party of six there, to the internationally renowned Raelord Parachute Centre.

All were keen sport parachutists who had found the opportunities for practice were few and far between in Northern Ireland, not least because of the weather.

But the near-perfect conditions at Raelord meant they were in the air for all but one day of their three week visit - and in that time the nervous novices were transformed into relaxed and confident intermediate free fallers.

See inside for a special four-page report.

NORTHERN IRELAND VISOR Services Magazine

Edition No 491 *** September 28, 1983



OUT OF THE BLUE: Pte Bill Bryne drops in on target

1 QUEENS—WINNERS OF THE NI SIX-A-SIDE CRICKET COMPETITION AT LISBURN

Rain did NOT stop play in the finals of the Northern Ireland Six-a-side cricket competition at Lisburn — but the steady drizzling downpour meant the league competition had to be replaced by a knockout.

From an original entry of 40 teams the eventual zone finalists were 8 Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, 1 LI, 1 Queens and 1 RGJ leaving the final match to be played out by 1 Queens and 1 LI.

In a game where fours counted as sixes and sixes counted as ten it was hardly surprising that 1 LI managed 75 for the loss of two wickets. In reply, 1 Queens steadily closed the gap until an untimely wide ball worth four runs presented them with one run to win off the last delivery — and duly scrambled home to a well deserved victory.

"It is not only Ian Botham who wins mat-

ches on the last ball", commented Lt Col Tony Barnett, Chairman of NI Cricket, after presenting the prizes to both teams.



From the "VISOR".



1 Queens — N.I. Area Cleaning Champions.

HOW TO STAG ON, OR, THE THREE PUSHES



Pte Cole at Kilturk.



ORDERS FOR THE SANGAR SENTRY

ON ENTERING A SANGAR

1. Ensure grot book is well positioned for easy reference.
2. Check Walkman batteries.
3. Ponce fag from soldier just leaving.
4. Phone Command Sangar, keeping finger on prestle. Pretend you don't know how to work it, to bug the crew.
5. Make sure road man has got kettle on.
6. Close all ports, turn heating on or up.
7. Check floor is clear to sleep on.
8. Throw gravel near door so anyone approaching makes a noise.
9. Set alarm to two minutes before end of stag.
10. Place phone on floor for each access from prone position.

WHEN ON STAG

1. Check nose passage.
2. Write name on wall (underneath where you wrote it last time).
3. Carve same on desk, if there is a blank space.
4. Bug Command Sangar for time.
5. Break Sangar torch.
6. Strip and reassemble chair, phone, IWS.
7. Give face lift to hood photos.
8. Put boot polish on IWS eyepiece.
9. Put cam cream on phone earpiece.

WHEN ABOUT TO LEAVE

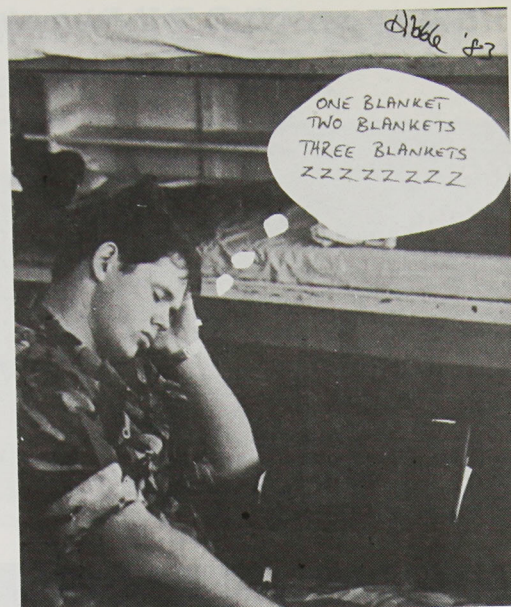
1. Give relief a fright.
2. Tell him you have seen suspicious movement. This will worry him.
3. Ponce fag.
4. Run.



"Roger, I am lying up and observing the house. Nothing to report, over".
LCpl Turnstall and friends on patrol.



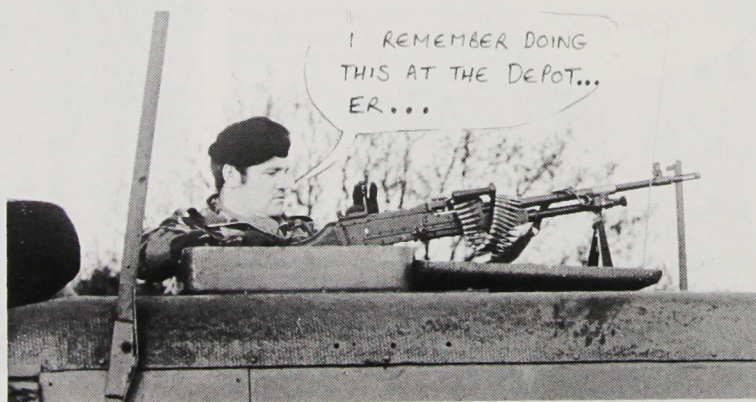
Ptes Fritsch, Richards, Biddlecome and Grant in the Lisnaskea Choggy Shop.



Lt Lawrance, on attachment from the RAOC, 1982-83.



Pte Canham and LCpl Brown in the Lisnaskea armoury.



The Anti-Tank Platoon gives Pte Heeney a challenge . . .

The CO revives an old tradition



... presents the Snowden Trophy to the 1982 winner. Major Carter ...



... and to the 1983 winner (himself).

COME ON NOW, QUEENS

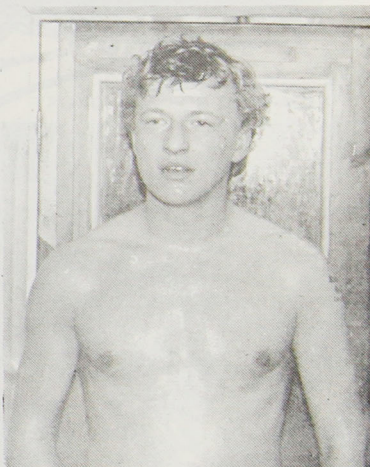
Certain uncharitable elements of 1 Queens have seen fit to doubt the motives of their Commanding Officer in reviving the annual shoot for the Snowden Trophy, a competition open to all officers serving with the Battalion.

True, as it turned out he won the thing – but just look at the beaming smile of innocent joy radiating from Lt Col Paddy Panton here, as he receives his prize from his 2IC, Major Roger Gancz. Not a trace of the sort of smug self-satisfaction some lesser spirits – and, one must suppose, lesser shots have been hinting at, is there? IS THERE?

'When I was in Bahrain'



'B' Company get told a thing or two.



Pte Relf-Arnold using the Lisnaskea Sauna.

R.U.C. WATER-SKI CLUB
(Lisnaskea)

IRISH STEW NIGHT

IN THE VALLEY HOTEL
ON THURSDAY, 24th MARCH, 1983

Music by: PRIDESMEN & DONNY

Dancing 10 p.m. - 2 a.m. Supper Served 11 p.m.

TICKETS £3.00

ANOTHER BLOODY LURK!
WHERE THE HELL'S MY
DOG WHISTLE

PTL PROG
MON LURK ✓
TUES DAY OFF
WED DAY OFF
THURS DAY OFF
FRI QRF
SAT LURK

PTL QRFORT
2300 DOP
2310 CAMP
2330 PICK
NTR
2340 BED

236
RULES OK



"Hello Tango 2, this is Tango 23 Lima,
we have been compromised by a dog. Re-
quest pick-up in figures 30, over."



Clonatty Bridge during a Hygiene
Inspection.

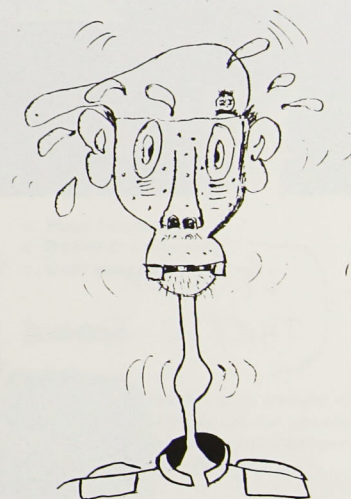


Some members of the MT Platoon.



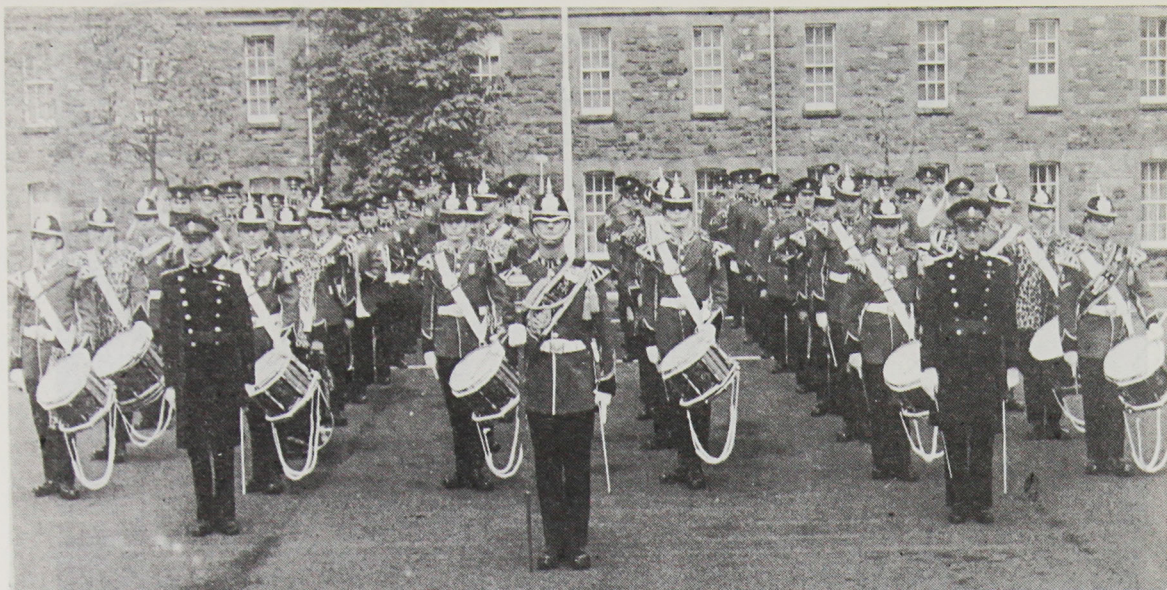
CSM Kearse at the Rosslea Arms

CAN YOU PICK A
PUNCHLINE FOR THIS FACE?



1. Yes Dominic, mate, of course you can go through!
2. It's the OC!
3. No, please, anything but the Sangars!

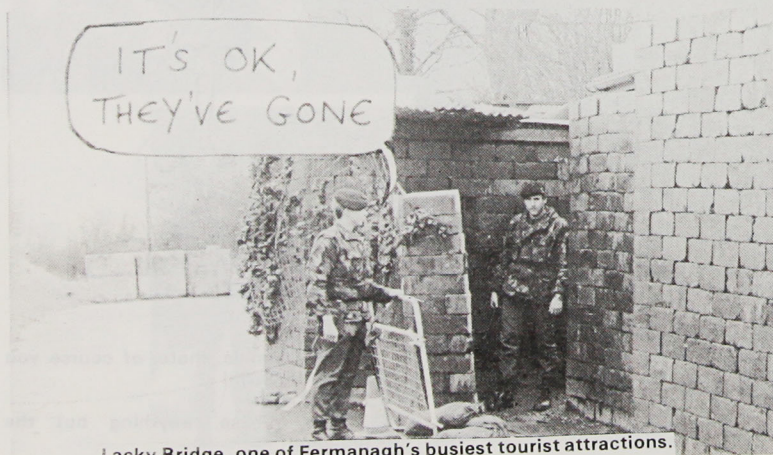
"Meanwhile in Northern Ireland a massive security operation is being mounted, and all troops are on full alert . . ."
Captain Keyes, Pte Osman and Pte Roycroft on standby in the Officers and Sergeant's Mess in Lisnaskea.



The Bands and Drums of the First and Second Battalions at St Lucia Barracks, Omagh.



Pte Rogers.



Lucky Bridge, one of Fermanagh's busiest tourist attractions.



Cpl Riches and Pte Cooper with examples of local art near Strabane.

WHAT KIND OF SQUADDIE ARE YOU?

Tick whichever of the answers below apply to you:

1. In a Sangar do you:

- a. Observe your arcs.
- b. What's a sanger?
- c. Play on your own.

2. Your favourite weapon is:

- a. An M16/M79 combine.
- b. A Purdey 12 bore.
- c. A starting handle.

3. Do you read:

- a. Soldier of fortune.
- b. Country life.
- c. Playbirds.

4. Horses — are they for:

- a. Eating when necessary.
- b. Riding.
- c. Betting on.

5. Do you carry in a spare pouch:

- a. Survival kit.
- b. Chocolate and Sweeties.
- c. Fags.

6. Is your rifle:

- a. Cammed up.
- b. Under your bed somewhere.
- c. Rusty.

7. Which of these is your favourite:

- a. Apocalypse Now.
- b. Anything by Walt Disney.
- c. Any XXX.

8. You are issued a map — is it:

- a. Fabloned.
- b. Lots of pretty colours.
- c. Somewhere in your room.

9. What's your favourite dog:

- a. Alsatian.
- b. Spaniel.
- c. Two-legged.

10. BN HQ is where:

- a. Postings come from.
- b. My friends work.
- c. They f... up my leave passes.

11. Do you carry your ammo in:

- a. Cammed up LMG Mag.
- b. What ammo?
- c. Dirty SLR Mags.

12. Camouflage — do you:

- a. Buy your own American Cam Sticks.
- b. Whats Cam?
- c. Avoid it like the plague.

13. Do you end your nights drinking in:

- a. A pub.
- b. A wine bar.
- c. A gutter.

14. Do you own any of the following items (tick each one):

- a. SAS smock.
- a. Baynot.
- a. Victor beret.

b. Barbour Jacket.

- b. Moleskin trousers.
- b. Flat hat.

c. Page 3 calendar.

- c. Beermat collection.
- c. Grot mag collection.

ANSWERS:

MOSTLY A.

You are a cowboy, you should either be in the SAS or a home for spacemen. Try going COP or Support Company. See Cpl Shade for details.

MOSTLY B.

You are, or you should be, a Lieutenant! See Officers Mess for details.

MOSTLY C.

You are, or should be a Tommy, and the best you'll do is Grade III. See Pte Jones 54 for Details.



LCpl Flynn and Captain Riley on patrol.

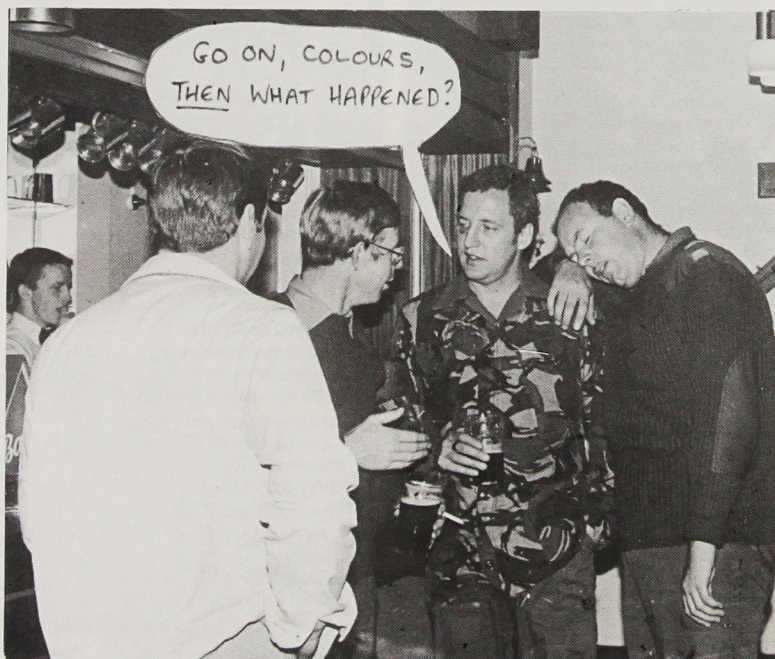
JERUSALEM

Words by C Company

And did those feet
In modern times
Walk upon Irelands mountains green
And was the heavy pack of stores
On every soldiers shoulders seen
And did the OC from on high
Frown down upon those plodding souls
And was the Sangar man, beasted here
In Irelands green unpleasant land.

Bring me my torch
of burning IR.
Bring me my grot mags of desire.
Bring me my mail, Dear John unfold.
Bring me my grids and arcs of fire.
I will not cease from vengeful checks
Nor shall my head* sleep in my hand
'Til we hand over here, to Tangier'
This green and wet unpleasant land.

*I think this should be Hed.



CSgt Beard tells Sgt Jennings and CSgt Lovell a story.

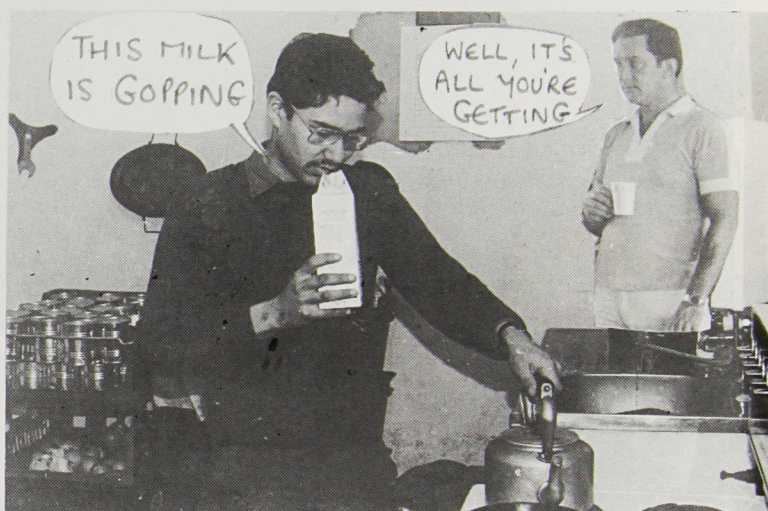


Great bores of today — No. 39G

... not only have I got the resup to do at all locations but I've got to sort out the Iris at PV5 it's amazing that a Corporal can't handle it and I've got to put a Private onto it but then it's 'C' Company isn't it oh it was a broken sensor box oh well you know that the kit situation's like these days I never have time to sort it out especially with all the jobs I have not to mention being continually disturbed by officers who think I have nothing better to do than issue stores I mean my day never ends and now I've also got to do Sgt Dillon's job I have to get up before I go to bed I mean it wouldn't happen in 'B' Company...



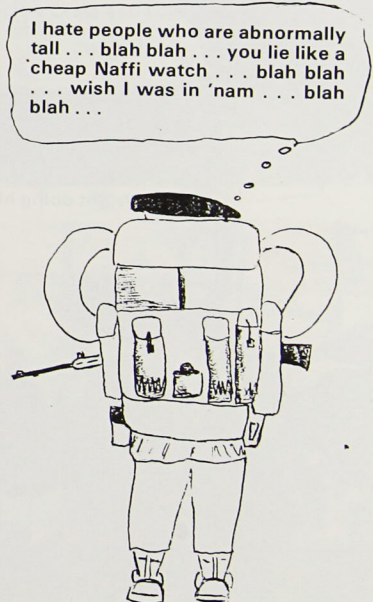
Pte Jarvis, Acorn, LCpl Havart and Pte Brierley in Rosslea Ops Room.



Pte Colclough makes the RQMS a nice cup of tea.



The COP Platoon at work.





Cpl Harris with some of the Mortar Platoon at play.



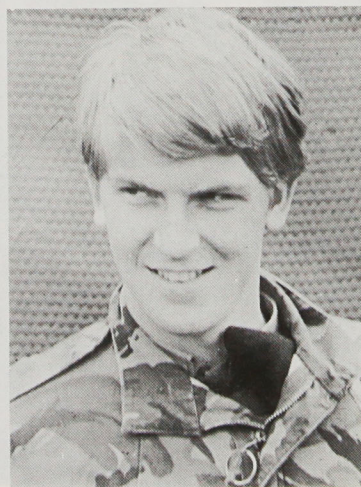
Pte Wright doing his bit at Derryard Bridge.



Lt Col Panton talking to Pte Chaplin in the front sangar at PV1:

CO: "This sangar is useless, we should get rid of it".

Pte Chaplin: "You've got the bloody right idea there Sir".



Pte. Easterling.



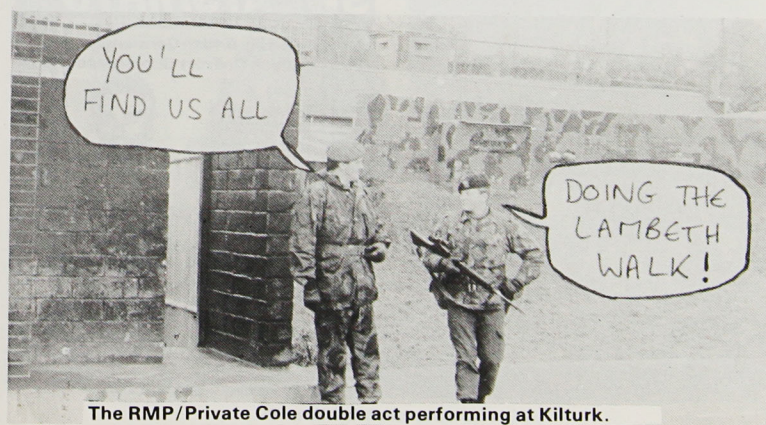
HQ Company winning the Kirkes Tug-of-War.



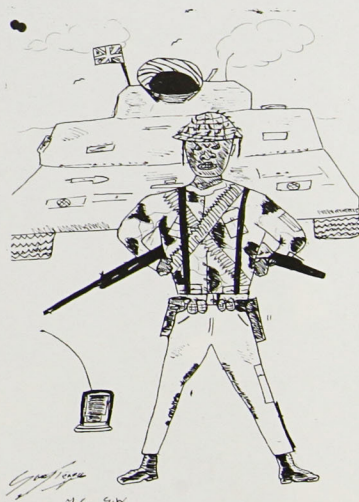
The Anti-Tank Platoon on patrol have another find.



Pte Craig and Lcpl West easing springs at Killyvilly.



The RMP/Private Cole double act performing at Kilturk.



I'll bring what I like to Fermanagh, man!



A PVCP in Tangier — during the Battalion's 18-year tour.



Piercy Kirke.



If you want a job done properly . . .
you send for a specialist.

S-BADGES-TIES

SWEATSHIRTS

- * Quality British Garments
- * Quick Delivery Guaranteed
- * PRINTED OR EMBROIDERED with your own design — at our London factory.
- * Send Coupon or Phone for a FREE BROCHURE

T-SHIRTS-JUMP



Captain Riley on patrol.



Pte Wright searches an HGV.



LCpl Robinson with new recruit.



Captain Keyes and CSgt Kelling outside Battalion Headquarters.



Blossom coming out at PV I.



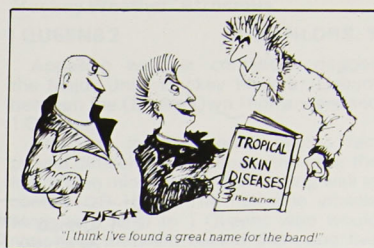
ARMY BANDS SCORE WITH THE CROWDS



Providing a stirring backdrop to last week's testimonial match between Manchester United and Liverpool were the combined bands of 1 RHF and 1 QUEENS.

They were there to entertain the 30,000 crowd who came to Windsor Park, Belfast to honour retiring Irish Association secretary Billy Drennan.

The match itself provided an exciting finale when substitute Lou Macari replaced local hero Norman Whiteside and clinched a 4-3 victory for United with two close-range scores in the last six minutes.



In January, 1984, many trees in Lisanelly Barracks were blown down by gale force winds. During clearance operations, the following conversation was overheard:

"Shame to see a big tree come down, isn't it?"

"Depends who's underneath."

Driving through a farm in Fermanagh, the IO ran over a cockerel. He went in to apologise.

IO: I'm very sorry. Let me replace it.

Farmer's wife: Yes it goes round the back with the other chickens.

NEED SOME KIT?

Lost track of all the favours you owe someone?

Just use these simple vouchers!

Hand one to the Colour Sergeant every time you sign for something—easy for him to keep track of!!

I.O.U.

ONE FAVOUR

Name

Signature

I.O.U.

ONE FAVOUR

Name

Signature

I.O.U.

ONE FAVOUR

Name

Signature

I.O.U.

ONE FAVOUR

Name

Signature



The Bandmaster.



The Scullys.



A typical blocked border crossing.

QUOTES

"Hello T33L, this is WR, I'm not going to pick you up until I'm sure you're not over the border."

"Hello T3 this is PV1 you can't reach a mobile c/s by land line over."





Fermanagh tomorrow ...

Hockey Weather 'Atrocious'

1 QUEENS 2

1 QO HLDERS. 1

Appalling weather conditions dogged the Major Units Hockey finals at Lisburn between the Queens Own Highlanders and 1 Queens.

Attacking into horizontal driving rain proved difficult for 1 Queens, and after the first fifteen minutes they were doing well to contain QO Hldrs. The half-time whistle came as a relief to 1 Queens who would now have the wind behind them and five minutes after the interval they showed their determination. A quick break from defence and they took the lead — Capt. Walker was the scorer, justly rewarded for his efforts.

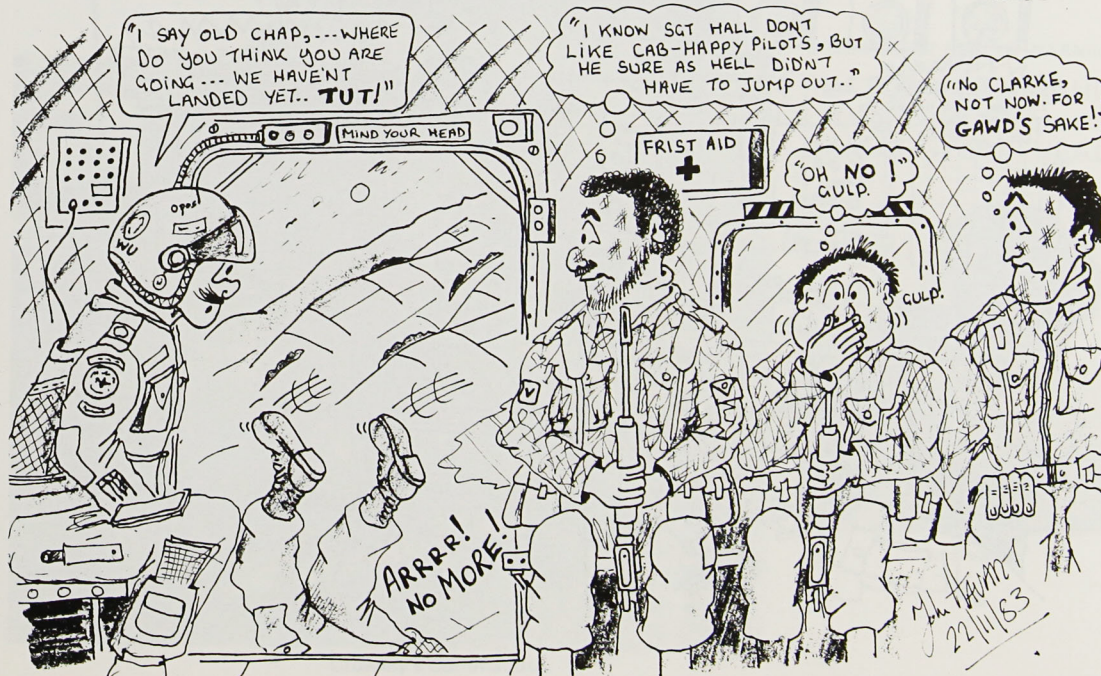
1 Queens had repeated attacks on the opposition's goal, with plenty of short corners, only to be denied by goalkeeper Bandsman Shaw. The weather had a part to play. After probing attack up the right by Capt Walker, Sgt Clarke struck what appeared to be a winner. But just as the ball left his stick, a fierce gust of wind blew down the QO Holders goal.

Their goalkeeper was, to say the least, surprised and the ball sailed past him into the "goal space." Initially a goal was awarded but after quick consultation the umpires disallowed it.

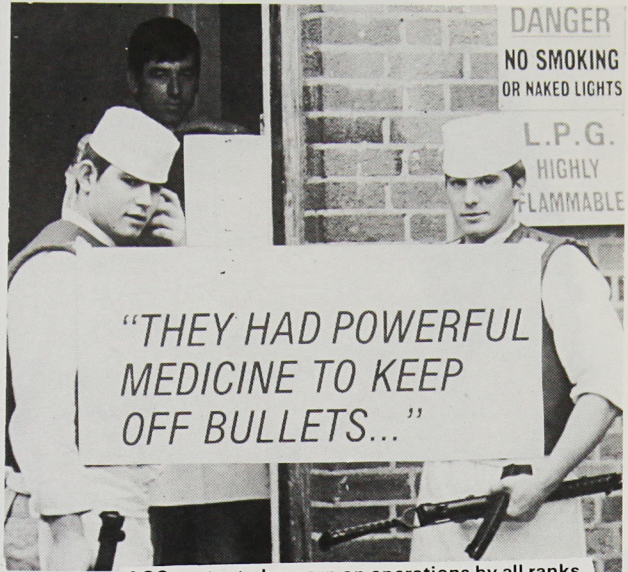
1 Queens kept on pressing forward yet always seemed to fail at the final stage. Extra-time looked imminent—but within one minute to go 1 Queens finally clicked. Pte Canessa sent Lt Wright off down the left wing, and Wright's cross was met in the centre by 2Lt Brown.

After an agonising 30 seconds when six attempts at goal were blocked. 2Lt Brown finally struck the winner for 1 Queens.

The final score was 2-1 to 1 Queens. The prizes were presented by the CLF. Maj Gen David Pank, who congratulated both teams on surviving such atrocious weather conditions. 1 Queens now go forward to represent Northern Ireland in the quarter finals of the Army Cup.



CLAIRE'S PROBLEM PAGE



DANGER
NO SMOKING
OR NAKED LIGHTS

L.P.G.
HIGHLY
FLAMMABLE

"THEY HAD POWERFUL
MEDICINE TO KEEP
OFF BULLETS..."

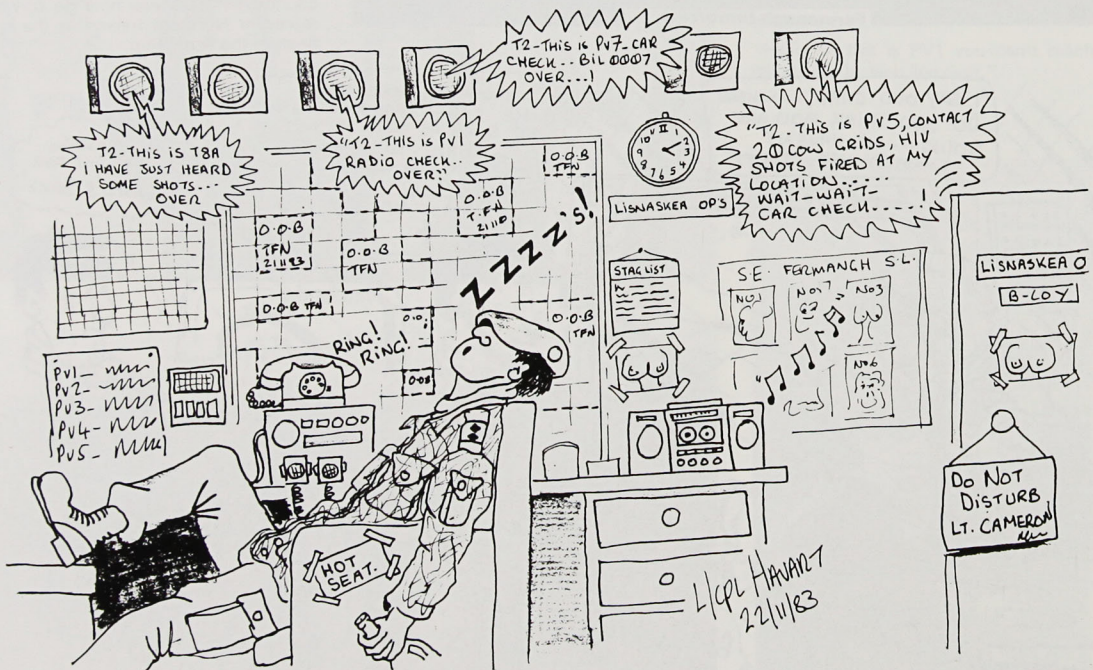
ACC pastry to be worn on operations by all ranks.

Dear Claire,

I have a fetish of making love with my flak-jacket on. I don't even feel safe doing it with the plates taken out. Am I just an idiot or is this a normal occurrence?

Yours protectively,
I. N. Iba

Don't worry Mr. Iba, this is a perfectly normal disease prevalent within 1½ km of the border, in Land Rovers, or in built up areas. I suggest your girlfriend wears one too!





The Adjutant, Captain Walker.



Crowley's Commandos.

GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING
PLATOON COMMANDERS
CAN SERIOUSLY
DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH



Lt Deakin.



The Assistant Adjutant, Captain King WRAC.



Lt Ramsey beasting his body again.



The Brigade Airborne Reaction Force being called out.



Cpl Sharratt waiting for pick-up



RMP and 1 Queens co-operation at Kilturk.

On the border

*To the tune of "National Emblem"
or "Have you ever caught your b-----s in a
rat trap?"*

Have you ever spent a day
In building Braithwaites?
Or a crater?
(They fill in later)

Have you ever gone to try
And block the border?
Where each new order
Creates disorder?

Have you ever wished
That we, in 1920
Used nuclear fission
For the Partition?

With a lot of bombs
There might be an implosion
But then we'd patrol
A bloody Black Hole . . .

Have you ever thought
That in the year 3000
We'll all be going daft
Checking spacecraft?

We'll patrol the universe
In starship mobiles
From skly-lab hangars
With floating sangars . . .

*(The manuscript ends here, as the author
was taken ill . . .)*



WHO DARES BINS



The Song of the Area Cleaner

My grandad picked up his war medals
And Dad his Aden GSM
But all I ever pick up
Is paper and cigarette ends.

The Battalion area in Fermanagh
Has the border on three sides.
But it's not half as tough as my area
With its crispbag transit hides.

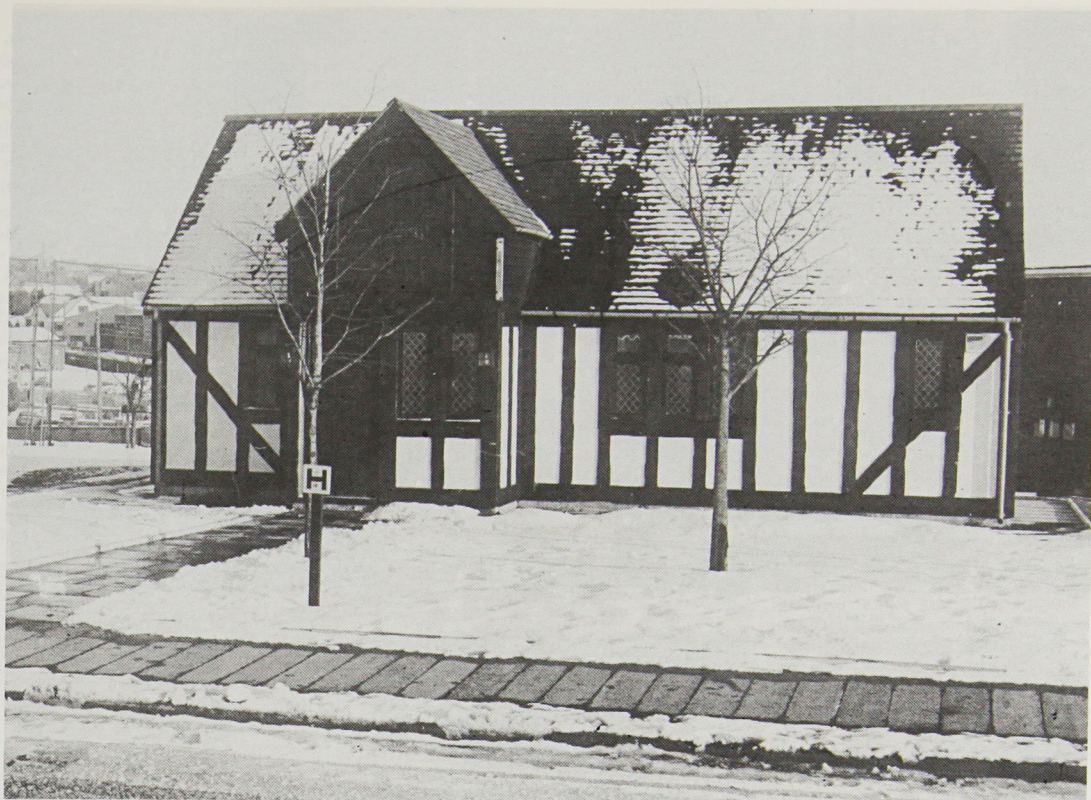
I bet Tangier was bulled up for handover
And Albuhera was cleaned up by Tom
I bet we filled in the beach at Sobraon
And picked up the brass on the Somme.

So when you wear your November poppy
And honour the soldiers who fell.
Remember the area cleaner
He's an unknown soldier as well.

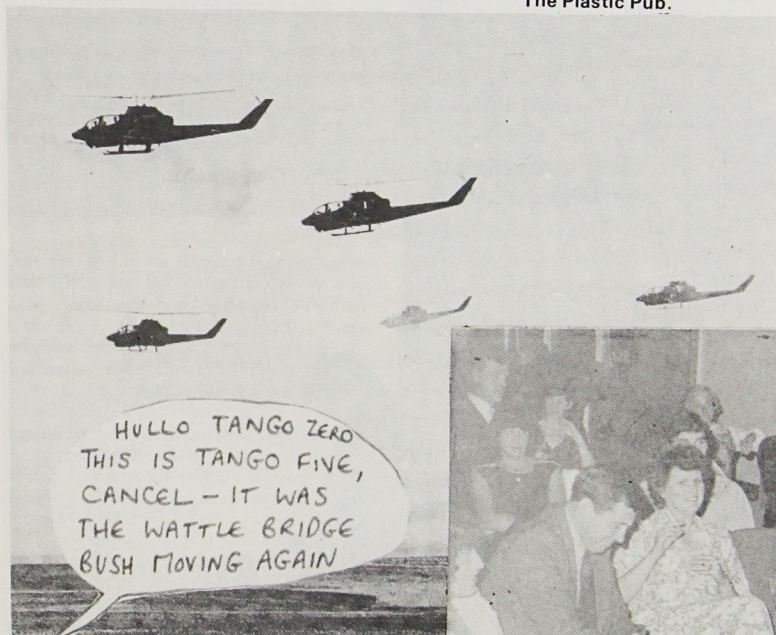


Sergeant Tidey, the Sobraon Sergeant
1984, on duty in Lisanelly Ops Room.





The Plastic Pub.



The WOs and Sergeant's Mess relaxing.



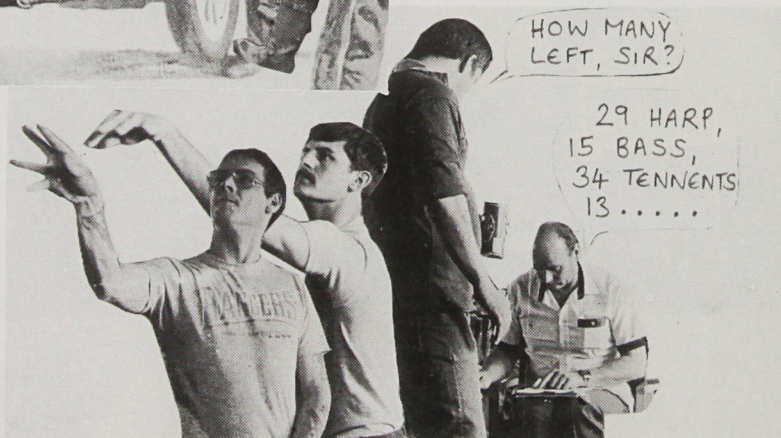
The Colonel of the Regiment is dined out of the Officers Mess.



A COMPANY QUOTES

Sgt Glynn: (When PV3 had a power-cut). "Task the PSA ASP or vice versa."

LCpl Hulks: "Prince Charles? He's something to do with Wales, isn't he?"



The Corporals Mess threw 1,000,000,1 darts (sponsored for charity).

January 1983 was an historic date when CSgt Anglin took over from "Obelisk" Lovell in the Sp Coy Store. This period was hectic, but with the loyal backing of my aides-de-camp we completed two tours of Fermanagh successfully.

CSgt "Chalkie" White, with his brillcream, was relegated to "B" Coy during September. This has eliminated the colour perception problem in Sp Coy, hence no more confusion of who is the CQMS.

As we once again prepare to descend on good old South "Fermanagh" Fork, Coy HQ have started to come out of hibernation. With the theme of Christmas in mind, the supply and demand for the important things, such as Fairy Cake decorations and seven Father Christmas suits for the PVCs, has taken ten more strands of hair from my already depleted, stream-lined head.

Realising the admin headaches of such a request, I was forced to seek advice of the "Oracle", Maj "Hotspur" Willis (2



CSgt Anglin.

been responsible for two concussions, one sprained ankle, the loss of two toe nails, and the CSM's reasons for his long weekends.

However the QM's department assure me they will honour my 2109's and get it repaired before the Battalion leaves the province; Patience truly is a Virtue!

The Criteria of efficiency in the "Q" world would be incomplete without that rugged, swash buckling little intrepid: "The Storeman". Pte "Jai" Rose who leaves the close protection of the Coy store next year, to be issued with his G1098 unemployment; and Pte "Short and Stocky" Duffy who has yet to learn how to complete a 1033 correctly.

In the distance I hear another cry for a "QM's" conference, and a low pitched murmur from the QMS, saying "Call over"; so before the accommodation CSgt starts (the little lion that he is) I had better go and do my wastage.

So remember! You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful store in the world, but it requires good "SUP-PORT" to make the dream a reality.



CSgt Anglin drops in for a Christmas drink.

Queens), and in his eminent manner I was told, "You are the molar, go away and mole". Well, with head hung low I returned to the store, only to be confronted by those immortal words from LCpl "Henchman" Smithurst "Hello Colour". Trying to console me, and solve the supply problem, he volunteered LCpl "Typewrite" Bicker and himself to dress as fairies and entertain the troops on Christmas day, however in the interest of human decency I was forced to decline their offer, so the struggle still continues.

As our departure to Fermanagh draws nearer and nearer, my accommodation storeman, LCpl "Boy George" Walker will be left behind to hold the fort for another month. He has promised me faithfully not to volunteer for any more unofficial adventure training courses such as Freefalling, Hang gliding or underwater limbo dancing, and devote his time to the bedding store.

CSM "Spot the error" Wilson (3 Queens), reminded me again, about the single broken floor tile in the Company office corridor, which in it's year's reign, has



Pte Rose and Pte Duffy.

OUR SECOND CHRISTMAS IN NORTHERN IRELAND



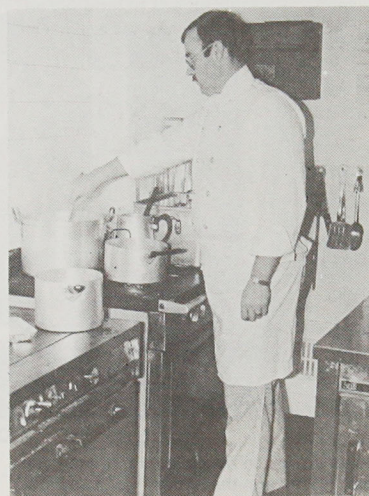
The Wives Club discovers an old sangar still being manned by the QDG.



The Band at Christmas Dinner. Guest conductor, Private Cooper.

And another flying visit . . .

So — what else is new — Two passers-by felt the arrival of Santa's "sleigh" at Cranny Special School, Omagh, was hardly worth a second look. But the children, for whom 1 Queens had arranged the special flying visit, were delighted when the old man in the red coat (alias Padre Mike Jones) called in with some Christmas cheer from Lisanelly Camp. The Officers, Sergeants and Corporals Messes had raised over £200 for presents and some new amenities at the school.



Cpl Nicholson at Lisnaskea.



Sgt and Mrs Hall.



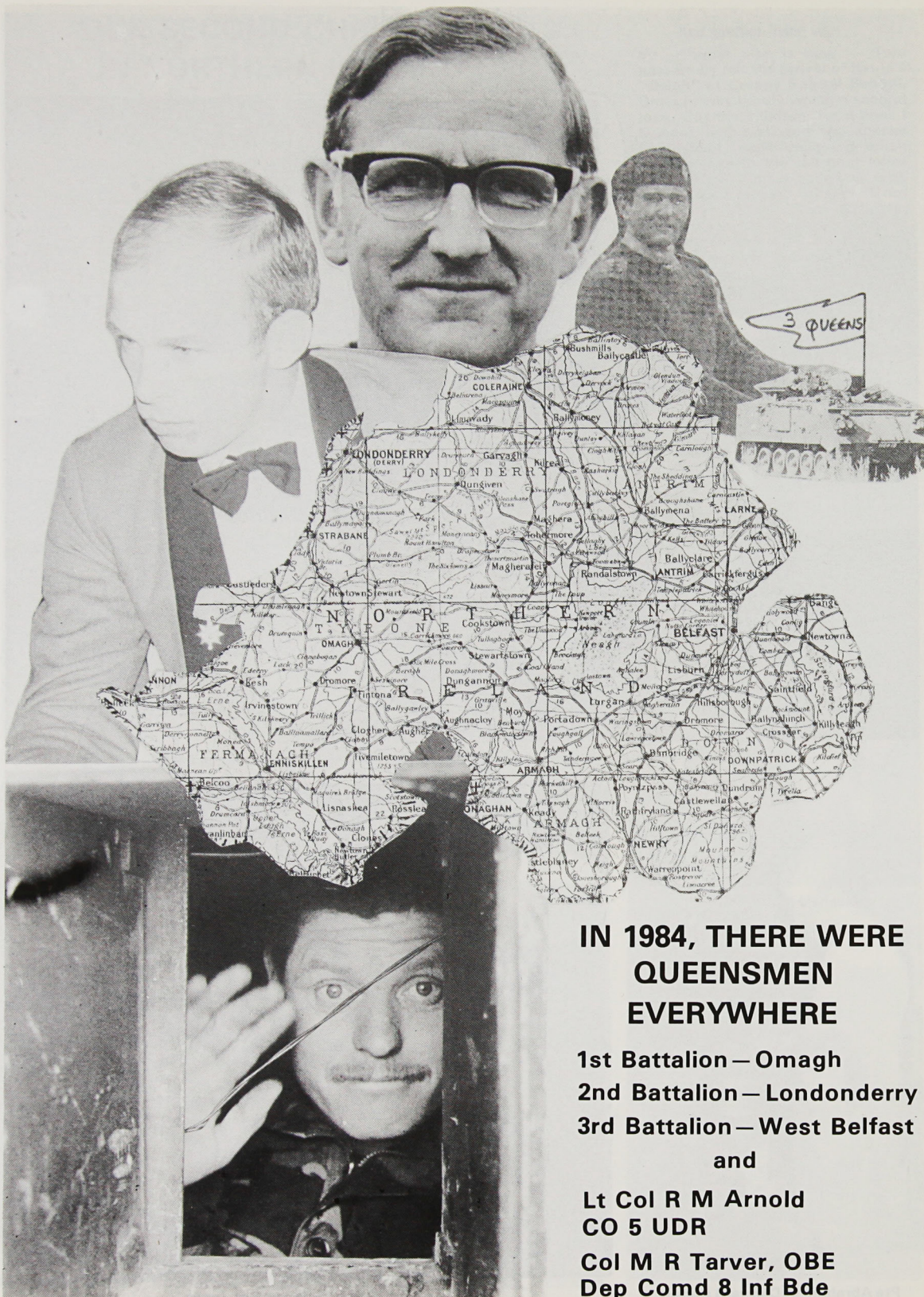
A bemused Fermanagh farmer meets CSgt Anglin on Christmas morning at PV 7.



Pte Abraham at Derryard Bridge.



Csgt Greengrass and Sgt Jones



IN 1984, THERE WERE QUEENSMEN EVERYWHERE

1st Battalion — Omagh
2nd Battalion — Londonderry
3rd Battalion — West Belfast
and

Lt Col R M Arnold
CO 5 UDR

Col M R Tarver, OBE
Dep Comd 8 Inf Bde



Miss Samantha Fox. (Courtesy Sun Newspapers Ltd.).

DIARY OF A MADMAN

Tuesday 3rd: Our new PC arrived today. He said all the right things like "good egg" and "crack on" and then said something about squash. Anyway, after that we had to go to Fermanagh and I didn't see him again today.

Wednesday, 4th: Arrived at Kilturk today. My corporal says it's named after Gallipoli but I know that's not how you spell it. He said we had to spend 12 hours a day working, eat food cooked by the most illiterate and gungy person in the section, and sleep on mattresses with funny looking stains. I thought he was joking at first.

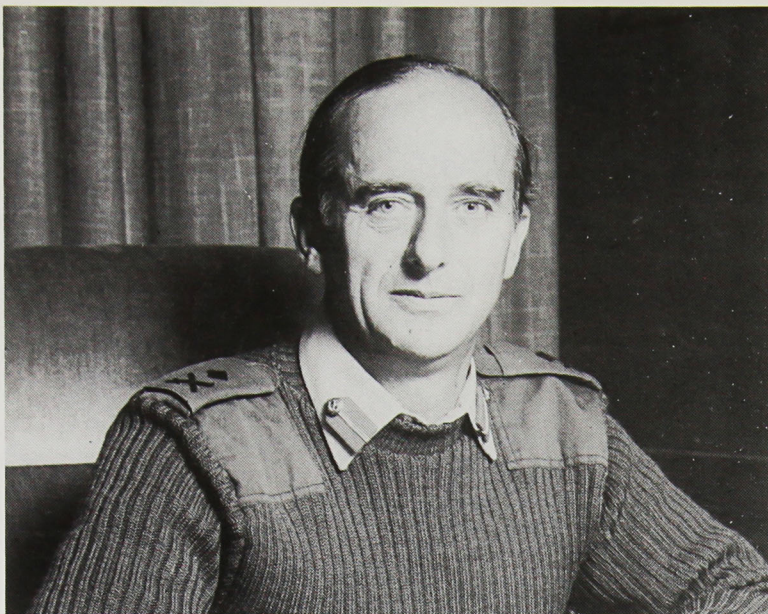
Thursday, 5th: I never realised there was so many Paddies in Ireland, still not as many as Kilburn but quite a lot anyway. Our new PC came visiting today and asked me if I was enjoying working on the base. I said "are you pissed" and he said "good egg, crack on". After he'd gone my corporal told me that I should have said "I'm getting my mail sir, my wife's in quarters and my boots fit" which confused me a bit as my mum can't write, I'm not married and I'm excused boots because of my religion.

Friday, 6th: After one of the blokes dropped a breeze block on my toe I applied for admission to the C of E and a pair of size 9's.

Saturday, 7th: Today I went on my first patrol. People kept saying things like "uulu" and "bimble" so by the time we went out I was a bit confused. That's what I told the PC when he asked my why I'd dropped his rifle in a bog while climbing a fence and he said "good egg, crack on".

Sunday, 8th: I just got a bollocking for writing this in my bunk from the CSM. He sort of frothed and said "you should be sleeping, lad" so I said "I'm getting my boots, my mail's in the quarters and my wife fits".

Monday, 9th: Everybody said that the Provost Sgt was a sadist, but he seems okay to me. Mind you, he wasn't very impressed when I asked him if I could go down town and buy some slippers because the floor is a bit cold in the guardroom and my boots haven't come yet. The padre came to see me today and I told him all about Fermanagh and my new PC and the CSM and my old teddy bear which the Provost Sgt confiscated, and all he could say was "Good egg, crack on". I don't understand officers.



Commander Land Forces
Headquarters Northern Ireland
Lisburn
BFPO 825

Lt Col P. V. Panton
1 Queens
Lisanelly Barracks
BFPO 804

10 February, 1984.

My Dear Paddy

First of all, let me congratulate you and your battalion on the splendid work you are doing. Jolly good show.

As you know, I am concerned about the future in Tyrone and Fermanagh. Would it be a problem for your battalion to stay on for another two years?

I would like you to look after South-East Fermanagh until mid-1987 if that's all right. Please let me know your views.

Yours ever,

J.D.G. Park

JDG Park, Major General.



