



THE LEEK



Message from the Commanding Officer



Suddenly we find ourselves with only a month of our tour in South Armagh remaining. The first three months has proved to be as busy and full of incidents as we expected and the days have sped past.

Lieutenant Graham Taylor, his staff and our families at home continue to give us their great support and if at times it may seem that we in Northern Ireland take it all for granted I would like to assure them that we understand only too well the problems and difficulties they have had to contend with.

After the Prime Minister visited us at Christmas she wrote me a letter which is produced elsewhere in this edition of "The Leek." I have had many letters in a similar vein from our visitors. One written by a distinguished and experienced soldier says: "I had been told before visiting that 1st Battalion Welsh Guards was a fine battalion, what I saw on my visit to you showed me that in fact they were superb and typified all that is best about being a Guardsman and coming from Wales."

We are all looking forward to returning home and our leave and I know the high standards which we have set in Northern Ireland will be maintained until the end of our tour.



EDITORIAL

January has been an interesting and active month punctuated by a series of spectacular finds both North and South of the border.

At the end of the year the Garda found 6 bombs and a large amount of explosives in an isolated farm house near the border. On 2nd January Prince of Wales Company discovered a bell push hidden in a hedge. Careful investigation resulted in 3 large milk churns packed with explosives being found and rendered safe.

This was followed on the 6th January by a large find South of Dundalk by Garda. 34 primed bombs, 34 partially made bombs, one ton of explosive and 90 cassettes of the type used in incendiary bomb attacks.

Another find on the 12th January to the South of Forkhill produced 7 large bombs, 40 small bombs, 1500 lbs of explosive and a booby trapped car bomb.

On 17th January Prince of Wales Company on a search operation found a 120 lb bomb. The next day the Garda found 1000 cassettes in Dundalk. Number 3 Company not to be out done found a large quantity of ammunition.

These finds undoubtedly affected the Provisional IRAs province wide bombing campaign and their morale. A great success for Security Forces, both sides of

the border.

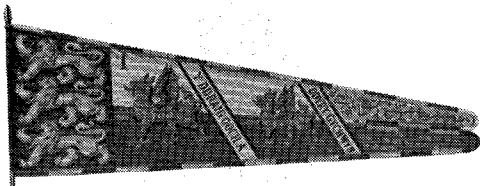
Number 2 Company had some excitement when a patrol in Newry was fired upon by masked men in a car. The patrol immediately returned fire. The car made a swift getaway. Another failed

terrorist attack. The quick reaction of the patrol obviously have given the terrorists food for thought.

As we move into our last month everyone remains constantly alert and looking forward to further successes.



Narrow Water, Warrenpoint.



'The Red Dragon Gives A Lead'

Prince of Wales Company Crossmaglen

The month of December, Christmas and the New Year have come and gone extremely rapidly. We are now over the "Hump", and those who have already had R & R now view the end of February as the 'Beacon of Joy'! For some, R & R is still the aiming mark; although by the time this edition is produced even they will be back in the fold.

For 2 Platoon and the Anti Tank Multiple December will be remembered as a time spent pounding the Asphalt of Crossmaglen. As a result they got to know the village, and its charming inhabitants, rather well. 1 and 3 Platoon will remember the month for the wet, cold nights spent in the open air. Although on Ambush patrols, "Tulip" Koops and the Clogs, appeared to manage a little fishing! Despite the weather conditions all remained remarkably fit and lean. One or two feet took a few weeks to thaw out, but these are now walking well, and unlikely to be excused spring drills.

The more routine operations in the country areas have continued. CSgt Llewellyn's brick stopped a car on the Concession road and the driver asked if they were the "Boys" (Pira), and informed them that an Army road block was a mile down the road, (L/Sgt Fishers brick also carrying out vehicle checks).



"I told him to leave only 3 pints today" — An excellent find of milk churn bombs
Sgt Harvey on Drummuckavall.



The Dutch army, or The "Clogs" — Standing: 2Lt Koops, Lsgt Fisher, Lcpl Pearson, Gdsm Jones 62, Gdsm Conlon, Gdsm Davies 587, Lsgt Williams 54.

Kneeling: Gdsm Owen 14, Gdsm Rogers, Gdsm Stanbridge.

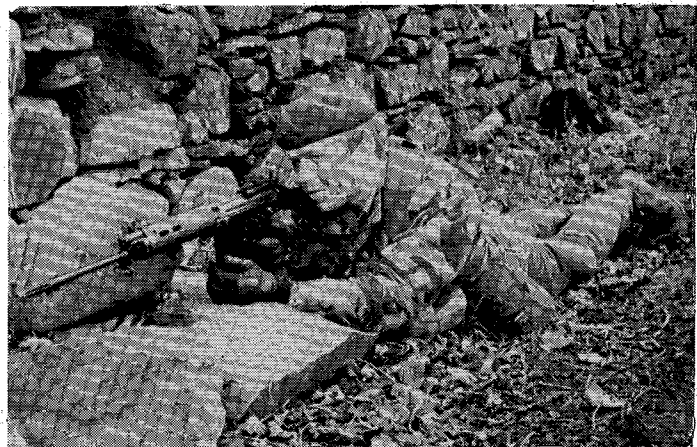


Major Wall "lurking."

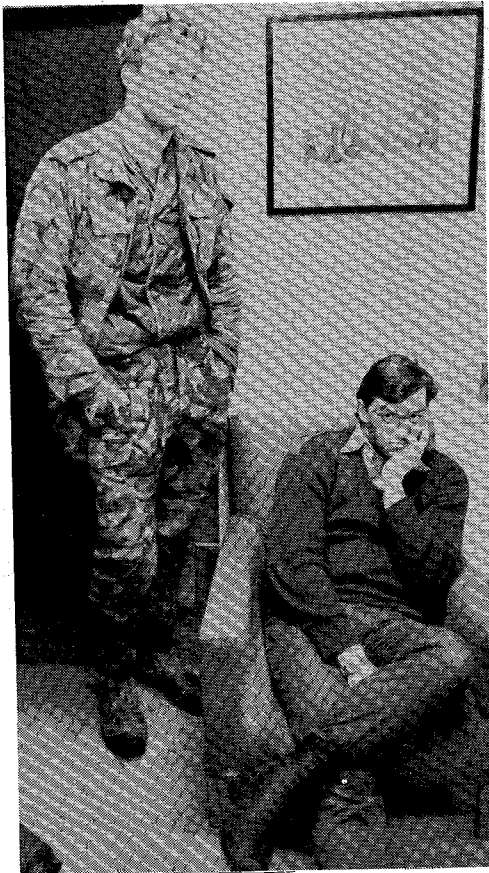
The driver also informed the rather surprised C/Sgt that he liked the disguise! Investigations are taking place to discover what C/S 13D wears on Rural patrols.

The Company has received several visitors. The Lieutenant Colonel visited us in early January and was able to see and talk to many members of the Company. In addition to the Military visitors we have had several members of the press. A reporter and photographer from the News of the World stayed for two and a half weeks, and other members of national and local newspapers come for fleeting visits. More recently the artist Ken Howard came to Crossmaglen and completed two paintings of the Company. He painted Lsgt Fisher, Gdsm Stanbridge, Gdsm Jones 62 and Gdsm Davies 587 (Moses) crossing the "Square of Death," and some members of 1 platoon in the luxury of their sixteen man apartment. The most recent visitor was Miss Brookes who represents North Wales in the European Parliament. A gaggle of North Walian were gathered together to meet her, much to the amusement of those from the Valleys.

A regular visitor to the Company is the Barber with the unpronounceable name (Blaszkiw). During such visits most people find that they are urgently required on a variety of tasks, none of which allow even a 5 minute break on the Operating Chair. Sgt Stewart (Hullo Duncan to his friends) tried to improve the style of Gdsm Goff's hair. Sgt Sweet has since had to restyle Goffs ears!



Gdsm Falcon in a fire position at H32A



"Good here init"
2Lt Koops, Lt Manville-Hales

Sgt Sweet has himself taken up "Hairdressing", in addition to his jobs as Watchkeeper, Emptier-of-Welfare-Telephone-Boxes and of course Medical Attendant. Having dealt with a mild epidemic of V and SH (V standing for Vomitting) he is now dealing with colds and coughs. On the whole, everyone is keeping remarkably fit, in living conditions that would not meet with approval of the inmates of H block, nor Amnesty International.



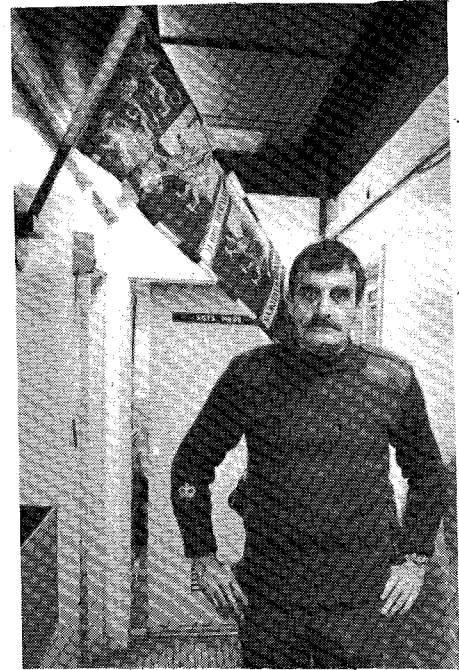
Gdsm Skinner and friends

The Flying Padre, Stuart Brace, drops in from on high each Sunday to lead the Congregation in prayer and song. L/Cpl Bevan remembers at least two Hymns and so is a most necessary member at these services; although he caught us out when he led us into a hymn with the wrong tune.

The Multi-Gymnasium and CSM Evan's training bicycle provide an outlet for some peoples pent-up energy or frustrations. Gdsm Bartlett and Cordy are now finding the Multi-Gym machine too puny. CSM Cox and others are sometimes to be heard pedalling furiously, to the strains of Downtown Radio, in a stores container fifteen feet off the ground. Other less energetic individuals are to be seen perspiring heavily in the Sauna, and studying form in such intellectual periodicals as Mayfair. The sauna does not take off much weight, and it is not a pretty sight, but it is good for warming the cold bones, and drying the wet socks.

CSM Evans (our Company Search advisor, amongst other things) made a very good find in early January. His observant eyes discovered a light switch under a hedgerow, many miles away from any light bulbs. Having dissuaded the Company Commander from switching it on, and the RUC Inspector from kicking it, the stand in Royal Engineer Search Advisor (Jock-in-the-box) was summoned. He and his team traced a wire to a 300lb bomb. The CSM has very keen eyes, but not such good teeth. His two "Upper Incisors" went missing one day and many were accused of theft. It does not detract from his good looks, nor his ability to make himself heard around South Armagh, but it slows down some of the tirades. SITREP: Teeth still missing, Investigations Continue.

Christmas day was spent much like any other day. CQMS Carty and the Cooks (Sgt Fearon, Cpl Treen, Gdsm Carlvon and Co) worked extremely hard



A man called Sledge

to make the day faintly Christmassy. CQMS Carty obtained a tree with decorations, lights, but alas no Fairy. He also organised an excellent Company Draw, prizes ranging from a pair of Desert boots, to a portable Colour Television. The latter prize was won by a Royal Engineer working in the base, just to prove that the draw was not rigged. The boots were won by an RUC Constable. Sgt Fearon and his cooks produced an excellent meal, feeding the Company in five sittings.

On 25 December we were visited by the General Officer Commanding, Lt General Sir Timothy Creasey, the Brigade Commander, and the Commanding Officer. Santa Claus was detained at Bessbrook. We would like to thank the Helicopter pilots who brought around a keg of draught beer a few days after Christmas. Those who were able to drink their pint were very appreciative.

Because of the considerable amount of publicity that the Battalion Public Relations Officer had arranged for Crossmaglen (Britains forgotten Army, Rats etc). We received a considerable number of Christmas cards, parcels and letters from all parts of the United



CO and Gdsm Douglas: Christmas Draw at Crossmaglen.

Kingdom and one or two from abroad. Senders ranged from the Gay Club of Blackpool, their card being addressed to "All you beautiful Brutes in Crossmaglen," to Ulster Grannies and young children. All of whom sent kind messages for a peaceful Christmas and a safe return. Rats received a stocking, and sufficient money to buy him a basket. This will be welcomed by the members of the Anti Tank Platoon who sometimes find the gallant hound sleeping on their bunks. They were not so enthusiastic about the present of a "Squeaky" bone which he seemed to chew all through the night. Still, it strengthens the jaws, and so improves the tyre biting techniques.

Other than the four days 'Rest and Recuperation' only a few have been able to travel outside the Company area. Our comrades-in-arms in Newry and Newtownhamilton might be on a different planet, although in fact only about 8 miles away. We do see the Close Observation Platoon who transit through here before slipping quietly towards the border!

Sgt Topham is now a "Full bloke", and so is Sgt Griffiths 38. Congratulations to them both, and to the recently promoted L/Sgts "Dapper" Davies and Williams 54, and to Lcpl Young.

Mention must be made here of those who share our base. We have 30 Royal Engineers who are building the new RUC station. The work ceaselessly and cheerfully in all weather conditions. Working more closely with the company are the 12 members of the Royal Corp of Transport who drive Saracens in support of the village patrols. We are most grateful to Lcpl Pettigrew and the drivers for their cheerful and willing support. Unable to get out of second gear they grind about the village with the foot patrols providing extra fire power and protection. They are commanded by L/Sgt Griffiths 75 and L/Cpls James 13, Hannaby, Jenkins 23, Addison, Davies 37, and Bennett. All have almost forgotten what grass feels like. They spend their days and nights patrolling the village in their 'Cans' Clad in Bone-Dome Helmets and answering to a variety of callsigns, and names.

The Company are all in great heart. When the next issue of the Leek is produced, life will be even better with our successors about to arrive. Meanwhile we "Stag On."



Gdsm Carlyon, Pte Middlewick, Sgt Fearon and Cpl Treen.



Lcpl "grunter" Davies 37 hull down.



Ready to move — even during tea breaks. Sgt Topham



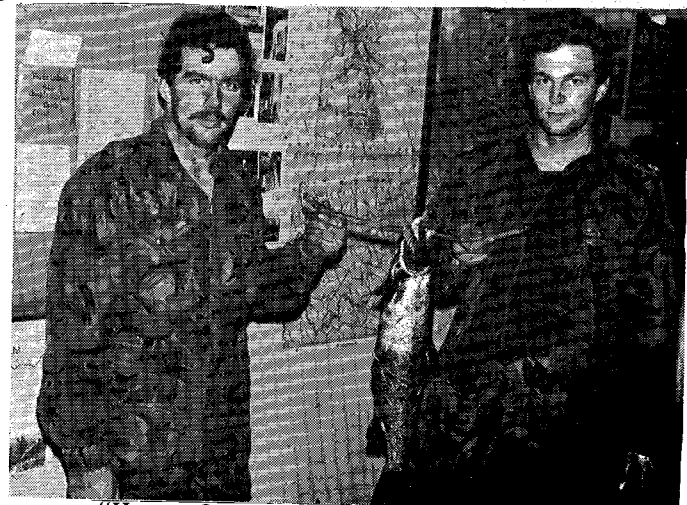
Csgt Llewellyn reading Tea leaves.



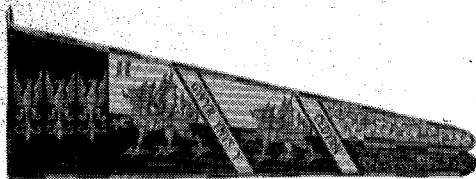
Lcpl Pitt, Sig Jakeway (R Sigs), Gdsm Rees 60.



Lcpl Bennett's art gallery. A typical bed space in Crossmaglen.



"Honest Inspector it ran in front of the Saracen" Gdsm Owen 14 and Lt Koops



'The Men Of The Island Of The Mighty'

Number 2 Company Newry

Since the last issue the Company has experienced a varied life style ranging from long range foot patrols to searching containers at Warrenpoint Docks. It has been a busy time for everyone, so much so, that Christmas was barely noticed!

On the operational side we have been involved in a number of house searches in the Newry area which unfortunately have produced no results, although one suspect was arrested. We have continued to have our fair share of bomb warnings which have all fortunately proved to be hoaxes



"I could have danced all night"
Lt Hanbury at the Winter Ball Newry

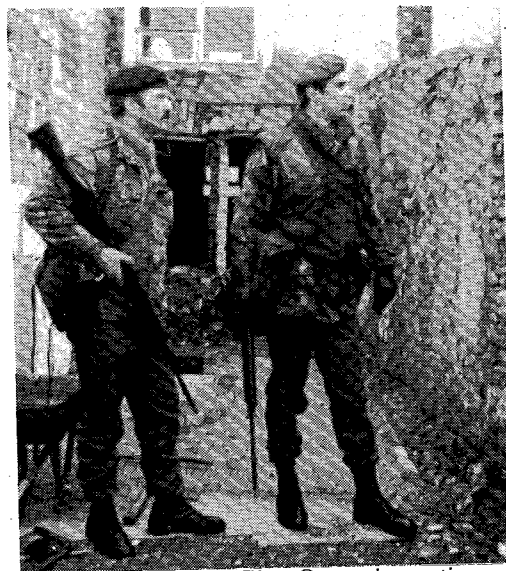
with the exception of one incident in Warrenpoint. This happened on the 8th of December and resulted in serious damage being caused to a small hotel after three incendiary bombs went off. The Royal Marines, who have a troop working in the Company area, were quickly on the scene, and the Number One Brick (the Company Commander's) had the pleasure of clearing the rather smart Warrenpoint Golf Club's car park at night so that agencies could be brought in by Wessex helicopter on to the 19th tee!

We have twice sealed off Newry town centre and searched every car and pedestrian wishing to enter. This produced some quite interesting statistics; for instance on one afternoon no less than 9,298 people and 336 cars were searched!! This undoubtedly inconvenienced the local population somewhat but generally speaking they were extremely patient. Whilst on the subject of statistics, the Company was heavily involved in a day long operation at the Warrenpoint Docks in which six search teams, going rapidly cross-eyed, searched 210 containers, 78 HGV's and 66 cars!! Perhaps everyone was slightly worse for wear anyway as it was so early into the New Year!

As the year has lengthened so the locals have become more accustomed to the khaki berets patrolling the streets and throughout the Christmas period we received many messages of goodwill; let us hope that this atmosphere prevails in the coming months.

We have had our share of visitors here including Lt General Sir Timothy Creasey. The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel was particularly welcome at the beginning of the New Year as was Major Belcher. We had representatives from 'Swansea Sound,' the radio station, and the Western Mail with us before Christmas. Finally the artist, Ken Howard, who spent two days producing a superb water colour painting of the Company, soon to be produced in print form.

Christmas in Newry was, highlighted by the 'Draw' ably managed by the CSM and CQMS. The top prize was a television/cassette player/radio which went to Gdsm



Major (Stonewall) Glyn-Owen inspecting a brick.

Ponting, who was living it up on R&R when he hit the jackpot! Mr. Hanbury also did exceptionally well, being rewarded with a cassette/radio. This was followed by a delicious Christmas lunch prepared by Sgt Bright and his two assistants, LCpl Wilkinson and Pte Anderton.

The Officers Mess attempted to be bulging at the seams with goodies throughout Christmas and it is with a certain amount of regret all round that there are still three Christmas cakes to get through!

Since the last issue we have seen the departure of the Royal Marines troop under command of Lt Need to be ably replaced by Lt Blyth and his gritty professionals. They will be based in Newry until the beginning of May — when we will be doing something completely different! We also welcome the under 18's from Pirbright who seem to have settled into their new environment extremely well.



Gdsm Walker making friends.



Newry Base — Home for 4 months.



"Sir he wants to know how to join the battalion."

L/Sgt Cross winning the hearts and minds.

Four Platoon under the command of Mr. Lewis (49!) and his number two LSgt Baker have continued their rather unfortunate record of traffic accidents. Their vehicles seem to have a natural magnetism for the Irish. The platoon has taken part in all the major operations over here and is working hard and well. They were actively involved in the clearance of a derelict on the Omeath to Newry Road and were extremely relieved that it did not contain any nasties as half the platoon heard some rather suspicious noises earlier in the week — things that go bang in the night! LSgt Roberts 15 was on a patrol one night when he saw lights flashing on and off in a house and thinking it to be rather odd was on the verge of barging in when he discovered it to be a new disco in town! Six members of the platoon have extended their service which is a good sign. Generally, people are looking forward to the return to Pirbright and especially the leave. Four of the boys are off to Majorca — can't be bad! The rest are looking forward to seeing their wives and girlfriends again.

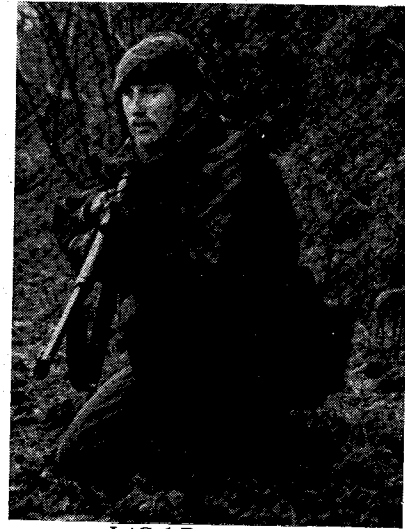
Five Platoon seem to be in the thick of most of what goes on in Newry with LSgt's Jones 45's search team being relied on heavily for their skills at digging out clues. Unfortunately they have not recently had much luck but by the law of averages this must change soon. LCpl Fitzgerald and his

'Brick' were rather bemused the other day when on asking an Irishmen to open the boot of his car a goat was found enjoying the comforts of a third class passenger! We have now all completed our R&R with the exception of LSgt Hunt's team and Gdsm Moulton and Lilwall. Once the latter return it will only be another three weeks or so before we begin packing up and handing over to the Kings Own Border Regiment. LCpl Hughes and Gdsm Evans 09 will be frantically busy on their return to Pirbright as they are both soon to be married. LCpl Proctor leaves the platoon within the next week to take up a position at the Guards Depot so the best of luck 07 — no doubt we will see him playing football against the Welsh Guards in the coming year! In conclusion, everyone in the platoon continues to take the rough with the smooth and is enjoying life.

Six Platoon have been kept busy throughout the tour not least as a result of trying to help all sides of the community. The Platoon Sergeant led the way when Gdsm Davies 77 spotted a man floundering in the canal. Sgt Walford, without hesitation, leapt to the drowning Irishman's rescue, offering him his belt to grab and spent a week off active patrolling as a result with a knee injury. The drivers in the platoon certainly have a better record than



L/Sgt Jones 45 and Gdsm Hogg having problems with seagulls at Warrenpoint docks.



L/Cpl Proctor

the unfortunate men from Four Platoon although Gdsm Roberts 48 has proved on occasions to be slightly unpredictable, resulting in his commander spending more time on the ground than in his landrover. Gdsm Hughes 31 Pilots LSgt Thomas 61 to his many varied ports of call (usually totally different to those of his multiple commander). LSgt McGlyn's Search Brick has been especially busy in many varied fields. They found an Armalite (plastic replica) in a garage, and a radio head set in wood which a certain person chose to leave in the thickest possible cover!

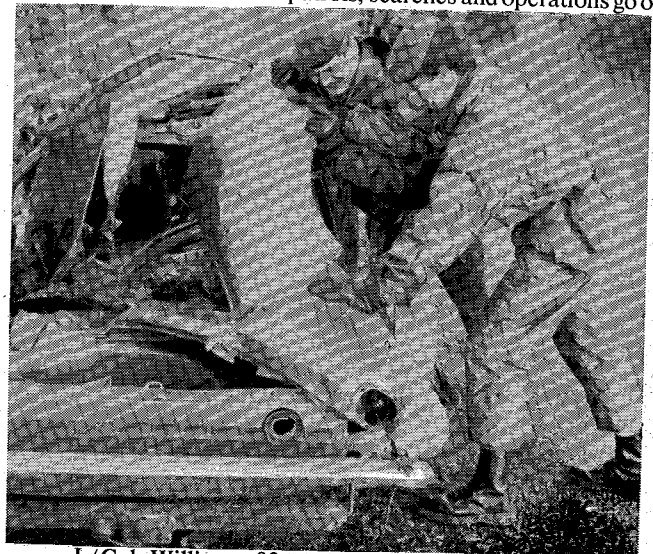
LSgt McGlyn's searchers are: LCpl Williams 99, Gdsm Cleary, 11 Richards, 07 Jones and 60 Thomas. Congratulations must be given to LSgt Head on his well earned promotion. Also a big welcome to Gdsm 99 Owens and 59 Williams.

We have failed in the last two issues to mention the sterling work carried out by the three C's — Cross, Clarence and Cuthbert!! They are very much in our thoughts as we patrol and realize that without their voices on the net we would be totally lost!

We wish all the families a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing them in the not too distant future. In the meanwhile, the patrols, searches and operations go on.



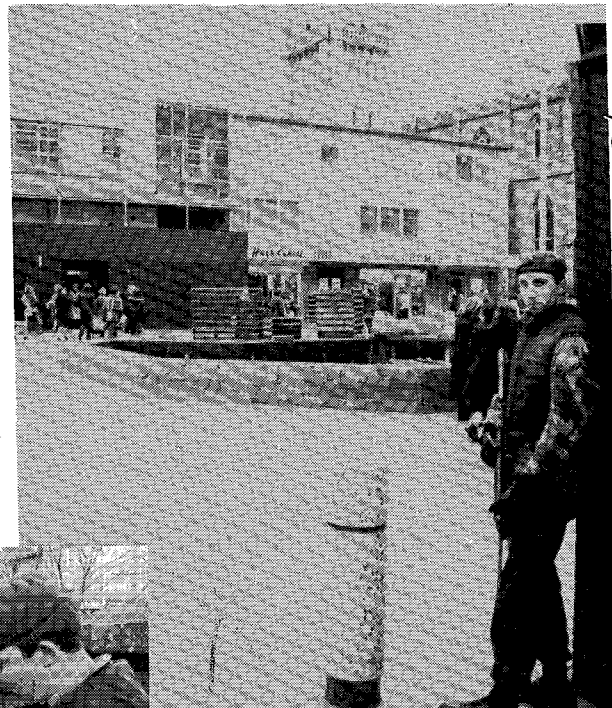
"Controlled Explosion" on the Omeath Road derelict clearance operation.



L/Cpl Williams 99 and Gdsm Richards 11 tidying up the car used in the Seven Steps bombing before the owner arrives.



Gdsm McHugh, 07 Jones and 99 Owen on a wet and misty day out on the border.



Fear dominates the town centre Newry



Sgt 28 Davies signing more autographs for local rugby fans.



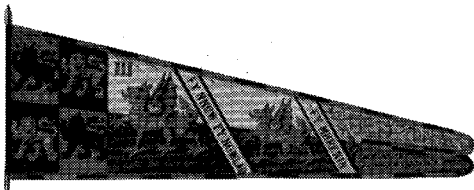
"Its a long way to Tipperary"
L/Sgt Robert 15 patrolling the Omeath road.



"Eric" Ratsep showing his fire fighting skills on his birthday.



"Listen in" No2 Coy being briefed prior to a major search operation in Newry.



'My God, My Land, My King'

Number 3 Company Bessbrook

Number Three Company has had a pretty lively time since the last edition of the 'Leek'. Besides doing constant town patrols, the Company has continued to provide the Airborne Cavalry for the whole Bn, done numerous night ambushes and long duration OPs, as well as frequent long distance rural patrols. As a result, the time has passed very quickly.

CSM Hough most enjoyed seeing the Company Commander's performance with a diesel truck on the Helipad, and awaits with interest his performance as the next Regimental Adjutant on a horse. Mr. "Mutters" Minoprio and L/Sgt "Mini Oak" Wigley, resident 007's are still trying to understand the new graffiti on the Helipad wall which states: "3 Company Commander is a vandal." This is signed by all the Buzzard staff and the RAF.

The CQMS attends to all our needs with great efficiency, but has started to give the Company Photographer, L/Cpl Northwood, a rough time as the photo of him doing a road-resupply to Crossmaglen has vanished. What is even more bizarre, is that CQMS Davies 54 keeps muttering: "I'll give you an Intsum . . ."

Captain "How's the morale" Gwatkin has surprised everyone by the sudden development of a distinct Australian accent. This is particularly confusing for Gdsm "Platecheck" Griffiths who has only just learnt English. Apart from teaching Gdsm Griffiths, Sgt Morgan, 82 carries on being the leading light in a most superior signal section. Despite many technical problems, he has still found the time to go on patrol twice.

The "Beyond the hatch" section



What do you mean my storeman wouldn't give you a waterproof

recently apologised for the lack of intelligence but claimed that this was due to the non-delivery of the daily papers. This should improve with their discovery that there is a local paper. Apart from this Pte "Jock" Wilson continues to display an insane tendency to get up 5 hrs before the start of his stag, and L/Cpl Williams 38 is guaranteed promotion if he can keep supplying very alcoholic Christmas cake. The new Company clerk, L/Cpl Northwood, has settled down well though he will insist on heading the daily detail "Secret."

This period has not been wholly uneventful for the intrepid No. 7 Platoon. The Christmas season began with a brick walking casually past a 400lb bomb parked on the Camlough Road. Gdsm Thompson even ran his finger down the length of the lorry which contained the bomb. Very sadly this bomb caused



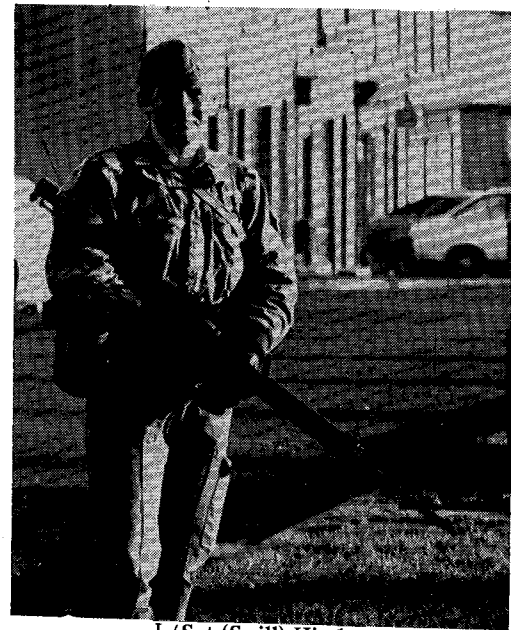
Major J. L. Goodridge

injuries to three HQ Company men. When Gdsm Thompson saw the remains of the lorry he had to be treated for shock. Undeterred by this lesson in not touching things Gdsm Roberts 20 could not resist giving a Camlough dog a friendly pat, and promptly got bitten — a bite from which the dog may soon recover.

Over Christmas itself, No. 7 Platoon had the happy task of being the local patrol platoon. L/Sgt "My knees have gone" Hinder was believed to hold the record for enthusiasm when his three hour patrol lasted nine hours. Sgt Perry, the competition's dark horse did even better and turned his two hour patrol into an eleven hour hearts and minds patrol.

After bags of fresh air, the odd(?) Christmas drink with the locals and R&R, No. 7 Platoon looks forward to a quiet end of tour. A tour mercilessly recorded by its very own photographer.

Christmas and the New Year saw the passing of a number of faces in No. 8 Platoon. Mr. Manningham-Buller left for the relative sanity of the Guards Depot, Sgt John took over from Sgt Powell 01 in Nine Platoon and Gdsm Williams 62 returned as a civilian to Berlin. Replacements came in the form of Mr. Malcolm and L/Sgt Willoughby, both of whom claim that since their arrival, No. 8



L/Sgt (Swill) Hinder

Platoon can no longer be referred to as the "head platoon."

Just before Christmas, the platoon had an eight man ambush near Crossmaglen. Deep in the night, footsteps were heard. Like panthers all took up fire positions and, as lines of tension crept across each face, each Gdsm asked himself: "Is this the elusive Dan Dan the PIRA man?" Seconds later L/Sgt Baynham and Gdsm Weston almost suffocated from suppressed laughter, as two young girls chirped out the carol: "Away in a Manger." Sadly a rain storm swept this young choir away.

After much careful thought the whole platoon has decided Gdsm Davies 07 is the man most suited to South Armagh. His ability to eat anything and sleep anywhere surpasses and surprises all. Congratulations are due to Gdsm Davies 57 on the occasion of his marriage and all wish him the best of luck in his married life.

Morale remains extremely high. L/Sgt George and Roberts 35 assure all that they are the "We can hack it men," and non-stop jokes from Gdsm Morris 25, Salmon and LCpl Morgan 88 keep the days and nights cheery. Last but not least, great thanks go to Sgt Samuel for his amazing



Miss Brooks impressing CSM Hough on the importance of a European Parliament.



Sgt John Gdsm Smith 57 and L/Sgt Hinder

knack at getting members of the Engineers search team to stand in for members of the platoon, and thus give much needed rest.

No. 9 Platoon makes the grandiose claim of dominating the Coy TAOR. This is gross exaggeration, typical of 9 Platoon. It is, however, fair to say that they have had a most varied and interesting time. Disregarding the usual choice of barns or derelicts for an ambush position, Mr. de Zulueta led his platoon into what he took to be an unoccupied house. The owners duly arrived home shortly afterwards to find Gdsm Roberts 31 and Gdsm Cooling getting their heads down on the owners' double bed! An interesting exchange of views ensued.

The platoon search teams, ably led by LSgt Roberts 32, have been usefully employed and have been largely instrumental in some "near finds" as Gdsm Griffiths 71 so succinctly puts it. However, time must surely reward their efforts.

Local patrolling continues to provide a great challenge for patrol commanders to find new interesting routes around Bessbrook. Needless to say LSgt Price 21's patrol normally ends up at the RUC station, usually meeting LSgt James 30's on their way out. The platoon bids a sad farewell to Sgt Powell 01 who departs for civilian life and wishes him the best of luck in the future. His successor, Sgt John 57 is warmly welcomed. Three Company is most fortunate in having acquired the



"Hello Mrs Sam — this is Bryn, Sitrep"



Iron Man — "Trucks" Thompson

assistance of B Troop, 12 Air Defence Regiment, R.A. who have come to do a spot of rough shooting in the Bessbrook area. B Troop claim, very politely, to be cosily accommodated in the attics of the Mill. Having familiarised themselves with the ground, they have been fully absorbed into the Company and are currently enjoying all of South Armagh's varied attractions.

The arrival of Troop Sergeant Major Austin caused some bafflement amongst 3 Company who thought that there were now two CSMs. A spot of "crack" in the Choggi shop soon dispelled this confusion. Some members of B Troop, namely Gnrns Duhaney, Nisbett and "Jacko" Jackson have added a raffish touch to 3 Coy. Especially one GNR who called over an

old stick in Camlough and said to him "Hey man, did you know that black is beautiful." Camlough is now all agog. As their berets did not sport the noble leek, all the locals believe that the SAS have arrived! Three Company will be very sorry to see the departure of B Troop, and hopes that it will be possible to extend their stay. Should this not prove possible, Three Company hopes that the remainder of their tour will go well and wishes them a safe return to Portadown.

Well that's it for this month. As the end of the tour approaches, not a few are beginning to quake at the thought of the coming Spring Drills. All, however, are looking forward to the one month R&R. Before signing off, it only remains for the Iron Men to say "we will see you soon" to the families and friends back home.

Three Irishmen were sent to measure the height of a Flag Pole. For hours they kept jumping up and down, falling off ladders and getting nowhere until a passing Welshman told them the Flag Pole could be unscrewed from its base and laid on the grass.

"Listen stupid," one of the Irishmen said.

"We were sent out here to measure the height of this pole not the length of it!"



L/Sgt Willoughby and Gdsm Davies 07, outside the PIRA recruiting office.



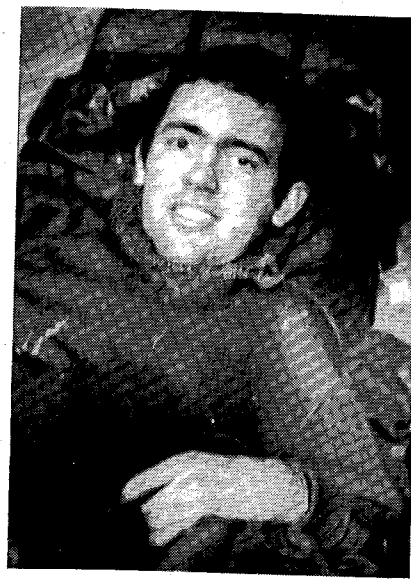
Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee



"mad dogs and Welshmen."
Gdsm Roberts 20



Campbell "dug in"



Gdsm Townley — R & R at Hotel 5.

The Cow and the Toff

*Within a field of knee deep grass
A British Soldier is seen to pass
Senses alert and head held high
But fails to see danger close by.*

*He moves with stealth, this man knows
how*

*But still he fails to see the cow
A beast 6 foot high of massive weight
And for the Soldier a heartfelt of hate.*

*The massive beast has seen his chance
To take the seat from Mr. Errington's
Pants*

*With an angry snort and head down low
Like an express train across the field it
goes.*

*Mr. Errington sees danger at last
"Bloody Hell" he is heard to gasp
And runs for the nearest hedge he sees
O God there's a blockage between the trees.*

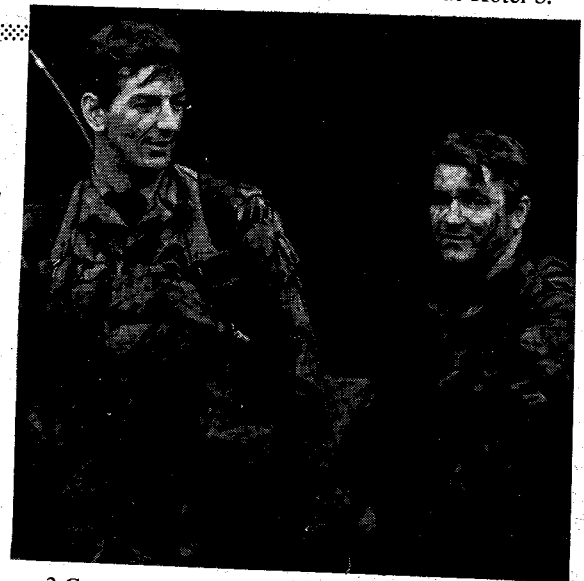
*The Company Commander and Seagull
too*

*Stand in the gap with faces quite blue
They stand there laughing with tears in
their eyes*

*Trying to recover from this amusing
surprise.*

*But poor Mr. Errington is not amused
Neither's the cow from the tone of its moo's
Don't panic shouts Sunray, I'll try
heading it off*

*But the cows having none of it, he's after
the TOFF.*



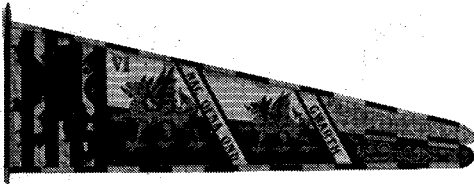
3 Coy veterans — CSM Hough and Sgt John



Gdsm Thomas 43 showing Gdsm James 29 how
to cross a fence without doing any major
damage.



9 Platoon posers — Ford, Amesbury, LCpl
McGuinness, Sgt Powell, LSgt Roberts 32,
Jones 89 and Astley.



'Fear Nothing But Disgrace'

Support Company Newtownhamilton

Now that R&R is only a memory (but what a memory) for the majority of the Company, we look forward to the arrival of the Kings Own Borders Pre-Advance party.

Newtownhamilton was very quiet over the Christmas and New Year period although we did have some surprises. The major event was the visit of the Prime Minister on Christmas Eve. She was accompanied by the Secretary of State Mr. Humphrey Atkins and the inevitable entourage who made the Ops Room bulge at the seams.

The locals were extremely friendly and sympathetic at Christmas and even Mad Mary wished us a 'Happy Christmas' (so we must be winning the hearts and minds battle). The appearance of Father Christmas (LCpl Atkins) at the PVCPC was appreciated by the children of Newtownhamilton, as were his presents.

Christmas Day started with the traditional 'gunfire', which was brought round by the Company Commander, CSM and CQMS. After the Christmas church service, all the parcels were distributed and swiftly opened. Christmas dinner was split into two sittings so that everyone had one.

Our Cooks Sgt Clarke, Cpl Lucas and Pte Wright really made Christmas a special day. They produced the most magnificent food both on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day itself. The whole company appreciates their hard work.



Capt Sayers brick after a long rural patrol



Gdsm Trenchard demonstrating a river crossing technique

The Mortar Platoon under the classic direction of Capt Sayers and Sgt Evans 84 continues to flourish. With feet numb from extended pre-Christmas operations, Christmas was welcomed as the half way point in the tour. The rural patrolling became so hectic before Christmas that Sgt Evans considered going out dressed in a track suit and carrying a map and Silva compass.

The platoon also became the benefactors to the animal kingdom, when they adopted a new born puppy called 'Volatile.' The puppy owes her life to the nutritional value of Army biscuits. She is now growing in size and volume and is cared for by LCpl Harford, who is responsible for her training. Voluble is due to do a B3 Signals course in 1982.

Gdsm Coleman terrorises the locals with his new Army issue spectacles, Gdsm 85 Edwards appeared to be dabbling in magic, when he suddenly disappeared on patrol with only his head above ground. Another classic bog! Mud baths are all the rage with the jet set.



L/Sgt Cole — did he make it?



Captain "Classic" Sayers observing the Royal Engineers blocking off a border crossing point.



A rural brick waiting for a helicopter pick-up



2Lt W. J. Syms — "Happiness is lunch in a trench."

Gdsm Kiley deserves a special mention. He was due to leave the Army in early January but signed on so he could complete the tour. Good effort, much appreciated.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Gdsm Dunphy and his family after their sad bereavement.

'Days to Do' are indeed getting fewer and we are all looking forward to the end. With most of the platoon rested and recuperated, morale is high. The platoon sends its regards to the Anti-Tank platoon and look forward to seeing them back in the Company.

The Drums are as busy as ever, and are also counting the days. The Drum Major still plays backgammon like the English play rugby, although he argues he finds little time to practise. Sgt Roberts 48 is still having problems with helicopters — those who go on patrol with him seem resigned to the fact that they will have to walk in!

Dmr Jones 61 is enjoying life so much that he has extended to 9 years! Dmr Watkins, meanwhile, has decided that the only way to spend the tour is to read philosophy — nonstop! LCpl O'Rourke's

brick decided liquid refreshment was a good idea and carried out a very long chat up in a Newtownhamilton pub on New Years Eve.

The Company Christmas Draw was celebrated in the best style possible. LCpl Gwilym was the proud winner of a portable television, and Dmr Roberts 80 won far too much to be recorded. The Padre held a small church service, at which LSgt Downes provided musical accompaniment — his brick was feeling a little less Christian later as they lay in the bottom of a freezing ditch.

So with only about a month left in the province, we would like to say that the Company is very much looking forward to March and our months leave.

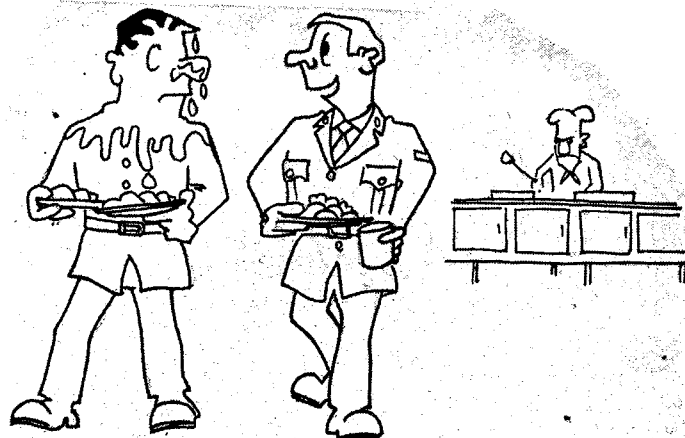
★ "Murphy", says the judge, "I am going to give you a suspended sentence."
"You're being hung!"



Sgt Elley confident map reading in the mist



L/Cpl Lucas, Pte Wright and Sgt (the Nob) Clarke.



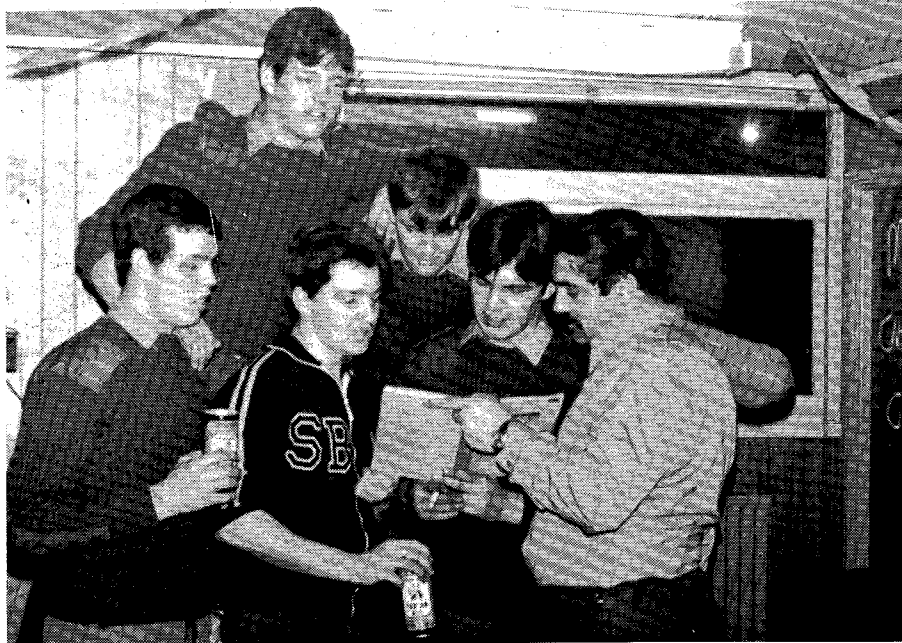
HONESTLY, WAS IT A GOOD IDEA TO SAY "IT LOOKS ALMOST GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT."



L/Cpl Atkins as a very popular Father Christmas



L/Cpl Harford have you tried Bird's Mellow Coffee
Mrs. Thatcher sampling the Ops Room brew



North Walian Choir Christmas Carols



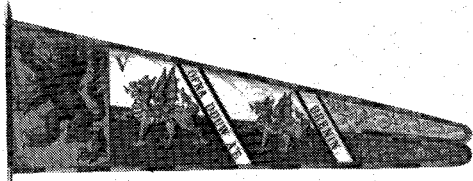
Mrs. Thatcher being introduced to Sgt Elley by Sgt Evans 84.



South Walian Choir Christmas Carols



Mrs. Thatcher being presented with her Battalion Tea Towel.



'Fear God, Honour The King'

Headquarter Company

As you chew away at that chicken leg on your plate drooling over the Leek don't be surprised to find that bit of bone embedded in your molar turns out to be part of a 4 tonner windscreen.

He must be joking I hear you say — but getting your rations can be a dangerous business as 7 members of Headquarters Company will tell you. On 12th December, 2 ration trucks were just short of Bessbrook and passing a cattle truck parked by the side of the road. As the second one drew level 300 lbs of explosives in the cattle truck was detonated by remote control sending the wreckage and blast ripping into the 2 vehicles. Miraculously no one was killed but Gdsm Oldfield, Tudor and LSgt Courtney had to receive hospital treatment. Of these three, Gdsm Oldfield was the most seriously wounded and has been casevaced to England. We wish him a speedy recovery.

In the second truck was LSgt Padmore who quickly took charge of the incident and tried to attract the attention of Bessbrook Mill by using his initiative and rather unorthodox means. As it happened

there was little need for this as most of the occupants of the Mill were brushing the dust off their desks or looking for ear plugs last used at Hythe. Although 1400 metres away several panes of glass were broken in the Mill windows. Suffice to say that there was no need for the planned mortar practice the next day.

Undeterred by PIRA events the Company put all hands to the ovens to make Christmas as traditional as possible. Under the direction of the Master Cook 43 Christmas Cakes were baked, 3210 mince pies and 54 turkeys were despatched to Company locations. 83 pints of cream were poured over your Christmas puddings. Adding to the festive spirit 620 crackers and 500 metres of chains coloured decorative, were sent with Sgt Hogarths blessings. All these items were cargoed into a Wessex by Sgt "Doom-watch" Smith.

I leave the remainder of Headquarter Company notes to various departments to compose when they get relieved from 3 Company Sangars!



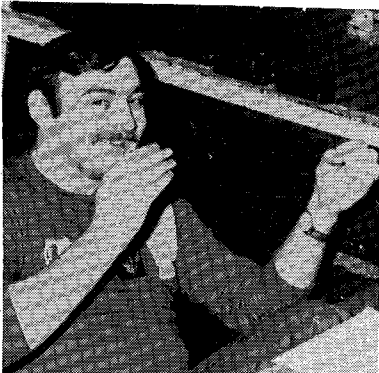
RSM E Pridham was made a Member of the British Empire in the New Years honours list.



Ops 2 and Ops 1



The damaged 4 tonner



L/Cpl Sherwood practicing being a desk



How much 4 x 2 do you want. The Commanding Officer showing the Major General part of the bomb Prince of Wales Company found



The cattle truck bomb — not much left of the cattle truck

Letter from Pirbright

The Christmas edition of the "Leek" has just arrived which reminded the writer that it is again time to put pen to paper to let you know what has been happening on the home front during the past month.

Christmas is essentially a time for family gatherings but for most of our families this was not possible. Nevertheless we were not going to let the festive season pass without some form of celebration. Our first priority was to arrange a Christmas party for the children which took place in the Jubilee Club on Saturday 15th December. This was a great success as far as the children were concerned and at one stage it looked as if a group of our more boisterous kids were about to defrock Santa Claus who was not dispensing the presents fast enough for their liking.

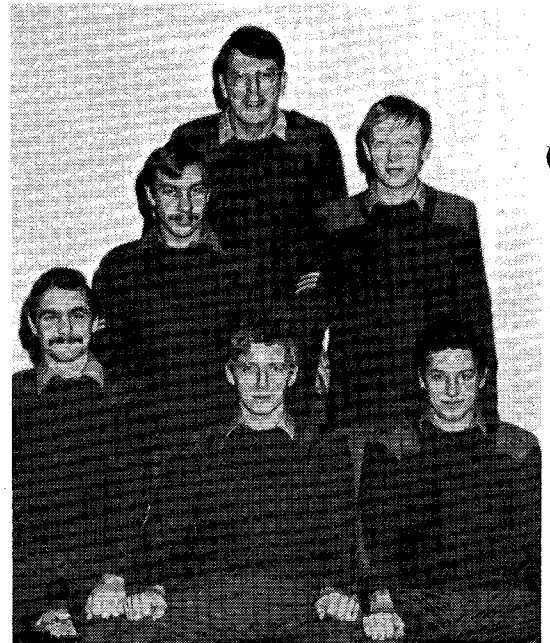
Mrs. White organised a second party for the Kindergarten on the following Wednesday with yet more presents for those children lucky enough to attend both parties.

On Friday 21st December we held a Christmas party for the wives in the Corporals' Mess which was attended by some 80 people. A mini draw was held and Mrs. Pridham won the main prize which she collected to the inevitable chorus of "Fix"!

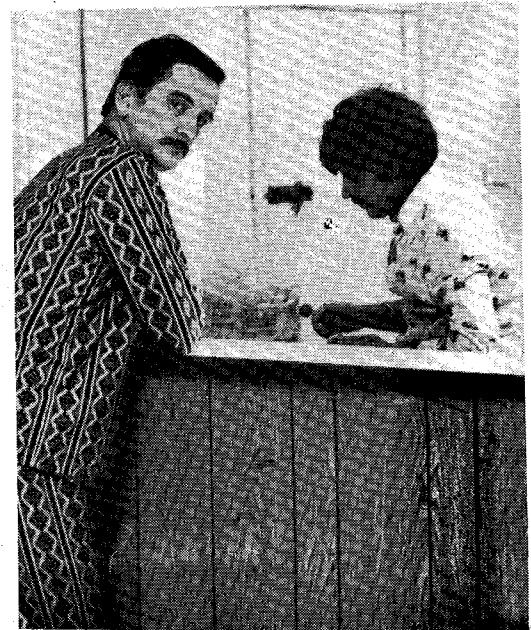
New Years Eve looked like being a non event in the Corporals Mess until quite late into the evening and LCpl Thomas (83) who had spent all day preparing a first class buffet for 80 people began to feel ill at the prospects of having to consume it. However people started to appear quite quickly as the night wore on and at midnight some fifty people were singing "Auld Lang Syne" together and formulating their resolutions for the New Year.

On Friday 4th January we took sixty five children to see "The Wizard Sid," a Christmas show at the Redgrave Theatre in Farnham. The Wizard himself very soon realised that there was one part of the audience determined to enjoy themselves and the dialogue between young Lee Rosser and the Wizard was a brilliant piece of impromptu audience participation. Later on in the proceedings Adrian Neck took to the stage and, like a born actor, had the audience in stitches as he showed us how rifle drill should be carried out. Kenneth Roberts, son of LSgt Roberts (32) decided to show the Wizard how to be a ghost and was amply rewarded with a bag of sweets for a really fine performance.

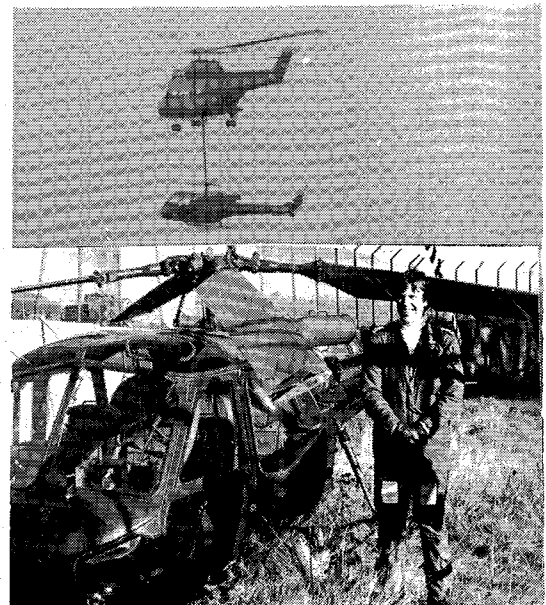
Back in Barracks work is going ahead to refurbish the main kitchen, which at present resembles a battlefield but will, hopefully be completed by early February, a point in time which no longer seems so far away for us in Pirbright.



Orderly Room Staff Posers —
C/Sgt Richardson, L/Cpl Csernikovics, L/Sgt Stacey, Bray, 29 Jones Wilkinson.



Missed breakfast again?



Every picture tells a story



Gdsm Parry, Sue Lawley, Bob Willis and L/Cpl Lewis 34 on Rats visit to Nationwide.

BN INT — TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER TAFF

Thankfully the Christmas period passed without incident and we are now well into the second half of our tour.

Captain George Smiley Henderson is on R&R whilst this is being written and edited. In his absence we cowardly abstain from taking advantage of telling all.

D/Sgt Davies 22 is very busy this week doing the jobs of 3 people, namely the I.O., RSM and CSM HQ Coy. He is still top of the list as the most photographed person in South Armagh appearing on most pages in the Regimental Scrap Books.

S/Sgt Sorenson has left us to spend the last 5 weeks of the tour helping out on the helipad. It is all to his credit that we remain reasonably fit and trim here in the Mill. Sgt Hopkins also has let on posting to the Guards Depot, where we wish him good luck in his new job.

Sgt (Slack Pat, Chunky, I'm on a diet, Brute) Aston being the only other expert SNCO, has taken on the additional workload from those who have left, and now has 2 x 6' tables and 3 chairs to plonk his admirable frame on. He is delighted at being selected to stay here until the very end of the tour.

L/Sgt Turner with a £7 debit to his credit, has managed to cut down his pocket expenditure from ZERO to ZERO plus £7. POW Coy be warned, he really lives up to his reputation as tight fisted.

L/Sgt Saunders correspondence course results received from his Oxford tutor have given us a good laugh once a week on arrival of the mail and we hear he is thinking of taking a degree in proof reading.

L/Sgt Monument and Gdsm Shone have gone on much the same as before, always busy and producing speedy results. Lt Mitchison is on R&R in America and should get there in time to catch the next plane back to sunny Bessbrook.

Christmas R&R went off without a hitch for L/Cpl Rice. He decided the return flight timings were on a need to know basis, and he didn't.



BLOODY IRISH STEW.

Gdsm (I hate work) Sinsinatti's posting order has been published much to his relief, and everyone else's. This has been followed by letting his hair down and with much celebrating his typing has again returned to normal — 140 mistakes a minute.

Now that we have been in the province 100 days exactly (15 Jan) we look forward to the publication of the Advance Party nominations and writing the notes for the final edition of the Leek, which we have greatly enjoyed and appreciated. Soon we shall have the Intelligence party of our successors with us and we look forward to imparting some of our local knowledge upon them.

THE BLEEPS IN WINTER

Despite many hours learning how to operate complicated electronic equipment, the advances of technology seems to have proved too much for Guardsman 'Ben Hunt.' A few weeks ago he was rather baffled by a new electronic machine sitting on a table next to the television in the Radio Room. Hunt, being a well read person had heard about the Sun Christmas Appeal and

so it seemed natural that this metal and glass machine was one of the new television video machines. What he could not understand was why L/Cpl Dummett kept on pouring out cups of coffee from it!

Gdsm Thomas 75, not to be outdone, managed to find a break in the Battalion film recently, when Sgt Door told him to bring the film down to the stores to be repaired, Thomas did just that. Unfortunately he forgot the reels, and so our intrepid stores Sergeant spent four hours detangling a 'Spaghetti Western.'

On the telephone exchange Signalman Salkeld (Jock to his friends) has been given a number of interesting tasks. One day the Paymaster asked him to locate a certain kind of adding machine. So good was his sales patter that the salesman was soon at Bessbrook ready to sell an adding machine to the Sgts Mess. We are amazed that the Irish can understand this Glaswegian, certainly no one in the Welsh Guards can.

Many of the Platoon were allowed to go on a short camping holiday on the top of a local mountain. They thoroughly enjoyed living in tents playing with their radio sets. Some people have all the luck.

★ Standing: Sgt Daniels, Gdsm Sinstadt, LSgt Turner, LCpl Rice, LSgt Saunders, LCpl Marlow. Seated: Sgt Hopkins, SSgt Sorensen, Capt Henderson, D/Sgt Davies 22, Sgt Aston. ★





"How many pairs of Desert Wellies do you want?" The Quartermaster and Cole.

Q.M.'s DEP.

Since our last notes we have been very busy preparing for the festive season, indeed the master cook worked very hard to see who was going to get the most Brazil nuts, while C.S.M. Dean and Gdsm Duggan were up to their necks in salmon and Christmas trees. They would like to thank Sgt Ward for the supply, and his driving of the getaway vehicle. We now embark into the 80's and this is a very busy time for the clothing stores, (Gdsm Duggan says he reckons Sgt Jennings will sort it out) with the introduction of new items. And of course this also means a lot of work for Sgt Smith 79 and his bunch of "Seamstresses." The Nimsa Stores, run by CSgt "Squash" Jones and L/Cpl "Kinnegar" Elison are sorting out ready for our hand over to the Border Regiment. Whilst CSgt 'No Way' Wilson and his side kick Gdsm 'Flash' Baker 86 are up to no end of mischief, packing to 'Go back to

Foxy.' Sgt Hogarth is still working out which location is ahead in the 'waste energy' campaigning, and to work out who in South Armagh wants to buy regimental tea towels. The last we saw of 'I'm off to Armagh/Glenanne/Ballykinler' Cole he was on his way out the gate with collar and tie on.

The Quartermaster is still fighting a losing battle trying to sell his "desert wellies" but says the U.D.R. are looking more and more promising. Since our last issue the RQMS has not visited the ship. He said "It drowns my style." In our last notes we forgot to mention our two colleagues who are attached to POW Coy and Support, they are Gdsm 'Omar' Roberts 84 and Gdsm 'Snowy' White 66. We hope the rest of the tour goes well for you both and we look forward to you rejoining our ranks on our return to Pirbright.



Intelligence officer "I'm sure I recognise that face"



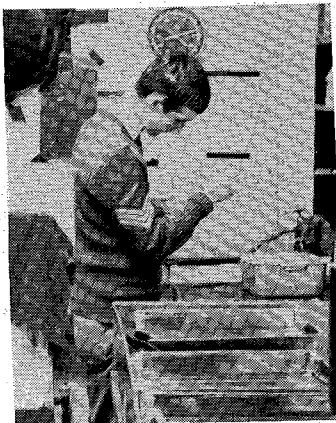
Buzzards trying out the ultimate wind sock



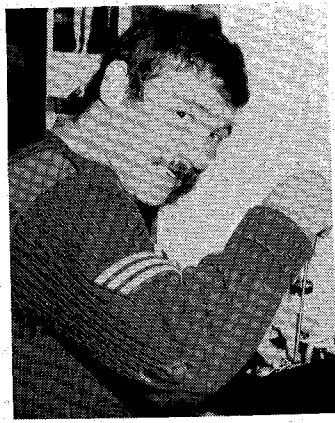
Gdsm Farrelly — "Two sugars please!"



No ORCS we didn't know the Company Commander was coming back two days early from R&R.



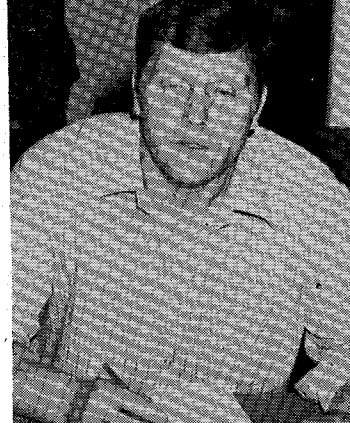
L/Sgt Monument — The Battalion dark room.



Sgt Ryall fixes it again!



"Go over that punch line again"



"How do you spell that Blasykiw." CQMS Neck.

Buzzard — A kind of Hawk
Prophet — A wise man inspired by God
(The Oxford Dictionary)

Dear Editor.

Returning from a triumphant visit to London and High Holborn. Rats and I find ourselves the victims of a vicious literary scandal in "The Leek." This Battalion has not received such glowing appraisal in the national press since we last won the Rugby Cup. Prophet is upset and in the words of a celebrated associate Isiah (Chapter 1 v 10) "Sodom."

Who gets called from bed to explain why a Puma thought Dundalk was Crossmaglen? Who explains to Shamus McHabakkuk how his greenhouse couldn't possibly be flattened by the downdraft of a Wessex flying at 15' on Christmas Day? Who explains to the "Sun" that Buzzard was only doing his job in tightening the crutch strap of their Page 3 Girl as she climbed into a Gazelle — or was it the other way round? Yes — all this falls into Prophet's lap and the Aviary outside our gates is far from immune to Public Relation problems.

You may be in the Guinness Book of Records as the busiest Heliport in Europe — but why? Certainly you have the most planned flights for any one day but how many actually get off the ground. Was it just coincidence that flying stopped for 80 minutes as the French Cockerel — no doubt a kindred spirit — stepped onto that hallowed turf in Cardiff? Watch out Buzzard or a few more facts will be slipping into that book: How about

1. Bessbrook Heliport is the only International Heliport with a Scout Helicopter that runs out of flying hours before it takes off.

2. Is the only Airport that uses elastic bands to secure passengers from falling out of doorless aircraft.

3. Is the only place where the Met men shine a torch into the sky and confidentially announce there is impenetrable fog 18 miles away.

Buzzard is in danger of becoming a Penguin. Always flapping, usually in deep water and seldom getting off the ground.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 December 1979

Dear Colonel Guthrie,

I was very pleased to meet you and the members of the Battalion's Support Company when I visited Newtownhamilton on Christmas Eve.

I was greatly impressed by the quiet professionalism of your soldiers. They are making an invaluable contribution in very difficult circumstances. I was also encouraged by the cheerfulness with which they were going about their tasks: their morale is plainly very high indeed. I came away much heartened by what I had seen and heard.

Would you please pass on to Support Company my thanks for the Welsh Guards' tea towels they gave me. I was very touched that they had found time to think of giving me a present in the midst of all the many demands on their time and energy. *My best wishes for a peaceful new year.*

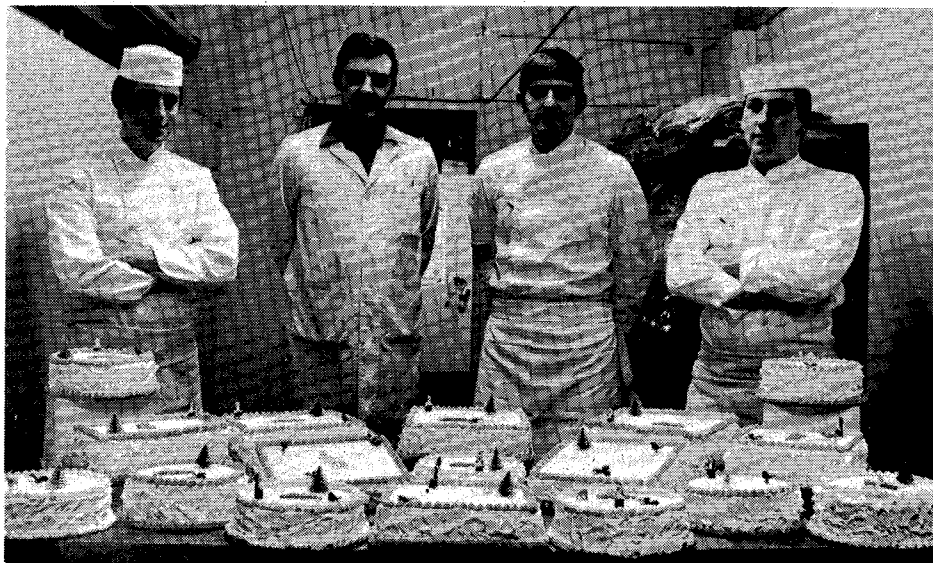
Yours sincerely

Raymond Whelan

Lt. Col. Charles Guthrie,
Commanding Officer,
1st Battalion Welsh Guards.



Dmr Pike thinking about Spring Drills.



L/Cpl Evans 81 SQMS Smith 69 L/Sgt Griffiths 43 Pte Carroll 64

