

PRIME MINISTER

ROYAL GREEN JACKETS

The pattern of the ceremony is as follows. You will arrive at about 1155 and be met by Lieutenant General Sir Roland Guy. He will present Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, General Sir Frank Kitson, Lieutenant Colonel Owen (the Commanding Officer of the Regiment), Archdeacon Frank Johnston (the Chaplain-General) and the Reverend Roger Clayton-Jones (the Chaplain to the Regiment).

General Guy will give a short introduction and invite you to unveil the Memorial. It is at this point that you are expected to make a short speech, some notes for which are attached. Following the unveiling the Chaplain will conduct a Service of Dedication and the band will play on two occasions.

Following the service which will be in a marquee adjoining the bandstand, you will have the opportunity to meet the dependants of those who died, survivors and the hospital staff who treated them. There will be about 60 people there and about three-quarters of an hour has been allowed for this. You will then leave for lunch at the Headquarters of the Battalion at 56 Davies Street and will be accompanied in the car by either General Guy or Colonel Owen. At the Headquarters you will be met by Colonel Christopher Miers, the Commanding Officer of the Battalion and there will be a buffet lunch. We depart after lunch at approximately 1430.

Background

The explosion which killed seven of the bandsmen took place on 20 July last year. Of the 31 bandsmen playing, six were killed instantly and a seventh died two weeks later. All of the remaining 24 were injured to a greater or lesser degree. Five of the dead were married and ten children were left fatherless. Nineteen of the injured have now returned to the Battalion. The most seriously injured, Corporal Timms, is just on the point of being medically discharged after spending most of the past year in a rehabilitation centre.

/The band

The band itself has been reconstructed. Within a few weeks sixteen bandsmen had been posted to join the Battalion in Northern Ireland. As survivors recovered, so the band has returned to its former size of 34 bandsmen. It has just concluded a summer tour of this country, including concerts at Wembley and the Albert Hall and which ended in an invitation to play at Buckingham Palace. The restoration of the band is in large part due to the efforts of the bandmaster, Warrant Officer David Little, who was himself injured in the attack.

You will have met many of the survivors during your visit to St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington in July last year, a reference to which is made in the extract from Battalion Orders published two weeks after the attack and which is attached at Flag B.

The Speaking Notes are at Flag A.

TF

PRIME MINISTER

As I mentioned you are only expected to speak for a very few minutes before unveiling the plaque, after which there will be a service of dedication. I imagine that you will not want to use notes but you may wish to draw on the following:

We are here today for three purposes:

First, as an act of remembrance to those who died so brutally and tragically on 20 July last year - to remember

Warrant Officer Graham Barker
Sergeant Robert Livingstone
Corporal John McKnight
Bandsman Keith Powell
Bandsman John Heritage
Bandsman George Measure
Bandsman Laurence Smith

To remember also those from the Household Cavalry who were killed on the same day in the same act of barbarism.

Second, to pay tribute.

To pay tribute to the survivors of that terrible day, 19 of whom have returned to the Battalion. They and their colleagues under the direction of their Bandmaster Warrant Officer Little have restored the band which was shattered on that day last year. We shall hear later just how successful they have been.

We pay tribute too to the skill and dedication of the hospital staff who helped the survivors through their ordeal. I saw a little of the fruits of that skill and dedication last year. I know that many of you here today will have much to thank them for.

/ Third,

Third, we are here to reaffirm the fundamental principles of freedom and justice which are the corner stones of our civilisation. It is against those principles that the act of terrorism in July last year which destroyed so many lives was aimed. The terrorist seeks to destroy without knowing or caring of the consequences for individuals. But it cannot succeed in crushing the human spirit. That is why the best memorial to those who died on this spot a year ago is to continue to stand firm in defence of the dignity and sanctity of human life and the respect for justice and the law.

TF

4 October 1983

NOTE FOR THE FILE

cc Mr Cawthorne
Mr Kydd
Miss Dover
Driver

Unveiling of the Regent's Park Memorial to the Royal
Green Jackets: 5 October

I saw Major Gutteridge of the Royal Green Jackets yesterday to discuss the arrangements for this occasion. The following points should be recorded:-

- a) The Prime Minister should arrive in the inner circle of Regent's Park, opposite the gate at the top of the path that leads to the bandstand, at 1155. Major Gutteridge will let us have a detailed map of this section of the park.
- b) The service will be held in a marquee adjoining the bandstand. The Prime Minister will sit on one side of the plaque facing the guests. Major Gutteridge will let us have a plan of the seating.
- c) After the service the Prime Minister will meet the dependants, survivors, and hospital staff in the marquee (not at 56 Davies Street as indicated in the brief). I have told Major Gutteridge that the Prime Minister will need between 30-45 minutes to meet the 60 people involved. She will not therefore be leaving the marquee much before 1315. This gets over the problem of how to get the guests to Davies Street before she arrives.
- d) On leaving Regent's Park, the Royal Green Jackets very much hope that the cars carrying the Chief of the Defence Staff, the Commander in Chief of UK Land Forces, and the Secretary of State for Defence (if he attends), can travel in convoy behind the Prime Minister's car. They also hope that either the Commanding Officer of the First Battalion of the Royal Green Jackets,

/Colonel Owen

Colonel Owen, or the Colonel Commandant of the First Battalion, Lieutenant General Sir Rowland Guy, can travel in the Prime Minister's car in the place of the Private Secretary. I told Major Gutteridge that I saw no problems with this. He will let us know which of the two will accompany the Prime Minister.

- e) On arrival at 56 Davies Street, HQ of the 4th Battalion, the Prime Minister will be met by the Commanding Officer of the Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Miers, his wife, the adjutant, Captain Tom Wright, and Regimental Sergeant Major Hunter. The Prime Minister will be given a buffet lunch in "the London Club", the smaller of the two reception rooms in the HQ. The majority of the guests will be in the Drill Hall next door. There will be an opportunity for the Prime Minister to meet some of the guests before she starts lunch. I have told Major Gutteridge to ensure that if the Battalion has any particular guests they feel the Prime Minister should meet, they should be assembled in the London Club.
- f) I have promised Major Gutteridge that we will not fix the Prime Minister's first engagement after lunch until 1500.
- g) Major Gutteridge said that it would be useful if Superintendent Cawthorne could get in touch with Superintendent Rowe (230-4432) about the security arrangements. The Marquee will not be put up until a couple of days before the occasion, so it may be best to leave a recess until then.
- h) It would be useful if Ian Kydd could have a word with Tony Worner in the MOD Press Office about handling the media. I agreed with Major Gutteridge that the ideal

/would

would be for five or six cameramen, both still and TV,
to be allowed to film the unveiling itself, but little else.
There will be seating in the marquee for representatives of
the press.

LM

23 September, 1983