



March 2, 1968. This was the first of many photos of Mr and Mrs Phoenix looking fondly into each other's eyes.



Ian's paternal grandfather (nearest camera) meeting the Queen. A veteran of the Boer War, he inspired Ian to embark on a military career.

Ian's parents, Maggie and Willie Phoenix, in Granville 1970.



Ian's birthplace in Granville, near Dungannon, County Tyrone.







Libya airfield 1968. Ian and his friend waiting for the flight home.



Ian and friends from D Company 3 Para in the jungle in 1967. This was one of his favourite environments.

Ian and Susan with baby daughter arriving at LUQA airport, Malta in December 1968. Families travelled together. Baby Phoenix had just escaped 'near death' as the plane landed.



*Below* Ian and Susan and baby daughter in Malta 1969, where they were stationed for 18 months.

*Below right* 'Cap and Boots'. Newly recruited Constable Phoenix at RUC depot Enniskillen with his daughter, there to watch the passing out parade.







The first and last full military funeral in Belfast. Sgt Michael Willetts was killed by an IRA bomb as he started duty with his colleague from the RUC – Constable Ian Phoenix. Ian is standing directly above the end of the coffin. Springfield Road Police Barracks, 1971.

Mug-shots used by the RUC in B Division Belfast in the 1970s to spot potential troublemakers when on duty.



Joseph Cahill



Gerald Adams (Snr.)



Gerald Adams (Jnr.)



Ian on duty after the Oxford Road Bus Station explosion in 1972. He was helping to pick up debris of bodies.



Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Chivwell and Constable John Phoenix.

## Friends turn back the clock

By Joe Oliver

An Army chief and a young police constable shook hands yesterday and turned the clock back five years.

For it took the troubles in Ulster to re-new a warm friendship between Constable John Phoenix and Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Chivwell.

Five years ago Colonel Chivwell, then a Major, was in charge of the 3rd Bn. Para-

"I was in the Army for nine years and served under Colonel Chivwell for six months in 'Borneo,'" recalled John at the reunion yesterday.

"And I joined the RUC last May after being demobbed from the Army and you can imagine my surprise when Colonel

Front page of the  
*Belfast Newsletter*.





Ian with new sergeant's stripes outside his house in Glengormley.



The young Sgt. Phoenix having a tea break in the Belfast sunshine.

Belfast Telegraph, Tuesday, December 18, 1973 11

## BID TO KILL RUC MAN: 3 ACCUSED

By Belfast Telegraph  
Reporter

THREE YOUNG Belfast men appeared at the Magistrate's Court today charged with the attempted murder of an RUC sergeant yesterday.

Francis Gerard Goodall (21), unemployed, of Carlisle Road; Francis Joseph Collins (18), unemployed, of North Queen Street, and Michael Joseph Reeves (17), van boy, of Artillery House, all refused to recognise the court.

They are jointly charged

with attempting to murder Sergeant John Phoenix in the Duncalm Gardens area.

A detective said that each of the accused made written voluntary statements.

In reply to the charge, Reeves said: "No." Collins: "I wasn't there." and Goodall: "I second that. He wasn't there."

They were remanded in custody until December 21.

At the same court a 27-year-old Belfastman appeared, accused of the attempted murder of Gerard Ignatius McCann on

the Crumlin Road, on December 12.

He is Arthur James Bettice, unemployed, of Oldpark Road, and he is charged with trying to murder the man with another person as yet unknown.

A detective told the court that Bettice refused to make a written statement, but made verbal statements.

When charged, Bettice replied: "No. Just not guilty."

He was remanded in custody until December 31.



Ian and his children returning from a fishing trip in their old ferry boat.

Ian with his toddler daughter on the beach in Douglas on the Isle of Man, 1972.



Ian and a beekeeping friend during his 'beekeeping phase'. Susan had bought a hive at an auction. Unfortunately it was full of bees and Ian applied himself to becoming a beekeeper for several years until he found he was allergic to their stings.



Ian arranged a parachute display for a charity garden party with the proviso that the jumpers arrived with a bottle of Black Bush in their flying suits. He promised the glasses if they safeguarded the whiskey.



At peace in the wilds with gun and dogs – resting to look over the Irish Sea to Scotland.

The wine labels which Ian treasured on the crate of personally labelled wine presented to him by his friends in the SAS. Although he couldn't help commenting 'Nice labels, rotten wine'. He often said 'Life's too short to drink bad wine'.





The devastated Loughgall police barracks after the IRA bomb had been detonated. It injured the volunteer policemen whom Ian had admired for their courage.

Dead terrorists after Loughgall.





'The Cap'n'  
with his  
colleague Bob  
Foster who  
died with him  
on 2 June. The  
hat was a  
farewell  
present from  
his team in  
TCG (South).



The last  
photograph  
taken of Ian  
by Susan. He  
is in the  
garden that he  
loved to tend  
and feeding  
his favourite  
hunting dogs,  
Finn and  
Bumbles.

The final  
picture of Ian  
and Susan with  
her parents.  
Five years  
after this  
photograph,  
Susan had lost  
all three of her  
loved ones.





Ian and Susan  
back in his  
favourite  
Malaysia.  
Photograph taken  
by their daughter  
on her twenty-first  
birthday in  
Singapore.



Ian opening his last good wine for  
those who made the trek to the  
beach after the final barbecue.



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*The Belfast Newsletter*, 4 June 1994.

## Chinook victim 'committed to freedom and fairness'



Pupnet scene: The remains of the security force personnel's gun boat.

## Ian's champagne funeral

EXCLUSIVE

By Rosie Cowan

THE WIDOW of one of the Chinook helicopter crash victims has told of her '28-year-old love affair' with her husband.

Susan Phoenix says she was deeply touched by the fact that more than 1,500 people came to her husband Ian's funeral and by the 500 cash and letters that flooded in.

Detective Superintendent Ian Phoenix was one of 10 high-ranking British Army officers who died on June 12 in a helicopter crash on the Mull of Kintyre.

All 29 people on board the Chinook, including senior military and police officers, were killed when the helicopter crashed into the Mull of Kintyre mountains.

Mrs Phoenix (45), who lives with her son, James, in Larne, said she was 'overwhelmed' with the 'love, comradeship and human concern' shown to her family since the death of her husband.

She said of the champagne funeral: 'It was a very special day for us.'

## Helicopter victim's widow tells of her '28 year love affair'

Mr Phoenix was 51 years old when he died. He was a 28-year-old love affair with his wife, Susan, who told of her '28-year-old love affair' with her husband.

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Ian Phoenix: 'Committed to freedom'

The Belfast Telegraph, 1 July 1994.

The Campbelltown News, July 1994.

## RUC widow's praise for people of Kintyre

THE WIDOW of one of the victims of the Mull of Kintyre Chinook disaster has paid a moving tribute to people of the area.

Mrs Susan Phoenix lost her husband, 51-year-old Detective Superintendent Ian Phoenix - an experienced RUC officer and former paratrooper - in the crash back in June.

In an open letter, Susan Phoenix, from Larne, said she has been 'overwhelmed' with the 'love, comradeship and human concern' shown to her family since the death of her husband.

She continued: 'The people of the Mull have been a tower of strength. I have felt so guilty arriving at the lighthouse with groups of friends, but we have always been welcomed with love and open arms by everyone there. Very special people indeed.'

'The love and support offered to us by Roddie and Jennifer



Detective Superintendent Ian Phoenix

of my life and he gave so much that his friends will value his life



# Tributes for the man who lived life to the full



Colleagues of Detective Superintendent Ian Phoenix carry his coffin. 20027

WIND and rain lashed Roselawn Crematorium on Thursday for the final farewell to a man of "courage and conviction".

Detective Superintendent Ian Phoenix was one of the security elite who perished in

in a nearby field to ease congestion on the roads and local people stopped to watch the



A lone piper leads the coffin bearers to Roselawn. 20128

The *Larne Times*, 16 June 1994.

Susan being comforted after the first memorial service on the site of the Mull of Kintyre crash. With (from left to right): Rev. Roddie McNidder, Stella Rimmington (MI5 Chief), Sir Hugh Annesley (RUC Chief Constable), Group Captain Roger Wedge (Senior Royal Air Force Officer N.I.) and their wives.



