

VIII/IX

1996



8TH/9TH BATTALION THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

Colonel in Chief	:	Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth
Commander In Chief	:	His Excellency The Honourable Sir William Deane Governor General of Australia
Colonel Commandant	:	Major General A. Clunies-Ross AO MBE
Regimental Colonel	:	Colonel R J Margetts
Commanding Officer	:	Lieutenant Colonel J A Robbs
Regimental Sergeant Major	:	Warrant Officer Class One E O Hutchinson

ALLIED REGIMENTS

Royal New Zealand Regiment
The Royal Malay Regiment
Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Regiment
The Brigade of Gurkhas

BATTALION AFFILIATIONS

The Parachute Regiment
2nd/8th Battalion's (AIF) Association
9th Battalion's Association
8 RAR Association
9 RAR Association
RAR Association (Queensland Branch)

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ALBATROSS

'Albatross' my senses screamed at me when I realised that the only Major seated around the Battalion conference table who wasn't too busy to be the magazine editor was me. In fact until that time I hadn't realised how the other Majors in the 8th/9th Battalion were so essential to the maintenance of the New World Order and the stability of the dollar, facts in which we can all be justifiably proud. Both Lieutenant Colonel Robbs and I were almost moved to tears by the tales of piled high 'in' trays and health problems induced by sleep deprivation, so much so that falling on my sword and volunteering at the last safe moment seemed almost noble.

I knew as I sifted through previous magazines that I faced a difficult task of having to replicate the quality, as well as providing a novel way to properly reflect the scale of events in 1996. For 1996 was a momentous year for the Battalion with a packed program, the achievement of steady state, a change of government, the announcement of the closure of the Ready Reserve Scheme and the sad news of the Battalions impending mothballing. This last fact made the requirement of recording the Battalions achievements all the more important and difficult.

That this magazine has been produced at all is a fitting tribute to the pressures of history and the typing skills of my wife. I would like to thank all those members of the Battalion who provided the product to pad out this document even though most of them are dyslexic and obviously were maths majors at school.

So find enclosed the 1996 Magazine for the 8th/9th Battalion. If there are any problems or concerns with the material you will have to lump it as by the time you read this my family and I will have been safely relocated under the A21 Witness Protection Program.

Editor: MAJOR D.G. SANDERSON

1996 - The Year That Was

- | | |
|------------|---|
| January: | Start of the 1996 RRes intake
Exercise READY SOLDIER 96
(Trains, Planes and Automobiles) |
| February: | Exercise READY SOLDIER 96
(Gold Coast Trek)
PTS return home
University year commences
Long Hai Day: 28th February |
| March: | Block Leave (For all except those
needed at work) |
| April: | Commencement of Initial
Employment Training
1/96 Liaison Tour to Hobart,
Melbourne and Perth. |
| May: | Initial Employment Training
AASAAM |
| June: | Initial Employment Training |
| July: | Exercise STANDARD CHARGE
(Motorisation and IMT)
Initial Employment Training |
| August: | A Coy Battle Wing Canungra
Initial Employment Training |
| September: | ARL/AFL Grand Finals
Exercise ISURAVA A Coy Field
Firing at WBTA |
| October: | Specialist Courses
Exercise MALLEE BULL A Coy
to Brunei and Bruneins to here.
Battalion 23rd Birthday: 31 Oct |
| November: | Exercise APPIAN WAY
(Motorisation training to Platoon
level at WBTA. Spt Coy Live
Firing) |
| December: | Prepare Exercise READY
SOLDIER |

LTCOL J A Robbs Commanding Officer

Men of 8/9 RAR! I congratulate you on your achievements in 1996. The Battalion has reached steady state as a Ready Reserve Battalion and achieved its directed level of operational preparedness. I know the irony of this achievement given the directions to close both the Ready Reserve Scheme and disband 8/9 RAR in 1997. Nevertheless, we have succeeded as a team to do as we were ordered, and this has been achieved in the face of numerous obstacles. These new orders, albeit unpalatable, will be implemented with the professionalism and quiet efficiency that is the hallmark of Battalion enterprise.

You can reflect on 1996 with pride as we successfully completed during the year a full program of activities. This magazine is a small reminder of our achievements as an Infantry Battalion. Exercise READY SOLDIER was a challenge in many ways. You will recall that the Battalion Group deployed independently and without incident to and from North Queensland and conducted a broad range of training in and around Townsville, including training in urban terrain and close country, as well as practising the more conventional forms of offensive operations. There was little respite between READY SOLDIER and our task to conduct Infantry Initial Employment Training for the 6th Brigade. The Battalion, assisted by other units, had trained over 300 IET by August. A Company then embarked on an ambitious schedule that took it to LWC, on field firing and finally to Brunei on Exercise MALLEE BULL. Along the way we squeezed in TEWTS, AASAM, audits, stocktakes, Long Hai, Anzac Day, area sports competitions, shooting, a July training concentration and the famous Legacy Ambush! It is unlikely that our record of \$56,200 in a single morning will be bettered! The Battalion finally moved closer to its motorisation objectives with a Motorised Infantry Commanders Course mid-year and the reception of Bushranger interim vehicles in November and the subsequent training on APPIAN WAY. Behind the scenes there was furious planning for READY SHIELD 97, RRES closure and the formation of the 7th Task Force.

This is merely a snapshot of our program and I commend you for the maturity, good humour and diligence with which you tackled the challenges. I commend also your families for their support at a time when the way ahead for careers and personal situations was often unclear.

I would like to reiterate some themes from my message to you in October. The Battalion has established a fine character and reputation in its own right and served the Army well over the past 23 years. The decision to disband the Battalion is not based on the performance of 8/9 RAR or its men but on the strategic and political imperatives that currently influence Army force development. We should take heart that the integrated and operationally capable Battalion built by the Men of 8/9 RAR is the unit model being pursued to revitalise the Reserve. I do not subscribe to any notion that the Army will be better without 8/9 RAR but I know that the professionalism and ethos of the Battalion will endure. In the meantime, I challenge you to exploit every opportunity to enhance the Battalion's reputation and to close the Battalion with dignity and thoroughness to ensure that the regimental properties and histories of 8 RAR, 9 RAR and 8/9 RAR are saved for future generations of Infantrymen.

I thank you for your service and loyalty and especially thank the RSM, Warrant Officer Class One Elliot Hutchinson. I reluctantly pass the honour of being the Commanding Officer of the 8th/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, to Lieutenant Colonel John Edwards.

Duty First!



CO presenting (L to R) PTE JOHNSON and PTE HARNETT with prize for raising the largest amount of money on Legacy Day, their total was \$968.



CO presenting WO2 Dave NAGLE, CPL Reg St LEON and CPL (now SGT) Barry LOLLBACK with their certificates for 20 years service in the Corps.



9 SECTION - CHAMPION SECTION FOR 1996

STANDING : PTE WILLIAMS, PTE DEEGAN, PTE CHAMPION, PTE McLOUGHLIN
CPL HARVEY, PTE BUCKINGHAM
SITTING : PTE GUNN, PTE BELL, PTE CODY

Regimental Sergeant Major WO1 E O Hutchinson

Ready Soldier 96 showed the professionalism and high standard of our soldiers and NCO's within a diversity of operational scenarios. For the goals met on that exercise alone (a lot of people were saying we couldn't meet the goals of the exercise) you did and that makes me proud to be the senior soldier in 8/9 RAR.

Long Hai Day was successful again and immediately following leave 6 BDE SUBJ 2 CPL (RAInf) (ARA) kicked off and concluded with range qualifying course. The standard of NCO is assured for the future if this bunch were any indication, well done men!

IETs - once again the junior leaders and in particular the CPLs worked hard to produce keen, young, well skilled and fit soldiers for the Battalion. This was followed by the formation of A Coy, where some changes were necessary in the transition from IET Instructor to RFL Coy NCO, you are a credit to the Corps in the professional manner in which you adapted to this immediate change. As are the Spt Coy NCOs who assisted and instructed throughout IET training and then took on the specialist training of one third of A Coy after Canungra.

There are many other highlights to the year; too many to mention here, however let's make room to thank the unsung heroes of the Battalion. To all the cooks, stewards, Tech Spt personnel (incl Drake contractors), Q's, Pipes and Drums, Clerks, Tpt Pl, Paula and Les at BHQ - Thank you, without your support the fighting machine would break down.

We look to the future, off to GRSR Coys in your parent states. Ensure you get the most out of your remaining time in the Battalion and use the skills, teamanship and esprit-de-corps that you have developed in 8/9 RAR to form the best Coy or Platoon in your new Battalion so that the spirit of 8/9 RAR lives on!

Changes in the structure of the Army over the coming months and years will open up wider opportunities to all personnel, but in particular the Infantry soldier. I challenge you, especially the Senior and Junior NCOs to grasp this opportunity and thrust forward, be innovative, become smarter, don't let "that's good enough" be the standard, an army is built on the quality of its NCOs and their ability to have input to the commanders plan, and then above all, implement it successfully. Do it! Your future is as much at stake as those soldiers you lead.

To one and all it is our responsibility to ensure that the Battalion's (incl 8 and 9 RAR) "History" is conserved and maintained for future generations. Personally I will be involved in this process and task you to assist and especially be vigilant, least the collection is splintered through Tea Leafing.

The last two years have been the highlight of my Army career serving with soldiers who are second to none in the Regiment, sharing the comradeship and esprit-de-corps this fine Battalion has, and above all to have been your RSM. Proudly I have served, but unfortunately it is time to retire. There is lots to do, rugby, golf, fishing, uninterrupted holidays, working in my workshop and time to ponder on what was.

"DUTY FIRST"

See Ya, Take Care.

Battalion Headquarters

BHQ has been very busy since Ready Soldier 96. Doing what? Well the story on BHQ for 1996 will soon unfold.

First the top floor. We seem to have used and or abused some Operations Officers during the year.

Strike One: First batter up was Maj O'Farrell, a very busy man making the Battalion busy.

Strike Two: Second in to bat, for a short spell was Capt Black. (Capt Black did a very good job. This was evident as they promoted him to Maj soon after)

Strike Three: Finally third batter in was/is Maj Graham. A man whose constant diet of caffeine and nicotine makes him a ball (yes ball) of nervous energy.

We must really give them a hard time so they don't stay long. I must make mention of the real backbone of ops, the anchor man in this sea of change - Sgt, now WO2 with a couple of mentions in dispatches, "Blue" Carroll.

Moving to the left as you look at BHQ is the Adjt 'Played hard done good'. He picked up a couple of extra portfolios during the year and was rewarded with promotion to Major and made OC Spt Coy in Nov 96 (And he thought he'd seen admin problems). Maj Black's replacement was Capt Bonney - too early to highlight any good points but as Adj, RSO and the Battalion Computer GURU he should have his work cut out for him.

The Battalion 2IC. What a year! The footy coach from heaven started the team off with grit and determination, however the grand final result was not what he had written in the script. Bloody Refs. The 2IC later had a blood thinning medical problem which saw him sidelined at the end of the year. The two theories behind this development was either that his blood had boiled during his grand final melt down or it was from spending too much time at altitude on the top floor (but not many can remember seeing him in his office).

AAjdt. Another big turnover portfolio. Started out with Lt Rowlands who was doing a great job, how do we know this? Because anyone who does a great job gets to go on Long Look. Lt Rowlands not only got to see Europe, he got to tag along to an area not on many tourist brochures - Bosnia. He said he had a good time. Filling in for him was Lt Gorman. Lt Gorman, was not a bad hand for a non-Grunt type person, but he had this unhealthy desire to conduct security checks on hapless diggers using a combination of ice and rubber hoses.

Int Section. Sgt Green has had his time well and truly cut out for him. He has been the sole body running Int section and many additional tasks required for the Battalion to run. We burnt him out and he is currently on crutches, resting (the oxygen levels got to him too).

The unit's guidance system and warhead have been both accurate and potent. The combination of '9er' and 'Pacestick' has meant BHQ has been on time and on track throughout the year. Both the CO and RSM have provided BHQ with a good captain as well as ensuring our decks have been scrubbed clean. BHQ wishes both well in their respective next campaign.

The Engine Room. The lower deck at BHQ has had a very interesting year. The training program for 1996 was very intense indeed. It was a task to keep the fire stoked to provide a good head of steam for the top floor. To their credit the fire is still going strong.

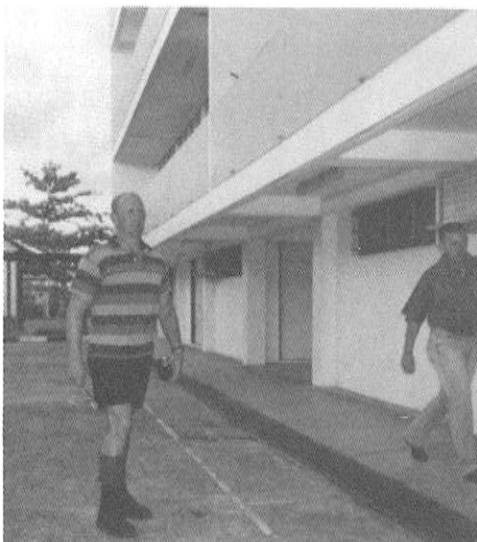
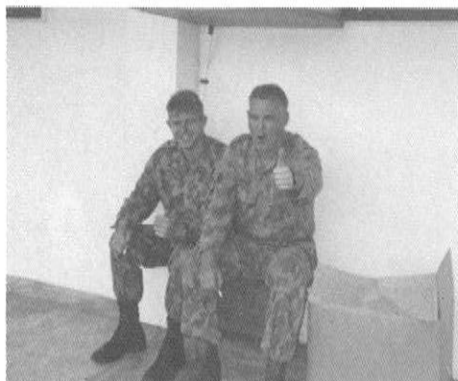
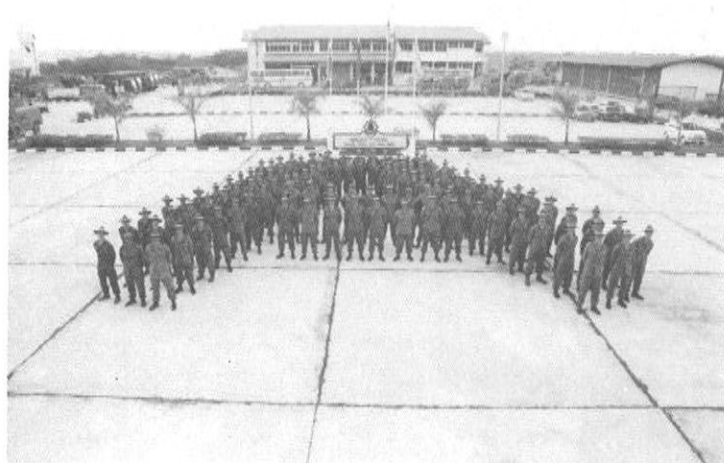
The year started with a big increase in administration with the 6 Bde IET CSE running from 8/9 RAR. We had just over 400 soldiers and staff lob in with a few problems along the way. At the end of the IET CSE we received a Company of FTS to A Coy. Our next task was doing all FTS Christmas Leave and removals for the December break. At the completion of Ready Shield 97 we will again burn some midnight oil with the closure of the RRES scheme and the posting of all the RRES soldiers to their home states.

In closing, BHQ would like to wish all and their families all the best over the Christmas leave period and good soldiering in 97.

READY SOLDIER



MALLEE BULL OVER THERE



A Company

Alpha Company's busy year commenced in early August with the formation of the company upon completion of IET. The soldiers marching in were to discover that the challenges of IET had prepared them well for the activities that lay ahead during the remainder of their FTS year in the Battalion.

Alpha Company participated in sub-unit training at Battle Wing Canungra, LWC during the period 12-23 Aug 96. Only 3 Platoon had any real opportunity to conduct lead up training due to the lack of time after marching out from IET. The aim of the training was to give the company the opportunity to learn, revise and practice the drills and techniques of close country operations up to platoon level. The company arrived fit and eager to train. There were no problems completing the physical activities with the majority of the company completing the walk to Stand 11, Exercise SOUTHERN BAYONET and the Confidence Course without difficulty. The sections maintained a competitive spirit and commanders at all levels were quick to grip their men and get on with the task at hand. 7 Section commanded by CPL Collins completed both Exercise SOUTHERN BAYONET and the Confidence Course with the fastest times narrowly beating 9 Section lead by CPL Harvey. LT 'Stinky' Whittle and CPL Bradley, both on exchange from the British Army, also performed admirably in what can only be described as a foreign environment for them. ("Pick up yah Berghans then Lads!").

Overall the company performed very well at Battle Wing. It was also at this time that WO2 Mick Borrett left the Company on posting to WA. An exceptional CSM, WO2 Borrett's organisational skills and administrative planning were to prove a significant factor in the success of Exercise ISURAVA that was to follow.

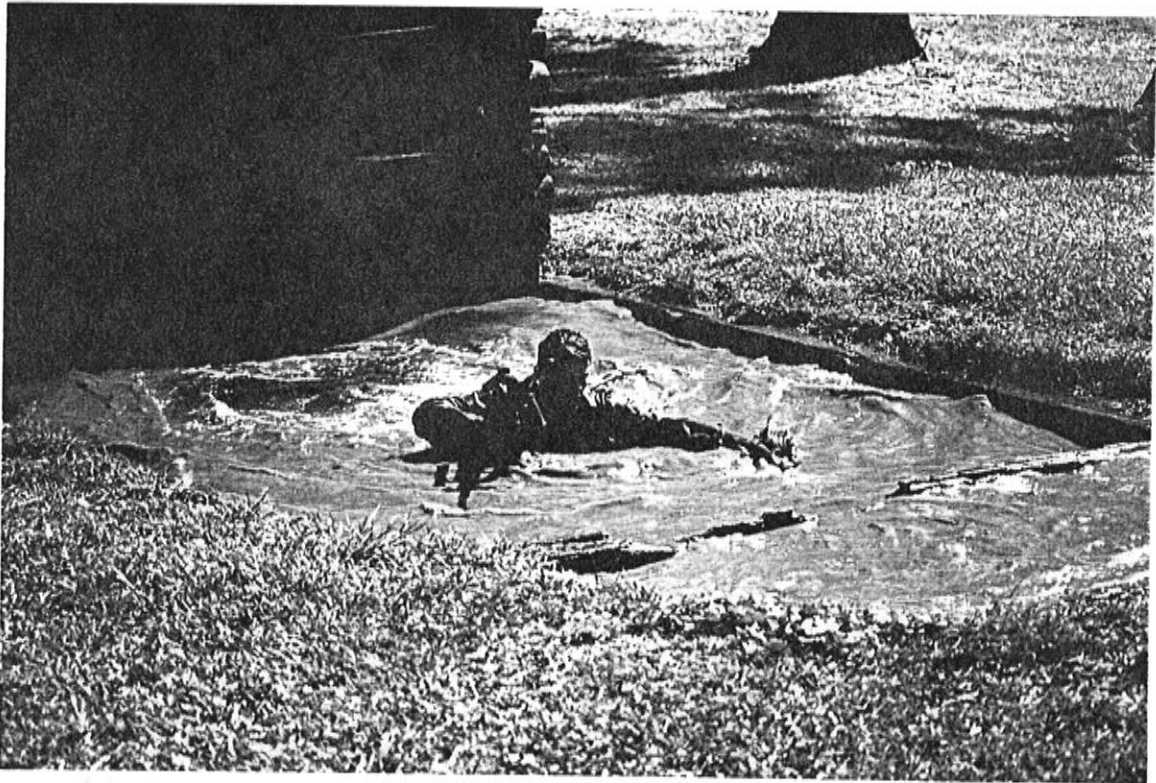
After one week's breather in barracks and a major restructure of the company once the SE Queenslanders departed for Support Company, Alpha Company deployed on Exercise ISURAVA. The exercise involved a series of live field firing practices conducted at Wide Bay Training Area during the period 1-13 Sep 96. This was also to be a trying time for WO2 Geoff Bain who had joined the Company to replace WO2 Borrett. He had under a week



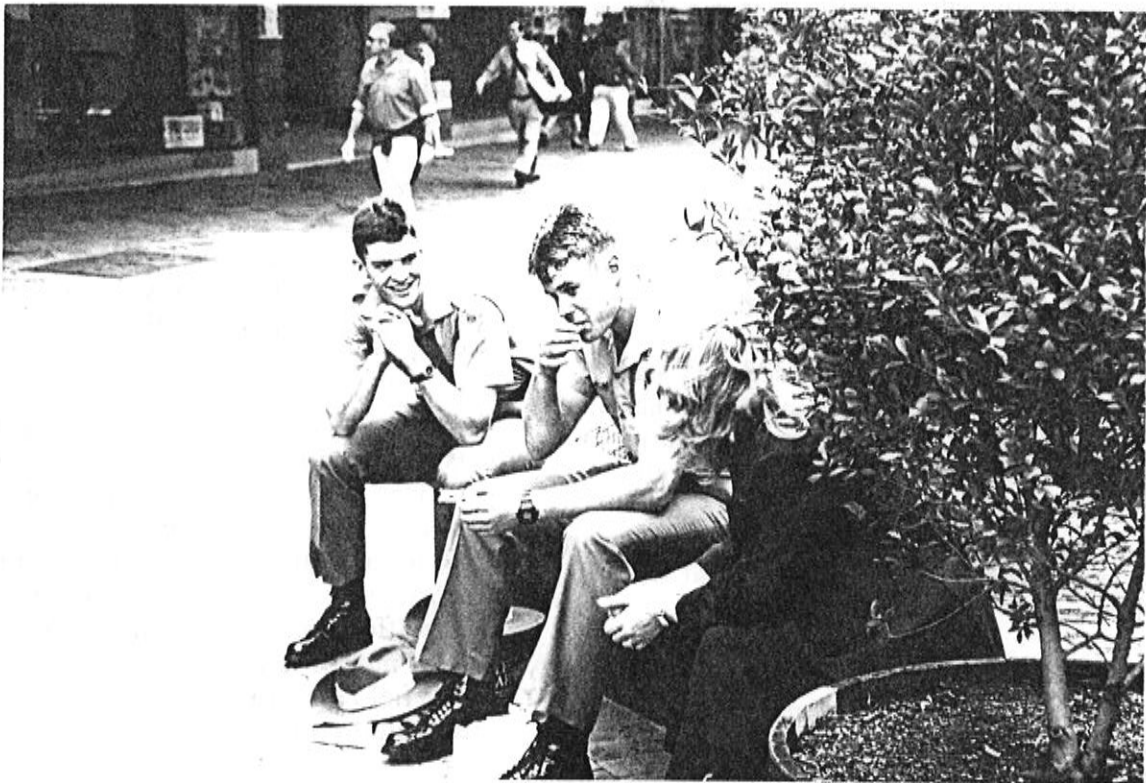
to come to grips with the administration requirements for the exercise, a challenge that he met with much success. Exercise ISURAVA enabled the company to practice defensive operations at section and platoon level in a company environment in open country. The two week exercise also practiced participants in the fundamental skills of the infantryman and in the employment of their integral weapon systems as individuals, pairs, groups, sections and platoons. Special mention must go to PTE Phelan and PTE Lovell, who constructed the best pit in the company. Both of these "diggers" could easily get employment in a graveyard if they get fed up with soldiering.

The live firing exercise progressively developed individual and team battle shooting skills. Soldiers participated in Individual Battle Shooting, Team Battle Shooting as Pairs and in Groups and Advanced Field Firing including Section Defence, Platoon Defence, Section Attack, Platoon Attack, and Platoon Ambush live firing practices. The Platoon Defence Practice was the culmination of the platoon live firing practices. The coordinated fire from the platoon's integral weapons, Claymores, 66mm LDFSs and the MAG 58s and 84mm Carol Gustavs of Support Section combined with Battle Effects Simulation charges simulating enemy mortar and tank fire proved a realistic battle field environment in the early dawn, much enjoyed by the participants.

Upon completion of Exercise ISURAVA the company returned to barracks for a well deserved rest and standdown. On return, the pace again picked up as the Coy prepared to deploy to Brunei Darussalam on Exercise MALLEE BULL 96, a biannual exchange exercise with the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.



Hey! Nobody ever said that it was this deep!



Pte Kelly explaining to a member of the community why Legacy is a worthwhile cause.

Preparation for the deployment included numerous needles, medical checks and duty free shopping. A total of 875 injections, representing a litre of fluid, had been administered to the company before departure. Another element of predeployment preparation included language and culture training. However, after a three day crash course in Bahasa Malay the CSM was brought to tears attempting to pronounce "nnng", or was that "nnnnnnng"? Selamat Pagi Encik.

The Company deployed to Brunei during the period 12 Oct - 12 Nov 96 and were hosted by 3 Battalion RBLF at Penanjong Garrison in Tutong. The exercise objectives were to participate in sub-unit training, to undertake familiarisation training in capabilities and with equipment not available in Australia, gain a working knowledge of RBAF procedures, and to broaden individual military knowledge and experience. The first week concentrated on acclimatisation, unarmed combat and familiarisation training with the M16A2, the M203 and the RACAL Radios used by the RBLF.

After one week the company deployed to a small Scale A Camp in the middle of the jungle in the Temberong District. Deployment was by various modes of transport reminiscent of *Apocalypse Now* and included a five hour cruise down a river by Landing Craft and a brief aerial deployment by Bell 212 Helicopters. During the first week at Temberong the sections took part in assessed blank and live firing section attacks in the jungle. CPL Harvey finally managed to beat CPL Collins, with 9 Section winning both activities. 7 Section came second and 6 Section, lead by CPL Davey came third. 3 Platoon also triumphed during the assessed blank platoon attack activity. One of the more memorable activities conducted during our stay at Marian Camp were the skits performed during the evenings. "Eliot Goblet's" joke about the talking sausage was perhaps one of the best, with the demonstration of the OC's "Budgie Craaaw" a close second.

The field exercise conducted during the third week proved particularly challenging for the company. Platoons were deployed by helicopter into various LPs and then conducted independent search and destroy operations. The razorback ridge lines and dense jungle made the going arduous to say the least. Throughout the exercise soldiers had to deal with the hot

tropical environment of battling temperatures in the vicinity of 30 to 35 degrees Celsius and 90 percent plus humidity.

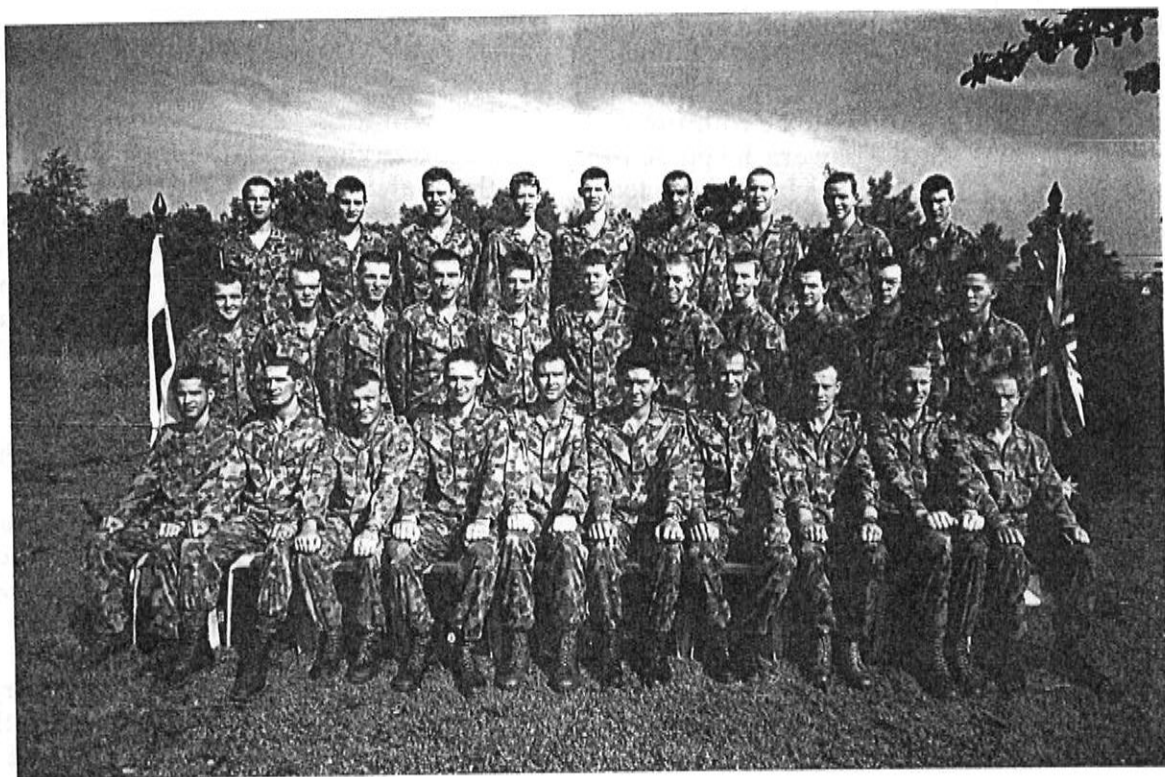
After the Company's two week stint in the "J" we returned to Penanjong Garrison for R & R. Few will forget shopping at Bandar Seri Bagawan (again and again), Kampong Ayer - the Water Village (a large number of homes on stilts over the Brunei River), the Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque, the Brunei Museum, visiting the Royal Regalia Building, the Jame Asr' Hassanil Bolkiah (another Mosque!) and Jeradong Park, a theme park where all of the rides were free.

The soldiers benefited greatly from the exchange, having learnt a great deal about living and operating in the jungle and understanding the differences between our and another nation's armed forces. Special thanks must go to CPL Malone and the Catering Detachment who produced excellent meals in what can only be described as very trying conditions during our stay. Overall the exercise was an outstanding success but there were not many members of Alpha Company sorry to wave squatting over the Tandis goodbye upon our return to Australia.

Alpha Company's year has now come to a close. The company has achieved a great deal during the year particularly when it comes to honing the skills of the FTS soldiers in preparation for their transfer to the PTS companies. This has been due largely to the dedication of the NCO's and junior officers of the company who have had to work many long hours to achieve what has been done this year. Their efforts have not been in vain. Alpha Company's motto is "maximus fleximus" and "achieve the aim". When Alpha Company formed, its principle aim was to produce well trained soldiers "capable of conducting offensive and defensive operations within short notice after call-out". In 1996 Alpha Company lived up to its motto. It achieved the aim.

1 Platoon

The 1 Platoon machine emerged from The School of Infantry and 8/9 RAR IET graduates. Their first road test would be conducted at LWC Canungra and having a foreign Platoon Commander in the driver's seat provided the platoon with an interesting perspective of how



Platoon



LCPL GLANSIRACUSA having words with the snake that attacked the PLSIG.

to go about the business of soldiering for those few weeks. It was a valuable experience which allowed the mechanics at LWC to get under the bonnet and raise revs to a high level by the time 1 Platoon rolled off the production line.

With a new Platoon Commander behind the wheel the 1 Platoon machine was well oiled and ready to undergo the challenges ahead. Platoon manning had been finalised and Exercise ISURAVA helped to put those familiar and predictable rattles and scratches on the machine that only a well used and experienced platoon gains, like a vintage Chevy. One of these rattles would be PTE Wrights eagerly awaited sermons on Sunday mornings during breakfast, and the PLSGT's angry jump starts to get everyone fed while his stomach groaned without ignition.

After the platoon's unsuccessful attempt to put PHQ's hutchie next to a 105mm UXO they got down once again to the business of soldiering. Unlike the other platoon's efforts in trying to blow themselves up by shooting 40mm HEDP into trees five metres to their front 1 Platoon conducted their exercises with the grace befitting the Chevy analogy. Unfortunately the PLSGT tried to play it too cool and was burdened with having to construct nightly world SITREPS for Company O Groups after it was discovered that not only the dull glow of A Current Affair reflected off his face in the platoon harbour at night, but the bright glow of The Simpsons reflected from the faces of the whole platoon at 18:00 sharp!

Training and preparation for Exercise Mallee Bull began on return from Wide Bay. During this time the acquisition of a new Platoon Mascot was ruled out after the Platoon Commander completed his appreciation process and could not come to grips with the piece of ground he had been tasked with.

After purchasing all the video cameras available in Queensland's duty free outlets 1 Platoon deployed with Alpha Company to sunny Brunei. After initial acclimatisation, which involved gaining the stamina in the quadriceps to perform a necessary daily function, the machine was given a service and a new part was installed, the M16 A2.

Reliving the dark and disturbing scenes from Apocalypse Now on our journey up the Bruneian rivers we were then inserted into our AO by helicopter where our jungle training

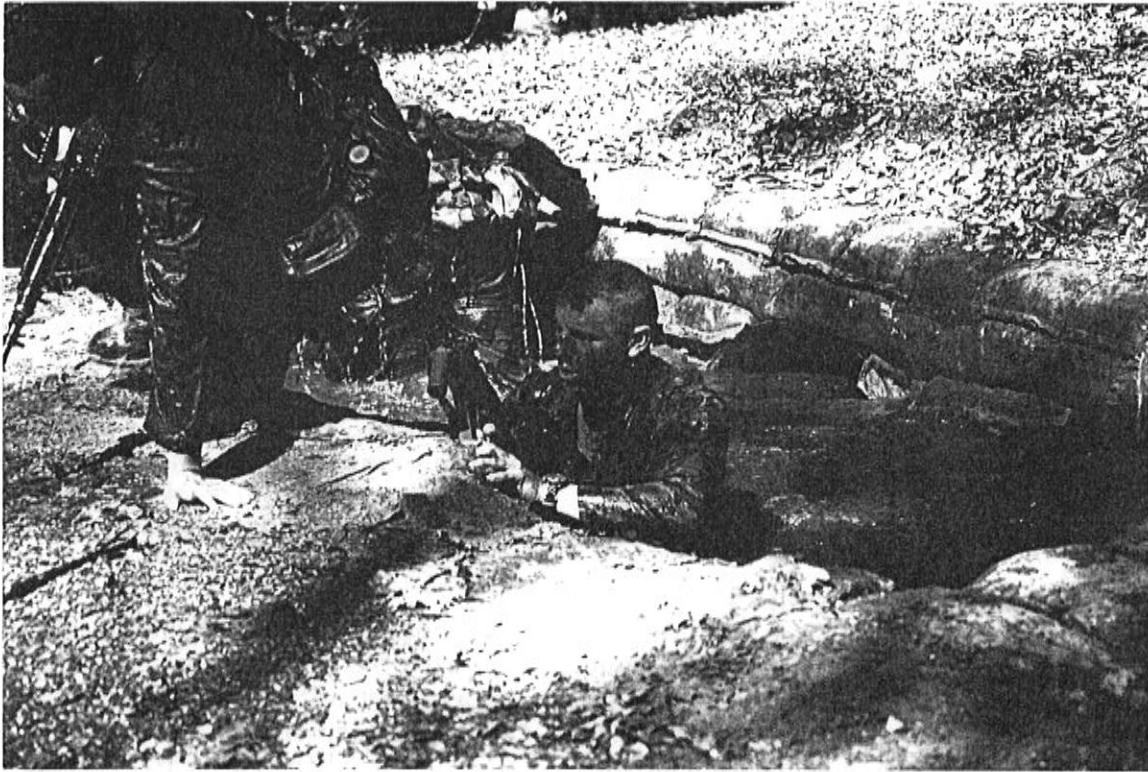
began. Part of this training was the assurance from CPL Giansiracusa that to be a successful tracker it was a requirement of one seeking the wisdom of the code to be fully conversant in a variety of flora and fauna. "You know you gotta have some of that Bourke's Back Yard type s.t in your head".

Confidence in 1 Platoon's ability was recognised in being designated the longest patrol route for the exercise. The sheer distance and rugged terrain that 1 Platoon covered manifest itself in the loss of two members. After misdirected attempts by the medic to cure them with his potent saliva treatment they were subsequently air CASEVAC'ed. This proved to be valuable training experience for the platoon, besides learning much about tracking, navigation and fighting the enemy in steeply contoured jungle under hot and wet conditions.

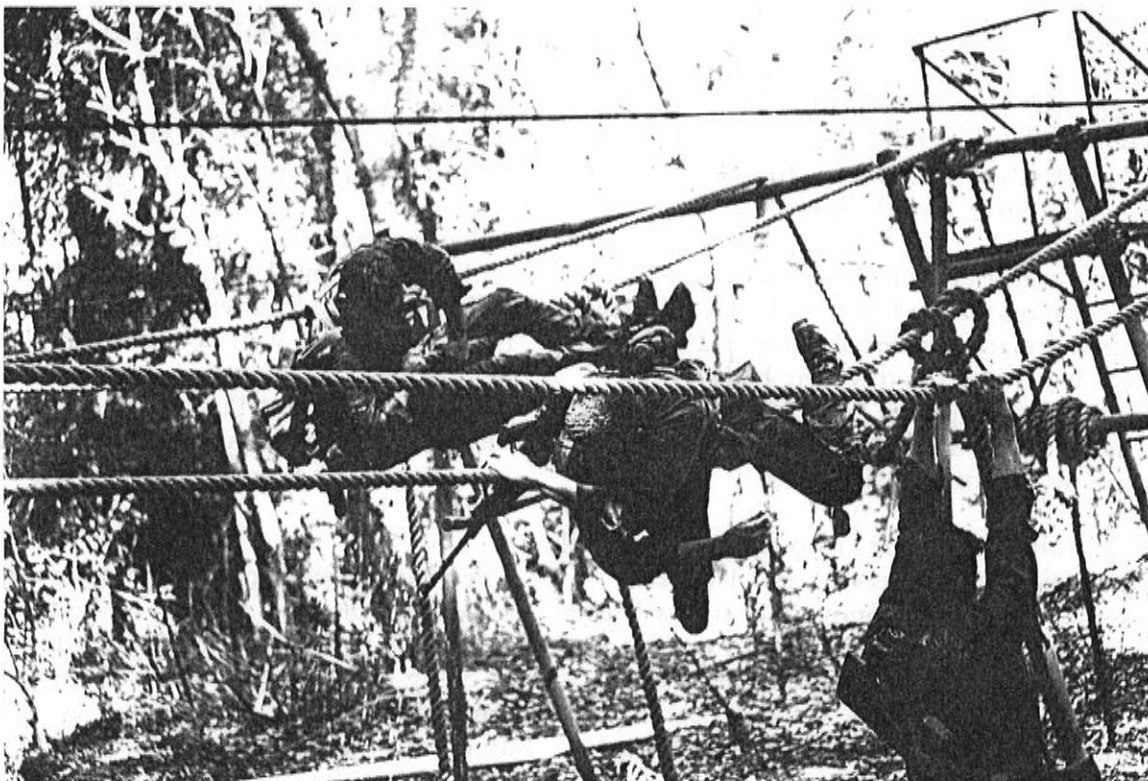
The jungle phase gave them the opportunity to see what the machine could do. For some it became just a little too much at times. This was demonstrated with regular conversations at night between the PLSIG and himself in his sleep about daily events and his true feelings for Bruneian jungle. One night during heavy rainfall and after ill attempts to fix his farter spot the PLSIG finally fell asleep in his bivvy bag full of water and discussed his inability to perform the Macarena. He somehow resolved the topic by declaring quite loudly to the whole platoon harbour "THIS PLACE IS F****D!". Then, as if in spite, the hutchie collapsed.

1 Platoon's efforts in reaching the Company RV on time were met with an interesting state of affairs over the following two days. "The truth is out there..." as well documented by 3 Platoon. Nevertheless the exercise would end with confidence in the 1 Platoon machine again recognised when they were designated the lead platoon for the exodus out of where ever they were.

After having walked through quite a nice piece of country one day an astounding observation was made by the PLCOMD that after two weeks of being in the jungle they had hardly seen the amount of wildlife he expected to see in such an environment. This was prefaced by the PLSGT with the comment, "I just want to find a monkey, preferably a female one" silence followed and the PLSGT was left to hutchie up by himself.



CPL: McNAMARA AFTER COMPLETING THE "TUNNELS"
AT THE CANUNGRA OBSTACLE COURSE.



7 SECTION 3 PLATOON AT THE ROPES CROSSING

The four days R and R in the last week of Exercise Mallee Bull were well deserved by the boys of 1 Platoon. Well, some believed they did not deserve Bandar Seri Begawan as much as they received it, but were grateful overall for the cultural experience.

It has been an eventful year with the highlight no doubt being Exercise Mallee Bull. All would

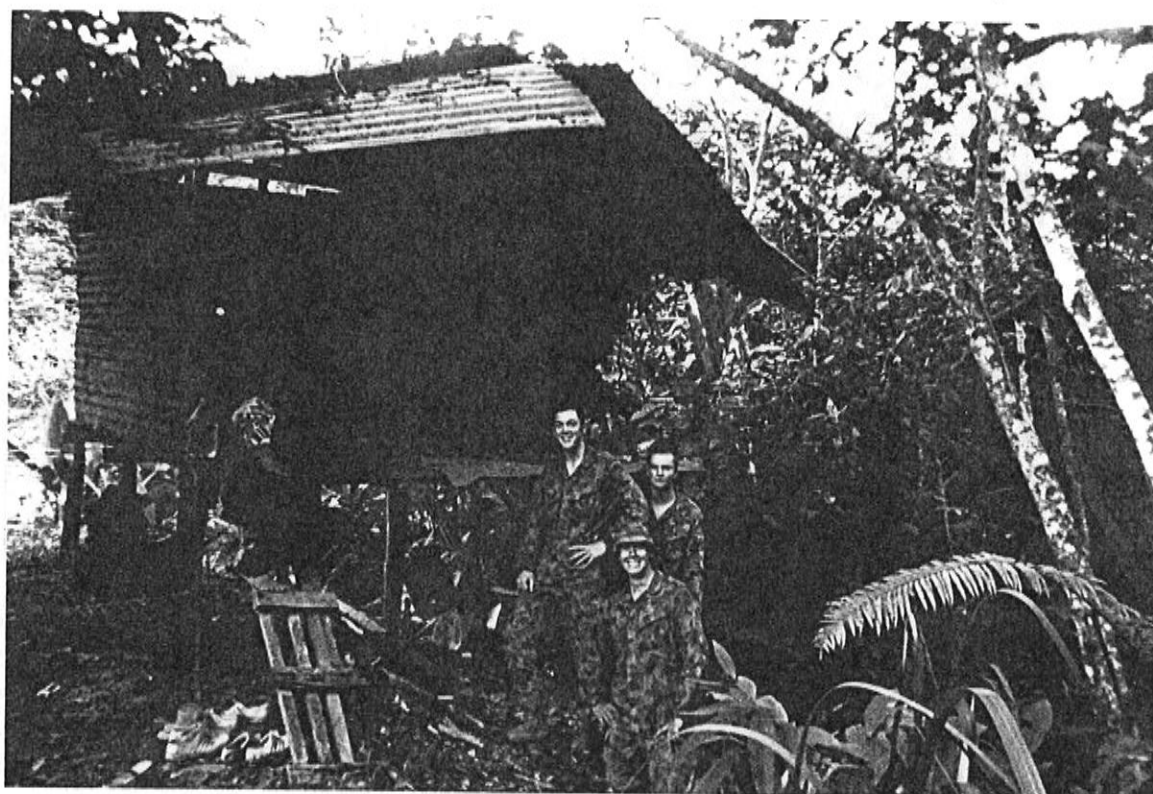
agree that they were very lucky to get the opportunity to train in an overseas environment. 1 Platoon has achieved a considerable amount and learnt a lot during our training. As our platoon members disembark to five different parts of the nation remember that as the last members of 1 Platoon you can look back on our 1 Platoon Alpha Company 8/9 RAR days with proud memories.

(L to R) Privates Phelan and Lovell accept their award for the best pit.
The sort of award that most people would keep forever.





2 Platoon after 7 days in the 'J'. The only platoon not to lose anyone.



Front to Rear - Privates Edward, Patterson and McQuilken at the Ebans house.

2 Platoon

Two Platoon has seen a lot of changes throughout the year. From its humble beginnings as Dat Do PL in March, only eight of the original platoon members endured the distance to become the Touch Players of Two Platoon. A reputation gained through hours of PT in Brunei.

Dat Do Pl completed IET's on 2 Aug 96 and became 2 PL in time to deploy to LWC Canungra. With 10 man sections and a distinct shortage of NCOs, many soldiers had an early chance to show their worth. Being straight out of IETs the soldiers lacked experience but were able to counteract this to a large degree with their enthusiasm.

On one occasion when the platoon was harboured up for the night in the jungle, Privates Passmore and Sengstock began hearing noises and proceeded to Stand To for a couple of hours. Of course it was later confirmed with the DS that there was no-one out there and that they were simply jumping at shadows. They both happened to be 4 Section's scouts, which is a scary concept.

After Canungra the platoon had an almost complete manning change with LT Farrands, Cpl Davey, Pte Moore J.A.E. (Eugene), Passmore, Pickvance and Roberts being the only members to remain. Private Moore W.L. and Private Tyson returned to 2 PL after a short stint in 1 PL during Canungra. Meanwhile the rest left for their various SPT COY platoons. The six so called Senior Diggers that remained had the task of assisting the new members of 2 PL before deploying on Exercise ISURAVA at Wide Bay. The manning difficulties continued to plague the platoon with LCPL Raddatz acting PL SGT on several occasions. A job which instigated a great deal of amusement amongst all ranks towards Scotty.

The highlight of the year though would have to be the month long company exchange in Brunei as part of Exercise Mallee Bull 96. Beginning on 12 October it included a two week field phase in the jungle. The exercise was an interesting experience that I am sure no-one will forget, especially Pte Roberts who spent over one week in hospital upon returning to Australia. He must learn not to get too friendly with the local cats.

The exercise saw Private Midson and Randall put in good performances on the skit night. In fact Pte Randall gave an almost perfect demonstration of an abortion to the CSM. The question remains however - was he acting? No-one was safe, with all 3 platoons being the subject of many jokes.

A lot was learnt during our Tour of Brunei but the platoon to a man was happy to leave the carpark we called home. This was well illustrated by the cheering which erupted as the plane took off for Australia.

Overall the year has been long and very hectic for all concerned, however despite the odd hassles 2 PL has pulled through well and even managed to enjoy themselves along the way.

3 Platoon

The platoon, better known as the wet platoon, was the first to complete their Initial Employment Training and marched into 8/9 RAR as 3 Platoon. With a posted strength of 1 and 45 it was only a matter of time before the platoon was down-sized. After the near annihilation of 2 Platoon, 3 Platoon came to the rescue providing not only the manpower needs of the Company but also its standards.

After a well earned break after IET the platoon was ready to begin lead up training for Battle Wing Canungra. The platoon was lucky in the fact that it had the most time to conduct this training and had kept its original manning (excepting the poor soles that had been lost to bolster the strength of 2 Platoon).

The Company's time at Battle Wing was shortened due to its packed schedule for the remainder of the year but its intensity had not been altered. Once Stand 11 had been endured one activity remained to conclude the Battle Ridge phase, the dreaded HYDRA. After many visits to Canungra the more experienced soldiers in the Company were placed on an even par with the abolishment of the Hydra and the conduct of the first Exercise SOUTHERN BAYONET. 7 Section under the command of CPL Collins and 9 Section under CPL Harvey took out first and second place respectively in both the Confidence Course and Exercise SOUTHERN BAYONET with CPL Grant's 8 Section not far behind.



3 Platoon - Wild Men of Borneo



**7 Section, Cpl Collins and his boys.
Fastest section through the Canungra Obstacle Course**

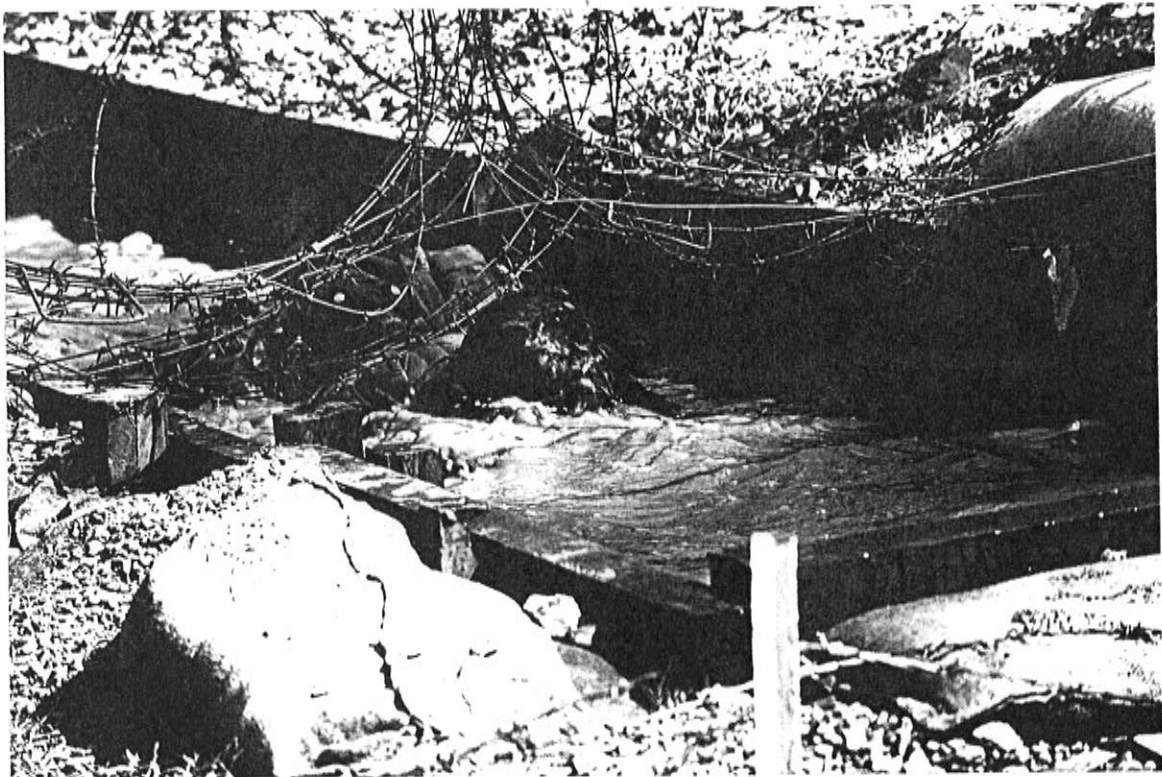
Exercise ISURAVA, the major Company live firing exercise for the year, was the next activity on the Company's training programme. The Company deployed to Wide Bay Training Area where it spent two weeks preparing ranges and conducting several live fire activities from individual to platoon level. The exercise culminated in a platoon level defense practice utilising the Support Section's 84mm MDFSM and MAG 58s on tripods.

The most "exciting" time of the year though, was the Company's deployment to Brunei on Exercise MALLEE BULL 96. For most of the Platoon it was the first time they had travelled overseas. It was an excellent opportunity to meet different people and experience a different culture of a toilet-paperless world where the Tandas is the norm.

After a week of acclimatising to the sauna that was Brunei, the Company was to deploy to the dreaded training district of Temberong. A training area of which maps appeared to have been sketched by the local population and accepted as correct. The following X - File was

officially recorded as the fault of these maps but a few know the truth is out there. After 1 Platoon and 3 Platoon thought they had arrived head to head at the Company RV and having conducted a complete Reconnaissance of the enemy camp, it was decided by CHQ that they could not possibly be at the Company RV. It was therefore advised that CHQ and 2 Platoon were in fact at the correct location. 1 Platoon Commander and 3 Platoon Commander still await their beers owed.

It has been a very long year and when they weren't trying to catch the Platoon Commander in bear pits covered with hutchies (disguised as fighting bays with OHP), 3 Platoon was working very hard and produced some excellent results. Unfortunately the Platoon was pipped at the post for the Champion Platoon but their efforts certainly did not go unnoticed by their Platoon Commander and CHQ.



B Company

Bravo's Professionalism prevailed in yet another successful year at the helm of the PTS companies. From the Hot, Wet, and Tight conditions experienced in the pristine Paluma State Forest to the uninsulated cold of St Mary's, Bravo followed in the footsteps of the true Infanteer.

With a solid introduction to MOUT at the now non-existent Boggo Rd facility late in 95, Bravo headed North for the tropical experience that is Townsville for Exercise READY SOLDIER 96. Deploying straight into a pleasant tropical monsoon over Paluma State Forrest after a mind-numbing 27 hour train and truck insertion, Bravo's resilience and skill put us right on target for a fulfilling and worthwhile exercise. Unfortunately, Bravo's reputation had preceded our arrival in Paluma and our enemy preferred to try their luck in other AO's.

Moving on to High Range, after a tub and discovering that A Ech had consumed the Battalion's Goffe and Gumpy supply, Bravo took it's place in the Battalion advance to contact. Once being called into action, Bravo moved off to it's infil point and moved into the scrub with the Coy 2IC, CAPT Bonney, courageously stumbling into a trip wire, taking the full blast of the grenade and saving CHQ from total dismemberment.

Holding it's own against the debilitating heat that severely hampered the effectiveness of the other companies, Bravo soldiered on narrowly avoiding a very realistic battlefield simulation. After locating an enemy position and commencing the customary appreciation, the FO party, blissfully unaware that there battery was under going live firing, came very close to placing LIVE rounds on target, much to the disapproval of the BC.

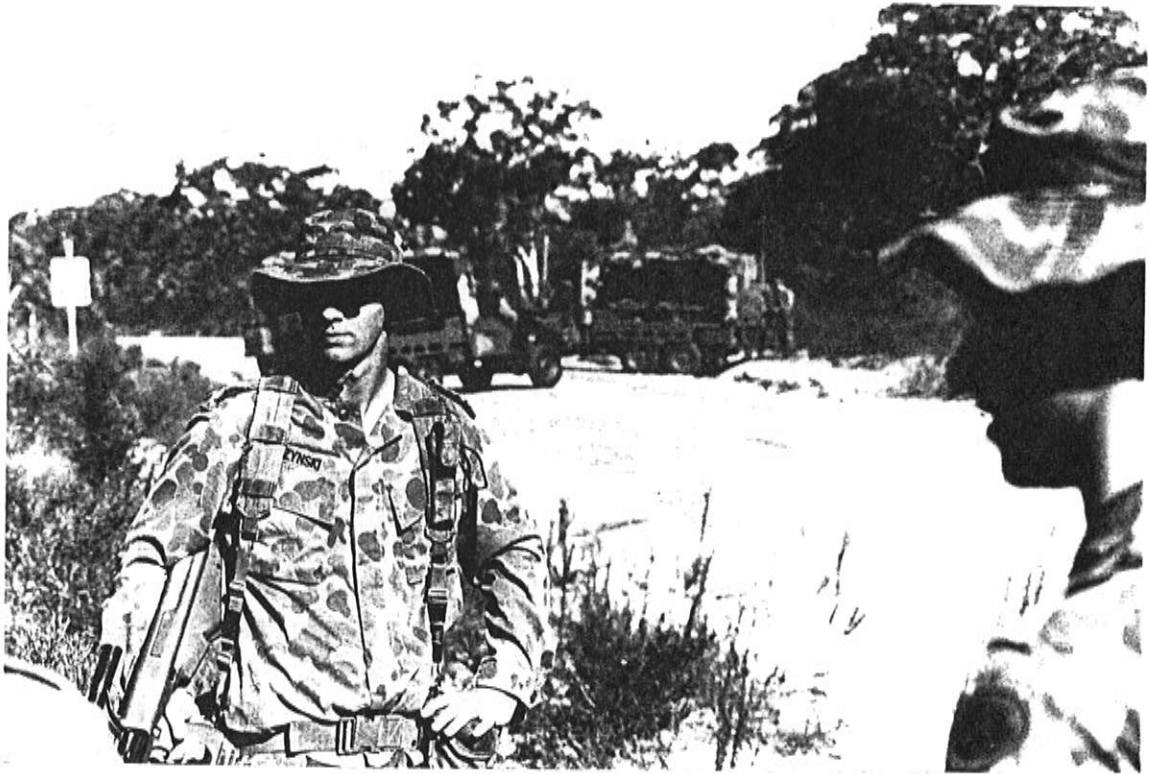
Onward and upward as Bravo left High Range and flew into Laverack to commence MOUT training at Townsville's defunct



abattoir. After some MOE instruction from SGT "the SAS don't know anything about this MOUT s.t" Bender, Bravo commenced the clearing task of the abattoir, and although not quite as fast as Charlie Coy, Bravo sustained only four casualties (to SGT Bender's ARA round) compared to Charlie Coy's two and a half Platoons.

Back into High Range for the BN attack saw Bravo conduct an extremely effective and skilled attack against a stubborn and well defended enemy.

The July concentration saw Bravo deploy into St Mary's State Forest for IMV familiarisation and training without IMVs. A solid and well planned exercise being a pleasant change from the monotony that some PTS exercises can become. (careful! - Ed.) A good introduction for every one with many courses for all ranks being conducted. A B7 Drivers course, Combat Medics course and also the first Infantry Motorisation Crew Commanders course was run for CPLs and above, which combined with the rest of PTS for some very interesting and worthwhile training.



Lt Ilczynski during motorised training at WBTA



Corporal Miller and Private Lane - B Company

Quotable Quotes

PTE Raymond, on request from CHQ for a SITREP during a contact replied, "Currently getting some, Wait Out."

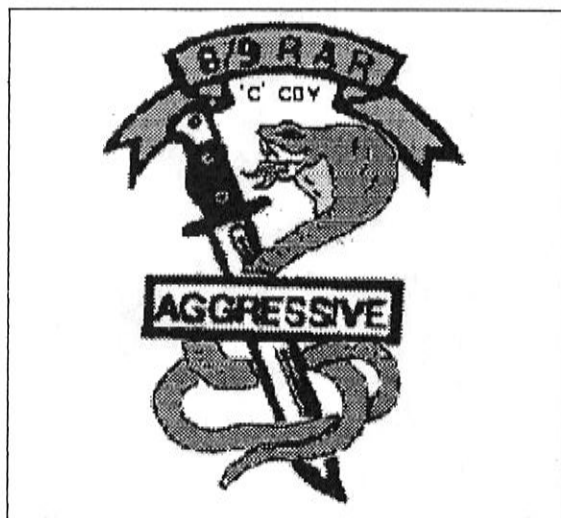
SGT Stewart's thoughts on night movement and movement in general, "Ooooooh, Ouch, Aah F**k, Wheels, get the Medic will you."

LT Pavlik describing a particular contact to the CO during a briefing, "CPL Van der Stoep's attack was basically a drive by shooting, Sir."

SGT "Jock" Wilson, describing how he became separated from his E&E section that he was DS for, "I just stopped for a piss, turned around and they were gone."

MAJ Sanderson, perusing exercise activities, makes a call to the exercise CP, "I believe I have located Callsign Romeo Tango 1's driver, by the side of the road. He appears to have been executed."

C Company



Once again the gun slinging gladiators of the Cobra Company have delivered an heroic year which left the remaining companies stranded in our dust, breathing through their hankies and tottering on their feet. From the fly bitten heat of Bindoon to the hot, desolate and unpredictable High Range we did it hard. Through mud, sun, pubs, rain and gas we

persevered to bring home the goods and we delivered in style.

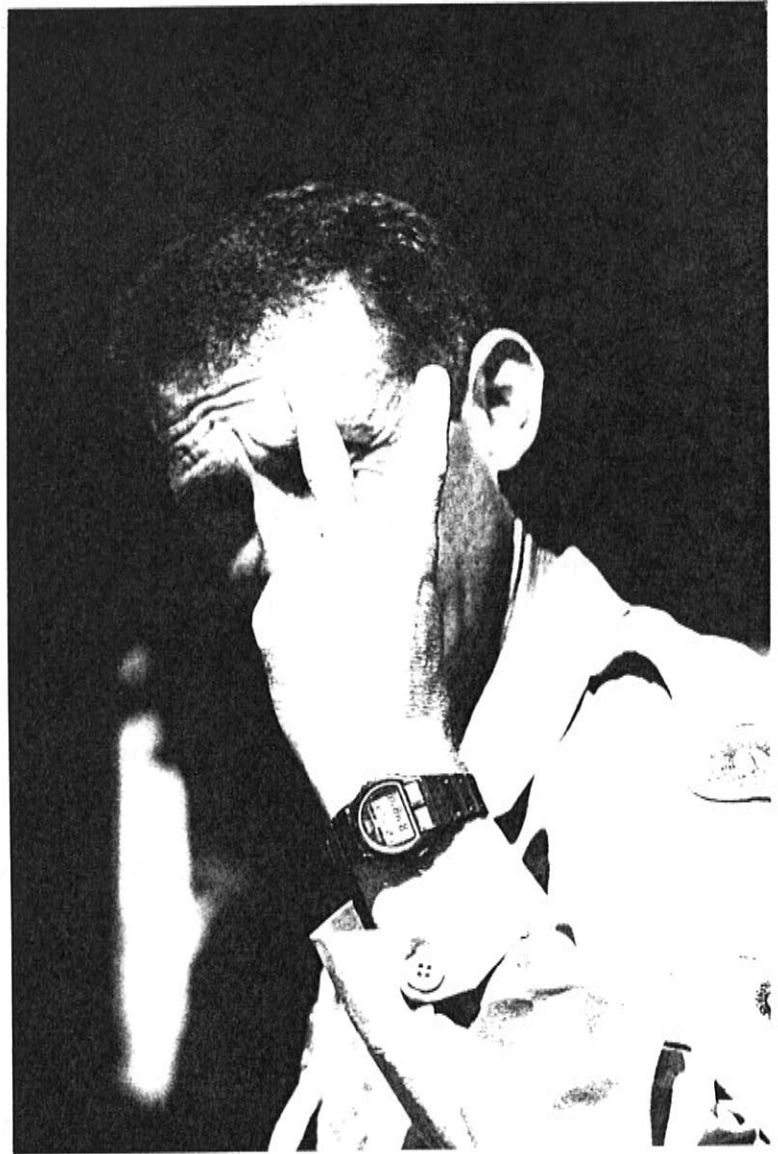
Stan Dan'deliver West, in Nov-Dec 95, brought a tear to many eyes, not because of the beauty of Western Australia but due to gas filled room that transformed more than one innocent digger into a quivering mess. A surprise turn up for the event were the Mr Bean clones lead by Capt Griffin who proceeded to stagger around the compound, muttering indecipherably.

The exercise concentrated on Section field firing and static ranges intermixed with Military Operation in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training with those happy go-lucky blokes in the SAS. This exciting and fast paced Urban Training culminated in a final attack on the Embassy building with the boys pushing themselves and their adrenalin levels to the limit. The efforts of PTE Newman could not be forgotten as he threw grenades through entire buildings, in one window, out the other. And then Bindoon...A paradise resort designed by Lawrence of Arabia. Whilst you swam in the Western heat your meal was delivered by every fly imaginable. 7 Pl learned that when ambushing a runway to expect the unexpected. The surprise landing of an enemy caribou added the sort of realism that won't be forgotten in a while. 9 Pl caught the enemy on the squat...I mean hop, several times ensuring that the enemy worked as hard as we did. In all a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable exercise.

Exercise Ready Soldier started with the destruction of the Boggo Rd Gaol in the middle of Brisbane for Military Operations Urban Training. When C Coy left, our clearance, entrance and sweeping techniques had been perfected and not a window, door, bed, or toilet was left intact.

Paluma was an almost no go when C Coy destroyed the enemy on the first day and then proceeded to spend the remainder of the week pretending the enemy were as good as they made themselves out to be. After a final Coy attack we deployed to High Range and continued having running skirmishes with the enemy, before deploying back to Townsville to

WO2 Bain, CSM Charlie
Company on hearing that
he was also to be the CSM
for Alpha and Support.



Lt Dale on just another
Part Time Service Ex.

clear the Abattoirs. Naturally C Coy clocked in the fastest clearance time. Again out to High Range for the final culminating Battalion attack. An enormous effort in which everyone who took part in should be proud of. In fact C Coy should be proud of the entire exercise and the way they conducted themselves throughout. C Coy continued to let its presence known in Western Australia by playing enemy for the SAS. Despite being covered with bruises we were commended highly by the SAS for our professionalism.

In the July concentration period C Coy amalgamate with the rest of Part Time Service Company and conducted a series of activities designed to expand their infantry skills. These included an Motorised Infantry Commanders Course which incorporated the new motorised doctrine, an Escape and Evasion Course in the St Mary's Reserve, a B7 unrestricted drivers

course, and a Combat Medics Course. The result was C Coy acquiring much needed skills and experience.

So to the men of the Cobra Company I hoist a stubbie and drink to your dedication, professionalism and mateship. This year was great, next year will be better.

Quotes from Ex Stan Dan'deliver West validation hand-out:

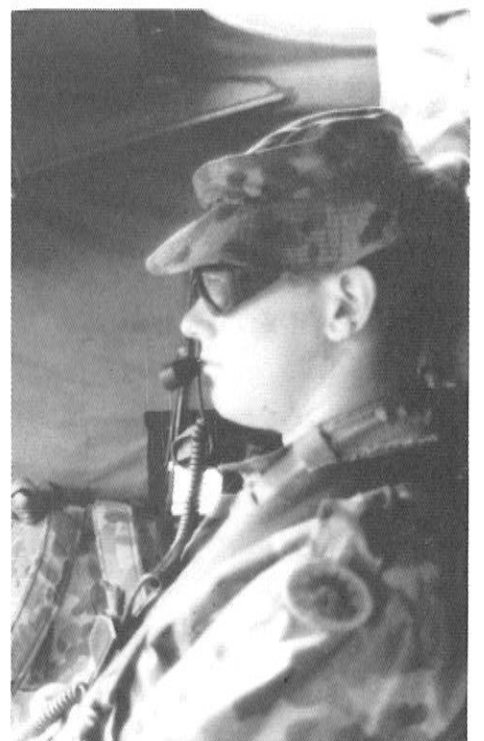
NBCD TRG: PTE Kordt - This was f*?!ed. I wanted to go home. Why me. I love the world. Try Laughing Gas next time.

Anon - Do we train by getting shot? Why take masks off, people who don't put them on properly should suffer.

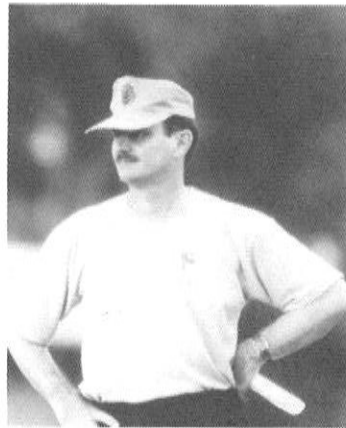
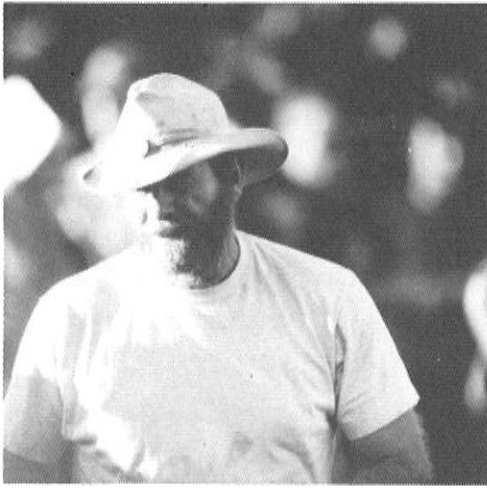
Corporal Kaloumaira dreams of being back on the worm farm!!!



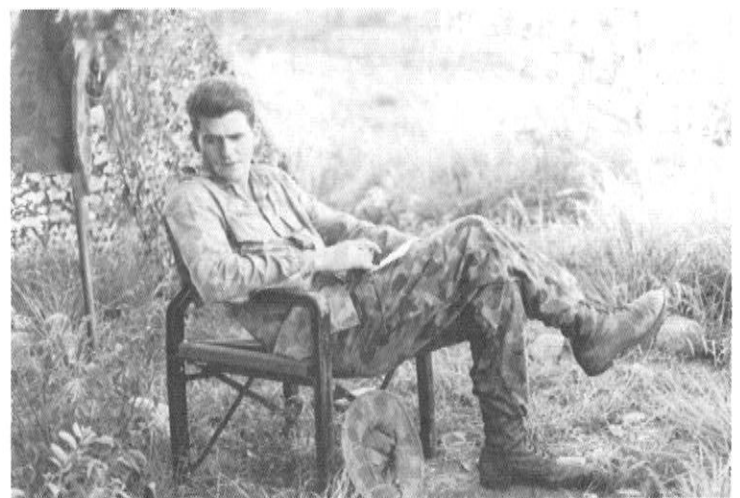
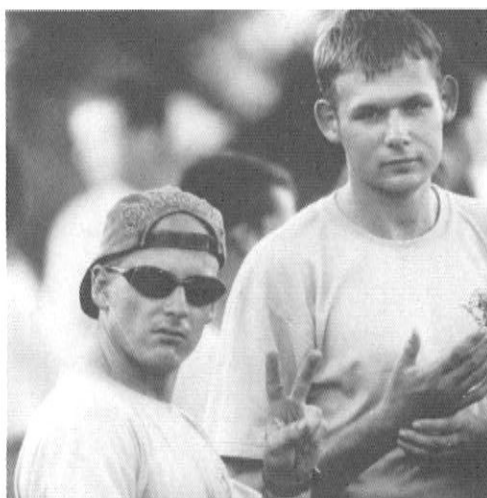
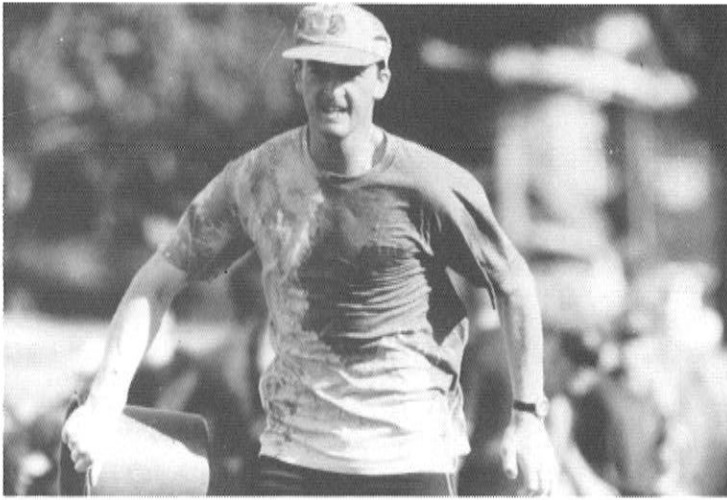
APPIAN WAY

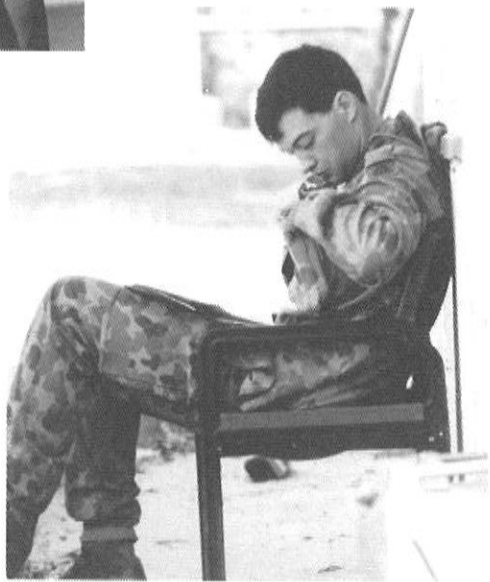
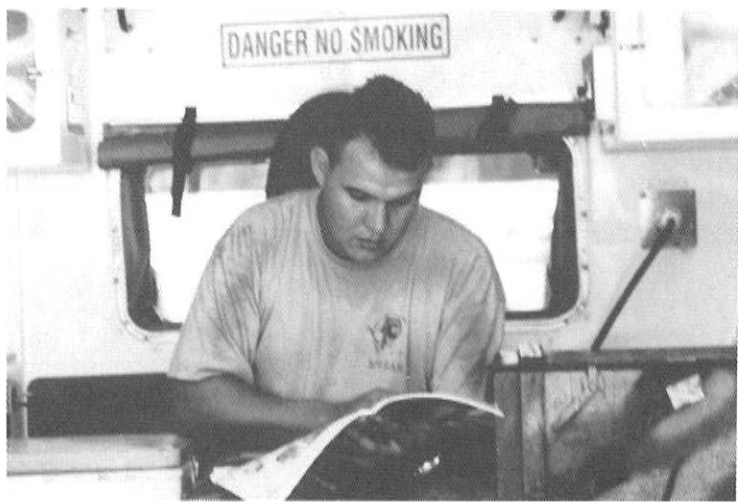
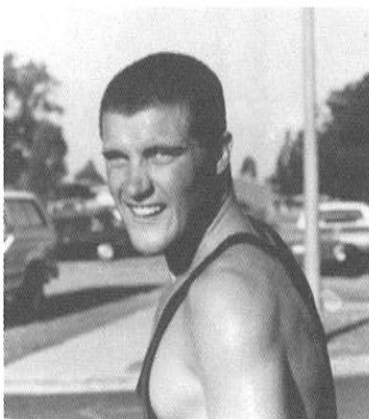
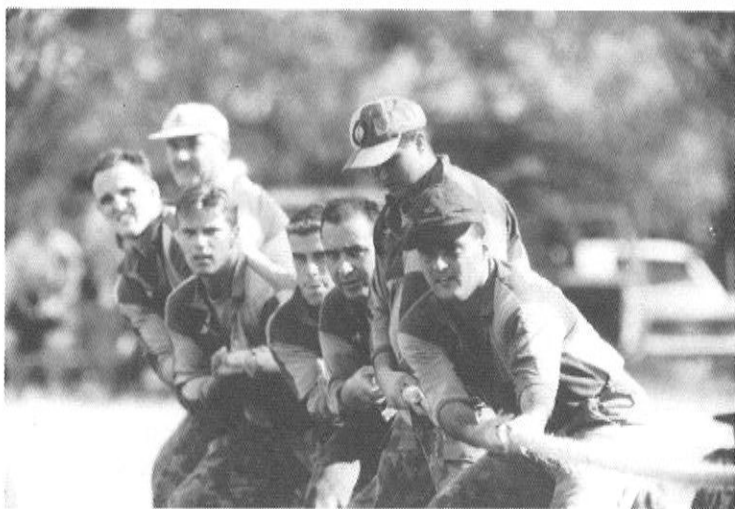
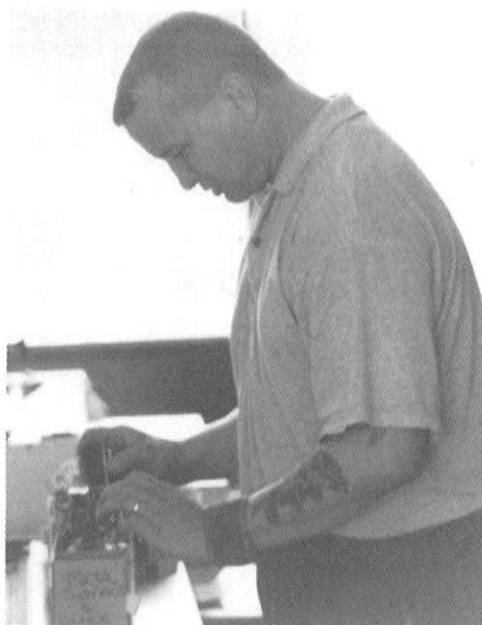


HEROES AND



VILLIANS





D Company

Well - poooooooooooofffff!

Another year gone and Delta Coy's reputation as the brightest, most talented and above all climactically capable soldiers in the battalion is reaffirmed. We fought the hard fight in Paluma and then traversed northern Queensland and fought the ants at High Range.

November-December 1995 was a successful farewell to everybody's friend WO2 Borrett as we attacked Wide Bay tenaciously and left those Figure 11 targets in no doubt who was boss after several days of Live Firing. Apart from the trips to Rainbow Beach, which everyone thought was a terrible waste of time, the exercise was enjoyed by all. Also notable was Sgt Bender's constant threats to leave us all alone and become a civvy!

Next came Jan-Feb and the pandemonium that has come to be recognised as Ready Shield. (Just kidding CO sir!) Apart from the prospects of the beauty of the fauna we would encounter at Paluma everyone was awaiting the challenge to improve their 500 games on the rail trip up north. Despite the challenges everyone was able to hold their own at Paluma despite the conditions, everyone that is, apart from Pte Likar who apparently got really cold one night during an ambush. 12 PL provided some navigational highlights for the company whilst 10 PL managed to avoid falling trees becoming an intimate part of several members of the platoon.

High Range in Townsville was our next stop, sprinkled with some sweat-producing activities at Lavarack where we practiced the art of hide-and-seek under the watchful and highly



congratulatory eye of the Brigade Command. Again, the challenges were faced by all with the stiff upper lip expected from Australian soldiers. There were no complaints whatsoever about the heat, nor about the way training was conducted whilst at High Range. Even the OC was outwardly impressed by our efforts whilst advancing to contact with the rest of the battalion. So much so that MAJ Sanderson asked us to walk over the ground again in order to enlighten him on the finer points of our technique and our tactical appreciation.

The year overall has been a challenge as the year ahead is to be so also. Special mention must go to the administrative staff that seem to work around the clock to make sure we are all happy little vegemites.

In conclusion, D Coy would like to wish the rest of the battalion all the best wherever they may be heading in the future. All 8/9 members can be sure, despite the battalion's impending dissolution, that the spirit that all our forebears have created, which we attempt to emulate and which lives in us all will be firmly implanted in Victoria and in Tasmania.

Support Company

1996 was a year of many and varied activities. During Ex READY SOLDIER 96 the Coy spent a short time at Paluma acting in a Rifle Coy role before moving down to High Range Training Area and undertaking more traditional duties supporting the Battalion advance to contact and Live Fire Exercise.

The remainder of the year was a mixed affair with Spt Coy supporting a number of ongoing Battalion and Brigade activities including IET's, Subject 2 CPL, AASAM, Specialist Courses and the DOG Cup. Again the coy had a continually changing stream of OC's with MAJ Graham away for the bulk of the year running IET's, then returning only to clean out his office before moving to BHQ as OPSO.

The coy did well out of IET's receiving 40 soldiers from A Coy after their stint to Canungra. These soldiers completed specialist courses run at 6 RAR and helped build up the coy strength in the lead up to Ex APPIAN WAY and READY SHIELD 97.

The DOG Cup team trained well with only a short time to prepare and put in a very creditable effort at Singleton. The level of individual skill achieved within a short year of FTS service is second to none. All involved should be proud of their efforts.

The end of 1996 sees a number of Spt Coy luminaries depart the Battalion after many years service. To all those who are departing your efforts have been greatly appreciated and will be long remembered.

Signals Platoon

As 1996 draws to a close and it is time to reflect on the year behind us as we prepare for the last big exercise early next year. The year saw the usual comings and goings and we farewelled CPL Pete Coghlan and John Smithson, (off to GRES Officer Training). Thanks fellas, your support helped keep the



wheels on our roller-coaster and was very much appreciated.

Civilian work commitments finally caught up with Brownie and Groggs, (got a bit tired of getting sacked, we guess). Both have stolen a march on the rest of the platoon and are serving with GRES units in WA. Tom Litherland has wound up a year in training with the WA police and is probably making a beeline for vice. Best of luck to you lot - keep in touch.

Owen Trevorrow has spent a brief but busy year with the platoon and at time of writing is away at Singleton on course, preparing to march back to 1 RTB next year. As well as his duties as Radio Sergeant he has represented the Army in volleyball this year and kept the platoon BFA average looking respectable. We welcome John Hefez down to take up the hot seat.

This year will also see the Sigs Pl stalwart leave us...CPL Steve Cooney is off to fill the Radio Sergeant job at 5/7 RAR. He leaves big boots to fill, as well as trousers, and his expertise and terrible jokes will be missed by all. Finally, we welcome CAPT Paul Bonney down who will take over as the new boss.

Once again the platoon has been kept busy with an arduous exercise to kick off with and a number of (over) commitments throughout the



Support Company



Signals Platoon

year. We got through the rain, rats and horror CP pickets of Paluma relatively unscathed and settled into the relatively easy, if dull, routine of comms support to the Battalion live-fire ex.

The platoon was bled dry supporting IET training and meeting individual course commitments. Support to A Coy saw a detachment off to Brunei (second time around for Nick Wilson).

Keith Oades disappeared with the Army shooting team to Little Rock in the USA and continued to dominate Police and Service pistol shooting competition. Robby Lugton had a year, alternating subject courses with bush trips.

Suitably, the last exercise for the platoon promises to be the most demanding. To all the platoon, best wishes for the future and thanks for your commitment to date that has made us a viable outfit.

Mortar Platoon

Manly Cove for those who have not been there is Sydney social hub, it is home for the surfers and the variety of backpackers that visit the region. Unleashed on its unsuspecting shores was Mortar Platoon 8/9 RAR. Yes, that's right mortars once again pulled the rabbit out of the hat and went to Manly for its concentration period. On board were some new faces, CPL Dore and CAPT Gray, fresh from A Coy and wanting to do crash action drills (I don't think so Tim!!). The highlight of the Manly trip was the Manly trip, but a few memorable highlights were the tour of the H.M.A.S Toobruk, the Styne pub with its \$ pints of Hahn Ice, the Bourbon and Beefsteak and not forgetting the Angles concert twice. As we farewelled Manly with sadness, we vowed we would return some day.



LUG'S Det - Exercise Appian Way 1996



Mortar Platoon



CSM Support - WO2 'Tiny' Pellow
THE ANCHOR

The beginning of READY SOLDIER 96 was met with apprehensions due to the fact that we were deploying to the 1 RAR and 2 RAR's playground, High Range and Paluma training areas. The PL was deployed by rail and road to sunny Townsville and to all recollections SGT GRANT enjoyed the road trip as did everybody (Not!!). And as usual Mortars being Mortars, we spent a week in barracks learning and qualifying with Mortar fire computers. But once deployed Mortars shifted into high gear and started to earn its money, that is until the words echoed across the mortar line, "TAKE COVER", with slow motion taking effect the "WP" round's flight was brief falling only 40 metres to the front of the lines position, realisation set in of how dangerous our profession is. We left Townsville as quietly as we arrived there.

But a surprise was waiting for us when we got back to Brisbane, an invitation to go back to Manly, how could we refuse? So, once again "Manly here we come" but we soon discovered we weren't alone, along for the ride was 49 RQR Mortar PL and 6 RAR Mortar PL, also some kabana boys for some training, no one still knows why but frankly we didn't care. Mortars were back and we were bad. We spent a week there and apart from the Arty F.Os getting upset because of everyone sleeping off hangovers on the line, it was a reasonably quiet trip, except I hope the Arty school had a BIG cherry picker.

Well with the closure of our Battalion in June 97 this will probably be the last word from MORTAR PLATOON SPT COY 8/9 RAR Oct 73-Jun 97 and just remember, "We're happy when you're not!!"

Mortar Platoon Quotes for 1996

- Pte Urban: "Get into it Santos, hurry up".
- Pte Santos: "Snap out of it, wake up to yourself".
- Pte Mole: "Get some balls about ya".
- Pte Oxley: "Winge, bitch, moan".
- Pte Finlay: "When do we get knocked off?".
- Pte Godden: "Where's Dorey?".
- Pte Femming: "C'mon Smed's I'm using my noggin".
- Pte Crawford: "Who's not smoking?".
- Pte Fardon: "What?".
- Pte Jentz: "F**K no, not again".
- Capt Gray: "It's a great plan, because it's my plan".
- Sgt Grant: "I did not lose the shitter, someone stole it".
- Sgt Maclean: "Pull you head in".
- Cpl Dore: "I can't go bush, I have Aussie rules".
- Cpl Smedley: "SM, give me more EDLEY".
- Cpl Walker: "Love this balcony view, don't you".
- Pte Bridges: "A Coy - Noooooooooooooooooo!"
- The whole PL: "WHERE'S DOREY?".

Reconnaissance Platoon / Sniper Cell

The year got off to a busy start with preparations for RS96, lucky for us several NCO's came down from A Coy to be safety officers for the EX and they just all happened to be Recon or Sniper qualified which was the perfect chance to grab them and sleaze off for some decent training (even if Macca did lose Barney's hood). All set for the EX, we jumped on the train, moved the B Coy seating plan so we had some space to stretch out, and enjoyed a 'pleasant' train ride north.

First off was three days at the Paluma water fun park where Cpl Lybrand's Platoon located the En within six hours but spent two days trying to obtain comms with the Coy.

After we redeployed we were separated for most of the EX, with Barney taking a patrol to create free reign havoc on the rifle coys at HRTA, and Benny taking the others to do the same at the meatworks in Townsville.

Highlights for the guys at HRTA were, snatching D coy's FO party, complete with codes, SOI's and fire plan, without having to fire a shot, and CSM C Coy nearly walking on Barney in their re-org position.

Highlights for the guys at the meat works, stopping B Coy on the first floor, doing the demo for entering a building and not falling out a window, and observing 2 RAR's co-habitation rules.

The rest of the year was full of the usual 'stuff' with Recon copping a hammering the same as the other platoons to provide support for IETs. Not helped by Marty sliding off on Longlook to the UK (squeezer).

Things we would like to see:

- Sgt Barnett stop playing "strip and assemble furry animals".
- Sgt Bender actually with a handful of marbles in his mouth.
- Cpl Flatman with latissimus dorsi.

- Cpl Martin with a name other than 'battalion sweetheart'.
- Cpl "war stocks" Nicholls with a few extra kilos and a suntan.
- Pte Botwright not crying when he hears "gun go".
- Cpl "boner" Nichols in the guard room and not in the Recon office (successfully accomplished!).

Recon/Sniper Pl will say goodbye to its longest serving member, Sgt "Barney" Barnett who has been posted to 1 RAR, also to Flatty who is off to recruiting in Perth, we wish them both the best of luck.

Direct Fire Support Weapons Platoon

The year started off with a bang for Direct Fire Support Weapons Platoon. After a harrowing train journey, the Platoon finally arrived in Townsville. Exercise READY SOLDIER consisted of the Platoon 'getting back to basics' and acting as part of a Rifle Platoon for the close country phase at Paluma. The sun was rarely sighted and all members of the Platoon breathed a huge sigh of relief when the word came down that Support Company was to deploy to High Range Training Area.

The Platoon then moved into live fire mode. After the initial fews days of setting up the range, the Battalion arrived and conducted Platoon live fire attacks. Of course, DFSW was there to provide accurate and timely Fire Support to these ventures.

From there, we moved into a Battalion advance to contact which proved a learning experience for the less experienced members of the Platoon. They found out that DFSW being employed as Recon and sent forward of the advance just doesn't work. After a quick brush with the enemy they were pulled back into safer territory!

IETs then came along and several members of the Platoon were snavelled. This put any training that Support Company wanted to achieve on the back burner.

When IETs finally finished the Platoon gained the support of another seven Full Time Service members and they were packed up and shipped off to 6 RAR to complete their Basic Course. Murph and Thommo (Plonky) showed their expertise by instructing on the course.

Exercise 'MALLEE BULL' then began and Smiley and Thommo (Poguey), under duress, were captured and sent to Brunei by Alpha Company. Murph was once again left to make sure that the rock show ran smoothly back at Enoggera. The Platoon then deployed to Wide Bay in support of Bravo Company, Third Battalion, RBLF. Once again they did not deploy in their specialist role, but as enemy. The soldiers showed their prowess in Infantry Minor Tactics and, to their credit, received favourable reports.

The Part Time Service soldiers then arrived and the Full Time Service members had had their first exposure to Willy. Not a pretty sight!

Exercise APPIAN WAY consisted of SFMG live fires, Anti Armour live fires and a motorisation deployment in support of Part Time Service Company.

Overall the Platoon has had a very eventful year. They have carried out many varying and diverse tasks. With the disbandment of the Battalion, all members of DFSW would like to wish everyone good luck in their future endeavours. DUTY FIRST.

THINGS DFSW PLATOON WOULD LIKE TO SEE:

- Sgt Bradford.
- Cpl Thompson.
- Lt Behan in a Lumberjack outfit.
- A storeman.
- The Platoon doing what it is trained for.
- CPL Murphy with a Platoon Sergeant and Platoon commander.
- LAV 25's



SGT BRADFORD (SMILEY) WHO TOOK THAT PHOTO?



Recon Platoon 1996
Yes Sgt Bender is pretending to be a chair !



Direct Fire Support Weapons Platoon 1996

Assault Pioneer Platoon

This year has seen some big changes in Pioneer Platoon with SGT Phil Coughlan leaving and being replaced by SGT Mick Toohey. Phil was the longest serving member of the platoon, as far as we know, clocking up some 10 years (on and off). It was then goodbye to Mick Toohey and hello to SGT Mick Spruce who took over the platoon in April.

The JNCOs of the platoon have also been doing some shuffling of their own with Billy Wharton electing discharge and Kingy corps transferring to RACT. Taking over their jobs were the two squizzies, Squiz Snr and Squiz Jnr. The only bloke who looked like he was going to stay in the platoon for the duration was Davo our intrepid storeman; however, in September he decided to "one for one" himself with PTE Kocho from the Main Q. To all the blokes who have left this year we would like to pass on our best wishes and best of luck in your new jobs/lifestyles.

In August the platoon received some new members from A Coy who went straight onto the Bde Basic Pnr Course. All passed without too many hassles and learnt skills such as placement of F1 Booby trap switches, (even where they're not wanted or recognised, even by members of the Bomb Squad) and how to destroy four Zodiac Inflatable Boats in one easy lesson.

In and around camp this year in between courses, filling out numerous HDA applications, ducking and weaving away from the RSM's monument to Dunlop Australia and updating the database, we've managed to construct a new fence and a retaining wall for the Rams, along with some concrete footpaths for the gardener to mention but a few home improvements.

As far as trips away go, we started off the year as did the rest of the Battalion with RS96 in High Range Training Area. We also managed to get some blokes to Wide Bay in October to play enemy for our little Bruneian mates.

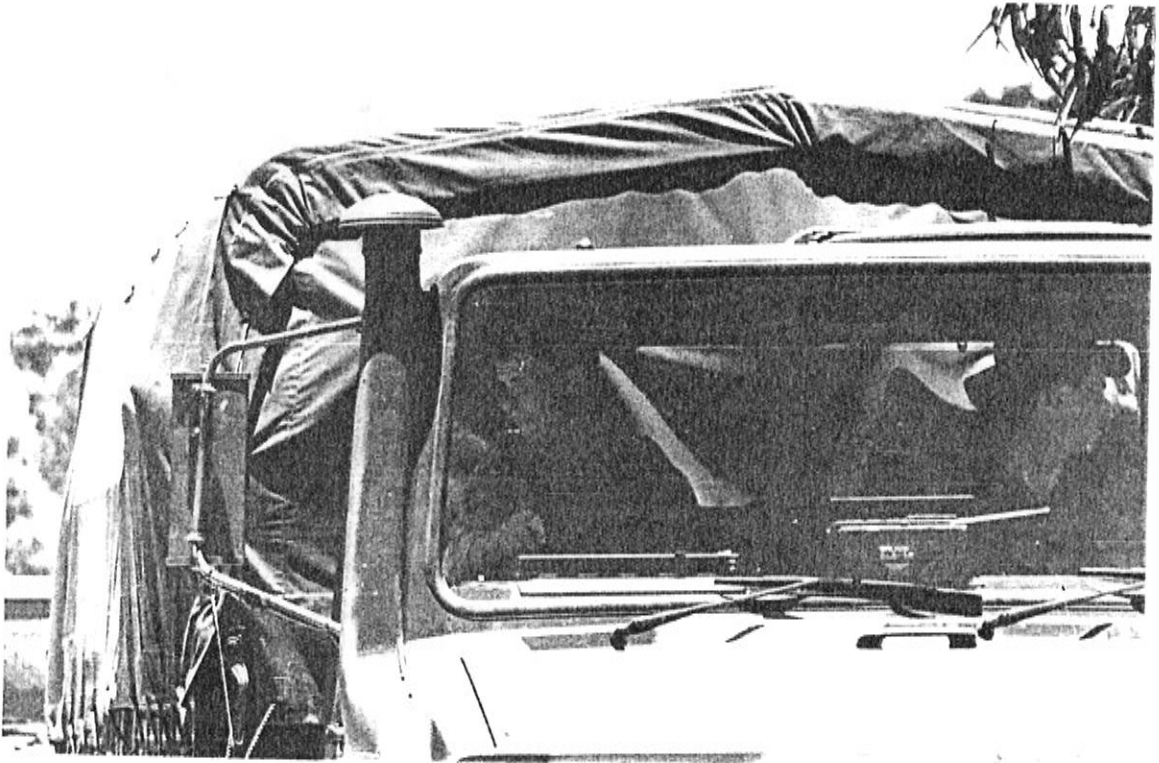
We nearly ended up back in Bundarra on three different occasions to fix up "The Legacy" however the god of precipitation and poor bridge construction had different plans.

To draw the year to a close we are getting ready for Exercise APPIAN WAY in late November and READY SHIELD in January 97.

Finally, to everyone who is leaving the Battalion at the end of the year, Pioneer Platoon would like to wish you and your families all the best for the future and good luck in your new postings.

THINGS WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE:

- Lt Collins
- Sgt Spruce - Not turn the office into a Day Care Centre.
- Squiz Snr - Put on some weight to compliment his existing Ron Jeremy looks.
- Squiz Jnr - Finally be released from Ram handling duties.
- Kocho - Stop drinking red cordial and slow down.
- FTS diggers - Stay out of the s.t.
- PTS Diggers Show up.



Left or Right Platoon Sergeant vs Platoon Commander
Situation normal.....



Assault Pioneer Platoon 1996

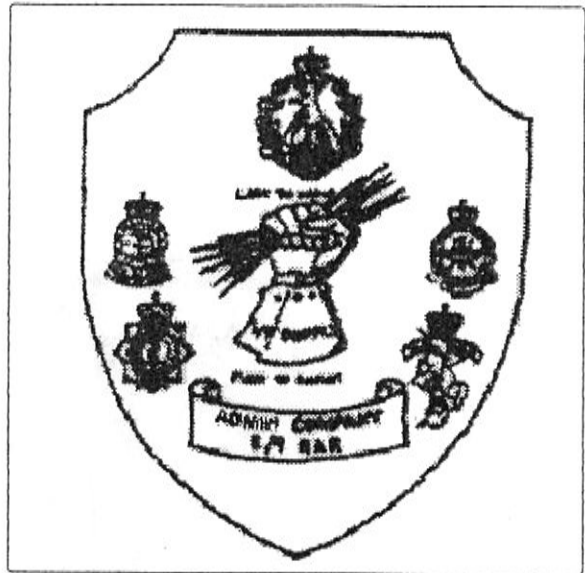
Administration Company

Technical Support Platoon

December 95 saw TECH SUPPORT busy preparing for Ready Soldier once again. Load lists being checked and crosschecked, bin packs refitted and contents checked, cam nets spread out and given the once over, drivers making sure their vehicles were 'spot on' and all that good stuff.

Rail or road? That was the question in the minds of a few of us as there was not enough vehicles for us all. One wonders which was the better option. Let's see! If you went by rail you would probably have airconditioned comfort and would not have to worry about staying awake on the long journey to Townsville, to mention just a couple. As luck would have it the coach in which we sat had an air conditioning problem which was thankfully rectified. About staying awake, well that was not too much of a problem, I was quite amazed how normal regular (and ready reserve) soldiers turned contortionist at night sprawling all over the little floor space available in the carriage. We finally reached Townsville at dark the next day and were greeted by rain. The drive to High Range was too dangerous in the wet and dark so we all spent the night at the station. Great start to the exercise. However, the next day the rain had cleared to the odd drizzle and we arrived at "A" ECH and met up with our advance party. The main body was arriving the next day and so with not too much to do then, we made ourselves as comfortable as possible and awaited the rest of our team.

Finally, we were all there and there was no time to waste, everyone was eager to earn their field allowance. CFN Peter "BUDDA" Seabourne was so excited at the prospect of having a Mack wrecker all of his own that he declared it as being his temple. After receiving a tilt bed trailer in Townsville, there was nothing more that he wanted or needed. During the course of the exercise, the trailer became the main meal pickup area for TECH SPT. All members of the platoon could get



their meals and marvel at Budda's magnificent shrine from this point (Budda also had a mobile phone which picked up a decent signal). Budda's ability to drive the wrecker was noted from a higher authority and the phrase "I LOVE THE WAY YOU DRIVE THAT BIG TRUCK" became common.

The work load during the exercise was not that heavy due to the solid effort prior to deployment. When an FRT was required from vehicle section, it was a case of "PICK ME, PICK ME". All members of the section put in an excellent effort to get the equipment back on the road. Well done VEH SEC.

CPL Jamie Ware thought that the drive up to Townsville was fairly uneventful, although long with no major occurrences, except when CPL Rob Corte our ready reserve member carried out an impromptu GMV acceleration test by pulling out in front of a very large semi-trailer in a 100 km/hr zone and later bettered this performance by narrowly missing a rear end collision with his packet. The work load for GE was quite slow from the start, and spent a lot of time sitting under their CAM nets looking for the 'enemy'. Eventually it was decided that a bit of training would be useful and managed to acquire a spare Minimi or two from other areas in the perimeter in order to conduct lessons for those who were not Minimi qualified. Various FRTs out of the position did create some variety with a number of trips to the companies and into Townsville.

Work also continued on the 'famed' bike trailer as modification improved what was a hastily constructed project prior to departing Brisbane. SGT Campbell and CPL Ware also got a taste of life at the 'sharp end' when their assistance was immediately required after an incident on the mortar line.

Our Stores/RPS people supported us with all their resources available with a few trips being made to "B ECH" to procure parts and replacements, not forgetting their civilian counterpart, Mr Tony Walmsley, who prepared the bin packs back in Brisbane.

EIR did their fair share with work coming in regularly, mainly electrical problems with vehicles and trailer plugs (people normally forget that when a trailer is disconnected, the Nato plug must also be disconnected rather than let the vehicle yank it off the cable). A few FRTs were done to the companies around the training area. CPL Hoy had the privilege to take a patrol out and make up the gun pickets. A few handsets and 77 sets kept the 'boffins' happy.

Rumours have it that the Army bike that the ASM had was not very stable and had a tendency to fall over when being ridden. 'BAD BAD BIKE!!!'.

Finally, as the exercise looked poised to end, the enemy raised its ugly head and attacked with full force concentrating all its efforts on the TECH SUPPORT sector. Too bad we had given all our blanks back earlier that day (how embarrassing). This was rectified the next day when we were reissued with some ammunition even if someone did forget to put the tracer in with the Minimi blanks, hey Rob.

Post exercise saw the departure of some old faces and some new ones come in. CFN McAuliffe "Macca", and CFN Wallace "Wal",

were posted out to 3 CER where they were promoted to CPL. To take their place CFN Spiranac "Spiro" and CFN Redshaw "Red" marched in. Additionally, we received two Recovery Mechanics "Towrags", CFN Clarke and CFN Tume. CFN Tume has since been posted out. Budda finally has someone to push around. The B1 store received a new member, PTE Sprang; "Teach him all you know Jai".

The end of the year may see some big changes in staffing as there are many people who will be posted out, mainly the senior members of the platoon.

Two promotions took place as well, CPL Riseley to SGT in April and CFN Fernandez to CPL in July.

In April a F-89 conversion course was conducted and many members of TECH SUPPORT became qualified. Jamie was one of the instructors on the course. Recently a drivers course was conducted and CFN Goldsmith "Goldie" and PTE Laurie "Jai" attended. Presently we have Goldie, Hoki, Lew and Budda away on Sub two for CPL. Ken's now Sub 1, 2 and 4 qualified. CPL Egan "Jack" recently attended his Sub 4 for SGT and recently tied the knot with his long time girlfriend. Mark is presently doing his marine Maintenance Techniques Course.

All in all TECH SUPPORT has had a busy, productive and scholastic year so far. Even now as we speak something new is coming up "Spiro's school of bagpipes" (wish he would practice at the Duncan oval). To sum it all up its been a beehive of activity here at TECH SUPPORT.

***RAEME-ARTE ET MARTE
RAAOC - TO THE WARRIOR HIS ARMS***



Tech Support Platoons Poted Sports Team
Tech Support was the Champion Platoon 1996



The opening of the new Tech Support Platoon building

Main Q (QM Platoon)

The Q store went off with a bang in 1996 when midway through Ex Ready Soldier the ammunition NCO was over come with loneliness and decided to launch a red attention seeker in the middle of high range training area. To his relief the signal was received some kilometres away by the Artillery FO and his section.

Exercise Ready Soldier was also known for another outstanding Q store feat where we were able to attain a copy of 'Braveheart' from Hoyts Releases, Sydney. The task of getting the projector and parts for it was a little more complex. The projector was acquired through Garbutt RAAF Base and with the Army's ultra modernisation scheme the parts for the projector were obtained from the local Historical Society. Although it was shown on the side of a Unimog this will go down as one of the most memorable flicks of the year, however most will agree a substitute to gumpy's and goffa's would have been appreciated. Hey, what could the 'Q' do about that?!

It was also about this time of year when our regular QM with his unique sense of humour went through his transformation phase. He went from 'Captain Rubber Face 95' to bkie sensation 'Evil Kenevil 96' in a matter of 500cc.

We welcomed a new and exciting friendship to the Q store this year. What type we are not quite sure. If however you wish to pose the question to the staff fish brothers themselves, maybe the answer will be revealed. Firstly you must ask yourself do you really want to know? With a fixation revealed by the senior staff fish brother this year the Q store isn't game!

Another area of concern that must finally be put in writing is the boundaries of the term 'neat civis'. This term was recently abused beyond all comprehension on the Battalion boat cruise, where the Australian Defence Force runners with dress pants was not an unfamiliar site. Unfortunately to the disbelief of many the Q store was a main offender, particularly among the senior staff. Credit must be given to the

'fashion police' who managed to snare the RQ before he was able to drag the old fishing shirts out of the closet.

March-ins to the Q store this year were Pte 'Fur Ball' Jensen and Pte 'Jekyl and Hyde' Davis, who both completed forklift courses earlier this year. Davo recently decided that the demolition of the Q store wasn't going fast enough and destroyed a few pieces of furniture himself on his new toy.

The forklift was the centre of attention for a short period this year when even the Tech Sgt had trouble with the yellow machine. He found that maybe it might be a good idea to put the forks down before exiting through a rollerdoor thus preventing ones self from becoming covered in glass. Keep those forks low Blacky!

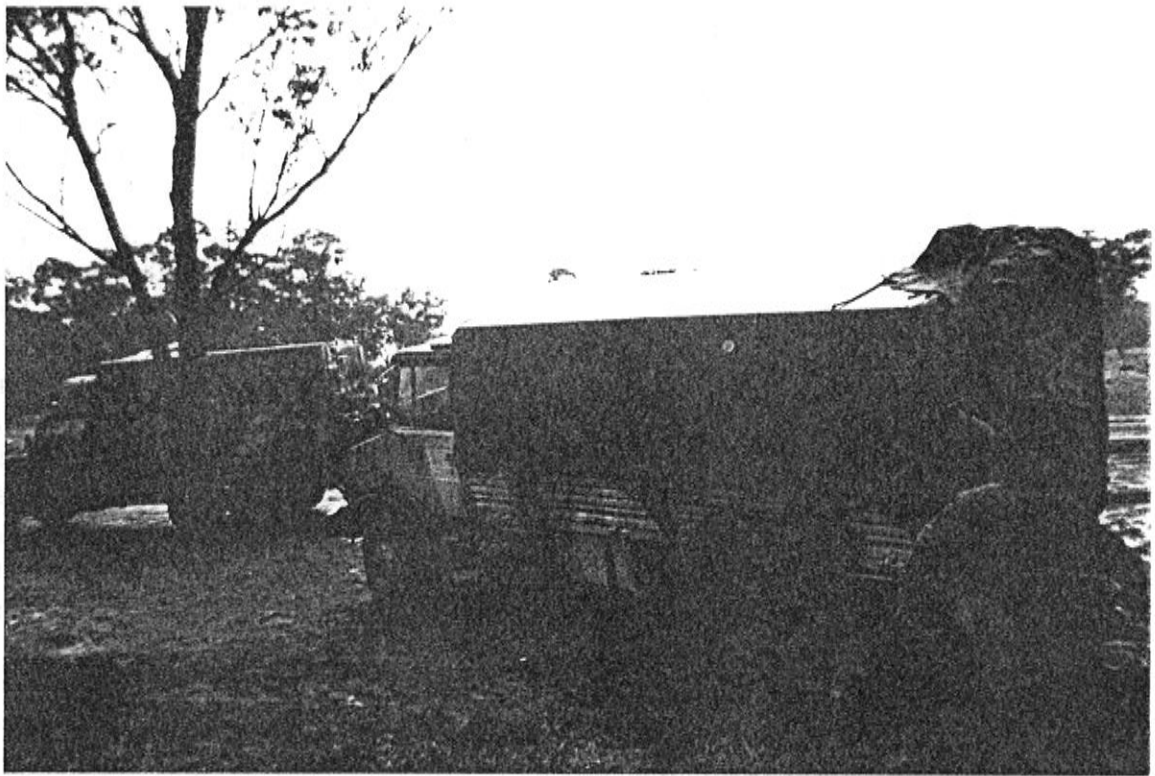
March-outs this year included Pte 'got some lovin' last night' Crossan who went to Tpt Pl and of course the ever prominent Pte Kocho who was full of sorrow and disbelief, after being told he had to leave the Main Q. Kocho's year got even worse when he heard that his Corps transfer had been approved. Koch the whole Q store feels for you mate!

It would be remiss of the Platoon not to take this opportunity to welcome the new QM, Capt Steve Hein and farewell Capt Nev Dummett who now resides at the 2/14 Battalion as, 'Tim the Toolman Dummett'.

The last mention of this article must go to LCpl O'Shea who with the impeccable record of the Q store took out the award for the number of extras this year, with only three.

Transport Platoon

1996 saw alot of changes for Transport Platoon, new vehicles, new Sergeant, Sgt Le Lieve and a new Toco, WO2 Glasson. With our new manning being RACT, as you can imagine we didn't do anything right. "Where is 120 register?", "I don't know!". "Where is the fuel card register?", "I don't know!". Well things are about change! and they did!



1st - CES bays for individual companies.

2nd - Storeman nightmare - "We need more room" - hence new store layout.

3rd - "How can you work in this office, you can't find anything when you need it!" - thus a new look TPT office.

A lot of work was done to get the show on the road to the dissatisfaction of TPT PL personnel, but once operational everyone was pleased with the functioning of the transport yard and the smoothness of operation with such professionalism only TPT PL could accomplish - with a little help of our RACT counterparts.

1996 saw two B7 unrestricted drivers courses and one B8 unrestricted conversion. Thanks goes to SSgt Emmitt in running and testing those new B8 Unrestricted Drivers. Once again occurring without any serious incident or misdemeanors.

1996 also saw the introduction of the new IMV's, which was accomplished with a little bit of help from the Main Q and Tech Spt. A big thanks goes to Budda and Clarky for all their assistance as instructors and drivers. A lot of kilometres later we were able to complete the minimum requirements for the initial servicing. Thus now we are ready and waiting for the final Ready Shield for the 8th/9th Battalion.

Ready Soldier 96 saw the largest administrative move to Townsville that TPT PL has seen in a while, and thanks goes to all those personnel involved with driving for not breaking any of our vehicles. Transport Platoon while conducting ration runs and movement of personnel it also supplied men for patrolling duties.

The middle of the year saw the loss of WO2 Tsvedskov to long service leave, Cpl Bates, LCpl Atkins, Gill, Pte Parrish and Jenno.

It also saw the introduction of Guddy and Pte Bonniwell, Crossan.

Comments and Quotes from TPT Platoon:

- ♦ Where's his ST1?
- ♦ Where's Bonniwell?
- ♦ Training days shit me!
- ♦ When does he want his vehicle?

Catering Platoon

The end of 1995 saw the demand for the services of the 8th/9th Battalion Catering Platoon increase dramatically. In addition to the mandatory support to the Battalion we provided platoon detachments to other units within the 6th Brigade. Regardless of the task being performed it was evident that all our efforts were directed towards the requirements of the Ready Reserve Scheme. On completion of the number of deployments in support of the Infantry Initial Employment Training, some members mistakenly thought our commitments had eased. They were soon remotivated to ensure the usual high standards were upheld throughout the Infantry Specialist Courses.

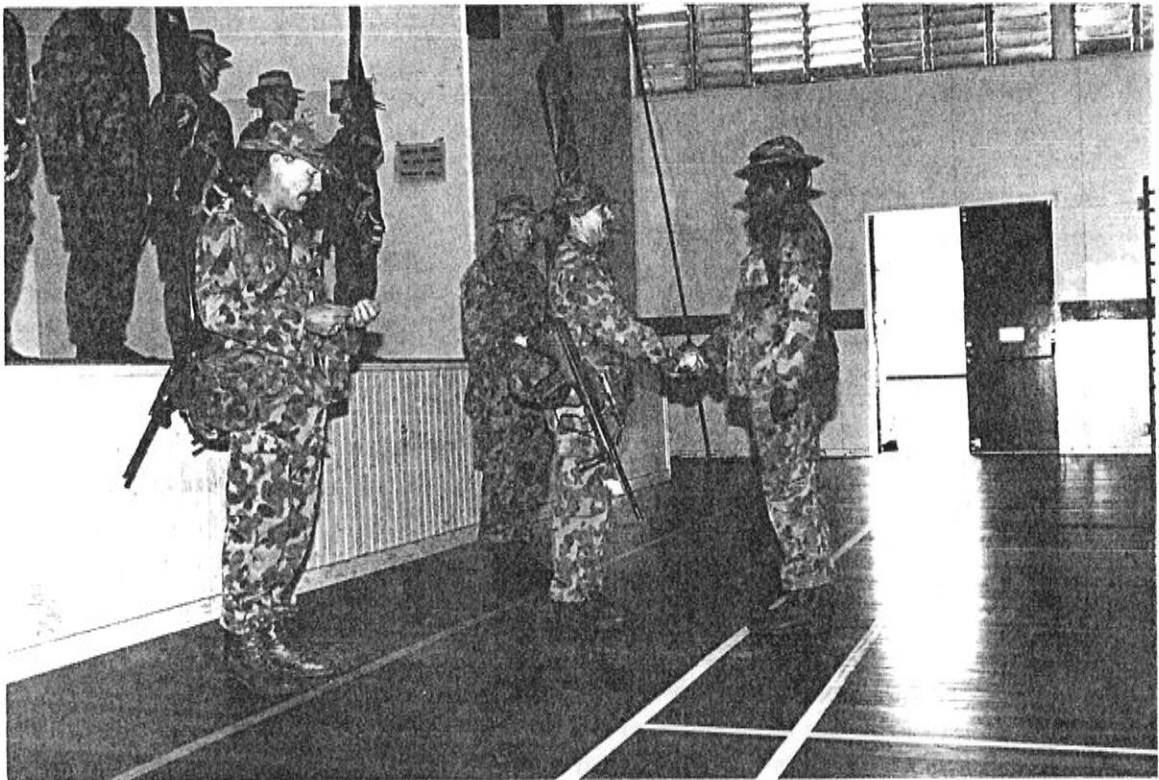
The Platoon received three new Category Three (Ready Reserve) cooks fresh out of training in August. These members were quickly absorbed and after a short settling period were deployed to the various training areas to alleviate some of the burden that had stretched our personal resources. It was around this time that a few yarns filtered back to Enoggera regarding certain members of the platoon and their achievements. The most outstanding being the Sergeant who decided he would maintain his physical fitness by taking a short run through the Wide Bay pine forest. This individual became geographically embarrassed and became a contender for the Atlanta marathon. He eventually found his way out of the wilderness and adopted the name Monoggetti.

The end of 1995 saw the following members farewelled from the platoon:

- ♦ WO2 Les Gant elected discharge after 24 years service to the Corps; "From all reports he is deemed a content civvy".



CATERING PLATOON STAFF



CO PRESENTING LCPL MAU WITH HIS COMMENDATION

*SGT Quido Cernik
Posted on promotion to RMC Duntroon
"Couldn't bare to be away from

*CPL Pete Harris
Posted on promotion to 1 Field
Regiment; "The more bush the better
especially if it is raining".

*PTE Brad O'Meara
Posted to RMC Duntroon;
"There goes the comic relief".

*PTE Darren Ward
Elected discharge;
"Sorry to see him go".

Not all was lost as the following members were welcomed in:

- WO2 Warwick Fox
- CPL Mark Davis
- CPL David Price
- PTE Michael House
- PTE Chris Kerslake
- PTE Kris Heidenrieck
- PTE Darren Clarke
- PTE Brendan Rand
- PTE Brett Keating.

After a short leave period all members returned ready for deployment on Exercise Ready Soldier 96. This year the venue was sunny Townsville. CPL Pete Currie decided to give the free trip to Townsville the flick to become a married man and pay for his own trip to South Africa (his decision surprised us all). The Advance Party departed Enoggera for an uneventful road run. It seems privilege of rank has not totally disappeared as a certain Sergeant volunteered his services to travel in the airconditioned comfort of the unit Isuzu complete with sleeper. On arrival we were welcomed and assisted in our endeavours immensely by members of the 2 RAR Catering Platoon and support staff, who at this point we

would like to officially thank for making an almost unbearable exercise bearable.

From Lavarack Barracks we deployed to the High Range Training Area to prepare for the arrival of the remainder of the Battalion who were arriving by train two days later. The exercise became a learning experience for many of our younger members who remained under the watchful eye of SGT Andy Neil. The lessons learnt will be entrenched in their subconscious for the rest of their natural lives. Between supplying three meals a day for both the Battalion and a Battery attachment of Arty from 1 Field REGT, the platoon managed to supply members for the mandatory Ready Reaction Force as well as numerous Fighting and Clearing patrols. These members under the Command of CPL 'BANG BANG' Pete Malone (now short a few days pay and the owner of a reprimand) tested their military knowledge and endurance on many occasions with pleasing results. All but two members participated in a night CFA which proved to be a challenge due to the moon's absence and the pieces of dirt track strategically placed among the pot holes on the hills. With the exception of one Casavac all members achieved a pass and for a change were glad to see cam nets on arrival back at the Echelon.

It was not with great distress that the exercise drew to a close. Privilege of rank went out the door as the Advance party consisted of a number of platoon members boarding the unit Tarago, with LCPL (now CPL) Taffy Evans at the wheel. The junior members lapped up the comforts while the remainder catered for the Battalion aboard the midnight express to Brisbane.

Upon arriving home the manning of messes took priority and the catering for members returning was again met with enthusiasm. This enthusiasm increased when the Battalion's Cat 3 members dispersed to their home locations throughout Australia and it was time for block leave.



Corporals Case and
Gosztyla the only thing
missing are the floppy
shoes and big red
noses.

Very scary when you
actually need a medic!



We are again supporting the Infantry Initial Employment Training and some members under command of our new addition, SGT Vince "GOD" Davey, are preparing for deployment to Brunei in October.

The Battalion is heavily committed for the remainder of 1996 and it will remain our goal to represent the AACC providing the highest possible standard of catering service.

Until next time, from the members of the 8th/9th Battalion Catering Platoon, to all members and associates of the Battalion, see ewes round.

RAP

During 1996, the RAP at times was supporting around 700 soldiers, consisting of around 100 ARA, 200 Part Time Service personnel, and over 400 in IET COY. RAP staffing consists of a civilian RMO, DR Peter Dunne, SSGT Terry Pickard, SGT Brett Dale, CPLs Richard (Blue) Gosztyla, Graham Winbank, Jason Carter, and Jason Case. In addition to help with the field commitments of the Battalion, which includes all types of range practices, LFX's, and deployments within Australia and Overseas, medics have been detached from units within the Brigade and 2 Field Hospital on a regular basis. During the year we have had 19 medics both male and female detached for periods ranging from one day to three months.

The staff have also been involved with a variety of ongoing Medical training for the unit ranging from the normal yearly first aid revision at section and platoon level, to the conduct of Combat Medic's Course which is the first to have been run in 6 BDE. The staff have also provided on the job training for Infantry members who are corps transferring to medical corps.

With the Battalion taking on the additional role of running the Infantry IET training for the Ready Reserve, sick parades at times peaked at

forty a day, not including the conduct of FFI's which was done by the section commanders:

Training continued for the Medical staff with three members attending and passing the Advanced Medical Assistants Course run at the School of Army Health, one member attending the Subject One for CPL in Canungra, and one member attending Subject Two for SGT course at Portsea. In addition all members of the medical platoon have been detached to various civil hospitals, and different departments in the Military Hospital for ongoing medical experience and further training.

On average each medic posted to the Battalion has done 40 days in the field in the first six months of the year supporting different activities ranging from section to battalion activities.

Highlights for the year have been the provision of medical support to the IET company ranging from support to range practices to establishing a full RAP in Wide Bay for six weeks, the design and conduct of the first Combat Medic Course to be held in 6 BDE, and the medical preparation of A COY deploying to Brunei.

The medical support to A Coy's deployment to Brunei consisted of SSGT Pickard and CPL Case who set up a CAP both in barracks and in the field before then working at platoon level for the jungle phase. Liaison with local staff and medical facilities although at times difficult was always challenging and exciting and having seen the Bruneian medics at work the soldiers of A Coy have a better appreciation of Australian medics.

The highlight of the tour for us was the amount of suturing done in the field and the involvement of the two Casevac's by winching onto helicopters.

Special congratulations and farewell to SGT Brett Dale who is being posted to 6 RAR on promotion to Staff Sergeant in the near future. Brett's replacement is SGT Shaun Parker from 161 Recce Sqn, Darwin.

The remainder of staff of the RAP 8th/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment are all looking forward to continuing to provide the level one medical support and ongoing medical training for the Battalion for the remainder of this year and into the new year.

6TH BRIGADE INFANTRY INITIAL EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

1996 once again saw 8/9 RAR assume responsibility for 6 Bde Infantry Initial Employment Training. The 6 Bde IET Coy was raised on 18 Mar 96 with the opening of IET Headquarters and the march-in of instructors for the first two platoons. Staff continued to march in over the next month in preparation for the arrival of platoons from 1 RTB. Coy staff and platoon instructors were drawn from each of the three Infantry battalions of 6 Bde.

Six platoons of IET's were trained in 6 Bde; two for each battalion. Due to ongoing facilities work at Greenbank, training was conducted from Enoggera Barracks with IET's accommodated in 8/9 RAR and 6 RAR lines. Numerous training areas throughout South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales were used during training, including Enoggera CTA, Greenbank, WBTA and the Border

Ranges. The IET Coy closed its doors on 31 Aug after a rolling program of platoon march-out parades held on the 8/9 RAR parade ground with support provided by Australian Army Band Brisbane and on one occasion the 2/14 LHR (QMI) Pipe Band.

IET's were the focus of attention within 6 Bde for several months with the Coy reaching a strength of 455 all ranks at the height of training. Support was provided from many Bde and Enoggera based units, with Cat III soldiers providing enemy and training support on a rotational basis for much of the period.

Many of the trainees also completed Bushranger driving courses at the Army School of Transport either immediately before or after IET's to meet the Bde driver liability for Exercise READY SHIELD 97.

The task of conducting Infantry IET in Brisbane was an exacting one and full credit must go to the JNCO's, platoon staff and support personnel who worked tirelessly throughout both the preparation and conduct phases of training. The standard of training reached within the 6 Bde IET Coy was equal to that achieved at Depot Coy; this was acknowledged on a number of occasions by units external to 6 Bde, such as LWC Canungra.

The six platoons trained at 6 Bde were also the last of the RRES to be enlisted and the last to be trained within the Bde. It is encouraging to see so many have elected transfer to the ARA and GRSR on the closure of the RRES.

6 BDE Subject 2 CPL(RAINF) (ARA)

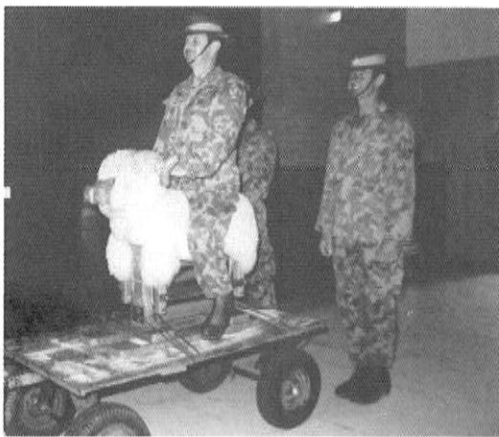
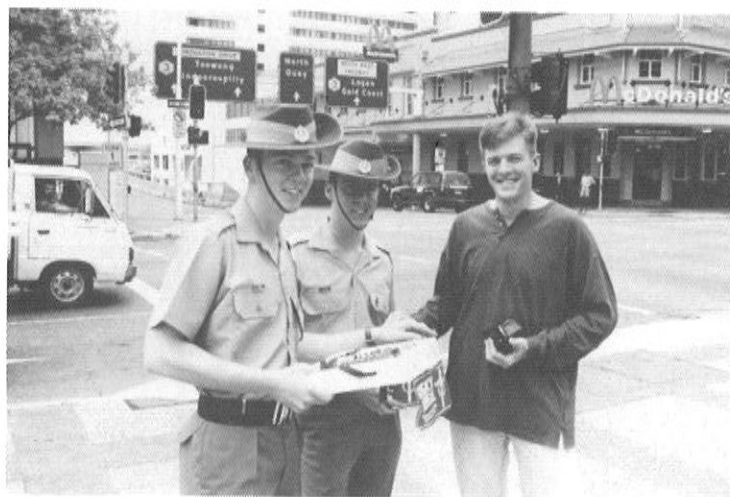
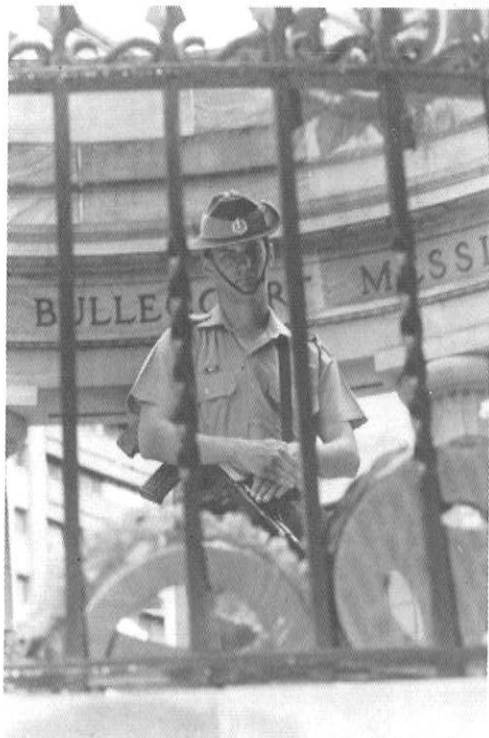
The 6 Bde Subject 2 for Corporal Course was sponsored by 8/9 RAR with instructors from 6 RAR and 49 RQR. They did a great job and thanks go to Sgt P Graham, Sgt J Vanhout, Sgt J Boatwright, Cpl Ross and Cpl AP Nichols. To the Spt Staff SSgt S Hodge, Cpl Markie (Q), LCpl Carter (Medic), Pte Madden (EN) - they never let us down.

Strive forward we did, lots of good lecture room stuff to kick off with, a bit of Nav in between to stop boredom, orders and more orders and then off to the field to put it all into practice. The RSM set a tough patrol program, a minimum of 8 kms and diversity, ambushes, standing patrols, reconnaissance patrols, fighting patrols and to top it off you could cop either a day or night patrol. New skills were tested and those forgotten reinforced, including those of the DS.

MALLEE BULL OVER HERE



CEREMONIAL AND LEGACY



Some of the more notable events on the course:

-
- Navex at Redbank, you were either wet or really wet and at the same time being blown away.
- Same Navex SSgt Hodge and RSM bogged, others getting bogged and more rain, rain (Nav was very good despite all this).
- Early morning PT - don't turn up pissed.
- Defensive position, digging holes, hey well, but the wiring and more wiring.
- The helicopter LR110 for CASEVAC, well done LCpl Carter.
- More wiring.
- Snake bite victim - Chook should get a job in Actors Equity, they 'ALL' believed.
- LCpl Linacre MIA.
- Sgt Vanhout and Waria burning things at the stake, watch out Squizzy.
- Cpl Nichols thumped in the head by a smoke gren, the only low point, culprit too 'gutless' to own up.
- Night withdrawal, realism, lots of BNS and white light.

All in all a hard course interspersed with personal challenges and some fun. It finished off with a LLOPS phase followed by a Range Module which was professionally conducted under the guidance of the Bn SRI, Sgt O Trevorrow. A couple of personnel actually failed this module.

The whole course can be summed up as follows. "It all comes down to the basics, have good conventional skills and from this base any task can be adapted, (provided your soldiers are well trained), through the use of good detailed orders combined with the ability to lead and above all be flexible.

The Padre

What a privilege it has been to serve with 8/9 RAR over the past 18 months or so. I have enjoyed getting to know some fine men from all ranks within the Battalion. It has been encouraging to see good attendances at many of the field services which I have held during this time. We have a great *esprit de corps* within the

Battalion. Therefore most of us are a bit disappointed that 8/9 will be no more come July 1997. It is a salutary reminder that nothing in this world is permanent and life is full of change and uncertainty. Unfortunately, it is a fact of life. Many of us find it difficult to cope with change, and therefore with life itself. The secret of coping is to have some fixed point of reference, just like when on a NAVEX. If we know where we are then we can work out where we are going. However, if everything if life is changing how can we find such a fixed point? The Bible contains the answer: *I the Lord do not change.* (Malachi 3:6). When we have a relationship with God then we have a fixed point of reference in life which enables us to cope with change.

My prayer is that all of you may find your reference point for life in God and will enjoy a much more stable life in this world of constant flux. As you go to your new units or perhaps out of the service altogether, may God go with you. It has been a privilege to know and serve with you.

Chaplain David Niven



The Combat Padre. We just couldn't keep him out of it

Rugby Union

As per normal the year started with doubts about whether the Battalion would be able to field a team and there was much hair pulling from Richo (only figuratively of course). The team ventured south for the Kapooka Tens and performed very well on the bus and that was it.

The first half of the season was spent competing in the Area Tens which given the make up of the team is just not an 8/9 game. The elder members of the team (which was just about everybody) exclaimed that it was a stupid game anyway. It was at this time that our short, ugly, broken down mentor Richo departed for his annual pilgrimage to the high pastures in NZ (the equivalent of Barry's runs to Patpong). Into the breach stepped another short, ugly, broken down, frustrated ex player in the form of the Battalion 2IC. This combination proved their commitment to the team by the fact that they spent more time on the field or in the sin bin than most.

With the start of the 15s the "Geriatric Pack" (used to be Jurassic but they changed) came into their own. Without training we managed to draw with 1 Field Regiment despite almost having our coach sent off (what was he on the field for anyway), Private "Jew Boy" Isaacs almost having his head knocked off and Benny "No try" Urban gaining himself a name for life with an absolute shocker of a pass with the line wide open.

From then on the team went from strength to strength and we ended up finishing the regular season undefeated and having handed out some major hidings including a 5 try to 1 romp against the old foe 6 RAR. Most of this was due to the timely arrival of some outstanding prospects from IETs. Bottwright, Tyson, Macca, Ben 'No Try' and the 'Nutter' were great finds for the Battalion and added that extra get up and go that the oldies only managed to find in the RAMs. That is not to say that the regulars Lutz, Goose, Jase, Mackey and Crossy weren't

up to their usual high standards but time doesn't heal all wounds. There was also no excuse for the Mat Graham, Sando, Mick Gallegos and Hodgy they should all know better anyway.

One highlight of the season worth recording was the reappearance of Terry "War Dog" O'Farrell in our game against the RISTA. War Dog struck fear into the enemy as he ran onto the field and took the ball up, tore a hammy and left. Another comeback nipped in the bud.

Well come the finals we really got our act together and move through undefeated to the Grand Final where we met 49 RQR playing in there first final in 78 years. After a most inspiring speech by Major "Gunny Highway" O'Farrell the team was ready to eat razor blades and piss concertina wire but in the greatest robbery since Ronny Biggs last visited the north of England we went down by 4 points on the basis of a series of bizarre refereeing decisions. The defeat was all the more painful in that it was our last chance to claim that coveted trophy before our mothballing.

From the Rugby Club to all those current and past members thanks for your support and assistance over 1996 and remember
"RUGBY IS THE GAME THEY PLAY IN HEAVEN"

The pick of the bunch were:

Best Forward - Private Guddmunson

Best Back - Major Sanderson

Coaches Award - Private Bottwright

Battlers Award - Private Parrish

Best Clubman - Corporal Richardson

Best and Fairest - Craftsman Lutz

AFL

Well, unfortunately we may never get that chance again, but most definitely every person involved with our Club this year can hold their heads up and say they gave their best to win that coveted prize.

The season started off in a blaze of red, white, gold and silver (brown and grey) as our side took to the field for the first time wearing a new strip in the Brigade Lightning Premiership Competition. With limited training and some unfamiliar faces we dealt severely with the Engineers winning the first game of the competition, before being beaten in the semi-finals by the eventual competition winners 1 Sig Regt. However, the lightning premiership gave fair warning to all the teams in the area that anytime that they were drawn to play 8/9 RAR that they were in for long hard Thursday afternoon, and possibly an early Friday morning RAP visit in the season ahead.

Well, what a season it turned out to be. The boys handed out some absolute beltings and also had some inspirational come from behind wins. The end of the home and away fixture saw 8/9 RAR as the minor premiers and undefeated. In the short time between the lightning premiership and the end of the home and away fixtures of the season proper, a team of talented and determined footballers, both young and old (sorry Smiley) had developed into a tight knit bunch on and off the field.

The success of the Club during the year had created a keen interest throughout the members of the Battalion in the fate of the team during the finals series. Everyone was quietly confident of going on to collect the Battalion's first Australian Rules Championship since 1987 - in which two members of the current team, Wally and Smiley, had played. The first stumbling block came in the shape of 6 RAR defeating us in the 2nd semi-final. The following week saw us playing in the preliminary final against reigning premiers The Gunners. During this game we found ourselves trailing by 26 points at the last change, but the boys turned on some of the magic that

they were capable of and we were once more grand-final bound defeating them by four points. October 10, grand-final day, and after the morning's preparation at the Rams (eating the Rugby teams lunch) we took to the field against 6 RAR still very confident of victory. However, the day was not to be ours and we were comfortably defeated by a better side on the day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a number of people. Firstly than you to Steve Chinner who this year was assistant coach. Steve represented the Army side in Canberra and the national team in New Zealand. His professionalism was of a benefit to all the members of the Club and myself. Steve has decided to have a shot at civil life and every member of the Club wishes him all the best and I can honestly say he will be sadly missed. I would also like to thank Wally the Club Captain, Vice - Captains Jimmy Johnston and Smiley Bradford and Sports Rep / Team Manager Terry Campbell. My congratulations go to everyone who contributed to making this year so enjoyable not only for me but for all Club members.

An extremely successful Battalion Winter Sports Presentation Night was conducted on the 15th November 1996 where with every beer drank the games got harder, the marks got better and the angles from which goals were kicked got sharper.

Congratulations go to the Club's trophy winners.

- ♦ Best and Fairest - S Chinner
- ♦ Runner Up Best and Fairest - D Ferguson
- ♦ Most Consistent - T Bradford
- ♦ Best Team Man - J Johnston
- ♦ Best Club Man - D Noble
- ♦ Coaches Award - S Kelly
- ♦ Best Grand Final Player - S Chinner

Finally on behalf of the Club I would like to wish all the members of the Battalion and their families all the best for the festive season and

♦ Best Grand Final Player - S Chinner

Finally on behalf of the Club I would like to wish all the members of the Battalion and their families all the best for the festive season and good fortune wherever you may be in the New Year5.

"Football Teams and Battalions may not last forever but our memories always will!"

CARN THE RAMS!!!!

SOCCER

1996 was a mixed bag for 8\9 RAR. We kicked off the year with a promising start, coming second in the 6 aside and third in the 9 aside. The quality of players gave us hope that this would be a good year for the team. Unfortunately unit commitments, as with other teams, meant we continually struggled for numbers, even having the CO as our number one ticket holder as well as doubling as our defensive back didn't seem to help with the number at training. Having said this, all the members that did play had an enjoyable season and who could forget the bumble bee like performance of Major O' Farrell. 'Gunny' may not have had a clue what was happening but he had such a good time.

The highlight of the year for the team was the match against the Brunians. The skills shown by both teams was commendable considering the amount of time we had to prepare. Blue Carroll was still organising the positions of the team while the ref was tossing the coin. Anyway, they didn't kick our butts as much as we thought or they hoped, going down to the visitors 1-3.

The sportsman's night saw a few trophies being presented to the players. These being:

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR -

Cpl "Scotty" Raddatz

BEST AND FAIREST

Cpl "Andy" Gardner

MOST IMPROVED

Sgt "Benny, If He Does It Again I'm Gunna Thump Him "Bender.

A thanks goes out to all those who filled in for us, even if you didn't know you weren't allowed to pick up the ball. Also to all the lads who helped with the running of the team through the year. Especially "Blue" Carroll our coach, and "Jock Wilson" our imported player (luckily the ref couldn't understand him).

Touch Rugby

After a season of success from the year previous, winning the 'B' Grade competition, the Bn team set about reorganising its attack for 1996. Our winning side was promoted to 'A' Grade and we were able to field a second side in 'B' Grade.

The year began with a pre-season comp which allowed our players to dust off the cob webs and learn new skill for our novices.

A Grade

The 'A' Grade team maintained a consistent performance throughout the season. The majority of players were available to play most games and the effect of absences due to courses etc was minimal. The team qualified for the final series and made it through to the final where we were defeated by 6 RAR, some may say that 6 RAR had 8 players during that game.

Whilst the composure of the team was tested to the limit the most unusual send off goes to PTE Laurie for looking the wrong way.

Overall the performance of the "A' Grade team was outstanding and we hope this will continue in 97 until the closure.

Team

PTE Laurie (CAPT) LCPL Collins

PTE Hokins CPL Poultny

LCPL O'Shea CPL Curry

PTE Ross

PTE Rand

PTE Kocho

Best and Fairest 'A' Grade.

PTE Laurie

B Grade

The 'B' Grade team was made up of the also rans, this team trained hard and a number of the participants were first timers. It was good to see that the fellers in the 'B' team where able to train and compete in a professional manner. The 'B' team suffered most from the lack of available players and was frequently supplemented from the 'A' Grade team. Not withstanding the team did well, gaining several wins throughout the season. 'B' Grade did not make the finals, however it held the flag for 8/9 RAR and acquitted itself to a high standard.

Team

PTE Bonniwell

PTE Hunt

CAPT Malcolm

CAPT Black

CPL Price

PTE Keating

PTE Clarke

SGT Hefez

SGT Reisley

SGT Neil

CPL Case

CPL Malone (CAPT)

WO2 Bain

SGT Graham

WO2 Varcoe

CPL Hoy

PTE Sprang

CPL Summers-Taylor

Best and Fairest 'B' Grade

SGT Neil

Representative

Three members of the Battalion were selected for Interservice

CFN Clark,
PTE Laurie, and
LCPL O'Shea.

CFN Clark and PTE Laurie were also selected for Combined Service.

The Mascot-STAN THE RAM

About the middle of 1970 it was decided that 9RAR needed a mascot. The then CO Lieutenant Colonel Eric Philip gave the guidelines that the mascot should be an animal native to Australia and / or which played an important role in Australia's history and prosperity. After a considerable amount of discussion it was decided to adopt a pure bred Merino Ram. When this was announced to the Battalion the search began for a suitable animal.

Some weeks after the announcement the Bass Drummer of the newly formed Drum and Bugle Band, one Pte McPhee came forward and told the CO that his uncle, Mr WA Collison was prepared to donate a ram as the Battalion mascot. Mr Collison owned a stud called 'Trevallyn' near Scone in New South Wales.

Two names were seriously considered for the mascot. The first name was Henry Waterhouse. The original Henry Waterhouse was a Naval Officer who brought the first Merino sheep to Australia. He was an Officer on HMS Sirius in the First Fleet, and subsequently returned to England after Sirius was wrecked on Norfolk Island in 1791. Later he was Second Captain of HMS Reliance which was sent to pick up stock at The Cape of Good Hope and ship them to NSW. While at the Cape he brought a number of Spanish Merino sheep which he and Lieutenant Kent of HMS Supply shipped to the colony. On arrival in Sydney he sold his sheep and a number of them went to John Macarthur of Camden. The name Henry Waterhouse was not selected for the mascot's name however and the committee settled on the name of John Macarthur, because as Lieutenant Colonel Philip said in a letter to the Colonel Commandant of the Royal Australian Regiment, Macarthur was the more colourful figure in the Australian Merino sheep industry, even though he was 'somewhat of a scoundrel'. The words proved to be prophetic because the mascots have proved to be more than colourful and there have been some scoundrels among them.

As soon as the name was selected the Macarthur-Onslow family was contacted as a matter of courtesy to ask permission to use the name. The head of the family, Major General Sir Denzil Macarthur-Onslow was delighted with the name and readily gave permission for its use. In his reply to the Battalion request he also offered a replacement for Pte John Macarthur I from the original flock on Camden Park Estate; a flock which had been pastured there since 1795 with no new blood line ever having been introduced. This offer was subsequently taken up some time later.

After much argument concerning red tape with the Agriculture Departments of both Queensland and NSW Pte John Macarthur I finally arrived in Enoggera in February 1971. He was enlisted on 18 February 1971 and formally presented to the Battalion on 12 March 1971 by Pte McPhee on behalf of his uncle. As is the way with soldiers he immediately gained a nickname and he and his successors have been known as 'Stan' ever since.

John Macarthur I was by all accounts both a colourful beast (some have ventured to say 'miserable old') and a scoundrel and many of the stories about him have assumed legendary status. His disciplinary record, whilst blemished, seems to have had a guardian angel looking after it. On each of the occasions he was charged (striking a superior, conduct to the prejudice, resisting an escort, etc) 1 MD Legal Branch managed to find some excuse to quash the conviction. This at least showed that the 'Legal Eagles' had some sort of heart in those days contrary to the opinion of many soldiers. During his career 'Stan I' also developed some habits which have added to the legend. He apparently took a liking to tobacco and could often be seen with a packet of Drum which he preferred to chew rather than smoke. He also developed, in the absence of a lady companion, an attraction for a fire hydrant in the Battalion area. This caused much amusement amongst the soldiery and spawned many stories, most of which are probably apocryphal, which are still circulating today.

Stan led the Battalion on the annual Legacy Ambush throughout the Brisbane CBD. At his urging we fell mercilessly upon the populace. Stans tactical acumen gained from watching the Battalion's field training paid great dividends in the siting of the various ambush locations. The Battalion raised a record \$56,200 in one morning.

Privates Johnson and Harnett from A Company won the individual prize for the largest single amount of \$968.

Well done to all, what will Legacy do without Stan?



'Stan I' managed to find a few roses among the thorns during his nine year career with the Battalion and was promoted to Lance Corporal on 25 June 1971. He was promoted to Temporary Corporal on 8 August 1978. On this occasion CARO showed considerable flexibility rarely shown in the Armed Forces and authorised the promotion even though there was no evidence of the soldier having qualified in either Subject 1 or Subject 2 for Corporal. The records show that Stan was a generous soul and put \$20 over the bar of the OR's canteen as a result of the promotion.

Sadly, 'Stan I' suffered from problems that many old Corporals face: bad feet and bad temper. In an extremely disloyal act (or so it seems in hindsight) two soldiers of the unit wrote to the CO explaining that he had 'become impossible to handle' and should be retired. As a result steps were taken to replace him and after discharge on 31 January 1980 he was retired to the Animal Husbandry Research Farm at Rocklea on 11 March 1980, having served nine years in the Battalion.

A very generous offer of a replacement ram from the original flock at Camden was accepted and 'Stan II' was presented to the Battalion by Major General Sir Denzil and Lady Dorothy Macarthur-Onslow on 6 January 1980 as a five month old. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on Anzac Day 1981. He found it difficult to settle into life as a Non-Commissioned Officer and he committed several offences over the next year including lying down on parade and wilful damage to his barracks. For this latter charge in April 1982, he was reduced to the rank of Private. In addition, he charged a window in which he saw his own reflection and shattered it, further blemishing his record.

Pte John Macarthur II was tragically murdered by dogs on the night of 24 June 1984. His normal barracks were being used for visitors at the time and Stan had volunteered to live in the

field so that the goats belonging to a visiting Ghurkha unit could be housed properly. He was set upon by a pack of cowardly dogs during the night and died of injuries. He is buried outside the 'Rams Retreat, the soldiers club.

Due to the untimely death of John Macarthur II it was some time before his replacement could be identified and enlisted. Through the generosity of Mr and Mrs Lionel Roberts of Victoria Downs at Morven and the Chairman of the Queensland Merino Stud Sheep Breeders Association, Mr Bruce Scott of Muckadilla, John Macarthur III was presented to the Battalion at a parade on the 7 December 1984. He warmed to his role at once, but alas, like his immediate predecessor, his reign was short. While on R&R (and it does not stand for rest and recreation) at his original home on Victoria Downs during the Christmas break in 1985 he entered into an argument about a lady with another ram. A battle ensued and Lance Corporal Macarthur was fatally wounded. He died of wounds on 26 January 1986. In the tradition of the Regiment, he went down fighting.

Mr and Mrs Roberts again showed their generosity and immediately offered another ram to replace John Macarthur III. There was some speculation in the unit that we should ask for the victor of the conquest, however the Battalion did not push the case and a fine specimen of a ram was enlisted on the 7th April 1986. Stan IV settled in well and performed admirably on his first ceremonial outing, ANZAC Day 1986. He was showing that he had all the character and fire of his predecessors and he was the largest mascot the Battalion had yet seen.

Stan IV died on 5th June 1991 of cancer and digestive problems. A ball of hoochie cord the size of a cricket ball in his stomach didn't help at all.

Stan V was donated by Mr and Mrs Huskisson from Wattle Downs, a Merino ram stud just around the corner from Tara (out west somewhere). Stan V joined up in July 1991. His first task was at the EKKA where he was shown off to Brisbane. Stan has had an up and down life since being in the Army. He was charged with disobeying a lawful command and found guilty, however no punishment was ever decided upon. He was then promoted to Lance Corporal in March 1992.

Stan V is a much loved member of the Battalion (except for those who have all been unlucky enough to suffer the wrath of Stan - a bloody good butt). He is also loved by friends and family of the Battalion - some going as far as offering Stan the odd sweet or two - snakes or strawberry creams.

Some interesting traditions have grown up around the mascot. One such tradition is the tradition of the 'Shilling' which was started in the Officers Mess and has spread to the Sergeants Mess. The Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Robbs has issued a challenge to all current and past members of the Battalion to carry the 'Rams Head Shilling' from now on so that the tradition lives on. (ED: I am really looking forward to running into some unsuspecting diggers after July 97)

The five Macarthurs have in their own way typified the qualities of the soldiers who have faithfully served the Battalion. They have been aggressive, steadfast, brave and resolute in the face of danger. Two of them died fighting, one has died of cancer and one has retired honourably after long and faithful service. They all, at various times, have shown the considerable courage of conviction needed to refuse orders which they have considered unfair, and when punished, have endured the punishment without complaining. If we all had those qualities, what a much better world it would be.

Officers Mess

The mess had a good year, beginning with the usual Regimental Dining In Night, at the end of Ex Ready Soldier '96. This was a good bonding evening for the Officers, with some memorable moments, including the introduction of a new mess activity, the half marathon to town and back for the Lieutenants. All in all a good effort with a new technique discovered as to how to sober up quickly. Throughout the year the carnage inflicted on and by the subbies has been substantial. At last count, included a broken arm, a number of head sized holes in the mess wall, a few split heads and one LT's knee, (not strictly in the mess, but near enough.)

The pool has been a constant bane for the member responsible, with no one sure who actually was. Somehow it went through the cycle of green, to blue and green again, with the cry of "Who's the pool member?" heard echoing from the PMC.

The craze one night included horizontal bungee jumping. Many will remember setting this apparatus up, with LT Talbot dragged to its extremity and then released like a rocket. This carried on into the night until the PMC donned his bear suit (where was he hiding that) and dashed into the night.

The mess had the usual problems of numbers outside of concentration periods, though this did not dampen the enthusiasm of those involved. Memorable moments included the Medieval Night (where Captain Malcolm's wife made sure Captain Griffin was a true Scot and living up to his Braveheart image) with King HJ's and his subjects.

The subalterns and single Captains introduced a number of new and very talented ladies to the happenings of the army mess. A number of Majors were oft caught out by glancing (drooling more like it) by wives the SEQ Officers Ball and one LT Farrand's date, spring to mind.

Those women that did attend, had a great time, with the regular visitors often leading the charge. The last function for the year ended with most parties in the pool in all manner of attire. A great night, kicked off by a couple of guests and ladies of the mess.

Towards the end of the year the mess said farewell to a number of members, including the Commanding Officer, Major O' Farrell, Captains Dummett, Hanson, Jeffreys and Griffin, Lieutenants Mountford, Rowlands, Gorman and Farrands. We wish these members

the best with their future careers. The mess did welcome some new members, and welcomed back some old members of the 8/9 Mess, including the new CO.

The closing of the Battalion has not dampened the members spirits, activities are planned for 1997, though a dark cloud lingers on the horizon.

Finally to all the other units in ANZAC, "WE STILL OWN THE ANNEX!"



The 'King' farewells his trusty wagon train master.
Soon after this some Knave (Mrs O'Farrell) crowned his highness
with a large lump of beef.

Sergeants Mess

Well, 1996 has proven to be another successful year for the Sergeants Mess. Successful in the sense that the mess still exists albeit as an Annexe. This has been due in no small part to our Commanding officer, Lt Col Robbs and the PMC, WO1 Hutchinson both of whom fought hand and foot against those who would close us down given half the chance. To these two individuals we are grateful. Unfortunately it has all been in vein. It appears the die has been cast and the mess along with the rest of the unit will cease to exist as of 01 Jul 97. When 9 RQR arrive in the area, they will become members of 6 RAR or 7 TF Sergeants' Mess.

The Mess has had many Honorary members over the years, but for 1996 we only had one, Mr John Young who for those not in the know, runs the Shearing Shed barber shop. John is without a doubt one of the best Honoraries any Mess could hope to have both in his support of the Mess and his constant attendance at every Mess function he can get to. Unfortunately, John will be left out in the cold when the Mess closes but moves are afoot to remedy this situation. By the way John, you are lucky we couldn't push through an amendment to the Local Rules as I daresay you would have ended up with the Shovel on more than one occasion.

Other affiliations we have continued to foster are with the 8 RAR and 9 RAR Associations. Probably more than anyone else these two groups are going to be sorry to see the Unit and the Mess close. No doubt the Mess will be playing it's part in sending the Battalion out with a big bang and rest assured you will all be invited to the festivities. On a positive note, 1997 will no doubt see a big increase in the Association nominal rolls.

1996 has seen the Mess host some pretty wild functions. Unfortunately we seem to be farewelling more members during these functions than we are welcoming in. There are too many to mention individually here however one or two farewells should be noted. The

Commanding Officer is posted to ADF Warfare Centre as Director of Training. Sir, on behalf of the Mess members, thank you for keeping the Mess alive. We are sorry to see you go. The new Commanding Officer is Lt Col Edwards, who some of you will know from his previous posting as Coy Command in the Battalion. The RSM is retiring from the Military after 22 Years service. He has bought a house and has vowed never to work again. We'll see how long Kay can put up with him around the house. Odds on he'll end up as GRes RSM in some obscure little Trg Gp somewhere. The RSM's replacement is WO1 Mark Levine who has also had previous postings to the Battalion. Sgt Bradford will be happy to know he is an Aussie Rules man from way back. To WO2 Garry Francis and Sgt Barry Lollback who are both retiring after more than 20 Years service each. Good luck on your chosen paths. Your expertise will be sadly missed and you are always welcome back to the Mess while it still stands.

Getting back to the functions. We started the year with a family BBQ in January and a good time was had by all. Next came the Cpl's Vs Sgt's Games Night. As usual the Sgt's won (honestly of course). We still don't know if alcohol contains steroids but we did our best to find out. From there it just got better with at least one function a month where the Training Program permitted it. Of course there were the mandatory Regimental Dining - In Nights. The Subalterns were up to their usual tricks and one day they might try to steal the shovel when we are in a position to actually defend it. Then we'll see who gets the upper hand. They did however make sure the shovel got more travelling time than some of the Mess members this year. Jock Wilson very nearly didn't make it to the last Dinner but after they put some blood back into his alcohol system he was ok, although he definitely wasn't in any condition to drive his wheel chair home.

THINGS WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE:

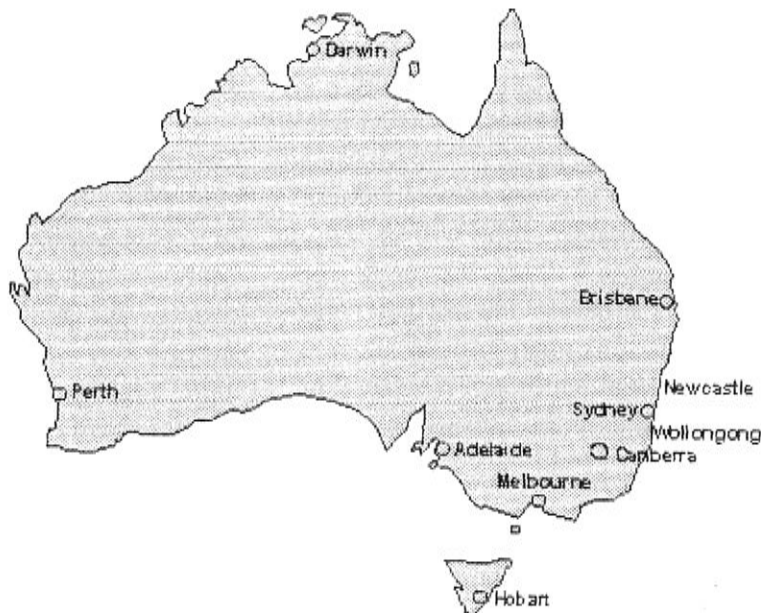
- The see - saw actually see - saw;
- More than one weapon in the rack on Thursdays;

- The conex;
- Barry Lollback after another 6 months LSL (phew);
- Ken Findlay stop winging about his room size because he's got no room for his mainframe; and
- The Mess SAM's dog crap on someone else's carpet.

Part Time Service Members Future Locations

Those members of the Battalion moving interstate to the GRSSR Companies including Category 1,2 and 3 will be relocating from the 9th of February 1997 to the following units in all the areas indicated. It is up them to keep the traditions and memory of the Battalion alive.

Queenslanders - 6 RAR , 49 RQR, 31 RQR and 9 RQR



Victorians - 5th/6th Battalion Royal Victorian Regiment

Tasmanians - 12th/40th Battalion Royal Tasmanian Regiment

Sandgroppers - 16th Battalion Royal Western Australian Regiment

South Australians - 10th/27th Battalion Royal South Australian Regiment

New South Welshmen - 2nd/17th Battalion Royal New South Wales Regiment

Territorians - NORFORCE

THE NEW COMMANDING OFFICER'S MESSAGE

ORDER OF THE DAY -- 9 FEB 97

The RSM, WO1 M. Levine joins me in wishing you all the best in your future career defending the nation. For many of you, you are also going forth to do great things at university or in the civilian workforce. Others continue their total dedication to the profession of arms.

As we conduct post Ex Ready Shield maintenance and administration for the end of the Ready Reserve Scheme, the Battalion can look back proudly at its accomplishments, both recent and historical. All individual members can also look forward, secure in the knowledge that their skills, professionalism and experience will be fully utilised and respected in a large number of Army units. These units reflect the Army ethos across the length and breadth of the Royal Australian Infantry Corps and across the geographical spread of the whole nation.

Continue to strive to increase your knowledge of military history, strategic affairs and current doctrine, to sustain your physical fitness and technical skills, and to encourage and return in kind the support of your family which is essential to enable you to maximise your potential. Without them, not much else matters.

As you, the final members of the 8th/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, prepare to take your families, memories and expertise to other battalions and other regiments, always remember your professional heritage. On the 28th of February each year, remember the skills, courage and determination of the men of 8 RAR in the Long Hai hills of South Vietnam, 1970. Remember also that 31st of October, 1973 is 8/9RAR's birthday, and that you can rightly claim ownership of a part of the traditions and achievements of both "parent" units and of this Battalion. For many of you, this is your first Regimental home and should be remembered by all with individual and collective pride.

DUTY FIRST

John F. Edwards



