

OXAS

RAR

IN

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FOREWORD

by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel T.H. Holland



1977 has been a year of real achievement for 8/9 RAR. Throughout the year we have been at 'priority' to answer any calls for service which may be made on us. We have trained hard to be ready to meet any commitment - and we have been very successful.

In steady progression, we advanced from individual, section and platoon training to company level work, when some very fine and very demanding exercises were conducted. In July, we came together as a battalion and completed a first-class exercise at BARAKULA which involved all phases of war, the use of various movement agencies and was conducted often under adverse weather conditions. Our readiness for war was amply demonstrated during the 6 Task Force exercise at TIN CAN BAY and this was confirmed by our performance on the 1 Division exercise 'BRAHMAN DRIVE' in the CHARLEVILLE area.

We have been able to weld our team into an efficient, professional fighting machine because of the dedication, hard work and enthusiasm of all ranks in the battalion. A battalion constitutes the greatest team in the world; but without the unstinting support of the storeman, the Chaplain, the cook, the hygiene dutyman, the clerk, the driver, the piper, the mess steward, the RP, the mechanic and the medic, it would not be possible for us to operate effectively for very long at all. Our rifle companies and Support Company are highly proficient - and they are assisted in reaching and maintaining this standard by the support they receive from Logistic Company and Battalion Headquarters staff. Every man in the battalion is a team member and every team member's contribution is valued and necessary, no matter what his employment.

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We have been ably supported by many other units in 6 Task Force - most regularly by 4 Cavalry Regiment and 1 Field Regiment. They are good soldiers and good companions and we are proud to have served with them.

We have not had the opportunity to concentrate on sport as much as we would have liked during the year; however, in the circumstances, our sporting achievements have been very good indeed. We hope to shine in sport next year when we will be more available to take part in the various competitions.

Twice this year we have enjoyed visits by overseas companies. A Company of the 3rd Battalion, The Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and a company from the 2nd / 1st Battalion, The Royal New Zealand Regiment. Both companies were composed of fine men and we enjoyed their professional contributions and their mateship.

Throughout the year we have received the unselfish and unstinting support of the wives, families and friends of the 8/9th. Their support has been a great help to us through this very busy training year and we are grateful to them all.

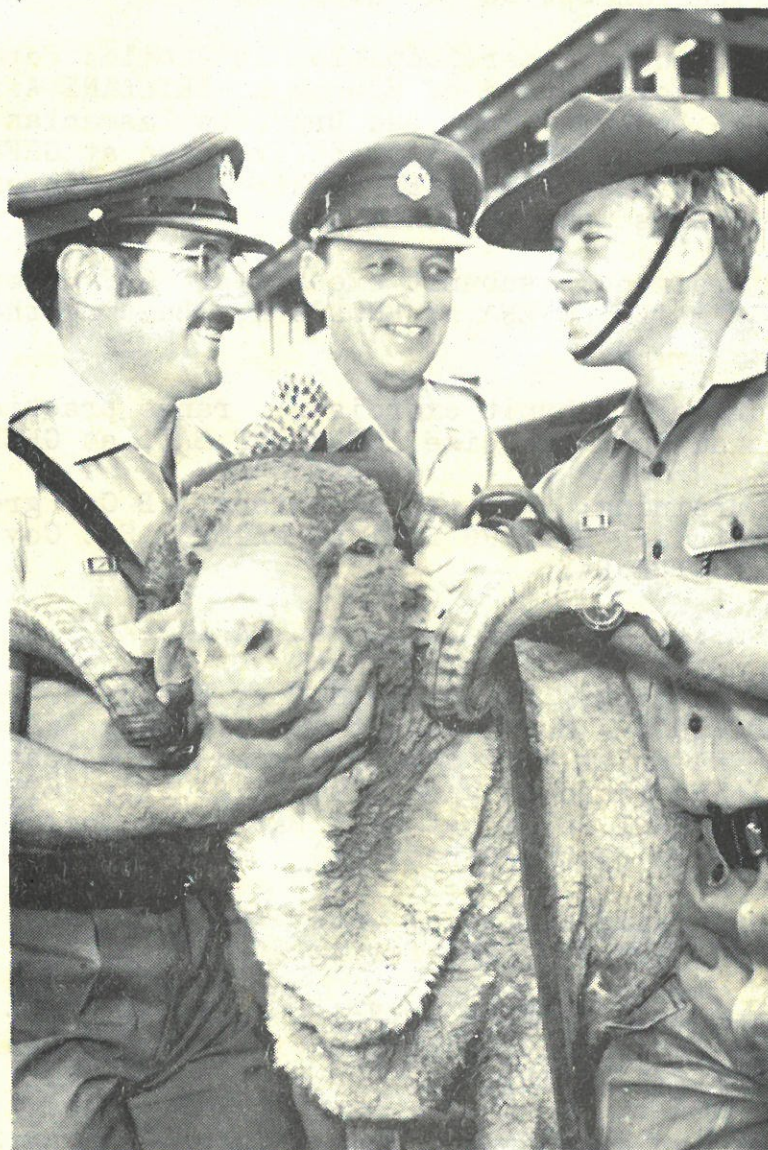
Finally, well done on a first-class performance throughout the year, enjoy your leave and drive safely - 8/9 RAR wants you back next year!

My very best wishes for the festive season.

Terry Holland

(T.H. Holland)
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer

the MASCOT



Rear row (L to R): CAPT James, Adjutant
Jan to Jul 77; WO1 Cowan, RSM;
PTE Franklin, Mascot Handler .

Front row: LCPL John Macarthur, Mascot.

THE ACTIVITIES OF 77

Jan commencement of work 24 Jan

Feb subunit training; subunit exercises; range practices; live-firing for Spt Coy at WIDE BAY

Mar subunit training; participation in Jubilee Parade in CANBERRA; Royal Guard of Honour at BRISBANE Airport for HM the Queen; Pipes and Drums to Tasmanian Military Tattoo; HQ Deployment Exercise at GREENBANK; Command Post Exercise at ENOGGERA; Winter Inter Company Sports Competition

Apr subunit training; subunit exercises; 6TF Command Post Exercise 'MAIDEN OVER' at ENOGGERA; Beating the Retreat Ceremony

May unit courses; subunit exercises; range practices; 6TF Command Post Exercise 'STRAIGHT BAT' at GREENBANK

Jun subunit training; subunit exercises; B Coy group to 6 RAR Exercise 'BURRING BAR' as enemy; Spt Coy live-firing at WIDE BAY

Jul unit exercise 'SPARTAN SWORD' at BARAKULA

Aug subunit training; 6TF Command Post Exercise 'HAT TRICK' at GOONDIWINDI - MOREE; unit APC Training Exercise 'TROJAN TRACK' at WIDE BAY (included participation by the visiting Canadian group from 3 PPCLI); 6TF exercise 'MISTY POINT' at WIDE BAY (also included participation by the Canadians)

Sep subunit training including watermanship; range practices; Spt Coy live-firing at WIDE BAY

Oct 1 Div Exercise 'BRAHMAN DRIVE' at CHARLEVILLE - QUILPIE (included participation by the visiting New Zealand group from 2/1 RNZIR)

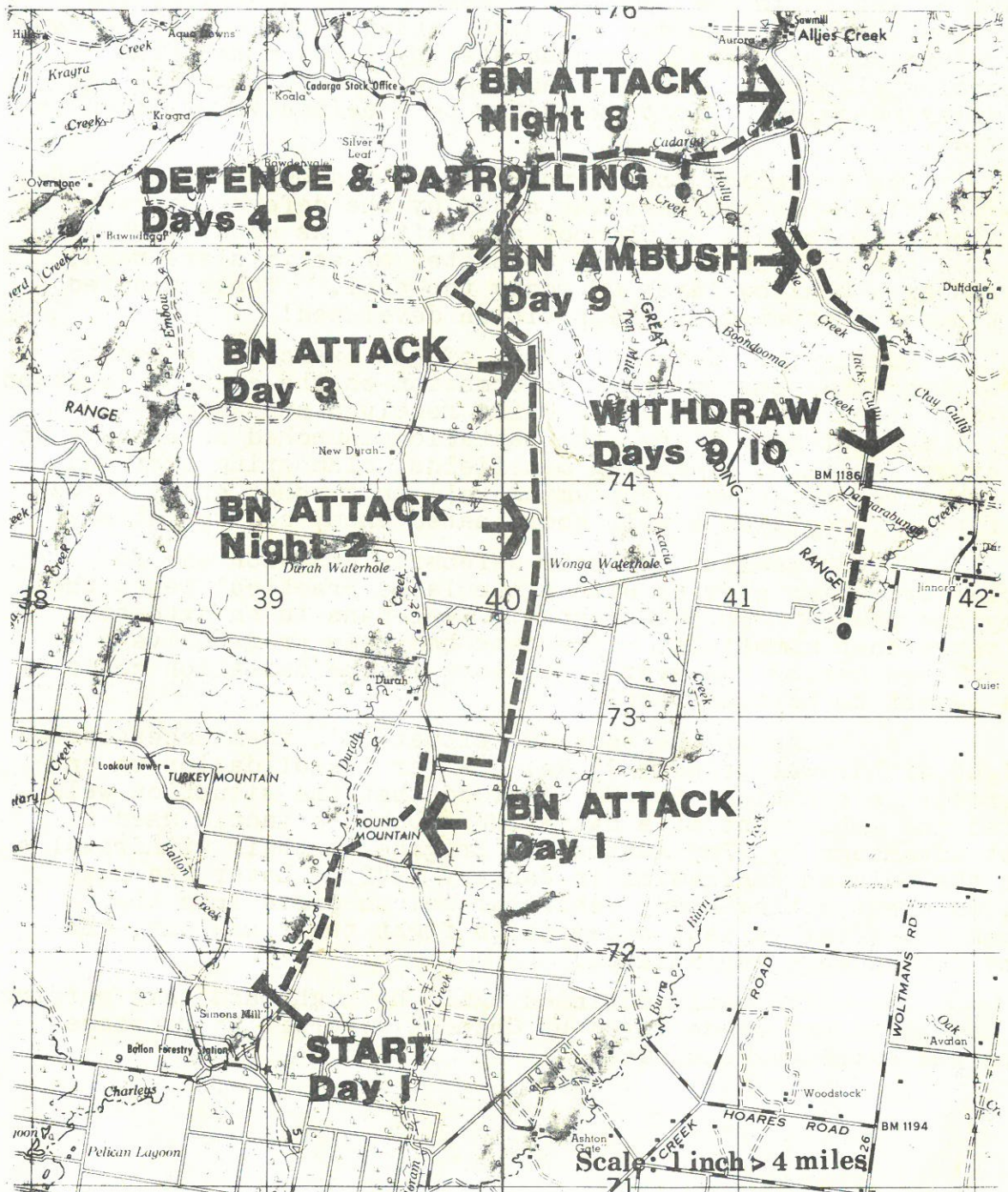
Nov post exercise standdown; Summer Inter Company Sports Competition; Swimming Carnival; Battalion Parade including Presentation of Pipe Banners and Adoption of the Battalion March

Dec Jubilee Celebration March through BRISBANE; end of year festivities; commencement of Xmas leave 12 Dec

MAJOR EXERCISES



"SPARTAN SWORD"



NOTES...

This, the unit exercise, was conducted in the BARAKULA and BALLON State Forests, some 30 miles north of CHINCHILLA, in the period 11 to 25 July. Conditions were rather harsh; dust enveloped men and vehicles and penetrated clothing and equipment; temperatures ranged from the mid twenties to -5°C (the coldest recorded in 6 years!) and balaclavas and greatcoats became standard night attire for those fortunate enough not to be 'on duty'.

The exercise practised and tested participants in the advance, the attack, the defence, patrolling and the withdrawal phases of war. In the 'advance' phase of the exercise, the battalion launched both day and night attacks against the dreaded Orangeland Forces (kindly impersonated by B Coy 6 RAR plus supporting elements), finally causing the enemy to desist with his delaying defence and to withdraw to a defensive position to the rear.

The battalion then moved forward and occupied a defensive position - development was aided by the defence stores being brought forward by Chinook aircraft. As usually seems the way, the position selected consisted of solid slate rock, covered by a shallow layer of rocky top-soil. Tools blunted but tongues sharpened as the position developed!

During the 'defence' phase of the exercise, a hectic patrol programme ensured that information on the enemy's location and activities was continually being received and assessed. After 4 days of patrolling, the battalion launched an assault on the enemy position, breaching minefields, clambering over and through wire obstacles, overcoming well entrenched enemy forces and finally, repelled a well coordinated enemy counter attack!

To add realism to their defensive position and to provide breaching parties with a simulated practical test, the enemy had placed over 3000 (empty!) beer-cans in an extensive 300 metre deep minefield. The cans had been progressively accumulated during the year - soldiers in the battalion could at last revert to bottled beer!

'A change in the tactical situation', then necessitated a night withdrawal of some 15 km. After consolidation on an intermediate position, the CO decided that the situation well suited the employment of a battalion ambush, a tactic used to great advantage by 22nd Australian Brigade in their withdrawal down the Malayan Peninsular in January 1942. Later the next day, an unsuspecting enemy vehicular column drove into the ambush and after valiant attempts to fight their way out, the enemy forces were annihilated.

The withdrawal continued again by night and next morning, the battalion was re-deployed by Chinook aircraft to Brisbane where the exercise concluded.



" ... I'll tell yer what, if the CO finds out that Henley is using us to dig for opals, I reckon there'll be hell to pay! "



"I still reckon that it's a bit rough ... the rest of the platoon all goin' to the dance and leaving us with the whole b..... perimeter!"

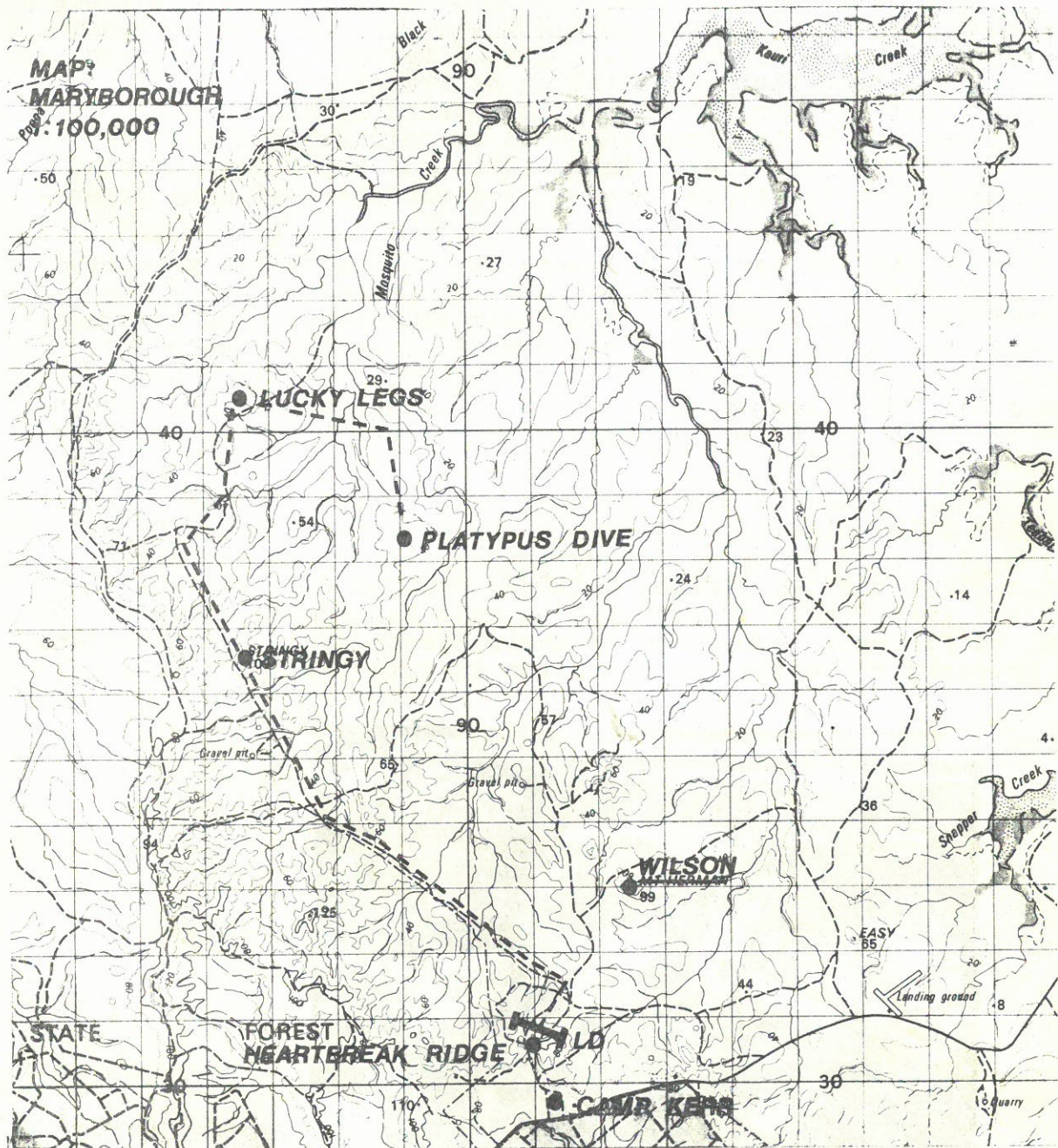


"Well done, fellas! That should keep the CO and his
b..... visitors out! "



"A bit more to the left this time, skipper - you only
squashed 2 of them that time ... wait, that one with the
radio is still moving a bit too ... "

"TROJAN TRACK"



NOTES...

This exercise was conducted by the unit in the WIDE BAY Training Area in the period 17 to 22 Aug. The exercise was designed to practise the Unit in a mounted role - A Sqn 4 Cav Regt provided the "tracks".

The first two days were devoted to company level training, progressing from basic mount and dismount drills to quick

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attacks. After training on both these days, the companies returned to the echelon area at CAMP KERR to avail themselves of the facilities of the canteen and to enjoy two most appropriate movies - on the first night, 'ROLLERBALL' illustrated an advanced aspect of attack and defence and on the second night, 'PATTON' explained principles of the advance.

The next day, the battalion practised a mounted advance from HEARTBREAK RIDGE towards STRINGY - opposition was provided by mounted elements of Spt Coy. That afternoon, the Canadian company group from the 3rd Battalion of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3 PPCLI), commanded by MAJ Gordon MANNING, arrived by bus from ENOGERA to join 8/9 RAR for the remainder of the exercise. That night, the battalion welcomed the Canadians at the field 'boozer' and the start of many friendships began.

On the 4th day of the exercise, the battalion practised mounted company area ambushes, whilst the Canadians spent the day familiarizing themselves with their APC troop. On the last two days, the battalion, with the Canadians employed as D Coy, resumed their previous advance from STRINGY, practising both company and battalion quick attacks. The battalion then returned to ENOGERA for a days standdown and preparation for the 6 TF Exercise MISTY POINT.

The Canadians spent the two days between TROJAN TRACK and MISTY POINT visiting the scenic attractions of the WIDE BAY area, hosted by a group of "incorrigibles" from the battalion. The Canadians visited GYMPIE, NAMBOUR, TIN CAN BAY, RAINBOW BEACH and purportedly "discovered" a nude bathing beach near NOOSA. Sufficiently exhausted by their "rest" days, the Canadians then prepared to rejoin the battalion in situ for MISTY POINT.



"Hurry up, you guys! The sarge says the boozers been open for 10 minutes!"

* Photograph by courtesy of 1 MD Public Relations

NOTES ...

This exercise was conducted by 6 TF in the WIDE BAY Training Area from 24 Aug to 2 Sep. In the exercise, 8/9 RAR practised extensive patrolling, a battalion deliberate attack and participated in a task force deliberate attack.

After returning to the training area from standdown following TROJAN TRACK, 8/9 RAR occupied a defensive position north of the TIN CAN BAY Road in the vicinity of SAPPER. From here, the battalion patrolled northwards and gathered information on an enemy company suspected to be occupying a defensive position on MARILYN.

The majority of the patrols were moved to the vicinity of their patrol base by APCs (from A Sqn 4 Cav Regt) - they then conducted close reconnaissance of the position on foot. During this time, members of the Recon/Survl Pl conducted medium range reconnaissance patrols to the north of the position, reporting on enemy movements rearwards from the enemy position.

On the afternoon of the second day, 8/9 RAR launched a deliberate attack on MARILYN from the east, with fire support from the battalion's organic fire support weapons being provided from GRANT to the south. APCs carried the assaulting forces to within 250 metres of the enemy position, whereupon the infantry dismounted and assaulted in traditional formations, spurred on by the stirring tunes from the company pipers.

The position had been skilfully prepared by the enemy forces (from 2/4 RAR) and "sangars" rather than weapon pits predominated on the stony ground.

The following day, 8/9 RAR moved northwards to consolidate on a new defensive position, nicknamed "FAT ALBERT". 6 RAR meanwhile, had launched a successful attack against a company position to the west - incoming reports indicated that both company positions had been supporting a main battalion defensive position some 6 km north and accordingly, patrols were dispatched to gain information on this position.

As the information from patrols and air reconnaissance was collated, it became clear that the enemy considered an approach from the SW likely, for in this area he had constructed an extensive minefield across his front. To the east, the LITTLE KAURI CREEK provided a formidable obstacle to both infantry and armour and the locating of crossing points became an important task for 8/9 RAR patrols. Patrols from Recon/Survl Pl conducted close reconnaissance of the enemy position - one of the patrol members spent an uncomfortable but informative ½ hour hidden 2 metres from an enemy sentry!

On the morning of day 7, the TF Commander issued his orders for a TF deliberate attack on the position. 8/9 RAR was to capture the southern half of the position by attacking from the south; engineers from 2 FER were then to breach the minefield to the SW, thus allowing 6 RAR to move through the minefield, conduct a "passage of lines" through 8/9 RAR and then assault northwards to clear the remainder of the position.

8/9 RAR's dismounted assault that afternoon was successful although casualties in the final stages were heavy, with the left assault company being reduced to platoon strength. After

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consolidation by 8/9 RAR, the engineers began their breach of the minefield and by midnight, the way was clear for 6 RAR to begin their "passage of lines". This phase of the attack went extremely well although both units were thankful that the TF Commander had "chanced" upon a full moon for his attack. 6 RAR's H hour was 0300 hours and as their assaulting forces crossed the line of departure, the stirring (and totally unexpected) sound of the 8/9 RAR Pipes filled the misty morn with their rendition of the newly accepted "Brown and Grey Lanyard".

By dawn, the position had been secured. After consolidation, the exercise concluded and participants returned to their concentration areas in preparation for the return to their units. The exercise both practised and tested 8/9 RAR and proved a valuable lead up to the Divisional Exercise, 'BRAHMAN DRIVE'.



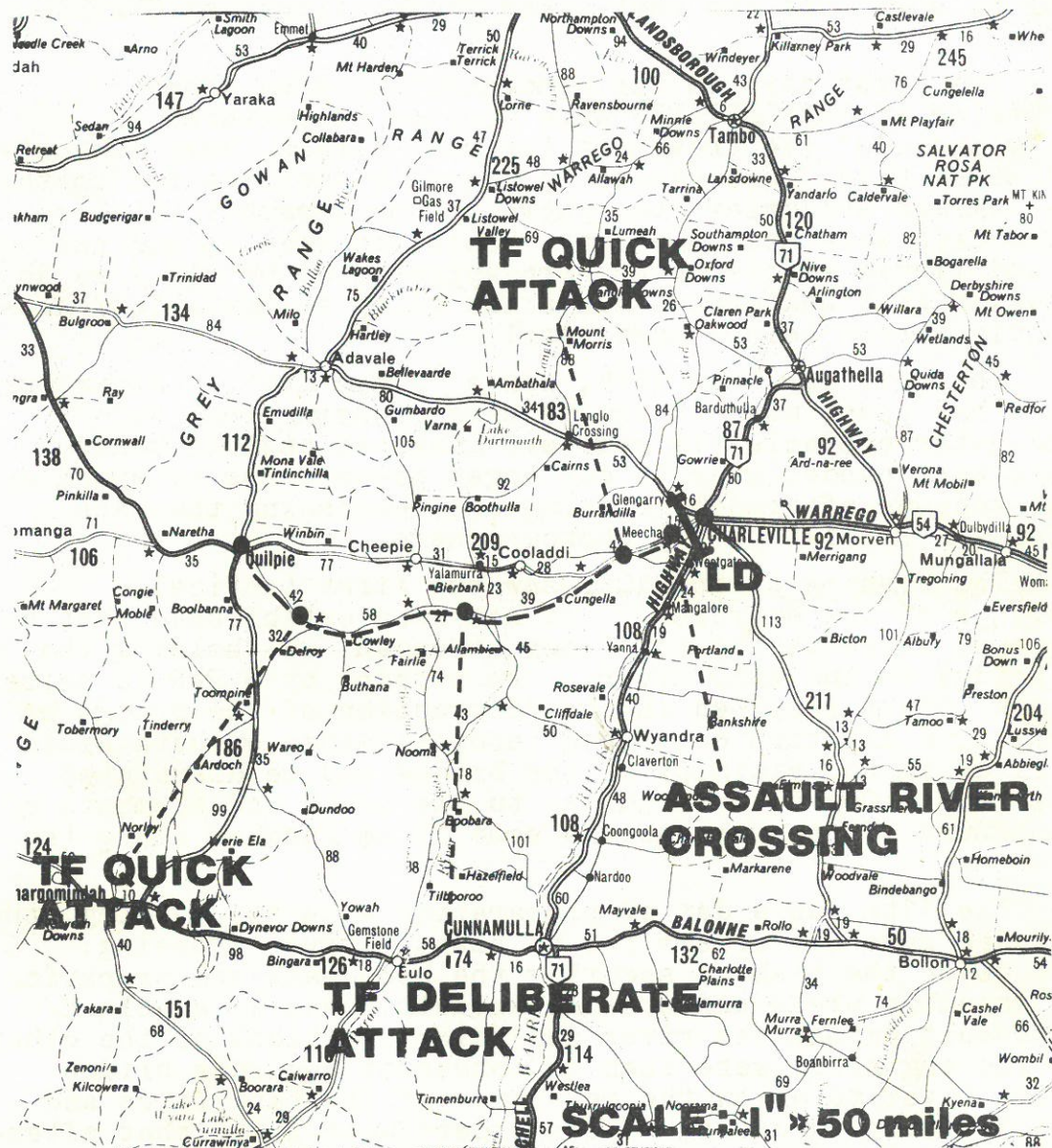


"I think the RSM said the parade ground is just through here ... "



"It's not too bad being 'killed' - digging yer own grave is the hardest part!"

"BRAHMAN DRIVE"



NOTES...

BRAHMAN DRIVE, the long awaited culmination of the year's training, was conducted by 1 Div between CHARLEVILLE and QUILPIE during the period 8 - 25 Oct. Although it was a divisional exercise, 6TF was the only participating formation. The scenario depicted 1 Div being required to advance from CHARLEVILLE to QUILPIE with the advance being opposed by an enemy battalion.

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Our road party left BRISBANE on 6 Oct for the two day drive to CHARLEVILLE. They over-nighted at MILES and members of the party were fortunate in being allowed to sample the "night-life" of this friendly township. The main body flew to the exercise area on Sat 8 and Sun 9 Oct, with some elements being delayed until the Monday. The Hercules flight to QUILPIE was generally uneventful; those who flew by Caribou from QUILPIE to CHARLEVILLE at 300 feet however, were not overly impressed with the RAAF and most passengers were extremely grateful to step onto the dust-caked "terra firma" at CHARLEVILLE!

The first days in the concentration area (some 15 miles outside of CHARLEVILLE) were devoted to lectures on "locality hazards" (ie treatment for heat stroke, heat exhaustion and snake-bite!) and generally becoming acclimatized to the somewhat warmer and drier atmosphere. The evenings of these first few days were most pleasant; both the weather and the movies and liquid refreshments were appreciated by all - we do hear however that Regimental Funds are going to buy a "wrinkle-free" movie screen before next year!

The next day, the 10th, was a "press day". After our companies had spent most of the morning crossing real and imagined water obstacles in real and imagined assault boats, the Kiwis were handed over to our eager press corps to spend a somewhat tedious afternoon crossing and recrossing the WARD River for the benefit of the photographers.

The evening of the 10th saw the first tactical manoeuvrings of the exercise. It had been established that an enemy group, suspected to be of coy strength, was holding the MEECHA Bridge on the WARD River. An attempt by 6 RAR to seize the bridge intact resulted in the destruction of the bridge by the enemy. 6 RAR then commenced reconnaissance of both sides of the river in the vicinity of the bridge and we dispatched elements from A Coy to reconnoitre to the north and elements of the Recon/Survl Pl to reconnoitre some 25 km further along the axis.

The 11th was a day of preparation - in the morning, the TF Commander gave his orders for an assault river crossing. 6 RAR were given the task of securing the home bank and preparing routes, assembly areas and crewing assault boats to enable 8/9 RAR to assault across the river and seize positions on the other side. The engineers were then to construct a girder bridge across the river to allow the remainder of the task force and then the division to cross. CO's orders were later that afternoon and moves forward to the home bank began near last light.

The assault crossing commenced at 2130 hours and was something of an anti-climax to many of the soldiers. We had practised the techniques of the crossing so many times that things went as smoothly as rehearsed and the expected problems simply did not occur. In the north, B Coy crossed successfully, struck no opposition and seized and held their designated objective. In the south, D Coy (the Kiwis) also crossed successfully and turned south to seize their objective. Strong opposition in this area held the Kiwis from their objective for some time, but after a series of well coordinated assaults, the objective was seized with minimal casualties. The other two coys then crossed the river and exploited to their designated objectives, with C Coy moving to a position some 4 km down the axis. Shortly after midnight, the engineers were able to commence the construction of their girder bridge.

With the completion of the bridge in the early hours, the battalion's F Echelon vehicles crossed and consolidated on the position. At first light, enemy A4 Skyhawk aircraft attacked our position and destroyed a bridge to the east of the river, thus prohibiting vehicular movement out of the bridge-head. Whilst the engineers commenced construction of a second bridge, we commenced the advance on foot. As soon as the bridge was completed, we consolidated and 6 RAR took over the advance mounted in APCs.

The next 7 days were characterized by alternating periods of intense activity with "Rommel" dashes forward by APCs and by long periods of inactivity as other units moved forward or resumed the advance. After 6 RAR resumed the advance on the 12th, they struck minor opposition in the early afternoon but towards evening, their forward elements came against what appeared to be a reinforced enemy coy group in defence near MAYFIELD. That night, their patrols reconnoitred the position and at daybreak, the TF Commander met with the CO 6 RAR to discuss the information gained from the patrols.

After assessing the enemy dispositions, the TF Commander gave his orders for a coordinated quick attack upon the position; 6 RAR was to remain in its present position in contact with the enemy while 8/9 RAR conducted a mounted attack from the rear, after an enveloping movement to the south. The attack progressed well until a grass fire on the enemy position "stopped the war" for an hour! After this short break, the assault continued but the enemy had withdrawn before our forces could close and all that was left was to be subjected to a Skyhawk attack for 10 minutes!

Shortly after midday we resumed the advance and rapidly passed BOIN and the junction with the new Development Road to QUILPIE. Just short of WEANER Creek, our forward elements were fired upon by an RCL and we suffered minor casualties in what the umpires alleged was a successful enemy APC ambush! Moving forward again, our forward elements struck what appeared to be a coy size group in a defensive position astride the road. After reconnaissance, it appeared that the enemy forces had withdrawn after the initial contact. Accordingly, the CO coordinated the movement of the two forward coys to clear through the position and as suspected, the enemy had withdrawn. The battalion then moved forward another 5 km and consolidated for the night of the 13th near the axis north of CUNGELLA. Elements of the Recon/Survl Platoon had been operating in this area for 3 days and had been able to report on enemy dispositions and movement in the vicinity of WEANER Creek as we approached the enemy position. As the enemy withdrew, the recon elements were able to call down artillery fire on the fleeing enemy and would have initiated considerable casualties and losses to vehicles and equipment.

The next day was one of dust, more dust, slow movement and long periods of inactivity, as 6 RAR resumed the advance and 8/9 RAR "caterpillared" by TCV in their wake. Communications at this stage were somewhat erratic and TF found it difficult to keep abreast of developments forward and thus coordinate the movement of the following units. 6 RAR struck light opposition during the initial stage of their advance but near the PAROO River at YARRONVALE, opposition intensified and by late afternoon, the advance had been halted by enemy occupying the high ground west of the hamlet. We then moved forward and consolidated near the COOLADDI Creek, intending to resume the advance once 6 RAR had cleared the enemy from YARRONVALE in the morning.

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The early clearance of YARRONVALE did not eventuate, as independent mobile groups of enemy frustrated 6 RAR's attempts to clear the axis until nearly midday. 8/9 RAR at this stage, after 1½ days of inactivity, were "rarin' to go" and once given the advance, "bounded forward"! Once clear of YARRONVALE however, it became obvious that we were approaching a sizeable enemy defensive position, as almost immediately our forward elements came under medium artillery fire and strafing runs from the Skyhawks. Once clear of these harrassments, the forward elements were then fired upon by RCL/RPGs operating from APCs - after contact the enemy quickly withdrew to a successive delaying position to repeat the tactic. Having struck similar tactics in the early days of the advance, the CO had instructed his coy commanders that future occurrences of this tactic would be dealt with by an enveloping movement by an uncommitted subunit, upon his issue of the nickname "DRY GRASS". As the enemy attempted to repeat the tactic, the CO "DRY GRASS-ED" D Coy (-) to the north while C Coy inserted ambushes astride the axis. In the ensuing fracas, 8/9 RAR destroyed 7 enemy APCs and crews for nil own casualties - morale was high on that afternoon!

The advance continued only a short way after this most successful action before striking the perimeter of an obviously large scale defensive position. Minefields and wire extended across the front of the position astride the road and whilst the forward coys reconnoitred the fronts & flanks, the remainder of the battalion consolidated some 3 km back from the position. Elements of the Recon/Survl Platoon had also been deployed into this area several days before the advance arrived and were able to provide detailed information on dispositions, obstacles, movements and behavioural patterns of the enemy forces. As the information was collated, it became obvious that the position was defended by an enemy battalion size group and would require a carefully planned assault by the TF.

On the morning of the 16th, the TF Commander designated patrol zones for the battalions and for the following 24 hours, patrols reconnoitred the enemy position. Mid morning on the 17th, the TF Commander gave his orders for the attack to be mounted that evening; in Phase 1, the engineers were to breach the 100 metre deep minefield to the east of the position; in Phase 2, 8/9 RAR was to assault through the breach and seize the forward enemy positions and in Phase 3, 6 RAR, after a mounted flanking movement to the south, was to assault northwards and seize the depth positions. The CO's orders were given at 1430 hrs that afternoon; H hour was to be 2300 hours; B Coy was tasked to secure the FUP; A Coy to be left assault coy; D Coy right assault coy and B Coy and C Coy were in reserve.

The breaching of the minefield and the commencement of the attack went as planned and A Coy and D Coy quickly moved into contact with well-entrenched enemy forces. Numerous "skirmishes" developed as our assaulting troops contacted enemy strongpoints and it was only after a number of well coordinated assaults that the initial objectives were secured. Once these were secured, our reserve coys were sent forward and 6 RAR also commenced their phase of the attack. "Some" confusion crept into the battle at this stage, as the assaulting forces from 6 RAR came perilously close to our forward elements. Large numbers of enemy PWs, "misplaced" friendly APCs and enemy minefields and wire obstacles further hindered on orderly consolidation! Just before dawn, D Coy were dispatched to the NW to deal with an enemy platoon size group who had previously been bypassed. As they began their assault, the exercise was

stopped to allow the enemy forces to regroup and move to their next position. Until midday, the exercise then became "semi non-tactical", with our troops filling in the enemy weapon pits, centralizing their defence stores, receiving a welcome resupply and snatching a brief rest.

In the early afternoon, 6 RAR resumed the advance. Both battalions were now mounted and the TF Commander planned a rapid advance to QUILPIE by the fighting elements of the TF. Most of A Echelon and certain F Echelon vehicles thus remained to move at a pace coordinated by HQ 4 Cav Regt. D Coy were placed on standby to move as an air-mobile reserve. With the TF attack behind us and the days of the exercise becoming numbered, the pace of the advance seemed to quicken appreciably. By late afternoon, 6 RAR had advanced 30 km but then struck heavy opposition from a defensive position 10 km east of COWLEY. D Coy were inserted to the south as a picqueting force on the BUTHANA access road and 6 RAR then launched a successful quick battalion attack. We then resumed the advance but were halted for the night some 5 km ahead of 6 RAR.

Elements of the Recon/Survl Platoon had meanwhile been air inserted to the vicinity of WOBAN'S CORNER and were now reporting the presence of enemy battalion (-) position astride the axis. The next morning, the 19th, we rapidly advanced the 20 km towards WOBAN'S CORNER, consolidating short of the enemy position. As our forward elements conducted mounted reconnaissance, the TF Commander moved forward to assess the situation. After an air reconnaissance, the TF Commander issued orders for a quick TF attack to be launched at 1430 hours; both battalions were to assault from the north, 6 RAR on the left flank, 8/9 RAR on the right; both battalions mounted and to assault with two coys up.

As the battalions moved into the FUP, enemy field artillery onto our position indicated that the enemy was well aware of our intentions. Being "closed down" for the commencement of the assault did not make navigation easy and control in the assault became most difficult. Our forward coys became somewhat separated and C Coy on the right suffered heavy casualties from a well entrenched enemy on the high ground of the position. In a coordinated movement, B Coy then dismounted and assaulted through the enemy position from the west, while the remnants of C Coy provided fire support from the north. As A Coy on the left prepared to clear to the south of the axis, the exercise was stopped to again allow the enemy to regroup and withdraw. A subunit of D Coy had previously moved into an ambush position astride the axis to the west of the position and stated that 30 TCVs of enemy moving non-tactically down the road past their ambush made great targets! As the coys consolidated on the position for the night, rumours were rife as to how many more contacts we would face/how much longer the exercise would last.

Early next morning 6 RAR resumed the advance and encountered light opposition which was quickly overcome. At about 1030 hours, the TF Commander informed the CO that the exercise was finished. The CO then handed over to his "Military adviser", who began his briefing on the battalion command net with, "This is BRONZY....". LCPL Watson then announced that the exercise was finished, ordered that the battalion should meet for drinks ASAP and instructed MAJ Thompson, the Ops Officer, to get the battalion to its concentration area at "best infantry speed"!

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After some delay caused by traffic congestion, we moved to an area east of QUILPIE and prepared to wait for the journey home. Over the next 1/2/3/4 or 5 days, elements of the battalion sun-baked/ate fresh rations/drunk beer/went on local leave to QUILPIE/tried to play sport/rested/grumbled about the b..... transport system/flew home/drove home (delete days and activities as appropriate!).

After returning to ENOGERA, the rest of the week was devoted to post exercise administration and practice for the Summer Sports Competition, before taking the following week as a well earned standdown.



Without a doubt, the thing that is remembered most about Brahman Drive is the dust - the red, swirling, choking, powdery, b..... dust

Photograph by courtesy of 1 MD Public Relations



"Surely one of you blokes must of heard of 'leg wrestling'-
I'm really having problems getting a challenger from your
company, Major Kiwi ... "



"See Dave, I told you not to tell everyone in the pub about
the new fishing spot we found!"

VISITORS

The following were some of the visitors to the Battalion during 1977:

15 Mar	Farewell visit by Commander 1 Division MAJ GEN B.A. McDonald.
23 Mar	LT GEN A.L. MacDonald Chief of the General Staff.
28 Mar	BRIG J.A. Hooper Director of Personnel Operations.
5 May	MAJ GEN P.H. Bennett Commander 1 Division.
16 May	Royal Military College 4th Class Cadets.
19 May	COL A.W. Campbell Director of Infantry.
1 Jun	LT GEN D.B. Dunstan Chief of the General Staff.
20 Aug- 21 Sep	Company group from A Company 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.
22 Aug	MAJ GEN J.P.R. La Rose Chief of Land Doctrine and Operations and BRIG GEN J.A.R. Gutnecht Chief of Staff of Operations Canadian Army.
29 Aug	BRIG A.W.F. Rofe Commander 3 Task Force (visited during Misty Point).
23 Sep- 27 Oct	Company group from D Company 2nd / 1st Battalion, the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.
29 Sep	COL R.K.G. Porter Departmental Head New Zealand Defence Staff Canberra.
20 Oct	GEN A.L. MacDonald Chief of the Defence Force Staffs (visited during Brahman Drive).
20 Oct	LT GEN D.B. Dunstan Chief of the General Staff (also during Brahman Drive).

the CANADIANS

The Canadian company group from A Coy of the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3 PPCLI), commanded by MAJ Gordon Manning, arrived at ENOGERA on 20 Aug. They had just spent a number of days at CANUNGRA and we suspected that they were glad to get away! After a hasty issue of stores, the Canadians were "bussed" to WIDE BAY to join the Battalion for Exercise TROJAN TRACK. Their exploits on both TROJAN TRACK and MISTY POINT are described in the exercises segment.

After their return to ENOGERA from MISTY POINT, the Canadians were scheduled for a 2 week "visits" programme - this certainly must have been one of the highlights of their tour. Groups visited SYDNEY, ADELAIDE and PERTH, whilst others

"savoured" the closer delights of the GOLD COAST and BRISBANE itself. All the soldiers were full of praise for the Australian scene upon their return to ENOGGERA; those who went to SYDNEY were especially impressed with the bridge, the house, the town, the beaches and the birds!

The Canadians regrouped in time to give us a "hiding" in the Military Skills Competition conducted on 19 Sep (described separately in the magazine). That afternoon, a farewell BBQ was held and we were appreciative of the drinks provided by the Canadians! The Canadians departed on 21 Sep - both of us have surely benefitted professionally by the visit and many friendships have resulted. We wish them well for the future.



"Some-one told me that kangaroos had legs ... "

Photograph by courtesy of 1 MD Public Relations



"Hello, is that you boss? ... I've got this little Aussie guy here who reckons that he's on our side - how do you tell the 'goodies' from the 'baddies' ?"

Photograph by courtesy of 1 MD Public Relations



"Hey, hang on a minute ... that looks like rust on the gas plug ... "

the KIWIS

The New Zealand company group from D Coy of the 2nd/1st Battalion, the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (2/1 RNZIR), commanded by MAJ Alby Kiwi, visited us in the period 23 Sep - 27 Oct.

In their first two weeks, the Kiwis conducted familiarization and acclimatization training in the local training areas and also took the opportunity to visit the GOLD COAST and scenic attractions of the BRISBANE area. Fortunately for us, we managed to elude their challenge to a "friendly" game of rugby - their smallest player would surely have just fitted between the goal posts! Mumbling something about "we'd hate to have people injured and miss out on the exercise....", we offered to "perhaps have a game in the concentration area after the exercise....".

The Kiwis participated "with vigour" in Exercise Brahman Drive from 6 - 24 Oct at CHARLEVILLE - QUILPIE. They worked extremely well with the battalion and apart from causing problems when mounted (you can't fit 10 Kiwis in an APC!), played the part of D Coy 8/9 RAR to perfection!

We were indeed sorry to see the Kiwis leave us on 27 Oct - at the farewell BBQ held on the afternoon of the 25th, one felt that a real bond of comradeship had been established - we look forward to working with "Kiwi and his Kiwis" again!

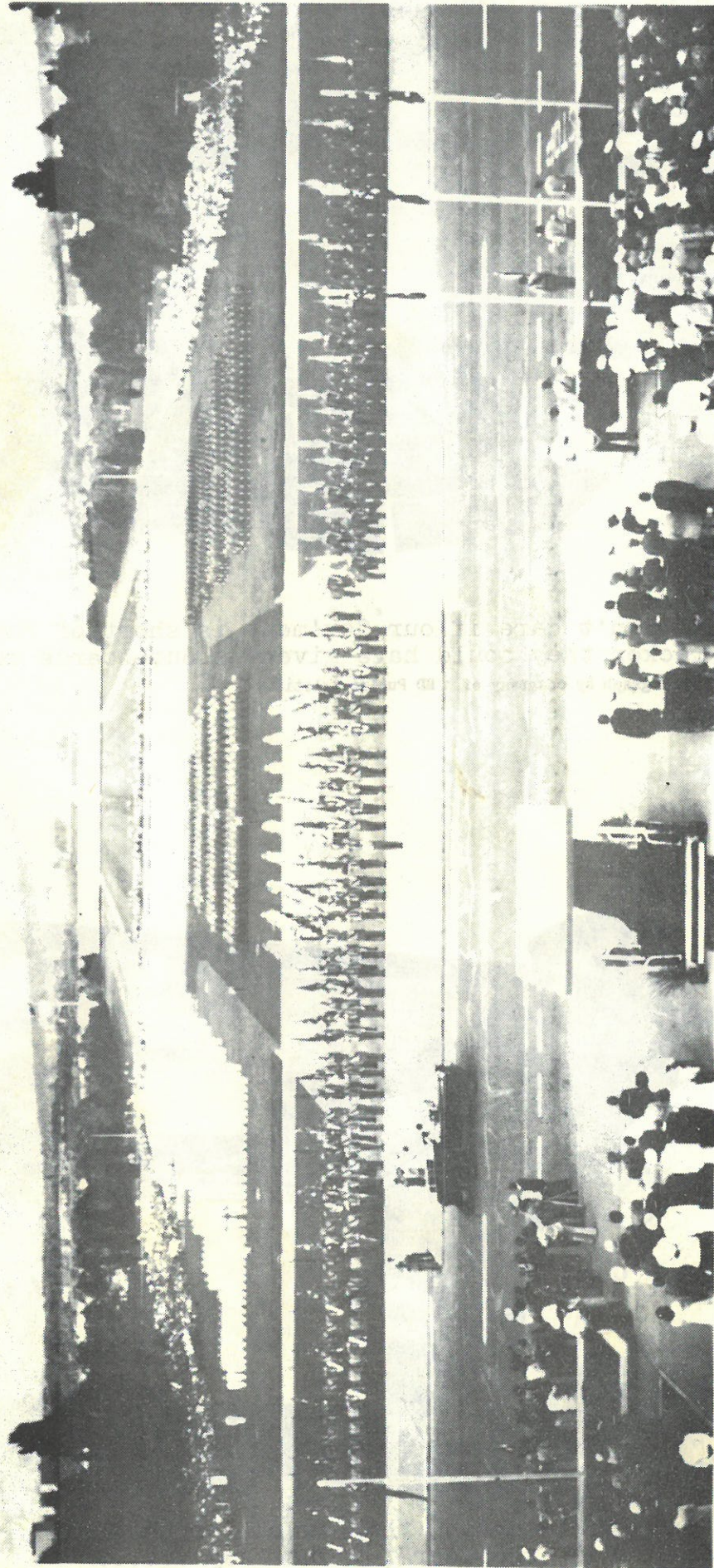


"I don't care if our Gov'ment is short of funds, I still reckon they could have given us out-boards to get home with!"

Photograph by courtesy of 1 MD Public Relations



"And in presenting this award for the "Best Paddlers and Pullers of the Year", I must say "



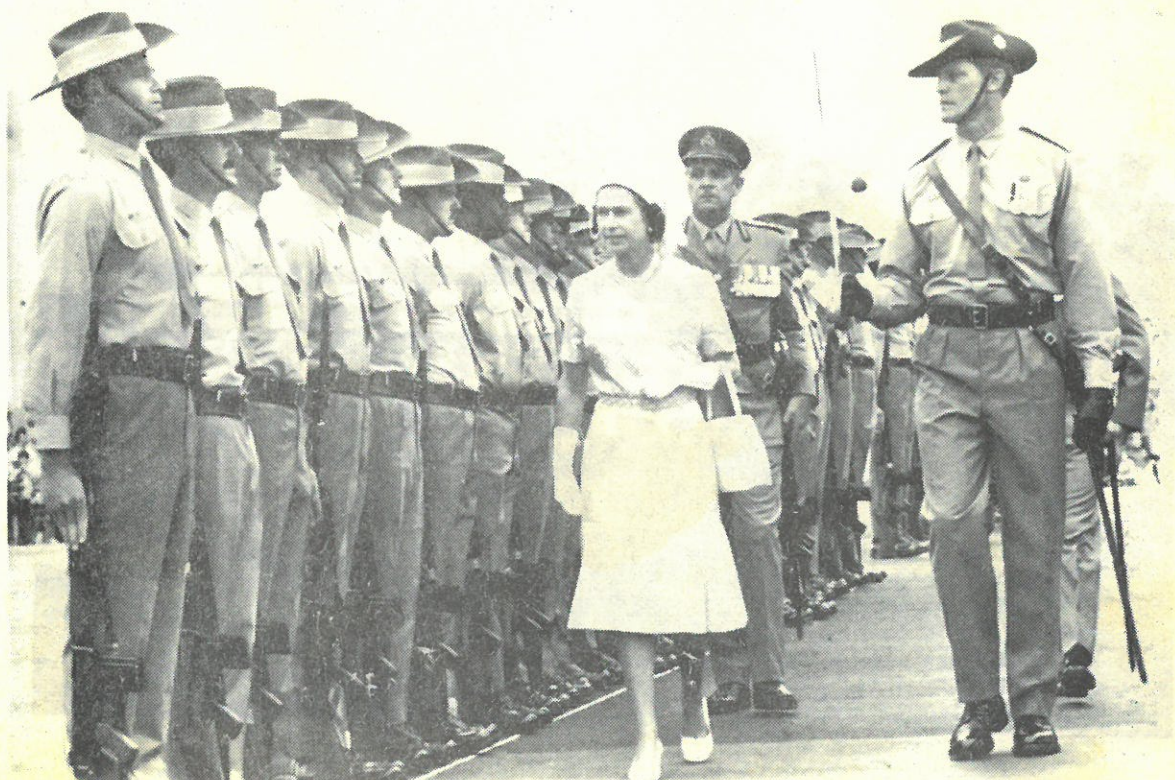
The Unit Colours were included in the Jubilee Parade held in Canberra on 8 March. The Parade was reviewed by Her Majesty the Queen.

Photograph by courtesy of 1 MD Public Relations

CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES



A Coy participated in a Commemorative Service at Surfers Paradise in February. The Service commemorates those members of A Coy 8 RAR killed in a mine incident in the Long Hai hills of South Vietnam in February 1970. SSGT Washington is shown placing a wreath upon the memorial.



The Unit provided a Royal Guard of Honour for HM the Queen at Brisbane Airport on 9 March. The Guard Commander, MAJ David Webster, is shown accompanying Her Majesty on an inspection of the Guard.

Photograph by courtesy of 1 MD Public Relations



MAJ GEN B.A. McDonald, the 'out-going' Divisional Commander, conducted a farewell visit to units of his command in March. During his inspection of the Quarter Guard provided by Spt Coy, he stopped to talk to CPL Weatherall of Anti Armour Platoon.



A Beating the Retreat Ceremony was conducted in April. The Parade was reviewed by the new Divisional Commander, MAJ GEN P.H. Bennett.

SPORT

1977 has produced "mixed fortunes" in the sporting fields. Unfortunately the Battalion's exercise commitments did not permit maximum participation in outside sports programmes. Nevertheless, the Battalion was able to field teams in most inter unit competitions. The results were understandably not as spectacular as we would have liked. The results do not in any way reflect the efforts of those who did participate. Well done Sportsmen!

The teams to achieve the most success in outside competitions were the Soccer Team, who were Premiers and Knock Out Round champions and the Hockey Team who were defeated 1-0 in a very closely contested final with 6 RAR. Congratulations to those teams!

Special mention to the following sportsmen who were selected for inter service competition this year:

LT John Robbs	- Water Polo	- Inter service
SGT Ron Briais	- Rugby Union	- Aust comb services
CFN Greg Roberts	- Rugby Union	- Aust comb services
CPL Ray Mawhinney	- Soccer	- Inter service
PTE Noel Shipley	- Soccer	- Inter service
PTE Peter Law	- Soccer	- Inter service
CPL Mick Humphreys	- Hockey	- Inter service
CPL Jeff Hallam	- Tennis	- Inter service
CPL Barry Smelt	- Tennis	- Inter service

At the end of this year, the Battalion loses SGT Chris Butler. He has worked very well for the Unit both as a sportsman and as a Physical Training Instructor. We wish him well in his new posting and hope to see him back in the Battalion in the near future.

Already plans are underway for 1978 sports competitions. Let us make sure we get along to the training sessions. I am sure we will be able to again produce good results from our capable sportsmen!



SOCCER

Under the coaching and guidance of Team Captain PTE "Jock" Mitchell and Vice Captain CPL "Wombat" Mawhinney, the 8/9 RAR Soccer Team once again brought home the "Saint Barbara's Challenge Cup", for the Northern Comd Competition and the "John Caruthers' Memorial Trophy", for the "Round Robin Competition".

During the year, the team did not lose a game and had only two games end in a draw - the first, being with 6 RAR during the year and the second, against 2 FER in the Grand Final. It was decided to replay the Grand Final a week later; the outcome being 8/9 RAR the victors with a score of 4-1.

The team then went on to play 6 RAR in the final of the "Round Robin Competition"; the final score being 2-0 in our favour. From this Competition, players were selected for the Inter Service Competition and the outstanding figure of 8 players were selected from 8/9 RAR for the squad. Due to our commitments however, only two of this eight were available to make the team.

All members of our team played with courage and the will to win and displayed excellent football skill.

Players of note were: PTE "Jock" Mitchell (Captain), CPL "Wombat" Mawhinney (Vice Captain), PTE Noel Shipley, CPL "Darby" Mathews, CPL Brian King, PTE George Kelner, PTE Peter Law, PTE Frank Finch, PTE Ken Horton, PTE Ted Ryan and CPL Steve Griffiths.



AUSTRALIAN RULES

1977 was a year of mixed fortunes for the Battalion Australian Rules Team. With a number of wins under our belts early in the year, the season looked very bright. However, as the year progressed and the Battalion exercise commitments increased, the team became very scratchy.

This however, did not dampen the enthusiasm or spirit of the team. Just missing the final by one game, we showed that 8/9 RAR is still as good an Aust Rules participant as any other team.

Our Coach, Des Blazely and Captain, Mick Jaworski, gave an all out effort throughout the season to make the season a success, even if we didn't take the trophy. I'm sure everyone enjoyed the year's fixtures and appreciated the efforts of these two. We would also like to thank SSGT Washington for his assistance and umpiring during the year.

Our sister Battalion, 6 RAR took out the Grand Final for this year and we congratulate them for their effort - take warning 6 RAR, '78 will be the year of the Rams!

To complete the year the Battalion was well represented in the inter service competition, with Mick Jaworski, "Abbo" Abberton and Gerry Moody making the final squad of 25. This game resulted in a crushing win to the ARMY over the RAAF.

All in all, it was a very good year of football.



RUGBY UNION

After three years at the top of Army Rugby Union in South Queensland, the team found themselves finishing eighth in the competition. The heavy commitments of the Battalion restricted the team from becoming premiers for yet another year. The premiership this year went to our "arch rivals", 1 Field Regiment. This will give 8/9 RAR the incentive next year to win the flag!

Throughout the season, we had some outstanding individual displays. Pat McIntosh and Ron Briaais turned in excellent seasons, as did "Bomber" Barnes and young "Tracker" Paul.

Thanks must go to all the players who fronted for the cause of Rugby in '77. May we fare better in '78.



HOCKEY

The year has been one of fluctuating fortunes for the hockey team. Initially, we had difficulty in finding players - even the prospect of "mixing it" with players of the two women's teams in the competition failed to attract strong support!

Fielding a team proved most difficult midway through the year and resulted in several postponed games. When the season eventually concluded, we still had two deferred games to play but were placed 5th on the premiership ladder. After a "kind" forfeit by the "ladies" and a good win in the other game,

a review of the ladder showed that 8/9 RAR had suddenly gained some important match points and were well into the finals! Determined play saw the team weather the storm of the finals and at last reach the Grand Final - our opponents, 6 RAR!

The Grand Final was a real thriller and had all the trimmings - bagpipes, unruly spectators and spiritual backing (well at least Father Tinkler was on our side!). Play saw-sawed in the early part of the game and some brilliant passages of play were held scoreless only by equally keen defence. Then, just before half-time, 6 RAR scored from a corner in what was a well deserved but truly "lucky" strike. In the second half, the game continued with equal vigour and our side tried desperately to equalize - this was not to be however and 6 RAR finally won 1-0.

We look forward to a better year in 1978 and hope to recapture the Championship from 6 RAR.



BOXING

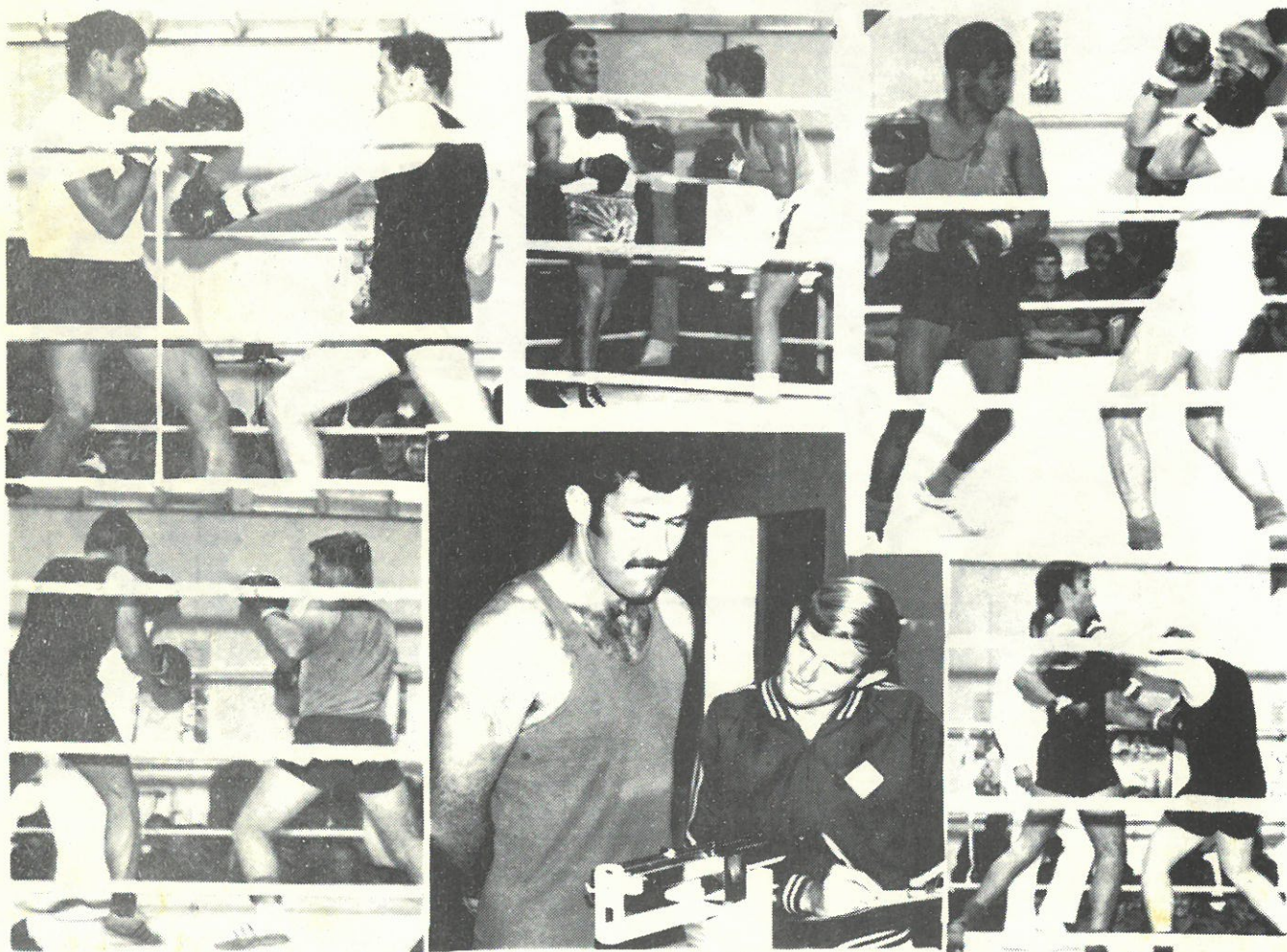
Boxing, like many things in 77, got off to a slow start. Coordination of training by SGT Oreall (11 Sup Bn) proved a problem, in trying to work around our working up exercise and support commitments. As an interest raiser and as a venue to select the battalion team to fight 6 RAR, an inter-coy tournament was held in late July. Spt Coy won 6 of the 7 bouts to retain the inter-coy trophy after CPLs Cross and Weller demonstrated the right way to do it!

It was hoped that we would have 2 clear months of training prior to the inter-unit tournament in December, however 6 RAR could not be provoked to play: indeed no unit in the area could find the wherewithall to 'have a go'.

A social activity will round off a lot of Boxing inactivity this year and hopes of a few takers next year!

RESULTS OF INTER-COY BOXING

1.	PTE Virgin (Spt)	defeated	PTE McFarlane (C)
2.	PTE Paul (C)	"	PTE Payne (A)
3.	LCPL Atkinson (Spt)	"	LCPL Welch (A)
4.	PTE Morrison (Spt)	"	LCPL Bailey (A)
5.	PTE Scott (Spt)	"	PTE Reynolds (B)
6.	PTE Hennessy (Spt)	"	PTE O'Neil (Spt)
7.	PTE Murphy (Spt)	"	PTE Lambert (C)



WINTER SPORTS WEEK

The Inter Company Winter Sports Competition was conducted in the week 28 Mar to 1 Apr, with teams competing in Rugby Union, Australian Rules, Soccer and Hockey. Apart from promoting "friendly" competition between subunits as part of the annual Champion Company award, the competition provided an insight into the ability of individuals for selection in the Unit sporting teams for the coming season.

The Rugby Union was won by B Coy, winning 3 out of 4 matches. Their one loss was to Spt Coy who finished second overall. Whilst B Coy claimed a team effort as being responsible for their win, players noted were CPL Ron WYLIE, LCPL Alan CUMMINS, 2LT Pat McINTOSH and PTE Colin SEAWRIGHT.

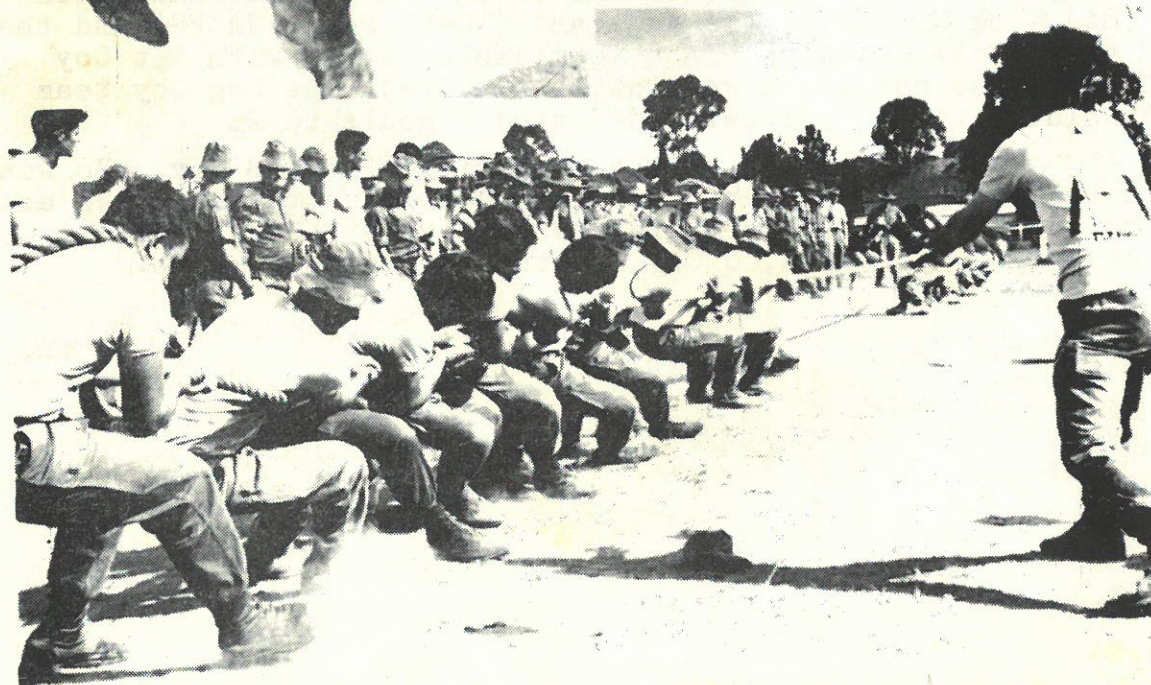
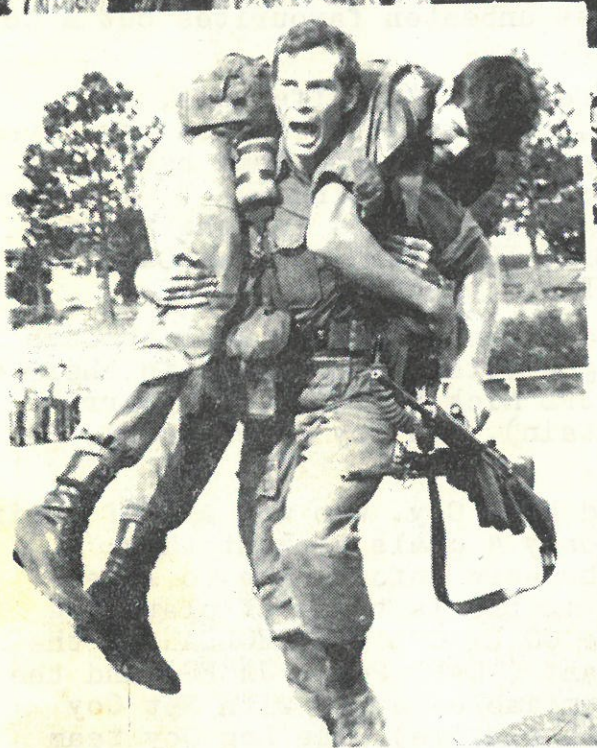
The Australian Rules was won by A Coy, on a countback from B Coy. A Coy had lost to Spt Coy midway through the competition, but by Friday, B Coy were unbeaten. The match between A Coy and B Coy on the last day promised to be a "thriller", with B Coy going in as unbeaten favourites but A Coy confident of their ability to win.

At $\frac{1}{4}$ time the scores were 2 points difference, at $\frac{1}{2}$ time 1 point separated the teams, at $\frac{3}{4}$ time the scores were even. In the last quarter, both teams gave everything they had but A Coy proved their superiority, eventually winning 6 - 7 (43) to 4 - 9 (33). A Coy also claimed a team effort for their win; players noted however were PTE Bill POLE, CPL Norm WALLACE (Captain/Coach) and the OC, MAJ David WEBSTER.

The Hockey was dominated by Spt Coy, who went through the competition unbeaten, scoring a total of 32 goals in their 4 matches. Players of note were CPL Mick HUMPHREY, 2LT Barry HENLEY, and LCPL Alan SILK (Captain). A Coy came second, winning 3 out of their 4 matches.

The Soccer was dominated by B Coy, who won all of their matches and scored 25 goals for only 4 goals against them. "Wooden spooners" were Log Coy who were unfortunate to lose every game. In a desperate bid on the last day of play, Log Coy "stacked" their team with the CO (LT COL T.H. HOLLAND), the OC (MAJ Nick HOWLETT), the Adjutant (CAPT Peter JAMES) and the RSM (WO1 Peter COWAN). In a formidable battle with Spt Coy (who had also not won a game at that stage), the Log Coy team was unlucky to be "narrowly" defeated 7 goals to 2.

Overall winners of the competition were B Coy, who won both the Rugby and Soccer, came second in Australian Rules and third in the Hockey. Official results were B Coy 34 pts, A Coy 28 pts, Spt Coy 24 pts, C Coy 20 pts and Log Coy 14 pts.



MILITARY SKILLS DAY

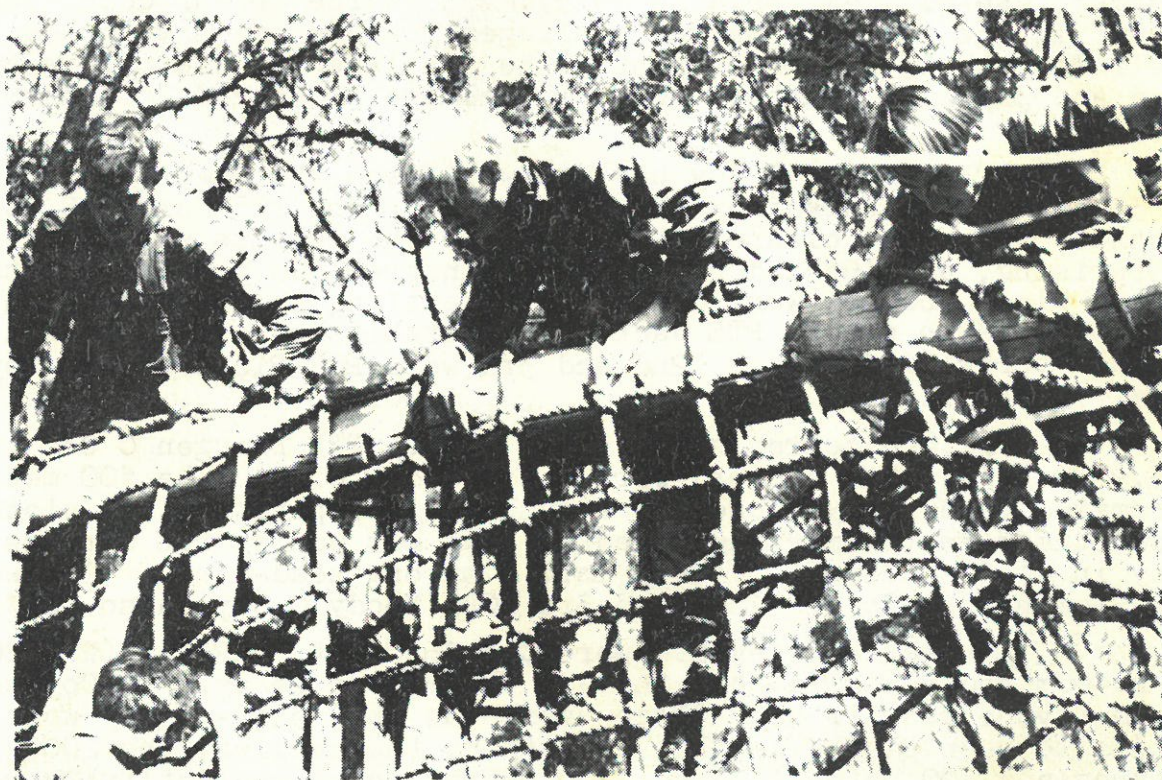
This competition was conducted on Mon 19 Sep with the Canadian coy group from 3 PPCLI also competing.

The morning's events were military orientated - Junior Leaders Reaction Course (initiative / problem solving test), TsOETs, Platoon Resupply Race, 20 km Road Relay (each team member running 1 km in combat order) and the Obstacle Course event. Points gained for the first four of these events counted towards the end of year Champion Company award.

The Canadians displayed considerable prowess, winning the Junior Leaders Reaction Course, the Resupply Race and the Obstacle Course and came second in the 20 km Road Relay. Results after the morning's events were: Canadians 1st (but ineligible), C Coy 2nd 55 pts, B Coy 3rd 49 pts, A Coy 4th 44 pts, Log Coy 5th 42 pts and Spt Coy 6th with 35 pts.

The afternoon's events, conducted at El Alamein Oval, were less military orientated and more of a "fun" nature - Tug o' War, Push Ball, Pillow Fight, Fireman's Carry, Chariot Race and Chain of Command Relay. Progressive company placings fluctuated throughout the afternoon but A Coy eventually showed their superiority - overall results were: A Coy 1st 181½ pts, B Coy 2nd 164 pts, Canadians 3rd 159 pts, Spt Coy 4th 145 pts, C Coy 5th 115 pts and Log Coy 6th 84½ pts.

At the completion of the competition, all ranks retired to a BBQ to relax and farewell the Canadian contingent, who left on Thur 22 Sep 77. Certificates were awarded to winning competitors from the day's activities and gifts were exchanged between the Unit and the Canadians.



ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

The Inter Coy Athletics Carnival was held on Duncan Oval on 9 Nov, as part of the Summer Sports week. C Coy dominated the carnival and seemed to win or be closely placed in most events.

The morning was devoted to heats for the "sprint" events and the conduct of the Tug o' War. Best timings for the heats were: 100 metres - PTE Corness C Coy 12.1 seconds; 110 metres hurdles - PTE Goodwin C Coy 20.2; 200 metres - CPL Dyer C Coy 24.4 and 400 metres - PTE Breugen C Coy 56.1. Both the "light-weight" and "heavy-weight" Tug o' War contests were won by Spt Coy.

The afternoon saw the Battalion assembled near Duncan Oval, ready to give cheer to their respective "champions". A gusty 10-15 knot wind assisted the Javelin and High Jump contestants but made hard going of the hurdles and 100 and 200 metres events.

The first event of the afternoon was the 800 metres - this was won by PTE Helmore A Coy in 2 mins 11.2 seconds; 2nd and 3rd were B Coy and C Coy. The 200 metres was next and was won in good style by CPL Dyer C Coy in 24.5 seconds; 2nd and 3rd were C Coy and B Coy. Next was the 110 metres hurdles - won by PTE Goodwin C Coy in 20.3 seconds; 2nd and 3rd were Spt Coy and C Coy. One begins to notice the dominance of C Coy!

The 1500 metres was next - after being paced by SGT Miller (Log Coy) for the first two laps, PTE Pearce Log Coy took over the lead and won by a 60 metre margin in the new Unit record time of 4 minutes 37.8 seconds. With due respect to other place-getters and to the previous record holder (SGT Butler, the PTI, 4m 38.6 in 1975), PTE Pearce appeared to "ease down" in the last 200 metres - allegedly as he was saving himself for the 5000 metres event to be run later in the afternoon! 2nd and 3rd place-getters were PTE Helmore A Coy and 2LT Pheonix B Coy.

PTE Kennedy C Coy had meanwhile won the High Jump at 5'3" on a count-back from PTE Kelner B Coy and PTE Martin C Coy - both of whom also cleared the height. The results were somewhat surprising, as 5'6" had been cleared in previous practices - the gusty winds however were obviously unsettling to the contestants. In the Javelin event, PTE Jack C Coy established a Unit record with a throw of 134'2½"; 2nd and 3rd were PTE Richardson C Coy and PTE Poulter Spt Coy.

The 400 metres saw a close win to PTE Breugen C Coy in 55.9 seconds; 2nd and 3rd were C Coy and B Coy. The 100 metres promised to be very close, as a number of competitors had clocked good times in the morning's heats. It was won by PTE Corness C Coy in 12.5 seconds (directly into a strong head-wind); 2nd was LT Simmons Log Coy in 12.6 and 3rd LCPL Moody C Coy, also in 12.6.

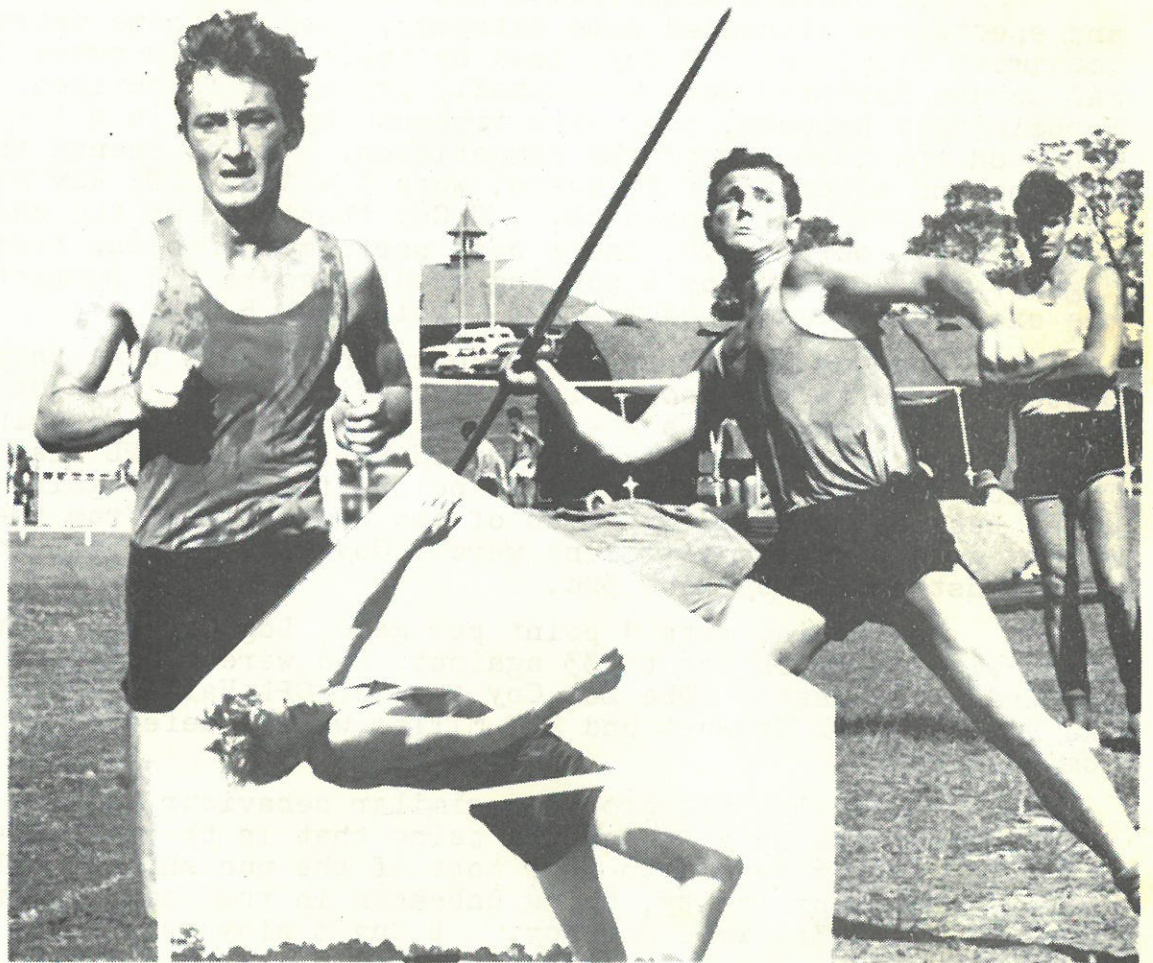
The next two events were the 1600 metres Relay (1 x 800m, 1 x 400m and 2 x 200m) and the 4 x 100 metres Relay. C Coy were firm favourites for both these events as they had already won and also been placed in the 100 metres, the hurdles, the 200 metres and 400 metres! The 1600 metres Relay was dutifully won by the C Coy team of 2LT Mackin, CPL Watts, PTE Temperton and PTE

Breugen, establishing a Unit record time of 4 minutes 14 seconds. 2nd and 3rd were B Coy and A Coy. The 4 x 100 metres Relay was much closer, but it was also won by C Coy. Their team of CPL Dyer, LCPL Moody, PTE Garouse and PTE Corness won in the time of 48.0 seconds; 2nd and 3rd were B Coy and Log Coy.

The Discus Throw meanwhile was won by 2LT McIntosh Spt Coy with a throw of 106'7 $\frac{1}{4}$ " (10" short of the Unit record!); 2nd was LCPL Remin B Coy and PTE Baulke C Coy was 3rd. The Shotput was won by CPL Neilson Log Coy with a "put" of 36'2"; this equalled the Unit record set by BDR Elliott, the PTI, in 1975. 2nd was 2LT McIntosh Spt Coy and 3rd was LCPL Graetz A Coy.

The final event of the afternoon was the 5000 metres and was contested by 9 competitors. To those "in the know", PTE Pearce Log Coy (a typist with Bn HQ), was the favourite for the event. By the second of the 12 laps and as the field spread over 150 metres, PTE Pearce was 25 metres in the lead. By the 5th lap he was 150 metres in the lead and had just "lapped" the tail of the field. At this stage, 2LT Bozsa B Coy was 2nd, LCPL Howard C Coy 3rd and WO2 Garland B Coy 4th. As the race continued, PTE Pearce increased his lead and by the 10th, was some 300 metres in the lead. 10 metres from the finish line, PTE Pearce "lapped" the 2nd place-getter and with the time of 17 minutes 26 seconds, broke the Unit record of 17.28 established by PTE Knox in 1975. 2nd was 2LT Bozsa B Coy, 3rd WO2 Garland B Coy and 4th, LCPL Howard C Coy.

The CO then presented medallions to winning competitors, trophies to the Tug o' War champions and the Athletics Carnival Trophy to a well-deserving C Coy. Final points for the carnival were: C Coy 62 points, B Coy 31, Spt Coy 26, Log Coy 20 and A Coy 19 points.



SUMMER SPORTS WEEK

The Inter Company Summer Sports Competition was conducted in the week 7 - 11 Nov, with subunits competing in Basketball, Badminton, Cricket, Squash, Tennis and Volleyball. Apart from promoting competition between subunits as part of the Champion Company award, the week provided an insight into the ability of competitors with a view to the forthcoming inter unit summer sports competitions.

The Badminton was won by C Coy. The competition was scored with 1 point per game; C Coy gained 23 points for and 9 against, after having won 3 rounds and drawn the other with Log Coy, 4 games each. The winning team was WO2 Bourke, SGT Searle, PTE Price and LCPL Howard and the reserves, PTE Darko and PTE Griffiths. B Coy were second; 21 points for and 11 against, after having been beaten by both C Coy and Log Coy. Log Coy were an unlucky 3rd. They were unbeaten in the competition, having won 2 rounds and drawn the other two; their total points "for" of 20 however, were insufficient to gain better than 3rd place.

The Basketball saw plenty of determination, vigour and a "little" foul play! B Coy played exceptionally well and were undefeated in the competition. Log Coy were 2nd, having been beaten by both B Coy and Spt Coy; C Coy were 3rd, having been beaten by both B Coy and Log Coy. Players of note from the B Coy team were: PTE Kellner, PTE Buettner, PTE Stillwell and 2LT Phoenix.

The Cricket competition was conducted as a 25 over event and spectators witnessed some extremely good and some extremely amateurish displays! C Coy, lead by their highly reputed OC, MAJ Gordon Hurford, were undoubtedly pre-event favourites. Surprisingly however, they were trounced by B Coy in a lively match on the last day of the competition. B Coy opened the batting and after their 25 overs, were 4 - 168; PTE Kay was not out 86 and PTE Reid scored 48. C Coy then took up the challenge but were all out for 78, their best performance coming from PTE Hughes with 46. B Coy's bowling credits go to PTE Borrett, with the excellent figures of 8 - 27! Well done B Coy!

Log Coy proved in both Squash and Tennis that they were better suited to the sports requiring "finesse". In Squash, 5 points were scored for a 2 - 0 best of three win and 3 points for a 2 - 1 win. The Log Coy team of CHAP Tinkler, LCPL Crane, MAJ Thompson and SGT Butler scored 76 points for to nil against, with A Coy taking the only two games of the competition from them. A very good performance! 2nd were B Coy with 37 points for and 33 against and A Coy were 3rd.

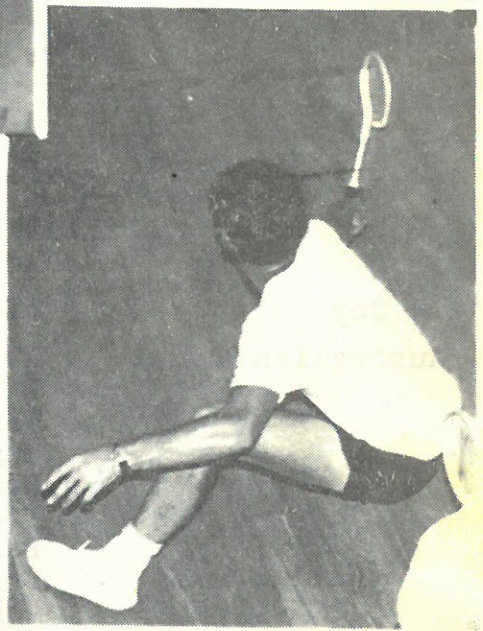
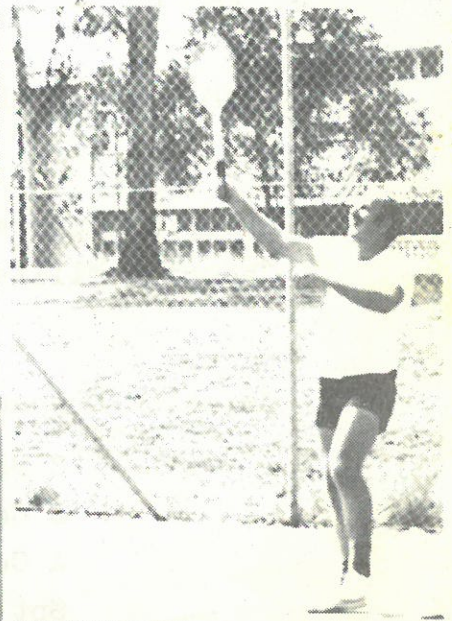
In Tennis, with 1 point per game, Log Coy won convincingly with 95 games for to 33 against, 2nd were B Coy with 78 for and 50 against. The Log Coy team of CPL Hallam, 2LT Croft, MAJ Howlett, CPL Stewart and SGT Miller were undefeated in the competition.

The Volleyball produced similar behaviour to the Basketball; the only difference being that in the volleyball, one's team-mates seemed to wear most of the punishment. B Coy proved their superiority, being unbeaten in the competition, 2nd were A Coy and 3rd were Spt Coy. B Coy's players of note were:

(continued overleaf)

LCPL Guilfoyle (Captain), PTE Hazelman, LCPL Pilkington, LCPL Wicks and WO2 Garland.

The final tallying of points gave a good win to B Coy, winning the Basketball, Cricket and Volleyball and coming 2nd in everything else! Final scores were B Coy 42 points, C Coy 27, Log Coy 25, A Coy 22 and Spt Coy 19.



CHAMPION COMPANY RESULTS

CHAMPION COMPANY

C COMPANY

Champion Sports Company - B Coy

Champion Military Company - C Coy

Champion Company placings: -

C Coy	1st	175 points
B Coy	2nd	174 points
A Coy	3rd	121 points
Spt Coy	4th	106 points
Log Coy	5th	99 points

INDIVIDUAL TROPHIES

A Coy
Australian Rules

B Coy
20 km Run
Rifle Shooting
Winter Sports Comp
Summer Sports Comp
Rugby
Soccer
Basketball
Cricket
Volleyball

C Coy
25 km March
Orienteering
Drill
Resupply Race
LMG Shooting
Athletics Carnival
Swimming Carnival
Badminton

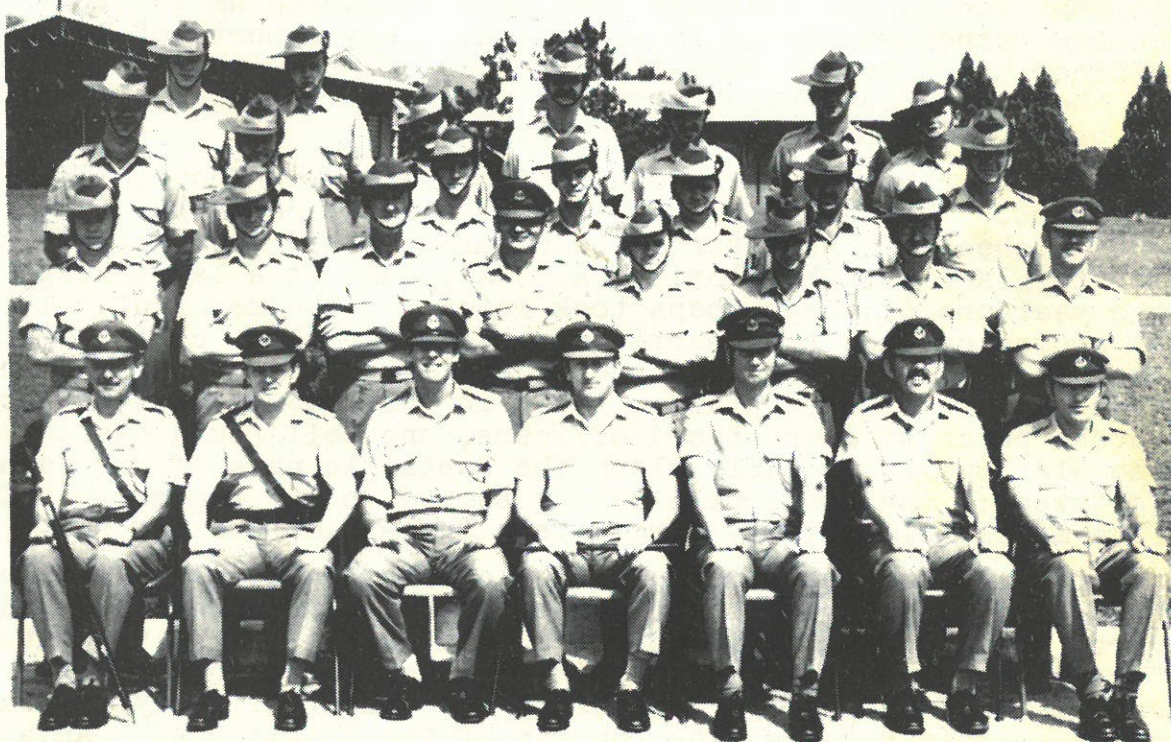
Spt Coy
TsOETs
Hockey

Log Coy
Leader Reaction
Course
Squash
Tennis

Bn HQ

The year has been a very "moving" experience for some members of Bn HQ. At least six incumbents have held the appointments of Adjutant and Assistant Adjutant since last December. The CO has expressed some concern over the situation and has called on the Chief Clerk to raise his selection standards for next year!

The RSM has cast doubts on the loyalty of other staff members as well, such as Des Blazely, Dave McDonald and 'Bruno' Flematti, who deserted the ship the moment an opposition unit enticed them with promises of more money! Meanwhile, those of us who are left, remain steadfast and loyal, particularly since rumour has it that next year our leg-irons are to be removed, the use of whips abolished and typists issued with rubber fingers!



Rear row (L to R): PTE Bell, PTE Morgan, LCPL Kent, CPL Adams, LCPL De Jersey and LCPL Maskill

3rd row: LCPL Watson, PTE Scott, PTE Pearce, PTE Luckie, CPL Antney, CPL Gretch and CPL Johnson

2nd row: SGT Jansen, SGT Willmann, SGT Holland, WO2 Flematti, SSGT Smithson, SGT Crump, SGT Miller and LT Underhill

Front row: WO1 Cowan, CAPT Hayden, MAJ Fairhead, LT COL Holland, MAJ Thompson, CAPT Ormston and LT Flaherty

Absent: CAPT James, SGT Montgomery, CPL Harrower and PTE Maguire

Insert: 2nd from left in rear row, PTE Veijalainen

A COY

By Colonel Lord Algy Peckered on "THE RISE AND FALL OF THE GLORIOUS A"...

As the year 1977 dawned on the sun-baked outpost of Enoggerapore, D. Webster, Major, took command of the Glorious A. A jolly chap still fresh from a brief tour of duty in the heart of our mighty Empire, Webster was quick to assess the potential of the ill-assorted collection of battle scarred war horses and keen young recruits under the indomitable senior NCO "Skull" (who far preferred the Mess) and the unpredictable "George" who, since he could never tell whether he was tactical or not, ate his lunch under a helmet. With his quick wit and great powers of oratory ("Get it right you louts or I'll punch you in the bracket"), Webster soon raised morale and during the Tin Can Bay campaign of late February '77, set the pattern of hard training which was to become the standard for the coming year.

Second in Command, Hudson, affectionately known as "Rocky", was already during the Tin Can Bay campaign, beginning to show the solid, balancing stability for which he was to become reknowned during later action. Any reports of this officer being too spiritually inclined, along with any whispers in the Mess about church services in a tent, can be disregarded as being so un-British as to be absurd.

Further down the chain of command were Stone, Given and Williams. These three pukka chaps, usually described on their charge sheets as subalterns, endeavoured to aid and abet Webster in his plans for the Glorious A. Although at a later stage in the year one of these chaps took refuge in the merciful bullet of promotion (and even marriage), the other chaps continued to exemplify the typical junior officer, dribbling as they formulated their grandiose plans. When in July, OCS spewed out its latest batch of fresh-faced officers, one Bell found his way to the Glorious A, probably along the nostalgic path of his father's footsteps; the older Bell having served in the Regiment. The late model Bell quickly merged into the junior officer set.

It was these men of the Glorious A who, under Webster, began the long, arduous Mt. Byron offensive and bravely moved north to put down the insurgent Mongan forces led by ubiquitous "Graham", a man whose name strikes terror in the hearts of cretins and "nancy boys". During the campaign, heavy rain and rocky terrain hampered the raw men of the Glorious A. An attack on the 680 ft feature resulted in chaos as men became lost in the thick vegetation. The lads however were not downhearted and above the noise of the rain could be heard the lilting melody "Cheta Bow Dehka" (a Hindu translation of that old English favourite about Miss Peep and her sheep)! The singing did not however cover the cries of encouragement from brave Webster, "You pooftas, idiots, dunces!"

As a result of his defiant and noble loyalty when captured by the Mongan, Section Leader Porky Vogler was mentioned in dispatches. With no regard for personal comfort, he replied to interrogation in his usual controlled manner, "I am sorry, I can not answer that question, and anyway you are all pooftas". Also to show great courage, though not much foresight, was Section Leader Peter Orth, who escaped the enemy to spend a cold,

lonely night in the hills.

Once more back at Enoggerapore after the rigors of war, Webster planned to maintain the peak physical fitness of his men by challenging the other companies to a confrontation on the sports field. With customary vigour the Glorious A donned shorts, sports black. It was a disappointment when the war weary lads could only manage second place over all, despite the spirited efforts of "Norman the Storeman" and Webster himself in the field of aerial gymnastics. Notable in the games were "Michael Mau", of dubious origin, and one "Kenny", secret weapon, who together performed soccer feats unequalled in the Empire and certainly not outside it, what!

But the salad days of rucks and muddy surgical supports were soon over and the Glorious A moved into Barakula to lay the ground work for a greater invasion planned for July by the 89th of Foot under that diabolical military genius 'THE COLONEL'. With superb tactics and outstanding bravery the Glorious A overwhelmed the robber band of the "Mole". C Company under the turncoat Hurford moved to the area to support the "Mole" only to be humiliated by the Glorious A at the battle of Hellhole Junction. The weak-kneed Charlies were rewarded with the flat strap.

In the major offensive of July, the 89th of Foot moved into Barakula to polish off the forces of the great "Sainsbury". The Charlies were once again part of the organisation, Hurford having been defeated in a "silver" war. The Glorious A played a smaller role than usual, not being the Colonel's favourite unit. Their unconventional tactics certainly never earned them a "Well Done". Despite this, A Coy were not to suffer the fate of the "Bravo Bunch" who were caught in the blood chilling game of "Follow the Tail". They did however become involved in the "Great Password Controversy". A certain PTE Enzelman approached the perimeter and was challenged in the customary manner. The password was "Fish Plant" but not being a marine biologist, the unfortunate Enzelman became confused over the selection of sea food and found himself shot through the heart and saddled with the name "Fish Cake". And so the campaign Spartan Sword ended with the Glorious A having carried out with their usual brilliance, their rather reserved role.

This real high of military performance and achievement was maintained and even surpassed in the Trojan Track and Misty Point confrontations. Trojan Track saw intensive cavalry training for the 89th of Foot in a rather small area where it was unkindly suggested that the only danger to ground troops was "Cumpers Cavalry". The great disdain that "cracked" cavalry have for Infantry was made manifestly clear when Cumper reversed his magnificent machines (the ones with four on the floor, two in the boot and one in the glovebox) out of Misty Point leaving the Infantry to fend for itself. The following two days the Glorious A spent constructing extensive fortifications only to be once more forgotten by the Colonel and left to wander their corridors of power again in reserve.

Webster led the Glorious A once more in the Brahman Drive Campaign but this time with grave doubts about the ability of these very reserved men. Once there however, his only reservations were about how long it would be before that most deadly of the seven deadly sins, "sloth and boredom", would completely destroy his force. Once all the books had been read, reread, swapped and read backwards for an exciting twist, sleeping became the only action the men saw. On the very rare occasions that the Glorious A were lucky enough to see the enemy,

(continued after
the photographs ..)

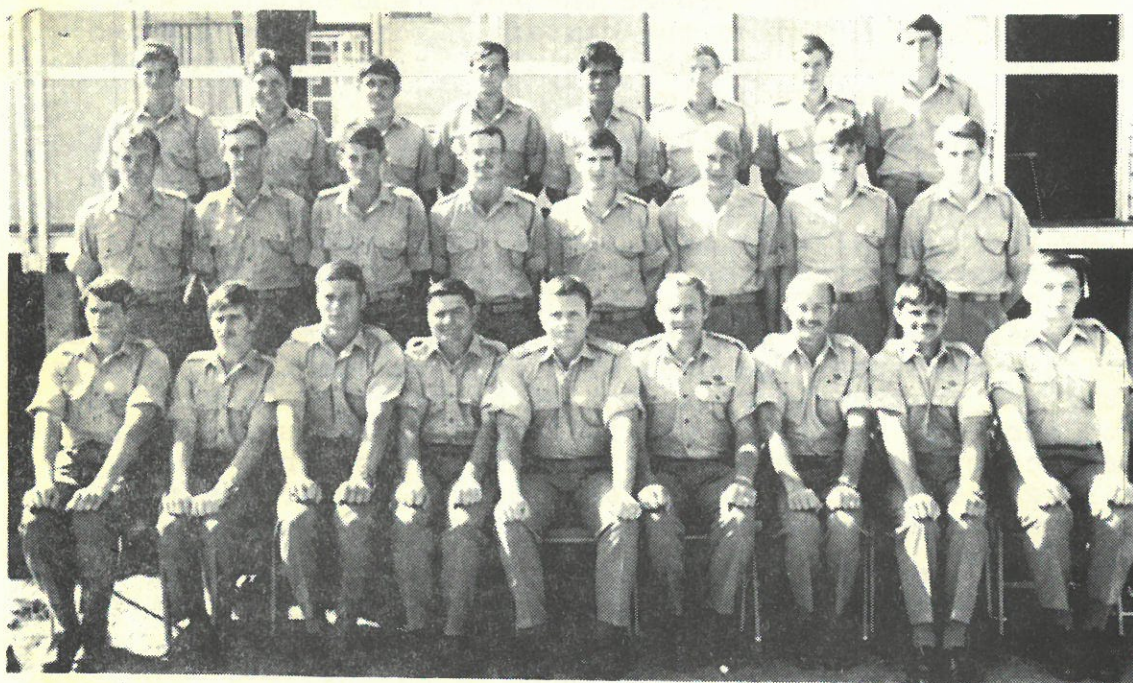
COY HQ



Rear row (L to R): PTEs Williams, Colbertaldo, Moran, Walkate, Clarke, Barnes and Veness

Front row: PTE Anderson, WO2 Aylett, MAJ Webster, SSGT Washington and CPL McClymont

1 PL



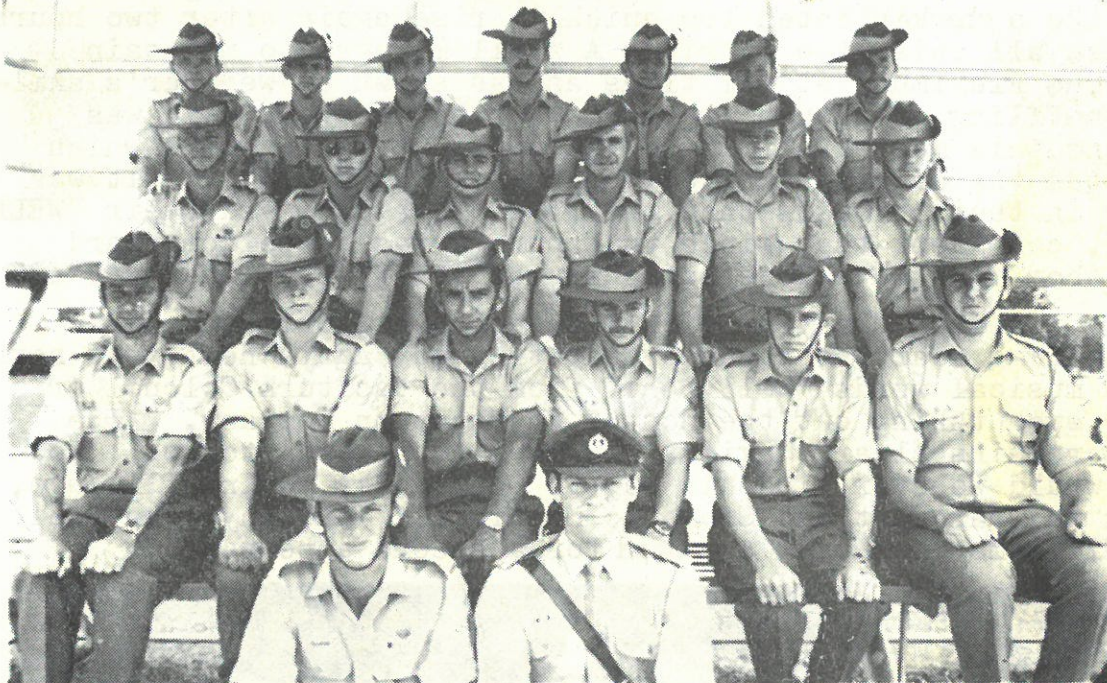
Rear row (L to R): PTEs Enzelman, Asquite, Forrester, Lennings, Thomas, Muir, Walker and Lynch

Centre row: PTEs Elms, Scibberus, Hannan, Carter, Stanton, Williams, Tayler and Kehlet

Front row: PTE Michilim, PTE Page, LCPL Graetz, CPL Vogler, LT Given, SGT Steven, CPL Olding, LCPL Welch and PTE Watters

Absent: PTE Hodgets

2 PL



Rear row (L to R): CPL Griffiths, PTEs Doran, Ford, Croft, Potter and Vickery and LCPL Woodcroft

3rd row: CPL Love, PTEs Foggon, Tulic, VanKrimpen, Lawson and Sammons

2nd row: CPL Kelly, PTE Cran, PTE Homquest, LCPL Millard, PTE Ashby and LCPL Bailey

Front row: SGT Barry and 2LT Williams

3 PL



Rear row (L to R): CPL Crossland, PTEs Foster, Curthoys, Pole, Stannard and Jukes

3rd row: CPL O'Hara (1st Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers), PTEs Sutton, Morris, Riley, Pure, Holland and Jackson. G

2nd row: CPL Wallis, PTEs Campbell, Francis, Priolo, Matthews and Howard

Front row: SGT Monaghan and 2LT Bell

Absent: CPL Orth, PTEs Jackson. B., McIntosh, Mau and Helmore

(the continuation of the A Coy saga ..)

they could never be sure if they would be wiped out permanently or, like a gherkin eaten too quickly, rise again after two hours. Despite all this, the Glorious A still managed to maintain "Maximus Fleximus" at all times as was shown by Webster's skillful snaffling of enough trucks to get home early. It was perhaps this master stroke at the end of Brahman Drive which prompted the eagerly awaited words from the Colonel. It was pride in their breasts that the Glorious A received their "WELL DONE", confident that since that phrase was so seldom heard that they must have done something of note; now, what was it?

And so the year slowly set on the Glorious A, each man holding dear the thought that they may again next year hear those musical words "Well Done" from the taciturn Colonel or maybe even taking out the honour of Champion Company. One thing remains clear, Maximus Fleximus is the way to go. How else would Webster find his way to Ops, Rocky to Intelligence, Given to Transport and Stone to Marriage? And why have Bell and Williams been back squadded for a second appearance?



B COY

Exercise Ball Roller did exactly that at Spring Mt. and the familiar cycle began: section, platoon and then company training. the old salts asking: "Haven't we done this before?" It rained solidly for three days; was this to be an omen of things to come?

And then Exercise Tin Can II at Tin Can Bay. It was our first try of Inf/APC co-operation. It was early in the era when everybody was trying to avoid EW by reducing radio traffic. Imagine the chaos which used to result from a troop commander trying to control his troop using only hand signals. Undoubtedly, we prefer to put up with the noise and sit down whilst we advance to contact, rather than walk. But then our mileage ran out, so we turned around and did a 'rocket run' back to Camp Kerr along our previous axis of advance.

Then along came the first real exercise of the year: Bound Long at Barakula, where the weather conditions were terrible. The sun disappeared as we passed through Toowoomba on the way to Chinchilla; it was not seen again until we were at Toowoomba on the way home ten days later. It rained again. The total darkness was a problem for some; visibility was limited to ten feet. At this stage, under instructions from higher, we were still experimenting and experiencing considerable difficulty with the logistic concept - resupply by night. A typical situation was the serving and eating of a hot meal when one couldn't see the mess tin in his hand. The soldier, who becoming slightly disorientated after leaving the gun pit, on his way home, went out through the platoon perimeter, back in through the next platoon along, around CHQ and straight over the OC's hutchie. Presto: one not-to-happy OC and several smiling soldiers. No names 4 Pl, but who were the two soldiers who walked 15 km at right angles to the axis-of-advance. The total advance achieved by the company for the day: 600 metres. Is it true that they were looking for a pub? This exercise we practised tactical casevac of wounded and dead; carrying the wounded and dead was a real shock to those who thought that all casualties in war were given a piece of paper and told to wait by the road. And as a finale, we assaulted Turkey Mountain along a steep and rocky spur line. It was wide enough to go two-up: two soldiers up at a time. And then it rained when we got to the top. Three exercises down, five to go.

It was about this time that Spt Coy began their expansion programme, and went in for empire building in a big way. Spt to Rifle Coy: "We would be delighted to run courses and train some of your older soldiers for you". They haven't been seen since. Consequently, the average length of service in a rifle company dropped to 5.5 months, which left us a bit short on experience.

For the next performance, we changed sides and played enemy to 6 RAR at Shoalwater Bay - Exercise Burning Bra (alias Burring Bar. Our sisters do things a bit faster than we do - ask 4 Pl who spent a lot of time withdrawing, no, running away from contacts. 5 Pl took the day by catching a company commander's recon party in single file enfilade to a MG. We were lucky (?) to be assisted by the intrepid Assault Pioneers.

(continued overleaf)

So impressed were we that we split 4 Pl, half went to Pioneers and half to 5 Pl. Just ask Mr McIntosh about being a sect comd for Mr Henley. He even threw in his binoculars (which still hasn't been resolved); and CPL Forrestal now has a good buckle on the chin strap of his slouch hat. We all enjoyed establishing a hasty defensive position, and spending the rest of the night shivering and listening to 6 RAR sneak across the river and attack the feature in front of us for no apparent reason. Their final Battalion attack, was launched with B Company improvising automatic fire by banging entrenching tools on an APC. In fact, this two weeks as enemy gave us some practice at rapid reactions to mounted encounters, which was to stand us in good stead for later in the year.

Highlights of Burring Bar and Spartan Sword were:

- * OC B Company and the Troop Commander capturing a patrol from the enemy recon/surv platoon who were inserted by chopper fifty feet from their APC.

- * 6 Pl shooting down a Kiowa with an SLR as it hovered twenty feet above them.

- * PTE Doherty, lying wide awake in a night ambush, and being bitten on the nose by a possum. ("Yes, I was awake CPL!").

- * Running down the road, taking orders for a battalion hasty attack on the double, and getting into the FUP before the company which was supposed to secure it.

- * H Hour and the assault is on. Stop. Let's do it tomorrow morning.

- * LCPL Guilfoyle suffering a rebout of malaria 12 months to the very day after an attack in Malaya last year. PTE Wilson trying to jump on the bandwagon.

- * There were some energetic times, which led to a distinct lack of sleep. Consequently, people slept very soundly. A certain officer, asleep with the plans for tomorrows Bn attack in his pocket, heard a contact close by. (Mr McIntosh was calmly challenging and shooting two enemy who were walking through his platoon HQ - well done sentries!) Not completely awake, he struggled out of his sleeping bag and disappeared into the dark... much later: where is? ... first light dawns and a chilled officer walks into a perturbed CHQ after a rather uncomfortable night.

- * The intrepid FO (Naughts to his friends). Naughts by name, circles by nature. Leading the company into the FUP for the first deliberate attack at about 0530, he sighted movement to his front: "Halt - who are you?" (Basic contact drill for ARTY).

"B Coy"

"B Coy who?"

"B Coy 8/9"

"You can't be. We're B Coy.... o' oh"

Navigation markedly improved when Naughts was replaced by a section comd.

Subsequent exercises went well although during Ex Trojan Track we were limited by track mileage. Although we participated in numerous attacks however, we were given the arduous duty of marking FUPs which we became pretty good at. I mean anyone can follow a rope into an FUP, shakeout and assault a hill - it takes much more skill to markout and secure an FUP whilst in close proximity to the position.

There were a number of humerous instances at this stage. For instance the CSM simulating fire support by whiz bangs whilst the assault coy changed its axis and started to roll up their fire support (us).

Another amusing memory was when a decimated C Coy were rescued by 6 Pl who enjoyed being CSN 3-4 for the night.

The 2IC's batman during Brahman Drive had become tired of carrying his rifle on previous exercises so he left it with the bus driver on the way to Eagle Farm and spent the next 3 days, undiscovered and borrowing rifles at crucial moments.

Thanks to the signallers who did their best to brighten our quieter moments. At 0400 one morning;

"23 this is 20 - fetch Sunray"

"23 - he's asleep"

To a sig on patrol;

"21 this is 20 - where are you"

"21 - with the patrol"

So much for the exercises which were good fun.

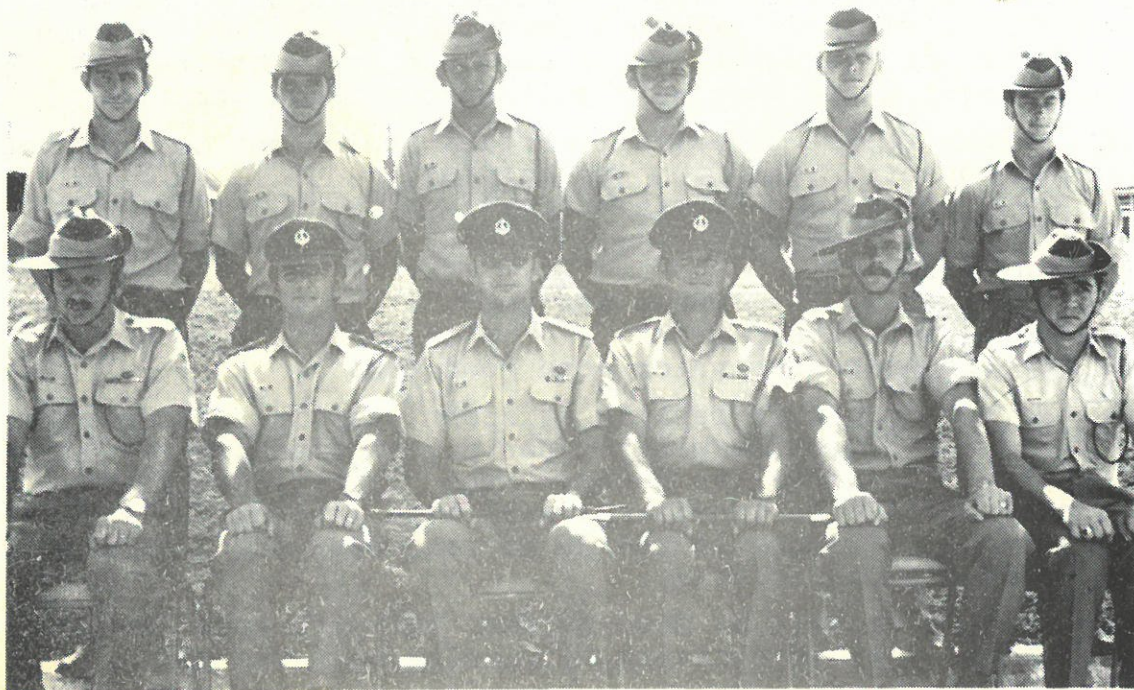
We have had good results at sport starting with a win in Rugby and Soccer in the winter sports, unfortunately we lost on a countback in Australian Rules. The Military Skills day when 3 Bn of PPCLI (the Canadians) were here went off well when the fantastic 4 Pl romped in the 20 km road run, CHQ naturally won the Chain of Command Relay.

Well we do well at most things, but with true professionalism we excelled in shooting by winning both the RUR and Gurkha shoots.

1977 has seen a few people moving on - Mr McIntosh to Anti-Armd, Mr Saunders to Aslt Pnr and a one for one exchange at OC level, that is our intrepid MAJ Taylor to Log Coy and MAJ Howlett taking over. CSM Garland is going to Recruiting in Sydney to spread the good news to the civvies. LT Nicholls from the Devon and Dorsets, BAOR on Ex Long Look (they come over to see how its done) has been 5 Pl comd - we understand that on return a promotion to CAPT will occur followed by a move to Anti-Armd - well done and our heartiest congratulations. September saw CAPT Peter Tate leave us, after almost two years for Inf Centre, where at present he is continuing to train Mr Saunders as an Assault Pioneer. CAPT Ryan arrived to take over as new 2IC.



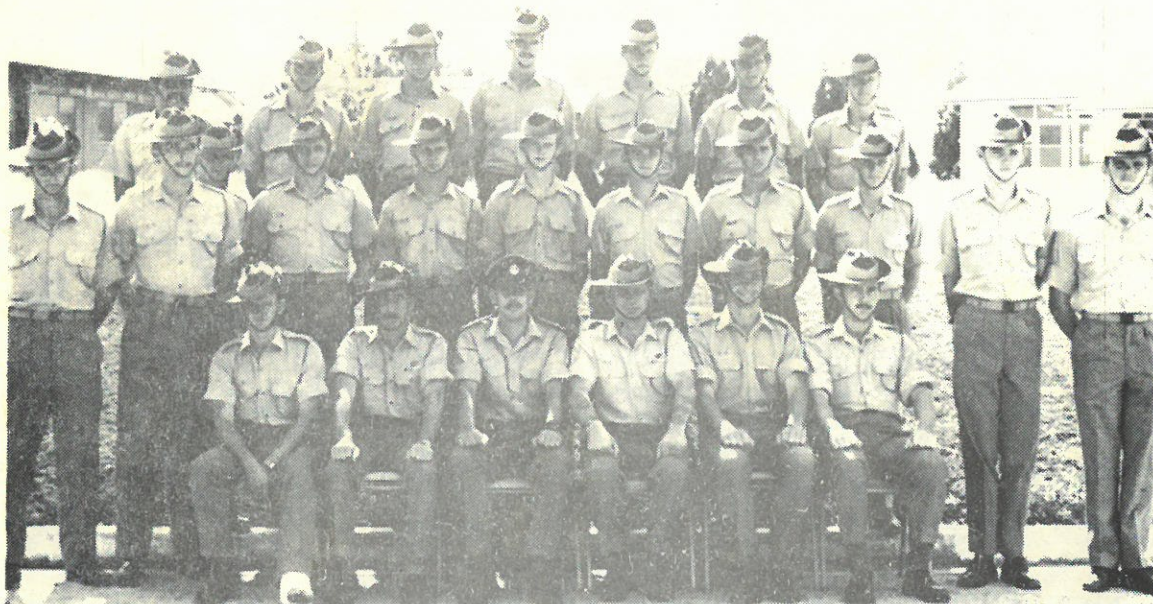
- 50 -
COY HQ



Rear row (L to R): PTEs Lee, Blackburn, Carvolth, Lowry, Primmer and Polglase

Front row: SSGT Preston, CAPT Ryan, MAJ Taylor, WO2 Garland, CPL Remin and PTE Litchfield

4 PL



Rear row (L to R): PTEs Hazelman, Braun, Morgan, Cardwell, Smerdon, Zwarecz, Adams

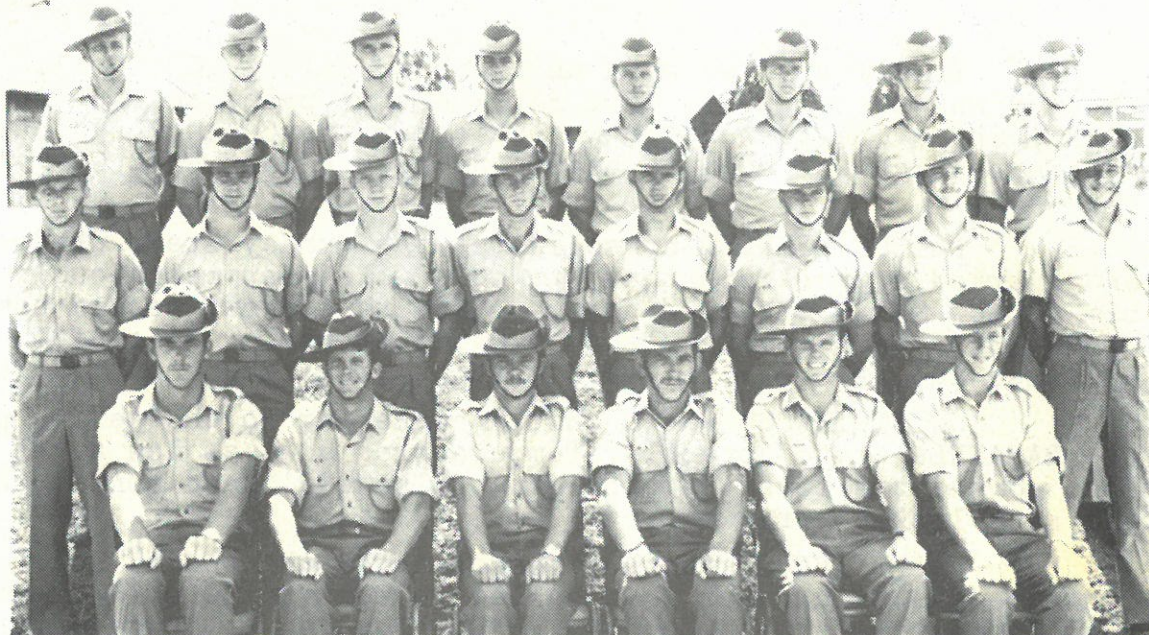
Centre row: PTEs Speechley, Gelberg, Tadic, Cox, Ryan, Fraser-Chitticks and Khan

Front row: PTE Doherty, PTE Law, 2LT Bozza, SGT Perry, LCPL Pilkington, CPL Solomon

Standing in front row: PTEs Parsons, Johnson, Stillwell and Clark

Absent: CPL Davis, CPL Forestal, LCPL Cummins and LCPL Dunning

5 PL



Rear row (L to R): PTEs Tomlinson, Taylor, Breedon, Jeffries, Parkinson, Delaney, Gard and McLeod

Centre row: PTEs Marshall, Nimmo, Wain, Le Brun, Searle, Williams, Evans and Reynolds

Front row: PTE Borrett, CPL Cross, CPL Whiting, CPL Weller, LCPL Wicks and PTE Reid

Absent: LT Saunders, LT Nicholls (1st Devonshire and Dorset Regiment), SGT Roach, LCPL Dibben, LCPL Pearson and PTE Liversay

6 PL



Rear row (L to R): PTEs Bolch, Bwettmor, Hanning, De Grussa, Sugg, Jeavons and Daniec

Centre row: PTEs Martin, Stothard, Murray, Kellner, Ewart, Wallace, Newton, Bock, Gardiner and Firth

Front row: LCPL Geary, LCPL Hanley, 2LT Phoenix, SGT Osmond, CPL Weber and LCPL Guilfoyle

Absent: CPL Merchant

C COY

It all started with an exercise called TIN CAN 3. The Coy was pushed up to WIDE BAY where we practised working with APCs. The foundation was laid for the Sunday late bus syndrome which was soon to become as much a part of C Coy as the Cobra!

PRIMUS TEMPEST consolidated the Sunday start syndrome and sparked suggestions that the OC's wife must religiously ask him to mow the lawns on Sunday. Good to see our second home again (WIDE BAY) lovely place. Still it was a successful exercise and from it the Cobra's fangs were sharpened and ready.

SWIFT THRUST was a chilly awakening to the perils of the BARAKULA State Forest. Temperatures down as low as -3°C soon sorted the boys from the men! The odd brass monkey that was seen looked very worried!

SWIFT THRUST further consolidated the Sunday start syndrome and volunteers were called to mow the CO's lawns so that we could start on Mondays. The Coy dug to stage 3 for the first time. The subsequent opal strike in the CP area (naturally!) meant that pits went down in record time. "Dolly's Trolley" wheel marks were seen for the first time and the trolleys proved themselves a useful addition to the Coy.

FINAL PARRY found us back at Queensland's Artic Training Area as we pitted the Cobra against "Maximus Mouse-imus" with interesting results. The OC tried a new approach to rid the Coy of "the final attack feeling". It was a brave attempt but met with varying results.

The "big test" came with SPARTAN SWORD. The Coy worked well. Many believed that BARAKULA was the only exercise area available to us; a folding pocket size greatcoat would have been nice!

Now things begin to get a little "misty" and I can't remember the "point" I was going to make; I think it had to do with TIN CAN BAY and APCs. We saw our "sister" for the first time and to our surprise she wasn't as fat or ugly as we had remembered!

To round off the year we had BRAHMAN DRIVE way out west. We really learnt the meaning of hurry up and wait! "You should have been here yesterday - now wait 3 days!" With some of the tracks broken the "imported sardine" feeling was quite common! Dust was provided in great quantities for all to play in! It was enjoyed, but who decided we should have the 9 to 5 RAAF and let the baddies have the early bird Navy? We were not impressed when they destroyed "our bridge"!

In between wars, back on the home front, the Cobra's preoccupation with all things professional and military left us little time for the frivolities of sport. Thus military excellence was not initially complemented by sporting excellence. Our first trial, the Winter Sports produced much enthusiasm, effort and spirit but only mediocre results. This prompted the Cobra's guardian "The Bull", to redirect us by reflecting that "Winning isn't everything....it was the only thing". Obviously it was this maxim and it's pursuit, with blanket disregard to life and limb by its originator, that inspired the hockey team

to its surprise win..... of one game!

The Boxing Competition provided an insight into the Cobra's performances to come. Although severely handicapped by rules, the Coy (more at home in "combat") fought well. Special mention should be made of PTE Paul the new "Rocky" of Charlie Coy. It should be noted that the overall winners, Spt Coy, were largely members of the "Charlie Old Boys' Association".

With the major military activities over, the end of '77 has left the Cobra seeking new avenues to satisfy its vitality and aggression. An apertif of Inter Platoon Swimming and Athletic Carnivals (won by 8 Pl and 7 Pl respectively) has only whetted (Pun!) its appetite. With intensive training underway, the Cobra is looking forward to an "aggressive" Summer Sports Competition.

Before finishing, mention should be made of the very successful Cabaret that the Coy held during June. LT Robbs rates a special mention for providing some of the attractions of the evening!

All in all, a busy year that seems to have gone very quickly. A good year that produced results that we can all be proud of.



The Spt Sect of a Rifle Coy is required to carry two 84mm MAWs plus 15 rounds per weapon - a total of about 60 kg per weapon / team.

C Coy has devised an MAW carrier - nicknamed "Dolly's Trolleys" (after CPL 'Dolly' Dyer, Spt Section Commander) and has trialled these carriers with success throughout the training year. The 'ingenious' devices are pictured here.

COY HQ

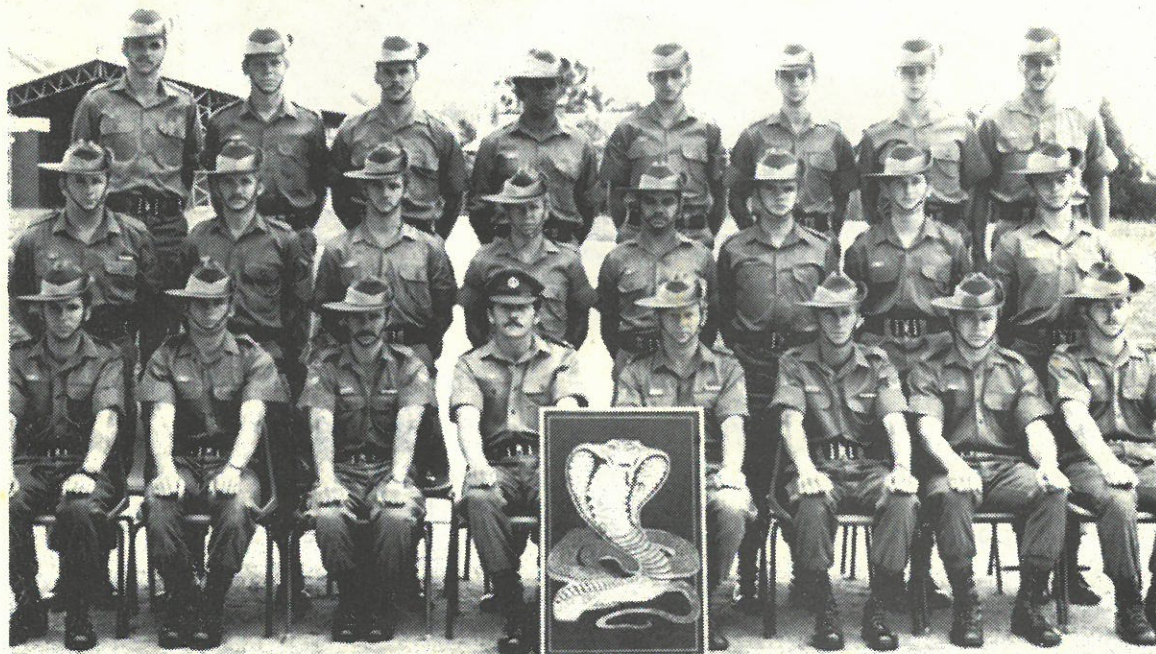


Rear row (L to R): PTEs Price, Wadey, Olive, Butler, Cornes and Garouse

Centre row: PTEs Clifton, Manstone, Smith, Wiltshire-Butler and Trimble

Front row: CPL Dyer, WO2 Bourke, MAJ Hurford, CAPT Stone, SGT Searle and CPL Smelt

7 PL



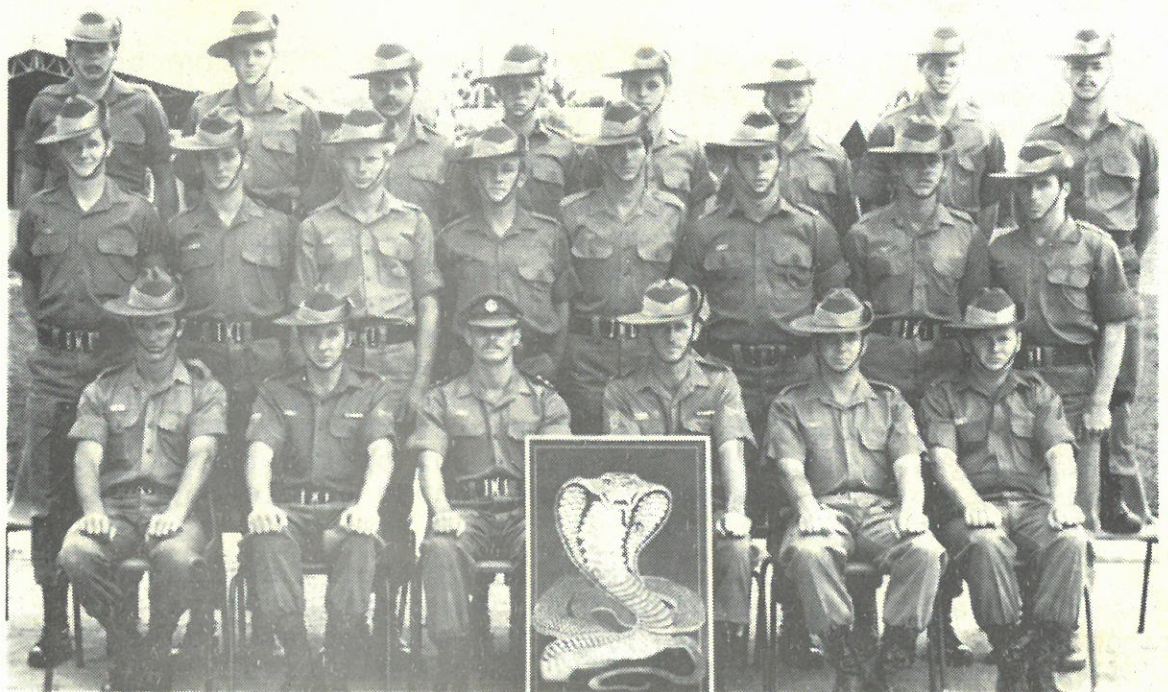
Rear row (L to R): PTEs Martin, Hill, Cominelli, Williams, Quinn, Goodwin, Wigmore and Lowis

Centre row: PTE Tinker, LCPL Langdon, PTE Green, CPL Jaworski and PTEs Tyson, Griffiths, Breust and Johnson

Front row: PTE Rohde, PTE Carlisle, CPL Charles, 2LT Mackin, SGT Wollner, CPL Pascoe and PTEs Skowronski and Scorgie

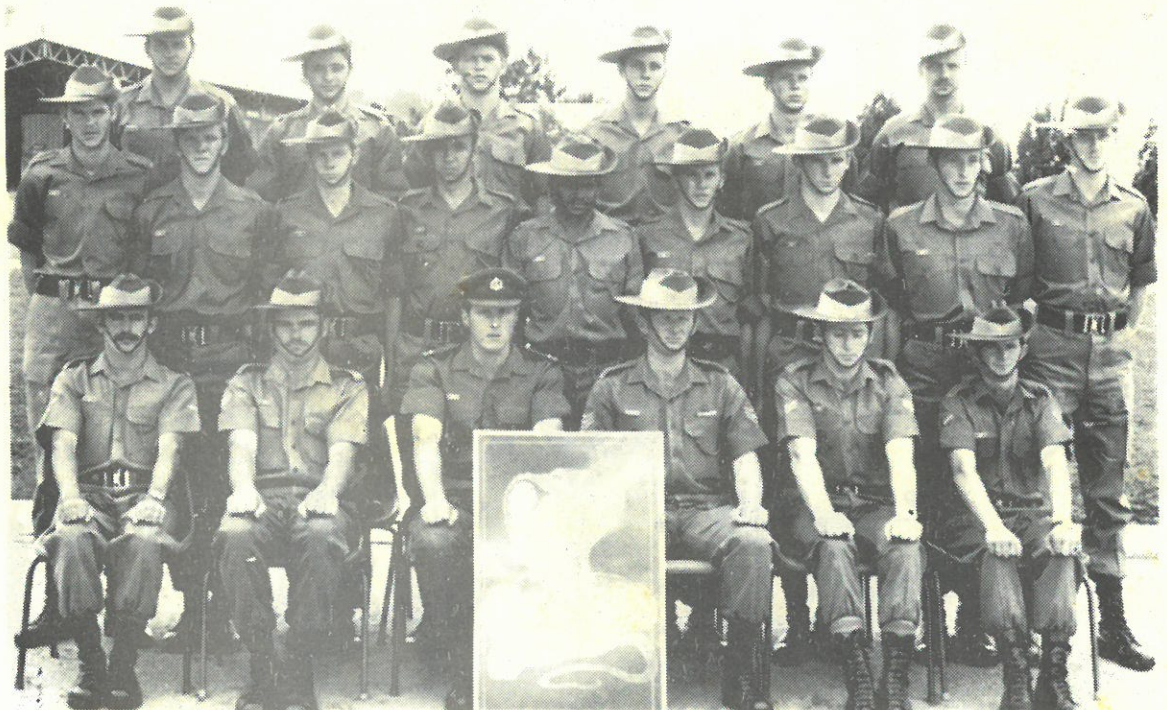
Absent: LCPL Moody and PTE Reynolds

8 PL



Rear row (L to R): PTEs Anders, Thompson, Saikaly, Furniss, Henderson, Thomas, Kennedy and Johns
Centre row: PTEs Hughes, Whitaker, Harper, Reekie, Temperton, King, Parata and Wilson
Front row: LCPL Abberton, CPL Watts, LT Robbs, SGT Storan, CPL Lewis and PTE Lambert
Absent: CPL Mawhinney, LCPL Meyer, PTE Howie and LCPL Howard

9 PL



Rear row (L to R): PTEs Laws, Said, McFarlane, McCall, Sutherland and Crump
Centre row: PTEs Breugem, Jiear, Powell, Twinn, Paul, Mitchell, Hall, Hockley and Johnson
Front row: CPL Greaves, CPL Patterson, 2LT Hill, SGT Selmes, CPL Scottney-Turbill and LCPL McAllister

TRG COY

The tasks carried out by Trg Coy in 1977 have been many and varied. This may be surprising to some and it may be that there are others in the Battalion who are completely unaware of the existence of Trg Coy!

In the first half of the year, three platoons marched into the Unit direct from recruit training and underwent their initial employment training in Trg Coy. Training of the first two platoons was conducted at Enoggera. The third platoon, which arrived almost unannounced, completed their training at Greenbank using a condensed syllabus. Exercises were conducted at Esk and Spring Mountain Training Areas and the standard reached by each of the platoons was generally high. Following the march out of the third platoon, Trg Coy was reduced in strength to enable Spt Coy specialist platoons to be formed.

To ensure we did not lose our infantry skills, we managed to carry out some umpiring duties on the Battalion exercises. Then there was always the odd job available at Bn HQ just to keep the training trio on their toes! Supervision of the 25 km march and shooting competitions added to the variety of events! Now as the year closes, Trg Coy has suddenly undergone a rapid expansion to stage a Corporal's promotion qualification course

Looking back, it has been a busy year and we are looking forward to a different set of challenges of 1978! There has been a large turnover of staff and trainees in the year. Without the fullest co-operation of the other sub-units, who provided the manpower assistance, it would not have been possible to achieve the results attained. THANKS!



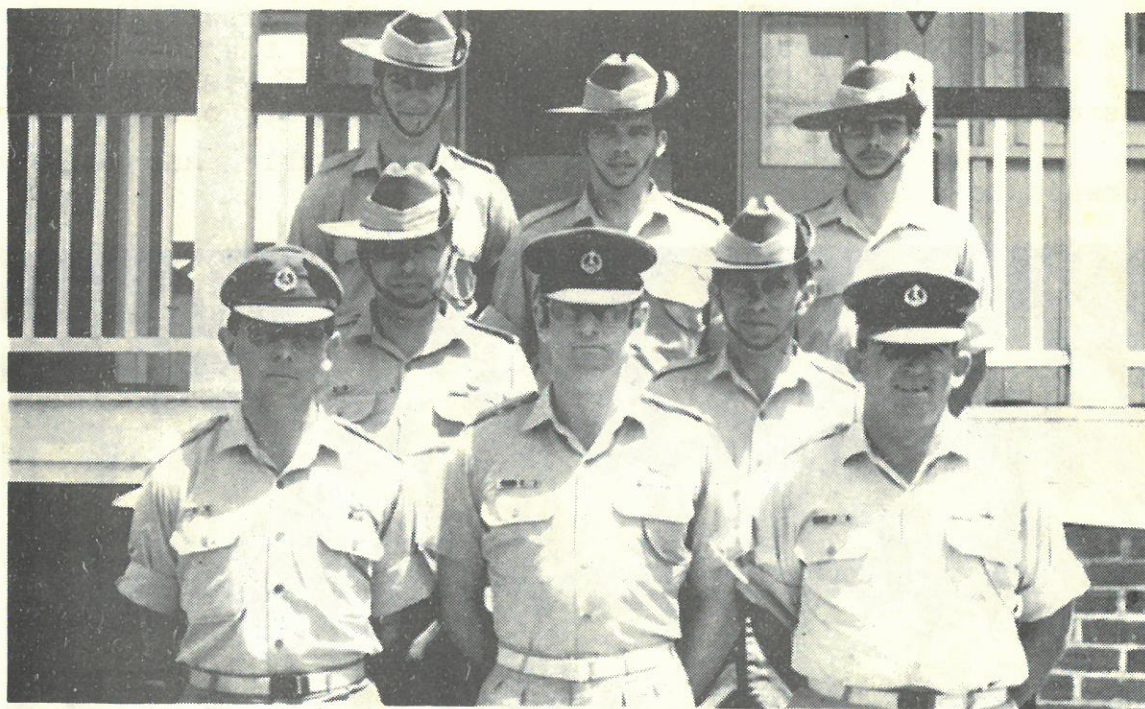
Left to right: SGT Read, MAJ Hodge and WO2 Percy

SPT COY

Support Company HQs has had a busy year with the frequent changes in our manning. We started the year by losing our CQMS, SSGT Hodges - he was replaced by SSGT Thompson. CPL Decker left - he was replaced by CPL Antney, who then moved to the "big building" and was replaced by CPL Wiley (who at this stage is in hospital and his position is being filled by CPL Kelly, ably assisted by PTE French!). Mid year, the coy gained a 2IC for the first time in the person of CAPT O'Donnell.

Once again the end of the year is upon us and there are changes due - the OC, MAJ Nelson is going to 1 Trg Gp at WACOL and the CSM, WO2 McCloskey is heading south to a recruiting position at NEWCASTLE. The coy looks forward to an equally rewarding year in 1978.

COY HQ



Rear row (L to R): PTE Virgin, PTE Lees and PTE Lenz

Centre row: SSGT Thompson and LCPL Nesteriak

Front row: CAPT O'Donnell, MAJ Nelson and WO2 McCloskey

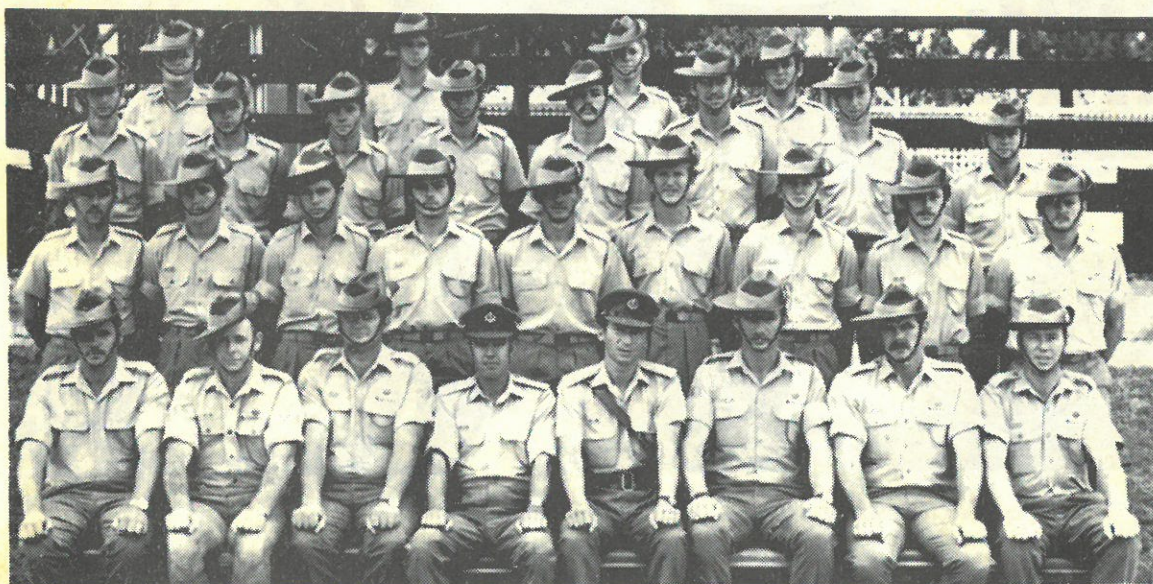
MOR PL

1977 has been a very busy year for the Mortar Pl, with our fair share of CPX's, duties, live shoots and of course, all the exercises of the latter part of the year. Probably the events which we have enjoyed most were the live shoots up at 'The Bay'. It was also a chance for the MFC's to get their revenge and put the line to some heavy work. Fortunately though, we were able to miss most of the wet weather and the shoots ended successfully for the MFC's and with good responses from the line. In taking part in the TF firepower demonstration we were able to put the gunners to shame - a pleasure at the best of times!

During the year there were several changes in the Platoon. CAPT Hayden moved over to the sacred halls of Bn HQ and PTE Dave Waldron moved to OAKEY. A few fellows, PTEs Arnold, Pini, Martin and Williamson got through 'The 6 RAR Short Course' and then joined us. Adding further colour and character were CPL Dury, PTEs Stevenson, O'Keefe, Rogers, Mulquinny (-89A), Heger, Smith and 'Snow' Payne. On the other hand we must say farewell to SGT Dave Miller who has gone to greener pastures and whom we hope won't forget us. We are reminded of the times on SPARTAN SWORD when the acting MLO (getting tired of his position in life) tried to take over the advance with the Mortar Pl! Fortunately he was stopped before he could embarrass us too much - unlike others we know!

On MISTY POINT, we again proved the versatility of the $\frac{3}{4}$ ton LR and trailer as we pretended that they were APC(M)s. The final exercise for the year, BRAHMAN DRIVE was noted for its monotony, flat tyres, dust and of course its brown snakes.

All-in-all, the year has been enjoyable, and we look forward to a similar effort in 1978.



Rear row (L to R): PTEs McGrath, Pini, O'Keefe and Halpin

3rd row: LCPL Jarvis, PTEs Arnold, Stevenson, Smith, Daly, Williamson, Heger and Wakefield

2nd row: PTEs Hawes, Finch, Mulquinny, Mertin and Payne, LCPL Silk, PTEs Vanderstoep and Rogers and CPL Harris

Front row: CPL O'Sullivan, SGT Johnston, SGT Smith, CAPT Campbell, LT Klintworth, SGT Briaais, CPL Millar and CPL Dury

Absent: SGT Miller, CPL Humphrey, LCPL Foster and PTEs Gill, Hong and French

AARMD PL

To begin with, we are all disappointed to lose LT Flaherty and SGT Bettany, but all is well, we will be the 'Jock Strap' platoon under the guidance of LT McIntosh and SGT Selmes in 1978.

The year started off with long periods of stagnation but eventually picked up and we were thrown into the fray time and time again.

Marty 'Chook' Smith kept everybody happy with his morning church services and prayers before starting work. Sad to lose a good man! John 'Rotten' Turner never failed to amuse the platoon with his impressions of any planned activity. The whole platoon was constantly amazed that the year's activities were planned with the view of bastardising poor John!

CPL 'Moll' Neiuse rose to the dizzy heights at last and gained a few more grey hairs for his trouble. 'Toad' Collins got the sack as storeman/sig and the job is now in the capable hands of 'General/Layback' Goodall. By the way, PTE Collins' contribution to the year was that he ensured that a platoon of 13 had the administration problems of a platoon of 30! 'Nostrils' Clarke was constantly seen holding hands with Frank('Wank') in the second week of BRAHMAN DRIVE.

Finally, as a warning to any soldier being posted to AARMD Pl, it is imperative that your housewife kit is maintained, to ensure a good working relationship with the Pl SGT!



Rear row (L to R): PTEs McLeod, Kovarik, Saunders, Thompson, Goodall, Collins and Fullerton

Front row: PTE Turner, PTE Lang, SGT Bettany, 2LT McIntosh, CPL Molyneux, PTE Clarke and PTE Duncan

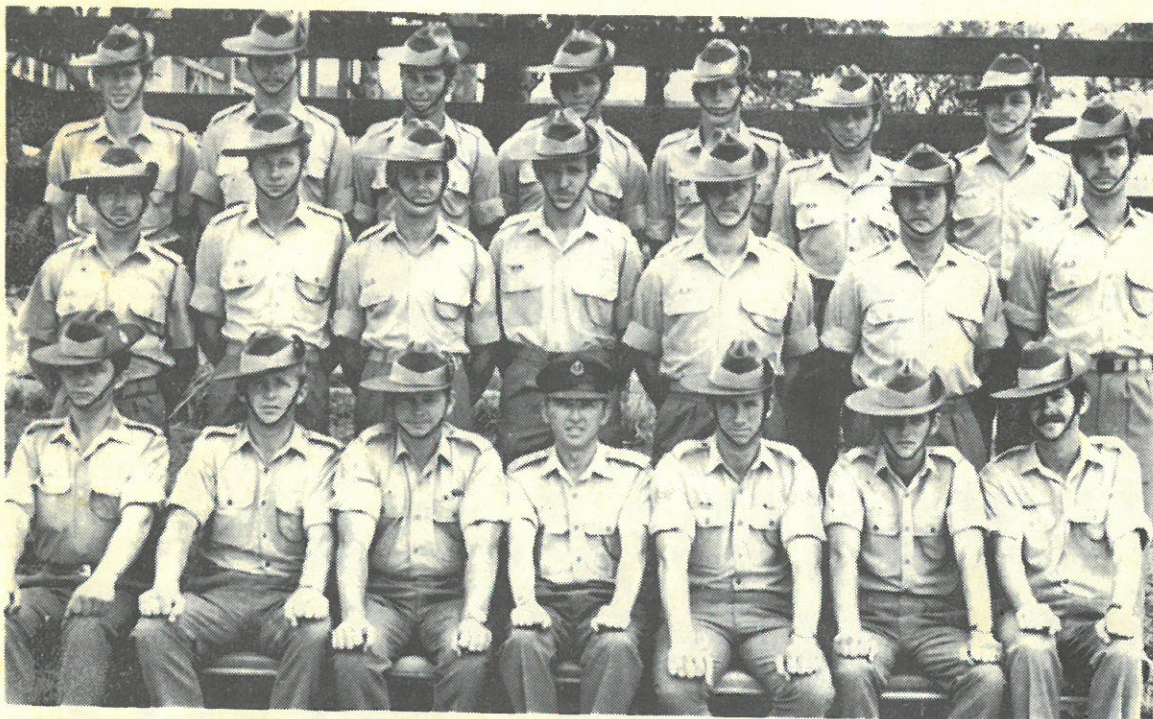
SIG PL

Well, the year or most of it has slipped away leaving only the remaining dregs to be drunk/finished. This year Signal Platoon has had a finger in most of the pies around the place: BOMBERS RUN, FLAT STRAP, BIRRING BAR, Bn CPX, two TF CPX's, HAT TRICK, SPARTAN SWORD, TROJAN TRACK, MISTY POINT and BRAHMAN DRIVE. We even got invited to participate in the Queen's Guard! To top all this some bloke invented a thing called 'AEROBICS' which seemed to have problems in its first stage rockets!

One of our greatest (?) achievements was the 1/77 Signals Course held at GREENBANK. We held it there in the hope of being a safe distance away from the claws of the Battalion. FAIL!! Next year we're looking at going to CAPE YORK!

Unfortunately this year we said good-bye to a lot of the old gang. "APPLES" has gone to SYDNEY town to specialise in drinking/recruiting, "MARTY" returned to the land, Norm BUTLER reckoned that Queenslanders were different and went home to WA. All this must have been too much for the other NCO's as "HO" and "WOLF" are hitting the toe, "WOLF" to follow his mate "APPLES" and "HO" to give "old civvy street" a second lash (bet you miss the old machine "HO!"). All the best fellas!

Anyway, next year is a whole new ball game, even the RSO is smiling. He thinks being a Rifle Coy 2IC is easier than RSO, in fact anything is easier than being RSO. Don't forget, for telephone installations, radio links etc, call ext 8297 - our motto 'You Call, We Install'.



Rear row (L to R): PTEs McCauley, Austin, Hosking, Morrison, Molloy, Mayer and Mills

Centre row: PTEs Hickson, Tindall, Berg, White, Poulter, Wells and Selby-Adams

Front row: LCPL Atkinson, CPL Wolfenden, SGT Turner, CAPT Simpson, CPL Campbell, LCPL Beaton and PTE Stick

Absent: CPL Howard-Osborne, LCPL Cochrane and PTEs Borghart and Leo

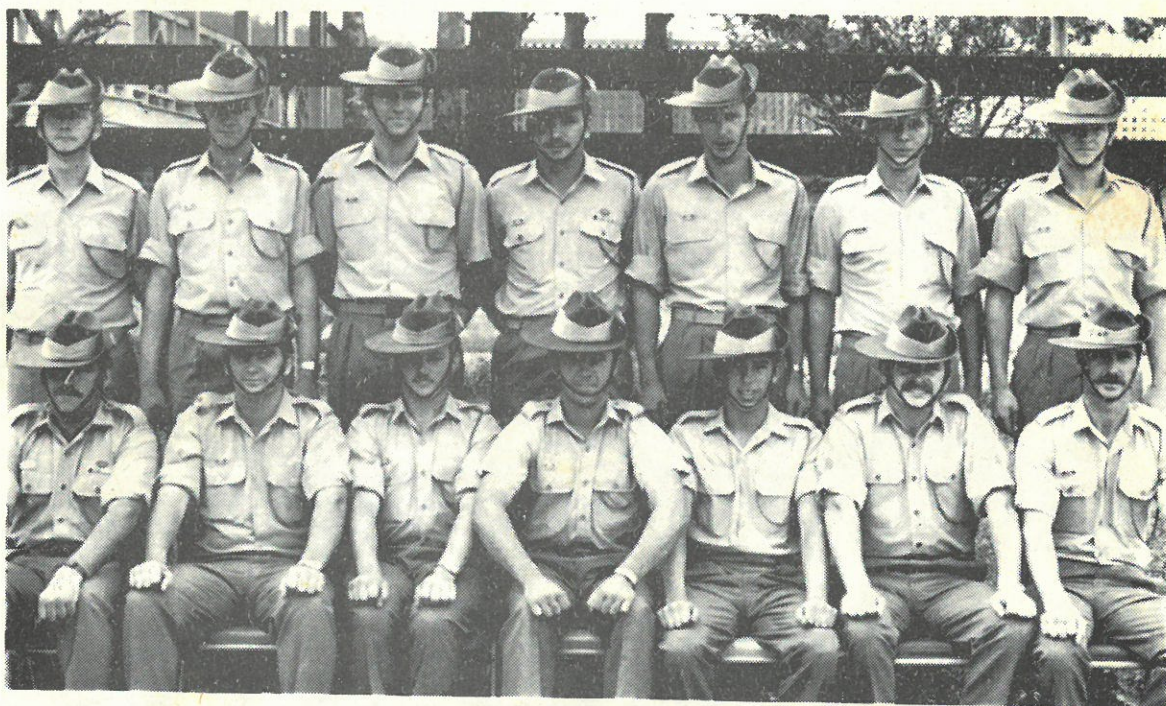
ASLT PNR PL

Pioneers have once again come to the end of a fruitful training year, which has included a variety of new and different training ideals. Some of the more important lessons learnt have been the use of ammonium nitrate as an explosive cratering charge and on 6 RAR and 1 RAR, the successful deployment of flame throwers in the attack using soapy water!

We trust that the coy training carried out this year on mine warfare, booby traps and watermanship was an advantage.

We are losing a few goods hands, but, "Coog", you were not on inventory! "Smithy", they are the same upside down and in different States! "Athol" and "Paul", the L&D for foot powder has been cancelled! "K.J.", hope you find a friendly clerk, with broad shoulders, plus the neccessary paperwork!

All in all, we look forward to a bigger, better and brighter year next year and believe that we can dig a Command Post as well!



Rear row (L to R): PTE O'Neil, PTE Synnott, PTE Hennessy, SGT Martin, PTE Fairgrieve, PTE Jadresic and PTE Scaysbrook

Front row: CPL Sawtell, PTE Welch, PTE Marshall, PTE Keillor, PTE Gonsalves, CPL Smith and LCPL Reil

Absent: 2LT Henley, LCPL Kenneally, LCPL Kirly, LCPL Taig, PTE Douglas, PTE Seawright, PTE Scott and PTE Montefiore

MG PL

The Machine Gun Platoon was raised on 14 Jun 77. The new platoon began with a period of intensive training in preparation for Exercise SPARTAN SWORD. This consisted of familiarization on the M60 and tripod with the C2 sight. Many worthwhile targets were engaged from behind the cover of the battalion parade ground! An integral part of the training was fitness, which was tested by man-packing the gun line to the top of ENOGERA HILL!

SPARTAN SWORD was upon us all too quickly and the short period of training was put into practice. However, when our first big moment arrived, to support a battalion attack, there were some red faces as AARMD Pl had to provide simulation with their Bren gun! During the exercise our embussing and debussing drills paid off as we proved that 15 men with their gear could fit into one Land Rover!

The next test of our ability came with the mounted exercises TROJAN TRACK and MISTY POINT. In the former, we provided the enemy party and seemed to lose every encounter! In the latter we were on the winning side and played a role that we were later able to fulfill with live ammunition.

In September a week's field firing at TIN CAN BAY was an enjoyable and valuable experience which reinforced lessons only previously covered in theory. It provided an excellent opportunity to carry out live firing support for the battalion attack we had practised on the last exercise.

The year was topped off by exercise BRAHMAN DRIVE - a quiet exercise which left us in no doubt about "ashes to ashes, dust to dust". The platoon looks forward to being recognised again as the "MUD GUNNERS" of previous days.



Rear row (L to R): PTEs Klischat, Nayda, Daniels, Gunn, Lodewikus, Fahrner, Czislawski and Rowe

Front row: PTE Payne, PTE Vesper, CPL Weatherall, LT Underhill, CPL Richardson, PTE Horton and PTE Pickering

RECON / SURVL PL

Recon/Survl Platoon was raised on 6 Jun. Although the 'Good Book' mentions surveillance radar and seismic detectors as well as other 'James Bond' type gear, our main role is normal infantry patrolling with a sniper capability.

Initial training ended at Spring Mountain with our two five man patrols 'spying' on other units for a week. Exercise 'SPARTAN SWORD' saw 63A and 63B covering 295km. The rumour of an exercise atrocity against SSGT Glancy of 6 RAR is totally unfounded (it happens to be 6 RAR SOP to walk around with your wrists tied!).

Exercises 'TROJAN TRACK' and 'MISTY POINT' went well - we noticed that Canadian recon techniques are greatly different from ours as their tactics and equipment are geared for European operations.

Exercise 'BRAHMAN DRIVE' saw us operating up to 40km ahead of the battalion. Patrols were inserted by APC, LOH, UH-1 or more commonly by GP boots. The main 1 RAR positions were found and reconnoitred without our discovery (good luck or good soldiering?). No Jubilee Medal for Ron Turner who was 'no-duffed' after a magnificent 4 metres on the first patrol. 63A used a '64' type radio set - a wonderful conversation with a Taiwanese Fisherman had to substitute for comms with Bn HQ. On the last note, there is no truth to the rumour that 63B got beautiful, delicious, icy-cold stubbies from a farmer!

'78 will be an even better year. SAS are running a Recon Course for us early in the year. Volunteers?



Rear row (L to R): PTEs Mahony, Sheahan, Braganza, Turner and Bradford

Front row:

CPL Burgess, SGT Kenny, 2LT Brown, CPL Matthews and LCPL Dixon

LOG COY

1977 can be considered an exceptional year for this slightly more mature company of 8/9 RAR. The official change of title obviously inspired all ranks of the company to excell in fields normally dominated by the more agile rifle companies. This year, good old Log Coy managed to coax 80% of its men out of the woodwork and onto the Greenbank Range for the RUR and Gurkha shoots!

The soldiers of Log Coy put up a good showing in the Military Skills Competition by participating in all events and even topping the battalion in the Leadership Reaction Test. As if to confirm the metamorphosis, Log Coy romped in a magnificent second in the 25 km run. During the entire year the men of Log Coy still managed to support the remainder of the Unit in all of its activities with the minimum of disruption.

HEADQUARTERS...

The company starred during 1977 with MAJ Nick Howlett controlling the rough bunch pictured below who in turn attempted to control Coy HQ. The major achievement of this band of merry men was to have the ability to pressgang 'volunteers' from the rest of the company for guards, parades, duties, marches and other very physical activities that 'pogos' deplore!

COY HQ



Rear row (L to R): PTEs Lawrence, Bray and Siensen, SGT Butler, SSGT MacMahon and PTE Florrimell

Front row: CPL Lincoln, WO2 Gillan, MAJ Howlett, CAPT Youll and SSGT McCutchen

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PIPES and DRUMS

The Pipes and Drums have had a hectic year. As well as providing stretcher bearers for the rifle companies, they have participated in many outside engagements throughout the city and country. As a result, the Pipes and Drums are always in great demand with the community. Some of the major engagements this year were:

Beating the Retreat on Australia Day at King George Square

Tasmanian Military Tattoo Feb/Mar

Royal Guard 9 Mar

Anzac Day March 25 Apr

Unit Beating the Retreat Ceremony 29 Apr

Launders Hill College 28 Mar

Kingsford Smith Celebrations Ballina 9-12 Jun

Beating the Retreat at the Brisbane Show 17 Aug

St Lucia Rotary Club 7 Sep

Grafton Jacaranda Festival 28-31 Oct

Governor General's garden party Nov

Unit Parade 30 Nov

Jubilee Parade 3 Dec

The Pipes and Drums would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of 8/9 RAR and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Left to Right: Drum Major SGT Kennedy, PTE Bryan, LCPL Laurenson, PTE Campbell, PTE Parkinson, LCPL Moody, Pipe Major SGT Black, PTE Gould, PTE Hill, PTE Pearce, CPL Nelson, PTE Williams, PTE Murray and CPL Whittington

QM PL

Besides providing the Unit with a record number of 100% spotchecks, CAPT Alan Kirwan and his men provided Log Coy with excellent backing in sports such as tennis, golf and badminton.

The Platoon has however been so busy with the end of year stocktake preparation, that it has not had the time to prepare a submission for this magazine! Nevertheless, they had time for a photo, so here they are...



Rear row (L to R): CAPT Kirwan, LCPL Ashton, CPL Stewart, CPL Hind and PTE Sohler
3rd row: CPL Connell, CFN Mason, LCPL Philpot, PTE Creswick, 2LT Croft and CPL O'Brien
2nd row: PTE Kevatniemi, CPL Cooper, PTE Mugridge, CFN Winkel and SGT Dale
Front row: CPL Gasson, CPL Norris, PTE Millhouse, PTE Khan and SGT Ewen
Absent: WO2 Rankin, SGT Sorrenson and PTE Duffy

MED PL

1977 began at the RAP with the arrival of three new march-ins to conduct the sick parade. With nobody to show them the ropes, confusion reigned supreme.. that was the longest sick parade on record!

For those members of the Unit who wonder what goes on in the RAP read on... A typical day begins with the 30 minute routine of unlocking the place as we have more keys than Fort Knox! The staff commence their tasks as assigned to them by SGT 'Hot Lips' Henderson. In the treatment room you may find PTEs 'Radar' Jones and 'P.... & Ribs' Boyde treating patients with minor ailments. Upon the arrival of

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the RMO, DR 'Wickets' O'Loan, the patients requiring his attention are ushered in by CPL 'Squizzy' Taylor. In the meantime CPL 'Jabber Jaws' Castle copes with the daily pile of paperwork.

DR O'Loan usually departs the scene about 0900 hrs for a quick dash to his practice in Mt Gravatt! When morning smoko arrives, CPL 'Coffee' Newton goes into action on the urn while the phone rings as frustrated platoon sergeants realize that they haven't seen PTE 'Bloggs' all morning!

REFLECTIONS OF THE RAP

From day to day we earn our pay,
"Doing what?", someone may say.
Mending bones and answering phones,
And sending diggers off - 'sick at home'.

We can usually tell when there's something on,
The sick parade's unusually long!
For example, before Brahman Drive,
The sick parades averaged twenty five!

The real purpose of the ditty,
Is to let you know the staff are shitty.
We're overworked and underpaid,
And still you want us for sick parades.

Once again the year has ended,
And we look back on the people we've mended.
We hope to see them again next year,
When they come to the boozier and shout us a beer!

ANON.



Rear row (L to R): PTE Hansford, CPL Newton, CPL King, SGT Henderson and PTE Waters

Front row: PTE Boyde, PTE Jones, CPL Taylor and CPL Castle

Absent: CAPT O'Loan

TRANSPORT PL

The 'DINKY FUHRER' and his band have clocked up yet another year covering 394,742 kms and consuming 101,154 litres of fuel. Nevertheless the year wasn't all that 'CROOK'; the platoon got through the EIS inspection with flying colours! Speaking of colours, who was the real suave man that was caught by the mob from transport wearing his purple pantyhose??

The platoon would like to bid LT Dave Simmons a fond farewell- so long and good luck to the next platoon. The platoon reckons that they'll have LT Given trained within a week!



Rear row (L to R): PTE Rogers, CFN Mason, PTE Lincolne, PTE Brown, CFN O'Brien, PTE Jones, PTE Coombes, LCPL Crane and LCPL Palmer

Centre row: PTE Hawkins, PTE Emslie, CPL Hallam, SGT Crook, LT Simmons, LCPL Riley, PTE Pepperall and CFN Irvine

Front row: PTE Bennion, CPL Gilbert and CFN Mitchell

Absent: PTEs Bayne, Tidyman, Bonner, Efford, Pascoe, Essex and Shanks

CATERING PL

The year of the 'Snake' has had its ups and downs for 'Ned and his Neddies'. Cooks have shot, run, dug, walked, drilled and drank with the rest of 8/9 RAR. As a result of our record course attendances, we now have the best educated chefs in the Army! New members of the gastronomic team include SGT 'have a chat' Lynch, CPL Charlie Rump, PTE 'Chick' Heaver and SGT 'Shorty Brown (Who saw the light!)'.

The members of the catering staff would like to wish the rest of the Unit all the best for the coming year.



Rear row (L to R): CPL Bennet, SGT Brown, PTE Simonsen, PTE Bennet, PTE Lawrence, LCPL Dalloway, CPL Hawker, CPL Rump and PTE Bastow

Centre row: PTE Dell, PTE Nitarski, PTE Shanahan, PTE Heaver, CPL Newton, SGT Tearle, CPL Steckelbrock, CPL Coggins and PTE Baldock

Front row: PTE Barlow, PTE Farmer, PTE McClaren, SGT Justice, CPL Jubb, PTE Lewis, CPL Skinner, PTE Davies and PTE Waters

Absent: SGT Fallis, SGT Lynch, CPL Anderson, LCPL Sullivan, PTEs Gilchrist, Gardam, Marsh and Holmes



Winners of the Junior Leaders' Reaction Course during the Military Skills Competition, the Log Coy team display their skill.

ON THE MOVE

MAJ Fairhead	to Army Office Canberra
MAJ Thompson	to Training Officer 49 RQR
MAJ Webster	to Operations Officer
MAJ Taylor	to OC Log Coy
MAJ Hurford	to SO2 (OPS) 2 Trg Gp
MAJ Hodge	to OC C Coy
MAJ Nelson	to SO2 (OPS) 1 Trg Gp
MAJ Howlett	to OC B Coy
CAPT James	to OC A Coy
CAPT Hayden	to RSL Repost HQ 1MD
CAPT Ormston	to Adjutant
CAPT Hudson	to Intelligence Officer
CAPT Simpson	to 2IC A Coy
CAPT Campbell	to OC Mortar Platoon
CAPT Youll	to SO3 (OPS) HQ 1MD
LT Flaherty	to SO3 (PERS) LWC Canungra
LT Henley	to Pl Comd 1RTB
LT Klintworth	to HQ 1TF
LT Robbs	to Mortar Platoon
LT Saunders	to Pioneer Platoon
LT Underhill	to Assistant Adjutant
LT King	to LTS Japan
LT Given	to Transport Officer
LT Simmons	- awaiting confirmation

POSTED IN...

MAJ Ellis	to Bn 2IC
MAJ Edwards	to OC Trg Coy
MAJ Longworth	to OC Spt Coy
CAPT Norton	to 2IC Log Coy
CAPT Gray	to 2IC Trg Coy
CAPT Schmidt	to RSO

*Note: at the date of compilation, the Senior NCO appointments had not been finalized - the following therefore only represents the postings into and out of the Unit...

WO2 Aylett	to Trg Gp
WO2 Garland	- awaiting confirmation
WO2 McCloskey	to 2 ARU Newcastle
WO2 Gillan	- awaiting confirmation
SGT Flematti	to 1 Trg Centre (as WO2)
SGT Bettany	to OCS Portsea (as WO2)
SGT Willmann	- awaiting confirmation
SSGT Mison	to 11 Trg Gp
SGT Vincent	to 6 RAR (as SSGT)
SGT Kenny	to Infantry Centre
SGT Butler	to Aviation Centre
SGT Johnson	- awaiting confirmation

POSTED IN...

WO2 Luckman
WO2 Woods
SGT Sampson
SGT Sales

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to:-

OLYMPIA (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD, 310 Montague Road, WEST
END, for their kind loan of the new typewriter used for all
manuscripts throughout the magazine.

Miss Jan Walters and staff of the 1MD Duplicating
Section for the printing and assistance in the collation and
binding of the magazine.

FAREWELL NOTES

8/9 RAR takes this opportunity to bid farewell to the
departing Commander of 6 Task Force, BRIG Weir. Our best
wishes for your future years in retirement. We also bid fare-
well to the Brigade Major, MAJ Peter Langford, who has been
reposted to FORT BENNING, GEORGIA, USA.

Knowing people in the "right" places obviously counts,
as the new Task Force Commander, BRIG L.G. O'Donnell, is our
2IC's cousin! BRIG O'Donnell assumes command in 1978 and we
wish him well for the coming year.

Handwritten text in a stylized script, possibly a signature or initials, located in the upper right corner of the page.