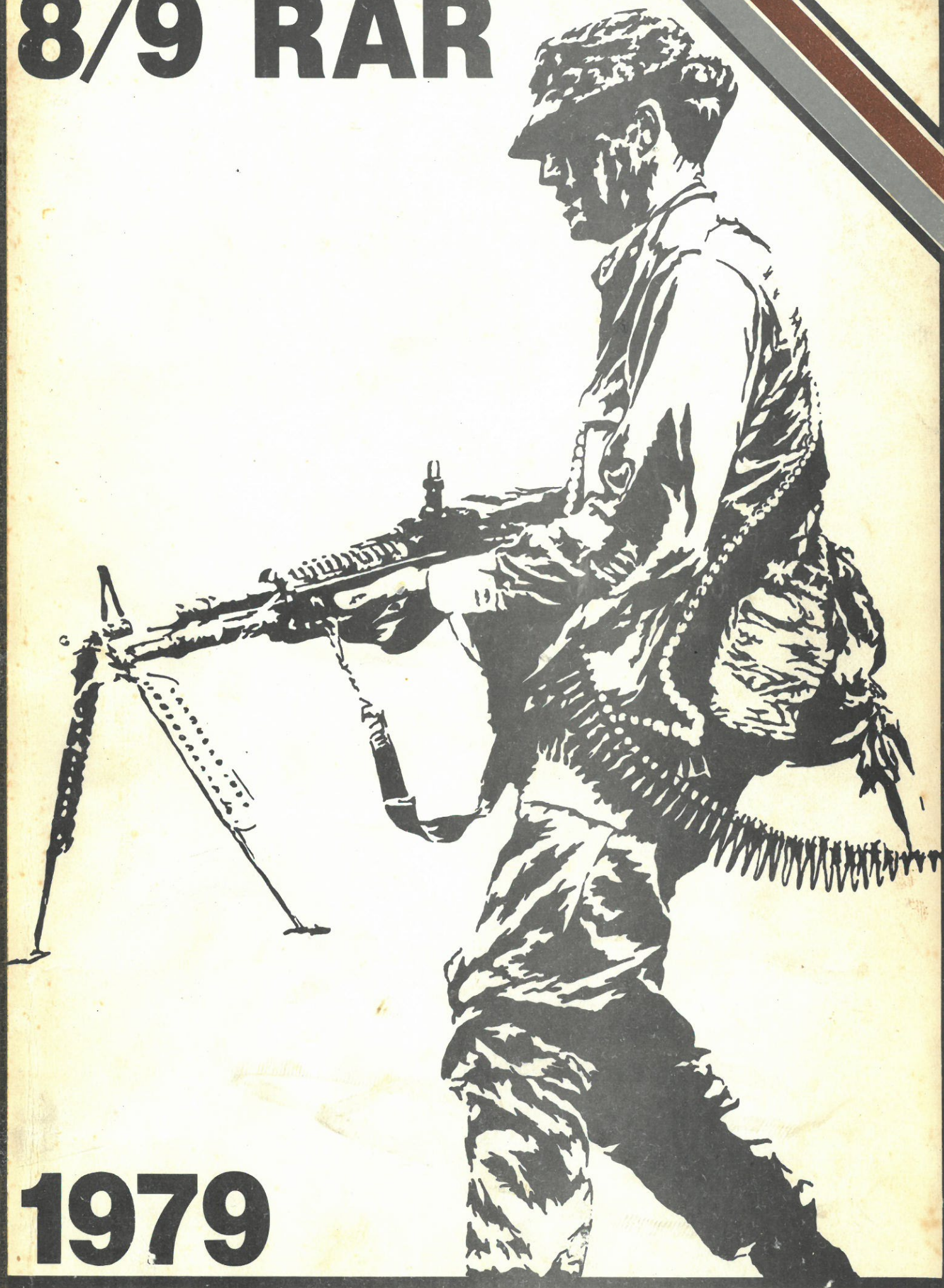


**8/9 RAR**



**1979**



## THE INFANTEE

He is born of the earth on the day he enlists,  
He is sentenced to life on the soil,  
To march on it, crawl on it, dig in it, sprawl on it,  
Sleep on it after his toil.

Be it sand, rock or ice, gravel, mud or red loam,  
He will fight on it, bravely will die,  
And the crude little cross telling men of his loss,  
Will cry mutely to some foreign sky.

He's the tired looking man in the untidy garb,  
Weather beaten, footsore with fatigue,  
But his spirit is strong as he marches along,  
With his burden for league after league.

He attacks in the face of murderous fire,  
Crawling forward, attacking through mud,  
When he breaks through the lines,  
Over wire and mines,  
On the point of his bayonet is blood.

Should you meet him, untidy, begrimed and fatigued,  
Don't indulge in unwarranted mirth,  
For the brave Infanteer  
Deserves more than a sneer,  
He is truly the salt of the Earth.



# CHAMPION COMPANY COMPETITION 1979

*CHAMPION SECTION COMPETITION*

*SHOOTING*

*25KM RUN*

*DRILL COMPETITION*

*INTERCOMPANY SPORT*



Once again, the Champion Company Competition has proved to be exciting and has held the interest of all Eighty-Niners throughout the year. The competition has a reputation for close finishes and this year has been no exception, with no clear winner being decided until the last event. What a thriller! So close has been the competition that the winning company could not be identified at the time of printing. To the company who wins hearty congratulations. To all personnel, congratulations on the excellent standard of competition and skills shown throughout the year.

This year saw the competition divided into three main segments, Military Skills, Winter and Summer Sports. The Military Skills segment consisted of four sections:

Champion Section Competition (Individual and Section Skills at Greenbank and the obstacle course)

Shooting

25 km run

Drill Competition

## MIL SKILLS

Greenbank during the first week in April provided a welcome break from company and platoon training at Canungra and other 'Holiday Resorts'. It also gave everyone an opportunity to show the skills that had been developed during training. Added spice and interest came from competitions staged between the Officers and Senior NCOs. Who was that man who reached the end of the enduro shoot and was heard to say, 'Ammunition? What ammunition?' Who were those daring men running the orienteering course at 2.30 in the morning? It was with such inspiring examples that all and sundry threw themselves into the fray and the battle was on. After five days of running, shooting, navigating, judging, ordering, initiating, swimming (for those that could not initiate), testing, guessing, bleeding, sweating and crying, a clear leader was emerging but there was still the obstacle course and B Coy to beat. Cpl Patterson's Section looked home and hosed, but along came B Coy and Lcpl Cummin's Section put some life back into the camp by coming within one point of Cpl Patterson's Sections score. The outcome was finally decided after Cpl Cummin's Section built up an unconquerable lead on the obstacle course and took out the Champion Section Title for 1979.

The Rifle Companies, try as they did however, could not match the scores of Spt Coy. At the end of the first round the Champion Company scoreboard looked as follows:

Spt Coy	-	20
B Coy	-	16
C Coy	-	12
A Coy	-	8
ADMIN Coy	-	4





*shot as Sections...*



*ran...*



*raced...*



*climbed...*



*floated...*





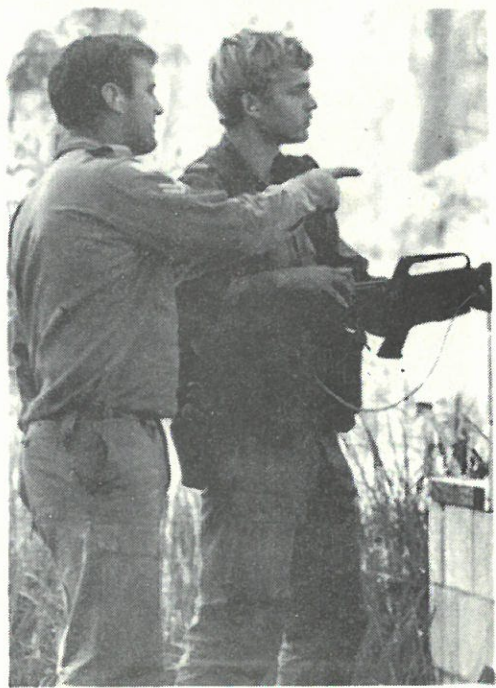
*shot individually...*



*trained the CQs...*



*stripped weapons...*

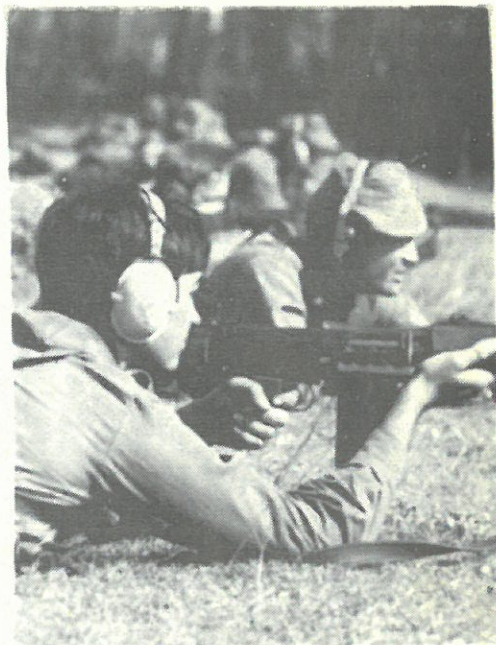


*coached...*





*judged...*



*zeroed...*



*fired MGs...*



*and relaxed.*



THE OBSTACLE COURSE WAS,



UP,







OVER,

A  
N  
D



AWAY





## 25 KM

This year the 25 km run was held from late July through early August. Once again the route chosen was the Dayboro to Samford 'Death Valley'. For many, however, it seemed twice as long. Despite the moans and groans at the thought of a sleepless night, the Battalion showed a high standard of endurance with all companies finishing under four hours. Congratulations to A Coy for a 'blistering' time of 3 hours 18 minutes to take it out for 1979. To those who think they'll miss out next year because they are now 39, guess again, the CO will be another year older also.

After round two, Champion Company Scores were:

B Coy	-	32
Spt Coy	-	32
A Coy	-	28
C Coy	-	20
Admin Coy	-	8



start...





10 km...



15 km...



25 km.



# DRILL COMPETITION

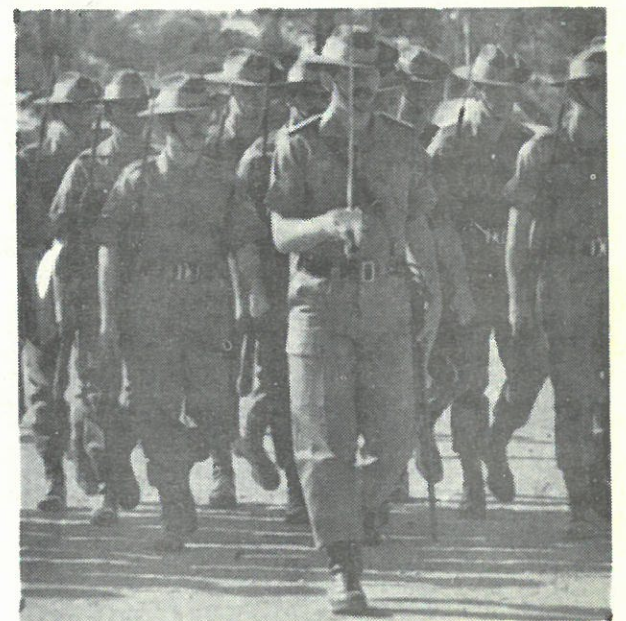
The Drill Competition this year proved highly embarrassing to 80% of the unit as Admin Coy got up and showed the 'Experts' how it should be done. With Admin Coy unable to compete at the same time as the rest of the Battalion, few people were concerned about a change of placings and consequently many hangovers due to premature celebrations were deeply regretted. Congratulations Admin Coy; a fine display.

After round three, the Champion Company scores:

B Coy	-	40
Spt Coy	-	38
A Coy	-	32
Admin Coy	-	28
C Coy	-	22













# SHOOTING

Rifle shooting this year caused another upset as was the case in the Drill Competition. The Competition was based on an application shoot and one would have expected the Rifle Companies to show their talents. However, it was not to be. Admin Coy won with some excellent displays. At the end of the rifle shooting round the progressive points table had been radically changed. The table read as follows:

Spt Coy	-	54
Admin Coy	-	48
A Coy	-	44
B Coy	-	44
C Coy	-	30

# INTER-COMPANY SPORT

Probably the most exciting and spirited rivalry this year was the inter-company tussles, which took place on the sporting field. Rugby, Australian Rules, Soccer, Hockey and Squash were all contested. B Coy on average was the better Company on the sporting field, winning the Soccer and Hockey Competitions outright and finishing second in the Australian Rules. Spt Coy won the Rugby, C Coy the Australian Rules, Admin Coy the Squash. At the end of the Sporting round B Coy had moved from fourth position to second. The progressive points table was as follows:

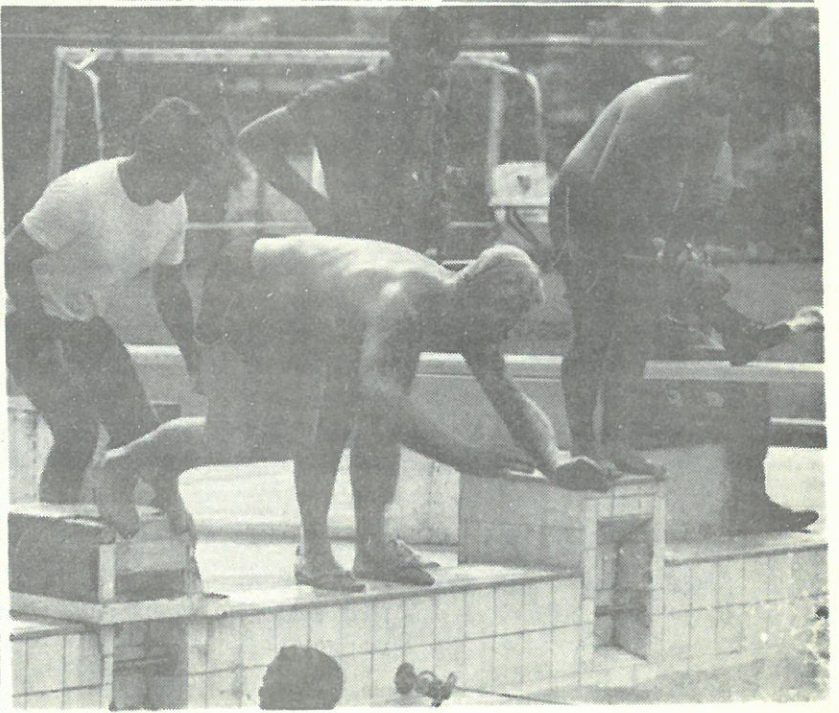
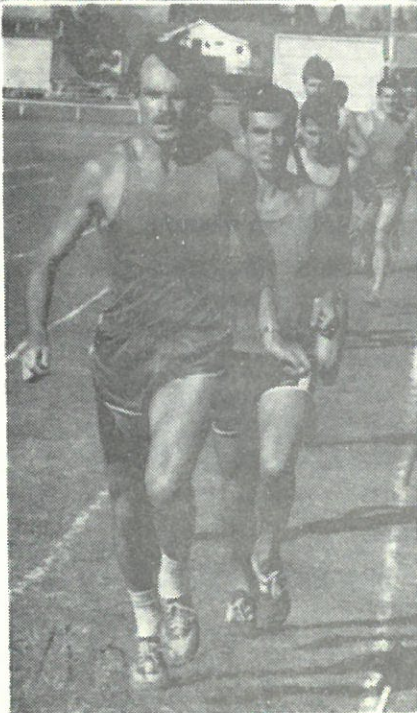
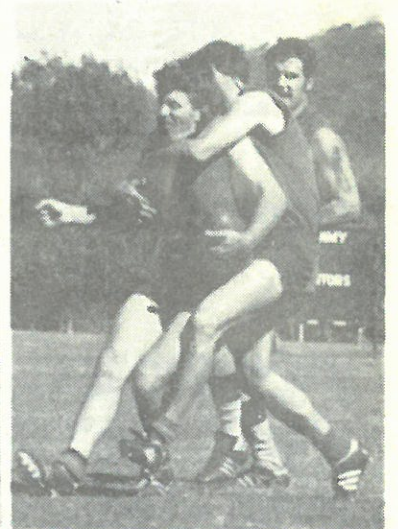
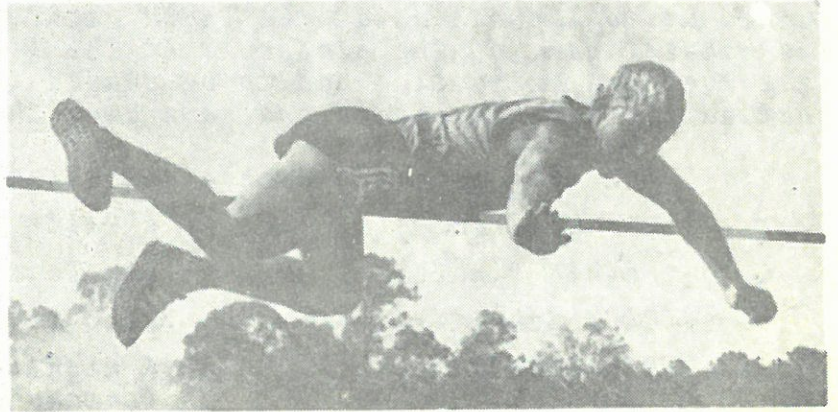
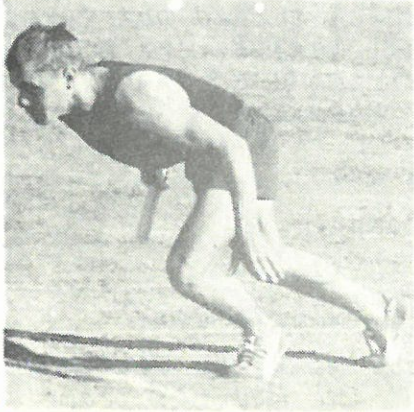
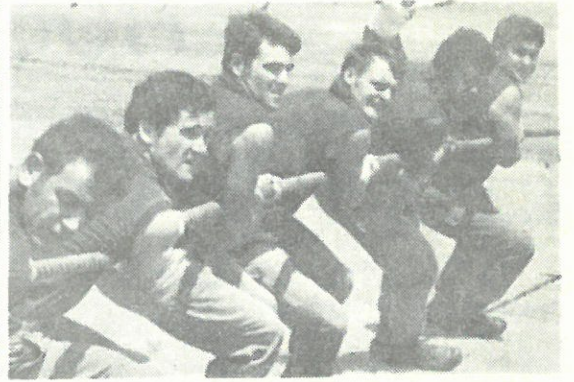
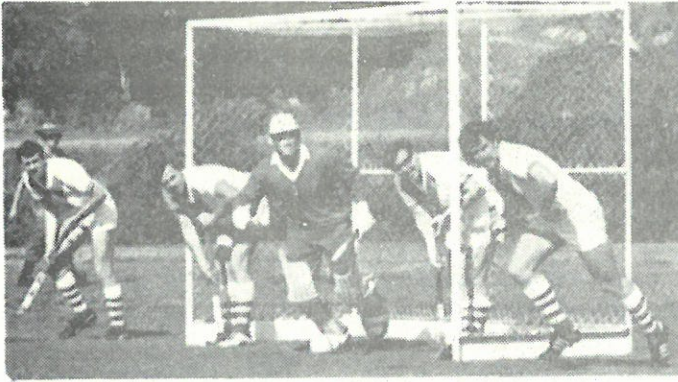
Spt Coy	-	88
B Coy	-	82
Admin Coy	-	63
A Coy	-	61
C Coy	-	61

Note. At the time of printing the MG shooting had not been finalized. It appears, however, that Spt Coy will be the Champion Company of 1979.











# HOCKEY

The 1979, 8/9 RAR, Gentlemen's XI, had an extremely successful season, topping it off by winning the Premiership. We welcome to the Battalion and to the team this year, Bob Carney who Captain/Coached the team to success.

After several wins, a number of draws and a lost game, we were placed second in the final four behind the Police Academy team. 6 RAR and Men's Composite were both knocked out of the competition, leaving Police Academy and 8/9 RAR to play off. The Battalion turned up to support us at the Grand Final which turned out to be the hardest game of the season. At the final whistle the score was even and extra time had to be played to decide a winner. Fortunately 8/9 RAR scored and came away the Premiers.

The team sporting awards and prizes are:

MAJ Williams

A Rifle Company

Father Tinkler

2 x Team Shirts

CAPT Schmitt

Trip to the Middle East

PTE Bob Carney

A night out with the centre forward of the women's team

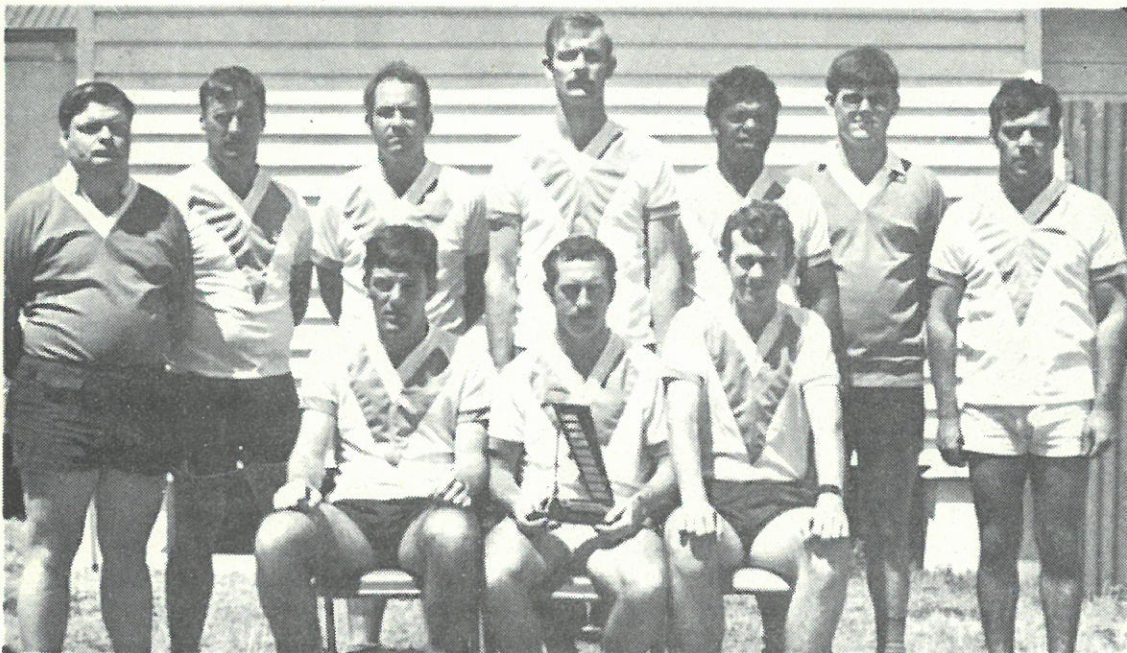
PTE Ray Matthews

PAM 25 'How to Shoot'

CPL Fred Remin

An axe in the shape of a hockey stock

We would also like to thank the other players throughout the season. LT Litchfield, 2LT Jones, CPL Vogler, Silk, Grieves, LCPL Arnold, Hawes, PTE Sheen, Baldry, Fogan, Wakefield, Williams and Lee.



Front Row: LT Litchfield, PTE Carney, 2LT Jones

Rear Row: CPL Vogler, Kirley, PTE Wakefield, CPL Remin, PTE Williams, PTE Fogan, Matthews







# AUSTRALIAN RULES

The '79 season started well but as usual, lack of training due to exercise commitments, told on us towards the end of the season. The fact that we reached the Preliminary Final with few training sessions certainly speaks volumes for the football ability within 8/9 RAR.

Thanks from the whole team to SSGT Bob Searl (Coach) and SGT Fallis (Manager) for their good work all year. As for the players, I would like to thank the whole team for a guts effort all year, with special thanks to LCPL Rod Goodall, LT Boyd, PTE 'Tiny' Pellav and LCPL 'Bugs' Butler. Congratulations to Pte Steve Richardson and PTE Russell Cominelli for their selection in Inter Service.

Finally, congratulations to our sister Battalion, 6 RAR, on winning the 79 flag. I am sure that with more application it will be 8/9 RAR for Premiers in 1980.

Abbo.





# RUGBY UNION

The 1979 season saw 8/9 RAR finishing an unhappy last in the area competition. The side tried throughout the year and put in some creditable performances against the top sides, but were largely unable to capitalize on their performances. The team was only able to score one victory, this against 4 Cav.

The year finished with a trip away to LISMORE where the 8/9 RAR Rugby Side played LISMORE City Rugby Club and IPSWICH Rugby Club. Our team achieved two draws in a round robin, with these two teams. The weekend was a huge success with the locals commenting on the good behaviour and good rugby of our team. LISMORE and IPSWICH have expressed a willingness to play us again either pre-season or at the completion of the season. It is hoped that this will become an annual affair.

The side looks forward to next year. There is a lot of talent in the Battalion and with training and some experience the team can only improve on this year's performance.

The Best and Fairest for 1979 went to SGT Ron Briais. Most Improved went to LCPL Leroy Watters. Best Find of the year went to PTE Noel Reid.





THE  
COMPANIES  
AND  
PLATOONS  
COMMENT  
ON  
THE YEAR



# BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Another year has passed and the BHQ push have again burrowed their way through mountains of work in the administrative battle for the good of the Battalion.

The year again saw many changes in staff. Our new CO joined us during the leave period and by the time we were all back on the ground had a firm grasp on the helm. The 2IC has left us and set sail for the 'good ol' US of A' to show the 'God damns' how it's done. RSM Cowan moved on to higher if not better places amongst the pogos of TFHQ. Never fear fellas, he still thinks of us. Probably wishes he was still with the real Soldiers. The new RSM has taken over and has already impressed upon everybody his very strong feelings concerning vertical and horizontal positions on parade grounds. Aaschers 'The Fine Gem Merchants of Amsterdam and Brisbane' must now be breathing a sigh of relief at the news of the separation of that fabulous, fastidious, fortune-fossicking duo of Smithson and Montgomery. Townsville and Adelaide, how much farther apart can you get? High Range and Murray Bridge will probably experience an upsurge in excavations and the holes won't be 6' x 2' x 4½'. The judy Suiter twins from the typing pool, 'Pedro' Crump and Mick Newton, have both debussed into civvy street. Terry Pressland, whose presence in the Battalion benefited many people, has moved on to new pastures and has been replaced by another rep from Royal Australian Cars and Trucks in the form of Roger 'Bald Eagle' Juranek. Reproduction has now been taken over by Paul Winton, 'nice legs, pity about the head'.

During the year BHQ also had opportunity to show, individually, as a team and as a part of Admin Coy just how underestimated we pogos are. Without spouting off, who completed the 25km with 100% of its people and under the time limit? Who ran and scored the third highest in the Enduro Shoot and who had the top scorer of the Mil Skills Week shooting at Greenbank? -- and you all thought that we were just pretty faces.

Surely the CO must see through the schemes of the ADJT and OPSO. They have volunteered to design a new configuration for the CP on a smaller scale. So small in fact, that the light goes on when you open the door and a third small person can squeeze in only if the other two hold their breath. You could call it a small exclusion Plan. CP Staff have been seen queuing up at the Spt Coy 'Q' trying to draw hearing protection. When asked 'why?', with pained expression they turn and sing, with feeling and two part harmony, "It's four in the morning and his jokes are all boring", (Bugle playing ain't too crash hot either). With the end of the feud between the 'Wagon Wheel Kid' (alias Webster) and Kid Smerdo, they all thought that perhaps sanity may return to the CP. Well, you know what 'thought' did.

Also heard around the place is the rumour that the next person to miss-spell the CO's name, is really going to get phitted. One wonders whether the cages being made for the Int Sect Vehicles are to keep them in or us out! RPs were seen painting 'Don't Feed the Animals' signs. Hmmm! Sunnyqueen eggs have brought out a new card titled 'Galleggher' in deference to that well known hatcher from the top floor.

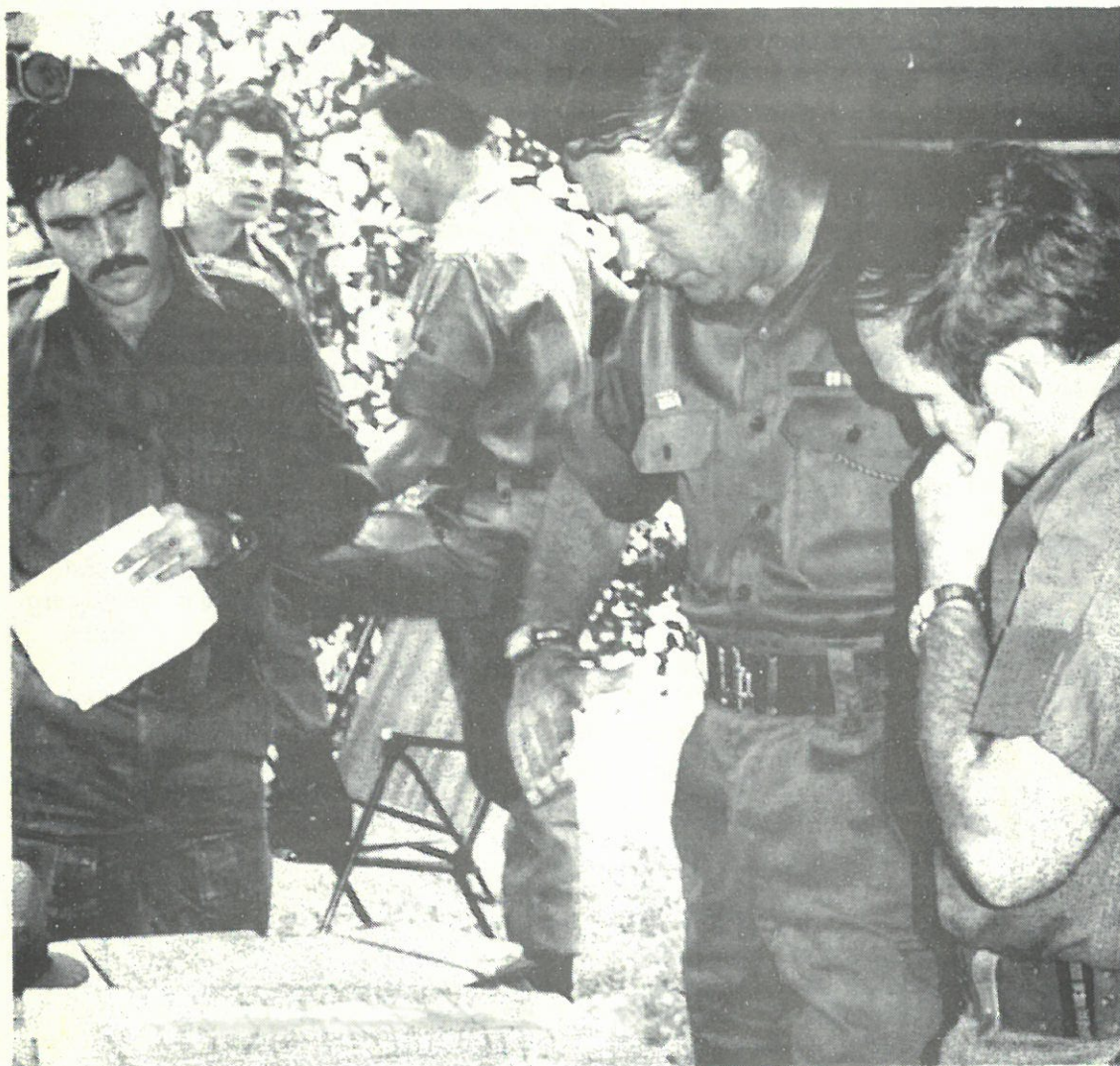




Back Row (L to R): Lcpl J Bell, Pte B L Firth, Cpl W B Litchfield, K J Whipp, G J Decker, Pte D A Rayner, W G Hall, Cpl B A Charles, Pte M R Morgan, L A Box, K P A Veijalainen

Centre Row: Pte G P Rolfe, P R Winton, Lcpl R B Juranek, Pte P T Shanks, Sgt T A Roe, Sgt P W Harrower, Cpl N J Wallis, Sgt R W Britton, M Holland, Lcpl Saunders, Pte K J Gunn, A S R Smerdon

Front Row: WO1 J P Henderson, Capt C H Gray, LtCol E F Pfitzner, Maj K G Gallagher, Capt G J Long, Lt J A Robbs, WO2 L G Smithsen BEM





-53-

# A COMPANY

1979 started with a new A Coy and the beginnings of a new name in the business world, 'Max Flex Enterprises'. From the OC down, everyone was working to make Max Flex the name on everyone's lips. Some of us succeeded more than others, (the CQMS prior to EIS inspection). The CO's conference squashed the biggest rumour, Max Flex will not have the services of a Caribou for airdrops on Skippy 111.

Training highlights for the year were as follows:

- LWC. OC and SGT Watts attack on a company position and the OC's recon of an occupied enemy latrine. Generally a good effort all round;
- Mt. Byron. More Max Flex profits;
- Inf/APC training at Wide Bay. Only enough track miles for one company attack if all vehicles reversed in the assault;
- Exercise 'Max Flex' at Barakula. The Advance Party for Ram Shackles to build good relationships in Chinchilla and Barakula area successfully;
- Exercise 'Gold Fever'. Who will forget the BLUE route along the ridge line?;
- The 25km run. A good Company effort, no doubt spurred on by the thought of a 'Champers' breakfast and
- Exercise 'Rat Race'. The sight of Bob Stockwell practising for the Battalion swimming carnival, at night, in Moreton Bay, using an LCM as starting blocks.

Another feature of the year was the BBQ after the exercises. It was much easier to go home and forget the work - or was it forget the work and go home?

In a more serious vein, this has been an enjoyable year for the staff of A Coy mainly because of the high morale and the effort put into training as evidenced by the Company's performances on all exercises. Well done A Coy.

## CHQ Personalities

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| OC            | Managing Director and driving influence behind Max Flex Enterprises.                          |
| 2IC           | Comes back from the Infantry Centre for a number of exercises.                                |
| CSM           | Has given up smoking 18 times this year; the same number of times we've been out bush.        |
| CPL Stockwell | Surprised the field soldiers by showing that some pogos can run 25km with the best of them.   |
| Buck Rogers   | Typist extraordinaire. If you have a problem with your hobby, see Buck - it's his hobby also. |



Staff Dunne	Expert at obtaining hexamine spread over fields the simple way - take someone elses.
Shorty Walklate	Has to take a pillow to the field to see over the steering wheel of his Landrover.
PTE Angel	Rejected a job in the main Q because his moustache was too short.
PTE Speter	Has been known to produce his 56 day chit three times in one hour.

Q  
H  
C  
Q



Back (L to R): Cpl Stockwell, Ssgt Wilson, Pte Angel  
Front: Maj Edwards, Capt Gibson  
Absent: WO2 Piper, Pte Walklate, Rogers

### 1 Platoon Notes

When one takes into consideration such obstacles as wives, girlfriends, babies, and Finance Companies, 1 Pl has taken on the world this year and done very well. The Platoon consisted of many young soldiers who passed their IET Course early in 1979. PTE Lechner was the top soldier on the course and came to the fighting 'One'.

In March LT Fogarty accepted the invitation and the Platoon went to Canungra for Jungle Training, while the other platoons in A Coy met with such troubles as, losing their Platoon Commanders through injury or being lost for a day or so. 1 Platoon performed in the usual professional manner. The Directing Staff at LWC were pleased with our performance and commented that the Platoon was the best they had worked with in five years.



Between Canungra and Mt Byron the Platoon put in a few very hard months of training and under the guidance of experienced NCOs shaped into an efficient body of soldiers. In May we went bush again for Exercise 'Max Flex'. LT Fogarty was thrown to the wolves, however, and left A Coy for a holiday in SPT Coy. He must have enjoyed working with the MG Pl because he never returned. After one week into the Exercise, 2LT Slater arrived out of thin air and took over as OC 1 Pl. The new Platoon Commander was surprised when he saw the PHQ he had inherited. There was SGT Watts, who howled like a dingo in the night, the Batman, Mick Bell, who was the model of a tin soldier and John Whitlock (Bam Bam) the Platoon Sig was something like a caveman.

On Exercise 'Ram Shackle', 1 Pl made a name for itself once again. We didn't see many enemy. When we did though, we moved silently and swiftly and captured prisoners on several occasions. LCPL Watters and the boys of 1 Sect, excelled in tackling enemy on the run and grabbing enemy sentries. The Platoon received only one casualty on the exercise - poor PTE Powell was shot by B Coy on the final Battalion attack.

The Platoon lost and gained personalities throughout the year. There were the two old soldiers 'Wara' Williams and 'Blue' Muir who received civilian postings in September. CPL Olding was promoted and went to sort out C Coy after serving many years in 1 Pl. PTE Bell, our model tin soldier, was last seen leaving for the SASR Carda Course. There was the arrival of PTE Threadgate in the middle of the year and CPL Hatch who arrived around August to fit very smoothly into the organisation.

Generally the year has been good for us, and we who were called the new soldiers this year, will be glad to be the old soldiers of 1980.



Front Row: Pte Guttridge, Lcpl Helmore, Lcpl Nayda, Sgt Watts, Lt Slater, Cpl Hatch, Bailey, Lcpl Watters, Pte Davidson

Centre Row: Pte Rockonaylewa, Clifton, Brown, Whitlock, Threadgate, Lechner, Pte McKenzie, Rappard, Harris, Healy

Back Row: Pte Lynch, Powell, Anderson, Norman, Phelan, Busby, Day, Mitchell



## 2 PLATOON REMEMBERS . . .

The Passing Parade of Faces and Characters. The Platoon Commander, who had a habit of falling into shellscrapes and hurting his knee, tripped over a vine and injured his knee the day before it rained. Suspicious! The next Monday, several minutes before loading the trucks for a ten day exercise, we were confronted by a well-known Officer who said, "My name is 2LT Phoenix. I'm your new Platoon Commander. Get on the trucks." Has anyone seen Mr McGregor? LCPL 'Ocka' Millard and LCPL 'Vanno' Van Krimport terminated their military service after seriously injuring themselves in a motorbike accident. John demonstrating the laws of gravity by taking an umbrella and jumping from the middle floor of A Coy. Goodbye to 'Mitch', Potter, and Cran, and Norm Ashby, who is now harrassing the Sergeants' Mess as a steward. You can hack it Sergeants.

Exercises. We remember the daily resupply (by day and night) by Max Flex Enterprises of soft drink to the troops in the field. That Platoon Commander who dared to be an acting 2IC and not take a jaffle iron to the field. Cran (I hate snakes) finding a snake whilst on patrol and bringing it home to be told it is a death adder. Steve Whittaker's entrenching tool being buried whilst filling their pits. A survival exercise on Moreton Island (a chicken to last for three days) and coming home to dinner at the OR's Mess (choices were chicken or . . .). Foggo got his GD job ("Sarge, can I come back, please?"). CPL Graety's lost patrol 200 metres in front of the company on the sand dunes on Fraser Island - watching the rest of the company pull back, walk around the other way for 2000 metres and finish up 20 metres in front of his patrol. Who was lost?



Front Row: Pte Elston, Lcpl Gough, Cpl Levine, Sgt Telford, 2Lt Phoenix, Cpl Kelly, Lcpl Bradford, Pte Vickery, Richardson

Centre Row: Pte Stannard, Anderson, Foster, Mann, Carstairs, Irving, Hearne

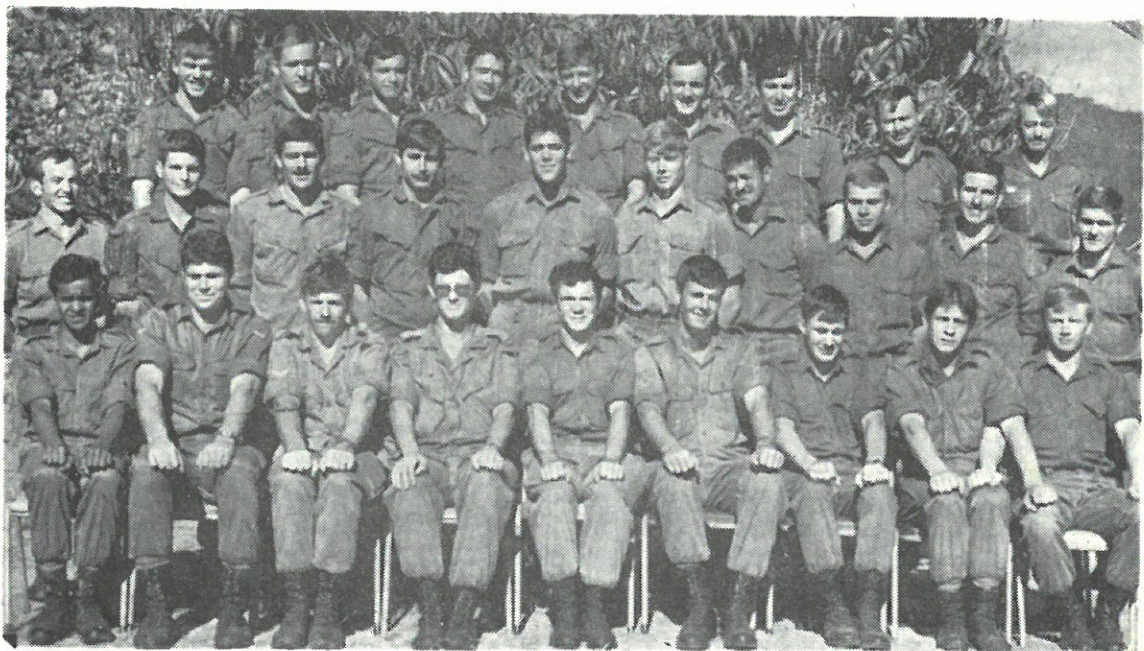
Back Row: Pte Shackleton, Elson, Dilley, Griffen, Sammons, McQueen, McCurdy



### 3 PLATOON REMEMBERS...

Being on five minutes to move - for two whole weeks. Three o'clock resupplies. SPT Coy not carrying jaffle irons on Fraser Island. Discovering that the Mortar Bomb Carriers were filled with sand - and then emptying them out. The RSM falling in a creek (Wide Bay). Carrying two stretcher cases 1500m to discover that there wasn't room for them in the ambulance anyway. 2LT Phoenix (2 Pl) camming up the top of his head. Practising for the 25km by running over the Enoggera Hill - three times. Survival training on Gilligan's Island. A Chinook practising aerobatics for the Amberley Air Show in March with us inside. The Bear Pit at Cunungra.

During the year, 3 Pl has had 13 March-ins and 11 March-outs (One of which was permanent, and by the members own means) with the 3/78 IET Course providing a big influx of keen young riflemen, some of whom are destined for bigger and better things. We have trained to a razor edge and look forward to taking our Sections on Kangaroo III.



Front Row: Pte G Stewart, Lcpl R Jukes, L Montefiore, 2Lt B Bell, Sgt A Whiting, Cpl R Watson, Pte P Gray, D Salmon, R Clayton

Centre Row: Pte B McRae, G Verness, Lcpl G Jackson, Pte T Vieritz, M Lonergan, A Foster, P Simpson, N Burgess, D Sheppard, D Holland

Back Row: Pte M Stewart, A Lucken, M Blunt, S Gillespie, R Vine, P McNicol, R Walter, J Sloan, R South



## B COMPANY

While we were deep in the 'jay' at Canungra, the old hands were over in Malaysia looking after RAAF Base Butterworth (actually having a great time in Penang, Singapore, Langkawi, Bangkok and Haadjai - the Aussie dollar goes a long way). The directing staff at LWC always appear so quietly spoken and are renown for such expressions as, "Get your rear into gear you ----" during sessions on the obstacle course. The final exercise was interesting. Vietnam could have ended yesterday.

Shortly after arriving back, the IETs (No, we can't call them that) joined us, followed by the old salts who had returned with many waries and loaded to the hilt with gifts for all and sundry. Most are still not allowed to donate blood. The first big re-organisation occurred and 4Pl was re-formed.

Early on 25 April the Officers and NCOs marched over to the lines to provide a brew for all interested. The common greeting was "Good morning Sir. Can we have seconds?" Several blushing soldiers refused to get out of bed for reasons unknown. MAJ Tinkler's address at the dawn service was exemplary. The Anzac Day march through the city to the rousing sound of Black Bear was further elevated by PTE Williams' personal cheer squad, who have been frequently seen in the area since.

Exercise 'Sabre Foot', an Inf/Armd exercise at Puckapunyal, started uneventfully with our departure from Amberley. The RAAF must have gone commercial. Why else would they supply us with coffee and biscuits? Co-operation with Armour yielded the stock phrase - it depends on the tactical situation. MAJ Longworth decided that the level of fitness within the Company needed improving. Company Parade was brought forward to 0530hr, dress being GP boots, green trousers and T-shirt. The PT is worthy of further mention as not only ourselves, but 1 Armd Regt and every one else between Pucka and Seymour suffered from the morning runs. As we limped or crawled our way through Pucka to the cries of "Blood, blood! Kill, kill, kill!" many of the tankies were counting down the days when they could get a decent night's sleep again. Co-operation with the Leopards was instructional, especially when we did the target indication on the range using live fire provided by the co-axial MG3 on the Leopard (rate of fire 1300 rpm - it sounds like a sheet of canvas being torn). Our Company song, on completion of the EX, was 'Someone's lost a TV room Doodah Doodah' however we were exonerated with PTEs Scaysbrook and Degruessa were declared not guilty. El Boxo wrote the 'Ode to Pucka' to immortalize the brave deeds which occurred. On arrival back at 8/9 we were greeted by the skirl of bagpipes and Black Bear. The OC tactfully withdrew to Canungra to participate in the Tac 5 Course.

PTE El Boxo and the Social Committee raised morale by turning on the B Coy Bush Dance with music supplied by courtesy of the Bale-Em-Up Bush Band. PTEs Robertson (Robo) and McLeod put on an impromptu dance to break the ice. One swinging soldier (Johno) was heard to say 'Do we really need PT in the morning Sir?' It was good to see some of the soldiers who had retired to Spt Coy attend the show.



The Mil Skills went down well with CPL Cummins' section (5 Pl) coming first in the Battalion. SSGT McMahon won the CQMS race although his Landrover almost drove over the cliff.

The Platoon exercises (Skipper's Delight) at Jimna, got off to a wet start. Although it did eventually dry out, the lantana still proved rather difficult to move through (Not CRW again).

Highlights of the Exercise were:

- the CSM's (WO2 Savage) gopher runs into Jimna;
- PTE Tadic (Tragic) defending 2LT Bozsa from a scrub turkey;
- CPL McMaster (back from course) chasing a scrub turkey with his PLCOMD;
- CPL Cummins taking time out to pick flowers for his garden;
- 4 Pl waving to the CO as he flew overhead in a LOH;
- PTE Hull sneaking up to two deer;
- the brumby stampede;
- PTEs Borrett and Breedon talking to the boys about Bangkok;
- SSGT McMahon and the locked gate;
- SGT Perry's last meal with an infantry Platoon, the resulting cooking competition (No meal's any good unless it has at least four curry powders - Browne ate it).

The second re-organization occurred with the departure of SGT Perry, Martin and Whittington. SSGT McMahon left for the 'warmer' climate of 1 RTB. CPL Whiting (promoted to SGT) left as Pl SGT of 3 Pl A Coy and CPL Guilfoyle went to Infantry Centre. PTE Gelberg (Arthur) went to CARO. At this stage the manning chart in the OC's office was replaced by two impressionist paintings by Christie.

An enjoyable period of range practices at Greenbank followed with some excellent shooting results. The highlight of the week was the Company mini-olympics. There was a close result in the inter Platoon tree climbing competition with 4 Pl getting the highest man (Briggsy), however, on recount 6 Pl won the event. The contestants then made a crashing return to the ground.



Into the fray again with an entertaining drive to Barakula in the trusty MK V for Ram Shackle. After just getting used to the idea of driving around, the vehicles stopped and we debussed. Except for the pogos (personel on garrison operations) we used the ever reliable TCV known as the GP boot. The exercise proved interesting as MG Pl was used as fire support during Coy attacks which allowed the tactical use of the Platoon normally used in the fire support role. Unfortunately the dreaded enemy had a habit of resurrecting themselves and just would not play dead. CPL Dury corrected this by ensuring PW were not taken during assaults. Unfortunately the DS (Dirkers Supreme) did not like this and ordered him to take PW. During this Exercise B HQ adopted a more lenient attitude toward runners and because of this PTE Braan volunteered to stay on for an extra day without telling the CSM. The final attack proved just how confusing the confusion of war becomes. This is increased when your command structure is attempting to win poshumous VCs. CPLs Geary and Weber (now SGT) were awarded battlefield promotions to Lieutenant during the attack. Unfortunately they could not qualify for HDA. We left Barakula in the nick of time - the rain clouds were closing in on the airstrip as our Caribou was taking off. A welcome break was had by all ranks during the stand-down.

On arriving back at the unit we did more range practices at Greenbank with worthwhile results. PTE Arthur who was almost overlooked when selecting MG1, went ahead and top scored the Coy in the GPMG practice.

The key word for 'Gold Fever' was consolidate. SGT Eade brought his lullaby sleeping bag with built in music, obviously a privelege of rank. SSGT Shaw (Never) adopted PTE (No, not bogged again) Hall as his mascot during the Exercise. CPL Water had a gentle breaking in period and was heard to say when he first hit Fraser, "Where's the RPs with billy and vehicle?" Anyone who said it was easy going on Fraser was certainly surprised when sent to flank guard. It was worse than Canungra. In the short time spent on flank guard all of the newer soldiers learnt a few words which are not mentioned in any dictionary. PTE Jack (The Duke) said that it was like bike riding - 'head down, tail up'. SGT Weber often fell behind 5 Pl HQ on this exercise as he was carrying LT Litchfield's water, rations, cam cream, shaving gear, boot polish and blank Ammo. The kitchen sink was left at home. The area of the island used for the company training lectures was known as Snake Gully due to the unwanted inhabitants of the area. Morale was high at this stage because, with no friendly losses, this dreaded enemy were losing 5 KIA per hour. The attack on the 124 feature at Fraser went really well and we discovered that though they can make sandhills pretty big, we can still get up them. Coming down, however, just takes that little bit longer. Burt (who ran into a tree) reckoned that an MID is just not worth the trip to hospital. Choppers are looked on as the best transport around and when they arrived we gladly left Fraser Island for Tin Can Bay. The rain was left behind and once more we were in the Sunshine State. Our return to Brisbane was devoted to administration followed by the 25km run. Morale hit an all time high during the short 10 day Exercise which deployed troops into all parts of Australia.



The home improvement scheme for Platoon offices resulted in a draw between 4 PL and 6 PL who are now thinking of donating a carpet to 5 PL. CAPT Smith (our administration wizard) has introduced a renovation plan for the lines and we are now preparing to enter Building Q5 as a Mater Prize Home. If this fails we intend to sell the building to Bill Bowan (commission to go to Pilko).

Skippy III looks like a boomer of an exercise at our old stamping ground of Shoalwater Bay. Raspberry Creek revisited with background music supplied by the Bombers, Blankety Blanks and the Dropshots.

1979 has been a ram of a year and no doubt we will all remember the highlights. The winds of change blow again; LT Boyd (Machine Gun) and LT Litchfield are leaving for greener pastures. PTE Parsons will be leaving for 1 RAR. The OC's going to England. LCPL Wicks is leaving for Townsville in the Catering Corps. LCPL Hanley is going to RMC on promotion. CPL Hall is going to Singleton on promotion and he, together with OC 4 PL, intend to turn Depot Coy into a fighting unit.





- AN ODE TO 'PUCKA' - to the tune: 'Jim Jones at Botany Bay'

Come listen for a moment lads  
And let me sing a song;  
How Bravo came down from the North  
To help the 'Tanks' along;  
Of battles lost, and battles won  
Upon the sporting ground;  
Of how we braved both wind and cold  
On 'Pucka's' barren surround.

We rise each morn at five o'clock  
To rouse the sleeping 'Cav'.  
With cries of "Blood" and "Kill, kill, kill",  
We run around the camp.  
Our NCOs are sadists,  
They love to hear the groans  
Of weary 'Grunts' who still are drunk  
On Ginger Wine from Stones.

And how we love the many times  
We're stuffed into the tracks;  
Bouncing in an APC  
We nearly break our backs;  
But we are 'Grunts', and we can hack  
The pace that's being set;  
Yes, we'll be there, in the end,  
Despite how sore we get.

We've seen the Leopard put to work  
(The 'Tankies' pride and joy).  
We sit inside our APC  
While they play with their little toy.  
The joke's on them and not on us;  
No track miles when they start.  
And the Leopards daily, one by one,  
Hit bumps and fall apart.

So now my little ditty  
Comes sadly to a halt.  
Farewell to dusty 'Pucka';  
Good riddance to your faults.  
Let's all now go on Stand-Down;  
Suck on a Four X tube -  
Five on a charge; four beaten up;  
And several in the 'BOOB'.





QICQ



Front Row (L to R): Sgt A Eade, Maj J Longworth, Capt C Smith, Ssgt G Shaw

Back Row: Pte K Bryan, C Smith, L Box, D Penny

Absent: Pte P Hall, D Jeffries, B Johnson, WO2 G Astin

4PL



Front Row: Pte Tadic, Lcpl Hanley, Cpl McMaster, Pte Carney, Sgt Eade, 2Lt Bozsa, Cpl Geary, Doran, Lcpl Glover, Mayer

Back Row: Pte Pacheco, Angilly, Hanning, Naufahu, Clarke, Greendyke, Pte Sugg, Brand, Muir, McCamley, Jackson, Cleary, Thompson, Jack, Leigh, Pte Browne, Sykes

Absent: Pte Arthur, Eustace, French, Hull McLaughlan, Briggs, Hosking



5  
P  
L



Front Row (L to R): Pte L Lenz, S Dennett, P Waters, Lcpl R Kay, Lt D Litchfield, Sgt P Weber, Cpl A Cummins, P Dury, Pte P Incoll, Pte K Clarke

Rear Row: Pte D Martinez, J Braan, Zwarecz, G Harris, J Nerney, Pte Robertson, A Parsons

6  
P  
L



Front Row (L to R): Pte K Hing, Lcpl K Stubbs, Cpl J Wood, Lt R Boyd, Sgt J Forestal, Cpl K Kirley, Lcpl W Pilkington, Pte M Bromfield

Back Row: Pte J Pidcock, V Pirone, G Tanner, D Hollowell, J Coyle, Pte M Borrett, Zambrzycki, T Fowke, R Scaysbrook, B Anderson, O Lockwood

Absent: Cpl Lewis, Pte G Breedon, Degruessa, Hollamby, Jensen, Martin, Pte McMahon, Pope, Ryan, Searle, Williams



# C COMPANY

C Coy, alias The Cobra, has enjoyed a varied and physically demanding year.

## The Exercises

To list C Coy's exercises in 1979, sounds like a Queensland tourist brochure. From the harsh hinterland of Barakula to the tropical beauty of Fraser Island - from the jungle paradise of Lever's Plateau to the scenic brilliance of the D'Aguilar Range.

## Mt Byron

Five days at sunny Mt Byron in February - the finest exercise of the year. A 'camp' type setting, morning and afternoon PT and tactics right back to basics. Section level training for the first 3 days and then a platoon level contact circuit in the rain. Friday saw the first of the 'walk-outs' -- 6km in the pouring rain!

## Canungra/Lever's Plateau

Three and half weeks at LWC in Feb/Mar with B Coy. At this stage, we were still missing the Butterworth contingent and the IETs and were organised as 8 Pl and 9 Pl only. The first two weeks at LWC were similar to the 'BE' courses of old - muscle toughening, runs, range practices, low level tactics in close country, forced marches, water jumps, obstacle courses etc. The last 10 days were a company exercise (B and C combined to form D Coy) at Lever's Plateau. Luckily, the weather was pleasant and most found that the jungle, the snakes, the ticks and the leaches were not as bad as expected. Perhaps one of the best kept secrets of the Lever's war was disclosed over beers some 6 months later - less than 24 hours after abusing Abbo for walking in a circle, Sunray 43 (more usually known as 33), arrived at an unoccupied harbour site and cursed the grubs that had left the site in such a poor condition. Only the keen eye of Sgt Briais and a discarded sentry roster revealed that it was the position previously occupied by the same platoon - much mumbling about animals digging up rubbish followed! Everyone in C Coy though learnt a lot about close country work and it is surely the only time that the RAAF were waiting at an LZ for us!

## Spring Mt

A 3 day section level patrolling exercise in the B2 area of Spring Mt Best remembered for the irate farmer; the close recon 'midnight disco' and PTE J A Thomas getting so carried away on his first bush trip for 1979, that when he saw an enemy and found he had no rifle, decided to shoot him anyway with a 9mm forefinger! The 11km 'walk out' greatly assisted company funds with goffers for sale at the finish!



### Bribie Island:

A 4 day exercise in April, with the three platoons at last reformed by the return of the Butterworth contingent and the addition of 21 new soldiers from the IET course. Thoughts of surf, sand, bikini clad beauties, beers at Ocean Beach etc were dashed, to be replaced by endless pine forests, knee deep lagoons and mosquitoes and mosquitoes! The exercise provided a good shakeout for the platoons and consisted of an advance to contact and then withdrawal, totaling 38 km. The BBQ at Red Beach at the end of the inevitable 'walk out' (this time 14km) culminated a good, physical week of training.

### Wide Bay:

Five days with the APCs in May, covering the usual familiarisation, loading drills and then advance to contact. The difficulties of mounted navigation were well illustrated by 'Circles' Mackin with his "eh, eh, eh", in conflict with his peers - OC 8 Pl and OC 9 Pl eventually prevailed and proved that for the last hour we had been going in circles and were several clicks from where we were supposed to be! This was suitably capped by the torch lights outside the company perimeter as the dreaded Recon Pl patrols sought directions to continue on their lost little ways! The 16Km walk out in full battle order proved a real breeze with most unable to believe the distance covered.

### 'Ram Shackles':

The 10 day Battalion exercise at Barakula in June was acclaimed by most as the best exercise for years. This time the honour of getting lost fell on the OC, however we were the only company who visited the Black Swamp Bird Sanctuary before the exercise started! 8 Pl gained fame for their defence of the screen position - the award of the Barakula Star with gum leaf was a just reward! The camouflage nets proved very successful in the defensive position (you also don't have to dig so deep!) We also experienced the wonder of double breakfasts! The advance went well for C Coy - we were most upset though when the umpires had to stop the exercise to allow the routed enemy to regroup! 2 LT Mortensen showed the first sign of a developing pattern when he was "killed" before the first Battalion attack. Kingy had a brainsnap when he was declared dead - the only soldier of 8 Pl killed or wounded over the entire exercise! 7 Pl acquitted themselves well under the command of SGT McCallum, with CPL Richardson as Pl SGT. The final attack on the 500 (or was it 520) feature was a fitting end to the exercise - the only problem was that Int Section kept on moving the FUP!

### 'Gold Fever':

C Coy spent 3 weeks at Fraser Island and Wide Bay in July, firstly on the Battalion exercise and then as enemy for 6 RAR on their exercise. The thickness of the scrub on Fraser Island provided a trying time for cross country movement and patrols of any duration became a trial of physical endurance and a real test of navigation. We observed with amusement the advance rate plans of 6 RAR during their phase on the Island! In the Battalion Advance on Fraser, we noted with satisfaction that C Coy had led the advance for 2/3 of the distance. CPL Greaves and CPL Abberton at this stage were revelling in the command of 7 Pl and 8 Pl respectively. Abbo, at first hesitant about assuming command, went into a severstate of demotional



depression when LT Tink reappeared after the promotion exams! After redeployment by air to Wide Bay, we again assumed the advance and struck off towards Marilyn. The missing compass trick slowed things down for a while - the CSM is still waiting for his beers Ted! After sprinting to secure Marilyn, we 'rested' for one of the short periods we were to become well accustomed to! More spurts and halts and then the capture of the Stringy position (2LT Mortensen KIA...). The final Battalion attack seemed to go well and we were committed in a latter phase, our progress impeded only by a passage of lines through B Coy, BHQ, VIP landrovers, TFHQ (Tac) and dead 6 RAR soldiers handing out biscuits! After a shower and changing into the dreaded brown uniforms and berets, we were unceremoniously 'dumped' back on Fraser. The next 4 or 5 days were some of the best of the year, as we opposed the Battalion Advance by 6 RAR. Our positions were carefully selected and prepared and everyone came to appreciate the advantages of a well prepared defensive position and the problems associated with advance and attack in close country. Redeployment to Wide Bay by air, a shower, BBQ and beers and we were off again to oppose 6 RAR, this time in the TF exercise. Having had a number of days of heavy rain ourselves, we were delighted to see it pour for the last 2 days for 6 RAR! After 3 weeks away, we all appreciated the return to Brisbane.

#### D'Aguilar Range:

A 5 days 'physical conditioning' exercise, covering 130 km. Memories of blisters, hills, cow dung, 'keep out' signs, 35 km on the Tuesday, inclines of 80 metres to 720 metres in 8 km, going to bed at 1800, the pace increasing by Thursday, Platoons having races up hills, the BBQ and beers - the sense of achievement at the finish.

#### Other Activities:

Range Practices - The company has spent several training periods at Greenbank, concentrating mainly on the unit and regimental competitions. It was pleasing to see CSM Burns, LCPL King, Pte Thompson PR and Pte Miller qualify for their SLR Skill at Arms badges.

Military Skills - We participated with vigour in the Battalion competition and were unfortunate not to do better - 4th in the 25km, 4th in the rifle shooting, 3rd in the military skills and last in drill. Congratulations to CPL Mahoney and 5 Section who came 4th in the Champion Section Competition.

Sport - The Company came 3rd in the competition, close behind B and Spt Coys, however we came out best overall in the 'major' events of Union and Rules. The Rules team won the Competition, being undefeated throughout and beating B Coy in the final. The Union team was undefeated until the final which was won by Spt Coy 4-3. We certainly missed LT Tink, SGT Briais and PTE Lambert in the final and the loss broke our unbeaten run of 9 games straight! The Soccer and Hockey teams fought hard and gave their best throughout and well deserved their 3rd placings. Squash is obviously not our best sport as we came last, but enjoyed ourselves in the process! The Company has an excellent sporting spirit and has a wealth of talented players in all sports - well done to all those who represented the Company and the Battalion in sport in 1979 and 1980 should again see C Coy to the fore in sport.



### The Personalities:

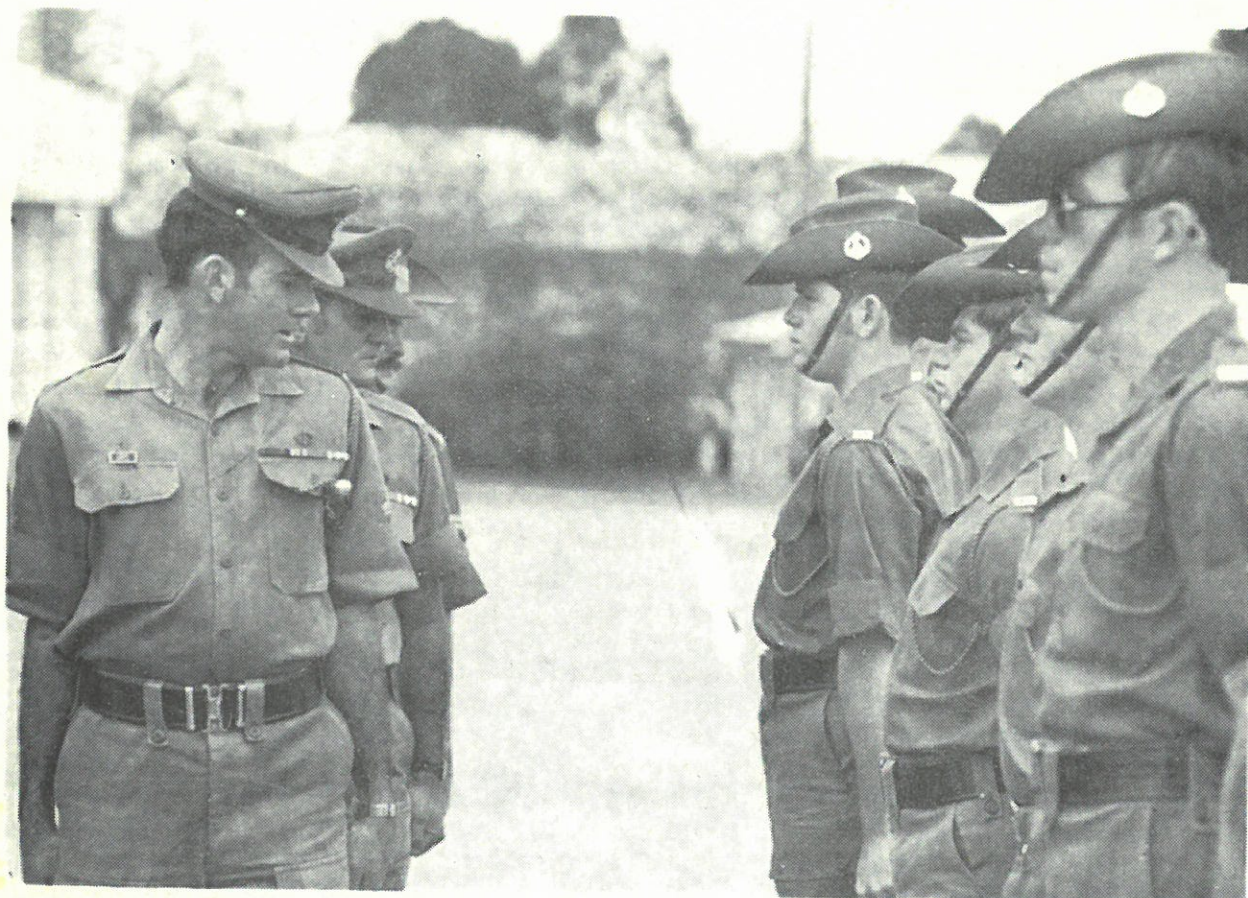
Departures - 1979 saw the departure of 2LT Mackin to civvy street, WO2 Burns to Spt Coy, SGT Briais to RMC, SGT McCallum to 25 RQR, CPL Decker to BHQ, CPL Smelt to 3 RAR, CPL Charles to Int Section, CPL Richardson on promotion to 2/4 RAR, CPL Greaves to Recruiting, CPL Abberton to 1RTB, LCPL Hill to Spt Coy and LCPL McAllister to 3 RAR.

Arrivals - Incoming were 2LT Cruickshank to 7 Pl, WO2 McGrath to CSM, SGT McCallum to 7 Pl, SGT Olding to 9 Pl, SGT Melrose to 7Pl, CPL Wells to 7 Pl, LCPL Arnold to 7 Pl and LCPL McLay to 9 Pl.

Promotions - Congratulations to CPL Trimble, CPL Meyer, CPL Wells, LCPL Goodall, LCPL Breugern and LCPL King.

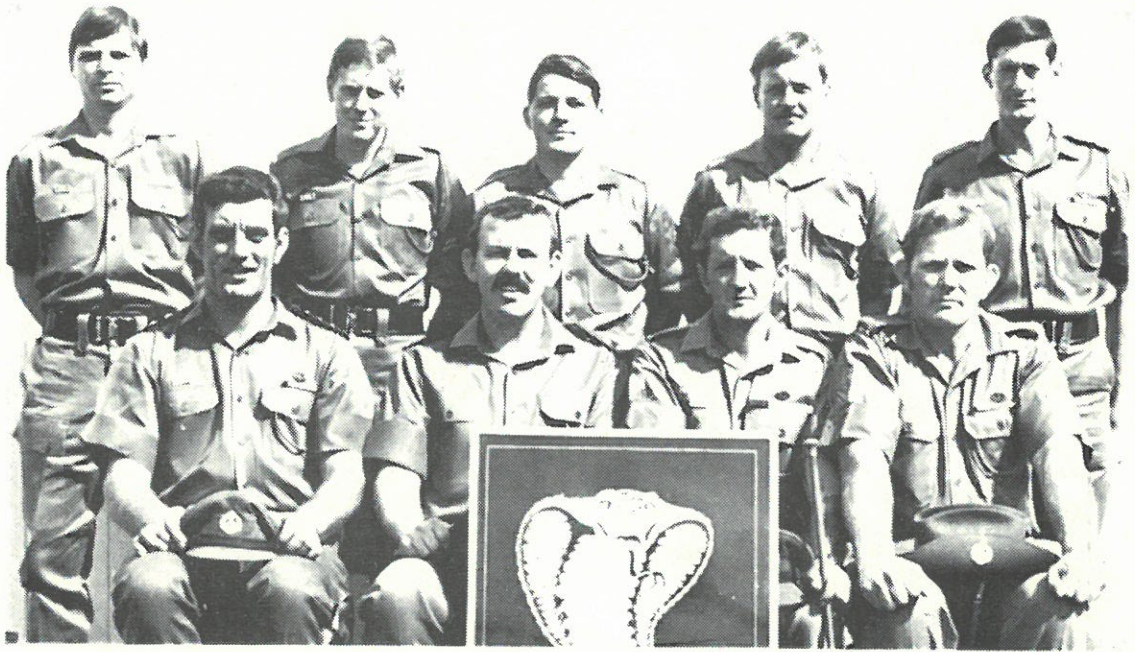
### Summary:

C Coy has continued to maintain its reputation as a keen, professional Company with a great aptitude for sport and physical activities. In the field, the Company had displayed tactical competence, aggression and stamina. 1980 should see a continuance of the C Coy reputation and the detachment to Butterworth from September to November will be a challenging culmination to the year. To all in 8/9 RAR, C Coy wishes you a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.





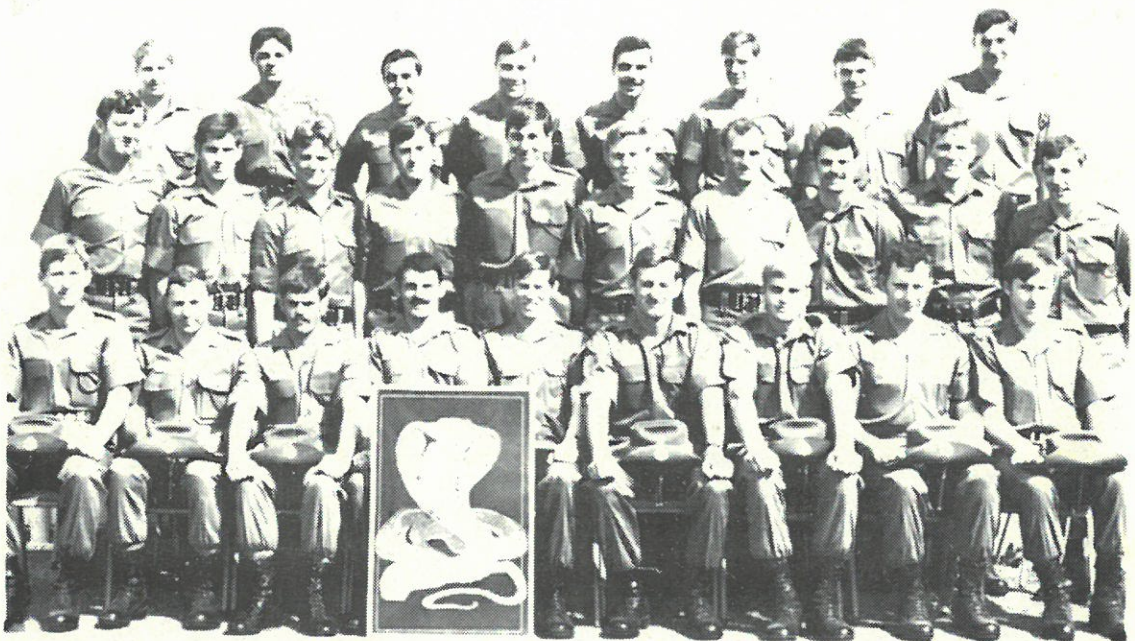
Q  
C  
I  
C



Front Row (L to R): Capt D McClelland, Maj R Ormston, WO2 B McGrath, Ssgt A Crook

Back Row: Pte P Thompson, Cpl G Decker, Pte J Laws, K Thompson

7  
P  
L



Front Row (L to R): Pte R Meissner, Lcpl A Arnold, J Butler, Cpl K Greaves, Lt I Cruickshank, Lcpl R Garousse, Pte H Tietz, Pte Thompson, T Bartlett

Middle Row: Pte S Thompson, C McTaggart, S Chadwick, A Miller, Pte D Johnson, J Simmons, N Quinn, C Eylward, G Lewis, G Steele

Back Row: Pte B Flood, S Weiss, S MacKay, L Puls, S Wakeham, Pte D McKeen, D Johnson, P Pellow



8  
P  
L



Front Row (L to R): Pte I Cust, D Hanly, Lcpl G Hughes, Cpl B Mahony, Sgt R Anderson, Cpl J Molyneux, Lcpl E Howard, Pte B Lambert, S King  
Middle Row: Pte I Westworth, K Oades, J Clarke, P Gray, J MacDonald, Pte G Oliver, J Marxsen, C Hill

Back Row: Pte M Grieve, G Welch, R Cominelli, R Dunn, R Brown, Pte G Kelly, S Schneider, M Sanders

Absent: Lt R Tink

9  
P  
L



Front Row (L to R): Pte R Meuleners, E MacDonald, L Nagele, Cpl J Trimble, 2Lt Mortensen, Cpl W Cochrane, Pte G Brown, K Gray, Pte J Pascoe

Middle Row: Pte S Richardson, M Ratcliffe, J O'Connell, F O'Donahoo, Pte B Lovett, N Reid, B Panella, Lcpl Breugem, Pte W Temple

Back Row: Pte R Duckworth, C Luxford, P Swain, P Benjamin, P Curtis, Pte G Papworth, I Oates, S Warner, K Powell



# SUPPORT COMPANY

1979 saw the departure of several familiar faces, including CAPT Peter Schmitt to a UN Observer posting in the Middle East, CSM Jack Woods on promotion to RSM of 11 FF GP in Townsville, and LCPL Pickering to 1TF.

The new 2IC joined after making a big splash on EX Gold Fever, and the new CSM of the senior company, WO2 Burns, has left rifle company work for the scintillating environment of F Echelon; he now has six platoon sergeants to haggle with for duties and the like.

Although at the time of writing the Champion Company Boot had not yet been awarded, you couldn't go far astray placing a small side wager on Support Company.

Through some persistent efforts, the manning of the Company has been maintained at the necessary level, and the company should be in a good position at the start of 1980 to continue its role of supporting the Battalion in all facets of life.

The Support Company Social Club has broadened the scope of its operations and we look forward to good work and good play in 1980.



Front Row (L to R): CSM WO2 J Burns, OC Maj P S N James,  
2IC Capt C W Ferndale, CQMS Ssgt R Searl

Rear Row: Pte T C Reynolds, J Carvolth, Cpl McClymont, Pte Gard, Rogers



# MORTAR PLATOON

Mortar Platoon had a good year in 1979. We worked well in all the exercises, and will remember the sweat and pain of Fraser Island for many a year. The year started with a much depleted platoon. CAPT Campbell and LT Robbs had left us and were replaced by CAPT Mancell and a little later on 2LT Jones from the IET Course. Throughout the early months we gained strength with reinforcements from the rifle coys. We were unlucky to lose in June SGT Fred Harris and SGT Blue Wilson. Fred is trying his hand at being a civilian and Blue is now a SSGT. We wish them both all the best.

As any mortarman will tell you, shooting is the essence of all our work. This year has included four shoots at Wide Bay Training Area and one at Puckapunyal. The standard has improved throughout the year. All this despite using 3 inch Ammo. The highlight has been the Mortar Fire Control Calculator Trials where we let the "Great God Computer" take over. 1984 has come early to the Mortar Platoon.

The trial was interesting but the specification has since been rewritten. It will now include a TV set, a standard NATO brew maker, a sandwich toaster, an alarm clock, a blow up plastic doll, the MLO's Plug, a backhoe, STD phone facility and be able to talk. The Scientist from Defence Research Centre is still looking at the moral issues of the blow up doll, but assures us anything is possible. What is MLO's Plug? Definition: An absolute stroke of genius by a young officer whilst under the influence of alcohol, anxiety and almost certainly asleep. A statement made to companions whilst sitting upright under a mosquito net, "Where is the MLO's Plug?" A better question would be "What is the MLO's Plug"? Nobody seems to know.

Mortar Platoon has been involved in sport throughout the year with the following people excelling in the sports shown.

LCPL Hawes	-	Cricket (Drops, catches, ducks);
PTE Finch	-	Cricket (Wides, 4 byes and ducks);
PTE Wadey	-	Soccer (Home goals);
PTE Carlisle	-	Weightlifting (10g);
CAPT Mancell	-	Rugby (Knee drops, burst spleen and punching);
PTE Stillwell	-	Rugby (Knuckling generally);
CPL Orth	-	Rugby (Kicking, gouging and biting); and
PTE Daly	-	Rugby (Headbutts and stiffarms).

The Mortar Platoon sportsman of the year award goes to Sperm Whale who has excelled in many fields, but chiefly Mexican PT and avoiding exertion.



During the year Homo Kaffir and Croftie joined the marriedies and have been seen to eat more when there are free meals to be had. Congratulations and the best of British to you. Rumour has it that MJ Hill, Mooca Wadey, Al Reekie and Old Fella Silk are going to take the plunge next year. Heaven help the opposite sex.

Who owns the Duke which is in pieces and spread all over Brisbane? Anyone finding spare parts please refer to Craig Hannan or to CAPT Mancell who is trying to build a 750 V twin around a couple of nuts and bolts he found.

Which member of Mortar Platoon is frightened of a recently released 45 year old female convicted rapist because he sold her motor bike?

The Fickle Finger of Fate Award goes to Rockets. During Exercise 'Gold Fever' he was directed to the Platoon Commanders tent to await an O Group. The time was 0300 hrs. Rockets entered a well appointed 11 x 11 and was given a brew by the Batman. He sat down, and knowing the wait would be a long one, he contemplated getting into the 'Boss's' bed because he was very tired. Just as well he didn't, because when the CO came back to his tent, Rockets found he wasn't waiting where he was supposed to be. From Niner to Rockets 'Do you have visions of Grandeur?'



Front Row: Lcpl Hawes, Pte Carlisle, Wakefield, Wilson, Wadey, O'Donahoo.

Centre Row: Cpl Foster, Pte Daniec, Daly, Stilwell, Van Der Stoep, Hall, Cpl Orth.

Rear Row: Capt Mancell, Sgt Davis, Sgt Nancarrow, Pte Holmquest, Heger, Lcpl Hill, Pte Croft, Sgt Millar, Sgt Rokay, 2Lt Jones.

Absent: Cpl Silk, Pte Finch, Hannan, Hockley, Reekie, Cahill.







# ANTI ARMOUR PLATOON

During 1979, Anti Armour Pl fondly farewelled 'Lofty' Goodall, Dave Duncan, Fingers Russel, Thommo and Jeff. In March the Malaya members returned and we began to build up to full strength again.

This year was a varied one for the platoon with us playing enemy for the can't see me Platoon (Recon), 'K Niner' fox hunting at Spring Mountain, and firing the big one at Wide Bay.

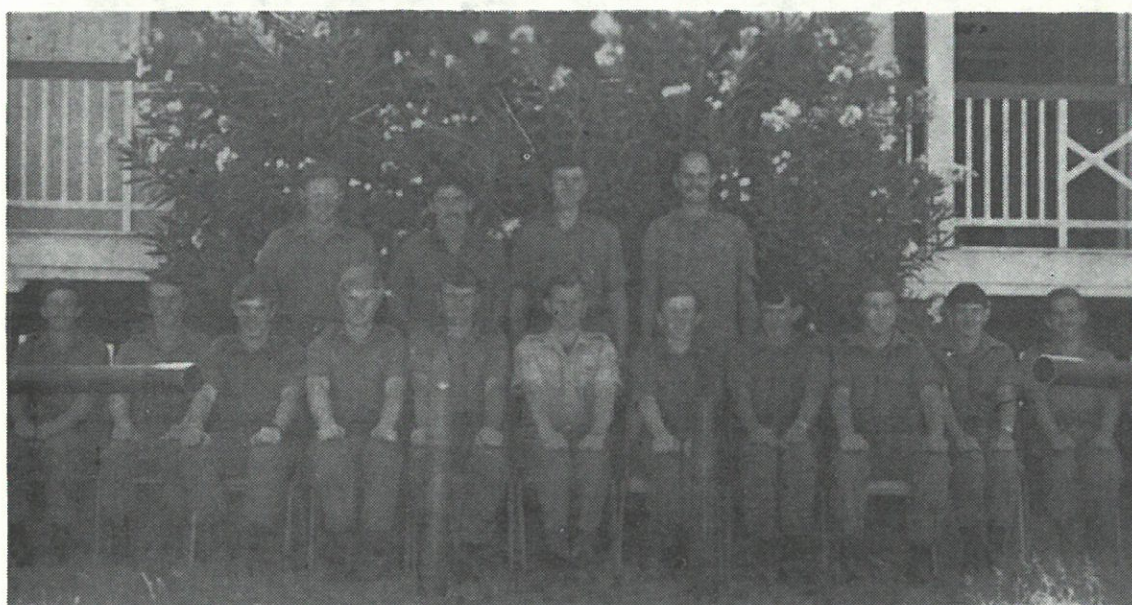
Exercise 'Gold Fever' saw the platoon transformed to the mule brigade; the Charlie Gu----he living up to its name - Rover where art thou? On return from the exercise one member (who shall remain nameless) declared he must be out of the 'woods'.

Back at camp we saw the return of SGT Selmes and the revival of the murder circuit, the acquisition of 'Pop' Rivett, 'The Bionic Pullthrough', 2LT Hill off on Exercise 'Long Look' and 'Mad Dog Turner' baring his fangs one morning and subsequently being confined to his kennel.

Our end of the year activities include a joint Anti Armoured Course with 6 RAR where Patto is running the show (so he tells us), a good time for all on K 111, and a bit of time on Adventure Training.

The yearly crossword final is drawing to a close, but the results will not be out till the next edition of the Battalion Magazine. We have also further reductions in the ranks of the single members, and another little storeman in the world.

We look forward to leave and a generous ammunition allotment for 1980. Till next year, bye for now.



Back Row (L to R): Pte Rowe, Lang, Giblett, Buettner

Front Row: Pte Rogers, Jiear, Stuart, Harper, Cpl Patterson, Sgt Selmes, Pte Rivett, Hoskings, Turner, Welch, Corbett

Absent: Lt Hill, Pte Couarik, Cpl Remin, Pte Cran



# PIONEER PLATOON

Pioneers had a quiet year. After a period of successful Platoon training at Wide Bay in February and March our next major activity was the Support Company camp at Wide Bay in May. During this time the Platoon carried out a large range of training, field engineering through demolitions and mine warfare.

June saw the Platoon take on the role of providing security for the CO's Tac HQ on Exercise 'Ram Shackle'. July on Exercise 'Gold Fever' also saw the providing security for BHQ.

August and September, the Platoon staff were involved in running a basic course for combined 6RAR and 8/9RAR students. The remainder of the Platoon meanwhile carried out duties in camp.

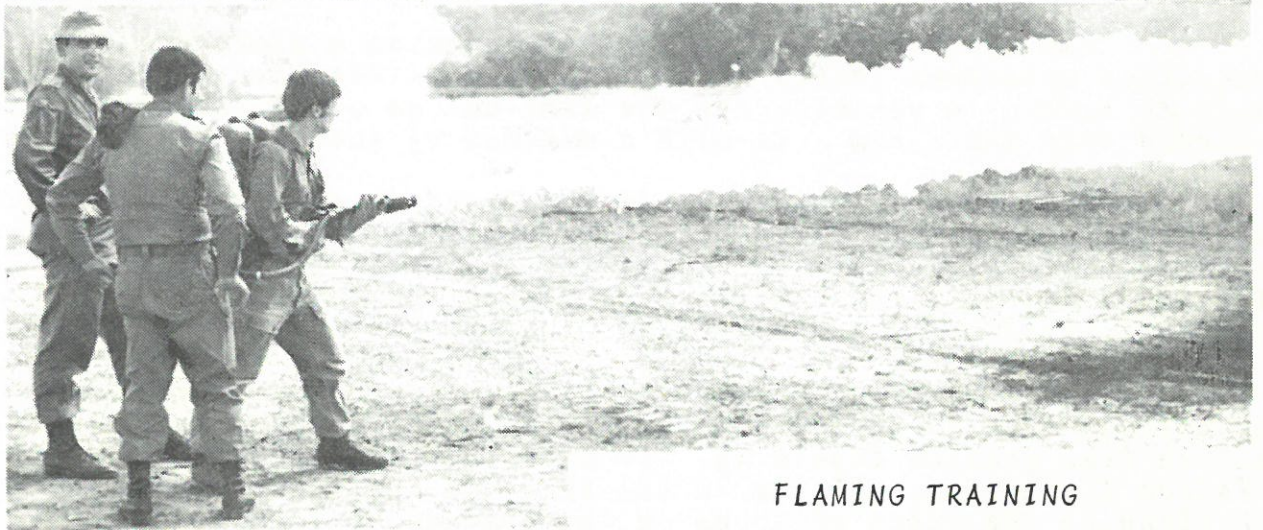
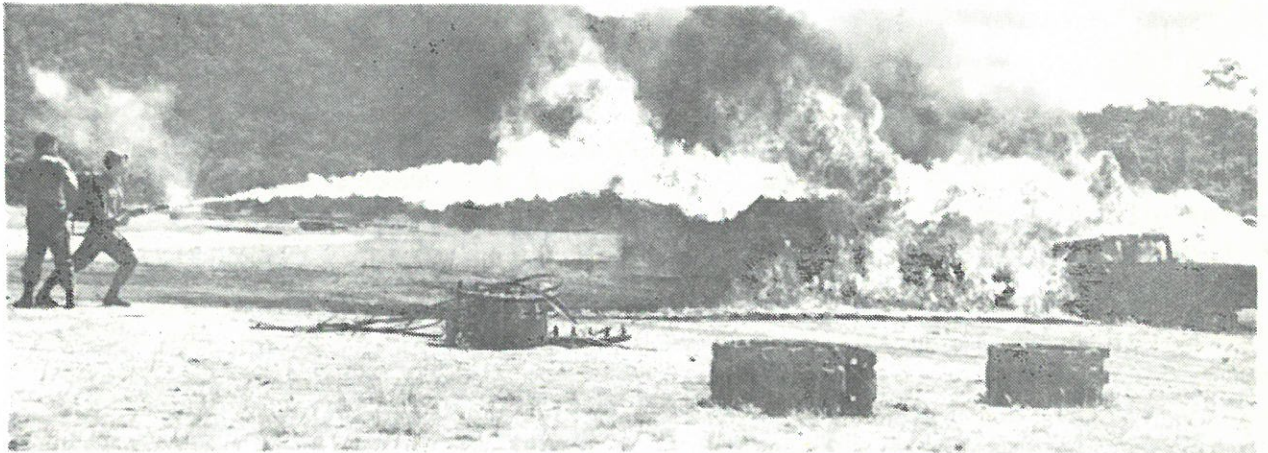
Finally, in November the Platoon as part of Spt Coy will be involved in some enjoyable adventure training on Stradbroke Island.

Lets look forward to 1980.



Back Row (L to R) Pte D Anders, M Hennessy, M Synnott, L Nagele, J Sawyer, Cpl L Kenneally.  
Centre Lcpl G O'Neill, Pte P Reynolds, W Pole, M Gonsalves, G Howard, R Whittaker, Cpl R Cross.  
Front Lt D Given, Pte G Ewart, S Wallace, I Scott, B Furniss, P Marshal. Sgt A Roach.  
Absent Lcpl R Watters.





FLAMING TRAINING





# MG PLATOON

'INEQUALITAS' - 'UNMATCHED'

1979 saw the Machine Gun Platoon raised again with renewed vigour and vitality. The first few weeks were hectic as people and personalities became known and the necessary arrangements were made to bring the Platoon into being.

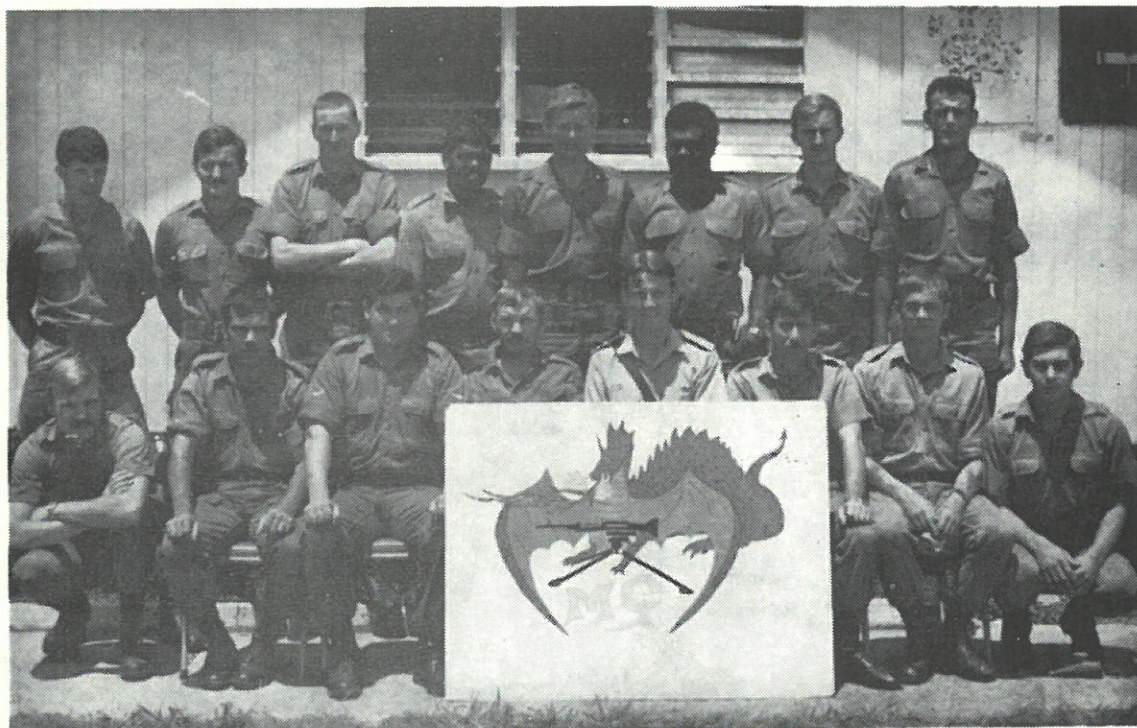
Ten days at Wide Bay taught all the new members all they needed to know about the guns and revised some of the older members in the tricks of the trade. A little live firing added spice to the days at Wide Bay and reminded us all of the power of the guns.

'Ram Shackle' was our first exercise as a platoon and we acquitted ourselves fairly well. It was a little hard to get used to riding in vehicles all the time but as usual the boys slipped into their new role with a minimum of fuss.

'Gold Fever' found us well practised in our gun drills and working as a well oiled team. Fitness was improving, and needed to be, as we carried everything on our backs at Fraser Island. This exercise cemented our reputation for being reliable, hard-working and enterprising.

Since 'Gold Fever' we have been improving our soldierly skills and working on the guns aiming at bringing them into action like greased lightning. We were the first complete platoon finished in SPT Coy in the 25km run and look forward to challenging the other platoons in the Company next year.

The year will end with the Platoon canoeing the length of the Mary River. It should be an exciting and new experience for most and provide an interesting rest after all the hard work.



Back Row: Pte J.Hobbs, R.Livesay, P.Daniels, N.Williams, B.Fahrner, M.Man, R.Czislowski, H.Lodenikus.

Front Row: Pte G.Shepherd, R.Mathews, Lcpl M.Payne, Cpl P.Langdon, Lt M.Fogarty, Cpl P.Law, Pte F.Klischat, S.Ferguson.

Absent: Sgt E.Weatherall







# RECON PLATOON

Training during 1979 has consisted of training periods at Wide Bay, Barakula and Fraser Island. A good year has been had by all, and a sad farwell to Colin Bradford, Dave Shean, Sandy Saunders, DiscoKoon and Sgt Vic Burbers. Gone with the Sarge are those pieces of political philosophy thrust at Sandy Saunders during small recesses between stands on the two mile circuit, and Sandy's nocturnal habits in the scrub. No more shall we see Brad patting Spike Shean which usually resulted in a short trip to the RAP to remove splinters. Also the Boss doesn't have to tell Jerry to remove his earplug which was always attached to a radio playing the latest disco music. Jerry is now listening to it on an SAS patrol.

Lcpl 'Pom' Horton had a little adventure on Exercise 'Gold Fever'. he was sent to obtain an accurate grid reference of BHQ and have it passed to his patrol. AN hour later the patrol gave up waiting and returned on their own. 'Pom' was eventually found wandering dased in BHQ yelling 'Recon, Recon, Recon!' The same call these days heralds his arrival at the platoon.

Finally, a few Re-0's will be marching into the Platoon to replace the Boss, Steve Braun and Steve McLay.



Top Row (l to R): Pte N Roddan, P Campbell, D Torr, S Saunders, J Braganza  
Bottom Row: Pte S Braun, Cpl M Dixon, Sgt A Burgers, Pte K Taylor, Reme,  
2Lt W Williams, Pte S McLay, Lcpl K Horton



# SIGNALS PLATOON

1979 was a year of movement of personnel in Signals Pl. We had thirteen new March-Ins and seven members moved on. Those who moved on were:

Cpl 'Nigel'	Campbell	- discharge
Cpl 'Porky Minor'	Wells	- to C Coy
Cpl	Mills	- Corps transfer
Lcpl Warren	Francis	- discharge
Pte 'Mac'	MacFarlane	- discharge
Pte Charlie	Hazleman	- Corps transfer
Pte 'Hunter'	Lennings	- transfer to HM Prison Bogga Road/discharge.

The Platoon wishes these members well in their future employment.

Major exercises in which the Platoon took part were Exercise 'Ram Shackle' and Exercise 'Gold Fever'. 'Ram Shackle' posed few problems apart from new operators 'finding their feet' and operating over long distances. 'Gold Fever', on the other hand, was the first major challenge. Fraser Island posed some difficult problems, but the Platoon proved itself equal to the task and maintained communications. 'Gold Fever' also gave the Platoon the opportunity to 'play' with GRC160 vehicle mounted sets.

Training time throughout the year was not entirely devoted to communications. The Platoon maintained its normal soldierly skills in fieldcraft, weapon handling, navigation and rappelling. Evidence of the standard achieved was seen in the Mil Skills results. In all 1979 was a good year for the 'Heads' and with training, 1980 will be even better.



Front; Pte Carter, Morrison, Lcpl Leo, Stick, Cpl Crossland, Sgt Sales, Capt Norton, Cpl Austin, Voglar, Lcpl Wain, Pte Jackson  
Back: Pte Carowell, Mitchell, White, Blackburn, Berg, McCall, Henderson, Pte Mulquinny, Maloney, Poulter, Fraser-Chitticks, Morgan  
Absent: Pte Ball, Hazleman, Hickson, Jadresic, Molloy, Reid



# TRAINING COMPANY

For Trg Coy, 1979 will end as it started - training IETs over the leave period. At the beginning of the year the Company, under the guidance of Maj Howlett, was already half way through an IET course at Greenbank. Shortly after the Battalion returned from leave, its strength was rejuvenated by newly trained soldiers, eager to tackle the rigors of Battalion life. For Trg Coy it was back to work as usual, our own Company strength depleted by the loss of attached instructors. With a top heavy staff of 3 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer and 1 Private, there was never any argument over who made the brews.

The year proved to be a most interesting one from a training point of view. In between looking after routine matters, such as controlling course nominations, the Champion Company Competitions, sports, inter-unit shooting, etc, we found time to organise and conduct such activities as Mil Skills at Greenbank, NBC Course, Subject 2 for Cpl Course and IET Course.

As is usual with an organisation such as ours, we have had a high turnover of "permanent" staff. Therefore it would be remiss not to mention those who have served for varying periods in Trg Coy during the year. They were: Maj Nick Howlett, Lt Ross Boyd, 2Lt Mick Slater, 2Lt Mike Phoenix, WO2 Gerry Astin, Sgt John MacCallum, Sgt "Ossie" Osmond, Pte "Greeny" Green and Pte "Zak" Saikely.

Finally, from Trg Coy to all members of 8/9 RAR, have a joyful Christmas season and a very rewarding 1980.



(L to R): Pte A Rogers, WO2 R Savage, Maj R Milican, 2Lt S J Abbott



# ADMINISTRATION COMPANY

"Administration, Logistics, Administration Corps,...

While 1979 could hardly be called 'The Year of the Pogo' in Battalion activities, it has provided the Company with some notable successes. Worthy of mention are our wins in the Inter-Company Drill and Rifle Shooting Competitions. To a lesser degree our 'de facto' win in the Swimming Competition could also be noted.

1979 has also seen the introduction of the 'OC's Log'. This award was presented three times for outstanding effort; to the Catering section for topping the Company in the Milskills Competition and the Drill and Rifle Shooting teams. Congratulations to those team members.

May I take this opportunity to thank all members of the Company for their efforts over the past 12 months. To those members leaving, 'farewell' and to those newly joined, 'welcome'. To the Battalion - we will continue to do our best to provide the support you require and expect.



Back Row (L to R): Cpl J F Hogan, Lcpl J G Crisp, Cpl G A Newton, Cpl P B DeJersey, Pte G A Williams, G R French, L A Johnson

Front Row: Ssgt D A Thompson, Capt L A Cameron, Maj G J Williams, WO2 R A Luckman, Sgt T J Osmond



# SUPPLY PLATOON

A unique quality of the Sup Pl is their sardonic sense of humour. An outsider may consider it vicious but, to the "Quie", it is a normal expression of his attitude to life in general. If we consider this cynical approach to humour we may be able to relate to past which has left its mark on the soldier 'a foot'. The logistical element of the past was considered a geriatric organisation where 'they', the 'Sabre Soldiers', could cast their maladroitness specimens and continue to demand the highest satisfaction from that same organisation.

Happily this attitude has developed the 'group' which is of course the Sup Pl, including all "Quiies" throughout the Battalion. The 'group' is composed of individuals, each bringing his own distinct abilities, attitudes, needs and personality. As the 'group' develops it becomes more efficient in the performance of its tasks and group standards become yardsticks by which the individual in the 'group' can be measured. As reflected in the last issue of our Battalion Magazine, the Pl has achieved a reasonable record of recovery during 1978 and, through no small effort by all, this recovery has continued into 1979. Pleasing results in the stocktake, audit and EIS have been obtained. (I would use the term excellent, however, 'some' would consider me biased).

Our goal for 1980? A systematized, logical projection cannot be achieved without a comparable management programme to establish a responsive, organizational capability for which a synchronised, reciprocal option is our goal!

Farewells. Two members rate special mention. 2Lt Terry Brockhall (AQM) is to be posted to RAAOC Centre and WO1 Ken Dunn to the elements (civvy street). 2Lt Brockhall has, amongst other things, introduced such things as "Kooth 'nd Kulcha" to the Pl as well as the Battalion. He is the only member of the Battalion to rate a second (lingering) glance from Ox when dressed in 'drag'. A hard act to follow Terry. WO1 Ken Dunn is unfortunately retiring early in 1980. Ken has been the stabilizing influence within the Pl over the past 18 months. His retirement will not go unnoticed. Our sincere best to him and his wife, Bev, in their role as globe trotters. We feel sure that those that know him join us to wish him well.

The members of the Sup Pl would like to wish all members of the Battalion a most resoundingly joyous and jovial Christmas, and a bountifully prosperous New Year.





Front Row (L to R): Cpl N Mooney, T Nesreriak, Ssgt P Godfrey,  
2Lt T Brockhall, Capt D Lewis, WO1 K Dunn, Sgt G Norris, Cpl R Creswick  
Rear Row: Pte K Doherty, S Stothard, Lcpl K Lawrence, Sgt G Love,  
Lcpl P Ashton, Pte Cedric, Muiridge, R McCauley, S Page

## TECH SUPPORT PLATOON

Fitters. Sgt K Morton, Cfn W Penson, R Rasmussen, R Winkel,  
Cfn R Brydon.

Vehicle Mechanics. Cpl G Hamilton, W Philp, W Robertson.

Radio Mechanics. Cpl F Bartos.

Storeman. Pte R McCauley.

During the past 12 months the platoon has seen quite a few postings in and out, with more coming near Christmas.

We have given technical support to the Battalion on all the major exercises and the majority of the Company Exercises with good results.

The annual EIS inspection went well with thanks to the CQMS, TPT Supervisor and their respective staff; and the upkeep and arrangement of the Telecom equipment by Signal Pl.





(L to R): Sgt T Morton, Cpl F Bartos, G Hamilton,  
Cfn W Penon, R Winkel

## PIPES & DRUMS

Well, that's almost it for another year. As usual we were in great demand throughout the year for parades, both within the Battalion, and as guest performers for others. We went Bush with the Rifle Companies as stretcher bearers on every exercise and did our usual GREAT job.

We did a few 'away' jobs which included three pipers in support of 6 RAR at Roma, a trip to Ballina, which saw the Pipes and Drums 'recruited' into the local Water Police Unit. (The waterways never knew what hit them.) How did Sparrow come by a Police uniform five sizes too big for him? Who was 'Edna'? Without doubt, the trip to Cunnamulla was the highlight of the year. The Defence Minister Mr Killen seemed suitably impressed with our performance. We played at such venues as the Oxford Hotel, the Trappers Inn, the Warrego Hotel and made 'Brief' appearances at the Shire Hall and the local race meeting. The fishing and shooting was pretty good. One soldier showing a bit of initiative, picked up some fishing line someone had thrown on the river bank and found himself with eight large fish, and an irate fisherman. Who was the Pipe Major (Klinga) that was shouted a 'few' drinks for his birthday and lost two days? On our final night we enjoyed a BBQ put on by the Publican from the Oxford Hotel. The Hotel ended up with three band tee-shirts for their trophy wall. The trip home was a bit hazy; we limped in Enoggera to be greeted with 25km that night. We were home!



At the time of writing we have only three engagements left to do. The Infantry Centre, a Beating of the Retreat on our Parade Ground and a WO's course march out at LWC - and of course Kangaroo III, after which we can start to wind down for the year.

Engagements for the year included:

Australia Day	- 29 Jan 79
Welcome back D Coy	- 15 Feb 79
Long Hai Day	- 24 Feb 79
American contingent arrival	- 26 Mar 79
American contingent departure	- 17 Apr 79
LWC march out	- 8 May 79
QAC Gatton	- 18 May 79
Police Spectacular	- 18 May 79
GOC Guard	- 24 May 79
Redland Bay Show	- 7 Jul 79
Redland Ferry Launching	- 28 Jul 79
11 Sup Bn Parade	- 7 Aug 79
139 Sig Sqn Parade	- 14 Aug 79
Infantry Centre	- 17 to 21 Sep 79
Beating the Retreat	- 12 Oct 79 and
LWC march out	- 18 Dec 79

The Pipes and Drums wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



(L to R): Pte J W Campbell, G R Pearce, K G Parkinson, J J Cahill, R B Sister, WO2 G J Black, Pte V C Parkinson, Lcpl W P Murray, Cpl A C Norcott, Pte G W McIlroy, Sgt G A Kennedy  
Kneeling: Pte N Kerr, Cpl C H Laurenson



# CATERING PLATOON

During the year our Pl has excelled itself in Inf tactics and skill, catering in camp, Drill and Shooting. Cpl George and his Section fared very well in Mill Skills at Greenbank by being the top Section of Admin Coy.

Sgt Sheridan and his band, Cpl Davies, Pte Holmes, and Pte Burns went off to Malaysia and kept D Coy 'happy' for four months. Pte Holmes managed to pass his Subject I. Not a bad trip to attend a Subject I.

We have had a change of Caterers this year. We lost W02 Mick Justice and gained W02 Jeff Wildblood MBE. Mick has gone to 1MDPD and Jeff came to us from LWC. Best of British to both.

A welcome goes to Cpl Dillon and Pte Cowburn.

Congratulations to Pte McLaren who entered in the Catering Trade Fair and won himself a Certificate of Merit. Well done.

All in all we have had a good year. Hope we go as well on Kangaroo III.



Front Row (L to R): Cpl D Bird, Sgt W Sheridan, W02 G Wildblood MBE, Sgt T Thistlethwaite, Sgt K Steckelbruck, Cpl R Davies

Centre Row: Cpl T Dillon, Pte S Goodwin, N Castens, N Cowburn, B Bridges, Pte S Deale, M Simonsen, I Hamilton - McClaren, W Burns, Cpl S Farmer

Rear Row: Pte N Ashby, J Daley, B Vesper, S Dell, Lcpl R Bennion, Lcpl P Wicks, Pte F Lewin, T Bastow, Cpl A Ashford, Pte M Keleher



# MEDICAL PLATOON

Another year has passed and as was to be expected, a great deal has happened since the last Battalion Magazine was published.

New members of the platoon have been initiated into the Battalion with a barrage of bush work and support for courses. Apart from the new members the remainder of us have been kept busy with similar duties throughout the year.

Sgt Henderson has requested his discharge on the grounds of mental cruelty and will possibly be leaving next year. 'Radar' Jones is going to harrass recruits, 'Clinger' Boyd is going to 1 Mil Hospital and Sgt King is going to become a Pogo in Perth. Those of us who remain, Cpl Crute, Cpl Pardekooper and Pte Williams are looking forward to next year.

Merry Christmas 8/9 RAR.



Front Row (L to R): Cpl S W Boyde, Sgt R J Henderson, B R King

Rear Row: Cpl C L Jones, C J Crute, Pte P J Williams, Cpl J E Pardekooper



# TRANSPORT PLATOON

1979 has been a year of constant change. It was rumoured that it was all a game of musical personnel and equipment. We finally managed to get all our drivers back from Malaya, and by April the Pl was almost back to normal.

May saw us conduct another Drivers' Course. It was rumoured that the instructors' Insurance skyrocketed, a result of the heart attacks suffered on the course. For Exercise 'Ramshackle' we managed to have 98% of vehicles on the road. A far greater enemy than the 901 Inf Regt faced us after the exercise; the Battalion was on Stand-Down. The campaign was successful, however, the Pl did receive heavy casualties. Exercise 'Gold Fever' practised many skills, particularly bream fishing, where some success was achieved.

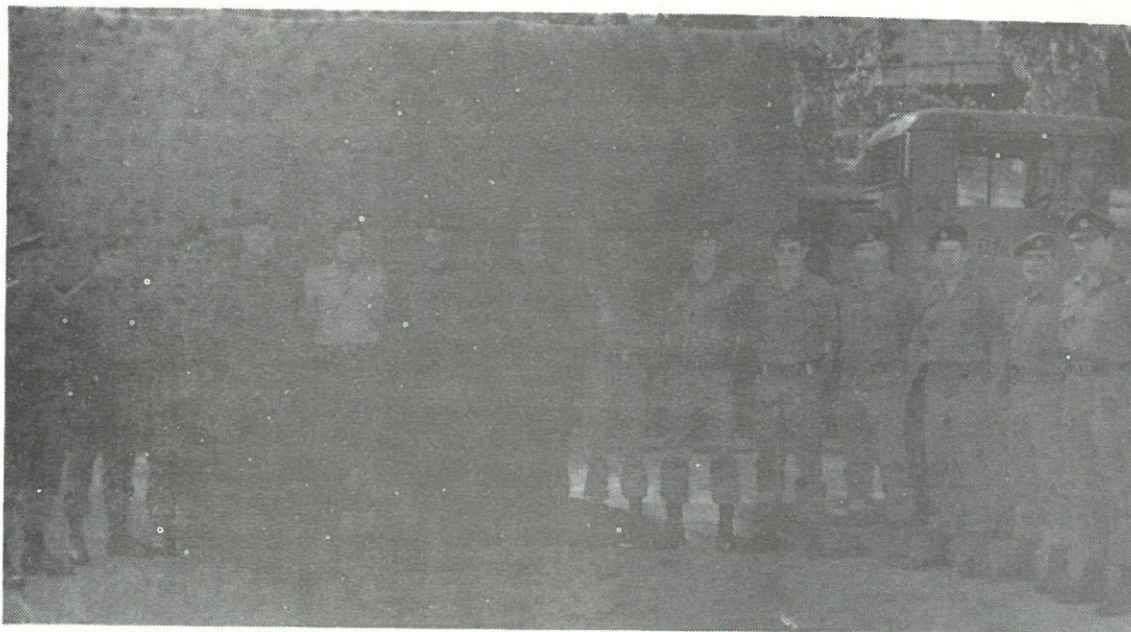
September saw the platoon take on the Rifle Companies in Mil Skills which caused many to be embarrassed; that is the Rifle Companies. The 25km run was done in respectable time. Red faces appeared when we helped win the Inter Company Shooting and Drill Competitions.

The Pl empire was built for Exercise Kangaroo III. We wondered if we would reach the 100 vehicle mark. In October we had 76 vehicles. No wonder envious eyes are cast to 5 Tpt Sqn who have half the vehicles and seven times the troops.

The year has seen many personnel changes. Lenny Coombes went to WA to renew his relationship with Capt Dave Simmons, Hawkeye went back to the West with him. Buck Rogers has gone to Anti Armoured to kill tanks. Tempo came and gave us a short visit, but it must have been all too much as he took his discharge three months later. Pots has generously given us a hand, and has brought some humour with him. The latest reinforcement, Spike has us all wondering what he will do next, but we hope he will be the first of the many reinforcements we need.

It is reported that the enemy are mounting another attack in March next year. We need all the help we can get. The old timers, GT, BT, Olly and Linc are seen to shake their heads and mutter, "It wasn't like this in '71".





(L to R): Sgt Clewley, Pte Ford, Evens, Primmer, Lee, Fairgrieve, LCPL Crisp, Cpl Palmer, Pte Bonner, Lcpl Brown, Pte Mitchem, Clarke, Pte Griffiths, Lt Saunders, (Absent: Pte Lincoln)

# VALE

PRIVATE D C HOWIE

KILLED IN A MOTOR VEHICLE

ACCIDENT ON 11 JUN 79 IN THE  
BARAKULA STATE FOREST WHILE

PARTICIPATING IN EX 'RAM SHACKLE'



# ON THE MOVE

## POSTED OUT DURING THE YEAR

MAJ	Ellis	to	Mil Att (USA)
MAJ	Howlett	to	A.S.S. (W) USA
CAPT	Ryan	to	1 Trg Gp
LT	Mackin	to	Resignation
WO1	Cowan	to	HQ 6TF
WO2	Justice	to	DSU Enoggera
WO2	Woods	to	11 FF Gp
SSGT	Washington	to	1 RTB
SGT	Perry	to	Apprentice School
SGT	Miller	to	25 RQR
SGT	Martin	to	25 RQR
SSGT	McMahon	to	1 RTB
SGT	Stevens	to	DSU Enoggera
SGT	Sampson	to	DSU Townsville
SGT	Read	to	DSU Enoggera
SSGT	Dunne	to	9 RQR
SGT	Burgess	to	RMC
SGT	Harris	to	1MDPD
SGT	Smith	to	10 IRC
SGT	Briais	to	RMC
SGT	Montgomery	to	AUR

## POSTED OUT AT THE END OF THE YEAR

MAJ	Hodge	to	9 RQR
MAJ	Longworth	to	RMC of S (Britain)
MAJ	Ormston	to	1 Trg Gp
CAPT	Gray	to	HQ 6TF
CAPT	Norton	to	DSU Albury Wodonga
CAPT	Schmitt	to	UN (Middle East)
LT	Fogarty	to	Inf Centre
LT	Given	to	12 Ind Rifle Coy
LT	Robbs	to	25 RQR
LT	Saunders	to	HQ 3TF
2LT	Bosza	to	Inf Centre
2LT	Brockhall	to	Ord Centre
2LT	Phoenix	to	1 RTB
2LT	Williams	to	Inf Centre



W02	Smithsen	to	1 Cdt Gp
SGT	Sheridan	to	2 Cav Regt
SSGT	Wilson	to	DSU Adelaide

#### POSTED IN DURING THE YEAR

MAJ	Galagher	from	USA
MAJ	Millican	from	HQ 6TF
MAJ	Williams	from	Canberra
CAPT	Ferndale	from	UN (Middle East)
CAPT	Gibson	from	HQ 2 DIV FF Gp
CAPT	Long	from	4 Trg Gp
CAPT	McCelland	from	DSU Puckapunyal
CAPT	Mancell	from	17 RNSWR
CAPT	Cameron	from	HQ 3TF
LT	Litchfield	from	RMC
2LT	Cruickshank	from	OCS
2LT	Slater	from	OCS
LT	Boyd	from	RMC
W01	Henderson	from	LWC
W02	Burns	from	1 Trg Gp
W02	McGrath	from	LWC
W02	Wildblood	from	LWC
SGT	Eade	from	Apprentices School
SGT	Nancarrow	from	1 RAR
SGT	Roe	from	CARO
SGT	James	from	SMS (Bandiana)
SGT	Melrose	from	HQ 1TF
SGT	Rokay	from	1 RTB
SSGT	Shaw	from	DSU Wacol
SGT	Thistlethwaite	from	2/14 QMI
SGT	McCullum	from	2 ARU

#### POSTED IN AT END OF THE YEAR

MAJ	Chitty	from	HQ 6TF
MAJ	Cobley	from	OCS
CAPT	Moran	from	CARO
CAPT	Simmons	from	RWAR
LT	Mancell	from	RMC
W02	Byrne-King	from	2RNSWR
SGT	O'Leary	from	Inf Centre
CAPT	Mickelberg	from	40 Ind Rifle Coy



## OTHER ACTIVITIES ON CAMERA



RSM COWAN FAREWELLED

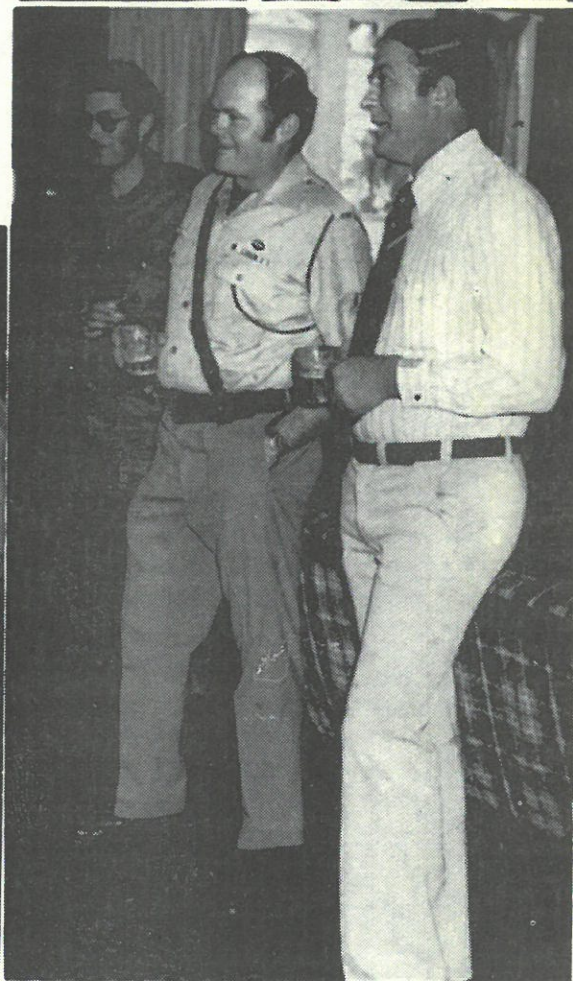
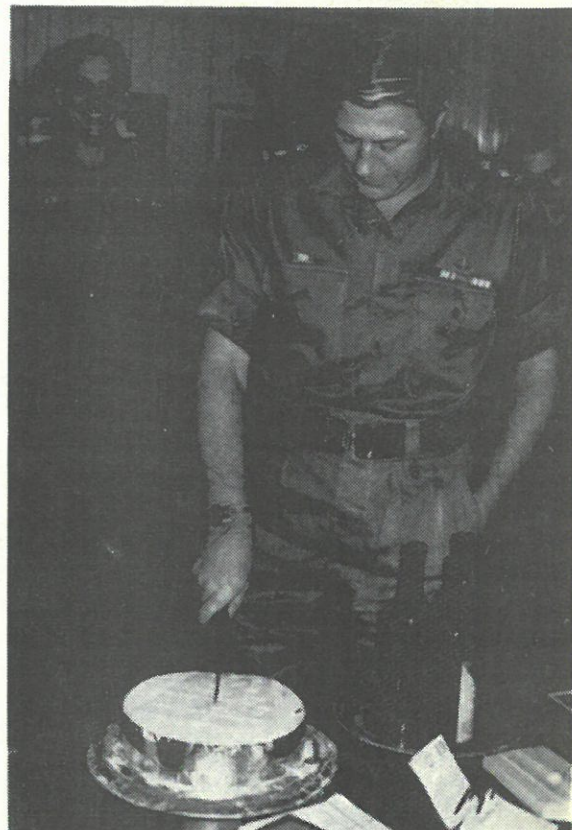




LTCOL PFITZNER  
20 YEARS IN THE SERVICE

AND

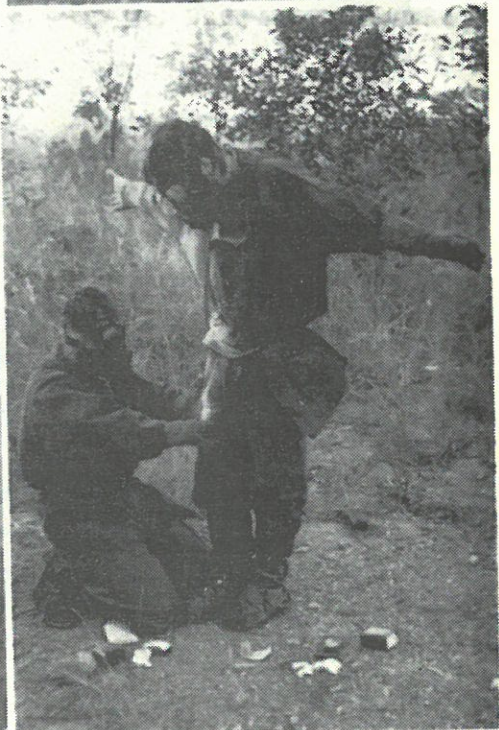
HIS BIRTHDAY







NBC COURSE





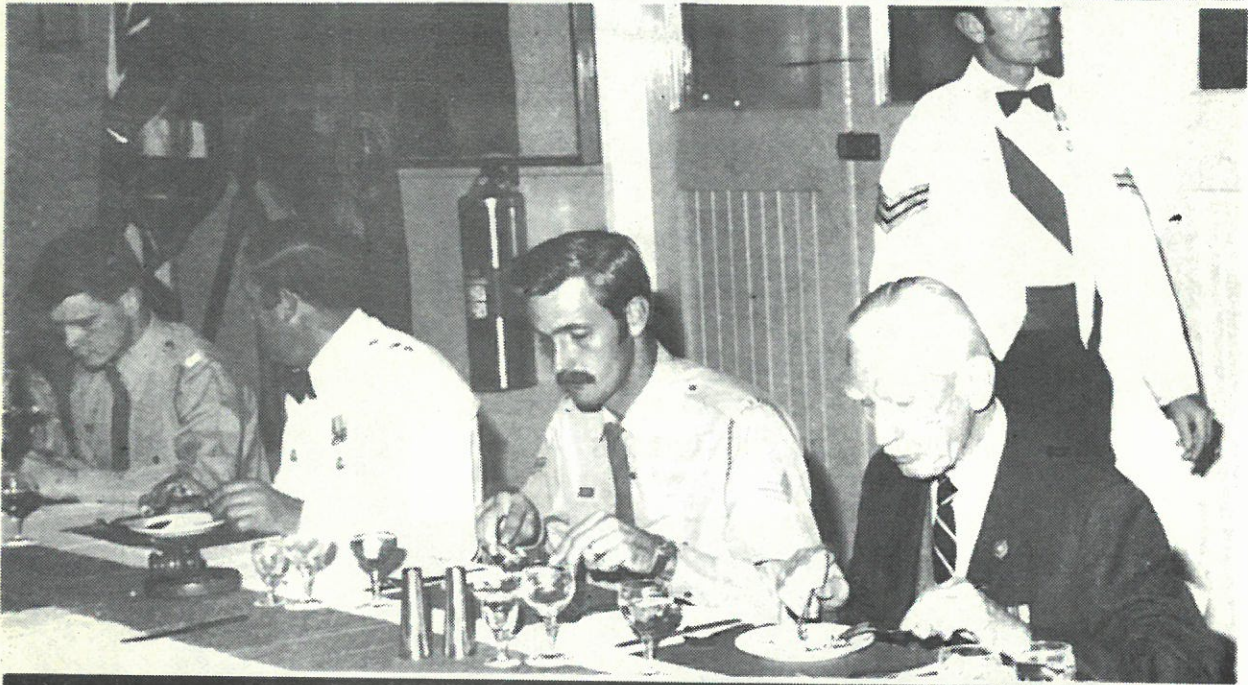


CO DINES WITH THE DIGGERS

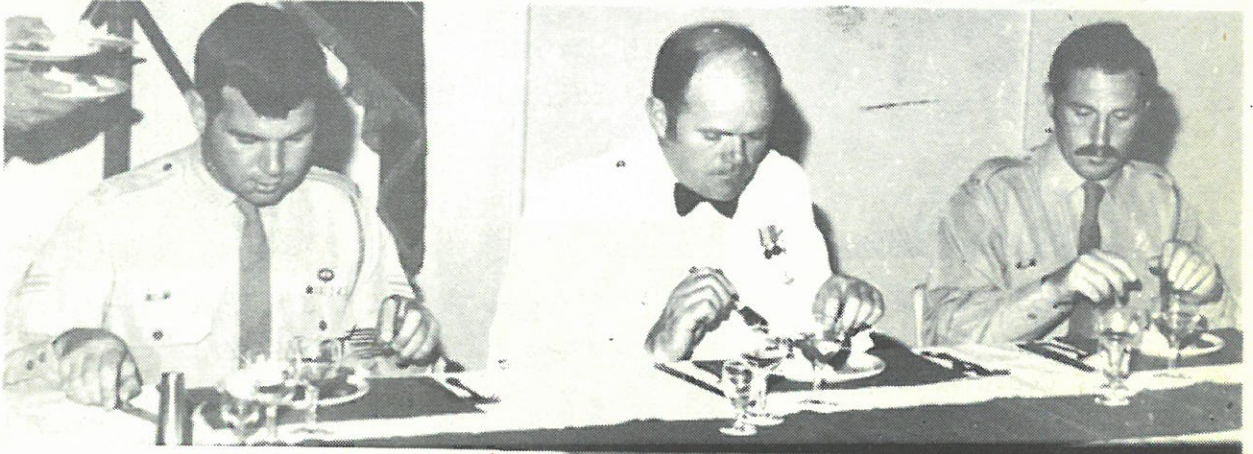




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THE DIGGERS DINE IN

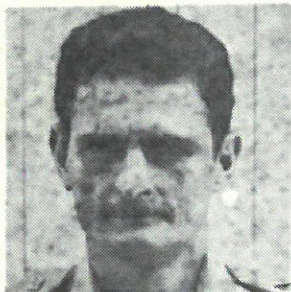




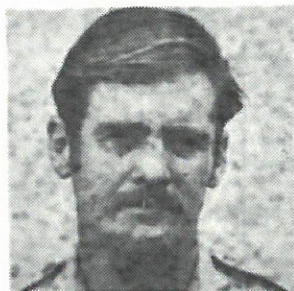




# BEHIND THE SCENES



CAPT G J Long  
(Editor)



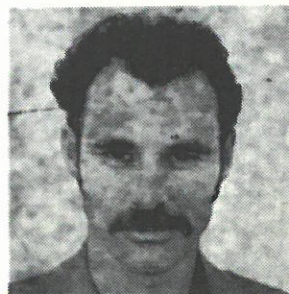
SGT P W Harrower  
(Assist Editor)



LCPL J Bell  
(Production  
Coordinator)



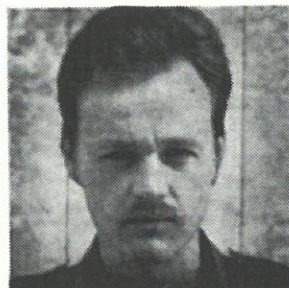
PTE A S R Smerdon  
(Draftsman)



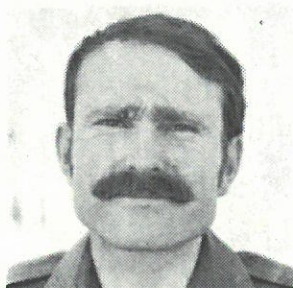
CPL B A Charles  
(Collator)



PTE L A Box  
(Typist)



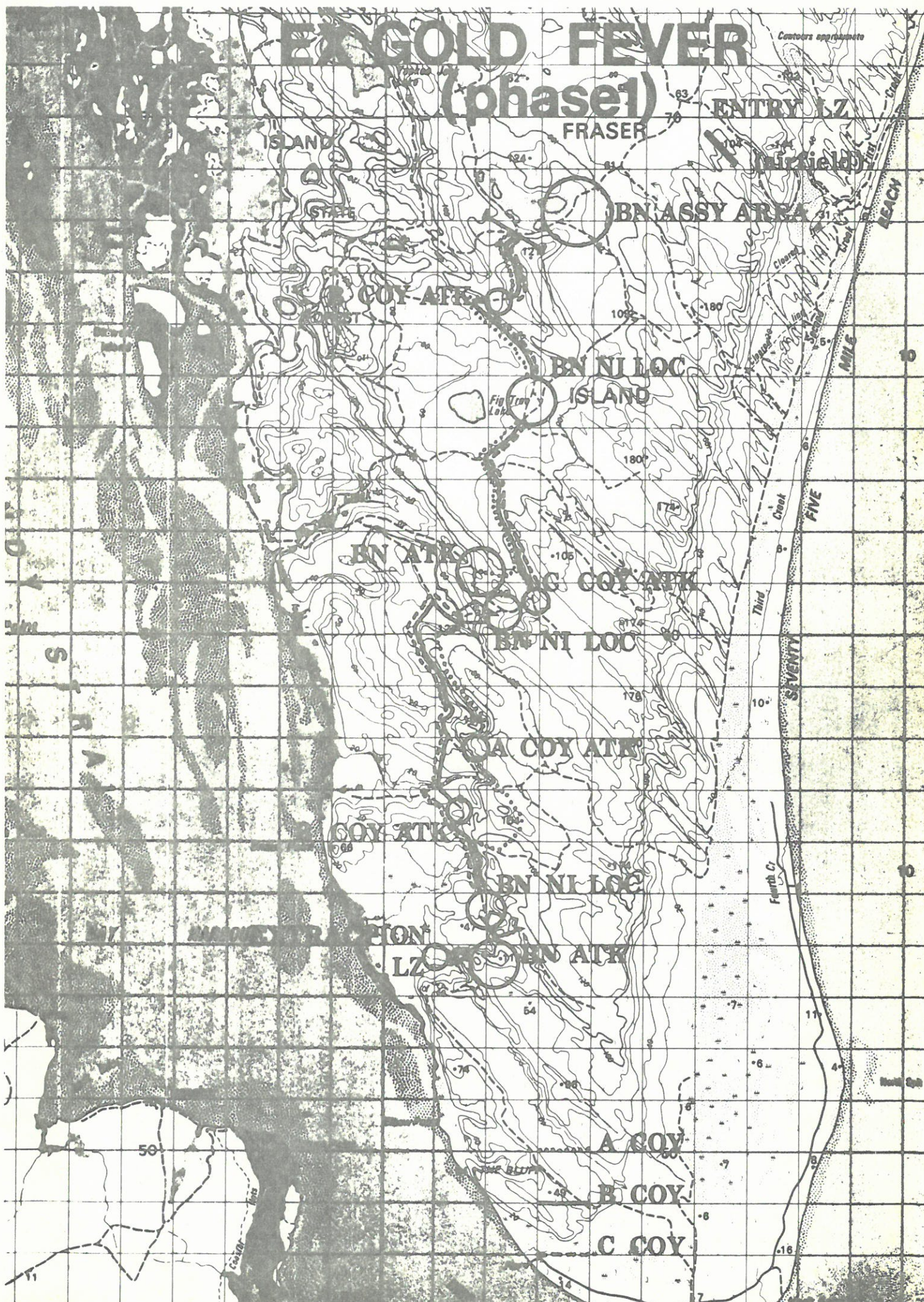
PTE K P A Veijalainen  
(Photographer)



PTE M R Morgan  
(Researcher)

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE  
THE ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY  
1 MD REPRODUCTION CELL IN  
PRINTING THIS MAGAZINE







## OUTLINE

Fraser Island and the Wide Bay Training Area were the areas for Exercise 'Gold Fever'. The Exercise was conducted in two phases, firstly on Fraser Island where the emphasis on training was aimed at Platoon Company and Battalion training; and secondly in the Wide Bay Training Area where the Battalion advanced under the control of HQ 6 Task Force. The Exercise was conducted during the period 9 July to 20 July '79. C Coy remained in the Exercise area to act as 'enemy' for 6 RAR after the Main Body had returned to Enoggera.

Exercise 'Gold Fever' commenced with the Battalion vehicles departing Enoggera on 9 July '79. The vehicles moved to Kauri Creek in the Wide Bay Training Area and were then ferried to Fraser Island by LC8. The Main Body departed Enoggera the following day by TCV to the Wide Bay Airfield. Recon Pl was then airlifted by Iroquois to secure an LZ on Fraser Island. An air mobile assault by C Coy followed into the LZ secured by Recon Pl.

### Fraser Island

Fraser Island is located east of Maryborough on the Queensland coast. It is over 100 miles long and is the largest sand island in the World. The vegetation varies from rain forest, to thickly timbered country with a number of swamps and lakes. The temperature ranged from the low 20s during the day to low tens at night. Training took place south of Lake McKenzie which is located in the vicinity of the centre of the island.

Training commenced after the Companies had moved into their company areas on 10 July. During the next three days, Companies trained individually in a number of aspects. These included the advance, ambush, FUP marking by day and by night, hasty defence, close reconnaissance, the attack and patrolling. The specialist platoons trained in their roles emphasising training on light scales. On 14 July, combat supplies for the Advance were airdropped to the Battalion; all companies were concentrated by early morning the same day and the Advance commenced after orders. LC8 began extracting the Battalion's vehicles at midnight the same day.

The Battalion crossed the LD (Line of Departure) with B Coy leading. Only 1500m had been covered before the Company came up against an 'enemy' (from Spt Coy 6 RAR) platoon position. B Coy successfully attacked the position and the Battalion continued moving south with C Coy leading. The Battalion rested for the night east of Fig Tree Lake. The night passed quietly apart from an 'enemy' raiding party who just happened to slip into BHQ and capture PTE Alan Leigh. C Coy continued to lead the Battalion the following day (15 July) and after advancing south for some 3500m, located an 'enemy' platoon position. C Coy mounted an attack on the position and the 'enemy' withdrew west. Meanwhile, A Coy had moved west to clear the high ground (142 feature). Shortly after C Coy's attack, A Coy located an 'enemy' position north-west of 142 feature and mounted a company attack against it. The attack encountered considerable opposition and was forced back. During the attack, information was gained to the effect that an 'enemy' company was located in the area and a Battalion attack was necessary to capture the position.





*Pioneers...*



*Recon...*



*Mortars...*



*MG.*



The attack was mounted from the south as darkness fell. C Coy had secured and marked the FUP and was the right assault company. B Coy was the left assault company with A Coy providing fire support. Half-way through the assault the rain which had drizzled all day poured down and by the time the assaulting companies reached the 'enemy's' forward pits it was dark; thereafter the most difficult conditions prevailed. Control was difficult with the two opposing groups close together. The enemy sections were spread out and hard to detect. Junior leaders had a primary role. Platoon Commanders and section commanders seized the initiative and enemy section posts were captured as the attack continued. Hours went by. Finally 8 Pl moved north-west to cut off withdrawing 'enemy'. However, there were none. By nine o'clock that night the position was secure and B Coy, C Coy and Tac HQ moved off the feature to their night locations. A Coy remained overnight on the 142 feature. With the attack over and the Battalion secure in its night location all that remained was a nights sleep and the hope of some dry clothing by morning.

A Coy moved first the following morning and thereafter secured the high ground to the east as the Battalion advanced south. B Coy led with C Coy and the Spt Coy Pls following. The morning passed uneventfully but activity increased during the afternoon. A Coy located two 'enemy' positions south of the 160 feature and attacked. So surprised were the 'enemy' the result was a forgone conclusion. Shortly after B Coy attacked another 'enemy' platoon 1000m further south again. C Coy by-passed B Coy and pushed on. By last light C Coy had closed to within 400m of a major 'enemy' position found by Recon Pl. The remainder of the Battalion closed to within 1000m of C Coy during the late afternoon. Fighting patrols went forward to gain further information on the 'enemy' and the Battalion prepared for a possible morning attack.

The Battalion attacked from the north north-east at 0730 hours on 17 July. C Coy scaled a sand slope and captured an 'enemy' platoon position. To go further forward was impossible as a 50' sand cliff separated C Coy from the central enemy position. B Coy moved to the left and attacked with C Coy providing fire support. The 'enemy' was forced off the centre position and A Coy moved and secured the rear. The BSG moved forward and by mid morning the attack was over.

Orders were issued for the deployment to the mainland. The Battalion moved to an LZ and was airlifted by Iroquios to the Wide Bay Airstrip to a welcome shower, fresh rations, a brew and a rest.



# FROM FRASER Is TO WIDE BAY



*by sea and air*









### Wide Bay Training Area

Phase 2 of Exercise 'Gold Fever' commenced on the night of 17 July. C Coy along with BHQ Tac moved across country from the airstrip to secure the 54 feature some 2500m to the north west. The remainder of the Battalion advanced via the road leading to the feature. Battalion was complete soon after midnight. The night was without incident, apart from the Spt Coy Captain who accidentally went swimming.

The following day proved to be a busy one. A Coy was contacted in the vicinity of Mount Herman and C Coy was contacted as they moved to the Marilyn feature. A Coy cleared the 'enemy' from Mount Herman and moved to and secured the Grant feature. C Coy attacked Marilyn and secured it. After a period of quiet (Tack Force restricted further movement) B Coy advanced north west across country and the remainder of the Battalion with A Coy leading advanced south then north west along the road, both groups moving towards 'Stringy'. Recon Pl was contacted west of 'Stringy'. B Coy attacked the enemy platoon at the tower west of Marilyn and secured it. 3 Pl (A Coy) attacked an enemy Section on the 85 feature late in the afternoon and secured it while the remainder of the Battalion advanced to within 2000m of 'Stringy' before resting for the night.

C Coy led the Advance the following day and were contacted by a platoon sized enemy group in the vicinity of 'Stringy'. A company attack followed after which A Coy resumed the Advance north. B Coy attacked and secured the 51 feature north east of 'Stringy'. A Coy continued north and closed on what appeared to be the major enemy position after a company attack during the afternoon. Activity intensified as information came in from Recon Pl and two fighting patrols prepared to fight for further information. Finally 'enemy' platoon positions were identified, along with rifle and gun pits. An 'enemy' company position had been found.

A Coy secured the FUP that night and the Battalion moved in for an attack at first light. B Coy was the assault company and secured the first objective relatively easily. C Coy pushed through and cleared the remainder of the 'enemy' from the objective. By mid morning the BSG had completed its tasks and Exercise 'Gold Fever' was over.

The Battalion less C Coy returned to Enoggera that afternoon. C Coy went back to Fraser Island to commence the whole thing again this time as 'enemy' for 6 RAR.





*Sigs...*



*Anti Armour...*



*the Rifle Coys...*

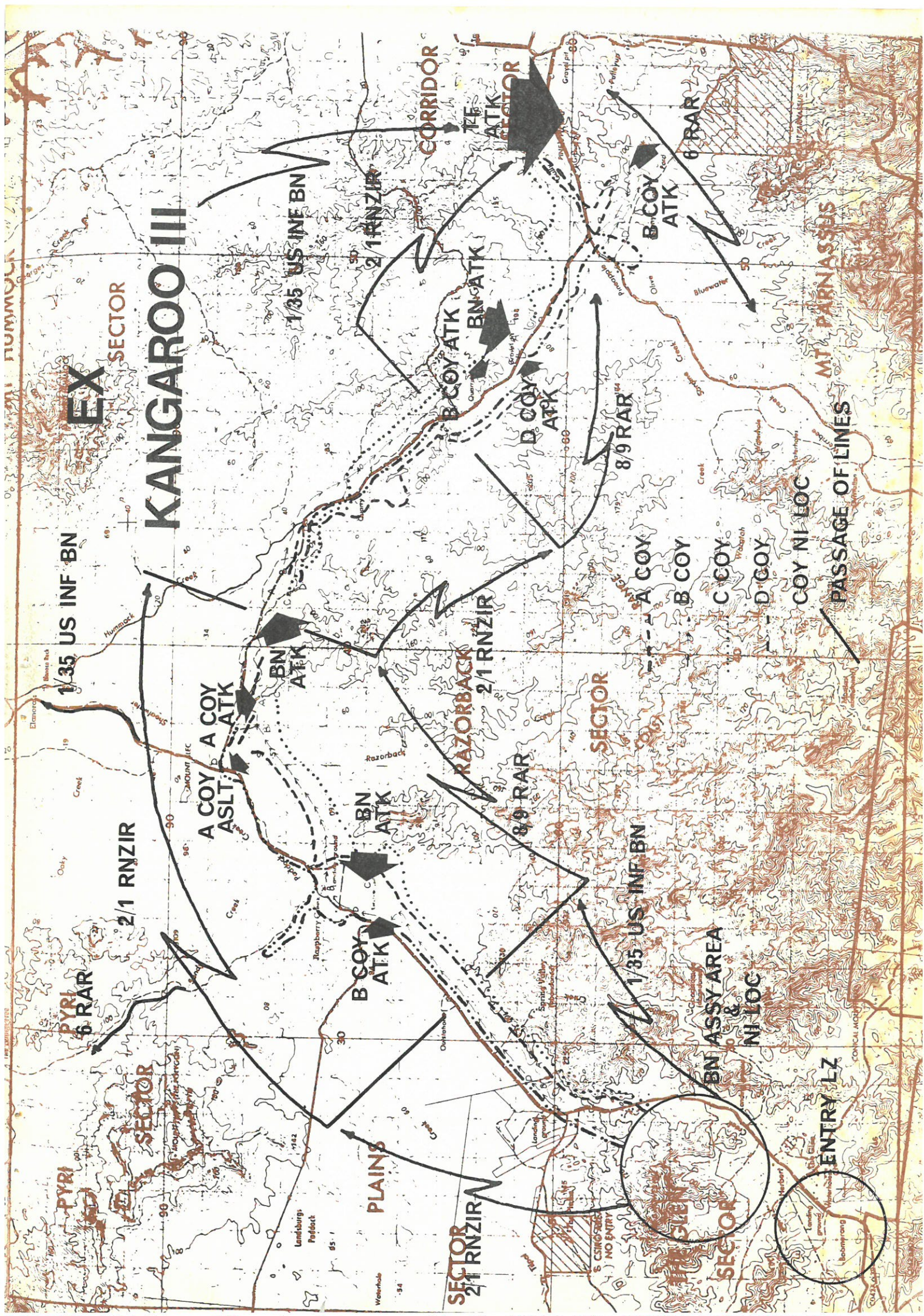


*the CP...*



*the Echelon.*







## OUTLINE

Exercise Kangaroo III, the long awaited exercise for 1979, began early October. As the sea and air battle raged, activity in 6TF increased as units prepared to move to Shoalwater Bay, 2/1 RNZIR arrived from New Zealand and Malaya and 1/35 US Inf Bn arrived from the United States. A rifle company from 9 RQR joined the Battalion as D Coy. By mid October 6TF and units were on 6 hours notice to move. On 19 October 6 RAR mounted an air mobile assault into 'The Glen' and the land battle of Exercise Kangaroo III was on.

Shoalwater Bay, 70 Kilometers north of Rockhampton was the area in which the Exercise was conducted. The terrain varies from flat open country to steep and rugged ranges. Shoalwater Bay is well known for the hot dry conditions which prevail in October. This year was no exception. On one occasion the air temperature climbed to 42°C and the ground to 50°C. It rained as well, relieving some of the fire danger but adding to the humidity. Relief only came at night when mild conditions prevailed.

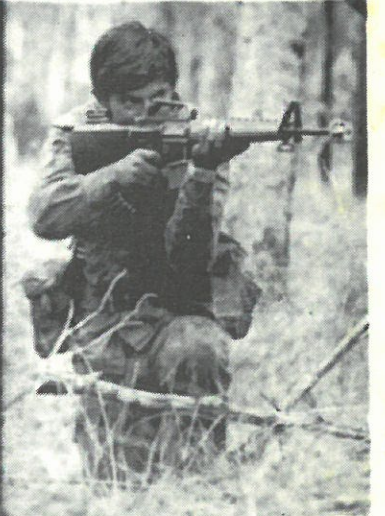
6 RAR had secured the landing ground and was followed by 1/35 US Inf Bn and 2/1 RNZIR. Both these Battalions were tasked with clearing north of 'The Plains' and securing the Task Force Line of Departure. 8/9 RAR was the last Battalion in with the Advance Party arriving on 20 October and the Main Body on 21 October. By midnight on 21 October the Battalion was complete in the Assembly Area apart from some vehicles which were moving up by rail.

The 22 October was spent quietly as the New Zealanders (2/1 RNZIR) and the Americans (1/35 US Inf Bn) advanced up the left and right hand sides of the axis respectively. Finally, clearance was given for the Battalion to move forward and close with the Americans. The Battalion moved with A Coy leading on the right followed by C Coy and D Coy on the left followed by B Coy. By 1630 hours the Battalion had closed to within 1000m of 1/35 US Inf Bn. That night plans were made and liaison took place with the Americans for a Passage of Lines as the Battalion was to become the right Advance Guard for the Task Force the following day.

At 0400 hours on 23 October the Companies moved forward. By 0630 hours an incident free Passage of Lines had been completed through the 1/35 US Inf Bn. The Battalion moved forward. A Coy contacted an 'enemy' (from US Marine Corps and 2/4 RAR) squad just after 7 o'clock and quickly destroyed it. Recon Pl, who had been inserted the previous day, then passed information as to the location of a suspected 'enemy' company position just 1000m north. The Battalion closed in. D Coy contacted a platoon sized enemy group on the 119 feature, attacked and secured it. The remainder of the Battalion concentrated for an attack. C Coy stole around to the east of the suspected enemy position in the vicinity of the 118 feature. The Company came quietly in with A Coy waiting as reserve to the south. By the time C Coy reached the top of the feature only a squad of 'enemy' remained and were quickly dealt with. The remainder of the 'enemy' had fled. The Battalion again moved forward, this time to secure the Raspberry Creek Landing Ground to which 6 RAR was to fly into the following day, 24 October.



# WE ARRIVED.....





The 24 October was a busy day. D Coy moved to secure 6 RAR's Line of Departure 2000 M to the north west of Raspberry Creek and contacted and dealt with an 'enemy' fighting patrol on the way. 6 RAR flew in at 1030 hours. With 6 RAR safely on their way, A Coy was tasked with securing the ford and a major road junction 3000 M to the north. The Company contacted and successfully dealt with the 'enemy' fighting patrol while moving. A Coy then assaulted the ford from the south east. The assault was quick and aggressive and the resulting contact left the enemy in complete disarray, running apparently aimlessly into the New Zealanders to the north. The radio captured by A Coy at the ford revealed only four enemy had escaped from an entire platoon located in the area. The radio also revealed the presence of an enemy position 2000 M to the east.

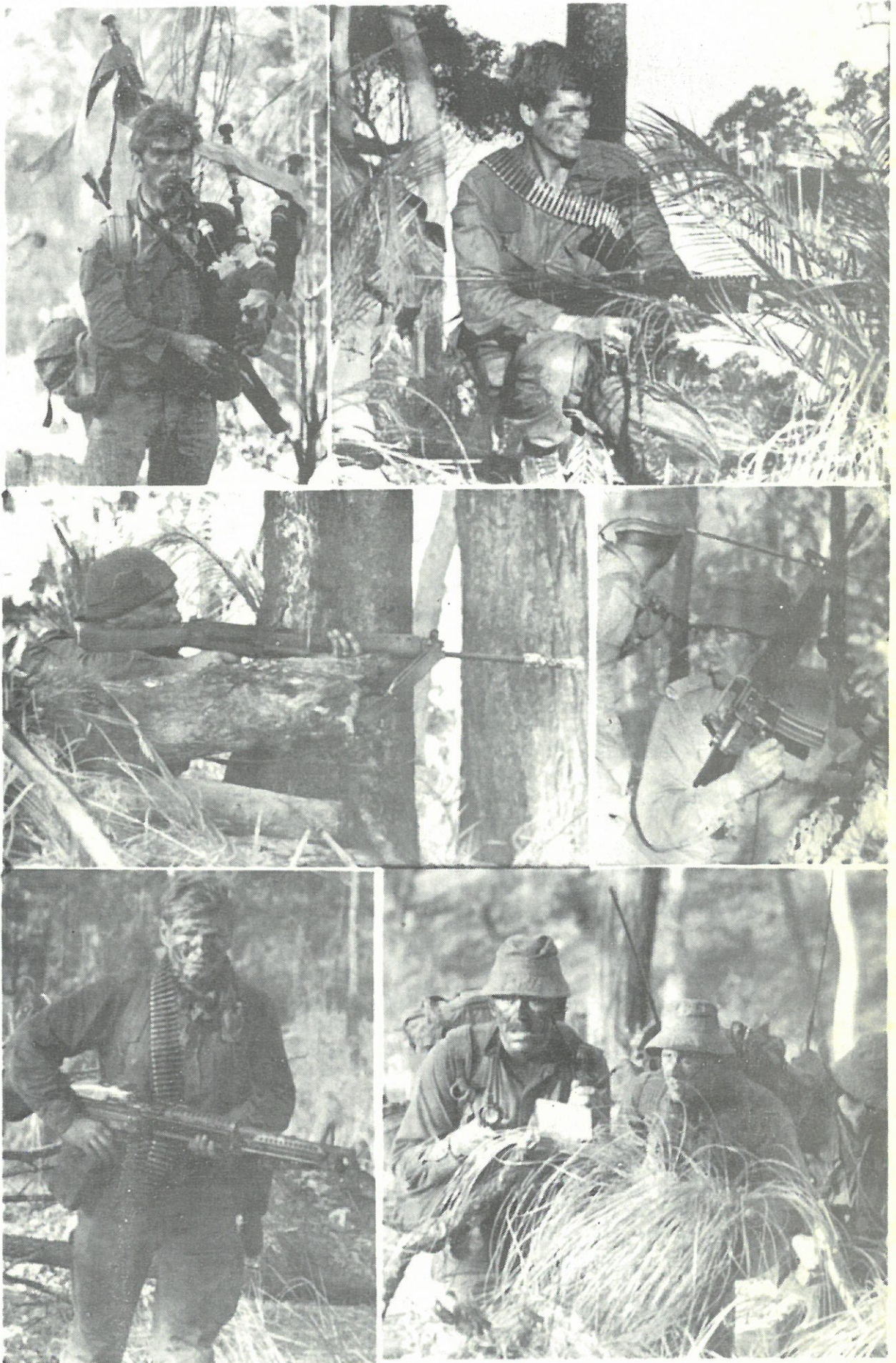
B Coy moved to A Coy old position south east of the ford and was followed by C Coy. D Coy moved north and cleared the axis. A Coy moved east towards the suspected 'enemy' position, contacting an 'enemy' platoon position. The Company attacked driving the 'enemy' south east up the ridge line. C Coy moved in from the west and secured the ridge line. The 'enemy' had once again chosen 'discretion as the better part of valour' but the Battalion's turn would come and the following day, 25 October, it did.

The Battalion continued as Task Force Advance Guard. B Coy was the left forward company and A Coy the right. C Coy continued to clear the high ground to the south. D Coy was the Battalion reserve. A and B Coy found minefields north and south of the road behind which both companies contacted 'enemy' platoon positions. The road had been blown. Clearly the Battalion had run into a major 'enemy' defensive position. A Coy secured and marked the FUP and was joined by C Coy. The Battalion attacked from the south west at 1030 hours; C Coy was the assault company and A Coy provided depth. B Coy provided fire support and cut off. The battle was a bitter one. A and C Companies encountered heavy machine gun fire and D Coy closed up preparing to enter the fray. The left flank bogged down. C Coy struggled on and finally seized the right knoll. A Coy swept their right flank forward to C Coy position and with that platoon providing fire support cleared the remainder of the 'enemy'. D Coy moved forward and cleared the remainder of the feature. The Battalion set about removing casualties and consolidating its position. It had successfully completed its first major encounter.

The Battalion rested on 26 October. The New Zealanders passed through and continued to move east. 1/35 US Inf Bn continued to move north to Elanora. 6 RAR were operating in conjunction with 31 MAU (Marine Amphibious Unit). During the day A Coy moved east to provide security on a ford captured by 2/1 RNZIR. By nightfall, 2/1 RNZIR prepared to attack yet another major 'enemy' defensive position.

The New Zealanders had completed their attack by dawn on 27 October. The Rifle Companies passed around them, no sooner having done so when B Coy was in contact with an 'enemy' squad. The 'enemy' withdrew. B Coy contacted an 'enemy' platoon shortly afterwards and attacked it. Whilst doing so, the Company came under fire from the 198 feature further east. MG Pl were tasked to neutralize the 'enemy' fire allowing B Coy to complete their attack. An hour later D Coy contacted an 'enemy' squad south of the road. The 'enemy' quickly fled back to a platoon position to the north east. D Coy followed up and successfully attacked despite additional opposition from the 198 feature and an 'enemy' counter attack. Again the Battalion concentrated and prepared for yet another Battalion attack.







The attack was mounted on converging axis from the north west of the 'enemy' position at 2000 hours. B Coy was the left assault company and A Coy the right. Both Companies secured their objectives easily. C Coy then swept through and attacked the 198 feature proper. Again the 'enemy' refused to meet the wrath of the Battalion and fled.

The next morning (29 October) the Battalion moved forward and caught the 'enemy' off balance. Before they realised it, C Coy had secured a major feature overlooking an 'enemy' battalion defensive position at Pineapple Gap. A B and D Coy seized all key terrain within 1500 M of the main 'enemy' position, pushing in all 'enemy' squad and platoon positions in their paths. The 'enemy' engaged in an active patrolling programme apparently to find out what had happened; the only people to find out anything, however, was the Battalion through an apparently inexhaustible supply of PWs.

While the Battalion had moved forward, other activities were going on elsewhere in preparation for an obvious Task Force attack. 6 RAR conducted an air mobile assault into an area south of Pineapple Gap. 1/35 US Inf Bn was airlifted into an area to the north. 2/1 RNZIR moved along the high ground to the north and approached the 'enemy' position from the north west. By last light on 29 October the 'enemy' was virtually surrounded and orders were issued for a Task Force attack the following day.

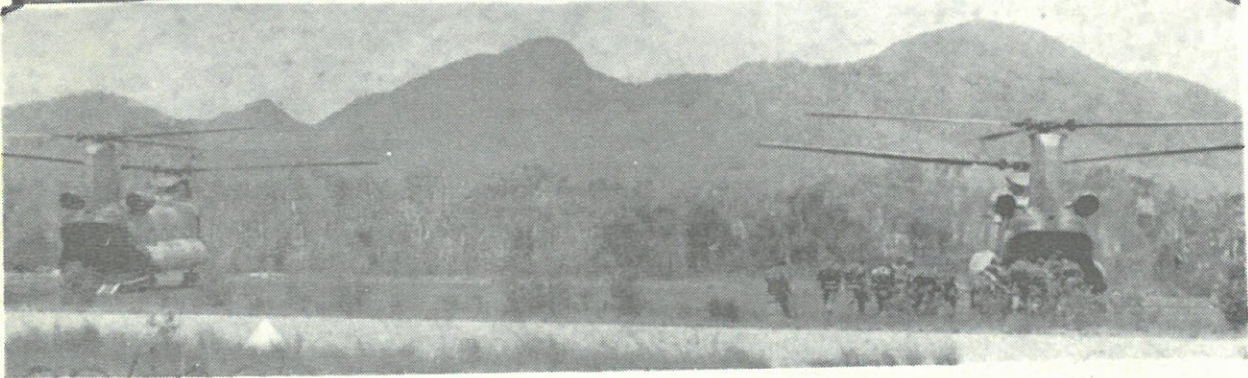
1/35 US Inf Bn attacked the 'enemy' from the north east at 1200 hours 30 October. The Task Force attack was on. Meanwhile the Battalion moved north to its Line of Departure for Phase 3 of the Task Force attack. With the Americans having secured the first objective, the New Zealanders attacked down from the high ground from the north west. The Battalion moved around behind them and deployed into battle formation. 2/1 RNZIR secured their objective and 8/9 RAR moved forward from its Line of Departure on a one company frontage. The Battalion moved through the New Zealanders and swept down from the high ground into the southern 'enemy' position. A Coy moved across the road to the skirl of the bagpipe and into the fire fight. Fire and movement was in short sharp aggressive dashes. The 'enemy' wilted. A Coy pressed on and secured their objective. C Coy passed through A Coy and secured the 135 feature. D Coy followed through and quickly captured a large spur line on the eastern side. By this time the 'enemy' had been routed; all that remained was for B Coy to secure the area to the west. By last light the Battalion had secured its objective.

The night passed quietly. Just after 0400 hours the following morning (31 October) C Coy heard movement in their area. The Battalion was alerted to the possibility of a counter attack and when it finally came 20 minutes later, the Battalion was ready. The 'enemy' attacked A Coy from the east. A platoon from B Coy rushed to reinforce the Aslt Pnr Pl arriving in time to complete the rout of the counter attack. As A Coy consolidated on its position, a radio message from HQ 6 TF told us Exercise Kangaroo III was over. The Battalion then moved to Samuel Hill and prepared to return to Enoggera by air and road.









.....& WENT HOME



# EIGHTY NINE IN SEVENTY NINE



## FOREWORD

*On my return to regimental service in Enoggera after an absence of six years, it was gratifying to note that some things in life, particularly in Infantry Battalions, remain constant. To see the many old faces well remembered from both 9 RAR and 8 RAR days still serving in the unit was a source of much pleasure and reassurance. I believe that we in 8/9 RAR have benefited from the best of both 8 and 9 RAR and, over the past six years have gone on and built on their traditions and professional standards.*

*1979 has been a busy and demanding year in all respects, and at all levels. From Section to Battalion, we have hooked in, worked hard and reaped the benefits. This year, as you are well aware, we have concentrated on operating as a Battalion and particularly learning how all elements of the unit have to combine effectively to achieve our overall objectives. It is with a considerable degree of pride that I have watched our improvement in this respect from those 'early' days on Exercise 'Ram Shackle', through Exercise 'Gold Fever' and culminating in what I believe was the high point of the year on Exercise 'Kangaroo III'. I believe overall that we can be justifiably well satisfied with our efforts on 'K3'.*

*To those many officers, NCOs and soldiers who have passed through the unit in 1979 may I offer my sincere thanks to you for your efforts whilst serving with us. Many of you I hope will return in the years to come. Thanks is also due to HQ 6 TF and the many other units of South Queensland who have given their support during the year. Particularly, we are grateful for the support and assistance given by our sister Battalion especially in provision of enemy, umpires, mutual conduct of courses and the Pipes and Drums.*

*The Christmas period is one in which our thoughts naturally turn to*



leave and being with our families. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the 'families' of the Battalion for their support during the year. Wives, girlfriends and parents have all given unstinting support to the unit throughout, and for this we are most grateful.



# CORPORAL JOHN MACARTHUR



"STAN THE RAM"

Stanley, now nine years old, had a restfull year in 1979. While on rest he occupied himself eating and reminding members of A Coy and BHQ that he claims sole use of the area behind BHQ. Stan did, however, attend some military duties. He welcomed the Americans on Ex Pacific Bond in March, During which he disgraced himself on the Amberley Tarmac. In addition he participated in 'Beating the Retreat', the last formal parade on the Original Enoggera Parade Ground. He had a small adventure in July when he was 'sheepnapped' by University students. He was found later in the ABC film studios just after completing his first engagement as a TV personality. Other activities included celebrating his birthday and having his annual 'haircut' in September.



# ACTIVITIES OF 1979

JAN	-	ARL; IET Course; D Coy Butterworth
FEB	-	Rifle Coy sub unit training LWC; D Coy returns from Butterworth; Specialist training for Spt Coy Pls
MAR	-	B Coy Ex Sabre Foot at Puckapunyal; support to US Coy on Ex Pacific Bond; sub unit training; Ex Trial Watch I (CPX)
APR	-	Mil Skills Greenbank; US Coy on Ex Pacific Bond hosted for Easter; Ex Trial Match II (CPX); memorial service for the 8 RAR Roll of Honour Board; Anzac Day; sub unit training
MAY	-	APC training Wide Bay; Spt Coy live firing; sub unit training; NBC Course
JUN	-	Ex Ram Shackle
JUL	-	Ex Gold Fever
AUG	-	Battalion Stocktake; Support to Ex Grindstone; sub unit training; Specialist courses
SEP	-	Sub unit training; Specialist courses
OCT	-	Beating the Retreat; support to 2/1 RNZIR; Kangaroo III
NOV	-	Support to RMC and OCS; subject 2 for Cpl; adventure training
DEC	-	ARL; IET Course.



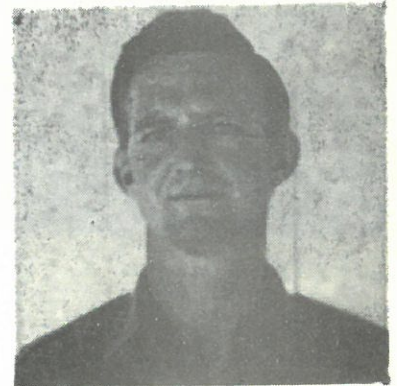
# HONOURS & AWARDS



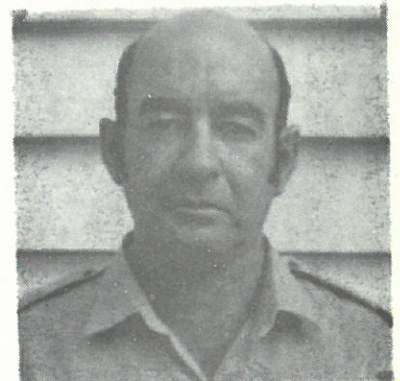
WO2 J W Burns  
National Medal



WO2 L G Smithsen  
awarded  
the British Empire  
and  
National Medals



SGT T J Osmond  
National Medal



SGT R W Britton  
National Medal



# CEREMONIAL

## IET MARCHOUT

While most of the Battalion was on leave at Christmas, some members remained behind. They instructed and trained new soldiers in the arts of Infantry. Seen in the insuing photograph is the March On for their final parade. Below, the CO inspects the parade.





OPENING QUEENSLAND'S NEW PARLIAMENTRY ANNEX



*The Duke of Glouscester inspects the Guard of Honour provided by A Coy for the opening on 12 March.*

ROLL OF HONOUR BOARD 8 RAR

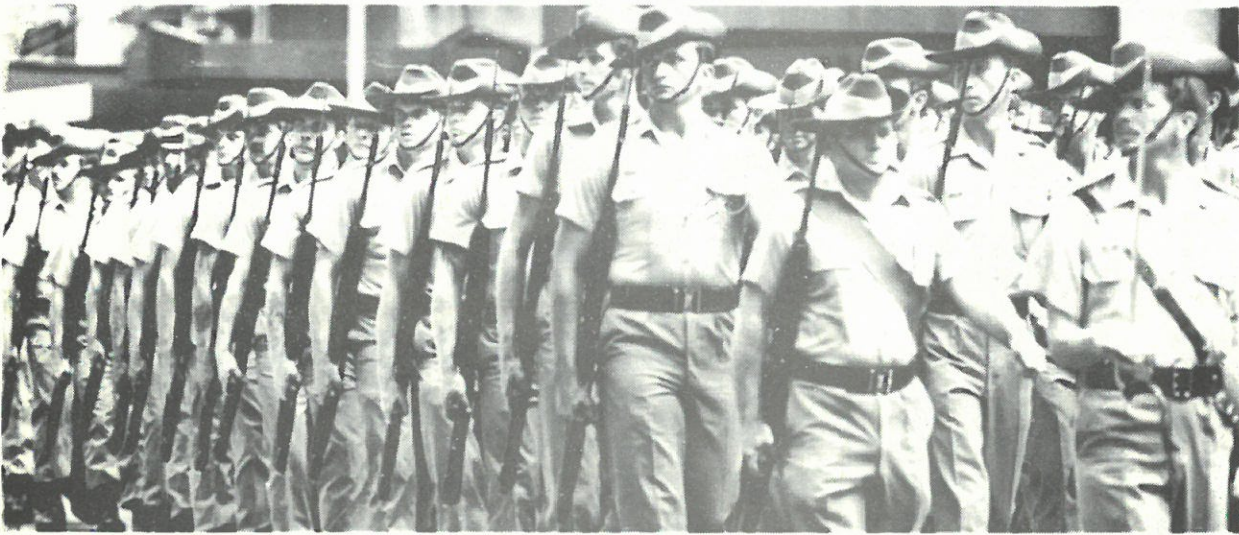


*The Roll of Honour for those members of 8 RAR killed in South Vietnam was called in the All Saints Chapel. All Officers, Senior NCO's of 8/9 RAR and ex-members of 8 RAR attended the service.*



## ANZAC DAY

The day began with an early rise for everybody. The diggers had their customary early morning brew, after which a Dawn Service was held on the parade ground. The Battalion custom of marching on Anzac Day was upheld, and in sixes, with the colours, we marched through Brisbane to the rousing 'Black Bear'.





### BEATING THE RETREAT

A 'Beating the Retreat' was held on 12 October to mark the end of an era at Enoggera. It was the last formal parade to be held on the original Enoggera parade ground. For more than 60 years the parade ground has seen the foot prints of thousands of Infantrymen pass over it. The General Officer Commanding 1st Division MAJGEN J D Kelly DSO was the reviewing Officer. The Commander 6th Task Force, Brigadier L G O'Donnell, unit Commanding Officers along with other guests from throughout Enoggera attended the parade.

### Guard of Honour

C Company

Guard Commander - CAPT D J McClland

Colour Ensigns - LT J A Robbs  
2LT I A Cruickshank

Warrant Officer - WO2 B F McGrath

Staff Sergeant - SSGT A J Crook

Sergeants - SGT A R Olding  
SGT R Anderson



C Company







# MAJOR EXERCISES

*RAM SHACKLE*

*JUN 79*

*GOLD FEVER*

*JUL 79*

*KANGAROO III*

*OCT 79*







## OUTLINE

Exercise 'Ram Shackle' was the first major Battalion exercise for 1979. The area was the Barakula State Forest some 30km North of Chinchilla in Central Southern Queensland. The period was 4 - 14 June '79. Mild conditions prevailed during the day with temperatures rising to the mid 20s, but nights were cold, the lowest temperature recorded being 5°C. The country was relatively flat with visibility ranging from 30 to 400m. And, of course, there was the dust; in eyes, hair, noses, packs, clothing, vehicles; nowhere and no-one was spared the ever present dust.

The advance and attack phases of war were concentrated upon during the exercise. Emphasis was also given to other aspects and participants found themselves involved in night operations, patrolling, mine-field clearing, hasty defence, resupply by night, and by day when required and practicing the skills of infantry. The 'enemy', from 2 Cav Regt, 2 Fd Engr Regt and HQ Coy 6TF, became a wily little bunch after a period and employed some interesting and challenging tactics before they were finally cornered on the 500 feature.

The Battalion deployed to the exercise area with the Advance Party arriving at Barakula on 4 June and the main body on 5 June. After a night in the Assembly Area, the Battalion occupied a hasty defensive position. The Battalion Screen was provided by 8 Pl C Coy and for the next two days the 'enemy' continued to stumble into the Platoon before they finally managed to get around it and contact the main position.

8 Pl C Coy secured the LD (Line of Departure) on the morning of 7 June. B Coy lead the way and contacted an enemy platoon group before midday. A successful company attack followed after which A Coy resumed the advance and was contacted during the late afternoon. A Coy attacked the 'enemy' position just before nightfall and after it was completed the Battalion moved to its night location. C Coy moved off first the following day and contacted a small enemy group after covering about 2000m. The enemy withdrew and C Coy pursued until meeting strong opposition on the 412 feature. Information from Recon Pl and patrols from C Coy showed an 'enemy' Company minus was located on the feature.

The Battalion attacked the position at 1715 hr. A Coy was the left assault company and B the right. B Coy secured the northern side of the feature and A Coy the south. C Coy attacked and secured the rear of the feature. Recon Pl ambushed the enemy as they withdrew. Darkness had fallen by the time the attack was completed and the Battalion was reorganising.

A Coy contacted and successfully attacked an 'enemy' platoon size position some 3500m east of the Battalion night location the following day. B Coy then resumed the lead. After a contact with a small group of enemy, B Coy quickly moved forward; however B Coy moved forward too quickly and the Battalion ended up somewhat 'spread' before B Coy finally stopped.







The Battalion consolidated, had a brew and then moved off on a night advance. The night advance went remarkably well, despite fears for eyes being damaged, no-one was injured and B Coy successfully completed a night attack.

The next day was 11 June. A Coy moved north to clear an alternate route and C Coy lead the Battalion east. C Coy contacted an 'enemy' platoon position and successfully attacked it. A Coy 'pushed in' a number of enemy delaying positions and bypassed C Coy. The Battalion then moved on to a hasty defence position to prepare to deal with a major enemy position found by Recon Pl.

An 'enemy' company sized position was located on the 500 feature. Two enemy platoons were deployed on the west of the feature and one on the east. The northern, eastern and southern edges of the feature were cliffs up to 80' in height. The western edge was steep and difficult to climb. Together the 'enemy' and the feature was a formidable objective for the Battalion to capture.

The Battalion attacked at 1030 hr on 12 June. A Coy was the left forward assault company and C Coy the right. The axis of the assault was 700m long. Both Companies came under heavy fire from the HMGs, MG and small arms as they closed to the bottom of the feature. Both Companies struggled and persisted and gained a foot-hold on the top of the feature forcing the 'enemy' to withdraw east. B Coy then attacked the eastern platoon from the north. B Coy, reinforced by the Aslt Pnr Pl, found opposition heavy as they encountered the bulk of the 'enemy' force. The Company gained a foothold and with assistance from a platoon from A Coy and fire support from C Coy seized the final 'enemy' position. The BSG (Battle Support Group) moved forward, evacuated casualties and resupplied the Battalion. By 1400 hr the Battalion was again ready to advance and Exercise 'Ram Shackle' was over.

The Battalion moved back to the Barakula airstrip during the afternoon and prepared for the return to Enoggera. On 13 June Caribou aircraft returned the Main Body while the vehicles returned by road.



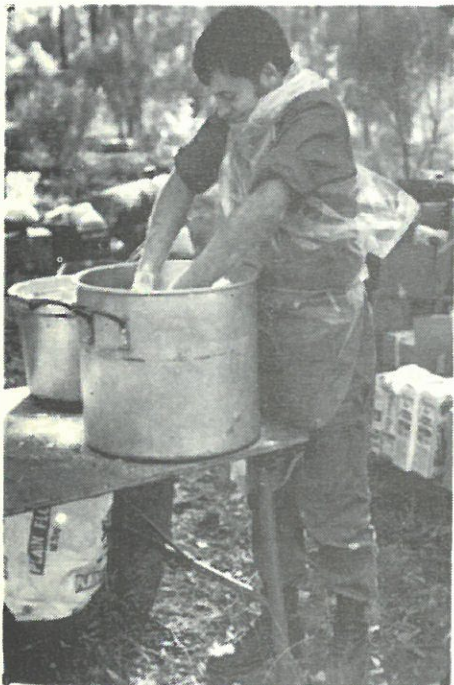




*a word with MAJGEN Kelly...*



*the 'real' advance...*



*the 'curse' of fresh rations...*



*planning...*



*B Coy HQ 'Tac'...*