

361
224

8/9 RAR
INTO THE
EIGHTIES



FOREWORD

1979 was a busy and highly productive year for the Battalion culminating in a most enjoyable Exercise KANGAROO III. Our training standards achieved in the advance to contact and the attack were, I believe, not surpassed by any other unit on that exercise, and certainly laid a very sound foundation for us to build on this year.



You will all be aware of the structure of this year's training with its concentration on basic battlecraft, live firing and patrolling in addition to our requirement to also maintain our proficiency in offensive operations. Accordingly, Exercises LEADEN LIFT and SILVER FLEECE saw significant improvement in our standards at all levels - from individual and section proficiency and teamwork to the broader spectrum of Battalion operations. We were also privileged to be hosts to C Company 2/2nd KEO Gurkha Rifles in May-June and I believe that both we and the Gurkhas learnt much from each other.

The Task Force Exercise SAFE HAVEN in July required the Battalion to 'go mechanised', and I was particularly pleased with the enthusiasm with which we approached both the company level training and the ARTEP Validation. As well as providing a useful validation of the Battalion Group ARTEP there were a number of key lessons learnt by all of us in terms of our ability to operate with armour by both day and night.

Command of a battalion is the culmination of an infantryman's career and I have felt very proud and privileged to have commanded 8/9 RAR. Without the loyal support and professionalism of each and every one of you, the Battalion would not enjoy the very good reputation that it has.

No statement of mine can express enough thanks to our families without whose support none of us can work effectively for long and I trust that that same loyal support will continue to be given to your new Commanding Officer.

It is with much pleasure that I hand over the Battalion to such a fine infantryman as LTCOL Rollo Brett - and I know that you will give him the same loyal support that I was privileged to receive. Good luck and good soldiering and I look forward to serving with you all again.

FOREWORD



As Brisbane heat encourages the pilgrimage to the beach my greetings go to LTCOL Fred Pfitzner wintering the blizzards in England at the UK Staff College. He handed over to me a well trained and well motivated fighting unit, the best in the Regiment, a Battalion not reliant on any gimmickery of mobility, but one with a proven ability to achieve the roles of the Infantry.

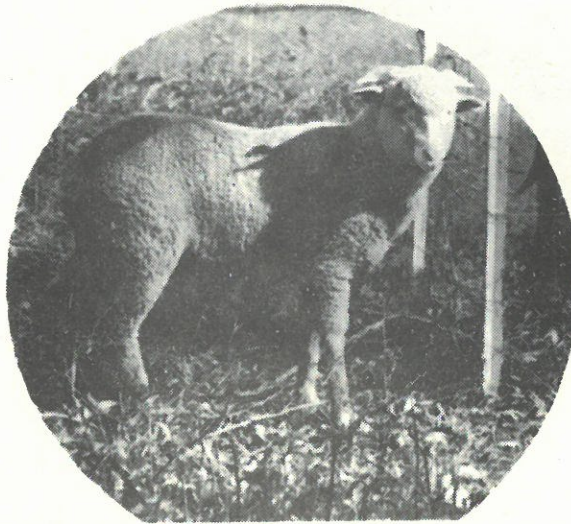
I am impressed by the fact that officers and the NCOs of the Battalion have maintained high standards throughout the year against some pretty fierce odds. The operational deployment force in Townsville has claimed a large number of our soldiers, the exercise rate has been very intense, particularly in the early part of the year, and towards the end of the year the emphasis on individual level training has also placed a heavy responsibility for training on their shoulders. They have borne the load stoutly. I am sorry to see some of them move on. I hope that many will return in the not too distant future.

On the sporting field the Battalion established a sound grounding for a great year in 1981. The tennis team won its competition, and the hockey, Australian Rules, soccer and rugby teams reached the finals. With C Company back in the fold, and a little more training time our chances look good in 81.

Building on the expertise developed in LEADEN LIFT, and SAFE HAVEN, the second half of the year saw C Company off to Butterworth and the rest of the Battalion off to the Back of Bourke for Exercise DROUGHTMASTER, a valuable defence against armour exercise. Next year will see Eight/Nine in the Northern Territory for a Battalion exercise, and back to Shoalwater Bay for the next of the KANGAROO series exercises, K81. We will also spend some time training with HMAS TOBRUK the Navy's new landing ship, with 1 Armd Regt at Puckapunyal and with APCs in the Northern Territory in the monsoon season.

My sincere thanks to all members of the Battalion for making 1980 such a successful year. To you, and to your wives, families and girlfriends who have assisted us by their robust support, I wish the best season's greetings for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

PRIVATE JOHN MACARTHUR II



"STAN JUNIOR"

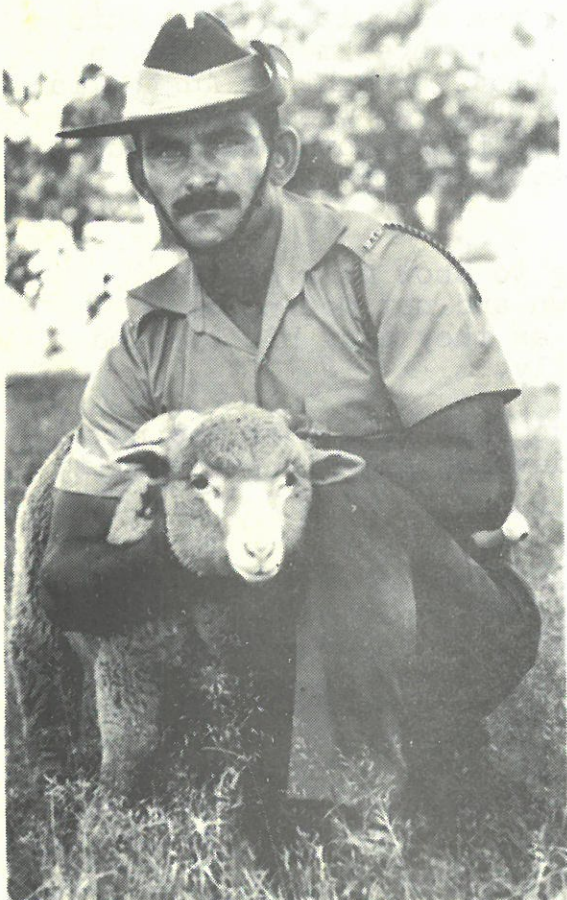
On the 31st of January 1980 a new recruit marched into the unit: Private John Macarthur II, a pure bred merino ram, a direct descendant of the first merino flock brought to Australia by John Macarthur from Spain in 1795. The ram was donated to the unit by Major General Sir Denzil and Lady Dorothy Macarthur-Onslow and flown from Camden, NSW to Amberley by Air Force Hercules aircraft.

The young ram is now starting to show many of the traits of his predecessor: sitting down and not moving on parades; giving everyone the evil eye as they pass him by; and attempts at bumping people occasionally.

It will be interesting to watch him grow over the next few months, watch his idiosyncrasies develop and his personality become more distinctive.



A TV STAR



'HEY SARGE - WHAT'S THAT'

DECEMBER - we go on ARL

1980													1980												
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	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29				23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
																	30	31							
APR	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	JUN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
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								30								28	29	30	31						

HONOURS & AWARDS

MBE Father John Tinkler

BEM Cpl George Newton

NATIONAL MEDALS

W02 Gerry Astin

W02 Arthur Francis

W02 Jeff Wildeblood

Ssgt Gary Shaw

Ssgt Bob Searl

Sgt Peter Harrower



What sir no gold watch.....!



STUDENT OF MERIT
L/CPL COX
SUBJECT 1 FOR CORPORAL



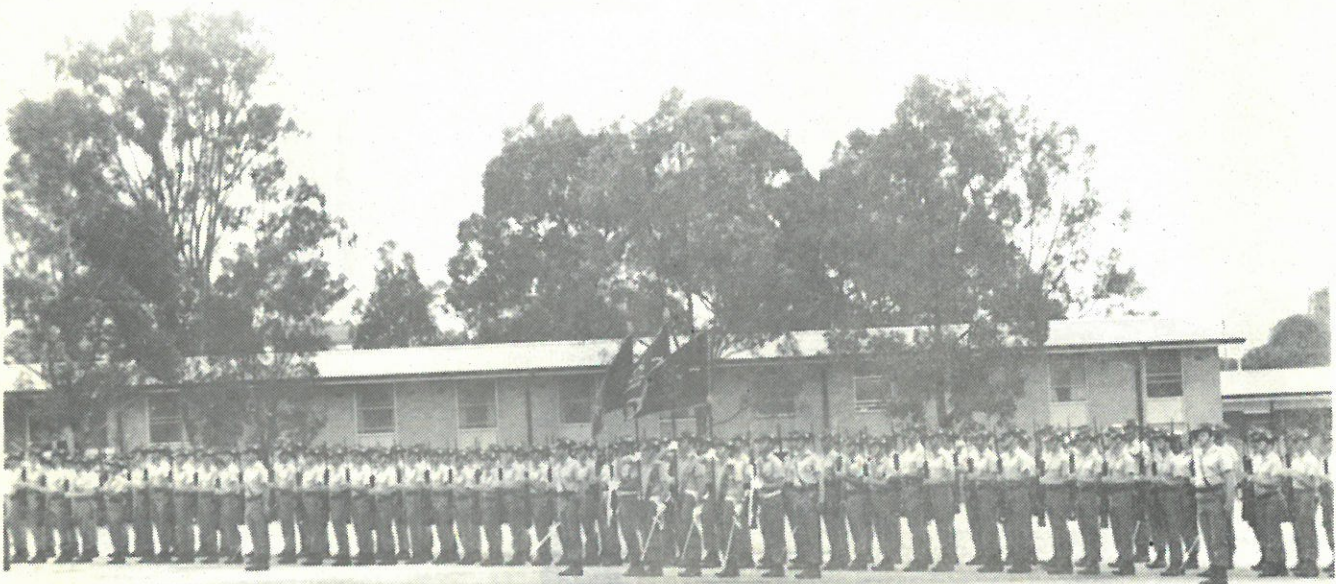
MOST IMPROVED PTE ANDERSON
SUBJECT 1 FOR CORPORAL



SHOOTING TROPHY CPL DIXON

THE TROOPING OF THE COLOUR
32ND ANNIVERSARY
THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT
23 NOVEMBER 1980

THE COLOURS IN MOTION



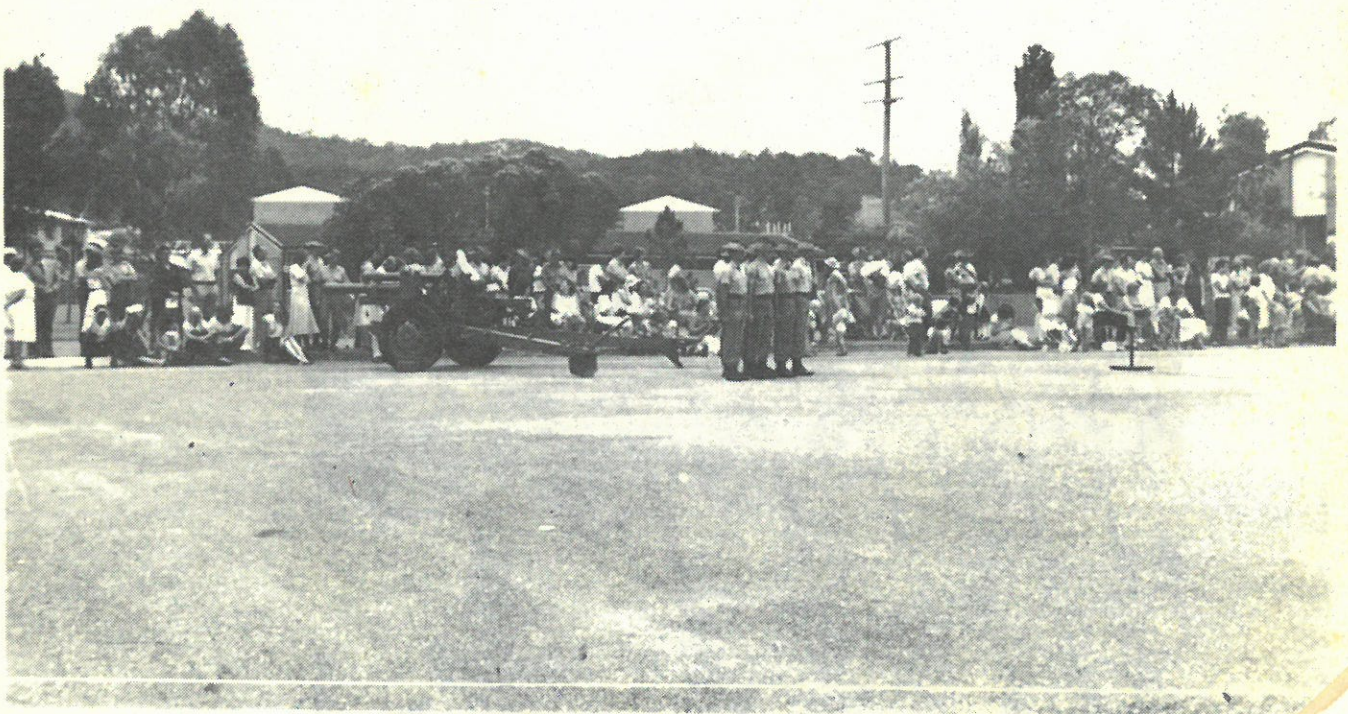
FOLLOW
THE
RSM...
(SYKES)



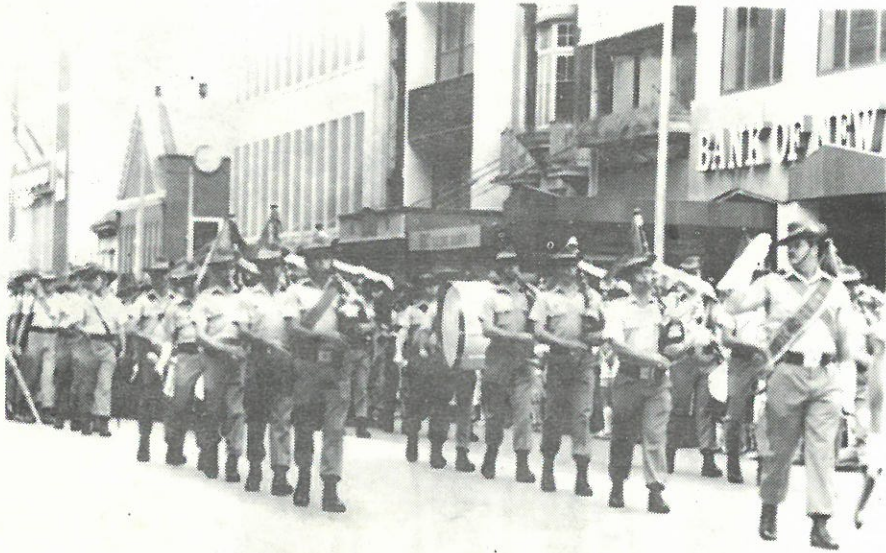
THE SERGEANTS CARRY THE COLOURS.....



.....AND THE ARTILLERY HOLD THE GROUND



ANZAC DAY



"WALK TALL AND STRAIGHT, LOOK THE MAN RIGHT IN THE EYE"

AND



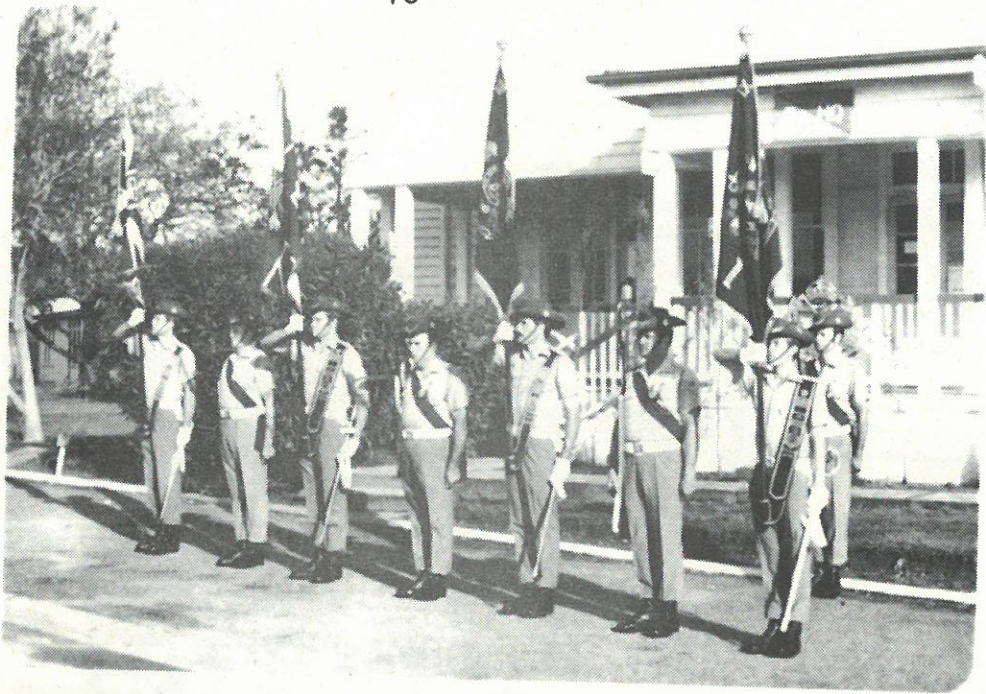
"MARCH TO THE BEAT OF MARCHING FEET"



A VISIT BY THE BRIG



'WHAT' ANOTHER QUARTER GUARD



OUR COLOURS ON PARADE



GOOD TURNOUT (PTE SYKES & MASCOT)

AND ALL THE OTHER CEREMONIES OF 1980

GUARD READY FOR INSPECTION SIR...



EVERYONE LOOKS SERIOUS





GOOD SOLDIERS



THE

BIG

ONE'S

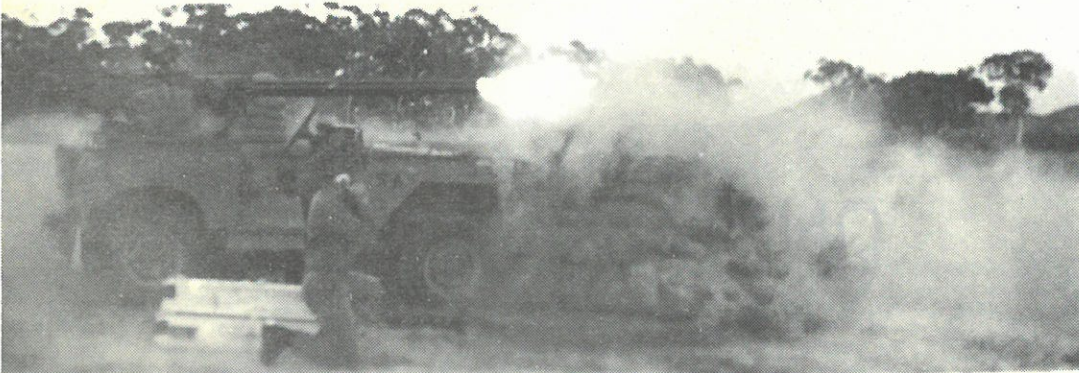
LEADEN LIFT
MAR '80

SILVER FLEECE
MAY '80

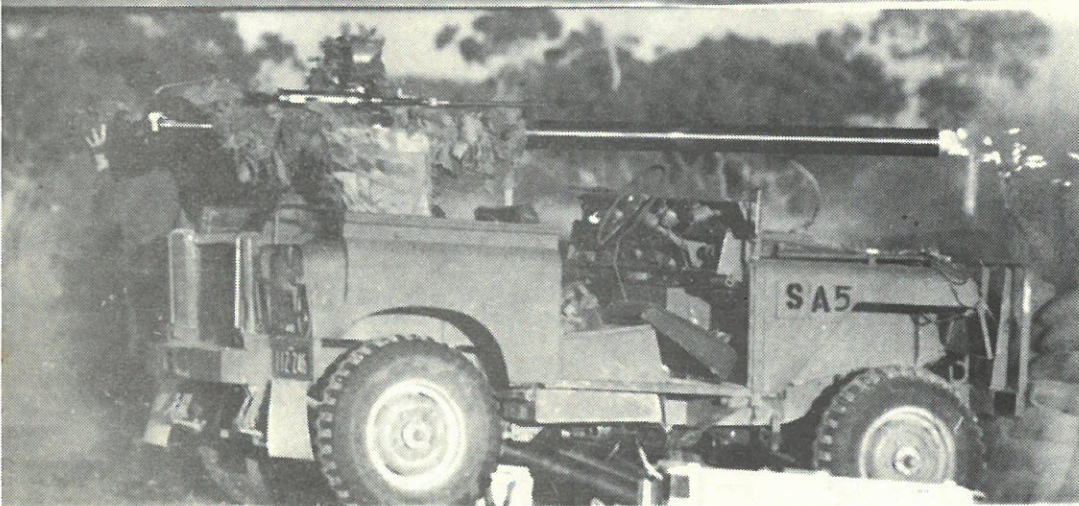
SAFE HAVEN
JUL '80

DROUGHT MASTER
OCT '80

THE BIG BANG



SHOOTING



EXERCISE

LEADEN

LIFT



ATTACKING
ARES
STYLE

Outline Ex LEADEN LIFT

From 20-27 Mar 80 the Battalion participated in a live firing exercise at the Wide Bay Training Area. This exercise was aptly named 'LEADEN LIFT'. The activity was conducted in conjunction with the Annual Camp of 25 RQR, an Army Reserve unit located in the Darling Downs region of South Queensland. The exercise included a variety of activities:

- live firing company attacks supported by mortar and machine guns
- a patrolling exercise on Fraser Island
- live firing all unit small arms weapons and throwing of live grenades on a specially constructed assault grenade range

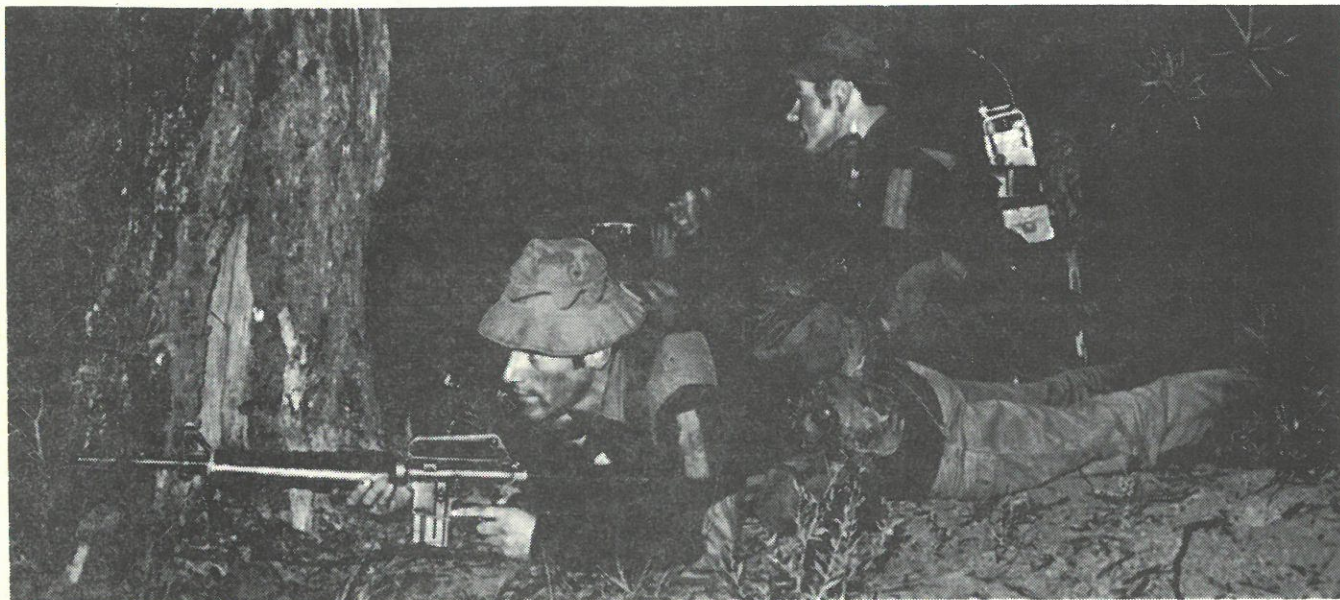
The exercise proved to be extremely valuable for all ranks of the unit, particularly for the unit's younger soldiers who would have not participated in such activities during their initial training at Kapooka or during initial employment training with the Battalion or at Infantry Centre.

Special thanks must be given to the Catering Platoon for their magnificent effort on the exercise and to the other support elements of the Battalion. It was common to see, at 0100 hours in the morning, 'Chief Wildblood' and his braves preparing the morning breakfast, cut lunches, and the brew for the personnel returning from the long live firing night ambushes. Overall not a bad exercise for beginners.



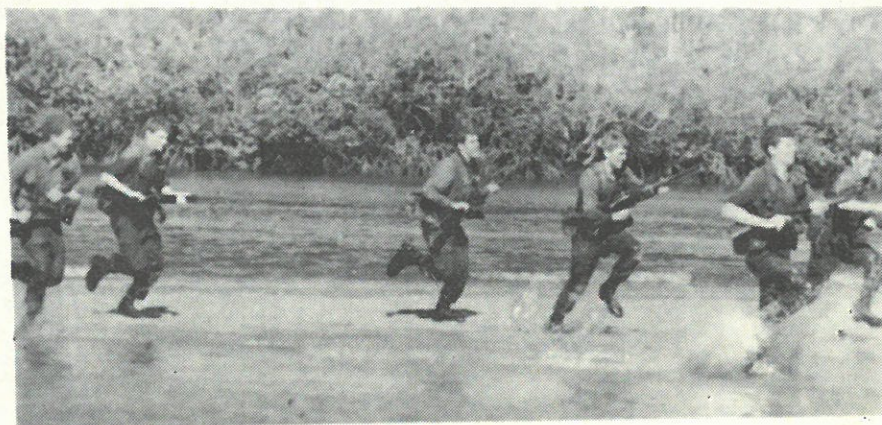
THE LONG LINK



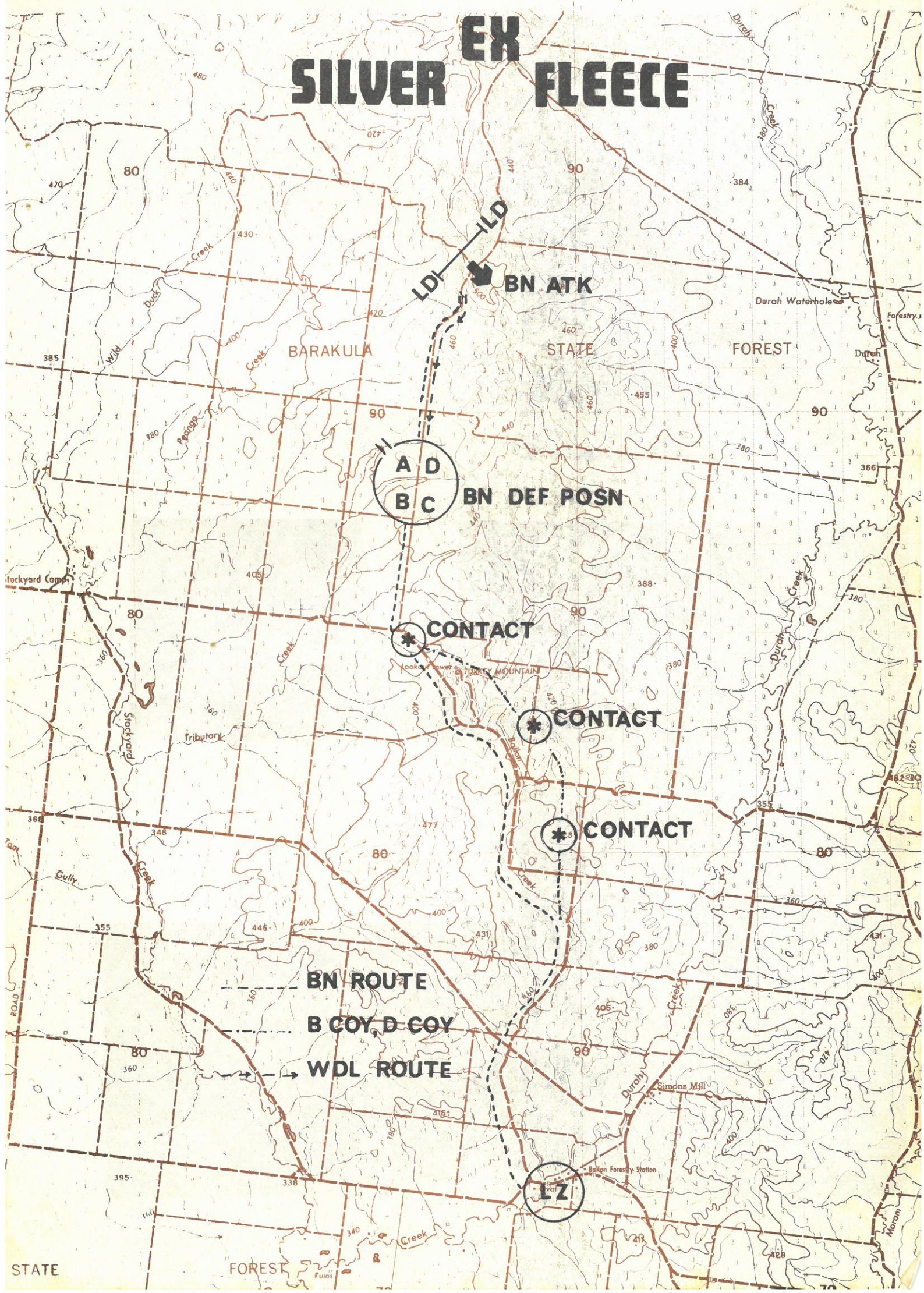


Ambushing by Night

Running in
the Wet

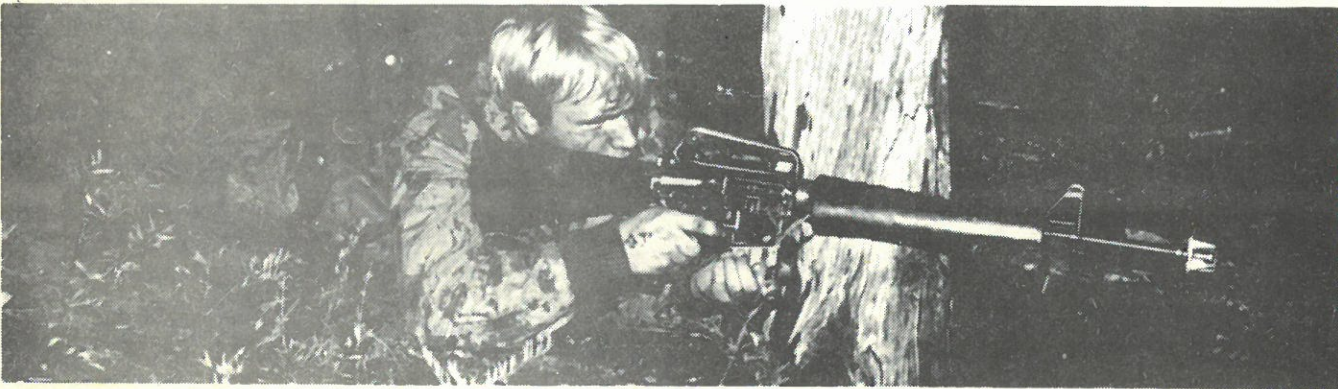


SILVER EX FLEECE





A COMPANY



B
COMPANY



C COMPANY



Outline

The big event for the first half of the training year was our first Battalion Exercise SILVER FLEECE. The exercise, as we all remember, was conducted in the Barakula State Forest from 19-30 May.

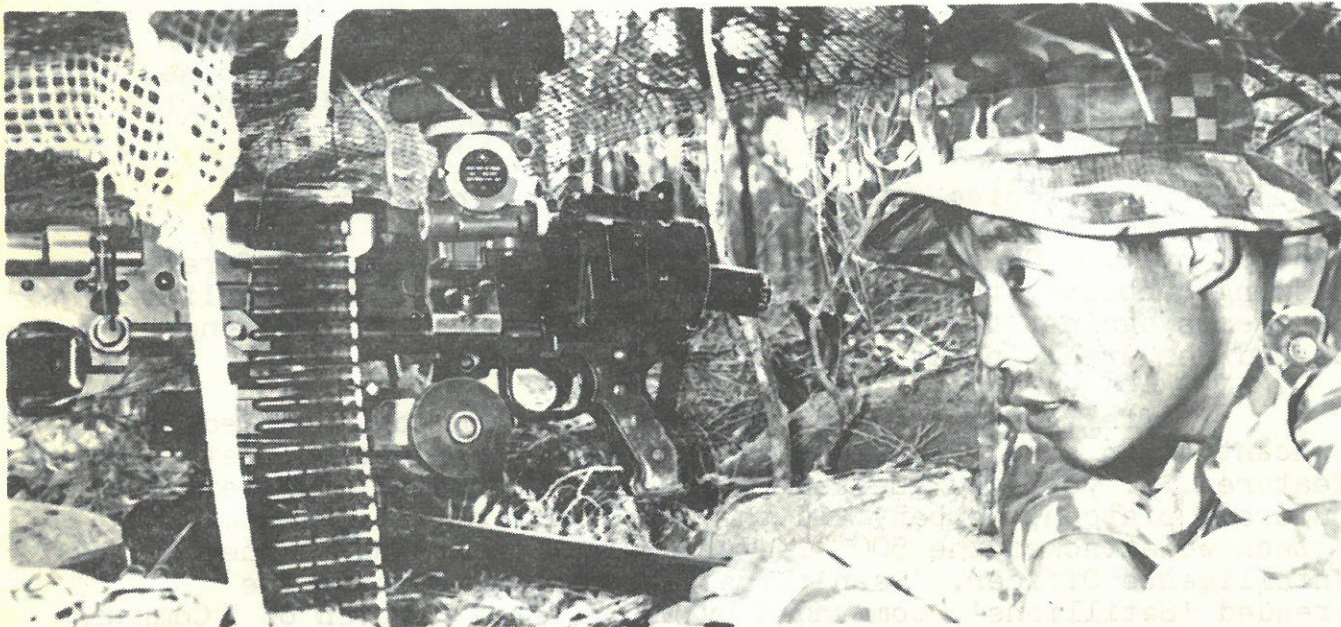
The exercise commenced with a Battalion heli-borne assault into the forest, with the LZ at the Balloon Forestry Station oval. On the arrival of the securing company, 'forever blowing bubbles', the enemy commenced a well programmed outline of events against the Battalion. The CO was always creeping around the area, 'pinks' in hand and a sig nearby.

After the battalion had moved into and consolidated its concentration area, we commenced a three day advance to that feature yes, you guessed it: 'Turkey Mountain'. After numerous platoon, company and the occasional battalion quick attack we attacked the 500' feature which, according to the Intelligence Officer, 'wasn't that steep', and evicted the dreaded 'Satillions', commanded by Major Terry McGoven of B Company 6 RAR. Once these hordes from across the Pacific had been evicted we immediately conducted a hasty defence only to up stakes that night and move into a defensive position. We spent five days in defense, digging and re-digging weapon pits, patrolling, and enjoying the scenic delights of Barakula.

Overall, it was a good exercise.

'YES, MOVE NOW, OUT'



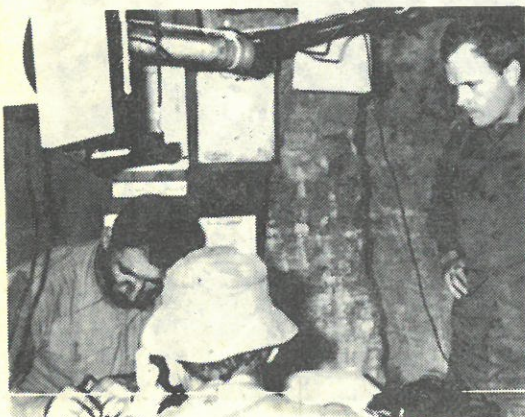


The Gurkhas

SOME MORE



The nerve centre



A sleepy CPL

Pioneers





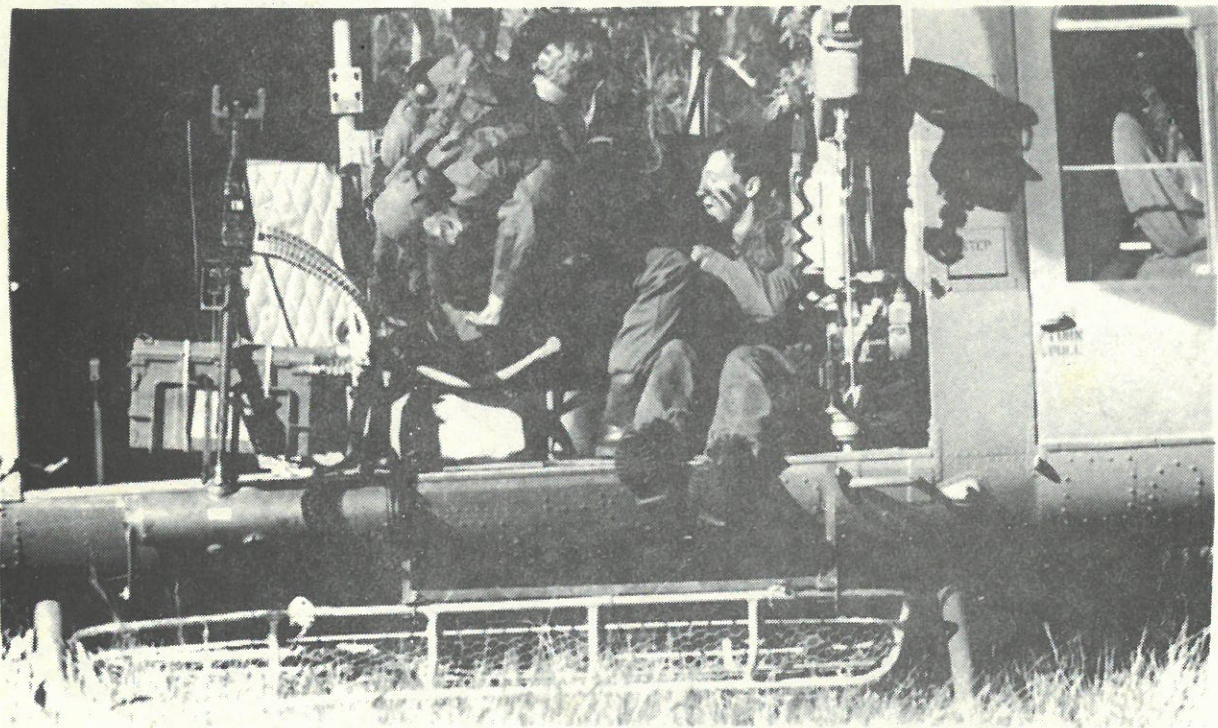
AND A FEW MORE





THE TANKS

EX SAFE HAVEN



AND US

EX SAFE HAVEN

THE TANKS, DUST

AND US

PYRE

NIGHT ATTACK

ASSY AREA

8/9 RAR ON FOOT

*** CONTACT**
Halfway

BRAESIDE

SECTOR

CONTACT

THE PLAINS

SECTOR

CONTACT

EXERCISE SAFE HAVEN

Outline

Well Exercise SAFE HAVEN - the tanks and us. The exercise, as you will probably remember, was divided into phases.

- Phase I. Company training/APC and tank familiarisation.
- Phase II. Battalion warm-up exercise 16-18 Jul 80.
- Phase III. ARTEP evaluation 20-22 Jul.
- Phase IV. A jolly for the soldiers except for A Company.

The exercise commenced with a fly into Rockhampton airport by C130 Hercules aircraft. From there we were herded into CH-47s and Iroquois for the move into SWBTA.

On arrival at the Plains airstrip the rifle companies were airlifted into their respective AOs for both individual and limited collective training activities. BHQ at this point did its normal thing

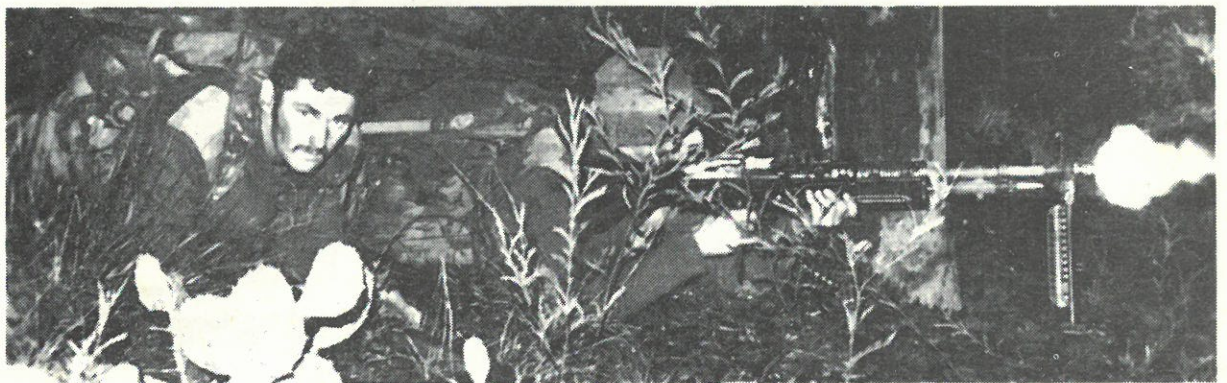
The Battalion then commenced its shake down exercise for the ARTEP evaluation which was characterised by bogged armoured vehicles, thrown tracks and noisy harbours. The exercise went reasonably well and certainly had its funny parts. I don't think anyone will forget the wandering OA near Braesides or an Intelligence Section perched high on an APC directing fire onto an enemy position, brew in hand.

The ARTEP evaluation exercise commenced after dawn on the 20 Jul and it looked very much like Operation Barbarossa. Vehicles speared off in all directions and finally, after much hustle and bustle, we started to resemble an Infantry Mounted Battalion. It was somewhere near a creek crossing that we earned our names, Infantry. After a contact on the crossing we found ourselves off-loaded and away on foot, A Company and B Company leading the TAC party stumbling behind them. We finally reached our objective, and after a considerable period of time our tracks and OA joined us. We then commenced our battle procedure for a quick attack, which unhappily turned into a long attack, particularly when darkness came upon us and the confusion set in.

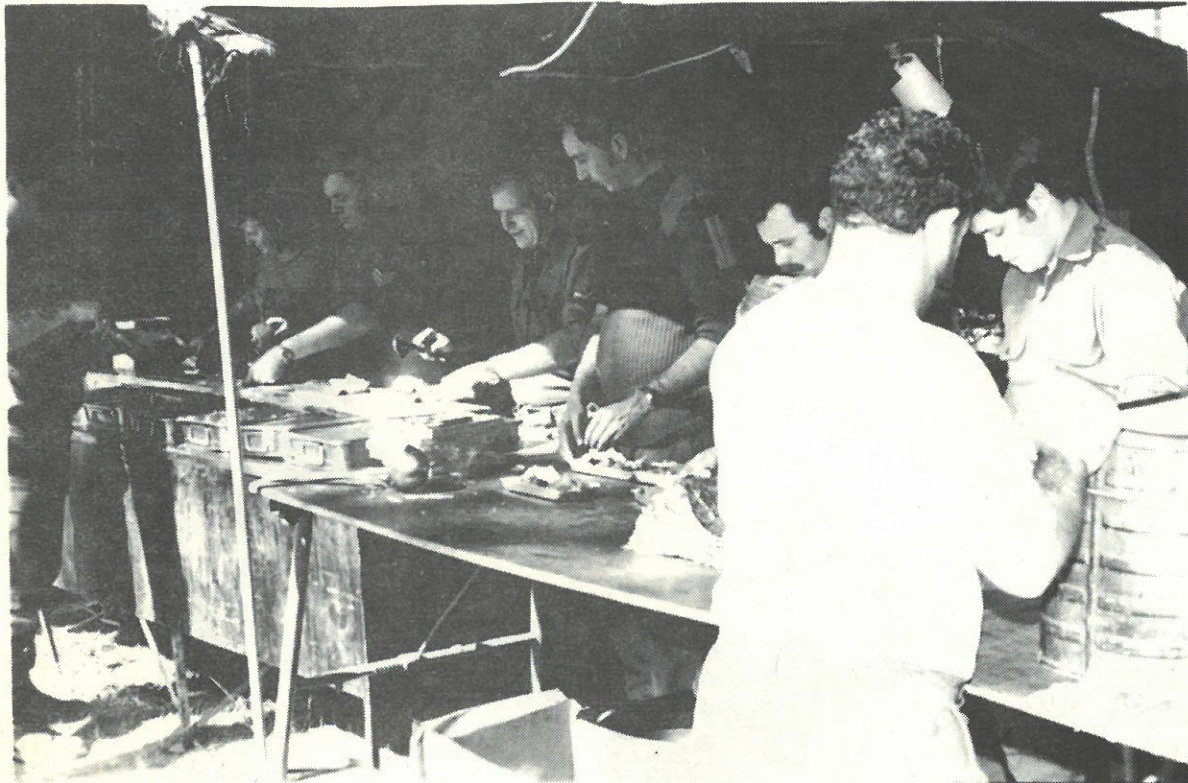
The last phase of the exercise was excellent. The soldiers headed north to the coast for a few days of sun whilst selected persons became umpires/evaluators for the 6 RAR ARTEP. It was this part of the exercise where names like troglodyte, the pimple and the zite entered into history to be immortalised for ever by A Company 8/9 RAR.

Overall not a bad exercise, however

A FLYING TADPOLE



HE HAS ALL THE FUN



NOT BEANS AGAIN



TELECOM ?



EXERCISE DROUGHTMASTER

The flies, the dust, the wind and the occasional rain - typically Australian - was the setting for Exercise DROUGHTMASTER. We arrived, dug, dug and prepared defensive positions on Mount Deerina, Acton Hill, Dunlope and Macarthur. The first of our party, as no doubt you will remember, first assaulted this desolate country on the 10th October to prepare for the arrival of the main body on the 12th October. The cooks began cooking, the advance party drivers kept driving, and the officers kept planning, with the aim of having everything ready and raring to go.

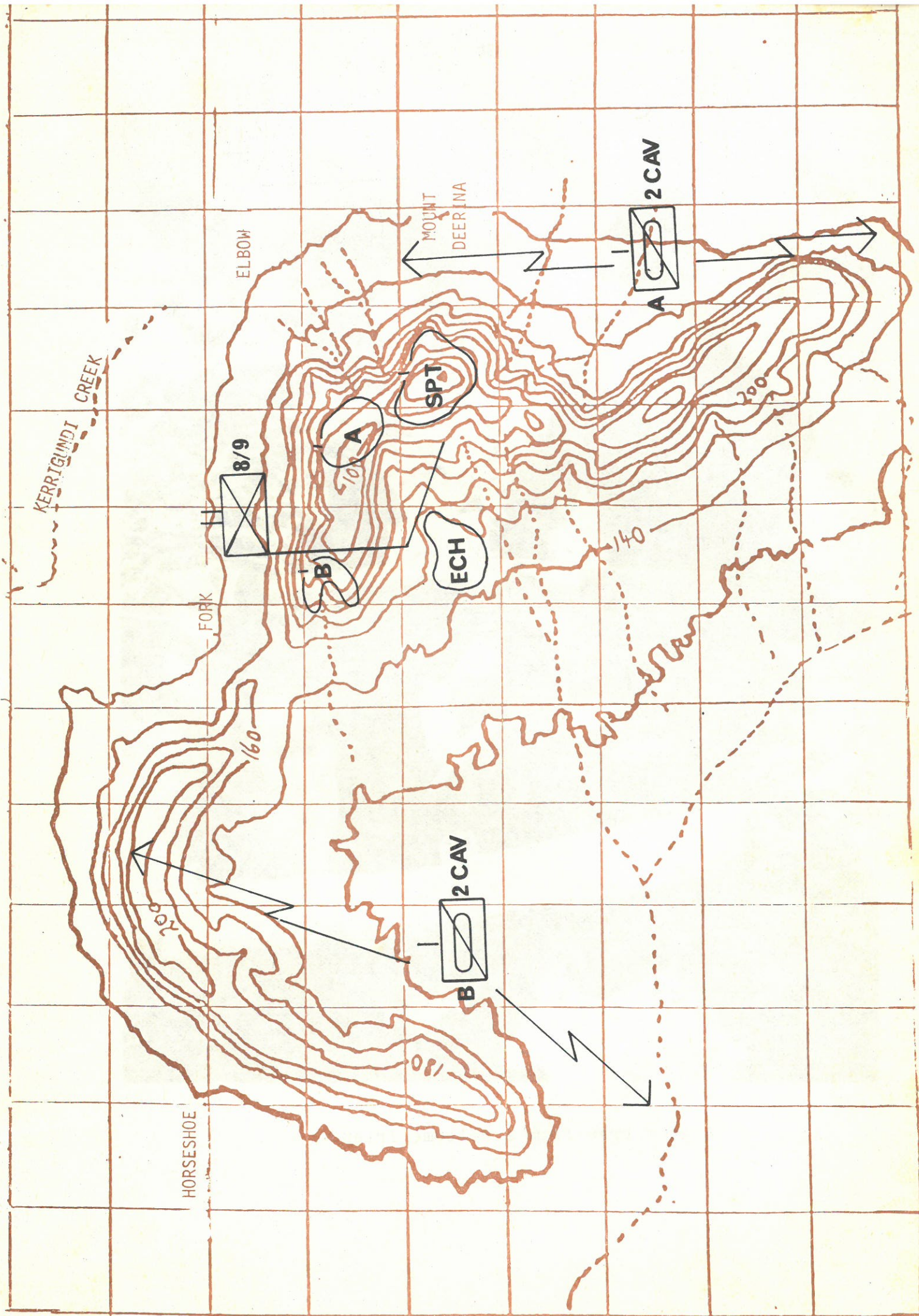
On the arrival of the main body everyone commenced digging, and over the period between the screen battles and the final assault on Deerina, we patrolled, wired, laid mines and dug. I don't think anyone will forget the screen battles on Dunlope and Macarthur. Things to remember were:

- the occasional tree and the fortune that could have been made selling 'pet' rocks to the Americans;
- the 3 RAR heli-borne attack that failed;
- B Coy watching the battle for Dunlope, untouched by the enemy;
- the Cavalry and the good spirit shown between them and us.

After Macarthur and Dunlope we commenced the defence of Deerina against 5/7 RAR and 3 RAR which culminated on the night 24/25 October with an attack on B Company's and A Company's positions on the Fork. It took 3 RAR all night to consolidate the feature and by first light contained 3 RAR from moving freely around the elbow. This strong resistance was helped by the effective fire support provided to A Company from the MG Platoon. As 3 RAR fought against A Company, 5/7 RAR, supported by tanks, found the going hard against Support Company/Battalion Headquarters well entrenched on the high ground south of the elbow. There are fond memories:

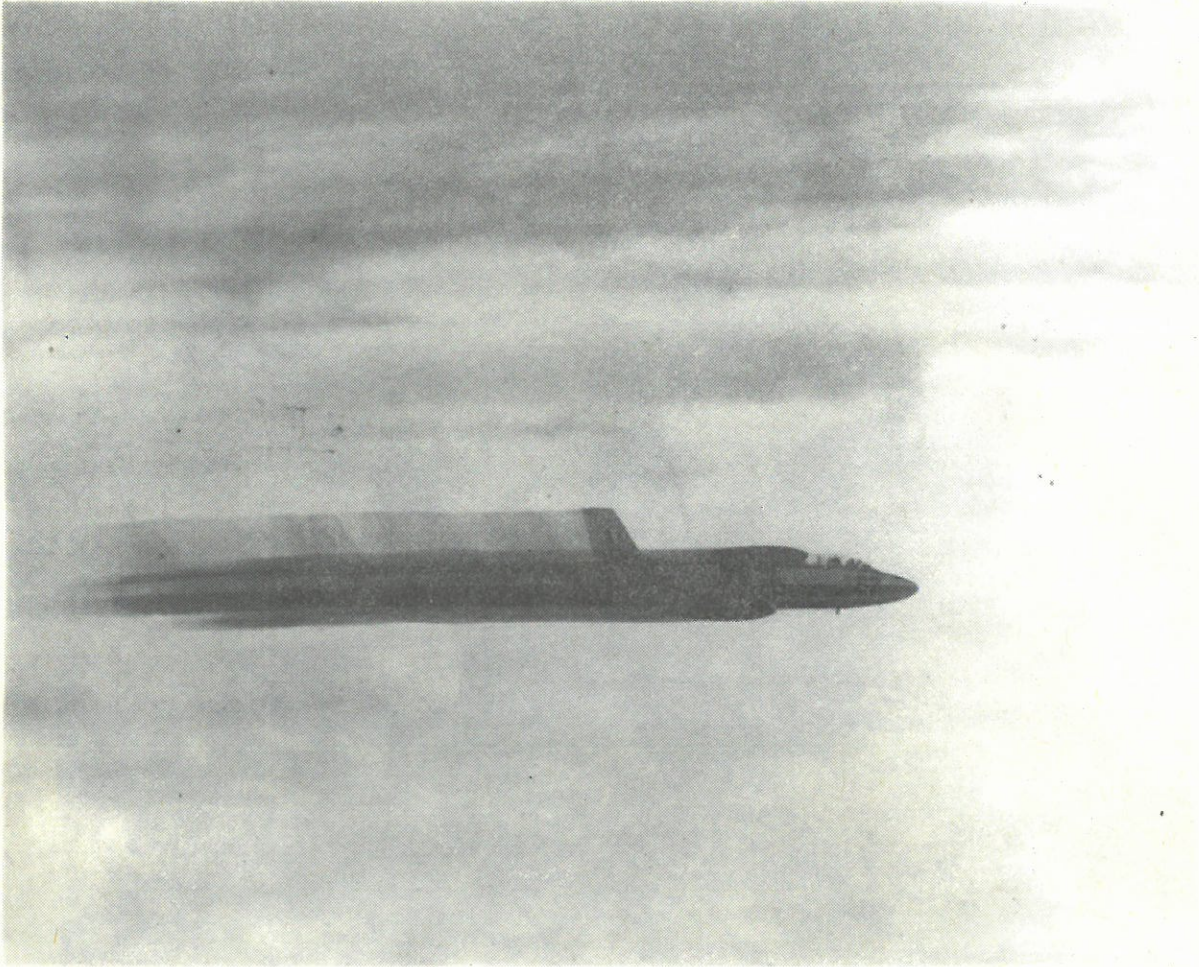
- the adjutant and the BHQ counter-attack;
- the IO, 2IC Spt Coy and A Coy counter attack around the trig point;
- CPL Morgan and the map container, his anti-tank weapon;
- the piper and the last stand.

Even though Deerina was taken, it was a moral victory for the Battalion, a job well done.





A good brew from a welcome friend.



Enemy Air



Ready, Aim.....

A good team.



For Effect.

CHAMPION COMPANY

COMPETITION 1980

MIL SKILLS

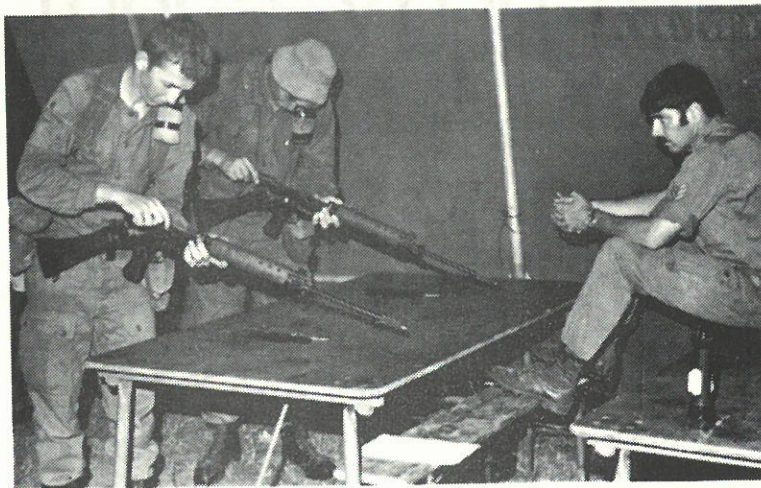
SHOOTING

INTERCOY SPORT



MIL

SKILLS





SHOOTING



WIRING



CAMOUFLAGE



ALL IN A DAY'S WORK



AGAINST THE CLOCK

6 MONTHS IN

PICTURES



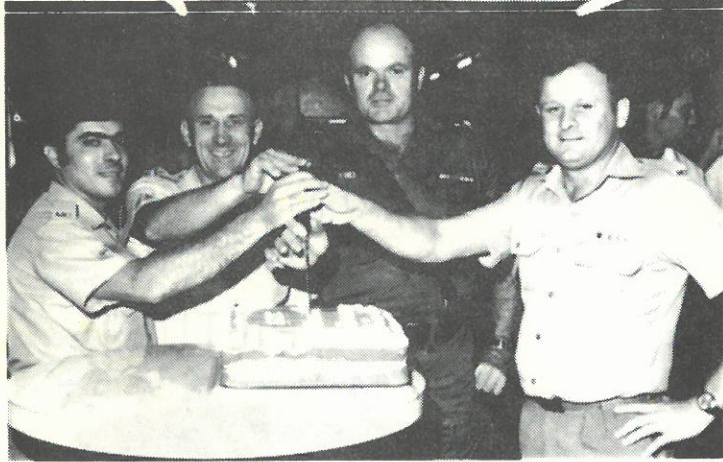
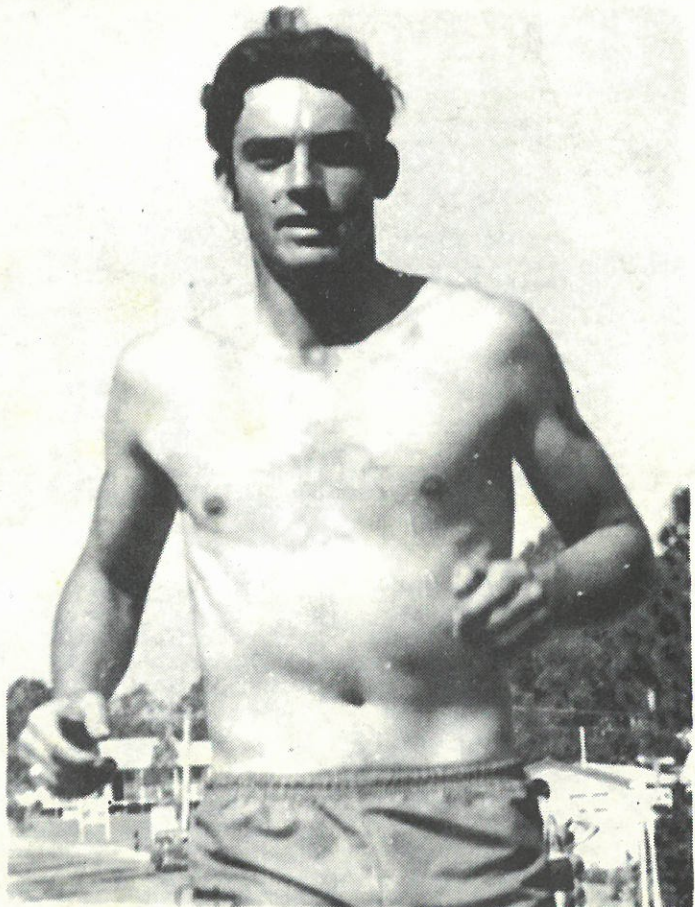
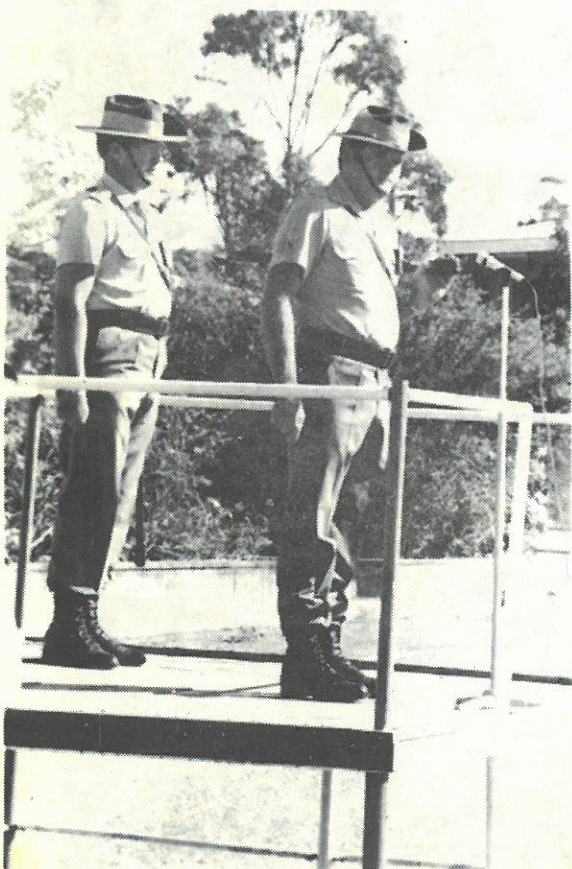
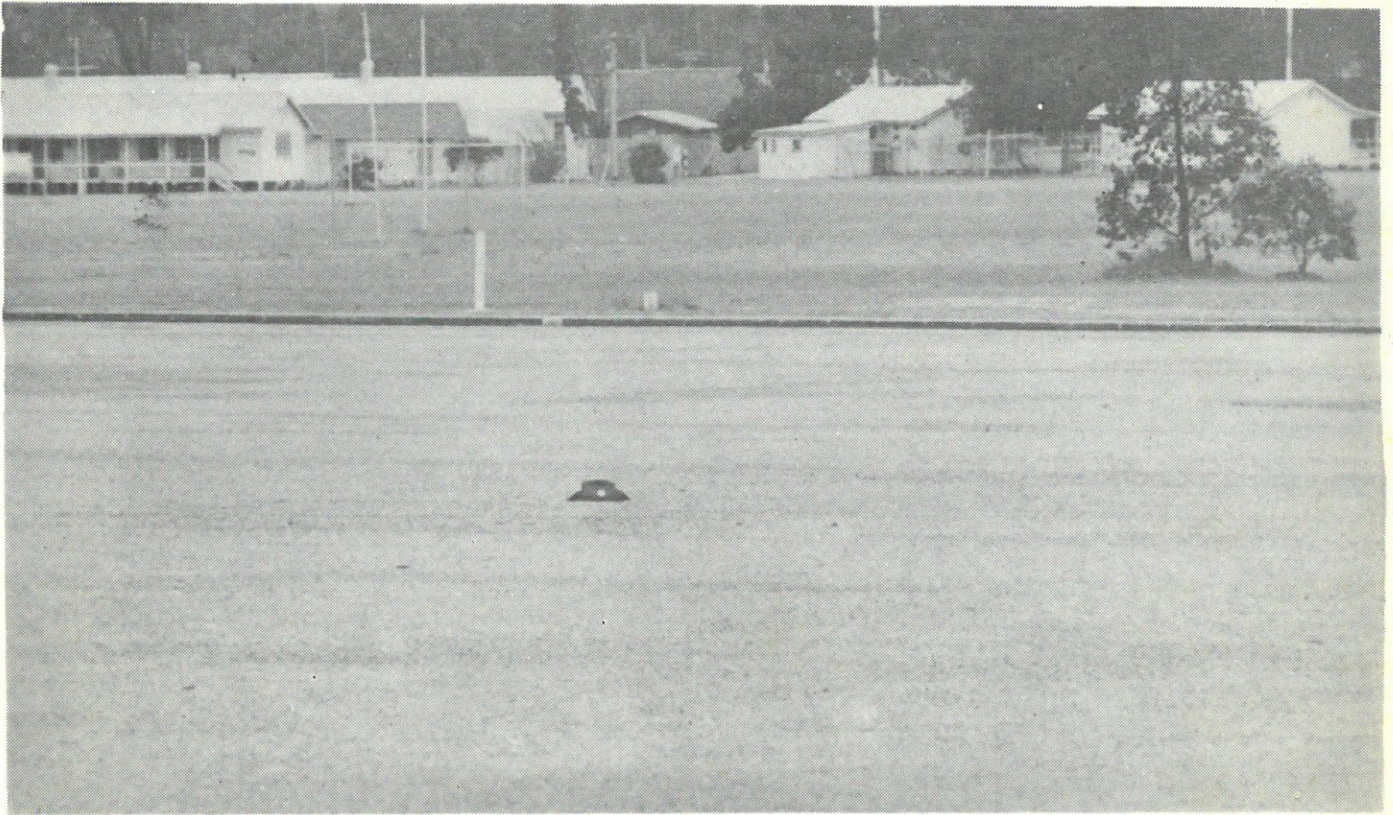


Photo time
again



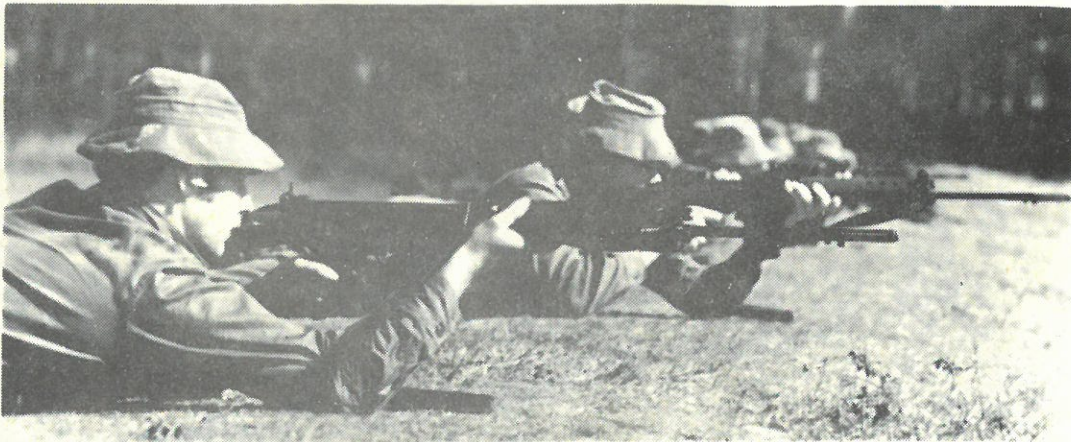


"THERE'S A KIND OF HUSH OVER THE"



"GOOSEY, GOOSEY GANDER WHERE SHALL I WANDER"

SHOOTING

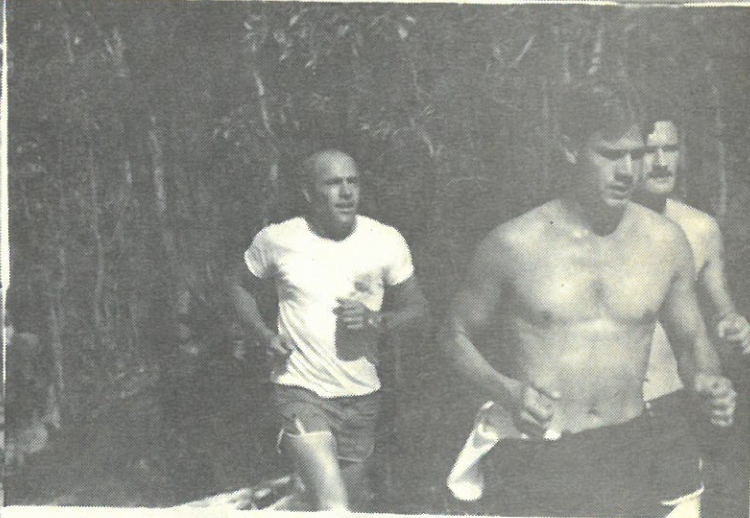
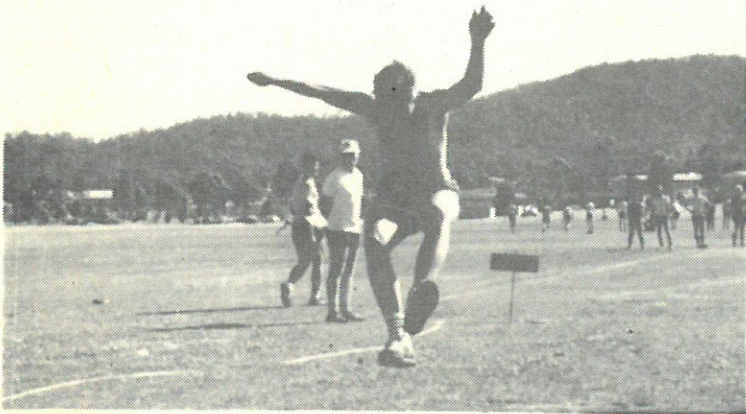
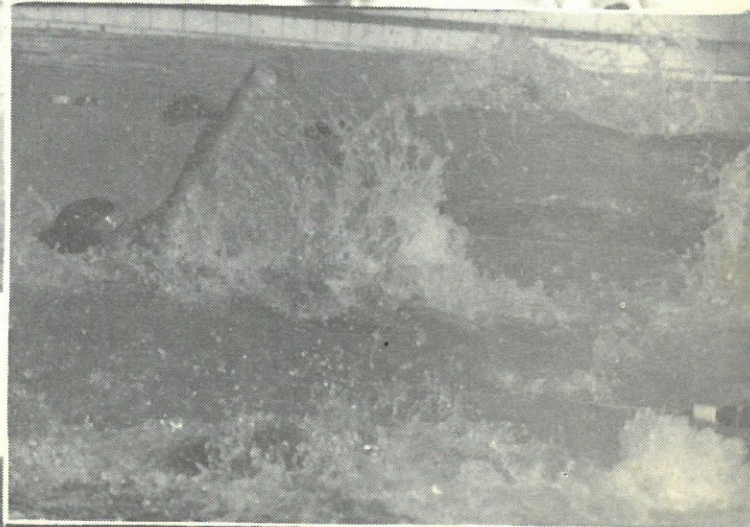
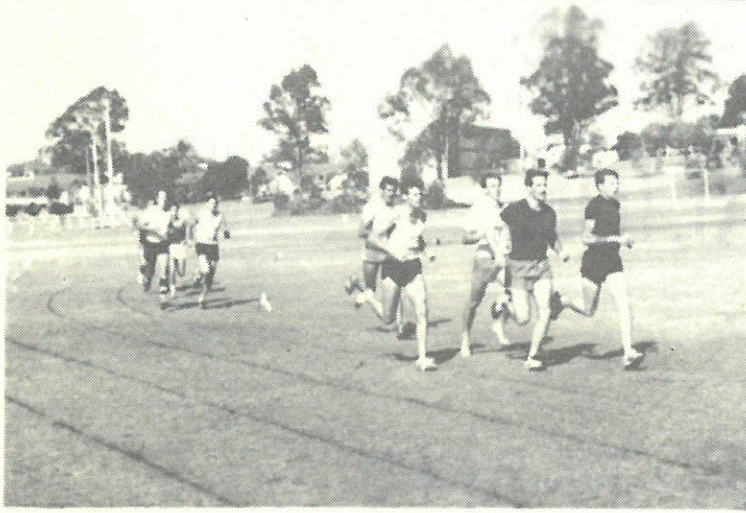
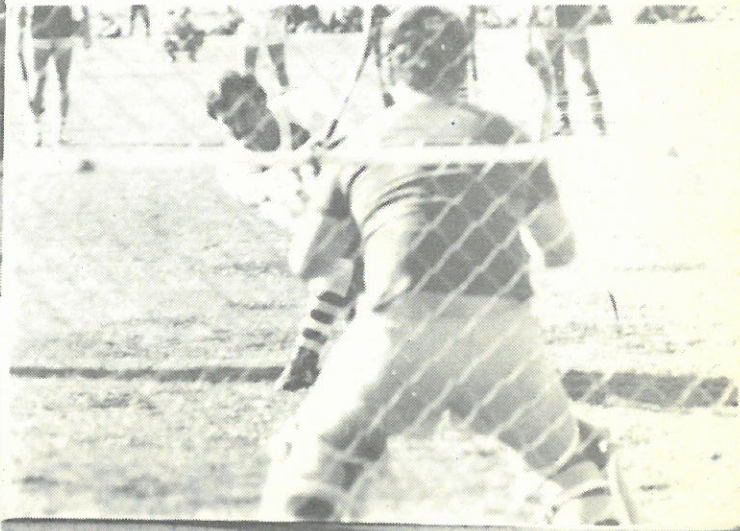
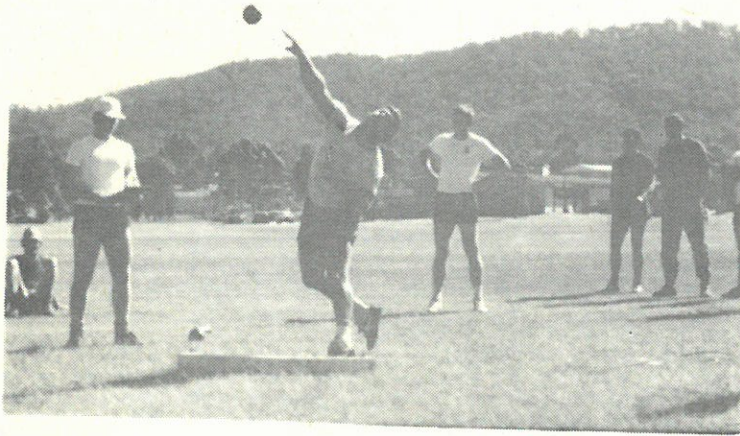


INTERCOMPANY SPORT

BY PHOTOS







THE BATTALION SPORTING TEAMS



'THE GAP WAS THAT WIDE'.....

RUGBY UNION 1980



This last Rugby season saw the Battalion team improve dramatically from last year's performance and lose only three competition games. We bowed out in the semis and without denying that 'we was done', the loss of several of our key players to Butterworth and long courses made establishing a firm team difficult.

The team had over 40 players on the books this season - such was the turmoil of postings, courses and detachments.

The concept of the Battalion team training every Monday and Tuesday morning is working well and will be our mode of operation next season. I would like to thank all those players who made that special effort this year to come in and train and play on standown days.

We had our ups and downs this year with some of our losses being lessons as well as moments of inspiration. I refer especially to our game against Police when, even though we lost, we stuck in there and won the second half and a great moral victory.

The team seemed to relish coming from behind and almost every game we played saw us having to pull a little extra out after oranges.

Our support in the form of oranges, the magic sponge, and laundering those hard to keep whiter than white jerseys came unquestioningly from SGT Peter Watts. Thanks very much, Peter, for your assistance.

My aim in this short epistle on the Rugby team is not to point out exceptional individuals; I wouldn't do that as the aim of our training was to play and win as a team, not as 15 individuals.

This year I believe we have given some confidence back to the team. We can win, all we need to do is to train and to play as a team. Next year it would be gratifying to go even further into the finals and bring the trophy home. We can do it with enough players to survive the rigours of postings etc.

If you're into Rugby, get into being fit, and let's see you down at Training in 1981.

STATISTICAL DATA

Points For 136

Points Against 94

Played 10

Won 7

Lost 3

BATTALION RUGBY PLAYERS 1980

MAJ G.J. McKay (Captain-Coach)
(Qld Barbarians 1980)

MAJ P.R. Cobley

CAPT D. Simmons

CAPT G.R. Long

CAPT M. Moran

CAPT R. Mancell

CAPT C. Smith

LT M. Cole

(SQ Army 1980)

LT J. Mansell

(SQ Army 1980)

LT R. Tink

(ASRU 1980)

WO1 K.S. Wendt

(Qld Barbarians 1980)

WO2 Q. Steel

(BR Army - 2/2 KEO Gurkha Rifles)

LT N. Blackwell

(BR Army - 2/2 KEO Gurkha Rifles)

CPL I. Thompson

CPL K. Kirley

CPL N. Wain

CPL R. Doran

CPL A. Cummins

CPL A. Norcott

LCPL D. Holland

LCPL S. King

(SQ Army 1980)

LCPL P. Daly

LCPL M. Payne

PTE J. Pascoe

PTE J. Butterworth

PTE S. Howlett

PTE F. Ketu

PTE G. Stillwell

(SQ Army 1980)

PTE G. Smith

PTE G.K. Cavanagh

PTE N. Reid

PTE P. Walker

PTE M. Riley

PTE G. Gall

PTE D. McKoen

PTE P. Simpson

PTE B. Naufahu

PTE K. Rockanalua

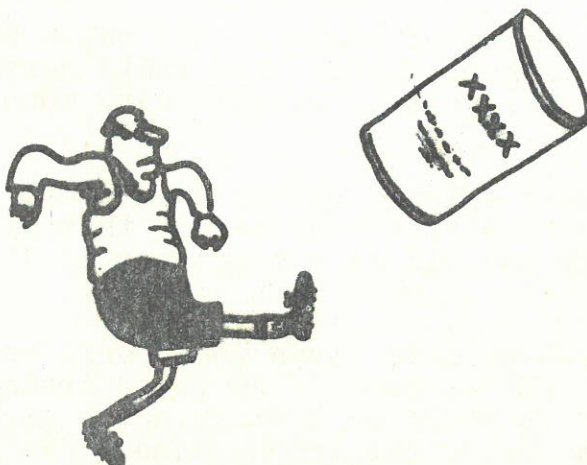
PTE N. Kerr

PTE G. Healy

PTE L. Nagle

PTE R. Speter

PTE E. Stuart



AUSTRALIAN

FOOTBALL

1980 was a year of mixed success for the battalion. The team went through the season with many good wins and finished the home and away series on top of the SQA AFC ladder.

There were some outstanding individual and team efforts during the year. Certainly our trip to Land Warfare Centre during the 'Military Skills' week was one of the highlights. 8/9 RAR defeated LWC 28-24-192 to 1-1-7.

The battalion advanced into the grand final against 6 RAR A just prior to Exercise DROUGHTMASTER. The battalion was defeated by the better team on the day. We could draw some comfort from the fact that Charlie Company had taken most of the established team members with them to Malaysia. In fact, 12 out of 18 members of the team on Grand Final day had not represented the battalion before.

All through the year the team was backed by a number of solid team members. 'Bugs' Butler, Tiny Pallot, Morro, Shep, Mac, Bob Poulter, Ron Hill, Peter Borland and Chris Parker gave their best to the team all year.

The man in white is often scorned by both players and spectators. I would like to acknowledge the enthusiasm and support given by Private Peter Hutchinson. He and his whistle were always available, often at short notice.

I was surprised and delighted to see some old and new faces turn up towards the end of the season when we were in dire need of some new blood. I hope that their rekindled enthusiasm will carry into 1981.

Unfortunately, the season was marred by some poor administration at a higher level. This was not helped by the withdrawal and frequent forfeiture of some unit teams at late notice. With some new 'wheels' at the top next year it is hoped that this problem will not be a recurring one.

In closing, I would like to thank all those members who have supported the battalion this year. I am confident that with the new physical fitness and sporting policy, along with the enthusiasm and dedication which the battalion team always has, we will bring home the flag next year.

HOCKEY

1980 will go down to the hockey team as the year that almost was. We were flushed with our victories of 1979 and determined to do the same again.

Considerable changes had taken place in the team owing to the loss of some key players. We were a little worried. There was little point; along came David Morrisen, Murray Ligg, Doyle Doyle, Snow Wolfenden, Charlie Bauldry, Steve Kennedy, 'Frenchy' French and Steve Cullies along with the regulars of John Tinkler, Roger Jones, Porky Vogler, Dave Litchfield, Norm Williams, Glyn Williams, Fred Remin. Under the direction of Bob Carney we whipped ourselves into a pretty good team.

During the home and away series one loss only and that after having played a previous game immediately before the match. We didn't do it - we should have but we didn't. Our second loss for the season - the Grand Final.

Congratulations to our representative players; Bob Carney, Roger Jones, Dave Litchfield, Dave Morrisen, Fred Remin, Porky Vogler and Doyle.

Finally our thanks to Bob Carney, our captain and our slave driver.



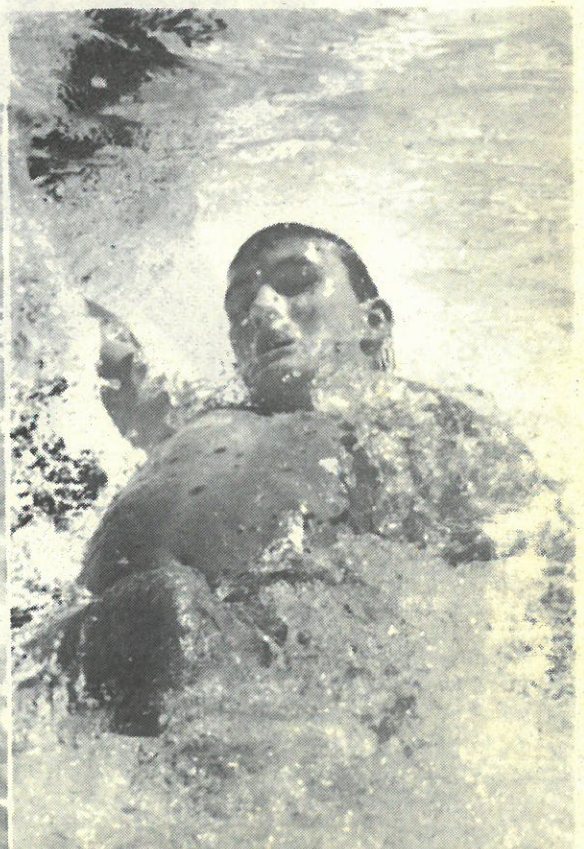
SWIMMING

The Battalion Swimming Team had mixed success this year, finishing third in the Inter-Unit Swimming Carnival conducted at the Enoggera Swimming Pool in early March. There were no outstanding individuals from the Battalion at the Carnival, but consistency won the day. PTE Matier, PTE Herod, LT Mansell, the Relay Teams and the majority of the team members finished well up in the final placings. We now have the background to produce a good team for 1981 and with the majority of the team playing water polo over the summer period the Blue Ribbon will be ours in 1981.



Matier is the name

King Herod



ATHLETICS

The athletics carnival, conducted on the 30 September 1980 was a huge success, thanks to the efforts of LT McGregor and PTE Leigh, who worked so hard on the initial setting up and the preparation of the carnival. From the first few events it looked as though an upset was on the cards, with the clerks, cooks, drivers, storemen and the other members of Admin Coy forging ahead in the majority of events. At the end of the day, Admin Coy had become worthy winners of the Champion Athletic Coy trophy and it was a trophy Major Ross Millican as he looked down on his 'charges', worthy winners in their maroon singlets.

There were a number of notable efforts during the carnival; PTE Rolfe from BHQ, the winner of the blue ribbon events, the 100 and 200 metres, LT John Mansell outstanding in winning the 5,000 metres and the 1,500 metres, in a new Battalion record, 4 min 31.4 seconds. The general standard of competition was high, considering that C Coy were basking in the sun on Pearl of the Orient, Penang, and all looks good for a bright future for the Battalion in Athletics in 1981.



TENNIS

The 1979/80 inter unit tennis competition was a very satisfying one from 8/9 RAR's point of view. Not only did all members of the tennis team have a most enjoyable time during the year, but the team also won the competition, with a thrilling victory over the much more highly rated 2 FER combination.

The final was played in late March, and after the four singles games, the score was 2 sets, 9 games all. After the doubles, the score was 3 sets, 17 games all, so the reverse doubles were played to break the deadlock. 8/9 had the better of these, winning one set 6-2, and losing the other 6-4, to give them an upset victory by 2 games.

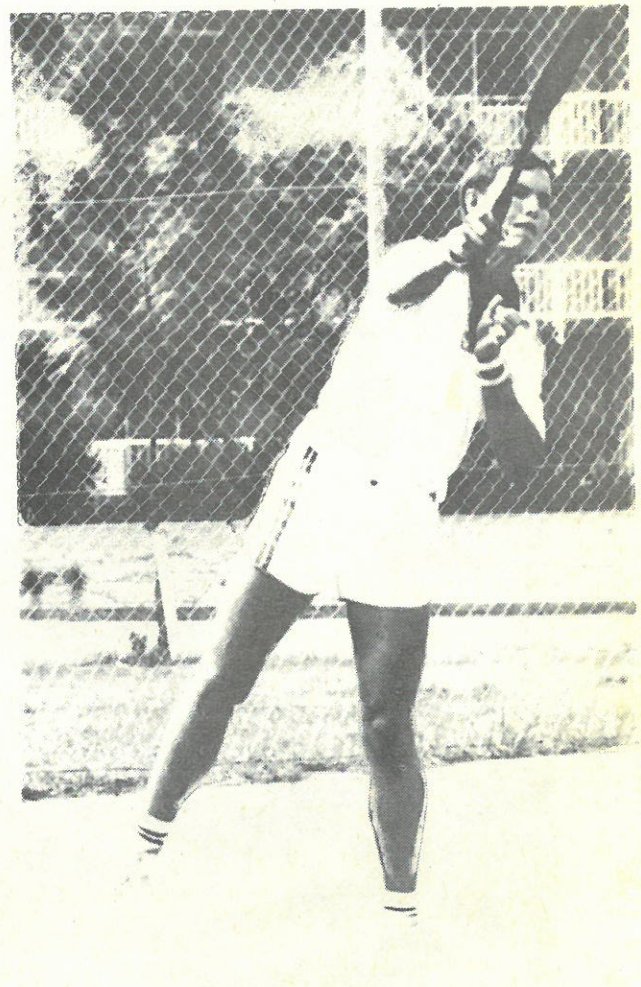
Team members were:

MAJ	Ormston	
CHAP	Tinkler	
LT	Brockhall	(1979 only)
LT	Tink	
LT	Litchfield	
PTE	Roe	
PTE	Lynch	
CAPT	Lewis	Manager

Keep your eyes on the ball



Concentration



SOCCER

This year the soccer team started off on a good note. The team was one of the strongest that the Battalion has seen over the last few seasons. WO2 Arthur Francis, who had just arrived from Canberra, became Manager, and CPL Peter Law was Captain.

The team swept over the opposition during the season, showing a high standard of skill. It was at the close of the season that trouble struck. The manpower commitment the Battalion had at the time did not enable soldiers to play at all the games. Because of this, the team lost its position at the top of the ladder.

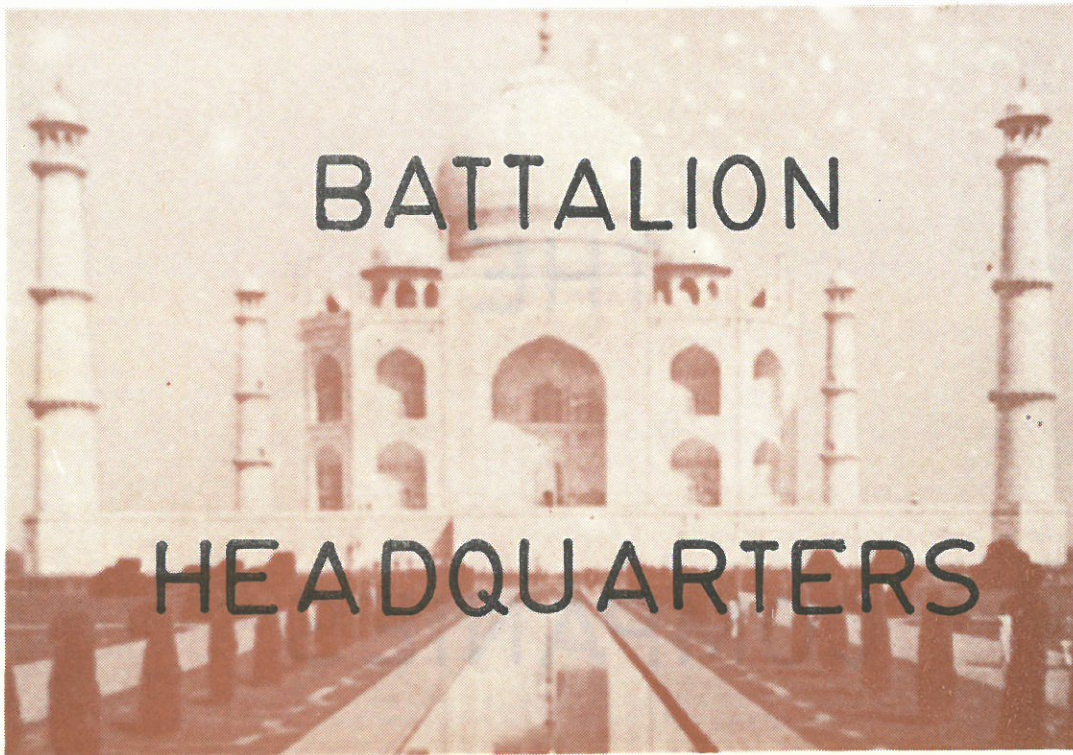
Throughout the year all members of the team played well, and if only we could have got the team together for the last few games, we could have finished on top.

The team could not have gone so far without the efforts of WO2 Francis, both on the field, and off. CPL Darby Mathews, and of course, Porky were in goal. WO2 Gerry Astin played well in mid-field, and CPL Peter Law kept the team together, on the field.

And to all prospective players, lets see you at the training sessions next year. To all the team, well done; and lets pull the Cups back to the Battalion next year.



THE
COMPANIES
AND
PLATOONS
COMMENTS



CRYSTAL PALACE

'Crystal Palace' has had a mixed year between the exercises and the Intelligence Section. The Palace has managed to pump out miles of paper work, particularly from the operations side of the house. The Adjutant and the personnel team have also done well and shouldn't feel left out of any glory which should be duly given. The Intelligence Section has battled well throughout the year between drawing and photographic flack (fliegerbwehre) from fast flying brass shells. The Pay Section still managed to play the turtle and continually duck its head when trouble loomed near.

On a serious note the headquarters has achieved much in the past 10 months. There has been a good spirit amongst the members and this was truly evident during the Battle Efficiency Tests in September and the efficient way in which the headquarters has conducted itself in the field environment on CPXs and major exercises.

There are many fond memories of the past few months.

- a sleepy Major decorated with beer cans on exercise,
- a broken phone in the Adjutant's office,
- a lost OA on Exercise SAFE HAVEN, and
- the Assistant Adjutants and their various likes and dislikes.



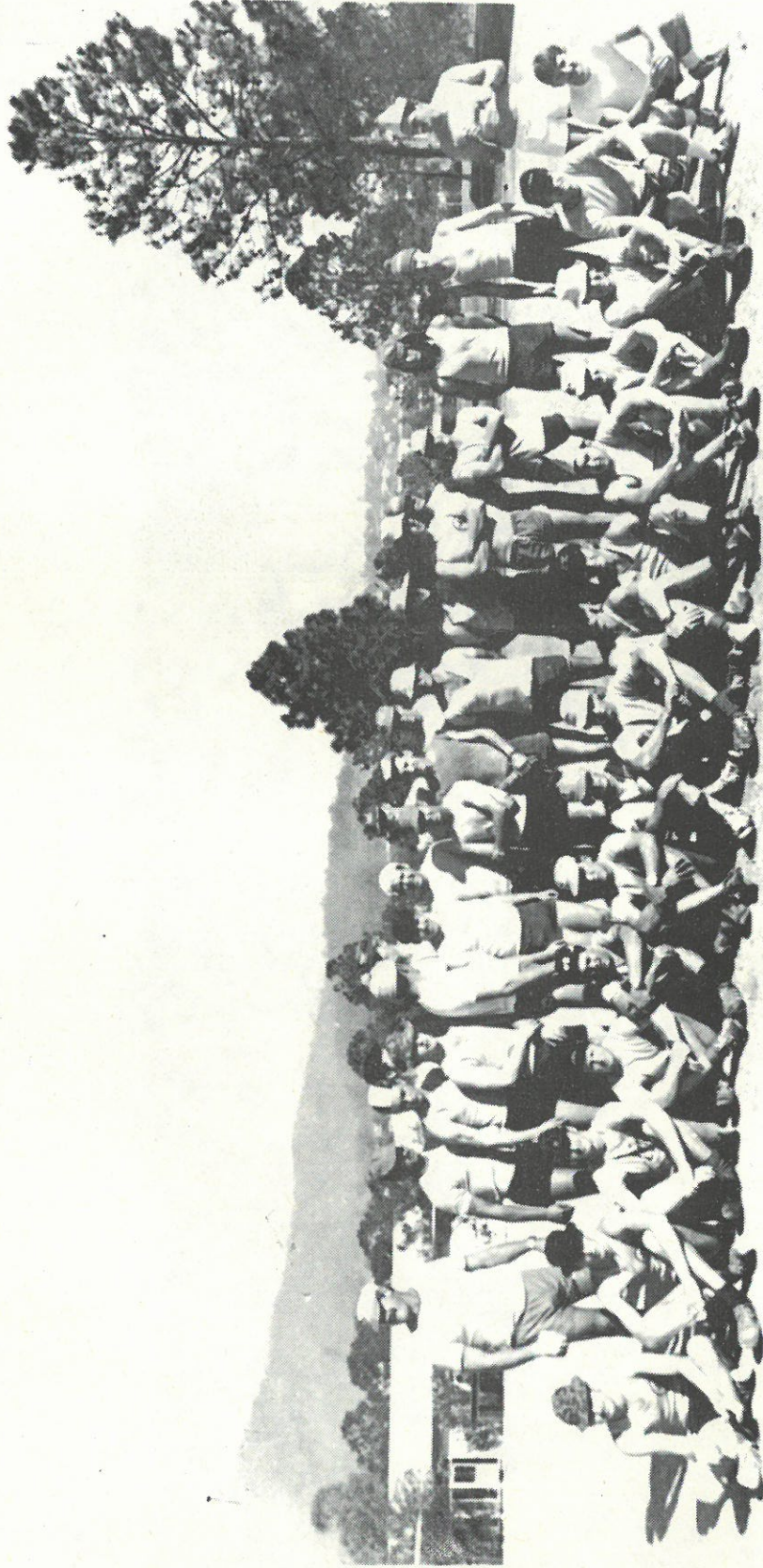
Front Row L-R. CAPT Simmons, WO1 Wendt, MAJ Gallagher, CAPT Mickelberg, MAJ Millican, LT Boyd, WO2 Byrne King.

Centre Row L-R. PTE Smerdon, CPL Juranek, SGT Harrower, SGT Decker, CPL Gill, CPL Whipp, CPL Morgan, SGT Britton, SGT Whiting, CPL Lees, CPL De Jersey, SGT Forestal, PTE Berghofer, CPL Day.

Rear Row L-R. PTE Rogers, PTE Richardson, PTE Hutchinson, PTE French, PTE Sykes, PTE Rayner, PTE Tadic, PTE White, PTE Griffiths, PTE Lynch, PTE Rolfe, PTE Winton.

MAXIMUS FLEXIMUS 80

-56-



A-COMPANY

19 80

Upon returning from annual leave, the Company embarked on the now familiar routine of individual and section training.

It wasn't Long until the 'Big A' was off interstate, and participated in Exercise RIPPER TUNE, and found out what it is like to be bounced and bruised in the back of a truck, for a couple of weeks.

A gallant game of Rugby against the Armoured Regiment saw some fine pugilistic style. However, we lost that one.

Back to work at Enoggera, and into the Battalion's firing at LEADEN LIFT. Once April was upon us, the Company was into the Battalion Military Skills Competition, where CPL Stockwell went close to taking the top section of the competition. Good to see a 'pen pusher' like Stocky doing a few other things as well.

About this time we saw the arrival of the new OC, and the departure of Major John Edwards for the USMC Command and Staff College in Quantico, Virginia, USA.

Exercise SILVER FLEECE saw the Company get the 'good digging', and the establishment of Rifleman Peter Harris as the Company Troglodyte. There were some ingenious pits on the Alpha quarry site, which I'm sure our Gurkha neighbours with their underground Opera House, were envious of in no small way. The highlight of the exercise was the way in which the CSM managed to have a tree fall on himself, Richo and the OC and get a broken nose and teeth, and a casevac before the exercise concluded. There are still vivid memories of Richo wriggling around in his sleeping bag, like a large caterpillar with the zip up his back and the tree on his tummy. Good stuff!!

The OC found an excellent viewing point for the movies, the night the exercise ended, however, SGT Watts did the wrong thing again, and the RSM is still wondering who the guy with the moustache was, hiding behind his back.

1 PLATOON

Le premier des mieux! The first of the best! I reckon that amply describes 1 Platoon.

Throughout the year 1 Platoon has demonstrated their great capacity for hard work, and even harder relaxation! The year has been a busy one with plenty of exercises and movement of members. The ODF devoured more than its fair share, SAS another, Courses a few more for some of the year. In spite of this 1 Platoon has acquitted itself well. Battle honours for this year's campaigns include Troglydyte Hill, the 106 feature, Acton Hills and The Horshoe. We have also participated in the Combined Colleges Tour demonstrating the virtues of Infantry.

On the Sports field we have done well with two records broken on the Athletics Day. Well so what if they did tie? Other good performances were put forward in the Cross Country.

And then we relaxed! Clarke got more than he hoped for when he revealed Restricted information! Mackenzie the man who rolls Rolleys single handed, Smith who puts himself in hospital by riding into parked cars. PTE Hennessy found that wet roads, himself and cricket matches don't mix. Young Harvey went looking for trouble and got married.

It really is no wonder that SGT Watts looks younger, fitter and healthier for his break from us. CPL Kelly certainly has aged since becoming the Pl Sgt. And would you blame any higher authorities if he decided to drown his sorrows in an alcoholic stupor. Or would you blame CPL Kirby if he returned to England shaking his head muttering 'x?zqn Aussies!'

As the saying goes 'Alls well that ends well,' and that has been our year.

2 PLATOON

The year 1980 has seen Two Platoon engaged in numerous diverse (or was that devious in some cases) activities.

The year opened with the return of LT McGregor to the Platoon from extended ARL and the march-in of our new Platoon Sergeant 'Moose' Millar.

February saw the Platoon bashing scrub at Mt Byron, firstly on the company exercise and secondly as exercise support for Subject 2 for Gestapo Interrogation (cleverly disguised as members of 1 Div Int Unit). The interrogation exercise was the source of many tall tales by the stoics who claimed to have beaten the system, but the main benefits went to the platoon staff who spent an erotic night reading the confiscated love letters which Smithy and Mildred found indispensable to their operational efficiency in the field.

The highlight of March was Exercise LEADEN LIFT where 'Flea' was unanimously elected as the Platoon representative in the butts on the company live attack with mortars. The Audie Murphy imitators of the Platoon finally wrapped the exercise up on Fraser Island where we captured the Reconnaissance Platoon after following up 'hot' signs. Who was the soldier who unrolled the toilet paper and said 'It really looks like'?

We arrived back from a sordid stand down and were immediately rushed to Puckapunyal. There we broke the longest drought in living memory and impressed the tankies by removing a record number of Leopard Tank telephones from their mounts. The weekend in Melbourne was the highlight of the trip, particularly in terms of 'body counts'. The Platoon entered the Guinness Book of Records for filling motel rooms when they packed into Shorty's (special discount \$4.50) room only to be requested to leave at 0300 in the morning. Willy starred by Sleeping at Spencer St Station but philisophically remarked 'I was laughing; the Melbourne Age is the largest daily newspaper in Australia.'

After out-drinking the Battalion at the Military Skills Week we returned to the delights of Barracks where we chased the Gurkhas a la orienteering for a few days. The defensive phase was more relaxed with the 'Toad' winning the shallowest hole in the year award.

Once again the locals rejoiced at our coming, as the A Company drought breakers brought down a deluge. 'Blue' Sammons was last seen wind surfing down the track plan using his blow-ups with a hootchie for a sail. Meanwhile the Platoon Commander had to negotiate a lucrative deal with 'Dutchy' Holland for a dry spot under his shelter. SGT Millar was seen to wistfully shake his head whenever the Platoon Commander offered a weather prediction from that night forth.

The hired guns came back to a well earned rest and settled back into Barracks discipline. The CSM assisted us in tidying the lines as the next potential Mater Prize Home and spent many happy hours training us to drill like the Grenadier Guards.

All too soon July came around and we led the rest of the Battalion out to Exercise SAFE HAVEN where we renewed our love/hate relationship with the Armoured Corps. The Company

functioned like a well oiled machine and the 'fighting second' developed great expertise at stud poker and making brews in moving APCs. Our exceptional skills won us the right to play enemy for 6 RAR where we also did the user trials on the new infantry beret. The final battle was a bloody affair with Gary Stillwell and Rod Speter winning posthumous VCs for trying to insert a .30 cal down the throat of the enemy company commander. SGT Millar died voluntarily to make sure that he could protect our gear from any 6 RAR looters. He spent a dry night while the rest of the hardy band were steadily annihilated in the dreadful battle for Pine Mountain.

On our return to Brisbane we received the sad news that the Platoon was to be disbanded. We were undismayed at this news as we realized that someone had the nous to recognize our high level of training and thought we should be spread out to bolster the rest of the Company. Some of the more able members were even rushed to Townsville with rosy prospects of promotion. It certainly was hard to be humble in 2 Platoon. The final training activity was a binge at 'Stilly's' house where the Platoon Commander's navigation skills became so impaired that he could not find the door while Murray, Willy, Dutchy and Shorty adopted horizontal fire positions which would have done credit to a field exercise.

It is to be hoped that the Platoon is re-raised in the near future to continue its exploits. To all past members of the Platoon all the best for 1981, particularly on the coming subject and specialist courses. From your Platoon Commander, on behalf of Her Majesty, thanks for your great spirit and enthusiasm throughout the year. It was a pleasure to work with you.

B-COMPANY

**FOREVER BLOWING
BUBBLES**



BUBBLES COMPANY '80'

On returning from leave on 4 Feb 80 we were to find a new OC, MAJ Tom Cogley; 2IC, CAPT Mick Hannan; OC 4 Pl, LT John Mansell; OC 6 Pl, LT Dave Morrison; and Pl Sgt 4 Pl, SGT John O'Leary. They were soon joined on 11 Feb by twenty-two new IET giving the company a strength of five officers and one hundred and two bayonets. This Company strength was fondly remembered in August when we had lost nearly half our number to the ODF.

The Company cranked up for a new training year with the 21-23 Feb being spent at Spring Mountain doing individual, section and platoon IMT. Late on the 23 Feb we conducted a 12 km endurance march down to Greenbank where we spent the 24-25 Feb shooting. In March we saw the departure of CPL Lewes, LCPL Koy and LCPL Glover. However, the loss did not affect our convincing win in the Inter-company Swimming Carnival on 14 Mar. The Company gained 200 points, the closest rival being Support Company with 178 points. On 17 Mar we continued on our winning way, gaining another trophy in the Inter-company Rugby Seven-a-Side Competition.

During Exercise LEADEN LIFT 19-28 Mar the Company had an 'interesting' time thanks to 25 RQR. After this exercise we had a break before embarking on Exercise BRAVO II from 14-18 Apr. This exercise culminated in a company two phase silent night attack, a 25 km withdrawal on the last night, and a march into the battalion lines led by the Pipes and Drums.

The Battalion Military Skills 28 Apr - 3 May saw the Company take out its third straight trophy. CPL John Wood collected the trophy for the company for having his section come third in the Battalion. However, all sections performed well with the sections' combined scores placing 6 Platoon as the best platoon, 5 Platoon third, and 4 Platoon sixth. The win was celebrated by the traditional B Company barbecue and consumption of an 18 gallon keg at the expense of the now vindicated OC.

The Battalion Exercise SILVER FLEECE 19-30 May has been the exercise highlight of the year so far. Much to COL Pfitzner's joy B Company, his favourite company, performed well. His obvious pleasure was indicated by the lavish praise that he showered upon the members of the Company. The highlights of the exercise were:

- a. The clockwork fly into and securing of the LZ.
- b. The advance along BLUE Route with the Gurkhas.
- c. 6 Pl springing the enemy moving into their platoon defended position.
- c. The Battalion quick/quick attack taking one hour, forty minutes from the time the first shot rang out to H Hour. In the attack doing the reconnaissance, securing and laying out the FUP and then finishing off the enemy when A Coy got hung up on the wire.
- e. The second Battalion quick attack again doing the reconnaissance, securing and laying out the FUP and then finishing off the enemy when this time C Company got bogged down. By this time everyone in the Company felt that we did not really need a BHQ at all.

- f. The Battalion duplicate attack onto the 500 Feature was an instant replay of the same attack in 1979. (The assault through a newly-planted pine plantation resulted in loss of control at night). Nevertheless, thanks to the junior commanders, we jumped the enemy, and secured the 'Pimple'.
- g. The final enemy attack onto the Battalion defensive position was onto B Company - where else. Memorable incidents in the dawn attack were the 2IC, CAPT Mick Hannan, and the CSM, WO2 Gerry Asten, manning the CHQ MG after two gun crews had been killed. Then proceeding to fire 3,000 rounds in heroic defence to prove that the best form of defence is attack. 4 Platoon, who had been out ambushing that night, were brought in and attacked the enemy HQ from the rear, killing the enemy commanders. They then withdrew to an ambush position 500 metres to the south and zapped the enemy as they withdrew after the attack.

From 9-19 Jun the Company was enemy for 6 RAR on their Battalion Exercise PARAKULA at Cecil Plains. The Company conducted delaying defence for the first part of the exercise. The Company from the Royal Malayan Regiment initially failed to become casualties when the umpires awarded them. This was rectified by the issue of pieces of 4"x2" wooden clubs to the umpires and the 6 Platoon defensive position above the friendly LZ.

For the second half of the exercise 6 RAR went into defence and the Company opened 'B Company Body Snatchers Incorporated'. For five nights section strength patrols were despatched and, thanks to 6 RAR's sleeping sentries, the Company was able to snatch sentries, MGs, DIO line and anything else going. 4 Platoon carried out a raid on 6 RAR A Echelon killing the command group, sticking up the CP and snatching the operational and numeral codes for the exercise. As 6 RAR had failed to bring spares the codes that were given to our 7 Sig Regt Det provided a fountain of information.

Exercise SAFE HAVEN 7-28 Jul took care of another month. Although the exercise was a stop start affair the Company got a great deal out of working with B Sqn 4 Cav Regt and B Sqn 1 Armd Regt. A lot of lessons were learnt about operating mechanized. At the end of the exercise the Company had spent three out of six months away on exercise and badly needed a rest.

August saw the departure of Colonel Pfitzner who presented the Company with the new Military Skills Trophy on his farewell parade. The month also saw the arrival of Colonel Brett and we all began concentrating on getting our individual soldier skills to a better level. The Company is looking for another good performance on Exercise DROUGHTMASTER and then a well deserved ARB period.

The year 1980 has brought many moments of joy and sorrow for the Company. After breaking in a new command group and 22 ORs by the end of Exercise SILVER FLEECE we would have rivalled any in the Regiment. However, in June we first heard the 'four letter word ODF'. Since then the Company has gone from five officers and 102 ORs to, by December, an estimated two officers and 50-odd ORs. However, even though we have been ripped apart, the Company's heart is still strong. This was indicated by our shooting, cross country and PT test results.

On a positive note; when the Company becomes Champion Company by popular demand it has been decided to send Colonel Pfitzner a 'replica!!' Golden Boot in England. Also in 1981 the OC, CSM, CQMS, SGT O'Leary and most of the junior NCOs will be remaining. So we will have some old hands to break in the new 2IC, Pl Comds and SGTS.

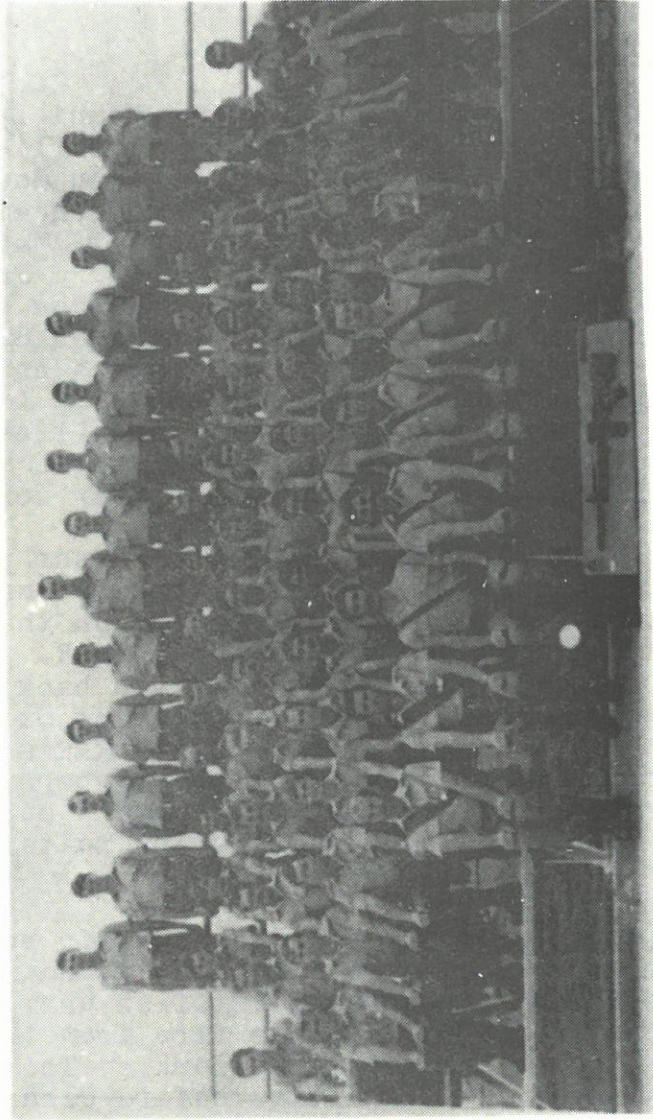
To all those who have gone north or are leaving for other reasons, thanks for your efforts. We could not have done it without you. Special thanks must go to the 2IC, CAPT Hannan; CSM, WO2 Asten; LTs Litchfield, Morreson and Mansell and SGTS Roach and Cldeng, all leaving. At the time of writing the OC has gone to Newcastle to book our passage on the new troop carrier HMAS Tobruk. So here's to our island cruise and Champion Company in 1981.

Exercise DROUGHTMASTER 9-26 Oct 80

The Company came, saw and conquered Mount Deerina and 1 TF in this, our final exercise for 1980. The flies and the 35-40 degree heat plus the digging of defences on Mount Deerina soon saw the Company acclimatized. On the commencement of the exercise play on 16 Oct B Company was deployed to Mac Arthur Hills where we remained for six days and nights. In that time the Company patrolled continuously with one section per platoon. The day patrols taking 16 hours and the night ones 8 hours. In all, 220 km were covered averaging a kilometre an hour. The 1 TF Airborne Company landed 800m from us and 1 Tp A Sqn 2 Cav. The result was that company sustaining 90% casualties. This disaster was caused by the failure of the operation to cross the Darling River and patrol the southern bank of our screen position.

On moving back to Deerina we occupied our previously prepared positions. A more active patrol battle ensued with Captain Mick Hannan taking out a snatch patrol on the night 23/24 Oct and capturing a member of Int Sect 3 RAR. Valuable information was gained and the initiative given back to 8/9 RAR. On the night 24/25 Oct Sergeant John O'Leary went out on another snatch patrol capturing two members of A Coy 3 RAR's FUP marking party. 3 RAR, due to the loss of these two members, put H Hour forward thirty minutes and assaulted without fire support. This saved innumerable lives within the company and battalion as a whole.

During the final assault 3 RAR once again relied on information from air photographs rather than ground reconnaissance. Due to this 4 Platoon was not identified until 3 RAR's assault companies were caught in enfilade fire from the left fork whilst assaulting 6 Platoon on the right fork. The ensuing battle saw 3 RAR sustain 50% casualties before clearing the obstinate B Company. For 3 RAR it was unfortunate that they happened to lob in B Company's patrol AO and then decide to assault us. How true is the old adage 'Time spent in reconnaissance is seldom wasted.' To 3 RAR; R.I.P.



Back Row L-R. PTE M. Brand, PTE J. Doolan, PTE J. Dam, PTE G. Black, ICPL F. Finch, ICPL M. Borrett, PTE G. Hanning,
PTE S. Arthur, PTE A. Gabb, ICPL P. Daly, PTE A. Jackson, PTE G. Gardiner, PTE B. Anderson.

4th Row L-R. PTE D. Doyle, PTE G. Gall, PTE R. Ford, PTE A. Ashbury, PTE A. Rowland, PTE T. Herrod, PTE McNee, PTE J. Braan,
PTE S. Wilkins, PTE C. Randall, PTE D. Browne, PTE S. Collier, CPL N. Campbell, PTE S. Mitchell.

3rd Row L-R. PTE G. Jackson, CPL K. Kirley, CPL R. Carney, PTE G. Mitchell, PTE P. Incoll, PTE B. Muir, PTE J. Hall,
PTE O. Pacheco, PTE D. French, PTE G. Matier, PTE G. McKinnon, PTE G. Davies, PTE G. Cleary, PTE G. Degrossa,
ICPL M. Sugg.

2nd Row L-R. CPL R. Doran, CPL P. Waters, CPL P. Dury, ICPL D. Cox, CPL A. Cummins, PTE D. Jeffries, CPL C. Smith,
PTE D. Martinez, PTE W. Ryan, PTE G. Jack, CPL J. Wood, PTE M. Briggs, PTE S. Barrow, PTE M. Bromfield
PTE J. Zambryzski.

Front Row L-R. SGT A. Olding, WO2 G. Astin, LT J. Mansell, MAJ P. Cobley, CAPT M. Hannan, LT D. Morrison, SSGT G. Shaw.

C COY

CHEERFUL CHARLIE



C COMPANY

1980 has been a year of contrasts for C Company. We have had considerable changeover of personnel: a new OC towards the end of 1979, CAPT Mactholan marched out in early February. We had two new platoon commanders and platoon sergeants and six new section commanders. In addition to all that, 15 IETs. We finally got our new 2IC, CAPT Moran.

Our first part of the year, then, was a case of getting to know you, and building up our teamwork over successive exercises.

The highlight of our year will be our three months at Butterworth and we have been pleased to welcome to our ranks not only our fellow infantrymen from the Battalion but also twenty-five members from 6 TF.

I'm sure we will have a successful tour with training at Pulada and Langtowi Is and trips to Singapore and Bangkok.

8 PLATOON

On arrival back from ARL the Platoon was rather depleted in numbers but not in spirit. Our first exercise at Mt Byron was based on section level training and assisted in getting the Platoon back on the ball.

Spring Mt offered advance to contact, hasty defence, patrolling and delaying defence. The mighty 8 starred in a reconnaissance exercise.

The C Company version of 'Mao's Long March' resulted in blisters and a bloody tired group. Our new sergeant - SGT Wolfender - could not believe his initiation.

LEADEN LIFT proved to be very popular and in particular the Platoon starred in a TU coverage of our company attack (live firing). We really are the most photographic little devils...! For our IET march-ins the thick scrub of Fraser was certainly a change from the flies of the hot rifle ranges.

Exercise SILVER FLEECE was next on the programme and it was where 8 Platoon performed well and learnt a great deal about defence and withdrawal. The most disappointing fact was our screen operations, when we didn't even have a contact. To top that off of course our pits were full of water when we returned to the main position. Compensation, however, was at hand and a few tinnies that night made it all well.

Between exercises we managed to do a little shooting. LCPLs Stick and King both shot very well to become the Company's first marksmen.

SAFE HAVEN was enjoyed at times - hated at others. I mean sitting in the back of an APC cannot be really called fun. Prior to this exercise CPL Hughes had marched out to A Company and was replaced by CPL Monteforie, while CPL Howard's position (marched out to Kapooka) was taken over by CPL 'Leroy' Watters. Irish of course was still with us.

Here we are at Butterworth at full strength - in the exotic East.



Ex 'STRIKING COBRA'
(at Malaysian Army Combat Infantry
School Pulada 16 Sep - 21 Oct 80)

The aim of the exercise was to:

- a. conduct range and field firing practices on all coy weapons;
- b. conduct shooting competitions;
- c. conduct selected battle efficiency tests.

OVER



IN TO EM!

RUGBY UNION BUTTERWORTH AIR BASE 13-9-80



PANTHERS V COBRA
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SUP PORT
COMPANY
THE 'BLACK BEAR',



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MORTAR PLATOON

With the posting of a large number of the 1979 platoon and the influx of new members, it was a new platoon that reported for duty in February this year. Gone were the old MLO, two section commanders, one section 2IC and five soldiers. The new members had a crash course in mortar work, culminating in LEADEN LIFT.

LEADEN LIFT was an exercise which allowed the platoon to show its wares to the rest of the Battalion. The company attack stand was turned into a Somme-like landscape by the Platoon and this had the desirable effect on those soldiers who participated in the attacks.

For the remainder of the year the platoon shot in the months of April and August achieving good results, performing difficult and more specialised tasks such as operations without a command post, direct laying and on two occasions emergency rate firing. These tasks established in the platoon a pride in their work which produced very good results on the OCS demonstration shoot at Holsworthy.

On exercise, Mortar Platoon performed many tasks with the more memorable being the mortar pits on Exercise SILVER FLEECE or the mind-boggling APC deployments on Exercise SAFE HAVEN.

On the sports field the Platoon has performed well with star performances from the following people:

Milo Tink	Rugby
Cav Cavanagh	Rugby
Chris Wadey	Soccer
Fred Harris	Basketball
George Kellner	Soccer
Rick Daniec	Soccer
Snoopy van der Stoep	Cross Country Ballet (Australian Rules)
Homo Holinquest	Athletics

Other special mentions within the Platoon are:

Fred Harris	For returning from a baker's life
Paul Nolan	For his night withdrawal
Cassius Clay Childs	For his boxing ability
Little Willy Wilson	For his year of the long knives

On a more serious note, well done to Craig Nonnan on his posting to SASR, and to Peter Croft for getting fit and enjoying life more.

1980 was a good year for the Mortar Platoon but with the posting of the Pl Comd, MLO, one Sect Comd, two MFCs and five soldiers for 1981 here we go again.

ASSAULT

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PIONEERS

The Assault Pioneers Platoon again had a very busy year for 1980. Commencing with LEADEN LIFT and finishing with DROUGHTMASTER the Platoon will have spent a large number of man hours in the field assisting sub-units and the Battalion in carrying out their tasks. These tasks have been both interesting and enjoyable. From building the LEADEN LIFT ranges to digging 'The Hole' on SAFE HAVEN to finding 'The Dive' on the Combined Colleges Tour to building 'The Ropes' - that so well loved instrument of torture that the Battalion is appreciating.

With the formation of the ODF the Platoon managed to come through the melee with most of its members intact. This holds in good stead for the Platoon's future and 1981 should be a year to look forward to, building on the ground work that has been built up over the previous years. Experience and maturity are developing the Platoon into a very solid unit which will continue to be an important part in the Battalion's overall effectiveness.



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RECONNAISSANCE/SURVEILLANCE PLATOON

In 1980 the emphasis in the Platoon's training has been placed on individual skills.

The year commenced with a field firing and survival exercise in the Wide Bay Training Area. Everyone benefited from this exercise and quickly adapted to an 'all seafood' diet. The lessons learnt on the exercise were often used during the remainder of the year. Many a blackbird fell foul to devious snares on our frequent trips to Greenbank range.

In April our major activity was a patrolling exercise in the Mt Byron region. The Platoon's AO was over rugged and densely forested terrain. All were footsore and weary on the final day. The Platoon had patrolled 48 miles in five days without re-supply.

Manpower shortages caused by PTEs Hull, McCamley, Clayton and Whitlock attending the Sniper Course meant that the Platoon could only enter one section in the Military Skills competition. This section was commanded and led by LCPL Horton. The section finished second overall and this made Reconnaissance Platoon the top platoon in the Military Skills competition.

Exercise SILVER FLEECE proved to be a most valuable training period. Various methods for the deployment and operation of reconnaissance patrols, out of a battalion defensive position, were tried and tested. Some of these techniques proved successful and have been further refined and developed. The technique of rapelling onto an enemy position proved unsuccessful and has since been discarded.

During Exercise SAFE HAVEN individual skills were again practised. LT Boyd and PTEs Clayton, Hull and McCamley left mid-exercise to attend the SASR selection course. The remainder of the Platoon underwent training in the unfamiliar realm of armoured operations.

Sniper pre-selection and continuation has taken increasing emphasis in 1980. Three sniper pre-selection courses were conducted. From the 24 students on these courses, 10 were selected to do the sniper course at Infantry Centre. At this time, all those who have attended the sniper course have been successful.

A feature of this year has been the busy training cycle and strong demand for support to outside units. Despite this, the time has still been found for individuals to undertake specialist training, promotion courses and exchange exercises. SGT Telford attended a Ropint and Rapelling Instructors' Course and Promotion Course. CPL Dixon spent three months in Hawaii on Exercise PALEX. Five members of the Platoon qualified as snipers. PTE Clayton who topped the SASR Selection Course has been posted to that unit. He is accompanied by PTEs Hull and McCamley who were also successful. LCPL Horton and PTE Whitlock achieved excellent results on the Subject One for Corporal Course.

The future of the Platoon is shrouded in some doubt at the moment. Though this is the case, everyone in the Platoon is eagerly awaiting Exercise DROUGHTMASTER and the year ahead.

MACHINE GUN PLATOON

M The Battalion's gunners can say that 1980 was a very productive year in the developing of the MG Pl. At a time when no other Battalion in the Regiment had a MG Pl, 8/9 RAR had the best in the Australian Army. With very little doctrine in writing about the MG Pl we spent most of the year developing our own.

G We started the year with LT Fogarty in command and a new gunner PTE McNicol (Scottie). It was not long before LT Fogarty realized that the Pl was suffering from too much Christmas Cheer and did not possess the same athletic prowess as himself. We spent many hours trying to improve our physical fitness.

P LT Fogarty was posted in February and SGT Weatherall was left at the helm. Immediately we steered away from the PT and concentrated on developing our skills as gunners; this was much more interesting than PT.

L It was in March that an invitation was given to WO2 Piper to become the new commander of the MG Pl. Aware of the great honour involved, he accepted it gratefully. We trained in the camp and at Wide Bay we were involved in field firing. The platoon was looking good and the guns were right on target.

A Exercise LEADEN LIFT was a highlight in the year for us. During the exercise we provided fire support for four live firing company attacks, a first time ever for the platoon. We conducted combined night shoots with the Mortar Platoon, and were able to test our basic skills as riflemen in such activities as live section attacks.

T The next memorable experience we had was on Exercise SILVER FLEECE. The CO had based the Battalion defensive position on the siting of the machine guns. When the final enemy assault was upon us the Battalion Command Post ordered us to open fire. It was too late! We had been the first objective in the enemy assault and were over-run without firing a single burst.

O PTE Furguson left the platoon after the exercise. He was discharged and went north to the sunshine and the women and the last we heard he was working as a truckie. 'A lucky man!'

O The end of June was upon us and so was another Platoon Commander; 2LT Slater, and also another week at Wide Bay field firing. We had six machine guns and 64,000 rounds when we left. When we returned we had no guns and no ammunition, but great suntans.

N The end of July and the end of PTE Fahrner. Bernie was posted to OCS. (A secret mission - to find out the process of changing a 'normal' man into a Platoon Commander.)

We were the Battalion Rear Guard for Exercise SAFE HAVEN. Our new name became 'Leper Force'. We followed the Battalion everywhere, sometimes pushing our broken down APC just to stay within 15km of the forward company. Our primary task was eating dust?

September was kind to us. A month at home with our wives and girlfriends. But just as our children were remembering who their fathers were, Exercise DROUGHTMASTER was upon us, and it was time to say goodbye once again. For PTE McNicol it was goodbye from the platoon for good. He was stripped of his MG Pl honours and is now working in Rams Retreat as a barman.

There were two promotions within the platoon in 1980. Frank was promoted to LCPL Klischat and Fang was promoted to LCPL Czislowski.

The platoon has done well in the last 12 months. We consider this is due to two reasons. Firstly the romantic passion that COL Pfitzner had for machine guns. The second is the patience of us, the skillful soldiers, who have endured four different Platoon Commanders in 7 months.



LEFT TO RIGHT. 2LT D.Slater,CPL G.Langdon,SGT E.Weatherall
PTE M.Mau,CPL F.Klischat,PTE C.Shepherd,PTE W. Livesay
PTE F.Hobbs.

KNEELING LEFT TO RIGHT.PTE P.Daniels,PTE N.Williams
LCPL R.Czislowski.

SIGNAL PLATOON

S For Signal Platoon (lovingly referred to by its members as the BLACK HOLE - that not even light escapes from) 1980 started and continued much the same as previous years have (and much the same manning HINT).

Major exercises such as LEADEN LIFT, SILVER FLEECE, SAFE HAVEN and push ups dominated a large part of the year and took up most of the hard working platoon's time. The CO obviously realised the extent of the physical and mental stress the signalmen had been under and so awarded an all expenses paid trip to Sydney (under the guise of support for the OCS Demonstration). After a week or so of debauched revelry, Signal Platoon returned to Enoggera with some detachments from A and Support Companies, to a well earned spot of stand down.

Since then the subject course has thinned the already depleted ranks of the Platoon, forcing the remnants to be tasked as Battalion stick book screeners (led by PTE Mitchell) and cross trained as gardeners and emu bobbbers. (SGT Sales there is no truth to the rumour that our hair is any longer

G Characters of Signal Platoon:

CAPT GIBSON - I think it's in my in tray.

SGT SALES - I don't know how to say hair cuts in Italian Panella.

CPL AUSTIN - conveniently minds the store.

CPL CROSSLAND - a primitive nomad, SNCO potential.

CPL WAIN - No Sir it's Wain not Kain.

LCPL CARDWELL - professional Duty NCO.

LCPL REID - masochistic footballer.

PTE PANELLA - the Punk works solo.

PTE MOLLOY - last seen heading south/deserter potential.

PTE POPE - refuses to mend his greens.

PTE FRASER-CHITTICKS - somewhere in the rear echelon.

PTE BALL - a stretcher case.

PTE MITCHELL - anti-Italian.

PTE LEE - the mad gunman.

PTE BERG - Signal Platoon Rip Van Winkle.

PTE HICKSON - mixes freely with pygmies and the CSM.

PTE EYLWARD - Grumble Guts.

PTE BURGESS - Migrant Mercenary.

PTE ROWE - remembers when ZULU was current affairs.

PTE HENDERSON - beginning to look like a keg.

PTE HOLLAMBY - potential sig.

PTE HARRIS - has trouble finding his key hole.

PTE HEARNE - participating in the Malayan social disease census.

PTE STANNARD - one of the greatest literary geniuses of our time.



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ANTI ARMOUR PLATOON

The year started for Anti Armoured Platoon with the normal training cycle for all members culminating in a live shoot during Exercise LEADEN LIFT. A demonstration of the effectiveness and operating procedures of the platoon supported by Carl Gustav's 66mm LAW and normal infantry small arms was well received by the members of the Battalion.

After LEADEN LIFT we acted as enemy in conjunction with B Coy 6 RAR for Exercise SILVER FLEECE. This was a most enjoyable exercise as when we weren't being hotly pursued by the Battalion we were chasing Reconnaissance Platoon attempting to capture some prisoners.

Exercise SAFE HAVEN was a good opportunity for the Platoon to work with and against armour. Although badly hampered by vehicle breakdowns towards the end of the 8/9 RAR phase of the ARTEP, a lot of valuable lessons were learnt. On returning from SAFE HAVEN two of our members were involved in a vehicle accident, both survived without too much damage to themselves, although our carrier is considered a write-off.

After SAFE HAVEN we then travelled to Sydney with A Company for the Combined Colleges Firepower Demonstration and on once again an excellent result was achieved during the demonstration.

What we believed would be our final shoot was conducted at Wide Bay Training Area with Anti Armoured Platoon 6 RAR in the period 18-20 Sep. Excellent results were obtained with a 95% first round main armament hit rate being achieved after matching.

We are looking forward to the chance of proving our mettle on Exercise DROUGHTMASTER and securing a position on the Battalion's establishment as a platoon using anti armour weapon system.

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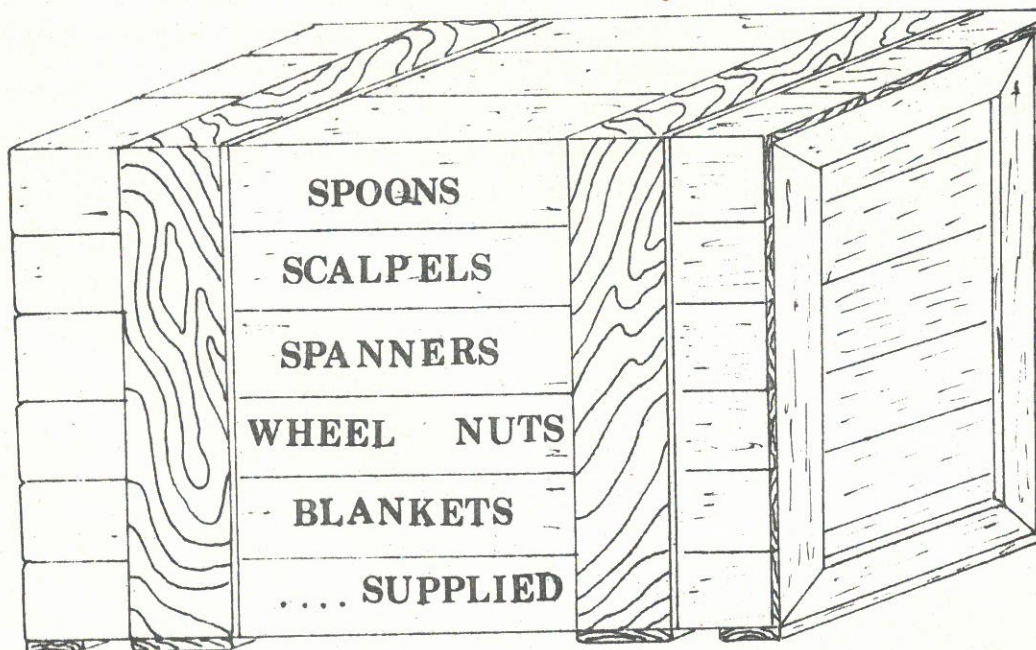
1980 was a good year for the members of Admin Coy. Major Ross Millican must feel pleased with the effort that has been placed in by all ranks of the Coy HQ group.

1981 will see a departure from the HQ of the majority of its members. The OC moves up a notch and becomes the OPSO, Captain Smith takes a holiday to the far land of Pakistan, WO2 Francis moves to B Coy, Pte MacDonald moves to Trg Coy and Pte Haselwood moves to

The following faces however will be remaining, Pte Morrison will be taking a holiday to Manila but will still be seen in the Q Store in 1981, CQMS SSGT Wollner will still be upsetting everyone with his furniture checks for another year and CPL Litchfield will continue filing roll on 1981.

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CATERING PLATOON

'We Sustain'

Since the last issue of the Battalion Magazine, Catering Platoon has been involved in most of the Battalion activities.

We have produced several thousand meals under all conditions, in all weather, in both static and mobile situations, in the field and at camp, and still we manage a smile ... well sometimes anyway.

The Battalion exercises have managed to keep us on our toes during the year. Catering platoon (the pogos) have been shot at and routed from our beds in extremely inclement weather, by an enemy who had the cheek to ask for a brew after killing all the cooks. We've also dug holes, mounted picquets, moved a lot, cammed up, put up hootches, pulled down hootches, filled in holes, sent out the odd patrol (emphasis on odd) and even managed to cook the occasional meal.

On the home front the Battalion Caterers have managed to fit in the odd bit of running, jumping, climbing, grunting (no pun intended), groaning, puffing and all other things associated with P.T.

During the year we have had quite a large staff turnover. The following have left:

SGT The Whale Sheridan	2 Cav Regt
SGT The Hulk Fallis	School of Transport
PTE Simmo Simonsen	Discharged
	To parts unknown
PTE 50% Keleher	IA
	To parts unknown
PTE Nobby Castens	Discharged
	To sunny W.A.
PTE Dinga Dell	WRAAC School

To these ex platoon members, we wish you all the best of luck in all of your future endeavours.

The platoon usually has a farewell for people when they leave, but after the last one, to SGT Geoffrey Fallis, our venue may have to be changed. I think that it will long be remembered, as Geoff incurred the wrath of the RSM to the tune of 7, due to his sleeping arrangements.

Catering platoon has also gained a few members during the same period of time. They are:

SGT Jack James	School of Survey
SGT Hoges Hogan	School of Transport
PTE Jock Hughson	Ordnance Training Centre
PTE Mumbles Brockway	Catering School
PTE Chook Currie	Catering School
PTE Frog Grafton	Catering School

To all of them, we wish you a good stay in Catering Platoon 8/9 RAR, and with the Battalion as a whole.

Catering Platoon



Left to Right:

Caterer, Pte Ashby, Sgt Thistlewaite, Cpl Litten, Cpl Lewis, Sgt George
Sgt Fallis, Pte Penney, Pte Goodwin, Cpl Hamilton- McClaren
Pte Hughan, Pte Heaver, Pte Grafton, Pte Bridges, Pte Thompson.
Pte Schnider, Lcpl Balding, Cpl Chippendale, Pte Lewin, Pte Curry ,
Pte Dell, Pte Deale,
Pte Cowburn, Pte Speechley

Pipes & Drums



Left to Right :

Jenno, Bags, Vince, Bob, Dunny, Rocky, Gutto, Sparrow, Wo2 Black(Blackie)
Sgt G. Kennedy (Graham).

PIPES AND DRUMS

Well that's almost it for another year, the Pipes and Drums had a quiet year compared to the last couple of years, but that's not to say we didn't do anything. We attended all exercises except one; we were in Melbourne entertaining the masses at the Military Tattoo whilst the rest of the Battalion were 'LEADEN LIFTING'.

A good time was had by all in Melbourne at the Military Tattoo in March, this was also a great opportunity to gain some knowledge from other bands, as we had the Pipes and Drums from every Battalion in the Regiment there as well, which is the first time they have all been together in one place. A lot of 'notes' were compared.

From March until June, our next 'away' job, we did the usual number of Sergeants' and Officers' Mess functions, a few school fetes, and parades for different units, not to mention exercises.

In June we returned to Ballina again for their annual Mardi-Gras, and combined work with pleasure, playing in the local RSL Club, as well as the street march. One of our members, PTE Guttridge, entered the 10,000 metre Fun Run and came in 13th out of a field of hundreds, some of them professional runners. A good effort Eric.

After Ballina, we were home for a week, and then went out to Roma, where we were hosted by the local ARES unit, led by an ex 8/9 man, SGT J. McCallum, who showed us the sights and kept us out of trouble, although we heard his wife mumble 'not you bloody mob again'. It's great being remembered. We played at the unit's annual Ball and did a street march, and then it was back to Brisbane for SAFE HAVEN.

Not too long after SAFE HAVEN we lost three of our members: one to Exercise LONG LOOK, and two to civvy street. We also gained one from Ex LONG LOOK, but unfortunately he had to return home early because of a sickness in the family. The two who went to civvy street, PTE Ken Parkinson and CPL Chris Laurenson, will be missed. They've left a hole in the Band that will take a long time to fill because of their experience. Good luck fellas, you're going to need it out there.

All we have left now for the year is parades too numerous to mention, and Ex DROUGHTMASTER. After that it's wind up for another year.

The Pipes and Drums wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and remind you all that we are desperately in need of members for the Band, so why not have a go, be a piper or a drummer, IT'S A GREAT LIFE.

SUPPLY PLATOON

Goals for 1980. As advised last year, a systematized, logical projection cannot be achieved without a comparable management programme to establish a responsive, organizational capability for which a synchronised reciprocal option has been our goal for 1980.

We certainly systematized, our logical projection in such times of paucity has been excellent, and our capability as a 'team' within supply has excelled.

The achievement of our goals for 1980 has been a team effort for which each member of the Supply Platoon, which certainly includes the Tech Spt (RAEME) and Coy 'Quies', has contributed. Agreed we have, and had, our characters, but none the less each member of the team has given his best.

The best ever results of an Annual Stocktake since the formation of the 8th/9th Battalion was achieved this year. When considered an overall guesstimation on stores and equipment on charge is \$8million, a deficiency of \$3.00 only appears more than reasonable. Many other goals have been achieved for which I extend my personal thanks to the team.

Unfortunately, over the last twelve months we have lost, or will lose, some valuable and most capable staff. PTE Bob Poulter has elected discharge and the following CQMS may leave end 1980. SSGTs Greg Norris, Peter Godfrey and Dave Wollner. Greg, of course, will be missed by the Battalion as he has, over the years, accumulated a wealth of 'local' knowledge which, during audits and stocktakes, has proven invaluable.

We also said goodbye to Defence Audit who, after four months, became part of the furniture. However, during the July stocktake, this error was revealed by an astute counting team and quickly rectified.

1981. The goals don't change, only the names. CAPT Rod McCleod joins the unit in Dec 80 as QM. With an excellent RQMS, WO Les Arnould, the same cooperation from the team and the needed support of the Battalion, greater achievements will be made.

Robert Louis Stevenson said 'There is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us that it behoves all of us not to talk about the rest of us'. It would be remiss of me however to fade out of the Battalion without expressing my appreciation to my immediate team including Tex and his band of 'potentials'. Centurions were nothing without their men and, although acknowledging a centurion I am not, each member has contributed in many ways to make my task easier and by doing so has maintained a high degree of integrity and morale. May '81 bring to you the best.

To Max Flex Enterprises, the 'Bloody' Braves, The Cobras, the 'Specialists' of Support and the prop men of the Battalion (Admin/BHQ) we of Sup/Tech Spt Pl wish you a most resoundingly joyous and jovial Christmas and a bountiful prosperous 1981.

Supply Platoon



LEFT TO RIGHT. LCPL K.Lawrence,SGT G.Love,PTE Padic,PTE S.Stothard
SSGT G.Norris,SGT P.McCkonstock,PTE Hardy,WO2 L.Arnould,CPL P.Ashton
LT P.Borland,CFN R.James,CFN P.Eddy,CFN S.Brydon,SGT K.Morton

Transport Platoon



LEFT TO RIGHT BACK. SGT C.S Clewly,LCPL M.Efford, PTE C.Mctaggart
PTE A.Anderson,PTE J.Pidcock,PTE B.Adams,PTE G.Long,LCPL J.Crisp
LEFT TO RIGHT FRONT.PTE I.Rudd,PTE J.Daly,PTE F.Kiraly,PTE P.Swain
PTE P. Grey,LCPL N.Clarke,PTE B.Evans

TRANSPORT PLATOON

After another year in which the Battalion proved conclusively that its backbone is Transport Platoon, the time has once again come when we must point out to disbelievers a few facts of life.

Despite the huge administrative burden of maintaining the biggest vehicle inventory in 1 MD, Transport Platoon still managed to contribute to the success of Exercise LEADEN LIFT, when, unaided by the better known transport units, they managed to move the Battalion around the merry-go-round of ranges. No drivers cared that the Battalion did not want to utilize our services for the trip up and back to Wide Bay.

Exercise SILVER FLEECE enabled us to compare the standard of our drivers with the more famed Gurkhas. Evidence of the Gurkhas' skill is still scattered around Barakula State Forests and the various units in the area where the Gurkhas obtained their FIB vehicles.

SAFE HAVEN saw the wheels of Transport Platoon traded in for tracks, but the inability of the 'buckets' to evacuate their own casualties soon saw a significant number of landrovers being quickly brought out of retirement. The road move to and from Shoalwater Bay saw the normal fun and games, with CPL Patterson giving an acrobatic demonstration of his driving skill.

This year the platoon proved that the days when drivers stay in Transport for five year stretches is gone. LT Bell lasted just six months before the lure of a third pip brought his departure to 1 Ttg Gp. Like the rest of the Battalion, we have had to make our contribution to ODF.

The drivers' course run at the start of the year proved very successful, despite the fact that a large number of the drivers have since gone AWOL, had accidents or had their licences suspended.

SGT Clewley made a dedicated effort to join the Evil Kneivel club but failed, while the TOCO's exploits with helicopters showed the versatility of the Platoon.

CPL Palmer is still continuing his record breaking run in the Platoon, although a Transport Supervisors' Course in December may see his departure for greener pastures in the near future.

All in all it has been a good year for Transport.

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Training Company

Once again the part-timers of Trg Coy have produced a good result. It is a pity in many ways that a regular cadre is not available to efficiently run such an organisation and this would no doubt relieve many of the problems within the sub-unit. The Coy has conducted many courses this year :

- Subject 2 for Corporal, Feb- Mar 80
- Subject 1 for Corporal, Aug- Sep 80
- Subject 2 for Corporal, Nov- Dec 80

Much of the credit for the success of the Coy must given to Major Dave Chitty, it is a shame that the unit lost such a fine soldier. Some of the instructors to pass through the Coy in 1980 have included:

- Lt Ron Hill
- WO2 P Buttigieg
- Sgt P Harrower
- Sgt Nancarrow
- Sgt A Whiting
- Sgt B Eade
- Sgt Dutch Holland
- Sgt J Sales
- Sgt D Telfer
- Sgt J Forestal
- Sgt E Weatheral..... and many more.

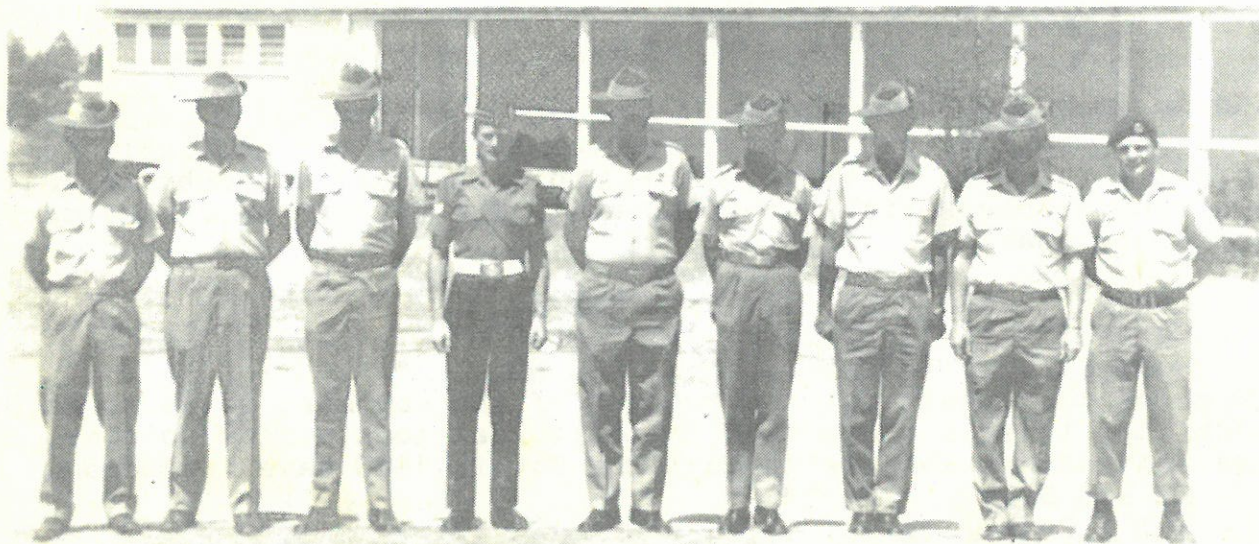
To the instructors that have passed through the Coy, thanks for a job well done and to the students, it is only the beginning of many more courses to come in future.

Training Company

WE ARE HERE TO PASS OUR
KNOWLEDGE

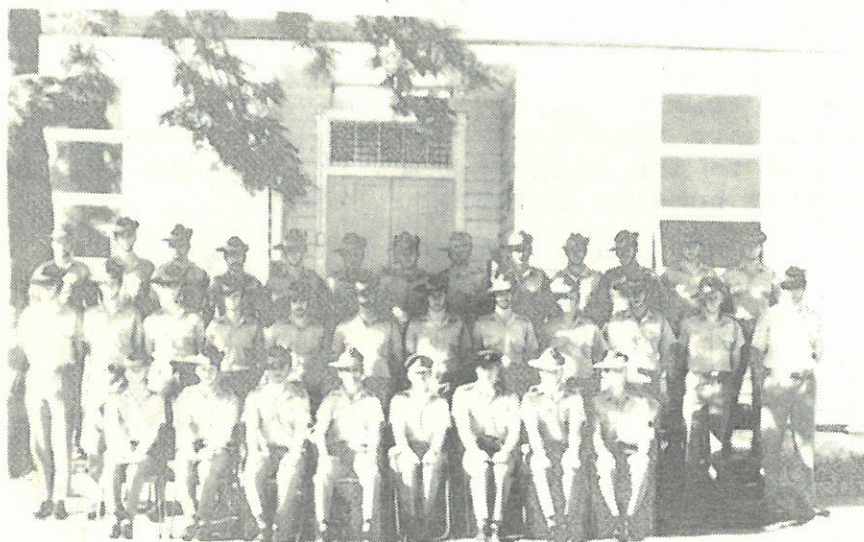
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INSTRUCTORS OF THE 1/80 SUBJECT I: (GET A HAIRCUT) COURSE
(PHOTO BY REQUEST)



LEFT TO RIGHT

SGT P.W. HARROWER SGT M. HOLLAND SGT J.R. SALES SGT D. TELFER
SGT E.R. WEATHERALL SGT P.L. ROKAY SGT ROSS SGT J.E. FORESTAL SGT A.J. EADE



THE INSTRUCTORS AND THEIR PROTEGE

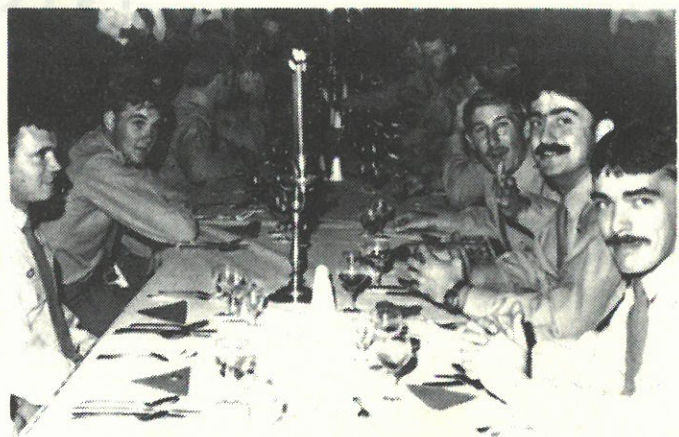
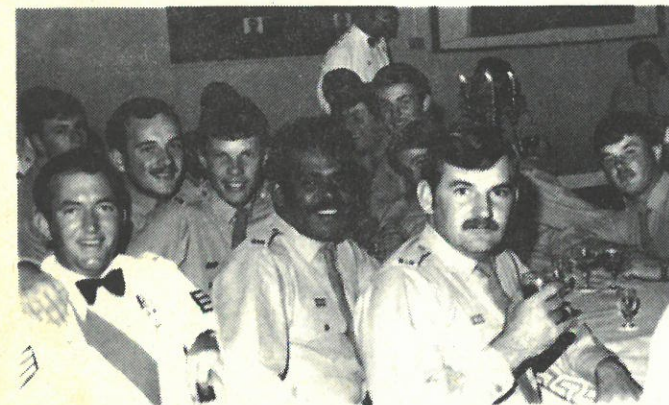
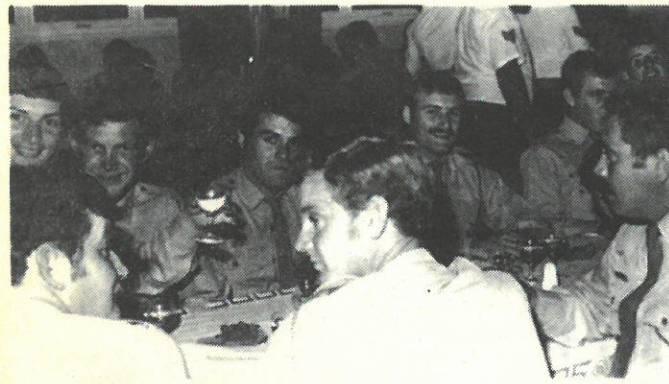
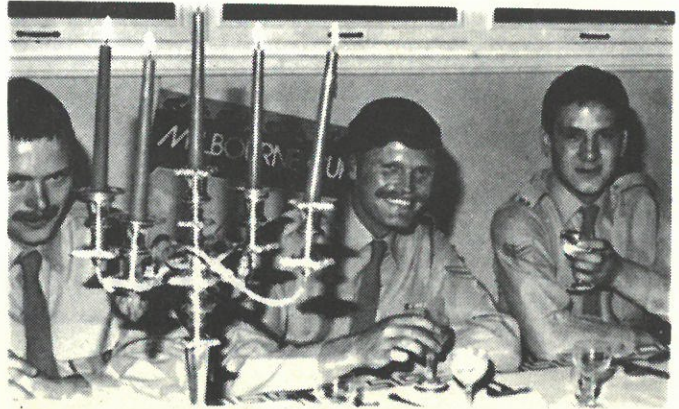
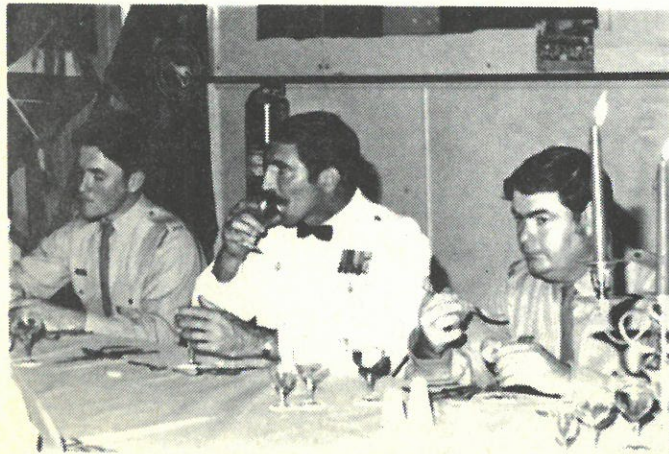
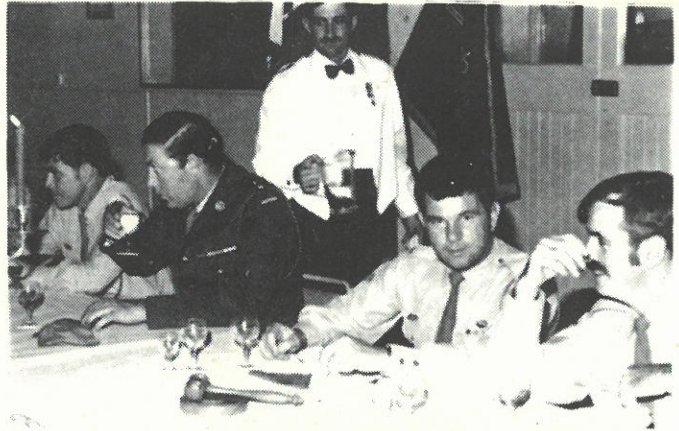
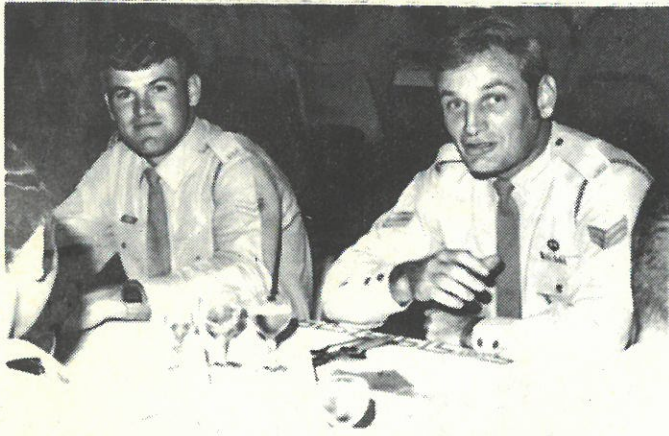


1/80
SUBJECT 1

SOLDIERS

DINING-IN

NIGHT



soldiers dining in
night

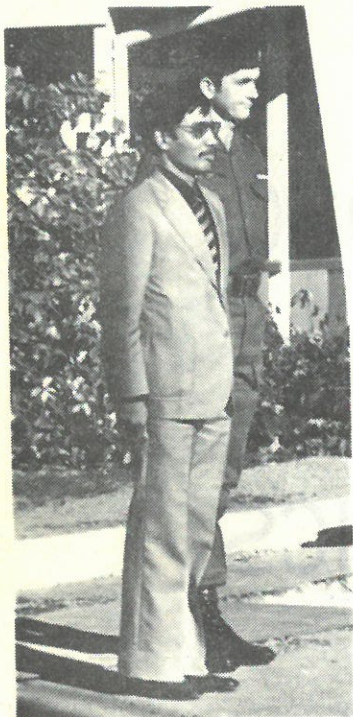


1980 IN PICS



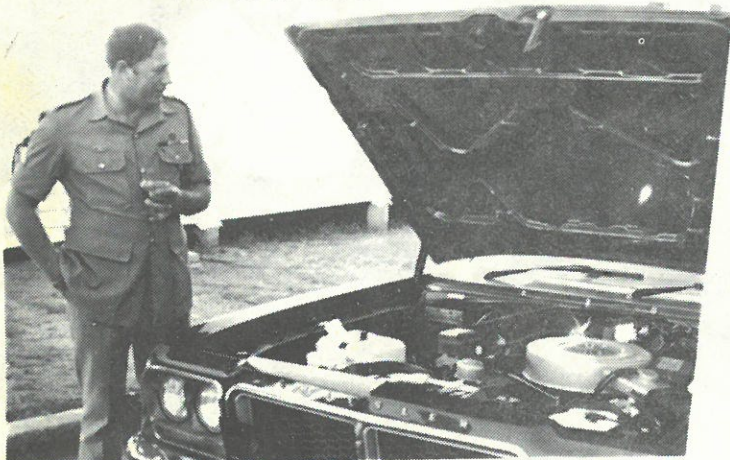


I, M REALLY A CLERK

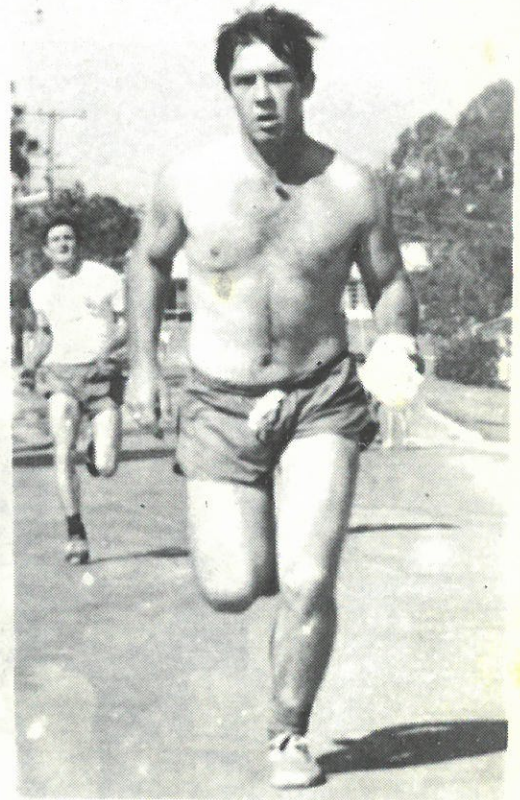


IT LOOKS EXPENSIVE

MY NEW TOY



WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN



GO ..



MUSCLES

SHIEK OF SCRUBBY CREEK



SHORTY AND BLUE



UP, UP AND AWAY



SOME OF OUR BEST



SAY CHEESE



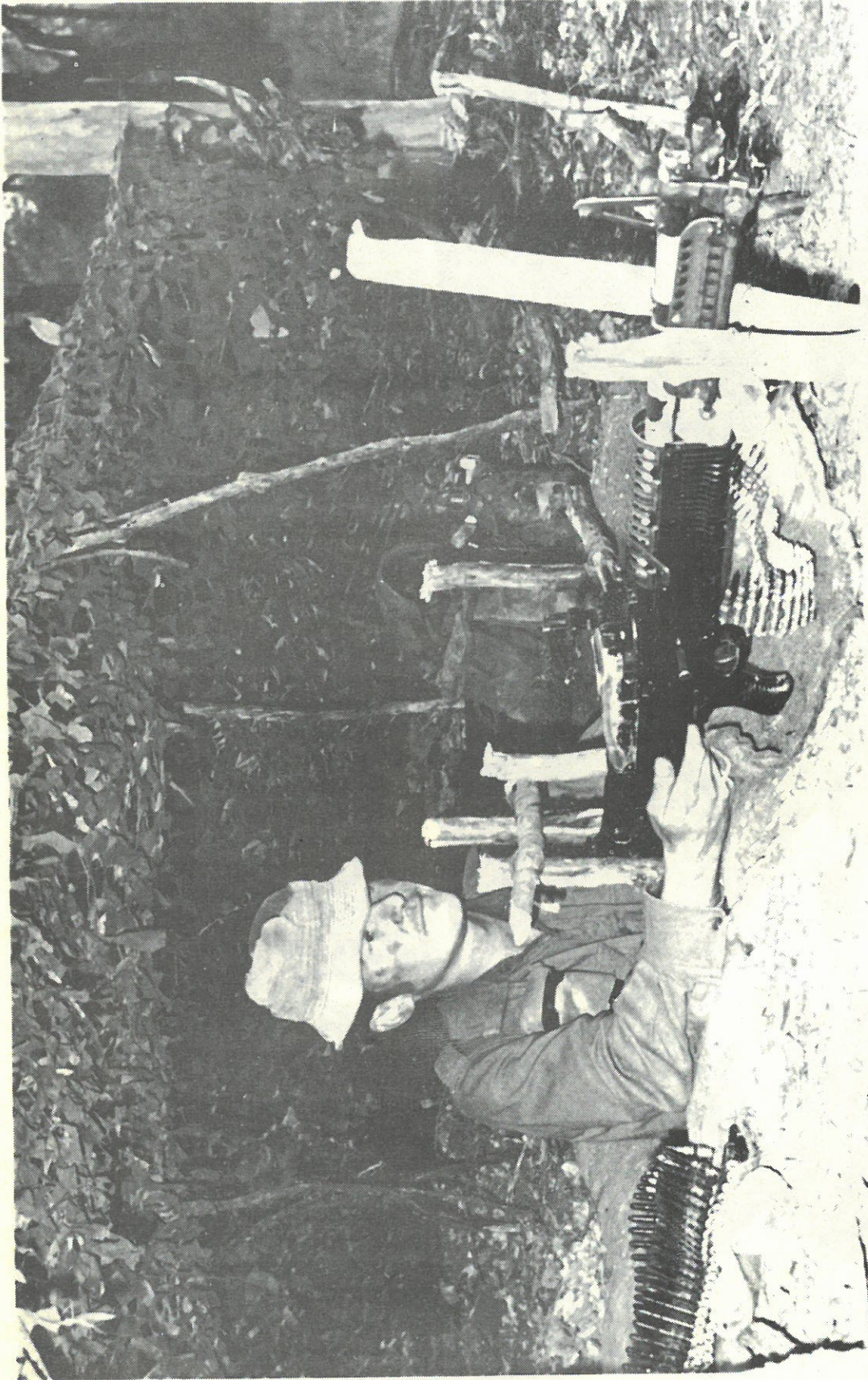
25 RQR 'It's way past my bedtime

-102-



GET 'EM





WATCHFUL EYE.....

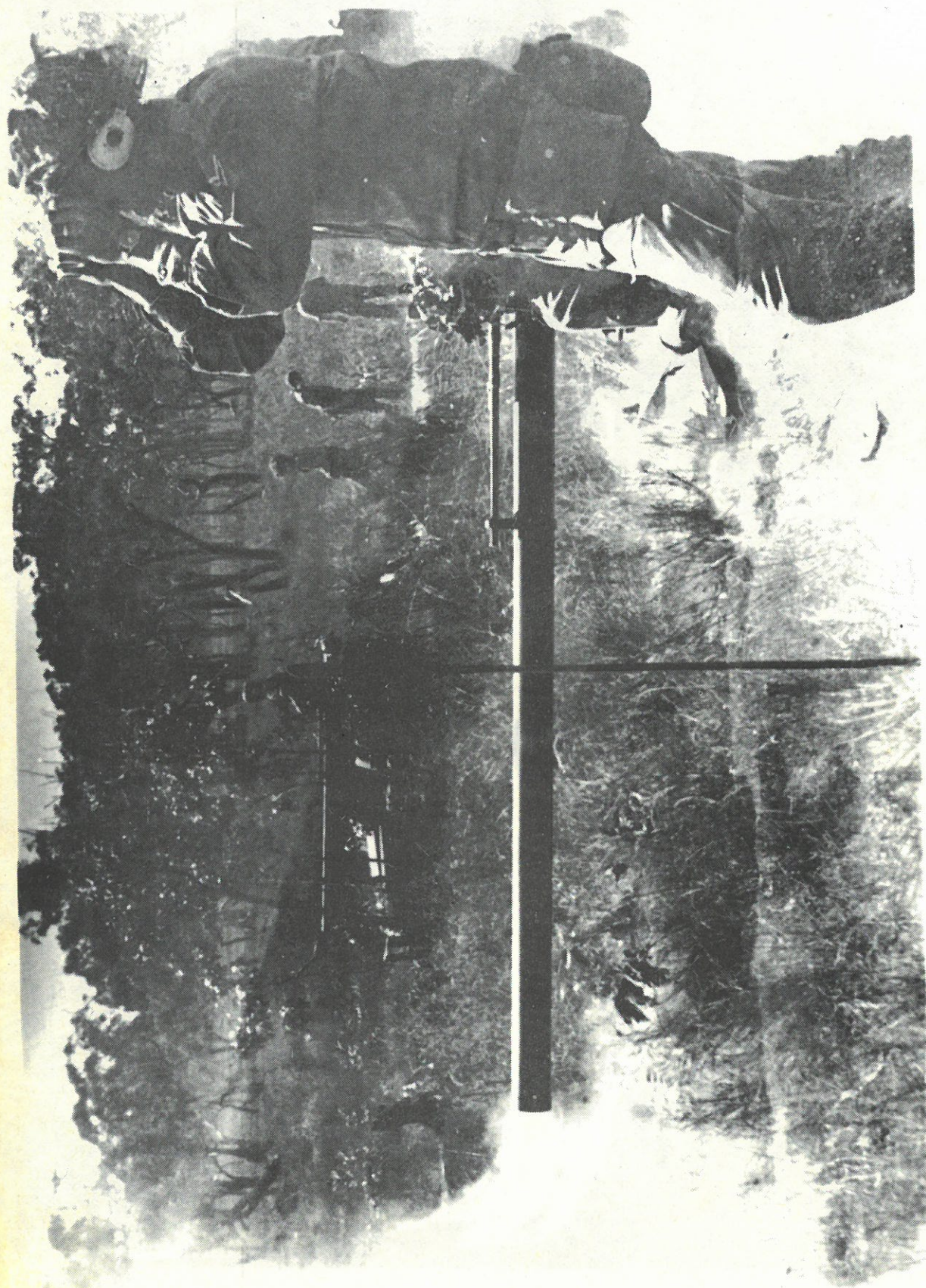


I HOPE IT'S RIGHT

COOL, COOL WATER

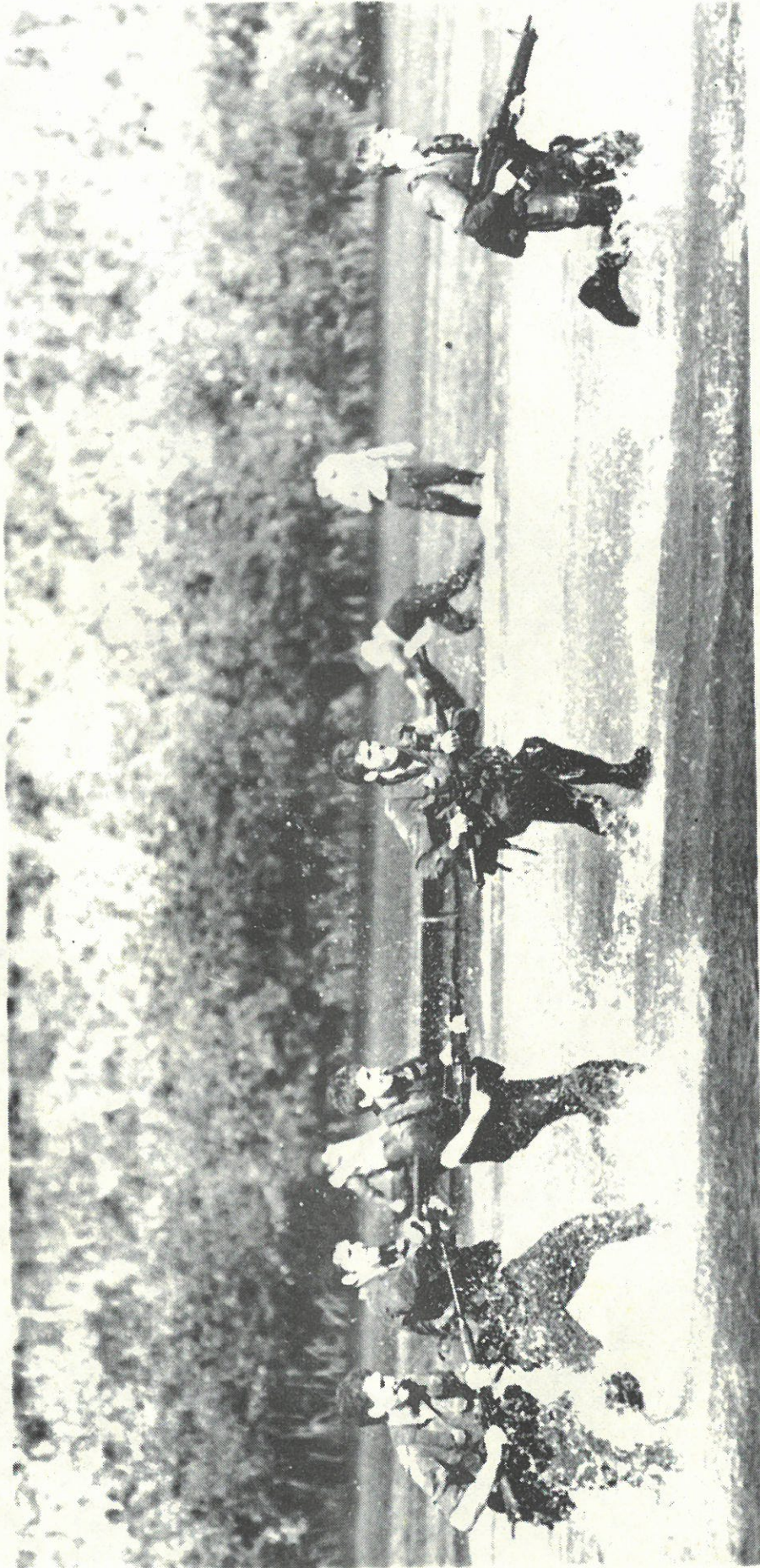






OBSERVATION

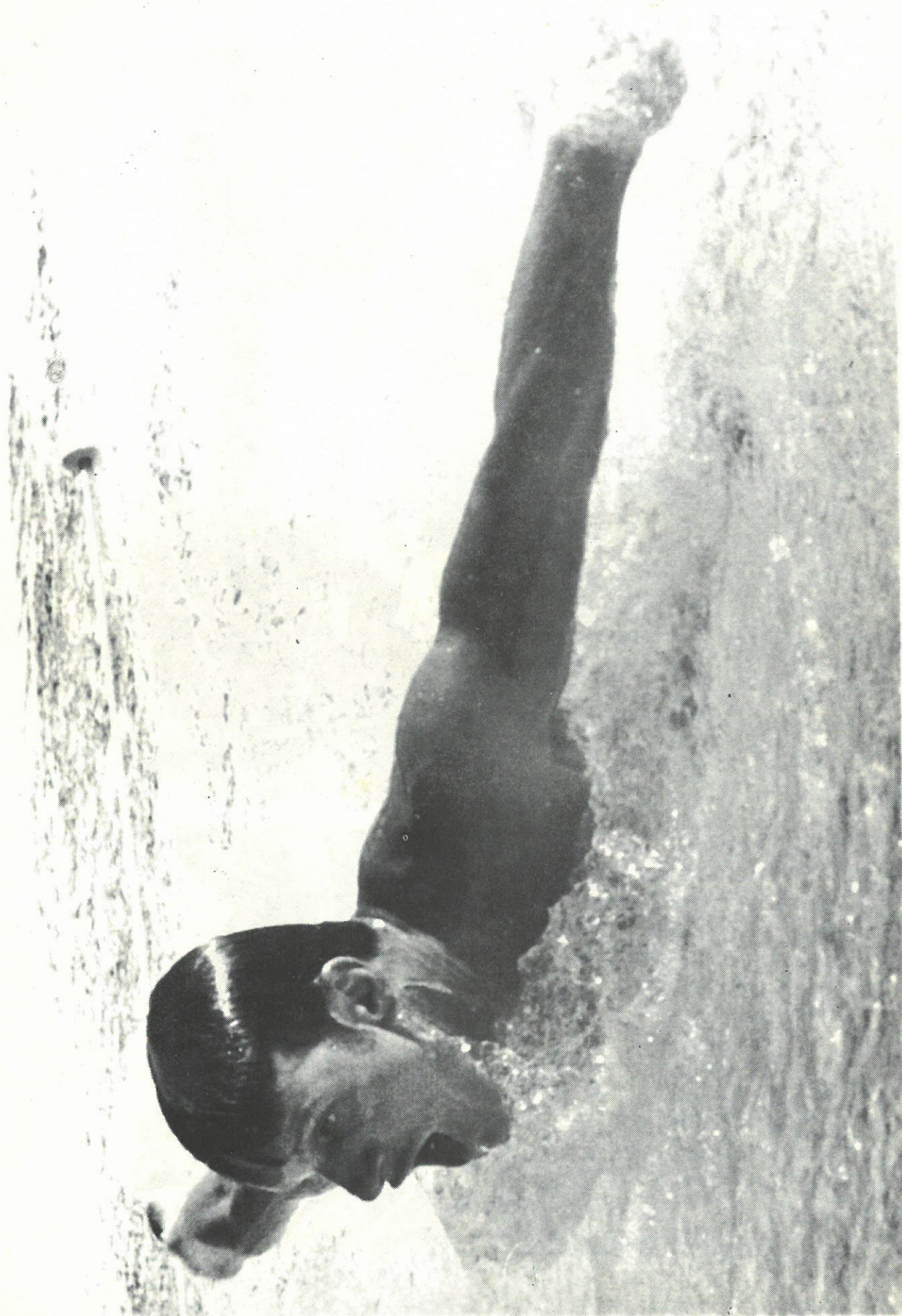
THERE WE WERE





DIRTY WORK.....

A BUTTERFLY IN MOTION





TRAVERSE LEFT!

BUTTERWORTH HERE I COME



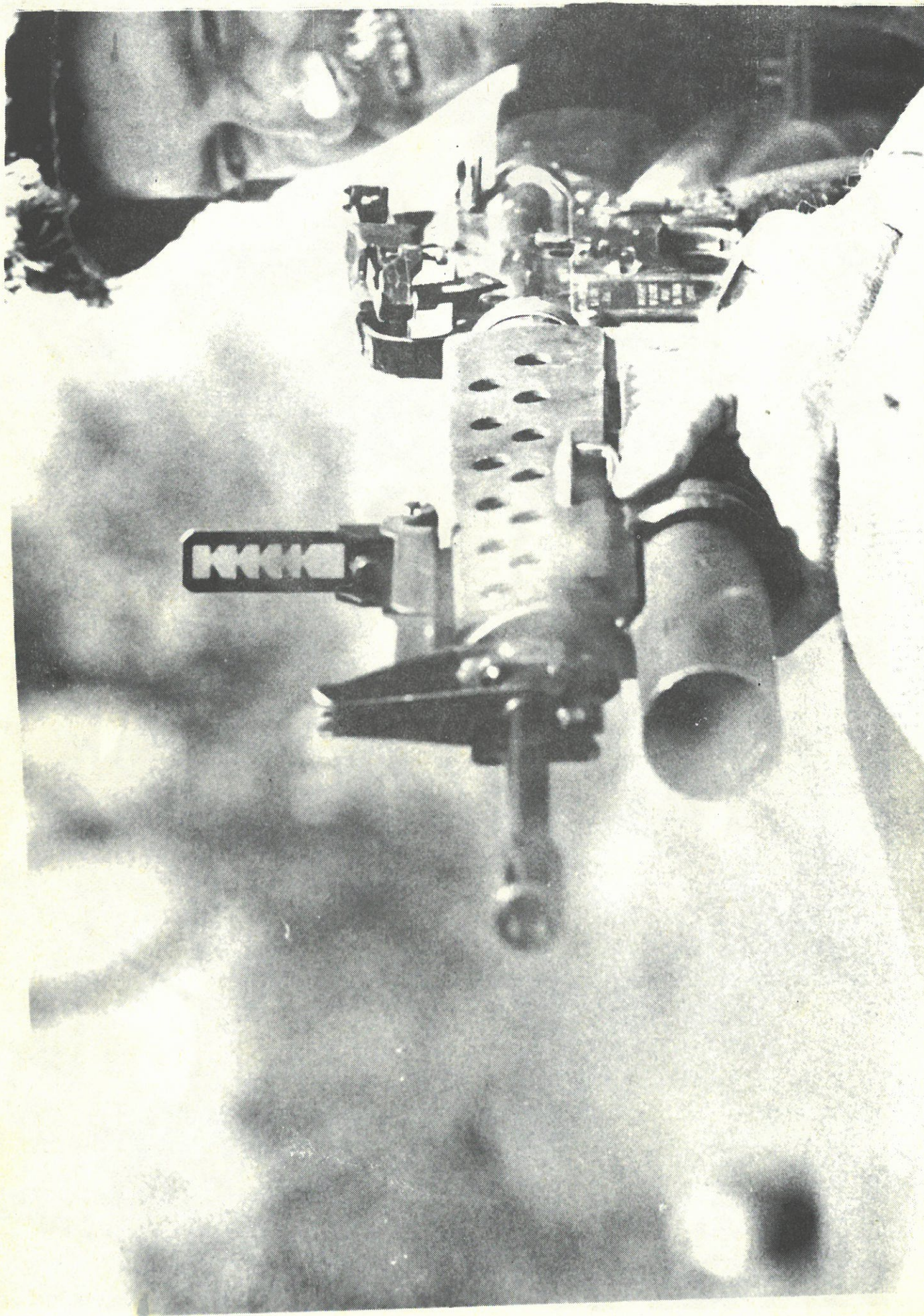


MAJOR-GENERAL SIR DENZIL AND LADY MACARTHUR-ONSLOW



MAJOR-GENERAL SIR DENZIL AND LADY MACARTHUR-ONSLOW















THEY ARE OUT THERE SOMEWHERE

R
H As a condition of an agreement reached between representatives of the British and Rhodesian governments and the Patriotic Front, Britain was to send a military group to Rhodesia to monitor a ceasefire prior to an election. The British government asked for assistance from within the Commonwealth. Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Kenya agreed to send troops.

O In Nov 79 150 members of the Australian Army were warned for overseas service in Southern Rhodesia. The operation, officially named DAMON, was the monitoring of the ceasefire agreement, arranged at the Lancaster House Talks, so that free and fair elections could be held during Feb 80, leading up to Rhodesia gaining independence within the British Commonwealth.

E The Australian contingent consisting of a HQ Group, a Commissioners Group, four Assembly Point Groups and numerous JOC and Sub-JOC Groups were brought together in early Dec 79 and after some hectic training, a spot of leave, and every possible delay, departed Australia on the 22 Dec arriving in Salisbury on Christmas Day. The contingent was immediately sent to a transit camp for final briefing and kitting out. The ceasefire was to come into effect at midnight on the 28 Dec and all groups had to be in position by that time.

A The ceasefire was to last seven days to allow Patriotic Front (PF) personnel to reach the assembly points scattered throughout the country. After the ceasefire those PF in the assembly points were administered by the Brits from Salisbury. They were free to go anywhere within the assembly point, but if they left the defined area they were considered fair game by the security forces. On arrival at the various RV points the PF were counted and then escorted to the assembly point. To be allowed into an assembly point each PF member had to have a weapon. In some areas they had an immediate response, in other areas it was four or five days before they began to arrive. At the end of the seven days over 16,000 PF had entered the assembly points.

Rhodesia was divided into six AOs, with the majority of Australians serving in AO THRASHER situated on the north and north eastern border. A total of sixteen assembly points were scattered throughout the country. All assembly points were open at the start of the ceasefire, however two were closed and the PF were taken to another point.

Although the contingent was split, with approximately half with the security force in JOC or Sub-JOC locations and half in the assembly points with the PF, our roles were similar and rules of engagement were the same. An example of our roles is as follows:

JOC. To keep tabs on RSF and BSAP in JOC and look after Sub-JOC.

Sub-JOC. Monitor movement of PF into RV and assembly points.

Monitor and report on RSF operations.

PEACE KEEPING

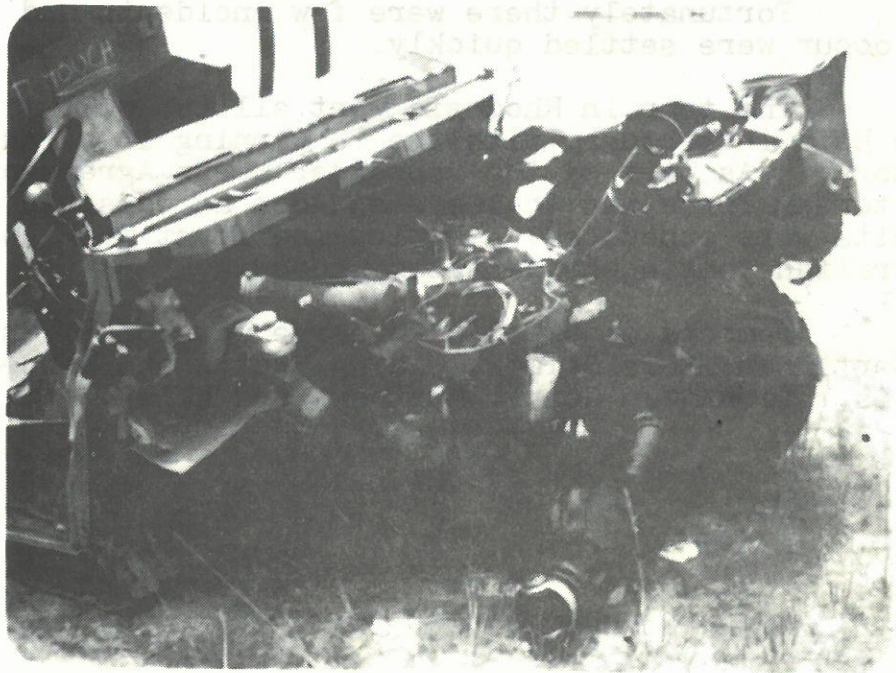
SUB JOC



MINE INCIDENT

BRITISH LANDROVER

(ANTI-PERS)



PUMA

Sub-JOC. Monitor and report and investigate allegations against PF.

Monitor and report and investigate allegations against RSF.

Monitor and report actions of BSAP.

Liaison with local civilian authority in relation to monitoring force activities.

Assist in supervision of election - with British bobbies.

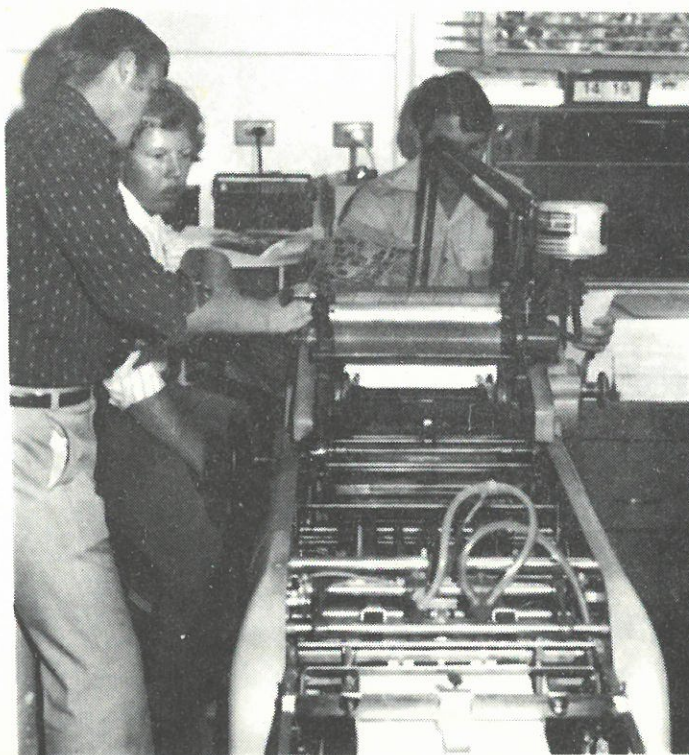
Assembly Area. To monitor and report on activities in our own particular areas.

To assist in the administration of the PF.

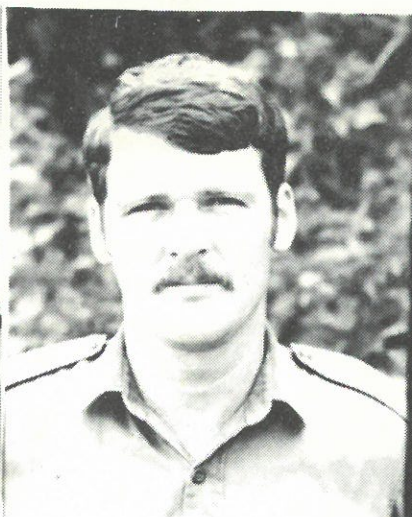
Fortunately there were few incidents and those that did occur were settled quickly.

The tour in Rhodesia went all too quickly. Elections were held in February with the PF winning in a landslide victory. As part of the Lancaster House Agreement the monitoring force was to leave as soon as possible after the results were announced. During the first week in March the Australian contingent departed Rhodesia.

Members of 8/9 RAR to serve were: CAPT Smith; LT Mortensen; SGTs Selmes, Olding, Watts and Kennedy; CPLs Wallis, Cochrane, Geary, Matthews and Kelly.



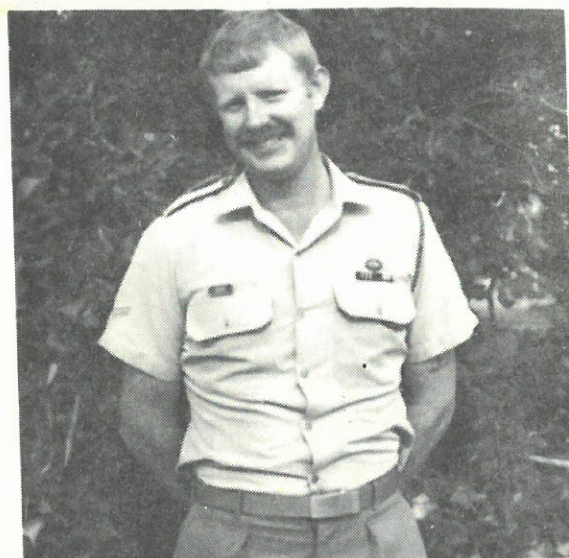
The crew..... CPL John Bell (Production Manager),
Noel Griffin (Head Printer) and CAPT Dave Simmons
(Director and Department Manager).



The Production Section.....PTE Andy Smerdon and
PTE Greg Lynch (Draftsman), PTE Mark Irving (Photographer).



Our beautiful 'hands'



LCpl Bob Day...OC Luxacopy
(photographic plate development)



Our own graphic artist.....a man of many talents