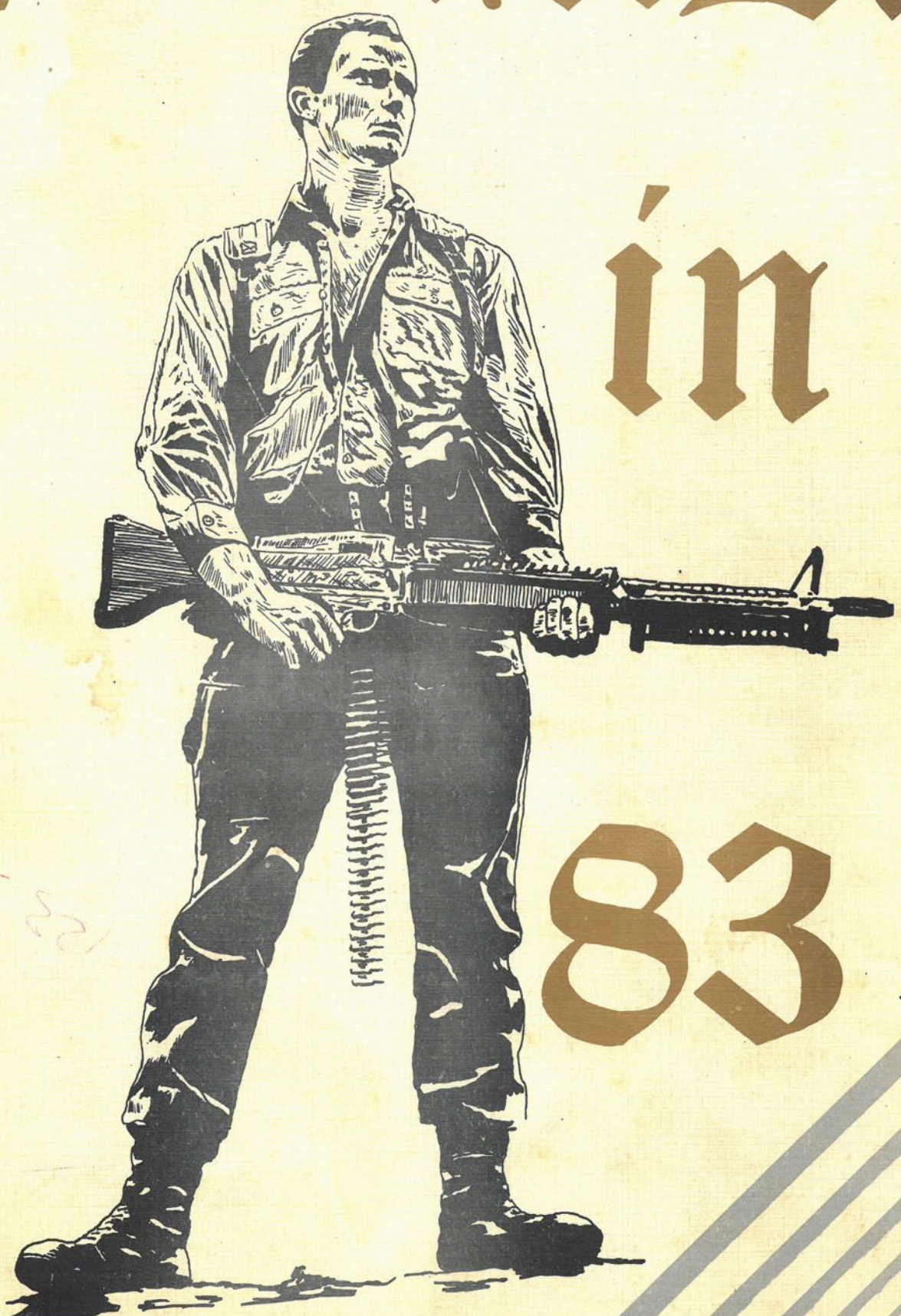


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8/9 RAR

in



83

Foreword By The Commanding Officer.

Lt Col R. E. Thornley



1983 has been a full year for the Battalion, although not as hectic as the previous year which included the Commonwealth Games and the prolonged support requirements they entailed.

This year each of the rifle companies trained at Tully or Canungra - C Company visited Hawaii and A Company is presently in Malaysia. The Battalion completed live firing training at Wide Bay and Shoalwater Bay, and a unit defence exercise and brigade training also at Shoalwater Bay.

In sport the Battalion has done well although at times being over-shadowed by 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, a situation we must reverse in 1984.

With further development of the RAMS Retreat during the year, and the officers and senior non-commissioned officers established in their respective new Mess annexes, the facilities for social activities in the Battalion are now good. I encourage soldiers and their families to make full use of these facilities now and in the future.

Without the support of families, the morale of many soldiers and hence the whole fabric of the unit would deteriorate. At this Christmas time I want to particularly thank the families of the men of the Battalion who have put up with husbands working odd hours and being away from home for extended periods. This is and always will be a feature of life in a battalion. The continuing support of families is essential for us to be able to do our job properly.

I wish all members of the Battalion, and their families a happy and safe Christmas. To those on reposting to new appointments, you take the good wishes and the thanks of the Battalion with you. For the future, I look forward to a worthwhile and enjoyable New Year of soldiering in 1984.

R. E. Thornley

Foreword By The Regimental Sergeant Major.

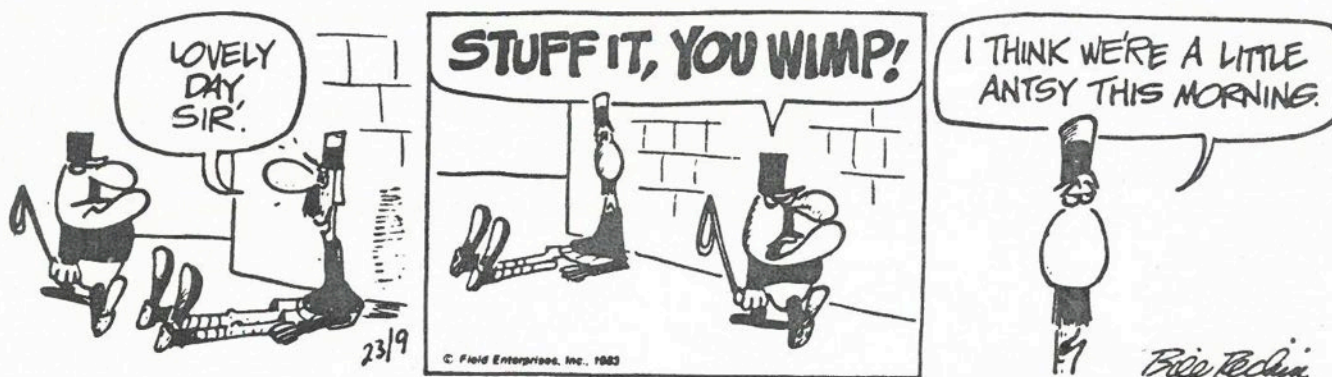
WO1 W.J. Burns

1983 has once again been a busy and demanding year for us all. We have worked hard, long hours not only in the field but at home as well. The one thing overall that has impressed me about 1983 in the Battalion (and it is not the Rugby result as some of you may think) has been the energy, dedication and basis of purpose that you individually or collectively have displayed in all of your soldierly activities.

There has been a great deal of turmoil this year in our training activities, but I believe that we have hence attained most of the objectives that have been set. Next year I believe we can look forward to a period of consolidation, starting training with the emphasis on individual, section and platoon level skills before moving onto Company and Battalion level training in the latter part of 1984. I am convinced that not only will it be a satisfying and rewarding year but it will be done to the '8th/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Standard'.

1983 has seen the move of the Senior Non-Commissioned Officers from the 'Old' Sergeants' Mess to the 'New'. A large amount of the help and assistance from within the Battalion and for that I, as Regimental Sergeant Major, thank you.

It is with a great deal of regret that I leave not only the Battalion, but the Regiment, at the end of the year. I cannot truthfully say that my years in the Regiment have always been easy, satisfying or rewarding but they have formed the greater part of my adult life and if you, the soldiers of the Battalion spend the same amount of time in the Regiment as have I, meet and serve with great mates, experience a taste of infantry war, teach younger infantry soldiers and then become a Battalion Regimental Sergeant Major, you will achieve fulfillment.



The Major Activities Of 1983.

28 February 1983

Long Hai Memorial Service

25 April 1983

Anzac Day

March to April

Company Training Tully
(The Field Force Battle School)

15 to 25 May 1983

Exercise LEADEN LIFT 83

May 1983

Exercise PACIFIC BOND 83
(C Company)

21 July to 17 August 1983

Exercise DIAMOND DOLLAR 83

November 1983 to February 1984

Butterworth Duty (A Company)
Sports

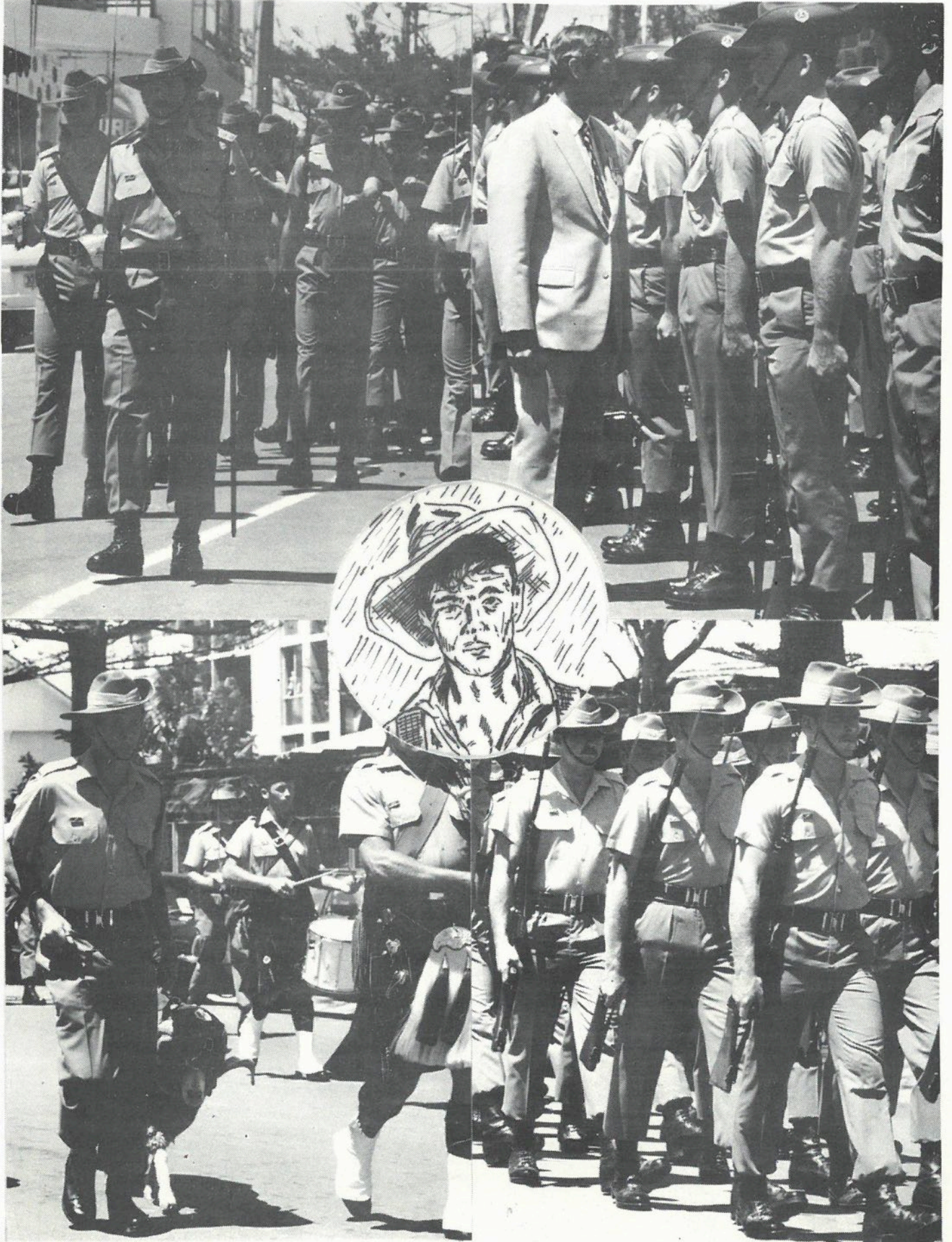


Ceremonial

Armed Forces

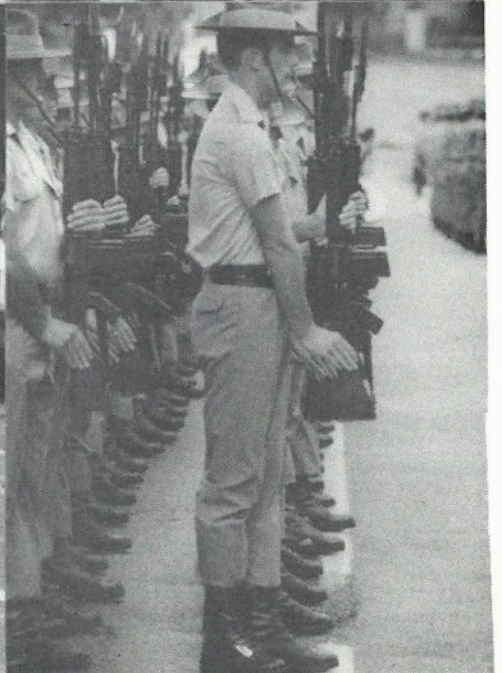
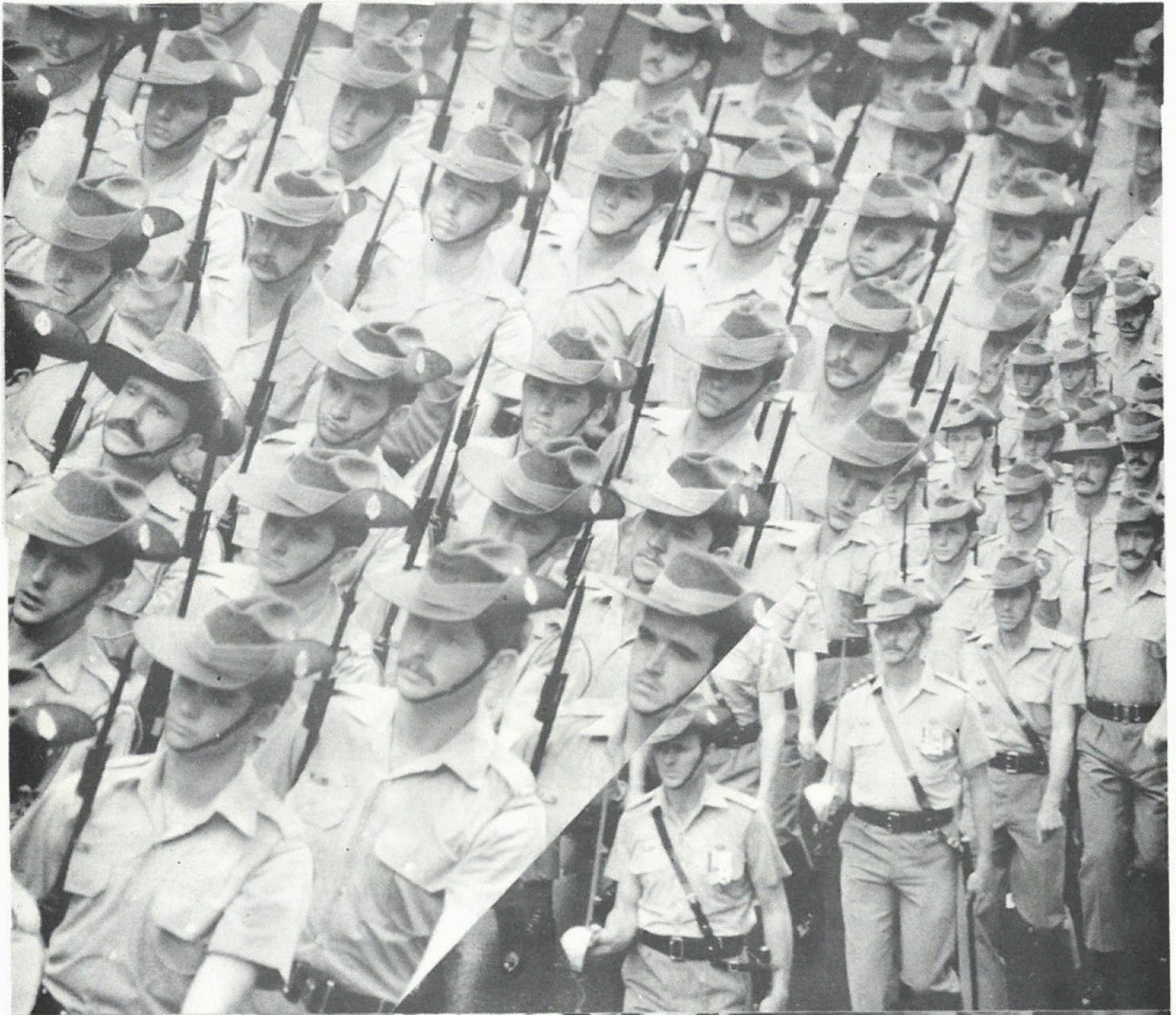
Long Hai'

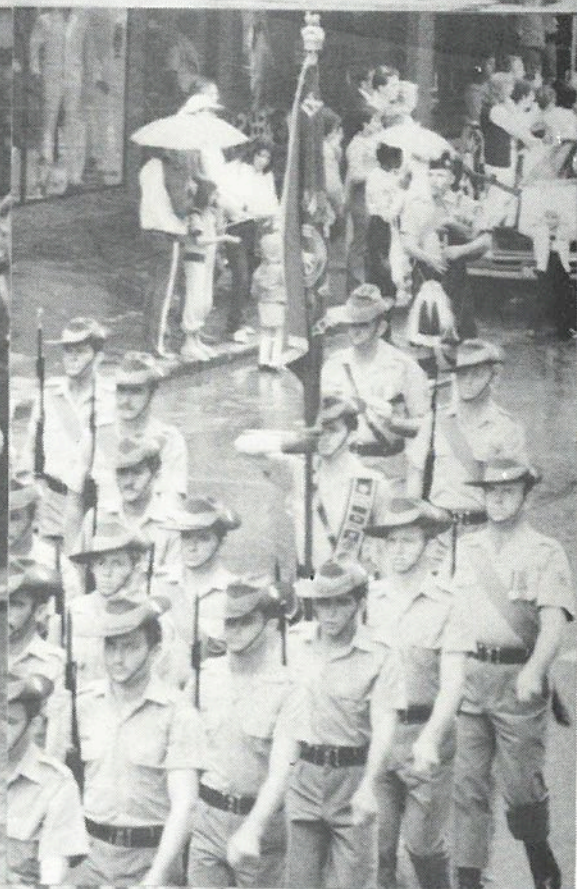
Memorial Service.



ANZAC Day

25 APR 83





THE BIG ONES



TULLY



A Coy at the Field Force battle school

A Company left with tears and jeers from the rest of the battalion to brave the jungle at the Field Force Battle School Tully and their two week basic course. Our friendly RAAF counterparts provided a congenial Hercules flight to Townsville, where we were met by 35°C heat, grey skies and the smiling faces of the Battle School staff. A night in Townsville provided the last relaxation and look at civilization for some time to come.

With the rising of the sun came 9th Transport Squadron and their trucks - the rain had covered the road in 5 to 10 cm of water. It seemed that the rain would hold out on us, but alas, the clouds came in more ways than one. The trucks stopped and the directing staff started, and so did the rain. We packed what seemed to be endless rations and set out on what was called 'a little walk' to introduce us to Tully terrain. After 6 km, rain, a whopper of a hill, lots of jungle and more rain we emerged into what seemed to be an open and civilized area - with buildings! Our base for the next fortnight.

The company was soon introduced to the Battle School staff - the Regimental Sergeant Major laying down the law, and the Commanding Officer telling us what life is like up in the clouds. Following the introductions the work began, and for the section and individual soldiers it was a time of learning, relearning and adapting our techniques to jungle warfare. Activities covered everything from weapon handling, sneaker lanes and night ambushes to navigation exercises, patrolling, and the famous assault course.

We were lucky as far as weather went, with light rain on the first four days and an absolute downpour for 15 minutes on the second last day, leaving our newly occupied night location under inches of water. There were cries at the time of 'I didn't know that it could rain so hard, so much, so fast'. At the end of the course we were all aggressive, trained ready to go and eager to stay in the area for a further period - see what the heat and rain does to you - but alas the time had come to depart, and it was all over bar the shouting and the barbecue.

Our return trip was somewhat more luxurious in coaches, and as we saw the gloomy faces of B Company about to embark on what we had just completed, a smile came to our lips as the bus slowly pulled away, and that was A Company and the Field Force Battle School for 1983.

- REMEMBER:
- . The Assault Course (again and again)
 - . 1 Platoon - strange noises at stand to in the squat
 - . 3 Platoon - ??????
 - . The little walk on the last day (and the smiles at the end
 - . The beer that the directing staff didn't win
 - . That ^(and did) ambush is murder, and murder is fun



B. Coy at The Field Force Battle School

On the 21st of March, 6 Platoon as part of B Company left Brisbane bound for that great jungle training centre in the north - Tully. After an uneventful trip by C130 we arrived in Townsville at 1900 hours and were taken in trucks to Lavarack Barracks. After enjoying the night life of the place we awoke eager (some of us did) ready to tackle Tully. After a somewhat agonizing three hour trip we arrived at the gate of Field Force Battle School where we were greeted by the friendly staff. These nice people loaded us down with ammunition, rations and anything else they could think of. Then it was off on our march-in with A Company who were leaving and giving us a cheery goodbye. Everything went well on the route march-in until we struck the hill; how did they move Heartbreak from Canungra?, we asked, as the effects of the night before started to be felt.

Upon arriving at the base camp they took most of the ammunition off us (the troops were impressed) and we started into the jungle training with abandon for the first five days then we were introduced to the art of jungle warfare. Activities conducted during this period included close reconnaissance where the platoon split into half sections and tried for the most part to keep out of each others way as well as reconnoitring the objective. Section and platoon ambushes were carried out and many a good lesson was learnt that would come in useful at a later date. Also of some note was the effort of Private Quinn as lead scout for 9 Section (rumour has it that they are going to issue Private Quinn with a seeing eye dog and a white cane).

Last but not least was the obstacle course which in true 6 Platoon style was a breeze according to the troops. Not so 4 Platoon who enjoyed it so much that they went through it again and again and again. After five days and nights of learning about jungle warfare we were ready to put all to the test in a three day exercise.

Day 1

The ranges were very interesting, realistic and well set up and seen. One memorable experience was Private Budd at the enemy bunker range with his trusty M203. We still have not to this day, figured out where or when the round landed. That night the sections did night ambush, live firing and it was found that night firing was not as easy as was first thought.

Day 2

This involved ambushing and many of the points learned earlier were put to good use in this phase of the exercise. It was during this phase that Private Tobin found that it could be quite costly not to check the position of ones safety catch when leaving an ambush.

Day 3

The platoon moved down the track using GP power and proceeded to do the contact lanes. This lane proved to be very interesting as much value was gained by members of the platoon in the art of close-country warfare. On the 31st we proceeded to do the walk out and besides the normal grumbles and moans the voice heard most was that of the Company Sergeant Major nicely cajoling the platoons to go faster.

Next was the move to Brisbane, and after a mix-up in transport, Field Force Battle School came to the rescue and we were moved to Tully Airport in pouring rain in a mixed bag of vehicles. Ronny RAAF decided not to play: so after much consultation and wizzing around we boarded as many vehicles as could be found and moved to Innisfail to catch a C130 to Brisbane. (Question being asked in the Company - Isn't Innisfail to the north and Brisbane to the South?)

After the heat and rains of Tully, Brisbane was heaven. To sum up - the trip to Tully was a great learning experience for many, especially for the newer members of the Company who had never been to the jungle before.

1. Who was that masked man who had time and space problems when setting an ambush in the base camp phase?
2. Crossroads: That best known location at Field Force Battle School.
3. The Most Hated Person: The person or persons who organized the transport that didn't arrive to take us to catch the C130 home.



1ST DAY AT
TULLY.



5TH DAY IN
TULLY.



2ND WEEK OF
TULLY.



GOING
HOME!



EX LEADEN

LIFT



83

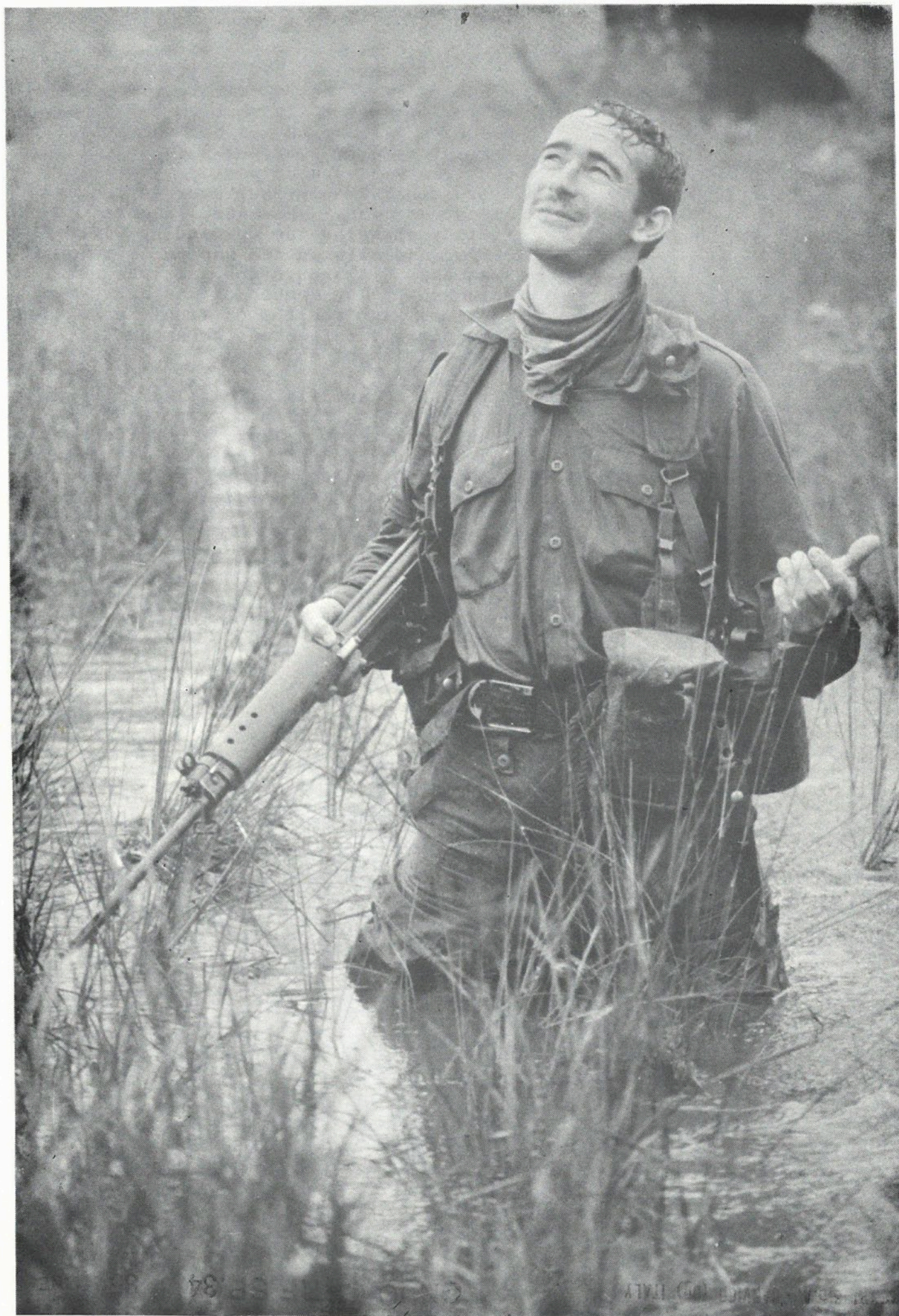
EX LEADEN LIFT 83.

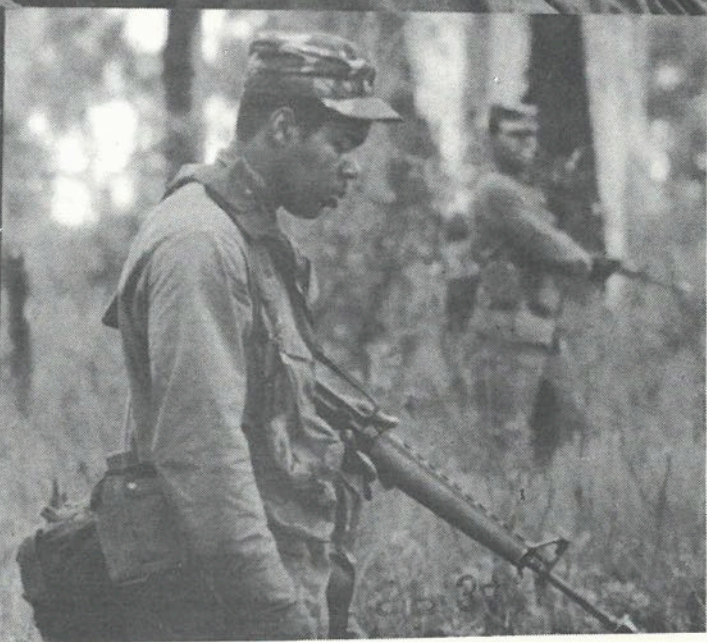
Exercise LEADEN LIFT was conducted at Wide Bay during the period 15 to 25 May 1983 in what we could only describe as adverse weather conditions. For the record, four weeks rain fell in one twenty-four hour period, and nearly every other twenty-four hour period had almost as much. However, 'Hughie' finally answered the Commanding Officer's prayer and allowed the sun to shine on the last day. Although the rain was not welcomed by any member of the unit, morale remained high and the difficult conditions more closely reflected the natural difficulties of war.

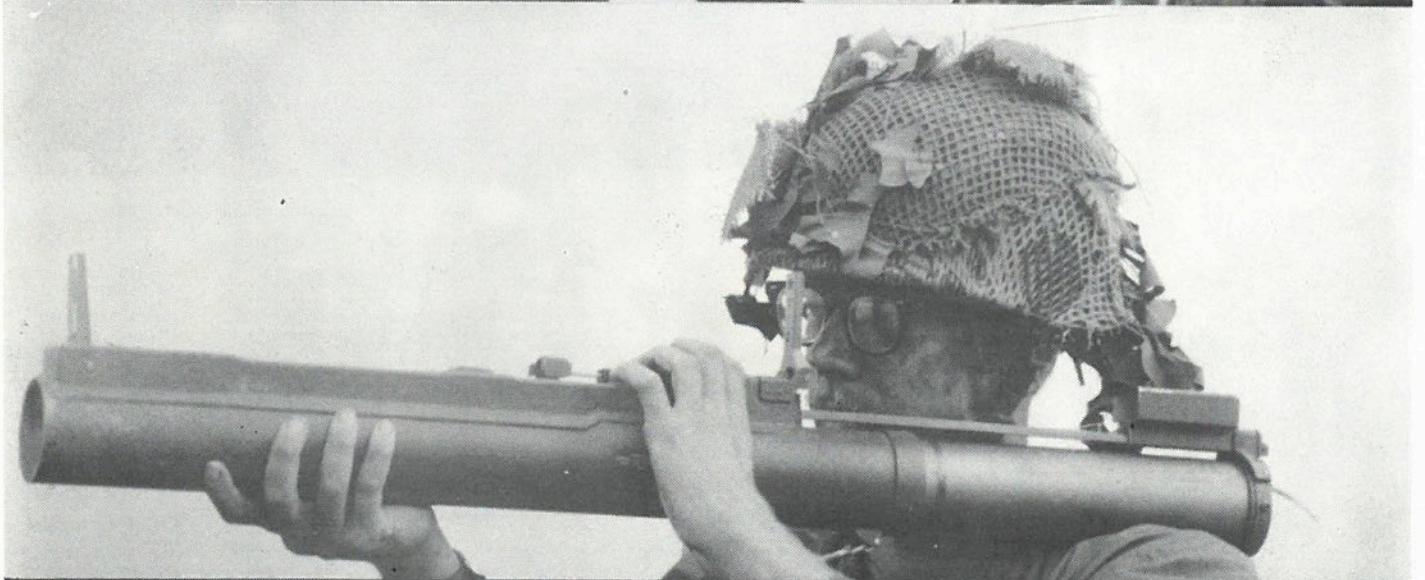
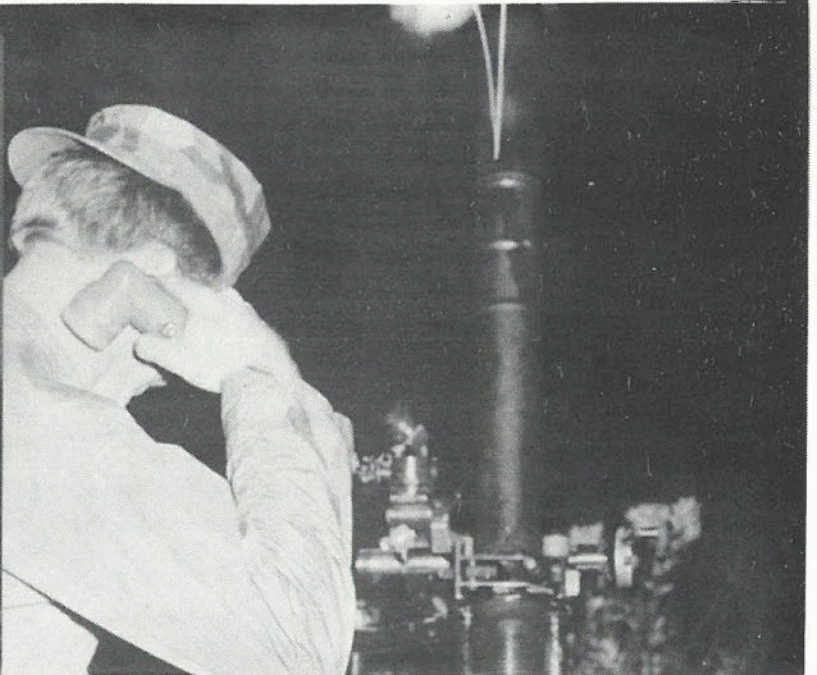
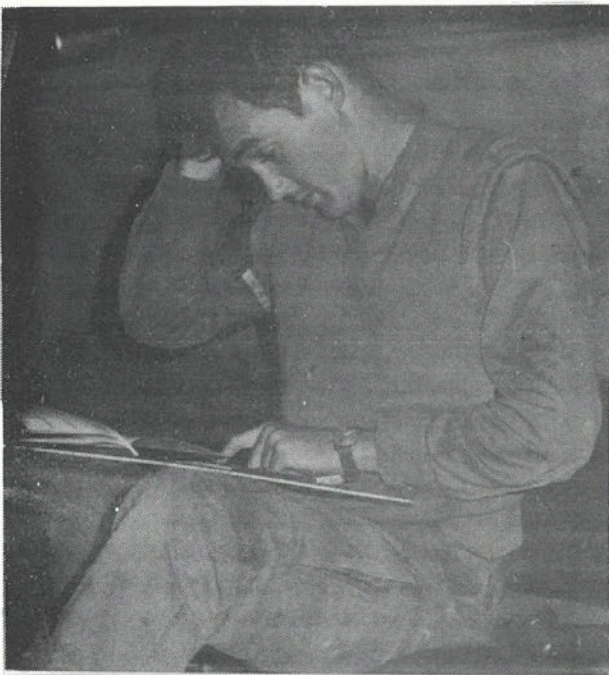
The exercise achieved its aim of practising battlecraft and providing an opportunity to live fire the battalion's weapons, particularly at individual and section levels. The wet conditions however, caused the closure of our assault grenade range and restricted the use of 'dart' equipment on all other ranges, particularly the section fire and movement and attack stands. This greatly detracted from training realism.

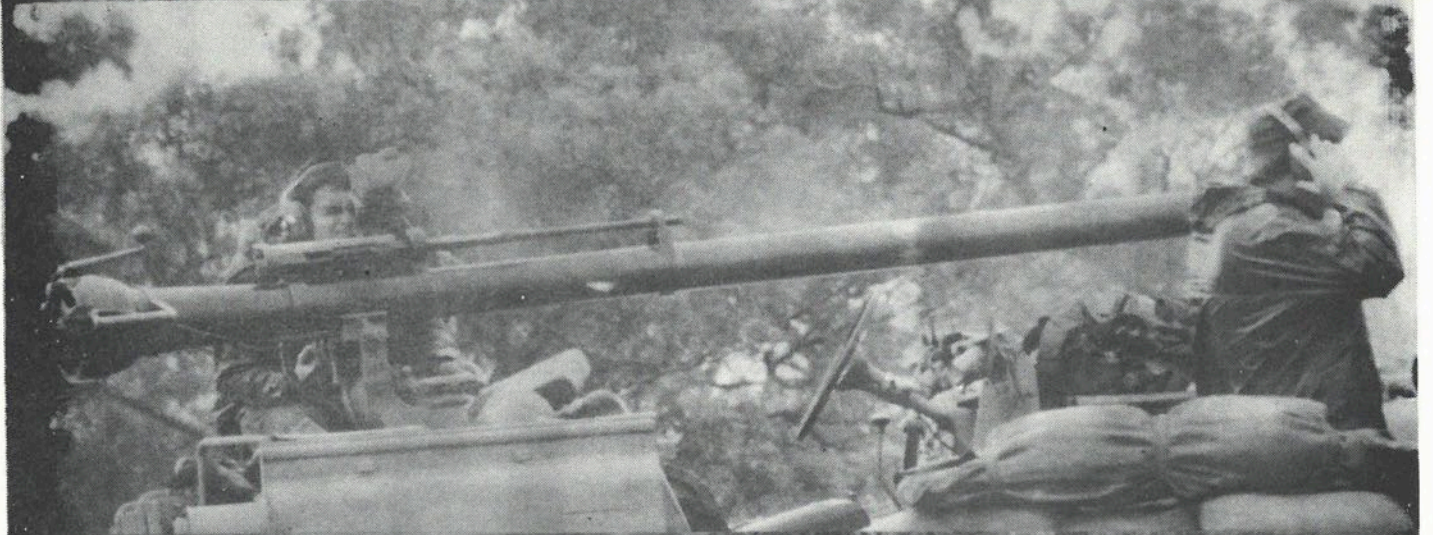
Exercise LEADEN LIFT 84 will be different to the last LEADEN LIFT exercises. It will be conducted in February 1984, and will be aimed at testing a variety of soldier skills prior to platoon and company training at Land Warfare Centre and Field Force Battle School





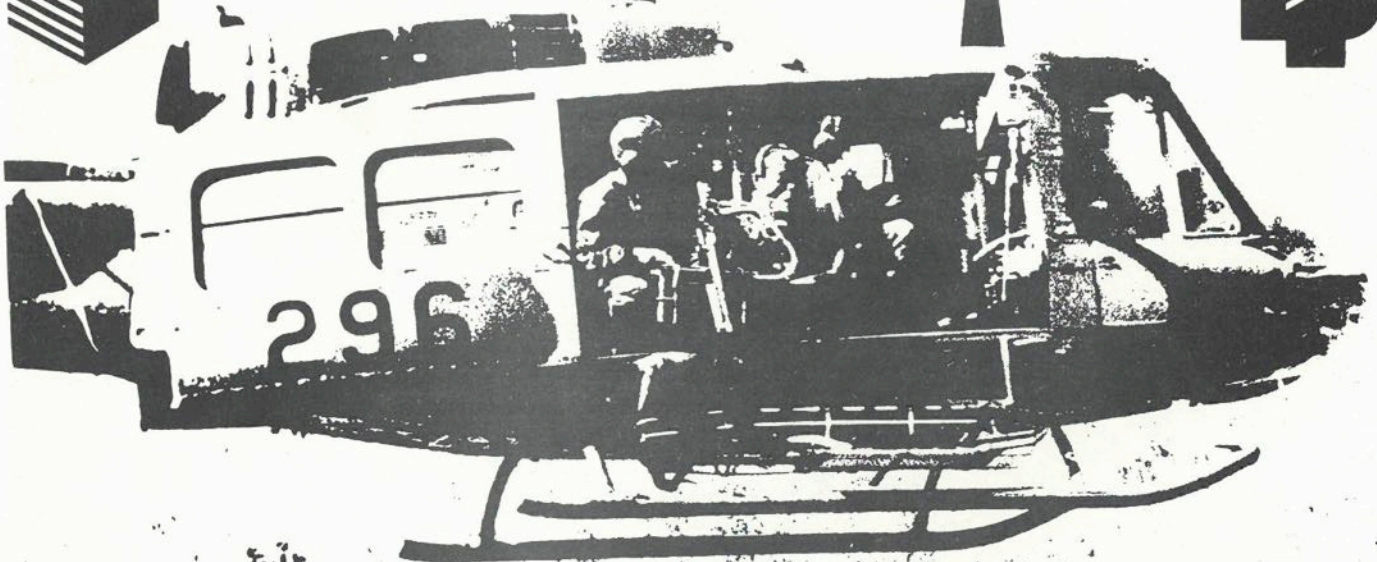








EX DIAMOND DOLLAR



EX, Diamond Dollar \$



Exercise DIAMOND DOLLAR was conducted during the period 21 July to 17 August 1983. To clear up all confusion, it encompassed several other exercises:

- a. Exercise NEPTUNE POND - our trip on HMAS TOBRUK;
- b. Exercise GOLD WEDGE - a defence exercise on a concrete slab; and
- c. Exercise DIAMOND DOLLAR proper, which in itself was divided into two phases.

Exercise NEPTUNE POND will prove to be a sound lead up to Exercise SEA STRIKE programmed for June 1984. The only other thing to say about the trip would be that a second class ride is better than a first class walk - but only just.

Exercise GOLD WEDGE was conducted to 'real' time. Due to constraints of the weather, other units in the area, no go areas for Exercise DIAMOND DOLLAR, and lots of other reasons, we were forced to exercise in the Braeside/Pyri Pyri area. Consequently our exercise was limited to defending the 115 feature - the only defendable piece of ground in the area. As usual our act carried together as we were about to finish our defences. However this gave a sound state for our withdrawal, which went off with only minor time and space problems.

Exercise DIAMOND DOLLAR was an interesting exercise. The bullring of activities was most informative and worthwhile. The standard of food prepared by other units at some stands however left a bit to be desired.

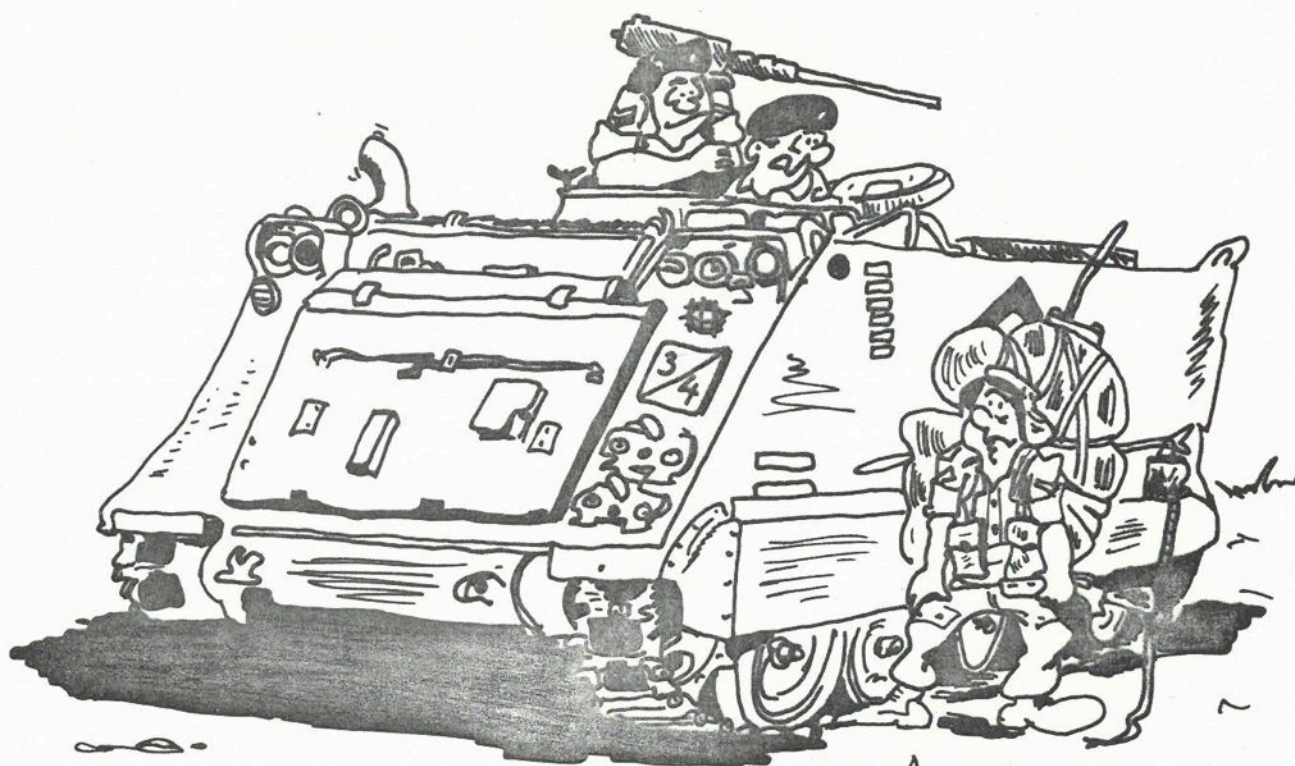
Phase Three was hard work. The enemy, obviously had word of our solid defences at Raspberry Vale, initially decided to advance on the easy route down the North-South road through 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. However we had a chance to bloody their nose when we effectively stopped them on the East-West road. We won the Battle of Pineapple Gap even when hindered by 'out of exercise traffic' moving both ways through our battle, the size of the enemy being hard to imagine, the lack of umpires and a host of other confusing factors. A well controlled and speedy extraction from the exercise area then followed.

Exercise DIAMOND DOLLAR 83 could be best remembered for:

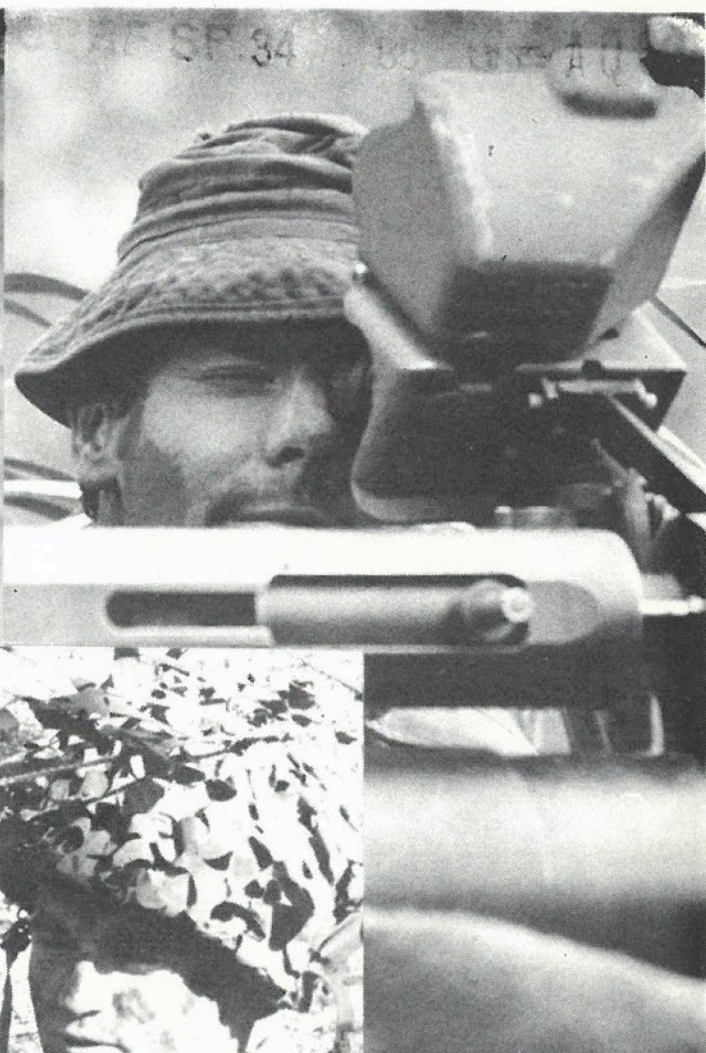
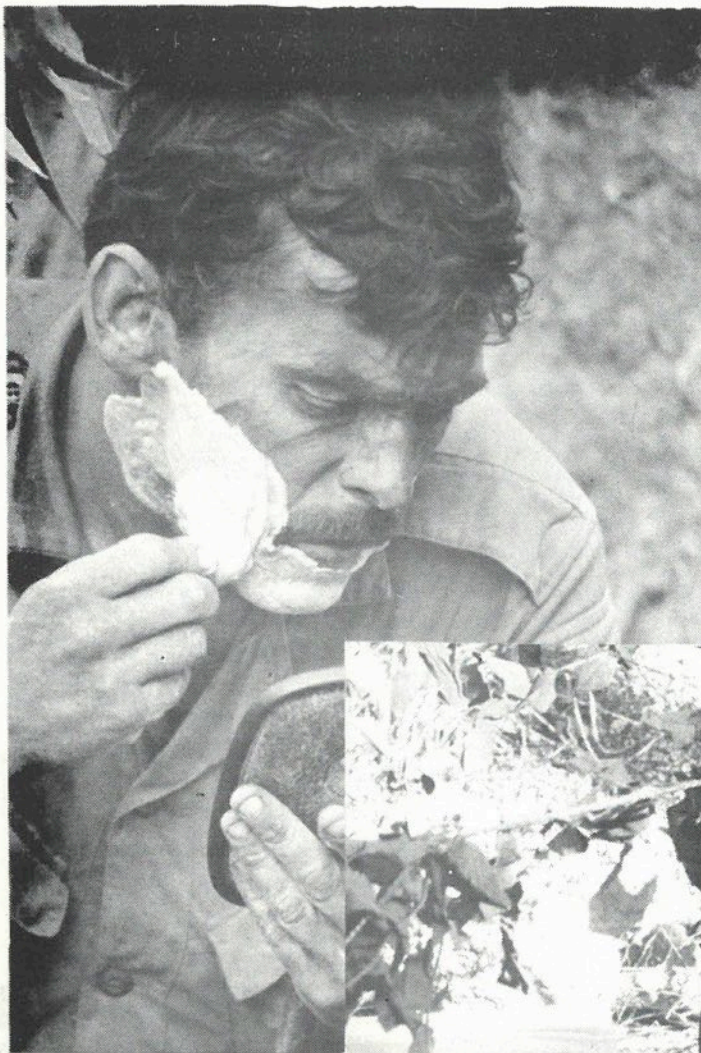
the continual digging,
the mosquitoes,
the good fishing at the start,
the mud at the Engineer stand,
the cheap grog on TOBRUK,
the threat of rain, and
the Regimental Sergeant Major's smile on 15 August,
arriving home.



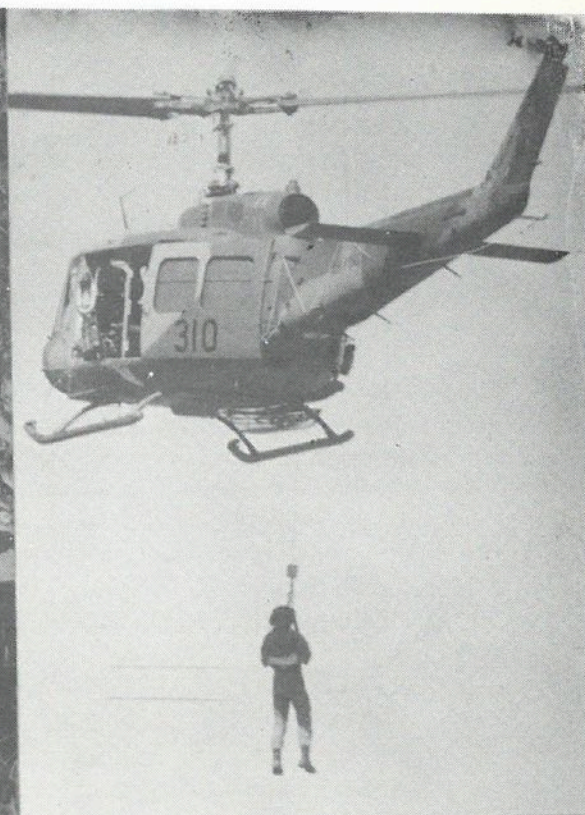
"TAKE IT EASY MUZZIES, YOU COULD HIT THAT TARGET IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL."

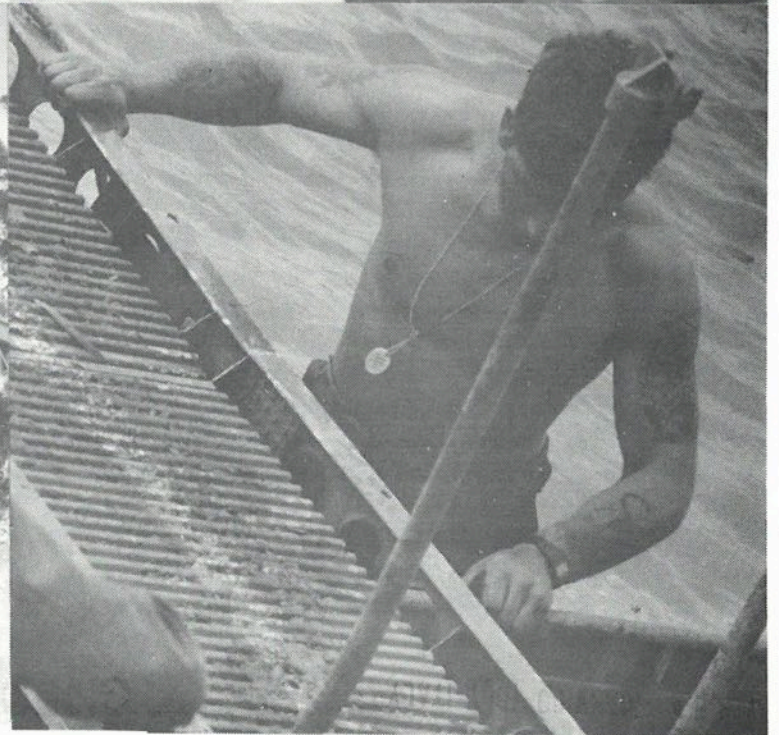
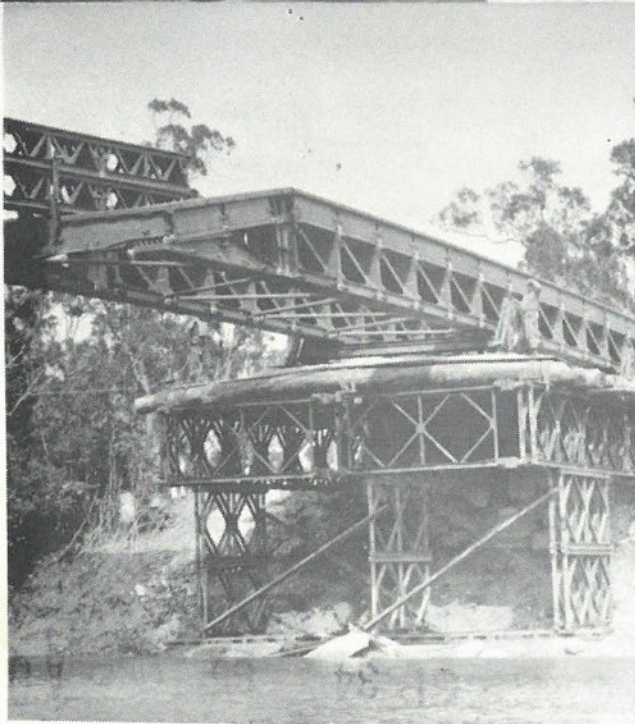
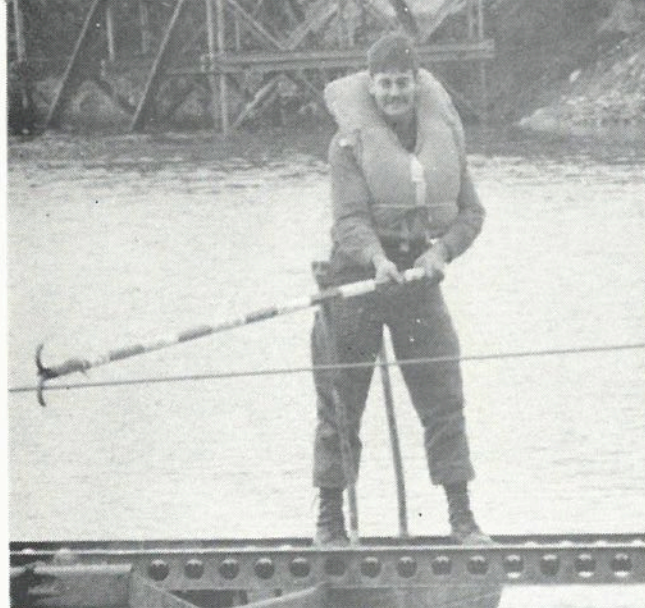
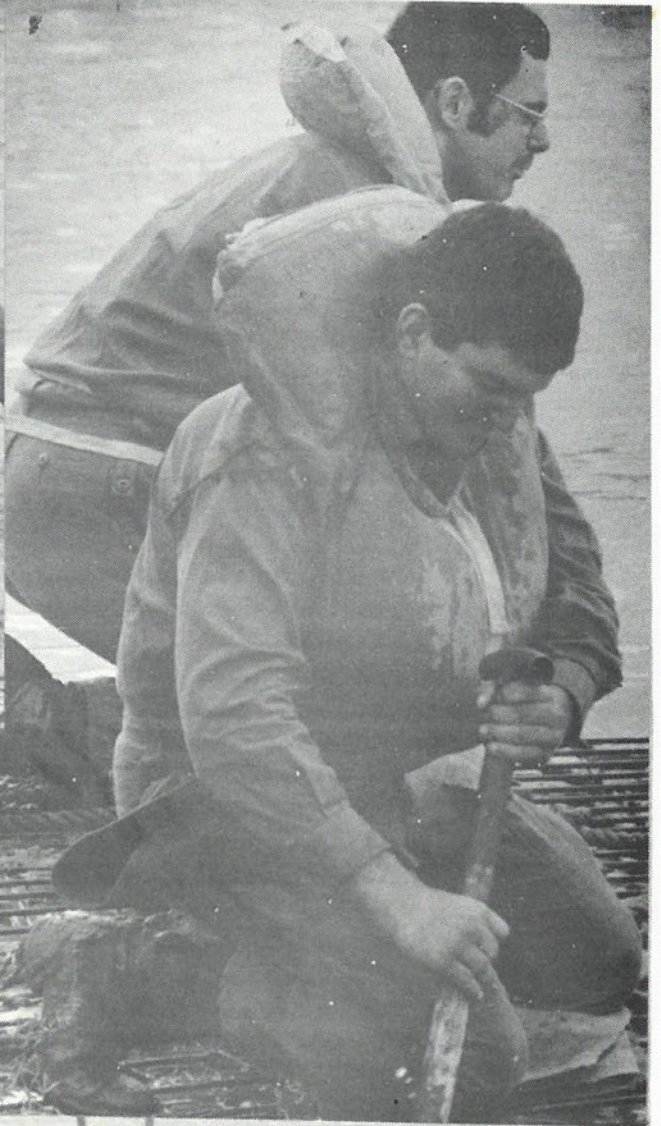


"OUI SQUEEZER! GET YER FLAMIN FOOT OUT UNDER ME NEW TRACKS!!"









Since the 1950s, the Garrison Barracks has undergone a few minor changes, with a farewell to Lieutenant Colonel J.R. Brett and a welcome to our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel R.E. Thornley.

The Pay Office has finally got its act together with RAAOC by sending us qualified Pay Representatives, but some confusion still remains as to when and what days are pay days!!!!

Moving along to the Orderly Room, although personnel still insist on going on courses, short leave and providing the back-bone for rear details, it has still managed to function under the guidance of the Chief Clerk.

The Spies Office was unable to supply any information due to the nature of their work, and has anyone seen Intelligence Section?

Intelligence is really a disguise for a Magazine and Photography Company.

TRIVIA

Rumours that Operations and Personnel do not communicate are not true.

Movements Clerk is always on short leave.

Logistics Clerk Johnno is confused.

The Typist is really a man.

The Assistant Adjutants position is not a stand-in or temporary job.

The Duty Room is not a part of the Orderly Room.

The Commanding Officer likes big birthday presents and surprises.

Operations Officer thrives on returns.

Second-in-Charge is studying to be a Commanding Officer.

Operations phone is not the Rugby hotline.

The Regimental Sergeant Major has a fetish about socks/hats, especially runners.

Corporal Stockwell does work in Battalion Headquarters.



Front Row: CAPT R.A. Brookes, MAJ D.G. Knaggs, LTCOL R.E. Thornley, CAPT D.W. Phillips,
MAJ B.T. Selleck, LT M.B. Matthews, WO2 D.F. McDonald

Centre Row: PTE W.H. Ryan, PTE T.M. Bartlett, SGT J.F. Wall, CPL J.P. Colebertaldo, SGT C.P. Baker,
PTE P.R. Juzulenias, LCPL J.A. Clark, PTE M.D. Flanders, CPL L.A. Johnson, PTE G.A. Wilson,
PTE A.R. Rogers, WO1 W.J. Burns

Rear Row: SGT J.F. Harris, SGT P.B. Stapleton, PTE P.K. Cox, LCPL P. Lazarus, SGT C. Boots,
SGT G.J. Decker, CPL R.C. Stockwell, PTE R.B. Austen, PTE W.J. Schafferius, PTE D.K. Bortio

REGIMENTAL POLICE.

then left for four months of courses. Corporal Steve King, who has always had a thing for travel, completed a job for job handover with Corporal John Colbertaldo so he could put on his sunglasses and go to Hawaii with C Company.

The stalwart of our Section Private Norm Ashby continued on his winning way by keeping the Battalion Mascot out of trouble and annoying the cooks at the Sergeants' Mess. While all this was going on, Private Glenn Wilson sat in the background and waited on his Military Police Course.

We soon got into the swing of things, drivers licence checks, re-painting parking areas and the like. But without a doubt the hardest task we had was trying to think up new excuses to tell Sergeant Stapleton so we didn't have to do PT.

Our first little excursion into the scrub was Exercise LEADEN LIFT III. That exercise found us doing speed checks around the training area and nightly patrols into Wide Bay to check out the Shady Rest Hotel for people who shouldn't have been there. Otherwise we played hide and seek with Transport Platoon.

After returning from the field it was back to the routine of the barracks. Norm was keeping the cooks on their toes, while Spud tried to get hats and chinstraps in their proper places, and Willy waited for his Military Police Course.

Sergeant Harris returned and didn't the paperwork pile in! and with that so did another problem - who's hidden all the Sergeants?

Then came the news that with Willy's impending departure we were getting Private Jeff West from Transport. He marched-in all ready to go and settled in quickly. A strange lad though, he was never satisfied with PT no matter how hard it was. Nevertheless, he made some new friends and now he and Private Dawes from B Company are often seen chatting.

Private Norm Ashby then got the word that Pioneers needed him - what would we do with John MacArther? The problem was solved when Private Spriggs marched-in from C Company. Norm spent a week showing Spriggsy how to hide during the day and what to say to the cooks at the Sergeants' Mess. Needless to say he was a perfect pupil. Meanwhile Willy sat and waited for his Military Police Course.

Then the Section (minus Willy, who conveniently broke his ankle), headed off on the TOBRUK and by road to Exercise GOLDEN WEDGE/DIAMOND DOLLAR. While in the field, Spriggsy tried a new air conditioning system on the Regimental Sergeant Major's hoochie and failed. The Regimental Sergeant Major tried to supplement his combat ration pack with fish and ended up eating corned beef hash. After field it was 10 days well earned leave and back to barracks.

Next year the Section will change again, Sergeant Harris is off to Victoria on promotion, and Corporal Colbertaldo is hopefully going to Mortars. Westy and Spriggsy should still be here and Willy will still be waiting.

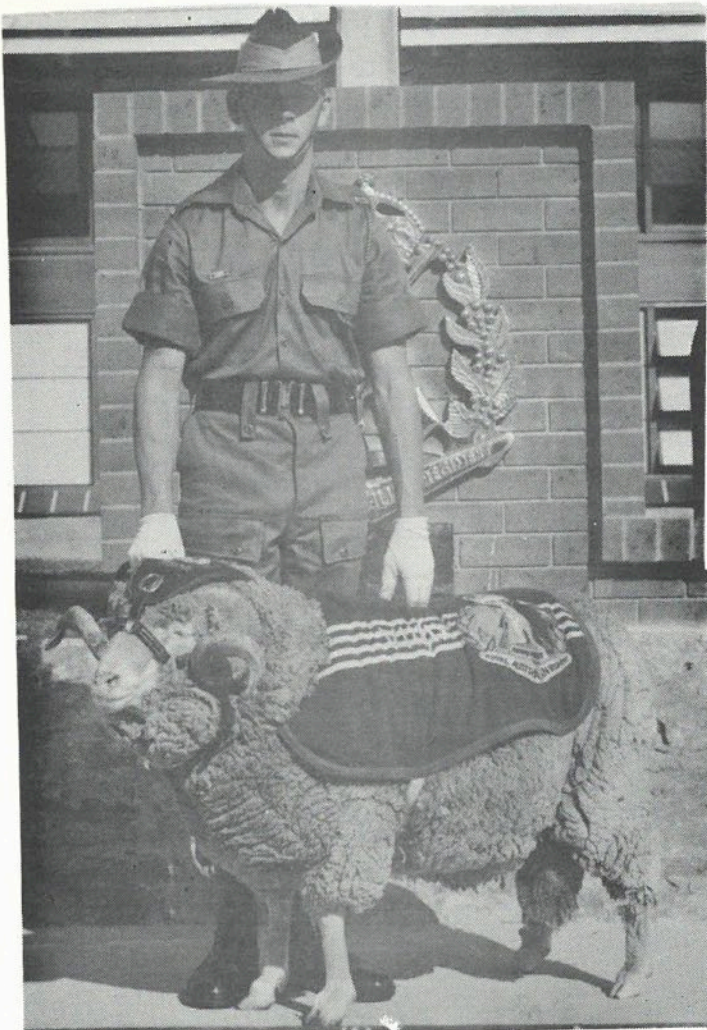
Notable Course Performances

Sergeant Harris: Passing Subject Course for Warrant Officer.
Private Spriggs: Just passing his Drivers Course and getting a Tank Licence.
Regimental Sergeant Major: Failing his Paul Bongiorno Weather Forecasting course and getting wet.



Absent:

Private M.E. Spriggs



**PTE
JOHN
MACARTHUR
II**



J. MacArthur II



Front Row: SGT A.E. Smith, CAPT A.M. Mortensen, MAJ A.L. Casey,
WO2 J.R. Sales, LCPL G.D. Gardiner
2nd Row: PTE G.A. Brown, PTE W.K. Cullen, PTE P.M. Lynch,
LCPL S.B. Cran
3rd Row: PTE A.L. Green, PTE D.J. Schmidt, PTE J.A. Mudge
4th Row: PTE S.D. Ralph, PTE D.S. Tolhurst

Company Security - CPL Rod Speter
(Spt Sect)

LCPL Cran
PTE Mudge
PTE Lynch
PTE Cullen
PTE Schmidt
PTE Brown

Junior Executives - 1 Platoon: 2LT Jim Boubouras (m/i July 1983 replacing 2LT Mark Matthews)
SGT Wally Eaton (Vice, Bob Cross/Golden Gloves and John Jeffers)
3 Platoon: LT Simon Gould
SGT Ross Jones

The A Company report for 1983 is hereby submitted for its shareholders.

Management

The Chairman of the Board can report a substantial turnover in the area of management in the Company. The changes, nevertheless, have not affected the strong performance of the Company in what was a difficult training year.

Chairman of the Board

OC MAJ Tony Casey

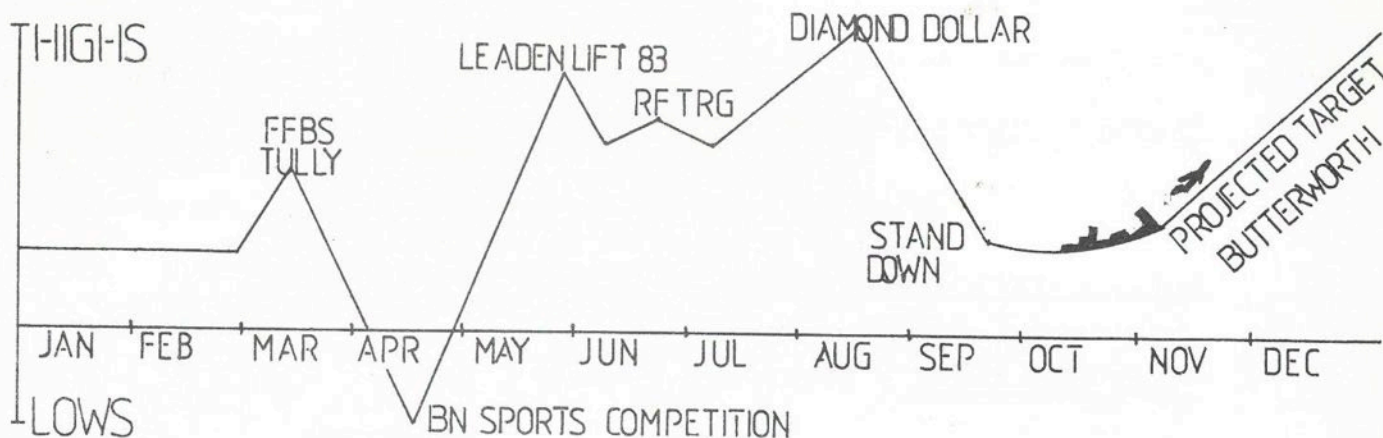
Directors (CHQ)

2IC CAPT Oscar Pereira
CSM WO2 Dale Sales (WO2 Bill Davis retired as Director in June)

Warehousing and Transport
(The Store)

PTE Green
PTE Ralph

(The long serving LCPL Hockley moved as well in June. He got his gold watch).



The Chairman can report a most satisfactory training result for all shareholders. The high points were Field Force Battle School, LEADEN LIFT 83 for live firing, Response Force training and the corporation exercise DIAMOND DOLLAR 83. This fine result is projected to increase up to and including the detachment to Butterworth December 1983 to March 1984.

The Chairman reminds shareholders of:

- * Range Practices - Greenbank (February): 'shooting in the rain' (nine marksmen).
- * LONG HAI DAY march - Surfers Paradise 8 February: ('Is it Anzac Day?')
- * Exercise VINEGAR HILL - 'Lost in the Wilderness' or 'we are here, or here, or even here'.
- * Field Force Battle School Tully - 'This is just one way to do it'. 'The Mark 1 LEO word processor'
- * Battalion Sports - 'It's not winning that counts, but how you play.' (Is he serious?)
- * Anzac Day - Duties
- * LEADEN LIFT - Wide Bay: very wide after 12 days rain and Cyclone Tracy.
- * Response Force Training and the NAVEX - Greenbank/Kenilworth, and please sir can I see your ID?
- * DIAMOND DOLLAR 83 - Shoalwater: holes and patrols; thanks to 2 Troop A Squadron 3/4 Cavalry Regiment and the 'Sally'. 'What's going on?'

and look forward to:

- * Land Warfare Centre Canungra
- * RAAF Butterworth

Company Takeovers

The A Company has made a successful bid to the Support Company for its subsidiary Mortar Platoon, and it now will be known as 2 Platoon. The expanded Company will operate in Canungra and Butterworth.

Thank You

The Chairman wishes to extend appreciation to:

Support Company for the Signallers 'MACK' Mackinnon
'LIZARD' Caldwell

the Morro Fire Controller - Sergeant Bryce

Administrative Company - the drivers and cooks
the Medics - Smokey Dawson

Pipes and Drums - stretcher bearers Rocky
Jenson
Humphries
Lawrenson

2 Troop A Squadron-3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment - a good business relationship.

Conclusion

The Company has shown a substantial profit this training year. We look forward to increasing this with our overseas venture. The Chairman extends his best wishes to the wives and families of all Company members. Be patient and have a happy Christmas season, even without your man.



The year for 1 Platoon began well when it won the inter-platoon swimming contest. Private Tolhurst and his flamboyant diving style (belly flops), provided a talking point for the next few days.

During 16 to 18, and 21 to 22 February, the Company spent five days at Greenbank, qualifying for the 1982 practices. From the Applied Marksmanship Practice came a number of marksmen:

Corporal S.R. Gillespie,
Lance Corporal M.G. Pinker,
Private J.A. Mudge, and
Private R.G. Trebilco.

The 24 February saw A Company come a close second to Support Company in the Battalion swimming carnival.

The first bush exercise for 1 Platoon was Vinegar Hill, which was held during 1 to 4 March. The Platoon was flown in by Chinook and spend four days doing individual, section and platoon training. The trip was remembered for the 'ease' by which navigation was possible through the terrain. The trip was a good primer for Tully!

1 Platoon, as part of A Company was flown to Field Force Battle School Tully by Hercules. After a few hours of trucks, walking, jungle, rain, and mountains, the Platoon arrived at what was to be their home for the following two weeks. The following days were full of action including - weapon handling, sneaker lanes, ambushes, patrolling, attacking, and the famous assault course. At the conclusion of the course, the Platoon was aggressive, trained to kill, and eager to stay in the area for a further period (it just goes to show you what heat and rain can do to a man), but alas, the time had come to depart, and it was all over bar the shouting and the barbecue. The return home by coaches was a luxurious experience, made even sweeter when A Company saw the gloomy faces of B Company moving in to do their two weeks at Field Force Battle School!

11 to 15 April saw the Battalion gladiator week begin. A Company had the spirit and determination, but due to a lot of bad luck we didn't quite make it to the top!

May was the month that Sergeant Jeffers took over as Platoon Sergeant 1 Platoon. It was also the month that our Hawaii detachment (Privates Conroy, Davis and Captain Pereira) left for their hard working holiday.

The annual excursion to Wide Bay Training Area was soon upon the Platoon. The exercise began with four days training in which A Company was pitted against B Company. Four platoons were put at either end of an Area of Operations and were tasked with locating and destroying each other. 1 Platoon decided that looking for their own men (not mentioning any names - Bourke, Mudge), was of higher priority.

During the exercise, the Company found a new depth indicator, our attached umpire Second Lieutenant Tracey from B Company.

After the exercise Sergeant Eaton became the New Platoon Sergeant.

Exercise DIAMOND DOLLAR saw the 'DYNAMIC' Platoon Commander Second Lieutenant Matthews give way to the 'new boy' Second Lieutenant Jim Boubouras, but not before maximum tactical experience was gained at Sabina Point chasing rabbits, fish and other assorted wildlife.

The exercise this year was broken up into three phases:

- a. Battalion Exercise,
- b. bullring system of different stands, and
- c. Brigade Exercise.

The Battalion exercise consisted of defending a hill for four days, and ended up with 1 Platoon losing a total of five sections. Lance Corporal Rozitis, who gallantly sacrificed his standing patrol when they took on an enemy platoon, explained that the reason he engaged the enemy instead of lying low, was because they needed some action.

The zealous efforts of the new Platoon Commander to get blood eventuated in 15 men of 1 Platoon assaulting a dug in enemy platoon (until three guns fired). It appears that the only people that survived those early days were the Platoon Commander and the Platoon Sergeant.

The bullring system introduced the Platoon to a wide range of activities and demonstrations, including a live fire battle run and a tactical air insertion.

The climax of the exercise was the Brigade Exercise which lasted four days. Once again 1 Platoon was in the thick of it, with Private Hughes (and his Number 2 Private Clayton and Private Moessinger) taking on three APC in a night harbour, with only a gun (M60). It is actions like these that build empires. Special mention must be made of Lance Corporal Powell and his standing patrol who in the face of overwhelming attacks by wild bulls and horses, held ground until ordered back.

Before anyone realized, the war was won and another DIAMOND DOLLAR was over. The Platoon regretfully boarded the homeward bound Hercules and headed for civilization.

The immediate future for 1 Platoon is looking good, with our trip to Malaysia coming up in November.

All in all it has been a pretty good year for 1 Platoon, with a lot of lessons being learned and a lot of fun being had.



Front Row: CPL R.A. Jarvis, SGT W.R. Eaton, 2LT J. Boubouras
 CPL S.R. Gillespie, CPL P.D. McCurdy
 2nd Row: PTE W.T. Mitchell, PTE S.M. Hughes, PTE P.F. Clayton,
 PTE J.E. Ward, LCPL K.J. Powell
 3rd Row: PTE T. Abbondandola, PTE P.L. Campbell, PTE P. Gouios,
 PTE D.J. Hamilton, PTE N.J. Allport
 4th Row: PTE G.M. Blyth, PTE D.S. Mitchell, PTE R.J. Vandenhurk,
 LCPL M.W. Briggs
 5th Row: PTE D.J. Longridge, PTE P.G. Grant, PTE M.R. Woodforth
 6th Row: PTE L.T. Moessinger, PTE S.W. Bourke, PTE B.M. Jones
 Absent: LCPL S.T. Rozitis, PTE C.L. Hill, PTE C.U. Wood

Seco	
Serg	
Corp	
Corp	
Corp	
Lanc	
Lanc	
Lanc	
Privat	
Privat	
Privat	
Private Campbell	
Private Clayton	- The soldier have a soldier
Private Conroy	- What are you c bassbroom you
Private Hill	- Spothight - h
Private Hughes	- What's that buzzing in' your pack, Private Hughes?
Private Hamilton	- Keg hamo!
Private Johnson	- Goes to court but doesn't play tennis
Private Jones	- But I thought we started at 7!
Private Lawson	- More than a mouthful
Private Longridge	- Johnson's doubles partner
Private W.T. Mitchell	- Can you find your way to the Officers' Mess?
Private D.S. Mitchell	- 'Every which way but loose'
Private Moessinger	- Has been seen walking sideways
Private Tolhurst	- Walked from HMAS TOBRUK to Sabina Point
Private Ward	- 'Combat Wombat'!
Private Wood	- Are you sure you're not a Kiwi?
Private Woodforth	- But the question is - 'How many mirrors does he own?'
Private Vandenhurk	- Vandy, our Flying Dutchman!

The year started off with a bang at Greenbank Ranges where, despite the worst rains since Noah's time we were able to qualify four of the older brigade for 'crossed rifles'. We still wonder how Arthur can see that far down range when he can't see the type of girl he is taking out.

Before we knew it we were being choppered off to Gatton for Company training. The place was steep but we managed to miss most of the hills. I heard people saying that 'me compass is being thrown out by these rocks' although we were only misplaced twice. Not even shots in the air could save us. However we did manage to string up our enemy with Corporal Ewarts tight rope.

Next we were off to conquer Northern Queensland. A little known resort quaintly called Club Med Tully. At this stage we didn't have our ace jungle killer Harry, but we still breezed our way through the two weeks. Some let more than most wave in the breeze, hey wobbles (on the monkey bars). Snake and Arthur were exempt most of the observation activities being ex mango's and the boss got tonsilitis, possibly because of a lack of Cherry Ripes. 7 Section (sometimes known as 'gun') couldn't get over the obstacle course in the required time much to the delight to everyone else.

Everyone loved Tully's Second in Charge:

Second in Charge Major Robertson : What's this?

3 Platoon Member : Dunno sir!

Second in Charge : It's shit, what is it?

3 Platoon : Shit, sir!

Second in Charge : and what about this one?

3 Platoon : er ..., that's shit too sir.

Second in Charge : No it's not, it's dirt and rust!

A certain Section Second in Charge met his relatives up there, lying under his hootchie that he had laid on the ground. Fortunately he was saved by Corporal Leo but still bounced back by scaring Wobbles to death. Of course the same trick didn't work on Platoon Headquarters.

Jack and others kept us on our toes and we had a quiet snicker as we drove off as B Company 'rolled up' to start the walk in.

Gladiator week showed 3 Platoon providing the bulk of the Company's teams. Pat Pierini amazed us with his ball sense, Grockes killed them on the footy field and Tietzy showed us that Germans are more than just fighting men. Nico and Siggy tried their hand at Australian Rules and someone else was heard to say 'I won't be a jockstrapper!'.

Anzac Day was a disappointment as the bulk of the Platoon were on duties. Still Nico did his best at hiding his nerves at the Dawn Service.

Sergeant Jones took the Platoon to LEADEN LIFT as the Platoon Commander was busy with footy, along with Snake. By now we had lost Corporal Stannard and Speter to Recruit Training Battalion and courses, and Corporal 'Lawrie' Nagele and Lance Corporal 'Fossil' (Cowboy to his mates) Jones had stepped in as replacements. Both are very experienced and known pacifists, but even they couldn't stop Arthur's resupply party getting lost. We don't know who was responsible for all the rain but Davo was laughing about it in Hawaii with C Company.

After that amount of work it was time for a holiday as most people took 10 days Basic Recreation Leave before the assault on the Response Force and another excursion to Greenbank. Again we were washed out and DIAMOND DOLLAR was starting to look sketchy.

The weather picked up and we boarded HMAS TOBRUK to Pauli Billsborough and his one man show (I bet he didn't learn that on his Pioneer Course). Some anticipated the trip as a rough one and never stepped aboard. Jonesy (Sergeant) said 'my hearts too weak for this', Hemerik was too busy with weddings, and Broken Nose was making himself beautiful. Rocky was there, without his hair, and had been practising his telephone answering voice.

Everyone was glad to reach land because they were sick of going around in circles in the little prawn trawlers. The initial training was relaxing except for Lawrie's unarmed combat course, although the writing was on the wall about Cowboy's mail at this early stage.

The Battalion Exercise could be described by a few songs:

- a. Solid Rock - Bert and Davo;
- b. (1,2,3,4,5) Sections Working on the Wire - 7 and 9 Sections; and
- c. Untitled Lullaby - Mobile Fire Control, Signals and Rear Protection

We managed to capture some enemy kit due to a bit of aggressive work by Cootie on the gun whilst the enemy's fire and movement was critiqued by Platoon Headquarters.

At last the Battalion Exercise was over and it was off to the dreaded Bullring. The Engineer's were amazing (a poor mans substitute for Pioneers) and we were most disappointed when their bridge collapsed. Most other stands were prejudged by the food they provided. We had plenty to do at night cleaning up after 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment ... maybe it's fitting that they have a dog as a mascot!

The Brigade Exercise has been aptly put to words by Radar:

LIFE'S A PIT

Dig! Dig! Dig! your life away
Quit bitching soldier!
This'll save your skin someday!
Keep going till 4 ft 6 in you reach
Bet you're wishing you never left the beach
Your pit's all finished, time for a brew
'Get your gear on we're moving in a minute or two!'
Five hours later still sitting there
Wondering why you signed up and sacrificed your long hair
The enemy's coming so's the sallyman
Pick up your rifle and as many bikkies as you can
Jump into your pit and get ready to kill
Too late - you're ordered dead - against your will.

With the preparation for adventure training and Butterworth underway and the continued presence of the Response Force the platoon has plenty to keep it occupied.

MEMBERS FOR 1983

Boss	-	Picnic bar driven footballer
Jonesy	-	Was he at DIAMOND DOLLAR?
Stannard	-	Ram trainer
Speter	-	Later to go on to command 'hair trigger section'
Ewie	-	Finally got his Pioneer Course
Cowboy	-	Often caught dabbling in high finance
Bob Monk	-	Like a monk-ey over the obstacle course
Tietzy	-	How is my posting to Reconnaissance going?
Snake	-	Cecil B but not ET
Arthur	-	What if his first face lift wasn't a success!

Nigel	-	Sworn to celibacy and refuses to go to pigsville
Coote	-	Never sings could be the next Snake
Bert	-	Get off my back
Davo	-	Always punctual and always into pee-shooters
Sheekey	-	Jogger lips
Gary Lee	-	Always up at 2400 hours to change frequencies
Auckram	-	Has he returned his flak jacket to the Q
Gram	-	Stop the war I've got to go to a wedding
Billsborough	-	Has to be a Japanese spy
Radar	-	Where does the truck leave for this dance?
Piggy Drewry	-	See Nigel (and halve it)
Harry	-	Jungle killer come pool attendant
Ski	-	Sasquatch
Siggy	-	I'm not carrying any radio
Nico	-	Stud - life support system for a bat
Clarke	-	From Stretcher Bearer to Gunner in three months
Kellecher	-	Truckie come back to the line
Wobbles	-	Passed on the Company Headquarters to teach them about life
Spot	-	Don't stand in that, that dog schmidt
Lynch	-	3 Platoon Military Police Support Section Regimental Duties
Cullen	-	'Contact' two friendly troops - oops
Tits Tinley	-	The ears have carried him off to Swanbourne
Lawrie	-	Off to Malaysia again!
Lundy	-	Black ape-shape who defected to B Company



Front Row: CPL L.W. Nagele, SGT D.R. Jones, LT S.C. Gould,
 LCPL D.A. Kelly, LCPL P.G. Jones
 2nd Row: PTE A. Hemerik, PTE D.I. Wiblen, PTE P.A. Billsborough,
 PTE G.A. Clark, PTE T.K. Kelleher
 3rd Row: PTE P.A. Oram, PTE A.R. McCarron, PTE D.A. Innes,
 PTE J. Harris
 4th Row: PTE W.C. Davis, PTE M.J. Birtles, PTE N.B. Clayton,
 LCPL H. Tietz
 5th Row: PTE P.R. Grocke, PTE T.A. Drewry, PTE G.J. Lee,
 PTE S.J. Coote, PTE T.B. English
 6th Row: PTE F.J. Auckram, PTE A.B. Coppock, PTE M.A. Nicolson
 Absent: PTE P.F. Pierini, PTE P.J. Sheekey

The year started on a formal note with an Officer/Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Dining In Night at Greenbank. A handful of mashed potatoes and a pocket full of peas took on new meaning when each constituent of the main course was served in that manner.

After lead up training at Mount Byron and Vinegar Hill the Company embarked on an all expenses paid holiday at Club Med Tully. The Officer Commanding and Company Sergeant Major enjoyed their nature walks, however did complain about the lack of curtains in the Tahitian styled bungalows.

Exercise LEADEN LIFT was the next major adventure involving the Company. Individual skills were now being finely honed. The classic example being Lieutenant Wilkinson whose passion for pyromania developed from skillfully setting fire to his moustache, to ultimately burning his sleeping bag and tweed jacket with the minimum of planning and detailed co-ordination.

Exercise ROPERS RUN saw the first of the heavy casualties. Whilst conducting Officer Counselling, the Company Sergeant Major suffered an injury requiring his evacuation to 1 Field Hospital. Despite his protests the Field Hospital was eventually able to evict him and return him to the Company. It is suspected that this exercise laid the foundation for the Officer Commanding's passion for wire.

With the year half way completed a few notable events occurred within the Company. The new Storeman, Staff Sergeant Love marched-in to assist the Company Quartermaster Sergeant Lance Corporal Herrod. The Second in Charge returned from the Land Warfare Centre completely re-programmed and the B Company Choir performed in a limited engagement at the Chief of the General Staff's exercise.

Exercise DIAMOND DOLLAR was the next major activity for the year - notable events were:

The Officer Commanding demanding wire in kilometres not in mere bundles.
A brief appearance by the Phantom Company Quartermaster Sergeant.
The Company Sergeant Major monsterring lolly eaters and letter writers.
Helicopters disappearing into the night without us.
The Company Sergeant Major fleeing towards a helicopter which did land, leaving the Officer Commanding in the dust.
The remake of the retreat from Mons, starring The Keystone Kops, and more wiring.

Quotable Quotes

'We'll have no dingoes in this camp' - Officer Commanding whilst wiring.

'This doesn't come as a surprise' - Second in Charge watching helicopters disappearing into the night.

'Get back there and fight' - Officer Commanding to A Platoon during a withdrawal stand.

'F!@#\$\$ wire' - everybody often.

The following cast will regrettably not be starring in future productions:
Major Green - major shareholder in ACME Wire Company
Warrant Officer Class Two Joyce - the Raspberry Vale landing zone sprint champion

Staff Sergeant Love - the Phantom Company Quartermaster Sergeant
They are all wished well in their future careers.



From the Left: PTE T. Herrod, SSGT G. Love, CAPT S.C. Gillett,
CPL M. Luckie

Absent: WO2 J.P. Joyce

4 Pl.

It began on February 7 1983 when the men of Bravo thought they had better put in an appearance. 'Being Professional' they strolled, er marched up to Company Headquarters for the first parade of what was to be a most memorable and extremely different year.

Everybody thought they knew what the year had in store for them, but that wasn't the case. Our new Officer Commanding Major Green, took the official seat and from day one he was setting a goal - to make Bravo an elite fighting unit.

It began with Bravo beginner up at Mount Byron for five days of lectures and introducing the new flesh of the Company to the ways of the Battalion.

Then it was off to Greenbank for a week of shooting and the uprising of the Dirking Syndrome. Lance Corporal Brian Vesper took the lead by dirking in his own section to push a trailer around the ranges - he wasn't in anybody's good books that night.

Not back from Greenbank five minutes and we're off again, this time down to Gatton and Vinegar Hill for a week of more training where Corporal 'Fang' Csizlowski and Lieutenant Wilkinson seemed to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, but when anybody was caught by the enemy it was a cry of 'who's got the brew gear?' rather than contact front.

Back to Greenbank for another week of you beaut firing, laying on the ground on 30 degrees C, waiting for the targets you could hardly see pop up.

It was back to Enoggera by truck with chanting verses of Two Little Boys and Billy Don't be a Hero, sung by the Four Platoon Choir.

Tully, oh Tully! As Bravo found out it was an easy place to get into but very difficult to get out of. From standing in camp waiting on buses that weren't coming, to standing in the pouring rain at Tully Airstrip waiting on Caribou's which

weren't coming; so then by whatever means possible it was off to Innisfail to try to wave down a passing Hercules. Were we ever going to leave?

Exercise LEADEN LIFT started off with a bang and three days of training with blanks, platoon against platoon. With stands on sandbagging and judging distances, by the way, how far was that tower? of course what would a trip be without rain and where was Corporal Bell's Section during that three days? was he where he thought he was!!! hmmm and what was 1 Section doing on that hill for two days? it was time for living and 'TOETS' were at their best. The hierarchy were trembling at the thought of diggers getting their hands on live rounds. Again 'Hughie' sent it down and all companies except Bravo set up stretchers to keep dry. Bravo being professional had their blow ups in their echelon bags, well, so someone thought.

DIAMOND DOLLAR proved to be an experience in itself with the climax being the digging of OHP (Overhead Protection). All pits had to be constructed properly as they had to be Vesper tested once completed, they all stood the test.

The year then came to an abrupt halt with duties being the order of the day until Response Force over Christmas. Bravo will keep up the standard though, and will keep 'being professional'.

Things We Would Like to See:

More sport 2 Section with hoochies a person to be Sig Engineers dig a pit in six hours Sergeant Mudge (in a dark alley) Tully B Company in Canada wiring gloves and dollies.

Things We Would Not Like to See:

Barbed wire Shoalwater Bay ration packs.



Front Row: CPL S.C. Milner, CPL R.J. Czulowski, LT L. Kelly, CPL L.S. Rogers, LCPL A.R. Hollamby
2nd Row: PTE A. Taylor, PTE C. Wilson, PTE R. Robinson, PTE R. Smith, PTE C. Corkran
3rd Row: PTE J. Poland, PTE R. Gaulke, PTE L. Zadey, PTE M. Carruthers
4th Row: PTE N. Evans, PTE D. Galloway, PTE G. Vandermeer
5th Row: PTE S. Chadwick, PTE D. Williams
Absent: LCPL K. Rivett, LCPL B. Vesper, PTE D. Cameron, PTE W. Dowd, PTE M. Gunn, PTE P. Mau, PTE D. Powell, PTE M. Ross, PTE M. Stewart

5 Pl.

FIGHTING 5 PLATOON

5 Platoon was reinstated to B Company on Exercise ROPERS RUN. This proved to be an exciting exercise for the Platoon as an initiation back to the Company. Such events like Lance Corporal Steele throwing himself on barbed wire during an assault to let the rest of the Platoon through, little knowing that the Platoon had found a hole in the wire five metres away and were already assaulting, and the navigational genius who took out a fighting patrol that turned into the lost patrol and proved to be more devastating than a 'cyclone'. After a short stay at home we were back off on yet another operation, this time to the tropical shores of Shoalwater Bay for Exercise DIAMOND DOLLAR. This was to be the real test for the Platoon where we would find out our breaking points. It took only three days to find out that Sergeant Prior had a strong dislike for swamps and Corporal Schneider couldn't go on patrol without finding them.

With a lot of new soldiers in the Platoon the exercise proved interesting, with them becoming familiar with choppers, APC and tanks, and everybody got familiarized again with digging. The last defensive position at Raspberry Vale also had its times of excitement and heroism, like the time Corporal Murphy pitted a four man reconnaissance patrol against six APC and a TLC full of troops. Thanks to Sergeant Kirley and members of 4 Platoon's fighting patrol they escaped by the skin of their teeth.

All in all the Platoon is managing well with just a few minor skills that have to be honed down, ie Johnno's pacing and is Gorle really a NORFORCE Ranger.

Front Row: CPL S.J. Schneider, CPL J. Murphy, 2LT L.W. Tracey, SGT B.A. Prior, LCPL L.A. Morgan

2nd Row: PTE J. Kitchin, PTE C. Collins, PTE S.W. Johnston, PTE I. Salter

3rd Row: PTE I. Krenske, PTE D. Orr, PTE S. Quinn, PTE R. Walker

Absent: LCPL G. Steele, PTE P. Angilley, PTE C. Bowyer, PTE R. Dawer, PTE T. Gorle, PTE D. Nary, PTE M. O'Byrne, PTE M. Rice



6 Pl.

1983 was an interesting and varied year for the Platoon, the introduction of a new Officer Commanding and changes to the Platoon Power Group said what was essentially a new 6 Platoon. Lieutenant '007' Moore took the platoon under his wing with the guidance of Sergeant Jim Molyneaux. Sergeant Molyneaux soon gave up smoking when he discovered that the only reason the boss graduated from Duntroon was that they were sick and tired of him bumming cigarettes off everybody.

Our first exercise for the year was to Mount Byron. A very interesting place where section commanders swore black and blue that bit was the map and not them that was out. Basic soldiering skills were emphasised and it soon became apparent to the new march-ins that life is different in a Battalion.

A quick trip Vinegar Hill was next with 4 Platoon and us pitted together in a clash of skills. Points of interest on that one:

007 attacking 4 Platoon at 0430 hours in the morning with four men up and five men in depth - (no wonder they slept through it all).

Corporal 'Trumby' Albert encouraging his men by standing up throughout the attack and showing how fearless he was.

Private Quinn on a reconnaissance making the Reconnaissance Party leopard crawl for 200 metres because he thought a bush moving was someone putting their pack on.

We returned from the bush to be greeted by duties - this set the pattern for the rest of the year. Tully (Field Force Battle School) was our next trip away. With most of us never having been there before, the tales of 27 feet of water and leeches as big as your arm sounded a bit weird. The leeches weren't too bad but the amount of water is an experience none of us wants to repeat. All in all it was a valuable experience for all involved, and we all learnt by it. Highlights were:

having to hitch a ride home on a C130 (that was just passing through) because someone 'blue it'

concurrent training at the airfield in the rain

the keenness of everyone to practise the Confidence Course

As we all know LEADEN LIFT III came next. Who will ever forget the sight of all that water cascading down from A Company lines, under their stretchers and dry gear to our lines with no stretchers and wet gear. It was the only exercise some of us had done where we had to come up for air in the pits at the Defence Range. The sight of Private Budd drowning in his pit as he tried to repel the foe was one never to be forgotten. It was also on that exercise that Corporal John Bell was attached to the Platoon from Battalion Headquarters. Corporal Bell's action if lost policy is not recommended for use - Lance Corporal Powell from A Company could tell you why.

Overall LEADEN LIFT III was something different too.

The mental stress on the men was brought to the fore when some of the guys volunteered to play enemy to 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment on Fraser Island. Nothing much came out of it except that they don't volunteer for anything anymore.

Enemy for 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment followed in the guise of ROPERS RUN, 'Pop' Connors had to be weighted down to stop him getting in front of the Platoon attack and Private Philpot was renowned for finding one eyed cows.

Canungra for the Chief of the General Staff's Exercise followed and was highlighted by visits to Bombay Rock for some quiet drinks. Corporal Albert also had the tedious task of driving to the Gold Coast twice a day on his laundry run.

The unforgettable DIAMOND DOLLAR was the climax of the year. Besides the normal tasks, B Company had the excellent task of attempting to wire the North Eastern Coast of Queensland. We think our next exercise will be finishing off the rest of the State. Private McLean and Private Doherty managed to staple their eyelids open and remained alert at their gun for periods of up to 10 hours.

The traditional end of Exercise BARBECUE finished off the exercise with 4 Platoon serenading 6 Platoon well into the night. The normal complaint of not enough beer was frequently heard.

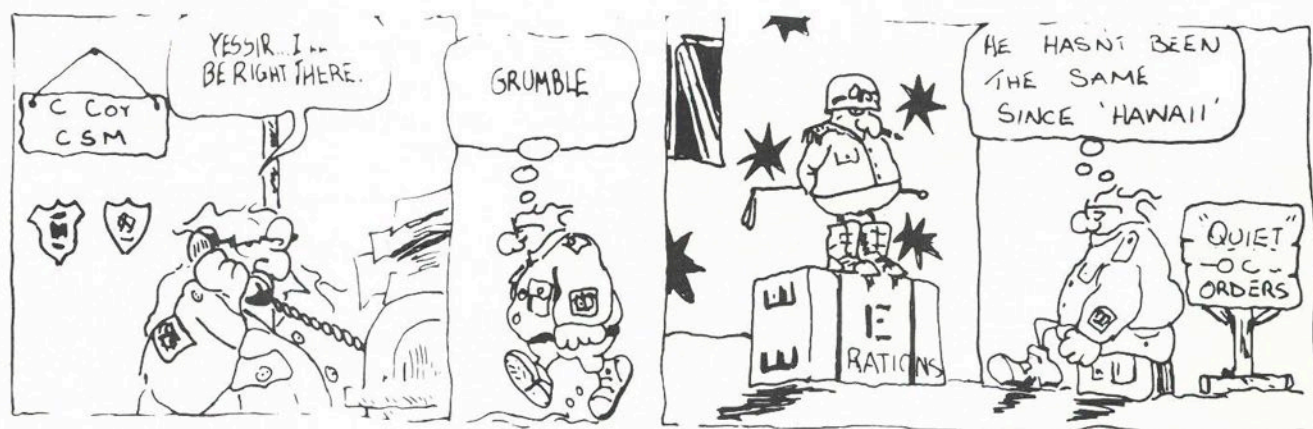
To conclude, 6 Platoon would like to thank all personnel who gave us their support during the year. We say farewell to our Officer Commanding Major Green and wish him luck in England. We await Major Russell from Support Company with interest.

Front Row:	CPL L.R. Albert, SGT J.D. Molyneux, LT J.J. Moore, CPL P.J. Angus, LCPL N.M. Gathercole
2nd Row:	PTE C.T. Gribble, PTE P.R. Doherty, PTE M.J. Blacklock, PTE M.R. Francis, PTE A.P. Hollway
3rd Row:	PTE C.J. Quilter, PTE G.R. Philpot, PTE W.A. Perkins
4th Row:	PTE M.A. McLean, LCPL M. Hennessy, PTE A.T. Tanovic
Back:	PTE C.A. Butler
Absent:	CPL S.A. Braun, LCPL G.B. Healy, PTE B.S. Lund, PTE A.A. MacDonald, PTE J.J. McIvor, PTE W.V. Naufahu, PTE M.C. Tobin, PTE G.A. Treadwell, PTE A.P. Vaughan, PTE G.J. Collins, PTE G.M. Conner





FRONT ROW: PTE K. THOMPSON, CPL J. WOOD, CAPT A. WATTS,
 MAJ P. MAHER, WO2 R. BRIAIS, SSGT P. WOLFENDEN
 BACK ROW: PTE D. BELL, PTE J. STEINS



seemed to spend most of his time in Hawaii. The waikiki tan and the broad smile when he came to Canungra gave it away. The Company feels he has suffered over-exposure to America and recommends a couple more months at Canungra and then a year at Staff College as a cure.

Hawaii

Our only complaints on the trip over were - no beer on board, and rotten, expensive beer at Fiji.

Although we didn't get lei'd at Hickam Air Force Base some of us were rolled on arrival and lost a few bucks. Some of the highlights in the US Army are:

- six packs in your fridge,
- living on top of your job,
- the PX,
- cheap beer,
- willing women (singles only of course),
- the Hale Koa Hotel,
- using Soviet weapons, and
- using the miles system.

Some of the lowlights of life in the US Army are:

- the confusion,
- the food,
- C rations,
- the taste of US beer,
- 0500 Reville to start work a few hours later,
- (un) co-ordinated calisthenics - our attempt at their PT,
- singing their little songs on the run,
- MP,
- the hygiene at PTA,
- getting up at 0400 hours to catch Aloha Airlines planes at 0800 hours,
- travelling in 'cattle trucks',
- the ethnic instructors at 25th Div Air Assault School,
- Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA - the moon!), and
- long speeches.

7 PL.



FRONT ROW: PTE J. CAMPBELL, PTE M. ALLAN, CPL R. HARRIS, SGT J. HUGHES,
LT J. SANDSTROM, LCPL R. VALZAN, CPL S. VANDROFFELAAR,
PTE P. MUGGERIDGE
CENTRE ROW: PTE A. NICOLAUE, PTE G. GOUBAREFF, LCPL D. JOHNSON, PTE M. THIRKILL,
PTE R. McCLUE, PTE W. AMBLER, PTE K. OADES, CPL A. REEKE,
PTE N. HARRIS
BACK ROW: PTE J. PENHALL, LCPL G. HANNING, PTE S. HUGHES, PTE D. HEDGER,
PTE C. THOMAS, PTE M. SALMON, PTE M. HURLEY
ABSENT: PTE B. HALL, PTE T. HILL

Our hosts, the Gimlets, bent over backwards to make our stay as enjoyable as possible. They impressed us with their professionalism and friendliness. They certainly looked better than some of the other Schofield Battalions.

Life for the month we were there was not all work. The tourist time was great! The night show at the Polynesian Cultural Center, despite being dry was good value and all who went thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Individuals managed to see the other islands and most of us saw Oahu at least.

The exercise as enemy for the CACTI 1/35 Inf Bn tested our patience. Nobody likes to lose all the time. We would have loved to win just once. After a briefing by the Commander of 2nd Brigade, he made the compliment:

'those Australians just said they would love to fight alongside the CACTI'

To which an umpire captain said:

'Hell no sir, the Aussies said they would love to fight AGAINST the CACTI'.

Our sentiments precisely.

Return to Australia

The Company needed a Chaplain on take off at Hickham Air Force Base when an engine conked out. A few minutes later we were on our way safely. We should have guessed it would happen. None of the Americans had heard of ARROW AIRLINES, the Company Quartermaster had to load our baggage into the 707 himself and the flight crew looked badly hungover when they finally arrived. But the clincher was when they asked Major Maher for his Credit Card,

'What for', he said

'To pay for the fuel, sir'.

'Well' he said thinking quickly, 'I could pass around the hat but that wouldn't get us as far as Fiji'.

DIAMOND DOLLAR 83

Despite rumours of 15 foot dingoes in Shoalwater Bay we set off on HMAS TOBRUK to relearn all the mistakes we made last year. HMAS TOBRUK's cooks helped the shark eradication programme by feeding them some of our food. It is reported that it killed at least six large and numerous smaller sharks. The motto for SEA STRIKE next year is 'Be Prepared' - starve yourself or eat jack rations.

The Cobras are now adept at doing nothing for long periods. Some Cobras saw DIAMOND DOLLAR as valuable re-settlement training for local council jobs like - STOP/GO men or shovel operators. The Company Sergeant Major will never trust a Shoalwater Bay weather forecast - hootchie up next time Company Sergeant Major.

Not much left of the training year now and we look forward again to some well earned Basic Recreation Leave.

Farewells

To those members of Cobra Company who are promoted/posted/or moved to greener pastures - good luck! The Cobras would especially like to thank the Officer Commanding, Major Peter Maher for his efforts on our behalf. Good luck at Staff College and thank you sir.

To the remaining members of the Company who stay with us - have a safe and prosperous Basic Recreation Leave.

To the rest of the Battalion - do a bit more Rugby training. See you next year - The Cobras

8 PL.



FRONT ROW: PTE B. FREEMAN, CPL D. WILSON, CPL R. NELSON, SGT R. DORAN,
 LT P. PRICE, LCPL G. OLIVER, LCPL C. HENDERSON, PTE R. HENDERSON
 CENTRE ROW: PTE P. ROBERTSON, PTE R. BRIGHTON, PTE R. SMITH, PTE S. THOMPSON,
 PTE J. SPENCER, PTE D. WOODS, PTE N. HOARE, PTE P. SHELDON
 BACK ROW: LCPL S. HOWLETT, PTE D. WANGER, PTE A. WOOD, PTE J. KNEE,
 PTE I. JONES, PTE D. HISCOX, PTE R. COLEMAN
 ABSENT: CPL G. SPENCER, PTE R. HUDSON, PTE D. WHITE

SHOALWATER BAY

Once again we visit the Bay,
 this time we've quite a stay
 We travelled up on the TOBRUK,
 I really could have killed that bloody cook.
 In and out of tracks all day
 we didn't know if we were here to stay
 from pit to pit, from bay to bay
 and once again we were on our way.
 In the distance we heard the choppers
 In a matter of seconds they were on top of us.
 All thumbs up and away we went,
 Without even paying a bloody cent.

0600 I felt the rain it really was a bloody pain
1200 o'clock and still down it came,
but who were we to bloody complain,
we fight in any weather, season or terrain.
Over we went to the Engineers,
from stand to stand it felt like years.
On our bums we just sat checking out this and that.
I saw a soldier that didn't care
the way I could tell was his long hair.
We all sat around in our filthy greens,
drinking water from our canteens.
Then along came a Pogo with a can of Coke,
how I hoped that he would choke, on that chocolate
and can of Coke
Down the tracks and across the creeks
now we've been here a couple of weeks.
Covered in dirt were our sweat stained shirts,
Carrying these packs really did hurt.
Now it's the morning of the 8th,
and here we are on the 138.
Sitting around waiting for orders,
eager to hear our bounds and borders.
Soon the word to withdraw would come,
and down the mountain we would run.
Then the Sallyman come's along,
with his brew hot and strong.
In a minute it was over,
but in the distance we could see his Rover.
Up and down bloody hills,
we sure are glad we signed our wills.
Down and down we would slide,
trying to make it home alive.
From a few places we could see the Bay,
there's not much left for us to say,
There was only one fantastic day,
The day we left Shoalwater Bay.

Private Parker and Private Learmount
9 Platoon, C Company

9 PL.



FRONT ROW: PTE B. NEWLING, PTE K. DALLEY, CPL I. RUDD, CPL M. BORRET,
SGT A. HOLMES, LCPL S. HOSKING, LCPL F. KETU, PTE A. PARKER
CENTRE ROW: PTE P. WINEN, PTE K. WALKER, PTE R. MOORE, PTE C. GOYEN,
PTE C. NORTH, PTE J. ENCHONG, PTE M. LEARMOUNT
BACK ROW: PTE P. CALCUTT, PTE M. DAVIES, PTE I. SCOTT, PTE R. HOLLAND,
PTE G. RODGERS, PTE R. STRAUGHAIR
ABSENT: LT S. STROUD, SGT W. McINNES, CPL S. KING, LCPL R. MEULENERS,
PTE A. GILES

EXERCISE DIAMOND DOLLAR 83

DIAMOND DOLLAR 83 began for C Company with a trip on the luxury liner HMAS TOBRUK, the crew was obviously pleased to accommodate the Company and reacted to our presence by dispersing the Company to all four corners of the ship; this made O Groups and organizing activities an interesting proposition indeed. The food was also worth a comment !@#%*

The exercise was highlighted by three barbecues, numerous XXXX, yellow sleeping pills, an attack by 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment which decimated 9 Platoon and of course Private Hall going off to the Polygon Bush Dance. Most of the exercise was either heliborne or APC mounted. The initial familiarization period was especially

worth comment. After a rigorous day's training near Sabina Point, 9 Platoon, APCs and all, spent an hour fishing, swimming and driving up the beach. The afternoon was highlighted when we bumped a Land Rover load of 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment doing the same thing - a pity the war hadn't yet started.

After much digging and wiring, the exercise finally ended on the 15 August and after a happy period of range-refurbishing, we finally bid a teary farewell to Shoalwater Bay and flew home by Hercules.

* Remember When:

Private Newling, while hastily returning from his sentry post, was shot by Private Holland.

Lieutenant McInnes was shot when unexpectedly entering our Company rendezvous after fleeing from a contact.

The Engineers dug our pits and we had to fill them in.

The Polygon Bush Dance.

Second Lieutenant Stroud was taken prisoner by Lance Corporal Hill and almost ended his short military career in the PW cage.

Major Maher getting a homer mid-exercise.

Watching the Engineers erection of a medium girder bridge.









PIPES & DRUMS

PIPES AND DRUMS

The duties of a member of the Pipes and Drums Platoon are threefold:

1. He is required to carry out all the rifleman military skills required of ECN 343, including weapons, drill, range practices, forced marches, PT tests, etc.
2. He is qualified in first aid (usually holding a St John's Certificate) and is attached to a rifle platoon during exercises and carries a first aid kit - in this role he is classified as a Stretcher Bearer.
3. When not involved in any of the above, he furthers his skills in piping or drumming and rehearses for forthcoming parades and band engagements.

When a company in the battalion goes overseas, the Stretcher Bearers attached to that company usually go with them, as did Private W.P. Murray, Private K. Parkinson and Private E. Guttridge when C Company went to Hawaii for a month. Rumour has it that the different climate adversely affected Private Murray's behaviour.

Of the numerous engagements, five highlight the year:

- a. Long Hai Day. Pipes and Drums and A Company marched through Surfers Paradise finishing with the ceremony at Surfers Paradise RSL.
- b. We took part in a combined Beating the Retreat ceremony with 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment and 9th Royal Queensland Regiment held at King George Square, The City.
- c. On 30 March we participated in the Battle of Waterloo staged in the Brisbane Town Hall. A spectacular and moving event.
- d. Anzac Day. Marched with the Battalion through Brisbane City.
- e. Kingsford Smith celebrations held in Ballina was a huge success and our contribution was greatly appreciated. We were accommodated at the Surf Life Saving Club and really respect the lovely amenities provided, which undoubtedly contributed to the Band working together so well.

Things we would like to see:

- | | | |
|---------|---|---|
| Pipey | - | to answer his own phone |
| Drummy | - | have an O Group in under two hours |
| Jimbo | - | keep the same drum beating |
| Chris | - | take some of his cars home |
| Willie | - | to find a girlfriend |
| Ken | - | be allowed to use his own car |
| Eric | - | have respect for his father-in-law |
| Ignatz | - | leave Medical Corps and join the Band again |
| Sparrow | - | give his nose a haircut |
| Huck | - | admit pipers are better than drummers |
| Jeno | - | stop whistling tunes from the 18th Century |
| Woody | - | to have his own packet of smokes |
| Mick | - | stop arguing with Rocky |
| Rocky | - | do a language course (English) |
| Beano | - | learn the bugle |

Old Members

(Corncob) Pipe Major at Army Apprentice
Victoria. Has sent us a MAI
of Bravo Uniform November Del
present location.

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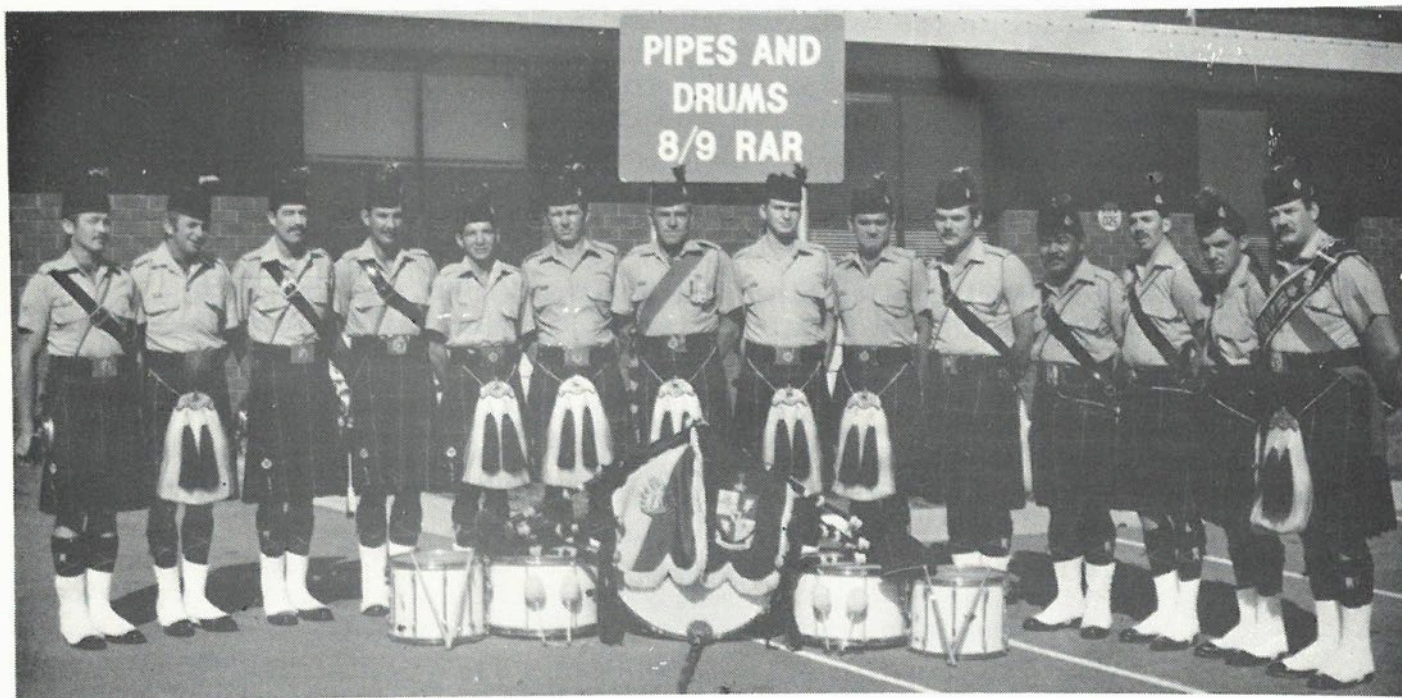
To Alpha Company

enson

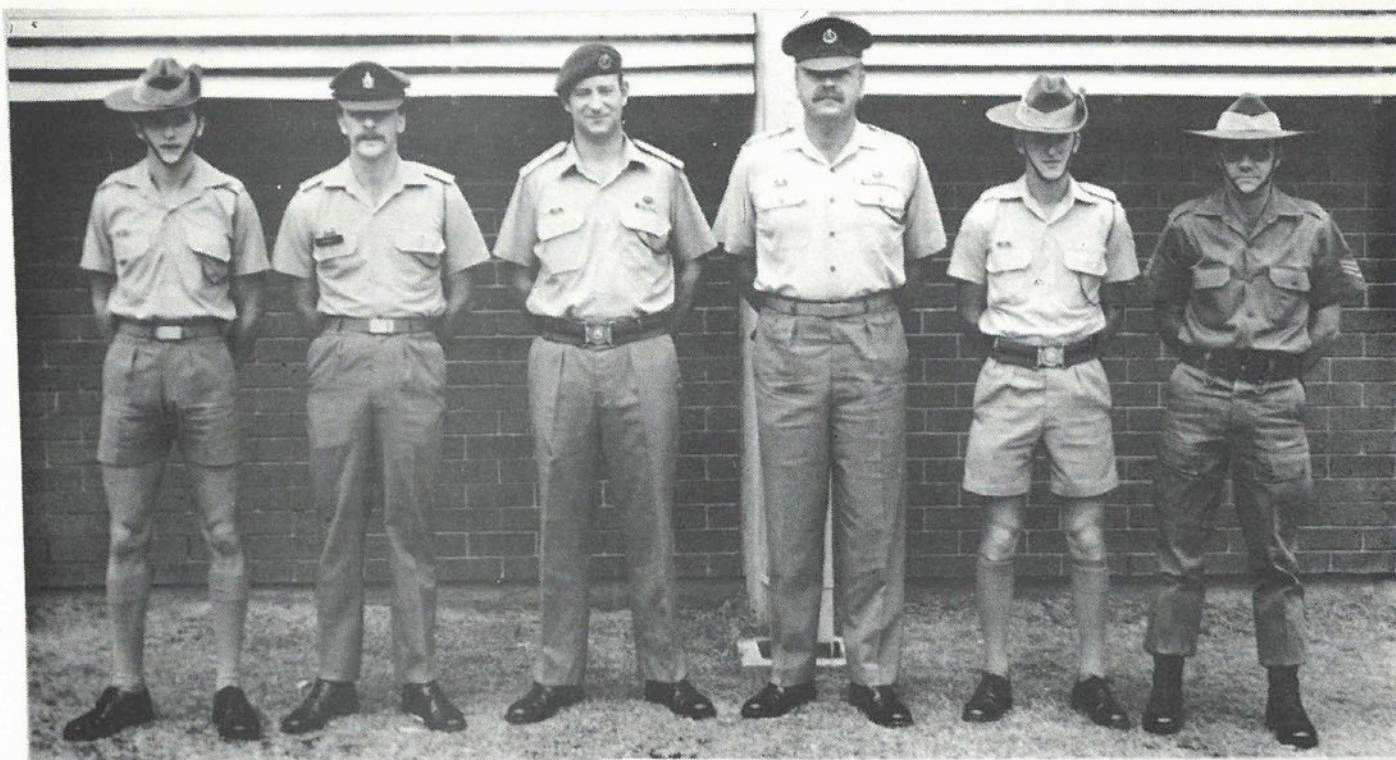
Congratulations to:

Private Ken Parkinson on his marriage to Judy
Private Malcolm Wood on his forthcoming marriage to Sue
Corporal Jim Campbell on his marriage to Bev
Private Rokonayalewa - a daughter
Private Guttridge - a daughter
Sparrow on joining the men

Best wishes to all members of the Battalion, thank you for your continued support and
look forward to working with this great team next year.



From the Left: PTE D. Jensen, PTE W.P. Murray, PTE M. Grieve, CPL J. Campbell.
PTE M. Howell, LCPL C. Laurenson, WO2 Black, PTE C. Willis
PTE K. Parkinson, PTE M. Wood, PTE K. Rokonayalewa,
PTE M. Humphery, PTE Sheldon, SGT C. Kennedy
Absent on Course: PTE E. Guthridge



From the Left: PTE A. Brownbill, LT T. Scully, MAJ J.J. Swain,
WO2 K.W Scheuermann, CPL A.P. Van der Stoep, SGT J.H. Fletcher
Absent: PTE D.N. Harper

TRANSPORT



It is about time we took a look at a much maligned species, the Transport Driver!! These furry little fellows are rarely seen by day on exercises, they tend to come out at night and search for hours after food, water and POL at the ever confusing distribution point (DP).

In all, the boys at Barnes Auto have had a good year - the Driver Course held during March was an excellent opportunity for some members of the Battalion to view the wilds of Western Queensland. After 3 000 km of sun scorched road, the band of weary travellers returned, sun bronzed, vehicles beyond recognition (not to mention some of the lads) and filled with tales of conquests and a few nightmares. The bustling metropolis of Cracow was of immense interest to all as they couldn't wait to come back and thank Private Olive for his directions to it.

All year we have waited with baited breath for the arrival of the Unimogs (first promised in April) and happily took delivery of two a day after we went on Exercise DIAMOND DOLLAR, but like Moccona Coffee it looks like we'll have to wait even longer to get the rest. Meanwhile the F1's are holding together with a rusty bolt and a prayer.

We all hope that the operation to remove the Unimog from Staff Crook's buttocks is a success so that some other unfortunate can suffer from the same disease.

Did you know that only two people in the Battalion have a licence to drive a Studebaker!

Remember now - at Barnes Auto we never sleep



Front Row: PTE G. Elston, PTE R. Olive, PTE C.J. Capuano
 2nd Row: CPL D. Anderson, PTE W. Radunz, SSGT A. Crook, LT A. Levick, PTE S.F. Sykes
 3rd Row: LCPL R. Watterson, PTE M. Saikovski, PTE R.D. Stubbs, PTE G.W. Hyland, PTE F.G. Dufficy
 Inserts: PTE J. Franklin, LCPL B. Lambert
 Absent: LCPL J. Pidcock, PTE J. Daly, PTE G. Chirichilli, PTE P.S. Incoll, PTE D.K. Anders,
 PTE D.J. Mathews

TECH SPT



With 1983 nearing its end it can be said that this year has been a successful one for the Platoon. The results of the annual E.I.S. inspection and the absence of major breakdowns on the unit

exercises during the year backs up this view.

The Platoon has had the usual changes in personnel during the last 12 months. Corporal Bill Burrows left for the old mans home at 1 Base Workshops as did Craftsman Lloyd Parker-Manderson. Craftsman Brendon Longbottom was happy to move to 11 Supply Battalion and Craftsman Steve Shadbolt is now a Corporal at 1 Field Regiment. Private Vince Fleming left to join the touch footballers in the Q Store. 'Stand deep Vince!'

Their jobs were filled by Corporal Pat O'Mallon, Craftsman Ian Thomson and Craftsman Allan Lech, who are all vehicle mechanics. Craftsman Darren Minney was posted into the Storemans position. Hopefully there will be less manpower changes this year.

The highlight of the year must have been the day we exercised the Army Fire Brigade. All eyes were fixed on the clouds of billowing black smoke emerging from the Technical Support work area. At least the fire brigade fellers looked happy about fighting a real fire for a change. There is no truth in the rumour that Sergeant Peter Dove has been banned from playing with matches.

At the time of writing, the Platoon was busy repairing vehicles and equipment for the initial exercises in 1984.



Front Row: CPL Eddy, SGT Dove, CFN Sargent, CPL O'Mallon, CFN Knott
 Back Row: CFN Quilligan, CFN Higgins, CFN Minney, CFN Helsham,
 CFN Thomson
 Absent: CFN Lech

CATERING

Another testing year with Catering Platoon coming out on top once again. This year has also seen a large turnover with postings, Corps transfers and discharges.

List of march-outs:

Sergeant Rawlins	Discharge
Corporal Auger	Discharge
Corporal Chippendale	Promotion and Posting
Corporal Neihus	Discharge
Corporal Petterson	Discharge
Lance Corporal Deale	Discharge
Lance Corporal Speechly	Posting
Private Grafton	Discharge
Private Morrison	Discharge

The following members are infantry soldiers who as Stewards have Corps transferred to Catering Corps and since taken postings:

Private Bennet	1st Field Hospital, Ingleburn
Private Carney	Infantry Centre
Private Hutchinson	Kapooka
Private Lewin	Canungra
Private Mitchel	2nd/3rd Field Engineer Regiment
Private Thompson	District Support Unit, Sydney

Later on this year we also bid farewell to the Caterer, Warrant Officer Class Two Wyn Waters who is posted to Kapooka (Good Luck) and Sergeant Neil Shaw posted to the School of Catering, Puckapunyal. Also, Lance Corporal Johnson is off to the Q Store and we welcome the new Ration Clerk, Lance Corporal Page - and then there is Private Currie (Chook) who has left the Defence Department for the Prison Service (Boggo Road).

With major exercises this year the Platoon has formed a good common bond and performed well, highlighted by the energy of every member attacking the problems of operating a field kitchen during the Defence and withdrawal phase of DIAMOND DOLLAR. This required a move every off day feeding the Battalion three meals a day and defending the perimeter at all times. Unfortunately during all of this, Private Schinella while moving out to the gun for one of his nightly picquets, heard a noise, challenged, and then fired without waiting for a response. Turns out he shot the Company Sergeant Major - a mistake, or was it? Another unfortunate mistake was the wiping out of Transport Platoon by Corporal (Radar) Taylor, when he thought the enemy were again moving in on us at night. Finally, when the enemy did appear we did manage to get some of them too. Well done fellas.

At this time of the year we are preparing to welcome our new Caterer, Warrant Officer Class Two Wright, and ready to send some of us over to Butteworth, namely:

Sergeant J. Hogan
Corporal B. Beecroft
Private T. Craddock
Private B. Moylan

Also well done to Private John Denny who is re-joining the Rifle Companies after spending some time as a Sergeants' Mess Barman and was also a good hand in the 'weeds' - their gain our loss.

It's hard to top a year like this one just past, but I'm sure the new Catering Platoon heading into 1984 will excel and maintain the high standards required, firstly as baitlayers in the Catering Corps and secondly as soldiers of 8th/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.



Front Row: CPL D.J. Holland, CPL C.P. Baldrey, SGT G. Robinson, SGT J. Hogan, WO2 W. Waters, SGT N.A. Shaw, SGT M. Jackson, CPL K.J. Beecroft, CPL P. Taylor, LCPL P.W. Johnston
2nd Row: PTE D.W. Fraser, PTE C.J. Jessup, PTE T.J. Craddock, PTE R.A. Mensforth, PTE V. Davey, PTE R.N. Harvey, PTE T.S. Bennett, CPL T.J. Duffy
3rd Row: PTE B.J. Davies, PTE A.J. Solc, PTE J.R. Denny, PTE W.J. Carlton, PTE J. Schinella, PTE I.J. Fitzgerald, PTE A.J. Hoskin, PTE W.A. Gorton
Absent: LCPL S. Goodwin, PTE R.J. McAppion, PTE G.A. Donaghey, PTE B.F. Moyland, PTE P.W. Crane, PTE M.L. Budd, PTE P.C. Williams, PTE R.J. Maylam

1983 BATTALION MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENT - SUPPLY PLATOON

The commencement of 1983 produced some changes around the main Q. A new Quartermaster, Staff Sergeant Crook moved into the Transport job; Sergeant (Grumpy) Fletcher took over as Company Quartermaster Sergeant Administrative Company; Sergeant (Cuddles) Llewellyn came into one of the Technical Sergeant's positions; and Staff Sergeant Ken Barton followed by Staff Sergeant Mal Lyons filled the position of internal checker, not to mention the elevation to the dizzy heights of Sergeant by Sergeant (Snow) Ashton.

After a couple of starts as hosts to overseas visitors, the bulk of Supply Platoon moved out on Exercise LEADEN LIFT and displayed the extent of their arduous exercise commitments under the electric lights in the huts so well that half of the rain saturated Battalion offered their services to the Q stream.

The months of May and June passed fairly quietly with the only real excitement being when Corporal Beetle (Canvas Back) Bailey bit the dust once again the ring of the Homestead Hotel and also when Lance Corporal Mugsy Mugridge was late for morning tea and missed out. A ringside witness at the unfortunate Bailey fight claims that the last words uttered by the brave Corporal just before hitting the deck for the third time was 'c'mon have a go'.

The end of June saw a successful E.I.S. inspection, successful for the Battalion that is. I am led to believe that the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant, Company Quartermaster Sergeant and Technical Sergeants are putting in a claim for re-imbursement of money spent buying beer for the E.I.S. team during the lunch hours.

Exercise DIAMOND DOLLAR was the high point of the Supply Platoon's activities for the year with Storeman Eagerly donning greens and webbing and moving into the echelon combat zones (remember FSB Coral) to face the enemy without fear or hesitation. Initially there were a few problems obtaining enough calamine lotion to overcome 'bush rash' and the Queensland Touch Rugby Association nearly collapsed during the absence of the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant, but still we pressed on.

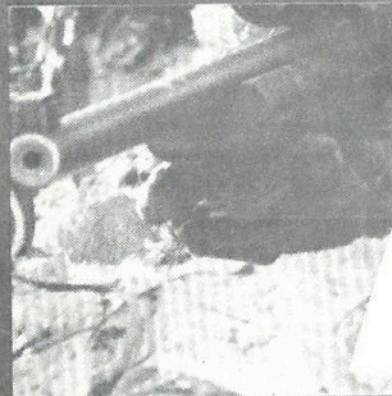
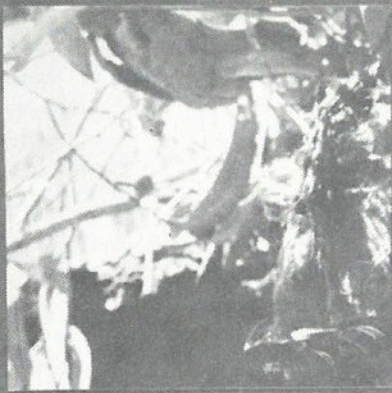
The year has been a good one for the Supply Platoon with a high degree of co-operation being given by the sub-units which has been greatly appreciated. We look forward to another year of serving the Battalion, so if you need anything remember our motto 'Don't Issue It or Give It Away, You Never Know When We May Need It'.

Supply Platoon Members:

CAPT M.J. James	QM
WO1 N.A. Fairley	RQMS
SSGT M.C. Lyons	Internal Checker
SGT P.B. Ashton	TECH SGT
SGT J.J. Llewellyn	TECH SGT
CPL A.J. Kilpatrick	Clothing Store (M/out Oct 83)
CPL G.F. Barker	Expense Store
CPL C.R. Walklate	AMMO STM
LCPL C.L. Mugridge	Ledger Keeper
LCPL M.J. Payne	Barrack Store
LCPL S.J. Page	Technical Store
LCPL B.R. Rowe	Technical Store
LCPL S.W. Hockley	Clothing Store
PTE W.R. Kelly	Technical Store
PTE R.A. Crawford	Barrack Store
PTE B. Hoggett	Typist
PTE V.J. Fleming	Technical Store (M/out Oct 83)
CPL J.R. Bailey	DPRI
PTE D.F. Brown	DPRI



Front Row: SGT D. Llewellyn, SSGT M. Lyons, CAPT M. James,
 WO1 N. Fairley, SGT P. Ashton
 2nd Row: CPL G. Walklate, LCPL L. Mugridge, CPL G. Barker,
 LCPL M. Payne, CPL J. Bailey, PTE B. Hoggett
 3rd Row: CPL G. Jiear, CPL A. Kilpatrick, PTE V. Flemming,
 PTE R. Crawford, LCPL B. Rowe
 Absent: LCPL S. Page, LCPL S. Hockley, PTE D. Brown, PTE W. Kelly

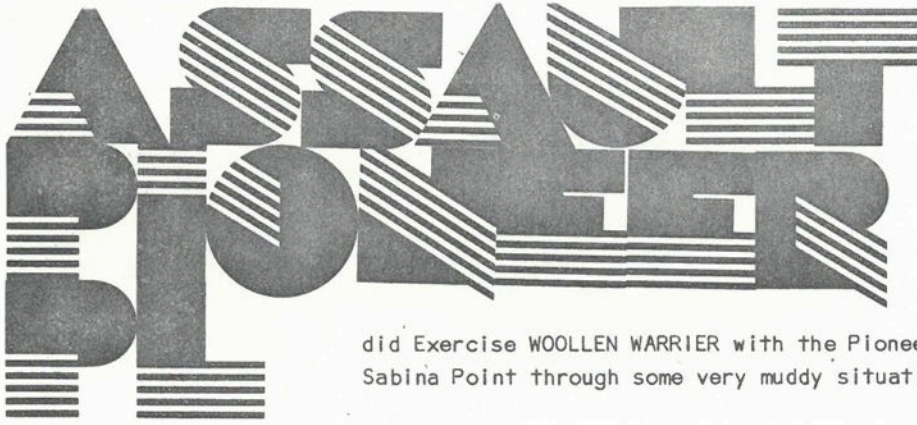


SPT



**QUIETLY
SUPERIOR**





1983 has been a good year for the Pioneers. The year commenced in the usual fashion with a number of last years Pioneers moving out and new members being welcomed.

The year commenced with polishing of old skills and setting standards. March arrived and so

did Exercise WOOLLEN WARRIER with the Pioneers trail blazing all the way to Sabina Point through some very muddy situations.

Besides being the envy of Support Company, the Pioneers Section set about training with early morning runs along the beach under Corporal Nagele followed by theoretical and practical demolitions training, topped off with night fishing trips.

Don again spearheaded the advance and the Company, not to mention Commanding Officer, back the Platoon had an explosive time with the Land Regiment, but not before clearing the range of blinds.

and the one most worthy of mention was a very frustrating and embarrassing task. It was washed away in one week of torrential rain.

Apart from being an exceptionally wet year, Some exercise recalls:

full of water

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- * Private Blue Temple defecting and conducting his own survival training
- * Private 'Patto' Patterson capturing 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment A echelon
- * everyone volunteering for operations duty

1983 has been a good year for all the Pioneer Platoon with many different activities. We have several members undertaking promotion courses and all should do well.

1984 will no doubt see the Pioneer Platoon with new faces and fewer old ones but none will ever forget their time in Pioneers.



Front Row: Peter Pick and John Shovel
 2nd Row: PTE Temple, LT Hurcum, LCPL Duxbury
 3rd Row: PTE Reynolds, PTE Jesovic, PTE Davies, PTE Ashby
 Absent: CPL G. Frances, CPL S.J. Phoenix, LCPL D. Black, LCPL P. Simpson,
 PTE S. Barrow, PTE B. Firth, PTE P. Harris, PTE G. Langford,
 PTE R. Lloyd, PTE K. Morris, PTE S. Patterson, PTE M. Riley,
 PTE S. Wallace



The Platoon started the year off with almost a complete change of staff. Despite this loss, the replacements were qualified from the course at the end of 1982.

Exercise WOODEN WARRIOR saw the Platoon employed properly for the first time. The ammunition allocation was very one sided with 80 000 rounds for the Vickers and only 20 000 rounds for the M60. Consequently the Platoon changed its timings for the rapid rate so that the targets were engaged the whole time.

On Exercise LEADEN LIFT the Platoon ran a wet weather MG Handling Course with mixed results. The Americans from 1/21 on the course caused problems with their different drills and were heard to say 'Goddamn' often.

In June we combined with Anti-Armour Platoon and Lieutenant Sengelman headed to Singleton while the Platoon was again reduced in strength.

ANTI ARMOUR

1983 saw many new faces in the Platoon but we quickly combined to prepare for WOOLLEN WARRIOR in March. To set the trend for most of the year, Shoalwater Bay was in flood and this made the exercise more interesting as every time we went off the road we got bogged. The Boss also showed how not to hold an egg, and Chris Corbett created an amphibious role for the 106 mm Carrier.

April saw us at Jimna on a Platoon navigation exercise only to be flooded out. Morgs and 'DT' demonstrated how not to navigate and we eventually decided that the Kilcoy Pub was a much nicer and drier spot.

After drying out for a while back in Brisbane, we headed to Wide Bay on Exercise LEADEN LIFT, and the rain started. We dug plenty of holes only to watch them drown. In between digging we conducted lessons in rapid firing the 106, to the shock of the Tin Can Bay township, and also the diggers who almost ran over the blinds the next day.

June saw a big change in the Platoon when we lost five oldies to B Company and formed with SFMG Platoon to form 'Heavy Weapons Platoon'.

HEAVY WEAPONS

Heavy Weapons was formed in June 1983 from Anti-Armour and SFMG Platoons. The aim was to maintain the art of both specialist skills. All members are cross-trained and are able to be an anti-armour gunner or an SFMG gun member.

Before DIAMOND DOLLAR the cross-training was started and the Platoon worked well to learn new skills with the M60, 106 mm or 84 mm anti-armour weapons. DIAMOND DOLLAR saw the Platoon used mostly as a Machine Gun Platoon and the highlight was the firepower demonstration which ran extremely well despite the lack of experience. In the Brigade part of the exercise the 106 mm Carriers were brought back into action.

In November the SFMG Course will ensure that all members are qualified in the machine gun side and early in '84 an Anti-Armour Course should be run.

In 1984 Heavy Weapons Platoon will maintain its reputation as the most highly qualified and professional Platoon in the Battalion...



Front Row: LT Negus, SGT Cullen
 2nd Row: PTE D. Brittain, PTE G. Black, PTE M. Morgan,
 PTE T. Logan
 3rd Row: PTE D. Drtina, PTE S. Pollock, LCPL I. Cust,
 PTE J. Marxsen
 Absent: CPL G. Fowle, CPL G. Stillwell, PTE J. Hobbs,
 PTE G. Luxford, PTE G. Wheeler



1983 has been a varied year for the members of Reconnaissance Platoon. We started off the year larger than we had ever been before with a new Boss in

Lieutenant 'Arab' MacInnes and Sergeant Mark Levine as well as 15 soldiers. The first Platoon activity out scrub was on Exercise WOOLLEN WARRIOR where we concentrated on sniper shooting and tactics. The Second-in-Charge, Captain Don Thompson kindly donated his services as a moving target but maintains he was only trying to get communications. We also proved we were the only people who could operate a 77 set and keep communications at all times. A few trophies were brought back and Mark Levine showed his expertise in teaching the Platoon how to make a Land Rover trap.

It was then back to Enoggera to prepare to reinforce C Company for their trip to Hawaii. Corporal Steve Brawn was lost to the Platoon to B Company at this stage. A sad loss both in terms of his skills and his enthusiasm.

The Platoon then departed on the cultural exchange visit and received many honours - battle and otherwise (eh Brent) - several members completed the Air Assault Course whilst over there and are now members of the elite Airborne. Too soon, it was all over and we had to come back to Enoggera.

A major re-organization occurred at this stage with many of the experienced members of the Platoon being marched out to B Company. Congratulations to Steve Schnider who was subsequently promoted to Corporal in B Company. The Platoon was now only two patrols strong with Dave Armit, Andy Broodonall and 'Rolly' Rowland doing exceptionally well on their SAS Cadre Course. To date they have all passed the Cadre and the Parachuting Phases and only have the Patrol Course to complete. Well done guys!!!

The Platoon then experienced a bit of inactivity as we were in the barracks for a fair period of time. No doubt this explains why so many members of the Platoon will be hearing the pitter/patter of tiny feet. Don't worry fellas, you deserve it.

We then deployed for Exercise GOLDEN WEDGE and the Brigade Exercise DIAMOND DOLLAR. The Battalion exercise was notable for the capture of the Second-in-Charge of the enemy group and the Battalion's pre-occupation with shooting up the Platoon. (If you are in communications you've got to be enemy.) There was a cyclonic change instead of a breath of fresh air for many people.

DIAMOND DOLLAR was a very good exercise for the Platoon as we worked at Brigade level on surveillance task. The Platoon impressed most people with it's ability to remain uncompromised and report movement. The use of UH1H 'Huey' for insertion and extraction added realism.

The final exercise was AILKEN (aching) VICTORY as enemy against 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. Who would ever forget the lantana, the ambush or 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment?

All that is left for the Platoon is the running of the Reconnaissance Course in November. Many members have completed courses for promotion. Well done. We would also like to welcome three new members into the Platoon - they are Steve Pattison, Govy Langford and Chris Nicholls.

All in all an interesting year with more to look forward to in '84.

Things We Would Like to See

- * Gerry 'Truffles' Whitton not eat like a pig
- * Pyro cynical
- * The Boss out of PT gear
- * Tyro not eat scorpions
- * Chappie smile
- * Hakey find a girl with legs the same size
- * T.L. not trying to be cool
- * Gerry as a father changing nappies



Front Row: PTE A. Lawler, CPL B. Muir, LT A. MacInnes,
PTE W. Chapman
2nd Row: PTE K. Foster, PTE K. Pryosusilo, PTE G. Whiton
Absent: PTE J. Lake

MORTARS

1983 has certainly been a busy year for Mortar Platoon. By August we had done seven exercises with at least three more and a trip to Malaysia to go. Of these, most have been supporting exercises to other companies and units.

The year started off quickly with a supporting exercise to 131 Div Loc Bty followed closely by more down to earth infantry training at Tully with B Company. The Platoon was tested in its ODF capabilities in March when on a Friday afternoon they were told they were going bush on Saturday morning. All went well and a valuable week with the APC followed.

LEADEN LIFT 83 proved interesting when we had a section of Americans attached to us. Their fire commands such as (hang it) were basically different to ours as were their amazing illumination missions.

They were meant to light up four grid squares but lit up the wombat and worm holes instead. The exercise was very wet and the six lovely mortar pits ended up as spa baths.

From then until July it was fairly quiet with BRL and MLO becoming a jack marriedy at last. In early July we had an excellent shoot supporting Infantry Centre - we have never received so many compliments or 81 mm rounds. Armidale will be fondly remembered for its nice pubs and mega-trendy women.

DIAMOND DOLLAR was an interesting and long exercise. The Platoon re-discovered camouflage cream and Corporal Ledner. Another very successful demonstration was done with the help of 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. On the tactical side we were busy trying to keep up with the Battalion and found ourselves as the front line on a few occasions.

The Platoon is now preparing for Malaysia and it is unlikely to go into action again until next May. Overall the Platoon has had a fair few rounds to fire this year; it covered most aspects of mortar work and a lot of rifle platoon work.

CAPT Fraser	-	King Brown
LT Kelly	-	King of the birds
SGT Bryce	-	Fine line
SGT Williams	-	I understand what you are saying, however
SGT Bishop	-	Shut up or I'll lock you up
CPL Finch	-	You're not having a go at me are you Sir?
CPL Finch	-	One day I'll be qualified
CPL Lochner	-	Smokes menthol to deter bludgers
CPL Cavanough	-	I can't do that duty, I'm playing Rugby
LCPL Doyle	-	Looking forward to Malaysia again
LCPL Holmquest	-	Gets aroused by Unimogs
PTE Allen	-	Don't panic
PTE Cox	-	I love you Michael
PTE Dyrstra	-	Jack of all trades, master of none
PTE Hollowell	-	Yarp, Yarp, Yarp
PTE Jackson	-	How can you say that and not feel guilty, Sir?
PTE McLoughlen	-	I really do give a damn
PTE Mulder	-	Don't call me Tubby
PTE Richardsons	-	Yò ho!
PTE Calmon	-	Who cares who dares who wins!
PTE Wilson G.M.	-	The old 'cuses
PTE Wilson G.R.	-	Weird at the best of times



Front Row: SGT G. Williams, PTE D. Jackson, PTE J. McLaughlan,
PTE D. Holleway, LCPL D. Doyle, CAPT L. Foster
2nd Row: PTE S. Dyksta, PTE G.M. Wilson, PTE R. O'Donahu,
PTE M. Allen, PTE D. Mulder, PTE B. Lechner
Absent: PTE G.R. Wilson, PTE D. Salmon, PTE A. Richardson,
PTE C. Titley, PTE M. Cox, LCPL C. Holmquest,
CPL Gillespie, CPL F. Finch, SGT Molin, SGT G. Bishop
LT G. Sandstrom



This year started off well with a full strength Platoon, this however did not last long with 'Archie' Garrett, Bronte Heinrich, Blue Thompson and Nick Burgess all taking discharge.

Captain Sutherland marched in as our new Regimental Signals Officer at the start of the year, the 'Phantom' seems like quite a good block but we have hardly seen him, he is currently in Germany for four months - I wonder if they've seen him yet!

March saw the Charlie Company detachment in Canungra working hard to secure a berth or Hawaii; they did! In May they took off to Hawaii and had a great time, the Signals Store in Hawaii had its own fridge and in true Signals style ended up being an unlicensed bar.

June saw most of the Signals at Canungra doing Infantry Minor Tactics, where Lance Corporal Hill showed his fine prowess as a navigator by taking his Section and navigating for five hours down flood swollen creeks - he still reckons he knew where he was.

Next was DIAMOND DOLLAR, which saw us working very hard against insurmountable odds and it goes without saying that old Smithy did it again - he couldn't make it out there.

We then went to Grafton and sent 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment running before our blood-curdling attacks.

Soon we lose most of our blokes to Malaysia - Wayne Penhall got his wish and posting to A Company and Gerry Breugem got his fourth trip and is going as a Training NCO, ha ha!!



Front Row: LCPL C. Hill, LCPL W. Penhall, CPL G. Breugem,
 CPL C. Brennocks, CPL P. Eddy
 2nd Row: PTE R. Foulkes, PTE S. Carlesso, PTE C. Meehan,
 PTE A. Hill, PTE J. Hall, LCPL G. McKinnon,
 PTE R. Ryan, PTE S. Revnak
 Absent: CAPT R. Sutherland, SGT N. Wain, CPL G. Eylward,
 CPL W. Leo, CPL M. Tinker, PTE W. Ball, PTE A. Berg,
 PTE R. Caldwell, PTE L. Foggin, PTE P. Lergessner,
 PTE G. Maitland, PTE C. Parker, PTE G. Smith



Front Row: WO2 R. Nugent, MAJ B. Russell, CAPT D. Thompson
2nd Row: CPL D. Matheson, SSGT T. Brown, PTE P. McNicol,
PTE G. McBean

ALL ABOUT CRICKET



"You have two sides, one out in the field and one in. Each man that's in the side that's in goes out, and when he's out he comes in, and the next man goes in until he's out.

"When they are all out the side that's out comes in, and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in out.

"Sometimes you get men still in and not out. When both sides have been in and out including the not outs, that's the end of the game."

THE SOLDIER

Between the security of childhood and the senility of old age is found that fascinating group of humanity called the 'soldier'.

The soldier can be found anywhere; in love, in bars, in trouble and always in debt. Girls love them, towns tolerate them, hotels hide them and government support them.

A soldier is laziness with a deck of cards, bravery with a tattoo, ruggedness in uniform and defender of the world with a copy of 'Playboy'. He has the brains of a bear, the energy of a sea-turtle, the slyness of a fox, the stories of a sea-captain, the sincerity of a liar, the aspiration of a Casanova and when he wants something it is usually connected with leave, or an 'excused of all duties' chit.

Some of his interests are girls, females, women and members of the opposite sex. He also likes beer, booze, plonk, alcohol and ale. He likes to spend his money on girls, beer, cards, and any that he has left after pay-day, he likes to spend foolishly.

No-one else could ever cram into one pocket a little black book, a packet of crushed cigarettes, a box of matches, a picture of his girl, an old leave pass, receipts for 'Tiger' receipts for 'Anchor', receipts for lost equipment and a deck of cards.

A soldier is a magical creature. You can lock him out of your house, but not out of your heart. You can take him off your mailing list, but not off your mind. He is a 'one and only', bleary-eyed bundle of worries. But all your shattered dreams become insignificant when he looks at you and says 'Hiya, honey!'

BUSHED TUCKER

John Parker ran over my ration pack last night,
He did a good job I thought he might
So I'm eating mashed potato and corn beef hash
mixed together with a bit of a dash
My sugar tastes gritty and chocolates gone to pieces,
plus my biscuits are broken, its such a pity
Coffee and tea all mixed into one
You could say this ration pack is well over-done.

CONTACT

The outburst of gun fire and somebody yells stand to
your instincts take charge and tells you what to do
you jump in your pit with the mud and the grit
to kill the enemy and outsmart him with wit
machine guns are firing and tracers are seen
to be stopped by a young lad in his early teens
when you see him fall with his body all torn
you wish to God that he'd never been born.
your mate falls dead in a pit beside you,
leaving you alone with thoughts of back home,
but those thoughts pass quick,
as the bullets fly thick
you think only to survive
and to keep your other mates alive.

'Bushed Tucker' and 'Contact' - Written by SGT R.F. McGloin
whilst on
Exercise DIAMOND DOLLAR 83

THE MEN FROM B ECHELON

by SSGT Mal Lyons
(apologies to Banjo Patterson)

There was movement around the campsite
the word had got around
that there was going to be another move today
so we gathered up our hootchies
and pulled the tentage down
and all the trucks were gathered for the fray.

There was Jesse James the leader
well known for moving round
he briefed the troops and layed the plans out right
but we couldn't move the trucks out
that's what the orders said
we had to wait some time until last light.

We waited through the long hours
the night was Fairley dark
and black out lights are really such a Payne
but we moved the big Riggs forward
down a wet and lonely track
no white Lyons here to show a driving lane.

The speed of such a convoy
is governed by the light
and never once we changed from second Jiear
but the trucks kept rolling onward
never once changing in pace
it must have been a bastard at the rear.

The first check point we halted
the Provost said to stop
what's the number that you need to pass through here
without any hesitation
we told him what was what
'Find out nosey' came a voice from back up rear.

They let us through the checkpoint
they had to let us go
they knew you couldn't stop this group too long
and as we moved on forward
we heard a comment made
there goes the gallant 8/9 B Echelon.

The vehicle with the booze on
was just a New ton truck
it travelled forth along that lonely road
containers full of fourax
with an ice Burg on the top
no way we'd ever want to loose that load.

Down rugged mountain ranges
across a skyline call Mug ridge
we moved the diesels onward at slow speed
and never once we faltered
our timing was just right
it was grand to see how Jesse took the lead.

Through Johnson's Gap we moved on
the pace was getting hot
the roaring diesel motors sang their song
our drivers never tiring
they're driving with the travelling B Echelon.

We finally reached the new loc
that someone codenamed Stein
and stopped the trucks to ponder for a while
and as our new camp formed
we heard some rifle shots
of the raging battle over at the front line.

Battle lines don't stop us
we've seen it all before
when there's war we know we have to go
but you ask us to participate
we'll shake our heads and say no, no, no, no, no!

SPORTS

IN



1983

cricket 83 AND NOT OUT

8/9 RAR fielded two teams in the South Queensland Area Inter-Unit Cricket Competiton for the 1982/83 season.

The season commenced poorly when both teams forfeited the first three matches and unfortunately this set the trend and several other vital matches had to be deferred and subsequently forfeited due to unit commitments and competition deadlines.

The end of the season unfortunately saw both teams placed well down the ladder although both tried hard and won the majority of matches played.

Thanks must go to all players but particularly to Sergeant Chris Baker and Corporal Mick Borrett and Lance Corporal Mick Payne for their organizing and support of the teams.

The 1983/84 season should see a different result when the Battalion will again enter the teams in the competiton which starts with a pre-season knockout competition commencing 23 September 1983.

Congratulations to Corporal Borrett for having made the Inter-Service side.

touch footy

8/9 RAR had a successful year, there were 16 teams in the competition and we finished fourth. Best and Fairest of the season awarded by the Referee were Wallace and Wain on equal points.

Top try scorers were also Wallace and Wain - well done.

Unfortunately we were knocked out of the preliminary finals and the overall competiton champions were 11 Fd Amb.

Next year we'll whup um boy!!!

swimming 83

The year started with the Battalion Inter-Company Carnival on 24 February. The day ran very smoothly and some good individual performances emerged, although no records were broken. Private A.F. Hill, Spt Coy, won the trophy for champion swimmer, closely followed one point behind by Lieutenant Negus also of Spt Coy.

The races were dominated by Spt Coy swimmers but all companies appeared amongst the winners throughout the day. The final results were:

- 1st - Support
- 2nd - Charlie
- 3rd - Bravo
- 4th - Alpha
- 5th - Administrative

Following this carnival, a team was selected for the Brigade Carnival on 4 March. The 8/9 swimmers suffered from a lack of training and were unable to make a strong showing on the day. The 4 x 50 metres freestyle relay team showed their best with a strong third in a very talented field. 6 RAR eventually ran out the winners of the overall trophy.

soccer

The 8/9 RAR Soccer-Rams started off the season as favourites in the South Queensland Area Soccer Competition for 1983. The task to retain the trophy

won in 1982 became the aim for the team. The team that took to the field in the first game saw the appearance of new players. In the first few rounds of the competition convincing wins were registered over RAAF (2-8), 1 Fd Regt (1-7) and LWC (3-7). However this winning streak was not to last. The absence of SGT McGloin (Coach) away on course, Charlie Company players on Exercise PACIFIC BOND 83 and the Battalion exercise in May proved detrimental to the team. Without any training and with the absence of some of the key players, the Soccer-Rams lost three valuable games which temporarily put them out of the running to retain the trophy. The month of July saw the re-commencement of training under the watchful eyes of both SGT McGloin and CAPT Pereira (Soccer Officer). This proved to be beneficial as the team bounced back into the running to retain the trophy after defeating 7 Sig twice and receiving forfeits from LWC and 6 RAR A. The Soccer-Rams had now to defeat RAAF, their one rival, by two clear goals to win the 1983 competition and retain the trophy. A hard game was played against RAAF at Amberley and the outcome was not to be in the Soccer-Rams favour as we went down (4-3). With this loss the team was placed third in the overall league competition for 1983.

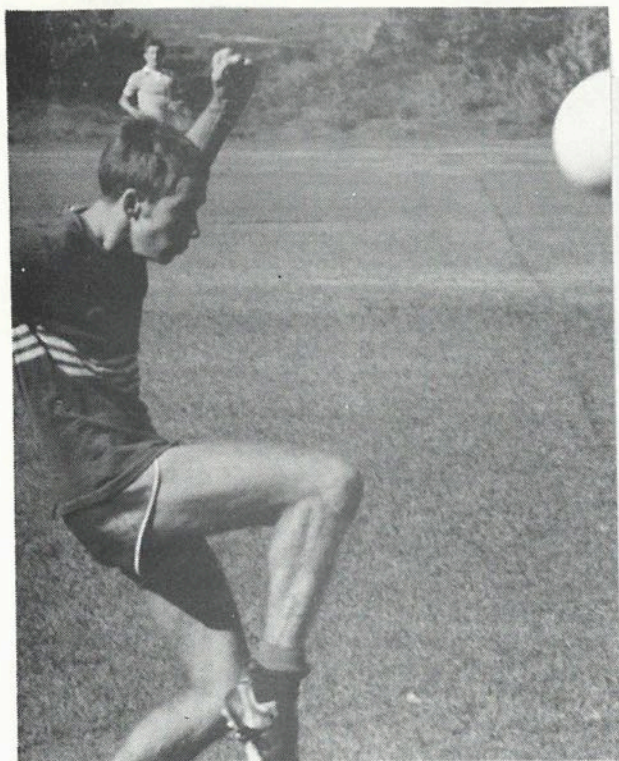
After having played 14 games the team registered 9 wins, 1 draw and 4 losses giving it a total of 28 points. The total number of goals scored by the Soccer-Rams was 61 with 36 against. The top goal scorer was PTE Brownbill who netted 17 goals followed by PTE Davies who scored 12 goals, PTE Ennis proved to be the most improved player. The most consistent player proved to be none other than George Kellner who was dubbed the old man of the team.

Appended below are the results of all games:

Round 1	8/9 RAR	(8)	Defeated	RAAF (2)
Round 2	8/9 RAR	(7)	Defeated	1 Fd Regt (1)
Round 3	8/9 RAR	(1)	Lost to	131 Div Loc Bty (7)
Round 4	8/9 RAR	(3)	Defeated	6 RAR A (forfeit)
Round 5	8/9 RAR	(3)	Drew	Sigs A (3)
Round 6	8/9 RAR	(3)	Defeated	7 Sigs (1)
Round 7	8/9 RAR	(7)	Defeated	LWC (4)
Round 8	8/9 RAR	(3)	Lost to	RAAF (4)
Round 9	8/9 RAR	(6)	Defeated	1 Fd Regt (3)
Round 10	8/9 RAR	(3)	Lost to	131 Div Loc Bty (4)
Round 11	8/9 RAR	(2)	Lost to	6 RAR A (3)
Round 12	8/9 RAR	(8)	Defeated	Sigs A (2)
Round 13	8/9 RAR	(4)	Defeated	7 Sigs (2)
Round 14	8/9 RAR	(3)	Defeated	LWC (0) forfeit

With the approach of the knock out competition in September, the teams, less some players who were on subject courses, knuckled down to two days of intensive training. There was confidence amongst the players that they would do well in this competition. The Soccer-Rams played well and won the initial games which put them in the semi-finals for the knock out competition however lady luck was not on their side when they lost in the semi-finals to 1 Fd Regt by one goal.

The year 1983 proved to be a year of mixed fortunes for the Soccer-Rams without trying to give excuses; the non-availability of players at times and the overall lack of support which was given elsewhere, did not help in ensuring total success for the team. However there is still next year, so let's keep our spirits up and think positive soccer commencing early 1984.



hockey report

The 1983 Inter-Unit Hockey Competition started very strongly for 8/9 RAR. We entered two teams in the competition to ensure that all interested members got a game. The A Grade started as the strongest team in the competition with victories of 11-0 and 7-0 in their first few games. The B Grade were not as lucky but always played a hard game and all the players learnt a lot about hockey.

The season was interrupted continually by exercise commitments and only half the scheduled games were played by either team. As a result the first two weeks of September saw a Round Robin Competition to determine the unit champion for 1983. 8/9 RAR was only able to field one team due to losing a number of players but played like champions to win its first two matches. The third match was played the following week against the RAAF and the teams were so even that the game was decided by penalty flicks after full time. 8/9 lost 5-3 and ended up as third for the season, an effort of which they can be proud.

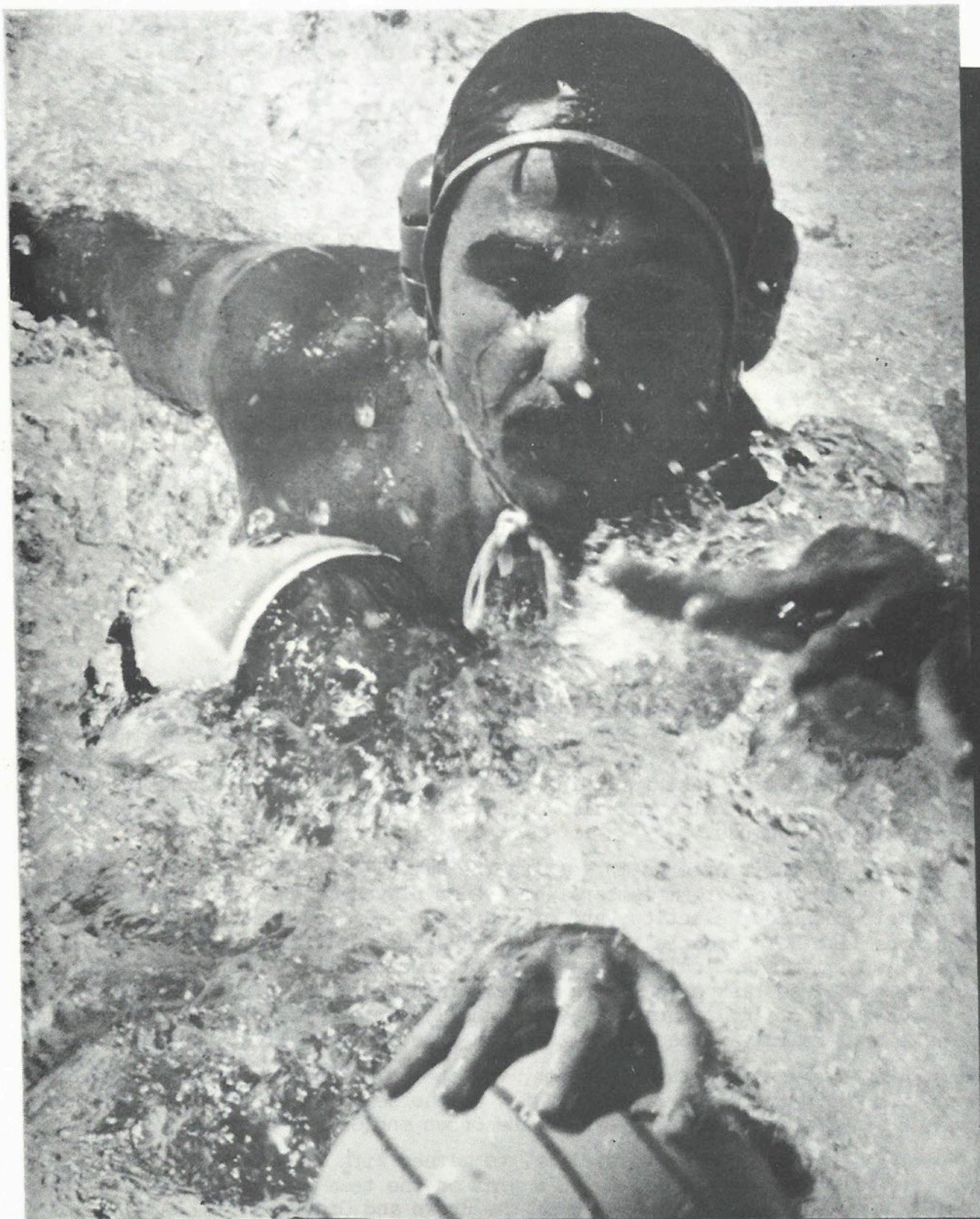
Overall it was a disjointed but successful season as all interested members were able to play and enjoy their hockey.



water polo

The 8/9 Water Polo Team in 1983 suffered greatly by a lack of experience. A lot of regular players had been lost, but there was still a strong spirit. The team was beaten soundly each week, but with only two or three of the 10 swimmers having prior experience, the results were not disappointing.

Many of the new players learnt that the sport is not as easy or as clean as it looks, and they enjoyed the season. The season ended on a high note with two players being selected for the Army Inter-Services Team, namely LT Negus and PTE Hill...



austr rules

Despite a slow start to the season due to Company and Battalion training commitments, this year's team soon established itself as grand final contender for 1983. With losses only to 6 RAR and 1 Fd Regt during the home and away games, the team finished in second position for the Minor Premiership.

It has been said in recent years that the South Queensland Area Inter-Unit Australian Rules Competition has been 'a one horse race'. The 1983 season almost saw the Battalion team dislodge the reigning Premiers, 6 RAR. Without going too much into postmortems, it was evident that to win the grand final, the team needed to play four quarters of football and not three. In spite of a third quarter collapse, it must have been a shock to 6 RAR to be four points down at the half time break and to be outscored in the last quarter. Even though it has been said many times before - 'there is always next year'.

Now to events this year. It was pleasing to note that support for Australian Rules improved immensely. Soldiers being released from exercises to play football was appreciated. As a team, we thank those personnel who had to fill the gaps while the footballers were absent. Another area of improvement was the donning of the new football jerseys representing the Battalion, certainly had more significance this year wearing the Battalion colours of Brown and Grey. In addition to this, assistance was obtained from the Ashgrove Football Club by allowing the Battalion to use its oval as our designated home ground. If possible the Association with this Club should continue in future years.

Trophy Presentation Night for the year was conducted at the Rams Retreat as a mixed dinner dance. It was a resounding success and a good time was had by all. Unfortunately our special guest, Mr Alex Jesaulenko was unable to attend at the last moment. He has assured us that he will make it up to us at a later date. The night was highlighted by the CO presenting trophies to the following team members:

Best and Fairest	- PTE Graig Butler
Runner Up Best and Fairest	- PTE Peter Grocke
Best Forward	- PTE Trevor Logan
Best Backman	- PTE Stew Barrow
Most Consistent Player	- PTE Wayne Temple
Best Players in the Finals Series	- PTE Chris Parker
	PTE Stew Barrow

Our final activity for the year is to play one more football match. This match, although planned but not conducted at the time of writing, is to be content between the old and bolds (the over 30's) and those members of the Battalion team who missed selection throughout the year. At this stage it is planned for 14 September 1983 and should include an all star cast including the CO Rucking and 'K.J.' Thomas getting his boots out of moth balls. Alex Jesaulenko has also indicated that he will play to make amends.

In appreciation for their efforts in getting the Battalion team to the grand final, thanks are extended to all team members who either played matches or who kept other players on their toes for selection, and of course no team would survive without our administrators like SGT 'Bronzie' Watson and SGT Jones for filling the role as team managers. CPL Smith's medical and vocal support could not go unmentioned and PTE Peter Aurns thankless task of umpiring is certainly appreciated. As for the trophy night - the efforts of 'K.J. Thomas, Wayne Penhall, Chris Parker, 'Wingnut' Hosking and Smithy were certainly reflected by the good time had by all.

With continuing support from the Battalion, together with the enthusiasm and talent displayed from the players and if the CO Jinx on the team can be warded off. There is no reason why 1984 can't be the year of the Brown and Grey.

With continuing support from the Battalion, to gather with the enthusiasm and talent displayed from the players and if the CO's jinx on the team can be warded off, there is no reason why 1984 can't be the year of the Brown and Grey.





1983, the year of the rugby

8/9 RAR had an extremely successful Rugby season in 1983. With teams entered in both the A and B Divisions of the South Queensland Competition, the Battalion showed its mettle by wresting the A Division Premiership from 6 RAR in a memorable grand final, and easily winning our Minor Premiers in the B Division. The effort by the B team was particularly impressive considering that it has been many years since we have fielded two teams in a Rugby competition. Great promise is shown for an exciting 1984 season with a good depth of talent being evident. Congratulations to all concerned.

Another highlight of the year was the Services Barbarians vs Commander 1st Division's XV Match, again arranged by 8/9 RAR. It is hoped that this annual event will go from strength to strength.

Much of our success in the past has been due to the unfailing efforts of CAPT Bob Brookes, WO Gary Hunter and SGT Greg Decker. We wish them every success in their new appointments.

D.G. KNAGGS
Rugby Officer

Upgrade

Premiers!!! All our efforts bore fruit on Wednesday 14 September 1983 at Duncan Oval when 77 minutes of grinding forward play effectively destroyed the cohesiveness and will to win of the 6 RAR team.

The season was an extremely successful one with the final scoreboard reading 13 wins, 1 draw and 3 losses. The strength of the team throughout the season was the forward pack, however they were well supported by a much improved and determined back line.

The great grand final win over our arch rivals 6 RAR will be remembered for a long time by all players and spectators. The losses in the previous matches against 6 RAR and the over-confidence of the opposition, inspired the A's to produce a real 'guts' effort with all players producing total commitment to winning. This was evident from minute one, when we drove 6 RAR 30 metres from the kick off.

The pressure was maintained through the first half with one lapse when 6 RAR crossed for their one and only try. It took 77 minutes for 6 RAR to break, but break they did, and Frank Ketu scored from a lineout. One minute later Chook Fowle powered over after being well set by Arthur Coppock.

The players extend their thanks to all our administrators and supporters with special thanks to Egg on Legs, Greg Decker, Keith Kirly and Wayne Smith. You did a fine job for us throughout the year. As coach I wish, as well, to thank all players. You applied yourselves and showed what I knew you were capable of - 'thank you'.

B,grade

The 8/9 RAR Rugby B Team after having a good season ended up Minor Premiers. Unfortunately we failed to gain the Premiership for 1983, being defeated by Engrs A in final 9 points to 4.

The year saw a good hearted effort on behalf of the team who at times were short of players through injuries, work commitments and last minute team changes.

I feel with the talent shown this year and more team training the 8/9 RAR B Team will be Premiers in 1984.

As the Manager I would like to thank not only the players who gave so much this year but in particular CPL Czulowski and PTE Daly for help with the administrative side of the team, WO2 Smith, SGT Kennedy and SGT Doran who played when the team were short of players and last but not least SGT Decker for behind the scenes administration.

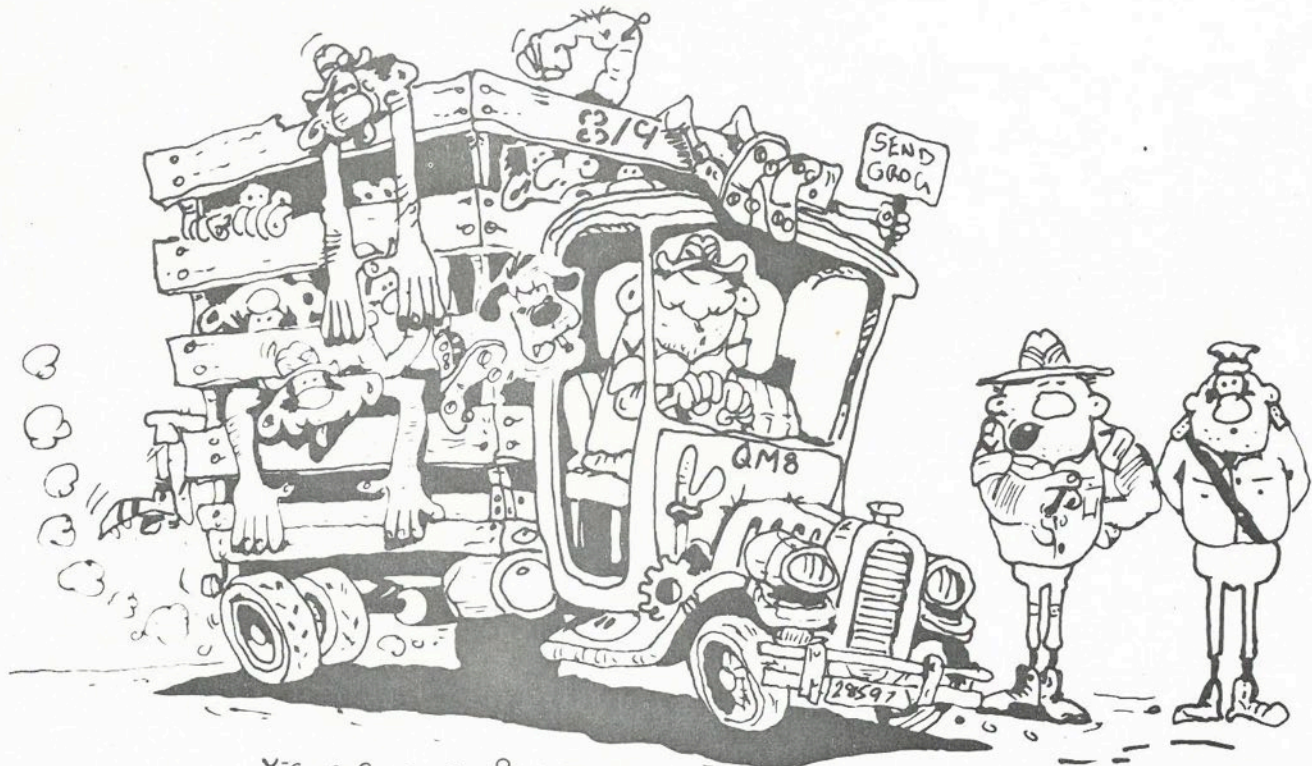
Players to receive awards are:

Best and Fariest - CPL Fawle

Most Improved Player - PTE Jones

Best Forward - PTE Lloyd

Best Back - LCPL Healy



YES SIR, OUR RUGBY TEAM HAS SET AN ALL-TIME RECORD....
THROWN OUT OF 15 BOOZERS.... RUN OUT OF 10 UNITS...
ARRESTED 134 QMPS 8 TIMES, AND THEY'VE COME SECOND
IN EVERY MATCH THIS YEAR!







Sitting on Table: PTE Allen McRobbie: illegal immigrant (ethnic)
 Sitting from the Left: LCPL John Clarke: that's not o n my signature
 SGT Chris Baker: U.D. (and one on the way)
 PTE Paul Juzulenias: sportsman of the year
 Standing from the Left: PTE Wayne Ryan: it's finished
 PTE Ross Austin: a girl 7lb 14 oz (finally)
 PTE Graig Weston: ? ? ? ! ? ! ?
 Absent: CPL Rory Morgan: who?
 CAPT Bob Brookes: office to let!



2/8 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

QUEENSLAND

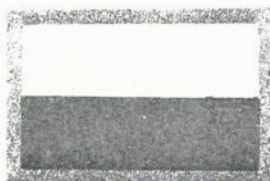
BRANCH

PRESIDENT

Bruce Flude
36 Mars Street,
COORPAROO 4151

PHONE

(07) 397 7822



SECRETARY

Bill Cavanagh
121 Baroona Road,
ROSALIE 4064

PHONE

(07) 369 3561

Affiliated with 8/9 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment

The Queensland Branch of the 8th Battalion Association was given birth at an inaugural meeting held at the Sergeants' Mess, 8/9th Battalion, Enoggera on Sunday, 7th February, 1982. It became a reality because of the enthusiasm of former members of the 2/8th Battalion now resident in Queensland, the Melbourne Executive Committee's support and the co-operation and real impetus provided from the 8/9th Battalion, commanded at that time by Lt. Col. J.W. Brett.

Our immediate membership was made up of 42 former members of the 2/8th and 30 serving members of the 8/9th. At our last count late in 1983, these numbers have increased to 48 of the 2/8th and 68 of the 8/9th. Committee and General Meetings have been held with representation from both units, and five Newsletters have been sent to all members, supplementing the annual "BLOOD AND BANDAGES" Newsletter from Association Secretary, Eddie Davis in Melbourne, in April each year.

The benefits of the formation of the Queensland Branch have been immediate from many points of view, the most impressive of which are the reunion of former members of the 2/8th, either face to face or by mail or telephone; and the wonderful spirit that exists between the "old" soldiers of the 2/8th and soldiers of the 8/9th. The difference in age groups is not all that evident at least not under the conditions of our present liaison -(no doubt if we of the 2/8th found ourselves in the field in full marching gear we might have trouble keeping up.) Other collective benefits have been the attendance and participation in the 8/9th Battalion's Anzac Day Dawn Service, always a most moving experience accompanied by a crowding of memories of army service in other parts of the world.

When the 8/9th embarked on HMAS TOBRUK on 21st July for the passage north to Shoalwater Bay for Exercise "DIAMOND DOLLAR", it was another "moving experience" for an observer such as me. It could well have been the 2/8th embarking as that battalion did so often between 1940 and 1945. The faces and shapes were much the same; only the equipment and weapons were a little different and I don't remember television reporters and cameramen being around then.

The opening of the Ram's Retreat was another highlight that brought so many together not only from the 2/8th and 8/9th, but the 2/9th as well. Our last General Meeting of the year was held in the Ram's Retreat in September and it proved to be eminently suitable for the purpose. For the first and probably the last time in our existence, the numbers of the 2/8th attending, far exceeded those of the 8/9th.

Finally, an "Activities Committee" has been formed with equal representation comprising Corporal John Bailey and WO 2 "Tanky" Scheuermann from 8/9th and Keith Hill and Bill Cavanagh from 2/8th. From this committee, we expect to get proposals of future combined activities in and beyond Brisbane; more strength to them in this endeavour and may we enjoy the fruits of their labour.

Bruce Flude,
President

20th September 1983

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IN MEMORY OF



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1201223

Pte
John Lang
1205452

Without infantry nothing can be done, nothing at all.

The infantry soldier cannot be replaced upon the battlefield.

He may have more aids, better transport and better weapons but as never before he must be constantly fit, have the guts, and stamina to carry his weapons across country, to run, dig, march, crawl and fight when tired, hungry and exhausted. He must be well led and have high morale, his training must be realistic, tough and develop his initiative and individuality.

Throughout the ages 'experts' have predicted the demise of the infantryman.

But he is still with us, essential, as ever, it is only he who can fight in all conditions, by night and day and can adapt to every terrain.

He is not halted by obstacles, mud, sand, jungles, deserts, heat, cold, fog or snow.

He is not affected or jammed by electronic countermeasures.

IT IS THE INFANTRY AND THEY ALONE WHO EVENTUALLY MUST
'CLOSE THE DEAL.'

