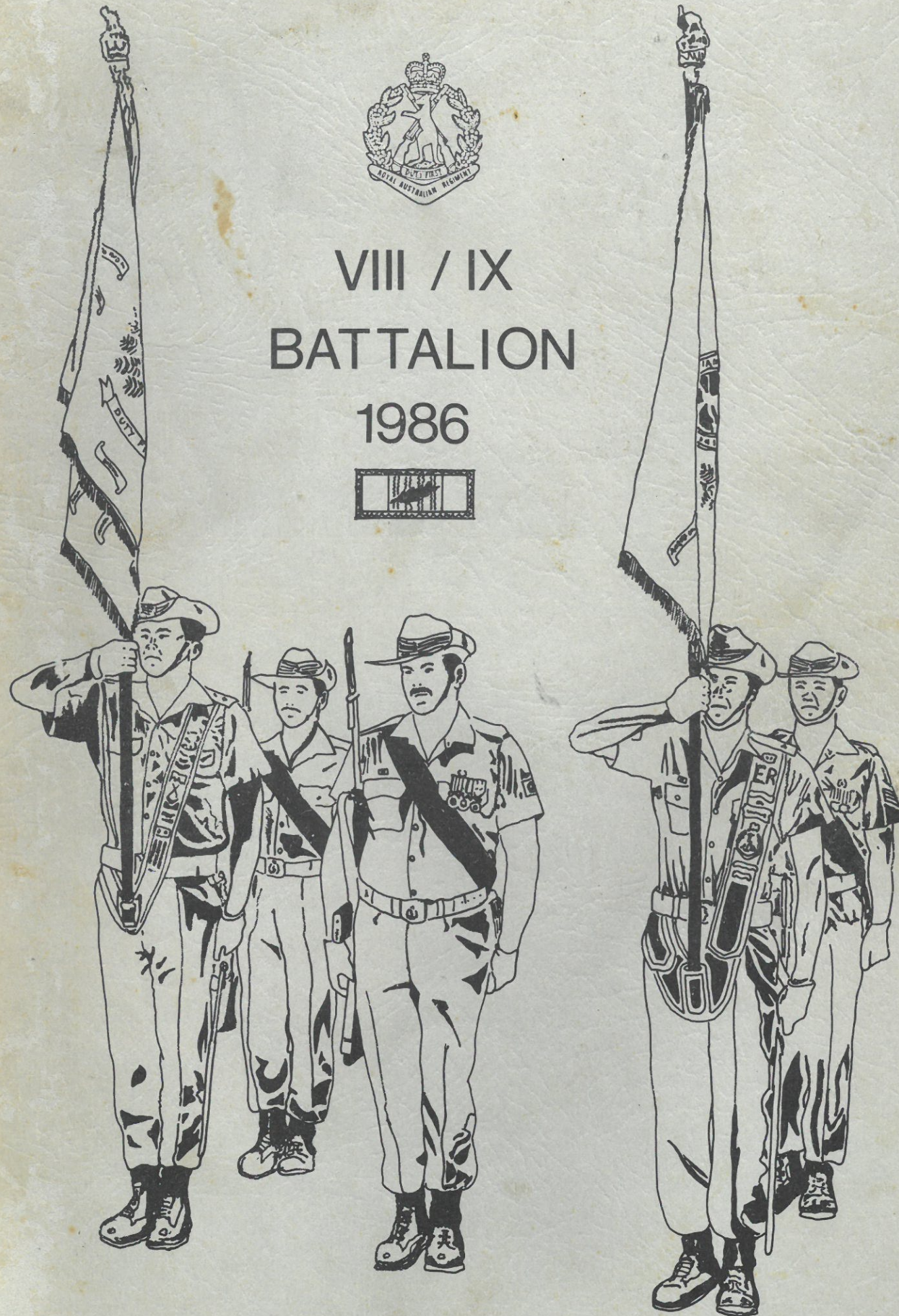


B-96



VIII / IX
BATTALION
1986



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Foreword by the Regimental Sergeant Major WO1 R.G. George

This year has been an extremely busy and a very good year for the Battalion. We can look back with considerable pride on our many achievements. Of course there have been difficult and sometimes frustrating periods of time. There always will be in a close knit family such as the Battalion.

Many of our Junior and Senior NCOs have figured prominently on promotion courses throughout the year. It is worth noting the number of promotions during the year, 24 promotions to LCPL, 16 promotions to CPL and 5 promotions to SGT. This is proof that the opportunity for advancement is certainly there for those within the Battalion that are dedicated and display the right attitude. With the role of our Junior NCO to command his section during battle, we need good Junior NCOs.



I thank you for your hard work and commitment to the Battalion in 1986. For those leaving us at the end of the year, I wish you good luck in whatever the future brings. To those who are remaining, or who have just joined us I look forward to serving with you in 1987.

Good Soldiering.

R. George
R. GEORGE
Warrant Officer Class One
Regimental Sergeant Major



Gladiator Week



Shall we dance ?



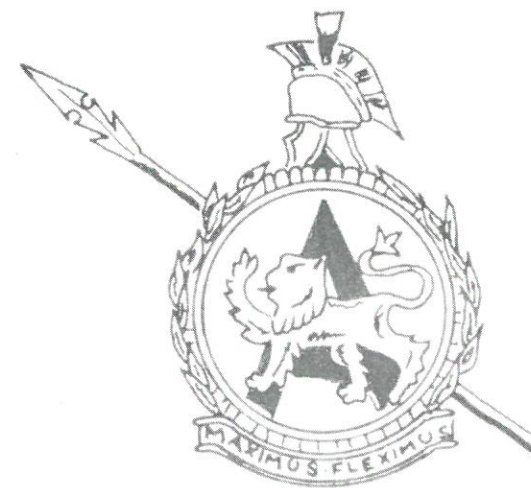
Spt v Alpha





"We'll have to stop meeting like this RSM"

A Company - CHQ



The training year for A Coy started a little early with Response Force Training in mid-December. Through December and January the Battalion holidayed safe in the knowledge that A Coy was defending and ready to meet any call that might come.

December also saw the change of command. MAJ Given into the Ops chair, and MAJ Roche into Command. Later in January the new 2IC CAPT McNeill arrived back north after so much fun in Victoria Barracks, Sydney.

Once the training cycle really hit top gear what had appeared to be a fairly slow start, accelerated very, very quickly.

For the first major activity for the year A Coy were off to beautiful downtown WETA along with the rest of the Battalion. As usual with any exercise there are those moments which live on in the memory, this was no exception. As will happen on occasions people lose things and other have to find them. On this occasion it happened to be a grenade blind, and don't we just love them? But in this situation I wish people would leave them where they found them and not hold them up for the world to see.

On returning from Wide Bay we had quite a bit of activity with the Response Force. It seemed that the silly season had arrived with A Coy having it's own personal bomb hoaxer. But then we all know what happens when you lie and tell stories; CLANG! Watch your fingers. But a visit by an unwelcome, imaginary football team to our fair city certainly gave vent to plenty of good response force training at Wacol Barracks. After an early start to the day the soldiers were put under pressure by an unruly mob, led by a highly intelligent core of troublemakers.

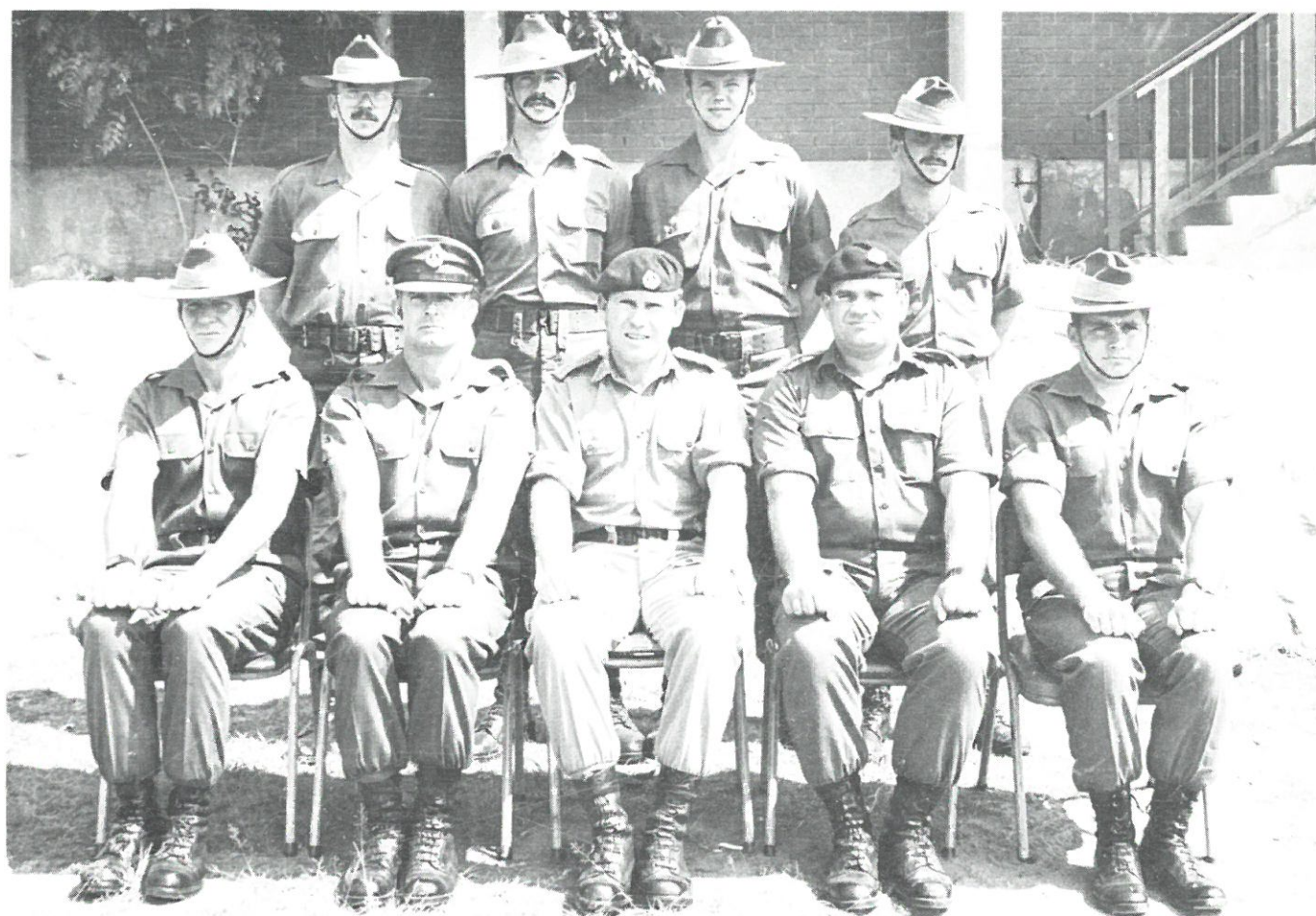
Although exhausted at the end of the day everyone had learnt a great deal and had the chance to train in an almost frighteningly real situation.

No rest for the wicked and the next stop for A Coy was the countryside of Canungra. Well many people may not think that Army beds are not very comfortable but by the end of each day every soldier was glad of a relatively soft bed and a few hours of sleep. A few questions still remain unanswered after Canungra. Why do they call it a "Muscle Toughening Course" when once you have finished, all your muscles want to do is just lie there and hurt? Why also have a "Confidence Course" that effectively removes mud from under ropes and forces it down your shirt, then deposits it into the river at the end? Oh Well, one of those mysteries of life.

But the hard training in Canungra the week before definitely showed it's worth in the Platoon training phase at the end of our stay. Although the training area was small by conventional standards the closeness of the country certainly made any movement slow and arduous. For many members of the Coy it was their first encounter with such close country, and having an enemy contact a matter of feet away.

One of the most physically demanding and dangerous activities of the year was the beloved Gladiator Week. This is the time of the year when people learn the rules and tactics of a game either en route to the game or during the first few minutes. Despite a valiant effort we languished a little down the order. Special mention should go to our Hockey team who learnt how to play the game from the two players, PTEs Michell and Martin, who had even played the game in the minutes before and during the game.

The exercise most enjoyed by the Coy was Exercise RAMALOT in the Cooktown/Cape Flattery region. The first phase of the exercise was spent inland trying to catch a very elusive enemy. Vast areas and distance between sub-units made detection and contact with the enemy difficult.



Miscellaneous

LUSTY LADY

I remember him well, he was about 5'10" in height and short dark hair. His hands were large, warm and inviting. His strong stature was what had drawn my attention to him in the first place. He was a soldier.

He had invited me to a party with some of his friends at the beach. It was a warm night and the moonlight lit the beach like the late afternoon sun. The breeze rustled through the palm trees blowing them to and fro in a sort of slow dancing rhythm. I remember thinking it was like one of them old Tarzan movies.

As the night grew old we strolled along the beach watching the massive waves roll in, and occasionally tripping over unseen mounds of sand.

He suddenly stopped and fell to the ground, dragging me with him. He sat there just looking at me, I tried to ignore his suggestive gaze. As I watched the surf he started to run his hands over my now chilled body. I let him go as I was enjoying the shivers he was sending through my shapely body. He began to act like a maniac, he tore off my top and started caressing my neck with his dry wind burnt lips.

It was the most passionate experience I had ever encountered. When he was finished we laid back on the beach together, my shiny tanned body glistening in the moonlight. Slowly I drifted off to sleep. The next morning I was woken by the early morning tide rolling in on me. When I had fully woken I realised he had gone, I laid back feeling empty and used, as I new from that moment what I really was.

JUST ANOTHER EMPTY BEER BOTTLE ON THE GARBAGE HEAP!!!

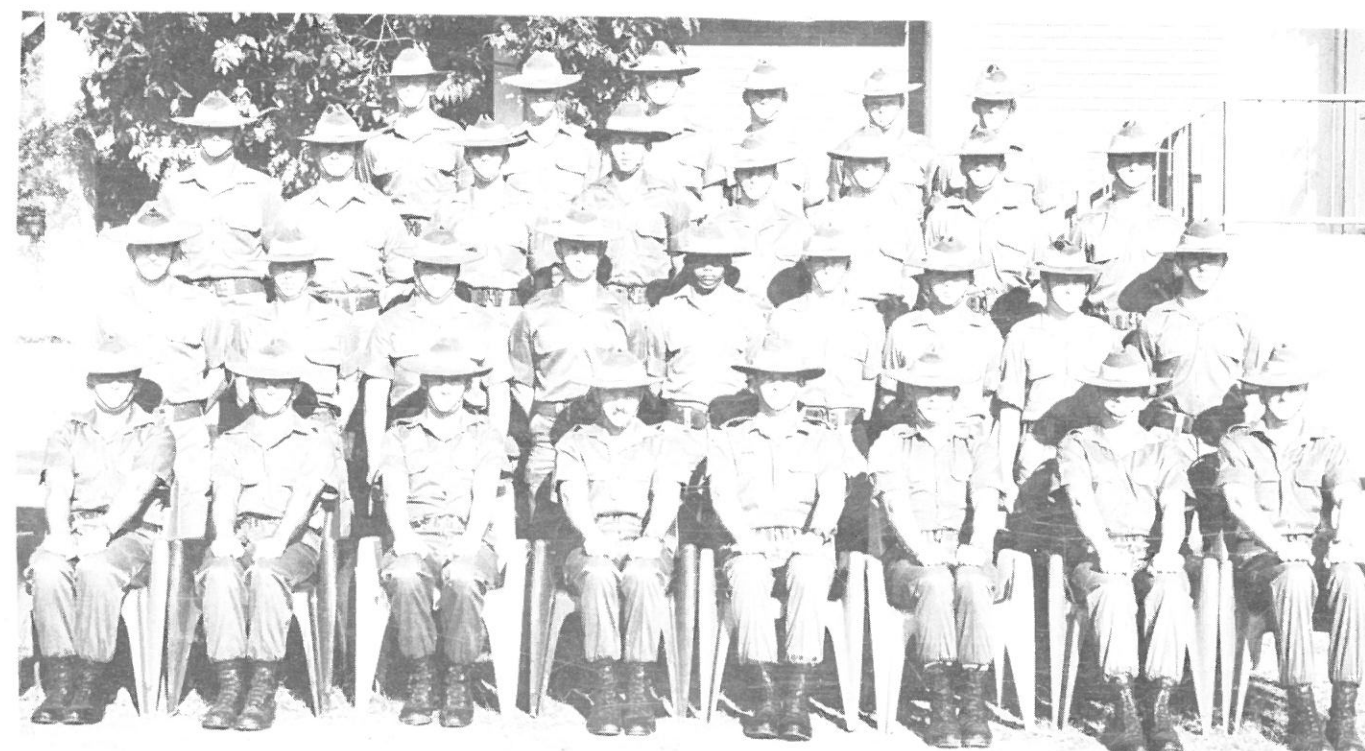


This is touch footy staff,
not TV ringside



"Yeah mate, he started it"

1 Platoon



Once the Coy was redeployed to Cape Flattery everything changed dramatically. From open countryside we went to an urban environment. The task of defending the town became far easier when the local population became involved in the activity. Freely giving information, and helping out with our ration resupply. This exercise did show the difficulty of working with a civilian population also, this situation involved the infiltration of enemy troops by truck. An ambush was laid and sprung, but when the FI truck was approached it was an unusual colour and in the back was a number of local mine workers with hearts racing. Oh Well, I guess training is where we should make the mistakes.

On the day before our fly out from Cooktown we marched through the city to a rousing reception from the locals, the Coy really walked tall. After the march it was to the local RSL where the Coy was to have a few beers and a video replay of our march. On reflection the exercise seems to stay in the minds of the Company.

At the end of June the Coy happily handed over the Response Force duties to B Coy 6 RAR. The comment that, it was nice to see something existed beyond 150 kms from Brisbane. Also telephone calls to the Duty Room no longer were necessary, less a burden for everyone.

Through June and July a lot of time was spent on the parade ground having the companies drill before it headed south to the old style grace of Victoria Barracks Sydney. Fancy footwork helped on a few occasions in other areas of Sydney. The guard drew praise from all quarters while on duty and I'm led to believe their nocturnal activities drew similar responses from a few quarters.

Long nights of pounding the pavement in Sydney gave way to long days of digging and defending on Exercise DIAMOND DOLLAR. After a prolonged trip to the bay in the converted cruise ship; HMAS FLAT BOTTOMED BARGE; Oh! I mean, HMAS TOBRUK. We were lodged in SWBTA and went about relieving 6 RAR. After the relief came a succession of company and battalion positions defending against the dreaded Musorian foe. One of the major highlights was the live firing activities, it is one thing to see the effects of a weapon on a range, but when trees start falling down we know that there is a lot of firepower coming out of the company position.

From the end of Exercise DIAMOND DOLLAR to the end of the year, the members of the company have been very busy. Subject courses, Support Company Specialist Courses and Driver's Course have stripped the company down to a bare skeleton. But that skeleton has really been rattling it's bones. A Coy will take up a forward defence at the Air Base Butterworth. To get the company to Butterworth the company and platoon staff have been working hard to get all the administration up to date.

For Butterworth the company will deploy in early December and return to Australia in early March 1987. While in Butterworth it is hoped to train with the Malay and New Zealand Forces as well as shooting and ranges at Pulada. For a full report you will have to wait for next years magazine.

But I can assure you we will force ourselves to enjoy it.

As with all establishments A Coy has it's characters:

CHQ OC MAJ Roche: A man of few words. (Says Who??)
 2IC CAPT McNeill: OK when is the next Rugby match?
 CSM WO2 Stevens: You can always tell someone is around by their (his) bark.
 CQ SSGT Bishop: Don't mess with the law.

Coy Clerk CPL Cox: Has finally swapped his fishing rod for a barbell.

Stmn PTE Cleary: The CQ said you have to do it for me.

Coy Sig PTE Taylor: Say Again, you are weak and unreadable.

PTE Clk PTE Nary: You toucha my Harley, I kill ya!

1 PL Pl COMD LT Burr: The new addition, still keeps them wheels a rollin!

Pl SGT SGT Hudson: What does he really want to be? Each time I look he is in a new job.

CPL Wilson: The new greyhound version, drove the Dog Squad until he dropped.

LCPL Muggeridge: Our Cordon Bleu Section 2IC.

3 Pl Pl COMD LT White: Giddy Blue! Let's go shoot a roo or two.

Pl SGT SGT Clarke: The enforcer with the Mafia staff car.

Touch Football

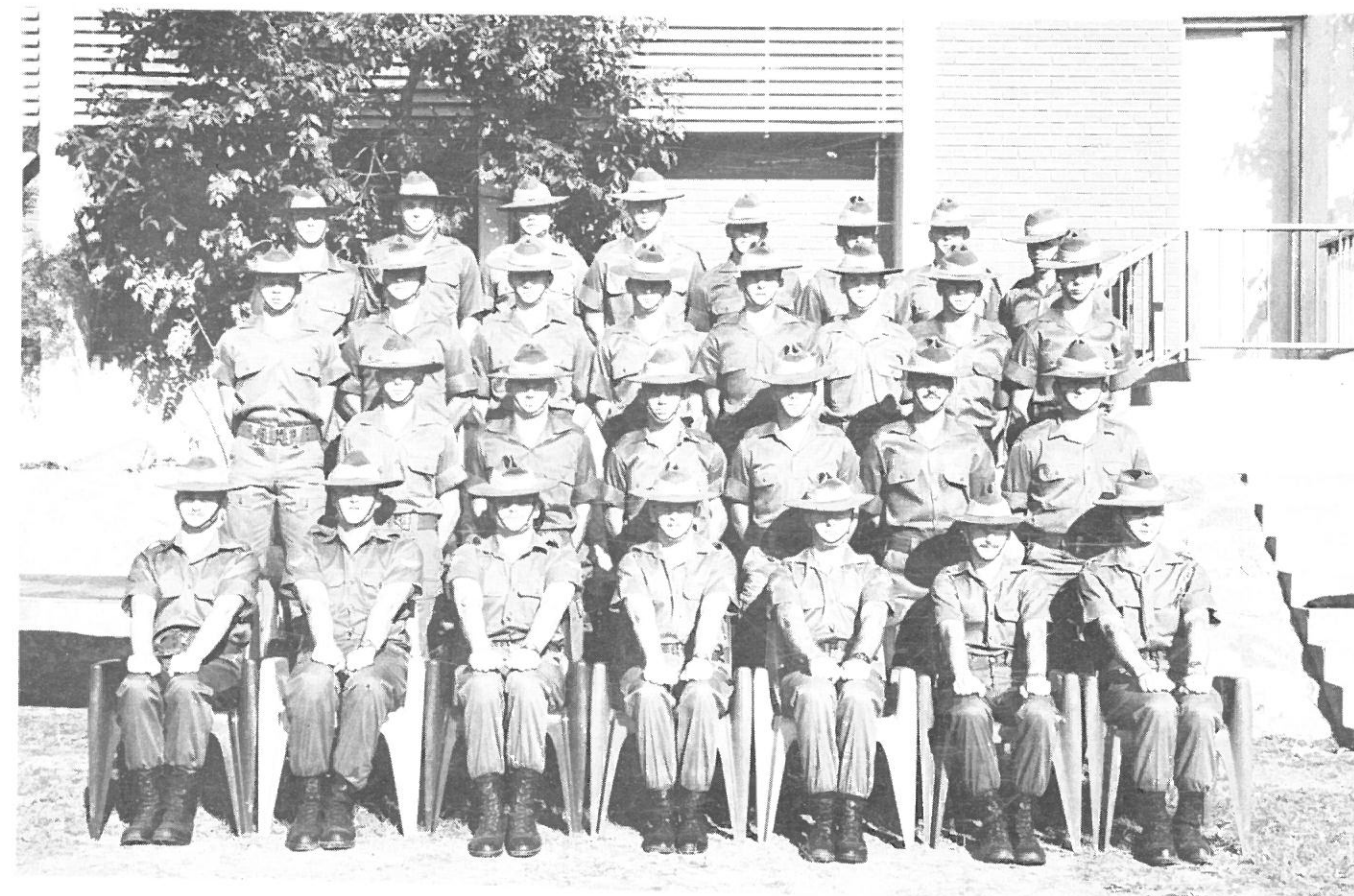


The team is losing a few players this year. Dave Morrison has been posted and Ash is leaving the Army, but a strong reserve of talent remains and combined with the spirit and support that has been evident this year the 87 season looks like being a good one for the Battalion.



Brains trust ?

3 Platoon



CPL Rozitis: Sometimes seen "Dancin' on the Ceiling" while down in Sydney.

PTE Rodgers: Our own destruction Derby King.

PTE McKenzie: There's muscles in them there arms.

Well it's been a good year for A Coy we have achieved a great deal with our young company. We will hold up the name of 8/9 RAR in Butterworth and will keep up to our company motto in all we do:

"ACHIEVE THE AIM"



Butterworth (Bon Voyage)



Hockey

1986 was a year that could be summed up as "so close and yet so far". The team was beaten by 1 Sig Regt in the Preliminary Final by one goal, decided on penalty flicks after extra time had been played. 1 Sig Regt went on to win the Grand Final.

That disappointment aside it was a good year for the hockey team. The training squad for the side was large at the beginning of the year and there was only a small reduction in numbers as the year wore on. This was an indication of the teamwork and spirit that was a major factor in the success of the team.

The season got off to a very good start with five straight wins and the team only lost three games during the competition. New faces in 1986 side such as Damien Negus, Mathew Henderson and Dave Willmetts added to a good depth

of existing talent and there were always plenty of capable players who could take the place of others who were away on exercise or course.

A number of players made representative sides during the year. Damien Negus, Logan Ashmole, Darren Doyle, Mathew Henderson and Pat Sheeky all represented 6 Brigade in the interbrigade competition. Darren went on to play for Qld Army in the interservice competition and Damien the Qld Combined Service side. Congratulations to all those players.

The following awards were made for the hockey team:

Best and Fairest - Logan Ashmole
Most Improved - Mathew Henderson
Best Team Member - Len 'Pop' Connor



To the players both A and B Grade your support and dedication to training, willingness to listen has brought you that much closer to achieving your own goal of being able to establish yourself as a member of 8/9 RAR soccer team. I will not list players names because you know who you are and I express to you all my sincerest thanks and best wishes for the season next year.

MARK WALLACE
CAPT/COACH



B Company - CHQ



After completing yet another Loaden Lift the company travelled south to Sydney. Six Platoon carried out its role as Victoria Barracks Guard and did a great job, while the rest of the company did some intensive rifle shooting at Malabar Rifle Range. The shooting was broken up with local leave and the clubs never really knew what hit them. Of course King's Cross had to be visited, didn't it "Brownie"? Some very interesting training was done by the Officers and NCOs at the School of Artillery on their Invertron computer equipment. It definitely is an aid to training men on calling indirect fire support.

Our return to Enoggera was rather slow with the new Army super Greyhound Bus breaking down more times than Brownbill gets into trouble. BOY! Was it slow!!

The end of 1985 saw a large number of soldiers leave the company. Thank you for your hard work. It also saw our hard working Company Clerk, CPL D. 'Coxy' Cox, get married. Congratulations and all the very best Mate.

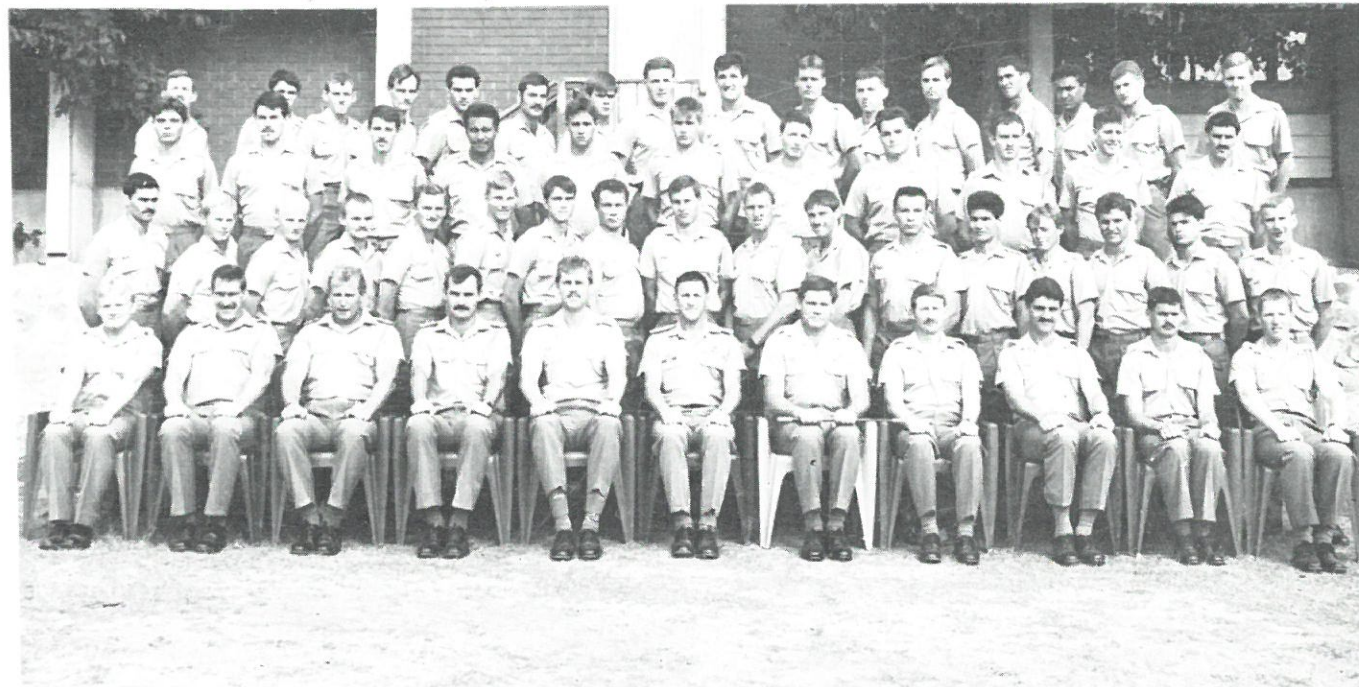
Among our new march-ins at the beginning of 1986 was the new CSM, WO2 Dave Bennett. His many interest include fishing and rugby (of course). He has shown us all his expertise on the footy field and as a Coach, however we are still waiting to see what sort of a fisherman he is.

The company swimming carnival had to be held on a Saturday and apart from this disadvantage it turned out to be a good afternoon. All the wives had a chance to meet and mingle at the pool and then later at the RA's over a cool drink and a barbecue. You'll be happy to know next year it's programmed on a work day. Oh! by the way, 4 Platoon romped the event in. Congratulations to the "Feeding Fourth".

You may ask why the "Feeding Fourth", well the platoon has taken up the eating habits of LT Nick "Hulk" Baddick. No need for anything else to be said.

Ramalot saw the Battalion spread over a large area and the difficulty apart from communications was logistics. You should have seen the amount of jack rations our QMS, SSGT Dave Jenkin, had to carry just to sustain LT Baddick, let alone the rest of the platoon and company. We not only overcame the communications problem, thanks to CPL 'Wing Nut' Hoskin and PTE Jeff Bowyer, but we certainly overcame our Musorian enemy and managed to capture quite a few of them and even their base camp with all that beer!! Too bad we didn't have a chance to go fishing, the CSM really wanted to catch a 'bara' or two.

I have it on good advice that the 'bara' steaks were quite delicious, well at least 'Eddy' said they were.



The time spent after Ramalot was very busy, as we had OTBO and Swift Sword to prepare for. Both exercises provided interesting and sometimes difficult training and the company performed well, as usual, of course.

The nine days short leave was definitely welcomed and allowed us time to recharge our batteries ready for the second half of the year.

The end of the year will see a fairly big change over of staff once again. The personnel leaving include the OC, Major Chris Smith, LT Jim Boubouras, CPL Derek Cox, PTE Alan Brownbill and PTE "Dutchie" Van Aalst. Farewell and good soldiering.

Soccer

Once again the season has come to a close with quite a large amount of success, both within the Bn competition and in the representative field.

The season started off with a great win for the unit in the knock out comp at the start of the season, although we won the trophy for that series we were about to learn that the road to the premiership would not be easy. Due to unit commitments and courses we would lose quite a few of our more skilful players and we had to call upon our more than adequate B Grade players - who met the challenge with a lot of enthusiasm because they were always looking for a spot in the top team. Their efforts were greatly appreciated.

We lost LT Jim Rose to 3 RAR earlier this year, but his shoes were filled by MAJ Eddie Patterson who has done a fantastic job in his role not only as the Soccer Officer but as a player and adviser, his help has not gone unnoticed. Our manager Mick Rice also known as MIAMI RICE also made sure the cold brew and oranges were there at the ground for half time but why could he only be found in the bar at the soccer club??? Thanks must also go to SAV, the strapper who in his own uncanny way managed to remove more hairs off peoples legs with his strapping than you could with a BIC razor, thanks Doctor Sav.

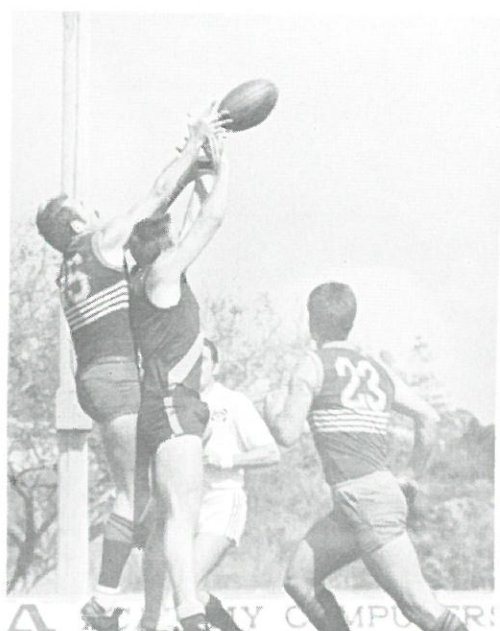
We progressed through the season without a defeat until we came up against our arch enemies 6 RAR! Why must we let them have wood on us? Maybe one year we will get to the grand final the easy way without choosing the low road. The preparation for the grand final was on in no small way especially with the time available, but the support and effort was whole hearted and the effort paid a big dividend even though the score did not

indicate the ferocity and total commitment of players both on and off the field. The Bn turned out in vast numbers to support a terrific effort by their mates, not to mention the support the bar received.

6 RAR scored the first goal of the match and things did not look the best for us, however, we managed to hold them out until just before half time ... they scored again making it 2 nil. The team then seemed to lose penetration due to the loss of Alan Brownbill who was taken off with a badly broken leg. At half time in the dressing shed we noticed that our commitment wasn't enough to fight off the constant pressure that the players from 6 were putting us under, a change in positional play however put us back in action and our first goal was scored. The soul was then back in the RAMS.

With spirits lifted and adrenalin pumping we forged on. The 6 RAR players were starting to suffer the effects of our onslaught and began to cramp up. We kept the pressure up and another brilliant goal was scored - 2 all - although we kept playing all over them time ran out and the score was left at 2 a piece.

Extra time was in progress and the players on both sides were feeling the strain of that extra half hour, both sides lost players due to cramps and other small injuries, and were glad to hear the final whistle blown. The game that had been such a spectacle would be brought down to a penalty shoot out, in which there was no less than 29 penalties taken before a decision was reached. We were to be denied yet another premiership to 6 RAR! Will there ever be a year that will prove fruitful for the RAMS, maybe next year, but it should have been this year.!!



4 Platoon

Four platoon had a very busy and varied year in 86. As usual Leaden Lift marked the start of the year, giving the platoon a chance to get to know each other, and revise our basic military skills.

The LSG Exercise 'Full Pack' at Bonalla was a real eye opener with members from Five and Six platoon joining us to make up the numbers. Sandbagging and wiring was the order of the day, so by sundown a movie and a sit down meal was appreciated. The soldiers, however were always ready for action and PTE Oost was even known to have eaten dinner in his webbing.

Exercise 'Ramalot' was the major activity for the platoon. It involved a lot of patrolling and sweating up in the pointy end of Australia, with PTE Walsh looking like a dehydrated giraffe for most of the time. The platoon covered a lot of ground and either captured or killed most of the enemy. It wasn't an easy exercise but we managed to do our job well. Notable memories of the exercise were: the bosses' food consumption; the first surprise attack on the enemy; the eight km route march with 20 minutes in the Lakeland Downs Hotel and the pig PTE Jacobs captured at the Telecom Tower. Jacko had a lot of trouble toilet training the pig, but in the end the pig was more pissed off than Jacko!

OTBO was a well run, interesting exercise. The weapon handling and marksmanship improved on all weapons, with the platoon attack and defence being a good testing ground for both commanders and soldiers. LCPL Tredwell was often seen pumping out Z's at every opportunity and CPL Fowle smoking everybody else's smokes.

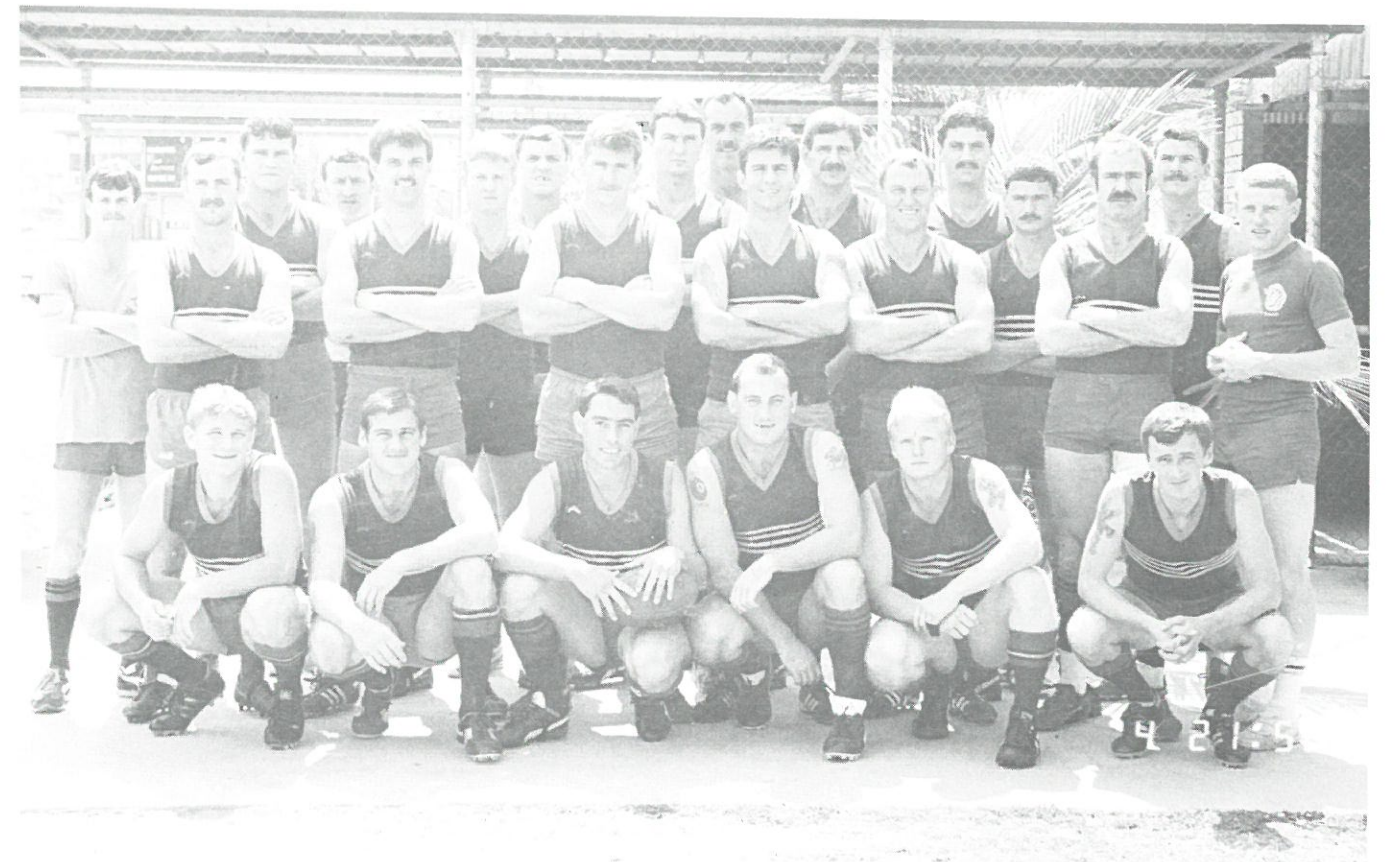
Exercise 'Diamond Dollar' 86 was the final activity for the Bn as a whole unit for the year. The exercise began with a non-eventful trip on the Tobruk to SWBTA. There were however a few isolated cases of sea sickness, which probably has nothing to do with the beer ration.

After we hit firm ground, (it seemed as if it was moving for a few days), the real work began, with the theme of the exercise being defence and withdrawal, it seemed as if we had our work cut out for us. As it turned out we did, however the presence of the new mechanical digger made life a lot more bearable. Lets hope we see them again.

The only problem was we had to tear the machine away from PTE Ferguson and PTE Brown who thought the digger was there to build them an inground swimming pool.

Last but by no means least was the death of PTE Andrew Bird. 'Birdseye', as Andrew was fondly called marched into the platoon halfway through Leaden Lift and immediately demonstrated his enthusiasm and ability. Birdseye stood out as a real character on Ex 'Full Pack' and proved to be the platoon comedian from then on. The platoon will remember him well for that trait. PTE Bird's parents kindly donated an 18th century rifle which has been mounted and is now the champion soldier trophy.

Australian Rules





5 Platoon

The fighting five began the year with a strength of 18 men, little knowing that 18 would be the strongest we'd be all year, PTE 'Karate Kid' Hunter, and our man from the coal fields (or was it 'Gem Fields'?) didn't take long to get into the swing of things. Our first exercise 'Leaden Lift' soon sorted out the men from the boys, and the individual skills of the platoon were well exercised. Back in Brisbane, we found that for every man we received, we lost two. Among the first to leave our little (and I do mean 'little') family was our favourite grandad, PTE 'Bugs' Halliwell who gave up the glamorous life of an Infantry man for the bright lights of RAEME. It wasn't long before our resident DJ on the platoon radio set, PTE Thorn, heard the call of old civvie street and left us to make his millions in plumbing. Close on their heels we lost CPL Steele and LCPL Butler to the big said known as Support Company. Our new sig, PTE Reynolds, joined us for a few months before being promoted and joining one of our sister platoons. Congratulations on the promotion of LCPL Reynolds. PTE 'Teddy Bear' Story also heard the call of the wild and left the army to return to Tasmania. He was last seen making party hats for sale. PTE Hemstead managed to be the only platoon sig in history never to carry the radio. What he doesn't know is that it's still waiting for him when he returns in 1987.

In February, the Platoon Commander and Sergeant left the platoon in the sensitive understanding hands of CPL 'Softie' Stewart, while they joined the Victoria Barracks Guard. The platoon was reunited for Exercise 'Bull Horn' which practised our withdrawal skills. During this time we also managed to destroy a few hundred dollars worth of planes in the air defence shoot. We've never seen PTE 'Eddy Pot Black' Edwards

fire his M60 with greater accuracy before or since.

Anzac Day proved to be a convenient occasion for us to cement our friendly relations with other units and PTE 'Shorty' Kirkness and 'Sailor Boy' Kinna managed to do their best in this regard with a dozen soldiers from the Signals Corp. 'Exercise Ramalot' was an activity that we weren't too sure about. Expecting to find crocodiles on the landing strip on the fly in, we were relieved to only contact 20 wild pigs for the entire period.

SGT Dutchy Holland and CPL Stewart will probably never forget their famous 'fighting' patrols to the Welcome Yards for a number of years to come. The platoon appreciated the opportunity to train in unfamiliar country and a number of important lessons were learned and relearned during the exercise.

Exercise 'Swift Sword' enabled us to give back to 6 RAR some of what they'd given to us during Ramalot, and with only private soldiers in the platoon, we were one of the most heavily armed groups in the history of warfare, with each man carrying a M60 or an 84mm. Backed up with our two 106 carriers we left ready to take on the world, but because of exercise restraints we lost the war.

PTE 'Rambo' Hargreaves and LCPL 'Jimbo' Jeavons went on to represent the platoon in the 'Dog' Squad and PTEs Riley, Edwards and Kinna managed to sleaze their way to the big N.Z. with C Company, and from all reports they seemed to enjoy themselves (apart from having to thaw their boots over fires every morning before putting them on).

Exercise 'Bull Run' turned out to be the hardest and the longest that would ever be attempted by members of the big five. PTE Edwards and Kinna helped platoon moral greatly with the big win in the 'Chook' Raffle at Peregrine RSL. Covering 90km in four days was no easy task and who ever completed it can be justly proud of their achievement.

Exercise 'Diamond Dollar' proved to be an interesting event with PTEs 'Spud' Maroney, 'Speers' Speering, Cook and Thompson joining us just in time to be initiated into Battalion life. The exercise gave us the opportunity to work with ships, choppers and APC's which for most of us was the first time. The platoon will never forget it's fighting patrol when it stumbled across the whole enemy company mounted in eight APC's. After a hard close battle the entire platoon was destroyed to a man within five minutes. (We'll go for the umpires next time!)

We are now nearing the end of the year and most of us are now involved with courses up until Xmas. All in all it's been a good year for the fighting five, and whether we're known as the 'Dirty Dozen' or as the 'Fearsome Five', we can still say that it's all been 'Hardly a Challenge'.

Do you remember?

1. Our 9km walk for a steak and a beer.
2. The 2 shy girls on the way back from Greenbank.
3. RAEME 12 - 5 loss on Anzac Day.
4. Being ambushed by civvies during Ramalot.
5. What PTE Jewel looks like.



Rugby

Well 1986 will be remembered as the year of near misses for 8/9 RAR Rugby. In both A and B Grades, early good form could not be carried through, despite a great effort by the players and coaches alike.

All would agree that the sparse amount of football, and the length of time between some games (up to 1 month on occasions) tended to strain the unit to get out and train. But congratulations are in order to the coaches and management of both A and B grades for keeping the interest up and supporting the teams on the field.

One of the highlights of the season was the representative chances of a number of 8/9 players during the year. Jim Ergec made it to the National and ASRU squads, while Clem Gribble made it to the National Army Squad for the first time. A number of other players made Brigade selection.

Special thanks must go to the coaches; Dave Bennett in First Grade and "Dutchy" Holland in the B Grade. Thanks also to the managers "Shorty" Eaton and "Rowey" for all their work during the year.

Looking to the future Rugby will grow and I think we can take back our place in 6 Bde Rugby next year. Whispers are that there could be a few new players on the way to the battalion and I think a few players who opted for 'Touch' may find their way back to the Rugby field next year.

So to all those who have supported 8/9 Rugby in 1986 'thank you'. To players, coaches and management lets look to shaking the daylights out of a few of our close neighbours and return the 6 Bde Rugby Crown to its rightful place; at the "RAMS".





"Foot fault"

6 Platoon

Six Platoon has found 1986 to be a busy and demanding year. With an almost complete turnover in members from Platoon Commander to Number Three Rifleman, we managed to get the job done one way or another. We have had days when we numbered one and twenty six and days when we numbered one and eleven, but still we managed to do the work of a full strength platoon but at times having the load carrying capacities of mules, the speed of startled gazelles and the dexterity of heading.

ACTIVITIES

Loaden Lift. Loaden lift for Six Platoon was a good start to the year by enabling the individual soldiers to settle into their jobs within their sections and practice the skills at individual and section level. Again it was demonstrated how demanding a live fire battle practice can be on the individual and the team.

Victoria Barracks Guard. The platoon went south to Sydney for two weeks in March to mount duty at Victoria Barracks. No-one will argue that a good time was had by all both off and on duty and the Barracks were in safe hands. There were some highlights during the two weeks:

- Beating the Retreat Ceremony as the main attraction for the Multiple Sclerosis Society annual fund raiser, they were so impressed and grateful they offered us ten cartons of stubbies and who were we to refuse?
- Watching the girls come and go out!
- Robbo directing a Major to the room because he didn't have his ID Card on him.

- The Brigadier in charge of the lollies at the guard room!, and
- The socially educational visits to nearby suburbs?

At the end of our duty at Victoria Barracks we joined the company for training on Holsworthy Range.

The Anti Aircraft Shoot. Perhaps one of the best shoots we have done all year was the Anti Aircraft Shoot at Holsworthy. It rates a mention here for several reasons, they being it was the first time anyone can remember doing one for infantry soldiers and according to the contractor who supplied the planes we shot down more planes in less time than any of the courses run at the School of Artillery had previously.

We quickly learned that the old principles of applying small arms fire to shoot down low flying aircraft are still valid today. So successful were the sections that on average a plane was not surviving more than a minutes actual firing. One can imagine the effect of a Battalion concentrating it's fire into an area an aircraft shall fly through.

The shoot was ended when all five aircraft had been totally destroyed, two of these had been made into one to give us a sixth plane and it too was dealt with, we had finished before schedule destroyed all aircraft and used less than half the ammunition allocated.

After the Anti Aircraft Shoot we spent the next four days exercising at section, platoon and company level. It was good to see the exploitation of local features when after securing a strategic water hole members continued with some swimming training, tactically of course!

Exercise Ramalot. Better known on our level as Exercise Walkalot, the Battalion remote locality exercise gave the platoon a good look at Far North Queensland, its terrain, vegetation and people. This was occasionally interrupted by the elusive and realistic enemy. At times we had the element of surprise and superiority but we did not enjoy the pursuit by foot of a vehicle mounted enemy. We did enjoy the number of flights by the RAAF but again we didn't enjoy being told by the locals at Battle Camp that we were the first ever to land on their airstrip after having done so in a Caribou at night without lights.

The platoon also spent three days guarding a bridge of Lakeland Downs and on the second night the enemy made a brave but reckless attempt to attack it. We cannot believe anything else but that their party was ambushed by eight section and two of the survivors went on to feebly throw an explosive device in the general direction in the dark while under fire.

OTBO. OTBO gave the members the chance to do what soldiers enjoy most and that was turning perfectly good ammunition into brass. Not to mention the number of destroyed targets, the quantities of ammunition expended, in the time taken gave credibility to the members and platoon as a fighting force.

Enemy for 6 RAR. 6 RAR Exercise Swift Sword at Shoal Water Bay saw the platoon as part of the company act as enemy. 6 RAR were mounted in APC's and at first it looked like we were going to be on foot. We were not impressed but we soon had the use of a Unimog and quickly adapted to the task of providing them with what they wanted and got to see most of the training area and made the most of it. This was one of those days when we numbered one and eleven and we often heard the comment after we have been overrun,

"Stay alert, there must be more of them around here somewhere".

6 PL EX DIAMOND DOLLAR

6 platoon took part in the major exercise for the year, Exercise Diamond Dollar by deploying with the battalion on board the Tobruk. The days on board were spent in lessons, impromptu debates and a day shooting from the aft flight deck. The shooting was good and by the looks on the crews faces they didn't entertain the idea of being a mad in the water while we were shooting.

From the Tobruk we flew into the exercise area and began training from section, platoon, company and finally battalion level.

The platoon received three new march in's the day before we left and by the end of the exercise they had nearly seen it all, from ships, APC's, helicopters, planes, pits, patrols, barb wire, bridges, bombs, bayonets, fighters and braised steak and onions.

One thing we didn't get to see however was a bank. One of the new chaps wanted to do some banking! at least he used the chain of command. The platoon would like to say that we thought that the two diggers used during the defensive phase were not manufactured in Australia but rather made in Heaven.

Looking back on the year Six Platoon has been a few places and done a few things. Some things we will not forget like Victoria Barracks, the local hospitality on Ramalot, the night landing at Battle Camp, the piles of brass on OTBO and a few things we would like to forget such as the APC and a certain set of webbing and rifle, the hasty position we dug and never used and Braised Steak and Onions. Looking forward for the rest of the year and 1987 we are sure that what ever they throw at us we will take it in our stride.

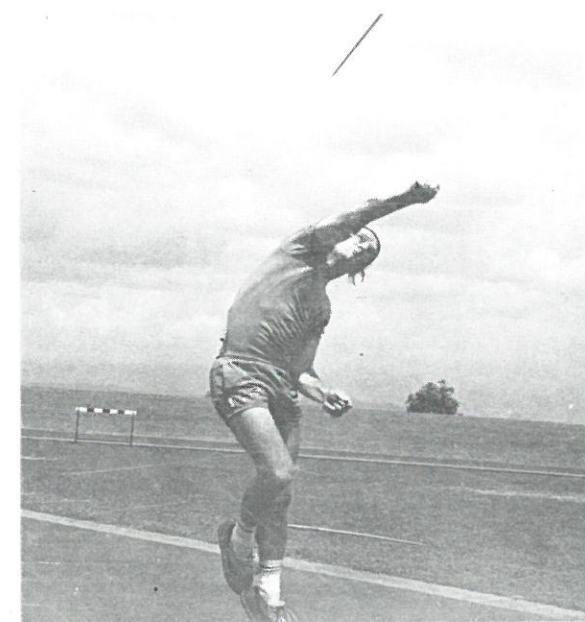
Athletics



Pte Cavanagh leads Pte Guttridge in the 5000 mtrs



IO at his office again



CSM Charlie

Swimming

The Swimming Competition in 8/9 RAR this year can only be described as a success. It commenced with the inter-company competition, the first sport to be contested in the year.

With the amount of training the organisation varying between the companies, as did their compliment of swimmers, the day provided us with entertainment and fierce competition. The main challenge was between C and Admin Coy's, but C Coy went home with the trophy after a desperate struggle by Admin Coy.

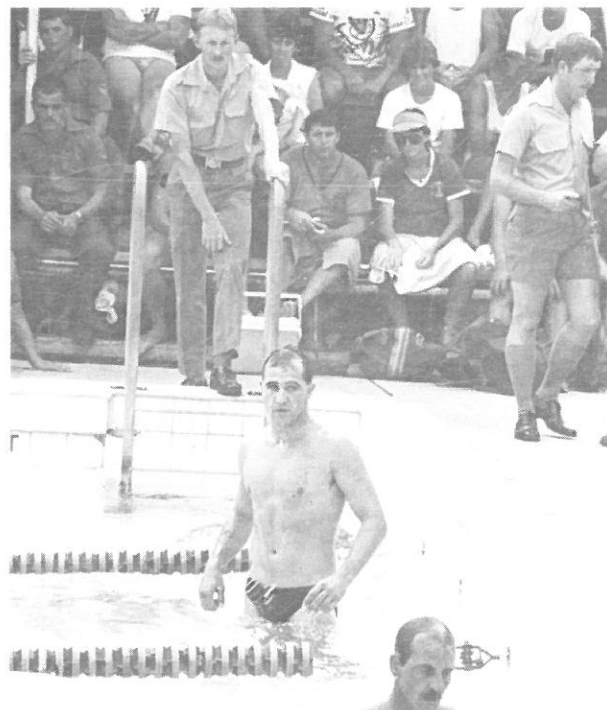
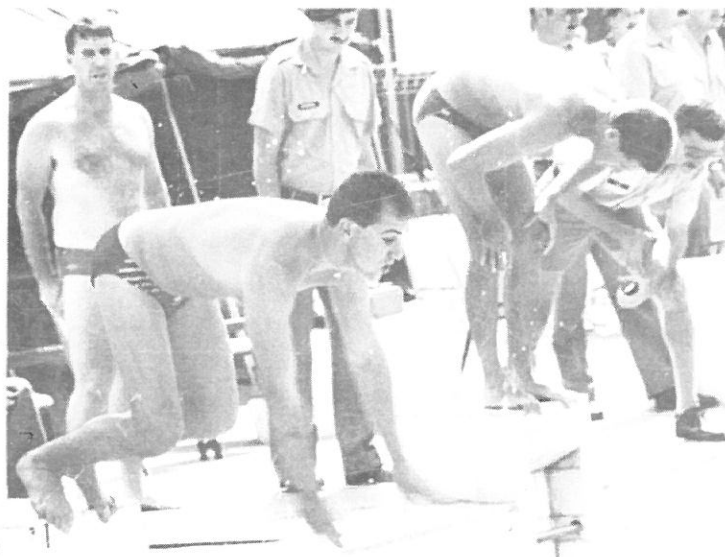
The carnival highlighted the depth of good swimmers in the Battalion this year with many commendable performances. Two exceptional individuals were CAPT Mathieson, who won the Champion Swimmers Trophy, and PTE Hill, a close second.

On these results, the Battalion team was chosen for the South Qld Area Swimming Carnival the following day. Further training or selection was not possible, so we went in blind, but confident. 6 RAR had won the trophy

for the past 5 years and were looking very confident. 8/9 RAR was going to stop this run from the very first race.

Throughout the day we got at least a place in every event and managed to stay in front of 6 RAR. A top effort.

Finally, congratulations go to all swimmers on an excellent days swimming and bringing the trophies home. Now let's ensure 8/9 RAR retains them.



Bde Champions

C Company - CHQ



1986 has been a busy year for Cobra Company. This has been a year of considerable effort in training and sport, and a time of some notable personal and group achievements. The Cobra Company has made much this year of being able to keep a balanced perspective on our job, and doing what has to be done in an efficient, calm manner. The ability to know when to put in that extra effort and when to call 'targets down, patch out' is important to maintaining sanity in soldiering. The company's unofficial motto 'hardly a challenge, sir' is a good reflection of this attitude.

This year has had many highlights. From a useful 3 weeks at Canungra in February to a demanding 2 weeks at Cape Melville still to come in November, a wide range of training has developed our individual and group talents. It is clear to me that 1986 has made us not only a year older, but also a year wiser. Looking back on a 3 year posting with the Battalion, and association of more than 10 years, the overwhelming impression is of the

changes and development in individuals. It seems to me that the Battalions ability to carry out its tasks has remained reasonably static throughout my association. It is the individuals who have changed and developed to meet the demands of new jobs and the challenge of holding the line of professionalism.

If the members of Cobra Company are to remember anything of 1986 it is fitting that it should be the striving, success, persistence and sometimes failure, of their fellows.

Between 2 - 22 June this year C Coy and attachments from Hvy Wpns Pl, ARES and Admin Coy formed a contingent of approximately 120 soldiers and officers for Ex Tasman Exchange. This contingent was commanded by OC C Coy MAJ Hannan, and we exchanged with C Coy 2/1 RNZIR. Preparations were intense, training hard and it was with a certain relief and excitement that we were all ready to go that Monday morning.

It was raining very hard when we left Australia, but it was very cold when we arrived at Burnham about 1880 hrs that night. Burnham Army Camp is about 30 minutes drive from Christchurch in the South Island NZ. We were fed, then orientated by the Kiwis. First with a magical Paka by their C Coy and then by their DB ale and Steinlager! This latter orientation was consistently updated and kept on the programme during the exchange.

While we were issued gear, and the advance party went south to set up Field Firing Ranges at the Lake Tekapo training area. The rest of the contingent deployed for some tough training in the Port Hills around Christchurch. The men then moved to the environs of Christchurch and were told not to come back until the following day, they did that. Local leave as a whole was great, except on Tuesday and Wednesday nights

Christchurch closes around 2130 hrs and goes very quiet.

Then off to Lake Tekapo. Here there were indications it had been snowing, this was received with a mixed reaction. The first day was lost to a retaining in fire-fighting skills over large areas, high winds and open dry country. That training was a success, and thought to be very realistic. We decided to do some field firing over the last few days, although raining heavily each platoon volunteered to walk back to camp at the end of each day, at least once each. Here live firing section/platoon attacks, section defence and SFMG shoots were conducted. The last shoot was new and the diggers found it very interesting. Enough of Lake Tekapo, which is clear and beautiful in appearance, nestling in amongst the mountains. North again to Burnham for 2 days of SFMG, sigs and 25m shooting and Stienlager training. A quick reassessment of Tuesday and Wednesday nightlife in Christchurch, snowseal the GPs and we were off to Springs Junction on the SW coast of the island.

Here we shot some excellent close country ranges, gallery and sneaker the last being particularly demanding, crawling through waist deep mud and rolling over mossy logs, great stuff. Also a night shoot by sections was conducted. Quite memorable as dinner arrived. After everyone went to sleep, 15 men stood in the rain, each with their own hot-box and gorged themselves.

From there we split into section groups and 'tramped', a name the Kiwi's give to a bloody long walk, to Reefton, about 40 kms to the north. The route followed a torturous track, not dissimilar to the Kokoda Trail, up mountain and down dale, punctuated with many raging rivers that had to be crossed at one's own peril. Our overnight stops ranged from an excellent hut that could take around 80

men, to sleeping in the open which meant one had to incorporate best defreezing drills in one's moving routine. However, the intrepid contingent finally arrived after two days in sunny thriving, mini metropolis of Reefton town, ready for the inevitable Steinlager. This we did, and well, at the local RSA (like our RSL, just change the letters). About 1 am the following morning we returned in open air, fully furnished green army coaches, to Burnham. Instead of going out the back like everyone else, PTE Osbourne thought it would be easier to leave by the front. After 30 minutes of this he realised he wouldn't get through the cabin, and fell out the back.

A quick clean up and safety brief, and the lads were ready for some hell raising in the South Island of NZ.

Most went skiing, boat riding and drinking at fashionable Queenstown or Mount Hutt, or others took the camper-van/hire car option and circumnavigated the island to some degree. Others never got past the first pub in Christchurch!

The contingent re-assembled after four days of good times and after some final administration we were right to go. Everyone enjoyed themselves at least once on the exchange, and the aim, to foster the old ANZAC spirit, was clearly achieved, especially in the last party we had for the Kiwi's. 60, 40 oz bottles of Bundaberg Rum stopped the 2/1 Battalion RNZIR dead in their tracks!

12. Honour Board

- a. Batting Average - PTE Ian Jones 13.6
- b. Bowling Average - PTE Peter Oram 19.44
- c. Duck Honour Board - CPL Pat O'Mallon two ducks in three innings.

13. It was good to see an incentive against bad fielding and batting being used in that players were fined 50 cents for dropped catches, missfields that went for fours and ducks. This helped the social funds of the team and did make players try that little bit harder.

14. Hard luck for the season but we await revenge in 86/87.

Summary

15. Of the 57 players used in both grades only 11 will be missing for next season. Let us train hard, play aggressively and win back those trophies to adorn our cabinet.



How were ya Blue?

Cricket

A GRADE

1. A total of 26 players represented the A Grade Cricket Team throughout the 1985/86 season under the captaincy of CPL Noel Gathercole.

2. The team started slowly and it wasn't until towards the end of the season that we started to hit form.

3. In the last three games the team was in devastating form and had we have won one more game at some stage throughout the season and made the finals it would have been a very interesting affair. However, bygones, and it didn't happen but we will win next season.

4. There were some commendable performances throughout the season as shown below:

a. Batting

LCPL Andrew Richardson	106
CPL Mick Borrett	91 no
PTE David Watts	70 no
CPL Noel Gathercole	69

b. Bowling

CPL Mick Borrett 5 for 11 off 7 overs and 4 for 8 off 4.3 overs

CPL Geoff Barker 4 for 17 off 7 overs.

5. Honour Board

a. Batting Average - CPL Nick Gathercole 35.

b. Bowling Average - CPL Mick Borrett 6.75.

c. Special Bowling Award - CPL Geoff Barker bowling average 5.1 off 21 overs B Grade and 13.8 off 29 overs A Grade.

d. Duck Honour Board - PTE Ian Jones, two ducks in three innings.

e. WO2 Zerner Best Clubman Award - LCPL Andrew Richardson.

6. To qualify for the averages trophies, player had to bowl twenty five overs and bat in five innings.

B GRADE

7. The B Grade team started the season on fire but eventually the imbalance caused by having to use 31 players took its toll and the team slipped from top to fifth position.

8. The team was Captained by PTE Peter Gram and was well managed by WO2 Kerry Merrett.

9. Team spirit was great throughout the season even after better performed players were snapped up by the A Grade towards the end of the season. This also could have led to the poorer performance towards the end of the season.

10. There were few stars with the bat and this is reflected by PTE Ian Jones taking out the Duck Honour Board in the A Grade yet winning the batting averages in the B Grade.

11. Once again there were some good bowling performances:

a. CPL Geoff Barker 6 for 17 off 7 overs, and

b. CPL Mick Hennessy 4 for 12 off 5 overs.

7 Platoon

After a quiet and healthy leave the Pl. 7 Pl's NCO's, full of enthusiasm and renewed motivation, we were ready to take on the battalion and our new Boss, LT McRitchie. The command element established, the platoon was able to take off to Leiden Lift to sort itself out and get to know each other. Hardly had we finished the battle with the mossies, when we were off to fight the leeches at LWC for a lazy three weeks.

It was here on the first morning during a stroll, that the first of five sigs went, so a replacement was quickly found. This was in the form of the naturally gifted Chooia whose voice the battalion had experienced during the Rugby in Gladiator week. LWC will also be remembered for CPL Dalley's superbly confident exhibition on the water tower and the numerous run and shoots we did, and won!

The Battalion then took off on 'Ex Ramat' at Cape York. It was short business as Shaggy Cotterel and 7Pl didn't get on, so we got off his truck! Torn back ligaments, cut heads and broken collar bone. It was clear we were a force to be reckoned with as demonstrated in NZ, when LCPL Brian Freeman (yes he did do an exercise) managed to bumout a range with his section. The trip to Kiwiland was finished with many adventures on standown, and we were all happy to return to some standown.

Ex Diamond Dollar will be remembered for only one pit on the position being hit by a shell, and toilet paper everywhere! On the way to a Bde Counter attack task the Pl waiting at BHQ, conversation went like this:

Div Comd: 'What are you doing here SGT?'

Pl SGT: 'On our way to practice the Bde counter attack plan, sir.'

Div Comd: 'Oh I thought you were the enemy!'

Good effort by the platoon in the digging, very worthwhile.

Inter-coy sport competition this year produced good performances and stars from the platoon. PTE Fox and PTE Wilson (the boy from Swaziland) did very well in the swimming. In the Rugby LCPL Cockburn and CPL Johnson put in solid performances, remember Dal's quick 5 minute appearance? In the Hockey Henderson the Barbarian and Turrs starred. In Soccer wizards were found in PTE Wall and Squizzy Taylor. PTE Davey won his fight at the boxing night, contributing to the company's victory. We were represented in the battalion shooting team and CPL Dalley's section clocked up the fastest time for the run and shoot. Well done to everyone in Mil Skills.

Best of luck to those leaving the platoon, CPL Johnson to Kapooka after 10 years in the coy, SGT Jackson to Int Section (take it easy Sarge) and Boothy how could we forget you! Congratulations to those promoted, LCPL Cockburn on his way to Pnrs and CPL Dalley earlier on the year. Farewell to PTE McGomas and PTE Osbourne off to the much loved MPs. Congratulations to PTE Wall on his marriage, only the second one in the platoon.

All around a good year from the platoon, made possible through a team effort from everyone, which is what it is all about. Well done.



"Need a hand"?

Military Skills



8 Platoon

The Eighth Platoon launched off to a flying start in 1986 with LEADEN LIFT which provided us with a great opportunity to iron out the wrinkles and clean off the dust. Although only newly formed, it didn't take long for our share of characters to develop. Remember:

"When's snacks?" PTE Penhall.
"It'll never work." PTE Wagner.

The swimming carnival saw some of our members reveal some of their hidden talents. CPL Mitchell's high diving expertise, showing originality and guts, rates a special mention. Three weeks at Camungra was one of the most interesting and memorable exercises from all points of view. It really saw everyone booked in for a psych interview. The Pl staff were almost certain that the entire platoon had spent some time in a lunatic asylum. Some quotable quotes were:

"The enemy and that and the friendlies and that".

DS: "Use your SOP's"
Chips: "I don't have any SOP's"
DS: "Why not?"
Chips: "I got here last night."

Eight platoon furnished the company with some star players for Gladiator week. SGT Willmetts played some good solid Hockey, CPL Mitchell made Ron Barrassi look like a kindergarten teacher; and LCPL Lister could have given Craig Johnson a run for his money.

Exercise RAMALOT had eight platoon up in the air so often it made the pilots redundant. In the latter part of the war we were perched atop a mountain affectionately known as Moscow Central. This held a certain esteem as we could peruse the battlefield from above.

The months rolled on and June arrived. This was for many of us our first trip overseas. The exercise in New Zealand proved to everyone that operations in that type of climate are not for the faint hearted. Our Army in general would be ill prepared without some preparatory training. Some members from heavy weapons platoon supplemented eight platoon to bring us up to full strength. Their efforts and co-operation were much appreciated. Everyone remembers when PTE Davison decided to take swimming lessons with his pack in a swamp in below zero temperature. Another memorable moment was when CPL Mitchell's balaclava lost its clava.

Exercise DIAMOND DOLLAR 86 finished off the year for the Brigade. A good solid effort was shown by all. We had three members represent the battalion in the Duke of Gloucester Cup. Well done to PTE (Skitz) Penhall, PTE (Kermit) Potts and PTE (Heckel) Wilson. All members are being promoted in the near future.

The award for the best L & D goes to PTE (Devo) Davies with "The sheet was torn and through lack of knowledge I threw it in the bin".

The best excuse for leave is "Its my little brother's birthday," PTE Carey.

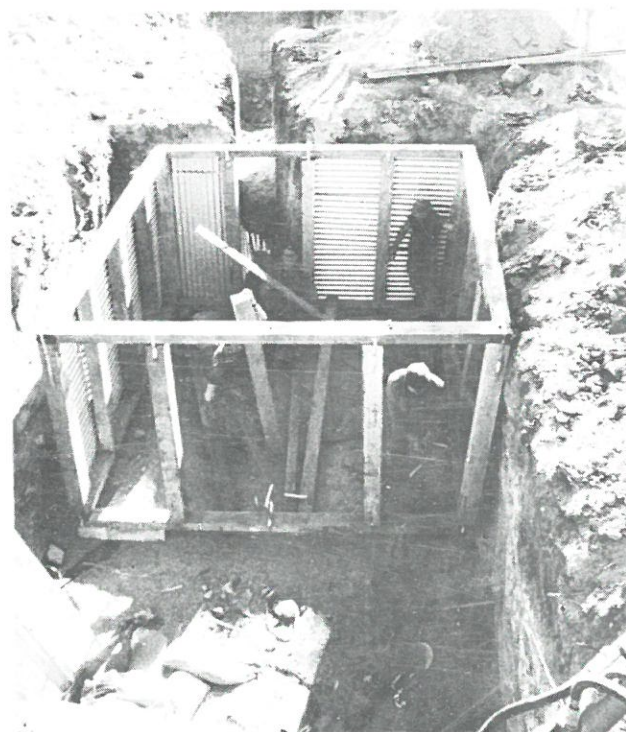
Finally, I would like to thank the NCO's and soldiers for an interesting and satisfying year. It was certainly a quite difficult and challenging year. Congratulations on a job well done.



Gotcha!



Buts, directing traffic



Jaffle iron, what jaffle iron?



Wake me when it's over



9 Platoon

9 platoon started 1986 in the same manner as the rest of the unit, overweight and bilious. The first day of the year saw the usual bunch of old faces, with a large number of new ones thrown in, bemoaning their fate at working for an organisation that only allowed six weeks a year off for annual leave.

The, by now familiar, normal round of shakedown training began. This culminated in Ex LEADEN LIFT where the platoon managed to pick up several new members from IETS, a SGT, and a CPL.

Back to camp and two days off while the man with the plan dreamed of conquering Australia. Fortunately for the country the best he could come up with was a plan to take on LWC. Who will ever forget the ambush when one of the sentries travelled 500m to cover 25m, got lost, and needed his section commander to set off a flare so he could come home. Finally down in the border ranges the platoon had a chance to put into practice all the good gear learnt in three weeks at LWC. Day one, the platoon was contacted in thick scrub. The lead section under Cpl Croft went into hasty defence around the only clear hoochie spot for miles. Unfortunately they didn't tell anyone else. While defending the vital ground they lost three people to enemy fire. Custie, with an eye for ground, told all and sundry that he could put in covering fire on the hordes. In the meantime he was surprised to find that he had lost three people to the same enemy. CPL Cox at the back, by this time sick of fighting the leeches, launched an assault through the jungle and killed both the enemy. So it went for the rest of the Ex. learning the hard way, the lessons taught so easily in theory.

Back to Enoggera for another well earned break.

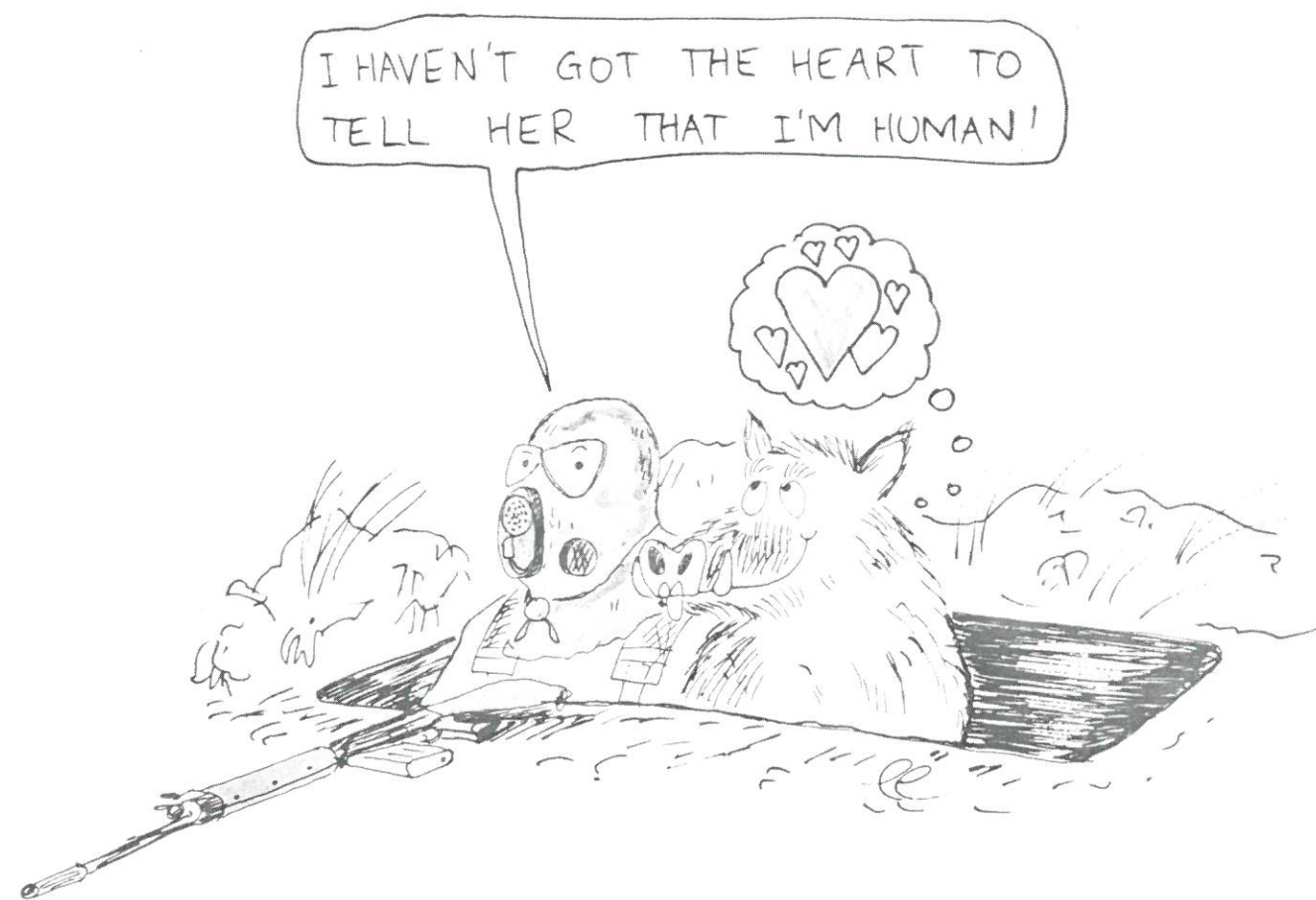
After several weeks of recovering from LWC, which included ranges, running, ranges, bush inspections, ranges, and for a change the Greenbank range the platoon moved to the Cape York area to battle with the Musorians (AGAIN). It was probably the only Battalion EX that was run at Coy level by Platoons that we will ever see. For four days the platoon ran an enemy unit ragged, ambushing, attacking, and even capturing groups of enemy. Finally we were entrusted with the safety of a bridge. Who will ever forget the sounds of PHQ shooting up a friendly patrol? The morning that Phearless Phang shot up an unsuspecting civilian truck because it stopped on his bridge? Playing cards under a bridge by the light of torches while on gun picket? Doing a last light raid on the Laura pub because we just knew that if there were hostages around, that's where they would be?

After another round of inspections, ranges, promotions, ranges, runs, ranges, and inspections it was off to the Land of the Long White Cloud. While in NZ we did some runs, ranges, walks, ranges, learnt to sleep in mud, ranges, toured the night spots of Christchurch on a Tuesday night, ranges, and some walks. Memorable events that spring to mind. The recon along a marked bushwalking track to a powerhouse that didn't exist that turned into a six kilometre traverse around the hills of the South Island. Putting out a fire that was lit by someone else. Finding just how few night spots are open in a major city on a Tuesday and Wednesday night. Coming home.

After taking several days well earned rest we limbered up for Ex DIAMOND DOLLAR with some runs, ranges, runs, inspections, ranges, runs, and ranges.

DIAMOND DOLLAR was a chance for us to show what we could do in a conventional role. Once again 9 Pl showed we had what it takes to meet the enemy on ground of our choice and win. Or at the very least keep our heads down and not draw the crabs. Who was the section commander who stood in the pit with the 84mm for 16 consecutive shots but wouldn't answer to his name afterwards? Who was the Pommy CPL who fired an 84mm round while another NCO was standing in the BBDA? Which section, inserted by UH1H at last light, walked all night to find that they had arrived at their pick up LZ and not their OP? Finally which was the only Sgt to have his pit dug for him by another soldier and have it filled in by a 105 howitzer?

Back to Enoggera for some more runs, ranges, runs, obstacle courses, runs, ranges, etc.



Ex Diamond Dollar



29 and Niner



RSO doing it hard



Marx Brothers



Support Company - CHQ



A large changeover of staff at the end of last year saw the arrival of a number of new personnel in SPT COY. MAJ McGowan took over command of the Coy. CAPT Godfrey arrived as the 2IC and CAPT Symon became the new Mor Pl Commander. LTs Reilly, Faulkhead

Lewis, and De Somer also arrived in the Coy and there were a number of new and not so new SNCOs, NCOs and ORs.

LEADEN LIFT provided an opportunity to get things sorted out and the Coy exercise QUIET DRIVE in March consolidated the specialist training. Exercise RAMALOT in May tested the platoon's ability to support the Battalion when it was dispersed over a very large area and the major exercise for the year DIAMOND DOLLAR practised the defensive skills of the platoons.

As well as the major exercises the platoons were busy with their own training and in supporting rifle company exercises. This has made for a busy and challenging year that has given credence to the company motto: Quietly Superior.



Heavy Weapon Platoon

The Platoon started off the year the same as other platoons in the unit, on LEADEN LIFT as a rifle platoon. There were two things from this Exercise that the platoon found lingered on in their memories, they were the 23 Km death march and the compelling desire to don NBC gear whenever the boss borrowed an entrenching tool and moved outside the perimeter.

In early March our live fire exercise (QUIET DRIVE) proved valuable training for those new members of the platoon and showed many visitors that although the 100mm RCL is old, in the right hands it is still a devastating weapon as all targets were convincingly destroyed.

Next it was up North for Exercise BANALOT, where once again we were used as a rifle platoon carrying four machine guns. During the first phase the worries of searching and not finding the elusive enemy soon faded as the whole platoon decided to do a stunt on the gun. That's the same gun and all at the same time, maybe the nudists frolicking around on the banks of the Normandy River influenced their sudden need to be at that particular gun. We were also surprised when Crout was supposedly bitten by a forty foot snake (believe it nor not). The second phase saw us tasked to protect the microwave tower just south of Laura, where we excelled during the enemies final assault in which our platoon Sergeant found himself physically dragging the enemy off the wire. The last we saw of the enemy they were heading off into the bush in all directions.

In June we headed off to New Zealand with Charlie Company and busied ourselves extinguishing grass fires at Lake Tekapo and "tramping" to Reefton followed by a few days rest in

Christchurch, visiting places like Xanadus Night Club, the Duck and Basket and the Excelsior Hotel where we met John's girlfriend with "TATS". We had a nice drive to Mt Hutt with only one snow chain.

After returning to Australia for detesting, Exercise DIAMOND DOLLAR arrived where LCPL Powell tried his hand at stunt driving as we regrouped after A Coy lost its screen. On another occasion one of our carriers had to keep their bounds shorter than normal as they advanced with a rifle section during an assault.

September and we are off to Wide Bay with Charlie Coy; we should have left with them, only with Crout driving it took us two days to find a vehicle that could fit outside the Brisbane area, even then we had to let Crout stay back in camp and let Jim Poland drive or we may never have made it.

Well that's it for the year except we would like to thank PTE Cameron for his contribution to the platoon by heading off and working in the Officers Mess.

THINGS WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE NEXT YEAR

The boss cook his own jaffles
The SGT out bush
Powelly stick to the speed limit
Shorty stand to just once
John's get a normal girl
Switchy in greens
Willie sober
Dave with long hair
All the vehicles working at once
Charlie Coy going bush without us
Mortars out of PT gear
Sigs bankrupt
Recon off ehits
Pioneers in clean green
Crout and Fachong making up

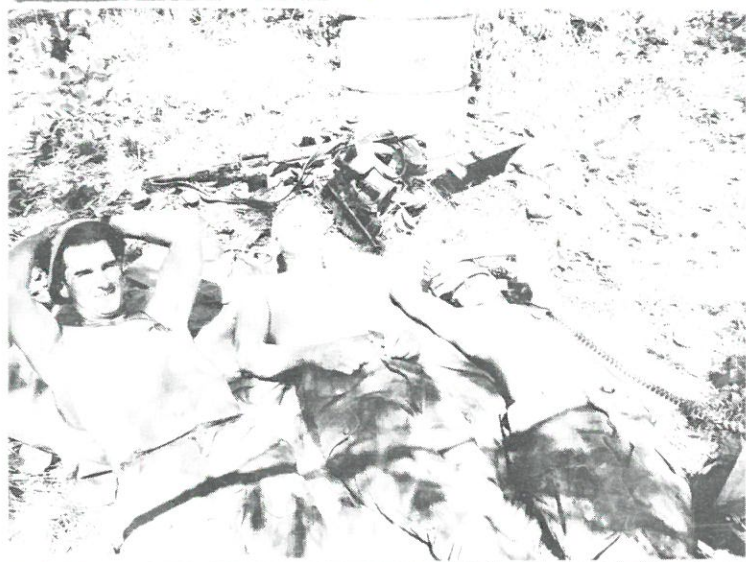
Ex Otbo



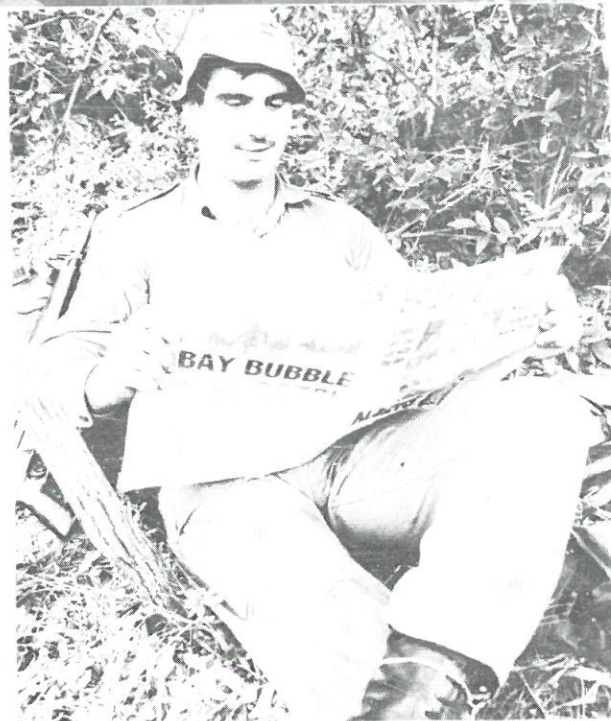
"When are we gunna Reorg?"



SUPRISE !



Meanwhile back at A/B Ech



New medical journal Doc ?

COMMENTS AND QUOTES

LT Lewis - "Who said jaffles?"

SGT Garland - Who?

CPL McIvor - Overseas again

CPL Wilson - "I'll have hall"

LCPL Powell - Drives like a drunk

LCPL Smith - "I'm not a marriedy"

PTE Cameron - Check the duties

PTE Collins - "Stand to" Shorty

PTE Davies - Nutter

PTE Enchong - "No room for a raincoat
just jackets"

PTE Galloway - "Where's that mirror
and comb?"

PTE Hall - "Cam nets up or was that
down?"

PTE Johnston - "Why do I always get
nutters?"

PTE Nicolou - Try 6 RAR's vehicles, you
have wrecked ours

PTE Poland - "not another kid"

PTE Pollock - The quiet achiever

PTE Sheekey - "Yeh I'm still here
Dave"

PTE Troth - "What speak up"



Mortar Platoon

As befits the senior platoon in the senior company Mortar Platoon has no equal in the battalion. Its deeds, its people and its work are unsurpassed to say the least: let the people speak for themselves.

Pl Commander CAPT Symon: will he finally spit out the plum?

MLO, LT Faulhead: how do you spell it nearly?

SGT Gillespie: pass the dip.

SGT Hitchens: grumpy.

SGT Jones: Let me tell you about ...

SGT Pelow: who? ask the rugby coach.

CPL Eaton: been there, done that. Last year?

CPL Hennessy: Nick who knows who cares.

CPL Holmquest: Homo, Mr Personality 1986.

CPL Steele: Sertar course, no worries.

LCPL Richardson: LETS, I love them, let me at them.

LCPL Birtles: who cares, it's only a sick kid.

PTE Banagan: Grubby Kev the soldier's soldier.

PTE Bell: a storeman's not supposed to give it away.

PTE Bobbin: Shorty's new found disciple.

PTE Chadwick: party, party, where's the party?

PTE Clayton: who needs to do a Mortar Course?

PTE Coleman: So I'm a pointy-head, but I can still drive.

PTE Titley: *(&@;8é)
*(CENSORED)

PTE Vesovic: Deepest Darkest.

Members fallen by the wayside are:

CPL Doyle: back to B Coy for retraining.

LCPL Goubareff: I'm not a yo-yo any more.

PTE Ward: got out for love.

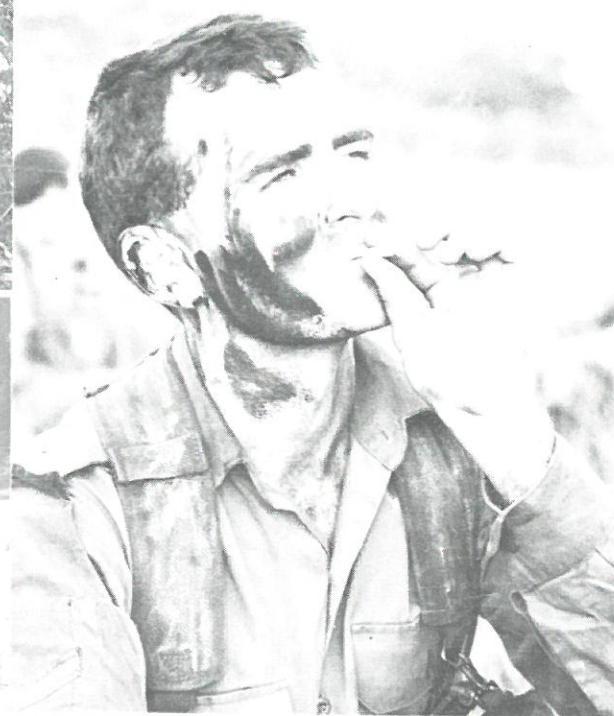
PTE Reynolds: I want to go to a rifle coy, I want, I want.

PTE Dyer: I've had enough of this, I'm going.

Work soon proved to be the same when doing training at Enoggera Hill, the Platoon COMD and MLO came walking down the track informing us that the axle had gone. PTE Titley went up, rolled the rear left wheel onto something solid, then drove back again. The first exercise was LEADEN LIFT. The only noteworthy thing was our SAS candidate PTE Clayton missing his rifle and webbing during the nav-ex. Next came QUIET DRIVE and again Mortars excelled during the infamous beach BBQ in which all three covers were suffering minor mechanical failures, e.g. immersion in salt water, tyre spin in the silicon. The funniest sight on the whole beach was Shorty in the altogether telling everyone how to push. On the way home 'Homo' left his 'run' too late literally. I'm glad he was in the other cover. 'RAMALOT' was a good exercise. 'Gippo' on his 'OP' wearing only GP's sunning himself and trying to 'raise' comms. The platoon dug into the sand with a shovel and told the MLO there were big crabs inside. Immediately Chad with the MLO



Thats doin' it hard Sir !



This was just not my week to give up smokin'

Ex Ramalot



Well were here. Whats next ?



began digging for more. Barry has also learnt not to annoy bats, as they can provide him with some 'relief'. 'Jonesy' finally got rolled, but it was with C Coy in a truck.

DIAMOND DOLLAR was an exercise to see. A section wiped out by infiltrating enemy forces in 30 seconds. The screen position had 20 fire missions in half an hour, which used up about 3 years allocation of mortar bombs for the brigade. Many people wondered at our ability to work efficiently, however compared to 2/14 mounted donkeys, Mortar Platoon seemed angelic.

Overall the year has been a worthwhile and rewarding one. It seems that now when both the MLO and Pl Comd have fitted in this time, for them to

go onto bigger things. We also see two old stalwarts leaving mortars and the battalion over Christmas, Gippo to Singleton and Barry to 'Tassie'. Homo will be joining Gippo at Singleton mid-year.

With that Mortar Platoon will still go on with its professionalism, its dedication, its competency, its D.U.I.'s, string of extras, its greivous assaults, but I suppose the less said of Mortar Platoon and its activities the better.

89 this is 80, closing down, out.



Pioneer Platoon

The year started with a change of command and personnel. LT Wilkinson, SGT Phoenix, The Section Commanders plus some of the men said farewell to pioneer platoon allowing LT de Somer and SGT Lentini together with some new men to march in.

The year as a whole proved to be hectic for pioneers with many rewarding challenges undertaken, both out bush and back in camp.

EX LEADEN LIFT allowed the platoon to brush up on their rifleman skills as did the rest of the battalion.

The first specialist exercise for the year was EX QUIET DRIVE which allowed the platoon to brush up on watermanship and demolitions. Both these phases were successful in that the crab population of Wide Bay was drastically decreased. It also afforded the PNR SGT the opportunity to practice BNS in the form of a 44 Gal drum of contaminated fuel and some explosives, the end result could be described as the equivalent to a 40 megaton thermo nuclear warhead. The scars on the range are still clearly visible.

QUIET DRIVE was closely followed by EX HOT SHOT. During this exercise it was discovered that the PL SGT was a junkie and kept pet scorpions in his locker.

Our gallant and fearless PL Comd has fond memories of EX RAMALOT and a certain bridge that the platoon was repairing. Having taken away two road bearers during the restoration of the bridge, LT de Somer could only look on in complete horror, as a 40 ton logging truck proceeded to rumble over it. His short Army career flashed before his eyes, as fears of being busted to private or even worse, Second Lieutenant, crept into his mind. The truck made it over and the boss breathed again, he hasn't been quite the same since.

The platoon pioneered new methods of defence whilst assisting A Coy at Cape Flattery. A trip wire could be lowered from a wooden stake over the pier with a small hooked metal object attached to the end of the wire. This was done in the hope of "snagging" any underwater infiltrators, but only succeeded in capturing a variety of reef fish.

The testing of Baby Vipers during EX CTBO proved very eventful, when our intrepid SGT almost succeeded in wiping out the formation. We could imagine the slightly red faced Arty coming up with comments such as "well, we didn't think a few small trucks of ammunition would be in anyone's way there".

Had the Baby Vipers hit them it would have been "one flash and you're ash".

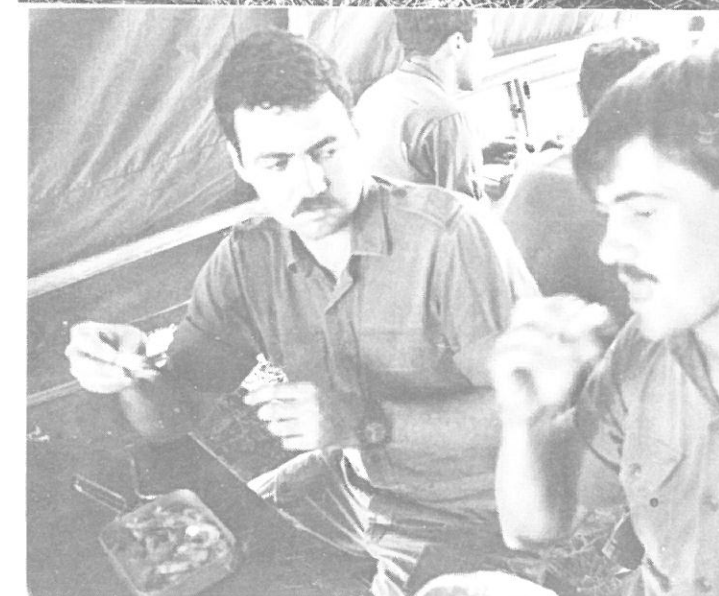
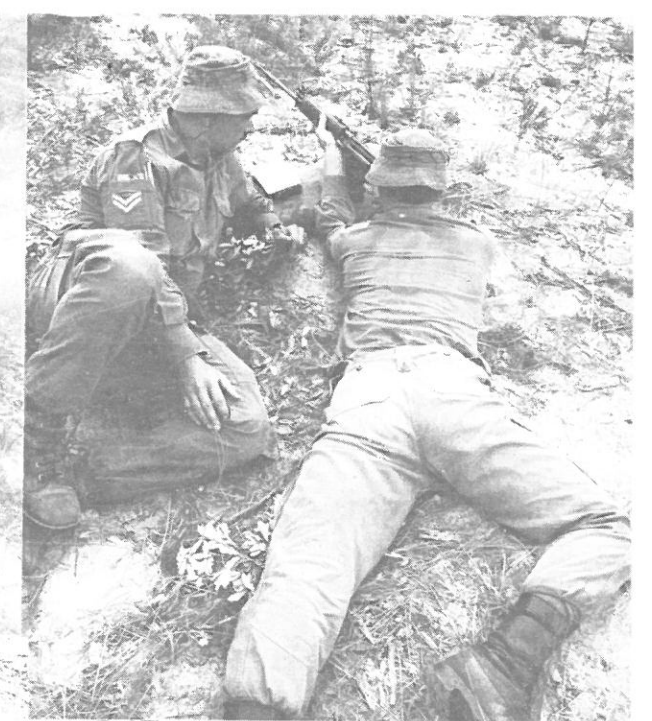
Apart from the firepower demonstration the platoon received extensive training in BNS and spent a couple of days at the demolition range.

The last major exercise for the year, EX DIAMOND DOLLAR was suddenly upon us and the Coy started as enemy for 6 RAR, which didn't prove much of a challenge. Then came the defensive stage, during which, the myth that all pioneers lived off seafood and minced about in boats was dispelled.

Twelve men and 2 "pit excavators" proceeded to dig the BN position, build an underground fortress (dubbed the CP), lay mine fields, conduct gun picquets and partake in counter penetration, with still enough time to be able to crawl into their fartars for a couple of hours kip.

Meanwhile that brilliant young tactician, LT de Somer was replaced as part of EX LONG LOOK by a Pommie subbie

The year of 1986 has proved to be a beneficial one for pioneer platoon, having been employed to its fullest capacity encompassing all pioneer skills.

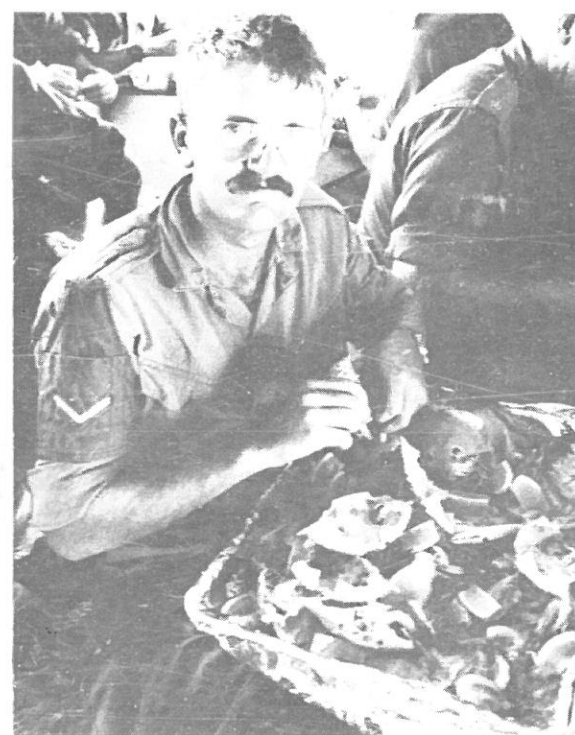


First Aid
or
Last Rites

Ex Leaden Lift



XXXX Ad



What, no driving tasks
Harry?

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Congratulations on the following promotions Blackie, Harry and Thomo, well done Tellas, long overdue.

Things we would like to see:

1. Sigs Pl.
2. PNR Pl have less than a 350 mtr frontage to occupy.
3. Mortar Pl standing to.
4. Recon Pl.
5. All debts owing to the platoon paid up.

Runner to PNR SGT while PNR's nailing CGI to tunnel of CP "The ADJT wants to know if you can keep the noise down?".

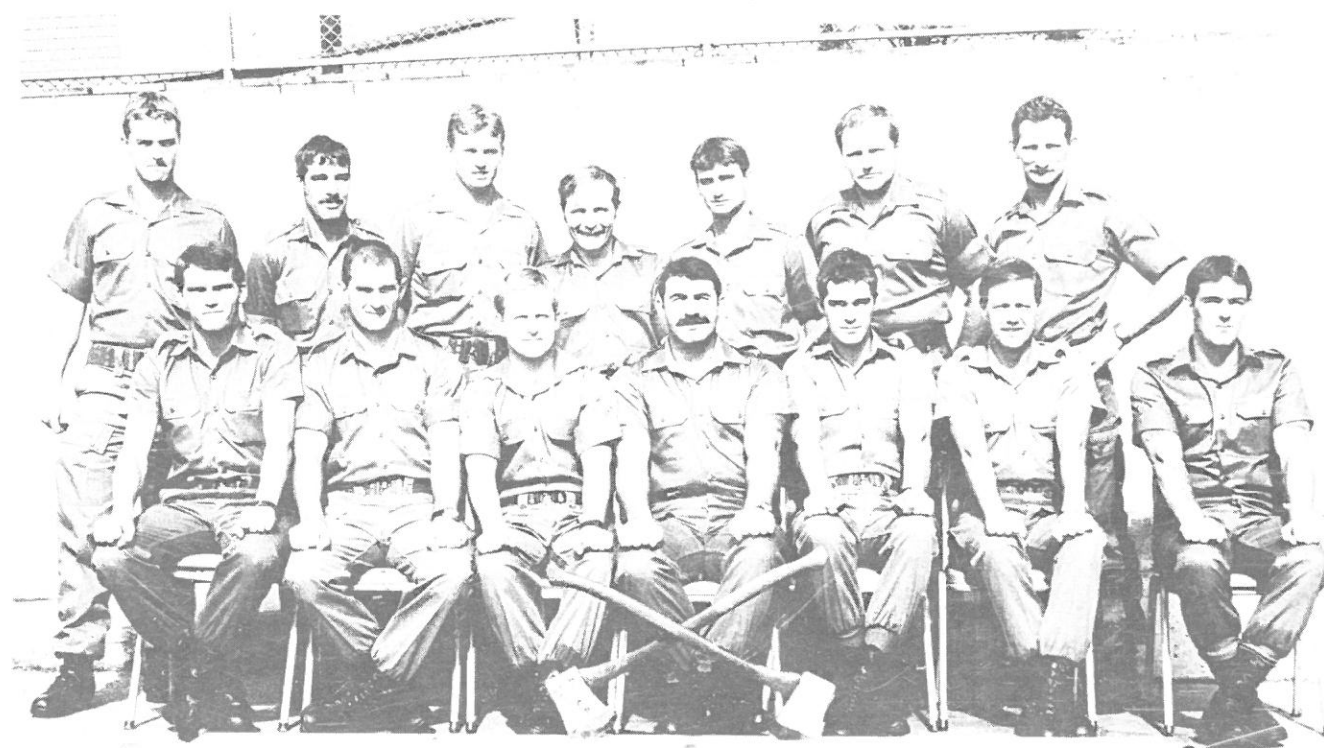
Next night while sandbagging "Is there any way you can keep the dust down?"

Rifle Coy 210 to PNR SGT "Sarge do you have any two foot star picquets?"

SARGE "No Sir, but I can get some six foot star picquets".

Rifle Coy 210 "How far in the ground will they have to go to have two foot showing".

SARGE in disbelief. "Four Sir".



Recon Platoon

LT Reilly - Boss - "Can I borrow your Camms".

SGT Reekie: - Ma Ma - "Do it for Ma Ma".

CPL Campbell: - Pat - "Don't worry about it".

PTE Bradley: - Brad - "This mean nothing to me".

PTE Cullen: - Wayne - "Guess What I did last night".

PTE Excell: - "I don't know what I want to do".

PTE Gutteridge:- "Tourist" - "The TITLES are coming up".

PTE Knees: Tracker - "That's life".

PTE McLean: - Mac - "Oh my back".

LEADEN LIFT 3-10 JANUARY

LEADEN LIFT saw Recon Platoon performing basic rifleman skills on a section platoon working on a Company level.

QUIET DRIVE 3 - 10 MARCH

Things finally started to get interesting with live firing. CPL Bainbridge in a "RAMBO" style of firing gave a valid attempt to give firing cover until his trust M16A1 exploded in his face. Much to our amazement he sustained no injuries - his trousers were the only casualty. PTE Cullen accompanied by SGT Reekie, soon followed in Chippie's footsteps, as yet another M16 malfunctioned and started firing by itself whilst PTE Cullen was throwing grenades and dodging bullets. We then joined Pioneers in learning

about demolitions and how to fish without fishing line. On the last night we donned all our gear and did a 25km route March out.

GREENBANK 10 - 18 APRIL

What more can we say, another eight days at the range.

EX-RAMALOT 5 - 25 MAY

We were joined by SGT Sugg alias SGT Goods and Chattels. For this exercise we were vehicle mounted. We arrived prior to the exercise and tasted some of the delights Cooktown has to offer due to the generosity of the Town Clerk. With the exercise in full swing, no one in the platoon will every forget "Death Valley". Not mentioning anyone's name but some peoples' driving and navigation ability leave a lot to be desired. Some of the highlights include a two hour chopper ride in the wrong direction, barrumundi at Elm Reserve, a three day O.P., 400 m from a pub, with no money, at Lakeland Downs. You would be surprised who we saw go in there? Johnny Knee's rappelling attempt, cylume sticks to mark out the airfield at Hopevale. Macca's endless gun pickets and our playmate from RAR.

DOG SQUAD

Sponsored by Reconnaissance Platoon (Volunteers TEE HEE, TEE HEE).

Barrington Ranges were the ideal location to conduct the competition (next time we'll take ski's). Various new faces throughout the training. We now know the true meaning of MINE'S FREEZE.

ATTS & DETS

CPL Whitton - Medical Corp 1 May 86

PTE Wiblen - Sigs 27 May 86

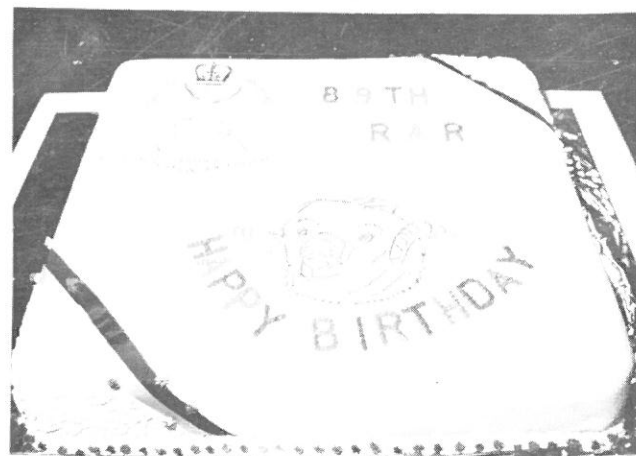
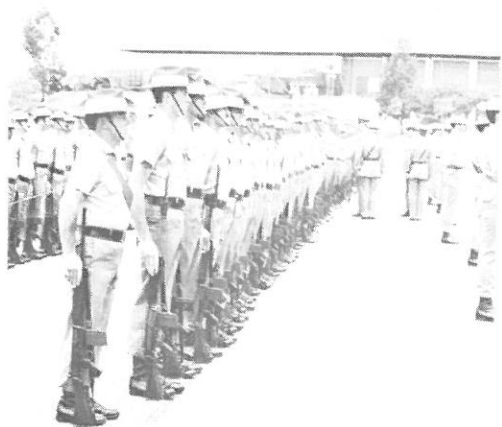
In the Field in 86

EX LEADEN LIFT

EX RAMALOT

EX OTBO

EX DIAMOND DOLLAR



Signal Platoon

1986 was a busy year for signals platoon once their annual Xmas leave was over. The start of the year saw a few new members come to the Platoon. They were: LCPL Wood, PTE McKenna, PTE Wible, PTE Tobin and the return of Chris Meehan. Some of the blokes we lost during the year were: Lizard Caldwell who went to 10IRC and Geoff Eylward who got posted to 2/4RAR Townsville on promotion to SGT. We also had a change of RSO's in late July which saw the arrival of Captain Godfrey who changed job positions with Captain Morrison. As usual the year started off with it's favourite exercises with the platoon assisting the rest of the battalion with communications like always.

EX LEADEN LIFT. The platoon arrived at Camp Kerr and set up, laying line to who ever required line and even to some who didn't require line. For the blokes who had nothing to do they got a chance to do the various ranges which I think they enjoyed immensely (HA, HA).

HOT SHOT. Probably bad shot would have been a better name for some of the blokes in the platoon. During the week and a half spent at Greenbank, Signals Platoon threw in their radio sets to take up weapons which they used on ranges such as the: Zero range, Gallery and Sneaker shoots and the mechanical range. I think some of them could have done better with a radio set.

RAMALOT. A nice change from SWBTA. The platoon provided Communications for the rest of the battalion in their normal job roles, but with a difference and that was the use of HF comms. The exercise was held

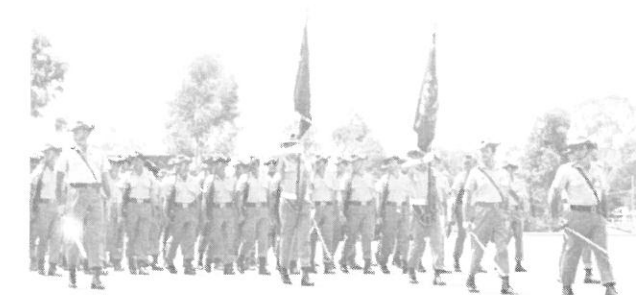
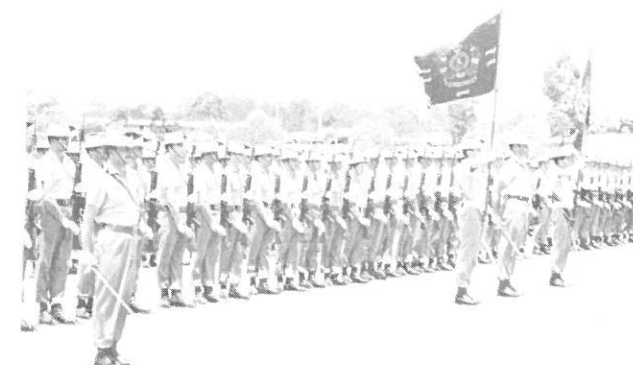
in far North Queensland in the Cape York Peninsula area amongst the ferocious crocodiles which must have been hiding. Over all the exercise was a great success, except for a few compromises made by all. I'm sure the platoon would like to do another exercise like this one as long as they had some time off to do some fishing.

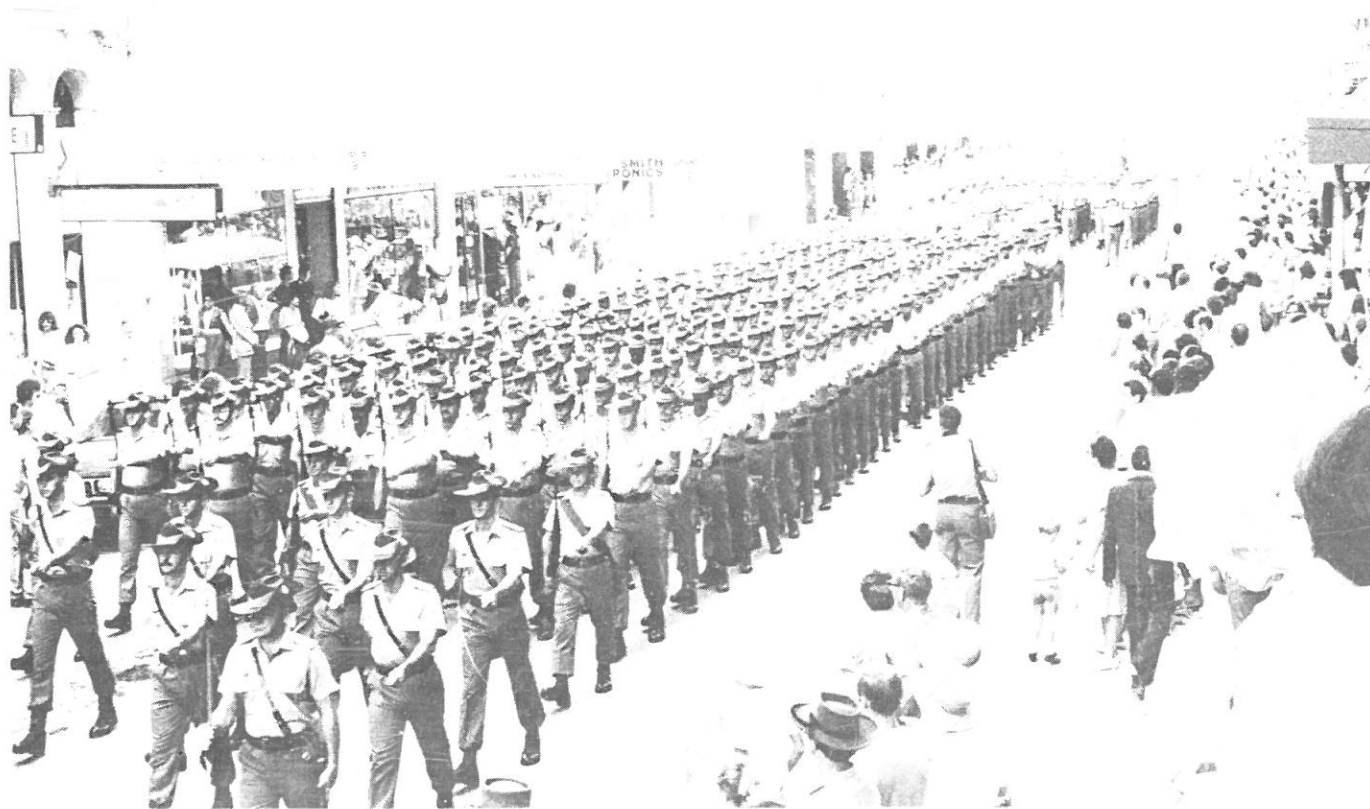
DIAMOND DOLLAR. The platoon started the exercise with a pleasure cruise on the HMAS TOBRUK which took them to their favourite holiday resort, SWBTA. Everybody was happy until they were told that they would have to get off the ship and do some work. The exercise was a defense and withdrawal exercise which meant a lot of digging in the dets which made PTE Squizzy Taylor happy, as he had to move from Log Cell to the CP. Overall the exercise went quite well and I'm sure everybody was glad to see the end of it.

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

- RSO Get a decent score in golf.
- SGT Bruegum - Smile. Favourite song JAIL BREAK.
- LCPL Angilley - Do some work.
- LCPL Davies - Go on an exercise.
- LCPL Sheldon - Change colour.
- LCPL Wood - Do something we can write about him.
- PTE Barrow - Stop gobbing off.
- PTE Bowyer - Come to work on time without an admin problem.

Trooping of the Regimental Colours





PTE Gerle - Without a tongue
and find a friend.

PTE Macdonald - Without a chit.

PTE McKenna - Grow.

PTE Oades - Without an excuse
for not working.

PTE Ryan - Stay awake.

PTE Taylor - In greens.

PTE Tobin - Stop complaining.

PTE Viblen - With a male's
voice.

PTE Brittain - Grew a moe in
under eight months.

PTE Connor - Looking younger.



Admin Company - CHQ

Well once again Admin Coy has played the logistic tail of the 8/9 RAR operational dog, providing all those necessary qualities such as balance and protecting the arse. It's quite amazing the view one gets from back here.

This year the company has seen personnel going in all directions with staff proceeding on subject courses and/or posting.

In terms of the training year, like most others, it has been busy. We commenced the year with Ex 'Hot Shot', where again we proved that two RAEME mech's in the hand are worth none in the bush. But praise for that exercise must go to our culinary caterers - who demonstrated you can go bush, have a five course meal (equivalent to the Sheraton) and go home to a suspicious wife.

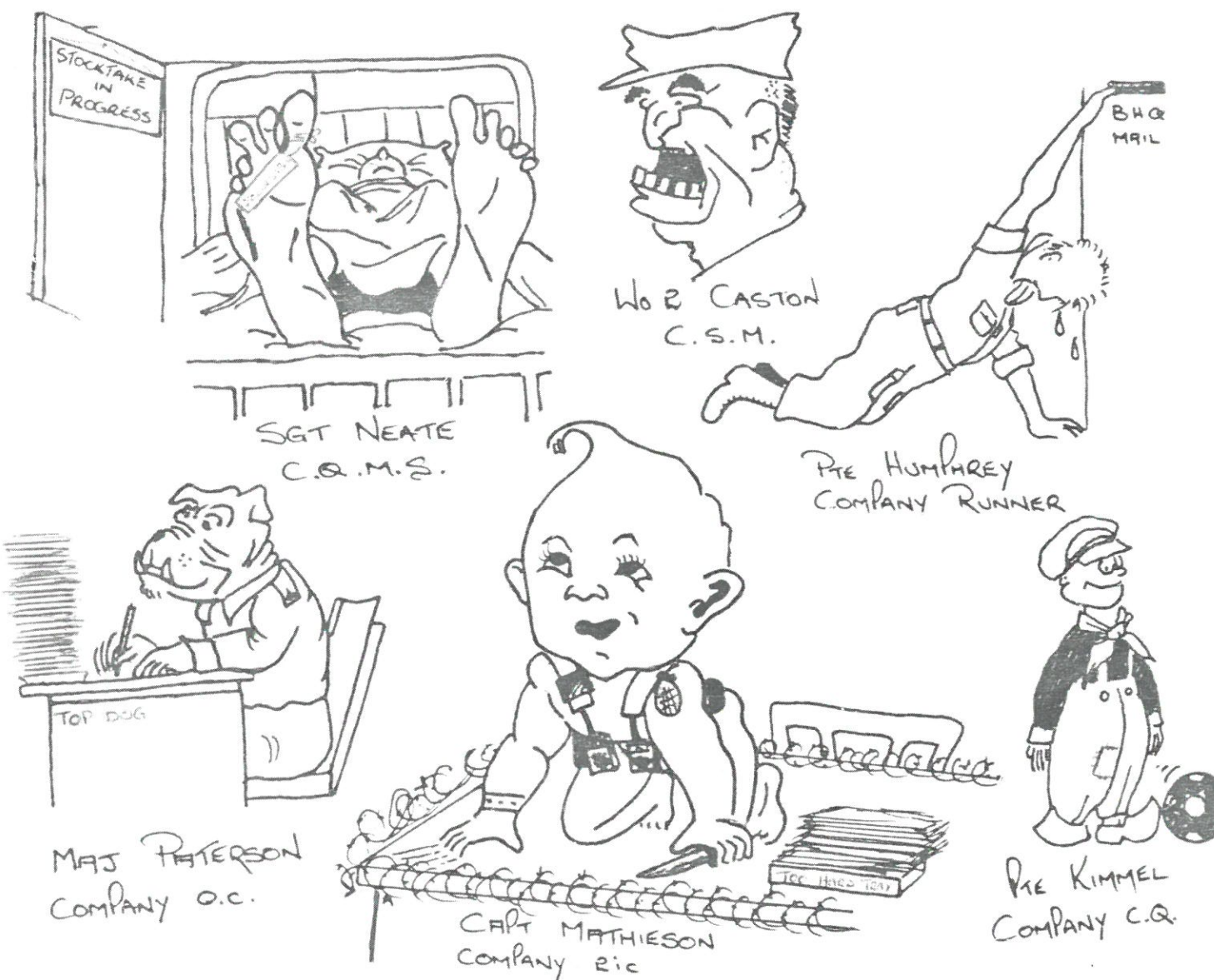
Then we progress to the glorious Ex 'OTBO' (Only To Be Off!), it was here that the Q Platoon entered the Guinness Book of Records for stretching one piece of galvanized iron, 2 star picquets and 1 foot of wire over four different ranges being conducted simultaneously. How is this done? Ask the 8/9 RAR Captains!

Next, you guessed it. The ever exciting, the action packed, the SEQUEL to Crocodile Dundee - Ex 'Rampart'. Who said you have to be out in the AO's to get a PIECE of the action. With the echelons backyard pet crocodile the OC's "OUT TO LUNCH" - took on a whole new meaning. Or as the duty officers would say in the CP at night - Guess Whose Coming to Dinner!



Anzac Day





And of course this leads us to the final major exercise for the year Ex 'Diamond DULLER'. It would be remiss of me not to feature the mad medicos in one of these exercises, and this one had to be theirs. But you just cannot convince the RMO and his MEDETTES that you get ticks in places other than the anal canal.

Even though the year in terms of major exercises has finished, Admin Co is still very busy providing support to courses and numerous other commitments.

To all other elements of Admin Coy, including Tpt Pl and RAEME, well done for your tireless efforts over an extremely busy year.

To the rest of the Battalion we say, when next the operational dog's head swings round to nash at the logistic tail because of fleas, spare a thought for the hairs that work there!

Medical Platoon

It's time to dispel a few myths about the Medical Platoon.

1. The RAP Sick Parade is a COs parade, however this does not mean that it is compulsory for the entire Battalion to attend on a daily basis.
2. Staff 'Sector Commander' Sherlock is a member of the RAAMC and not a 343 Rifleman. You are always welcome to visit us at the RAP out bush Tony. Is there any truth in the rumor that you are a candidate for CSM of a Rifle Company next year.
3. SGT 'Speed' Mc Andrew: Soldiers will follow this man, even if only out of curiosity. It has certainly been an experience working with the Sarge, with his expertise from 18 years service.
4. SGT 'Blue' Reidy: The blowflies been busy and the high level of hygiene and safety within the Battalion is a reflection of his outstanding efforts. Torn up any cheques lately Blue.
5. CPL 'Populate or Perish' Smith: No 4 on the way, WELL DONE., Smithy personifies what Medical Platoon is all about: fair, firm, friendly, flexible, -----, and fertile. All the best at 7 Camp.
6. CPL 'the Sav' Saville: Enjoying a beer is one thing, but winding up seven days early for Corps week is a bit keen. Can be joined in the Grange Thistle Bar on winter Wednesdays.
7. CPL 'Bear' Berry: Endeavouring to engineer a new career with a Corps transfer. Bear is the longest Non-Corps member in the battalion. Hang in there, good medics are hard to come by.

8. CPL 'Chippy' Bainbridge: Outstanding effort during casevac operation on Ex Ramalot. A walking pathology museum, Chippy will be available as a training aid during 1987.

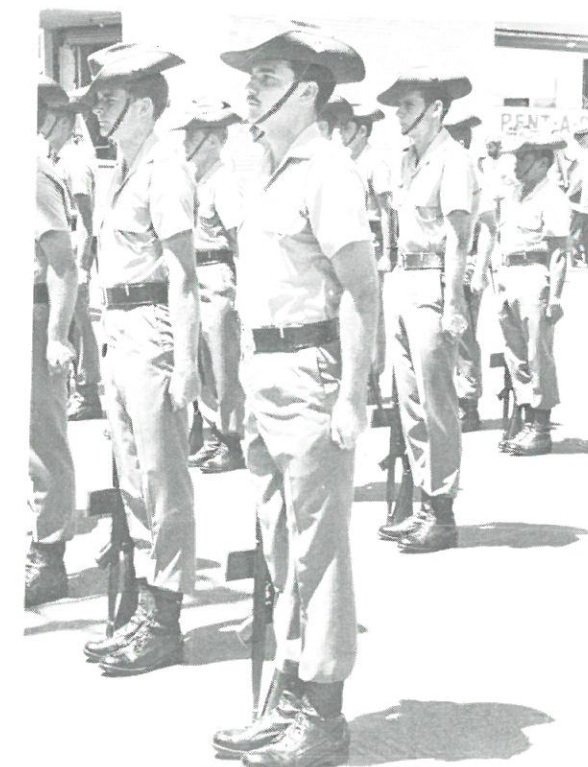
SUMMARY

An innovative year in 86, in pursuit of excellence. The best Platoon, in the best Company of the great 8th/9th Battalion.



SPEED!

Long Hai Day



Ceremonial

Long Hai Day

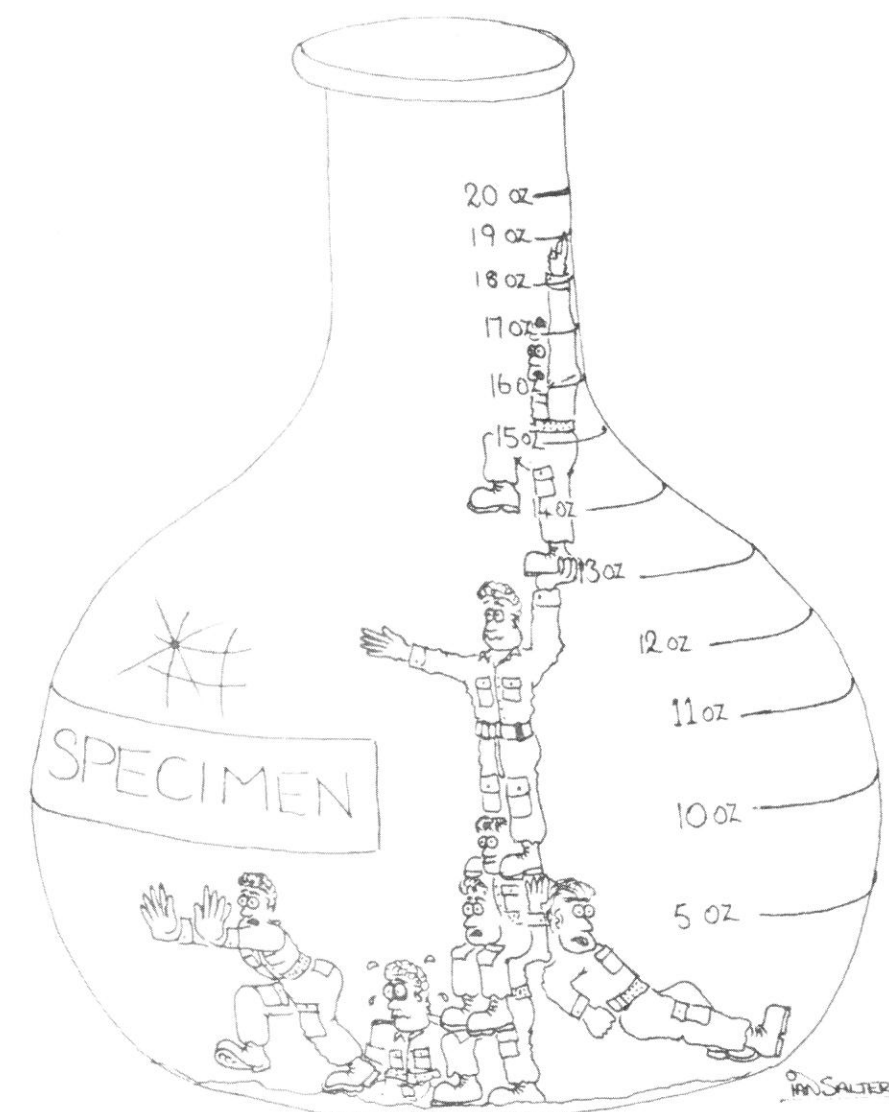
28th FEBRUARY 86

Anzac Day

25th APRIL 86

Trooping of the Regimental Colours

31st OCTOBER 86



In Appreciation



Brigadier John McCabe (R) MBE, MID "MAC"

SGT CUMMINS: - I need a new overlay made up

INT: - Why did you lose yours?

SGT CUMMINS: - No Shaggy dropped it in the water at Freshwater Bay, and the salt water washed all the information off.

INT: - Was it important?

SGT CUMMINS: - (Panic voice) Of course it was, it was the OPS overlay for the CP.

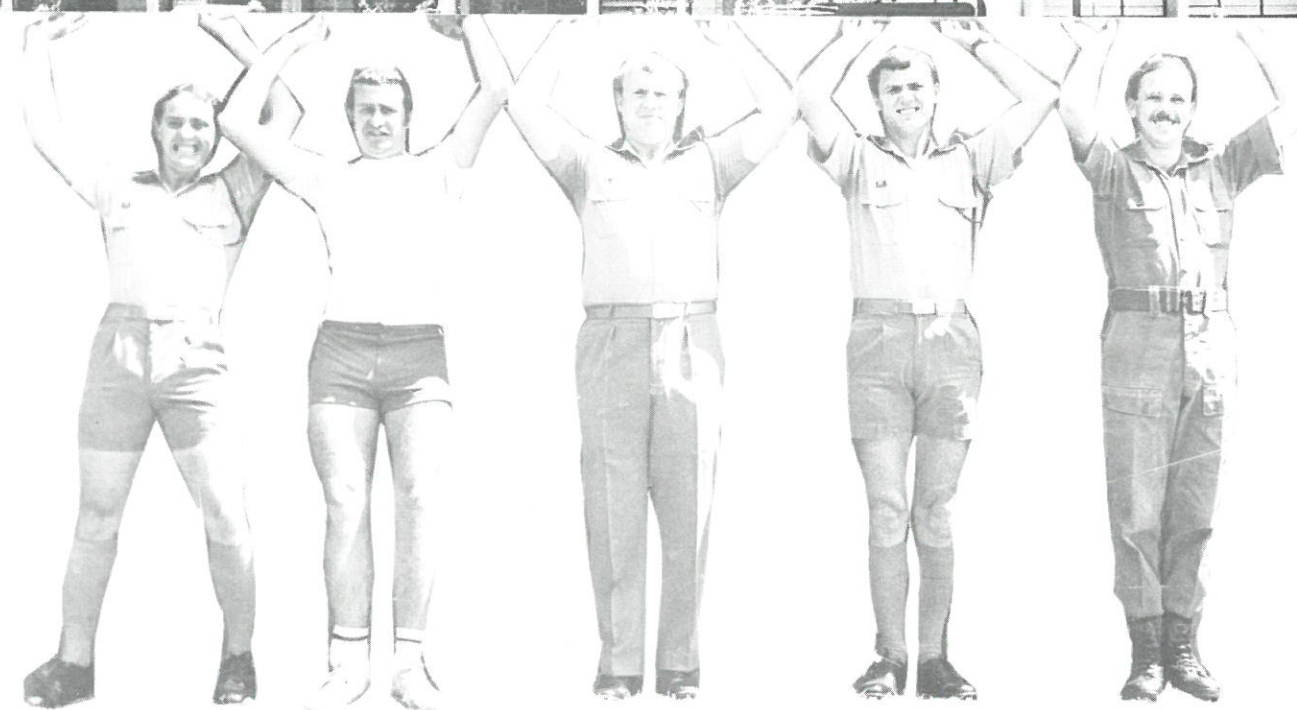
INT: - Was it the role of tale we give you before the exercise?

SGT CUMMINS: - Yeah Why.

INT: - Because the tale we give you was blank, it was only spare stuff for the CP (said in fits of laughter).

SGT CUMMINS: - Oh.

INT: - (loud laughter)



Intelligence Section

The year has had its coming and goings. The skipper CAPT Damien Negus has finally joined the section from his "swan" trip down at Army Recruiting, where he was on TDY from January until June, welcome Skipper.

PTE "Creature" Creagh is finally out of our hair. Creature received his posting to Corps of Survey to take up a position as an illustrator reprographic (no I don't know what one is !), thanks for the memories Creature.

PTE "The Wog" Farrugia also departed, and was posted to Corps of Signals as a "tech elec". Good Luck "Wog", we will most certainly miss your fine skills as a photographer.

Over to you "Salty". PTE Salter joined the section from Bravo Company in April and was put to work immediately. With "Creature" leaving "Salty" was put on a photographers course, to take over the photographers' job. Meet the new Battalion Photographer. (Keep that diary up to date "Salty").

As usual Int Section had a very busy year supporting the Battalion. EX LEADEN LIFT kicked the year off, followed by EX RAMALOT, where the Int Section worked very hard, as usual? The exercise kept us busy, what with the normal int duties to perform and the other normal duties, such as, individual pit digging, clearing patrols, and gun picquets etc, there certainly were not enough hours in a day. By the way the next time the Battalion does a remote locality exercise, rather than the section joining the companies, as happened on EX RAMALOT they will be remaining together. The reason you ask? Have you ever seen the Int SGT trying to erect an 11' x 11' tent and then cam the tent, land rover and trailer and set up a briefing area by himself? "Forget it Troops".

EX RAMALOT was followed by EX DIAMOND DOLLAR. The exercise consisted of a Relief in Place of 6RAR in defence on the Palmers Knob feature. This was without doubt a very good experience for the section and will hold us in good stead for future exercises in this phase of war. A special thanks to the pioneers for their assistance with the digging and filling in of our CP. To you Roscoe and your lads "thanks a million".

After DIAMOND DOLLAR the section settled down to preparing 'The Trooping of the Colour Book'. The parade will be, without doubt, the highlight of 1986 for the Battalion.

Well I had better get back to preparing the Battalion magazine. That only leaves me to say on behalf of the Int Section, "may we wish you and yours the very best for the festive season, drive safely and we will see you all back on deck bright and bushy tailed in 1987. Bye for now".

QUOTES OF 1986

General talk in the Section:

1. Who and where is the new boss we are getting?
2. OPSO: - SGT Calnin, where is CAPT Negus?

INT SGT: - I don't know Sir, what does he look like?
3. Skipper on EX DIAMOND DOLLAR.
"Sarge, when you go over for your meal, see the CSM Spt and get some bread for jaffles." On his return "There isn't any left Sir".
Skipper: "That's alright. I'm going to brigade tomorrow with the CO, I'll see one of my mates there and get some!"



Mr & Mrs Lionel Roberts

and

Mr & Mrs Bruce Scott

Quartermaster Platoon

Since the last Battalion magazine, we have seen 'Faces' come and go via the Main Q Store doors, and by the time this magazine has gone to print more 'Faces' will have departed. So with a fond farewell we say our goodbyes to CPL 'Stiches' Watts (Discharged), LCPL 'Spook' Harper (SASR), LCPL 'Muggsey' Muggerridge (Discharged), WO1 'Sir' Sheringham (Discharged), SSGT Peter Ashton (5/6 RVR), CPL 'Shorty' Walklate (2 ARU), PTE Ball (2 CDO) and PTE 'Scotty' Scott (SASR). No doubt we will be saying farewell to others by the end of the year.

Once again Q Pl supported the battalion throughout the major exercises and Coy 'Skirmishes'. Vehicles and stores were well and truly put to the test and come through a little worse for wear, however, the courses will take the last of any life from them. By the end of the year a well deserved rest, a good clean and oil, with some minor and major repairs, most will pull through for the commencement of 1987.

The 'Highlight' of the Platoon through out the year must surely be 'Ex Ramalot'. A and B Ech combined at Cooktown Airstrip to defend the Battalions rear from the enemy crossing the 'Crocodile Infested' river. The task could only be given to the Fearless Crew of Q Pl, and having the sharp eyes of 'Thommo' Thompson, the ever alert 'Stiches' Watts and the stealth and cunning of 'Mickey' Mau, what more could the CO want. Each night this fearless crew mounted the machine gun post only inches away from the 'Jaws of Death' (the dreaded crocs). Come morning, the camp was alive again with the 'Report' on the nights 'Battle' with the Crocs, 'From the Muddy river they came, 14 and 18 'footers' dragging themselves towards the resting Troop, with machette drawn and hunting knives gleaming we held them back', came and report from the

fearless men. (How we ever survived the exercise amazed me, we all should have been 'hacked' to death!)

So dangerous was the task given to Q Pl, a lot of money changed hands, this was the betting for the 'Crocodile Lunch Stakes (Steaks)' held at Cooktown, the first racing event held for many years.

"EXERCISE RAMALOT" CROCODILE LUNCH STAKES (STEAKS)

Prize Money: DFRDB Pension to the widow and grave stone to the winner.

		Wt
1.	Thompson	62.5 KG
2.	Gouberoff	62
3.	Arthur	61
4.	Brittain	61
5.	Gun Pit	60.5
6.	Francis	60
7.	Mau	60
8.	Wolff	59
9.	Watts	59
10.	Wallace	57.5
11.	Rowe	56
12.	Rankin (QM)	55
13.	Caston (CSM)	54
14.	Paterson (OC)	51

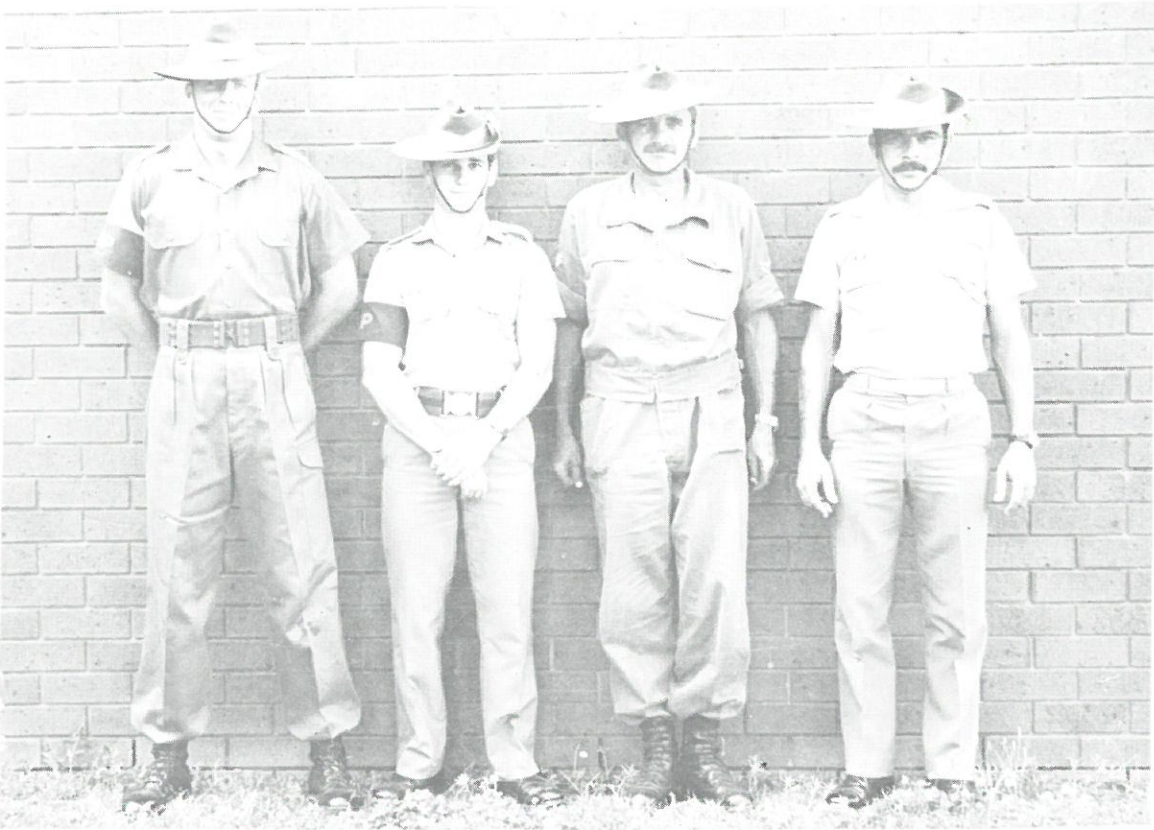
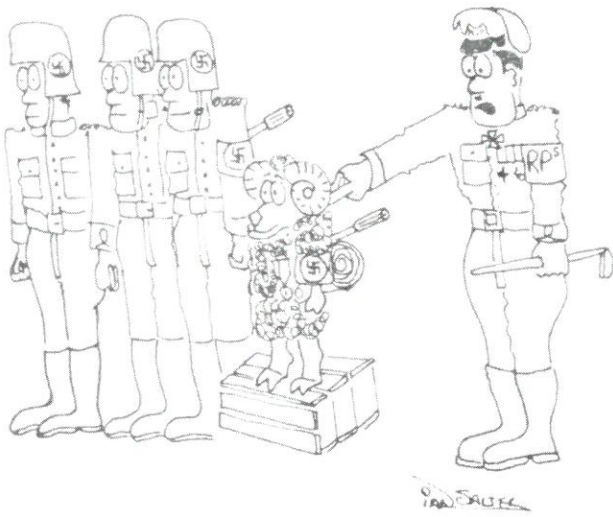
MARKET

10/9	Thompson, Gouberoff
EVENS	Arthur
5/2	Brittain, Gun Pit
3/1	Francis, Mau
7/2	Wolff
5/1	Watts, Wallace
10/1	Rankin, Rowe
33/1	Caston
66/1	Paterson

THOMMO: Tasty old morsel and will be one of the hardest to beat.

GOUBEROFF: Will be right in the finish.

Regimental Police Section



Pay Section

After another trying year in the pay office of distributing Government money fairly and wisely to the Battalion. We have come to the conclusion, that everyone is being paid far too much, excluding ourselves of course.

We would like to award this years prize for the sub-unit most likely to stuff us around to A B C Spt and Admin Coys collectively. It has been a good year in the pay office. The morale has improved, there has been little talk of suicide since June and no successful escape attempts since CPL Paul Furness got away to Victoria in August.

As a special feature we are going to answer some of the questions we are constantly asked throughout the year. This will avoid making the tiresome journey to the pay office to bother us next year.



I'll raise you one officer and a digger for a look

Finally we would like to wish our readers a Happy Leave Bonus, from SGT Peter Stephens, CPL Marty Taylor and PTE Scott Throssell.

1. QUESTION:

"When do I get my pay level 3?"

ANSWER:

"When the Public Servant who lost your course report down in CARO, six months ago finds it again."

2. QUESTION:

"I'm getting married next month, what do I do?"

ANSWER:

"Change your name and ask for a posting."

We hope this has been of some help to the new members of the Battalion.



ARTHUR: - I think the big boys have got wind of this one already.

BRITTAIN: Big chance if close to the leaders.

GUN PIT: Will be out front at the start, with all guns blazing.

FRANCES: Connections think highly of this one but many feel he's just a dud.

MAU: Experience in this type of event and is definitely a dark horse.

WATTS: Previously ran last in the Joe Blake Stakes and will be a longway from the front in this.

WOLFF: Has a heart as big as a pea and won't even get a look in.

WALLACE: Very inconsistent and hard to follow but may be spearing through at the finish.

RANKIN: Cantankerous old Brumby and Granddaddy of the field. Will be retiring if he can see this one out.

ROWE: Gives the impression he's been there before, but he is only a newcomer.

CASTON: Tough old character from A/Ech, may be a chance if he can adapt to the B/Ech track.

PATERSON: Sneaky stallion who will be more interested in the fillies than the prestigious crocodile lunch stakes (steaks).

Catering Platoon

It has been a year of go, go and more go as 1986 has progressed. Catering platoon fed the Battalion well once again. Doing exemplary service in their own trade, as well as being in the top level of sport, field training and in general being 'top' soldiers far exceeding the requirements made of them. We have had several changes and promotions over the past 10 months and they are listed below:

MARCH INS

SGT Draper	CPL Hull
SGT Gavin	CPL Penny
SGT Laudani	CPL Godwill
SGT Mitchell	PTE Thomas
CPL Darke	PTE Fredericks
CPL Campion	PTE Braakman
CPL Archer	PTE Garnett

MARCH OUTS

SGT Hepple on promotion to W02
 SGT Gould
 SGT Robinson
 CPL Pickering on promotion to SGT
 CPL Archer on promotion to SGT
 PTE Werts

We will carry on in our prestigious manner with dedication in the forthcoming months.

PS The colourful member of the Catering Staff is taking the plunge along with his posting down south. Best wishes from THE CREW.



PTE Doris Day, the Reproduction Clerk, has decided to improve his education after being discharged in Oct 86.

PTE Jim Ergee was the Log Clk until Jul 86, then transferred to Spt Coy as Assistant Clerk/Rugby Player. It is true that Jim is in demand from all WRAAC Units, after the photograph was published in the Soldiers Newspaper on 21 Aug 86. He's not a Jew.

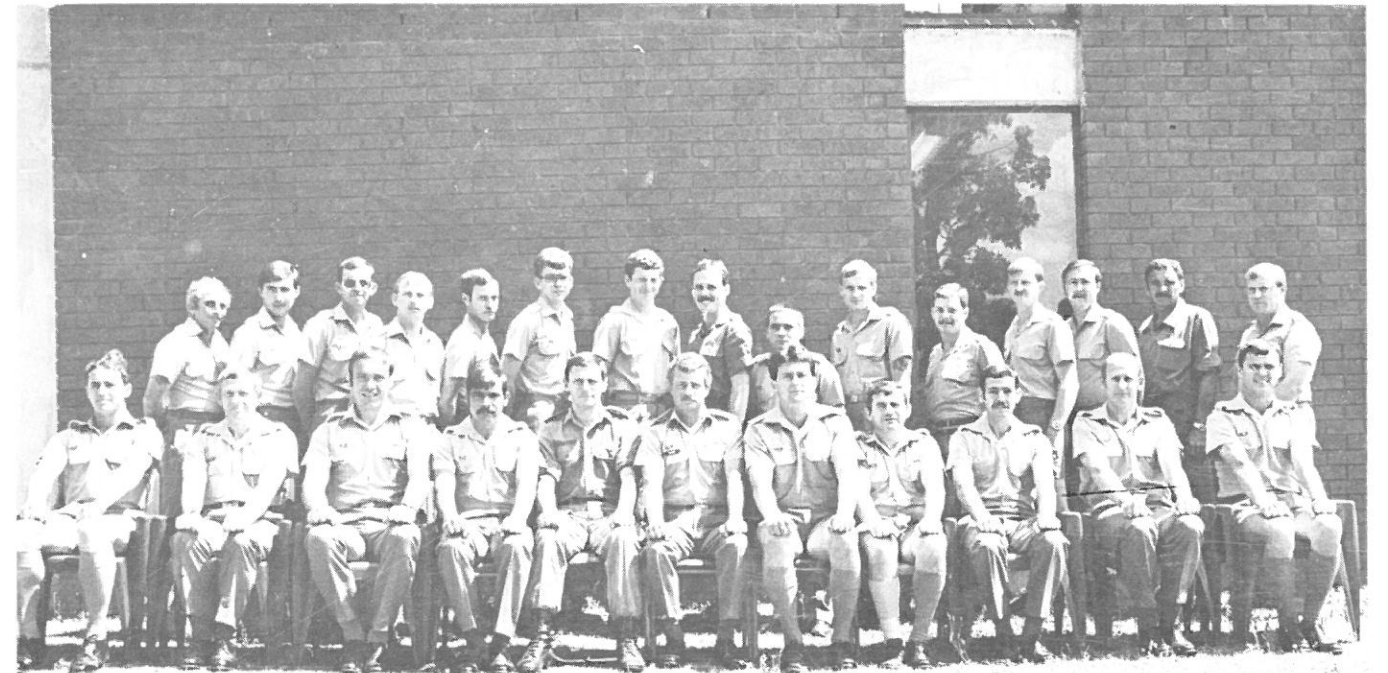
PTE Mick Hand, at the front counter greets everyone with a ready smile as they report to Bn HQ Ord Rm. His ability in hiding cigarettes leaves much to be desired.

PTE Mark Hurley at the start of 1986 was transferred from Battalion Headquarters to Admin Coy as Assistant Clerk. Hopefully will survive a promotion course and get mobile.

PTE Paul Whetstone, since marching into the Battalion as Movements Clerk has acquired the nickname 'PETROCK'. Some people think it is because of his surname! Others know better.

LCPL Mark Duxbury, PTE Ian Jones and PTE John Varas in RP Section working side by side with the clerks saw the light and transferred to the clerical stream.

PTE Warren Spittle decided to become a clerk early this year, and since then have realized that clerical work is not just an 8 to 4 job.



Battalion Headquarters

PAPER WARFARE

Listed below are the arrivals, departures and adventures of the valiant men of 8/9 RAR clerical staff in 1986, always endeavouring to right wrongs and soar to the highest of clerical esteem.

We will start at the top of the ladder. WO2 Des Blazely, since being posted to the Battalion in 1985 as Chief Clk has acquired a second appointment as the Battalion Recruiting Officer. Any soldier who desires to advance their career in the clerical stream should contact the Chief Clk.

SGT John Callcott was posted into the Pers SGT position in Jan 86 from 2 RVR. The warmer climate beckoned him to 8/9 RAR and since being up here he has found it extremely beneficial to bush work. Doesn't get enough of it though and goes camping in his spare time. Can we fix that?

SGT Doug Matheson, after 5 years in the Battalion, is finally moving on. The soldiers in the Pilbara Regiment WA should be aware of his weakness for tailor made cigarettes.

CPL Derek Cox was employed in B Coy until Jul 86 and then moved to Bn HQ as Internal Checker. Just what every newlywed needs is his subject courses for Sergeant straight after his honeymoon. He'll get it right by numbers on return.

CPL Andrew McCarthy commenced the year as the Registration and Filing Clerk in Bn HQ. He then moved down to C Coy to pass on his vast knowledge gained from his experience. Also promoted during the year. Well done Mac.

PTE Max Bartlett qualified as a clerk early this year. He came from A Coy to Bn HQ in Jul 86 and is employed as the Registration and Filing Clerk.

PTE Turtle McGowan was posted to the Battalion early this year. He then qualified as a clerk and was employed in various jobs in Bn HQ. He is to be posted to CARO Melbourne in Oct, on promotion to CPL. With the nickname 'TURTLE', he should be looking forward to the colder climate. And the girls at CARO already know what caused him to have to wear a back brace (Turtle Shell).

PTE Sparrow Murray qualified as a clerk early this year and is to be posted to Norforce Darwin in Jan 87 on promotion to CPL. Someone should warn the residents of Darwin that Sparrow is arriving.

PTE Dave Nary was employed as Battalion Typist before posted to A Coy but we are still trying to decide what is the love in Dave's life. Is it the black beauty meticulously cleaned weekly or is it work and the love for clerical power.

PTE Allan McCarron, after being recruited by the Chief, Mac has worked in Registration and Filing Section, Movements Clk and then graduated to Bn Typist. Deaf in one ear and can't hear out of the other, has the potential to go a long way. (Padre's offside).

PTE Buck Rogers, after qualifying as a clerk has been employed in various jobs ranging from Bn Typist to spray painting Military Vehicles. Well done Jack of All Trades and good luck at Inf Centre.

PTE Peter Oram was posted to CARO Melbourne in April. From last reports, he is enjoying the life of CO's driver.

PTE Ian Chester, PTE Nick Emberton and PTE Martin Ryan are three members of the Chief Clerks successful recruiting scheme. Good luck for the future.



Transport Platoon

Tpt Pl started off the year with 'Ex Laden Lift' supporting the Battalion with great efficiency and style. This is a service that is an uncommon practice. Normally we don't have the time or people to carry out such a luxury that is sometimes being taken for granted. But don't worry we read our hat badges, 'YA NEVER HEAR US WINGEN'. 'Ex Ramalot' provided the Pl with a challenge to put their skills to the test, not only in driving but also in refuelling tasks, on route and in the field. Fatigue was a danger to some of the drivers, but they came through with flying colours.

Some of the highlights were: We don't really know whether Harry and Max were lost in the P.O.L. truck or was it a huge detour???

1. Did Greg Quilter know which way it was to Cooktown? Go North not South.
2. Shaggy putting medicare to the test with several members of Charlie Company.

'Ex OTBO' provided not only driving tasks but, also the opportunity to practice our Mil Skills and Inf Minor Tactics. Greenbank was another resort that we visited this year. 'Ex Hot Shot' will Shane Worbey ever find the phantom...??? Diamond Dollar, what can I say ... ocean cruise, digging holes, digging ??? pits, digging in, can YA DIG THAT? Why do they call us diggers.

Other activities this year included:

T109 Drivers Course

Support to other untis for courses

Members preparing to go to Butterworth.

THE PLATOON (Bureaucrats)

LT Rick Burr - Leader

Where's my Rifle Pl? Will Kedron ever win?

Bronzie Watson - Fearless Leader

Everythings cool team.

Ruddy - Acting Fealess Leader

Why is everybody knocking off?

Harry - Acting Acting Fearless Leader

What are you blokes doing?

"I'll find a job for ya".

Inky - Half Acting Fearless Leader

"I'm not going back to a Rifle Coy".

Ricey - Never Here Admin NCO

"I'll be back in half an hour".

MAIN BODY (Transport Workers Union)

FINANCIAL MEMBERS

Kev Baihn

Right place at the right time.

Dick Clayton

Who wants to be the Boss' driver?

Guido Evans

No I'm not Italian, I'm the CO's driver.

Max Marxsen

Lets go and have a few quiet OMD 175's.

Tony Abbondondola

Yes, I'm the real Italian around here.

Awards ~ The Defence Force Service Medal



SGT P.G. Stephens



SSGT C.Cosgrove



PTE W.P. Murray



PTE K.J. Thompson

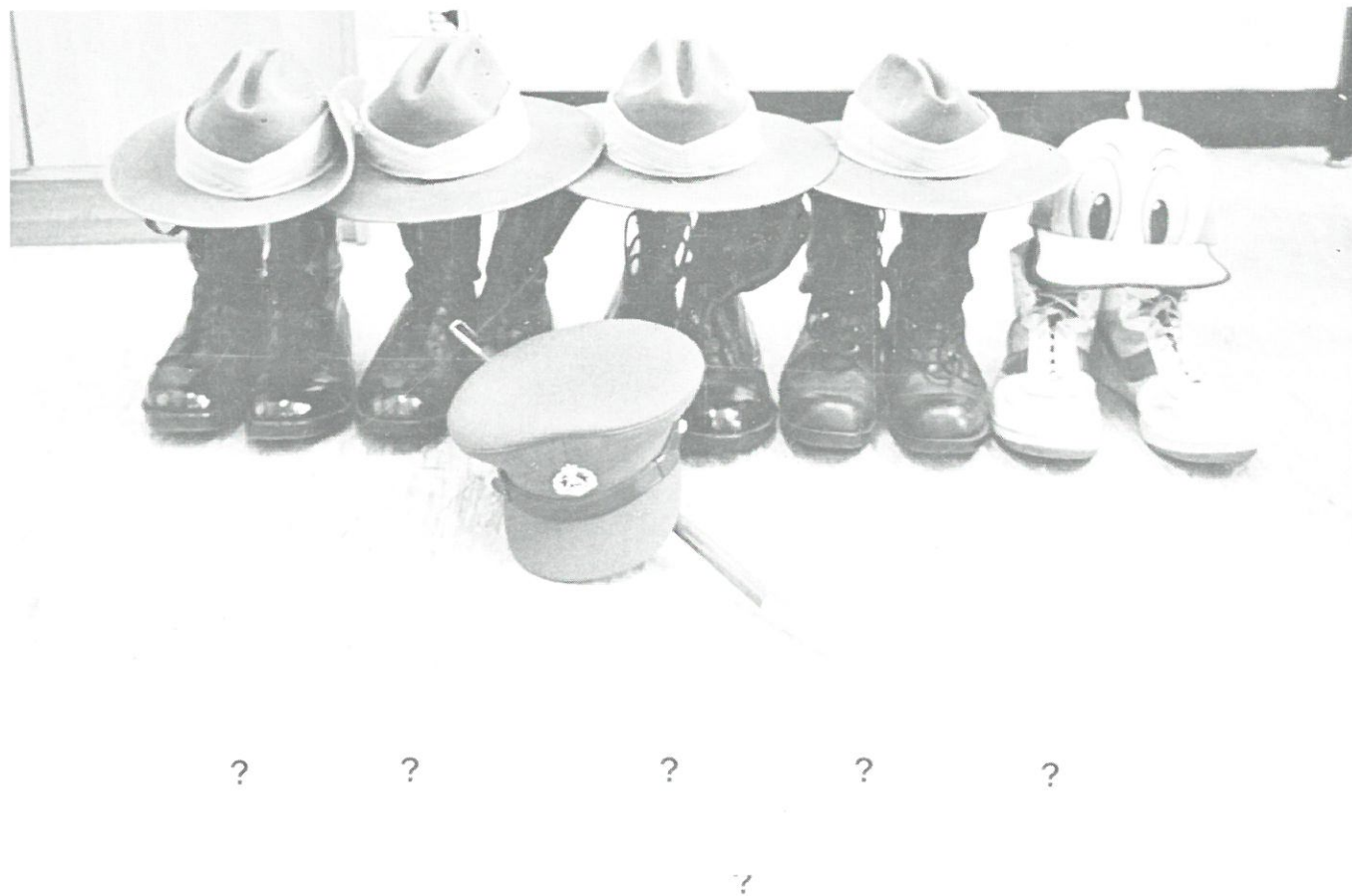
Training Company

Training Company had a very busy year during 1986. It commenced with a complete change over of staff and the year concluded the same way. During the year the Coy conducted a 12 week IET Course, which was held out at Greenbank, with the final Exercise being conducted in the Mt Mee State Forest. Other activities included Ex Hot Shot and an umpiring commitment to Ex Diamond Dollar.

We finished the year off with some support to 6 RAR, for an IET Course and another umpiring commitment for an Exercise in NZ.

Members who have departed at the end of 1986 are:

WO2 Millar to Spt Coy
SGT Gardener to Spt Coy
SGT Harris Walker to Spt Coy
SGT Soloman to BHQ
SGT Prein to 16 RWAR
SGT Lucas to C Coy
CPL Nagele to A Coy
CPL Hollowell to C Coy
LCPL McBean to 4 ARU
LCPL Lee Discharge



Jethro Campbell

Touch me and I'll kill ya.

Shaggy Cotterall

Why doesn't Harry like me?

Greg Quilter

Which way is it back to Australia Blue?

Al Ryan

He's never here.

Shane Worbey (Ret)

I'm not on Woolongong Whoopee Weed.

Mark Wallace

Put ya bags down and I'll show ya around.

Brian Newling

Where's the caffiene?

Jeff West

Bugger the paperwork, let's go round the back.

Tim Drewry

Send me back to a Rifle Coy.

Chris Bubner

I've got that on my computer.

John Lake

It's Lakey not Leakey.



Tech Support Platoon

BLUE BELL'S BULL---T

As you have noticed Tech Spt has had a major personnel changeover this year. We have said farewell and good luck to:

SGT P. Dove (now SSGT) posted to RTC Bandiana

CPL P. O'Mallon (soon SGT) posted to 5/7 RAR

CFN P. Buckworth (Mister) discharged, two chops short of a BBQ

CFN S. Higgins (still CFN) posted to HQ 3 Bde Townsville

CFN G. Bullock (now CPL) posted to 5/7 RAR

CFN R. Wright (still CFN) posted unserviceable.

The new arrivals are:

SGT R. Winkel back again

CPL L. Rayment (VM CPL) late of Bogan Gate

CFN D. Harper (Fitt?) from 1 Base Wksp Bn

CFN A. Melbourne (Fitter Armt) escaped from ODF

CFN I. Turner (Veh Mech) from down the road.

Next years arrivals:

CFN Sutton (Veh Mech) also escaped from ODF

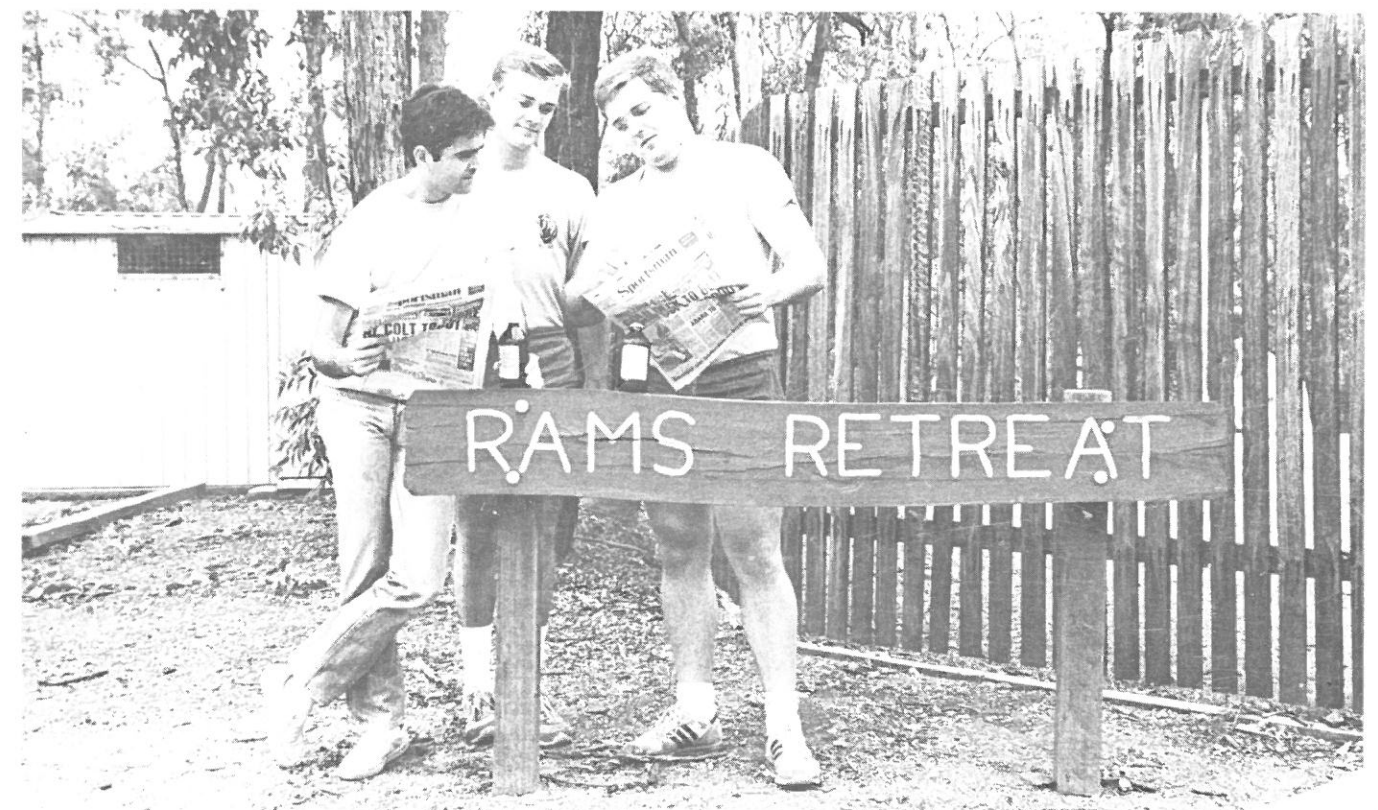
CFN Potter (Fitter Turner) from 2 Base Wksp Bn.

As with the rest of the Bn Tsp has been very busy this year, and at times we have been down to two or three people. So we are looking forward to BRL this year to recharge our batteries, so we can do it all again next year. Hopefully without the mass changeover next year won't be quite so mad.

In closing we of the Tsp wish all and sundry a Merry Xmas and a better New Year.

NOTES FROM THE DIRK SQUAD

1. Which Radio Mech was last seen disappearing down the rapids without his uniform?
2. Which PI had six flats on the one vehicle?
3. Which Coy OC carried his fishing gear all the way to Cooktown and never wet a line?
4. Which CPL had the biggest headache that just would not go away until leaving all those trees (failed a brain scan)?
5. Which Veh Mech did a major service on a rover only to have EIS ground it 5km later (Willy 1, EIS nil)?
6. Which Storeman had two psych tests in one year?
7. Which Storeman ended up on crutches every time he was on the cock of the walk? (They finally caught him.)
8. Which Veh Mech can load three ton of equipment on one landrover? (They are only 3/4 ton Willy not 3 or 4 ton.)



Rams Retreat

The fourth year since the opening of the new 'Rams Retreat' is now drawing to a close, and it seems as if we go from strength to strength the longer we are established.

The beer garden is almost completed and with the good weather now upon us, I'm sure there will be some great 'Barbeques and parties' held at the outside bar.

It's been a difficult year to hold as many members functions as we have had in previous years due to the trouble in trying to ensure a majority of members are present at any one time.

But this means our entertainment funds are building up and plenty of parties are scheduled for the future.

One memorable function that comes to mind, was the 'xxxx Chicken Kicken' day, when our Kiwi brothers joined us in demolishing several lambs on the spit and enough beer to put the 'Great Aussie Picnic' to shame. The foundations are still shaking from the traditional Kiwi songs and dances we were treated to, complimented by Dennis Dickens and his bushband who held our end of the entertainment admirably.

The future of the Rams Retreat lies in the hands of the members and if what has been achieved so far is any indication, we will still have the best 'BOOZER' in the area for a long time to come.

It is impossible to mention everyone who has helped in making 1986 a highly successful year for the Rams, but I would like to thank, on behalf of the members, the committee for their enormous efforts, also Percy (always there when you need him) Angilly, Kevin (Whisper) Dally and a bloke who words cannot thank enough Wayne (Little Bull) Mitchell. Good on you fella's for being willing to do that little bit extra when called upon. A special word of thanks from the members and the

committee must go to the CO, 2IC and the RSM, who have supported the club to the hilt in every way possible.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and their families, a Happy 'Merry' and above all a safe Christmas and New Year.

"See ya over a coldie! Bull."



9. Which hopeful SAS trooper suffers from morning sickness? (Ross 'Yes I've raised the bedhead' Lavers)
10. Which acting PI SGT did not do an exercise all year?



Pipes and Drums

1986 started out with the pipes and drums being split up to participate at the South Australian 150th Jubilee Tattoo, as well as having some of our members away on course at the same time. Once we were all back on the ground it was time for us to join the battalion on exercises: RAMALOT, OTBO, and DIAMOND DOLLAR, where we were again sent out amongst the companies to provide medical support.

We have also had the opportunity to participate in the 20th Anniversary Parade of the Battle of Long Tan, where we were combined with the Pipes and Drums of the 3rd, 5th/7th and 6th Battalions.

There have been a few notable events or achievements so far this year, some of these are listed below:

EVENTS

LCPL Willis - engaged to Anne
PTE Humphrey - engaged to Linda
PTE Sheldon - engaged to Hanna

ACHIEVEMENTS

PTE Jensen - birth of another son
CPL Lawrenson - Sub 1 and 2 for SGT
CPL McMellon - Sub 1 and 2 for SGT
CPL Campbell - Storemans Course
PTE Jensen - Storemans Course
PTE Sheldon - finally go his cooks course.

DEPARTURES

CPL Campbell to LWC (1 Oct)
PTE Jensen to Bandiana (Dec 86)
PTE Humphreys to CHQ

ARRIVALS

PTE Joyce from IETs
PTE Berger from A Coy

Lastly the presentation of the "Broken Chanter Reed Award" to the following deserving recipients (who prefer to remain nameless) for these notable incidents.

- * ? caught sitting under a tree in Cooktown sampling Vintage Port (\$2.00 a gallon) with some of the indigenous personnel.
- * Three rather stunned members waving goodbye to the "new" Flying RAP compliments of the RAAF Chinook.
- * A very pale piper assisting to stitch up a lacerated stomach on Ex Diamond Dollar.

Most of our work on the musical side is still ahead of us so we will be fairly busy from now until Christmas. We wish all the members of the Battalion the best for the coming festive season and the year ahead.

Our doors are always open for any potential musicians to come join us.



Champion Company

1st	C Coy	172
2nd	B Coy	141
3rd	SPT	131
4th	A Coy	125
5th	Admin	87

MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

OBSTACLE COURSE	B COY
RESUPPLY RACE	B COY
RUN & SHOOT	C COY
GURKHA SHOOT	C COY
ELEMENTARY SHOOT	C COY
COCK OF THE WALK	A COY
MILITARY PENTATHLON	B COY

RESULTS

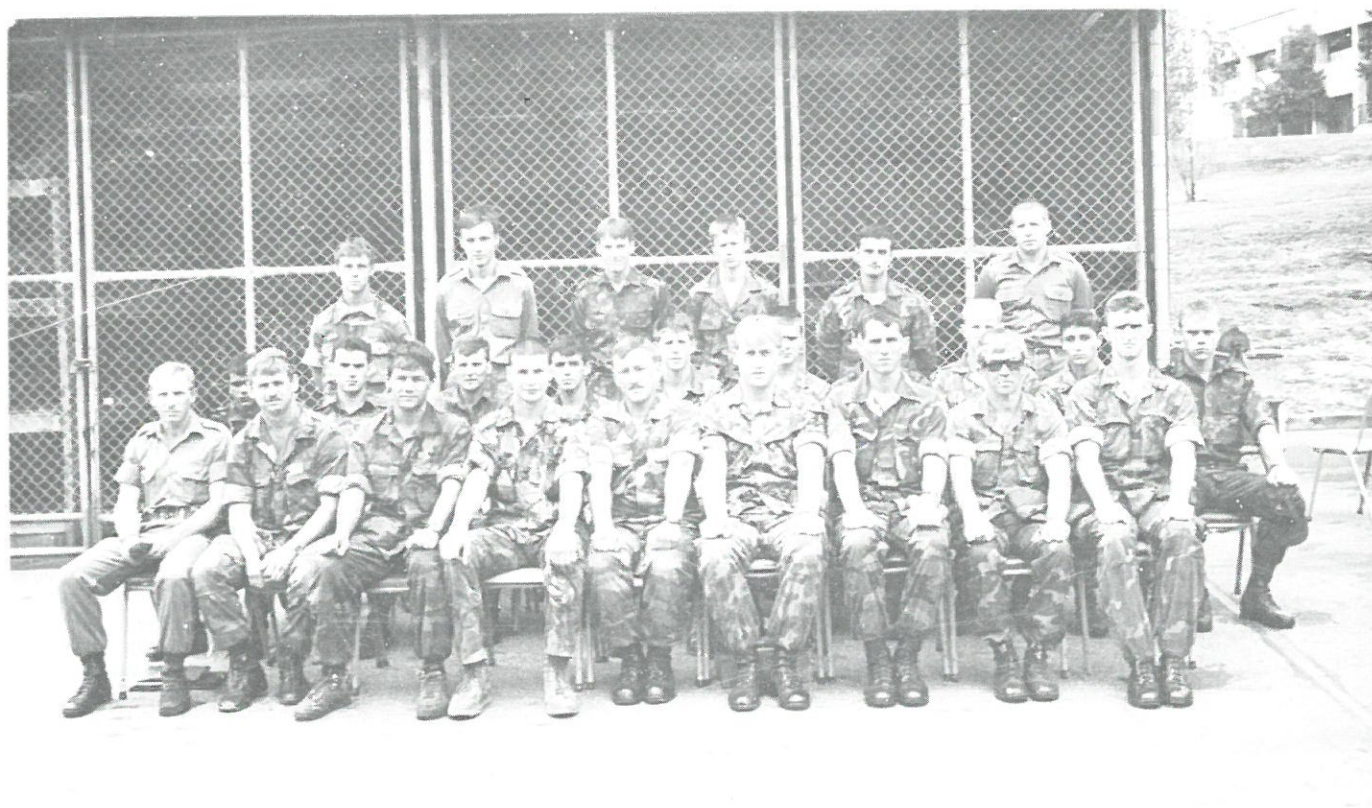
1st	C COY	112
2nd	B COY	104
3rd	SPT	84
3rd	ACOY	84
5th	ADMIN	36

INTER COMPANY SPORTS COMPETITION

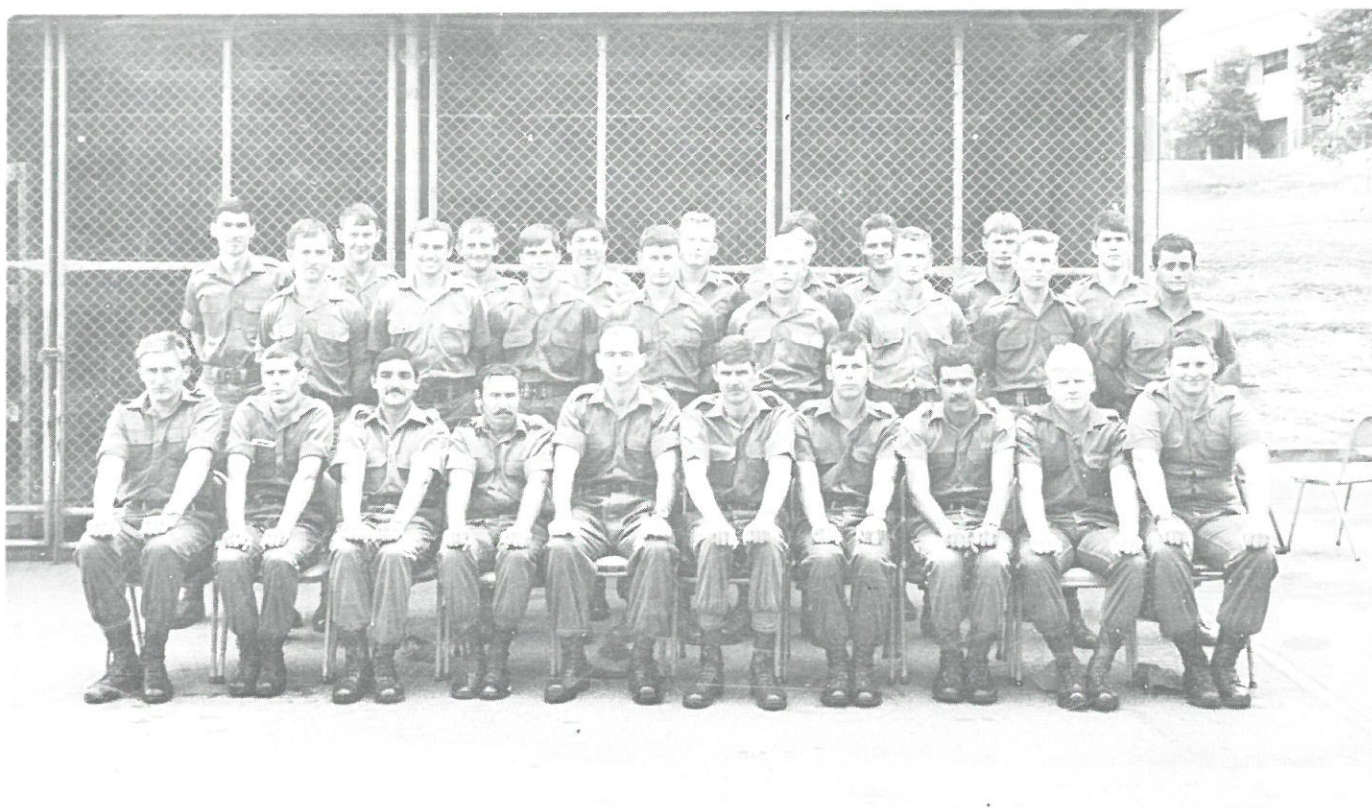
AUSTRALIAN RULES	ADMIN
HOCKEY	ADMIN
SOCCER	B COY
RUGBY	SPT
SWIMMING	C COY
ATHLETICS	C COY
RACQUET SPORTS	SPT
CROSS COUNTRY	A COY

RESULTS

st	C COY	60
2nd	ADMIN	51
3rd	SPT	47
4th	B COY	37
5th	A COY	31



Recon Course



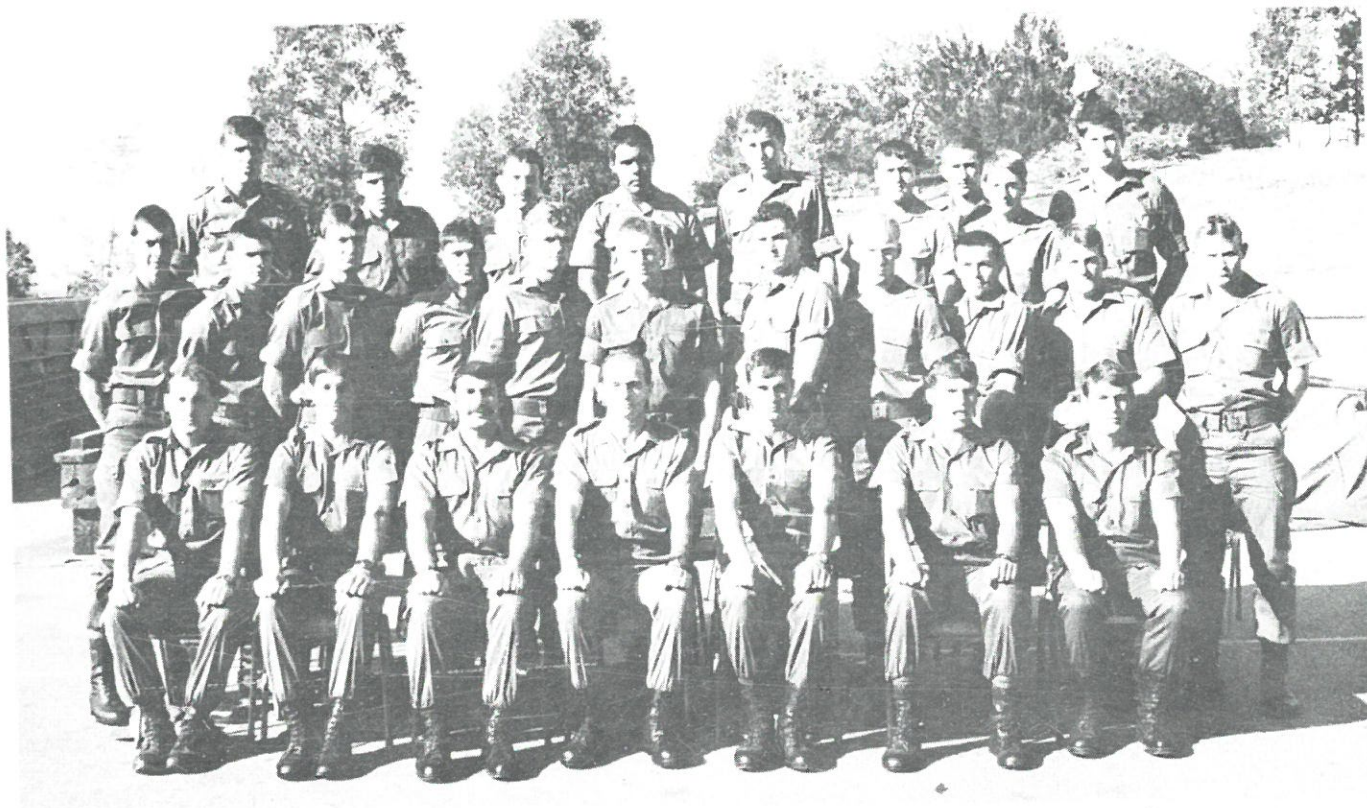
Signal Course



Courses



Small Arms Coaching Course



Pioneer Course



Subject One Cpl



T 109 Course