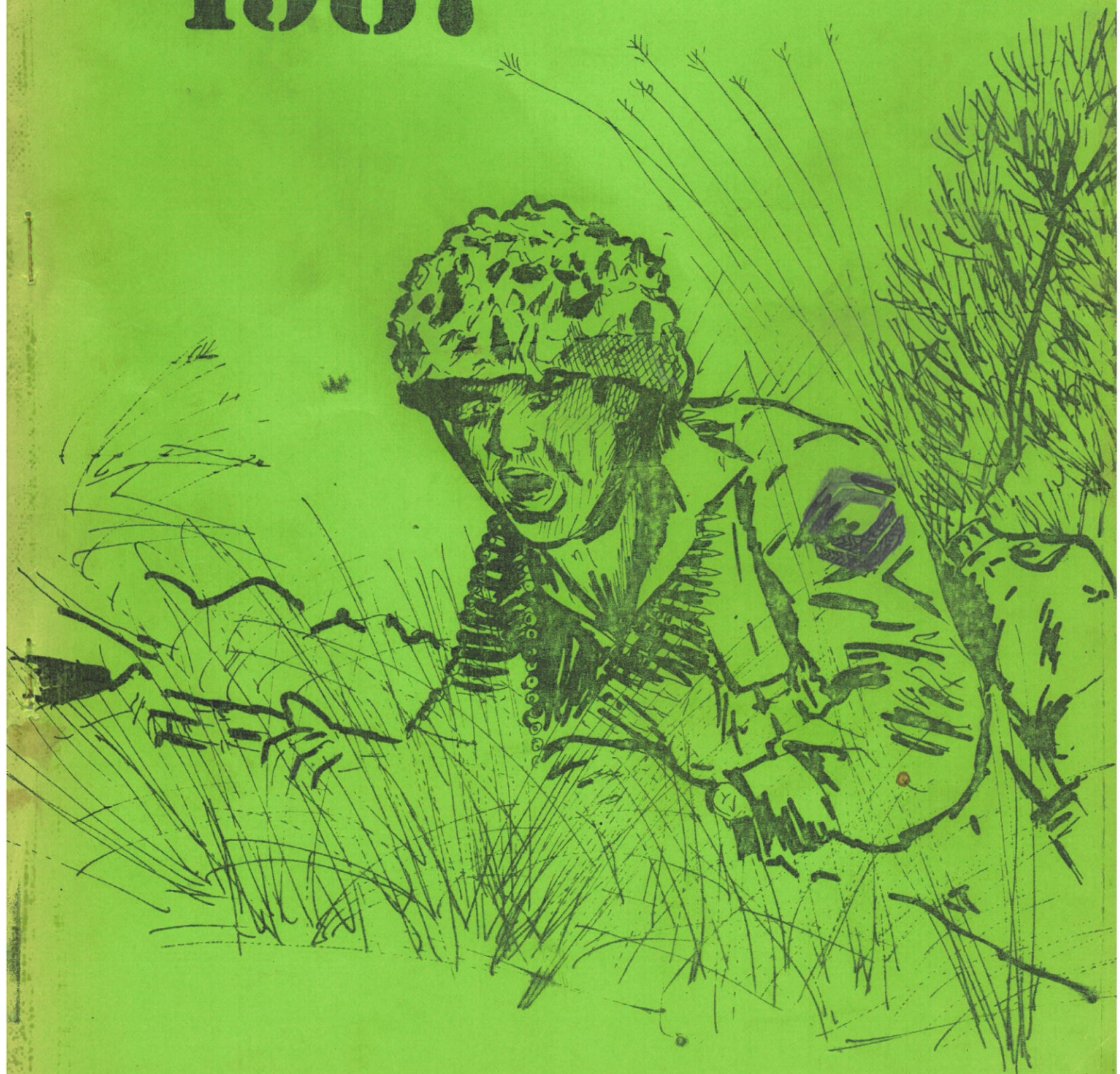


44m
222

8/9 RAR IN 1987



INDEX

	Page
Year of Champions	2
CO Foreword	3
History of Stan	4-6
RSM Foreword	7
8/9 in 87	8
Alpha Coy	9-11
Bravo Coy	12-14
Charlie Coy	15-16
Spt Coy	17-24
Admin Coy	25-33
Delta Coy	34
BHQ	35-40
2nd/8th	41
Year in Pictures	42-68
Sports	69-78
Misc	79-83
Acknowledgements	84

YEAR OF CHAMPIONS

Aust Rules ~ prem

Soccer ~ prem

Rugby A's ~ prem

Swimming ~ bde champ

Mac Donalds Cup~Winners

Duke Of Gloucester ~ r/u

Athletics ~ r/u

Rugby B's ~ r/u

Foreword - Lt Col M J Edwards

1987 has been an outstanding year for the Battalion in all facets of our activities. You will remember that the aim of our training this year was to train for war. Our Army exists to provide a suitable deterrence and a credible response to contingencies that may arise at short notice. Without good leadership and sound training we offer little deterrence and doubtful response. After the exercises we have completed this year there should be no doubt in anyone's mind as to our ability to conduct operations in a low level setting. I have been constantly complimented on the standard of training of the Battalion particularly the expertise of the junior NCO and soldier level and the esprit which is very visible to others outside the Battalion.

There have been a number of notable highlights to the years programme on which I would like to dwell briefly. The Duke of Gloucester Cup Squad made an outstanding effort to be placed 2nd and to win the MacDonald Cup. The effort they put into the training and the final result brought great credit on themselves and the Battalion.

Ex OTBD (Field Firing) was in my experience the most realistic and comprehensive of its type conducted in peace time. We carried live ammo all of the time and I have no hesitation in saying that after that exercise your standard of battle discipline and field firing was clearly better than many of the Battalions that deployed to South Vietnam.

Ex Silk Purse at SWBTA brought together at battalion level, the skills developed in the months before during the company and platoon exercises. I was most impressed with the standard of battle discipline, toughness and endurance which was displayed. This was again confirmed on the 50 km route march which proved to individuals that they have the mental and physical capacity to conduct sustained operations and still be fit to fight at the end. Our involvement in Ex Diamond Dollar proved the culmination of

our years training. The week involved with the protection of Cooktown brought home the real problems we would be likely to face in war in Northern Australia. The praise from the Shire Council and individuals was glowing particularly concerning the involvement of soldiers with the local community. The subsequent phases of the exercise gave us valuable training with APC and UH 60 Blackhawk aircraft. The Ex confirmed the need for a flexible and efficient support system to ensure operations can proceed in such an adverse environment.

In all it has been an excellent training year. While we have made much progress in many areas there is still much room for improvement particularly in rifle shooting. We will be placing more emphasis on this next year.

One would be remiss by not making special mention of our support staff without whose efforts and initiatives we would not function properly. These included those tireless band of "fixit" men at Tech Spt and Transport, our extremely capable Medical Platoon and the Catering Platoon who provided many sumptuous feasts for our many social events.

The decision was made early this year to place sufficient effort into the winter sports to ensure our victory. To have won the Aust Rules, Rugby and Soccer and to go so close in the other sports proved the determination, skill and will to win that is present in the battalion. It also proved that we can win at sport and still continue to maintain a high level of military training.

Finally, your efforts this year have been outstanding and I am proud to be CO of such a professional unit. I wish all the battalion and their families a happy and safe Christmas. To those who are departing, you take the best wishes and thanks of the Battalion. I look forward to a challenging and productive year in 1987.

The History of Stan

MASCOT

1. About the middle of 1970 it was decided that 9 RAR needed a mascot. The then CO Lieutenant Colonel Eric Philip gave the guidelines that the mascot should be an animal native to Australia and/or which played an important role in Australia's history and prosperity. After a considerable amount of discussion it was decided to adopt a pure bred Merino Ram. When this was announced to the Battalion the search began for a suitable animal.

2. Some weeks after the announcement, the Bass Drummer of the newly formed Drum and Bugle Band, one Pte McPhee came forward and told the CO that his uncle, Mr. W.A. Collison was prepared to donate a ram as the Battalion mascot. Mr. Collison owned a stud called 'Trevallyn' near Scone, in New South Wales.

3. Two names were seriously considered for the mascot. The first name was Henry Waterhouse. The original Henry Waterhouse was a Naval Officer who brought the first Merino Sheep to Australia. He was an Officer on HMS Sirius in the First Fleet, and subsequently returned to England after Sirius was wrecked on Norfolk Island in 1791. Later he was Second Captain of HMS Reliance which was sent to pick up stock at The Cape of Good Hope, and ship them to N.S.W. While at the Cape he brought a number of Spanish Merino Sheep which he and Lieutenant Kent of HMS Supply shipped to the colony. On arrival in Sydney he sold his sheep and a number of them went to John Macarthur of Camden. The name Henry Waterhouse was not selected for the mascot's name however and the committee settled on the name of John Macarthur, because, as Lieutenant Colonel Philip said in a letter to the Colonel Commandant of the Royal Australian Regiment, Macarthur was the more colourful figure in the Australian Merino Sheep Industry even though he was 'somewhat of a scoundrel'. The

words proved to be prophetic because the mascots have proved to be more than colourful and there have been some scoundrels among them.

4. As soon as the name was selected the Macarthur-Onslow family was contacted as a matter of courtesy to ask permission to use the name. The head of the family, Major General Sir Denzil Macarthur-Onslow was delighted with the name and readily gave permission for its use. In his reply to the Battalion request he also offered a replacement for Pte John Macarthur 1 from the original flock on Camden Park Estate; a flock which had been pastured there since 1795 with no new blood line ever having been introduced. This offer was subsequently taken up some time later.

5. After much argument concerning red tape with the Agriculture Departments of both Q'land and N.S.W. Pte John Macarthur 1 finally arrived in Enoggera in February 1971. He was enlisted on 18 February 1971 and formally presented to the Battalion on 12 March 1971 by Pte McPhee on behalf of his uncle. As is the way with soldiers, he immediately gained a nickname and he and his successors have been known as 'Stan' ever since.

6. John Macarthur 1, was, by all accounts both a colourful beast (some have ventured to say 'miserable old') and a scoundrel and many of the stories about him have assumed legendary status. His disciplinary record, whilst blemished, seems to have had a guardian angel looking after it. On each of the occasions he was charged (Striking a Superior, Conduct to the Prejudice, Resisting an Escort, etc) 1 MD Legal Branch managed to find some excuse to quash the conviction. This at least showed that the 'Legal Eagles' had some sort of heart in those days contrary to the opinion of many soldiers. During his career 'Stan 1' also developed some habits which have added to the legend. He apparently took a liking to tobacco

and could often be seen with a packet of Drum which he preferred to chew rather than smoke. He also developed, in the absence of a lady companion, an attraction for a fire hydrant in the Battalion area. This caused much amusement amongst the soldiery and spawned many stories, most of which are probably apocryphal, which are still circulating today.

7. 'Stan I' managed to find a few roses among the thorns during his nine year career with the Battalion and was promoted to Lance Corporal on 25 June 1971. He was promoted to Temporary Corporal on 8 August 1978. On this occasion CARO showed considerable flexibility rarely shown in the Armed Forces and authorised the promotion even though there was no evidence of the soldier having qualified in either Subject 1 or Subject 2 for Corporal. The records show that Stan was a generous soul and put \$20 over the bar of the OR's canteen as a result of the promotion.

8. Sadly 'Stan I' suffered from problems that many old Corporals face: bad feet and bad temper. In an extremely disloyal act (or so it seems in hindsight) two soldiers of the unit wrote to the CO explaining that he had 'become impossible to handle' and should be retired. As a result steps were taken to replace him and after discharge on 31 January 1980 he was retired to the Animal Husbandry Research Farm at Rocklea on 11 March 1980, having served nine years in the Battalion.

9. A very generous offer of a replacement Ram from the original flock at Camden was accepted and 'Stan 2' was presented to the Battalion by Major General Sir Denzil and Lady Dorothy Macarthur-Onslow on 6 February 1980 as a five month old. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on Anzac Day 1981. He found it difficult to settle into life as a Non-Commissioned Officer and he committed several offences over the next year including lying

down on parade and wilful damage to his barracks, for this latter charge in April 1982 he was reduced to the rank of Private. In addition he charged a window, in which he saw his own reflection; and shattered it, further blemishing his record.

10. Pte John Macarthur II was tragically murdered by dogs on the night of 24 June 1984. His normal barracks were being used for visitors at the time and Stan had volunteered to live in the field so that the goats belonging to a visiting Gurkha unit could be housed properly. He was set upon by a pack of cowardly dogs during the night and died of injuries. He is buried outside the 'Rams Retreat', the soldiers club.

11. Due to the untimely death of John Macarthur II it was some time before his replacement could be identified and enlisted. Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Roberts of Victoria Downs at Morven and the Chairman of the Queensland Merino Stud Sheep Breeders Association, Mr. Bruce Scott of Muckadilla, John Macarthur III was presented to the Battalion at a parade on the 7 December 84. He warmed to his role at once, but alas, like his immediate predecessor, his reign was short. While on R&R (and it does not stand for rest and recreation) at his original home on Victoria Downs during the Christmas break in 1985 he entered into an argument about a lady with another ram. A battle ensued and Lance Corporal Macarthur was fatally wounded. He died of wounds on 26 January 1986. In the tradition of the Royal Australian Regiment he went down fighting.

12. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts again showed their generosity and immediately offered another ram to replace John Macarthur III. There was some speculation in the unit that we should ask for the victor of the conquest however the Battalion did not push the case and a fine

.Leaden Lift 8/9 .Swimming
 in
.Long Hai '8 7'. Courses

.Anzac Day .Mil Skills

.Ex Otbo .Duke of Gloucester

.8RAR Birthday. Ex ♦ \$

.Ex Silk Purse. Br Birthday

.9RAR Birthday

.RSM Farewell

ALPHA

A COMPANY RIFLE COMPANY
BUTTERWORTH, Dec. '86-Mar. '87

After a long and busy year, A Company was rewarded with becoming the Rifle Company Butterworth over the Christmas period 1986/87 for 3 months. On 2 Dec with the DPI checks, passports applications and farewells behind us, we embarked on our adventure with a platoon from the Airfield Defence Guard (ADG), RAAF in tow.

Eight hours later we were greeted by a very grateful B Coy 6 RAR and introduced to our new home for the next 3 months. At the 'handover/takeover' in the bar that night, stories were spun to the wide-eyed and inquisitive audience, offering insight and advice. In a few months time, we would be the old and the Wise!!

6 RAR left first thing the following morning whilst we toured the area and became familiar with the base. There was the standard 'welcome to Butterworth' brief, warnings on avoiding trouble and of course the facts of life about Penang. The people and the social diseases.

After the first couple of days of settling in and getting organised, we slipped into the routine of QRF. Consisting more of watching videos than call-outs it was definitely not the QRF of old. The threat to the base had decreased over the past 12 months or so, and hence the security of the base was reduced accordingly.

Being firmly settled in, the various trips began for the platoons. Although these were staggered, all had the pleasure of enduring these experiences. Five days in Bangkok was the eye-opener of a lifetime. The 18 hour train trip was the start of what was to become the most exhausting and mind-blowing holiday. Some just didn't waste any time getting into it, and some just couldn't stop! And there was that never-ending

street full of girls (or were they?!), the Florida Hotel with its pool and built-in high diving towers, and those fun-loving locals who enjoyed our company so much. This trip was also responsible for the introduction of Mekhong whisky - the reason for many bad experiences.

Haadyai was a popular and frequently visited spot, being so convenient for a weekend away - or longer if work wouldn't interfere! What was it that was so popular about it anyway? Must have been the shopping?

Phuket, in the dying stages of the tour, was definitely where the fun was. It had everything - beaches, bars, bikes, 4WD, entertainment and an all round good time. A great way to finish off the tour, preventing boredom from setting in. We generally came back from there, more the worse for wear - physically financially or both.

Penang itself also offered a variety of entertainment shopping and sights. The memory that sticks in most minds is the ferry and tri-shaw rides - an experience even to the thrillseeker. Although not exactly the Pearl of the Orient that it used to be in places, the history lives on to show that it must have been an amazing place in its day. Batuh Ferringi with its beach, hotels and tourists, offered a welcome escape from the rat-race of Georgetown.

Christmas was celebrated in a very 'merry' manner for us last year. Everyone was still fairly well primed from the night before, so as we sat down for lunch, things were quite lively. The SNCO and Officers became stewards for the day, much to the delight of the diggers. Abuse was not the only thing thrown at them! It was a great meal, and considering our circumstances of being so far from home, everyone made the most of it and enjoyed themselves.

New Year's Eve was another major event on the social calendar. 2 and 3 Platoon's spent theirs in Bangkok and 1 PL had theirs in the BC Bar. Both parties farewelled 1986 and welcomed 1987 in a style we won't forget for a long time.

But it wasn't all time off and fun. Apart from 1 PL level training around the Base and Muka Head (Penang Island) the Coy deployed to Pulada for live firing and a Coy level exercise in the Kota Tinggi area. This eventually became an exercise in water-borne and amphibious ops, with so much rain falling it had to be called off early. This time actually spent in Pulada was an experience - The boots boys, the 5 star accommodation, and the condition of the ranges! Ammo was never a problem and an effective level of realism could be achieved with the relaxed safety restrictions.

Next was the visit to the Kiwis (1 RNZIR) in Singapore. But before we could get into the serious side of work, a weekend off in the city was in order. Staying at the Phoenix Hotel, the Coy set forth on a mission of spreading Aussie culture throughout. I doubt if they would have us back in a hurry, but all was in good spirit as we kept them amused and amazed. Although we didn't have long, the time was spent seeing the sights, shopping and just having fun was appreciated by all.

The Coy then settled into the luxurious Dieppe Barracks where the main item on the agenda was rehearsing for their NZ Day parade. With their light infantry drill, we found it to be not an easy task. Many hours and lots of oohs and aarghs later, we had it perfected. The night of the parade we looked the best of the lod and did ourselves proud. A certain sense of pride was also felt in uniting as ANZAC's for their special day.

After an enormous night of celebrations we departed early for

an ex with C Coy 1 RNZIR feeling somewhat the worse for wear. After a forced recovery on that first day, the ex developed into a good search and clear operation. Only 1 contact was made, but was excellent training and much was learnt.

Then it was back to Butterworth for the home stretch, which saw more Coy and PL parties than the whole tour put together. Before we knew it, D Coy 5/7 RAR had arrived to relieve us and what a relief it was!

The tour was a great experience and opportunity to witness and become involved with other cultures, to get away as a full-strength Coy by itself and do realistic training and to have "been there and done that!" Although some may not wish to go back in a hurry, none could regret having been there.

A Company continued to achieve their high standard of training and managed to leave a more than respectable opinion of the Coy, the Battalion and of the Australian Army in the minds of everyone we came in contact with.

2 PLATOON

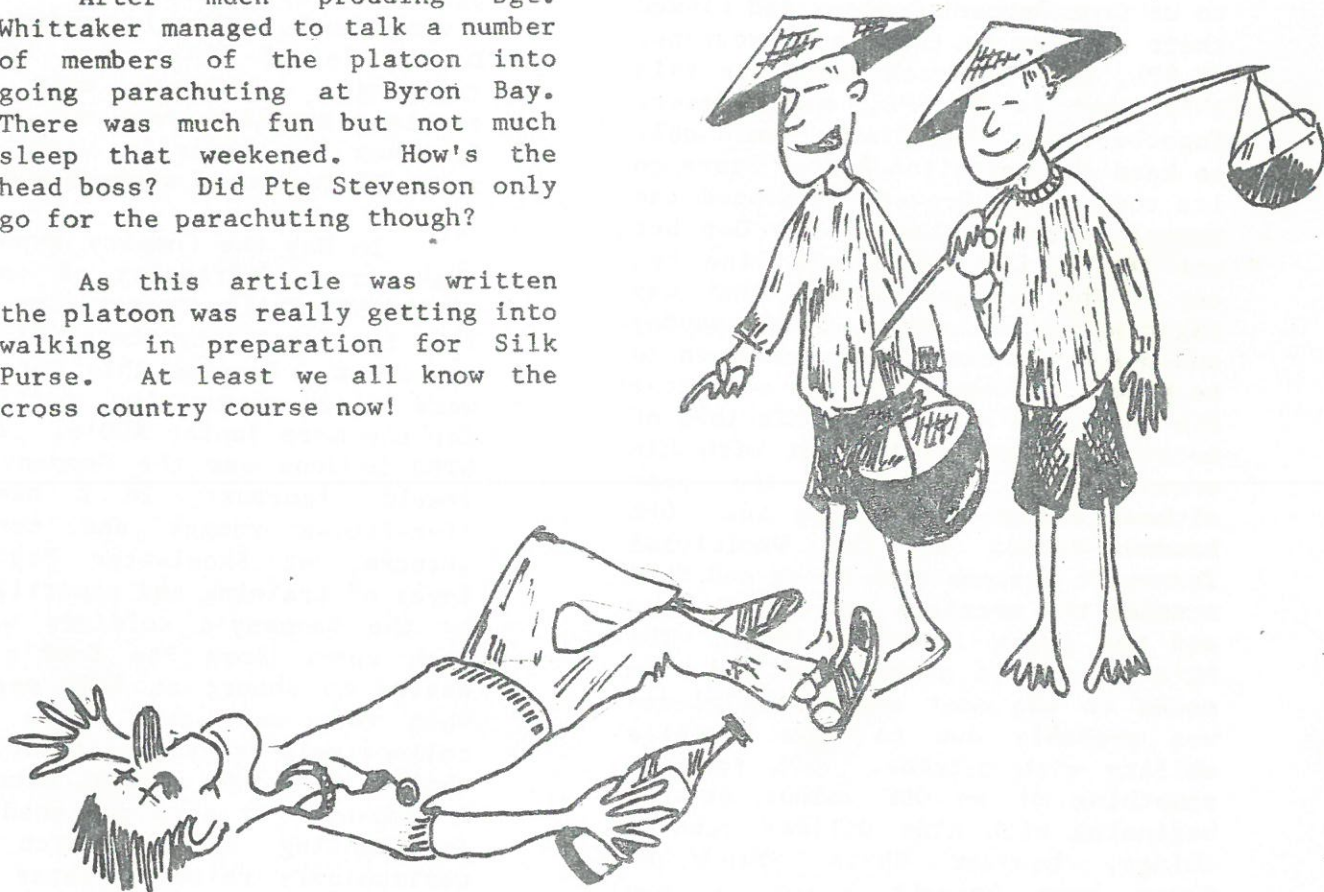
2 PLATOON - 1987

The platoon was raised in April, with a core of Malaysia veterans. The Mil Skills competition provided a chance to start working together before the first major exercise for the platoon - OTBO.

Exercise OTBO saw us getting stuck into ambushing, defence, and lots of attacks. Between all that we had to take time to explain to Pte Rodrigues that biting their heads off is not the best way of removing snakes from people's arms. At least Pte Wallace got an extra chopper ride from that incident! The exercise also allowed the boss, Lt. Sutton, to show the NCO's how much paté and French cheeses should be taken on exercise.

After much prodding Sgt. Whittaker managed to talk a number of members of the platoon into going parachuting at Byron Bay. There was much fun but not much sleep that weekend. How's the head boss? Did Pte Stevenson only go for the parachuting though?

As this article was written the platoon was really getting into walking in preparation for Silk Purse. At least we all know the cross country course now!



BRAVO

B COMPANY 1987

B Company launched itself into 1987 with a mixture of verve and vigour having been infused with a new batch of soldiers after Support Company had taken its quota from us. Things got off to a flying start and while maintaining our "Be Professional" approach, we were able to rely on the principle of minimum preparation and procedure for almost all events. Naturally, such a style brought results for the Company in 1987.

We started the year with a few new key people. Warren Bones endeared himself to the Company as something of a Cult figure though he really only brought two things to us; aggro rock music and an extended interest in the Coca Cola company. Darren Powell and Darren Doyle came to us from Support Company and flexed their muscles in their new sections. OC 4PL, Nick Baddrick found his twin this year in OC 6PL, Angus Baker. Together, the "Fat Deaths" were able to keep the Battalion Ration Store on its toes. Pte Brewer introduced the newest in hairstyles to the Coy but not to the CSM who didn't like the cut. The Company Social Fund was eagerly run on raffles each payday and more than one new car was seen to be bought by members of the committee! Pte Quinn was able to mix his love of motorcycles and living out with his occupation. He ended the year without a bike and living in. 6PL became famous as the Unofficial Transport Platoon with Ricey and Bubs running the sections and the Pl Comd and Sgt going there in 1988. The PL's ability to start fires and burn packs in the most unexpected places was probably due to Kupu Vanisi's ability with matches. 5PL took on something of an ODF colour at the beginning with Alan Gillman running things, however Chris "Mandrake" Shine soon brought magic to new dimensions of military application. 4PL started the year sure and steady with most of the same people, but still managed to confound the company in barracks and the field with their competence.

Company training for the year began with sections practising and re-learning their skills on Exercise Leaden Lift at Wide Bay. Nothing memorable happened here except for the blisters created out of walking in new boots over 15km. At LWC Canungra, the Coy proved its military worth to the staff and its drinking prowess to itself. The canteen was a roaring success despite the continual absence of football players in Brisbane. B Coy was so highly regarded in the Battalion at this time that 25 members of A Coy were under our guidance during A Coy's trip to Malaysia. They liked B Coy so much that two of them went AWOL on return to A Coy! They also provided some interest at the LWC RAP with Wallace having fallen head-first over a cliff and cracked his scone on a log. During April, the three platoons experienced the different living (and working) conditions of Double Island Point for adventure training. Although rain was a problem, supplies were not and most finished the activity with suntans and well developed stomach muscles!

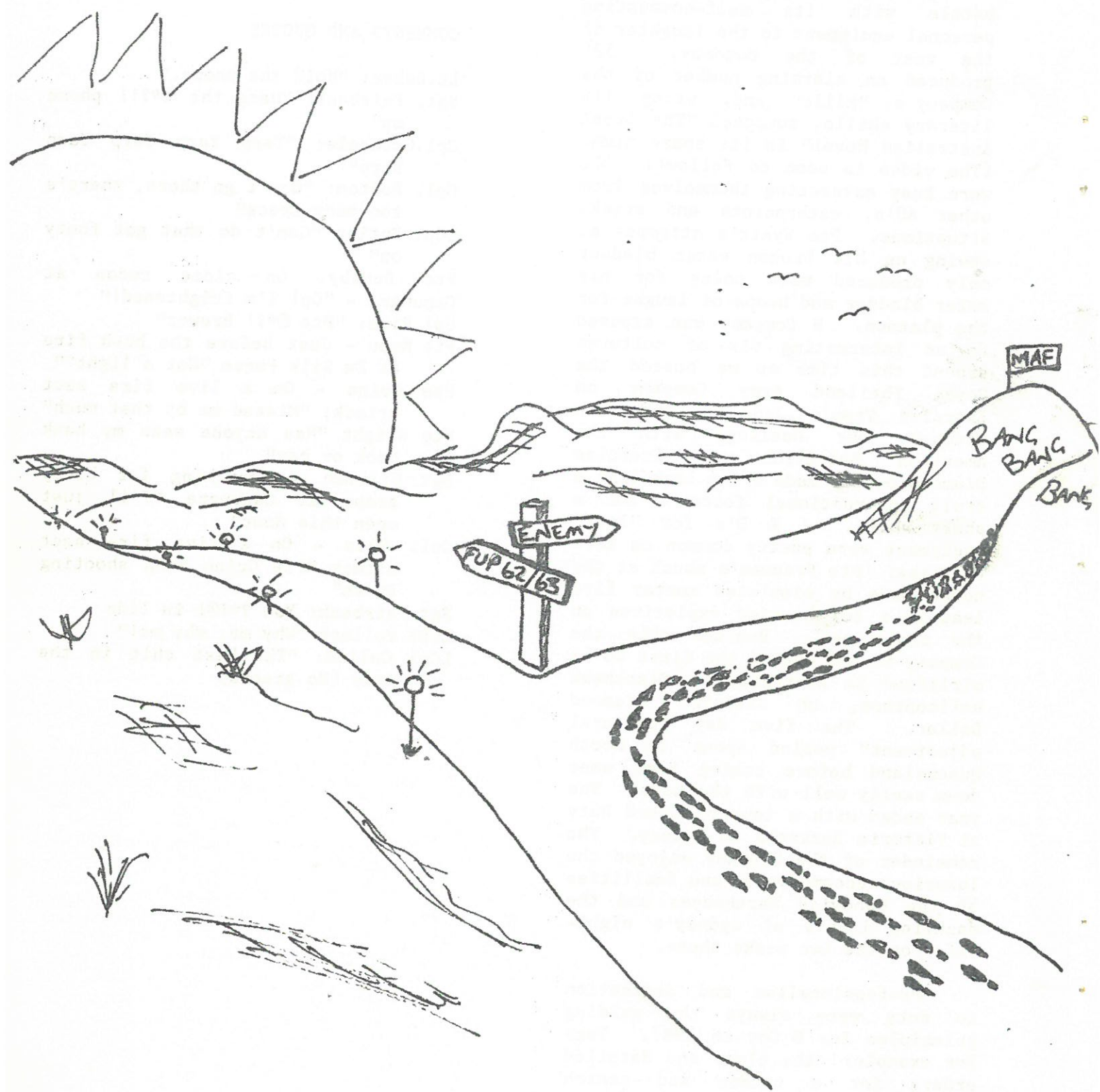
In May the Company experienced the extreme difficulty of competing in the MIL Skills Competition without time for practising the skills before the event. Despite this our results were fairly encouraging, particularly for the more junior NCO's. Exercise OTBO in June saw the Company engage itself rigorously in a number of live-firing ranges and controlled attacks, at Shoalwater Bay. The level of training and expertise shown by the Company's soldiers was very high apart from Pte Cook's strong desire to shoot at DART mechanisms when they were down! As far as collectively exercising the Company's skills, OTBO was a great success for B Company. It also polished up our firefighting skills which became particularly relevant later in the year. The mobility, flexibility and adaptability of the company was exercised fully as we ranged from North to South, East to West of Shoalwater Bay on Exercise Silk Purse.

6PL became engaged in a constant battle with its self-combusting personal equipment to the laughter of the rest of the company. 5PL produced an alarming number of the Company's "kills" and, using its literary skills, composed "The Great Australian Novel" in its spare time. (The video is soon to follow!) 4PL were busy extracting themselves from other AO's, waterpoints and sticky situations. Pte Wyatt's attempts at sewing up his broken water bladder only produced more holes for his water bladder and heaps of laughs for the platoon. B Company was exposed to an interesting mix of cultures around this time as we hosted the Royal Thailand Army Company on Exercise Temple Jade. Later, in October, our dealings with the American Battalion on Exercise Diamond Dollar made B Coy look like a truly international force - for a short while. L & D's for "lost" equipment were pretty common on this exercise! Pte Freeman's shock at the noise made by simulated mortar fire lead to a few hurried expletives on the radio net. Besides this the Company became one of the first to be airlifted in Australia by Blackhawk helicopters, on Exercise Diamond Dollar. The five day "cultural adjustment" period spent in North Queensland before coming home went down really well with the boys. The year ended with a tour of Guard Duty at Victoria Barracks in Sydney. The remainder of the Company enjoyed the luxurious accomodation and facilities of the Randwick Warehouses and the dazzling lights of Sydney's night-life for the two weeks there.

Professionalism and dedication to duty were always the guiding principles for B Coy in 1987. Take for example: the close and detailed orders for a cordon and search mission at Canungra which blew up in Sgt Gillman's face, Pte Wright's businesslike handling of his motorcar and Sgt Peter Croft's unswerving application to his platoon in the field. The year produced a spirited, united and professionally competent group of soldiers ready to take up the challenges of 1988 in similar fine style.

COMMENTS AND QUOTES

Lt. Baker: "Hold the phone."
 Sgt. Fairbank: "Hang the @*?! phone up"
 Cpl. Gobacole: "Yarp Yarp Yarp Yarp Yarp"
 Cpl. Boston: "Can't go there, there's too many trees"
 LCpl Butler "Can't do that got footy on"
 Pte Dunsby: On close recon at Canungra - "Cpl I'm frightened!"
 Cpl Rice: "Pte @*?! Brewer"
 Pte Kupu - Just before the bush fire at Ex Silk Purse "Got a light?"
 Pte Quinn - On a live fire sect attack; "Missed me by that much"
 Pte Wright "Has anyone seen my bank book or car"
 Sgt Gillman - Searching for booby traps at Canungra "I'll just open this door"
 Cpl. Ross - On a live fire sect attack "Pte Quinn stop shooting at me"
 Sgt Fairbank: You ?*!@! in lids
 LCpl Pollock "Why me, why me!"
 LCpl Cullen: "The best chit in the Army (No greens)"



I KNEW WE SHOULD HAVE TURNED LEFT!

CHARLIE

COBRA COMPANY in 1987

1987 has been yet another hectic year for Cobra Company. On the training side we have been busy with exercises from Canungra to Cape York (and all the training areas in between). Some of our training highlights this year have been :

- a new record on EX HYDRA DESPISED by Dpl Dalley and the members of 1 section
- a new record on the LWC Obstacle course by Cpl Wright and the members of 2 section
- a solid performance by all company teams in the MilSkills Competition including an outstanding win by Cpl Holmquest's section from 8 Platoon
- a very high level of proficiency in live firing attacks from section to company level which was displayed on Ex OTBO
- qualifying another fourteen company members to wear the Skill-at-Arms badge, and
- conducting low intensity operations against the Musorsons in Cooktown on Ex Diamond Dollar.

It is on the personnel side, however that we have achieved the most impressive results. Despite heavy turnover in personnel the company has maintained a tough and competitive identity throughout the year. Each and every member of the company has done his job well and as a result our morale has remained rock solid.

As we come to the end of the year it is time to reflect on those personalities within the company who have or are shortly to leave us. In chronological sequence our farewells include:

- Cpl Brian Freeman who after several years in Cobra company was posted to IRTB in June,

- Sgt Dave Willmett whose posting to the OPS Sgt job had diabolical consequences for the company hockey team;

- Pte Tony Matepi who is finally moving to the Main Q store after a year of sterling service in the Q store;

- 2Lt Tony Wong who returns to a civilian lifestyle (and the ARES) after one year's invaluable experience and an urge to blow things up;

- Cpl "Chips" Rutherford who is destined for a mechanized lifestyle and a move up the social ladder to the Sergeants' Mess in 5/7 RAR;

- LCpl Potts whose sadism, sweat and ability to "hit the wall" have seen him promoted and posted to the ODF as a PTL.

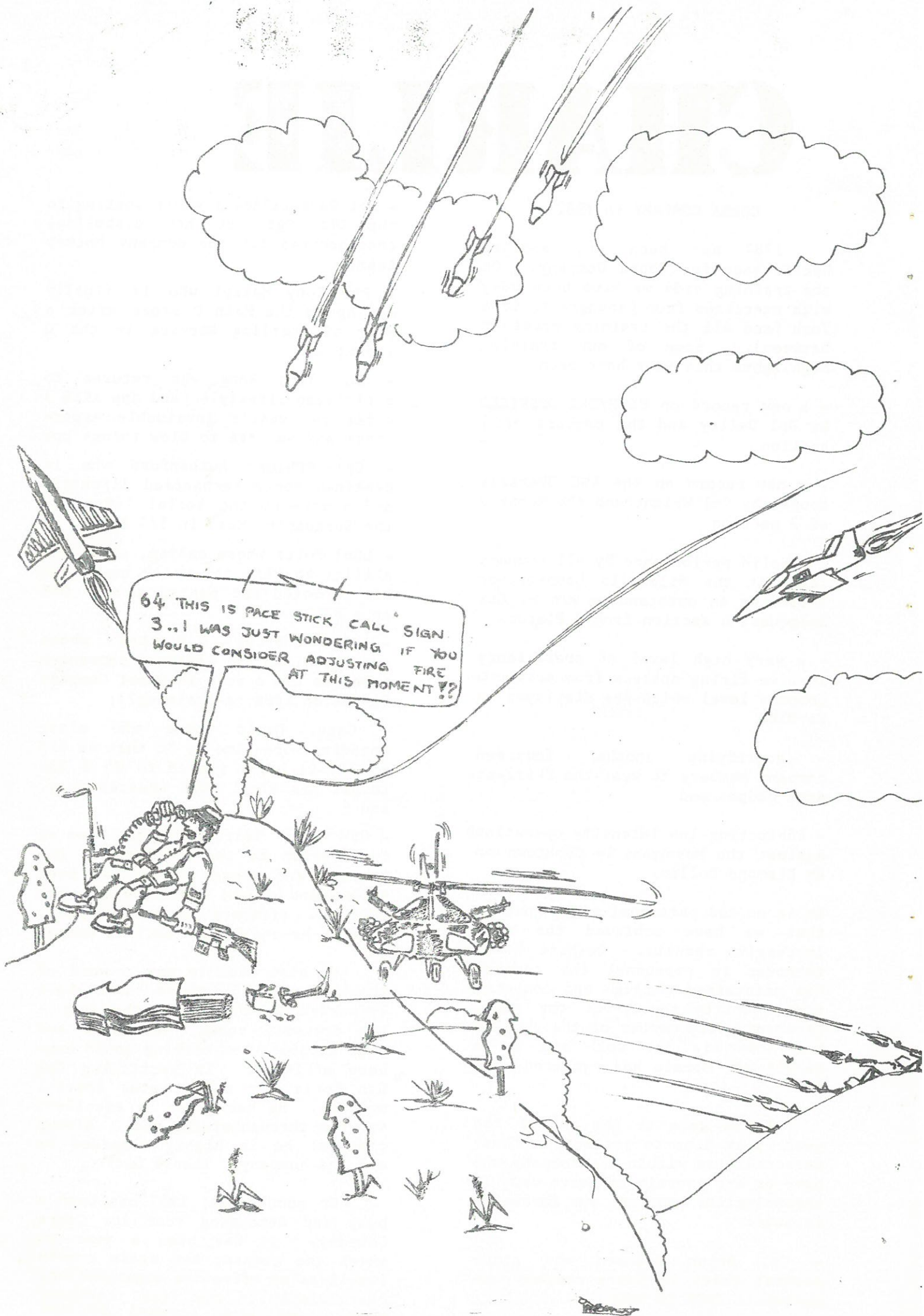
- Lt. Marcus McRitchie whose successes as a platoon commander have won him a year in Depot Company Singleton (for re-training?);

- Capt. David Goynes who after spending more time as OC than he did as 2IC is being posted to HQ 3 Bde to get his staff work squared away, and

- CSM "Blue" Telford who has been an inspiration to the soldiers of the company and whose advice has been valued and sought after by all the NCOs and officers of the Company. We wish he and Brigit well in Weipa.

We also need to say a word of thanks to all those who have supported us throughout the year - the drivers, cooks, mechanics and sigs without whom nothing could have been achieved. In particular Cpl Don Bowie our medic rates special mention. He has given us excellent service throughout the year. Always cheerful he is highly regarded by all the company. Thanks Doc.

In conclusion, 1987 has been a busy and demanding year for Cobra Company. It has been a year in which the company has again proven itself as an effective organisation, particularly in the field environment. We look forward to the challenges of 1988.



SUPPORT COY



HEAVY WEAPONS

HEAVY WEAPONS PLATOON

The year started pretty much the same as every year for Hvy Wpns Pl. As part of EZY COY (SPT COY) 8/9 RAR we deployed to Wide Bay for Ex Leaden Lift. NO COMMENT - (AS USUAL).

Around ANZAC DAY the platoon was reinforced by a mixture of ethnic minorities, on loan to us from the various Rifle Companies. The PL was then given the "minor" task of fully training the whole PL in Anti Armour and SFMG roles, between duties prior to a live fire exercise 2 weeks away.

Then came "EX QUIET DRIVE" which went better than expected with the PL. Engaging static armoured targets up to 1100m destroying all targets. Most of the time allocated to the SFMG shoot was spent beating out fires in an old mortar impact area. The exercise went well considering it was the first time many had fired in both Hvy Wpn roles.

At the end of May the PL was involved in the "ENOCGERA OPEN DAY". We were given such meaningful tasks as piqueting a Pilatus Porter Aircraft all night along with other units, and holding back the kids who were ready to advance with B Coy in the mock attack!

June saw once again the reformation of EZY COY as the PL was mobilized to Shoalwater Bay for EX OTBO where we were used as "yes" you guessed it a Rifle PL. The last half of the EX was spent firing SF in SPT of the PL, COY and BN attacks. Many thanks to CSM C Coy for helping us record by fire TGT MG 31. Lastly, we were given 2 days to carry out a live fire battle run in the full ANTI/ARMOUR role, engaging TGT's whilst advancing.

Diamond Dollar saw us as the dustiest soldiers in the Battalion as we spearheaded the Brigade

advance, escorted convoys, guarded the citizens of Cooktown and generally had a dirty, dusty and hot time.

We look forward to 1988 as more of the same. Maybe then we'll have a boss!

Some Classic Quotes from members of the Platoon

Lt. White - "What" Monday morning and I don't have to go to court!

Sgt Klien - (To be said with half a Rolly hanging out his mouth) "COUGH COUGH COUGH NOT A PROBLEM COUGH COUGH COUGH"

Cpl McIvor - (Just before Tully) - "You toss Willy and I'll call".

Cpl. D. Wilson - "Z Z Z Z Z!! *COUGH* Is it knock off yet?"

LCpl Collins - "Ask me about CARS"

LCpl Galloway - "Is this a single pay or a double pay!"

Pte N. Evans - "After hanging under an Iroquois upside down "Don't laugh Dave I was shit scared."

"Also heard to utter at a set of traffic lights" "Sorry officer was I snoring?"

Pte Johnston - "Hang on aren't I BMS".

Pte Nutter Golding - "I'll carry it"

Pte "SHAKA" Mongoo - "We lub U Johnno"

Pte Pat Sheekey - (Just before a work party) "No, I can't help I'm doing paperwork".

Pte Gav Hastings - (after the discovery of 3 flat batteries in the 106 carriers) "Yer, I turned them off".

Pte Jack Holehouse - (after being tasked with the morno's run) "No I don't eat morno's" and "My name's no JACK it's Steve".

Pte Frank Neussase - Her Von Victor "Auctung Panzer's at DRY O'clock."

PIONEERS

PNR PL 1987

1987 was a good year for Pioneers due mainly to the fact that we were able to practice just about all the skills we are trained in. The year started with the familiar Leaden Lift which followed its usual great format. Then it was off to Tuly, for a rather interesting few weeks. Interesting? - well it didn't rain!

Easter came and so did the big shuffle -

Cpl Black	}	TO A Coy
Cpl Harris		
LCpl Thompson		
LCpl Spencer	}	To B Coy
Pte Hedger		

The remainder were split between staying or discharge. Following the reshuffle came in twelve new men and thus the task of re-establishing the pl as the Senior pl began.

OTBO was the first exercise the 'new' platoon went on and proved to be an ideal setting for the men to settle in. There was plenty of work on and some lucky chaps were even treated to the Warren Ambler School of Driving.

Silk Purse was next on the agenda and Gil Spencer was back as section comd. During the ex the pl was involved in bridging, building a CP as well as numerous strong point/road block positions. Lt De Somer also managed a guest appearance after being with SASR for most of the year. The highlight of the exercise was the section attack led by Pte Perkins on two en guns!

Diamond \$ - the big one for the year. It turned out to be rather slow for the Pioneers. Three days were spent doing water patrols around Cooktown, the remaining days in Cooktown spent during patrols on foot. A Coy was lucky enough to enjoy a day with Pioneers in the boats, except Pte Perkins thought he

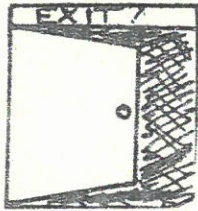
was a submariner - the A Coy lads were not amused! Lt Baddick was on hand learning the ropes from Lt De Somer who managed to find time to go on this exercise.

The exercise moved to the DESERT from Cooktown where it was so hot even the ants were not about. Pioneers married up with Pioneers from 49 RQR and the D & E pl from 49 RQR to make up D Coy 8/9 RAR. An interesting few days! Lt. De Somer then left for SASR courses and Lt Baddick took over the reins. It did not take him long to get into the Support Coy way of operating - you could tell the boss's farter with the shopping trolley, of Jacky's and the water jerry and basin - he soon was affectionately known as Mr Clean the Eating Machine! He says this isn't entirely true - it was too hot to eat that much.

And so the year came to an end with Pioneers leading the way. A special welcome back to Rosco Lentini from hospital - hopefully he will remain in '88.

SIGS

and



SIGNALS PL

Signals PL is probably not the most exciting job to do in the Battalion, but it does have its moments. Its these moments I am writing about.

During the 1987 Sig Cse Syn 2 went into Dalby for a quiet beer after a taxing day listening to the Fl's.

Woody, talking to whom he considered a challenge in the pub, accidentally offended one of the 200 Barbaric Hell's Angels in the place. (The Biker wasn't man enough to stand up for himself so he and his sheeplike mates awaited their time).

Soon enough that was over and half the course left to retire to bed. Once they had gone the Bikers made their move. Omar & Deano who had been chatting quietly to themselves became the recipients of a vicious, cowardly attack, for no other reason than being the smallest fellows there. What a surprise the Bikers got! Throwing themselves into the fray they regained the initiative by aggressive and determined action. Omar head butting the leader smashing his nose and teeth into a jelly-like pulp, and Deano brutally kicking his bullocks into his belly. But sheer weight of numbers began to overwhelm them.

It was then the roar of battle reached the ears of the other gladiators who stormed in, in a vain attempt to even the numbers. Pipes quickly assessing the situation sent Lego to get the reinforcements, and with that, he, and who was left, launched themselves into the eruption of violence, hurling the leather clad fiends into the still quiet of unconsciousness. But numbers were beginning to tell. The two groups were now surrounded by the Bikers and could at any moment go under. We had already lost some of our most valuable members; Woody & Turvs, both out cold from king hits.

The tide was turning slowly, but inevitably. The sea of swirling spitting leather clad masses clawing at the throats of the Good Guys could only go on for so long.

Suddenly, everything began to happen at once. Lego, and the men he had gone to get, came smashing through the windows in an attempt to flank the bikers.

Police, sirens screaming, came from the opposite direction. Bikers, now with odds evened up, fled leaving their wounded and dead to their fate.

Just as quickly as it started so too did it end. We had three good men hospitalised. The Bikers unknown, but at least they will remember that night in that little pub in Dalby.

Although fighting is a very minor part of Sigs, most of us would rather have a good laugh and on closing I would like to name all the members of the platoon: The Boss, Sarge, Pops, Sheldo, Woody, Cadsy, Willy, Lego, Willy, Angel, Squizzy I and II, Stewy, Culls, Bones, Omar, Wibsy Brownie, Holtzie, Foz, Fat Mac and Short Mac and last but not least Blue.



MORTAR PLATOON

Mortar: 1. Noun, short large-bore cannon for throwing shells at high angles. 2. Verb to, attack or bombard with mortars

Role:

To provide organic indirect fire support to the infantry battalion

Are you tired of Rifle Coy work? Do you feel you would like to do better things than eat ration packs day after day, have to carry all your gear on your back, have to paint your face every morning, have to rub yourself along the ground as part of your job, all this so you can get constipated, tired, chafed, bruised and, big zits. If you are tired of all that, then mortars could be the life for you. Like Moses who said "Take up your pick and shovel, mount your Ass and Camel. I will lead you to the promised land," we in Mortars say "Lay down your pack and rifle, sit on your ass and put on a jaffle, this is mortar platoon!"

Since December 86 to July 87 the platoon has had a big changeover of people and has toured extensively both at home and overseas. An outline of events for the period is:

Dec.86 to Mar.87 Butterworth,
Singapore, Bangkok
May 87 Ex Quiet Drive (live fire)
Jun.87 Ex OTBO, Spt to 131 Div.Loc
Bty (live fire)
Jul/Aug. Basic and Officer/NCO
mortar courses, Tully (for some)
and Recce for Adv Trg.

Things you should have been there to see:

- The 1600 Satays on Christmas Eve
- Mendecca Beach Rest and Recreation
- Bangkok and Kev's high diving efforts
- MLO stopping fan in Hong Kong bar
- Pte Bell's effort stopping motor cyclist with truck
- Pte's Oost and Henderson dance routines
- Gungha Din giving Tiny a serve at Pulada
- The morning after the New Zealand Day parade
- The 13th floor of the Phoenix Hotel
- Pte Harwood's nightmares about "Checkfire"
- The bloke in Grafton who asked "Are you blokes militia?"
- The number of times the MLO said, "What the ---- is this and why is it in the store?"
- The number of times Shorty said "Well, we are keeping that because it was once used for (whatever), and if somebody fixes it we might use it again"
- Shorty's request to Arty for "Fire mission regiment, expend ammo"
- A remote base plate in Shoalwater Bay containing a large number of people from Arty Bty Comd course, FO party, locating sound ranging party, section of mortars from LRAR and an LOH, and they wanted us to go into action there. It was as full as a primary school hatrack.

Things we would like to see:

- The platoon attend the Hong Kong Mortar Concentration
- A Regimental Mortar Concentration
- New Jaquar rovers with one per tube, a FFR for MLO and truck for Sgt.
- Chainsaws, one per sect
- MFC with an offsider, and
- PAAC

We say farewell to: Sgt Jones to Battle Wing, LWC; Cpl Eaton to Apprentice School; LCpl Richardson to A Coy; Pte Vesovic to BHQ; and Pte Bell to Admin Coy. We are looking forward to submitting the next article for the 88 Battalion magazine after our trip to Hong Kong or Malaysia or Hawaii or California or U.K. perhaps.



RECON PL 1987

The start of the year saw Recon PL (all 5 of us) involved with the initial panic of Leaden Lift. The exercise was spent on the navigation stand looking for lost diggers and replacing checkpoints which had "moved". The remainder of the month was occupied by conducting a sniper pre-selection course on which several budding snipers attempted to bring their assassination skills up to par, but all were unsuccessful.

March was relatively peaceful, with most people on course and the remaining three moving the PL office and practising our rappelling techniques at Kangaroo Point.

In April we returned to WBTA for a sniper shoot where we discovered how hard it is to shoot a balloon at 600 metres or a cane toad hanging from a tree at 10 metres.

On the 21st the remainder of the PL arrived and we looked forward to doing some platoon training to switch everyone on. This plan was dashed by the MIL SKILLS Comp.

In the first 4 months of this year there has been a complete turnaround in the PL (with the exception of Pte Wayne Cullen). We moved offices again and are now waiting for the next move!

The PL did well in the MIL SKILLS by coming second to C Coy by 1 point. After having a leisurely weekend off we departed to WBTA for EX "Quiet-Drive" where the new members were introduced to the rigours of some of the Patrol Drills.

Once we had mastered these we then practised them with real bullets and targets. It showed all our budding little sneaky peakies that firing a 30 round burst won't always (if EVER) hit the target.

The mini-survival EX conducted every night showed just how sick a person can get of eating \$1 of chips every night. The latter half of the

month was happily engaged with rehearsing for the BRIGADE OPEN DAY which saw the creation of the FALLING STAR PIQUETS ARMY PRECISION RAPPELLING TEAM, consisting of The Sarge, Chappie, Schmidty, Wayne and Brad. The actual Open Day was very entertaining for us especially with Dean Dog Schmidt showing how not to land and the crowd cheering the enemy.

Immediately after this event we were off on exercise "OTBO" to practise Sniping and Recon/Surv techniques in a field firing environment. We were all shocked by the arrival of Lt Burr who claimed to be our new Platoon commander. He immediately showed us how merciless he is on the battlefield and was as equally shocked by our bending of some rules. We showed him how resourceful we were when the platoon was tasked as enemy for 105 Fd Bty during which time the Sarge demonstrated how to locate an artillery gun position at night by standing 30 metres in front of the guns when they fired a live mission, whilst the remainder of the platoon laid safely on the ground 100 metres away laughing their tits off. Our second encounter with the drop shorts the next day culminated with the capture of their FSCC SGT, a gunner and two 105's, no thanks to B Coy who gave them a call on the radio and warned them that we were coming. After departing with our 2 PW's, a number of stick books and several other items, we processed our new found buddies through an improvised code of conduct course which they actually thanked us for. After a few more activities with the drop shorts we then re-joined the battalion for the big attack and wandered off 35km into the sunset.

The PL then stood down for a few days and then got ready to go to FFBS to enjoy the delights of Tully whilst the Sarge sleazed off to Singleton to attend a course on the gentlemanly art of drinking and straight faced lying. Meanwhile the remainder of us struggled through

Tully, including Wayne who was "Too Aggressive", according to some of the staff. The highlight of the trip was the night ambush of a vastly superior force of Enemy rats.

On return from Tully the Boss took half the PL to Great Keppel Island where they practised their Combat Surveillance Techniques on the FEMALE civilian population in readiness for EX "Diamond Dollar 87". At the time they didn't realise just how vital this training was going to be. We were all very excited at this stage with our trip to New Guinea. Alas for us it stopped a few hundred kms short at Cowley Beach.

Once there we were sworn to secrecy by the S.A.S.R. and told we were to defend Musoria from the dirty Australian Capitalist Swine. After trying to fit 15 days rations into our packs and then trying to pick them up we were inserted into Musoria (Mt Spec & Koombaloomba Dam). After seeing Musoria it is no wonder they are always trying to invade Aussie. During the exercise Mother Nature successfully turned Snake Oost and Snake Smith into gibbering wrecks by frequently confronting them with vast numbers of black snakes which they adroitly avoided and quickly warned the remainder of the patrol using the age old warning sssSnake!!!! in a loud and clear voice.

Needless to say we were more than happy to see the end of Musoria, the S.A.S. and Cowley Beach. We happily climbed onto a Herc at Townsville eagerly awaiting our arrival at Rockhampton to take our promised four days off.

Weren't we estatic when Ronnie RAAF did the righty by us and dropped us at WILLIAMSON airstrip at SWBTA with no rations, water, or bullets, much to the amusement of the enemy who were digging in at the airstrip. After surmounting this insurmountable problem we married up with the Battalion the next day and commenced Ex "SILK PURSE".

During the exercise we identified a new role for Recon PL. The battalion navigation platoon. After much deliberation we decided to let you in on our navigation secrets; it's called a map and compass. The exercise passed with the usual heart-break and drama and to confirm the popular rumour, yes, we did have two days off at Rockhampton half way through the exercise and loved it. The unbelievable occurred at the end of the exercise when the platoon actually was lifted out on the first, Herc. The remainder of the month was taken up with stand down and rappelling at Kangaroo Point.

October and Exercise DIAMOND DOLLAR fell upon us with the usual amount of close co-ordination and organisation. The high points of the exercise were:

- A. Six days at Finch Bay conducting an O.P. on topless sheilas from a range of 20 metres,
- B. Coming home.

The low points were:

- A. Leaving Finch Bay and our female friends,
- B. The Brigade recon group,
- C. Being under command of 6 RAR,
- D. Waiting, waiting and more bloody waiting.

The remainder of the year was spent with the conduct of the sniper preselection where once again several budding snipers tried to develop their skills.

Once again the platoon is going to be stripped back to the bones with several members leaving to further their military or civilian careers, so the cycle will begin again in 88. Goodbye and best wishes to all those who are leaving (you will receive your plaques in the mail).

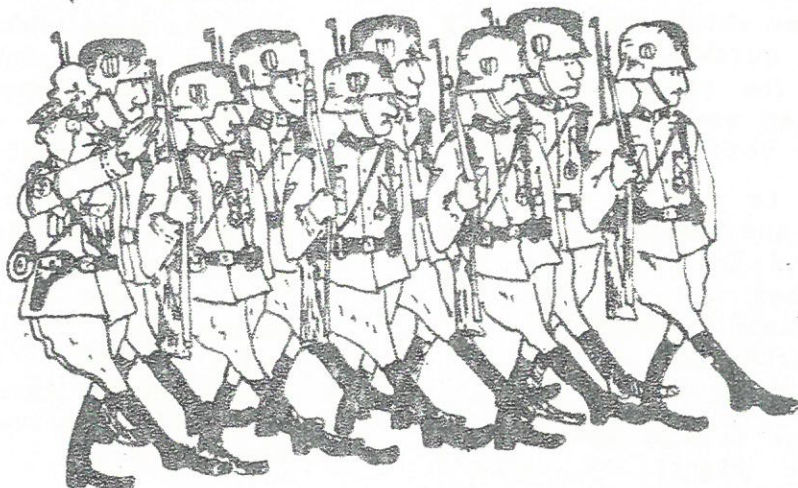
LEAVING:

- Lt. Burr, SASR cadre course
- Cpl Schmidt SASR cadre course
- Cpl Chapman Inf. Centre
- Pte Cavanagh, SASR cadre course
- Pte Rayner, slyvilian
- Pte Seethor, slyvilian

Pte Maroney, B. Coy
Pte Omara, Meatheads
Pte Guttridge (who) Blowfly

BOSS: It's good training
SARGE: What's this s**t
CHAPPY: DOG SQUAD leader, I'm not
doing this s**t.
DEAN DOG: I've had a gut full of
this s**t
FRUIT BAT: Professional haranger
of DEAN DOG
KERRO: Whinge, whinge bitch moan
whimper
SPUD: Sarge can I?
BEAR: I'll eat it.
SEAN: I've got comms, I've got
comms!
OOSTY: Wouldn't mind a beer
GREG: I'll do it
DANNY DETOUR: I'm not speaking
f*****g Chinese
SNAKE: What have I done this time?
SAS: Worse things have happened at
sea
ERIC: Who?
CHIPPIE: Can I come with youse guys?

UNTER LIEBEN DUESCHLAND DA JA JA
SHOOTZEN BOLSHUK SWINEHUNOTS JADKA



ADMIN

ADMIN.COY - CHQ

As the year fades quickly, we recount upon a, once again, an extremely busy year.

The year of course commenced with Ex 'Leaden Lift 87', and it was pleasing to see the majority of Admin Coy members able to get out with the Rifle Corps and undergo various aspects of military training.

The Military Skills competition saw Admin Coy section acquit themselves extremely well. The sections should be congratulated on their efforts and once again reinforced the point that although this coy performs a number of administration functions, our primary role for the majority will always be that of a capable infantryman. Well done men! It is hoped that representatives within the Cock of the Walk Competition will perform equally as well.

Despite all the phone calls, Admin.Coy did manage to get away for some Adventure Training in 87, conducted in the Donga region (50km s.w. of Surat) approximately 52 pers camping without tents or food - they loved it!! The trip was highly successful and can be regarded as an excellent means to quit the smoking habit, conceal the smoking habit or indeed not have enough energy to be bothered with it. Excellent lessons were learnt in the processes of native-white man bartering, long distance running being paced by ferret animals and how would you like your Emu eggs this morning - pureed or lumpy. On a serious note, the exercise was very successful and planning for a more advanced survival exercise for 1988 has already commenced.

This year all platoons have been very busy, but none so much so as our Flying Medettes (Med Pl). Their participation in this years 'Simpson Run' supported by the P & D's saw them realise a creditable

third. In addition, the platoon has conducted extensive medical trg both on the ground and off it!

The Q Pl, as always, has been beavering away in the background only to be seen on CES stocktakes and reminders on your belated spot-checks. The Q account has never looked better and obviously reflects considerable time and effort on the part of Q Pl. Better you than us - Gents! Thanks for your good efforts.

Our culinary experts thus far in '87, have once again done us proud. The catering staff (including barman, stewards, etc.) have had numerous commitments both within and outside the barracks - proving on all occasions that they have skills comparable to professionals outside. Even when removed from the catering sphere and placed within the military skills environment, their performance has been better than average.

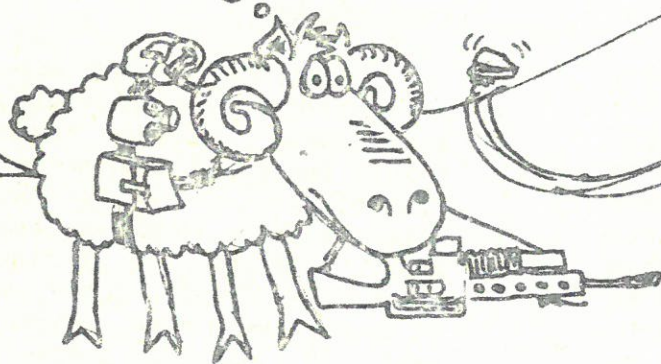
Next, we turn our attention to the "yardies", a colorful group of individuals whose irrepressible nature lends new meaning to the word flexibility. The Tpt and RAEME elements have done extremely well also, despite a continued and intense workload. These two groups of individuals have worked long and hard all year (including a large number of weekends) and we commend them on their efforts. Do not fret fellows - sooner or later the Army will have to replace the $\frac{1}{2}$ ton GS land rover.

Last and by no means least, we have the ever-diminishing Pipes and Drums. Despite their somewhat dwindled numbers, their music and efforts are still those of a platoon. They too have been busy, with a number of external commitments realising them considerable success (i.e. 2nd place at the Qld. Pipes and Drums Championships). Although they have not attended all exercises this year, commitments elsewhere (intra and interstate)

have more than made up for these.
Well done.

To look at one's chart
planner, it is not difficult to see
where the year has gone and how
quickly. Next year is not likely to
be any different, so go home and re-
acquaint yourself with your families
/spouse/partner or all of the
preceeding.

LEFT FLANKER??
NO1 RIFLEMAN??
THIS IS RIDICULOUS !!!





Yet again the ever popular Med Pl (who needs Medicare!) with their smiling faces, wit, wisdom and humour commenced the year giving better than average 'Private Hospital' care to the Battalion. Our activities commenced with Exercise Leaden Lift through to Exercise OTBO. In between, various Coy activities had been supported by their individual Medics.

Tpt Pl was joined by Sgt Thelander ('what this country needs is some good marching songs') on the T109 course. Enjoying the sights and scenery of Sth. West Queensland whilst giving out his expert medical care.

Exercise OTBO proved to be more than just great excitement for the RMO ('not a challenge') and for Staff ('it's too easy being a Sector Commander') when they both displayed great prowess with the adoption of various 'little kids' whilst in the exercise area. Staff's current knowledge of animal husbandry should prove to be a very valuable asset to him when he decides to submit his application to the Agricultural College for consideration on the next Goat Herding and Breeders Course, we of course all wish him luck!

CELEBRITIES OF MED PL

Cpl Berry has once again proven that love is more than just a 'Scandinavian Trotting Duck' after his recent Corps interview. As is known, Greg is one of the longest serving members of the Battalion and has such a love for B Coy members that one can only call it - obscene. Greg told his Corps Rep of his love and after being presented with a posting, exclaimed, "If B Coy can't be posted with me, then I don't want the posting". Favouring the situation the Corps Rep replied, "Look Greg baby, we can't post a whole bloody Infantry Company with you, but we will now

give a compromise - we'll post you back to B Coy!". Now Greg is the longest, longest, longest serving member of the Battalion - Well done Greg!

Sgt Reidy the health man, a noteworthy recipient of the OAM has fared well on the recent Subl WO Course. Blue panics most bugs around the place and his kill rate places him in the RAMBO class. Watch more for quotable quotes from Blue.

Cpl Bowie came to use from LWC, wide-eyed and amazed at the prospect of working with the Battalion. 'Benson', as he is affectionately known has proven to be more than just a bonus for C Coy. Realising that 'tribal wars' are non-existent within the Battalion, Don being one of the newest members of Med Pl has settled in rather smoothly.

Cpl Saville after completing his all expenses paid trip to the Orient with Cpl Bainbridge and A Coy has decided that there is life after Butterworth and requires much more excitement than what the Battalion has to offer and so leaves us at the end of the year for SASR - 'you beauty, says the SAV'!

Cpl Bainbridge who is known as Chippy, ('why do they call him Chippy?') loves life and the love that life has to offer ('what's that mean?'). Having been with the Battalion for some time he has opted to remain and is believed to be contemplating chasing after Berry's title of lifership in the Battalion. Watch for some quotable quotes from the Chippy.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

OR

WHY DO WE SAY THESE THINGS DEPT.

1. Ah, C'mon fellas even the RSPCA wouldn't take too kindly to that!
2. I only gave Linda half, but I should've given her more?
3. It's just too easy!
4. It's good 'ere hey!
5. Give me a hundred big ones in a brown paper bag or you'll never see those boots again!
6. It's tribal warfare, only Lionel Ritchie would understand!
7. I'm off again to fight for me country!
8. Only those of you who need a chit will get one (Momentarily the number of members on sick parade increased ten thousand fold!)

CONVERSATION OVERHEARD

Berry: 'What's she like now?'

Bowie: 'Ugly!'

Berry: 'She had nice breasts though'

Bowie: 'I never saw "them."'

Berry: 'Neither did I, but I bet they were nice!'

AN ODE - FIRST IMPRESSIONS

I was posted here in '86
Tired of routine life
And needing more than just fun and
kicks
I knew that my life was worthy
My skills in great demand
So they sent me to where the
soldiers fight
Whose mascot is known as Stan.

I had no problems when given the
task
It's so bloody good 'ere mate
Why do you ask?
I knew I was more than a civvy
With my fine corrected stance
I get so excited - sometimes
I give myself a hard thing in the
pants.

Playin' Aussie Rules was great,
more than just bein' fine
Enter the sick, lame and injured
Don't worry about 'em mate
Just go to the head of the line.

So here I am with this knowledge
To help them as only I know
It's more than fun 'just bein' here
cobber
After all,
I am the RMO.

CATERING

THE CATERING CORPS IN 8/9 RAR

Another half year has gone in the battalion and as usual the men of Catering Corps have acquitted themselves well.

The year saw new arrivals, whom we welcome. Typical of the defence force, we have had our share of farewells. Goodbyes went to Sgt Gavin, Cpl Thomas, Pte Davies, Pte Dobson, Pte Nickolson went back to the Q-Stream and Pte Hoare went back to old civvie street.

Recent additions to our platoon are Sgt Kelly, Pte Bell, Pte Rocco, and Pte Rumbolt. Pte Harris will be farewelled in the near future (on Promotion to 2/14), Pte Murphy will be posted soon, after just successfully passing his stewards course.

1987 has seen a considerable number of cooks and stewards sent on course with a 100% pass rate, well done to those members.

The year's bush activities got off to a fine start with "Leaden Lift". Cpl Hull, Maroske & Godwill still seem to be in shock over having to give lessons on Patrolling, Obstacle crossing, Field Signals, SLR and M16. (All had nightmares over the AKM).

CSM WO 2 Kelly gave us a lesson on survival, and with a smile, said "look forward to July".

The contingent from Malaysia returned early in March after an excellent tour with A Coy, needless to say Australia and its people certainly seen differently by all concerned.

The IET course had the pleasure of Cpl (Sleaze) Lees and his Culinary delights, assisted by Pte Breakman. Well done guys.

MIL-Skills proved to Pte Darron Canning that there's more to Army life than just a stove and a wooden spoon, Good effort Darron.

Exercise Otbo came as a challenge to the majority of catering Pl. Cpl Campion & Pte Garnett went on detachment to B Coy, Cpl Hull, Cpl Maroske and Pte's Canning, Fredricks, Gillan, Hall and Holloway went to C Coy to practice the finer skills taught on exercise "Leaden Lift" as well as doing Rapelling, Firing 66's, ambush skills and lots more. Also I believe Sgt Laudani & Pte Bell had a hard time at A ECH. Poor buggers had to get out of bed before 0800 Hrs. Back from stand down and you guessed it CSM WO 2 Kelly, says its "July men", still bloody smiling. Before we knew what hit us we were freezing cold, hungry, in the scrub out past Surat listening to the CSM say: "you're out for a week, give me all your fags, we will start with you Cpl Harmer".

I found out the bad thing about eating half an Emu egg is half you pull out by the neck is still looking at you. ("Good hey Cpl Darke"). Pte Fredericks found out you don't cook Roo meat in a mud pack. Well the week passed and due to the best the CSM made, I think his pockets were feeling more empty than our stomachs.

Those activities mentioned were only the Major one's with numerous Company and Battalion functions, too many to mention. Among the notables were the 8RAR and 9RAR reunions.

We now look forward to 1988 and we have no doubt that 'WE WILL SUSTAIN' in our usual manner...

QM PL

QM PL

Well once again it's Unit Magazine Time, as usual we have a qty of oldies leaving and newies arriving. These include:

Gone - Capt. Neil Rankin
WO1 Sheppard
Cpl Gary Francis

Arrived:

Capt "Back again" Adshead "The Pensioner"
WO "Slugger" Coombs
SSgt "Mack the Knife" Jenkin
Sgt "Where's my calculator" Smith
Pte "Ben" Dover
Pte "Nico" Nicolson
Pte "Piddy" Pidcock
Pte "Kitch" Kitchin, and
Pte "Simo" Simons

The QM PL was involved in many and varied tasks during the year, some of these were:

Diamond Dollar
Leaden Lift
OTBO, and
All unit stocktakes

3. Some of the more amusing titbits from the last year include:

While on Ex Diamond Dollar, with a full set of orders (from our fearless leaders), A ECH attempting a tactical night move by veh. This resulted in loss of veh's, maps and direction. Over all the move went well in comparison to "Thursday night shopping at Arana Hills Shopping Centre (ref. sketch).

And the noise, with the KVA generators working overtime. An up and coming R.S.M. was heard (drowning out the KVA's) "if you blokes have to talk then do it quietly".

Again C.S.M. Caston struck, with his flowery description and use of the English language? He could have cut down the o groups from 2 hrs to 1 hr.

We are still looking for most of these words in our dictionary.

Ronny RAAF was not to be left out of the action. They proved

their aim was on target. Who else would drop a container of rations on the only tree on the DZ (ref sketch).

This then resulted in a power struggle between the "war groups" (RQMS and Tech SGT), the action of a \$5,000 L & D for the loser. Problem solved RQMS gives the Tech SGT the axe and points to the tree.

We must give our thanks to 6 RAR for their help to unpack the container. They then helped themselves to all the rations! (Good one 6).

Not to be outdone, and to prove that some Coy's train for war, OC B Coy put in a OPDEM for body bags, was it cold?

The MP's were sitting around enjoying the exercise, when the RQMS comes onto the scene. The road from Raspberry Creek to the D.P., had an "Ambush site". The MP's are still looking for a Q2 veh who brassed them up.

And on Leaden Lift, the ammo storeman proved he was a friend to all. His early morning greeting at 0330 hours was "what do you f***en want!, Sir."

As with all Exercises there are some dangerous animals in the area. But with Daniel Boon Nicolson and his snares. He saved the ECH from the killer Possum.

On the home front, the burning question is has KJ alias Cpl Thompson driven the forklift off the edge of the loading bay yet?

Answer: Not yet, but it shouldn't be long now.

It has been an overall hard year keeping the Bn in the field, between the Exercises, Courses, Stocktakes and duties. The members of the QM PL still found time to support the Bn in all activities.

PIPES & DRUMS

PIPES & DRUMS

The Pipes and Drums started off '87 in usual form with numerous parades and functions to attend. Although still lacking a few pipers and drummers they all proved very successful.

The numerous parades attended gave some good training for five members of Pipes and Drums. Early in the year Sgt Laurenson, Cpl Ramsden, Cpl Willis, LCpl Johnson and Pte Joyce competed at the Queensland Pipe Band Championships held at the QEII Sporting Complex. After a long day of playing they had to be content with second place in the 'A' grade having been narrowly beaten by the City of Melbourne Pipe Band.

Two members left the Pipes & Drums up to July, being Pte Rockon-ayeleva, who transferred to Catering Corps and LCpl Johnson who transferred to Dental Corp. We wish them all the best for years ahead.

A few of the "highlights" for Pipes & Drums to date are:

The Tattoo at the Entertainment Centre

Long Hai Day

Birthday Parade for 5/7 RAR

and Trooping the Colours for 42 RQR

The things that we would like rectified by the end of the year are:

Cpl Ramsden to play jigs round!

Pte Grieve to find the zip in his sleeping bag!

Pte Rockonayeleva to find out the difference between hamburgers and rissoles.



TRANSPORT

8/9 RAR TPT

Once upon a time, in the far south western part of 8/9 RAR lies the forgotten piece of real estate belonging to transport. In this unheard of existence there lives a community of hard working and under-paid members known as the Elite Truckies.

Now let us inform you members of the Battalion about these elite drivers. Firstly, we'll start at the top. Our beloved leader, the Emperor of the TPT Yard King McMahon and his Royal Green Lemon, The Studebaker. Second in Command is the illustrious Sir Bonza (WO2 qual, and if you didn't know you soon will). Sir Bonza is feared throughout the land and is known as 'Fearless Bronze'. He is the only known person to escape the realms of the 'Yard' and venture away west. Rumour has it that he is starting his own kingdom in the place known as Sand Groper Land. Good luck, Bronze.

Now we get to the hard core members of this elite unit. They are known as Corporals:

Luxford (Bones) The man responsible for the non technical ticking, he has no Thais!

Harris (Harley Harry) The man in charge of morale. 'H' has been doing his job well, morale has been a record low in 87.

Campbell (Killer Campbell) the most Gung-ho member of the Kingdom, who is still trying to find a place in the land of a strange peaceful existence.

Incoll (The Morno Maniac) who is in charge of all the worldly possessions the Kingdom has.

Drewry (Tim the Terrible) resembles Friar Tuck, and is loved so dearly by his comrades, he is an inspiration to all of us in this piece of real estate. Clayton (Dick) The sole guardian of our beloved King on many quests, and official story teller to the Kingdom's peasants.

The backbone and the hard working members of Transport are:-

Marxsen (Mad Max) In charge of P.O.L. The only person in TPT to instigate a piss run to Innaminka. Did he really flood the road when the FI broke down?

A. Ryan (Al) The quietest member of transport so quiet that when he went home from the quest Dime & Dollar nobody noticed. Come to think of it was he up there to begin with.

Baihn (Kevin Bloody Baihny) The man behind the man

Cotterell (Shaggy) Thanks to this man the rest of the team haven't had too many duty drivers this year. He's only had 11 cars in the last two years.

West (Bubba or Sir) These nick names are depending on what sort of mood he is in. The Man with a big heart and big fists.

M. Ryan (Bludger or Eric) The man that wouldn't, couldn't work in an Iron Lung. Now is department to a lesser elite unit 1 Commando Regt.

Hefez (Hyme) The only man that smiles even when he's pissed off

Osbalstone (Ossie) The only man in the elite unit that is not allowed to go on quests by order of his wife Anderson (Ando, HeMan) Arnold Swatzenegger look-a-like.

Francis (Franger) Flat-top Franger

Turvey (Billy Boom Boom) The only man that gives up the piss three times a week.

Williams (Mekong Monster) Well, after all it is pretty easy to toss a trailer and not know about it after a few hundred miles.

Olsen (Jimmy) The boy that thinks he could fly.

McCoy (Steroids) Jenny Craig weight loss failure. The only man with the original 8 pounds of Baby Fat

Jeffery (Bam Bam) The only man (boy) with a Tattoo of himself on his chest. The next tattoo is going to be of his car - god knows where he'll put that.

Collins (Collins) The only man that wants to work next door with RAEME or the only member to hose down the whole yard just before a storm.

Allen (Al) What can ya say?

QUEST FOR 87

After our quest rehabilitation commonly known as B.R.L. the Kingdom was once again hard at it with all six pistons firing.

First up this year was Quest Leaden Lift. During this quest, the Kingdom of TPT played a dual role, and once again became riflemen.

This was no picnic as we also supported 8/9 RAR and only drank ale every second night. Finally we were taught to drive as well as be riflemen. We were ready to go into 87, knowing all.

Next came our second Quest, known simply as OTBO.

Although some of the peasants were detached to 8/9 RAR but for most of the Kingdom it had been a slow, dusty fortnight, our highlight was in the form of a courier run, daily, to the homeland. Soon we were back from our Quest and readied the vehicles and ourselves for our next Quest.

Silk Purse!! The name of this quest had the whole kingdom thinking of mutiny. The Kingdom was disbanded and sent everywhere until the last two days.

For some of the peasants this quest was a real cultural shock and it's believed they are still somewhat thail'd up!

Our final quest this year was known as D/D 87. This quest was the longest and hottest ever endured by our Kingdom. There was constant harrassment by the heat, crocodiles, razorbacks, murrays, yanks, and rifle coys. However the Kingdom as always came through with flying colours. It was long and tiresome and we were glad to be hitting the tarmac for home!

Honour Roll

This Roll is to honour those who have been lost in acting during 1987 the year of our Lord

Cpl Rudd
Cpl Rice
Pte Abbondondola
Pte Knee
L/Cpl Bubner
Pte Thomson
L/Cpl Aragon
Pte Newling
Pte Lake



HEY MATE YOUR WHEEL NUTS

DELTA

DELTA COY
by Lt.D.R. Mann

The challenges of this year were undertaken with as much gusto and energy as any year in the past. The Company saw many changes take place. Our name was one of the most obvious changes and for those who still don't know, our name now and always will be Delta Coy.

The highlights of the year were the Sub 2 for Cpl Course and the 1/87 IET Course. Both courses were held at Club Med Greenbank and were patronised by many current members and potential members of the Battalion. The IET's quickly learnt what being an infantry soldier was all about. Not all training establishments are polished floors and soft toilet paper.

The year was also filled up with numerous pre-course training weeks for subject courses. It is in this area that Delta Coy 8/9 RAR has established a very high reputation in instructional ability. Units as far reaching as Cabarle, Oskey and Bulimba came to 8/9 RAR for pre-course training. All members of the company are to be commended for their efforts in this area.

Some solid efforts were also seen in the sports arena. L/Cpl Orr displayed performances that Ron Barassi would have been pleased with. Sgt Howlett was also a man to be reconciled with on the Rugby field. The Samford Valley Bashers Open was competed for with great determination. The company showed that the game of golf does have military application. Skills tests were target indication, judging distances, long endurance marches, cam and concealment and target detection. The tournaments were sponsored by XXXX and Winfield.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Coy for their efforts in 1987 in what I believe was both an interesting and rewarding year.

A NEW DIMENSION
IN FEAR - AIRBORNE
REPELLING!



F-TROOP

BHQ (CLERKS)

1. On returning from Christmas leave the heart of the BN (BN Orderly Room) was again pumping out the work load expeditiously, although severely under-manned.
2. During the early months of the year when the apprentice clerks were undergoing their bread and butter course, (CLK Admin), there were many changes in the heart of the BN ranging from members marching in and out, promotions and reshuffling of offices and furniture, and a complete new filing system which took many hours to complete (so much for the 38 hour week).
3. The reshuffling included changes in the Repo Room starting from PTE Coca Cola kid Fletcher to PTE Muscle Bound Winen to Tatto Man PTE Richards, which have now all had 500,000 copies of experience, 400,000 copies in mistakes.
4. The movement office run by CPL Carlton Keg Whetstone, has once again survived the first nine months of the year, but with Christmas just around the corner there might be a few problems although with PTE Wayne Gardener Pearson's help this should hardly be a challenge.
5. The main part of the orderly room consisting of one PERS SGT. SGT Cox: one orderly room Sergeant, SGT Manly Waringah Majoribanks and three PTE CLKS: PTE Fletcher the typist, the PERS CLK PTE Billy Dykie and the LOG CLK PTE Motor Mouth Brownbill, have all had their ups and downs and now with several productive months behind them, the BN Orderly Room is running on a high. It is once again apparent that the old cliché 'The quiet achiever' is appropriate.



IS IT TRUE THAT I
PTE FLETCHER IS
THE ORIGINAL
URBAN COWBOY!?



THE BROWN AND THE GREY





When you're out there patrolling in the afternoon
sun and the sweat runs off like a tap,
And you're thinking about what its like back home
It's all a matter of fact.

Where else can you travel and see the world?
Where else can you be with nature?
Where else can you kill those enemy reds?
and tell an injured mate "I'll help ya".

When the outside world seems miles away
and friends and family afar
Have a thought for those in previous battles,
Many still wear the scar.

Let's keep up the fight and the soldier spirit
and strengthen the Esprit de Corps,
So when the battle rages and the chips are down
We push till we can go no more.

Its now been a while since the last major battle
and the veterans are starting to age
So let's keep the skill, the guts and the glory
And strengthen the Brown and the Grey.



by J.J. Lewis

6

PAY SECTION

Well once again we are drawing to the end of another year and a long one at that. As you have already noticed its like the television show New Faces down here. Yep we've had people go, people come and people pass through without stopping.

At the beginning of the year you saw Cpl Marty Taylor do a fling down to 3 Trg GP. He tells us that its hard doing pay for 13 people. Our sympathy goes with him.

Our used to be illustrious leader Sgt Peter Stevens is now practising politics and tongue wagging at DSU Bandiana. He tells us that he is always "flat out like a lizard drinking" or he is "moving faster than a maggott in a Mortein factory" - famous words. See you around the traps Peter.

We saw CPL Sab Linner come into the Bn from a Transport squadron earlier this year. Apart from the occasional brain snap playing in the Bn Aussie Rules side, and winning the popularity contest with Defpay, Sab is most remembered for his famous quote "I am glad you stopped me going outside, because I probably would have gotten my head beaten in" (Sab reckons he is a lover not a fighter). Sab is off at Christmas with a posting to RTC. We hope you enjoy yourself Sab.

Pte Tony Johnson (Johnno) arrived to us from Bandiana. Our first impression of Johnno was an unshaven long-haired git who who insisted on calling the occasional officer "Mate". Johnno doesn't really know if he is a cock roach or a "Infantry Gentleman". We saw him go off to Tully with SPI Coy where Johnno reckons it was an experience of a lifetime eating rats and snakes. His only regret was that Tully was undulating and not flat. Johnno tells us that if he wasn't colour blind he would CORP transfer to infantry.

Phil Dyke spent a short time with us. He came to us after completing his clerk admin.course and liked what he was doing. In fact he liked it so much he wanted to join the nest. Being the typical pom, however, he wanted to remain a grunt. He would have liked to have been a roach but ended up as a spanner head. All the best with 2 Base WKSP Dykey.

Pte Blue Emberton arrived at the pay office a little dubious, but we had no choice as we were led to believe that we were the only ones that would have him - the challenge was to show Blue the light. Our task is accomplished so far as Blue can now count to ten. (At last he has caught up with the rest of us). Yep Blue has seen the light, only the other day Blue applied for a corps transfer to Roach's. We found out when the Pers SGT started Ranting and Raving about how we have brainwashed him.

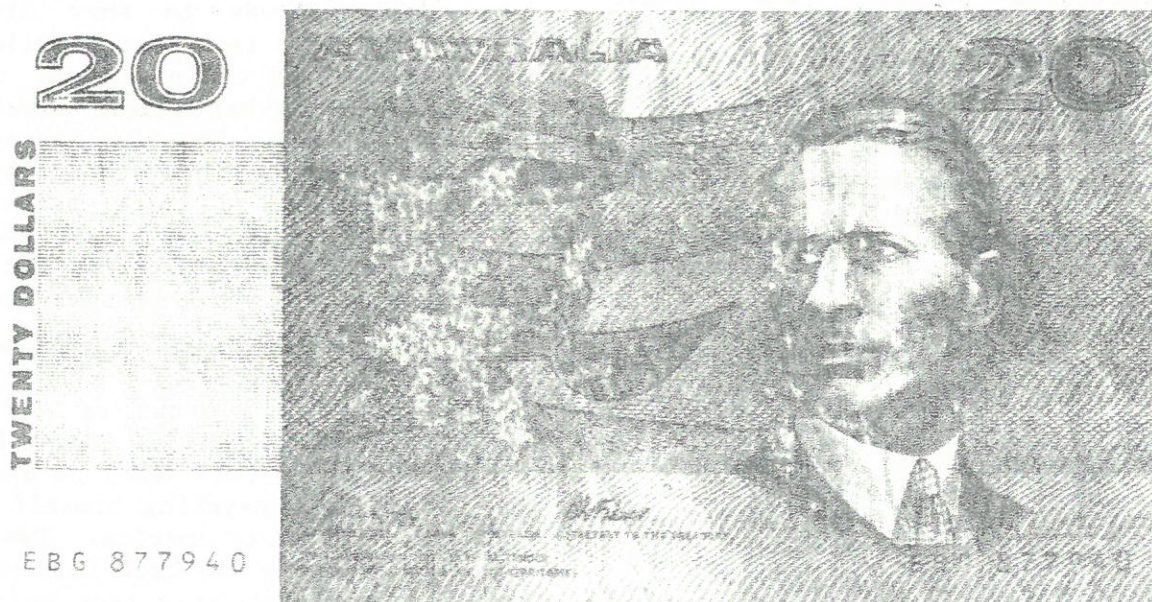
In any office we have a university student. In the pay office he is known as Pte Scott Throssell (Scotty). Scotty has had a busy year this year, he spent the first half psyching himself up for his holiday to America. Two months later Scotty was back talking about getting a job as a tour guide over there. After some persecution Scotty finally came back to reality and decided Australia isn't such a bad place after all. Our only worry now is whether he will go through this again next year when he goes to Butterworth with Charlie Coy.

Sgt Henry Le Gay Brerton (yes the name says it all) replaced our old pay Sgt, but he was only half the size. Henry's major accomplishments since being posted here are rearranging the office furniture, quitting smoking for two weeks, trading in his Kingwood for a Commodore and managing Sab's fights. Its all right working with the Sgt if you don't make

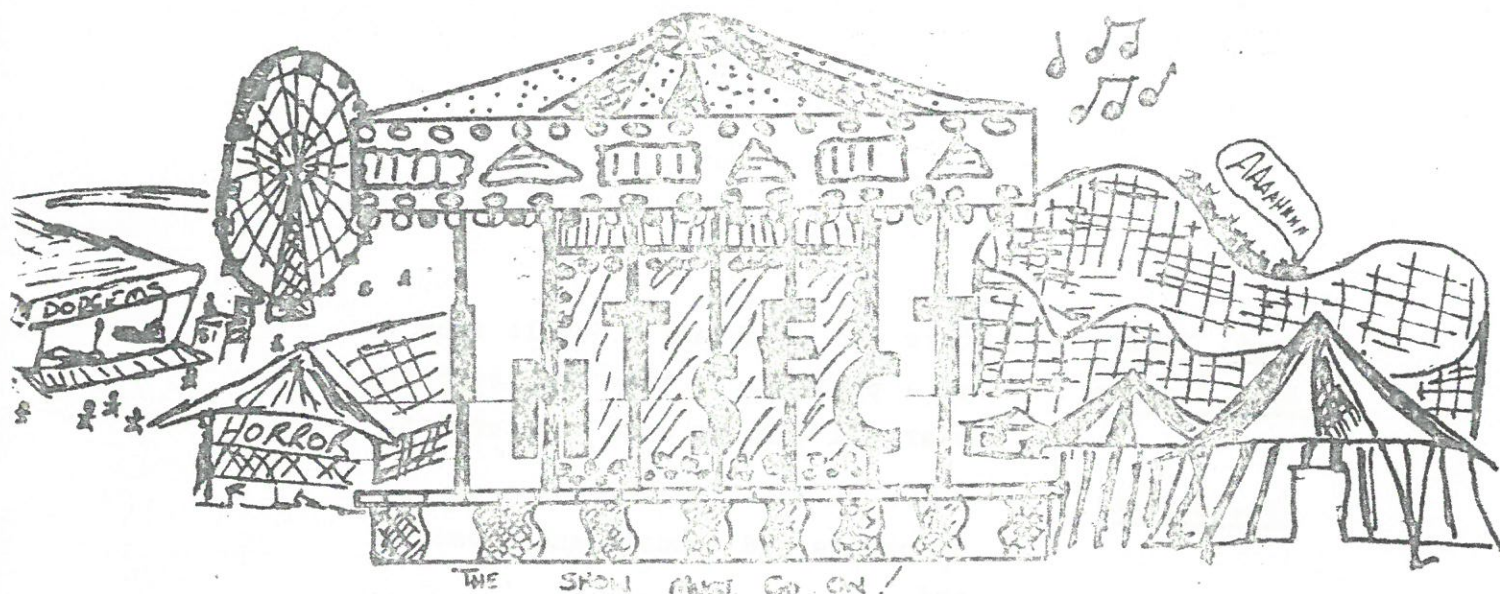
mistakes, you have a good reason when you do, you can make a great coffee and you have a packet of cigs. As you can see if you don't smoke and you hate coffee, make the occasional mistake and don't have a good reason for it then life is hell.

To make things worse Henry has instigated a f--- up board, the only trouble is everyone can see how many mistakes we make.

In conclusion, we would all like to say that we feel we have provided a good pay service and hope to be able to provide as good if not better pay service next year.



IT LOOKS LIKE PAY SECT
CAN'T PRINT COLOUR NOTES
YET!



The year started out with a large turnover of manpower and the new arrivals to the section were Sgt. Jackson from C. Coy, Pte. Fox C. Coy, Pte. Sproull A. Coy, and Pte. Kellerman B. Coy. The old hands, Capt. Mogus, Cpls. Bell and Hughes and Ptes. Creagh, Salter, and Coleman were a blessing and without them the job would have been more difficult and tasks much harder to achieve.

Cpl. Bell, a long serving member of Int Sect has been posted to Hobart to take up duties as a clerk, a job which without doubt he will do extremely well. Pte. Coleman after serving in the sect for many months elected discharge and is now a sylvilian in the Apple Isle. Pte. Burnett after a short stint also left to become another sylvilian. Pte. Kellerman the youngest member of the section was often the brunt of the infamous Int Sect practical jokes. He injured his back and is now a clerk in BHQ. Pte. Creagh (Creature) is electing discharge and about to join civillian street. His artistic talents will surely be missed within the section.

The section worked extremely well together throughout an arduous 1987 and a sense of humour is or should be a prerequisite especially in the field. The IO is off to RMC so the hockey phone will be available and if anybody has a cheap jaffle iron for sale contact the IO.

Capt. Negus;
Sgt. Jackson:

Where can we obtain a jaffle iron?
Not a problem, if they keep stuffing
us around we'll do some counter-int.

Cpl. Hughes:

Where is the TAB? I only bet on
Saturdays, and Mondays and Tuesdays
and.....

Creature:

Whats cool for cats is cool for dogs!

The Fox:

What do you mean I'm a hippie! They
dont send hippies on SUBJECT courses.

The Gnome:

Sarge, I keep getting these headaches can
I have some standown.

Salts:

why are your eyes red every morning? I
think youve got a drinking problem.
No I naven't there always red when I've had a
few beers.



The 2nd/8th

2/8 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND BRANCH

The Queensland Branch of the 2/8th is pleased to contribute a page to "8/9th in 1987".

With another year behind us, our membership is more or less static. With some inevitable losses by death, these have been made up by new arrivals from the cold south. With losses of membership from the 8/9th by discharges, etc., we are maintaining a fair balance overall.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, 21st April in the Ram's Retreat and office bearers were elected as follows:-

President : Bruce Flude
Secretary : Bill Cavenagh
Committee:

8/9th: Damien Negus, Captain
Gavin Jackson, Sergeant
2/8th: Keith Hill,
Bert Douglas
Harry Sedgwick

Once again on Anzac Day we had a good attendance at the Dawn Service conducted by the 8/9th. We were proud to accept the kind invitation to be present to share the service with the 8/9th and to participate by reciting part of "THE ODE".

As usual, the hospitality of the O R's Mess and, for breakfast, the Sergeants' Mess, was of the usual high standard and great was the camaraderie thereof.

Despite occasional showers of rain, the march on Anzac Day was a tremendous spectacle and for the first time I enjoyed a bird's-eye view of the entire parade in my capacity as co-commentator for the ABC's telecast of the march. (I have obtained acceptance from your Commanding Officer of my apology for an incorrect description of rank - a slip of the tongue). The performance of the 8/9th was beyond criticism and merited high praise.

The training activities of the 8/9th have been intensive culminat-

ing with the arduous DIAMOND DOLLAR up in the Cape country. Although we see little of the physical side of your training, the end results are observed when you are back at barracks and on the parade ground and these results speak volumes for the value of your training.

Back "home", we who visit the 8/9th on the special occasions such as BEATING OF RETREAT, BIRTHDAY PARADES, TROOPING OF COLOURS thoroughly enjoy what we see, for during our service in the Second World War, there was nothing like this; just the occasional battalion parade and very rarely, a divisional parade. Of great interest also, was the "open day" at Enoggera when the equipment and weaponry was open for public inspection with both static and "live" displays.

It is good to see copies of "THE SECOND EIGHTH - A HISTORY OF THE 2/8th BATTALION" within reach of all members of the 8/9th, following the presentation in December, 1985. Interestingly, there are very few copies left in stock at our base in Melbourne, following an early thought that perhaps too many had been printed.

Finally, we of the 2/8th welcome the approach of 1988. Hopefully, the nation's "economy" will not interfere with the intention to see units equipped with new weapons, transport (ground and air) and communications. When you've got it, may it serve you all well.

BRUCE FLUDE

1987

THE YEAR

IN

PICTURES

ALPHA



CHQ



1PL



2PL



3PL

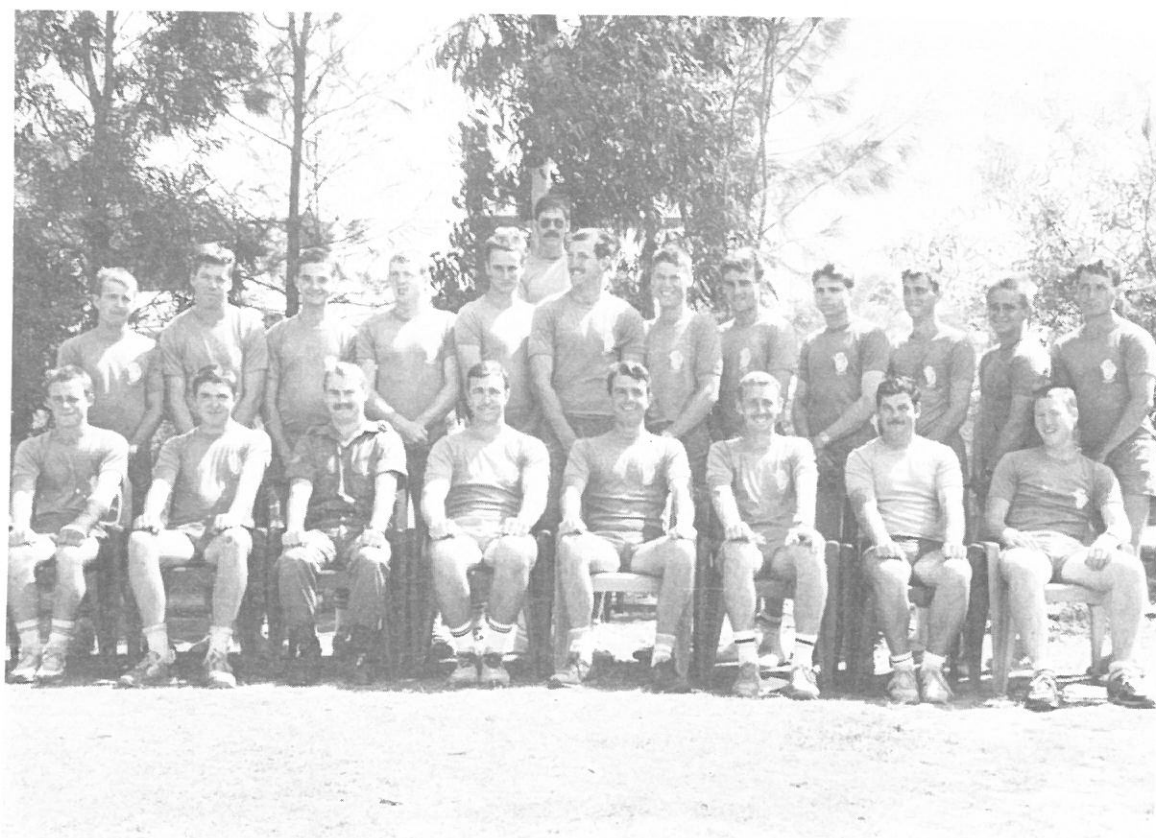
BR AVO



CHQ



4PL



5PL

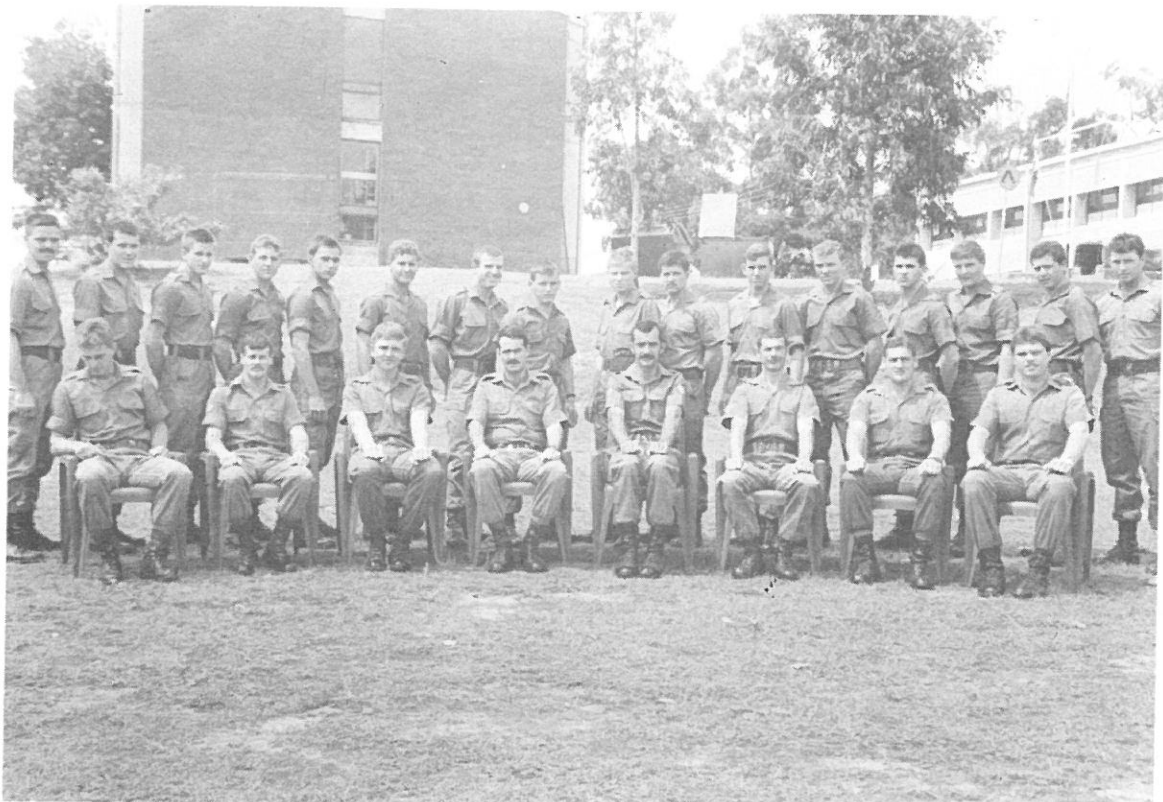


6PL

CHARLIE



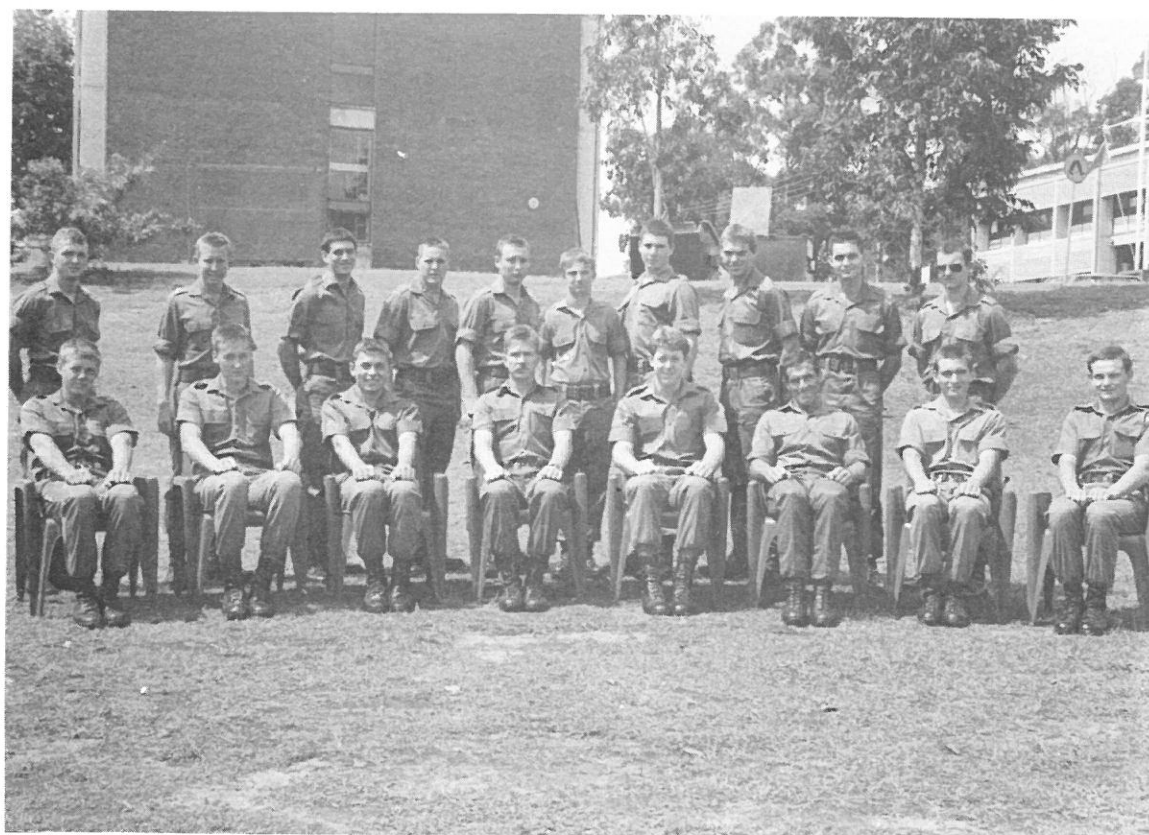
7PL



8PL



CHQ



9PL



PNR



RECON

ADMIN



CHQ



MAIN Q



P&Ds



MED



TPT

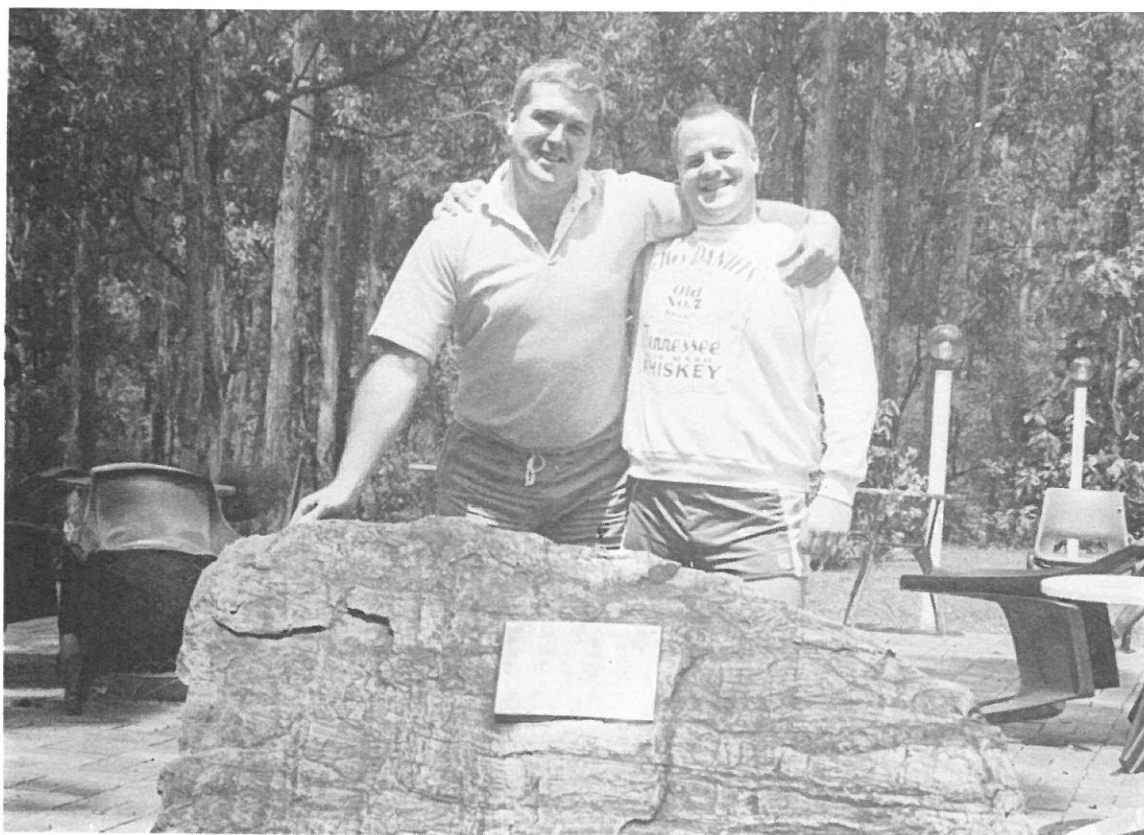


RAEME

DELTA

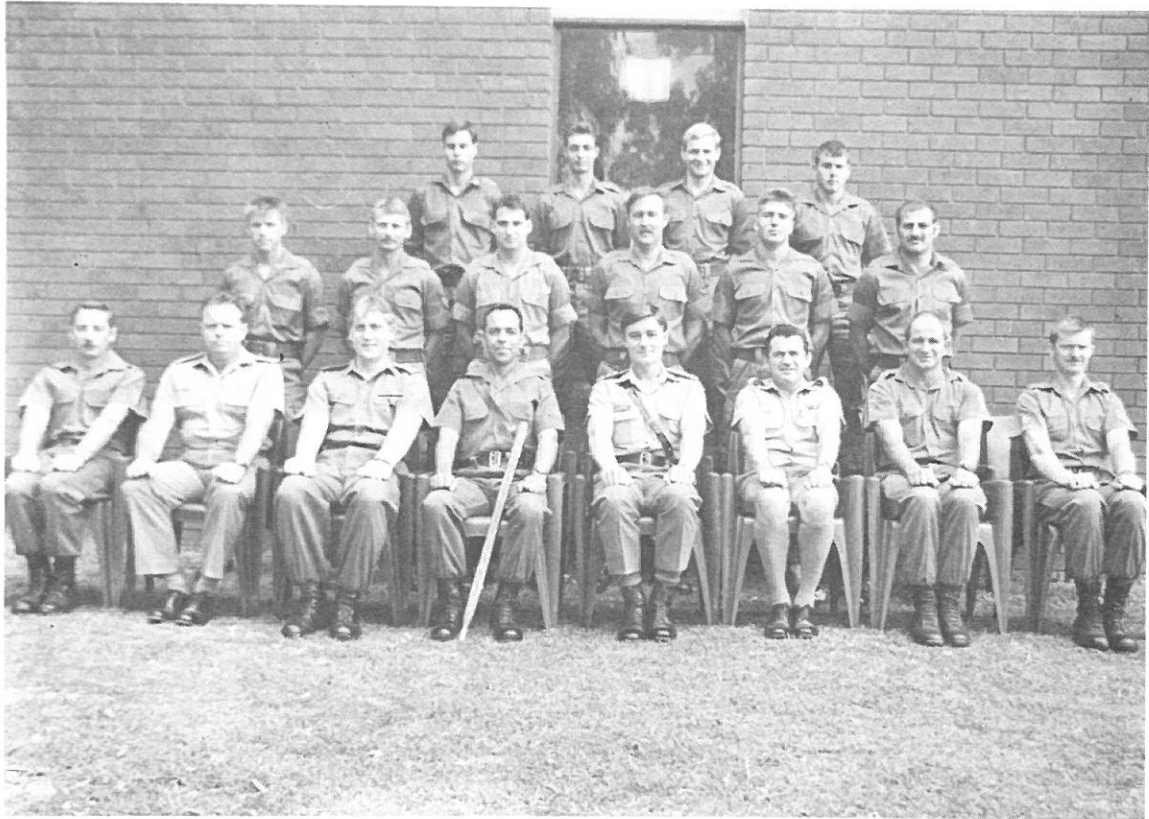


TRG STAFF



RAMS

BHQ



HQ STAFF



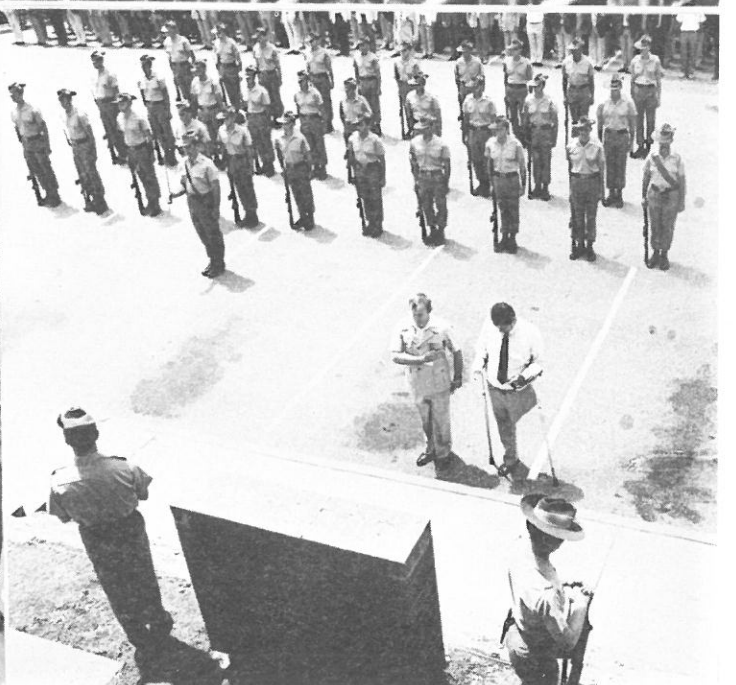
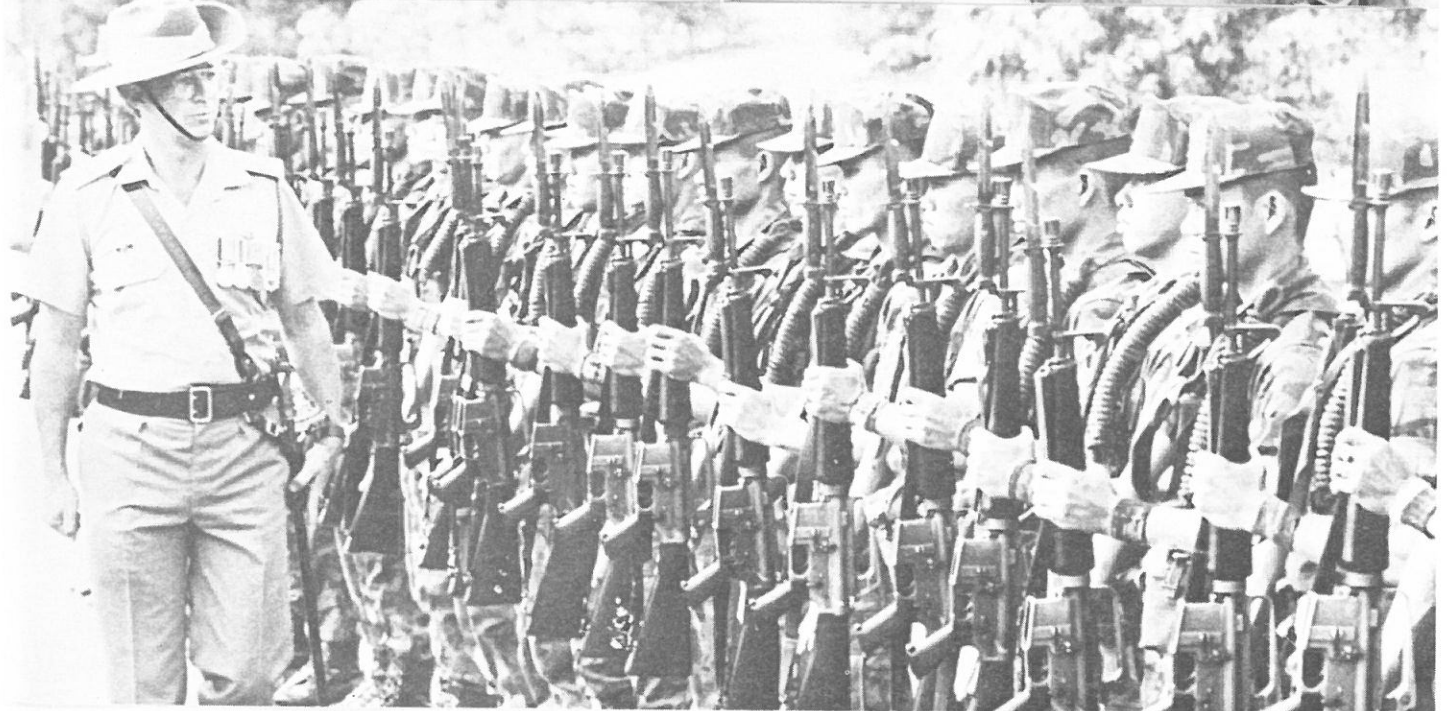
PAY



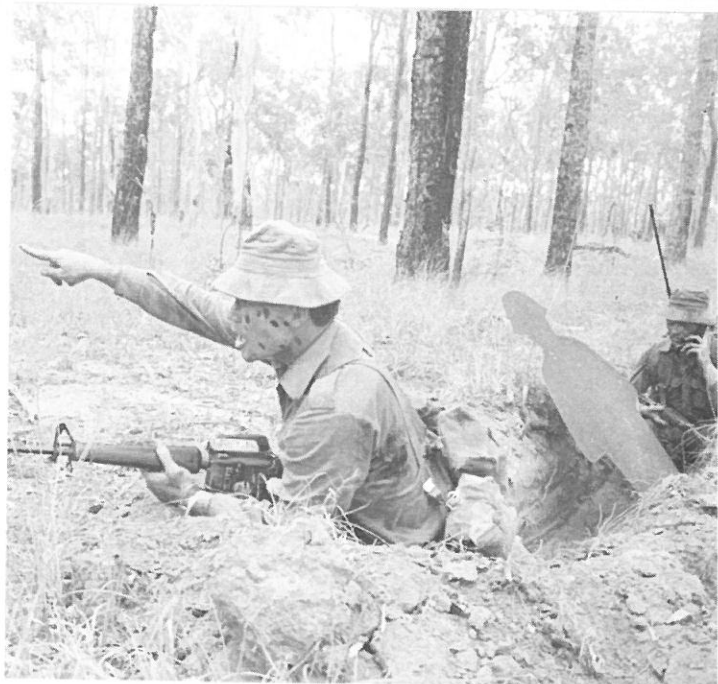
INT



RP's









Following the Bn attack started the 35km route march. Just over 7 hours later many sore and sorry Diggers arrived at the range boundary, collected their free goffer and collapsed in their sleeping bags. The next morning at 0600 hours the ferry back to Enoggera started.

OTBO had proved to be a valuable exercise for leadership, tactics and realism. The 35km walk found the men just as tough as they 'used to be'.

TEMPLE JADE

Exercise Temple Jade saw 150 Thai soldiers visit the Battalion between mid-August and mid-September. The Thai soldiers impressed the Bn from the start by their smart drill on the welcome parade and their snazzy track suits. They were given ten days to settle in to the Battalion before Ex Silk Purse and this included a three-day jungle phase at Canungra. Another highlight was a guided tour of Brisbane and a day at Sea World, courtesy of the Army. The Bn then headed on Ex Silk Purse and commenced low level ops. We didn't realise how new it all was to our visitors until they reached Sabina Point and had a swim - for some it was the first time they had seen surf! Despite some language problems the exercise went well and it was back to Brisbane for a couple more days of sightseeing and farewells before they headed home to the North of Thailand. For the Bn it was a valuable experience to learn about the culture and customs of an ally. For some the Mekong Whisky and Thai food was too much! Let's hope an Australia visit to Thailand is being planned!

EX SILK PURSE

There was general talk of doubtful accuracy (rumour) that the battalion was to exercise in Thailand. Of course this proved to be inaccurate, however, and many a soldier's heart was broken as the memories of the beautiful Thai ladies, Patpong Road and of course the exercise faded into oblivion when the Intelligence Section started issuing maps of the infamous SWBTA.

Yes, SWBTA once again. There was, however a Thai influence. The Bn hosted a Coy from the Royal Thai Army and although there were some language problems the men from Thailand soon learnt the basics like:

- (a) How are ya mate!
- (b) Your shout mate
- (c) "E" packs again, and
- (d) Got the rice mate.

The exercise was a test of low level operations and although these ops were unfamiliar to the Bn all objectives were achieved. Some of the objectives were:

- (a) conduct attack/defensive ops on vital installations
- (b) conduct combined joint ops in a low level setting
- (c) search and destroy
- (d) deploy by air/receive air drops, and
- (e) route march 50km in 12 hours.

March 50km! Hardly a challenge to a standard Infantry Battalion afoot.

OTBO

022100 JUN Bn main body departed from Roma St by train. B Coy Rip off merchants shuffling their troops around to fit a goffer shop in one carriage. They made a killing with 300 hungry Diggers buying out the entire shop.

The trip was comfortable yet crowded with bodies everywhere. One B Coy Digger even slept in the toilet (no, he wasn't drunk!).

The train arrived at Rockhampton at 1200 as planned and the Bn was ferried by truck and land rover to SWBTA whilst BHQ and A ECH settled at Ross circle whilst the Coys headed out to preset range locations up the N.S. Road.

The 4th Jun was used by Coys to set up their Ranges - sect fire and Mov, Sect Def, Gallery, individual fire and Mov, break contract, Pl Ambush and Pl Attack. The Dart operators were then kept busy on the 5th and 6th Jun as all the Coys fired on all ranges. C Coy had to pretend as their Dart mechanisms failed to work. On the 7th-9th Jun the Coys fired on the platoon ranges with Day and Night ambushes and a platoon attack supported by SFMG's.

CSM C Coy showed how to stay cool under fire as the rounds were "pinging" off trees beside him - he described later his flashbacks to Vietnam. The SFMG's were reportedly very red faced when told to stop firing.

Between the 10th and 12th Jun a bull ring system existed between the company attack, MT counter ambush and counter ambush and company ambush.

By this stage the individual and section drills had reached a good standard and the company attack showed good examples of fire and movement.

Back to BHQ dazed looks were seen from the clerks and INT

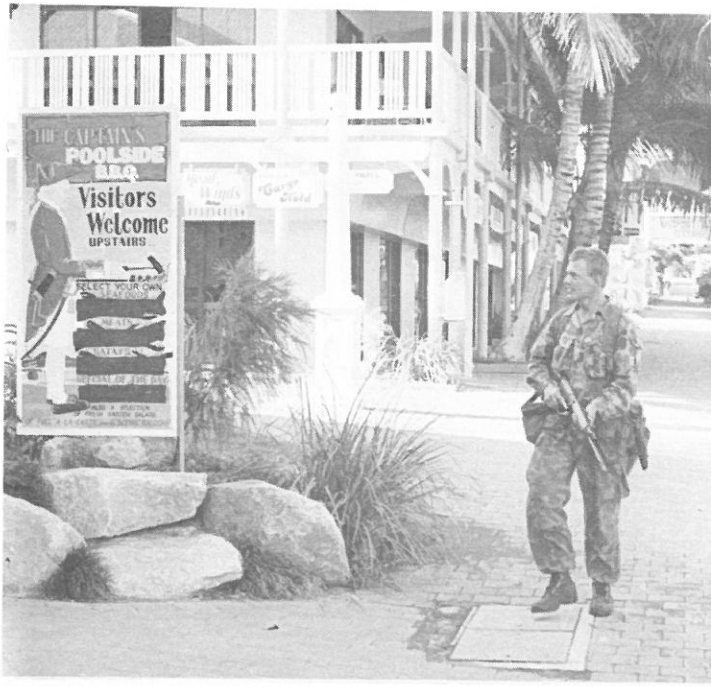
Section who had spent days on sentry or CP picquet. A mini drama also occurred at the Retrans Station on MT PYRI PYRI as the two hungry signallers ran out of rations. It took a passionate plea to the Chinook pilots to get them to hover over the site and throw out ration packs. The downdraft was so strong it blew one of the sigs off the peak!

Meanwhile Recon PL had spent 5 days on Townsend Island practising their sniping and surveillance skills, much to the horror of the local goat population. Many bleats were heard from the direction of the RAP once they returned. Mort and Anti-Armour headed off to spend two days in the MT Hummock sector, firing off their limited supplies of ammunition.

The dog squad also used OBTO as a solid training phase. They were seen daily walking in the dusty roads between the Coys and practising their skills in Navigation, Ambushing, RATEL and Watermanship in Tilpal Creek.

Most of the Bn practised the "pucka-Factor" during the EX when they were given the opportunity to rapell from an Iriquois. After a quick practice on a makeshift tower near BHQ most completed four jumps from the chopper. With the new allocation of Iriquois hours to the Brigade being zero for 87/88 we got in just in time!

The 13th saw the commencement of the Bn attack near Raspberry Creek homestead. Recon secured the FUP whilst the SFMG engaged the enemy. The BNS then started early due to bushfires started by tracer. The Bn moved into the FUP and assaulted on H hr. The attack went very smoothly with all three phases and three coys conducting successful attacks on dug in Dart Targets and figure 13's attaches to trees. The power behind some of the BNS charges provided lots of surprises to the assaulting troops - plenty of realism.



DIAMOND DOLLAR 87

1987 saw a change in venue with the delights of Cooktown, Laura, Musgrave, Crocodile Coen and all those other godforsaken places that stood in the way of the 6th Bde advance.

8/9's war started with the defence of Cooktown with the locals almost as excited as the enemy. Who could forget the road blocks or defending the Police Station (which got blown up anyway) or A ech sitting on a school oval for a week. We even learnt what a 'Murray' was. Cooktown was probably the highlight of the exercise as the shops were never too far away and the girls never wore too much! A good lesson in concentration despite the distractions.

We left the sea and cooler climates behind when we commenced the BIG advance north from Lakeland Downs. 8/9 led the initial advance after the advance guard was inserted by Black Hawk into Crocodile. The heat and dust were then felt by all.

Every piece of shade became valuable as we sweated heavily in the backs of APC's and the dust stuck to the sweat. If only we had an air conditioner or a 'cold' drink.

Our next task was the capture of Laura, well defended by a pseudo 'low level' enemy. It was accomplished but not before many casualties were suffered on both sides, a lesson to be learnt from fighting in built up areas.

A Coy took over the Mango trees near the pub whilst the rest of the Battalion pushed outside the town. The other 4000 troops then joined us in the town before the advance to Coen commenced. We advanced so fast that we had to spend 3 days inside the en arty range near Coen before being 'allowed' to attack. The great attack arrived and we saw A Coy killed 3 times over. The rest

of the Bn captured a five man OP after a long assault. That was the end of the exercise but then the real war began and we were left to fight boredom and the heat for 4 days whilst we waited for a flight back home.

Things to remember (or forget!)

- The 'Murrays' (What's a Murray)
 - The Yanks and Black Hawks
 - 'E' packs
 - The heat and lack of water
 - The vastness of our North
- 1 RAR!

DOG SQUAD

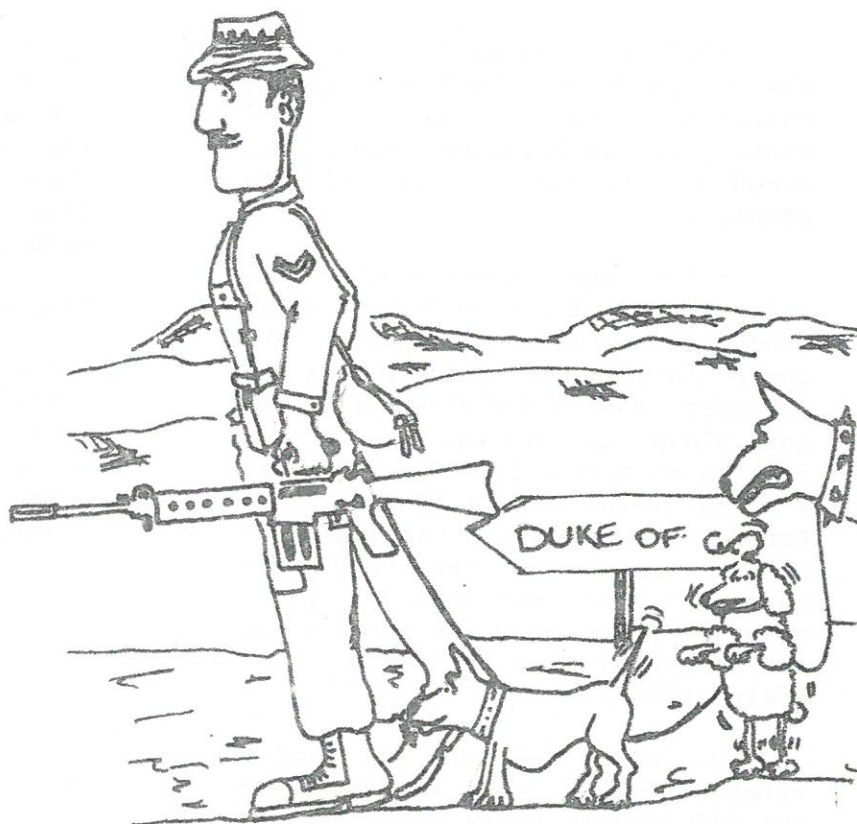
In July, 13 members from the Bn headed down to Singleton to contest the Duke of Gloucester Cup against teams from all the RAR Bns. These members had undergone some pretty tough training before their departure.

They were led by Cpl Chapman and the team was made up of a 9 man rifle section, two reserves and two drivers.

The section showed from the start that they were good enough to win and excelled in the endurance, navigation and shooting phases (an effort which eventually won them the MacDonalds Cup for 'true' infantry skills).

In the overall competition they were narrowly beaten by 1 RAR, an excellent effort which made the Bn justly proud.

Look out next year 1 RAR!



MIL SKILLS

MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

The Mil Skills Competition was conducted at Enoggera, Greenbank and the Belthorpe State Forest, near Gympie between 4-15 May. 18 sections from all Coys in the Battalion were tested in weapons skills, navigation, initiative and toughness and teamwork on the obstacle course.

It was a very successful competition and closely contested. The eventual winners were Cpl Holmquest's section, C Coy, 2nd Cpl Chapman's section from Recon Pl and 3rd were Cpl Brian Freeman's section also from C Coy.

OBSTACLE COURSE

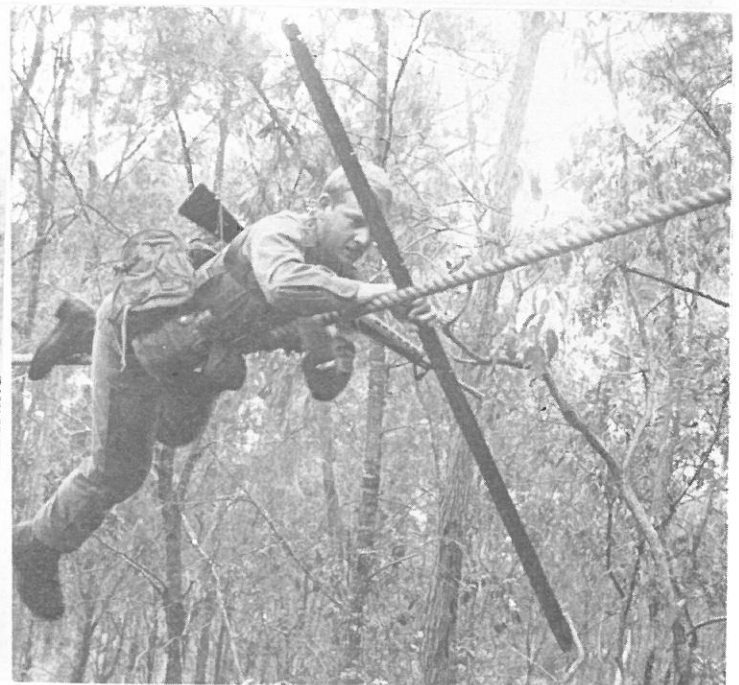
SUBBIES vs CAPTAINS

Results:

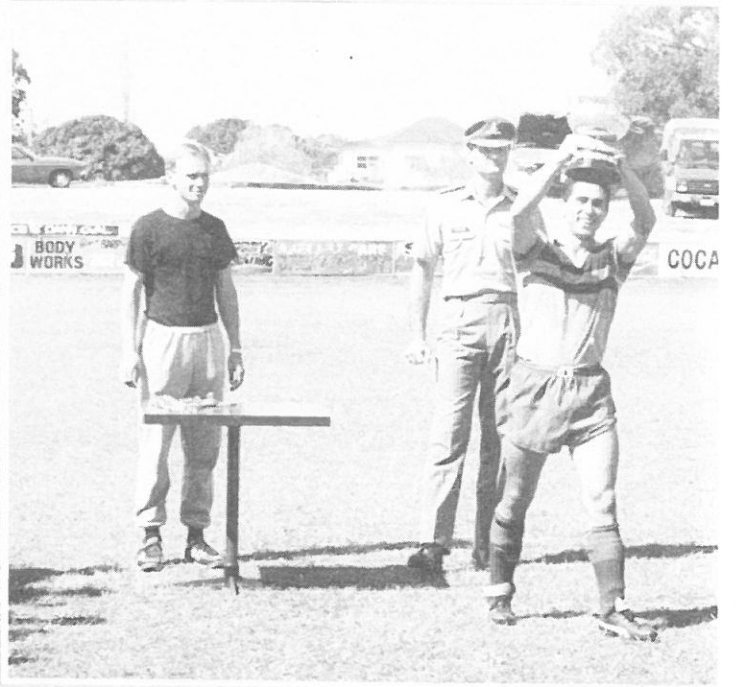
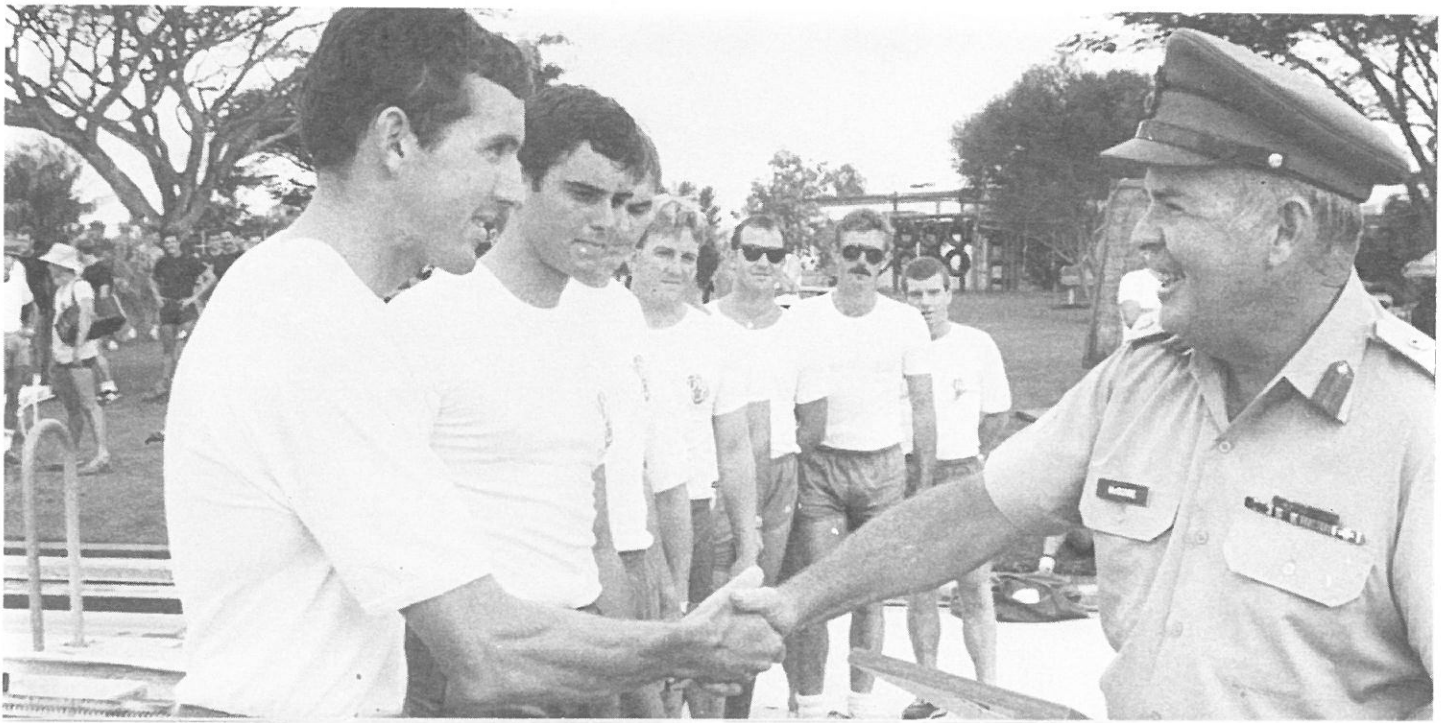
Captains 10 min.41 sec (Third fastest time in the Bn)

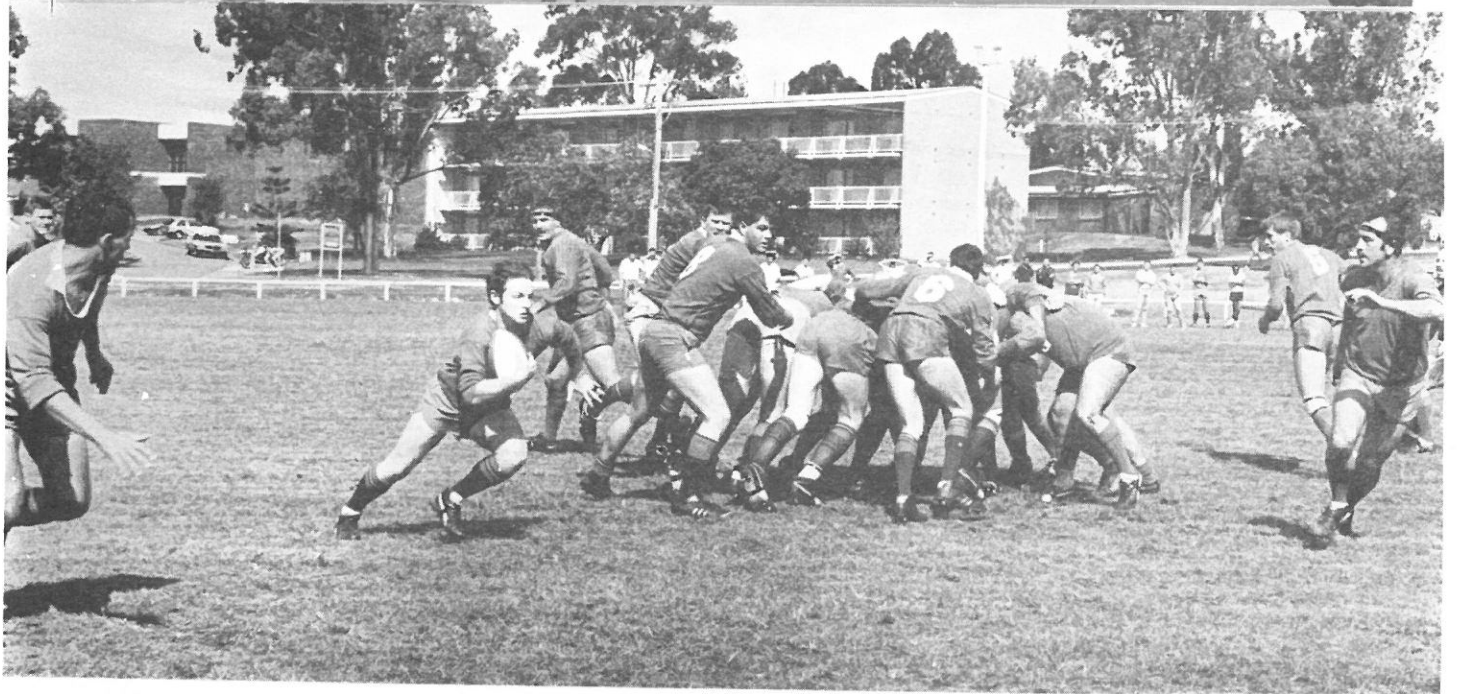
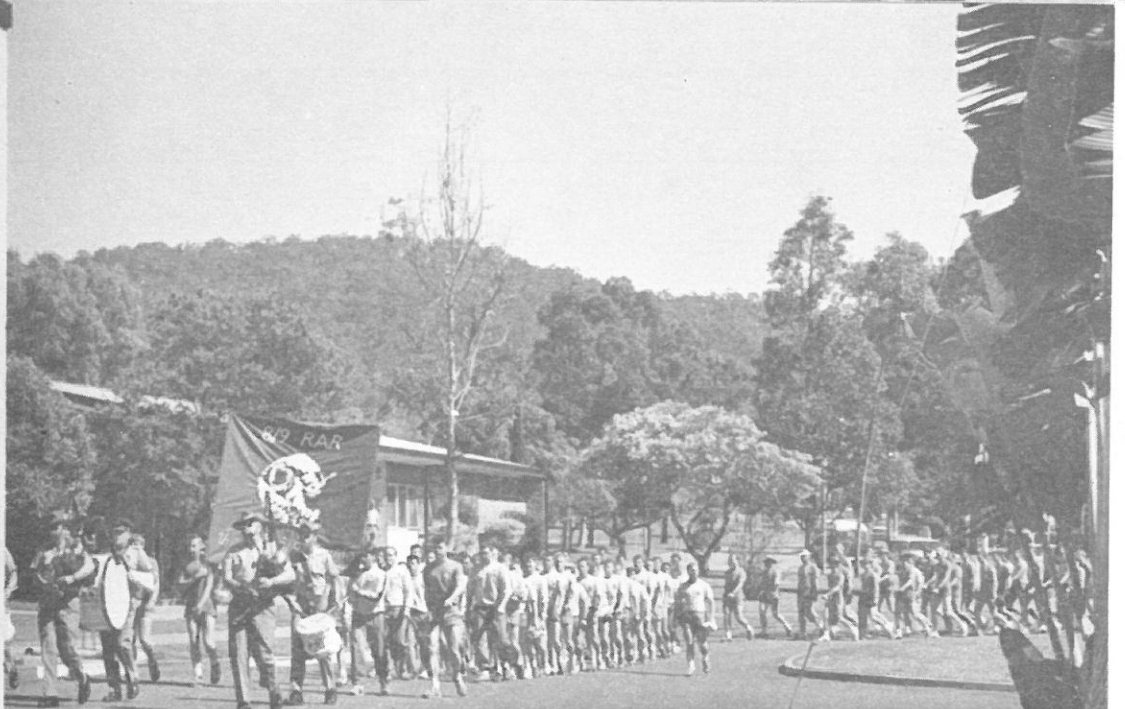
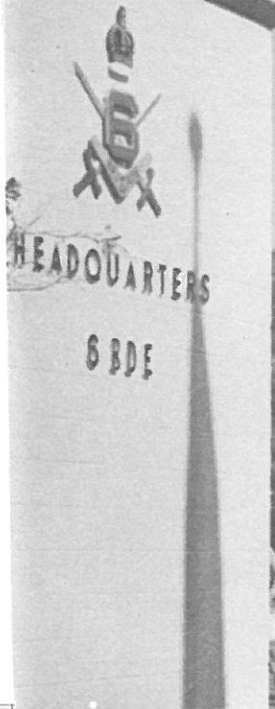
Subbies 13.57 }
13.35 } two attempts

Best time in Bn: Recon Pl 8.30











australian rules

AUSTRALIAN RULES PREMIERS 1987

Our first premiership since 1976. What a great year. We won the Gala Day Competition at the start of the season then lost only one mid-season game on our march to the premiership.

107 members made up our complement of two teams at various times during the season including players, those that just trained, selectors, strappers and managers. To every one - well done. It is the full support of both teams that makes for premierships. Hard luck to those that didn't make the run-on side on Grand Final day, especially W02 Tassie Graham (9 RQR) who captained our B Grade side throughout the season. Congratulations to Et J.J. Lewis who captained the Premiership side with distinction.

In the Grand Final, which was a high scoring and high standard game the final score was:

8/9 RAR 19-16-130
Gunners 18-15-123

Goalkickers: Capt. Doc Fielke 7, Pte Peter Grocke 3, Pte Paul Crichton 3, LCpl Darren Orr 2, LCpl Stu Barrow, Pte Cedric Rodrigues, Cpl Dave Wilson and Pte Frank Jacobs one each.

The best players are those that made the side, i.e. the goalkickers plus Cpl Ian Cust, Pte Peter McLaren, LCpl Joe Van Hout, Cpl John Spencer, Pte Steve Mongoo, Pte Daniel Vogel Poel, LCpl Craig Butler, Pte John Hollywood, Sgt John Butler, Pte 'Smiley' Bradford, LCpl Brenton Gaulke, Cpl Trevor Logan, LCpl Aaron Booth and Lt J.J. Lewis. Hard luck Sgt Gary Fairbank and Cpl Rick Smith who missed the cut and Cpl Noel Gathercole and Pte Ron Mensforth, who were injured.

Congratulations to the 14 players that made the S.E.Qld. squad or better with special mention to our All Australian Services Reps Lt. J.J. Lewis, Pte Paul Crichton, Pte

John Hollywood and Pte Steve Mongoo.

Our trophy winners were: A GRADE

Best and Fairest: Pte John Hollywood

Runner up Best and Fairest:

LCpl Stu Barrow

Best Backman: Cpl Noel Gathercole

Best Forward: Capt. Doc Fielke

Best Utility: Pte Paul Crichton

Best in Finals: Pte Peter McLaren

B Grade

Best and Fairest: LCpl Joe Van Hout

Runner up Best & Fairest:

Pte Cedric Rodrigues

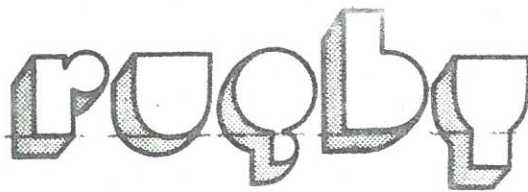
Best Backman: W02 Tassie Graham

Most Determined: Cpl Darren Powell

Best Utility: LCpl Aaron Booth

Congratulations again to all involved in the great efforts in the Year of the Ram on the sporting oval.

W02 Des Blazely
Coach



RUGBY 1987

The successful season really started late in 1986 when, over a few beers, some notable experts bemoaned the fact that 8/9 RAR had not won a grand final in some years. It was decided that since talent was abundant only two things were needed; good organization and good coaching.

The coaching part was provided by three excellent former forwards (why are all coaches former forwards?) David Given, Chance Kelly and David Burnett, all of whom extensively played Rugby at representative level and coached other than Battalion teams.

The organisational side muddled along during the year and despite what seemed to be overwhelming odds at times, there was always plenty of medical support, strapper support, oranges, water and magic sponges at the games. Ray Watterson and a small and varied group must take some honours for producing an excellent management team and suffering the incessant demands for instant action. Wayne Marjoribanks also deserves credit for the part he initially played in setting up the management team.

The talent, as with any Battalion lay in the companies and only needed to be drawn out. Training as ever was unpopular but with the basis of a team left over from 1986 we managed at one stage to get nearly 40 at a training session.

In addition to the likes of Jethro Campbell, Nick Baddick, Rick McMahon, Kev Banaghan, Dutchie Holland, Tiny Pellow et al from the previous season we added Alan Gillman (whose devastating performance for LWC in the 86 Grand Final was well remembered), Angus Baker, Peter Tinley, Craig Sloane, Fozzie Foster and many others on posting into the Battalion. Later in the year Roger Dixon, Mongo Reed and Scott Blakemore added their RMC developed talents to the teams.

Special mention must also be made of George Healy and Brian Vesper, two old Battalion stalwarts who could never quite make it to training but managed a special effort to struggle from Greenbank to Enoggera for games when they were needed.

We flexed our muscles on the field for the first time at the Rugby Gala Day on 26 March. The majority of the teams were swept out of the way relatively easily. 6RAR, the owners of the Premiership Trophy arranged themselves against us in the final game and managed to beat us. They were to defeat us once again in the first competition round, the only competition game the A Grade lost all season.

The season itself was beset by the usual problems of an army competition. The conflicting requirements of a busy unit training programme, duties, courses and other distractions provided the teams with off-field problems they did not need.

As the second round approached it was apparent that the top three teams consisted of the two Battalion sides and the combined artillery side. Moral ascendancy was gained over 6RAR on our second encounter and it was then that the Grand Final Prize looked to be well within our sights.

The B team was slightly different. They struggled, as is the lot of all B sides, under the burden of less attendance at training and a dilution of talent from the necessity of having to reinforce the A side from time to time. Nevertheless, they performed creditably and emerged on top of the list at Minor Premiership Time.

With both teams minor premiers we looked set to scoop the pool. The tensions of Grand Final Day were greater for the fact that it had been 1983 when we had last won. The B team were robbed. After a very even game 1 Base Workshops kicked a field

goal in the last thirty seconds of the game to win by one point. All the same it was a magnificent effort which produced an excellent game. It was an immense pity the honours hinged on one kick.

Needless to say emotions ran high on the day and none more high than the fellow who tried to remove our Pipes and Drums from the field during the B Grade Grand Final. Chance Kelly more than adequately upheld the honour of the Battalion by forcibly insisting that the other fellow was wrong.

The A Grade Grand Final produced no surprises and the 14-3 Final Score reflected the Battalion's moral and physical ascendancy over the Gunners. The pack produced its usual faultless performance taking ball in the scrum and lineouts almost at will. The backs pulled together extremely well and again were almost faultless in defence and attack.

The Battalion forwards produced a pack that arguably was the best in any service unit in Australia. It was the basis of the 6 Bde pack that demolished all Army teams in the Inter-Brigade competition in Townsville. Five members, Peter Tinley, Angus Baker, Nick Baddick, Alan Gillman and Patty Evans were selected in the Army team. Angus Baker, Nick Baddick, Alan Gillman and Blue Howlett (who was unavailable for Army) made it to ASRU although Angus Baker was unavailable for the team. The second row combination of Alan Gillman and Moose McLean was devastating while the back row had so much depth that Gary Whitton and Paddy Evans could be thrown off to the Fullback and Wing respectively in the Grand Final leaving Rick McMahon, Angus Baker and Peter Tinley in place. Paddy scored a vital try despite his nearon death appearance and Gary Whitton had his usual solid game. The bulk of the front row provided a wall of power. Although it varied throughout the year the Grand Final

combination of Blue Howlett, Mongo Reed and Nick Baddick proved unbeatable.

The B team forwards were no less outstanding and most were easily interchangeable with their A team counterparts. Blue Harwood developed a devastating tackle for the Finals which would have hospitalized a mere mortal if it had properly connected. Neil Clarke, Ray Plunkett, 'Choofer' Lindsay and Tiny Pellow all played regularly in the A side.

If the forwards were interchangeable the backs were even more so. Andy Wellington had a number of outstanding games in the A side. Kupu Vanisi, Craig Symon, 'AJ' Conlon, Pete Flannery, Kev Banaghan (despite injury), Fozzie Foster and Wayne Cullen also see-sawed between the grades.

Craig Sloane, who won Best and Fairest player in the Qld. Army -v- Qld. RAAF game held the A grade back line together firmly from his half back position while George Healy and Dutchie Holland did the same for B Grade. Dutchie in particular deserves a mention for his captaincy and try scoring efforts in the B side.

All in all it was a great season with, potentially, a better one to follow. It only remains to list the winners of the various trophies:

A Grade Best and Fairest:	McMahon
Best Back	Foster
B Grade Best and Fairest:	Wellington
Best Forward	Clarke
Battler's Trophy:	Harwood
Best Team Man:	Waterson



SOCCER

During 1987 the Soccer Club fielded both 'A' and 'B' grade sides although for most of the season the teams were almost indistinguishable. It became the 'A' team when Pte Ron 'Dutchy' Kimmel was on the field. Whilst the Club had some 40 members rarely was it possible to field consistent teams (Malaya, Courses, Company Exercises - you name it!)

The start to the season was shattering, defeat in the Gala Day, then the 'A' Grade with a full team being heavily beaten by the old enemy 6RAR and by IFD Regt (5-0). The 'Bs' performed a little better but could not blend the skills available to win matches. Without points on the board and halfway through the season little hope was held of even making the semi-finals and was to get worse with the loss of Cpl Mick Davies, LCpl Dave Galloway and Pte Craig Howe to courses for the remainder of the season.

Players were in short supply, Maj 'Fast Eddie' Paterson came out of retirement to play as well as coach and the team motto became "What we lack in skill we make up for in aggression and determination" (some said brutality). With the B's having no hope of making the finals all effort went to winning the 'A' Grade. Pte Greg Wall came back from injury; LCpl 'Fish' Salmon, Cfn Dick Sutton and Pte Justin Bishop were unearthed in the inter-company and welcomed into the team.

The resurgence of 8/9 RAR Soccer had begun but another defeat by IFD Regt meant that we had to do it the hard way. By defeating 2/3 FER in the elimination semi-final 2-0 in a very hard match the team had a chance of revenging last year's Grand Final result when they had to meet 6RAR in the Final.

Maj Paterson had set a game plan of tight marking in defence (no prisoners) with the attack to spread wide to open the 6RAR defence. 6RAR

expected a walkover but were rudely disappointed when they could not breach our defence and were losing the midfield. Two superb volley goals by LCpl Salmon set them back and hard tackling by the Defence and Midfield made it difficult for them to consolidate. Two second half goals to Maj Paterson and another to Pte Bishop put the finishing touches to a 5-0 whitewash of 6RAR. The win proved costly with most players carrying injuries into the Grand Final and Cfn Sutton unable to play at all.

The A Grade Grand Final was played in front of a large number of spectators (but few 8/9 RAR) against IFD Regt who were odds-on favourites and extremely confident as on a man for man basis they were much more skilled than us. What followed was a lesson for them in team soccer. In a match which never slowed, 8/9 stuck to the game plan founded to negate the gunner's skills. The start of the match surprised us as much as them as we dominated play and put continual pressure on to result in 'Fast Eddie' sneaking onto a deft Dutchy Kimmel pass to net an easy and match winning goal. Hard defence (at times controlled, at times hectic) by the backs - Greg Wal, Big Al Ryan, Gavin Hastings and 'Truckie' Williamson - allowed the goalkeeper Peter 'Steve' Gerado to play his easiest (but best) match of the year. Soccer matches are won in the mid-field and it was through the efforts of ours - Ptes Dutchy Kimmel, Marty Ryan and Andy McKenzie - that we managed to hold on to win 1-0.

The Grand Final win was well deserved and demonstrated the spirit of the Squad to make the effort in both training and matches, and to get on with the job with what was available. A special thanks must go to our reserves: Pte's Mark Hurley (who played), Steve Pearson and Alf Garnet (who did not) for their dedication in training and quiet acceptance of the Reserve's lot.

Points of Interest:

. Congratulations to Pte's Ron Kimmel and Paul Barasich on Inter-Service and Combined-Service Selection

. Leading Goal Scorer:
Maj Paterson

. Most Stylish Goal Scorer:
LCpl Salmon

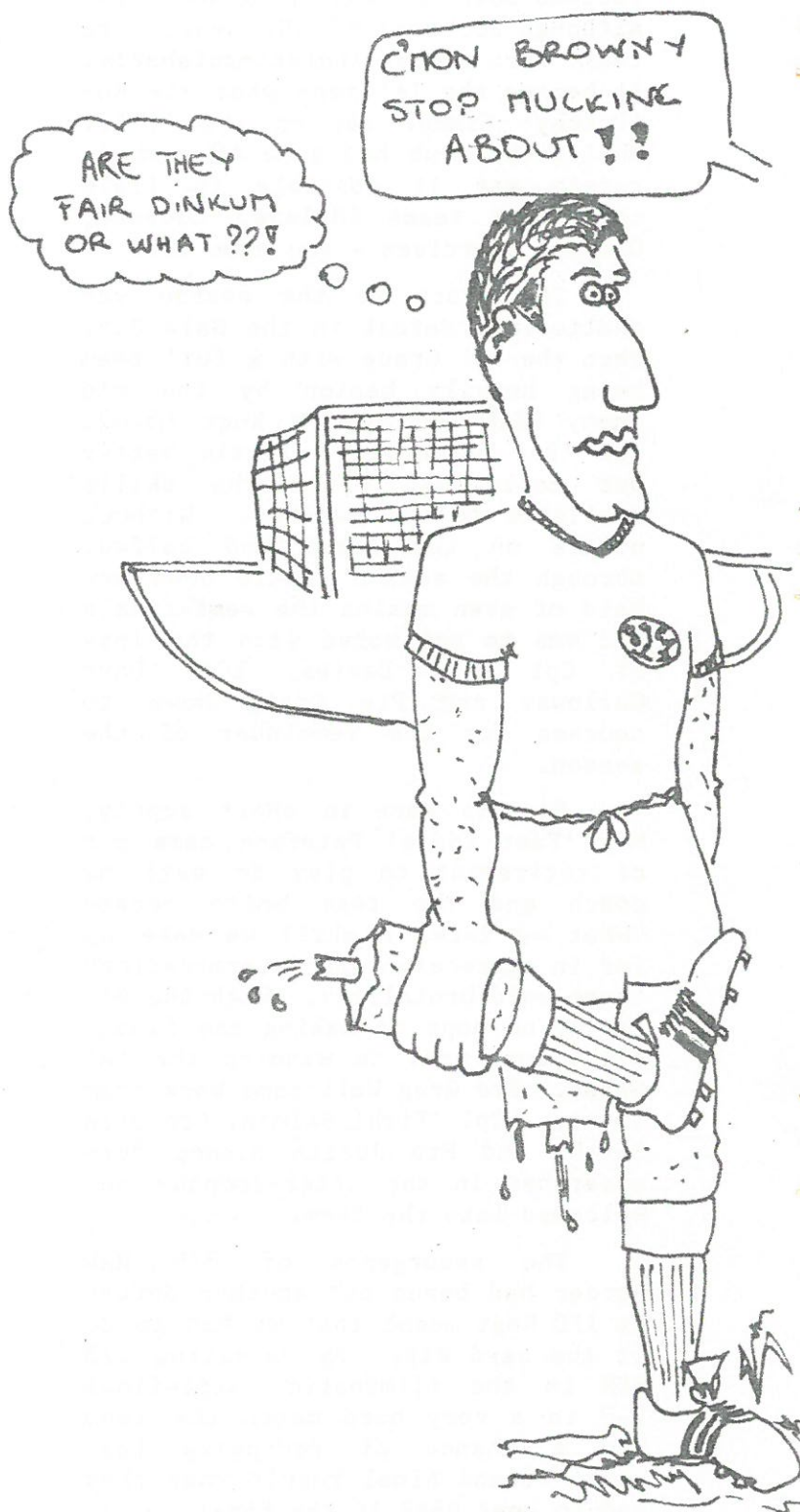
. Best Non-Penalty Taker:
Cpl Davies

. CFN 'I'm only playing because the OC makes me' Sutton (we don't believe you - we know its for the beer afterwards)

. Coach : "Tackle hard but fair"
Captain : "What's Fair"

Coach: "When you don't step on them afterwards"

Best and Fairest for the Year:
Pte Ron Kimmel



HOCKEY

Bn HOCKEY - 1987

It was a successful year for the Bn hockey team with many keen but inexperienced faces joining the ranks of the old regulars such as Darren Doyle, Mario Mayer, Dave Willmetts and Snow Royale.

The new group of players gained experience throughout the year and added a lot to team morale and the regular 'post game drinks'.

We started the season on a high note with big wins over all the other teams (20 DIVESS 8-0, 1 Base 7-1). Our only losses all season were to 1 Sig and 6 RAR. It was a very close competition and by the end of the season these two losses and a couple of draws saw us fall from first on the ladder to third. This meant we had to play all the pre-final matches to reach the Grand final. Our first finals match against 6 RAR was a solid win; 6-1 owing to good team play and some individual skill. Our defence of Mario and Dave were always solid and with Pat Sheekey, Hendo, Damien Negus and ever present Snow Royale in attack it was a formidable team. All it took was Darren Doyle and a strong half back line to provide the final polish. The major semi-final produced a hard fought tussle with the score building evenly throughout (1-1, 2-2, 3-3, 4-4). Despite good play and vocal support from the Battalion we went down 6-5 to the Gunners, who went on to easily win the Grand Final against 1 Sig.

Best & Fairest: Sgt. Dave Willmetts
Most Improved: Sgt. Derek Cox
(closely followed by Pte Brian Dover)
Best Team Member: Cpl Mario Mayer

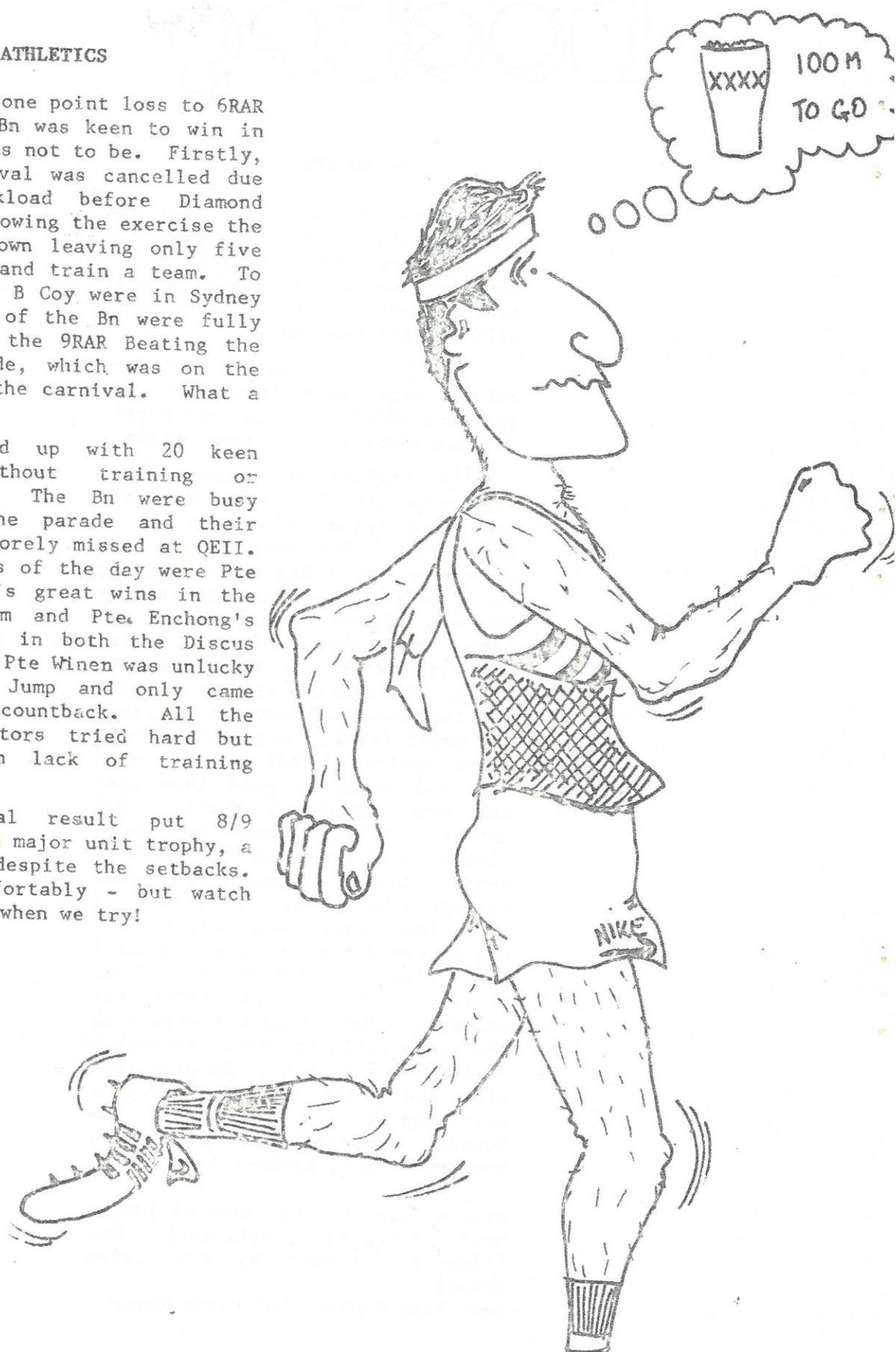
athletics

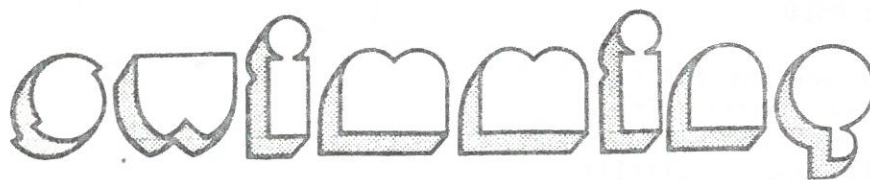
ATHLETICS

After a one point loss to 6RAR in 1986 the Bn was keen to win in 87, but it was not to be. Firstly, the Bn carnival was cancelled due to the workload before Diamond Dollar. Following the exercise the Bn had standown leaving only five days to pick and train a team. To top this off, B Coy were in Sydney and the rest of the Bn were fully committed to the 9RAR Beating the Retreat Parade, which was on the same day as the carnival. What a setback!!

We ended up with 20 keen athletes without training or preparation. The Bn were busy supporting the parade and their cheers were sorely missed at QEII. The highlights of the day were Pte Kahramanovich's great wins in the 400m and 800m and Pte. Enchong's second places in both the Discus and Shotput. Pte Winen was unlucky in the High Jump and only came second on a countback. All the other competitors tried hard but suffered from lack of training time.

The final result put 8/9 second for the major unit trophy, a great effort despite the setbacks. 6RAR won comfortably - but watch out next year-when we try!





SWIMMING 1987

Unit Carnival

The Unit Carnival was held on Friday 20th February and was preceded by a flurry of Company Carnivals as they picked their Teams. Admin Coy had a strong team with C Coy being the dark horses. The day of Carnival arrived with Admin Coy worried over the loss of Capt Mathieson to a course at Williamstown.

The first race of the day, the 50m Butterfly gave a taste of things to come with Pte Brodburn winning easily for C Coy. He continued on to win the 100m backstroke and 200m Individual Medley. Pte Richards of C Coy dominated the Freestyle events in winning the A Grade 200m, 100m and 50m and Capt Negus just scraped in by a 10th of a second to win both the A Grade 50m and 100m Breaststroke. In the much awaited Diving Competition Pte Solway surprised all the spectators by actually being able to dive, whilst all his competitors were falling off or doing Bellyflops.

In the relays Admin Coy surprised C Coy by winning the A Grade 4 x 50m Medley Relay and B Coy showed a late burst of spirit to win both the A and B Grade 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay.

The final point score showed C Coy as clear winners over Admin Coy, followed by B Coy then Spt. The champion Swimmers Trophy was shared by Pte SL Bradburn and TJ Richards.

Brigade Carnival

A team was then selected for the Brigade/South Qld Area Carnival on Friday 6th March. Training commenced at the pool each morning for an hour of sprints and time trials and after two weeks the Battalion Team were fit and ready

to go, despite other commitments such as the subject course and Sigs course. On the day itself, the 11 Man Squad all swam in the trials and did extremely well with everyone reaching the finals in every event except one.

The afternoon arrived along with 200 members of the Battalion to cheer the swimmers along. The support helped and showed the swimmers to be a Champion Team. In the first two races 8/9 RAR came second and third in both and immediately doubled t RAR's score. Then followed the 50m Backstroke which was a 1st/2nd for the Battalion, with Pte Hill leading LCpl Wilson all the way. In the 100m Freestyle Pte Gerada and Pte Richards came 3rd and 4th. The Medley Relay then sealed an excellent team victory for 8/9 RAR with a convincing win over 6 RAR. The Diving saw an injured Pte Solway watching Pte Jethro Campbell and Pte Ashman give their best for the Battalion (well no one else wanted to volunteer!).

The Battalion Swimming team proudly accepted the Champions trophy in front of a cheering Battalion, which had given 8/9 a great jump into 1987 sport.

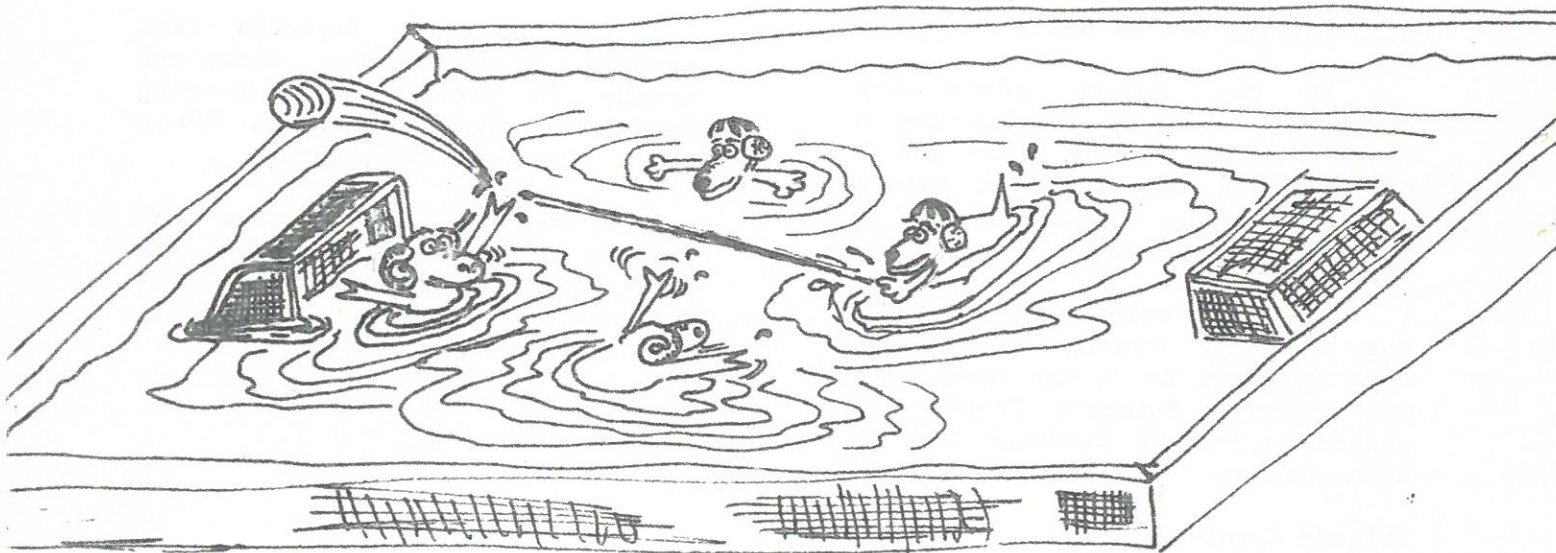
A number of the Bn team were further selected into the Qld. Army team for the interservice. These include Capt Mathieson, Pte Hill, Pte Reynolds and Capt Negus.

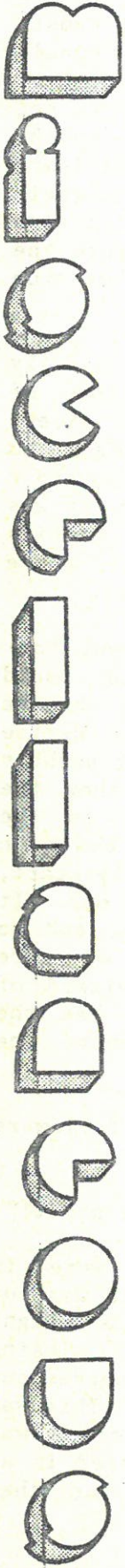
WATER POLO

November 1986 saw the start of another season of Water Polo. After not entering a team the previous year it was initially difficult to find experienced players in the Battalion. Water Polo is a sport requiring a lot of skill and stamina for sprints. We started without both of these but we were keen!

Our first matches were played with more enthusiasm than skill and we managed one win and one draw out of the first four matches. On re-starting the competition in February 87 the same problem was encountered. After the Bn swimming carnival the good swimmers were all enlisted to play and the teams speed and endurance improved dramatically, showing with a 3-3 draw against the highly placed Metro team and a victory over 6 RAR 5-2. Both these teams eventually made the Grand final, which showed that if we had started earlier we may have been a force in the finals. Strengths in the team were Pte Arthur, Cpts Negus and Mathieson, Cfn Harper and Pte Hill. Capt Negus also represented Army in the Interservice Competition.

WATER POLO





MALL TO MALL CLASSIC 1987

On 22 August this year A Company pushed Peter Friar in his wheelchair from the Queen Street Mall to the new Ipswich Mall. Peter suffers from Motor Neurone Disease and although he has lost the use of his legs, he still has plenty of get up and go.

From the start we managed to set a cracking pace as we pushed the bright orange racing chair through city streets and down the long road to Ipswich. In a well-synchronised operation we managed to have money collectors at all intersections along the route as we passed through. Not even golfers, soccer spectators, used car salesmen or truckies were missed in our bid to collect money for the Motor Neurone Society.

The competition in the event was tough, ranging from scuba divers, camels and Ferraris to helicopters and vintage bicycles. The overall winner was, not surprisingly, a helicopter. We completed the 43km course in under three and a half hours, and collected over \$1,500 in the process. Some members of the company seemed determined to run all the way, others, thinking that they had been left behind managed to hitch lifts to rejoin the main body. We also managed to cause some impressive traffic jams as cars slowed to throw donations at us.

An enjoyable day was had by all, especially Mr. and Mrs. Friar. Peter and his wife joined us in the Ram's a couple of days later for drinks, to swap stories of the day and to announce the final total collected. They also presented the Company with a magnificent trophy to commemorate the day.

'JUNGLE MAN'
by Lt. McRitchie

"Wake up mate, we're here".

I pulled the tarp back and looked out - Canungra--shit!. Everytime I was here I wanted to be back at Enoggera, and each time I was back there, all I wanted was to be here, in the jungle, close and alive. The Sarge bellowed: "Righto you blokes, out on the grass and on your gear ASAP!".

We fell out of the truck and jumped on our pack and webbing.

We stood around in a muddle, not particularly enthusiastic at the prospect of the next three weeks. It was just on dark, and starting to cloud over, no doubt the inevitable rain would soon be here. Already the Breakfast March was prominent in my mind.

"Sarge, I think I twisted my ankle when I got off the truck."

"Don't give me that crap, get over here."

"Okay". It was worth a try!

We moved off towards the tent lines, some invisible hand guiding us - follow the man in front, and soon you may wake up, this is only a bad dream!

Drop your stuff, claim a bed. Like ants we moved backwards and forwards from the CQs hut. Security trunks, mattresses and echelon bags were all fed into the tents, who ate them hungrily.

We too were hungry.

"Corporal, where can I get a Big Mac?"

This was not appreciated.

"You've got five minutes, then on parade for the opening address," he replied.

I had noticed on my visit to Battle Wing, that the SIs were all crusty Majors who were practical jungle experts of one type or another. This one was no different. We got told all the good stuff to psyche us in. The staff, Warrant Officers and Sergeants - all wearing their twenty years - stood around eagerly, ready to take us into the thick green 'Oolu' and tell us true stories.

It started to rain. Quite heavily in fact. This meant a loss of concentration for everyone, except the Officers and Senior NCOs who remembered who they were, who had a knack of staying dry. Soon it was time to eat, and we all happily advanced on the mess, where lashings of it were consumed.

Stomachs full of it, we went back to the lines where laughter could be heard - actually mostly abusive language - and prepared to settle in for the night, or was it perhaps the boozier? Who was to know the dangers that may face us on the morrow. The decision to bed down in preparation for the early start, or have a beer was an easy one. It took all of three seconds, and no peer group pressure. We were finally off to see the Wizard of Castlemaine Breweries, he had the keys to the freezers, where the yellow gold was kept!

You could hear the Wizard followers shout,

"This tick & flick is great!"

Lots of beaming faces were in evidence, it could be said without shame, that morale was high. Ticking and flicking until closing time, happy and numb, we worked our way back to our new home. This was a good state to be in, sleep was sound and mossies evaporated in an alcoholic haze as soon as they approached your skin.

I dreamed a green dream. We were

in the 'J' and I was sentry. Suddenly a great big hairy jumping jungle spider - the ones the SI tells you about - grabbed and ate me. I did not scream, after all, we were tactical. The creature did not swallow me but bounced me around on its tongue like the inflatable rubber castles at the Ekka. His saliva was drowning me, I had to get out. Suddenly the grisly mouth opened and I was staring out across some water. Christ, we were on the water tower of Confidence Course fame.

Too late, in a giant spit ball he spat me out into the slimy, cold water, then the divers saved and grabbed me, shaking - Get up, get up you lazy toad 0330hr, the dreaded bat time, dark and misty, don't make me do it - but they did! Raise my service allowance you bastards.

It was day 1, only 20 to go!



BEWARE OF DELTA-SIERRA

'Beware of Delta Sierra!'

'Say again over!'

'I say again beware of Delta Sierra!'

The RTP may be wrong but the contact was correct. How often have I ignored those words of warning? This time I was going to be careful but as it turned out I need not have worried. Just relax while I set the scene.

The platoon had been ordered to ambush any enemy that came from the South (thats 3200 mils, give or take a variation). Getting into position was easy and the setting up went like clockwork. Delta-Sierra wanted to get rid of the slab he was carrying so he insisted that the claymores he used to initiate the ambush. The sun went down and all was quiet.

The orders had been specific, "...only ambush the enemy if they come from the South, and I don't mean Victorians either!" Well the approaching footsteps were coming from the East. No problems, they would pass through unmolested so the claymores stayed silent.

I still had my eye on the Trilux watching the enemy go South when suddenly Delta-Sierra was up front shining a torch at me. It was as black as a dogs guts out there and the Trilux was on full intensity. Boy did I blink!

Delta-Sierra "What the !?@* happened? Why didn't you spring the ambush, Boofhead?"

Me (silently) "What am I doing here?"

(aloud) "They came from the East!"

Delta-Sierra: "Damn it! which way did they go, dropkick?"

Me (silently) "Which way did they go? which way did they go?"

(aloud) "They went South and turned right at the next intersection"

(silently) "What am I doing here?"

(aloud) "We were only supposed to ambush them if they came from the South!"

Delta-Sierra: "If they come back... Don't do it again, I mean do it right this time drop kick".

Me (silently) "What am I doing here?"

On that note, Delta-Sierra took off like a flash (light, that is). About ten minutes later they were back again from the East and this time they had their torches on! I fired the clacker, twice. Well the ambush was eventually sprung by a single shot from my SLR. Success at last!

The enemy lay silent. We lay silent. The trip flares spat themselves out.

PL SGT (20 metres away) "Telephone for you Boss"

Me (silently) "What am I doing here".

My right eye was engrared 'shit' my left eye had no night vision courtesy of the trip flares. To this day I still don't know how I made it to the rear pit. I took the handset from the sergeant.

It was the company 2IC.

Me (silently) "What am I doing here?"

2IC: "Why were the enemy ambushed when orders specifically stated 'only ambush the !?@*:@! enemy if they come from the south, and I don't mean Victorians either!? Well Boofhead?"

Me (silently) "Turn the other cheek. How? Delta-Sierra's got one, you've got one, how do I sit down?"

(aloud) "Its for you dropkick!"

Delta-Sierra: "What am I doing here?"

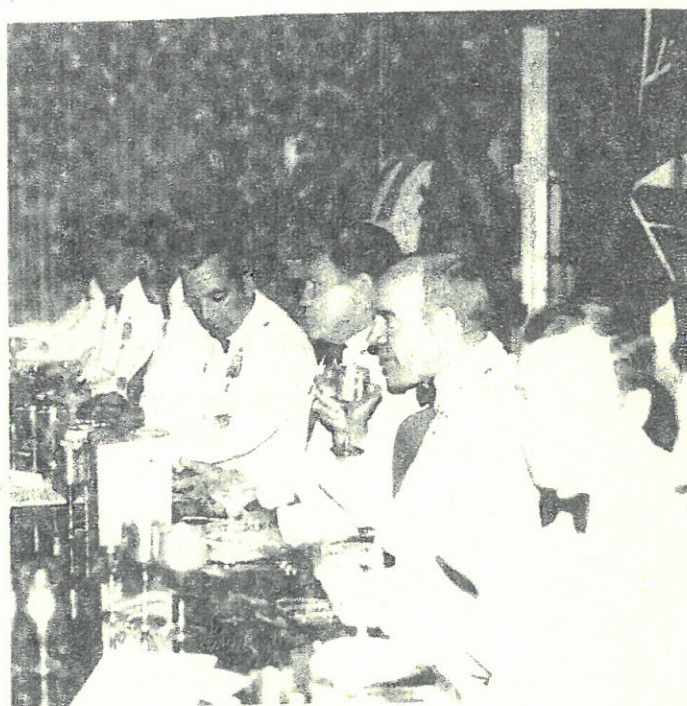
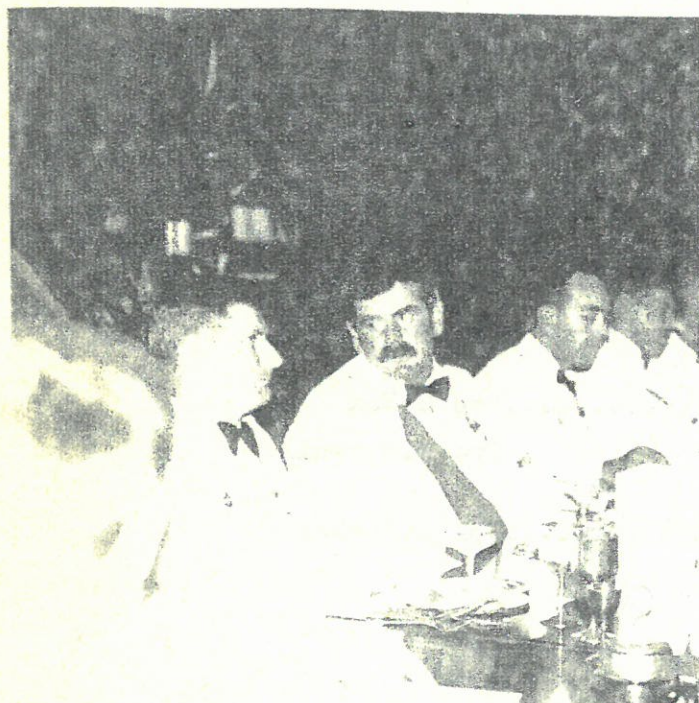
The Occasion of the Dining-Out

of

WO2 G.J. Black

and

WO2 A.E. Millar



Warrant Officer Class 2 Gordon Black (Pipes)

He joined the Regular Army on the 5th of February 1968. WO2 Black saw active service in Vietnam with 6 RAR, then in 1972 was posted to 7 RAR. He was with 7 RAR when they amalgamated with 5 RAR and in 1974 was posted to the 8th/9th Battalion.

WO2 Black has had a long association with the Pipes and Drums of 8/9 RAR and had been the Pipe Major for 13 years until electing discharge.

Warrant Officer Class 2 Athol (Moose) Millar

He joined the Regular Army on the 16th of April 1968. WO2 Athol Millar saw active service in Vietnam with 4 RAR, HQ1ATF and 9 RAR. He was with 9 RAR when they amalgamated with 8 RAR in 1973 and with 8/9 RAR as a Mortarman including MFC until 1981. He was then posted to Infantry Centre and then 42 RAR before returning to the Battalion in 1985.

WO2 Millar on electing discharge was CSM Support Company.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EDITOR.....Capt D.Negus
ASSISTANT
EDITOR.....Sgt G.Jackson
LAYOUT.....Cpl S.Hughes
PHOTOGRAPHER
CARTOONIST.....Pte I.Salter
TYPING.....Kath Woods
PRINTING.....Typing Service
Int Sect (-)
PHOTO SECTION.....1 Fd Svy Sqn
ON LEAVE.....Pte P.Creagh
OUT OF EVERYONES
HAIR.....Pte G.Fox
Pte M.Sproull
COVER COLOUR SELECTION.....Cpl S.Hughes

COPY RIGHT 1987



WY/LTD

Reg TM

Resemblance to any person living or dead
is purely coincidental and the producer
will not accept responsibility for any
incident occurring from time of publication.

Printed in black ink
by GESMETNER.

Sound by use of your imagination.

Thats it, THE END, you can put it down now.

B. 90