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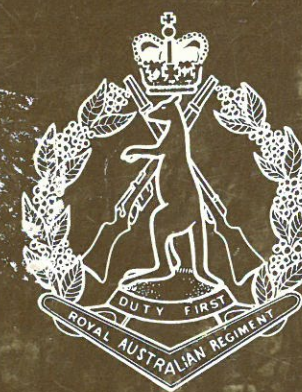
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THE RAM

1989



**THE MAGAZINE OF THE 8th/9th BATTALION
THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT**

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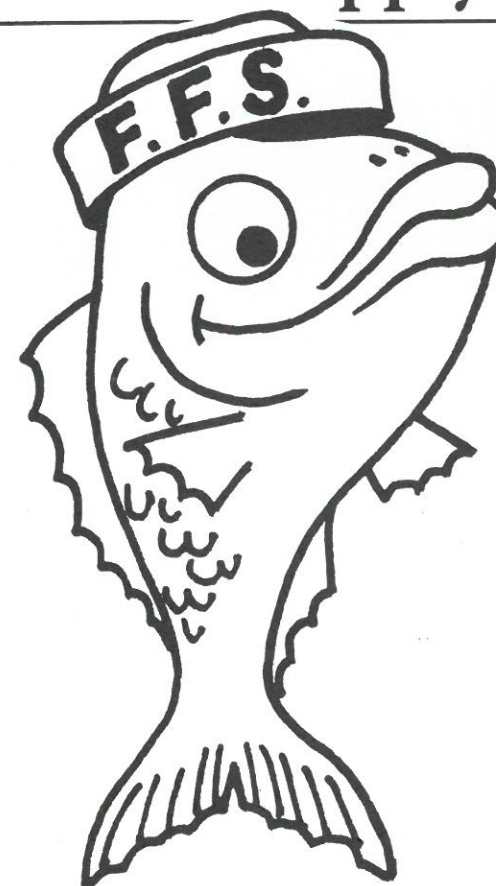
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Commander in Chief : His Excellency The Honourable Bill Hayden, A.C.
Governor General of Australia
Colonel Commandant : Major General A.L. Morrison, A.O., D.S.O., M.B.E.
Regimental Colonel : Colonel P.S. O'Sullivan, M.B.E.
Commanding Officer : Lieutenant Colonel G.J. McKay, M.C.
Regimental Sergeant Major : Warrant Officer Class One R.E. Briaes

ALLIED REGIMENTS

Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment
The Royal Malay Regiment
Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Regiment
The Brigade of Gurkhas

BATTALION AFFILIATIONS

The Parachute Regiment
2nd/8th Battalion (A.I.F.) Association
9th Battalion Association
8 RAR Association
9 RAR Association
RAR Association (Queensland Branch)

• THE RAM 1989 •

THE MAGAZINE OF THE 8th/9th BATTALION The Royal Australian Regiment

Editor..... CAPT C.A. JOHNSTON
Assistant Editor..... CPL I.M. SALTER
Advertising..... PTE D.A. DUNCAN
Photography..... PTE G. FOX
Cartoons..... PTE A.W. ARMSTRONG
Printing and Publishing..... MONOSET PRINTERS

The Battalion would like to thank all the advertisers for their support, and we wish them all the best for 1990.

EDITORIAL THE HOBBIT SPEAKS

For 'OLD DEPENDABLE' 1989 has undoubtedly been one of the most important years since the Battalion was formed in 1973.

Much of the year was devoted to training and preparing the Battalion to deploy on Exercise Kangaroo 89, the ADF's largest peacetime deployment and exercise. Opinions on the exercise have been varied but few will doubt the lessons learnt have taught the Battalion well.

Despite the significance of EX K89, the most important event of the year was the presentation of new colours by His Excellency, The Governor General. The Battalion's efforts on parade have set the standard for the Regiment, a standard formed from the comments and praise of the varied attendance on the day.

1989 has also seen a rekindling of interest in the history of the three Battalions, 8 RAR, 9 RAR and 8/9 RAR. This has included a rewrite and update of the Battalions' histories, the formulation of the history and significance of many of the little traditions of the Battalion, such as Stan', the Shilling, and the Shovel, and the first major steps to establish the unit museum. The building is in place, and the time consuming search through every nook and cranny of the Battalion to find pieces of history is well under way.

The driving body of the Battalion magazine is the Intelligence Section, as well it should be, as they are responsible for the maintenance of the Unit's history. This year has seen the resurrection of the Battalion History Book; a photographic 'Scrap Book' of the year's events; the Unit War Diary; a record of events of the Battalion on exercise. The third major part of this Unit's history record is the annual unit magazine. It is hoped this magazine will provide a summary of the year's events to act as a memory jogger and record for the years to come.

A special word of thanks to CPL Ian Salter and PTE Dean Duncan for an enormous number of hours spent in searching for advertising and assistance in laying out the magazine.

THE YEAR THAT WAS

FEBRUARY:

Bn courses
A Coy returned from Malaysia
Long Hai Day

MARCH:

Army birthday activities
Response force

APRIL:

Anzac Day

MAY:

Selection of D.O.G. cup squad

JUNE:

C Coy to land command battle school
ASAAM
Support to C.G.S. exercise

JULY:

Won D.O.G. cup competition
Battle preparation for Ex K89
Rifle Coy ARTEP

AUGUST:

Ex K89

SEPTEMBER:

Gladiator Week (winter sport)

OCTOBER:

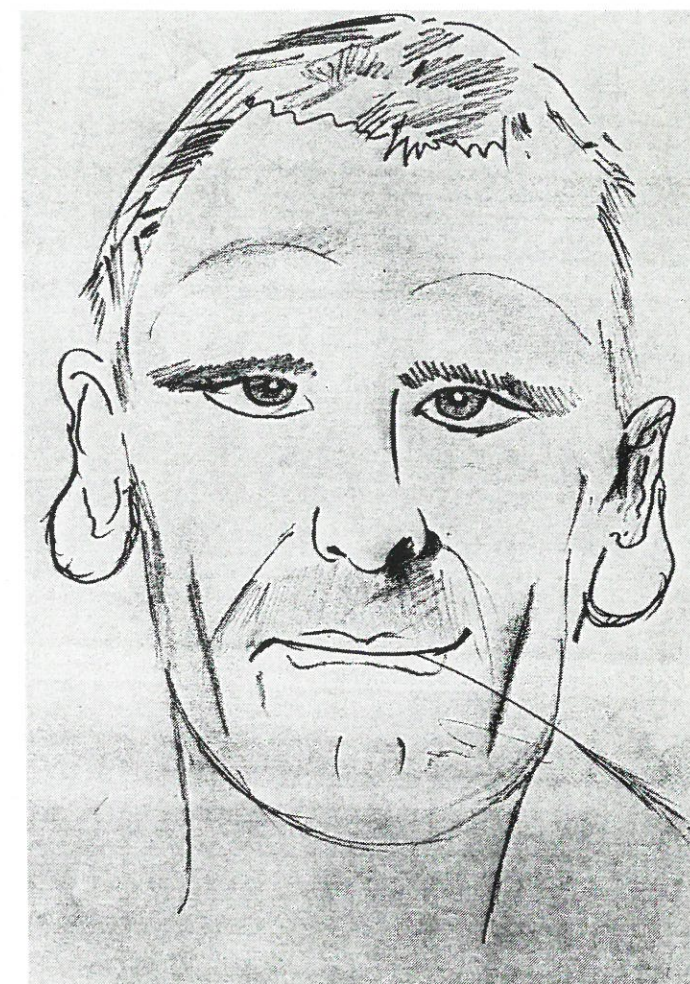
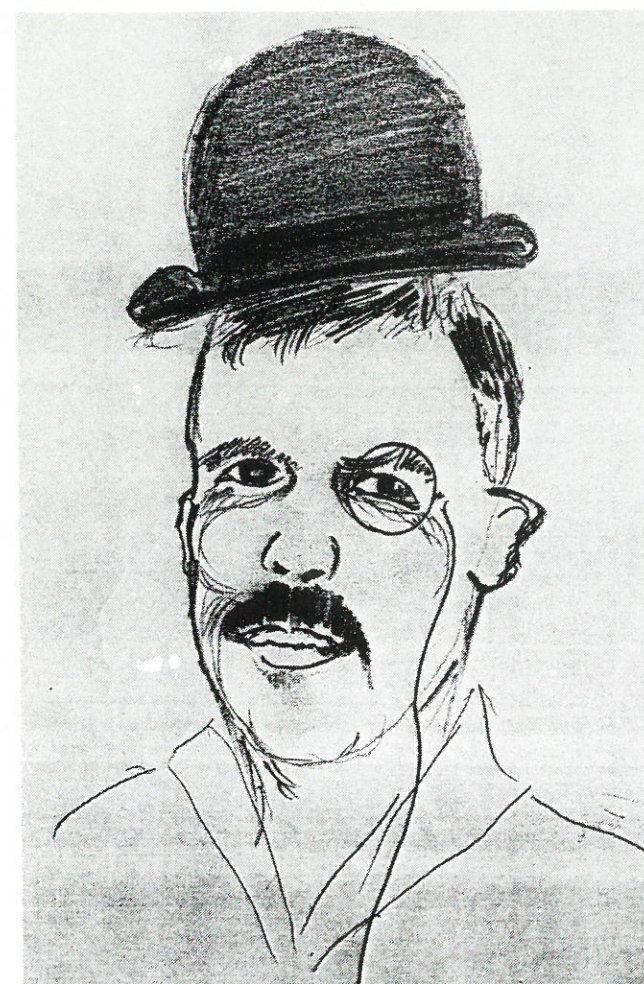
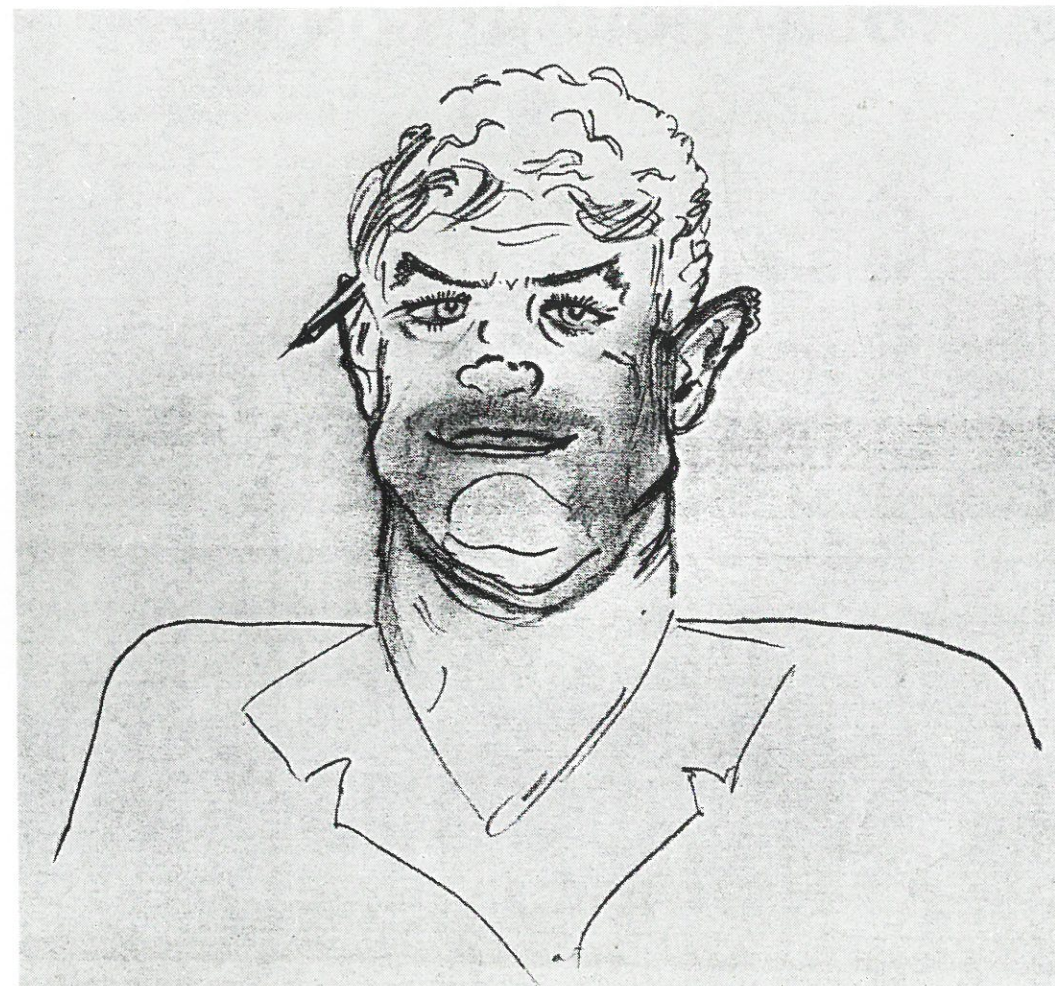
Ex Hot Shot
Inter Coy drill competition
Presentation of New Colours

NOVEMBER:

Laying up of 9 RAR Colours
Bn courses
Adventure training

DECEMBER:

Adventure training
R.S.M.'s farewell
B.R.L.



ATHLETICS 89

Last year's magazine went to press prior to the 1988 Athletic Meeting, so it should be noted here that Alpha Coy was a clear winner, and they departed for Butterworth on that victorious note.

This year, after the parade for the presentation of new colours, the battalion had one day to think about running, jumping and throwing before conducting the 1989 meeting, again at the QEII practice track. All were relieved that the wet weather which hit Brisbane that day had not occurred for the parade, however, individual results were affected badly.

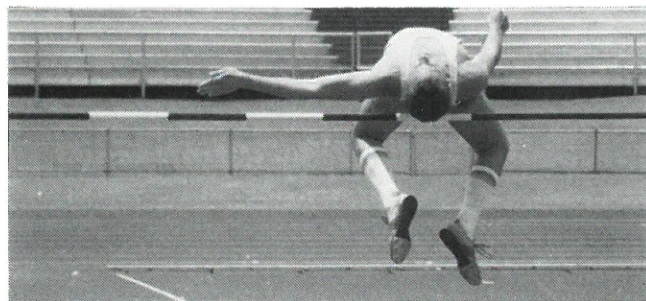
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PTE Harry Kaye in his usual starring performance in the longer sprints of 400m and 800m, while B Coy took the honours in the 100m and 200m with PTE Mildrum and PTE Niddrie. PTE Hadgis won the high jump with 1.65m and LT Small put the shot 11.54m. CSM Spt Coy WO2 Remin entered every veteran event, being rewarded with a first place in the 100m.

The chain of command relay was highlighted by an exasperated and exhausted OC Spt hurling his team's baton at OC Alpha who finished too strongly for the rest of the field.

The champion athletic company championship, competing for the Philip Cup, was not decided until the final relay, another close result going to C Coy, however B Coy defeated A Coy by two points for the day.

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FOREWORD

BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER LT COL G.J. McKAY, MC

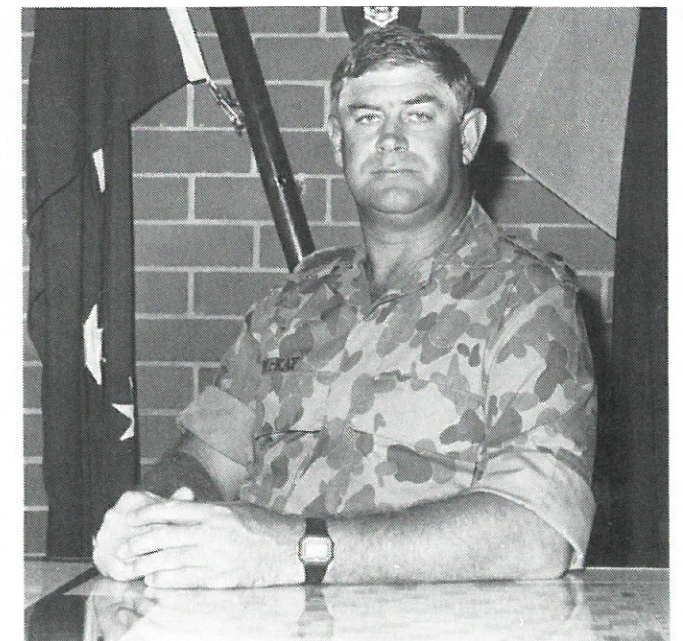
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The training for the year was fairly disjointed with courses right at the start of the year and Alpha Company over in Butterworth. Still, these things cannot be helped and it was good to see the Battalion knuckle down into the ARTEPS up at Yandina and produce what I thought was some very good results given the limited amount of time we have had to train together in our sections, platoons and companies. Everybody seemed to enjoy the more interesting challenge of the two-sided exercise and it brought out the best in all who were involved.

K 89 was our only Battalion level exercise for the year and we had to make a good fist of it. I said it would be hard and challenging. It was, however you all met the challenge, made the best of your opportunities and I am most pleased with the way you performed. We reacted to the low level operational scenario with speed, dash and imagination. We moved by helicopter, TCV, 6 x 6 two tonners, APCs and even foot - and you did it well. The infantryman has to be flexible and the men of 8/9 RAR have shown that they are and that they can hack it. The evaluation of the 6 x 6 vehicles showed our adaptability and our flexibility. You set a good example to our round-out comrades from 41 RNSWR and they learnt a lot from your performance.

On the sporting field we did well in the cricket, hockey and swimming. We didn't win the rugby as in years past but we gave it a good shot. The Aussie Rules Club did very well this year and I am sure will be out for revenge in 1990. Indeed, the standard of competition, the organisation within the Battalion sporting teams is very good and the spirit and will to win will carry us well through next season. I thought that the boxing team showed great potential to demolish anyone who wants a crack at us in 1990.

Probably the high point of the year was receiving our new Colours for the 8th and 9th Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment from the Governor General. From the many letters I have received and the numerous calls from people who watched the parade you can all be very proud of yourselves for the excellent standard of drill,



dress, bearing and precision that you displayed. It was a unique parade, a unique experience for all of us and you carried it off with great style. Well done.

The Battalion returns to a more conventional training cycle next year with all of the Rifle Companies available to work up in the early months of the year. You can look forward to some interesting live firing and emphasis on close country work. The training motto for 1990 will be "quality not quantity".

To the families of the men of 8/9 RAR I thank you for your continued support to the men who are required to go away so often; and usually when it's a special birthday or anniversary. Without your support life in the Battalion would be even tougher and be rest assured we all value your support.

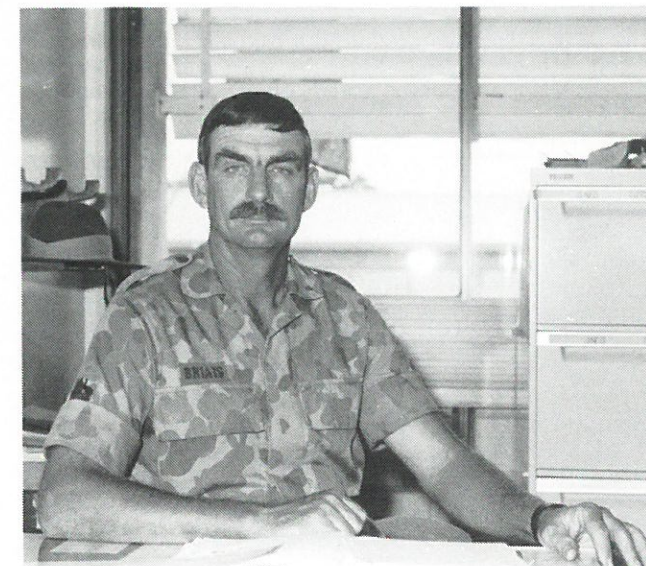
To those leaving on posting, all the best in your new jobs. I hope that it won't be too long before you return to the Battalion. Have a happy and safe Christmas, enjoy your well earned leave.

REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 1 R.E. BRIAIS

1989 has been an extremely busy and historic year for the Battalion. We can look back at the year's events and all be proud of what we have achieved.

We have shown that we have the skills at section level by taking out the most prized military skills trophy in the Army, The Duke of Gloucester Cup. As a Battalion our deployment and participation in the Army's largest peace time exercise K 89, was a complete success. On our historic presentation of colours parade the Battalion displayed outstanding discipline and application in their drill and bearing. I was an extremely proud man at the conclusion of the parade.

In conclusion I would like to thank all ranks of the Battalion for their support for the past two years. It is with a great deal of regret that I leave for the last time the Battalion which I have served in for 12 of my last 16 years of service.





FRONT ROW: (left to right) SGT Borrett, SGT Colbertaldo, CAPT Johnston, MAJ Perkins, MAJ Sherrin, M.M. LCPL McKay M.C. WO1 Briais, CAPT McGee, LT Stevenson, WO2 Boot, SGT Cox, SGT Ketu.
BACK ROW: (left to right) LT Stevenson, PTE Kay, PTE Stevenson, CPL Waterson, CPL Vesovic, CPL Kekewick, PTE Stevens & PADRE Barnett.

BHQ CLERICAL REPORT 89

Another year completed on the paper front as usual we have had a large turn over. This has been one of the big years for 8/9 RAR clerks with our old chief WO2 Alan Whelan being promoted to WO1 and a posting to HQ ADF. No one has found out what the hell he does there, other than it has something to do with overseas allowances. Our new chief WO2 Col Boot has settled into the chair well (could it have something to do with his past time in the battalion?)

This year started with two new sergeants Peter Cox (Combat Wombat 1) and Mitch Page (of guide - sorry, guard dog fame) with Bernie and golf clubs. It just proves you can do it if you want to, just think a clerk topping a Subject 1 for Sergeant Course! Well done Peter.

Now its your turn Sgt Page, you will have to wait to next year, when you leave to copy praise, all we can say is remember K89. With all fun aside, thanks for your help, motivation and new ideas. Together with Sgt Cox and the chief BHQ is running like clockwork and we can now find a file in under a minute.

What can be said about Cpl Vesovic (VESA) that has not yet been said. This man has modelled himself on Sgt Rock with the compassion of a Chaplain. We wish your eldest son best of luck at the National Age Championship for athletics. BHQ loss, Charlies Company gain.

Movement office has been a merry go round this year. The battalion has been well served by LCPL Pearson, CPL Darren Orr and the RACT ring in CPL John Kekewick. We have to take our hat off to these members who have learnt to perform miracles to ensure our members are at the right place at the right time.

And of the PTE clerks of BHQ those quiet (sometimes), hard working band of workers. This band of hard workers has included Harry Kaye the all round sportsman (swimming, cross-country and athletics), Neil Markie our ex 3 RAR Ranger, John Corfield who has been reported being seen floating over Darwin (who's related to the Swan Airship), Rob Stevenson our budding boxer, Dale Stevens the man who gave up being a signalman to become a clerk (who can blame him?) Has anyone seen a clerk 187cm tall, 90kg plus in weight, brown hair and eyes, last seen at 1 Media Support Unit during K89 - sorry no reward offered.

I almost fogot the B Company connection at BHQ CPL Watterson and LCPL Gaulke. These two have kept the staff at BHQ on their toes in more than one way. Best of luck Ray in your forthcoming marriage and to Brenton on his recovery from his operation.

From all the clerks at BHQ remember safety begins with YOU! We want to see you all next year. We are here to assist you as long as you go through your company clerk.

May 1990 be the year where Hunt the File Game is seen no more.

DPRI

1989 saw a new team in the DPRI with SGT Dunning handing over the reigns to CPL 'Polly' Pollock after years of dedicated service. Polly soon displayed the same zest for wheeling and dealing in venturing into the world of high fashion. CPL Pollock's happy smile was not only to be found haggling over a new set of threads but also pervading his wares to a much appreciative rugby crowd, particularly after 3 pm when the amber sauce began to flow.

CPL Cust, too, was added to the team in mid May expending the economic power beyond any other in the region. Watch out Hong Kong!

Of course K89 was the highlight of the year for the DPRI. Unfortunately the "Team" couldn't attend however CPL Smith (KSMC) rose to the occasion, by taking up the callsign of "Goffa Man". Armed only with a 110, trailer and goffa box he took goffas to places where no goffas had gone before. Throughout the exercise "Goffa Man" employed a high standard of bush cunning in getting his goffas to the front. Despite intensive enemy operations against him. During the advance to contact phase, in complete disregard to his own safety he drove through two enemy ambushes to reach the forward Companies. For his valor, beyond the call of duty and dedication to duty CPL Smith was awarded the Kununurra Star with Milky Way Cluster. CPL Smith continued to maintain his popularity in maintaining supplies of the golden sauce during the end of exercise barbecue.

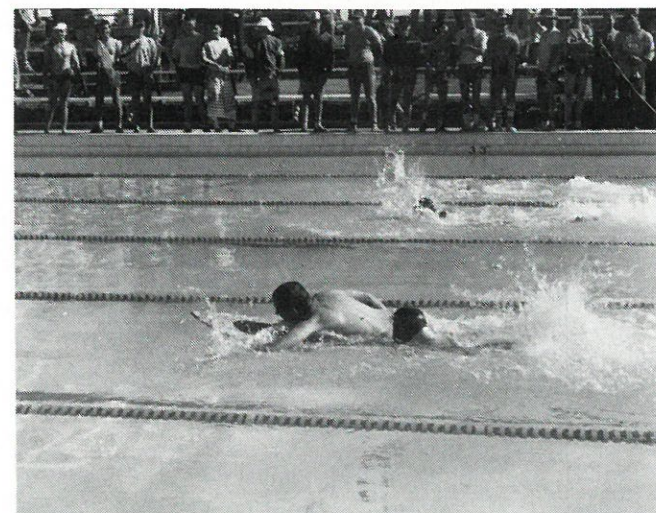
The DPRI anticipates continuing a high standard of "Morale" Support throughout 1990. From the team and The Prince of Darkness Minor we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.



DPRI CPL Cust, CPL Pollock

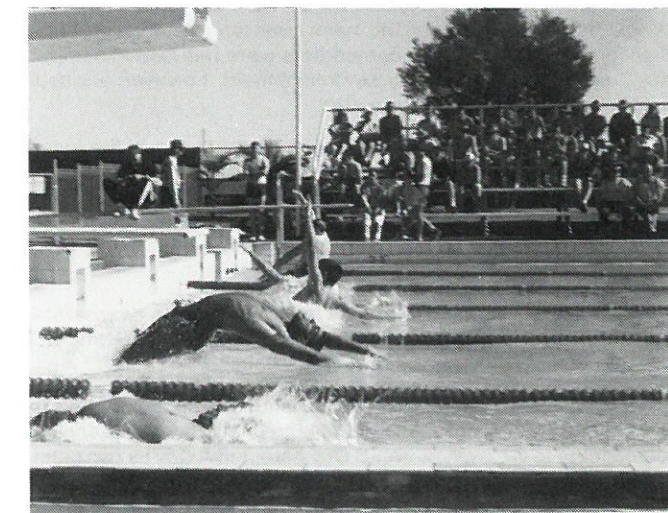
SWIMMING 89

The Battalion Swimming Carnival was held on a brisk September morning with an early start necessitated by time and space constraints. The first brave swimmers broke the ice at 0700 hours which probably did much for some of the fast and close times. A and B Companies dominated the event however an excellent showing by SPT Company in the relay events pushed them into overall second place just one point in front of B Company. A Company were clear winners on 140 points, followed by SPT Company 122 points, B Company 121 points, ADMIN Company 108 points and C Company



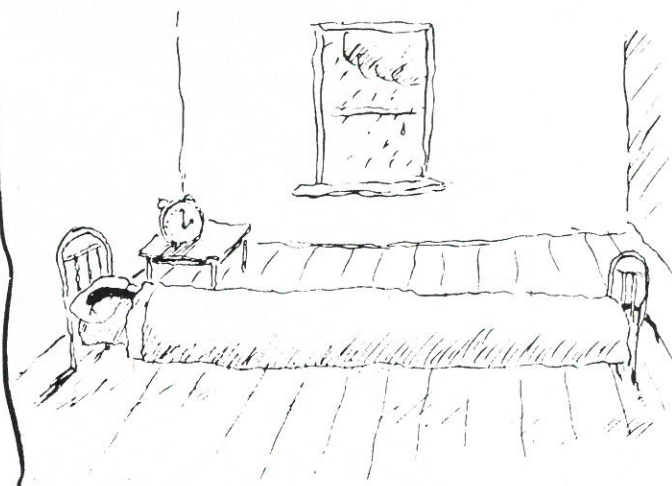
on 55 points. It is apparent that C Company organizes better carnivals than it swims. The Individual Champion Swimmer was awarded to both PTE Wilson and PTE Parnaby, both of B Company.

It was these two who spearheaded the Battalion assault on the South East Queensland Area Swimming Competition. In a team that was represented in all but two finals 8/9 RAR was odds on favourite to take out the Competition and we were not to be disappointed. In an effort that blitzed the opposition the swimming team brought home the Major Unit Trophy for the fourth consecutive year in a row. An excellent effort from the team and again congratulations to C Company for another well organized carnival.



A WINTER'S POEM

A CLEVER CREATURE IS THE SNAKE
WHO SPENDS HIS WINTER NOT AWAKE
HE SNUGGLES IN HIS LONG THIN BED
AND BREWS UP VENOM IN HIS HEAD.



THE SOLDIER IS A DIFFERENT SORT
HE SPENDS THE WINTER WATCHING SPORT.
HE YELLS ABUSE IN CONCRETE STANDS
AND EMPTIES OUT HIS POISON GLANDS.



Leung

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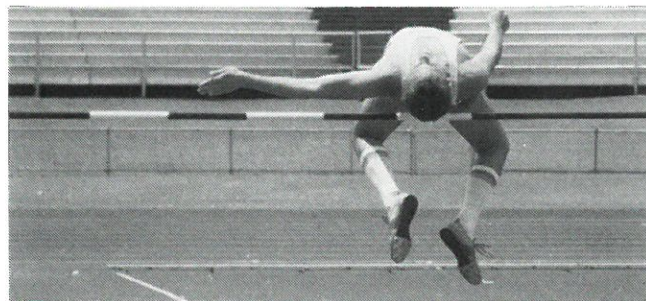
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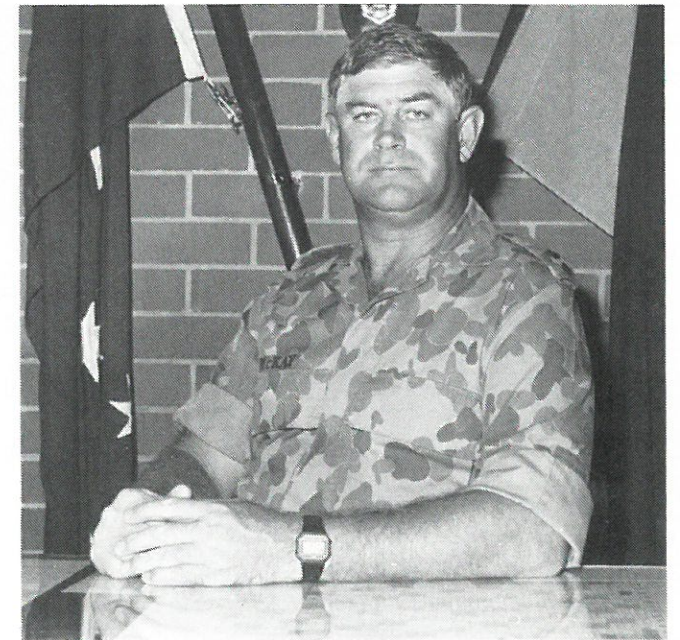
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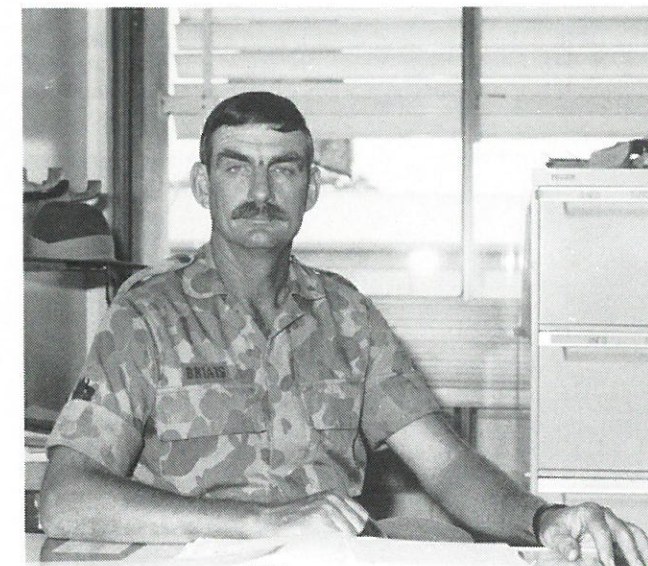


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May 1990 be the year where Hunt the File Game is seen no more.

DPRI

1989 saw a new team in the DPRI with SGT Dunning handing over the reigns to CPL 'Polly' Pollock after years of dedicated service. Polly soon displayed the same zest for wheeling and dealing in venturing into the world of high fashion. CPL Pollock's happy smile was not only to be found haggling over a new set of threads but also pervading his wares to a much appreciative rugby crowd, particularly after 3 pm when the amber sauce began to flow.

CPL Cust, too, was added to the team in mid May expending the economic power beyond any other in the region. Watch out Hong Kong!

Of course K89 was the highlight of the year for the DPRI. Unfortunately the "Team" couldn't attend however CPL Smith (KSMC) rose to the occasion, by taking up the callsign of "Goffa Man". Armed only with a 110, trailer and goffa box he took goffas to places where no goffas had gone before. Throughout the exercise "Goffa Man" employed a high standard of bush cunning in getting his goffas to the front. Despite intensive enemy operations against him. During the advance to contact phase, in complete disregard to his own safety he drove through two enemy ambushes to reach the forward Companies. For his valor, beyond the call of duty and dedication to duty CPL Smith was awarded the Kununurra Star with Milky Way Cluster. CPL Smith continued to maintain his popularity in maintaining supplies of the golden sauce during the end of exercise barbecue.

The DPRI anticipates continuing a high standard of "Morale" Support throughout 1990. From the team and The Prince of Darkness Minor we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.



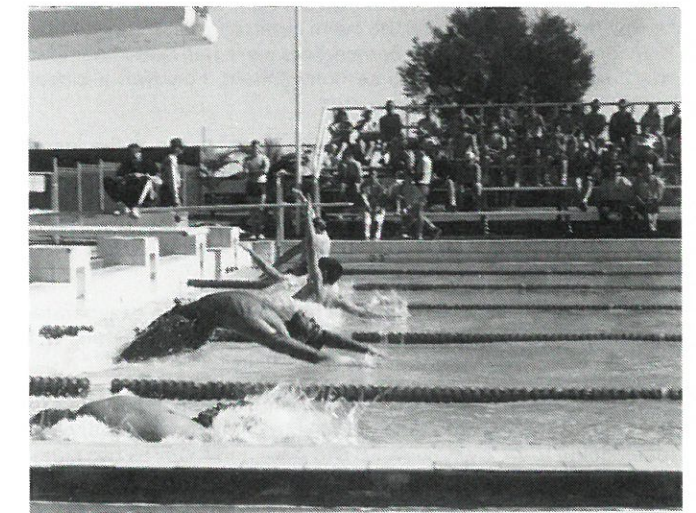
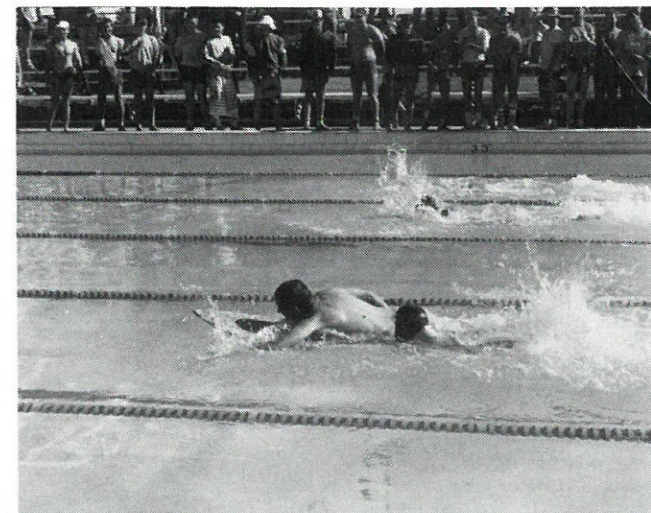
DPRI CPL Cust, CPL Pollock

SWIMMING 89

The Battalion Swimming Carnival was held on a brisk September morning with an early start necessitated by time and space constraints. The first brave swimmers broke the ice at 0700 hours which probably did much for some of the fast and close times. A and B Companies dominated the event however an excellent showing by SPT Company in the relay events pushed them into overall second place just one point in front of B Company. A Company were clear winners on 140 points, followed by SPT Company 122 points, B Company 121 points, ADMIN Company 108 points and C Company

on 55 points. It is apparent that C Company organizes better carnivals than it swims. The Individual Champion Swimmer was awarded to both PTE Wilson and PTE Parnaby, both of B Company.

It was these two who spearheaded the Battalion assault on the South East Queensland Area Swimming Competition. In a team that was represented in all but two finals 8/9 RAR was odds on favourite to take out the Competition and we were not to be disappointed. In an effort that blitzed the opposition the swimming team brought home the Major Unit Trophy for the fourth consecutive year in a row. An excellent effort from the team and again congratulations to C Company for another well organized carnival.



A WINTER'S POEM

A CLEVER CREATURE IS THE SNAKE
WHO SPENDS HIS WINTER NOT AWAKE
HE SNUGGLES IN HIS LONG THIN BED
AND BREWS UP VENOM IN HIS HEAD.



THE SOLDIER IS A DIFFERENT SORT
HE SPENDS THE WINTER WATCHING SPORT.
HE YELLS ABUSE IN CONCRETE STANDS
AND EMPTIES OUT HIS POISON GLANDS.



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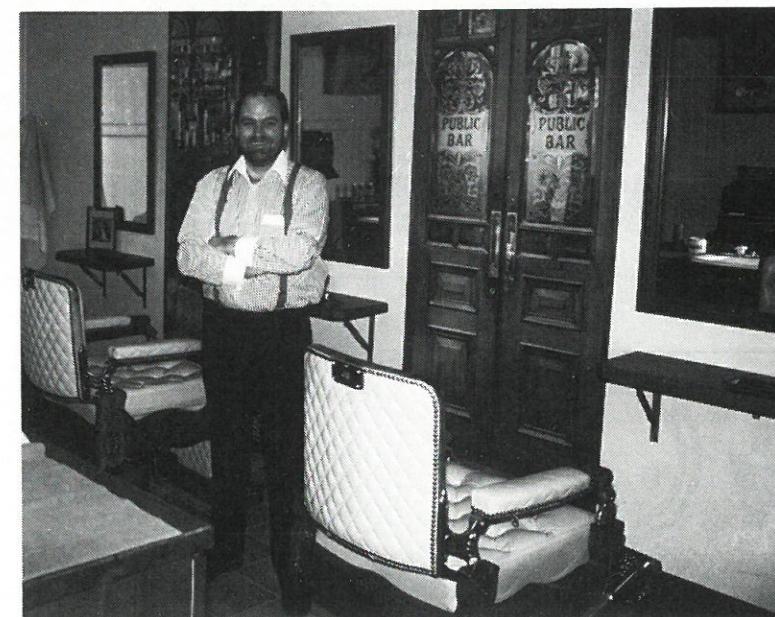
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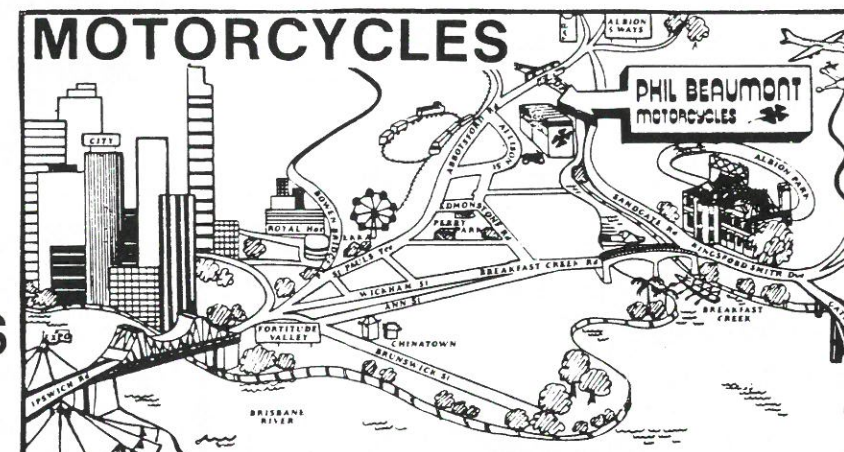

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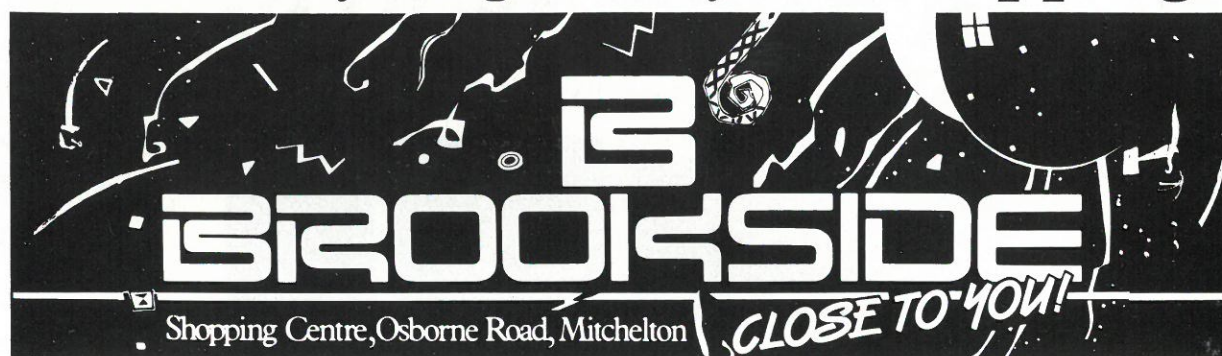
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DUKE OF GLOUCESTER CUP COMPETITION

"The most brilliant plan devised by the most capable general depends for its tactical execution on the section. Poor sections may ruin the best laid plans; first rate sections will often save badly devised plans."

The Duke of Gloucester Cup Competition (DGC) (incorporating the MacDonald Cup) was conducted at the Infantry Centre, Singleton from 7 - 11 July 89. The aim of the competition was to test selected sections of the Royal Australian Regiment in skills required of a rifle section.

The battalion conducted Duke of Gloucester Cup selection trials six weeks prior to the competition at the Infantry Centre. CPL K. Studley, LCPL D. Edwards and eight other ranks from 5 PI, B Coy convincingly won the 4 day competition and forged the team to train for the Regimental Competition.

The preparation training conducted prior to the competition stood the section with a winning chance and was the key to their smashing victory.

An intense training module selected the following team to compete against the five other battalions.

CPL Studley (B Coy), LCPL Edwards (B Coy), PTE Leavaer (SPT Coy), PTE Wilson (C Coy), PTE Flatman (B Coy), PTE Karakatsonis (B Coy), PTE Hooper (B Coy), PTE Wyatt (B Coy), PTE Niddrie S.D. (B Coy), PTE Niddrie A (B Coy) and PTE Jansson (B Coy).

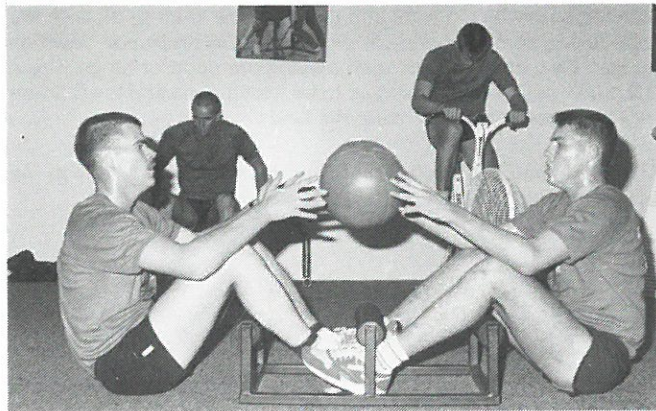
The men of the 8th/9th Battalion arrived at Singleton with high spirits, a peak level of fitness and an intense motivation to win.

During the arduous four and a half day competition our lads waged a thrilling battle with its counterpart from 1 RAR but in the end scored a very decisive win.

During phase 1 of the competition the men from 8/9 RAR set up a solid platform for a win with strong performance in the route march, patrolling and the attack.

Phase 2 consisted of seven range practices and the lads once again dominated the competition. The section top scored the section standing patrol and live fire night ambush.

Exercise Hexamine factor was the 3rd and final phase and by this time CPL Studley and his men were exhausted. They were forced to call on hidden reserves of strength not only to conquer their opponents, but the appallingly cold and windy conditions.



Phase 3 presented the section with demanding battle fitness tasks and tested their ability to make timely decisions to solve unexpected problems. Once again the 8/9 RAR team dominated the competition.

The emphasis on teamwork and morale was strong throughout the competition and CPL Studley maintained both these factors were the final ingredients to make the winning team. Three hours after the competition had finished the 8/9 RAR team were elated to learn of their winning success. The MacDonald Cup presented for highest scoring section in both individual and section night skills was won by the 1 RAR team. This much sought after trophy was snatched from the group of the 8/9 RAR team by 1 point.

The Colonel Commandant of the Royal Australian Regiment MAJGEN Alan Morrison presented the Duke of Gloucester Cup to CPL Ken Studley.

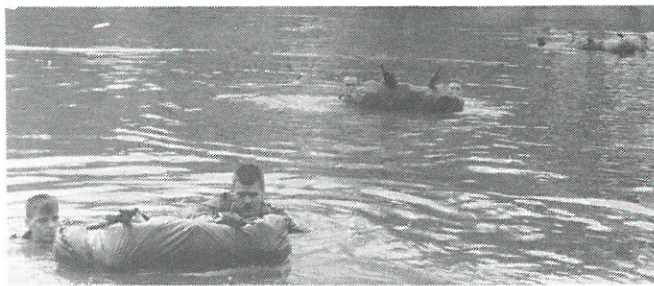
Limousines and champagne greeted the lads at RAAF Amberley and made their return trip to 8/9 RAR a memorable one. For their outstanding effort they were rewarded a week's free accommodation at the Gold Coast. This endeavour was approached with equal enthusiasm to that of the competition itself.

The 8th/9th Battalion stands taller than every in 1989 as a result of the winning performance in the Duke of Gloucester Cup.

The battalion looks forward to once again winning the Duke of Gloucester Cup in 1990.

THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER COMPETITION RESULTS

Position	RAR	Points	% of total
1st	8/9	7473.43	69.98
2nd	1	6926.31	64.93
3rd	2/4	6661.2	62.37
4th	5/7	6528.35	61.12
5th	3	6171.23	57.77
6th	6	5741.49	53.75



INT SECT 1989

1989 for the INT SECT has been one of the busiest on record, not only with work but with the many changes that were to come.

The BOSS (I.O./HOBBIT/PHANTOM/CAPT JOHNSTON) returned from Ex Long Look to start a fresh year and couldn't decide what he wanted to be called but an overwhelming desire to be just like the ghost who walks won out even to the point of having artwork done to a photo to put him in purple leotards.

SGT HOWLETT was then sent from B company to fill the long vacant spot of INT SGT and brought with him some weird and strange ideas of which we were constantly reminded that we would get used to them OR ELSE! Famous INT SGT quote - "If they've got it, surely we must be entitled to it."

SGT COLBERTALDO took over the reigns of the sect in September and SGT Howlett went to RMC to monster officer cadets. Not long after SGT Colbertaldo (Spud) decided to throw a shoulder playing GOLDEN OLDIES RUGBY. I didn't think they were supposed to get hurt!

CPL SALTER then took over from CPL JACOBS as the INT CPL after JACKO decided INT SECT wasn't for him and returned to C Company in March. CPL Salter ran the section for most of the year but unfortunately was unable to attend K89 due to a new acquisition to the family - a little boy. CPL BUBNER, another B Company ringin, took over in July to release CPL Salter for work on this journal. CPL Bubner took the section on K89 and performed well from what we were told?

Everpresent LCPL SPROULL (Gnome) started the year well but then proceeded to bust up his hand that much that he had to have it wired to a machine to move it. This didn't stop him from becoming the most photographed man in Bn history, mainly by himself.

PTE FOX or Foxy - well, what can we say that hasn't been said before? Well nothing that can go to print *%x!%! Foxy can never be seen without two items - a CAMERA or a GUITAR and the most hated song in the section is now "WISH YOU WERE HERE" over and over and over and over!

PTE DUNCAN, off to his home town MOREE where we conducted Ex SILENT TROTTER (Crusty), spent most of 89 carving EMU eggs in his spare time as well as attending every wedding in MOREE. He has assisted greatly in the completion of this magazine - thanks Dean!

PAY OFFICE

As another year comes to an end and the Battalion prepares for the block leave period, the Pay Section approaches one of its busiest times of the year.

As for the members of the Pay Section:

SGT "HENRY" LE GAY BRERETON: Apart from moving the Pay Section's furniture around again, Henry took off to Kununurra on Ex "K89". He tells us that the fishing was good, the scenic views were breath-taking and the women were living dolls. Judging by some of the photos he took up there, I think he spent too much time in the sun.

CPL "JACK" THROSSELL: Has had a very interesting year. He's still tripping around the world every chance he can get. In fact he's been overseas twice this year, once to Europe and once to Asia (again). Travelling has excited Jack so much that he has elected discharge so that he can travel some more. Farewell Scotty (Jack).

LCPL "JOHNO" JOHNSON: After returning from Malaysia with A Coy, Johnno attended a subject 1 for CPL CSE at 6 RAR and qualified himself for CPL. Johnno has even managed to get some work done in between touch football commitments. Special mention should also be made of Johnno's continuing support to the Rams Retreat.

PTE "DASHA" WHEATLEY: Dasha came from 1 Div to 8/9 RAR in early January this year. Since then he has found out what duties are, and shown his dislike to going bush. At one stage he was going to be an officer but decided against it. Welcome to the Pay Section, Dasha.



FRONT ROW LCTL Sproull CPL Salter CAPT Johnston.
SGT Coldertaldo, CPL Bubner
BACK ROW: PT'S Fox, Armstrong, Duncan, Johnstone

PTE JOHNSTONE - another B coy bloke arrived in April and took over the job as INT SECT driver/int dutyman. Not used to the sense of humour required for INT SECT, JOHNO spent most of the year chasing the dummy he had spat at practical jokes, memorably the date set up with the dating service, eh Johnno!

PTE ARMSTRONG (Army) How green's that for a nickname? An import from A Coy went on K89 with the section but returned early to attend a PHOTO REGI course. His artistic skills will also be of help in completing the ever present MESS BOOKS!

PTE OLSEN went to INT CORPS and we can't say much about that because it's all so SECRET.



PTE Wheatley, CPL Throssell, SGT Le-Gay Brereton

The Pay Section should see some dramatic changes next year, but we'll let you read about them in next year's magazine. So from Henry, Jack, Johnno and Dasha have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

MASCOT (STAN)

LCPL John MacArthur IV, known to the Bn as Stan the Ram, started off the year returning to the unit from BRL. He spent his entire holidays up at Morven, near Charleville with the Roberts family. Stan was seen a number of times showing off his family jewels and strutting his stuff in front of the ewes. Stan is now the proud father of a pair of ugg boots. On ANZAC DAY as we marched through Brisbane, Stan spat the dummy and decided to lie down, soak in the sun and watched us march past. He was awarded 2 extras. For K89 Stan was sent on leave to Morven. Stan returned carrying a bit of weight, so a PT Programme was made up for him to get him fit for the Bn colours parade. Due to his weight increase he has outfitted his webbing so battle pt in pti order was out of the question. He had difficulties getting over the 12 ft wall and the transverse rope, however, he is making progress. All the best for 1990 Stan.



RAMS RETREAT

As 1989 is now drawing to a close, we can now look at the year's events that have kept the old watering hole alive. The year started off a little slow due to bush commitments but picked up tempo as the Battalion sports started to take precedence over normal activities. The support the members have given to all functions and raffles have enabled us to upgrade the Rams even further.

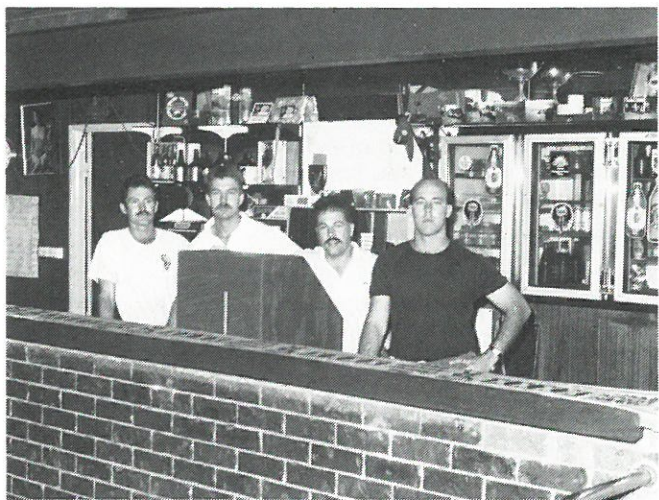
The new pergola, bar and floor are just the start; next year the extension will be added so we'll probably have to change our name to the Rams Motor Inn.

This year we have had more bar managers than goals kicked by Jason Dunstall for Hawthorne. CPLs Wood, Fisher, Smith, McIvor and Jacobs. Congratulations go to CPL McIvor on his promotion to SGT. Thanks Joe, now I know why you left a box of Asprin. Also thanks go to CPL Smith for all his hard work and long hours on Exercise K89; you'll never know how good that cold goffa felt in that dustbowl.

Let's not forget Rams TV Ringside; I think we've had more bouts than the Battalion Boxing Night. As the posting orders come thick-n-fast, many of the well known faces and more frequent patrons will be departing - CPLs Van Hout, Coglan, Campbell and Gathercole. See ya later fellas and good luck.

Things we would like to see:

- Stocktakes work out
- More diggers at Rams
- Boyd with hair
- Stocktakes work out
- Joe Van Hout find his buggy



LEFT TO RIGHT: CPL McIvor, CPL Jacobs, PTE Fisher, PTE Boyd.

Quotes:
Boyd: "I've got to take my wife to the bus station."
Gathercole: "You're only a stinkin' digger."
Fisher: "I'll do it."
Vesper: "Fleetwood Lad will win the Melbourne Cup."
Bob Vandehurk: "I put \$20 in the draw and didn't get a horse."

AUSTRALIAN RULES 89

The Australian Rules players attacked in 1989 with energy, dash and vigour. All players got together by training under the effective guidance of old salts such as Coach 'Bugs' Butler and assistant coaches Jack Baczyk and Dave Pabst and Geoff Hughes. Combined with an effective management team lead by Wayne Jacobs and a huge roll up at early training sessions all looked well for season 1989.

What was really needed to polish up our act was team sponsorship. BYRNE FORD saw the light first and sponsored the team followed closely by BROOKSIDE Shopping Centre and Kevin Crilly from SPORTS FORCE. Our thanks go to the sponsors, particularly Peter Byrne of BYRNE FORD, for without their assistance we could not have put on the professional display that we did. Our thanks must also go to guys who spent their valuable time recruiting these sponsors; so thanks to Paul Bozsa, Jacko and Bugs.

The team had a brilliant run and often won through sheer determinatin. This was particularly evident in our initial encounter with arch rivals 6 RAR, where although they had much taller players and a winning lead, we fought their game to a standstill - then went on the offensive and won.

Guiding lights throughout the year were the old and bold Corporals in Noel Gathercole, Steve Mongoo, Smiley Bradford; who lead the team superbly, Darren Orr, B.J. Corrigan, Mick Morrissey, John Hollywood, Joe Van Hout and John Spencer. Others to shine were Robert Voigt, Peter Donnelly, Jamie Ware, Squizzy Taylor, Julian Scamp and Steve Parnaby.

The great depth to the Australian Rules team was due to many players who were very keen and turned up for training, regardless of their ability. This enthusiasm, particularly among the more junior members of the Battalion was excellent to see and speaks volumes for the calibre of those individuals.

The BYRNE FORD RAMS by sheer tenacity made the finals and were unfortunately knocked out largely by untimely injuries to key players. The competition of the home and away games saw our game tally of six wins, one draw and no losses, so it was disappointing not to see the team go further in the finals.

1989 has been an excellent year, we attacked, had a go, developed the younger players and have provided a good foundation for 1990. Well done to the team and our thanks go to those who worked behind the scenes, particularly the wives and families.

The presentation function went off smoothly thanks mainly to the time and effort put in by 'Jacko'. Well done. The 1989 Best and Fairest Award went to Mongoo who was a tower of strength all year. Other awards were:

CRICKET 89

Bn cricket in '89 started off a bit shaky compared to the good start to the season in Oct 88. A grade had won the first four games and C grade ended up on top of the table after mixed success.

In '89 the Bn courses interfered quite a lot on everyone's training and availability for games, but the two teams held on to make the finals. The As finished third on the table and the Cs finished second.

Throughout the season, the players had to endure many hardships like children's playgrounds inside the boundary, grand canyons at both ends of the pitch, turf pitches that bounce one ball and don't the next. Then there were the trips to Oakey and Canungra. Hostile clashes on foreign soil tested everyone's ability.

Fortunately, some of the hardest games we faced produced some of our best performances. Centuries by Dick Wilson and Dave Watts; Mick Bonett with 3 for 8 and Anthony Stevenson 4 for 23. Greg Hartley's match winning innings of 44 not out against LWC is also memorable. He hit 3 sixes in 5 balls to hit the winning runs.



Runner Up: Darren Orr, Best Back: Noel Gathercole, John Spencer, Best Forward: B.J. Corrigan, Most Determined: Joe Van Hout, Coaches Award: John Hollywood, Most Improved: Peter Donnelly.

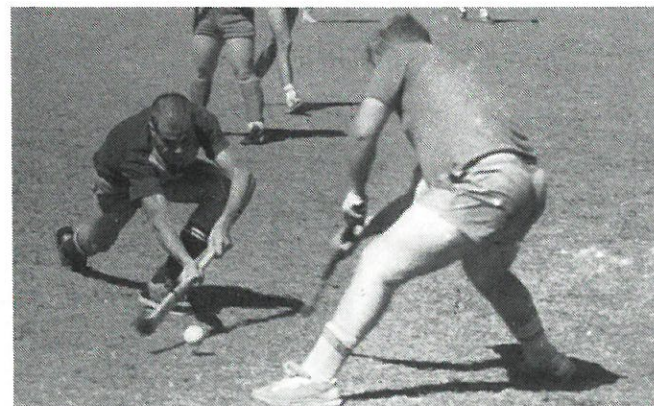
As the Christmas season draws closer, we wish all members of the Battalion well and remember in 1990, give Australian Rules a shot - Winners are Grinners.

Wicket keepers are often the most hard working yet unsung heroes. Good work from Kupu Vanessi and Kevin Banaghan helped keep the wickets tumbling.

The 88/89 season finished up with the As losing in the semi finals to finish overall third but the Cs won the grand final by bowling 2/3 FER all out for 50. A great win.

The Cricket Club has prepared and now started the 89/90 season with some convincing wins and the boys are keen to do well. We hope to see some supporters every Thursday afternoon down on Duncan Oval cheering the men playing the sport of Kings. The A grade competition is shaping up to be a tough one and the C grade are favourites at least to make the finals.

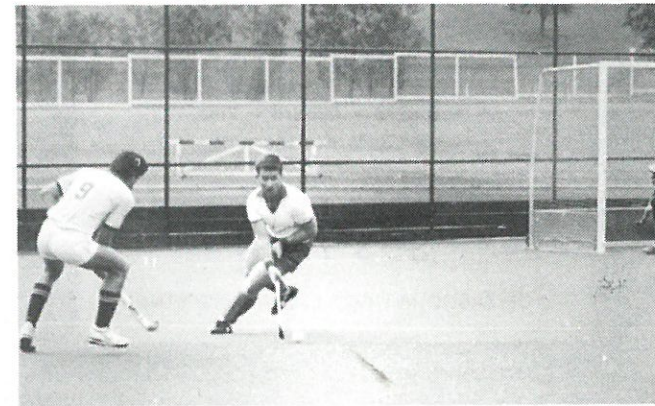
So get behind the premier summer sport and support us as we bring glory and victory home to the Battalion (again).



HOCKEY 89

The hockey season started well this year for the Bn. We had a good roll up for the first season. We started the competition well with the return of MAJ Morrison back to strengthen the forward line, and CAPT Nairn was a new face. There were a few old faces from the previous year as well, and there was talk early in the season that 8/9 was the team to beat.

The season was a short one because of Kangaroo 89 and we were at full strength for most of the year. The side also had a good roll up for the interservice games as well with nine out of the eleven players participating. We also had six players out of the nine picked for combined service, and it was up to CAPT Johnston to explain to the CO that none of them wanted to go because they would miss the finals.



The side was unbeaten all year until the semis that saw us go down 3 - 2 to our Arch Rivals from the Battalion down the road. By the time the grand final came it was very good to see that MAJ Morrison would actually play, as a few days before he injured his back, but due to drugs in sport, he was able to play and we won the grand final. It was the first time in ten years that the Battalion Hockey side has brought the trophy to the top of the hill.

The winning side was:

LCPL Sheekey (capt), CAPT Johnston (coach), MAJ Morrison, CAPT Nairn, PTE Young, SGT Baldry, CPL Doyle, LCPL MacGreggor, PTE Bryan, WO2 Remin, PTE Kinna.
Reserves: PTE Dover, LCPL Royale, PTE Myers, PTE Olsen.



RP SECT 1989

For those people that don't know what RP stands for, it's "REGIMENTAL POLICE" not "RUGBY PLAYERS", although 4 of the 5 RP's play rugby. It just doesn't matter. Most of the year for RP's has been up the guts with a heap of smoke.

We started off the year with virtually a new section. PTE Gardas ex RAM handler was posted back to a rifle coy. PTE Spencer our one finger typist took his discharge and moved to Perth. CPL Cust, who had spent a couple of years in RP's, was posted to Trg Coy. SGT Dunchy Holland who also spent a couple of years in RP's was posted to Spt Coy.

Our new additions CPL Jethro Course Campbell, PTE Steve (I want to ring my missus) Myers and PTE Goose (I didn't get a letter today) Roberts, all settled in well and from this we formed a pretty close unit section.

We started off with the Long Hai parade. Setting up of the parade ground, sign posting and controlling of traffic. The march through town an ANZAC Day was very wet and cold. However when we started the march the cold weather didn't bother us.

Our next major exercise was K89. After all the preparation involved we were glad to get on with the exercise. We operated from a fire spt base which was like home away from home. We all learnt a fair bit about our job in the field, especially when it came to processing paper work on prisoners and transporting them back to Brigade.

During the exercise a certain officer put into our custody a set of bag pipes wrapped in a sandbag. As they weren't reported stolen we didn't think anything of it. A week or two later when that certain officer came to pick them up, we told him we had mistakenly thrown them out with the rubbish. So now we had the ADJT and a certain sneaky peak officer excreting bricks. Well needless to say the ADJT got his screaming cat back, but was short lived as the OPSO opened up on the pair with a 9mm pistol just as the cat started to scream AMAZING GRACE.

One morning after standing to the father of RP's the RSM asked the hygiene SGT if he stood to with his dunny this morning. On behalf of the RP section I would like to wish the RSM and his family all the best on their new posting.

Jethro Campbell and his family are being posted to the Infantry centre. All the best to you and your family Jethro. By the way there is a head butting competition between Jethro and Stan the Ram. Good luck Stan.



BACK: PTE Roberts, CPL Campbell, SGT Ketu.
FRONT: PTE Myers, LCPL Macarthur (now CPL)

CPL Joe McIvor RP PMC joined us while Jethro attended the Sub 1 Course for SGT. During K89 Joe was escorting a convoy of prisoners back to Brigade HQ when certain Army Reserve personnel ambushed the convoy. Congratulations to Joe and family as he has just recently tied the knot.

Goose Roberts' strength came in handy during the exercise especially when it came to placing prisoners into a vehicle. Goose, it would be easier to let the tailgate down when throwing prisoners into the rocket (RP vehicle), preferably one at a time mate. Apart from the 10 000 letters Goose received during K89 he also received an Ekka bag with a Batman mask. He was also the only one to shoot up the C coy OC's APC, because a certain Cav officer couldn't read our sign.

Steve Myers, the Bn Ram handler, had his work cut out for him especially when it came to taking Stan for a walk. PTE Steve got more of a workout than Stan did. By the way Steve doesn't drive after 1800 hours as he has a tendency to fall asleep at the wheel—ask the RSM. Congratulations Steve on your engagement.






LCPL Max 'drank more booze' who joined us after K89 has been posted to Bonegilla. All the best Max.

On behalf of RP's, I'd like to wish the members of 8/9 RAR a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.



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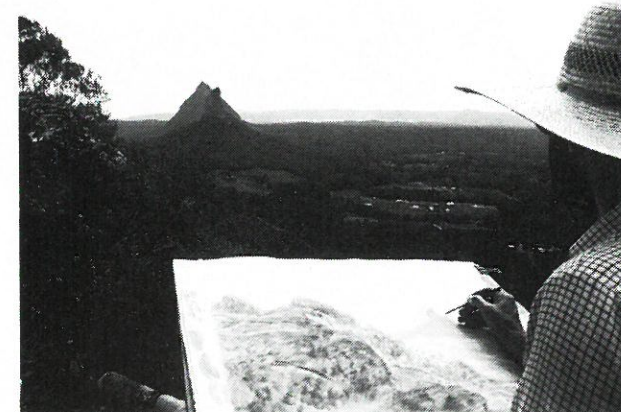
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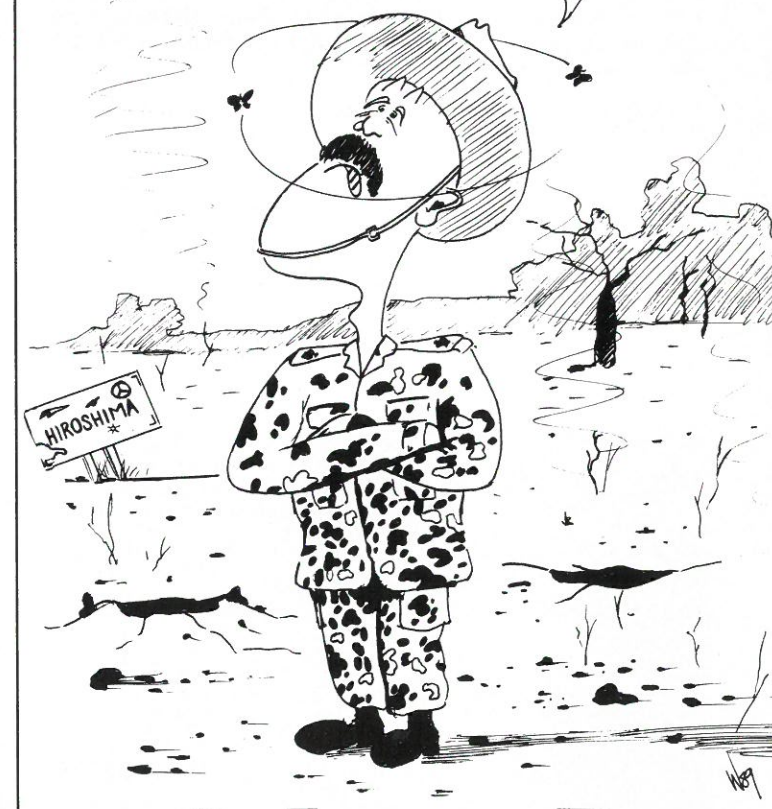
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OH LORD! WHY DOESNT THE CO
LIKE MY SITES FOR OA !!**



2/8 AUST INFANTRY BN ASSOC

The dateline for this article is one of many reminders during the year that everything, including us, is one year older with all that that implies. For we of the 2/8th it is an added year to look back over, along with the others, and see the values that have come out of it. Worthwhile experiences; new friends; old friendships renewed after as long as 45 years. To those of the 8/9th recently back from the far North West of our huge country, there is plenty to reflect on - "KANGAROO 89" commonly cut down to K89.

For K89, the media in all forms did the services "proud". There was a constant flow of information in all forms - great stuff. Disappointments, if any didn't surface - it all looked very professional and no doubt any shortcomings will have been noted for future consideration.

In the matter of numbers - this year's title "8/9th in 89" - here's a strange coincidence of numbers vaguely relating to 11th hour of 11th day of 11th month and we all know what that means, don't we?

Back to KANGAROO 89. In its abbreviated form, K89, our clock was turned back 49 years when the first diggers of 6 Aust Div 2nd AIF were arriving in what was then Palestine. Most were marched in to the first of a string of major tented camps north of Gaza and this first one was K89 (short for Kilo 89), being 89 kilometres north of the Egyptian/Palestinian border. Kilo 89 was a jumping-off camp for a more permanent camp site further up the road - and closer to the flesh-pots of TEL AVIV and JERUSALEM with leave passes in pockets of course - for the majority, anyway.

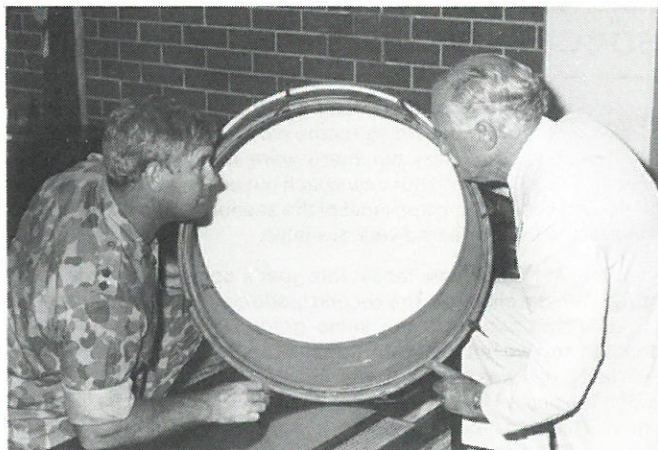
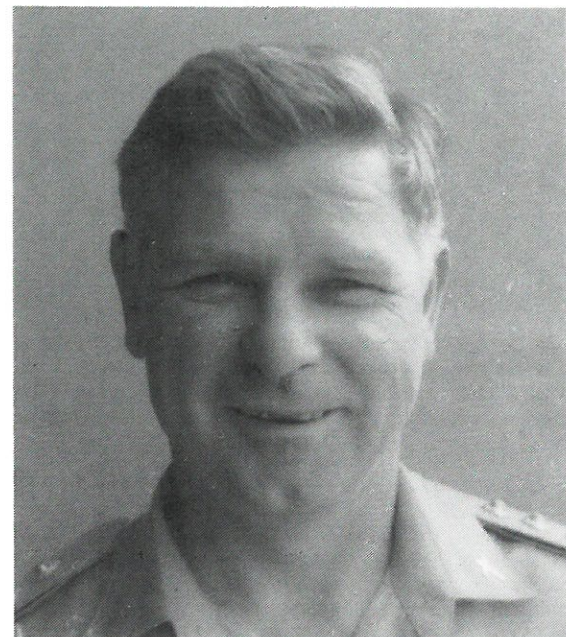
Then there's 1989, fifty years on from 1939. The memories come flooding back. The 6th Division was being formed in the Eastern states during October, November and December ready for initial training as platoons, companies, battalions with advanced training as brigades ahead of them when they arrived in the Middle East. Then came the tremendous advance from the Egyptian border; first, with the capture of BARDIA, then TOBRUK, DERNAB, BENGHAZI and for some, on to EL AGHEILA. The prisoners numbered scores of thousands with vast quantities of armaments, ammunition and valuable medical equipment. Even a mobile "house of ill fame" was captured. (The stretch limousines used for this purpose on the Gold Coast are fifty years behind, hey!) The real realisation of war came with the move of the 6th Division across to Greece - but that is NOT what this article is about.

Our Branch held its Annual General Meeting in April with the following elected to monitor the progress of the Branch for the next 12 months.

THE PHANTOM PADRE STRIKES AGAIN!

Have you heard the one about ?

No, stop, we promise we'll come to church!!



President and Secretary: Bruce Flude and Bill Cavanagh respectively - what's new?
Committee: 8/9th - Major Chad Sherrin MM, WO1 Ron Briais, RSM.
Committee: 2/8th - Gerald Behan, Bert Douglas, Cliff Eustace.

Last, most important of all, our tribute to the fine Battalion that is carrying on the traditions of the 8th and 2/8th; excellence on the parade ground; in the field; and I'm sure, in the eyes of your RSM and your Commanding Officer. We of the 2/8th see in you the embodiment of our own platoons and companies as seen at any time, in any place during the six years of World War II.

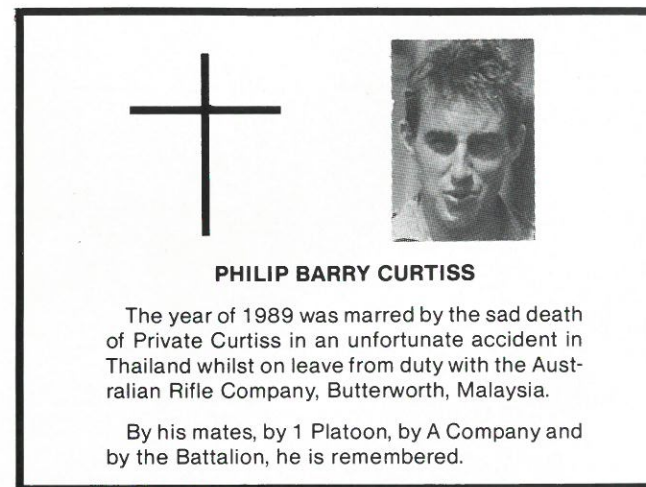
On K89 I was talking to a group of soldiers who were overawed by my rank, dignity and the distinguished look of my grey hair, and I explained that I am really just a glorified digger. I have less people under my command than a section commander.

On the other hand, those in the chain of command going up the other way are a pretty awe-inspiring lot, and I'm even on first name terms with some of them. You might say I've got connections in high places.

Actually, I reckon I've got the best of both worlds. Being a glorified digger has allowed me to spend a certain amount of time with every section of every platoon in the battalion, and I've enjoyed getting to know you as much as joining in all the activities from throwing grenades and ducking too soon to staking out a recon O.P. on a bushfire. And being a digger who is glorified has its advantages because when I stuff up I just get a few dirty looks until some helpful digger comes along and tries to make a real soldier out of me by showing me how it's done.

Having friends in high places has its advantages too. They trust me and listen to what I've got to say, especially when it comes to the good of the troops. And so does my old mate right at the top. He's pretty good to me and does me a few favours every now and then. We've been on first name terms for quite some time now. And just between you and me, he told me that he wants to be on first name basis with you too.

My short stay in 8/9 RAR has been fantastic! I thank you for trusting me and allowing me to share your lives - the sorrows as well as the joys. I have made many friends I will remember for years. Keep in touch!



PHILIP BARRY CURTISS

The year of 1989 was marred by the sad death of Private Curtiss in an unfortunate accident in Thailand whilst on leave from duty with the Australian Rifle Company, Butterworth, Malaysia.

By his mates, by 1 Platoon, by A Company and by the Battalion, he is remembered.

ALPHA COMPANY 1989

Alpha Company departed for the Christmas deployment to Butterworth on a "high", we had just convincingly won the Bn Aths Carnival and had completed a week's duties. We took members from our supporting regiments, 2/14 LH (QMI) and 1 Fd Regt, and had a busy and well worthwhile deployment.

Forty members of the Coy were able to tour HMAS Brisbane in Singapore, while 3 Pl staff ran the RAN through the Battle Inoculation and Sect Fire and Movement ranges at Pulada. About 35 passenger seats were filled by the Coy on RAAF Orion patrols from Butterworth and the Malaysian Army was experienced in depth by members on jungle courses, unit visits and individual exchanges during the Brigade level exercise, HARINGAROO.

Some members took the opportunity to show Asia to wives and girlfriends during some BRL, others discovered Phuket by themselves. The OC broke his ankle, which took a lot of pressure off Coy PT sessions for the tour and most of the year. The CSM and SGT Lambert shopped until they dropped, and Benny Butler, the Coy medic wasn't that busy treating traditional Asian tour malaises, thanks to some heavy pre tour briefings by the RMO.

After a well earned BRL, the Coy was drowned in style on the ANZAC Day march, and our support task to the APC Regiments



FRONT ROW: (left to right) SSGT Muir, MAJ Edwards, LT Bywater, CSM WO2 Eastley.
BACK ROW: (left to right) PTE Parks, PTE Grealy, PTE Hobbs.



major camp in SWBTA was cut short. However, this did allow some in depth investigation of the USS Belleauwood and other USMC equipment. Spending days and nights on exercise while watching movies and eating popcorn in air conditioned comfort was hard to take, but someone had to do it.

The Coy was then decimated by the support task to ASSAM 89 for more than a month; at least CPL Aragon and LCPL Oades showed up the professional target shooters with some fine results with the SLR, as did SGT Hatton and CPL McIlwain with the Parker Hale.

After duties weeks of preparation, we set forth for WA and Ex 89. The platoons describe their roles, suffice to say that we had an excellent exercise, even if 19 contacts were a little unrealistic in a low level conflict scenario.

With another win in the Bn swimming, and second place in most winter sports, the drill competition and athletics carnival we eased into the courses period of the year with a third place in the cross country.

The company has had a large turnover of personalities during the year continually filling up Spt Coy platoons, unfortunately without replacement from Inf Centre. With a major changeover of the command structure at the end of 89, the junior NCOs will once again be the backbone of Alpha in 1990.



FRONT ROW: (left to right) LCPL Conner, CPL Thompson, LT McMahon, SGT Stewart, CPL Lergesener, PTE Hunter.
BACK ROW: (left to right) PTE Ashbey, PTE Grealy, PTE Usher, PTE Donnelly, PTE Urbus, PTE Toone, PTE Williams.

ONE PLATOON

The Battalion's first platoon has had an outstanding year this last year both professionally and socially. I will not attempt to bore you with the former as we all know who is the best platoon in the battalion.

One Platoon has travelled to many different parts of the world including Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Kununurra. We have been ambassadors for the battalion on a number of occasions and were selected to operate under command of a US Marine Corps company in Shoalwater Bay.

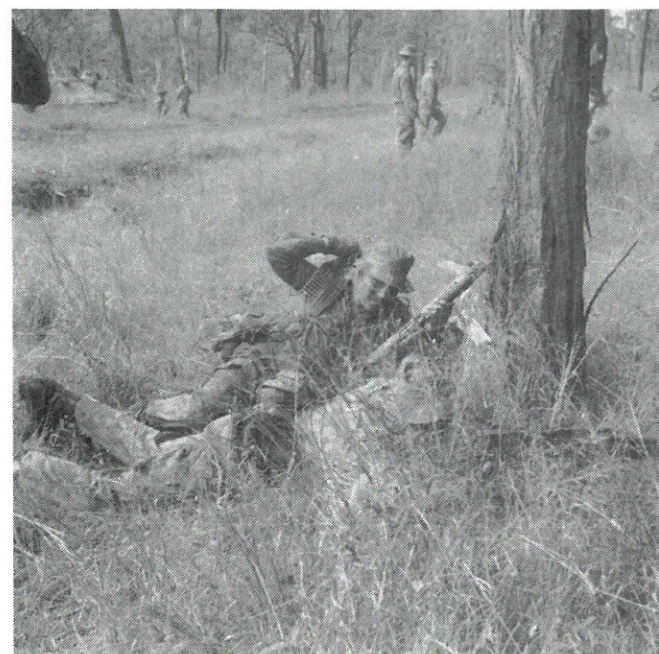
There are a number of characters in the platoon such as: The dinosaur brothers (PTE Beer and PTE Turfboer), Uncle Arthur (SGT Stewart) and PTE 'Can't Stop Talking' Grealy. These people with the rest of the guys form a well oiled, highly efficient war machine.



With reference to war machines, one platoon had an incredible time on K89 on and off the field. PTE Solway deserves a mention here for his spectacular balancing act while manning an OP with the task of observing two suspicious enemy who happened to be male and female.

While still on K89 I cannot leave out a few of the classic lines produced by members of A company: "Uniform 22 this is nothing, nothing heard out" by LT McAuliffe. "Stop using the obvious, there are no obvious features anywhere, you're confusing the whole thing" by Maj Edwards. While requesting a strength state Capt Ashurst should have said " Now listen up, what I require is the number of Delta Alpha Whiskies you have per man minus the emergency can openers and tell me whether they are A type or B type!!"

Notable changes that occurred during the year were firstly the sad loss of PTE Phil Curtiss while serving in Malaysia, which shook the whole company. Also LT Blakemore and SGT Pellow both moved on to greener pastures.



SOCCER 89

Two new and very different teams took to the field for the 1989 soccer season. There were still some old faces such as CPL Howe, LCPL Ryan and Hastey but there were many new and untried players. WO2 Olive was our new coach but unfortunately he caught glandular fever and missed most of the season. However he proved a valuable asset when he was available.

Along with many new faces, this year's competition saw some other dramatic changes. The second grade competition was dropped so all teams played in the same grade. The number of teams doubled and we left our home base at Grange Thistle Soccer Club. This last move was not taken well because now spectators couldn't watch the games from the comfort of the club house over a few quiet drinks. This also meant we had to do some travelling to places as far away as Oakey.

These changes made the competition more interesting but also created a few co-ordination problems which should be fixed by next year.

The season started slowly with a pair of forfeits but soon began to hot up. With two teams in the competition it was inevitable that they would eventually meet. The Pro's ran on with a great deal of confidence but were shaken to be down 4 to 2 at half time.

The second half was even harder fought but the social team couldn't hold on and were defeated in the final minutes with the score at 7 to 6. Both teams were hard to beat and we notched up a few wins but unfortunately not enough for either team to reach the finals.

We may have missed a spot in the finals but all players performed well. With more training and continued dedication by the players 8/9 RAR will have a good chance of running out premiers next year.



TOUCH FOOTBALL 89

8/9 RAR did not decide to enter the 89 season until after it had commenced, as a result, both A and B grades missed the first round match. Despite this handicap the teams knuckled down to the competition producing some good early round results. In fact, by the end of the season both teams had made the finals despite lack of players due to the busy work schedules of sub units and, lack of training time for the same reason.

A certain degree of controversy surrounded the final play-offs

with the A Grade finals. The opposition refused to defer the match which was to be played while our players were on stand down. Consequently 8/9 RAR lost without playing the game. We were then forced to play another semi-final, which we lost. Nevertheless both teams' efforts have to be applauded for reaching the finals.

The leading try scorers sfor the season were for A Grade 1st PTE Hempstead SPT Coy, 2nd CPL Cavanagh B Coy, 3rd PTE Osbaldstone Admin Coy. For B Grade 1st Place was a tie between PTE Williams A Coy and CPL Marooke Admin Coy, 2nd Place was PTE Watts. Congratulations. Of course, the efforts of all other team members made these tries possible. Well done for 1989 and we are looking forward to a better year in 1990.

RUGBY 89

3rd XV Rugby. The 3rd XV had another good year with some promising talent being discovered. Players such as PTEs Meredith Gardner and Hodges in the backs and PTEs Young, King and Allen in the forwards. The side played well during the season and just missed out on making the grand final. A good effort by all members concerned and I hope the 3rd grade side is maintained next year. Best and Fairs for 1989 - LT G. White, Best Back PTE P. Meredith, Best Forward CPL B. Vesper and Most Improved PTE M. Gardner.

The RAMS Rugby Club looked determined from the start of 1989 to continue the good efforts displayed in 1988. On paper, the strength of 8/9 RAR as a club looked unbeatable, however, for 1989 this was not to be our year. Injuries to key players, training and representative commitments reduced the strength of all grades.

At representative level, Simon Small, Angus Baker, Timothy Thomas, Phil Reed and Aaron Booth all played for ASRU. Tony Bywater was also selected but was unavailable. Simon Small was selected for Southern States U/21s. Craig Sloane, Moose Mclean and the Niddrie brothers attended an ASRU U/21 Coaching Camp.

The 1989 season finished with A Grade and C Grade both losing the knock out final. B Grade finished fourth. Although this year was a short competition, 8/9 RAR gave it their best shot, but were beaten by better teams on the day. Thanks to all those who played and supported in 1989. Let's make 1990 a better year.

A Grade. The 8/9 RAR A Grade Team played 9 competition games in 1989. We lost once to 6 RAR and the Comd XV and drew

with Engineers in the first round. 36 different players represented A Grade in 1989 which shows the problems with injuries, training and representative commitments. A Grade suffered serious injuries to Paddy Evans, Smithy and Angus Baker to name a few.

The effort put in by all players was commendable, Lack of team training often hindered our match preparations, however, all gave guts efforts on the day. The Final was an excellent match with the result going to Comd XV 17 - 13. Our forwards dominated but we just lacked that extra class in the backs.

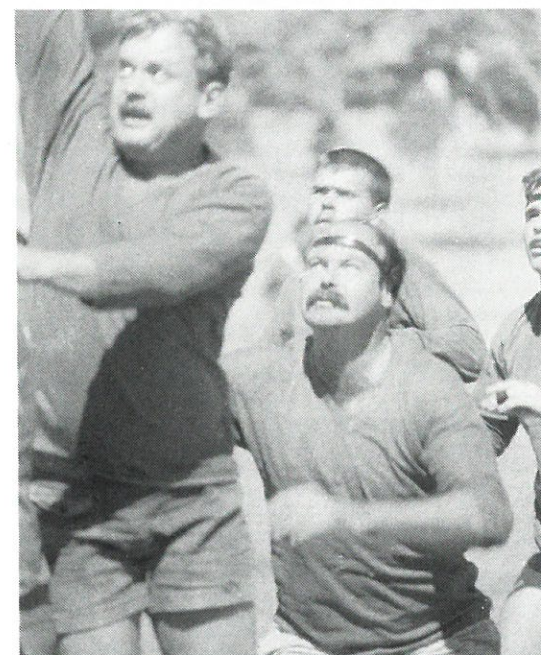
B & F for 1989 went to Simon Small closely followed by Angus Baker, Aaron Booth, Kepu Venesi and Craig Sloane. Two players stood out during 1989 as the most improved. In the forwards Gilly took the honours and Mick Telford in the backs. Thanks to all those who played in 1989 for your efforts as well as to the manager Ken Watts.

B Grade. The 8/9 RAR B Grade played 4 competition games in 1989. Losing 3, winning 1, forfeiting 2 and having one game forfeited to us. Result 4th in the competition.

35 players played for the B Grade this year. As you can see, this, plus the large amount of players injured in the A Grade with our unit commitments, made it almost impossible to practise and play as an effective unit, resulting in our poor position on the ladder compared to least years.

Hopefully next year the Bn will play only two grades and will again be the force in SQARU.

B & F B Grade PTE Kupu-Vanesi, Best Back PTE Beard, Best Forward CAPT Tully.



FRONT ROW: (left to right) PTE Watson, LCPL Ryan, LT Ashwin, CPL Aragon, CPL Dodd, PTE Hadiis.
BACK ROW: (left to right) PTE Tyack, PTE Brewer, PTE Forster, PTE Merchant, PTE Garbas, PTE Murphy, PTE Taylor, PTE East, PTE Dic

TWO PLATOON

The beginning of 1989 found 2 PI scattered over various parts of South East Asia. Some members of the platoon decided to spend the Christmas/New Year break in Singapore. Despite having just completed intensive training at Pulada, they still found it difficult to switch off and relax as documented by LCPL Dodd's video of the platoon attacks carried out at the Grand Central Hotel. Those members with a thirst for travel in the interest of broadening their minds managed to trek to Bangkok, Thailand. Unfortunately, with time and finance constraints on arrival they had to restrict much of their sight-seeing to a couple of areas known as Patpong and Soi Cowboy. Still most managed in-depth cultural exchanges.

The major exercise "Ex Harangaroo" conducted jointly with the Malaysians proved to be a valuable source of experience for the platoon. We saw everything we had ever been told not to do, practiced by our allies; and some our instructors had never even thought of (like leaving the "harbour" at night undressed, without a weapon to have a wash in a nearby creek). In the hope that a good example might rub off on our allies, we tried to lift their standards but alas, had no success.

By far the hardest part of the trip overseas was pacing yourself through the marathon of functions. Section functions leading onto platoon and then company and another company and another platoon and final section functions. For his performance at all of these functions it has been decided that Pte Laurence Angelo Delcaro receive the posthumous award of KPA (King Party Animal).



It is with the greatest sadness we reflect that Tex cannot personally be awarded this distinction, due to discharge.

The return from Malaysia saw the platoon quickly depart on leave (something we excel at) and then return for an exciting period of duties and AASAM where SGT Hatton kept a tight control on ammo using any spare time to customise his integral transport.

On K89 it was of no surprise to everyone that 2PI was the first unit in the Battalion to take decisive action against the enemy with two POW sent back to the Brigade cages. Unknown to us at that stage we would keep the Brigade cages very busy that exercise with the two enemy we weren't supposed to find, two POGOs who were AWOL, and later two English tourists who had a few too many and decided to do a recon on CPL Aragon's position one night. With the high level of suspicion associated with low level operations it took Mr John Edwards (without a word of a lie) of Yorkshire quite a while to convince us he was a civilian with a very drunk friend who was by then being interrogated in the Brigade cages.

The end of K89 led the platoon into a period of change, losing LT Marcus Mc Auliffe and shortly after SGT Dave Hatton, both to Spt Coy. The platoon commander's life-long dream was fulfilled at a platoon function when he was presented with free vouchers for Hungry Jacks and the "Bundy Mug" - true heaven.

2 Platoon's morale was evident by the few numbers of LOB we had on exercises. It was a big year for the platoon both in work and play. Achievements too numerous to mention in this short account of 1989 have left the platoon in a good position to get everything they can out of 1990.



FRONT ROW: (left to right) PTE Kirknes, CPL McIlwain, LT Bywater, SGT Thompson, PTE Stuckey.
BACK ROW: (left to right) PTE Bennet, PTE Pasco, PTE Carter, PTE Dreezens, PTE Zapper, PTE Bishop, PTE Wilkinson.

THREE PLATOON

After a very successful tour of Malaysia over the Christmas period it wasn't until ANZAC Day that we found ourselves fully back on deck.

Although many lessons were learnt whilst in Malaysia, the best lesson was that CPL Dean McNivain is ALWAYS happy on the inside. We also realised that 3 platoon didn't drink much, we don't dance on bars, we didn't drive the ferry back from Penang, we didn't crash tri-shaws, and overall we were the best behaved platoon in the history of the Malaysian Tour. This good behaviour was in large, due to the quiet nature and father-like status of SGT Brian Lambert.

"Small in numbers, large in force" became the battle cry of 3 platoon after our Malaysian excursion. Having started the year with around 25 members, we finished K89 with only 12. However, having such a small platoon did not decrease our ability to do our job. 3 platoon finished K89 with the record of 23 enemy KIA, 2 enemy WIA, 1 enemy PW and 11 vehicles destroyed, for the loss of 3 own KIA and 2 own WIA.

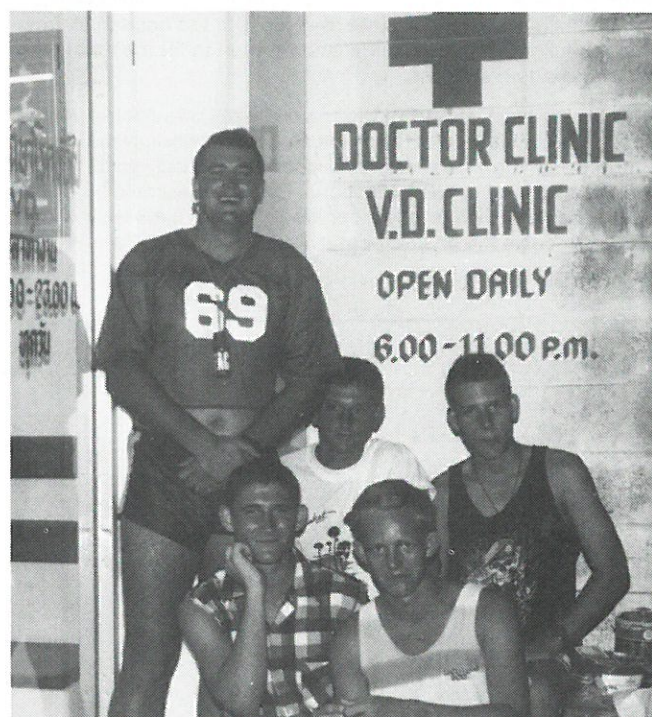
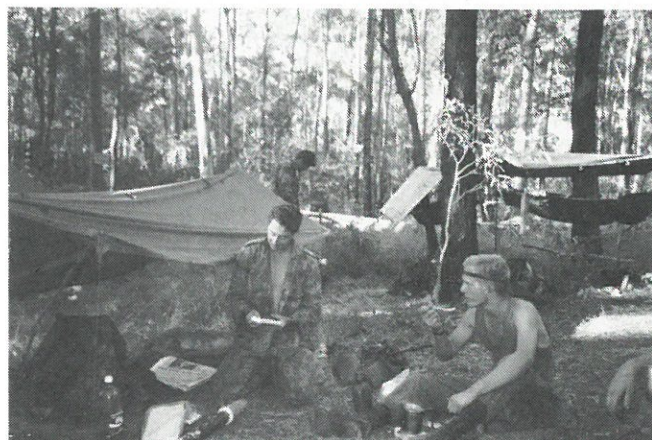
1989 saw most members of 3 platoon qualified in a specialist course. We had PTE Carter, Bonnett, Dreezens, Pascoe and Stuckey qualified as Aslt Pnr. PTE Thomas was qualified on the Recon. Course, while PTE Kirkness was T109 and Mortar qualified. PTE Thomas also qualified as the Platoon "Meat Head" after being selected in the Australian Services Rugby Union Team which toured W.A.

The best news of the year was getting rid of LCPL Sutherland to RMC. No need to wish this brown nosing, sleezy, slimy, - - - good luck, he's already Class Senior.

During 1989 other members of the platoon moved on. CPL Wood was only in the platoon for two weeks before he was off to SME for his engineer IET for his corps transfer. CPL Fisher will be trying his hand at being a free man on the Apple Isle. While PTE Parkes and Campbell moved down to the Q Store.

Between Malaysia and K89, the platoon had only one exercise as a group. This was the ARTEP in July. Considering that it was the first time that the platoon had been together since Malaysia, and also considering that we had recently welcomed LCPL Barnett into the platoon as a Section Commander, we performed well.

1990 should see most of 3 platoon move onto Support Company. We wish the transport platoon all the best trying to look after SGT Lambert.



BOXING 89

After a successful tournament in 88 boxing in 89 rose to greater recognition in both the Battalion and Brigade.

New equipment and better facilities were afforded through the Amenities Fund and an 8/9 RAR boxing team was forged. The response was excellent and application to training a credit to the 8/9 RAR sporting spirit.

2/3 Field Engineer Regiment has challenged 8/9 RAR to a boxing competition to be held on 8th November, 1989. Of course 8/9 RAR gladly accepted the challenge and look forward to giving the 'Ginger Beers' a good run for their money.

The boxing team consists of ten fighters who have varying levels of experience. Gary Hunter, a retired CSM of 8/9 RAR is coaching the team to a peak level through good, hard, old fashioned boxing



training. Alan Moore, one of Australia's premiere boxing referees will once again guide the fights through the tournament.

For boxing, 89 has been a quantum leap forward and provides a good basis on which to further the boxing club in 1990.

In February 1989 the 2/3 Field Engineer Regiment challenged the 8/9th Battalion to a boxing tournament. The gauntlet was thrown down and the date set for 8th November, 1989.

The 8/9 RAR boxers forged a team and set about training three months prior to the competition. The team yielded ten boxers of varying weights and degrees of talent.

A night of pugilistic endeavour ensued as the first round pounded on. 2/3 FER punched its way into an early leading margin of 4 bouts to 1. The 8/9 RAR team were not daunted and quickly brought the tally back up to a 4 bout draw. Two fights remained and a skilful 2/3 FER just managed to topple a gutsy 8/9 RAR team 6 bouts to four.

Best bout of the night went deservedly to CPL Reynolds of Charlie Company and Sapper Luyke of 2/3 FER. The Encouragement Award went to PTE S.D. Niddrie of Bravo Company for displaying a skilful, controlled aggression to defeat his 2/3 FER counterpart.

Many thanks go to Gary Hunter, the team coach, SGT Lambert and CPL Bubba West for their efforts with the team.

The 8/9th Battalion looks forward to giving 2/3 FER and any challenging unit a trouncing next year in 1990.



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OC SPT COY



SHARON

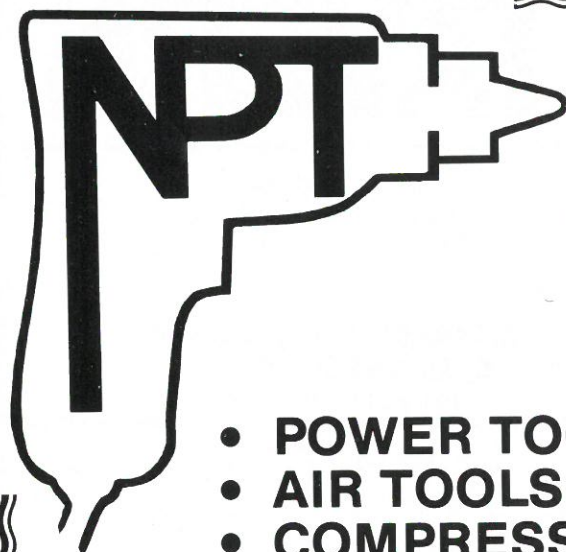
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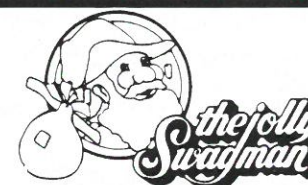
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ANZAC DAY - 1989

In the pre-dawn darkness of the 25th April, soldiers coughed nervously and shifted their feet as the dawn service commenced at the Rams Retreat. As the final notes of the Last Post and the Lament drifted through the gum trees, the Battalion moved to breakfast beneath a lead grey sky.

As usual, the Sergeants and Other Ranks mess hosted a gunfire breakfast for their families, the officers, and various Associations. After breakfast, final preparations for the march took place and the annual Sergeants and Officers photographs were taken. The sub-alterns were pleased to report that the adjutant passed their dress inspection.

While the Battalion formed up for a final sizing parade, the skies opened; and stayed open. Despite the freezing winds blowing through the FUP and the inclement conditions of the march, the Battalion marched well, was well received by an appreciative crowd and Black-Bear itself heard from one end of Adelaide Street to the other.



After the march, the Pipes and Drums entertained the RAR Association at the Waterloo Hotel. The remainder of the Battalion returned to barracks and restored warmth to cold limbs with well-deserved refreshments. Anzac Day 1989 will be remembered for many years. The Battalions' high standard of marching under very difficult conditions reflected its morale and spirit: appropriately displayed for Australia's fallen on our day of national remembrance.



(Left to right) SGT Morrison, CAPT Niilos, MAJ Bozsa, WO2 Hughes, PTE Clapp, PTE Copeland.

BAYONET COMPANY

B Company has had a hard, tough, stimulating year in 1989. The Coy took on a lion's share of activities including many duties weeks and it is a tribute to the calibre of the soldiers that we forged through all obstacles.

Some highlights were the Cordon and Search at the 25m range where the use of minimum force was difficult to achieve after the exercise rioters began to take their mission most seriously. Eventually order was restored and the pistol packing rioters were dispersed.

Courses during the first three months meant that the senior soldiers and some junior members were away. B Coy provided twelve of the twenty reinforcements to Support Coy and all eight reinforcements to Admin Coy. Well done and an excellent effort by those individuals.

Training at Esk and Mt Mee was characterized by concentration on individual and section level skills which stood us in good stead for the battalion level Duke of Gloucester Cup Competition where two sections from B Coy came first (CPL Studley 5 PI) and second (CPL Collins 6 PI).

The Coy supported the shooters at AASAAM and whilst the battalion stood down we supported the CGS Exercise at the Land Warfare Centre. The individuals involved received honours and accolades particularly those who worked personally for the CGS.

CPL Studley and LCPL Edwards distinguished themselves by guiding and inspiring the Duke of Gloucester Cup Squad to a convincing win. Champagne, chauffeurs and limousines feited the section from Amberley on their return home.

The Coy was tested with the Motorized Infantry Evaluation for Exercise Kangaroo 89 and received twelve six wheel drive vehicles from 11 Sup Bn. CPL Mick Morrissey provided a great deal of expertise and assistance. CAPT Mait Niilus, the Coy 2IC, was invaluable with his mechanized knowledge. The vehicles were agile, versatile and sometimes 'a pain in the gluteus maximus' when we broke them, however their mobility is very good. We handed the vehicles back after a successful evaluation, having learnt a lot, and adapted a good deal.

The OC, MAJ Bozsa and the CSM, WO2 Geoff Hughes were ably assisted by SGT Rocky Morrison and CPL Rob McKeown in their quest to replace Rugby with Australian Rules as the sport to be involved with in 8/9 RAR. Good results were obtained with many soldiers participating both in training and during the games.



The Coy Dining-In Night went off very well largely due to the efforts of the soldiers involved. The food was good, the wine rugged, the piper excellent and the ladies beautiful. The Commanding Officer was fully briefed by the soldiers on the merits of shooting and other important details.

As the year draws to a close with Presentation of New Colours followed by adventure, far flung and wide; we look back on a very busy year. It is appropriate to pay recognition to the families and loved ones who have supported the soldiers throughout the year. Thank you for your help and we wish all the families and members of the coy 'Good fortune, Good soldiering and Good luck' for Christmas 1989 and the future.



FRONT ROW: (left to right) PTE Jacobson, PTE McNamara, LCPL Lindsay, CPL Morrissey, CPL McClean, LCPL Hopkins, PTE Tonkin, PTE Bialek.
BACK ROW: (left to right) PTE Monro, PTE Fogarty, PTE Wyatt, PTE Ryan, PTE Morton.

FOUR PLATOON

Courses kicked off the year of '89 with all 4 Platoon members being successful in their respective courses, so successful in fact that the majority of members were quickly snapped up by Support Company, thus leaving the Platoon at section strength.

With courses completed B Company headed off to Esk for section level training with a lovely walkout to top things off. AASAAM and the CGS exercise were next on the calendar with the boys from the FEROCIOUS FOUR highlighting themselves again. PTE Jacobsen carried out some NCO training covering aspects on self defence and abrasive language (CANUNGRA Military Police also attending). Whilst this training was being conducted PTE Tonkin decided to conduct his own concurrent training with pre-course driver training after borrowing a Landrover from an unknown CANUNGRA Transport Unit.

While B Company was hard to work taking out the Champion Section and Duke of Gloucester Cup Squad (the platoon being represented by Big Boy Steve Wyatt) our up and coming 'Dick Johnsons' attended a modified T109 Drivers Course prior to K89's Motorized Infantry Trail with the 6 x 6 Wheelers.

K89 commenced with a scenic drive to colourful KUNUNURRA, thinking the trip would include wine, women and song. This thought



being quickly stamped out due to the ever helpful and friendly Military Police and the overzealous Staging Area personnel. PTE Jacobson again expressing his dislike for the MP's at TIMBER CREEK with 'Moose' McClean coming to his rescue in a most diplomatic manner, in keeping with military and 'Moose' traditions. After seven long days in the back of vehicles we were in the Combat Zone and Nigger Hill became the place to be. After a further fourteen days we finally contacted the enemy and the FEROCIOUS FOUR was finally unleashed.

October has seen the platoon become engrossed in the Battalion Shooting Competition and preparing for the Colours Parade. The platoon being in fine touch for both activities.

The platoon has had a good year and looks forward to next year being as great a success as 1989. The prospect of Malaysia being a bright star to us all. LOOK OUT MALAYSIA BECAUSE HERE COMES 4!!!

AWARDS

M.P. & N.C.O. Courtesy PTE Jacobson
Class & Etiquette Award LCPL Lindsay (dining in)
Wimp Award PTE Tonkin
Dick Johnson Driving Award Bialek & Fogarty

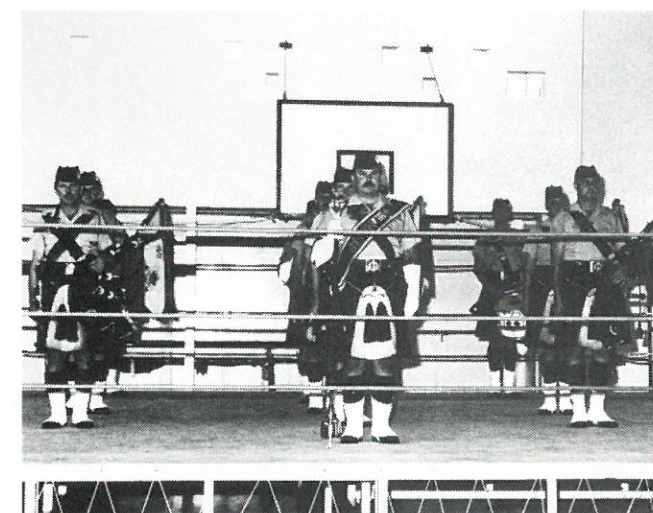
Things we'd like to see: More soldiers, PL. Commander

LONG HAI DAY COMMEMORATION

February 28th saw the Battalion and members of the 8 RAR Association gather to commemorate the nineteenth anniversary of 8 RAR's battle in the Long Hai Hills (or Minh Dam Secret Zone as their enemy knew it).

The 8 RAR veterans thought it was a typical "Grey Eight" day as rain loomed throughout the day. (Historical note: It rained on 8 RAR's inauguration parade, 8 August '66, and on most of its birthdays throughout the life of the unit. Thus, 8 RAR soldiers thought the "grey days" were for them.)

Because of the rain the ceremony was moved from the unit memorial to the old Area Theatre (now a gymnasium). It was a crowded venue but it certainly made sure the Pipes and Drums were heard and, from their vantage point in the boxing ring, they certainly had a good view of the proceedings.

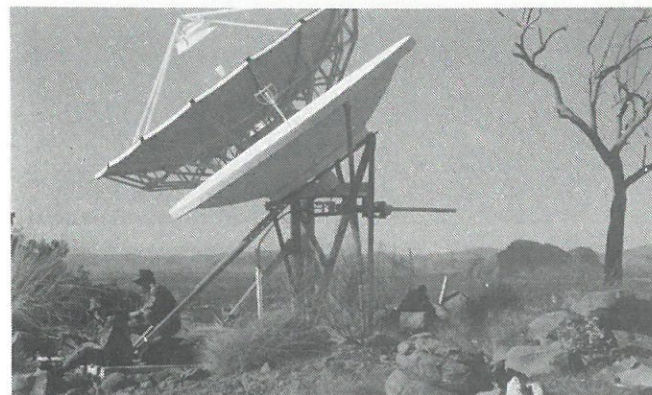
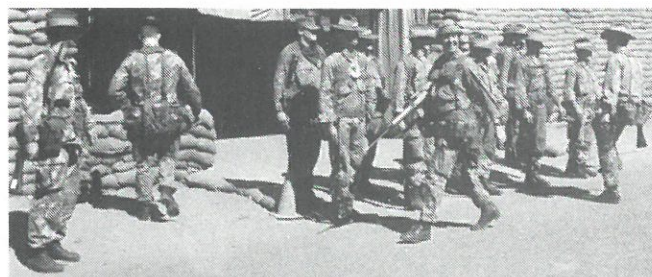


The Guard was reviewed by Commander, 6th Brigade, BRIG Curtis, who also addressed the parade on the significance of the battle of Long Hai, to 8 RAR and the Army. Following his address wreaths were laid on behalf of 8/9 RAR, the 8 RAR Association, the RAR Association, the 2/8 Bn Association, the Vietnam Veterans Association and the RSL. A wreath was also laid by Sherrie Coe, whose brother Barry was awarded the Military Medal for his actions at Long Hai. Barry died in 1988.

Following the memorial service the sixty odd members of the 8 RAR Association, and their families, joined the 8/9 RAR soldiers in the Rams for drinks and a BBQ lunch. As the beer flowed, so did the stories and a good time was had by all.

As a result of the day the Battalion received letters from the 8 RAR Association expressing their thanks for the continuing support of 8/9 RAR to this commemoration, and for the enjoyment felt by the 8 RAR veterans in talking to young soldiers again, confirming in their minds that soldiers do not change in their attitudes and outlook from decade to decade.





FRONT ROW: (left to right) PTE Cunningham, PTE Blake, LCPL Cavanagh, CPL Studley, SGT Roll U.K., LCPL Edwards, PTE Hefez, PTE Wilson.
BACK ROW: (left to right) PTE Niddrie S.D., PTE Karakatsanis, PTE Hropic, PTE Robinson, PTE Thies, PTE Wilson.

FIVE PLATOON

For the Fighting Five the year kicked off as for all of Bravo as the Battalion's commitment for a response force. The Coy was called out to deal with an assortment of terrorists backed by stern supporters mixed with less troublesome drunkards and park-bench winos.

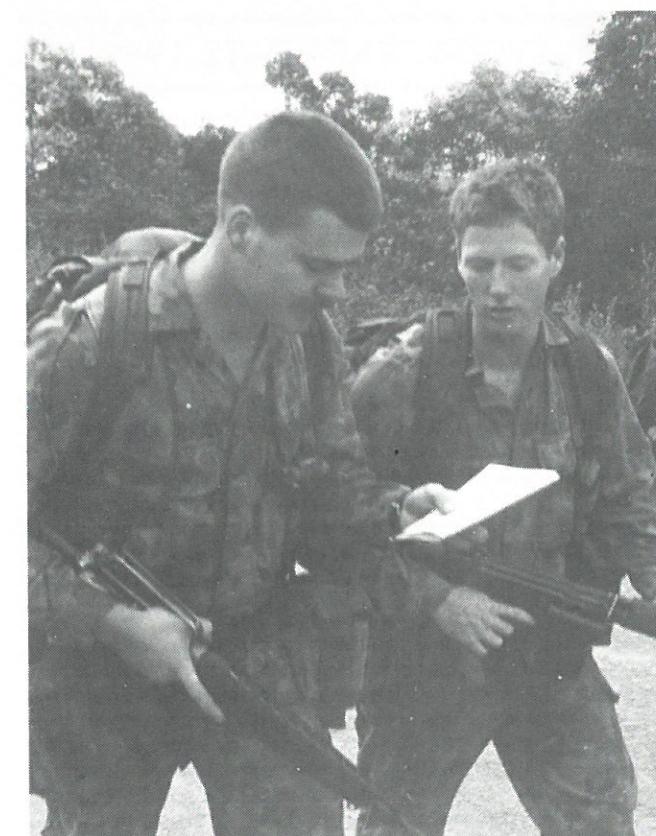
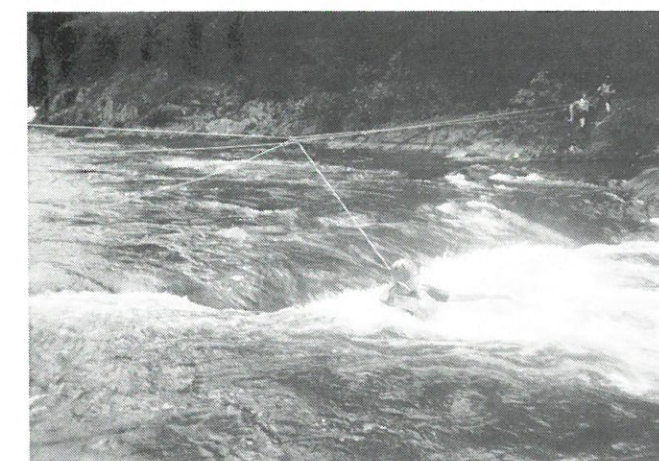
Coy training throughout the year was conducted with great foresight. Beginning with individual skills, progressing through section and platoon till finally coy size operations towards the end of the year. The platoon made great use of places such as Mt Mee, Esk and Baracula, for conducting its training.

The Battalion Mil Skills Competition came around in June and with little time for preparation CPL Studley took the bull by the horns and led his section to victory. Well done Studs and congratulations on the Duke of Gloucester Cup.

It was about this time 5 PI gained a valuable addition from our comrades abroad, in the form of SGT Roll. Communications were somewhat hampered by the language barrier. This seemed only a minor problem however when compared to the differences of opinion expressed from our incoming Pommy and our resident Scotsman.

K89 was next on the agenda and fortunately as part of Bravo, the platoon had the privilege of trialling the new 6 x 6's. I'm sure everyone looks back on the experience with pleasant memories as not only did they add a whole new aspect to IMT's but with them also came a whole new range of problems which had to be coped with as best as possible. Given our limited experience and preparation with the vehicles the platoon managed well.

The fact that our first real recovery involved winching, towing and pushing a crippled vehicle through the long hours of the night to ensure the PI made it back to F.O.B. Hermes in time for stand-to in the



morning was symbolic of the effort the fellows were prepared to put in to ensure that the trial was successful as possible.

The platoon is looking forward to an exciting adventure training in Tully conducting White Water Rafting. This will be followed soon after by a well earned BRL. We are farewelling SGT Kellner this year to his new appointment at Singleton; best wishes for your family and your career in the future.

Good effort for 1989 to five platoon, keep up the good work and see you all back next year.

AWARDS

Hardest Man Award. Howey (CPL Howey) for giving out more than 1 million push-ups.

Radio Procedure Award To PTE Loneragan for "Rodger Dodger Sir" to MAJ Bosza.

Quote of the Year Award. What's going on, what are we doing, where are we?

Driver of the Year Award. PTE Mario Hropic

Things we'd like to see :

4 and 6 platoons coming up to Fighting Five's standards.



FRONT ROW: (left to right) PTE Rayner, PTE Single, LCPL Warwick, CPL Cullen, CPL Collins, LCPL Flatman, LCPL Fargher, PTE Ware. BACK ROW: (left to right) PTE Powers, PTE Haintz, PTE Follon, PTE Mildrum, PTE Peters, PTE Niddrie A.J., PTE Hughes, PTE Parnaby, PTE Taylor, PTE Jansson. INSERT: LT Edwards

SIX PLATOON (GAFA RATS 1989)

The B Company champion platoon for 1988 started the new year with the usual vigour and enthusiasm that one would expect from the best soldiers in the Battalion. We had a brand spanking new Platoon Commander and over thirty soldiers training and 'breaking him in'. We also had an experienced Platoon Sergeant who welcomed the change from recruits and mortarmen (not that there is a difference).

The standard of the six platoon soldier was reaffirmed as after the battalion course period eight soldiers were selected to go to the Support Company platoons and two were promoted within the Company. Well done to all.

Our first exercise at KINGAROY proved to be a great learning experience for all involved. Apart from operating in a low level operational scenario for the first time, there was also the inevitable liaising with the local population. There was the intelligence gathering excursions to the town, the female soccer team who helped us guard the Bean Silo - ALL NIGHT, and the lovely young lady who helped the 'Boss', CPL Pearsall and PTE Rayner finish off that carton of beer. Who did end up with her underwear??

By June the platoon was tasked as support for AASAAM and the CGS exercise. All who participated agreed that the time would have been better spent doing our job - training for war. However, the Duty First professional attitude of the men was well received by all and it was a credit to them. CPL 'Chuck' Cullen had an especially wonderful time at CANUNGRA, making new friends of all ranks and nationalities. His efforts won him an unprecedented audience with the Brigadier to discuss his successful but unorthodox methods of career progression.



The next few months were spent preparing for the BIG ONE, K89. With B Company being motorized for the first time it gave extra work but it was a learning experience for us all. After a period of getting used to the vehicles it was time for full on operations in the KUNUNURRA area. The platoon performed magnificently under difficult conditions and with little enemy contact, but the morale remained high as did the standard of soldiering.

All in all 1989 was a difficult and testing year. We were tested in many varying areas and the platoon performed very well in all aspects. We were well led and well trained and we can be pleased of our efforts.

We must sadly farewell our platoon commander as he is off the Support Company in 1990. The best of luck to him. Another to depart is the ever-agreeable platoon sergeant, SGT 'Spud' Colbert-aldo. His expertise and experience will be missed by the platoon. Best of luck in his new endeavour as the battalion Intelligence Section Sergeant. To all others departing, a fond farewell as you seek to further your careers elsewhere.

AWARDS

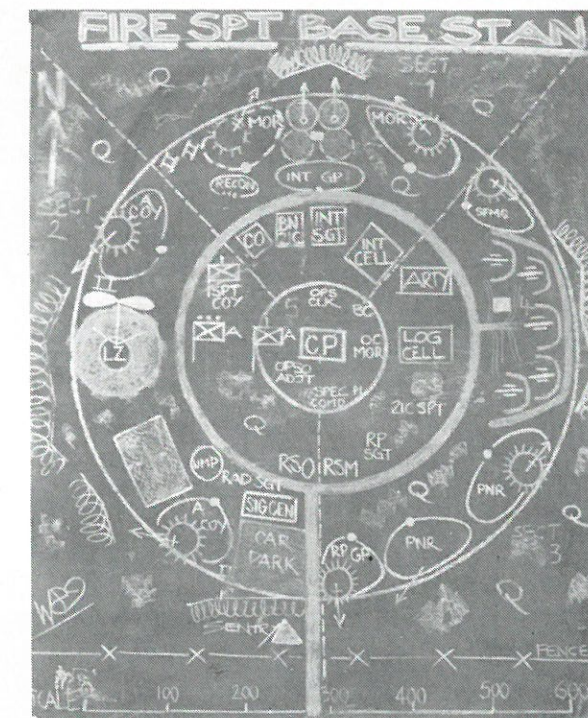
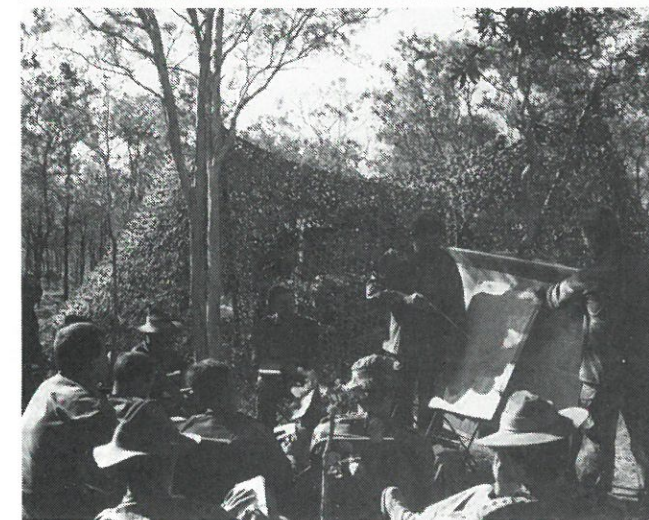
You Had To Be There Award . . . The Boss waking up with a rat in his pants.

Quote of the Year Award . . . I can't wait to get FE again so I can train hard with you all. — PTE J.R. Robinson

Chit Waller of the Century Award . . . PTE QUINN with 27 chits (still two months to go)

Things We Would Like To See Award:

1. Quinn on a route march.
 2. LT Edwards with his own pack of smokes.
- It Sounded Like A Good Idea At The Time Award . . . CPL Cullen drinking at the LWC Officers Mess



KANGAROO 89

Apart from the battle procedure going almost perfectly the first real impact of the exercise was the departure of the road parties. The three convoys rolled out on time and moved on to Kununurra like a well oiled, if slow, machine.

The rest of the Battalion followed in fits and starts, the victims of the movement control organisation, and by and large arrived in the AO as planned. Fire Support Base Stan was efficiently established and operations commenced on schedule, continuing until the inevitable move was ordered. Then followed a mad chase across the top of the Brigade area until the remaining small handful of Kamarians was run to ground.

We reentered the movement control organisation after a short rest and eventually found ourselves back in Brisbane about a month after leaving; the only things left to do were clean up and wait for the road parties to return.

That small outline fails to tell anywhere near the full story of the most significant exercise the Battalion has undertaken in many years. Who could forget the frenzied preparation of the B Coy 6x6 vehicles and the hours worked in the transport yard making sure that the other vehicles were up to scratch for the 2000 km drive.

And on the road move who will forget the salubrious conditions of the concentration, sorry, staging camps at too frequent intervals; the balanced diet of ten man ration packs if you were lucky and the none too flexible camp commandants.

The air move was much better of course. The ever smiling movements staff conducted their central briefings, assiduously ignoring our own high priced UEO's, and herded us towards our aeroplanes like participants in the live sheep export trade. Interestingly, the return move seemed a deal smoother, despite the pilots' strike wild card. Perhaps others learned their lessons too.

The Fire Support Base was a beauty. No wonder everybody wanted to visit. Remember the Governor-General landing at the wrong LZ and the CO 500 metres away with the briefing staff, and the two clerks running across the FSB with the blackboard on their heads. Remember the unscheduled visit of some General Group right in the middle of an O Group and the priceless look on the face of OC Support who was in his part of the brief at the time. It wasn't only the Mayor of Hiroshima who uttered the immortal line. Didn't we get slick at pushing a group of sweating senior officers around. At least they came to see us. You can bet your last dollar that in years to come there will be some pogo quoting K89 at you who didn't get out of Darwin.

No enemy got within a cooee of the Base due to some clever work with the standing patrols and CLASSIC sensors. The strange beeps that emanated from the defence CP led some to believe that CSM Support sent patrols out just to see the lights work on the monitor. There was apparently some surprise expressed in enemy camps that our reaction time was so good. How pleasing to see a piece of kit in service that works so well.

The work that the companies did was great. A Coy's clearance of the Dunham Valley early in the exercise set the scene for future

operations of the type but no-one managed to match their efficiency in burgling Casevac helicopters to achieve what was our only timely Casevac for the whole exercise. Their later rapid deployment to and operations at what was to become Hogget Airfield gave us our largest bag of 'kills' despite the fact that A Coy must have thought that they had been abandoned.

B Coy led a nomadic existence that took them from FOB Hermes to Lake Argyle, Carlton Hill and Hogget all in record time thanks to their integral vehicles. The eternally grubby Obergruppen Fuhrer and his Estonian assistant set new records in dogged determination and along with their equally determined soldiers proved that the motorised concept was workable in the north. Their work is likely to have some far reaching implications. It only remains to give them radios that match the range of the vehicles so they can tell us what they are doing.

Another concept that was explored was that of the combined Infantry, APC and air company group that gave C Coy their greatest successes. The sight and sound of UH1H clattering overhead full of soldiers on their way to a contact stirred the memories of a few old soldiers.

The enthusiasm of the ARes roundout company from 41 RNSWR cannot go unmentioned. Despite a lack of acclimatisation and conditioning they hooked in from the start and in the two weeks that they were with us pulled their act together to a remarkable extent. It was a great pity that our association was cut short by the rapid deployment from FSB Stan.

Short space precludes full reminiscence about the Headquarters however some events must be mentioned for posterity's sake. Op Elevator allowed the 2IC's to have a run, Hogget and 'Nagasaki' provided unpleasant contrasts to Stan, Sheldon in a Batman suit provided some light relief, an SAS attack provided lighter relief and some of the radio traffic was positively hilarious. If there were prizes for this sort of thing the gold would have to go to the Mortar platoon commander (and you can't stay nameless George Tulley) who, on the approach of the Governor-General, ordered his CP ack to dust the radios.

The exercise was an invaluable experience and the honest ones among us will admit that we enjoyed it more than we thought we would. At the end of the day, having been there and done that, all that remained was to get the T Shirt.

And those of us who were lucky enough to fly home by QANTAS got one each. Free.



CHARLIE COMPANY

Since the 1988 edition there have obviously been a number of changes in the Company. 1989 saw the promotion of nine new JNCO's and the posting in of a new OC, CSM, CQMS, two new PLCOMD's and two new SGT's into the Company. Obviously things were a little loose at the start of the year however in traditional Charlie Company style, we quickly came together and started to perform as a team.

It is not my intention to simply regurgitate the year's training programme to you, however there were a number of significant events that should be highlighted. These should be remembered in light of the Company's training objectives because they bring out valuable lessons for us all. Significantly, they provide a future source of historical information on the Company and the Battalion. It is therefore a pleasure to include the cartoons of 'Doc' McCarty with this history. Little used these days, cartoons have always had a significant place in Australian war history and it's refreshing to see them included here.

Our involvement in the 1/89 Subject 1 Corporal Course delayed our start to the year but assisted us in recognising the basis of the unit boxing team. It also gave support to the age old axiom that when dealing with the rank of LCPL, the Lord can 'giveth and taketh away' in about 30 seconds. The period at Mt Mee gave us our first opportunity to practise our skills at individual and section level and valuable lessons were confirmed. This also was our first 'walk in, walk out'; the walk out being along the scenic back route. A good 25km, and an excellent indication from the Bn 2IC that life doesn't finish at 40, however old that is.

Wondai was a chance for the PL's to have a gallop, with patrols and ambushes by day and night. It also provided driver training to LCPL Holtz who chalked up his first 110. The exercise culmination in a company attack, with 2IC's in command positions, gave ample evidence that our leadership training is soundly based. This is confirmed by my observation of the junior leaders of other armies; in comparison we do very well. Wondai proved to be an excellent training area and the Company can expect many return visits in the following years. The early morning walk out of 25km, completed in good time and followed by the falling plate shoot (good scores all round) is evidence of our ability to operate under physical duress.

Our poor performance in the 'DOG' Trials highlighted a number of lessons to us, not the least of which is our overall poor performance in the theory aspects of our trade. This, and the requirement to train specifically for a given competition has given us valuable grist for the mill and the Battalion should be on notice for 1990's competition. The well earned standown break gave a chance to re-charge our batteries in preparation for LCBS.

Again many good lessons were either reinforced or learnt at Tully. For the new soldiers of the Company, in particular the ARES FTD men, it proved an interesting introduction to the ARA. Wombat will never be the same and it's good to see him settled in 7PL. The major lessons were the requirement for junior leaders to continually practise giving orders, that 'bearings and paces' are never wrong and that everyone needs a NAVDATA Sheet. Aside from this, it was a good physical two weeks and one that we all learnt from.

The range week at the end of June consolidated the monthly



(Left to right) PTE Hall, PTE Craigie, PTE Todd, CAPT Nairn, MAJ Mortensen, SSGT Butler, CPL Jones, PTE Ellem.

shooting that we've been fortunate to conduct. It confirmed that both on the range and in field firing, regular and evolving practices are the only way to maintain skills. We should now look forward to 1990 when we will build on this year with two major field firing exercises. We also await the results of 'HOTSHOT' to confirm the Company shooting prowess.

Our introduction to Yandina in the form of a Company level ARTEP was both interesting and informative. Your comments on the satisfaction that you got from the exercise, in particular the 'two sided' concept which enabled us to find, fix and destroy the enemy have been noted and you can anticipate another such exercise in 1990. The ARTEP concept is a useful tool for the CO to assess the proficiency of his sub-units and you can be satisfied that we met the required standards.

Exercise K89 was an outstanding success for the Unit and the Company, due in no small part to the effort that each and every individual put in. We covered a lot of distance in truck, APC, landrover, helicopter and 'plane. LCPL Holtz also scored his second 110. We reacted to short 'notice to move', we were most successful in using LOH, APC and UH1H to seek out, close with and destroy the enemy and we demonstrated a capacity for sustained operations. A very good effort and one in which we can all be proud of.

The completion of 'K89' ended our major field commitment for the year however we should be in no doubt that the remainder of the year will be as busy as the first half. Congratulations should be extended to all those (the Company) who competed so well in the 'Gladiator Week'. A creditable performance by all and we are now well placed in the Inter Company Competition.

Finally, the Cobra Company 'Drill Pigs' will have to show the Battalion the way in the drill competition and on the Colours Parade. This is obviously the highlight of the ceremonial calendar and an occasion of which we should all be proud of being a part of. It provides an excellent venue for farewelling members of the Company. We say goodbye to:

CAPT Andy Nairn - Civi Street
LT Tony Stevenson - AADJT (Welcome to LT Mike Piggott)
WO2 Jack Baczyk - 9 RQR
SGT Kim Lester - ASLT PNR PL (Welcome to SGT Dave Pabst)
SGT Mike Sugg - INF CENTRE
CPL Andrew Streeter - INT CORPS
CPL Phil Coughlan - ASLT PNR PL
CPL Wayne Jacobs - Civi Street
CPL Dave Hollowell - RP's
LCPL Steve Holehouse - The Dogs
LOPL Tony Grant - AACG
LCPL Phil Easterbrook - Civi Street
PTE Nev McDougal - 10 IRC
PTE Harry Koudis - Thailand?
PTE Bird Earley - Civi Street
PTE Mick Kerins - Civi Street

For those members of the Charlie Company family my thanks to you and your wives and girlfriends for your support to the Company and to each other throughout this busy year. That we had such a good year, and travelled through it in such good spirit and style only reinforces the point that we are a family. We should also take the opportunity at this time to thank those individuals and units that provided support to us this year. For those leaving, good luck and we look forward to your return to the COBRA.





FRONT ROW: (left to right) PTE Atkins, PTE Mundie, PTE Nichols, CPL Wagner, LT Small, LCPL McGregor, PTE McDougal, PTE Kerins. BACK ROW: (left to right) PTE McIntee, PTE Collins, PTE Dixon, PTE Grant, PTE Gonzalez, PTE McDonald, PTE Lord, PTE Knight.

SEVEN PLATOON

In true 7 PI spirit, 1989 has been nothing short of an eventful year. Including the receipt of the NEW Boss LT S. Small and SGT M. Sugg from Recon Platoon.

The Company joined us for several minor exercises including Mt Mee, Wondai and a cold but interesting ARTEP.

By far the most valuable period of our training was spent at the Land Command Battle School "Tully". It was here that the new members of the Platoon learnt the meaning of hard work. And the more senior members were reminded why they vowed never to return to the north. It was during this phase of training the platoon was drawn closer together and such sayings as "Rats Cunning", "Pink Mist" and "Buckets of Upper Cuts" were adopted and remain part of our vocabulary.

With late July came final preparations and departure for K'89. It was during this period 7 Platoon became known as "Engineer Platoon", being given responsibility for building of fortification of

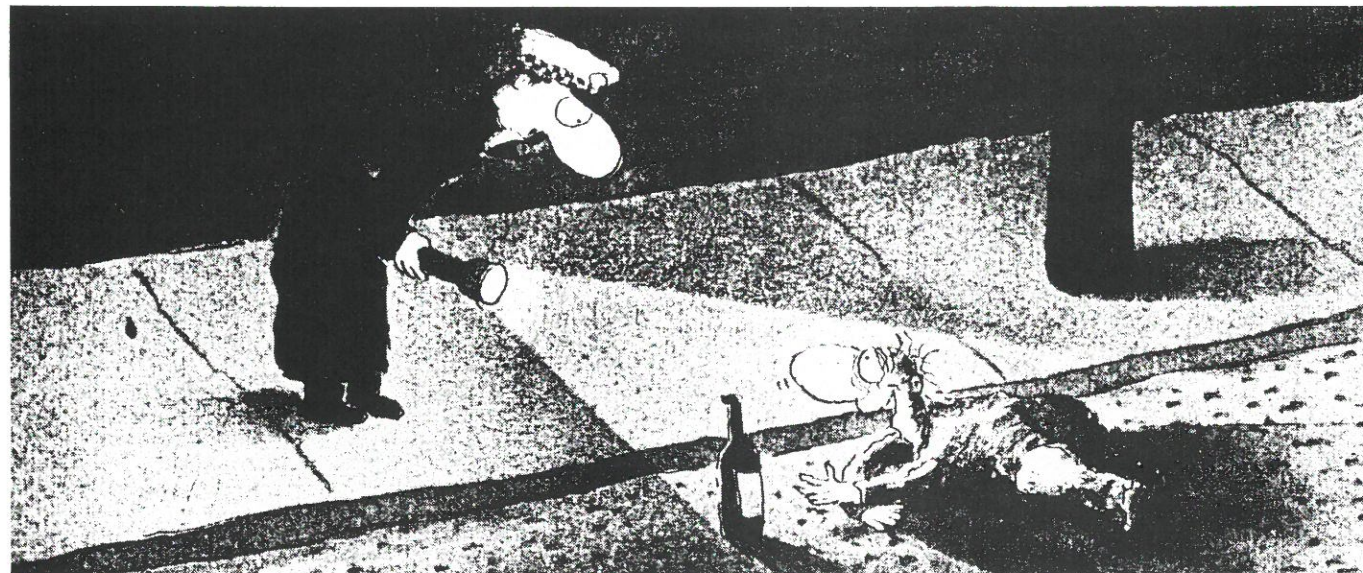
strong points to protect the Brigade HQ and Vital Assets around Kununurra.

Phase 2 of the operation for C Coy begun with 7 Platoon opening the body count. This tone continued throughout the remainder of the exercise with the 7th achieving the most success in destroying and capture of the majority of enemy and equipment for the company, with only minimal casualties. This if nothing gave us a feeling of achievement at the end of the exercise.

On return to Enoggera the Platoon participated in yet another Duties Week, then it was on to Gladiator Week. Members of the Platoon represented the Coy with seven members playing hockey and winning the trophy. We then took 9 days of well earned Stand Down. Finally back to work and a couple of weeks at Greenbank. The remainder of the year will see us taking part in various parades, including receiving the new Battalion Colours.

At the end of the year we will be losing four members of the Platoon; SGT Sugg and PTE Nev McDougall to Singleton, CPL Streeter to INT Corps and LCPL Holehouse to Dog Handlers. The Platoon wishes them all the best in their future endeavours.

AFTER THE WINTERGARDEN !!



"Good evening constable. I was just enjoying a spot of the old rap dancing!"



FRONT ROW: (left to right) SSGT Hawes, SSGT Muire, WO2 Eastley, WO2 Remin, WO1 Coombs, WO1 Briais, WO2 Hughes, WO2 Clarke, WO2 Watts, WO2 Bood, SSGT Neate. 2ND ROW: (left to right) SGT Cox, SGT Jarvis, SGT Page, SGT Hill, SGT O'Brien, WO2 Ward, SGT Lester, SGT Pellow, SGT Borret. 3RD ROW: (left to right) SSGT Butler, SGT Clinkberry, SGT Chiang, SGT Holland, SGT Emmett, SGT Cobertaldo, SGT Le-Gaybrereton, SGT Baldry, SGT Morrison, SGT Stanworth, SSGT Thealander. 4TH ROW: (left to right) SGT Ketu, SGT Roll, SGT Costello, SGT Lambert, SGT Laurensen, SGT Larven, SGT Mundie, SGT Thompson, SGT Adams. 5TH ROW: (left to right) SGT Willan, SGT Stewart, SGT Moire, SGT Boston, SGT Pabst.

THE SERGEANTS' MESS

1989 has been an exceptionally busy year for the 8/9 RAR Sergeants' Mess. As well as the normally hectic social calendar, this year has seen many hours put into the Mess by its members, assisting in the construction of the extensions and improvements. In a short period of 9 months the mess has been transformed from its 'shearing shed' appearance to what is now a very comfortable facility, whilst still maintaining the atmosphere of the original building. Congratulations and thanks must go to all those members who spent many hours of their own time assisting with the self help programmes. Well done. The main changes to the mess have been the addition of the new entrance, the extending and closing-in of the dining room and the construction of a new pagola. In an official opening ceremony held on 27th October, 1989, Padre 'Charlie' Barnett blessed the extensions (and SGT Pabst) and the official unveiling of the plaque was conducted by the CO, LT COL G.J. McKay MC.

Early in the year the members took the opportunity to farewell from the army one of our past members and PMC, MAJ Peter Cowan MBE. Other notable occasions throughout the year were the Mothers Day Luncheon (enjoyed immensely by the girls), the Fancy

Dress night which was very well attended, with some rather extravagant costumes and the Mixed Formal Dinner, to celebrate the Battalion Birthday and presentation of new colours. The dinner was attended by previous RSMs of 9 RAR and 8/9 RAR, as well as various other invited guests. Many 'old' faces were present and a very enjoyable evening was had by all.

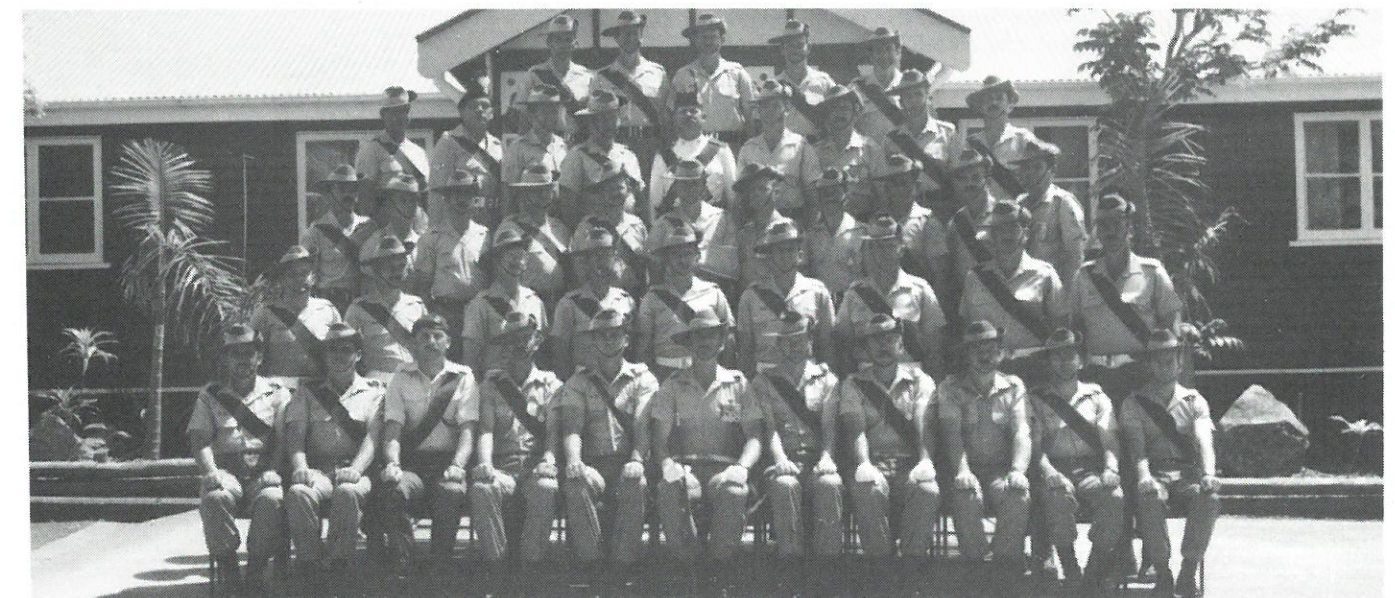
As usual this time of year sees many of our members leaving to take up residence in other states and locations and we wish them all the best. Already this year we have bid farewell to the following people:

WO2 A. Whelan, SSGT C. Bishop, SGT R. Plunkett, SGT G. Thomas and SGT S. Howlett.

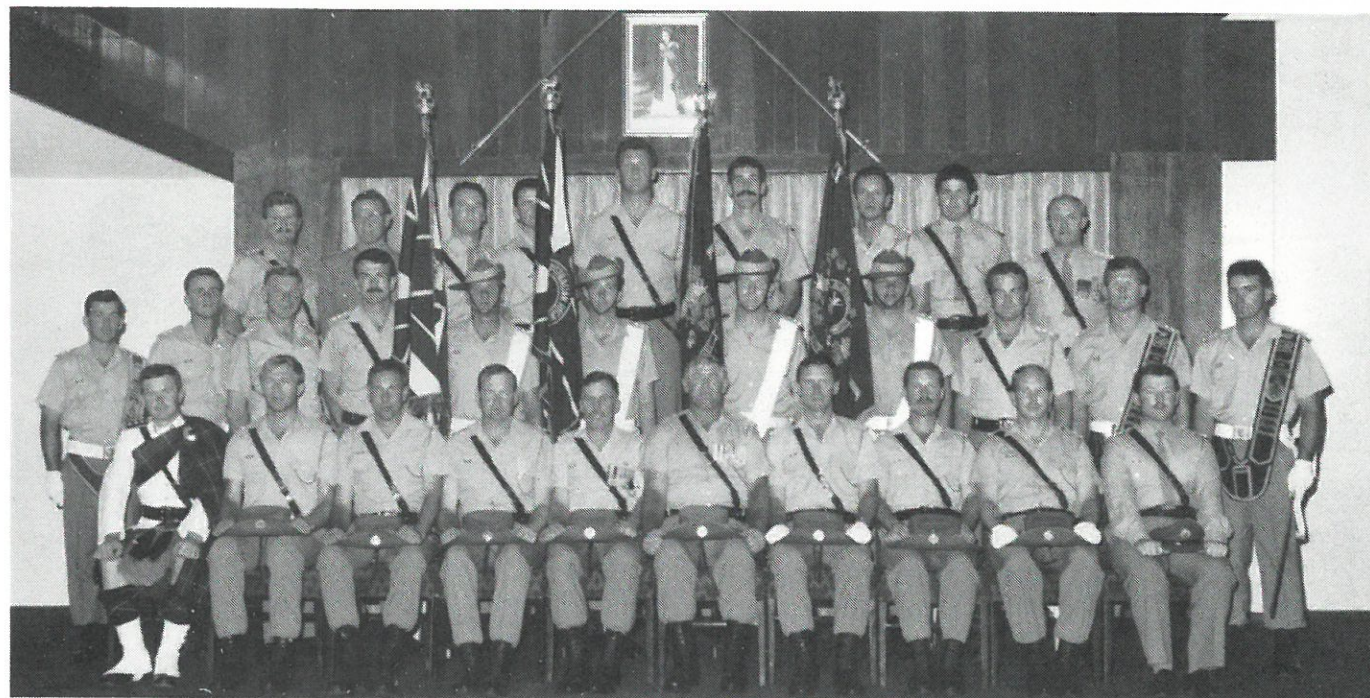
We also must farewell the following members:

RSM WO1 R.E. Briais, WO1 M. Coombs, WO2 F. Remin, WO2 J. Baczyk, WO2 P. Johnson, WO2 S. Olive, WO2 S. Ward, SSGT N. Howes, SSGT C. Thealander, SGT C. Chiang, SGT G. Kellner, SGT C. Baldrey, SGT G. Fowle, SGT G. Pellow, SGT D. Holland and SGT M. Sugg.

Finally, the PMC and members of the Sergeants' Mess wish you all the best for the holiday break (a well deserved one at that) and for 1990, and we certainly look forward to serving with you again next year.



FRONT ROW: (left to right) WO2 Remin, WO2 Baczyk, WO2 Olive, WO2 Wheelan, WO1 Briais, WO1 Coombs, WO2 Johnston, WO2 Hughes, WO2 Clarke, WO2 Watts. 2ND ROW: (left to right) SGT Laurensen, SGT Fowle, SGT Lester, SGT Thompson, SGT O'Brien, SGT Thomas, SGT Larven, SGT Boston, SGT Cox. 3RD ROW: (left to right) SGT Lambert, SSGT Neate, SSGT Hawes, SGT Emmett, SSGT Butler, SGT Halton, SGT Pabst, SSGT Bishop, SSGT Muir, SGT Mundie. 4TH ROW: (left to right) SGT Holland, SGT Podobnik, SGT Willan, SGT Kellner, SGT Le-Gaybrereton, SGT Pace, SGT Hill, SGT Costello, SGT Stewart, SGT Ketu, SGT Jarvis, SGT Baldry, SGT Chiang.



FRONT ROW: (left to right) CAPT McGee, MAJ Edwards, MAJ Bosza, MAJ Mortenson, MAJ Sherrin MM, LTCOL McKay, MAJ Perkins, MAJ Morrison, MAJ Martin, CAPT Johnston.
2ND ROW: (left to right) LT Scamp, LT Franklin, CAPT Barnett, CAPT Tully, LT Stevenson, LT Sutton, LT Evans, LT Reed, CAPT Nillus, LT Bywater, LT McMahon.
3RD ROW: (left to right) CAPT Ham, CAPT Williams, CAPT McNeil, LT Ashwin, LT Small, LT Piggot, LT Stevenson, CAPT Wakefield, CAPT Adshead.

THE OFFICERS' MESS

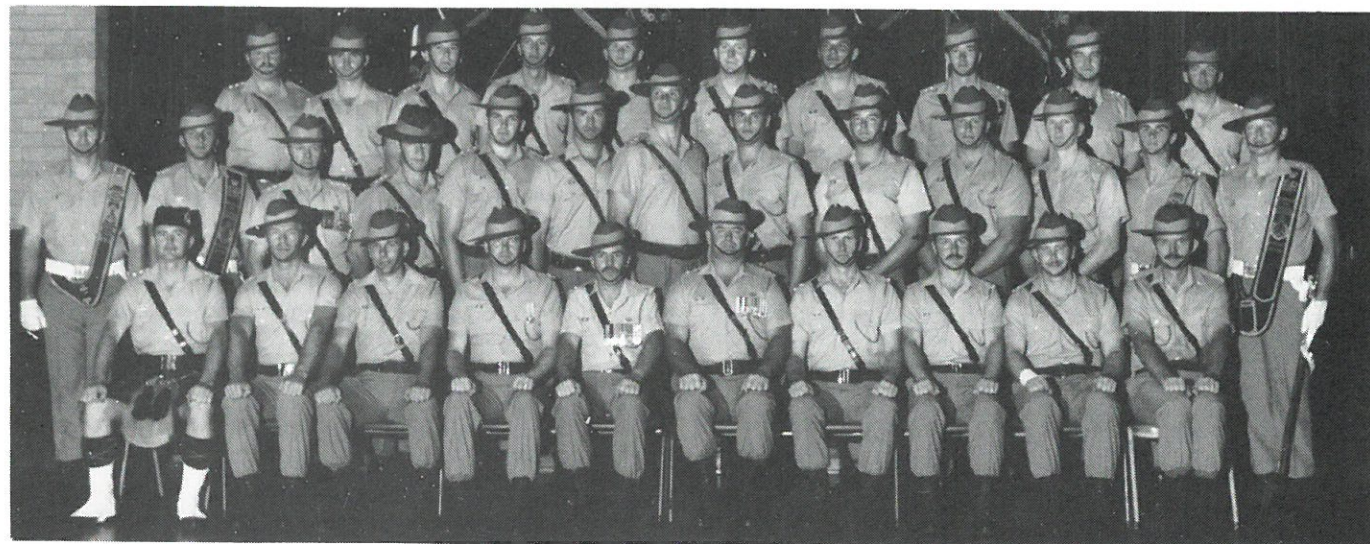
With K89 and other military exercises abounding this year the Mess has continued to sustain a number of enjoyable and well attended functions. The first for the year set an excellent standard (except for the weather) being the family BBQ day and an opportunity to welcome the new officers and their families into the Mess. Other functions have included candlelight dinners, theme nights and a theatre evening viewing the hit show "Cats". The Regimental side has seen a formal dinner which CAPT Tully left his teeth mark and two other amusing and entertaining nights. The first picking out the obvious mistakes on the wearing of Blues and a debating evening that discovered rubbish can often baffle brains in the Australian Womens Weekly crossword final between Mortensen and Morrison.

Mess improvements have continued inside and outside with the

tennis court also receiving a major facelift, resulting in its increased use. The outside garden improvements has greatly enhanced the physical appearance of the Mess.

At the beginning of the year the PMC MAJ Sheerin formulated a project for serving officers to contribute to 8/9 RAR's silver and property. Monthly levies are being collected and after a two year period will be pooled to purchase suitable items for the Mess. This project will ensure 8/9 RAR establishes its own identity with Mess silver and Mess property.

This project ties in well with the presentation of the new 8 RAR and 9 RAR colours and the subsequent laying up of the old colours. This historical event will be the highlight of the Mess' year as the parade will be followed by a Dining In Night, to be attended by past and present serving officers of 8 RAR 9 RAR and 8/9 RAR, that will see a gathering of a number of the most respected officers of the Regiment.



FRONT ROW: (left to right) CAPT McGee, MAJ Edwards, MAJ Bosza, MAJ Mortenson, MAJ Sherrin, MM LT COL McKay, MC MAJ Perkins, MAJ Morrison, MAJ Martin, MAJ Woodward.
CENTRE ROW: (left to right) LT White, LT Stevenson, CAPT Adshead, CAPT Williams, CAPT Wakefield, LT Baker, LT Small, LT Ashurst, LT Blakemore, LT Baddick, LT McAuliffe, LT Franklin, LT Edwards.
BACK ROW: (left to right) CAPT Ham, LT McMahon, CAPT McNeile, LT Stevenson, CA LT Bywater, LT Evans, LT Reide, LT Sutton, CAPT Nilus, Lt Scamp.



FRONT ROW: (left to right) PTE Bourne, PTE Mongoo, CPL Reynolds, SGT Willan, PTE Wilson, PTE McPhail, PTE Abslom, PTE Thomas.
BACK ROW: (left to right) PTE Moodie, PTE Lockheart, PTE Young, PTE Viller, PTE Perry, PTE Isle, PTE Hope, PTE Hall, PTE King.

EIGHT PLATOON

The year started off with excitement for 8 Pl. "Flight of the Navigator" (PTE Whykes) went AWOL then eventually IA and LCPL Mongoo (soon to be PTE) honed his boxing skills, unfortunately this was a little early for the Bn boxing competition. After the courses period Spt Coy struck as normal and kidnapped half the platoon. This left us no other choice than to go to Mt Mee with only 2 sections and begin the training year working on infantry skills at an individual level.

A short time after Mt Mee, we were all sad to see SGT Hill move on to Training Coy but glad to accept SGT Willan affectionately known as "Freddy Kruger" as platoon SGT. His first week with the platoon was on the company exercise at Wondai, where the platoon tried to wean him of the habit he has of picking up and using machine guns during contact. Wondai also saw the return of CPL Mark (no it's not Gonno's) Reynolds and we all soon caught on not to mention the 1 of 89 Combat Survival Course Malaysia. Wondai was the first opportunity for platoon level operations and naturally 8 Pl hit the enemy earlier than expected and achieved far superior results. However there were a few minor glitches such as the platoon sig deciding not to decode a crypto because it was dark and he didn't want to get out of his sack and then there was LCPL Wallace who decided to take his sect for survival training while the rest of the platoon were tied up in a company attack.

After Wondai PTE Dick (Oh, no! Where's my hook) Wilson was detached to train with the "Dog Squad" and the platoon finally got the reinforcements we so desperately needed, well, what I mean is we must have been desperate with the guys we took on. With the inclusion of the keen and some not so keen chocolate soldiers, the



platoon strength swelled to 1 and 25. This set us up for a good trip to lovely tropical Tully for a holiday, a great introduction to the ARA for our newest members.

Apart from trying to leave heavy and bulky items of equipment at night harbour sites or in their packs the platoon did quite well. Strongly supported by WO2 (Look no problem) Bolton all sections achieved good results and the practical demonstration of lost procedure by CPL Dave Hollowell was exceptional and also proved it works!!

The highlight (ha! ha!) of the year, K-89 saw the whole platoon put in a great effort. Some good individual efforts were also noted such as LCPL Hunts double crossing of the Katherine Gorge (without floaties) and his near nomination for the Kununurra Star of Courage for nearly getting himself crucified in an attempt to get the paper work through for PTE Perrys field promotion.

During K89, 8 platoon did a fair slog of foot patrolling but no patrol was longer than that of PTE Mongoo. His mission was so top secret that not even the CO knew of it and when the Bde Comd was asked to provide evidence at the orderly room he denied all knowledge. PTE Mongoo's problem started when given the orders for his mission the co-ord instruction timings paragraph did not include an end ex timing. Therefore PTE Mongoo was announced AWOL at the end ex roll call.

For the remainder of the year the platoon is fairly spread out but plan to maintain contacts via frequent weekend functions. These should keep the Boss in the Magistrates Court on most Mondays but he doesn't mind too much - he says it's a good perve.

All in all, it's been a good year for the platoon and we hope to go on to bigger and better things in 1990.





FRONT ROW: (left to right) PTE Bannell, PTE Gardner, LCPL Grant, SGT Pabst, LT Piggot, LCPL Easterbrook, PTE Spedding, PTE Hastie.
BACK ROW: (left to right) PTE Smith, PTE Merideth, PTE Early, PTE Verschaeren, PTE Koudis, PTE Fairbanks, PTE Bradshaw.

NINE PLATOON

9 Platoon with its unique two section formation has had an intense and interesting training year. Having two sections allows us to experiment and develop a wider range of platoon level SOP'S.

Our first field trip together was held at Mt Mee, where the emphasis was on section level training. The Coy came together on the last morning for a forced march out of the exercise area. We were soon to learn that this in itself was to become a Coy S.O.P.

The next trip to the field was held in the Wondai State Forest, where we operated as a platoon, culminating in a coy advance to contact. Next morning we set off for the now customary route march out of the exercise area, ending up at the Wondai rifle range. 9 Pl came in first and second in an inter-section falling plate shoot, owing mostly to the skill and accurate shooting of the platoon's two machine gunners, PTES Meredith and Mumford.

Training back in camp was centred on the fast approaching trip to Tully, the older members reminisced over previous Tully trips while the newer members waited in anticipation. On the morning we left, a tearful C.S.M., with handkerchief in hand, waved us off. The Platoon



did well in all aspects of training at Tully and we came away a better sub-unit.

Our next outing was the ARTEP exercise where the platoon carried out the roll of infantry to the letter. We sought out the enemy, closed with him but come time for the kill or capture, we were delegated depth platoon in the company attack. As the forward pits were reached the battle intensified and 9 platoon was ordered forward, fighting pit to pit. The platoon soon pushed through the position causing a total defeat to be inflicted upon the enemy.

Exercise K89 found the platoon, first in Katherine, in front of T.V. cameras, where, owing to civilians controlling the time and space factor, it took four hours to shoot four minutes of footage. The platoon spent the rest of the exercise in and around Kununurra becoming involved in all phases of the exercise.

With the end of the year fast approaching 9 Pl can be well satisfied with their efforts throughout the year.

We will be starting the new training year minus some familiar faces. 1989 is the last year for LCPL (Rabbit) Easterbrook, LCPL Grant, PTE (Bird) Early. The Platoon H.Q. has had a change too, with LT Stevenson being replaced by LT Pigott and SGT Lester being replaced by SGT Pabst.



LEFT TO RIGHT: SGT Chaing, PTE Young, SGT Costello, SGT Baldrey, PTE Laurance, PTE Madigan, CPL Walker, CPL Rayner, CPL Gilshenan, PTE Gillan, PTE Robertson, CPL Powell, PTE Jones, PTE Garnett.

CATERING PLATOON

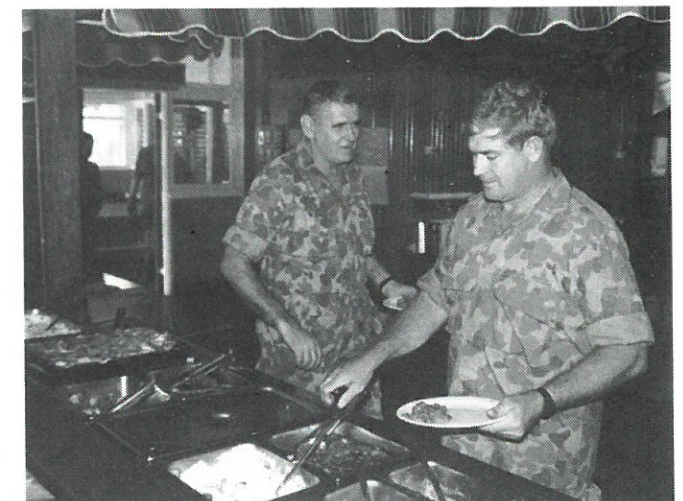
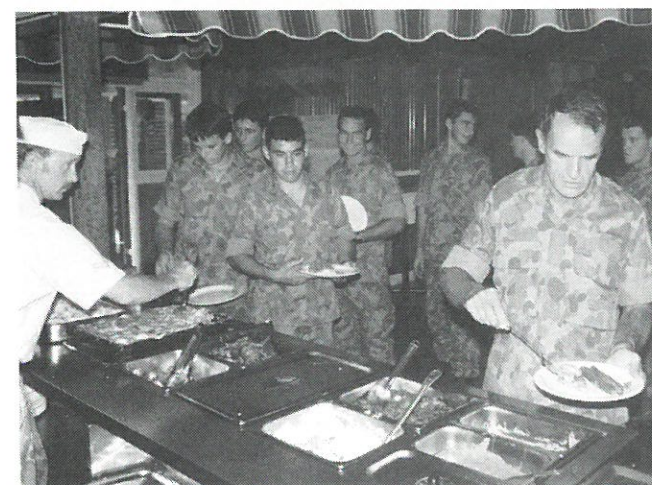
Catering Pl activities during the year have been as varied as the Bn commitments required.

1989 started with a flourish or should the word be flurry, namely specialist courses. With a new Caterer and quite a number of new AACC personnel with limited knowledge of Infantry and their course requirements it proved to be somewhat of a hectic beginning. By March this unknown quantity had successfully maintained field kitchens at WBTA, Greenbank, Esk, Ivanhoe Dam, and cooking on the move with the drivers course, namely PTE Mick Hall who attended the course as a student as well as the field cook, whose culinary efforts may have been an influence on his gaining Student of Merit. Was this an unfair advantage?

The Pl was adequately represented in winter sports by SGT Baldrey, SGT Chaing, PTE Young in the Bn Hockey team which won the grand final and PTE Brian Gillan in the Bn Rugby team which reached the finals.

Some brief personnel glimpses of the Pl members -

PTE Geoff Young has decided to leave us and has applied for a



Commission, and also he informs us an enlistment of a more romantic nature.

SGT Beaver Blind Chaing or more affectionately known as "Boats", volunteered to mind most of the Pl's personal gear throughout K89.

Credit should be given to the Pl members who took part in B Coy's efforts during K89. In the manner in which they involved themselves in the spirit of the Coy, by going into hiding as effectively as anyone from B Coy for that three day period.

As with all soldiers, grumbling about the unit is a practice enjoyed by Catering Pl. One wonders then when the normal end of year postings arrive they are greeted with applications for retentions, at present running at 75%.

The roll of the Bn cook and steward and his individuality of character are to be of so complex nature that 300 words cannot do justice in describing their many and varied yearly activities and personal traits, some of which would equal or surpass those of their Bn members.

The Pl has one united activity or sport in which it is justly proud of, its unchallenged supremacy in darts. If you have the talent, time and money, please arrange a match through SGTs Chaing or Baldrey.



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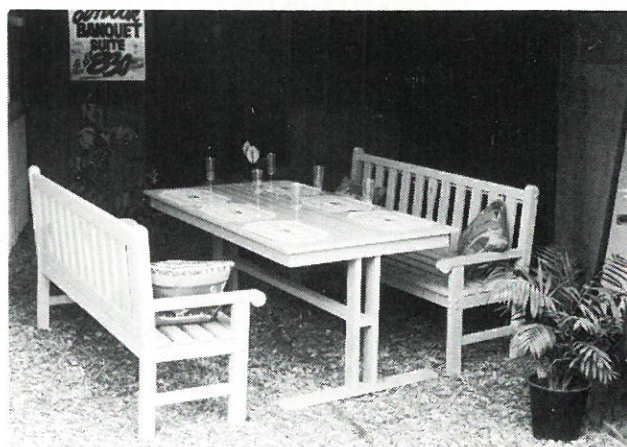
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DELTA COMPANY

1989 has been a year of ups and downs for Delta Coy. The first event being the influx of new members in January. These members were:

WO2 R.W.J. Clarke, posted in to take up the reins as CSM but defected to Admin Coy in June.

SGT "Freddy Kruger" Willan from the Inf Centre was posted in but found his stay too short as he was sent off to instruct on a Sub 1 CPL Cse. SGT Willan was posted to C Coy in May.

SGT Jardine also arrived from the "Factory" and along with SGT Willan went off to instruct on the Sub 1 Cse. On completion of the Cse SGT Jardine lost the toss and took off to Tully for 3 months. On return SGT Jardine was posted to B Coy in July.

SGT "Cowboy" Stewart was posted in from PTS in January and was immediately sent off on his Sub 1 for WO. On his return he was posted to A Coy.

SGT Cox arrived in January from 1RTB and was immediately despatched to L.C.B.S. Tully for a short 2 months. He has remained with the Coy throughout the year supported by the Coy's "permanent fixture", CPL Maitland.

The highlight of the year was CPLs McIvor, Maitland and Drewry coaching the Duke of Gloucester Cup squad to an easy victory in July.

While the rest of the Bn were sunning themselves up in Kununurra, SGT Cox, CPL Maitland and CPL Drewry were off to 49 RQR to instruct on their Annual Recruit and IET Cse and as was fitting to their professionalism they brought credit unto themselves and the battalion.

All members who are or were in Delta Coy throughout the year should be commended for all their efforts in providing a very high degree of professionalism in their instructional training.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all members of Delta Coy.



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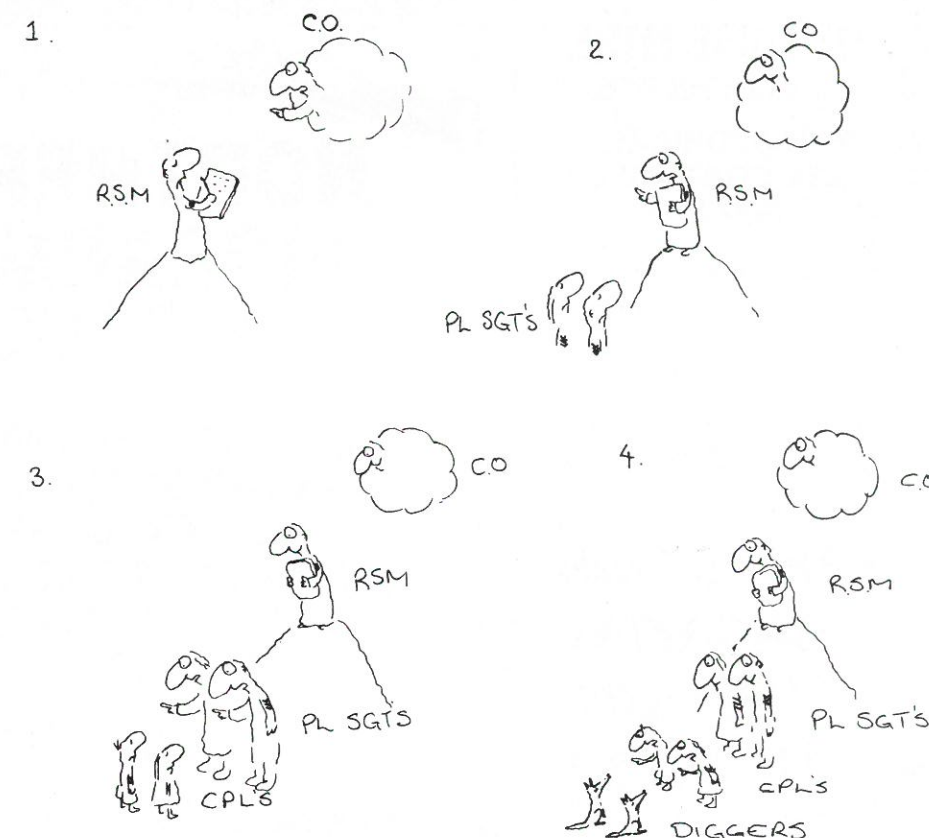
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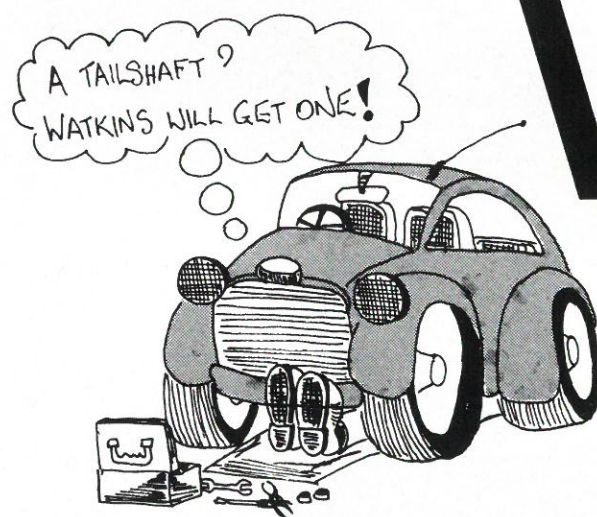
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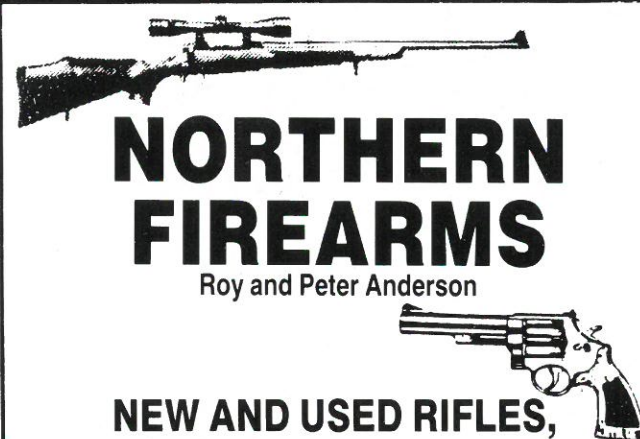
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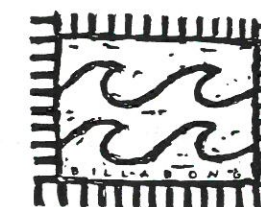
**SURFBOARDS NEW AND USED - SURFSKIS NEW AND USED - BOOGIE BOARDS - WETSUITS
NEW AND USED - ALL SURFING ACCESSORIES - BEACH AND SURFWEAR - SKATEBOARDS.**

FOR HIRE - SAILBOARDS - SURFBOARDS - SURFSKIS

ALL BOARD AND FIBREGLASS REPAIRS

FOR HIRE AND SALE - LATEST SURFING AND SKATE VIDEOS

CASH - BANKCARD - LAYBY





FRONT ROW: SGT Adams, WO 1 Coombs, CAPT Adhead, SSGT Neate, SGT Stanworth.
BACK ROW: (left to right) LCPL Stoit, LCPL Taylor, PTE Mau, CPL Incoll, PTE Smith, CPL Dykstra, CPL Canhan, PTE Chadwick, CPL Doyle. BACK ROW: LCPL Sheekey

QM PLATOON

Well here we are again, another year almost at an end. How time flies when you are having fun! The main Q Store spent an interesting and full year busily supporting the training activities and exercises conducted by the Battalion throughout all of 1989.

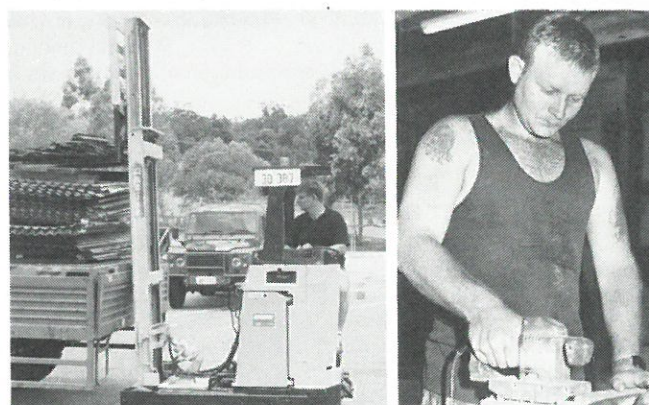
Some new clothing items have finally started to appear in the unit this year. There has been the Wet Weather Coat and the Disruptive Pattern Camouflage Uniform, although neither of these items have been available in the quantities and sizes we would like to see.

We have also seen the introduction into the Battalion of the Varanus Giganteus (yes, we know you all know the Latin for Perentie but we thought we would put it in anyway!) The new Perentie 110 has certainly proved to be a winner with no major failures throughout the whole of Exercise Kangaroo 89. By the way, that statement does not include the major rebuild needed on vehicle C2. Still, that is what you get when you argue with a large civilian garbage truck!

Other items include the new ground surveillance equipment, so that in theory we can now hear THEM before they see US! We even managed new Bluewater rope and figure eight Descenders for Recon PI so that they can continue to impress the rest of the Battalion with their death defying leaps off high places into areas no self respecting infantryman would want to go.

There have been a few Main Q Store personnel that have left this year that were not planned for. Dutchy Kimmel decided to quit infantry life to join Catering Corps. He did very well indeed on his Basic Cooks Course and has now been posted to Kapooka. PTE Nicholson found out at short notice that his storeman talents were required at Land Warfare Centre Canungra and, when told of his posting was heard to say "Why me?" in a somewhat anguished tone of voice. PTE Kitchen has decided that the green machine is really not his bag and has opted to work as a storeman for the Brisbane City Council at some considerable improved rate of pay!

Our only new march in this year has been SGT Gary Stanworth, all the way from 25 RQR at Toowoomba. He is now the Barracks SGT,



so if your shower water is not hot enough or your lights don't work, etc, etc, you now know who to blame. Gary is so efficient (or is it underworked) he has also been made the PI SGT, head groundsman in charge of area beautification around the Main Q Store, PI sports rep and any other nebulous tasks no one else in the Q Store will touch with a barge pole!

Postings for the end of this year are starting to arrive. The RQMS WO1 Mick Coombs has been posted as the QM of 25 RQR at Toowoomba. Mick has been an excellent RQMS within the Battalion for the last three years. He will be sorely missed and will certainly leave a big reputation for the next incumbent to live up to. CPL Steve Dykstra has been posted to the Infantry Centre at Singleton. Steve is another very good soldier who has served the Battalion well during his period in 8/9 RAR.

Before closing, all the staff from the Main Q Store would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of the Battalion a safe and merry Christmas. See you all back again early in 1990 for another interesting and busy year.

P.S. All members of the Main Q Store wish to thank the QM not only as a soldier but also as a friend, who we can completely rely on for all matters. All the best to you and your family for the future.



LEFT TO RIGHT: SSGT Hawes, WO2 Remin, MAJ Morrison, CAPT Williams, CPL Orr, PTE Arthur.

SUPPORT COMPANY

The new OC, 2IC and CSM had little time to get to know Support Company at the beginning of 1989. Within a week of returning from BRL we were all busy running or supporting both specialist and promotion courses. New platoon staff balanced the needs of training potential specialists and developing the teamwork required in their platoons during the first hectic months of the new year.

With courses over and "new blood" bringing the platoons close to full strength the senior company of 8/9 RAR embarked on a busy schedule of training and preparation for K89. A week long, live firing exercise at Wide Bay culminated in a firepower demonstration for the NCO's of the Battalion. This stood us in good stead to provide support, in the form of Mortar, Heavy Weapon and Pioneer Platoons, to Ex El Alamein in glorious sunny Puckapunyal.

Each platoon readied themselves for K89 by exercising their particular specialist skills. Bridge building, demolitions, long range communications exercises, reconnaissance and urban warfare training, SFMG deployment, mortar live firing and many other aspects of modern warfare were practised. In hand with all this the Company continued to support the Battalion in its preparations, providing expertise and manpower to exercises such as Silicon Bandit and the ARTEP at Yandina.

The value of these preparations was proved on K89. The construction of fire support base Stan, riverine patrolling, convoy protection, gathering and passing on information over large distances and providing direct and indirect fire support to rifle companies or independent operations were some of the ways in which the Company supported the Battalion. All to telling effect.

It hasn't all been work however, and on the sports field the Company has also proved its strength and character. Support Company personnel have been energetic participants in all the Battalion sporting teams and winning the rugby, soccer and Australian Rules trophies during the winter sports competition, and coming a close second in the Battalion swimming carnival all show the depth of talent and commitment in the Company.



1990 will start with new personnel in all areas of Support Company. A new 2IC, CSM, CQMS and orderley room CPL will join new platoon staff. To all those leaving the Company - all the best. To those joining, welcome to what promises to be another busy year.



FRONT ROW: (left to right) CPL Clayton, PTE Hill, LCPL Sloane.
BACK ROW: (left to right) CPL Schmidt, PTE Grierson, Anna McMahon, LT Evans CPL Bowie.

RECON PLATOON

The year began as all others have. Keen, eager and unfit soldiers placed their names once again in the roll book. Courses began and courses finished, then, the Recon course began. The students knew from day one it was going to be tough. And so it was. We would like to make special mention of 1 DIV INT coy for their contribution to the course and for proving quite conclusively that naked soldiers require water to swim in, not mud. At the end we welcomed PTEs Standing, Telford, Ion, White and Leaver to the platoon. A special well done to the NCOs and diggers for conducting a very good course.

With the course complete the platoon lived up to its name and spent as much time as possible away from duties, oops, that should read, as much time in the field as possible. Training began for the big exercise, K89, with numerous platoon activities. One of the most enjoyable being the urban warfare training conducted at the Bulimba Power House.

K89 was conducted among the frustration of dealing with low level ops. So we manned OPs, and more OPs. This could not be



helped and in the end everyone did his job well. Lessons were learnt and relearnt and will be relearnt again.

So, the year draws to a close. Posting time has hit us and robs us once again of our experience. We say farewell to LT Evans, off to the big smoke of Sydney and the ARES (best of luck and congrats on your promotion), SGT Wood off to USA, a leave with pay (there goes the easy PT periods) and CPL Gathercole, who is going to Kapooka (to find someone who can out-talk him).

We are to see new faces in the form of LT Bywater (the easy PT periods are back) and SGT Hutton, who is a more modern (not game to say younger) platoon sergeant. May both your stays be pleasant.

Others have come and gone throughout the year and if they are not mentioned we apologize. So for those coming, welcome, and for those leaving, farewell, and may you all enjoy the future and what it holds for you and yours.

Things we would like to see:

1. LT Evans - at work on time
2. SGT Ward - run 5 km in over 24 mins
3. CPL Gathercole - remain silent for one hour
4. CPL Clayton - go without a brew for one day
5. LCPL O'Mara - salute officers, and then not in PT gear
6. LCPL Sloane - buy a comb and sell his jock strap
7. PTE Standing - smoke only 2 packets a day
8. PTE Leaver - get fat
9. PTE Smith - stay in the Army and fall out of love



LEFT TO RIGHT: CPL Pickard, SSGT Thelander, PTE Wall, CAPT Wakefield, CPL Butler, PTE Summers.

RAP PLATOON

CAPT TOD WAKEFIELD

Age..... Young
Occupation..... Semi-professional golfer
Hobbies..... Medicine and Alcohol Rehabilitation
Marital Status..... Married just
Favourite Movie..... Platoon Leader
Favourite Book..... BMW Maintenance Manual
Ambitions..... To fire any weapon on any range, anywhere; and the legal adoption of CPL Butler, PTE Quinn and the Padre

SSGT CES THELANDER (Doc)

Age..... Less than 40 (we think)
Occupation..... Training medical officers and retired war hero
Hobbies..... Physical training
Marital Status..... Married forever (or so he says)
Favourite Move..... M.A.S.H.
Favourite Book..... How to win friends and influence people
Ambitions..... To do something honest and to become the first male to give birth

SGT BRIAN MUNDY (Doc)

Age..... Less than SSGT Thelander
Occupation..... Golf coach to medical officers
Hobbies..... Saving lives
Marital Status..... Again
Favourite Movie..... Young Doctors in love
Favourite Book..... Planning for retirement
Ambition..... To complete the last one year, x months and x days in the Army

CPL DON BOWIE (Doc)

Age..... 40,000
Occupation..... To increase the Australian population
Hobbies..... See occupation
Marital Status..... See occupation again
Favourite Movie..... Batman (or is it Blackman) four times
Favourite Books..... Only watch movies
Ambition..... See occupation again

CPL BRETT BUTLER (Doc)

Age..... Young
Occupation..... Matyr and taxi driver
Hobbies..... Not drinking, not partying, not ----
Marital Status..... You have got to be joking
Favourite Movie..... Dr Zhivago
Favourite Book..... How to pick up women
Ambition..... To pick up a woman

CPL TERY PICKARD (Doc)

Age..... Prematurely balding
Occupation..... Beer quality control tester
Hobbies..... Having a quiet beer or two, or three
Marital Status..... Not yet

Favourite Movie..... Fatal Attraction
Favourite Book..... Brisbane's best pubs and clubs
Ambition..... To fill the SSGT's shoes

CPL HUGH McCARTY (Doc)

Age..... Older than he looks
Occupation..... Examining worry beads
Hobbies..... Watching Australian Rules
Marital Status..... Still surviving
Favourite Movie..... Neighbours
Favourite Book..... Murphy's Law
Ambition..... To become 1990's Iron Man

SGT GRANT LARVEN (Blowfly)

Age..... Very young
Occupation..... Heat seeker
Hobbies..... Cleaning porta-potties
Marital Status..... Yes
Favourite Movie..... The Fly and the Toxic Avenger
Favourite Book..... The Manual of Occupation Health and Safety
Ambition..... To survive

PTE ROBERT WALL (Blowfly)

Age..... Very, very young
Occupation..... Maggot
Hobbies..... Ringing his girlfriend
Marital Status..... Half way
Favourite Movie..... Gone with the Wind
Favourite Book..... Any Mills and Boon
Ambition..... To get his car going

PTE CRAIG SUMMERS (Blowfly)

Age..... Not old
Occupation..... Women seeker
Hobbies..... Being a soldier
Marital Status..... Denies all knowledge
Favourite Movie..... Rebel without a cause
Favourite Book..... Anything by Joan Collins
Ambitions..... To raise his status to Medical Corps

This year: We, the staff of Medical Platoon would like to thank the fighting 8th/9th Battalion for providing the absolute maximum number of medical problems for our ongoing training. Particular thanks goes to those OCs/CSMs who have tested our ability to react by giving less than 5 minutes warning for medical coverage.

New faces were CAPT Wakefield, SGT Mundy, CPL Pickard nd CPL McCarty and the formation of the health section with PTEs Wall and Summers. The new members fitted in well and the whole team when put to the test on Ex K89 came through with flying colours.

Next year, a great loss will be SSGT Thelander who has been a member of the Battalion twice and has managed to squeeze, I mean con, no I mean gain a posting to DSU Perth. Farewell Ces.

The medical platoon looks forward to another year working with the soldiers of the 8th/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.



FRONT ROW: (left to right) CPL Naduvar, CFN Mueller, CPL Sutton.
BACK ROW: (left to right) CFN Lacey, LCPL Cleary, SGT Moir, CFN Shirley, CFN Bloom.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT PLATOON

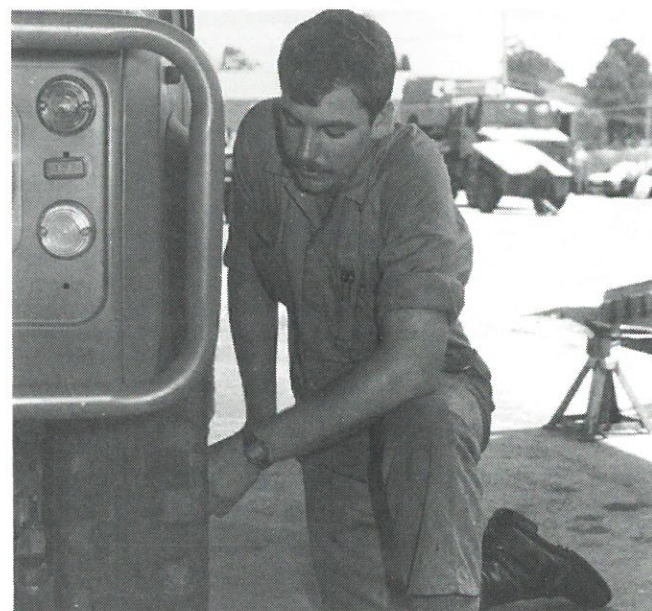
On return from leave we had the barrage of TGM 101's (used for repair of equipment) for the start of the 1989 courses. All was going well until SGT Moir deserted his ship to complete his Subj 1, leaving the two CPLs fighting over the empty chair, which, by the way, was handed back swiftly on his return. Just as Sarge was broken out of Subj 1 life and back into green, disciplined RAEME life, MAS showed up for their 2 week annual vacation. (Which is why Nads left to get married.)

APRIL: Saw us try our Annie Oakley skills at Greenbank. We all tried but some failed to reach double figures.

JUNE: And we headed out to Chinchilla State Forest with A Ech. But nobody packed the floaties and we were turned back at the front gate. Everyone now agrees 110s don't float.

JULY: Saw us lose CPL "Harry" Hay and CFN Vonblanckensee, while gaining another gob in CFN "Mick" Shirley and CFN Mueller.

Soon it was time to leave for K89, with SGTs Green and Hanson, CPL Sheperd and LCPL Burns to help with the 6 x 6 trails. The trip up



saw few break downs which shows our prep was done well. Once at Kununurra we set up and waited (waiting, waiting) - just who was in charge? 2/14 QMI???? 6BDE???? Who??

With all the excellent preparation we had a couple of spare hours to check out a 318 HEMI Charger for the local speedway. Smithy do you really own an automatic?

Morale was kept up by our olympic size swimming pool at our country club - also our slush fund would be looking good by the quick sale of a few 6 x 6s but a certain officer from Mortars failed to see the joviality of painted windscreens.

Once back in Brisbane (after only a few breakdowns) came the big clean up, lots of paper work for the return of loan stores. For the rest of the year we have sports carnivals, parades, courses and stocktakes and stocktakes. (How many times do you count some items?)

We would like to thank all the Coys for their hospitality (especially Spt Coy).

Merry Christmas and a happy new year.



FRONT ROW: (left to right) PTE Zampogna, PTE Kupu-Vanessi, PTE Baker, PTE Spruce, PTE Wellington, PTE Cochran, PTE George, PTE Evans, PTE Kelly, PTE Beard, PTE Evans.
BACK ROW: (left to right) PTE Shoesmith, CPL Spencer, LT Baker, SGT Fowle, PTE Hempstead, CPL Ambler

PIONEER PLATOON

Aslt Pnr PI ran a course at the start of the year to identify elite mature soldiers to join the gun platoon from the superior company. The course was a great success apart from some minor problems with generators, M14 mines and outboard motors.

In between duties we managed to build a suspension bridge at Samford, during which we suffered light casualties when the PI Sgt fell off a ladder and gave everyone a good laugh.

The lead up training for K89 involved construction of the new Rams Pen and building the path beside the BN parade ground plus duties.

The military skills competition proved to be worthwhile with the PNR sections coming 3rd and 4th.

Just before K89 we managed to get away to WBTA and break in a new Demolition Range which proved to be good training.

K89 finally arrived and we saw some of the infamous crocodiles and aborigines (LCPL Van den Hurk saw an aborigine inside his sleeping bag). PTE Beard proved to us all that he is not just a pretty face but a hard *?(), when it comes to playing touch. PTE Cook proved that supervising a wiring party is a very difficult job.

The ARES section that was attached to us were a great help when it came to picquets and standing patrols. Anyway K89 was over and we got into some serious standown after we all survived Gladiator Week.

LT A.M. Baker - Had a good year with rugby and repatriation, So what's the story with Cook and Baker?

SGT Fowle - LT for K89. I'm keen to get this up and running - the whole world is a p***a-phone.



CPL Ambler - covers PHQ's a**e. Hey lid.

CPL Spencer - for someone who doesn't let anything worry him he hasn't got much hair. It's done - see me Monday.

PTE 'Spud' Evans - Fat F*?! I do beg my pardon - I give in, what are we doing?

PTE 'Slim' Shoesmith - Do you think I'm getting bigger fellas?

PTE Zampogna - Don't push me or I'll start swinging like a Dutch windmill.

PTE Baker - Sarge something happened last night and it wasn't my fault - Go and see the CSM.

PTE Cook - not very smart but can lift heavy things. It's all fixed up sarge.

PTE 'Boots' Wellington - Ye Sar ye Sar Sar. Have you driven a Ford lately?

PTE George - Sarge can I see you for a minute? Ex K89 was one big GMP.

PTE Corcoran - I've had enough of this S?!*

PTE 'Rugby' Evans - "You're right to drive aren't you Boots?"

PTE 'Soc' Summers-Taylor - Have you seen my ech bag? Have I got a story for you.

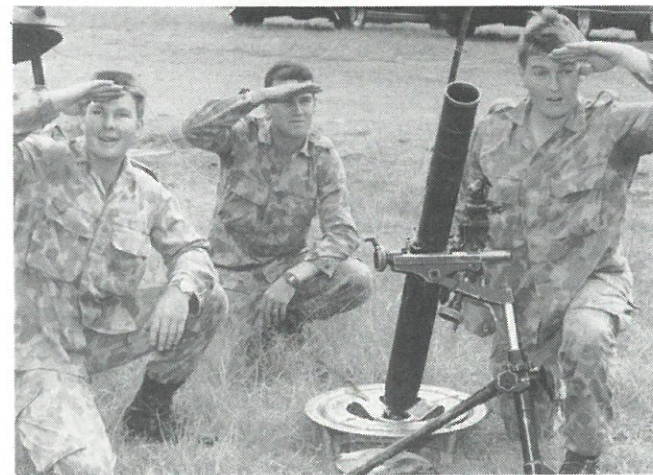
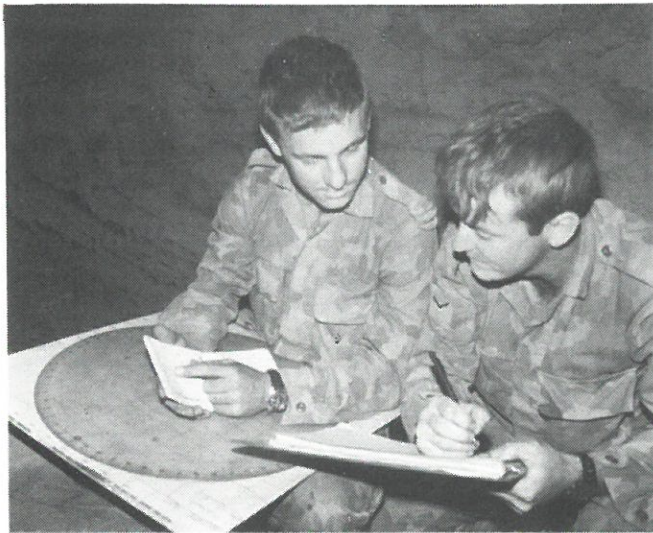
PTE Kelly - Please Waz let me go coxwain.

PTE Spruce - How ya going L.T.? Back us up will ya Boots.

PTE Beard - anything else need doing?

PTE Kupu - Have I told you about Tonga yet?

LCPL Van den hurk - I didn't realise she was black, it was dark.



MORTAR PLATOON

The battalion's intimate indirect fire support platoon commenced the year with its members straddling the globe. A section were having a top time being employed as riflemen by Alpha Company in Malaysia, CAPT Tulley had things up and running in Hawaii and Korea whilst the rest of the platoon had their best means up helping in the running of the battalion's courses.

Everyone was back just in time to travel south to Puckapunyal and Exercise El Alamein. Not only did we demonstrate our firepower to thousands of spectators, but we also had time to show 5/7 RAR how to operate mortars from APC(M)s. Despite our best efforts at training them we were still the faster platoon.

Exercise Desert Prelude was memorable for our midnight manpack through countless creeks and rivers - a lot of time was spent trying



to find crossing points where the water would only come up to the OC's neck. Scooter and Rossy decided to stop taking dips whilst tied to each other with toggle ropes - people might have started talking. At about the same time Hendo and Squiz were learning all about taking APCs for swims - but how do you unbog an APC when it is under water?

Before long K89 was on us. The sections did not see much of each other, being auctioned off to the highest-bidding OCs. 2 Section started off under command of Bravo Company and drove across most of the GAFA in the new 6x6s. 1 Section, with some engineer assistance, dug a huge CP which had more K phones than the BN CP. Int Section, obviously envious, decided to waste a couple of us - Sprouly opened up one night with a MAG 58 and managed to score an own goal.

Meanwhile, PTE Crawley, bored with the company of his section, decided to go for a drive with a Kamarian. The Kamarian soon got bored with Crawley's conversation and dumped him on the side of the road.

CAPT Tulley and CPL Mudge did their best to win a 'Good Housekeeping' Award by continuously sweeping and dusting the FSCC. We feel certain that at least a few of the generals must have been impressed, not only by the hygienic workplace but also by the fireplan Mudgee transmitted over and over again.

By the end of the exercise PTE Hartley had decided that auctioning off sections to OCs was not the best way to employ the platoon. So, at the end of ex BBQ he approached Niner and told him exactly how things should be done next time around.

Later in the year it was decided the platoon needed reinforcements. So SGT 'Tiny' Pellow is being sent to Ballarat to recruit new civies into the army, LT Sutton and CPL Logan will train them at Depot Company while CAPT Tulley is keen to expedite the production of new MLOs at Duntroon. SGT 'Droopy Dog' Thomson has gone to Alpha Company - his deep breathing on the radio will be missed - and SGT Dave Pabst has finally been posted to Charlie. The big question for 1990 is - when will Trooper Speering finally make his move?



LEFT TO RIGHT: SGT Emmett, LCPL Bell, LCPL Pierce, PTE Moller, PTE Francis, PTE Osbaldstone, PTE Hill, LCPL Baine, PTE Mitchel, CPL Harris, LCPL West.
FRONT: CPL Clayton, PTE McKenna, PTE Thompson.

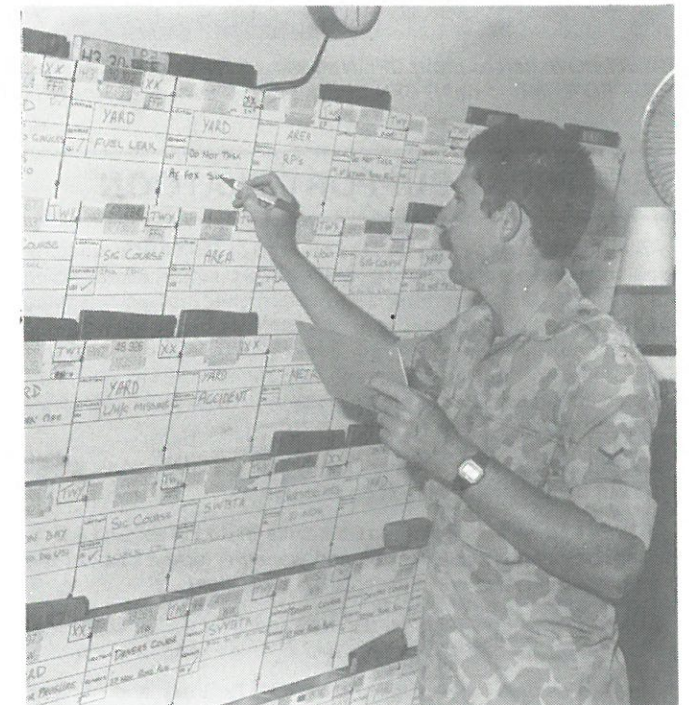
TRANSPORT PLATOON

Transport Platoon started the year on a high note; we even had a new TOCO LT Badyk march in. The beginning of the year was fairly hectic with non-techs and various tasks in support of the Bn's courses. By February we were into our own drivers course which ran well, and delivered other battalions a new batch of drivers.

April saw us off to Moreton Island with the Navy doing ship boarding and beach landings with vehicles; it certainly was an excellent experience for all the drivers. Life continued along a more normal vane until June when the OC launched us into Chinchilla, launch being the operative word, as we managed to sink so many vehicles (better luck next year Boss). By August we were ready for the big one - K89, and even if we do say so ourselves, we did perform well. The exercise saw all the drivers chalk up a lot of time in big distance driving and convoy operations, without TPT PI being involved in any major accidents. Special mention should also be made to PTE Osbaldstone for an excellent job on the water truck and to LCPL Bell for developing new tyre changing procedures.

The rest of the year looks fairly busy as well, with a new Drivers Course and of course our change over of TPT SGT from Karl (Brock) Emmett to Brian (Lambo) Lambert and the departure of now CAPT Badyk to Perth.

Anyway, it's time to finish. TPT PI extends Christmas greetings to the rest of the Bn and wishes everyone safe driving.





LEFT TO RIGHT: CAPT McGee, SGT Laurenson, PTE Coventry, PTE McCabe, PTE Rhodes, PTE Millard, PTE Rage, CPL Grieves, PTE Poke, PTE Sweatman, PTE Kinna, CPL Clarke, CPL Vesper.

PIPES & DRUMS 8/9 RAR

1989 saw the Pipes and Drums perform at over a hundred engagements. To add to this demanding schedule, the Band registered with the Queensland Pipe Band Association enabling them to compete in any competition within or outside Australia. Pipe Bands are judged on four aspects being, Piping, Drumming, Dress and Drill, also how well these are combined and balanced to give a precise and pleasing performance.

Right from the very first competition the Band has taken the competition world by storm, winning in everything in their grade and even winning in grades above.

Competitions entered were:

1. Chandler Sports Complex in June, first in grade four and first in grade three, also took out the dress and drill competition.
2. Lismore contest in July, first in grade four, first in grade three and won dress and drill again.
3. Bendigo, Victoria in July, first in grade four and first in grade three, also entered grade two and got third.
4. East Coast Championships in Newcastle, where despite having a band less than half the size of their rivals took out second place in grade four and second place in grade three, also winning the NSW Championship Medley Contest in grade four.

Credit for these success in the first year of competition playing must go to the Pipe Major SGT Chris Laurenson, Drum Major CPL Brian Vesper, Senior Piper CPL Steve Ramsden and Senior Drummer LCPL S. Clark.



Throughout the year the Pipes and Drums raised nearly \$2000 for Regimental Funds from competition prizes and donations for "services rendered". It is hoped that this "modus operandi" will continue in 1990 so that the Battalion may continue to benefit from the Pipes and Drums in this way.

Among the variety of parades, concerts, street marches, guard mounts, mess functions and funerals, one of the highlights was the Pipes and Drums performing twice this year at Government House where exceptional entertainment qualities of the band drew special mention and praise for His Excellency, The Governor of Queensland Sir Walter and Lady Campbell.

Apart from the musical side, the Pipes and Drums also provided the Battalion with medical cover during Ex K89 as stretcher bearers/pl medicos and represented the Battalion by competing in the Simpson Trophy competition run in the beginning of the year. The Pipes and Drums also competed in all the other "normal" Battalion activities such as BEs, shooting, BFTs and of course the normal allocation of duties.

Members departed P & D's are:
PTE Berger, PTE Joyce, PTE Smith, PTE Hall and PTE A. McCabe.

Members joined P & D's are:
LCPL Clarke, PTE R. McCabe, PTE Millard, PTE Poke, PTE Page, PTE Sweatman and PTE Sheldon.

A special thanks to the wives and girl friends for their perseverance during a busy year with members being away more than normal on weekends and nights. Without their support the Band could not have made it to where they are now, the best Pipe Band in the Australian Army.



FRONT ROW: (left to right) SGT Jarvis, SGT Hill, CAPT Ham, LCPL Ingram, CPL Richardson.
BACK ROW: LCPL Kearney, PTE Cowlsen, PTE Bill, PTE Wiblen, CPL Sheldon, PTE Vaughn, PTE Peters, LCPL Hall.

SIGNALS PLATOON

The 'Comms Lords' once again 'hammed it up' in 89. The year started with the usual march in and out of pers, march ins were CAPT Ham, SGT Hill in July, Bung, Dug, Jed, Collie, Petey and the shortest serving member ever to be in Sig Pl, Stevo and Jester being our newest resident Sig Lid from 1 RAR. Out were CAPT Hurcum, SGT Fairbank, BJ, Stu, Chuffa and Pop.

Then our holidaying members returned back from Malaysia brown and hungover and got some BRL for their efforts - outstanding!

Next on the review was the Vinson Cse which Bean, Bung and Dug attended at Watsonia. It was a bad move mixing grunts with little boys and girls from signal corps.

The 'Lords' road run was definitely the highlight for the year. It is now a confirmed fact that every town in the South East region in Queensland locks up their daughters, cats, dogs and pubs when the word gets out that another 'Run' is under way. Here are some of the highlights: Molzy wrecking another Rover, the female Pinjaroom tribe visiting a 'Comms Lord' hotel room and displaying their aversion to European toilets by squatting in the gutter under a lamp post, at Roma, irritating the local rugby league team by dancing with their girlfriends in the most provocative manner (the fish heads were not impressed) but who cares!! and BJ giving a pogue an infanteers lesson on not to leave your mates behind.



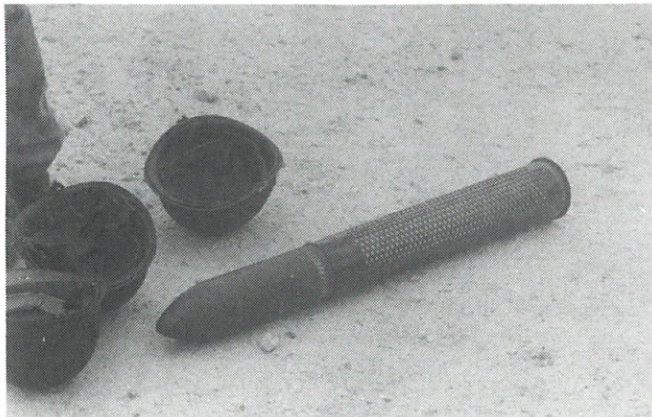
The time spent between the road run and the Bde CPX were taken up with duties, non-tech inspections and spt to other units, you know - all soldierly skills. The Bde CPX was the first decent training for the Sig dets to square their acts away before K-89, but even then the point was bought up that the PI needs more emphasis on training than on duties.

K-89 was the highlight for the working year, overall the PI acquitted themselves quite well even with the lack of training beforehand. A lot of valuable lessons were learned and will be put into effect for next year's training. Once more some highlights: Holzy wrecking another Rover, Daryl running line sect, Bill being line 2IC, Dug having fun sleeping on radio picquet, Stevo wondering why an anthill wouldn't move when he called it in from a clearing Ptl, Banksy teaching an engineer splinter team how to booby trap PAL lights, Bean and his Batman impersonation and Dales who always smiled. CAPT Ham and Richo attended the 1/89 RSO cse at Singleton and both achieved excellent results.

Coming up the PI will hold the 1/89 Regt Sig Cse at Wacol during November. We expect to receive a huge boost to our numbers next year from this and also a huge boost to our PI funds.

Leaving us thus far and at the end of the year are SGT Holland, Bill Perkins, Bean, Billy, Tav, Big Squizz and Fish.

To sum up, Signals Platoon enjoyed the year with the highlights and lowlights, and with more men and training the 'Comms Lords' will be an effective force in 1990.



HEAVY WEAPONS PLATOON

The year started out for us with the HVY WPNS course which was run out at Greenbank. As usual there were a few minor hic-cups with the buggies i.e. dash boards starting to smoke, refusing to start in the morning (must be a hint they're getting old), but with quick work, and a bit of initiative, all problems were solved. CPL Van Hout got into the action by showing us how to dismount vehicles whilst on the move.

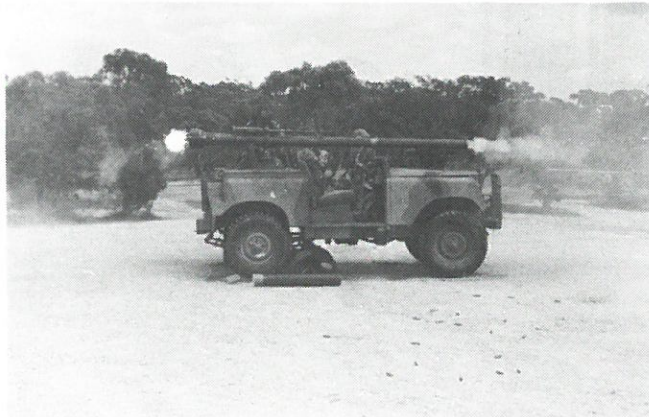
As the buggies went into hibernation, we became SFMG for the rest of the year. Off to WBTA we went for SFMG training and to see if the human body does really need sleep to keep it going. We worked together well as a pl, and the human body does need sleep.

The Ex Alamein saw the pl given a new name by SGT Pabst and the "DEVIL DOGS" were born.

Back at Enoggera we started getting the battle trucks sorted out and designing a new mount for our vehicles. After a few failures we finally came up with a mount which fitted both 6 x 4 wheeled vehicles.

We were then sent out as enemy for C Company on ARTEP. This is where the "DEVIL DOG" spirit truly rose to the occasion. A typical example is where Pat Wall took out a half sect patrol, the last message received was "Death before dishonour", as he was finally over-run.

Then came K89. Most of the Pl was driving up to Kununurra. We knew it was going to be a dry trip, but not that "DRY".



We dug and dug, then drove and drove ...
To find a convoy that never did show.
We chased the enemy around and around
And even managed a few hours in town.
Around the GAFA did we travel ...
Until the EX was finally unravelled.

Up at Kununurra where nobody goes
Hides a few DEVIL DOGS
That no nobody knows
Along comes the Kamerians, all tatted and torn
They came up against the DEVIL DOGS
And wish they had never been born.
Through the blood and the dust
The two sides fought
Till finally the DEVIL DOGS rose
And yelled "KISS MY OUGHT".

Gladiator Week arrived with many members of the Pl playing key roles in the demolition of the rest of the Bn. Soon some of the "DEVIL DOGS" spirit will be leaving the pl to help develop some "esprit de corp" in the Rifle Companies.

Our best wishes go with PTEs Chester and Pyke who are departing the Green Machine for so called greener pastures on civil street.

On a closing note, just one small reminder, we are a multi role pl here to provide support for the Bn. No job too big or too small. Remember we are only a phone call away - ext 7857 or just yell "DEVIL DOGS".

ADMIN COY - HQ

Well another year has just about passed and some major changes have occurred in the Headquarters. For a start the old guard of 1988 has left to be replaced by an entirely new team. And even this mob have had trouble getting a settled line up with WO2 Olive going on Exercise Long Look, and the CQMS SSGT Bishop going on posting to 9 RQR.

The OC managed to organize three Admin Coy exercises this year named "Round up", unfortunately the first and second didn't get too far, however on the third, we managed to learn some new water - crossing and recovery techniques.

Despite our efforts not to leave the Brigade area as a Coy, we did manage to get ourselves caught up in the excitement of K89. And what a wonderful trip it was with fishing, water skiing and sight seeing trips for all, as long as you could fit it all in between providing support to F Ech. All in all life at CHINA BEACH certainly had its moments, and certainly the road party can now speak highly of such places as Mt Isa and Miles to name but a few of the "interesting" places that were visited.

This year certainly had a few ups and downs, and though we are about to lose WO2 Clarke to be replaced by WO2 Hughes, rumour also has it that SSGT Neate may have to exchange his auditor's pen for something more conventional, the team that brought such memories this year, looks to be in place for next year "AS WELL", bad luck team. So just to refresh your memories we have provided a profile of our star studied team.

MAJOR (Pudge) MARTIN

Marital Status Married (however wife denies this)
Occupation Tax Consultant / Rugby Coach
Hobbies Being OC of Admin Coy
Interests Would like to be OC of a real Coy
Favourite Movie Platoon (would like to Comd one some day)
Favourite Musical HAIR
Favourite Song Rain drops keep falling on my head
Favourite Sport Lawn Bowls
Favourite Book 1001 ways to cheat the Tax Department

CAPTAIN McNeill (Roach)

Marital Status Married (yet wife denies this)
Occupation Part-time padre, full time Social Worker
Hobbies Staying out of CSM's way
Interests Learning how to umpire soccer games
Favourite Movie Patton (would like to be a General with style)
Favourite Musical Cats



FRONT ROW: (left to right) WO2 Clarke, CAPT McNeill, MAJ Martin.
BACK ROW: (left to right) CPL Humphrey, PTE Jeffrey, PTE Collins.

Favourite Song La Bamba
Favourite Sport Umpiring soccer games
Favourite Book Formations and Tactics (wants to know what everyone is talking about)

CSM (or WO2 CLARKE)

Marital Status Rumour has it that he is!
Occupation Bass Baritone for Bn chorus
Hobbies Tormenting Coy 2IC
Interests Staring out of window in morning and drinking coffee in the afternoon
Favourite Sport Giving everybody a hard time
Favourite Movie Lords of Discipline
Favourite Song I've just gotta be me
Favourite Musical What's a musical?
Favourite Book Mien Kampf (lives the CPL's style)

CPL HUMPHREY (Humph)

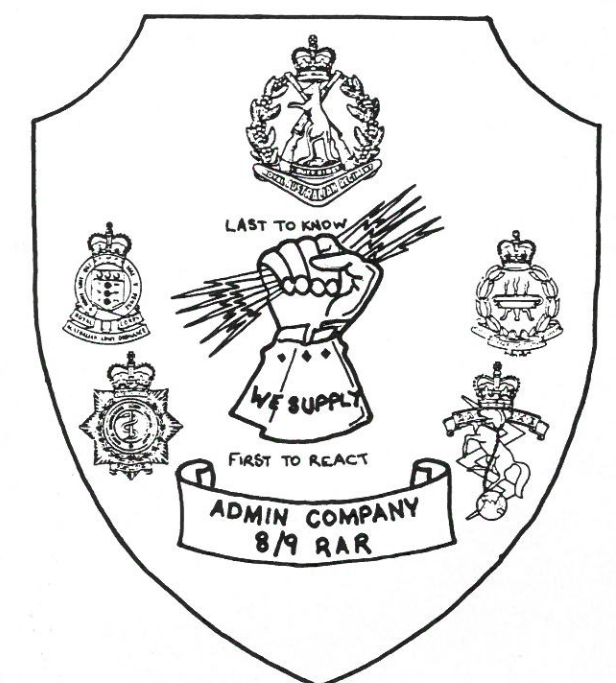
Marital Status Married
Occupation Member of Bn brains trust
Hobbies Losing the Coy's paper work
Interests Does have a new baby
Favourite Sport Couch Lizard
Favourite Movie Wizard of Oz (always liked to dream)
Favourite Song Oh what a beautiful feeling
Favourite Musical Starlight Express
Favourite Book Noddy goes to work

PTE JEFFREY (Jeffro)

Marital Status Married when it suits!
Occupation Professional private
Hobbies Computing
Interests Trying to work out what he is doing with his hobby
Favourite Song We too are one
Favourite Sport Watching
Favourite Musical Doesn't know but does like country and western music
Favourite Book A clerk's rise to success

PTE COLLINS (Collie)

Marital Status Yes
Occupation Spare parts dealer
Hobbies Cleaning weapons
Interests None
Favourite Sport Watching
Favourite Movie Alien
Favourite Song I like Chinese
Favourite Musical Paint my wagon red
Favourite Book What's a book?





PRESENTATION OF NEW 8 RAR AND 9 RAR COLOURS 31 OCTOBER 1989

