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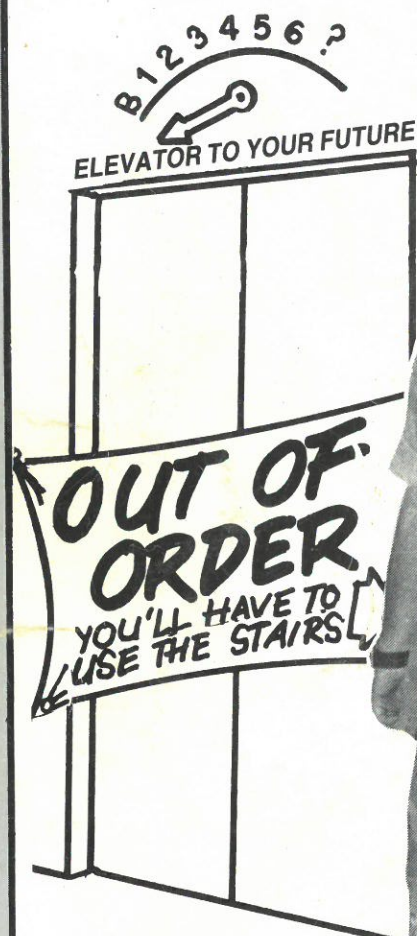
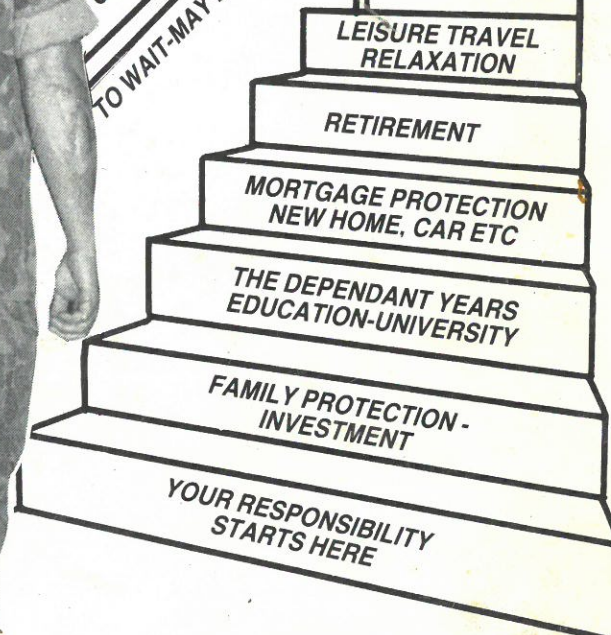
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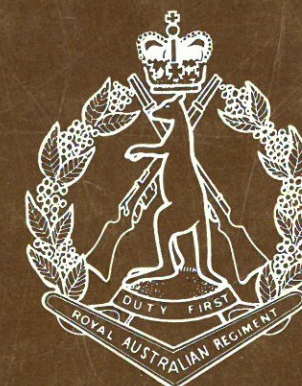
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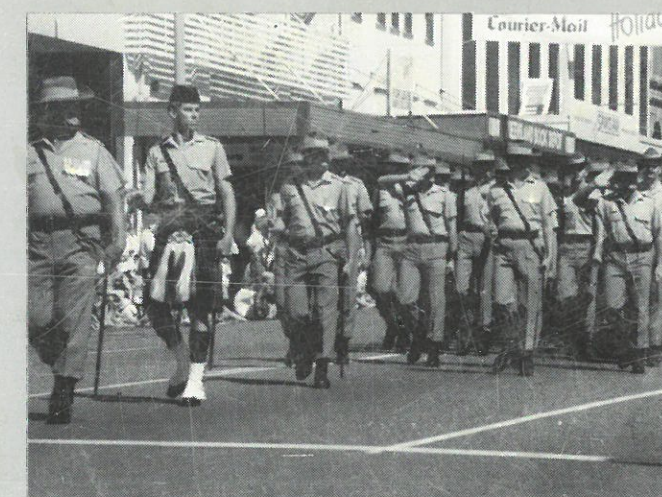
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THE RAM 1990



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



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THE NEW COMMANDING OFFICER

The incoming C.O. is Lt Col Peter Leahy. Lt Col Leahy is a 34 year old graduate of RMC with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Military Studies. He was a rifle platoon commander and Anti-armour platoon commander in 8/9 RAR, a rifle company commander and Operations Officer in 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles in Hong Kong, and Second-in Command of 5/7 RAR. Lt Col Leahy is a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff College, Queenscliff and the United States Army Command and General Staff College, Leavenworth. His instructional appointments have been at the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, the Infantry Centre and at the U.S. Army C & GSC, Leavenworth, USA.

Lt Col Leahy and his wife, Lee, have three boys aged 10, 8 and 4 years.

From Lt Col McKay and the men of the battalion, we extend a warm welcome to Lt Col Leahy and look forward to him assuming command in 1991.



DUKE OF GLOUCESTER CUP TRIALS AND COMPETITION

In May the Battalion underwent the DOGS trials, which would be used to select the best section from the Battalion to represent the unit in the Duke of Gloucester Cup competition.

The trials tested the infantry sections in the basic infantry skills and minor tractics; these ranged from improvised flotation, weapon handling, 3.5km stretcher carry, 26km march in battle order to battle and instinctive shooting.

The trial was conducted over three days and nights of blood, sweat and tears, at the end of which the CO stated that anyone that completed the trial would be deemed qualified for the CFT.

The section to finish with the most points and in first place was CPL Edwards of B Coy. He and his section would represent the Battalion in Singleton from 19 - 24 July, 1990.

TRAINING THE SQUAD

In late June the DOG squad marched into Delta Coy to undertake an intensive military training and physical programme. The squad would have to undertake training that was new to them which would require them to put their SLR expertise in the back of their mind and learn the weapon that had only seen 6 RAR posing and parading around the area, the 5.56mm STEYR F88.

They learnt the weapon well, however it did cause a few problems with their shooting because the squad had not fired with telescopic sights before. With practice they became proficient with the weapon which was a fine effort in such a short time. Not only did they have a new weapon to play with but they were also issued with individual combat load carrying equipment (ICLCE) which would prove to be a good piece of kit after being properly adjusted.

The preparation training conducted prior to the competition at Enoggera, a local civilian gym, Greenbank, Canungra, Bribie Island and the Gold Coast stood the section with a good chance of winning the cup back to back in 1990.

The day came and the following members flew out by C130 to Singleton: CPL EDWARDS, LCPL HEFEZ, PTE NORTHFIELD, PTE YOUNG, PTE JANSON, PTE ILES, PTE GONZALES, PTE KING, PTE FALLON, PTE DIXON AND PTE BREWER.

From the time four of the teams arrived at RAAF base Amberley the air was that thick you could cut it with a knife, with SECTCOMDS eyeing off each other, Gunners staring at each other and everyone looking to see what each other was carrying. Not a word was passed between the teams - that would come later one night at the end of the competition.



THE CUP

From day one at Singleton it was quite obvious that the competition was going to be hard mentally and physically and that is the way it was meant to be. The team didn't fair all that well over the first one and half days, however with their emphasis on teamwork, morale and physical fitness, the section came from the middle of the pack to get themselves into a winning position over the remaining period of the competition.

The soldiers had tried their guts out for their self esteem and the Battalion for which they are to be commended. On the evening of the presentation they were victorious in defeat by being runners up to 1 RAR.

After the competition much alcohol and lies were passed by all members including the RSM who had put his wallet on the line with the RSMs of the other Battalions; if you come second that means there is four other teams behind you. It is said that some of the RSMs are still paying off their credit cards which were used to buy refreshments.

The squad decided town should be the place to have a few quiet beers, however that is what the other teams thought as well. To quote one person's words: "They just gobbled off". This time they received first prize even though it might have been a black eye.

BACK HOME

The squad was awarded the RAR ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND BRANCH TROPHY which is awarded for the highest place team in the Duke of Gloucester Cup competition between 8/9 and 6 RAR. From all of us GOOD EFFORT MEN. Thanks to the RAR Association Queensland Branch and better luck next time 6 RAR.

THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER CUP COMPETITION RESULTS

Position	RAR	Points
1st	1	2957.8
2nd	8/9	2871
3rd	3	2856.2
4th	6	2774.4
5th	2/4	2773.8
6th	5/7	2424.1

THE McDONALD CUP RESULTS

Position	RAR	Points
1st	6	1670
2nd	1	1515
3rd	5/7	1493
4th	3	1370
5th	8/9	1355
6th	2/4	1103



8th/9th BATTALION THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

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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.J. Cosgrove, A.M., M.C.
Commanding Officer	:	Lieutenant Colonel G.J. McKay, M.C.
Regimental Sergeant Major	:	Warrant Officer Class One R.Slater

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

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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 1991.

EDITORIAL

For those members who have served with 8/9 RAR during 1990, (as symbolized by the cover of this magazine), it will surely be remembered as a year of ceremonial occasions, field firing exercises and overseas deployment.

Although appearing to start as a standard training year the Battalion was soon faced with the challenge of providing the Australian Army Training project team - Papua New Guinea (AATPT-PNG). The Battalion managed to maintain the level of proficiency in close country operations and field firing through Ex Leaden Lift and Ex OTBO before having to reorganise for the task in PNG. Support Company had to be disbanded and Charlie Company faced a new direction in training.

Later in the year, with Bravo Company preparing for deployment as Rifle Company Butterworth for three months, the Battalion met the challenge of establishing a Recruiting Cell for the Direct Recruiting trial. Although understrength, the Battalion has throughout the year met each of these challenges as well as participating in all the usual Brigade training and sporting activities. The Battalion has also performed well on all ceremonial occasions receiving favourable comment on all, from the laying up of the original 8 RAR Colours through to the Beating the Retreat Parade for the Battalion Birthday.

Special thanks is extended to Int Sect for the hard work that has gone into the production of this magazine during a very different year for the Battalion. All members of the Battalion can be proud of their achievements during 1990 and on behalf of Int Sect, I hope this magazine will be a fitting record of 1990 for the future.

THE YEAR IN OUTLINE

JANUARY:	Return from BRL Orientation week
FEBRUARY:	Coy exercises at Wondai Laying up of the old 8 RAR Colours at City Hall Long Hai Day
MARCH:	Bde open day Ex Leaden Lift - WBTA
APRIL:	B Coy/Recon PI to Land Command Battle School Easter stand down
MAY:	Selection trials for DOG Cup Squad C Coy forms the AATPT-PNG Ex OTBO - SWBTA
JUNE:	Coy Arteps - Wondai Bde stand down
JULY:	Ex Tropic Lightning - Hawaii DOG Cup - Singleton - 2nd place Spt Coy disbanded AATPT-PNG deploy Goldie River PNG Victoria Barracks Guard
AUGUST:	Bde Camp - SWBTA
SEPTEMBER:	Bn support to Legacy Day B Coy depart for Butterworth Recruiting Cell established
OCTOBER:	Coo-ee march Bn athletics carnival Bn Birthday Parade
NOVEMBER:	Adventure training RAR Birthday
DECEMBER:	B Coy return from Butterworth CO's farewell parade BRL

TUG OF WAR 1990

Tug Of War in the Battalion in 1990 commenced in the mid winter by forming a civilian affiliated club called The Enoggera Tug Of War Club. The aim of the club was to provide Battalion members with the experience of civilian national competition so as to become the champions in the Enoggera area.

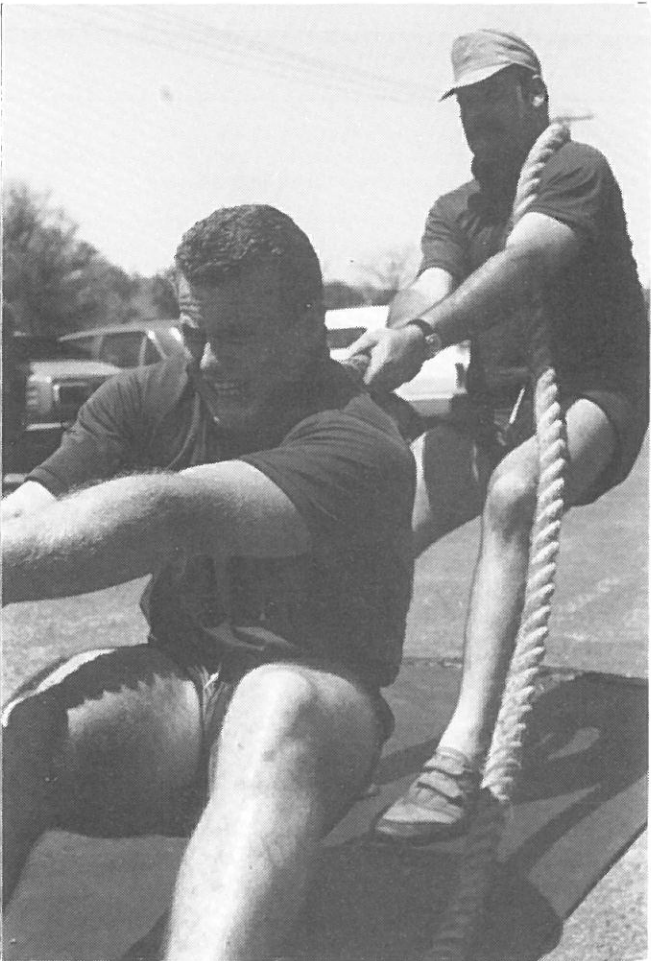
Our first outing was the Queensland State Titles held in conjunction with the Texas show in South West Queensland. With our new uniforms from our generous sponsors we arrived at Texas. The Texas Tug Of War Club was running a Disco at the local pub so we joined in the festivities only to discover it was a ploy to take our money and decrease our performance the following day. Well it worked, but the next day we tried our hearts out against the best from Queensland and NSW and learnt a hell of a lot about competitive Tug Of War. For our efforts on the day we were awarded an encouragement award for our sense of fairplay, sportsmanship, guts and determination.

In the coming weeks the team was decimated by the loss of the boys from Company B going to Malaysia. However we were rebuilt with enthusiasm from Alpha, in particular from ex Spt Coy. The next competition was a double header held at Kalbar south of Ipswich. We arrived on Saturday 22nd September to set up as the club was hosting the two events, only to find that Brigade stand down and a few personal problems had left us two men short of a team. The Morebank Logistic Bn Team had travelled from Sydney to compete only to find us as competition, as the rest of the Queensland teams had taken it upon themselves not to turn up and also not to advise anyone of their intentions. With the weekend rapidly turning into a disaster we had a 3 team, 6 man a side, open weight competition. Totally out gunned by two heavier and more experienced teams we were forced to take a credible third place. We then cancelled Sundays competition (The South East Queensland Titles).

1500km is a long way to come as Morebank did to get stuffed around. It was time to save face on our part and to give them something for their trouble. On Sunday the Bribie Island Annual Mullet Festival was in full swing, we rang our contacts on the island and told them we were on our way. We were billed as Queensland versus NSW and upon arrival at Satlers Hotel, us in maroon, them in blue, the hype started. The best of nine ends, it was hot, dusty, and the crowd was on our side. We lost the first end because of a ground disadvantage to the disappointment of the crowd, but we came back with a vengeance to make it one all. This repeated itself until the seventh end to the delight of the crowd, until they took the 7th and 8th ends in a row, the experience of the NSW side shone through to take the day, but we saved the day and created an annual event to be held on the island at the World Mullet Throwing Titles 1991.

We have a couple of indoor events coming up in October and November which is done in runners, they lead up to the South East Queensland Army Titles on the 22nd November 1990 in Enoggera in which the Bn should perform well. We have several ladies interested in joining the club as it is a fully integrated sport. The club is always looking for new members both male and female perhaps Tug Of War is for you, remember we need admin staff to run the team, besides competitors.

The manager and members of the Enoggera Tug Of War Club would like to thank the Staff and members of the 8th/9th Bn, Mr David Satler, and Sgt Frank Ketu for their assistance and support in 1990 and look forward to greater rewards in 1991.



RUGBY 90

8/9 RAR had a successful year on the rugby paddock in 1990. We played only two grades this year, A and C Grade. A Grade won three out of five matches and C Grade won the Grand Final against Oakey. On the representative scene 8/9 RAR had five players represent Australian Army in 1990, they were LT Simon Small, LT Phil Reed, LT Cameron Baker, PTE Shane Niddrie and SGT Dave Hatton. PTE Timothy Thomas, PTE Dave Martin, LT Tony Bywater, CPL Craig Sloane and CPL Moose McLean represented SQARU. MAJ Pudge Martin and LT Angus Baker coached SQARU.

All in all a great year for 8/9 RAR in Rugby. Well done to C Grade on their premiership and to all those who either played or helped with RAMS Rugby. Now we have consolidated a victory in C Grade we need to continue this to A Grade in 1991. As can be seen from the awards a number of players doubled up this year. The awards are a result of the B and F points awarded at the end of each game.

MAJ Martin

A GRADE

A Grade had a mixed year in 1990. We played a total of five games, winning three. At least we beat our old rivals 6 RAR but lost twice to the Gunners. We had to withdraw the A Grade side from the competition mid season due to PNG commitments, but at least we beat 2/14, the Engrs and 6 RAR. Well done to all players and thanks for your efforts.

C Grade

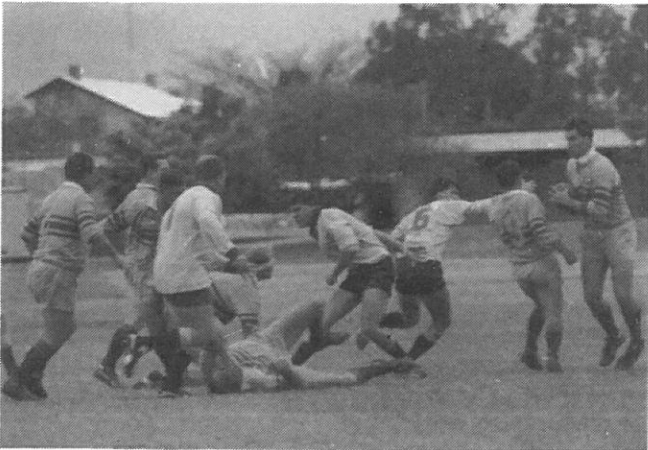
1990 Premiers - what a year. At the start of the year 45 people showed up to fill the position of 15 players, however as unit commitments increased the number of players dropped to 11. A quick phone call to Bn Veteran Affairs saw a few people return for "one more time"; the likes of Chris Smith, Dick Clark, Brian Vesper and the CO.

The side showed that 8/9 always provides a few shocks by losing the first game of the season and drawing with LWC, the B Grade premiers. The Grand Final saw the commitment of the team by keeping Oakey scoreless. The final score of 13-0 was a credit to all players. Oakey reverted to pugilists when they tried to take the old and the small (Pudge and Cav) but they came off second best there also. **Best Players were** PTE Tony Niddrie, CPL Cavanagh, PTE Dave Martin and CPL Mick O'Sullivan. Congratulations C Grade on the premiership and to all players in the 1990 season.

SGT Mc Ivor

Awards

Best & Fairest	A Grade -	PTE Shane Niddrie
	C Grade -	PTE Shane Niddrie
Best Forward	A Grade -	CPL Mick O'Sullivan
	C Grade -	SGT Kim Lester
Best Back	A Grade -	MAJ Pudge Martin
	C Grade -	CPL "Cav" Cavanagh
Most Improved Forward	-	PTE Tony Niddrie
Most Improved Back	-	PTE Dave Martin
Clubman	-	SGT Joe Mc Ivor
Battler	-	PTE Trevor Kelly



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

Last year in this forward I said that in 1990 we would be returning to a more conventional training year and that we could look forward to a more typical training cycle. Well, by the 7th February this year all that changed and the unit was warned out for one of the most interesting and challenging tasks the Battalion has had to face since the formation of the ODF in 1980.

The task of conducting the Australian Army Training Project Team for Papua New Guinea was given to 8/9 RAR, instead of to individuals formed into a Training Team, and we were soon put on notice that what we were about to embark on was very important not just for the PNGDF but for the Pacific region. The Training Team has done a marvellous job and all who have been involved in it this year are to be congratulated. I especially want to mention the FLO, Captain Peter Ham and the wives back home who have kept the home front in order while the men have been away.

Before we deployed to PNG we did get in some good field firing on Exercises Leaden Lift and OTBO. I would like you all to remember that **nothing** can train you for war like shooting in a realistic training environment and you should take the opportunity to field-fire whenever you can. The ARTEPs this year were again done well despite Mother Nature's best effects to freeze us all into eunuch status.

The Duke of Gloucester Cup squad performed admirably and finished a very close second and showed great spirit and determination throughout the Competition and excellent sportsmanship at the end.

On the sporting field we were decimated by the absence of the 90 or so men to PNG and Bravo Company to Butterworth but what a great effort to be in three Grand Finals! Congratulations to all the teams, coaches and managers for putting in the time and hard work to get our teams to the finals - and to the winners goes the glory.

REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR
WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 1
R. SLATER

"This battalion has good spirit".

"The dress, drill and bearing of those on parade was the best I have seen for quite some time."

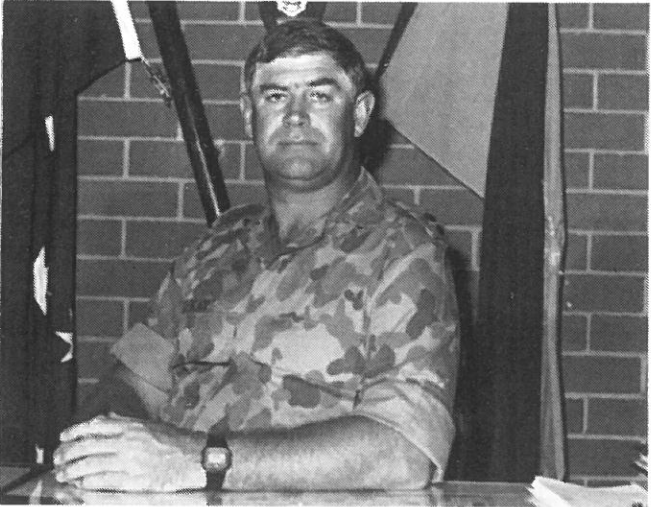
"I'm impressed with the way the soldiers speak and the way in which they have conducted themselves tonight."

Three different comments from three senior officers at the Rams Retreat after the birthday parade this year. Those comments and many others which were made that night, only serve to reinforce my belief that the 8th/9th Battalion will always achieve its aim with the minimum of fuss.

The year has been a demanding and at times a trying and disruptive one. Overseas commitments and the many and varied training and external support requirements have ensured a busy time for all members of the unit. Despite all this nearly all members of the Battalion have shown the dedication, professionalism and Esprit-de-corps required of all ranks in a peace time army which is training for war. There is however always room for improvement. Officers, Warrant Officers, Senior and Junior Non-Commissioned Officers must always be striving to improve our training, and thinking of new and challenging ways in which to improve and maintain the skills required to win the battle. When the "proverbial hits the fan" it is all too late.

Next year promises to be just as challenging, demanding and exciting as this past year, so let's not rest on our laurels.

Well done, Old Dependable!



Next year will see the PNG contingent return albeit with basically a new Training Team. That will continue on until mid 1991. Alpha Company will be off to the UK and we will see the Battalion trialling direct entry recruiting to build our numbers back up to the Authorised Establishment. It should be an interesting year.

I will leave on the 14th December this year for appointment as an Instructor at the Australian Command and Staff College at Fort Queenscliffe. The new Commanding Officer will be Lieutenant Colonel Peter Leahy, a fine officer and ex-8/9 RAR platoon commander.

I want to thank you all most sincerely for your professionalism, your loyalty to me and the Battalion, for your guts efforts when it was required and your comradeship. I will now leave the Royal Australian Regiment, 21 years after first joining it in 9 RAR. I have been most privileged and proud to have been your CO and I wish you all the very best in your future soldiering.

Duty First.





FRONT ROW: (Left to Right) CAPT Roney, MAJ Edwards, WO1 Slater, LT COL G.J. McKay MC, MAJ Dawson, WO2 Boot, SGT Colbertaldo.
SECOND ROW: (Left to Right) SGT Le-Gay Brereton, CPL Bubner, PTE Lockwood, PTE Jacobson, CPL Jones, LCPL Grieve, PTE Elliott, PTE Robinson, CPL Vesper, LCPL Gamble, CPL Johnson, SGT Meunier.
THIRD ROW: (Left to Right) SGT Ramsden, SGT Laurenson, CPL Cust, CPL Pollock, PTE Timmings, PTE Trevitt, CPL Pearson, PTE Thiess, PTE Beer.
BACK ROW: (Left to Right) SGT Adams, SGT Podobnik, PTE Stevens, PTE Hooper, CPL West, CPL Vesovic, PTE McClaren, PTE Millard, PTE Poke, PTE Armstrong.

BnHQ PLATOON

1990 started with new faces in BnHQ. They were:

2IC	-	MAJ Dawson
OPSO	-	MAJ Edwards
ADJT	-	CAPT Roney
IO	-	CAPT Ashurst
RSM	-	WO1 Slater
Pers SGT	-	SGT Meunier
Ops SGT	-	SGT Podobnik

The first half of the year was very busy with personnel involved in parades/exercises, Lay up of Colours in City Hall, Ex Leaden Lift, ANZAC Day march, and Ex OTBO where the Bn HQ deployed to DSU Rocky to form the HQ/Rear Echelon. It was a good working experience for the clerks, also brought out a lot of points in which the HQ element can build on when another deployment is forthcoming.

The second half of the year the PI gained/lost a number of staff:

IN	OUT
CPL Pearson	CPL Kekewick (1 Div Postal Unit)
CPL Cust	PTE Solway (Disch)
PTE Thiess	PTE Banwell (B Coy)
PTE Hooper	SGT Hower (B Coy)
PTE Lockwood	
PTE Corfield	
PTE Ashby	
PTE Taylor	
CPL West	

In July a few personnel were lucky in scoring a trip to Hawaii (Ex Tropic Lightning) to work on their TAN. The Int Offr chose to break his ankle and missed out on the trip, you have our deepest sympathy.



Apart from being handicapped with a PI full of BMS pers, we had a few other injuries, PTE Armstrong who introduced his jaw to a fist and later followed with a broken ankle. CPL (Happy) Johnson introduced his fist to a stubby and CPL (Rambo) Bubner broke down with an ankle injury on the Touch Footy Field.

At the end of the year BnHQ PI will lose a number of staff, they are:

LTCOL G J McKay	- Posted to CSC Queenscliffe (Instr)
MAJ J F Edwards	- Back to school at Queenscliffe
CAPT P T Roney	- OC Spt Coy "Congratulations Sir"
CAPT B Ashurst	- somewhere flat
WO2 Boot	- Army Office (Public Servant)
SGT Page	- Army Office (Public Servant)
SGT C Emmett	- 1 CDO Regt (Weekend Warrior)
SGT Colbertaldo	- Kindergarten 1 RTB
SGT S Podobnik	- Singleton (Desperate Coy)
CPL I Cust	- Singleton Spec Wing ?????
CPL T Johnson	- 5 Avn Regt (Keep off the Avn Gas)
CPL S Pollock	- Disch 1 step forward 2 steps back
CPL C Bubner	- 1 RTB Understudy SGT Colbertaldo
PTE D Stevens	- SCMA (Love sick)
PTE S Taylor	- Singleton Clerk Admin/Dart target operator

In summary apart from Int Sect having ankles problems, BnHQ PI had a fairly good and busy year and are looking forward to 1991.

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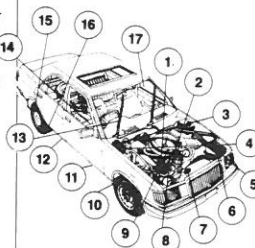
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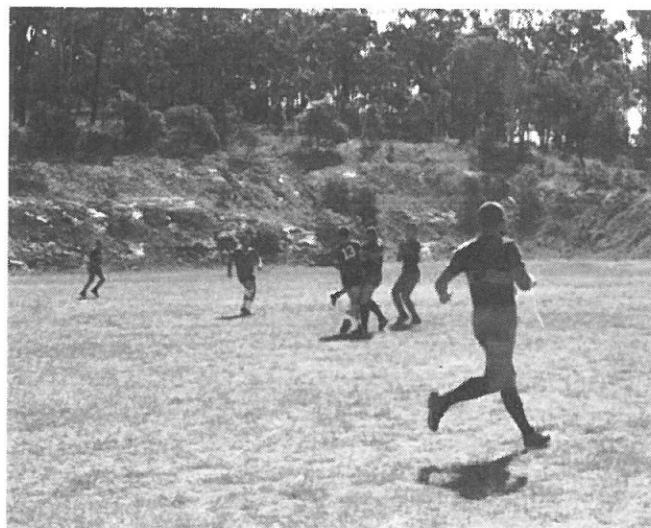
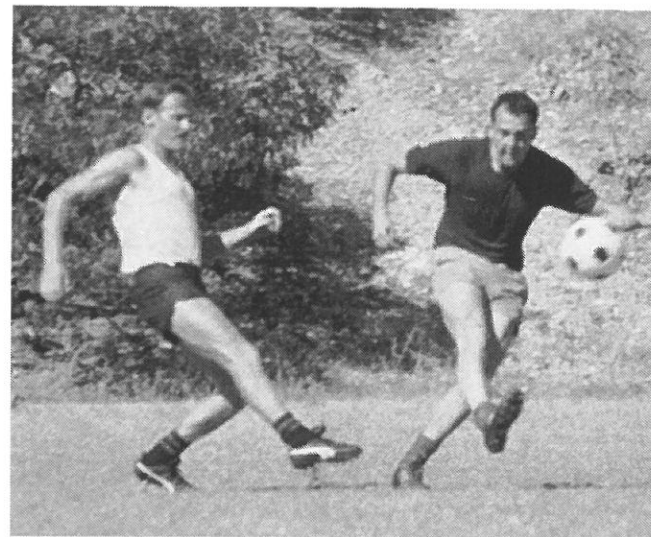
Unfortunately 1990 has not been the most successful year on record for 8/9's soccer endeavours.

The year started off badly with a large number of previous players not being available, and the decision to field only one team due to unit commitments.

The side also lacked a few fundamentals like a decent strip, having to use the old hockey strip initially. However despite all the gloom we managed to go from being slaughtered 8-0 to losing 6-4 to the eventual competition winners 1 Fd Regt, which indicates that the standard improved throughout the season. We even managed to get DPRI to put some money toward a new strip for the last two games.

Despite our lack of success in 1990, I'm sure the seeds of success have been sown for '91. A general improvement in individual players standards and a greater cohesion by the team in the later part of the season should see a much improved performance next year.

Special thanks go to SGT Meunier for carrying the coaching duties and to PTE "Jock" Wilson the team captain for their efforts in the season 90. And those potential "Ian Rush's" in the Battalion. Soccer will be running at least two teams in 91, so if you are interested contact Capt Dowling 21C Admin Coy in early '91 to enable him to get soccer off on the right foot.



TOUCH FOOTBALL 1990 WINTER COMPETITION

The 1990 winter competition has drawn to a close for the Bn with a good effort from both A Grade and C Grade. All players can look back on the season with a sense of achievement and pride.

The start of the season showed promise with no shortage of experienced players, however with the Bn commitments this soon reversed and we settled with two teams.

The A Grade team had their share of wins but due to the team reshuffle, the losses started to mount, and they bowed out of the competition. Best players were Johnno (Pay Office), Willy (Spt) and a guts effort to all other A Graders. Better luck in '91.

The C Grade appeared to be the quiet achievers with luck on their side. Due to a series of wins and forfeited games we made the semi finals. Although the team lost the semis, it was a fine game played with the 8/9 spirit. Best players were Gary Stanworth, Knuckles Hemstead, Belly, and the remainder of the team.

I will take this opportunity to publicly thank LCPL Bell (Belly) (Main Q) for his efforts in finding a sponsor for both teams. I must also thank Beaurepaire Tyres of Mitchelton for their support and hope they can again support us in 1991. Again well done Belly.

Well, most of the players are spread throughout the Pacific Area and the season is but a memory, however we can all look back with pride on a job well done. I look forward to seeing you all again in 1991.

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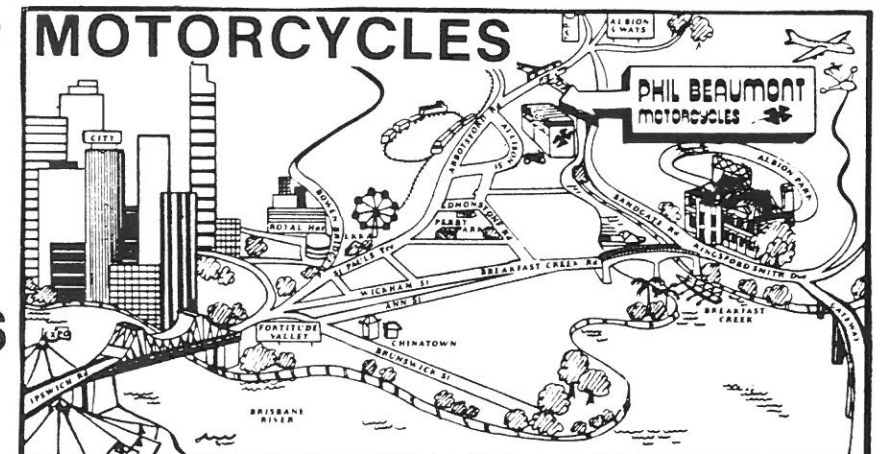

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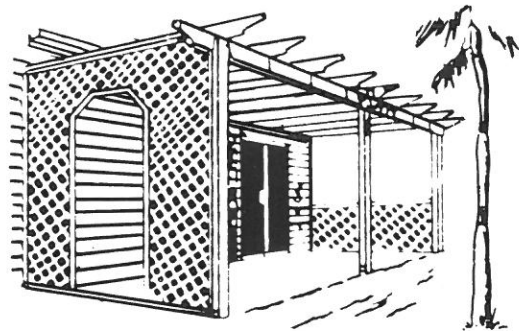
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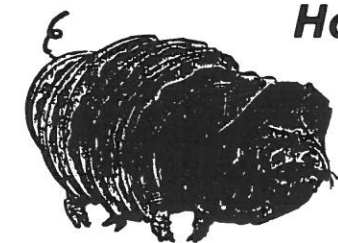
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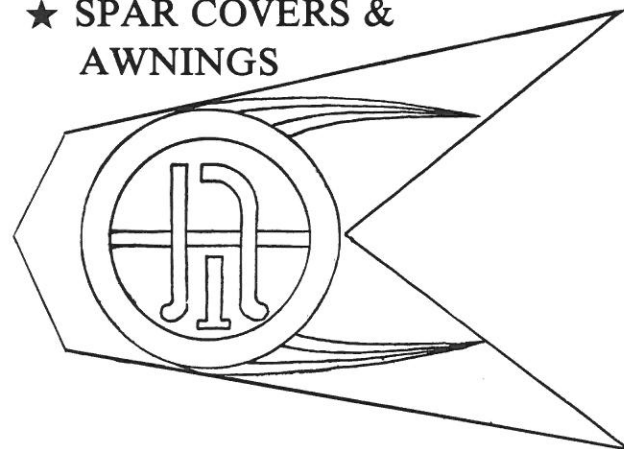
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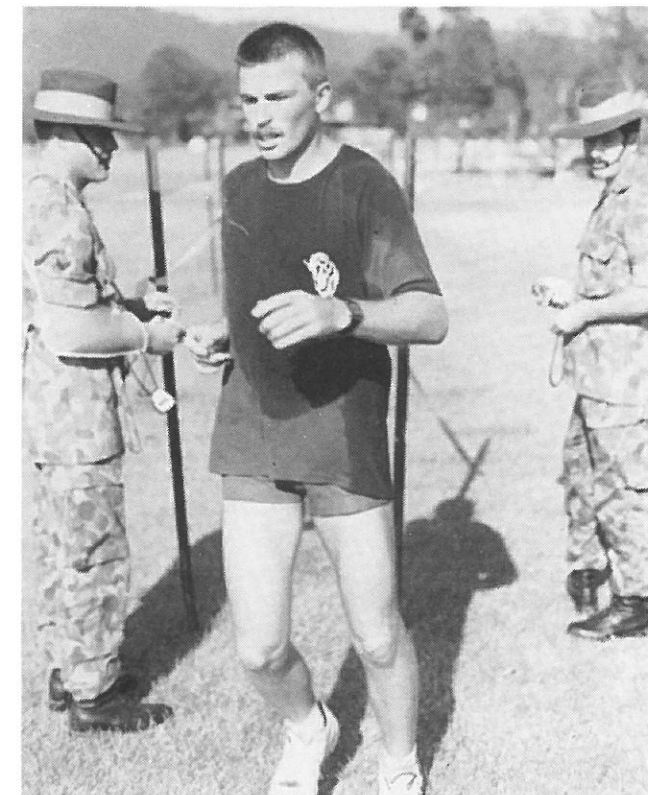
CROSS COUNTRY 1990

A hotly contested event, the Battalion Cross Country kicked off to a good start on Friday 2nd November 1990. All members of the 8/9 RAR (AS component) donned PT attire and ran the 8km route through the Barracks and close training area to the finish on Duncan Oval. The result was particularly close, the final placing being:

- a. A Coy, first
- b. BHQ/Admin Coy, second
- c. C Coy, third
- d. Spt Coy, fourth; and
- e. Trg Coy, fifth.

The individual placegetters were:

- a. MAJ J. Edwards BHQ first in 30 min 30 sec
- b. CPL M. Cavanagh A Coy, second
- c. PTE S. Pidcock Admin Coy, third
- d. PTE A. Jolliffe A Coy, fourth
- e. PTE S.D. Niddrie A Coy, fifth
- f. CPL I. Maroske Admin Coy won the veterans' event.



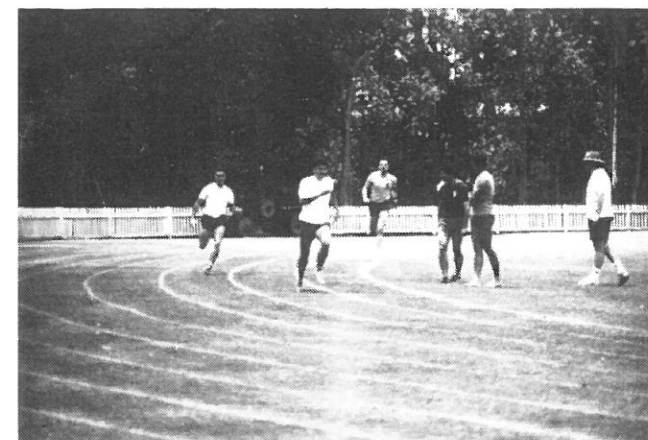
ATHLETICS 1990

High spirits, keen competition and good sportsmanship. That sums up the Battalion Athletics which was conducted at Marist Brothers, Ashgrove Athletics ground on 26 Oct 90. Although no records were broken during the day, the competition revealed some very talented Coy athletes. PTE Loneragan from BHQ wasn't trying and only won the Triple Jump, 100 metre A grade, High Jump 200 metre A grade and was the best runner in the winning relay team.

The highlight of the day (with the exception of some very talented egg throwing/catching) was the High Jump event. The finalists were CFN Bloom Admin Coy, PTE Jukawics A Coy and PTE Loneragan BHQ. This event saw the whole battalion spectating and urging the finalists on to some extremely good jumps.

The activities were closely contested with Admin Coy keeping a slight edge on the mighty Alpha Coy, but in the final relay events the Admin Coy athletes pushed ahead giving Admin Coy a win over A Coy.

The carnival was very successful in the words of the CO - "there were no second places". The remainder of the day was spent reposing at the Rams Retreat reliving the victories and near victories of the day.

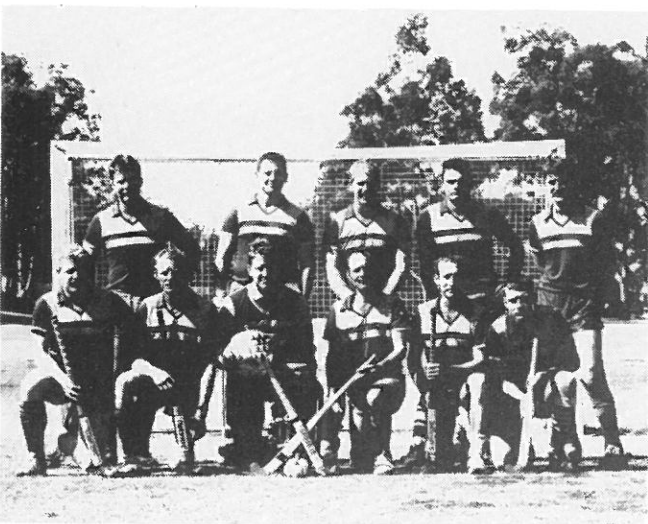
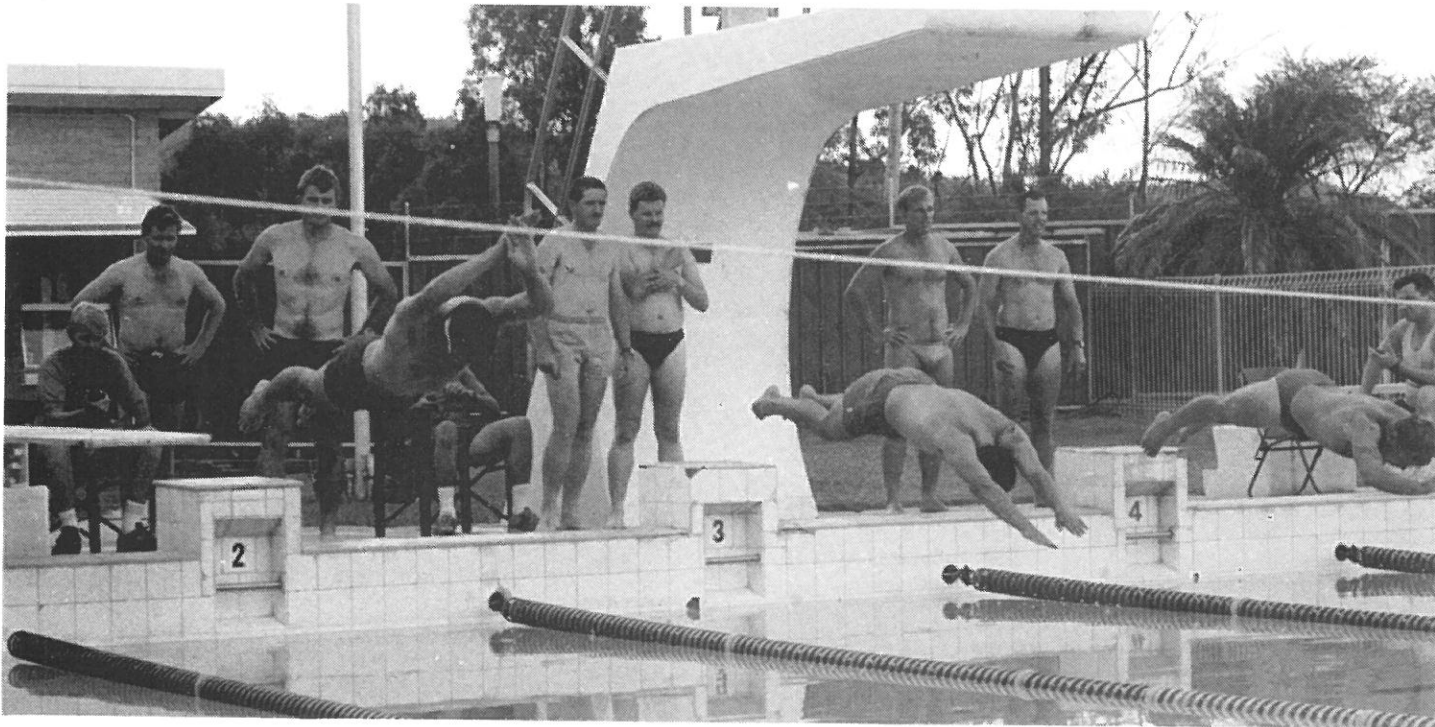
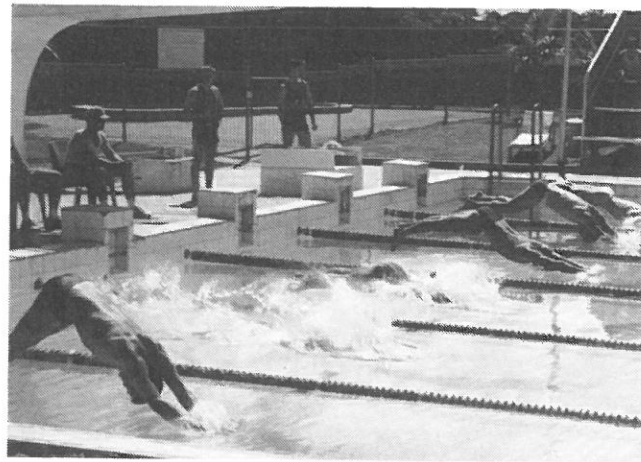


SWIMMING 1990

Unfortunately the 8/9 RAR swimming team were unable to undertake the type of preparation for the Bde swimming carnival in March that they would have liked to. The training under the watchful eyes of LT Bywater and LT Reed, was left up to the individual (due to the lack of training time).

However, the teams put in a guts effort on the day and achieved a good result. In fact, if it wasn't for the individual from 2/14 QMI who disqualified the relay team for breaking (even though the crowd agreed that it wasn't a break) the team would have won the carnival.

Better luck next year.



HOCKEY 90

The Battalion hockey team commenced the year with the title of "defending premiers". The team had all the potential of being able to hold onto the title for another year though courses, exercises and deployments meant that this was not to be the case.

The team started the year by electing CPL Dodd as captain of the side. The first few games resulted in victory for 8/9 RAR. The other teams in the competition soon started to improve and to pray for 8/9 RAR members to be called away on exercises or courses. We had an even spread of wins and losses for the season with the occasional draw thrown in for good measure.

The finals soon came upon us and with two players in PNG (Maj Dave Morrison and CPL Dodd), we still managed to defeat 6 RAR, putting them out of the competition. The following week saw us play yet another elimination final, this time against the gunners. Five of our players deployed to RCB on the morning of the game so we took to the field with eleven players, no reserves and this included two ring-ins. The game went to extra time and gunners finally scored to beat us 1-0. Thanks to Wils and Stewy for playing for us at short notice. The gunners went on to take out the title for the season the following week. The president of the Brisbane Hockey Referees Association commented that our games were some of the best and hardest hockey he had refereed for some time.

The best and fairest for 8/9 RAR for the 1990 season went to Sgt Higgins of Tech Spt 2/14 LH (QMI). This was a successful, hard fought season and though finishing third this season, we are confident of playing for the premiership in 1991.

DPRI

1990 saw SGT Carl Emmett join the DPRI team consisting of CPL Ian Cust and CPL Shane Pollock, who soon were in the thick of sales when the 8 RAR association invaded the Battalion for their reunion in February.

On Ex Leaden Lift DPRI were again bombarded with sales when the canteen was set up at Camp Kerr. This allowed the companies returning from training a well earned rest and top up of golden sauce before venturing out for more training.

Ex OTBO saw the sad loss of CPL Ian Cust from the team and the return of the Goffa Man CPL Smith from the Ram's Retreat, armed again with a Landrover 110, Smithy displayed his high standard of bush skills by getting bogged on numerous occasions then finding willing hands to help get him out, all for the sale of a goffa.

The rest of the year has been devoted to improving stock, raffles, auction sales, clearance sales and family days. October saw the departure of SGT Carl Emmett. His replacement was SGT Charlie Adams. December sees the departure of CPL Shane (Polly) Pollock.

DPRI wishes to extend Christmas greetings to the Battalion and thank you for your support throughout the year.

INT (SPOOKS) SECTION

As the year draws to a close, it is time yet again to write some words about Int Section and its members. Again the section worked hard and kept maps, programs, menus, etc up to those members of the Bn who wanted them at short notice.

Ex OTBO was the main activity for Int Section this year. Long hours were worked during this exercise and the section displayed its prowess in light and noise discipline whilst in the defensive phase of the exercise. It was hard keeping the "choofer" quiet though.

Again, as for every year, the section has been heavily involved with producing the Battalion magazine, which was started June of this year.

INT SECTION - The Members:

Boss/Acorn: CAPT "Absolutely" Brett Ashurst - sometimes Adjutant and I can fall down steps, absolutely.

Int SGT: SGT "Spud" Colbertaldo - a lot can be said about this man, especially his dress sense, but the author is restricted to a quarter page in the Battalion Magazine.

Int CPL: CPL "Bubs" Bubner - who is a pleasure to work with and who's most valuable asset of his personality is his tact and decorum when speaking to junior officers.

Int LCPL: LCPL Dave "Johnno" Johnstone - who wants to go boating in a "Lark".

Unit Photographer Mark 1: PTE "Army" Armstrong. "I'll take some photos when I finish convalescent leave."

Unit Photographer Mark 2: PTE Bourne - who wants to go to Survey and make his car go faster, even if it is a Datsun Sunny.

Int PTES: PTE "Beery" Beer, who is 8/9 RAR's answer to Warwick Capper and likes to paint on his footy shorts and does any PT that will get him out of work.

Hanger On: LCPL "Steve" Gamble, the SGT felt sorry for him and gave him a desk to sit at while he waits for a clerk's course.

PTE Bruce Loneragan - The only person in the section who has studied the swearing dictionary.

PTE Mark Jacobson - Again the SGT felt like Empire Building and gave "Jacko" a home till his posting comes due.

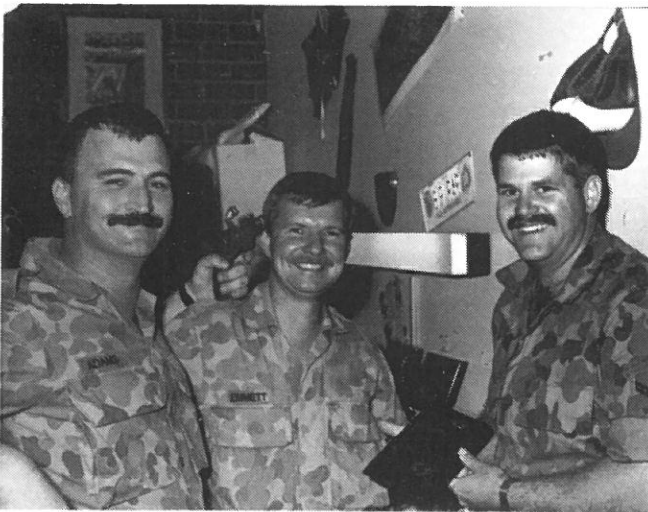
POSTINGS FOR SECT MEMBERS 1991:

CAPT B. Ashurst - Extended holiday

SGT Colbertaldo - Kapooka - some say retraining

CPL Bubner - Kapooka - as above

LCPL Johnstone - Corps Transfer - "Larking"



(Left to Right): SGT Adams, SGT Emmett, CPL Pollock.



Spooks at work!!



PTE Armstrong - Int Sect 8/9 RAR
PTE Bourne - Course/Transfer to Survey
PTE Beer - Int Sect 8/9 RAR
LCPL Gamble - Clerk somewhere in 8/9 RAR
PTE Jacobson - Posting Enemy platoon - Duntroon
PTE Loneragan - Still remaining with Int till he improves his brew-making ability.

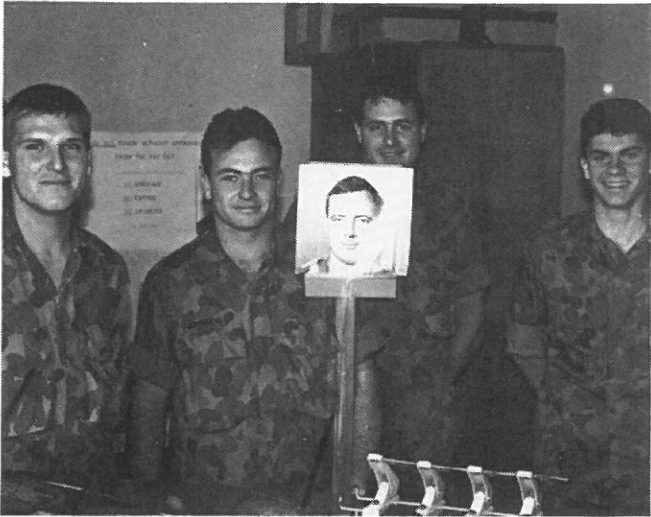
PAY OFFICE

Well, once again the Pay Office had a busy year in 1990 with several changes along the way. The year started with CPL "Scotty" Throssell leaving us in February after electing discharge and moving to Europe to become a tour guide. "Scotty's" replacement PTE Gaven Marshall "Marsh" arrived soon after. We didn't see much of Marsh until late June as he was either on duty, on exercise or getting married. Marsh is currently in PNG as the UPR AATPT-PNG arriving in late September to replace SGT Henry LeGayBrereton.

CPL Tony Johnson left us in October on posting to 5 Avn Regt in Townsville. Johnno worked well this year and after being promoted to CPL (well done Johnno) ran the Pay Office in SGT Henry's absence from 6 Jul 90 - Oct 90. Johnno tells us there are bigger and better things in the future for him and just knowing Johnno we all agree with him. All the best in the future Johnno.

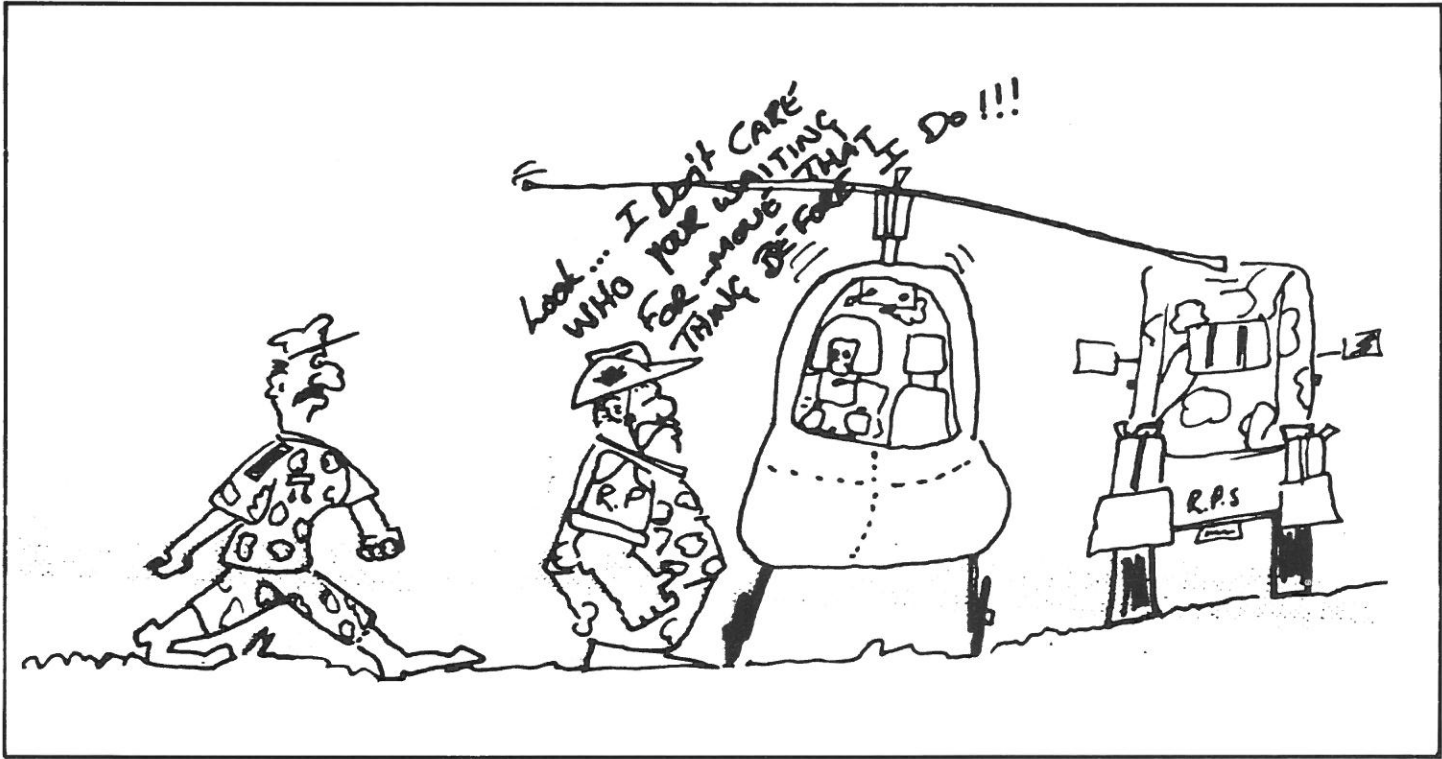
Johnno's replacement PTE Eddy Elliott arrived in 8/9 RAR after completing his IET training in August. Eddy has proved himself as a bit of an athlete since arriving, winning on several occasions and proving his worth on the touch football field. Eddy is off to PNG in early 1991 and tells me his is looking forward to it.

LCPL "Dasha" Wheatley has been in Malaysia since early August after several attempts to get there. From all reports Dasha is enjoying himself over there although we believe he can't wait to get back to Australia and do his subj 1 CPL Cse. Now that is dedication for you.



(Left to Right): PTE Marshall, CPL Johnson, LCPL Wheatley, PTE Elliott.
(Insert SGT Le-Gay Brereton)

In conclusion we all believe that we have provided a good pay service this year, made more difficult by the deployment of two companies overseas. Taking into account that both these companies were the first ever to deploy overseas whilst remaining on net pay deposit, and only a limited number of problems arose; we believe all went reasonably well. We would like to thank BHQ and the company clerks for their help during the year and hope to provide an even better pay service next year.



AUSSIE RULES 90

It was a dedicated group of soldiers who put their boots on this year to represent the Battalion in what is universally accepted as the toughest, most spectacular and skilled Winter Football Code - Australian Rules.

The season started on the back foot with C Coy leaving for PNG and then later B Coy departing for Malaysia. To the credit of all players left in the B Grade they finished fourth on the ladder.

After good wins in the finals over Canungra (third) and then Sigs, the Rams were in the Grand Final.

The Grand Final started (as all Grand Finals do) as a fierce battle against two foes. The Rams slugged it out even with the wounded SSGT 'Bugs' Butler with a shoulder injury, SGT 'Rosie' Rozitis (ankle injury), PTE Voight (broken ribs) and CPL Salter with stitches in his knee.

As the full time siren sounded the scores were even. After fifteen minutes extra time each way the outcome was: the Rams 2 goals one, them 3 goals one. The Rams had shown that they had done their best even though the final result was disappointing.

To finish off, a few names should be mentioned for their contributions this season. Firstly the Coach, Warrant Officer Boot (Chief), whose enthusiasm can't be explained by mere words. A big thanks to SGT Carl Emmett who has always been there when something was needed. And finally to PTE Peter McLaren for his selection into combined services. He was heard to say it was a very good performance by himself.

FOLLOWING RAMS PLAYED IN THE GRAND FINAL

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| PTE Speering | PTE Ware (Wary) |
| PTE Mildrum | PTE Jukawics (Jukes) |
| PTE Beer | PTE Jones |
| PTE East | PTE Morton |
| PTE White | WO1 McBowen (Hypo) |
| LCPL Taylor (Squizzy) | MAJ Dawson (Smokey) |
| LCPL Wyatt | CPL Salter (Salts) |
| WO2 Hughes | SSGT Butler (Bugs) |
| SGT Rozitis (Rosie) | LT Plunkett |
| PTE Voight | PTE McIntee |

A top effort for all Rams who completed for the Bn for the season, with the return of players from OS I am sure that 1991 is the one for the Rams both A and B grade.



OTBO '90

Mother Nature did not favour the Battalion when it deployed north, to SWBTA, once again to defend Australia and her assets against overwhelming odds from the dreaded Musorians. A torrential downpour had been whipping the Queensland coastline for a couple of dreary months turning the training area into a continental cup of soup. But with heads held high and homes on back, the Battalion took up the challenge of 'OTBO 90'.

The exercise consisted of three phases. The first phase was the move to SWBTA. The road party moved without too many problems, until it turned off the highway into the training area and noticed that ninety percent of the landscape was covered in H2O. At that time most of the drivers were thinking about how many times they'd have to dig out their vehicles and wishing they had a winch.

With all the vehicles now on the ground they waited for the arrival of the main body by C-130. After waiting for a couple of hours the streamline glint and drone of the aircraft was sensed as it lined up for the final approach. Just when touchdown was imminent, the aircraft turned to Rockhampton. It was not known if the reason was the condition of the airstrip or the full sick bags on the plane.

After a fairly interrupted start, the exercise kicked off with platoon familiarization. This consisted of platoon level stands including patrolling, ambush and attack. This was a good chance for all the new diggers to find out what it is like to operate while using live ammunition. This phase was designed to give soldiers the opportunity to carry a full load of ammunition. The soldiers benefited from this phase as the lesson was learnt as by many before them that passage of information and working together as a team is important for success in any phase of war, and more difficult when using ball ammo.

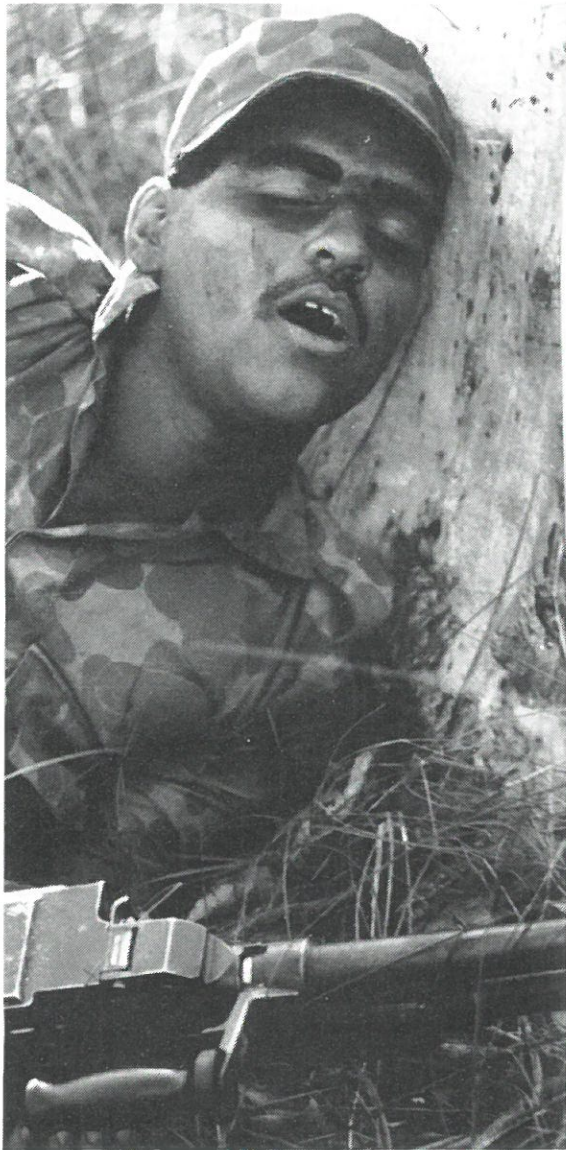
The next part of the exercise was the Battalion advance/attack up the Lemon Tree Track to the Bn live firing defensive position. The track was in a depleted state making it near inaccessible to vehicles. The pioneers and some holdfast elements, after long hours of labour, repaired the road allowing the Battalion's vehicles to move forward also making it possible for meals to be brought forward. Well done pioneers.

Once settled on the ground the Battalion set about digging in and preparing the position for a Regimental Attack from the north. For the next week the Bn repelled the enemy. All of the Bn assets were used including Mortars firing on their minimum safety distance (MSD) of 550m, I think everyone will remember the crump and movement of the ground. It's just bad luck they can't be brought in closer to give the shrapnel effect. (For people that don't like wearing helmets). Signals laid line for the communications from the Main CP right down to the section commander pits. Telecom would have been proud of the comms network produced, especially on the populated party lines. Heavy weapons were employed from both flanks with their MGs. When incorporated with the rifle coy MGs provided interlocking fire across the Bn's front which was all controlled by OC Hvy Wpns in the CP who was drooling over a chart which he had painstakingly produced.



The exercise all in all was a success and a lot of lessons were learnt. The Battalion since OTBO has deployed elements all over Asia. So now we sit down and ponder on our personal mistakes and wait anxiously for OTBO 91.

On completion of the exercise the Battalion withdrew to 'DSU Rocky', licked its wounds and prepared for the Bn talent quest. The Bn was quite surprised at the standard of the skits and everyone enjoyed the night which was hosted by CAPT McCrohan and judged by the CO and RSM. The winner was 3 pl A Coy with their rendition of "Wide World of Combat" closely contested by Pnr pl and Mortars. The night was enjoyed by both audience and participants alike.



(Left to Right): WO1 Slater, Stan, PTE Reilly, SGT Hollowell, CPL West, PTE Trevitt.

RP SECT

1990 has been one of those years. With people coming and going all year. It all started with the departure of SGT (Freddy Kruger) Willan back to Charlie Coy and the arrival of SGT (where's my brew) Hower, whom the diggers in RP Sect had to train from scratch in the art of brewmaking. Also the arrival of ex CPL now SGT (where's your 'E' sticker) Hollowell, and PTE (a big weekend) Trevitt, and later on, the arrival of CPL (where's the boxing team) West. We came together to form a close section.

Overall 1990 has been a busy year for RP Sect with all the parades and bush trips this year. The beginning of the year saw the Laying Up of The Colours Parade at City Hall, which was held inside due to the brilliant Brisbane weather. Stan showed his appreciation by leaving little bundles and puddles of joy on the floor.

Many of the members of 8/9 RAR might not know this, but SGT Hollowell was a big fan of Dad and Dave radio show. For a while there we had Dad (RSM) and Wayne (SGT Hower). But that didn't sound right so we packed SGT Hower off to B Coy and hired SGT Hollowell. So now we have Dad and Dave which we think sounds pretty good.

The members of RP Section would like to wish the CO and family all the best on their new posting. We would also like to wish ex PTE Steve Myers all the best on civie street, and congratulations to PTE Reilly on his marriage in May. On behalf of the members of RP Section I would like to wish one and all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and for those travelling, drive safely. See you all back in 1991.

MASCOT (STAN)

CPL John MacArthur IV had an interesting end to 1989. In November as a LCPL he faced a charge of damaging service property. After an intense hearing and vigorous defence by PTE Reilly (his handler) Stan, true to form, was found not guilty and in fact marched out of the charge room a Corporal.

In 1990, as a newly promoted junior NCO, Stan began a busy year, mainly with various parades and ceremonial occasions. Stan's ceremonial duties started with the Laying Up of the 8 RAR Colours at Brisbane City Hall, where Stan met Sally-Anne. Then we had Long Hai Day where Stan began eating SGT (where's me bagpipes) Laurenson's kilt - he found it quite a good snack! During the year Stan also paraded to welcome the CGS, a big occasion for them both. His big effort for the year was Anzac Day where Stan strutted his stuff through the City of Brisbane.

Stan did his part for PR during a high profile year for the Battalion when he visited Grade 3C at Albany Creek State School. He spent a few well behaved hours with the kids then later had a head butting competition with SGT (sneaky peaky) Chapman (BOS on the day). The final result was Stan 1 - SGT Chapman Nil. As usual Stan managed to get some recreational leave during the year; after all his efforts, he gratefully spent August at the Victoria Downs Stud (preparing for the Battalion Birthday parade). After the Birthday parade, although keen, Stan didn't manage to get onto the adventure training at Byron Bay.

Now with the end of the year, Stan would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you all in 1991. By the way, what was that interesting photo of Stan and PTE Reilly that made the papers!!!!

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EXERCISE LEADEN LIFT 7-18 MAR '90

Exercise Leaden Lift was the first major unit level activity for the year. With training emphasis in the first six months of the year being on field firing, the exercise was designed to practise and consolidate skills on an individual, section and platoon level. With the tasking of C Coy with the role of being the AATPT-PNG, the Battalion deployed to WBTA with A, B and Support Companies. With the OPSO escaping on course to Canungra MAJ Morrison (OC Spt) took the reins of the Operations Cell - good experience for 1991 Sir?

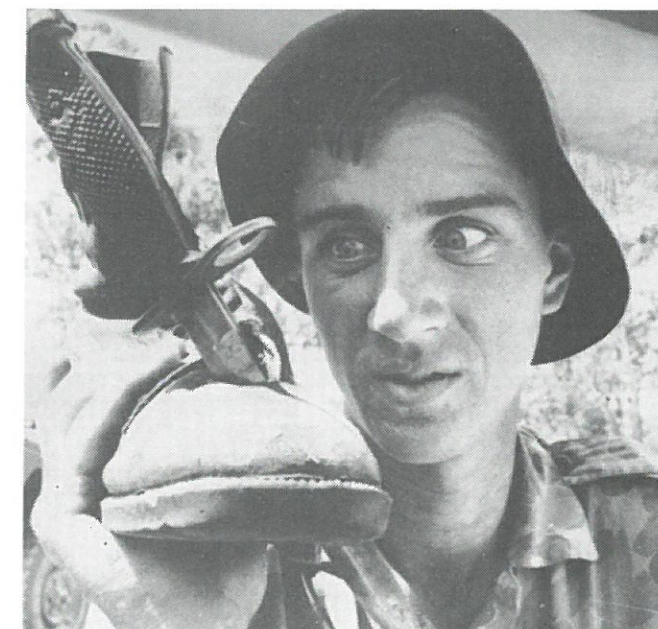
A and B Coys, based out of Camp Kerr, started the dreaded task of range construction while Support Company deployed to Bauple State Forest (theoretically to prepare a NAVEX activity but we suspect in reality to get away from it all). After a day or so of range preparation A Coy deployed to Yandina and B Coy deployed to the Flinstone sector of WBTA for company training. For two and a half days the rifle companies conducted section and platoon level training, concentrating on patrolling, fieldcraft, navigation, ambushing and contact drills. CSM Alpha also demonstrated to CHQ the use of diplomacy skills in night ambushes. The training proved to be a good lead up for the field firing phase. Before that began, however, the soldiers managed a day at Rainbow Beach, while the Officers enjoyed the view from the Easy feature. (Indirect fire training.)

The field firing phase then got underway in earnest with companies alternating between group 1 and 2 ranges. Support Company flexed their muscles with a fire power demo. This allowed those not in Support Company to get some bombs down range and call in/fire the MAG 58's. Back to the ranges again where the rifle company soldiers really practised their trade on a variety of interesting field firing ranges.

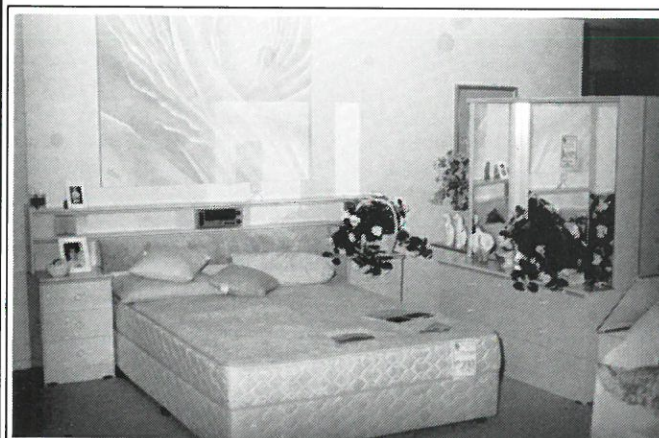
The M203 range proved interesting, especially after the bush fire left it resembling a moonscape and the Padre discovered his true vocation (as a grenadier). The other notable range was the pairs fire and movement, guaranteed to tire the most fit digger. The range involved pairs fighting through an enemy position with fire, grenades and the bayonet and as PTE Peters from B Coy discovered, some of the soldiers let their adrenalin get the better of them.

Towards the end of the exercise the companies managed to get some airtime in several Blackhawks to do some insertion/extraction training, an activity which a certain Lieutenant in A Coy (at that time) found to be a somewhat churning experience. At Camp Kerr the Battalion paraded on behalf of the members of Catering Platoon for the AACC birthday, the cookies seemed to enjoy their night off and their cake!

With the various training activities, field firing and the chance to relax with a cold beer on most nights at Camp Kerr, the exercise proved to be a good start to the Battalion's training year. Bigger and better things were soon to follow on Exercise OTBO.



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EXERCISE TROPIC LIGHTNING

TLX90 was a Divisional level CPX hosted by the US 25th Infantry Division (Light) based in Hawaii. BHQ was fortunate in securing a number of places on this exercise as part of the 6 Brigade component - it was a tough job but someone had to do it!

The contingent departed Australia by RAAF 707 on 4 July and arrived after a reasonably comfortable flight. We were then transported to what was to become our accommodation for the next three weeks "Area X ray". Grass skirts, moonlight and palm trees were noticeably absent. Instead there were tents, mossie nets and communal showers - many of us had flashbacks to Battle Wing LWC!

Despite the rather primitive accommodation all members set about familiarizing themselves with the Schofield Barracks area and Honolulu itself. Almost all of the first week was spent either lazing on a beach, exploring Honolulu and shopping the various PXs. A highlight was definitely the visit to the Arizona War Memorial.

Week 2 was utilized mainly with gearing up for the CPX. Stores were unpacked, comms gear prepositioned and SOPs rehashed. A BLACKHAWK Tour of the island and an officers TEWT were squeezed in as well.



The CPX itself was interesting to say the least. As can be seen in MAJ Headrooms citation "Old Dependable" acquitted itself on the battlefield in a most outstanding manner. Despite the fact that the US Command deemed it a "low level" conflict and scenario, we still managed to find ourselves confronted by Battalion and Coy size groups of enemy with armour and arty support. K-89 was never like this!!! Suffice to say we all learnt a lot.

Some of the more notable aspects of the exercise were:

The OPSOs casual dress sense (a walking marker panel - dangerous to be around when helicopters are in the area; you may get landed on!)

The US version of a cut lunch - our cooks have got it all over them!

The Arizona War Memorial visit.

STUDEBAKERS, MOOSES, THE WAVE and SHOREBIRD BAR for the "fashion contest".

Shop "till ya drop" expeditions to the PXs all over the island.

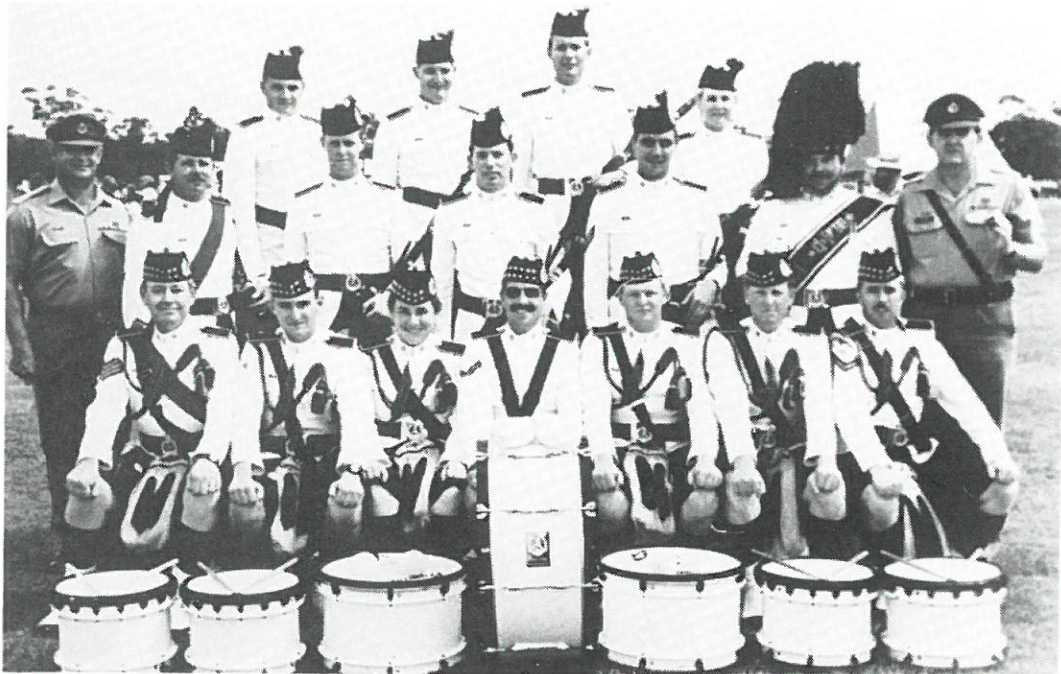


RAMS RETREAT

Well fellas, 1990 has been an exceptionally busy year, even with most of our members visiting the locals of PNG & Malaysia.

At the start of the year I found three willing diggers who had decided to find a new life in civy street. I convinced them that the only life to be had was working in the Rams Retreat if they re-enlist. They did - it's amazing how stocktakes work out now.

My many thanks to Robo, Watto and Lenny. Most of the many functions we've had this year have gone off with a bang literally (Shorty Collins, Zap, Dreezo) to name a few.



PIPES AND DRUMS 8/9 RAR

Big changes in the wind as Pipes and Drums careers are going to be managed through a new stream controlled by the newly formed Piping Section at the School of Infantry, Singleton. Piping Section is headed by WO1 N. de Grussa who will work closely with the Director of Infantry providing recommendations for career structures, organisations and employment of Pipes and Drums.

Highlight of the year was participating in the RAR P&D competition at Singleton on 22 July. Five Pipe Bands competed for the Regimental Banner and placings were 1st - 3 RAR, 2nd - 8/9 RAR, 3rd - 2/4 RAR, 4th - 6 RAR, 5th 5/7 RAR. LCPL Clark also won the trophy for "Drummer of the Regiment" in solo competition.



Our thanks go out to Joe McIvor and Phil Coughlin for trying to sort out the paperwork while Smithy was on course; the wrinkles have started to disappear. My commiserations go to CPL Bell who is taking over as the manager next year, complete with new barmen. "I've only got 4 extras to go."

Finally I hope you all can make it to the Christmas party this year; you can even bring your wife and kids. Safe driving and a Merry Christmas - see you at the Rams for a drink next year.

September saw an overseas trip for both PTE Rhodes and PTE Sweatman to Malaysia with BCOY. Both guys are madly in love with their girls back here and have been overheard to say "Will she still love me when I get back?" 3 months is not so long fella's, I'm sure you can handle it!

Two promotions this year; CPL Ramsden to SGT and PTE Sweatman from ARES to ARA.

Additions this year are: PTE Sheldon from Catering Corp PTE MacPherson from civy street via 49 RQR to us and PTE Timmings from 2/4 RAR.

Departures: PTE (Rory) McCabe finished full time service from 41 RNSWR, PTE Page from 25 RQR finished full time service and just vanished (sadly missed by all).

Despite being low in numbers, P&D's entered Lismore Pipe Band Championships and won grade 3.

ALPHA 1990

1990 kicked off with a short but sharp exercise in the Wondai State Forest, which set the scene for a hard working and varied year which was to test the company's motto 'Maximus Fleximus' to the extreme. Barely a month had passed before the CSM was wondering if he could apply for HDA for Major with; the 2IC vanishing into the south with a guerrilla suit under his arm; CAPT Ashurst preparing to head for Int Section; and the new OC still but a rumour from the desert.

By the time Exercise Leaden Lift had arrived so had the OC but 2 PI had been disbanded and after surviving Leaden Lift and then a trip to LWC (which required water wings to be worn as part of patrol order) the company was operating like a well oiled machine.

The company took Exercise OTBO in its stride and with our characteristic lack of fuss overcame a torrid Battalion advance; dug in through almost solid rock; and repelled a particularly violent 'enemy' attack. Meanwhile deep in the CHQ bunker a Captain was heard to murmur "inclement weather is the guerrilla's friend".

Mid year saw Alpha Company back in the wilds of Musorian renegades who appeared to be from a family of identical twins. Nonetheless cunning leadership and persistent effort saw the company back in time for the Thursday night session at cafe no where.

At this stage Alpha Company transferred 32 willing volunteers from 1 and 3 pl to B Coy RCB which left the company with two small but happy platoons.

The partying had barely finished when we were heading north again to SWBTA with a reorganized company, this time as the dreaded enemy. The Brigade camp proved to be the greatest test of Alpha's patience and flexibility, with orders changing at such a rate that they appeared to be part of an elaborate deception plan.

The later part of the exercise saw reinforcements from the UKLF and BAOR in the form of CAPT James Woodham 1AR and SGT 'Toddy' Todd 1 LI. A special thanks to these gentlemen from Alan and Bernie Power.



A well deserved week of rest in September was followed by a stroll through the scenic D'Aigular Range, and then a second visit to the beautiful Greenbank range.

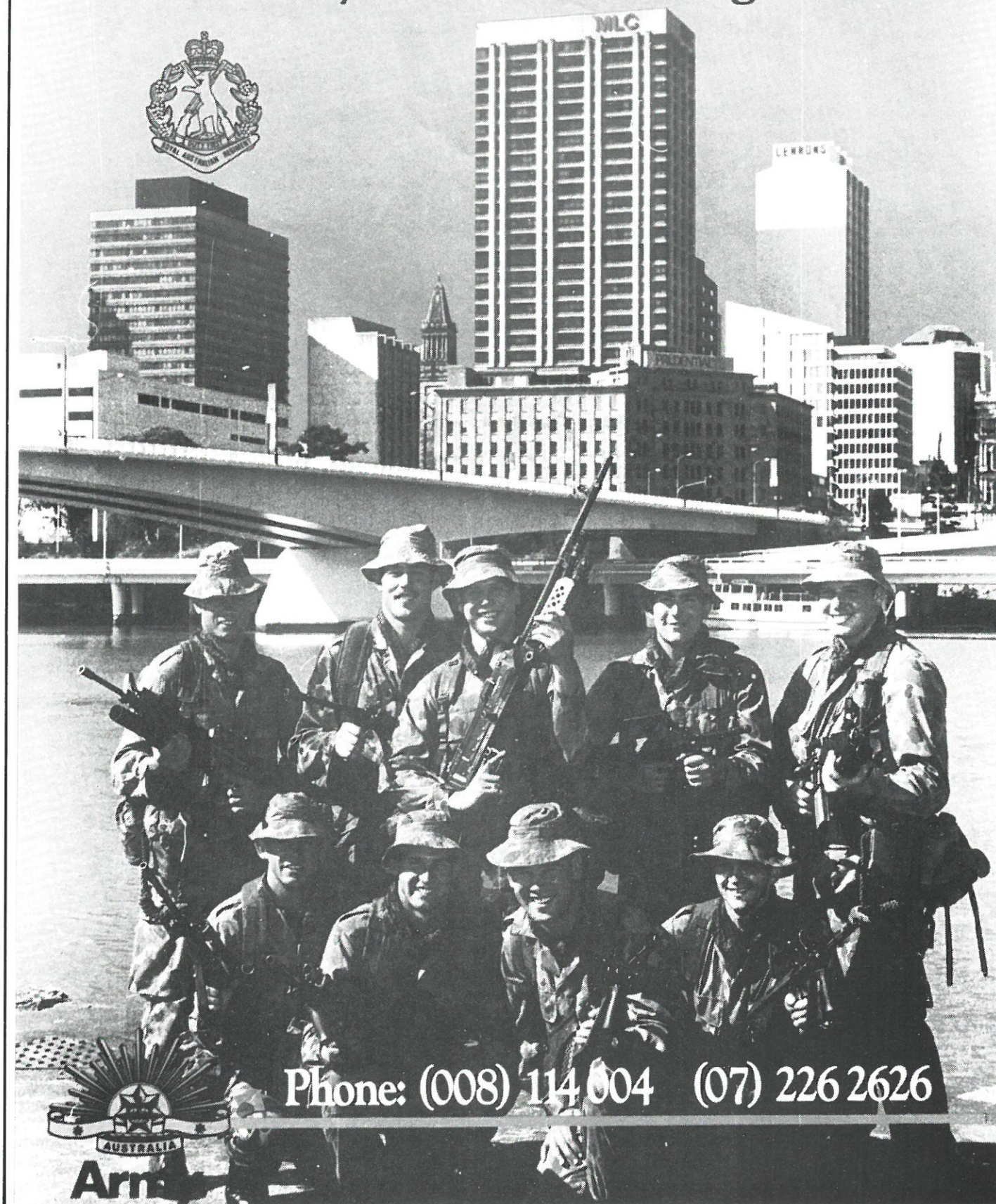
Alpha faced a busy end to the year which included adventurous, unarmed combat and RF training, as well as the usual round of support tasks and social events. For 1991 the company is looking forward to a well planned, prepared and co-ordinated year of sub-unit infantry training, and a European vacation in April 91 on Exercise Northstar/Southern Cross.



FRONT ROW: (Left to Right) WO2 Clarke, MAJ Cruickshank, CAPT Hallinan, SSGT Boggie.
BACK ROW: (Left to Right) LCPL Connor, CPL Salter, PTE McClaren, PTE Parkes.

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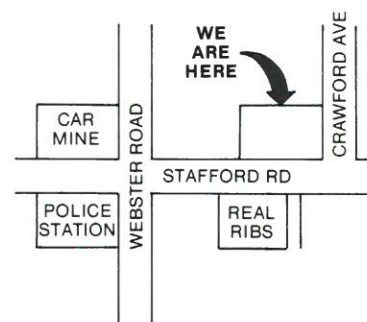
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ONE PLATOON

One Platoon entered the 90's under the command of LT McMahon with two section commanders, CPL Dodd and CPL O'Meara in charge of the platoon's sections.

LT McMahon was to part company early in the year to be quickly replaced by LT Ashwin originally OC 2 Platoon. Shortly after One Platoon was in the field again training in jungle warfare at LWC.

Exercise OTBO in May was the final field trip for One Platoon before it was disbanded. LT Ashwin then raised a third platoon for Bravo Coy and departed for Malaysia.

On the 31st August 1990 like a phoenix, One Platoon was raised again. During a formal parade on the unit parade ground, the company watched LT Ashwin hand over the old One Platoon role book to LT Plunkett. The new members of One Platoon fell out and formed the new platoon and the company marched off the parade ground with three platoons.

Exercise Happy Wanderer was the first activity for the platoon to develop its identity. Showing its stride to the rest of the platoons, leading Alpha Company over Mt Glorious.

The platoon will strive to lead the company and battalion in the months to come and with adventurous training and other battalion activities looming ahead we're sure of a great year in '91.

TWO PLATOON

The closing down of Support Coy at the end of July led to the re-raising of 2 pl. The platoon's first task with A Coy was to assist with the role of enemy for 6 RAR and it was here the platoon saw exactly what 6 RAR had picked up during their time in America. The platoon was especially impressed by 6 RAR's ability to attack without fire and movement, using their new technique of running and firing from the hip.

The spirits of the platoon were never allowed to dwindle thanks to PTE Woodcock's impersonations of rampaging monkeys and a very convincing CPL "Bubba" West.

After the exercise with 6 RAR 2 pl participated in the company range week and some pretty dodgy platoon parties.

The direct recruiting drive by the Battalion proved our experience when we were called on time and again to provide sections for static displays and the photogenic members of the Battalion recruiting poster.

The raising of 1 pl brought about a remoulding of 2 pl and the introduction of SGT John Todd of the 1st Battalion Light Infantry (United Kingdom). The platoon has farewelled LCPL Hartley, PTE Crawley, PTE Banks and PTE Woodcock during the year and wish them luck in their endeavours outside.

The platoon would also like to wish LT McAuliffe good luck on his new posting in Hobart.





THREE PLATOON

1990 was a very busy year for 3 PI. After BRL a new 3 PI was raised and it wasn't long before we were at Wondai State Forest conducting our annual heart start exercise. It's worthwhile noting that the platoon had the most outstanding sections in the competition held on the last day; it rained a little as well.

After a short time in camp we were out again on "Leaden Lift" where live fire attacks were the order of the day. Everyone in the Platoon performed well to a good standard of battle discipline; it rained a little as well.

After a short while in camp we were out and about again at LWC Canungra with A Coy. A high attrition rate (starting on the first day with stand 11) ensured before long that picquets were increased to about the 3 to 4 hour mark. The final exercise was conducted with the Coy being reduced to 1 Platoon; it rained a little as well.

Anzac Day was conducted in brilliant weather starting with a small warm up march to the train station followed by another successful battalion march.

The next activity was Ex "OTBO" which was another live fire exercise the emphasis being on advance to contact and defence. 3 PI far outshone the battalion in morale and also performance. This information comes from an unbiased and accurate source.

We were the first platoon to have our defence position down, so as a reward we had to hlep the rest of the Coy. The highlight of the

exercise was having the Brigade Commander comment on how impressed he was with the lustrous shine of a certain Corporal's teeth whilst being dug in. (Makes a better soldier I suppose.)

After a short time in camp it was out to Wondai again for Battalion Artpes where 3 PI assisted A Coy in locating Enemy supplied by Support Company. It was handy that their "out of Ex" resupply vehicle told them of our movements because we would have hated to finish early.

During the final attack 3 PI, who were fire support, had to reinforce the company in the clearing of the enemy position. It also rained a little.

Back to camp and it wasn't long before we were on the Brigade Camp as enemy. (For 6 RAR and 2/14 LH QMI). At this stage we lost most of the PI to Rifle Company Butterworth with B Coy. The PI remained at a good strength with new IET recruits filling the places of the older soldiers. Surprise - it did not rain!

Shooting at Greenbank was the next activity the PI had to face. The scores recorded certainly reflected how little we had shot during the year. This performance did however pick up during the Battalion Shoot Ex Hot Shot not long after.

The PI is now running at full strength and we all look forward to adventure training and the rest of the year. It has been an extremely busy year for the fighting third and all the lads look forward to BRL and England next year, when A Coy struts its stuff in the motherland.



8/9 RAR LEGACY DAY

A nationwide appeal for Legacy was conducted from 3 - 7 September. The organization was established after World War I to help the widows and families of any servicemen involved in conflicts in which Australia participated in an active role. Legacy is solely an Australian organization which aids all widows of servicemen who died in war or as a result of war.

Soldiers of 8/9 RAR volunteered to help raise money by selling Legacy badges within the Brisbane area. Areas such as the Railway Stations, Fortitude valley and the major City intersections were targeted. The Soldiers were in the City for approximately two hours and raised a total of \$19653.95 cents.

At the completion of the collection a small ceremony was held at the Rams Retreat where the President of Queensland Legacy, MAJGEN Bruce McDonald AO, DSO, OBE, MC (RL) was presented with a cheque for the total amount raised. This was done by the Battalion Second In Command MAJ Brian Dawson. The former Battalion Second In Command from 1988-89 MAJ Chad Sherrin MM (RL), the Deputy Convenor of the Appeals and Publicity Committee was also on hand at the presentation. Maj Sherrin was responsible for the co-ordination between Legacy and the Battalion.

By the response shown by the people of Brisbane 8/9 RAR Legacy Day turned out to be a great success and enabled the soldiers of 8/9 RAR to be seen by the civilian population working towards a worthy cause.



REGIONAL RECRUITING

As most personnel of the Battalion are aware, 8/9 RAR is conducting a Regional Recruiting Trial. The aim of this trial is to determine the feasibility of the concept for a possible wide application within the ARA. Regardless of the trials outcome, a significant benefit should be a marked reduction in the 8/9 RAR manpower shortfall by Aug 91.

The Battalion has established a Recruiting Cell working out of Spt Coy. This cell is tasked with supporting 1st Army Recruiting Unit (1 ARU) in a number of activities throughout South East Queensland. The first such activity was the Coo-ee March conducted by A Coy on 17 Oct 90. This activity was well received and reasonably successful in gaining media attention for the launch of the programme.

Between Oct and early Dec 90 the recruiting programme focused three distinct types of activities requiring the involvement of various elements of the Battalion. These activities include CES visits by one person, larger displays in shopping centres with helicopter support and orientation days to be conducted at the Battalion involving personnel from all areas of the unit. Additional to this, a media programme sponsored by Army Public Relations will also be running. This is likely to focus mainly on the print media.

Given that the programme is successful, 8/9 RAR will enlist 50 to 100 recruits at Enoggera on 8 Feb 91. The cut off period for applications from persons wishing to join the programme is the end of the first week in Dec 90.

It is in the interest of every member of 8/9 RAR to actively support and promote this programme. The benefits including, greater opportunities for realistic training, reduced duties, burden and a better state of readiness should not be forgotten. The programme should improve all of these areas.



9 RAR ASSOCIATION - 1990

The Association continued to gather strength in 1990, as our intelligence network located more of our men. Of around 2000 who served with 9 RAR, we have contact with close to 1000.

Our State Branches have been very active in keeping alive the bonds of camaraderie.

Every five years we conduct a national reunion on a rotational basis to each State: the last, the 20th Anniversary, was held at 8/9 RAR in 1987, the next is planned for Sydney in 1992. During the intervening years, States may conduct their own reunion.

Apart from Anzac Day Reunions the major activity this year was in Sydney where Brian Vickery, Doug McGrath, Brian Hamilton, David Jackman and their team turned on a great birthday weekend. Well over 100 participated with some people coming from other States.

Our major activity has been (and is continuing to be) the preparation of our 9 RAR-Vietnam Tour Book which is planned for release at the 1992 Reunion on our 25th Anniversary. Publication of this book will complete the unit histories of the Regiment's Vietnam experience.

The editorial sub-committee has obtained sufficient relevant data, photographs, operational notes, anecdotal stories etc to write a number of books not only on operational activities but on individual characters and events. Our problem will now be "what to leave out?"

It's surprising that after so many years that the memorabilia has been kept and the memories (facts) so clear (or have they been added to?).

- From the data we are amazed at how we survived the rigours of -
- Life in Nui Dat
 - Operations
 - Life in Nui Dat
 - R & R / R & C etc

Those "old timers" you see frequenting the Sergeant's Mess at odd times are not there only to enjoy hospitality but to sort, shape and edit the book's data. They are the editorial sub-committee of Doug Dobbin, Benny Morgan, Jock Gordon, Graham Dugdale, Peter McAuley, Ted Chitham and RSM Rod Slater.

Our book objective would be almost impossible without the support given to us by your officers and men, particularly the CO's (Lt Col Gary McKay, MC) guidance and RSM Rod Slater's practical assistance. Thank you.

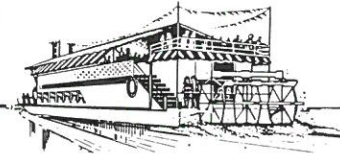
Although the Royal Australian Regiment is relatively young in military experience and tradition our Association takes pride in our past contribution to it and, from first hand experience, has confidence in 8/9 RAR's ability to enhance it.

We hold dearly to the spiritual bond of comrades-in-arms with you and look forward to continuing that special relationship with you in 1991.

—Ted Chitham
President
9 RAR Association
(Qld Branch)

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FRONT ROW: (Left to Right) CAPT Warren, MAJ McGee.
CENTRE ROW: (Left to Right) CPL McGregor, WO2 Albert, PTE Corfield, PTE Copelin.
BACK ROW: (Left to Right) PTE Robinson, SSGT Morrison, PTE Rabe, CPL Richardson.

BAYONET COMPANY

1990 began with many new faces in B Company including every key appointment from OC to Platoon Sergeant. The year started with individual and section level training including a week in the Wondai State Forest to hone up our basic skills. The Company then achieved its first milestone for the year by winning the annual Battalion TOET competition and coming second in the swimming carnival.

From February to June the activities came thick and fast. The 8 RAR Colours were laid up in the Brisbane Town Hall. This was followed by our involvement in the Brigade Open Day, where most of the Company participated and staged a demonstration platoon attack. Then came Exercise Leaden Lift, which was followed by two weeks at the Land Command Battle School. Here we were treated to excellent training and a unique Anzac Day Dawn Service in the rainforest as the morning mists rose from Kauri Creek. Immediately after Tully came the Duke of Gloucester Cup selection trials, won convincingly by CPL Edward's section. Hot on the heels of the DOG Cup trials was the annual Battalion exercise - OTBO. This was live firing from start to finish and featured every phase of war known to man. Next came the Company ARTEP's at Wondai State Forest, a two sided patrolling exercise of five days duration.

The year was now half finished, the first six months had been so busy the time flew by. While the company rested in Barracks during July, CPL Edwards and his squad finished second in the Duke of Gloucester Cup competition, missing first place by the smallest margin. All members of the Company and Battalion should be proud of this outstanding achievement.

On the 1st August the Company travelled to the Brigade Camp at Shoalwater bay by Troop train. After this pleasant journey, we married up with a Tank Troop and APC Troop and proceeded to lay waste our training area for a week. All aspects of mounted operations were practised, securing of two airfields and participating in a live fire assault river crossing, conducted by 2/14 QMI. The Brigade camp culminated with an impressive firepower demonstration of the Leopard Tank and the massed machine-gun fire of an APC Troop. The Camp concluded with some Blackhawk Air Mobile training. Our extraction from the exercise area was done tactically by Blackhawk - low, fast and exhilarating flying which showed the ability the aircraft and their crews.

On return to Enoggera B Company concentrated to full strength and prepared for Malaysia. Our last major task before deployment was to represent the Army at the Vietnam Veterans Day Parade at the Twin Towns RSL at Tweed Heads. The standard of dress and bearing attracted favourable comment from all quarters and the hospitality shown by the Twin Towns RSL after the parade was exceptional.



The tour of Malaysia from September to November was the highlight of the year. Exercises were conducted in jungle, rubber and palm oil plantations, and concentrated on the development of skills at all levels from individual to sub-unit. Field-firing and marksmanship training was also conducted at Pulada and Penang.

Social activities included trips to Singapore and Thailand. This gave most members a better understanding of a culture and way of life vastly different to their own. On the sporting side, the Company capably represented the Battalion and Army in the Hadjai Seven a side Rugby competition comprised of service teams from throughout South East Asia and the Pacific region. The B Company side finished 6th out of 36 teams, a creditable performance.

Other sporting activities included games of rugby with the RAAF and soccer with the Malay Air Force Guards - the Handau. Sporting activities within the Company included a swimming carnival, touch football, anything goes and a potted sports competition. Adventure training activities that occurred during the year including climbing the two highest Glasshouse Mountains, a scuba-diving course and a watermanship week.

The Company took advantage of the military history of the region and all were instructed in the campaigns and major battles of World War Two and the Malayan Emergency. While in Singapore all ranks visited the Kranji War Cemetery and the Changii Jail Museum. Another group visited the Bridge on the River Kwai in Thailand incorporating a POW Camp site and cemetery. The officers of the Company studied the major World War Two battles of the region and were able to "walk the ground" and examine some of these in detail.

B Company returns to Enoggera in late November and is looking forward to a well earned Christmas leave. 1990 has been a busy but valuable training year with most members spending an average of six months away. Our thanks and appreciation go to all the wives, fiancées and girlfriends who patiently endured our absence, their help and cooperation made our task much easier. Throughout the year all members of the Company have performed well, met the challenges put before them and lived up to the Company Motto - "B Professional". Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Company and their families for their efforts and cooperation throughout the year and a safe return to the Battalion in 1991. Good soldiering.

MAJ B. McGee
OC B Company

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION (QUEENSLAND BRANCH)

On behalf of the members of the Royal Australian Regiment Association, I wish to thank you for providing this avenue for us to report on the joint activities of the Association and the Battalion during 1990.

The association was most grateful for the support of 8/9 RAR Pipes and Drums during the ANZAC Day celebrations at the Waterloo Hotel. 500 association members gathered together and reminisced to a background of familiar tunes of their former Battalions.

In July, for a "Back to the Regiment Day", we returned to 8/9 RAR and we were hosted by them for our annual General Meeting. Following the A.G.M., we were entertained by the Duke of Gloucester section demonstrating their skills on the obstacle course. One of the highlights of the day was a rifle shoot between volunteer N.C.O.'s from the Battalion and association members. The competition was for a rifle trophy presented by association member, Dave Lutton for an annual shoot between the hosting Battalion and the association. A perfect score by the association's secretary secured the trophy for the Regiment association. The day came to a successful conclusion with a barbecue at the Ram's Retreat.

The Regiment association has presented a trophy which will enable an annual competition between the Duke of Gloucester Cup teams of 6 RAR and 8/9 RAR. This year the trophy was won by 8/9 RAR and presented at a gathering at the Ram's Retreat. Congratulations to the team.

In closing, I would like to extend our thanks to the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel G.J. McKay, MC and the Regimental Sergeant Major, W.O.1 R. Slater, and Officers and men of 8/9 Battalion for their continued support during 1990. We wish all members of the Battalion and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



2nd/8th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

With 1990 drawing to a close, we of this Association reflect on the events of the past twelve months.

The most outstanding memory is that of Anzac Day with its familiar routine of Dawn Service with our companions of the 8/9th and the ever fresh memories we hold of our former mates who paid the supreme sacrifice during the six years of World War II and have passed on in the years that followed, many because of war-caused disabilities, some because of natural reasons. We miss them all.

Onto the Anzac Day March and the best ever with over 10,000 marching and an enthusiastic public cheering the marchers on. The emphasis on this day was, of course due to the day being commemorative of the 75th year since the landing at Gallipoli with the added interest of the return of Gallipoli of the veterans of that campaign. As always, the presence on parade of the soldiers of the 8/9th Battalion put the icing on the cake, in the mind of this writer. It's a pity that our 2/8th veterans marching in the Melbourne Anzac Day March are denied the pleasure of seeing the 8/9th march; they would be as proud of them as we, their Queensland representatives of the 2/8th.

Our Branch Annual General Meeting was held in April with the following elected:

President and Secretary, Bruce Flude and Bill Cavanagh respectively - what again?

Committee:- 8/9th; Major Brian Dawson, 2IC; WO 1 Rod Slater, Committee:- 2/8th; Gerald Behan, Cliff Eustance, Arthur Holden.

To accord with our Constitution, a Vice President was elected and this is Mick Scovell, 2/8th. Welcome to the new members of the Committee and we record our appreciation of the service given by Major Chad Sherrin, MM, RSM Ron Briais, Bert Douglas, departed for Melbourne and cold discomfort therein and thereat.

Other notable events were the presentation of the new Queen's and Regimental Colours on the 31st October last year and our attendance at the Long Hai Commemorative Service on 28th February. In August this year, on the 18th, at Coolangatta of Coolangatta before terminating at Cunningham Park, Tweed Heads for the Memorial Service, commemorating Vietnam Day. (This day was 6 Battalion's day also for their memories of Long Tan). I witnessed the march and attended the service and heard the reviewing officer's address. This was Lt Col Gary McKay MC, the Battalions Commanding Officer. I hope to reproduce his address in a later Newsletter to our Association.

There is a disappointment to be recorded and that is the decision not to permit the use of the colour patches of the infantry battalions of the 6th Division on the pugarees of the battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment. The reason for this decision was "lack of direct lineage". It does not apply to the Army Reserve Wars I and II "parent" battalions, eg. 9th, 25th, 49th and so on.

Let it be said and understood that this disappointment does not reduce by one with the affection and appreciation we of the 2/8th have for the 8/9th. Long may it be so.

Bruce Flude,
President.

VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY GOLD COAST - 18 AUG '90

On the 18 Aug '90, B Coy had the honour of providing the Guard for the Vietnam Veterans' Day held at Coolangatta. The Vietnam Veterans' Day serves to commemorate all those servicemen who gave their lives during the Vietnam War. It also served as an appropriate day to unveil a new memorial commissioned by the Twin Towns Returned Services Club.

The 100 man Guard carrying the 8 RAR and 9 RAR Regimental Colours, led the march with some 200 veterans through the streets of Coolangatta to the new memorial. The brief ceremony consisted of a wreath laying ceremony, a short speech by the CO and the traditional playing of the Last Post.

In the more relaxed confines of the Members' Bar, the CO was presented with a "life-like stand-in" for Stan. The rest of the afternoon was spent mixing with the veterans, drinking quite a few beers and strengthening the bond between soldiers of the past and present.



“BEHIND THE EIGHT BALL” - THE 8 RAR ASSOCIATION

We welcome the invitation to contribute to your magazine this year and hope to do so for years to come.

“Behind the Eight Ball” was 8 RAR’s magazine, similar to “The Ram”, so we thought it appropriate to title our contribution such.

This year was a big year for the “Grey Eight” with the holding of our 2nd National Reunion coinciding with the 20th Anniversary of the Battalion’s involvement in the Battle of Long Hai. The reunion was an outstanding success with over 200 association members and their families gathering for the week’s activities.

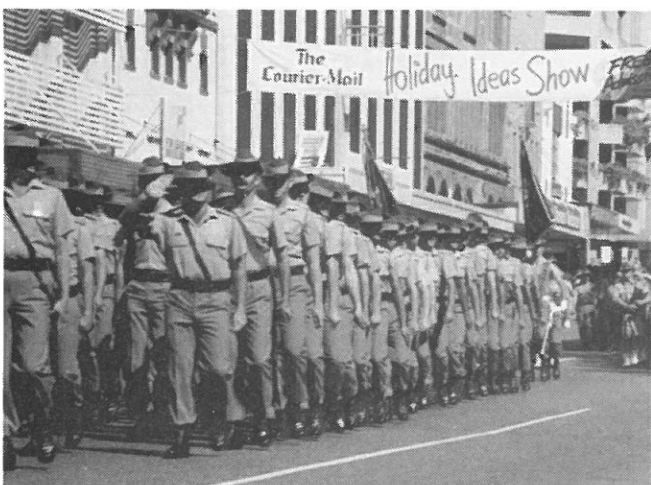
The week could not have been the success it was without the magnificent support we received from your battalion, “Old Dependable”. Dependable you were and we are deeply appreciative of your assistance.

Two of the more significant aspect of the week were the Laying-up of the Colours Ceremony and the camaraderie that developed between our association and the soldiers of 8/9 RAR. A parade always looks good, but to see your Battalion march into the Brisbane City Hall auditorium through five separate doors, complete with the Pipes and Drums, and “Stan”, was a really moving spectacle. We were proud of you, and the more so when we found out that you had not been able to rehearse the indoor ceremony. On camaraderie, it was great to see the 8 RAR “Old Warriors” and 8/9 RAR mixing so well at the Long Hai Day function – it showed how strongly our “family ties” run. We were honoured by your friendship.

We gathered again in Brisbane for ANZAC Day at your Dawn Service and for the City March later in the morning. Our congratulations to you on the Dawn Service – 8/9 RAR’s service obviously gains in its support and popularity each year. On ANZAC Day we got a good laugh out of your “Troop Train” excursion to the march. It shows that things don’t change from 8 Bn 1st AIF, 2/8 Bn, 8 RAR to 8/9 RAR.

Our last gathering for the year was to celebrate the anniversary of the raising of the “Grey Eight” on 8th August. This year we gathered at one of the few remaining of our old “watering holes”, the Treasury Hotel. A good time was had by all, and many yarns swapped.

In closing, the Grey Eight wishes you and your families a very merry Christmas and the very best for 1991. We know 1990 was a big year for you, with your PNG and Butterworth involvement in particular, and hope the challenges continue for you in 1991. Good soldiering!!!



On the 75th Anniversary of ANZAC Day – 8/9 RAR marching through the streets of Brisbane City.



FOUR PLATOON

1990 began for the fearsome Fourth Platoon with the two newest members of the team marching in, i.e. the platoon commander and platoon sergeant.

Section commanders Nev Warwick, “Moose” McLean and Mick Morrissey must be commended for coping early on with the manning problems while the diggers were forced to play musical sections. Some exercises (for example ARTEPS), saw sections of up to nine men while others such as OTBO saw numbers dwindle to as few as four.

The mind blows at the number of tactical options available to a section commander with three 1 man groups in his section. The manning situation has improved greatly as we move towards our “not a bloody holiday” (CSM) in Malaysia with a full platoon.

During the year we have had many changes to the platoon including a new platoon SGT.

The men love waking up every morning at 0715 hours to SGT “I’ll mark time on your face” Borrett. No really, he is actually a very kind, gentle, sweet man who has an amazing ability to raise his voice 2 or 3 decibels louder than the sound of a jumbo jet. (But only when necessary of course.)

In the platoon we have had our share of laughs this year and I would like to thank those members who have provided us with the opportunity to have a “chuckle”.

Most memorable was when PTE Karakatsanis went out with a small reconnaissance group to search some buildings on the ARTEPS. Being as committed as he is to platoon, battalion and country, a small amount of the enemy’s leftovers did not deter him from plucking out the valuable information written on bits of dunny paper from the bush toilet.

There was also the time when the platoon was quietly patrolling its arc’s and moving through the bush when Piwi and Mario decided they would try a different route to the rest of the platoon. Of course, they didn’t get lost.

These are but two of many laughs we’ve had this year. To Four Platoon – a good hard effort all year; let’s take it to the end. Malaysia – here we come for the non-holiday.



FIVE PLATOON

Five Platoon was re-raised on 20 July '90 from A Coy soldiers to go on the Rifle Coy Butterworth contingent in Malaysia. One of the first platoon activities conducted was a 22km combat load march from Binna Burra to O'Reillys in the Lamington National Park. Unfortunately, most of the day was spent walking through mist and low clouds in the Ranges. However, it still gave the platoon a chance to appreciate the beauty of the Lamington National Park.

The Brigade Camp in August, gave the platoon time to become fully integrated with the coy in the field. For many of the soldiers, it was their first experience of working with APC's from 2/14 LH and a troop of tanks from 1 ARMD REGT. Notwithstanding this valuable training, a number of the soldiers were suitably impressed by the Armoured Vehicles. PTE Pile was heard to say "How many times can the turret transverse before it unthreaded itself and flew off?" No doubt the tank Tp SGT was suitably impressed by this question.

The week in the field gave the platoon time to shakedown pl and sect SOP's to ensure that we would be ready for our departure to Malaysia on 6 September '90. Undoubtedly, the Malaysian trip will be the highlight of the year for the platoon. No doubt we will continue to set the standard!



LONG HAI DAY COMMEMORATION

1990 brought special significance to the Long Hai commemoration with the conduct of the 20th anniversary memorial service outside BHQ. The service is to remember the soldiers of the 8th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment who fell or were wounded during operation "Hammersley" in the Long Hai Hills of Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam in 1970. Although not a typical "Grey Eight" day it was again a good opportunity to strengthen the bond between the 8 RAR Association and the Battalion.

The day commenced with the mounting of the Cataflaque Party at the 8 RAR/9 RAR memorial. The honour guard provided by A Coy 8/9 RAR was reviewed by the Commander 1st Division Major General A.J. Fittock, AM, who also addressed the parade on the significance of the occasion. During the memorial service, wreaths were laid on behalf of 8/9 RAR, the 8 RAR Association, members of A Coy 8 RAR, the RSL, the 2/8 Bn Association, the RAR Association, the Vietnam Veterans Association and the SVN Legion. The memorial service followed the format of the first memorial service conducted on the 3rd April 1970, included in the service for the 20th anniversary was a poem written by Father Stan Hessey Chaplain of 8 RAR in South Vietnam.

After the service the 8 RAR Association members and their families joined the members of 8/9 RAR for a luncheon at the Rams Retreat. The function gave the opportunity for some good conversation between current members of the Battalion and our predecessors from 8 RAR. A photograph was taken of members of A Coy 8 RAR and A Coy 8/9 RAR which recorded the spirit of the day for all. We would like to thank all members of the 8 RAR Association for again making the 28 February such a significant event in the Battalion's year and look forward to our continued association in the years ahead.

"IN REMEMBRANCE" FOR LONG HAI DAY 1990 by Father Stan Hessey

How shall I remember them,
Twenty years have passed away,
Or was it, only just the other day?

Rubber trees and bamboo clumps,
Thunder of guns and mortar thumps.
Flares in the dark night,
Strange shadows are falling,
'Charlie's in the wire' a young digger
is calling.

Orders, Operations, Plans!
Leave behind those old tin cans.
Kapyongs Pad and the chopper's beat,
Your old battered pack
And yer blistering feet.

Rotting leaves on the jungle floor.
Compass, map and rations galore.
Brews on the hexamine
And greens that went back
With your own sweet sweat
Along the track.

Letters from home
And the ones that you write,
'Punch a Postie' you added
'Cos they were on strike.

I'm going home on a jet plane,
Or on the 'Sydney'
It's all the bloody same.
Oh, 'Seven more and a wokie',
Dear God, please, please don't take me.

It's pouring now, so it's back to the wet,
And we'll all be gone before next 'Tet'.
Christ, I remember so many things,
The aching heart and the heavy limbs.

People and places and faces and spaces.
Someone off to the 'Dat Do Dogs'.
An old man fishing in the paddy for frogs.

But it's the bloke I knew,
Who walked ahead.

Or lay by my side
In a grave-like bed.
It's the mate in the dark
Of an unknown fate,
The one who was took,
While I still have to wait.

I remember,
But what does memory mean?
Keep the vision, for sure,
Hand on to the dream.
Look after their loved ones,
I know that's first.
Like a 'cup of cold water'
For someone with thirst.

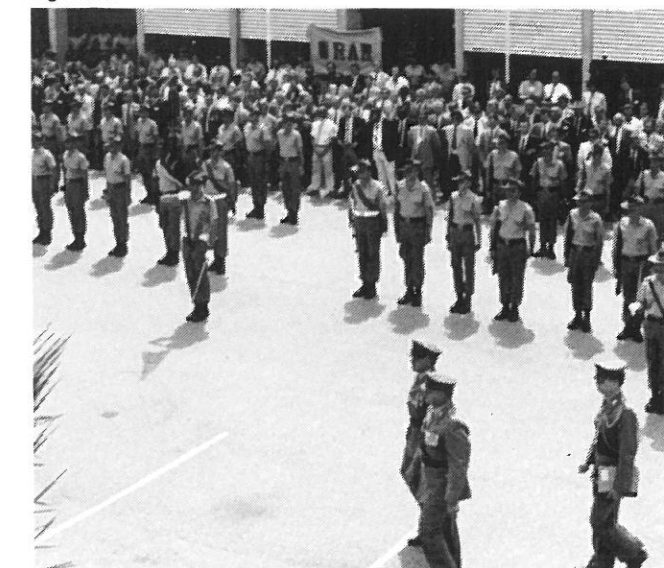
But there's mates too are falling,
Long after the war.
Though the leaders said 'Stop',
You need fight them no more.
It's 'Them' we must care for
As long as they need,
Like 'Breaking yer bread'
For the hungry to feed.

'Peggy', 'The Isa', Nui Dat and
Vung Tau.
Perhaps in my remembering,
I need to make a vow.
'Long Hai' will mean nothing,
If I fail to follow through,
And do the kind of work
That I now need to do.

So here is my prayer,
On this 'Long Hai' Day.
Give rest for their labours
And peace for their cares,
I know you'll sort out
Their 'Good' from their 'Tares'.

But for the living casualties,
Wife, Mother, child, or mate,
Sweet Jesus, give me courage
Before it is too late,
To do for them what must be done,
For that's what remembering must mean.
Putting bits of life's puzzle
Together again,
From the remains of what might have been.

For its actions in South Vietnam, and in particular in the Long Hai Mountains in February, 1970, the 8th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment was awarded the 'Cross of Gallantry with Palm' Unit Citation. The Long Hai memorial service commemorates the memory of those members of the Battalion who fell in South Vietnam. This poem was written by Fr Stan Hessey, the Battalion's former chaplain, for the 20th Anniversary Reunion held in Brisbane on 28th February, 1990. The 8th Battalion was co-joined with the 9th Battalion on 31st October, 1973 to form the 8th/9th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment.



LAYING UP OF THE 9 RAR COLOURS

With the presentation of new 8 RAR and 9 RAR Colours to 8/9 RAR on 31 October 1989, the Battalion then had the responsibility of laying up the original colours. The laying up of the 9 RAR Colours was done on 12 November 1989. The occasion began with the Battalion forming an Escort of two guards each of fifty rank and file. The guards were then joined on the Battalion Parade Ground by approximately 150 members of the 9 RAR Association. Together 8/9 RAR and the 9 RAR Association marched the 9 RAR Colours from the parade ground via Murray Ave to the All Saints Chapel.

At the Chapel, a religious ceremony was conducted with the CO, LtCol G.J. McKay, MC handing over the Colours to the guest of honour Brig. J. Essex-Clarke (RL), the last CO of 9 RAR. With the Colours safely delivered to the care of the Chaplains by the guest of honour and the service complete the Escort marched back to the Battalion area to the resounding echo of Black Bear.

With the formal part of the occasion complete, the 9 RAR Association joined members of the Battalion for a barbecue lunch at the Sergeants' Mess. 8/9 RAR looks forward to fostering the continued involvement of the Battalion and the 9 RAR Association for many years to come.



LAYING UP OF THE 8 RAR COLOURS

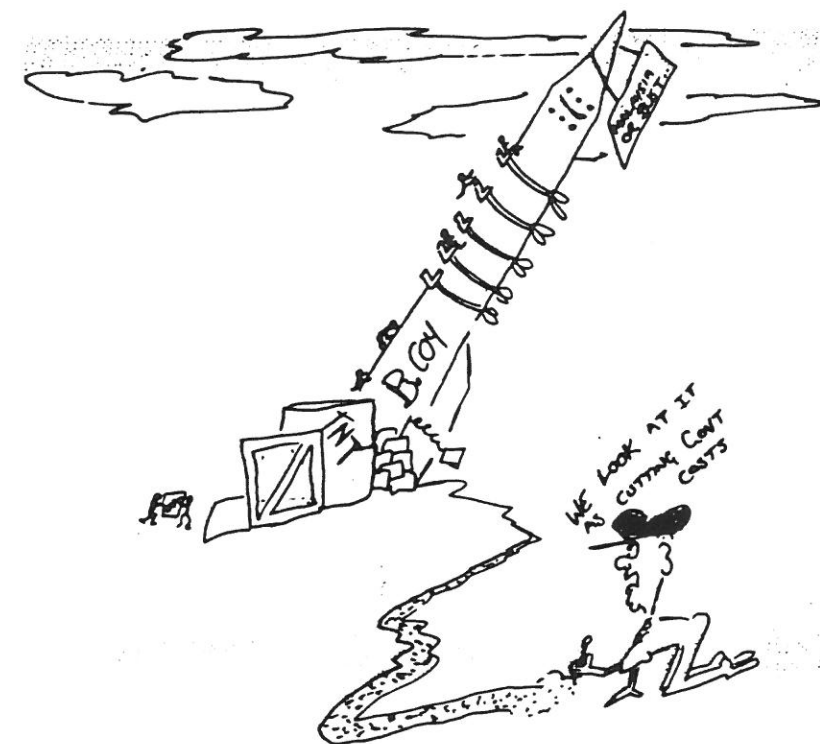
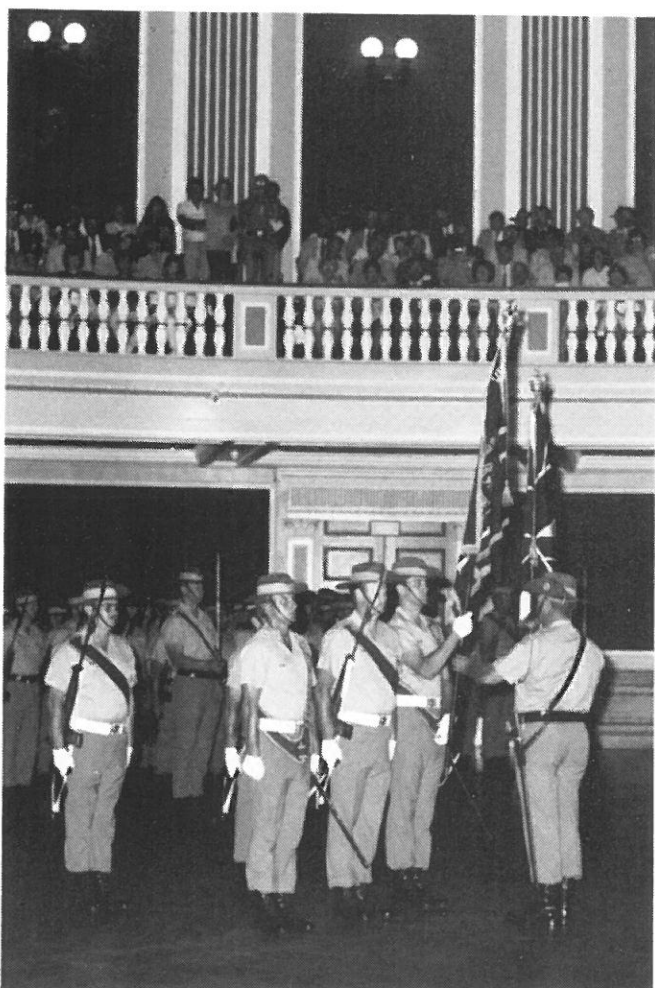
During the period 24 - 29 February 1990, the 8 RAR Association celebrated their National Reunion in Brisbane. The first activity for the reunion week was the Association's participation in the Laying Up of the original 8 RAR Colours on 25 February. With 8 RAR being raised in Enoggera in 1966 it was only fitting that the Colours be delivered to the City of Brisbane for safekeeping.

The ceremony was to be conducted in King George Square so appropriate rehearsals were conducted on the Battalion Parade Ground. On the day however, heavy rain necessitated a quick change of plan to an indoor ceremony. After the Battalion had assembled in City Hall the Colours were received on parade and the Laying Up Ceremony commenced.

The Ceremony was attended by approximately 400 spectators which included a number of distinguished military and civilian guests, relatives and friends of members of the Battalion and members of the 8 RAR Association.

The CO LtCol McKay, MC passed the 8 RAR Colours to the senior member of the 8 RAR Association MajGen P.M. Jeffrey, AO, MC, who delivered them to the Lord Mayor of Brisbane Alderman Sallyanne Atkinson. After an address by MajGen Jeffrey and a reply from the Lord Mayor the Chaplains conducted a United Religious Service.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the City Council held a civic reception for a limited number of members of the Battalion and the 8 RAR Association. The Laying Up Ceremony undoubtedly added to the success of the Association's reunion week and their continued association with the 8th/9th Battalion.



SIX PLATOON

During the past year, 6 Platoon has undergone many manpower changes. From its platoon commander and SGT to the No 3 rifleman. The members of the platoon began the year with a great deal of enthusiasm and pride. I'm glad to say this has not been lost. Congratulations must go to those members of the platoon who were chosen for the D.O.G. Squad.

The first field exercise for the year ended in disappointment for the members of the platoon as they finished second in the 10km route march. The activity included several ETS stands with a falling plate shoot at the end.

April came round and it was time to go to Tully. Six Platoon arrived in good humour, especially after a night in the boozier. It was here the platoon's hidden talent was found - singing. They were soon nicknamed the unborn son's of Elvis. (Quite ironic.) The time in Tully can be best described as a learning experience. From PTE Grant and his snake bite or should I say Gympie sting, to the whole platoon learning to put mite repellent on their sleeping bags to keep the dreaded inch ants away.

Exercise OTBO began with field firing. The soldiers took great delight in expending all ammunition, however SGT McIvor could be relied on to keep them "bombed up" throughout the exercise.

The members of Six Platoon came across many challenges during the year. However, by far the hardest was to retrain the soldiers of 'C' Coy to the high standard of 'B' Coy.

Currently the platoon is getting ready for the Coy trip to Malaysia. At the same time they are trying to break in a new platoon commander, LT Metelovski - good luck guys.





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THE SERGEANTS' MESS

The Sergeants' Mess started off the year with high expectations, but unfortunately the Officers' Mess beat us in our first social activity being the annual Officers'/Sergeants' Mess cricket match. But I have been assured by WO2 Peter Stahlhut that the Sergeants' Mess will undoubtedly win the golf day between the two messes, thus redeeming our self esteem.

The mess calendar has found it a difficult year with our commitments to PNG and Malaya, but the entertainments committee under the guidance of such characters as Brian Lambert, Dingha Bell and Stevo have provided us with some memorable nights such as the Mixed Happy Hour in February, Disco/Cocktail Night in April and Black Friday in July to name a few.

It is also rumoured that one of the most popular functions this year was Mothers Day and its popularity was greatly due to the antics of the Sergeants' Mess baby.

The mess is looking forward to another bumper Christmas draw again this year and it has only been possible through the efforts of the entertainment committee in their fund raising activities i.e. Dingha's Rip Off Bingo Cards.

The PMC and members of the mess would like to thank all those soldiers who have assisted us with our functions either as stewards or kitchen hands as well as the cooks and barmen, for without your assistance the mess would be unable to function efficiently.

From the PMC and members of the committee, may all those leaving the mess, enjoy their next posting as much as the mess has enjoyed your company, and may all members and their families have a merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.



BACK ROW: (Left to Right) SGT C. Adams, SGT M. Page, SGT C. Forsyth, SGT J. Meunier, SGT M. Donaldson, SGT F. Ketu, SGT G. Stanworth, SGT C. Hill, SGT K. O'Brien, SGT N. Boston, SSGT J. Muir, SGT J. Colbertaldo, SSGT P. Morrison, SGT P. Stephenson, SGT K. Willan, SGT T. Lynch, SSGT F. Drummond, SGT J. Turton.
THIRD ROW: (Left to Right) SGT C. Costello, WO2 J. Yarnold, SGT W. Chapman, SGT B. Rozitis, SGT S. Podobnik, SGT W. Hower, SGT K. Lester, SGT M. Borrett, SGT J. Turner, SGT D. Black, SGT C. Moir, SGT P. Thompson, SGT D. Featherstone, SGT M. Stewart, SGT D. Pabst.
SECOND ROW: (Left to Right) SGT B. Lambert, SSGT P. Neate, SGT R. Jarvis, SGT C. Laurenson, SGT C. Emmett, SGT B. Mundy, SGT D. Hatton, SGT A. Clinkaberry, SGT H. Le Gay Brereton, SGT A. Mackenzie, SGT M. Stonehouse, SGT P. Henderling, SGT G. Boggie.
FRONT ROW: (Left to Right) WO2 C. Boot, WO2 R. Doran, WO2 S. Albert, WO2 G. Hughes (SEC), WO1 A. Bowen (DPMC), WO1 R. Slater (PMC), WO1 B. Halls, WO2 C. Baker, WO2 P. Stahlhut, WO2 G. Cloney, WO2 R. Clarke, WO2 K. Watts.
ABSENT: WO2 V. Little, SGT G. Larven, SGT C. Baldrey, SSGT J. Butler, SGT D. Bell, SGT M. Cox, SGT P. Jardine, SGT G. McInnes, SGT J. McIvor, MR D. McDonald.



OFFICERS' MESS

1990 will be remembered as the year the Koala Bears (those who were not to be exported or shot at) held ground in the Annex, while the bulk of the officers travelled to far off lands.

The year started with the farewell of the previous PMC, and Infantry stalwart Major Chad Sherrin, MM from the mess. We wish Chad all the best in his chosen profession, and hope he will continue to "drop in" for many years to come.

The Commanding Officer was keen to get the year off to a lively start, so it was with some trepidation that the time honoured ritual of a Mess wine bottling was planned. A suitable vintage was identified, and the logistical wheels were set in motion. The boss and his driver could be seen on Friday nights at the back of many fine Brisbane Restaurants collecting bottles for the forthcoming bottling. It was a great success, and the complete vintage was snapped up by avid collectors. I have had people tell me that the red was great but the white suspect. Others that that the white was super, but the red like paint stripper. Who was it that said "you can fool some of the people some of the time"

Tennis was a popular pastime, with several pleasant Sundays spent belting the yellow balls to the accompaniment of champagne corks popping. Some of the ladies established a Sunday morning bash which often sloshed over to the arvo.

The subalterns displayed a keen interest in the mess. Many unsuccessful attempts were made by them to catch the CO and his Majors without their shillings. A very expensive pastime.

At the end of this year the Mess will farewell the following members:

LTCOL G.J. McKAY, MC
MAJ J.F. EDWARDS
MAJ M.J. MARTIN
CAPT B.F. ASHURST
CAPT P.F. HAM
CAPT N.E. McNEILL
CAPT B.A. ADSHEAD
LT P.J. REED
LT A. BYWATER
LT A.M. BAKER
LT G.D. BOWDEN
LT M.P. McAULIFFE

I thank them one and all for their active support and companionship during the year, and wish them good soldiering in the future.



CHARLIE COMPANY 1990 THE COBRA

The Charlie Company team gathered at the beginning of the year feeling fresh, well rested and ready for work. We welcomed into the HQ a new 2IC and CSM while all other appointments remained the same. After initial welcomes and the CO's address, the company commenced preparations for what was going to be a hectic year.

The early emphasis was on section and platoon training, with this in mind the Company deployed to the Wondai area for exercise Cobra 1. This early field exercise re-established the platoons and shook off all the cobwebs.

At about the same time as Cobra 1, a plan was being put together to send an Australian Training Team to Papua New Guinea. The Task: train PNGDF recruit and IET soldiers. Charlie Company was warned out for the task in PNG. The company spirit soared with news of an overseas deployment. The sad news was that no private soldiers would deploy. The company was dissected with all those with rank staying while the soldiers joined A and B Companies.

The company strength was rebuilt with NCOs from the other companies and a new title was given to us - the Australian Army Training Project Team - PNG. After many false starts, pidgin English courses, instructor development courses and needles, the team deployed to Goldie River Training Depot in PNG.

Our initial weeks in PNG were long and at times frustrating. However, with a dedicated and motivated team of admin people, much was achieved. On the 3rd September the Recruit/IET course commenced in earnest. Our lads were putting in a great effort under very tiring and different conditions. The course has been difficult, with small and at times difficult problems being overcome by persistence and a will to succeed. Our task in PNG will be completed on the 21st December. A march out parade at Goldie River will see approximately 300 PNGDF soldiers join their units after having been trained by the AATPT-PNG.

Before closing, I would like to thank all members of the company and team for their professional and dedicated approach to soldiering. Some of you will move from the Battalion at the end of this year. We wish you and your families all the best. Take the happy memories with you and remember, once a Cobra always a Cobra. Happy soldiering.



SEVEN PLATOON

Seven Platoon started the year with many changes to the posted strength. We went from having 26 members at the end of '89 to 13 for the 1990 year of training.

With this training problem the deployment to PNG was a 'God Send' - it gave the soldiers an opportunity to operate in a full strength rifle company and allowed the C Coy NCO's to display their worth in a recruit training battalion overseas.

Even though 7 Platoon soldiers were not too pleased about leaving their parent company, all say they are fitting in well. They also have the prospect of deployment to Malaysia in 1990 and possibly to Germany with A Coy in 1991.

All 7 Platoon are wished the utmost success in their new postings, and I am sure they will carry on the fine C Coy traditions that have made our company so successful in the past. Good luck, and good soldiering.

EIGHT PLATOON

As a full rifle platoon the year was very short. We started with a section military skills exercise at Wondai. On the trip to the exercise area, the platoon commander after a busy weekend, fell asleep, when he woke up he found he was half way to Shoalwater Bay when he should have been in Kingaroy. After pointing out the error to the driver, he was soon reunited with his platoon and the exercise was under way.

After five days of TOET's, basic navigation and infantry minor tactics all the BRL blues were gone. The platoon was set for another big year. On the march out from Wondai SGT Willan led the push under the watchful eye of the Coy 2IC CAPT McCrohan. This was to be the last time 8 pl would be together for 1990.

Once back in barracks the company was split three ways. Half the diggers to A Coy, half to B Coy and Officers and NCO's remaining with C Coy to form the basis of the AATPT to go to PNG.

So the 8 pl Officer and NCO group stayed together. Doing countless DP1 checks, a pidgin course and various instructor development activities until finally deploying to PNG in early July.

8 pl has been spread thinly throughout the team but all members are doing well. Everyone is looking forward to returning to the battalion on 23rd December. I dare say that the Rams is greatly looking forward to the return of its more regular clientele.

NINE PLATOON

The new broom promised to sweep clean at the beginning of training year 90. Emphasis was to be placed at section level and work up to achieve all the lost training of the previous year due to parades (good ones I might add - rule 33) and outside unit commitments. LT Pigott and SGT Pabst placed the first stumbling block in place when the good PL SGT was absent for the first Coy ex of the year, COBRA 1. It was left to the PI Comd and the good seco's CPL's Spencer, Hunt, Harrington and Graham to remove the cobwebs of the BRL hangover.

The initial hiccups out of the way, now was the time to get into serious training when along came the ultimate plan, training the PNGDF recruits in Goldie River. Out went the diggers to A & B Coy and in came the NCO's. Our next outing was OTBO and then only as the Bn umpire pool. SGT Pabst to mortars, Spence to pioneers, and everyone else to A & B Coy.

After the OTBO outing it was full on into training aids and Instructor Development and the initial disappointment with the PNG trip being postponed. The trip finally came to fruition on the 12th July and 9 pl ceased to exist as such.

At the time of writing all the NCO's of the "last and best" platoon are doing an excellent job in instructing the recruits under somewhat difficult conditions. CPL Hunt has smiled all the way through (something unusual), CPL Spencer continues to pump iron, CPL Mongoo keeps on being CPL Mongoo, Stotty is still the best shotgun in the Regt. To LCPL Spedding, LCPL Wilson and all the men who have worked with the platoon in what has been a pretty disjointed year, thanks for all your efforts, good luck, good soldiering for the future.

All the best to all members moving out of the platoon at the end of the year.



Left to Right: CPL Vesovic, CAPT Ham, LCPL Macgregor, CPL Warwick.



FLO TEAM

The Unit Family Liaison Officer Team was raised as the first 8/9 RAR personnel deployed to Papua New Guinea (PNG). The team's role has been to provide personnel support, particularly to families, for the members of the Battalion deployed overseas. This personnel support consists of regular telephone calls and visits to families who request that support as well as mowing lawns, helping with removals, assisting with pay matters, providing emergency transport and hosting regular family barbeques. The team has been very well accepted by wives, fiancées and girlfriends and has tried to provide any assistance requested.

The FLO Team has consisted of CAPT Peter Ham as the FLO, CPL Vesovic as the team clerk, CPL Nev Warwick, LCPL "Macca" "Mr Video" MacGregor, LCPL "Blue" Ingram (every dog's best friend) - now discharged, and CPL Bill Turvey - now discharged. Undoubtedly the team's best workers have been the FLO's telephone and the lawn mower. The team has had its moments of frustration, boredom (seldomly), aggravation and mostly satisfaction at being of assistance to the families.

Belonging to the FLO Team has not been the most glamorous of jobs in the Battalion though it has been one of the more satisfying of jobs. After six months though, with no disrespect intended to the ladies, the FLO Team is keen to get back to being infantrymen. It has been a new experience within the Battalion and has proved, though the work of team members, to be a most valuable asset for overseas deployments.

CATERING PLATOON 1990

Catering Platoon has had a pretty hectic year (again), especially since June with the commitments of PNG and Malaysia. Our rear detail strength has and will be fluctuating during the next few months.

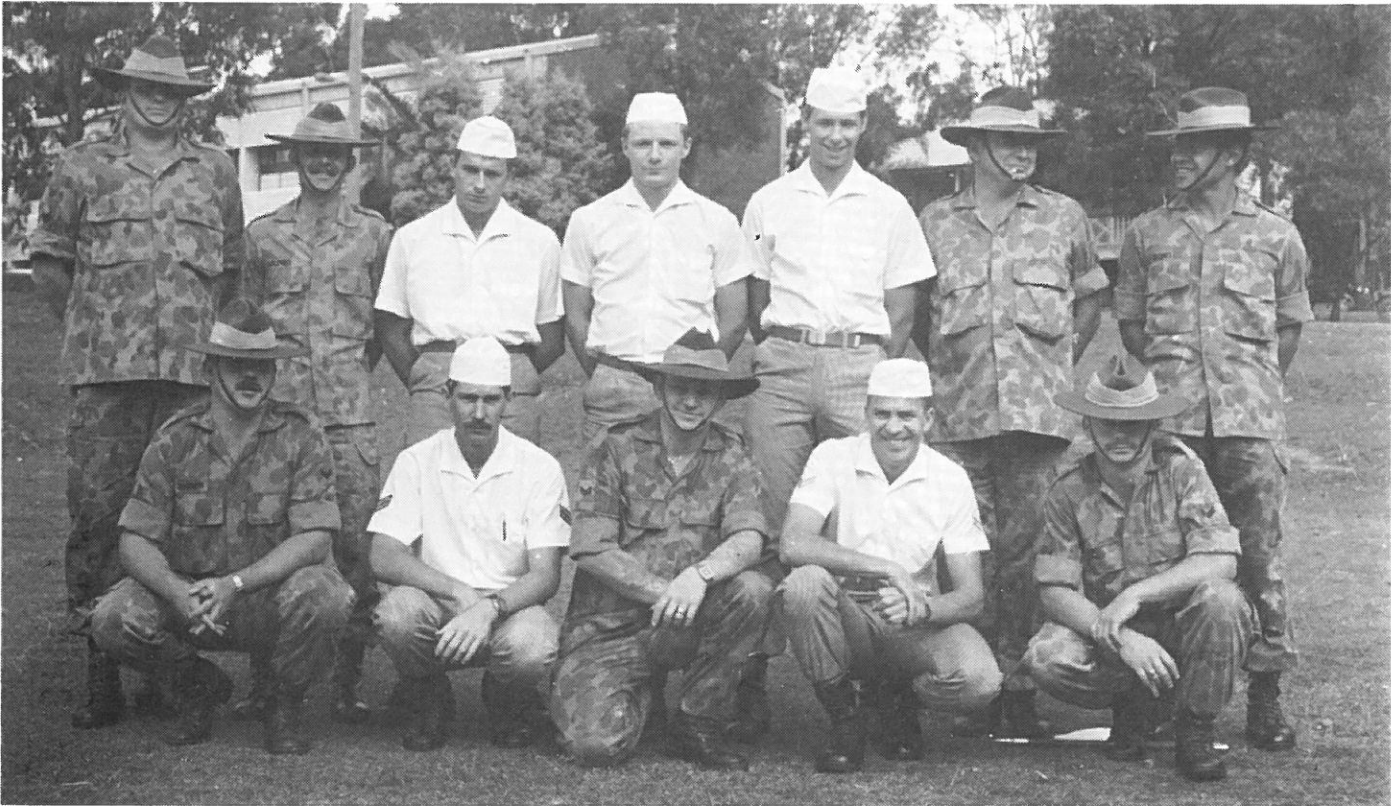
Catering Platoon has and always will be there, maintaining support to the Bn through family briefing BBQs, Bde Camp, keeping the Sgts Mess open, providing staff (Cooks) to 1 Div OR's kitchen, etc, etc and still smiling.

A few thousand changes have affected Catering:

- Postings in - Sgt Wong - Jan 90
Sgt Palmer - Oct 89
Pte Lawrence - Nov 89
Pte Jones - Nov 89
- Postings out - Sgt Chaing
Cpl Walker
Pte Gillan
Pte Garnett
Cpl Ross
Cpl Buckley
(might as well be posted as he won't be here for a whole 5-6 months).
Pte Young
(to raed and rite and become and occifer).
- Promotions - Sgt Wong
Sgt Palmer
Cpl Hall
Cpl Powell
LCpl Holland
- Discharges - Cpl Beswick
Pte Sullivan
(OC's favourite cook)
discharged after 3 months in Gallipoli
Pte Madigan
(2IC's favourite cook) has seen the light and is staying in a while longer - 6 months more

Welcome, Congratulations, Good Luck and Bon Voyage to all members mentioned above.

The Caterer, Sgt Clinkaberry, Cpl Powell, Lcpl Holland and Pte Ward are currently in PNG. We have received to date two (2) letters from them. Must be awkward writing on Beetle nut leaves.



The Caterer has a busy itinerary this financial year. After PNG, Malaysia recon (won't make that one), SAC's course (Supervisor Army Caterer) in Puckapunyal then back to PNG? Love the horses over there!

Sgt Baldrey/Pte Robertson will be departing for the Malaysia recon soon, that's if it ever gets off the ground. They'll be riding a trishaw (FFK) (KFMLT3). Pte Lawrence recently engaged - (Someone's got to pay the bills.)

Our biggest and bestest platoon get-together (minus wives) was held on Bribie Island in June. The Catr's car boot was opened at precisely 160700k Jun 90 and the day declared open.

There were heaps of fish, Blue Spanner Crabs and the sniffles caught that day. The boys hired a runabout which was returned earlier than expected. Cpl Gilshenan lost his thongs and ate the BBQ'd crab claws which is why he's slumped over the picnic table with a medical concoction in his left hand. Most of the members spent the night at the local motel.

TPT PLATOON 1990

Working as the CO's driver you are often given the opportunity to sit back and look at some of the blokes you work with; and in between chuckling to yourself and shaking your head in absolute bewilderment you often ask yourself if I had to write a few lines about some of the more memorable members of the platoon what would I write. So here goes my steadily failing career and health.

I guess that the best person to start with would be the boss, Big Bad Angus Baker. I'm convinced that the majority of people stood fast for Agro Angus out of fear of being stomped on as opposed to respect for the Queens commission.

Angus's days short though they were, seemed to revolve around rugby, food and phone normally in that order, although when pressured he did contribute to the function of the platoon, something about the Bloody Platoon Commanders Notebook.

Moving right along and downward we come to that streamlined Tpt Sgt/Storeman/Supervisor/Non Tech NCO/Clerk in fact I can't think of one job that young Brian wasn't qualified to do in Tpt. Admittedly he lacked many of the certificates required to substantiate his claim to being the most qualified Tpt Sgt ever born, but who was going to point it out to him. After all Sgt Lambert is always right - isn't he.

Although Tpt has its fair collection of NCO's some more overdue for posting than others, the one that springs to mind most of all is the man with the big heart, Geoffry Bubba West.

Geoff was basically OC morale, this being because if he said you were happy in the corps and had no complaints, by Christ you could just about light up the barracks with your joy and enthusiasm about being in the corps. Of course he was just as successful in his other capacity as a yard NCO. I mean if Geoff said that the vehicle was perhaps in need of some cleansing attention you just fell over yourself in desire to agree that the vehicle was indeed damm filthy. Bubba a man whom will leave a lasting impression, both mentally and physically, on Tpt for many years to come.

Memorable characters are limited only to the wheelers and dealers of the platoon. For instance Tpts shining star, everones young drivers inspiration, the Mel Gibson of Tpt PI, Greg Panhead Williams. The man with a heart of gold, the desire to work like an Exide Truck battery and brains to match. Greg has provided the



platoon with a means of not only avoiding working weekends but seems to show a dedication to volunteering for work on Saturdays and Sundays. A constant source of amusement with gossip and his boisterous antics whilst under the influence of various relaxants, Greg is one character that everyone knows in Tpt.

Last but far from least is the man who is best described as the Claytons storeman, the storeman you have when you don't have one, which was more often than not the case. Yes the biggest man in the Q stream, whom to this day maintains he does not belong to Tpt, Gerrard Smith. Gerrard held the acclaim of having everything in his store but himself. Yes if you want a Tpt orientated item you just went straight to 6 RAR Tpt.

Tpt like every other platoon has its fair collection of memorable characters and no doubt in years to come there will be more to write about. Who knows, I (Pte Mc Coy) may even end up being one of these characters.



LYING: LCPL Smith
SECOND ROW: (Left to Right) PTE Osbaldstone, PTE Atkins, PTE Ross, LCPL Ryan.
BACK ROW: (Left to Right) CPL Harris, PTE Mundy, PTE Power, PTE Mau, PTE Bain, CPL Clayton.

KOKODA TRAIL

Dawn Friday 10 August. Nineteen of us and two national sergeants arrived at the airport to fly to Popondetta to commence what we thought was to be a pleasant stroll along a jungle track.

Once at Popondetta we hitched a lift with the local policeman to take us to Kokoda village - the start of the trail.

After a pleasant lunch and a visit to the Kokoda War Museum we started what was to become an epic journey in the long history of Charlie Coy. Friday night we camped alongside the track on the slope of a large mountain, just wondering what we had got ourselves into.

Saturday was the first full day's walking and we rapidly gained altitude as we began to ascend high into the mountains. Here, we came across our first village and it was amazing to see people living in such isolation with no electricity or gas - a step into last century. We stayed the night at Alolo village and bought fruit for our dessert.

The next two days of walking were the hardest and we climbed over Mt Ballamy and then down again to cross raging mountain streams using locally built foot bridges - hair raising stuff at times.

Along the way we discovered evidence of our grandfathers' fighting. Old mortar bombs and fox holes were seen along the sides of the trail especially at Iora Creek and Templeton's Crossing.

Every time we came to a village we would buy some fruit which would always be a welcome change from ration packs.

Every night, even though everyone was tired, we still managed to keep ourselves amused with anecdotes and stories of other adventures when men were men and everyone else was nervous.

Thursday 15th was to be our last day and after following a false trail for a couple of hours, thanks to a local, we got back on the right one and headed for Owen's Corner, where transport and hot showers awaited. As expected the last hill climb was a monster but at the top was an ice cold can of . . . coke! Oh well, it was still good. We had finished, very wet, very tired, but glad we had done it. We all agreed it was to be a once in a lifetime experience.

Quotable Quote: Cpl John Stott: "I'm melting".

Most Memorable Moment: Cpl Wally Wallace (Curly): Whilst trying to cross a creek using a fallen tree as a bridge, he lost his balance and rather than fall 10 feet into icy mountain water, he leapt like a wrestler from the top rope he landed on the opposite bank, safely and to the amusement of his walking mates.

Worst Memory of the trip: Taking 4 hours to move 400 metres.

I know I speak for all when I say that we have great respect for what our forefathers did under those harsh conditions.

Signed - Karl Kokoda and his trusty bearer Terry Trailblazer.



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MAIN Q STORE PLATOON 1990

In an era of economical strangle holds by Log Comd, the Q PI has risen head and shoulders above the masses to provide an excellent service to the Battalion. Criticism by the few towards the PI or the system often stems from a lack of understanding of the controls imposed on us from above.

In 1990 it has been a very hectic year for the Q PI, apart from stopping the Coy's from becoming bored by supplying a record number of spot checks and recounts we have carried out one 100% CES stocktake. And in the coming weeks we have a 100% Bks and 100% Main Items stocktake. All this and keeping a PNG group going with all the other pieces of equipment that the PNG government can not supply has certainly kept us on our toes.

Next year we will do the same for A Coy and Phase Two for PNG. With all this going on we have also been able to support the Battalion on exercises Leaden Lift and OTBO with only a PI strength of 1 and 19.

Also B Coy have been re-issued with their equipment for Butterworth, just to add a bit of spice to our day with daily calls on when it was going to arrive.

This year the Q PI has been fortunate to have recieved excellent support from BHQ and the Coy's, Hence the morale of the PI has been and continues to be very high.

Sporting events have been squeezed in wherever possible and representation has been good.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT PLATOON 1990

1990 was always going to be a new and eventful year for Tech Spt. The year started off with one of our first newcomers, Cpl Mick O'Sullivan (Sully) who arrived from across the road at 6 RAR after finishing a 3 month holiday in Malaysia. No sooner had we hit the deck we were all in preparing for exercise "Leaden Lift". Even though our involvement was minimal, apart from Zigs having to replace 3 windscreens in the one Landrover because of one unreasonably heavy handed CSM, our work load was uneventful.

We then, like everyone else in the battalion began to prepare for exercise "OTBO", our last major exercise before overseas deployment to PNG. During this period many of us including Sgt Charlie Moir, Bill O'Meara and Zig Streeter, were all preparing for their overseas trip by attempting to learn how to speak to the indigenous population of PNG. Meanwhile "OTBO" drew closer, an exercise of more value to us as an experiment in our own procedures than a training exercises. We expanded our EME Ops role to incorporate many facets such as, practicing EME Fixes and forward repair team navigation. Apart from our training programme we blended in quite well with the atmosphere of the exercise, in particular Mick, Shirley and Bill O'Meara, who enjoyed their role with "F Ech" during the live fire phase of the exercise. And apart from Charlie getting lost in the dark on his way to O groups with the OC, "OTBO" was all but complete.

On our arrival back in our unit we were greeted by WO2 Jack McHugh, Charlie Moir's replacement, who was there to take up the new position of ASM, (Artificer Sergeant Major), a role that was to release many instrumental changes on our way of operations, and without any disrespect to Charlie a new revamped Tech Spt. With our modified workshop and steel rack we were beginning to achieve a new face in Tech Spt. This along with our new and improved relations with Transport Platoon marked an increase in workshop efficiency. With one of our final projects still underway, the revamping of our Repair Parts Store, we seem certain to achieve our goal in being as efficient as a Tech Spt can be to the Battalion. With all these changes in mind let us not forget the farewells:

Cpl Dick Sutton to 106 Fd Wksp
Sgt Charlie Moir to 1 Fd Regt
Cpl Steve Nadudvary to RAAF
Cfn Ben Lacey to aviation Wagga

From the platoon and on behalf of the Battalion we wish them well in their endeavours.

The platoon would like to take the opportunity to wish all in 8/9 RAR a Happy Christmas and a prosperous 1991.



Hails and farewells have been few. Incoming, WO1 Halls, Sgt P. Johnston and Cpl G. Kent. Outgoing, Cpl Rick Canhan off to DSG North Queensland and Pte Norman Todd to DSU Randwick.

The members of Q PI would like to wish all members of the Battalion a most resoundingly joyous and jovial Christmas and a bountiful, prosperous New Year.

We would also like to wish the QM all the best as OC Admin Coy 49 RQR in 1991.



MEDICAL PLATOON 1990

Well, yet another year spent saving lives, preserving manpower, promoting health and setting an example for the training aids. As with the rest of the Battalion the R.A.P. has been busy preparing for PNG, Malaysia and other trips to exotic locations. There have been some new faces this year and some old ones will soon be departing for (?) greener pastures. So what about the team.

The Boss

Capt Wakefield (Doc)
The Doc is in his second year as RMO (still no DEO's course) and is coming to grips with the "Green Machine". Seems to spend most of his time increasing his biceps, reducing his golf handicap and looking for his eventual entry to psychiatry. (At least there's no shortage).

The Seniors

SSgt Drummond (The Phantom)
Steve joined us in January from the School of Health and prior to that SASR (Just in case he hadn't mentioned it to you). True to his SAS training he was at all times difficult to find, indeed between Subj 1 and PNG he barely had time to warm his new seat. Steve is off to Perth in January on promotion to WO2 (well done). We will have to wait and see whether his replacement (also SAS) will be with us longer than 12 months.

Sgt Mundy (The Sarge)
Even though he has less than a year to go for his 20 years and retirement, no he won't be reaching compulsory retirement age, he has continued his high standard of professionalism and is an inspiration to others. (He also wrote this article).

Sgt Larven (Heat Seeker ? Retired)
Grant seems to have finally shaken off his target status and his year has been almost without extras. A hasty call to PNG has seen him motivated to new heights, although he is a bit worried that he might get to actually do some hygiene work. The new year sees him off to LWC (No, not run the treatment plant) and we wish him well.

The Corporals

Cpl Bowie (DB)
Don as usual has added colour to the RAP as the longest serving member of the team he will be missed when he leaves in January for 1 Field Hospital on promotion. Also the young ladies of Brisbane will surely miss his expertise.

Cpl Butler (Benny)
Brett is anxiously waiting for his adoption papers to come through so that the "Doc" will become his legal guardian. He is currently on a fitness programme that will see him super fit and thin as a rake by 1996, which he says is about when he'll be posted.

Cpl Mc Carty (Macca)
Hugh is our resident fitness fanatic running half marathons and triathalons (though his Aust Rules efforts have done much for his general health). He's off in the new year to DSU Sydney on promotion and I'm sure he will miss the Battalion life?

Cpl Armstrong (None yet)
Craig joined us in January from 11 Fd Amb to find out what the real Army is like. His enthusiasm is a delight to behold indeed he makes mistakes with tremendous gusto. The trip to Malaysia with Bravo Company (No Craig it's not just a shopping trip) will provide an opportunity for him to gain experience.

Et All (And others)

There have been two RAINF privates with us this year. Pte Mc Kay (Junior) on FTS from RQR and our own Pte Wall (Wallie) soon to be Health Assistant. Both have seen the error of their ways and should soon be wearing RAAMC badges.

All things considered its been a top year to be at the 8th/9th RAP. We've had a good team that works professionally and harmoniously. Everyone has had an opportunity to enhance their skills and most have had a chance to serve overseas. Obviously nothing works in isolation and we would like to thank all those who have helped us through a busy year and we look forward to working as a part of the battalion in 1991.



(Left to Right) SGT Larven, PTE McKay, CPL McCarty, SGT Mundy. (Inserts) CAPT Wakefield, CPL Bowie, CPL Armstrong.



DELTA COMPANY

The start of the year saw Delta Company getting ready for the conduct of Pay Level 4 testing, a test which is dear to all soldiers' hearts. After serving 18 months after IET training a pass on the Pay Level 4 test will increase your gross pay by \$51.20, a significant jump from Pay Level 3 to Pay Level 4.

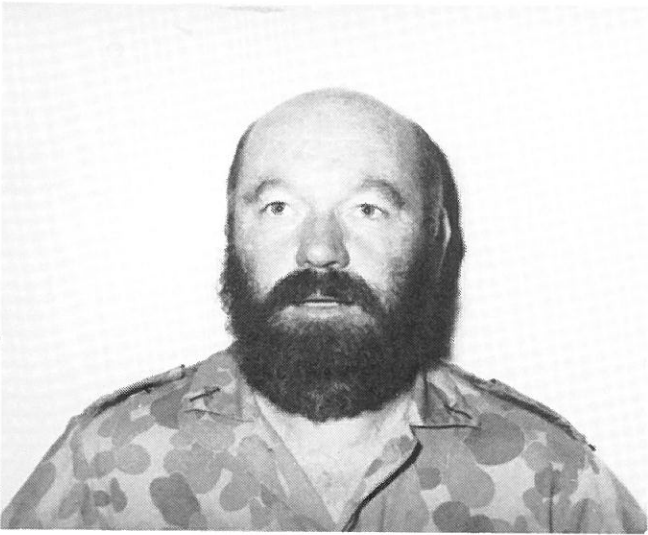
Delta Company continued the year with the Selection Trials for the Duke of Gloucester Cup. CPL Edwards and his section from B Company won the selection trials and then prepared for the competition through training by Delta Company. The section trained hard and placed a creditable second in the Competition in Singleton. (Well done fellas!)

Throughout the year the company has conducted pre-course study for members going on various courses, both from the Battalion and numerous other SE Qld Units; hopefully this has assisted those members and made their courses a more valuable learning experience. The Company has also helped out the odd Army Reserve Unit with instruction during the course of 1990.

In 1990 the Company could have been called the interchange Company with the number of soldiers that have served under the red flag. The following members served in Delta Company during the year.

MEMBER:	CURRENT LOCATION:	1991:
WO2 STAHLHUT	WANTIMA GOLF CLUB	ADMIN COY
SGT KETU	DELTA COY	POSTING
SGT BLACK	PNG	SPT COY
SGT JARDINE	PNG	INF CENTRE
SGT THOMSON	PNG	DELTA COY
CPL PEARSALL	DELTA	DELTA
CPL GRAHAM	DELTA	DELTA
CPL ARAGON	PNG	INF CENTRE
CPL SCHMIDT	MORTAR CSE	SPT COY
CPL FISHER	DELTA	DELTA
CPL COLLINS	GUARD ROOM	DELTA
CPL CULLEN	PNG	BHQ

By the way, we like to be called DELTA COMPANY NOT Training Company.



This good looking person (believe it or not) is our Padre (MAJ R.M. MacDonald)



WO2 Stahlhut



Left to Right: CPL Watterson, SSGT Muir, MAJ Morrison, CAPT Boubouras, WO2 Doran, PTE Dover.

SUPPORT COMPANY 'QUIETLY SUPERIOR' IN 1990

The year for Support Company began at a fast pace and it looks like it won't slow down until Christmas day, if then! The first major Company activity was the Battalion Laying Up of the Colours parade in the Brisbane Town Hall. This was mainly remembered for the fact that everyone managed to get soaked during the 50m march from the buses to the Town Hall. The Company was then involved heavily in preparing for the Brigade Open Day. Which was once again mainly remembered due to the fact that most of us got soaked. The day did however, progress smoothly and the civies that managed to brave the rain were treated to an entertaining day. Exercise "Leaden Lift" provided the Company with it's first real opportunity for live firing and specialist training for the year and proved to be a very worthwhile shake down.

The highlight of exercise "Leaden Lift" was the fire power demo put on for the Battalion and other Brigade units who were all suitably over-awed by the Company's firepower and ability, in particular our FOU gas early warning system!

The period following was taken up by various specialist platoon activities, duties (our old favourite!) and Brigade stand-down. Anzac Day was a major highlight with one of the biggest crowds in years turning out to observe the march. The Wintergarden that night was full of soldiers making the most of their popularity with the ladies!

Ex OTBO for the Company provided an excellent opportunity for the platoons to further practice and consolidate their training and really began to show up the men from the boys in what was probably the hardest exercise for the year.

The Company was then tested as enemy for the Battalion ARTEP week which, they handled a bit too efficiently, killing 'large numbers' of Australian troops before being brought to heel.

The Company live fire week was Heavy Weapons and Pioneer Platoon joining 6 RAR at WBTA in an endeavour to impart some professionalism to them. Mortar Platoon went west, dressed like Mexican bandits to do battle against pigs (things were a bit worrying when they were observed loading their mortars before they left!) Signals and Recon continued their training programmes.

MAJ Morrison - Has spent more time in Support Company than the gun buggies.

CAPT Boubouras - The Macedonian Mauler

WO2 Doran - "Who keeps putting these lighted cigarettes in my ashtray?"

SSGT Muir - The Company's Hells Angels Rep.

CPL Watterson - "This is my LAST game of rugby!"

PTE Markie - "?!?! knows where that camp post came from!"

PTE Dover - "?!?! knows where that RBT came from!"



Following another week of stand-down, the Company is now disbanding to provide manning for other Battalion tasks. This will see members in Hawaii, PNG, Malaysia, England and other exotic locations such as Victoria Barracks and SWBTA.

It's been a hard, rewarding year and the Company looks forward to reforming next year when we'll continue to do what we do best - be 'Quietly Superior'. All the best to those members leaving us on posting or OCS, we hope to see you back soon.

ADMINISTRATION COMPANY HEADQUARTERS 1990

Well hasn't it been fun! 1990 started with a bang and just seems to keep going. The OC, "Pudge" Martin decided it was a good time to keep a low profile, so he headed off the LWC to learn how to move map symbols for six weeks. It was great timing as he avoided Ex Leaden Lift. However, despite his absence, the Company did manage to function and the CSM Geoff Hughes did complete his pre-course study for his RSM's course.

The 2IC Capt McNeill, realising belatedly that people seemed to be finding ways of avoiding work in CHQ, departed for a six week training mission to South Africa, he advises us that the "beer" is great and the women are better. Not that he really would know as his wife kept a tight lead on him from all accounts.

We finally seemed to be getting everyone back when the CSM finally headed off on his course and Exercise OTBO loomed large. Special thanks go to WO2 Doran for his late inclusion into A Ech, an "experience" I'm sure he will never forget. Again the OC decided that Admin Coy wasn't the place to be so he headed to B Coy to dig in and win the war. Meanwhile the rest of us moved in case the boss decided to come back. And though we thought we were doing it tough, with only one visit a day from the Sally man and DPRI located in the Ech I'm sure some of you out there would disagree, however, Sal La Vie.

With OTBO finally over the CSM decided it may be time to return. And return he did having topped his RSM course, from everyone in the Coy, well done CSM.

Again exercises loomed on the horizon, however for the 2IC and Cpl "Hump" Humphrey it was of a more enjoyable nature with 18 days in Hawaii. No it wasn't a shopping trip, though Hump's did seem confused at times. Hump managed to judge a beauty contest in his travels as well as get a suntan - 'bright red'.

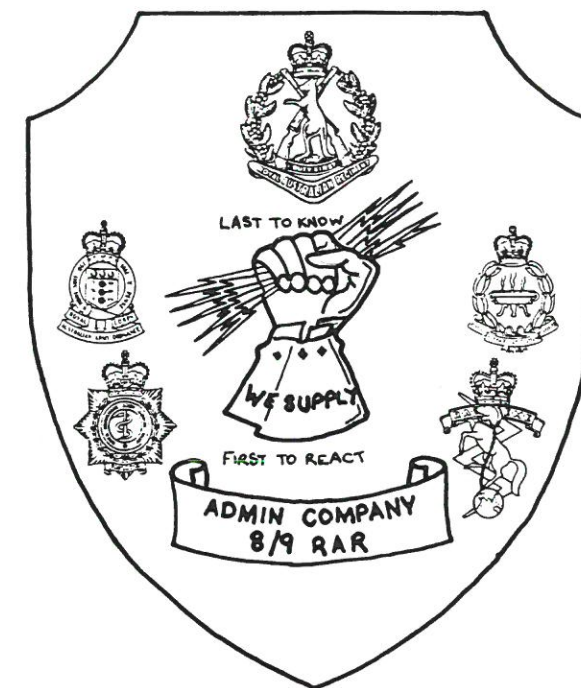
The year has seen a few ups and downs and for the silent workers of CHQ like SSGT Paul Neate and Pte Shaun Pidcock it must seem like all work and no play. A special thanks goes to SSGT Neate for his work as Acting CSM and his efforts on the Coy dining in night.

For next year we welcome the new OC-Maj McGee, 2IC-Capt Dowling, CSM-WO2 Stahlhut and Cpl LCPL Gaulke and all the others who march in. Good luck especially with adventure training in Malaysia and all the best to Admin Coy and the members of 8/9 RAR in 1991.

"Last to know first to react".



FRONT ROW: (Left to Right) WO2 Hughes, MAJ Martin, SSGT Neate. BACK ROW: (Left to Right) LCPL Gaulke, CPL Humphries.



MEMORABLE QUOTES HEARD FROM THE MEN OF ADMIN COY

"So you want to talk about Tax and Negative gearing."

"And everyone will be fat, dumb and happy."

"Amendment to the amendment no 33 of the Duties."

"What have you got planned for this weekend Cpl"

"Fitzroy, Football, Rabbitoh's, Football, blah blah etc."

"Pusillan'itous, Quadrages'Ima, and other words no normal grunt would ever understand."

"I've been here so long when they do a stock-take my name is on the inventory."

"Stuff me around and I'll take your BRL off you."

"Ahh ... Yeh!! ... Grunt! That right."

"You call it, and we'll haul it."

"It's no Beer and Skittles down here ya know."

"Where's that ST2 a-----e!"

"Can we do a deal for you."

"Where is the Taxi."

"Talk to some **** who cares, I'm getting out."

"Wait till I get my Wrecky Mech course."

"Don't tell me I'm only a Lcpl."

"Have a nice day"

"Enjoying yourself in the services men."

"Listen whilst I've got you on the phone."

"It's already been sent in the mail, and I've got the butts to prove it."

"Look just take 2 aspirins and I'll see you again tomorrow morning."

"Take a seat."

"Doc should be back in 5 minutes."

"How's you mother's ducks."

"This won't hurt a bit."

"Every day is a good day down here, only the Coy stuffs it up."

"No we haven't got enough left, you'll have to wait for the next indent."

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MORTAR PL 1990

The beginning of the year saw some new faces in the platoon, and all keen to get stuck into a serious years work. However time was not on our side between duties, duties and other weekend activities, training was very little with Leaden Lift rapidly approaching.

We managed to get a sub-cal shoot in at Greenbank prior to the Battalion exercise which sharpened the skills up a bit.

Leaden Lift went off without a hitch except a small problem with the MLO who was absent at the boozier instead of being at orders groups. Again the platoon got some valuable training in.

Then it was back to the Battalion for some more duties, and then up to Shoalwater Bay in support of 131 DIV LOC BTY. The highlight of the trip being a sweaty sleeping bag at Bundaberg, "hey boys".

As soon as we were back it was off to Shoalwater again this time for Exercise OTBO. The platoon performed well and achieved all aims of the exercise. Even if we did get threatened to be sacked.

On arrival back home we were greeted by the news that Spt Coy was being disbanded to supplement the rest of the Battalion with it's numerous overseas tasks.

But we did manage to get a weeks training in, out Goondiwindi way which was the highlight of our small year. Hog busting was the main aim of the exercise and you guessed it, the hogs won. But all



involved had a ball, the majority of the exercise activities cannot be published due to embarrassment to most of the blokes of the platoon.

Well it's off overseas and back to rifle companies for most so good luck "party till ya puke" and we will be back in 1991.

MORTAR PL MEMBERS 1990

CAPT BYRNE	- JW
LT MC AULIFFE	- CLONE OF NORTON
SGT COX	- SMILEY THE ENVIRONMENTALIST
SGT O'BRIEN	- WORST JOKES IN THE REGIMENT
SGT MUDGE	- RING THE BELL "WHAT FOR"
SGT ROZITIS	- EDDIE SALITA
CPL BANAGHAN	- ALTERNATIVE LIFE STYLE
CPL HOLMQUEST	- CAMEL JOCKEY
CPL HOWE	- GO BUSH YOU'RE JOKING
LCPL HARTLEY	- OH!!!! NO
LCPL JOHNSON	- POSSESSION OF FIRE ARMS
LCPL DAKIN	- WHO CARES!!!
PTE ALLAN	- HOG BUSTER MINOR
PTE COLLINS	- WITH AN EXTRA HOLE
PTE CRAWLEY	- STICKMAN
PTE DOOGAN	- DESTROYING THE OZONE LAYER
PTE KIRKNESS	- WHO'S FAT
PTE LOCKWOOD	- MISERABLE POGO
PTE MORRIS	- POMMY B _____ D
PTE SPEERING	- HOW GOOD ARE YOU?
PTE LESPERANCE	- BAR WENCH

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RECON PL 1990

"CHILL OUT", The Family is here in the 90's with a new breed. A group of highly trained specialists. Medics who have been trained by the Special Forces, Scouts trained in their skills at LCBS, all airborne rappelling qualified and all having completed the gruelling Recon Course.

The Family began the year at 100 miles an hour and has finished at 150 miles an hour. Having completed Leadenlift, a trip to Sunny Tully (LCBS), OTBO and enemy for 5 Avn Regt and 5 Tpt Sqn, the platoon certainly earned its pay. PTE Standing, Thomas and Morton took a month off work for a Swan trip to Darwin to attend the Patrol Medic Course. LCPL Nichols, LCPL Leaver and LCPL Ion had a very nice time down at JLTC doing their Subject 1. While PTE White and LCPL Ion travelled down to the Infantry Centre for their Sniper Course. All in all the platoon managed to **squeeze** 12 months into 6 months.

1990 also saw the re-emergence of a small group of men called SNIPERS. Only the CO knows what they do and only the most golden of the golden boys get to be one. We only hope that we see more of them in the future. At least they have enough initiative to get a good night's sleep when out bush (in the CO's tent).

Next year will see significant changes to the platoon. 63S SGT "I am going to give up smoking ... tomorrow" Hatton is off to CHILL OUT at RMC; CPL "Time for a brew" Clayton will be down to Infantry Centre; CPL "Elvis" McIlwain is going to Art School (to perfect his cam), and PTE "Stink Weed" McLaren is off to sow his wild oats (all over the world).

We welcome SGT Chapman as the new Platoon Commander for 1991, and mention LT Bywater and PTE Telford so that they get their names in the Battalion magazine.



FRONT ROW: (Left to Right) PTE Lever, CPL Clayton, SGT Hatton, LT Bywater, SGT Chapman, CPL McIlwain, LCPL Dickson.
BACK ROW: (Left to Right) PTE Thomas, PTE Morton, PTE Telford, PTE McLaren, PTE Standing.
(Insert PTE Ion)



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HEAVY WEAPONS FOR 1990

The year started off with new march in's from the rifle companies - Pte's East, Fallon, Hall, Murphy, Urbas, Williams and Ware. The first Ex for the year was **LEADEN LIFT** at WBTA, where the Platoon deployed in both SF and "shock! horror!", the Anti-armour role. We had two attachments from Transport Platoon -

Pte 'WAS THAT THE WAY I WAS SUPPOSED TO TURN' Toonie, and

Pte "YOUR GUYS ARE \$%?*@! CRAZY" Roth.

These two new members could only stand so much, and decided to give the live fire phase a miss.

All members fired lots of bullets both big (106mm) and small (7.62mm). During the fire power demo the Platoon performed admirably in the face of the 901 figure 11 Battalion. All went well for the Ex, which was just a warm up for the biggie, Ex OTBO.

Ex Cooloola and Nanango were the next to follow. The Platoon was now only honing their razor sharp skills.

Ex OTBO. This was a hard Ex, showing the Platoon how the G.P. express works with all our guns, tripods, ammo and trash on our backs. Off we went with the "Rifle Companies" who were there to support our training. After four days of walking, the Platoon decided to dig to stage 3 ... just for the hell of it!

All members fired the MAG 58, which was very, very naughty, as they started to chop down trees. (Tisk, tisk, the greenies would not be happy.) OTBO ended with a little walk down the Lemon Tree BOG, where Pte "I AM IN CHARGE OF THIS VESSEL" Woodcock, sunk his vehicle. The Boss ordered all to "ABANDON SHIP" ... everyone was out faster than ALLAN BORDER at a test match.

Our skit at DSU Rocky was OK, with all the battalion cheering on the DEVIL DOGS (minus WESTIE).

Well, in between all these activities, the Boss went over to the land of fish and chips, all the NCOs went off the learn pidgin, SMILEY BRADFORD gave his all for Queen and Country at 1 MIL hospital (the cruelest cut of all!) and the Platoon became the "Lonely Hearts Club". Well it looks like HEAVY WEAPONS will join the rifle companies in training for the rest of the year, just to show them how things are done. **SOMEONE HAS TO DO IT RIGHT!!**

SPT COY - JUNIOR NCO COURSES

From August until October this year a training team from 8/9 RAR worked in PNG qualifying soldiers for promotion to Corporal. The team comprised:

MAJ D. Morrison
WO2 R. Doran
SSGT Muir
SGT Chapman
SGT Stanworth
SGT P. Thompson
CPL B. McKenzie (6 RAR)
CPL M. Hayward (6 RAR)
CPL A. Faulkner (6 RAR)
CPL R. Watterson
PTE B. Dover

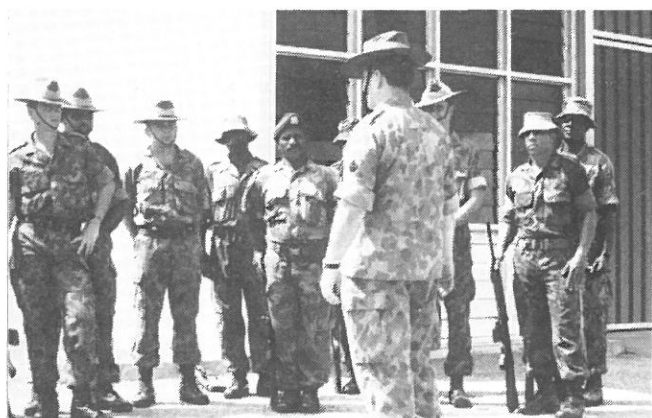
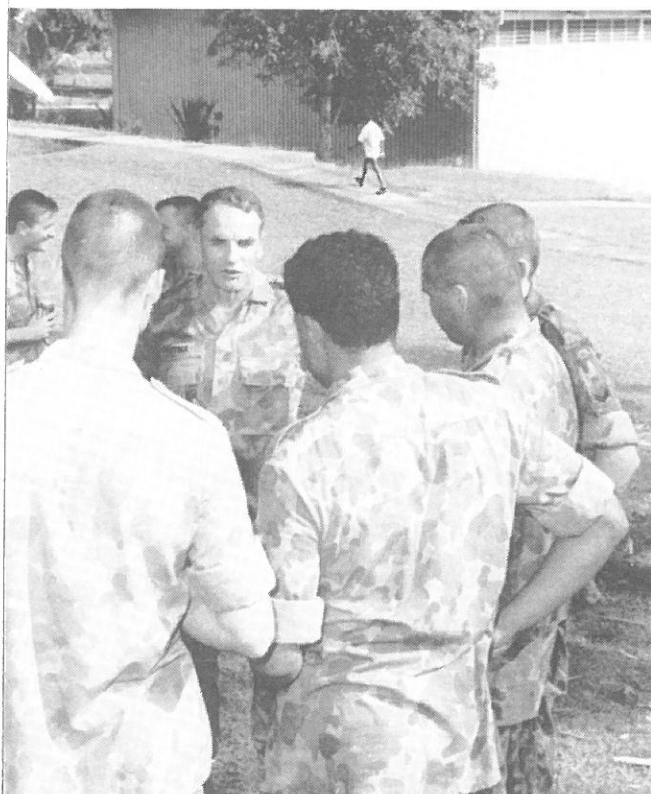
Unlike the larger team that trained recruits and IET's at the training depot at Goldie River this group worked with the two Battalions of the PNGDF. The first course was conducted at Wewak, and involved the soldiers from 2 RPIR. The second course was run at Taurama Barracks, Port Moresby and involved the soldiers from 1 RPIR and the Engineer Company.

In both locations the opportunity was there for soldiers from the Australian and PNG armies to work together to train and qualify junior NCOs. It was soon found that what students lacked in knowledge of infantry work they more than made up for in enthusiasm and a willingness to learn.

The courses were each conducted over a busy four week period, with the field phases being run in very hilly terrain. One thing the instructors all gained was a healthy respect for gravity! The experience provided both Australian and PNGDF personnel with a great chance to work with each other and it certainly proved of value to those who took part.

BOMB SHELLS DROPPED THROUGH-OUT 1990

1. Pte FALLON suffers from alcohol withdrawal from being out bush too often!
2. The two HALLS try to see eye to eye with each other ... but they still need their glasses!
3. For some reason the Boss does not like gun buggies turned into aeroplanes!
4. Duties, Oh Goodie!
5. Where is the Boss?? "He went to play Rugby!"
6. Let's clean stores and non-tech vehicles!
7. New name for Heavy weapons, "PACK MULES".
8. HVY WPN PL acting career cut short! Boss sacked as Director.
9. DUTIES AGAIN, OH GREAT!!
10. Pte Quilter is still trying to figure out where he is going! (civvie street)
11. Where is the Boss? "He went back early AGAIN to play Rugby"
12. How to get **BOGGED award**.
 - . Sgt "THIS WAY BOYS" Boston
 - . Pte "I'M FOLLOWING YOU, SARGE" Ware
 - . Pte "I SHOULD HAVE GONE TO THE LEFT A FEW METRES" Woodcock.



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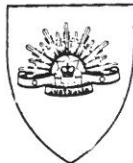
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SIGNALS PLATOON

This year was brief for the Comms Lords who, under strength by more than normal for starters, found themselves disbanded in favour of commitments to PNG.

We had the standard march-in of new Comms Lords with "L" plates, LCPL "Banjo" Patterson, PTE "JJ" Peters, PTE "Tic Tac" Tyack and PTE "Coons" Cooney. Once our numbers were up to below scratch we could start the really important part of any soldier's training - duties. Don't get us wrong, we also had time for non-techs.

Twice however, things went terribly wrong, and we would do platoon training. Luckily we had invented weekends for such folly, though in the case of the training in Lismore and Gatton, it was well worth it. In Lismore: PTE "Collie" Coulson surprised us all with his drinking and agro prowess, a regular "Michael Tyson". This, we thought to be completely out of character and we had to rely on the "calming influence" (!!!) of Voighty and Peter D.J.

Comms Lords excelled by having one of our lids pronounced "the most photographed man in the Regiment". Way to go 'smart' (Peters JJ), that was the bayonet in the boot trick (I missed it by that much) what are you going to do for an encore?

The highlight of the year was the Bde open day. It was there that we saw the colour our men (dressed in red). Firstly, we kicked Recons bums like the dogs they are. Then the big attack where Tic Tac showed his mettle by fleeing, only to be shot in the back by Bish who subsequently stood his ground to the death. Others who went to that great Musoria in the sky were Petey, DJ, Parks, Dales, Banksie and Omar, who died so well that he required half a dozen stitches. LCPL Blue "Brando" Ingram was the last to be despatched, as a martyr of Musoria, when he was shot in the back by the cowardly B Coy dogs whilst attempting to carry the colours to safety.

We had two of our members share more courses/leave and other jobs than the rest of the Battalion put together. Nice to almost see you this year Hilly and the Boss.

Lastly, a note of encouragement to Omar who is doing his Sub 1 for the 47th time. 'Good luck mate'.

Farewells this year to Banksie, Collie and Blue who are off to OCS. They are all due to graduate as Misterys by Jan 91. Farewell to the Boss (enjoy Tassie), Bob Jarvis (enjoy wherever), Richo (moving across the hall to call sign 8 apprentice dropshots) and Pat (moving to the main Q where you can't have it because someone else might want it).

From the Boss: Well done Comms Lords, for the work and the hours you've put in during the year up until our disbanding. I will miss the wit, the sarcasm and the camaraderie which are part of Sigs 8/9. I will think of you in this lovely temperate climate whilst I'm freezing down in Hobart. You've had one of the least popular, most demanding and most important jobs in the Battalion and you have met the task. Good luck for next year and the future. Golden books will never be the same after K89.

ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

The first half of 1990 was pretty good for pioneers. The first day back at work after BRL was PTTs with Gunny Lester. We started work on the so called indoor outdoor cricket nets, which to our knowledge haven't been used yet.

After a few weeks of Parades and duties we were off on Ex Leaden Lift. The first few days were at Kauri Ck, doing watermanship which went well until Lordy forgot we had boats and decided to walk 17 km to Rainbow Beach for some refreshments at the surf club. Shortly after, some whinging civies couldn't catch any crabs so they decided to blame pioneers for raiding their crabpots. But being the honest, hard working professional soldiers that we are, we can assure you we were innocent.

Two weeks on a bridge building exercise down at Canungra saw us all constantly fantasizing about a young blonde medic who Dreezo got to meet after dropping a 3 metre log on his head. Although we were always wet, cold, muddy and hungover, it was a good trip.

Exercise OTBO was spent building and repairing tracks, tracks and more tracks. Once we even got to build a treehouse for the gunners. Those double rations were pretty hard to take fellas, but we deserved 'em. As usual the rifle coy's needed help with their pits, wiring and section manning, but it was a change from track maintenance. CPL Coughlan couldn't be with us on this Ex as a result of a small discrepancy with a 5 metre piece of 30 by 30.

The last exercise we did this year was a demolitions exercise at Wide Bay. As usual it was heaps of fun and big bangs, and a lot of beer changed hands as a result of slight inaccuracies in fuses.

It's a pity we were not together for the latter half of this year due to the Bn's commitments to PNG but the first half made up for that.

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