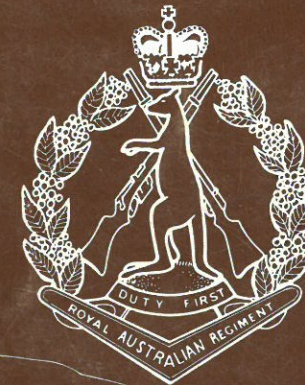


THE RAM 1991

8/91
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THE MAGAZINE OF THE 8th/9th BATTALION
THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

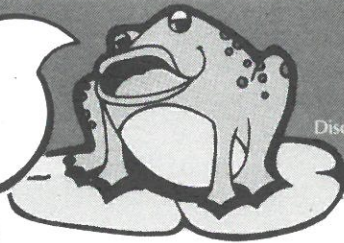


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THE MAGAZINE
OF THE 8th/9th BATTALION
The Royal Australian Regiment

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The Battalion would like to thank all the advertisers for their support, and we wish them all the best for 1992.

EDITORIAL

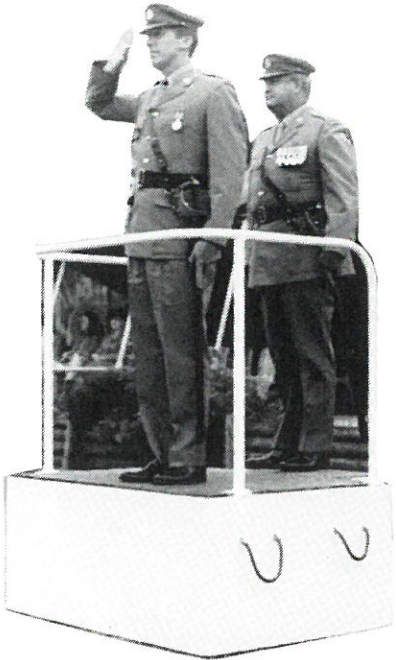
For those members of 8/9 RAR in 1991, it was a positive, eventful and most challenging year. Again the Battalion was involved with overseas training; the AATPT-PNG provided us with a challenge and a commitment; one that met and surpassed all expectations.

The year also saw the arrival of our very own, home grown recruits, who arrived after successfully completing their training and are now establishing themselves within the unit. Locally the Battalion maintained it's high profile and achieved a unit record by collecting \$25,000 for Legacy.

The Battalion has also performed well on all ceremonial occasions, receiving good reviews for the Birthday Parade.

The year is coming to a close with the Battalion becoming a Ready Reserve Unit in the New Year. To all the members leaving the Battalion, good luck and good soldiering in your new units.

Special thanks is extended to the members of INT SECT for the hard work that has gone into the production of the 1991 magazine.



THE YEAR IN OUTLINE

- JANUARY:**
Return from BRL
Orientation Week
AATPT-PNG (Team 2) departs for Goldie River
- FEBRUARY:**
Coy Training
Visit by Wolfhounds Recon Group
Long Hai Day
- MARCH:**
Ex Leaden Lift - WBTA
Officers v. Sergeants Mess Cricket Match
- APRIL:**
A Coy to LWC
B Coy soldiers prepare for Ex "Pacific Bond"
Range Practices
Anzac Day
- MAY:**
C Coy 4-27 Battalion Wolfhounds arrive for exchange
Spt/B Coy deploy on Ex "Pacific Bond"
Ex OTBO - SWBTA
- JUNE:**
Wolfhounds return to Hawaii
Spt/B Coy return to Enoggera
A Coy reverse cycle trg
GOC Land Cmd visits
Spt Coy on Ex "Woollen Warrior"
B Coy Ex in Deongwar State Forest
Ex "Silicon Bandit" CPX
AATPT-PNG returns to Enoggera
- JULY:**
8 July 91 Stan IV passed away
Coy trg
B Coy reverse cycle trg
31 July 91 Stan V arrives in Battalion
B Coy to Tully
- AUGUST:**
Royal Guard at Brisbane Show
A Coy shooting
Maj Gen A.L. Morrison visits Bn
Tpt Cse
Arrival of first direct entry soldiers
Bn Cross Country
- SEPTEMBER:**
Coy Trg
A Coy shooting
Duties
Bn Pde - Reforming Pde
- OCTOBER:**
A Coy 1st Singapore Guards arrive
Bde Ex
Bn Birthday Parade
- NOVEMBER:**
Adventure Trg
Athletics Carnival
RAR Birthday
- DECEMBER:**
CGS presents Unit Commendation
RSM Farewell Parade
Bde Comd Farewell Parade
BRL

CROSS COUNTRY 1991

And so the yearly sweat and grime of the Battalion Cross Country came around again much to the fear and consternation of certain members of the unit. "Oh no, not again!" or "I thought it had been cancelled" were the most common responses. Who was too scared to say Cross Country let alone run the course? "Course, what course?"

It was indicative of the willingness of some members to do this yearly pilgrimage of running, or in some cases staggering, once learning that the signs for the cross country had been stolen not once but three times and the RAP attendance stood at an all time high.

Still it was a good turnout of 264 members who braved the morning chill on the 27th August, to have race numbers tattooed on their appendages. All 264 managed to finish the course, some a great deal faster than others.

Memorable quotes were:

1. "Oxygen - quick!"
2. "Thank God it's finished!"
3. "No mate, this is only the half way medical station!"
4. "Oh, %±="
5. "Got a smoke mate?" (at the half way station)

Results for 1991 are:

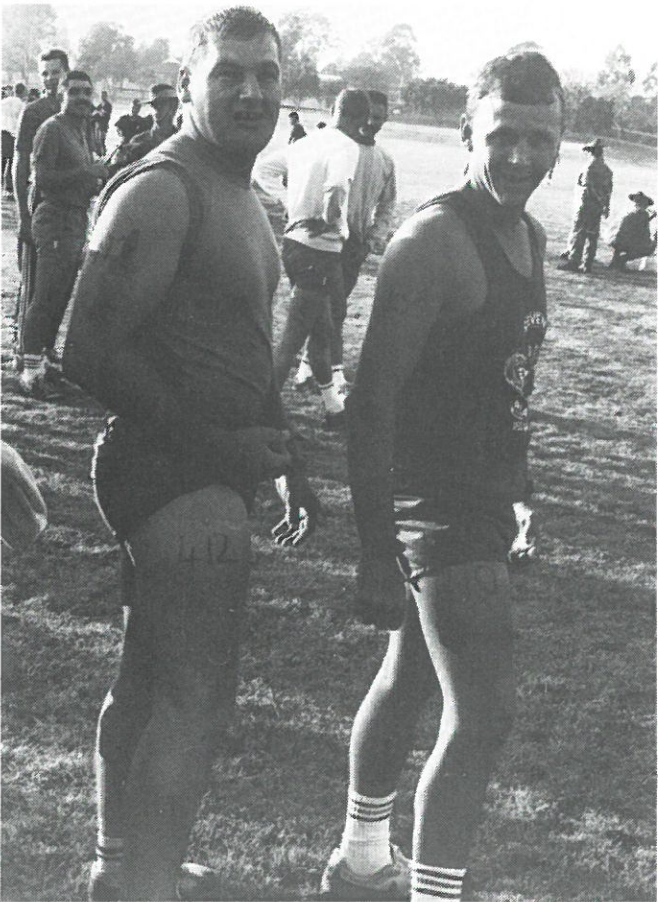
1st	SSGT Lark	30:06 min
2nd	PTE Wiblen	30:56 min
3rd	CAPT Warren	31:40 min
4th	PTE Janssan	32:21 min
5th	PTE Cunningham	32:23 min
6th	PTE Grant	32:30 min
7th	LCPL Johnson	32:41 min
8th	PTE Hropic	32:54 min
9th	SGT Hollowell	33:02
10th	CPL Cavanagh	33:16 min

Veterans Results:

1st	SGT Hollowell	33:02 min
2nd	MAJ Morrison	33:23 min
3rd	SGT Bensien	33:47 min

Champion Coy Scores:

A COY	117
SPT COY	130
B COY	134
C COY	135
BHQ/ADMIN	144
D COY	184



BOXING 1991

The Boxing Club began the year with large numbers and a good deal of boxers keen to avenge themselves against the engineers after 1990's defeat. Training commenced under CPL Bubba West amidst the heat of the summer and the boxers developed a good fitness base after numerous repetitions of Bubba's beloved circuits. Following the Easter Stand Down, in addition to training during Bn sport, the team began training of a Monday and Wednesday evenings under Mr Phil Ragnezi, an ex State Title holder of considerable experience. Phil's experience and coaching skills began to show through and within a few months the team was hungry for a fight.

Now it was a matter of finding a fight, a formal challenge went out to the engineers for a fight in September. However they declined due to exercise commitments. In short it wasn't a convenient time for the engineers to fly their ring-ins in from Sydney and Townsville.

Next we challenged 6 RAR, they were very keen until they conducted their Inter Coy Boxing Night and discovered a distinct lack of talent. Afraid of being decimated they withdrew rapidly into a defensive posture. Finally in desperation we challenged 1 Fd Regt. They were eager to fight us however could only offer three fighters - hardly enough to make a meal of.

Thus we turned our attention to outside the Enoggera area and entered the civilian fight scene of the Qld Amateur Boxing Federation. PTE Stowers and PTE Lugton travelled to Maryborough to fight with PTE Lugton being unmatched and PTE Stowers putting in a gallant effort.

Unfortunately boxing is not a guts effort on the day sport and months of preparation must go into every fight. With a busy training schedule as we have had this year the boxers have had difficulty in maintaining any sort of continuity with their training.

The engineers have recently challenged the Bn to a fight night in late November. Hopefully the Bn will be able to avenge the results of previous years. However as with any worthy enemy the Engineers have certainly chosen to fight us on their own ground at a time of their choosing - RAM IT HOME.



TOUCH FOOTBALL 1991

Once again the Bn Touch Teams have had a very successful '91 winter season and all players can be proud of their achievements.

The '91 season began with an abundance of players, but with the introduction of other winter sports, and Bn commitments, the numbers soon reduced to barely two teams. Many thanks must go to a successful recruiting drive by Ian Moroski, and Andy Powell within the Admin Coy ranks to rescue our dwindling numbers.

With two teams entered from the Bn it became obvious within the competition that 8/9 RAR were the "Top Dogs". Team after team were simply outclassed and embarrassed by our superior ball handling and blinding speed. The B Grade Team soon became the competition leaders and went on to win the Grand Final with an easy victory over 131 Div Loc Bty.

The C Grade players did well and were also on the top of the ladder. However due to field (B Coy at LCBS) the team lost the Grand Final to HQ 1 Div. Well done on a fine effort with so many players absent. It is interesting to note we played the same team with our regular C Grade Team previously and won. (Hard luck chaps.)

Once again I must take this opportunity to thank all the players for an outstanding '91 winter season, and a special well done to Cpl Andy Powell for being selected in the Over 30s Inter Service Team. I would like to also thank Frank Ketu and Charles Fraser of Gain Plan Veterans Care for their much needed sponsorship and trophies. We look forward to your support again in '92. Thanks again Frank and Charles.

Well the season is over, the Grand Final Trophy is proudly displayed at the Rams, and the on field feats are retold over a cold beer. I think we can look back at the season and say "Job well done". On a personal note I look forward to playing against you in '92.

FOREWORD BY LT COL P.F. LEAHY COMMANDING OFFICER

1991 has been an eventful and demanding year for 8/9 RAR.

The first six months of the year saw the Battalion complete the Australian Army Training Project Team in Papua New Guinea. This was an immensely successful task. The performance of the officers and men deployed to Papua New Guinea was of the highest order.

During this time as the Battalion was working hard back in Australia to refine our military skills. All of the Companies worked hard during Exercises Leaden Lift and OTBO to achieve good realistic standards.

During the second half of the year we were able to put the Battalion back together. The return of the AATPT-PNG and the arrival of the Direct Unit Recruits meant that we could re-raise Charlie Company and flesh out Support Company. Your successes on the Brigade Camp showed how hard you had worked and reinforced your individual and collective skills. You were able to achieve more than I had expected. Well done.

This year has also brought about significant changes to the Battalion. We have already started the conversion process to become a Ready Reserve Battalion. The introduction of the Ready Reserves presents us all with a most important task for both 8/9 RAR and the Army. For those who are to leave the Battalion I thank you for your service to 8/9 RAR. You should always be proud of having been a member of Old Dependable. You have made it a good Battalion. Good soldiering in your new units.

For those who are remaining we have a most important task and I know you will approach it in the same dedicated and professional manner that you have approached all of your duties this year.



The year has not been an easy one. We have faced a number of crises together and I am satisfied that we have come out of the year in good order. You have all faced the uncertainty and change with a maturity and responsibility that you should be proud of. What has been most impressive is the spirit and cohesion that you have shown as a unit. As a Commanding Officer I can ask for little more than that all members of the unit show loyalty to each other and loyalty to the unit. You have done that and as a result have enhanced the reputation of Old Dependable. Thank you.

Duty First.

REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 1 R. SLATER

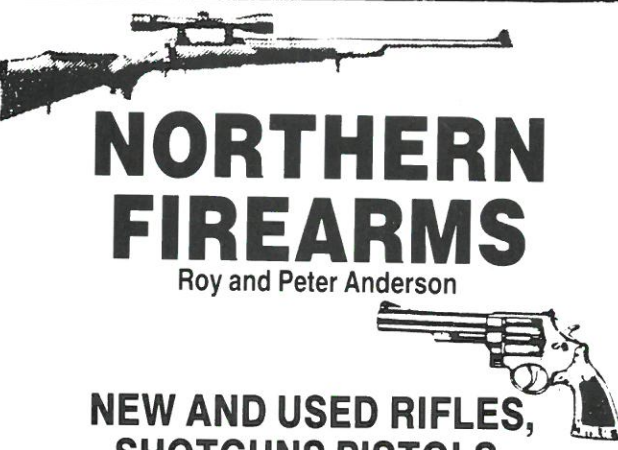
Long Hai Day, AATPT(PNG), Recruit and IET Training for the DUR's, Exercises Leaden Lift and OTBO, ANZAC Day (again), Gloucester Cup Competition, Pipes and Drums RAR Banner Competition, Royal Guard at the RNA Show, Beating the Retreat at the RNA Show, The Re-organization Parade, Brigade Camp, Battalion Birthday Parade and Ball, Specialist Courses, Parade for the CGS, Brigade Commanders Farewell Parade. This list is by no means complete.

Throw in Exercise Pacific Bond, LCBS, winter and summer sport competitions, Battalion and Brigade x Country, that "BIG" Legacy Day, the visit by the Wolfhounds and Singapore Guards, Company Training Exercises, Promotion Courses and the normal outside support tasks (plus duties), and this past year has once again been a busy one. A year which has at times been frustrating and difficult, but also a year which has been a challenging and interesting period in the history of the Battalion.

Restrictions on men and equipment, rations and ammunition will always be a problem in a peace time army. There in lies the challenge. This business of "soldiering" that we are in requires each individual, regardless of rank, to give that "little bit extra" and to push that "little bit harder" no matter what the task. Once again the Battalion has achieved with the minimum of fuss and without any gimmicks. Well done to all ranks and all Corps.

Regretfully my time in this fine Battalion has come to an end. To say that my two years here has been the highlight of my short career would be an understatement. The experience and memories of it all will last forever.

Well done, good soldiering and "RAM IT HOME".

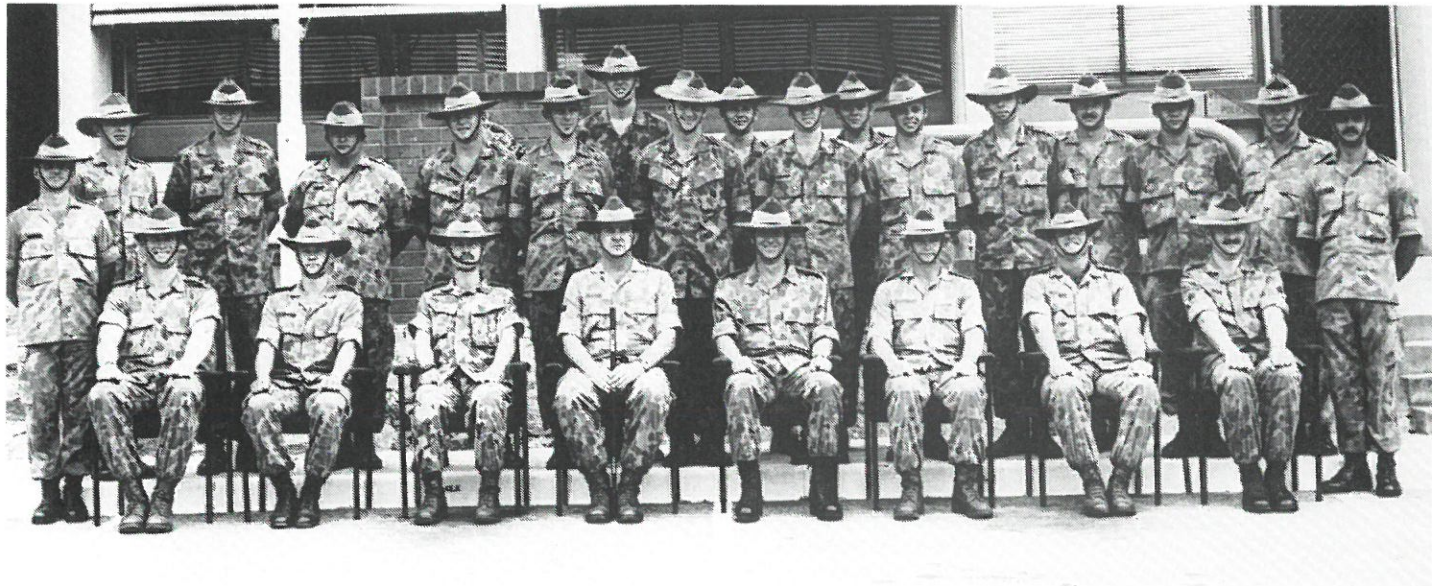


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BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

"Battalion Headquarters are a group of hard working and dedicated soldiers who contrary to popular belief do as much to uphold the reputation of the Battalion as do the Rifle Companies".

This year has passed in a hazy blur for Battalion Headquarters, even with the Companies away, all sections have been well employed.

The Commanding Officer has made a big impression on the Battalion since his arrival in January. He seems to have been planning for this position for many a year. The Battalion has been placed in positions of great change since his arrival and whilst maintaining more than normal training and support commitments the unit has adapted, improvised and overcome to coin an old phrase.

The usual exercises have taken their usual amount of flesh from the dedicated members of the Headquarters with results being achieved in all areas. The operation of the Echelons being sorted out on many an occasion.

Meanwhile "the few" (Clerks) who look after many have undergone a radical but needed change under the new Adjutant and Chief. What some may call a mini cadre course of training has been undertaken in all areas of the trade with definite results coming to the fore mid to late this year.

On the physical side of things, the Headquarters completed the usual BFT and CFT etc. The most strenuous activity being to get the entire Headquarters on parade for PT at any one time. To my belief this nearly occurred once (INT SECT even turned up!!!)

Whilst at one stage numbering nearly seventy (70) members the Headquarters now manages a mere 50 odd. This soon to be reduced to between 20 or 30. This means that the pay for work done policy goes out the window and the pay for more work policy comes in vogue. To report the achievements of the Headquarters in any one year (especially this one) would only lead the reader to a state of sheer boredom, after all who would be interested that the photocopier used over a quarter of a million sheets of paper or that 180 married quarter applications were processed, so we won't go into great depth.

Suffice to say that as a Headquarters we have not spent as much time in the field as the Rifle Companies (close), but we certainly work hard. Can you imagine having to work in the same building as some of the characters in BHQ.

On the subject of ins and outs, well, the internal and external movement of people this year has been something a qualified tracker would have difficulty doing so, be it said for this year that we have had new ones, heaps of used ones and heaps of old ones going.

In conclusion, I have always thought that the saying "it's lonely at the top" applied to an individual. It doesn't!!! A true saying, however, is that "THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD!!"

Quote of Quotes from the HQs during Bde Camp:

Niner on calling 3 was heard to say:
"I don't want to talk to 3, I want to talk to 2. No I don't want to talk to 1. ??? it, I've lost it."

Seagull when chastising one of the duty officers:
 Seagull: *"Did you get all that down?"*
 DO: *"No sir."*
 Seagull: *"Well wake up, when two seagulls are talking, it's bloody important and usually big."*
 DO: (Trying not to laugh) *"Yes sir."*

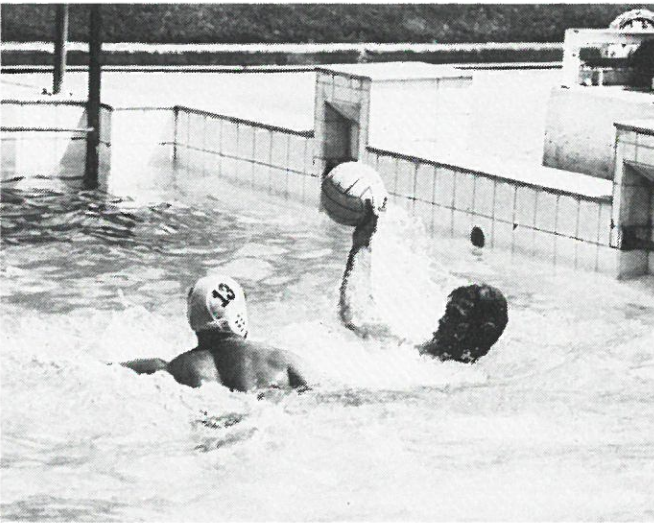
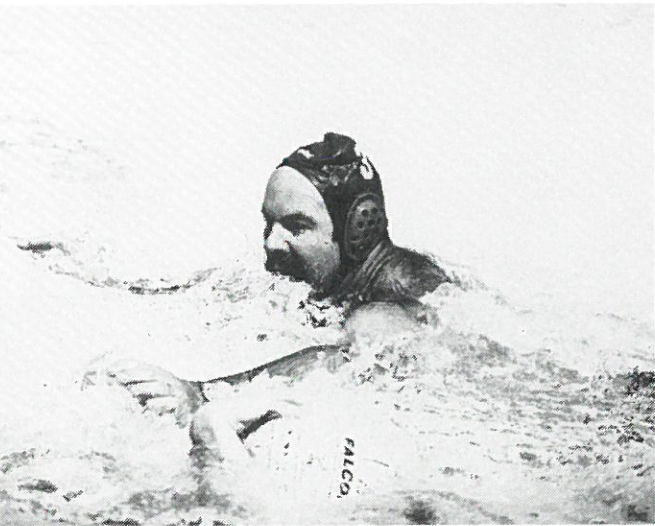
"Knock it off, you guys! My word is law around here, and I say we should hold the annual camp in October not September!"



WATER POLO 1991

This year proved to be a most successful one for the Bn Water Polo players. After the initial training sessions which saw some "sun lovers" leave to other sports, the remaining players combined to form a strong competition team with a determination to win.

In the Thursday afternoon competition the Bn team was placed second. The inaugural 6 BDE competition saw a hard fought battle between 6 RAR and 8/9 RAR with 8/9 running out winners by one goal.



SWIMMING 1991

The Battalion Swimming Carnival was held on 7th February, 1991 and was a closely fought event. The competition was strong, with some notable individual performances. Best performances on the day were as follows:

- Pte Keightly (B Coy) - 30 pts (1st 50m and 100m freestyle and 1st 50m butterfly)
- Pte Arthur (Admin) - 28 pts (1st 50m backstroke, 2nd 200m medley, 2nd 50m breaststroke)
- Capt Warren (Spt) - 27 pts (1st 200m medley, 2nd 50m butterfly, 3rd 400m freestyle)
- Capt Porter (BHQ) - 27 pts (1st 200m freestyle, 2nd 400m freestyle, 3rd 50m butterfly)

Overall the closely fought champion company trophy went to A Company. The full results were as follows:

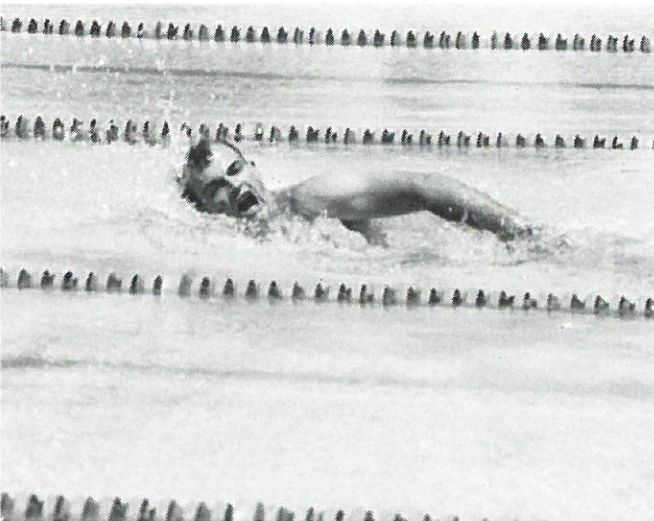
1st	A Company	139 pts
2nd	Admin/BHQ	133 pts
3rd	B Company	132 pts
4th	Spt Company	125 pts

The Brigade Carnival was held on 20th February, 1991. Again the swimmers put in some strong performances. Overall the competition from 6 RAR unfortunately proved too strong and 8/9 RAR were narrowly beaten for the overall trophy. Best individual performance again came from Pte Keightly. Battalion places were as follows:

- PTE Keightly - 50m butterfly - 1st
50m freestyle - 1st
- LCPL Niddrie - 50m breaststroke - 1st
- CPL Wilson - 100m freestyle - 2nd
- CAPT Warren - 200m medley - 2nd
- PTE Wilson - 50m backstroke - 2nd
- CAPT Porter - 200m freestyle - 3rd
400m freestyle - 3rd
- MAJ Dawson - 50m freestyle - 1st (veterans)
50m breaststroke - 1st (veterans)

Good performances were also put in during the relays with 8/9 RAR coming 1st in the 4 x 50m medley relay and 2nd in the 4 x 50m freestyle relay.

Overall it was a pleasing performance considering the numbers away in PNG and hopefully the Battalion will be able to get up and win in 1992.



TUG OF WAR 1991

Tug of War in the Battalion has been going for some 18 months and since our last article we have raised the Enoggera Ladies' Team and the Club has travelled around South East Queensland competing at every opportunity.

Our first major success was the inaugural Doolies Hotel Indoor Competition which both the ladies and men won. The day was one of the hottest on record and we vowed the next competition at Doolies would be in Winter.

After Doolies all out effort was placed on outdoor grass pulling with the annual competition on Australia Day at Carrara. We took a new young team which struggled all day against superior southern teams. The rain dampened a few spirits but at least it softened the ground. The highlight of the day was watching Canungra Mens get dragged around by a team of Bullocks.

Leading up to the Australian titles in Melbourne was the Queensland titles at Warwick, at which certain members and their actions nearly caused the demise of the club, much talked about in recent times, but valuable lessons were learnt both on and off the field on the day. Due to our indiscretions we were banned from competing outside Brisbane Metro. The Club rallied and went around town coaching and assisting schools and groups such as Yugumbie State School and the Maori Association at the Waterloo Hotel.

In April the Battalion went up against 6 BDE in the annual BDE Competition. We believed if we won this one we would hopefully gain some of our privileges and be allowed to go outside Brisbane to compete. We struggled all day to beat all comers and even whilst our guys went to dental appointments leaving only 6 and 7 guys on the rope, we took the trophies for first place and the CO was pleased.

After the guys got back from Hawaii we got stuck into training the mens' and ladies' teams for Doolies Hotel Indoor Competition. The 14 July came around too soon and for the second year we found ourselves facing some pretty tough competition in the car park. Body Focus Gym had found some big muscle heads but luckily we had the technique and won on the day. The ladies didn't fare so well and went down to Canungra Ladies. Our thanks to the people of Doolies Hotel, Mr & Mrs Dooley and Mrs Maureen Farrell, Guinness, Fosters and Castlemaine Perkins.

The Texas Show was upon us and we were off the indoor mats and into grass. With the lack of grass training we were a bit out gunned but on the dance floor at the disco Pte Heydon Watson won hands down. Texas in Winter is freezing cold and the whole experience was an eye opener for all our members. Cpl Greg Spedding and Lcpl Lindsay Streeter came away with clear ideas of our training future to go against the likes of Maitland and the Panthers of Glen-Innes.

Next was the Canungra Show which hasn't been run since 1987. Maitland came up and gave all and sundry a lesson in Tug of War. The girls were beaten by both Canungra and Texas but we had a number of new girls in the club and they acquitted themselves well for what little experience they had. The guys got second in both kgs and open weight divisions. After the competition Maitland and Panthers gave us some tips on training and techniques for us to apply in the next leading up to the South Eastern Titles at Currumbin.

The exhibition at the recent R.N.A. Show was a resounding success after what seemed a disaster in organisation. 2/3 F.E.R. whimped out and we had to find another team from within the Battalion. Our thanks to Doolies Hotel Ladies' Team and to those guys who donned a jumper and ran for the Battalion at short notice.

Over the past 12 months we must extend our gratitude to our sponsor Gain Plan Financial Services and in particular Mr David Salter, for without him we would have no uniforms or equipment. In recent times Mr Frank Ketu of Veterans Care Services has come to the fore in sponsorship and due to his ongoing efforts has been generous beyond expectation with funds for new equipment.

The Club recently had it's inaugural general meeting and voted in a small committee to take charge of the affairs of the Club from the ASM. President - Cpl J. Stott, Secretary/Treasurer - Cfn S. Fletcher, PR - Pte H. Watson.

The Club would like to say "Thank You and Goodbye" to Mick Shirley, Tony Niddrie, Big Smithy, Joe McIvor and wife, Gonzo, Andy Mariner, Sandy Malestrom, Trisha O'Sullivan, Dianne Martin, Carolyn Hill, Pte Dreezens, Collie, and lots of others who have recently been discharged. Best of luck to Mrs Sue Sproul and Mrs Jan Collins and welcome back to the club after the birth of your babies.

The team will continue in '92 so if you're in need of a sport we will be here. We will kick off the new year with the Australia Day Competition at Carrara followed by the Vic, NSW and Qld Titles leading to Australian Titles on 2nd May 1992.

If you're being posted and would like to raise a team or be involved contact your local State Association for assistance or information.



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INT (SPOOKS) SECTION

Int Section in 1991 completed a positive year. The year started quickly with everybody getting to know each other. The IO, Int Sgt and Int Cpl were new to the job and therefore it was left to the old hands (diggers) to get the ball rolling.

Int Section deployed on all Bn exercises however it was not a year where Int were fully utilized. Ex OTBO saw the boss and the sarge doing the rounds as safety officers while the rest of us attempted to perform some form of Int work.

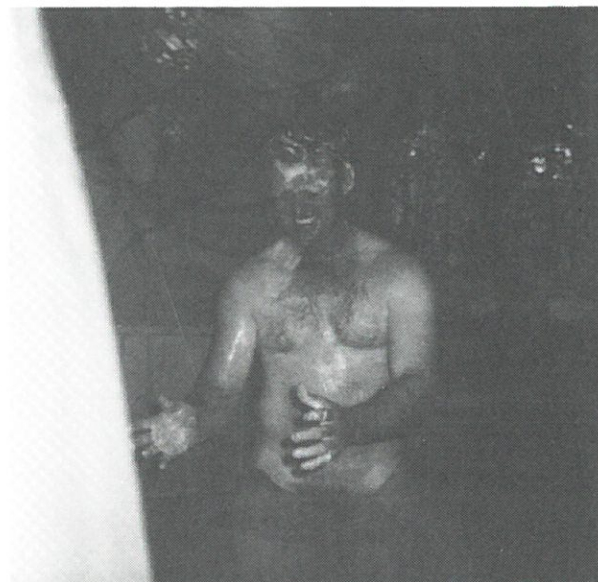
The completion of OTBO saw us return to Enoggera and commence the build up for the Bde Camp. We were also used as menu fixers, photographers, drafters, keepers of the (many) diaries and any other odd jobs required around the headquarters.

The Bde Camp saw us for the first time deploy to the field as an Int Section, alas not to be fully utilized again. Never mind, what work we did, we did with great skill and plenty of effort.

As the year draws to a close, the boys from Int are heavily involved in the production of the magazine. As Christmas draws near we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Things we'd like to see:

1. No more bloody diaries.
2. More than a day's notice for maps.
3. Boss not taking off his shirt to shave.
4. Sarge taking meditation classes to calm his nerves.
5. Cpl Cullen turn white.
6. LCPL Loners in the bush.
7. Pte Beer with sideburn ie Ford Fairlane.
8. Pte Armstrong without a hangover.



The boys applying flea powder to The Boss (alias Wombat)

Postings for Sect Members in 1992:

Capt McCrohan - Victoria Bks in Brisbane (something to do with car parks and paper clips)
Sgt Willan - doing it all over again with Int in 92
Cpl Cullen - retraining with 49 RQR
LCPL Loneragan - 8/9 RAR Int Sect
Pte Beer - anywhere, just out of 8/9
Pte Armstrong - 8/9 RAR Int Sect

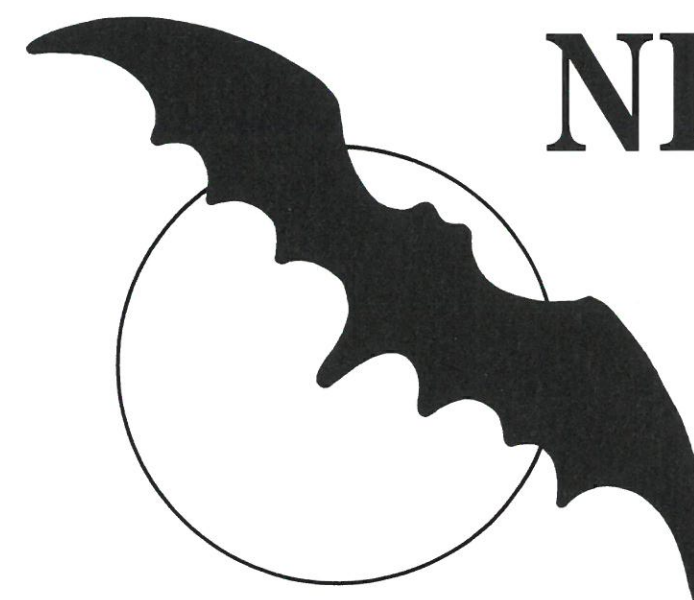
HOCKEY 1991

The Battalion Hockey Team commenced the year with a lot of new players being absorbed into the side. The original team members - Major Dave Morrison (Coach), Corporal Allen Dodd (Captain), Sergeant Charlie Baldrey, Lance Corporal Mick Kinna and Lance Corporal Snow Royal - were an experienced and solid group for the newer players - Private Paul Hooley, Private Steve Dilly, Private Scott Rodes, Private Robert Sweatman, Private Ian Palmer and Lieutenant Matt Clarke - to look to for experience and direction. Later Sergeant Wayne Shultz, Lieutenant Sue Bush, Yvette Hooker and Leslie Waring further boosted the side and we were soon into "The Comp".

Most of the games went off without incident with the exception of one. LCPL Mick Kinna achieved a heroic save in the goals and received three stitches, concussion and three days in 1 Mil Hosp. In the same match LT Sue Bush also retired early with a badly broken hand (that later required surgery) after attempting a particularly courageous tackle.

The Battalion Hockey Team did not win many matches however, to their credit did always play with determination and enthusiasm. As the season progressed so did the team's cohesion and with the benefit of now having worked together for a while the Battalion Hockey side is looking good for '92.

P.S. Also thanks to LCPL Henderson and PTE Needham for their rare yet valued appearances.



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AUSSIE RULES 1991

The 8/9 RAR Aussie Rules Team had a very difficult season, year due to unit commitments in PNG etc. At times we found it very hard to field a side at other times we had too many players. We also had a lot of people playing their first season of Aussie Rules and they acquitted themselves very well.

We started off the season on a high note by playing last year's premiers and only being defeated by 5 points on the last kick of the game. Everything seemed to indicate that we were in for a good season but as the season went on, we lost people on courses and some of our players went down with injuries.

I think I can honestly say we didn't field the same side for any two games during the season. Well enough excuses as the coach. I would finally like to thank all players for their dedication and effort during the season. I would also like to thank all the people behind the scenes for their help. They are as follows:

Manager: LCPL Chadwick; Assist Coach: SGT Pabst;
Driver: LCPL Streeter; Medic: SGT Mundy

plus all the people who at various times ran the boundary, tended the goals and ran water.

SOCCER 1991

This was an excellent season and the team was very strong. We fought our way through to the Grand Final but, sadly, lost by a single goal to 131 Div Loc Bty. The competition was very even but we played with great spirit and purpose to win nearly every match. All the players trained hard during the season and it was unfortunate that we could not give more players a run each week.

SGT Meunier, CPL Benstead and PTE Bailek were consistent and reliable throughout the season but the number of players who made good contributions at various times is too long to list.

We were also supported by two players from 7 Fd Sqn and we thank them. It was pleasing to see the development of players during the year and the fierce determination and will to win that characterized the team as the season went on.

Once we had driven out the apathetic and disorganised approach of earlier seasons we were a real force and certainly the best team in the brigade and, probably in the RAR as a whole. Ultimately it took a non brigade unit to beat us. My thanks, as soccer officer, to all who participated.



CRICKET 1990-91

The season was a reasonably successful one with the team losing in the "A" Grade Semi Final to 6 RAR. The team was very strong in batting with many competent batsmen not getting a knock in 28 overs.


CPL Wilson and WO2 Baker were both consistent and successful batsmen. The team was, however, weak in bowling which let us down in the finals against the stronger teams. PTE Skuthorp was a dangerous bowler but after that we were basically anonymous medium pace.

SGT Borrett worked hard to administer and captain the team and this side of things ran smoothly. A special word for MAJ Dawson who kept wicket, despite being unable to find enough money from his major's salary to buy a proper cricket shirt and hat.

After the Brigade Camp the competition will resume and we will, hopefully, uncover some good new cricketers amongst the new recruits. I fully expect that 8/9 RAR will triumph this season (1991-1992) and that the OPSO will then leave the unit a truly happy man.



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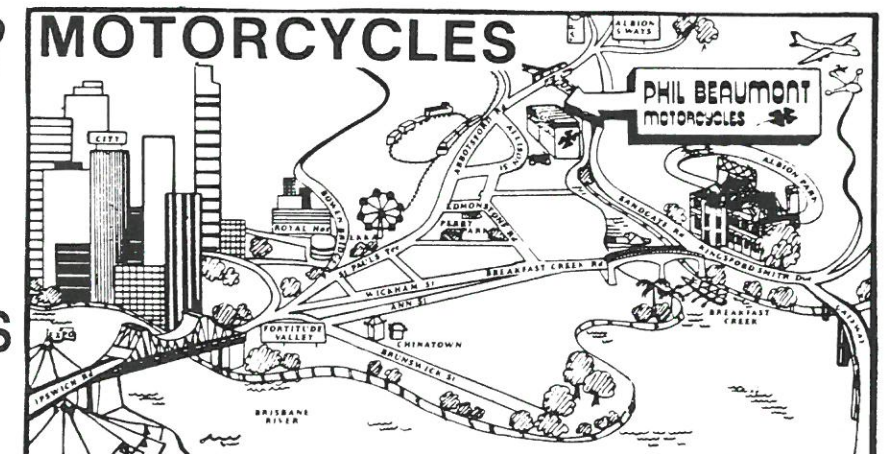
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PAY OFFICE

The Pay Office had a very disruptive year with people coming and going, and being undermanned for most of the time.

The year started off with Eddy (Garth) Elliott disappearing to PNG on the 6th Jan 91. He tells us he had a great time and wants to go back first chance he gets. The rest of Eddy's year was spent talking about Teresa, asking for a posting to Canberra to be with Teresa, flying to Canberra to be with Teresa and getting phone calls from Teresa. Unfortunately Eddie did not get his posting to Canberra so now he hopes Teresa will come to him.

Wayne (Dasher) Wheatly started off his year with Sub 1 for Corporal course. Dasher tells us that he only passed because he didn't want to do it again. Soon after finishing, Dasha was promoted to Corporal and soon after went to Hawaii for what he calls a very stressful period. Dasha is off to DSU Hobart at the end of the year and we wish him all the best for the future.

Gavin Marshall returned to work after only seven days on Christmas leave and was really thrown into the deep end and found himself in PNG. We are glad to see that he survived the emotionally tiring time to have a son. Gav played Aussie Rules this year but after breaking his arm was relegated to the bench. Marshy is staying with us next year hoping to play a bit more football.

Henry Le Gay Brereton (SGT) was a bit of a phantom this year, after two short swan trips to PNG and a course the last six to eight months of the year was gone. Henry is off to Albury Wodonga at Christmas to instruct on the pay courses. We will now have someone to blame for the low standard of pay clerks.

In conclusion we would like to wish everyone a good Christmas and have a great New Year.

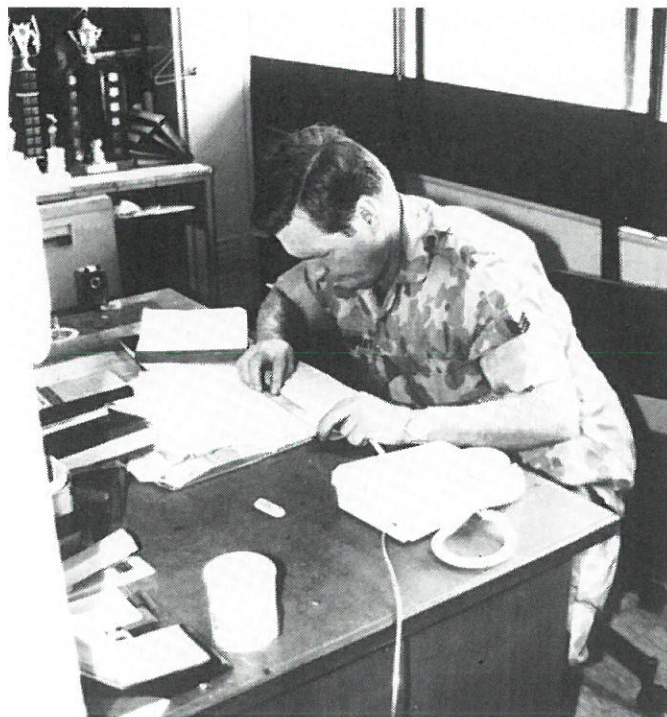
D.P.R.I.

1991 saw SGT Lambert and CPL Bromwich take their positions in the DPRI. Both were soon taken over by sales of PT gear and goffas.

Ex Leaden Lift saw one of the best exercises yet for DPRI with 2 Rovers loaden with goodies going non stop throughout the exercise.

Ex OTBO and Leaden Lift saw the sad end to DPRI's tally on men's pockets to the amazement of the Battalion members.

DPRI is looking forward to bigger and better deals next year with the arrival of the Ready Reserves and wish all Battalion members and families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and good luck in your new postings.



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RUGBY 1991

The Rugby Club had another good year in '91, with some promising talent being discovered and displayed on the battlefield, players like PTE Meredith, LT Stevens, CPL Niddrie (Captain) and PTE Stancombe in the backs, CPL Spencer, LCPL Kelly and LT Ashwin in the engine room. The club played well through the season, the B Grade just missed out on the Grand Final, as well A Grade finished fifth in the run for the finals.

The club was determined from the start, but had trouble filling two sides early in the season, commitment to PNG, courses and field made it difficult to post the club's first win in both grades. With the return of some of the club's stars, we started to win games in both grades, and liked the smell of victory. By mid-way through the season the club had the best A and B Grade sides and was feared by all units in the Bde. We worried one team so much they followed us to all our away games and didn't like what they saw. In two games the B Grade scored a record 107 points and 0 against, a good effort.

The 8/9 RAR Rugby Club is looking forward to '92 with some good players remaining in the Bn and the possibility of getting a lot more, maybe we will fill three teams next year.

The club finished the season with a presentation night at the Gaythorne RSL which was enjoyed by both players and guests. Award winners for the season were:



TENNIS 1991

The 1991 S.E. Queensland tennis champions, 8/9 RAR, started the year off slowly, rebuilding a team that would continue to hold the "valued shield".

The first half of the season sees us currently second on the ladder. The second half of the season, including finals, will occur after the Brigade Camp. The team has had a number of players passing through its ranks so far this year, including CPL "John McEnroe" Salter, PTE "Jimmy Connors" Johnston, PTE "Coolhand Luke" Karakatsanis and PTE "Wild Man" Westerndorf.

Others making short lived but memorable appearances for the "team" have included 9er himself, LT "Conan the Barbarian" Baker and LT "Boris Becker" Lynch.

The Battalion has a number of personnel who are handy with the racquet and it would be great to see you out on the court with the "team" to have some fun and to keep our current court supremacy going.



Best and Fairest - LCPL Kelly; Best Back - PTE Meredith; Most Improved Back - PTE Stancombe; Best Forward - LT James; Most Improved Forward - CPL Spencer; Best Clubman - CPL Cullen.

A special thanks to the coaches CAPT McCrohon, CPL O'Sullivan and Manager WO2 Stahlhut.



ORIENTEERING 1991

Orienteering got off to a running start this year with some eight (8) regular competitors thanks to the RSM's sports parades and SSGT Gary Lark's organizing efforts.

Despite losses due to injuries, courses, duties, and support to other units enough conscripts from other sports were found to fill the gaps and maintain a good level of competitiveness throughout the year culminating with the 8/9 RAR team's big win in the 6 Bde Major Units Orienteering Competition.

Other highlights were CPL Armstrong (RAP) learning how to use a Silva compass, and CPL Bedding and PTE Sheldon proving that the P & Ds are fit!

The year saw a major improvement in the ability of many competitors and the appearance of some talented unknowns when the winter sports were finished.

Things we would like to see next year:

Orienteering recognized as a sport and not seen as an excuse to avoid sport.

Toco give up Australian Rules for ever.

8/9 win the 6 Bde Orienteering Competition in 1992.

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RP SECTION

It's been an interesting and busy time for the Battalion's RP Section this year. There has been a crime wave hitting the Battalion, and the RPs have been out in force. With record numbers of charges, both civil and military, it's kept everyone in the section occupied.

This year, there has been a high turnover rate with the manning in RPs with LCPL Reilly, PTE Kirkness and SGT "Droopy Dog" Thompson leaving us for "greener pastures". The new additions to the section are, PTE Cavanough and SGT "Spinner" Faulkner, who have fitted in well, grasping the job at hand.

Big "Bubba The Enforcer" West has been holding the fort whilst the changes have been taking place, and at times he has been the only thing keeping us sane. With the new policy of RPs wearing Kilts during ceremonial parades, Bubba has displayed his dislike for the idea, and has kept us all amused.

With many mates of ours leaving at the end of the year, RP Section would like to wish them all the best at their future postings and, have a great BRL.

STAN IV

This was a sad year for the Battalion, with the loss of one of it's "woollier" members, CPL John MacArthur the IV.

Stan will always be remembered as a happy go lucky bloke who got on well with his fellow colleagues.

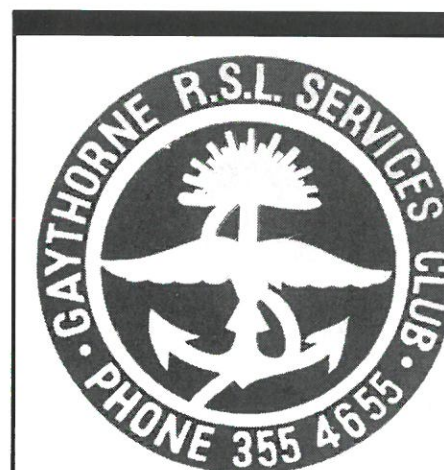
He will be missed by all.

STAN V

With the death of CPL John MacArthur the IV, the need for a new unit mascot was urgent. Luckily for us the Australian Merino Breeders Association came to our rescue and we were fortunate to have Mr Bill Huskinson donate us a fine merino ram from his stud "Wattle Downs".

I'd like to thank the Huskinson family for their hospitality, especially Mrs Huskinson on her brilliant cooking (pumpkin soup).

PTE John MacArthur the V has adjusted well to army life, and after showing him at different venues he has proved to be a big hit. He has even seemed popular amongst the men of the Battalion and that is a major achievement.



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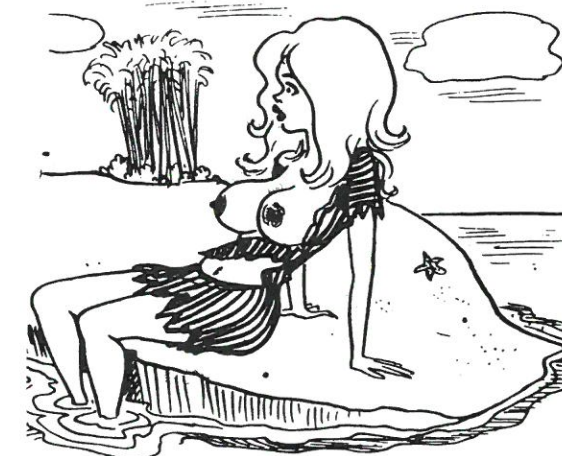
I remember him well, he was about 5'10" in height and short dark hair. His hands were large, warm and inviting. His strong stature was what had drawn my attention to him in the first place. He was a soldier.

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

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

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

*It was the most passionate experience I had ever encountered. When he was finished we laid back on the beach together, my shiny tanned body glistening in the moonlight. Slowly I drifted off to sleep. The next morning I was woken by the early morning tide rolling in on me. When I had fully woken I realised he had gone, I laid back feeling empty and used, and I knew from that moment what I really was
JUST ANOTHER EMPTY BEER BOTTLE ON THE GARBAGE HEAP!*



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2nd/8th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

Another year is behind us and 1992 will be with us before we know it.

Once again, our thoughts return to the 1991 Anzac Day Parade and the 0330 reveille to enable us to come out to our young comrades of the 8/9th and share their observance of the Dawn Service, surely the most moving half hour of the whole year, when the memories of our war come flooding back. Then on to the bountiful breakfast and rubbing shoulders with all our old friends of the 2/8th and the 8/9th.

As 1030 drew near, the crowds in the city built up to six deep near the saluting dais and elsewhere along Adelaide Street. As the head of the parade turned into Adelaide Street no one guessed that this was to be the biggest Anzac Day Parade seen in Brisbane since soon after the end of World War Two. Over two and a half hours later, twelve thousand five hundred marchers had made this the most memorable parade yet. We of the second AIF felt very proud of the 1st Division and especially the 8/9th when they marched past. Some things change with the years, but not the men in the infantry (even if they do bear "rifles" that don't compare with the .303).

Earlier in the year, the 28th February, we were proud to be part of the 8/9th's commemoration of the Battle of Long Hai in South Vietnam. And again on the Battalion's Birthday, 31st October. This was the last parade for the Battalion before changing to its role as a Ready Reserve training battalion, a task we are sure that will be tackled as energetically as any other that has become the lot of the 8/9th.

At the Annual General Meeting of our Queensland Branch held in April, the following were elected:-

President: Bruce Flude; **Secretary/Treasurer:** Bill Cavanagh.
Committee 8/9th: Major Brian Dawson, 2IC; WO1 Rod Slater RSM
Committee 2/8th: Gerald Behan, Cliff Eustace, Arthur Holden.
Vice Presidents: Mick Scovell and Arthur Holden.

LAST POST:

Although our Nominal Roll in Queensland remains intact, we regret to advise the death of our National President in Victoria, Claude Simpson our wartime 2IC and a much loved and respected man. His successor is yet to be named.

We look forward to maintaining our contact with the 8/9th in 1992 and wish to record our appreciation for the co-operation shown at all levels.

—Bruce Flude
President

9 RAR ASSOCIATION

Our activities this year continued to centre around the finalisation of our Vietnam Tour Book.

The realisation is that we are almost there with the completed manuscript to be in the hands of the Editor in December 1991. All systems are go with the release date in September 1992, fittingly at 8/9 RAR, prior to its general release at the same time as the unveiling of the Vietnam Memorial in Anzac Parade Canberra in October 1992.

8/9 RAR has again been very supportive not only with our writing team but also in providing the RV at the Sergeants' Mess for Anzac Day celebrations and this year the Welcome Home Parade.

The latter proved to be very successful, contrary to the view of many sceptics. The response by the Brisbane and Queensland public was overwhelming, not to mention its attraction to many of our men who had not marched before let alone appeared at any of our gatherings.

Such a public display of acceptance does help to heal the scars many may have concealed for too long a time.

Our Association continues to develop in each state through the active interest and dedication of a few organisers. In Queensland we are fortunate to have the support of our parent 8/9 RAR.

Through your support, particularly the CO Lt Col Peter Leahy and the RSM WO1 Rod Slater, we have the comfort of 'living at home'. Thank you.

Our first CO, Alan Morrison, now the Colonel Commandant of the Royal Australian Regiment, is keen to foster the Royal Australian Regimental Association as the parent to all unit associations and to establish a Regimental Foundation. We, as the elder soldiers support his ambition and hope that you too will add your support.

It is with pride that we observe 8/9 RAR's performance and can only believe that in our younger soldiering days we looked and performed as well as you.

A Merry Christmas to you and your families and best wishes for a successful and peaceful 1992.

RAMS RETREAT

The year began with "Big Smithy" leaving the boozer, many thanks for the efforts he put in over the last two years.

The Rams was instrumental in the acclimatization of the PNG Boys returning home. Thank God they all came back safely, as they made up the majority of "Rams Patrons" within the battalion.

While the boys were O.S. Tony Armstrong took advantage of the quiet spell; he stuck a mural on the far wall and a "skippy badge" behind the bar. Thanks Tony!

Whilst we're thanking people, thanks to Robbo and Piley our barmen and also to Lenny who left us mid year to start a new life as Mr Lesperence. Cpl Fisher replaced Cpl Bell as the bar manager and has settled in really well, thanks to Belly though for the time and effort he put in re-beautifying the surroundings, both internally and externally - especially the phone Belly!

Although we had a lot of men O.S. the Rams profits didn't suffer greatly. That was due mostly to our visiting U.S. Wolfhounds who didn't seem scared to have a "sip"!

Some of the functions to date that rate a mention would include Anzac Day, the Rugby Club Hungi and the Gumball Rally. Many thanks to all concerned especially Roy, Si and Watto our entertainment boys.

I'd personally like to thank Sully for holding the reins for the last year and a half and the hard work he put in.

PIPES & DRUMS

The Pipes and Drums have had an eventful year. Here are some of the highlights:

Promotions: 13 Dec 90 saw two promotions Lcpl Clark to Cpl and Pte Kinna to Lcpl.
21 Aug 91 saw Cpl Vesper promoted to Sgt.

People who have left: Ptes MacPherson and Poke to civvie street, Lcpl Grieve corps transfer to M.P. Dog Section at Oakey, Sgt Ramsden to 5/7 RAR Pipes & Drums.

People who have come: Cpl Bedding from 2/4 RAR Pipes & Drums, Pte Joyce from civvie street back in for a second term in ARA
Pte Millard who has been here as ARES full time duty since TATTOO 88, finally ARA.



The Regimental Banner contest was again hotly fought over with the following placings:

- 1st 3 RAR
- 2nd 8/9 RAR
- 3rd 5/7 RAR
- 4th 6 RAR
- 5th 2/4 RAR



The year's not over yet! We've still the battalion ball and various functions to follow. Here's to a great finish to a good year for the Rams.

Finally I'd like to wish all the soldiers who are leaving the battalion the best of luck in their new careers and to those that are staying, we'll see you back again next year!

In the solo events we were able to pull off a triple with the following results:

Drum Major of the Regiment	Sgt Vesper	8/9 RAR
Piper of the Regiment	Pte Joyce	8/9 RAR
Drummer of the Regiment	Cpl Clark	8/9 RAR
Bugler of the Regiment	Cpl Macey	2/4 RAR

As at the start of EX MATILDA we had participated in 130 tasks with another 10 - 15 expected during November and into December, also assisted the RAP during all Bn EXs throughout the year.

From the Pipes and Drums we wish the Bn a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



A special thank you from Olive Sugden and family to PTE Sweatman of the Pipes and Drums 8/9 RAR for being present at the funeral of Albert Sugden to play "The Last Post".

Many thanks.

— Lorraine Ehrhardt and family.



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ALPHA COMPANY

Alpha Company stepped into 1991 knowing a busy year lay ahead of us – we weren't disappointed. Being the only rifle company of the Battalion close to full strength, we were worked non-stop from January to November; the way it should be.

The year kicked off with the Battalion swimming carnival, which we won. Then came Exercise Leaden Lift, preceded by a few days at Bauple and a 25km march out. LCPL (then Pte) Spruce graced the CO with his famed impersonation of the Brazilian whooping bird. Pity Nine isn't a bird-love! Leaden Lift went well with the Company setting the standard on all ranges. Special mention goes to the Blackhawk pilots who found three out of nine LZ and then left SGT Bell to walk home – good one boys!

Preparations for five weeks in the UK were frantic as Exercise North Star/Southern Cross approached. The Company was dreaming of luscious pommie lasses and gallons of bars and terants. The thought of exercising in the Becons and three days in a purpose built MOUT village had us wound up; the thought of 5 days in London had us dribbling! Along came Mureen and the Brits had something else on their mind. The Exercise was cancelled, and if ever there was a reason for flattening Baghelad that was it.

The booby prize was 14 days at LWC during which time the Company blitzed all before it. Records for Heartbreak and Llydra fell in the face of guts efforts from every member of the Company. The performance during the Borders Phase was equally impressive. Thanks to LT Plunkett for the guided tour of three grid squares as the lead-in to the Company attack.

Exercise OTBO Loomed up in May and the dreaded raiders posed less a problem to the Company than the hoards of Safety Shaft that recouped on us waving templates, whittles and 600 mil strikes. Despite this, the exercise was valuable training and all ranks of the Company learnt some good lessons.

The Company was literally kept in the dark for five days in June during Reverse Cycle Training. Going to the pub all day then working all night proved harder than we thought. Again, good lessons were learnt by doing something different.

Later in June the Company deployed to the Brisbane Airport in support of the SASR in a Response Force Exercise. This Exercise was very beneficial and it was the first time that a rifle company had provided the inner cordon in an activity of this type.

Company exercises at Esk and Wondai in July went well with the 2IC at the helm. LCPL 'THOMMO' Thompson found the biggest dope plantation since Gerry Bellino took up gardening thereby



putting his kiss of death on the retirement plans of an unknown number of Queensland's finest.

The 'enemy' provided by 49 RQR for Wondai, were a useful training pool, but were occasionally hard to miss in their Stetsons and pearl-handled pistols.

The Dog Trials were run again, and won by 3 Secion, A Coy. CPL Harrington's section represented the Battalion at the Infantry centre and did us proud by a fine effort. The section with CPL 'DUCK' Wilson, also blitzed the Non Infantry Mill Skills, showing the Non Infantry units of the Bde how it's really done.

The Company gunners with the B Company gunners under the guidance of SGT Harris fired the Gurkka Trophy Practice at Greenbank and with an average score of 32.5 easily 'out shot' the 6 RAR gunners who usually minimi.

The Company took out the Battalion Cross Country again and yellow t-shirts were everywhere to help the Battalion on to a crushing victory during the Brigade Cross Country.

With the Brigade Camp in October the Company is confident of another fine performance. The DUR have bolstered our strength; some of them will be shaving in time for BRL – and our morale is high.

The Company bids farewell to Major Cruickshank who moves to OPSO in 1992 taking SGT Ferguson with him, and WO2 Baker who takes two years in PNG. The 2IC is off to Support Company and LT Clarke will be AAdjt in 1992. Finally, with the advent of the Ready Reserve, farewell to all the NCOs and soldiers who are soon to unit transfer. Without their effort and dedication Alpha Company wouldn't be the force it is, and will continue to be in the years ahead. Yowzah!

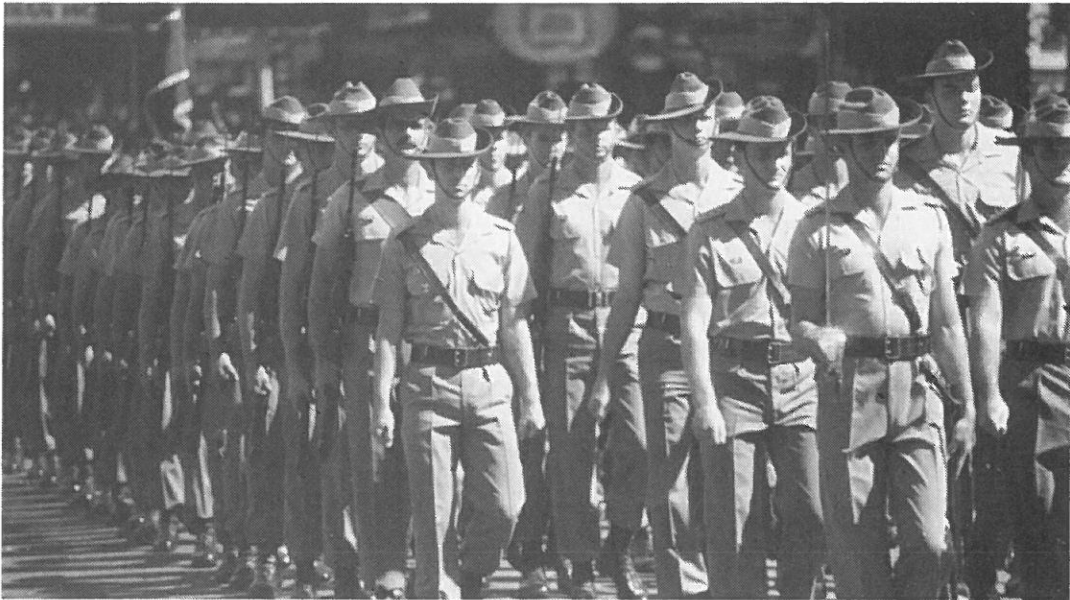


ANZAC DAY 1991

Anzac Day saw the Battalion gather at 04.30 hours at their various meeting places to begin the day with the traditional rum'n'coffee. The members of the Battalion then moved down to the parade ground at 6 RAR for a Brigade Service. Following this we moved back to the Battalion Headquarters and conducted the Dawn Service. After breakfast the Battalion gathered in town for the traditional Anzac Day march through the town centre.

This year's march had a different approach. Not only did we have the regular march through town of the soldiers in ceremonial but also had groups of soldiers in modern battle dress and period custome of our forefathers.

Once the march was over, we headed back to the Rams for some well earned quenchers and a couple of rolls of the dice on the Crown and Anchor table.



BATTALION BIRTHDAY

On 31st October the Battalion celebrated its birthday in style. This was the last parade in which the Battalion performed as a regular Battalion.

The officers and men marched out with great gusto, spurred on by a large and colourful audience. After the parade came the birthday cake and much earned beverages before the Grand Finale at the Crest Hotel that night.



The Battalion Ball turned into a huge success, with all members retiring to the Main Ballroom for the evening. To the surprise of the RSM, "Chicken Man" turned up to sing a song of happiness, and a blonde bombshell won the night for free. Lucky man!!!

All in all, everybody enjoyed the day's activities and would like to thank Brian Vesper for organizing it. Well done.

LONG HAI DAY COMMEMORATION

1991 brought special significance to the Long Hai Commemoration with the 8th/9th Battalion lines being formally renamed. The service was conducted outside the Battalion Headquarters, to commemorate the soldiers of the 8th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment who died or were wounded during Operation "Hammersley" in the Long Hai Hills of Phoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam in 1970.

The Honour Guard was provided by A Coy with Major I Cruickshank as the Guard Commander. The ceremony commenced at 10.30 hours with the 8 RAR Association marching on first followed by the Guard of Honour. Official guests to the parade included:

Major General P.M. Arnison, Commander 1st Division
Brigadier R.M. Earle, Commander 6th Brigade
Mr Ron West, President 8 RAR Association

At the completion of the service, guests and battalion members retired to the Rams Retreat for lunch and drinks. The function gave the opportunity for some good conversation between current members of the battalion and our predecessors from 8 RAR. A photo was taken of members of A Coy 8 RAR and A Coy 8/9 RAR, which recorded the spirit of the day for all.

Change of Names for Unit Lines

The 8th/9th Battalion lines were, on this day formally renamed "Long Hai Lines". The change to Long Hai was made to commemorate The Battle of "Long Hai" on 10th February 1970. The formal changing of the name was made by The Commander 1 Div, Major General P.M. Arnison.

The Battalion would like to thank the 8 RAR Association for again making the 28th February such a significant day in the Battalion 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 black
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.

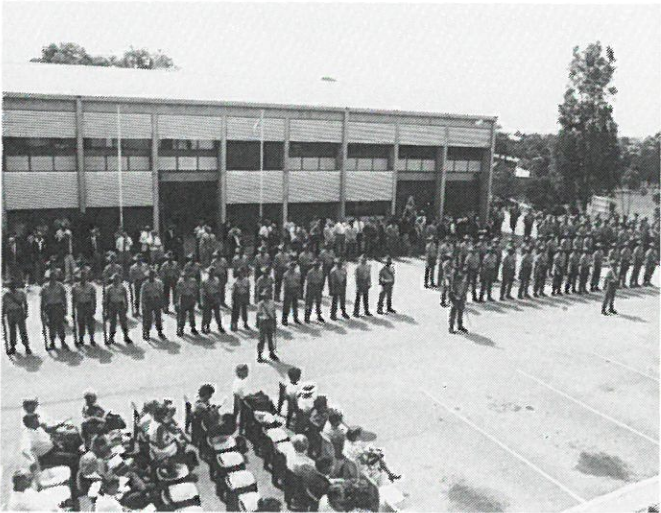
I remember,
But what does memory mean?
Keep the vision, for sure,
Hang on to the dream.
Look after their loved ones,
I know that's first.
Like a 'cup of cold water'
For someone with thirst.

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.



ONE PLATOON

1 Platoon this year has had a hectic time with numerous bush trips on which the platoon naturally starred, winning everything and anything that stood in its path. In between duties we have had to find time to retrain two new platoon commanders; LT Plunkett and LT Fielding. LT Plunkett is now using his valuable experience gained in 1 Platoon in the transport yard as TOCO. LT Fielding has made a sterling effort this year trying to keep the show on the road, as well as carry out extra Regimental training in his own time (much to the delight of all the other Sibalterns).

1 Platoon along with the rest of A Company were lucky enough to go and sit around a Jet Airliner all night at Eagle Farm Airport while the SAS did the right thing and killed all the baddies. We were in patrol order so we didn't have our packs (with all our warmy gear inside), it was freezing cold on the night of the second State of Origin game, but hey, we were there.

Memorable wins by 1 Platoon include 3 Section winning the Hydra, 1 Section led by H winning the Dog Squad trials. The section went to a fine effort Singleton representing the Battalion. The non-infantry mill-skills competition was won outright by the section from



1 Platoon with CPL I. Wilson as a ring-in Sect Comd from 2 Platoon. 3 Section from 1 Platoon won the A Company competition to go away and play enemy for NORFORCE.

1 Platoon scary moments include Pte Hamilton's (alias 'Beaker') discovery of a live 40mm blind grenade. He was so excited he picked it up and showed everybody. Pte Hamilton has now moved onto C Company where his knowledge and skills have been received. Once we recovered from that, the rest of Exercise Leaden Lift seemed tame.

1 Platoon experienced a sad loss when all the boys from The Family returned to Support Coy, but numbers have since been beefed up with a new intake of DURs. Further professionalism was added to the platoon when Pte Standing was promoted to LCPL. LCPL Niddrie on his second go was promoted to Cpl. 3 Section IS now in good hands.

1 Platoon will continue to lead the way into the new year and intends to be at the forefront of drinking at Butterworth next year. With the forming of the Ready Reserve next year, 1 Platoon will pull through strongly because just like the TV advertisement says, 'We're Ready'.

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TWO PLATOON

The start of '91 saw 2 Platoon eager to get back into the swing of training. With the prospect of a trip OS the Platoon worked hard in the field, in the barracks, and especially at the rewarding and innumerable duties.

Sadly the exercise to England was not to be. (Cunungra here we come.) We were however, more than adequately compensated for by the friendly and cheerful staff at LWC, who were suitably impressed with our performance. And so the training year progressed and has left us with a myriad of memories. Some of our favourites are as follows.

1. Pte Thompson confusing the shit pit for the gun pit.
2. The (not so) Phantom Kookaburra call on moon lit walks: "The CO is where".
3. Pte Meager catching a falling pack off the 12 ft wall with his head.
4. Pte Bromage displaying his scouting ability by tripping over the enemy and then still not knowing what he fell over.

5. Pte Thompson's little gun piquet surprises left on the MG.
6. LCPL Spruce advising the Boss on navigation.
7. CPL Roach's "OOPWAH" battle cry.

The Platoon had great showing in L' Lift at the start of the year. We did particularly well in the run and shoot, probably due to a little divine help from Padre Hoskins who also ran with the sections. L' Lift was also memorable for the great end of the day nightlife, especially the RSM's dance come round trip in a TCV.

OTBO was yet another great feather in our bush hat. The changes from patrols on foot to APC, to Blackhawks kept us on our toes and provided a suitable challenge for the well trained soldiers to grasp. The chopper pilots did their best to scare the pants off us but only managed to scare themselves once they heard Pte Meager's screams through their head sets.

2 Platoon has had a good year and despite the odd hassle we can still sport a smile knowing that we got through 1991 with our own special style.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Unlike last year the Sergeants' Mess commenced 1991 on a positive note, with a valiant display of cricketing skills. The Sergeants' Mess destroyed the Officers' Mess, returning the cricket trophy to its rightful home. Other victories were the Games Night against LWC and 6 RAR.

Despite another challenging year with overseas commitments, the Mess still maintained an active social calendar. Who could forget the Yanks' amazement when exposed to an Australian dinner, comprised of pie and peas followed by the odd rubber lamington.

Policed by SGT Bell, SGT Harris and SGT Lambert, the social committee again ensured many enjoyable nights, such as the Mixed Happy Hours in February, Back to the Sixties Night in July, Black Casino Night in September and the Back to 8/9 RAR Sergeants' Mess which was a tremendous success.

The highlight of the year will be the Christmas Draw, celebrating the silly season and marking the last official function as a regular Sergeants' Mess. Through the efforts of the social committee it is bound to be a pearl!

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 cooks and barmen, for without your assistance the mess would not be able 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.



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OFFICERS' MESS

1991 dawned on the Mess with the news that the Annex was to be moved to the pool area - in full view of the BDE Mess, much to the horror of our resident roof sitters and stubbie throwers!

The Annex was handed on a plate to the undesirables from 1 FD and 2/14 but the novelty soon wore off, and the Minh Danh Secret Zone is now back in the hands of its rightful owners. The fight for exclusive use and ownership of the Annex will continue into 1992.

The new "Lids" were welcomed to the Mess, and demonstrated their incredible naivety, when a PSO Major (alias SGT Vesper) convinced them of the Observation and Deduction Lane at the bottom of the pool - pretty sharp lads, we bet you're slaying them on Thursday Island!

The Regimental Dinner rolled around and LT Fielding got the night off from his 28 Days. He had such a great time, entertaining us with his Oliver Reed impersonations, that he copped another 28! Thanks from all the subbies Stirls, we appreciate it. The big surprise of the night was LT "Moon" Lynch who stayed awake throughout the meal and managed to sit across from the OPSO without a single extra!

The Mess commiserated the defence cutbacks and state of the nation with the Recession Party, that went off well. LT Treble spent the evening in his natural environment - a wheelie bin parked against the bar - and did wonders for his career when he told the CO to "f--- off" when niner opened the lid for a look.

All in all the year went as expected - the subbies got drunk, the Captains thought about being Majors, the Majors chortled merrily (at anything) and the CO looked on in contentment.

Despite, or perhaps because of, the Ready Reserve, the Officers will continue to reflect the spirit of the Battalion in the Mess for years to come. Finally, the members of the 8/9 RAR Officers' Mess wish to farewell the following officers:

- Major Brian Dawson
- Major David Morrison
- Major Bernie McGee
- Captain Dave Warren
- Captain Steve McCrohon (on promotion)
- Lieutenant Simon Small (on promotion)
- Lieutenant Julian Scamp (on promotion)
- Lieutenant Pete Ashwin
- Lieutenant Cam Baker.

We thank them for their support and wish them good soldiering in the years ahead.



The RSO and OPSO relax in the "Beer Garden"

THREE PLATOON

3 Platoon began 1991 in earnest with a two week tour of the steamy jungles of Canungra. This exercise provided the platoon with a good insight into close country operations, and as per usual, the men of 3 Platoon rose to the occasion and achieved an outstanding post ex report from the staff at LWC. Two of the more memorable occurrences during the trip were Pte D'Arcy's acrobatics on the traverse ropes and Lt Baker's ambush.

After LWC it was back to barracks and all those duties with enough for everyone. During this spell the platoon lost and gained JNCOs to AATPNG. We also lost Lt Baker to the college of knowledge where he took up post as PI Comd for the direct entry recruits, with all those changes the platoon quickly settled back down and got on with the job.

Next it was off on OTBO where once again the platoon established itself as the finest. Weathering the safety conditions, the platoon put in a very good effort and completed a platoon airborne assault with a distinct lack of MG fire. Notable occurrences LCPL Gray's night casualty episode and the M203 practice shoot at the end, and not forgetting the then CPL Sheldon's direct hit on the platoon comd's APC.

June brought the most interesting training for the newer soldiers, in the form of reverse cycle training. Day one wasn't too bad with only a couple of hangovers. Day two the realization that one must try and sleep in the daylight hours. Day three came with a few short tempers. Day four and five were a little different with soldiers finding some very different places and positions to grab a few winks - CPL Rogers winning the competition.

A one week exercise at Esk in July gave the platoon an opportunity to get familiar with operations in inclement weather - namely the cold. SGT Ferguson was also able to become closely associated with the bottom of a rifle pit after tripping over some comms cord on the perimeter.

Exercise Iron Fist at Wondai State Forest proved to be the last exercise for which the "old" 3 Platoon would be together, and under command of the new boss LT B. James. Once again a champion effort from the platoon who are all still interested in what was in the PI comd's hip flask.

After Wondai, the Platoon was re-arranged to accommodate the new direct unit soldiers. As expected, the men finished off in a true aggressive and professional manner. All are looking forward to the brigade exercise to once again cement 3 Platoon as the champions.

Despite the changes in command structure and in the composition of the platoon itself, 3 Platoon have managed to be the platoon of A Coy through 1991. "Coitus No Comni" - The Legend Lives On.



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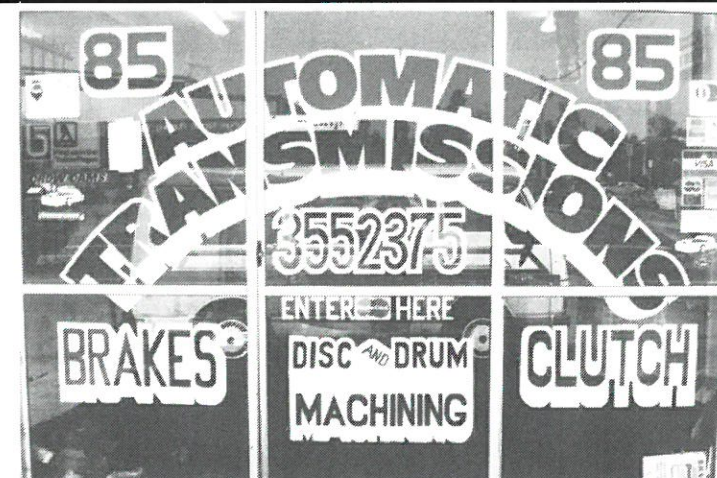


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Here we are, ramming through 1991, supporting the Battalion with total dedication and it's nearly Christmas . . . again!

The year has been no different with Coy exercises, overseas tours, Bn commitments and more Coy exercises.

30 Jun 91 saw the completion of the AATPT in PNG - The Pacific Paradise. Already we have volunteers for the Malaysia trip next year. Maybe Sgt "High Blood Pressure" Palmer will get this trip.

WO2 Watts retired after 20 years' service replaced by WO2 Gant on promotion from 1 Fd Regt. Promoted this year were Cpl Benstead and LCPL Jones R.G.

Promotion Courses: LCPL Holland, LCPL Jones R.G. and Pte Siddons.

Education Course: Sgt Clinkaberry.

Postings in for the year: Cpl Benstead, Cpl Martin and Pte Antonie. Postings out by Feb 92: Sgt "I'm too busy" Costello (pending retention app), Sgt "Smurf" Clinkaberry, Cpl Collins, Col Powell, LCPL Jones R.G., Pte "Stretch" Fraser, Pte "Mad Dog" Madigan and Pte Siddons (Robertson).

Cpls Hall and Maroske will have reason to celebrate when they get a posting order soon! They have spent 11 years collectively in the Bn.

It was the year for baby girls - congratulations to Cpl Benstead and LCPL Jones. Jonesy has been a busy, busy soldier.

The Bde Camp will be our major commitment to top off the year before a relaxing, well earned Christmas break.

To our wantoks leaving in the near future, good luck, best wishes for the future. The "stayers" of the platoon are looking forward to new challenges in 1992, supporting the battalion in its Ready Reserve role. "Em Tasol" - we sustain.

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TRANSPORT PLATOON

The year 1991 started with almost a quarter of the platoon in PNG. CPL Dick Clayton and Pte Danny Power returned to Australia and the platoon during the middle of the year, swearing never to set foot back in PNG again.

Pte Stuart Hill returned a month earlier because of a slight disagreement with a PNG national resulting in a broken arm, (his).

While the PNG contingent had fun in the sun the rest held the fort at home and soldiered on.

February found TPT servicing and using vehicles, placing them back into service after the Christmas break and ready for the busy year to come.

March saw TPT on their way north for Exercise Leaden Lift at Wide Bay. Not much of note happened (or was admitted) to TPT, but we did manage to clock up many clicks.

During April, TPT ran an unlimited Landrover course, so there are plenty of drivers about, but where do they disappear when a landrover service comes up?

May saw TPT on their way to Shoalwater Bay for Exercise OTBO. During the exercise Pte 'Gypo' Gardas and Pte Warren Atkins

almost incinerated themselves while burning some rubbish. Sorry boys, that is reserved for Vietnamese Monks!

The middle of the year saw little action, the veterans returned from PNG. We had a rash of discharges and movement to other areas of the Defence Force. So to build up our numbers, TPT welcomed into their ranks, the TOCO, LT Plunkett, who saw the light and elevated himself from a rifle company and moved to Admin Company, SGT Bensein who finally came to his senses and moved from that mob across the road and joined 8/9 as the TPT SGT. Also the Ptes who joined during the year are: 'Coke Cans' Kirkness who escaped from the RPs, Mario Hropic, Bails Bailek, Gypo Gardas, and 'Jaco' Jacobs who can't seem to make up his mind to stay with TPT, move to the Main Q or get out.

September almost gone and TPT has finished a T09 course which almost saw the course take on the township of Eidsvold, and introduced the course to most of LCPL Pearce's and Pte Roth's relatives scattered through the dark and wild hills of central Queensland.

October is almost with us and it sees TPT getting their vehicles ready for the Brigade Camp at Shoalwater Bay, which is shaping up to be the last exercise for the Battalion as we know it today. No doubt there will be numerous vehicle investigations, equipment investigations and sleepless nights to follow.



BAYONET COMPANY

The year has been a busy, but enjoyable one for "Be Professional". There was a large turnover in personnel at all ranks and many new NCOs from PNG but everyone learnt to work well together. Low manning levels made effective, worthwhile training difficult to achieve and frustrated commanders at all levels but some good activities were accomplished.



Exercise LEADEN LIFT practised us in live firing which is excellent training. Exercise PACIFIC BOND was a valuable and enjoyable experience for those lucky enough to attend while the rest of the company (about three people) worked very hard on Exercise OTBO in SWBTA. The US "Wolfhounds" company provided us with many memorable moments with their sense of humour and military idiosyncrasies. They learnt a lot and by the time we returned to Brisbane everyone had "sucked roo dick" regularly.

Be advised all you new soldiers that if it's white it's freshly dug. Just ask the OC who fell into a US slit trench during one of the ambushes and was quickly abused by the CSM who later fell into a well during the "Land Rover rescue".

A significant addition to the company were the thirty or so new Direct Unit Recruits which gave us the flexibility to reraise the long lost 5 Platoon.

The company performed well at Tully, also - thanks to those Support Company soldiers who helped out. All in all a satisfactory year thanks to the efforts of a diligent and loyal group of soldiers. Well done to all and congratulations to all those soldiers promoted during the year. Good soldiering in '92.

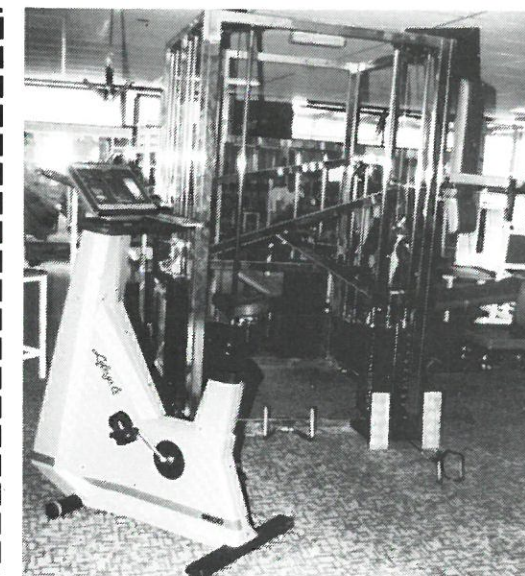


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FOUR PLATOON

The year started as usual in lovely Tin Can Bay with Ex Leaden Lift. The platoon showed its prowess by proving good results can be achieved with no soldiers. It was also the break-in period for the new boss and he was broken in well.

The next main event for the year was Ex Pac Bond and it broke our hearts not being able to join the Bn on Ex OTBO. The boys in Hawaii were able to join in the memorial march to welcome back the soldiers from the Gulf. Even though we didn't go the yanks loved us and if you ask them 'we kicked arse' along side them. Unfortunately the boss couldn't make the trip due to prior engagements in the guard room.

It was then off to Tully in August. The platoon, even though composite performed well and I'd like to thank those Spt Coy members for their efforts. Thanks also are passed onto Sgt Sheldon for all the extra PT, so a lesson to all is not to leave your rubbish behind. It was a rare dry trip to Tully but the Sarge showed the platoon how to cross a deep creek tactically in only boots, webbing and rifle (cams being high and dry on the bank). Our roving tourist, Jock, was introduced to Tully and after 2 weeks fell in love with it and wished he could stay. The platoon members pass on their compliments to Spence on being nominated as the best Sect Comd.

On return from Tully the platoon strength went from a never seen before 1 - 33 to 1 - 10, with most of our senior soldiers moving onto Spt Coy and the rest of us waiting for the new recruits.

Overall it was a satisfying year with PI Staff touching up on posting orders. We'd also like to thank the PI Clerk LCpl Spedding for his clerical work throughout the year. Spence is looking forward to '92 to see if he can receive a long service medal (in the same battalion).

Quotes for the year:

1. 'Not tonight, I'm on duty' (The Boss)
2. 'That's work, I'm on holidays' (Jock)
3. 'What's the capital of Bidalonia? Don't know, that's 10' (The Sarge)
4. 'I'll go anywhere!' (Spence)
5. 'Where's cook? In the carpark again!'

Things the Platoon would like to see:

1. The boss with a free weekend.
2. Spence go to Ashley-Martin.
3. Cook stay out of the carpark.
4. Speds go Regimental.
5. Sarge get a question and answer wrong.
6. Stringer stay out of 4 Platoon.

Quote of the Year (applicable to any young commander):

'If I don't know, and you know I don't know, then get off your arse and do it!'

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MAIN Q STORE

Notes from the Main Q - the bottomless pit of man, material and stocktake documentation.

Once again we've had an especially busy year. The first six months seeing the QM, CPLs Hempstead, Collins, Quilter and PTE Markie touring New Guinea with the AATPT. The remainder of the PI struggling to complete three stocktakes by July and preparing for the introduction of Auto Q while also participating in unit exercises.

1991 has seen a number of new personnel march into the platoon. WO1 Jorna, SGT Walton, PTEs Ross, Rabe and Wilson and our newest acquisition PTE Mildrum. Also the return of the prodigal son Charlie Adams. Other small persons have marched into the lives of some of our members. Congratulations to those new dads and their wives.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT PLATOON

1991 was always going to be an eventful year for Technical Support. The year started with three new members arriving to the platoon, these being:

Cfn Benstead - 4 Jan 91; Cfn Fletcher 27 Feb 91;
Cfn Hosking - 4 Feb 91.

On arrival to the platoon Cfn Benstead (Benny) was told to pack his bags. "You're going to PNG with Col Corte (Bart) for six months with the AATPT" which turned out to be very eventful for both of them. One of the highlights of their trip was when Bart picked up the fellows on Australia Day, pouring rain, in a truck with no tarp. When asked why it had no tarp on it, Bart replied "Wasn't raining when I left so I didn't worry."

Whilst back at the battalion, Ex Leaden Lift saw Tech Spt participate in the A ESH activities. During this "EX" LCPL Streeter (Zig) decided to reconstruct his face on a landrover brush guard which saw him return to Brisby for dental surgery. The rest of Tech Spt saw out the EX without too many complications.

Next came everyone's favourite "EX OTBO" which started with a 30km route march which Admin Coy dearly loved, being the only ones to complete the distance. Then the OC Admin relocated the fridge from the stores truck, which was well received by all the Goofa lovers. Overall this little bush outing can only remain in our hearts as an unexciting event in which not much happened at all.

On return to Enoggera, work became the order of the day, as all the equipment had to be brought up to speed for the Brigade Camp.

With the intro of Auto Q, the Q Store has finally become automated and the bottomless pit is now filling with discarded reams of paper relentlessly churned out by this user-friendly (but not to Q personnel) machine.

Much has been achieved this year. Congrats to all personnel for their professional attitudes and dedication to the supply needs of the Battalion.

P.S. Will the next initiative be trolleys and SELF SERVE?!!

A late arrival to the Tech Spt was Cfn Nolan (Big Bill) on the 26 Jul 91 in time for the end of year Brigade Camp. The conclusion of the year will see the departure of:

WO2 McHugh (Jack)..... On discharge after 20 years' service
Cfn Fletcher..... On discharge after 9 years' service
LCpl Streeter (Zig)..... Posting to SASR Workshops after 3 years at 8/9

We would all like to wish them good luck in the future wherever they may end up.



MEDICAL PLATOON

Well, what an interesting year 1991 has been for the Medical Platoon. The skills and resources of the platoon have been tried and tested by detachments, courses, retirements and people catching up on leave. Indeed up until the Brigade Camp there has only been two weeks in which the full complement has actually been together working in the RAP.

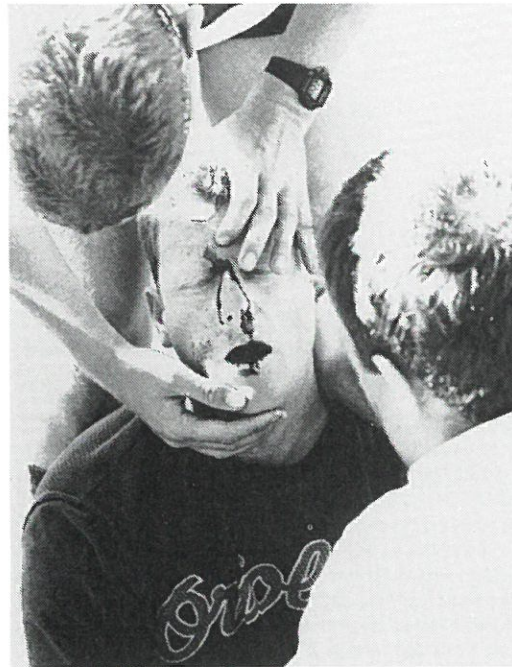
The year started with the usual postings in and out, off to greener (?) pastures were SSGT Steve (The Phantom) Drummond to SASR on promotion to WO2; CPL Don Bowie to 1 Field Hospital on promotion to SGT; CPL (Macka) McCarty to DSU Sydney on promotion to SGT and SGT Grant (Heat Seeker) Larven to LWC. The replacements were SSGT Gary (I may be short but boy I can run) Lark from SASR, CPL Eric (Guts) Guttridge from the School of Army Health, CPL Richard (Stud) Gosztyla from 11 Fd Amb and later in the year PTE Chris (Body Beautiful) Stindl.

As with the rest of the unit the RAP was involved with the AATPT-PNG and CAPT Tod (I hate PNG) Wakefield, SGT Brian (I was in the Army before you were born) Mundy, CPL Eric Guttridge and then LCPL now CPL Gosztyla heading off to downtown Port Moresby. The experience was obviously too much for CAPT Wakefield who returned to Australia as soon as possible and left the Army to start his training in psychiatry. One hopes it wasn't working with us that led him to want to work with the mentally disabled. The PNG experience was challenging and rewarding for the medical team both in a medical and military sense.

Those left behind were kept busy supporting the various unit activities and exercises. CPL Brett (Benny) Butler swanned off to Hawaii to work on his suntan and his liver. CPL Craig (Thumbprint) Armstrong found time to get married and no doubt influenced by his staff sergeant, is looking to SASR for his next career move.

In August our new RMO MAJ Craig Shearing arrived from 1 Mil Hosp and has been kept busy "catching up". His 8 years of service will be a real asset to the battalion once he works out how to put his bush gear together.

At the end of the year two of the old hands SGT Mundy and CPL Butler will be moving, but the rest of the team will be soldiering on and they will no doubt be looking forward to the challenges the ready reserve will bring. In closing, the merry medics wish to thank all those members of the battalion without whose help their job would have been impossible.



FIVE PLATOON

5 Platoon is the Battalion's newest platoon, having only been re-raised following the Company's return from Tully at the beginning of August. The platoon is a good mixture of youth and experience, with experienced NCOs, a few senior diggers and the youth side of the house being taken care of by the recently arrived DUR soldiers.

Unfortunately 5 Platoon has yet to deploy to the field, so as yet there are no warries to spin. However, following the Brigade Camp I'm confident that there will be numerous stories to tell. Stories of how good we were, how many enemy we killed, and of course how unjust the umpires were in their awarding of casualties. I'm also fairly confident that the main story teller will be "Snoz", also affectionately known as CPL Holz, a man renowned for his story telling, usually in regards to his prowess on the rugby field.

CPL Campbell has finally taken the plunge and become a "Jack marry", congratulations to Pat and his wife. PTE Bloomfield also decided to do the righty and got married in early October. It would

seem that the remainder of the platoon is still on the prowl in search of true love; they can often be seen around the Brisbane night clubs (usually THE PIT), in an attempt to sweep Brisbane's lovelies off their feet. Let's hope the boys have more luck next year.

I feel at this point it is important to make mention of the Company's range week, it turned into somewhat of a "Claytons" range week being for its distinct lack of actual shooting. Even when we did manage to get all the right people in the right place at the right time the ammunition constraints precluded us from firing all the proposed practices. However, the shooting ability on show was about as impressive as a game of lawn bowls, and probably about as dangerous to any unsuspecting enemy that may happen to wander into our AO.

On a more serious note the change over to the Ready Reserve has meant lots of changes not only in the Battalion but also in the Company. I am pleased to see that no-one has dropped their bundle and that the Platoon has maintained its professional approach to work and the uncertainty that lies ahead.

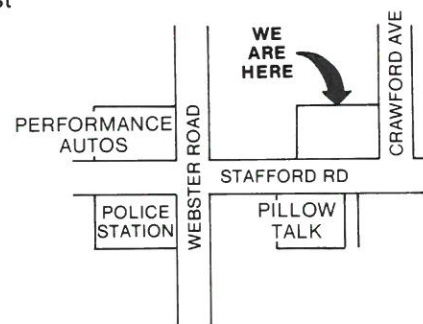
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SIX PLATOON

1991 had a quiet start for us, going to Ex 'Leaden Lift' with two sections. Despite the difficulties the platoon created its identity over the exercise, a spirit that has lasted.

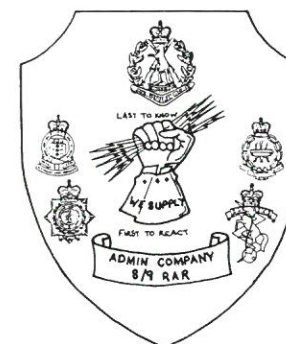
Most of us got to Hawaii and enjoyed it thoroughly. For those who didn't - well, bad luck. Sunday afternoons should be spent at Shorebirds on Waikiki - where do they find those girls? - ladies, ask your husbands. With all the Americans in Moose's why were the lads chatting up those two Melbourne girls - they never looked like believing we had just returned from the Gulf.

A quiet spell followed Hawaii and the final preparations for Tully were upon us before we knew it. Our trip to Wondai State Forest, despite the brevity, gave us a good opportunity to work out some final details. The walking the company had done earlier in the year paid off at LCBS, the phrase "you shouldn't be back yet" was banded around a couple of times.

Tully was an invaluable learning experience and much to our credit the staff there had a good opinion of us when we left. Let it be known that none of us laughed about breech blocks.

The Brigade Exercise is almost here, virtually wrapping up the year. The platoon is looking forward to a good exercise. We nearly have everything ready to go, even my little red car is out of the shop. All we need is a little rain - not too much though.

Most of our soldiers leave the battalion next year - all the best fellas, wherever you go, it will become home soon enough. Some will stay in 8/9 RAR to help build the R. Res. I look forward to seeing those faces around the battalion in the coming year.

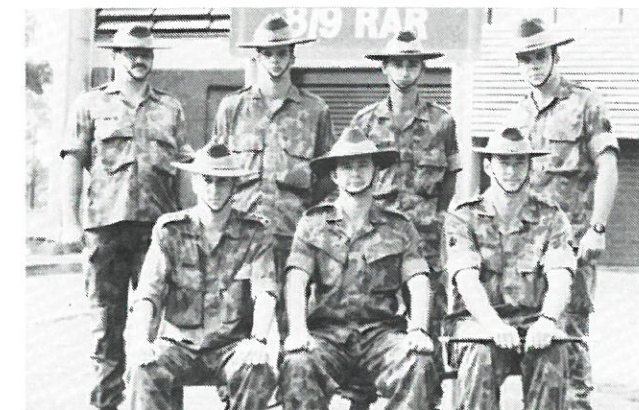


ADMINISTRATION COMPANY HQ

The year began for Coy HQ with a complete turnover of personnel. The OC MAJ Bernie McGee returned from Malaysia with B Coy to take over as OC of the Senior Coy in the Bn. The 2IC, CAPT Brendan Dowling, arrived on posting from Sydney and the CSM, WO2 Peter Stahlhut moved up the hill from D Coy. Downstaris in the Q Store SSGT G. Stanworth departed on an eight month swan as an Auto Q Instructor leaving PTE Lappa's Lapaglia to a baptism of fire for his OJT. On the clerical side of the house LCPL Jethro Jeffrey arrived back from PNG to "march down the aisle" and PTE Barry Banwell followed MAJ McGee down the hill from B Coy.

Lead 'n' Lift arrived all too soon and the Coy supported the Bn with great efficiency (everyone got fed, the beers were cold and the fish were biting). This exercise gave the Coy the opportunity to practise SOPs and deploy the echelon in preparation for Exercise OTBO.

Exercise OTBO came and went with the echelon working around the clock to keep the Bn and all the 'hangers on' fed and 'happy in the service'. Following OTBO the Coy had a well earned stand down, returning for a quiet winter. Quiet as in no field deployments for the



Coy, however, we were kept more than busy supporting the many sub unit activities. In addition the OC went holidaying down at LWC for six weeks on his ROIC (six weeks of learning about important things ie: Logistics).

Unfortunately the Coy HQ has not scored the numerous overseas trips we were assured of at the start of the year. However next year rumour has it that Admin Coy will be doing Adventure Training in Hawaii, or was it the UK?

Congratulations to the OC who is posted to the UK for a year and to the CSM who is posted to 1 Trg Gp Wacol (is that congratulations or commiserations?)

Once again there is going to be a change of personnel in Coy HQ with LCPL Jeffrey also departing for the Infantry Centre Singleton. The Coy will miss Jethro and his computer.

All the best to the fellas and welcome aboard to MAJ Mathews as OC and WO2 R. Doran as CSM. See you at the FEBA.



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CHARLIE COMPANY "The Cobra"

An almost brand new C Coy concentrated on 7 Jan 91 to take over the second rotation in PNG. Our organisation was purposely built for our task as The Australian Army Training Project Team - Papua New Guinea (AATPT-PNG).

While the rest of the Bn was still on leave the Cobra and attachments were busily learning basic "Tok Pisin" and going through the final checks before overseas deployment. After the Admin Group incurred a false start and endured two nights in the Mayfair Crest (thanks to Air Niugini) the deployment went more or less to plan.

Our home for the next six months was to be Goldie River Training Depot about 20kms outside Port Moresby. Our job was to produce

approximately 270 soldiers for the PNGDF. From the outset it was clear the task was not going to be easy. The conditions were oppressively hot and the work was tiring. Each man was faced with problems and situations which were very different from those experienced in Australia. A Curfew imposed in February throughout the urban centres in PNG gave the situation an interesting twist.

Determination and solid team spirit shone through and on 28 Jun 91 approximately 265 soldiers graduated and joined the ranks of PNGDF. A heart felt thanks goes out to all those Instructional, Medical, Catering, Q, Admin and Mech pers who made the tour the success it was.

After the Cobras return to AS we saw another reshuffle which had us raise a Coy HQ and two pl on 12 Aug 91. Both received reinforcements from A Coy and IET graduating from the Direct Unit Recruiting Drive conducted last year.

Once again the ever flexible Cobra is poised to strike. The next challenge will be the Bde Camp. A great deal of training has been crammed into two short months leading up to what will be our last exercise as a regular rifle coy.

Finally we wish you and your families all the very best for the future. Take with you the Cobra spirit, and remember, Once a Cobra Always a Cobra.

Lukim Yu Behain.



MR KEITH PAYNE VC
VISITS A COY IN THE FIELD

HEAVY WEAPONS

1991 has been a frustrating year. The platoon has struggled with numbers right up until early August. With the added difficulty of Ptes Ware, Hall, Northfield and Knight all participating in the Sub One for CPL close down at JLTC, congratulations to those who passed.

So far this year the platoon has performed quite well. We have live fired SFMG, 106mm RCL, 84mm Carl Gustaf and 66mm SRAAW. In the live fire exercises the lads have shot well, with the old boys outgunning the NSW team in the SFMG state of origin clash. Flip Top also proved to be a bit of a dead eye dick during our 106 shoot. We apparently annoyed the civilian population of Tin Can Bay enough to force the 106 firing point at Easy Feature to be closed.

Other notable events during live fire exercises would have to include sorting through 10 000 rounds of 4 ball 1 tracer and removing all the tracer due to the state-wide total fire ban and Pte Murphy's driving expertise.

The platoon has supported several Battalion activities this year including Leaden Lift, Dog Cup Trails, OTBO and the CO's orderly room.

For the time the platoon has been together, it has performed well and should continue to do so during Brigade Camp.

All the best for those who are leaving the Battalion, we hope you will be satisfied with your new job.



"Heavy Metal"



SEVEN PLATOON

7 Platoon began to reform in August this year as a Rifle Platoon after being disbanded last year when C Coy took on its AATPT-PNG role.

The new 7 Platoon has a PLCOMD, PLSGT and all JNCOs having experienced the PNG tour minus LCPL Kelly who has come to us from Pnr Pl. As a result the platoon has avoided the destructive problems which often occur when the hierarchy has not worked together before.

We are also fortunate in that the more senior soldiers have all come from A Coy and have been working well together for at least one year. In late August, early September the remainder of the platoon in the form of the Regional Recruits arrive to give us the one Ofrr and 24 ORs that currently make up 7 Platoon.

After the long hard slog at Kapooka and Singleton the men have arrived in time to carry out some refresher training before deploying to Bde Camp. The men have already proved their worth by successfully completing a 30km route march carrying 35kg across Bribie Island. This was a particularly hard march as about 10 - 12km was across soft sand.

The platoon's reformation is to be short lived as the next year sees C Coy training the first of the Ready Reserve Recruits. This is a shame as 7 Platoon is easily proving to be one of the most outstanding Rifle Platoons the Bn has seen in many years.

Good luck to all members wherever they end up over the next year. You are/were the last full time ARA 7 Platoon to have existed in 8/9 RAR.



EIGHT PLATOON

8 Platoon was raised on the return of the AATPT-PNG. The first soldiers arrived in the platoon in mid August, making the move from A Coy. The remainder of the platoon joined us some time later coming direct from Singleton as part of the Direct Recruiting Team.

So far the platoon has had few chances to train together or to prove themselves. We were placed on ESF at short notice which gave us a few nervous moments during the Stand Down period,

particularly with the extreme fire risk. The closest we came to fighting fires was sitting on 6 RAR's pde ground on a Sunday morning just to be told it was a false alarm.

The Bde Exercise will give the Pl its first chance to work in the field together and sadly it will also be its last. For the soldiers it will be off to another Coy or another Bn and for the NCOs it's back to training IETs. At least this time it will be their own.

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RECON PLATOON

The Recon Platoon has only been together for a short period. It was officially reformed on the 12th August. The first task was to repel out of a 'chopper' as part of an Army display for the RNA show on 17th August.

Since reforming the platoon has been busy preparing for the Brigade Camp. SGT Bill Chapman has done a great job getting the platoon to DP1 readiness, whilst the two patrol commanders (CPL 'Barney' Barnett and LCPL 'Dixie' Nichols) have revised and practised their soldiers in recon skills.

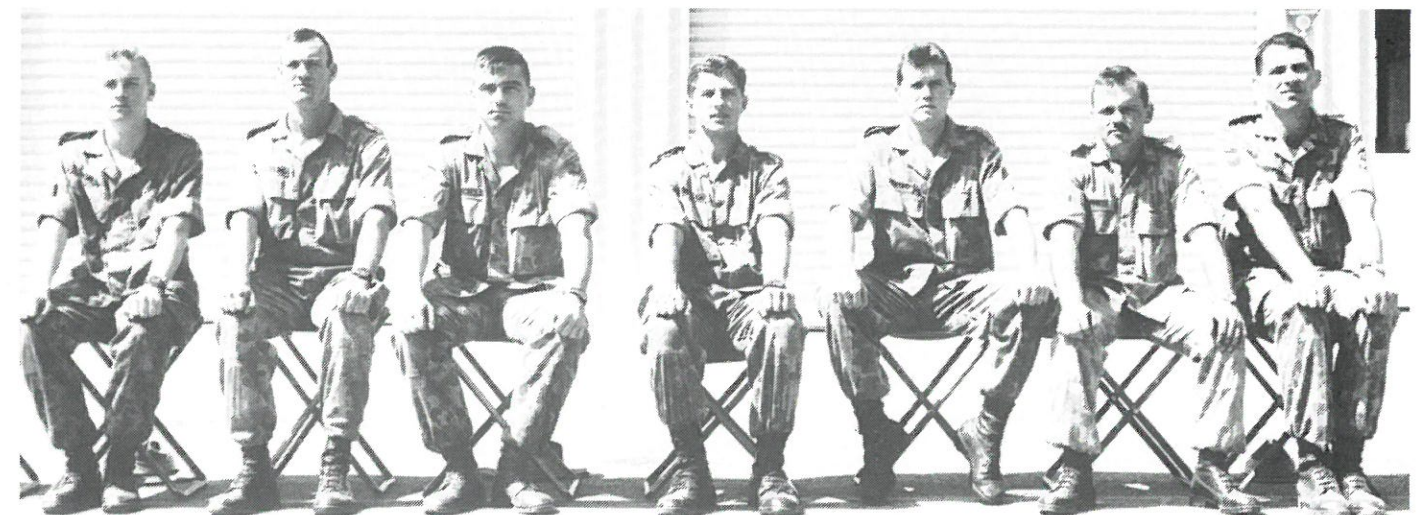
The soldiers celebrated the arrival of spring by going out to Greenbank range for their annual qualifying shoot. To everyone's surprise, (including the platoon commander's), he and the platoon sergeant lead the way with the results. With the arrival of spring also came the arrival of 'Bush Fires' and some of the members of the Recon were required to help fight a fire at Greenbank Range.

The platoon had a very successful week at LWC Canungra culling cattle. The final count at the end of the week was 10 confirmed killed. However, more importantly the training value of the exercise was very good, it provided the soldiers with a real life target. This proved to be quite a challenge for them as the cattle were quite agile and did not like the sight of humans. Unfortunately the area had been a 'Total Fire Ban' restriction so 5000 pounds of beef went to waste.

The Company exercise 'Brallos Pass' was held at Wide Bay this year. Recon Platoon volunteered for the Flintstone sector and set up a firm base of 'Pioneer Camp'. During the exercise the snipers took part in a stalking exercise. The patrols took part in 'live fire' break contact drills and 'man down' drills. The final day of the exercise was spent doing a 'long range static shoot' off Mt Easy.

The Exercise was cut short so that the Battalion could rehearse and take part in the 'Reformation of the Battalion' parade. Congratulations to the platoon for being the best dressed... and getting out of having to wear helmets.

The year is rapidly drawing to a close now. The platoon has been given some realist tasks for the Brigade Camp and is looking forward to them.



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D COMPANY

The year started off with great enthusiasm with P 4 Testing, Dog Squad, Sub I Cpl Pre Course and assistance to other units with instructors.

With PNG finished, Delta Force manning strength was increased with some very good five hundred players, not to mention our fine example of dress, drill and bearing as colour case orderlies and door openers for all parades.

As the year comes to a close, I can think of some quotable quotes:

CPL HUNT: "What?"
 LCPL SPROULL: "You holding pugee"
 CPL EDWARDS: "It's something I ate"
 CPL SMITH: "Who's lead?"
 CPL WARWICK: "It's a f-----g snapper"
 LT BAKER: "Bloody spoonheads"
 WO2 IRVING: "Busy week this week"

P.S. If anybody is having any problems with their crosswords please don't hesitate to give us a ring.



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THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER CUP COMPETITION

After a day to settle in, and all sections to arrive we were moved to the admin point for the start of the competition. Dixie was flat out with water, ammo and breaking up our 10 man ration packs. Early next morning we were packed into a Rover and driven to our starting grid for Phase 1, being the live fire battle ranges.

We moved on foot around a ring road completing various practices as we went, these ranged from a section defensive shoot through to a vehicle counter ambush. Two days later Phase 1 was completed and besides a 3.2km run there was nothing physically extreme about it, although by now the feet were well and truly warmed up.

During the move to Wallaroo State Forest for the start of Phase 2, the patrolling phase, the team was confident and beside a few blisters we were all in good spirits. We were to find out later that our shooting had let us down.

After two days of extensive patrolling and two nights of laying motionless and vigilant in sub zero temperatures until the wee-hours ambushing we'd clocked up a fair tally of KIAs and a PW. The two days went well except for a couple of incidents. On our first ambush we were mortared in position and the DS declared that the section commander was dead and the 2IC badly wounded and would need to be stretchered back. After a bit of a shakey start the boys carried LCPL Nichols 4kms or more cross country, back to the patrol base to complete the task.

The second incident occurred after we'd captured our PW. The section evacuated the PW from the top of a feature to our extraction point but it would seem no one had told Pte Leaver the Ptl Sig. Aaron eventually managed to RV with the section at the extraction point, (saving us a major embarrassment).

After a 16km horror stomp out of the Trg area, Phase 2 was over. The race out hadn't been kind to us though, shortly after we'd carried out a 'run away' drill from an enemy 84mm killer team which later proved to be an Army PR camera crew (thanks Joll). Pte Bishop was casualty evacuated with an ankle injury and 5kms later Pte White collapsed and convulsed and generally scared the shit out of us. All good first aid practice and more section stores to carry.

Phase 3 was the endurance phase at Lake Sinclair. We supplied the paddle power and they supplied the assault craft. Together we were able to chauffer our DS all over and around the lake, navigating to checkpoints and competing endurance type tasks when we arrived. The one that took the cake was carrying a 292 up to the top of Gilmore Lookout, erecting it, dismantling it and carrying it back down again. The 292 seemed like a waste of time, you could have spoken to God personally from the top of that mountain. The section was working really well; we got Whitey back for that phase but with Bish out we were still one man down.

When the sun came up the last sections were just returning and we were all getting ready for our assault on the dam wall. The boat race was a 3.2km paddle to the wall, scale the wall and get all our equipment to the top. We weren't first to the wall but with Pte Jolliffe on top doing the work of 3 men we got our equipment up and won quite convincingly. It was obvious our boys still had plenty in reserve. We needed every last bit of it to get through the obs. course that had been built in a creek to finish the competition at Lake Sinclair.

We were relieved it was over and knew that win, lose or draw we'd given a good account of ourselves.

Just for the record, details are as follows:

THE TEAM	RESERVES
CPL R.A. Harrington	PTE B.E. Morton
LCPL G.B. Nichols	PTE D.G. Peck
PTE D.A. Bishop	PTE J.C. March
PT R.M. Lugton	
PTE G.A. White	
PTE A.C. Jolliffe	
PTE S.M. Standing	
PTE A.M. Leaver	
PTE D.A. Coleman	
RESULTS	
1st	6 RAR 170
2nd	1 RAR 150
3rd	8/9RAR 110
4th	2/4 RAR 90
5th	3 RAR 60
6th	5/7 RAR 50



ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

1991 has been an interesting and rewarding time for the platoon. After Support Coy was stood down in June 1990 for the AATT-PNG we had to reaise the platoon from virtually nothing.

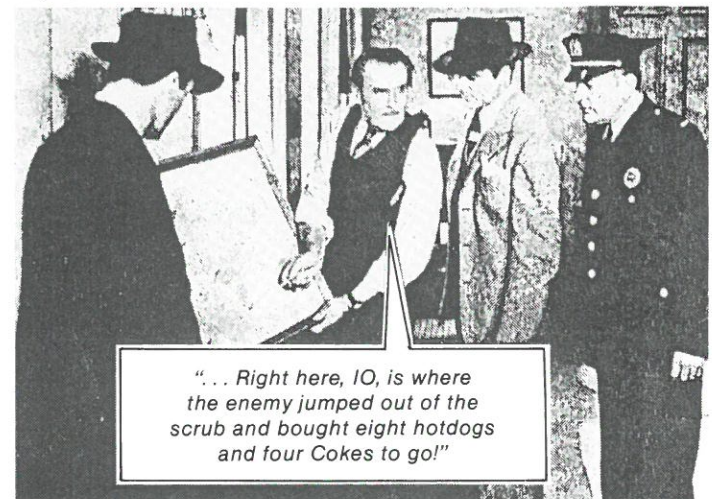
The start of the year saw the new PL COMD and PL SGT - LT Ashwin and SGT Black running the 1/91 Basic Pioneer Course. The 1st section was reaised after the course with some of the old hands returning (Wombat, Shoeey, Kell's and Spud) from the rifle companies.

Leaden Left in March and OTBO in May kept the Platoon busy conducting BNS for the live fire practices. The highlight during the 'OTBO' was the simulated napalm strike (4 drums of Aftor set up as Fougasse) by F18s which lit up the sky for the A Coy dawn attack. Nothin beats the smell of Fougasse in the morning.

It wasn't until 'Woollen Warrior' in June that the platoon had a chance to tone its skills in assault demonstrations, minewarfare and river patrolling. The highlights of the exercise being - practising live fire counter ambush drills out of zodiacs (a rather exciting time for the OIC practice) conducting live mine breaching and assault demolitions by night and high speed extraction by boat under mortar illumination by night. Thanks must go to Hvy Weapons Platoon for detonating our 6 drum Fougasse demo prematurely during the Support Coy combined shoot at Easy Feature.

August saw our involvement with 7FD SQN participating in Operation Burrawang an area clearance operation at Bogan Gate, NSW. On a sadder note, the platoon was involved with the clean up of a fatal car accident on the way down. The soldiers conducted this unpleasant task in a mature and capable manner which lessened the burden on the local SES members whose community the victims were from.

So what does the future hold? The new changes to the Battalion in the form of the Ready Reserve means that the platoon will no longer be on the ORBAT for a period of time. We're certain when the platoon is reaised yet again it will continue to 'pioneer on' in true spirit.





THE COMMS LORDS IN '91

The year began quickly for the "Lords" when the platoon ran a specialist course at Wide Bay, initiating apprentice Comms Lords into the mysteries of the black art. The ink had barely dried on their course reports when the platoon received a new batch of RCOs, including PTE "Cherry" Parish, PTE "Dan" Johnston, PTE "Pee Wee" Cuningham, PTE "Campese" Rule, and the Wilson twins.

Ex Leaden Lift was closely followed by OTBO which provided excellent opportunities for the new team to shake out and begin building up it's skills levels. We lost a number of the old hands including PTE "Omar" Shileff (Catering Corps), LCPL "Slim" Cooney and PTE Parker (UN Sahara trip) and CPL "Bung" Lachmund (Ex Long Lock).

A number of the Lords had a trip to Hawaii where PTE "Tick Tack" Tyack lost himself in a Kevlar Helmet before being found almost 2 days later. Two new baby Comms Lords joined the platoon just in time for training for the Brigade Camp, which was the major event for us this year. The platoon will assist 6 RAR in running a Sig Course in November before losing most of the Lords as the Ready Reserve takes effect. A shame the team has to break up, but good luck for the future to all the Lords leaving us.

Things to remember:

1. RSO: "Just worry about the basics men . . ."
2. SGT Hall: "Can start a fire with only some cotton and spit to help him"
3. SGT Hollowell: "Climbs faster than a mountain goat"
4. CPL Legessner: "Keeper of the Codes"
5. CPL Patterson: "What Sig Cse?"
6. LCPL Bishop: "Climbs faster than the PI Sgt"
7. LCPL Peters: "Wants a posting to Recruiting for some reason"
8. PTE Penfold: "Not Vinsen again"
9. PTE Tyack: "Wintergarden Boxing Champ '91"
10. PTE Johnston: "Borris Becker of 8/9"
11. PTE Oades: "What do you mean you can't use a 35 magnum for home protection?"
12. PTE Wilson: "What rash?"
13. PTE Wilson:
14. PTE Cunningham: "Who's angry?"
15. PTE Fairbank: "My name is not Fairbanks"

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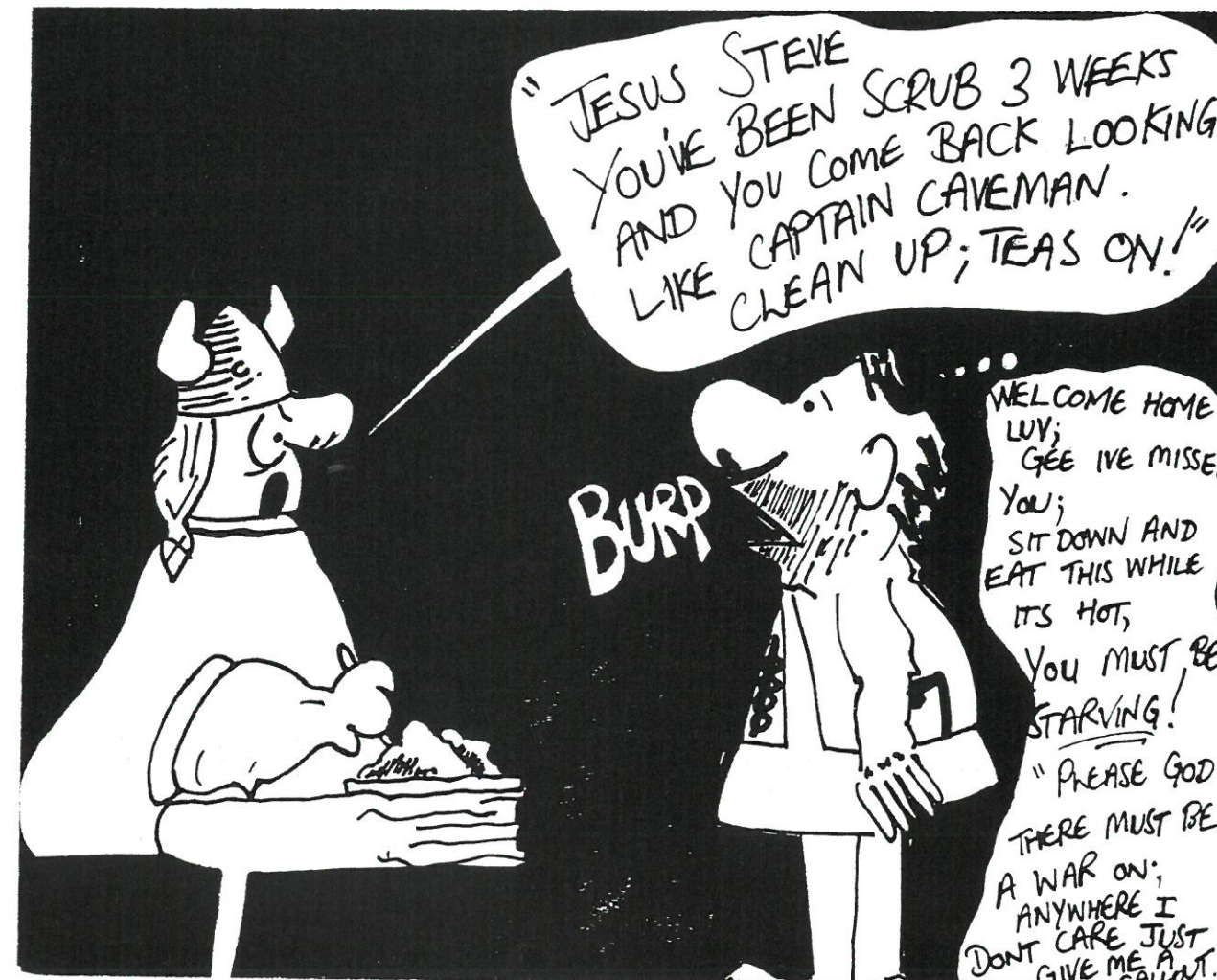
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MORTAR PLATOON

Another one bites the dust and another successful and busy year for the platoon. The cobwebs of BRL were swept away with the running of a basic mortar course in February under the watchful eyes of CAPT Mark "Basil" Keynes and the lightning wit of the acting PL SGT Brian "Yak" Rozitis.

The course was not without its more humorous moments as we have come to expect. Not to be out of the news, PTE Ian "Fingers" Palmer took a dive with a slipper barrel over a cleverly disguised tent rope and carved the top of his finger off.

The course produced some excellent results with a number of those attending joining the platoon later in the year. Highlights of the year included EX "Raging Dragon" and "Woollen Warrior" that honed the troops' skills at defending itself against ambush, with firepower said to rival that of the Missouri. Who could forget the "Doc's" effort when firing the 84mm Carl Gustav for the first time when he had been informed he had to have his shirt on back to front, lackys out, and water bottle tops undone to allow for the backblast. It has to be noted that LCPLs Speering and Dakin will not be attending 1 FD Hospital for needles for fear of revenge.

We have seen a lot of changes in the staff of the platoon with CPLs Richardson and Schmidt returning from a swan in Singleton training the direct entry recruits (and doing a damn fine job they might add) with Richo receiving his marching orders to B Coy on his return.

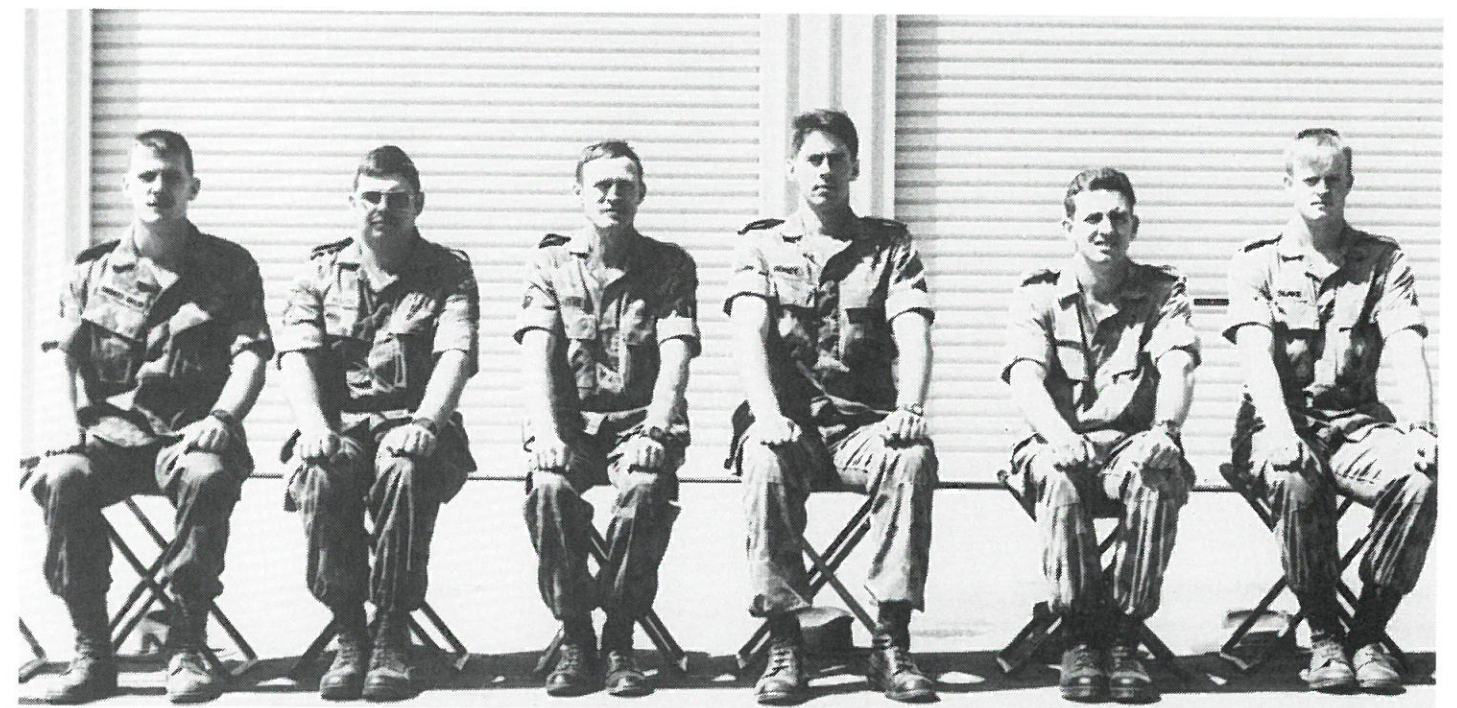
A few other points to note were:

1. PTE Tarvydas forgetting to turn up for work for a few weeks and then holidaying in Ingleburn shortly on return.
2. The PI COMD skulking off tearfully for 3 months in Singapore.
3. SGT Holmquest's indispensibility at JLTC around all those young men.
4. CPL Schmidt's professionalism and "never complain attitude" to all tasks.
5. PTE Moodie's escape to the big bad world.
6. SGT Pabst's noisy remarks around the campfire.
7. LCPL Speering's "tyre rut" on the way to Wide Bay.
8. The ease with which we deployed for the BDE camp - "Are you ready?"

9. "Fire mission danger close" - "OA this is OP afloat!"
10. PTE Usher with "BOOTS" on the other foot.
11. Survival fire lighting by Brian "Yothu yindi" Rozitis.
12. The PI party on the Brisbane River cruise - "Didn't we pass that bridge before?"
13. LT Piggot's (LT who???) lengthy service.
14. PTE Pidcock's "AHYYY?"

Thanks for all your efforts during the year team, good luck and happy soldiering in the future.





SUPPORT COMPANY

Support Company had a hectic start to 1991 even though our numbers were low. We started the year running the Battalion Courses Camp, from 4 to 31 February, at WBTA with Sigs, Mor and Pnr basic courses. Almost as soon as returning to Enoggera it was time to head back to WBTA for Ex Leaden Lift from 11 to 20 March. Spt Coy ran all the range practices for the Battalion with great success.

April saw a relatively quiet time, however for the lucky few in CHQ it was a time of busy preparation for EX "PAC BOND 91". CHQ were to command an odd bunch comprising of a platoon from B Coy, a platoon from 6 RAR, and a composite platoon from 49 RQR/1 Fd Regt for 4 trying weeks in Hawaii. Attached also were personnel from units such as 139 Sig Sqn, 2/14 (LH) QMI, 5 Tpt Sqn and 11 Fd Amb.

On 3 May the Coy departed to take its place as C Coy 4/27 Infantry Battalion (Wolfhounds). 25th Infantry Division (Light).

Highlights of the trip were participation in our host unit's brigade exercise where we were introduced to the Kahuka Training Area, and the use of Miles equipment and NOD's (night observation devices) goggles. The Kahuka's overlooked Hawaii's north shore allowing uninterrupted and spectacular views of beaches such as Pipeline - improving morale no end whilst 'digging in'. The Coy also conducted a 3 day live fire exercise at Makua Range.

We were also lucky enough to be included, at the invitation of our hosts, in the 'Welcome Home' Parade for Operation Desert Storm Forces through the streets of Honolulu. During the parade we were introduced on television by the female American commentator as a 'famous cavalry unit from the American Indian Wars' (due to our strange hats?)

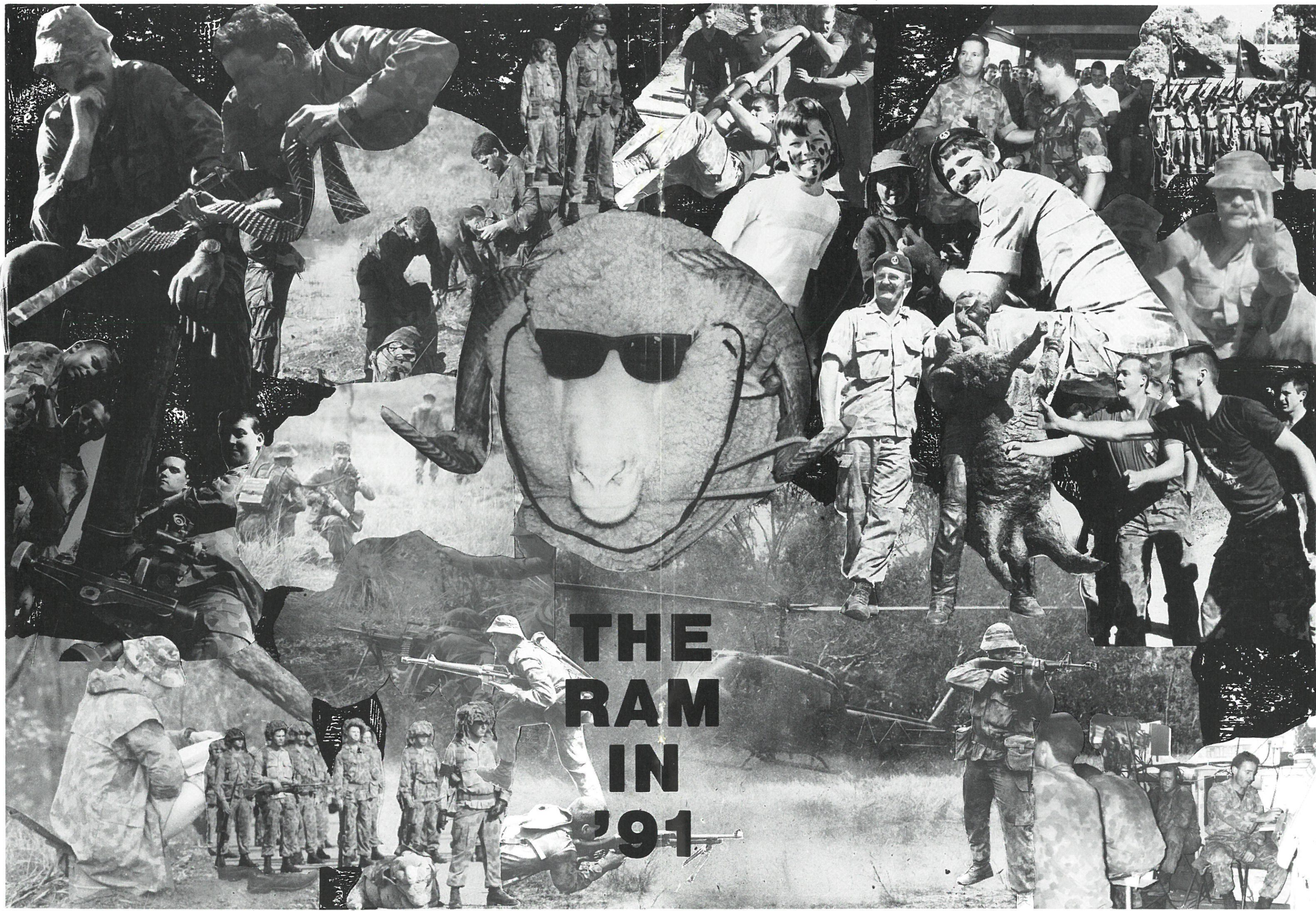
Of course we also had to endure one or two arduous weekends down at Waikiki.

On our return on 6 June, flying Hawaiian Airlines, laden down with duty free and one or two hangovers the Coy resumed more mundane duties within their respective units.

Other highlights of Spt Coy's year included exercise 'Woollen Warrior' in June, the raising of the second section in the platoons in August and exercise 'Brallos Pass' in September.

It has been a busy and disrupted year for Spt Coy as with the rest of the Battalion, however all have achieved high standards and the Coy continues to be 'quietly superior'.





**THE
RAM
IN
'91**