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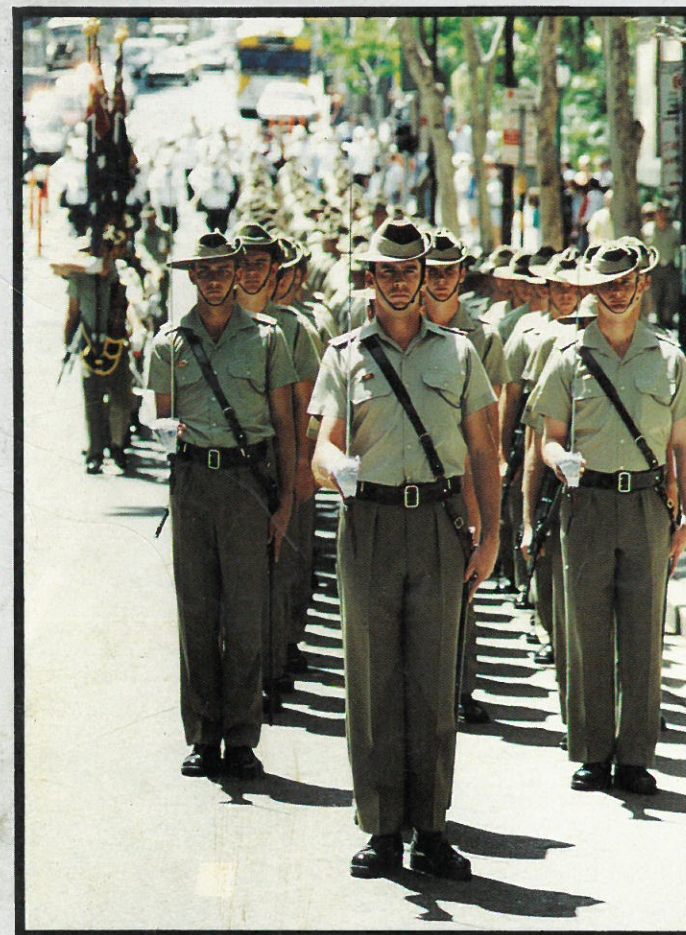
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# THE RAM 1992



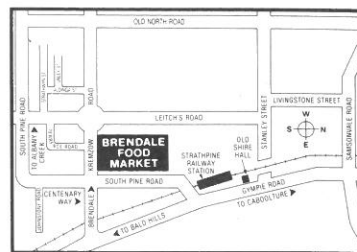
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THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT**







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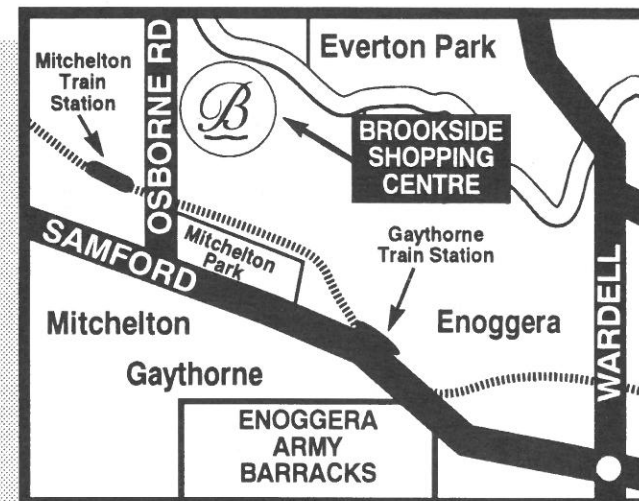


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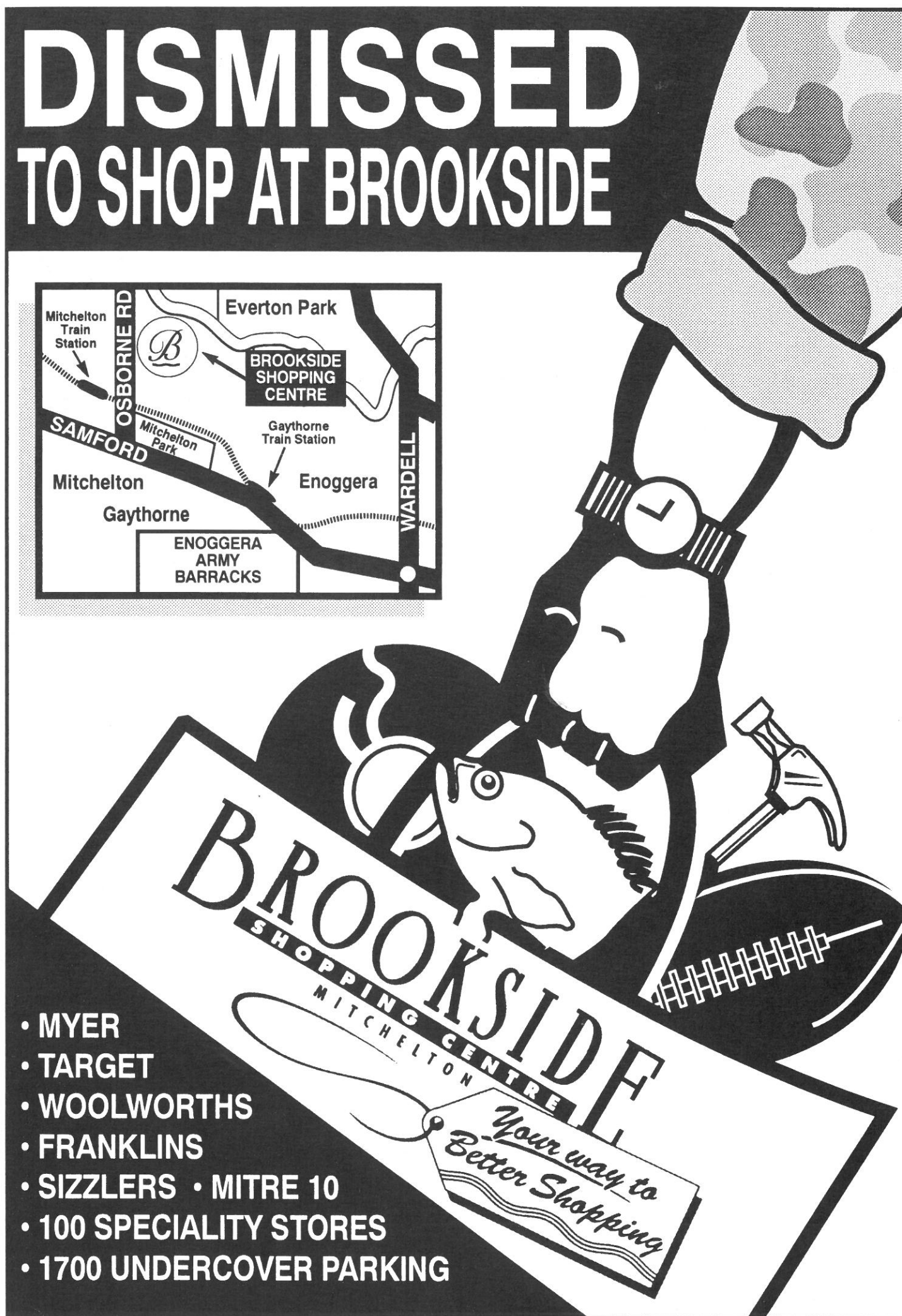
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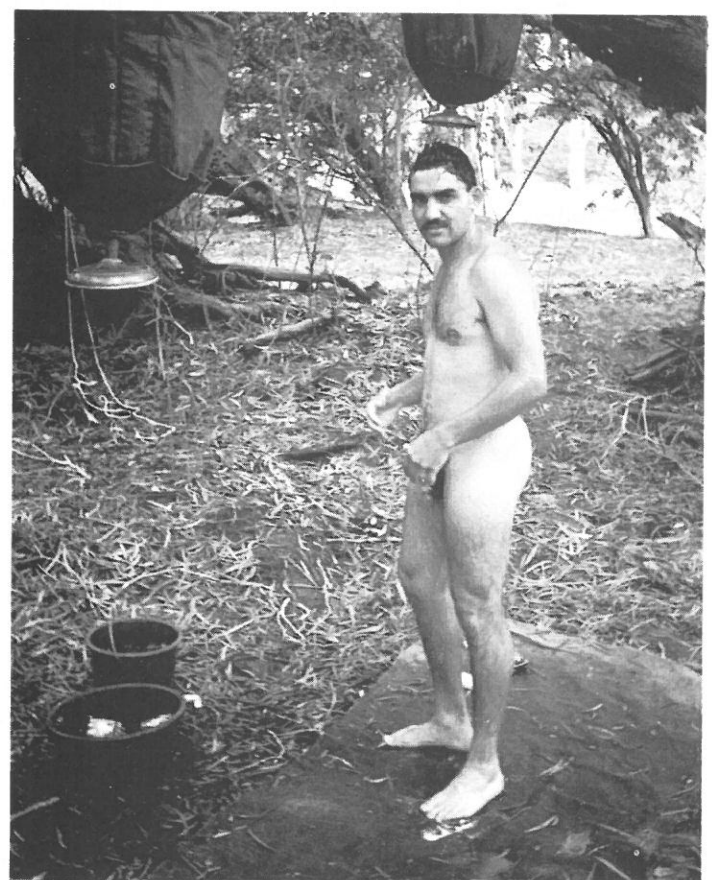
Above: C Coy during IET's.



Above: A Coy in Malaysia conducting MOUT Operations.



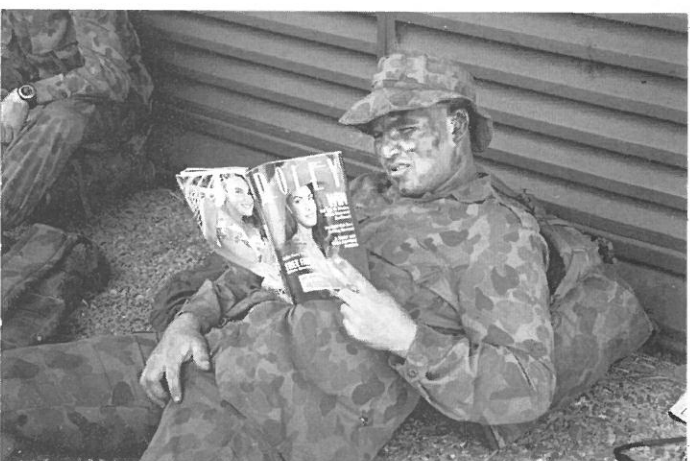
Above: Enemy in gaol on Ex Ronny Ram at RAAF Base Amberley.



Above: Sgt Sheldon almost shows all!



Above: 6 PL during water jumps at Wivenhoe Dam.



Right: Is Pte Toone really reading a Dolly magazine?



## 8th/9th BATTALION THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

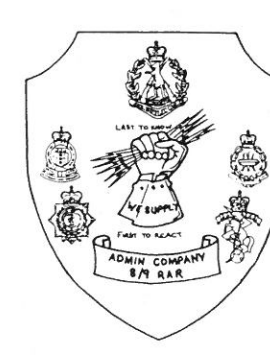
Colonel in Chief	:	Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
Commander in Chief	:	His Excellency The Honourable Bill Hayden AC Governor General of Australia
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Regimental Colonel	:	Colonel D Mead
Commanding Officer	:	Lieutenant Colonel P F Leahy
Regimental Sergeant Major	:	Warrant Officer Class One S Paulson

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The Brigade of Gurkhas

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2nd/8th Battalion's (AIF) Association  
9th Battalion's Association  
8 RAR Association  
9 RAR Association  
RAR Association (Queensland Branch)





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

Editor ..... CAPT M. Shaw

Assistant Editors ..... PTE E. Berning

PTE A. des Landes

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Sue Cronk

Cartoons ..... PTE A. des Landes

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## EDITORIAL

1992 will long be remembered in the hearts and minds of men of 8/9 RAR. I doubt whether any Battalion in the Royal Australian Regiment could claim to have had such a demanding and eventful year as the 8th/9th.

The year started with A Coy going to Rifle Coy Butterworth whilst the remainder of the Battalion geared up to conduct RRes Initial Employment Training.

Throughout the year the Battalion showed its strength in sport by winning the Area Soccer competition and being runners-up in the A Grade Rugby Grand Final.

Recon Platoon made front page headlines for their shooting exploits of feral cats and over 1,000 people attended the Battalion Birthday Ball including a number of ladies courtesy of B105.

1992 also saw the 8th/9th Battalion raise over \$22,000 for Legacy and this year was granted the privilege of Freedom of Entry to the City of Brisbane.

The year concluded with an exchange of C Company with a company from Brunei who took part in the final Battalion exercise, Ready Ram in the Shoal Water Bay Training Area.

No one will say the implementation of the Ready Reserve has been easy, but it certainly has been an interesting challenge that has brought the very best out of all personnel concerned. To all those people leaving the Battalion, good luck and good soldiering.

Special thanks is again extended to all the members of Int Section for the hard and tiresome work that has gone into the production of the 1992 Magazine.

*Captain Marshal Shaw*



*Above: B Coy on Ex Ready Ram.*



*Above: Medics on the Simpson Run.*



*Above: Feeding the Grunts on Ex Ready Ram.*



*Above: The CO competing in the famous Bicycle Obs Course during the CPX in Hawaii.*



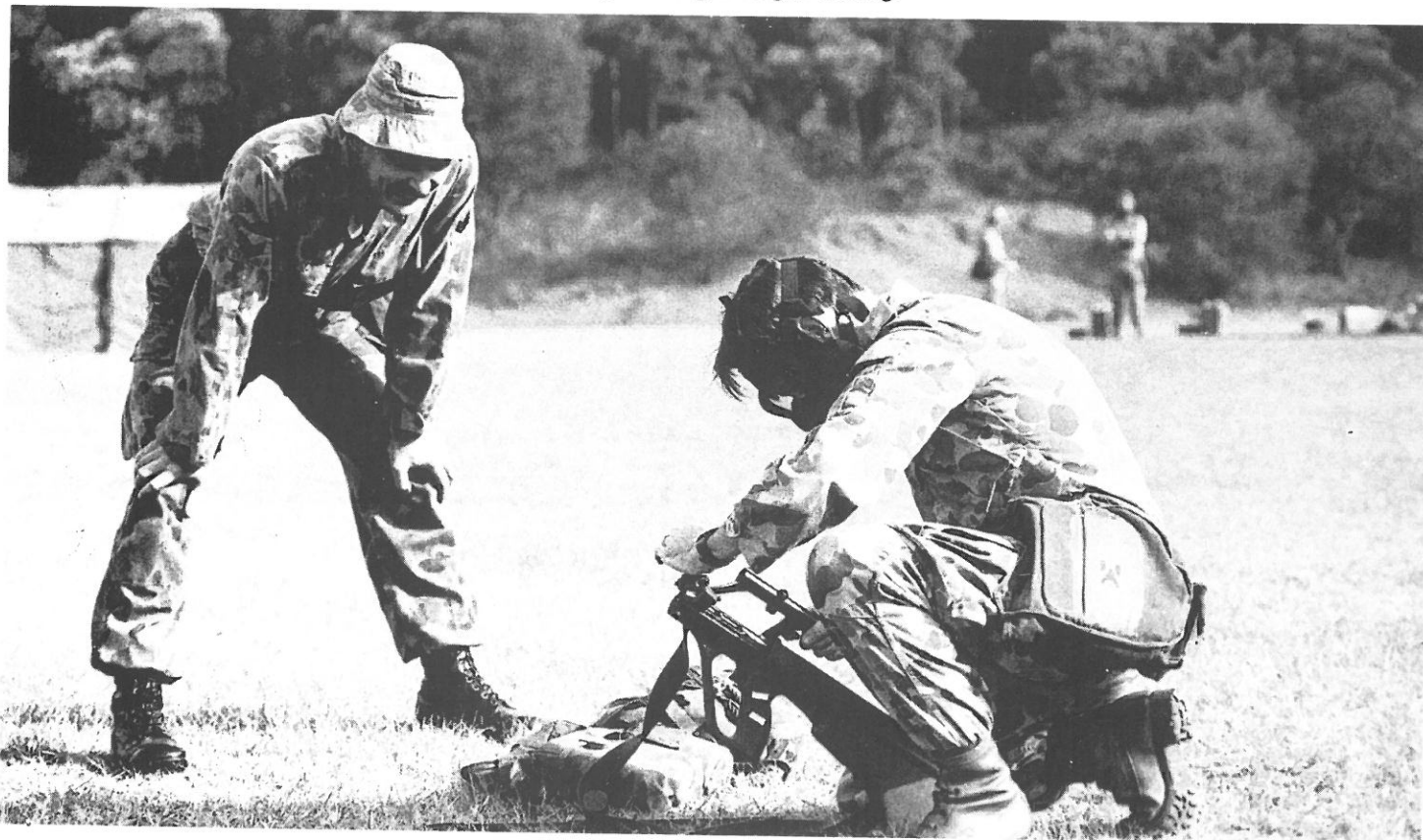
*Above: Oh No! The RSO is caught again having a sly bush durrie on Ex Ready Ram.*





Above: Soldiers did it hard in the mud on the Assault Grenade Range at WBTA on Ex Leaden Lift.

Below: Sgt Ferguson ensures Maj Cruickshank does it right during BHQ gas training.



## FOREWORD BY LT COL P.F. LEAHY COMMANDING OFFICER

During 1992 your efforts have certainly reinforced the reputation of "Old Dependable".

The introduction of the Ready Reserve scheme presented 8/9 RAR with a formidable challenge and the results the Battalion has achieved speak volumes for your commitment and hard work. We have been sailing in uncharted waters for most of the year and I have been thrilled to see how everyone in the Battalion accepted the responsibility of ensuring that the Ready Reserve scheme worked in 8/9 RAR. You have shown initiative and flexibility and have produced a firm basis for the continued development of the Battalion.

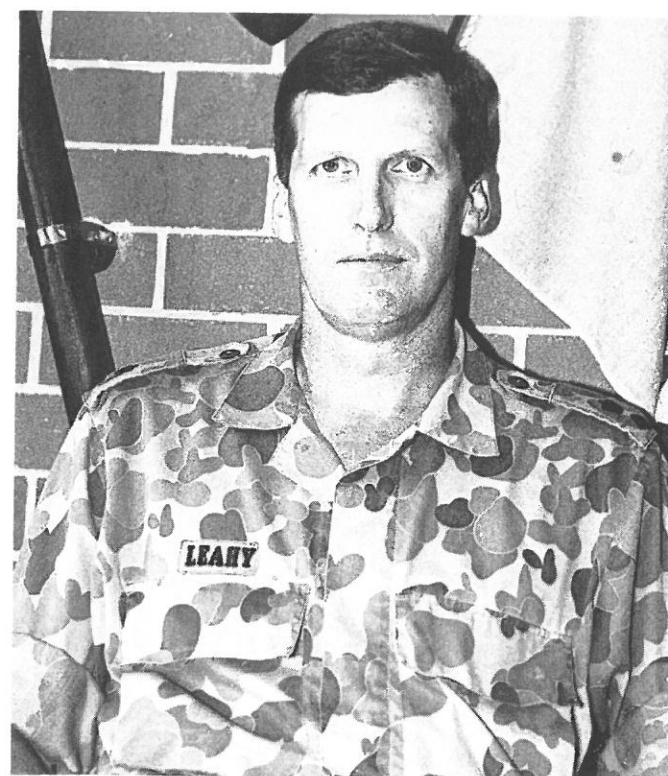
Against the predictions of many, 1992 has been a year in which the Battalion has produced fine results at both the individual and collective level. What is most satisfying about the year is that we can truly say we did it and we did it mostly alone. From the preparations for and conduct of Initial Employment Training, to drivers, storemen and clerical courses, to the specialist training in Support Company you have all worked hard to put a strong and functioning Battalion back together.

The results of the year are there for all to see. A Company had a fine deployment to Malaysia and the deployments of B and C Companies to Land Warfare Centre certainly broadcast loud and clear that the Ready Reserves were a force to be reckoned with. The record set by members of C Company on Exercise Hydra at LWC should stand for many a year. Support Company and Administration Company have worked exceptionally hard especially in the training effort required to reach the standards they have achieved.

Throughout all of the Battalion's many and varied activities you have also maintained a strong sense of spirit and cohesion. The artificial divisions of ARA or RRES have meant little as the Battalion has worked together in the true sense of brotherhood and comradeship that we as members of the Royal Australian Regiment can fully appreciate.

This year I leave 8/9 RAR for a posting at Army Office in Canberra. 8/9 RAR has always been a good Battalion with a no nonsense approach and I am sure that this spirit will continue under your new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Damian Roche. I thank you for all your efforts over the last two years while I have been in command and wish you all good soldiering.

Duty First.



## REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 1 S. PAULSON

My foreword is dedicated to the Section Commander — the key to success on the battlefield. Wars are not won by machines and weapons, but by the Section Commanders who use them. Even the best equipped Army cannot win without motivated and well-trained soldiers. If the Australian Army is to win the next war, its soldiers must be motivated by inspired leadership and they must know how to do their jobs and survive on the battlefield.

In the 1st Division, 1990 was the year of the Section Commander. In 8/9 RAR it is always the year of the Section Commander.

The Section Commander in 1992 has been the "Jack of all trades" and has shown to be the master of these, ranging from instructor on IET's to Acting Platoon Commander on the Battalion exercise (and winning unofficially the PICOMD competition).

I have been impressed by the standard shown, in particular those men who were promoted in late 1991 and early 1992, all of whom have displayed very good traits and qualities as leaders.

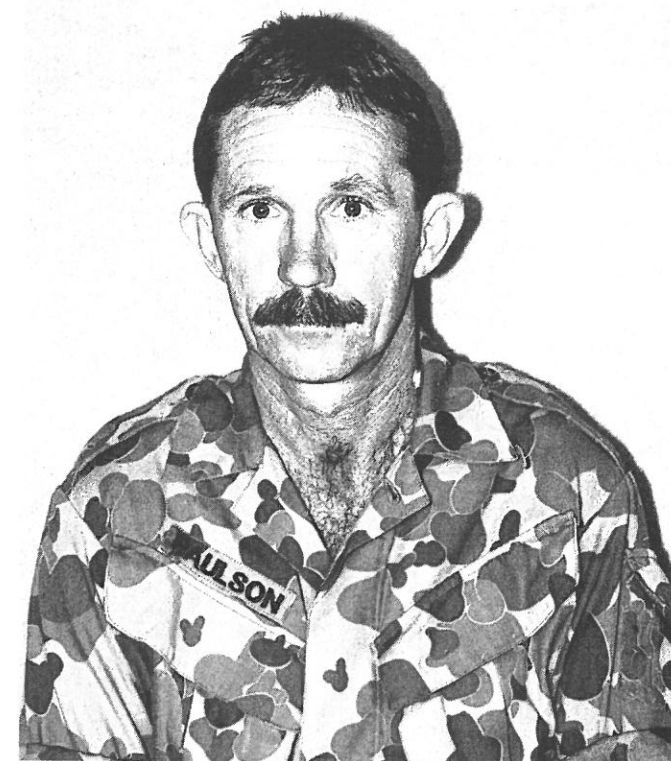
There are however, one or two Cpl's who are not pulling their weight as a Section Commander. Be aware you will NOT survive in 1993, if your performance does not improve.

To those Section Commanders who are leaving the Battalion, thank you for your efforts in 1992. For those who are remaining, a hearty thanks for a job well done.

For 1993, I want every Section Commander to know and to employ the following principles:

- Fight to win. Use all your strength and cunning.
- Know yourself. Know your men. Know your enemy.
- Learn your job, then do it. Danger and hardship must never stop you.
- Train and fight as a team.
- The bush is your friend. Use its cover skilfully to surprise and destroy the enemy.
- Guard your weapon and equipment; without them you are useless.
- Protect your health and your soldiers' health. A sick soldier is a liability.
- Keep calm. Keep silent. Keep mobile.
- Make your fire effective. Win the fire fight. Close with and destroy the enemy.
- Be aggressive. Fight with violence!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.





## BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

BHQ launched into the year with enthusiasm, confident in the knowledge that the implementation of the RRes would be as rewarding as it is popular. This enthusiasm soon turned into euphoric rapture as all involved in the paper warfare side of processing the RRES began to feel that perhaps the RRes scheme was not quite finalized before we were tasked to "Make it work".

As BHQ treked to administer what no unit had done before, to process where no unit had gone before, we discovered the odd hole in the Ready Reserve plan and we began to ask questions. And there came a response from the powers that be in the form of a definite all improvising: "Wait . . . Wait out . . . er'um, . . . I'll get back to you on that one." Determination and hard work eventually triumphed, resulting in BHQ producing the solutions for implementing the Ready Reserve that in the future, all units will be judged by.

Some members of the headquarters fought tooth and nail to get to the field on exercise, alas, the only exercises available for BHQ seemed to be in Malaysia or Hawaii. To compensate for this tragic turn of events, a little "extra" effort was put into the overseas nightclub tours.

Q. Can a Seagull do the eagle rock?  
A. Only in Hawaii.

Other members of the headquarters embraced the true reserve spirit and turned up to work half days (Clarke) or even no days (McGregor) while malingering over alleged injuries. The Chief however maintained the standard by working long hours to make up for others' absences; just don't expect him to answer his phone before 0900. "Piss-off, I'm at PT!"

PT featured in the daily routine of BHQ, much to the surprise of all the Rifle Coys who were heard to ask in amazement, "Which Coy wear white T-shirts?" as the strapping BHQ lads breezed (or wheezed) by.

So despite the odd hiccup, tantrum and embolism, BHQ has proved to have helped make the Ready Reserve what it is today.

"The Management and Staff  
of the Mayfair Crest Hotel  
would like to thank you for  
your support during 1992.

We look forward to  
seeing you again  
next year."

*Merry Christmas and  
Best Wishes for a prosperous  
1993*

*The Friendly Queenslander*



## CROSS COUNTRY

At 0730 hours on the 31st July 1992, 371 runners from the battalion contested the battalion cross country run. The course was dry and a good time was expected — Pte Cunningham from A Coy did not let us down with a time of 29 mins 10 secs [a great run].

After the 371st runner crossed the finish line, the Battalion returned to the Rams Retreat for a late breakfast enjoyed by all where the CO announced the 1992 results.

1st	Pte Cunningham	A Coy
2nd	Pte Oregon	Spt Coy
3rd	Pte Brabon	B Coy [who was on a chit]
4th	Pte Barrow	Spt Coy
5th	Pte Maughan	C Coy
6th	Pte Ingraham	C Coy
7th	WO2 Ward	C Coy
8th	Maj Porter	A Coy
9th	Pte Reiman	B Coy
10th	Pte Anderson	C Coy

### VETERANS RESULTS

1st	WO2 Ward	C Coy
2nd	WO2 McKelvie	Spt Coy
3rd	Sgt Bensein	C Coy

### INTER-COY RESULTS

1st	B Coy	155.49
2nd	A Coy	156.81
3rd	C Coy	174.64
4th	Spt Coy	176.67
5th	BHQ/Admin/D Coy	244.29

## TOUCH FOOTBALL

Due to IET training and a number of forfeits our A and C Grade teams struggled earlier in the year during the summer competition, with both teams finishing in the middle of the table. We were still competitive however, and managed to spring a few upsets. Thanks go to a number of devoted regulars, often playing two grades each week, including Lance Corporal Gaulke, Corporal A.J. Ryan, Private Hropic, Private Elliot and Craftsman Hosking. Now with the winter competition nearing its finale both teams are excellently placed. In only our second year in A Grade we look sure of a place in the finals for the first time. C Grade need to win all their remaining games to reach the finals, but now that we are at full strength, this is a distinct possibility. This improved form should perhaps be dedicated to Regimental Funds for financing our new strip which was a great morale booster. If we can avoid losing too many players to the upcoming battalion exercise, we could well take out the A Grade pennants; a first for the battalion. City have held the title for six years, so they obviously deserve to be relieved of it. Thanks go to those enthusiastic players who kept turning out — the A Grade title would be a just reward for you all.

## WATER POLO

After winning the Round Robin Competition in November last year, the Battalion Water Polo team got off to a bad start with 4 losses which was largely due to course commitments. A strong team was eventually formed, with Pte. Arthur as Captain/Coach and the team finally started winning, finishing 3rd on the competition ladder. Best players for the season were:

Maj. Porter  
Cpl. Hadgis  
Pte. Stancombe  
Pte. Arthur  
L/Cpl. Roberts

Pte. Stancombe and Pte. Arthur were chosen for the Army team. The Army team played the R.A.A.F. team on the 4th March and defeated the R.A.A.F. 6/5. This was a good victory as the Army had not defeated the R.A.A.F. for 13 years.

Pte. Stancombe, Pte. Beer and Pte. Arthur were selected to play in the Queensland team at Canberra. The team played well ending up 4th in the competition.

## The Camping QUARTERMASTER

*On behalf of all of us here we would  
like to thank everyone from 8/9 RAR  
for their support over the past year and  
wish you all the best for the coming  
year.*

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SOCCER

Having lost in the Grand Final last year, in 1992 we went one better. Although the season was disappointingly short, it was remarkably successful. We struggled at first with RCB taking many of our players, but things came together on their return and we played through the finals in great style.

Credit should go to Paul Southerton, brilliant and consistent throughout the year, and also David Lewis, a fair but committed player whose example, especially at training, was a fine one. Martin Ryan was cool and skilful under pressure and "Bish" at right back improved out of sight. A lot of other players gave great service, particularly at training, throughout the season. Once again, two soldiers from 2 CER played for us, always excellently, and we thank them.

The key to this team's success in the last two years has been commitment. In the finals, especially, the will to win was there and commitment to victory became our goal. In soccer, as in many games, the mental approach is crucial and our collective pride and morale was too much for many of our opponents. Chris Roe's uncompromising approach to the game and will to win came as a shock to many people, but the result of this now sits proudly in the Ram's trophy room. In the 1992 Queensland interservice game against the RAAF, four 8/9 players were represented. In a team chosen from all Queensland Units, Regular and Reserve, this was a fine achievement. Those players were Capt Roe, LCpl Southerton, Pte Lewis and Cpl Ryan.

The 1992 Grand Final was a fine match, played before a large crowd on Duncan Oval. 1 Field Regiment attacked us hard early on, playing some very good soccer. Although we conceded a goal, the defence was solid and the team was generally functioning smoothly. We got back into the game and Greg Bailek fired in a fine equalizer just prior to half time, a crucial moment in the game. The second half continued at a fierce pace but the gaps appeared as players began to tire on both sides. Trevor Elliott put us into the lead but this triggered a fierce assault from our opponents and we had to defend for long periods. The second half seemed to last forever but we hung on and there was a lot of beer consumed at the Ram's afterwards.



RESULTS 1991-92

1991	played 8, won 3, drawn 4, lost 1
1991 (finals)	played 3, won 1, lost 2 goals for 23, against 19
1992	played 4, won 2, lost 2
1992 (finals)	played 3, won 3 goals for 18, against 11



INTELLIGENCE SECTION

Intelligence Section got off to a completely different start in 1992 with the new IO, Capt Marshal Shaw, first of all cleaning out his office and actually painting it. This was only the beginning however, as the entire Int Section room was then cleaned out and reorganised. In the beginning the section only consisted of the IO, Sgt Kev Willan and Pte Tony (Army) Armstrong and so there was more than enough work to keep everybody busy. Pte Kelly and Pte Pile from A Coy were attached to Int Section for a few weeks and their help was appreciated in the big Int. reorganisation.

But the workload was to increase with Sgt Willan being required as an instructor on either the RRes IET training course or on the Junior Leader Training Course. Meanwhile, the IO took off first to Malaysia with A Coy for five weeks as an umpire on Exercise Harangaroo 1992, and then to Hawaii on Exercise Tropic Lightning.

Finally, come August, 3 new RRes soldiers marched into the section in the form of Pte Scott (Benno) Bennett, Pte Etienne (Bernie) Berning and Pte Andre (Frenchie) des Landes. The section deployed for the first time on Ex Ronny Ram at RAAF Base Amberley. Apart from Bernie and Frenchie taking part in the Battalion Mil Skills competition, the section then began in earnest to prepare for Ex Ready Ram as well as commencing operations on the 1992 Battalion Magazine. Two more additions were also made to the section in the form of Sgt Chris Laurenson and LCpl Mick Kinna from Pipes and Drums.

Ex Ready Ram proved to be a long, dry, hard exercise conducted in the Shoal Water Bay Training Area. Capt Shaw ensured we were kept busy making maps, enlarging maps and various other tasks that he thought of at the time! Perhaps the highlight of the Ex was a daring casevac stretcher carry lead by the heroic LCpl Kinna for a crippled Recon PI soldier. Frenchie and Bernie also got to experience the pleasures of recon first hand when they were each attached to a Recon Patrol for the final Battalion attack.



Capt Shaw will leave the section to work with B and C Coys next year and Sgt Willan also leaves to join D Coy as a Platoon Sgt. Int Section wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and trust you will enjoy reading 'The Ram' Magazine 1992.

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## THE 8th/9th BATTALION A BRIEF HISTORY

8/9 RAR was formed in Brisbane on 31 October 1973 with the amalgamation of the 8th and the 9th Battalions of The Royal Australian Regiment. Since its formation the Battalion has been stationed at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera.

8 RAR was formed in Brisbane on 8 August 1966 and apart from a deployment to Malaysia and an operational tour in Vietnam the Battalion remained stationed at Enoggera. During its tour of duty in Vietnam the Battalion was awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Unit Citation for operations in Phuoc Tuy province between November 1969 and November 1970. The officers and soldiers of 8/9 RAR continue to wear the emblem of this citation.

9 RAR was formed at Keswick Barracks, Adelaide on 13 November 1967 and on 9 November 1968 it departed Adelaide for active service in Vietnam. On return to Australia the Battalion moved to Brisbane arriving in January 1970. In 1971 the Battalion adopted a pure bred merino ram as the Battalion mascot. The present mascot is Lance Corporal John Macarthur V who was presented to the Battalion in 1991 by Mr Bill Huskisson of Wattle Downs via Tara. Lance Corporal Macarthur is affectionately known to the Battalion as Stan.

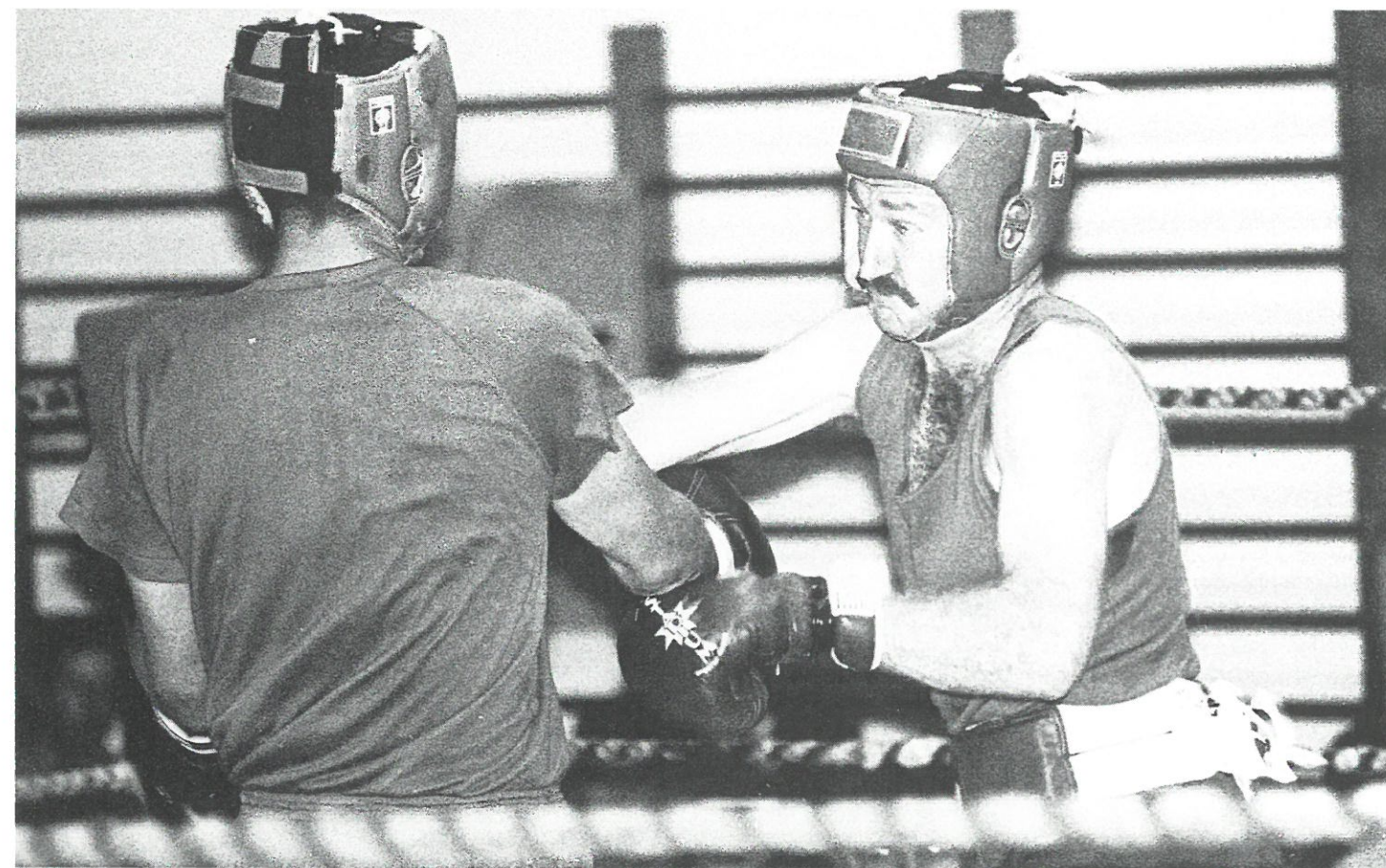
8/9 RAR carries the Queen's and Regimental colours of both 8 RAR and 9 RAR. The "Minh Dam" streamer of the award of the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry is permitted to be carried on the pike of 8 RAR's Regimental colour on the birthday of that Battalion. 8/9 RAR maintains alliances with the Parachute Regiment of the British Army, the 2nd/8th Battalions' (AIF) Association, the 8th and 9th Battalions' Associations and the Royal Australian Regiment Association.

Throughout the history of 8/9 RAR and its parent Battalions the unit has had a close and continuous association with the City of Brisbane. This was especially the case during the disastrous floods of January 1974. The Battalion was heavily committed to building levee banks in the City of Brisbane and in the subsequent mopping up after the floods subsided. Since then the Battalion has been involved in many City activities and projects such as the Royal Guard for the 1982 Commonwealth Games, support to the 1988 World Expo and a yearly commitment to raise money for Legacy on the streets of Brisbane.

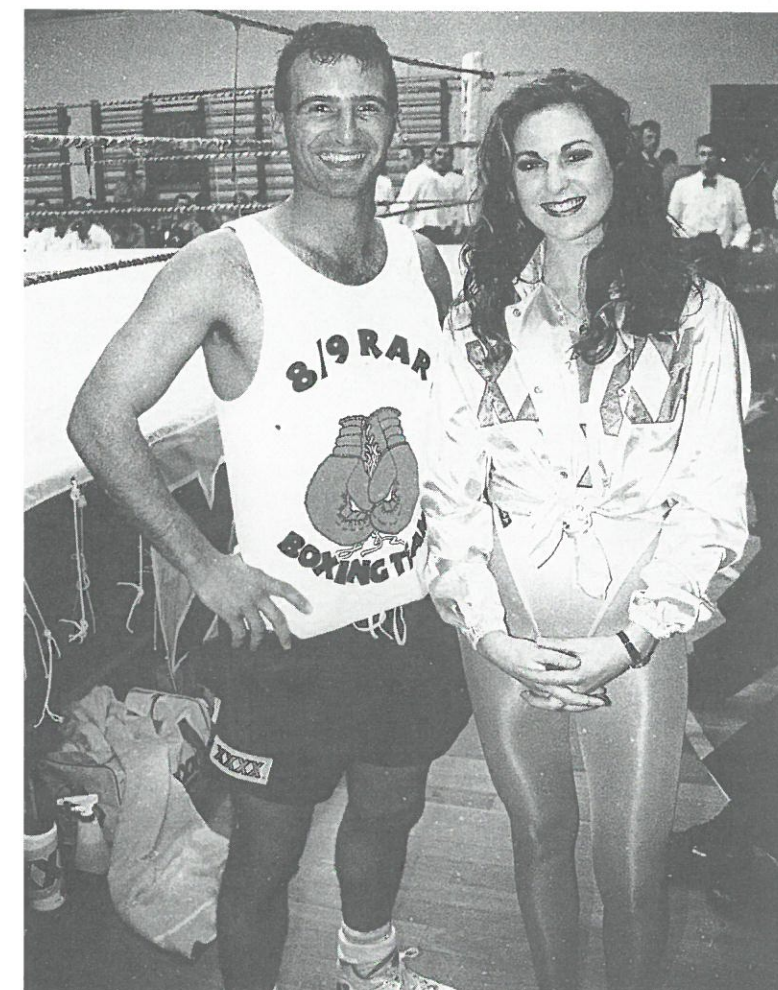
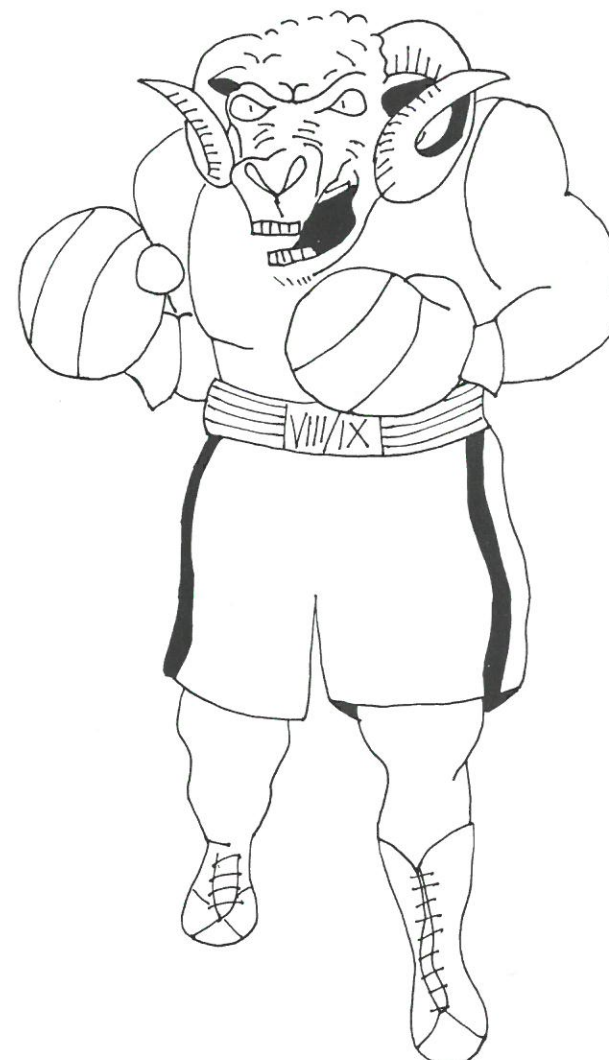
As well as these activities the Battalion has maintained its primary task of training for war. Training continues year round and sees the Battalion deployed in and around Brisbane and the South East Queensland area. In addition the Battalion has frequent overseas deployments to Malaysia, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and this year has exercised the first company level exchange between the Australian Army and the Royal Brunei Armed Forces. In 1990 and 1992 the Battalion raised and manned the Australian Army Training Project Team — Papua New Guinea. This was a major defence cooperation project to provide assistance to the Government of Papua New Guinea.

In recent years the links with the City of Brisbane have been further strengthened. In 1992 the Battalion conducted a very successful Direct Unit Recruiting Campaign based in Brisbane. This campaign saw 100 soldiers recruited from the Brisbane area for service in 8/9 RAR. The introduction of the Ready Reserve Scheme has also seen many residents of Brisbane enlist as soldiers in 8/9 RAR. Their continuing involvement with the Battalion will further serve to strengthen the links with the City of Brisbane.

8/9 RAR is proud of its association with Brisbane and feels privileged to be able to take an active part in the life of the City.



LCPL Bains and LCpl Anning had it out in the only grudge fight on the Battalion boxing night.



PTE A. Hyder couldn't wait to tell Louise, courtesy of XXXX, how he won his fight.



BOXING CLUB

After a slow year in 1991 things took off for the club in 1992. The biggest interest generator for our club was the Battalion Boxing Competition on the 8th August. The results of the competition are as follows:

WON		LOST
Lcpl Benstead	V's	Pte Needham
Pte Cunningham	V's	Cpl Gosztyla
Pte Dennison	V's	Pte Meager
Cpl Leaver	V's	Pte Thompson
Pte Warren	V's	Pte Burgess
Pte Feeney	V's	Lcpl Hastings
Lcpl Wyatt	V's	Pte McPhail
Pte St John	V's	Pte Armstrong
Pte Maddox	V's	Lt Greenan
Pte Hyder	V's	Pte Roberts
Cpl Niddrie	V's	Pte Harrison
Pte Stowers	V's	Pte Goldie

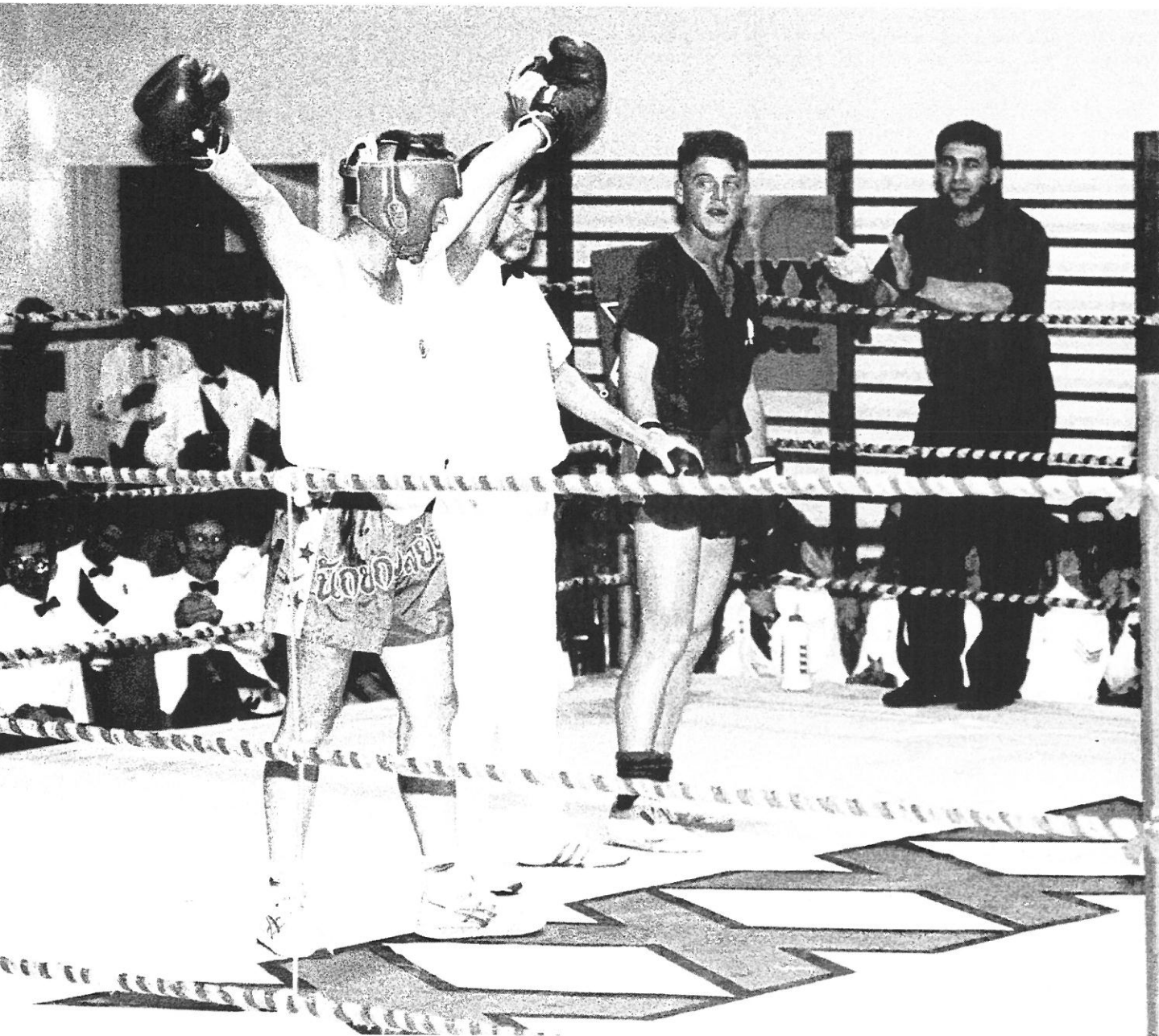
Needless to say the night was enjoyed by all, especially our guests including Commander of the 1st Division Major General Arnison, and the Colonel Commandant Major General Morrison. The competition gave the Battalion a great sporting event and a top night out. It also gave the RSM a method for keeping violence in the Rams Retreat to

a minimum. You fight in the Rams, you get in the ring. A big thank-you to Sgt Roscoe Lentini (6 RAR), Mr Ronny Martin and Mr Ray Ueal (Queensland Amateur Boxing Association) for their support to our competition. The administration prior to and during the night was conducted by Cpl West who did a fine job.

The Battalion Boxing Team finally got off the ground this year attending several tournaments towards the end of the year. Matches in the heavier divisions were hard to come by. Craig Stowers (Heavy Weapons Platoon) being our only entrant to actually enter the ring during the year. 1992 reached its climax for the team in August with the Queensland Titles. This time Craig was joined by Paul Meredith (Transport Platoon) and they contested in certain weight divisions. Although neither boxers were victorious, Merro's opponent was last years champion and 25kg heavier than him and Craig's opponent had been a competitor at the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984. It was encouraging to see the team entering the titles.

One man without whom none of this would be possible is Mr Phil Ragnezi. Throughout this year and last Phil has worked patiently with our members whenever they are in barracks and has slowly built up our team. This has at times been an uphill battle for Phil but he has never given up on us.

The Boxing Club is always looking for new members. All we ask for is a little dedication and a willingness to compete when the time is right. What we offer is hard work, a lot of fun and a great sense of satisfaction.



PTE Cunningham defeated Cpl Gosztyla in the second bout of the evening.

**XXXX**

and 8th/9th Battalion

**PACK A PUNCH!**

Castlemaine Perkins is proud to be associated with the Australian Army.



## RP SECTION

With a completely revamped RP section, Cpl Bubba West, Pte Cavanaugh and Danny (where is the ram) Power were left to take care of the safe running of the Battalion.

Lcpl Cavanaugh was the first casualty of the year after successfully completing Sub 2, and then going on to do Sub 1, before being posted to B Coy.

The first job of the year was the restoration of the 8/9 guard room. Bubba and his boys went about completely stripping the place from top to bottom. The results can be clearly seen today.

With the introduction of the Ready Reserves the Battalion numbers began to grow and therefore two more RP's were required. Pte Jason (Smiley) McKay and Pte Tim (Sleepy) O'Reilly found themselves with red and black brazards on their arms.

With the influx of extra numbers into the Battalion in such a short space of time there was bound to be problems. With these problems came some great excuses. Possibly the most difficult reason of AWOL to understand was when a certain soldier gave his reason as being that he was kidnapped by four hippies. Another great one for AWOL was when a soldier was on his way back to the barracks after a big night in the city. When he stopped to light a cigarette, the wind kept blowing it out so he turned the opposite way to which he was travelling to light it and then proceeded to walk. Of course, he became lost as he travelled back into the city. The moral to this story is never trust your lighter for directions!

There are also certain people who believe they are tough, but even the toughest have a little cry ... in front of the CO. There is another incident when a soldier was overwhelmed by the presence of the CO and required a chair. The question we all asked was, if a UD with a Steyr is 14 days ROP's and a \$200 fine what will it be for a 106 UD?

So remember if you're not prepared to do the time, don't commit the crime.

However, overall 1992 was a very successful year and a year enjoyed by all.

Thanks  
Your friendly RP's



Right: Bubba West the 'sandman' shown renovating the 8/9 Guard Room floor.

## THE RAMS RETREAT

So far, this year has been the most productive year for the Rams since I've been in the Battalion. There was the usual change of Staff. Bung went to the dizzy heights of P.M.C., Jock went to entertainments and started to entertain every Tom, Dick and Harry and the rest of the committee thought they were featuring in a Phantom comic.

The first real chance we had to really celebrate was ANZAC Day. We introduced the new members of the Battalion to the Rams and they left early. Then we had all the IET Platoons holding functions at the Rams, that was a huge success. There were numerous other small functions at the Rams but one that hits the highlights was the presentation of the Legacy check to Legacy which was a huge hit and a feather in the cap for the men of 8/9 RAR.

All in all a great year and best of luck to everyone in the future.

Bung



## SHOOTING

Due to ammunition constraints and the intense Battalion and Company training programmes for the year, only a little shooting was conducted, as more often than not, there was no one available to run range practices.

There was a good response initially, but with A Company in Malaysia for three months, the club's members dwindled to a handful.

The highlight of the shooting year was participation at the Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting (AASAM). Notable performances there were made by Lt Spencer, who was well placed in the Service Rifle Championship, and who shot in the Champion Shot of the Army competition. Pte Peters also did very well in the Service Rifle Championship, and Pte Oades had a great deal of success in the pistol matches.

Lt Spencer was nominated as Captain of the Australian Army Under 25 Rifle Team to compete in the National Teams Championships in Perth in September.

## ORIENTEERING

The comment was made in the orienteering column of the 1991 Battalion Magazine — Quote: "8/9 will win the 6 Bde Orienteering Competition in 1992" — unquote. Well, the 6 Bde orienteering competition was conducted in August this year and the Battalion submitted a team which was essentially put together at the last minute.

The team provided a good showing and finished on the day in second position. The proper orienteering team will be looking to avenge the loss of the Bde trophy in '93. Well done to all competitors this year.

P.S. Even though 8/9 did not win the event, they were entrusted to go out and find the Cpl from 6 RAR who had thrown his compass away and adopted the SWAG method (Scientific Wild Arse Guess).

## WISHING ALL A VERY PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

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## CRICKET

The season was divided into two very distinct parts; before and during Rifle Company Butterworth. This activity took many of our better players away at a crucial time, leaving a much weakened team to go into the semi-finals. In these, we narrowly lost to a very useful RAAF team, the eventual winners of the competition. Batting was our stronger suit with a number of players performing well. The batting depended very much upon Captain Roe, particularly after the deprivations of Butterworth, but Sergeant Malone and Private Morland were two other promising players whose appearances were limited by work commitments. Lance Corporal Speering was our best strike bowler but, once again, he was frequently unavailable. The rest of our bowling was pretty anonymous and we desperately lacked a spinner, even of moderate ability. The fielding, so crucial in one-day games, improved throughout the year with Sergeant Malone and Private Scamp both very good fielders. Private Morris was a neat and capable wicketkeeper and much improved batsman. Games in the competition are too short [28 overs a side] to permit any really outstanding efforts but Captain Roe passed fifty three times and both Speering and Lieutenant Lynch delivered a number of good hostile spells. A special word for Warrant Officer Weston, a steady all-rounder, but with his attitude of "never waste more than one hand on an attempted catch," a very average fieldsman. Lance Corporal White was our most improved player, earning a well deserved spot in the A Grade team. We are looking forward to the coming season and thanks go to those many cricketers who contributed at various times.

## AUSTRALIAN RULES

1992 The Year of the RAM ... well, ALMOST!

Our Aussie Rules side went beyond all expectations and proved to be a formidable side in the 1992 football season, making it through to the first Semi-final.

The introduction of the 'Ready Reserve' into the battalion saw fresh and exciting players enter the 8/9 side, combining this with the experience of our older stock proved to be very effective.

Coaching this year also had its share of upheavals, with Lt Lynch' throwing away his responsibilities for a swan trip to Hawaii, therefore throwing Sgt Maskell into the fray and taking the boys into the finals.

The players were not put off by this move as they had the finals in their sights and visions of a big night at the RAMS.

During the 1992 season, the following players stood out:

Lcpl (Gob 1) Speering	Pte (Dateton) Deighton
Cpl (Gob 2) Henderson	Pte (Deano) Higgins

There were also many others.

But alas! the 8/9 finals run was abruptly halted by the hands of 1 Sig. Regiment who went on and won the '92 flag.

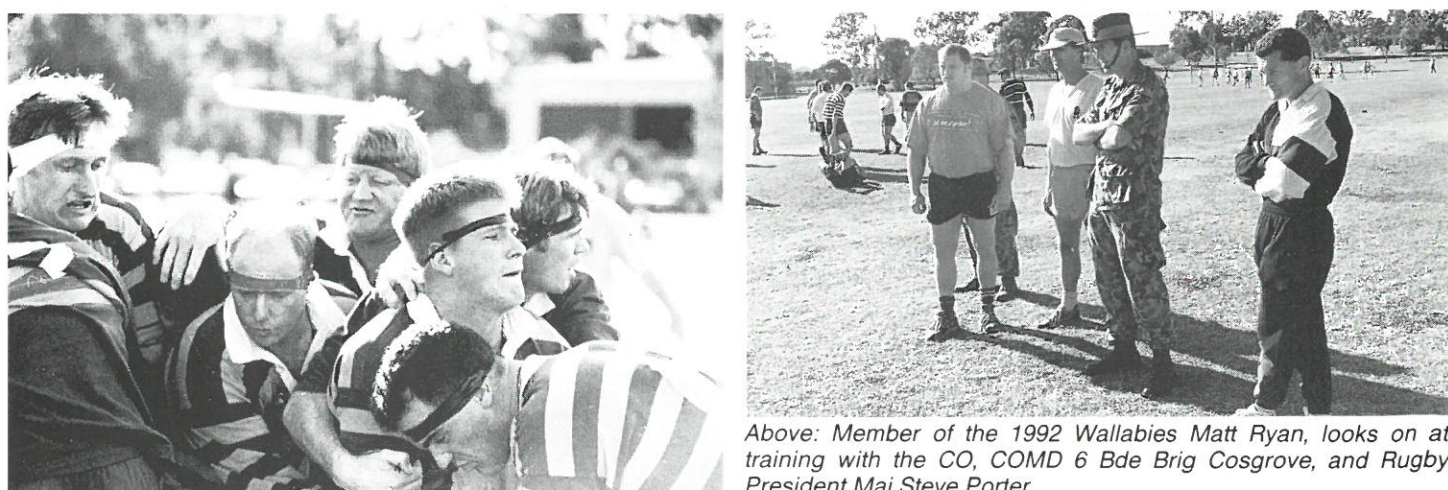
I would like to thank the following people:

WO2 Irving, SSgt Butler, Sgt Powell and our manager Cpl Chadwick for their assistance throughout the season.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Australian Rules Football Club.







Above: Member of the 1992 Wallabies Matt Ryan, looks on at training with the CO, COMD 6 Bde Brig Cosgrove, and Rugby President Maj Steve Porter.

# LEE OLLETT

ACCOUNTANTS & TAX AGENTS

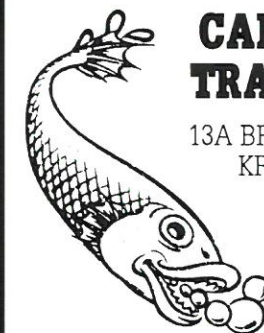
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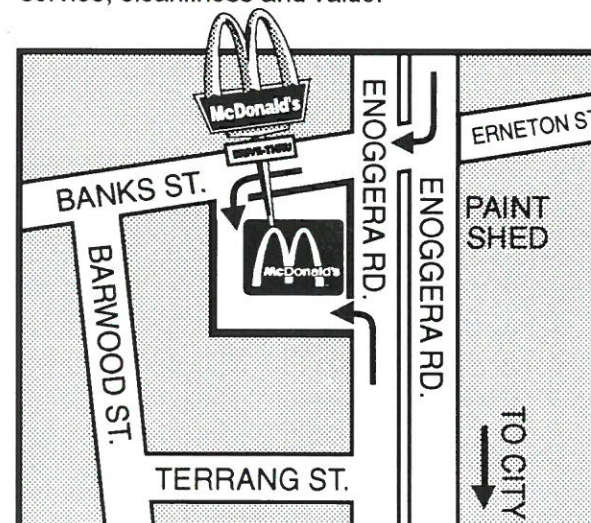
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## PAY OFFICE

The pay office has undergone great changes during this year. We have moved from the seclusion of Support Company to the high profile location of BHQ. Just because we are near the top guns does not mean for you to be scared of coming up our way, remember we are here to assist you, so do not be shy.

The following people have been posted into or out of the unit:

- Sergeant Hart — arrived in sunny Brisbane from Townsville in January 1992, and is posted to Cambodia in Dec — we wish him good luck.
- Corporal Lewis — arrived from Watsonia in February 1992 and departed on discharge in September 1992. During his stay he was heavily involved in the battalion soccer and touch football teams. His decision to leave the service was not an easy one for him to make but we wish him all the best for the future.
- Lance Corporal Southerton — arrived from Holsworthy in March 1992 to replace Private Marshall. Sotho was a member of the battalion soccer team. He has also opted for discharge and has already left to go to Perth.
- Private Marshall — departed on posting to 2 MP Coy in March 1992.
- Private Elliott — has gone on numerous overseas swan trips during his stay with the battalion. Reports from members in the know have said he worked hard and diligently whilst overseas. Question arises: "How much did he pay them?" Eddy is moving to greener pastures, 176 AD Penrith. All the best for the future, Eddy.
- Sergeant Scott — arrived in the Battalion in Oct this year after serving in Cambodia.

Movements are now in the same office as us pay corps lackies. Head of movements is Corporal O'Toole. OT has done a good job in sorting out the movements of the battalion.

The year has also seen the advent of the Ready Reserve scheme. This has placed an added burden on the pay office/movement staff, but being highly professional soldiers of 8/9 RAR we handled the pressure well (modest aren't we!).

## PIPES & DRUMS



A mixed year was had by all Pipes & Drums during 1992 from supporting the Heart Foundation in March up until August when we were seen out at Toowoomba during the Milne Bay celebrations.

1993 will see Pipes & Drums move into new positions around the Battalion as the RRes gets right into the swing of things. Pipes & Drums will be seen from time to time on the parade ground still strutting their stuff.

### Notable events for 1992:

Regimental Banner contest held at School of Infantry Singleton:

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

Drummer of the Regiment 1992: Cpl Clark (hatrick)

Piper of the Regiment 1992: Pte Joyce (double)

Pte Joyce was also invited to play with the City of Blacktown Pipe Band at this year's World Pipe Band championships, here are some of their results:

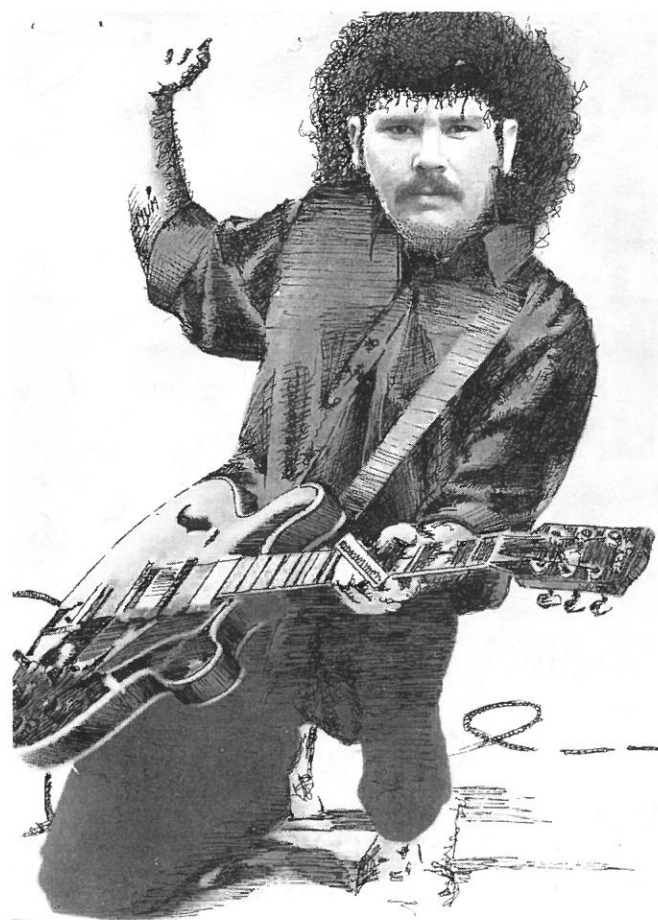
- 23rd place World Pipe Band championships
- 1st place at Fife

Where the Pipe & Drums will be seen in 1993:

- Sgt Laurenson: Int Sgt
- Sgt Vesper: Tpt PI
- Cpl Bedding: Q Store
- Lcpl Kinna: Int sect
- Pte Millard: 5/7 RAR
- Pte Joyce: Discharge
- Pte Rhodes: Tpt PI/Transfer?
- Pte Sheldon: AAAvn corps
- Pte Sweatman: Tpt PI
- Pte Timmings: Dental corps

A sad time for some as they leave the band but for the last time:

All the very best to the Battalion for the future years with 8/9 RAR from the Pipes & Drums ... Merry Christmas, Happy New Year ...



Robert Plant? No it's Sgt Vesper moonlighting.

## SPORTS SECTION

### RUGBY

The 1992 rugby season got off to a shaky start with A Coy in Malaysia and the new RRes soldiers still on their IET's, and so it was left up to the old and bold to pull their boots back on and help make up numbers. All that changed however, when the RRes became available and coaches were presented with approximately 70 potential players coming along to training. Fortunately, it had been decided to enter both an A and B grade team in the 1992 competition which would allow more players to get a game and provide needed depth to the club.

The first A grade match was against 49 RQR who were boasting an undefeated 70 year run (the truth be known 49 RQR had played one victorious match 70 years ago and had not played a match since). It proved to be a very hard game with 8/9 RAR finally emerging as the stronger team and winning by 12 points to nil. But there was still a long way to go to the finals and with a very busy military training year ahead the teams would have to work hard for the remainder of the season.

As predicted, the battalion training commitments took their toll and by mid-season the club was clinging desperately to try and get both teams into their respective finals. At the completion of the season, A grade finished 4th overall on the competition ladder and qualified for the finals. B grade unfortunately finished further down the ladder just missing out on the B grade finals.

The hard work had only just begun as the A grade side now faced two sudden death matches to qualify for the grand final. The team got down to some very serious training assisted by Matt Ryan from the Australian XV whose advice was most valuable and very much appreciated.

The hard work did pay off however, with a first game victory of 14 to 9 against the 7 Signals Barbarians and a second victory of 11 to nil against 1 Field Regiment. The scene was now set for an 8/9 RAR versus 6 RAR infantry clash grand final in which 8/9 RAR were the undisputed, but quietly confident underdogs. The 8/9 team began extremely well dominating in both the forwards and backs and securing an 8 points to nil lead at half-time. 6 RAR were not to be done that easily however, and came back hard in the second half and eventually their continuous pressure and greater experience showed out defeating 8/9 13 points to 8. It was a tremendous game of rugby, played in great spirit and congratulations must go to all the players from 8/9 RAR who put in such a determined effort.

Thank you to all those members of the club who participated throughout the season, especially those members who did not get a game but continually turned up to training and supported the club. Thanks must also go to all the wives, girlfriends and other outside supporters whose continual support was very much appreciated. Best of luck in the seasons to follow.

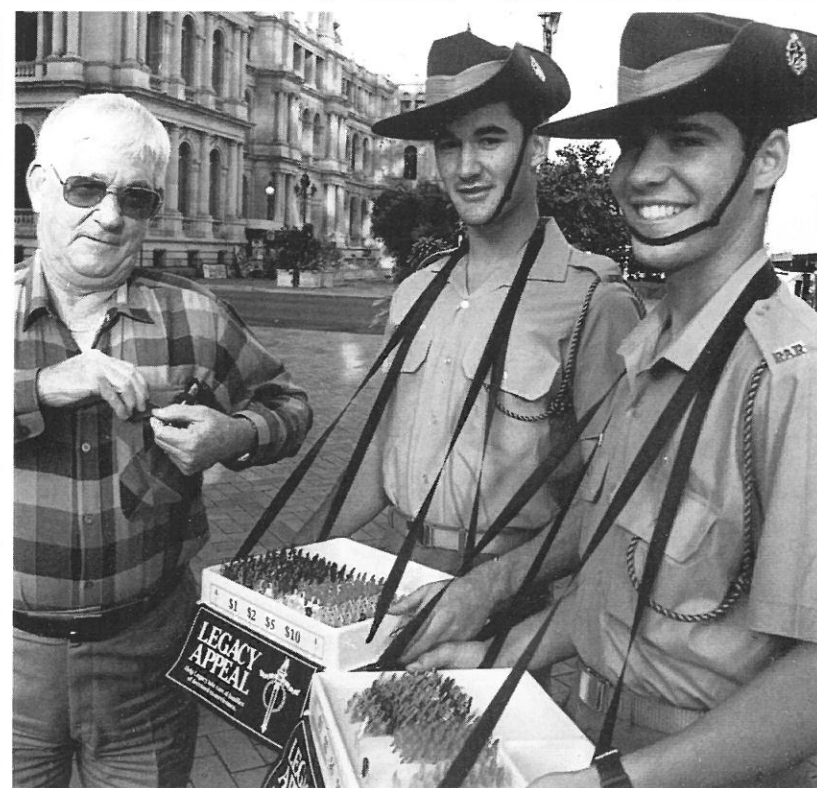
The following Rugby players were presented with awards for the 1992 season:

- Lt. B. James — Best & Fairest A Grade;
- Cpl. M. Cavanagh — Best & Fairest B Grade;
- Sgt. S. Ferguson — Best Clubman;
- Pte. P. Shoesmith — Batters Award;
- Pte P. Yates — Best Back;
- Lt. B. James — Best Forward;
- Sgt. T. Nicolaou — Most Valuable Player, and
- Cpl. S. Roberts — Coach's Award.

Captain Marshal Shaw







Above: Pte Bates and Pte Harper help sell Legacy pins in the City.

Left: The CO presenting a Legacy representative with a cheque for \$22,584.42 raised by the Battalion.

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## EXERCISE TROPIC LIGHTNING 1992

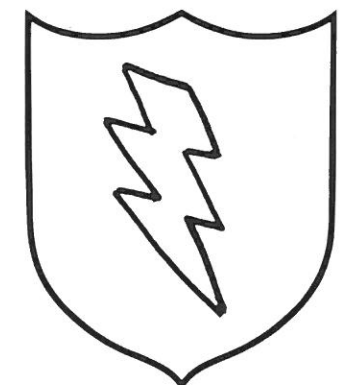
Exercise Tropic Lightning 92 (TLX 92) was a Command Post Exercise (CPX), for 6 Brigade held in conjunction with the US 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii from 13 August to 4 September. 8/9 RAR provided a contingent of 15 Officers and SNCOs. The activity was successful in practising 8/9 RAR, as part of 6 Brigade, in the techniques of combined operations and interoperability with the US Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.

So much for the official part. From the moment of our arrival at Schofield Barracks the pace was fast and furious. We were all raring to get into town to commence cultural exchanges with the locals but first we had to undertake a number of interesting and professionally rewarding activities, such as a tour of Schofield Barracks to view the damage caused when the 'Germans bombed Pearl Harbour' (fair dinkum quote by a US Army Officer), and the bus tour from hell all around the island. Once we did get leave the contingent quickly scattered. SGT Ferguson and WO2 McKelvie decided that Oahu couldn't hold them (or perhaps it just couldn't tolerate Rocky's outstanding beachwear), and headed off to Maui. The TOCO

practised deep cover reconnaissance for the SASR by completely disappearing for about two weeks to be eventually discovered lying on a beach in the company of some friendly locals.

In the very brief periods of leisure time allowed between the strenuous exercise activity the CO attempted to broaden our horizons by cultural excursions to Mulligan's Bar (where it was uncertain who was imposing whose culture on whom) and to Waimea Bay. CSM C Coy upheld the standards of the contingent by running nightmare PT sessions when a brisk stroll around the ablution block would have been quite sufficient and by appearing to wonder why we preferred to look at about 79 Elle look alikes in G-string bikinis than at his diagrams of synchronisation of the battlefield.

Meanwhile many of the Officers were displaying their professionalism by volunteering to spend as much of their time as possible within the barracks at Schofield. Some got into trouble for being too friendly in the "O" Club — no names no pants; sorry that's pack drill. Towards the end of the exercise there are vague memories of spending a lot of time sitting around in a tent trying to guess the names of obscure 60s bands and watching the CO riding a small bicycle. After that interlude everyone seemed pleased to bid Hawaii a fond farewell and fly back to Australia.



25 ID(L)



**8/9 RAR MASCOT  
JOHN MACARTHUR — 'STAN THE RAM'**

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

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

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

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

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

John Macarthur I was, by all accounts, both a colourful beast (some have ventured to say 'miserable old .....') and a scoundrel and many of the stories about him have assumed legendary status. His disciplinary record, whilst blemished, seems to have had a guardian angel looking after it. On each of the occasions he was charged (striking a superior, conduct to the prejudice, resisting an escort, etc), 1 MD Legal Branch managed to find some excuse to quash the conviction. This at least showed that the 'Legal Eagles' had some sort of heart in those days contrary to the opinion of many soldiers. During his career 'Stan I' also developed some habits which have added to the legend. He apparently took a liking to tobacco and could often be seen with a packet of Drum which he preferred to chew rather than smoke. He also developed, in the absence of a lady companion, an attraction for a fire hydrant in the Battalion area. This caused much amusement amongst the soldiery and spawned many stories, most of which are probably apocryphal, which are still circulating today.

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

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

A very generous offer of a replacement ram from the original flock at Camden was accepted and 'Stan II' was presented to the Battalion by Major General Sir Denzil and Lady Dorothy Macarthur-Onslow on 6 January 1980 as a five month old. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on Anzac Day 1981. He found it difficult to settle into life as a Non-Commissioned Officer and he committed several offences over the next year including lying down on parade and wilful damage to his barracks. For this latter charge in April 1982, he was reduced to the rank of Private. In addition, he charged a window in which he saw his own reflection and shattered it, further blemishing his record.

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

Due to the untimely death of John Macarthur II it was some time before his replacement could be identified and enlisted. Through the generosity of Mr and Mrs Lionel Roberts of Victoria Downs at Morven and the Chairman of the Queensland Merino Stud Sheep Breeders Association, Mr Bruce Scott of Muckadilla, John Macarthur III was presented to the Battalion at a parade on the 7 December 1984. He warmed to his role at once, but alas, like his immediate predecessor, his reign was short. While on R&R (and it does not stand for rest and recreation) at his original home on Victoria Downs during the Christmas break in 1985 he entered into an argument about a lady with another ram. A battle ensued and Lance Corporal Macarthur was fatally wounded. He died of wounds on 26 January 1986. In the tradition of the Royal Australian Regiment, he went down fighting.

Mr and Mrs Roberts again showed their generosity and immediately offered another ram to replace John Macarthur III. There was some speculation in the unit that we should ask for the victor of the conquest, however the Battalion did not push the case and a fine specimen of a ram was enlisted on the 7th April 1986. Stan IV settled in well and performed admirably on his first ceremonial outing, ANZAC Day 1986. He was showing that he had all the character and fire of his predecessors and he was the largest mascot the Battalion had yet seen.

Stan IV died on 5th June 1991 of cancer and digestive problems. A ball of hoochie cord the size of a cricket ball in his stomach didn't help at all.

Stan V was donated by Mr and Mrs Huskisson from Wattle Downs, a merino ram stud just around the corner from Tara (out west somewhere). Stan V joined up in July 1991. His first task was at the EKKA where he was shown off to Brisbane. Stan has had an up and down life since being in the Army. He was charged with disobeying a lawful command and found guilty, however no punishment was ever decided upon. He was then promoted to Lance Corporal in March.

Stan V is a much loved member of the Battalion (bar three — Cpl. Dakin, Pte. Bromage and Pte Cloets who have all been unlucky enough to suffer the wrath of Stan — a bloody good butt). He is also loved by friends and family of the Battalion — some going as far as offering Stan the odd sweet or two — snakes or strawberry cremes. A tradition now carried on by members of the Sgt's mess.

Some interesting traditions have grown up around the mascot. Former officers of the Battalion will be pleased to hear that the tradition of the 'Shilling' still continues in the mess, and woebetide the officer who cannot produce a 'rams head' shilling when it is called for. This tradition has now also been adopted in the Sgt's Mess.

The five Macarthurs have, in their own way, typified the qualities of the soldier who is needed in the Battalion. They have been aggressive, steadfast, brave and resolute in the face of danger. Two of them have died fighting, one has died of cancer and one has retired honourably after long and faithful service. They all, at various times, have shown the considerable courage of conviction needed to refuse orders which they have considered unfair, and when punished, have endured the punishment without complaining. If we all had those qualities, what a much better world it would be.



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LCPL Trevor Kelly during the Section Mil Skills competition.

**SECTION MIL SKILLS COMPETITION**

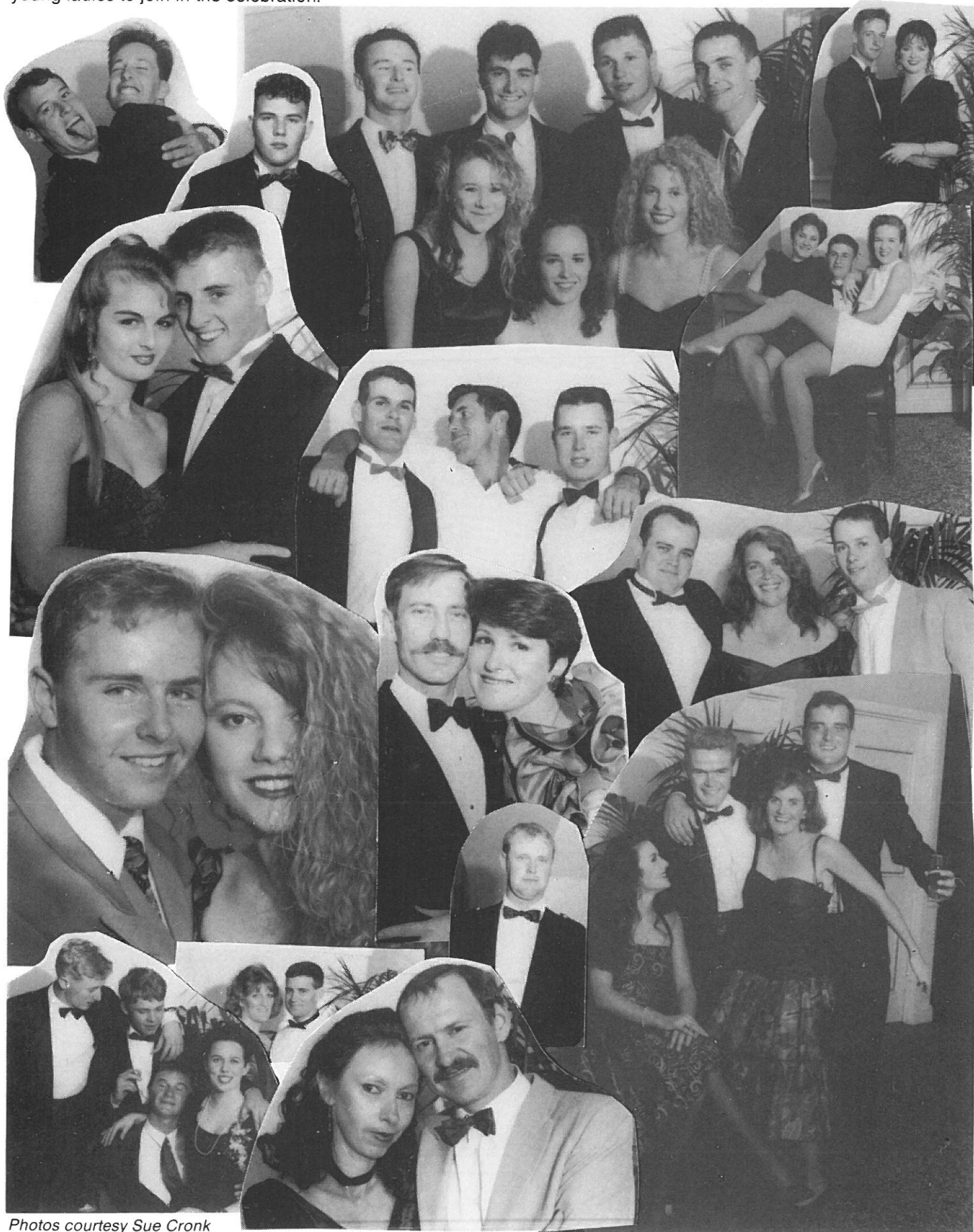


The winning team receiving their trophy from the Commanding Officer. From left to right: Pte G. Boon, Pte R. Collins, Cpl D. McIntee, Pte N. Bianco, Pte S. Dotter and Pte P. Isles.



THE BATTALION BIRTHDAY BALL — THURSDAY 8th OCTOBER 1992

The 8/9 RAR Battalion Birthday Ball was held at the Mayfair Crest Hotel to celebrate the birthday which is 31st October. It was a fantastic night attended by over 1000 Battalion members and their partners. Guests included approximately 75 ladies courtesy of Radio B105, who sent out an invitation on behalf of the Battalion to any interested young ladies to join in the celebration.



Photos courtesy Sue Cronk



PTE Danny Power and LCPL John Macarthur V on parade in 1992 in Field Order.



THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER CUP COMPETITION

The re-designing of the rules for the selection of the sections for the Duke of Gloucester Cup and Macdonald Cup for 1992 saw a fair competition produced at the Infantry Centre this year.

A Coy received the honour of providing two sections to train for the competition. With the Company still in Malaysia, they immediately acted on receipt of the notice and commenced training. What the Company lacked in training resources they made up for with enthusiasm, a will to win and a lot of ferocious training.

The team trained well and hard together and a mumbler was going around that Cpl Roach was applying pressure to break the mind and leg of Cpl Niddrie who was pushing for total honours and command of the chosen section. The Company arrived back in Australia in June and the chosen ones commenced to overcome their hurdle, the cold.

After some well earned standdown, the training squad regrouped at D Company and commenced to complete the arduous programme put before them in preparation for the assault on the cup. Training was non stop — physical one moment, mentally draining the next. If there was a shred of doubt in relation to a mans own ability, it was soon wiped away by the wit of one A. Hyder, esq.

As the last week came into view the momentum of the training began to produce some small chinks in the armour of the team. Sore muscles, damaged knees, sprained ankles and one case of severe gastric was threatening to reduce the Battalion's chance of "cleaning up" on the competition.

Eventually it was inevitable. Cpl Niddrie's bad knee failed him as he found it hard to apply any pressure let alone run or jump. However, nothing was lost and Cpl Roach who was relishing the lack of attention and publicity graciously acknowledged that the better man was now at the helm and with a quiver in his voice and a tear in his eye, which could only be recognised as elation, took over. As the smoke cleared from the training field and the sweat wiped from the eye, our fallen comrades looked up at us in disbelief. Pte Lewis had shed his last meal down the porcelain, Pte Jenkins had done likewise but retained the Butterworth bug as a memento. Lcpl Morrow was resigned to the fact that the Home of the Brave did not surf in July

and Pte Braddish and Grant savoured the experience and showed their own style of humbleness and relished the thought of being selected in '93.

Our team married up with the other Qld Battalions at Amberley and moved onto Singleton to commence a six day competition that would test their ability, endurance and mental attitude. The competition would be conducted over four phases. Phase One would consist of a variety of Infantry minor tactics; Phase Two a combination of improvisation and building skills; Phase Three night operations and Phase Four a combination obstacle course and shooting competition.

With the competition underway the CO, RSM and CSM D Company moved down to Singleton to check out the competition and hopefully get a chance to view the sections. However, this was not to be until the final day when each section would compete in Phase Four. When our sections started, they looked apprehensive but soon gathered momentum and quickly gained the attention of the spectators. They won the event and the admiration of onlookers and it was soon learned that they were the oldest section competing for the coveted trophy.

The competition was close which gave the indication that no single section had been "doctored". 8/9 RAR finished a credible fifth in the competition and showed to the rest of the Regiment their attitude of "never give up".

1993 will see the commencement of the first Ready Reserve section to compete for the cup and if the results from Canungra training are any indication then the unit carpenter had better start making the display cabinet to cater for both trophies.

Finally, all of us in the Battalion would like to say thank-you and well done for a fine effort to the team and reserves who gave it their all.

THE TEAM

Cpl GW Roach  
Lcpl DA McIntee  
Pte A Hyder  
Pte A Grundie  
Pte M Jaramaz  
Pte S Warren  
Pte M Poultney  
Pte D Griffith  
Pte G Johnson

RESERVES

Lcpl G Morrow  
Pte J Braddish  
Pte M Grant

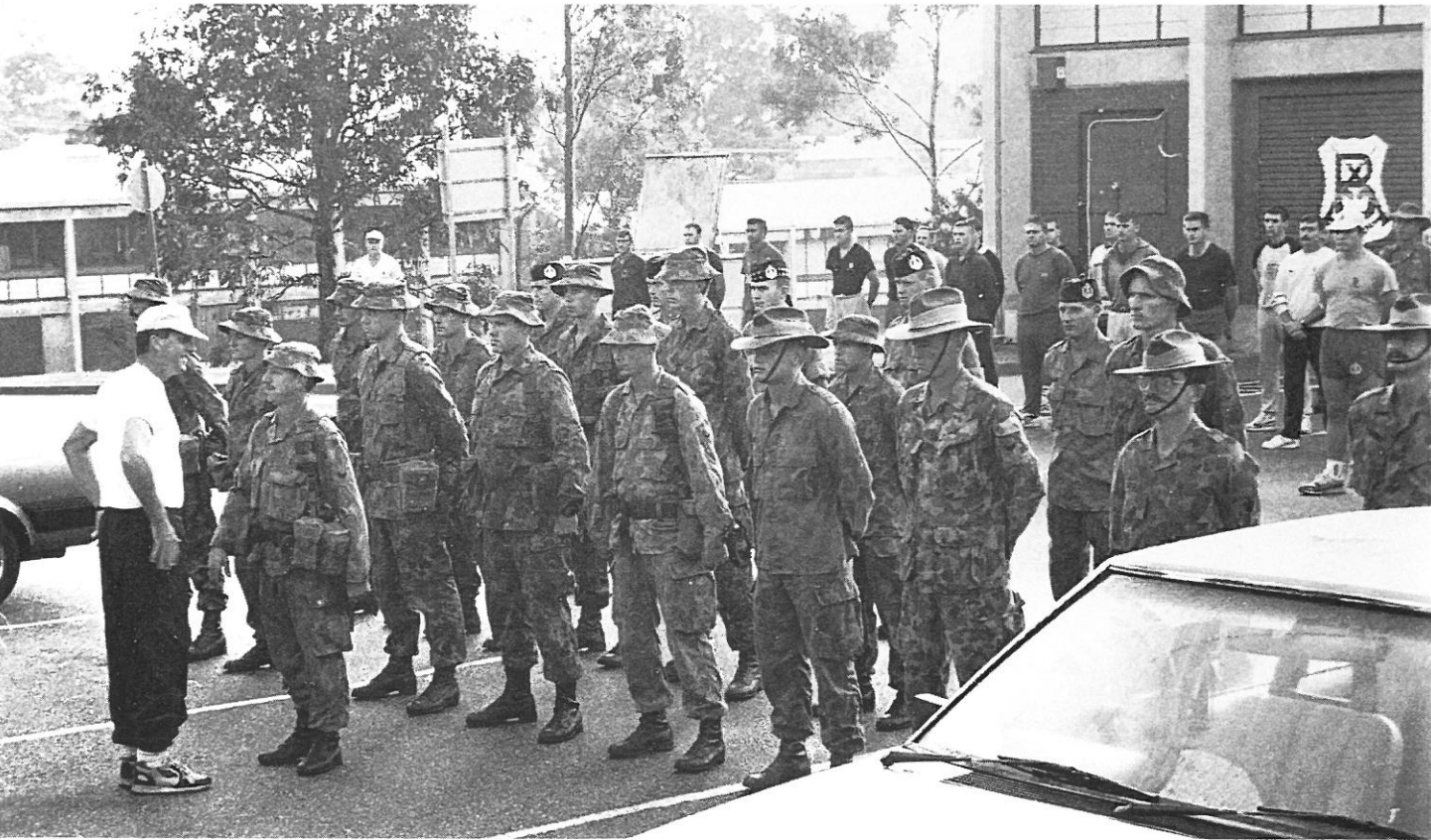
THE INJURED

Cpl S Niddrie  
Pte E Lewis  
Pte Jenkins

FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO THE CITY OF BRISBANE



The Right Honourable, The Lord Mayor, Alderman Jim Soorley and MajGen A.L. Morrison inspect men of A Coy on the occasion of the granting of the Freedom of Entry to the City of Brisbane to the 8th/9th Battalion in King George Square on Saturday, 10th October 1992.



LTCOL Leahy congratulates CPL Roach and the Battalion DOG squad on their return to Long Hai Barracks.



## QM PLATOON

Life in the QM store (at 8/9 not the Wardell St QM store) has, to say the least, been hectic over the past year with the normal unit activities and supplying equipment and accommodation stores for the Ready Reserve training. This extra activity has endeared us to all sections of the external supply system, especially to sections of 11 supply group (not favourably in some cases).

### Comments of the year:

"The steyr are coming!!" "When?" ... "yesterday." They did eventually arrive with two days to spare. Another coup for the supply system.

"The mag 58 will be ready in two weeks", 1 base workshop have promised, AGAIN!!

A new photocopier for BHQ. No problems." Bureaucracy struck again, maybe 1993 or 94.

"They want it when? That is an improvement in timing, they have given us 48 hours to get it this time."

The platoon strength has increased dramatically with the influx of Ready Reserve personnel and the ARA regimental members of the unit opting for the easy life at the Main Q. Welcome to you all and congratulations to all those who passed their storeman and driver's courses during the year.

Along with the increase in staff a number of our staff have been increasing their families. Congratulations to Ian and Tracy-Lee Hempstead, Craig and Jeanette Collins, Paul and Annette Hunt, Peter and Debbi Arthur and Neil and Angela Markie on their new additions to their families.

A final note, only one more stocktake to go for the year and a safe Christmas to all our valued customers out there.

## DELTA COMPANY

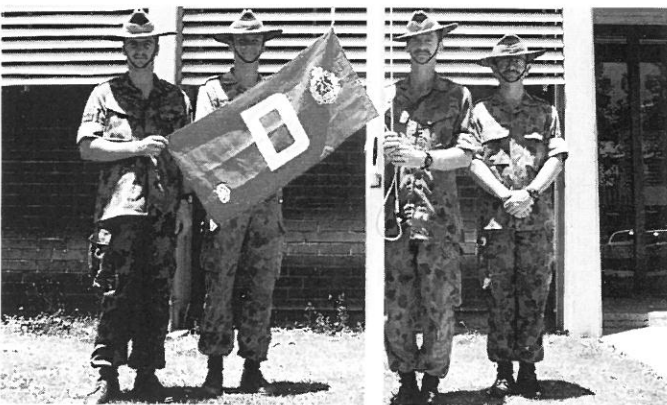
1992 has seen D Coy buzzing with a hive of activity. The year commenced on a positive note when the Coy conducted pre-course training for Subject Two Cpl in conjunction with exercise "Leaden Lift". It was during this training that the Coy was to be given the rare opportunity to participate in the mother of all, Claymore practices.

As the year started to develop, D Coy would come to be blessed with the "Creme de la creme" of soldiers from other Coys which made the men from D Coy feel a binded spirit with all our brothers in arms. The CSM seemed to have this mental telepathy thing with the RSM because he would always be heard saying behind closed doors: "Christ, I should be so lucky".

Sgt "Cyclone" Powell conceded that Cambodia, Western Sahara, PNG and South Africa would not fit in with his astronomers predictions, so after a quiet afternoon chit chat with his Guru, the Raja Surabaya Mandingo, he accepted Malaysia. And so it was to pass that the CSM would keep the flickering light burning in the window of uncertainty while the "Cyclone" became fleximus maximus with mighty A Coy.

Delta Company has experienced many changes in 1992 starting with choosing a new wall colour for the building, to being given the opportunity to become a half-way house for the needy. On 23 November 1992, D Coy will move to new premises one up the road. The Coy will be under new management, but please be assured that our professional approach and our extensive pam library goes to a deserving organisation.

From all the staff in D Coy, we wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a ready ramming New Year.



The reraising of D Coy on 23 November, 1992



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## A LETTER OF INTEREST 'MAJOR TO MAJOR'

The loan of specialist equipment both within and outside the unit is always a closely monitored process. On occasion, these items are sometimes returned in a damaged or unserviceable state. The normal course of action is an L and D report. In the example shown below, OC Support Company decided to try a "different tack!"

From: Major P.T. Roney

Support Company  
8/9 RAR  
Gallipoli Barracks  
MILPO ENOGGERA 4052

15th June 1992

Major S. Porter  
Officer Commanding  
Alpha Company  
8/9 RAR  
Gallipoli Barracks  
MILPO ENOGGERA 4052

My dear Porter

I refer you to the enclosed document which details the damage to one of the Colonel's rubber assault craft; towit, "shock" damage to the starboard side of the transom.

As I recall, you gave a solemn undertaking to ensure the welfare of this craft at the time it was despatched to you in Malaya. I now find it my dubious duty to inform the Colonel of the damage which, and I refer you to paragraph 3 of the enclosed, was not, from all appearances, occasioned by fair wear and tear.

I would expect that your Company coffers are bulging obscenely after your recent stint among the Plantations, and I have suggested as much to the 2IC. Robert, in the true spirit of fair play for which he is widely, and understandably, known heartily agrees that your Company Funds should meet the expense of repairs.

I feel I should warn you not to disgrace yourself by toadying to the Colonel, as I am sure he is as disappointed in the performance of your Company in this matter as I, sadly, am. In closing, should you fell ill-disposed to this recommended solution might I suggest the use of the Mess Webby as an honourable alternative.

Yours aye,  
RONEY

## CHAPLAINS ARTICLE

I am pleased to be invited to make a contribution to the "Ram Magazine". Over the last few years 8/9 RAR has played host to a number of Chaplains from the UK who are in Australia as part of exercise "Long Look". "Long Look" is an annual exchange between members of the Defence Forces of Australia, Great Britain and New Zealand. This year about 200 NCO's and officers swapped jobs for 4 months.

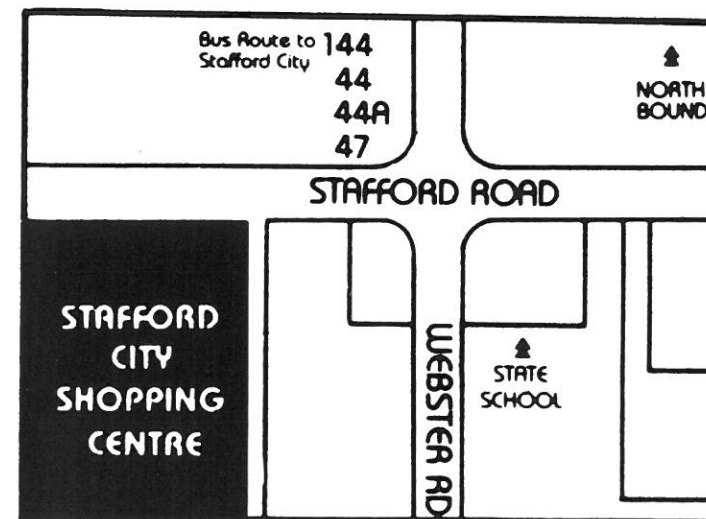
Being a chaplain to diggers isn't that much different to being a chaplain to grunts, but there are some differences. For instance, an invitation from 2 Platoon to spend a day walking in the Wide Bay Training Area was actually a quite rapid crossing of the area in pursuit of another one of the Platoons during a Company exercise. British soldiers, in my experience, don't usually dab so far as that — Lt Ben James' navigational skills were quite impressive. So thanks for the trip, fellah's!

Much has been said about the Ready Reserves. In fact as I visited other units in New South Wales and Victoria, it's been about the first topic of discussion with other members of the Army. 8/9 RAR is certainly blazing a path and, it seems from my point of view, is changing as a result. It was interesting talking to groups of Diggers from Support Company, again at the Wide Bay Training Area, and discovering people waiting to start University courses, or going into family businesses or looking for further opportunities for a military career, at the end of their Ready Reserve full-time commitment.

But for the minor differences I noticed, there is still a lot that I find familiar in the Battalion. Preparing parents for the baptism of their children, or young couples for their marriage, or listening to the agonies of those for whom life has become full of problems is much the same whichever side of the world you are on.

In the UK, I serve as chaplain to the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, which at the moment serves as The Royal Armoured Corps Training Regiment. I'm based in Catterick, North Yorkshire. It has been a great privilege to get to know 8/9 RAR and to serve, if only for a short time as its chaplain. I wish all members the best for the future, in whatever sphere they serve and God's blessing on all your endeavours.

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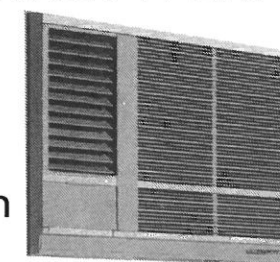
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LONG HAI DAY

8/9 RAR commemorated the 22nd anniversary of Long Hai Day with a parade on Wednesday, 4th March to remember the 8 R.A.R. soldiers that were killed during operations which began in 1969 on the Long Hai Hill of Vietnam.

Past and serving members, various associations and families attended the ceremony. A Company and Pipes and Drums formed the Guard of Honour as Chaplain Hosking conducted the service, with the Adjutant Capt. Herbert reading an account of the Long Hai operations.

After the service, the Battalion and visitors retired to the "Rams" for lunch and to reminisce about old times.



PTE Glen Millard on Long Hai Day — A true blue Australian Scotsman!

“BEHIND THE EIGHT BALL”  
THE 8RAR ASSOCIATION

Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your magazine. Firstly, we would like to give our best wishes to all the new soldiers that have marched into the 8th/9th Battalion of which I guess most of these would be Ready Reserve soldiers. You have marched into a fine Battalion, and when you finally do leave it, you will be able to say you were proud to be a part of that team. Remember, you will get out of it what you put into it. Our members look forward to meeting up with you at Long Hai Day and other functions we attend.

The 1992 year has been another big one for the Association. Our first major event on the 28th February, was the 22nd anniversary of the Battle of Long Hai. The Honour Guard, supplied by A Coy performed to the normal high standard we are now used to seeing. A new addition to the ceremony was the Lone Piper playing the Lament whilst straddling the roof of the building in a steady breeze. I think he was more concerned about the many ladies below finding out what 8/9RAR Pipers don't wear under their kilts than being blown off the roof. After the ceremony we all adjourned to the Rams Retreat for lunch and a few drinks with the members of the Battalion. We thank you all for another final Long Hai Day and your continued support. Congratulations to Pte John "Stan" Macarthur on his promotion to LCpl.

Our next activity was of course Anzac Day, starting off with the Dawn Service held at 8/9RAR, which is a big event on its own, and more members continue to attend the service each year. This was

followed by the 'through the city', and then off to the RAR Association organised Battalion Get Together at the Waterloo Hotel — again well organised and run by their dedicated team. Then as usual, a few of us made it back to the starting line, 8/9RAR booze, for a final thirst quencher and a yarn.

This year the 8RAR birthday, the 8th of the 8th, was held at the "Plough Inn" at South Bank for the first time. About 70 members and their wives were present and the hotel made us very welcome and a great day was had by all. Members voted unanimously to make the "Plough Inn" our future venue for the Birthday Bash. All members of 8/9RAR are most welcome to attend these functions, and we would hope to see some of you along next year on the 8th of the 8th.

Of course, the ultimate event for the year was the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Dedication on the 3rd October in Canberra, attended by many thousands of Vietnam Veterans from all units that served there, and their families. The weekend started with a drink at the Canberra Workers Club on the Friday night followed by the dawn service the next morning.

After the service everyone met at the assembly area ready for the march with the 8RAR contingent led by our CO from Vietnam, LtCol Keith O'Neill. It was a very proud and stirring moment for all concerned. A member of my Platoon, Pte Dutchy Veldkamp from SA, was attending his first meeting with his old mates after being medivacced back to Australia in 1970 after losing a leg and forearm. Nearing the end of the march, which was hard going for Dutchy, a member of the AATTV with his Green Jacket and beret on and wearing a string of medals, saluted Dutchy for a job well done. Dutchy felt a million dollars when I told him that Keith Payne VC had just saluted him. From Dawn till then had been a great event, but the night was still to come. At 1900hr, 315 members and their wives and families attended our Association Memorial Dedication Dinner at the Canberra Workers Club. It was a great night, great service and a great dinner. Attending, we had MajGen Jeffery, MajGen Clunies Ross, Col Joe Langtry, and Col Keith O'Neill, Father Stan Hessey, and our old Salvo from Vietnam Maj Don Woodland, plus many of our old Battalion celebrities.

But the greatest thing of all at the dinner was when the Queens and Regimental Colours of the 8th Battalion were marched in and placed in position on the stage. The Colour Party supplied by 8/9RAR looked splendid in their mess dress. When the faultless procedure was over, all 315 members gave a resounding applause in appreciation, the Colour Party then joined our members for Dinner. Many of our soldiers had never actually seen the colours whilst serving with the Battalion, some were reinforcements, some came home early, or left after our tour finished, therefore never marched on a parade with the colours, this was their first time. Once the dinner was over, everyone got down to some serious yarning over a beer.

On the Sunday morning those who could make it attended the Church Service, many went to look at the Memorial, which is a splend structure, photographs do not really do it justice. A lot started returning to their homes, the rest of us went to the concert. It was wet, muddy and cold, but fantastic and most didn't give a damn about the weather in the end, they just sang along with the crowd to finish off a fabulous and memorable few days of ones life.

The following weekend 8/9RAR were back in the news, when they were given THE PRIVILEGE OF FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO THE CITY OF BRISBANE. A few of our members were present to watch the ceremony in King George Square and then see the Battalion take up their right to march through the city. Another great day, and something that adds to the building of cherished traditions in a unit, well done!

Finally, the committees and all members of the 8RAR Association would like to thank your Commanding Officer, LTCOL Peter Leahy for allowing the colours to go to Canberra, it was his initial request to higher up that got the ball rolling, and allowed all Battalion's colours to be involved in the Dedication. We would also like to thank the Adjutant, RSM, Chief Clerk and all members of the Battalion for their support and assistance throughout the year.

The GREY EIGHT wishes all Ranks and their families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year, Good Soldiering,

Keep your heads down.

Eroll Weatherall, Secretary, 8RAR Association

THE 8RAR COLOUR PARTY — SUPPLIED BY 8/9 RAR

Lt Matt Clarke	8 RAR	Queens Colour
Lt Brendan Cox	8RAR	Regimental Colour
WO2 Ron Lloyd	8RAR	Senior Escort
SSgt Phil Williams	8RAR	Escort
SSgt Bill Garrett	8RAR	Escort

TRANSPORT PLATOON

The year has been a hectic one for Transport Platoon. It began with our task to support the Battalion at Wide Bay whilst concurrently running a restricted T109 course.

The trip was a bad one for Micky Mau because it was a terrible crab season and he only had three pots, however this didn't stop him and his crabbing apprentice — the Toco, from enjoying the occasional oyster and crab leg. The remainder of the course did it hard swimming at Rainbow Beach, Hervey Bay and Bundaberg, whilst resting from long hours at the wheel on road runs.

Upon returning to Enoggera, we sent a detachment under Cpl Clayton off to brave the terror of South-East Asia. Lt Lynch wanted to go as a driver but unfortunately the Hong Kong Bar Cheers and the wonders of Thailand were left to the likes of Pte "Acco" Aitkens, Pte Micky Mau, Pte Beatie Bailek, Pte Mario Hropic and their 2IC Lcpl Pearce.

Left to hold the fort were Lt Lynch, Sgt Brown, Cpl Ryan, Lcpl Hill, Pte Meredith, Pte Stancombe, Pte Beer, Pte Oades, Pte McMahon



QM PLATOON



and Pte Toone. The drivers worked long hard hours in support of the RRes training until the boys returned from Club Malaysia.

From then on things became a lot easier as the Platoon kept the Battalion moving. In Aug/Sept we received our reinforcements in the form of Ready Reservists and trained them all with a T109 course. With their licences they have begun to earn their bread and butter as we prepare for the Battalion Exercise "Ready Ram" at SWBTA.

As we say welcome to our new Ready Reserve members we also say farewell to Lcpl Pearce — back to true grunting, Pte McMahon, Pte Beer and Pte "Mountain-Man" Meredith who have joined the legions of civies. Also we say farewell at the end of the year to Lt Lynch and Cpl Clayton on postings and Pte Bailek-civy (dirty word) and Pte Hropic on an extended holiday.

And from all of Transport Platoon to the uninitiated peasants out there who have never felt the throb of a big turbo-charged Mog under their command or revelled in the freedom of the open road as the wind rushes through your hair, or sat quietly contented at the red light six feet above the little blonde piece in the mini skirt driving the red convertible Ferrari . . . .

KEEP ON TRUCKING!



## CATERING PLATOON

1992 was no different from 1991. Just as busy with lots of new faces in front of and behind the Bain-Maries.

Rifle Company Butterworth was our main overseas commitment this year with Sgt Palmer, Cpl Martin and Pte Antonie. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves in the Malaysian sun, surf, nightlife and Pulada.

- Wo2 Gant — "H...e...llo...43 years old and no grey hairs!"
- Sgt Cernik — Bde offrs mess will need shelving and awnings for the kitchen before 1993. Thanks.
- Sgt Costello — "I love Brisbane, post me out and I'll put in my discharge!"
- Sgt Palmer — Retiring next year and investing his commutation in the "Brook" and his Telecom bill from Malaysia
- Sgt Wong — Posted Cabarlah-pogo for 3 years. "I'll miss those functions Mess secretary."
- Cpl Benstead — Will definately not have anymore babies.
- Cpl Darke — We'd love him to work up at the Field Store indefinately. Current mission: Bn Birthday Cake.
- Cpl Hall — On Bn ledger. "Yip yah! I'm getting posted — to 6RAR!"
- Cpl Jarvis — He doesn't exist? A steward in the Bde offrs mess — who will be on Ex Ready Ram!
- Cpl Martin — Loves taking photo's, but misplaces the camera before the film gets developed. Possible posting to Cambodia — good luck!
- Cpl Payne — Looking forward to "Ready Ram", because he won't be here next year — LWOP.
- LCpl Blakey — Congrats on passing Sub 1 and Sub 4.
- LCpl Reynolds — Arnold Stallones bro loves bush. He needs at least half a truck for accessories though!

- Pte Antonie — "Sir, could I go bush with A coy? or B, C, Spt, 2/14QMI. Anyone . . . just pick me!"
- Pte Bennett — On standby for Cambodia — he can't wait!
- Pte Buckley — He used to be in 1 Fd Regt, but he is especially happy in Catr pl — Oh, yes he is!
- Pte Cummins — Trying hard not to stand on his . . . head! "Sarge, could we take 6 Fire extinguishers on that Coy Ex?"
- Pte Jones — Hypo — He is built for speed not comfort — just add sugar and watch him go.
- Pte Shepherd — Congrats on your recent marriage. Baby about this time next year?
- Pte Skeggs — Congrats on your marriage. Don't forget—the tower at the end of the bitumen—on top of the hill—twice.
- Pte Forno — Ration Clerk. Congratulations on your marriage to Peggy and birth of your second child.
- Pte Evans — Ex P's and D's. "Sorry Sarge, I'm only a digger."
- Pte Harris — Ex Rifleman, promoted to Pte Cook.

Postings out for 1992 include Sgt Baldrey, Cpl Maroske, Pte Smith, Pte Grant, Cpl Collins — discharged.

The Bn ball will be the highlight of the year for the PI because it is the one day when we can put our feet up, tools down, and relax and enjoy somebody else's cooking.

The Chefs have been heavily committed this year with minimum staff, long hours and short notice to move anywhere on Exercises, etc, etc, etc. They have performed extremely well and are anticipating more challenges in 1993.

"We sustain".

## ANZAC DAY

Anzac Day started early once again in 1992 for the Battalion, with the usual 4:30 a.m. traditional cup of Rum and Coffee. This was followed by the dawn service, held in the vicinity of BHQ, which involved the Battalion and association members from the 8 RAR, 9 RAR, 2/8 Bn, 9 Bn, RAR Association and the RSL.

After breakfast the Battalion loaded onto a troop train for the

Annual ANZAC Day march through the city centre. This year's march had a significant difference from previous marches with the participation of the Ready Reserve and the introduction of the Austeyr rifle into the parade as opposed to the SLR. The parade this year saw one of the largest turnouts in recent years by the people of Brisbane.

After it was all over, it was back to the RAM's for refreshing ales and major betting on the Crown and Anchor table and the Two-Up.



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# 9RAR ASSOCIATION

- 1992 has been a landmark year for notable achievements.
- After 23 years we finally published our Vietnam Tour Book, "On Active Service", and
  - Our national reunion coincided with the Vietnam War Memorial unveiling.
- Both events were outstanding successes.

## THE BOOK

The Book launch at our 'Regimental home', 8/9RAR was held at the Sergeant's Mess on 26 September. Our first CO — Alan Morrison with the Minister for Veterans Affairs, Mr Ben Humphries, officiated.

We were appreciative of the presence of serving officers and NCOs of 8/9RAR at this event. It is a warm feeling of camaraderie to know that "old" soldiers can still mix freely and exchange stories with the younger soldiers.

Our Book is a reminiscent tour of 9RAR in Vietnam from its inception in Woodside to preparation for active service, movement to Vietnam and activities both behind and beyond the wire at Nui Dat. Its contents, in words, maps and photographs will spark many memories, even more than the limitation of space available in the Book's pages.

We would hope that the serving soldiers of 8/9RAR who purchase the

Book from the Regimental Institute will feel the spirit of an active service experience and more keenly understand their unit's roots.

## NATIONAL REUNION

What can be said about the National Reunion other than memorable: the weekend went faster than one could imagine. A large contingent of Queenslanders joined their mates from other States in what was a joyous and emotional occasion. Each event provided its own highlights:

- the unit smoko and the first sight of many men not seen since Vietnam.
- the dawn service and the sight and sound of the lone HUEY passing overhead.
- the memorial unveiling.
- the march past.
- the "formal dinner, and for many the sight of 9RAR's Colours: our unit colours were not presented until after our return from Vietnam.
- the memorial service at the Changi Chapel, Duntroon and how the rain stayed away till its end.
- the concert: not even the rain could dampen the human spirit.

Welcome home.

Our Association acknowledges with appreciation the part played by 8/9RAR in keeping our military spirits alive. Thank you.

Ted Chitham



The RAR Book launch was attended by, from left to right: Jock McKay, Jock Gordon, Ted Chitham, Benny Morgan, Doug Dobbin, Rod Slater and Graham Dugdale.

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## MEDICAL PLATOON

Well, what an interesting year 1992 has been for medical platoon. The year started off with some new faces appearing in the RAP. CPL C. Armstrong was replaced by CPL Rod Devries. However, on the way to 8/9, Rod ended up in Cambodia wearing the UN beret (lucky guy). CPL B. Butler was replaced by CPL Peter Doyle from the Survey Regiment. SGT B. Mundy was replaced by SGT S. Pierce from 11 FD AMB. It is interesting to note that SGT Brian Mundy will be back in 1993, moving in to the RAP SSGT position at 8/9.

Some of the old faces still remaining in the RAP this year include:

- RMO. MAJ C. Shearing — The driving force behind the platoon.
- SSGT Lark — Going to Kapooka in 1993.
- CPL (It's a boy! new family addition) Eric Guttridge — Still catching vermin after six months long service leave.
- CPL Richard Gosztyla — "I will try and keep out of the RAP SSGT's hair this week", and
- LCPL Chris Stindl — Body beautiful.

Some of the highlights for the medical staff in 1993 have included:

Fixing broken ready reserve soldiers during their IET training. Especially after the obstacle course.

Watching Cpl Guttridge trying to catch feral cats under the SGT's Mess. Then getting them out of the cage without losing the shirt off his back.

Watching someone trying to make the RMO smile.

Taking bets on how many IET soldiers would faint during inoculation parades.

Watching SGT Pierce conduct both parachute and overseas medicals by getting platoon groups to do the chicken dance. He justifies this by saying: "It tests their musculoskeletal system". Sure it does?

Listening to the RSMs ideas on how to reduce numbers attending sick parades.

Seeing how long it takes the hair to grow back on LCPL Stindl's legs after he has had them waxed.

Competing in the "Simpson Efficiency Stretcher Race" with a combined team of both 6 and 8/9 RAR medics and P & D's; and

Watching someone tell the RMO that he had to dig in.

Well, although the year is not quite over, medical platoon will still be there, with Pipe and Drums, ready to save a life.

## CATERING PLATOON





## ADMIN COMPANY

Admin Coy has had a very busy year providing high quality, all round administrative support to the Battalion. The implementation of the RRES has had its moments but all in all it has been an interesting and challenging experience.

To all those soldiers leaving the Coy, thank you and best of luck in the future; and to all those soldiers who have recently marched into the Coy, welcome to the force! Admin Coy wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## TECH SPT PLATOON

The year started off with only a few of the old faces from '91 remaining. These were Sully, Benny, Bill, Bart and Hosko. The new boys on the block are:

ASM — Greg Weston (alias Silver and Tex)  
Jason Murphy (Rugby today, Toowoomba tomorrow)  
Brad Hampson (who needs a car when I've got crutches)  
Phil Deighton (the hair matches the code of football)  
Mark Coxhedge (wheel wire)  
Gene Thomas (who needs a ladder)  
Norm Voogd (with a name like that he has got to come from Vic.)  
Terry Campbell

The years activities started off with normal shake down exercise to Wide Bay Training Area where we had a chance to fire some

weapons not usually available to RAEME soldiers. Besides our normal bush work, other high points of the exercise were the movies, Rainbow Beach and the great indoor cricket challenge. Throughout the year we have been kept busy supporting the Bn in vehicle and weapon repairs to enable them to continue their very busy training programme. Some of the major points or activities throughout the year were:

1. Bart and Hosko departing with A Coy for Butterworth.
2. Benny winning his fight at the Bn boxing night.
3. The grounding of all the Bn Mag 58's and Landrovers in 2 days with the CO wanting to know what happens on day 3.
4. Sully coaching the Bn Rugby side to the grand final.
5. Benny and Dragon's telephone conversations.
6. The R.Q. and Coxy's typing classes.

In all, 1992 has been a good year for Tech Spt and the Bn and we would like to thank everybody for their support. We hope you and your families have a safe and Merry Christmas. See you all in '93.



## 2nd/8th AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

With 1992 drawing to a close, there is plenty to look back on.

It is now ten years since our branch affiliated with the 8/9th under an arrangement entered into with the then Commanding Officer, Lt Col Rollo Brett and sustained so harmoniously ever since. If there is a sad note to consider, it is the fact that we have lost a number of our members who attended that inaugural meeting in February 1992. On the other hand, we have been able to welcome some new members who have either discovered us or have been discovered after so many years.

1992 is also a year of anniversaries for so many A.I.F. and Militia units. 1942 saw the repulse of the Japanese at Kokoda and Milne Bay. It saw in the months earlier the loss of our 8th Division. It saw the success by the 9th Division at Alamein in the many encounters between July and November. It saw the return to Australia from the Middle East of the 6th and 7th Divisions but not without diversions en route with tragic losses to the 7th Division units put ashore at Java.

Our Battalion and the rest of the 19th Brigade did get back and after disembarkation leave (for some, but not all) came the overland movement to the Northern Territory in preparation for a possible Japanese landing. It was to be more than two years before the Battalion with the whole of the 6th Division embarked for what was to be the last campaign on the North West Coast of New Guinea, terminating with Japanese surrender in August 1945.

During the year, we have been privileged to be part of the 8/9th's activities, notably the commemoration of the Battle of Long Hai in South Vietnam, on the 28th February and on Anzac Day, 25th April. As usual, the 1st Division and particularly the 8/9th looked very good on the Anzac Day parade — keeping up the old tradition, no less. We congratulate the 8/9th on their gaining the FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO THE CITY OF BRISBANE on Saturday 10th October. The turn-out, bearing and drill was exceptional. Very well done, 8/9th.

At our Branch Annual General Meeting in April, the following were elected:

President: Bruce Flude  
Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Cavanagh  
Committee: 8/9th — Major Rob Johnson 2IC  
WO1 Stan Paulson RSM  
2/8th — General Behan, Cliff Eustace,  
Roland Griffiths-Marsh, MM.

Vice President: Arthur Holden.

We look forward to our continuing relationship with the 8/9th in their new role as a Ready Reserve Battalion and record our appreciation for the co-operation provided at all levels.

*Bruce Flude, President*

## UNTAC

On Long Hai day this year, four soldiers from 8/9 RAR were selected to join the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cambodia. They were:

Sgt Hill Pte Tyack, and  
Cpl Patterson Pte Donohue.

After pre-deployment training at 2 CER and pre-embarkation leave, the contingent arrived in the capital of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, on 10 June. They spent 20 days in the capital acclimatising and receiving briefings before actually deploying to their posts. At that point they were scattered to the four winds. Sgt Hill remained in Phnom Penh where he is currently Acting CSM for Sector 9. Cpl Patterson is at Takev in the South Eastern part of Cambodia. Pte Tyack was sent to Check Point Charlie Victor, on the Cambodian-Vietnamese border. Pte Donohue did best of all, first being posted to Poulo Panjang, a tiny island hundreds of miles out in the Gulf of Siam, and then being sent to Check Point Charlie Lima on the border with Laos.

Life on the border check points is lonely and tedious. Their job is to check all vehicles and personnel moving into Cambodia and ensure no troops or weapons are entering the country. Pte Tyack (Tick Tack) acts as signaller to five UN observers; two from India, and one each from Russia, Tunisia and France. The language difficulties for the signallers must be quite a challenge.

Needless to say, they are all looking forward to getting back to Australia at the end of the tour. We wish them all well for the rest of the tour.

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## ALPHA COMPANY

1992 marks the final year of A Coy 8/9 RAR as a regular sub-unit and the last rifle company in 8/9 RAR to be ARA. It has been good to see that the Company has achieved so much in 1992 and upheld all of the standards and traditions of the Battalion in a year of transition.

The year started with a week of TEWTS and Officer/NCO training in Wide Bay prior to Exercise Leaden Lift. The highlight of the exercise, the 20 km route march at night in foul conditions gave a big hint to members of A Company as to what MAJ (GREEN) Porter enjoys as recreation and set the standard for the rest of the year.

On 4 March the Company deployed to Rifle Company Butterworth for what was the highlight of the year. Certainly our three months in Malaysia could not be described as uneventful. Military activities included close country training and live firing at Pulada, fighting on fortified objectives and MOUT training in Singapore, and a joint exercise with 16 RMR in Sabah (who could forget Hill 770).

Adventure training in Malaysia involved a three day raft race, watermanship training, canoeing and a stroll up Mount Kinabalu, the highest mountain in South East Asia. We did have some time for leave though, Singapore and Thailand both benefitting from the cultural experience of A Company tourists.

Our time in Malaysia was quoted as: "The best tour I've been on", by those on their second or third tour. Unfortunately, all good things come to an end and the 8th of June found us once again back in Australia.

After a weekend off (what's a weekend?), we continued with Steyr Training and range practices and the low level defence of Banyo.

Next up was a Company exercise at Mt Mee. Did I say Mt Mee? I meant Wide Bay (well, at least we got a weekend). Platoon on

Platoon patrols saw valuable training and Platoon Commanders thinking independently, i.e. all thinking that their platoon had beaten the others.

After some welcome stand-down and a look in at Exercise Ronny Ram, A Coy became The 801 Raider Battalion and deployed to SWBTA to support 11 Bde on Exercise Silken Venture. Despite numerous victories including the capture of the Brigade CP and the destruction of all the vital assets the 801st was finally defeated. The Company then assisted with the fire power demonstration including a demo on 'How to receive an air burst 105 mm round on your company position'. Some training at Sabina Point another fire power demo and the Company was back for the Section Mil Skills Competition.

A Coy rounded off the years training with some outstanding results. An impressive performance on section Mil Skills saw us take 1st, 2nd and 4th positions and rate highly throughout the Battalion. 2 PL won the PL attack competition and the Company showed on Ready Ram what it is capable of. The only Company to complete the horror stomp in Clinton and achieve victory rather than annihilation on the final attacks.

This year has been busy, rewarding and we have 'Achieved the Aim'. Our thanks from the OC and men of A Company for the support we have received throughout the year from Cookmaster and his team, the enthusiastic RMO, the medics, P&Ds and all others who helped us to 'Achieve the Aim'.

### Quotes:

MAJ Porter: "I wish I'd spent my 21st birthday in the J."

CAPT Hanson: "Mr Go taught me everything I know".

"I say, one of the Officers has been bitten."

WO Irving: "Anybody want a carton of St Kilda."

PTE Heaton: "Did I tell you about the one when I was a bikie and ...."



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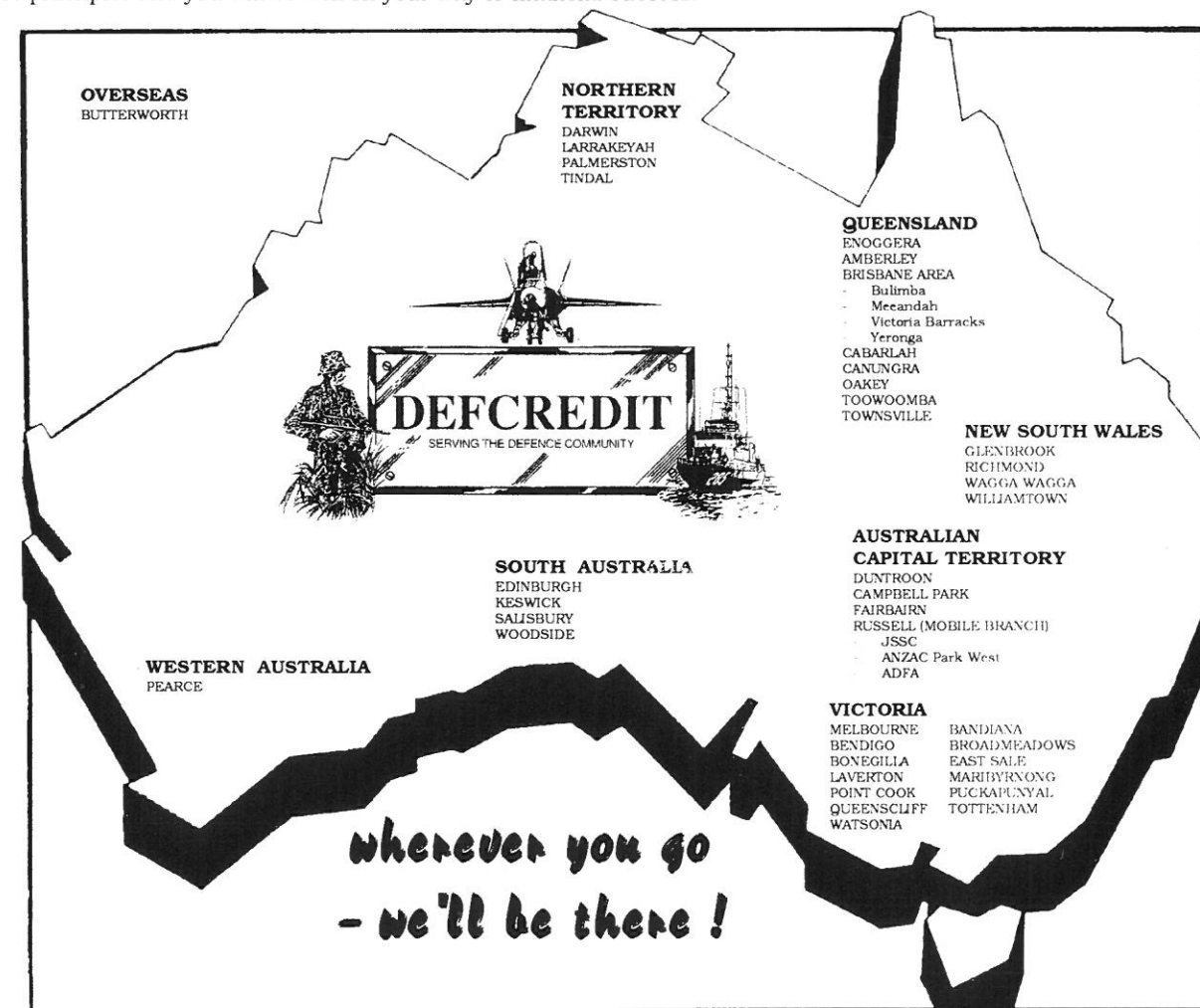
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SIGNALS PLATOON — COMMS LORDS

1992 began with the RSO heading to the NT for 4 months, and the Platoon conducting a shortened sigs course. 36 eager apprentice sigs were semi-baked and returned to A Company as Platoon operators. Exercise Leaden Lift quickly followed as Pte Wilson's attraction to the electrical side nature became obvious.

After losing some of the team to Cambodia, including Hilly, Banjo, Tick Tack and Pte (who's that lid?) Donohue, the remainder of the Platoon settled into a couple of months of inter-unit commitments and sig support to the IET courses.

The dreaded day of return of our "operational UN veterans" finally arrived and after much "medal viewing" and many "camel stories", Lcpl "Agro" Parker and Lcpl "Plumbob" Cooney resigned themselves to relearning the basics.

The influx of the Ready Reserve permeated the dark world of the black art of signals, necessitating yet another course. After juggling duties, parades and the occasional lesson, eleven new muppets are discovering the joys of the electro-magnetic spectrum.

The year is now accelerating with various Battalion exercises and the Platoon now switches into "scapecoat" mode. Exercise Ronnie Ram was exciting for the fact that the Battalion at one stage thought they were being assaulted by the line section (it's amazing how quickly line can be recovered when it's time to eat!). Ready Ram in SWBTA followed by yet another Regt Sig course at Wacol rounds up the rest of the year. The Platoon now has more "gongs" in it than the rest of the Battalion put together and if anyone would like to hear a few "warries" you'll find us in the Comms Lords Temple.



Things we'd like to see in '93

- 2IC A Coy change batteries in a croaker.
- Agro and Plumbob lose all ten sets of medals.
- A Platoon radio Sgt.
- Pte Chandler with his own girlfriend.
- Someone take a photo of a bunyip.
- The Army special testing unit (ASTU) in Dalby.

Things we don't want to see in '93

- Pte Peters naked.
- Pte Steele talking on the radio.

The Team

- RSO — "Come on lads, it's a team effort".  
Cpl Chadwick — "I'm outa here!"  
Cpl Bishop — "Have you used your Sun Silk protective treatment?"  
Lcpl Penfold — "Don't bother me with codes".  
Lcpl Cooney — "... Ahh, Germany!"  
Lcpl Parker — "... When I was in the Sahara (put your head down)".  
Pte Boggard — "Who are we Klinge?"  
Pte Tansey — "Elvis is alive".  
Pte Chandler — "Ask Rossy".  
Pte Klinge — "I'll think your picking on me corporal".  
Pte Boundy — "... we do Chuckky we do!"  
Pte Reeves — Jeff Fenecks sparing partner.  
Pte Vizer — "Don't give me the codes, I don't want them!"  
Pte Meers — Wonder twin 1.  
Pte Steele — The dancing rocket scientist.  
Pte Ross — "Ask Chandler".  
Pte Westendorf — "What can we say".  
Pte Wilson — "I really am a good driver, trust me".  
Pte Peters — "My wife is soooo faaaaat!"  
Pte Smithson — Wonder Twin 2.

1 PLATOON

1 Platoon started with a bang on ex Leaden Lift as Carly had a rest from breathing, while the rest of the platoon increased their breathing rate carrying him out of exercise. This was somewhat of an omen on the rest of the year for 1 Platoon.

Malaysia came around before long and as soon as we said goodbye to the Battalion, the girls and the pit we gave a cheery hello to the Malays, the ladies and the Hong Kong bar. It started with a tour of Penang visiting various temples, monkey zoo's and Pte Allen practising some horizontal break dancing to receive a free trip back to Australia.

The platoon performed well at Singapore with Wal and llesy giving the RMO a bit of stitching practice. The platoon night out at Bogis Street saw Richo implement the egg stealing club and the creation of the 1 Platoon band. The trip concluded with a grand finale as Thomo dived in front of a 7.62 mm for another free trip home via a 2 week holiday with the Sarge in Singapore.

Upon our return from Malaysia and after a weeks stand-down, we trained with a vengeance. Banyo created some gruelling endurance



2 PLATOON



work and the shoot at Greenbank was physical murder. The ladies of the Valley gave a most enjoyable platoon function, leaving Bourkey with a lot more shaving cream than he needed for the morning role call. The trip to Mt Byron/Wide Bay turned into the usual 1 Platoon defeats 2 Platoon, while love platoon watched and threw stones.

As the 1st XV grand final was approaching, the platoon had to fend without the Boss, Carly, Richo and various other Rugby fanatics, but the worst loss by far was Eric Horst Gunter who left us for the land of the chef.

Enemy at Shoalwater gave us a professional look at the general reserve. 1 Platoon dominated the killing tables with infinite KIA's, WIA's, demolished aeroplanes, damaged vehicles and destroyed echelons. Sgt Slaughter created a brilliant rescue mission on Trigger, who met them at the gate. In his angered state, Sarge captured two enemy who were subsequently shot trying to escape.

The ball was met with enthusiasm as half the platoon grabbed their last minute B105 Dial A Date's. The most successful was Aaron whose date only came to find her Ready Reserve boyfriend.

Overall, the year has been an enjoyable time, many standards have been achieved and many morales destroyed. We look forward to our many and varied postings next year.



## 2 PLATOON

Two Platoon has had a very good year involving an overseas trip, varied training and its fair share of humorous instances.

The platoon has many varied personalities, these include our internal confectioner Pte "KIT KAT" Meager and Pte "H" Hyder the resident "HAVE A CHAT", talk under water with a mouth full of marbles type.

The year commenced at WBTA on Exercise Leaden Lift where the platoon was moulded for our trip to Malaysia in early March. Most of this exercise was spent with Pte "HEATO" Heaton discussing his exploits prior to joining the Army and opening our eyes to the life and times of a Biker.

Before we knew it, the platoon was enjoying the oriental lifestyle of Rifle Coy Butterworth. By this time Hyder was trying to entice a few partners into going into a business involving bars selling Aussie wines, the first bar in the franchise to be opened in Penang. NO TAKERS.

The boss Lt "Nice buns bungee jump" Paine commanded the platoon during the tour. Apparently he became quite partial to some loaves of bread on a range at Pulada. With his buns in Phuket and his bread in Pulada, he is considering opening a bakery.

Singapore was enjoyed by all, although Pte "Louey" Lewis was considering himself lucky to be saved from the clutches of some illegal fishermen by a woman who resembles a Sumo wrestler with more tattoos than Meags.

The platoon returned to Australia intact and was involved in company exercises, and who could forget the support to the 11th Brigade.

### Times to remember from 1992:

1. The elephant footprint in the Sarge's pack.
2. The "Schlong of Patong" or the "Butcher of Phuket" Pte Jarius.
3. Cpl Roach using sheets instead of paper.
4. "Huddle Street", will it happen again?

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## 3 PLATOON

1992 kicked off for Three Platoon with Exercise Leaden Lift at WBTA. With a number of new faces in the platoon, this period was used to hone individual soldier skills and develop section SOPs for our upcoming deployment to Malaysia. The OC's 20 km death march in the rain was a valuable and enjoyable activity to finish off our bush phase on this occasion.

From March to June, the platoon left their mark all over South East Asia as part of the Rifle Company at Butterworth. The patrol from hell was a notable event from our time in Sabah as was the morning when our Malaysian brothers in arms mistook a "field toilet" for a fighting bay when they occupied our platoon position. Luckily, the Sarge was on hand with his diplomatic and tolerant nature to direct the Asian gentlemen to the proper pits in our perimeter. From those beautiful ladies Needham and Merch dragged home in Bangkok, to

Macca and Rhino's drinking binges in Phuket, there can be little doubt that Three Platoon went a long way in improving international relations between our Asian brothers and Australia.

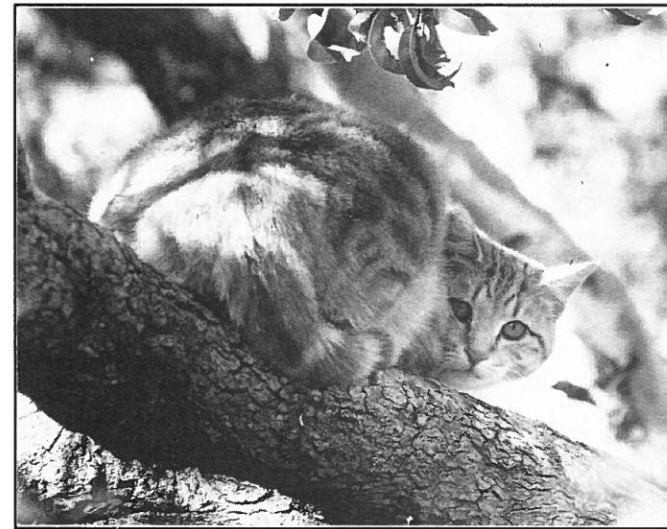
Training continued upon our return to Australia as we hurled ourselves into a low level operations scenario at Banyo. Why those warehouses needed protecting is beyond us, but it served as a good example of just how exciting low level operations can be.

Following the debacle at Mt Byron, the platoon deployed to WBTA to go on independent platoon operations as part of the company. It was a pleasure to hear 1 and 2 Platoon blunder around the AO being shot to pieces (so much so that a certain platoon had to go non-tac for a night) while Three Platoon was free to patrol at will through the battlefield.

1992 was another excellent year for Three Platoon and marks the end of our time as a regular rifle platoon. To all our soldiers who served with the platoon this year, well done and good soldiering for wherever you may be posted next year.



# Death for the silent invaders



A FERAL cat in a coolibah tree in the Diamantina yesterday, seconds before it was shot down.

By **BRIAN WILLIAMS**  
on the Diamantina River

ARMY sharpshooters have killed 420 feral cats in just three days in Queensland's far west.

A Royal Australian Regiment unit was called in to tackle the feral cat plague which is decimating native species.

The high number of kills has proved what scientists and bushmen have said for years — feral cat numbers are out of control.

Ten sharpshooters were ordered last week.

We joined them on their last day on the open Mitchell grass plains along the Diamantina River.

About 10km from the soldier's camp we came to the first stand of trees.

This area had already been shot out — yet in the very first coolibah tree there were four cats.

One raced to freedom. The other three died instantly, each killed with a single shot.

Some of these cats are huge. National parks officers weighed one at 8.2kg.

Spotlighting at night, we saw more hunting in a bilby research area. There may only be about 2000 of the endangered marsupials left alive.

The cat plague was brought to attention last month in The Courier-

Mail when University of Queensland researcher Professor Jack Pettigrew said he had shot 89 cats out of bird nests in the area before he ran out of ammunition.

Queensland National Parks and Wildlife researchers nearby shot a further 29.

Their staff supervised the army exercise which was organised by the State Environment Minister, Mr Comben.

It is apparent the cats have followed a native rat plague which, although on the wane, is still tremendous.

The long-haired or plague rat is a native species whose numbers build to millions under the right conditions.

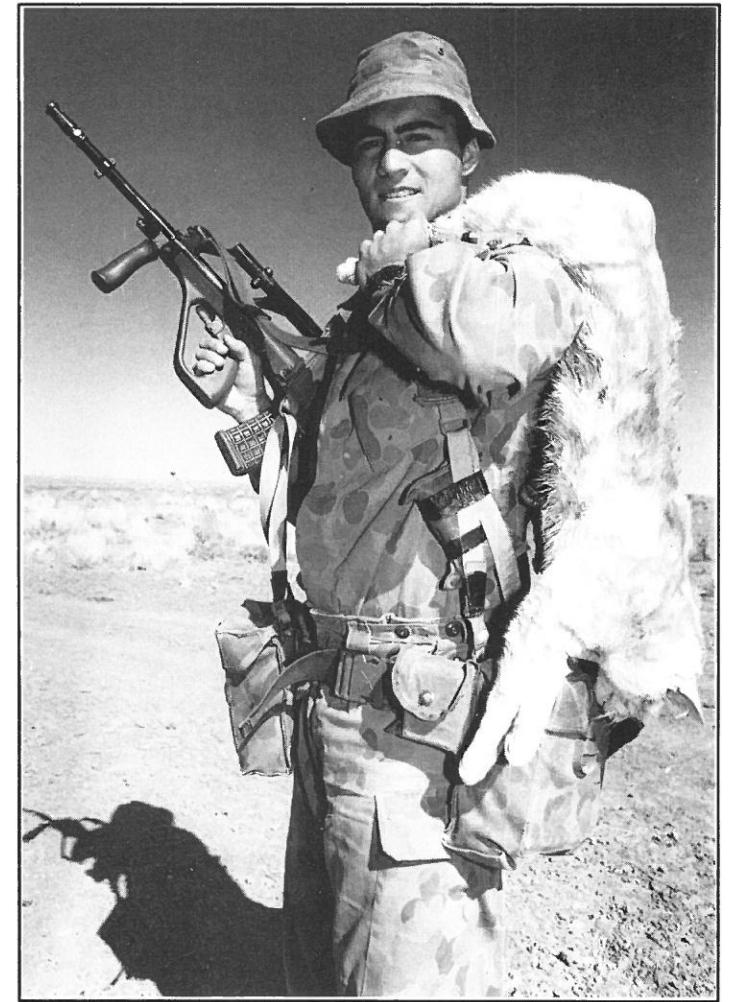
As I write, rats run over my boots and nibble at cartons nearby. One soldier was bitten on the lip, another on the eye-lid and others on their toes and fingers as they slept.

Animals such as kites and reptiles feed and breed heavily during such plagues, increasing their own numbers for species survival during inevitable future droughts.

But the cats also multiply.

Researchers are worried about what the cats will feed on when the rat plague ends.

In this area are endangered species: the bilby, the kowari (a marsupial mouse), the plains wanderer (a grasslands bird) and, possibly in



THE same huge feral cat, claimed by sharpshooter Pte Owen Paulson, of Paddington, Brisbane. Endangered native species stand little chance against the cats, which are breeding out of control.

danger, the yellow chat (a small, ground-feeding bird).

Cats hunt all of these.

Sgt Bill Chapman, from the 8/9th battalion based at Enoggera, said he could not believe what he saw when he arrived.

Sgt Chapman, a professional kangaroo shooter before he joined the army, said that after hearing many cats had already been shot he thought he was being sent on "a wild goose chase".

"But they are just everywhere. There must be countless thousands of them if we can get so many in this small area.

"At first we tried shooting during the night, but the men weren't used to it and the cats were on the move and too hard to hit.

"I did a recce (reconnoitre), moved camp and we had a look at them during the day.

"We shot 170 in one day, 40 in one night and 23 in one hour. They were everywhere."

Sgt Chapman only patrolled about 20km along each of three creeks.

The Diamantina system is made up of thousands of creeks and channels.

The army took the opportunity to use the exercise for training.

Sgt Chapman said the soldiers'

marksmanship and bush skills had increased dramatically.

Mr Comben said yesterday the operation had been a great success.

"I thought they might get 50 or so but over 500 have been shot now. It shows that acting quickly against an imminent threat was the right thing to do," he said. "The army have done an excellent job. I couldn't be happier."

Mr Comben is considering employing two professional shooters to kill feral animals.

The pests are a problem which graziers have complained about for years.

They say that national parks and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area are over-run with feral species including foxes, pigs and rabbits.

Sgt Chapman said a professional shooter with a proper hunting rifle and telescopic sights would kill many cats. "I reckon we've knocked the top off 'em in this area. And anyway with over 500 shot they are getting a bit gun-shy," Sgt Chapman said.

National parks field officers said the army shooters had done a professional and humane job.

Australian National Parks and Wildlife research has found that one domestic cat, left uncontrolled, killed an average of 25 animals each year.



## RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON

The new Recon Platoon came into being on 22 July with eight diggers on the role book: Ptes Nick Cunningham, Owen Paulson, Shaun Martin, Rob "Macca" McDonald, Adam "A.J." Landells, Michael Lake, Sean "Fezza" Lybrand and Quinton Siddans, along with the patrol commanders PTE Jim Grierson and CPL "Dixie" Nicholls. Our Platoon Sergeant was to be SGT Bill Chapman. Dixie was later to leave on posting to 6 RAR, being replaced by LCPL Brian "Mort" Morton. Two later additions to the platoon were Ptes Angus Hindmarsh and Greg Sullivan, who arrived after returning from the sniper course at Singleton (which LCPL Morton completed).

Our training was interrupted from the theory and prac phases (although there was not any real distinction between the two) by a two week jaunt in West Queensland culling feral cats for the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Our drive out there was long, dry and dusty with highways giving way to good two-laned roads, which progressively became worse as we drove on, until at last we reached dirt, dirt, dirt (and truckloads of dust). We did not quite make it to Birdsville, although we did drive past the turnoff that would have taken us there.

This trip gave us all much needed experience in shooting objects



that were not bright yellow and placed at regular intervals down range. The trip also allowed all of us to get to know each other better, outside of the stricter 7 till 4 existence under which we had previously known each other. All was not beer and skittles out there though, as the platoon did conduct military training in the form of break contact drills complete with blank rounds, which somehow did not seem to fit in with the flat, tireless plains on which they were conducted.

After returning from the outback, the platoon deployed to the Wide Bay Training Area to refine the skills we had been learning both at base and out west, via live-fire break contacts, sneaker lanes, close recons and a live-fire claymore ambush, in which all platoons of Support Company gave support or supporting fire.

In the very near future Recon will be conducting airborne rappelling training, to be closely followed by deployment to Shoalwater Bay, in which we will use all of the skills that we have learnt from Day One of the course.

The year to date has been challenging and a lot of hard work. Nevertheless, the results have been positive and our standard of soldiering has improved significantly. We part ways at the end of the year to commence the part-time service component of the RRES, but we take with us the knowledge that we achieved a great deal during our time with Recon Pl. See you in '93 and farewell to SGT Chapman who heads north to 51 FNQR on posting.

## BRAVO COMPANY

This has been a successful year for "Be Professional". We have spent a considerable time in the field and achieved plenty more besides. A trip to LWC and the battalion exercise in Shoalwater Bay were highlights. The year has revolved, however, around the Ready Reserve scheme. Our NCOs prepared themselves well for their instructional duties and the IET training was most successful. The course was intensive and physically demanding but the soldiers learnt a great deal and seemed to appreciate the challenge. We enjoyed the luxury of a full strength company with a Support Section as well! Full platoons meant realistic and valuable training was possible with section commanders given a real command opportunity. We will be a Part Time Service company in 1993 and we trust that the soldiers enjoy this part of their time in uniform as much as they seemed to in 1992. In CHQ only the 2IC and Company Clerk remained from 1991 but the new OC, CSM and CQMS fitted in quickly and easily. They have worked tirelessly throughout the year and their efforts have been valued by all. The company will forever remember the CQ with affection for his gallant effort on the Cross Country which may have made, but probably didn't, the difference in our great victory. Undoubtedly the recreational highlight of the year. 1992 has passed quickly and we wish everybody the best next year, with congratulations to all those recently promoted. It has been a year which has seen the "Be Professional" motto splendidly upheld.

## SUPPORT SECTION

We were created at the end of IET and are not to be confused with Support Company. They do not like it when their mail becomes mixed up with ours. We are currently at a strength of two Lance corporals and six privates. We trained with 5 Platoon and practised Steyr, Mag 58 and 66mm SRAAW drills in the CTA. In August we went with the company to LWC. We conducted the entire exercise with 5 Platoon. Despite several injuries we fared well. We were attached to 6 Platoon for the battalion exercise at Amberley. The route march around Mount Coot-tha and through the CTA was greatly enjoyed by Private McKinnon. We will next be facing the challenge of the battalion exercise at Shoalwater Bay. We will then undertake adventure training at a destination yet to be decided. In December it will be BRL so the section will disband and return to the only real State — Victoria [State of Collapse as the 2IC calls it]! January 1993 will see the section live again as our part time service begins. Hopefully next year will be as enjoyable for Support Section as 1992 has been.


*Below: B Coy Headquarters. Attached is the Rev Dave Hart on Exercise Long Look and Stan the Ram.*



## 4 PLATOON

In March and April the platoon finally got off the ground. Up until then we had been an NCO heavy organization. In late April we finally acquired a Lieutenant and a Sergeant in the platoon; Corporal Grant helped out the platoon commander initially. Characters quickly emerged amongst the new soldiers; Private Macmillan "The man without a voice," Private "Headbutter of Fists" Arnold and Private Doyle the platoon office cleaner. Throughout IET we achieved generally good results. At Greenbank one of the trucks broke down and the delighted diggers began their BFT earlier than expected. Lance Corporal "Alan Jones" Morton tried some rally work at the ammunition dump and found himself in a Stage Two pit. Private Smith encountered a problem during a lantern stalk in the Enoggera CTA which he overcame by using his notebook [clearly named] as toilet paper. He later recovered the paper and carried it all back to barracks in his pack. Private Armstrong was our resident aerobics instructor, unfortunately choosing to demonstrate his skills during an ambush. At Wide Bay we learnt how to dig, conduct section attacks

and what the meaning of fifty percent stand to was. Several people found it difficult to sleep as the enemy had their sleeping bags. On the last IET exercise we dug to Stage Three and watched the enemy run through our standing patrol position. The enemy knew where we were thanks to Mr "Cough" [Private Field] and Mr "Laugh" [Private Mulcahy], as well as the sound of Corporal Dakin felling trees using a Unimog winch. One Section finished Exercise "Hardcorps" with the best time in the company, Two Section second best and Three Section fourth best; an excellent effort. The platoon party became NCOs against the rest. Casualties included Private Tampion's black eye, Private Bedwell's arm and Sergeant Harris' ego. After four day's leave, with most of the lads going back to Melbourne, we were off to LWC where we achieved some good results. Lance Corporal Flatman's section finished the Hydra with the best time in the company, with the other two sections also doing well. Our next stop was the eastern side of RAAF Amberley's runway. The platoon commander positioned us around his pit which happened to have a tent over it — he was not happy when we had to move. After a short route march we returned to barracks and prepared for standdown. We were a tightknit unit and worked hard and throughout the year showed ourselves to be "the" platoon to be in.



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## 4 PLATOON



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## MORTAR PLATOON

Mortar platoon started the year off with only a section of mortars and was commanded by Capt Mark 'Basil' Keynes. Without a Sgt posted to the PI, CPL Dean (Dog) Schmidt assumed the duties of PI Sgt while CPL Mat Henderson and LCPL Shane Speering took control of the mortar line.

On Ex Leaden Lift mortars ran the platoon attack range and provided indirect fire support to make the range into a realistic and very worthwhile activity. No sooner had the boys returned to Enoggera when they were sent off on K-92, the majority of those to act as signallers for umpires.

Skippy had finished and everyone consolidated back at the unit to farewell Capt Keynes who received a posting to Canungra. After a quick handshake and a slap on the back, the emotional farewell was over and thoughts of Basil vanished as everyone started thinking about the next activity.

Ex El Alamein at Puckapunyal gave us a chance to show 5/7 how to really handle Mortars, and on all accounts we performed very well.

With the old boss gone, we received a new PI Comd to lead us on our quest for the perfect indirect fire. Brought to the helm was a tall man who just loved a beer. Lt C Paine having just returned from Malaysia with A Coy was reunited with his old platoon and immediately went north on Ex Raging Dragon in support of 131 Div Loc Battery and then Ex Tasman Link a tri-service firepower co-ordination exercise.

After taking leave at any chance we could find, we were boosted in strength by the addition of 11 RRES soldiers. Our task was now to run a basic mortar course culminating in a live-fire exercise at Wide Bay. The course went as well as expected, and all new members of the PI passed, gaining the glorious ECN 238.

The year has seen and will see more departures from the PI, namely the following:

LCPL Pidcock to 5/7; Pte Moodie to 3 BGE and Pte Usher to civy life. Pte Roberts is chasing the life of an MP; Staves is a budding cook; Morris looking to the police; Speers is off to A Coy and the boss is posted to 1 RTB — not to mention the movement of 11 RRES guys in and out of the PI.

Lt C.W. Paine — *Sorry can't do! I'm duty officer.*

CPL M.A. Henderson (Hendo) — *No, Speering's been posted to Townsville.*

CPL D.G. Schmidt (Dog) — *P.T., that doesn't fit into my schedule.*  
LCPL S.P. Pidcock (Piddy) — *AAA! Plotting boards, what plotting boards?*

LCPL S.W. Speering (Speers) — *If she rings, I've been posted to Townsville.*

PTE R.R. Fogarty (Fogs) — *Why should I tell you guys that you're good, when you're not.*

PTE J.G. Morris (Morry) — *I can't do that, I'm getting out.*

PTE M.D. Roberts (Robo) — *Any Corps, just get me out of this place.*

PTE A.K. Stavely (Stavs) — *Farewell. One day I could be cooking for you, Sir!*

PTE M.J. Walker (Walks) — *I'm not black.*

PTE J.M. Bryce (Brycey) — *I deliberately failed sir!*

PTE S.A. Bryce (Brycey) — *ARA, here I come!*

PTE D.T. Code (Codey) — *Nice moustache.*

PTE R.A. Dawson (Dawso) — *It wasn't me who shaved my eyebrow, my girlfriend did it.*

PTE J.S. Donoghue (Brains) — *It's a long walk to the gun pit!*

PTE J.W. Foley (Axel) — *And I can play cricket.*

PTE D.S. Kernohan (Kerna) — *I hate you.*

PTE S.G. Taylor (Taks) — *Loved her, till I found out she was only thirteen.*

PTE L.D. Trevanion (Trev) — *Mum's best friend was good!*

PTE D.E. Ward (Wardy) — *I want to go reg man.*

PTE M.J. Watt (Watty) — *I've done the same training as you.*

PTE G.D. Martin (Marty) — *Don't have to, I'm Rugby.*

PTE M.S. Grant (Granty) — *I'm going with Morry.*





HEAVY WEAPONS PLATOON

Our year started off slowly as we waited for the RRes to arrive. Our platoon staff was attached to B Company for the duration of the IET Course that were conducted. At the end of July we returned to the real world.

The progressive basic course training ran smoothly with SFMG and 106mm RCL drills down pat for the qualifying shoot at Wide Bay. Pte Simmonds (Roller 'Mo) arrived in the platoon shortly before the shoot and immediately made his mark. Easty and Brook's stress-induced dexterity was all that saved them from being crushed (see photo of rolled buggy).



Below: Heavy Weapons and their rolled 106 Buggy — Well done fellas!



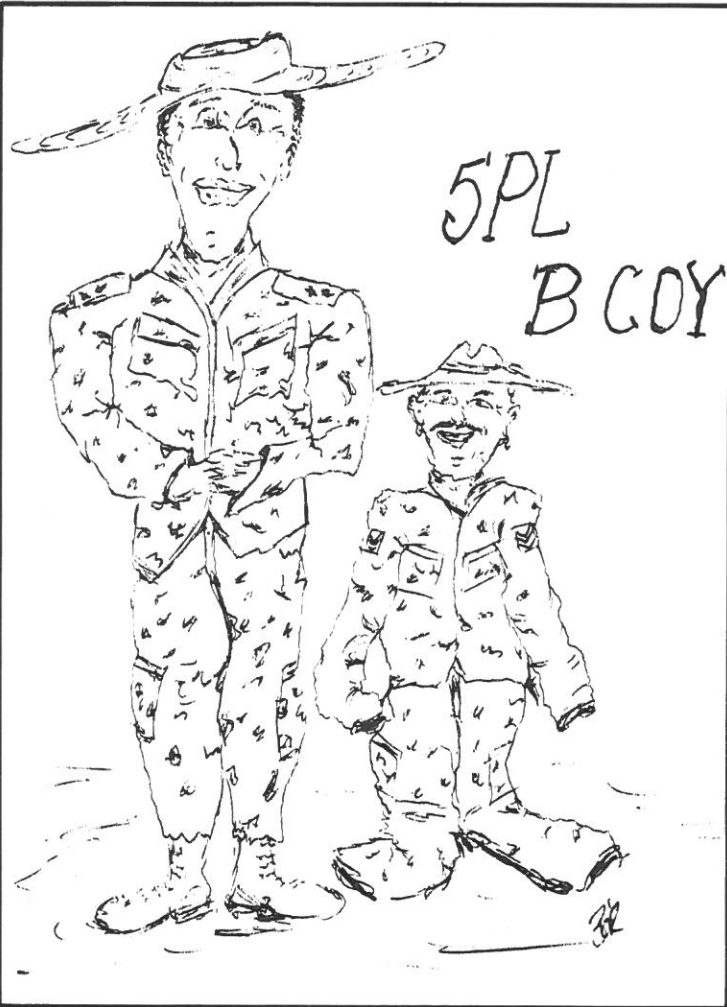
The defence of Amberley was our next job. With a section from Mortars we constituted the battalions Quick Reaction Force (QRF). The platoon reacted in some 5 minutes to callouts when the radio was working, when they were not, 1½ hours was quick. The platoon was hurried on the walk out by the smell wafting out of Andrew's pants. Rumour has it that the cause was something more substantial than gas. Robbo felt bad about throwing away vital pieces of SFMG kit and in a fit of guilt surrendered his stand down to rear details.

Stand down was enjoyable, if quick, except for Robbo.

Ex 'Silken Venture' was our latest adventure. What an adventure it was, being involved with and subjected to, impressive artillery and mortar barrages. 'Trigger' Holloway earned his nickname when he found that the usual 'contact front' or 'snake' was never going to take attention away from his mistake.

5 PLATOON

The platoon reached full strength in early May with the arrival of elements of 12 and 36 Platoons from Kapooka. For the next nine weeks IET was conducted, during which time we were frequently at Wide Bay. On Exercises Shaggy Ridge and Coral-Balmoral, despite extensive digging and other defensive measures, we were overrun by what seemed like a battalion of enemy. The course culminated with Exercise Hardcorps which was won by 4 Section [Lance Corporal Allen], although the blistering pace set by 5 Section [Lance Corporal Ion] very nearly put a number of people onto "oxy-vivas." In early July the new soldiers marched out of IET and officially into the battalion. The ensuing celebrations would have done the Vikings proud. The next stop was LWC Canungra for a company exercise. It was most enlightening for all, with particular emphasis placed on climbing hills. All sections performed well on Hydra with a spectacular fall off the traverse ropes by Private Cawte being a highlight. The jungle of the Border Ranges was a dramatic change from the more open country we were used to. Visibility was a problem as was standing up for Private Atkinson. September saw us spend a week at Amberley for Exercise "Ronnie Ram" with the rest of the battalion. Apart from one or two enemy, the most exciting thing we saw was a local couple in a particularly intimate moment just outside the perimeter. Private O'Rourke won the daredevil award for his imitation of a depth charge into a river near Canungra, being run a close second by Private Urlichs' attempt to climb into a ceiling fan [?]. Entertainment awards were scooped by Private Dennison who can put such items as shaving brushes, bayonets and small change into parts of the human anatomy which would amaze even the most hardened of sideshow vendors. All that remains now is the battalion exercise at Shoalwater Bay. As with our previous exercises we are sure this one will be memorable and successful. In early 1993 the platoon will return to civilian life and begin their part time service. It will be a shame to see such a close and friendly platoon break up, but this will make our reunions during part-time service that much more enjoyable. Certainly nobody will be forgetting digging in at Amberley — whatever happened to those backhoes the company 2IC promised us???





## 6 PLATOON

The year started quietly for us as we awaited the arrival of our new soldiers. During the IET course we forged our own identity, a spirit that has lasted. We enjoyed our times in the Torres Strait islands with lazy Sunday afternoons at the beach on Yam Island. Upon our return we prepared for the steaming cold jungles of Canungra. We gained a good insight into close country operations and received an excellent post exercise report from the Battle Wing staff. Lieutenant Cusack left us with lasting, hysterical memories of the traverse ropes on the confidence course. A week long exercise at Amberley in September familiarised us in operating with the RAAF. We are eagerly awaiting the battalion ball followed by yet another exercise, this time with the battalion in Shoalwater Bay. This will be our last opportunity to work together before the platoon breaks up to return to their home state. We wish everyone all the best in 1993.

## EXERCISE "NIGHT FALCON" (6 Platoon)

This was conducted in the Torres Strait islands, north of Cape York. 6 Platoon was given the rare opportunity to act as enemy for 1 Squadron, SASR, in the month-long exercise. Prior to departing, the platoon conducted parachute training which involved two days of ground training in barracks followed by a descent from 1500 feet into Wivenhoe Dam. We then flew to Bamaga from Weipa, not knowing

what to expect from the SASR. The first week was spent familiarising ourselves with various types of transport and specialist equipment. We practiced insertions, extractions and tactical flying with the Blackhawk helicopter, and C Company 51 FNQR put us through a one day watermanship course. The SASR Squadron 2IC gave us lessons in survival training and by now we were ready to start. Our first stop was Yam Island, located some fifty kilometres south of Papua New Guinea. We were to encounter many more small islands on the exercise. We were usually transported by Blackhawk, Caribou aircraft or in fourteen foot aluminium boats. On Yam Island we quickly befriended the locals. Fishing, mud crabbing and other skills were passed onto us. 51 FNQR gave us lessons on the M-16 rifle and the Raven HF radio while we returned the favour instructing them on the F-88 Austeyr and how *not* to play touch football. Rough seas stranded us on Yam Island for five days before we returned to Bamaga by Caribou to prepare for the next phase of the exercise. This was spent on Prince of Wales Island. Our objective was to supply two terrorist camps in the north and south of the island, with each camp holding an important hostage. In protecting the camps, we patrolled extensively but with only three contacts in a week. We knew they were out there but where? On the final day the hostages were recovered; it was all over in five minutes with the camps destroyed. We returned to Bamaga base camp in Zodiac light boats and found a feast was being prepared there. The night began with photographs, speeches and presentations and we "partied on" from there. This exercise was an extremely rewarding experience from which we all learnt a great deal.

— Private Mark Major



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## ASSAULT PIONEERS

Assault — An attack on a fortress by a sudden rush; unlawful personal attack; rape.

Pioneer — One of the advance corps preparing roads for troops; an explorer; one who originates any enterprise.

Colours — Black Ace of Spades

Nicknames — Gravediggers

Tasks — Jack of all trades

Pioneer Platoon had a slow start to the year, with the platoon strength numbering a meagre four. The first six months were spent supporting other units. This included exercise K92, 11 Brigade courses and IET training. In July we formed up as a Ready Reserve Platoon bringing the strength up to sixteen. Lt Ashwin, Sgt Harris, Cpl Bromwich and Lcpl Wharton formed the platoon staff.

The Pioneer Course for the Ready Reservists began in earnest in July. A wide variety of objectives were covered which formed the nucleus of the course. These included: field engineering, mine warfare, watermanship, demolitions and booby trapping.

Field engineering saw the platoon engaged in tasks that included building an aerial ropeway, instruction and practice on the chainsaws and cobras, blocks and tackles and field machines.

Mine warfare was interesting. The instruction centering on current service mines (including a WWI biscuit tin anti-tank mine), mine detection techniques, minefield strategies and a terminal exam on breaching a mined strip was conducted. As the technology in mine warfare advances to the 15th generation, breaching by hand is literally becoming a dying art.

Nearly everybodys favourite toys, the Zodiac and Caligarie inflatables, were tested during a week long exercise at Somerset Dam. This watermanship phase was thoroughly enjoyed by all of the platoon. Cahill proved his salt by surprising a civi trying to steal the boats and although Bill and Brom went on a recce and found the culprit, they were unable to apprehend him. Sgt Harris had no luck with his fishing in a surprisingly empty dam. Pte Hogan showed true grit in beaching his assault craft during the night navigation without informing his crew — much to Ptes Oliver and Dobles' surprise.

A memorable moment occurred when one section democratically voted to delete the whole idea of night navigation, only to be discovered later lying prostrate in the main channel. **Remember fellas — apply the principles of Cam and Concealment at all times!**

Demolitions followed consisting of hours of exhaustive, mind-numbing lectures. After these lessons had been completed, we travelled to the Wide Bay Demolitions Range. Immediately after arrival we proceeded to blow up everything using combinations of plastic explosives, slabs, some pre-WWII cratering charges and scorching FU gas. Demolitions proved to be a very addictive novelty, but unfortunately we could not spend longer than two days on it. Our remaining 3 days were spent some 8 kilometres from the mouth of Kauri Creek in Tin Can Bay enjoying more watermanship.

Tasks around the area saw the platoon break 7 axes and damage 4 chainsaw blades trying to remove a stump near the Sgt's mess. A sand and gravel bay was built near the shed and a concrete path laid (with good success and just an ounce of luck). The stepover bridge on the obstacle course was repaired (with no loss of life) and a kiddies sand pit was built with the usual hassels (wrong measurements from the civies, etc.).

Some staff at Support Coy HQ were rudely surprised on returning one Monday morning. Unknown to all a lone Bandit had infiltrated all the offices during the weekend, setting booby traps in some key areas. When tripped, these proved to be a humorous and an essential part of learning the trade.

It remains to be seen what the rest of 1992 promises at this early stage in October. The construction of a 30 m span bridge at Yeppoon a week before the Battalion Exercise should prove demanding and challenging. The main tasks for the Battalion Exercise include digging a Command Post (C.P.), building obstacles and extensive riverine patrolling.

In summary, it must be said that the platoon greatly enjoyed their full-time service. The soldiers, an unusual mix of personalities, related well to one another and completed the interesting tasks and maintained the standard of hard work pioneers are renowned for. The tasks were challenging and varied; everyone gained a tremendous amount of satisfaction after seeing the result of our hard work.

Best of luck to all the guys in the platoon, be proud of the achievements of this year and we return in 1993. The Gravediggers live on!





## SUPPORT COMPANY

Support Company began the year with enthusiasm which has continued throughout. New faces in the form of Capt Andy Edwards, Coy 2IC, Lt Mick Greenan, PI Comd DFW PI, Sgt Tony Nicolou, PI Sgt DFW PI, and Ssgt "Bugs" Butler CQMS were inducted quickly into the Coy and training began in earnest.

The first major activity for the Coy, as with the rest of the battalion, was the battalion live-fire exercise "Leaden Lift" at WBTA in February. This enabled the specialist platoons to get some hands-on for the first time in the new year and gave the hierarchy the opportunity to show their expertise in the areas of OIC Practice and Safety Officer on various ranges.

The exercise culminated in an excellent fire power display by Mortars, DFW and Recon Platoons, with the assistance of members from Pioneer and Signals platoons.

Early March saw the OC, Lt Greenan, CSM, Sgt Chapman, Sgt Hill and Sgt (SID) Harris deploy to the north of Australia as umpires for K92. Whilst the OC, Lt Greenan and Sgt Chapman enjoyed the experience of working with 10 RSAR at Kununurra and surrounding areas, Sgt's Hill and Harris enjoyed the company of 3 RAR at RAAF Base Tindal. Unfortunately the CSM had to endure the harshness of a deserted airstrip at a place called Fenton in the NT for four weeks with 4/27 Inf (Wolfhounds). It was hard having to eat MRE's (Meals Ready To Eat), some occasional fresh meals, flying in Blackhawk helicopters and fighting off mosquitoes at Bennetts Lake.

Towards the end of May, the company again deployed to WBTA for a company live-fire exercise "Brallos Pass". This exercise once again enabled Mortars, Pioneers, DFW and Recon to practice their skills. This was also the last exercise where they fired as an ARA company and many members were looking forward to the influx of Ready Reserve soldiers and the beginning of courses and a new era in soldiering.



After extensive preparation and planning the company received 54 Ready Reserve members and began training them in their respective skills. There were some members that may not have been entirely happy with their allocation of platoon but soon began to find the benefits of the job. (Not everyone wants to be a Sig, I guess.)

The introduction of Ready Reserve members to the company was a bonus in one way. All those selected to go to the "Senior Company" were either from NSW or QLD which meant they were Rugby League supporters or they were "brain dead". Unfortunately, not all were "Broncos" supporters which would indicate that perhaps some members were indeed "brain dead".

By the beginning of the battalion exercise "Ready Ram" all Ready Reserve soldiers had been trained in their respective fields and were keen to put new found skills to the test.

The year has not been without its moments, and any story would not be complete without a few 'mentions in despatches'.

1. *Who is/was the Spt Coy Clerk? Cpl Hadgis, Pte Blake or Cpl Thies.*
2. *Sgt Hill didn't pay anyone to get to Cambodia.*
3. *Pte King is believed to be applying for citizenship in the Canary Islands.*
4. *You don't really have to be a sig to get overseas, ask Pte King.*
5. *The CSM didn't want to go to Hawaii for the FOURTH time, but there were no more reserves and the OC had been 'black banned' by the CO from any more trips to Hawaii.*
6. *"The 110 Landrover runs on ULP". The Coy 2IC told me.*
7. *If you don't barrack for the Brisbane Broncos or the West Coast Eagles, then you are a loser. Ask CQ Spt Coy.*

Throughout the year a number of personalities have left the company and others are due to leave in the new year. To those members, thanks for your efforts and good soldiering. To those who remain, 1993 is shaping up to be a very challenging and interesting, if not busy year, so good luck and all the best for the future.

## CHARLIE COMPANY

Charlie Company headquarters started the year at a sprint, preparing for the arrival of the youngsters from 1 RTB. Once the IET's arrived we were able to relax a little and watch the platoons turn the company from new recruits to trained soldiers.

Our first company exercise was conducted in July on the Border Ranges, as part of a three week stint at LWC Canungra. This exercise was most memorable, who could forget the soaring daytime temperatures or the Battle Wing SOP, Taj Mahal CP tent. This was a marvellous innovation. The tent itself if divided in half and carried by two willing men would fit snugly inside a Volkswagen. Once set up, it was indeed a site to behold as it was almost see-through, and it leaked like a sieve. It was not without its advantages, it was found to be very popular at stand-to at night, and was quickly dubbed "the Cancer Pit" (for obvious reasons!).

Other Company activities have included Exercise Ronnie Ram and Exercise Barakula, both vastly different exercises. We now know why there are so many fat RAAFies around. (The ration scale tells the story!)

Without a doubt, the highlight of the year will be our overseas deployment to Brunei, to which we are all looking forward. It has been a year of firsts for the Cobra. The first company to train its own IET's, the first company to take Ready Reservists to Canungra and overseas.

The company has reached a high standard of professionalism in training and the credit must go to all members of the Coy. Congratulations on a job well done.

And remember "Once a Cobra always a Cobra!"

## 7 PLATOON

7 Platoon would have to be the most dynamic platoon of C Coy for 1992. Throughout the year we have seen more NCO changes than any other due to courses, discharge, personal affairs, etc. The Boss has been acting PL SGT, whilst the Sarge was acting PL COMD, and if Stevo isn't on course, then he is probably acting PL SGT, "just seeing the Boss for a minute!"

It has been quite an interesting and busy year. The training year began with the NCO doing an ID course prior to IETs. Finally the diggers arrived, and in they jumped, boots and all. I'm sure some wished the boot could have been used. Well, 7 Platoon consisted of all QLD'ers except one, PTE Scholten, who was to become PI Sig who didn't mind contact conversations with PTE Vizer prior to the Boss's room inspection.

It wasn't long before the diggers became endeared to the NCO's and got a hard on digging to stage 3 (everyone's favourite stage!) with a water table 6 inches down in Stringy Sector WBTA.

Upon earning the RAR and Skippy Badges, the Platoon took off with the Coy to LWC minus Hindmarsh and Sullivan (the recon/ sniper Gurus). The Platoon started well but as the course progressed, a number of soldiers seemed to think CPL Gostyla was their Sect



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Comd so reported to him each morning. Not a bad trip for the Platoon except the Boss got a Bodgey map and ended up in the USA instead of the BRTA (sorry Sarge!).

Well, the Platoon returned to barracks for a week of admin, unloaded the QLD'ers to Spt and Admin Coys, received a new Platoon of Mexicans (Victorians), conducted a kit check, then climbed on a truck to LWC as 8 Platoon C Coy 3 RAR. Not being an arrogant gloater, the Platoon pissed all over the other '2 southern Platoons' of the elite airborne Battalion. They'd be better off being a part of the Commanders illum plan. In Ex Hydra 4, 5 and 6 Sects came 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively with Spruceys' sect of hoods breaking the record with a time of 5 hrs 1 min.

The last Ex 7 Platoon participated in was low-level, where the Platoon was given an AO the size of Phuoc Tuy Province, then moved to only a slightly smaller AO. An aggressive patrolling program was enforced but despite this LCPL Paul 'Braddock' Smedley had flashbacks and went MIA for a while.

It has been a busy and challenging year and 7 Platoon has always put 'Duty First'.



## 8 PLATOON

After leaving Kapooka we spent twenty hours being squashed like sardines on our way to Queensland. At first parade we met the CO who presented us with the brilliant brown and gray lanyard. Even the RSM (The Father Son and Holy Ghost) was there and we now knew we were part of the Infantry Gods Own.

Our orientation run took us all to see the breathtaking sights of Enoggera and we soon learnt all the tourist attractions such as the obstacle course and the top of Mt Enoggera. 4 Section had arrived a week prior to the other two sections and had fun digging ditches and weeding gardens before getting into the you-beaut Infantry training and the 1001 ways to kill people.

The first night out bush was on top of the scenic Mt Enoggera and we soon learnt many things — why we hate hot meals, why it's good to know Regimental history at dinner time and why they built Army bases near big hills.

The live-fire week at Greenbank gave everyone a hard-on and apart from playing stupid PT games like trying to catch Whitey, it went pretty smoothly. Whitley had some trouble counting grenades and ended up with a full box left over, so he had a re-test counting extras.

Exercise Suakin at Wide Bay was our first bush trip away from base and a total nightmare for us. Digging stage 2 pits was a novelty for the first 2 minutes but after they were completed were better described as stage 2 baths. It rained for most of the 5 days and we wisely decided to dig in where the water table was only a foot below the surface. Prior to this exercise I had heard stories about the explorers Burke and Wills and their search for Australia's inland sea. I am now convinced that it was discovered in May '92 in the middle of 8 Platoons position!

After a week of duties (one of the more pleasurable sides of being



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a digger), we ventured back to Wide Bay. The dirty word for the next 5 days was "stage 3." Digging is a bit like getting the flu, you just have to grin and bear it and you live with the false hope that you'll never get it again. A 32 km fighting withdrawal at 2 a.m. in the morning was a novel and creative way to leave our pits behind but most people just thought it was freezing . . . Yippee-shoots continued for 3 days with a live-fire exercise and the 66 mm SRAAW gave everyone a hard-on. Hardcorp was the final test in our Infantry training: 22 km of everything from morning routine to a defensive shoot. We were now qualified Diggers without losing a man during training.

Standdown was a time to release all those built-up bodily fluids and ingest a few non-bodily juices as well. Generally we tried to get ourselves as unfit as we could in 6 days because we knew all we had to do when we got back was to take a further holiday at Canungra.

All the DS were pleased with us compared to other companies and they were confident that we could perform as well as anyone if we came across an elite Soviet tank division. Our tour of "Nungra's" the platoon was split up to become fully West Australian. 4 Section guys must have been disappointed to lose their 8 Platoon guernsey to go to menial jobs such as Recon and Pioneers but I'm sure the self-intoxication training undertaken during training with us will hold them in good stead in their new job.

Perhaps the most unusual thing about 8 Platoon along with 9 Platoon is that we live in the Harlem of Gallipoli Barracks — building Q 11. A place where the GMP's just won't go, taxi drivers charge double to pick you up and when the power isn't working, sections go into a fully tactical harbour. Thanks to a good set of platoon staff including Sgt "Are you there yet" Willan, we have managed to keep morale high and casualties at an acceptable war time level.

Other activities throughout the year included playing enemy for 49 RQR, a Company Ex at Baracoola State Forest, Mil skills, an exchange with the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, adventure training at Byron Bay and finally our departure back to Perth.

## 9 PLATOON

In mid April the Ready Reserve march-outs from Kapooka arrived in the Battalion to commence their IET course. The majority of the Tasmanians were allocated to 9 Platoon, and over the 9 weeks to follow were trained by the 9 Platoon staff to a high standard.

Shortly after completion of the IET course, the Coy deployed to LWC for the sub-unit training there. This was the Platoons first exposure to Company level operations, and close country warfare. Many important lessons were learnt, and the Ready Reserve soldiers left there as complete Infantrymen.

Following LWC, the Company was reorganised so all the Platoons



were locality-grouped, as the IET course had finished. Consequently, the non-pointy heads of the Platoon were fanned out to other Platoons and another 10 or so marched in. As 9 Platoon was the least effected by the changes in the Company, we were tasked with supporting 2 SASR Sqn as enemy for Ex Jupiter. This was an excellent exercise, with all Platoon members learning a great deal about guerilla warfare and the SASR. We were also given opportunities most would never get again, for example, a water jump, roping and repelling training and live firing pistols and silent SFMG's.

Since exercise Jupiter, the Platoon was deployed on the Battalion LLOPS exercise, and a Company exercise, for which we were enemy thanks to our guerilla training.

All in all, it has been an excellent year, with the deployment of the Company to Brunei in late October to top it all off.

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