

Ask us for our
Defence Force discount.

EAST COAST
CUSTOMS

- Dyno tuning
- Street & race prep
- Servicing & diagnostics
- Custom fabrication
- Engine rebuilds
- Performance upgrades
- Suspension

Located in Kedron, East Coast Customs offers a wide range of services, from a simple logbook oil change all the way through to full customization, engine conversions and dyno tuning.

East Coast Customs is also a fully fledged A1 Exhausts store, equipped to look after all of your exhaust needs.

Whether your passion is show, street, drift, drag or time attack; from imports to V8 muscle, the highly skilled and friendly team at East Coast Customs have got it covered. If you can dream it we can build it.

www.eccustoms.com

Ph: (07) 3359 5466

2/14 Boothby Street Kedron, QLD, 4031

A1 EXHAUSTS
PERFORMANCE CENTRE

DYNO DYNAMICS
Dynamometer Technology Excellence

The 8/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment



2009

GAYTHORNE RSL

Fun, Food and Friends at the



For a Supremo Hunger.

CAFFE SUPRIMO

Primo Quality, Primo Price

MEAL DEALS

- ROAST MEALS \$10.90* EVERY DAY
- SENIOR LUNCHES \$9.90* EVERY DAY
- SCHNITZELS \$12.90* MONDAY NIGHTS
- SKEWERS \$12.90* TUESDAY NIGHTS
- 2 PASTAS \$19.90* WED NIGHTS
- MEGA BURGERS \$12.90* SATURDAYS
- 2 FOR 1 PIZZAS SUNDAY NIGHTS

FREE GARLIC BREAD WITH LUNCH AND FREE PANCAKE WITH DINNER

* MEMBERS PRICES (non members add 12.5%)

CAFFE SUPRIMO Primo Quality, Primo Price

Caffe Supremo open 11.30-8.30pm daily and till 9.00pm Friday and Saturdays
Check out www.gaythornersl.com.au for full menu



G – Cash Rewards

Members Bonus points
Double Points 1.00-3.00 pm & 7.00-9.00 pm
Triple Points 11.00 midday & 10.00-11.00pm
Quadruple Points 10.00-11.00am & 11.00 – Midnight
EVERYDAY

Entertainment

Friday and Saturday nights 7.00-11.00pm
Sunday Afternoon 4-8 pm

Big Sunday Raffles

20X \$40.00 prizes
4.00-6.00pm
Meat Trays
Bottleshop Vouchers
Fuel Vouchers

Members Draws

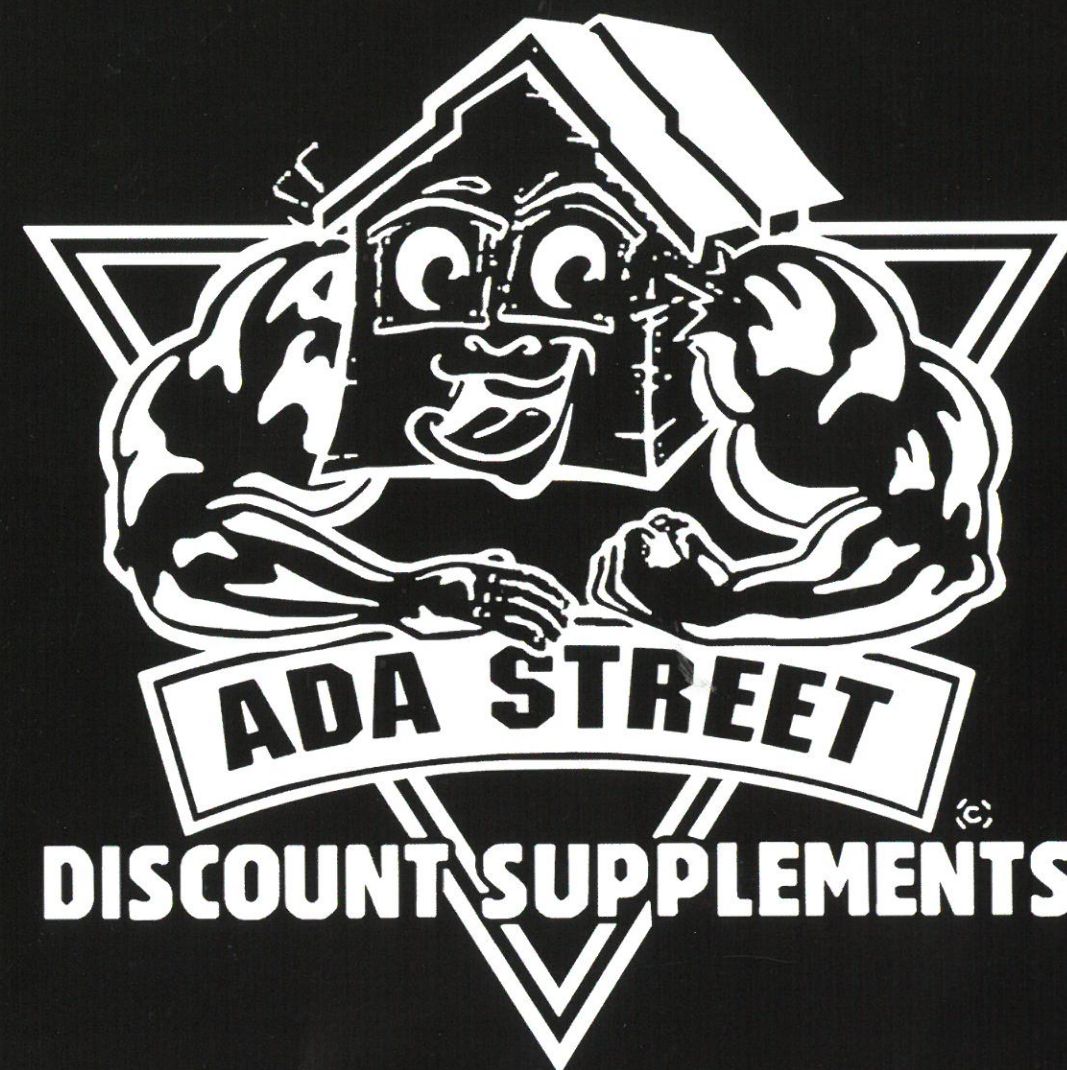
6 times per Day
For \$5,000
11.00am, 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8pm and 11.00pm
(members must be present for draw)

Open 7 days per week 10.00 am – midnight guaranteed
Sports Bar with pool table and TAB
Free Courtesy Bus phone 3355 4655 to book
100 gaming machines
Fully stocked Bottleshop with great prices for members

\$1.00 Membership for Life

534 Samford Road Mitchelton , PH 3355 4655 ,
reception@gaythornersl.com.au, www.gaythornersl.com.au

INDUSTRY LEADERS FOR OVER A DECADE



5% DEFENCE DISCOUNT

on all purchases

10% DEFENCE DISCOUNT

on purchases over \$400

48 Ada St Taringa Brisbane 4068 Ph: 07 3371 0711

www.adastreet.com.au

Honours and Awards 2009

Army Commendation (Gold):

8257279 Warrant Officer Class II D. Vallely

Queens Birthday Commendation for Distinguished Service, Afghanistan:

8228684 Corporal D. R. Robinson

Soldier Medallion:

8227122 Corporal E.E. Fabre

8515423 Lance Corporal S.G. Crooks

8259931 Private L.A.F. Jackson

Promotions:

8255964	CPL	T.J.	ROBERTS	TO	SGT
8249203	CPL	C.J.	ROGERS	TO	SGT
8230191	CPL	M.P.	RICE	TO	SGT
8228803	CPL	C.P.	FALLON	TO	SGT
8498498	LCPL	M.L.	WHITELEY	TO	CPL
8249258	LCPL	S.A.	WILLIAMS	TO	CPL
8228684	LCPL	D.R.	ROBINSON	TO	CPL
8236019	LCPL	M.H.	BENNETT	TO	CPL
8522607	LCPL	G.C.	WATTS	TO	CPL
8442941	LCPL	J.O.	HARDGRAVE	TO	CPL
8216598	LCPL	P.J.	BLAKE	TO	CPL

8515898	LCPL	N.J.	BROWN	TO	CPL
8297847	LCPL	P.G.	HUTCHINSON	TO	CPL
8270737	LCPL	J.D.	OLIVER	TO	CPL
8293768	LCPL	J.L.	TAYLOR	TO	CPL
8215596	LCPL	C.	KNIGHT	TO	CPL
8222557	LCPL	M.A.	MCKELVIE	TO	CPL
8253149	LCPL	C.M.	WILKES	TO	CPL
8216598	PTE	P.J.	BLAKE	TO	LCPL
8243611	PTE	S.M.	MORTIMER	TO	LCPL
8442941	PTE	J.O.	HARDGRAVE	TO	LCPL
8502867	PTE	M.	DELAINEY	TO	LCPL
8515423	PTE	S.G.	CROOKS	TO	LCPL
8215594	PTE	R.W.	GILSON	TO	LCPL
8440824	CFN	M.	PEGORANO	TO	LCPL
8491824	PTE	D.B.	COWAN	TO	LCPL
8532977	PTE	J.A.J	AUSTIN	TO	LCPL
8526892	PTE	O.S.T	NAGLE	TO	LCPL
825319	PTE	J.W.	BURGESS	TO	LCPL
8443213	PTE	C.P.	GILBRIDE	TO	LCPL
8501212	PTE	S.	GARRITY	TO	LCPL
8496460	PTE	A.C.	MAHONEY	TO	LCPL
8508959	PTE	N.M.	MOHR	TO	LCPL

Commanding Officer's Foreword

As we pause to reflect on what has been an extraordinary year for our Battalion, there are three things that I would like to record, firstly our achievements, secondly the challenges that we face next, and thirdly my thanks for your sterling efforts.

Achievements

I am particularly proud of what we have achieved individually and collectively in such a short time this year. By any measure the odds were stacked well and truly against us. Dedication, perseverance, initiative and sheer hard work have been the keys to our success. We have maintained a firm focus on what is important – people and preparing for operations, both current and future, while slowly but steadily improving, developing and creating all of the other things required to operate a successful Battalion.

There are three things that have been stand out aspects of our performance this year:

Our efforts in building enduring relationships with the other units of the Brigade have enabled us to maintain our focus on combined arms operations;

Our efforts in the field, which have consumed most of the year, in particular our focus on live fire, combined arms, foundation war fighting skills training have prepared us well for operations; and

Our ability to achieve, and in most areas well and truly surpass, our directed growth and capability milestones. This has been done among very challenging circumstances. Our actions speak clearly and loudly of the teamwork, leadership and endeavour that are abundant qualities in 8/9 RAR.

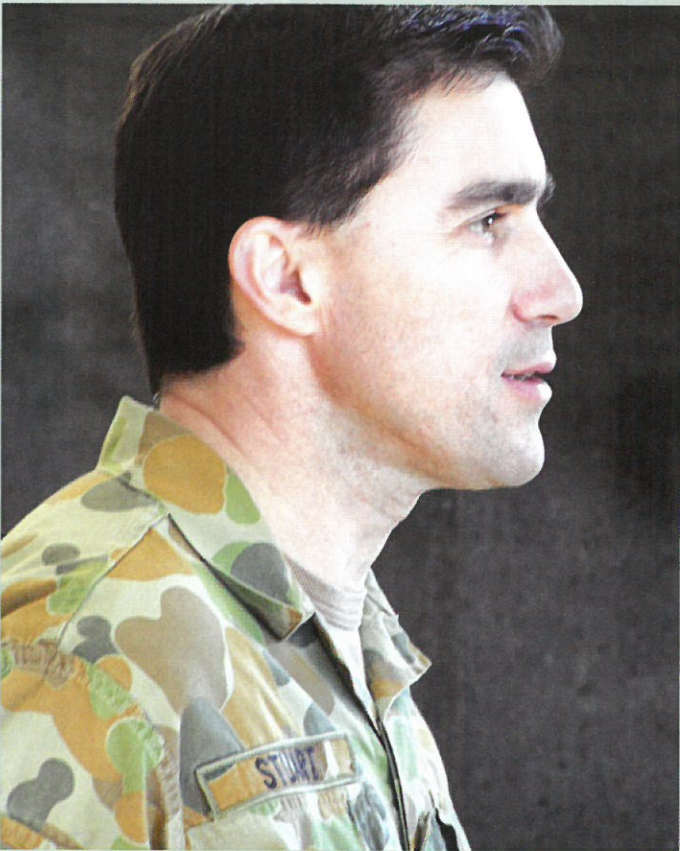
We have continued to grow and develop junior leaders and I am very encouraged and impressed by the maturity, strength of character and professionalism that are increasingly evident in our junior leaders. This is a credit to you. I appreciate and admire your efforts, they are a clear indication of the potential in our Battalion and an area of particular strength for the Battalion in the future.

Challenges

We are now poised at the start of the operations cycle and will find ourselves spread across three countries, four locations and five force elements. I am confident that our contribution will be first rate and reflective of the considerable effort that we have expended in training to ensure that we are well prepared. We have three 'lines of operation' between now and the end of 2010:

Grow the Battalion – we must continue to meet our directed growth milestones. Our priorities are the motorisation of Bravo Company, the full growth of Mortar Platoon, maintaining the other Infantry specialist capabilities, growing more junior NCO's, remediating our equipment deficiencies and better organising our structure.

Conduct Operations – we are the lead for OPERATION ASTUTE, Australia's mission in Timor Leste. Joint Task Force 631-8 is led by and based upon our Battalion. We are also making a significant contribution to OPERATION SLIPPER, both to the Mentoring Task Force and the Special Operations Task Group. Some of our number will serve on OPERATION RESOLUTE, the protection of Australia's exclusive Economic Zone. Importantly, we will maintain reinforcements for all of these operations and continue a full programme of training and administration in Australia. These are vital to our ability to maintain our operational commitments and most importantly to ensure that our foundation war fighting skills and readiness levels are maintained. This will see the Battalion well positioned



for the challenges of preparing for the next operational cycle.

Set the Conditions – we must ensure that our successors inherit a Battalion that is capable of commencing the next operational cycle in good order, that is, without the need for significant remediation effort.

Every one of us has a part to play in ensuring that 8/9 RAR, improves upon the remarkable achievements to date, and remains the kind of unit in which people want to serve. I ask that you do your part and do it well.

Thanks

Thank you to those who support the Battalion, and who do so in the most humble and selfless manner. You make a difference. You are both valued and appreciated. We are particularly grateful of the unconditional support of our families, thank you!

Thank you to each and every one of you, the men and women of 8/9 RAR, for your contribution to our Battalion. I ask that you continue serving with the following as your guide: Do no harm, Do the right thing, Do things right and Do what you can, with what you have, wherever you are.

Simon Stuart
November 2009



Yamaha Enoggera

New Bike Sales.
Workshop Facilities.
Huge range of accessories.
Access to over 700 used motorcycles.

10% Discount on our huge range of accessories for all Australian Defence Forces

team moto

224 Samford Road, Enoggera. (07) 3354 5800
Fax: (07) 3855 3615 E-mail: ynsdp@teammoto.com.au

YAMAHA
TeamMoto.com.au

YMF
YAMAHA
MOTOR
FINANCE
LOAN

RSM's Message:

TIME TO HAND OVER THE PACESTICK

The time has come for me to pass on the pace stick to your new RSM WO1 Ian D'Arcy. He can now take the battalion forward and complete the first ever Operation Tour in the battalions history.

This gives me know the opportunity to look back and reflect back over my three years of my involvement with 8/9 RAR. I have seen the unit go from only nine personnel in 2007 to well over 600 by the end of 2009.

In the early days of 2007, we, were pretty much on our own, the government had not yet announced that we would be back, we had limited funding, resources, office space and stores so, apart from getting the foundation right the next best thing to keep you occupied was getting overseas and golf on Thursdays.

Now I can look back and see where we have come from in our humble beginnings to where the path is heading in the future. What do I see? Well, I see a battalion that has a strong "Spirit de Corps", it has a good foundation of junior leaders who in time will gather more experience from either Timor or Afghanistan and the fact that 8/9 RAR will be the priority for Afghanistan in the next 18 months. For those soldiers who want to get there now, just wait it will happen.

Some of my highlights from being the RSM of this great battalion, firstly I want to say that it has been my privilege to serve you and to be the first RSM since being re-instated on the ORBAT.

My Highlights of my time are:

2008 – DOG Cup, a group of volunteers, with little time for training come equal second in the RA INF's premier competition;

2008, Ex Swift Eagle – Here was a group of units thrown together as red force to test the battalions of the north. What occurred was we jelled, we worked for each other, we created so much KAOS for the northern battalions that they were pushed to the limit and came up short, this was a signal that 8/9 RAR was back and ready to mix it with the best of the established units of the Army;

2008, Unit birthday activities, billy kart races, sumo wrestling, Colour re-dedication parade and Ball, a great time was had by all;

2009, DOG Cup again a great effort from the Battalion, finishing third and finally

2009, 7 BDE Winter Competition – What a fantastic effort by all those involved, Rugby making the final only to go down to 6 RAR, Basketball, the quiet achievers, not knowing that we had a team until part of the way through the season. They remained undefeated, and won the final. Our soccer team shone through on the big day taking out the favourites 2/14 LHR (QMI). Finally the Aussie rules, like the basketball undefeated all season and true to form left the opposition in their wake I the final.

There have been many others but these ones to me represent the spirit of the Battalion, it shows adaptiveness, commitment, team work and that short notice tasks are not a burden for us but that we can adapt quickly building a good repour with all.



So, inclosing, I leave the Battalion in good hands; you are moving forward and in time will reap all the rewards. In saying that the battalion still needs to have committed leaders, SNCO and JNCO's you must remember to train the new soldiers, test the older ones and develop the skills that set the Infantry Battalion apart from the rest. Don't' rest on reputation, remember, it is harder to work out a quiet person who does his job, rather than the loud in your face poser.

All the best for the future, develop skills and keep moving forward, may you all have a safe holiday period and return in 2010 refreshed and ready to meat the challenges that lay ahead of you.

Wayne Lampard
WO1
RSM
8/9 RAR

Tour of duty: Jan 07 – Dec 09

Exercise Minh Dam

Conducted and carried out by members of 8/9 RAR and its support elements.

As we arrived in Townsville, we were quickly deployed to the Battalion Muster Area within Mount Stewart training area. Once firmly located in this position along with elements from Support Company, we commenced battle prep and started the process of acclimatisation, due to the dramatic heat change from Brisbane. Over the next week those in command positions were conducting the admin and log necessary to deploy into the bush terrain of Area of Operation (AO) Star, this was followed by orders in which we were given our overall battle picture by our respected Platoon Commanders.

At the Platoon level diggers were instructed and assessed on there navigation, first aid, and All Arms Call for Fire. These being some of the most necessary skill set for an infantry soldier to be deployed on operations of this nature. During this time moral remained high and positive with all members looking forward to the tasks ahead.

From this point on, with preliminaries now complete, checked and double checked gear and equipment for air insertion by Caribou. To break up preparation and rehearsals, Bravo and some Engineers were able to escape the heat for an hour whilst taking a swim in the Ross River, which heightened moral amongst the men and the fear in others, convinced that the fresh water croc's would eat them alive!

The evening before H-hour Bravo Company was order to conduct forced rest, that night we were trucked to the RAAF Base Townsville for deployment by air insertion into Dotswood. The Platoons were broken into sticks briefed and were deployed and on the ground by 0800. Alpha had secured the North of the Airfield for the arrival of Bravo, which secured the western side of the airfield while waiting for the call sign to be complete. The objective was Camp Mcallaney, located approximately 3km north east from the airfield. Bravo then split, with 4 Platoon staying on the western side of the track with elements from Engineers, while 5 and 6 Platoon with Company Headquarters pushed out to the east. After a short patrol Bravo reached their target, 5 Platoon then swept into the camp with 4 and 6 Platoon providing cover. No resistance was met, a perimeter was then established around the camp, providing security for other elements of the Battalion to convert the camp into Forward Operating Base (FOB) Ram.

After establishing a presence in the FOB, Bravo Company pushed out for 3 days to conduct some final platoon rehearsals in preparation to go live and conduct operations against the COIT (Counsel of Islamic Teachers).

On return to the FOB Ram Bravo Company recommenced security once again and prepared and received orders of the mission against the COIT elements in the AO.

The COIT had been setting complex ambushes, and been utilizing improvised explosive devices' (IED) and small arms. Recon elements had also identified strongholds, ranging from Section to Platoon strength within the AO.

Bravo Company mounted up in bushmasters early in the morning to commence clearance of the route to the COIT strongholds. IEDs and ambushes were suspected on the route, so a cautious convoy speed was adopted. 4 Platoon were first in order of march, and after a few kilometres along the route 2 COIT spotters were encountered. 4 Platoon dismounted and entered into contact with the enemy, who quickly withdrew before the overwhelming force.

5 Platoon then took the lead with Engineers following, and given the recent contact the convoy adopted a Snake Amber method of movement. The route was then re-examined, and the

decision was made to employ electronic counter measures to combat possible remote detonated IEDs, this limited command and control between the Platoons. A complex ambush was then encountered, creating a mobility kill on the lead vehicle of the convoy, and inflicting 3 casualties. 5 Platoon dismounted and conducted a counter ambush, rushing over 8 enemy pits and securing the area for intelligence elements to investigate. A potential minefield was also identified 30m of the lead vehicle, Engineers were called forward, and after clearing a substantial portion of the road, it was deemed a dummy minefield and the convoy pushed onto the designated night location.

That night saw little sleep as fire in the AO forced the convoy to move from the designated night loc. By 0130 the next morning the fire had cleared and the convoy moved back to the position were the Bushmasters would be left behind, and the men would step of to clear the enemy strongholds. A defile was identified and 4 Platoon lead the way, securing the defile, for the rest of the Company to push through. 5 Platoon were tasked to set the Form Up Point (FUP) for 6 Platoon to assault the first of the enemy strongholds, believed to be section strength. The FUP was set and as 6 Platoon were moving into position DS stepped in to move the assault to comply with safety requirements. After the adjustments were made, 6 Platoon commenced the clearance of the feature, locked in heavy contact for over an hour. The feature was cleared and DFSW and Sniper elements moved onto the feature in order to supply fire support for Bravo Company's assault on the main enemy position.

It was now mid-morning and Bravo Company were moving now into an FUP and were preparing for the assault on the COIT stronghold. H-hour ticked over, Snipers and DFSW began suppressing the target area with Carl Gustav and MAG 58 fire whilst the Company advanced on the position. 4 Platoon took the lead in the assault, not letting the daunting terrain deter them, a steep feature, rocky with boulder outcrops, but the sheer aggression showed by the Company proved the feature and the enemy on top no match. Once again the site was secured, the battlefield clearance was conducted and intelligence elements collected information. The Company picked up and regrouped with vehicles and commenced return to FOB Ram.

In conclusion Exercise Minh Dam was a succuss in destroying the COIT and stabilizing the AO, with the combined effort of Bravo Company and its supporting elements

RECON PL 2009

Our year commenced with the conduct of the Basic Reconnaissance Course led by the current platoon staff of LT Rochester and SGT Moody, with the help of CPLs Charles, Lindgren, & Chenoworth (6 RAR) and LCPLs Butler (6 RAR) and Seedsman. The first day summed up the entire course, with a 2 hour PT session with LCPL Seedsman aka "Mr - I think I'm SAS" consisting of running in marching order everywhere we went. The first week of course resulted in two drop outs and one retiring through a heat related injury (6 RAR hacks). Over the next four weeks of field, we conducted a 24 hour navex and live fire break contacts at Wide Bay. The DS helped the course in practicing LUP's, FUP's, SBF, OP's, PTR's and LZ marking. CPL Charles almost fell out of his hammock when he found out PTE Edson had been bitten by a 'stick snake'. The 6 RAR soldiers were on a roll, firstly losing a rifle and then using jack freaks on the radio. It showed with only 3 passing the course, Hacks! Following this lead up training, we then took command of our patrols and each took turns in leading a three day mission profile, complete with orders, taskings and a back brief. A modest 14 of the remaining 21 soldiers passed the course with 4 soldiers moving across to Recon PL SPT COY 8/9 RAR and employed as reconnaissance patrolman.

With the course finished and the new members embedded in to the patrols there was a short break of one weekend before we embarked on a 36 hour bus trip to Cultanastan, South Australia to commence Ex BLACK DESERT. A total of three patrols were sent, two recon patrols and one patrol which was made up of snipers (recon wannabes). As anyone who has been to Cultanastan before would know it was hot with very little cover from the sun. SGT Moody started the Ex by declaring jack wars with the platoon, this resulted in rocks being hidden in his pack and SGT Moody receiving the same G Menu Ration Pack all Ex. Needless to say, we had little water for most of the Ex thanks to some exceptional OPDEM and resupply procedures. The only time we had enough water was when DFSW started a fire and they gave us jerry cans to put it out. Big mistake! More water went into our packs than on the fire. During the exercise a series of patrols were conducted in which we located SBF positions for DFSW and conducted OPs on enemy camps. Throughout the exercise numerous break contacts were conducted with DFSW firing 200mil to our flank. The highlight was Moff cracking a Dartmech with a 40 mil prac round. At this stage we were unaware that our three patrols would go on to use a Battalion's worth of ammunition for the year. This three week exercise was an eye opener to the newly formed patrols. It highlighted the strengths of the patrols and its individuals as well as highlighting the components that the patrols needed to improve during the exercises to follow.

8/9 recon was turning out to be a very busy year with the patrols having to be flexible due to the conduct of both field exercises and the undergoing of various courses including Combat First Aid, Visual Tracking, Tactical Site Exploitation, Tactical Questioning, Anger Management courses for Pryer, Mox and Charles, JLC and SIOS (if you steal a mans bed prepare to be hosed!) Due to this busy schedule there was a 70% separation rate in the Platoon.

This busy period was coupled with the introduction of OJT's and required the qualified members of Recon PL to get them up to speed on basic recon TTP's and prepare them for their upcoming basic reconnaissance course at 3 RAR haha good luck Mox (woooooosar), Waters (remain seated in LUP's) and Joey (HARRRRRRBINGAA).

We conducted various exercises at Shoalwater Bay Training Area throughout the middle of the year. Our skills improved and the patrols bonded well. Tasks undertaken included a variety of OP's and FUP marking for the Rifle Coys (who were sometimes geographically challenged) and continued to improve as the

year progressed. This training period concluded with the introduction of night time live fire break contacts using 40mil illumination (whoopee). A small convoy was sent to Sydney to acquire new SR98 Sniper Rifles and F89 Para-Minimis, these weapons added a new dimension to our break contact drills. Pity we didn't get to use them on Minh Dam thanks to DFSW taking them off the bus for some unknown reason.

Our last deployment was Ex MINH DAM. We flew into the AO as a Platoon with snipers being utilised for screening tasks and Recon PL being split for multiple taskings. 63A conducted an OP on a small built up area which was then secured by the Rifle Coy's and subsequently used as FOB RAM. 63B conducted a 3 day OP on an airfield which saw no action of any kind except for the whining of a certain PL SGT on his way to run some ranges, he was heard from at least a KM away. The airfield would later be used for the aerial insertion of Bravo Company. Recon PL then became a battalion asset as the focus shifted onto the rifle companies. Recon PL supported the live fire activities through the supply of GD's and safety staff. Most of the time though, we sat in the shade of the FOB. This happened to be the girl's toilets or conducting close recon of the local dams.

The platoon has established itself and are a tight group of mates From Prarlise (CPL Charles' shadow - Pryer) to Kempson (Kemp & Edson), Brookie (Brown & Cookie) to Wicko (Waters & Nicko - Chain-smoking old men), Josef Abraham (Miller) and Justice.

The year is now drawing to a close and with the changing of the guard comes new faces and challenges. This year has established the Platoon and our focus will soon turn to our first deployment as a newly raised Recon PL, bike patrols, tan-ops and stealing candy from babies.

WOOOOOOOOOH! RECON.

By Cookie, Eddo and Kemp
(PTes Cooke, Edson & Kemp)

CHARLES' GOSSIP COLUMN

Snipers being hacks.

DFSW leaving our Para Minimis behind.

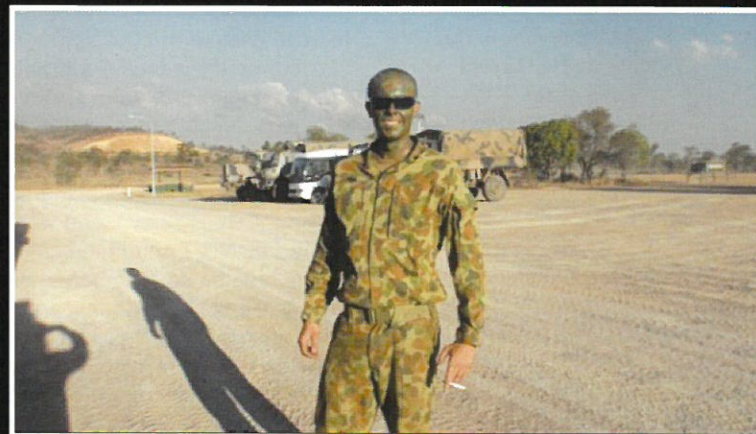
VB.....Player!

Edson being bitten by a stick snake.

Sgt Moodswings Bipolar disorder. (Cultana), he came good.

Mortar hacks getting a trip to the Ghan.

ADMIN COMPANY



SUA TELA TONANTI

January 2009 saw the arrival of some new members within the Q Store whom were welcomed with open arms and in some cases opened wallets. The following members marched in; WO1 Dave Kerr (the Governor/Guv), WO2 James Jenkins (Jenke), WO2 Terry Marsland (Bar), WO2 Wayne Robinson (King), SGT Ian Hunter (Bow), SGT Kylie Nuernberg (Mountain Women, Champ), SGT Mel Piccone (Mel), CPL Geoffrey Osbaldstone (Ozzie), PTE Josh Donnelly (Donnas). It is to be said that we farewelled a much loved and respected RQ in the form of WO2 Raymond Weiland (Ray, crusty old fart). Subsequent arrivals have been in no particular order (except alphabetical) PTEs David Fryer (Deep/fish), Shane Hernandez (8/9, Big H) and Alice Little (Stuart), both Big H and Stuart are gap years.

The Q store had a surprise visit from Santa last year; he had traded in his trusted sleigh for a more stylish means of transport. Let it be said that the Main Q staff have the proof that the RSM was a naughty boy late last year and that Santa will not be visiting him this year.

As with any Company or Platoon the year started off with

the usual grind of induction training. Needless to say the year got better. The same could be said for the fairly recent Test Cricket Series (draw, loss, draw, win, lost The Ashes). A lot of hard work had been done during the Xmas RTP and we managed to start the year in our location (the current Q Store area). The Battalion has grown

in numbers, we the down trodden (RAAOC with of couple of RAINF hanger ons) have grown not only in numbers but more importantly in equipment. We can now say "no you can't have that" to any number of pieces of kit.

It has been noticed that due to the expert **tutelage** of the governor, 8/9 RAR managed to win the grand final of the REAL FOOTBALL.

The Main Q deployed on Battalion exercises in order to provide first line CSS. Of note these were Ex Minh Dam, Ex Talisman Sabre, Ex Diamond Dollar, and Ex Hammersley Push. A common theme throughout was the art work of SGT Inglis.

The older Q pers are firm believers of "if there is no work to do, find some".

SGTs Hunter and Inglis had found themselves with little or nothing to do at one stage during Ex Talisman Sabre and decided to enhance the defensive position of the Q Store. They

set about for a good couple of hours and the end result was a pill box made out of ration boxes, complete with overhead protection and the ability to provide covering fire not only to the front, but to the flanks as

well. It was during the construction phase and other periods of absence from the Q Store, that SGTs Young and Sporn stepped up and undertook the role Q support. They quickly identified the expense items and which items would not be missed.

Two of our members have represented 8/9RAR at ADF sport carnivals, Deep played water polo, and Stuart played netball. While they both had a really awesome time swanning away from work, neither where able to be part of a winning team. Unlike the English cricket team who won The Ashes.

The good LCPL Lenny Lignow is an aspiring electrician; he has attended TAFE in his own time to acquire a ticket in this field. However, unbeknown to most he also has a secret ambition which is to work for Australia Post. Why else would he request 125,000 envelopes? Although that could be the number of letters delivered from the UK to Australia as a gentle reminder that the Australians lost The Ashes.

We are all painfully aware of the stock market crash, the QM decided to assist the stimulation of the economy by the frequent if not overuse of Glen 20. Not sure what Alice has been taking, probably copious amounts of happy pills, but something seems to have given her a bubbly nature. If you require your car jump started, Lenny is NOT your go to man. Ask him why. Donnas fancies himself, as a BBQ chef, he frequently provides such delicious delights as sausage sizzles and sausage sizzles.

The Dotswood dance was a huge success this year, due mainly to the willing attendees being Stuart, 8/9, Donnas, Kiemy and tripod (LCPL C Shaw). The word of this momentous event spread quickly through the camp during Ex Minh Dam, the above mentioned members eagerly sought to be relieved of their duties IOT attend this prestigious shindig. Alice requested extra time to allow for all the womanly stuff, hair makeup etc, while on the other hand, Kiemy shaved splashed on after shave lotion and fronted up to the RAP to obtain some protection. Donnas went as far as letting go of his beloved laptop for the evening as he would have no need for it.

As the end of the year draws near it behoves me to me mention that we will be losing three members. The best QM that this Battalion has seen for some 10 years, Major Rod Clavan is moving on to PNG for a two year posting. So, while the Battalion is doing it hard over there in Timor Leste (TL), remember



Harbingers 4 life!

A year in 8/9 Signals Platoon

Story by Pte Jason Thackeray & LCPL Steve Mullens (Special Edit The "RSS")



It has been a busy year for 8/9 RAR's signals platoon. Since the raising of Support Company at the end of 2008, the Harbingers have been at full stretch ensuring that the battalion did not struggle for the most essential element of any operation: communications. 8/9's rapid progression from milestone to milestone, often way ahead of schedule, has made this an often difficult task. However despite this fact, sig platoon has found a way to turn work into play at every corner.

8/9 has been fighting for equipment since its re-raising, and sig platoon is no exception. From zip tying radios into bushmasters to taping antennas to roof tops, the CO's directive of "do what you can with what you have wherever you are" has become a way of life for our sigs.

Our first shake out as a platoon came at the beginning of the year, when support coy conducted a Leyland Brothers style trek south to Coltana training area to conduct Exercise Black Desert. This exercise was designed to give our DFSW and Recon elements a chance to practice SOP's in a live fire environment and our first hit out. At the same time, one detachment of Harbingers was tasked with running comm's in the CP exercise Blue Diamond, where the rank structure of 8/9 trained in a brigade operational environment.

Next came Black Hill, a live fire encompassing Support and Alpha Coy in Shoalwater Bay. Working under makeshift command posts consisting of tarps stretched off Bushmaster roofs did not stop us from running multiple nets at platoon and company level. Learning our craft under direction of our RSO in the field for the first time was a challenging and valuable experience as well as proving that sig's can still shoot with some live fire attacks of our own.

In the middle of the year came exercise Diamond Dollar. 8/9 RAR took to the field, again in our new home, Shoalwater Bay, in a Brigade level shakeout serving as a trial run for Talisman Sabre, a joint exercise involving the US Marines. Members of the platoon were stretched as far as Brigade Headquarters down to remote retrans, as the battalion continued to stretch its wings. However there was still time for the light hearted, culminating in the Bushmaster Olympics, where accolades went to participants for aerial brilliance off bushmaster steps. Not everyone can win on the day, as was discovered by Captain Creasey, in between Latte's with the RSO, failed a stair-mounted back flip. Also featured was the CP FFR Dodge challenge which left many seeing how much a Land Rover really weigh's(hey Rocky).

As the end of the year approached, so did Exercises Hammersley and Minh Dam. After the long haul drive to Townsville with our equipment supplies nearing complete combat readiness and our drills honed from a year of near-constant bush, sig platoon found that the job came surprisingly easily (it all worked), and managed to find extensive tan-ops time.

Sig Platoon has managed to make the most of time on base, despite the sheer number of field exercises in 2009 making this time relatively short. The platoon has run multiple Basic communicator courses, equipment scrounging along with developing a functional and surprisingly habitable sig store after the move from the B Coy enclave. Not everything on courses goes according to plan though, with some "Special" students, not least being when LCPL Crookes felled a Clarke Mast like a lumberjack felling a tree leaving many running for cover and the RSS ALMOST lost for words.

Along with the rest of Support Coy, we have worked hard to

instil a sense of company identity, with many of our members participating in the Battalions first 8/9 rep team at the K10's and other sports team's through the year. Most recognisably our fearless and also neckless RSS Sgt Roberts leading the Rugby charge (RAM IT UP YA).

The year has seen platoon members come and platoon members go. Some of our most senior members have made the migration back to the rifle coys with Knighty, Jonesy, Rowley and Disal heading to Bravo and Richo and Joey Hollis sliding to the Con. Other guy's are prepping for Deployments to the Ghan proving what can happen if you're in Sig's.

We have taken a number of good "junior" soldiers under our collective wing in the exchange. Remember, Sig's remains the gateway to opportunity, Support Company, and true 'senior dig' status.

As Timor approaches and we gear up for deployment one thing remains certain: the HARBINGERS of 8/9 RAR are a family, we look after our own, and we get looked after.

B.O.H.I.C.A

"NO COMM'S, NO BOMB'S"



MS COMPANY



that some are doing it even harder. The hardness does not stop with TL or PNG, spare a thought for SGT Jeff Inglis (the manky Vespa rider) who after fulfilling numerous roles within the Battalion is moving on 21 Construction Squadron. He will be visiting a small remote town somewhere south of Alice Springs for 3 - 4 months. The hardest one of all is WO2 Wayne Robinson; he has the unenviable task of driving a Jaguar to WA to take up his next posting with the Western Australian University Regiment.

We wish everyone good fortune for your futures, and remember

KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN AND YOUR POWDER DRY

RAEME

In December of 2008 the ASM shut up the workshop at Long Hai Lines and had his very own RAEME Mafia Christmas party. It wasn't a very well attended party as he had been the only RAEME member of 8/9 RAR for the entire year.

January 2009 brought about numerous gifts, surprises and 'tradies'. Fitters, Vehicle Mechanics, RPS store men, an electrician and even a Boffin. The whole place was buzzing at the start of the new-year with 8/9 RAR commencing their growing spurt along with the TSP.

With some cobwebs of 9 RQR still hanging around, members of the TSP quickly exploded into action. Sadly the initial thrust of activity was slightly thwarted by the absence of some of those important things that RAEME normally take for granted, such as: tools, oil, support vehicles and IT. Already there was much work to do! A new challenge was born.

Without computers, only one telephone and two offices in the vehicle section, the territorial battle quickly ensued between the two VM CPLs and the VM SGT. Jousting and dueling complete, the waters settled and we set down to business. Those little things that the 'Brotherhood' has always taken for granted were not there yet! No special tools, GMVs or even an RPS. There was no time to waste as the busy training program was approaching as quick as an express train. Requests were put in for computers, telephones, POLS, special tools and test equipment and the RPS warehouse was created.

Predictably, with an Infantry Battalion in its growth stage, IETs and Coy Trg required support. The two VM CFN flipped the "Shilling" to see who would do the first trip of the year. 'Furno wins!' With a Unimog and a toolbox, off to Singleton he went.

The COs mission statement included "Do the best you can with what you have, wherever you are" was very real and already playing a part in the main effort. We set about begging, borrowing and building relationships with the other units of Enoggera, to which we would be seen to heavily rely upon for the upcoming year.

By March build up and training exercises were well underway. From Cultana to SWB on various Warfighters and Diamond Dollars, with the addition of drivers' courses and support weapons training to cover. Before we knew it the legendary Tallisman Sabre was upon us, bringing with it its very own challenges and surprises. Putting both the Bushmaster and the logistic chain to the test, with a plethora of battle scars to show for it. TSP was put to the test to turn the already weary looking vehicles around for Ex Hammersley to be swiftly followed by Ex Minh Dam.

The fitters were repeatedly stretched by courses and exercises, trying to return the heavily used weapons back to a Fully Functional condition. The belated arrival of a new CFN and a couple of shoulder re-constructions later and we are already in PAR territory in the latter quarter of the year.

The TSP is now in a much better position and maintaining the tempo with the BN. We now have a fully bombed up RPS, 3 x GMVs and even a HRV.

The manning for TSP looks much more promising for 2010 and is looking forward to the new challenges that the future will bring, including TLBG.

Anyone know of a spare Recy Mech kicking around?



*Come in and meet Des & Dympra
Hackett (Owner & Operators)*

NIGHTOWL
OPENS YOUR EYES

OPEN 24 HOURS

For when you need us



Groceries - Snacks - Drinks - Frozen Foods



Tobacco & Cigs - Dairy Products - Fruit & Veg



Cleaning Requisites - Phone Cards



Mobile Recharge Cards - Inward, Outward Fax Service

ATM

INTERNET KIOSK

Cnr. Wardell & Audrey Street, ENOGGERA
Phone: 3355 2240 Fax: 3355 3392

From The Padre

I would like to begin by offering my thanks to the members of the Battalion for their welcome and acceptance of me and my role. I have come to the Battalion and the Army from Civvie street and I have had much to learn. But from my first day I have been supported and encouraged by everyone from the CO to the newest members of the Battalion and it is my hope that I can, during this posting, reciprocate by being someone you can turn to for chat, a helping hand, a listening ear, some advice or just a brew! Padre Peter Devenish Meares has shown me the ropes and is known to many of you I am very glad he is to continue in the Battalion in a supporting role.

Many folk ask me what the Padre's role is in the unit, it is a difficult thing to describe in a few sentences and every Padre has a different take on the task at hand. At the Chaplains Conference in November 1993 the opening address was given by Col. C.J. Brewer AM then Chief of Staff 2nd Division. In his address he spoke in terms of the Chaplain having a calm and dignified manner, he spoke of legitimate reassurance and encouragement and a source of stability in a period of uncertainty and turbulence. I believe these are vital elements of our role, and they are born out of faith, something which all Padre's need to have. We as Chaplains are not necessarily more knowledgeable...we don't 'know' something that you don't and we are not the fount of all wisdom. We cannot produce miracles nor do the impossible, but we do operate from a tradition that says quite clearly that if we go about things thoughtfully, properly, carefully, prayerfully, calmly, faithfully then all will be well. Things may not always turn out for us the way we imagined or even hoped that they would, but hopefully the Chaplain can help you see in your situation that all will be well... and that's before we even mention religion or God!

We in the business of faith draw much upon the writings of the past, starting of course with the Bible. In the 14th Century Julian of Norwich became the first woman to write a book in English in it she says, speaking of Christ – “He did not say ‘You shall not be tempest-tossed, you shall not be work-weary, you shall not be discomforted’. But he did say, ‘You shall not be overcome.’ God wants us to heed these words so that we shall always be strong in trust, both in sorrow and in joy.” I think these words speak to us very profoundly of our work, it is tough, demanding, uncomfortable, sometimes dangerous but with help, with trust, with faith we will not be overcome.

As I write this we are in the throes of preparation for next year and the deployment as part of TLBG7. Plans are still unclear, there are plenty of loose ends but whatever eventually transpires those of us in the ‘caring’ business are committed to ensuring that everyone is as prepared as they can be for this time away; when I say everyone that of course includes our families and those that depend upon us. A family day is being planned and I hope that it will be of benefit to those who are deploying and to those who will ‘keep the home fires burning.’ It is important that we all know and can draw upon the assistance that is available to us and our families should we need it. By the time this is published we will perhaps know a little more and hopefully will understand our role and importantly where we can turn should we need help of any kind.

I hope that in this coming year we can work together building that trust and faith that will ensure that we can succeed in the mission before us...I'll leave you with Julian of Norwich again who finished one part of her writings with the words: “All things will be well and all things will be well and manner of things will be well.”

Amen to that!

2-4-1 Steaks Sound Good To You? Every Tuesday Night at Zanetti's

Zanetti's is a fantastic venue for a party, family dinner or breakfast to get over the night before. Whatever you need, we have it and guarantee you'll love our food, coffee and service.

With Special Offers running Monday - Wednesday nights, there's always a reason to come down for a feed - and we're fully licensed

If you're a coffee addict, we've got you covered with some of the best coffee in Brisbane. Come down and try it for yourself.

BOOK A TABLE NOW!

and see what all the fuss is about!

Zanetti's Restaurant and Bar
9/40 Blackwood St
Mitchelton
3354 4533

6 Platoon

Bravo Company

Since it's humble beginnings at the start of the year (It didn't exist), Bravo Company and it's rear guard, 6 Platoon, have gone from strength to strength. Taking pride in their status as a light infantry company, the boys have gladly marched into every exercise this year with a grin on their face. From the jungles of Canungra in February to the jungles of Tully in October, with everything in between.

EX's Blue Steps and Blue Live at Canungra and Wide Bay respectively allowed the sections and platoon complete shake out. Ex Diamond Dollar saw the lads conduct the full-mission profile to good effect and an opportunity to hone their craft and come together as a team. Ex Talisman Sabre provided a change to the norm, with an air-mobile insertion, followed by some door-kicking and the conduct of security operations in a fractured and uncertain environment. With no NCO's, many soldiers in the platoon were required to step-up, which they did so admirably. Ex Minh Dam in Townsville, and the conduct of the Stage 6 live fire allowed the guys to consolidate their skills to date, execute and achieve a good result.

The year has been made better and more interesting by the many and varied personalities and events.

From the platoon's stomping grounds of the Normanby and the Pig & Whistle to the pleasant 4th storey view from App's and Koitka's balcony.

From Josh Koitka and his fake tans to Julian "Mr High Range" Parsons, with the washboard abs and perfect complexion.

From Dan Mintern, the oldest full-track in the regiment, and his 2IC Thommo (and the Red Dragon), to James "The Serpent" Bell, with his mad ground-and-pound skills.

From EP hiding his Japanese girlfriend under his bed during room inspections, to A.J. Smith's 7-month hug with Sarah.

From Muzza's rich heritage to Eschler's wise-cracks.

From Baena and Wilko (the "Fence-Jumpers"), to Baena's desire to cut Loken's face off and wear it as a mask so he can pretend to be him.

From the Sarge's mobile phone dubbed "the Love Machine" to the entire platoon's medically alarming over-use of Indian God Lotion.

It has been a great year.

Train hard.

Fight harder.

TALISMAN SABRE 09

Bravo Company 8/9RAR deployed to Exercise Talisman Sabre as part of 6 RAR Battle group Blue Dog. The Company for the first time was exposed to air mobile operations thanks to the support of 171 Squadron and 5 Aviation who supplied Blackhawks, Chinooks and air mobile specific training for the insertion into Shoalwater Bay Training Area.

Due to these air assets Bravo Company's air mobile insertion allowed for a rapid saturation and force concentration which the ground resulted in being secured for a Battle Group Assembly Area.

The Battle Group tested many patrol's ranging from fighting patrols through too a night recon in support of 2CER to prove routes for the Battle Group's advance. After a long night of heavy patrolling, digging in, and minimal sleep, (with some of the patrols having none,) the company again stepped up to support the Battle Group in the assault of the Raspberry Creek Urban Facility in the early hours of the morning, Bravo Company then loaded into the transport assets for the Battle Group advance.

On arrival at the Objective 6 RAR had already been involved in heavy fighting and was stretched thin on the ground. Bravo Company's immediate task was to clear the Shanty Village and provide support to a escalating situation within the Internal Displaced Persons camp. After securing the village and deescalating the situation within the IDP it became apparent that the enemy was using the local hospital to gain intelligence on friendly forces. 5 PL at short notice was called upon to clear the hospital of enemy forces witch it did with minimal resistance and reconstituted as a call sign for further operations.

Due to heavy resistance within the high density accommodation, 6 RAR again called for Bravo Company to assist with the clearance and subsequent secure task of the utof. Due to training conducted back in the barracks environment Bravo Company was prepared, with limited resources and quick attack orders Bravo Company was able to begin the clearance of the UTOF.

Upon making entry into the UTOF it was clear that the company was in for a long hard fight and that all the soldiers fighting skills would be tested. Not long into the fight the first casualties where taken due too booby traps and IED's and a hasty casualty collection point was set up, promptly by the csm WO2 Bracken.

During the fighting it was noted that SPR's significantly improved situational awareness throughout the Company and allowed the swift passage of information and C2 which ultimately contributed to the success of the assault. After clearing and securing the facility Bravo Company transitioned into security operations providing local security to the civilian population. On completion of the company's security task Bravo Company, was redeployed to a brigade harbor where the company awaited orders for the upcoming move to our extraction point and exfil out of the area of operations.

Overall the exercise was a successful test of Bravo Company's ability to adapt to a rapidly changing environment in which individual soldier skills, Platoon and company SOP's were further enhanced through operating with supporting assets such as EOD teams, Military Police, Aviation, Artillery and Combat Engineers.

5 Platoon

Bravo Company

The New Year brought many fresh faces to the young 5 Platoon, with a strength of little over 30 soldiers, and JNCOs spread thin through the sections. The tone of the year was already set with junior diggers stepping up into the roles of 2IC and sometimes even Section Commander.

After a few weeks back at work, many young diggers got the opportunity to complete support courses, from DFSW to Snipers. PTE's Nichols and Cooke had outstanding performances on the Recon course and were selected for employment upon completion, for 5 Platoon this meant the loss of two of its most experienced soldiers.

While many were away on support course, the remainder got ready for deployment to Exercise BLUE STEPS. This exercise proved valuable in refreshing many basic soldiering skills, and giving many of the diggers a taste of going on exercise for the first time since their Initial Employment Training.

The support courses were over and with the addition of some new and returning experienced soldiers. March saw the Platoon increase in size chance to work together at close to full strength with the Population Protection Course. PTE Ledger showed that he is a force to be reckoned with, taking on several members of Op Forces alone in the culminating exercise.

Exercise Blue Live was the next challenge for 5 Platoon, and as per normal diggers were ready and willing to step up to take roles well above their pay grade, with a majority of senior diggers and NCOs undertaking training on the SIOS course. 5 Platoon used this exercise to try some new tactics and test the capability of the light infantry 2012 concept, with employment of a Manoeuvre Support Section supplied by 4 Platoon. Many lessons were learnt and concepts tested, and overall the men were starting to get a good understanding of how a light infantry 2012 Platoon can manoeuvre.

A few weeks back and 5 Platoon were gearing up for deployment on Exercise Diamond Dollar. The men relished the chance to test their skills as Op Forces for 6 RAR and the rest of the Battle Group. The men secured the UOTF and got ready to give 6 RAR hell, setting up booby traps and fall back positions in preparation for their assault. At 4am the sound of armour rolling into position warned the men that the assault was imminent. 6 RAR launched into a fierce fire fight, with support from armour, artillery, and other Battle Group support elements, after several hours of fighting 6 RAR were beaten back and not able to grasp a firm foot hold on the position, and by midday the DS stepped in and the remainder of 5 Platoon were told to surrender. The performance of B Coy was noted by 6 RAR and again B Coy were requested to support them during Talisman Sabre.

For Talisman Sabre the Platoon was redesignated 5 Platoon, B Coy, 6 RAR, and this exercise saw some new experiences for the young diggers of 5 Platoon. 5 Aviation, 171 Squadron supplied the men with a chance to fly in the Blackhawks and get a taste of what it's like to operate as an Air Mobile Unit. 5 Platoon were tasked to clear a section of the UOTF, and 'Delta Force' (MS Section) lead by CPL Oliver took point and swept through their area. 5 Platoon secured the UOTF after approximately 1 hour of heavy fighting, and took away some valuable lessons.

Exercise Hammersley Push was next on the calendar, and although only a short exercise it gave the men a good chance to hone their skills manoeuvring as a Company in a green roll and the first taste of mounted drills as a Platoon. There was limited time to rehearse, with many of the soldiers having never even stepped into a Bushmaster let alone perform a live fire exercise with a mounted capability. The scenario taught many valuable

lessons and even brought some excellent performances, with PTE Gane taking up a MAG 58 from depth and moving it to the frontline faster than many move with a Styer.

The next few weeks back on barracks held some heavy training for 5 Platoon, focusing on the basics of section attacks and motorised drills for the coming exercise Mihn Dam. The Battalion's culminating exercise for 2009 gave the soldiers of 5 Platoon a good chance to put into practice lessons learnt during the year, the exercise involved the whole battalion involving elements from Manoeuvre Support Company. Due to many JNCOs unable to take part in this exercise, the opportunity for many Platoon members to step up into a role higher than their job requirement was presented with all these soldiers performing valiantly across all aspects of their roles.

Upon return from RTP many of the Platoon's senior members where internally posted to Manoeuvre Support Company, to strengthen the Battalions capability. Whilst the majority of 5 Platoon members are gearing up to tackle the beast of JTW Tully, which will test all the members attending and sharpen the Platoon's jungle war fighting skills.

The remainder of the year will give the men another chance to go head to head with 6 RAR, and show them that the Rams are not just made of wool, and are a force that are not to be taken lightly.

TACTICAL EQUIPMENT AND MANUFACTURING

MANUFACTURE AND
MODIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT
STOCKIST OF SORD, EAGLE, CROSSFIRE,
SUREFIRE, TRIJICON SCOPES,
G-SHOCK, BELLEVILLE BOOTS,
CARINTHIA BIVIS & SLEEPING BAGS,
GERBER, LEATHERMAN

OPEN MON TO SAT 9 - 5

PH/FAX: 07 3855 8400

RAP – 2009 The Donkey and the Ram.

RAAMC and RAINF.

"The RAAMC has a donkey as the Corps Mascot in remembrance of the heroic and humane deeds of PTE John Simpson Kirkpatrick who used a donkey at Gallipoli to carry wounded soldiers from the battlefield to the beaches for treatment and evacuation. He worked untiringly under appalling conditions and without regard for his own safety and was ultimately killed in the performance of his duty on 19 May 1915." (History of RAAMC – Intranet 9 Oct 09) 8/9 RAR has a Ram as the Unit Mascot, an animal that reportedly typifies the qualities of the soldiers required by the battalion. Aggressive, steadfast, brave and resolute in the face of danger, a mascot that has, at times showed considerable courage of conviction needed to refuse orders which appeared unjust and when punished endured the punishment without complaining. (Stans I-IV, 8/9 RAR History – Intranet 9 Oct 09)

The RAP staff have certainly displayed a unique blending of the characters of the two mascots during 2009. The ethos of the dedicated Medical staff have fulfilled the roles exemplified by the donkey, in carrying the men of the battalion for treatment and evacuation (especially M Spt), often untiringly and in poor conditions enduring prehistoric computers and absent facilities with little regard for their own welfare in barracks and field. They have also proven themselves worthy of the characters displayed by the RAM. Aggressive when required, to fight for the rights of the sick or injured soldier, steadfast in their commitment to service, brave and resolute when under assault over unpopular decisions and endured the punishment of having to treat another STD.

In an Infantry battalion, whose men are primarily preoccupied with war-fighting, the road is rarely/if ever smooth for medical staff. Taking a look back at the year that was, the medical team have endured, overcome numerous challenges and flourished. It all began...New year, new faces, new facility, new attitude. Well, new year, new faces, new attitude...no new facility! In fact virtually no facility greeted the returning staff (WO2 Jellatt, CPL Binyon, CPL Brown and PTE Parkes) and new staff (CAPT Jeremijenko, CAPT Sawyer, SGT Roberts, CPL Doolan and PTE Cox). The RAP as it was at the end of 2008 had been gutted by the civilian contractors entrusted with the refurbishment, and gutted is the way it remained for the duration of the Christmas holidays, January and February.

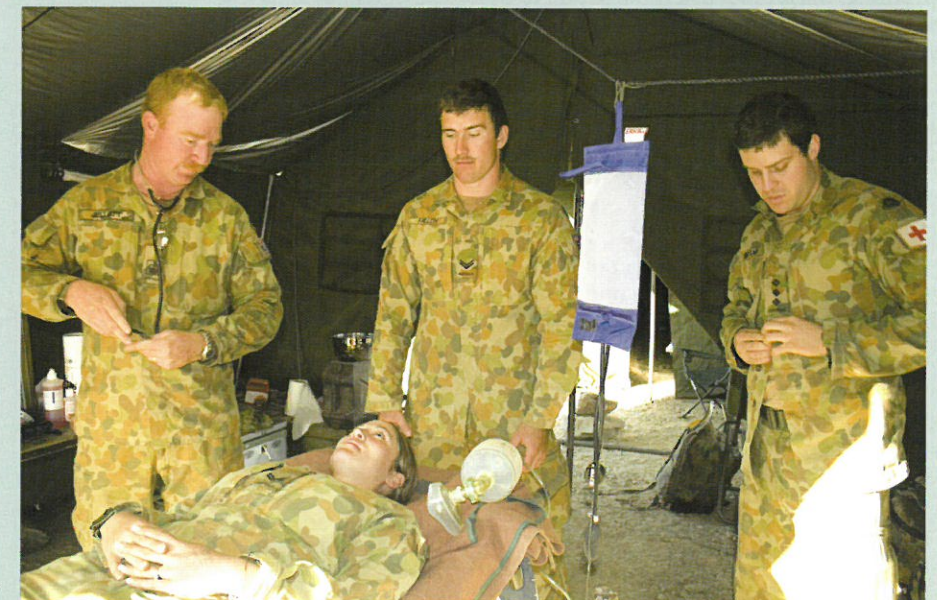
The fun didn't stop there though, the flooring, walls, cupboards where completed by March. Some fittings arrived, the most exciting being shiny new patient beds with wheels and electric controls that made relaxing in the RAP that much easier to achieve (for the patients), IF only the beds came with MATTRESSES. Fortunately CPL Binyon was willing and able to sacrifice her exercise mat to one of the beds, enabling work to continue.

The next round of fun began when the RMO decided that the conditions at 8/9 RAR weren't suited to a man of his stature and education. A couple of weeks away and a couple of weeks back then saw the exit of CAPT Jeremijenko. To the credit of the remaining RAP staff, Medical support to the Battalion continued seamlessly with MO support from 7CSSB and 2HSB.

May 09 saw the arrival of CAPT Carl Bryant (RMO) fresh from post deployment leave. As replacement RMO, recruited from the Reserves, his calm demeanor and real-time prior

experience in a Unit with soldiers, was just what the Battalion needed. With a specialisation in Sports Medicine coupled with his keen interest in physical training, CAPT Bryant has proved an invaluable resource to the men of the Bn.

The next 4 months saw the Bn top 600 pers and its incumbent training, exercise and medical requirements placed a heavy load on the static number of RAP staff. Medical support was provided to an endless variety of field exercises, courses, range shoots, sporting activities along with training support for first aid lessons, meant that on any given day there was often only one medic manning the RAP with the MO. Even the Nursing Officer was deployed into the field filling a medics role (a job which she says they can keep). Ultimately, the RAP staff have pulled together and ably assisted the CO in his objective to raise, train and sustain the men (and women) of 8/9 RAR as a deployable fighting force.



LONG LOOK 09

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...well not really...it was awesome.

Exercise LONG LOOK 09, I was posted to the 2nd Anglian Battalion of the Royal British forces (The Poachers). Based in Celle, Germany, for a four month tour of duty. On arrival to the Battalion at midnight, I caught the tale end of their boxing night and was welcomed with a room temperature can of Fosters. The amber fluid flowed freely and I got to understand some of the basic jargon, I was no longer a Full Track with diggers, but a Full Screw with Squaddies.

In the true ANZAC spirit I faced the Commanding Officer early the next morning seedy as hell but clean shaven. When asked what I would like to achieve while posted to his battalion I replied. "Sir, I wish to absorb and gain a wealth of knowledge of true soldiering at is finest, as only the British know how, and bring this wealth of knowledge back to the Royal Australian Regiment".

The Battalion was now on stand down and I spent the next month parachuting. Going from static line to free fall, after becoming a sky god and achieving "The Student of Merit Award" the jump master asked me how I did so well and I cheekily replied "well that's easy Sir, I was pissed every day wasn't I".

The barracks I lived in was an old German SS Barracks, full of history, and as for the beautiful city of Celle, it was spared the bombing of WW2. Walking the cobble stone streets of Celle was like going back in time and the German people welcomed me with open arms and the finest Beer in the world, once they released I was not British but a tall handsome, bronzed Australian.

The Battalion was gearing up for future operations, just like 8/9 RAR, so it was back to basics. Individual, group fire and movement. Section level and platoon shake outs in the forests just outside the front gate. The equipment we had was old school stuff and due to the high operational commitments the British are involved in, 1 NWS per section was all we got, however was assured that they received the good kit on there MRE's. We also received old belt webbing, 4 mags, the SA80, grab our day sacks with extra ammo and conduct a TAB, Tactical Advance to Battle, which was always no less than 6 miles, and that's not a march, it's a bloody run. I discovered the Brits were not big on push ups, but boy they definitely love to run 6, 12 and 18 mile Tabs. When I arrived I had just missed the snow and as the days heated up I found it a lot easier but this had the opposite effect on my brothers in arms. The battalion was without a lot of its JNCO's (due to promotional courses) and equipment so I soon found my self in the thick of it on a company EX as the lead section with a 1 is to 50000 10 yr old map and no ninox in the deep dark forest of Germany. Thank god I brought my own GPS, as and aid to navigation only, of course.

Once the Coy was harboured up, clearing patrol, sentries out, perimeter cord and shell scrapes, yep, halfway around the world and I am digging a pit. It was quite romantic in the forest the way the moon light shone through the trees; don't know if my new fellow comrades would understand the seven days in the field rule. Orders came at short notice "CPL Keleher, I want you to take your five man section plus two attachment from heavy weapons platoon, they have the clues from the javelins, I want you to conduct a recon patrol here, here and here, once you locate the enemy, leave the attachments with the clues to keep and eye on them. Then come back and lead the Coy back to them." It was 2330, "No worries Sir, what is the duration of my patrol when do you want me back by..." The young spirited officer cocked his head to one side and replied "Well, when you have found the enemy of course".

The Coy EX came to and end, and as like back at home it was

clean weapons then hit the Coy boozier for a well earned warm
Fosters followed by a many Vodka and red bulls.

The following week rolled straight into a battalion ex, and as light infantry, it was all two feet and a heart beat. The methods of patrolling and clearing in wooded and forest areas were learnt the hard way, in the Second World War, and nothing had changed except the uniforms and equipment. The British lads reminded me much of our own diggers, at times without the right equipment or man power for the job, but with a dam good sense of humour, pride and professionalism, they always got the job done. Many of our benefits in the Australian Defence Force such as housing, recognized defacto, tax free pay on deployments, messing facilities and basic equipment should not be taken for granted. I now know we are leaps, and in some cases such as our welfare support, bounds ahead of other Armed forces.

At the end of the Battalion EX, I was no longer known as CPL Keleher, my official name was now "SKIPPY". I told a few yarns that in the out back small towns kids still road kangaroos to school.

I was given time for some R an R, and travelled through out Europe by car on the wrong side of the road. France, Villers Brettoneux for Anzac day, a small village in Normandy where some of the fiercest fighting occurred in world war one. The primary school put on breakfast for us and had made little koalas and kangaroos and placed them through out the village. The school is still sponsored by us and the children are taught all about Australia as a sign of respect to never forget what our fore fathers had done for them during the war. I went to as many war sites as I could. I reached Belgium and the city of Ypres, where they close the main street every night at 2000 and play the last post, Flanders field, Pashendale where the largest Commonwealth force cemetery is located. Walking the trench systems where Adolf Hitler was wounded when he was a private soldier. It was a very moving place. You could not drive 1 km without coming to another war cemetery, head stones, crosses, old machine gun pillar boxes.

So to cheer my self up I headed on up north to Holland, Amsterdam, that put a smile on my dial. I visited Ana Franks house, a famous Jewish girl who kept a diary of her time hiding in the attic during the German occupation. I then went to Berlin, Italy, Rome, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The opportunity to represent my Country and Corps was a proud and rewarding experience and would encourage anyone to seize the opportunity to deploy on Ex LONG LOOK.

Bravo Company 2009

Bravo Company was directed to re-raise on 18 Jan 09 with the projected endstate of establishing full motorised company strength (171 personnel) and achieving up to, and including, company-level live fire manoeuvre by the end of its first year.

Since raising in January, Bravo Company have grown to exceed the projected growth target by over 30% and demonstrated a capacity to deal with all tasks and milestones presented.

After participating in Ex BLUE LIVE, Ex DIAMOND DOLLAR, Ex HAMMERSLEY PUSH, Ex MINH DAM, Ex TALISMAN SABRE and Ex BLUE TULLY the company is postured strongly to commence the 2010 training year with a strong focus towards operations and achieving OLOC.

Bravo Company's task this year was clear; to achieve a solid level of dismounted infantry skills in order to set the conditions for future Motorisation and deployment at the direction of government. From the outset this mindset has kept Bravo Company motivated with a clear sense of direction and purpose. This base level of core skills and abilities has been attained through a variety of tactical exercises and the Company is looking toward its next stage of development, mainly Motorisation in the tail end of 2009. This milestone will be challenging and demanding; however, with the mindset and ability that Bravo Company has displayed during 2009 it will be achieved to a confident standard.

The characters and personalities of Bravo Company have made the 2009 working environment. From CHQ to the Platoons, professionalism and perseverance of the men of B Coy throughout 2009 has established a legacy we hope worthy of those who have come before us and will endure through those who join the Company into the future.

Farewells and thanks extend to all the men moving on at the end of 2009, particularly to the many key position holders including the 2IC, Capt Johnson, PLCOMDs, LT King and LT Zimmerlie, CSM, WO2 Watts, and PLSGT, SGT R. Biss who have all moved onto other appointments and tasking. Your effort and mission-focus were first-rate. You will remain founding members of the re-raised Bravo Company.

With an impending operational deployment, and Motorisation in 2010 among many tasks, the Company will be hitting the ground at a hectic pace in 2010. With an influx of new infantrymen and key appointment holders early in the New Year, the anticipated pace and expectations will be both challenging and rewarding.

Be Professional.

defence rewards

STEVE AND VICKI HOWLETT,
EX ARMY AND 40 YEARS IN THE SERVICE,
APPRECIATE DEFENCE PERSONNEL DEDICATION.
AS FRANCHISEES OF EAGLE BOYS PIZZA GROVELLY
AND TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT, PLEASE TURN OVER
FOR THESE GREAT SPECIALS!

13 14 33
eagleboys.com.au

EAGLE BOYS
PIZZA
"BIGGER, BETTER"

REAL LARGE PIZZAS!
BIGGER, BETTER LARGE PIZZAS

\$6.95*
FROM EACH
PICK UP
ONLY

*Surcharges apply for additional toppings. Add \$3 for Big Cheese Crunch, Eagle Edge™, "Half 'n' Half" and promotional pizzas. Add \$3.95 for Double™™. 15% Public Holiday surcharge. Conditions are subject to change without prior notice. Offer valid at Eagle Boys Pizza Grovelly only. Offer expires 31/12/09.

EAGLE BOYS
PIZZA
"BIGGER, BETTER"
13 14 33
eagleboys.com.au

REAL LARGE PIZZA
BIGGER, BETTER LARGE PIZZAS

\$7.95*
FROM EACH
DELIVERED

\$500.00 delivery only

MINIMUM ORDER
OF 3 PIZZAS

*Surcharges apply for additional toppings. Add \$3 for Big Cheese Crunch, Eagle Edge™, "Half 'n' Half" and promotional pizzas. Add \$3.95 for Double™™. 15% Public Holiday surcharge. Limited delivery area. Drivers carry charge for \$20. Conditions are subject to change without prior notice. Offer valid at Eagle Boys Pizza Grovelly only. Offer expires 31/12/09.

EAGLE BOYS
PIZZA
"BIGGER, BETTER"
13 14 33
eagleboys.com.au

B COMPANY



S1 CELL

Well 2009 came in a hurry, and before we knew it, it was gone.

We saw many new faces at the start of the year, unfortunately we had nowhere to put them, but eventually we moved into the new BHQ, and kept the battalion running.

The manning for the beginning of the year was stretched, but as the year progressed we received an influx of clerks, and things began running smoother.

The first half of the year was reasonably quiet for field exercises, but administratively there was plenty of work on.

Our first Exercise was Diamond Dollar, this was our first shake out, and with a new crew, plenty of TTP's were formalised and put into place. The cam net procedure being the highlight, almost on a daily occurrence, fun was had by all.

A week's stand-down was taken by the Bn then we were back into it.

After Diamond Dollar, came Talisman Sabre. We arrived at our location (The Quarry) setup, baby sat the HRR, end ex, went home. (Did I miss anything?)

After Talisman Sabre we had a couple of days off, then start prepping for Ex Minh Dam at high Range.

Exercise Minh Dam got underway with an 18 hour bus ride to Townsville, doesn't get any better than that, or does it? Once in Townsville sub-units commenced zeroing the new weapons, in preparation for the up and coming Coy LFX. OA, 95A, and 95 where all there, refining the TTP's from previous exercises, from all accounts, things went well, all goals were met during the LFX, and no-one was shot.

WO2 Inglis and SGT Sporn led the way in all aspects of Admin while keeping the team going with their sense of humour. A number of practical jokes arose during the year.

The Bn commenced the year looking after approx 200 soldiers, this was achieved with one finance clerk. Throughout the year, the pay cell has grown with the battalion now providing pay services to approx of 700 members, with one LCPL & one PTE. The changing needs of the battalion saw PTE Clancy head off to SUB 1, with high hopes of promotion in the near future. Then in steps a wet behind the ears Chocó, with little to no experience in ARA pay, just in time for GORPS. Whilst PTE Clancy was out leading section attacks at Greenbank, PTE Chard was trying to explain what went wrong with trainees service allowance to close to 100 members with a further 60 members having GORPS issues. June 22 saw a relieved PTE Clancy return to the safety of the pay cell, where both finance clerks remained for 2009.

During the year, PTEs Clancy and French were promoted to LCPL, once promoted LCPL French completed Subj 4 CPL and is gaining experience for advancement to her next rank.

The fitness of BHQ was kept at battle standard throughout the year thanks to the coordination of the ADJT. Personnel of BHQ have maintained a rigorous PT program throughout the year, and with the Battalion's newest recruit, the pace has slowed down a bit, so Stan can keep up.

There were several clerical functions throughout the year, five milestone birthdays including PTE Baumanis' 18th PTE King's 21st, CPL McCann's 30th, Vanessa's 40th and CPL Walters' 50th. Then there was also a huge get-together at the Breakfast Creek Hotel, not to mention the functions where all the Clerks learnt Belly - Dancing at a Mediterranean restaurant.

As this article is being written, CAPT Partridge headed off to sunny Queenscliff to marry his long time love Shelley. We wish them well for their future together.

Although a hectic 2009, the S1 cell worked extremely well and coherently in trying circumstances, bringing efficient

administration while keeping a sense of humour. 2008 might have been our birth year with a baptism of fire but 2009 was a year of evolution and growth. What will 2010 bring? Only time will tell

New arrivals for 2009:

- CAPT Partridge - ADJT
- LT Grumley - AADJT
- LCPL French - MOVTS
- PTE Phillips - ORD RM
- PTE Chard - PAY
- PTE Campbell - ORD RM
- PTE Kumar - ORD RM
- PTE Baumanis - ORD RM
- PTE John "STAN" MacArthur
- Mrs Vanessa Hackett APS - The engine room of the Bn.
- Mrs Patricia Beatty - APS

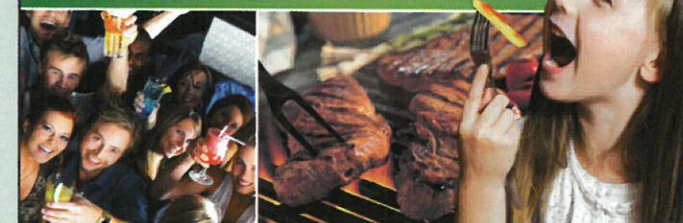
Departures:

- LT Grumley - A COY
- CPL Walters - 9 RQR
- Mrs Vanessa Hackett - Defence Security Branch

JOIN US AT...
**Finnigan's
Chin**
IRISH PUB

FOR SOME GOOD OLD IRISH FUN!

- Family friendly bistro
- Great bar with all your favourite beers on tap
- Live entertainment till late, Thursday to Sunday
- Fox Sports live on the big screen



OPEN 10.30am - LATE, 7 DAYS A WEEK

Finnigans Chin Keperra
577 Settlement Road Keperra | Phone: 3851 2477

Super GP 2009

What started out as disappointment for some, in hearing the news that the likes of McLaren and Ferrari would not be hitting the

asphalt of the Gold Coast, turned into an interesting week for a handful of 8/9 Diggers, as they were stabbed with the task of showing off two of the Battalion’s Bush Masters at this years Super GP. 8/9 RAR, together with 7 Brigade Recruiting, 2nd /14, 1 Topo, Military Police, Artillery and the boys from Armygeddon, provided the public with an upclose and hands on experience on some of the Army’s equipment and vehicles. These four days are probably one of the Armys biggest opportunities to show case and promote on such large public scale, although not one of us quite knew what exactly we were in for.

Upon arriving at the track early Thursday morning, we were briefed on our left and rights what was in store for the day and what to expect for the week, Thursday was school day. This meant from the minute we opened the rear door of the trucks we had a line up twenty deep of young boys and girls, wanting to get behind the wheel or more importantly to them....the Mag 58! The day was spent showing both children and parents through the vehicle or trying to deter “that boy” from the gun who just kept coming back all day. Overall, feed back from the parents was great, and a few of them themselves couldn’t resist getting in the capola for a photo.

Friday saw the arrival of the V8’s and an entirely different crowd! What started out early on as taunt from the boys from Cavalry on who could draw the most attention from the promo girls turned into a very one sided affair to 8/9 as Pte Bayliss, Alpha Coy, spear headed the ‘assault’ on “those guys down the other end.” Most of the day was spent meeting the girls from different race teams or brands who just wanted a photo with an Army guy or two. One of the highlights of the day for the boys was grabbing a photo with Sammi from Zoo magazine while 2nd /14 could not do much at all except watch as their Lav’s continued to remain bare. 8/9 RAR proving once again, that after the punishing them in sport all year, that the Cav and their Lav’s really do have nothing. This would continue for the remainder of the racing week.

Another highlight was getting the opportunity to do a lap around the circuit in convoy, which involved also the Armygeddon entertaining the crowds with their chunky display of power. The convoy was met with cheers from the crowds along the main straight, while also giving us and lucky members of the public a view from the other side of the barriers.

By Saturday morning we were briefed that we would be in for the busiest day of the week. The cars were loud and the crowds were rowdy. It was towards the end of the day when Pte Winn found himself going out of their way, doing what they could do to help out a couple people who had found them self in a spot of embarrassment and Pte Rolfe had a chance to put to practice his first aid skills as one member of the public enjoyed himself a little too much and as a result cut his foot open needing medical attention. Both these Diggers drew the attention of Armygeddon Project Commander LT COL Tom Regener and where commended for their efforts. Once again this sort of positive behaviour helps to portray 8/9 RAR as a professional and capable organisation.

Overall the Army’s Exhibition was considered a success and good feed back and thanks were received from race organisers for the small part the Army did play over the course of the race week.

The year in RP’s that was 2009.

Those who went before me were few and fleeting, but if I am to be tarred with the “RP” brush, then they, too, can carry their share of the stench.

(Dis)Honour Roll.

CPL Oliver
PTE Milburn
SGT Young

What we do... The role of the Regimental Police Section.

In the Field:

- Close protection of the CO
- Local defence
- Oversee security tasks
- Convoy escort tasks
- Detainee/PW handling, processing, and back loading
- Assistance with military discipline matters (Charges, etc.)

On Base:

- Maintenance of discipline
- Upholding and enforcing of soldierly standards and conduct
- Assistance with military discipline matters (Charges, etc.)
- Maintenance and running of the Battalion Guard
- POC for visitors to the Battalion
- POC for RSM’s work-party

What we did... As the year panned out.

- Oversaw numerous works around the Battalion for the improvement of existing, and installation of new, infrastructure.
- Constructed the Battalion mascot’s day and night pens.
- Constructed Stan’s house. (SGT Young – There ya go, we’re all proud o’ ya.)
- Sold goffas on Ex Mihn Dam.
- Catalogued all Regimental Property. (Ongoing process)
- Ran the DPRI store. (Ongoing process)
- Organised trophies, plaques, shirts, etc. for Bn & non-Bn pers.
- Waged the day-to-day battle of the car parks. (I’m over it, as you’ll all start finding out.)
- Organised conference rooms, lecture areas, presentations, AIRN compliancy.
- Progressively updated vehicle registration, live-in member’s addresses, recall details, key registers, sign-out registrations, conduct records, work orders, phone lists, duties lists, re-training lists, RoP lists, target lists, what-punishment-would-I-really-like-to-see-lists, what-is-it-going-to-take-to-get-through-to-these-clowns-lists, etc. (You get the picture.)
- Sent some dudes to the Big House.
- Got the Ram.
- Trained the Ram.
- Sourced and maintained care and upkeep of the Ram.
- Gave target list to the Ram. (Watch out, lids.)

Present Members – CPL Wilkes, CPL Watts, PTE McGrath (& PTE MacArthur)

3 Platoon

“The Barbarians”

It was a busy year for 3 Platoon, as it was for the Battalion. At the start of the year we said goodbye to a few of the original members and saw a lot of new faces march-in. After several PT sessions, and the odd social event, personalities started to emerge and the platoon started to gel together. Before too long the platoon was off on its first exercise with many of its command structure away on course. This meant that many junior members had to step up into more senior roles, which they did. Everyone put in a superb effort with private soldiers punching well above their weight. Concentrating on dismounted skills the Barbarians started developing SOP’s from which they could build.

A Coy seemed to come off one exercise and straight onto another. This allowed the Barbarians to further develop their dismounted SOP’s to a high standard, while the drivers and crew commanders honed their mounted skills supporting the rest of the company. The key was constant repetition and the professionalism of the Section Commanders and Diggers. A constant theme of the year was the ability of the platoon’s soldiers to step up and fill higher, more demanding roles.

Exercise TALISMAN SABRE saw the platoon working alongside a squadron from the 1st Armoured Regiment, and one of its sections attached to CHQ. It was good to work so closely with the tanks and gain an understanding of combined arms warfare. The platoon was reconstituted for the final activity, conducting a village clearance. In just under 3 hours the village had been cleared, secured, bad guys killed and HVT’s identified.

Ex TALISMAN SABRE was quickly followed by Ex HAMMERSLEY PUSH and finally Ex MINH DAM, the highlight of which was the live fire scenario. Once again the platoon worked together as a truly cohesive unit and achieved all the tasks in good time.

There was plenty of time for play during the year, as evidenced by the number of platoon functions and other goings on. Some of the highlights included eating competitions (Loady sharing his rations with Tabs); Kev’s interesting use of a sim grenade; Damo’s response to the question ‘Why are you guys wearing suits?’ and the whole platoon being kicked out of a pub in under 45 minutes; to name just a few.

It was a good year for the platoon, who now say goodbye to some of its members, off to fill other roles within the Battalion and the wider Army; while welcoming many new faces. Not least of which is the new leadership team of LT Grumley and SGT Young.

NOS VENIT, NOS ANIMADVERTO, NOS VICTUMNOS

EXERCISE DIAMOND DOLLAR

By: LT Luke Holloway

EX DIAMOND DOLLAR was 7 BDE’s first combined arms activity of the year. This exercise was a significant milestone in the motorisation of the A Company and the development of the A Company Combat Team.

The first two weeks of the exercise saw the development of SOP’s for Platoon and Combat Team operations with a variety of supporting assets including UAV’s, M1 Abrams, ASLAV, Engineers and Artillery. The live fire danger close practice with 105 Bty gave many of the soldiers their first exposure to artillery and was certainly a highlight of the activity. The opportunity to work closely with tanks, ASLAV’s, engineers and UAV’s at platoon level saw some strong friendships formed and enabled the commanders and soldiers the chance to work with many assets they would not normally see unless deployed on operations.

The close working relationship with 2/14 LHR enabled a cross pollination of ideas which drastically enhanced the development of platoon and company motorised SOP’s. The integration of PMV’s into the Company was well and truly achieved at the end of the first two weeks. The Company then had a day at freshwater beach to refit for the next stage of the exercise which was greeted enthusiastically by all involved.

The exercise culminated in a 36 hour battle run followed by a Battle Group sized assault on a company position. The mission, led by 2/14 LHR, consisting of A Company, a SQN of MIA1 Abrams, two Cavalry squadrons and an Engineer squadron saw the battle group conducting a high end war fighting scenario which was a first for A Company and 7 BDE in many years.



1 PLATOON

'The Resurrected'

This year was a busy year for 1 Platoon, with a plethora of courses and exercises. The first few months of the year saw members away on numerous individual courses, including PMV and Support Company courses. The Platoon was brought up to its posted strength of 1 and 53 with the completion of the second Battalion run IET course in March.

From there, the platoon embarked on a hectic schedule of back to back exercises including the A Company exercise, Ex. DIAMOND DOLLAR, and Ex. TALISMAN SABER all at Shoalwater Bay. After these blank exercises the platoon then participated in Ex. HAMMERSLY PUSH and Ex. MIHN DAMN which were both live fire exercises. At the completion of these exercises the platoon went on some well earned leave and is now conducting mission specific training for TLBG 7.

This year saw CPL Keleher deploy on Ex. LONG LOOK to the Royal Anglian Regiment, where he was based in Germany. In exchange the platoon had LCPL Tom 'Max' Power posted in; LCPL Power provided numerous insights into the British way of soldiering. He even managed to attend several exercises in between his leave which saw him travel up and down the east coast of Australia.

The numerous platoon functions throughout the year provided a great opportunity to bond outside of work hours. These, combined with the Southbank PT on Fridays meant that when in barracks the weekend always got off to a good start.

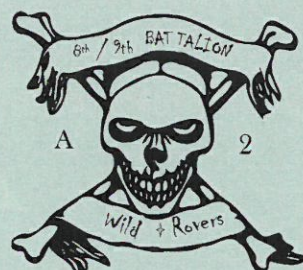
This year two out of the three soldier's medallions for the battalion went to members of the platoon, namely CPL Etienne Fabre and LCPL Stuart Crooks. CPL Fabre was also 8/9 RAR's nomination for the Hassett Award. These two NCO's have made a considerable contribution to the platoon and the company not only this year, but last year as well.

The end of the year also includes several changes for the platoon manning, with LT Holloway and CPL Kelleher posting out of the battalion. Both were founding members of the re-raised 8/9 RAR in Jan 2008. SGT Rice is moving over to CHQ as the MOT SGT for 2010. There are also a dozen soldiers moving to Support Company in 2010.

Overall, this has been an extremely productive year for the platoon, which is now a fully motorised 2012 platoon preparing for operations.

2 PLATOON "WILD ROVERS"

Similar to last year and the remainder of the Battalion, it has been a very busy and successful year for the members of 2 PL, 8/9 RAR. With the ranks swelling over the past few months the platoon has again been involved in the thick of training, working on individual, team, section and platoon level training in a blank and Live Fire environment.



The first shake out of the year saw 2 PL working extremely hard to on improving individual and section skills on the ACOY Training activity. This 3 week block was given to the Platoon to work on much needed basic skills and hone the personality that the platoon would eventually develop in the coming months.

From the start the Platoon's NCOs were challenged by an ever eager but sometimes misguided quorum of junior soldiers keen to show off the latest lessons learned. It was at this stage that the Platoon, using CPL Matty Bennett's experiences decided it would develop 2012 TTPs and relearn everything it would need for the challenging year ahead.

On exercise Diamond Dollar the platoon mounted in PMVs and began the gruelling process of applying its dismounted skills to a mounted setting, and began to achieve some realistic training scenarios. It was here that the Platoon took part in 7BDEs mounted Battle group assault on the Tri Feature, and managed to achieve the final break in on the 6RAR defensive position. The platoon also developed its' knack for assaulting up hills on "bare assed luck and hands and knees," whilst giving some of the younger soldiers an opportunity to demonstrate some much improved battle fitness.

At home, the platoon took a much needed opportunity to come together as a group in a social setting and hit up the Platoon Local at the Gaythorne Bowls club. Over some 'quiet social drinks' the platoon reminded itself not to take things too seriously, and remembered little things like PTE Redmond getting lost 100m away from the platoon position (with NFE, white light, in a non tac setting) and telling everyone about it.

Back into the mix for Exercise Talisman Sabre, the platoon was thrown into a Cavalry led operation in the back of ASLAVs. From the onset a good relationship was established with the CAV brothers and even adopted an American Marine for the trip. Again the platoon found itself in the midst of the action, and again managed to assault up the biggest hill in the area, resulting in some spew and puffed faces all around.

Working on the Live Fire aspects of soldiering EX Hamersley Push and Ex Minh Dam provided realistic training opportunities for all levels of the platoon. A definite highlight for the year saw the platoon conducting a LF counter ambush, combined with an in contact CASEVAC and resupply.

Although many names have changed again with the platoon, 2 PL would like to extend a warm welcome all new members including SGT Adam Bissett and LT Ben Johanson who will lead the platoon into the New Year and the future.

AFL ROUND-UP

Well the first AFL season for 8/9 RAR turned out to be a beauty.

It started great with preseason, and about 50 players rocked up to get a game, but as the exercises, and courses came so did the dwindling numbers.

Our first game was against an old rival 6 RAR, and it was a close game right up to the opening bounce, after that it was all one-way traffic, with the final result being 8/9 RAR 17-10-112 def 6 RAR 5-6-36 by 75 points. Best players were Stevo, Thorso, and Fabs. Major goal kickers Eppsy 5, Thorso 3, and Stevo 2

Game two saw a totally different team with at least half of the run on team on course, but we scraped together 22 players and took on the Engineers. This game was a close one, with us leading day until about 5 minutes to go they hit the lead. However Brooker was thrown into the ruck, with immediate success, the boys forced the ball forward and with less than a minute on the clock, tall Smithy kicked a goal from nowhere. The final result, 8/9 RAR 8-5-53 def Engineers 7-10-52 by 1 point. Best players where Stevo, Brooker, and Jonesy.

The Final game of the home and away season was against the Gunners, and with a full strength the result was never really in doubt. With the on-ball brigade dominating around the ground, a cohesive, and miserly defence, and an accurate, and efficient forward line, the gunners were never in the hunt. The final result 8/9 RAR 21-9-135 def Gunners 3-1-19 by 116 points. Best players Stevo, Naz, Jonesy, and Irvs. Major goal kickers, Naz 9, Irvo 6.

The Grand final was played against 2/14 on a hot dry day. With a near full strength side, the boys were very confident, despite having only just returned from a 3 week bush ex.

The game started very scrappy, and we where not using the ball efficiently at all, but slowly the tide started to turn, and with our inspirational leader Stevo, leading from the front, we began to pull away. The turning point in the game happened in the second quarter, when 2/14 were kicking with a 3-4 goal breeze and the boys kept them to 2 goals while we kicked 4 goals.



With a 31 point lead at half time, things where looking good, and with our defence keeping 2/14 scoreless in the 3rd quarter, and 52 point lead, all we had to do was hold on. Most of our guys, were just about of their feet, but refused to stop running, especially Stevo, and to 2/14 credit they fought it out to the end and out scored us by 2 goals in the final quarter, but 52 points was to much to make up and the eventual margin was 38 points. Best players Brooker, Stevo, Fabs, and Jonesy. Major goal kickers, Naz 5, Stevo 2.

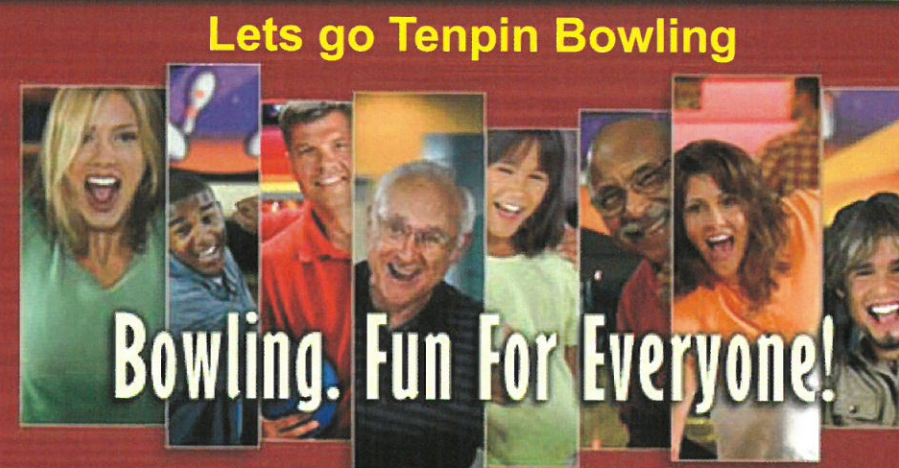
It has been a fantastic year, and for a first up season, and with the tempo of the Bn, nothing more could be asked of the players.

I would like to thank CAPT Smith for his efforts throughout the year for his assistance with training, scheduling, and organising the new Guernseys.

Thankyou also to Stevo, Jonesy, and Fabs, as the leader group on and of the field.



26 Lanes
Automatic Bumpers
Licenced Restaurant
Children's parties
Social Functions
Daytime Café Club
Night time League



Westfield Chermide
Upstairs next to the
Cinema's PH 33503299

ROGUES GALLERY



A COMPANY



