

II/IV
1988







The Journal of the
2nd/4th Battalion
The Royal Australian Regiment
1988

Colonel in Chief: **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

Commander in Chief: **Sir Ninian Stevens, AK, GCMG, GCVO, KBE**

Colonel Commandant: **Major General A. L. Morrison, AO, DSO, MBE**

Regimental Colonel: **Colonel R. B. Bishop**

Commanding Officer: **Lieutenant Colonel I. J. Ballantyne**

Regimental Sergeant Major: **Warrant Officer First Class G. R. Hansen**

REGIMENTAL ALLIANCES:

Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment

The Royal Malay Regiment

The Brigade of Gurkhas

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Regiment

BATTALION ALLIANCES:

Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards

Irish Regiment of Foot Guards

Regimental Sergeant Major

Warrant Officer Class 1

G.R. HANSEN



I have been very proud to be the RSM of this fine Battalion during 1988 and to have been able to bask in the achievements and endeavours of its men.

We are generally in good shape for 1989, with keen, good quality NCO's and soldiers.

I now direct my attentions to an extreme minority, the low life who use drugs or steal from their mates. Drugs are unacceptable in the army for very obvious reasons, and any person who uses them for their release should now be looking for another way to earn their living.

The success of the Australian Army during its short history has always been based on mateship and any person who would steal from a mate would take his water, rations or ammunition in battle and there is no place for this type of scum in 2/4 RAR.

To the remainder who are the vast majority, I say to you and yours for the festive season, come back refreshed and seeking a new challenge in 1989.

DUTY FIRST.

G.R. HANSEN

Battalion Headquarters

BHQ has had a good time this year. There has been a high turnover of personnel, but the HQ still maintains its usual high standard of staff work (the assistant adjutant wrote this).

The pay section has had a big shuffle, with Cpl Longhead and LCpl Robertson moving on. Welcome to Sgt Lowe (who showed a trip to Malaya), and Pte Stafford. Pte Ames was promoted to Cpl and it has obviously gone to his head, hence a look at his hair. Good to see Cpl Scott maintaining the steady influence.

The RP's under Sgt Courtney and Sgt Williams have had a great year, a good clean up record and lots of connections. Yes Vinney is still there along with Hully and Cpl Williams.

The SSM has kept the CO's conferences alive with his witty anecdotes about the female of the species.

The AA&J hasn't been awn much this year, off swimming, SPMing or DOG squadding, but he managed to generate enough work to keep the Adj occupied.

The Clerk has kept his sanity while Sgt Mann has lined himself up a job when he gets out, painting garden gnomes.

The orderly room was too efficient so Sgt Hartley and Cpl Gardiner got moved, typical eh!

Cpl Lowe managed to move people and swear, get upset, move people, swear, swear, etc., etc.

Not much happened on the top floor this year (apart from minor office). The Adj agitated, the BIC administered, the OPSO and

OPSO and Ops Sgt operated, and we still haven't found the IO to ask him what he did.

The CO managed to fly, drive, operate and manipulate every piece of equipment in the Army's inventory. Some he operated in a high standard, others well, ask the Porter pilot on "Mad Beagle".

It has been a successful year for BHQ and those of us leaving with the new identities all the best for 1966.



Cpl Ames combing his hair



"You want what?"



The local guerrilla leader briefs 1st. Section



WO1 Gibson, Cpl Lowe and WO2 Harcourt



Ashton's Circus Mad Beagle '68

Nominal Roll Battalion Headquarters 1988

LtCol Ballantyne *
Maj Blinkhorn
Maj Gregg
Capt Bancroft
Capt Caldwell
Lt Allen
Lt Kuruc
Lt Lean
WO1 Hansen
WO2 Harmsworth
Sgt Downing
Sgt Dzeinsz
Sgt Hartley
Sgt Lowe
Sgt Misso
Sgt Speter
Sgt Williams
Cpl Amos
Cpl Lowe
Cpl Scott

Cpl Smith
Cpl Stanton
Cpl Williams
LCpl Falcocchio
Pte Ball
Pte Barritt-Eyles
Pte Burley
Pte Howard
Pte Hull
Pte Inglis
Pte Kerr
Pte Miller
Pte Peters
Pte Purdom
Pte Schultz
Pte Smith
Pte Stafford
Pte Stephenson
Pte Weekes
Pte Wilson

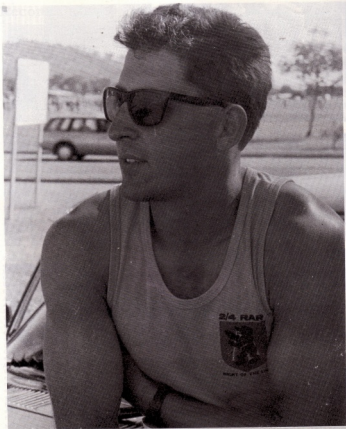


Maj Blinkhorn, Bn 2IC



Cpl Williams and Cpl Amos

Dutroonies in the Bush



Alpha Company

Alpha Company

By the time we go on BRL this year, A Coy would have worked for 15 months. Most of the Coy returned from leave Oct./Nov. '87 and prepared to work BRL as the ODF Coy. The Christmas period was allocated to section commanders who were given tasks to achieve. The OC's tests at the end proved worthy of the tasks. All were pleased to end the early morning flights with the mosquitoes.

The Coy started off the year well by winning the swimming competition... a little training always helps.

After bush week in February it was off to the Hunter Valley to teach the ARES a few lessons and give the lads a few days off in Sydney; at which time the 2IC had made off to Malaysia.

April saw the return of the 2IC, another bush week at HRTA, followed by a Coy advance recon (15 pers) to Karumba for the beer and prawn festival.

For Cpl Baker and his section, May was the month of the NORFORCE SWAN. Some broken vehicles and bones later the section returned, we think our apologies and promises of never to unleash another section on NORFORCE has calmed the waters. Oh!.... by the way..... weren't we going for a tropical island holiday in May?

June saw the night of the long knives and we have 1 Div Int Coy to thank for the many pleasant hours spent conversing about swimming techniques; dance steps and the good meals that they had.



Mag Webb



The Chair



Pte Gourlay

Those who had desires to fall out of aircraft were allowed to do so in July. The majority of the company took up this opportunity... we hope you enjoyed it.

"Maxi Beagle" allowed the Company to operate independently. As exercises go, most enjoyed themselves — particularly at Escott, fishing, drinking coke and croc hunting (or keeping a very close eye out at night).

"Swift Eagle" and courses to go, next year we look forward to Hong Kong again. Maj Webb moves to Ops Offr and we thank him for the time and effort he has put into the Coy.

Many others have left or are to leave; we wish them all the best and look forward to serving together again in the future. Have a good Christmas and please drive safely.



WO2 Gollidge

Nominal Roll — A Coy

CHQ

Maj Webb
Capt Foster
WO2 Gollidge
SSgt Porter
Cpl Whent
LCpl Rodgers
Pte Angelosante
Cpl Chester
Pte Hando
Pte Hynds
Pte Morrow

1 Platoon

Lt Parker
Sgt Brady
Cpl Baker
Cpl Palmer
Cpl Stephens
LCpl Edelman
LCpl Johnson
LCpl Strahan
Pte Barron
Pte Bakos
Pte Blake
Pte Boughton
Pte Carr
Pte Constantin
Pte Daly
Pte David
Pte Demmer
Pte Elliot
Pte Gibson
Pte Gourlay
Pte Laithey
Pte Laundess
Pte MacKenzie
Pte Mackrill
Pte Meylan
Pte Oldham
Pte Oul
Pte Price
Pte Ritchie
Pte Shelton
Pte Tremble
Pte Wilson

2 Platoon

Lt Eames
Sgt Ingall
Cpl Conrad
Cpl Elliott
Cpl Pickering
LCpl Donegan
LCpl Melver
LCpl Thomas
Pte Allen
Pte Baldwin
Pte Bowen
Pte Buchanan
Pte Buskell
Pte Carter
Pte Davies
Pte Delderfield
Pte Fairall
Pte Freta
Pte Gentili
Pte Gillan
Pte Grant
Pte Heffernan
Pte Henry
Pte Hexter
Pte Hough
Pte Kelly
Pte Laing
Pte Mitchard
Pte Patterson
Pte Penfold
Pte Pilcher
Pte Rodda
Pte Saunderson
Pte Stanford
Pte Waghorne
Pte Walker

3 Platoon

Lt Sutton
Sgt O'Donnell
Cpl Boltitho
Cpl Darcy
Cpl Osgood
LCpl Albon
LCpl Corney
LCpl Dunn
Pte Balderston
Pte Bambrook
Pte Browning
Pte Burwell
Pte Cogan
Pte Evans
Pte Fisher
Pte Gray
Pte Grealy
Pte Guillier
Pte Kidd
Pte McIntosh
Pte McKinnon
Pte Phillips
Pte Pugliese
Pte Rose
Pte Scholtz
Pte Smart
Pte Szeely
Pte Vaughton
Pte Willshire

1 Platoon

The platoon started 1988 with Ex Crack Shot at Mt Vince, and we spent our rest day on Brampton Island — where Pte David commenced Ex Crack Mirror. This did not impress the management and the Coy had to practice a hasty withdrawal from the Island.

Next on the agenda was Ex Hamiltons Request where we played enemy for the Army Reserve. 1 Platoon kept the "Outward Bound School of Better Camping" at bay for 3 weeks with the aid of Pte Price's sparkler bombs.

Back to Townsville and into Mill Skills, where Cpl Baker's Section took the Honours, winning a trip to Darwin where they entered 2 Landrovers in the local smash-up-derby.

Some members of the platoon have set their sights on certain goals this year. Some to mention are:

Pte Bard To be a chvie.

Pte Elliot To toilet train his camel.

Pte MacKenzie To set a world record for C.B.

Pte Boughton More time off for Admin.

LCpl Strahan Deeper pissaphones at platoon parties.

We wish all those who have moved on during the year, all the best and look forward to a successful 1989.



Cpl Quinn and Cpl Osgood



Cpl Stephens



1 Platoon (-)

2 Platoon

1988 started with us working over the X-mas period as ODF Coy. Section training was the order of the day with Cpl's Haynes, Elliot and Conrad calling the shots and the Boss and Sarge doing "Admin." Cpl Haynes left us for DPRJ and Cpl Bazza Pickering took over.

Mt Spec, a couple of times during the January/February period with Cpl Pickering providing tactical sneezing demonstrations.

Ex Hamiltons Request was next and the platoon was kept laughing for 2 weeks. Some exploits include: Platoon barbeques at the power station (Jehovah). Half the platoon attacking an ARES Battalion and winning until the DS

thought it was a bit unrealistic. When the ARES was not having a party and a beer we had a great time.

Back to Townsville after standown and up to High Range for some ambushing and interrogation. Not one of us cracked or gave them anything — Hey Saundo.

Next we had nearly Vanuatu and got in some good training. A Coy finally got our para jump thanks to the OC. No one worried about the drills — it was just look up and scream. Sgt Williams left us to become chief of the Gestapo and Sgt Ingall became our new Big Toe.

Then came "Maxi Beagle" — 2 weeks in the sun on the side of the road. We avoided heat, illness, snakes, the enemy etc. only to have Pte Bowen beaten up by a Battle Broiga at Escott Lodge. The platoon is now looking forward to next year and Hong Kong! Doesn't that sound familiar.



Lt Eames



Pte Constantine

3 Platoon

3 Platoon started off the year brilliantly, winning the OC's tests after our ODF stint. That earned the Platoon a trip to Tully. In the rising waters we nearly lost two - Browning and Pugliese after slipping at crossings. Vic Morrow decided to swim across the 3ft deep river during a fighting withdrawal while Szeck lost compasses, claymores and everything else he owned.

After a mammoth 3 day rest we went back out bush for Bn Bushweek. We blitzed the walk in and walk out, and dodged the other platoon's bombs and bullets.

Our next trip was the enemy trip for the ARES at Singleton. We had no trouble pinpointing the enemy as everywhere they went they had their blue portaloos. Electric fences proved a problem at night. The highlight was a section of half naked enemy chasing the boss and Cpl Darcy after an unexpected contact.

Shooting at Mt Vince improved, while future package deals for soldiers at Brampton Island did not. Except for the accusations of rape and drunkenness, none of us could see what the fuss was about.

The platoon performed well in sect Mil Skills with Cpl Stanton and Cpl Delben's section both putting in good efforts.

Most of us jumped out of an aeroplane into Townsville harbour and enjoyed it. There could be a mass exodus to 3 RAR though, for some once was enough.

"Mad Beagle" turned out to be a good exercise for fishing, spotting crocodiles and reading. In between these activities, the platoon managed to kill a lot of enemy as well as Maj Les Hiddons, the survival expert, in a vehicle ambush. It just shows he's got a bit to learn. (P.S.: he was eating a Mars Bar at the time).

Cpl Bolitho's recon party ended up in the Burketown prison for 3 days. Lt Sutton was attacked by a ferocious brolga only to be saved by an alsation at Escott Station.

Overall, 1988 has proved to be a very successful year for 3 Pl, as we hope it will be in 1989.

Those that are leaving or have left in 1988:

Lt Sutton 3 Bde
Sgt O'Donnell LWC Canungra
Cpl Delben PNRS
Cpl Quinn Recon
Cpl Stanton Singleton
LCpl Albon LWC Canungra
Pte Anderson 6 RAR
Pte Rowbottom Tasmania
Pte Smith D Coy



Pte Bowen



LCpl Marshall





Pte Dinkel and Pte Horvath



Pte Ritchie



Pte Elliott



Pte Lantry



Bravo Company

Bravo Company



Maj Storden

1988 was indeed a busy year for Bravo Company 2/4 RAR. As a Company with an indomitable spirit it has proven that professionally it is second to none. From New Guinea to the Gulf, the company always gave its best and forever furthered its capabilities as part of the Operational Deployment Force.

The year began with the usual individual and section work, with our first trip bush being to Paluma Dam with the rest of the Battalion in mid February. This was highlighted by a brisk 15km walkout at the end. From there the Company ventured to Mt Vince in mid March for a week of range practices, with Cpl "Tinkle" Heron being declared the Company's champion shot.

The month of April, the last of our three month stint as ODF priority company, saw 5 Platoon at Koomboocomba Dam playing enemy for the SAS Patrolling and Tracking Course. In the jungle for four weeks the exercise proved very valuable to the younger soldiers, which was the majority of the platoon, as they learnt a lot about the environment and the rather wet conditions one has to live with in such a setting. It rained twenty-one out of the twenty-four days 5 was there. However, 5 Platoon were preparing for the Battalion Military Skills Competition. Although at an immediate disadvantage by having to enter six sections while a Platoon of the Company was away, each section involved applied themselves well and certainly gained valuable experience from the exercise.

May proved very much the busiest and most exciting month of the year, particularly between the 20th and 24th. This was a time of sheer excitement at the prospect of being deployed on operations to Vanuatu. For five days



WO2 Seberk

the Company was at its busiest working extremely long hours. It appeared that all the training we had done would finally be put to the test, in the only real way it can, and that is in an operational setting. Within two days we were ready for deployment; more than meeting the requirement. It was interesting to see those soldiers BMS and seeking discharge suddenly forget their problems and attempt to be part of the show. Lesser events in May included an airborne assault on the Australian Institute of Marine Science and a stint at Tully from the 11th to the 18th of May. The former was successful, with each Platoon securing their objectives. In fact 4 and 6 Platoon were so successful they celebrated with a swim whilst waiting to be extracted. The latter (Tully) also provided valuable training. Once again, much was learnt even for Cpl "Dolly" Dalton on his ninth trip. Furthermore, the Company, along with Pte Brodie, discovered what a "Phantom" snake really is and Pte "Pop" Lanagan uncovered a novel means of warming his horse blanket.

June witnessed the Company on exchange to Port Moresby to the 1st Royal Pacific Islands Regiment on Exercise "Wantok Warrior". This certainly proved to be an eye-opener and it did not take long for the boys to find the more popular night spots. Who will forget "Moonlight" or the "Firehouse"? However, it was the Yacht Club which probably proved the most popular with regular sojourns made by all in a quest to meet the "not so tanned" females of the city. Pte Les Young will never forget his time in Port Moresby after entertaining some locals in a vehicle whilst being held at gun point.

It was not until the second week that the company really started work with a live firing Exercise on the Goldie

River. This proved a valuable learning experience for all as we became more proficient using live ammunition.

The third week saw the Company involved in adventure training with two activities being conducted. The first was rafting, under Lt Nick Everingham, on the fast-flowing Kemp-Welsh River. This was a true adventure for all involved. The second activity was the more difficult Coastal Survival under Lt's Anton Kuruc and Brad Horn. The locals along the coast to the South of Port Moresby displayed magnificent hospitality so that in the end it was not really a survival exercise after all.

The final few days overseas saw the Company play IRPIT and Murray Barracks, headquarters of the PNG DF, in Rugby and Australian Rules. Although the latter were beaten convincingly by more fleet footed opponents, the Rugby Team, playing a virtual PNG DF side continued their unbeaten international record with a nail biting and extremely hard fought 9-7 victory.

The next memorable event on the Company's agenda from a military perspective was the Battalion Exercise "Mao Beagle" from the 9th to the 22nd August. It began with the company being inserted by air into Cloncurry then making its way North to the thriving metropolis of Gunpowder. Furthermore, who will forget Pte "Sly" Smith's attempt to emulate Peter Wherret in a Prentice 110. From Gunpowder we travelled north and eventually captured Bourketown, where we spent a few days of the last week. This certainly provided invaluable experience for the company in coming to grips with living with the indigenous local population, none more so than Pte "Ruddy" Rudeforth who proved a real hit.

September saw duties again and Brigade Stand-down. A welcome break for all after an arduous eight months. On

return however, it was back to the grindstone with a week at the High Range on a live firing exercise. From this it was obvious how far we, as a company, had progressed professionally since January. One memorable event was Pte "Vinni" Keough's confrontation with the back blast of the 84mm SRAAW.

October will see us embark on the Brigade Exercise "Swift Eagle" at Shoalwater Bay Training Area. For the rest of the year the majority of the Company will be involved on courses.

Turning to sport this year the Company acquitted itself well with the highlights being a first in the inter-company touch, for the third year in a row. Thanks to the efforts of LCpl Colin Dixon and Cpl Chuck Walker. Seconds were gained in the Swimming, Cricket and Athletics with special mention of LCpl "Maca" McCarthy who won the shot putt and javelin and was named the Battalion's champion athlete. Thirds were gained in the Australian Rules, Hockey and the Rugby. In regard to the latter who will forget the game against Charlie Company where, in the second half, we ran in try after try to flog the opposition to note. On this occasion SSgt Gary Jear, who whilst playing in the centres had an absolute "blinder" of a game.

In conclusion, one could say 1988 was a successful year indeed both militarily and sporting. Bravo Company can always hold its head high that we gave of our best. If this year is any indication of what is to come, next year should be bigger than Ben Hur's surprise 21st birthday party. One parting comment: "He who fights one more round is never beaten."

Nominal Roll - B Coy

CO

Maj Standen
Capt Griffin
WO2 Sebenik
SSgt Jear
Cpl Ryan
LCpl McCarthy
Pte Holmes
Pte Young
Cpl Dalton
Pte Boxall
Pte Frost
Pte Lloyd
Pte McLean
Pte O'Connor

4 Platoon

Lt Smith
Sgt Price
Cpl Lampard
Cpl Thomas
Cpl Walker
LCpl Bowen
LCpl Dixon
LCpl Lewis
Pte Bennett
Pte Bielman
Pte Bolton
Pte Collingwood
Pte Ely
Pte Jackson
Pte Johnson
Pte Keely
Pte Krough
Pte Kruger
Pte Lawson
Pte Marthick
Pte Nelson
Pte Ramos
Pte Rewell
Pte Robertson
Pte Sheffield
Pte Smith
Pte Snijders
Pte Taylor
Pte Thompson
Pte Walker
Pte West
Pte Wharton
Pte Ziernicki

5 Platoon

Lt Horn
Sgt Bain
Cpl Kemp
Cpl Reichow
Cpl Schwartz
LCpl Maxwell
LCpl Punchard
Pte Blackhurst
Pte Bowman
Pte Brown
Pte Clark
Pte Doherty
Pte Duncan
Pte Dunn
Pte Florian
Pte Giles
Pte Heaswood
Pte Johnson
Pte Keough
Pte Malone
Pte McGuffin
Pte Newman
Pte Nicholls
Pte Revell
Pte Rhodes
Pte Roach
Pte Rumble
Pte Smith
Pte Squires
Pte Wilkinson

6 Platoon

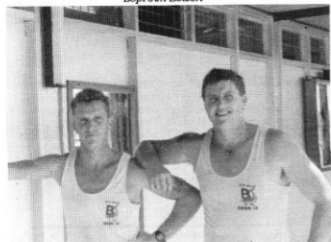
Lt Everingham
Sgt Eyward
Cpl Grovenor
Cpl Heron
Cpl Walker
LCpl Brown
LCpl Clark
LCpl Page
Pte Ashworth
Pte Bennett
Pte Betar
Pte Buss
Pte Cogan
Pte Comerford
Pte Connal
Pte Dawson
Pte Hawken
Pte Hobson
Pte Horne
Pte Howe
Pte Hungerford
Pte Ingram
Pte Lanagan
Pte Leeflang
Pte Lyons
Pte McCarter
Pte Moran
Pte Rudeforth
Pte Warwick
Pte White
Pte Williams
Pte Young



LCpl Jim Bowen



Raincoats on Parade



Staff Jear and LCpl McCarthy



"That's what happens if you hit 2 kangaroos!"



SNAP!



Cpl Schwartz



Pte Hungerford after parachute descent

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Charlie Company

Charlie Company

7 Platoon Story

1988 was more action than a Bruce Lee epic. We started off in the Paluma state forest then straight into Mil Skills training which paid off with third and fifth place. Four members, Cpl Moore, LCpl Kelly, Pte Bennett, and Pte Hes were all selected for the final team which was chosen to represent Australia in the 1988 Bicentennial Military Skills to be held in December.

Promotions came thick and fast as Platoon Staff saw this as the only way to get rid of types such as, Cpl Linton, LCpl Ross, LCpl Smith and LCpl Marr. Pte Edwards was cleverly palmed off to CHQ as sig/batman just as DPCU's came in but this didn't stop him whinging about it. "Fat Boy" Harkness made a career move into PHQ where he endeared himself by performing such RTP classics as burning three days of codes and sending the Platoon Commander two kilometres to see the OC at night when he was told to "Fetch Sunray". He was saved by the SAS like field skills of LCpl Jolly who set up an OP that was visible three kilometres away and drove two trucks up onto the enemy objective to pick up the Platoon before we even got there.

Arriving in Malaysia started the tradition of the 7PI Human Sandwich Makers, now a corner stone of the organization. Thailand helped the lads broaden their international understanding for a fraction of the cost. Definite BRL stop for next year.

Those sadly leaving us are LCpl "slapper" Hoolihan and Sgt "The Predator" Glover, leaving Lt "El Tee" O'Bryan to lead his weary men on a three week feast of jungle fun in November.

Roll on 10 Dec 1988.

8 Platoon Tale

For Eight Platoon BRL finished far too soon, with the blokes overflowing on beer, bad manners and tall tales about "What I did on leave!"

That was quickly behind us though, with a series of unexpected PTT's and Ex "Tough Test" (a 60 hour ETS, at the all to familiar High Range Training area) where Cpl Boyd's and Cpl Armstrong's sections came 2nd and 3rd respectively.

By this time the effects of BRL had worn off and most of the guys had realised that things are getting serious for another year. After enjoying an overabundance of duties, the Coy took off for Battalion Bush Week, at Paluma Dam. On return from Paluma the marrieds rejoiced with a day off due to the effects of "Cyclone Charlie". Mt Vince was next on the year's agenda, with days off and nightly riots. 8 PI however, escaped with no criminal convictions.

Then came the long awaited Easter Standown, for us that was just a top up on beer and bad manners. On return the company geared up for its defence of the Battalion Mil Skills trophy with a series of Company ETS's. The Battalion Air Mobile Training week came and went all too fast, but at least some of us got our yearly helicopter ride!

4 Section was off in Tully at this stage learning to be Musorians and in their own words, (Really sorry we can't be there for Mil Skills!)

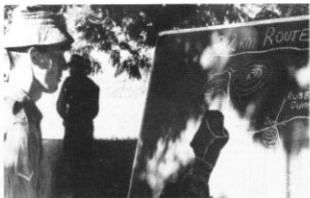
Then the true "Cyclone Charlie" hit, blitzing all opposition in the Mil Skills Comp. Congratulations to Cpl Armstrong and 6 section on a winning performance, defeating all other sections in the Battalion.

We then went with the Turret Heads for the long awaited Ex Scorpion Sting, and a fun filled time at "Sunny Shoalwater Bay". (Unfortunately Vanuatu reared its head and we whisked back to Townsville to prepare for overseas deployment. Much to our annoyance, that all petered out and we all returned to reality. (Onya Bob!))

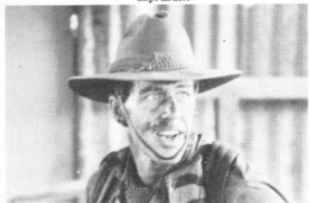
Watermanship at Tinaroo Dam soon followed with Cpl Boyd sighting "Dozens of Crocs on the bank over there!" On closer inspection however the "crocs" green eyes turned and fled up the bank to the sound of bellows and trampling hooves, (probably miling time anyway, Stan!)

The eagerly awaited (?) Freedom of the City march followed, with drill practice being the high point for most. However the Battalion Ball came a close second.

Maxi Beagle had less action than expected, but with some notable points thrown in.



LCpl Linton



Sgt Glover



Lt Braithwaite



Sgt McPherson



Maj Wilson



LCpl Ross



WO2 Cahill and Cpl Cherrery

- A new Platoon Commander;
- The platoons effort in cramming 24 blokes onto a short unimog with full marching order;
- An old Malaysian veterans' endless yarn about how "I ripped me OC up the back with an Owen! But I stuffed up, I didn't kill him"; and
- Refreshing swims in Croc infested waters.

From then on we went our separate ways on Pre-embarkation leave and sadly said goodbye to the vast amounts of Battalion duties, which we had come to know and love.

On 31 August we jetted off to Malaysia and so far an excellent time has been had by all (Although the bulk of the bush is still to come!)

Congratulations to LCpl Kelly and Pte Bird on their involvement in both the Duke of Gloucester Cup and representing the Australian Army in the Bicentennial Regional Military Skills Competition at Canungra.

Also farewell to Lt Gallegos, Sgt Skaines, Cpl Muir, Pte's Paton, Bodley, Cronin and McDonald....!!!

9 Platoon

Dear Mum,

You wouldn't believe how busy we've been this year! This is the first chance we've had to actually sit down and write home. So here it is, blow by blow, (and I'm not talking about Malaysia... yet!)

Tough Test was our first real work for the year, and as we always do, 9 Platoon came in first, blitzing all other opposition. Of course, we maintained our standard throughout Mil Skills, taking out the Obs Course and finishing overall 2nd and 5th, which gave us the Champion platoon. Only the hard man tactics of Cpl Cameron and the unnatural abilities displayed by the other men gave us our victory.

While all this hard work was on, LCpl Smith and Fotheringham,

along with Pte Benton, were taking a break in England, putting on a magnificent display of drill for the Queen and Company.

We saw quite a bit of Queensland, going as far down as Rockhampton where we did a lot of breaking down in APC's, and as far up as Burketown, where the Sarge and the Boss (The Leyland Brothers) had a lot of brainsaps!

We almost got over to sunny Vanuatu for a bit of riot control, but as usual, 'Bob' said no.

Speaking of riots, while in Mackay on a shooting trip we managed to create havoc in the main street, which saw the section commanders ganging up on the diggers! All in good fun of course.

We played Mum to half a dozen mangy camels on the Great Camel Race, and returned home only to be whisked off to Tinaroo Dam, there, we (the Sarge and Arab) crashed boats and accidentally (Hah!) stumbled across a group of nudists, whilst shooting up schoolchildren. They must have been good sorts, 'cos the brigadier himself took an interest.

I'm writing this letter from a dimly lit bar in Penang, so if my handwriting seems shaky, you'll understand why! Here are a few of the funnier moments we have produced in just two weeks:

Mick Galea thought he was a stud, until we told him they were shims, the next day!

The Boss and Snake Morrissey put on a very strange act with a \$100 note.

Vinny Weir was the first, Fotheringham fell in love, on a ferry, B.J., Smithy, Mick Galea and Cpl Mills were our boxing champs, and the new association of the Bladerunners was formed on the Thai border!

Oh well Mum, I'm off to do the traps with the rest of the platoon, will write again next year.

Your loving sons,

9 PLATOON.

Farewell: Jeff Ingall, Jamie Robinson, Scoggins, Baines and Ben Thun.

Subject 2 Corporals Course



Subject 2 Course
digging in at High
Range



Delta Company

Nominal Roll — D Coy

CHQ

Maj Probert
Capt Hanlon
WO2 Bayley
SSgt Hatch
Cpl Gardiner
Cpl Mau
LCpl Bergwerf
LCpl Langabeer
Pte Donachie
Pte Rapmund
Pte Smith
Pte Wright
Pte Mau

10 Platoon

Lt Field
Sgt Damen
Sgt Kelleher
Cpl Nemme
Cpl Smith
Cpl Townson
LCpl Grace
LCpl Pederick
LCpl Wheeler
Pte Allan
Pte Anderson
Pte Boczan
Pte Bryce
Pte Carroll
Pte Corliss
Pte Crole
Pte Ford
Pte Gibbs
Pte Gillam
Pte Hawken
Pte Hilder
Pte Holdman
Pte Kirwan
Pte Lonsdale
Pte Maynard
Pte McClymont
Pte Rogers
Pte Sasse
Pte Stevens
Pte Stewart
Pte Throns
Pte Torrens
Pte Waters
Pte Wollard

11 Platoon

Lt Spooner
Sgt Harrison
Cpl Marshall
Cpl Senior
LCpl Baxter
LCpl Hunt
LCpl Miller
Pte Anderson
Pte Blake
Pte Bliss
Pte Davies
Pte Edwards
Pte Gerard
Pte Greenfield
Pte Haines
Pte Hampton
Pte Harmer
Pte Horden
Pte Ihms
Pte Jones
Pte Kerton
Pte Marsh
Pte Muller
Pte Peters
Pte Shea
Pte Stephenson
Pte Summers
Pte Throssell
Pte Tulk
Pte Wadham
Pte Wear
Pte Williams

12 Platoon

Lt Collins
Sgt Meuleners
Cpl Brown
Cpl Camm
Cpl Chesney
Cpl Logan
Cpl Ostler
LCpl Hartly
LCpl Jennings
LCpl Quinn
Pte Appleyard
Pte Berry
Pte Bootes
Pte Bottomley
Pte Ellerton
Pte French
Pte Gardam
Pte Hicks
Pte Hocking
Pte Holbourn
Pte Jones
Pte Lynch
Pte Murphy
Pte Parker
Pte Regan
Pte Robson
Pte Rogers
Pte Scott
Pte Stephenson
Pte Thompson
Pte Ward
Pte Ward-Worley
Pte Whyte
Pte Wood



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Delta Company

This year provided a different type of challenge for D Coy. There is no doubt that the highlight was our tour at Butterworth. It was fitting that the "old team" should finish on such a high note. Since our return from Malaysia there have been many changes in the Coy manning and it is interesting to note that since January '87, D Coy has comprised nine officers, nine SNCO's and over 150 other ranks.

As the wheel has almost turned a full circle, it was necessary to use the little time available to rebuild the Coy to a level that will provide a solid foundation for 1989 – the year we will assume the role of ODF Bn again.

To all the officers, SNCO's and soldiers, may I say what a great pleasure it was to command D Coy. It demonstrated on many occasions that it was an extremely good rifle company. Good luck to you all and your families in the future and have a safe and enjoyable Christmas.



WO2 Bayley



Maj Probert



LCpl Billy Baxter

10 Platoon

Promising to be a big year, 1988 began with us in Malaysia. Exercise Haringaroo proved to be an interesting look at how other armies operate. It strongly emphasised to us how good Australian soldiers are.

Holidays were late in arriving for us, which left us with a challenge for Mil Skills. However, with characteristic toughness, all three sections finished in the top 10. This was despite the fact we lost many people to Support Company after returning from overseas.

An overseas event saw us involved with the South-West Pacific Expeditionary Force. The soldiers responded very well to this and some of our hardest (and most realistic) training was achieved. After much speculation and conjecture we remained in Townsville.

Neatly fitted into our programme, were two weeks up at High Range. These involved an air week and a live fire week. The live fire especially was beneficial to the soldiers. It proved a different type of training, emphasising the loss of realism we experience with blanks.

Traipsing through the Koombooloomba Jungle was the hallmark of our enemy trip against 1 RAR. The exercise allowed Section Commanders to be alone with their Sections and get to know their soldiers under stressful conditions. Despite few contacts, the exercise brought up many teaching points.

Our own Battalion Exercise – "Maxi Beagle" was a little boring for the soldiers because we sat around a great deal. Despite this, they did get ample opportunity to give detailed orders and saw an interesting part of Australia.

Maintaining the standard of 10 Platoon in 1989 will be a solid core of senior soldiers and experienced junior NCO's, backed up by younger soldiers who are learning all the time. I would like to wish Sgt Damen, Cpl Mau, Cpl Smith and Cpl Townson the best of luck in their future endeavours.



Pte Waters



Cpl Smith and LCpl Pederick



The platoon trying to hide a Blackhawk



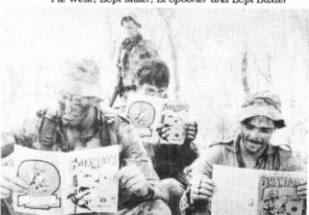
Pte Shea and Prisoner



Pte Wear, LCpl Miller, Lt Spooner and LCpl Baxter



LCpl Hunt and Pte Harmer

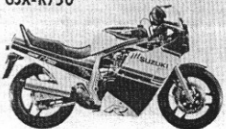


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11 Platoon

The start of '88 and the chosen ones have never had it so good. Celebrating the new year in downtown Bangkok, Patpong Road was a highlight of course, with the chosen ones extending the hand of friendship to the extremely friendly local girls (what a night) — except for J.D., who thought he was Guy Fawkes — only to be told by the local establishment that he wasn't. Back at Butterworth, we continued the tradition of social drinking and quiet conversations.

The highlight of one of the social occasions was the OC who was on top of the bar stamping his feet and playing music in time with the Rolling Stones, using a broom stick as a guitar.

Before we returned to Australia, we did an exercise with the Malays in the state of "Kelantan". We stayed with the 4th Renjer Battalion, they were very friendly and the accommodation was a sight to be seen (pure delight). One of the highlights of this exercise other than the beaches, was the bosses fabulous cam jobs (must have spent time with Ringling Bros. Circus or something). Also the Cay's classic attack on Banana Ridge where we lost more blokes to the heat than the enemy.

Back from Malaysia, we went on a deserved leave. We returned to work in late April ready for Mil Skills (how exciting). Overall the Pl still did quite well considering the

time available and just showed the rest of the Battalion just how good D Coy is.

"Maxi Beagle" — what can you say, except for the old adage "nothing's illegal until you get caught!"

With one major exercise to come "Swift Eagle", the year is coming to a close. We would like to wish the following, all the best for the future.

Monty Ration Clerk

Barney Int Section

Steve BHQ

Grandpa Range Control

Harro Depot Coy

Dykey Discharged

Grant SAS

Rowso Recon

Oker Recon

Highlights: Boss' innovative and unused cam jobs.

Boss' rope climbing ability (non-existent).

Bannana Ridge.

Burke and Wills Road House.

Coy BBQ Burketown (Dry).

Ricky on a leopard tank.



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D Coy Beer ration En Mard Drogie



Cpl Oatler and LCpl Warty



LCpl Guiver



Is this the way to Stalingrad?



12 Platoon

This report for 1988 actually starts in December 1987. At the completion of the courses period, the Dirty Dozen began preparing for our deployment to Butterworth. With some new faces in the Platoon – and most of the old ones – we all packed into the Herc at Garbutt and set off for 3 months of "Play Hard – Work Hard".

Some of the highlights would have to be – Tigers in Lumut, Danny's Bar for Christmas, Shooting at Pulau, New Year's with the Rivis in Singapore, the Dozen on tour in Thailand and the most memorable of all – Exercise Haringaroo with the Malaysian Rangers.

On our return home, our attachments returned to their units and BRL commenced. When work finally started again it was almost a case of starting from scratch again – restoring the platoon to its once former glory. Brigade Air Training provided a good opportunity to start this restoration and get everybody's brain back onto soldiering rather than on leave. With a subsequent ODF alert shortly afterwards, our training was accelerated a hundred times and crammed into about 4 days of intense preparation. Our chance, however, was lost and we resumed the normal pace of Battalion life.

The platoon performed very well in the Battalion Military Skills competition, with sections placing well. Some individual performances during the Mil Skills Comp were exemplary. The standard of initiative and soldering throughout was a credit to our reputation. As a result, the dozen was awarded a "Swan Trip" – to work with the ARES at Cowley Beach. Visions of sunbaking, sleeping, fishing and drinking beers in the sand were shattered when we discovered that the beach was only the staging area and we were quickly dispatched inland to the "J" and an enemy we never saw. Comments made in the midst of heavy rains and gale force winds, such as: "... surely this isn't the OC's idea of a prize?"... were soon forgotten during our extraction off the coast by zodiac out to an awaiting Patrol Boat (the video's onboard were memorable).

Cameleering was next on the agenda for the dozen. We joined the famous bi-centennial event at Longreach. Noteworthy was the Platoon commanders infamous ride, the women (girls) that the blokes are still getting letters from, the smell of the shower water in some of the showgrounds, the parties, the bush dance etc. etc. After going through places like Blackall, Barakdine and Augathella, we eventually arrived at Charleville where we handed over to the blokes from Charlie Company and returned home.

On our return, the Battalion was finally getting into the new DPM uniforms – hard to believe. Then it was bush again as enemy for 1RAR on Ex Eager Eaglette (this is where our commanders got to show us what good navigators they are!)

After a memorable "Platoon against Platoon" attack to finish off the Exercise, and Ronnie RAAP deciding not to land at our LZ because it was getting to close to dusk – in true Dozen fashion we requisitioned a cattle truck and a local cocky who got us up to Mareeba (a lighted airstrip) where the OC08 awaited us (I don't think they were very impressed with the smell!)

And there was yet another manning change to the Dozen's nominal role when our Platoon commander left us and a new one marched in.



Cpl Cheimay, Pte Ward and Lt Allen



Maj Probert, Lt Collins and Pte Wright

Royal Guard

2/4 RAR provided 20 personnel as part of the 187 strong Australian Army Public Duties contingent, to mount guard at Buckingham Palace, St James Palace, The Tower of London and Windsor Castle during the period 16 to 30 April 1988. The contingent set off for Nowra on 11 March to concentrate and rehearse for the next month on the intricate and new drill to be performed by the guards. Each member was thoroughly trained in each of the guard formats so that they would have an opportunity to be at each location whilst in England. Along with the drill came the difficulty of trying to kit out 187 people in the uniform and embellishments required for the guard. As it was, the last stripe was being sewn on uniforms the morning of our departure from Australia.

After a cramped but pleasant QANTAS flight from Sydney to London (the beer ran out just after Bangkok) the contingent arrived to snow and fog in the middle of the English spring.

After a week of final rehearsals and familiarisation (finding out where the cold beer was) the guard was ready to mount. Our first mount was at Windsor Castle and though an informal one in the

rain, went smoothly. Our first mount at Buckingham Palace the following day brought with it much publicity from Australian and English media.

For the next two weeks, the guard members were kept busy with a guard every second day. This meant lots of work maintaining uniforms and rehearsing after the completion of the previous guard. The week of standown at the completion of the tour was most welcome and saw 2/4 RAR members travelling as far as Scotland, Germany, Greece and Turkey (Gallipoli).

The bearded Sgt Daly, our Pioneer Sergeant, caused much interest with the Australian and English media whilst on parade with his axe. His appearance on public duties was a first for both Australia and England.

As well as public duties, the guard performed a spectacular Beating the Retreat at Nowra, marched down The Strand on arrival in London and took part in a "Dial a Digger" service organised by a London radio station.

Even though problems had occurred in the rehearsal phase of the tour, all participants felt that the opportunity to represent the Army and their country on such a prestigious occasion will be one that they will remember for many years to come.



Front Row: LCpl Donaldson, LCpl Jolly, Cpl Rice, WO2 DePass, Capt Matthews, Sgt Daly, Pte Boughton, Pte Smith, Pte Dawson.
Back Row: Pte Cook, Pte Rootham, LCpl Wheeler, Pte Allan, Pte Fotheringham, Pte Thompson, Pte McLean, Pte Collingwood, Pte Neal, LCpl Donegan, Pte Benton, Cpl Quinn.



Thirst Prize.



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There are no prizes for guessing what Queenslanders think of their favourite thirst quencher. Now the rest of the world also knows XXXX beats the others cold.

XXXX

Our beer.

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Support Company

Support Company Headquarters

1988 started with a number of new faces in the Coy, three new platoon commanders, new CSM, new JIC, a worried OC, more new SNCO's than a Dumbo can count on one hand and with a number of canals behind the ration store.

The year started off badly for the OC, after two PT periods with Recon he mumbled something about aerobic fitness, shin splints, a crook knee and woe's/tears again, or certainly not with Recon.

This year certainly has been busy, a bit like the one armed juggler with seven balls, well that's another story. Anyway with the canals, platoon trg, Battalion Exercises, the Subject 2 for Cpl Course, nearly every SNCO in the Coy to Tully, Tropic Prelude, Tropic Lightning, the CSM, the bearded one, and Cpl Quinn, LCpl Wheeler, Pte's R. Thompson, Rootham, Neal to the U.K., LCpl Young and Pte McGinty to Hong Kong, Nick Withycombe to Germany, our own two long lookers Angus McLeod and Joe Johnson, plus sixty people on various subjects for Cpl and numerous others on courses varying from White Water Rafting to Introduction to Canal Saddlery, need I say more, certainly not in this sentence.

Most of the Company has had a trip or two. Pioneers either with Delta or Charlie Coy to Malay and parts north, Recon to PWG with Bravo Coy, Sigs to all of the above plus Hawaii (now that's a trip) if you can do a Tropic Lightning without the wife burning your American Express then your one hell of a guy.

I wonder what Mortar's have been doing, I am certain Wally would say working, but I know what Sgt Arnold would say, and I am not going to write that here.

Many have left or will be leaving before the end of the year, Les Tiller to the ARRS (second time, poor Les), Roy Crabbe (hope-

fully to the main Gl, SSgt Cole to Civic Street, DB to the public service (now there's a brave man), Capt Dave Phillips to Rifle Coy, WO2 Terry De Pass to Bravo Coy, Pte Crombie to 777, and the OC to CAMO.

Thanks for 1988 and all your efforts, have a great Christmas, a happy New Year, and may 1989 be what you make it.



Nominal Roll Spt Coy

CHQ

Maj Danaher
Capt Phillis
WO2 DePass
SSgt Cole
Cpl Butcher
LCpl Coleman
LCpl Crabbe
Pte Crombie
Pte Dunn

Mor Pl

Capt Jensen
Lt Semerville
Sgt Glover
Sgt Hancock
Sgt Lewis
Sgt Ratcliffe
Sgt Skatnes
Cpl Collins
Cpl Hart
Cpl MacKenzie
Cpl Murphy
Cpl Trembath
LCpl Donaldson
LCpl Watts
LCpl Williams
Pte Atkinson
Pte Bateman
Pte Bodley
Pte Cowburn
Pte Dudley
Pte Fitzgerald
Pte Johnston
Pte Lawrence
Pte Milligan
Pte Pope
Pte Sims
Pte Solomon
Pte Trumble
Pte Wright

Sig Pl

Capt Baumgart
Sgt Moore
Sgt Young
Cpl Kirk
Cpl James
Cpl Matoga
Cpl Morgan
Cpl Mure
Cpl Trevorrow
LCpl Bedding
LCpl Drayton
LCpl Hughes
LCpl Wilson
Pte Barron
Pte Bartlett
Pte Bowley
Pte Cousins
Pte Cowell
Pte Garnett
Pte Gibbons
Pte Hearle
Pte Henderson
Pte Hoole
Pte Johnson
Pte Kelly
Pte Knox
Pte McDonald
Pte Norton
Pte Price
Pte Reynolds
Pte Taylor

Par Pl

Lt Shaw
Sgt Daly
Sgt Johnson
Cpl Deffen
Cpl Henry
Cpl Lynch
LCpl Hayes
LCpl Hicks
Pte Barrett
Pte Bates
Pte Bell
Pte Cadzow
Pte Dempsey
Pte Fenwick
Pte Ferrari
Pte Gavan
Pte Lergessner
Pte Lyons
Pte McGarry
Pte Murray
Pte Richardson
Pte Robilliard
Pte Thompson
Pte Thomson
Pte Wright

Recon Pl

Lt McLeod
Lt Withycombe
Sgt Brooks
Sgt Challands
Sgt Haydon
Cpl Davies
Cpl O'Connor
Cpl Quinn
Cpl Toohy
LCpl Young
Pte Eckert
Pte Horne
Pte Lee
Pte McGinty
Pte Mee
Pte Moyle
Pte O'Neill
Pte Pearson
Pte Rootham
Pte Rowson
Pte Smith
Pte Weir
Pte Wishart
Pte Wood

Mortar Platoon

1988 The Year of the Child

It started out the same as any other year, the begrudging return from leave and the obligatory requests for discharge/posting/corps transfer. IMT became the go, to prepare the platoon to perform for excellence at Mt Spec. But nothing could prepare us for the Y harbour. Brilliantly simple in concept, it earned its creator a niche in BHQ before a posting to the Infantry Centre.

Hot on the heels of Cyclone Charlie and fresh from his ARIES Mortar Course, came the man who put the fear of Christ into all of us and the gravel in Gurnsey Sgt Highway's voice - "Psycho" Somerville. Mortar Platoon was now complete and commenced the year in earnest with a live firing exercise at high range in April, followed by Mil Skills and a trip to Shoalwater Bay in APC's. Our armoured hosts believed in sleep deprivation by conducting re-ups each night, all night. We were only caught out once. Virtuoso became almost an issue during this exercise and amidst secrecy and growing despair, we sat and watched C Coy depart for Townsville without us. Fortunately we were given the nod and we arrived hours after an all-night drive across Shoalwater Bay and an RV with a Delux coach.

Undaunted by our Operational Readiness Check, the platoon geared up for the Battalion LFX in June. For the first time this year, six tubes were in action and this was due totally as a result of the commitment displayed by the NCO's and students on our basic handler's course. Over 1000 rounds were fired during the week and the platoon is quite proud of its achievement of doing everything correctly and on time.

However, out of the dust and schrapnel of the 506 feature, there rose a man of unparalleled sight. With tripods mounted and guns blazing, the spark burst into flame - S.F. Mick was back. Guns on the right, guns in the air. No wonder they disbanded this bastard.

Back in camp, the year started to speed past, duties, shooting, sport, sport, Hawaii for a lucky one, roping, sport and just as despair crept into our lives - "Maxi Beagle" rekindled our hopes. With Raybans polished and Walkmans' adjusted to a comfortable 9, the lads set out for an adventure of a lifetime.

Heat, dust and boredom meant little and nothing was to stand in the way of Mortar Platoon and the Burketown Bere, not even sharks or haemorrhoids. The Gulf Country, land of sweeping plains, dust and dead kangaroos. Let the bloody musos have it.

With the year almost gone and only "Swif Eagle" and courses to go, its time to thank those people who are leaving the platoon for their efforts this year and to wish them all the best for the future. To the 9 new fathers in the platoon, well done and keep it up. It is also time to reflect upon some of the notable characters within Mortars and leave you with an impression of the lads.

Sgt "S.F. Mick" Downing "When I was in 1RAR, SPMP/Lt Johnny Watson and I used to - yelp - yelp."

Sgt "Stambles" Lewis "Adhere to the 3 C's of Rattl: cool, calm and confused."

Sgt "Flames" Glover "Wow, I'll just put a match here...."

Sgt "No Pass" Ratcliffe "Every Subj I Cpl needs out"

Cpl Mackenzie "I told a Harley, I have punch-ups w/ me bruvver. I run this f..... platoon. I'm so tough, I spear sharks w/ my aiming posts."

Cpl Hart "2 months to go...."

LCpl Watts "We machetes have to stick together."

LCpl Donaldson "The man who travelled 18000kms just to meet a woman."

Popey "Caused us a lot of concern over his weight loss and choice of business partners."

Crombie "The Rat" "Paul Went to buy a watch/magazine/rifle"

Pity "I've never done this to a woman before. We'll like this then"

Tramba "The Wayne Gardner of Mortars who gets off on fast food, fast bikes and black velvet."

Spike "I've never done anything to a girl before this free!"

Cowboy "Where do you start?"

Duals "Too bad Landrovers aren't automatic"

Bates "The man who had his nose hanging out for a chopper ride on "Maxi Beagle"

"Tuppie" Lawrence "The man so cool that he had to shave one eyebrow off just to turn women away."

Bodley "AAFCAN's friend"

Akko "Gimme is always greener over the hill/fence/road."





Cpl MacKenzie with Shark, using an eiving post correctly

Assault Pioneers

Nineteen eighty eight started as if it were going to be like the last three years. The start of the year came with a new platoon Commander, Lt Shaw and Sgt Daly. Minus half a platoon attached to Delta Company in Malaysia.

February, the platoon or part thereof, introduced A Coy to a 2 day basic watersmanship course. The lads from A Coy enjoyed the transition from land to water. It was about this time that the boss showed us his natural skills with craft handling, when we realised that the fish weren't biting, we had an unanimous decision to do night rock landings and overboard drills.

March, the boss was absent from the platoon for his wedding. Congratulations boss, another admin problem. Sergeant Daly and Roger Thompson went on a 2 month bludge to England for the Queens' Guard. The remainder of the platoon returned from Malaysia.

April, a very quiet month for Pioneers.

May, it was back to work as a platoon. Len Logan, after being in Pioneers for 11 years was fed to the Dolphins where he presently resides.

June, the Battalion Live Fire Exercise, saw Pete Ferrari crowned by rock from the back blast of a Claymore Mine, with no lasting effects. Shortly after the LFX, pioneers were involved with Flame throwing week, and subject 2 for Corporal for the remainder a stiff duty period around 2 months.

July, this was a pretty interesting month for us. The platoon assisted A Coy in water jumps New Barratt still hasn't managed to get any colour in his face. Soon after we had an interesting Demolition Week prior to another Duties week. Straight after duties, Pioneers went to Koonbookoonba Dam to assist C Coy with watersmanship instruction and patrolling.

August, we had the Freedoms of the City March and that night we went to the arena theatre for the 2/4 Battalion birthday Ball. Then came Ex "Mad Beagle".

Exercise "Mad Beagle" got off on the wrong foot, when our assault craft ended up on the wrong conveyer. Which effectively separated us from them by a few hundred kilometres. Which taught D Coy: "if you wish to float boats you require water."

As the Exercise progressed, it was obvious that the Boss was

having problems... However, Boss, you have been recommended for an Irish Mine Detector by Sgt Joe "Barramundi" Johnson.

During the exercise we covered the variety of our Pioneer tasks, including mine and booby trap clearances, road block security, river patrolling, patrolling built up areas with expert instruction from "Barramundi" Joe and of course, platoon attacks. Overall a good exercise for Pioneers.

It was at this stage we had our platoon party for past members of Pioneers and members leaving for Malaysia.

September, the Boss and a section left for Malaysia. The rest of us had a well earned break for Stardown. Then once again, duties, in preparation for Ex "Swift Eagle" in October.

Exercise "Swift Eagle" was probably the most interesting exercise for Pioneers for quite some time. Starting with a rail trip to and from the training area at Shoalwater Bay.

The first week involved mostly mine and booby trap clearances. While the second week involved a helicopter insertion for the Pioneers with a Recon Patrol on enemy held territory by padding inflatable craft in the dead of night. Also with us was our personal equipment and specialist gear to prepare an LZ for a Battalion insertion and pick up. Pioneers also practised survival skills by way of supplementing fresh rations for hard rations... the operation was a success.

The last days of the exercise, we assisted A Coy (yet again) in digging a CP for the defensive phase.

Straight after the exercise the Battalion commenced their courses period which takes us right up until the commencement of BRL.

Overall, 1988 was a good year for Assault Pioneer Platoon in that we practised and exercised all our various tasks. It is good to see that we are being used as we should be. With any luck, next year will be just as varied.

Next year will see a large turnover in Pioneers with many members leaving: Cpl Logan D Coy, Cpl Schwartz B Coy, LCpl Frederick D Coy, Cpl Henry Discharge, LCpl Hayes Discharge, Pte Cadzow Discharge, Cpl Lynch Rifle Company, Pte Ferrari Main G, Sgt Daly Ammo Tech, Pte Robblyard Engineers.

Good luck to all members leaving and arriving. Best wishes for the future ROCADE!



Practicing Carpentry skills



Finishing the Cricket nets



But you said you tied the motor on?





LCpl Wilson and Cpl Mure

Reconnaissance Platoon



Pte Horne



Pte Lee and LCpl Page



Pte Purdon, Pte Smith, Cpl O'Connor, Pte O'Neill

The major highlights for the platoon in this the bicentennial year were the trips away. During the year Recon Soldiers could be found in Malaysia with both Charlie and Delta, Hong Kong for the Sniper concentration, in England for the Royal Guard and Ex "Long Look", central Australia for the camel race and the platoon trip to New Guinea.

After the relative ease of BRL, the year started with a bang, as some of the guys prepared for the SAS Cadre Course, and the fellas were invited along for the sessions. Congrats to Stumpy, Proc and Davo.

March saw the sniper pre-selection and the start of the sniper course at Singo. Pagey, true to form found a "budget" priced deal and his investment will grow bigger every year. April, those left travelled to the Red Centre for the Bicentennial Camel Race. Gaining experience in snatch parties on Contiki buses and searching wrecked cars for tool kits. Rocket, Wheels and Mick Quinn at this time were gearing up for England. Highlights for them were over friendly tourists and IRA bomb scares. It was rumoured Rocket, a new march-in to Recon was stopped by customs after they found a hoard of windscreen wipers and aerials in his gear. However, this couldn't be verified.

The PI RV briefly in May, when Youngy and McGinty left for Hong Kong via Hawaii and N.Z. They enjoyed the trip which was hard work with only a few respites, during which they attended a few ritzy parties on millionaires yachts with the jetset crowd.

Meanwhile the camelers returned and after a while the platoon left for "Cape Crusader" at AIMS. After the regulation mountainous "yomp", we settled down recording and sending intel to Bravo for their assault. A march-out and zodiac exile we returned to the battalion to meet the guys from England. Lt Nick Withycombe then joined the platoon from Alpha. Two days later we were off again for patrolling and tracking at Tully.

That was cut short when we were called back for a deployment somewhere in the South Pacific. Then next week the platoon nearly all together, left for New Guinea.

New Guinea, the final frontier, upon arrival we were shocked by the number of car accidents, judging by the amount of blood-stains that marked the edge of the road, walls, trees. Luckily it was Beetlenut and soon all the junkies were going out with a toothbrush hanging out the back pocket.

We struck a firm friendship with Recon 1RPTR, they showed us jungle survival and we reciprocated with break contact and a sniper panoramic shoot. Socially we thrived, with Woody and Bones spending an interesting night at the Moresby travel lodge, and Lindsay harpooned the original Moby Dick. Luckily the rainbow warrior was still sunk in some N.Z. Harbour.

Upon arrival to Australia, we received our Aust. cams and waited for the inevitable taunt "are you guys wearing green now!"

August, Nick Withycombe went to England for Ex "Long Look", and we welcomed Lt Angus McLeod from the Royal Scots. Baptized days after in the fierce gulf country sun. The red headed Scotsman took everything in his stride including a four foot star picket.

The highlights of the exercise were the capture and escape bid of McGinty in his last exercise and Gary "Dodo" Moyle trying to fly from a branch 8m up. The major revelation at the Ex was the need for recon to have vehicles organic to the platoon to cover the vast distances and provide back up and security.

October - We said farewell to a lot of the guys this year: Sgt "Bones" Brady, McIver (promt), Stumpy (SAS), Wheels (promt), Pagey (promt), Moyle (dis) and McGinty (dis). New blood: Davo, Rocket, Dave "Dollup" Lee, Mick Rowson, Woody, Mick Quinn and Okker. Now we've just got the Brigade Ex, courses and BRL before we do it all again in '89.



Pte's Smith, Horne, McGinty and Moyle



Sgt Challands Cpl Toohey and Sgt Glover (C Coy)



Lt Angus McLeod



Cpl Davies



Sgt Haydon with some chaps



Lt Withycombe "Where has he been?"



Sgt Brooks

Battalion Headquarters

BHQ has had a good time this year. There has been a high turnover of personnel, but the HQ still maintains its usual high standard of staff work (the assistant adjutant wrote this).

The pay section has had a big shuffle, with Cpl Longhead and LCpl Robertson moving on. Welcome to Sgt Lowe (who showed a trip to Malaya), and Pte Stafford. Pte Ames was promoted to Cpl and it has obviously gone to his head, hence a look at his hair. Good to see Cpl Scott maintaining the steady influence.

The RP's under Sgt Courtney and Sgt Williams have had a great year, a good clean up record and lots of connections. Yes Vinney is still there along with Hully and Cpl Williams.

The SSM has kept the CO's conferences alive with his witty anecdotes about the female of the species.

The AA&J hasn't been awn much this year, off swimming, SPMing or DOG squadding, but he managed to generate enough work to keep the Adj occupied.

The Clerk has kept his sanity while Sgt Mann has lined himself up a job when he gets out, painting garden gnomes.

The orderly room was too efficient so Sgt Hartley and Cpl Gardiner got moved, typical eh!

Cpl Lowe managed to move people and swear, get upset, move people, swear, swear, etc., etc.

Not much happened on the top floor this year (apart from minor office). The Adj agitated, the BIC administered, the OPSO and

OPSO and Ops Sgt operated, and we still haven't found the IO to ask him what he did.

The CO managed to fly, drive, operate and manipulate every piece of equipment in the Army's inventory. Some he operated in a high standard, others well, ask the Porter pilot on "Mad Beagle".

It has been a successful year for BHQ and those of us leaving with the new identities all the best for 1966.



Cpl Ames combing his hair



"You want what?"



The local guerrilla leader briefs 1st. Section



WO1 Gibson, Cpl Lowe and WO2 Harmanworth



Ashton's Circus Mad Beagle '68



Administration Company



Maj Hollings

Administration Company

Another busy year. Bush week was yet another trip to Mt Spec for most but for the new members of the Coy it was a chance to learn. South Pacific Expeditionary Force preparations took everyone off guard initially, but within 2 days everything was ready to go. That was no mean feat.

The camel race had Admin Coy involved throughout, Tech Spt, Medical, Drivers all worked and played hard. One mention is of the effort put in by Sgt Holmes, he worked for about 100 days non stop, and had to be ordered to take a day off!! WELL DONE LES. He is a magician — it is incredible what he can do with a 10 man ration pack.

"Maxi Beagle" came next, with Admin Coy stretched to supply the Battalion over such great distances. Some people missed out a meal or two, but the bottom line — no one starved.

Admin Coy wish all members of the Bn and their families a happy Christmas and look out for K89!



WO2 Lewis



2/4 TPT "Storm Troopers"





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Admin Cov

CHQ

Maj Hollings
 Chap Bartlett
 Capt Ware
 WO2 Lewis
 Sgt Sheldrick
 Cpl Haynes
 LCpl Burger
 LCpl von Xanten
 Pte Benfer
 Pte Berg
 Pte Henry
 Pte Kennedy
 Pte Kznronk
 Pte Southwell

G Platoon

Capt Diction
WO1 Gibson
WO2 Hook
Sgt Browne
Sgt Keynes
Cpl Barker
Cpl Bristow-Smith
Cpl Jackson
Cpl Lindgren
Cpl Montgomery
Cpl Ryan
Cpl Waterhouse
LCpl Sammons

LCpl Twomey
Pte Crooks
Pte Foster
Pte Hoffrichter
Pte King
Pte Ross
Pte Toner

Catering Platoon

WO2 Baker
Sgt Bennion
Sgt Holmes
Sgt Jansen
Sgt Morgan
Sgt Thain
Cpl Bignelli
Cpl Brookes
Cpl Buckland
Cpl Evans
Cpl Godbold
Cpl Godden
Cpl Main
Cpl Manning
Cpl Ryman
Pte Boardman
Pte Burnet
Pte Carlile
Pte Daley
Pte Donachie
Pte Goodwin

Pte Harris
Pte Hatcher
Pte Howe
Pte Huston
Pte Jackman
Pte James
Pte Kerton
Pte Malone
Pte Mills
Pte Monty
Pte Nipperess
Pte Pargetter
Pte Pitcher
Pte Sheppard
Pte Sievers
Pte Smith
Pte Williams
Pte Wouk

Tpt Platoon

Sgt Arnold
Cpl Bowers
Cpl Richardson
LCpl Martin
Pte Allan
Pte Archibald
Pte Bloss
Pte Cousins
Pte Drummond
Pte Fagg

Pte Johnson
Pte Keough
Pte Mitchell
Pte Naughton
Pte Neale
Pte Noble
Pte Patterson
Pte Robertson
Pte Shinnars
Pte Smith
Pte Stanley
Pte Townsend
Pte Watts
Pte Williams

P & D Platoon

WO2 Gall
Cpl Davis
LCpl Bedding
LCpl Macey
Pte Bernard
Pte Cooper
Pte Holmes
Pte Lanham
Pte Murphy
Pte Pritchard
Pte Timmins

Pte Wilson

Rap Platoon

Capt Stokeld
SSgt Sherlock
Sgt Simmons
Cpl Kessell
Cpl Lawrenson
Cpl Leak
Cpl Lee
Cpl Simons
Pte Tait

Tech Spt Platoon

WO2 Williams
Cpl Cashman
Cpl Maher
Cpl Van Schalk
LCpl Diebert
Cfn Bergquist
Cfn Chambers
Cfn Ham
Cfn Kennett
Cfn Larkin
Cfn Meredith
Cfn Pritchard

Transport Platoon

Transport Platoon began the year off with the arrival of a new platoon sergeant, Sgt Arnold (Arnie). He came to us with new ideas for the platoon, and new contacts also.

With Arnie's arrival came the promotion of Marty to Lance Brigadier, now things will really hot up.

The platoon was really adventurous this year, with the 'Great Aussie Camel Race' from the Rock to the Beach. We all had a go in supporting the riders, camels and the local population. Some of us are still getting those smelly letters.

It was a real sad occasion when the race ended and we had to start work again. It was hard, but we managed.

"Maxi Beagle" was interesting "It was only a small pot hole sir" and "I didn't see the stump".

We all enjoyed a well earned stand down and it was back to work, with the platoon going down to Brisay and Sydney to pick up 9 new trucks. Well the paint work is new any way. On the way down we flew by Courier, well, most of us left Amberly anyway to go to Sydney. Greg and Robbo had to catch another flight after the load master said "stuff 'em".

The return journey was called "Arnie's Walkabout Tours". We went everywhere that we shouldn't have gone, maybe he just doesn't like the coast, or maybe it's the "black instinct". Still when we did get everyone back together we arrived home two days late - better late than never!

The preparation for "Swift Eagle" is on the way, but that bloody Defence Budget is putting a tight reign on everyone, maybe that's why the ASM is going grey.

After the big exercise in Rocky comes the combined 100 course with those other people from 1RAR. We're going to

get young Pte Bloss (Blossie) to show us his new reversing technique - it's a real beauty.

The course will be going up to the Cape on its long drive, "Arnold's Outback Safaris", where he'll be in his usual spot in the convoy - "at the rear", map reading. Let's all hope the course gets back by NRL time.

We're all looking forward to Xmas leave and a new platoon sergeant and platoon commander. Yes it all happens again next year, I wonder if we'll ever see the Toco.

The Platoon:

Sgt Arnold	Arnie
Cpl Boswell	Rod
LCpl Martin	General
Pte Allan	Ronald McDonald
Pte Archiebald	Balls
Pte Bloss	Blossie
Pte Cousins	Couso
Pte Drummond	Drummo
Pte Fagg	Faggy (OT)
Pte Johnson	Johno
Pte Keough	Alf
Pte Mitchell	Charlie Brown
Pte Naughton	Frankton
Pte Neale	Nimbat
Pte Noble	No Balls
Pte Patterson	Patricia
Pte Robertson	Robbo
Pte Townsend	Brother Phil
Pte Shimmers	Shifty
Pte Smith	Mill
Pte Stanley	Stan
Pte Watts	?
Pte Williams	Willy

See ya!



Pte Patterson



Pte Johnson



Sgt Arnold panel beating a driver



Pte Archiebald



How did he get in here?



Pte Stanley

Every Tom, ~~Dick~~ & Larry wants one!



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RANGE ROVER



Catering Platoon

It was the start of a new era and we in Catering Platoon started the new year of 1988 with 80% turnover of the once familiar faces being posted and new ones in. The Platoon farewells with regret the outgoing Caterer, Sgt Hina, Sgt Pressley, Sgt Lorrina and the Cpl's who without a doubt make the Platoon alongside of the Pte Soldiers who are the real cooks. We'll dole troops and the best of luck in your new postings.

The platoon welcomed the changeover with WO2 G. Baker, Sgt R. Thain, Sgt L. Holmes and the new and aspiring Cpl's and soldiers. Changes in rationing procedures under WO2 Baker have seen sectioning and the standard of messing being raised, but he has stated that his door is always open to queries and suggestions to improve the standard we already have in 2/4 RAR. We as a Platoon are here to assist in all Catering matters and welcome your suggestions and visits to the Ration Store (*Who wrote this? Probably the Caterer*)

A special mention of thanks and gratitude to Sgt Les "ABDUL" Holmes who volunteered to go bush for 3 months straight and support the Bn Camel Team members. His endeavours were rewarded by the award of the CO's commendation. Les still hasn't got rid of his Afghan habits that he picked up during the 3 months trip and is still being found hanging around the Camel Corral in Turban barefooted with a shovel and a grin.

With the events of Vanuatu and Maxi-Beagle, the Platoon was put through its paces and these events brought the Platoon closer together. Sgt Morgan's attempts at being a linguist and public relations officer for the Deployment Force failed when he was asked how much French and Pigeon he could speak, was heard to say "F..... T..... B.....". So much for winning the hearts and minds of the people, it's a pity that the last OC Admin wasn't here to assist him. Good try Morg's.

The Sportsmen are far and few in the Platoon, but a special mention should go to Pte D. "Shep" Sheppard who won best and fairest player in Rugby. WO2 "Stretch" Baker participated in the Bde Volleyball Competition, well done team. To all Bn Sportsmen, well done and you have our support on the field and off.

With the last quarter of the year approaching, this Platoon will be rather heavily employed and looking forward to the BRL period and with this the Platoon wishes all Bn members a "MERRY Christmas" — emphasis on the Merry and a "HAPPY NEW YEAR".

"WE SUSTAIN"



The Caterer



"... and we eat it!"



Sgt Morgan, Cpl Byrrell and Pte Williams



Pte Sheppard jumping for rations



Sgt Les Holmes

Medical Platoon

1988 has been an active year for the staff of the Medical Platoon. What with the camel race, company and battalion activities and Vamsu's, we will all appreciate (his years BGL.

January saw the arrival of SSGT Tony Sherlock (double warning) and LCpl Ted Symons (Harmful Smith) who is cross trained in hygiene and medical RCN's and still doesn't know which office to work out of. Since arriving, Ted has now been made up to full Cpl and congratulations Ted. These new members took the places of SSGT Jones and Cpl Allen, who we were sad to say farewell to - and just recently Cpl Moffat has left us for Adelaide and we wish him well.

Still holding the fort are:
Capt G. Stokeld (active in uniform)

Sgt P. Simmons (I take no shit)
Cpl D. Leak (I am the greatest, you ask me, I'll tell you)
Cpl D. Lee (silent)
Cpl M. Lawrenson (mouth)
Cpl W. Russell (I want an overseas trip)
Pte W. Tait (apprentice)

In February, we all participated in the Battalion Bush Week and LFX demonstration and found it interesting. We also said hello to Dave Leak and Grant Allen who returned back from an eventful trip from Butterworth. Next came Bde Standown which we all enjoyed, except for Bill Russell who was the GDF Coy Medic. Soon after standown the Great Camel Race started and was quite a drain on the RMP and Wd AMB who kindly supported us in our time of need when we were short of medical. Soon after standown, Vamsu erupted and this is when the



Cpl Symons, Cpl Lee and SSGT Sherlock



Capt Stokeld and Sgt Simmons

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Medical Platoon really had its work cut out. All of our stores were already packed due to the ODF requirement of a 30 day holding. But we were short of two major items to get everyone onto the planes fully DP1 for Vanuatu. One item was typhoid vaccine which had not been produced in Australia for some time. So the Commonwealth Serum Laboratory (CSL) produced this for the Army, which was put on a plane the next night and the 190 injections were given the next day. The other item we were short of was anti-malarial drugs, but the supply system came good and aided units all over the place to supply the Battalion, which were given to you straight after a Battalion Parade. The system really can come good in times of need and the staff would like to thank the Q Store and Transport Platoons not only for their help with Vanuatu but all throughout the year. And an extra-special word of thanks to Pipes and Drums — who, when Vanuatu was on, gave most of the inoculations under supervision, helped hand out anti-malarial drugs and did a crash course on I.V. Therapy and other medical procedures to prepare them for war. Once again, P & D well done!

In June, Dave Leak went to New Guinea on his second overseas trip (gee! He is lucky!) Then came Exercise Maxi Beagle and we all learnt a lot out west (someone did mention we should have the Brisbane line tactics re-introduced).

Well for our spicy snippets of information...

Three members of the Staff have had children born this year and we are wondering when they have time to produce the offspring with their bush commitments. Congratulations Dave Lee, Dave Leak and Ted Symons.

John Moffat who taught the Sergeant everything there is to know about personnel administration has gone to DSU Adelaide.

Mick Lawrenson took a weeks leave and added it to September standown and went on his annual Asian experience (what's wrong with Aussie girls Mick?)

Dave (pull the pin) Lee finally did it and leaves us in February next year and we wish him good luck and we will miss him.

The computer wizard has decided to pull the plug. There will be

no more golf games with the CO and BREG and selected Officers — and the staff won't be able to use the computer at lunch time flying FA18's and other such games. All because the computer told him if he spent a few dollars and cents and bought into a private practice he would earn a lot more dollars and cents and the private practice has a bigger computer to play with.

In all seriousness the MO has paid his time back to the army and he has decided to leave us and I am sure I speak for all of the Battalion in wishing him good luck.

Pte Tait has finally seen the light and is joining Medical Corps, hopefully he will be on course by the end of the year.

Cpl Kessell is on a well deserved break in Butterworth and enjoying a reward for a job well done.

The RAP staff have worked hard this year in supporting our Battalion — and like our Corps Badge says "PAULATIM" which means little by little. We work with little stores and sometimes little help but we strive to give the best service to our Battalion.



Enjoy

Coke

TRADE MARK REGD.

Coca-Cola

TRADE MARK REGD.

Technical Support Platoon

The outstanding thing about Tech Spt Pl in 1988 has been the variety of activities throughout the year. The year began with the introduction of Unimog trucks requiring a great deal of work on behalf of the vehicle mechanics to get the trucks on the road and scale the required parts and tools.

Battalion bush week saw the unit's tradesmen swapping tool boxes for back packs and joining Mortar Platoon for a jaunt around the Mount Spec area. Although the craftsmen were enthusiastic there were no corps transfer applications submitted.

About this time, Cfn Peter Meredith marched in then disappeared for four months and Cpl "Shakey" Van Schaik arrived to take over the radio repairs.

The introduction of the new Land Rover "Perentie" has improved the general availability of vehicles with the only complaints to this time being the soft skin.

Cfn Paul Pritchard left the store to take a well earned rest at Shoalwater Bay on Ex "Scorpion Sting" and Cfn Wayne Ham, the long awaited new storeman arrived and continues to amaze all and

sundry.

Tech Spt had a large commitment to the "Camel Trek" initially manufacturing saddles and preparing vehicles for the task, then constant support with forward repair teams alternating throughout the period of the race.

LCpl Tony Minniti and Cfn "Chas" Chambers relaxed in a tropical paradise on Ex "Wantok Warrior". Cfn "Buzz" Bzowy kept out of trouble — between haircuts!

Vanuatu saw an initial period of round the clock activity during which every weapon in the battalion was inspected over a three day period. The Mag 58 bipod proved unsuitable and a conversion was carried out on all unit guns.

The ASM supported Ex "Tropic Lightning", life wasn't meant to be easy!

Exercising in remote areas of the Gulf country necessitated teams to operate independently over long distances with minimal support. Maxi Beagle was hard on equipment and all involved gained valuable experience.

With "Swift Eagle" upon us, the silly season imminent and Cpl Chris Maher and his team in Malaya, Tech Spt are looking forward to a well earned Christmas break and a quiet (R89) new year.

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ASM W02 Williams



Cfr. Pettichard



Cin. Hart



Tech Sgt Platoon

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Quartermaster Platoon

Quartermaster Platoon has once again enjoyed a very busy year at the "full trot".

This year, staff changes included posting in of Captain Merv Dixon as QM, Sgt Ray Browne as PI Sgt, Cpl Nalin Bristow-Smith as Clothing Storeman, LCpl John Twomey to UMM's with LCpl Bruce Sammons to Peace Ledgers, Pte Bill Ross to War Ledgers, Cpl Trevor ("TT") Ryan and Pte Mark Hoffrichter to on-the-job training in various appointments.

Internal and external postings from the QM PI including promotions were: Capt Bob Weir to Maj, HQ 2 MD; Kim Porter to SSgt, A Coy; Gary Jear to SSgt, B Coy; Ken Burgess to SSgt, 1RAR; Brett Langbeer to LCpl, D Coy; Cpl John Brooks to 10/27 1RAR; Cpl Darryl Sheehan to 11/28 1RAR; LCpl Peter Vestjens discharged; LCpl Julian McCarthy to B Coy; LCpl Buck Rodgers to A Coy; Pte Les Kronk to Admin Coy; Ross Waterhouse to Cpl, Tech Store; Wayne Sheldrick on temporary duty to Admin Coy and promotion to Sgt and finally (to date) Cpl J.J. Janzen to 1RTB.

This year we have finally seen the issue of "spotties" - our new disruptive pattern uniforms, wet weather jacket and new GS Landrovers (Perric 110's), new Thermal Imagers and our own unit Unimogs (nine trucks), soon to be more.

The questions about the imminent arrival of new equipment continued unabated until receipt of DPCU! Now it's the case of "when will we have enough?" Since then questions have lessened considerably. We now eagerly await the arrival of our new spotted webbing, Perentie FTR and six wheelers and more importantly - new weapons.

The QM's PI has participated in most (if not all) activities this year, ranging from exercises such as Air Week, Bush Week, "Bashful Bandicoot", "Tropic Prelude", "Tropic Lightning" (Hawat), In Live Firing Week, "Maxi Beagle" and are now beavering away in preparation for "South Eagle" '88. Our preparations for ODF displays, a most interesting period of ODF activity of a "Claytons" nature, CES stocktake, helicopter training, sport, PT, shooting, water jump, manpower support to the Mtl Skills competition (to mention a few) and courses such as Basic Storeman, Advanced Storeman, Air Portability Team Leader, Subject Courses for Cpl and Sgt, QM's Course, Exemption Testing and Education Courses and Introduction to Joint Warfare have all contributed to a high workload, often with crisis management being the only solution.

Apart from those warlike activities, our Peace Increment staff have contributed significantly to the success of several large functions this year such as support to the HQ Army Officers' Ball, unit courses, 2/4 RAR Birthday Celebrations, accommodation support for visiting US, PNG and Tatoo personnel and numerous other activities.

At the end of 1988 we will once again be farewelling and welcoming a number of personnel. Congratulations and best wishes to our HQMS who will be sadly missed by the QM. John Gibson is appointed as QM 1RTB and is promoted to Captain on 7 December '88. Congratulations also to "Jacko" who is to be Sgt L.J. Jackson of 1 Trg Co on 14 December '88. We will also miss "TT" Ryan, Bill Ross and Matthew Crooks who have all decided to take discharge. May their futures be happy ones.

In closing, late 1987 to October 1988 has been a busy and fruitful period for the platoon. It is hoped that 1989 will be an even more fruitful and enjoyable year. The support of all members of the platoon and the support accorded them by their wives, girlfriends and families goes a long way to ensure that the Battalion is provided with logistic support. Thank you for the support and compliments of the season to you all.



Capt Dixon



HQMS WAR - WOJ Gibson



LCpl Sammons and Cpl Ryan



Pte Crooks

Pipes and Drums



Pipe Major WO2 'Jack' Gail

Our year began at 0001 hours on New Years Day, the first job of the year being on Berrima Island, and exclusive Island Pentide.

The Pipe Major accepted the task and began his New Years Eve flying from Townsville to Duria Island, ocean voyage from Duria to Berrima, he then settled into his Chalet and began preparations for the evenings activities. The new years day started on the jetty, partaking in some Highland refreshment with other international guests.

Early in '88 it became obvious the priority was to be the Tattoo. The preparation for the Tattoo took a considerable amount of personal time and credit goes to all who reached the standard required.

First job for the year was at the new Woolies at Northern Plaza.

On 25th February, the Pipes and Drums ventured to the Blue Nuring House, as at least we had some older soldiers for at least one day.

Being the only military organization on 24 hours notice to move in Townsville, our military tasks already began, some examples...

- D Coy return from Malaysia
- Blessing of the Fleet at the Townsville Boat Club
- A number of RAAF funerals
- The Netball Association (that's a bit of a thrill for our younger members)
- Parade for 2 PD Sup Bn and Guard Mounts.

17th March brought on Saint Patrick's Day and once again we woke the battalions. This year only verbal abuse and not one fire hose was used.

The traditional boiled spuds and Irish coffee was served and even Col MacDougall from D5G was seen to sip a drink or two. Eleven large bottles of Irish whiskey and 10 litres of cream later everyone left with red cheeks.

In March, Col Davis got married and the North Queensland Highland Games were held. April 17 saw the Pipes and Drums off to Mackay for the W.Q. Rugby Union match, only a one night stand but a good one.

Antar Day saw us all over the city, one bugler at Gona, the Pipe Major at Brigade HQ, 3/4 Car Regt, the Engineers and of course the battalions. We also marched through the streets of Townsville and played at the RSL.

Still in April we played at the Civic Theatre for the Mayor's Charity Concert and being basically infantry we produced the green beret act. LCpl Langlois and T.T. Ryan dropped from the ceiling of the Theatre, while smoke, lights and helicopter sounds, accompanied the stage. The little drummer boy was Mark Hannon, he performed well with minimum rehearsal. Keep up the drumming Mark.

During May saw the P/D go back for a few days with the RAAF "Code of Conduct Course" and that same month the Officers Mess, Grand Reception and the P/D's again played at another presentation of Colours. Since 1985, the Colour Presentations have been 4RAR, 3RAR, 1RPR (PAC), 55

PMGR, 1RAR and in September 6RAR. May was a month to remember.

June was fairly quiet. Once again the RAAF had their Formal Mess Functions, Bde Sgt's Mess Big Dinner and the Charity Concert at Ayr. Billy Raymond the Director of the Ayr Theatre has plans to produce another show next year. The last job in June was the RAEME Hawker Pentide.

July, we had the Royal Guard for the GOC, the Bde Rugby at Hugh Street, CDF Dinner at the Grand Mess, 2/4 RAR Freedom of the City of Townsville. This was a month of losses. Mick Dyson was preparing for his Tach Elect Course and Bob Casey getting ready for his Inns.

August - December, we are from August part of the Bicentennial Tattoo Regiment - Veiling, performing in Sydney, Brisbane, Townsville, Darwin, Perth, Adelaide, Hobart, Melbourne and Canberra.

The Tattoo routine after rehearsals is more like night shift. We start at 1500, perform from 2000 to 2330 and assist tea, supper at 0130, rehearsals start 0100 to 0300. From 0300 to 1500 the next day we have off to prepare and sightsee.

On hitting Darwin, Pie Holmes went to hospital to get his appendix removed, so he'll be out of action for a while. At the completion of the Tattoo, the Tattoo Authority present us with a thankyou certificate and a medalion like our Freedom of City Medalion.

The Quartering (Barracked) haven't been too bad. Perth at this stage has been outstanding. We stayed at the Sports and Recreation Centre at Neelunda. The Tattoo so far isn't too bad, the routine is becoming monotonous though. We have made a few acquaintances and have earned the respect of ABES and Civic Bands. This year I would like to mention the names of the P/D's as a lot of the old hands have left:

P/Major	WO2 Gail	Piper	Cooper
P/Sgt	Cpl Davis	Base Drummer	Murphy
P/Cpl	LCpl Bickling	Tenor	Holmes
D/Sgt/D/M	LCpl Macoy	Tenor	Larsson
Piper	Wilson	Snare	Timings
Piper	Pritchard	Snare	Norman

As you can see we are still light on the ground.

Next year will see another P/D's course which I hope will get us more pipes and another snare drummer. As our members increase our chance to complete at Major Pipes and Drums Camps are better. So for all you lads that wish to have a go, contact myself or one of the P/D's. We are heading for bigger things in 89-90.

On behalf of the P/D's we wish the Battalion all the best for next year. Our Commanding Officer, "Your new ones are little ones" Major Hollings, many thanks for your support "Have a glide New Year".



Duke of Gloucester Cup 1988

The Battalion came second in this years' competition. The team performed well in all areas of assessment, winning the shooting easily and with Pte Brian Kelly getting 100% in communications.

The training period consisted of six weeks where the squad of 45 was finally cut to the team of 11 soldiers.

The final team consisted of:

Cpl Stephen Moore
LCpl Tony Muir
Pte David Bennett
Pte Chris Mackie
Pte Royce Harty

Pte Rodney O'Neil

Pte Craig Hess

Pte Michael Bird

Pte Brian Kelly

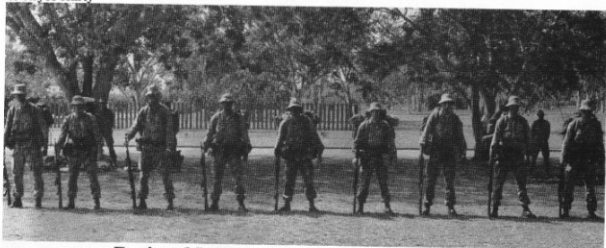
Reserves:

Pte Michael Wishart

Pte Jody Waters

The team is the Australian Army team for the Regional Military Skills Competition to be run in early December 1988.

Our thanks to Maj Wilson and Sgt Challands for the training and support that they gave the team.



Regional International Military Skills Team



Front: Pte Bird, LCpl Harty, LCpl Ross, Lt Lean, Pte Waters, Pte Scholtz.

Back: Pte O'Neill, Pte Wishart, LCpl Kelly, Pte Walker, Cpl Moore, Pte Hess, Pte Bennett, Pte Lee.

P.S.: Sgt Challands was missing getting a new pacemaker fitted.

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Battalion Rail Ticket to Exercise Swift Eagle

City of Townsville

At a Meeting of the Council of the City of Townsville
held in the Town Hall
on Thursday 28th July 1988 it was
Resolved Unanimously

that

Freedom of Entry

is to

City of Townsville

to permit

The 2nd/4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

Now Therefore

To the Colonel of the 2nd/4th Battalion,

Royal Australian Regiment,

Officers and other Ranks

Greetings

Whereas the Mayor, Aldermen and citizens of the City of Townsville in the County of Hibernia, being mindful of the record and traditions of loyal and devoted service to our beloved Queen and Country, created by your most distinguished Battalion, and being desirous of recognizing, commending and fostering the intimate association which has always been enjoyed between our City and the Battalion, in which many of our sons have been proud to serve. Do By These Presents confer upon you the title, privileges, honours and distinction of marching through the streets of our City of Townsville on all ceremonial occasions with Bands, Drums, Bagpipes, Front, Drums, Banding, Bands Playing and with Colours Flying.

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OF TOWNSVILLE TO 2/4 RAR

SATURDAY 30th JULY, 1988

On 15 October 1971, CO 2RAR, LTCOL J.M. Church received the Freedom Scroll on behalf of the Battalion from his worship the Mayor of the City of Townsville, Alderman W. Harold

Phillips. Since the Amalgamation of 2 and 4 RAR, 2/4 RAR has exercised the Right to the Freedom of the city of Townsville on behalf of 2RAR. 2/4 RAR was honoured in its own right on Saturday 30th July 1988 by the Granting of Right of Freedom of Entry to the City of Townsville, when the CO 2/4 RAR, LTCOL I.J. Ballantyne, received the Freedom Scroll on behalf of the Battalion from His Worship, the Mayor of the City of Townsville, Alderman M.F. Reynolds, AM.



Bravo Company "Eyes Left"



The Colours



Support Company



2IC and CO



Pipes and Drums

Ladies Association

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the members of the Battalion who have been a great help providing assistance when organising the functions for the ladies this year. Catering staff, Q Store, RFP's and the AAdJt in particular have been a big help and without their efforts, our year would not have been successful.

We had a pretty varied calendar this year with quite good support from the ladies within the Battalion but we would still love to meet more of you. We are purely a social club that organises functions for all the ladies and their children about once a month. We try to cater to a variety of tastes. Some of the functions we had this year were regular Bingo mornings, a Gaming Demonstration by the Sheraton Casino, a pistol shooting lesson, craft demonstration, wine & cheese tasting, discussion on Naturopathy and Acupuncture, and family picnic days while the men were out bush.

We were very successful competing at this year's inter-unit Swimming Carnival and Almost Anything Goes Day with a second and first place respectively. The ladies who competed had a great day and there were few aches and pains afterwards. The events require more of a sense of humour than physical fitness but that's the idea, to have a fun day and a bit of a laugh. Our special thanks to the "volunteers" from the Battalion who helped out at the Anything Goes Day. It was much appreciated.

Finally, to the ladies on the committee this year, who have worked very hard, a very special thankyou. A very Merry

Christmas to all and we look forward to seeing you next year, particularly the ladies we haven't met before.



Pictured are members of winning team at Almost Anything Goes Day. Caroline Ware, Rhonda Hansen, Sharon Probert, Kim Hartley, Lenore Meuleners. Missing are Joanne Dzienisz and Chris Bayley.

Along with "event judges" from the Battalion and organising PTT's.



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Camel Race

Exercise Cameleer "200"

The Great Camel Race has been and gone, but it certainly was one of the highlights of our year. Those who had the chance to either ride or support the race will remember their experiences for a long time to come.

What the Cameleers actually achieved is really quite remarkable. They drove to the centre of Australia on two camel catching expeditions, actually caught eight camels, brought them to Townsville, broke them in, made their saddles, prepared for the race, then rode the camels more than half way across the country, supported the entire activity from Townsville, rotated two hundred of the unit through the support crew, and had a good time doing it.

Exercise Cameleer "200" achieved all it set out to do, the activity was a success.

The initial idea for the activity came from WO2 Ian Dow and Capt. Warren Farmer, who were both posted in January and unable to participate.

The unit sought sponsorship from the Townsville business community to help cover costs associated with its participation in the activity. Sponsorship was received from FAI Insurance Group and Southers and Taylor, a local Solicitors firm. Support, by way of donation of goods or services, was also received from:

- Australian Airlines
- Avago Group of Companies
- Fotographics (N.Q.) Pty. Ltd.
- Ron McDougall Agencies Pty. Ltd. and
- Sheraton Breakwater Casino-Hotel

As a result of Jim Bowen's win in the sixth stage of the race the prize money has been dispersed as follows:

- \$2000 - Legacy Club of Australia
- \$1000 - The N.Q. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty
- \$1000 - The Endeavour Foundation
- \$1000 - The Salvation Army
- \$1000 - The Royal Australian Flying Doctor Service

Thanks need to go to the camels, Baldy, Sightseer, Sally, Hitchhiker, Cami, Cleo and Mad Jack. The riders, Steve Rose, Jim Bowen, Glen Bartlett, Kel Haydon, Jeff Hayes, Andrew Elliot, Rod Wilkinson, the reserves Eamon McGarry, Gary Sheffield and especially the cook, Les Holmes, whose efforts throughout the entire race were outstanding.



Jed, Cowboy, Wilko, Jim, Col, Irish and Barney



The Stevie "Cowboy" Rose



LCpl Jed Hayes





LCpl Jim Bowen



"Baldy"



Barney and Sally



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Pte Reynolds, Pte Benfer, Cpl Toohy and LCpl Jennings

Pte Benfer raised \$500.00 with the help of 2/4 RAR members for the Kirwan Special School when he competed in a triathlon blindfolded.



The "Adair"



The Duxbury



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The "enemy" resting



D Coy clear the Kalkadoon Hotel



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Exercise Swift Eagle—

It began with a journey into the past. The battalion was indeed honoured, to have endured 14 hours slowly rolling along in one of the majestic old antiques of the Queensland Railways. It was even whispered that the "old lady" had been carefully preserved in mothballs, since last serving as a troop train during the American Civil War. 1030 hours, 13th October 1988 — "Made it at last!" — Glen Geddes Railhead: Gateway to Shoalwater Bay Training Area. After "marrying up" with Leopard Tanks, APC's, TCV's and the Artillery; the battalion became "tactical" for the Exercise. Going "tactical" was an inconvenience to Delta Company and interrupted their intense programme of swimming, fishing, bush walking through the mountain and spinning yarns around the bonfires at night.

Our first task was to clear "AO FISKE" to Samuel Hill Airfield, which was achieved within 48 hours. After handing back the "Weimar Blues", we became experts in air and foot movement. With the aim of ridding the Clinton sector of those dreaded muscians, the Battalion launched into the Peninsula Campaign.

The CO skillfully achieved success with intelligent use of air assets to deploy company block forces behind enemy position, while the remainder of the Battalion advanced along the main axis of the peninsula.

Our "air assets" included "Hornets", "Blackhawks", "Chinooks", "Iroquois" and "Kowas". The Peninsula Campaign saw the introduction into service of the enemy's latest offensive aircraft. Utilizing the latest developments in "space avionics", the MAF Mark One, "Sandfly", was deployed at low level and in such numbers as to create a great deal of discomfort and frustration to our troops. The "sandfly" on a number of occasions, broke through our front line and struck deep into our echelon

areas. (IOC Admin Coy will testify to that.) Night raids did not abate until large quantities of chemical counter measures were applied to the body.

The Peninsula Campaign won. The Battalion was deployed by air to "Elanora", where we conducted trench warfare for a couple of days in preparation for the air mobile assault on the suspected enemy position in vicinity of the "Raspberry Vale" area.

The CO's plan was implemented without a hitch. This involved eighteen helicopters of various types. Deploying some 500 troops 15km in 64 minutes. On arrival of the LZ, the CO commanded his men on a battalion level fighting patrol, to once and for all "finish off" the last remnants of the enemy force — well, that is, until Exercise "Kangaroo 89" — but that's another story.

Who will forget...

- The CO's last orders group in the bush.
- The brink of "Condor" (OC A Coy).
- B Coy motto — "march or die!"
- B Coy lost patrol — "We will keep shouting — someone is sure to find us — (transmission heard over Battalion Command radio net).
- D Coy — Lost and found.
- D Coy — "Late again".
- BHQ's filing system — "Now what was the number of that Transreq? Thanks Dave!!
- The CO's response to BHQ's filing system.
- "Seagulls" last swan song.
- Message over the insecure gunner radio net: "We are commencing our deception fire plan — NOW!!!"
- "Niners" attitude towards status of command of helicopters — "possession is nine tenths of the law".
- Most "popular" CO at Brigade HQ — LtCol Ballantyne.



Pat Richardson



Dave did you bring the map?



Dad what did you do on Swift Eagle?



I ate heaps of oysters son



Pat Barrett: Eyes finding the pistol he misplaced on Mossy Deagle



Thank God for the Salmons

Corporals's Dining In Night



Lt Col Ballantyne, Cpl Stephens and WO1 Hansen



Cpl Smith, Cpl Chester, Cpl Quinn and Cpl Elliott



WO2 De Pass and Cpl Morgan



Cpl Trembath and Cpl Kessell

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WO2 Cahill and Cpl Inghall (now Sgt)



Cpl Delben, Cpl Corred and Cpl Stanton



Cpl Buckland, WO2 Gail and Cpl Davis
(The pipe major tuning his menu)

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Pfc Stephenson



The ISM and CRM C Coy



Lt Collins



MOJ Gail



Pfc "Lefty" Wright



Pfc "Cag" Smith



Cpl Chesney, Lt Allen and LCpl Quinn



Open day in Barkerston





Lt Angus McLeod and Sgt Joe Johnson



Cpl Walker and friends



Some of B Coy waiting, Wallaby Airlines



Officers' Mess Goldie River



B Coy PNG



GENERAL Gratton talking to Mortar Platoon



OC B Briefing CO and others in PNG



Would you believe that the QM said "member to pay"?



Cpl Armstrong and winning M1 Skills Section from C Coy



Cpl Lampard in New Guinea



PNG Exchange Students at James Cook University

Hockey



Johnson, Barker, Danaher and Jackson first half Grand Final vs 18 P'd 8gn



Nick Stanton and Jim Smith

It was a great year in hockey for 2/4, with us beating 18 P'd 8gn this year and collecting the premiership.

Also it was us playing on the new astro-turf surface which lifted our standard immensely. It was not uncommon to see John Danaher flailing up and down the wing... until he was told that it could get him arrested. What was uncommon, was the rest of the team.

On exchange, was Sgt Joe Johnson, which was just what the team needed... another goal scoring drunk. But he fitted in well with Jimmy Smith, who is the other goal scoring drunk.

Not fitting in quite so neatly was Doug Henderson... who was a drunk but doesn't score. Still he was well balanced by Peter Men... who could score, but wasn't a drunk.

LCpl Clark showed that he is Star Material when he showed up in new socks for the grand final and very graciously let his captain wear his old ones.

Our goal keeper, Radar Barker, the man who saved a penalty stroke and the match. Radar is a true, dedicated professional who rather spoils that effort by wearing a hat with a penis on it whilst playing.

The field was much more peaceful when 2-dads left on course and a replacement was impossible to find. Try as they might, Jackie and Jeff, the till and firm of the team, did even better. Jackie played until he went 'Wherea' and on comes Jeff.

A lot of the old guard are posted or discharged at the end of the year and we wish them luck.

However, there were a couple of early retirements this year.

Cpl Cheater returned after his first and last appearance as goalkeeper, when Buck Rodgers fired away with his usual powerful and wildly accurate hit, relocating his nose for him. "That's why you get line medical in the Army", was Buck's heart felt apology.

OC B Coy was given time to consider retirement after the Umpire sent him to the Sin Bin for what had been a brilliant tackle.... from a Rugby point of view unfortunately.

Still there is always next year and with the potential displayed by the up and coming players in the scratch side, the trophy could be ours for a while yet.

Many thanks to James, Simon, John, Hughes, Hangerford, Steve Hart, Groveson, most of B Coy, most of Sgt Coy and Catering PL, for their help and Support.

Your Captain, Coach, Manager, Strapper etc.

NIC STANTON.

P.S.: Sgt Company won the Inter Company competition.



Allan Clark



Jim Smith taking free hit



The Coach and the Bide Trophy



Doug Henderson and John Danaher

Cricket

By the time of the printing of the 1987 magazine, the cricket season had only just begun and therefore was not fully reported upon.

The 2/4 side went through the preliminary rounds of the competition undefeated. This result was due to the players confidence, positive attitude and their wanting to win.

Consistent batting performances came from Tinni Heron and Wayne Tait. Later on in the season, good knocks from Peter Bowen and Brian Grace gave the middle order depth, some sound early innings were also provided by Dean Astbury and Tassie Hingston. The key to the strength of the sides batting was the ability of the lower order to either stay around and assist or make a score themselves, Tony Whent did this on a couple of occasions.

The bowlers also performed well with some good bowling coming from Tinni Heron, Wayne Tait (when not wicket keeping), Wayne Lampard, Frank Oreb, Darren Chesney and David "Princess" Ellery.

The competition itself was even with the most interesting game of the preliminary rounds being against 4 Fd Regt.

Cpl James, again umpired for the season, the conduct of all the games was directly influenced by his consistency and high standard of umpiring (actually Jamesy wrote this).

The grand final was played at Garbutt against 1RAR. 2/4RAR won the toss and battled after a shaky start where J.D. swatted a few flies with no success. Peter Bowen and Wayne Tait settled into a second wicket partnership of 203, making 103 and 97 respectively. At the end of the 30 overs we had made 5 for 237. 1RAR were only able to make 87 in their innings.

All those who played throughout the year and in the premiership side should be well pleased with their efforts. Jamie Heron did a good job in leading the side and we all thank him for that.

Thanks must also go to the Pioneer Platoon for their efforts in the construction of the cricket nets, thus enabling anyone to have a hit at any time.

The inter-company competition was held as part of the battalion's summer sports week. The A Company side with Peter Bowen, Wayne Tait, Clay Sutton and Nick Withycombe being the nucleus of a strong and competent side.

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Australian Rules

The Australian Rules A Grade Team had mixed fortune during the 1988 season. We managed to beat IRAR A side early in the year, the first time in five years, due to the vigorous determination of all players. The A side had a large turnover with about 40 different players for the year, which left the B grade side depleted for some of their games.

The A grade side had managed to finish third after the rostered games and the B grade side finishing a very creditable fifth, which was very pleasing under the circumstances.

We had only three players represent the Brigade. However, there could have been many more except for commitments. The Representatives were:

Pte Cadzow Spt Coy

Pte Crole D Coy

Pte Yorke C Coy

We proceeded through the semi finals to meet IRAR in the Grand Final, on what we thought would be the year the tide turns, but alas it didn't. The pressure of the game seemed to get to the younger players, however, with this experience we will have more confidence next year.

The presentation night after the grand final went off very well. Presentations were given to LCpl Grace, for winning the Best and Fairest for 1988 and Sgt Harrison for Best in the finals.

In the B Grade, Cfn Ham won the Best and Fairest and Cpl Lowe won the award for the most number of goals.

A couple of players who made outstanding contributions during the year and haven't received a mention are Pte Crole, Cpl Moore, Pte York and Pte Cadzow.

The side would like to thank the CO for his continued support and encouragement, we also wish to thank the OC's and CSM's because we all know how difficult releasing players can be at times. Let's hope it continues next year. Finally, the team would like to thank Dave Lowe for the fine efforts he has put in supporting the team. Sorry we couldn't win the big one.

"Remember, it's not the size of the man in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the man.... NEXT YEAR IT'S UP TO YOU..."



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Chuck Walker to Out



Mark Webb oral half time speech



Brad Horn



This years magazine will contain two Rugby articles, this one about the year in general and a second one concerning the Grand Final in detail. I will give the Grand Final article to Pte Ford so he can get it to the editor on time.

As far as club spirit and effort are concerned however, 1988 was our best year in a long time. All team members displayed skill and determination of a level that I thought could not exist. At the start of the year for example, who could have believed that a professional "Master of Ceremonies" like Mr Robert Oul could conduct warm up exercises for the team using his eyes only?

As the season went on a strong team spirit developed as players banded together to help one another. A good example of this spirit was the whole team sweetly calling Lt Horn "foxy" whenever he was about to kick in an effort to help him do well. Another outstanding example was the way Cpl O'Connor and Pte MacLean got everyone to work as a unit in kicking Lt Sutton to death whilst pretending to play Grid Iron. The list of these feats goes on and on and I am sure that Capt "Mountain Man" Bancroft will have no trouble welding the teams back together next year.

On the representative side of things, we had a large number of players represent the Brigade (I wonder who picked the team?) These players helped make Expo such a financial success by living in the German Beer Hall throughout the Inter-Brigade Carnival. Special mentions must also go to Sgt MacPherson and Pte Robson who played for Australian Army and congratulations to Robo who was selected for ASRU.

The awards this year were keenly contested but in the end Lt Eames won "Best and Fairest" (to stop the diggers whinging however, Pte Sheppard was announced as a joint winner).

The "Most Points Scored" trophy went to Lt Sutton (an Officer) after we lost the score sheets and Cpl Walker and Cpl Pison said they couldn't stand it if "Pony" won. Initially however, the hardest award to decide was the one

for "Most Improved Player". However, after Pte Robson pointed out that he was the biggest in the team and could punch hard, he was rated winner unanimously. Another award went to Pte Horn but we forgot what it was for.

Special thanks must also go to those members of the "B" team who played so well throughout the year to make the Semi-Finals. They also contributed greatly to the "A's" success by acting as tackling bags at training and sitting in the flowers on the side line while Lt Kurac explained life's mysteries. Cpl Baker and Pte C/AJ Smith should also be mentioned here for their good efforts in the way they got out of work for two weeks by visiting pubs looking for reception locations, well done managers.

Finally, thanks to everybody for there support throughout the year by giving up your valuable Army time to work hard at the "Vale", Pallaranda and the Rugby Club Bar.

Coach's Special Awards - 1988

Best Foul Player Unseen by the Referees	BuWhip
Best Excuse for getting out of training	Shep
("I have to study for a cooking course")	
Award for doing everything wrong on purpose because he craves the coach's attention	
Smartest Inter-Coy Transfer	Thommo
Best Move	Big Tomato with a dummy
	Zubriggen
Most Swearing fines	Nemmo
Best name in a mail	Bonnie

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This year's Rugby Article which covers the Grand Final in detail did not arrive on time for publication. As a result those who wish to read about it will have to subscribe to this year's "Hee Haw" magazine.



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Shooting

In the 1988 Skills at Arms Meeting at Malabar, a team of 15 fiers, after a weeks training at Mt Vince Range, acquitted themselves extremely well in atrocious weather conditions. Freezing temperature, leaking tents and firing in 2 inches of water seemed to spur the lads on and our No. 1 team consisting of Capt. Jensen, Sgt O'Donnell, Cpl Hart and Cpl Marshall came first in the Obstacle Course, second in the Falling Plate, third in the overall Service Rifle competition and fourth in three other events. Our NO2 team consisting of Sgt Price, Sgt Dzienese, LCpl Linton and Pte Trumble came fourth in the Falling Plate.

Individual Results from AASAM were:

Cpl Marshall	6
Capt Jensen	16
Pte Trumble	19
Cpl Hart	76
Sgt O'Donnell	77
Pte Stansfield	90
Cpl Cameron	100

This is particularly significant as over 700 competitors from all over Australia participated in AASAM this year.

The Inter-Company competition was fired over a three day period in September and consisted of an SMR Practice, six serials from the Applied Marksman Practice, the Gurkha Trophy MG Match and a Pistol Match. Support Company proved successful in winning the Rifle and Pistol Matches and D Company won the Machine Gun Match on the day. The Champion Rifle Shot in the Battalion for 1988 was Sgt Ingal from A Coy who scored 36 out of 36 on the SMR and 245 out of 300 in the

marksman series (In both practices 3 fiers shot 36 and 245 and winners were determined by either a shot off or a count back of scores from the 300m serials).

The champion rifle shot was Cpl Toohy from Spt Company and the best machine-gunner was Pte Oldham A Coy who scored 33 out of 36 with the GPMG.

In the Inter-Unit Competition 2/4 RAR was beaten by 1RAR who shot superbly and the best we could manage was third in the major unit competition. A lack of practice was the other contributing factor in our downfall but we would have been hard pressed to even remain level pegging with 1RAR even with several weeks continuous shooting practice, they shot very well indeed.

Overall the shooters at Company and Battalion level worked hard to achieve the results mentioned. It is hoped that in 1989, we can practice the nucleus of a 20 man shooting team or a regular weekly basis to develop the depth and experience needed to succeed in competition.





Sgt Harrison practising his public speaking



Cpl Louie



Pte Crake



Cpl Haynes

Golf

The 1988 inter-unit competition was conducted in June at the Townsville Golf Club. The course was in excellent condition and the competition was played off the championship tees.

Two trophies were contested, the Handicap and the Scratch. Each unit team contained at least five players, the 2/4 RAR team found twelve available competitors. Our plan was to win by weight of numbers (you also have a better chance of someone getting lucky).

Each player completed three rounds, the best two of which counted, with the best five being submitted as the units total.

The battalion does not have many regular golfers and with our two best handicappers, Darren Chesney and Les Holmes away with the camels, the unit was not expected to do well, but alas, our planning had worked, the unit won the handicap trophy and placed 4th in the scratch event, an excellent effort from a group of hackers.

Les Lindgren played well and was selected for inter-service. Good performances came from Wally "have you seen a yellow hot dot" Miller, Brian Grace, Zac Brown and Peter Haynes. Paul Smith and Sgt. Jansen had more excuses than a one armed violin player and Wayne Tait found another sport you could play on a chit. Most of the lads are still trying to work out how Ron Baumgart hits the ball at all. Thanks guys, winners are grinnerers.

Basketball

The 1988 Basketball season started with the Battalion fielding a small but enthusiastic team. Although we had a nucleus of skilful players, basketball is a team sport and games are rarely won by individuals.

Training sessions started well with good turnouts but disrupted by other unit work and sports commitments. Preparation was not ideal but never the less the team fronted for every game with mixed success. At times, we beat the best teams in the competition and then lost to the worst. Every player did their best in every game and we made it to the final series only to be knocked out in the first game.

I encourage anyone who is interested to front up for a game next year, so we can give the competition a real shake.

Once again, thanks for the effort put in by all players this year and see you next season.

Swimming

The inter coy swimming competition was held in February of this year. It was apparent that A Coy had made the most of the time over Christmas and took out the competition with ease. Well done A Coy.

The Bn Swimming Team commenced training in earnest to put in a very credible performance; but like most events which are weighted (?) Ethiopia had a better chance of winning. Well done to the team for the training and effort put in.



LCpl Purchard - "Didn't you say Backstroke?"

Squash

The squash competition started with the inter-company competition held at Hermit Park Squash Centre on 5 March '88. The competition was very competitive and there were good rubbers played throughout the day. The results at the end of the day were:

- 1st C Coy (The Dark Horses)
- 2nd Admin Coy
- 3rd Spt Coy
- 4th B Coy
- 5th A Coy

D Coy did not compete due to being in Butterworth. The only incident was when LCpl Wilson required stitches when he tried to gain the upper hand by deliberately running into his opponents racquet.

From the inter-company competition the battalion entered two teams in the Brigade Competition. The No. 1 team came up against 162 Recce Sqn in their first game and were defeated by points and were forced to go into repechage, however they were unlucky to loose to 9 Tpt Sqn again by points.

The No. 2 team was more successful managing to win their way into the grand-final only to be defeated by 9 Tpt Sqn which was the far superior team on the day.

The Battalion supplied three members to represent the Army in the Nth Qld Interservice squash competition, they were:

- WO2 Lewis
- LCpl Brown
- LCpl Wilson

The team proved far to strong for the Navy and RAAF defeating both 4 - 0.



Pete Benjfer

Volleyball



As previous winners of a hat trick in '84, '85, '86. The team was on a high only to lose in '87. However with great determination the team bounced back in 1988 with great strength to crush all the teams in 3Bde, proving that we are the true champions of Lavarack Barracks.

This great victory was also due to our new uniforms bought in 1987, that we wore for the first time. This result just goes to show if you look like a team it helps you play like a team, as the results of the grand final show.

It was not just a win but an annihilation.

We started the season with some new players but soon had them up to the teams standard. However some credit must go to the more experienced players like WO2 Baker, whose great front and back line spikes were really destroying the oppositions morale. He was helped with some great back court play by Cpl Murphy.

Together this made the team unbeatable for the whole season.

A special mention must go to Cpl Danny Sheahan who has been in the team for 5 years and is now posted to W.A. The team will miss his performances. Over all the team had a great year in 1988 showing who's the best and looking forward to 1989 and 1990 for another hat trick.

I would like to thank the fellows who played. Its a great sport - the others don't know what they're missing. All the best in 1989.

Soccer

1988 was a good year for soccer in 2/4 RAR. WO2 Les Hook took over the coaching position after he vowed at the end of '87 that we would never do it again. Most of the regular faces showed up at training and showed that soccer is still an important battalion sport. The team played well for most of the season and as for previous years we faulted only at the crucial stage of the season. We may not have taken out the cup but as anyone could tell we excelled in team spirit. This was proven as the soccer team outlasted all others at the boozier after our matches.

The end of year function was an undoubted success with all but two of the team showing up. All those who attended knew they showed up the morning after. The RSM WO1 Hansen said that soccer is an important part of the battalion's sporting commitments and has promised bigger things for us in '89.

WO2 Hook has vowed that he will not be coaching the side in '89 but that has yet to be seen. C'mon Les do it for the team!

This year's awards were presented as follows:

Best and Fairest	Pte W. Tait
Best Clubman	Cpl G. Murphy
Most Goals Scored	Pte D. Angelosante (a dubious choice)
Best Fridge	Cpl "Kelvinator" Whent
Most Popular Player	Jimmy
Most Dangerous Player	Cpl "Conan the Destroyer" Pickering

Some on-field comments for '88 were:

"Has the ball come down yet" and

"Down 200 over" — Pte Tait after an over zealous penalty kick.

"I've got it! I've got it!" — Pte Wright after heading the missed corner kick into our net.

"I'm not playing this *O#!!* game again" — Steve during one of the battalion better performances.

Our special thanks this year go to:

Les Hook

The Boogie Man

Jimmy — Twice

Good luck 2/4 RAR in '89.



Pte Wright modelling the new soccer strip, with Lcpl Whent and Cpl Murphy

Touch Rugby

The Bravo company touch rugby team had another successful year in 1988. This year sees the company hold the trophy for the third consecutive year without defeat. Although a few of last year's players were lost due to posting and resignation, the new "blood" was more than capable in upholding the teams recent undefeated record.

The touch football competition was run throughout Autumn 1988 and the team finished clear winners with an unbeaten record. All games were played on the company parade grounds and the fast playing surface proved to suit the teams open and speedy style.

Although the competition was hard, the game with Charlie Company was judged by the players to be the toughest encounter. Although it was level pegging at half time, Bravo Company were able to open up late in the second half. However, it was Admin Company, containing some members of last year victorious Bravo Company team, that loomed as the major threat. Despite some imports from the P.N.G. D.F., Bravo Company proved too strong to maintain its undefeated record.

The team consisted of Cpl C.R. Walker (Captain), Cpl S.A. Walker, Lcpl C.J. Dixon, Pte G.A. Stewart, Pte W.C. White, Pte W.J. Wharton, Pte B.A. Keogh, Pte T.A. Johnson, SSgt G.W. Jlear and Lt A.J. Kuruc.

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Sgt McPherson and LCpl Hartly



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Athletics

On 29th August '88 we witnessed the classic clash of the companies in the annual inter-company Athletics Competition held at the Townsville Sports Reserve. As the weather was still relatively cool it was a morning event and the competition was keen.

Although the Olympic Games were still a month away, the Battalion quickly got into the spirit of supporting its heroes of track and field. Additionally, the tug-of-war competition was interspersed between the athletic events and so the morning proved most entertaining.

It was a closely fought contest throughout and the last event saw two companies in the hunt for a championship. Support Coy succeeded in winning the day by a narrow margin, but winners nevertheless.

Champion athletes were LCpl McCarthy and Pte Wilson. The Battalion now looks toward the Brigade Competition and will enter a strong team.



The winner



CO and Lt Horn, winner 800 metres



Cpl Murphy hands off to Lt Allen



Winner Medley Relay, Quinn, Wishart, O'Connor and Semmle



SGt Porter shows his handling technique



Sgt Chalhounds and tug of war trophy

