



L/Cpl 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 scorching 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 windscreens wipers and aerials in his gear. However, this couldn't be verified.

The PIRV 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 Beetenut and soon all the junkies were going out with a toothbrush hanging out the back pocket.

We struck a firm friendship with Recon 1RPIR, 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 (prom), Stumpy (SAS), Wheels (prom), Pagey (prom), 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.



Pvt's Smith, Horne, McGinty and Moyle



Sgt Challands's Cpl Toohey and Sgt Glower (C Coy)



Lt Angus McLeod



Cpl Davies



Sgt Haydon with some chaps



Sgt Brooks



Lt Withcombe "Were has he been?"

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 sloured a trip to Malaya), and Pte Stafford. Pte Amos was promoted to Cpl and it has obviously gone to his head, have 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 convictions. Yes Viresey 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 Adjt hasn't been seen much this year, off swimming, SPMing or DOG squadding, but he managed to generate enough work to keep the Adjt occupied.

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

The orderly room was too efficient so Sgt Hartley and Cpl Gardner 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 miners' office). The Adjt agitated, the TIC 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 to a high standard, others well, ask the Porter pilot on "Maid Beagle".

It has been a successful year for BHQ and those of us leaving wish the new identities all the best for 1969.



Cpl Amos combing his hair



"You want what?"



The local guerrilla leader briefs Ist. Section



WO1 Gibson, Cpl Lowe and WO2 Marnsworth



Ashton's Circus Maid Beagle '68