

Battalion Headquarters



MAJ Bender, RSM, Chief Clerk and WO2 Kahler — typical BHQ Conference.

As a junior soldier in the mid 70s, to a Junior NCO in the early 80s, I used to wonder in awe at what went on in "Bullshit Castle". I was always told by my platoon staff and CSM to stay away from the headquarters unless it was absolutely necessary to go there to perform my duties (It now seems that anyone can wander in to the offices at BHQ at will). At one stage, I worked in the Bn Intelligence Section for some 18 months and always thought, by the amount of "classified" waste that I had to empty, that the "GODS" in BHQ must have a tremendous workload. Well, now I'm back in the Battalion and actually working in "The Castle", and I mean working! Let's get on to 1991.

It has been a very busy year in the headquarters, and we always seem to be under staffed. Just when the work

seems to be levelling out, somebody is required to go elsewhere, be it on duty, out bush, on course, to hospital, etc., and the work piles up again. Oh well, it has probably never been any different and probably never will.

We have seen some fine officers and men come and go throughout the year. We mourn the loss of LT Andrew Larkey (who is truly one of nature's gentlemen) from the position of Assistant Adjutant. LT Larkey is currently tripping around the world prior to taking up his posting at Adelaide University Regiment. I hope they enjoy PT down there as the new Adjutant is somewhat of a fitness fanatic who is well known by BHQ staff for his "Death Marches". LT Larkey was replaced by LT Dick Parker, also a fitness freak, fresh from his train-

ing of the "DOG Squad". LT Parker also took on the challenge of converting some of BHQ's "decrepid old invalids" into DOG Squad '92 material. Sorry Sir, but for some it is just too late! LT Parker is to leave us at the end of the year and take up a position as Adjutant of 51 FNQR in Cairns, a position which I know he will fill well.

Several clerks have passed through BHQ this year. SGT Col Smith has moved on to Perth, a posting that he has been after for many years. Col was a tireless worker who could often be seen still working away late at night. LCPL Brett Stephenson, CPL "Howie" Howard and CPL "Rex" Harrison were three other clerks who performed their duties admirably at BHQ and have now moved on to "greener pastures".

Of course, it is getting to that time of year now when many of our officers and men will be replaced. Perhaps it is fitting to say a fond farewell in this article, as I am sure the magazine will become a keepsake and a reminder of the Battalion for many who are moving on. So, farewell and good soldiering to: MAJ Taarnby, MAJ Bender, CAPT Day, LT Parker, WO1 (The toughest man in North Queensland) Russell, OAM, WO2 (Chief) Gill, SGTs Dave Philippi, Greg Lewis and Keith Hannigan, CPL Marty Taylor, LCPL "Alf" Garnett, PTEs Phil Townsend and Andrew Stevenson. Good luck to you all in the future. I apologise if I have forgotten anyone.

So, what has actually been achieved at BHQ in 1991? Well, early in the year, the "system" went to great expense just so that we can have paperwork blown about the offices without us having to open the windows. They installed ceiling fans! Really, the upgrade has been very successful in making the work environment a bit more pleasant for us all. A great deal of time is spent on the input of data into the computer (which is supposed to make life easier, I think). Even the

Battalion Typist has gone electric. Great if you can spell, isn't it PTE Powell?

BHQ personnel have been involved in many activities throughout the year, from "kicking arse" on the range at Mt Vince to participating in Several CP exercises. We still do our BFTs, CFTs, 40km route marches, etc. **Sometimes, we even get to have a "sportie"!** The Int Sect guys always seem to be busy, though I can't comment too much on what they have been doing, as I don't get up there too often.

CPL Tony Ely has had a very good year. He has been promoted twice, married a lovely lady (and had his honeymoon in Hong Kong and the Philippines), and beat most of the Battalion at shooting. Were can he go from here?

There have been several changes in the RPs department. It seems no one wants to be "Sheriff" these days. Any offers?

A highlight of the year must have been the BHQ "Family Fun Day". The spouses, girlfriends, friends and kids really had a ball with the shooting, rapelling, obstacle course, museum tour and barbeque, etc. I have been asked on several occasions when the next one is going to be on. We have also had the odd social function and no doubt will enjoy one or two more before the end of the year.

In between all of the above, we have managed to carry out all the other mundane, day-to-day tasks to ensure that the administration of the Battalion is continued so that you can all get paid, fed, take leave, go on courses, trips, postings and exercises. Sometimes we even try to let you know what is going on.

A safe, enjoyable Christmas to all, and good luck for the future.