



**A Coy 1989**

## **CHQ/SPT SECT**

Maj Bancroft  
Capt Moore  
WO2 Golledge  
WO2 Kahler  
SSgt Porter  
Cpl Bergwerf  
Cpl Osgood  
Cpl Platt  
LCpl Rodgers  
Pte Boughton  
Pte Burwell  
Pte Fairall  
Pte Gourlay  
Pte Shelton  
Pte Stephenson  
Pte Waghorne  
Pte Willshire

## **1 Pl**

Lt Parker  
Sgt Brady  
Cpl D'Arcy  
Cpl Palmer  
Cpl Pickering  
Cpl Weir  
LCpl Gillan  
LCpl Johnson, G.K.  
LCpl Johnson  
Pte Barron  
Pte Blake  
Pte Camiller  
Pte Carr  
Pte Daly  
Pte David  
Pte Demmer  
Pte Elliot  
Pte Gaitte  
Pte Griffith  
Pte Jago  
Pte Kraehe  
Pte Laundess  
Pte Lovell  
Pte Lovett  
Pte MacKenzie  
Pte Maynard  
Pte Moyle  
Pte Newton  
Pte Oui  
Pte Ritchie

## **2 Pl**

Lt Eames  
Lt Johnson  
Sgt Chester  
Sgt Hancock  
Sgt Murphy  
Cpl Strahan  
LCpl Carter  
LCpl Edelman  
LCpl McIver  
LCpl Price  
Pte Bakos  
Pte Baldwin  
Pte Berger  
Pte Bowen  
Pte Brown  
Pte Buskell  
Pte Grant  
Pte Henry  
Pte Hexter  
Pte Howard  
Pte King  
Pte Laing  
Pte Patterson  
Pte Penfold  
Pte Pilcher  
Pte Schieber  
Pte Swain  
Pte Tyrell

## **3 Pl**

Lt Michel  
Sgt Rule  
Cpl Caruana  
Cpl Conrad  
Cpl Donigan  
LCpl Corney  
LCpl Dunn  
LCpl Gentili  
Pte Balderstone  
Pte Cogan  
Pte Davies  
Pte Dunn  
Pte Fisher  
Pte Goff  
Pte Gray  
Pte Grealy  
Pte Guiller  
Pte Heffernan  
Pte Hoffman  
Pte Kidd  
Pte Landy  
Pte McBurnie  
Pte Parkinson  
Pte Pearce  
Pte Sievers  
Pte Smart  
Pte Szekeley

# Alpha Company

The year began at a frantic pace and with great expectations — an overseas exchange and a major exercise in the offering.

The entire Company had to hit the ground running to be physically, militarily and administratively prepared for *Exercise Reindeer '89*. *Exercise Reindeer '89* was a four week exchange with the 2nd/2nd Gurhka Battalion based in Hong Kong (see separate article). In preparation for the exchange the Company undertook many long walks and *Exercise Get Hard* (which pitted the Sections against many challenging activities throughout High Range Training Area). However, nothing could prepare anyone for the first glimpse of the numerous (very large) mountains liberally dotted around Kowloon and Hong Kong.

After a pleasant (at times) four weeks away, and acquitting ourselves well, we were winging our way back to Australia. Our thanks must go to all members of the 2nd/2nd Battalion for their warm reception and their hospitality throughout our stay.

Once again in Townsville, preparations were already well underway for the *Military Skills Competition*. Despite the short preparation time and numerous niggling injuries from Hong Kong, the effort displayed by all sections was admirable. Special mention must go to CPL Weir's section, who on the last day of the competition, in the rain, recorded the fastest time over the obstacle course.

Soon after this competition the Company said goodbye to the CSM, WO2 Bruce Colledge, who retired from the Army after 20 years service. All members of the Company wish him well in the future.

Then it was on in earnest for preparation to assume priority Battalion and *Exercise K89*. Enough has been said and will be said about K89 so no labouring the point here.

Once back, some hurried cleaning up, a victory in the Swimming Carnival and after September stand-down, onto the traditional end of year courses. The Company sponsored a very successful Subject One for Cpl course. Thanks for the success for the course must mainly go to the Sgt instructors, in particular the CSM, WO2 Kahler.

Which brings us to the silly season and the end of the year. Many members of the 1989 Alpha Company have or are departing. We wish them well in their future endeavours, either soldiering or in whatever they choose to do. We will leave you with the words of LCpl Price to summarize the year.

## A Poem from A Coy

Tully put up the challenge for any-  
One to conquer it's terrain,  
The wait-a-while,  
The mud,  
The slush,  
And the rain.

The ODF was asked, "if anyone would dare".  
there was no need to ask,  
Step forward the mighty bear.

The Battle School, not a problem,  
As we strived in every test,  
Leaving this tropical resort, reigning the best,  
As A Coy stood proud holding high it's head.  
And all to be done was done, and  
All to be said was said.  
The trip of a life time was getting very near,  
As we prepared for Hong Kong on Ex Reindeer.

From flying Wessex choppers,  
To bartering our lowest price,  
To using electronic rangers and being fed fried rice,  
We worked hard during the day,  
And partied throughout the night.  
As no one could keep pace with the  
Great Alpha might.

The Bear was back in Oz,  
Ready and fighting fit,  
Straight into duties and Mil Skills,  
We didn't mind a bit.  
Our bread and butter it was and  
Eaten up like a pie,  
After our performance on Scorpion Sting,  
People could see why.

As a Bn unit we deployed on Kangaroo '89,  
But only the Coy excelled,  
Only one would shine.  
The brightest colour of all,  
One your about to be told,  
Once again that Coy forever dipped in gold.

We leave the other companies  
One remaining thought,  
Next time back a winner and join  
Alpha right on the line.  
WE'LL BE JUST AS MIGHTY IN 1990.

## One Platoon

1 Platoon had a highly successful year. Platoon activities varied a great deal from romps through the jungle at Tully to yarma munching on the peaks in Hong Kong.

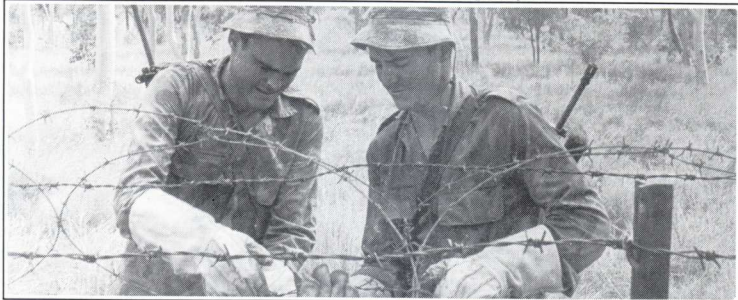
The platoon had two main highlights of the year (apart from beating the other platoons in everything we did). These events were *Exercise Retriever* in Hong Kong and *Exercise Pigs Tusk* in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Hong Kong saw some of the platoon personalities extending Australian/British relations between the services.

One soldier even attained the rank of corporal in the eyes of a lady Sergeant. The platoon camera buffs were hard at it in Hong Kong before we left, taking advantage of low prices and lovely ladies to photograph.

*Ex Pigs Tusk* was the second highlight of the year with One Platoon accounting for numerous enemy pigs. 3 Section and PL HQ found itself in some heavy fire fights with the offending porkers, but 1 and 2 sections found their AO's a little quieter and set up defensive positions around prominent crayfish infested waterholes.

All in all an enjoyable year for 1 Platoon. We wish well all those moving on in 1990 and look forward to more enjoyable soldiering next year.



*Pte's Elliot & Richards of 1 Platoon constructing a wire obstacle on Mil Skills*



## Admirals Seafood Restaurant

Townsville's Premier Seafood Buffet Restaurant

CNR. STURT & BLACKWOOD STREETS,  
TOWNSVILLE

PHONE  
211911

Enjoy our selection of Fresh Seafoods whilst relaxing in our pleasant surroundings

*Our seafood range includes*

KING PRAWNS, MORETON BAY BUGS, CRABS, LOBSTERS, FRESH OYSTERS and  
VARIOUS OTHER SEAFOOD DELICACIES

We also offer a selection of hot and cold meals as well as hot seafood dishes.

Try our variety of sweets prepared by our chef.

\*AIRCONDITIONED \* COCKTAIL LOUNGE/BAR \* FULLY LICENCED  
\* LIVE ENTERTAINMENT NIGHTLY

## Two Platoon

1989 started with Tully for A Coy and 2 Platoon. Although the platoon was 90% new, members were soon sorted out with regard to SOP's to form a working team. Tully proved to be a good introduction to the jungle for most of the platoon and a lead into our next field activity. *Exercise Get Hard* was put together by the hierarchy of A Coy with the aim to test the sections in navigation, fieldcraft, military knowledge, guts and teamwork. Two Platoon again proved to be an effective fighting force.

Weeks passed very quickly and before we knew it we were off to Hong Kong. Sitting in a RAF VC10 facing the tail of the aircraft was a different experience. The landing at Hong Kong airport was a culture shock for 99% of the platoon. Many members not having travelled overseas before. The training programme in Hong Kong was well organised and the platoon learnt many valuable lessons such as working at the urban range complex, being flexible enough to work with Wessex choppers, using the British SA80 Rifle, and others, like not carrying a full wallet through the middle of

Wan Chi in the middle of the night. Also the chance to work with soldiers so unlike ourselves was valuable and different.

After a short break back from Hong Kong, the platoon was straight into *Mtl Skills*. This was the peak for the year in many respects and Cpl Weir with his section put in for 2 Platoon. *Exercise Scorpion Sting* was an introduction to the APC. Many of the platoon members had a rapid education in how to pack, be seated, brew up while some others learnt how to sink their carriers.

*Ex Brick Wall*, although a small ex with very little support was of great value to everyone involved. This was an urban exercise conducted at the South Townsville Power Station in conjunction with 10 Platoon D Coy. All of the Pl would recommend this building be taken advantage of for similar training activities.

The Ex to end all exercises was K89. Even some of the old salts of the platoon had their eyes open wide in some instances (Yank chopper rides for example). With the closing of the year no doubt things will again be various and exciting in the new year.

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



LIMITED EDITION 'SS'  
GROUP A COMMODORE  
0-100 kph in 6.5 seconds. Top  
speed 235 kph. Borg Warner  
BTSG's speed manual  
transmission

**Service & Parts!**  
Our prices and qualified  
personnel are second to  
none. Phone or call in for your  
next service or parts order.

In everyone of us there is a racing car driver at heart. But, not everyone aspires to own an 'SS' Group

Commodore. At Tony Ireland Holden, we have cars to suit your needs - Fuel Injected 4 cylinders, family size sedans and wagons, 4WD's and of course, a large range of quality Used Cars.



RANGE ROVER



**Tony Ireland**  
**HOLDEN**

*Drive Guaranteed*

87 Charters Towers Road, Hermit Park  
Townsville. Phone 71 6855.



# Three Platoon

1989 began with a two week all inclusive stay at the LCBS Tully. The first activity at this jungle retreat was the march in. Most of us found the walk quite challenging particularly considering the extra few kilos of post-Christmas "Bulk" most of us were carrying. The water crossing/platoon attack proved very interesting with a couple of our smaller members (Pte's Burwell and Guillier) disappearing downstream; Pte Davies hanging like a puppet in a clump of wait-a-while; and Cpl Caruana almost suffocating to death in front of the smoke pot.

The next event on the 3 platoon calendar was the conquering of Mount Stuart – the platoon walked up and then walked down it!

*Exercise Get Hard*, a section strength endurance activity, was the pet creation of the OC. The 105mm ammo box filled with sand proved to be a real favourite, as was the scrawny old boiler (chicken) and limited assorted vegies, being the only food for the 72 hours. (1)

Then the big one – Hong Kong. *Exercise Reindeer*, an exchange with a company from the 2/2 Gurkha Battalion. It was a month of excellent training and unparalleled partying. The training included an amphibious dawn landing, followed by an advance to contact on an island (*Exercise Double Island*), a platoon *Mil Skills Competition (Exercise Bulldog Patrol)*, patrolling the Sino-Hong Kong border with the Gurkhas, range practices and urban training at the state of the art close quarter combat range. 3 Pl also won battle honours in the overgrown village of Solo Pun for destroying an enemy platoon minus. The acrobatics award went to Pte Morrow who, while escorting some prisoners at CHQ, attempted a very gutsy double somersault with a twist off a ledge, breaking his arm and smashing his face in the process (may Vic "R.I.P." at 10IRC). Battalion *Exercise Karne Manche* involved an all night amphibious move and landing followed by a very moving dawn service on ANZAC DAY. This was followed by an advance to contact which saw us assault Hong Kong's biggest hills, and a dawn battalion contact. The finale to this demanding exercise was a reserve demolition on a bridge, which saw 3 Platoon dig weapon

pits, build bunkers, construct wire obstacles and lay a minefield in a picturesque mountain picnic area.

The funniest incident of the exercise occurred in the early hours of that morning. Amidst the sudden screaming of a withdrawing friendly company, both the Pl Comd and Pte Kidd (the Pl Sig) awoke and immediately jumped up. Pte Kidd thinking that the figure next to him was enemy recon, crash tackled him. The Pl Comd, thinking he was being snatched, started punching the back of his assailants head. Suddenly, both realised who the other was, apologised and stood to! That memorable night ended with an eye-opening human wave attack on the Pl position by two enemy companies. Then there was the partying – drinking San Miguel at the Bottoms-Up Bar, Wanchai, the Ned Kelly Bar, Pte Heffernan finding the love of his life. Not to mention the shopping. What a trip!

*Exercise K89*, whilst having it's moments, provided some valuable experience. The highlights of the trip were firstly, watching Cpl Conrad and Pte Pearce do the leap of death from a huge tree into the waterhole at Mataranka, and secondly, watching a slouch hat drift from one side of Katherine Gorge to the other, only to realise that a half-drowned Sgt Rule was underneath it.

Probably the best day of the year was awarded to *Exercise Tour De Magnetique*, in which the platoon covered Magnetic Island on mountain bikes, swam at Radical Bay and soaked up some rays. Thanks must go to Pte's Pearce, Sievers and McBurnie for setting a nice "easy" pace all day. The initiative prize went to Cpl Conrad, who used his charm to obtain a lift from a girl with a Bongo Van for the hilliest section only to find no room left for himself (well done Pte Grealy).

So all in all, 1989 was a good year – but, 1990 promises to be even better.

(1) *Editorial Comment: see paragraph one, page ten, to confirm the real situation!*