

that Eric may have done this as a way of getting over the loss of his special friend Jim. Regardless of this fact, Eric co-ordinated excavation and building projects to rival those being constructed by the Engineers in other areas. The sum of most of this effort was the sun deck where one could have breakfast and read news from back home whilst enjoying the classic sunrises. Cameron Fearn's major project was the development of the Detachment vegetable garden. Taking advantage of the dampness adjacent to the makeshift kitchen Fearn planted tomatoes, beans and a local chilli plant. He was being investigated by the East Timorese Quarantine service for growing noxious flora.

When not constructing sun-decks or illegally importing harmful plants, members of the Detachment were usually found in one of four places: in the office, around the television and Play Station, outside at the gym, or in their mozzie dome. What quickly became apparent was the fact that a Troop member's time in East Timor was largely going to be remembered by their time spent at each of these places. Due to their trade skills some members were required to work longer hours than others, thus Adam Lehane, Matt Croker, and Pete Fakan were usually required to be in the office for the greater part of their day. When not on shift Adam was a mozzie dome dweller, Matt a chest shaving gym junkie, and Pete, when not off liaising with the New Zealand Battalion was a Play Station groupie.

The three junior operators Signalmen Cham 'Grandpa' Jarvis, Jeremy Thuell and Wilson had shorter working days. This allowed them to be more diverse with their free time. Cham could usually be found writing to each of his children one by one and was another Play Station Groupie. Thuell was absolutely committed to one thing, his stretcher, with Willo taking a more balanced approach doing a bit of everything.

The Detachment's two communicators, Cameron Fearn and Russell Witherow found that they had more time than most on their hands with both becoming experts at Crash Bandicoot, Cool Boarders and Colin McRae Rally by the end of their deployments. Fearn and Russ were unchallenged as the President and Vice-President of the Play Station Appreciation Society.

The two team commanders Colin Quaife and Eric Schneider were generally busy with site administration. Col developed the mobile 6 x 6 Troop operations vehicle, known fondly as VIC, and Eric 'found' and built things. When relaxing, both could be found enjoying the sundeck with a Coke in hand.

The final member of the Detachment Carol Milland divided her time evenly between all four activities and is also renowned for her investigative abilities in finding infected illicit files on workstations and deleting them before further damage could occur. The Detachment members are eternally grateful for her vigilance.

In the final months of the deployment Eric's team was replaced by a new team consisting of Sergeant Jol Keegan, Corporal Dave Ihms, Corporal Trish Bishop, Signalmen Mick Schimke, Nancy Bird, Michelle Ward and Nicholas Koopman. The new team's easy going nature and excellent trade skills made for an enjoyable final few months in East Timor.

BCT Command Post – Fort Balibo

The BCT Command Post was located within the confines of BHQ at Fort Balibo. The command post itself was the smallest room in the fort being two meters wide and four meters long. Work in the command post was shared between the shift supervisor and the analyst, thus at any one time you would either find Rob Curtin and Chis Leon on shift, or Bob Fletcher and Mick Glass. The other members of the command post group were Steve Medforth as the communications manager, and Amber Murray as the Troop tech.

Known fondly by the CO as his troglodytes, command post members were found either in the 'bat cave' or in their living area under their giant Banyan tree. Life in Balibo was made entertaining by Steve's chess tournaments, Amber's diet of chocolate and Coke, Chis's swearing, Mick's moods, Fletch's stench, Yensch's philosophy and Rob's guitar playing talent, or lack thereof. Our time was also made memorable with free time spent watching Asian Music Television, continuous episodes of Seinfeld and MRECTV where we could almost guarantee a screening of The Iron Cross on a daily basis.



ABOVE: Maliana FPE member
conducting local liaison

RIGHT: FPE member with
his linguist

BELOW: Private Birtüzel, Sapper
Simpson, Corporal Goetz and Private
Williams from MGI





ABOVE: 63A Private Gates, Corporal McGrath, Sergeant Plater, Private White, Lance Corporal Hastie and Privates Brown, Hodgens, Miller and Mathews.

RIGHT: Batugade FPE Detachment



BELOW: 63C Privates Allen and Caldwell, Corporal Maskey, Privates Evans and Bailey, Sergeant Parent and two local guides





63E Private Cook, Lance Corporal Hastie,
Private Robinson, Corporal McGrath and
Privates Brown and Robson



63F Privates Tuckwell, Hotai
and Hinchcliffe, Lance Corporal Cooper,
Private Terrey and Lieutenant Ireland



BCT MEMBERS ARRIVE IN DILI
Corporal Fearn, Captain Curtin, Signallers
Wilson and Fakan, Sergeant Quaije,
Signaller Jarvis



BCT at Futuklaren



BCT: Signallers Fiskin, Wilson and Jarvis, Sergeant Quaije, Signaller Lebane



Sergeant D. Touvton and MWD Morgan, Corporal R. Cannon and MWD Shay, Corporal L. Orth and MWD Hansi, Sergeant M. Pimm and MWD Jip, Corporal A. Barnett and MWD Butch.



BCT. Signaller Murray, Corporal Glass, Sergeant Quaife



ABOVE: 63B Privates Nemeth and Zimmerman, Corporal Hoare, Private Mynyk, Lance Corporal Coutts and Private Kay

BELOW: Lance Corporal Peachey, Private Gategood, Sergeant Connolly, Privates Woods and Hilderbram

