



2/4 RAR ASSAULT PIONEER

PLATOON

RCCADTE

PNT
STO

Assault Pioneer Platoon

Pioneers — What are we? We are the Regimental Combat Construction, Assault, Demolition Technical Experts (RCCADTE) — Anyone who disagrees can Rv with PTE Paterson and LCPL Harris at a time that suits them.

What have we done in '91? Our tasks have been varied and have included building "enemy" tunnel systems and villages at LCBS Tully. A number of our Platoon joined D Coy for "EX IVANHOE" in NZ and were pleased to return to the warmth of Townsville. Pioneers assisted in the construction of an obstacle course for the reprobates of the Cleveland Youth Centre as well as improving and maintaining our own obstacle course. Pioneers also assisted in the Battalion Air Week, clearing and improving LZs while also playing enemy. "EX REDBACK" (the Battalion Life Fire Ex) provided us with the opportunity to organise some interesting battle noise simulation and targetry, and we all took great delight in showering the rifle companies in big lumps of dirt. "EX MAXI BEAGLE" allowed the Pioneer Sections to improve their basic soldier skills, while as a Platoon, we gained experience in track construction and repair, to enable the echelon vehicles to move through to their next objective. We were also able to exercise our bobby trapping and minelaying skills against 15 Tp of 18 Fd Sqn, by which we faired well and learnt a great deal.

Over the year, we also saw a full section become Airborne Rapelling qualified in Blackhawks and have almost the whole Platoon abseil down the seaward face of Castle Hill. Our watermanship capabilities have been greatly enhanced by the addition of three new black Zodiacs, which with the 40 HSP engines, really power along. The Platoon took the opportunity to put the Zodiacs through their paces at Taylors Beach and around Orpheus Island in August on "EX FROGSKIN".

CPL Barry Pickering returned from his United Nations tour of duty in Pakistan with a very valuable knowledge in current mine warfare. Pioneers have provided instruction to a number of Platoons on mine warfare and hopefully in 1992, a package for the Rifle Companies incorporating Barry Pickering's knowledge, will assist in making the Battalion more operationally aware of mine warfare in all possible contingencies.

In closing, I would like to add, I have enjoyed my time as Pioneer Platoon Commander and thank Lenny Logan, Barry Pickering, Paul Nemme, and Steve Hicks for their support and the "LADS" in the Platoon who **don't** shy away from hard work. We all hope Anthony McCarter enjoys his new vocation as Commercial Diver and that Darren Mather and Red Walker enjoy their new posting.