

# SUPPORT COMPANY

Support Company grew again in 1994. Mortar Platoon and Assault Pioneer Platoon expanded to four sections, Direct Fire Support Weapons (DFSW) Platoon began its first full year of training having been raised in September 1993, and Reconnaissance and Surveillance Platoon expanded to four patrols, four sniper pairs, and a Surveillance Section of two detachments.

In all, this had a Support Company of 8 Offrs, 14 WO/SNCO's, and 158 ORs.

As expected 'jockeying' for overseas trips began early: the prizes initially being Exercise PACBOND with C Company to USA and Exercise Tasman Exchange with B Company to New Zealand. However, when trouble began brewing in the little known African nation of Rwanda, attention was immediately re-focused. At one stage it looked as though a 100 year old Kauri Pine would be needed to manufacture the reserves bench.

Mortar Platoon commenced their live firing for 1994 with Exercise Condor Crump, when joined by DFSW Platoon and Snipers, they exhibited their skills in an excellent weapon capabilities demonstration. This presented the junior leaders of the Battalion with an opportunity to "call for fire" and observe the effects of the support weapons available in the Company.

During Battalion Airweek DFSW Platoon stepped into a new task of armed convoy escorts for Company Quarter - Master Sergeant vehicles running rations, ammunition.....and water for particularly thirsty Kiwis.

Preparation for the Battalion Live Fire Exercise began with the cliché 'Time spent on reconnaissance...' The Live Fire Exercise had the rifle companies live firing section, platoon, and company attack and defence practices while Reconnaissance and Surveillance Platoon enjoyed the flexibility of sneaking in and out of the IMPACT AREA almost unnoticed. Additionally, Assault Pioneer Platoon showed that they could turn their hand to almost anything: sentry and cratering charges on the enemy position to name a couple!

A week at Mt Vince gave the Company Sergeant Major the opportunity to have the Company altogether in one place (well....nearly). There were some excellent results on the range including 38 1st class shots and 24 Marksman.



Support Company beat the rifle companies at their own game in the 1994 Military Skills Competition. Congratulations to Assault Pioneer Platoon on winning Champion Platoon and Reconnaissance and Surveillance Platoon on winning Champion Section and Champion

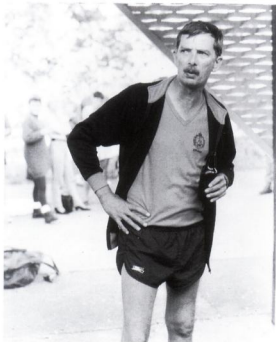
Obstacle Course Section.

Exercise Maxi Beagle was a Battalion Exercise with a new flavour, it gave us an insight into UN protective operations in a very multicultural setting - a fictitious foreign country with a US Army and Thai Army companies attached.

Exercise Swift Eagle had Support Company providing additional manpower to B and D Companies, umpires and drivers while LT Biederman got a 'bait' at the Mareeba Staging Area with the Kiwis.....must have been a bad lamb chop or two!

At the time of writing courses preparation is well underway as we get set to train the Support Company '1995 version'. Yes, Signals Platoon are off to the "Club Cowley Beach" again.

Farewell to those leaving the Company and the Battalion. Happy Christmas and good luck for 1995.



WO2 Young feeling at home