

EXERCISE THIRD BURST

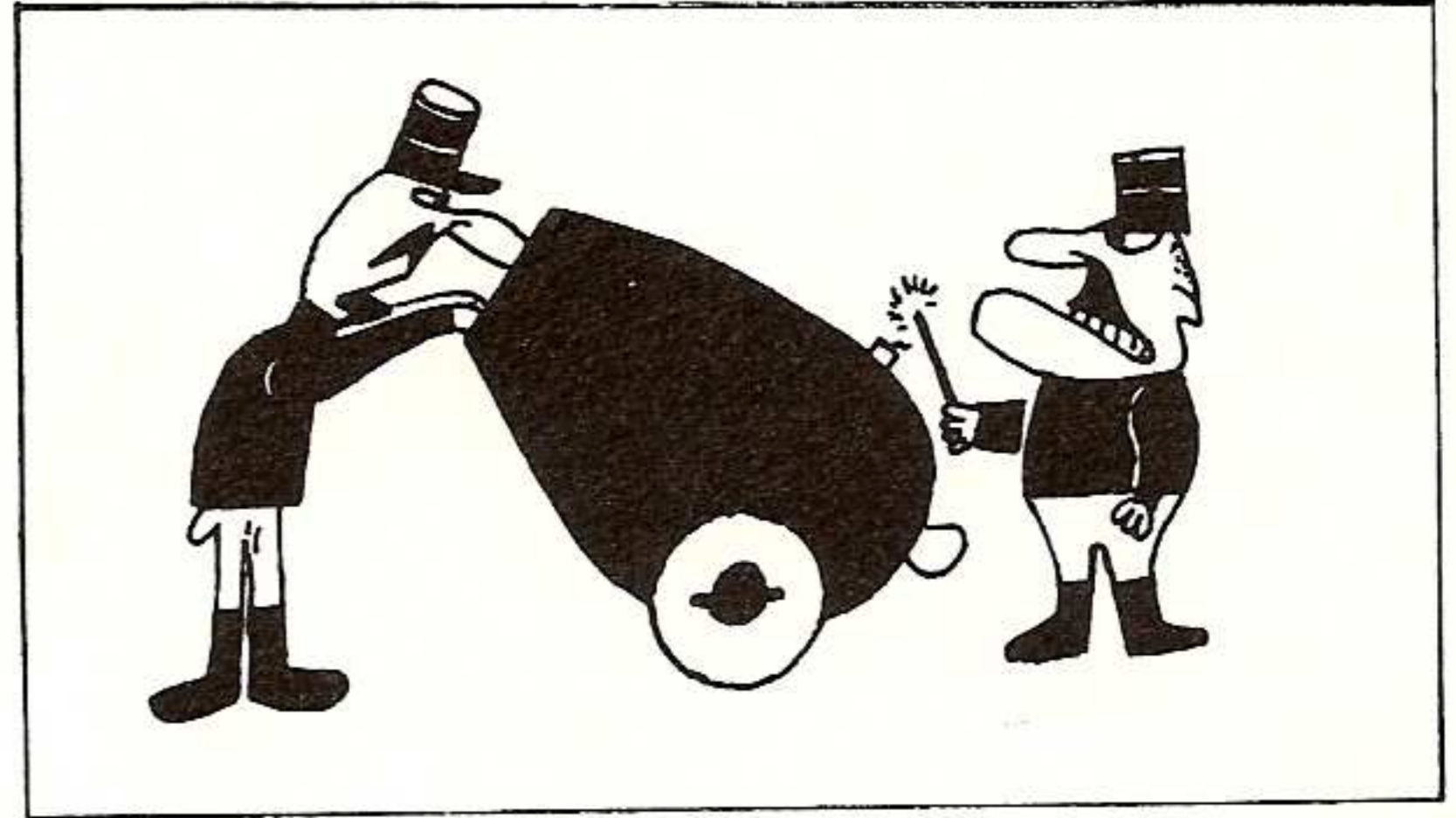
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Exercise THIRD BURST was a battalion live firing exercise held in the High Range Training Area between 25-29 Aug 80. The exercise was supported by a troop from B Squadron 3 Cavalry Regiment, two MMG gun detachments from Land Warfare Centre, 108 battery from 4 Field Regiment, a heavy fire team from 9 Squadron RAAF and a battle simulation team from 3 Field Engineer Regiment.

Live firing activities conducted by each rifle company included:

- a. battle run, using Armoured Personnel Carriers,
- b. battle inoculation,
- c. platoon attacks,
- d. company defence
- e. company attack, and
- f. company ambush.

The battalion remained tactical throughout the period of the exercise and every attempt was made to operate under realistic battle conditions as safety regulations would permit. The field battery was used in direct support for the battle run and company defence practices. The gunships from 9 Squadron RAAF fired mini guns and rockets onto simulated enemy targets, in support of the company defence practice. It was the first time helicopter gunships firing live ammunition had been used in direct support of troops since Vietnam. Co-operation given by 9 Squadron RAAF was outstanding and it is hoped that support of this kind is made available for similar exercises in the future. An attempt was made to have Mirage or F111 aircraft participate in the exercise and drop live ordnance in support of the battle run but unfortunately this was not possible. Perhaps next time.



At least three activities were held concurrently which required co-ordination of ground and air clearances and practiced the command post in most aspects of operational procedures.

2/4 RAR enjoyed working with B Squadron 3 Cavalry Regiment and 108 Field Battery. Both units appeared to have benefited as much from the exercise as the battalion did and it is hoped they will participate in a similar exercise in 1981.

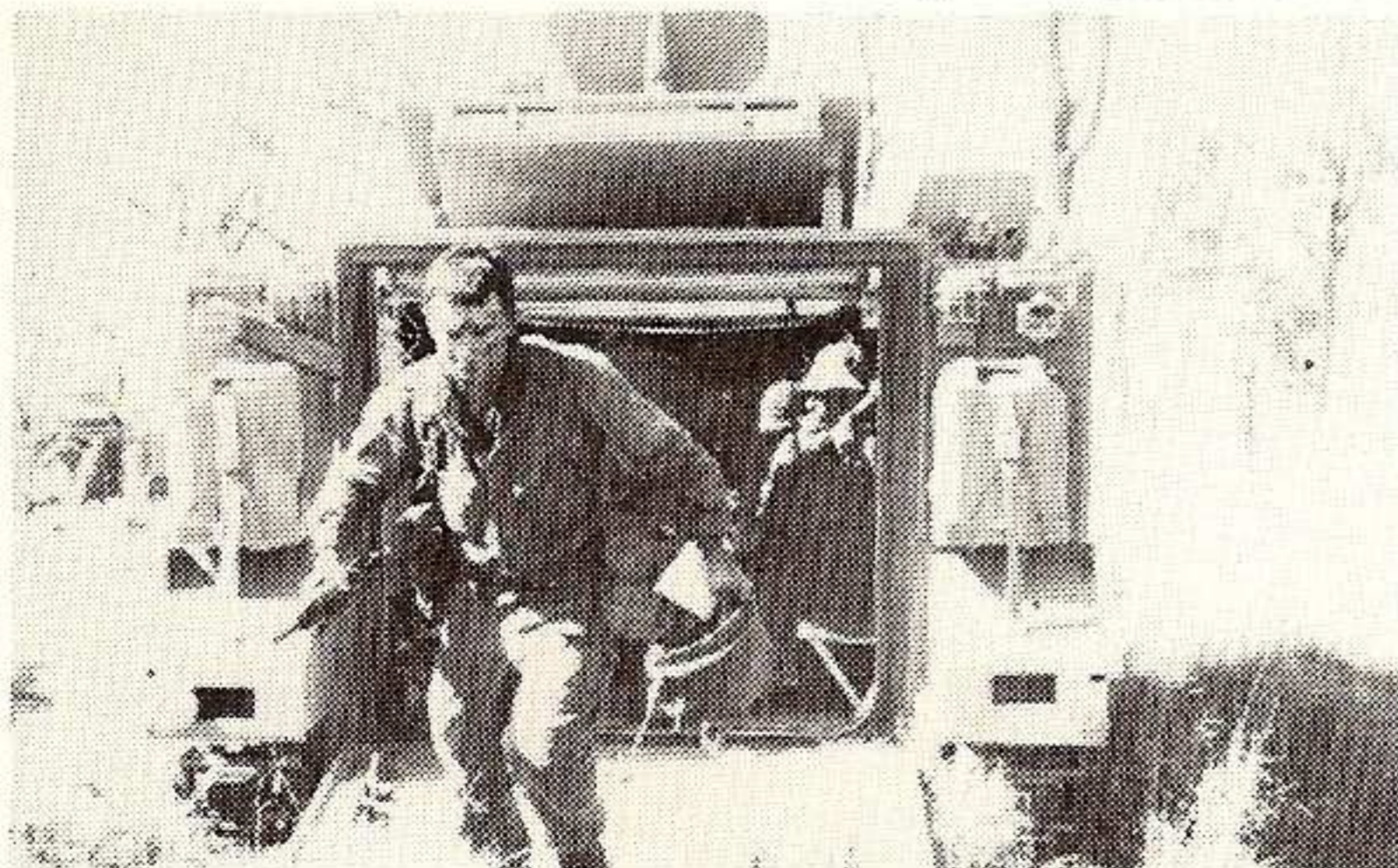
The exercise made soldiers more aware of operational conditions, the importance of command and control at all levels and the various forms of fire support which an Infantry Battalion can expect to receive and the effect of which these types of fire support have.



108 Field Battery firing in direct support.



Firing at 'Musorians' forward of the defence perimeter.



Dismounting in preparation for an assault through the enemy objective.



An MMG (Vickers) firing overhead fire on the battle inoculation course.



Negotiating a cargo net during the battle inoculation course.