

SPORT 1979

by MAJOR R. CHANDLER

Sport is an integral part of any unit's training programme as it assists in the development of self confidence and teamwork which in turn contributes to the efficiency of a unit.

To this end 2/4 RAR has actively encouraged and involved itself in most aspects of sport during 1979, civilian and service, in North Qld and in some instances other parts of Australia. It would be difficult to cover in detail every activity in which the battalion has been involved but can be best described by dividing the sport into different levels of participation; a description of which is given in the following paragraphs.

INTERCOMPANY SPORT

As is normal within every Infantry Battalion inter company sport maintains an interest of enthusiasm and excitement which causes inter company rivalry to become tainted with deception, posting orders being issued on short notice, blackmail, sabotage and many verbal confrontations. 2/4 RAR is characterized by all those fine qualities of sportsmanship which no doubt contributes to the success of such a competition.

During 1979 each of the five companies have been contesting for the honour of winning the Schlyder Shield which was donated by the Co of 2/4 RAR for 1977-78, LIEUTENANT COLONEL K.R. SCHLYDER, AM. The company to win the shield in 1978 was B Coy. Unfortunately the result for 1979 will not be known at the time of printing of this magazine but rumours have it that C Company have ordered the victory champagne.

INTER UNIT SPORT

2/4 RAR accredited itself well within the fields of inter unit sport within the 3rd Task Force. With some results yet to be decided 2/4 RAR were clear victors in the Cross Country, Rugby Union, Tennis, Hockey, Soccer, Volley Ball and Pistol Shooting.

INTER AREA/INTER SERVICE SPORT

Inter area and inter service sport was contested in Brisbane during the undermentioned periods:

12-14 Mar '79 — Tennis, Volleyball, Water Polo.

28-30 May '79 — Rugby Union, Australian Rules, Basketball, Squash, Soccer.

Pistol Shooting, Rifle Shooting, Golf and Cricket are to be contested in Brisbane between 24-28 Nov '79.

No doubt home base has definite advantages but 3 Task Force managed victories in Water Polo and Australian Rules. 2/4 RAR were well represented in most of the sports contested.

CIVILIAN COMPETITIONS

2/4 RAR soldiers have actively supported a number of civilian sporting clubs and associations of which particular mention must be made of the

Lavarack Army Rugby Union Club (LARCS). The LARCS fielded two teams in the Townsville District Rugby Union Association. An A grade team and a team in the reserves. 2/4 RAR supplied the majority of players in both grades and were responsible for most of the management and administrative responsibilities for the club. The A grade team were unsuccessful in making the finals but the reserve grade team played in the Grand Final and were defeated by Brothers.

A new side in any association takes time to gain strength and to recruit the best players. The 1979 year has been successful in the sense it has laid the foundation for better things to happen for the LARCS, and it is hoped the efforts put in by many players and officials during 1979 will be assisted by more units and individuals in the 1980 season. The LARCS have the potential to develop into a side that will frighten all opposition.

LARCS FOR 1980

Australian Rules within Townsville has been well supported by Army members. 2/4 RAR practically fielded the complete side of the South Townsville Football Club and were most unfortunate not to have made the Grade Final. It can probably be said that exercise commitments prevented this from occurring as exercises seemed to clash with crucial matches and vital training sessions. Word has it that the South Townsville Football Club has produced the 2/4 RAR Training programme for 1980 to prevent a similar occurrence.

CONCLUSION

It would have been nice to have produced in this magazine a complete resumé of all the sports in which 2/4 RAR participated during 1979 but due to the cut off date for articles, to enable publication before commencement of annual leave this has not been possible. The Battalion has given of its best to support and encourage sport this year and will continue to do so in 1980. Many individuals from within the unit have given their time unselfishly to make the programme of sport work and it goes without saying that their efforts are recognised and are not in vain.