

# A RIFLE COMPANY'S VIEW

On April 25th, 1915 Anzac troops distinguished themselves at Gallipoli. C.E.W. Bean, the official correspondent with the Anzac's, was singularly impressed by their tenacity and spirit. Seventy years later Australian troops were again launching into the fray. Were he on the scene today, there is no doubt that Bean would again be impressed by the tenacity and spirit of the men of Charlie Company 2/4 RAR on Ex Eager Eaglet.

Ex Eager Eaglet was a Battalion exercise conducted at Dotswood over a seven day period. The exercise saw C Coy engaged in vigorous patrolling and air mobile operations at Company level. Highlights during the exercise were numerous as C Coy enjoyed a considerable degree of contact with the enemy.

After insertion by Caribou onto Breddan Air Strip, the Company was taken by a convoy of vehicles to its AO. The real action came on day 2 with the courageous crossing of the Burdekin River by the Company. Indeed, here the water level was so great that the giants of the Coy, such as CSM Bruno, were forced to cross at periscope depth. Their morning bath behind them, the men of C Coy then proceeded to clear their AO.

Contact came early and the soldiers of 8 platoon frequently starved in the pursuit of the enemy, ably led by the SGT 'Dasher' Morris. At the Battle of Quilps Outstation SGT Morris dashed 6 km in pursuit of the enemy. This effort was ably supported by the rapid outflanking move conducted by the 7th of Foot. The enemy here quickly wilted to pressure before a Company size attack could be launched.

From the Outstation C Coy embarked on an air assault on an enemy force north at the Boundry Mill Airstrip. This time 7 platoon took the lead with 9 platoon in close support. After being dropped at the air strip both platoons became engaged in a heavy fire fight. Quick action, backed up by fire support from a pair of Bushranger Gunship helicopters, ensured the successful capture of the airstrip.

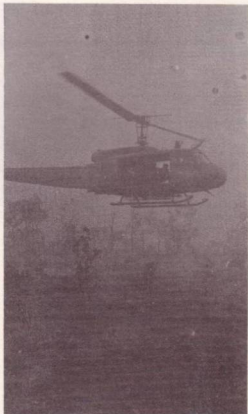
The Company remained at the airstrip for 2 days and conducted platoon ambush and fighting patrols from here. Few will forget the total 'body brown' camouflage suit modelled by Lt Lowes after one rainy night at this patrol base.

It had been planned for the Company to move into Fire Support Base Fran for the final days of

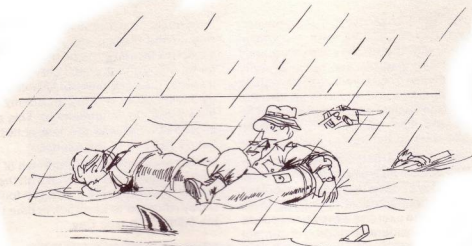
the exercise however inclement weather prevented this. In the closing stages of the exercise the Company moved into a position as blocking force for an A Coy attack on the enemy. Part of this role involved the positioning of an immediate ambush by 7 platoon to destroy an enemy withdrawing from the A Coy engagement. This ambush was successful and was the last activity for C Coy before the end of the exercise.

Having experienced the extremes of the weather, endured numerous contacts with the enemy and covered considerable ground on foot, the men of C Coy returned to Lavarack in time to remember the fallen on Anzac Day.

S.L. Smith  
Lt



*This is not a poor quality photo — Heavy cloud for 3 days at FSB Fran created a challenge met by "Randy" the US Exchange Pilot*



FSB FRAN - 3rd DAY.



NOT ONLY AM I A DIRTY, LAZY  
GRUBBY MAN, BUT I'M STILL  
PISSED AS WELL.



I CAN ASSURE YOU MADAM  
THERE IS NO PTE CARL GUSTAV  
IN THIS BATTALION.



*LCpl Payne, Pte's Meys, Lampard, Howard, Mills Skills Competition*



*OPSO Maj Steve Ferndale relaxes*



*Sgt Hughes give Pte Meehan some fatherly advice*



*Members of Spt Coy at HRTA during field firing training*



*Sgt McKlevie enjoying gas trg*