

Alpha Company

Alpha Coy started the year with the *Bear*, alias MAJ Moore, firmly in the chair after taking command in September. WO2 Edwards arrived from RMC and lost no time in reminding the Coy that BRL was over and work had begun. The Salt Mines were traded for the Volleyball Court, to keep people out of trouble. The 2IC remained the same and SSGT Lawman arrived from Admin Coy as the CQMS and was quite happy to keep up the Q tradition of giving nothing to everybody. "If they were called *issues*, I'd give them to you, but they're called *stores* so they stay in the store." (CQMS A COY)

The year kicked off with a trip to the scenic LCBS Tully. Townsville was in flood so we took off for the wettest place in Australia, just to make sure we didn't miss anything. They should dam the Tully River so that they could periodically flood LCBS and make it even more uninhabitable, about once a week should be sufficient. This was our first bush trip with the long awaited Styer. The *wet* and the optical sights didn't get on too well. We had two trips to Mt Vince this year and although we couldn't drink alcohol, the goffa profits have made Coy funds look quite healthy.

We also did the other million and one activities that fill in the training year from Air Trg, to SPE, to NBCD, to APC trg, to Mil Skills, to Inter Coy sport, to Maxi Bungle, to Shaggy Ridge (where we all wore baseball hats), to Faulty Towers. Courses have now started and the move to Spt Coy will start not long after they finish.

The Coy is now back to full strength, but we have had over 40% turnover since this time last year. The Coy spirit has remained high all year. Farewells to —

2IC — to Uni in the USA (it's tough but somebody has to do it).

CSM — to Admin Coy—they will not know what's hit them—they need a Beach Volleyball Court.



Members of A Coy during Air Week

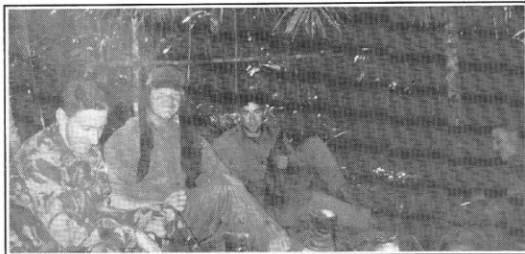
CQMS — back to the West — he hopes!

LT Kenny — DCoy — they obviously need some bolstering.

One Platoon

1 Platoon started a new year under the watchful eyes of SGT "Twinkle Toes" Lynch. It was a moral booster for PTE Kirwan, as he was now the second shortest man in the Platoon.

The Platoon began the year preparing to go to Tully during some of the heaviest rain in years. Day one for the exercise was 5 days late as the transport could not get out of Townsville. The moral of the Platoon was sky high, except PTE Smart, who could not remember taking a few days off work whilst the rest of us worked hard. When he returned, he did his first stint of many this year in the 2/4 RAR Country Club (the cell). The 5 days of Tully was wet and miserable and we learnt that the signs of our Steyr do not take to wet weather. During the exercises we learnt some valuable lessons on the Steyr, such as the No. 4 rifleman must have his lock out, button down, otherwise culminated in a cordon and search and a fighting withdrawal. Thanks to 2 Platoon and their 100 Trigrams, to stuff a night up.



LT Kenny and his platoon acting as enemy for 1 RAR

The next real test of the Steyrs was Mt Vince. At first it seemed all the lads had become marksmen, but the scoring system changed and so did our scores. The Pl also learnt why the Pl Commander needs an automatic weapon.

The Pl exercise at Bluewater was an eye opener, when the lads from the team came up against LID/LIMA Pl (3 Pl) on a two sides exercise. However, 3 Pl proved to be no match for the Mighty 1 Platoon.

3 Pl were not the only ones to crumble under the might of 1 Pl, as 18 Fd Sqn learnt when 1 Pl was enemy for their Sqn exercise. 1 Pl spent the exercise harassing the defensive position of the embattled Engineers. The constant war cry of the Engineers — "Go away, I'm trying to sleep" — was consistently heard during night probes into their position. A good month long exercise for the Platoon, with some funny memories. The Platoon attack onto their defensive position began like a World War One setting. The Platoon lined out into a creek line. The Boss blew his whistle and yelled charge, as the boys went over the top. The Pl reached the wire and was told to withdraw by the umpires, leaving 3 or

4 caught in the wire (PTE Kirwan). LCPL Carmichael made a good impression by walking around like a 6 ft sandbag, thinking he was invisible. Our final task was to conduct an attack on their Sqn position. After silently getting through their wire, the attack started with the Boss lobbing a cylum stick grenade into a gun pit. CPL Scanlon's Section was a big vigorous and pushed right through the position. The Section ended the attack with a gun each. 1 Pl must extend thanks to Callsign "Skippy", for his efforts during the exercise, causing many a KIA (Kangaroo Initiated Action).

The Bn LF was the next exercise for the Platoon. An excellent exercise, especially the defensive shoot. Memorable occurrences during the exercise were:

- A piece of mortar shrapnel landing 1 metre from CPL Boughtan, whilst giving orders to his gun group.
 - PTE Irving's initiation by his ER KIT gun on one fig 11 without permission.
 - The Phugas going off only metres in front of the fwd pits.
 - PTE Kerps — Corner store.
- e. 1 Pl excellent assault in the battle run.

It was then off to Cowley Beach for SPE, event though some thought it was a holiday camp, until they got gased. The heroic charge by the Boss and Chook into a cloud of CS Gas as we acted as cheer leaders, was the highlight of the trip. "MAXI BEAGLE" — the mother of all navigational walks. 1 Pl had only one contact all exercise and that was it. Shaggy Ridge involved en for 1 RAR and the Pl showed the donkeys how to fight! CPL Dixon's sections escape and evasion techniques, leave a lot to be desired... "EX DUSTY TOWERS", we sat, we flew, we walked, we sat, we came home.

A few farewells from 1 Pl...

— LT Kenny (The Boss) — after 2 years in 1 Pl goes to 11 Pl to show them how it's done.

— CPL Elliott — after 5 years in 1 Pl to C Coy.

— PTE Strong — to Pnrs.

Two Platoon

2 PI started another year with the usual flurry of PT and hard work, under the leadership of LT Johnston (Backruff). The year was in full flight within 2 weeks and thank God for the Queensland big wet, which arrived at the right time and flooded us in and canned the big Tully trip for the year, which was a real disappointment for all the boys! Another joyous moment was the 'MIL SKILLS' Competition, which wasn't much to brag about, then within a few weeks, it was down to Mt Vince for the week, talk about bush trips flying thick and fast, but wait, that's not the end of it yet, back from Mt Vince, then into duties week, by now the PI has settled in to the routine.

By this time, we lost our PI SGT to an overseas trip to NZ with D Coy and CPL Price filled his shoes. He did the SGT's job to a tee! "I can't do PT, I have too much Admin to do" (except when a game of touch football was played) — big Phil soon forgot about his Admin. And who said you don't need a chit not to go bush, ask CPL Price on how much he's been bush with the PI. At this stage in the year, we lost our PI Comd to Tpt Yard, what a lucky man, or should we say a lucky Tpt Yard!

Now it's the end of the year with the Bn Ex and the *Clayton's Enemy*, who could not be found until the final day. And last but not least, the final bit of excitement for the PI was an Enemy trip to Dysart, to work with those elite trained soldiers of 42 RQR (chockos), that trip really had its moments. For example, the fresh meals were a real bonus, especially when it's steak everyday and the time when a Section let its guard down and got caught swimming in a dam in the (RAW) while Mortars were being called in on them. How did the fire mission go? Anyway, the PI had a good trip, there was even a few things a certain few members learnt to do, ask PTE Johnstone about Military Floatation in the dam after stealing Rations and PTE Traffors cooking expertise.

To sum it up, the PI had a ball as enemy, pretty hard not to with a TV and Lighting out bush, who could ask for more?

Well that raps up another year for the PI and lets hope next year will be even better and *harder* — just joking!!



CPL Boughton's Section

Three Platoon

3 PI A Coy started the year with a posted strength of one and six. With one on course, one detached and two on leave, the Platoon was spread thin on the Coy Parade ground.

By the time of MIL SKILLS, the PI managed to field one Section to fly the PI flag. The Section, 7 Section, led by CPL Wishart, managed a very respectable place in the Competition.

The first real PI training was the Coy's APC training week. For most of the PI, this was the first field work outside of IET's and the first exposure to Armoured Vehicles. Results were mixed, yet there was a whole year ahead of us in which to improve.

Next came the PI exercise "SEARCH AND DESTROY", in the Bluewater State Forest. For most of the PI, this was their first time in close country, as was evident by wide eyed looks and a reluctance to be more than an arms length from the man in front. The difference be-

tween clearing a helicopter LZ and clearing a track plan was eventually learnt and luckily 3 PI did not appear on the front cover of GREENPEACE Magazine.

The PI was to return to Bluewater shortly after exercise 'SEARCH AND DESTROY'. We provided enemy for RAAF Combat Survival Training, and acted as guards for Div Int Coy Interrogation Section. Both activities were of significant training value and the PI learnt the joys (?) of working with the RAAF.

After a stint at Mt Vince, the platoon set off on the Bn LFX. LCPL Goff tried to convince the PI that his Section

didn't need a spare Machine gun barrel, but this only resulted in him doing some additional night navigation.

Immediately following the Bn LFX, the PI went to Cowley Beach, we learnt that being a rioter is probably more fun than being a riot in dispesing a de-masked riot formation than it is in dispersing a rioting mob.

Not long after the Cowley Beach experience, the PI deployed on the Bn Ex. This proved to be a very quiet exercise for the PI. It was becoming apparent, however, that the PI was coming together and overall skills were improving.



Air Training Week

As the year draws to a close, 3 PI can look back upon considerable achievement. But, if one issue has plagued 3 PI in 1991, it is the loss of equipment. There was Fildes losing a Claymore and Vanderhee an Anpus 4-A on APC Training, LCPL Goff losing a spare barrel on the Bn LFX and Willy losing a spare barrel off the back of a truck, Mackay losing a 66 SRAAW on

the Bn Ex. Brammer losing his Section on the PI Ex, and the PI losing the PI Comd on the way to a range practice.

Fortunately all of the lost equipment was found, and the incidents decreased as time went by.

1992 will bring significant changes with it. CPL Weir will leave the PI, and it is with more than some regret that we lose him. In 1992, 3 PI can look forward to no longer being called the Lid PI and to resume its position as the backbone of A Coy.

WHITSUNDAY
RENT A YACHT