

DIRECT FIRE SUPPORT WEAPONS

The newest Platoon in the Battalion has had a memorable year, working and playing hard and all with a high rate of achievement.

The initial wrangle was with Platoon identity, but a peculiar habit amongst machine and 84mm gunners has led to the affectionate term "Nutscratchers" which has been adopted for use. The Callsign 64, when used over the radio on all higher formation activity also ties in with a less than savoury nickname, that being "Dirked for Shitty Work" which seems to have characterised some exercises this year.

Direct Fire Support Weapons (DPSW) Platoon has made a large difference to the operational running of the Battalion. The Platoon has developed an expertise in vehicle mounted patrolling and convoy escort for CQ's, (24 hrs a day) and the Platoon has fully developed the ability to provide accurate direct fire in support of Platoon and Company sized attacks and protective operations. After some wild preparatory shoots, the Platoon proved itself on the Battalion Live Fire Exercise, firing in support of Platoon attacks, with machine guns and 84mm Illumination.

The third, albeit non doctrinal task is to be AA or Anywhere-Anytime, or in Chook Blunden's case the famed alcoholic organisation. This resulted in a number of tasks for the Platoon, including the following: "H" Lawson's section testing the replacement weapon for the 66mm Light Anti-Armour Weapon, the "demonstration squad" for visitors, Aardvarks flat cleaning service, reinforcement Platoon for Tasman Exchange, Pacific Bond and UNAMIR 2, training 4 Field Regiment in

the 84mm, and the Australian Army Training Team Rwanda.

In summary, DPSW Platoon has had a mighty fine year, but the success has been achieved by the character of the members of the Platoon, producing many memorable moments, the most famous (or infamous) being:

- Wal's personal sparring partner
- CPL Carter and CPL Gentili applying for de facto
- SGT Thomas trying to weasel out of Tully
- "Yeah, right Dave" only response to LCPL Boulton,
- "Shut up you Pommy Git" dumb Kiwi to even dumber Pom
- "This is for your own good" Boss to Mick Kinley reference Subject One CPL Course
- "Yeah right Boss" Bunga's response
- "It was Clean" Stu Pinder reference to his room looking like a Rwandan Refugee camp
- CPL Chevalier, LCPL Lawson, PTE Craig and PTE Sten going to Rwanda, in search of Stu's room
- Bullet's Combat Fitness Assessment on Military Skills, which made the Battalion death march look tame
- "It's good to see the Corporals dirked instead of Diggers" anon.

Farewell from the Platoon is extended by the "Nutscratcher" to:

- LT Biedermann to 1 Recruit Training Battalion
- CPL Carter to Maggots
- CPL Boulton to D Company
- LCPL Marsh to Support Company Q Store
- LCPL Vasich to Officer Cadet School
- PTE Adams to Officer Cadet School
- PTE Allen to Transport Platoon
- PTE Pinder to Headquarters Company, 3 Brigade



The Nut Scratchers



"What do I do with it now?" asks No 1 Pinder, with Shelly shaking his head. "God knows", says CPL Gentili