

# DELTA COMPANY

## DELTA — THE JUNGLE COY

Know your limitations, train hard, forget the short cuts and trust the men in your team, and the result will be a fine Rifle Company as DELTA has proven to be in 1990. The year has been long and hard, the rewards were very few but well worth the cost. By the end of 1990 D Company had earned the respect of all for its ability in the field, high standard of infantry skills, and no nonsense approach to the profession of soldiering. The cost, however, was high. On the sporting score board our results were mediocre. We spent a bloody long time away from our wives and girlfriends and had more than our fair share choose to leave us. The junior NCO were placed under more pressure to command their sections effectively and worked longer days and more weekends than any other in the Battalion. In December 1990 we are proud of our Company, confident of our ability and very tired. The Company spent 4,500 man days in the jungle between February and November, including two tours of Tully, two trips of Bluewater, one in Paluma plus Battalion and Brigade exercises. It was in the field that D Company showed its skill. In February and March the Company received a large number of reinforcements from Depot Coy and worked well to win the field phase in the section Military Skills competition. An exceptional result for the lads in the most inexperienced and jubbie company in the Regiment.

In 1989 D Company spent a lot of time fighting fires but in 1990 it spent a lot of time in fire fights.

BHQ tasked the Company heavily throughout the year particularly on Exercise Maxi Beagle where the company was tasked to secure the assembly area, locate the enemy company, find an FUP, secure the FUP, cut a route through the jungle from assembly area to FUP and be the lead company in the Battalion assault. All this in 24 hours. This had to be a performance punishment. We also had our fair share of laughs and good times. Company concerts and quiz shows, being attacked by savage dogs during door knock appeals, watching the CSM drop his pacestick, a great Company Regimental Dining-in-Night, and table dancing at the Battalion Ball. By the end of 1990 the Company had 62 individuals qualify on a variety of specialist and promotion course. Our wishes to stay and take on the world in 91 will no doubt fade as many will be moved to Support Company or be posted away from the Unit. To those who leave all the best and remember what you have achieved. To those who remain remember the words of George Mansford THE OATH TO SERVE YOUR COUNTRY DID NOT INCLUDE A CONTRACT FOR THE NORMAL LUXURY AND COMFORTS ENJOYED WITHIN OUR SOCIETY, ON THE CONTRARY IT IMPLIED HARDSHIPS, LOYALTY, AND DEVOTION TO DUTY, REGARDLESS OF YOUR RANK.

PS.  
In 1989 we worked during September standdown. In 1990 we worked during Easter standdown. Rumour has it that in 1991 we are working over Xmas leave. For Gods sake — this is the ODF — there are supposed to be four Rifle Company's in the Battalion. THINGS WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE FUTURE

'FEWER MORNING AND AFTERNOON PARADES' — THE DIGGERS  
'FEWER PUSH UP ON YOUR BIRTHDAY' — EVERYONE  
'NO MORE UD'S' — SLATER  
'SGT BENNETT CONFESS THAT HE SPENT 3 YEARS IN CATERING CORPS' — 11PL  
'LT THOMAE LEARN TO NAVIGATE' — 11PL

'LESS CHARGES' — THE CPL'S  
'BETTER DISCIPLINE' — THE CSM  
'THE CQMS SMILE' — EVERYONE  
'THE 2IC HAVE A HAIR CUT' — THE SNCO'S  
'NEWBOLD TO STOP COMPETING WITH DPMI' — SLATER  
'LESS NCO TRAINING' — THE CPL'S  
'BERNICE' — THE CHAIN GANG  
'S.F. MICK STOP TALKING ABOUT MG PL 1RAR' — THE SNCO'S  
'B COY IN UNIFORM' — THE BATTALION  
'HARDER PT' — LT TINLEY  
'LAND ROVERS WITH TRAINING WHEELS' — LT STUART  
'RETURN OF THE M60' — EVERYONE WHO HAS TRIED TO DO FIRE AND MOVEMENT WITH THE MAG58  
'NO MORE FALSE STARTS FOR ODF OPERATIONS' — EVERYONE.

## THE RED BAYONET

The Red Bayonet is awarded twice annually with D Coy and the champion soldier in the areas of fieldcraft and general military skills. The inaugural competition was held in August 1990 with shooting, navigation, weapon drills, first aid and fitness among the skills evaluated.

PTE Bob Lonsdale, PTE Neil Wright and PTE Clinton Durham secured first, second and third place respectively.

Bob Lonsdale, now known as the top soldier, was born in NSW and grew up in Forster. He enlisted in January 1988 and was posted to 2/4 RAR in July 1988. Having been a Rifleman, Scout and Gunner in D Company he was more experienced than many of the other competitors who finished hot on his heels in the first of many Red Bayonet competitions. Bob was posted to 101RC Canangra in December 1990. Well done Bob!

## HISTORY OF THE D COY 2/4 RAR ROADRUNNER

In 1964, on the forming of 4RAR, the first OC D Coy, MAJ J.P.A. Deighton, immediately set to work moulding the Company into a team.

The OC C Coy was also mindful of his responsibilities. The two companies were injected with competitive spirit by their OC's continual rivalry, both in the mess and in training. D Coy outmarched, outwalked, outshot and outplayed the other companies in the Battalion especially, C Coy.

While 4RAR was in Borneo, in 1966, the CQMS D Coy, SSGT Darcy Tilbrook, had a sign painted on the lid of a used ammo box displayed outside CHQ, titled "D Coy 4RAR". The Roadrunner, copies from the Warner Bros. cartoon character was tagged with the words "Keep on walkin'" and below the drawing were the words "We've been everywhere". Consequently D Coy became known as "The Roadrunners".

In 1968 and 1971, during lead-up training for the tour of South Vietnam, "The Roadrunners" lived up to their reputation, training hard to become the best Coy in the Battalion. They walked and walked ..... EVERYWHERE!

On 12 March, 1972, D Coy 4RAR were the last Company out of South Vietnam, to commemorate the occasion, a plaque was raised. It depicted the Roadrunner and the word "EVERYWHERE". Below was a scroll suitably inscribed "VIETNAM". When 2RAR and 4RAR linked on 15 August 1973, D Coy 2/4RAR adopted the Roadrunner and Everywhere as its own motto.

# Ten Platoon

## THE YEAR OF THE PHANTOM

**"STRIKE HARD — IN AND OUT BEFORE YOU KNOW IT"**

The Phantom returned from leave to find we had once more been thrown into the breach. A possible overseas trip was the rumour, we started training with gusto. The rumour was unfounded, it was all in vain — maybe next year.

With a very much needed injection of new blood into the Platoon, and the more seasoned vets telling horror stories about Tully we deployed to the Hotel Hilton under the guidance of "When we were in Vietnam" WO2 Dow. We stalled, crawled and shot the enemy into submission. "Die Hard" Dan found he could not keep his eyes open on sentry, until WO2 Dow pulled his head back and placed a bayonet against his throat, "You won't fall asleep again will you son".

PTE "Mad" Marsh fell down a creek bank completely scaring the hell out of the Platoon Ambush Recon party. A stretcher was rigged and he was casevaced with suspected broken ankle. We found out later he had sprained his ligaments. All in all the Platoon did well apart from "Did you reclaim the Claymore?", "No I thought you did".

The ever adaptable "Phantom" Platoon tackled Mil Skills and achieved good results. CPL "Hard Ass" Jennings' Section 10th, CPL "I have not been here all year" Oreb's Section 18th, and CPL "Bald One" Cowen's Section 20th. Watch out next year, MT Vince revealed we have a few Davey Crocketts in the Platoon, a number of members being awarded their crossed rifles. We then deployed to High Range with the rest of the RoadRunners, for a highly exciting week of Hell bourne operations — a piece of cake.

We lived up to our motto during APC training, thrown about — choked with dust in the "Werna Bins". One man proved he could sleep anywhere and through anything! The Doz suffered immeasurably.

Our next task was the Bn LFX under the leadership of the Battalions Morals Officer, LT "Have you heard this one Before" Larkey, the Platoon did well.

With Ex Swift Eagle the CO needed the job done on the En Bunker position. The "Phantom's" did the recon — at cost — Pathfinders, Vanguard and left Fwd Pl in the assault. We didn't last long. Someone in the FSCC forgot to "check fire".

Ex Maxi Beagle was the last time the Phantoms were utilised as a full Platoon this year. The Platoon's

Battle Commanders changed, LT Larkey went to assume his new position as LALO. LT "Mad Dog" Stuart assumed command and took us on a 3 day cruise. The Exercise proved our nav skills, even Recon Pl agreed with us — the "Doz" blew it again. The Exercise culminated in the eagerly anticipated Bde attack. The F1G 11 enemy could not stop the Roadrunner's mounted attack. A short vicious fire fight carried the day. 3 F1G 11's were reported withdrawing south and destroyed by our APC's.

The walk back was hardly a challenge and with SGT "Pack Horse" Downing egging us on the Phantom's all made it in.

We were deployed again to Tully, survived the CO's inspection just and went on to end of year activities. Adventure training and courses.

It has been a good year for the Mighty Phantom, unofficially achieving a good result with the rest of the Roadrunners in the Platoon Mil Skills comp. We will be back striking harder and even quicker next year.

The Platoon would like to bid farewell and wish good luck to the following members who have left us:

LT LARKEY — AADJT

SGT DOWNING — NCO WING SINGLETON

CPL WOOD — C COY

CPL JENNINGS — RAAMC (?), and

all members affected by the annual Spt Coy purge.

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

### EX SWIFT EAGLE —

"You can't kill me it's my last attack" — LT LARKEY

"We had 4 Mag 58's on him but he got us all with a 9mm Pistol" — DIE HARD DAN

"Sarge can you indent for some new cam pants" — BILL

### EX MAXI BEAGLE —

"You can't kill me it's my last attack" — SARGE

"Only 1 click to go from here" — JENNO

"We are in the right place and you people are my witnesses" — MAD DOG

"I took a sight picture on the Cow and just squeezed the trigger" — TEX VOGEL

"Worst case everything men, then you won't be disappointed" — SARGE.

## THINGS WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE:

1. CPL OREB

2. OUR NEW LINES

3. THE PL COMP RESULTS

4. NEW ZEALAND

# Eleven Platoon

## THE CHOSEN ONES

The year started for some, with a ticket to ride to the South Pacific. A lot of wind but no sail. The 1RAR boys went home to make room for the 23 Billies and to miss out on Tully, which the new blokes found wet, and discovered the meaning of "UD" and "loss of pay". Back at Battlearack Lavarack the quest for Mil Skills supremacy began in earnest. The Platoon as a whole, whipped the company, and in the biggy the "field phase", beat a lot of more experienced platoons coming 4th and 5th. As a reward we got to spend Easter, like last September sampling the ales in the club between duties.

Air training in HRTA was next. A lot of experience was gained in varied activities not usually practiced. Like two days sitting around doing what we could have done in an arvo. Cynicism aside it was worthwhile. The Platoon conducted a PI triathlon ending in a function at the Met

lay over hill and through dale. By foot. Relief was supplied by Burto and his sore feet and lewd stories of his youth.

Standdown followed by Tully — a heart starter or stopper. The platoon was fortunate in doing the Recon rifle platoon course. The fella's found Tully dry and the course interesting. Interesting watching 10 and 12 platoons work their butts off. It was an ideal introduction to training for Ex Late Tufoa in Tonga. As the third platoon in a Tongan rifle company life is interesting.

## UNFORGETTABLE QUOTES

"Is touch on today?" — SGT WALKER "

Has anyone got a mirror?" — LT THOMAE

"Third season, third stripe coming up" — COL ROBSON

"When do we go and see the Captain's cabin?" — PTE TIT-TOR (on HMAS Jervis Bay)

"When's standdown?" — PTE BLISS

"Does the sun always set in the west? Well you don't know if you don't ask" — PTE DILLON

"Will you marry me?" — PTE THOROGOOD (to his girlfriend as he slipped a Cheezel over her finger)

"Have you every been to (insert any place or country in the world)... I have" — COL ECK-ERT

"Yeah, I left it there so I would know where it is" — PTE BOWEN (having left his 66 in the FUP).

(Left) 'Zeroing' on the HMAS Tobruk.

(Below) LT THOMAE gives orders, SGT BENNETT warns the SIG.



MG Practice — HMAS Jervis Bay

where Ladd sang "Hey Jude" on stage and we farewelled SGT Walker to Mortars. We welcomed SGT Bennet who the Billies remembered from Singleton. APC training was conducted at HRTA (surprise x 2). MT Vince and a segment of Red Faces where the Boss took more digs than Gallipoli.

SPE was next and we tried out the Tandy radios, new flak jackets, and Kevlar helmets for a week. Then Bn Ex Maxi Beagle was held near Tully. The first few days were spent trying to RV with the enemy to tell him what he wanted and listening to "Burto" complain about his sore back and the Ginger Beer with an attitude "what do you mean I have to walk?". The inter PI exercise at Bluewater was next with 11 PI surprising 10 PI in their beds at 10.00 in the morning with the sound of gunfire — Bad luck 10 and 12 PI.

Birthday week and proof that all men weren't created equal especially if you wear a Redblack guernsey. For the rest of the mere mortals it was drill, drill, watching sport, drill the ball. In this the decade of the DOG we did the Delta dance on the tables.

Ex Swift Eagle and c'mon on down. The way home



11 Platoon "O" Group

## Twelve Platoon

### THE DIRTY DOZEN

The year of change — We acquired our new platoon commander LT ANDERSON, who became our gallant leader.

The platoon started out well undermanned, with seven diggers playing enemy at Tully, bringing manning down to 1-12. The diggers in Tully were rewarded for the fine job they did, especially PTE MOYLE who gave a good demonstration of how not to disarm WO DOW during Bayonet fighting, but being stabbed in the hip. ("303 Bayonets don't tickle", Guts effort.)

Then came Bluewater in a every platoon for themselves Battle lasting 3 days, victory to the "Mighty Dozen". Some highlights are: LCPL Tulk's (10 Platoon) ambush being spotted and rolled up from a flank (10 Platoon 8 KIA). The contact of the exercise goes to CPL CORNEY who put in a section ambush along the road, watching the CSM drive up and down the road in a landrover (no rovers were to be used). After deciding it was safe the CSM abandoned the vehicle and set off on foot, only to fall prey to the Dozen (CSM last seen sitting in the middle of the road saying "!!!!\*!!!!" or words to that effect).

MT Vince proved that the Dozen's gunners were the best — you just can't beat 100%. Congratulations goes to all the prize winners (namely 12 Platoon) and PTE DURHAM and WHYTE for achieving their crossed rifles.

SPE Training proved different, everyone agreed kicking on doors was great, but getting eggs, flour and other objects launched at us wasn't (thank God for the CS gas grenades, they really work hey SGT HINCHEY).

LFX (one big bang) Good shooting PTE HALL for hitting the claymore cable and PTE DOMINICH who was hit on the head by a slab propelled tyre.

The Coy Dinner was different, cold soup, stingy meals, bloody ties, no women and we had to pay, all the ingredients for a great night — Thank God for the Alcohol.

As the rest of the year propelled along "Maxi Beagle", "Swift Eagle" and Tully for the second time. We welcome our new Platoon Commander LT TINLEY (We broke the old one and sent him to Bravo) who's idea of a light run is 13km or running around wearing a Flak Jacket and carrying a medicine ball (sick man). He also brought a lot of new ideas and experience from his 5 years out west, which we hope he'll pass on to the platoon.

1991 is certainly looking good for the Dozen. So if you are in trouble and in need of help, who do you call "THE DIRTY DOZEN". THE YEARS AWARDS.

BEST REDUCTION — PTE WRIGHT

LONGEST PRISON STAY — HARRY HOLDMAN

BEST CHIT — PTE WHYTE (I CAN'T WERE CAMS)

BEST COUPLE — MICH NEWBOLD AND OLIVE OIL.

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