

BRAVO

BY JAWS

Having missed out on the Butterworth trip over Christmas 1979/80, B Company were awarded second prize of a trip to Puckapunyal for a demonstration. The least said about that the better; but we did all qualify for our firefighter's badge and contrary to popular belief, there was actually some time off.

Stand-down continued to be one of the primary concerns throughout 1980 — there never being enough of it, that is. Nevertheless the company "hooked-in" hard on all unit activities and acquitted itself well in sport, exercises, duties as well as stand-down.

To give readers a soldiers' impression of the year some "unsolicited" articles were produced by individuals. Some of their comments, revelations and admissions are reproduced for the enlightenment of those who took part. Names have been revealed to ensure that those responsible can be brought to justice.

Exercise ROVING CITADEL

'Midnight' orders...were the norm for the next three or four days."

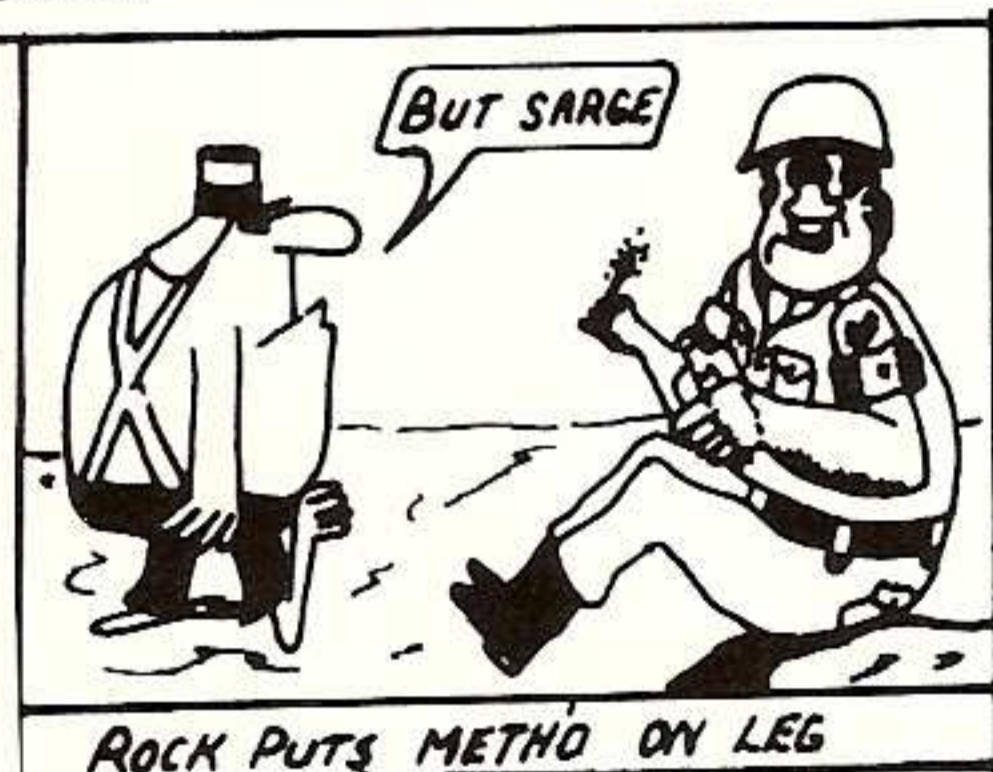
"...made contact with...2 enemy, but turned out to be 5 with a gun.

Fire and Movement in reverse — rather smartly."

LCPL Pinky Clover

Remember...

SGT Ando Anderson and his close recon?
SGT "The Rock" McPherson "cauterizing" leach bites?



"Arriving early at RAAF Townsville, to avoid panic stations, we waited less than 1/2 day in the blistering sun for the ever punctual Hercules".



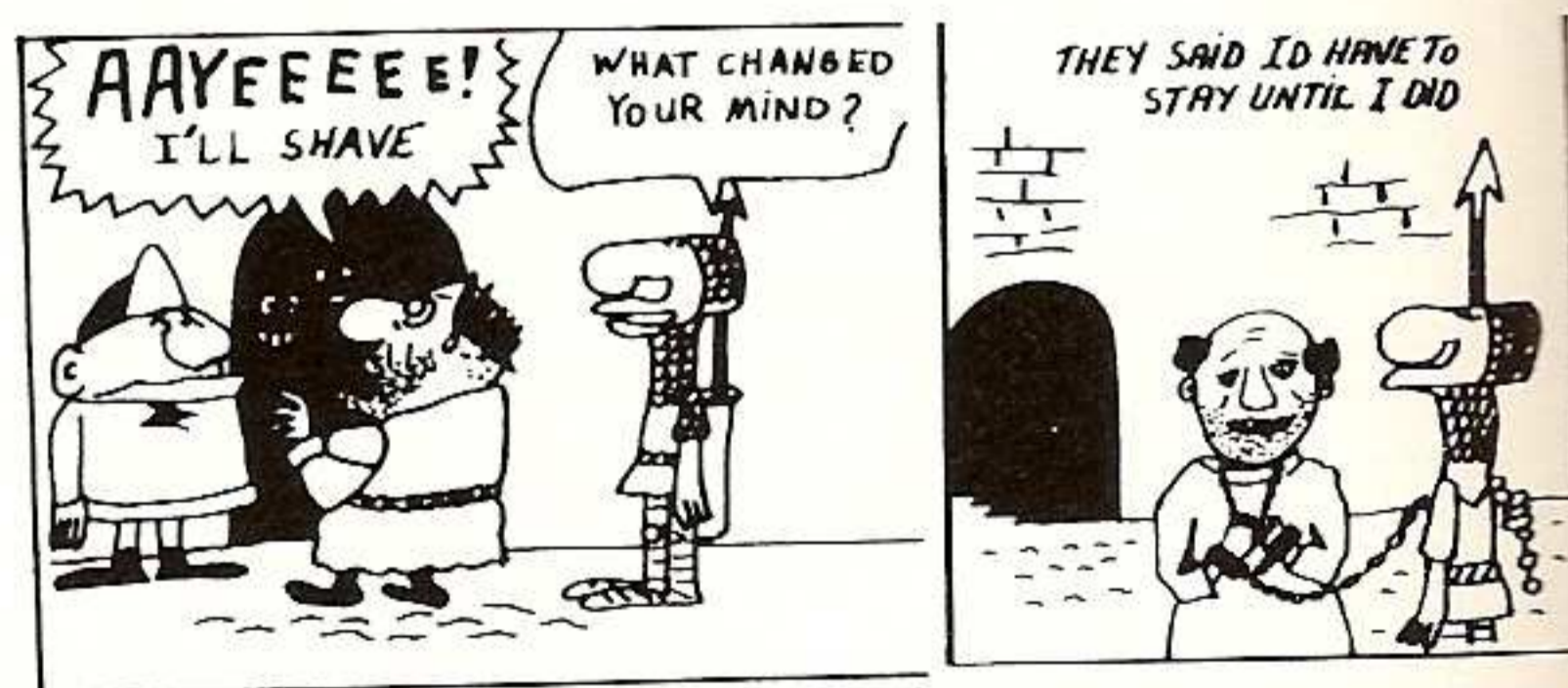
"Highlight was LCPL "Robbo" Robinson finally appearing out bush".

"It was finally proved beyond doubt that Kim "Nose Job" Lahrs is not Jesus Christ, as his pitiful attempt to walk on water failed dismally. PTE Lahrs put it down to the weight of the machine gun".

PTE Lyle Maybury
and
PTE George Tavey

Remember:

That shave the padre had?



LT Wayne Bowen's birthday party? And who wasn't invited!

That contact in which a lost patrol (or platoon?) from A Company was destroyed?

"A Platoon was to be reached (after platoon commander "interview" with the "pay committee") but instead the platoon commanders were ambushed and very systematically killed".

2LT Ted "T-bone" Turnour.

"We arrived at our night location with plenty of time to have a "quick brew" and stand-to".

"We moved off...to kill all the enemy, whether they liked it or not".

PTE "Simmo" Simpson.

Exercise THIRD BURST

"PTE Paddy Lockton...having small morsel to sustain him through the move to High Range".

"PTE Donny Bartlett suffering from the after effects of a rare party".

2LT John Webb.

Remember...

That helicopter load of enemy looking for C Company?
That night descent down a small hill?

The 4 Platoon about turn on the move to the forming up place?

The "Mars Bar Incident"?

"Paddy Lockton has got worms".

"Ray Dunning was asleep having exhausted his repertoire".

2LT John Webb.

"...in fire support, the RSM lost his whistle. He was heard to say "I've had that whistle since I was a Corporal".

LCPL "Mac" Pherson.

"Shirts were wrung out to obtain some extra water lost on the journey and Mick Williams had SGT Col Grant remove his pack and pull his shoulders up from waist level".

"I didn't know this was a roping and repelling course".

2LT "T-bone" Ted Turnour.

P.S. The RSM **did** find his companion — the whistle, and was heard to say: "I'm glad I've found it. I've had it since I was a corporal — you know".

Anonymous.

Exercise KING COBRA

"It was with sadness that B Company learned earlier on in the year that it had been cancelled, and all and sundry thought we could make good our escape to Butterworth.

But it was not to be..."

"As the trucks rolled slowly into the distant horizon...they never guessed that in only a few hours, they would be involved in a vehicle ambush, too terrible to think about, too horrible to mention, and by the end of the exercise too embroidered to believe".

"Darkness: final orders are being given — hearts thumping, adrenalin racing, the boss asks, "any questions"?

CPL Heffernan: "Yes sir, where does the wool go when you get a hole in your jumper"?

"P.S. The OC wasn't medevaced because of slow moving gympie, was he"?

LCPL Phil "Wrong-way" Mullane.



EX KING COBRA. "No, Mum, I can't come home today". Pte "Dubs" Doubleday observed by Sgt Col Grant.

Exercise EL ALAMEIN

"...but being good soldiers, we waited for time (artillery) and space (artillery) to finish and then proceeded with the task".

"...the spectators arrived and clearance to fire was asked for and refused, and finally refused. Total fire ban means no firing, hence no firing". (How do you show the beaten zone of a machine gun without firing!?)

T-bone.

Remember:

That target, Spook?
The cigarette lighter incident?

"As you can see there were a number of inherent problems before the exercise began. Firstly it was held at Puckapunyal..."

"...Suffice to say that B Company were sent on a job and despite the adversities which confronted them, did that job and did it well — so said a general or two".

LT Wayne Bowen.

"The attached officers didn't stop complaining about the lack of drinking time and the NCO's and soldiers didn't know whether to laugh or cry".