

FOREWORD . . .

By LTCOL K.B. BISHOP

I felt at the beginning of this year that there should be a permanent record of your achievements throughout the year.

1979 has been a good year for us. A lot of hard work has produced a high standard of training, success on the sporting fields and a number of memorable social occasions.

Historically, peacetime soldiering has not been a popular occupation. It can often be frustrating and may appear repetitive. I believe their aspects have been recognized and the emphasis is in the proper place — to strive for maximum efficiency from every member of the battalion irrespective of his specialty or employment.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the support offered by wives, girl friends and families as they wonder when a Butterworth tour will finally be over, or why KANGAROO III takes a month to complete. The very nature of our occupation places a great pressure on family life much of which is borne by the girls during extended absences.

Thank you for your efforts and support during 1979. You will find 1980 even more challenging and of great benefit professionally. May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year.

EDITORIAL . . .

When the CO handed me the assignment of producing a Battalion Magazine I vowed that I would be so organised that there would be no last minute rush. So much for vows! The panic stricken atmosphere around the editors office has reflected a common theme and cause for lament among those who endeavour to produce annual publications. I am therefore especially indebted to those who persevered with me and who did so much to meet the deadline.

This year we have tried to get away from the company penny packet content form and have endeavoured to produce a more open publication by following the training program sequence (the first to do so all year!). We have thus picked out the highlights and produced some 'meaty' articles which (we hope) will command general interest. The many short parochial stories and funny yarns I have entwined in the first article which gives a general over view of the whole year. I hope that this will have preserved the effort and value of these contributions.

You would not be reading this magazine if it were not for the generous support of our advertisers. In view of their contributions to us our readers are encouraged to patronise the firms who appear in these pages.

The year has flashed past and will leave many memories. Having dealt so solidly with the events of the past the editorial staff would like to take this opportunity of looking briefly forward and wish all ranks of 2/4 RAR, their wives, families, dear ones and friends a really splendid Christmas and a most rewarding New Year.