

BUTTERWORTH — A COMPANY

On 19th November, 1984 A Company's ranks were swollen with the march-in of the reinforcements to form the new Rifle Company for duties at Air Base Butterworth.

On December 4th it was time for the company to say farewell and wing it's way to Malaysia. On the first night in the country, A Company had a welcoming function with D Company 1 RAR.

December consisted of familiarisation training and Quick Reaction Force (QRF)/Key Point (KP) Security training.

On 14th December the Company competed in a 12 km RAAF 'Fun Run' which was followed by a pot pourri of 'Anything Goes'.

Christmas soon arrived and a Company cabaret was arranged for Christmas Eve. Entertainment was provided by the Pipes and Drums and Platoon with guest acts from both the Company Officer's and SNCO's.

Christmas morning arrived, though it came too early for many. For A Company, Christmas was certainly full of 'cheer' though all felt a little homesick.

In the new year platoon activities commenced

with at least three of the four platoons being absent at any time. Each platoon rotated through a QRF week, a weeks leave in Bangkok and two weeks training at the Malaysian Army Combat School at Pulada; which included a 4 day visit to Singapore. In Bangkok the platoons were eager to taste the Oriental Culture and take in the sights. Some entertaining memories were created.

On 22nd January the CGS, LTGEN Gratton, visited the company. A half guard from 2 Platoon welcomed him.

February saw the main elements of the company deploy with 18 Battalion The Royal Malay Regiment on Exercise "Harringaroo X." It enabled the company to see, at first hand, the operations of an Ally.

Langkawi Island was the last training area the company progressively visited. It was an ideal venue for watermanship and adventure training.

By now the tour was drawing to an end and the military skills competition, which had been contested throughout the tour, was drawing to a climax. The winner was Cpl Calarco's Three Section who took the prize of 3 days standdown and 2,000 Ringgit.



Quarter guard for Lt Gen Gratton — CGS

The Company ensured it didn't leave Malaysia without displaying its benevolence. An Open Day was provided for 40 children from the local orphanage and donations were made to the orphanage and the childrens ward of the RAAF hospital.

In late February and early March some sporting challenges were contested with the RAAF. Rugby was victorious but Australian Rules was a little less lucky.

All were counting the days till Support Company 6 RAR arrived. A Company Advance Party departed on 27th February and the remainder were advised of a postponement to its return until 7th March. Finally 6 RAR arrived and were treated to a welcoming BBQ.

On 7th March it was an early reveille and off to meet the 'Freedom Bird'. At Townsville the company filed off the aircraft and were welcomed into the open arms of the Australian Customs Service. Four hours later all were clear and the company again had a clean slate. Back at Lavarack, the company farewelled its reinforcements. They marched back to their units with Malaysia remaining in their minds as a fond memory.



Pte Mettam, Open Day Butterworth



Tug-of-war against RAAF Butterworth



BN HQ at NBCD TRG



Cpl Dzienitz and Pte's Buttery and Hardman on target



Pte Merrick removes produce from "The Palace"



Kokoda Trail Ex Wantok Warrior

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