

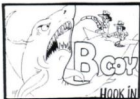
# BRAVO COMPANY "THE SHARKIES"

The start of 1994 commenced at a crack of a pace for the men of B Company. After a well earned rest the troops returned to work with a fresh attitude and a new Company Commander. With little time to adjust the NCOs were quickly whisked away to commence their Junior NCO training. This was soon followed by the Military Skills Assessment and with some time in between the remainder of the Company worked towards the upcoming deployment to New Zealand.

The end of February saw the Company deploy on Exercise Tasman Exchange, this being a reciprocal exchange between us and Support Company 2/1 Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment. Whilst in NZ the Company had the opportunity to experience some valuable training at sunny Lake Tekapo and the wasp riddled vegetation around Springs Junction. Other notable locations would have to be Queenstown. It was here that the Company enjoyed all the offerings a Kiwi could muster. The sight of thirty to forty diggers standing on a ramp 500 metres above Queenstown waiting to jump into thin air with an elastic band around their ankles was something to behold.

On our return from NZ the Company had little time to recover. Before we knew it we were deployed to High Range conducting Service Protected Evacuation training. Who could ever forget the lads armed with rubber hose just waiting to belt the living daylights out of anybody who upset their perimeter. We followed this exercise with a number of duties commitments and then a great win by the Company in the winter sports competition.

At this stage, the Company was on a high and steeling itself for the quickly approaching deployment to Tully. What can be said about this place? It has to be the worst place in the world.



Throughout the two weeks of the deployment rain belted down continuously, except for a brief three hour period which happened to coincide with a visit from the CO and the RSM (alias the rain GOD).

Tully was followed quickly by the Battalion Live Fire Exercise. Who could ever forget the Fire Support Base, or the message, Elvis was on the perimeter. The air mobile, followed by an awesome effort on the Company attack was a good indication of our professional standard, well done lads. The completion of the exercise saw the Company off on a well earned rest.

On our return, the focus immediately turned to the Military Skills Competition. The Platoons commenced the comp with much vigour and determination. A good performance by two of the Platoons saw an acceptable Company result. To finish off the field deployments for the year, the Company closed in on the township of Weipa, playing enemy for Exercise Swift Eagle. This was a good deployment with all members having a good time. Who will ever forget Four Platoon and the capture of Humbug Wharf?

As we now enter the courses period of the year most of the Company will be enjoying a quieter period and hoping to pick up a specialist qualification. However, there are some of us who will continue to train and develop our basic skills. These lads have been selected to represent the Battalion in the Duke of Gloucester Cup. Train hard and victory will come. Following this will be another hard earned block leave period. To those who leave the Company, we thank you for your efforts and your dedication. To those who remain, your efforts have also been appreciated. No one knows what the New Year may bring, however we know it can't get any faster. Have a good Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. Cheers.





## 4 PLATOON

This year has been a busy one for the Battalion and Four Platoon was no exception. With the normal influx of Battalion and Brigade activities, a trip to New Zealand and a stint in Tully we have had barely enough time to establish ourselves in Townsville.

The year started with our deployment to New Zealand as part of Bravo Company. Our activities were centred around the South Island and Burnham Camp near Christchurch as a main. The trip left us with many lasting memories such as:

- The SGTs brush with the local wasps,
- The Red Rock Hotel,
- Amusing the locals at Arrowtown, and,
- Cas with his get nude early antics, just to mention a few.

We returned to Australia with a successful trip under our belts. Having had just enough time to re-acquaint ourselves with our loved ones or favourite bar stools we were off again. This time for two enjoyable weeks in Tully. The rain came, the morale left and the rain kept coming. Again some memorable moments but Blues situation is one that is better relayed by him so we'll leave it at that.

On to Armoured Personnel Carrier familiarisation and Infantry/Tank work with some good training points being taken on board. A good effort and pleasing result on the Battalion Live Fire Exercise. Some good build up Military Skills training

however a disappointing result which did not reflect accurately how we were travelling, hampered this period.

A fragmented approach to the Battalion Exercise saw 4 Platoon disbanded due to lack of numbers.

A trip to Mt Vince for range purposes saw us through to the Brigade Exercise. Here we had a complete role reversal, we were now Kamarian Raiders. This proved to be a real challenge for us and we adopted the enemy role with a lot of success. Our sympathies do go out to the unfortunate MPs who tried to play with us toward the end of our trip, but it's not always going to be easy for the Boys in the Red Berets.

This year has not only been busy on the work side we have also seen a lot of activity on the manning side. A hardy welcome to our new members and a sincere farewell to those leaving us to either Support Company, on posting, or discharge.

To wrap it up we've had a good year, Good Luck to all next year and the heat seekers will continue to do so.

### ROLL OF HONOUR:

B.C.	Discharge
ROD	Discharge
BELLY	Posting
HUGHESY	Discharge
JOSTY	Posting



*SPE Training at High Range*