

## 5 PLATOON

Five Platoon began the year at a hectic pace and continued it on throughout the next ten months. A successful Combat Survival enemy trip was followed the next week by Exercise Bayonet Glory, with the two new section commanders, Brown and Blacky, and Blakey's 2IC, Noel Elms taking the helm. Two weeks later we've got rid of Roscoe, and we're overseas in the Land of the Long White Cloud. Amongst the sightseeing and drinking, there were some different training opportunities offered by the scenic Lake Tekapo and the beautiful Springs Junction, two of New Zealand's premier training areas. Overall Tasman Exchange was a success, but by the end we were all glad to get back of Oz, especially as we were coming on-line as priority company over the Easter standdown period. Congratulations to Mark and Jac Blake who were married during Standdown, and to Richie Hungerford, who completed the selection course and is now with the SASR.

A couple of weeks and a range week without ammunition later, we were off to the Land Command Battle School to be reminded of "that oath". And reminded we were, with ten days of heavy rain. However we soldiered on, outshining Six Platoon and F-Troop, and earning the respect of Tully's finest. Good preparation for the Battalion Live Fire Exercise a couple of weeks later, which was preceded by Armoured Personnel Carrier familiarisation. On the Live Fire Exercise we shone once again, but this was mere fine tuning for the upcoming Battalion Military Skills Competition. All sections performed well during the competition, with M.P. Blake being the best in Company, and overall the Platoon finished fourth, as the second best rifle Platoon in the Battalion. An outstanding effort, as a large part of the Platoon was involved in the winter sports finals, greatly restricting our training time, and we had just lost LCPL Grant Maxwell Brown, on leave prior to attending the Royal Military College. Good luck Brownie.

The second half of the year brought with it the Battalion and Brigade Exercises, and three babies - congrats to SGT and Mrs Campbell (a girl), and LCPL and Mrs Hopgood (a boy) in September, and to LCPL and Mrs Elms (a girl) in October.

The Battalion Exercise was extremely valuable - with CPL Blake, and the newly promoted CPL Blake (ex 6 Platoon) making up half of the company strength, we were revised in the fine art of digging holes, which was worthwhile, and we received extensive training on the frustrations of operating under ridiculous Rules of Engagement, without

actually having to do anything. Overall the exercise was such an exhilarating and inspiring experience, that Benno even pulled his discharge and Dog pulled his Corps transfer. The Brigade Exercise saw us acting in a different role, as enemy for the big blue donkey. Special mention must go to Platoon Headquarters, who had to sit it out behind Woolworths Weipa for five days, with access to showers, phones, goffas etc. Once again it was a worthwhile bush trip, where the most valuable activity was being dead and sitting around watching IRAR.

Anyway, the year is all but over, with just the Battalion courses period and adventure training to go. The on-off again adventure training looks like taking us to Maggie for some Scuba diving. Some good training, and a fitting end to what has been a hectic year for Five. But not the end for Mark Blake and his section who are only just getting warmed up for the Duke of Gloucester Cup in Singo in late November. Good luck fellas, and good luck to Iago Walker and Hayley, who tie the knot in November.

Next year we will welcome into our exclusive fold a new Boss (Jughead goes to the school), a new Sarge (Jethro goes to Mortar Platoon as mortar fire controller), and a new section commander (Blacky goes to Pioneers). We also lose Walks to Brigade Defence Platoon, and Perry, who is civi street. The chance of operational service is never far from our mind, and having been nominated to replace A Company in Rwanda, we look forward to the day the government makes a decision.



LT Tuxworth rises from the dead

# 6 PLATOON

1994 has been quite a big year for the Mighty 6. Starting off with Exercise Bayonet Glory 3 days of non stop fun and adventure and we didn't even have to pay.

For our fine efforts we were rewarded (or penalised) with a trip to the land of "The Long White Cloud". Who could forget the quaint customs of Queenstown and the efforts of our cultural attache PTE Griese or the sheer splendour of Lake Tekapo - 30 degrees at 2am in the morning.

Following such a demanding exercise it was off to Tully for a two week "holiday" made up of fun things like bush walking in a real rainforest environment and camping under the stars with our friendly local guides from the Directing Staff tribe.

Next on 6 Platoons social calendar was the Battalion Command Post Exercise in which PTE Deasey trailed the new open sight Steyr model.

This was followed by Military Skills where the Platoon performed exceptionally well. Well done fellas!

The Battalion Exercise was a kind of low level operations with digging in to stage 3 followed by a Company attack a mountain goat would be proud of.

The Platoon was lucky to score enemy for the Brigade Exercise, who could ever forget the "professionalism" displayed by our sister Battalion and the (lack of) direction given by our friends at Exercise Control (makes you wonder who the real enemy is doesn't it?)

Well, all that's left now is courses and block leave and to say goodbye to members who are leaving the Platoon or have left already!

LT HOCKING, SGT "THE PUNISHER" PODOBNIK, PTE MUSTEY, PTE MUNSON, PTE WILLIAMS, CPL BLAKE.



*Russ & Mustey  
Tour Queenstown*



*6 Platoon at Lake Tekapo NZ*