



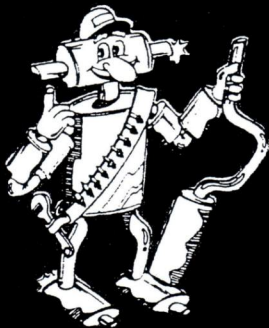
Cpl Van Schaik tests a circuit

quitting themselves well in Soccer, and Sean Tucker and "Blue" Meredith starred at Aust Rules. Cpl "Shaky" Van Schaik broke under pressure while Peter Meredith threw good spears to win the javelin event at the Brigade Athletics.

The LFX and Ex Scorpion Sting kept the craftsmen busy ironing out bugs in the Mag 58's and the newly introduced FFR's. Cfn Dave Robinson marched in just in time to deploy on Ex K89. The high point of this long awaited exercise for Tech Spt was the battle of RAEME Ridge in which craftsmen tenaciously repelled several determined attacks. Max Walker spent some time with B Coy and decided not to corps transfer after all. Cfn "Ando" Anderson detached from 102 Fd Wksp for the Exercise will be remembered for his efforts even after we got the replacement vehicle.

The 6x6 2 ton Landrover which arrived just before the exercise greatly improved our FRT capability, allowing extra repair parts to be carried, and providing a much more versatile repair facility.

The year concludes with members of the Pl on courses, adventure training and getting into the silly season in preparation for a well earned Christmas break.



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An end to another year – Pipes and Drums

Where has the year gone? This year initially got off to a good start with new march ins. For a variety of reasons none lasted long. Next year we may get VOLUNTEERS who have the pride of the unit at heart instead of looking for a bludge.

We have had one man who because of volunteering got what he didn't want. Yes, the DRUM MAJOR's position, Dick Damen came in blind to the job but certainly has proven he has the guts to have a go. Well done "Richard" your doing a good job and it will have its benefits in 1990, hang in there partner.

Also this year see's the loss of Cpl "Zeb" Trevor Davis. Trevor has spent ten years with the Battalion and nine of these in Pipes and Drums. Trevor and his wife are venturing into a Sandblasting business, after he gets out in November. Best of luck to the both of you. It's a big jungle out there.

Pte "Bernie" Bernard also left the P/D this year. He is now working in Whyalla SA for BHP. Perhaps we'll see Bernie again.

There will be more losses next year and hopefully not until after the North Queensland Pipe Band Championship which we hope to succeed once more. This year over Easter, we had some excellent results:

1. Champion Pipe Corps.
2. Champion Basic (Tenor and Bass Drum) Section.
3. Champion Drum Major (LCpl Tim Macey)
4. Champion Medley Section.
5. Third in Street March.
6. Third in 2/4 March Section (2/4 is a time signature not the Bn)
7. Best dressed Muso (or was it second or third, anyway it was done after a few drams) Oh! – The Pipe Major won that.

Overall we came away with seven trophies, ninety dollars in prize money and fond memories of new friends and the reputation of one of the best bands in the North, and a headache (wee drams).

Next year we are assisting the local Pipe Bands with playing positions within our P/D's. The



Pipes and Drums march on Anzac Day

Pipe Major has plans to have a Twin Cities Pipes and Drums instead of two civilian bands which is having trouble keeping afloat.

This year – the Sheraton Casino with a Bridal Fashion show – models don't care where they get changed, POW Association Service, Townsville Boat Club, Leisurama (our training ground for competitions) and twelve, yes that's correct, twelve Pre-schools.

We have convinced the Regt Council of the merits of the Australian Tartan, which eventually will give us a new uniform. Hopefully an RAR composite Pipes and Drums will take part in a Beating the Retreat with the Scottish Division in June 1990.

Advertisement: The Pipes and Drums will not be in a very useful state next year if you young lads with some potential don't come forward. No matter what comment you get from anyone, if you want to take the plunge, the rewards are great. Come down to the Regimental room and talk to the Pipe Major.

Pipes and Drums wish all the family (Men of 2/4 RAR) the best for Christmas and the New Year and please, we don't want to be recalled to do funerals. the RAAF holds that record.

Have a gid new year an dinna doon to many drams tak a bussie or a taxi.

Best wishes to Maj Hollings and Capt Ware for the future, how the hell you put up with us is beyond sense – Good luck.

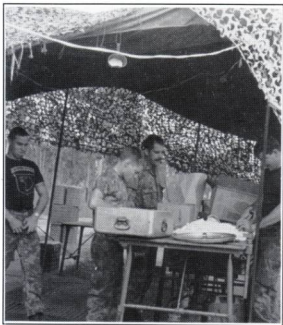
Catering Platoon

Catering Platoon started the year off without a Caterer as WO2 G. Baker elected to take Long Service and Leave Without Pay. The Platoon wishes him all the best for the future. Sitting in for the first three months was Sgt R. Thain, who suddenly became ten years older trying to control the account whilst it was being manipulated by all sorts of outside influences and occurrences. The two Sgt's who escaped these happenings were Sgt's Morgan and Holmes, who were busy getting qualified for their next promotion. Rumour has it that Sgt L. Holmes has been granted an extension on his visa for an extended stay here in North Queensland.

Sgt Morgan was promoted and received his Warrant on the Birthday Parade and luck was still with him on K89 when he happened to find an Aboriginal grave with Sgt Spencer and reported to CSM Admin, it's quite interesting how an old bone can become, a skeleton with bullet holes to the skull – EH JOCK! Those who laughed first, laughed last and had to sweat it out while the presence of two Federal Police visited the area for some time – all's fair in love and war. The platoon lost Cpl Spencer to civvie street, good luck Spence and don't forget the Army still loves you even though you are a Pom.

The platoon will lose two more members to the Corps of Cockroaches – is there any truth in the rumour that a certain female from Langs Hotel is to follow you John or does rank have its privileges. Congratulations go to Pte Pargetter on his marriage and the platoon wishes him all the best for the future. Congratulations are also in order for Sgt Frank "Snake" Jansen who participated on his first field trip in a year and more importantly on the birth of a baby girl who was born on 27 September 1989. Hang in there Frank, not all units are in Land Comd.

Several members of the platoon visited exotic and foreign countries with Sgt Holmes, Cpl R. Ryman participated on *Exercise Reindeer* in Hong Kong. Sgt P. Seely and Cpl Bignell and Cpl P. Brookes went north to *Wantok Warrior* and were rumoured to be paid up members of the KKK when a fire started up on the verandah of a building when enjoying a BBQ meal. Is there any truth Pedro, that you're a distant



The field kitchen

cousin of Governor George Wallace of Georgia U.S.A. and congratulations Brooksey on setting a new record for Orderly Corporals in Admin Coy.

Our thanks go to the Transport Platoon, especially to the drivers who transported the field equipment without complaining and did a top job. The platoon wants to know when Shonky Shinnars is coming across as they will find him a job in one of the small messes, pulling shonkys in the Officers' Mess, Greg. Well done Stan and Suck for the new uses of a bush hat and pits on K89, we are quite sure that this will go down in military history.

Well that winds up, except to say to the Battalion thanks to every soldier for supporting us and to wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year, along with good soldiering for 1990.

WE SUSTAIN.

Transport Platoon

Transport Platoon started 1989 with a Platoon Commander for the first time in many years, a new Sgt and a new Corporal. The year was difficult for some of the soldiers, as they had many new ideas coming from all different directions.

Major events of the year were *Exercises Scorpion Sting* and *K89*. Before, between and after these events, the drivers were flat out supporting platoons and companies within the Battalion.

Many soldiers have left the platoon during the year, including Cpl Bowers to AAvn, LCpl Martin to Range Control, Pte's Allen, Brooker, Coden to discharge. Pte Hilder marched out and Pte Jeffery promptly took his place. July saw the long overdue promotion of Pte Patter-

son to LCpl. During the last week of July, the Platoon decided to go for a 2320km drive to Katherine, over five days to meet the rest of the Battalion. The highlight of *K89* was the newly promoted LCpl Patterson's truck being borrowed by the enemy, under protest of course. B Coy provided an ambush and the enemy ditched the truck.

In early September the drivers returned with vehicles to Townsville. The weekend after return, Pte Mitchell decided to help a digger from D Coy by lending him the duty vehicle so the drunken fool could go sight seeing at the local meat works. The local police quickly set the misguided clown straight.

All in all, it has been a good year for Transport Platoon with a total of 989,632kms being covered for 1989.

KEEP ON TRUCKING.



Tpt Pl practising deployments on HMAS Tarakan

Quartermaster Platoon

Once again, the QM Platoon has enjoyed a very busy year with little respite from the never ending logistic process.

Welcomed to the Platoon were WO1 Garry Richardson as RQMS War and Cpl Steve Burgess as Clothing Store NCO. Also from within the battalion we welcomed to the Platoon Cpl Haynes to Peace Increment, Pte Roach also to Peace Increment, Pte Gibbs as clothing storeman, Pte Young as Ammo Storeman and Pte Rapmund as Register Clerk. During the year we welcomed Pte Hynds and our new Tech Sgt "Spanner" Spencer. Very recently Brett Langabeer returned to the Platoon as a Cpl, shortly to take up the Ammo NCO position.

On the departure side, the Platoon farewelled Sgt Browne to CQMS D Coy, Sgt Keynes who went to C Coy as their CQMS, Cpl Bristow-Smith who went to 1 RTB to work for Capt Gibson (ex RQMS War). Pte Crooks and Pte Foster thought that the grass was greener on the other side of the fence and took discharge. We wish them the best in their new lives as civilians.

Our congratulations to Sgt "Radar" Barker on his promotion and his new job as Platoon Sergeant/Ledger Room Sergeant.

The Platoon has had a busy year supporting the battalion in different activities, such as *Bush Week*, *Battalion Live Fire Exercise*, *Exercise Scorpion Sting* and *Exercise Kangaroo 89*. The Battalion also took over the role of priority Battalion and we had to work hard to complete the trial pack on time.

Whilst the ODF side of the Platoon was training and preparing for war, the peace side of the house was hard at work keeping the barracks going, handing over buildings for refurbishment, preparing for the *4 RAR Reunion*, the *Battalion Birthday Celebrations* and many more. The truth is, although it sounds like a classic tale of "war and peace", both sides of Q are vital to the functioning of the Battalion. Well done War and Peace!

QM Platoon is home for LCpl John Twomey who is of note as the Battalion's longest serving original member (since 15 Aug '73). This year we learned that the Army's official birth date has been set at 1 Mar and coincidentally, this is also John's birthday. To celebrate, the Caterer and his staff provided a fine cake which was cut by LCpl Twomey in the presence of the platoon, Bn 2IC and RSM. To top off his day, John was serenaded by the Pipes and Drums in his room that night.

The Platoon is now gearing up for the next major stocktake and are hoping to remove some of the warts and wrinkles from the account so that the whole Q Store can run more efficiently. Perhaps AUTOQ (the new logistic computer for the Q account) may achieve this when it finally comes on line.

Finally, the Q Store is here to support the Battalion. Thank you to those who supported the Q Store this year and we wish all members of the Battalion and our supporting arms and services staff and their families all the best for the festive season and a safe return to work next year.



Steve Burgess showing that even B Echelon personnel dig in



Roy Crabbe setting up his ammo shop on K89