

A COMPANY

CHQ have managed to survive another year relatively unscathed. Ably supported by "Blue" Senior's "Marauders" we have weathered assaults from above, below and to our flanks.

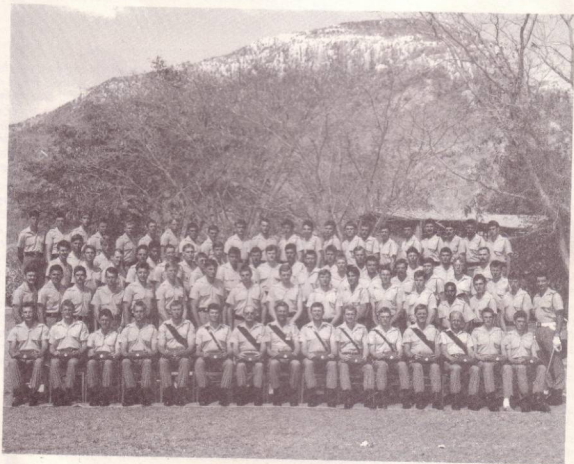
SSGT Otto Krenke has provided reliable support in the Q area and will be sorely missed by all in '86.

The clerical staff have ensured the smooth and efficient running of the A side. '86 is to be a year of change with the Coy 2IC, Captain Doug Strain,

the CSM WO2 Hans Vanzwol and the CQMS all moving on.

Also PTE Stan Jones and Tony Doyle are soon to move on being the last in a long list of faces to have spent time in CHQ in '85.

Christmas is coming and '86 will soon be upon us. The New Year is sure to present many new challenges but, as always, CHQ will continue to battle on.



1 PLATOON A COMPANY



*PTE's Conrad, Currier and Tweedie, CPL Mearns,
PTE's Baker, Jennings and Cadelli.*

1 PL returned from the delights of Malaysia only to find themselves 'cured' and scattered to the 4 winds. First up was our catch up duty week.

Easter standdown arrived and whilst most of us were taking a well earned rest the reinforcements volunteered for rear details. Never mind though, Eager Eaglet was on the way, bringing with it an assortment of air assaults, mortar missions and brave deeds for Queen and Country. One particularly cold night, devoid of dry clothing, 'Otto' came to the rescue with a nice warm dinner at midnight.

May came upon us and we found ourselves wallowing in the joys of the ODF test. Just in time for BRL too! "You bloody ripper". Off to Mackay in June for a week of concurrent training. We also did some shooting and picked up a few marksmen. I can't remember seeing Vinnie in the Gas Chamber either. A week-end off and then up to High Range for some live firing casualties, I mean Range Practices. Wild Bill Cowen's air burst WP was only outdone by Stanno's 84 mm round, "Drop this now and we're both dead". Back for a week-end and off to Paluma for EX Close Encounter, "Is this really the jungle Corporal? Oooh!" Unfortunately the buses lost their way by about 5 km for the pick up.

July saw the Mil Skills Comp. I think for the last 5 yrs 1 PL have won the Penang Plate. Isn't that right 2 & 3 PL? A well done to Blossom and his Petals too. The cross country saw another fine effort from the platoon, once again topping the Coy, particularly Gonzo — the Battalion Champion.

The big exercise for the year was Swift Eagle. At last the free world was safe again; at least in AO Backbone. Then surprise surprise a short walk out. Back to High Range for a Barbie and a shower then landed onto the weima bins with 3/4 Cav. These APC's make an excellent bulldozer don't they "Country". Once familiarised we were ready for a mounted live fire attack or 2 or 3 or 4.....

We made it through an interesting mines and boobytrap stand, but not all escaped the NBCD. "What's that white dust on the ground?" stomp, stomp "Eckert that's 'choke' Gas Gas Gas!!!" Back to Townsville for the Freedom of the City and the Battalion Ball.

We've had our up's and down's but we've turned out a pretty good team when it's all said and done. Let's have a relaxing BRL and we'll be back with a vengeance in '86.

2 PLATOON A COMPANY

2 PL has seen many changes since it's return from Malaysia with Sgt Howe being replaced by Sgt Montefiore and them both being replaced by Sgt Carter & Lt Byrne from B. Coy. While the Comd changes were going on, there were also changes within the sections. After the company BRL period, many of the diggers were transferred to Spt Coy leaving the Pl somewhat depleted. This was soon rectified by the company's new "march ins" from Singleton.

With our second PL SGT in two weeks and an almost new Pl we visited Mount Vince for our annual qualifying shoot. While there the platoon was refreshed on NBCD Training.

After a duty week the platoon was off to HRTA for a relaxing LFX. The highlight of the trip were the nights spent around the fire listening to PTE Grace telling jokes, for a Tasmanian he did quite well. Although, he was well supported by PTE Willcox. The following week the platoon was off to Paluma for an introduction to the jungle.

It was then mid July, and the end of SGT Carter's reign. He was transferred to training cell and replaced by

SGT Schlegel, who had just returned from New Guinea.

The platoon was now gearing up for Mil Skills week and after a number of 15 km run/shoots, hours of drill and TOET's the "new" 2 PL was ready. Although the lack of experience was felt in some areas the platoon performed well and learnt many lessons for next year.

Midway through August saw the platoon getting ready for Swift Eagle. There was a deal of excitement in the air as everyone was looking forward to their first rides on the C130, CH47, UH1H and Caribou's. As it turned out this excitement was rewarded with everyone getting the opportunity to ride on each craft as well as driving an APC.

It was now time for another change as LT Byrne was replaced by 2LT Burns. The year is now drawing to an end with the platoon splitting to undertake the many courses.

Christmas leave is looked at with much anticipation. 1986 is going to be another year with 2 Platoon building on the experience gained in '85.



PTE Grace and LCPL Barnsley

3 PLATOON A COMPANY



The CO presents crossed rifles to PTE Fox - 3PL

The fighting Third arrived back from the Coy tour of Butterworth with the prospect of another busy year in the Bn.

As it was, the first month back in Lavarack, saw a big change in faces within the platoon.

April was a more settled month, with a welcome break over Easter and then straight into the Brigade ODF Check. Platoon strength was 1/14 at the time.

Ex 'Eager Eaglet' soon arrived. The platoon took part in air moves, an air assault, and even managed to take out an enemy base camp containing 39 Musorians.

May saw the platoon, bigger now than in the previous month, take part in the second Brigade ODF test. The platoon put in a fine performance in the different stands including the 15 km Route March, the Platoon Attack and the 3 km Run and Shoot.

The month of June proved to be the busiest month by far. Sharp-shooters were identified at Mt Vince Range Complex during the week of Shooting and Gassing.

Ex 'Close Encounter' at Mt Spec proved to be a most useful exercise for the majority of the platoon as it was their first introduction to the jungle. Ex 'Big Shot' at HRTA would have to be the highlight of the year, as all the diggers had their chance to take part in Live Fire Attacks, Anti-Armour Shoots, Orienteering and view SFMG Night Shoots.

The platoon provided two sections for the Bn Military Skills Competition and did quite well to achieve a fourth (CPL Senior) and a seventh (CPL O'Brien).

The fighting Third again played a vital role in Ex 'Swift Eagle'. The Jungle Phase proved to be the most exciting with some thorough patrolling and devastating ambushing being carried out.

September was a month of Bn Parades and Bde Standdown. October saw the platoon split up either preparing for or supporting courses.

1985 was a year of change for 3PL with old faces being swapped for new. 1986 looks like being an even bigger year for the platoon.