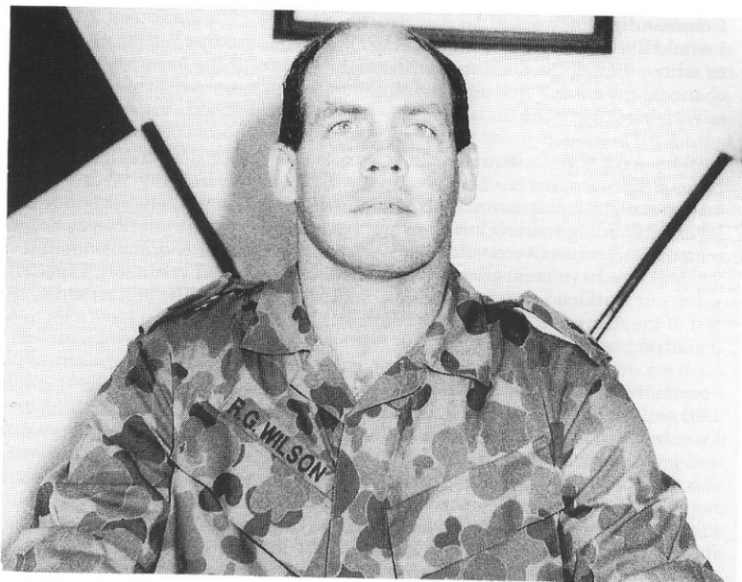


FOREWORD - LIEUTENANT COLONEL R.G. WILSON



Although only taking command in September it has quickly become apparent to me that 1994 has been another busy and successful year for the 2nd/4th Battalion. A series of major exercises at High Range, Mount Spec, Shoalwater Bay and Cape York, combined with company deployments overseas to New Zealand and the United States, finally culminated in elements of the Battalion seeing operational service with the United Nations in Rwanda.

A fitting reward for this year-long effort was winning the Commander's Trophy. The result of a consistently high level of performance across the broad range of competitions over the year. For this overall success, and many other contributing achievements during the year, I congratulate the soldiers of the Battalion and thank them for their efforts.

Thanks are also due to the editor, Captain Ian McMahon, and his staff, for their long hours of hard work producing this magazine.

To those leaving the Battalion at the end of the year I offer my best wishes for the future.

Finally, I acknowledge and appreciate the special support and understanding which the families of the Battalion provide to their husbands and fathers throughout the year. I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe, happy New Year.

FOREWORD - LIEUTENANT COLONEL P.F. McINTOSH

Commanding Officer until 8 Aug 94

I would like to thank the Commanding Officer for affording me the opportunity to write a foreword covering the first eight months of the year. It gives me the chance to say a final farewell to the Battalion, which I was unable to do in the way in which I would of liked.

1994 has been a very disruptive and demanding year for the Battalion. We have been on-line for what has been essentially the third year in a row. We have had a lot of overseas deployments, both operational and training. We have conducted a lot of demanding training activities and have maintained our proficiency at both reactive and protective operations. We have provided an enormous amount of support. We have competed widely and have performed creditably, especially given our workload and the constant absences of sub units. The unit is seen by the rest of the Army and the world as being highly professional. You have a lot to be proud of.

For me, this year has not gone according to my master plan. After the successes of 1993 and the unquestionable level of proficiency that the Battalion had achieved, I was hoping to slow down the pace, finesse the areas that still needed some work, and get out and spend more time with the soldiers and junior leaders. Obviously, this did not happen, due to the heavy demands on the Battalion and the constant requirement for me to travel to exotic and not so exotic places. I realised during the year the impact that my absences were having on the Battalion, especially as they coincided with nearly every major activity. Nevertheless, the unit continued to achieve, working solidly to perform every task that was assigned. For that I am very grateful and appreciative.

The activities of significance this year included the Rifle Company Skills Assessment where deficiencies were identified so that they could be addressed in



the training programme. Later, the Military Skills Assessment provided an opportunity to see whether the deficiencies had been rectified. We revisited services protected evacuation with a very well written and executed exercise. We conducted a very realistic live fire exercise where we did mounted and dismounted attacks and night defence shoots. Exercise Maxi Beagle was an enormous undertaking with more than 1000 troops participating, including companies from the United States and Thailand. The exercise tested our ability to conduct wide area protective operations. In addition to these activities we deployed B Company to New Zealand on Exercise Tasman Exchange and C Company to Hawaii and mainland USA on Exercise Pacific Bond, including attendance at the Joint Readiness Training Centre. And operationally, A Company and a slice of Administration Company and Support Company were deployed to Rwanda on Operation Tamar where they are performing exceptionally well.

The Battalion has also demonstrated its superiority on the sports field and in military skills competitions. I congratulate C Company for their outstanding success in the Duke of Gloucester Cup and McDonald Cup competitions of 1993 which were conducted after the Battalion magazine went to print last year. The shooting team deserve special recognition also for their success at AASAM. And the Pipes and Drums, as always, continue to perform superbly. They are undoubtedly the best Pipes and Drums in the Regiment. Also, I would like to thank all the sportsmen who competed for the Battalion throughout the year. We had some significant victories and some near misses. The heavy work load and absences eventually took their toll, still we competed valiantly, played fairly, and fielded two teams for every sport. All these things will develop a good base of talent of the future.

In closing, I would like to thank everybody for the support that was provided to me as Commanding Officer. I have asked a lot because there was an enormous amount that had to be done if we were to be truly ready. To the families, I thank you very much for the support that you have provided to your husbands. They couldn't do it without you.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and every success for your future careers. And I wish Lieutenant Colonel Wilson and the new team the very best for 1995. Also, I would like to say a special farewell to C Company and to the others who attended Exercise Pacific Bond who I did not get to see before I left.