

# BEAR BONES OF '82

## A COMPANY

After the mass exit of half of A Coy to Support Coy in late '81 and early '82 the "Bears" hit the Field Force Battle School with a vengeance in February. "Uncle" George and his staff at Tully ensured we enjoyed ourselves and held open prayer sessions to the "rain gods" in an effort to allow us to get a "feel for the jungle". The gods won and the Coy was practically washed down the Jarra, one night alone saw 13" fall at the camp. We all loved Tully so much in fact that we spent two weeks in June up there on the Ambush Course - unfortunately it didn't rain this time.

Another notable "double" was the two weeks at Mt. Vince "Casino" err Rifle Range. Shooting was of a high standard both on and off the range, somehow the tables rolled in favour of the Company and we managed to buy our long awaited sports uniforms, well done "the Syndicate".



2LT Brough cleans up for the Syndicate



Faster, faster, A.J. Carter laying down the law to PTE Reeves (Gronk)

Rapelling training saw everyone progress in leaps and bounds from the Quarry to helicopter descents. Pte Oppel decided "breaking" was for the faint hearted and tempted fate with a "free" descent, a couple of broken ankles later Pte Oppel is now back on deck and asking when it can all be done again — how some guys get their thrills!!

The Battalion exercise "Iron Fist" allowed A Company to test their mountain climbing skills and climb that which we were informed was "unclimbable", we also enjoyed a midnight cruise on the "Pioneer Princess" fleet.

Exercise "Swift Eagle" had the Bears pitted against 1 RAR in their annual ODF deployment exercise. 3 Platoon made the best of the Pet Rock boom and spent the odd evening sitting on outcrops howling at full moons. Certain members of 2 Platoon went "crabbing" and 1 Platoon dug their holes and waited and waited ... and waited for "the enemy".

Exercise "Diamond Dollar" provided the highlight of 1982 when we joined 6 Brigade at SWBTA in a bout of Inf/Amd Cooperation. Modestly speaking, it was said by those at the top "A Coy took to APC's and tanks like ducks to water". Modesty prevents any further quotes, needless to say it proved a very successful trip south, the 2IC also broke the 3/4 Cav Regt Jaffle making record of 14 jaffles in one ten minute stop!!

The 93 km the Company walked on the final exercise "Brazen Bandicoot" stood us in good stead when the inter-company Athletics Competition was easily won with an excellent all round performance by the Bears.



The A Coy Sesame St. watches team

# 1982 ▶ Thru the eyes of 2 Platoon ◀

JAN ..... MARCH  
FAT + FURIOUS



GOING....

JULY ..... SEPT  
LEAN + MEANI



WAIT FOR IT!

APRIL .... JUNE  
KEEN + MEAN



GOING....

OCT ..... DEC  
PICKED CLEAN?



GONE