

C COMPANY

As everyone is aware C Company was on line over the Christmas break so it was not a matter of starting 1994 fresh it was more a case of not finishing 1993. Despite duties the Company did manage to achieve some worthwhile training over the period and the benefits were apparent during the Battalion assessment of rifle company skills, Exercise 'Bayonet Glory'. After some well deserved leave the Company set about preparing for Exercise 'Pacific Bond 94' (PACBOND). Of course there were minor diversions including Air Week, the Battalion Live Fire and Military Skills but it was obvious to all that C Company was focused on Hawaii. As it turned out the six weeks of PACBOND were not as professionally rewarding as had been anticipated but, as with any experience, there is always some benefit. In this case everyone must keep it in mind that they did all that was asked of them and performed very well in comparison to those around us. It is worth remembering there were also some useful side benefits including missing two Battalion exercises, having three weekends in Hawaii and getting a couple of days in New Orleans.

We timed our return from PACBOND to be back for summer sports, the athletics and stand down. The Company did very well in the summer sports and athletics, managing two seconds, both behind Support Company. I have no doubt the members of C Company will perform just as well on stand down. There is not much left to do this year except some shooting, a couple of specialist courses and adventure training. I am sure the Company will



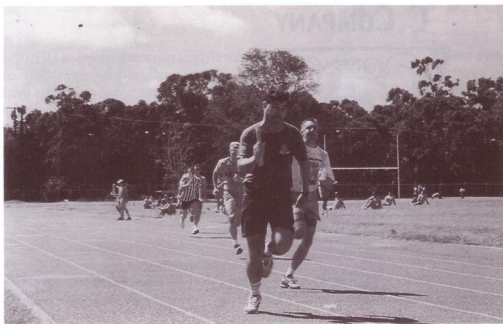
have strong representation in all three. I have only offered an overview of what the Company has done this year because the Platoons will go into all the gory details in their articles and I do not want to steal their thunder. It is sufficient for me to wrap up this section on training by saying it has been busy

and I am sure you and your families are looking forward to the well earned Christmas break.

On a personal note I have enjoyed my time as Company Commander and would like to thank everyone for their support and professional effort throughout the last two years. In particular I would like to mention WO2 Leon Helmrich and SSGT Dave Brooks. Both of them came to the Company the same time as I did and we are all leaving at the end of the year. Their professionalism, experience and advice have made it much easier for me to do my job. There are also quite a few senior soldiers in the Company and many will be moving to greener pastures. Some will go to Support Company, some are being posted and some have elected discharge in the New Year. To all of you I wish you the best in whatever endeavour you choose and thank you for your efforts in C Company. To the families who have supported the members of the Company I offer my appreciation because no soldier can ever get on with his job and realise his full potential unless he knows he has the support of his family. I wish everyone a happy holiday and all the best for the future.



C Company on patrol



OC Charlie leads the field...or is it a staggered start?



*Sale of the Century
- 7 Platoon*



*CSM C Company receiving some
hair raising tonic*

7 PLATOON - THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

The year that never ended, the leave that never was, and the soldiers that were always ready. These are some of the cries that echoed throughout the hallowed halls of Samichon Lines, in the Battalions absence. There is nothing to fear when the dragon stalks the walls of safety for the nation. In your absence "the Big C" was called to rescue some American "special forces", who unbeknown to them had left the moors and ventured into the badlands, yes the Australian outback. It was comical, there was a white man, a black man and a yellow man. It seems they became lost, found a fenceline then a dam. Their dress was sports gear with boots; however they removed their sports shirts. The dam provided them with water; however only the white man stayed and was found. The black man saw a C130 Hercules fly over and decided to follow it. Surprisingly he was found last, the yellow man went walkabout and he was found second. Special Forces my backside. Apart from this exploit Charlie Company carried on the celebrations befitting a Battalion with an undefeated rugby club, a Battalion with spirit. This was the burden of Charlie Company over Christmas. When the Battalion returned the dragons "still dragon their bums" managed to regain a little composure. Despite only being able to field two sections, the seventh of foot were still able to prove themselves to be a force to be reckoned with in the Battalion testing. At this point in time leave was looming and the wheels on the Charlie Company bandwagon looked ready to fall off. Well that wraps up the year that never ended.

Then came the leave that never was, no sooner had it started than it was over. It was the sort of leave where you get drunk at the start, wake up at the end with a beard and begin to realise how Rip Van Winkle must have felt. One blink and we missed it, except for a few unfortunates, PTE Brayshaw among them. Some would say he was just a lid - and he was, yes a double choc from 49 RQR no less. This now veteran of the Platoon was known to the few who remained to do the sniper pre selection. His trunk had not even arrived at the Q store yet he was here.. Let us remember this little, skinny, white, malnourished digger who ran his 5 clickers like a Somali chasing a UN food truck. This white biafran who managed to squeeze himself into 3rd place on the sniper pre selection and reserve for the sniper course. Skipping through the year to Military skills where the two sections placed 12 & 13th, well enough said. 'Gearing up for the USA' was the catch cry in the green machine Headquarters all the while the diggers were crying R-r-r-r-wanda, R-r-r-r-wanda, only to be told, "No you are ambassadors,

koalas, pathfinders, trend setters and anybody can give weetbix to refugees as IRAR proved". Men of C Company, you have been chosen for another mission, harder and more arduous and more trying, more moronic and more futile, but none the less a mission. A mission that should you choose to accept it, and you will, (and we did) will see you deploy to Hawaii then Louisiana as part of a Brigade deployment to battle an elusive enemy. An enemy the likes of which you have never experienced, and give them a taste of Aussie guts and glory, the likes of which they have never seen or experienced.

Needless to say, it was the USA (ought to be a poet). We picked up some attachments and boarded a starlifter, /shirtlifter/ gluttony /galaxy, I don't know, it was a big plane, one that we have not got. We took off and landed on an island made out of bird spatterings - well it could have been, then on to Hawaii. The training value was totally unbelievable, not only had we travelled half way around the world, but those infantry minor tactics reared their ugly head again. Yes they made up the foundation of our first bush trip. To say the troops were beyond themselves would be an understatement. The men were asking themselves - what happened to the promise of new training never before experienced by Aussie servicemen? Or the other question, IMTs didn't we just complete Military Skills?

Our minds were filled with images of the tyre house, leaping tall buildings in a single bound, taking on the world and winning, all images and more entertained us, but instead Infantry Minor Tactics. We did do a great live fire ambush against a mechanised enemy with life size replicas of a BRDM and other Soviet vehicles. But that took place on the mainland not on the island. The organised trip to Pearl Harbour was worth the once over. A short trip from there found us in a buyers paradise, the Navy Post Exchange store. A brief stop in Waikiki, which resembles little Tokyo, or the Gold Coast. The Mout (urban warfare) Village impressed the majority of the dragons but to the England veterans it was a mere shadow of Fighting-in-built-up-areas Village on Copehill Downs.

The next event to grace Charlie Companies busy agenda was the sports day. The first task was the tug of war and like all missions with the Yanks it proved impossible. They proved that they were still the undefeated world champions at tugging, a title that we gladly let them retain. Other sports were contested but the memories are vague. Then it happened, silence filled the sporting venue. Blinding light bathed a bastardised rugby field and

a pig skin mystically appeared on the half way line. The scene was set. Two teams lined up, the Aussies and the Yanks. This was just another war that the USA was going to lose.

With Sarge Occa as the Ref, war began. We quickly posted a try and converted. The seppos soon realised it was another Vietnam, a no win situation. The seppos (who like to run and sing) had sadly under estimated the might of the Aussies (who love to drink and sing) and the word passed quickly, play the man not the ball. No sooner had this happened when a well aimed boot collects a big black CAPT, dropping him like a sack of potatoes. Result blood bin. The game was punctuated by the odd late tackle followed by the occasional high tackle not to mention the fine use of swinging arms and elbows. Final result Charlie Company - 7, the Yanks - 0, naturally a party ensued.

LOUISIANA is affectionately referred to as deliverance country. It's full of inbred Aplin look alikes, circus tents, Americans, and is hot and humid. It did not get any better.

In conclusion the MAGNIFICENT SEVEN has more than held its own to produce results that do nothing to dishonour its inflated reputation. We have no doubt that the men of the seventh of foot will continue throughout the remainder of the year to produce more of their best.

McDONALD'S EXTRA VALUE MEALS JUST \$3.95



McDonald's The Lakes
McDonald's Aitkenvale
McDonald's Willows
Macca's on the Mall



PARTINGTON 4WD SPARES

CNR GARDENIA ST & BARKLY HWY MT. ISA. Q 4825

PHONE: (077) 43 9622

FAX: (077) 43 0702

632 INGHAM ROAD, BOHLE. Q. 4818

PHONE: (077) 74 5544

FAX: (077) 74 6522

QUEENSLAND'S NO.1 4WD SPECIALISTS

Contact us for an extensive range of 4WD recyclables including:

- Body panels and doors for most makes and models
- Nth Queensland's authorised dealer for Ironman Suspension Kits & Fibreglass Panels
- PLUS Lots of late model 4WD stock and accessories



We've got the missing part

Ask about our
guarantee.
Same day
dispatched.

OPEN SATURDAY

FREE CALL:

008 817 854