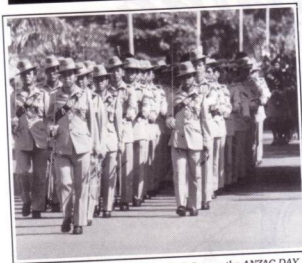


Exercise Reindeer '89



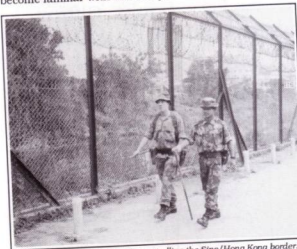
Major Yambahadur Gurung leads C Coy on the ANZAC DAY march through Townsville

Exercise Reindeer '89 was a reciprocal company group exercise involving A Coy 2/4 RAR and C Coy 2/2 GR during 7 April - 6 May '89.

C Coy 2/2 GR

On 7 Apr '89 C Coy arrived in Townsville for approximately one month's training. After a quick visit to the city, the next day the company started its familiarisation training. On 10 Apr '89 the Coy deployed to High Range Training Area (HRTA) to act as enemy for the battalion, during the Air Training Week. In addition, familiarisation was conducted with APC from B Sqn 3/4 Cav Regt and the S-70A9 Blackhawk Helicopter from 5 Avn Regt.

The most important activity for C Coy was the field firing at HRTA. The live firing activities included section and platoon attacks, ambushing, and company defence and withdrawal. This training was both interesting and realistic, and provided the soldiers with the opportunity to become familiar with the newly issued SA-80.



Pte Griffith and a Gurkha soldier patrolling the Sino/Hong Kong border.

On 25 Apr '89 C Coy participated in the Townsville ANZAC Day Celebrations, with a march through the streets as part of the 3 Bde contingent.

It was with deep regret that a Memorial Service and parade was conducted on 26 Apr '89 to farewell Pte Chandrabahadur Sunwar from 2/2 GR and Pte Bijakumar Rai of 28 GTR, who were accidentally killed in a vehicle accident at HRTA on 12 Apr '89. The Parade and Service was a fitting tribute to mark this solemn occasion.

The next day C Coy returned to HRTA for APC familiarisation training with the APC from B Sqn, at the end of which the Gurkhas were treated to a barbecue.

The final activity was the conduct of adventure training at Cowley Beach. This proved the opportunity to fish, hunt and go white water rafting.

On 4 May '89 C Coy returned to Hong Kong after a very busy and successful stay with the battalion. Both 2/4 RAR and C Coy benefited from the exchange and it provided the opportunity to re-affirm the bonds that were established at Gallipoli.

A Coy 2/4 RAR

A Company's Hong Kong Adventure

A Company showed they were "Right of the Line", when they successfully completed *Exercise Reindeer* in Hong Kong in April 1989.

What an experience! Within 36 hours of touching down, soldiers from A Company were patrolling the border between Hong Kong and its northern neighbour, China, alongside their Gurkha counterparts. This phase was not only interesting but also extremely exciting. One Platoon, patrolling in the "hot zone" was able to capture a few "It's" (illegal immigrants). Right from the start the "Gurkha" and "Digger" got on famously, demonstrating the many qualities that both individuals share in common.

The next few days were spent familiarizing ourselves with the British equipment - in and out of Wessex helicopters, firing the British SA-80, and using both NBC and signals equipment, all in preparation for *Exercise Bulldog Patrol*.

Bulldog Patrol was a platoon competition against the Gurkha's which, as expected, proved physically demanding. It included a 13km navex, a series of practical and written military skill tests, and a 3.2 km run and shoot in patrol order. The platoons from A Coy completed the competition creditably, particularly in the areas of navigation and first aid.

Exercise Double Island was the next activity. This was an amphibious operation on an island off the east coast of Hong Kong. It began with a pre-dawn four hour cruise on the HMS Peacock, a destroyer escort equivalent, which married up with a landing craft. The amphibious landing, which saw 3 platoon hitting the water first, was followed by an advance to contact operation to clear the island. The operation concluded with an assault up a feature similar to Castle Hill. Immediately after securing the objective the company was airlifted across Hong Kong to Pac Nai to begin two days of range shooting.

The company rotated through three ranges - Superdart, Section attack, and Close Quarter Battle Range Urban



3Pl storm ashore on Double Island

(CQBRU). The CQBRU proved an invaluable experience with it's state of the art technology.

Exercise Khanne Manchee (which means "Digger" in Gurkhal) was the culmination of the training in Hong Kong. Involving the entire battalion, it began with an all-night move on a landing craft (in not so calm sea conditions) and a dawn beach landing to commemorate ANZAC Day and the Gallipoli landing. After securing the first objective, a dawn service was held, which all those



A Coy HQ sight seeing in Hong Kong

involved would agree, was quite moving. This was followed by the traditional tot of rum (Bundy of course). The next few days involved an advance to contact operation ending in a pre-dawn battalion attack at a place in the hills called Lead Mine Pass. Following this A Coy, after discarding it's friendly status and transforming into enemy for the battalion, proceeded with a reserve demolition on a bridge. The dawn attack was unforgettable with "human waves" assaulting us before the bridge was blown.

In summary, a memorable trip with good training and great shopping. Thanks must go to the 2/2 Gurkha's for their fine hospitality.

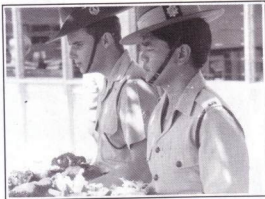
Vale

Private Chandrabahadur Sunwar
Private Bijaykumar Rai
Passed away — 12 Apr '89

The laying of wreaths at the Memorial Parade
26 Apr '89.



Maj Yambahadur Gurung



Cpl Drayton and Gurkha comrade



Chaplain Bartlett