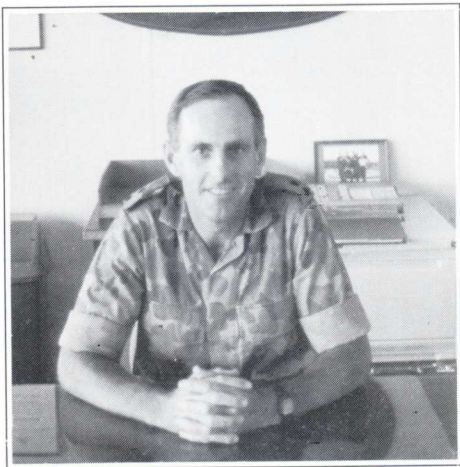


FOREWORD



Lieutenant Colonel
M.G. SMITH
Commanding Officer 2/4 RAR

This magazine helps all of us to recall what has occurred in our Battalion during 1989. Because of space limitations only snippets of Battalion life can be included, but a quick glance confirms that 1989 has been a busy year! In fact, I am always surprised when soldiers say that life is boring, because as this Magazine shows, nothing could be further from the truth.

The Battalion has performed extremely well throughout the year and most of you have brought great credit to the Battalion, the Regiment and the Army. A small group of undesirables have been given early marching orders, which proves that the 2nd/4th is no place for thieves, drug takers, bludgers or administrative liabilities! Others have left or are leaving the unit early because they are no longer at the required medical standard for infantry. It is always sad to see such soldiers leave, but such are the rigours of our profession. To those of you in this category, I wish you all the best and thank you sincerely for a job well done. Others have been posted, and I particularly congratulate those who are leaving on promotion. I hope you will remember the 2nd/4th as your home, that you will take fond memories with you, and that most of you will return to serve in the Battalion again.

I extend the Battalion's thanks to the units who have supported us so well through the year, particularly our direct support battery (108 Field) and our detachments from 103 Signals Squadron. 1989 also saw continued close relations with B Squadron 3/4 Cavalry Regiment, 9 Transport Squadron and 162 Reconnaissance Squadron. We also forged a close association with the Army's newest frontline unit - 5 Aviation Regiment.

I would like in particular to thank the All Ranks Ladies'

Association for their tremendous assistance throughout the year. It has been pleasing to see the numbers grow, and I'm sure that 1990 will be even better.

For the majority of us who will be staying, 1990 promises to be busy and enjoyable. Our theme for training next year is "back to the jungle". Section and Platoon Commanders will have more time to conduct training, and I want to return to the basics that have always placed the Australian digger above all others - good individual battle skills, fitness, initiative and teamwork. I particularly look forward to us using the new combat load carrying equipment, and the introduction of Steyr will prove challenging for us all. I want us all to keep three things foremost in our minds:

- First, that we must always be ready for war. We will have no second chances and will 'go as we are' when the bugle calls.
- Second, that we must maintain our Regimental standards and traditions, all of which help improve our teamwork and mateship.
- And third, that we must strive to improve our relations with the civil community, and thereby earn their support and respect.

My thanks to the Editor, Major Mark Probert, and his team for completing a fine record of the year's events.

And finally, on behalf of the Battalion, I would like to extend our best wishes to our RSM, WO1 Greg Hansen, who leaves having been an inspiration to us all. He has fulfilled his life's ambition with distinction, and I hope you younger soldiers will strive to emulate his performance in years to come.

Duty first!