

Delta Company

This year was meant to be different to many previous years. That is, it was supposed to start slow for the battalion, with a gradual build up in training intensity towards the end of the year. But as usual, not for D Company. 1991 started with a sprint and ended up with a limp.

The company deployed to New Zealand for "EX IVANHOE" in Feb and Mar. We conducted APC Training, Coy Air mobiles, Cordon and Search Operations and found time for some adventure training. The Kiwis were suitably impressed by every aspect of our professional conduct and operation. We couldn't (and didn't) say we though the same about them. Operating in sub-zero temperatures will long be remembered, as will PTE Nathan Vinson's win of the coveted Red Bayonet at Burnkam Camp.

New Zealand was good, but as we found out later, it cost us heavily. While we were conducting company, platoon and adventurous training, the remainder of the battalion were preparing for the MIL SKILLS competition. With very little time available when we returned to Australia to conduct individual and section training, our rifle sections had to rely on a solid base of skills gained in 1990 and the leadership and judgement of the Junior NCO. The company completed the competition with a hard-eared but disappointing 3rd place.

There were some great individual efforts. Congratulations to CPL Frank Oreb and the men of 2 section, who set a time on the obstacle course that no one else could achieve.

Platoon and company training continued throughout the year and once again, we got to know Bluewater as a home away from home, 10 Platoon were the silent victors of "EX SILENT VICTOR" this year, when



Where's my wife, I can't sew for nuts" — CSM D Coy

they lead the three platoons in an attack against CHQ. The patrolling skills and battle cunning developed in platoon and company training was proved on "EX MAXI BEAGLE". D Company accounted for more enemy killed, captured, ambushed and tracked than the remainder of the battalion. This credible result was achieved

between the stops for fresh bloody meals in the jungle.

The company acquitted itself admirably in all activities through the year. 26 men qualified as marksmen with the rifle, which contributed to D Company attaining the highest scores in inter company rifle shooting. The Battle Run and Defensive Shoot in the LFX were both executed with aggression, precision and good discipline. Once again, giving other companies something to aspire to. We had our fair share of victories on the sports field, with many "has beens" having a go with the young bucks. The company Australian Rules team was undefeated, while our other teams held their own for a change.

The company took BRL in Oct and Nov so we could guard the colours and Australia's overseas interests during the Xmas period. With all the time available in Dec and Jan, there will be plenty of hard section training because in '92 we intend to regain the MIL SKILLS TROPHY.

At a time when discharge rates throughout the army and particularly our Northern Army are relatively high, it is interesting to note that no man in D Company has elected to seek his discharge. Once again proof of the calibre and leadership of the Junior NCO who train our men for war. There have been some discharged from the Army but it has been against their will. They just weren't good enough to stand within our ranks.

To those who have left the company, remember what we have achieved as a team in 1991. The traditions of the D Company Road Runner started a long time ago and you have contributed to the legend. Once you have served in D 2/4, you will always be a member of D 2/4. There are two types of members of the company, those presently serving in the coy and those serving elsewhere.



Obstacle Course — Kiwi Style!

Ten Platoon

This year for 10 Pl started off when we departed for New Zealand, "EXERCISE IVANHOE". On arrival, our first destination was Mt Ruapao, which posed quite a treat, as we soon discovered that MAJ Slater had organised a stroll to the top. Lucky for us it was only 2820 metres high.

"EX IVANHOE" had been a learning experience for us all, we learnt a bit off the Kiwis and they learnt a lot off us. Highlights of our Tour of New Zealand: the museum of the history of the New Zealand Army, white water rafting in which most almost meet a watery grave amongst the Rapids, and Christchurch, where most of us discovered some real NZ hospitality.

Before we left NZ, we participated in "EX RED BAYONET" — D Coy's biannual MIL SKILLS Competition. PTE Vinson, from 10 Pl shined through, taking the event out. On the whole, the event left quite an impression on the Kiwi Senior Officers.

On returning to Oz, it was off for more holidays on Easter stand-down.

Then, all of a sudden, as it is every year, MIL SKILLS sneaked up on us. I don't need to go into the Nightmare that is the MIL SKILLS COMP, but at the end of the day, 10 Pl was placed 2nd best in the Battalion.

Now for the gust of the year. Firstly, we got to fire away a lot of Tax payers money at the Anti Armour Range, which produced some good shots and a few headaches. 10 Pl then managed to squeeze in a trip down to Bowen Rifle Range. Highlights from this trip included the three hour PT sessions, involving a run into Bowen, that even Robert De Costella would have had troubles with.

We also had the chance to walk through an Ares Ambush. But we never made it, it started to rain. In the end the Ares fired off their rounds and went home, slightly wet.

We were then back off to the jungle at Bluewater for "SILENT VICTOR" in which PL was pitted against Pl in the area that 10 Pl now calls "The Bluewater Triangle", near the end of the exercise, the 3 Pl made a treaty so we could hunt down CHQ. Members of 3 Sect found CHQ hiding away in thick wait-a-while. The 3 Pl attacked with no organisation and once CHQ was taken out, then proceeded in blowing each other away. It became one awesome flight.

D Coy managed to get down to Mt Vince twice, during these trips, excellent scores were achieved as only NCO's were in charge of the organisation.

LFX — another good achievement by 10 Pl, where we were placed up the front or in a position where the shit would hit the fan. Then it was "MAXI BEAGLE". We started off with an Airmobile insertion — flying over Phenom Paluma and over the Great Centre Lake (Dam). Once in the Jungle, 10 Pl made its first of many contacts with the enemy. Once we finally found our AO, we got onto our job of clearing it, which only took 1 day. We found a few signs of the infamous "POLPOTT SMOKERS". By day 2, we were in a new AO, and as we later found out, it was hot with 2 Pl of En. We moved out on Patrol, leaving PNR to guard our backs. While out on Patrol, PTE Holmes got to become the first kid on his block to get a confirmed kill of two.

Farewells go to:

LT "PT" Stuart — Recon Pl

CPL Frank Oreb — RP's



Ten Platoon

CPL "Bill" Cowen — Maggotts

PTE "Payne in the Arse" — Maggotts

LCPL "Bots" Bottomly — Maggotts

LCPL Regean — 11 Pl (Two arses)

PTE Gleeson — Truckies

PTE Jake Carlin — CHQ

PTE Adolf Vogel — CHQ

Honours, mentions in despatches.

Cross wait-a-while with Gypie Clasp:

CPL Cowen — for his action at the LFX Standing Patrol (and because he want a mention).

Purple Gypie:

PTE Mile — Wounded during action in Paluma

Section Kill Citation:

To all members of 3 Section for the Biggest Body Count "MAXI BEAGLE".

For Valour:

PTE Hadwen — For muffling his screams during a RAT Attack.