

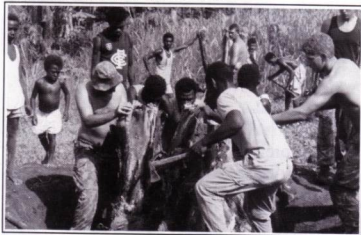
Exercise Wantok Warrior

During the period 29 May-21 June, Delta Company took part in *Exercise Wantok Warrior*, an annual company exchange exercise between the RAR and the RPIR. The Exercise was conducted in the West New Britain Province of Papua New Guinea. Australian soldiers have not operated in the province since World War Two.

Unlike previous years, this year's Exercise was not reciprocal. The only interaction between our soldiers and the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) was with the seven PNGDF members attached to the company for the duration of our deployment. They proved most valuable in all our dealings with the local population.

The Exercise was conducted out of a base camp located at the southern end of the Hoskins Airfield, with an area of operations extending west past the provincial capital of Kimbe, over to Vavua Mission in the east and past Waisisi Village to the south.

Below: The boys lend a hand to remove tree stumps



After the initial period of acclimatization (which included a brief by the local St John's Ambulance on local foods and bush medicines), the company embarked on the first phase of training. This phase consisted of *Exercise Black Knight* and *Exercise Mission Impossible*. *Exercise Black Knight* was a three day platoon level search and destroy operation and the exercise culminated in a platoon attack. *Exercise Mission Impossible* lasted six days and again was directed at platoon level. It involved each pla-

toon being deployed to the various church sponsored missions in the Hoskins area. During this activity each platoon conducted their normal training, aided the mission with a civil action task and practised taking resupply using heliboxes from Caribou aircraft.

On 10 June the company provided a military display



Mission Impossible - distribution of rations

to an estimated eight thousand spectators at Kimbe. This display coincided with the visit by the CO and the RSM. It was an enjoyable day and concluded with an official function at the San Remo Club, attended by the Australian High Commissioner Mr Allan Taylor.

Exercise Kulu Trek represented the major phase of the Exercise and enabled the OC to exercise the company as a whole. It was conducted around the Kulu River south west of Kimbe. During this phase the emphasis was placed on platoon attacks, ambushing and patrolling and culminated in a company level cordon and search operation on Ishmi Village; an activity which

excited the village inhabitants.

The final phase of our deployment was dedicated to adventure training and redeployment administration. Each member of the company was provided with an opportunity to undertake SCUBA diving or snorkelling at Walindi, visit Rabaul for a day and spend some time on a fishing boat. During this period the company was also to beat the local police rugby team 28-15.