

B COMPANY



With 1984 about to be given a "flick pass", the non ODF year has proved to be quite exciting. A synopsis of the year's activities is as follows:

Reinforcement Platoon

B Coy supported successive reinforcement platoons as they discovered the delights of Tully. Platoons, under the expert guidance of Lt's Manchip, Spencer, Bosi and Weaver, thoroughly enjoyed their allocated 32 inches of rain. Pte Novak, of A Coy, receives the night navigation award, for getting lost while driving a stolen landrover, when drunk and under open arrest.

Coy and PI Training

At both HRTA and Bluewater, the lads had an opportunity to get away and do their own thing, including a couple of route marches in preparation for BDE activities to follow and characterised by, One Section's abortive attempt at a river crossing - the raft was christened "the TITANIC".

Pte Cousins ably supported 6 PI, during the 35km walk out of Bluewater with the "travelling rock show" safety vehicle.

Ex 'Spartan Challenge' or 'What's on in Mingela?'

B Coy took the lead (again) during the 'Brigade Walkathon'. With a little help from our Recon friends (very little), we managed to walk 110km instead of the advertised 80. It just goes to show that "you can't beat bad luck".

Ex "Northern Warrior" - The Big One

B Coy was lucky this time as we were not the first to leave and we had a good split of activities during the first phase. We started with defence and ended with two days spent 'charging around' in APC's.

The next phase saw us venture to the green plains of Paluma, for the CRW phase. Then back to HRTA for the BDE attack. Comd 1 Div, Maj Gen Clunies-Ross, accompanied us on our move into the attack. No one was game to make him an offer on the Cocos Islands.

Pre Christmas Activities

With only a couple of months to go we again entered a period of frantic activity - Number three guard on the Colours Parade. Cpl Bell and his merry men supported D Coy as 'enemy' for Ex 'Diamond Dollar'. A large number of lads attended specialist courses, and B Coy ran the area Subject One for Corporal Course — the CSM lost some hair, but won't consider wearing a toupee.

Exercise Norther Warrior

As our major deployment exercise for the year, Ex "Northern Warrior" provided a good opportunity for a number of people to display their hidden talents:

- Cpl 'Fats' (I love patrols) Fairleigh, who was always in the right place at the wrong time.
- Pte Lam 5 PI (who tried to push both the 2IC and CSM into the creek). He discovered that they were both 'waterproof' and he found himself swimming.
- Lt (High Range is quite nice really) Knox, who arrived from England on Long Look Exchange, was soon acclimatised and within three days was complaining because he was cold!
- Cpl "have you seen a grown man naked?" Morris of 4 PI, who was literally 'caught with his pants down' by the enemy during the defence phase.
- Pte 'Quinnie' Urquhart, whose lady gave birth to a daughter 'Tallyn' during the APC phase. To commemorate the event Battle Group 'Tallyn', APC mounted, steam rolled the enemy.
- 6 PI is known to have a very definite character of its own. Two personalities stand out for their contributions to the exercise, Cpl Steve Bennett's 'angry eight sect' decided that things were a little dull around BHQ. He proceeded to liven up the party by contacting and conducting fire and movement against the IO and RSM's batman.

- Pte Geoffrey Horn, otherwise known as 'Frank Spencer', whilst communing with nature decided to sleep on an ants nest. Strangely, he woke up with a 'swollen head', and was able to do very good 'Mao Tse Tung' imitations for a number of days.

Tear Jerker Time

As the year draws to a close, it's time to think of the 'silly season' and a number of farewells.

The OC Major Steve (Der Fuerher) Ferndale, who moves to the dreaded BHQ to become the OPSO.

CSM, WO2 Keith (SAS) McLeay, departs 2/4 RAR on posting to 11 FF Gp. WOFTAMS beware - but at least it's Townsville!

Lt "Fotheringham-Smythe" Knox, who departs in early Dec for ye olde England. Remember Fothers - have a Fosters instead.

Lt "Roy the Boy" Manchip departs on promotion to 5 Trg Gp in sunny Perth — his home town. He is going to take an trenching tool to dig himself in!

Sgt Chris Barry who is now the OPS Sgt and holder of a 'Safe Riding' award. Dentures are issued as part of CES.

Sgt 'Bernie' Bernhardt returns to the 'sheltered workshop', Sig Pl.



Picnic at High Range.



Pte Cauchi and Pte De Yong take a stroll.



B Coy Athletics team.