

Exercise Scorpion Sting

The Bn deployed on *Exercise Scorpion Sting* straight from a week of live firing at HRTA. The exercise was conducted in the week 19-25 Jun '89 in the vicinity of Charters Towers and Ravenswood areas. The Bn was supported by B Sqn 3/4 Cav Regt.

After deploying to AO Snake, each company conducted clearing operations of their own AO. The AO itself was approximately 120km east to west and 90km north to south. A and C Coy were mounted in APC's and B Coy was motorized as required. Many lessons were learnt, particularly in regards to mounted operations, as the companies adjusted to the added mobility and protection of APCs. Much of the terrain was well suited to armour although areas of boggy ground and close country presented tactical problems for some companies.

The enemy were gradually cleared from the AO, with an enemy Coy remaining in the vicinity of Lornsleigh Homestead. The Bn proceeded to concentrate for a Bn attack against the enemy, who were well concealed in a series of Pl alternate positions. This resulted in a period of reconnaissance and probes as the location of enemy positions were identified. Due to the fact that the enemy were very well spread the Bn conducted a series of Coy attacks closing in on Lornsleigh Homestead itself. This was conducted by both day and night and was used by the Brigade Commander to assess the Battalion's battle procedure before assuming the role of ODF Battalion. It was a test which we passed with only minor problems. Overall the Brigadier believed our battle procedure as a unit was excellent. On completion the Battalion redeployed to Townsville by CC08 and TCV, once again victorious.

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