

8 PLATOON

It was a colossal year for the mighty Eight Platoon. LT (Jimmy the VB Bandit) Sagert marched into the Platoon. He was like danger mouse on steroids as the new Platoon Commander. We also had a fluctuation of Platoon SGTs under the 'Recycle an Old Fogie' scheme initiated by the Supreme King Understudy, Lord Leon (SKULL).

Military Skills saw the bandits performing well and finishing easily thanks to the great training by the Platoon Section Commanders.

After this it was time for a relaxing evening so Sara with LT Jimmy (The Bandit) Sagert at the helm and the Platoon hit Cactus Jacks. Their only ambition in lifeachieve total destruction of the joint. The evening resulted in one hell of a public display as Mac, throwing all caution to the wind, mooned the crowd. Maccas brand new look got standing ovations from the Platoon. It was then on to Tats Nightclub and with Jimmy's 'skinhead banditos' fully tanked up and unleashed, the poor unsuspecting nightclub stood no chance of repelling the hoards. Obviously it was a great night.

On the 15 July we were off again. This time to the States as our expertise was required over there to show the Yanks how it was done 'down under'. A great time was had by all. Here are some memorable moments and things to look out for....

- Yanks are dullards.
- Beware of pub crawl bus heavies.
- Beware of women with curry breath that go slurp in the night.
- Voodoo man, Choppers newly found attraction to little dolls.
- Beware of muggers trying to take your wallet, Hey Murph, 1 shin stomp and a head butt to go!
- Jimmy the bandit was introduced to 'Mahou'. He thought that it meant 'exotic lady'.
- Bourbon Street was a blast.
- Jason 'Jeremy Jordan' Fields had a flashback and thought that he was black.

As the year draws to a huge final, Jimmy and his beady eyed bandits look forward to standdown and block leave to perfect the art of being wasted in true bandito style.

As LT Jimmy 'The Bandit' Sagert and the P.E.H.A. kid march forward into the light of the new year, there is just one thought worrying his steely little mind.

"Will my Sam Browne hold up to such frequent use?"

And just remember that 'Bandits never die, they just do extra duties.'

N.B. Some of the names in this article have been altered to protect the innocent.



8 Platoon - training their way at the Staging Base

9 PLATOON

Well fellas, once again I have been asked to put pen to paper and finger to keyboard and deliver you yet another scintillating report that will have you just riveted to your seat.

Yes it's that time of year again when everyone submits 'The year as it happened' review. This is a chance for me to exercise my creative writing talents and tell you what Charlie Company did for the year '94' or failing that I could just deliver the 'old stand by essay' and tell you what I did during the holidays before sneaking out the window!

Well the year for us started off poorly with the Battalion leaving us behind as the 'On Line' Company. This found us working with the Rear Details crew and doing the odd guard etc. Even though we were working we had a fairly relaxing time.

We had a Company open day and a Company abseiling day. The open day was just a chance for the wives and families of our soldiers to see what went on in an Infantry Battalion. The morning started off with a blank range shoot at the 25m range, a face paint for the parents, and the day ended up with a BBQ for lunch at the boozie. We managed to keep the kids occupied by running them through the obstacle course about 30 times. Their day ended with minor team games as the parents collected their kids and left.

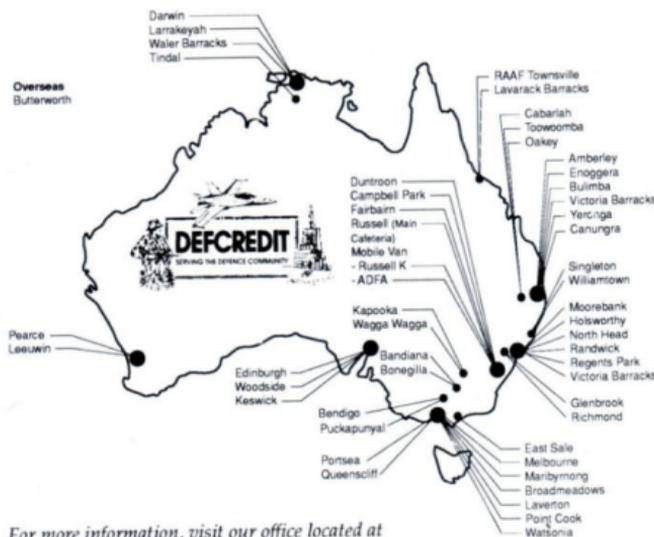
The day spent abseiling dawned bright and clear although degenerated into a light drizzle later on in the morning. With the help of PTE Forester, CPL Nelson and WO2 Helmrich we pushed to about 30 people, many of them young kids, off one of the cliffs on top of Mt Stuart.

After the Battalion arrived back from Christmas leave we had a few weeks of normalcy while we prepared for the mini Military Skills.

During this time we were called out to rescue some 'Special Force' Yanks that were lost out at high range looking for a parachute. They were dropped about 2km from the assumed position, told to walk in a certain direction until they came across it and then to wait until they were picked up again. They had no compass, no clothes apart from runners, shorts, and a singlet and 6 goffas between them. After 2 days the yanks requested our assistance. All were found alive and in various stages of dehydration. Having split up, one decided to remain in the shade of a tree, one went north and the other just walked.

The guy under the tree was found first, and as for the other two.....one saw a C130 Hercules fly overhead, (it was heading for Darwin), and decided to follow that and the other clown saw a goanna and followed that!

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I think that 'Special' was the school that these bozos went to. I wonder if they are qualified to enter things like 'Special' Olympics. I really am surprised that the space cadet under the tree didn't try to use the 'force'!

Well mini Military Skills came and went like a fire cracker in a letter box and then with a roar and a blinding whoosh of spray we were launched into air week. This saw Charlie Company, as part of the 2nd/4th Battalion, roaming around High Range and Paluma. The final phase of the exercise saw us landing in swamps. The temperatures were cooler at Paluma but the mozzies were bigger than Ben Hur.

It was in this exercise that 9 Platoon, decided to throw the Geneva Convention book out the window. After a daring re-enactment of 'The Guns of Navarone' 9 Platoon having scaled cliffs that made K2 look like a tea party and Cliff Hanger look like a wet dream, rolled up an enemy mortar section. It was then, during the heat of the battle, that the surrendering enemy were shot. After getting a severe dressing down from the WO2 in command of the section we went and pushed a few more of the enemy off the cliffs.

We came off that and went straight into a well deserved standdown. The next major exercise the company took part in was Exercise Black Widow. After having stacked the dead up on our final

protective fire line the Company was none too pleased to be informed that the next weekend we were being called out on a Brigade orientated readiness stab. This involved us being called out, hitting Shoalwater Bay, walking all night and all the next day, doing a company attack, and then flying out.

Military Skills was next. The company did reasonably well at this. From here on it was full steam ahead with preparation for Exercise Pacific Bond. Yet another good exchange/exercise.

After all our hard training for the Battalion athletics whilst over in the States, (not!), we were disappointed to only come second. But well done to Support Company. There's always next year guys.

At the moment all of us are looking forward to the Brigade stand down. Have a good holiday!



The bus to New Orleans - our favourite part of the EX.

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