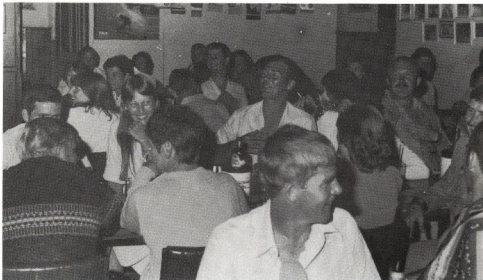


## EXERCISE LITTLE KRAFT — MORTAR PL ADVENTURE TRG 1983



*Mortars enjoying the Stage Door Theatre Restaurant*

Team members are as follows:-

### *Canoeists*

- Capt 'Chlorine' Hawke (OIC and expert at capsizing drill).  
Capt 'Doc' Millar (MO and Canoe building instructor).  
Cpl Ian Dow (BHQ Hanger on and Winner of the Concrete Canoe Award).  
Cpl 'Daisy' Burnett (Skint procurer and helps boss get back in).  
Lcpl Stanley Jones (Shark bait).  
Pte Mark Hardman (Can I bring my panel van).  
Pte 'Tinnie' Heron (I'll go if Sue will let me).  
Pte 'Grant Kenny' Jess (It should be great fun).  
Pte Mark Vaughan (Not as big as Tobruk are they).

### *Roadies*

- Sgt 'Obie' O'Brien (I'm too old for this shit).  
Sgt 'Stumpy' Randall (Surf lifesaving Instructor).  
Sgt 'H.J.' Smith (I'm not paddling out there).  
Pte 'Cha' Challinor (Is it safer than parachuting).  
Lcpl 'Blossom' Mearns (Comms).  
Pte 'Muppet' Van Haldren (Helps Blossom).

### *Gin Boats*

- Sgt Barry Brown (Stuff canoeing, I'm going fishing, water skiing).  
Sgt Bedry Neilens (Resort Liaison Officer).  
Cpl Keron O'Brien (Will I get sea sick).  
Pte Phil Price (Stinger clearance diver).

### *Special Support*

- Mrs Susan Dow (Canoe Construction, Supervision, coffee maker, AJ hater and generally great lady).

We haven't done it yet, but, it seems that the hard part (getting ready) is over and the actual exercise should be easy compared with the preparation and training. As I write, all the canoes have been completed and we are preparing for the second training paddle to Magnetic Island and back; it is getting easier I think — at least I don't capsize so much. With 'L' plates on we've also done numerous runs up and down the Ross River and at Pallarenda.

As with all great ideas, dreaming of what we would like to do was quite a different thing from actually setting about doing it. Where do you start?

The planning and preparation has proved to be a challenging and interesting learning experience for all concerned — as it should be for an adventure training project.

The concept was 'simply' to build some ocean going kayaks and paddle off somewhere interesting. So the planning (and hard work) started. The route chosen was from Lucinda to Cowley Beach as it provided a variety of water conditions and even though some distance from the mainland in sections, no leg would take us more than five miles from shore or island. In addition the resort areas on Hinchinbrook Island, Dunk Island and Mission Beach have the potential to provide the 'recreation' aspect of the exercise.

The 'where' settled, now a selection committee called on expert help from the North Queensland Canoe Club and received both advice and assistance with selecting the design and setting up a building

program using a club mould and workshop underneath Cpl Dow's Married Quarter. Working with fibreglass proved to be more difficult that it initially looked but that could be the subject of another book itself. Suffice to say, that the group bounced along improving all the way from disasters to minor disasters until all ten were completed, secure in the knowledge that 'next time' each of us could do it right! We all have fond memories of those late nights and in some cases early mornings under Ian Dow's house tarred and feathered the modern way with plastic resin and glass fibres, trying to do the join inside the nose with a pot of resin that's going hard — What was that, "Never again" you say!

By the end of November we'll be ready and at the end of the 140km we hope to paddle there will be heaps more stories to tell of the adventures along the way, but like I said at the start of this article, "the hard part is over isn't it...?"

## HOW THINGS DON'T GO AS PLANNED COMPLIED BY THE PHOTOS

*Like the American XO who chased Kangaroos with Whiz Bangs. Then wasn't seen for two days.*

*The night the Despatch rider from 103 Sigs took out the Switchboard.*

*The donation of 2/4 RAR SOI to the Kamarians.*

*The Bde Sigs who could not get communications (from Brodme?).*

*Cpl Bones listening to the enemy net — got a bit suspicious when a call sign David was told to spell cat.*

*Pers Log tent going AWOL during a dust storm.*

*The RSO did not get the OC SPT tree at Roebourne for a Commcen.*

*Sig PI did not lose a radio.*

*The Bn 2IC finding the Sigs Goffa's (in the RAP fridge?).*

*People sleeping on the grass at Roebourne.*

*Stage 1 Defences.*

*B Coy BBQ with codes and rifles and sleeping gear. (Shortage of wood?)*

*26 vehicle wheels going flat in the last 36 hours (didn't anyone want to leave the west?).*



Loss of Comms was poorly received.



Rear view of Sig.



STEWIE GRANT AT COEN  
"LAST TIME I GO SLOPS  
ON RONCEVICH."



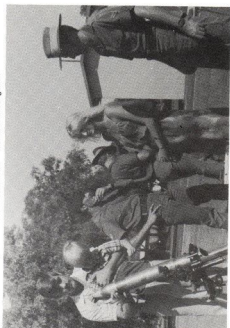
*Lt Brough and Sgt McGhie planning a ratoon PH*



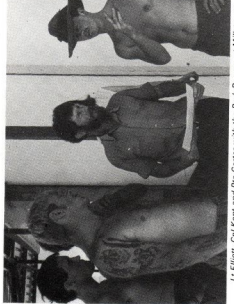
*Sgt 'Wombles' Bernhardt — the Radio Sergeant*



*Pre Woods talking midgin*



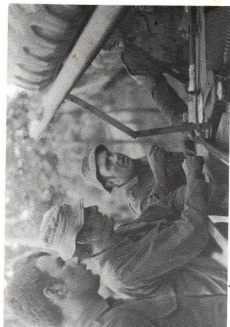
*Cpl O'Brien with Cpl Dow and wife at the Open Day*



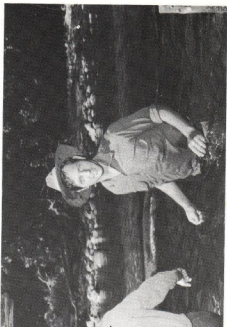
*Lt Elliott, Cpl Kent and Pie Carter with the Park Ranger at Millstream*



*Lt Elliott with Pie Williams fishing at Tully*



*Where did it go? Pie Jess, SSgt Vincent and Sgt O'Brien*



*"Whato" testing the depth*