

# C COMPANY

## Training

The Coy started the year with the Subject 2 for Cpl Course which gave our NCO's a chance to sharpen up their instructional techniques. The course went well and produced some good potential NCO's. The student of merit was Lcpl Warke of D Coy.

## C Coy at FFBS April 1984

The Coy exercise at the FFBS began as all exercises at Tully begin, with a march along muddy roads in the rain. After this initial ordeal and 7 Platoon finally finding the scale A accommodation, the training programme on weapons and basic skills began. This was followed by some very arduous section work. The only thing not running true to form was the weather: it had stopped raining!

The platoons rotated through the field firing range, conducted ambushes and other activities. We were fortunate to be able to gain experience in operating with helicopters from 35 Squadron which amongst other things saved us walking to and from the ranges. Those of us who had never experienced the rats at Tully learnt very quickly why you put your rations at the bottom of your pack. Still no rain!

The obstacle course followed and it was decided to have a prize for the fastest section. After much heated discussion over allowances for time for varying section strengths the OC decided on a draw. Still it did not rain!

The training concluded with a short Coy exercise culminating with an ambush. Of course Tully being Tully, at the worst possible time it rained. Next morning it was back to the scale A accommodation where the soldiers found out all about the soldiers test lane. The company created a first in that it departed the FFBS in US Army Black Hawk helicopters flying at banana tree level as only the Yanks can do.

## Ex "Primest Tempest"

Held between 7-10 May '84, the coy went through live firing stands by platoons. "Primest Tempest" consisted of live fire section attacks and section defence, finishing with a delightful 15km route march. It was a good time to get back to basics and valuable lessons were learnt.

## Ex "Long Shot"

C Coy conducted ex Long Shot from 21-25 May '84. Mt. Vince provided an ideal venue for good shooting with Pte Lake best shot in the RUR and Cpl Skaines topping the Applied Marksmanship.

## Ex Spartan Challenge

With the Battalion we deployed on the night of 4 Jun '84 not knowing what lay ahead. With bounds such as Toad Hall and Plug Hole we hoped they were not omens of what was to come.

Attached to us was the Padre who went well until he tried to jump an ants nest. Nine platoon came to the rescue and carried him the hard way for 10km to earn beer. Everyone carried live ammunition and was conscious of where it was except for Pte Jolly who will never forget to do what he is told again. Pte Henderson was "lost" on the first night and found out to his surprise who Hardrock really was. Left with only two water bottles for 4 days he arrived back in the Battalion somewhat parched.

No-one will forget the night we walked all night and only moved 3km. Other points of note were the 10 minute stop that was an hour long and the 80km march that became 110km. It took a gutsy effort to complete the journey and everyone learnt from the experience.

## Ex Northern Warrior

Charlie did the air phase first and it was good to see the choppers co-operate and do what we wanted. The air drops proved the point we must learn to expect the unexpected, and eight platoon learnt what water discipline meant.

The OC proved he had nerves of steel during the drop at RV Prince while the CSM and 2IC showed how well they can do a 100m dash. This was followed by the APC phase which went well.

After a four day break it was on to the LFX then to defence. During the defence, Sgt Kahler lit the Olympic torch while Cpl Stokes proved he could navigate. We were plagued by mobile dandruff but the RMO soon fixed that by short back and sides, 'all over', to the carriers.

Then off to Mt. Spec for 8 days to fight the rats. Eight platoon went to Bn HQ to retrain them while Seven and Nine perfected track squatting. This was an enjoyable phase and some old lessons were learnt.

The last phase was the Bde attack. It was good to practise the battle procedure required, and practise clearing strong points, running through mine fields and other battle craft. After it was all over we were glad to see the sights of Townsville and wave goodbye to High Range for 1984. In doing so we also bid farewell and good soldiering to some stalwarts:

Maj Charlesworth to Admin Coy

Capt Hill to IO

Lt Nairn to Asst Adjt

WO2 Monaghan to 9 RSAR

Sgt Duncan to 9 RQR

Cpl's Akatow and Sullivan to Inf Centre

Cpl Elliott to WRAAC School

Cpl Chester to A Coy, and

Lcpl Croagh to Admin Coy.



*The 2IC on top of the bunker.*



*H HR is when — OC Charlie*

## 7 PLATOON

1984 has been a big year for Seven. It started with a big bang with the arrival of the new PT gear; gone were the sandshoes and shorts and in came boots and greens. It was a sudden jump straight from BRL. There were not many bush trips this year but we made up for it by having more duties. The men became highly proficient in the art of dixie bashing and gardening.

Our first bush trip was Tully. We learnt the art of jungle fighting and for 8 days walked, ran, fought and won our battle with the FFBS and left not to return for another 12 months. One highlight in Tully was a chopper ride in a yank Black Hawk. The PI then travelled to the distant land of Mackay to conduct a highly successful range week.

Personnel changes in the PI this year:

Cpl Brady to Spt Coy

Cpl Akatow arrived very quickly from Spt Coy

Pte Gaskell posted to RASIGS

Pte Keynes - OCS (Waste of a good soldier)

Sgt Duncan - posted to Tully (remedial training)

Sgt Cowell - from Kapooka

Pte Weston - returned to Sgt Mess

Pte's Taylor, Crowther and Trevorrow to CHQ and finally last but not least Lt Baumgart, who has finally heard the calling and travelled to the land of OZ (Spt Coy). He will be remembered always (at least the PI is all white now).

Well the year is almost at an end and most of the predictions have come true. The Bde Camp was as big as Ben Hur but the stand down earned was worth it. All we have to do now is sit out the rest of the year and stay out of trouble.

**Editors Note:** The latter will be difficult.



*Cpl Elliott, Sgt Duncan, Pte Whitechurch, Pte Moyle, Pte Fraser.*