

ADMIN COY HQ



QC Admin Maj "Charlie" Charlesworth

1985 saw a complete change at the top of Admin Coy. Major Charlesworth left the rigours of rifle coy life behind him for the challenge of wielding the whip hand in the echelon, Capt Mulraney (when not in Sydney) became the battalions resident "roach". The Admin Coy triumvirate was complete for '85, with the addition of WO2 Gridley.

Many consider Admin Coy HQ a sleeping dragon that only stirs from its sleep when deployed in the field. However careful observation this year revealed that an element of the HQ failed even to achieve consciousness, on a daily basis, when deployed, unless his unsuntanned body had received more than an ample quota of undisturbed rest reclined on a stretcher.

The two major deployments for A Ech this year — Ex Eager Eaglet and Ex Swift Eagle, provided the Coy HQ with more than enough scope to exercise our fetish for nocturnal work.

The deployment of A Ech by air to HRTA, for Ex Swift Eagle, saw a few more grey hairs emerge in the manicured brows of members of HQ. As the 2IC paddled bravely trying not to drown in the sea

of paperwork others sat patiently at Garbutt for six hours after having been rushed over so as not to miss their scheduled flight — ho hum "such is life!"

Our ability to redeploy with lightning speed is surpassed only by the speed with which we can man a helicopter LZ. By the end of Ex Swift Eagle we had almost mastered the art of crystal balling for determining when a resupply helicopter was inbound to our location.

The hardest thing to hold this year in Admin Coy HQ was a CQMS. No sooner did we get one than he went on LSL and when SSGT Legge arrived he was snuffed by A Coy for exercises. (Now we only have to listen for his whistle to find him!!)

WO2 Gridley may have the roar of a tiger but he certainly does not have the teeth of one. Numerous times on exercise the monotony of routine was broken by the toothless impersonations of a hill-billy with crowns on his sleeves.

Some personalities will change next year but hopefully life in Admin Coy HQ will continue to be full of surprises.



CSM Admin and SSGT Legge — Swift Eagle

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MEDICAL PLATOON



RMO Capt Keith McNeil — Dr Extraordinary!

1985 has proved to be an interesting year to say the least for the merry medicos. We said goodbye to SSgt Bruce McDonald who scored a cushy little posting in a civilian hospital in Melbourne. Sgt Ian Palmblad certainly did not complain about his posting to Aviation centre and Cpl Rodney Funn left us to impress all down in 1 Fd Hosp.

To replace these noble warriors SSgt Gerry Cloney, Sgt Paul Herma and Cpl Trevor Roberts arrived to enjoy the infinite pleasures of serving in a battalion.

As usual the many exercise commitments have kept us on the boil and Staff Cloney on the verge of mental illness trying to find enough medics to go round.

Sgt Herma settled into the RAP and between swan trips to the Cape, rapelling courses and pneumonia has managed to master the intricacy of the indenting system.

Cpl Wall had to forsake gliding for a four week trip to PNG with Delta Coy and then managed a three week detachment to the Battle School in Tully, a place he seems to, unexplainably enjoy. Here's hoping he returns with lots of stories to keep us all entertained for hours on end.

Speaking of stories, Cpl Mark (The Pig) Newlands started the year off with an all expenses paid, seven day holiday with the SASR an experience he recommends for anyone not in the medical corps. After his return he set about showing us all his new found skills with trips away with Bravo Coy and then volunteering his services as the Sect Comd for Admin Coy in the Mil Skills competition. What a man!

Pte Eric Solien was seen fleetingly in the RAP after one of his many bush trips and was very keen to get home and reacquaint himself with wife and daughter. Eric at the moment is looking forward to a posting at the end of the year to 11 Fd Amb and avoiding any form of field work.

Cpl Trevor Roberts and Charlie Coy hit it off right from the start and Robo has carefully tended to their every wish throughout the year. He left us for six weeks to pass his Sub One for Sgt with consummate ease and has proven himself to be a great asset to the medical platoon.

1985 has been a blinder for Cpl Barry Bryan. After returning and recovering from Malaya he ploughed into the years activities with total disregard for his personal safety and well being. The sporting arena has in fact been his forte this year. If not actually on the field of play he made damn sure he was sitting on the side line with a med kit tucked under his arm. His PR 66 tells us that the only thing he can't do is walk on water but he has assured everybody that this minor problem will be rectified next year.

Cpl Blue (the Blowfly) McGufficke has emerged from the depths of the RAP to do the occasional health inspection and check on Bn hygiene. His two week spraying programme in which an attempt was made to poison everybody in the Bde proved unsuccessful and he is now eagerly awaiting his posting north, to 1 RAR.

Pte's Bob Bakkers and Mark Pennicuik have lent a helping hand in the RAP this year and their assistance in running the desk and odd jobs has been greatly appreciated. We are all eagerly awaiting the day Mark tells us a joke that we haven't already heard.

And finally, the phantom RMO. What a year Capt McNeil has had, representing the Bn in Rugby and basketball and then a trip to Sydney with the Bde rugby side, he has been involved in rapelling courses and has generally enjoyed his stay in 2/4 RAR. The Doc leaves us at the end of the year and staff Cloney is praying his replacement has lots more patients.

S.D. McGufficke,
Cpl

TECHNICAL SUPPORT PLATOON

With a quote "lets not let this Military bullshit interfere with the running of our Echelon." '85 had begun.

The beginning of the year saw three new march ins. CFN's Ian Conway, Tony Minintti and "Harry" Harrison.

As the year began, the old hands returned to find that nothing had changed and were eagerly awaiting for the next leave period to start. But on the first Battalion muster parade it was noted there was a change, the CO permitted the wearing of our native uniform again, shorts and jackets.

Time passed quickly until "Ex Eager Eaglet" or other wise known as "Busted Budgie". As we had hoped it was over quickly. Then came "Ex Swift Eagle" with all our preparation approximately 6 weeks for a 10 minute flight. The wait on the Tarmac was almost as long as the preparation time, which only goes to proved that the RAAF works on the same lines "Hurry up and wait".

During the following weeks of "Ex Northern Warrior." Tech Spt Provided R.A.C.Q. Repair on the road runs to and from Mt Spec. Our small arms and general engineering section were constantly busy by minor repairs to unit weapons and the repair of Gen sets. Our Radio Mech again proved to be a complete waste of rations, as a Radio Mech but was useful to make up the numbers on the Gun Roster and to lend a hand to the other members during the high pressure times.

These were the two main excercises but throughout the year Tech Spt provided the Technical Support to the Company's during their training weeks at Mt Vince and their various courses and activities.

As the Battalion Sports commenced Tech Spt again showed its prowess on the sporting fields with the following members representing the Battalion in their chosen sports. Jeff Gittos in the highjump, golf, volleyball; Ian Conway in hockey and pistol shooting; Mick Arden in badminton; Trevor Gaulke in orienteering; Ken Brown in Cross Country; Jeff Biddle in tug-of-war and pistol shooting.



TECH SPT PL 'O' GROUP.

Jeff Gittos was selected for inter service for volleyball and Mick Arden was selected for inter service for badminton.

Tech Spt was further involved in Company level sports where Tony Samson captained the Company squash side. Tony Minintti and "Harry" Harrison starred in the soccer team. Mark Keft participated in Admin Company's victory against 9 Transport Sqn in the Pogo Cup Rugby League Game.

With the sporting commitments completed all members returned to work only to find the A.S.M. (Artificer Sergeant Major. For all you non Technical minded people) WO2 Trevor Cook known to his workers as "The Phantom" (Due to the number of O Groups he has to attend each day.) Somewhat prematurely aged and grey due to the amount of work and lack of workers. As the work load decreased so did the amount of grey hairs.

As the year moved on we were to see more staff changes with the arrival of Bob Steven to replace Brian (ABBA) Anthony and Trevor Gaulke came to replace John Buscher.

1985 has proved to be an active and an eye opening year.

QM PLATOON



QM Capt Brian Adstead



Cpl Wyllie



"Who has the cards, men?"

Pte's Horn, Bradshaw, Cpl Wyllie, Pte's Bedding, Sheehan, Cpl Jackson and Pte Meehan