

# Kangaroo '89

From Jul-Sep '89 the ADF participated in the largest peace time exercise ever conducted in Australia. In keeping with the emphasis of the 1987 Defence White Paper the exercise was conducted in northern Australia and involved 25,000 ADF personnel operating in the air, on the sea and the continent from Port Hedland in the west to Weipa in the east.

2/4 RAR's involvement in K89 occurred in three distinct phases. In Phase One the Bn conducted sub-unit training and acclimatization in an area east of Pine Creek. During this Phase, coys rotated through APC famil, day and night patrolling and ambush activities. The major activity was the establishment and occupation of FSB GRAMM, within which each sub-unit practised relief in place and defence routine. This phase culminated with a Battalion attack on Evelyn Airfield and the Moline Mine.

Phase Two was controlled by HQ 3 Bde and was conducted in Pine Creek and its near environs. Lucky Bravo Coy was tasked to protect the township. D Coy was located at Francis Creek, A Coy became the Bde Res and C Coy was tasked to control the GAFA. At the end of this phase the Bn was reacted at very short notice by HQ 1 Div to deploy by night to



*K89 – last day and back into the junk food*

Willeroo, some 200km south.

The Third Phase and finale commenced with an air move from the BMA to Ngukurr – the largest tactical air deployment, in peace, in the history of the ADF. From Ngukurr, the Bn conducted battle procedure for a night attack on the enemy position at Roper Bar.

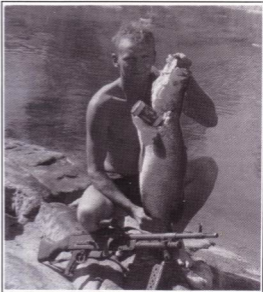
On 30 Sep, the Bn redeployed to Townsville by Qantas 747. The luxury was most welcome after the heat and the dust. All personnel were much more aware of the difficulties of operating in northern Australia, and the commanders and staff with the complexities of exercising command and logistics over vast distances.



*The Bde Comd briefing the CO in the FUP – are there any questions? (K89).*



4 Pl B Coy — Pte Sheffield and LCpl Frost



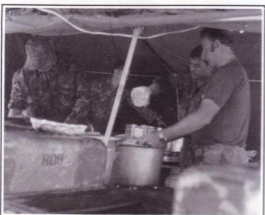
Pte Miller manning the BHQ gun — with friend



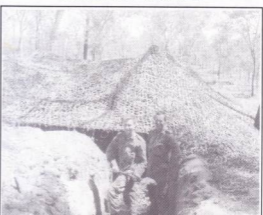
4 Pl B Coy — Pte Johnson, Hogben, Lt Smith, Pte Lawson



Returning home in style from K89



The battlefield kitchen — we sustain!



The Doc and Sgt Simmonds — digging the RAP! (K89)