



1990 has been a great year for the Battalion, and a busy one. We started at an electric pace, being recalled early from leave in January, and seem never to have slowed down. It has been a demanding year for us all, and I have not heard or seen any evidence of idleness. I congratulate you all on the professionalism you have shown and the long hours you have worked.

I have been extremely proud of the Battalion's performance this year. In barracks our regimental standards have been maintained and our facilities improved significantly. On the parade ground and within the community the Battalion has earned great admiration. In inter-unit sporting and shooting competitions we have had our most successful year for some time — including winning the Commander's Trophy in grand style. But we are soldiers first, and most importantly we have proved ourselves on the many exercises and deployments throughout the year. "Duty First" has remained our motto, and "readiness" has been our creed. We have all learnt a lot and I have been extremely pleased with the improvement in soldier skills that has occurred throughout the year. I particularly wish to salute our junior NCOs. The Battalion is nothing more than a collection of sections and it is the Section Commanders

and 2ICs who will determine success or otherwise on the battlefield. We have proved ourselves in the field (particularly in the jungle) and can be proud, but never complacent, of our efforts.

There is not sufficient space for me to thank individually all those who have done their job to make mine so easy. It has been my honour and privilege to have been your Commanding Officer and I will take with me many fond memories. I am often heard to say that the Battalion is like a large friendly family; but perhaps it is more a dynasty, and only those who have belonged and served can comprehend its true value and strength. I look forward to seeing many of you again, and will watch with great interest to see how 2/4 fares in the years ahead. Sadly for me I must now pass on the mantle of command, but I charge all those who continue to serve in 2/4 to maintain and enhance our regimental standards and traditions.

This Magazine helps remind us of what we achieved during the year. Read it and gloat proudly.

Duty First, as always!

LTCOL Mike Smith