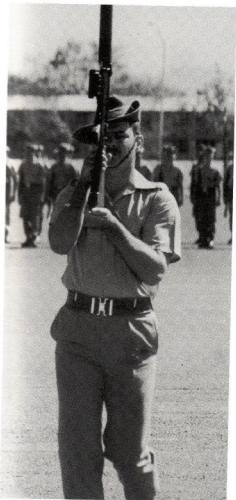


## B COMPANY FOLLIES: 1983 IN REVIEW

Well, 1983 is about to be "kicked into touch", and in retrospect it wasn't such a bad year, as far as Bravo Company was concerned. We've seen a lot of new faces arrive, and more than a few old ones depart, either for OCS (Old Civvy Street) or inter-unit transfers and so on.

A brief review of the year's activities reads like this:



*The CSM on parade for a change*

**Reinforcement Platoon** — Tully led by Lt Dave "Rowdy" Rawson, the lads set off the Tully very early in the year, to "get back to basics". They were heard singing "Hard Rains' a Gonna Fall" as they left.

**Company Training** — **Bluewater** graphically described in Cpl Lyle Maybury's book, "Close Country Navigation in Two Easy Lessons (and Forty-eight Hard Ones)" 9 SECT 6PL put its principles into practice.

**Exercise Close Encounter** — **Paluma** A Close encounter of the worst kind with the Rats of Paluma, topped off with a remake of the Adventures of Noah and his Ark, starring B Company!

**NBC Training** Conducted by Sgt "Gas Gas Gas" Duncan, and summed up in the Village People's hit "In the Navy", (that's where everyone wished they were).

**RUR Competition** — **Mt. Vince** It's not often we get to shoot on a golf course! (That's what the range looked like). The prevailing conditions, supplemented by culinary delights (courtesy of our erstwhile chefs Pte "No Worries" Riley and Pte Brewer), and ample recreation activities added up to an atmosphere conducive to good shooting. The good results topped off a memorable week, except for "Billy" Frame who destroyed enough brain cells to ensure he won't remember anything of the week.

**Exercise Maxi Beagle** Back to Bluewater for two weeks, amidst a late "wet". The amount of walking done was demonstrated by several burnt-out pall counters. Films in the field proved an interesting diversion, as did the Taipan Cpl Mark Casey found in his hutchie.

**Exercise Northern Run** Notable events included the misplacement of SPT and 3 SECT, who were to be aerial inserted as cut-offs. They were "cut-off" from the rest of the Coy by about 3—8 km. SPT SECT made it to the end of the war, but 3 SECT barely made it in time for dinner! Shortly afterwards the troops received an air drop of hot box rations, the first since 1974 according to the Air Despatchers. To add a bit of "flare" it was done at night. Thanks to spot-on accuracy from Ronnie RAAF, it was even edible. Major Ferndale thought he was featuring on another menu, when he bumped a small croc on the Stewart River. To top off the exercise, the Head Terrorist (Police Sgt Tom East) was finally put out of action in a shoot-out behind the Coen pub, much to the amusement of the locals.

**Exercise Kangaroo 83** As ODF Priority Com. B Coy led the push to W.A. A selection of headlines best tells the story (extracts from the "Crittter Creek Chronicle"):

### "Sharpenders Arrive

**Dateline Roebourne  
International Airport 24 Sep 83**

This morning at the crack of dawn, the spearhead of the ODF Coy Group arrived to receive the airhead for Exercise Kangaroo 83. In successive lifts, the remainder of the Coy Gp, interspersed with RAAF advance elements, arrived amidst the developing dustbowl.

With the CP established in the "Airport Terminal" building, CHQ found itself at the hub of a rapidly developing organisational wheel. With the only 'phone in the area, queues of anguished RAAF, Army and Navy types developed phoning "home" for essentials left behind in the rush. Minor items mostly, like, rations, water, ammunition, POL and the like. 176 AD SQN had it squared away, with ice cold coffas on sale shortly after arrival."

### "Wickham Our Home Away From Home

Arriving on his recon, 2IC B was rendered speechless (a rare occurrence) by the extent of facilities offered to the Company by THE COMPANY, Cliffsrobe River Iron Associates.

To indicate the adaptability of the lads from Bravo, complaints were received about draughts caused by the air conditioning, noises from washing machines (installed by THE COMPANY for our use), and the inadequacy of the levelling devices on the pool table in the Coy CP.

Other highlights included: GPL impromptu barbecue (grilled Mlb and sautee SLR a speciality) 4PL Bushfire Sweepstakes (or pick the arsonist). Organised and won by "Gino" Cauchi, whose half platoon put their money on the other half involved in yet another fire".

### "Lots O' Luck

**Cossack Beach W.A.,  
28 Sep - 1 Oct**

Logistics over the shore was the name of the game, and B Coy was again at the forefront (or waterfront), lurking in the spinifex or in the deserted buildings on Cossack. The local kiosk did a roaring trade, the fish were biting and the Kamarians were active. Hidden amongst the droves of media and V.I.P.'s wandering around, Kamarian saboteurs tried their hand at infiltration, but were being apprehended in rapid succession. One reluctant prisoner tried to escape from the clutches of the OC, but being pinned to the ground at the neck ended that plan.

The Navy showed how it's done, arriving in jock straps, thongs and straw hats until the media were sighted, when it was on with helmets, uniforms! flash masks and weapons manned in best "Patrol Boat" style. Fortunately for naval prestige, no media people were on hand to see the LCH run aground about 100m from shore (that never happened to Andrew McFarlane)."

### "Aid to the Civil Community

**Dateline Broome:**

4 Sect SPL figured in a local drama when, on a mobile patrol, they witnessed an infant "native" hurled from the back of an erratically driven utility. The human projectile landed on the road, but failed to detonate. Halting immediately to render assistance, the lads repaired the puncture in the Rug Rat's cranium, and managed to reassure and calm the hysterical mother. The local authorities arrived on the scene and a successful cateval was completed, despite later references in the local rag to and "Army Vehicle Running Down Local Child!"

### "Army Sparks Industrial Action

**Dateline Cape Lambert  
Tue 27 - Fri 30 Sep**

With B Coy protecting the proposed disembarkation point, a strike threatened as a result of workers being detained and questioned on their way to work. Suspected of being Kamarian saboteurs, the workers were no longer harassed once it was realised the Kamarians were easily recognised by the fact that they were wearing running shoes as opposed to the mining worker's suede GP's.

Having established a rapport with the workers, 6 PL got into the act by threatening strike action, when only one flavour of ice cream was found to be available."

### Liberation of Broome

The sight of 60 fierce Australian soldiers, riding in a semi-trailer dump truck, obviously scared hell out of the Kamarians occupying Broome. The unusual mode of transport was provided by a local "Cockie", who drove us at breakneck speed into Broome airport, to enable B Coy to secure it for the good guys".

### Action at Roebourne

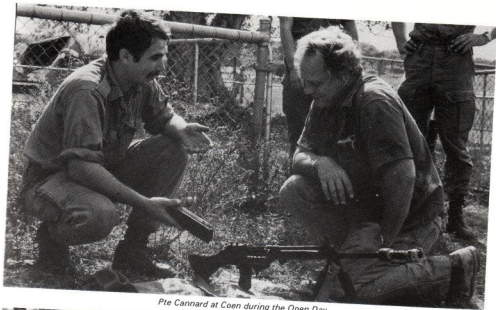
On a brief rest period between missions, the boys from Bravo found themselves in the thick of it once again. With the rest of the Bn hunting Kamarians at Millstream, B Coy found out why no one else was getting any contacts; the bad hats were back at Roebourne! After taking out an OP near A Echelon, conducting an early morning raid on Whim Creek which netted an transport plane and 15 baddies, the lads set off to Wittenoon, getting mortared and ambushed on the way to the airport!"



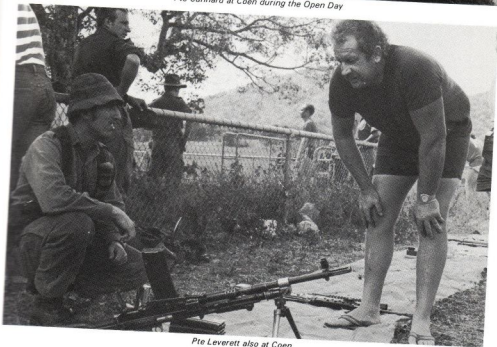
*Cpl Calarco and Cpl Bennett at Bluewater*



*Pte Tracey cleans his machine*



*Pte Cannard at Coen during the Open Day*



*Pte Leverett also at Coen*