



The coy started the year with an outstanding result in the Sect Mil Skills Competition with all eight sect finishing in the top 19 places. Understandably, morale and esprit-de-corps were quite high after this result. This standard continued throughout the year with the various mil skills trophies ending up on the wall in our orderly room. We did very well on the sports fields as well. The result of everyone's efforts has been the return of the Schlyder Shield to the senior coy. All coy members should take pride in these achievements. This pride was evident quite early if I recall, when Spt Coy was required to defend its honour in the ETVCC on ANZAC DAY. Like the original ANZACS the boys acquitted themselves very well.

The year has been a busy one; one in which

quantity and quality became confused and produced some frustration for us all. Nevertheless everyone did their best to get on with the job. You should remember though, that as an ODF Bn our mission is very clear — **success** in military operations. The various competitions are only a means to that end.

I thank you all for your efforts throughout the year and I wish you all the best in the future. To the wives, thank you for the support that you have given this year, it has allowed us to get on with our very important job. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

## Spt Coy 1989

### CHG

Maj M. Probert  
Capt G.J. Mitchell  
Lt B.H. Horn  
WO2 P.S.P. Orth  
SSgt G.S. Stewart  
Cpl W.R. Bergwerf  
LCpl P.L. Ferrari  
Pte R.S.G. Allan

### Pnr Platoon

Lt W.M.B. Shaw  
Sgt C.R. Meuleners  
Cpl D. Hunt  
Cpl P. Nemme  
Cpl T.D. Schwartz  
LCpl R.S. Allan  
LCpl T. Bell  
LCpl R. Thompson  
Pte N.J. Barrett  
Pte D.J. Bates  
Pte M.F. Dean  
Pte N. Ellerton  
Pte J.W. Hando  
Pte J.C. Harkness  
Pte L.S. Lloyd  
Pte G.D. Murray  
Pte R.W. Revell  
Pte W.D. Saunderson  
Pte W.F. Voegeler  
Pte J.B. Ward-Worley  
Pte W.J. Wharton  
Pte J.P. Ziernicki

### Mor Platoon

Capt W. Jensen  
Lt C.A. Field  
Sgt J.L. Glover  
Sgt E.J. Hancock  
Sgt E.E. Randall  
Cpl M.A. Donaldson  
Cpl A.J. Elliott  
Cpl B.W. Grace

Cpl P.J. Stephens  
LCpl S.G. Pope  
LCpl M.J. Williams  
LCpl M.A. Wright  
Pte A.G. Bambrook  
Pte M. Bateman  
Pte B.S. Bowman  
Pte B.H. Comley  
Pte C.A. Cowburn  
Pte D.J. Gibson  
Pte S.J. Gillam  
Pte T.K. Hawkin  
Pte G.A. Johnston  
Pte S.R. Jones  
Pte G.J. Kruger  
Pte P.D.J. Lawrence  
Pte W.D. Marthick  
Pte B.J. Meyer  
Pte B. Milligan  
Pte C.S. Rhodes  
Pte A. Rogers  
Pte B.W. Sims  
Pte B.T. Smith  
Pte N.A. Trumble  
Pte R.A. Walker

### Recon Platoon

Lt N.A. Withycombe  
Sgt K.F. Challands  
Sgt S.A. King  
Cpl W. Lampard  
Cpl D.A. Linton  
Cpl S.A. Moore  
Cpl S.A. O'Conner  
LCpl D.J. Bennett  
LCpl S.W. Lawrance  
LCpl R.A. Rootham  
LCpl M.R. Wishart  
Pte D. Ashworth  
Pte C.J. Hes  
Pte B.I. Horne  
Pte C.J. Lee  
Pte C.A. Mackie

Pte S.A. Newman  
Pte D.R. Oldham  
Pte R.S. Pearson  
Pte J.E. Phillips  
Pte C.D. Taylor  
Pte N.R. Thompson  
Pte M.J. Torrens  
Pte S.M. Walker  
Pte D.J. Wood

### Sig Platoon

Capt R.F. Baumgart  
Sgt J.W. Bain  
Sgt M.R. Carley  
Cpl J.C. Bryde  
Cpl D.J. Chesney  
Cpl C.J. Drayton  
Cpl C.N. James  
Cpl G.E. Kirk  
Cpl G.E. Wilson  
LCpl P.J. Barron  
LCpl G.A. Bartlett  
LCpl M.W. King  
LCpl D.S.S. Trill  
Pte P.A. Cowell  
Pte L. Frelta  
Pte R.P. Garnett  
Pte R.K. Hobson  
Pte C.D. Hocking  
Pte I.J. Hoole  
Pte J.W. Kelly  
Pte M.A. Kirwan  
Pte R.B. Knox  
Pte P.C. Malone  
Pte S. McDonald  
Pte S.F. Norton  
Pte C.J. Penfold  
Pte B.G. Price  
Pte M.W. Reynolds  
Pte B.J.D. Snijders  
Pte G.A. Vaughton  
Pte D.S. Young

### BHQ

LtCol M.G. Smith  
Maj S.F. Blinkhorn  
Maj M.L. Webb  
Capt J.M. Griffin  
Capt D.W. Phillips  
Capt M.D. Slater  
Lt M.K. Gallegos  
Lt S.M. Eames  
Lt S.J. O'Bryan  
WO1 G.R. Hansen  
WO2 D.L. Harmsworth  
Sgt S.R. Butcher  
Sgt M.J. A. Downing  
Sgt D.C. Lowe  
Sgt R.J. McPherson  
Sgt R.H. Senior  
Sgt E. Young  
Cpl N. Coleman  
Cpl V.R. Falcochcio  
Cpl T. Jolly  
Cpl P. Punchard  
Cpl C.A.J. Smith  
Cpl C.D. Smith  
Cpl M.H. Taylor  
Cpl B. von Xanten  
LCpl W.J. Cowen  
Pte S.J. Barritt-Eyles  
Pte D.K. Edwards  
Pte C.E. Hull  
Pte L.C. Lyons  
Pte E.A. McGarry  
Pte P.W. Miller  
Pte J.S. Nicholls  
Pte B.L. Purdom  
Pte M. Richards  
Pte G.J. Sievers  
Pte C.W. Stafford  
Pte S.A. Stanford  
Pte A.B. Stevenson  
Pte J. Taylor  
Pte A.R.M. Waghorne  
Pte A.G. Wilson  
Pte M.A. Wison

# Mortar Platoon

The platoon experienced a large turnover of personnel this year and had to work hard to acquire mortar skills and participate in ETS's at the same time. The Pl Comd swanned off to New Zealand for six weeks and this allowed the platoon to come under control of CHQ. Dry firing deployments and sabot shoots at Mt Stuart proved that we'd learnt our stuff, but the first live fire for the year turned out to be a vehicle winching exercise. Vehicle breakdowns also hampered the smooth flow of the exercise and was the worst live shoot many of us had experienced. However, for A Coy on Exercise *Get Hard* our field kitchen was a welcome sight and their training motto soon became "GETTING HARDER".

The Battalion Bush Week in April saw the platoon dig mortar pits in record time due to the prolonged wet season. Everyone got to have a ride on a Blackhawk and a number of lessons were learnt about attaching mortar sections to companies for air mobile operations, especially who carries the ammunition. Meanwhile, six lucky bastards got to go to Hong Kong with A Coy. The experience was great, the shopping excellent but because they were all married or deeply in love, absolutely nothing happened after hours and it was really boring. True.

To improve our endurance when manpacking, the platoon carried marching order, personal weapons, radios, mortar equipment, command post stores and two bombs per man (except Beaker Elliot because he was an RP and they don't do that sort of thing). 10km on the next live firing exercise at High Range. To say everyone was exhausted at the end of it was an understatement. We all made it but the academy awards would have had a hard time choosing between Fred Astaire, Lawrence Olivier or Roy Rogers.

Mil Skills saw every digger in the Platoon compete in the activity and we were one of the very few platoons in the battalion to enter three sections. CPL Donaldson's section came fourth and the remaining sections 13th and 15th. Pte Walker was chosen to train with the Duke of Gloucester Cup Squad and represented the Battalion at Singleton. Well done Gunny.

The Battalion LFX saw us fire over half our yearly allocation of ammunition in three days. However, the high rate of fire gave us plenty of practice stopping base plates sinking more than two feet into the ground. Exercise *Scorpion Sting* was a slow exercise for us except for the last 24 frantic hours, where we had 90 minutes to regroup and support a battalion attack. We achieved what we were told to do but it caused blood pressure in a certain Captain. Sadly the platoon was caught napping at 4 o'clock the next morning by the enemy who were cleverly disguised as a cattle dam (as a result Armaguard refuse to employ any mortarmen looking for work).

The battalion birthday celebrations were just that and then the exercise which we'll tell our grandchildren about, *K89*, reared its ugly head. To be fair, the exercise produced a number of firsts. It was the first time any of us had dug in APC's, the first time a section of mortars were asked if they would fire and move with the assault company, the first time we didn't prang our vehicles (others did it for us), the first time we were caught going to a goffa shop (good on you recon), the first time Cowboy got to drink in three months (sure), the first time a mortar section got split into two fire units and it was definitely the first time any of us



Bomb Catching — Pte Walker, Pte Milligan and Sniffy Bambrook

had been told over a loud speaker, three cans of beer and three days R & R in Mataranka that we were still tactical.

The most pleasant trip that some of us got to do this year was to go to Cairns and fire mortars off the back of naval patrol boats. It proved to be a really interesting exercise and was surprisingly accurate despite moving at some speed on the water. The navy was extremely keen to repeat the activity as they have shortages just the same as we do, especially mortar ammunition.

With Brigade Standdown behind us, all we have to look forward to are courses and leave. The platoon wishes those who are leaving on posting or discharge all the best for the future. A special mention must go to CPL Allan MacKenzie who is posted to Singleton in October. His professional knowledge was of excellent assistance to the platoon, and his presence will be missed



Manpacking — LCpl Wright and Pope leading the way

# Pioneer Platoon

1989 proved a difficult and often frustrating year for pioneers but a testing one nevertheless. The start of year saw the construction of a new \$20,000 stores slab and shed and 2 Section take out the Support Company Obstacle Course Competition under Cpl (Grape) Delben. The platoon all got their airborne rappelling qualifications, excepting of course Dinga Bell, who likes to keep his feet firmly on the ground.

The year also saw the departure of a number of prominent pioneers of old, most notably Sgt Peter (Long Beard) Daly, who left the platoon halfway through the year and we wish him the best of luck in the future. To take his place has come Sgt Bob (Patches) Meuleners. Cpl Allan Lynch has departed for Singleton and Cpl David Delben opted to take over the family vineyard. The legendary Cpl Steve (Sloth) Hicks has moved on to B Coy together with Cpl Tony (Body Beautiful) Fenwick. We look forward to seeing them both back in Pioneer Platoon in the not too distant future.

The year has not been without incident with Pte (Two Shots) Saunderson always getting the most number of rounds away out bush and Pte (Blister Face) Dean who proved himself a master with the flame thrower. The latter half of the year also saw the attachment of Lieutenant Harry Waters from the Gloucester Regiment in Ireland. Better known as "Harry the Hat" we trust he enjoyed his stay with 2/4 RAR Pioneers — "Well done Harry's Boy!!!"

I have been fortunate enough to command the 2nd/4th Battalion Pioneer Platoon for two years and will always be extremely proud of that fact. Pioneers are an integral part of an Infantry Battalion whose work often goes unnoticed. I commend the members of the Platoon on their achievements over the last two years and make notable mention to Pte Skip Murray whose services as platoon storeman over the last twelve months have been exemplary. I wish all the platoon the best of luck in the future and proudly salute RCCADTE.



*Pioneers digging in the Bn CP on the Bn Bush Week*



*Pioneers in action on the flame range*



*Pnr Sgt Handover*

# Reconnaissance Platoon

Recon Pl had another busy and interesting year. It was also a very successful year for the Pl.

The year started with one of the more difficult exercises in the setting of Cowley Beach. A water ops exercise, mixed in with a bit of fishing, cricket and patrolling. I believe the toad body count was roughly 300.

The Pl then conducted, *Exercise Cape Crusader*, which was held around the AIMS Institute. The exercise was designed to sharpen the Pl's close reconnaissance and surveillance techniques, unfortunately Cpl Davies (63C) and Cpl Lampard (63B) needed to be sharpened a great deal more. Pte Lee obviously didn't trust Davo, and thought a one man Pl was the way to go!

This exercise was followed by a very successful sniper pre-selection course run by Sgt Challands and Sgt King.

The next activity the Pl participated in was the *Battalion's Military Skills Competition*. For the first time, two Recon sections competed, and they finished 1st and 2nd.

The Duke of Gloucester Cup team was based almost entirely from the soldiers of Recon Pl, and finished 3rd, in a very close fought, if unusual competition. Man on man, the team performed extremely well, and if the spirit and skills are maintained, the Bn will be very competitive again next year.

August saw us off to *K89* and some memorable highlights. Firstly, Dusty Miller and friends enjoyed a 5 days, all expenses paid holiday at the magnificent Emerald Springs Hotel Resort. The boys got deployed there to do a covert operation on the enemy. They didn't see many bad guys but ensured the publican a profitable exercise. They tell me now he has retired. Not to be outdone, Sgt King and Pte Lee conducted a similar operation at a gold mine. Yes! Hard work certainly works up a thirst! Meanwhile the rest of the Pl was doing its normal activities. Halfway through the ex the Pl was deployed by Blackhawks into?..... I'm not sure where it was and neither did the Pl, but who cares we had our compass and protractors. Another highlight was the capturing of four PW's, including the 3 RAR Recon Pl Sgt. PHQ using their brilliant ingenuity suckered the enemy into thinking they were their own by talking to them on their net! Who was that sniper who reckons you would have to be a squeezer to have a UD. I think it was Pte Squeezer Torrens. During this time Sgt King and some miner mates ran into, wait for it ..... Freddy Mercury, who at the time was doing a Mick Wishart impression. Finally,



mention must be made of the Recon vehicle for covering thousands of miles and not missing a beat. Good on year SR1!

Midyear saw the departure of Cpl (Davo) Davies, finally realizing an ambition, that of joining the 'ranks' of the SASR, we wish him well! Cpl Lampard decided to take a break, and headed to the U.K. on *Ex Long Look*. In return, Sgt (Dusty) Miller arrived; between Townsville women, Thomo and Hes enjoyed his stay.

Hopefully, 1990 will see the Pl continuing the successful trend that has been set this year (1989).



A Section of Recon Pl negotiate the last obstacle of the obstacle course during Mil Skills.