

SUPPORT COMPANY

In 1990 the ethic for Support Company was to develop a battle approach to the tasks at hand. This ethic was assisted by the Battalion call out in late January and increased in emphasis and strength throughout the year.

It was refreshing to witness the members of the Company seek out professional information and develop their specific tasks as time progressed.

There is no doubt that Support Company 'supported' during 1990 as those fortunate recipients of that would bear witness. Not only were the rifle companies supported but also the 3rd Brigade, 11th Brigade, 3 RAR, 1 RAR, ADFA, OCTU, The Townsville Show Association and even the Kirwan Boy Scouts managed a look in as well.

As has often been said "To succeed we need good men" and Support Company 1990 had good men.

Mortar Platoon

MAGGOT PL ANNUAL REPORT

The Maggots began 1990 with a change of Commander and some changes to key appointments. CAPT G. FAULKHEAD arrived from HQ Land Command, SGT GILLESPIE, SGT HINCHIE and BENNETT all came from Singleton. As has happened in the past we were restricted by a lack of Ofpr/NCO qualified personnel. This was alleviated somewhat as SGT HERON and WALKER replaced SGTs HINCHIE and BENNETT in June. Throughout the year we have had a solid base of JNCOs who were well lead by SGT GLOVER, Pl Sgt. At the digger level our solid base of senior soldiers helped the new march ins and ensured the Pl ran smoothly throughout the year. Highlights of the year were:

Many failed attempts at conducting LFX's resulted in the first live rounds down range in April. The feature of this was 20 rd FFE at FSB Myrtle.

Air week with the Bn meant that we are now fully conversant with S70 operations and have a good understanding with 5 Avn. Good training was achieved during Coy LFX's. C and A Coys put a great deal of effort into providing an interesting exercise for MOR PL.

Generous ammunition allocation and good scenarios meant that the Bn LFX was successful. The only problem was that a few WP rounds fell shorter than usual.

Once again during Maxi Beagle the Maggots showed

their mettle and completed their own TOBRUK that 2/4 RAR died trying to capture. Tested during Swift Eagle the Maggots dealt death to the Jimbafrosians and displayed our ability to 3 Bde during the Fire Power Demo on hill 506.

Society can once more rest safe in the Porcupine Gorge near Hughendon as the Maggots on Exercise "Maggot Trailblazer" built a highly successful track for QLD National Parks.

MAGGOT ROLE OF HONOUR 1990

CAPT FAULKHEAD — The Boss. Slipped away to Singapore late in the year.

SGT GLOVER — The man held with fear in the hearts of all Maggots.

SGT GILLESPIE — This person at times can be a little perverted and should do very well in a Rifle Platoon.

SGT WALKER — See CPL Brown.

SGT HERON — Never phased. The silent uncomplaining MFC.

SGT BENNETT/HINCHIE — Nice try in a difficult situation.

CPL BROWN — Touch Football ECN.

CPL ELLIOTT — Always being chased by a pack of wild chihuahuas.

CPL GRACE — Aussie Rules punctuated with short periods of being a Mortarman.

CPL STEPHENS — The backbone of the FSCC.

Pioneer Platoon

PHQ

LT B HORN
SGT B MEULENERS
LCPL G MURRAY
PTE R REVELL

1 SECTION

CPL D HUNT
PTE L THORNS
PTE K ANDERSON
PTE P SQUIRES
PTE S MURPHY
PTE D MATHER
PTE N ELLERTON

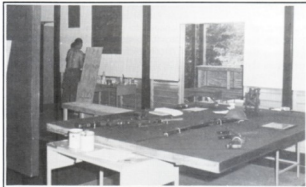
2 SECTION

CPL B PICKERING
PTE P BAKOS
PTE A McCARTER
PTE C JEREMY
PTE D STEVERS
PTE J WARD-WORLEY

3 SECTION

CPL P NEMME
LCPL J HANDO
PTE S GILES
PTE W WHARTON
PTE D BLISS
PTE C HULL

Pioneer Platoon began the year with CPL Hunt's section working the BRL period as part of the ODF Company. Their main tasks were to build an obstacle course for the Cleveland Youth Centre and begin construction on the new Battalion Museum. In both jobs the section acquitted themselves well.



Building the Museum

Our first major task as a platoon, albeit a platoon minus, was a refurbishment/rebuild of the Battalion's obstacle course. However, due to duties and the Battalion callout work was not to begin until late February. Some new obstacles were added to make the course more demanding as no doubt the Mil Skills sections found out. The rebuild proved a good means of starting the year with the soldiers receiving practical experience in minor field engineering.

Our next major activity was the Military Skills competition in which we entered, due to manning, only one section under the command of Darren Hunt. This section performed admirably eventually placing seventh.



SGT Bob Meuleners keeping a low profile

A week at Tully of minor field engineering followed in May. An enjoyable time was had by all. We then were to embark on watermanship and demolitions weeks however, due to bad weather these were cancelled. In their place we put on numerous demonstrations. Firstly for the ADFA Cadets, then the NZ CGS and so the list continues.

One of the highlights of the year was to have been a Company exercise on Magnetic Island. This was however cancelled. In its place came the Townsville Show. There then followed the Battalion LFX and exercise "Maxi Beagle" which saw us involved in providing battle noise simulation at HRTA and playing enemy in the jungles of the South Johnstone River.

August saw us on the Brigade exercise at Ingham and High Range. Once again there was a lot for us to do as pioneers. The highlight of the exercise was undoubtedly the march out. A good time was had by all. September followed with Standdown and October with adventure training.

November saw the platoon involved in running the Pioneer Course which was undoubtedly a roaring success.

Overall it was a disjointed year but none the less enjoyable. Farewells must be said to many: Firstly LCPL Skip Murray. Skip suffered serious leg injuries in a motor car accident mid year and has since spent most of his time in and out of hospital. We hope that Skip makes a successful recovery and look forward to seeing him behind the storeman's desk once again. The remainder of farewells will be made in no particular order. John Harkness, Bill Wharton, Ziggy, Deano, Saundo, Wards and Nigel Ellerton all opted for civvie street. Darren Hunt was posted to the Infantry Centre. Barry Pickering is clearing mines in Afghanistan, the only way he knows how, with his mouth. We hope he makes it back safe and sound. Lt Horn went to 2IC B Coy and Hully is soon off to 10 IRC Singleton. To all those we wish all the best. To those remaining in the Platoon I wish you all good soldiering in the future.

CPL WILLIAMS — Free-falling off jetties is his speciality.
LCPL COMLEY — The brew king of the CP.

LCPL JOHNSON — Military Pig.

PTE BARRON — Red the quiet man who can speak with a sharp tongue.

PTE CODY — Carried the gun for 2 x 40km marches say no more.

PTE HAWKEN — Asked by XXXX to donate pure alcohol from his bloodstream.

PTE JONES — The welsh

PTE KRUGER — Freddie the potential LT.

PTE LAWRENCE — Is going home to study. Will major in being a Yuppie and sub-major in yachting.

PTE LYNCH — Finally should reach his potential on the education course at Enoggera and at RMC.

PTE MARSH — How can a man who fell asleep at the wheel of his car top the T109 course?

PTE MARTHICK — Found love and has matured well.

PTE McGEE — Found love at OPUS (with the Bundy Boggles) and should find more love in Malaysia.

PTE MCGUFFIN — Desired greener pastures in Int Sect.

PTE MEYER — The Pl artist, a young father, a sorely missed maggot.

PTE MILLIGAN — Longer service in Maggots than the F2 Mortar — always keen to do work parties.

PTE PETERS — Wanted to man-pack on his Harley.

PTE PETRIE — Made his wife the ultimate Regimental spouse by sending her to 1 RTB.

PTE RHODES — Enjoyed wearing his Bundy Goggles and Rhonda's company.

PTE ROGERS — Buck. Soon to be a sky-god — always a happy character.

PTE SMITH — Noted for his treatment of women and his aerobatics out of Unimogs.

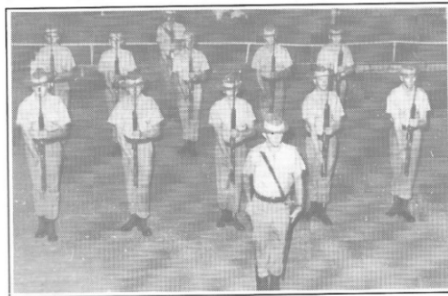
PTE SUMMERS — Memorable for his Ruger Cannon on Maxi Beagle.

PTE TRUMBLE — Nick the grumpy storeman. Has the world record for drinking poppers, eating pies, and digesting 10 man rat packs.

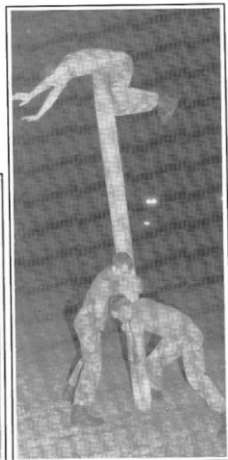
PTE WALKER — Never really suitable as a Maggot — much better in Recon and then SASR.

So concludes another year for the Maggots. 1991 should be interesting with a great deal of new march-ins coming to bolster our numbers.

LT FIELD
MLO



LT Field (MLO) and the guard at the Townsville Show



Human "muzzler cover" and the world's biggest Mortar

Reconnaissance Platoon

Our first trip to the field in 1990 was to the Atherton Range and saw the Platoon perform in true Recon/Sniper tradition. We persuaded the ARES to take up a number of challenges. However, due to our fitness we came out the ultimate overall victors. After our excellent exercise and range trip it was back to the jungle. Four days in Paluma posed no threat to this bunch of hard chargers. We practised our old skills and adapted some new ones.

Following Paluma five of our 2IC's left the Platoon to complete Subject One in true military manner. 'Bam Bam' Horne was well remembered for his drill powers.

On completion of Subject One the Platoon selected the Recon PI Mil Skills team. Even though we were pipped at the post we still managed to send some representatives on the Duke of Gloucester Cup team.

The Sniper pre-selection was held and some very ordinary soldiers participated. Even though the scores were very poor we managed to get three of the numbers to perform and take on the task as the invisible assassins.

Recon struck fear into the hearts of officers throughout the Battalion with a well exercised snatch and grab on OC Support, MAJ Bender following four days of constant surveillance on the OC.



CPL Torrens and LCPL Mackie before the Hong Kong Sniper concentration.

Maxi Beagle proved to be a task in itself. Recon was heard to be earning its bread and butter on close recons. After a number of attempts the 3 Platoons managed to get a rough but well detailed sketch back to Int Sect.

After losing another bachelor to the grips of a lady, Dinga Bell was lost in wedlock to Robin. Soon to follow was the tearfilled departure of Dinga, back to the world, to attempt life as a civilian.

Swift Eagle — after a wonderful cruise around the Pacific we disembarked by helicopter to the beach. From there we went on a joy flight to our LZ. Then came the trek with the Army's elite, Yes! Recon brushed shoulders with the S.A.S. After a little hike over the hills we were led by patrols to our AO's. We won't mention who lost their packs will we Youngy. But none the less it was a lot of fun and a job well done.

Recon went to perform TALS after Brigade standdown but a foul trick was played upon the Platoon, it quickly turned into an escape and evasion exercise. However, we managed to get from LCBS to Cowley Beach and back to Townsville via Innisfail. Mid March saw 3 more Recon soldiers lured to the west in search of the sandy beret. Well done to Max Walker, Thoma and Scope.

Signals Platoon

THE ROLE OF THE REGIMENTAL SIGNALLER

To seek out and close with the radio waves. To receive and relay them. To seize and hold codes and SOI's, and repel corrections and repetitions, by day or dogwatch regardless of duty officers, lost comms, and kicks in the arse.

SIGNALS PLATOON 1990

Signals Platoon started 1990 like the rest of the Battalion, with a bang! With the JNCO's at the RSM's Cowley Beach Holiday Camp and the RSO looking in the store saying "Is all this really mine?" and Sgt Carley drinking San Miguel in the Philippines not having a clue what's going on, it was left to the Diggers and a blow in from 1RAR (Sgt Bruegan) to sort out the signals needs. After it all died down we let some more Coy and PlSigs in on our little secret, the big 'V', with Ex Whispers. The Pl needed a break after that so we took off for an all expenses paid trip to the Tablelands. Don't worry Boss, we won't send you on any more dirt roads (until the Sig Cse road run!).

Well, we tried a few more activities like that, well planned and organised but someone kept coming up with unorganised, unplanned training activities, so we suffered!

Mil Skills came along and went again with a very good result and showed most of the rifle sections up. We also supplied all the comms at Koonhuloona and deployed the SS vehicle without its Can net! And we had to keep Bn HQ in supply with guffo's (and those sections who saw us on the road).

Maxi Beagle was a test for us, thick vegetation and VHF comms don't mix, especially when Bn HQ was man packed and couldn't carry all their good gear — jaffle irons, cook sets and the likes. But the retrans party of Sniper (now 8/9 RAR) and the Pogo maintained comms well, even for LT

Johnson of 2 Pl. Swift Eagle was another man pack for Bn HQ, and OPSO Sir, retrans is not supposed to walk off big, big Yohna's (yes, it was bigger than yours C Coy). Ship to shore comms was very successful for Jacko and his team.

We had some blokes head over to Malaysia on Ex Suman Warrior in October. Thailand and the introduction of Meekong whiskey made the trip worthwhile. When asked of various adventures, the reply was No Comment, as directed by 97 Sunray.

The Sig Cse started and all likely graduates are now on the dart board.

Things we would like to see in 1991 are:

- SGT YOUNG — smile (at least twice in 6 months)
- RSO — tidy his desk
- SGT YOUNG — smile
- RIFLE COY's — let us have your sigs to train!
- DSG — let us go on more Road Runs
- SGT CARLEY — open a tin of Ravioli without injury
- SIG PL — get a bigger STORE

Farewells:

- RSO — to ADJT
- JACKO WILSON — B Coy
- PAT MALONE — B Coy
- SNIPER — 8/9 RAR
- WOODY — Def Pl
- THROSSEL — Def Pl
- MICK CAROLL — Def Pl
- JAMESY — RASigs
- YOUNG (PTE) — RASigs
- HOOLIGAN — Spt Coy Clerk
- HOCKING — Witch Doctors (Medical Corps)

WHITSUNDAY RENT A YACHT