

# JUNIOR ADVENTURE TRAINING

CAPTAIN R.L. JONES

On 12 May 80 an unusual site greeted 2/4 RAR. A full strength platoon of boys with packs, webbing and bush hats in trucks heading for the wilds of High Range. This was the beginning of The Junior Adventure Training Week held during the school holidays for boys aged 8-13 years, who were dependants of members of 3rd Task Force. The concept of the exercise was to teach the boys living in the field, navigation, watermanship, survival and to have a lot of fun. It is arguable as to whether the boys or the staff had the fun but it was a certainty that a good time was had by all.



*Watermanship and boat races were a great favourite on Junior Adventure Training.*

The first two days involved instruction in navigation, watermanship and first aid. This culminated in an afternoon of competitions on the third day which involved a relay, tug-a-war and boat race. The last two days the boys were taught survival and spent a night away from the base camp in small groups. Snares and traps were set but the gods were not on the side of the hunters and nothing was bagged.

Finally, and all too quickly, the week ended. It was home to show Mum just how dirty we could get in five days and to explain the intricacies of living in the wilds of the Australian bush.



*CAPT Bob Jones (King of the Kids) encourages a major effort from the heavy weight tug-o-war team.*



*Ricky Fraser (L) and Darren Eyles pick up the fine points of using a compass from LT Wayne Bowen.*

## EXERCISE MANGROVE JACK

MAJOR L. ANDERSON

Exercise MANGROVE JACK was an officer training exercise conducted in the Far North Queensland during the period 26-30 April 80.

The Exercise was designed to provide an opportunity for officers from the three Services to examine:

- the logistic limitations imposed by the geographic and climatic conditions prevailing in the area, and
- the capacity of the existing lines of communications to sustain operations.

The populated centres visited during the exercise were:

- COOKTOWN,
- COEN,
- BAMAGA,
- THURSDAY ISLAND,
- WEIPA, and
- MT. ISA.

The party, consisting of officers from the 1st Division, the Air Force and the Navy, flew to the various centres by Caribou. The trip was pleasant and the hospitality overwhelming, but most important the aims of the exercise were achieved.