



PTE Miller and PTE Scott displaying the perfect synchronicity required when working as a Mortar Section detachment.



CAPT M'Auliffe bragging to the news reporters about how much money Mortar PL blew away during Ex Condor Crump!

MORTAR PLATOON

CAPT M.P. McAuliffe, LT J.F. Ellwood, SGT S.E. Birt, SGT R.K. Grimes,
SGT M.N. Hinchey, SGT A.C. Lynch, CPL T.J. Brown, CPL C.A. Cowburn, CPL W.J. Cowen,
CPL A.J. Elliott, CPL R.C. Scanlon, LCPL W.R. Moyle, LCPL S. Pettingill, LCPL J.F. Picton,
LCPL S.D. Marsh, PTE, M.T. Barron, PTE A.J. Bartkowski, PTE T.A. Brett, PTE W.J. Brooks,
PTE J.P. Carran, PTE J.G. Cody, PTE D. Dukarich, PTE K.M. Eustace, PTE M.J. Hall, PTE C.G. Haynes,
PTE S.J. Hey, PTE N.A. Joyce, PTE A.C. Miller, PTE J. Mols, PTE B.J. Morris, PTE A.R. Munn,
PTE J.W. Neilson, PTE J.A. Pain, PTE T.J. Pope, PTE P.W. Price,
PTE C.S. Rhodes, PTE C.A. Richardson, PTE G.J. Scott, PTE S.A. Smith, PTE G.J. Snijders

Mortar Platoon returned from BRL minus Richo, Rhodes, Steve Hey, John Pain (Somalia), and Red Barron (Cambodia). The rest of the platoon went through the usual painful BFAs under the watchful eye of the MLO. Almost immediately, the platoon was off to its second home (HRTA) to support RMC cadets on Exercise BARDIA. Needless to say the cadets were so impressed, they asked if they could sign up straight away. One week back in barracks and then out again for Exercise CONDOR CRUMP. This exercise gave the platoon the chance to practice step ups and company quick fire plans. Interest in the exercise was such that three of the local TV stations were flown out to cover the shoot; all stations put the story to air that night.

After commencing the year with an intensive stint of live firing, the platoon was required to deploy as enemy for the first Battalion Air Week. This was a good opportunity to confirm the platoon's skill in basic soldiering, and try a bit of cunning. It was straight back to mortar skills however on returning to barracks with a competition against the USMC Mortars. Again the local press could not pass up the opportunity to cover the event and the TV cameras and newspaper reporters came out of the woodwork. The lads had a convincing win, beating the marines on both our weapon and on their weapon. This was followed by a small function, at which many friends were made and much bull was swapped.

Exercise TASMAN LINK saw the platoon taking

part in fireplans up to Brigade level which included Regimental artillery, Naval gunfire, F111s, and FA18s with 500 and 2000 pound bombs, helicopter gunships, and most importantly, Mortars. The platoon had their act squared away so well, they volunteered for extra work such as preparing 3 RAR's ammo (to allow them more time to practice paralleling by sight). The platoon was well prepared at the end of TASMAN LINK for the responsibility of live firing in support of the rifle company attacks during the Battalion LFX. The artillery were in a good position to observe the mortar fire during the LFX and now understand what 'On time, On target' means.

July saw the platoon taking part in the Battalion *Mil Skills Competition*. CPL Cowburn's section got a well earned second place. July also saw CPL Elliott depart for the UK on Exercise LONG LOOK and SGT Hinchey depart for France on Exercise WESTERN FRONT.

Exercise EAGLE FLIGHT saw Mortar Platoon again live firing in support of the Battalion during the attack on Townshend Island. In addition to this the platoon had the chance to enjoy digging in many varied and scenic locations.

The platoon wishes all those departing the best of luck for '94 and looks forward to welcoming those members lucky enough to have been posted into the senior platoon in the Battalion.