

# Recon/Sniper Platoon - 1992

1992 started at the rapid rate for Recon/Snipers. Fresh back from BRL in far and foreign lands (in some cases), we were greeted with the grins of Stodds and Wally on the front pages of the 'Army' newspaper. The pair gained first place in the Regimental Sniper Concentration held at the School of Infantry in late '91.

The new arrivals to the platoon from the '91 recon course settled in quickly and performed well. Thanks to the rifle coys for supporting the course.

Training began in earnest, with comms first up. Assisted by instructors from 103 Sig Sqn we came to grips with RAVEN and improvised antennae that work. We introduced some morse code to our SOPs and set off to Tully to test ourselves on Ex 'First Catch'. After several days of patrolling and close reconnaissance, we RV'd as a platoon and conducted a dawn annihilation of the enemy position, once again demonstrating our versatility.

Next, we took to the skies for Bn Air Week. It was a successful week for us. We managed several night rapel infilts as well as our own version of 'Tac Pack'.

From the air to the surf at Cowley Beach, the platoon spent a couple of days with Pioneers practising small craft infilts before conducting a three sided OP Ex on several islands.

The first of two sniper preselections was held in March, resulting in a number of blokes attending the sniper course at Singleton and achieving some good results.

A period of rapelling followed, culminating in a day jumping from the Ambassador Hotel (Happy Birthday Steve!), as well as a day getting re-acquainted with rapelling from the Hueys of AFS Tp.

The platoon has had quite a successful year, not the least of which included Beatle Bailey and Della winning their bouts at the Battalion boxing night.

Easter stand down was cut short and we returned with the rest of Spt Coy to represent the Battalion at the ANZAC Day march on The Strand.

Soon afterwards we began the field phase of Mil Skills '92 at Paluma, the result was good but we had to wait until August for phase two to complete the quinella - well done fellas!!

May saw two patrols and PHQ deployed north to Cape

York to assist with a training team run by B Coy 51 FNQR. The two weeks were motivational, we learnt a lot, gained some experience and had a good time.

1992 was also a good year for courses, a lot of the gang attended scouting and tracking courses with some top results by Johnno and Stodds. All who completed subject courses finished in the top ten and Tails was one of three to pass the Sniper course at Singleton.

'Black Widow', the Bn LFX had Mac and Crew braving the sub-zero temperatures on the SFMG line whilst Hungers and a composite Section were back at Lavarack Barracks competing for and winning the Bde Obs Course competition on behalf of the Bn.

There was little time to rest and it was off again to High Range to pit our close recon skills against 3 BASB and the BMA. It was a successful Ex and allowed us to practise some more 'traditional' skills against an active enemy.

We returned once more to phase two of Mil Skills - the Obs Cse competition and Birthday week where the COL COMDT of the Regiment made the presentations:

- Champion Obs Cse Section - CPL Hungerford's Section (CPL Eckert's Section in 4th)
- Champion Section Mil Skills - CPL Eckert's Section (CPL Hungerford's Section in 2nd)

To wrap it up, the Champion Platoon trophy was proudly accepted by the boss on behalf of the platoon. (Thanks to Brooksby, Bakos and Lenny Thorns for helping out).

There were a number of platoon functions this year including the annual pilgrimage to El Charos just prior to 'Swift Eagle'. Standdown arrived and the platoon now finds itself spread to the four ends of the earth; attending and instructing on courses, OS trips and BRL, until '93 dawns.

At this point we'd all like to congratulate Rick, Stodds and Hawk on their promotions, as well as Wally for earning the top sniper award for '92, we wish Moorey, Stodds and Wally all the best at the Sniper Concentration in NZ and finally say farewell to some of the gang. . . . Della - LWOP, Youngy - UNTAC, Ash - C Coy, Rick and Hawk - A Coy, SGT Galloway - OPS and the Boss - HQ 3 BDE.

**All the best to all the best in '93, F.O.F.E.B.A!!!**

**BETTER MUSIC**

**4RR**

**8 9 1**



*OC Recon accepts the champion Mil Skills Platoon Trophy from the Colonel Commandant.*