

EAGER EAGLET '85



CH47 delivers a landrover and trailer to LZ Cormorant.

Mid April saw the Battalion come off a well earned stand down to a Battalion Group ODF Check. The early hours of the 15th and 16th April saw the ghostly figures of soldiers preparing for their various tests, of attack, runs, and the 15 km march.

The crescendo to all of this activity was to see the landing of Chinooks, Caribou, and Iroquois aircraft at Lavarack Barracks to airlift the Battalion, and attachments on Exercise Eager Eaglet.

Forward Operational Base Breddan was the first phase of the deployment for BHQ followed by Cormorant. But the area that we all wanted to see was, Fire Support Base Fran, and this was soon to become a reality. Once again the chopping of the air was to be heard as BHQ and its attachments flew into Fran. Within hours Fran had been turned into an ant hill of activity. The various CP detachments were busy evicting creatures from holes that were soon to become the nerve centres for mortar, artillery and rifle companies.

Engineers worked through day and night and not to mention rain to bestow 95 with a new CP.

As the rain came in so did the cloud cover, which was to keep a constant drizzle over the FSB. To the amazement of CP personnel the IO was very keen to take over from the Adjt at the CP table and after a short interrogation, and examina-

tion of his boots, we were to discover that his CP had been abandoned by all hands due to the rising water table.

Also with the low clouds came an almost stand still to air movement. But a name that was soon to be on everyone's lips was Randy the American exchange pilot. The man that defied the low cloud and brought his aircraft in.

After Randy many more pilots and crew were to show their skills by flying through the cloud. At one stage it looked as though one UH1H was going to dismantle some of the 292's around the area, but the sharp eyed crew prevented this.

At this stage of the exercise the Musorians were either destroyed or driven back to their home land, due to the fine efforts of the Rifle Coys.

Once the exercise was over the problem of being airlifted out was still at hand because of low cloud. On the morning of the 24th April, the cloud was still with us, as were the many long faces. But by mid morning the cloud was breaking up and once again the chopping of air could be heard. By late afternoon all of the Battalion were back at Lavarack looking forward to ANZAC DAY.

One question for the Adjt, "Is there still a Bison grazing at Fran?"

Cpl G. Dzienisz



*Members of D Coy await pick up by UH1H.
Pte G. Barber, WO2 S. Purdie and LCpl James*



*Ptes Grufferty, Smith, Duorgacser.
Hite and Terrie are shown a 105 mm*



*Spr Melzner, LCpl Wren, Spr Hirschie, Spr Gallagher
constructing a CP at FSB Fran*