

CHARLIE COMPANY

The Year of the Dragon!

Outright victories in the Mil Skills, Rugby, Swimming, Volleyball and Australian Rules. Second in the Touch and numerous creditable performances resulted in the Schlyder Shield returning to its rightful place — C COMPANY.

The Year in Profile:

While the rest of the Battalion spent Christmas 1989 with their families, C Company undertook the responsibility of being the ODF Company.

The Company worked hard over Christmas combining good training — including a section live fire exercise — with the duty commitments of Rear Details.

The January call-out provided an edge to the training and recall procedures that culminated on the 25th when the Company was placed on 30 minutes notice for deployment. The two months training and working with the threat and then completing all the preparation for deployment was valuable experience. Consequently it was a slightly tried and jaded Company that started its BRL in February, but not before a convincing victory in the BN swimming carnival.

While the rest of the Battalion trained for Mil Skills or Summer Sports, C Company did some serious BRL.

With only a week to prepare for Mil Skills some notable experts were offering long odds to C Company, compared to some of the well prepared entrants, but class in the end must tell and the rat Koombaloomba was a good place to prove our supremacy. A solid performance was highlighted by 4, 5 and 1 Section finishing 1st, 4th and 6th respectively.

We then went straight from Mil Skills into Summer Sports. Winning the Volleyball, second in the Touch (although undefeated) and Water Polo belied the lack of training time and preparation. Easter standdown was a welcome break. During

April and May we competed in the Bn athletics carnival and conducted familiarization and air training with Blackhawks.

June saw us back at High Range for our Coy LFX, then down to MT Vince for a week at the Range.

July saw us in the jungle for the month, firstly as enemy for 1RAR on Exercise 'Eager Eaglet' and then our own Bn exercise 'Maxi Beagle'. The Company performed well at High Range for the live fire and again in the jungle at South Johnstone. Winter Sports were again a success for C, winning the Rugby Shield for the second year running and remaining undefeated in the Australian Rules.

The Bde exercise "Swift Eagle" was made notable by the walk home. The Company led the Bn in without losing a man. September standdown was another welcome break followed by some pleasant paddling around Hinchinbrook Island.

As always there are a number of people leaving the Company, notable farewells to the:

OC MAJ "STUMP" FAIRLEIGH

CSM WO2 "TASSIE" GRAHAM, and

CQMS SSGT "GENGHIS" KEYNES.

Their efforts have enabled the Company to achieve the success we have this year. The start of a new era — Champion Company 1990.

Seven Platoon

7 Platoon didn't start BRL until early February after working during Christmas.

We came back from leave and went straight into Mil Skills. We had less than a week to prepare but managed to cuff it rather well with CPL Ross and 1 Section finishing 6th. Well done. We just got out of the jungle in time for Easter, a break we were all looking forward to. 10 days of women, beer, ladies, beer, girls and more beer and we can tell you it was magic. We came back from Easter with sore heads and a few damaged livers. We then went straight into air week which was a good experience for the troops, especially those who hadn't flown in Blackhawks before.

Then it was gas - gas - gas. All suited up to top three and off to the little tin shed! I guess some of the senior soldiers should have checked the 'billy's' masks for filters before they went into the chamber! (PTE Crace - you dope!)

We then went to MT Vince for a week of shooting and playing touch. Well done to Brundle for taking out the shooting trophy, it wasn't a bad week.

Off to the weeds for three weeks in July for 1RAR's exercise and a load of 10 man rations. By the end of the exercise we'd had enough of stew and curry - enough to last us a life time. All in all a pretty good three weeks.

Back to Lavarack for two days to prepare for "Maxi Beagle" and another ten days in the scrub. Everyone started to get a bit toey, but well done to everyone in 7 for keeping their cool. It was a successful jungle trip and once it was over September standdown was much closer. Stem and Bowie were counting the seconds, waiting for a bit of "Chuck-Won".

Birthday week was what we had been waiting for, a week of drill to sweat out each nights drinking. The highlight of the week was the ball - 7 Platoon took total advantage of the free drinking - "Hey Greeney!"

A couple of weeks of sport and preparation for Swift Eagle. Who will forget highlights like the rock show on the SO6 feature. It's been a good year, although very busy, for 7 Pl and C Company and as always at this time of year postings are affected. 7 Pl would like to farewell LT Powys, SGT Townsend, CPL's Mclver, Ross, McGregor and PTE Comben - all the best in your new positions.



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Eight Platoon

8 Platoon worked well over the 89-90 Xmas BRL period to finish it off with an operational standby. With this behind us the platoon headed off for the free and easy lifestyle of 6 weeks leave, to Australia wide locations, and a few errant travellers to Asian destinations.

However, before heading off C Company had some unfinished business in the swimming pool. 8 Platoon proceeded to form the backbone of C Company's winning team—which kicked some serious backsides in the inter-company competition. Harro (now SPT SECT) will readily tell you he achieved legend status that day. In Mil Skills, 8 Platoon confirmed to the Battalion what we already knew, with having 2 out of our sections coming in the top 4 places. These performances were reflected in our good representation in the DOG squad.

After Easter standdown the Coy LFX provided us with some good water ops in open country. We then packed up our goggles and snorkels, and went down to MT Vince. There 'Fruit' Oakley gave the platoon a good demonstration. Overall the time at MT Vince produced some good shooting. It should be noted that CHQ did call off the touch competition when

they started losing. As enemy for 1 RAR we made sure they earned the right to be the on-line ODF Battalion, this provided the platoon with 3 weeks of interesting work.

The farewell to 8 Platoon's old boss was going exceedingly well so the platoon decided to kick off to Jezzine Barracks, where LT Turkington's farewell was very memorable.

The Battalion LFX and Maxi Beagle followed with snake bites being the order of the day. 8 Platoon however, remained untouched by the South Johnstone snakes.

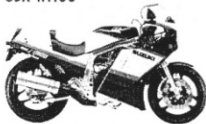
With a short break from Swift Eagle, 8 Platoon suffered a small morning crisis losing 6 men in one week. Thus with only 2 sections we went bush. This however had its benefits in the mounted ops phase with more room in the APCs.

The year is entering another training phase with courses about to commence. This year has seen a big turnover with up to 20 people coming and going — among these LT Turkington to 1RTB; SGT Logan returns to Spt Coy; CPL Kelly to Singleton, Depot Coy and LCPL Stanwichiz to Brisbane.

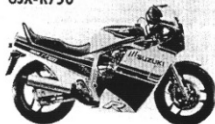
With Xmas in sight, 1991 is looming closer every week and again 8 Platoon will perform well — there were a lot of successes this year to build upon.

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Nine Platoon

Whilst the rest of Australia was having fun, the boys from 9 Platoon were hard at it trying to train our 15 new blokes. Our training must have been good due to a promise of a south seas trip. After all the build up all we got was standdown and a new Boss, ex 1RAR "no one's perfect".

After the new Boss showed the ADFA cadets how not to jump off a roof, we went off to HRTA for the company LFX, lots of noise but not many hits. CPL Lees had fun scanning targets with an 84mm. We then continued in the LFX mode with a short trip to MT Vince, where we demonstrated incredible speed at loading mags by night. We then travelled north as enemy for 1RAR. Pup Maclean started the exercise well with a lesson to his section on night nav and survival techniques. The highlight of the exercise however, was catching 2 of 1RAR snipers sunbaking whilst trying to establish comms. Our clearing patrol returned with 2 x packs, webbing, shirts, and most importantly a squad radio which we used to great effect.

The combination of the radio to help anticipate their future moves and PTE Pettingel taking out CHQ

made B Coy's attack on our position very difficult.

Next was the Bn exercise which was used as a nav comp for the Boss and the NCO's. CPL Dempsey quickly excelled at this with a tally of 7 beers owing without ever completing the exercise. On returning to the Bn the Platoon had it's crack at PI comp setting the pace on the 3.2 km in 16:06, a fair PI attack and some good drill, even with the Bosses words of command. The final exercise for the year was the Bde exercise, the highlights of which were the awesome firepower demo by the F-18's and the infamous return to Lavarack. Whilst the rest of the Bde flew or trucked we walked. What a walk which started at 36 km and finished as 56km. But hardly a challenge for 9 Platoon or C Company despite being constantly told to slow down for BHQ and B Company. The company lost no-one.

It has been a good year for 9 Platoon with a lot of changes to personnel. Thanks to CPL/SGT Freeman for his time as PI Sgt. Congratulations to TED on a baby girl and Pup on becoming a husband.

Farewell and good luck to all the old faces who left the Platoon and look out for the new 9 Platoon in 1991.



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