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Charlie Company

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7 Platoon Story

1988 was more action than a Bruce Lee epic. We started off in the Paluma state forest then straight into Mil Skills training which paid off with third and fifth place. Four members, Cpl Moore, LCpl Kelly, Pte Bennett, and Pte Hes were all selected for the final team which was chosen to represent Australia in the 1988 Bicentennial Military Skills to be held in December.

Promotions came thick and fast as Platoon Staff saw this as the only way to get rid of types such as, Cpl Linton, LCpl Ross, LCpl Smith and LCpl Marr. Pte Edwards was cleverly palmed off to CHQ as sig/batman just as DPCU's came in but this didn't stop him whinging about it. "Fat Boy" Harkness made a career move into PHQ where he endeared himself by performing such RIP classics as burning three days of codes and sending the Platoon Commander two kilometres to see the OC at night when he was told to "Fetch Sunray". He was saved by the SAS like field skills of LCpl Jolly who set up an OP that was visible three kilometres away and drove two trucks up onto the enemy objective to pick up the Platoon before we even got there.

Arriving in Malaysia started the tradition of the 7PI Human Sandwich Makers, now a corner stone of the organization. Thailand helped the lads broaden their international understanding for a fraction of the cost. Definite BRL stop for next year.

Those sadly leaving us are LCpl "slapper" Hoolihan and Sgt "The Predator" Glover, leaving Lt "El Tee" O'Bryan to lead his weary men on a three week feast of jungle fun in November.

Roll on 10 Dec 1988.

8 Platoon Tale

For Eight Platoon BRL finished far too soon, with the blokes overflowing on beer, bad manners and tall tales about "What I did on leave"

That was quickly behind us though, with a series of unexpected PTT's and Ex "Tough Test" (a 60 hour ETS, at the all to familiar High Range Training area) where Cpl Boyd's and Cpl Armstrong's sections came 2nd and 3rd respectively.

By this time the effects of BRL had worn off and most of the guys had realised that things are getting serious for another year. After enjoying an overabundance of duties, the Coy took off for Battalion Bush Week, at Paluma Dam. On return from Paluma the marriedy's rejoiced with a day off due to the effects of "Cyclone Charlie". Mt Vince was next on the year's agenda, with days off and nightly riots. 8 PI however, escaped with no criminal convictions.

Then came the long awaited Easter Standown, for us that was just a top up on beer and bad manners. On return the company geared up for its' defence of the Battalion Mil Skills trophy with a series of Company ETS's. The Battalion Air Mobile Training week came and went all too fast, but at least some of us got our yearly helicopter ride!

4 Section was off in Tully at this stage learning to be Musorians and in their own words, (Really sorry we can't be there for Mil Skills!)

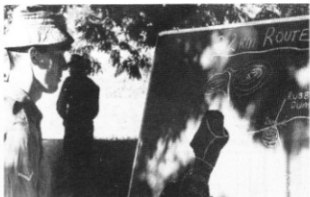
Then the true "Cyclone Charlie" hit, blighting all opposition in the Mil Skills Comp. Congratulations to Cpl Armstrong and 6 section on a winning performance, defeating all other sections in the Battalion.

We then went with the Turret Heads for the long awaited Ex Scorpion Sting, and a fun filled time at "Sunny Shoalwater Bay". (Unfortunately Vanuatu reared its head and we whisked back to Townsville to prepare for overseas deployment. Much to our annoyance, that all petered out and we all returned to reality. (Onya Bob!)

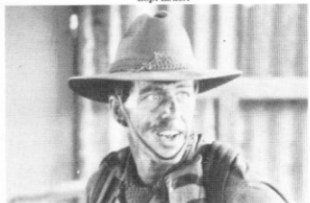
Watermanship at Tinaroo Dam soon followed with Cpl Boyd sighting "Dozens of Crocs on the bank over there!" On closer inspection however the "crocs" green eyes turned and fled up the bank to the sound of bellows and trampling hooves, (probably miling time anyway, Stan!)

The eagerly awaited (?) Freedom of the City march followed, with drill practice being the high point for most. However the Battalion Ball came a close second.

Maxi Beagle had less action than expected, but with some notable points thrown in.



LCpl Linton



Sgt Glover



Lt Braithwaite



Sgt McPherson



Maj Wilson



LCpl Ross



WO2 Cahill and Cpl Clernony