



ALPHA COMPANY

MAJ M.G. Day, CAPT B.A. Stevenson, WO2 R.H. Speter,
SSGT G.N. Lawman, CPL C.J. Dixon, PTE E.F. Baker, PTE R.J. Fisher,
PTE M.L. McCallum, CPL J. Taylor, PTE R. Lobie.

Alpha Company has, once again, had a very successful year.

It all started with a tour to Malaysia for the December - February period. The training conducted was very worthwhile for the platoons and the programme ensured that everyone was kept very busy.

Christmas and New Year was actually spent in Singapore with several wives taking the opportunity to meet up with their lesser halves and really celebrate in style.

We beat the RAAF during sports week and the company was described as the best company to tour in several years. The only sad aspect was saying good-bye to the "Bear" MAJ Jeremy Moore who had been a great boss for two years.

March saw us back in the Battalion and it was all a bit of a culture shock. Everyone was so busy and they wanted us to join in. MAJ Mick Day took over the helm and with a loud "Follow me men" quickly whipped us back into shape.

It didn't take us too long to prove to everyone that Alpha doesn't have a problem with flies. Top performances in the Air Week and LFX matched with an awesome display of power and aggression in the Winter sport meant nothing was too challenging.

The year moved on with everyone wanting to go back to the Princess Lounge. Birthday Week came, we marched on, then we marched off to Ex Swift Eagle II. There we earned the title "the Butchers of Ellanora".

We caught the enemy napping and virtually drove over the top of them in our APC's. We finished the exercise with the highest body count and the lowest casualties, and we didn't have to bayonet targets like some companies.

Donning the sunscreen lotion and setting the pace in the Summer Sports Week, we kept the bronzed Aussie tradition alive. A third in athletics, a tie for first in swimming and a crushing win in the cross country matched nicely with a third in Mil Skills and an equal first in rugby and Aussie rules.

The end of 93 sees many stalwart Alpha men move on in their careers to new positions both within the Battalion and within the Army at large. To all who have given their best thank-you and good luck in your new jobs. To those who remain we look forward to winning again in '94.

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ONE PLATOON

LT L. Mercer, SGT T. Logan, CPL S.C. Brown, CPL M.D. Landy, CPL M.G. Newbold, LCPL R.S. Pearson, LCPL G.L. Stocks, PTE S. Bell, PTE A.J. Bijoux, PTE C.E. Blunden, PTE P.J. Bowerman, PTE J.E. Bowker, PTE C.M. Brammer, PTE R.M. Brown, PTE J.R. Camiller, PTE S.J. Eggleton, PTE D.J. Fox, PTE M.A. Gilmartin, PTE E. Herlihen, PTE S.P. McEvedy, PTE J.T. Mitchell, PTE B. Reigel, PTE P.F. Schulz, PTE C.J. Urquhart, PTE R.J. Sykes, PTE D.J. Barret

THE FIGHTING FIRST

So another year has passed us by and we all have grown a little older, a little uglier, and a little wiser. Well two out of three isn't bad.

The year started early for us with a deployment to sunny Malaysia in late November 92. The whole platoon revelled in the sights (bloody temples), the sounds (the wailing coming from the bloody temples), and the smells (the smells of the sewerage flowing through the open drains) of a strange country. Needless to say we all had a "ball" over there (some more so than others).

We winged our way back to OZ in early March and settled down to normal training with the rest of the Battalion.

The first few weeks saw us deploy to High Range for Battalion Air Training. With last years "death marches" and lack of water still fresh in our memories, we approached this years "Air Training" with cautious steps. We were all pleased to find that water had been rationed for this year.

Many thanks must go the RECON PL for their assistance during one of our night moves. However one question remains unanswered, how did RECON PL find a lost gun barrel in the dark, but couldn't find the COY FUP they had marked earlier???

Tully - What can we say apart from lots of rain, angry DS, contacts, and enemy camps in the same location as last year. Maybe LCBS will graduate us

to the west side of the Jarra next year.

The months to follow were pretty average consisting of the LFX, Mil Skills and Birthday Week.

Exercise Eagle Flight II provided a lot of insight into new Kamarian Weapons. Who can forget the new brush cutting RPGs that can punch through trees and totally destroy APCs. At least no one will be tempted to sleep on piquet for a while (will they chook).

Well, courses are next for the Battalion and after that the PL will be losing quite a few good operators to other units and Coys. The PL says good-bye to:

- ❖ The Boss - off to play with 1:1 scale Tonka Trucks,
- ❖ The Sarge - reluctantly to Mortars,
- ❖ Zac - going to beast recruits at Kapooka,
- ❖ Newy - To Mor PL, and yes Newy they still man pack,
- ❖ Rick - After the purchase of a lady shaver he will return to RECON PL,
- ❖ Stocksie - Becomes the most well groomed PNPPC 2IC, and
- ❖ Gronk - Becomes the clerk with the biggest ears.

To all good soldiering.

Diggers wish list:

- ❖ Coy 2IC to get a new laugh.
- ❖ Boss to sign for a sense of humour and a serviceable compass.
- ❖ OC to return his application for this years HELLS ANGELS RECRUIT DRIVE.



TWO PLATOON

LT A.J. Egan, SGT S.J. Hicks, CPL S.J. Hawken, CPL J.W. Petrie, LCPL D.J. Lovett, LCPL K.A. McHale, LCPL S.H. Newton, PTE D.A. Cashman, PTE D. Cavanagh, PTE S.T. Clausen, PTE R.S. Cook, PTE M.J. Craig, PTE S.J. Ellis, PTE D.G. Hancock, PTE A.M. Johnstone, PTE C.B. Keep, PTE A.W. Litchfield, PTE C.J. Maguire, PTE J.B. McKenzie, PTE M.D. Mercieca, PTE J.K. Nicholl, PTE S.R. Parrington, PTE K.I. Pedler, PTE S.P. Read, PTE S.A. Rowe, PTE K.A. Schimann, PTE A.J. Tyrrell, PTE A.J. Bengsen.

To look at the year in review we have to go back to December 1992. Alpha Company, those devil dogs from hell, ventured forth to sunny Malaysia for a little R&R. Pulada was the first training area tackled by the platoon, followed closely by Singapore. Singapore allowed the platoon to spend all that hard earned Stolia on pleasure and pain. Various exercises followed and culminated in a bull ring activity (the CSM'S favourite) which involved an adventure training exercise, field exercise, and the inevitable trip to Thailand. Plenty has been written concerning the trip and plenty more has been spoken in reverent tones and it is probably better that it stays that way.

On arrival back in Australia, Extra Grunt 2PL quietly went about their business staying out of the limelight as much as possible. Air Week 1 and 2 passed us by with barely a whisper, or should that read whimper. Once again the highly trained heart breakers and life takers of 2PL rose to the occasion and adapted to any situation no matter how strange??

After the hardships of Air Week 1 and 2 Tully was going to be a breeze (at least we got the wind part correct). On entering the twilight zone you have to be prepared to put your mind and body back 20 years. Once again we were cajoled and motivated into believing the Tully way is the only way by the quiet, capable staff of the battle school. Whilst at Tully a filthy rumour started that a platoon was going to Cambodia and being the on line company we foolishly thought it may include us. The CO flew up immediately to squash this rumour. With

heads held high, although soaking wet, we managed to drag ourselves through swamps, leeches, mites, wait-a-while, and mud and leave Tully virtually unscathed.

The Bn Live Fire Exercise gave the PL the opportunity to blast away copious amounts of live ammunition disguised as a Coy attack. The LFX was a good exercise and fairly realistic. The artillery and mortar fire support was especially good.

The weeks following the LFX were given to Coy Winter sports competitions and preparations for the Military Skills Competition. It gave the PL a chance to rest and recuperate and mend those aching bones.

The Military Skills Competition showed that 2PL was a force to be reckoned with. Hawkes finished 3rd over all and Jim Petrie 14th. This was an excellent result for both sections after all the hard work they put in. 2PL finished third over all which was widely considered a good result.

Exercise Eagle Flight II was upon us before we knew it. Only PTE 'Perfume' Cavanagh made it to the safety of "A Ech". Wasn't all that moving and digging great though, BHP would have been proud! Townshend Island, mountain goats eat your heart out! (At least the view was good!)

As usual int was up to date, a PL size group had seized the PCP. After a dose of F111 2,000 pounders a 350 man strong force awaited us in a fortified position. Weren't those radar, heatseeking, wire