



Commanding Officer
Lieutenant Colonel I.J. Ballantyne

FOREWORD

The 1987 Journal provides an insight into the very wide variety of interests, activities and achievements that contribute to life in the 2nd/4th. The Journal reflects a busy and successful twelve months and all members of THE BATTALION can be proud of our achievements.

I am happy that the unit's professional capabilities have been demonstrated in training throughout the year and Exercises EAGER EAGLET and SWIFT EAGLE confirmed our ability to meet the demands that may be placed on the ODF Priority Battalion. Concentration on basic military skills during 1987 has placed the battalion in a sound position and accordingly we will start the 1988 year on the run. I would make special note of fine performances by our shooters (at AASAM and in the Brigade Competition) and by the Gloucester Cup Squad.

Sport has played a large part in unit life and the standard of competition and sportsmanship has been very pleasing. The inter-company competition as always has been keenly, and at times, emotionally contested. The unit has produced some excellent performances within the Brigade competition and our sportsmen have represented at Inter-Service and equivalent level in rugby, hockey, cricket, volleyball, touch football, distance running and golf.

I would like to draw attention to the support received from outside the battalion. The 2nd/4th has been fortunate to have received assistance from most units within Lavarack Barracks during the year and we are appreciative of it. We have also received strong backing from the business community of the Townsville District, supporting our sportsmen and ensuring the viability of this journal.

For those leaving the unit, I wish you well in your future appointments and pursuits and I hope that your time with the 2nd/4th has been memorable. For those remaining, 1988 promises to be a very busy year with members of the Battalion participating in visits and exercises in Malaysia, U.K., Hawaii, New Guinea, Hong Kong, Shoalwater Bay, Mount Isa and Ayers Rock.

I commend this journal to the wives, families and girlfriends of the men of the 2nd/4th and hope that the publication draws you a little closer to life in the Battalion. We do appreciate your support and thank you for your patience throughout the year. I also thank the Editor and his contributors for making the 1987 Journal something of which the Battalion can be proud.

I wish all members of the Battalion and their families a very happy and safe Christmas and I look forward to soldiering with you in the New Year.