

- A new Platoon Commander;
- The platoons effort in cramming 24 blokes onto a short unimog with full marching order;
- An old Malaysian veterans' endless yarn about how 'I ripped me OC up the back with an Owen! But I stuffed up, I didn't kill him'; and
- Refreshing swims in Croc infested waters.

From then on we went our separate ways on Pre-embarkation leave and sadly said goodbye to the vast amounts of Battalion duties, which we had come to know and love.

On 31 August we jetted off to Malaysia and so far an excellent time has been had by all (Although the bulk of the bush is still to come!)

Congratulations to LCpl Kelly and Pte Bird on their involvement in both the Duke of Gloucester Cup and representing the Australian Army in the Bicentennial Regional Military Skills Competition at Canungra.

Also farewell to Lt Gallegos, Sgt Skaines, Cpl Muir, Pte's Paton, Bodley, Cronin and McDonald....!!!

## 9 Platoon

Dear Mum,

You wouldn't believe how busy we've been this year! This is the first chance we've had to actually sit down and write home. So here it is, blow by blow, (and I'm not talking about Malaysia... yet!)

Tough Test was our first real work for the year, and as we always do, 9 Platoon came in first, blitzing all other opposition. Of course, we maintained our standard throughout Mil Skills, taking out the Obs Course and finishing overall 2nd and 5th, which gave us the Champion platoon. Only the hard man tactics of Cpl Cameron and the unnatural abilities displayed by the other men gave us our victory.

While all this hard work was on, LCpl Smith and Fotheringham,

along with Pte Benton, were taking a break in England, putting on a magnificent display of drill for the Queen and Company.

We saw quite a bit of Queensland, going as far down as Rockhampton where we did a lot of breaking down in APC's, and as far up as Burketown, where the Sarge and the Boss (The Leyland Brothers) had a lot of brainsnaps!

We almost got over to sunny Vanuatu for a bit of riot control, but as usual, 'Bob' said no.

Speaking of riots, while in Mackay on a shooting trip we managed to create havoc in the main street, which saw the section commanders ganging up on the diggers! All in good fun of course.

We played Mum to half a dozen mangy camels on the Great Camel Race, and returned home only to be whisked off to Tinaroo Dam, there, we (the Sarge and Arab) crashed boats and accidentally (Hah!) stumbled across a group of nudists, whilst shooting up schoolchildren. They must have been good sorts, 'cos the brigadier himself took an interest.

I'm writing this letter from a dimly lit bar in Penang, so if my handwriting seems shaky, you'll understand why! Here are a few of the funnier moments we have produced in just two weeks:

Mick Galea thought he was a stud, until we told him they were shims, the next day!

The Boss and Snake Morrissey put on a very strange act with a \$100 note.

Vinny Weir was the first, Fotheringham fell in love, on a ferry, B.J., Smithy, Mick Galea and Cpl Mills were our boxing champs, and the new association of the Bladerunners was formed on the Thai border!

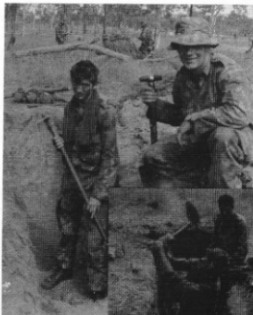
Oh well Mum, I'm off to do the traps with the rest of the platoon, will write again next year.

Your loving sons,

9 PLATOON.

Farewell: Jeff Ingall, Jamie Robinson, Scoggins, Baines and Ben Thun.

## Subject 2 Corporals Course



Subject 2 Course  
digging in at High  
Range



*Delta Company*