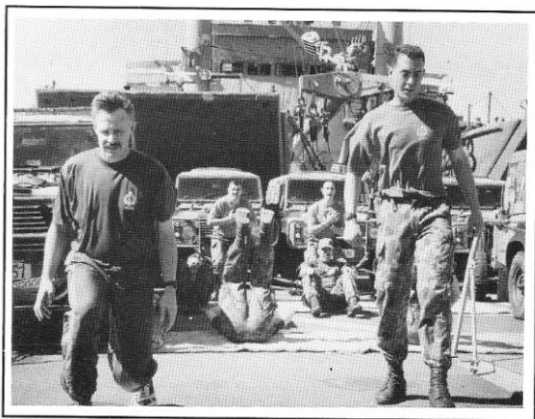


HMAS TOBRUK

The passage aboard HMAS TOBRUK from Sydney to Townsville was both a culture shock and a good introduction or a reintroduction for the members of the Battalion to another facet of military service - travel by sea. Dolphin and Whale sightings soon became commonplace and all present gained an understanding of life at sea and the sailor's lot. Of course the major worry for the OC's was troop morale in a crowded, cramped and constantly rolling ship where the beds were made for the height disadvantaged, meals are eaten in shifts and the Navy has a different name for everything. Once we worked out that a 'bulk head' is a wall not an insult and that 'Duff' is desert we were OK, with all members receiving some sort of training and PT.

Bodies were kept active by SGT Iverach and his legendary PT sessions. Minds were exercised by weapons and first aid training, and group discussions. Other recreation in the form of videos, piped music, board games and cards copied a fair beating up in the 'Rec Space' with 'Battleship' being a favourite. Of course Tech Spt Pl found something to fix and the Officers found places to be and conferences to conduct. Work Parties, Emergency training and the never ending fire drills also helped pass the time. After five days at sea we landed at Townsville and began the next phase of EX SWIFT EAGLE 96.



...AN HMAS TOBRUK

Left to Right: CAPT Hallett (QM), CPL O'Donnell,
BUTT - unidentified, SGT Cust, SGT Iverach, CPL Rabe