



'UP TO MY NECK IN WORK'



'NO, NO STUND - I SAID THE BIG ONE!!'

Admin Coy

The year of the field echelon. A Echelon found itself in High Range twice, Tindal camp and Shoalwater Bay. Sometimes it rained, but when it didn't, the dust choked us. Despite our numerous excursions to the field, we still managed to do our usual unlovely jobs in Lavarack.

The cooks, despite constantly changing manning charts, continued their good work. Under the guidance of WO2 Dahl Helm and Sgts Parker, McCoola, Wilson, Walsh, the various messes ate very well. Notable were the promotions of Sgt Wilson to WO2 and Cpl Murdoch to Sgt. Well done! Also, we farewell WO2 Dahl Helm after a commendable tour in the Battalion.

The RAP staff continued on their merry way under the guidance of Sgt Lewis, fresh from his operating theatres down south. He and Cpl Kummerlowe got quite a shock at their work conditions on the Burdekin. The Hygiene squad and, of course, "Corbs" remained part of the furniture, but where would we be without them.

We farewell Maj "Sully" to Williamtown and wish him the best of luck. Capts Stencheon and Lewien have left us after short but invaluable tours, and, last, but by no means least, we wish the "Duck" the very best in his new position at DSG. He will be sadly missed by all but the wrongdoers.

Happy Christmas.

Quartermasters platoon

1976 has proven a hectic year for the Battalion "Q" staff with most sub-units "stirring" by continuously asking for stores and equipment from the Battalion Q Store.

The big event for the year was undoubtedly Exercise "Big Country", during which much faith was restored in the supply organisation and the QM was extracted from his Lavarack office and coaxed into the field. Many attempts have also been made to lure the RQ into the bush. Letters containing grass, crushed hexamine and other scrub relics have been despatched to his refuge in an effort to tempt his curiosity, alas, all to no avail.

P.C. Smith was another to demonstrate his Houdini talents when, on hearing mention of "Kangaroo II" successfully disappeared from the 2/4 RAR scene for a good two months. Not to be outdone, "O.B." O'Brien made a spectacular departure early in his stay at Shoalwater Bay. Consequently, Mick Coombs, Blue Unwin, John Preston and others were seen to be vigorously participating in Volley Ball for several days following the incident.

As the year draws to a close, the staff of the Battalion Q Store continue to work vigorously in an attempt to reduce the 1977 work load by returning all stores to depot before the end of 1976.



"I THOUGHT THESE VEHICLES COULD SWIM"
.....NAVY SKIPPER.
MINOR TECHNICAL FAULTS DURING
UNLOADING AT DARWIN.

The Transport Platoon's year began with a drivers course on which we trained 18 drivers. The last phase of this course involved a drive through Mt. Spec, Hidden Valley and onto High Range, with some amendments on the way due to mud, water and to be honest some inexperience. It was finally given away as a total loss and we headquartered in High Range where the roads were slightly better.

On Exercise Happy Swinger we spent some time as mountain goats on wheels and Private Krienke kicked his vehicle down a hill. It was no match for the tree it tried to push over and had to be "motorcasc'd". It was even rumoured at the time that Pte Krienke swore he had left the vehicle in gear with the handbrake on.

At about this time we were having to use some fairly old vehicles and although this is as yet unconfirmed it seemed probable that a select group of drivers got together and decided to do something concrete about it. Pte Jursonovic was appointed and his resulting "accident" was later loudly applauded.

Probably the biggest move this year was to Exercise Big Country where we loaded the majority of the vehicles onto Navy LCH's for the sea trip to Darwin. The large northern city was quite pleasant and even managed to part with a couple of dozen large stubbies during our stay. We believe Lcpl Dreier organised this part of the trip. After the exercise we were again transported back to Townsville by the Navy. Some, however, arrived with more of a cargo of seawater than anything else and Pte White doesn't talk too much about that "on board" ride he volunteered for.

Our final foray for the year was Exercise Kangaroo II which had some mentionable highlights. Cpl Clewley is still practising how to stop at DP's without using brakes and a good deal has been learnt about the strength of local trees. At least there is evidence on numerous vehicles.

This year has been a substantial and therefore rewarding one for the members of the platoon but one or two look back on it with mixed feelings. As the wife of one of the NCO's said, "I thought TROPO was what you called the Transport Officer".