

Admin Company



Pipes and Drums in 86

86 started very early for Pipes and Drums with the staging of the South Australian Jubilee 150th Military Tattoo. All the Regiment Pipes and Drums 2/4 RAR, 3 RAR, 5/7 RAR, 6 RAR, and 8/9 RAR together with two local ARES PIPES AND Drums, Adelaide University Regt and the resurrected 27 Royal South Australian Regt took part. Also in attendance from the UK was the 1st Bn Scots Guards which made a full compliment of 100 Pipes and Drummers.

Our P/Ds left Townsville by hercules on the 19th Feb and flew the Ronnies Milk run down the coast to Edinburgh Air Base where we settled into very comfortable accommodation. After our initial welcome, southwork sangers, it was co-ord conferences, practices and rehearsals for promotional coverage for the Tattoo.

After tuning up it was pictures for the papers then the Regiment P/Ds trundled down the busy King William Street to Torrens Parade ground where we fell out and back to the Air Base.

After the televised march and interviews the local ladies seemed to have an instant liking to these kilted soldiers, less undies and all (that came to 100 or 50 pairs of swinging b---s). The fans didn't last long however, for the Guards opened their mouths and hence, the Aussie came second. Mind you diggers are flexible and it wasn't long before they too developed a lingo for purposes I don't wish to mention.

Rehearsals then began to build up and after the seventh, the only respite from the boredom were some army nurses put on a display that made the kilts and sporrans bulge.

Short skirts, suspenders and skimpy pants certainly softened up the P/Ds and rehearsals after that became a pleasure. The relationship with these young lusty lassies really developed during the Tattoo period until finally we had our own Tattoo lights out on the local beach the last night.

Being a part of the ODF our P/Ds started a PT programme which took the form of a run to Elizabeth Park where the Pipe Majors parents supplied breakfast and a generous dram to start us on our way. This resulted in our return to barracks by tax. This gesture we repaid by attending their family bar-a-cue and taking out the first three shelves of liquor.

The performances went according to plan and if you can imagine a 100 pipes and drummers appearing through Castle gates, it instantly gave you that hair raising feeling of pride.

If I may, I'll mention some of guests and reviewing officers, Brig T.F. Walker 4MD, Comd R. Hardy RAN, Air Commd T.W. O'Brien RAAF, Chiefs of Staff Maj Gen Clunes-Ross, Surg Rear Adm Trelour, Air Vice Marshall W. Simmons, His Excellency Lt Gen Sir Donald Dunstan (No the other one is ripping off the Chinese community in Melbourne) and His Excellency The Governor General of Australia Sir Ninan Stephen oh!!! and the SA Premier, John Bannon. As you can see the eyes of Gods were upon us.

After the last performance, the Tattoo committee put on FREE drinks for all the performers and you won't believe how so much was drunk so quickly, in so short a time, mind you when its a free-beer it seems to taste better.

When all the drinks had gone it was on the buses and back to Edinburgh where we all changed and went out for farewells in all forms.

After all that, when you hit the spot light and start your routine the pride in your Regt pours out of you and your reward, praise from the spectators and the Big boys we work for, its a great feeling.

What of the continuing year? well, less swans and more regimental type work. It seems that 1RAR can tour for two weeks while we did our commitments and their type of military commitments were - ARES, 11FFGP, 31 Bn RQR, 51 FNQR, RAN Cairns, all messes in the Lavarack area plus funerals, weddings, Corp parades, Sqn concerts and not forgetting our Mil Skills week of 31 guard mounts.

12 May Coral Day saw the Pipe Major perform his balancing act on the top of 1RARs Officers Mess roof to play a lament for the Coral heroes. "Heroes at Coral", was written by 2/4 P/D for that annual occasion.

We mustn't forget, ANZAC Day, that began for P/D at 0330 with dispatching pipers and buglers to varied ceremonies. RAAF Garbutt, P/Major Bob Casey, Dave Schmid and Taffy Evans to Ignatius Park College, Trevor Davis and Rocky Coulter at the Battalions dawn service. As for the Bde HQ dawn service "Bugler"? well I believe the Commander and the Command RSM were discussing ways of stuffing a certain bugle up a certain buglers arse. Who's left ye, the wee man with the wee stick.

The month of May saw us in Weipa and Bamaga, June was Cairns for 51 FNQR, July was the Governor of Queensland's Guard with the Black bears and commanded by OC Admin Coy a magnificent performance. During August came the 8th Birthday and if you had your eyes peeled you may have noticed our versatile CSM performing, Clem Russell (playing an open "c"), with our local finance planner Mr. Ian Kennedy. Many thanks to Clem and Ian who gave up valuable time to be with us.

Freedom of the City saw a small contingent of 8/9 RAR P/D help us out and thanks to their CO and P/M for the assistance. As you've seen our numbers are going down and recruits are hard to get, so give a thought to becoming a part of the Battalions traditions.

K86, with less numbers and medical restrictions the P/D were unable to supply the necessary medical support to the Companies, however the few we had became defence section for CHQ AECB performing the basic skills we all know. They also performed as back up signallers, linesmen, switch operators and local defence duties. A varied, versatile bunch of MUSO's. Mind you one day little drummer boy Price may eventually master that bloomin bugle.

11 Nov was Thuringowa City's first memorial service with their new RSL in attendance, however K86 takes priority and we had to arrange for our LOBs to perform.

29 Nov James Cook University Staff Club had their St. Andrews Dinner (Scottish Dinner) and of course the P/Maj carried out that task, baggies, Scotch lassies, and all for free a very enjoyable night.

On 25 Nov we also carried out a concert for the Good Shepherd Hospice. A rewarding performance when you're appreciated by our senior citizens.

Our last few parades were with 2FD Sup Battalion and the 31RQR Recruit Parade then we gradually put away the uniform and went on BRL.

However, if you decide to attend the Casinos New Years party, you'll hear and see the P/Maj blowing in the New Year, (Hogmanay).

Last of all to our Commanding Officer LtCol O'Sullivan MBE "A guide new year" from your pipes and drums and to our P/D Offr Maj Wheatley many thanks, it's not easy to understand Pipers and Drummers.

Pipe Major W. Gall

Catering Platoon



1986 looked a busy one from the start, in the telling it proved to be just that with some notable successes and generally satisfying results.

First up this year we explored the high range training area with "Bush Week", which got the platoon thinking at field cooking level in preparation for the major exercises during this year, and also served as an introduction to some of our newer members of the Platoon.

The next activity worth mentioning was the trips to Malay and PNG.

The Malaysian trip was lead by Sgt Pressley, who has Cpl Burns, Pte (Shep) Sheppard and Pte Greg Bolt as his team. They first spent a few weeks at Plauda, where they had to play a little grunting. One of the things worth mentioning about the trip would be when Pte Greg Bolt tried to spend some time in the Sgts Mess as one of the members. He was doing really well until someone found out he was only a Pte. (Bad luck Greg try again in a few years time). Anyway it's good to have them back with us again at work, as long as Cpl Burns leaves that white fire water alone.

Then there was the trip to PNG, where Sgt (Bernard) King, Cpl (Pinky) Allen, Pte (Blue) Abraham and Pte (Pop) Austin showed the PNG cooks how to cook and use their equipment in the kitchen. Cpl Allen for the duration of the trip looked after the ORs. He found it rather easy to prepare meals, for if they had a Chicken Schnitzel on the menu, he would only have to bone one chicken as a demonstration to the PNG cooks was enough. He would then hand over the other 30 chickens to them and returned when they were finished.

Pte (Blue) Abraham fell right into place, he could talk all he wanted to, and the PNGs to the day we left still didn't understand him.

Pte Austin worked at the Officer's Mess whilst at PNG. He must have liked it, as the PNG cooks had him in their beer garden playing darts and if he had a hard night the night before they would have him rest his head in the Staff Room.

And then there was Sgt King who tried to speak to them in Pidgeon. They seemed to understand he thought, but they but they just walked off trying to find out what he was about.

Next was exercise "Maxi Beagle". Prior to going on this trip, the Catering Platoon was trained on the new field kitchen (KFM). It was a trying time, it was like teaching an old dog new tricks.



SGT Morgan.

On arrival at Normanton we set up our new kitchen under the direction of WO2 Peter Crooks and Sgt Glen Morgan. Before long we were into the meat of the work. The caterer with his crystal ball would then advise the Platoon of how many we would be feeding the following day, (anything between 700 to 1000 men each meal). Then came the time to dish up the meals into the TV dinner trays. At the front of the production line would be Sgt Morgan and Sgt King and by the end of the line was Sgt (Jock) Lorimer with his team putting the stamp of approval on the meals. At the end of the trip we had trayed up well over 20,000 meals, so I suppose it would qualify as Meals on Wheels.

Near the end of the exercise Pte Terry Riley was set up well and truly. He was told he had to go out in the middle of the afternoon to do a Recca patrol, so he was prepared for this **dangerous** mission! At this stage he was starting to catch on, so to prove it was for real Pte Abraham was sent out to assist him. They both were given rounds and briefed at the CP and then sent on their way. Meanwhile the remainder of the Platoon got into a good position to watch what was about to happen.



PTE Riley and the Caterer.

As they patrolled they were told to go in one direction, and straight around the race track. As they reached the other side of the track the enemy opened fire on them and it was total confusion, Terry started to run the other way, away from the enemy. After he had realised what was happening he stopped and returned fire only to find the enemy advancing upon him and Blue. So off they ran and it was a race to see who was first back to base camp, Terry or Blue.

Other events for the year were the Bn Ball which was a great success. Even our butcher Pte (TED) Simpson got a bit in. Then there was the Area Officers Ball where our chefs showed the remainder of the Bde how to cook, with Cpl Andy McKinnley, Pte Tim Ross and Pte Craig Whittaker taking out the 3 awards in the Mini Salon Culinary Cooking Competition at the Ball.

Three weeks after the ball there was a Major Salon Culinary being held at the Sheraton where once again we produced the goods, with Cpl Allen a Silver medal, Pte Whittaker 3 silver medals and Pte (Dipstick) Smith a Bronze medal.

Well done boys.

In closing the Catering Platoon would like to wish all Bn members a happy Xmas and new Year and hope to see you all next year.





As the Xmas streamers and Santa Clause's appear in the streets of Townsville, I am reminded that the year 1986 has come to a close. It is now time in these final weeks before leave to reflect on what we have accomplished and tried to accomplish.

In the "Rear View Mirror Club" we have seen many members move on to prove that there is life after 2/4. Most have taken the plunge and gone onto bigger and better things in RACT. No doubt we'll see them when the next major exercise occurs. Entering the platoon this year we've had a number of skilled drivers who have demonstrated all the salient points in the art of lightning fast deployments, setting up camm nets, 11 x 11's and getting the brew on. It was difficult to work out which team was the best, AQ4 was good with the platoon sergeant, our own SGT Beattie having much to offer CPL Buttery in these skills. A Coy has shown what can be done in this area ably assisted by the CQ "JD". B and C Coy get the job done (sort of), but the award must go to Gator and Rod Bowers with D Coy. The award will again be contested next year with new teams and this time the CQ's will have chequered flags.



PTE Currie inspects SPL.

Petro was determined to get mentioned this year, so to finish off what has been a "quiet" year for him he made a solo entry in the fender bender and demolition derby contest. He carries the award without a contest (some also think the Tallest Story award.)

Our best wishes go to all those who have moved on this year, and for those remaining we'll wait and see what challenges 1987 holds in store for us.