

## 2/4 RAP Activities

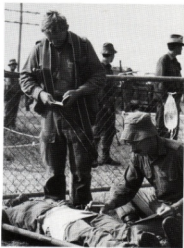
1986 has seen 2/4 RAP maintain and exceed the high standards of the previous year. Through hard work and efficient organization the RAP has been recognised as the best in the Lavarack area.

Success has come through the efforts of the enthusiastic staff. The RMO, Capt Geoff Stokeid, has been ably guided and assisted during the year by SSgt Gerry Cloney and SSgt Chris Jones. SSgt Cloney was posted midyear on promotion to South Australia and is now running an ARES unit at 3 General Hospital.

SSgt Jones has enthusiastically and expertly managed the RAP since then. In a magical performance he has conjured medics for exercises, equipment and stores and most importantly an airconditioner for the treatment room (but sadly not for the RMO's office).

The new members to the RAP are Cpl Peter Simmonds, Cpl Dave Lee, Cpl Dave Leak, Cpl Mick Lawrenson and Cpl Bill Kessel. Cpl Simmonds is noted for his performances about PT and his enthusiasm for the no smoking policy at the RAP. He is also acting Platoon Sgt and doing a fine job. The highlight of Cpl Lawrenson's career has been a 3 month trip to Malaysia where he excelled both medically and behind the bar. He has also unfortunately turned down three proposals of marriage from Asian girls and we fear he may not get many more chances. Cpl Lee amazes all by consistently cycling to and from work. With the help of the RMO he has also computerised the system for indenting for medical supplies. He is also noted for astronomical observations. Cpl Leak was the envy of all till he rolled his Mazda RX7 and we hope it gets well soon. Finally Cpl Kessel is now showing C Coy what physical exercise is really about and has astounded them with his performances.

Everybody was exercised during KB6.



1986 saw the departure of Cpl Trevor Roberts and Sgt "Blue" McCufficke who are now collecting exotic tropical fish from the Great Barrier Reef. We hope they continue in the ARES. After a notable posting Cpl "Snow" Bryan also left to continue his Army career in Kapooka.

A highlight of the 1986 calendar for the RAP was a casualty evacuation from a simulated crash of a CH47 Chinook during exercise Maxi Beagle. In a well managed and instructive exercise casualties were triaged, resuscitated and evacuated to Normanton Hospital. These events were recorded for posterity somewhat dramatically on the front page of the Army newspaper, under the heading "In the belly of the buffalo". It was a very successful exercise.

A training program in First Aid has also been established and a course completed, again with excellent results. Further courses can be anticipated in 1987 after the successful foundations established this year.

In all a rewarding year for the RAP which aims to continue to maintain high standards of medical support to the 2nd/4th Battalion.



**Tech Spt Platoon — “Keeping up the skills”**

## Tech Support

1986 has been another busy year for the Tech Spt Pft as yet another generation of potential equipment operators are unleashed upon unsuspecting and utterly defenceless LAND ROVERS, WEAPONS and SIGNAL EQUIPMENT. They discover that perhaps the brakes shouldn't be applied quite so enthusiastically and a clutch should be used occasionally, even if only to stop the noise.

Of course not everybody joined the Army to drive land overs, and this has most certainly upheld with an overwhelming and interesting amount of faults occurring in the Battalions tired but faithful weapons.

Of course not all the weapons are tired and 1986 saw the introduction of the MAG58 which appeared to please machine gunners everywhere!

1986 has also seen a large turnover in the posted strength of the Platoon these being:

### Posting Out:

WO2 T. Cook: *The best fitter in the army?*

Cpl J.A. Gittos: *Where's my posting order boss?*

LCpl K.M. Brown: *Who needs to work for a living?*

LCpl L.M. Keft: *Pity I'm leaving!*

### Posting In:

WO2 D. Williams: *Last year things were organized but that's going to change!*

Cpl A. Wheatly: *I've been a Corporal for simply ages!*

Cfn J. Powell: *Of course its expense!*

Cfn M.J. Browy: *What a dumb place to park anyway.*

Stimulation and culture were catered for, when the Battalion deployed to Normanton for Ex Maxi Beagle. Finding our position on the ring road proved difficult, but with a cut lunch and a compass even the impossible can be achieved. The Normanton Pony Club provided the entertainment.

PT has achieved a certain notoriety since the arrival of the new ASM and should anyone have any hills they wish scaled please forward its location and altitude above sea level to Tech Spt c/- Admin Coy next year.

All in all an interesting year, but there's still Skippy isn't there?

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