



* The Team *

Duke of Gloucester Cup Competition 1987

This year 9 Sect 12 Pl D Coy won the Military Skills Competition and thus provided the basis of the team to represent the Battalion in the prestigious Duke of Gloucester Cup Competition. The initial squad consisted of 9 Sect and thirteen other soldiers from the sections that came second and third in the competition. This was done to develop a strong sense of competitiveness at the individual and collective level. In addition, it was to provide depth in the advent of injury. Unfortunately this depth was not sufficient as the squad numbers diminished too soon and this caused a weakness that was to become apparent later.

The final squad from which the team was chosen from as follows:

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|------------------------|---------------------------|
| * Cpl Bob Brooks | * Pte Gary McGiver |
| * Cpl Bob Parker | * Pte Paul Stephenson |
| * LCpl Keith Armstrong | * Pte Michael Jennings |
| * Pte Darren Hunt | * Pte Rod Rootham |
| * Pte Brian Kelly | * Pte Mick Toohey |
| * Pte Rod O'Neil | * Pte Darren Morrissey |
| * Pte Royce Harty | * Pte Anthony Johnson-Dir |
| * Pte David Wood | * Pte Jeff Currie-Dir |

D Coy was responsible for training the squad. The aim was to provide a broad approach to training. This was achieved by theory revision, practical training and confirmation in a competitive and stressful environment, in the form of an ETS. During training, each phase was reaffirmed in the field, the culmination being a Military Skills exercise in which the final team competed against a fresh section on each leg/activity.

The squad was asked to work very hard and learnt a great deal. For instance:

- how to rearrange your pack to include the 30lb bag of gravel that was required to be carried;
- the effect of the high fibre, high protein rations and mars bars had on the stomach;
- how to sleep whilst walking on a 58km ruck.

In addition, some members creative writing significantly improved if the stories (sorry, statements) on the L & D's for lost wet weather gear are any indication.

The determination and comradeship displayed by the team showed that the basic qualities of infantry soldier are as good as they have ever been and a credit to all those involved.

Despite finishing third in the Duke of Gloucester Cup, a bit of experience and a little luck would have made a significant difference, as there was not much separating the first three sections.

Next year may see a different approach to the competition and we will aim a little higher — the basis for success has already been demonstrated.



**DUKE OF GLOUCESTER CUP
— THE COMPETITION —**

