

Administration Company

Catering Platoon

The year that was.

Once again, it's that time of the year, when we put pen to paper, and recapture the events of the year that affected Catering Platoon.

As usual, first up for the year was "Bush Week", which was conducted around the mountains of Bluewater. This year the platoon was not involved in their normal role which was to cook for the Battalion. Instead the platoon was working as rifle men within Admin Coy. As I am sure the rest of the Battalion members, the walk into the exercise area was no joke. As a rifle section, the platoon was involved in section and platoon operations, and also the development of military training skills, which opened the eyes of a lot of the catering members.

Other involvements for the platoon during the year were Ex Eager Eaglet and Ex Swift Eagle, which kept the platoon on their toes. The high standard of food and service to the troops in the field was a challenge to all. Not forgetting to mention Sgt Morgan and his team on Diamond Dollar. I believe they don't wish to go back out there in a hurry.

During the year, Catering Platoon has had some remarkable achievements in sport and salon culinaire. When it comes to sport, catering is also involved. Once again, the Buccaneers (which is an indoor cricket team) had successful seasons in grade C3. The team consisted of Sgt Pressley, Cpl Reid, Cpl Garland, Pte Dowse (Capt), Pte Smithwick, Pte Sheppard, Pte Whuk and Pte Bolt.

Other sporting achievements during the year go to Pte Sheppard for winning the Javelin in the Battalion Athletics Carnival. This achievement gave him the distinction of winning the Javelin for the 3rd year in a row, and to Sgt C. King, who was a valuable player in the winning team in the 100m Squash Comp.

The Salon Culinaire was held in Cairns during October and like last year, this year was even more successful. Special congratulations go to Cpl Steven Reid, who won a gold and bronze medal. Other medal winners were Sgt Craig King with 2 bronze medals; Cpl Floyd Allen with 1 bronze medal; Pte Maurice Austin with a bronze medal and Pte Duane Shepard with a certificate of merit. Well done lads! In addition, Cpl Allen won first and Cpl Reid 3rd for margarine sculptures in the 1 MD Salon Culinaire in Brisbane.

Well, the year is coming to an end, and that means postings for some. We wish all the following members the best of luck in their new jobs; they are:

WO2 P. Crooks
Sgt C. King
Sgt D. Lorimer
Sgt P. Pressley
Cpl S. Reid
Cpl J. Garland

Cpl T. Jenkins
Cpl W. Burns (March '88)
Pte N. Abraham
Pte G. Bolt
Pte D. Sheppard

All in all, this year has been a rather busy year, but somehow enjoyable and for that we are thankful. So to everyone regardless of whether you are staying or leaving, we wish you all a great Christmas and Happy New Year.
— from the Catering Platoon



The CO congratulates the Company members after their star appearance in Lemon Fab Commercials



Medical Platoon _____ (The Elite)



1987 began at the RAP with the arrival of two new march-ins to help our sick parade. For those members of the unit who wonder what goes on in the RAP, just imagine a Monday morning with soldiers sitting on the steps, so eager, they are there before the staff. We begin the morning routine assigned to us by SSgt Jones (N.I. N.I.).

"At the moment Staffs' not sure if he's Medical or Infantry, after being re-engaged in the Infantry Corp."

The front desk is attended by a colourful mob, the Dave twins (Cpl's Leak and Lee). Our ever so busy secretary Cpl "Billy" Kessell and Sgt "Mother" Simmonds (your local Legal Aid Advisor). We have our regulars with sprained ankles, broken hands, etc. etc.

You are then processed and sent onto the treatment room, which is maintained and stocked by our ever so efficient staff. Cpl "John" Moffatt waits with bated breath for your arrival, ready to administer what ever Doctor has prescribed.

The last 12 months have been very busy and rewarding, again the 214 RAP has won the prestigious Award for Efficiency and Accuracy, against all other RAP's in the North Qld. area. We are also proud of being named the "Model RAP" of Australia, as quoted by Maj. Gen. Jeffery. Let me not forget Cpl "Agro" Lawrenson, who at the moment is holidaying in the south of France.

REFLECTIONS OF THE RAP

*From day to day we earn our pay,
"Doing what", some may say,
Mending bones and answering phones,
We can usually tell when there's something on,
The sick parades unusually long,
For example, before Eager Eaglet,
The sick parade averages at 65,
The purpose of this city,
Is to let you know the staff are shitty,
We're overworked and underpaid,
And still you want us for sick parades.
Once again the year has ended,
And we look back on the people we've mended.
We hope to see them again next year,
When you come to the boozier and buy us a beer.*

Anon.

Technical Support Platoon _____

1987 started off with the arrival of three new march-ins they were, CFN's John Kennett, Gavin "Ando" Anderson and Cpl Nick "Changs" Cashman.

In February, two members of the platoon, Tony Minniti and Andrew Wheatly had the pleasure of learning the art of jumping from serviceable helicopters on the 1/87 Basic Airborne Rappellers Course. This proved to be a new and enjoyable aspect of training for them both.

At this stage the platoon settled down to doing its job of repairing and maintaining unit equipment but surprise, along came bush week. For a week the platoon, along with the rest of the battalion were treated to walking around the forest at Bluewater relearning lost skills in Infantry Minor Tactics.

Once back from bush week the platoon got back to doing its job of fixing the unit's broken equipment. Bob Stevens went off to College of Knowledge, RAEME Training Centre, to do his subject 4 for sergeant and Trevor Gaulke went to Shoalwater Bay with 'D' Company on Ex Scorpion Sting. During this time "Ando" Prichard marched out to 102 Field Workshop and "Hank" Archard marched in to our happy family.

The first major deployment for Tech Support was Ex Eager Eaglet. During the exercise A Ech deployed at the Mingela Rodeo grounds and Tech Support found themselves sharing the cattle yards with about 200 head of cattle, a very interesting experience! Our next exercise was Swift Eagle on which the platoon and our vehicles were deployed by air to Macrossan. The exercise went well apart from when Tony Minniti decided to hit the ground rather hard whilst rappelling, resulting in a broken wrist. After the exercises, the platoon, along with the rest of the battalion, went off for a well earned stand down.

With stand down over, Trevor Gaulke and "Buzz" Bzowy went to the Northern Territory with Recon Pl to hunt camels for the unit's participation in next year's Great Camel Race from ???? to Surfers Paradise. They assure us it was a very different trip. To Buzz's horror he no sooner got back than marched straight on to the subject one for Corporal's Course. "Harry" Harrison left us in October on a posting to 1 Base Workshop Battalion in Brisbane.

During the year, platoon members participated in many sports including Tug of War, water polo, Australian rules, soccer, and various athletic events. Andrew Wheatley also participated in the unit Mil Skills Competition.

As the year draws to a close, we will still be busy supporting the various courses and activities the Second Fourth Battalion is involved in. Trevor Gaulke and "Chang" Cashman will be supporting Delta Company overseas in Malaysia.

2/4 Battalion Barber Raewyn Stacey would like to thank all Battalion members for their support during 1987.

*A safe and Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.*

Raewyn.



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Pipes and Drums

This year, as in previous years started off with small commitments. The RSL on Magnetic Island were our first customers which required the usual Pipe and Bugle. Since, most of the lads were on leave, this left the Corporals, Pipe Major and Jock "Beachball" Smith to present the musical performance.

Our new Pipe Sergeant arrived from 8/9 RAR, Sgt Ray McMellon, and he had his debut with the P/D's at Courtney house at West End. This year we have had more regimental commitments than usual, starting with CGS visit's, Off Mess Dinners 2 Fd Sup, Mt Stuart, 4 Fd Party, 3/4 Cav, DSU, Sgt Mess RAEME, Sigs, 3/4 Cav 2 Fd Sup and it goes on.

March, saw us prepare for St Patrick's Day and of course traditionally we had the Pipes March around for reveille. Sgt McMellon and Pte Bedding took on that task and managed somehow to keep dry. Usually, it's the fire hose or the bucket of water. St Paddy's day became a long drawn out day, the commitments to the Shamrock Hotel, Langs and Exchange Hotels, which I might add paid well to RFL.

Next came our big chance to show our sister Battalions and the Civil Bands what stuff we were made of. We flew to Sydney for the Tobruk '87 Mini Band Competition. This Competition actually was the first comp we entered in since the RAR Competition in '85.

At the end of the day, 2/4 P/D came away with 4 trophies, 8 gold medals, 1 silver, 1 bronze (an excellent effort on behalf of the lads). Got the idea that us Kentucky warriors would be a pushover, however we proved those southern Mexicans different and took not only their trophies, but a little of their pride.

All told, from Feb. to Dec. 31, we have approximately done about 90 jobs and raise about \$1500 for RFL.

In 1987, we have had new additions to the Pipes and Drums, not only through the well supported assistance of the Commanding Officer, OC Admin and all OC's at the Companies, but addition to our P/D Family group these were marriages of Bob and Lee Casey; Simon and Carol Bedding; Greg and Raylen Pritchard and Stewart and Yasmin Wilson.

Congratulations, keep these future Pipes and Drummers coming. Back to commitments, from July to Aug. kept us performing at many parades including our own Colour parade. The first time in several years saw the P/D total 18 Muso's which I hope can continue with the support of the battalion.

Let's jump to Sep, yes we went to bush and soon after our trainee from 1/87 Intro Cse moved to the Defense force school

at Music Victoria where they didn't shame us, a good effort by all who attended the 6 week course.

While our trainees were enjoying the Muso Course the hard Core oldies were heading for Cairns for the Silvercel Colours Presentation. Our Reserve brothers put on an excellent parade considering the civil limitation placed on their CO, RSM, Adjpt.

Speaking of Colours, 2/4 RAR P/D since 1985 have given musical support to four Presentation of Colours an honour which is very rare. These Parades were... 4 RAR, 3 RAR, 1 PIR (PNG) and 31 FNQR. I would say that the oldies of P/D have some knowledge of Presentation of Colours?

From the beginning of October and until December 31 we had many more jobs ranging from Moving home's Freedom of City Marches, Welcome our American friends, Armish day, Corp dinners, other unit dinners and farewells, weddings and last of all New Years Eve with a ? question mark.

We do have some losses at the end of the year. Sgt McMellon is leaving for 5/7 to take over the position of P/Maj, so best of luck Ray and Roseann, don't forget, Ray, when your on downer look at your badge and get up with bayonet flashing and bagpipes whaling.

Maj Wheatley, our OC/Pipes and Drums Officer has had to put up with us for, is it 2 years? Or a decade, God knows. Anyhow, Sir it's been great working with you. I only hope the next OC likes a good squabble and fight in the darker depths of A Ech. Oh! if you get close to any form of this support to 1 RAR, we could do with a little ourselves.

Well this year has seen Pipe Band Competition, Colours Parades, visit to inter-state units, P/D courses, marriages, bush, and an array of other commitments all of which has been supported and developed by our clan chief, Chieftain Lt Col I.J. Ballantyne on behalf of your Pipes and Drums, wives and future P/D nippers we wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a GID New Year.

Wee Jock Smith retires from the service in December this year. Good luck John and Jenny don't forget where we live. W.M. Gall WO2 Pipemaster, 2/4 RAR

Next year from July to December, 2/4 RAR P/D will be touring all round Australia, doing the Bi-Centennial Tattoo's. Interested muso's are welcome to enquire after the 27 Jan '88.



Alternative employment - stretcher bearers

Transport Platoon

It's been a fast year for Transport Platoon. It took nine months to ascend through the gears for top speed only to blow the transfer case and hit rough terrain, known commonly as "course period", with only seven taskworthy drivers to handle demands.

Thankyou coy's for the ability to pull drivers from the same place we pull our vehicles... I am certain many activities would not have been possible without the assistance of Coy resources.

Most of you already know of the activities 214 has taken on throughout the year, if not read the rest of the mag... but not here.

We started the year with a new Transport Supervisor, Sgt (Silver Smith) Price. Who next year joins the Rifle Coy's. We never did find out if he was in fact stocktaking or making the silver, (wasn't around long enough to ask). Soldier on Sgt Price, no doubt we'll see you again.

1987 gave us the rear view of one Pte Petrovic, we say one but he left with the destruction worthy of ten stock car racers.

The year also saw the last of Pte Grosland. Gone to pick up where he left off in his Pre-Kapooka Era.

We also bid ta ta to Cpl (Funnel Face) Buttery, who's taste buds are adapted so he'll never go hungry, the great Allah (Calno) has called him south to the army factory to process more of us.

Stop press, just to hand Cpl (Flange Gasket) Argent has been given notice he is to be pensioned off to 25 RQR Toowoomba. No Arge, I'm sure they didn't find out about your forgetting you had an extra fuel tank on the F1, even though you did refuel it on several occasions.

The year also graced us with the arrival of Pte, now LCpl (Jungles) Bowers, he may at times forget to register bookings, but he does a good job of putting his foot in it.

Never, never has a year gone by without the mention of Pte (Gobalot) Martin..... except this year!

To the main Q..... stitch some lead into Pte (Truck Buster 1) Patterson's boots before issue, many a vehicle has returned with him, complaining of labour pains.

Yes Pte (Truck Buster 2) We didn't forget you, and I'm sure N.Q. Wkop hasn't either. May I suggest seeing the main Q about getting issued a booster seat and pedal chocks, people have at times thought the CO has been driving from the back seat.

**"WHO YOU GONNA CALL" —
TRUCK BUSTERS!**

Leaving the Platoon

Sgt Price B Coy; Cpl Buttery 1 RTB;
Cpl Argent 25 RQR; Pte Petrovic D
Coy; Pte Grosland Disch.

March Ins '88 — Sgt Arnold
March Ins '87 — Pte/LCpl Bowers;
LCpl/Pte Shinnars; Pte Fotheringham;
Pte Noble; Pte Naughton; Pte Smith

Remaining Members — Pte
Arhbold; Pte Brouff; Pte Blosa; Pte
Cunlie; Pte Cousins; Pte Drummond;
Pte Johnson; Pte Martin; Pte
Watts; Pte Williams; Pte Patterson



Quartermasters Platoon

The past year has, as usual, been a very hectic one for the QM Platoon. Staff changes kept everybody either on a learning curve, or involved in training the newcomers into the job. Key appointments were affected with the commissioning and subsequent posting of the RQMS WO1, now Captain Otto Marschall, the promotion and posting into his job of the RQMS Peace Increment, the now WO1 Gibson, and the promotion and posting into the RQMS Peace Increment of the now WO2 Hook from B Coy.

Also promoted during the year were Sgt Kim Porter and Cpl's "Monty" Montgomery, John Brooks, Danny Sheehan and "JJ" Janssen.

At the end of this year the QM, Capt Bob Weir moves on to take up the appointment of SO2 LOG at HQ 2MD with the added bonus of promotion, having served two years in the battalion. His replacement is a well-known identity from earlier days in the battalion and will be no stranger to many of the "old boys".

The highlight of the year was Exercise "Swift Eagle" which "allowed" deployment and resupply skills to be practiced in a

brigade setting, with air transport being the chief means available to get stores forward from B Echelon and A Echelon. The Exercise allowed those new to the QM Platoon to gain firsthand knowledge of the complexities associated with the keeping of the battalion supplied with everything from Band-aids to barbed wire.

Despite the normal pressured of day-to-day operating the Q staff were frequently inundated with questions of "When do I get my cam uniforms, and my Steyr, and my Minimi, and my new Series 110 Rover?" With the usual good temperament of Q staff the questions were always answered with the usual helpful replies, like: "When you see me wearing them, carrying them, and riding in them!"

There is no truth whatsoever in any rumour that QM Platoon had an iota of involvement with the establishment of the camel lot (Camelot?). The fact that they are quartered next door to the Q store is purely co-incidental. Also, they are not the replacement for the series 3 vehicles!

In closing the Q staff would like to wish readers of this magazine the Compliments of the Season.



QM Platoon



PTI - with body

