

EXERCISE SUMAN WARRIOR '90

Exercise SUMAN WARRIOR was a joint CPX involving soldiers from five nations and held in Malaysia, at least that was what we were told before we departed from Townsville. By the time the contingent returned from a 16 day stay each member had been exposed to a wide variety of cultural experience The contingent consisted of members from all Companies, for once Admin got a decent showing, many doing their job for the first time. Half a dozen from 3RAR and PTS came along so that there could be some Australians in the para demo on the opening ceremony and the lone 3 BDE representative (ex 2/4) finished the team.

Activities included a trip to Thailand, just an hour away; some enthusiastic sport which we lost; a hobos on the hill demonstration; and of course the CPX.

The Malay contingent went to a lot of trouble to ensure that their part of the show was well done. A re-enactment of the Japanese invasion on the Beach of Passionate Love, and a comprehensive display of traditional dancing in full costume were typical of the effort.

The CPX found the 2/4 HQ parked in a rubber plantation in the middle of a kampong in the rain. As the fast paced 2 days wore on, 2IC Admin thought that he would contribute to the hearts and minds effort by teaching the local children to play hopscotch, pity he got beaten.

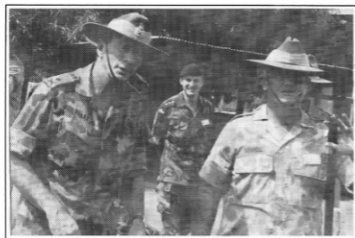
Almost all took the opportunity to visit Thailand over

night. The favourite venue was a fairly "high class" hotel just across the border, where the service was so comprehensive that some managed to get all they wanted within the building. Others found that having been confronted with a pistol as encouragement to pay they had had all the adventure they needed for a night, and perhaps they should have stayed in the hotel.

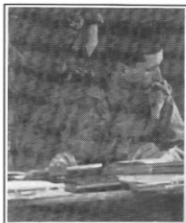
The Post Exercise Report will say that the objectives of examining interoperability between treaty partners was achieved. The trip did much more than that, it gave the participants a chance to critically look at the way other armies work and to experience the culture of a close neighbour.



Another jump Suman Warrior



The Land Commander visiting in Malaysia



CAPT SMITH in the hot seat Suman War