



# BRAVO COMPANY

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PTE S.D. Williams, PTE J.A. Young, PTE J.T. Cassidy.

This year has been a real stop-start affair for B Coy. We were recalled from BRL on 21 December to provide the on-line company to replace 1 RAR so they could prepare for deployment to Somalia. We spent a quiet Xmas then commenced training on 4 January with a composite group of soldiers from all over the Battalion and this was essentially the group who deployed with us on Exercise Gold Eagle to Hawaii. We farewelled 13 diggers who deployed to Somalia and wished them all a safe return. When the Battalion returned to work in late January we handed over our attachments and went to Tully for two weeks with two understrength platoons. The training there was very mediocre because nothing had changed since we'd last been to Tully 6 months ago. We then deployed to Hawaii on 8 March for an exchange exercise with the USMC at Kaneohe Bay. The trip was a good one, with something for everybody. We rappelled, helicoptered, boated, floated, fired, sired, sported, cavorted and drank in everything Hawaii had to offer.

Stand-down on return to Australia was appreciated but the bank balances were low. Air Week following our return to work, was an eye opener and left us wondering whether our biggest enemy was ourselves. \$12 million worth of aircraft to carry eight pax or a cargo net underslinging packs to create the perfect cluster on any LZ. We did some range work as part of the weapon simulation trial then had a three week break to clear our BRL. We came back to the Battalion LFX and participated in an excellent company attack which had artillery whistling over-head and landing 400m in front of us. This display of close support plus eight Bangalores that did go off certainly was impressive. Around this time Jacko Malone and Lance Redding got to go off to Cambodia with 12 PL to protect the

Blackhawks and were able to come back reputations intact.

Mil Skills reared its ugly head again and the seven sections from B Coy were placed in the middle to end of the field. This was probably not a true reflection of the standard of our soldiers and was caused by the lack of individual and section level training conducted by the company this year. In July we ran an ODF call-out after a company Dining In Night and deployed by CC08 to Macrossan then spent a week in Mt Spec. Some good lessons were learnt about navigation, control, and routines. The week also showed us that we must exercise more in close country. We also welcomed our Somalian blokes back around this time and jealously eyed their bank balances and ICBs, but good on them, they earned them. The Battalion Parade and Ball went smoothly then we deployed to SWBTA on Ex Eagle Flight II. We certainly dug some holes, walked some miles, and climbed some ridges after our elusive enemy. What sticks in the mind most about this trip were the bloody ticks, the bloody digging, and the bloody Battalion attack on Raspberry Vale.

We had two weeks of sport then September stand-down, then another three weeks of sport combined with rafting and rappelling. The amazing thing is our hands haven't started shaking on pay days. With courses left to go the year has just about been kicked into touch. Hopefully we'll get to enjoy our BRL in peace and quiet this year then 1994 brings a new OC to the company and a trip to New Zealand in February. To all those moving on or remaining within the company, thank you for your efforts this year and best wishes on your future endeavours.

# 4 PLATOON

LT J.J. Prewett, SGT D. Culgan, CPL C.A. Bielleman, CPL R.A. Rootham, LCPL P.J. Davey, LCPL D.J. Egan, PTE J.L. Bell, PTE A.C.T. Bilston, PTE S.A. Bradshaw, PTE D.A. Buckton, PTE I.T. Caswell, PTE A.A. Eldridge, PTE J.M. Honeyman, PTE W.A. Hughes, PTE A.T. Hunter, PTE I.T. Joels, PTE M.D. Jones, PTE S.R. Leachy, PTE A.R. Parker, PTE R.S. Plumridge, PTE S.P. Prangle, PTE J.J. Saint, PTE D.C. Smith, PTE A.S. Wornum, PTE S.U. Jost, PTE S.H. Morley

The year of 93 started very abruptly for the B Coy "Heatseekers", with the deployment of 1 RAR to Somalia. Subsequently, the phones around Australia rang hot, getting all personnel off leave to go on line. After some pretty original excuses not to return from leave, most of the platoon was back to start work around the 4th Jan.

The yearly program was to have its first of many changes which we have grown accustomed to this year. 4 PL started the year with an anti-armour practice at High Range, with all platoon members keen to put a shot down range. Enthusiasm was also evident in the 12km march out, to resume the weekly Criterion Pub crawl (some big efforts seen there in the year so far).

4 PL became enraged with excitement about going to Hawaii on exchange with the Marines at Kaneohe. We subsequently flew to this overseas island in early March, to investigate the social differences over there. The platoon was mainly involved in Zodiac boat training and the dreaded Amptracs, working from a centipede infested beach named Bellows. The Amptracs were like a cork in a bath-tub and this should explain the experience alone. Once again there were some impressive performances at the night-clubs in down town Waikiki. The marines were very hospitable, however, we were keen to return to sunny Townsville.

After this highlight of the year the blokes went on Easter standdown and returned to conduct Air-Week. Well this, the LFX, and Mil-Skills came and went with no problems at all. By this stage the 2/4 "Vets" had returned to the platoon from Somalia. They had some good stories to tell and were soon back to reality in B Coy.

Soon after, 4PL was unleashed to destroy enemy at Mt Spec, but soon lost interest when the rain

did not stop (1 point for the enemy). Blue Wornum decided to come down with the shakes (mild hypothermia), becoming a popular member by causing the ambush to be compromised. The Sarge was not available, as his wife gave birth to a baby boy at the time (congratulations). The exercise was full of learning experiences both for NCOs and Officers, which have been noted for future exercises!

After the Bn Birthday Week, Ex Eagle Flight II was upon us. It started out very quickly indeed, with the platoon digging to stage 1 on a standing patrol and then walking 17km to dig another. A night deployment to Townshend Island by "whirlygig", saw 4PL once again practising to be council workers. The highlight of this trip would make the Crocodile Man jealous, with an abundance of goats, horses, pigs, snakes and even emus. The ticks were thick and we were pieces on a chess board to sum up the occasion. Culgan the destroyer showed his bravery on this Ex, by brassing up 2 En vehicles at a platoon VCP by himself, whilst firing from the hip. He was later killed in a mounted company attack, soon after deploying from his very own APC (a very pleasing effort indeed).

Following 2 weeks of sport and stand down 4PL conducted adventure training which involved white water rafting and kayaking on the Tully River. The blokes found this most worthwhile and it was a chance for the platoon to spend a week together. Specialist courses are to take most soldiers away for at least 4 weeks, of which some will be either internally or externally posted out of the platoon. To those who are, good luck in your new posting and thanks for the memories.

Those members left will be back in 94, with a new PLCOMD (same SGT), to be deservedly renowned as the Heatseekers once again.



### 4PL BRAVO COY 2/4 RAR - LAVARACK BARRACKS - 1993

Front Row: PTE A. HUNTER (HUNTS), PTE R. PLUMRIDGE (WHIPPET), CPL R. ROTHAM (ROCKET), LT J. PREWETT (SIR), SGT D. CULGAN (SARGE), LCPL D. EGEN (DARRYL), PTE S. LEAHY (LUMPY), PTE J. SAINT (SWEET CHEEKS).  
 Second Row: PTE A. PARKER (WEDGEHEAD), PTE S. PRANGELL (CRASH), PTE M. JONES (JONESY), PTE A. WORNUM (STUMPS), PTE J. BELL (JEREMIAH), PTE A. ELDRIDGE (GREASER), PTE A. BILSTON (B. C.) PTE S. BRADSHAW (POSSUM).  
 Back Row: PTE S. MORLEY (LIPS), PTE J. HONEYMAN (MABO), PTE D. BUCKTON (BUTTU), PTE D. SMITH (POPS), PTE S. JOST (JOST), PTE D. CASWELL (AMOS).

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# 5 PLATOON

LT G.M. Tuxworth, SGT R.K. Harrison, CPL M.P. Blake, CPL M.P. Corby, CPL R.J. Hungerford, LCPL B.J. Buskell, LCPL J.R. Dellapina, LCPL J.M. McGee, PTE G.R. Akee, PTE D.J. Bennett, PTE C.L. Innes, PTE W.P. Jones, PTE A. Melynczenko, PTE A.J. McGuinness, PTE L. Perry, PTE P.N. Robinson, PTE S. Britnell, PTE C.V. Byrnes, PTE K.B. Dijkmans, PTE R.A. Downing, PTE A.J. Dyer, PTE J.D. Fidler, PTE P.A. Richardson, PTE S.J. Ross, PTE A.N. Scolari, PTE D.J. Timms, PTE L.C. Walker, PTE A.J. Wallace, PTE D.L. Wilkins.

5 PL had best of times and the worst of times for 1993. With several members of the platoon attached to the Big Blue One, no Boss and no Sarge, the Platoon began the year as a rifle section in 4 PL at Tully. Obviously, things could only improve, and improve they did. We welcomed a few blow-ins from D Coy and a handful of sappers to bring us up to full strength for our junket to Hawaii. Whilst there we fulfilled our assigned tasks as Australian Ambassadors and Cultural Exchange Officers with great ease. Blakey and Della in particular made a good impression, as they always had irresistible proposals for the ladies, and a few friendly tips for the fellas. The Septics loved Busk too - all that talk about never being allowed to come back into the country was just that - talk.

Our return to the lucky country saw us go on a well deserved week standdown, and we returned to the cheery faces of 12 new blokes fresh from Singo. They stayed with us for a few weeks. We said goodbye to Parto who went walkabout during the week. The Sarge went to Tully, while Corbs and George marched in during Air Week. In the duties week we farewelled Botts and welcomed Hungers. The new fellas then joined A Coy for a trip to Tully, while the remainder of the platoon took another hard earned three weeks off.

We married up with our "Somvets": Karl, Wally and Arnold in June. This made our callsign complete, ready for ranges, duties, route marches, ranges, duties, route marches, mil skills, and a B Coy Ex. Well done by all in Mil Skills, especially Blakey and his band of merry men. The Coy Ex had its ups and downs. Suffice to say Paluma is beautiful in the rain, and close recons and platoon attacks aside, the Boss always knew where he was

and what he was doing. Ask anyone. Except Hungers.

We attacked Ex Dead Budgie II, the Bn (Bde? Div?) Ex with unprecedented interest and enthusiasm. How silly we were. Route marches blended into shell scrapes blended into 17km patrols, and then in the platoon's only contact, the big attack on the last day, two out of three sections didn't get out of their carriers. Anyway, it was all good training, and we took it in our stride, returning to put in a valiant effort for the Coy swimming and athletic teams, and take another two weeks off.

The return to the Battalion has been filled with sport and a bit of adventure training, as we rappelled off cliffs and buildings around the Townsville area. A couple of the fellas are preparing for courses and a move to SPT Coy, while the remainder of us prepare to farewell the Sarge (RP Sect), Corbs (Int Sect) and Hungers (Selection Course), and look forward to 1994.



*Resting at end of Company Live Fire Attack!*

# 6 PLATOON

LT C.G. Webb, SGT D.W. Thomas, CPL R.J. Brown, CPL J.J. Farren-Price, CPL B. Milligan, LCPL C.A. Blackhurst, LCPL J.C. Blake, LCPL D.J. Boulton, PTE M.G. Andrews, PTE P.J. Burke, PTE D.J. Hawkins, PTE K.E. Heath, PTE M.R. Kinley, PTE B.A. Kipping, PTE M.L. Lindsay, PTE T.A. McGill, PTE S.H. Moyle, PTE E.C. Munson, PTE A.J. Mustey, PTE S.W. Plummer, PTE L.E. Redding, PTE D.N. Russell, PTE J.T. Cassidy, PTE W.A. Vernon, PTE D.E. Whitten, PTE B.P. Williams.

## DOIN OUR THING

The year started up early with recall from leave and several lucky party goers getting a holiday in sunny Somalia all expenses paid with the 1 RAR Travel Co. As for the rest of us it was up to High Range for a game of cricket with live firing thrown in for relaxation.

Then up to sunny Tully for two weeks of hiking hi-jinks with the men with funny sticks and minds. It all came together for the platoon in March when, with the rest of the Coy we embarked on the highlights of Hawaii tour 93. Who will ever forget these memorable moments: Cass breaking his leg on the 2nd night, the B Coy Iron Man, beating the Yanks at everything, Jake, Blackie and Co. at 1st parade every morning, Moose Migillacutties amongst others.

After Hawaii, Easter Standdown, and BRL it was out to the LFX for more live firing fun and an Air Week that really was an Air Week!

Then to the big one! Eagle Flight II, who will ever forget 6 Platoons heroic capture of 36 enemy and 7 vehicles (and their summary execution) only to be told that they were out of Ex, or 6PL leading the Coy attack on 7 Figure 11 targets, without the loss of a single member (we caught them napping), or the Bn/Sect attack, what fun!!

All that's left of the year now is the Cse period and a well deserved break for BRL. Throughout the year we lost some people to other platoons and now is a good time to farewell them:

- ♣Boss to Mortars
- ♣SGT Thomas to DFSW
- ♣Cas to TPT Platoon.



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