

Company Notes . . .

SUPPORT COMPANY IN '82

1982 has been a good year for Support Company to concentrate on specialist training. With minimal major exercise commitments Platoons have had plenty of opportunity to train and practice their own thing.

Though we have seen many old hands pass out of the Company during the year, the completion of two series of specialist courses during '82 leaves us with considerable depth and reserve throughout the Battalion.

Many group and individual achievements are worthy of note:

On the range S.Sgt Phil Oakford won the Queens Medal once again, while the Company at Mackay shot a Royal Ulster Rifle, aggregate of 116.56 (a winning sub-unit score on recent years results) and qualified 15 marksmen in the process.

While Tony McCaghs Commonwealth Games cycling hopes came to a grinding halt, he and a Support company crew completed a successful fund raising ride to Brisbane supported by the generosity of the rest of the Company.

Gibber Mitchell sorted out the competition in the Battalion and Brigade cross country runs once more.

Platoons have had things very much their own way this year so they may as well speak for themselves

RECON NOTES

1982 saw the departure of quite a few characters from Reconnaissance Platoon, the first to leave our merry troop was Sgt spACE Maloney, who has taken up a position as Jump Instructor at Williamstown RAAF Base. Embarking on a career where hopefully the sky is the limit. Ace's departure was marked by a significant increase in Terrorist activity within the Townsville region. At that point the platoon started to shape up under (thank God not to) Sgt. Chance Kelly.

Chance, having by-passed the rule of Thumb method (why use a thumb when a fist is so much more effective), proceeded to delegate individual tasks to individual people at individual times, sometimes without the individual knowing. Tom Purvis changed careers to become an Air Frame Fitter after a very comprehensive course from George as a Bike Frame Fitter.

The year saw Norbert come, then go, then come again, that's why the office was always a mess, RSO.

Julian Mather applied for discharge after killing some poor girl's cat at Alice Springs, his departure from the platoon was not quite as quick as the one from the girls flat.

Mick Pickett moved over to B Coy after promotion, an ugly loss to the platoon. Leroy fell in love and got out of the army, we've heard he has meet a girl since then.

Robbo was posted to A Coy and went straight to Singleton, much to the disgust of OC Alpha.

The new comers to the platoon were Dave Bell who trained hard and died fit, Rosey, who manages to talk himself into anything, usually trouble. Princess, who'll be in the platoon till the cows come home. Then there's Brooksy, he just loves those trees. Coley in P.T. gear, waiting to go to Uni, and Jibber still running on White Death, how does the man do it. Jimmy McGuire had to come over to us after SFGM nearly beat us in touch, Sam Chook Hamiwka, who's training Ukranian recruits in W.A. Lt. Dave Harper must have pulled a hamstring or something because someone saw him at Brazen Bandicoot (besides THE ENEMY). We still have the old stalwart of the platoon, namely Morry, Country Cocky Weeds Stoney and Kohly.

Between preparing for courses, preparing platoon training, cancelling training, fishing and shooting, the platoon managed to actually go scrub. All exercises met with varying degrees of success, two in



particular were Brazen Banditcoot and 1 RAR's Swift Eagle.

Brazen Banditcoot was where we met up with a platoon of enemy and with some very keen umpiring by their PI Comd, proceeded to get wiped out. We're losing the art of the Mag off, Pack of drill.

Swift Eagle was when half the platoon convinced the enemy we were a Retrains Station with only on radio while the other half said they were a Friendly standing patrol.

Summing up, the platoon has had a successful year, although our role was not always clear within the Bn. Our thanks to Spt Coy PLs and the Bn for supporting us and we hope '83 will be as enjoyable as '82.

Do you remember.....

The CSM asking Cocky why he had marked Chance present when he hadn't seen him, and Cocky replying "Because he out-ranks me".

The 2IC asking Chance to sign Blank standown applications "just in case".

Tony Kohlmann getting chased off the Macrossan Airstrip by an Armoured Forklift Carrier.

Cpl. Recon from Cochrone PL being cased by Houndogs.

The G.P. Boot that fell out of the sky and landed in front of Patrol 63A.

The 2IC asking Country for his APTL Pam.

FLASH BANG CRUMP — MORTAR PLATOON FUMES '82

It became painfully obvious this year that Mortar Platoon are so specialized that no-one knew how to use them; especially whilst in barracks. Mind you, there have been no complaints as this has allowed the platoon a free rein to do its own thing (unlike the pioneers who were constantly molested with various construction tasks throughout the year).

Like most previous years the platoon has had its triumphs and clangers; but the most noticeable change in '82 was the relaxed management under LT Watson whilst CAPT Kenny was swanning in the Phillipines.

The first six months were launched with a flurry of activity. Live firing from APC(M)s and deployment by UH1H became the norm and even the CO dropped in to spectate some aerial OP-ing. Support to RMC, once again in APC(M)s was well received and the platoon deserved the pat on the back from that organisation. LTCOL Rowe became so concerned about the intensity of the platoons training programme that he ordered the Boss to cease firing and spend more time in barracks.

Remember when

'the boxes fell off the ammo truck; Rockie's horror at discovering the missing breach plug; Gonzo's repetitive attempts to assassinate the boss by loosening the wheel nuts on SM 1; Monkey Challinor's attempt to be Australia's Greatest Hero — he also lost the instruction book; Fruitbats desire to rearrange Doc Wilson's foot; The incredible hulks shirt tearing antics; Vaughan's abortive mental alarm clock for early morning starts; Cool dude Hailstone's heated discussions; Symo's background relaxation programme; Chris Davie's and Stan's theme — we did it our way; Witte the Video kid and 'watch those toes Boss'; OBea the angry ant; Stuie part time MFC, full time strulie; Nunnun Nunnun's skills with map to ground navigation; Hardie the disco kid with purm to match; Jess's communication skills and vivid love affairs; and Tom joins alcoholics anom and the strippers club!

All in all a very good year and one to be proud of.

SIGNAL PLATOON

In China it's the year of the dog.

In the world it's the year of the tree.

In Australia it's the year of Land Rights and the Commonwealth Games.

In Sig's it's the year of the Blue Gums (all "%C* of them)

In this year of the Blue Gums we have conducted two Signals Courses, to select and train our reinforcements taking them to places seldom seen "except folks that are lost", walked miles communicating through some of the hardest communication areas in Nth Qld, navigated our way out of situations where the map didn't agree with our calculations (ask Case about his Trek across the wilderness), looked for the elusive Cassowary and Golden Bower Bird, participated in the Nearly Anything Goes Show. (We nearly made it to the finals), identified two further species of bobbin eating trees courtesy of Hindy and wrote off a landrover and Harrys B3 at the same time. We even ventured into the Water World Slide Competition.

As always we have had our departures and arrivals. On the arrival side we have the return of Sharpie and Johnno from civy street. With the Boss and his two Sergeants together with 15 other new faces that is sufficient for anyone. On the departure side, our old Tassie, JJ, Riley and Norgate "Hutch" have all moved to other less green pastures!

(IS IT TRUE???)

Bruce is to replace Alan Alda in Mash!
(smart comment for every occasion?)

Dino (By numbers Big Bird - Wha) really wants to go to a Rifle Company?

Sharpie (Lets coax the little bugger down) really dislikes snakes?

To get out of an exercise just use a Sledge Hammer to clean your teeth?

Pegasus is not a neighing horse?

Pinky answered a hair fussion advert!!!!

Case didn't go walkabout, but wanted to go to the Commonwealth Games!!?

Mary's into doing SOI's?

No Good catches the yabbies for Bruce?

Gawler likes the Bosses kid's.

Blossom enters the demolition derby and wrote off a Commodore?

Trevor's getting married? (He hasn't meet her yet, we all have!)?

Webby tries to K.O. the Brigadier with a bobbin?

Langers wants to go back to Tully?

Jamesy getting a new cricket bat for Christmas?

Macka wants to be a PTI in his spare time (when not playing sport)?

Willy is writing a book entitled 101 Uses for an antenna?

Sandy has a pet rock??

Bob is the Owner/driver of SS3.

Everyone has a nickname in the platoon (Pop, Muppet, Flash, Newsh, Mish)

Mish means little mouse or is it rat...?

Answer to these and many other queries are yours for the asking. Just contact the Sig store at 1000 hrs Z the 29 Feb any leap year.....

ASSULT PIONEERS

1982 started with a few changes, Sgt Jock Kaminski being posted to Pucka and Lt 'Whippet' Griffin taking over as PI Comd cum PI Sgt cum Storeman cum Sect Comd cum Driver cum anything else he could find to do.

February started and it was straight into the 1/82 Aslt Pnr Course with a few stars like Basan, Briggs, Batty, Spike, Mitche, Langy and Riddle marching into Pnrs from the Course.

March to May was rather busy with two trips to the Demolition Range and Assault Grenade and Claymore Ranges. The Hawaiian Hut was our biggest Task during the period taking about two weeks to complete, owing to Paddy Lockton taking all Day just to go to the hardware store in town.

The Platoon went for a holiday down to Ayr for Watermanship at the end of May. Most of the Platoon learnt how to water ski, and in between relaxing we did a bit of training, we actually got the Class 6 Raft out of mothballs and drove it around the lake a few times. Cleghorn ran over Jacko in the Zodiac and Red finally learnt his Right from his left whilst reversing. The fishing was good, a few Barra being caught which after closer examination turned out to be Mullet.

Iron Fist at Koombalooomba Dam saw Pioneers doing there own thing again, most of the Bn was Tactical with Pioneers defending the picnic area complete with B-B-Q's and picnic tables, toilet block and fresh water out of the tap. We didn't see much of our webbing as there was no need for the water bottles, come to think of it we didn't get any ammo either. The only casualty's we had were Sgt Smailes falling out of the boat during the freezing cold night, a couple of sheer pins broken and the odd dent in the assault crafts from trying to knock down trees.

Brazen Bandicoot saw a squashed Chainsaw when Cpl Kent felled a tree the wrong way and Mark Riddle knocking himself out after only walking 80 metres on the first day. The rest of the platoon went chainsaw mad and cut down LZ after LZ then sat around guarding them for a few days. The Boss got his ticket as an Air Traffic Controller.

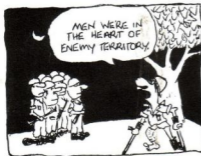
Thanks to the Sgts Mess for letting us build the extensions to the Mess. Your shout for a few cartons.

The people who left during the year were Reidy, Bugden, Frank Heller, Kev Devine, Langy and Leary to name a few.

Our thanks to 9 Trucks, Main Q. WO Caterer, RAEME, 18 Fld Sqn and numerous other people for their support throughout the year.

1982 saw the Platoon gain experience in many fields of our wide and varied range of our expertise and we look forward to next year, new members and more tasks.

RCCADTE. (Regimental Combat Construction and Demolition Technical Experts).



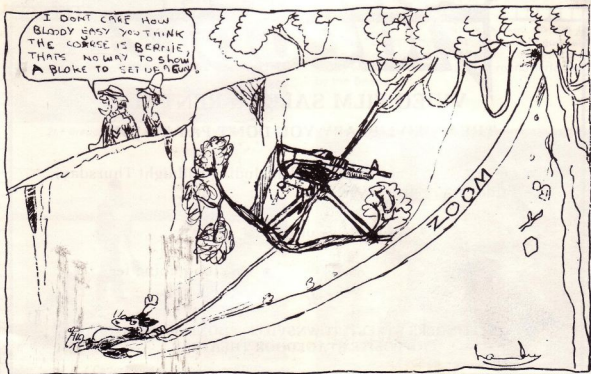
**GENERAL GEORGE CUSTERS FAMOUS
QUOTES ARE ALIVE AND WELL**



1. Sergeant — we are aware of the problem and we are looking into it.
2. Request for leave is not approved due to late submission.
3. Send me the Intelligence Officer!
4. You just can't help bad luck Sergeant.
5. The problem has been identified and corrective action instigated.
6. What do you mean, everyone else is on stand down.
7. *C"! Sakel



S. F. M. G. COARSE, FEB 1982.



THINGS YOU DON'T SEE IN ASLT PNR PL

Mick Senger at the RAP
Schwartz rolling the brew urn
Mick Kent towing orchids out of trees
Paddy getting Irish sand for concreting (Dirt)
Blue Scherer throwing the day book
Lenny testing the buoyancy of the Assault Craft
Rasan masquerading as Einstein
Cleghorn table running at the Bn Ball
Judge doing work
Briggs Sober
Occa and Fred playing dead at Stilettoes
Geoff Ingalls
Steve Rose taking the pl for PT

SFMG PL 1982

Once again the platoon has survived another year of misuse and abuse, but has completed the numerous and various tasks with ease and the confidence of experience having "been there and done that before".

The same age old problem exists — No-one knows what to do with an MG PL however it appears that people are becoming more aware of it's capabilities. The platoon is now anxiously awaiting the arrival of MILAN to throw things back into total confusion.

1982 has seen the platoon involved in a variety of training exercises ranging through navigation at Cape Cleveland, disposal of the remainder of the Bn allocation of 84mm and M203 ammunition, NBCD training, living firing deployment at HRTA and static live firing. This was interspersed with the running of two courses, duties, enemy support, duties, manpower detachments and more duties.

Finally, an enjoyable year — Best wishes for 1983.

Do you remember:— Checkpoint Rebecca
Being replaced by five cooks
Being a reserve assault pioneer platoon — with pistols drawn
Chips building bridges
The Boss between football trips?

Videobiz

VIDEO FILM SALES & RENTAL

THE VIDEO LIBRARY YOU DON'T PAY TO JOIN

- Open 7 days & nights per week including midnight Thursday,
- Friday and Saturday

- Great range of titles

- No club joining fee



243 FLINDERS STREET, TOWNSVILLE. PHONE (077) 72 4770
(OPPOSITE STAGEDOOR THEATRE)