

BITS FROM B COMPANY

By Lieutenant D.J. RAWSON

Its hard to say exactly what "B" stands for in B Company. It could be bush company, brave company or even barbecue company. The company has continued to observe its commitment to barbecues. It is a time honoured tradition according to such long serving members as CPL Bradley and CPL Glover. It goes back to 'JPA's' days as CO. The tradition is so strong that when SGT Meiers began a rumour on Brazen Bandicoot of a mid exercise barbecue it was believed without question by all ranks.

The company has spent a good deal of time out bush this year, soldiering on at Tully, a company exercise at Paluma, a night attack, a range week at Cairns and Atherton, an armoured exercise from Hughenden to Richmond, the battalion exercise at Koombooloomba Dam and of course the brigade exercise in the Mt Spec area.

Tully is memorable for everyone. More particularly for Private Hayes. One night poor old "Haysie" was peacefully asleep during a rare two hour dry spell when suddenly he felt a stream of water play up and down his sleeping bag. "Boy" thought Haysie "its a (p----g) bush rat running up and down my sleeping bag". When the bush rat stopped to do up its fly the horrible truth dawned on Haysie.

Private Amey didn't let the rain get to him at Tully. On one night of heavy rain he kept level headed by talking to a sympathetic and friendly bush rat. On another occasion he kept sane by requesting a dawn picket so that he could watch the sunrise.



'Pinky and a few of the blokes.'



'B Coy parachute training.'

In May the company went to Cairns and Atherton for a rifle range shoot. It was on this trip that we met Alice (The Alice of Atherton Pub Fame). She prompted one admirer to say "You're a real pig Alice". She took a liking to the boys and took them out to teach them how to drink.

Also on the Atherton Tablelands each platoon attempted to climb Mr Bartle Frere as an adventure training activity. Major Parsons accompanied the successful 4 platoon expedition and was given a fireside treat during the overnight stay. The boys surpassed themselves in the telling of dirty stories and escapades.



'Carl Gustav fired in support of Company night attack''

Exercise 'Northern Drive' at Hughenden was an Inf/Armd exercise with B Sqn, 3/4 Cav. Regt. Our invasion of Hughenden boosted the local population by about 20 percent. The locals were extremely friendly, especially the publicans, who offered a 24 hour service. When we eventually took over Richmond our numbers were about 40 percent of the population, with the same enthusiastic greeting from the publicans. We literally invaded Richmond when we rolled down the main street, machine-guns blazing, to clear the town of the enemy. It was here that Private Donovan was immortalised on film by a local movie buff. He was caught shouting "Yee-Haal" as he chalked up another kill.

The Company boasts a number of personalities, such as 'Stumpy' Payne, a ferocious Tasmanian immortalized in verse as the "Man from Paluma Dam", or Bristow-Smith, better known as "Port Agutty" or Corporal Lukic (who is now an army wide personality known even by the CGS) and Corporal Mick Pickett, "The Pig" (a refined gentlemen even when inebriated).

The Company even boasts a good collection of memorable nicknames. These include Privates "Ostrich", Ostler, "Jungles" O'Brien "Aspro" Davenport, "Yobbo" Roberts, "Pisser" (Private Waterhouse), "Sorrowful" (Private Williams), Corporals "Bones" Fraser, "Fats" Fairleigh and "Pinky" Glover.

B Company also managed a night out in between bush and barbecues at the Stage Door. It was here that the super-smooth Stuart Laughton met the dapper Stuart Wagstaff over a packet of B & H. "Laughto" sent Stuart W. a packet of B & H with the note, "When only the best will do" signed "the boys from B Company". "Waggers" could hardly refuse the invitation and came over to "Laughto's" table only to say "I don't smoke the bl...y things" and stayed for a chat. The party later adjourned to Stiletto's for after-dinner drinks.

As we see out 1982 B Company loses a lot of it's members to different jobs both within the Battalion and further afield. Though B Company did not star on the sporting field, it has been a good training year for the Company, to those who are leaving us we wish them the best of luck. Our thoughts also go to Private Mark Hopper, following his unfortunate motorbike accident and we wish him the very best for the future.



'Pte Toby Scammel — Lurking with intent!'



'Cpl Mick Goodwin — Also lurking?'