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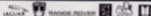
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## Catering Platoon

It was the start of a new era and we in Catering Platoon started the new year of 1988 with 80% turnover of the once familiar faces being posted and new ones in. The Platoon farewells with regret the outgoing Caterer, Sgt Hins, Sgt Pressley, Sgt Lorrina and the Cpl's who without a doubt make the Platoon alongside of the Pte Soldiers who are the real cooks. Well done troops and the best of luck in your new postings.

The platoon welcomed the changeover with WO2 G. Baker, Sgt R. Thain, Sgt L. Holmes and the new and aspiring Cpl's and soldiers. Changes in rationing procedures under WO2 Baker have seen sectioning and the standard of messing being raised, but he has stated that his door is always open to queries and suggestions to improve the standard we already have in 2/4 RAR. We as a Platoon are here to assist in all Catering matters and welcome your suggestions and visits to the Ration Store (*Who wrote this? Probably the Caterer*)

A special mention of thanks and gratitude to Sgt Les "ABDUL" Holmes who volunteered to go bush for 3 months straight and support the Bn Camel Team members. His endeavours were rewarded by the award of the CO's commendation. Les still hasn't got rid of his Afghan habits that he picked up during the 3 months trip and is still being found hanging around the Camel Corral in Turban barefooted with a shovel and a grin.

With the events of Vanuatu and Maxi-Beagle, the Platoon was put through its paces and these events brought the Platoon closer together. Sgt Morgan's attempts at being a linguist and public relations officer for the Deployment Force failed when he was asked how much French and Pigeon he could speak, was heard to say "F..... T..... B..... B.....". So much for winning the hearts and minds of the people, it's a pity that the last OC Admin wasn't here to assist him. Good try Morg's.

The Sportsmen are far and few in the Platoon, but a special mention should go to Pte D. "Shep" Sheppard who won best and fairest player in Rugby. WO2 "Stretch" Baker participated in the Bde Volleyball Competition, well done team. To all Bn Sportsmen, well done and you have our support on the field and off.

With the last quarter of the year approaching, this platoon will be rather heavily employed and looking forward to the ERL period and with this the Platoon wishes all Bn members a "MERRY Christmas" - emphasis on the Merry and a "HAPPY NEW YEAR".

"WE SUSTAIN"



**The Caterer**



**"... and we eat it"**



**Sgt Morgan, Cpl Byrrell and Pte Williams**



**Sgt Les Holmes**



**Pte Sheppard jumping for rations**

## Medical Platoon

1988 has been an active year for the staff of the Medical Platoon. What with the camel race, company and battalion activities and Vamaata, we will all appreciate this years BHQ.

January saw the arrival of SSGT Tony Sherlock (double warranty) and LCpl Ted Symons (Harassful Smith) who is cross trained in hygiene and medical BCN's and still doesn't know which office to work out of. Since arriving, Ted has now been made up to full Cpl and congratulations Ted. These new members took the places of SSGT Jones and Cpl Allen, who we were sad to say farewell to - and just recently Cpl Moffat has left us for Adelaide and we wish him well.

Still holding the fort are:  
Capt G. Steinfeld (cbric in uniform)

Sgt P. Simmons (I take no shit)  
Cpl D. Leak (I am the greatest, you ask me, I'll tell you)  
Cpl D. Lee (Money)  
Cpl M. Lawrenson (mouth)  
Cpl W. Russell (I want an overseas trip)  
Pte W. Tall (apprentice)

In February, we all participated in the Battalion Bush Week and LFX demonstration and found it interesting. We also said hello to Dave Leak and Grant Allen who returned back from an eventful trip from Butterworth. Next came Bde Standdown which we all enjoyed, except for Bill Russell who was the ODP Coy Medic. Soon after standdown the Great Camel Race started and was quite a drain on the RAIP and DFD AMD who kindly supported us in our time of need when we were short of medics. Soon after standdown, Vamaata erupted and this is when the



Cpl Symons, Cpl Lee and SSGT Sherlock



Capt Steinfeld and Sgt Simmons

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Medical Platoon really had its work cut out. All of our stores were already packed due to the ODF requirement of a 30 day holding. But we were short of two major items to get everyone onto the planes fully DP1 for Vanuatu. One item was typhoid vaccine which had not been produced in Australia for some time. So the Commonwealth Serum Laboratory (CSL) produced this for the Army, which was put on a plane the next night and the 190 injections were given the next day. The other item we were short of was anti-malarial drugs, but the supply system came good and aided units all over the place to supply the Battalion, which were given to you straight after a Battalion Parade. The system really can come good in times of need and the staff would like to thank the Q Store and Transport Platoons not only for their help with Vanuatu but all throughout the year. And an extra-special word of thanks to Pipes and Drums - who, when Vanuatu was on, gave most of the inoculations under supervision, helped hand out anti-malaria drugs and did a crash course on I.V. Therapy and other medical procedures to prepare them for war. Once again, P & D well done!

In June, Dave Leak went to New Guinea on his second overseas trip (gee! He is lucky!) Then came Exercise Maxx Beagle and we all learnt a lot out west (someone did mention we should have the Brisbane line tactics re-introduced).

Well for our spiky snippets of information...

Three members of the Staff have had children born this year and we are wondering when they have time to produce the offspring with their bush commitments. Congratulations Dave Lee, Dave Leak and Ted Symons.

John Moffat who taught the Sergeant everything there is to know about personnel administration has gone to DSU Adelaide.

Mick Lawrenson took a weeks leave and added it to September standown and went on his annual Asian experience (what's wrong with Aussie girls Mick?)

Dave (pull the pin) Lee finally did it and leaves us in February next year and we wish him good luck and we will miss him.

The computer wizard has decided to pull the plug. There will be

no more golf games with the CO and BMSG and selected Officers - and the staff won't be able to use the computer at lunch time flying FA18's and other such games. All because the computer told him if he spent a few dollars and cents and bought into a private practice he would earn a lot more dollars and cents and the private practice has a bigger computer to play with.

In all seriousness the MO has paid his time back to the army and he has decided to leave us and I am sure I speak for all of the Battalion in wishing him good luck.

Pte Tait has finally seen the light and is joining Medical Corps, hopefully he will be on course by the end of the year.

Cpl Kessell is on a well deserved break in Butterworth and enjoying a reward for a job well done.

The RAP staff have worked hard this year in supporting our Battalion - and like our Corps Badge says "PAULATIM" which means little by little. We work with little stores and sometimes little help but we strive to give the best service to our Battalion.



Enjoy

# Coke

TRADE MARK REGD.

Coca-Cola

TRADE MARK REGD.