



***Support Company***

# Support Company Headquarters

1988 started with a number of new faces in the Coy, three new platoon commanders, new CSM, new 2IC, a worried OC, more new SNCO's than a Duztronian can count on one hand and with a number of camels behind the ration store.

The year started off badly for the OC, after two PT periods with Recon he mumbled something about aerobic fitness, shin splints, a crook knee and wasn't seen again, or certainly not with Recon.

This year certainly has been busy, a bit like the one armed juggler with seven balls, well that's another story. Anyway with the camels, platoon trg, Battalion Exercises, the Subject 2 for Cpl Course, nearly every SNCO in the Coy to Tully, Tropic Parade, Tropic Lightning, the CSM, the bearded one, and Cpl Quinn, LCpl Wheeler, Pte's R Thompson, Rootham, Neal to the U.K., LCpl Young and Pte McGinty to Hong Kong, Nick Withycombe to Germany, our own two long lookers Angus McLeod and Joe Johnson, plus sixty people on various subjects for Cpl and numerous others on courses varying from White Water Rafting to Introduction to Camel Saddlery, need I say more, certainly not in this sentence.

Most of the Company has had a trip or two. Pioneers either with Delta or Charlie Coy to Malay and parts north. Recon to PNG with Bravo Coy, Sigs to all of the above plus Hawaii (now that's a trip) if you can do a Tropic Lightning without the wife burning your American Express then your one hell of a guy.

I wonder what Mortar's have been doing, I am certain Wally would say working, but I know what Sgt Arnold would say, and I am not going to write that here.

Many have left or will be leaving before the end of the year, Les Tiller to the ARES (second time, poor Les), Roy Crabbe (hope-

fully to the main GI, SSgt Cole to Civic Street, DB to the public service (now there's a brave man), Capt Dave Phillips to Rifle Coy, WO2 Tony De Pass to Bravo Coy, Pte Crombie to ???, and the OC to CAHO.

Thanks for 1988 and all your efforts, have a great Christmas, super New Year, and may 1989 be what you make it.



## Nominal Roll Spt Coy

### CHQ

Maj Danaher  
Capt Phillips  
WO2 DePass  
SSgt Cole  
Cpl Butcher  
LCpl Coleman  
LCpl Crabbe  
Pte Crombie  
Pte Dunn

### Mor Pl

Capt Jensen  
Lt Somerville  
Sgt Glover  
Sgt Hancock  
Sgt Lewis  
Sgt Ratcliffe  
Sgt Skatnes  
Cpl Collins  
Cpl Hart  
Cpl MacKenzie  
Cpl Murphy  
Cpl Trembath  
LCpl Donaldson  
LCpl Watts  
LCpl Williams  
Pte Atkinson  
Pte Bateman  
Pte Bodley  
Pte Cowburn  
Pte Dudley  
Pte Fitzgerald  
Pte Johnston  
Pte Lawrence  
Pte Milligan  
Pte Pope  
Pte Sims  
Pte Solomon  
Pte Trumble  
Pte Wright

### Sig Pl

Capt Baumgart  
Sgt Moore  
Sgt Young  
Cpl Kirk  
Cpl James  
Cpl Matoga  
Cpl Morgan  
Cpl Mure  
Cpl Trevorrow  
LCpl Bedding  
LCpl Drayton  
LCpl Hughes  
LCpl Wilson  
Pte Barron  
Pte Bartlett  
Pte Bowley  
Pte Cousins  
Pte Cowell  
Pte Garnett  
Pte Gibbons  
Pte Hearle  
Pte Henderson  
Pte Hoole  
Pte Johnson  
Pte Kelly  
Pte Knox  
Pte McDonald  
Pte Noerton  
Pte Price  
Pte Reynolds  
Pte Taylor

### Par Pl

Lt Shaw  
Sgt Daly  
Sgt Johnson  
Cpl Delben  
Cpl Henry  
Cpl Lynch  
LCpl Hayes  
LCpl Hicks  
Pte Barrett  
Pte Bates  
Pte Bell  
Pte Cadzow  
Pte Dempsey  
Pte Fenwick  
Pte Ferrari  
Pte Gavan  
Pte Lergessner  
Pte Lyons  
Pte McGarry  
Pte Murray  
Pte Richardson  
Pte Robilliard  
Pte Thompson  
Pte Thomson  
Pte Wright

### Recon Pl

Lt McLeod  
Lt Withycombe  
Sgt Brooks  
Sgt Challands  
Sgt Haydon  
Cpl Davies  
Cpl O'Connor  
Cpl Quinn  
Cpl Toohey  
LCpl Young  
Pte Eckert  
Pte Horne  
Pte Lee  
Pte McGinty  
Pte Mee  
Pte Moyle  
Pte O'Neill  
Pte Pearson  
Pte Rootham  
Pte Rowson  
Pte Smith  
Pte Weir  
Pte Wishart  
Pte Wood

# Mortar Platoon

1988 The Year of the Child

It started out the same as any other year, the begrudging return from leave and the obligatory requests for discharge/posting/corps transfer. IMT became the go, to prepare the platoon to perform for excellence at Mt Spec. But nothing could prepare us for the Y harbour. Brilliantly simple in concept, it earned its creator a niche in BHQ before a posting to the Infantry Centre.

Hot on the heels of Cyclone Charlie and fresh from his ARES Mortar Course, came the man who put the fear of Christ into all of us and the gravel in Gurnsey Sg1 Highway's voice - "Psycho" Somerville. Mortar Platoon was now complete and commenced the year in earnest with a live firing exercise at high range in April, followed by Mil Skills and a trip to Shoalwater Bay in APC's. Our armoured hosts believed in sleep deprivation by conducting run-ups each night, all night. We were only caught out once. Vatuatu became almost an issue during this exercise and amidst secrecy and growing despair, we sat and watched C Coy depart for Townsville without us. Fortunately we were given the nod and we arrived hours after an all-night drive across Shoalwater Bay and an RV with a Delux coach.

Undaunted by our Operational Readiness Check, the platoon gauged up for the Battalion LFX in June. For the first time this year, six tubes were in action and this was due totally as a result of the commitment displayed by the NCO's and students on our basic handler's course. Over 1000 rounds were fired during the week and the platoon is quite proud of its achievement of doing everything correctly and on time.

However, out of the dust and schrapnel of the 506 feature, there rose a man of unparalleled sights. With tripods mounted and guns blazing, the spark burst into flame - S.F. Mick was back. Guns on the right, guns in the air. No wonder they disbanded this bastard.

Back in camp, the year started to speed past, duties, shooting, sport, sport, Hawaii for a lucky one, roping, sport and just as despair crept into our lives - "Maxi Beagle" rekindled our hopes. With Rayboards polished and Walkmans adjusted to a comfortable 9, the lads set out for an adventure of a lifetime.

Heat, dust and barrenness meant little and nothing was to stand in the way of Mortar Platoon and the Barktown Bere, not even sharks or haemorrhoids. The Gulf Country, land of sweeping plains, dust and dead kangaroos. Let the bloody musos have it.

With the year almost gone and only "Swath Eagle" and courses to go, its time to thank those people who are leaving the platoon for their efforts this year and to wish them all the best for the future. To the 9 new fathers in the platoon, well done and keep it up. It is also time to reflect upon some of the notable characters within Mortars and leave you with an impression of the lads.

Sgt "S.F. Mick" Downing "When I was in 1RAR, SPMG PL Johnny Watson and I used to --- yerp--- yerp."

Sgt "Wambles" Lewis "Adhere to the 3 C's of Rats: cool, calm and confused."

Sgt "Flossie" Glover "Wow, I'll just put a match here...."

Sgt "No Pass" Ratchiff "Every Subj I Cpl needs out"

Cpl Mackenzie "I told a Harley, I have punch-ups wiv me brother. I run this f----- platoon. I'm so tough, I spear sharks wiv aiming posts."

Cpl Hart "2 months to go...."

LCpl Watts "We macchies have to stick together."

LCpl Donaldson "The man who travelled 18000kms just to meet a woman."

Popey "Caused us a lot of concern over his weight loss and choice of business partners."

Cromble "The Rat" "Paul! Went to buy a watch/magazine/vibe!"

Pity "I've never done this to a woman before. We'll like this then!"

Tramble "The Wayne Gardner of Mortars who gets off on fast food, fast bikes and black velvet."

Spike "I've never done anything to a girl before the first!"

Cowboy "Where do you start?"

Duals "Too bad Ladiesdowns aren't automatic!"

Bates "The man who had his nose hanging out for a chopper ride on "Maxi Beagle"."

"Tuppie" Lawrence "The man so cool that he had to shave one eyebrow off just to turn women away."

Bodley "African's friend"

Akko "Greece is always greener over the hill/finca/road."





Cpl MacKenzie with Shark, using an sighting post correctly

## Assault Pioneers

Nineteen eighty eight started as if it were going to be like the last three years. The start of the year came with a new platoon Commander, Lt Shaw and Sgt Daly. Minus half a platoon attached to Delta Company in Malaysia.

February, the platoon or part thereof, introduced A Coy to a 2 day basic watersmanship course. The lads from A Coy enjoyed the transition from land to water. It was about this time that the boss showed us his natural skills with craft handling, when we realised that the fish weren't biting, we had an unanimous decision to do night rock landings and overboard drills.

March, the boss was absent from the platoon for his wedding. Congratulations boss, another admin problem. Sergeant Daly and Roger Thompson went on a 3 month bludge to England for the Queens' Guard. The remainder of the platoon returned from Malaysia.

April, a very quiet month for Pioneers.

May, it was back to work as a platoon. Len Logan, after being in Pioneers for 11 years was fed to the Deltas where he presently resides.

June, the Battalion Live Fire Exercise, saw Pete Ferrari crowned by rock from the back blast of a Claymore Mine, with no lasting effects. Shortly after the LFX, pioneers were involved with Flame throwing week, and subject 2 for Corporal for the remainder a stiff duty period around 2 months.

July, this was a pretty interesting month for us. The platoon assisted A Coy in water jumps (New Barney still hasn't managed to get any colour in his face). Soon after we had an interesting Demolition Week prior to another Duties week. Straight after duties, Pioneers went to Kosonbookosha Dam to assist C Coy with watersmanship instruction and patrolling.

August, we had the Freedoms of the City March and that night we went to the arena theatre for the 2/4 Battalion birthday Ball. Then came Ex "Mad Beagle".

Exercise "Mad Beagle" got off on the wrong foot, when our assault craft ended up on the wrong essay. Which effectively separated us from them by a few hundred kilometres. Which taught D Coy: "if you wish to foot boats you require water."

As the Exercise progressed, it was obvious that the Boss was

having problems... However, Boss, you have been recommended for an Irish Mine Detector by Sgt Joe "Barramundi" Johnson.

During the exercise we covered the variety of our Pioneer tasks, including mine and booby trap clearances, road block security, river patrolling, patrolling built up areas with expert instruction from "Barramundi" Joe and of course, platoon attacks. Overall a good exercise for Pioneers.

It was at this stage we had our platoon party for past members of Pioneers and members leaving for Malaysia.

September, the Boss and a section left for Malaysia. The rest of us had a well earned break for Standsdown. Then once again, duties, in preparation for Ex "Swath Eagle" in October.

Exercise "Swath Eagle" was probably the most interesting exercise for Pioneers for quite some time. Starting with a rail trip to and from the training area at Shoalwater Bay.

The first week involved mostly mine and booby trap clearances. While the second week involved a helicopter insertion for the Pioneers with a Recon Patrol on enemy held territory by padding inflatable craft in the dead of night. Also with us was our personal equipment and specialist gear to prepare an LZ for a Battalion insertion and pick up. Pioneers also practised survival skills by way of supplementing fresh rations for hard rations... the operation was a success.

The last days of the exercise, we assisted A Coy (yet again) in digging a CP for the defensive phase.

Straight after the exercise the Battalion commenced their courses period which takes us right up until the commencement of BRL.

Overall, 1988 was a good year for Assault Pioneer Platoon in that we practised and exercised all our various tasks. It is good to see that we are being used as we should be. With any luck, next year will be just as varied.

Next year will see a large turnover in Pioneers with many members leaving: Cpl Logan D Coy, Cpl Schwirz B Coy, LCpl Peterlek D Coy, Cpl Henry Discharge, LCpl Hayes Discharge, Pte Cadzow Discharge, Cpl Lynch Rifle Company, Pte Ferrari Main G, Sgt Daly Ammo Tech, Pte Robilliard Engineers.

Good luck to all members leaving and arriving. Best wishes for the future ROCADE!



*Practicing Carpentry skills*



*Finishing the Cricket nets*



*But you said you fixed the motor on?*

