

though, including the RATEL heard from CHQ, the 3.2's after the enemy (when bullets can't catch them), the range card and track plan training and, most importantly, the redeployment back to the Battalion.

All in all, 1993 was a good year for the Fighting Eighth who remember that, "The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war..."

....."32 Out". ...tsshhhkk

#### Welcomes

- ♦The Boss ♦The Sarge 7 PL
- ♦SGT Moore Recon PL ♦CPL Hawken 7 PL
- ♦PTE Fawcett 8/9 RAR ♦PTE Lee IET's
- ♦PTE Jordan IET's ♦PTE Leavitt IET's
- ♦PTE Hooker IET's ♦PTE Murphy IET's
- ♦PTE Chidgey 6 RAR ♦PTE Ozegovic UNTAC

#### Farewells

- ♦The Boss AADJT ♦The Sarge Survl Section
- ♦CPL Murrells Recon PL ♦CPL Ashworth 7 PL
- ♦LCPL Whyte 9 PL ♦PTE Windsor Discharged
- ♦PTE Chalmers CHQ ♦PTE Slattery Discharged
- ♦PTE O'Sullivan Discharged



#### 8 PL C COY 2/4 RAR - LAVARACK BARRACKS - 1993

Front Row: PTE S. MILLIGAN, LCPL A. PORTER, CPL S. MURRELLS, LT T. CURTIS, CPL S. ROBERTSON, CPL T. HAWKEN, LCPL J. WHYTE;  
 Second Row: PTE J. FIELD, PTE C. LEAVITT, PTE A. EVERSON, PTE Z. COMINI, PTE T. MICHAEL, PTE R. McCORMICK, PTE B. SUMMERS,  
 PTE B. FAWCETT, PTE B. HOOKER.

Back Row: PTE B. LEE, PTE T. MURPHY, PTE J. BOTHAM, PTE J. JORDAN, PTE S. O'MEARA.  
 Absent: SGT P. STANTON, PTE R. SYRON, PTE A. THOMPSON, PTE J. SLATTERY.



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# 9 PLATOON

LT T.M. Scott, SGT P.J. Stephens, CPL D.B. Carter, CPL D.C. Harrison, CPL G.B. Monty, LCPL M.J. Connor, LCPL E.J. McKellar, PTE P.J. Arbuckle, PTE J.P. Calkin, PTE S.J. Crighton, PTE M.J. Dick, PTE C.J. Dodd, PTE J.D. Donald, PTE P.M. Florence, PTE S.D. Gaudie, PTE W.J. Hicks, PTE S.B. Jones, PTE D.A. Jordan, PTE E.T. Kelly, PTE T.B. Kennedy, PTE P.E. Laws, PTE M.W. Parsons, PTE J.A. Perry, PTE A.R. Thorne, PTE J.W. Vandermeeden, PTE S.L. Vanholland, PTE P.J. Willis.

The 9th of Foot has once again proven itself to be the stalwart, ironclad warrior platoon of Charlie Company; a well-oiled machine indeed. PHQ underwent a facelift with the addition of SGT Stephens and LT Scott, and during the year we welcomed back PTEs Donald, Parsons and "the Hulker" Laws from Somalia, and PTE Arbuckle from Cambodia.

The platoon began the year as a section plus, having a posted strength of only 14. But they were a keen and eager 14, ever ready to take the battle to the dirty Muso's that inhabit Tully. For some it was a welcome return to the 'J' that they love, for others it was their worse nightmare come true, especially as we had to put up with being under command of 7 Platoon. Please Lord, never again.

We next experienced the delights of being unmercifully subjected to those navigational wizards of 5 Avn during Air Week 1. This time it was 9 Platoon in charge of the Company (Charlie Company could still only field one platoon) and we unequivocally showed that not only could one platoon of Charlie Company carry out the tasks assigned to whole companies for the remainder of the Battalion, but do so at a greater level of proficiency. Legends all.

During Air Week 2, 7 and 8 Platoon decided to come to the party and participate, although the 9th of Foot is still mystified as to why they bothered. After these two platoons finished brassing each other up the 9th was left to take it to the enemy, vanquishing all in sight. For our reward we were made to walk up the biggest feature in

the area twice, and then carry out battlefield clearance. Sterling effort men.

It was then on to the Battalion LFX - "Deadly Spider". Just another success story in a long history of successes; the platoon leading the way by redirecting the axis of assault towards the enemy position. Carts, as acting Balloon Sergeant, proved that you could walk through the assault without having to once dirty your belly by crawling.

The fighting spirit of the platoon was represented by LCPL McKellar at the Battalion Boxing Extravaganza. Mac was robbed of victory by a narrow points decision; who knows what would have happened if Mac could've seen his opponent? Mac also starred in the Mil Skills Competition, deciding to leave a finger behind on the sangar construction. Everybody put in a solid effort with the two sections finishing next to each other in a show of consistency.

Perhaps the most memorable event of the year for the platoon was playing as enemy loggers for Bravo Company at Paluma. This proved to be unfortunate for Bravo, who were extremely embarrassed by the cunning, courage and sheer bravado of the boys from the 9th of Foot. Or perhaps Bravo were experimenting with new SOP's - locstats by firing rifles into the air and challenging procedures such as "hey you - stop! Tell me the password...no that's wrong - gun, open up" were two such frequently applied SOP's. Keep working at it Bravo.

Our final effort of the year was the exceptionally

well run Eagle Flight. It was good to dig again. Attached to Whiskey Company, 1RNZIR, Charlie Company saw more action during the Townshend Island phase than the remainder of the Battalion saw throughout the whole exercise. After a successful insertion onto the island that was reminiscent of *Apocalypse Now* thanks to the Kiwi Air Force (although the surf was a bit low), the 9th of Foot successfully took out 12 enemy and their mortar base plate with only 14 men. The radio commentary that accompanied the attack gave CHQ a reason for living. 'Congrats' must also go to the five members that made up 8 Section who during the Brigade attack, not content with

assaulting with a platoon that was destroying everything before it, decided to give a decimated Delta Company a hand. This turned the tide for Delta Company who managed to win on their flank, and the men from 8 Section, their job done, vanished in the fog of battle to the aid of another company in distress - Alpha. It's a thankless job but somebody must do it.

1994 promises to be another fruitful year for the 9th, no doubt continuing this remarkable success story. Our best wishes to those who are leaving us, and a hearty welcome to those who are going to join. 'Stay Loose'.



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