

Technical Support Platoon

The outstanding thing about Tech Spt Pl in 1988 has been the variety of activities throughout the year. The year began with the introduction of Unimog trucks requiring a great deal of work on behalf of the vehicle mechanics to get the trucks on the road and scale the required parts and tools.

Battalion bush week saw the unit's tradesmen swapping tool boxes for back packs and joining Mortar Platoon for a jaunt around the Mount Spec area. Although the craftsmen were enthusiastic there were no corps transfer applications submitted.

About this time, Cfn Peter Meredith marched in then disappeared for four months and Cpl "Shakey" Van Schaak arrived to take over the radio repairs.

The introduction of the new Land Rover "Perentie" has improved the general availability of vehicles with the only complaints to this time being the soft skin.

Cfn Paul Pritchard left the store to take a well earned rest at Shoalwater Bay on Ex "Scorpion Sting" and Cfn Wayne Ham, the long awaited new storeman arrived and continues to amaze all and

sundry.

Tech Spt had a large commitment to the "Camel Trek" initially manufacturing saddles and preparing vehicles for the task, then constant support with forward repair teams alternating throughout the period of the race.

LCpl Tony Minniti and Cfn "Chas" Chambers relaxed in a tropical paradise on Ex "Wantok Warrior". Cfn "Buzz" Bzowy kept out of trouble - between haircuts!

Vanuatu saw an initial period of round the clock activity during which every weapon in the battalion was inspected over a three day period. The Mag 58 bipod proved unsuitable and a conversion was carried out on all unit guns.

The ASM supported Ex "Tropic Lightning", life wasn't meant to be easy!

Exercising in remote areas of the Gulf country necessitated teams to operate independently over long distances with minimal support. Maxi Beagle was hard on equipment and all involved gained valuable experience.

With "Swift Eagle" upon us, the silly season imminent and Cpl Chris Maher and his team in Malaya, Tech Spt are looking forward to a well earned Christmas break and a quiet (RSB) new year.

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ASM WO2 Williams



Cfn Pritchard



Cfn Ham



Tech Spt Platoon

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Quartermaster Platoon

Quartermaster Platoon has once again enjoyed a very busy year at the "full trot".

This year, staff changes included posting in of Captain Merv Dixon as QM, Sgt Ray Browne as Pl Sgt, Cpl Nain Bristow-Smith as Clothing Storeman, LCpl John Twomey to UMM's with LCpl Bruce Sarsons to Peace Ledgers, Pte Bill Ross to War Ledgers, Cpl Trevor ("TT") Ryan and Pte Mark Hoffrichter to on-the-job training in various appointments.

Internal and external postings from the QM Pl including promotions were: Capt Bob Weir to Maj, HQ 2 MD; Kim Porter to SSgt, A Coy; Gary Jewer to SSgt, B Coy; Ken Burgess to SSgt, 1RAR; Brett Langbeer to LCpl, D Coy; Cpl John Brooks to 10/27 1RAR; Cpl Darryl Sheehan to 11/28 1RAR; LCpl Peter Vestjens discharged; LCpl Julian McCarthy to B Coy; LCpl Buck Rodgers to A Coy; Pte Les Kronk to Admin Coy; Ross Waterhouse to Cpl, Tech Store; Wayne Sheldrick on temporary duty to Admin Coy and promotion to Sgt and finally (to date) Cpl J.J. Jarasen to 1RTB.

This year we have finally seen the issue of "spotties" - our new disruptive pattern uniforms, wet weather jacket and new G5 Landrovers (Perentie 110's), new Thermal Imagers and our own unit Unimogs (mine trucks), soon to be more.

The questions about the imminent arrival of new equipment continued unabated until receipt of DPCU! Now it's the case of "when will we have enough?" Since then questions have lessened considerably. We now eagerly await the arrival of our new spotted webbing, Perentie FFR and six wheelers and more importantly - new weapons.

The QM's Pl has participated in most (if not all) activities this year, ranging from exercises such as Air Week, Bush Week, "Bashful Bandicoot", "Tropic Prelude", "Tropic Lightning" (Hawke), In Live Firing Week, "Maxi Beagle" and are now hunkering away in preparation for "South Eagle '88. Our preparations for ODF displays, a most interesting period of ODF activity of a "Claytons" nature, CES stocktake, helicopter training, sport, PT, shooting, water jump, manpower support to the Mt Skills competition (to mention a few) and courses such as Basic Storeman, Advanced Storeman, Air Portability Team Leader, Subject Courses for Cpl and Sgt, QM's Course, Exemption Testing and Education Courses and Introduction to Joint Warfare have all contributed to a high workload, often with crisis management being the only solution.

Apart from these warlike activities, our Peace Incentive staff have contributed significantly to the success of several large functions this year such as support to the NQ Army Officers' Ball, unit courses, 2/4 RAR Birthday Celebrations, accommodation support for visiting US, PNG and Tattoo personnel and numerous other activities.

At the end of 1988 we will once again be farewelling and welcoming a number of personnel. Congratulations and best wishes to our RGMS who will be sadly missed by the QM. John Gibson is appointed as QM 1RTB and is promoted to Captain on 7 December '88. Congratulations also to "Jacko" who is to be Sgt L.J. Jackson of 1 Trg Co on 14 December '88. We will also miss "TT" Ryan, Bill Ross and Matthew Crooks who have all decided to take discharge. May their futures be happy ones.

In closing, late 1987 to October 1988 has been a busy and fruitful period for the platoon. It is hoped that 1989 will be an even more fruitful and enjoyable year. The support of all members of the platoon and the support accorded them by their wives, girlfriends and families goes a long way to ensure that the Battalion is provided with logistic support. Thank you for the support and compliments of the season to you all.



Capt Dixon



RGMS WAR - WOJ Gibson



LCpl Sarsons and Cpl Ryan



Pte Crooks