

Pipes and Drums



Pipe Major WO2 'Jack' Gail

Our year began at 0001 hours on New Years Day, the first job of the year being on Berhara Island, and exclusive Island Pentite.

The Pipe Major accepted the task and began his New Years Eve flying from Townsville to Duval Island, ocean voyage from Dunk in Federa, he then settled into his Chalet and began preparations for the evenings activities. The new years day started on the jetty, partaking in some Highland refreshment with other international guests.

Early in '88 it became obvious the priority was to be the Tattoo. The preparation for the Tattoo took a considerable amount of personal time and credit goes to all who reached the standard required.

First job for the year was at the new Woolies at Northern Plaza.

On 25th February, the Pipes and Drums ventured to the Blue Nuring House, as at least we had some older advisors for at least one day.

Being the only military organization on 24 hours notice to move in Townsville, our military tasks already begin, some examples...

- D Day retrun from Malaysia
- Blessing of the Fleet at the Townsville Boat Club
- A number of RAAF funerals
- The Netball Association (that's a bit of a thrill for our younger members)
- Parade for 2 PD Sup Ins and Guard Mounts.

17th March brought on Saint Patrick's Day and once again we wore the battalions. This year only verbal abuse and not one fire hose was used.

The traditional boiled spuds and Irish coffee was served and even Col MacDougall from D5G was seen to slip a divan or two. Eleven large bottles of Irish whiskey and 10 litres of cream later everyone left with red cheeks.

In March, Col Davis got married and the North Queensland Highland Games were held. April 17 saw the Pipes and Drums off to Mackay for the W.G. Rugby Union match, only a one night stand but a good one.

Anzac Day saw us all over the city, one bugler at Guna, the Pipe Major at Brigade HQ, 3/4 Col Regt, the Engineers and of course the battalions. We also marched through the streets of Townsville and played at the RSL.

Still in April we played at the Civic Theatre for the Mayor's Charity Concert and being basically infantry we provided the green beret act. LCpl Langelaar and T.T. Ryan dropped from the ceiling of the Theatre, while smoke, lights and helicopter sounds, encompassed the stage. The little drummer boy was Mark Haines, he performed well with minimum rehearsal. Keep up the drumming Mark.

During May saw the P/D go back for a few days with the RAAF "Code of Conduct Course" and that same month the Officers Mess, Central Mess and the P/D's again played at another presentation of Colours. Since 1985, the Colours Presentations have been 8RAR, 3RAR, 1RPR (PMOL) 51

PMGR, 1RAR and in September 8RAR. May was a month to remember.

June was fairly quiet. Once again the RAAF had their Formal Mess Functions, Bde Sgt's Mess Sgt Dwyer and the Charity Concert of Ayr. Billy Raymond the Director of the Ayr Theatre has plans to produce another show next year. The last job in June was the RAEME Base at Parade.

July, we had the Royal Guard for the GCG, the Bde Rugby at Hugh Street, CDF Dinner at the Commod Mess, 2/4 RAR Freedom of the City of Townsville. This was a month of losses. Mick Dwyer was preparing for his Tech Elect Course and Bob Casey getting ready for his Inns.

August - December, we are from August part of the Bicentennial Tattoo Regiment - visiting, performing in Sydney, Brisbane, Townsville, Darwin, Perth, Adelaide, Hobart, Melbourne and Canberra.

The Tattoo routine after rehearsals is more like night shift. We start at 1500, perform from 2000 to 2300 and assist tea, supper at 0130, rehearsals start 0100 to 0300. From 0300 to 1500 the next day we have off to prepare and sightsee.

On hitting Darwin, Pte Holmes went to hospital to get his appendix removed, so he'll be out of action for a while. At the completion of the Tattoo, the Tattoo Authority present us with a thankyou certificate and a medalion like our Freedom of City Medalion.

The Quartering (Barracked) haven't been too bad. Perth at this stage has been outstanding. We stayed at the Sports and Recreation Centre at Mandurah. The Tattoo so far isn't too bad, the routine is becoming monotonous though. We have made a few acquaintances and have earned the respect of ARES and Civic Bands. This year I would like to mention the names of the P/D's as a lot of the old hands have left:

P/Major	WO2 Gail	Piper	Cooper
P/Sgt	Cpl Davis	Base Drummer	Murphy
P/Cpl	LCpl Holding	Tenor	Holmes
D/Sgt/D/M	LCpl Maery	Tenor	Larsson
Piper	Wilson	Sole	Timings
Piper	Pritchard	Sole	Norman

As you can see we are still light on the ground.

Next year will see another P/D's course which I hope will get us more pipes and another sole drummer. As our members increase our chance to complete at Major Pipes and Drums Camps are better. So for all you lads that wish to have a go, contact myself or one of the P/D's. We are heading for bigger things in 89-90.

On behalf of the P/D's we wish the Battalion all the best for next year. Our Commanding Officer, "Star one one two three four" Major Holdings, says thanks for your support "Have a glib New Year".

