
FOREWORD

LIEUTENANT COLONEL P. E. McINTOSH

The 2nd/4th Battalion has had a very successful 20th year. Our success has been borne out of a great spirit that exists within the Battalion and a total commitment to succeed at whatever we undertake.

The decision to deploy 1RAR to Somalia saw the Battalion back 'On Line' in December 1992. 53 of our soldiers deployed with 1RAR and received valuable operational experience. I have been very pleased with the high level of operational and administrative readiness that has been maintained across the Battalion.

1993 has seen 16 soldiers from the Battalion deployed on operational service as part of UNTAC. These soldiers have contributed significantly to the success of the UNTAC mission and have brought great credit on themselves and the unit. Also, we have had 12 Platoon deploy to Cambodia as part of OP GEMINI where they performed a vital role in protecting the Aviation Squadron at the Battambang airfield and during deployments.

I have placed a lot of emphasis this year on training and preparing for credible contingencies. Credible contingency tasks have been defined and SOPs have been developed. As many tasks will be conducted by small groups, I have placed an emphasis on developing junior leaders and training at section and platoon level.

During our exercises we have trained for reactive operations. We have also continued to develop our airmobile operational skills through training in night deployments and air mobile assaults. The two air weeks and the LFX provided very good lead up training for EX EAGLE FLIGHT II where the Battalion was tested in a range of reactive and air mobile tasks and performed very well, despite the fog of war which descended upon us during the last activity.

Other training activities of note were a very testing military skills competition and overseas deployments to Butterworth and Hawaii.

The Battalion has acquitted itself exceedingly well during all competitions conducted this year, both military and sporting. Our shooting team has won AASAM, the RUR Trophy, and the Brigade and NQ Area competitions. Also, the unit has averaged half the places in the Australian Army Shooting

Team at AASAM, Bisley and BISAM. The individual achievements have been exceptional but far too numerous to list here. Well done to our shooting team.

The Pipes and Drums have also had an exceptionally successful year winning the NQ and Queensland Piping and Drumming competitions.

The unit has won the Commander's Trophy again this year with a very good all round performance. Well done to all those who contributed to our success in the cross country, orienteering, obstacle course and shooting competitions.

On the sporting field, the Battalion has done very well by winning Athletics and Rugby and having four teams out of five in the Winter sports grand finals. Congratulations to all our sportsmen and trainers.

The 20th Anniversary celebrations were a great success. The dusk church service, again held outdoors, was a very moving ceremony and provided each of us with an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be an infantry man. The Trooping of the Colour Parade was a suitably spectacular ceremony to celebrate our 20th Anniversary.

I would like to thank Jenny Head for leading up the All Ranks Ladies Association for yet another year.

Also, my thanks to the Editor, Major Simon Gould, and his team for their work in producing this very valuable unit record.

To those of you who are leaving us, I thank you very much for your efforts and I wish you the very best for your future careers.

To the spouses and families, I thank you very much for supporting your partners and Dads through a very busy year. They couldn't do it without you.

Finally, on behalf of the Battalion I would like to extend our best wishes to our RSM, WO1 David Bennett, who will retire from the Army in December. He has achieved his career ambition with distinction and has been an inspiration to us all.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.