

8 PLATOON

1996 has been an outstanding year for 8 Platoon. Starting with a limited participation on Ex Four Close (there was only about eight people in the Platoon), the Pygmies managed to survive the Arctic conditions to move onto section training.

This was followed by Ex Swift Eagle which was the high point of 9 Platoon's year with all the major contacts throughout the trip involving the call sign. This included the destruction of an SAS patrol, two Kiwi Recon Patrols and an Iroquois. A battalion attack against 32's position was still not enough to finish the battle and it required the reintroduction of human wave attacks to be able to knock us off that afternoon.

Highlights of the jungle phase included the daily increasing Rat Kill tally and the seemingly never ending supply of 91 model C Ration Packs. The move to Einasleigh by Blackhawk was a positive outcome of this last phase of the exercise, which saw the Platoon come under control of 3RAR. The capture of 2RAR's BHQ in the final hours managed to bring a smile to the smoke stained faces of the boys, and allowed a large pressure release for the close of the Ex.

The return to Barracks has seen the Platoon involved in DFSW shoots and participate in a 10 day Ex at Meryla State Forest.

8 Platoon is now training hard towards Commando training and looks forward to coming back stronger than ever in the new structure.



'A LITTLE MORE OF THAT PRETTY GREEN PLEASE, SERGEANT'

