

2/4 RAR Hockey

After a successful year in 1986, hopes were high for another victory for the 2/4 RAR Hockey Team in 1987. The season started with a round-robin seven-a-side tournament that featured both 2 RAR (D, B and C Coys) and 4 RAR (A, Spt and Admin Coys). Both teams were defeated in their pools and after the tournament 2/4 RAR was looking good.

The team played confidently through the season and looked the winners, especially when in August they played 18 Fd Sqn and the DSG team in successive games on the one afternoon and beat them both. These two teams and 2/4 RAR were certain to fight out the Finals.

18 Fd Sqn were growing in strength and seemed to have new players (of star quality) every time we played them. In the last minor round game, they defeated us and went on to confirm the superiority in 1987 with victories in the Semi Finals and Grand Finals.

The Grand Final attracted a good crowd and 2/4 RAR had its chance to win after recently defeating the old foe 1 RAR in the Preliminary Final. We had the better of the first half but could not find the net and 18 Fd Sqn took their chances better in the second half to win 2-0. Both teams got together after-

wards at the "Dingo's Den" for what turned out to be more than a few drinks!

During the year representative honours were won by LCpl Bob Palmer (A Coy) and Cpl Jim Smith (D Coy). LCpl Palmer was available for trials and gained selection in the Queensland Combined Service team which played in the national championship in Perth. Both players represented Army in the Queensland inter-service series. They were also joined by Pte Barnett-Lytle (A Coy) and Cpl Nick Stanton (C Coy) in the Townsville Army team which upset the Townsville Colts in September. Jim Smith moved both Army goals in that game including the winner (a solo run from half-way) with only 90 seconds to play.

The Inter-Coy series confirmed the arrival of a new force in 2/4 RAR Hockey — the man destined to guide our fortunes in 1988. Welcome and best wishes to Maj John Danahar of Spt Coy. The Inter-Coy games were not completed as we go to print and were mostly remarkable for the efforts of Bob Palmer to improve the standards of umpiring and the unexpected rise of the "Red Tide" of D Coy under Maj "Mad Mark" Probert and the redoubtable Jim Smith.

Battalion Soccer

After a dismal year in 1986, all Battalion Soccer players and officials were eagerly looking forward to the start of the 1987 competition in April. Spirits were high and a good roll up of high quality players at the pre-season training pointed to a successful season for the Battalion teams.

Several pre-season games were held against other units with the highlight being a convincing 3-0 win against 2 Fd Sup. Bn.

The season properly started in early April with the first game being against a combined DSG/DSG team with a comfortable 5-2 victory to 2/4 RAR.

At this stage of the season, all games were being played on a reduced size pitch because the main pitches in front of 1 RAR were undergoing re-seeding and marking, this was unsettling to some of the players in the team and because of this some victories against lesser teams were not as convincing as they should have been.

After early victories, 2/4 RAR emerged as favourites for the premiership. Indicative of how the team was performing was a "write up" in the Townsville Bulletin by the coach of the 2 Fd Sup Bn team, when after his team had defeated a below strength 2/4 team 5-4, described his win as the "result of the season" and promptly described his team as the new premiership favourites!!

2/4 continued to defeat the lesser teams in the competition with ease but started to falter against the stronger teams with things coming to a head with a 2-0 defeat by 1 RAR. After this loss, a degree of panic set in and it was not unusual to see team members arguing amongst themselves on the field, instead of worrying about the opposition.

In early July the final four was settled with the placings being:

- 1st — 2 Fd Sup Bn
- 2nd — 1 RAR
- 3rd — 2/4 RAR
- 4th — 4 Fd Regt

2/4 RAR easily disposed of 4 Fd with a 4-0 victory in the minor Semi Final and settled back to watch the 2 Fd vs 1 RAR game which 1 RAR won and consequently advanced to the Grand Final.

The Battalion team then had to face 2 Fd Sup Bn in the major Semi Final, with the winner meeting 1 RAR in the Grand Final.

This match was the low point of the season with 2 Fd easily winning 4-1. The Battalion team's season had finished!! There

were no excuses as the better team won on the day and all members of the Battalion team were hoping to see a 1 RAR victory in the Grand Final, if only to see the cockroaches put in their place. However, this was not to be and 2 Fd won a very tight and close Grand Final 1-0.

However, there were high spots in the season, the main one being:

- Seven players from the Battalion being picked to represent the Brigade;
- Three players, Pte's Price (Admin), Whart (Spt) and Angelsante (BHQ) all being picked to represent the Qld Army side; and
- Two players, Pte's Whart (Spt) and Angelsante (A) being picked for the Qld Combined Services Team.

Congratulations to all concerned!
Players who won awards this season were:
• Highest Goal scorer (16 Goals) — Pte Price (Admin Coy)
• Best Clubman — Pte Angelsante (A Coy)
• Best and Fairest — Pte Stephenson (D Coy)

Pte Stephenson (D Coy) would have been selected in the Qld Army side and probably have gone on to higher honours had he not been involved in the Gloucester Cup Squad.

In finishing I would like to thank the following "behind the scenes" members without whom the team would not have functioned.

- Sgt "Jock" Lorimer — Team Coach
- Sgt Roger Lacey — Manager & Selector
- LCpl "Vinnie" Falocchio — Strapper

I would also like to thank the Captain of the team Cpl Murphy (Spt Coy) who played his heart out without winning many honours, but constantly led by example which is all a Captain can do.

I thank all players for their support and hope to see all those remaining next year playing the only true football!

L.M. Hook WO2
Bn Soccer Rep. 1987

Players who represented this Battalion in 1987:
A Coy — LCpl Tai, LCpl Lindberg, Pte's Angelsante, Mackrill, Gillen
B Coy — LCpl Scais, Pte's Beacham, Stewart
C Coy — Cpl's Murphy, Dorand, Pte Kelly
D Coy — Pte's Stephenson, Wright, Higgins and Wilkinson
Spt Coy — Sgt Young, Cpl James, Pte Whart
Admin Coy — Pte's Whittaker, Martin, Bernard and Price.