

Malaysia

In October 1965, 4RAR joined 28 COMWEL Ind Inf Bde Gp at Terendak Camp in Malaysia. Training was intensified immediately as the unit was placed on a short notice to move to Sarawak. While training, the Battalion had platoons and companies on varying degrees of alert, in case of Indonesian incursions across the Malacca Straits onto the Malaya Peninsular. In April 1966, the Battalion was deployed to the Bau District. Battalion HQ was located at Cambrai Camp. Three of the rifle companies occupied bases at Gumbang, Stass and Bokah. The remaining rifle company was held as a reserve at Old Bau Camp.



The five months 4RAR spent in Sarawak were fairly quiet except for two significant contacts. The 'Hearts and Minds' programme conducted by the Battalion was very successful, with the unit receiving maximum co-operation from the local Dyaks. At the conclusion of 'Confrontation' in early September the bases occupied by 4RAR were handed over to 3 Royal Malay Regiment (3RMR). By 10 September 1966, 4RAR was completely relocated to Malacca. On 11 November 1966, Lieutenant Colonel D.S. Thomson, MC handed over command of 4RAR to Lieutenant Colonel C.H.A. East, MBE. The new CO served from 11 November 1966 until 7 January 1968. The RSM WO1 J. Clarke, from 20 May 1966 until 17 November 1966, handed over to WO1 A.C. Toghill on the 18th November, who took the Battalion through until 17 October 1969.

1967 provided peacetime soldiering at its best. This time allowed the Battalion to conduct interesting exercises, play plenty of sport and enjoy excellent entertainment facilities afforded by the Garrison and Malacca district. The Battalion also continued its 'Hearts and Minds' programme it had utilised so effectively in Borneo. Towards the end of the year Lieutenant Colonel C.H.A. East received word that the unit would be moving to South Vietnam in mid 1968. As such, he immediately arranged for all sub-units to undergo training at the jungle warfare school at Kota Tinggi in Johore. The decision was also made at AHQ that members of the Battalion would not be reposted when returned to Australia and that the complete unit structure would be retained.