

North Queensland Infantry Officers Dinner

2/4 RAR took the opportunity to show the other infantry units what it could do in staging a first-class dining-in night. The occasion was a dinner for all infantry officers, regular and reserve, in North Queensland, held in the 2/4 RAR OR's mess on 6 Nov. '87.

The tables were arranged in a huge hollow square, with everyone looking inward. This provided an ideal space for performances by the 2/4 RAR Pipes and Drums and the sit down musicians of the 1 RAR Band.

The food was superb and the service, by soldiers of 2/4 RAR, very good. The Comd 1 Div and Comd 3 Bde were impressed and ensured that congratulations were in order for Sgt King and his team in the kitchen.

Prior to the dinner 2/4 RAR and 1 RAR clashed in a debate on the topic, "That the Inf Bn (Lt) is too heavy to move and too light to fight". The 2/4 RAR team of Lt Chard, Capt Bender and Maj Cullens emerged victorious and Maj Cullens received the Samichon Shield from Maj Gen Jeffery at the conclusion of the dinner.

Dinner was attended by Capt Steve Townsend and his officers from 4th Battalion, the 21st Infantry Division, who were in Townsville on Exercise "Caltrop Tyro". To note their presence, an American flag was displayed and a toast drunk to the President of the United States of America.

Most notable about the dinner was the display of all six sets of Battalion Colours, belonging to 1 RAR, 2/4 RAR, 31 RQR, 42 RQR and 51 FNQR. This unique display of the colours of two brigades of 1st Division was particularly appreciated by Maj Gen Jeffery.



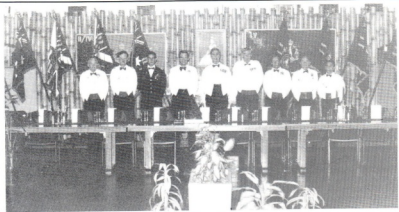
This silver soldier stands guard over the waiting table. The cutlery and glasses stand in obedient lines before him.



*"And you had bloody well better be listening."
Maj Cullens in full flight.*



"...The Engine Room"



"Head Office"

In Praise of the Infantryman

'Let me be clear about three facts:

First all battles and all wars are won in the end by the Infantryman.

Secondly, the Infantryman always bears the brunt. His casualties are heavier, he suffers greater extremes of discomfort and fatigue than the other arms.

Thirdly, the art of the Infantryman is less stereotyped and far harder to acquire in modern war than that of any other arm.

The Infantryman has to use initiative and intelligence in almost every step he moves, every action he takes on the battlefield. We must therefore put our men of best intelligence and endurance into the Infantry.'

*Field Marshall Viscount Wavell
1945*