
THE RANGER 1991



The Journal
of the
8th/7th Battalion
The Royal Victoria Regiment

THE RANGER

8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment

HONORARY COLONEL:

Major General
K.G. Cooke, AO, RFD, ED

Allied Regiments:

The Staffordshire Regiment
(The Prince of Wales')

The Royal Regiment of
Canada



Commanding Officer

Lieutenant Colonel
P.A. Riley, RFD

Allied Associations:

The Association of
7th Battalions

incorporating the
7th Battalion, AIF
7th Battalion AIF
(1939-45)
2/7th Aust Inf Battalion
7th Battalion, RAR

The 8th Battalion
(Ballarat) Assoc
The 8th Battalion
(Ararat) Assoc

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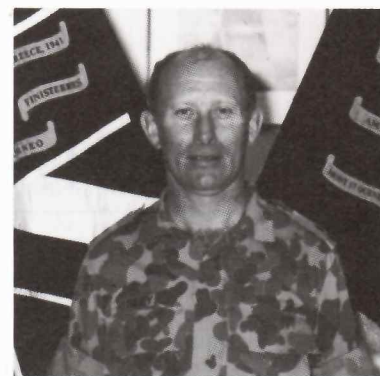
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FOREWORD

By

The Commanding Officer

Lieutenant Colonel P.A. Riley, RFD



I stated at the Handover Parade earlier this year that I was acutely aware of my responsibility to ensure that the good reputation of the Battalion was to be maintained. For my part the challenge was easily achieved primarily because of the dedication and willingness displayed by all members of the unit throughout the year.

1991 has been a difficult year in that every effort was made by unit members to increase their personal readiness level despite the severe restrictions placed upon our available training time. The constant expectation that we will achieve more with less is a fact of life with which all members of the unit have coped very well.

Without doubt Ex Hamel Wood the Unit AFE was the highlight of the training year. All objectives were achieved and the experience levels of all those involved was enhanced considerably in spite of the extremely difficult weather conditions in which we were operating.

Our Battalion 'Blue Print' for training was fully implemented in June this year and now appears to have settled down well. Further development of the more advanced courses for our Senior Soldiers is continuing. I am hopeful that the various training packages will be complete and published by June 1992. We will then be in the desirable position where we will be able to concentrate fully upon the conduct of training and the improvement of our capability levels throughout the unit.

Those members of the Battalion who achieved promotion and trade qualifications throughout the year are to be congratulated on the effort they continue to display.

We have had the opportunity to welcome a number of new faces to the unit during the year, regular soldiers, recruits and a number of officers. By March 1992 the Officer and SNCO manning of the Battalion will be complete with all available positions filled.

While 1991 was a year of modest achievements, 1992 is already shaping up to be a very busy year and once again all members of the Battalion will be required to contribute to the full to ensure that 8/7 RVR grows and becomes more proficient as a vital element of the Australian Defence Force.

It has been a privilege to serve with so many competent members of the unit dedicated to the advancement of our fine Battalion.



1991 DIARY: THE YEAR THAT WAS

January			
22	Australia Day Parade Training.	29-31	Easter.
26	Australia Day.	April	
29	Officers & Senior NCOs Parade.	2	Parade Night.
February		6-7	Officer Training - Engineers.
2-3	Commanding Officer's Orders Group Ballarat.	9	Parade Night. Commanding Officer visited Bacchus Marsh.
5	First Parade Night.	12-13	B Coy Mechanized Infantry Training Weekend, Puckapunyal. 4 BDE CPX at Creswick State Forest.
12	Parade Night - Handover Parade	16	Parade Night. CESRF Night at Ballarat.
15-17	Enemy Party provided for 5/6 RVR at Enfield State Forest	19-20	Field Training Weekend & BFT: A Company - Wangaratta C Company - Swan Hill Spt Company - Warrnambool Admin Company - Sandow.
19	Parade Night. Commanding Officer visited Mildura.	23	Anzac Day Training Night.
22-23	Company Weekend Training: A Company - Wangaratta B Company - Toolern Vale Spt Company - Anglesea.	25	ANZAC DAY. Regimental Colour & Mascot paraded at Ballarat. 45 Cenotaph Parties within Battalion area.
26	Parade Night.	30	Parade Night. CESRF Night - Maryborough.
March		May	
1	Army Day.	4-5	Battalion Champion Section Weekend Wangaratta & CFT C Company Section. CPL Kinleyside winner
2-3	Officers & Senior NCOs TEWT Weekend. Defence at Dean, near Ballarat.	5	7th Battalion Church Parade.
5	Parade Night. Commanding Officer visited Portland.	7	Parade Night. Major General Blake AO, MC Land Commander Australia visited the unit.
12	Parade Night.	14	Parade Night.
19	Parade Night.		
22-23	Battalion Range Weekend Puckapunyal. C Coy Ranges at Red Cliffs, near Mildura.		
26	Parade Night. CESRF Night at Hamilton.		

18-19	4 Brigade CPX at Enfield State Forest	A Company - Wangaratta B Company - Mt Cole C Company - Ned Corner Spt Company - South Australia
21	Parade Night	
25	RAINF Corps Conference at 5/6 RVR	6
June		Parade Night
1-2	A Coy Mechanized Infantry Training Weekend, Puckapunyal	9
4	Parade Night CESRF Night at Swan Hill	133rd REGIMENTAL BIRTHDAY 76th Anniversary of Battle of Lone Pine
5	CESRF Night at Mildura	10-11
7-10	Support Company Range Training at Murray Bridge, SA.	Officer Training - Artillery
11	Parade Night	24 -7
15-16	2nd Division Military Skills Weekend. 8/7 RVR third	ANNUAL FIELD EXERCISE HAMEL WOOD 24 August - 7 September
18	Parade Night CESRF Night at Cobram	September
22-23	Junior NCO Training, Ballarat	17
25	Parade Night	Parade Night Mayoral Function
July		24
2	Parade Night.	Parade Night
4	Hamel Day	28-29
9	Parade Night	Steyr/Minimi Introduction Course Puckapunyal
13-14	C Company IMT Weekend Swan Hill	October
16	Parade Night Commanding Officer visited Maryborough	1
23	Parade Night CESRF Night at Warrnambool	Parade Night
24	CESRF Night at Portland	8
26-27	Junior Officer Training, Ballarat.	Parade Night
August		12-13
2-3	Field Training Weekend	Officer Training - Armour
		19-20
		4 Brigade Military Skills Weekend 8/7 RVR first
		22
		Parade Night
		29
		Parade Night
		November
		9-10
		4 Brigade TEWT
		12
		Parade Night
		19
		Parade Night
		23-24
		2nd Division CPX Ingleburn, NSW.
		26
		Parade Night
		December
		3
		Parade Night
		10
		Social Night

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Battalion 2IC:
Major W.A. Wallace

Operations Officer:
Major D. Hasson

Adjutant:
Captain D.S. Clarke

Assistant Adjutant:
Lieutenant B. Martin

Regimental Sergeant Major:
Warrant Officer Class One
N.J. Walliss

Chief Clerk:
Warrant Officer Class Two
S.A. Inglis

1991 saw the arrival of a new Adjutant, Captain Daryl Clarke, Assistant Adjutant 2LT Belinda Martin, Regimental Sergeant Major WO1 Norm Walliss and Chief Clerk WO2 Stuart Inglis. Major Wallace also took up the appointment of Battalion Second-In-Command.

1991 saw all these people busy producing either the Soldiers Handbook, Standing Orders or copious quantities of other Instructions or Orders. After a hectic 1991 it is hoped that 1992 will allow a bit of breathing room.

Intelligence Section:

Intelligence Officer:
Lieutenant A. Donovan

Intelligence Sergeants:
Sergeant T. Anderson
Sergeant D. Matthews



Headquarters

Manning:

Corporal Beales
Lance Corporal Paizis
Private Martin
Private McKay
Private Coleman
Private Bell

1991 was a fairly active year, which saw the Int/Ops Cell grow in numbers.

In addition to the "stayers" of:
OPSO MAJ Bill Wallace,
IO LT Alan Donovan,
OPS SGT Trevor Anderson,
INT CPL Trevor Beales and
PTE Russell (Dinger) Bell,
we had a number of new arrivals.

Early in the year, Privates Ross Coleman, Michael (Lisa) Martin, Steven Burgess and Carl McKay were transferred in. LCPL Lou Jones-Owen joined as a Re-Enlistee.

PTE Burgess wasn't with us that long before he found a job in Melbourne, which (unfortunately) involved shift work in the evenings.

Toward the end of the year, SGT Darren Matthews was posted as INT SGT and quickly learned the art of office desk (the IO's desk) stealing.

PTE Paizis (Ex CPL on Enlistment) also joined and CPL Bill Lochhead transferred in from 5 Platoon Bacchus Marsh.

At the Battalion Mill Skills Section Competition near Wangaratta on 3-5 May 91, PTE Martin put on his Musorian hat and invited Sections to attack him by sniping at them.

Meanwhile, CPL Beales was practising the art of being thrown to the ground and up against trees. That Musorian uniform never looked the same with all those bloodstains. Those of us who saw him come up smiling have worked out that he really gets a "kick" out of rough treatment.



SUPPORT COMPANY

Commander:
Captain P. Keen

Company 2IC:
Captain G. Vagg

Company Sergeant Major:
Warrant Officer Class Two M. Humphries

Training Warrant Officer:
Warrant Officer Class Two P. Croft

Support Company's year began like majority of ARES establishments. Common questions on the minds of most people were:

"Are you sure the first parade night is tonight?"

"What's the new Trg WO going to be like?"

"Who will turn up?"

"Who won't turn up?"

"When is the first dammed parade?"

That first night was an eye opener for everyone involved. Some of the command elements started to dribble in from 1830 onwards with the majority of the Warrnambool people arriving by 1945. Comments were shouted back and forth dealing with vital issues of the day:

"Jeeze you were pissed on Saterdee".

"What are you doing here? I thought you weren't coming back".

"Christ I only found out about this parade yesterdee".

As an NCO formed the platoon into a semblance of order and the roll was called, half forgotten memories started to surface in the minds of the diggers and they began to react to the words of command. On that first night people attended in various forms of dress and undress, bilious and unfit. The OC conducted his welcome back speech and introduced the new Trg WO. The CSM then went through his presentation on the dress code and handed over to the Platoon SGT who detailed the work needed to be done that night, which included checks on people past and present to ascertain who really was still soldiering

Since that first parade the company has engaged in an IMT weekend at Anglesea, a Battalion Range Shoot in Puckapunyal, provided support to a large number of country centres on weekend in Wangaratta, a Company Live Fire Exercise, a Murray Bridge Range (including mortars, SFMGs, and pioneer demolitions), a further IMT weekend at Rennick, and the AFX at Puckapunyal.

For the remainder of the year there is a range practice planned for November, a Steyr conversion course, and an intro to the mortar fire control computer.

As well the company has sponsored the several activities in the Warrnambool Depot including an APEX white elephant sale, Salvation Army trade fair, Wunta Car Show, a SGTs Mess dinner, CESRF night and the official opening of the J.W.H. Atkinson M.C. Club.

The year saw a number of changes affecting the way we do our work. They include the modulization of training, the rationalisation of manday usage, and the introduction of a direct pay computer to the Depot. A saga in its self. Next year will see more of the same with more modular packages being run and the addition of an indoor range being added to the inventory.

The year has seen a relatively large turnover of personnel Battalion wide but within the Company some of the more prominent changes have been the loss of the following people: LT Ward, WO2 Kinsella, SGT Batten, SGT Slater, CPL Moutray and LCPL Wright. The Company's best wishes go with them in their new ventures.

Throughout the year a large number of people have attended courses for the furtherance of their Army careers. All of the members who participated in courses this year passed and in some cases passed extremely well. Well done and keep up the good work.

Despite some initial difficulties the members of Support Company can look back on the training year of 1991 with a great deal of pride and can look forward to 1992 with confidence in their ability to meet all challenges.

Assault Pioneer Platoon

Commander:
Sergeant P. Baulch

Platoon Sergeant:
Sergeant A. Sullivan

The events which highlighted the past twelve months for Aslt Pnr Pl are as varied as you could wish for.

The beginning of the fresh enthusiasm began with the "Freedom of the City". Publicity of the event increased the number of enquiries regarding enlistment, and by the time the Freedom was granted approximately fifteen members were parading in Hamilton.

The next exercise in which Aslt Pnr Pl were involved was construction of a Viewing Platform adjacent to Green Hill Lake at Ararat. WO2 Cuthbert and SGT Baulch spent the weekend with B Coy who were conducting their Adventure Training, building the initial platforms.

The rest of the Platoon was enjoying Watermanship and Repelling at Portland for their Adventure Training.

1991 started with three of the newer members attending and completing IET with Deakin University Company.

Then for the first time in Hamilton, a Regular Army Training NCO, Sergeant Allan Sullivan from 2 CDO Coy arrived in February. Recruiting was a priority and having the Depot permanently manned gained instant results. The size of the Platoon has doubled and with more activities planned the enthusiasm continued to grow.

The viewing platform at Ararat was completed one weekend while a bus load of hopefuls went to Melbourne for enlistment.

Self defence lessons under the guidance of SGT Sullivan gave the members of the Platoon a further opportunity to develop a team spirit, and a chance to build their confidence in unarmed defence. This has also assisted in maintaining a higher level of physical fitness while learning something new.



Exercise Northern Nomad provided SGT Baulch and Pte Zschech with the opportunity to travel to Darwin and to experience some of the hardships of working in the far north.

The importance of water discipline, physical fitness, communications, and navigation were highlighted. Survival techniques and observation were practiced and reported on so as to assist later patrols. Fishing was never part of our army life, but it is now. Those who were part of the 4 BDE patrol (SPT COY 8/7 RVR) used every minute of the time we had and then some.



The Pioneers also displayed equipment and vehicles at a fundraising day for the purchase of a new Rescue Unit in Casterton.

The boat race which was the main attraction was very successful, and the Unimog was used to winch the boats up the bank of the Glenelg River. The organising committee are now planning to add a winch to the new unit as a result of the demonstration.

This was the first time the Army Reserve had been on display in any description in Casterton. It was very well received and at least set a base for recruiting for at least twenty years, as there were children everywhere.

Annual Field Exercise Hamel Wood enabled the platoon to construct a Command Post for Bn HQ, and one for Pers Log (Pig Pen). This gave the pioneers an opportunity to see how to construct the CPs quickly and yet still maintain a reasonable amount of OHP, which would withstand a mortar barrage. The time constraint required getting the CPs into operation quickly and development of them continued until time came to fill them in.



The Pioneers did not chalk up any kills for their time of Defence of Bn HQ, but a couple of CPLs and their bosses coming into the area for patrol briefings came very close. From what happened on several occasions, it seemed evident that visiting personnel began to fear bumping into the Pioneer sector at night. At least they were shown in and out once ID was ascertained. Special mentions to CPL Sartori and CPL Horne.

There have never been more people to advise on the locality of good, winnable timber during an Exercise.

Is there anyone who would like to drive with 62 Sunray or 62 Sunray Minor.

Since Hamel Wood the Platoon has furthered its experience in repelling and has planned more activities to encourage the members to stay on during these times of less training days.

Getting more out of our time together and making sure that a continuity of at least gathering together is important so that members do not lose touch.

As a Platoon there has never been a more uniform feeling than now. Congratulations to LCPL Brown, LCPL Pascoe and LCPL Schultze on gaining promotion this year.

The BANDICOOT (not rat) is alive and well.

Mortar Platoon



Commander:
Lieutenant N.S. Bailey

Platoon Sergeant:
Sergeant G. Maddocks

For the Mor Pl there has been an ongoing process of evolution. In the literal sense some members of the Pl have emerged from the slime, and have been moulded by the elements, (eg PHQ, CHQ) and developed into survivable soldiers. This may have had something to do with a fitter Trg WO, and the departure of a slightly overweight Sergeant. Whatever the cause Mor Pl has undertaken a fitness lunge.

Mor Pl was probably the only Pl in the Bn to do a practice CFT a fortnight before the Bn CFT at Wangaratta as well as a BFT on the same weekend.

While trying to get the Platoon fitter we have also undertaken regular unarmed combat lessons. The highlight of these lessons is watching the Platoon Commander being used as the training aid. Repeated demonstrations of particularly violent attack/defence methods are usually called for.



The Platoon has recruited heavily and is in the process of streaming all the new members, that is who its safe to turn your back on. At Ex Hamel Wood we could only field one Mor Sect. It is hoped that by the end of next year we can have two sections of Mor on the ground.

Highlights of Hamel Wood was discovering that CPL Hand could write, then wishing that he couldn't. The Platoon Commander would also like to think that the Platoon was actually distraught when informed that he was missing in action. Awards to the Platoon for Hamel Wood are:

The most laid back MFC - CPL Hirst;

Minty Award - PTE Lenehan; and

I'm just about to do it - PTE Torney.

With the cutbacks, the Platoon still intends to keep together. We are organising an unarmed combat day, and an abseiling day with a social function afterwards.

On a serious note, Mortar Platoon has worked hard to fulfil its duties to the Battalion and the Army. We intend to get some members up to K92 and anywhere else as far from Puckapunyal as possible. We will end this with a piece of CPL Hand's doggerel designed to make him famous in case of war.

Handy's Pit

Here I sit, alone in my pit.
Contemplating having a sh*t.
There's a plotter board and a CP box, and a pin
up girl with golden locks.
Over the radio a fire mission.
The boss is over me like the Spanish
Inquisition.
The walls are caving in, this is a farce.
I think it's all just a pain in the arse.
I'm cold as I sit in my crumbling pit
I really should go and have that sh*t
Through the trees the wind it swirls
My only friend the pin up girl.
Now I'm tired and not feeling fit.
Just vegetating here in me pit.
At any moment the enemy could hit.
So I'll just stay here, forever doomed
to sit in my pit.



Signal Platoon

Sig Pl Spt Coy are situated in Goldsmith Street, Maryborough. We are currently parading 15 members, consisting of 1 Officer, 3 NCOs and 11 Private Soldiers which make up a Recruit Section, Line Section and Signals Section.

The unit has also been active within the town! We supplied a guard for ANZAC Day in Maryborough, Talbot, Carisbrook, and Majorca. We will also supply a guard for the reopening of the Memorial Gates at Princes Park which have been recently restored. This restoration has been completed by the Maryborough City Council and our unit who have spent numerous weekends painting the gates and surrounding fence.

After many years and repeated requests we now have a security fence around the depot and a lockable garage which houses an FFR Land Rover which is now permanently located at our unit.

On the whole, the year's training has been successful as seen on the annual camp where with a shortage of manpower we were able to maintain communications for the Battalion. Next year we hope to be able to send more people.

Promotions so far have been Rec Raats to Pte and LCPL Tidyman to CPL.

Commander:
LT D. Clark

Platoon Sergeant:
SGT G. Munro

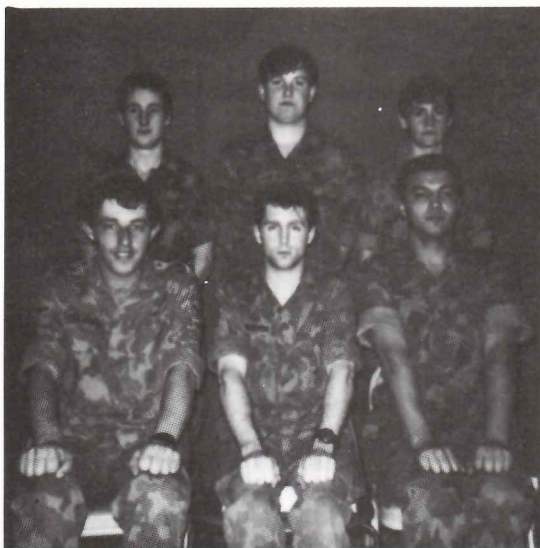
SFMG Platoon

Commander:
Lieutenant R. Walker

Platoon Sergeant:
CPL G. Exner

During the last 12 month period SFMG PI has been actively involved in a wide range of both Battalion and Company activities with the training covering both infantry minor tactics as well as the more specialised tasks of the Sustained Fire Machine Gun Platoon.

The highlight of the year for SFMG PI occurred with our trip to South Australia's Murray Bridge Range Complex in June where we combined with the SFMG PI from 5/6 RVR and conducted some very beneficial training in conjunction with live shoots by both day and night.



Unfortunately during the AFT, (due to poor attendance) the members of the platoon were detached to the Pioneer, Signal, and Mortar Platoons where they had an excellent opportunity to broaden their knowledge and improve their skills.

On 1 Oct 91 SFMG PI will be moving from its current location at the Wool Store building in Darts Road to a more centralised location in the Portland township. With the move it is hoped that recruiting will increase and that we can look forward to a challenging year of growth and development.

Further Treasury Plans To Reduce Expenditure On ARES Training Matters

As from 1 Dec 91, the following measures will be implemented:

1. \$10 deposit on all weapons and control stores issued from Q store.
2. Coin-in-the-slot machine guns. (note - new I.A. is now "check the coin box")
3. Taxi-metered APCs (triple rate for mtd aslt with tks on a converging axis)
4. Sigs message - 20c a word, 10c a word after 9.00 pm. (Ask about special rates for FLASH messages and singing telegrams.)
5. a. Arty fire spt options:
Fd Bty conc \$ 40,000
Mdm Bty conc \$ 60,000
Fd Regt conc \$ 110,000 (1)
Mdm Regt conc \$ 170,000 (1)
(1) 1 x Fd Bty superimposed at no charge!
- b. Div Loc Bty rates:
\$5 per rd detected
\$100 per baseplate located
6. Engrs rates:
\$200 for phoney minefields
\$10,000 for the real thing
7. Intsums
\$100 for rumours
\$150 for suspicions
\$300 for probabilities

ADMINISTRATION COMPANY

Commanders:

Captain G. Smith (Jan-Jun)
Captain M. Craig (Jun-Dec)

Company 2IC:

Captain R.M. Dalley

Company Sergeant Major:

Warrant Officer Class Two Walliker

1991 saw the OC, CAPT Greg Smith move to Sydney. We were all sad to see him go. We did however get CAPT Martin Craig to replace him. In the meantime CAPT Rupert Dalley and the Quartermaster, Peter Ashton, led, fed and bled the Battalion on Exercise Hamel Wood. We all felt that our Echelon did a good job - after all General Blake can't be wrong.

Supply Platoon

Quartermaster:

Warrant Officer Class One P. Ashton

ROMS:

Warrant Officer Class Two G. Hallam

Caterer:

Warrant Officer Class Two L. Brereton

We received a great influx of people at the beginning of 1991. We were sorry that Bill Akell had gone but he was replaced by Peter Ashton who we have grown to admire in the same vein as Bill. Also new are Mick Sullivan, 'Kiwi' Godfrey, and Steve 'Hit Man' Fountain. The bad news is that we lose Peter to 5/6 RVR next year but the good news is that Geoff is to be promoted and will stay on as Quartermaster.

Medical Platoon

RMO:

Captain M. Harris

RAP Sergeant:

Staff Sergeant T. Sainty

1991 saw the Med Platoon go through some massive changes. First the 'Doc' Captain Harris left for Rockhampton and the better weather in the Sunshine State. Secondly CPL Anderson was promoted to Sergeant. Congratulations to her, and thirdly the band were told to become combat medics - good grief.

Amidst all this turmoil, I remain somewhat composed, always willing be it to lend an ear to a problem or a bandage to a sore.

-the Saint

Things we want to see:

An RMO.

A sunny AFE.

A non-non smoking RAP.

Band

Captain Dalley
Corporal Cramer
Lance Corporal Cartledge

The band welcomes its new Supervising Officer and thanks the previous officer, Captain Mark Elliott.

1991 has not been an idle year for the band. We have started training as medics and are still practising our music. Thanks to all those who stuck it out this year and next year will be better.

PS: Remember, we're the only band that has done an ANZAC March without instruments.

Technical Support Platoon

Although the spread throughout the breadth of the Battalion the TSP made an effective contribution to this year's AFE. Congratulations to LCPL Werry on your promotion.



Alpha Company

Commanders:

Major J. Hamilton RFD (Jan-Sep)
Captain P. Dempster (Sep-Dec)

Company 2IC:

Captain D. Scott

Company Sergeant Major:

Warrant Officer Class Two I. Glover

Training Warrant Officer:

Warrant Officer Class Two D. Piggott

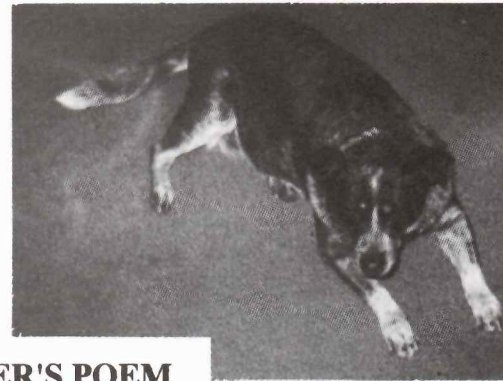
A Coy commenced the year in February with MAJ Jim Hamilton at the helm, WO2 Dave Piggott his Chief Training Advisor, CAPT Peter Dempster 2IC and WO2 Ivan Glover as CSM.

Numbers were down so a recruiting campaign was launched with approx twenty successful applicants from throughout the district managing to defeat the paper war.

A launch was made in Cobram in order to establish a third platoon to create a balance between Shepparton and Echuca. Unfortunately it was unsuccessful but A Coy being what it is have not given up entirely.

CPL Vivona represented the Unit in Crete for the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete and came home with more stories about Greek women than old soldiers. In September the Coy made a name for itself on 'Hamel Wood' and some members actually learnt some home truths about soldiering the Infantry way.

MAJ Hamilton retired and CAPT Peter Dempster assumed the reins. The CQ, SGT Ian Bulmer, was posted north to Coff's Harbour, their farewells being held at a very enjoyable Coy function.



A SOLDIER'S POEM

He is born to the earth, on the day he enlists
he is sentenced to life on the soil.
To march on it, crawl on it, dig on it,
sprawl on it and sleep on it after his toil.

Be it sand, rock or ice, gravel, mud or red
loam, he will fight on it bravely, and will die,
And the crude little cross telling men of his
loss will cry mutely to some foreign sky.

He's the tired looking man in the untidy garb,
weatherbeaten, footsore with fatigue,
But his spirit is strong as he marches along
with his burden for league upon league.

He attacks in the face of a murderous fire,
Crawling forward, attacking through mud,
When he breaks through the lines over wires
and mines,
On the point of his bayonet is blood.

Should you meet him untidy,
begrimed and fatigued
Don't indulge in unwarranted mirth
For the brave infanteer deserves more than
your sneer,
He is truly the salt of the earth.



Bravo Company - The Company Too Close

B Company the Company too close,
Out of the work parties we get the most,
But the Soldiers of Bravo they see it right,
To get the job done they work day and night,
The leadership is good and the men sincere,
Not too many complaints fall on the OC's ear.

The Battlefield is the place Bravo excel,
With Burke and Thomas the Platoons are led well,
Platoon Sergeants Johns and Milligan, ensure discipline and morale are high,
Like all Bravo does we aim for the sky,
Our Junior Leaders' professionalism reflects,
In the standard they achieve they demand the best.

The Soldiers of Bravo are a special kind,
They're hard working men but don't you worry,
They may work hard but they know how to unwind.
The Company in all is as hard as a rock
And for the rest of the Battalion we show up the lot.

From the Percy Lay Club the atmosphere is good,
A Committee of dedication ensure the facilities are good.

Some Wednesday nights NCOs do Parade,
With the extra training, foundations are laid.
The Company's too close but don't you despair,
The presence of Bravo is felt everywhere.



4 Platoon, Ballarat

Platoon Commander:
Lieutenant M. Burke

Platoon Sergeant:
Sergeant Forbes

1991 saw a significant year of change within the Battalion's training objectives. And particularly, a milestone for the individual Infantry soldier.

Personalized training to a program with goals in which junior leadership qualities were heavily promoted. Four Platoon's objectives

were met with zeal. Courses likewise, provided the opportunity for Recruits, NCOs and interested soldiers to complete specific modules.

From Section Level to Platoon Level, ground and field SOPs played an important role in discovering its strengths and weaknesses. The effectiveness in teammanship was adequately displayed during the annual field exercises.

Another interesting aspect worth mentioning, is the individual's application to tasks. Junior NCOs provided the necessary motivation and a 'creative realization' towards all periods of instruction.

Surprisingly, the fitness standard is well above expectations. In the field, stamina and sheer determination, produced a collective 'staying' force which gave the Platoon an added edge during assignments and lengthy patrols. This was evident during the 'MIL-SKILL' weekend.

5 Platoon, Bacchus Marsh

Platoon Commander:
LT P. Thomas

Platoon Sergeant:
SGT Milligan

Given additional man-day allocation with the strict emphasis of 'action in the field' there is no doubt that this Platoon's involvement in any phase of operations would meet the challenges that lay ahead. This Platoon Commander is proud to have served with such fine and committed soldiers.

6 Platoon, Ballarat

Platoon Commander:
LT S. Murphy

Platoon Sergeant:
SGT Johns

RANGER MUSEUM

Committee Chairman:
Major W.A. Wallace

Museum Sergeant:
Sergeant J. Whitten

Treasurer:
Sergeant D. Matthews

Secretary:
Corporal M. Broemmer



Long overdue has been the need to retain, display and promote the history of our presence in country Victoria. The establishment of a Unit Museum at the Curtis Street Depot, will fulfil this requirement.

I believe that it is important that all Unit members are thoughtful of our origin and distinguished history, particularly those young soldiers, and that this aspect should be promoted.

The aims of the Museum are to collate, preserve and display those items of militaria applicable to the Unit (eg from the Ranger era to present day). It is not intended to establish another War Museum, by the inclusion of items from the Vietnam, Malaya or Korea conflicts, but to be specific in the uniqueness of the collection by restrictions to our aims.

You can assist the Museum by notifying the Curator or the Museum SGT of the presence of items of interest which may be procured by the Museum. You should be aware that funding for the Museum is a Unit

responsibility and as finance is critical for the maintenance and purchase of items for display, support by way of assisting with raffle ticket purchase is needed.

The Museum currently has coloured prints of The Ballarat Ranger 1874 available for sale and is arranging for the publication of the booklet 'The Ballarat Volunteer Rifle Regiment 1858-1883'.

Restoration of Colours

1991 saw the restoration of the old 70th Battalion Colour. Having been completed it is on display in the Museum. The cost of restoration was over \$1200.00 so you can see we need all the support we can get.

Future Activities

The Trust Deed of the Museum is to be signed in early 1992. Once that is done, the Museum Committee will be applying to have the Museum fully recognized as a formal Military Museum.

Charlie Company

Commander:

Major G. Wescombe, RFD

Company Sergeant Major:

Warrant Officer Class Two C. Pearse

The Company initiated the CO's Career Training Package. It also had two I.M.T. bivouacs in new training areas, Belsar Island State Forest, Victoria & Mallee Cliffs State Forest, NSW, a Range bivouac with Support Coy at Murray Bridge and personnel attended the AFX held again at Puckapunyal. A section of the Coy also took out the Bn Mil Skills Comp and came 5th in the 2 Div Mil Skills Comp, a commendable effort on their part. Voluntary bivouacs consisted of a Rappelling Exercise at the Mildura Water Tower and a Shooting/Survival Exercise at Frenchmans Creek, NSW. The Coy supported local schools, naval and air cadets with adventure training & charity runs were done with Red Cross, Red Shield & Good Friday appeals among numerous others. Highlights for the year were Champion Section of the Bn, the voluntary weekends and the Swan Hill Raft Race.

2 Div Mil Skills

8/7 RVR Champion Section

Commander: CPL Kinleaside

2IC: LCPL Reyne

At Wangaratta on 2 to 4 May 1991 a section of C Coy personnel took out the Battalion Mil Skills Competition out of the 3 sections entered by the Company. The Section, comprised of both Mildura and Swan Hill Depot personnel, was lead by CPL Peter Kinleaside and consisted of LCPL Reyne (2IC) & Privates Godwin, Minthan, Daley, Craig & Cardenas. This was a section made up of soldiers at various skill levels from IET to Senior Soldier who combined together in the face of adversity and BEAT THE REST OF THE BATTALION. As a reward of their efforts they later represented the Battalion at the 2 Div Mil Skills Comp at Singleton and came 5th, alas, just behind their sister Bn 5/6 RVR. 1992 will see a different result at 2 Div Mil Skills.

THE DIGGER

The scene is now set,
at some place in the bush;
the foe is withdrawing
in front of the push.

Our eyes have just fallen
on a typical grunt,
who carries an SLR
and moves with the hunt.

We soon hear him say:
"I hate this damn place.
The weather is bad,
the rations a disgrace.

I've had my damn rifle
for it's full of rust.
My pack is so heavy
my back has gone bust.

I'm sick of this battle,
it's got me so bored.
I hate platoon harbours
and laying comms cord.



I'm bitten by mozzies;
I can't stand those flies.
I curse the inventor
of this exercise.

I hate these cold nights
and manning the gun,
I can't wait for stand-down,
relaxation and fun.

I hate this damn rain
I'm soaked to the skin.
My feet have got blisters,
Oh, why can't I win.

Well time has moved on
for our poor soldier lad.
The war is all over
and he can feel glad.

As the Platoon settles down
to a long well-earned rest,
we think of this grunt
as his spirit now rests.

But he looks a bit troubled
after his tub;
he's now getting restless;
he misses the scrub!!

MASCOT



Felix Concolor 'Puma'

VX87 PTE L. Ranger

Age: 6 years

Height: One metre (at the shoulders)

Weight: 110 lbs

Eye Colour: Hazel

Hair Colour: Champagne Grey

Favourite Food: Whole chickens

On the first of August, 1991 approval was given to 8/7 RVR to officially adopt a puma as a mascot. The puma in question, VX Rec L. Ranger, had already made a starring performance in parading with the Ballarat based Sub-units in the 1991 Anzac Day March. It was indeed pleasing to note the approval accorded to him by the crowd.

Lazer lives on a farm at Maryborough (70km north of Ballarat) and is owned by a friend of the Battalion, Mr Geoff Woess. It is the hope of the Battalion that Lazer can participate in all our future parades.

Our combined thanks go to Geoff for making this possible.

ASSOCIATIONS

The Association of Seventh Battalions

Chairman:

Mr Don MacLeod

Secretary/Treasurer:

Mr Fred Laird



THE AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE ASSOCIATION

To foster and maintain a spirit of comradeship between constituent Battalions and their members.

To render and encourage both moral and practical support for each others endeavours.

To collect, preserve and maintain in secure and suitable conditions, memorabilia relating to the history and service of the member Battalions.

To combine on all appropriate occasions to conduct joint activities.

To facilitate communication and the exchange of information by means of newsletters and other suitable media.

While recognising the integrity of member Battalions, develop and implement such objectives and strategies as will strengthen and enhance the standing of the Association and contribute to the welfare and betterment of its members.



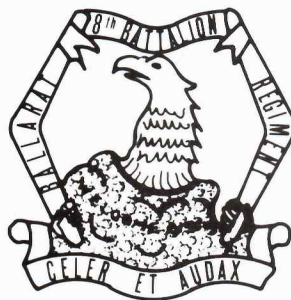


ASSOCIATIONS

8th Battalion (Ballarat)

President:
Mr Bernie Clark

Secretary:
Mr Bill Beaumont



8th Battalion (Ararat)

President:
Mr Jack Pearce

Secretary:
Mr Bob Penna

It is with pleasure that we, the ex members of the 8th Infantry Battalion AIF Association have been invited to contribute with a column in this your first 8/7 RVR magazine, and we congratulate you on its production.

We of the old Regiment have a deep feeling of gratitude that after so many years since World War II still have a very strong sense of affiliation with your own present day serving Regiment the 8/7 RVR. This association we know is reciprocated back to us through contacts over the years from the Officers and men of the serving 8/7 Regiment.

Reunions

Each year since 1946 we have held two reunions, one in Ballarat being the nearest Saturday to Anzac Day, and one in Ararat, being the nearest Saturday to Armistice day. These reunions have averaged 120 ex service members of the Battalion and over recent years are now attended by our wives who dine separately to the men but join us for a get together at 9.30pm.

At all our Reunion Dinners we are honoured to have as our guests the CO, ADJT, and RSM of the present day serving Regiment as well as the servicemen representing such organizations as the RSL, 6th FD Coy Engineers, Legacy, various Sub-branches of RSLs, Rats of Tobruk, RAN, RAAF etc.

After the Ararat Reunion on the Sunday, we hold a church parade and this is followed by a luncheon BBQ.

On the 18th Nov 1989 in the Ararat Town Hall Arts Activity Centre we held our 50th Anniversary Reunion. This celebrated 50 years since we marched into Mt Martha Army Camp on the 18th Nov 1939. The Reunion was attended by over 300 personnel and again we had wonderful representation from the 8/7 RVR. Our Golden Jubilee was a grand occasion and made possible by the excellent leadership given by Mr Bob Penna and his Committee.

Tours

At our Ballarat Reunion in April 1983 our Regimental Medical Officer, the late Dr Winston Smith, suggested we should make a pilgrimage type tour to Darwin where we as a unit served in 1942-43. This was arranged and 87 personnel went on what we called an adventure. Two coach loads with 13 nights under canvas and 7 nights in motel type accommodation. We had such a wonderful time that each year since we have been on tour averaging around the 78/84. This year we are going to Mildura-Burnie-Murray River region.

Outings

Every year usually about five-six months after our tours we have an outing either at a lovely homestead out of Beaufort or at Anglesea the home of the writer of this column. It's a great day.

Frank Partridge, VC

A new NSW School at Nambucca Heads, now bears the name and title of Frank Partridge V C. Frank's name will be remembered and honoured for generations to come and the school is the only one to be named after a V.C. Winner in Australia. AT the Official Opening many of our ex service members of the Battalion were invited to attend and together with them a contingent consisting of the CO, LTCOI Doug Ball, and officers and RSM of the 8/7 RVR attended and joined in an official capacity with the celebrations.

Banner

This year the town group held an "outing" in Anglesea on the 17th March and at this gathering our new Regimental Banner was unfurled for the first time, and was a centre point of interest and admiration.

ANZAC Day 1991

As with every Anzac Day, marches are well represented by our Battalion's ex members right throughout Australia. The largest contingent typically being from Ballarat, as it was from here that the nucleus of our Battalion was first formed. The Ballarat march was again well represented by the present day members as they carried out the Anzac tradition with current Army personnel from the 8/7 RVR. This year we again proudly marched in the Melbourne Anzac March only this time behind our new Battalion Banner, so well carried with military precision by two of your Shepparton personnel, namely PTEs Troy Hutchinson and Judd Waters.

As you can see it's the close camaraderie that exists since the war with our ex Army service buddies, their wives, combined with the continued support we receive from the Officers, NCOs and men of 8/7 RVR that help to keep the fire kindled which knits us all together, enjoying the passing of time and events and looking forward to further reunions, outings, and official RVR functions and celebrations. Look ahead and be strong in your outlook.





The Staffordshire Regiment

(The Prince of Wales's)

Colonel in Chief: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE DUKE OF YORK, C.V.O.,
A.D.C.

Colonel: Major General I.L. Freer CBE

Allied Regiments:

8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment, Australia
4e Battalion, Royal 22e Regiment (Chateauguay), Canada
7th Battalion, The Baluch Regiment
The Jamaica Regiment
The Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force

Components:

1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment
3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment
Depot, The Prince of Wales's Division
Regimental Headquarters

Exchange of Greetings:

9 August - 8th/7th Battalion Birthday

21 December - Ferozeshah Day

The Alliance between the Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) and the 8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment was first established in 1955 between the 38th Battalion (Northern Victoria Regiment) and The South Staffordshire Regiment.

Both units changed titles in 1959, and in 1960 Her Majesty The Queen approved the establishment of an alliance between the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment and The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's).

This alliance was reaffirmed after the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment, was retitled The 8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment in 1987.



**1ST BN THE STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT
(THE PRINCE OF WALES'S)
OPERATION GRANBY
SEPTEMBER 1990 - MARCH 1991**

The initial mobilization for OP GRANBY was rapid, with the main focus being on manning and equipment. The move to Saudi Arabia began in mid October. By the end of the month we were complete and set up in an area of desert to the West of Al Jubail. It soon became apparent that there was going to be no quick solution to the Kuwait problem and with Christmas on the horizon a recreation and fitness centre was set up in Camp 4 in Al Jubail.

On 17th January 1991 the air offensive began and within days our vehicles were driven on Saudi lowloaders West along route one, the main supply route Dodge (or Route Dodgy in view of Saudi Driving Standards!) to Assembly Area KEYES. Concurrently the soldiers were airlifted in by C130 and eventually reunited with their vehicles. Gradually the entire 1 (UK) Armd Div was brought into the area, the first time we became aware of the scale of the allied effort. The Division was now under command of 7 (US) Corps. The Battalion was now at its peak and the training was limited to the fine tuning of our skills, keeping fit and the preparation of vehicles and equipment.

Daily the air offensive unfolded above us and to our immediate North. Now in Assembly Area RAY, the final preparations were at last underway. G Day confirmed as 24 Feb 91. By then the Battle Group had formed up with the arrival of B Sqn Scots Dragoon Guards and B Sqn Queens Royal Irish Hussars and the departure of 'A' Coy to the Scots Dragoon Guards Battle Group. A further move took us to our Staging Area from where we were to be deployed on G+1. 7 Armd Bde were to lead the breakout. Chaos and traffic congestion reigned temporarily in the Staging Area with us having to deconflict from the logistic support elements of the US bridgehead, but by 1200 hours on 25 Feb 91 our leading elements were in Iraq. By 1525 hours we were leaving the FUP, our mission, to destroy the armoured tactical reserves of the Iraqi Army. Our lead squadrons were soon making contact with

small pockets of enemy. As darkness fell, rain descended making recognition and identification very difficult.

Our first objective COPPER, proved to be abandoned and so we were immediately reassigned to ZINC. At 0100 hours a preparatory bombardment was ordered, which was provided by MLRS Rockets and Artillery who were now intermingled with us. Again only light resistance was encountered. This was not the case for Scots Dragoon Guards and 'A' Coy who were forced to clear a fortified position by night. Successive committal of platoons captured over 50 POWs, killed an unknown number of enemy and destroyed 2 BDRMs at a cost of 3 casualties. A similar action later in the day saw over 500 POWs captured with no own casualties. As dawn broke on 26 Feb 91, Comd 7 Armd Bde issued orders for the capture of objective PLATINUM. The white plumes of the MLRS rockets shrouded our move to the line of departure. 'C' Coy were regrouped to Irish Hussars for this operation. This complex Brigade manoeuvre was designed to defeat an Iraqi reinforced brigade defensive position. We destroyed in excess of 60 vehicles and captured over 300 POWs at no cost to ourselves. Such was the speed of our action, our own Divisional troops were being left behind. The intended POW handling units were so far back their speed of response was hampering our advance which was fast becoming a pursuit. Any POWs were, now disarmed, centralised and left.

As darkness fell we turned again North East, retook 'C' Coy under command and set out to capture Objective LEAD. Here the enemy resistance was the heaviest so far encountered on a position that was a maze of bunkers, buildings and vehicles. Two hours of close quarter battle saw the position taken, but not before PTE Moulton had been killed. Whilst the 600 POWs were being centralised, a needy break and resupply was taken. We had achieved in 2 days what had been estimated would take 10.

ALLIANCES

On G+3 we continued East recrossing the Wadi Al Batin into Kuwait. It was now apparent our pursuit was becoming a rout. Dawn of G+4 was an eerie sight. A small orange sun rose through a black sky.

Inhalation of the odoriferous air caused many to cough and choke. Speed was again essential. We needed to block the main Kuwait to Basra highway by 0800 hours; all minor positions were to be bypassed.

In reaching this objective a number of major positions were crossed. The Iraqis, despite the time they had had to prepare were not well dug in, their siting was poor and the equipment and tactics were unable to withstand the onslaught of a technologically superior foe. This was particularly evident on the Northern Highway from Kuwait City where the scenes of carnage and utter devastation will long remain in the minds of those who witnessed it. On 28 Feb 91 a provisional cease-fire was announced and we remained firm until our recovery to Saudi Arabia.



ALLIANCES 3RD (Volunteer) BATTALION THE STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT (THE PRINCE OF WALES'S)

The past year has been good for 3 STAFFORDS(V) and the highlight was undoubtedly the Presentation of our new Colours by our Colonel-In-Chief HRH The Duke of York, CVO, ADC in September 1991. The event took place at our Regimental home at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield and was carried off with aplomb by our Territorial soldiers.

With the changing face of Europe the UK Government has embarked upon a wide ranging review of defence commitments which will see some 30,000 redundancies over the next three years. Our withdrawal from Germany will affect the STAFFORDS:

- * With the amalgamation between 1 CHESHIRE and 1STAFFORDS in October 1993. This plan is being fought at the highest political levels and we may yet survive.
- * Through a reduction in the Territorial Army which will see a reduction from 41 to 35 infantry battalions. In addition all will reduce in size in our case, from some 800 all ranks to approximately 520. Eight of the 36 battalions are assigned to the NATO Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) and 3 STAFFORDS(V) has been honoured to be nominated as one of these ARRC battalions.

Despite a deep UK economic recession our recruiting remains steady across the County of Staffordshire and as we draw down to our new establishment, face the prospect of an overmanned battalion. We have some 30 ex TA soldiers servicing with 1 STAFFORDS in Northern Ireland and they will all return at the end of that tour as much fitter and wiser men. Currently, we have some 115 ex Regular soldiers serving in 3 STAFFORDS and this has done much to raise operations standards.

ALLIANCES



The Royal Regiment of Canada

10 Royal Grenadiers, The Toronto Regiment (3rd Bn CEF)

Allied With:

The Kings Regiment (Manchester & Liverpool)

Perpetuated Units 1914-1918 CEF

58th, 123rd 124th, 170th 204th Divs

Colonel in Chief: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE PRINCE OF WALES

Honorary Colonel: Major General R.W. Lewis, CMM, CM, CD

Exchange of Greetings:

9 August - 8th/7th Battalion Birthday

In 1957 an alliance between the 8th/7th Battalion (The North Western Victorian Regiment) and the Royal Regiment of Canada was given Royal Assent by Her Majesty the Queen. This alliance was reaffirmed in 1960 after the amalgamation of Victorian country regiments to form the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment. In 1987 the 2nd Battalion was retitled the 8th/7th Battalion thus giving a more direct link to the original alliance.

Correspondence in 1991 between both units was both plentiful and meaningful. The Commanding Officer of the Royal Regiment of Canada, Lieutenant Colonel D.W.T. Hall, CD, issued the Commanding Officer an invitation to attend an Honour Guard in Toronto, Canada to welcome His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales to Canada. Unfortunately the Commanding Officer could not attend.

Late in 1991 we are expecting a visit from a serving officer of the Royal Regiment of Canada. Lieutenant Oliver Rogerson is expected in December and will visit all Depot locations and hopefully participate in some of our training exercises.

Any members of the 8th/7th Battalion who intend travelling through Canada should inform the Adjutant prior to departing so that a visit to our Canadian Allied Regiment can be arranged.

NOMINAL ROLL

LTCOL P. RILEY	WO2 L. BRERETON	SGT V. HOLLAND	CPL G. HAND
MAJ D. HASSON	WO2 P. CROFT	SGT R. JACKSON	CPL I. HIRST
MAJ W. WALLACE	WO2 T. CUTHBERT	SGT M. JOHNS	CPL M. HORNE
MAJ G. WESCOMBE	WO2 B. GATHERCOLE	SGT I. JOHNSON	CPL N. JOHNSON
CAPT N. BARKER	WO2 I. GLOVER	SGT L. KING	CPL P. KINLEYSIDE
CAPT E. BOUCHER	WO2 P. GRIFFIN	SGT P. KOWSKI	CPL W. LOCHHEAD
CAPT D. CLARKE	WO2 G. HALLAM	SGT J. LOWE	CPL M. LOGUE
CAPT D. CLARK	WO2 M. HUMPHRYS	SGT J. MADDOCKS	CPL S. MARTIN
CAPT M. CRAIG	WO2 S. INGLIS	SGT D. MATTHEWS	CPL A. MAZUR
CAPT R. DALLEY	WO2 D. PAYNE	SGT G. MUNRO	CPL L. MILLAR
CAPT A. DONOVAN	WO2 G. PEARSE	SGT K. PICKENS	CPL D. MORLEY
CAPT D. SCOTT	WO2 D. PIGGOTT	SGT G. PICKENS	CPL K. MOSCHETTI
CAPT J. SKINNER	WO2 W. WALLIKER	SGT B. PRENTICE	CPL R. MULLANE
CAPT E. SMITHSON	SSGT R. BODSWORTH	SGT M. SULLIVAN	CPL S. NEMTSAS
CAPT C. TURTLE	SSGT I. BULMER	SGT A. SULLIVAN	CPL S. PEARSON
CAPT G. VAGG	SSGT P. CALDWELL	SGT H. VANOORSCHOT	CPL B. PICKENS
CAPT R. WOOD	SSGT T. CHAMBERS	SGT J. WHITTEN	CPL W. RANDALL
LT N. BAILEY	SSGT D. TINKER	CPL T. BEALES	CPL K. REES
LT M. BURKE	SSGT J. KERWIN	CPL M. BROEMMER	CPL M. REYNE
LT P. CHALLIS	SSGT J. MASKIELL	CPL S. BRUNT	CPL M. SCHMIDT
LT D. EDWARDS	SSGT T. SAINTY	CPL M. BYE	CPL K. SERTORI
LT M. HAYES	SGT T. ANDERSON	CPL N. CAMPBELL	CPL D. STEVENS
LT D. LAIDLAW	SGT C. ANDERSON	CPL W. CLAYDEN	CPL J. STOTT
LT S. MURPHY	SGT P. ATKINSON	CPL C. CRAMERI	CPL P. TIDYMAN
LT P. THOMAS	SGT J. BARNES	CPL A. DOBSON	CPL M. TRAINOR
LT R. WALKER	SGT P. BAULCH	CPL G. EXNER	CPL F. VIVONA
LT G. WARD	SGT P. BOYLES	CPL G. FEHRING	CPL D. WILLIAMS
LT A. WATSON	SGT D. CREELMAN	CPL S. FOUNTAIN	LCPL R. BOROWIAK
2LT M. HOLAHAN	SGT R. DOWELL	CPL L. GALLAGHER	LCPL P. BOURKE
2LT B. MARTIN	SGT H. ECKEL	CPL N. GEARY	LCPL D. BROWN
2LT C. SAULTRY	SGT S. FORBES	CPL S. GODFREY	LCPL J. CARTLEDGE
WO1 P. ASHTON	SGT P. HART	CPL N. GODFREY	LCPL R. CHATFIELD
WO1 N. WALLISS	SGT G. HOARE	CPL L. GRANT	LCPL L. COOTE

LCPL M. COPLAND	PTE N. BAILEY	PTE P. BUTCHER	PTE P. ELLIOTT
LCPL H. CRAIG	PTE M. BALLINGER	PTE W. CAIRNES	PTE M. FAVALORO
LCPL M. FARRUGIA	PTE S. BARNES	PTE K. CALDWELL	PTE D. FELSTEAD
LCPL HALL	PTE R. BARRETT	PTE L. CAMPTON	PTE P. FEREDAY
LCPL M. HENSCHKE	PTE M. BEASY	PTE R. CARDENAS	PTE L. FLETCHER
LCPL S. IVEY	PTE A. BECKHAM	PTE K. CARTLEDGE	PTE M. FORSTER
LCPL D. JACK	PTE R. BELL	PTE J. CASHIN	PTE T. FOREMAN
LCPL S. JAMES	PTE P. BENTLEY	PTE K. CAVANAGH	PTE M. FOULDS
LCPL JONES-OWEN	PTE K. BENNETT	PTE P. CERNJAVIC	PTE A. FRASER
LCPL R. KELLER	PTE C. BERG	PTE R. CETINICH	PTE K. FRANS
LCPL D. LAITY	PTE S. BERNADO	PTE S. CHITTS	PTE K. FRISBY
LCPL A. McCALLUM	PTE S. BIRD	PTE P. CHURCH	PTE C. GARRETT
LCPL W. McMILLAN	PTE D. BLOCK	PTE D. CINI	PTE T. GARRETT
LCPL H. O'HARA	PTE S. BOGERS	PTE N. CLARKE	PTE D. GEARY
LCPL G. OWEN	PTE P. BOLGER	PTE R. CLARKE	PTE D. GELLIE
LCPL G. PAIZIS	PTE D. BOSWORTH	PTE R. COLEMAN	PTE A. GIBBS
LCPL T. PASCOE	PTE M. BOWMAN	PTE H. COLLINS	PTE J. GLARE
LCPL T. PITTLANCASTER	PTE K. BRAND	PTE R. COLEMAN	PTE P. GODWIN
LCPL M. POLLOCK	PTE G. BRADLEY	PTE R. COLES	PTE L. GORDON
LCPL A. SCHULTZE	PTE P. BREWER	PTE C. CONBOY	PTE L. GOVAN
LCPL S. SCOTT	PTE S. BREMNER	PTE J. CRAIG	PTE L. GOW
LCPL J. SHEMELD	PTE S. BROWN	PTE A. CSEKE	PTE A. GRASSO
LCPL P. STEWARD	PTE B. BROWN	PTE T. CURMI	PTE N. GRAVES
LCPL R. VAN BRUGGEN	PTE M. BROWN	PTE G. DAY	PTE A. GREGORY
LCPL D. WERRY	PTE D. BRUNT	PTE M. DELLAR	PTE J. GRIFFIN
PTE S. ANDREW	PTE P. BRUGMAN	PTE A. DELL	PTE V. GRIMWADE
PTE R. ANDERSON	PTE C. BUCH	PTE Z. DEMETER	PTE A. GUSTUS
PTE J. ANDERSON	PTE C. BUCKWELL	PTE A. DENAHY	PTE B. HADDEN
PTE ARMFIELD	PTE C. BURNET	PTE P. DONOVAN	PTE D. HALLIWELL
PTE P. ARTIS	PTE J. BURT	PTE M. DOOLEY	PTE L. HALL
PTE N. ARUNDELL	PTE K. BURKE	PTE M. DRAYTON	PTE F. HAMDEN
PTE D. ASHLEY	PTE J. BURGESS	PTE H. DYETT	PTE S. HAMILTON
PTE M. AUGER	PTE S. BURGESS	PTE R. EDLIN	PTE A. HANSEN
PTE S. BAILEY	PTE J. BURTON	PTE A. ELDRIDGE	PTE D. HANSEN
		PTE D. ELLIOTT	

PTE B. HARRIS	PTE K. KIRBY	PTE R. MORGAN	PTE C. SCHLAGHECKE
PTE G. HARWOOD	PTE J. KNIGHT	PTE M. MORRIS	PTE J. SCHURMANN
PTE G. HARDIMAN	PTE J. KRUSE	PTE J. NICHOLSON	PTE C. SCHURMANN
PTE S. HARRISON	PTE D. LAMBERT	PTE B. NICHOLS	PTE C. SHAW
PTE C. HASTINGS	PTE J. LEBRETTON	PTE A. O'BRIEN	PTE D. SIMMONS
PTE I. HAZENDONK	PTE A. LEBKOWSKI	PTE P. O'BREE	PTE A. SLATTERIE
PTE D. HEALEY	PTE B. LEEDER	PTE J. O'CONNOR	PTE R. SLY
PTE E. HEDGES	PTE S. LENEHAN	PTE M. O'DONNELL	PTE C. SMART
PTE J. HEIGHWAY	PTE C. LISTON	PTE T. O'NEIL	PTE D. SMITH
PTE J. HELLYER	PTE M. LOGAN	PTE D. ORMEROD	PTE R. SMITH
PTE C. HENDERSON	PTE C. LONGMUIR	PTE M. OUWINGA	PTE R. SMITH
PTE S. HIGGINS	PTE N. LOVE	PTE K. PARSONS	PTE S. SMITH
PTE E. HINTUM	PTE D. LUCAS	PTE B. PARKER	PTE J. SOLWAY
PTE C. HOLMAN	PTE B. MAAG	PTE A. PARKER	PTE R. SPENCER
PTE W. HOLYMAN	PTE E. MACKINTOSH	PTE M. PARRY	PTE C. SPIELVOGEL
PTE D. HORTON	PTE C. MAHAR	PTE R. PENNY	PTE P. STAKER
PTE B. HUMPHRYS	PTE M. MARTIN	PTE R. PETERS	PTE J. STAPLETON
PTE S. HUNTER	PTE D. MASON	PTE S. PHILLIPS	PTE R. STANGER
PTE T. HUTCHINSON	PTE B. MATTHEWS	PTE L. PHILLIPS	PTE W. STRONG
PTE J. HUTTON	PTE C. MATHESON	PTE D. PLATTS	PTE S. STRINGER
PTE T. JACK	PTE S. McAULIFFE	PTE M. PRESTON	PTE S. STRINGER
PTE C. JARVIS	PTE A. McCOY	PTE M. PRICE	PTE G. SUTTON
PTE S. JASPER	PTE A. McCLURE	PTE C. PRONK	PTE S. TAFFE
PTE R. JENKINS	PTE G. McEWAN	PTE J. RAATS	PTE M. TANKEY
PTE B. JENKINS	PTE S. McGIFFORD	PTE C. RANTALL	PTE G. THOMAS
PTE S. JONES	PTE C. McKAY	PTE A. RAWLINGS	PTE D. THORNELL
PTE M. JONES	CFN B. McMAHON	PTE G. REEVES	PTE S. TIERNEY
PTE A. JONES	PTE K. McMAHON	PTE B. REID	PTE M. TOBIN
PTE B. KAIN	PTE D. McRAE	PTE J. ROBSON	PTE J. TORNEY
PTE K. KAVANAGH	PTE D. McSWAIN	PTE D. ROBERTS	PTE G. TOZER
PTE A. KELSO	PTE T. McSWAIN	PTE H. ROMEO	PTE R. TRAINOR
PTE R. KENYON	PTE S. MENNEN	PTE D. ROSHIER	PTE S. TRELOAR
PTE K. KER	PTE D. MONAGHAN	PTE W. SACHAROV	PTE K. TYACK
PTE A. KING	PTE R. MOOREHEAD	PTE P. SANDERSON	PTE D. ULRICH
PTE B. KIRKWOOD		PTE R. SCHMIDT	

PTE D. VAN BRUGGEN	PTE P. WATSON	PTE N. WHITE	PTE D. WOLTERS
PTE A. VAWSER	PTE J. WATERS	PTE A. WILLIAMS	PTE M. WOODS
PTE M. VINES	PTE D. WATERS	PTE M. WILLIAMS	PTE E. WYTKAMP
PTE P. VON STIEGLER	PTE A. WATSON	PTE C. WILSON	PTE I. ZSCECH
PTE R. WADE	PTE M. WATSON	PTE P. WILSON	
PTE C. WARDE	PTE A. WHELAN	PTE R. WILSON	

PROMOTIONS

CAPT Wescombe to MAJ

LT Clark to CAPT

2LT Watson to LT

PTE Martin to 2LT

LCPL Craig to CPL

PTE Pascoe to LCPL

LCPL Tidyman to CPL

CPL Anderson to SGT

PTE Pollock to LCPL

LCPL Martin to CPL

PTE Werry to LCPL

CPL Matthews to SGT

LT Donovan to CAPT

2LT Murphy to LT

2LT Challis to LT

PTE Burnet to LCPL

PTE Stewart to LCPL

PTE Schultze to LCPL

LCPL Geary to CPL

PTE James to LCPL

LCPL Reyne to CPL

CPL Johns to SGT

CPL Forbes to SGT

EXERCISE HAMEL WOOD

8/7 RVR conducted its annual field exercise for 1991 during the period 24 August to 6 September at the Puckapunyal Military Training Area. The Battalion deployed through snow capped terrain on a very cold Saturday morning. After a brief halt, rest and feed, commanders received their briefings and took their companies forward into their respective company positions.

That night, a bright and clear night, the battalion dug its way down into a defensive position. As dawn broke on Sunday nearly all the pits were down. By far the best example of leadership was shown by the Commanding Officer and his batman, Rudi, who managed to dig their pits through three feet of solid rock. Sunday was spent in consolidating our defensive position with the pioneers doubly tasked to both dig the Battalion Headquarters Command Pits and win local materials for the rifle companies. A special mention must be made of Sergeant Baulsh and his boys - Well done.

The unit was blessed with three glorious fine days and by the time the first rains started nearly all the defence works were finished. Just as well because as the weather closed in, so too did the enemy. The pressure was on for all the junior leaders of the battalion with nightly ambushes (we never did find out who ambushed Brigade Headquarters!) daily fighting patrols, live fire attacks and defence shoots, air recons, APC patrols, and patrols, patrols, patrols.

It was just as well that Lennie Brereton and his boys were churning out their normal brilliant meals because the boys really needed it. Thanks to all the catering staff on Ex. Hamel Wood. You did good!

The battalion was also lucky enough to have plenty of visitors in the first week. These included; the Land Commander Australia Major General M.P. Blake, AO, MC; Commander 4th Brigade, Brigadier K.J. McManus, AM, RFD, ADC; SO1 Operations HQ 2nd Division Lieutenant Colonel D. Hurley; and, the RSM of the Army, Warrant Officer Class One P. Prewett. All enjoyed their visits and were impressed by what they saw.

It was extremely pleasing to see how the soldiers of the 8th/7th Battalion lived up to the standard of all the soldiers who have served in either the 8th or 7th Battalions before them. In a week of trying circumstances, time and time again they faced up to the arduous lot of an infantryman. Aply led, they were a source of pride to anyone who holds the notion of citizen soldiering dear.

As the sun broke through again, the battalion went back to the offensive. Companies filled in their positions and began a gruelling three day patrol which culminated in a series of Company attacks against well prepared enemy positions. The attacks went off well and, as ordered, the enemy died in place. A big thanks must go to the enemy provided by 5/6 RVR and led by Warrant Officer Gary Pearce.

At the conclusion of the attacks, the battalion assembled in the glorious sunshine of the morning and marched ten miles back to the Puckapunyal camp.

It was indeed a stirring moment to see the battalion march back into camp after fourteen days of back-breaking bush work with a spring in their step and a bit of zip in their swing. After a short battalion parade the companies were dismissed and over 250 tired but very well trained soldiers departed for their civilian occupations.

A very big 'Well Done' to all those who attended Exercise Hamel Wood, and I hope we all meet again on Exercise Ranger Rampart in 1992.

Why Have A Battalion CP?

While you are lying in your shell-scape in the cold and wet, do you often wonder what all those "shiny bums" at Battalion HQ are doing? What does go on at the Headquarters, and why does it take so many personnel?

The basis for the successful conduct of military operations is the ability to concentrate sufficient combat power at the critical point on the battlefield at the critical time.

This does not happen by accident. Plans are made, orders issued, but it is almost certain

that the enemy, and many other factors, will ensure that the battle is never fought to plan.

For the Commanding Officer to fight the battle, he must have information. The Battalion Command Post (C.P.) is the focal point for all information gathering resources in the battalion. Those resources are likely to be:

- rifle companies (from the soldiers)
- supporting arms (armour, artillery)
- observation posts and air recon.

The intelligence section (IntSect) is the group which takes all the information concerning the enemy and makes an assessment of the likely enemy intentions for the CO.

The operations officer (OPSO) and his staff gather the information on all friendly forces and assist the CO to prepare his plan and to issue orders. The CP is also the place where support to the battalion's operation is organized. It is also the point where the communications with Brigade Headquarters are located. Using those communications, air and armour and the support are requested, briefed, and controlled.

Also in the CP, is located the battalion's connection into the artillery system. This is provided by the Battery Commander (BC) of the artillery battery (the equivalent of a company) allocated in direct support. The BC and his staff assist the CO in planning the fire support for operations and provide the communications to request additional artillery resources or additional artillery fire to enable the CO to influence the outcome of the battle.

In the Crimean War, the battle was directed by a commander located at a vantage point to observe the battle, issuing orders to his subordinates by the delivery of handwritten notes using runners, riders, and liaison officers.

The modern battlefield is a complex arena where it would be beyond the capability of a commander to be aware of all developments from personal observation. The function of the modern CP is to assist the CO by gathering information and permitting him to change plans, issue orders, and monitor the result.

So when you think of all the idlers at Bn HQ, those are the people who will enable you, the

rifleman, to be at the right place, at the right time, with the right combat support to be successful in battle.

Editorial

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those responsible for the compilation of the inaugural edition of The Ranger, and to briefly state the aims of the journal.

First and foremost it is a record of all the deeds, both great and seemingly insignificant, that have occurred to you and your unit in 1991. It is the living history of the 8th/7th Battalion and a place where achievements deserving of merit can be properly recorded. As well as this, it is a means by which we can all show our friends, neighbours, loved ones, communities in which we live what we have achieved throughout the training year. Finally it is an indication as to the morale and feeling of the unit.

Whilst I acknowledge the hard work that has gone into the journal, I must also apologise in advance for any errors or omissions for which I as editor take full responsibility.

I urge each of you to continue to ensure that The Ranger is improved upon with each edition so that it truly displays the dedication and professionalism befitting the officers and soldiers of the...

8th/7th Battalion.

-Ed.

CAMP-A-Go Go!

It was a Go Go Go camp right from the start this year.

After hasty Saturday night settling in and camp Church parades on Sunday morning, it was straight into rehearsal for the big Battalion parade marking the change of command.

It meant some hasty brushing up on drill movements but there was hardly time to be smug about the impressive result.

For the next few days everyone was busy with training for the field exercises to come. While Admin. Coy got the Battalion running smoothly, B and C Coys. settled down to solid preparation, and Support Company went on with specialist training.

Somehow all companies managed to squeeze in small arms shoots at Canadian Range, and the Mortar Platoon went to Puckapunyal range for live firing.

Then came "Rough Deal" organised by ARA staff while officers attended their TEWT. Aptly named it was, too, as the pictures show, but the Battalion came through well.

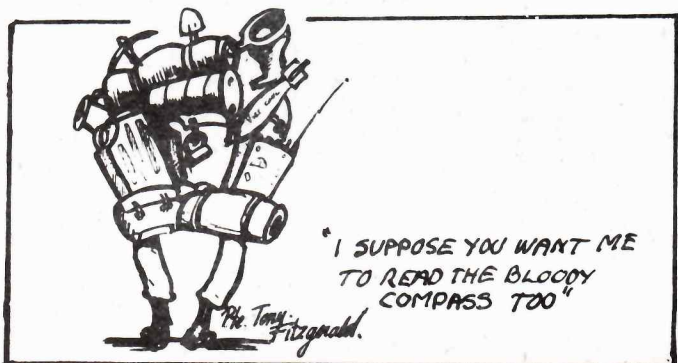
Came Sunday and the March through Ballarat streets for Church Parades, some brief local leave and and visitors for some, then a mad rush to prepare for the three-day Battalion exercise in the field.

Leaving only the admin. people and recruits at their own solid training, the Battalion went on its search and destroy mission in the Creswick State Forest.

It was cold, it was dirty, and it was hard — but it was practical training.

Back in camp on Thursday, for that nice little six-mile (sounds good, anyway) march through the rain, followed by the formal wind-up Battalion parade

Fingers out again for closing the camp, and Victoria's biggest CMF infantry unit was ready for home.



How many times, since camp, have YOU been asked the question "Did you have a good time?" by some well-meaning civilian friend? Unfortunately some still seem to think the CMF provides some sort of holiday camp. * * *

We can't hope to fully record everything that happened at camp in a magazine of this size, but we've tried to cover something of the highlights. Our apologies to those who sent in company notes. Space limitation has meant we've had to boil them down considerably to an overall coverage. * * *

It was all pretty hectic, and occasionally we were not happy, but it's the amusing things you remember. Like the recruit, issued with hexamine fuel tablets for the field stoves, who asked "How often do I take these?" * * *

Then there was the Protestant recruit who went to RC Church Parade. Thought RC stood for Recruits. * * *

Few of us realise, though, that the Basic Trainees (to use the Army approved term) had as tough a time as any. Different training, but they attacked it with gusto. * * *

Like the bloke at bayonet practice who, swearing violently, plunged his bayonet into the bag "body," put his foot on the "chest" to haul it out — then gave it a good kick in the head for good measure ?? Apparently it's not for nothing Aussies have a reputation as bayonet men. * * *

Incidentally, blood bag in the "body" gave a touch of realism. Made a few eyes pop, too, at first. Mothers might recoil, but training is fair dinkum these days. * * *

Support Company's Mortar Platoon went to Pucka range for live firing practice. Very new Corporal tapped the Adjutant on the shoulder as he was explaining a drill point. "Excuse me Sir, you're on the wrong knee." * * *

Then there was the bloke in another Coy who gave a lecture on stripping and cleaning SLR. Next day got a lump of 4 x 2 stuck in the gas chamber.

... *Buster*



RANGER 2

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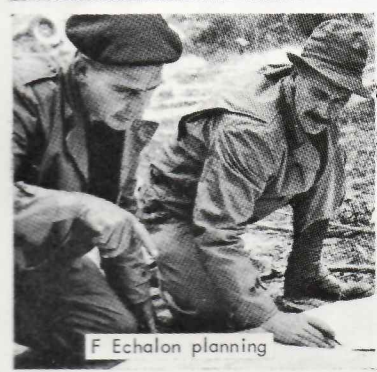


DUTCH TREAT

Standing Alert



Moving In :



F Echalon planning



ACTION!



Over The Top in "Rough Deal"



All Over



Stankered.

8th/7th Battalion The Royal Victoria Regiment

Lineage

1987 8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment

1960 2nd Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment

raised from the following Battalions

8th/7th Battalion, The North Western Victorian Regiment

38th Battalion, The Northern Victorian Regiment

59th Battalion, The Hume Regiment



8th BATTALION
CITY OF BALLARAT REGIMENT



8th/7th BATTALION
NORTH WESTERN VICTORIAN REGIMENT



7th BATTALION
NORTH WEST MURRAY BORDERERS



38th BATTALION
NORTHERN VICTORIAN REGIMENT



8th/7th BATTALION
THE ROYAL VICTORIA REGIMENT



59th BATTALION
HUME REGIMENT