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# THE RANGER 1992

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

# THE RANGER

8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment

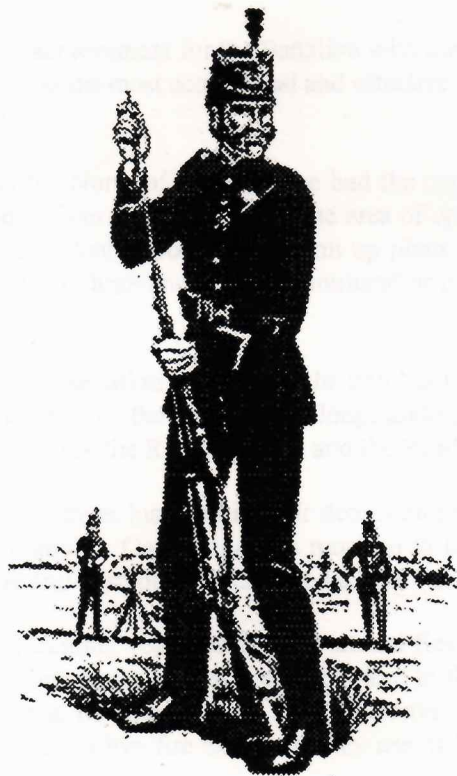
## Honorary Colonel:

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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FOREWORD

By

The Commanding Officer

Lieutenant Colonel P.A. Riley, RFD



1992 saw another year of modest achievement for the Battalion with our training remaining focussed on the development of our junior leaders in the most economical and effective manner, thus the long term future of our unit might be better assured.

With regard to the unit's task in the North of Australia we had the opportunity to complete two Northern Nomad exercises to expose many of our junior leaders to the area of operations. The 4th Brigade Exercise Northern Explorer provided an excellent opportunity to firm up plans for the protection of Katherine and RAAF Base Tindal. In addition the cohesiveness of the command or control elements of the Brigade were significantly enhanced.

Given the worsening rural economic situation manning of the unit has been maintained at acceptable levels. We have seen however an increase in the number of longstanding members of the unit who have transferred to GRes units in other states, the Regular Army and the Ready Reserve throughout the year.

Most companies now have indoor ranges installed in their depots and it has been most pleasing to see the facilities used in the course of training. Congratulations must go to those members of the unit who saw these self help projects to fruition and in so doing established a very valuable training facility.

Once again the high point of the training year was the unit annual field exercise - Ranger Rampart which was conducted at Puckapunyal. Our junior leaders were exercised to the full in the command and control of their platoons and sections in a Battalion setting using a conventional operations scenario. These activities included a number of platoon live fire exercises, they use of IWESS equipment and cooperation training with armour and engineers.

As 1992 drew to a close the Adjutant Captain Daryl Clarke and RSM WO1 Norm Wallis completed their postings with the unit. These two regular soldiers made a significant contribution to the advancement of our Battalion during their time with us. We wish them both all the best for the future.

To all of those members of the unit who completed course requirements for rank and trade qualifications go our hearty congratulations. The continued effort and dedication displayed by all members of the unit is most commendable.

Undoubtedly 1993 will bring new faces and most certainly new challenges to the Battalion. I remain confident that we will cope with whatever comes our way and that our unit will continue to grow in stature and capability in the process.

The unit magazine committee have done a magnificent job in the drawing together of the items which comprise this publication of the units achievements for 1992.



# 1992 DIARY: HOW THE YEAR SHAPED UP

<b>January</b>		19	ANZAC March and Service Bacchus Marsh
27	Australia Day Parades	22	ANZAC Day Training Night
27-07	Exercise Northern Nomad 27 January - 07 February	25	ANZAC DAY Colours and Mascot were paraded with the Battalion in Ballaarat. Many other Cenotaph Parties within Battalion area.
<b>February</b>		26	ANZAC March and Service Melton
07-09	Concentration Weekend Preparation for Exercise Kangaroo 92	28	Parade Night
11	Officers and Senior NCOs Parade	<b>May</b>	
18	First Parade Night	01-03	Company Training Weekend
22-23	Officers & Senior NCOs TEWT Exercise Pozieres Windmill Defence at Clark's Hill, near Ballaarat	05	Parade Night
25	Parade Night	12	Parade Night Enemy Presentation at B Company CESRF Night at Mildura
29-01	Range Practice - Puckapunyal A Company & B Company 29 February - 01 March	19	Parade Night
<b>March</b>		20	CESRF Night at Swan Hill
01	Army Day	23-24	Officer Training - Engineers Ballaarat
03	Parade Night Museum Dinner	26	Parade Night
07-21	Exercise Kangaroo 92 Composite Company as D Coy, 5/6 RVR	<b>June</b>	
22	Ballaarat Long Distance March	02	Parade Night
24	Parade Night	09	Parade Night CESRF Night at Shepparton
28-29	Range Practice C Company	10	CESRF Night at Echuca
<b>April</b>		13-14	Junior Officer Training Junior NCO Training Ballaarat
03-05	Battalion Range Weekend Puckapunyal	16	Parade Night
07	Parade Night CESRF Night at Bacchus Marsh	23	Parade Night

27	Company Training	<b>September</b>	
28	Battalion Community Services Day	01	Parade Night
30	B Company Parade Night	08	Parade Night
<b>July</b>		11-13	Company Training Weekend
04	Hamel Day	15	Parade Night Enemy Presentation at Support Company
14	Parade Night	29	Parade Night
20	CESRF Night at Hamilton	<b>October</b>	
21	Parade Night Enemy Presentation at C Company CESRF Night at Warrnambool	02-04	Company Training Weekend
22	CESRF Night at Portland	06	Parade Night
25-26	Company Training Weekend Officer Training - Operation of BHQ in Defence and Advance phases	10-11	Officer & Senior NCO Training Infantry / Armoured Operations
28	Parade Night	13	Parade Night Enemy Presentation at A Company
<b>August</b>		20	Parade Night
04	Parade Night Exercising Freedom of City of Ballaarat Parade Rehearsal	23-07	ANNUAL FIELD EXERCISE RANGER RAMPART Puckapunyal 23 October - 07 November
08	Exercise Freedom of City of Ballaarat Battalion Ball	07-08	4 Brigade Military Skills Weekend 8/7 RVR First
09	134th REGIMENTAL BIRTHDAY 77th Anniversary of Battle of Lone Pine	<b>November</b>	
08-15	Exercise Northern Explorer 4 Brigade TEWT & CPX - Tindal	10	Parade Night
15-22	Steyr Conversion Course	17	Parade Night
18	Parade Night	24	Parade Night
25	Parade Night	<b>December</b>	
28-30	Company Training Weekend ACRES-A - Major General Luttrell Visited the Battalion.	01	Parade Night
		04-06	Concentration Weekend Preparation for Exercise Tasman Reserve - held at Puckapunyal

## BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

**Battalion 2IC:**

Major W.A. Wallace

**Operations Officer:**

Major G. Smith

**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.W. Inglis

### INTELLIGENCE / OPERATIONS CELL

**Intelligence Officer:**

Captain A.J. Donovan

**Operations Sergeant:**

Sergeant T. Anderson

**Intelligence Sergeant:**

Sergeant D. Matthews

**Dutymen:**

Corporal T. Beales

Corporal W. Lochhead

Lance Corporal L. Jones-Owen

Lance Corporal G. Paizis

Private R. Bell

Private C.J. McKay

Private M. (Lisa) Martin

Private R. Coleman

## TERRAIN MODELS IN SUPPORT OF OFFICER / SNCO TRG

During 1992, both as part of their own training and to provide assistance for officer and senior NCO training, members of Int / Ops constructed various Terrain Models.

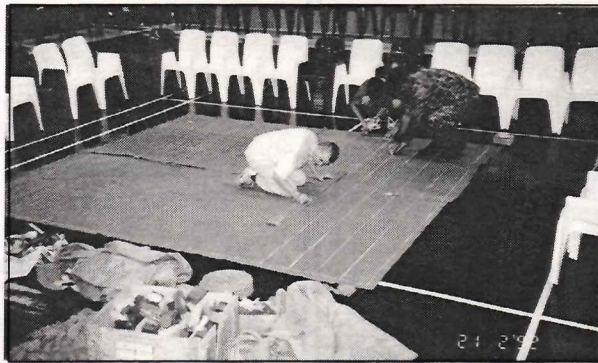
The models represented different areas and were of various scale.

They were constructed using canvas (at times using tarpaulins) with Northings and Eastings chalked on the surface. Roads, rivers etc were represented either by coloured chalk or ribbon. Terrain elevation was achieved using blankets, uniforms or just about anything else placed under the canvas.

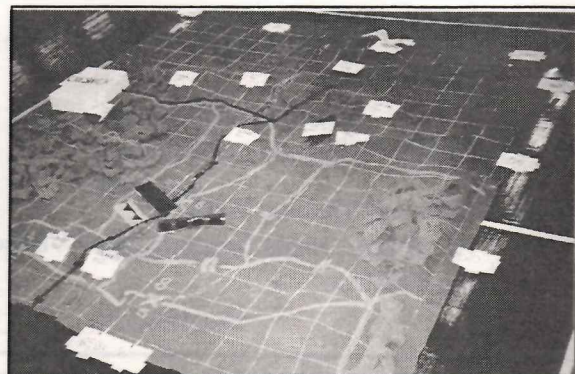
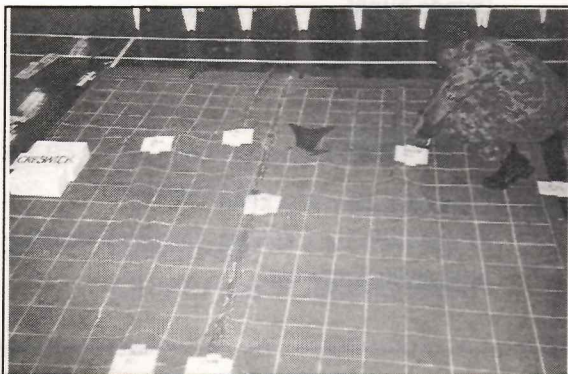
The models were finished off by adding vegetation where appropriate (small bits of hessian) buildings, boundaries where needed,

North point, approaches and positions - friendly and enemy .

At some stage during the model preparation, Q staff placed seating and presentation aides in preparation of the arrival of the exercise participants.



The weekend exercises included instruction, discussion, cloth model problems to be solved, and at times TEWTs in an appropriate location around Ballarat.



Revision, instruction and discussion was often conducted by visitors from other units.

Artillery was represented by Captain Waldrop, explaining the finer points of fire planning.

WO2 Place and Sgt Wind from 4/19 PWLH covered Armoured Fighting Vehicles and their capabilities.

Engineer Capt Damien Hannigan (later in the year to have his farewell party in Ringwood shot at by passing hoons) from 7 FER gave an informative presentation on the use of mines in the defence, including a walk through a mock minefield.



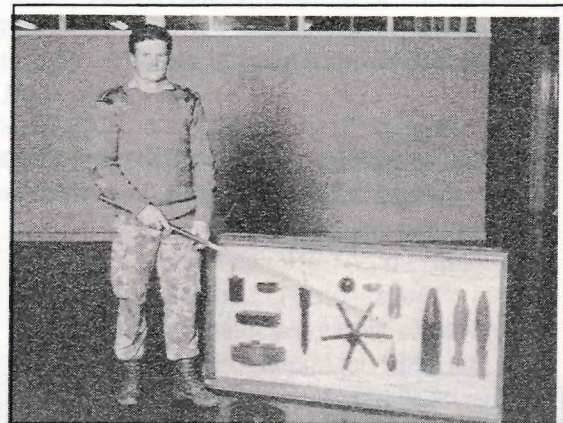
Above:

The Operations Officer Major Greg Smith, explains the conduct of the exercise.



Above:

Major Garry Wescombe discusses the C Company solution with Lieutenants Holahan and Watson, while Lieutenants Bailey and Laidlaw consider their options.



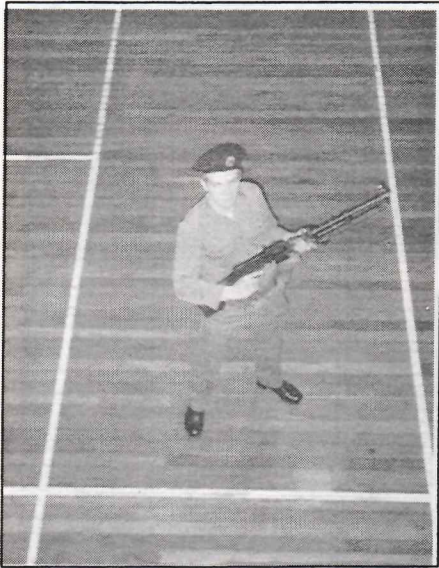
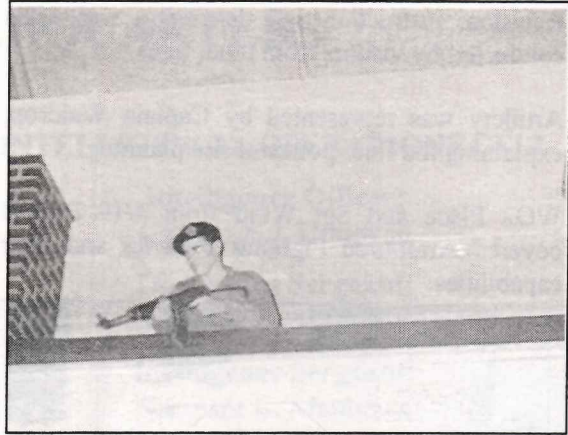
Above:

Captain Damien Hannigan, Adjutant, 7 FER, explaining the characteristics of various mines.

## THE ENEMY WITHIN

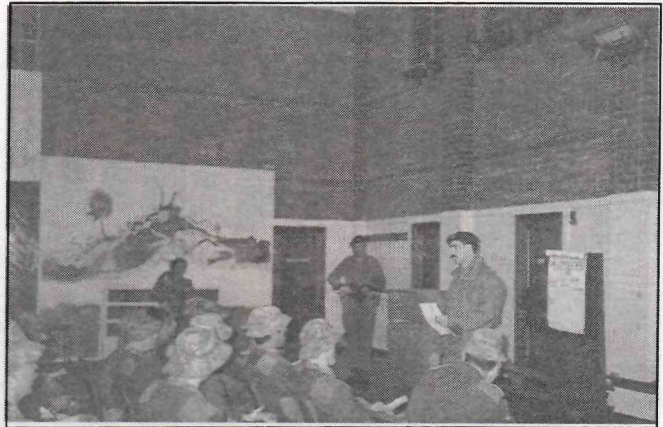
One thing which kept the Intelligence Section busy in 1992 was the Travelling Enemy Show.

Starting at B Coy, Ballarat, the small but well armed and aggressive group of Musorian soldiers travelled to each company headquarters, capturing the personnel and forcing their political and military propaganda on the captives.



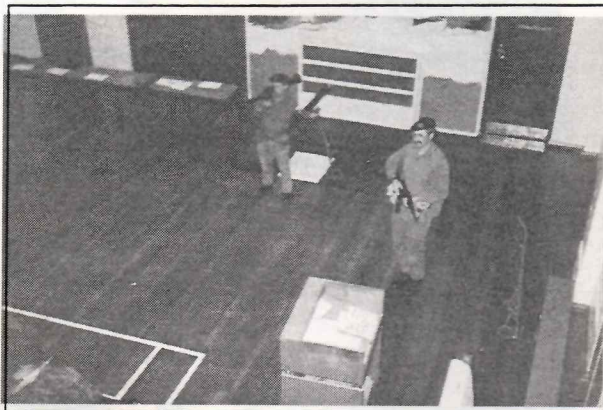
As his ever loyal subordinates stood guard, Captain Novan (Don Novan) impressed upon the Australians their inferiority in numbers of personnel and equipment, proudly explaining the organisation and characteristics of "the magnificent Musorian Armed Forces".

Senior Sergeant Slaeb or Sergeant Hhead also had a say, explaining Musorian Rifle and Motor Rifle organisation in detail, including weapons used and their characteristics.



The captured Australians, showing their spirit was not going to be suppressed, still managed to get some quick comments in. However their humorous heckling was not fully appreciated by the serious Musorians, (such as Cpl Jone Soenn, Ptes Mikhael Martinski and Col Leman) who threatened to physically enforce the infidels' respect for a Musorian officer.

After the indoctrination, the captives were proudly shown the weaponry and equipment used by the Musorians, and were able to handle and disassemble Kalashnikov firearms and the like, under the strictest security of course.



## SUPPORT COMPANY

### MORTAR PLATOON

1992 proved to be an auspicious year for Mortar Platoon, despite the increasing number of voluntary parades. Throughout the year, platoon strength increased to twenty nine as a result of good recruiting (thanks to CHQ) and high morale.

The year began with Mortar Platoon heading North to Tindal (as part of D Coy), where they quickly gained their reputation as the "Monkey Platoon". This nickname is perhaps best explained by a short example: 43A were tasked with conducting a recon patrol in the Coy AO under the propitious leadership of CPL H.....

Due to the height of the speargrass, visibility and control was difficult. Whilst the section was contouring a creek line, the secco apparently disappeared??? The 2IC, somewhat bewildered, held a quick O-Group where he received wide and varying explanations as to how the secco had died.

Using his initiative, he decided to climb the nearest tree where he then began to search the area with his bino's. Just when he thought he had spotted someone in the distance, the wind picked up and the supporting branch snapped unceremoniously, dumping the 2IC on his arse 20 feet below. Fortunately, the section commander heard the breaking branch and was quickly reunited with his section. The nickname stuck about as well as the secco did to his section for the remainder of the exercise.

Mortar Platoon returned from K92 to conduct its first non-continuous mortar course. This "part time" course proved very successful qualifying two mortarmen and refreshing another. Additionally, these weekends provided an opportunity for pre-IET trained soldiers to work towards their Rifleman qualifications. This resulted in all bar two platoon members being IET qualified by the end of the year.

Mortar Platoon attended a number of weekend bivouacs throughout



the year. Perhaps the most interesting of these was exercise Rampant Rooster, held in Hamilton. This exercise consisted of tactical IMT training on Friday and Saturday, culminating in a Nicco mortar shoot on the Sunday.

Whilst patrolling on the Saturday, pioneer platoon found a cache of live chickens. About the same time, both platoons (ie pioneers and mortars) received a message from CHQ informing us that the lunch vehicle had been taken by the enemy (pure coincidence I'm sure).

Anyway, as Mortar Platoon RV'd with pioneers, all we saw were feathers flying and chickens losing their heads. Personally, I don't know the Colonel's 11 secret herbs and spices, and neither did anyone else in the company!!! In about thirty minutes, the two platoons managed to turn good, healthy chickens into rubber. Thank God for JACK rations!!!

On a more serious note, during 1992 Mortar Platoon conducted two very successful range shoots, consisting of one HE/Nicco shoot and another Nicco shoot. With annually decreasing resources, it is vitally important that we take every opportunity to train, and use this time to its full potential. Mortar Platoon has taken the bull by the horns in 1992, which has resulted in an overall increase in skill within the Platoon. This will stand us in good stead for the coming year allowing us to fulfil our role within the Battalion.



## SIGNAL PLATOON

### MARYBOROUGH

Signal Platoon Maryborough welcomed Mat Parani, Kris Jokers, Alwin Brochermann and Darran Jockers into the Platoon with their enlistment. Also into the Platoon came Pte Mike Fitzpatrick (a local bloke who has transferred from Transport in Bendigo). Mike has decided to trade in his truck for a rifle and radio, and who on AFX 92 had trouble in distinguishing between a Weapon pit and a latrine.

1992 saw Pte Nick Arundell, Pte Blue Campton and Pte Mike Fitzpatrick receive recognition of service when they received their 3 year service certificates. Pte Nick Arundell also received recognition when he was awarded the Villers Bretonneux award. Pte Arundell along with his fellow member Pte Jason Raats celebrated their coming of age on reaching 21, both receiving an engraved wrist watch from the Platoon.

Cpl Paul Tidyman announced his engagement to Miss Nola Porteous and at the subsequent engagement party the Platoon was well represented. Cpl Tidyman is planning to be married in late 93.

For ANZAC Day 92, as in years past, the Platoon mounted two ceremonial guards. One (with Cpl Moschetti as guard commander) stood guard at the dawn service and midday service in the city square. The second guard under command of Cpl Tidyman, placed guards at Talbot, Majorca and Carisbrook. At Carisbrook Capt Clark addressed the people in attendance on the importance of camaraderie and mateship such as that displayed by the ANZACS.

After drinks at the Maryborough RSL a lunch was provided at the Maryborough Depot with Platoon members and members of the RSL in attendance.

Signal Platoon played an active part during Community Service Day, when armed with rakes and shovels ventured into the bush, not to train but to clean up. Under the guidance of Mr Barry Chandler, (Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources) rubbish was removed from the old tip site in the forest just outside Maryborough. Old tins, bottles and iron were collected from a 2 Hectare site and dumped into old diggers holes, which were later filled in by the Department.

Used in the clean up were a trailer supplied by the Dept and Platoon members' own vehicles.

The Platoon provided a guard for a flag raising ceremony for the Vietnam Veterans Association on Long Tan day. The National flag was presented to the Association by our local Federal Member Bruce Reid. Capt Clark raised and unfurled the flag after Cpl Moschetti had placed the guard. The afternoon was finished off with a lunch and games at the Cambrian Hotel.

The Platoon had also in the previous year participated in a guard for Long Tan Day at the Memorial Gate, Princess Park, where a plaque was unveiled from the Veterans of Vietnam and Korea by Mr Bruce Ruxton. Pl members had volunteered their time to repaint the wrought iron fence with paint and equipment supplied by the council when the memorial gates were given a face lift prior to the day.

Each year the Maryborough Wattle Festival (which lasts 14 days) concludes with a parade consisting of Brass bands, Pipe bands, King and Queen of the Festival, Miss Golden Wattle entrants and a variety of floats. Signal Platoon again got in the mood of community involvement by marshalling the parade (after warming up with a 15 km forced march). Members assisted in the assembly area, and with the direction of floats within the parade down the High Street of Maryborough. The Pl supplied the vehicles for the King and Queen of the festival and Miss Golden Wattle entrants.

With the conclusion of 1992 members of the Platoon went to a certain Waubra property to partake in a sports shooting day where members, supplying their own weapons, were involved in a variety of shooting stands.

A range was constructed using sheets of corrugated iron and metres of hay band, each shooter worked a gully with another person operating the target pulley cords. Also a gallery range was constructed with objects from the local tip with instructors giving target indications like "half left centre row yellow drum" and "quarter right top ice cream container" were the norm.

A falling plate type shoot was improvised with a board and 10 pot plant containers each team shot .22 rifles from a lying unsupported, kneeling unsupported and standing unsupported positions each from different locations. After a weapons check and clean up the day was concluded with a BBQ.



Sale of the millennium was the theme of the Depot end of year social function in 1992. Corporal "Moz" Moschetti, dressed in suit jacket, tie, pyjamas and slippers ably filled the role of Tony Barber. Corporal Paul Tidyman made a stunning Jo Bailey look alike, dressed in a petite floral dress, with matching hat superbly complimenting the hairy chest, moustache and green and red colouring of the eastern rosellas tattooed on his arm. Capt David Clark acted as adjudicator and introduced contestants to the waiting audience.

Pl members were the contestants and played for prizes, points and laughs to Army oriented questions and some more comical questions as well.

After some closely contested heats the finalists, Blue Campton, Katrina Bennet, Ken McMahon and Eric Wytkamp remained. In the dust of battle Pte Blue Campton emerged victorious, winning a rechargeable torch, to

the value of \$40, as well as taking away gift shop and "who am I" prizes of a metal Billy, handcuffs and a key ring. On several occasions dead silence ruled the contestants until prompting from the audience provided an answer.

A Military Expo coordinated by Mr Charles Peters of Redbank was held at the Maryborough Indoor Sporting Complex. Displays by the Defence Recruiting, Light Horse

Association, Vietnam Veterans Association, Transport Museum Puckapunyal and others were in attendance. Signals Platoon displayed Radio equipment and field gear over the three days of the expo.

Signal Platoon maintains a close relationship with the Maryborough City Council and participates in many community activities. 1993 will see a continuation of this community involvement with the support of all platoon members.



## SUPPORT COY HQ

"A Lens Eye View of AFE"

One of the beauties of Spt Coy life in the field is that you get a glimpse of the larger battalion picture. During the course of the many trips to sort out the odd problem or two, one gets a chance to drag out the old one eyed monster (camera that is) and some of the results I've included here.



Firstly we have PTE Brenton Kain (SFMG PI) who got so carried away with his weapon pit that we decided to turn it into the Bn CP!



Next a couple of shots from our Blackhawk familiarisation.



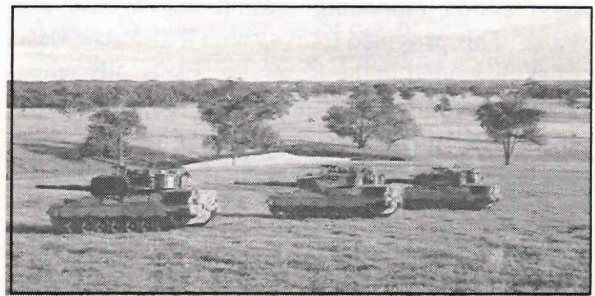


The platoon, I think obtained great benefit from the IWESS equipment. Here's LT Holahan's Pl geared up ready to go complete with carriers.

Below is WO2 Gathercole showing some style with a forward run down from the tower of Shepparton.



Then we've got a shot of some of the armoured mobility display, 3 Leopards preparing to go to work.



Lastly, Home Sweet Home. Pers/Log CP at F Ech, also known as "F Troop" with acting RSM, SGT Geoff Maddocks (playing the part convincingly!) and OC Spt, MAJ Peter Keen, with the shot taken by yours truly, LT Doug Laidlaw, acting 2IC Spt Coy.



## SFMG PLATOON

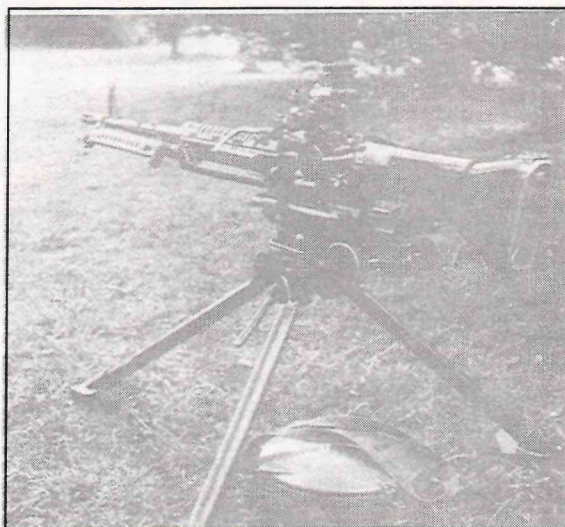
BY LCPL JOE SHEMELD

This year, as everywhere through the Reserves there has been a decline in the number of days we do together as a platoon, which made it hard to recruit, but we have still done reasonably well. We started in July with only two members and finished with eleven!

During this time we did a lot of IET work which took us to Rennick State Forest and we learnt how hard weapon pits are to dig at night. We also did an SFMG familiarisation shoot which we all enjoyed.

We wait to see what 1993 will bring, as some of us prepare for our exercise in New Zealand. We

hope that will be of value and will set the year off to a good start.



## ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

WEWAK BARRACKS, HAMILTON

**Platoon Commander:** LT C. Saultry

**Platoon Sergeant:** SGT P. Baulch

**Training Sergeant:** SGT A. Sullivan

1992 began with the continuation of the Soldier's package training in conjunction with Pioneer training. These training sessions were broken up by the odd rappelling session out at Wannan Falls. This provided tourists with a different view of skills gained in the Reserves. Especially when an unnamed officer demonstrated the particularly spectacular manoeuvre of dangling upside down and using his backside to push off the cliff face.

The culmination of the training was the A.F.E. with the Pioneers facing the challenge of digging in and constructing the Battalions C.P.s. As usual the site chosen was ninety percent rock, yet CPL Pascoe and his men persevered with picks and shovels to complete their tasks after the rock breakers broke down.

After this the Pioneers were allocated to the Rifle Coys to participate in the attack phase of the exercise. The more we can get to work with the Rifle Platoons the better we will all understand the different roles and skills that groups like the Assault Pioneers have that can assist in the field. A Special mention must go at this stage to A & C Coys who showed us during A.F.E. the devastating effects of highly specialised

equipment in the hands of highly trained soldiers when we lent them our chainsaws. The result, two stuffed chainsaws.

On the social scene an enjoyable evening was had when we celebrated the naming of our Mess by having a formal dining in night. The Mess was named after Wally Button M.M., a resident of Hamilton. Also in attendance were the CO, RSM and Mayor of Hamilton, Cr Ward.

Congratulations to:

CPL Bates - 9 years service

LCPL Pascoe - Promotion to Cpl

PTE Hadden - Married Kate in Nov

LT Saultry - A new daughter

Best wishes also to SGT Baulch in his new venture as Hamilton's version of Con the Fruiterer.

The Mess is to be extended in 1993 which will provide the Depot with a facility which will give us good basis for building team spirit at the end of training nights and weekends. And finally, for those who may question as to why Hamilton needs extensions to its Mess, I would like to quote from an issue of Army Magazine.

"The Assault Pioneer comes in many shapes. Traditionally his belly is a little bigger than the other soldiers because he works a little bit harder. therefore, he is allowed to drink more than the other soldier."

## ADMINISTRATION COMPANY

As we get towards the end of another year, we have to farewell some members and welcome in the new blood to take their places.

In particular we would like to say farewell to SSGT Bodsworth, who is returning to B Coy, and CPL Fountain, who went to the School of Infantry.

The QM however would like to welcome SGT Maskell and CPL Snell, and to thank the Storepeople for all their support and time that they put into their jobs.

It was a very busy year for QM Platoon with a lot more to come.

And they promise as always "Service with a smile".

### 1992 SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

There were many functions held over 1992, Cocktail and Casino nights held in the ORs' mess, the Sergeants and Officers mess dinners and of course the Boat Show, in which the Sergeants mess accommodated the public with drinks, pies, pasties and hot dogs.

One social event that will stay in peoples minds would surely be the ORs' end of year breakup. A very good time was had by all which was probably helped along by a certain potion that was mixed up by our resident CPL Q person.

Selling at 50 cents a glass it was very popular even though it looked and tasted like green mouthwash.

The theme for this breakup was "Topless" and I don't mean no hats. The males were to shed their shirts from 7.20 pm to 10.00 pm then it was the girls turn. However, since seven male members refused to co-operate, the females decided the agreement was null and void and did not have to shed clothing.

By the way the seven male members will be paid at a later date.

### WEEKEND EX 02 MAY 1992 STAWELL/ENFIELD

Throughout 1992, Admin / BHQ, took part in many weekends, in places such as Stawell, Enfield and of course sunny Puckapunyal.

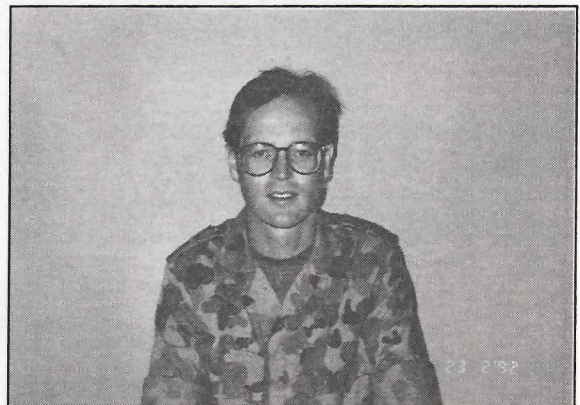
The weekend Ex on 2nd May 1992 was to be a straight forward qualifying range shoot at Stawell, then followed by a night Nav Ex at Enfield state forest.

Most people came out of this exercise unscathed, however two were not so fortunate.

The first was SGT Beales from Int / Ops, who almost went home in a wheelchair. His injuries included, his left eye being hit by a spent cartridge, his right hand burnt from his own spent cartridges, putting his back out and hitting his other hand with an axe.

Our second unfortunate soldier was WO2 Brereton from Catering. Whilst diddlybopping through the Enfield state forest, on the night Nav Ex, he promptly fell into mine shaft. The only problem was, it was filled with water, and WO2 Brereton ended up waist deep in it. We really don't know why he was upset, after all he was the only one who scored a bath for the weekend.

A very famous quote came out of this weekend. Whilst a few people were grumbling about doing the night Nav Ex in such terribly dark conditions, our OC Major Craig tried to reassure us.



His comment: "Close your eyes for a minute and when you open them it will be JUST LIKE THE M.C.G. UNDER LIGHTS".

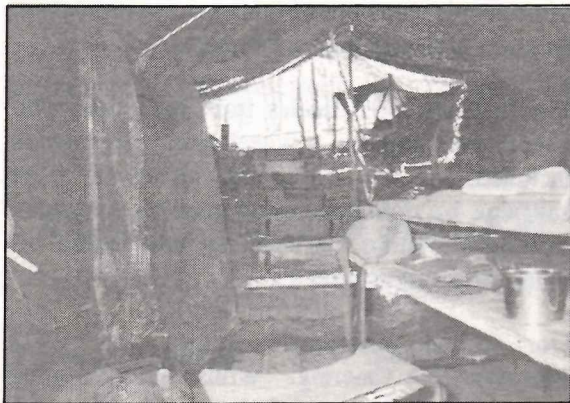
This statement did in fact prove correct, as we can honestly say that no-one was hit by any cricket balls!

## AFT 24 OCT - 07 NOV

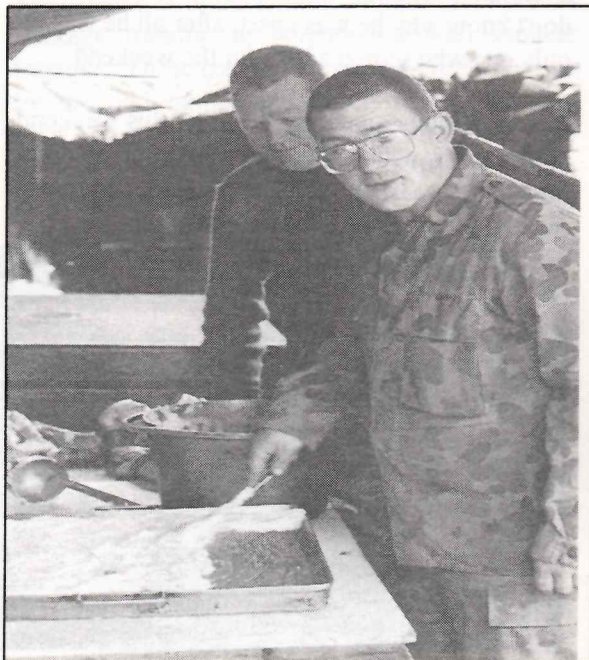
The next major exercise in which Admin / BHQ took part was of course AFT, this was held from 24th Oct - 7th Nov.

At one stage we almost had no-one at A Ech, as on the way Admin Coy convoy lost the front vehicle and ended up taking all morning to locate A Ech Costerfield.

This particular exercise was dug in and on the 26th Oct, the RAP was dug in by the Engineers, "A very civilised idea".



The finished dug in RAP - from the inside (above) and from the outside (right).



Unfortunately some of the members on this exercise were placed on forced diets, as apparently the meals were few and far between.

Nov 5th was the most appreciated day by far, as Site 6 was finally reached and bathing took up to 1 hr for some people.

Nov 6th was the 15 km march to Site 6. This was followed that night by drinks, and some of the Coys doing skits. Apparently there were copious amounts of port being drunk, (Could this have anything to do with a certain WO2's mysterious stomach complaint that followed)?

## Alpha Company

### Commanders

Captain D. SCOTT (Jan - Aug)  
Major P. DEMPSTER (Aug - Dec)

### Company 2IC

Captain D. SCOTT (Aug - Dec)

### Company Sergeant Major:

Warrant Officer Class Two I. GLOVER

### Training Warrant Officer:

Warrant Officer Class Two D. PIGGOTT

A Coy commenced the year with the arrival of the new CQMS Staff Sergeant Peter Morrison to replace SSGT Bulmer. Also during the Christmas break the position of OC was changed to allow Captain Dempster to attend RCSC to complete his training for Major. During his absence the company was left in the capable hands of Captain D. Scott.

During the year the Coy continued to successfully achieve the tasks required of it in the lead up to annual camp, with varied weekend training.

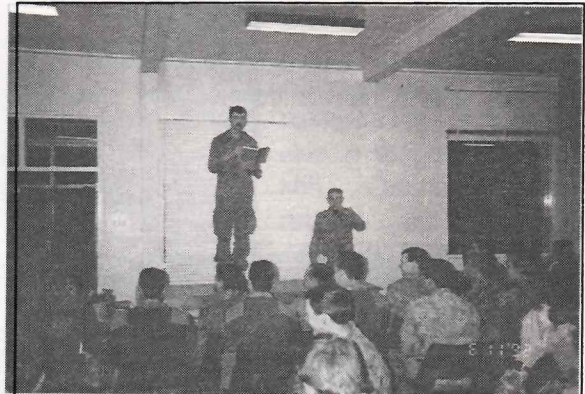
In July Cpl Lorraine Gallagher took her discharge after serving within A Coy as the Coy Clerk for a number of years. Cpl Gallagher's discharge has left a large gap in the Orderly Room. We wish her the best in civvy street.

During August Captain Dempster returned after his holiday at RCSC fresh and eager to take over the Coy. He continued to train the Coy in anticipation of Annual Camp.

A.F.E. quickly arrived and A Coy combined with



C Coy to operate in the Field. During camp Warrant Officer Class Two Alan Blackshaw assumed the mantle of C.S.M. Some notable highlights from camp were the Michellin Twins - the two illustrious Platoon Commanders; Chaplain TORTOISE and his "We're all a waste



of rations" sermon and the unforgettable Claymore Rhapsody.

As Infantry soldiers the best part of camp was the Engineer Support available especially the digging of weapon pits and of course Coy HQ.

With Camp late in the year the Christmas standdown was rapidly upon us again as well as the ongoing preparation for Exercise Golden Fleece the exchange to New Zealand in Feb 93.

## Bravo Company

B Company again put in a claim as the best company in 8/7 RVR during 1992, although during AFX it was commonly known as "Bald Company"

Cpl Trainor, LCpl Elliott, Ptes Heighway, Jones, Butcher, Gibbs, Thornell, M. Dell, and Hunter proved themselves to be the best section in 8/7 RVR by winning the Battalion Military Skills competition.

This section went on to win the 4 Bde Mil Skills competition beating all comers from Victoria and went on to become the Champion Section in the 2nd Division by winning the 2 Div Mil Skills competition.

They have assured all at B Company that they will make it two in a row by winning the competition in 1993.

AFE proved to be challenging to the Company as the hill chosen for the defence was especially



very rocky. Many tedious hours were spent digging weapon pits only to be told to dig them again because they were not deep enough.

The Company had no trouble in reinforcing its pits because the resident wood cutter of the night made sure that there was plenty of timber cut during the night, although this time he had plenty of help from the CSM.



## Charlie Company

### 7 PLATOON IN 92

The commencement of 1992, saw a new Platoon Commander posted to 7 Pl and the majority of the Platoon attended Ex K92.

Upon their return, training continued with heavy emphasis on the training package and developing the soldiers' careers. The Company and Battalion Range weekends were well attended, with members of the Platoon performing very well.

IMT weekends had mixed attendance, with a strong attendance from the regular paraders. Most of the training for these weekends was geared at Section level, with some Platoon level work. Navigation skills improved, as well as all the basic soldiering skills. BFT results show the high level of fitness maintained by soldiers in this Platoon.

The Platoon participated in many parades during '92, including Anzac Day (dispersed to five

centres), the Wall of Honour at Red Cliffs, and exercising the Freedom of the City of Ballarat.

AFE was well attended, and all soldiers at all levels, proved repeatedly how well they perform, at times under adverse conditions.

All in all, '92, can be described as a building year for the Platoon. All the Platoon members have progressed well throughout the training package, and the Platoon has begun to develop its own identity. Highlights of the year, include the performance of all sections in the Battalion Mil Skills, the promotion of L/Cpl Godwin and the improvement in positive attitudes of all members.

1993 will see most of the Platoon attend Ex Tasman Reserve, the farewell of Cpl Reyne, who is off to Support Coy, the continuance of training and developing of soldiers, and confirmation of the good work done by all in 1992. 1993 is also committed to strengthening the esprit de corps within the Platoon and encouraging a stronger attendance by all members at all exercises.

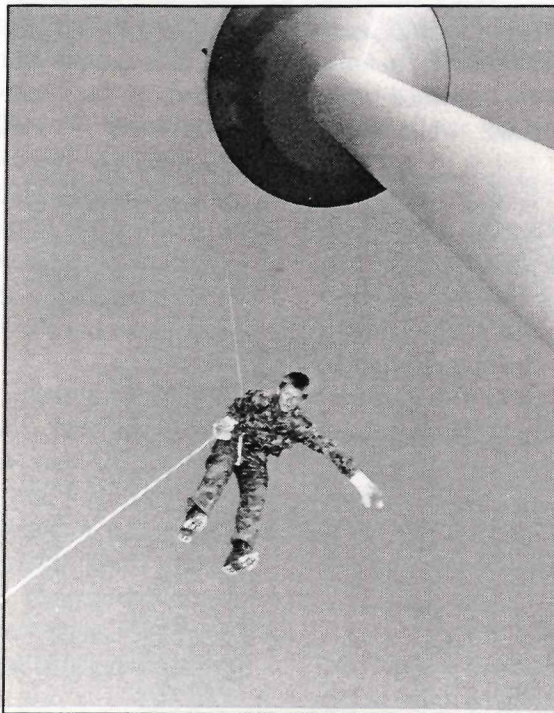
### 9 PLATOON

The 1992 training year started off on a high note with SGT Viv Holland, Richard Gardenas, Joe Craig and Robert Wilson attending Exercise Kangaroo 92.

We continued through the Soldiers Career Path - a task made more challenging by the lack of man days. Even so, by the end of AFE, three more soldiers, Dean Simmons, Dave Ulrich and Robert Wilson had completed the Basic Soldier Course.

Richard Gardenas and Joe Craig successfully completed Subject 1 and 2 for Cpl respectively.

There were a number of highlights throughout the year. During non continuous training at the Nyah Forest a torrential downpour resulted in us having to push our truck 5 km to get out, as the local tracks had become quagmires.



Although our numbers remained low we were still able to support the Swan Hill Community and assisted the Salvation Army, Red Cross, S.E.S., and Swan Hill North Pre-School.

During the year we also played host to 104 Fd Squadron, 1 Transport Squadron, 128 Transport Troop, Command and Staff College Queenscliff and the RAN and RAAF teams participating in the Red Cross Murray River marathon.

We concluded the year by rappelling from Swan Hill's 36m high Tower Hill water tower under the supervision of Warrant Officer Bryan Gathercole.

In 1993 our main aims will be to maintain our training standards which includes sending five soldiers on Ex Tasman Reserve and actively recruiting throughout Swan Hill and district.

## K92 AS SEEN BY OC D COY

MAJOR GARRY WESCOMBE

Approximately 85 personnel went from 8/7 RVR to assist 5/6 RVR fulfil its role in the defence of Tindal.

Company location was in the Katherine civilian air terminal and had an area responsibility of 7 km by 12 km.

Major activities consisted of patrolling, ambushing, gaining information and liaison with the local population and using civilian infrastructure.

The Company was not affected by heat related problems or any medical conditions which

seriously handicapped the balance of the Battalion. This was due to exceptional management of personnel at all levels and a positive attitude to daily tasks.

The Company was effective in ensuring zero infiltration through the area of responsibility, capturing and managing evacuation of a number of Kamarians and was instrumental in stopping infiltration into the inner zone.

The Exercise aim was to practise troops operating within the wet season, unfortunately no rain of any consequence fell, and as a result our effectiveness in such conditions is still unknown. Generally the Company performed admirably and was highly commended by Lt-Col Jock Burns the then CO 5/6 RVR.

## C COMPANY ADVENTURE TRAINING - RIVER TRIP 12 - 13 DEC

This year for the annual 'Adventure Training', members of C Coy donned their best fishing gear and headed for the river. With the help of Broadmeadows we managed to acquire two assault boats powered by 40 HP motors. No time was wasted and the boats were launched with WO2 Gathercole in charge of one, while WO2 Pearse 'Captained' the other.

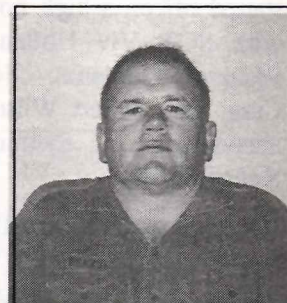
Each member had the opportunity to navigate and take charge of the craft (some better than others). One craft was faster than the other so rivalry between the two mounted at an alarming rate. Night loc was reached with some members wetter than others. PTE 'Stretch' O'Bree prepared the evening meal watched closely by one of the Company's cooks.

The nights thunderstorm and mini cyclone tested the skills of members particularly their hutchie placement.

The second day commenced with fishing and some yabbing for starters before recommencing.

As the kilometres clicked over the river narrowed dramatically with logs and other snags increasing in number, on occasions to completely block the passage of the boats. It took skilled teamwork to manoeuvre the craft through and to add to the problems sandbars turned up regularly to mar the race and to stall the motors.

Members at times had to dig the boats out of the sandbars and negotiate two weirs which also became a race as to who could hurl their craft up and over the quickest. The 'Gathercole' team led the race and probably would have finished a day ahead of the 'Pearse/Watson' team, but WO2 "Scavenger" Pearse pounced on every bit of foreign debris (including a sunken vessel) causing the other team to take countless smoko's.



The only mistake for the weekend was letting CPL Stan Nemtsas take charge of one of the craft. Not only did he run into some barbed wire but he managed to steer the boat onto a steel stake. (With the high water a number of fences were submerged) LCPL Jack and PTE Dawes counted themselves lucky as they had only just changed position from the bow to the stern!

We covered approximately 360 river kilometres in total. A fun and learning experience was had by all.

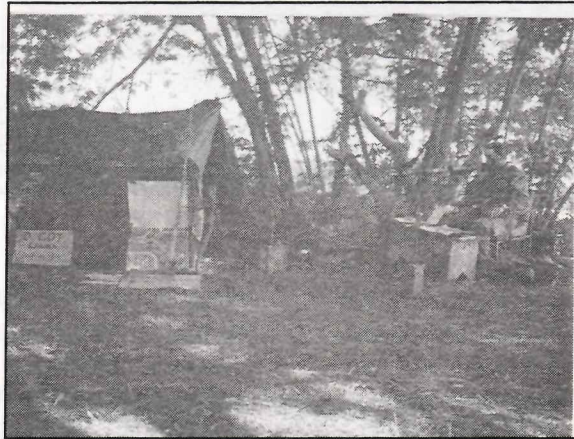
(Narrative from PTE Helen Romeo, C Coy)

## K92 - MEMBERS OF 8/7 RVR AS D COY 5/6 RVR

On Saturday, 7th March, about 80 soldiers from the eleven 8/7 RVR depots around Victoria gathered as D Company, 5/6 RVR Battalion Group at Ranger Barracks in Ballarat, to be issued final stores before travelling to Sunshine, the headquarters of A Company, 5/6 RVR.

Saturday's activities included some administration, concurrent refresher training (such as the use of mosquito nets and snake bite treatment), and a horrifying march past by soldiers clad in bermuda shorts.

The next morning, A Coy 5/6 RVR arrived and following the kit checks for dangerous substances (for air travel), buses arrived to take us to Melbourne Airport, from where we boarded the Australian Airlines Airbus for our journey North.



After the air trip, we alighted onto the tarmac at Tindal in the warm darkness, and witnessed total confusion as the luggage which had been packed and loaded so orderly was unloaded in random, to anywhere there was a space on the tarmac. The luggage for each platoon being widely dispersed meant that soldiers from all locations swarmed over all the piles of packs, echelon bags, etc, until their own and those of their mates had been found. Still, the ground staff at Tindal would not be told....

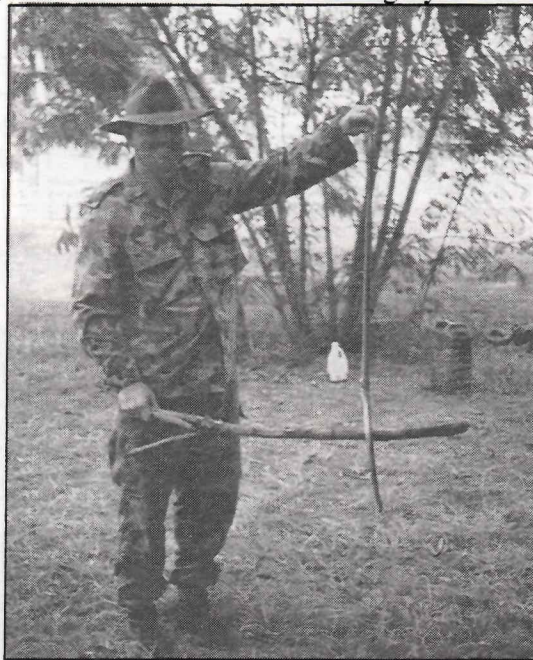
In the morning, the real change of climate was noticeable, with the heat being accentuated by the very high humidity. Where K89 had been hot but comfortable, K92 was sticky - all the time. Acclimatisation became the buzz word.

All our soldiers - particularly the Corporals and

Lance Corporals - had been continually reminded that it was their responsibility to ensure they and their mates survived by drinking enough water regularly during the day. Further, it was up to them to watch everyone for signs of heat exhaustion.

Our soldiers really applied this principle - especially after hearing of a casualty on the first day who ended up in a coma after not drinking ANY water. For the duration of the exercise, D (8/7 RVR) Coy 5/6 RVR did not lose a single soldier out of the field due to heat complaints. The couple who started to show signs were quickly treated by their own section, and soon recovered without needing evacuation.

One soldier (Private Arundell) who was brought into Coy headquarters (which some knew as Club Tindal - after all, we did have a (green canvas) sauna) was resting by a tree recovering, when a 1.5 metre



King Brown snake slithered over his wrist. As he jumped clear, Sergeant Maddocks - who was half way through swallowing some medication to settle his stomach - leapt into action and performed a stylish infantry manoeuvre - the butt-stroke.

Our other king snake killer (he was to have plenty of practice during the exercise) Major Gary Wescombe, also dived in to ensure the snake had been finished off.

After this, people tended to depart whenever Maj Wescombe and Sgt Maddocks were in the same location, as this was always the times when snakes appeared.

Sgt Maddocks was, in fact, from "Monkey Platoon" which was more than ably led by Lt Nigel Bailey. The name Monkey Platoon came from their tendency to climb anything handy in order to get vision above the 2-3 metre spear grass.

This proved highly successful in spotting enemy moving toward the airbase. With the intensity of the follow up searching, some enemy were caught within our vast patrolled area, unable to move in or out, until eventually being rescued by umpires, having run out of water some time before and becoming dehydrated.

Whilst this was necessary, it was a disappointment to the platoon (and Company in general) as troops were moving in and less than 200 metres from the enemy when the umpires "beat them to the punch".

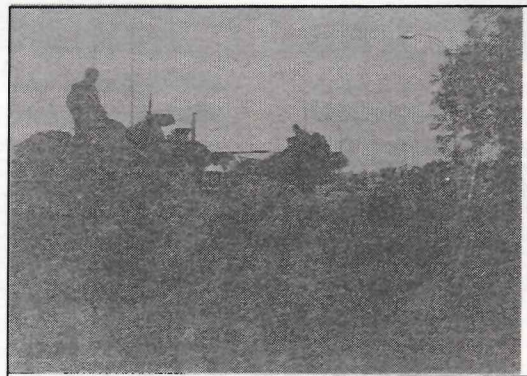
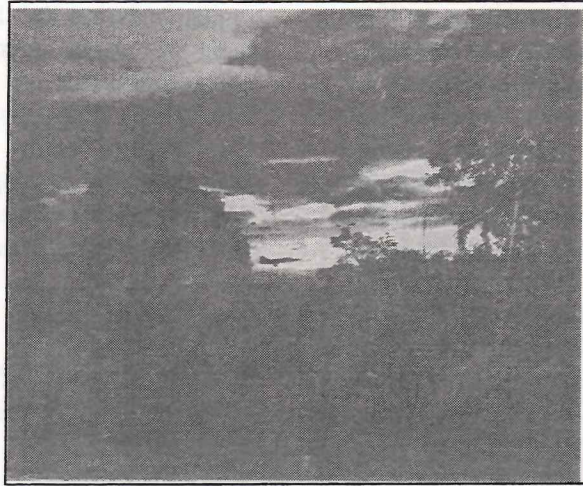
Back at Club Tindal, one to two sections each night were rotated through local protection tasks, in addition to using the showers. These were some of the facilities which our liaison with the local workers enabled us to secure for the soldiers. Another was refrigeration facilities, which meant we were able to provide cold water to the troops in the field (jerries of water kept in a fridge) in addition to nightly "goffers" taken out with the meal vehicle.

Our meal vehicle (the CQMS Landrover) was crewed alternatively by Staff Sergeant Tom Chambers, Corporal Stan Nemtsas, and Private "Beetle" Bailey - armed with a "Super Soaker 100"

which in addition to bringing a few laughs, raised morale with a jet of cool water to the back of the neck. Many thanks go to Mrs Beetle for sending this weapon through the mail.

While we became used to early morning wake up calls by F-111 and FA-18 aircraft, one event which had us and our resident umpire quickly occupying a defensive stance was the late night approach of heavy diesel powered vehicles, and all converging on us. The situation was soon resolved when a road train tanker drove into the light and was subsequently cleared by our forward positions.

A similar situation occurred some days later when in the early hours of the morning, a few armoured vehicles were heard to approach. Again, we readied in our positions, but this time the vehicles were LAV-25s from 2nd Cavalry Regiment - who later in the week provided mobility, protection and fire support to patrols from Lt Stuart Pike's platoon. (Lt Pike was with us from 5/6 RVR as one of our Platoon Commanders, and really "clicked" with his platoon, returning to Ballarat with us after the exercise for final night celebrations.)



Considering this was supposed to be the wet season, there was very little rain, leading to the suggestion that it was really the "sweat season". Proper rain came only twice during the exercise, with very short showers on a couple of other occasions.

On one of these occasions, there were the following reports:

From a patrol 5 km out from the Control Tower:

We were starting to get concerned about our water situation, then it rained and within a few minutes we had collected eight full water bottles from the runoff of a hutchie"

From a platoon position 2 km out:

"The rain came, so we quickly soaped up for a shower - and the rain stopped, leaving us covered in soap!"

From Company HQ:

"Hey! It's raining! Hang on, no it isn't."

From Battalion HQ:

"Rain? When?"

In addition to the civil airport workers our liaison extended to other locals such as pilots and the much appreciated smoko van, and numerous visitors including our main "regular" - the yellow holden panel van who would arrive five times a week to pick up relatives and friends, including those on hospital visits.

It was now getting toward the end of exercise, and while we had been very successful (especially with our "trapped" enemy) in our patrols in protecting the airfield, very few sightings had been made of the enemy.

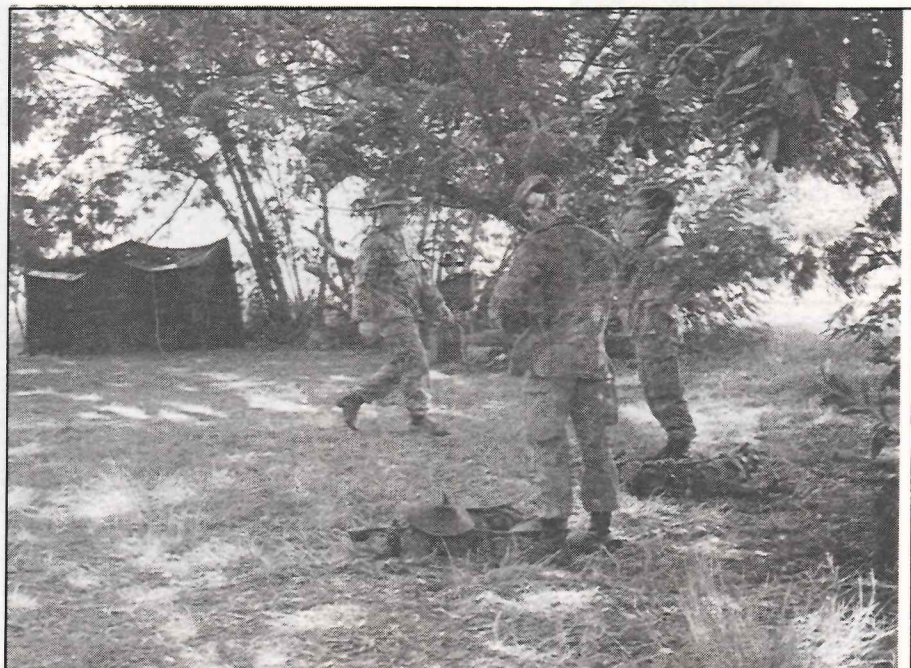
Lt Paul Thomas's platoon changed that when after finding sign of enemy presence, took the umpire and set an ambush, but there were no enemy that night. The next night (of course the umpire was out with another platoon) they were more successful, catching a number of enemy in the ambush area. The enemy were about to succumb when they realised there was no umpire, so they just got up and left. So close and yet so far!

Our immediate vehicle check points were effective, discovering a truckload of "enemy" trying to "fly in" closer to the airbase in covered vehicles piloted by umpires who objected strongly to showing their cargo. The result was that the truck backed off and withdrew.

Our final night in Tindal proved that "It ain't over 'til it's over". Eight hours before flying home was no time to relax. That night, the back gate to the airbase came under attack. With our radio equipment returned, the runner system came into play. The back gate was quickly secured, and as one platoon secured the gate area, another was pursuing the enemy and after several short firefights, had cleared the area. Casualties were collected, defences restored and several more clearance patrols were deployed.

By the morning, other companies were able to take over the security of our area of the base, and we made our way to the aircraft, to be farewelled by LtCol Jock Burns as his piper piped us aboard.

The soldiers who participated certainly upheld the standard of 8/7 RVR, and left no doubt as to the preparedness of the soldiers and leaders to operate in the North of Australia. During the two weeks, of the 80 personnel deployed in the field with D Coy, the only injuries or illnesses which necessitated evacuation back to Battalion HQ were an ankle injury and a twisted knee. That there were no heat casualties was testimony to the responsibility taken by all soldiers (particularly the junior leaders) of the company to ensure the survival of each other.



# EXERCISING THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF BALLAARAT

## FOLLOWED BY THE BATTALION BALL

On Saturday 8th August, 8/7 RVR exercised its right to march through the streets of Ballarat, swords drawn, bayonets fixed, Colours flying and band playing! - oh, and we had our puma there as well!

After the ceremony at B Company, the battalion assembled for a march which took them down the

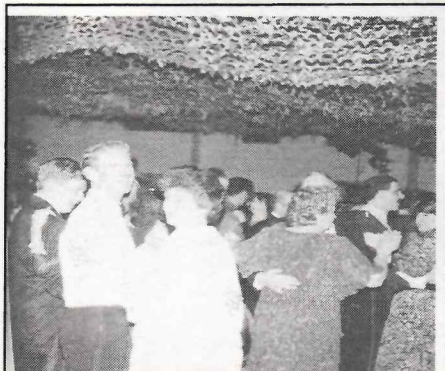
main street of Ballaarat. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Riley, RFD, was challenged at the Town Hall by the Chief Superintendent of Police. He then claimed the right to march his Battalion through the city, which was recognised by the Mayor of Ballaarat, who then granted the Battalion access.



That evening, Ranger Barracks hosted the Battalion Ball, many years after it was last held. Music was provided by "The Jets", with later entertainment and Rock 'n' Roll dance tuition provided by "The Bobby Soxers".

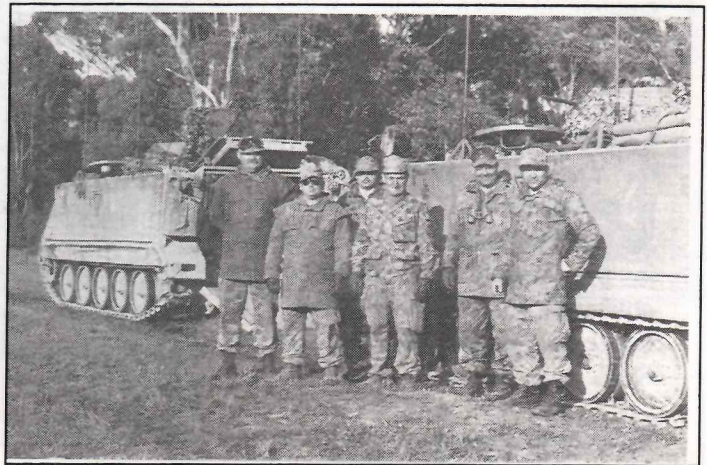
The barracks were crowded (yes - more crowded than a parade night) and the dance floor was often so full it was hard to move. The food was plentiful and excellent, as were the drinks.

A great time was had by all.



## EXERCISE RANGER RAMPART

Late in 1992, with the forces of the Republic of Musoria forging toward Melbourne, 8/7 RVR as part of the Australian 2nd Division moved to the North Western area of Puckapunyal and started preparing defensive positions. It was known that Musorian Reconnaissance forces were likely to be active in the area, so our soldiers had to be security conscious as they prepared their Company locations



Members of 8/13 VMR Sqn, 4/19 PWLH acted as enemy in the first couple of days, and provided some much needed info to the foot recon elements.

LT Sasse and his platoon, all from 5/6 RVR, provided our enemy and not only did they keep our soldiers on their toes, but also learned much about the Musorian forces and conducting recon in a two-way exercise. There were certainly lessons to be learned on both sides of the fence



When the enemy were seen, they were distinguishable in their black boots, greens, berets, old style webbing and Series 3 Land Rover. Insignia, which was important in identifying the enemy forces, was worn by the enemy, but was not always reported when seen.

The twin personalities of Captain Alan Donovan became apparent as he was variously 8/7 RVR Intelligence Officer and commander / adviser of enemy forces in the area.

In fact, our enemy was not the only one in the area. There were other units from interstate who

were conducting an exercise adjacent to our own. Early in the piece, the enemy for both exercises were meeting their contacts at the same place, at the same time. As both enemy included armour, the rendezvous area was initially fairly crowded.

This situation also added further excitement to our enemy's day, when the building they were occupying was attacked by the other exercise's forces using massive firepower. Our enemy gallantly fought back with what ammo they had, but were eventually overpowered. Both were surprised at discovering who they had been in combat with.



Meanwhile, the Battalion Headquarters (BHQ) area was being set up, complete with Command Posts (CPs), Briefing tent and the Regimental Aid Post (RAP). While these were initially tented, the support we were getting from 10 Field Squadron of Engineers was great. They were using mechanical plant, and were digging the holes in which our prefabricated CPs (which they had also manufactured) were to be assembled.

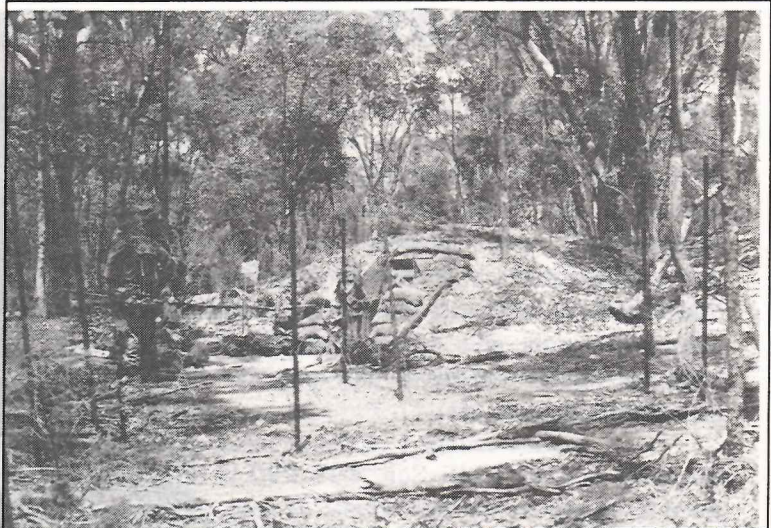
Unfortunately, with any large piece of equipment, there is a small component which can fail. While one of the digger's hydraulics failed to keep up with the work, the other was going fine until an unseen tree stump tore a hydraulic line off. Out came the hand held rock breakers with picks and shovels, and while the hole for the Operations CP was completed in this manner, a bulldozer was obtained for what became the Pers/Log CP and the now famous RAP.

Those who weren't on duty preparing or manning the CPs were active in digging and wiring tasks. As the tasks were completed, the area was camouflaged, which must have been very effective from the air, as we never did see any air photos from the Macchi aircraft to prove otherwise!

Each of the Company patrols received an initial briefing at BHQ, further briefings were delivered by radio or at an RV. The briefings included known or likely enemy activity. The enemy platoon also was briefed - they had to be aware of where they were to be, how they were to react, etc.

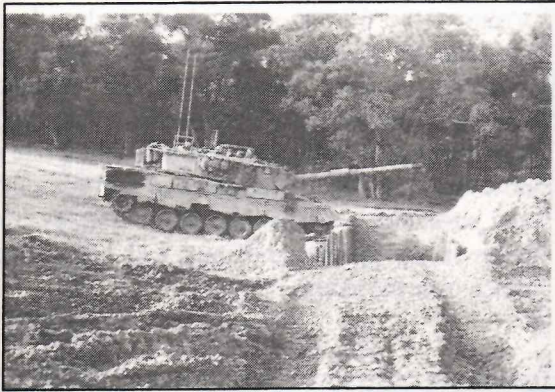
In addition to being able to dig in and patrol, the soldiers participated in other activities including live firing defence, attacks and ambushes. Australian and Musorian also faced each other in a two way confrontation using the Individual Weapons Effects Simulation System (IWESS). This system forced the soldiers to really consider their firing position and aim in combat. Stress was added by the use of Battle Noise Simulation, ably provided by our Engineer friends and their explosives. Support in the attacks was provided by the APCs, who while before playing the enemy, were now fighting as Australians (after a short naturalisation ceremony).

Further activities included Blackhawk helicopter familiarisation, and a trip to Shepparton, where after some training, the soldiers got to jump off the Telecom tower in the town shopping mall. This amused the shoppers, especially when the local radio station (which broadcasts into the



mall) decided to play the song: (you might as well) **JUMP!**

The final phase saw an Engineer obstacle and Armoured mobility display, which saw the Leopard tanks and M113 APCs challenged by the Engineers to breach their obstacles. The resulting display increased everyone's knowledge as to what strengths each of these sister Arms have.

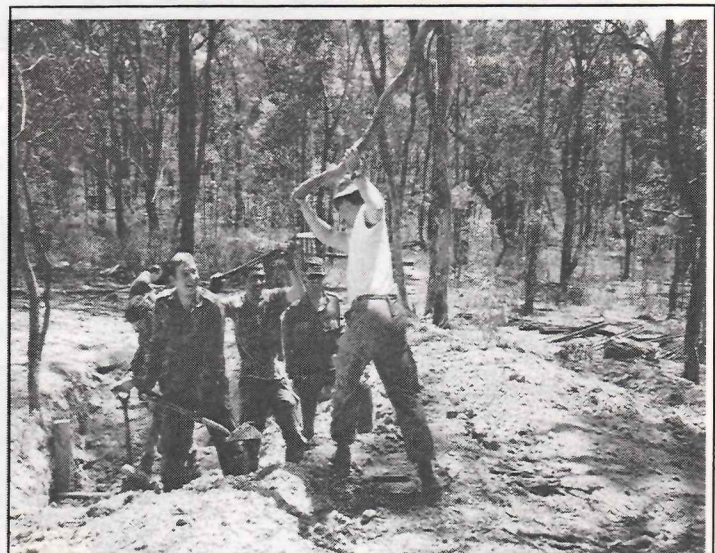
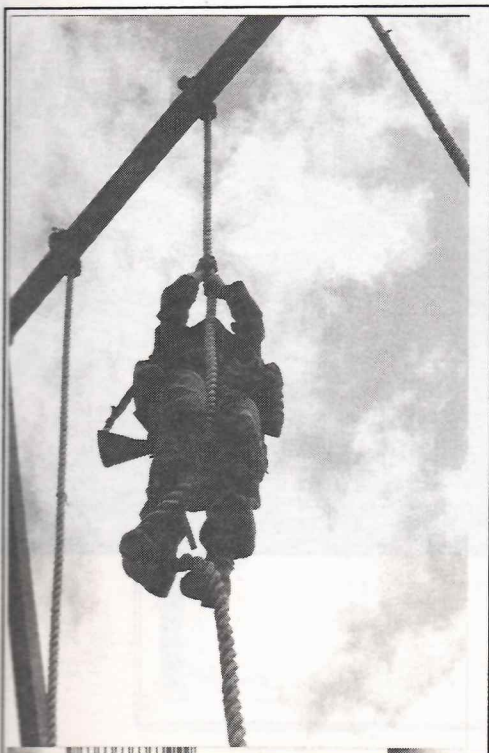


There followed a visit to a Sustained Fire Machine Gun position and Mortar position, before a debriefing from the IO at BHQ as to what was or was not achieved in the patrols, and what intelligence resulted from all the information supplied from different sources. From this, the soldiers were able to see their effect on the larger picture, rather than seeing the conflict only in relation to who they are fighting at the time.

Above: A dug in mortar position.  
Below: The mortar line Command Post (CP)



While the final visit was being conducted - to A-Echelon - the other Company was conducting an Infantry / Armoured attack on a strongly defended enemy platoon position.



After refurbishing the company and BHQ defence positions (which included retrieving the prefabricated CPs by manually digging them out - under constant threat of beating by the Padre) the Battalion marched back to Site 6, completing the 15 km combat march segment of the Combat Fitness Test, of which the rope climb, fireman's carry and obstacle course had already been completed in the Military Skills phase of the exercise.

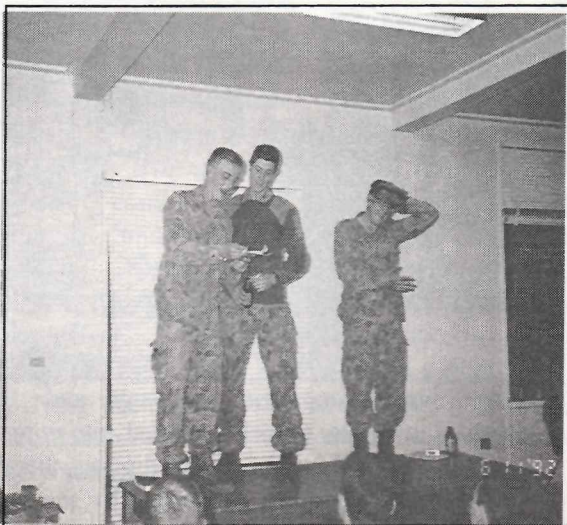


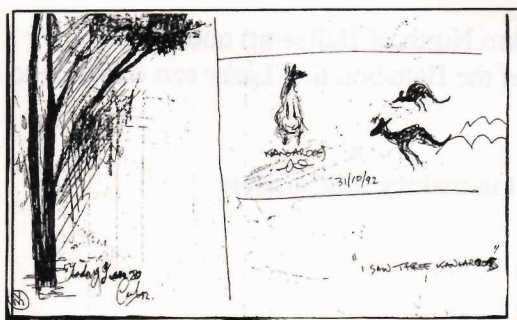
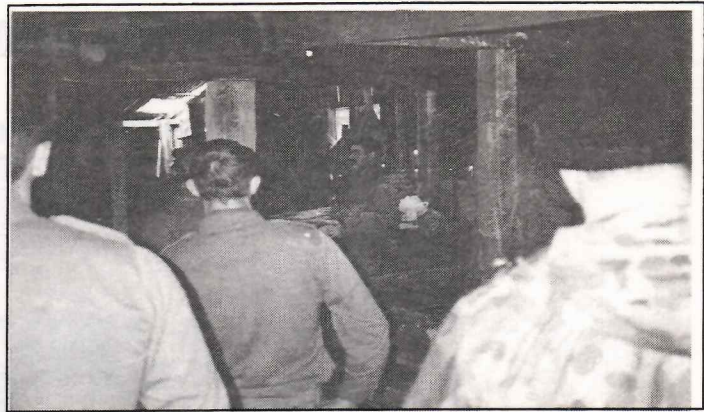
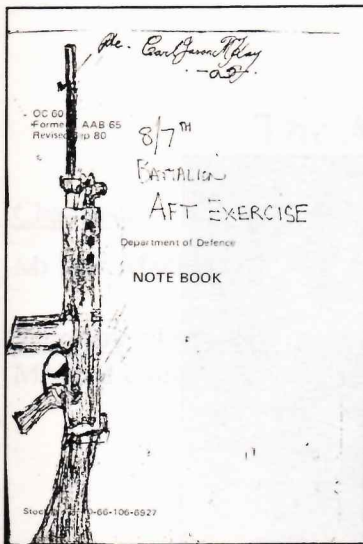
Visitors to the exercise had included the Commander 4 Brigade, Brigadier McManus, and a group of prior members of our Battalion, known locally as "The Old Boys". They had a look around our positions, and said that while we now wore "spotted pyjamas" and our equipment and *particularly* rations had improved, the trees, holes in the ground and mud had not changed much over the years.



We bid farewell to Exercise Ranger Rampart with the usual parade (including Musorians doing their drill) followed by a concert. The concert

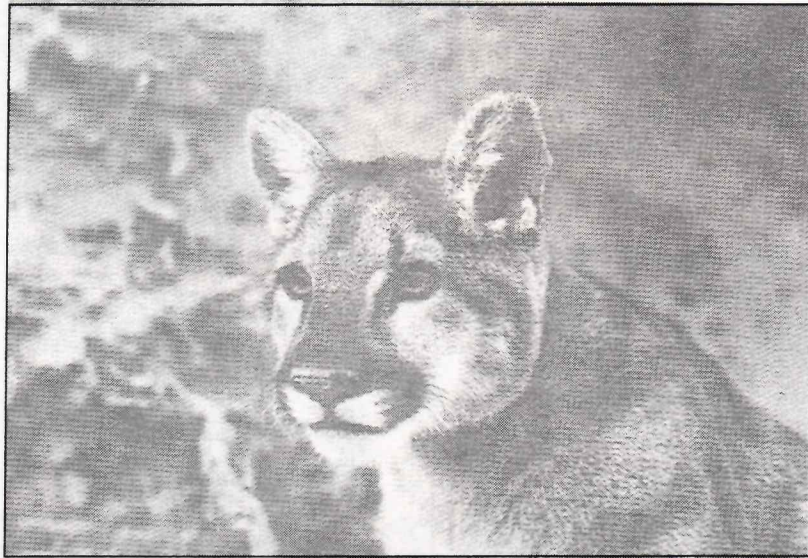
included songs, skits, jokes and speeches. Most were good, some were brilliant and brought the house down - particularly the Claymore Rhapsody.





Article by Int/Ops Cell  
Sketches by Pte Carl McKay

## MASCOT



### VX87 PTE L. Ranger

#### Felix Concolor 'Puma'

Age:	7 years
Height:	One metre (at the shoulders)
Weight:	55 kg
Eye Colour:	Hazel
Hair Colour:	Champagne Grey
Favourite Food:	Whole chickens

On the 1st of August, 1991 approval was given to 8/7 RVR to officially adopt a puma as a mascot. That puma, VX87 Pte Lazer Ranger, made his first appearance on parade in Ballaarat for the 1991 ANZAC Day march.

He has since also been on parade on ANZAC Day 1992, also in Ballaarat, and exercising the Freedom of the City of Ballaarat, in August 1992

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

Our thanks again go to Geoff for his support in 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 other's 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.

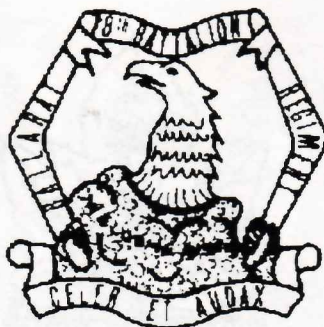
## ASSOCIATIONS

### 8th Infantry Battalion AIF Association

#### 8th Battalion (Ballarat)

President:  
Mr Bernie Clark

Secretary:  
Mr Bill Beaumont



#### 8th Battalion (Ararat)

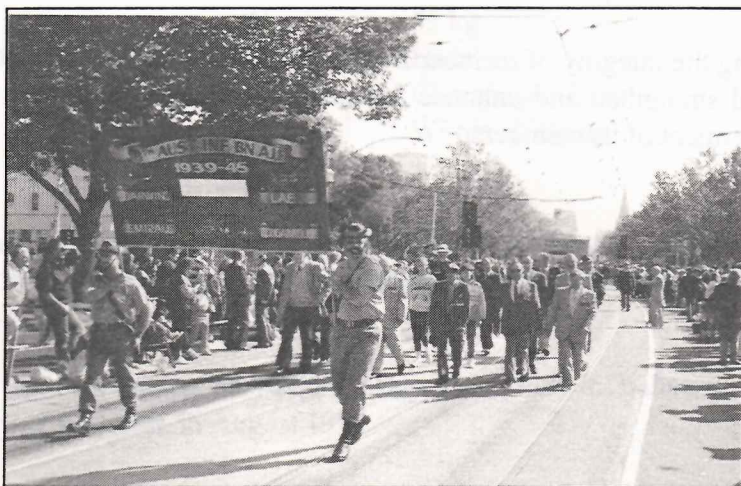
President:  
Mr Jack Pearce

Secretary:  
Mr Bob Penna

Each year since 1946 the Association has 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 also attended by the members' wives, who dine separately to the men but join them for a get together at 9:30 pm.

At all the Reunion Dinners it is an honour to have as the Association's guests the CO, ADJT and RSM of the present day serving Regiment, as well as servicemen representing such organisations as the RSL, 6th Field Company Engineers, Legacy, Rats of Tobruk, RAN and RAAF.

Again this year, members of 8/7 RVR assisted the Association in our commemoration of ANZAC Day. In the Melbourne ANZAC Day March, Corporals Trevor Beales and Bill Lochhead from Ballarat both performed admirably, giving credit to 8/7 RVR by carrying the Association banner to lead our contingent.



The members of the old Regiment have a deep feeling of gratitude that after so many years since World War II, there is still a very strong sense of affiliation with the present day serving Regiment - 8/7 RVR.

It is hoped that the continued interaction of members of this Association with the Officers and men of 8/7 RVR through correspondence, personal contact and functions will be an ongoing one.

## ALLIANCES



### **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 C.B.E.

#### **Allied Regiments:**

8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment, Australia  
4e Battalion, Royal 22e Regiment (Chateauguay), Canada  
7th Battalion, The Baulch 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.

Several Members of 8/7 RVR have already spent time with "The Staffords", and were made very welcome by their hosts. Any members of the 8th/7th Battalion who intend visiting our Allied Regiment in England should inform the Adjutant prior to departing to ensure arrangements can be made.

## ALLIANCES



### The Royal Regiment of Canada

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

**Colonel in Chief:** His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales

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

#### Allied With:

The Kings Regiment (Manchester & Liverpool)

Perpetuated Units 1914-1918 CEF

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

#### Exchange of Greetings:

9 August - 8th/7th Battalion Birthday

In 1957 an alliance between the 8th/7th Battalion (The North Western Victoria 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.

In 1992, correspondence between the units continued and saw the arrival in Australia of Lieutenant Oliver Rogerson. Lt Rogerson spent some months with the Battalion, visiting many of the depots and visited or participated in many exercises, including visiting members of the unit who were participating in Exercise Kangaroo 92 at Tindal, Northern Territory.

Lt Rogerson also attended Officers' Mess dinners, where knowledge of each other's unit was increased, as were personal friendships.

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.A. RILEY  
 MAJ G. SMITH  
 MAJ W. WALLACE  
 MAJ G.W. WESCOMBE  
 CAPT N. BARKER  
 CAPT E. BOUCHER  
 CAPT D.R. CLARK  
 CAPT D.S. CLARKE  
 CAPT M. CRAIG  
 CAPT R. DALLEY  
 CAPT P.S. DEMPSTER  
 CAPT A.J. DONOVAN  
 CAPT R. GALE  
 CAPT P. KEEN  
 CAPT D. SCOTT  
 CAPT J.D. SKINNER  
 CAPT E. SMITHSON  
 CAPT T.M. TURTLE  
 CAPT G. VAGG  
 CAPT R. WOOD  
 LT N. BAILEY  
 LT M.A. BURKE  
 LT P.J. CHALLIS  
 LT D.W. EDWARDS  
 LT D. LAIDLAW  
 LT S.A. MURPHY  
 LT P. THOMAS  
 LT R. WALKER  
 LT A.F. WATSON  
 2LT B. ALLAN  
 2LT C. CONBOY  
 2LT D.J. HALLIWELL  
 2LT M.W. HOLAHAN  
 2LT B. MARTIN  
 2LT C.A. SAULTRY  
 WO1 G. HALLAM  
 WO1 N. WALLISS  
 WO2 L.J. BRERETON  
 WO2 P.E. CROFT  
 WO2 T.M. CUTHBERT  
 WO2 B.C. GATHERCOLE  
 WO2 P.J. GRIFFIN  
 WO2 M.V. HUMPHRYS  
 WO2 S.W. INGLIS  
 WO2 D.J. PAYNE

WO2 G.A. PEARSE  
 WO2 D.R. PIGGOTT  
 WO2 N. WAIN  
 WO2 W.R. WALLIKER  
 SSGT BULMER  
 SSGT R. BODSWORTH  
 SSGT P.C. CALDWELL  
 SSGT T.J. CHAMBERS  
 SSGT S. GILSON  
 SSGT J.L. KERWIN  
 SSGT J.E. MASKIELL  
 SSGT P. MORRISON  
 SSGT T.C. SAINTY  
 SGT C.L. ANDERSON  
 SGT T.P. ANDERSON

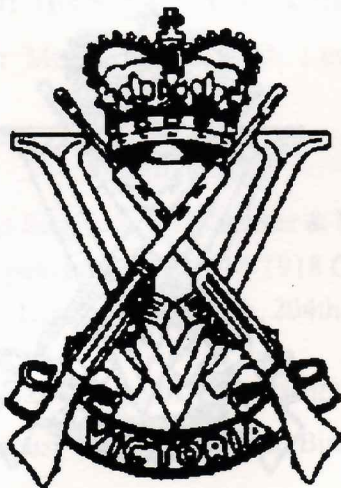


SGT P.J. ATKINSON  
 SGT J.T. BARNES  
 SGT P.J. BAULCH  
 SGT P.B. BOYLES  
 SGT D.T. CREELMAN  
 SGT R.J. DOWELL  
 SGT S.M. FORBES  
 SGT G.J. HOARE  
 SGT V.L. HOLLAND  
 SGT R.H. JACKSON  
 SGT M.W. JOHNS  
 SGT L.A. KING  
 SGT P.H. KOWSKI  
 SGT P. LOCKETT  
 SGT J.S. MADDOCKS  
 SGT D.C. MATTHEWS  
 SGT G.R. MUNRO

SGT B.T. PRENTICE  
 SGT G. PICKENS  
 SGT K. PICKENS  
 SGT A.J. SULLIVAN  
 SGT M. SULLIVAN  
 SGT H.M. VANOORSCHOT  
 SGT J.J. WHITTEN  
 CPL T.C. BEALES  
 CPL M.K. BROEMMER  
 CPL S.J. BRUNT  
 CPL M.J. BYE  
 CPL N.A. CAMPBELL  
 CPL W.D. CLAYDEN  
 CPL H.M. CRAIG  
 CPL C.E. CRAMERI  
 CPL A.J. DOBSON  
 CPL G.J. EXNER  
 CPL G.A. FEHRING  
 CPL S.C. FOUNTAIN  
 CPL N.L. GEARY  
 CPL N. GODFREY  
 CPL S.A. GODFREY  
 CPL L.D. GRANT  
 CPL G.P. HAND  
 CPL I.J. HIRST  
 CPL M.R. HORNE  
 CPL N.J. JOHNSON  
 CPL P.R. KINLEYSIDE  
 CPL W.J. LOCHHEAD  
 CPL M.F. LOGUE  
 CPL S.V. MARTIN  
 CPL A. MAZUR  
 CPL L.M. MILLAR  
 CPL D.A. MORLEY  
 CPL K.J. MOSCHETTI  
 CPL R.D. MULLANE  
 CPL S.D. NEMTSAS  
 CPL S. PEARSON  
 CPL B.R. PICKENS  
 CPL W.J. RANDALL  
 CPL K.P. REES  
 CPL M.J. REYNE  
 CPL M.J. SCHMIDT  
 CPL K.T. SERTORI

CPL J.G. STOTT  
 CPL P.A. TIDYMAN  
 CPL M.O. TRAINOR  
 CPL F. VIVONA  
 CPL D.A. WERRY  
 CPL D.A. WILLIAMS  
 LCPL R.A. BOROWIAK  
 LCPL P.T. BOURKE  
 LCPL D.R. BROWN  
 LCPL C.A. BURNET  
 LCPL J.M. CARTLEDGE  
 LCPL R.L. CHATFIELD  
 LCPL M.J. HENSCHKE  
 LCPL S. IVEY  
 LCPL D.J. JACK  
 LCPL S.B. JAMES  
 LCPL L.D. JONES-OWEN  
 LCPL R.E. KELLER  
 LCPL D.L. LAITY  
 LCPL A.C. MCCALLUM  
 LCPL W.L. MCMILLAN  
 LCPL G.M. OWEN  
 LCPL G.J. PAIZIS  
 LCPL T.J. PASCOE  
 LCPL T.J. PITTLANCASTER  
 LCPL M.J. POLLOCK  
 LCPL A.C. SCHULTZE  
 LCPL S.E. SCOTT  
 LCPL J.E. SHEMELD  
 LCPL P.G. STEWART  
 LCPL R. VAN BRUGGEN  
 LCPL J.A. WATERS  
 LCPL I.L. ZSCHECH  
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 PTE P.D. ARTIS  
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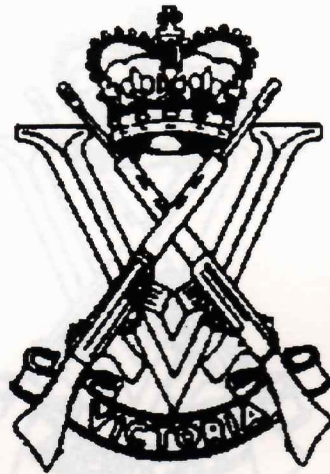
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 PTE L.A. CAMPTON



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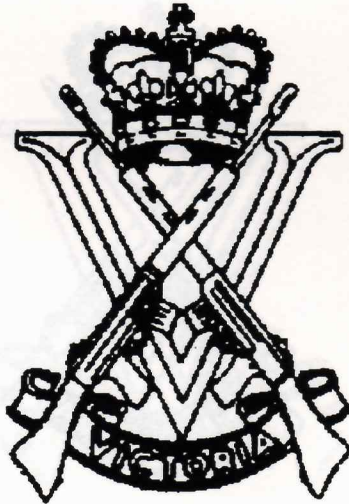
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 CFN B.P. MCMAHON  
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 PTE D. MCSWAN  
 PTE T.L. MCSWAIN  
 PTE D.J. MELLIS

PTE S.L. MENNEN  
 PTE D.G. MONAGHAN  
 PTE A.S. MONTGOMERY  
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PTE C.A. SMART  
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PTE R.S. SMITH  
PTE J.A. SOLWAY  
PTE R.G. SPENCER  
PTE J.A. SPIELVOGEL  
PTE P.R. STAKER  
PTE R.W. STANGER  
PTE J.M. STAPLETON  
PTE D.M. STEWART  
PTE S.M. STRINGER

PTE W. STRONG  
PTE G.F. SUTTON  
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PTE S.J. TAYLOR  
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PTE D.J. ULRICH

PTE D.J. VAN BRUGGEN  
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PTE A.M. WHELAN  
PTE A.T. WILLIAMS  
PTE M.I. WILLIAMS  
PTE P.P. WILSON  
PTE R.L. WILSON  
PTE D.G. WOLTERS  
PTE M.J. WOODS  
PTE E.H. WYTKAMP



# 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 BALLAARAT REGIMENT



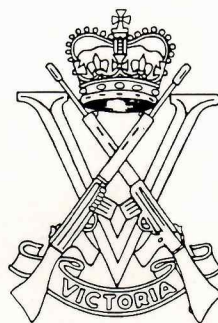
8th/7th BATTALION  
NORTH WESTERN VICTORIAN REGIMENT



7th BATTALION  
NORTH WEST MURRAY BORDERERS



38th BATTALION  
NORTHERN VICTORIAN REGIMENT



8th/7th BATTALION  
THE ROYAL VICTORIA REGIMENT



59th BATTALION  
HUME REGIMENT