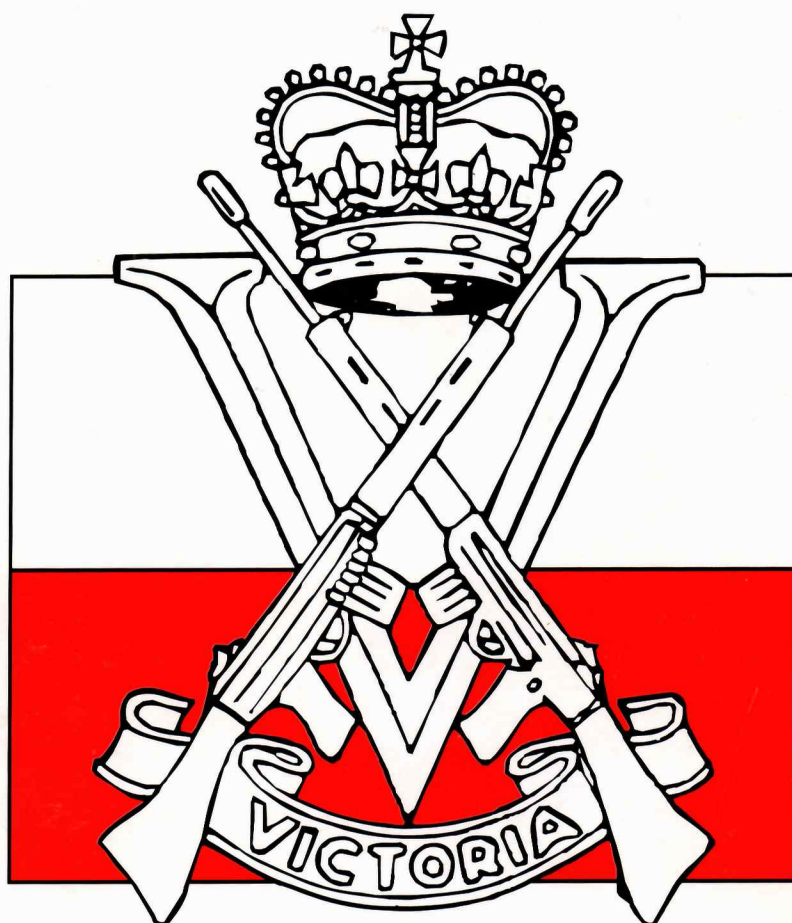

THE RANGER 1994



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

THE RANGER

8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment

Honorary Colonel:

Sir John Young AC, KCMG

Regimental Colonel:

Brigadier W.J. Hocking ED, RFD

Allied Regiments:

The Staffordshire Regiment
(The Prince Of Wales')

The Royal Regiment of Canada

Commanding Officer

Lieutenant Colonel
W. A. Dunbar



Allied Associations:

The associations of the
7th Battalions

incorporating the
7th Battalion AIF
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 W.L. Dunbar

The training implemented and conducted by the 8th/7th Battalion during 1994 was designed to accommodate the F88 Steyr weapon system and advance our soldiers experience at live fire using all of the unit's organic firepower.

The task of conducting the 4th Brigade courses camp in May was an unqualified success with no fewer than seven specialist courses being conducted with our 280 personnel in attendance.

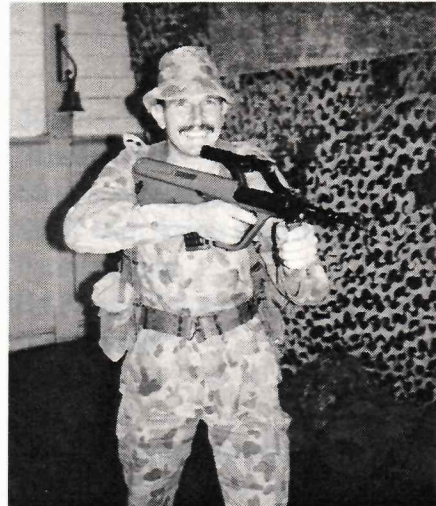
Exercise 'Left Hook' and 'Right Cross' further enhanced the opportunity to specialise with the F88, after an additional four conversion courses having been run for unit members. Both Rifle and support arms companies conducted various range practices culminating with a live fire company attack supported by all organic weapons available to the battalion. Collective training reinforced our rapid improvement in all Support Company platoons, however the 'Bridge in Orbit' and the use of illumination by day was something special for those who were there.

Exercise 'Northern Explorer', the formation Tri-Annual deployment to Northern Australia, was a coordination, administrative and training nightmare which the support of all unit members to be successful. As expected the Battalion presented the largest and best prepared group at this activity, but the onset of the monsoon wet season and the need to adapt to low level in an RAAF setting proved demanding yet productive.

As is normal the loss of experienced Officers, Non Commissioned Officers and soldiers in our regionally based unit is always a blow, and this year with age, transfers and attendance at courses we lost some 'characters' and very competent soldiers.

The stabilisation of key appointments with the same dynamic and professional attitudes has once assured our vital asset - our soldier - of a fine year ahead.

I personally wish all members and their families who indeed support our activities the best wishes now and in the future.



1994 DIARY

February

- 01 Australia Day celebrations
- 07 ARA staff seminar
- 08 Parade night
- 12-13 Rfl Coy IMT weekend
- 15 Parade night
- 19-20 Other Coy IMT weekend
- 22 Parade night

March

- 01 Parade night
- 05-06 Offr SNCO Adventure Trg
- 08 Parade night
- 15 Parade night
- 19-20 Steyr Conversion Course
- 22 Parade night
- 25-27 Steyr Conversion Course
- 29 Parade night

April

- 12 Parade Night
- 16-17 IMT Trg weekend
- 19 Parade Night
- 20-27 Recon Ex Northern Explorer
- 25 Anzac Day
- 30-01 Bn Range practice weekend

May

- 03 Parade Night
- 10 Parade Night
- 14-29 Bn Specialist Courses Camp
- 31 Parade Night

June

- 07 Parade Night
- 14 Parade Night
- 21 Parade Night
- 28 Parade Night

July

- 12 Parade Night
- 16-17 Steyr conversion course
- 23-24 Steyr conversion course
- 26 Parade Night
- 30-31 Bn Range Practice
"Left Hook"

August

- 09 Battalion Birthday Parade
- 13-14 Offr SNCO Trg
- 23 Parade Night

September

- 06 Parade Night
- 17-18 Bn Range Practice
"Right Cross"
- 20 Parade Night

October

- 04 Parade Night
- 08-09 Battle procedure
"Ex Northern Explorer"
- 15-16 2nd Division CPX
- 22-06 Ex Northern Explorer

November

- 04-06 2nd Division Military
Skills Competition
- 15 Parade Night
- 19-20 Sergeants Mess Reunion
- 22 Parade Night
- 26-27 Coy IMT Trg

December

- 03-04 Weapons familiarisation
training
- 13 Parade Night

A BRIEF HISTORY OF 8/7 RVR

The 8th/7th Battalion, the Royal Victoria Regiment, encompasses the area bounded by Mildura, Warrnambool, Bacchus Marsh, Shepparton and Echuca. The Battalion Headquarters is at Ballarat, 113km west of Melbourne. The Battalion has depots in Ballarat (2), Bacchus Marsh, Shepparton, Echuca, Cobram, Swan Hill, Mildura, Hamilton, Warrnambool and Maryborough.

The history of the Battalion commenced on the 23rd October 1857, when a meeting of citizens in Ballarat was convened to consider the possibility of establishing a Rifle Corps in the District. Representations were made to the Government of the Colony of Victoria, and assent for the enrolment of a Corps was received on the 21st July 1858. The first parade of this new unit was the 9th August 1858. This date is celebrated annually as the Battalion's birthday.

The Battalion has existed since that date with an uninterrupted history, although under a variety of titles. The present day 8th/7th Battalion traces its lineage back to a number of units. 8th Battalion (City of Ballarat Regiment), 59th Battalion (The Hume Regiment), 7th Battalion (The North West Murray Borderers) and the 38th Battalion (The Northern Victorian Regiment).

The Battalion has been granted freedom of entry to the following cities in the area:

Maryborough	1980	Echuca	1989
Ballarat	1983	Hamilton	1990
Swan Hill	1988		

The current operational role for the Battalion is in the defence of vital assets in Northern Australia, as part of the 4th Brigade from Victoria.

8/7 RVR BATTLE HONOURS

In early conflict Australia raised volunteer armies, building units in specific geographic locations across the country. The unit colours display the following Battle Honours from these conflicts:

Boer War: South Africa 1899-1902

World War 1:

Landing at Anzac Cove
Somme 1916-1918
Bullecourt
Ypres 1917
Polygon Wood
Amiens
Albert 1918
Mont St Quentin, and
Hindenburg Line

World War 2:

Bardia 1941
Capture of Tobruk
El Alamein
Greece 1941
South West Pacific 1942-1945
Bodbubi
Finisterres
Hari River, and
Borneo

EDITORIAL

Welcome to this our third magazine to record the thoughts, actions and lighter side of the 8th/7th Battalion, the Royal Victoria Regiment.

Battalions such as ours train for conflict, and as such this training is the most common representation of life in the Military Service. The Military though is made up of people, and people bring differing personalities and attitudes to the same task.

Indeed the greatest strength of the Army Reserve is it's ability to blend such personalities into a team, a functioning and effective machine, recognised by the community as our Battalion.

This magazine endeavours to display a little of that individual and collective personality as all articles are reproduced from the materials provided by individuals within the Battalion. To the contributors who have made it possible, my sincere thanks for your assistance.

David Clark, Captain, Intelligence Officer.

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

"If it's going to go wrong you can guarantee, we'll get the blame". The unofficial motto of the Headquarters element, which summarises the life of such a grouping.

Made up of the Command Group, the Operations Group, the Administration Group and with the Intelligence section added, made for an interesting mix of character and happening in the Headquarters.

Battalion Headquarters again had a busy year in keeping the wheels of the Battalion, Pay, medical, careers, exercise planning and materials requests, all oiled and running.

With focus of training in 1994 being individual skills, in particular with the new F88 Steyr Rifle, planning for courses and for range practices "Left Hook" and "Right Cross" were the major activities in 1994.

Toward the end of 1994 the Battalion was tasked to achieve a major increase in enlistments and as such is deploying significant resources into recruiting for the 1995 year. Army Reserve now has a vital role in the defence of the nation and as such this emphasis is crucial the fulfilling such a role. On current actions the Battalion is required to recruit around 80 people annually for numbers to remain static. In 1995 the target figure for recruiting is 200 people.

SUPPORT COMPANY

A view from the Mortarman's Pit

Support Company began 1994 with an introduction to the F88 Steyr. After first being trained themselves, Support Company Non-Commissioned Officers ran a two weekend conversion course on the F88 Steyr, consisting of weapons training, drill and a qualifying shoot. All ran smoothly to the extent that the Company was tasked to run further courses.

The First Mortar Shoot for the year was part of a live fire Company assault on a hill at Puckapunyal. Mortar Platoon arrived late on Friday night and after digging in all night with the help of the Pioneer Platoon, had one hour's rest before waking up on Saturday morning and getting straight into registering targets that would become part of the fire mission the next day. The Platoon also practised with sub calibre and even some direct laying on to visible targets for the remainder of the day.

We woke the next day to find ourselves and the ammunition boxes covered in ice! Later in the day, Mortar Platoon was carrying out shifts between targets in under half the allocated time. Mortar Platoon saw the exercise as a huge success. Even more successful were the effects of the fire we had laid down, which we inspected first hand at the conclusion of the exercise.

Some dispute did arise between Mortars and the Direct Fire Support Weapons Platoon as to who had been responsible for the most damage including a number of sizeable tree trunks cut clean through.

The Exercise concluded with a debrief from the Commanding Officer and the Brigade Commander, whose first words were "good shooting Mortar Platoon". At this time a number of awards were handed out, including promotions to Corporal Williams and Corporal Hirst of Mortar Platoon, who were promoted to Sergeant.

The Battalion ran various courses camps in May, including all Support Company activities Mortar, Pioneer, Signals and Direct Fire Support Weapons. The aim was to qualify Support Company soldiers in their trade as well as to cross train soldiers in the other Rifle Companies.

Everyone who attended the Courses were kept busy day and night, some even more than others. As well as training their was also time for a competitive game of touch football, perhaps slightly biased so as not to embarrass the umpire and his team.

The Mortar course ended with a live shoot using both high explosive and illumination ammunition, putting up quite a skyshow. One of the highlights of the camp was the arrival of the Blackhawk helicopters which gathered quite a crowd of onlookers including TV crews.

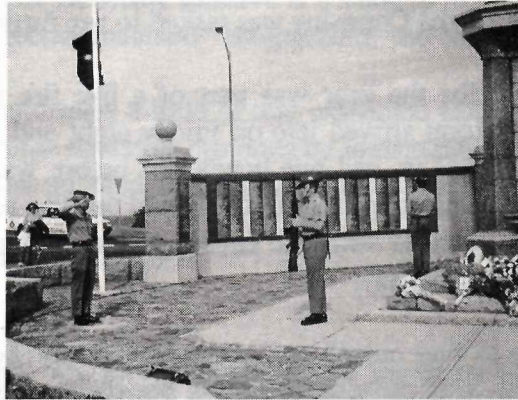


The Ranger 6

The Blackhawks provided training in alternate modes of deployment (note: once you get to your area of operation though, you are on your own and carrying the lot!).

A further Mortar shoot was held to confirm the training conducted during the course. The Platoon combined with 5/6 RVR to put six Mortar tubes into action, quite a site. This exercise involved mobile operations, both manpack and in Land Rovers. We tried out "box" and "w" formations for the mortar rounds which some had not done before.

Some junior Non-Commissioned Officers also received training in the role of the Mortar Fire Controller. One Platoon member also took the opportunity to revise a number of the Battalion's more senior members in where not to stand during a fire mission.



Over the same weekend the Pioneers were also busy. Their tasking, on analysis, clearly indicated that the Commanding Officer wanted to see a specific bridge go into high orbit.

The task was diligently prepared, and apart from the intervention of a number of cattle, who had to be rustled away at the final

moment, the demolition was a complete success, destroying the bridge completely.

The year finished for the Company with a Low Level Operations weekend in Warrnambool. Training was given in vehicle check points, cordon and search operations, building clearance, plus the searching of people and vehicles. From Saturday afternoon we conducted battle preparation for a tactical low level exercise to commence at 0400 hours Sunday.

Notable events in the exercise were one black eye (no hard feelings) and finding an angry Company Sergeant Major, who had been hidden in the wood box for hours and was feeling a little cramped.

All went well during the exercise and civilian co-operation with vehicle checks and searching was good with the exception of some pigshooters, a priest and an alterboy who took a dislike to being searched, though as it turned out they had little to search under their great coats (and such a cold day too).

Catching the Waves (radio), Signal Platoon

1994 for Signal Platoon started well with new recruits Brendon Hammerston and Craig Whitehead being enlisted taking numbers to 21.

Steyr conversion followed with Private Bennet top scoring on day one with 191 points.

Courses camp at Puckapunyal involved seven members who all passed their signals course, Maggie (Private Broeckelman) passing the Direct Fire Support Weapons and Nick, Fox, Cerj and Eric (Privates Arundell, Jones, Cernjavic and Wytkamp respectively) all successfully completed subject two for promotion to Corporal.

Northern Explorer was attended by Privates McMahon, Newman and Broeckelman, who all enjoyed sweltering in the cool tropics at Tindal, with the temperature being 45-50 degrees Celsius in the Command Post daily, and Captain Donovan promoting and demoting people at will from Corporal to as low as Lance Dead Person, depending on your actions.

Toward the end of the year Privates Bennet and Broeckelman were married at the Maryborough depot, with Sergeant Moschetti as best man. In addition to the white gown a garter in the Battalion colours was also evident being worn by the bride. The pending confusion of two Private Broeckelman's was solved with the nicknames of B1 and B2 being applied to the couple, taken from a pair of well known banana's who also wear pyjama type clothing. In November, Private Hull also welcomed the arrival of a new baby daughter.

An end of year Dinner was held in December, with Battalion staff, members of the RSL and Vietnam Veterans also joining in for the evening. The Platoon's outstanding Junior Soldier award was presented to Private Stebbing, while Private Spicer received the Section Commanders award for quiet achievement.

The Vietnam Veterans Association presented the Platoon with a plaque in recognition of the support over the past two years for Vietnam Veterans Day. A number of other awards, Shaken not stirred, S.L.U.G. and Gung Ho being presented with photographic evidence and stirring recollections of the events in question.

On a sad note the Platoon said goodbye to Private Lebkowski at the end of 1994, who after 4.5 years with the Platoon was discharging.

ADMINISTRATION COMPANY

Things you see from behind the Battle line

For those of us in the middle of the blade (behind the sharp end), life is never easy, as we follow those in front and try to plan for the eventualities of actions by those at the sharp end. This year we saw a number of major events in the Company that kept us on our toes and working hard.



The introduction of the new F88 Steyr and the issuing of Mag 58 machine Guns to the Battalion created new learning curves for the armourer, Corporal Werry. With everyone

The Ranger 8

in the Battalion receiving a Steyr and most qualifying their was much gentle coaxing for people in the correct drills and maintenance for this weapon.

Courses camp in May enabled a number of the drivers to qualify on the range of vehicles within the Battalion. Stories from the "road run", the major testing phase of the exercise were few meaning that everyone was well behaved (ha, ha), or else everyone was implicated and was keeping mum!

As with any spread out and active unit, the Battalion's cooks were kept very busy on exercises, in weekend activities and for the formal functions within the Battalion. At the end of 1994 the Battalions Chief Caterer, Warrant Officer Len Brereton retired, drawing to an end a 34 year career in the Army Reserve. As one of the constant and always friendly faces you see whenever the Battalion deployed, Len will be missed by many of us.

A flurry of activity continued within the Quartermasters Store, in particular dealing with new weapons as well as placing a Battalion's worth of orders for new service dress, which is to replace our current form of ceremonial dress for all ranks in the Army Reserve, we a looking forward to the issue of this for Anzac Day in 1995.

Medical Platoon was again busy during the year, most particularly with the emphasis in training on the use of real weapons, bombs and explosives. Good preparation and well conducted training meant there were no injuries during the year from any of these training activities.

Members of medical Platoon were an important component of the Group to Exercise Northern Explorer 94, dealing with the Northern Territory in the height of the wet season.

ALPHA (A) COMPANY

A year of diversity and challenge

A Company began 1994 welcoming back Major Dempster as Officer Commanding, after he had completed a short stint as second in command of the Battalion. Our thanks go to Major Lex Neville who came back to A Company as Officer Commanding for this period. We all wish Major Neville well in his retirement from the General Reserve.

Captain Scott continued as second in Command of the Company, while Warrant Officer Alan Blackshaw commenced his second year as Company Sergeant Major. We welcomed a new Training Warrant Officer, Wayne McInnes and Company Quartermaster Sergeant, Chris Fuller to A Company, both having served with the Battalion previously, as part of the Regular Army careers.

The presence, knowledge, dedication, experience and approach of our new Regular Army staff, is like a breath of fresh air, and their actions and have helped lighten the load of the more battle weary senior members of the Company.

Lieutenant Pat Challis continued as Platoon Commander of 3 Platoon Echuca, but as the year progressed became the stop gap commander for all Platoon situations, as his fellow

Lieutenants Conboy, Nesbitt and Edwards, moved to Horsham, Melbourne and on to the inactive list respectively.

Lieutenant Challis was panelled to complete his Junior Course at Reserve Command and Staff College in late 1994, but the Battalion had other ideas, giving him command of the A Company component of the MLOC (Minimum Level of Operational Capability) Company which was formed within the Battalion. This Company group was deployed for Exercise Kangaroo 94 under the command of the 4/19 Regiment, Prince of Wales Light Horse.

The Battalion is required to maintain a Company plus group of soldiers , in a formal command structure at MLOC level. MLOC proscribes specific levels of weapon handling, training and fitness levels to be attained by such soldiers.

Sergeant Robby Dowell was Platoon Commander/Sergeant for 1 Platoon and the evergreen Staff Sergeant John Kerwin surprised no one in the Company by being his usual self and fulfilling almost any role he was given. Staff Sergeant Ivan Solomano, was welcomed in as

Depot commander, Cobram from his previous posting in the Intelligence Corps. he has taken over from Corporal Johnson who after many years of professional



service discharged for work and family reasons.

The F88 Steyr was the big thing in the first half of the year, coupled with MLOC training as the Company

worked hard to get everyone qualified with the F88 Steyr. For a number of the older soldiers this new weapon felt like using a cut off toothbrush, but the scores on the range were enough to give the weapon its respect.

The enthusiasm of some of the Junior Non-Commissioned Officers like Corporal Hutchinson as they took groups who didn't handle weapons all that much through their paces, was a joy to be seen.

Trickle recruiting continued throughout the year but the selection process of 3ARRU, reduced these numbers significantly, which continues to be a source of frustration for our recruiter Corporal Mick Downie.

Over half of the Company attended Courses Camp, with Corporals Vivona and Morley both passing their subject 2 for promotion to Sergeant. Privates Ouwinga and Stringer passed their subject 2 for promotion to Corporal.

The Ranger 10

Major Dempster was Senior Instructor for the Sergeants Course, with Warrant Officer Blackshaw as a part of his Staff. Lieutenant Challis was absolutely in his element running the Pioneer Course.

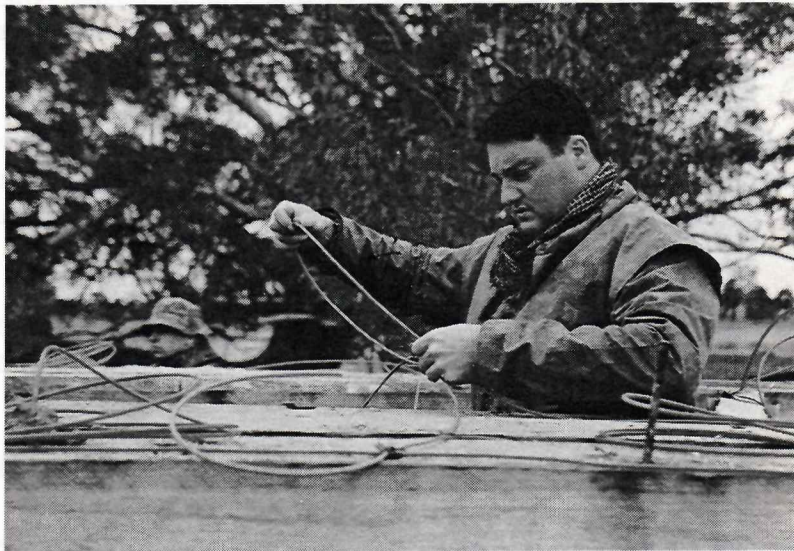
Support weapons sections were raised in the Company with Corporal Chatfield, Privates Hall and Hanson being the Sustained Fire Machine Gun team, and Corporal Hutchinson, Privates Ouwinga and Stringer being the Short Range Anti Armour Weapon Team.

Corporal Rob (Bear) Morehead followed the trail of love to Queensland, taking his weird sense of humour and his enthusiasm on to another Unit. Private Albert Penny retired after 20 years in the GRES in 2RVR, 1 RVR and finally 8/7RVR.

Corporal De Downie struggled with the pay on a broken down computer and finally with no computer at all. The lack of parades is possibly a godsend to ease the pressure of frustrated pay clerks and potentially irritable unpaid soldiers.

24

Company members participated in exercise Northern Explorer in the area of the Tindal Airbase, led by Lieutenant Challis and Warrant Officer Blackshaw. The



members on this exercise were soon to appreciate the requirement to consume copious quantities of water, being unacclimated to the hot conditions.

Like lizards on a rock pile, soldiers soon took on the natural camouflage of the surrounds, namely charcoal black, as they sweltered in temperatures exaggerated by the rocky terrain to more than twice of what they had left behind in Victoria.

The boredom of working against an enemy in a Low Level Environment, where it seem the enemy is almost in-active, almost overshadowed the experience of working in the Battalion's area of responsibility. The catchcry from the diggers general was "we understand, but it would have been great to see more of the enemy" and "what is more than none"?

Four Company members, namely Staff Sergeant Kerwin, Lance Corporals James and Faul and Private Richards took the alternate route to Tindal as a part of road convoy of the bulk of the equipment for the exercise, their and back. Company shutterbug, Corporal Kevin Rees, had the capacity to give the rest of us the greatest exposure to the area of the Northern Territory we have ever had.

Warrant Officer McInnes returned from the Regimental Sergeant Major's Course, after it's successful completion to find the Staff Sergeant Fuller had handled all situations without fuss. A company DRSC member Mr. Allan Brunton continued his support to the Company in the

The Ranger 11

usual way, attracting the attention of Brigadier Guard, who presented Allan with a commendation for his service to the Unit.

Allan managed to visit the boys on Northern Explorer with Lieutenant Colonel Dunbar and Warrant Officer Class One Stephens, which led to him making the statement "I'm happier as a DRSC member, than as Private Brunton".

During the year the Company participated in various activities including support on Anzac Day to 13 separate ceremonies, The General Meeting of the Prisoners of War Association, the Jolleys Bend plaque dedication for the 59th Battalion Association and the 59th Battalion Re-union.

Lieutenant Challis expanded the "Pioneer" knowledge and experience of some of his soldiers with a tree fall operation at Tatura, giving invaluable experience to those who were able to attend.

The Gordon Ayre MM Ball was held again after a break of a couple of years. Lance Corporal Steve Bremmer , Privates Marcel Ouwinga, Angela Farrell and David Logan and other members of the club can be well pleased with the occasion which was also attended by the Commanding Officer, Regimental Sergeant Major and the Mayor of Shepparton, with their wives.

At year end:



- Corporal Hutchinson departed for the Regular Army posted to 1RAR.
- Private Irvine joined the Navy.
- The Company dined out two long serving members of the Battalion on 26th November, being Warrant Officer Len Brereton who had

commenced his Reserve career 34 years earlier with the 59th Battalion in 1960. Secondly Corporal Kevin Rees who again has served 34 years, joining 1RVR in Melbourne in 1960.

BRAVO (B) COMPANY

Arrivals and Departures

The year for B Company started at Ranger Barracks (as Broodseinde Barracks was undergoing refurbishment) with a number of new staff. Major Martin Craig quickly established the layout of the Company and started preparing the composition of the MLOC (Minimum Level of Operational Capability) Company, while Captain Alan Donovan found, for a couple of months, that he was the Orderly Room.

Corporal Andrew McCallum and Private Russell Schmidt were welcome additions when they came on strength.

It has been suggested that the Company (who said the Battalion?) colours might be changed



to green and red after the arrival of our fanatical Rabbitos supporter, Warrant Officer Jamie Heron, who redecorates anything he can get his hands on in those colours. The rumours of the purchase of 60,000 litres of red and green paint and the erection of

scaffolding around the Russell Street depot have proven to be false.

Staff Sergeant Tom Chambers was with us for most of the year, although many probably thought he was a permanent fixture of the Company. Lieutenant Andrew Nesbitt joined us for a while, until work commitments forced his departure.

Mid year also saw the departure of Lieutenant Michael Donovan, due to pressures of management training in his civilian employment. Later in the year, Major Craig found his work and army commitments were clashing, forcing him to take leave from the army for a while. The incoming Commander, in time for Exercise Northern Explorer, was Major John Skinner.

5 Platoon

5 Pl continued to grow under the leadership of Lieutenant Lachlan Bromley and Sergeant Phil McIlroy. It was good to see some of the old faces return to Bacchus Marsh, as the Platoon numbers approached 28. Lieutenant Bromley bade the Platoon farewell at the end of the year, as he was going to work and study in Western Australia.

10 Platoon

The Lieutenant Ben Jessop led platoon from Geelong - sometimes known as 10 Pl - was administered by B Company and trained with us for some of the year until leaving in July to be fully administered by 4 Brigade.

Steyr Conversion Courses

This year B Company conducted and participated in a number of Steyr Conversion Courses - with the dry training at Ranger Barracks and Broodseinde Barracks, and the live firing at Puckapunyal and Stawell.

The courses were all well run and very successful, although by the end of each weekend, most of the participants had a bad case of "cocking hand". The results are that all members of B Company are now F88 Steyr qualified.

We also sent a group of instructors to assist the engineers of 10 Field Squadron, Ringwood, with their courses.

Later in the year we FINALLY got our allocation of Steyr rifles, which allowed for personal issue (kept in the armoury of course). This appears to have improved not only the shooting of the soldiers, by having the same weapon each time, but also the care of the weapons by their

"permanent owner".



nightmare, BUT it was good to be back home.

Move Into Refurbished Depot

May saw the return to Broodseinde Barracks. The tedious task of settling in, claiming offices, finding correct desks, papers and other equipment was a

Most people are now used to the position of the light and heating switches (the light switches were hidden behind the doors) but for some weeks afterwards, some people had been known to switch on the heater and sit in the dark for five minutes before realising.

A highlight of the return to Russell Street was certainly the reopening of the Percy Lay Club, which has been restructured slightly and is looking tremendous. Those who put the work in to reestablish the displays, etc are really a credit to the place.

At the end of November, some members of B Company got together to construct an "outdoor gymnasium". The equipment constructed includes climbing ropes, dip bars, sit up benches and a chin up beam. They have since been successfully used during some circuit training.

Percy Lay Club

The Company mess saw incredible changes.

A couple of Non Commissioned Officers departed climes after first turning the B Company Mess into something resembling the Raffles Hotel. Follow up work by the Training Warrant Officer completed the B Company indoor jungle warfare centre.

A farewell function gave the Mess its initiation and the resident budgerigar endured some vicious heckling from Private Heighway, who managed to drag the evening out into a 36 hour marathon (with an appropriate escort).

Attendances were boosted by a pool table and Lance Corporal Parker soon got a healthy competition happening. Now all that remains is to try and capture those elusive profits - we are sure our new President of the Mess, Dave Thornell, is equal to the task.

The Mess organised some great activities, one of the first being a trip to the Rugby Union State of Origin match.

Our blue suited members had to save Private Matijevic from the Maori Women's All Star Boxing Team and their blokes.

Needless to say, all returned to Ballarat with some stories to tell.

B Coy Has Just The Right Touch - Or Does It?

In an effort to encourage new and current members of B Company to mix socially, in a healthier environment than a seedy bar / brothel, Warrant Officer Heron and a few other enthused members of B Company decided to start a Touch Rugby team, representing the Battalion for the summer break.

To maximise our chances of not losing face to the public, we arrived to game one with a handful of disease / injury ridden veterans of the northern states, and copious amounts of green Mexicans who wandered around the paddock murmuring things like "Where are the goal posts?" and "Hope to hell they sell beer here."

We were then given an extensive course in rules and Touch etiquette spanning 31.5 seconds as we jogged out onto the field. Warrant Officer Heron and Corporal Martin then vigorously debated and constructed a "cunning and devious plan" for the green "wet behind the ears" reservists to carry out in an effort to spifily the hardened God-like athletes opposing us - we were told "If you see the ball come at you, hold on to it really well and run with it".

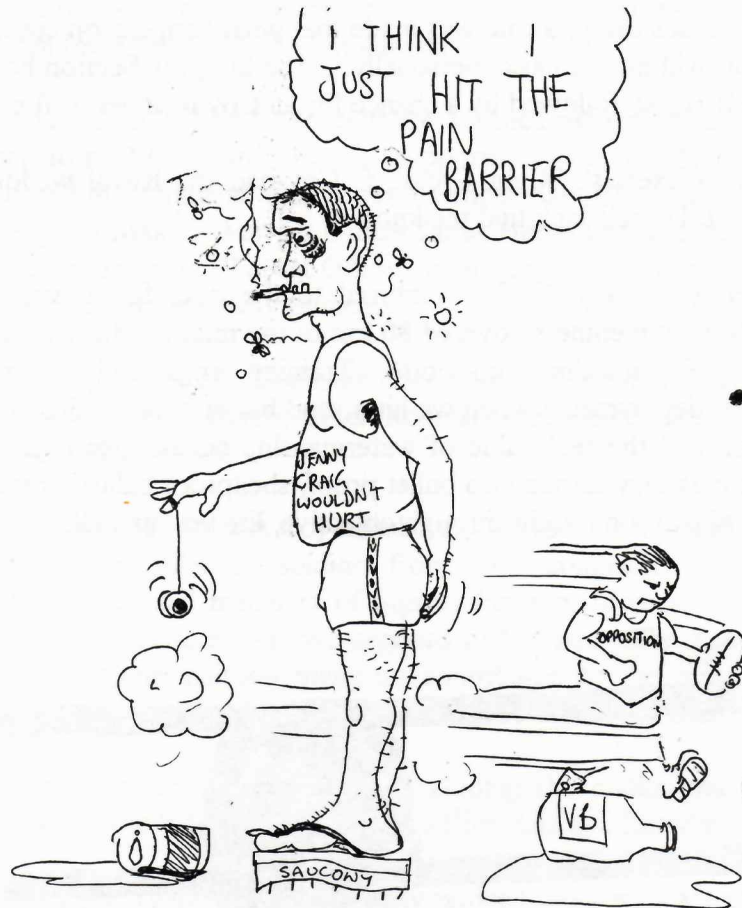
But in the face of tremendous odds, we came through carried on the backs of such menacing sporting legends as Hurricane Heron, Martin the Marauder, and Speedy Spike the Salvator - THEM 8, ARMY 2.

(Note: two of our fitter / healthier players deserted to the opposition and we had a problem with one of our players refusing to stop once he got the ball in an attempt to get away, depriving us of three tries.)

This story has a happy ending - in an 11th hour honour saving coup, the near demoralised militia closed ranks, travelled swiftly and straightly to the club rooms and within one petty hour, managed to consume several weeks' worth of health giving beer.

As I write this last few lines, we are up to week 4 and have improved four fold, made a good impression upon the rest of

the teams (regarding Army Reservists) and are enjoying every moment of it on and off the playing field.



"TOUCH RUGBY"

CHARLIE (C) COMPANY

C Coy began the year with back to basics with IMT training in February. In March, the Officers and SNCO's participated in adventure training at Portland. Whilst this was being conducted non Steyr qualified personnel participated in Steyr training.

ANZAC Day was the highlight of April, with ceremonies large and small by Mildura and Swan Hill members.

In May at the courses camp, a rule was made that what happens on course stays on course, of course P.S. You will have to ask personally. The Support Section boys strutted there stuff on Exercise 'Left Hook' followed by a chance for all Coy member to fire Steyr in September.

In competition to Exercise 'Right Cross', C Coy had the Royal wedding when PTE Helen Romeo and LCPL Darrell Jack tied the knot.

As the weather got sunny, C Coy ventured to the river for a weekend of watermanship training. In all, Coy members covered 80 km of the mighty Murray pausing occasionally for underwater snags (took a dip to cool off). Training progressed to some unexpected combat with assault boat deployments when we hit a sand bar at speed. From there we deployed for a platoon attack and the real value of watermanship accessories (our yellow life vest) soon became apparent as they turned into bullet proof, shellproof ballistic resistors. Spurred on by the noise most of platoon fought through objective, life vest and all.



EXERCISE NORTHERN EXPLORER

During 1994, the MLOC (Minimum Level of Operational Capability) elements of 8/7 RVR were gearing up for the major exercise for 1994: Exercise Northern Explorer.

In order to be considered as part of our MLOC Company Group, soldiers had to be IET (Initial Employment Training) qualified, trained and qualified in the Steyr, and have passed a Basic Fitness Assessment. As time wore on, the final composition of the Company changed a number of times due to these requirements, soldier availability, and the inevitable movement of some soldiers from town to town and even interstate.

The team which departed on 23 Oct 94 (except the advance party members) was ably led by Major John Skinner, from B Company. He was supported by Captain Alan Donovan (also of B Company) as Second in Command, and Warrant Officer Alan Blackshaw from A Company as the Company Sergeant Major. Warrant Officer Jamie Heron was attached to the Company as his normal position of Training Warrant Officer, until being removed later in the exercise to give training and guidance to the enemy elements.

1 Platoon was led by Lieutenant Pat Challis and Sergeant Phil McIlroy, 2 Platoon was led by Lieutenant Tony Watson and Sergeant Peter Kowski, Lieutenant Clinton Wallish and Sergeant Steve Forbes led 3 Platoon.

1 Platoon was formed primarily from A Coy members, 2 Pl from C Coy, and 3 Pl from B Coy, although some places were filled by soldiers from other companies where gaps existed. Company Headquarters included members of Signals Platoon, Medics from Administration Company and, for most of the exercise, two sections of Mortars. The Assault Pioneers and Direct Fire Support Weapons platoon members contributed to the creation of Company Headquarters, as well as being attached to the platoons for some of the exercise.

Of course there were also the support staff - including the cooks and drivers, and the Quartermaster staff who were led by Staff Sergeant's Bleasdale and Kerwin.

We arrived at RAAF Base Tindal and immediately noticed the significant change of climate from that of Ballarat. Many of those who had travelled on the advance party had participated in protecting the area from some bushfires on the outskirts of the area. The fires were still burning as we arrived, but were not approaching so were not a significant threat.

The heat was stifling and there was precious little shade other than that which the soldiers made themselves. A thermometer was set up in one area of shade and showed temperatures in the high forties every day. One visitor stayed only a short time on a day when we measured 49°C in the shade. (Out of the shade it was therefore mostly in the fifties - or so.)

By the second week, many were heard to comment how cool it felt, before discovering it was still at least 38° - but it heated up later. One of the warmer sites were the aromatherapy sauna cubicles (porta-loos) but at least you were never lonely with dozens of flies to keep you company.

Some interesting sidelines to the heat included that ration tins needed no cooking - they were hot even from within a big pack, and water from jerries was hot enough at times to be able to make coffee - although care was needed to avoid getting burned.

The liaison with Norforce proved very beneficial, and their hospitality in providing such things as occasional showers was most appreciated.

The soldiers, as always, performed their tasks most admirably, and were known by all elements in the area for their tenacity. They carried out the various tasks, which sometimes included frequent contact with civilians, taking heed of the Rules Of Engagement and the need for control, bringing credit to the reputation of 8/7 RVR.

Following are comments from some of the soldiers:

First day most of the men found it very hard to adjust to the heat and climate of N.T. As the exercise went on the men still went on. Even when they were tired and exhausted from the heat. (Private Brewer)

The animal life was one of the most amazing parts. Parrots, bearded dragons, snakes and Cpl Elliott's pets, the "Black Five" dingoes. Also on the VCP (Vehicle Check Point), the RAAF Police fire extinguisher raids and Hilux burnouts solved some of the boredom. Seeing Zed eat a goanna was also a platoon highlight, as were the "Big girls don't cry" renditions heard from Dobbo's section as they drove past us while we were at stand to! (Lance Corporal Hedges)

The section was always on the edge after Corporal Elliott's dream of the enemy attacking us. He jumped up in the middle of the night yelling "HALT - hands up!" and running around looking for the enemy that didn't exist. (Private Dell)

The administration prior to Ex NE was well organised and left everyone anticipating an exciting exercise. On arrival it was immediately obvious that personal fitness would play an important role. The heat really hit us, it was impossible to work during the middle of the day. (Lance Corporal Adam Parker)

COURSES CAMP 14-29 MAY

The Battalion conducted a number of courses to develop the skills of its soldiers during May of 1994. In all 101 students from the Battalion participated in seven (7) separate courses, as well as students from 5/6 RVR, MUR and MONUR.

SUBJECT 2 FOR CORPORAL

Staff

SI	Maj Wescombe
CSM	Sgt McIlroy
INSTRS	Sgt Anderson
	Sgt Forbes
	Sgt Dowell
	Sgt Kowski
	Lt Watson
	SSGT Gilson

Students

Pte Ouwinga	Pte Stringer
Pte Morton	Pte Pallante
Pte Dellar	Pte Farrell
Pte Haines	Pte Arundell
Pte Dell	Pte Jones
Pte Cernjavic	Pte Hunter
Pte Van Bruggen	Pte Simmons
Pte Berg	Pte Martin
Pte Wytkamp	Pte Kenter

The real stuff of infantry is the basis of this course, patrolling, attacks, ambushes, digging weapon pits and cold stand to in the morning.

"All of the above, and more", was the directing staff's motto for the course. This was duly provided and much learning took place at all levels.

Over the fortnight all the students had a lighter moment or two by which to remember the exercise, be it geographically embarrassed (lost) on patrol, out of ammunition at the critical moment of the assault, or losing your way back to your own weapon pit after dark. For the ones implicated, we will say no more.

SUBJECT 2 FOR SERGEANT

Staff

SI Maj Dempster
CSM WO2 Creelman
INSTRS WO2 Blackshaw
WO2 Pearse
WO2 Brand
SSGT Gilson

Students

Cpl Dobson Cpl Vivona
Cpl Lochhead Cpl Hand
Cpl Morley Cpl Trainor

The training within this course reflected the major step we may be soon to take as students, based on us passing, from leading 10 men to the management and possible leadership of 30.

Such a leap requires new rules and plans, its very different to being the section commander I am now. The training involved a mix of the stuffy classroom and the real classroom (outdoors), and introduced us to TEWTS (tactical exercises without troops) as a part of the tactical learning phase.

While being a section commander is all about developing and bonding a team, being platoon sergeant seems to be about making the administration, logistics and leadership happen to enable sections to do what they do unhindered. It sure is no easy street!

DIRECT FIRE SUPPORT WEAPONS

Staff

SI WO2 McInnes
CSM WO2 Wilhelm
INSTRS SGT Maddocks
 WO2 Griffin
 SSGT Kerwin

Students

Cpl Chatfield Pte Hanson
Pte Hall LCPL Bourke
Cpl Elliot Pte Cook
LCPL Parker Pte Wager
Pte Spielvogel Pte Matijevic
Pte Robinson Pte McMahan
Pte Broeckelman

The still night air was shattered by the violent sonic spasm emanating from the speaker of Parker's clock radio, as the participants in the Direct Fire Support Weapons course tumbled out into the chilly air always prevalent in the vicinity of Sunny Puckapunyal.

However, today the feeling in the barracks was different, instead of the feeling of slothfulness in face of another day of classes, the air was charged with excitement and anticipation, as Baldric and myself picked up our gun, with the apt description stencilled on its feed cover, and scampered outside to greet the rising sun with a chorus of groans as we were immediately detailed with the task of loading the ammo onto the 'Mog'.

It was then the enormity of the task struck us.

62,000 rounds. Struth!!

Our eyes widened at the mammoth undertaking we were about to embark upon.

The ride to the range was a pleasant one and as soon as we deployed and shoo away the cattle grazing contently in front of us, we commenced firing.

And fire we did!

Hours and hours of firing slowly took its toll on the guns, as firing pins broke, bolts clogged full of carbon and barrels flew off down range.

As night fell, the firing continued and the cold stormy night was scarred by red tracers flying with terminal precision across the gently curving plain.

Then suddenly the firing broke off, and the weary soldiers clambered into their fartars, to play out the day's firing in their dreams with the shots echoing in their ears, and the bitter smell of bullets fired clinging grimly to their cams.

SIGNALLER

Staff

SI Capt Dalley
CSM WO2 Courtney
 Sgt Moschetti
 Cpl Martin
 Pte Parker
 SSGT Bleasdale

Students

Pte K. Jockers Pte D. Jockers
Pte Hull Pte Stebbing
Pte Newman Pte Keirl
Pte White Pte Jack
Pte Warde Pte Sprague
Pte Vissers Pte McKay
Pte Shell Pte Spicer
Pte Lebkowski

"Contact, wait out", was the crackling sound on the radio.

We all waited eagerly, pencils sharp, pads open and ears alert to the next reports of the battle. Such is a signallers lot. The challenge to receive and relay, correctly and with haste, to the correct people, the messages recieved.

Over the two weeks we did this consistently with the range of equipment available, of course we did codes, everyone was so happy, and we did lots and lots and lots of radio procedure.

The road run was great fun though, and we got to really stretch the gear we had to its limits, you can do a lot with the simple gear we have.

PIONEER

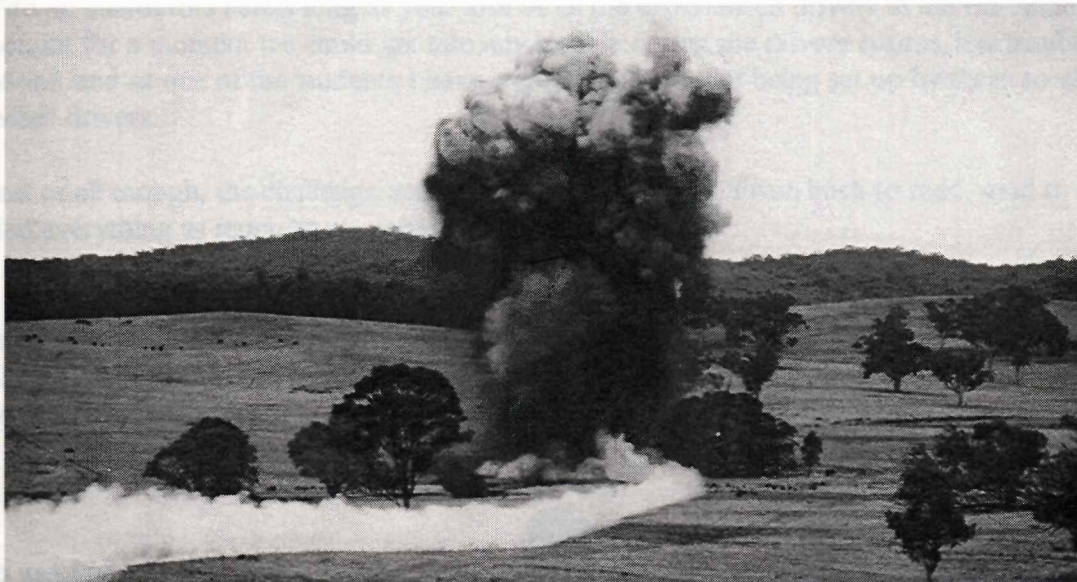
Staff

SI Maj Keen
CSM Sgt Ferguson
Capt Tyrell
Lt Challis
Sgt Morgan
Cpl Cassar
SSGT Bleasdale

Students

Pte Champion	Pte Brook
Pte Singleton	Pte Hudson
Cpl Zscheck	LCPL Davis
Pte McClure	Pte Payne
Pte Taylor	Pte Hutchins
Pte Schlaghecke	Lt Celm
Pte Saligari	Pte Peacock
Pte Heighway	Pte Franzone
Pte Fyffe	LCPL Rantall
Pte Haddon	

On the Assault Pioneer course 94, Ptes Heighway, Fyffe, Singleton and Franzone (Z) found a anew hobby to live for - blowing stuff up.



Their first test subject was a bridge built to perfection under strenuous circumstances a few months before. It went up in seconds.

As you can see, the destructive power of military explosives has to be respected. 365 kg of explosives was used and 2000m of det (detination) cord was used to set it off.



MORTAR

Staff

SI Maj Keen
CSM WO2 Heron
Sgt Hirst
Cpl Brunt
Sgt Williams
Cpl Burnett
SSGT Kerwin

Students

Pte Donnelly
Cpl Redmond
Pte Rae
Pte Dell
Pte Robson
Cpl Pascoe
Cpl Reyne

Lcpl Butcher
Pte Annett
Pte Dunstan
Pte Spencer
Lcpl Foster
Pte Mooney

To sum up the Mortar course would be to say, "what we didn't shoot, wasn't worth shooting anyway". After two solid weeks of drills, target registration, manpacking and bedding in we got to make our work pay off.



And pay off it did with a shoot during the day with High Explosive and on into the night with Illumination rounds.

They might be heavy and hard to cart

on your back, but to fire them is to make it all worthwhile.

DRIVER

Staff

SI Capt Skinner
CSM Sgt Houston
Cpl Smith
Lcpl Laity
Lcpl Scott
Cpl Cannane
Pte Phillips
Pte Rawlings
Pte Bailey
Pte Watson
Pte Matherson
SSGT Chambers

Students

Pte Lord	Pte Streader
Pte Mooney	Pte Brewer
Pte Flannery	Pte Brown
Pte Brown	Lcpl Crak
Pte Harrison	Pte Barker
Pte Price	Pte Ritchie
Cpl Werry	Cpl Stewart
Pte Giddings	Pte King

With an instructors list as long as your arm of all the experienced drivers in the Battalion, no one thought for a moment we could get into any trouble during the drivers course, but trouble we did indeed, and as one of the students I have a sneaking feeling of being set up by these so claimed "wise" drivers.

Best of all though, the challenge and the hard work was fun. From bush to road, mud to dust we tried everything as much as we could and enjoyed it.

Thanks (ha, ha) to Sergeant Houston for planning the road run, it wasn't as bad in hindsight as we told you at the time, and we now have a new generation of danger monkeys at the wheel of the Battalion, look out for us.



SPECIALISED TRAINING

Camaraderie is catching

As part of the Battalion's training program in 1994, training for Officers for Senior and Junior Non-Commissioned Officers was conducted throughout the year. This consisted of a range of tactical, adventure training and planning activities.

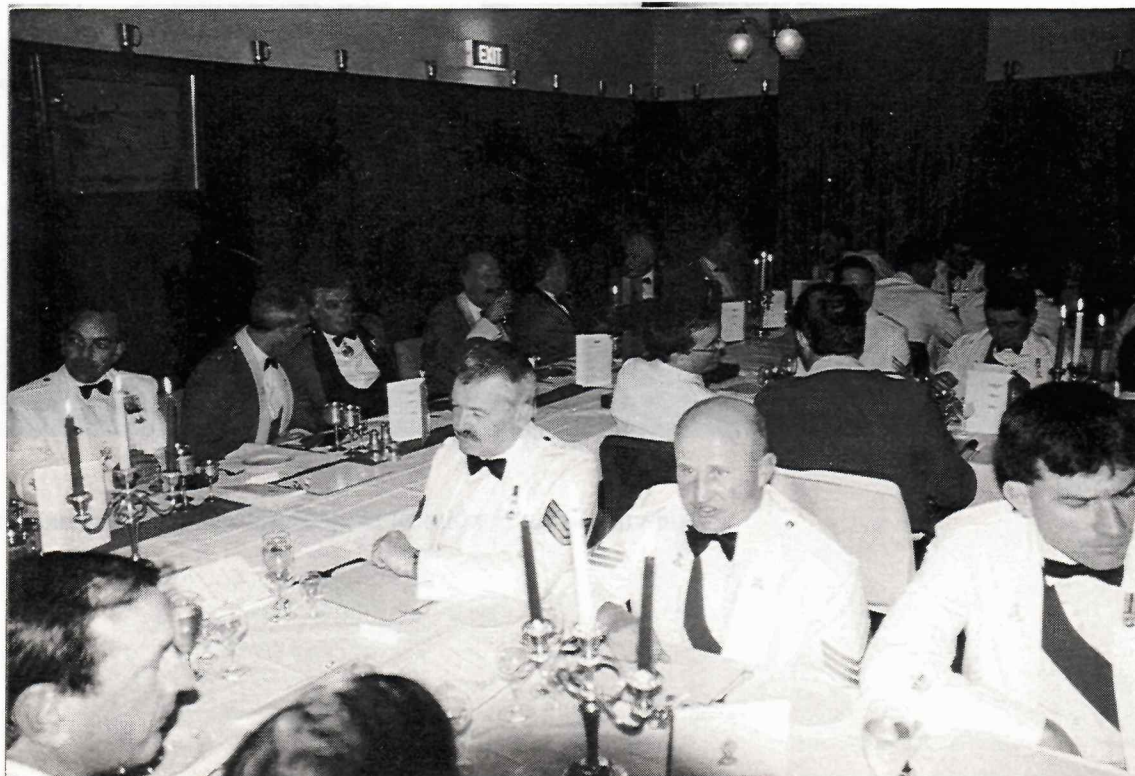


The development of the knowledge and leadership skills within this group is vital to the Battalion's function, and such activities will continue throughout 1995.

There is also a lighter side to this being the interface provided outside the daylight (work) hours of the Battalion. Formal and Social functions

within the Battalion's messes were a regular and entertaining addition to the training calendar.

A fitting example would be the Star Trek night in the Officers Mess, where one of these once trusted individuals stole the "Orb of Knowledge". The ensuing hunt for the criminals turned up a number of previously hidden facts as to the Officers and their secret identities. As for the Orb, some say it was telepathically transported in the direction of the Orderly Room, but much debate still exists.



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

THE 8/7 RVR RANGER

EXERCISE LEFT HOOK - GOES OFF WITH A BANG

Exercise Left Hook proved to be a great success for soldiers of 8/7 RVR supported by 5/6 RVR mortars and LSF Units on the weekend of 29 - 31 July.

The peace and quiet of sunny Camp Puckapunyal was devastated as the Mortar Platoon fired 600 rounds into the area.

At the same time the DFSW Platoon were busy with Carl Gustav practices.

Saturday afternoon's tranquility was shattered as the Assault Pioneers, who had worked so hard during Camp to build an impressive bridge, sent it into orbit with the assistance of a small amount of explosives.

The weekend was excellent training and, it was also bloody good fun



Assault Pioneers were blowing their own trumpet when their bridge went into orbit.

FROM THE BOSS !

The year so far has been very successful and full of the sort of "real" activities that make soldiering enjoyable.

I have noticed a steady increase in the skill levels that are being attained and sense a strong Unit and Sub Unit identity developing.

Whilst we have achieved many excellent things this year we now have to concentrate on the task of providing the best MLOC Company for Exercise Northern Explorer. It is essential that all soldiers nominated for this Exercise are fit and capable of performing to the high standards they have already set.

Exercise Left Hook was an example of the solid training provided for soldiers of the Battalion and enabled you to demonstrate that you had remembered the lessons from the Courses Camp.

The next major activity is Exercise Right Cross which will enable all soldiers to practise and expand the shooting skills they have developed.

The rest of 1994 will offer new and exciting challenges for the Battalion. I urge you all to make the most of the training activities offered to you.

The Battalion celebrates its Birthday on the 9th of August.

This year marks 136 years of continuous service in the Ballarat area.

AROUND THE COMPANY'S

B

Company .

Arrivals and departures

The year For B Coy started at Ranger Barracks (as Broodseinde Barracks was undergoing refurbishment) with a number of new staff. OC Major Martin Craig quickly established the layout of the Company and started preparing the composition of the MLOC Company, while Captain Alan Donovan found, for a couple of months that he was the Orderly Room.

Corporal Andrew McCallum and Pte Russell Schmidt were welcome additions when they came on strength.

It has been suggested that the Company (who said the Battalion?) colours might be changed to green and red after the arrival of our fanatical Rabbitos supporter, WO2 Jamie Heron, who re-decorates anything he can get his hands on in those colours. The rumours of the purchase of 60,000 litres of red and green paint and the erection of scaffolding around the Russell Street Depot have proven to be false.

SSGT Tom Chambers has been with us for most of the year, although many probably thought he was a permanent fixture of the Company. Lt Andrew Nesbitt joined us for a while, until work commitments forced his departure.

10 PI

The Lt Ben Jessop led platoon from Geelong - sometimes known as 10 PI - was administered by B Coy and trained with us for some of the year until leaving in July to be fully administered by 4 Bde.

5PI

5 PI continues to grow under the leadership of Lt Lachlan Bromley and Sgt Phil McIlroy. Good to see some old faces return to the Platoon.

B Coy Cont.

Three Steyr Conversion Courses.

This year B Coy have conducted and participated in three Steyr Conversion Courses - the first two at Ranger Barracks and Puckapunyal, and the third at Broodseinde Barracks and Stawell.

The Courses were all well run and very successful, although by the end of each weekend most of the participants had a bad case of "cocking hand". The results are that all those who were members of B Coy (except one) are now Steyr qualified.

We also sent a group of instructors to assist engineers of 10 Fd Sqn, Ringwood with their Courses.

Move Into Re-furbished Depot.

May saw the return to Broodseinde Barracks. The tedious task of settling in, claiming offices, finding correct desks, papers and other equipment was a nightmare, BUT it was good to be back home.

Most people are now used to the position of the light and heating switches (the light switches being hidden behind the doors) but some have been known to switch on the heater and sit in the dark for five minutes before realising.

A highlight of the return to Russell Street was certainly the re-opening of the Percy Lay Club, which has been restructured slightly and is looking tremendous. Those who put the work in to re-establish the displays, etc are really a credit to the place.

**MLOC STANDS
FOR :
MINIMUM
LEVEL OF
OPERATIONAL
CAPABILITY**

C Company completed Steyr Conversion Training in conjunction with A Company during August at the Swan Hill Depot and the Yatpool Rifle Range.

All who attended completed the CFT through the sandhills leading back to Mildura.

Battalion Birthday.

The Battalion's 136th birthday was celebrated with a buffet dinner, to which ex-members of the Unit, RSL and 7th Battalion representatives were invited. A great night of reminiscing was had by all of the 55 guests.

Wedding Bells

All members of C Company and the Battalion wish Pte Romeo and LCpl Jack all the best for their future together. The happy couple march down the aisle on 17th August 94.

Vietnam Veteran's Day.

9 Platoon (Swan Hill) will provide a Cenotaph Guard for the Commemorative Service to be held on behalf of the Swan Hill and District Branch of the Vietnam Veterans on the 18th August.

Christmas Raffle.

The Sergeant's Mess Christmas Raffle is in full swing with a wide range of prizes donated by many local business houses. Tickets are \$1.00 and are available from Mildura Depot.

If you live out of the area and want tickets contact HQ C Coy.

Support Company has had a very busy and successful couple of months. During this time most members have qualified in their specialist trades and are now ready to fulfill the Battalion's requirements for the training year.

Spt Coy Cont

DFSW

DFSW Platoon have completed their course requirements and are now looking forward to the conversion to the GSMG MAG 58 in the extended range role.

Exercise Left Hook.

The Exercise allowed ASLT PNR PL Comd, 2Lt Richard Celm to apply skills taught during the Courses Camp. With a wide variety of explosives set under the VERY watchful eye of Capt Tyrrell, the exercise was a real blast. With over 350 kgs of explosives it should have been.

The same weekend saw Mortar Platoon operate with six tubes for the first time in several years, giving them the chance to put on the ground what the CO would have in battle. MOR PL Comd, LT Laidlaw was told he had developed 'an excellent plan' according to Range Control. IT JUST GOES TO SHOW THERE IS A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING.

Sgt Moschetti also managed to run an FSCC for a combined shoot (Mortar, DFSW and Pioneer) with only one soldier, Pte Whitehead, who had barely six months experience. A good effort by both, BUT it could have been improved if they learnt how to make the BN 2IC a decent cup of coffee.

Promotions

Following the Range Shoot on April 31-May 1st, Corporals Williams and Hirst were promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Congratulations and well done. **As a reward Sgt Hirst** has been designated as Mr Vice for the Combined Officer/SNCO Regimental Dinner. Don't think that you have been left out Sgt Williams - there will be further dinners.

**CSM Spt Coy -
WO2 Hope has
recently celebrated
another
Anniversary.**

**That takes the tally
to ??????**

Congratulations

spt coy cont.

Rifle Range

It appears that the Warrnambool Rifle Range is to close. Support Company has used this small but valuable asset located only minutes from Tel-el-Eisa Barracks, for some time and its closure will be a sad lose. No further activities have been planned for this range by Support Company before its closure next year.

It has been finally confirmed that SSGT Bleasedale's wife is NOT Lulu ! Or is it ?

Mess Presentation.

On Tuesday 26th July 94, Mr Jack Atkinson M.C., patron of the Spt Coy OR's Mess, presented a collection of books to the history room. The large collection of books and magazines were gathered from ex-servicemen and their families in the Warrnambool area.

The presentation was made by Mr. Atkinson, SGT Doug Alford (26 Motor Regt) and Mr. Charles Irving, before a parade of the troops.

RSM cont.

b. Another example of a shortfall is that LWC do not qualify personnel as OIC's on Subj 1 for SGT (ARA). RMC graduates no longer qualify to conduct field firing up to PL level - and so the list goes on!

c. To avoid confusion within the Army, Infantry Centre is writing an Implementing Instruction that will detail what follow on action has to occur as a result of the problems identified. This eventually will go to all units.

d. Meanwhile, Units should conduct a 100% audit of their personnel as per the requirement laid down in MLW 9-2, Chap1, Para 18. Care should be taken when conducting the audit as some units have already identified up to 14 different course reports each with varying degrees of range qualifications.

3. The need to get on with training ie range practices, field firing etc as currently structured in your training programmes is paramount. The need to have only those personnel who are fully qualified conduct practices etc goes without saying. The Implementing Instruction should address the shortfalls/problems already identified, however, care must be taken that we do have enough personnel qualified to meet training commitments and hence the need to conduct a thorough 100% audit.

4. I'm only too happy to address any queries you may have in relation to the Pam and the implications of it's implementation. The Pam impacts on all Units and Corps c-read and understand what the new requirements are and what action you have to take to effectively go about your training requirements.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT RANGER NEWSLETTER IS THE 20TH SEPTEMBER 1994.

ALL COMPANIES ARE TO ENSURE THAT THEIR ARTICLES ARE WITH MAJOR GALE BY THIS DATE.

No news items were submitted by A Coy or Admin Coy

T he RSM has provided the following for your information:

IMPLEMENTATION OF MLW, VOL 9, PAM 2 RANGE REGULATIONS

From the RAINF Conference 22-24 July.

1. As you are aware MLW 9-2 came into effect as at 1 Jul 94 and with it came some significant changes especially in Range qualifications.
2. I attended the Conference above to discuss the implementation of the new Pam and the problems already identified as a result of the changes in comparison with the previous Pam 8-1.
3. The following information is provided for your information and action where necessary:
 - a. The right for CO's to authorize personnel as per MLW 8-1 no longer exists. Units conducting audits of their personnel as per the requirement of MLW 9-2, Chap1, Para 18 have identified some significant shortfalls between those personnel they thought were qualified and indeed those who actually were not.