

The Ranger 2005

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



2005: RCB68 Returns and FPCG Training Commences

Honorary Colonel

Mr John Landy AC, MBE
The Governor of Victoria

Regimental Colonel

Col P. A. Riley AM, RFD

Allied Regiments

The Staffordshire Regiment
(The Prince of Wales's)
The Royal Regiment of Canada

Commanding Officer

Lt Col R. J. Marsh RFD

Regimental Sergeant Major

WO1 S. A. O'Connor

Allied Associations

The associations of then 7th Battalion
incorporating:

The 7th Battalion AIF
The 7th Battalion AIF (1939-1945)
The 2/7th Australian Infantry Battalion
The 7th Battalion, RAR

The 8th Battalion (Ballarat) Association
The 8th Battalion (Ararat) Association
The 8th/7th Battalion – 2 RVR Association



RANGER 2005

Commanding Officer

"The three main components of leadership: mastery of the subject matter, ability convincingly to articulate the particular course of action required and a fervent belief in its correctness."

Sir Ninian Stephen, 2005

In November last year I received a call telling me I was to be CO of 8/7 RVR and that the posting was effective in two weeks! As a Victorian born and bred and an infantryman with 25 years in the Reserve in Victoria there is no greater privilege. I have served in most Victorian Units including 5/6 RVR, MUR, MonUR (as CO), RTC and I was the last OC of Deakin University Company and the first OC of A Coy 8/7 RVR when it transferred in 1997. I was pleased to get the call and continue to be honoured to command 8/7 RVR.

The year began with a trip to RCB68 (Rifle Company Butterworth) accompanied by the RSM of 5/6RVR. The whirlwind trip saw us observe half the Company in Singapore conducting Fighting In Built Up Areas training and visit the other half working on OP SUMATRA ASSIST in Butterworth. Much has been said about the extraordinary efforts of RCB68 in all aspects of the deployment and I was simply pleased that the members performed as we knew them capable of doing and their actions reflected well on the battalion, brigade and the Army. It has set the benchmark for future deployments.

The first few months of the year witnessed many personnel changes. We welcomed in a new RSM – WO1 Sean O'Connor and OPSO – Maj Michael Brown. Both of who were from Queensland and couldn't get a polar fleece jacket quickly enough. We also had an exodus of Company Commanders when the offer of Continuous Full Time Service was made. Maj Alex Gabriel went to 4/19 PWLH as QM, Maj Cliff Gowers to ARTC (Bandiana) as SO1 Ops and Maj John Murphy to 4BDE as SO2 SED. This created a number of Sub-Unit Command appointments for our senior Captains. In addition Maj Peter George left for RTC and was replaced by Maj Peter Worsteling as OC Admin Coy.

The battalion has conducted two field exercises this year since RCB returned. C Coy conducted EX FINNISTERRES, a nine day range and field exercise, in May which concentrated on individual, section and platoon level skills. A Coy supported by BHQ, SPT and ADMIN Coys conducted EX YPRES in October, which was a nine-day Force Protection Company Group (FPCG) exercise, which was the first time the battalion had operated in this role. Both of these exercises have improved our individual and collective skills and have focused our training for the future. In addition, the battalion conducted numerous training courses from the Advanced Soldier Course, through to Module 1 and Module 2 of Infantry IET to DFSW courses. These courses represent a significant proportion of Bde sponsored courses and are open to all units of the Bde and Div. They are a credit to the instructors and support staff of the battalion.

8/7 RVR has also hit a purple patch with individual achievements. Pte Rosewarne received the Student of Merit for her Recruit Course, Sgt Linnane received the Student of Merit for his Quartermasters Course, Cpl Linane receives the RAOOC JNCO of the year Regional and National awards and Lt Strack received the Prince of Wales Award. In addition there were numerous long service medals, a couple of commissions and at least a dozen promotions.

The battalion provides the public face of defence in Regional Victoria. It supports Defence Force recruiting Activities in the major towns and appears in every regional newspaper. It sponsors 14 Regional Cadet Units with some 400 cadets in all. We provide work for secondary students on work experience and speak at careers nights. The battalion provided some 35 Catafalque Parties on ANZAC Day and its preceding days with speeches given at six dawn services. A major undertaking was the provision of a guard and support to the VP Day celebrations in Mildura. These activities and other incidental requests for support make us an integral and well regarded part of the community we live and work in.

The battalion has provided support to Army operations and courses. We have provided soldiers for 5/6 RVR, RMC and the Infantry Centre field exercises as enemy. The battalion has provided specialist instructors to courses and cooks to the Army Ski Team and adventure training activities. We currently have five members on OP RELEX patrolling the northern waters of Australia with the Navy and our battalion Nursing Officer has just returned from Iraq. The battalion provided a multi-disciplined section to the Bde Mil-skills competition and finished a creditable second. Approximately 30 members of the battalion are members of 4 Bde's High Readiness Reserve and have been conducting a series of training activities with the Search Task Group in preparation for OPERATION ACOLYTE (the Commonwealth Games) in March next year.

In the second half of 2005 all of the 2nd Division were subject to an Establishment Review and in September it was 4 Bde's turn. The purpose of an establishment review is to determine if the unit structure meets the roles and tasks that it is to provide and to determine if the structure is achievable given recruiting history and the availability of suitably qualified personnel to fill positions. The outcome for 8/7 RVR was a new battalion structure with a BHQ (incl Signals Pl and a Training Team) Admin Company and three Rifle Companies (each with Support Company elements embedded). In authorised strength of the battalion increased to 356 of which 28 positions are Regular Army. It was a good outcome, which will ensure that the Battalion is structured to provide FPCG capability for the foreseeable future.

On the social side the battalion hosted many enjoyable dinners and occasions. Early in the year we held a Father (or Son) night for the Officers Mess where members bought along their Fathers to enjoy a formal dinner. In the middle of the year we the Regimental Dinner which was enjoyed by all and later had a former officers dinner which was attended by nine former COs. In late October we had the Mixed Dining in Night and the ubiquitous Melbourne Cup Function. By the time you read this we will have had our Christmas function and farewells. It is of note that we will be farewelling the Adjt – Capt Stuart Purves, the Chief Clerk – WO2 Richard Doorne, the RQMS – WO2 Griggs and most memorably Maj Doug Laidlaw OC A Coy & OC RCB68. Doug has been with the battalion on and off for 15 years and I expect he will return in the near future.

It has been a busy and rewarding year for all in the battalion and everyone can be proud of what we have achieved. I look forward to an equally busy first three months of next year with support to the Commonwealth Games and then settling down to Sub-unit Training leading up to a Bde FPCG exercise in the later half of next year. I wish all the best to those members who are leaving us and trust that you look back on your time at 8/7 RVR with a wry smile and a sense of pride. Finally, I wish all our family and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

LTCOL Robert Marsh, RFD CO

RSM: Pacestick's Ponderings

Again another year has come and gone and we wonder where the hell it went!

We farewell some of the old stalwarts of the battalion from the out stations, such as Dave McHenry (1 RAR), Dave Harding (6 RAR) and Sean Connelley (overseas on to bigger and better things?). From Ballarat we farewell the ADJT, off to good old Pucka. The CC and the RQ, never a more dynamic duo were those pair, both off to the West to play with the SASR, should be a lot of fun for them (SAS I mean). We are also losing that very interesting individual who we all know and love as 'Chucky' who is off to 6 RAR where I have no doubt he will leave a fairly significant mark.

I would also like this opportunity to congratulate all those in the battalion who have achieved promotion or been given recognition for their service by receiving awards this year; it was well deserved for all of you.

Some of the highlights for me this year have been the courses period and the various military skills competitions that we have conducted (congratulations to CPL Logan and his crew) or been involved with (thanks from me to CPL McKinley and his crew for their efforts in the Bde Mil skills). Our people are strong and committed individuals who when they can get to activities they do. Troops, keep up the good work and in the New Year convince your bosses that you need to get away and do more 'Army Training'.

I would like to offer a big welcome into the battalion to all those new soldiers that have come through the system this year and hope you find all that you want out of your Army family. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year and expect that it will be in the flesh not in a 'body bag'. Drive safe if you are travelling and take it easy on the 'turps' over Christmas. Spend some quality time with your families.

PACESTICK (WO1 O'Connor)

ADJUTANT (S1 Cell)

There were few changes in the manning of the S1 (Personnel) Cell this year. The Adjutant, Capt Stuart Purves, and the Chief Clerk, WO2 Richard Doorne remained on at the helm of the cell; with Cpls Scott Sporn and Troy Best remaining in the Orderly Room but swapping jobs, with Scott becoming the Personnel Clerk and Troy becoming the Movements Clerk. The change was designed to give the members a wider scope of experience and challenge them in new areas. Both have risen to the challenge. Troy has also been responsible for IT in the battalion, filling the very big shoes of Sgt Colin Taylor.

Cpl Garry Wilford arrived to replace Cpl Michelle Haiser as the Unit Pay Rep and fitted in extremely well. Garry is very ably helped in the Pay Cell by a GRes arrival, Sgt Michelle Parry (returning to the fold), and Pte Kerry Saffron who has remained with the battalion and continues to develop her skills in pay and finance.

We congratulate Alison Wait on her promotion to Sgt this year. Before this could occur we had to find a position in the Bde to promote her into as the Sgt position in her trade in the battalion was already filled. Luckily 4 CSSB had a place and we were able to conduct this long overdue promotion. Alison has continued to provide sterling service as the battalion's Discharge Clerk as well as a Sgt Cook.

WO2 Julie Farrer-Boatman continued to provide assistance across a broad range of areas in the Orderly Room with her wealth of experience. She has invested a huge amount of effort into the re-write of Standing Orders. Late in the year however, we lost her as she moved to take over as the CSM of Admin Coy. Our loss is definitely their gain.

Our venerable APS Receptionist, Deanne Saunderson, soldiered into her 15th year at the battalion, once again providing another year of excellent service. There can be no doubt that she continues to play a big part in the smooth running of the Orderly Room, and her red face after her regular morning power walks is certainly a welcome sight to see.

The major focus of the S1 Cell in 2005 has been the Establishment Review. This is a review conducted every three to five years in order to align the manning and adjust the equipment allocation of all units across the Army with their changing foci, tasks and roles. The review undertaken this year will come into effect on Jan 1, 2007, although the battalion is likely to be able to make many of the changes prior to this date.

The 2005 Establishment Review saw the removal of five of the Battalion's ARA staff from our Authorised Establishment, but in most cases these were positions that hadn't been filled in many years due to manning shortages across the Army.

Another major change will be the removal of D Coy, the Battalion's Recruiting Coy. Recruiting will become an all-coy responsibility, rather than the responsibility of a dedicated cell. The manning of D Coy will be spread across the battalion. Another change will be the re-rolling of B Coy. B Coy has served as an organisation to manage our new recruits through their recruit training at Kapooka and then their Corps specific training before handing the soldiers on to the other two rifle coys. From 2007, B Coy will become the Battalion's third rifle coy with the management of soldiers from recruit through to fully trained being spread across the companies, depending on the parade location of the member.

Support Coy will also disappear in 2007 but the battalion will maintain the specialist skills with the support platoons of Recon and the newly re-raised Pioneer Platoons being embedded into the rifle companies and the DFSW elements being forming the fourth 'weapons' sections of each of the rifle platoons.

With the year drawing to a close the Adjutant and Chief Clerk will be saying good bye to the battalion. The Adjutant is moving just up the road to Puckapunyal to become an instructor in Armoured Personnel Carriers at the School of Armour, and the Chief Clerk heading back west to SASR.

The Chief's Final Words: To all that I have either worked with or assisted in their employment, I bid you a fond farewell. It has been a pleasure to assist and help in the continued fight against terrorism and in the defence of Australia. I know that you are the last resort, in a reserve unit, but at least you will be there to finish the final fight, once the invaders take hold in Ballarat and regional Victoria. But seriously, it has been enjoyable. I wish you all a very merry Christmas and all the best for 2006. Hopefully the 2006 Commonwealth Games will go off without incident. Good luck with your futures, whether in the Defence Force or not. Cheers!

P.S. (my final thought) If you can't pass a BFA, your not trying hard enough.

Movements

The year that was 2005 as seen by movements.

The year 2005 came. Some people got posted in and some got posted out. Some members attended courses and passed. Some others never did any courses. There was some leave and other stuff happened! Then there was an exercise, which everyone went on except Sgt Wait and Cpls Sporn and Wilford. Then at the end of the year some members that didn't get posted at the end of 2004 got promoted, posted and left. Then the year ended as quickly as it started. THE END.

XO

Another year over and another year closer to the (theoretical?) retirement age. The year has flown for me, aided by two months on leave overseas, and on return from overseas I managed to get an extra 15 hours per week at work. Busy, busy!

The year commenced with the welcoming home of RCB68 members and presentation of awards at Maygar Barracks. Eleven days at the Avalon Airshow quickly passed and before we knew it Easter had come and gone and it was on to ANZAC Day. After 4 years of ANZAC Day speeches I found myself free of commitments and took the train to Melbourne to watch my first ANZAC Day Parade since 1999 when my son, an ARA Captain in the Signals Corps, marched with the School of Signals. I met up with members of several battalion associations including the 7th and 8th Battalion Associations. Before I knew it I was called in to lead the RVR Association group. Their numbers were small as many were working as Parade Marshals. It is a long march from Collins Street to the Shrine, but it is a great feeling being cheered on by so many happy people. I saw the remainder of the 4th Brigade march along Swanston Street. It was quite an impressive sight. It is a pity that we have so many local commitments that it prevents us from showing them all how it is done!

With the onset of winter it was time to head north, way north, Europe in fact. One of our allied regiments, The Staffordshire Regiment, was due to be presented with new Colours in July as a part of their 300th Birthday Celebrations. So I decided that if you are going overseas you might as well have something big to go and see. Unfortunately the Staffs were in Iraq when their Colours were to be presented and so it has been postponed until next year. However, they were still having a 300th Birthday Luncheon, so my wife Kaye and I attended the luncheon at Keele Hall at the Keele University. Over 200 people, including Prince Andrew, The Duke of York, who is the Colonel in Chief of the Staffordshire Regiment, attended the luncheon. Unfortunately, not being a past Colonel of the Regiment, this mere colonial did not get introduced to the Duke, however I can now say that I lunched with the Duke of York!

Back home and into the reserve work again along with that extra 15 hours per week. It did not prevent me from attending, along with over 110 other battalion members, Ex Ypres at Graytown/Puckapunyal. A great exercise, which set the tone for the next few years of realistic tasking for the reserve. I look forward to participating in the big one next year.

With the training year drawing to a close, I was able to participate in the Remembrance Day Services in Ballarat and watched the Catafalque Party under LCpl Fitton go through its well drilled paces, and on the same day attend the Ballarat Book Launch of Ron Austin's latest book, Gallipoli Encyclopedia. Battalion members will remember that Ron wrote both the histories of the 7th and 8th Battalions from WW1. As ever, this book is well researched and, for the interest Ballarat members,

includes biographies of 19 men who have a connection with Ballarat. The book is available from the Museum Shop and Regimental Funds.

Overall this year I managed, with the help of the Adjutant being away on course, etc to clock up almost a hundred days undertaking useful activities for the battalion. I look forward to another fruitful year next year, which brings the battalion one year closer to that magical 150th year in 2008.



Left: XO 8/7 RVR Major Neil Leckie (Right) presents a copy of Pte McLaren's poster to the Colonel of the Regiment Colonel Jim Tanner (centre) and the Regimental Secretary Major Jim Massey (left).
Right: The Staffords Welcoming Committee

OPS

Ops Cell

The battalion had another busy year conducting numerous training activities, as well as supporting other units and training organisations. As will be seen, 8/7 RVR has a relatively high tempo for a regionally based reserve unit. This article highlights the tasks that are coordinated in the Ops Cell.

The battalion's primary role is to produce capability. The Ops Cell is accountable for resources used. It is expected that the battalion produce the best capability possible for the resources allocated. Accountability for resources used is an important and ongoing task for the Ops Cell. Fortunately, the unit is well equipped and resourced to achieve allocated tasks.

The importance of the army reserve continues to be highlighted. There are currently five personnel on Operation RELEX. Recently, Capt Kayelene Baird, our Nursing Officer, returned from six months support to a US hospital in Iraq. Many personnel will also be involved in OP ACOLYTE, the ADF support to the Commonwealth Games, in February and March next year. For personnel selected for operational service, there are many tasks to be completed before deployment, for example, a full course of inoculations, advice to NWCC, FTS applications, advice to employers etc.

To appreciate the number of activities that need to be coordinated, a snapshot will be provided. This will give some people perspective of how busy the unit is at times.

The RRF training tempo has increased for OP ACOLYTE. The following external units and organisations were supported by 8/7 RVR this year:

ACTIVITY and LOCATION	Month	Personnel
MUR (Puckapunyal)	Jan	One Section
School of Infantry (Singleton)	Aug	One Section
RMC (Puckapunyal)	Mar	WO2 A Osmond
SCMA (Fort Queenscliff) Beat the Retreat	Mar	One Coy
Avalon Airshow 4 BDE HQ	Mar	HQ elm and a PL
OP RELEX	Oct – Feb	5 Personnel
Various Catering Spt tasks		SGT Ivey
SAFA and SOA Reviews (Sydney and Canberra)	Sep and Oct	WO2 R Doorne Chief Clerk
School of Armour (Puckapunyal) Adventure Trg	Jul and Oct	WO2 Baulch
School of Armour (Puckapunyal)	Sep	CAPT S Purves
Army Ski Team	Jul	SGT A Wait
AMTG (Darwin) FARSI Language	Oct	CPL Lakey
4 RAR (Commando) (Bendigo)	Oct	PTE Sonogan
RMC Duntroon (Townsville)	Nov	WO1 S O'Connor
5/6 RVR Section (Tallaroak)	May	A Coy section
CTC (Butterworth)	Nov	WO2 S Merchant

Courses

The following courses were run by 8/7 RVR during the year:

Course	Month	Units Participating
Infantry MOD 1 IET	Feb	5/6 RVR, 8/7 RVR, 1CDO, 12/40 RTR, 11/28 RWAR
Infantry MOD 1 IET	Jun	4/3 RNSWR, 5/6 RVR, 8/7 RVR, MUR, 12/40 RTR, 11/28 RWAR
Infantry MOD 2 IET	Jun	5/6 RVR, 8/7 RVR, 1CDO, 12/40 RTR, 11/28 RWAR
Infantry MOD 2	Nov	5/6 RVR, 8/7 RVR, 1CDO, 12/40 RTR, 11/28 RWAR
IET Gap Training (ASC)	Aug	8/7 RVR, MUR
IET Gap Training (ASC)	Sep	5/6 RVR, 8/7 RVR, MUR
DFSW Course	Jun	1/19 RNSWR, 5/6 RVR, 8/7 RVR
GSMG Mag 58 Qualification	Nov	8/7 RVR

There were many personnel in the unit who undertook a variety of courses in addition to trade courses. There are approximately eight personnel in any given month on trade, promotion or other courses. The battalion also aims to have all trade testing officers Cert IV qualified as a Workplace Assessor.

It is important that all soldiers who have aspirations of being junior leaders become qualified in the GSMG before doing SIOS (Supervisor Infantry Operations – Section) Course. So, when the GSMG course is offered, do it.

FPCG Training

8/7 RVR is responsible for providing a CHQ and two rifle platoons as its contribution toward the 4 Bde Force Protection Company Group (FPCG). The continuous training activities this year were focussed on likely tasks to be undertaken as part of force protection operations. The first nine-day activity of the year took place at Puckapunyal with Force Protection Company Training in May.

The battalion trained at Graytown, north of Puckapunyal, during the period 8-16 Oct. The exercise was based on the protection of a logistics organisation in the overseas country of Victia. Victia was ravaged with a natural disaster and increasing belligerence from its neighbour Musoria. The fighting 8th /7th proved itself well on this exercise. The battalion deployed to Bendigo as the staging areas, then to Redcastle State Forest for lead up training on Sat and Sun. The FPC then moved to Graytown where it took up its duties in protecting a logistics operation. Highlights included a visit by the President of Victia and other dignitaries. The FPCG also undertook a company attack and undertook activities with 4/19 POWLH in their APCs. On completion of the exercise, the 4 CSSB Bath Unit provided a welcome morale booster. I would like to publicly thank all the personnel who made this exercise a success. There were 114 personnel who attended EX Ypres either in part or for all of the exercise.

B Coy conducted range practices to ensure that all soldiers all fully qualified in the infantry trade. Other activities included all-arms call for fire with 2/10 Field Regiment, and well done to all those who attended. The unit is tasked with proving two rifle platoons, in the HNA model and a Coy HQ. The 4 Bde exercise in September 2007 will further develop the Force Protection Company concept for deployment on Exercise Talisman Sabre 07.

Challenges

The maintenance of AIRN is a constant challenge because of its rolling nature. The DI (A) OPS 80-1 is the relevant instruction for AIRN. You must be compliant at all times, and also be compliant when nominating for Trg Comd courses.

Another area of challenge is the qualification requirement of soldiers on the F89 in preparation for IET Mod 2, with first shoot pass rates of approximately 25%.

The battalion is always seeking support from junior leaders to conduct its IET courses, so put your hand up if you want to help your battalion.

Next year, in order to better re-balance conduct of courses, 8/7 RVR will support 10/27 RSAR in conduct of the IET Mod 1 and Mod 2 courses in May and Jun of 2006.

Conclusion

8/7 RVR continues to make an important contribution to defence, with personnel deployed on operations and ongoing support to training schools around the country. The Army Reserve will continue to fulfil commitments that one time were supported by regular army units. In the end it is each individual in the battalion that counts, and the voluntary nature of this service is appreciated and recognised. During the first half of 2006, OP ACOLYTE will be the battalion focus followed by the battalion courses camp in May that will focus on the specialist areas of Recon, Sigs and

Aslt Pnr. During the second half of 2006 the focus will be on the 4 Bde exercise at Cultana in South Australia

The Ops Log

Below is an excerpt from a phone call from the Ops Cell to a Rifle Company who only has a few good men.

"You can't handle the truth! Son, we live in a world that has resources, and those resources have to be forecast for by men with ACMS logons. Who's gonna do it? You, you, commander? I have a greater responsibility than you can *possibly* fathom. You weep for your Troop Trainer, and you curse Ops. You have that luxury. You have the luxury of not knowing what I know - that cancelling your activity, while tragic, probably saved resources; and my existence, while grotesque and incomprehensible to you, gives you more flying hours. You don't want the truth because deep down in places you don't talk about in the brew room, you want me at this desk -- you need me at this desk. We use words like "TARP," "Training Steps," and "Complex Copy." We use these words as the backbone of a life spent accounting for something. You use them as a punch line. I have neither the time nor the inclination to explain myself to a man who rises and sleeps under the activity I create, and then questions the resources allocated to it. I would rather you just said "thank you" and gave me a soft copy of your PAR. Otherwise, I suggest you jump on a DRN terminal and logon. Either way, I don't give a damn what you think you are entitled to!"

A COY

2005 has been another eventful year for A Coy in the south-west. The year kicked off with the return of a good portion of the company's soldiers and officers from their deployment as part of RCB68 in Malaysia. The return of these soldiers marked a sound increase in the experience of the company and the development of some excellent junior leaders, LCpl Baylis, LCpl Dinning and LCpl Hartwich, who were all promoted during the course of the year. To everyone's delight, the company's inspirational junior officers, Lt Doherty and Lt Warfe were promoted from 2Lt at the beginning of the year. Promotions also included two ARA staff, Sgt Lopez and Sgt Harding.

During 2005, A Coy has been involved in a variety of different tasks, including Beat the Retreat at Queenscliff, the Avalon Air Show, jungle training in Canungra and the 2nd Division's 90th Anniversary parade. Unfortunately, the Beat the Retreat parade was cancelled after some sound preparation due to very heavy rain moments before its commencement. However, following this disappointment a contingent of the company's soldiers happily volunteered to assist in the 2005 Avalon Air Show. The soldiers performed general duties for the Army display in the public area and also as part of an airmobile demonstration on the airfield.

The success of the airshow was quickly followed by the opportunity for a couple of soldiers to fill positions in 5/6 RVRs two-week jungle training exercise in Canungra. Soldier's leapt at this opportunity, with a handful able to receive some excellent training up north. The true highlight of 2005 has definitely been 2nd Division 90th Anniversary Parade. A Coy supplied members for the battalions Colour Party and Guard. These members definitely had an experience, which will be hard to top. With Colour Parties and representatives from each reserve unit, the parade was an historic event. Of particular note and sentimental value was the presentation of a 90th Anniversary 'memento' to each participating member.

A Coys main training exercise this year was EX YPRES, conducted in Graytown PE&E. The exercise was an introduction into the Battalion's FPCG tasking. The exercise allowed commanders and soldiers to gain a first experience in the conduct and working environment of a FPCG. Consequently a number of points for improvement and the training areas were able to be determined. Of particular note, the main differences between the FPCG operations and traditional conventional operations were the large variety of tasks required of the FPCG and, close to every soldiers heart, the excellent food available from the field kitchen supplied from the logistic element the company was securing.

2006 looks bright with opportunities for A Coy. These opportunities include the relocation of the Geelong and Laverton depots. The Geelong Depot is being relocated into a MUD, sharing with a battery from 2/10 REGT. The Laverton Depot is moving into a much larger building and hanger attached to allow for the expansion of recruitment in the area and the arrival of CHQ and the company Q Store. Unfortunately, the end of 2005 will also see the departure of some highly valued company members, especially the OC Major Laidlaw and CSM Skiparis who have the greatest respect from all members of the company. Best of luck to all in their future service.

Laverton



Laverton members

The Year started for us being welcomed by the smiling face of a crazed scary looking 5-foot Argentinian Corporal straight out of a horror film, correction 1 RAR. This coincided with our previous Depot Manager temporarily leaving us for a new life as a Police Officer. 2005 progressed as a big one for our depot, with much happening and numbers swelling to new levels. With this in mind the year included a huge push for the move to the hanger which is currently being vacated, and should be ready for our move to the other side of the base to join the new A Coy Headquarters building.

2005 was a year full of many activities and courses. These included the return of many senior diggers from Butterworth, Malaysia, as well as the training of many TFE's with two MOD 1 courses and a MOD 2 course giving many soldiers the chance to get qualified. Some members also

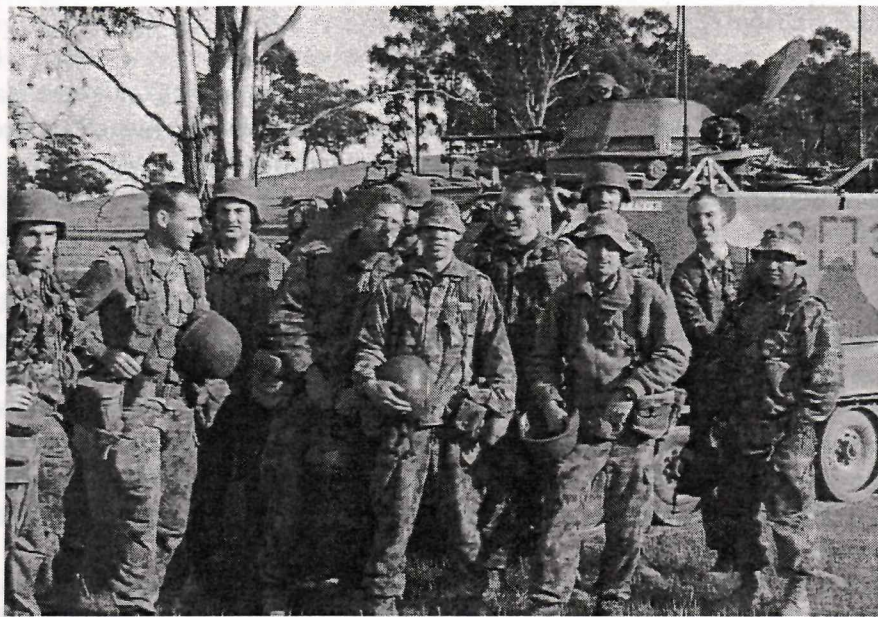
attended a DFSW course that ran concurrently with the mid-year courses. These courses were all overshadowed by the impending arrival of a much awaited reconnaissance course. And of course a number of our members participated in the Avalon Airshow

Laverton Depot also played host to many social events, the major one being the ANZAC Day function which followed a big night in Geelong (Thanks go out to the Eureka Hotel for their generous donation to our humble depot, the barrel will be cherished). The following night in Laverton turned out to be much bigger then expected and was thoroughly enjoyed by all to the point where the bar fridge was emptied. This night was complemented by multiple depot functions; thanks go out to all members, family and friends for supporting these social events.

As well as helping out social activities, as we are part of the ADF we are obliged to participate in multiple exercises and the Mil Skills Competition. The first of which was the Laverton Ex, which was driven by C Coy and also went by the name of Exercise Finisterres. This was followed by the Battalion Mil Skills...no comment...we tried... Finally came Exercise Ypres, where we started a new role as Force Protection Company Group. Finally recon was able to strut its stuff!!!!!!!!!!!!!!.

The main event on our Social Calender was our part in hosting the A Coy Dinner. This was the first time Laverton had hosted the event and we were determined to make an impact. Guests to the dinner included the CSM, WO2 Skiparis, the OC, Major Laidlaw and the OPSO Major Brown. The night was thoroughly enjoyed by all and was highlighted by the presentation of our champion soldier award to Private McCarthy, and the official promotion of Sgt Lopez. Many thanks go out to all the officers who attended the dinner as well as family and friends, hope you enjoyed your night and we hope to see you next year.

Sgt Lopez's promotion was not the only promotion that was awarded to members of our depot. Lt Doherty was awarded his second pip upon returning from Malaysia and LCpl Hartwitch amazed us all with his drill skills when he was promoted at the Geelong depot on the ANZAC weekend. Also LCpl Baylis received his promotion bush style the morning of the Mil Skills Competition.



Some of the Laverton boys at Ex Ypres

In conclusion, 2005 has been a brilliant, prosperous year, which proved challenging and very eventful. Hopefully next year will be bigger as we hope to be in the new depot with access to weapons from our very own armoury, but we aren't holding our breath. Thanks go out to every one involved in the Laverton depot and to every one who supported us through the year.

B COY

We started the year on the run with a Mod 1 IET course in February at Puckapunyal. The course went well, however, it highlighted the lack of training time received at ARTC on the F89 Minimi, as a number of members failed to qualify on this weapon. Any soldiers planning to attend a Mod 1 or Mod 2 need to take advantage of any opportunities to practice on the F89. Make yourself available! You will not receive the appropriate pay, rank and ECN adjustments if you have this training shortfall.

ANZAC Day was a full schedule, with small numbers able to commit to all Catafalque locations within Western Victoria. As a result, many soldiers had to double up. This is the biggest day on the battalion calendar, so please make it a priority. It's a great day of work and play, and a lot of soldiers usually head into town for a drink and a bit of fun. Seriously - women love a man in uniform!

June/July saw us head up to sunny Puckapunyal for the Mod 2 IET course. We stayed at Tobruk Barracks, and Alpha Company ran a concurrent Mod 1, also out of Tobruk Barracks. It gave us a good opportunity to pass on our skills and knowledge to the Mod 1 Staff, and show them how a course should be run. Unfortunately they decided to ignore our friendly advice, and so are still finalising some issues. We hope Charlie Company makes a better job of it in 2006.

Our OC, Maj Clifton Gowers (I didn't knock it off!), also left us in July and has taken up CFTS with ALTC at Bandiana. We wish him all the best, and Maj Laidlaw wants to know where the yellow flag from Butterworth has disappeared to. Maj Gowers was replaced by (I didn't knock it off either!) Capt John Spencer. ("What's happenin?" "It's all good" "Things will change, heads will roll!")

The Mil Skills competition was held in August, and the B Coy boys shone under the leadership of the strong but silent Cpl Troy Best. They finished 2nd overall, which is a great effort and should embarrass some of the other fully qualified sections. Our thanks to Cpl Best for a great effort. We want first place next year, Besty!

November came around, and so did our next Mod 2. The plans of mice and men go astray, so we went from plan A (Tobruk Barracks), to plan B (any where in Pucka), to plan C (live at Ballarat, field at Pucka) to finally plan D (live at Ballarat, field at Pucka, live section attack in Feb 06). It kept the CSM on his toes, but all went well in the end. The highlight of the course was a troop move in the Bushmaster (no walking involved!) The meals were a hit with the soldiers and the trainees passed on their positive feedback to the 4 Bde RSM and 5/6 RVR RSM. Our sincere thanks go out to the catering staff under WO2 Broemmer. Thanks also to all the support staff who helped make this a success. At one stage we had more support staff than trainees. We hope that we can run future courses from Ranger Barracks. Looking forward to Tasmania in Nov 06.

During the year we also sent our soldiers to various units to complete Mod 1 and Mod 2, including NSW, SA and WA. Our soldiers all committed themselves well, but still struggled with the F89. Practice, practice, practice!

Now for our honours and awards.

The "Here's a chest to pin your medal on" award goes to Pte Bain for finally passing a BFA. It didn't hurt that much did it Bainy?

On a lighter note, we are going to pass the hat around in order to buy some 'real' sunglasses for Sgt Beales so he can finally wave goodbye to the MIG jetfighter glasses that he currently wears. They may conceal your handsome face while transporting the undesirables of society, but really...!

Overall, the year has been busy, but successful, with a continuing flow of soldiers advancing through to the rifle companies. The company is looking forward to 2006, no doubt keeping up with the motto for B Coy – "The backbone of the Battalion". The Training Company.

C COY

This has been a great year for the Company. C Coy plus the DFSW Platoon from Support Company and the other companies with members in the northern depots have been very busy and successful.

We had a good showing at Butterworth which most people seemed to enjoy and found useful training. Members from our depots also assisted in the support of the ADF operation to succour locals following the Tsunami. Several members seemed to have fallen over and injured themselves towards the end of their tour. Perhaps it is best not to ask what they were doing at the time.

We decided to vary ANZAC Day activities this year. We managed to carry out a field exercise as well as preparations for the numerous catafalque activities. We all enjoy getting out bush and this was a snatched opportunity. We look to take the same approach next year and maximise time in the bush.

The Company organised and ran EX Finisterres at Pucka for 8 days. Everyone on the Camp has stated that they enjoyed the way it was run. We worked jointly with 15 Transport Sqn who provided trucks and crew for convoy work. We learnt current techniques for convoy counter-ambush drills as well FPCG tasks in relation to protecting Admin Areas. Working with 15 TPT Sqn worked well, unfortunately the relationship with the local truckies was not quite so good. We were asked to put in a few probing night attacks on the laager of a Transport Driver's course in the vicinity. Somehow a certain Staff Sergeant got a bit excited (and lost Comms!!) resulting in the Transport Course Commander pleading with me to stop the attacks as her drivers were not getting enough sleep!

Ex Menin Gate was a company exercise to prepare us for the Bn Mil Skills Competition. We carried a variety of tasks, which were expected on the competition and all members worked hard. As a result we had the Best Section, Best Section Commander and Best Soldier on the competition as well as winning the competition itself. That was a clean sweep! It was well deserved because company members worked together well, supported each other and drove themselves to succeed. Apart from that, they also came from C Coy, which gave them an edge anyway.

We were invited to Mildura to assist in the re-naming of a street in honour of the many soldiers who departed the area to defend Australia, many of whom never made it home. This was a parade with a tri-service guard and also our company representing the battalion. We carried the battalion Colours and showed the tri-service how to do drill, despite the fact that members received a mixture of

British and Australian words of command from Capt Townsend. C Coy is getting a reputation for being flexible and achieving the unplanned. This occurred again on this parade. The Governor decided he wanted to inspect The Guard to fill in time. There was Capt Townsend standing out the front, mind in neutral, when the RSM appeared by his side with a warning. Next minute The Governor arrives for the snap inspection. No real problem except that when the CO stopped, the Governor approached closer. Capt Townsend had the choice of saluting correctly with the sword, or doing a modified non-drill movement which avoided slicing The Governor in half. Capt Townsend chose the latter and was amused to see that the commander of the tri-service guard later used the same non-drill movement.

The company ran a very busy weekend at Swan Hill in October. The morning was spent on a public Open Day close to the city centre with stands, vehicles and an IMT display. Smoke and mortar simulators were not used due to recent DMEO restrictions but it was still impressive to locals. 4 CSSB worked with us on the day as we will be working more closely with them in the future in Swan Hill. There was a DRSC presentation for local community leaders and employers at lunchtime, which included a presentation on the new ARTAP scheme (Reserve traineeships and apprenticeships). Hopefully all the hard work (including approx 500 letters) has results in the intended higher profile for the BN in the area and increased future recruiting.

The day was finished with a formal Company Dinner, with Company Candelabras gracing the tables, linking us to the previous units as part of our lineage. We had RSL representatives from Bendigo, Swan Hill and Mildura who generously supported the evening at the table and the bar afterwards. 4 CSSB were also represented. The Coy piper, Brendan Leech, well really he runs the Bendigo Army Cadet Force, did us proud on the evening, losing his shoe in the quagmire whilst marching up and down and keeping us entertained. We also had representatives from other Cadet Units too, linking us to the next generation of Reservists. If you see Brendan, ask him if he has found his sock yet.

Those present will remember the weather. It came down in bucket fulls. Capt Townsend said he has been to posh Hotels, which had fountains in the middle of the room, but he had never seen one that had a waterfall. The company overcame the conditions, ignored the mud and deepening water and had a great time. Congratulations must go to those who were there, prepared the evening and cleaned up afterwards. Particular thanks and congratulations must go to the joint 8/7 RVR and 4 CSSB catering team who provided high quality food in extremely difficult circumstances.

The company have also assisted or run a variety of other courses from MAG 58 to supporting Singleton courses. We had a very congratulatory letter from Singo who were impressed by the quality of our soldiers and NCOs. WO 2 Baulch and others also supported the 2 Div 90th Anniversary. We had a number of members attend a variety of courses and qualify as RRF, making them available for supporting the Commonwealth Games. There are a number of other supporting activities which we completed but time and space prevent me from writing more.

The company saw MAJ Gabriel depart, MAJ Murphy take over C COY as well as SPT COY, and then go and then Capt Townsend arrived on the scene as OC, which he considers an honour and a privilege. We also had new march-in's for C Coy:

WO2 Anthony Osmond, Cpl Luke Anderson, Cpl Paul Potton and CplJ Judd Waters.

Departing at the end of 2005 are:

Sgt David McHenry (Posted to 1 RAR), and Cpl Sean Connelley. (Discharge)

Reserve Members Transferred to ARA are:

Pte Brenton Potter. Rifleman 5/7 RAR. 6 Jun 05,
Pte Paul Moya Cummings. Combat Engineer Feb 06
Pte Anthony Rosier. Rifleman March 06

Members with Transfers awaiting postings are:

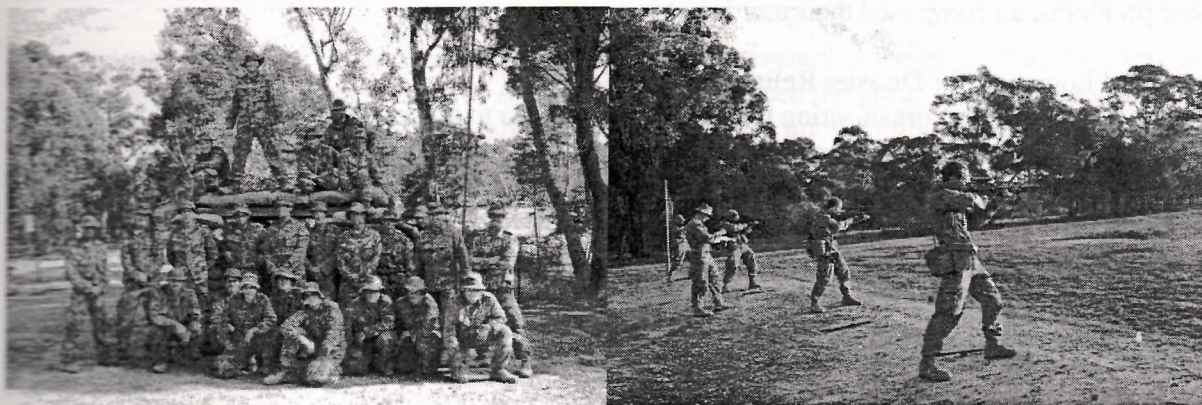
Pte Kathryn Hayden Psych Examiner
Pte Christopher Wright Carpenter RAE
Pte Alan Leach Vehicle Mechanic. RAEME

Unit Transfers are:

Cpl Rebecca Catlin Transfer to 108 Sig SQN
Pte Jon Leach Transfer to 9RQR.
Pte Luke Cross Transfer to 4/19 PWLHR
Pte Tavis McLaren (Transfer appointment as an officer in G-Res)

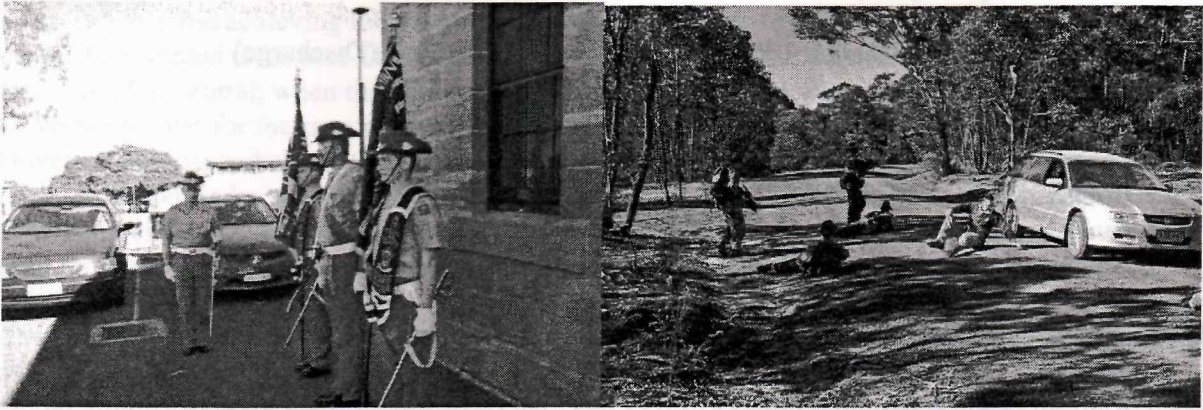
Discharges from Bendigo are:

Cpl Rurick Dawborn
Pte Daniel Dubyna
Pte Beau Cook
Pte Brent Clayton
Pte Glen Honeychurch



From Capt Townsend: A Company like this can only operate through the hard work of all its members, ARA or ARES. I would like to thank all the members for their hard work this year. I am proud of what we have achieved and so should the members of the Company and our Depots.

Thank you to all those leaving us, we could not have achieved as much without your help. Next year we have set a high standard which we need to exceed. I wish you and your families a Happy Christmas. Watch the turkey and beer, get fit before you come back AIRN looms again.



Shepparton

Incomings and Outgoings

We gained two full-time Corporals. Luke Anderson joined us as the Depot Manager and Judd Waters as the Q body. (Cpl Waters had been a part-time member at Shepparton some years ago so was able to easily find his way around.) However, the depot lost the services of Cpl Shannon McKinley and Cpl Dave Logan as both of these moved to the Swan Hill depot. Recruits Bielby, Johnstone and Wright joined the team.

RCB

Seven Shepparton members joined the company that went to Butterworth. These were Cpls Logan and McKinley and Privates Altenhof, Armstrong, Cummins, Fehring and Moore. Their planned training was thrown into disarray by the Boxing Day Tsunami. Fortunately, none of them were in the areas struck by the Tsunami but were called upon to assist in the relief efforts. Several of them finished up with scars as mementos of the trip. Pte Armstrong broke his left big toe after jumping out of a truck and Pte Moore required 8 stitches in his leg from a vehicle accident. Apart from these minor problems, all completed their tour intact.

Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief (Red R)

Red R is a humanitarian organisation that provide assistance to those affected by natural disasters by supplying, for example, shelter and clean water. Shepparton soldiers assisted with training that was being done at Dookie College for Red R members who were going overseas. The soldiers played the parts of escorts for the Red R workers and also acted as militia/bandits who had taken the workers hostage. The soldiers must have played the role of bandits very realistically as some of the Red R members were reluctant to socialise with the soldiers at the end of exercise BBQ. As well as good training for the soldiers in peace support operations, this assistance was greatly appreciated by the Red R and hopefully should help to keep the aid workers out of trouble when they get overseas.

April weekend / ANZAC Day

The April weekend was based at Puckapunyal with section and platoon patrolling. The half section of enemy (consisting of mostly Shepparton members) conducted a fighting withdrawal for most of the day and evening. Eventually the enemy was located at their base camp and a dawn attack by C Coy resulted in the enemy being KIA or captured. The NVG proved their worth by spotting enemy moving at night.

The Shepparton soldiers then returned to Somme Barracks for ceremonial rehearsals. Catafalque Parties were provided for three services. Two were at Cobram and one was at Shepparton. The

Cobram dawn service was short and sweet followed by a leisurely breakfast at the Cobram RSL. However, the 10 O'clock Cobram service seemed to go on forever with dozens of speeches to be said and wreathes to be laid. Fortunately, the weather was mild and nobody fainted. A visiting US Naval Commander, who was the guest speaker, came up to the Catafalque Party after the service for a chat. He reckoned we were pretty good to have stood at the Rest on Arms position for so long without moving.

May Week

This was unseasonal weather for Puckapunyal, as it did not rain. Instead, everything was covered with a fine layer of grey dust. Following a range shoot, training was done with the Unimogs and drivers on counter ambush drills. Although the enemy managed to inflict a few casualties with their RPGs, they were rapidly destroyed in the platoon quick attacks that were launched. A few "campers" in the local area were surrounded at their camp one morning. Following questioning, it was found that the campers were actually Musorian sympathisers and SF soldiers. A Bde Admin area was set up with tents, vehicle parks and antennae. The enemy party enjoyed the freedom to place mines and satchel charges amongst the vehicles and antennae but they got their just deserts when a deliberate attack on their LUP at dawn killed or captured them all. Pte Tamie Andrew missed some of the action as she spent several days in the Pucka Hospital with pneumonia. A reporter from the Shepparton News was on location to record some of the activities. Several articles about the ARes soldiers were printed (with photos). This caused SSgt Solomano and Privates Altenhof, Healey and Trickett to put money over the bar at the end of exercise function.

July Weekend

Shepparton was used as the base for C Coy on Friday night and the Coy then moved to Puckapunyal for WTSS shooting and a night navex. The navex caught a few groups out, as several formed tracks were not marked on the map. This, once again, emphasised the necessity for use of the compass and pace counting.

One of the more quotable quotes that came over the radio was, "I'm not lost. It's just that I don't know where the checkpoint is."

One group sent a locstat in that, according to the map, was several kilometres outside the exercise area and in the middle of the School of Artillery. The CP radioed the group to check the grid reference as this grid showed that they should have been in the middle of buildings. The soldiers confirmed that this was the correct grid and, "Yes, we are in the middle of buildings." Fortunately, they eventually made their way back to the finish point.

One soldier reported that he had lost his Ninox somewhere on the navex. This caused some consternation among the 'head shed' until it was confirmed that it was the harness, and not the actual monocular that had been lost due to a faulty clip. Therefore, no late night phone calls to the closest USA embassy were required.

A WTSS shoot was attended at Puckapunyal one Tuesday night. This was to provide scores for the Mil Skills competition, as well as keeping people up to date with their AIRN compliance. Travel to and from Puckapunyal was done during a fierce storm with gusty winds that blew the Hi-Ace from one side of the road to the other. Who said being in the ARes wasn't exciting?

8/7 RVR Mil Skills Competition.

Once again, a hard fought battle but the superior soldierly skills of the Shepparton depot members saw them take the lion's share of the awards. Shepparton soldiers who were in the Top Section were:

Cpl Logan - Section Commander (I know that he now parades at Swan Hill but he was at Shepparton when he lead the winning section) & Privates Altenhof, Connor and Crowe. Cpl Logan was also awarded Overall Champion and Champion NCO.

Well done to all involved!

Courses

Pte Bielby, Johnstone and Wright attended their Recruit Course at Kapooka

Pte Wright – Mod 1 at Singleton

Pte Maksacheff and Connor – Mod 1 at Perth

Pte Trickett – Subj 1 for Cpl in SA

LCpl Smithies – Unimog Drivers Course in Tasmania

Cpl Anderson - Subj 1 for Sgt and C2 Drivers Course

All passed with flying colours.

Local Activities

Several local activities were attended by Shepparton soldiers as recruiting venues. Some of these were:

- ♣ Summer and winter bush markets in the Shepparton Mall.
- ♣ Dookie careers expo at Dookie College.
- ♣ Links career expo.
- ♣ Militaria and Collectibles Show.
- ♣ Shepparton Show – Redevelopment of the grounds meant that all the activities were compacted into a smaller area than normal. Heavy rain meant that, although many people visited the army tents, they were probably looking for shelter from the rain, rather than a new career.
- ♣ Shepparton Football and Netball Grand Finals.
- ♣ Elmore Field Days - Farmers were keen to borrow some of the assorted weaponry on display for destruction of feral animals.
- ♣ Deniliquin Ute Muster - A Leopard tank entered the tractor pull (and won easily). APCs were used to flatten old utes. Although not a lot of new prospects were signed up, it was a successful weekend as the soldiers managed to get their photos taken with the Bundy girls.
- ♣ The Bendigo Show - All the Army frisbees were given away by late Friday evening and most of the enquiries seemed to come from 7 – 10 year old boys who wanted to join the army when they grew up.

♣

All these activities assisted in keeping the ARES visible in the local communities.

All up, a busy year for the Somme Barracks soldiers.

Swan Hill

The year started quietly at Swan Hill. Stalwart Cpl Viv Holland attended many activities supporting the battalion and the companies. The year improved with the posting of firstly Cpl Shannon McKinley and later Cpl David Logan into the depot. The year finished on a high with a big (wet) weekend in October where a large recruiting activity saw a number of prospects come forward, and a rather wet but enjoyable company dinner. 2006 looks like being better than 2005 for the depot.

Mildura

2005 saw a relatively busy year for the "last outpost", Mildura. ANZAC Day was preceded by a weekend exercise down at Pucka, with the Pl acquitting itself quite well in the prevailing conditions. Then it was six hours back up the Calder Hwy and straight into ANZAC Day. A fine display of precision drill was bunged on, followed by a stint at the depot for the obligatory beers and "waries." The house was then unceremoniously fleeced in 'Crown & Anchor', which ultimately saw a shift in policy towards gaming for 2006.

Ex Finisterres was a highly successful event for those who attended. Thankfully a repeat of last year's shambolic Ex Universal Soldier was avoided, with no deliberate 'Blue on Blues' leaving a bad taste in diggers' mouths this time. Instead a 'Back to Basics' approach to training was sensibly adopted, with realistic scenarios presented to the Pl. At times, the exercise called on the soldiers to display a bit of intestinal fortitude, which they did, realising that 'hard times don't last, hard men do'. Pity a couple of the senior corporals who opted for a stay in hospital didn't heed this.

Sgt Jackson ventured down to Melbourne in June to become a bona fide Equity Adviser – 'Fair go fellas', while Pte Theodore found out what a real machine gun was like on the DFSW course. August also bore witness to a flurry of activity, with Ptes Chandler, Godwin (MIA) and Sweet playing enemy up at Singo for RMC. Surprisingly, not one of them returned with aspirations of becoming an officer.

No doubt the highlight of the year for the Mildura depot was the 'Dedication of the Avenue of Honour' ceremony, held on 13-14 August. The weekend served to honour Sgt S.G. Pearse VC MM, a local hero who received the VC posthumously after dying of wounds in Russia in 1919 (after WWI had finished). Deakin Avenue, the main thoroughfare of Mildura, was formerly dedicated as an Avenue of Honour, with the State Governor and Honorary Colonel of the RVR, Mr John Landy in attendance. Sadly, the local Mafia whipped him away afterwards to one of their fine eating establishments before the lads had a chance to make acquaintance with the man. Them's the breaks!

Pte Farrell got a guernsey for the 90th Anniversary Battlefields Tour. We all felt extremely sorry for poor old Kev as he 'troddled off' to Europe for a two week, all expenses paid tour of WW1 & WWII battlefields. He can be seen having a miserable old time in Paris at the Arc de Triumphe, one of the many sites he was forced to endure whilst on the pilgrimage. Life in the Reserves can be unforgiving at times.

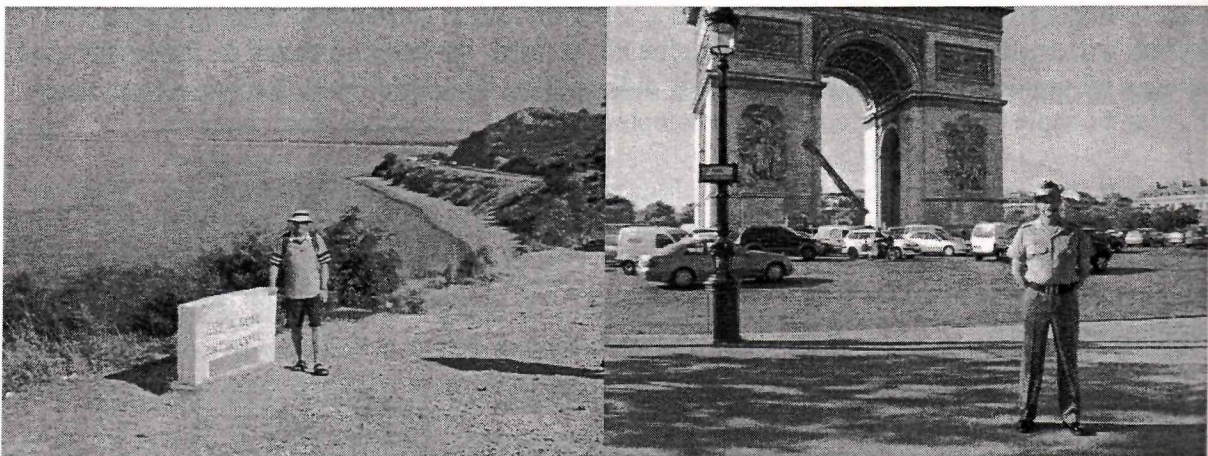
Pte Theodore bade farewell to everyone for four months as he departed for Op Relex II. He too is sharing a similar plight to that of Pte Farrell, having to endure training as well as time off in Darwin and Christmas Island. On a serious note, he does have to put up with living in the pockets of "the pus" for four months. BE CAREFUL ASH. They don't call them the pus for nothing!

The year culminated with the Company Dining In Night held at Swan Hill. The weekend got off to a bad start with Sgt Jackson coming to the realisation that he had squandered many decades of his life in the RAAF and RAEME, when all along he could have been at the sharp end in the infantry. Against good advice, he took part in a section attack rehearsal where he badly damaged his right elbow. X-rays showed some bone chips and a nasty case of bursitis, requiring surgery. Bad luck Jacko. The night itself went ahead unhindered, with everyone on their best behaviour throughout the evening.

Finally, the men of Mildura would like to wish CSM B all the best in his life long dream to serve in 3RAR. Good luck, Sir!

Farewells

CPL Connelley – Out of Purgatory
 PTE 'Dinger' Ansell – Donkey Boy
 PTE Blair – One Eyed Bandit
 PTE Knights – The "Worker"
 PTE Sweet – Strike Swiftly



Pte Farrell, 7 PI Mildura, at Gallipoli and in Paris

D COY 2005

2005 has been a frantic year for D Coy (Recruiting). In marched WO2 Steve Merchant. Remember me, I was one of the Training Advisers from Jungle Training Wing in Malaysia. The year started off in a crazy way, induction training then we went to work culling all the dead wood that had accumulated over the years. It was just like the old Roman colosseum, feeding the Christians (NES members) to the lions (Sgt Wait, discharge clerk).

Then it was off to Pucka to assist B Coy with the Mod 1 IET course where the CSM took a little too much pleasure punishing the IETs with bayonet training. After this it was off to the Avalon Airshow for a week. The viewing was excellent and we saw some planes too.

Next it was time to visit some schools. Some typical answers to some of the questions were, "No I'm Regular Army, No I don't get sick of wearing cargo pants, and "Do you want to be the next Chief of the Army?"

D Coy was then re-rolled as the Battalion's DFSW PI and conducted a DFSW course for support Coy. We are still waiting for some assistance back from them with our activities, but we won't hold our breath. July was round two for the school visits and the weather in Ballarat got cold. With the DFSW Course over it was time for D Coy to go where no southern region GRES unit had never been before, The Advanced Soldier Course. Three of these 4 day training long weekends were held in Ballarat over the last 3 months. We averaged about 20 students per course. As we are the only unit in the Southern Region that runs these courses, it ensures we have people qualified to attend their IET courses. I guess other units don't want to put Soldiers on IET Courses next year.

Next came another round of school visits and expos and then we were into Mil Skills Season. The Company (CSM D) ran the All Arms Call For Fire stand on the Battalion Mil Skills and the Section Defence Stand over the Brigade Mil Skills.

LCpl Hastings from D Coy and a section made up of Delta and Bravo Coy Trainees made up the section, which came second overall and won the praise of all 4 BDE RSMs by taking out the X Factor event. Not a bad effort from the Battalion's Training Company's. This speaks volumes for the type of soldiers we are recruiting now. One wonders if A, C and Spt Coy could have done better.

With Mil Skills over next it was Carnie Season. First we went to the Field Days where we learnt that the Mag 58 is a Sniper rifle, 84 MDFSW is a Bazooka, SLR was heaps better than the F88, everyone wants a F88 to Shoot Roo's and we are about to be invaded from the North.

A couple of days later D Coy was on the road again this time to the Geelong Show.

Accommodation was a bit better this time with the company, WO2 Merchant and LCpl Hastings staying at the Mecure Hotel. The D Coy recruiting display won the Display of Excellence for the Show. The tempo never slows down in D Coy so it was off to Melbourne for the day to visit the Chief of the Army at a Swearing-in Ceremony. After arriving late due to being dropped off at the wrong location in Melbourne, LCpl Hastings got a phone call from Megan (his wife) at a most inappropriate time. Imagine his face when Enimim stated playing on his mobile in the middle of the Chief of the Army speech. Later in the day the Chief of the Army awarded LCpl Hastings his soldier medallion.

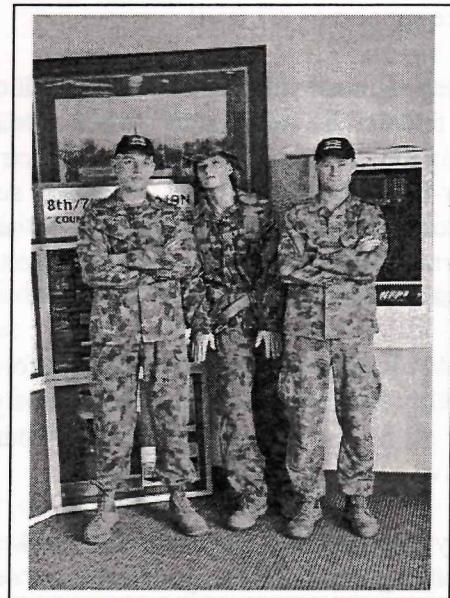
The year's not over and WO2 Merchant is about to head to Malaysia for 3 Weeks. Carnie season is not over so we still have the Ballarat Show and the Maryborough Energy Break through to do.

D Coy would like to thank the following people who assisted with training and recruiting activities:

WO2 Mark roemmer and the cooks, CPL Reynolds and CPL Harding, (ASC) the Ord Room Staff, Ops, B Coy and all the soldiers who assisted with recruiting.

In conclusion, retention has improved dramatically this year with the implementation of the company training program. The battalion continued to recruit strongly in Ballarat and Laverton, however it takes more than a couple of depots to recruit the manpower required for the battalion. Depot Managers need to keep up the work. In the end its all comes down to Recruit or Die.

Duty First.



Dave, Dave and Steve at Ballarat

The Team:

WO2 Steve Merchant (URO, CSM, Ballarat)
 Sgt Chris Rantall (URO, Pl Sgt, Warrnambool)
 Cpl Graeme Paizis (URO, Ballarat)
 LCpl Dave Hastings (URO, Ballarat)
 Dave the Dummy (URO, Ballarat), get out of the female
 toilets and stop talking so much.

ADMIN COY

A year has almost passed since I assumed command of Admin Coy and as we all know, that time has flown. As the logistic support element of 8/7 RVR, it has been a busy and demanding year for Admin Coy and I make no apologies for that. As logisticians at all levels, whether part time or full time, it is our job to support the battalion and it was always my intent to make the battalion self sufficient from a logistic perspective. I think we have achieved that in the main but 2006 provides further opportunity to fine-tune our support to the warfighters.

I recently attended the ADF Logistics Conference in Sydney where the theme was collaboration in the provision of logistic support. Various presenters talked about collaboration between our coalition allies as well amongst all elements of the ADF in ensuring that operations are not impeded by logistic shortfalls. It seemed that there many parallels between what was presented at the conference and what we do in our small element of 8/7 RVR.

Collaboration was never more evident than in the various activities we supported this year. I refer specifically to Ex Ypres where the Q Element, Transport Section and Catering Section provided exceptional service to the unit and allowed it to concentrate on training for its FPCG role. Other activities well supported were Ex Finnisteres, at Swan Hill, activities at Mildura and Shepparton as well many individual efforts at unit training courses as well as external support tasks. I appreciate your efforts in 2005 and thank you for supporting me in my goal of providing effective logistic service support to 8/7 RVR.

On the personnel side, we have seen an increase in our numbers as well as our diversity. Many more females are working in the battalion and along with their male colleagues are working well in gaining knowledge and experience in their trades. I welcome Capt Goss as the 2IC and WO2 Farrar-Boatman as CSM and value their support and guidance. I would like to make particular mention of our Q Staff lead by our long-suffering QM, WO1 Pringle. Without his organisation performing as well as it does, the battalion would struggle to meet its administrative and training commitments.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of WO2 Broemmer and his team of caterers. This capability has improved significantly this year and I am sure our collective digestive systems are better off for the experience. The reintroduction of catering equipment into the unit will further improve catering support in 2006.

Newly promoted Sgt Reynolds also worked hard at meeting never ending demands for transport support, again a thankless job that never seems to get easier.

The efforts of the RMO, Maj Harris and his medical team also deserve mention. This is always a difficult area to manage and the training of part time members continues to be a difficult issue. As always, we appreciate the support of our medical elements in all unit activities.

I also acknowledge the efforts of SGT Linnane in being awarded the "Student of Merit" on his recent course at the ALTC. Credit must also go to Cpl Werry in gaining a unit achievement award for his efforts as the battalion armourer. Well done!!

I also congratulate Sgt Wait and Cpl Anderson on their respective promotions. I should also acknowledge the work of Capt Baird who spent the last 7 months with a medical team working in Bagdad and has returned with her sense of humour intact.

To those of our full time staff on posting, on behalf of the battalion and Admin Coy, I thank you for your efforts in 2005 and wish you and your families well in your new posting. For those new members of the Coy marching in, welcome to the battalion and I look forward to meeting with you. To our part time members, much of the 2005 effort was left to too few and we need to work on improving that in 2006 and I seek your support in providing more all round support next year. For those of you who did parade on a regular basis, thank you and I ask for another big effort next year.

Although not part of Admin Coy, I would also like to thank Cpl Anderson, Cpl Waters and LCpl Smithies for looking after me at Shepparton on Tuesday parade nights throughout the year and at many recruiting activities. They do a great job of managing that depot under often-difficult circumstances.

In summary, a busy year has passed and given the state of the 2006 Parade Card, another busy year is looming in 2006. The Commonwealth Games will keep us off the streets and provide significant work on an individual basis and exercises in Tasmania, South Australia and Warrnambool are planned. To all members of Admin Coy I wish you and your families the very best of wishes for Xmas and the New Year, stay safe and I look forward to working with you in 2006.

Maj P.A. Worsteling, OC Admin Coy

Catering Platoon

The 8th/7th Battalion Catering Platoon is going from strength to strength in the bid to build up the support capability, not only for the battalion, but for the brigade as well (RRF and FPCG both require integral Catering Support).

This year started off fairly slowly, but has steadily increased in tempo throughout the latter half of the year. In May we were advised that we were going to be trialing a new concept of mutual co-operation amongst the Brigade Catering Staff and we attended a weekend at Puckapunyal in June and worked with our peers from other units. This concept has worked well because many of the other units were like us, seriously depleted in numbers almost to the point of being extinct. To our credit we have turned the corner and started to build up members and competencies, as well as to increase our output and therefore, training, and ultimately operational deployment.

Due to our increased output we have also started to see more of the country and started the 'networking' process. One of the biggest problems that has surfaced is that many of the brigade units have let their catering capability lapse because they have not seen the value of having Combat Caterers on hand to sustain their troops on weekends and longer exercises. This is slowly changing for the better.

In November 2004, Sgt Steve Ivey was deployed on RCB68 in Malaysia, taking part in various exercises and assisting with the relief effort after the SE Asia Tsunami. Gaining valuable overseas experience, which had been passed on to our platoon members.

In the second half of the year the Catering Platoon has provided support to a number of activities: a training weekend at Ballarat Airport for the 'Victory in the Pacific Day' activities in which the platoon catered for the WW2 Re-enactors, the battalion and brigade Military Skills weekends, the Deniliquin Ute Muster, various association dinners (eg 8/7 Bn - 2 RVR Association), two Regimental Dinners for the Regimental Mess, the battalion officer's Father and Son Dinner, the Past Officers Dinner, assisted adventure training for White Water Rafting and the Army Biathlon Team, the Advanced Soldier Training Courses, Exercise Ypres (hide the Bromide Tin!), and the Module 2 IET Course at Ballarat and Puckapunyal. There was also a last minute plea for assistance at 2/10 Field Regiment run Villers Brettoneux Dinner for the brigade's WO and Sgts.

Three members of the Catering Platoon attended ALTC for their courses during the year. Long time member Pte Michael Currie passed his Subject 4 for Corporal AACC Course and Privates Bruce Wilson and Olie Price both completed their various courses and are currently completing On the Job Training (OJT).

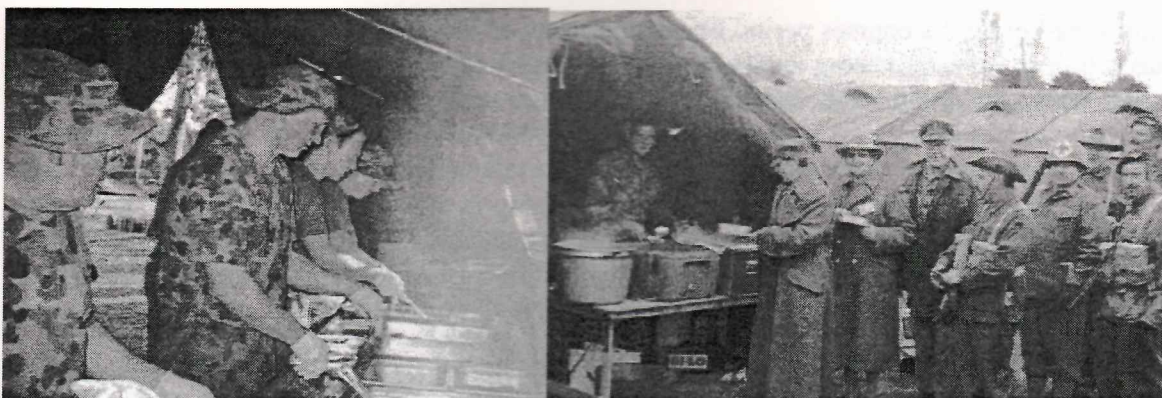
After a long involved process to find her a posting position, Cpl Alison Wait has at long last had her name changed to Sgt Alison Wait.

The Caterer was very happy to have been able to attend the Army Catering Corps Conference at ALTC in Bandiana in October. The conference actually focussed on the Army Reserve and the inherent problems that plaque the entire catering community. The Caterer felt that he surprised many of the ARA members at the conference by telling them that we experienced many of the same trials and tribulations that they face, just not on a daily basis. We are taking a 'hands on' approach to fixing problems.

On a sad note, a past Warrant Officer Caterer of the battalion, WO2 Len Brereton became a victim to a long illness and passed away in April. The current Caterer, WO2 Broemmer, and the Battalion XO, Maj Leckie, represented the battalion at his funeral in Shepparton. May he Rest in Peace.

As part of the rejuvenation program for catering we are expecting to redraw our field catering entitlements so that the platoon is prepared for almost same day deployment. The platoon is always on the lookout for more members, so if it is casting a wary eye over any infantry members of the battalion, don't think of it as 'poaching', think of it as recycling.

The Catering Platoon looks forward to serving you in the future. **We sustain!**



Catering Platoon filling TV Dinners at Ex Ypres and feeding re-enactment members at VP Celebrations Day at Ballarat Airport

Quartermaster Platoon

The Q Platoon started the year strongly, with all members showing up on the first day, and once again taking the reins of the battalion. For all members of the Main Q this year has been a busy year with courses and additional battalion tasks.

The Q Store received a new addition to its fold, this being CPL 'Tech Sgt RQMS White'; he was posted to 8/7 RVR all the way from Townsville's "Second to One" Battalion 2RAR.

Once again the year has come to an end and we say good bye to some valuable members of the Battalion Q Store. RQMS WO2 M Griggs leaves us for some new adventures with the SASR, while Sgt Cartwright returns back to his Brisbane Broncos and resumes his career with 6 RAR.

The QM would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Q Platoon, and the CQMSs for the professionalism, which they showed throughout the year.

And for a different Q view from Cpl Culic

This year as usual has been a busy but productive year for all Q members. Once again as we may not say what we really want to say we shall leave it at its been a 'very touchy feely year once again.'

SUPPORT COMPANY

Due to a hiccup somewhere, the first part of this Support Company report is what was missed in 2004. Many apologies to the Support Company members for their hard work last year- Ed.

TRAINING

The Company weekend in May was a combined effort with C Coy providing small arms fire within the Spt Coy firepower demo. This weekend gave the DFSW qualified soldiers a long awaited opportunity to live-fire the Carl Gustaf and become qualified after a two-year drought of ammunition.

It was not long before the courses period began and many of the staff had their hands full with the continued upset of stores not being available when they were supposed to be. It was soon learnt that CSP could change overnight and become someone else, less the responsibility.

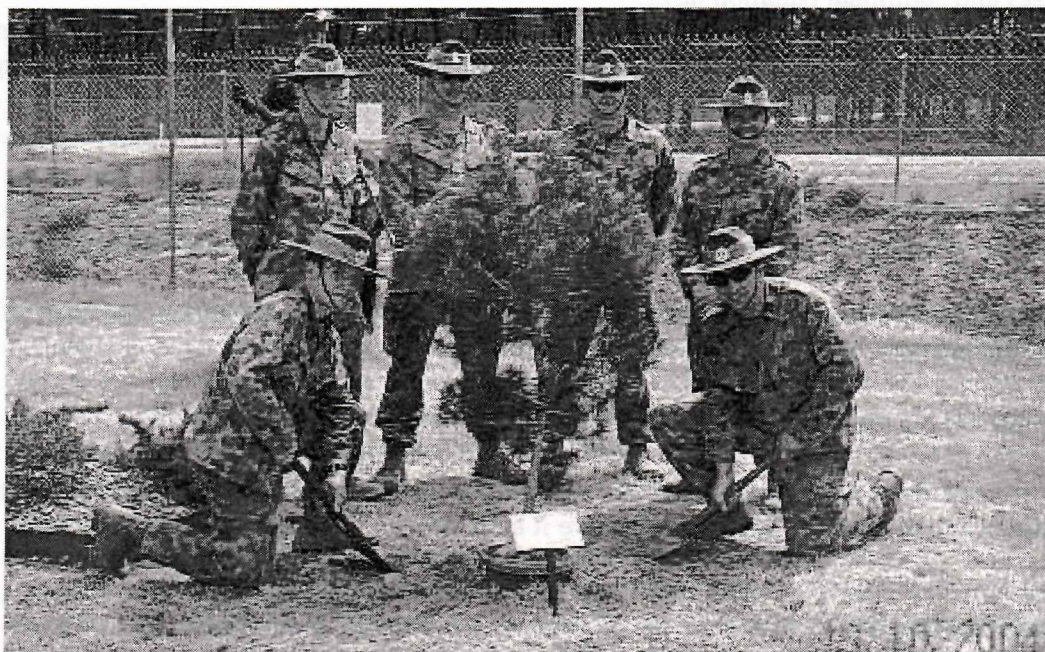
SOCIAL

Passchendaele Barracks, Bendigo held its Regimental dining in night on 07 Aug 04, two days prior to the Bn Birthday. This was a great dinner with Pte Trenti showing the CO what colour red wine is when it comes back up (yes, It still is red) and Rec Cummings attempting to find a hoochie spot later in the night without the hoochie or sleeping bag. Pte Clayton still never ceases to amaze us with his straightforward approach to socialising.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Support Company has seen soldiers march in and out throughout the year. 2005 should see more that are qualified move over to the senior company. If you have a specialist qualification then let people know through your chain of command and become a proud senior soldier of the battalion.

On the 21 Oct 2004 The Bendigo RSL on behalf of the citizens of Bendigo donated two seedlings of the original Lone Pine tree. The day included a small service and dedication of the trees to each unit by a Padre. These trees now rest within the Barracks with a plaque in front of each tree.



Lone Pine Tree Dedication Ceremony 21 Oct 2004

L-R Pte Tyrell, CQMS, Coy Clk, CSM and front kneeling Pte Trewartha, and Pte Hamilton.

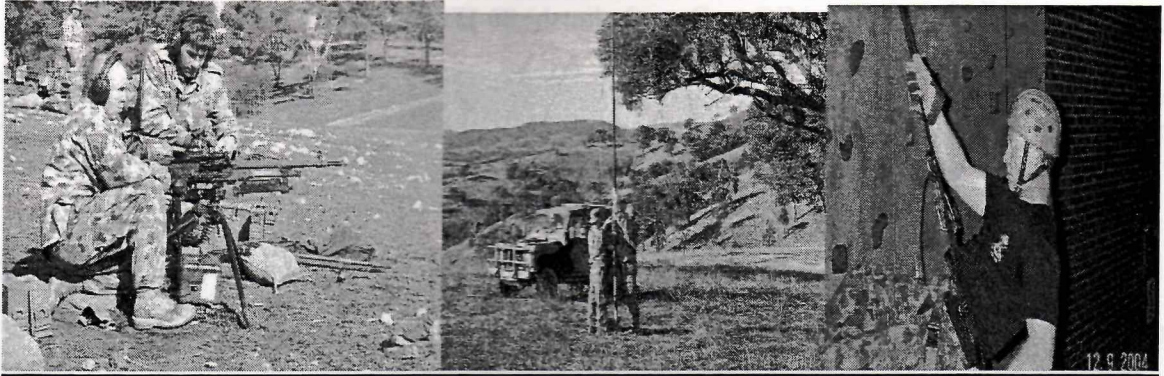
Promotions:

Sgt David Wait ventured to the dark side and was subsequently promoted to Lt at the Battalion Regimental Dinner.

LCpl Logan was promoted to Cpl. He was unofficially known on paper as Pte Logan albeit due to his Sub 1 not being tracked down and was deemed officially a LCpl. This remained until a stroke of the RSM's pen made him a Cpl.

Departures:

The end of this year the CSM will move to sunny Puckapunyal as part of the Inf Trg Cell at CAT-C and the Coy Clerk Sean Walters is off to his old Battalion 2 RAR. Safe soldiering and all the best for both in the years to come. On behalf of the OC MAJ Murphy, I would also like to wish all a safe and Prosperous New Year and safe soldiering in 2005. To all commanders of all levels "Train



DFSW Cse Jul 04

Sig Cse Jul 04

Depot Trg



May 2004 Training Weekend: watch my fall of shot

The Tale of King Craig and his 87 Prince Boys

The men finally came to return to the land of the red and white in the year two thousand and four. They abandoned their joy of drinking and being with loved ones that they had pursued during a glorious leave. They cast this aside and heeded to the call of more exciting deeds and to conquer new tasks which were to be spoken by a new King.

King Craig decreed that all the north shall be run by Prince Gabriele and his Sheriff BJ, he also decreed that the south would be conquered by Prince Ludlow and his bitter Sheriff, Sheriff Skip. King Craig decreed that Bendigo would support both Princes in all battles and it was here that Prince Little John and his sheriff would plot to conquer the North and South to build a new empire. The colonies having been ravaged by the Timor plague and the dreaded CQs curse were to be rebuilt by the mighty Prince Little John and his faithful steering party Sheriff Kel, CQ Bubba and Squire Walters.

The enchanter Prince David who sometimes thought he was the King had a vision that saw many young men come to all colonies. These men were most ugly young peasants known as McIlroy, Trenti, Tyrell, and worst of all Clayton who was known as the joker. Many others were to support the Bendigo legends such as fourth and fifth Heirs to the throne Sir Waitless and Sir Fours.

As many nights past the call came from Prince David to fight on windward swept hills in the land of Protected Environment. We were to destroy many, with little as possible provided by Prince David and his merry band of henchmen of the castle, Sheriff Pillow and Squiztalkalot. The firepower was too much and the heathen enemy was sent packing. This brought much joy and the crowd roared for more. Sheriff Kel wondered at the availability of many large cannon shells for his soldiers until he read on his scroll that he dated it two years late.

King Craig was more than impressed with his soldiers and ordered that all Princes go and seek out their best squires to attend the land of Protected Environment so their musket and pigeon delivery skills could be improved to destroy an even harder enemy. At this time it was to be CQ Bubba's hardest hour, where many peasants would attempt to disrupt the usual smooth process of the delivery of new cannons and other weaponry. King Craig would be called to smooth out the process where others had failed. When King Craig emerged on the seventh day, victory over the disruptive Melburnian tartan wearers was ours. This produced many skilled warriors and all were then told to return to their castles and await the call to join the empire of Prince Little John and Sheriff Kel.

King Craig called onto the south to prepare for pillage and plundering to a far land of the north across many lochs. This call would pressure Prince David and have him move to the great sunshine in order to begin a course on bean counting and peasant herding. On the Princes return he would put his skills to good use and mould a formidable force. This finally impressed the great duke, Duke Grover.

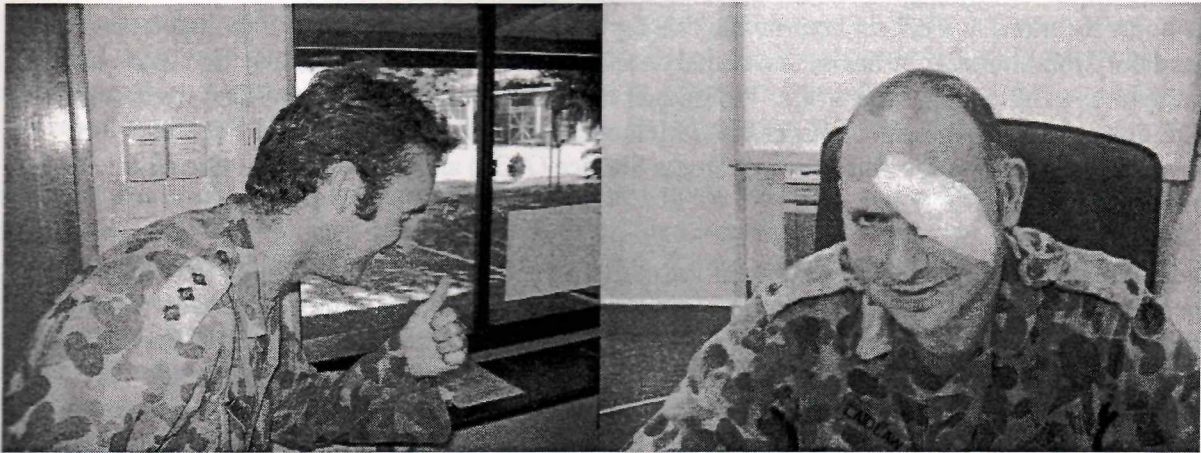
The test came when many could not run with sword or battle armour and so the cull did come with some electing to hand over their own teeth in order to remain on the main land. As many prepared for overseas delights the Prince of the south began to plan his next assault on the land of Protected Environment. His Sheriff, Sheriff Skip, tried to plan many battles to overcome a poor trained enemy provided by the Melburnian tartan wearers. This feat was too prove to much and so the Sheriff parted for home leaving only Prince Bowlan to conquer the peasants along with the mighty soldiers of Bendigo led by Prince Little John and Sheriff Kel.

Here the support elements were sent to seek out the heathen enemy, albeit, amongst a million young warriors sent by their families to be trained and snapped up by Prince Townerend for inclusion in the continued building of the King's Army many moons ahead.

When the work had ended at the going down of the sun, the pleasure had begun with many swilling from mugs of much demon water. News broke of a new Duke and Prince was to move into the castle in the New Year. The call was out to all to prepare for a visit that would take many nights to accomplish with all Sheriffs to produce the finest battle lines for the next battle of the New Year.

This would now prepare the new as the old were given some new wisdom by other Princes from a place called Kingscliffe. Many tales are told by those from this place as they that come from Kingscliffe grow old waiting to be tried by courts for all sorts of devious behaviour conducted within its walls, as we depart to conquer new lands led by a new King.

RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH 68 (details from Capt O'Mahoney)



Capt Emmet O'Mahoney (2IC RCB68) and Maj Doug Laidlaw (OC RCB68)

The Australian Army has stationed a Rifle Company at the Royal Malay Air Force Base Butterworth, since a down-size in the 1980s that saw the hand over of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base to the Malaysians. Simultaneously, the RAAF Fighter Jet Squadron withdrew and the permanently deployed Infantry Battalion reduced to a rotational three-month deployment of Company size. In recent times the November-February rotation has been undertaken by a reserve company. Over the Christmas break in 2004/05, it fell to the 4th Brigade (4 BDE) to supply the company.

The previous deployment of a 4 BDE element to Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) occurred over the Christmas period of 1999/2000.

In line with the Divisional Commanders direction, all such rotations will employ a combination of infantry soldiers from the division's rifle battalions, supplemented with rifle sections of supporting arms units. In the case of the last reserve rotation, known as RCB68, The 8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment (8/7 RVR) was chosen to supply the Headquarters Element and the majority of the infantry members. 8/7 RVR was joined by approximately a Platoon of soldiers from 5/6 RVR, Rifle Sections from 4th Combat Engineer Regiment and 4th /19th Prince of Wales Light Horse and supporting elements from the above listed units and 4th Combat Support Services Battalion (4 CSSB), 108th Signal Squadron and other non-4 BDE units.

The company was lead by Major Doug Laidlaw, OC A Coy 8/7 RVR, and a solicitor in civilian life. The Company 2IC was Captain Emmet O'Mahoney (4CSSB) and the Company Sergeant Major was Warrant Officer Class 2 Anthony Skiparis, also of A Company 8/7 RVR.

The compilation of the deployment manning commenced in February of 2004, the response from across the Bde was in excess of 250, on commencement of pre-deployment training and

administration in August, this number was reduced to under 200, of which 120 took initial allocations in the Coy Group.

The pre-deployment administration was conducted over four weekends, in Melbourne at Maygar Barracks, Broadmeadows. The first hurdle faced in conducting this training was the disparity of units involved, and travelling times in getting soldiers spread between Mildura and Albury/Wodonga to Melbourne for each of the four weekends. Not only did this rule out any training on the Friday nights, release times on Sunday needed to be tailored to ensure all returned to the home locations at a decent hour on the Sunday evenings. The training itself included the mandatory requirements of health and dental checks, as well as deployment specific customs, quarantine, welfare and psych briefs. To conduct this training support was provided from other 4 BDE units, Joint Movement Control Office Melbourne (JMCO Melbourne) and Federal Government Agencies the Australian Customs Service (ACS) and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS).

In addition to the hurdle the geography of the company provided one of the chief concerns during the preparation period was the non-AIRN compliance and significant numbers of soldiers whose competencies and course results do not match up on PMKeys. A worthy reminder of the continual requirement for soldiers to remain AIRN compliant and constantly check that their trade qualifications on PMKeys are consistent with their course achievements. Due to the lead time for this deployment (and some relentless leg work by Coy Clk, CPL Steve Linane) only individual BFA performances were a 'war stopper' for a few of the nominations for this rotation. But any soldier who nominates for a short notice deployment or Full Time Service in the future, be advised, AIRN compliance and an up to date PMKeys record is essential to ensure you get to the plane.

A special thanks must be given to (the then) OPSO 8/7 RVR, MAJ David Falloon for all his efforts in providing top cover and representation for the Coy on this deployment. Never afraid to throw in the mouth guard and rip on the gloves on behalf of the Company, his enthusiasm, especially considering he wouldn't be getting onto the C130 was admirable.

On 8th November 2004, two heavily laden C130 aircraft departed for Darwin carrying the bulk of the RCB68 personnel and stores. They arrived in Butterworth of 10th November and after a week of induction training, the first major activity was the Combat Training Centre's jungle training activity. This two-week activity is normally held in the months before deployment to Butterworth however the nature of a Reserve deployment is such that pre-deployment training and preparation is held to a minimum. In our case only five days were available to complete the necessary administrative and training needs before deployment. The activity itself involved a week lead up training followed by a five-day field exercise at the Kulum range, approximately 90 minutes drive from RMAF Butterworth. The terrain and tempo of the exercise served as a good 'shake out' for the Company, while the difficulty in operating in close country provided a challenge for Commanders and soldiers alike.

For many in the Company the highlight of the trip came with the late November journey across Malaysia to the eastern province of Terengganu. A somewhat more sedate and conservative part of the country than Butterworth's home in Penang, Terengganu is the home of the 8th Malaysian Infantry Battalion and hosts of the joint exercise, EX HARANGAROO. The Malays were very welcoming and proved great hosts, whether organising sports events, hospitality in the Messes or tips on the local tourism scene. Whilst the Malaysians deservedly take great pride in their skills and commitment to Army service, there exists a clear resource gap between the two nations, as seen on the field training exercise where what would be considered normal defensive stores were a rarity in

our company position. EX HARANGAROO finished with a feeding extravaganza and cultural display, special mention goes to Cpl Adam Boyd for his rendition of Waltzing Matilda, where if he didn't bring the entire house down, he certainly had the Aussie contingent on their feet.

On return to Butterworth, there was little time for rest and recreation before the Company was off to the Gurun Range complex (an hour inland) for a week of CAT A, B and C range practices.

The leave period of an RCB rotation is always set to be a memorable and for unforeseen reasons, this year was no exception. Having over 100 of its members on leave when the Tsunami hit on Boxing Day, it was through great luck (and a decree from Land Headquarters that for personnel security reasons no member of RCB was permitted in Thailand) that all were able to return safely. However on return to Butterworth, a revamp of the training program was required.

JTF 629 was created to co-ordinate the ADF response to the Tsunami, and in the final days of December five Sections and a command element of the Company was redirected from the training program and ordered to remain at RMAF Butterworth. To the credit of the CSM and training cell, the deployment to Singapore and the PULADA training facility in southern Malaysia was conducted with only slight amendments, but was a thoroughly worthwhile training (and for some, shopping) activity. The three-week exercise included training in urban operations, fighting over fortified objects in Singapore and range practices, jungle training and survival training in PULADA.

Whilst the official force assignment of the remaining element did not come into effect until 7 January, substantial support had been provided to the RAAF unit permanently stationed in Butterworth. Primarily in location to support ADF joint exercises in South East Asia, they do not possess the manpower that was required to prepare a forward logistic base of the size required for JTF 629. That the Rifle Company was able to provide the manning to the RAAF Commander was fortunate, that the soldiers went in with a 'no job too big or too small,' attitude, occasionally working into the wee hours of the morning was essential in preparing the base for coming operations. The positive impact of the RCB was not only felt by the RAAF, (whose CO awarded the RCB a commendation) but a variety of tasks directly supporting the operation were undertaken. These included driver tasks, reception of personnel assigned to Butterworth and those transiting in and out of the AO, and in some cases, cleaning of stores and equipment. Concurrent with this was the unlikely but possible requirement RCB 68 would be required to send soldiers forward into effected areas. To prepare his soldiers for this task, and with little more to guide him than CNN, Army doctrine and his imagination, Lt Doherty embarked on a training program that could only be described one way: innovative and realistic. (Or at least that's how LT Doherty described it). Regardless of the task or training activity involved, to be able to respond to the change as they did (and for most, there was some disappointment in missing the Singapore trip) the soldiers are to be commended for their effort and enthusiasm.

The Company reformed in the last week of January for some final training and return to Australia preparations, all safely returning home by 10 February 2005.

MILITARY SKILLS

Battalion:

As in 2003, the Battalion Military Skills Competition was held at the Pax Hill Scout Camp in Ballarat. The weather was kind and the logs were dry. This year's competition included a tunnel rescue, a trailer push, a sneaker lane, an obstacle course, radio set up tests, an abseiling wall, all

arms call for fire, a Quick Decision Exercise, a navigation exercise, an obstacle crossing, a medical stand, a Vehicle Check Point and, of course, a BFA. Although there were only 5 Sections competing, the competition was fierce. In the end, Cpl David Logan's Section from C Company finally wrested the Military Skills Trophy from A Company.



Winners are grinners: C Company's winning Military Skills Section

Brigade:

Despite the fact that the Brigade Military Skills competition was held on AFL Grand Final Weekend, 8/7 RVR put up a very strong performance against the best that the rest of the brigade units could put up. Cpl McKinley, LCpl Hastings and a composite section, which included two females, came a very close second place to 5/6 RVR. The section was awarded the overall RSM's X or 'wow' Factor for the competition.

RRF TRAINING

About 10 members of 8/7 RVR are also members of the RRF. The RRF training for 2005 started with a weekend in May. This involved a search and then protection of the Newport Power Station. The power station looks big when you see it from the Westgate Bridge but its true size is only appreciated when you are standing at the base of the 164 metre high chimney stack. Fortunately, we did not have to go to the top of the chimney to establish the OP but could use the top of the adjacent boiler building which was "only" 18 stories high. Access to this OP was via open meshed walkways so we found out who had a head for heights. The night time view across the Yarra River to the City made the climb worthwhile but we were too busy keeping on eye open for protesters, who were attempting to breach the perimeter fence, to really enjoy the view. The following day was spent operating some Vehicle Check Points (VCP). There were the usual collection of aggressive drivers and passengers who wouldn't take no for an answer. Just to make life interesting, there was also a "pregnant" lady who went into labour just as she got to the checkpoint.

The July weekend involved working with the security guards at several trucking depots at Altona. This required checking of documentation and security seals on the cargo compartments and searching of the exterior of the trucks. One thing we quickly learned was that you don't climb onto the vehicles, as the drivers are very protective of them. This exercise was made even more interesting as the exercise "threat" had access to heavy goods vehicles and attempted to gain entry to the depots using various forms of bluff, forged paperwork and aggression. This went from Friday evening to Saturday morning. A VCP was then set up at the entrance to the Watsonia Barracks. Several hundred "non-exercise" civilian vehicles were searched. Among these vehicles were also several "exercise threat" vehicles so the searchers had to stay switched on to ensure that only those people with genuine reasons were allowed to enter. This day provided valuable training in dealing with non-military people whom were not players in the training but "normal" people going about their day-to-day activities.

The August weekend started off looking to be a fairly straightforward search and protection of a facility in South Melbourne. Orders were given on Friday evening and reveille set at 0600. At 0500 everyone was rudely awoken due to a "bomb" going off at the South Melbourne facility and a different venue, in Maribyrnong, being required to be searched. VCP were established and cordon patrols and building searches commenced. We had a variety of abandoned vehicles, contraband in cars, booby traps and civilians taking photos of the base to contend with. Some searchers, who were not diligent enough, activated an IED (smoke grenade). This caused green smoke to drift across the adjacent busy road. Fortunately, the vehicles managed to find their way through the smoke without incident. John Howard's "Be Alert, Not Alarmed" campaign must be paying off as a member of the public reported to the VCP commander that there was a person taking photos of the buildings.

The September weekend involved a leisurely bus trip to Mt Macedon. It has been snowing there earlier in the morning but fortunately, by the time we go there, the snow had disappeared and been replaced by sleet, hail, thick fog and rain. A climb to the top of the Mount was then followed by a 25-metre abseil down the cliff face. I'm sure the view would have been nice if the fog had disappeared. Everyone managed to complete the activity without major injury. The afternoon was taken up with a trip to the CFA Training Centre at Carrum Downs. Searches of an enclosed multi-storey building in thick smoke and darkness and a tunnel system were done. Casualties were found, stabilised and extracted. A 200 metre stretcher carry does not seem very far but when its done along a 900 mm diameter pipe, on hands and knees, the soldiers were extremely pleased to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Exercise Pluto I ran for 10 days in October. The RRF members worked with Vic Police, Army Engineer Detection Dogs and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians. Searches of several public venues around Melbourne were performed. The "hurry up and wait" principle was used a lot as our searchers waited for the High-Risk Search teams to complete their tasks. By the end of the exercise, co-ordination between the RRF and the other agencies improved and less time was spent waiting and more time was spent searching. The Vic Police were very happy with the performance of the RRF soldiers as all the 'exercise' suspicious items were located and also several 'real' suspicious items. The accommodation at Point Cook RAAF base was superior to that normally used by Army. However, just to prove that "you can't please all of the people, all of the time", one soldier was heard to complain that the rooms didn't have a big enough shelf for his TV to sit on. Several layouts of VCP were trialed under the guidance of the Vic Police. These VCP allowed teams to search up to 12 vehicles (cars, buses and trucks) simultaneously. A command post exercise (CPX) was run for the officers, SNCO and emergency response services. This was like an 8/7 RVR re-union as two of the main organisers for the CPX were Major Chris Saultry (ex OC Charlie Coy, Shepparton) and Major Jeff Cole (ex XO of 8/7).

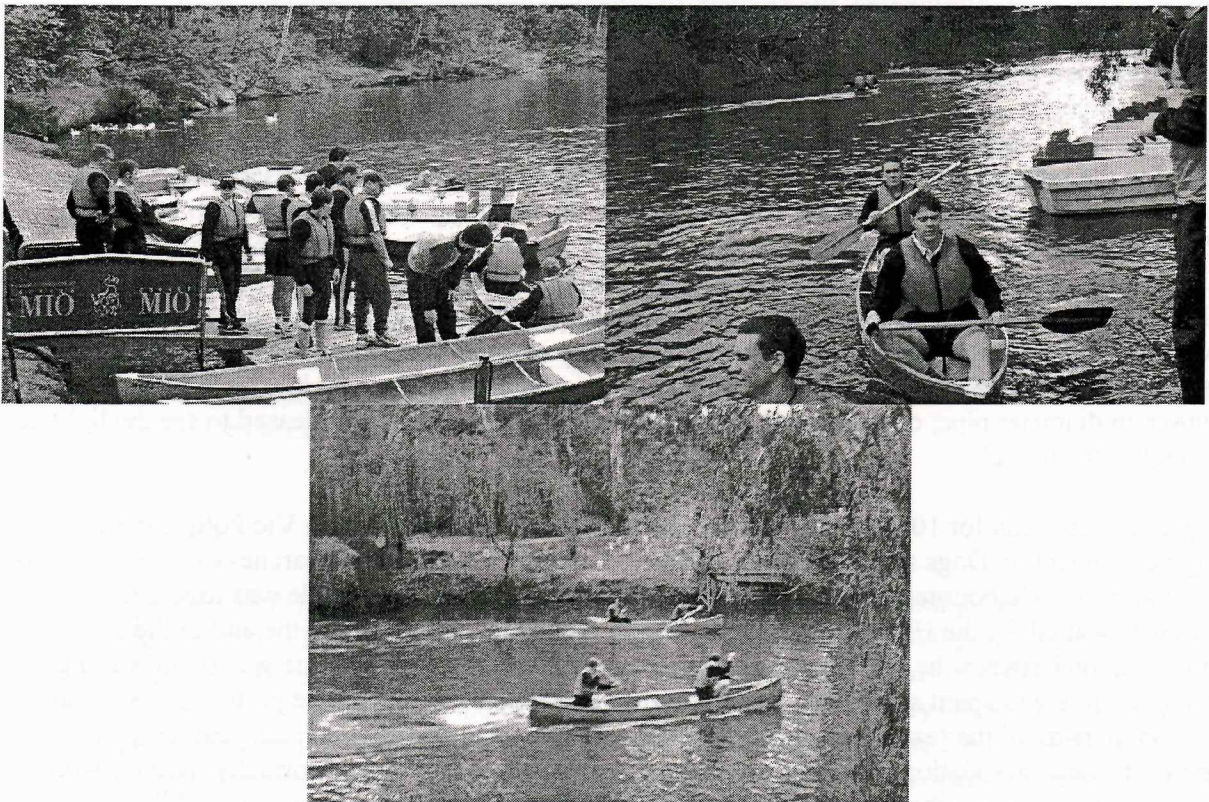
All up, this training has allowed us to become familiar with working in public venues with emergency services personnel and the public in general. This has provided the RRF soldiers with a good basis for the future activities in 2006.

5/6 RVR AND 8/7 RVR GAMES DAY MAY 2005

The 8/7 RVR team set off to Melbourne with a degree of anticipation and with some trepidation at the thought of competing in the second games day between the two battalions. We were about to participate in a canoe regatta in the Yarra River.

The 5/6 RVR organiser's of the day had planned that we would compete for the perpetual trophy in the canoe regatta, then partake in a BBQ by the river. We were then to move off to finish the day by showing our skills at ten pin bowling at 'Strike at Chapel' near 2/10 Regt HQ on Chapel St. All was going to plan in the regatta (for 5/6 RVR) until the skills of Whitey/Pollys and Powelly/Horrays boats came to the fore.

It had looked like a one horse race but these two crews managed to claw their way back to give 8/7 RVR a chance in the finals.



It came down to Whitey's boat, with Polly, in the final. Unfortunately a fresh crew from 5/6 RVR, who had only raced twice, competed for the final. So straight after their fourth race Whitey and Polly tried to fire up for the final race. The boys started out well but because of the exhaustion factor were unable to win the day.

After an excellent BBQ the presentations were made with a promise by RSM 8/7 RVR to try and make the next activity as challenging. Both crews then moved to the bowling alley and enjoyed the afternoon boasting about their respective bowling prowess.

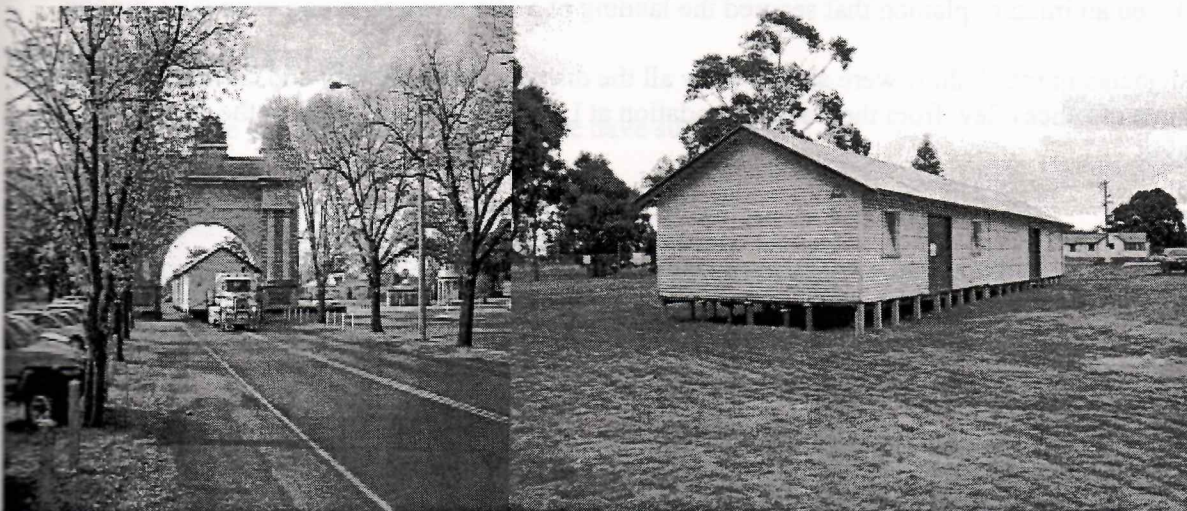
The evening then saw a few stalwarts remain in town to sample the nightlife. Of particular note was PTE Horrigan's effort in convincing a member of the opposite sex that he was a nice bloke (you had to be there).

All in all a great time was had by all and we look forward to the return contest later in the year.

THE BALLARAT RANGER MILITARY MUSEUM

As many will be aware, the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum was relocated to a temporary home in a disused room at the Sebastopol RSL when the battalion moved from the old Ranger Barracks in 2001. Although the rental charged by the City of Ballarat for the use of this room is minimal, the location of the museum is not at all user friendly as it is tucked away in a side street and not easily found by locals let alone visitors to Ballarat. Late last year moves were made to secure the P1 Hut for use as a museum building. This building was probably originally located at the Ballarat Airport in WW2 and was used as a Q Building in the yard at the old Ranger Barracks. At Broodseinde Barracks it was used as the HQ and Q Store for the Army Cadets.

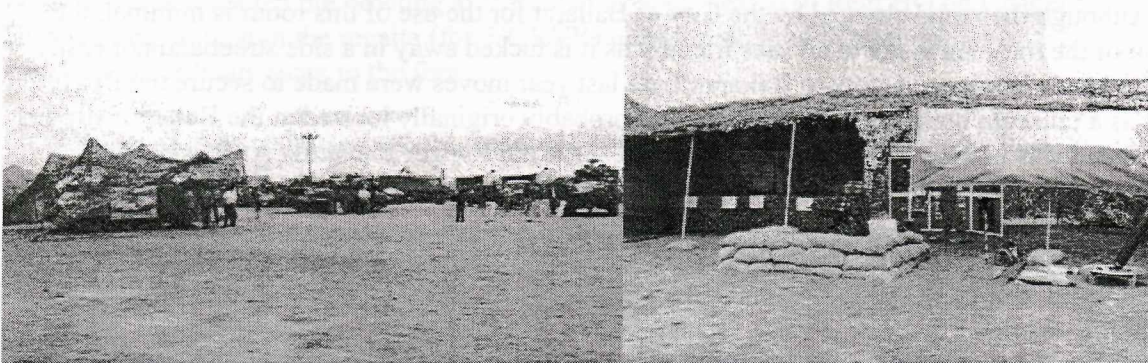
In April this year the building was moved to Ranger Barracks and now sits inside the rear gate. Electricity and telephone are now connected and work has commenced on painting the outside of the building. While new spouting and downpipes and a path and ramps are to be provided, a lot of work needs to be done on the lining of the building and the plan is to have the majority of the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum contents set up in the hut ready for an official opening as what will be officially known as a 'Unit Historical Collection' when the battalion celebrates its 150th Birthday on 9th August 2008. The museum committee is looking for assistance from unit members in the form of labour at working bees and in goods in the form of plaster and framing materials. Contact the XO or the Caterer if you can help.



The P1 Hut being moved through the Arch of Victory and on the ground at the barracks

AVALON AIRSHOW

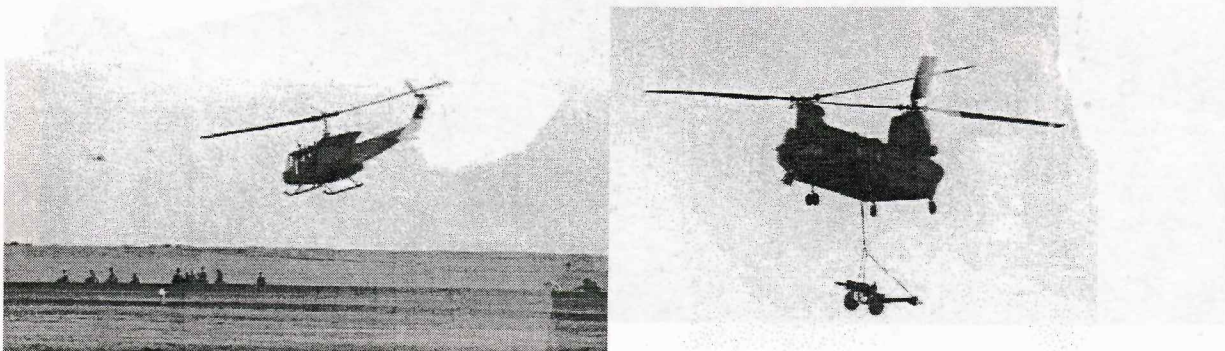
The 4th Brigade was tasked with providing a static display at Avalon Airshow 2005 and the security for ADF Assets on display at the airshow and at RAAF Williams (Laverton). At the ADF Ground Display the 4th Brigade was represented by HQ 4 Bde, 4/19 PWLH, 2/10 Fd Regt, 4 CER, 108 Sig Sqn, 5/6 RVR, 7/6 RVR and 4 CSSB. Non 4th Brigade units were the School of Armour, 15 Tpt Sqn, 1 Pet Coy and 3 Rec Coy from 9 FSB, Army Aviation and 2 Cdo Coy. The Navy was represented by 1 CDT from HMAS Waterhen in Sydney, while the RAAF was represented by 1 AFDS from Adelaide. The Pt Cook RAAF Museum, The Army Museum Bandiana and the RAAF provided historical displays in the ADF Military Museum along with current Navy and RAAF displays. Defence Force Recruiting, with assistance from most participating units, manned the recruiting caravans.



Main entrance to ground display and the RVR Display

Along with providing Recruiting Staff, the two RVR Battalions provided the staff for the security piquet and for an 'Air Mobile Platoon' that participated in the 'Air Mobility Capability Display'. This display consisted of 2 Kiowa, 2 Blackhawk, 1 Iroquois and 1 Chinook helicopter, which deployed an infantry platoon that secured the landing of a 105 howitzer slung from the Chinook.

Participants in the airshow were able to view all the displays, both military and civilian aircraft and in some instances flew from their accommodation at Laverton or Point Cook to the airshow at Avalon.



Airmobility display

Equipment on display

A selection of the equipment was provided to demonstrate the capability of the ADF and, in particular, the ground forces:

The School of Armour: a Leopard MBT and an ASLAV with crews.

4/19 PWLH: an APC (named 'Buffy') and a crew.

2/10 Fd Regt: a 155 mm Med Gun (from the School of Artillery) and tractor, along with a 105 mm Field Gun and Tractor for display, along with a 105 mm Field Gun for the Air Mobility Display.

16 AD: a RBS 70 Drill Weapon and RBS 70 Simulator.

4 CER: a High Speed Engineer Vehicle (or Lt Eng Tractor), a Stanley Air back with pneumatic tools (rock breaker, post rammer, rock and wood chain saws and an earth auger), a wacker tamper, a Cobra Rock Drill and a generator.

22 Constr Regt: an electrician to set up the generator and cabling.

108 Sig Sqn: one FFR and a satellite 6 x 6 for display, along with a second FFR with a Command Post and communications for Op Acolyte testing.

5/6 RVR and 8/7 RVR: a selection of current infantry weapons and equipment, a Mag 58 and mortar and a selection of innocuous historical weapons (Vickers MG, SLR and .303).

2 Cdo Coy: a selection of commando equipment which included a free-fall parachute, fast roping equipment, chest webbing and a water operations kit.

4 CSSB: a deployable RAP and Dental Tent, a display ambulance and a crewed active ambulance for use with airshow military activities, a fitters 6 x 6, a Merlo fork lift, a bath unit and a selection of Mog and Mack trucks.

15 Tpt Sqn: a 10,000 litre Mack Fleetliner tanker for display and for filling the Clearance Diving Tank.

1 Pet Coy: two 1800 litre fuel tanks and a KRP, along with a Fire Fighting Unit.

3 Rec Coy: a Unimog based Medium Recovery vehicle along with a Mark 5 International Historical Recovery Vehicle.

Army Aviation: a model 'Tiger' ARH.

The Navy: a Diving Tank, a decompression chamber, divers weapons and a display tent.

The RAAF: a display of weapons and equipment for the Airfield Defence Squadron including a 110 Land Rover based Gun Buggy, 2 Motor Bikes and a 6 wheeled motor bike.

PTE SAFFRON EXERCISE

Well it's almost the end of 2005 what a year we have survived...

My Bush Experience

It was that time of year where we all headed off to do some group therapy and bonding, this was my first trip away with the boys (oh yeah and some of the girls), and I was looking forward to it, they called it bush/field. I was a little nervous about the trip, as I have never been away with so many boys before.

I had been tasked to help out the cooks and I was keen to learn and to see what the boys actually did whilst they were out bush, not only the cooks but the others like the Q and Admin Staff. I was eager to learn I couldn't wait to get to our destination.

Let the journey begin, we departed Ranger Barracks around 1930hrs on a luxurious coach. I couldn't believe my eyes I was thinking where the hell are we going. Is it the Gold Coast, but no I was told Bendigo, like "what the!" We were camping there overnight before heading off to our final

destination which was none other than Graytown. I had never heard of Graytown, where the hell is this place they call Graytown? Later I was told near Puckapunyal. Great I thought.

We finally arrived at our destination. I was excited! Yep that's right, excited! There were tents and vehicles, people everywhere it was all happening!

I dropped all my gear of into my tent, yep that's right I slept in a tent. I even had a stretcher! I shared my sleeping quarters with two other girls, Amanda Stafford and Kat Hayden. They were great company, but they were messy boarders though, and they were in and out all hours of the night. I was kind of wondering what were they doing. I was thinking the worst 'til I was informed that they were doing radio pickets and they were playing enemy.

The cooks! Well, oh my god! Do those guys work hard! They were the first up in the mornings and the last to bed at night. They worked their little rings off, no wonder they needed me to help. I was exhausted! I was bashing dixies, chopping vegetables, filling the 'choofers', making jelly, burgers, snitzels etc, and plating up meals for the hot boxes, and making sure everyone was happy, I was buggered by the time I went to bed.

I was able to take a wander around to see what the rest of the world was up to. Well I couldn't believe what I saw. People just kicking back sitting by the fire telling stories, eating, smoking, relaxing, generally having a wow of a time, it was a sight to see! There was even a TV in some of the other camping sites, the facilities that some had had been fantastic. I was amazed. I didn't think there would be power out bush, because if I had of known this I would have bought my hair dryer and clock radio.

All up my experience was a fun one. I had a ball. I was given a weapon, wasn't sure what I was suppose to do with it though, but I looked after it like it was one of my kids. If I had of known bush was like this I would've put my hand up sooner. I had a blast! Not only did I learn things but I got to know a lot of the people that I had only spoken to on the phone, and I made some great friends.

Oh yeah, I almost forgot, I showered almost everyday, and to think I thought I would be lucky to get one bush shower the whole ten days.....bush that wasn't bush, it was camping!

ALLIED REGIMENTS

Many regiments throughout the former British Empire maintain officially sanctioned "alliances" (sometimes mistakenly called affiliations). The practice was born in the early 20th century to maintain bonds as the Dominions gained greater independence from the 'mother country', and the system continued to strengthen as colonies gained their independence after the Second World War. For example, until recently The Queen's Regiment of the British Army was allied with three Australian regiments, a New Zealand regiment, a Pakistani regiment, The Sierra Leone Military Force, and The Royal Hong Kong Regiment. (The successor to The Queen's Regiment inherited all these alliances.) This unique military feature of the British Empire and Commonwealth not only fosters international understanding, but also helps preserve and extend a regimental esprit de corps, which many consider a vital factor in battlefield morale.

8/7 RVR has 'alliances with two other Commonwealth regiments:

The Royal Regiment of Canada, and The Staffordshire Regiment in the UK.

The Royal Regiment of Canada is the second largest reserve regiment of the Canadian Armed Forces. It is an infantry unit based in Toronto, Ontario, part of the 32 Canadian Brigade Group. The regiment was formed in 1936 as The Royal Regiment of Toronto Grenadiers through the amalgamation of two other regiments: The Royal Grenadiers, and The Toronto Regiment.

The regiment was renamed in 1939 as The Royal Regiment of Canada. The regiment has three companies: Grenadier Company, Toronto Company, and 58th Company. Royal Assent for an alliance between the Royal Regiment of Canada and the 8th/7th Battalion, The North Western Victorian Regiment was given in 1959. The alliance to The Royal Victoria Regiment was approved in 1969.

The Royal Regiment of Canada is due to receive its new Colours in the northern summer of 2007.

In 1937, an alliance between the 8th Infantry Battalion (The City of Ballarat Regiment) and the King's Own Royal Regiment (Liverpool) was approved. In 1955, an alliance between the 38th Battalion (The Bendigo Regiment) and The South Staffordshire (38/80th) Regiment was approved. The King's Own was disbanded in 1958, while the 38th Battalion became of 2 RVR in 1960. In 1967 The Queen approved the establishment of an alliance between the Royal Victoria Regiment and The Staffordshire Regiment (the combination of the North Staffords and South Staffords).

The Staffordshire Regiment celebrated its 300th Birthday in March 2005. It was planned that the regiment would receive new Colours this year to mark the occasion, however, the 1st Battalion was serving in Iraq from April to October 2005. In this time the regiment lost three men KIA. The Colours will now be presented in 2006 or 2007.

The regiment consisted of the 1st Battalion (full-time) and the 3rd Battalion (Territorial). Recently the 3rd Battalion transferred to the West Midlands Regiment providing part of the HQ Coy and part of each of C and D Companies.

Like the Australian Army in 1960, the British Army announced another reorganisation in December 2004. The Staffords will become the 3rd Battalion, The Mercian Regiment in 2006 or 2007.

Members intending to travel to Canada or the UK should contact the adjutant approximately three months before their travel to see about spending time with either of these Allied Regiments.

ROYALS MEET CHALLENGE by Capt Mihail Murgoci, Adjutant, Royal Regiment of Canada

TORONTO – The Royal Regiment of Canada continues to meet the various challenges given to it as the second largest Army Reserve unit (a total of 255 all ranks) in Land Force Central Area, an area which consists of 40 units.

During the past year, the regiment participated in over 10 major exercises. Highlights included Ex Intrepid Warrior, a cloth model exercise which honed senior leaders' war game skills and Ex Domestic Guardian, a joint Domestic Training Exercise working closely with the Ontario Provincial Police. Royals deployed to Fort Knox, Kentucky in March for Ex Southern Drive followed by participation in Ex Iron Talon I and II, which consisted of deliberate attacks on enemy trench systems. In August, over 90 Royals joined 3500 Army Reservists in CFB Petawawa taking part in Ex Stalwart Guardian 05. This eight-day exercise, involving troops from the US, UK, and Germany, was the third in a series of exercises begun in 2003. Reservists encountered terrorist and insurgent troops much like the troops face in Afghanistan.

Soldiers participated in airmobile assaults; recce patrols and deliberate attacks in preparation for domestic and overseas operations.

In early April, the regiment sent representatives to the Blessing Service of TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall in Windsor Castle. They were: the CO, Lt Col Vijay Sharma; the RSM, Chief Warrant Officer David Lowry; Sergeant Richard Wellowszky and Corporal Glendene Wilson-Willocks.

In May, a contingent of Royals joined over 1000 soldiers from 32 Canadian Brigade Group in a parade through downtown Toronto commemorating the 60th Anniversary of VE Day during the Second World War. Royals dipped into their pockets and collected over 3000 pounds of food to donate to food banks in Greater Toronto Area during the 32 CBG Xmas Holiday Food Drive.

Major leadership changes took place during the year when CWO Mehdi Imtiaz stepped down as RSM and was replaced by CWO David Lowry last Autumn. In June, Lt Col Sharma relinquished the CO appointment and handed it over to Lt Col Walter Perchal.

Several Royals participated in overseas operations during the past year. Master Corporal Kevin Brown, Corporal Andres Arias and Cpl Cory Betik served with Op Athena, Roto 3, in Afghanistan. MCpl Mario Sandoval and Cpl Phillip Brown are serving on Op Athena, Roto 4, in theatre at this time.

The regimental family extends congratulations to Second Lieutenant Larry Smith, MB, who was recently awarded the Medal of Bravery by the Governor General of Canada and to Captain Rick Towey who received the 32 CBG Officer of the Year Award for his exceptional performance during the previous year.



Royal Regiment of Canada activities, 2005

THE REGIMENTAL MESS

The Regimental Mess has had a busy year. The new CO, Lt Col Marsh, wanted a chance to meet all his officers, so an Officer's Dining In Night, with a difference, was planned. A Father and Son night was held in March. Twenty of the battalion's male officers attended, along with The Regimental Colonel, ten fathers/father-in-laws and two sons. A most enjoyable night was had by all.

The next function was the Regimental Dinner in June. Once again a good roll up ensured that the Mess Members had a great night, unencumbered by 'the other halves'.

A third function was the Past Officer's Dinner. This was a follow on from last year's dinner. Although there were four late withdrawals due to illness etc, eight past COs, fifteen past officers and seven serving officers attended. These past officers are a valuable source of information on the battalion's history, and each one is contributing in some way to the writing of the history.

The last major function for the year for the mess was the Mixed Regimental Dinner. Almost 50 people attended and farewells were held for OC B Coy Maj Gowers, The Chief Clerk, WO2 Doorne, The RQMS, WO2 Griggs, The Tech Sgt, Chucky Cartwright, CSM A Coy WO2 Skiparis who leaves us for the second time and CQMS C/Spt Coys Sgt McHenry.

All in all a good year, made all the better by the support of the WO Caterer, his staff and all those who volunteered to be stewards and waiters.



A couple of the farewells at the Mixed Regimental Mess Dining In Night

QUOTABLE QUOTES

With B Coy struggling to find Stewards for the Officers Regimental Dinner, the XO suggested that some SNCO's might do the Stewards duty, to which WO2 Armstrong replied: 'Like f—k, Sir!'

Mil Skills

Stand 2 to OA

31A is receiving you weak and unbearable.

Section in tunnel sees a DS standing watching. 'It's a DS!' Several minutes later, DS hadn't moved. Same diggers: 'It's a DS!' Really switched on section!

Ex Ypres:

WO2 Armstrong: "Detail cover off the odd even numbered lanes."

Pte Armstrong: When asked, "How did you get here today?" She replied: "I walked here, on my own legs."

The key for the South Gate went missing. Who lost the key and who found the key? Ask the CO!

The RSM had a liking for undiluted cordial.

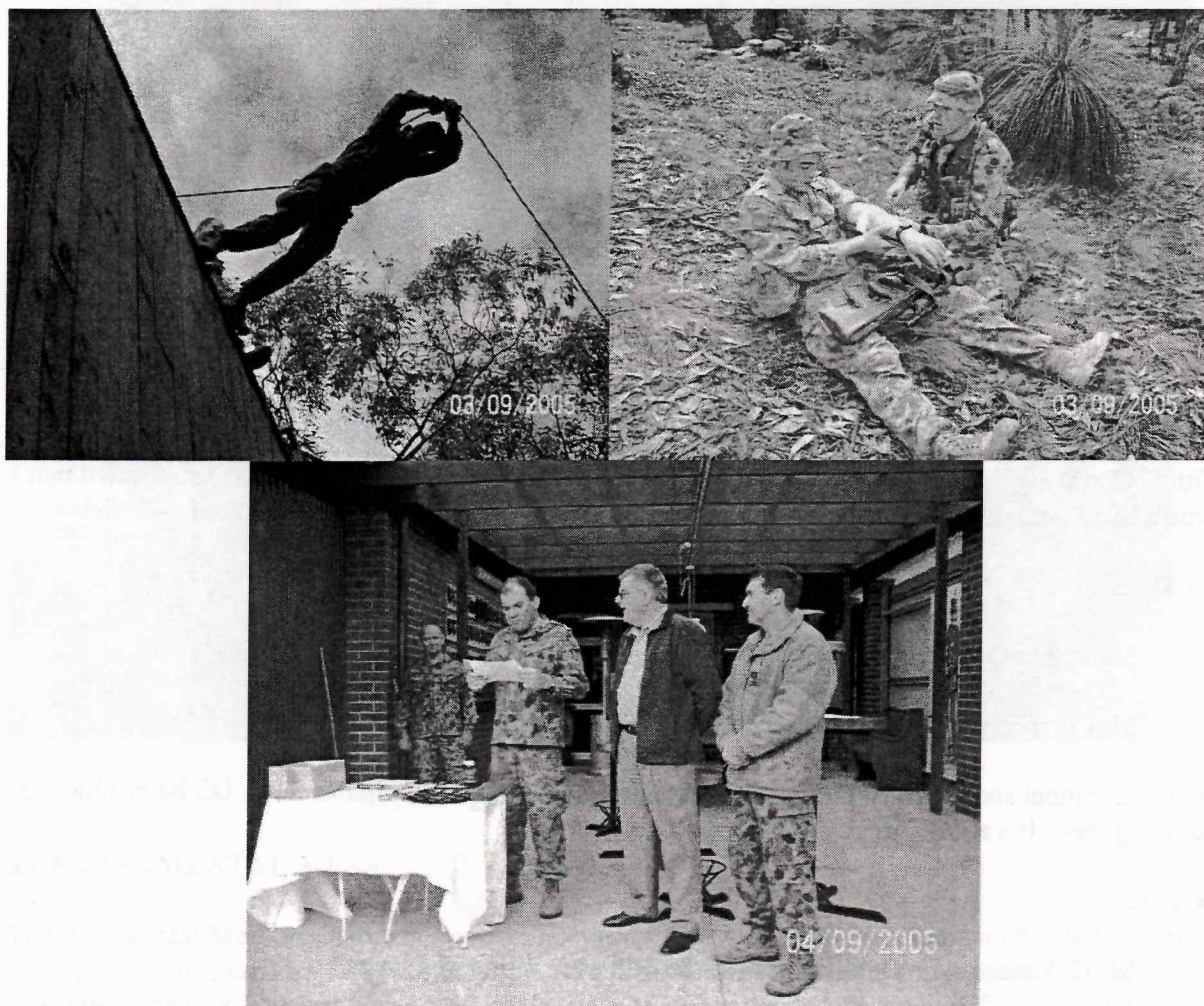
The XO shoots better with his glasses on!

HISTORICAL CONNECTION WITH MILDURA

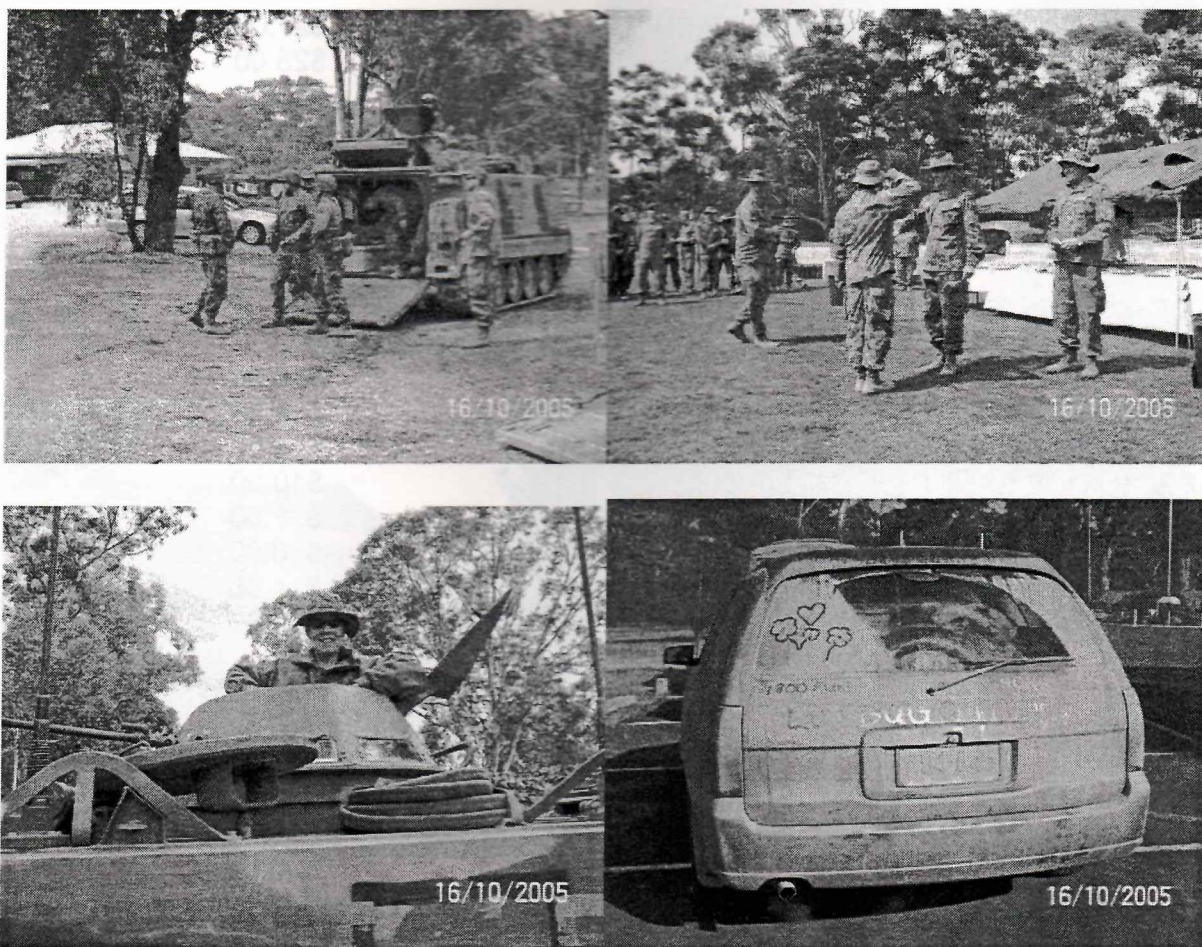
Commemoration of 60 years of end of WWII.

On 14th August 1945, Beaufighters from 7, 8 and 100 Squadrons of the RAAF undertook the last air raid of WWII. Their attack was in support of the 2/7th Battalion AIF at Kiarivu on the north coast of New Guinea between Aitape and Wewak.

2/7th Battalion was raised in NW Victoria, including Mildura. The Mildura depot is named Kiarivu Barracks.



Col Riley (Regt Col), Lt Col Marsh (CO), Mr Ray Mende (Pres Viet Vets) and RSM O'Connor
Mil Skills Presentation 4th Sep 05



REGIMENTAL FUNDS

Regimental Funds exists to provide the battalion members with useful goods, memorabilia and a supply of battalion related products such as T-Shirts and Caps. Regimental Funds can also be called on to provide small amounts of cash to cover such items as wreaths at funerals. Obviously, any expenditure from the funds must be covered by sales, so get behind Regimental Funds by purchasing your needs through it. Contact WO2 Pellow in the Ops Cell.



8/7 RVR REGIMENT FUNDS PRICE LIST

**IF YOU REQUIRE ANY PRODUCT PLEASE SEE
YOUR DEPOT MANAGER OR COY CSM**

CLOTHING

UNIT PT LONG SLEEVE EMBROIDED SHIRTS	\$27.00
UNIT PT SHORT SLEEVE EMBROIDED SHIRTS	\$25.00
BN EMBROIDED RUGBY JUMPER	\$50.00
ARMY TRACKSUITS- BOTTOM	\$28.00
BATTALION PT SHORTS	\$10.00
RVR REGIMENTAL TIES	\$25.00
GLOVES	\$ 2.50

ACCESSORIES

SUNGLASSES – BLACK	\$10.00
LAPEL BADGES 8/7 RVR	\$ 4.50
LAPEL BADGES ARMY	\$ 5.00
LAPEL BADGE SANDS OF GALLIPOLI	\$10.00
ARMY CUFF LINKS	\$ 8.00
ARMY TIE BARS	\$ 8.00
8/7 RVR CAPS GOLD EMBROIDERY	\$ 4.00
8/7 RVR CAPS COLOUR EMBROIDERY	\$12.00

BOOKS

COBBERS IN KHAKE (on request) Soft cover \$35.00 Hard Cover	\$45.00
OUR DEAR OLD BATTALION (on request) Hard Cover	\$45.00
GALLIPOLI ENCYCLOPEDIA (Hard Cover)	\$45.00
SOLDIERS STORY	\$20.00

PLAQUES

8/7 RVR DESK PLAQUES (SMALL) (on request)	\$13.00
8/7 RVR WALL PLAQUE (LARGE) (on request)	\$45.00

PRINTS

RANGER PRINTS (SET OF 4)	\$30.00
RANGER PRINTS	\$10.50

EQUIPMENT

THERMONATE MUGS	\$ 8.00
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