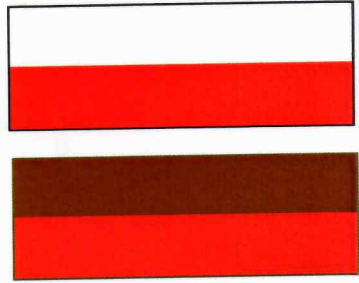


THE RANGER

2008



A SOLDIER

**I WAS THAT WHICH OTHERS DID NOT WANT TO BE
I WENT WHERE OTHERS FEARED TO GO AND DID WHAT OTHERS
FAILED TO DO.**

**I ASKED NOTHING FROM THOSE WHO GAVE NOTHING
AND RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED THE THOUGHT OF ETERNAL
LONELINESS ... SHOULD I FAIL.**

**I HAVE SEEN THE FACE OF TERROR, FELT THE STINGING OF COLD
FEAR;**

AND ENJOYED THE SWEET TASTE OF A MOMENTS LOVE.

**I HAVE CRIED, PAINED AND HOPED .. BUT MOST OF ALL
I HAVE LIVED TIMES OTHERS WOULD SAY WERE BEST FORGOTTEN.
AT LEAST SOME DAY I WILL BE PROUD TO SAY THAT I WAS PROUD OF
WHAT I WAS**

A SOLDIER

HONORARY COLONEL

PROFESSOR DAVID DE KRETZER AC, GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA

REGIMENTAL COLONEL

BRIGADIER DOUGLAS BALL AM RFD ADC

ALLIED REGIMENTS

**THE STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT
(THE PRINCE OF WALES'S) NOW A PART OF
THE MERCIAN REGIMENT
THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF CANADA**

COMMANDING OFFICER

LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID MCKERRAL

REGIMENT SERGEANT MAJOR

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 1 DARREN MURCH

ALLIED ASSOCIATIONS

**THE 7TH BATTALION (1939–1945)
THE 2/7TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION, INCORPORATING
THE 7TH BATTALION AIF
THE 7TH BATTALION, RAR
THE 8TH BATTALION (BALLARAT) ASSOCIATION
THE 8TH BATTALION (ARARAT) ASSOCIATION
THE 2/8TH BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH
THE MACARTHUR STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL, BALLARAT
THE 8TH/7TH BATTALION–2 RVR ASSOCIATION**

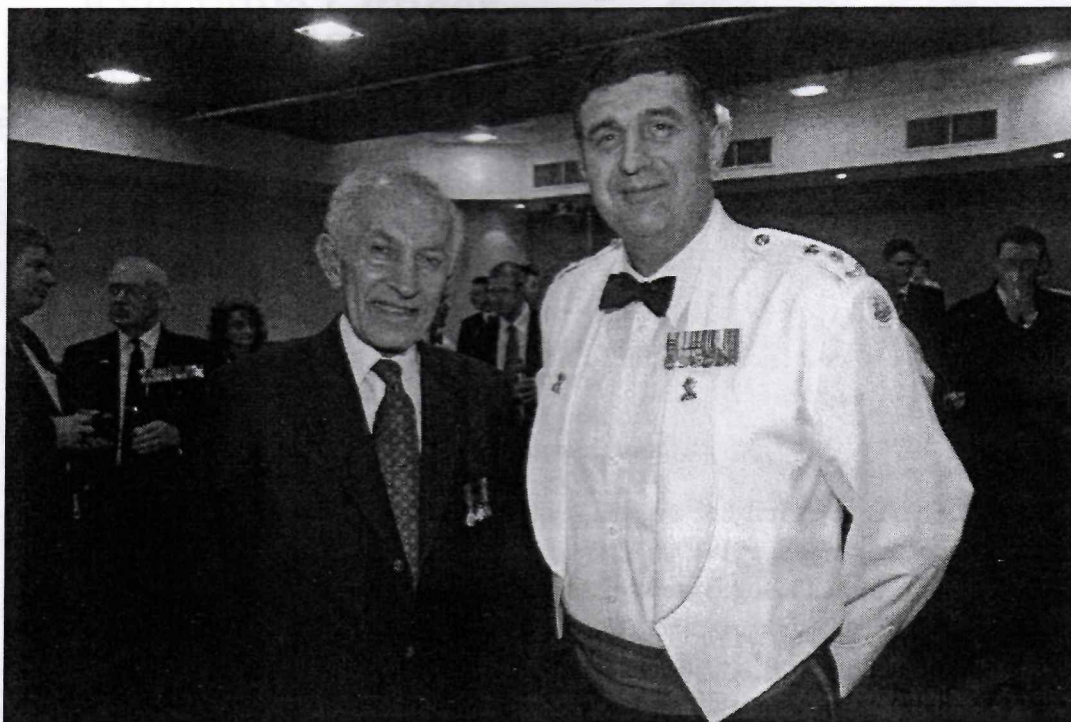
Photo

Acknowledgement

**CAPT Cam Ward
CPL Michael Currie
LT Danielle Perkins
The Courier
Others as supplied**

Lieutenant Colonel David McKerral

Commanding Officer



8th/7th RVR CO Lieutenant Colonel David McKerral with Honorary Colonel and Victoria Governor Professor David de Kretser

The Battalion has achieved a lot this past year. After overcoming the disappointment of having the trip to Germany taken away from us due to funding constraints, the Battalion instead focused on training, preparing and sending people on operations, the field exercise in Canungra and the 150th Birthday celebrations. As this magazine goes to print we have members of the Battalion serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Solomon Islands and Malaysia. This year we have also had our people serve in Timor, New Zealand, the UK and Germany.

This high tempo stresses the need we have to take every opportunity to train hard and effectively. Our training has a purpose and it is being put into practice around the trouble spots of the world today. It is also ensuring that the Battalion upholds the fine traditions our predecessors created over the past 150 years.

The Battalion continues to transfer soldiers to the ARA. This year we transferred around 40 soldiers in a variety of ranks and trades. Hopefully when they have finished with their full time career they will transfer back to the Reserve and the Battalion and enrich us with their experiences.

The Battalion has performed very well in its endeavours and has won praise from a variety of sources for the way it has conducted itself. You should all stand tall knowing that you have given your best and that the effort has been recognised and well received. Our Honorary Colonel, the Governor of Victoria, the Minister assisting the Premier on Veterans Affairs and the Commander 2nd Division all commented favourably on the way the Battalion performed.

As I depart on my next posting I would like to let you all know that I have been honoured to serve alongside you all. Thank you for the privilege of commanding such a fine unit. I am proud to have served in the best Battalion in the Second Division.

I extend my best wishes to you and your families for the Christmas period. In our relatively small army I am sure that we will cross paths in the future. Good luck and good soldiering.

Celer et Audax, Cede Nullis

Warrant Officer Class One Darren Murch

Regimental Sergeant Major

2008 has been a proud year for the Battalion as it celebrated its 150th anniversary. This is a milestone that is not experienced by many units and the professionalism and Esprit de Corps the officers and soldiers displayed during that weekend in August will leave a lasting memory in the minds of those who participated or witnessed the spectacle.

The Battalion has many strengths, two of which I wish to acknowledge now as my tenure draws to a close. The dedication of the Reserve officers and soldiers is motivation for the Battalion to strive for excellence. The Regular Army staff posted to the 8th/7th is the glue that binds this fine Battalion so strongly.

This year the training program required the Battalion to deploy on two block training periods - one to Canungra and one to Canberra. Getting time away from other life commitments is a challenge and to ask our people to do this twice in one year is a massive request. The numbers that attended the activities were staggering and I feel the gains in training, junior leader development and broadening the experience base were well worth the sacrifice. You will read throughout this year's edition of the Ranger Magazine how many people deployed on operations around the world and the calls keep coming from our headquarters. The men and women of the 8th/7th Battalion are keen volunteers to support the Australian Defence Force in whichever operational environment they are asked to serve in. We receive heartfelt praise from the organisations that are lucky enough to have some of Country Victoria's Own make up their rank and file.

The Commanding Officer and I pledged at the beginning of 2007 to create a training environment that was interesting, varied and allowed growth for our NCOs and officers. I am confident that we have achieved this. It is easy to have a vision of this nature but if it is not taken and turned into a living entity that vision won't be realised. I applaud the Regular Army staff for committing their heart and souls into the areas of their expertise and allowing training to be conducted precisely, safely and legally. Their standard of leadership and mentoring has been at a level that brings great credit to the Battalion. Recognition of our soldiers is a direct reflection of the great work that has been done by the Regular personnel.

My family and I have been warmly accepted into the Ballarat community and we will dearly miss the friends we have made. I am proud to have served with the 8th/7th Battalion and will keep my eye on the successes of the Battalion in the future.



Major Neil Leckie Executive Officer

While those in Ballarat often don't see me, I spend a lot of time with the Battalion, often doing those things in the background that either others don't want to do (like OH&S, and Equity and Diversity) or doing things that take the pressure of others (like representing the Battalion at outside activities).

2008 promised to be busy and it was but unfortunately with Germany being cancelled the year wasn't quite as busy (or as enjoyable) as it could have been. My plans for the year were firstly, to complete the writing of the battalion history and secondly, to get the museum building completed. Both of these tasks were completed in time for the book to be launched and the museum opened on the Battalion's 150th Birthday weekend. All this had to be done outside my Army time as I still had all my XO's duties to perform. These included attending an RRF/RRF Command Course at Singleton (needed for Germany but not a waste of time) and the Battalion's lead up exercise at Canungra.

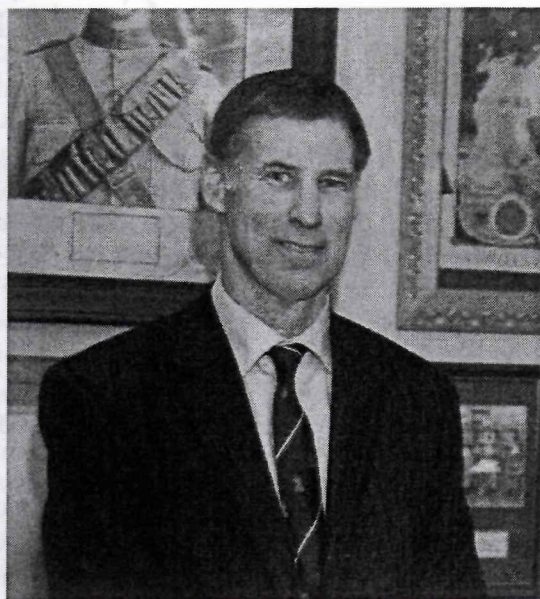
While the book has my name on it and I did most of the writing, I was ably supported by a small committee. This was made up of a local military photograph collector and Vietnam Veteran John Dellaca; military enthusiast and Vietnam Veteran Bill Akell; former Commanding Officer of 2 RVR Ted Lynes and the museum curator and Battalion caterer WO2 Mark Broemmer. I also had some Bendigo input from former OC C Coy Major Nigel Townsend. Late in the project, Sgt Arthur Mazur, a former ARA member of the battalion, did some high resolution scanning for the book's photographs. Without the support of this committee, the book would not have turned out as well as it did. The editor, indexer and typesetter for the book were provided by the Army History Unit and Australian Military History Publications published the book at no cost to the battalion. While the books are available in bookshops at a slightly lower price, within the battalion signed copies of the book are sold through the museum, Regimental Funds and Soldiers Clubs with profits from the sales going to those organisations.

The Ballarat Ranger Military Museum was opened in the Old Ranger Barracks (now Dan Murphy's) in 1989 when Bill Akell was the QM and first curator. When the old barracks closed in 2001, the museum was moved to a disused room in the Sebastopol Hall and the City of Ballarat asked for a minimum rental. Also when the old barracks closed, a WW2 era 'Q' hut was moved to the Russell Street barracks where it became the Army Cadets Office and Q Store. After the opening of the new Ranger Barracks and the closure of Russell Street, the cadet hut was surplus to requirement and after a bit of a red tape battle the hut was moved to the rear of the new barracks in 2005 and was to be used for the museum.

Supervised and assisted by WO2 Broemmer and myself, a small band of dedicated volunteers including a number of Vietnam Vets such as Bill Akell, Ray Rosenow, Jeff Sculley, Dennis Storer and 'Tiny Hepburn, along with the former Ranger Barracks cleaner and also member of the Battalion Bill Randall and former soldier David Wright put in many hours over three years to 'knock the building into shape'. For those who have been through the museum, it has been well worth the effort.

Apart from my usual activities, other activities that I have had some involvement in were:

The 8 RAR Reunion in February, attended by former 8 RAR member and the then Governor-General Michael Jeffrey, the presentation at Castlemaine of a set of framed shooting badges awarded to a Clunes member of the Ballarat Rangers in the 1880s to the Clunes Museum (unfortunately not to the Ballarat Museum), the Sebastopol RS&L Annual 'Smoke Night' dinner, the RS&L Hellenic Sub-branch ANZAC Luncheon, the Macarthur Street ANZAC Service, numerous talks promoting the battalion's history book, collection of photographs and memorabilia for the battalion's museum and the Macarthur Street Remembrance Day Service.



Captain Matthew Whitwell

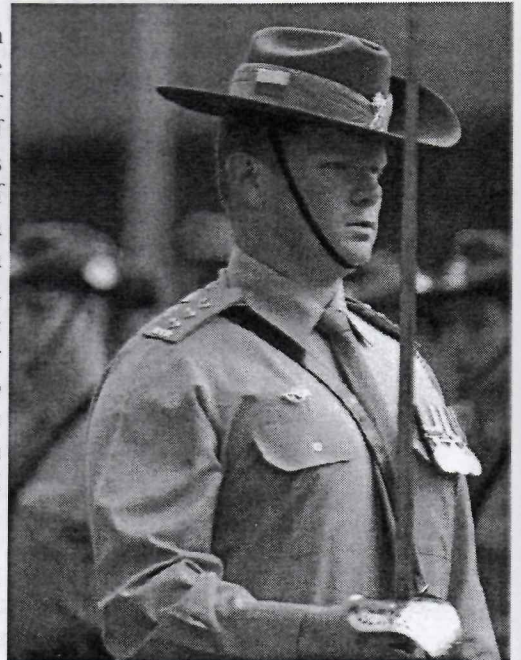
Adjutant

This year has seen many ups and downs for the Battalion. These began with the prospect of a month trip to Europe where we would be working alongside our Coalition partners in a training exercise based on the conduct of Counter Insurgency Operations in Afghanistan. The HQ, Ops and Coy staff conducted a great deal of in depth planning to ensure the Battalion was thoroughly prepared to deploy, only to have the trip cancelled due to lack of funding. This brought a great deal of disappointment to the Battalion as a whole. To 8/7's credit, the unit has managed to soldier on and maintain a healthy attitude towards its main function of providing capability to the ADF. This can be seen by support to a number of activities such as Op Anode, Rifle Coy Butterworth, exchange programs with UK and NZ armed forces, and our regular support tasks to places such as RMC, LWC and 4 BDE. We have also deployed personnel from the unit to East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. The Battalion has managed all of this while concurrently conducting its own activities such as Ex Bobdubi at Canungra, the LFX at Canberra and several sub unit training weekends.

The highlight of my year as the ADJT was Ex Bobdubi, where I got to fulfil the role of Coy Commander. I feel that the exercise was of great benefit to the unit as a whole, allowing 8/7 to qualify more drivers and junior leaders and for those deployed as part of the Rifle Coy. The training conducted at Canungra

focused on being brilliant at the basics, a necessity when operating in jungle terrain. The training that was conducted by the Section and Platoon staff under the watchful eyes of WO2 McGinley, WO2 Reyne and SGT Bounden provided an excellent foundation from which the Coy could develop its close country fighting skills. This meant that in the space of 10 days, the Coy went from being relatively inexperienced at the conduct of jungle warfare to carrying out a tactical cordon and search on a village under trying conditions. The exercise also demonstrated just how difficult jungle warfare can be and I feel that many lessons, both personal and collective, were learned from the exercise. The most important lesson which should have been learnt by all was the need for thorough battle preparation and rehearsals. These two very basic aspects of soldiering can mean the difference between success and failure, which, from a soldiers perspective, means life and death.

As the end of the year draws steadily closer, there will be a great many changes to the Battalion in the coming months. The Battalion will lose the CO, LTCOL McKerral, who departs sunny Ballarat for the challenges of HQ JOC. The unit will also lose many of its ARA staff, most of whom leave the Battalion for postings back to the Royal Australian Regiment and Training Command. I wish all of those who are posting the best of luck in their future careers and I look forward to working with you again at some stage, hopefully on operations.



My thanks to all of those who I have spent the last 2 years working with. I have had an enjoyable time during my posting at 8/7 RVR and have learnt a great many lessons which will stand me in good stead for the rest of my Army career. I have also been fortunate enough to work closely with some of the best soldiers in the Army, those who have dedicated a great deal of their personal time to the betterment of 8/7 RVR and its members. I honestly believe that we who are leaving are leaving the unit in a better state than it was in when we got here, that our work, although not always recognised, has paid off and that we have left the unit in a good position, ready for the challenges the future will bring.

LEFT: CAPT Whitwell, who did not want to be remembered in polys.

OPERATIONS CELL

The Operations Cell started 08 on the run with preparation for CO-OP Spirit. This unit deployment involved BHQ and a rifle Coy exercising in Germany. The planning, training and admin was well under way when the task was reallocated to a northern ARA unit. This was disheartening for the Battalion however the OPS had a consolation prize up their sleeves which was an all expenses paid trip to the Gold Coast in Queensland or, more precisely, Canungra for EX Bobdubi. After two weeks in paradise some of the Battalion members were still not appeased from missing out on Germany so OPS came to the rescue once again and organised a further trip to the national capital, Canberra. After a week LFX at Majura Range in the ACT, the masses were satisfied.

Apart from these major activities the OPS Cell has performed its usual duties as the centre of the universe with the coordination of numerous minor activities, processing 681 course nominations, managing several internal and external courses and maintaining life in general.

The OPS Cell, or Nerve Centre (NC) as we like to call it, has gone through some manning changes this year. It started with Capt John Spencer moving in as the Battalion Training Officer and Mr Geoff Pellow starting as Resource Officer. This increased the NC to the following:

OPSO	MAJ Trevor McTernan
TRG Officer	CAPT John Spencer
OPSWO	WO2 Barry Fawcett/WO2 Tom Hubbard
OPSWO	WO2 Shane Armstrong
OPSSGT	SGT Matt Dell
RO	Mr Geoff (Tiny) Pellow

The NC was working well until in late April with the loss of the Germany trip and the onslaught of Canungra approaching, Barry Fawcett found the heat too much and jumped on the boat to OP Slipper as part of the training team to Afghanistan. Not as taxing as the NC however we do wish him a good trip and a safe return.

This left a vacancy and the only man for the job was WO2 Tom Hubbard. Tom leapt at the chance to move to the inner circle and become part of the Battalion elite.

Well the year has been run at constant tempo and the OPS Cell has once again maintained our exceptional level of service. We are looking forward to a break however the Battalion can sleep well at night knowing that whatever situation arises, the OPERATIONS CELL IS OUT THERE.



OR r a e r i v B O O m

Well, 2008 started off with a new CC straight out of 5/6 RVR. All the administration knowledge from the big smoke kindly packaged up and sent to us in the shape of WO2 Gary Kirk. And what a package - excess postage definitely needed!

Things looked promising for the mandatory induction weekend at Pucka when the Chief took aside all the clerks for a "discussion" on how things were going to operate under his command. There was a lot of "when I was a Coy clerk" and "this is how it's going to work", but not a lot of "how do you do it now?" and "what do you think?". Needless to say I was a bit apprehensive after that first weekend and tried to hide down in Bravo Coy for as long as possible. That didn't last long before the Chief seconded me to BHQ and put me to work as the PERS SGT. We had Dee Saunderson in the frontline as the registry clerk (rock solid as always), CPL "Mick" Durham shuffling everyone to and fro as the movements clk (and threatening to call in his Mafia mates if people pissed him off by not advising of their movements in advance), PTE Kerrie Saffron trying to keep everyone paid and happy (while also refusing to pay people she thought were bludging), CPL "Jacky" Grant trying to keep on top of transfers, postings and discharges, CPL Sarah Hiller trying to help out wherever she could (in between giving birth to a really cute baby girl), SGT Dave Schafer ruling over the kingdom as "supervisor" and last, but not least, the CC "managing" the lot! We were fortunate to have a couple of DTUs to help out with the basic clerical tasks for while, so thanks to Mel Sandford and Chantelle Lewis for their help. With all the changes the Chief wanted to implement, especially with the rollbooks, it was quite chaotic for a while. Eventually we all stopped trying to buck the system (read "the Chief") and just got on with it.



Over time the system started to flow reasonably smoothly, with too much work and a lack of available staff the main constraining factors. Being a reservist who enjoys "living high on 6Y", I was able to take a day off without pay whenever it all got too much for me and leave it all up to the ARA mbrs to keep the ship afloat. If you'd like to help our ARA brothers and sisters keep the ship afloat, have access to a never ending supply of bickies and coffee, and work up to 150 reserve days every year, let me know and we'll fill out your trade transfer before you have a chance to change your mind. It's a great opportunity to work 3-4 days a week and get most of the benefits of the ARA without being posted all over the country.

Overall we've done the best we could and hopefully we'll be able to keep on top of everything next year. If you're looking to change trades and you're tough enough to handle the paper cuts (they really do hurt!), let us know - we'll be glad to have you (being able to count and spell is a definite advantage).

P.S. As a digger you do your own pers admin. Once you reach the rank of LCPL and above you are responsible for your own admin and the admin of those below you. It is a management function, not a clerical function. Please attempt to do as much of your own and your soldiers' admin as possible - it will make our job a lot easier - Thanks!

- SGT Steve Linane

Admin Coy

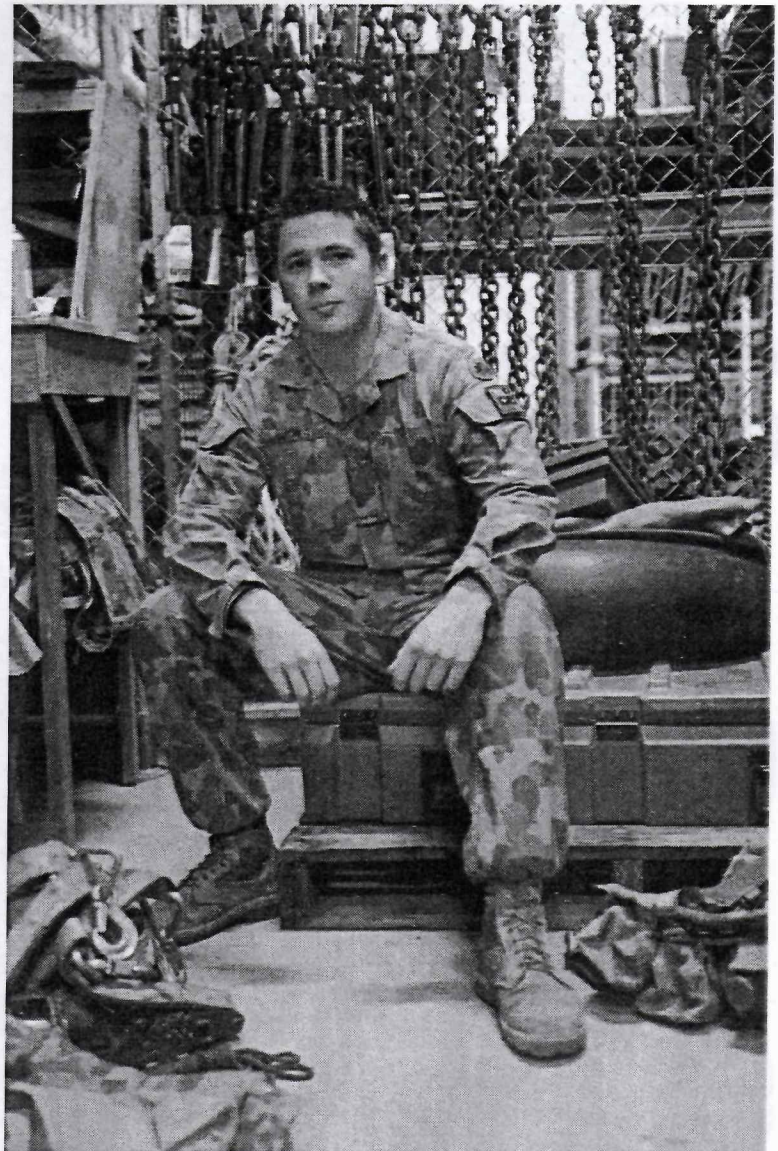
Admin Coy was brought back online at the beginning of the year after a confusing period as CSS Coy; the PHCT is now the RAP. The Coy roles and responsibilities have been maintained and it still provides the logistical support to the battalion as it has for eons.

Since the last publication CHQ has under gone a few manning changes. MAJ Worsteling, MAJ Baird and WO2 Farrah-Boatman departed the unit for various reasons and we all wish them well. CPL Hiller has gone to the abyss located in the vicinity of BHQ and the new faces at CHQ are MAJ Gowers (OC) and WO2 Griggs (CSM). Coy numbers are growing and attendance is on the rise, even CAPT Watt (2IC) turns up when he is in the country.

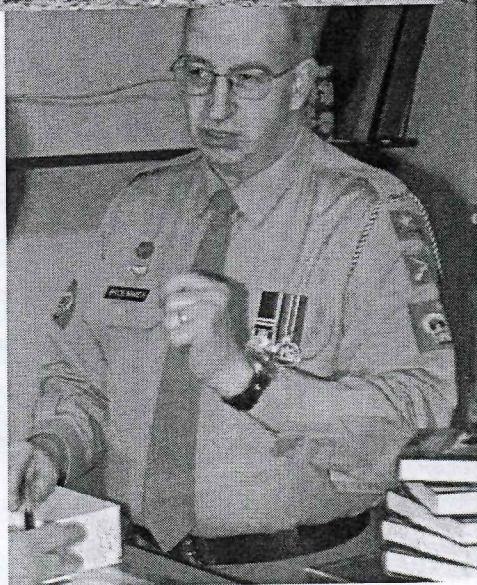
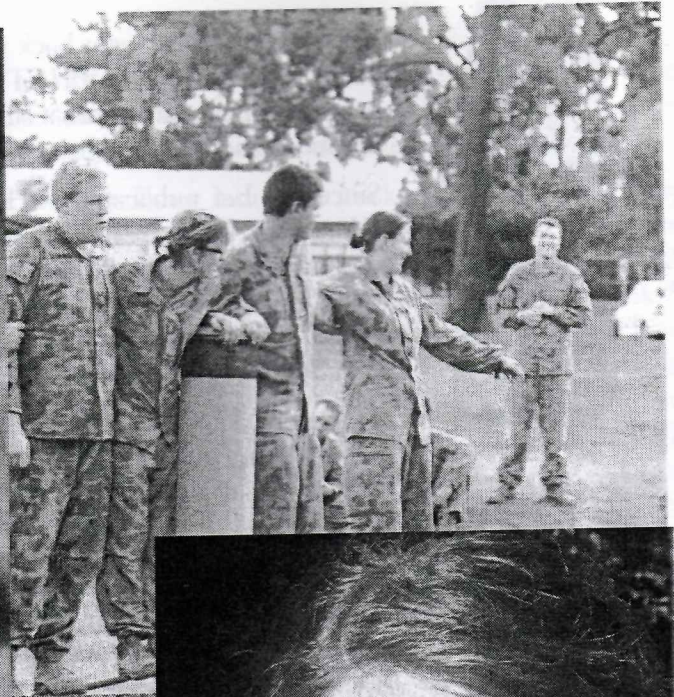
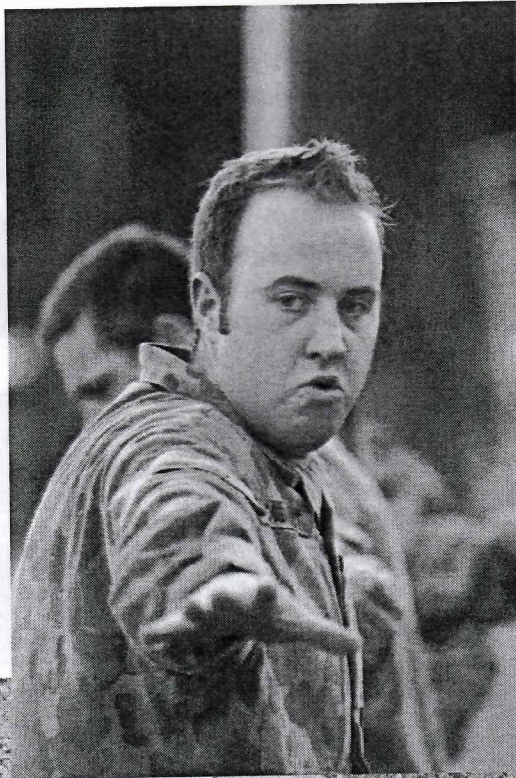
Transport Platoon saw SGT Reid transfer to the GRES. He hasn't been seen since. What's going on Bob? Welcome to CPL Greg Hems, the TPT PL supervisor and service writing guru.

Once again the men and women of Admin Coy have provided strong support to the battalion. Without the support of our merry band of truckies, cooks, medics, spanners and Quee's not much would happen at all. You will get no thanks for a job well done this year as you have every previous year but you know the job was completed to the best of your ability and you have claimed the 6Y. I will say that I have enjoyed the opportunity and experience during my time in the seat of CSM Admin Coy and I am sure that whoever is in the seat next year will be able to say the same. I am positive that some of the characters in this Coy were cast out of the depths of hell to test my sanity to the very limit. Stress leave is not an option - even if Brewer, Jones and Leviston do push the limits.

All my best wishes for the future,
CSM ADMIN



Time's wasted what's not spent shooting.



R

RAP staff were kept busy in 2008. With the big focus on AIRN compliance we started the year with the mandatory weekend at sunny Puckapunyal where we conducted annual medicals and five yearly dentals with the assistance of CPL Hiller as Dental Assistant (hopefully more exciting than her CLK role!). CPL Vorbach was accepted into the Police Academy so we were down a medic until LCPL Lindstrom joined the team at Laverton. With June knocking on the door MAJ Harris, LT Lee and PTE Rosewarne were off to Canungra, where they pulled many ticks out of random body parts.

A

Second half of the year was even more hectic with me out for 6 weeks supporting RMC. Then came the 150th celebrations and preparations for the guys on RCB 83 before the LFX at Majura where LCPL Lindstrom, PTE Nolan and myself provided med support. Camp Blake can't quite be compared to Germany where MAJ Harris and LT Lee scored the only gig for 8/7 RVR on EX Co-Op Spirit and luckily survived each others company.

P

Back to deployment medicals again for OP Anode Rotation 17 and now OP Anode Rotation 18 which will see us down a medic again as I head off to join the rotation.

- Written by CPL Karen Creelman

Another year has almost gone and the end of year wind down is in full swing.

As with the start of every year we farewell the old and welcome the new and this year was no exception. The outgoing QM, CAPT Ross Pringle and RQ, WO2 Brian Kirby were sent off in typical 8/7 fashion as they departed to ply their trade in the sunny Pilbara. We are sure they are enjoying the opportunity to continue the partnership they formed in "Sunny Ballarat".

In true military fashion, as a place in the line opens up, there are always those ready to step up and fill the breach. It was with much enthusiasm that we welcomed WO1 Greg Green to the position of QM, for another posting to Ballarat. WO1 Green has been an inspiration to the Q Store this year with his calming influence and guiding words. WO1 Green has, after 30 years, decided to leave the Defence Force and it is with a sad heart that we all bid him farewell and wish him and his family all the best for the future.

The new RQ, WO2 Darren McKenzie has stepped into his roll with the ease that is expected of a class operator. WO2 McKenzie has added a breath of fresh air to the Q Store with his vibrant personality and approachable manner. His guidance and wisdom have been of great benefit to the junior members of the Q Store and he will provide the strong foundation that will see the Q Store continue to provide the excellent service it has this year. The last and arguably the least new arrival was SSGT Barry Phillips, who also is doing his second penance at 8/7. SSGT Phillips has taken on the TQ position and is thoroughly enjoying his return to the white over red.

With every coming and going there is always the stalwart who provides the stability that maintains the standard for those coming into the Unit. The two bollards holding the Q Store steady, CPL Troy Babao and CPL Trevor Hooper, were able to pass on their experience of doing business and assist in the continued smooth running that has been a hallmark of the QM PL this year. We will continue to have the smiling face of CPL Hooper with us for another year but unfortunately we bid farewell to CPL Babao who is off to sunny Ross Island to enjoy a well-deserved semi-retirement. We wish CPL Babao and his family all the best and a safe trip to the state of the Great Horned Toad.

To the rest of the members of the Battalion, the QM PL wish all a safe Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing all the faces back at the start of the next training year.

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Transport

It has been an exciting year for transport—yes, transport is exciting! We have conducted a bus course and sent people away on junior leadership courses and many other courses.

We have also gained a new transport officer—me. It has been an enjoyable experience marching into the unit and I am glad I came across to the dark side of transport within infantry.

It is difficult getting to know everyone due to the geography of all the units but I believe I have met just about everyone minus one or two.

Currently, we have 19 personnel on the books. This year we have transferred PTE Ellis to another unit, PTE Jones is off to RCB and we are looking to promote some personnel in the new year.

We did have a number of funny moments but the highlight would have to be during the bus course at Majura with CPL Hems doing an Austin Powers and conducting a textbook 20 million point turn. It happened after going down a road we possibly should not have just to have a sticky beak.

All in all I have been very impressed with the unit.. We have a nomination on Op Anode and I am sure many more stories to tell next year, when we look set to have a more consistent training program and weekend activities.

-LT Danielle Graham-Johnston

The Catering platoon has experienced another busy year with numerous unit activities and assistance to other units undertaken and completed successfully.

We welcome CPL Mick Malloys from 15 TPT at Bendigo and look forward to the experience that he brings with him. Trainee Cook PTE Emma Curran had some unexpected down-time recently due to a nasty fall at her civilian employment (now recovered from broken ribs and internal injuries). PTE Simon Gellert has left Ballarat to attend Bible College to qualify for his new life as a Minister but he still assists us as required on weekends and activities.

The Catering Platoon is still growing with potential new members in Bendigo and Swan Hill, their employment details being finalised. The majority of the members of the Catering Platoon are also fully employed out in civvy street and this makes it hard to assist with non-weekend activities so we have relied pretty heavily on CPL Wilson to 'fly the flag' for us during these times. PTES Matthew Gellert, Jodie Pitt and Luke Winter continue to make good progress with their training. CPL Currie has assisted the unit with numerous catering and photo opportunities in the past year having taken a swag of photos over the recent 150th anniversary celebration weekend in August. We look forward to welcoming back SGT Ivey to the catering platoon after his 12 month posting to the position of Depot Manager at Kiarivu Barracks in Mildura.

We look forward to the challenges that the new-year will bring. We expect that we will be called on to assist other units on a more frequent basis and we will do that to the best of our ability (as we have in the past). We all look forward to the day when we get the opportunity to do the job we are trained for in an operational environment.

DTU's

It's been a busy year for recruiting, with almost all DTU's completing their pre-course modules ready for Kapooka in early 2009. Bravo Coy recently gained two new members from the DTU ranks in PTE Kelly and PTE Williams. Several DTU's have also chosen to transfer to either RMC or the ARA. Sadly, 8/7 RVR will also lose Mel Sandford, who is moving to Townsville in January.

On the 9th of August, 8/7 RVR turned 150 years old, celebrating with the unit exercising its right of freedom of entry into Ballarat, and the opening of the Ranger museum. DTU's from the unit attended the day and helped with work parties to prepare for the activities.

In late September DTU's attended the Battalion exercise for a week in Majura, with six DTU's completing their navigation course. Those present also spent a day visiting the War Memorial and Parliament House.

Overall recruiting has been very successful this year, with the unit receiving many new DTU's over the last 6 months.

CATERING

A

ANZAC Day 2008

This year, ANZAC Day fell on a Friday which means a long weekend for most of the civilian population. We, in the Defence Force, have a different view. It is a chance to pay respect to those who served and those who are still serving in armed conflict. Pleasingly, that message appears to be getting out into the civilian population, with the numbers increasing at the Geelong dawn service each year. We paraded at the depot on Thursday night with members from Laverton coming down to Geelong for the march through the main street. The dawn service at Geelong was attended by more than 250 people, being well up on the previous year. After the dawn service we had a gunfire BBQ back at the depot and prepared for the street march through the city of Geelong. We had about 50 on parade for the street march as well as our other guard commitments in Ocean Grove and Norlane. The march down Myers St finished at Johnson Park

Geelong

with a short service, after which we returned to the depot for lunch and a friendly game of two-up and a few cold drinks to top off the end of a very moving and enjoyable day for the soldiers of the depot.

Exercise Bobdubi

Like the cartridges surrounding the pits of the Canungra live fire range - 8/7 RVR's diggers were spent. By the time 'reorg' echoed between battle pairs, the sweat of Exercise Bobdubi's final section attack was cooling on the soldiers' backs like the Queensland hinterland's evening dew.

Drenched in mud to the waist and with muscles aching, each soldier looked forward to dragging themselves off the range. A hot shower would hopefully follow, as would a beer, snag and the announcement of the Battalion's champion section.

Two weeks earlier, soldiers waited to board C130 Hercules on Tullamarine's tarmac. For most it was a new experience, and with the paratrooping Directing Staff looking eager, pointing to doors and lights (no doubt reliving the experience of throwing themselves from the transport planes in their hey-day), the men and women from Geelong were ready for action.

On their arrival into sunny Queensland, soldiers noted the steepness of terrain surrounding Kokoda Barracks and the dark green in-between almost solid contour lines on section maps... two weeks suddenly seemed a big prospect.

Months earlier the exercise had noble beginnings - a final preparation before sending 'a bunch of chockos' to train in Germany alongside coalition soldiers steeling themselves for the Taliban of Afghanistan. For reasons best debated elsewhere, it was not to be and disappointment was shelved alongside real expectations of riding in Humvees and the misguided dream of smashing beer with buxom German wenches.

The Canungra exercise would continue and, to its credit, the Battalion maintained the one and only objective - revise Infantry Minor Tactics.

The message from higher was that reserve units could get ahead of themselves, we couldn't afford to and, under the DS's watchful eye, we were to walk before we ran.

So we did. Basic drill. Fire positions. Field signals. Tab data. For most it was a blast from the past back to IETs. "Suck eggs" turned into "suck it up" and Canungra brought to the surface weakness in every soldier's skills set. For some it was simple as the need to revise WTTs or working on pack fitness. Others, such as junior leaders and officers, were drilled by DS on their orders and command and control of their troops.

A trip to the crack-dump range followed where the DS no doubt fulfilled their inner fantasies of firing live weapon systems in the general vicinity of the Battalion in the name of education.

Bayonet fighting started some mornings. Cutting "three-lane highways" for harbour track plans ended some nights. But as each day progressed, skills were built on until the sections were tested in the mil skills competition. Military knowledge, weapon handling, communications, section attacks, first aid were all smashed alongside soldiers' individual fitness and stamina on the 15km course. Results were pending.

The next day the Battalion completed a cordon and search mission targeting an insurgent-controlled village. Insertion, aided by NVG, was conducted in early morning's darkness. Despite the walk in the green light, the sound of swearing soldiers was heard throughout the scrub as they crashed through the lantana and set off early warning devices (cleverly positioned at the base of the guiding clyume placed down by our own recon elements). Nevertheless, the search progressed, persons were detained and after withdrawal a coy attack ended the Ex with stern words of wisdom from the DS.

Exercise Bobdubi finished at the live fire range, putting into practice everything that was taught to the soundtrack of friendly 7.62mm fire support overhead. By the time diggers dragged themselves out of the freezing, water-filled pits, it was all over. Back at the Kevin Wheatley VC boozier, Alpha Coy's 1 Section was announced Champion Section, and headed by CPL Peter Baird, it meant the flag remained in Geelong for another year. CPL Drew Dinning's 2 Section completed the Geelong quinella. Some said daylight followed. Continuing the accolades for Geelong members, LT Cameron Warfe was promoted to Captain, ensuring pirate jokes were a favourite for the rest of the night.

Two Hercules flew 8/7 RVR from Amberley Airbase. Some got home early to a frigid Victorian night, while others got to enjoy Queensland's hinterland for an extra day of 'hurricane training' after the minor problem of their Hercules catching fire. However you looked at it, Canungra was always an experience.



150th Birthday Weekend

Approximately 65 Geelong members and their partners made the trek to Ballarat to celebrate the Battalion's 150th Birthday. An incredibly brisk morning greeted the parading members for parade rehearsals on Saturday morning, and the division watched on with a semblance of mirth as Captain Doherty spectacularly slipped and fell on some ice while attempting to conduct a halt. Luckily, his sword remained pointing in a safe direction at all times... what training and discipline!

For the actual parade, the divisions marched up the main street of Ballarat with the Battalion colours situated centrally while we exercised our right of freedom of the city with "colours flying, bayonets fixed, trumpets blaring" or some such official hoo-ha. From all observer comments, the official parade looked impressive and was completed with no major incidents... although there is rumour that a member of the 2nd division believed she was a member of the colour party when listening for words of command... must have been from Charlie Coy.

Following the parade, the members defrosted themselves in anyway possible and prepared themselves for the Battalion ball to be held at the Novotel Resort in Creswick. Approximately 420 current and old and bold members descended upon one of the Novotel's function rooms to celebrate the 150th birthday of our fine Battalion. The members were in an array of dress from polys and mess dress, through to standard suit and tie, with the partners dragging out the glad rags to add some fashion and flair to the event. Although the members were generally disappointed with the value for money with regards to the buffet meal, lack of seating and tables and single "complimentary" drink (the thought being that for \$100 per couple there would be a decent feed and somewhere to sit and eat), everyone cast this from their mind and enjoyed the night thoroughly (and, to a large degree) responsibly.

Despite the exorbitant hotel drink rates, we continued to pour money across the bar and enjoyed the evening amongst friends and colleagues. The Army band kicked in and played an interesting selection of musical interludes, some people taking the opportunity to prove to the world that infantry cannot and should not sing or dance. Overall, a fun (yet expensive) evening of formality and entertainment and, as always, a good reason as any to catch up with past and present friends to discuss the ways of the world and again show our pride as soldiers and members of the battalion.

- Written by SGT Peter Hardcastle, CPL Peter Baird and LCPL Martin Watters

The second part of the year has been just as active and exciting as the first half. As always, the training conducted on each of the Tuesday nights was in preparation for the upcoming weekend or continuous training ahead of us.

After a particularly hard weekend (for some on the Sunday morning) celebrating the Battalion's birthday, the focus went back to in-fun-ty skills, with a priority on weapons training. August also held the MAG58 and 9mm weekend, where quite a few of our soldiers picked up some valuable skills on these weapons, while numerous JNCOs demonstrated their growing ability to instruct in front of eager trainees. Concurrently, five members of the Geelong depot conducted a service for the National Servicemen of the Geelong region. That was a cold, wet, and what seemed to be an eternal service. They didn't even give us any beer!

Weapons training inevitably lead to the ranges week held at Majura Training Area in Canberra. In true army style, the supposed eight-hour trip was magically transformed into twelve. But we got there. Upon arrival, we were introduced to the marvel that is pre-packed, 'burn through your hand hot' QANTAS style meals. Although a great change to the usual tin-foil, TV tray styled box, most of us soon discovered the internal effects it was to generate, and the pleasure of being able to share them around the rooms, waiting bays and indeed with the instructors on the mounds. I remember having trouble with my pacing during the nav ex, as every few paces I was damn near lifted off the ground, the potent QANTAS rear rocket fuel kicking in. Most of the blokes carried out some good shooting, and a few unlucky ones who just missed out on gaining the most holy-of-holies: the Crossed Rifles Badge. In comparison, I sucked (as expected!).

Other joyful moments were the trip flare demo - in torrential rain. Mother nature got the last laugh, when she stopped the rain almost the instant we all got back to our lines. Finally, one of the most interesting moments for the week was the para flare demo. I instructed the detail of around 28 odd digs that the first of the two para flares was to be fired one by one from the left. As I gave the order to the man on the left to fire, 27 odd digs to the right of him, almost in unison, decided that "from the left" means "be the first". Most fired, some had a little trouble. After a little further explanation and a bunch of expletives - however the Battle Gnome remained caged - the light bulb in each head finally turned on, providing almost constant illumination over the range. There were still a few who had some further trouble operating the device, one in particular. You know who you are. Do push-ups immediately.

This was really the last hurrah for me with 8/7RVR. I have decided to switch codes, and as such heading off to the Big Blue One in Townsville. Others to leave from Geelong at this end of the year are the good CSM, posted to 6RAR in Bris-vegas, CAPT Warfe and CPL Baird doing a stint at Melbourne University Regiment and 'Sarge' Brandich, who I'm quite sure is very excited about his posting to Singo... Best of luck to all!

- Written by PTE Matthew Drenman

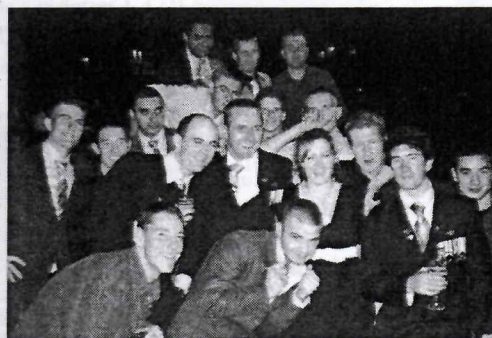


ANZAC Day 2008

ANZAC Day was once again a very successful and poignant day for Laverton depot. Seven members, under command of LCPL McCarthy, made the trek to Meredith and supported the Meredith RSL by providing a cenotaph party. Another 13 members formed part of A Coy's dawn service at the Boer Memorial at Kardinia Park in Geelong, with CPL Arundell laying a floral tribute on behalf of the members of A Coy. These members also participated in the Geelong ANZAC Day parade before wetting their whistle at the Geelong Mess. On the return to Melbourne and conducting a quick change from uniform to suits that even Superman would be proud of, approximately 30 past and present members of the Laverton depot met up in Melbourne for dinner and drinks, taking the opportunity to catch up with acquaintances with whom they had previously served on operations or exercises together.

PTE Barrera was the inaugural winner of a new award involving a bar of soap and a sock, an award inspired by the movie 'Full Metal Jacket'. This award symbolises the act by an individual that manages to get on the collective nerve of soldiers through one action. In this case, being woken nearly an hour early by an errant alarmand then ten minutes later by the same alarm when the 'snooze' button was hit instead of the 'off' switch. Nice work Carlos.

Laverton



Canungra

Queensland Perfect One Day Better the NextNot!

24 members of the depot attended Ex Bobdubi in Canungra. PTE *Some Laverton members out on ANZAC Day* Simoska successfully completed her basic driver's course, whilst the remainder of the members filled rifleman positions or support roles for the combat team. Members experienced an introduction to working in close country with all the benefits such as ticks, thorns, stinging nettles, especially combined with the pitch black of night.

All benefited from some of the lessons learnt during this training activity, including the need to conduct thorough battle preparation and rehearsals of every action regardless of how simple it seems. Members also benefited from the increase in physical activity returning much fitter than when they left.



Callsign 12C moving up in depth as part of yet another successful platoon attack

Special mention to PTE Malone for taking the afore-mentioned 'Full Metal Jacket' Award away from PTE Barrera. Two events come to mind with Sam: the first is talking in his sleep... well actually arguing in what sounded like a dream phone conversation; and the other for, yep you guessed it, waking two sections an hour before reveille as he misread the time. Thanks Sam, you're a champ.

Special mention should also go to the RAAF for giving a flight similar to a QANTAS experience by arranging to have one of the motors catch on fire fifteen minutes out of Amberley, resulting in a return to Amberley and an overnight stay on one of Australia's most boring airfields.

150th Birthday AKA the Big Chill

23 members from Laverton took part in the Battalion celebrations for its 150th Birthday, including exercising the Freedom of the City of Ballarat. Members from Laverton joined fellow Alpha Coy personnel from Geelong and Warrambool to form the First Division for the parade. The reception at the Ballarat RSL was thankfully warm, both in welcome and physically, which was much appreciated by the diggers. The soldiers were thrilled to have His Excellency The Governor of Victoria Professor David de Kretser, A.C. taking the time whilst at the RSL to ask them of their experiences in the unit.

After the opening of the Ranger Museum, members and partners made their way to the Novotel for an enjoyable evening celebrating the Battalion's birthday in fine style.

Special thanks must go to the wives and partners that made the journey from Melbourne in the cold to join the Laverton members for a memorable evening. A special note on the weather, which epitomises the experiences of the members for the weekend: snow fell in Ballarat on the Sunday morning. Thank goodness the parade was on Saturday!

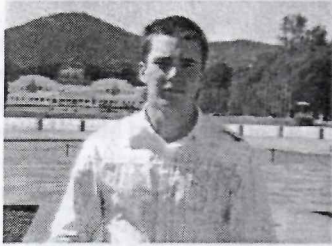


A few Laverton members and partners at 150th function

- Written by CPL Nick Arundell

Laverton

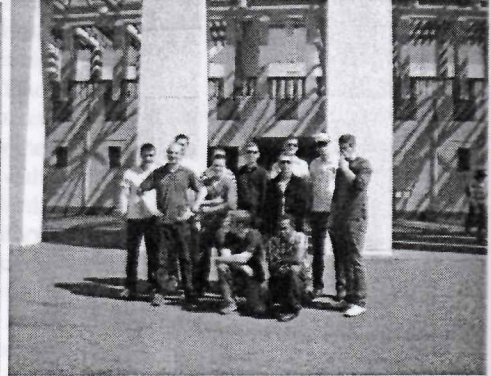
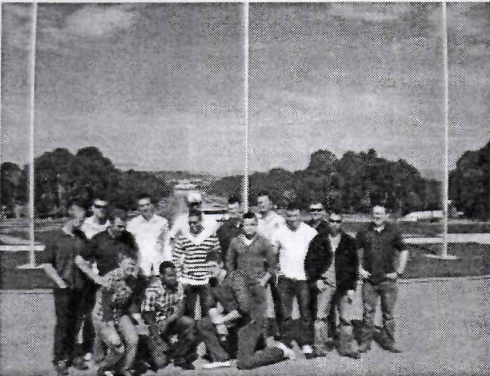
Since the Battalion's 150th birthday, Laverton depot has remained at an excited pace not too dissimilar to that of the Zimbabwean inflation rate. Events have included the August weapons weekend, the Majura LFX, the October super secret joint RRF operation and multiple functions. Many new members have joined our happy abode, yet these gains have been marginally soured by a few lost members.



PTE 'Ski Man'

recess. You crazy kid!

The theory learnt in the August weekend was quickly put to use in the Majura training week. This week was attended by 21 members from Laverton to hone their skills on many different infantry weapons. The highlight of this week was the trip into Canberra to visit the Australian War Memorial and to lay our eyes on the officer factory. This startling manufacturing works was incredible yet vaguely familiar to other places where entry is usually restricted to those with a golden ticket.

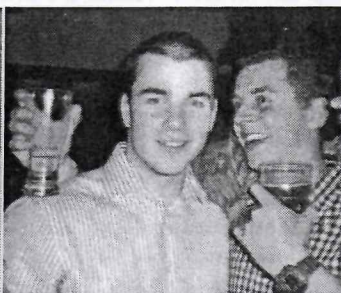


Laverton Members outside the War Memorial and at "Comrade Kevin's" house.

Depot Functions

Immediately following the 6 days in Canberra, on the 7th day we rested and celebrated grand final day. Many members took the opportunity to exploit the unused 63 inches of viewing marvel that is the TV of the W.G Nottingham Club. Multiple stuffed intestines were also consumed readily on this day.

Multiple members from Laverton decided to try their luck at the Caulfield Guineas. Two members managed to get their smiling faces on TV and the day was enjoyed by all, except a particular pair of Lance Corporals, whose gambling addictions resulted in the pair losing approximately 9 or 10 days of LCPL wages between them.



Laverton members bidding farewell to....PTE Cooke and PTE Johnstone

Unfortunately only one of the pair was able to enjoy the night to its entirety as the other was asked to leave his own going away party by the friendly no-necked men in black who sport their IQ's on their chests.

At Laverton we were also blessed to have the younger of the two Peterings parade with us for a night. Warwick arrived nice and early only being 10 minutes late at 1940. Unfortunately, PTE Petering's stay was cut short 15 minutes later at 1955 as he had been bitten by sea-lice and we had a patrol on later that night.

On a serious note, all members of the Laverton depot send our best wishes to PTE McNamara, an ex-member of the depot who was injured in Malaysia at the start of the year. This was while he was deployed to RCB with 5/7 RAR. He is currently at the Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Hospital where he is undergoing treatment and making positive progress.

Best Wishes and Farewells

Short congratulations must also be given to PTE Marcus Lim who has recently become engaged. Good luck Limmy-now. As well as gaining many new smiling faces, we have been saddened by the losses of some of our members to the full time green machine. These members include PTEs Kinai, Johnstone and Cooke. A function was held to farewell the latter two at 'The Pub' in Crown Casino. The night was enjoyed by all but



A sketch of a sea louse

-Written by PTE Lachlan Harpley

Warrnambool

ANZAC Day at the Warrnambool depot was well attended with a Catafalque party being provided for the Warrnambool RSL ceremony. DTUs attending were able to take part and celebrate the tradition of ANZAC Day. After the ceremony, the JWH

Atkinson MC Club was well attended by depot members enjoying a beer and the Collingwood vs Essendon football game.

The annual exercise in Canungra was a fantastic opportunity for some training in a new environment. Those that attended from Warrnambool were SGT Willmore, LCPL Petering, and PTEs Louw, Essery, Blain, Petering and Ballagh. The jungle was a good change for many of the soldiers from Warrnambool as many have never trained in this environment. The highlight of the exercise was definitely the live fire section and platoon attacks.

Unfortunately, PTE Essery and PTE Dwight have left the depot. PTE Essery will continue at Laverton after moving to Melbourne for work. We also eagerly await the return of PTE Meade to Warrnambool who will begin parading very soon after some personal time off.

PTE Cole has been doing an excellent job organising a pool competition for the JWH Atkinson MC Club. Highlight of the competition has to be the team names such as "better then a finger in the bum"; luckily PTE Blain has a good sense of humor! The competition turned out a few pool sharks: PTEs Cole, Blain, Dwight and Swan. An honourable mention goes to REC Greene for his "trash talking" to put his opponents off their game. The next big thing from PTE Cole is the end of year function and a poker tournament.

To help keep morale high in Warrnambool, SGT Willmore proposed a "morale spike". The depot members have embraced the idea enthusiastically with morale spike nominations being a highlight of the Tuesday night drinks. Spike-worthy soldiers this year so far have been PTE Louw, CPL Anderson, LCPL Petering, PTE Essery and REC Cameron.



A good turnout for Warrnambool helped with the fantastic celebrations of the Battalion's 150th birthday. This was a highlight for the newer soldiers who have never had the opportunity to wear 'polys' and take part in an historic event. Even a few boys got their faces on the local TV and newspapers, have they shouted the bar yet?

Tales from the War Diary

PTE Blain and PTE Harbour were flying back from a pre-deployment weekend in Adelaide when the helpful pilot told the boys to wind their watches back half an hour because of the time zones. Blainy and Harbs (being the clever diggers they are) wound their clocks back as instructed. Looking at the new time they noticed they had an hour before they had to catch the train, so they decided to have a few "ginger ales" to kill time. Time comes to catch the train and the boys finished their ginger ales. There was no train waiting on the platform though and upon inquiry they were told the train had left. Blainy and Harbs were shocked! They still had 15 minutes before it left according to "their time". That's when they figured out they adjusted their clocks the wrong way and had been sipping their ginger ales while the train left without them. To top it all off, Blainy decided he had to get back home *that night!* How much does a taxi from Melbourne to Coleraine cost? Just ask Blainy... REC Greene is, at the time of writing, currently at Kapooka. He is in for a shock as he finds out the Army Reserve is not just about drinking pots, pints and jugs of Carlton Draught in the "boozier".



PTE Annette's confidence in navigation must be growing. At last count, he has done the recruit navigation course 3 times. Time to have a rest mate and let some of the other recruits get on the course. PTE Annette told a great story about the '3 kilometre BFA run' he did in Western Australia... we're still scratching our heads about that one.

A weekend at the Aerodrome in Ballarat was well attended for the RRF. We even made it onto the local "WIN News", however no one from Warrnambool could be seen manning the VCP. Luckily for us, we were where all the action was taking place at the cordon and search which was a great learning experience for many soldiers.

What's life without a Mess?

While out purchasing stock for the mess, PTE Waz Petering noticed a "buy one get one FREE" sign. The savvy bargain hunter was attracted immediately. He enthusiastically persuaded LCPL Petering as to the merits of this bargain and why the mess should purchase them. Months later and the "Elevate energy drink bourbon cans" are growing dust in the mess, with many choice words being used to describe the taste of this drink by those silly enough to drink it. Note to Waz: it does not matter how much of a bargain it is if they never sell! An informal rule was proposed that Waz's first drink be an Elevate can whenever the bar was open to eventually sell the offending item.

The AFL grand final function was a success with the BBQ firing and the Carlton Draught tap flowing - a good time was had by all. However, who invited the loudmouth Hawks supporter? (Blame LCPL Petering!) Too bad for dyed in the wool Cat fan PTE Blain who missed out on the 2007 final while in the Solomon Islands - he was at the MCG this year to see the Hawks win. A friendly reminder to PTE Louw that while in the mess he has to strictly adhere to the dress code, which includes wearing his pants and underwear at all times even if you are drenched in beer, a towel is never sufficient! (Our eyes are still scarred).

Weekly Poker tournaments run by PTE Cole are going well. Watch out for poker sharks PTE Cole, PTE Blain, PTE Lowe, CPL Charman and PTE W Petering.

Great improvements to the mess have been made during the year, with the outdoor area being repaved and new paving done outside the accommodation area. The old BBQ area was also destroyed. Concrete slabs were broken up and removed, SGT Willmore provided the muscle and smashed up the concrete (what a hero...). PTE Brown is still whining that he did not get to smash anything with the sledge hammer. Don't worry Brownie, you'll have plenty of time to swing the ETs and picks on your Mod 2!

Random thought of the year, never let anyone into the mess who wears a blue beanie. It appears that the blue beanie affects the brain and causes them to act like a complete "tool".

Farewells and the Future

REC Cameron has moved to Melbourne and will be transferring to 5/6 RVR. Good luck Camo!

Plenty of action still to happen this year with a possible rotation to Butterworth. Also, OP Anode RTN 18 pre-deployment paperwork is starting to happen with more Warrnambool members putting their hands up for that trip. PTE Harbour and PTE Blain are off to the Solomon Islands with RTN 15, which will surely benefit from these two diggers. It will be PTE Blain's second trip to the Solomon's, better dust off the Pidgeon English book and lay off the Magnum ice creams at FOB Maritime.

- Written by LCPL Josh Petering

B

The 150th Year for 8/7RVR has been a successful one for Bravo Coy.

Bravo Coy commenced the training year with the annual mandatory training.

Exercise Bobdubi

The lead up to Bobdubi was rain, rain and more rain, thankfully mother nature took care of 8/7 and supplied us with beautiful Queensland weather.

The training consisted of basic infantry skills, building from individual skills to section, platoon and then eventually culminating in a field phase in which a coy level cordon and search on a suspected terrorist cell operating in the local area was conducted on a secluded village.

The inner and outer cordon were in place well before first light, with the search and depth parties hitting the village just as first light broke over the horizon. Shots were fired as the first party crossed into the clearing in which the village was situated, resulting in two enemy casualties and no friendly. Weapons and supplies were found in the search, some of which were

booby-trapped, which due to training no member was injured.

In the withdrawal the Coy came under fire from a feature on the right flank, with the lead section pinned down. A dug in section to the advance opened up and the lead section were forced to return fire. This allowed an element of the Coy to assault up the feature, gain fire superiority and a position in which fire could be placed on the dug in section.

Due to a faulty radio the lead section had lost communication with command elements of the platoon, CPL Hayden decided that action must be taken. He took the sections' lead scout, PTE Trewalla and undertook a recon of some dead ground to the left flank. CPL Hayden was intent on some decisive action so leaving a gun and two rifles the rest of the section headed off through shoulder high foliage in the dead ground to the left being briefed on the planned flanker en-route. As the two groups of the section were conducting an obstacle crossing a booming voice came through "CPL HAYDEN! CPL HAYDEN!" "Was that Captain Doherty?" Cpl Hayden asked. "Cpl Hayden!" The voice came, closer and clearer this time, "Sir", Cpl Hayden replied. Captain Doherty commended Cpl Hayden's initiative but pointed out the platoon 150 metres to our rear preparing to flank the enemy. In light of this Cpl Hayden's party was sent back to provide fire support for the main attack, still convinced they could have pulled it off.

With the lead section and the element of the Coy still situated on the feature suppressing the pits the remainder of the Coy were able to roll over the hill in close proximity to the enemies' pits and roll over them with overwhelming firepower, eliminating all enemy elements.

The Mag 58 weekend was conducted at the old National Service lines at Puckapunyal. The morning of the Saturday was spent on tabulated data and learning the basics of the weapon, including strip and assemble. In the afternoon Puckapunyal decided to show 8/7 its famous weather and due to fear of rust, lessons were moved inside. The remainder of the day was spent on perfecting stoppage drills, a stoppage tree was eventually drawn up to clear any confusion on these drills. It was this long period of lying behind a gun which made members realise why gunners walk with their chests pushed so far out—they can't help it, their backs are permanently stuck in that position.

The following day weapons tests were conducted and with a very high pass rate the shoots were over by about 10:30, leaving the rest of the day to clean weapons.

The weekend provided soldiers with a good opportunity to expand their individual skill set enabling them to be more of an asset to the Battalion.

Majura

Spring saw a group from the battalion taking an eleven hour drive north to Canberra for a week of shooting and various exercises. Soldiers had the opportunity to gain qualifications on grenades and 9mm pistol. Six DTU's came with, doing their nav course. Sergeant Ivy eventually managed to hit the target despite mistaking his mobile phone for a magazine and attempting to load it into the pistol. Captain Warfe ran a leadership initiative course, teaming groups of soldiers as they took turns to lead, pitting their wits against the clock and a perplexing obstacle course. An LF18 shoot was done, congratulations to PTE Middleton, PTE Harpley, LT Greentree and CAPT Strack who passed the shoot. Unfortunately they fell short of attaining their cross-rifles patch.

An excursion was organised for the last day and the battalion were bussed into the War Memorial for a time of reflection and remembrance, and later to Parliament House.



ANZAC Day Celebrations.

It was an early start, with all members enjoying a gunfire breakfast followed by the dawn service in Sturt St. Afterwards the battalion met back at base for more breakfast and meeting with ex-servicemen and veterans, while some soldiers changed into poly's and cut away to their respective catafalque parties for services held in Maryborough, Skipton and Sebastopol. The day was a complete success, with the regiment garnering more praise from ex-servicemen and civilians alike.

150th Birthday, Freedom to the City of Ballarat and the Ranger Museum Opening.

Another feather in the Battalion's cap was achieved on the weekend of the 8th-10th of August, with the Battalion celebrating its 150th birthday and exercising the freedom to enter the City of Ballarat.

Overall, the B Coy boys have had a successful year. The Monegeetta depot is running well and we look forward to increasing our numbers in 2009. Thanks to WO2 Murphy, CAPT Strack and SGT Stephenson for a great year, we wish them all the best of luck for the future.



2008 has been a quietly successful year for the unit's youngest depot. I say

quiet because after the whirlwind of deployments last year, it was nice to have everyone in one place for a while. And I say successful because this year saw a number of potential recruits, a pair of actual recruits, a couple of promotions and some babies. We have taken the demountable portable buildings that remind one of the poorer sort of state school and turned them into something a little bit like home. Our buildings even played host to a 108 Signal Squadron training weekend, because they wanted to practice setting up communications in a third world country. Nevertheless, undaunted by our lack of DRN and a fax machine that dates from Vietnam . . . we have grown and prospered.

Two new recruits joined the team this year, Recruit Palmer and Pte Wenzel, who has just completed Kapooka. Pte Barton made good progress this year, finishing his Mod 1, and Pte Welsh completed all his training and is now preparing for deployment on Op Anode in February 2009. LCPLs Byrne and Mahony continue to be a strong presence in the depot mentoring and preparing less experienced soldiers as they complete courses, look for deployments and progress through the ranks. CPL Watkins earned his second stripe early in the year taking on the responsibility of Depot Manager and is looking forward to sun in the Solomons next year. CPL Tarquinio was promoted in October on his first visit into

the Regimental Mess at BHQ. LT Greentree marched in fresh from RMC to become PL COMD 6PL, and CAPT Strack returned from his deployment as Civilian-Military Liaison Officer in the Solomons to take a personal hand at the Depot while picking up the command of B Coy. All members continue to pass their BFA on Monegeetta's out-and-back course that takes runners past the scenic Monegeetta piggery.

The focus for this year at the recently raised depot has been recruiting and improving public awareness of our presence in the region. Monegeetta formed a Catafalque Party at the Lancefield ANZAC dawn service, while another party laid a wreath at the Mt Macedon Memorial Cross Dawn Service. Later in the year, lads from the depot joined the recruiting bus at the Sunbury and Lancefield shows, where a cut-away Steyr was the apple of many an 8-year-old's eye (come back in 9 or 10 years time boys!). The Depot also inaugurated a regular "Ranger Column" in one of the more popular local papers which has provided greater insight into the Reserve service and the opportunities it affords those prepared to do it. We've also made the front page 3 times!

To further our recruiting efforts and to make a general contribution to the gene pool from the exemplary material at hand, our married members got busy. CAPT Strack and his wife celebrated the birth of their daughter Ava in March. LCPL Mahony and his wife celebrated the birth of their daughter Kate in October 2008, and LCPL Byrne and his wife are expecting their first child in January 2009.

Highlights of the year were the two week long exercise in Canungra and the live fire ex at Majura. Pte Welsh recalls feeling like an extra from the movie "The Odd Angry Shot" while stumbling through thick jungle in dark so deep you couldn't see your own hand in front of your face. The LFX saw Monegeetta's two officers achieve two of the battalion's six passes to LF 18, and CAPT Strack took out top shot for the exercise with an LF 18 score of 196. Only 44 more points to get those crossed rifles, sir.

Looking to the future, Monegeetta will welcome a new ARA WO2 in January, who will take over from WO Murphy's role as CSM B Coy and Monegeetta Depot Manager. Apparently he's keen to settle down in the area. We don't know if he has seen the area yet, but we recommend upwind of the pig farm for a start.

Monegeetta

B Coy - The Jewel of Central Victoria

The year 2008 started off with a with me taking over the role of OC of the Battalions jewel, B Coy, with WO2 Michael Murphy continuing on as CSM. SGT Trevor Beales undertook the role of CQ and provided significant assistance to BHQ, as did B Coy Clerk SGT Steve Linane. While SGT Beales remained with the Coy, SGT Linane was "stolen" by BHQ to bolster the Battalion Orderly Room.

LT David Wait and SGT Brett Stephenson were platoon staff for Ballarat, working closely with CSM. LT David Greentree graduated from RMC in February and was posted to B Coy Monegeetta, where he took on the role of Platoon Commander. CPL Brad Watkins provided excellent support throughout as Depot Manager in Monegeetta.

WO2 Murphy was delighted when has was able to hand over the Unit Recruiting Liaison Officer to WO2 Tom Hubbard. This delight was short lived however, as WO2 Hubbard return to the OPS cell and Recruiting Officer role returned to WO2 Murphy for a second year. SIG Sean Hugo was posted to the Battalion during the year and has provided admirable support to recruiting efforts.

One of the greatest milestones for the Monegeetta Depot this year was the acquisition of the former Ballarat fax machine, surpassing the carrier pigeon as our preferred means of communication. Despite this, B Coy has generated a large amount of media publicity throughout the year, with many Monegeetta soldiers, appearing in a variety of local newspapers. The Rangers Corner, as it is called, is a regular column prepared by the soldiers to improve the local community's awareness of Army Reserve presence. The soldiers own enough media fines to fill Lake Wendouree with alcohol.

With a few contacts in the right places B Coy coordinated a visit by the Customs Firearms and Explosives Detector Dog training course to BHQ in July. Dually beneficial for ARA staff in Ballarat to see detection dogs go through their paces, and an excellent opportunity for the Customs trainees to have their detection abilities tested on military weapons. The visit included the obligatory media exposure that saw myself gain some media fines of my own, owing a number of slabs over the bar for a speaking appearance on TV, while one of the Customs dogs stole a kiss from the CO, much to his surprise!

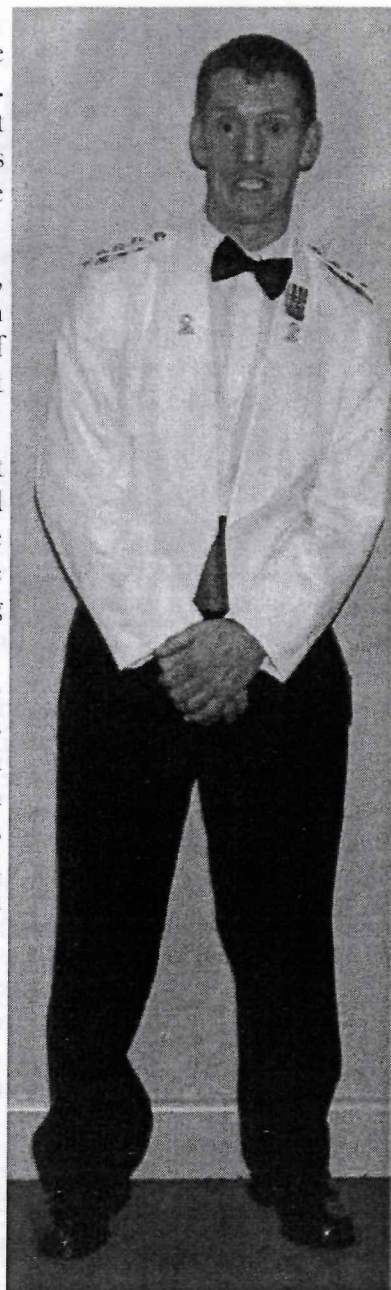
B Coy also provided Catafalque Parties at Anzac Day ceremonies in Ballarat, Maryborough and Lancefield and a Remembrance Day Catafalque Party in Ballarat. In his first official duty, LT Greentree took great pride in laying a wreath at the popular Mt Macedon Memorial Cross Anzac Day service.

The November-December training period has been particularly busy for B Coy NCOs who collectively have provided exceptional service to the conduct of the 5/6 RVR IET courses. Watkins and LCPLs Byrne, Fitton and Purcell instructed on Module 1 in Puckapunyal while the Module 2 course had CPLs Watkins and Tarquinio from Monegeetta and LCPLs Fitton and Purcell from Ballarat providing assistance.

As the year closes, we farewell many ARA staff as their posting cycles continue. B Coy bids farewell to WO2 Murphy, who is on posting to RMC and thank him for the time he has put into both CSM and Recruiting Officer duties. B Coy, and the Battalion in general, are on the cusp of a new era as many soldiers return from operational service and overseas exercises, bringing back with them new skills and experiences that will benefit the newer soldiers coming through.

Next year will be even more challenging as we continue to rebuild B Coy throughout central Victoria. Op Anode deployments will continue with soldiers of the Coy volunteering for operational service. I congratulate those soldiers who have volunteered for such service and wish them well in their upcoming challenges.

CAPT Daniel Strack
OC



C

C Coy year started with a new line up of personnel within the Coy with only the CSM/Trg WO (WO2 Reyne) remaining from the full-time staff of the previous year. SGT Lynch assumed the position in Shepparton after a two years posting to PNG. However he had no sooner arrived and he was off to Singleton to conduct one of his career courses for promotion to return in late March. SGT Ivey has taken over in Mildura bringing a different style

of leadership to the Freedom Scouts (Mildura Branch). His parade night bar snacks are reputed to be of the highest standard. SGT Walden has taken to his position of CQMS C Coy with great vigour and is keeping the ship afloat in all aspects of Q Admin. Pte Adams has now been granted CFTS and is employed as the Coy Clerk and is rapidly learning that a clerk is not just a clerk in the part-time environment.

With the new personnel in place the first period on training was the induction of the new full-time staff. An exciting time was had by all. This then led into the Battalion induction training held at Puckapunyal. This proved to be a very successful activity allowing all

the available members of the Battalion to concentrate together allowing for a degree of esprit de corps throughout the weekend. SGT Ivey and PTE Farrell were notable for the use of their spine crushing Mack to transport the Mildura depots equipment to the activity at a mind numbing speed of 90 Kph.

The next time apart from normal parade night activities that the Coy was to concentrate was during the March A Coy-sponsored shooting weekend. This was a great activity allowing the members of the coy to practice the newly taught urban shooting technique under the watchful gaze of SGT Bounden and Spong (3 RAR mafia rules). The F89 dedicated personnel had the ability to concentrate on this weapon for the entire weekend allowing for greater levels of proficiency. A good time was had by all on all ranges conducted. On the weekend

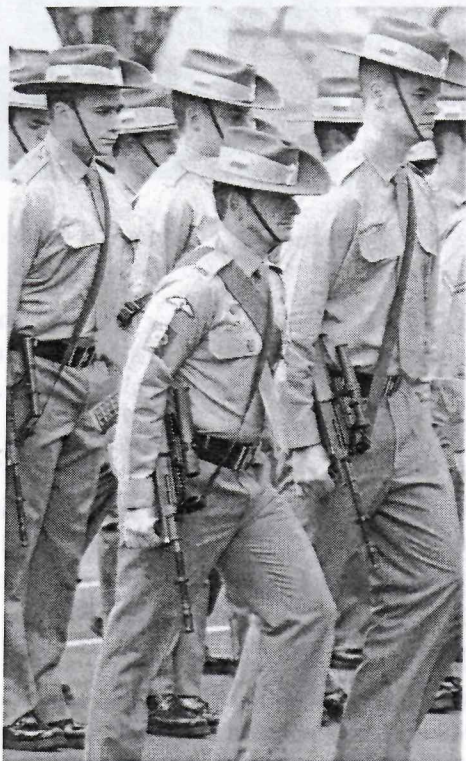
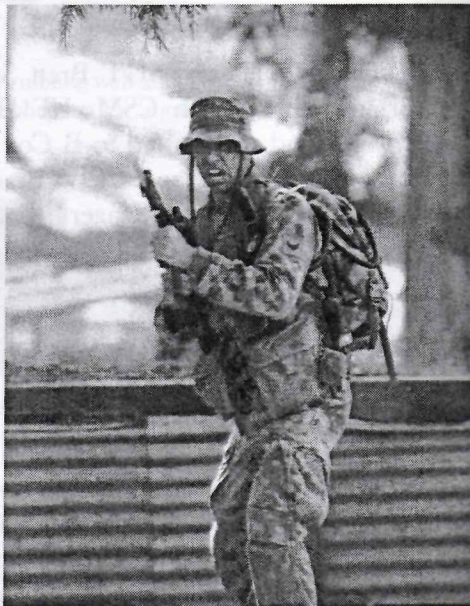
of the 12th and 13th Apr, the combined Coy trg weekend took place around our favourite city, Bendigo. With an attendance of 83 pers, from Alpha and Charlie (along with elements from Bravo and Admin), the weekend went off with several bangs, with an emphasis on "Being brilliant at the basics" including patrolling, obstacle crossings, section attacks and a night ambush. PTE Farrell achieved another mention this weekend, after having a relaxing leg massage by two of our lovely medics after his noteworthy 100 km walk.

ANZAC Day was a strong turn out, with 23 pers attending the Bendigo service. Guards were conducted at Cohuna, Huntly, Bendigo, Shepparton, Mildura, Red Cliffs and Swan Hill. The weather was decent and the day went off without a problem, with the RSL's ANZAC activities continuing well into the day.

With most trg to date being based on Germany, the sad news of the cancellation was a dampener for some, although most are now keen on the now upcoming deployments to Butterworth and Op Anode.

The next big training activity for the Coy was Ex Bobdubi held at Canungra QLD. This involved a great deal of training time allocated to the Section and PL Comd. With guidance provided, many skills were either taught or revised with the culminating event being the Section Mil Skills Comp. Whilst all were observed to put in their all, it confirmed to us all that quality training and repetition are the keys to success and whilst

Bendigo



huge advances had been made there is always room to improve. Overall however the soldiers received a lot of valuable training during the exercise in all facets of infantry minor tactics in difficult terrain, with the Coy being further rewarded by having the first plane home, and as thus, missing the downward flying Herc that caused the others to be so sadly late...

Bendigo, still our favourite city, was to host an ASC Navigation cse in July, with members from both 8/7 and 2/10 Fd Regt in attendance.

From this point we lost two of our soldiers to Rifle Coy Butterworth, CPL McLaren, and PTE Tyrrell.

In August the big event had arrived for the Battalion in form of its 150th Birthday. To



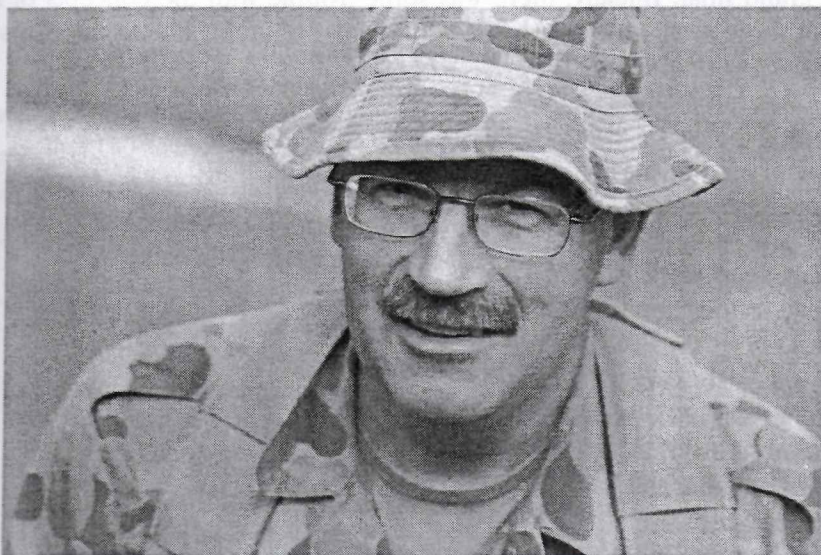
celebrate this event a number of activities occurred in Ballarat which included the exercising of the Freedom of Entry, the launching of the Battalion history book, opening the Battalion museum and the Battalion ball. The proceedings went well with C Coy attendance good even if the weather wasn't, with the highlight of the festivities being the accommodation for the visitors in Ballarat (swampy?).

In an effort not to deter from our primary aim, war fighting, it was across to sunny Pucka in late August to qualify some pers on the MAG58 and to carry out some pre-training in preparation for the Canberra LFX. We also had the opportunity to support the Bendigo 150th celebrations of military involvement in Bendigo, providing a section to help show the local community the current weapon platforms being used within today's army.

The Coy's attendance at the LFX in Canberra during September was somewhat smaller than previous attendances, with only 12 pers across the Coy. This was the only opportunity to date that Bendigo had a greater attendance than Mildura, who had only 2 mbrs in attendance compared to Bendigo's overwhelming 5. The activity gave us the opportunity to qualify several mbrs in the F1 and F3 grenades (including mbrs in SS and OIC) and the 9mm SLP and to perfect both day and night shooting skills on the F88 and F89 platforms. Canberra War Memorial trip gave our members an insight into what our history is and where our customs and traditions as an Army come from.

Requests came in for the Operation Anode Rotation 17, for which SGT Jack, LCPL Simmons and Theodore from Mildura, PTE Jobling from Swan Hill and PTE Moore, our local Shepparton Reserve junkie, nominated for and will depart shortly.

Bendigo has had a busy year for discharges, transfers and entries. Some of our transfers to the Regular Army include WO2 Baulch, CPL Hayden, PTE Webster, PTE Wilson and PTE Williams. Inactive Eeserve



transfers include PTE Amiet, PTE Browne-Kerr and PTE Nott. Discharge from the Reserve we have had PTE Honeychurch and PTE Stow and join our lovely little community we have CPL Mallows, PTE McFarlane, PTE Mays, PTE Colley, PTE Alderding, PTE Boath, PTE Francis, PTE Holland and PTE Jones.

We would also like to congratulate PTE Crute on finally attending Kapooka after over a year as a Recruit, and WO2 Baulch on his future career with the ARA after 27 years in 2 RVR and 8/7 RVR. Finally thank you to WO2 Reyne, who leaves us for a posting at 5 RAR.

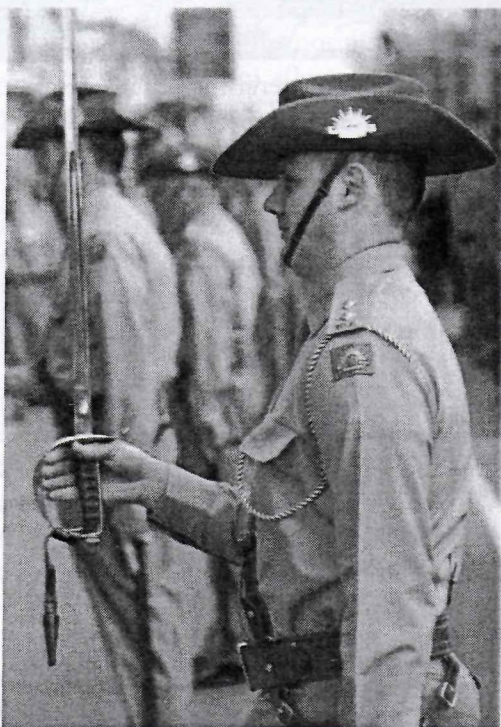
Mildura

It's been an eventful year for soldiers in the Northern depots. The training year commenced with a focus on the deployment to Germany for EX-COOP SPIRIT.

This meant revision of basic skills and the introduction of new theory for the members of 7PL. Consequently, Tuesday nights in the Battalion's most northern depot have been very busy all year. We have revised basic contact drills and attack formations, weapons use and handling, tab data and navigation to name just a few.

EX- COOP SPIRIT also introduced theory lessons that were revision for some personnel and new content for others. Although disappointed when 8/7 RVR's role in the exercise was cancelled, soldiers immediately focused on using and building their skills for the training exercise at Canungra, which as usual proved to be a worthwhile and demanding time and was well received by those who attended.

Other training during the year saw soldiers from Mildura take part in IMT at Bendigo and an ambush task at Laverton.



The Battalion Ball was also a highlight, with Mildura personnel proudly taking their place in the celebrations. The "Freedom Scouts", as the "Northerners" are often known, take pride in our place in the Battalion and the character we bring to the unit. This was especially evident during the Battalion anniversary weekend where members from Mildura played an important role in the parade and later, along with the CO, showed the rest of the Battalion how to carve it up on the dance floor.

ANZAC Day

ANZAC day was a busy time with extra effort being put into drill and uniforms. The day was well attended with personnel from Mildura depot attending up to three activities in the morning.

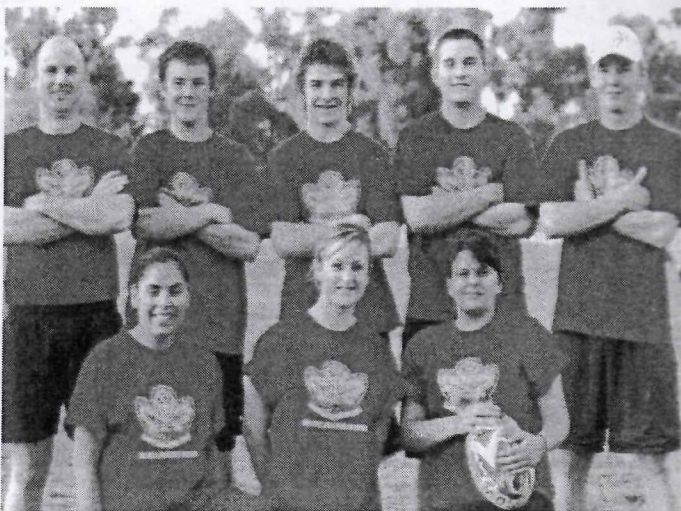
7PL was also involved in numerous other commemoration services, including Vietnam Veteran's Day and Remembrance Day, providing catafalque parties and other support activities such as medal presentations.

PT/Sport/Social

The AFL field behind the Mildura depot has been busy with PT activities during the year, ranging from contact drills and battle PT to touch football. Overall, the standard of fitness, especially among the newer members, has improved.

The inaugural Freedom Scouts touch football team took the field for the Mallee winter competition this year and despite a rocky start made it to the grand final. Initially, there was some trouble with the concepts of not dropping the ball or passing it forward but these were soon overcome with regular training. The team consisted of members of 7PL, plus a few civilians, who quickly adapted to the team's "army flavour". After initially being defeated by ten points or more, the team improved during the season to fall short of victory in the grand final by just 1 point. The team represented the company well, with many officials and referees commenting on its fair play and excellent team work. The summer competition is coming up soon and hopefully the team can continue its success.

The "Freedom Scouts" social group was also very active this year and travelled to a number of places during the year including Darwin and South Australia. There's still a lot of talk about catching the "one that got away" next time - the group plans regular trips for fishing and other not-so-strenuous activities during the year. One of the group, Kev Farrell, describes a typical



“arduous” Freedom Scout trip:

“After our successful mission to Marion Bay with S.A Fishing Adventures the opportunity to move further north presented itself following the posting of one of the team to Darwin.

Meeting up in Melbourne seven of us boarded a red eye flight to Darwin where we were greeted to a warm barny night by a couple of blokes with a few refreshments to discuss the next week's activities. Monday had us up early for a bit of deep sea fishing and the extra burly aided the good results (what happens on the trip rule applies). Wednesday we moved out to Carroborree Billabong in search of Barra. The week was primarily devoted to fishing but we did leave some time for sightseeing, catching up

with mates, telling a few tales and the occasional ale to prevent dehydration. Not sure where our next adventure will take us in the freedom of this big land but we are always scouting for a good time.”

Freedom Scouts Touch Football team on Grand Final Day.

In conclusion, 2008 has been a successful year in Mildura, both from a training and social point of view. Basic skills have been refreshed and new skills have been learnt, and importantly, the depot continues to have a strong esprit de corps.

At the end of this year, Mildura will again say goodbye to several members who are joining the ADF full time. Their presence in Mildura will be missed and we wish them well in their future endeavours. Thank you also to Sergeant Ivey for his work as our full time depot commander this year. We also have several members away for six months on CFTS and their experiences will be a valuable asset to the depot when they return.

We also wish our departing CSM, WO Reyne, ADJT, Capt Whitwell, RSM WO1 Murch and CO, LT COL McKerral all the best for their new postings. Thank you for your hard work and effort in the unit.

As we move into 2009, we will continue to revise and improve the level of military training in Mildura. We will say goodbye to some and welcome others, and importantly, continue writing new chapters in Mildura's proud history in 8/7 RVR.

A cracking year for the Messines members who started the year on a high, participating in the annual SES raft race across the Murray River. While we came third (last), we will build a more competitive vessel next year and also have some more cunning tactics up our sleeves!

CPL Logan has continued on in the RRF with LCPL Kelly and PTE Jobling signing on as well. July took all three members to Sydney for Operation Testament (affectionately known as Op Testicles) with one individual (to remain un-named) out-doing all the other Chocs on the Op by taking 'the Sydney Experience' to heights only a true Mallee Rat could!

In the race for strips Logan is leading the pack working his way through his (round belly) courses. Kelly chases up the middle field while Holland, the stayer constantly changing his field of expertise, is a mystery runner.

Jobbo completed his Combat Signals course and is now enjoying a deployment on Operation Anode in the Solomon Islands.

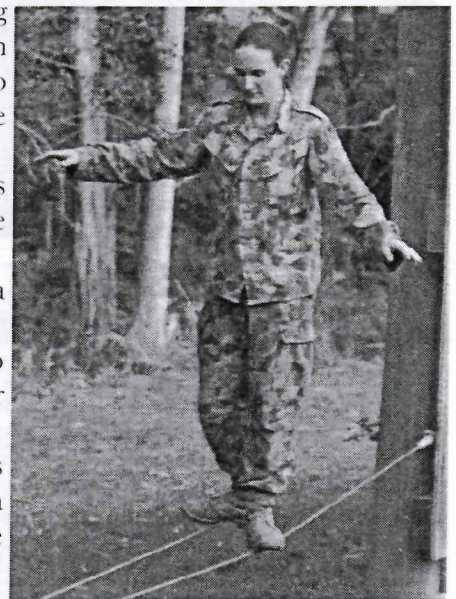
We have welcomed two new recruits this year, Rifleman Tarin Tants who enlisted in March and hopes to be at Kam-pookie in January and Driver Lachlan Wright who enlisted in October.

Throughout the year we have also held many functions at the Mallee Rats Booza inviting the local Police, Ambos and CFA. This has proved to be a very successful activity creating a great social rapport between all the services.

There are a lot of potential recruits in the process of enlisting and hopefully our numbers will be up next year with lots of exciting training being planned.



Swan Hill

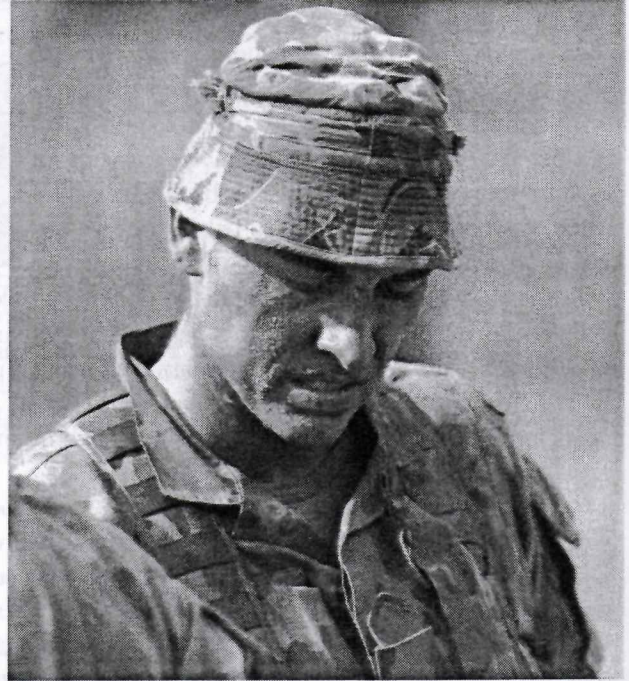


The year kicked off with mandatory training held at Pucka. The first big activity close to home was an IMT training weekend held at Bendigo which gave us all a good opportunity to refresh basic skills. During the year platoon members also participated in the Battalion training activities in Canungra, QLD and Majura, ACT.

Members of 8 Pl assisted in local ANZAC Day services at Shepparton and Cobram in 2008 as well as a number of recruiting activities in and around the GV. Things started off slow with the numbers of new faces coming in but it is slowly getting better. Highlights for the year have been CPL Crowe deploying to the U.K. on exchange with the British Army in July/August, PTE Moore getting his medical upgrade and listed for deployment on ANODE 17 (no jumping puddles this time) and PTE Connor listed for deployment on ANODE 18. Good luck fellas.

Of the members left behind we are still waiting with baited breath for the long awaited call up for the trip to Germany - thanks a bloody lot Ruddy!

Shepparton



2008 saw a comparatively large amount of movement of personnel out of 8 Pl.

Transferred to the ARA;

PTE Allan Graham - 3RAR,
PTE Jarrod Healy - 2RAR,
PTE Brian McLeod - 2RAR,
PTE David Hodgson - 2RAR,
PTE Ryan Learmonth - 1RAR,
PTE Corey Stagg - 5RAR,
PTE Cameron Thompson - 6RAR,
PTE Troy Robertson - 7RAR,
PTE Stuart Mackay - 7RAR.

(If we keep this up we may as well just raise Shep RAR!)

Posted out of 8/7 RVR;

SGT Luke Anderson - 2RAR.

Transferred to Inactive Reserve;

Lt Lachlan Clancy,
CPL Greg Rogers,
LCPL Rob Altenhof.

Posted to C Coy HQ;

PTE Josh Adams.

Discharged from the army;

PTE Kade Crapper
PTE Trent Harding
PTE Paul Morris

Quite a lot of people considering Shepparton is only a 'Platoon' strength depot!!!

New faces in Shepparton in 2008 included;
CAPT Vincent Oladele,
Lt Danielle Graham-Johnson,
SGT Damon Lynch,
PTE Jacob Sinclair,
PTE Reuben Crouch,

REC Brendan O'Shea,
REC Andrew Vale.

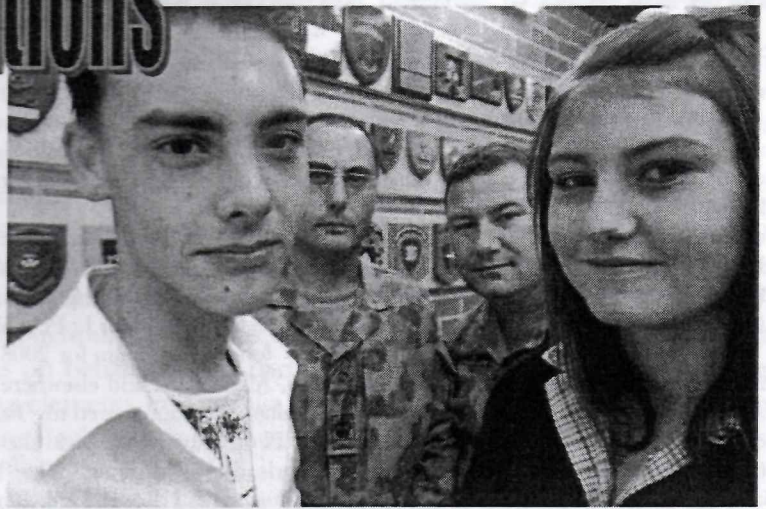
Members have participated in army courses included;
SGT Damon Lynch - Sub 1 W.O. & Sub 2 (Inf) W.O.,
CPL David Crowe - Sub 1 SGT & RRF Cse
CPL Phillip Trickett - Sub 2 (Inf) CPL
PTE Neil Johnson - Junior Leaders Cse & RRF Cse,
PTE Scott Connor - Junior Leaders Cse,
PTE Braden Wright - Junior Leaders Cse,
PTE Tim Moore - BCCC & ACCC, Sub 2 (Inf) CPL
PTE Reuben Crouch - Reserve Recruit Training Course,
PTE Jacob Sinclair - Reserve Recruit Training Course

Legacy Presentations



Legacy scholarships to nine students

Ballarat Legacy continued its relationship with the unit this year with the provision of nine scholarships for secondary school kids. The Arch Dawson scholarships were given to the sons and daughters of 8th/7th Battalion soldiers who have served over-



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The dogs came to Ranger Barracks again this year.

Seven of the Australian Customs Service four-legged recruits visited the battalion to train on detecting firearms, through a relationship established by CAPT Daniel Strack, who works for customs in his civvy job.

Four of the Labradors eventually graduated and will work in Australian airports and ports.



Canine graduates a pawisitive force

Four of the Labradors eventually graduated and will work in Australian airports and ports.

Custom Dogs



ON THE JOB: Customs officers train recruits with their dogs at the Ranger Barracks. Photo by James Bammer

News From Overseas

Pompey' Elliot Travel Scholarship 2008 -CPL D.J. Crowe, C Coy

In 2008 I was fortunate enough to be awarded the Royal Victoria Regiment Association 'Pompey' Elliot travel scholarship, which I elected to use to travel to the U.K. in order to spend some time with our Allied Regiment, the Staffordshire Regiment, who after 302 years of outstanding service were amalgamated into the Mercian Regiment in 2007.

I departed Australia on the 20th of July and arrived about 24 hours later in London where I was collected by 'Tuk', one of the many Fijian soldiers in the 3rd Battalion, Mercian Regiment. I was taken to the home of 3 Mercian, Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth, where I was given a quick tour, met the C.O., Lt Col Spiby and was allocated the 3 Pl, Gaudaloupe (A) Coy under Lt Pete Shergold.

3 Mercian is designated the British Army 'demo' (enemy) battalion for 2008 and as such they have a heavy workload supporting the many battalions preparing for operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. So, on my first full day in the U.K. I qualified on the SA80 and signed out a 'taliban' kit (shemagh, khaftan & vest), received my Taliban identity - Azadullah Raziq of the Baluch tribe- and headed out to Salisbury Plains with the lads of 3 Pl on Exercise Herrick (the mission rehearsal exercise for Operation Herrick) which saw us oppose the men of 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines. The 'blue force' included 42 Commando, 45 Commando, 1 Battalion the Rifles, 2 Battalion Royal Gurkha Regiment, 1 Royal Tank Regiment, 1 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment, 1 Queens Dragoon Guards and many more including British Army Apache's and R.A.F. Tornado's - all told over 6000 troops.

We spent the following ten days 'running drugs & guns' in & out of Afghanistan and Pakistan and dodging Commando road blocks (wherever possible). I had exposure to British Army & Royal Marine doctrine, which has been developed for our current day theatres of operations. We as an army would do well to take quite a lot of it on board. It was also fantastic to participate in an exercise of that magnitude and see the suite of armoured fighting vehicles & airframes used by the British.

After endex on the 1st of August I returned to Mooltan Barracks and parted ways with 3 Pl, who were sent off on 3 weeks summer leave. I went to Stoke on Trent for the weekend where I stayed with one of the 3 Mercian lads, PTE Ian Willows.

Monday the 4th of August saw me off to BHQ 4 Mercian (Territorial Army - TA) in Wolverhampton. I was given a quick but informative tour of the barracks by Colour Sergeant Yates before heading off to the Brecon Beacons in Wales with the RSM, W.O.1 Stewart. 4 Mercian were running a Combat Infantryman's Course (CIC), the equivalent of our mod 1 & 2 IET's. There were 2 platoons of participants, Arnhem Platoon & Helmand Platoon. I was allocated to Helmand Platoon.

As soon as we crossed the cattle grid into Sennybridge Training Area the infamously crap Welsh weather kicked in as if someone had flicked a switch, which very much reminded me of our own favourite training area, Puckapunyal! I guess some things are universal...

None the less it was a fantastic experience to get out on the ground with the British Army Infantry and learn how they do their job. Some facets of their doctrine are very similar to ours, however there were some striking differences which took me a few days to come to grips with. We harboured up in a section of forest which was quite dense, resulting in night time light conditions not dissimilar to Tully, imagine doing your infantry IET's in Tully!! So the lads had quite a steep learning curve to get their heads around, but they did it well to their credit. I was fortunate enough to be given the role of section commander for the climactic final patrol & attacks of the course, which included a 'tab' of a few km's, a night attack without NFE, some more tabbing and the final Pl assault at daybreak which commenced with no less than 20 slabs of HE and simulated 'foogas' for the opening barrage, followed up with another 20 slabs at the final objective!

Some interesting points I found from the training are:

The Brit's don't train with NFE on their IET's (Reg & TA),

The Brit's don't carry inert weaponry on course or exercise,

The Brit's use prac (blue) grenades in training - a great idea,

The Brit weapon, the SA80 L85A2 is fantastic, very reliable in comparison to the F88,

The Brit's don't train on or use Claymore's (only issued on deployment),

The Brit's have special blank-only magazines, a smarter way to deal with ammunition contamination issues in comparison to our 'bomb, unbomb, bomb' solution.

Having finished the CIC I returned to Wolverhampton and from there made my way to London for some well earned time off. Highlights in London included seeing the Tower of London, the Tower Bridge, H.M.S. Belfast, the London Eye, The Globe Theatre, The West End, Lords Cricket Ground, Abbey Road, The Imperial War Museum, The Jack the Ripper tour and heaps more. I also managed to get over to France via the Eurostar train. I visited Paris, saw the Eiffel Tower & the Arc de Triumph before heading off to Amiens & Villers Bretonneux where I went on a battlefield tour. I was also fortunate enough to visit the grave of my great great uncle CPL Thomas Forsyth (42 Battery AIF) at Tronville, near Amiens and the grave of my great great uncle PTE William Airey (12 Battalion AIF) at the Australian War Memorial at Villers Bretonneux.

The opportunity afforded to me by the travel scholarship was undoubtedly the highlight of my army career to date. To my fellow NCO's, strive to get onto this trip, it's awesome!



Baghdad IRAQ—November 2008

As I approach the half way mark of my deployment to Iraq, I thought it would be a good time to reflect on and share some of the

experiences I have had. My predecessor described his time in Iraq as a life altering experience. Whilst I have not been through the daily indirect fire attacks that he went through, I must agree with him that the potential of such events puts a different perspective on daily life, probably forever in my case. The Coalition response to such attacks is now so precise that they are thankfully rare.

The daily routine for a logistician in Baghdad is similar to home except the working day is much longer and more demanding given the complexity of supporting a large force in different theatres and in many locations. Add to that the time differences, both within the Middle East and back to Australia, and you can imagine the business of logistic support can be quite complicated. My work as the Joint Logistic Command Liaison Officer means I visit many of our base locations throughout the Middle East and I am lucky to be able to meet many ADF personnel managing logistic processes on behalf of their particular unit. Generally, the feedback I get is that the support we get from our supporting elements in Australia is timely and very responsive. It is good to know that our operational logistic issues are dealt with quickly given the distances involved. But always the reality of where I am is brought home to me on a daily basis as the last thing I do as I walk out of my accommodation each morning is to make sure I have my weapon and ammunition with me to go to work.

My accommodation is reasonable in the circumstances, a relatively large circular bathing and leisure house left over from the Saddam era in the Victory Base Complex (VBC) on the edge of Baghdad. It juts out into the centre of a large man made lake on what is affectionately know as Australia Island. The "Round House", is home to upwards of 25 other Majors working either at the Australian Headquarters or embedded in various Coalition organisations within the VBC. We sleep in double bunks located around the outer wall and radiating into the centre of the room. In the centre of the room are the leftovers from the former occupants in the form of ornate chairs and tables. The ceiling is also quite ornate as are the gaudy chandeliers and other light fittings.

I have attached a photo of the area principally occupied by Australians in the VBC. The area where we live and work contains many ornate palaces and associated buildings which were part of a complex belonging to the former regime. The round palace on the far right jutting out on the lake is the "Round House". This area on the lake is known as Australia Island and yes you can make out a swimming pool on the centre which is functioning and is very popular with the Americans. All the windows are now heavily sand bagged. The area in the distance is the Abu Ghraib district of Baghdad.

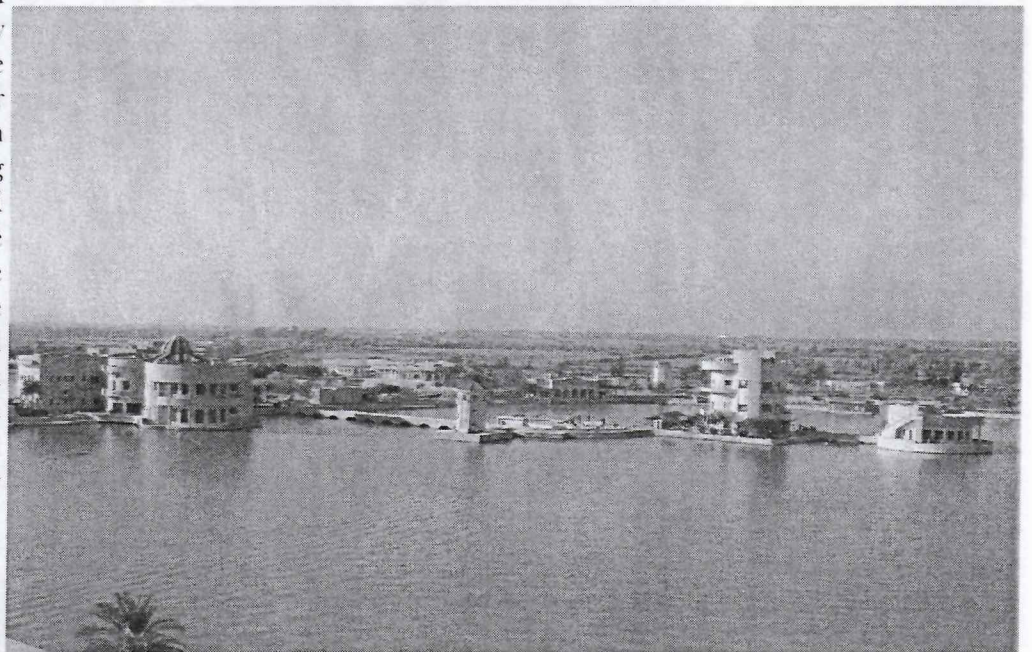
The weather both in Kuwait and here in Baghdad was extreme by our standards in the August and September however we are now enjoying the very best of Baghdad autumn weather. It is very similar to Victoria in late autumn with days in the early to mid twenties and nights down around to 10-15 degrees. It gets quite cold here in the winter period and rumour has it that it snowed last Xmas in Baghdad.

Well that is a broad summary of my deployment so far in the MEAO. I have another three months or so to go in my deployment and being away from family and friends over Xmas and the New Year period will be difficult. However, I have noticed time flies here and my stay here will be over in no time at all. I take this opportunity to wish you all well for the Xmas and New Year in Australia.

Regards

Peter Worsteling
Operation Catalyst

News From Overseas



Exercise Bobdubi

As the Hercules C130 wheels lifted off the tarmac, albeit slightly behind schedule, OPSO Major Trevor McTernan breathed a sigh of relief. The soldiers of 8th/7th were in the air and all was good with the world. The battalion's annual two-week exercise was this year in Canungra, with 115 soldiers from across the depots attending for a fortnight of revisions and new knowledge, trading the flat ground of Victoria for the mountains and jungle.

Exercise Bobdubi was designed to focus on developing individual, section, platoon and coy skills through offensive operations in complex terrain.



Exercise Bobdubi

A coy group focused on operating in close country, taking part in a cordon and search operation targeting a fully-established enemy village tucked away in the mountains.

Two days of firing on a series of ranges were also held while champion section competition Exercise Hydra was another highlight.

A driver's course was also run while 14 soldiers completed SIO-S module two, with the battalion running the course for its own soldiers along with others from units in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

Bobdubi was hailed a success by CO LT COL McKerral, who said Canungra gave the soldiers the chance to work in a different environment.



150th Anniversary

On the 9th of August 1858 the Ballarat Volunteer Rifle Regiment was formed and over 150 years of rich history that unit has taken on many titles due to numerous Defence restructures. The Battalion has always covered a vast area of land, which today explains the vibrant characters who make up the fabric of the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment.

This year the Battalion celebrated its 150th Anniversary and provided a spectacle for those participating in the event and for those who witnessed it with admiring eyes.

On Friday the 8th of August, the Regimental Mess hosted a cocktail party to allow the Museum Committee to be recognised for their selfless work over the past years, which involved preparation of the historical collection and renovation of its new home. This was a special moment to take a breath and admire our heritage while partaking champagne and canapés.



WO1 Murch (RSM), CAPT Strack (OC B Coy) and
CAPT Whitwell (ADJT)

Mrs Pauline Ball (Wife of Regimental COL and LTCOL
Ted Lynes Reid (Past CO))

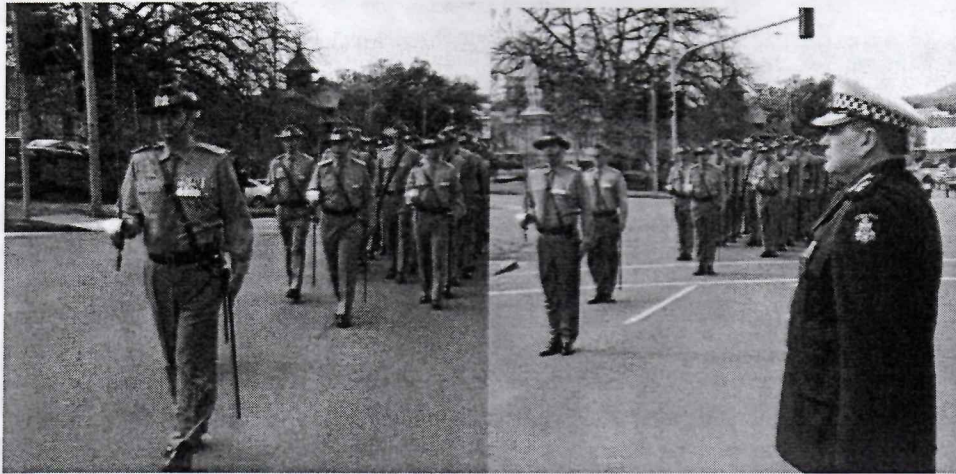
After the preview of the Museum, Major Neil Leckie entertained a wider audience at the launching of the Battalion's history. This was also an opportunity to acknowledge the generous contributions of another support group of the Battalion. The Book Committee, under the enthusiastic eye of the author, Major Leckie, had been working tirelessly collating information from many sources from around Australia. Sleepless nights and endless phone calls were the recipe that contributed towards this fine recollection of the Battalion's history. The book launch allowed the audience to enjoy some anecdotes that were delivered by the author and for many past members to reminisce about old times.

These two events set a perfect atmosphere for the rest of the weekend and as the remainder of the Battalion concentrated at Ranger Barracks, the final preparations were being made for the Freedom of Entry to the City of Ballarat.



MAJ Leckie and his wife, Kaye, signing copies of the Battalion's History

150th Anniversary



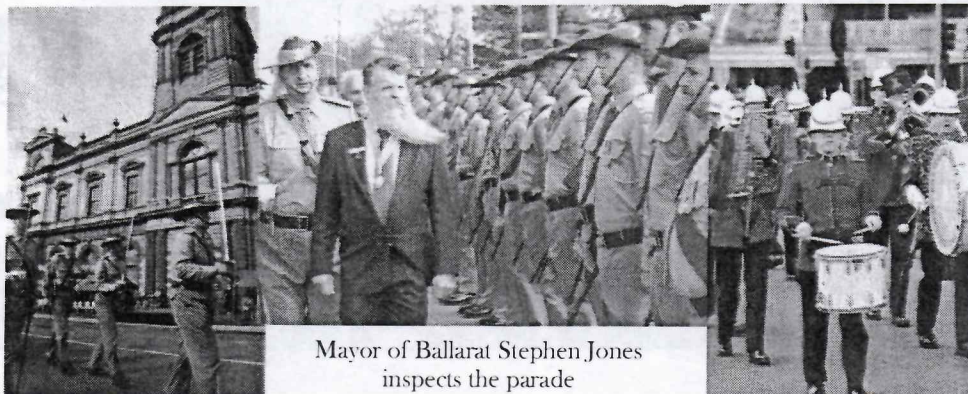
LTCOL David McKerral, CO 8/7 RVR, leads the Battalion to the Town Hall

After challenging the Battalion, Superintendent Andrew Allen allows it to pass.

By Saturday 9th of August the Battalion had come together from its nine country depots to finetune the drill that had been practiced over the past three weeks and to dazzle the citizens of Ballarat when it Exercised its Right of Entry to the City. The Mayor, Councillor Stephen Jones, had offered the invitation 12 months earlier and it was a fitting way to recognise 150 years of continual presence in Ballarat.

The RSM, WO1 Darren Murch, was able to wield his ceremonial magic to allow the parade to be the success that it was. The senior police officer in Ballarat, Superintendent Andrew Allen, was enlisted to support the event and to challenge the Battalion as it marched through the streets. 130 officers and soldiers were on parade along with the Australian Army Band - Melbourne. A further 30 people supported the parade from the sidelines. Over 90 official guests were invited, which included the Governor of Victoria, His Excellency Professor de Kretser, The Minister Representing the Premier, The Hon Tony Robinson MP, Comd 2 Div, MAJGEN Ian Flawith, Comd 4 Bde, BRIG Michael Arnold and RSM-A, WO Stephen Ward. Hundreds of Ballarat citizens also viewed the parade and as it was during the peak shopping time on Saturday the Battalion was able to truly show its strengths. Much thanks is also offered to CAPT Kevin Scott, OC 300 Cadet Unit, for allowing his cadets to also participate in the parade.

The weather conditions for the parade were extremely cold, having recorded a



Mayor of Ballarat Stephen Jones inspects the parade

Royal Victoria Regiment:
8/7th battalion anniversary

Mr ROBINSON (Minister for Gaming) — I recently had the opportunity to attend celebrations associated with the 150th anniversary of the Royal Victoria Regiment's 8/7th Battalion in Ballarat. The 8/7th Royal Victoria Regiment was established in Ballarat in August 1858 as the Ballarat Rangers. At that stage it was similar to other units of the same type that were based across Victoria, including in Bendigo and Geelong. Now known as the 8/7th Battalion of the Royal Victoria Regiment, it continues to be headquartered in Ballarat and has depots throughout country Victoria — in Monegeetta, Geelong, Laverton, Warrnambool, Bendigo, Mildura, Swan Hill and Shepparton. It is well known as Victoria's country battalion.

The celebrations included the battalion exercising its right of freedom of the city, the opening of the new Ballarat Ranger Military Museum in Ballarat, and an official reception to mark the anniversary. VIPs in attendance included the honorary colonel, Governor David de Kretser; the Mayor of Ballarat; Major-General Ian Flawith, Commander of the second division of the Australian Army; and battalion officials.

Along with the 5/6th Battalion — the other Victorian Reserve Battalion — the 8/7th Battalion will be sent to the Solomon Islands next year. This outstanding contribution is made by hundreds of Victorian men and women who are carrying on a fine contribution of serving this state and country.

150th Anniversary

temperature reading of zero during parade rehearsals at 0600 hours. Luckily the rain held off, which made for a lasting impression on our guests as they provided positive comments at an informal social gathering at the Ballarat RSL after the parade. The soldiers had their first opportunity to personally meet the official guests.

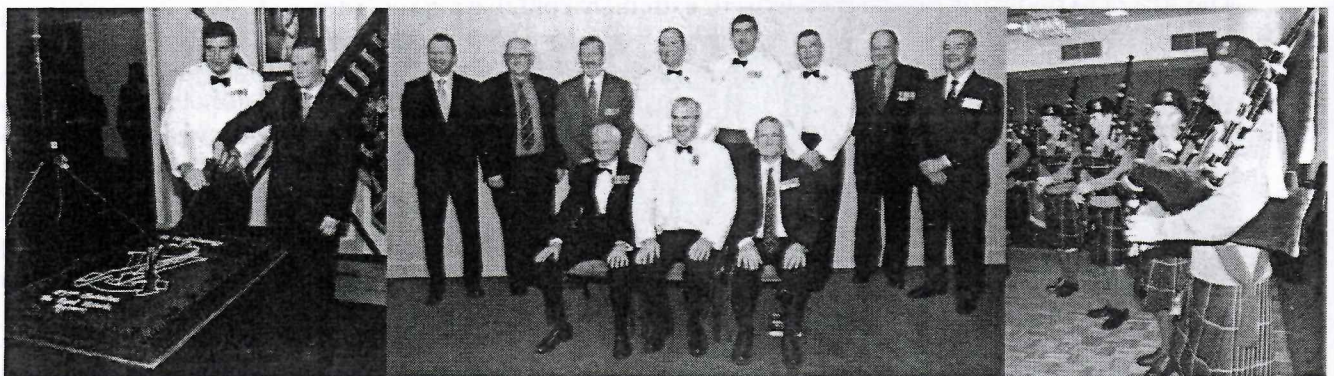
After a few well earned refreshments, the Battalion returned to Ranger Barracks where it was met by the rain and many anxious guests who were excited about the official opening of the Ranger Military Museum. The Governor of Victoria had the honour to open the new facility and provided a detailed insight into the history of the Battalion. Those who did not attend the museum preview the night before took this chance to view the historical collection and marvel at the fantastic work that the committee had done, especially MAJ Leckie and WO2 Mark Broemmer, the Museum Curator.



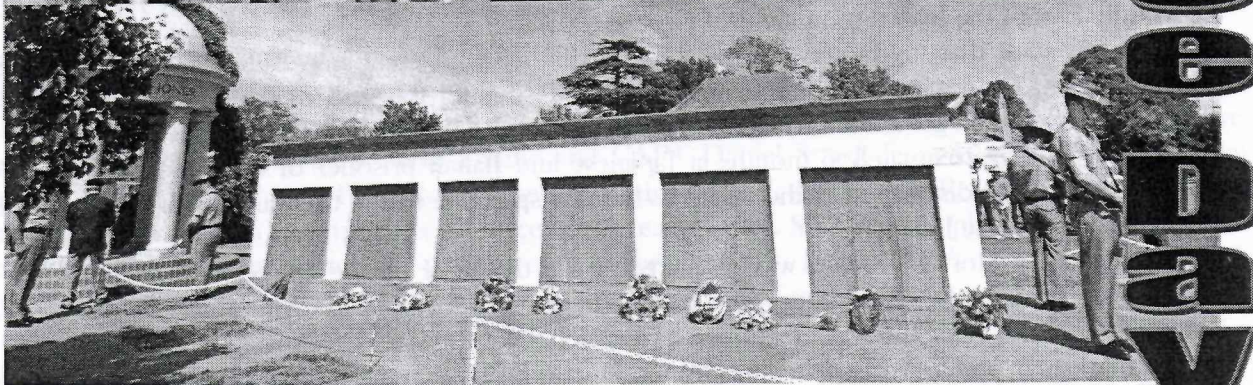
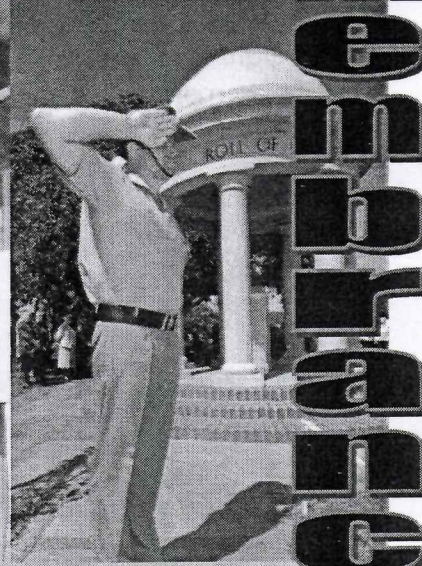
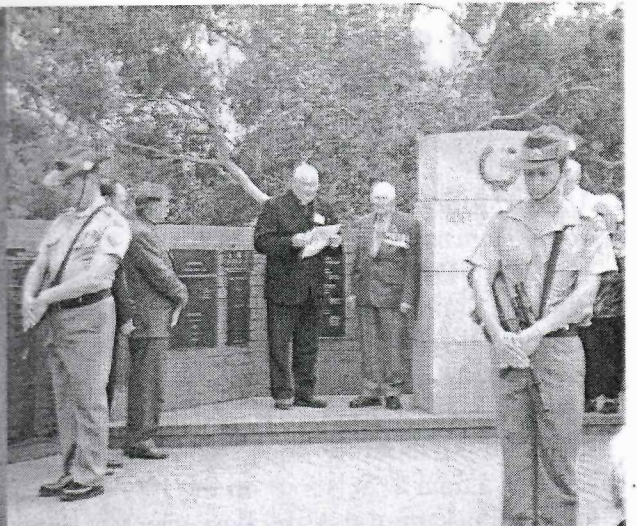
The Governor of Victoria views the collection

MAJ Leckie and WO2 Broemmer

This completed the formal activities and the reception at the Novotel Forest Resort was only hours away. Over 400 people attended the evening affair and were entertained again by the AAB-M and fed with a delicious meal. The Battalion's Colours were marched in supported by the Pipes and Drums of 5/6 RVR. The CO cut the cake with the youngest soldier, PTE Sinclair, and many friendships were renewed.



Anzac Day



FOR THE BROTHERS

HISTORY

Lt. Harry Moran VX 4879

Michael Moran gave this talk on his father's service with 2/8th Battalion at Macarthur Street Primary School's Remembrance Day service.

My father Harry Moran was born and raised on a farm near the small township of Waubra, approximately 30 km north-west of Ballarat. When war broke out, he thought he would do his bit and enlist in the army. The men from the Ballarat area had to report to the Melbourne Show Grounds where they were put into groups. At that stage they were known as Squad 65. They did marches around the Flemington Racecourse, and the streets of Melbourne. Squad 65 spent approximately 2 weeks in Melbourne before catching a train to Seymour on the 10th Nov 1939. From there they marched to the newly formed Puckapunyal Army Base which at that stage was only open paddocks with tents for the men to sleep in. It was then that the 2/8th battalion was formed. In December 1939 my father was advised that a promotion had come through and he had now reached the rank of corporal.



On the 14th April 1940 the battalion sailed from Port Melbourne stopping off at Fremantle on the way to Port Said in Egypt. They took a train to Quastina and then onto Mersa Matruh. The battalion trained constantly to get their fitness levels up and to learn the finer arts of battle.

The first battle the 2/8th battalion faced was in Bardia, Libya. After 3 days and the capture of 45,000 prisoners the battle was won. They then went on to take Tobruk, capture an additional 25,000 prisoners and then on to Benghazi.

The Battalion was rested in Alexandria in Egypt prior to the battle for Greece. They were then ordered into Greece, although they knew they had little chance of success. My father recalls while in Greece having to walk up the Veve Pass which is up a mountain range on the Yugoslavia/Greek border. There they spent 3 days in the ice and snow, almost freezing to death waiting for the Germans to attack. The only shelter they had was what they carried with them. Unfortunately the Germans were too strong, and the Allies had to withdraw. They withdrew to Crete, but they knew the Germans wouldn't be too far behind them. They were in Crete approximately one month before the Germans paratroopers landed. The battle for Crete could have gone either way but again the Germans overpowered the allies, and they were withdrawn back to Alexandria. While in Alexandria, my father learnt that he had received another promotion, this time to sergeant.

At this time the Japanese had entered the war and the Australian troops were sent home. The 2/8th Battalion landed in Fremantle and later sailed to Adelaide. In Adelaide the troops were billeted out to families in and around the city, and my father was put up by a family in the small town of Strathalbyn, which is about 1 hours drive from Adelaide. The battalion had 2 weeks leave so my father came home to Waubra to see his family, who he hadn't seen for nearly 2 years.

The Battalion was then sent to Darwin, which at the time was being bombed by the Japanese. While in the Northern Territory, the army advised my father had been promoted to Lieutenant. They were stationed in and around Darwin for many months before the Battalion was sent to do intensive training in the tropical jungles of far north Queensland. This was in preparation for the reentering of the war in New Guinea and the surrounding islands. My father didn't go with the Battalion but was sent to the University of Sydney where he did a short medical course, specialising in tropical diseases. He was then sent to rejoin the 2/8th to continue their training. This training went on for many months as the conditions were far different in New Guinea than in the deserts of the Middle East or the frozen mountains of Greece.

It was at this stage that my father and the 2/8th Battalion parted company. Although he never fought with the Battalion again, he was still a member and remained so until the end of the war. My father said he was disappointed he didn't get to follow the 2/8th Battalion to New Guinea but the Army had other plans.

My father spent approximately 6 months at Japanese and Italian prisoner of war camp at Cowra before being transferred the short distance to Bathurst. It was here he spent the rest of the war training new troops in readiness for combat against the Japanese.

Lieutenant Harry Moran VX4879 was discharged from the army on the 28th September 1945. He had served continuously for a total of 2165 days with 715 days in active service outside Australia. When he left the army he had reached officer rank and was mentioned in dispatches for the Greek campaign. He also wore the badges of a 1st class marksman and a 1st class machine gunner. Due to his time in the Middle East, my father, along with many other soldiers contracted a rare eye disease, which over the next 60 years has seen a slow deterioration in his eye sight to the point now where he is almost totally blind.

Other News

RIP Jack Elliot

John Michael Elliott, known to all as Jack, commenced his Army service as a National Serviceman in Woodside in SA. On completion of his NS in 1958 he transferred to the 8th/7th Battalion (The North Western Victorian Regiment) in Ballarat. He served in many postings with the old 8th/7th and 2 RVR and ended a 34 year career when reaching 55 years of age in 1988. He reached the rank of WO2 and served, among other postings, as CSM of B and Admin Companies and Chief Pay Clerk. He was PMC of the Sergeants Mess on three occasions and as those who know him would say Jack was fond of a beer. He spent a lot of time in the mess!

Outside the Army, Jack had been a carpenter before becoming a woodwork teacher at Beaufort High School. He and Fran have four sons and four daughters, four of which have served with the Army and two of whom are with the Victorian Police. Naturally with eight children, Jack and Fran have numerous grandchildren.

Jack was the secretary of the Ripon/Beaufort RSL for 8 years and moved to Sebastopol RSL in 2002 and became secretary there, as well as remaining secretary at Beaufort for a further two years.

On Melbourne Cup Day, St Patrick's Cathedral in Ballarat was packed for his funeral by around 500 mourners. Following the religious part of the service, the RSL service was undertaken and over 100 servicemen, most from the old 8th/7th Battalion, 2 RVR and 8/7 RVR paid their respects. Jack was buried at the Lawn Cemetery at the New Ballarat Cemetery. A wake was held at the Midlands Golf Club. RIP Jack

8th/7th Athletes

Defence Lake Attack

In a challenge between the 8/7 and 5/6 RVR, we came away easy winners. So much so that one of the teams, surprisingly including SGT Linane again, was able to win first place in the Emergency Services and Defence teams category. Unfortunately the trophy was incorrectly awarded to a RAAF girls team that finished 15 minutes behind 8/7. A team from the Monegeetta Depot also took part in the run. While not exactly the fastest of teams, CPL Sandro Tarquinio and LCPL Justin Mahony made it clear that if they were given a pack they would march all day! Individual results were also good, with Sergeant Linane placing seventh overall and Private Dale Jobling, from Swan Hill, fifteenth. Congratulations should go to LCPL McIlroy, not only for a great run, but for his ability to acquire a Toshiba sponsorship for the 8/7 Running Club which consisted of a quantity of very nice red and white 8/7 running shirts.



Defence Cross Country Championship

Held at the purpose made Deeks Cross Country Track on the outskirts of Canberra, B COY headed the 8/7 team that compete against some of the best Defence runners from the Army, Navy and Air Force. Representing the Rangers were SGT Steve Linane and CAPT Daniel Strack from B COY, LCPL Andrew McIlroy from A COY and Private Erica Rosewarne from Admin COY. As the only Reserve Unit represented, they turned a few heads with an impressive 3rd place in the teams event. SGT Linane placed 2nd in the veterans division and PTE Rosewarne earned 3rd place overall in the women's. In the Men's Open category, LCPL McIlroy and CAPT Strack fought off determined challenges from younger runners to place 5th and 7th respectively.

THE STANDARD

WEDNESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2008 \$1.50

SOMBRE DAWN

ANZAC DAY 2008

Private Neville Pelling stands guard with the centenary of the Gallipoli campaign at the Anzac Memorial in Sydney. The soldier is wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a uniform with medals. The statue behind him is a white figure of a soldier in a trench.

Private Neville Pelling stands guard with the centenary of the Gallipoli campaign at the Anzac Memorial in Sydney. The soldier is wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a uniform with medals. The statue behind him is a white figure of a soldier in a trench.

TODAY: Shows 11 TOMORROW: Shows 12 MONDAY: Shows 14 Details Page 25

Ballarat Army Reserve Exercise



Ballarat Army Reserve soldiers participate in a jungle training exercise.

It's a jungle out there

THE BALLARAT ARMY RESERVE has been training for a jungle environment in the Ballarat region. The soldiers are participating in a jungle training exercise, which is a key part of their preparation for potential operations in such environments. The exercise involves various tasks, including navigation, communication, and survival skills. The soldiers are equipped with appropriate gear for the environment, and the training is designed to build their confidence and proficiency in these skills.



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Coral reef deaths bring bleak outlook with them

Environmentalists warn that the loss of coral reefs could have a devastating impact on the marine ecosystem. The reefs are home to a vast array of marine life, and their destruction would lead to a significant loss of biodiversity. Scientists are calling for urgent action to protect these vital ecosystems.

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In The News

On Duty In The Solomons

Helping to restore law and order



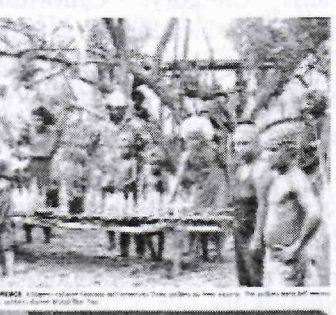
A soldier in uniform standing in a rural setting.

The Solomon Islands is currently struggling to restore law and order in the wake of a recent conflict. The country's government is working closely with international partners, including the Australian Defence Force, to provide training and support to the local police and military forces. The goal is to build a more stable and secure environment for the people of the Solomons. The training focuses on various aspects of law enforcement and military operations, including tactics, communication, and community engagement.

On Duty In The Solomons

Helping to restore law and order

The Australian Defence Force is providing training and support to the Solomon Islands police and military forces. The training is aimed at improving their operational capabilities and ensuring they are equipped to handle various security challenges. The Australian forces are working in close cooperation with the local authorities to build a more professional and effective law enforcement and military structure. The training includes both theoretical and practical components, and is designed to be sustainable and transferable to the local forces.



A group of people, possibly a community or a group of soldiers, gathered outdoors.

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Mildura boys in thick of it

Army reservists rumble in the jungle



Members of the Mildura Army Reserve's youth corps are seen here during a recent training exercise.

They are the army reservists who are rumbling in the jungle. The Mildura Army Reserve's youth corps is a group of young boys who are training to become soldiers. They are seen here during a recent training exercise. The boys are wearing military-style clothing and some are holding rifles. They are standing in a line and looking towards the camera.

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KIDS CLUB

THE MOMENTS
The wedding
The honeymoon

MARKET
The market

FANDORA

Anzac Day



Members of the Mildura Army Reserve's youth corps are seen here during a recent training exercise.

The Mildura Army Reserve's youth corps is a group of young boys who are training to become soldiers. They are seen here during a recent training exercise. The boys are wearing military-style clothing and some are holding rifles. They are standing in a line and looking towards the camera.



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In The News

Answers lie locally for water, Coalition

The Coalition has announced that it will focus on local solutions for water. The party's water policy is based on the principle of 'local answers for local problems'. This means that water issues should be dealt with at the local level, rather than being passed on to the state or federal governments. The Coalition believes that this approach will be more effective and more cost-efficient.



A soldier in military uniform walking through a field.

North Korea rejects talks

North Korea has rejected offers of talks from the United States and South Korea. The North Korean government has stated that it will only engage in talks if the United States and South Korea first agree to withdraw their troops from the Korean Peninsula. This is a significant development in the ongoing negotiations for a peace treaty to end the Korean War.

Project viability under review Market meet dates are set

The viability of a major project is under review. The project is a large-scale infrastructure development that has been the subject of extensive public consultation. The project's viability is being assessed in terms of its economic, social, and environmental impacts. The dates for the market meeting have been set, and the public is encouraged to attend and provide their views.



Two soldiers in military uniforms standing together.

Brothers in arms unite

Two brothers who served together in the military have reunited. The brothers, who were separated for many years, have recently met and are now living together. They share many memories of their time in the military and are proud of the service they performed.

Reality bites back at BB

The reality of the current economic situation is biting back at the BB. The BB has been struggling to maintain its position in the market, and its share price has fallen significantly. This is due to a combination of factors, including a decline in demand for its products and increased competition from other companies in the industry.

'Smart' energy lags

'Smart' energy technology is lagging behind expectations. While there has been significant investment in smart energy technology, the progress has been slower than anticipated. This is due to a number of factors, including a lack of standardization and a slow pace of innovation. The industry is still in the early stages of development, and it will take some time before smart energy technology becomes a mainstream solution.

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NEWSViews

ANZAC DAY 2018
 The ANZAC Day march in Melbourne will be held on Sunday, April 29, at 10am. The march will start at the Shrine of Remembrance and will travel through the city to the Shrine of Remembrance. The march is a significant event in the city's calendar and is attended by thousands of people. The march is a tribute to the ANZACs who served in World War I and is a reminder of the sacrifices they made for their country.

Army Reserve on the run in cross country champs



The Army Reserve has been successful in the cross-country championships. The team, consisting of soldiers from various units, performed well in the competition. The team's success is a testament to their hard work and dedication. The team's captain, [Name], said that the team was proud to represent the Army Reserve and to have achieved such a high level of success. The team will be looking forward to competing in future championships.

Last WWI soldier too frail for march

The last surviving Australian World War I soldier, [Name], has been deemed too frail to participate in the ANZAC Day march. [Name] is 102 years old and has been in poor health for some time. He has been unable to walk for several months and is unable to stand for long periods. He is currently being cared for at a nursing home. His family has expressed their disappointment that he will not be able to participate in the march, but they are proud of his service to his country.

Tributes at dawn



A dawn service was held at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday, April 29, to mark ANZAC Day. The service was attended by thousands of people, including members of the armed forces, veterans, and the general public. The service was a solemn occasion, with a wreath-laying ceremony and a reading of the names of the fallen. The service was a tribute to the ANZACs who served in World War I and is a reminder of the sacrifices they made for their country.

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In The News

Site to remain closed

The site of the former [Name] barracks will remain closed. The site is currently being used as a storage area for military equipment. The site is located in [Location] and is a significant part of the city's history. The site is currently being used as a storage area for military equipment. The site is located in [Location] and is a significant part of the city's history. The site is currently being used as a storage area for military equipment.

Anzac Day

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Schools band together for aid



Schools across the region have banded together to raise funds for a charitable cause. The schools have organized a variety of fundraising events, including concerts, sports events, and bake sales. The funds raised will be used to support a variety of community projects. The schools' efforts are a testament to their commitment to their community and to their students.

Doctor and nurse hold nothing in reserve



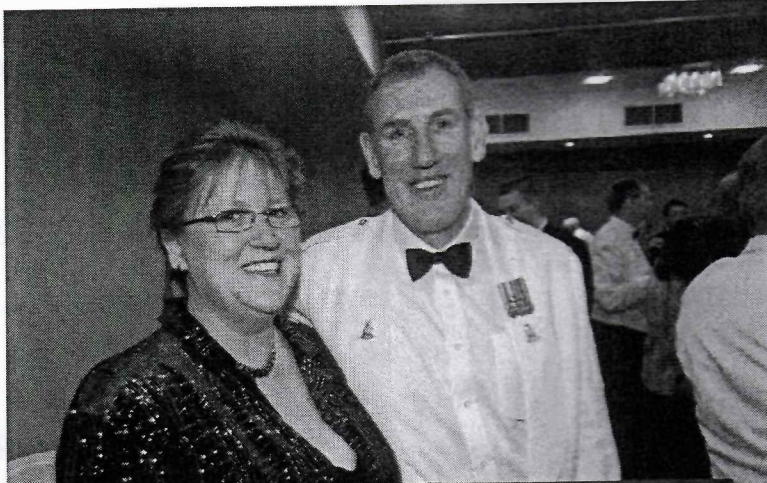
A doctor and a nurse have been praised for their dedication and hard work. The doctor, [Name], and the nurse, [Name], have been working tirelessly to provide the best possible care for their patients. Their dedication and hard work have resulted in a number of successful outcomes for their patients. They are a true inspiration to their colleagues and to the community.

Ray's map could save frog

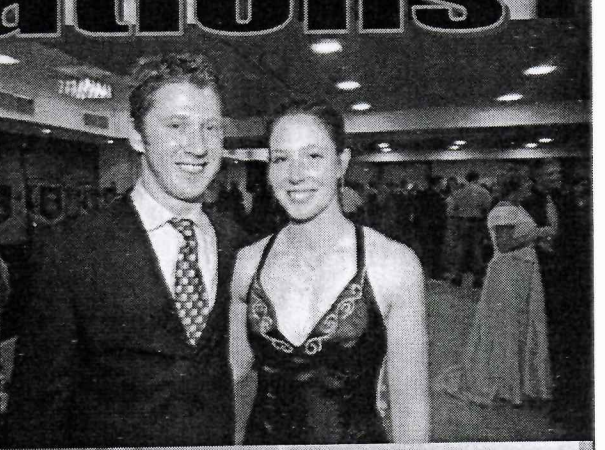
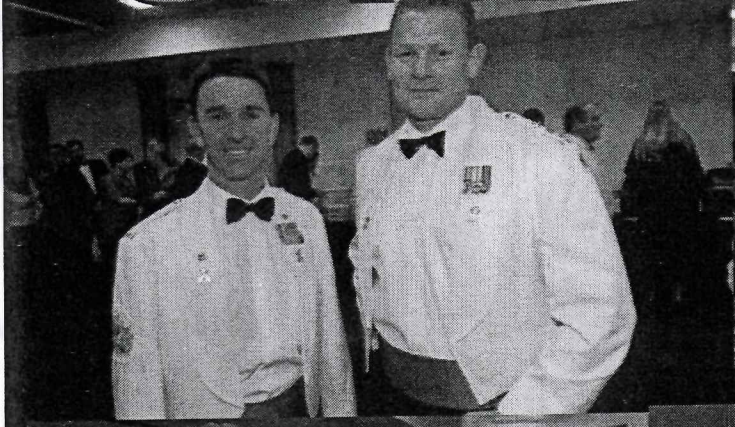
A map created by [Name] could help save the [Name] frog. The map shows the distribution of the frog and identifies areas where the frog is most at risk. The map is a valuable tool for conservationists and is being used to guide the development of conservation plans. The map is a testament to [Name]'s dedication to his work and to the environment.

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Celebrations





8/7 RVR REGIMENTAL FUNDS

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For out-centre members, contact your Depot Manager or COY CSM

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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
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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

COUNTRY VICTORIA'S OWN (8/7 RVR History)	\$45.00
OUR DEAR OLD BATTALION (7th Battalion AIF History)	\$45.00
COBBERS IN KHAKE (8th Battalion AIF History)	\$45.00
WHERE TO FOR VALOR	\$16.95
THE MAD GALAHS	\$25.00
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8/7 RVR DESK PLAQUE (SMALL)	\$13.00
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PRINTS

RANGER PRINTS (SET OF 4)	\$13.00
RANGER PRINTS	\$10.50

EQUIPMENT

THERMONATE MEMBERS	\$ 8.00
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The 8th/7th BN - 2 RVR ASSOCIATION

The association was formed about 10 years ago by former battalion members as a forum for past and serving members to get together on a social basis. The association holds reunions and dinners in such diverse locations as Ballarat, Warrnabool, Shepparton and occasionally Mildura. In recent years the association has changed its role slightly and for the last couple of years has offered support to members of the battalion serving overseas. It assists in the organising of 'comfort packages' to those deployed members. The association is open to all serving and past members of any depot that has formed a part of the battalion's history. Contact: The Secretary, 8th/7th Bn - 2 RVR Association, PO Box 543W, Ballarat, Vic, 3350 or telephone on 03 5335 9954 or 0407 803 684.

8/7 RVR BATTLE HONOURS

Boer War

South Africa 1899-1902

World War One

World War Two

Landing at Anzac Cove

Bardia 1941

Somme 1916, 1918

El Alamein

Ypres 1917

Capture of Tobruk

Bullecourt

Greece 1941

Polygon Wood

South West Pacific 1942-1945

Amiens

Finisterres

Albert 1918

Hari River

Mont St Quentin

Bobdubi II

Hindenburg Line

Lae Nadzab

Poizieres

Borneo



