

The

RANGER

2012



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

8/7 RVR, 2012:

**Commanding
Officer**
LTCOL Murray
Duckworth CSM

**Regimental
Sergeant Major**
WO1 Rodney
Rootham

Regimental Colonel
Brigadier Douglas
Ball AM RFD ADC

Allied Regiments:

3rd Battalion
(Staffords),
The Mercian
Regiment

The Royal Regiment
of Canada

Ranger Magazine
Editor
Chaplain Stephen
Maggs

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The Ranger Magazine is the Annual Journal of The 8/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment.

Front cover: Exercise BUNKER Enfield State Forest (10 -12 Aug 12)

CO

LTCOL Murray Duckworth, CSM



It is once again, a privilege to offer my contribution to the *Ranger Magazine 2012*. Last year, I indicated how much of an honour it is to command this proud Battalion and the commitment shown by so many this year, has reinforced this belief.

Recently, I had the opportunity to closely examine our Colours and as I studied the intricate gold lace, it made me think of our forbears who served and died in foreign places such as South Africa, ANZAC Cove, Polygon Wood, Pozieres Bardia, Tobruk and Borneo. Different places, different conditions, different people. While the times have changed, the basic character of our soldier has not. This year, I had the honour to be the guest speaker at the Geelong pre-dawn ANZAC Day service and at the time, I could not help but feel this as I witnessed our members so proudly on duty. I am grateful that members of 8/7 RVR continue to serve their country in many ways.

The purpose of this magazine is not to record the official history of the Battalion, rather it is to provide a snapshot of some of the Battalion activities and to provide the reader with an insight into some of the characters who make and are, the Battalion.

The *Ranger* is unable to record all facets of the Battalion's exploits, but there are a couple of particular highlights that will stay in my mind for 2012. The first is of an international flavour. We provided immense support to the force preparation and contribution of to ANZAC Coy, Timor Leste Task Group 4 (TLTG 4) which successfully deployed and returned 46 of our members safely home. (We also had a number of other unit members deploy overseas). This deployment is well covered further on. The second is local. For the balance of the Battalion which did not deploy,

our training in security, offensive and defensive operations took us to some different locations other than Puckapunyal, including Peshurst, Bendigo, Warrnambool and Enfield State Forest. Many lessons were learnt which will stand us in good stead for the future.

As infantry soldiers, our core skill is weapon handling and it was great that our shooting team performed so well at AASAM. Next year team, we will win it! I also offer our congratulations to the team for winning the 4 Bde Victorian Challenge Shield 2012. I was also personally pleased because I was in a similar winning team some years ago when I was a Corporal!



As CO, I have the opportunity to undertake a number of pleasing tasks including promoting members, presenting various awards and sometimes farewelling members. This year, I have been busy and you will see some of the photos of Battalion members with whom I have had the honour to share some of these experiences.

Speaking of promotions, I would also like to congratulate and welcome the great influx of new Lieutenants into the Battalion. Our unit entitlement for Junior Officers is now full and this will definitely pay dividends in the years to come. I am also very appreciative of the staff and members who assisted, influenced,

supported, encouraged and made possible the opportunities for many of our members to undertake or complete required courses, particularly those needed for promotion.

While it is not my intention to mention specific names in these few lines, it would be remiss of me not to mention and to thank the RSM, Rod Rootham for his efforts over the last two years. He has provided me with great support and wise counsel to the Battalion.

The RSM is to deploy to Afghanistan and on behalf of the Battalion, I wish him a successful and safe tour. Thanks Rod.



Next year, we continue with our commitment to members serving the nation. We will provide more members to OPERATION ANODE R 30 in the Solomon Islands, which may well be the last ANODE rotation. Please be prepared to deploy or to assist with the force preparation training to ensure their successful deployment.

In closing, I would like to thank all 8/7 RVR members and their families and friends who understand our endeavours and support our efforts. I know that you will enjoy *The Ranger* and keep it as a memento of your service in 2012.



2013 will be another good year for the Battalion.

Murray Duckworth, CSM
LTCOL
Commanding Officer



RSM

WO1 Rod Rootham



This year started off at a very hectic pace, and has not really stopped. We had 46 members of the unit deploy to East Timor. It pleased me no end, to see those people deploy at the culmination of all of their hard work. It was also pleasing to see those of you who were able to support the training of your colleagues, and give up your holidays to do so. Without your attendance, the training would not have been as effective as it was. It was also great to see everyone return home safely, and in high spirits. I think this speaks volumes of the character and calibre of all of you within the unit. We currently have CPL Beales and CPL Stachlewski deployed as part of TLTG 5. I wish both of them a safe journey, and know that they will represent the Battalion very well.

This year there has been a great deal of high quality work undertaken by clerical staff to ensure that administrative procedures have been improved. This was done by members of staff who worked very long and hard in their own time to achieve this. Thank you to those staff.

It was pleasing to see once again the dedication and commitment that you showed on ceremonial occasions such as ANZAC Day. Whilst we were slightly down on requests from last year, we did acquit ourselves well as indicated by the many letters of appreciation from the various RSL's that we provided support to. So once again, thank you for your efforts. They are appreciated.

We had several presentations that were made this year in recognition of your dedication and commitment to the unit. CPL Hannaford, LCPL Mahony and PTE Champion were recognised for their contribution to the unit by receiving the Soldiers Medallion for Exemplary Service. PTE Deverell received the

Hellenic Award, for her efforts in the opening of the Kyneton Depot at the start of this year. WO2 Creelman and SGT Creelman were awarded the Australia Day Medallions for their services to 5 BDE, and SGT Creelman was awarded a bronze Service Commendation again for her services to 5 BDE.

We also participated in AASAM this year, and we did very well. We were the top unit in the Division. We also finished second overall within the Army, which is an incredible achievement. The team consisted of SGT Micallef, CFN Hopfner, PTE Bugeja, PTE (now LCPL) Edwards, and PTE McMillan. We won the Victoria Challenge Shield for 2012, by winning the 4 BDE shooting competition which was a LF 6 shoot.

The following members were promoted to CPL:

CPL Baker;
CPL Connor;
CPL Day;
CPL Petering; and
CPL Van Loon.

The following members were promoted to LCPL:

LCPL Collyer;
LCPL Edwards;
LCPL McDonald; and
LCPL Simovska.

There will be a high turn over of staff at the end of this year. CAPT Soawyer will leave us and be posted to 1 CDO REGT. CAPT Moss, WO2 Armstrong and WO2 Daniels will leave us and move to CATC in Puckapunyal. WO2 Greenwood will leave us and move to 12/40 RTR. WO2 Brown will leave us and

head to ALTC. SGT Perry is posted to Army school of ordnance. SGT Bell will leave us and head to 1 CHB in Darwin. SGT Llewellyn will leave us and head to 9 FSB in Amberley. CPL Holl was promoted to SGT at the recent dining in night, and he will be posted to 2 FSB at the start of 2013. CPL Richardson will leave us on promotion to SGT, and be posted to APAC in Randwick. SGT Mutsaerts will be posted to MUR. I wish to personally thank all of these members for their invaluable contributions to the unit, and wish them all the greatest of success in the future.



We will undertake block training next year, which will allow for better consolidation of skills. This will go a long way to improving skill sets and generating and enhancing force capability.

We have an incredible mix of dedicated and committed people within 8/7 RVR. You should all be very proud of your efforts and achievements to date, and I hope that all of you will continue to apply yourselves in the years to come, to reinforce this great work.



This is also my last article as the RSM of 8/7 RVR. WO1 Mick Groves will take on the position of the RSM in 2013. I have met and had the absolute privilege of working with an incredible group of people, this year and last. It has been an honour.

Have a great Christmas break. Be safe, and all the very best for the future.

WO1 Rod Rootham
RSM
2011 - 2012



OPS CELL

MAJ Don Murphy



OPS farewelled SGT Jimmy Skett (DOTAM – WA) at the end of 2011, and WO2 Shane Armstrong moved across to become the Unit Recruiting Liaison Officer / Trg WO CSS Coy. WO2 Bob Creelman, from HQ 5 Bde, and SGT Paul Micallef, from QUR were their replacements.

The Battalion started early this year, with most of the remaining ARA spending the two weeks from 06 Jan 12 at Puckapunyal assisting with the TLTG-4 Mission Specific Training and Mission Rehearsal Activity. Like most of the activities the Battalion is involved with, individual Reservists made a huge commitment, voluntarily giving up their holiday period to assist as role players and support staff.

Highlights of the year were the two Live Fire Exercises, which were well attended, so much so that numbers had to be limited to fully qualified riflemen and above. The April LFX assisted the Battalion Shooting Team to achieve their winning endeavours at AASAM in May.

This year, some Sub Unit Training weekends were combined to maximise the use of resources, improve training opportunities and prevent waste. This worked well, particularly for the exercise undertaken in the Enfield state forest.

We have already turned our Ops minds to re-think with regard to the training calendar for the next year. It's proposed that the number of weekends be reduced, and two nine – day training blocks replace them. Personnel will be required to attend one of these, and there may be some who should be able to attend both.

Having longer training periods should mean that we achieve far more than in the

corresponding number of days as training weekends. Travel will be reduced, and other greater efficiencies should also be achieved. We need to get smarter at how we train and strive for maximum effect in the limited time we have in the future.

MAJ Don Murphy
OPSO



XO

MAJ Cliff Gowers



As from September 2011, I was appointed as the Battalion Executive Officer (XO) and left the reins of OC Admin Company in the capable hands of CAPT Jennifer Lee, WO1 Marty Griggs and WO2 Geoff Pellow and the able men and women of the Company.

As I moved into this position there were a number of changes taking place with OH&S which included the Battalion (and ADF) changing to the WH&S Act that was being implemented in January 2012. The flow on affect has meant changes in the way we do business and an increase in the reporting mechanisms that are required plus managing the information flow to all Unit members.

‘WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR WH&S’

Battalion members should now be well informed on their WHS responsibilities but this is an ongoing task that you will encounter during Force Preparation Training and at the Army Safety Day presentations held each year. Just for the record 8/7 RVR had a low incident reporting rate by percentage compared to Bde units which is a good reflection on how we do business and the positive changing attitude by soldiers toward WHS and our commitment to safe work practices.

2013 may see a reduction in ARTD to undertake the activities we wish to achieve. Can I say to you all, take every opportunity to parade when you can and remain loyal to your role as a Reservist. This circumstance of limited ARTD has been weathered by the Battalion on numerous occasions in the past and as history tells us, things will get better and training opportunities will increase.

Remember, the world is a changing place and the opportunities for further deployments can arise as quickly as they have ceased.

During normal working hours I am a Project Manager at DMO in Melbourne and enjoy the mission of getting to Ballarat on time for Parade nights each Tuesday. I am married with 6 kids (five of which are gladly gone), one at home, and one who keeps coming back.

I always look forward to supporting the Battalion and soldiers in any way I can. My door is always open, so if you have an issue come and see me. To all those who received promotions and awards during 2012, well done - you deserve them.



CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

"Fill your boots" is a quaint saying often heard around the ADF to give the ok to do some task. It implies "An invitation to partake with gusto, as in "be my guest," or "help yourself."

Like many sayings that float around, it originates like all good sayings with the military. One colourful source (there are others) is from the *"Memoirs of Serjeant Paul Swanston"* published in 1818.

"In quick time they were at the wine-pipe; for a moment the new hands seemed at a loss for the means of getting the wine to their mouths; but the "wide-a-awake" boy slipped (sic) off one of his shoes in a twinkling, dipped it into the cask and drank.

"Drink, you devils, drink!" he said; "its all one how much you drink, only don't get drunk!" And again he filled his shoe, and again he drank. The previous debauch in connexion with the new, soon tumbled him on the ground; and he lay there gradually sinking into stupidity; but, as he took his leave of consciousness, he admonished the others to take care of themselves; to take as much as they could rightly carry; but not to get drunk, saying, as he sunk lower and lower himself, "Fill your boots, boys-fill your boots! Give me one small drop in a shoe to make me well again, for I'm-I'm-."

Alas, poor humanity! There lay in the deepest degradation, as good a fighting soldier, and, when he could not get drink, as cleanly and active a fellow as ever the English army possessed."

The resourcefulness of a soldier to get what they need is timeless. This story is told not to suggest that drunkenness is to be seen as a harmless activity, the evidence against that is very obvious.

But rather I would like to dwell on the benefit of filling your boots when tackling our tasks with gusto and energy. Circumstances come along that suck our desire to do better and make it easy to give up. But if we endure we may surprise ourselves.



The story of Carbine Williams illustrates this perfectly. In 1921 a North Carolina moonshiner was arrested and sentenced to hard labour for the shooting of a police deputy. While in prison

Williams designed a gun and then showed the design to the warden, who allowed him to build the weapon. Williams turned out to be a mechanical genius, designing six weapons and invented the short-stroke piston, a device that uses the explosive gases from a firing bullet to load the next round. After 8 years in prison he was pardoned and begun building weapons for the US government. In 1941 Williams won a government competition with a design for a lightweight semi-automatic weapon. The weapon became known as the M1 carbine and was used extensively in WW2. It was the first semi-automatic weapon generally issued to the infantry of any nation at the time.



Williams could have languished in prison, instead he filled his boots and used his abilities to help win the war.

If an opportunity arises for you, make the most of it and 'fill your boots !'



Chaplain Stephen Maggs

A Company

From the Officer Commanding's Desk:

2012 has been a challenging year for the "Big A" again providing a platoon's worth of soldiers for deployment to Timor as part of the Company Group in support of Operation ASTUTE for the entire year. Again, a wonderful experience for our soldiers, fulfilling a worthwhile commitment to nation building for our near neighbour. This type of commitment should never be under-valued as the experienced gained from these type of operational deployments cannot be replicated in the "part-time" environment that we train under. Again the ability of Army Reserve members to meet deployment requirements where proven and brings satisfaction to all involved.

The Company went through a restructuring process and lost our "country" Warrnambool depot to B Company, leaving A Company with the Geelong and Laverton depots, thus becoming the "city slickers" of the country Battalion. No doubt will continue to bring couth and culture to our country cousins as we attempt to raise the standards.

From a training perspective, during the year we conducted successful training activities at Penshurst, Enfield State Forest, Bendigo and field firing at Puckapunyal. All activities were well supported and significant training

value was gained from those who participated. The leadership provided by young officers and NCO's throughout the year has been very satisfying. Credit must also go to the Regular cadre staff for their continuing efforts and support, week in week out.

Well done to all for another successful year.

Gareth N. WARD
Major
Officer Commanding



Bravo Company 2012 Training and Key Events Summary

2012 was a fantastic and diverse year for a very busy and motivated Bravo Company. With many key members detached and deployed on Operation ASTUTE TLTG4 for the majority of the year; other members of Bravo Company were given the opportunity to step up and take charge. CPL Daniel Purcell from Ballarat returned from Timor and stated *“The boys worked hard and with a high level of professionalism and purpose”*.

Bravo Company continued to grow in 2012. Warnambool depot was transferred to Bravo Company. Bravo Company is now comprised of four depots: Ballarat, Kyneton, Monegetta and Warnambool. Promotions

B Company

were active in Bravo Company with several PTE's promoted to LCPL and several LCPL's promoted to CPL across the four depots.

Attention towards the end of the year was towards preparation for Operation ANODE Rotation 30. This preparation provided additional motivation for B/Coy members. Rotation 30 is due for departure early May 2013 as the Australian Defence Force (ADF) contribution to the Australian-led Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

During the year two new platoon commanders marched into the Company. LT Appleby marched into Monegetta depot at the start of the year and LT Nick Boak marched into Ballarat mid-year after both completing the GSO FAC and graduating from RMC Duntroon. This continues the 8/7 RVR tradition of growing our own officers from the soldier ranks. 2012 was a very productive year. Collectively, we are looking forward to a positive 2013 to continually build on the good work of 2012 with the focus in 2013 returning to traditional war-fighting capabilities at Infantry Section and Platoon level.

*Nick Boak
Lieutenant
Platoon Commander 4PL
Bravo Company*



Bravo Coy

Over the past 12 months, there have been a lot of changes to Bravo Coy, with the acquisition of two more Depots into the ORBAT, Acting OC Bravo (CAPT Paul O'Donnell) and CSM Bravo (WO2 Bryan Wethling) have had a lot of work on their hands. With Bravo Coy now being spread over 150 Kilometers, OC and CSM B have had to travel countless hours to the Depots to supervise training and to check up on the handful of new Subby's which were posted to Bravo Coy earlier this year. Over the past six months the OC has had to nurture and guide the recent graduates from RMC, LT. Appleby, LT. Boak, and LT. Heath, who have all come to the Coy with good attitudes



and an eagerness to learn and get the job done.

This year Bravo Coy provided numerous catafalque parties to RSL services all throughout regional Victoria. Good reports and many thanks were received from

Members from 8/7RVR being instructed at the Warnambool Depot

RSL committees throughout Regional Victoria. Our soldiers performed to a very high standard and showed an eagerness to participate in the services in 2012.



CPL Brad Watkins from 6PL with his Catafalque Party at the Sunbury ANZAC day Service.

Throughout the year there were numerous training activities which involved the whole battalion, and it was only on few occasions that Bravo Coy were able to come together as a single call sign. Most recently Bravo Coy conducted a Battalion Training activity at the Warnambool Depot. The activity focused on urban tactics and gave the soldiers the skills they would need to fight in the modern day urban battlefield. This activity was run by SGT Edwards, who delivered the package to a very high degree and was able to instill his knowledge



gained from his overseas experience, onto the soldiers.

Currently there are six members gearing up to head over to the Solomon Islands on OP ANODE R30. This would not have been possible without all the hard work put

in by the Command team at Bravo Coy.

All in all, 2012 has been a good year of training for Bravo Coy and we look forward to achieving even more in 2013.

SGT Edwards addressing the Battalion at the end of the activity.



Warnambool Depot

Our new Coy Admin CPL (CPL Dale Hannaford) marched in Tokyo fresh back from a deployment in Afghanistan.

CPL Hannaford immediately fitted in well into C Coy. With a love for good coffee, we soon found ourselves having CHQ admin meetings at the Green Olive coffee shop just opposite the Bendigo Bank head office (where the OC hangs out most of the day, the bank that is, not so much the coffee shop).

2012 started in the usual way, with Force Preservation Training and trying to balance the Mess books after another huge Christmas party that rounded out 2011.

With the mandatory boxes ticked we launched into offensive operations using the State Forest and training area behind the Bendigo Depot.

ANZAC Day was made even bigger this year with the Bendigo ANZAC Day ceremony televised on national radio and TV. The Bendigo Advertiser ran a couple of pages on the event and as you would expect, a large amount of fines were handed out to those whose photo appeared in the paper! As the speaker for the ceremony, which was a huge honour, I got a few pictures in the paper and had my wallet lightened in the appropriate manner.

CHQ then moved into new digs in the Bendigo depot, well actually took back our own offices that had been in the hands of the cadets for a few years. This was not before time as we had well and truly outgrown the one cramped office we all shared.

C Coy hosted the Battalion for more offensive operations training and then swapped with B Coy for defensive operations. The end of 2012 saw C Coy farewelling its training Warrant



Officer WO2 Mick Greenwood and CQMS SGT Mark Bell.

WO2 Greenwood, like most ARA TRG WOs, was a vital part of C Coy and knew every soldier inside out. WO2 Greenwood's calm and quiet nature saw him well respected within the C Coy. C Coy is looking forward to his return in three years as a Reservist

when he finally retires from the ARA.

SGT Mark (I cannot stand still for 10 seconds) Bell was a man with way too much energy and it could be tiring just watching him some days. No job was too big or small, no request was too hard, he just made things work. You wanted it, Belly would get it for you. He is one of the few Q Staff I have met that actually prefer an empty Q-Store, which makes happy soldiers. Mark was posted back to the warm in Darwin, and I don't think I will ever forget him shivering within an inch of his life the first year he was with C Coy during a catafalque party in the centre of Bendigo, damn near killed the man that had not worn a jumper in 10 years.

We also welcomed back the C Coy members that had deployed on TLTG4 just in time to listen to all their stories over a beer at the Christmas party, and farewell those who were about to head off on Rotation 30 to the Solomon Islands.

A big thanks to the men and women of C Coy for their hard work during 2012.

OC C out.

MAJ Paul Neunhoffer
OC C Company



Admin Coy has undergone many changes in 2012, with CAPT Lee taking over as OC Admin Coy, WO1 Griggs as 2IC Logistics Manager, WO2 Pellow as CSM and WO2 Armstrong as Training WO.

ADMIN Company

WO1 Griggs took over as 2IC at the start of the year following CAPT Oladele going Standby Reserve (SR) due to further study in his field of radiology. As usual, Admin Coy has been busy providing support to training activities and courses, and with members spread all over the depots. It has been an interesting task trying to manage the members of Admin Coy throughout 8/7 RVR.

8/7 RVR would not be able to function as it does without the support from Admin Coy members. We supply clothing and fix weapons for the troops, and provide medical and transport support for training weekends. The catering team does a fantastic job in providing catering support for training weekends, courses run by 8/7 RVR and for Mess dinners. The quality of food is of a high standard, and students on courses are often amazed at the quality and quantity of the meals supplied. This tireless support does not go un-noticed, and at times Admin Coy members are required to do extra days on top of the parade card days to ensure the Battalion is fed.

This year, a training weekend was amalgamated into a Unit training weekend, with mainly transport members required to attend in order to get vehicles prepared for the DACC season. The transport section has been well co-ordinated under the watchful eye of CPL Bayliss, and at times this task has been very demanding and time-consuming for him. He has done a wonderful job.

Armourers SGT Werry and CPL Linton have been busy this year with numerous audits. CPL Linton moved to Bendigo for work as an electrician, and SGT Werry has just completed his SUB1 course for WO with competence. We will soon have another qualified armourer in our Unit, as CFN Hopfner is currently undertaking his armourer's course.

The QM has supported Admin Coy as 2IC on Tuesday nights and weekend activities. This year has been a year of change for WO1 Griggs, as he traded his full-time green uniform for civi clothes to take on the role of civilian Logistics Manager for the Battalion.

In the medical section, SGT Creelman has had the role of looking after the RRF, as well as medical tasks and support for 8/7 RVR. Changes to medical requirements under Garrison Health Support (GHS) have seen the medical team unable to undertake medicals on 8/7 RVR pers outside designated GHS hours. This new GHS system has had its teething problems, and a number of members have found it difficult to get appointments at Simpson Health Centre. Medical staff at 8/7 RVR are having to adjust to not being able to do medicals at training weekends and Tuesday nights, something that all medical staff enjoyed as they got to meet and discuss medical matters with all members of the Unit.

As well as my role of OC Admin Coy, I also still provide medical support as the Nursing Officer where possible for GHS, courses and training weekends. The medical team at 8/7 RVR, along with the support from SGT Almond, ran several First Aid courses each year, and this year saw many recruits gain a competency in Army First Aid.

By running these courses, the medical staff not only gain confidence in presenting and public speaking, they also continually refresh their medical knowledge. Feedback from the students is often that they enjoyed the course more than any civilian first aid course they undertook. SGT Almond gives the students some valuable tutoring on marching, being a duty student and other skills that will assist their Kapooka training.

This year has also seen the MO MAJ Harris transferring to the Standby Reserve in order to fulfill his new role as Mayor of Ballarat. A new MO, CAPT Bunting was posted to 8/7 RVR this year. As CAPT Bunting has only recently joined the ADF, she has been required to be on course for most of her posting to 8/7 RVR. CAPT Bunting's time with us is being cut short due to her transferring to a NSW Unit. We wish her well.

On the topic of hatched and matched, the following have occurred:

CPL Wilson became a grandfather for the second time;

PTE Pitt married CPL McGregor last year, and we now can look forward to meeting baby McGregor next year;

PTE Brewer has recently married, and we have been informed that he too is to expecting a baby next year.

As I previously stated, without the support of our merry truckies, cooks, medics, spanners and Quee's- 8/7 RVR would not be able to function as it does. Thanks to all Admin Coy members and staff for a job well done under the challenging conditions this year.

CAPT Jennifer Lee.
OC Admin



The first half of the year has been far from being quiet with Corporal Steve Linton attending his first promotion course for Subject 4 for Sergeant (trade) in ALTC Wodonga. This will help him along to soon progress to the rank of Sergeant at 8/7RVR. It has been very hectic the past few months with Maintenance Advisory Service (MAS) paying us a visit as part of a Brigade audit for the 8/7 RVR Technical Support Platoon.

We have to congratulate one of our team for that CFN Jayden Hopfner for his effort in coming fifth in the ASSAM shoot earlier this year.

What's up for the year ahead?

SGT Darren Werry will be attending another promotion course for Warrant Officer in sunny Queensland for five weeks, Corporal Linton will be completing his post course phase for Subject 4 for Sergeant while completing his move to Bendigo. Corporal Linton will be attached to C company as part of expanding our presence within the Battalion. CFN Hopfner will be attending a Fitter Armourer's course later on in the year and hopefully be one of the integral parts in Technical Support Platoon.

So for now it is looking good for us at 8/7 RVR with a lot to do in the mean time.

ART et MARTE which is translated to (With Skill and By Fighting)

SGT Darren Werry
RAEME PL

ANZAC DAY Bendigo



MAJ Paul Neunhoffer, OC C Coy, gives the address.



Warrnambool

A Flag Lowering Ceremony has been conducted in Melbourne on Australia Day for some years by the Order of Australia Association, initially at Victoria Barracks and more recently at the Shrine of Remembrance. The Warrnambool Sub-Branch, in partnership with the South West Group of the Order of Australia Association, initiated a similar event to be held at Warrnambool. It is the first of its kind in regional Victoria.

Invitations were extended to federal, state and local community leaders; members of both the Warrnambool RSL and South West Group Order of Australia Association and the general public. The ceremony was well attended with representation by the Federal Member for Wannon, Dan Tehan; State Member for Southwest Coast, Dr Denis Napthine; the Mayor of the City of Warrnambool, Cr Jacinta Ermacora; the City of Warrnambool CEO, Mr Bruce Anson; and the Mayor of Moyne Shire, Cr Jim Doukas. Also in attendance were secondary college principals; students; representatives from organisation such as Legacy, Vietnam Veterans Association, National Servicemen's Association and Rotary; and other prominent members of the local community.

A catafalque party was provided by the 8th/7th Royal Australian Regiment Battalion from the Reserves Barracks at Warrnambool, and support for the ceremony was provided by local scout groups, the Corangamite Light Horse Contingent and the Warrnambool Pipes and Drums.

The Australian and Victorian flags were presented on lowering to the President of the Order of Australia South West Group, Dr Peter Habersberger AM RFD and the President of the Warrnambool RSL Sub-Branch Mr John Miles, respectively. The ceremony was followed by a reception for invited guests and the whole occasion was very well received by all parts of the community.

Alex Gannaway, Secretary



The 8th/7th Battalion catafalque party.



Presentation of flags to Dr Peter Habersberger AM RFD (left) and President of the Warrnambool RSL Sub-Branch Mr John Miles (right).



12 February 2012

INDUCTION WEEKEND

C Coy Bendigo



Non-Tech weapons inspections.



5 km pack march led by
SGT "pain is your friend" Herdman
(Mildura)

Live FIRE Exercise



14 April 2012
Puckapunyal



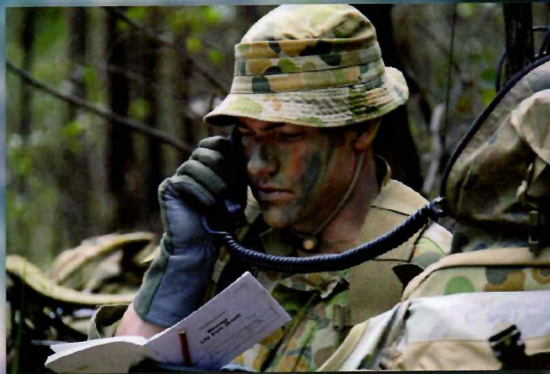


17-18 March 2012

Defensive Operations



Enfield State Forest





5 May 2012

SMAP Training Weekend

BHQ

Officers and SNCO brave the Ballarat elements to conduct MAP (Military Appreciation Process) training in preparation for the Brigade Training Activity 2012.



JNCO conducting IMAP training.



16 June 2012

Sub-Unit Training

Bendigo





14 July 2012

Sub-Unit Training

Bendigo





The team that keeps us fed, thank you...
(L to R) PTE Lisa Edwards, CPL Mick Mallows, WO2 Steve Ivey, PTE Sonja McLoughlan, PTE Brett Farrowell.

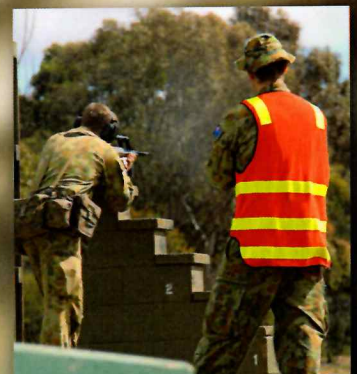


7-9 September 2012

Live-fire Exercise



Puckapunyal



BRIG Marsh congratulating the winners.

PTE S. McMillan, LCPL L. Edwards & SGT P. Micallef
Winners of the 2012 Victorian Challenge Shield



URBAN OPS

Warrnambool

8/7 RVR Soldiers participate in Urban Operations Training Weekend.

In late 2012 an exciting training weekend was run by 8/7 RVR Bravo Company at Warrnambool depot. This training was restricted to Infantry Soldiers of 8/7 RVR up to the rank of CPL. The training centred on

members of small teams on Urban Operations missions. Activities included: weapon handling in tight spaces, room entrances, room clearances and working in the different roles

as either a team member or team commander of a 4 man fire team (brick).

This training was conducted by **SGT Mick Edwards** of 8/7 RVR Bravo Company Warrnambool Depot, imparting the knowledge he had recently gained by completing an Urban Operations Course.

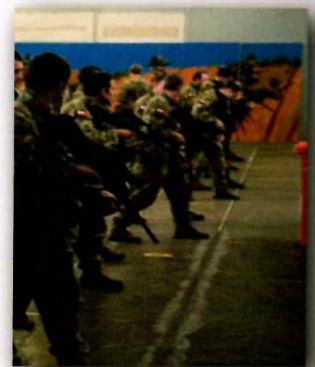


An intensive weekend's training culminated on the Sunday with a room clearance activity using blank rounds. Many other valuable lessons were learnt, including the need to train quickly as a team and to listen intently to instructions!

Participant **CPL Scott Van Loon** of 8/7 RVR Bravo Company said that the training was very beneficial and that he hoped that it would become an annual training weekend on the 8/7 RVR

training calendar and remain at the Warrnambool depot.

LT N.Boak.



Above: 8/7 RVR Soldiers learning Urban Operations weapon carriage drills.

11 August 2012

Offensive Operations

Enfield State Forest- Ballarat



TLTG-4 East Timor

ANZAC COMPANY, TIMOR LESTE TASK GROUP 4 (TLTG 4)

ANZAC Company came together in Nov 2011 for Force Preparation in Puckapunyal. 142 men and women drawn from 5/6 RVR and 8/7 RVR manned the Company. It was also the first Infantry Company to deploy being fully manned by Army Reservists. The Force Preparation (FPT) was conducted over three months and contained training and exercises to prepare the Company for any task or issue that may arise during their deployment.

ANZAC Company deployed in Feb 2012 and quickly establish a solid battle rhythm conducting security tasks for the four Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) under our control, conducting Regional Engagement Patrols (REPs) being up to a ten day platoon patrol through out a designated region of Timor and also conducting a section strength eight hour Community Engagement Patrol (CEPs) three times a week throughout the Dili area. These tasks allowed the company members to visit and experience a vast range of areas and peoples through Timor.

ANZAC Company got its name by having a platoon of New Zealand Defence Force members under command. This raised the company to 170 pers. One of the main benefits of this has been the opportunity to work directly with the Kiwis. The company is the only true ANZAC force in the world today, with three Australian platoons and one New Zealand. Additionally the QRF is lifted by a NZDF LOV troop, known affectionately by the men as "armoured venga buses." Countless QRF training exercises have been run in conjunction with both the

Kiwis and the S70 Blackhawks of the Timor Leste Aviation Group.

ANZAC Coy TLTG 4, was privileged to deploy during key period of Timorese people's journey on their road to stable, sustainable government. We were witness to both the Presidential and Parliamentary elections, which, despite having some tense moments, were conducted peacefully and transparently. We conducted the International Stabilisation Force (ISF)'s final Regional Engagement Patrols and have seen the gradual draw down of the ISF's presence in Timor Leste.

That is not to say the deployment has been without incident or activity! One of the problems facing the company was how to maintain morale and mission focus during a relatively low-tempo operation. " One of my main priorities was to ensure the name of ANZAC Company was held in the highest regard within the ISF,". "This has been achieved due to the hard work and professionalism of all members of the company."

A robust and rigorous training schedule was put in place with numerous JLC, SIOS and specialist courses being run, with over Five hundred and Thirty qualifications being gained by the soldiers of ANZAC Coy. "I expected it to be routine and boring," said Private Tony So from Melbourne. "But now I'm here I find every day is different - we've always got training activities or exercises on and there have been patrols around Dili and into the countryside. The regional patrols have been great - people get so excited that they cheer us when we go by. Everyone wants to talk and play sports - you really feel welcomed by the Timorese whenever you deal with them."

Eight ANZAC soldiers who attended a three-month Tetum course at School of Languages prior to deploying were soon in demand. Private James Nave found himself working with the Defence Co-operation Program mentoring Timorese Defence Force soldiers. "Arriving on my first day to DCP was quite daunting: up until then I had only interacted with a few locals in Tetum outside the

course. Now I was to assist Engineers in running a full time heavy machinery course for the Timorese military." The organic language capability of ANZAC Company was a force multiplier and significant contributed to the mission success the company experienced.

Whether it has been qualifications, life experience or just the chance to make a difference, every soldier of ANZAC Company is taking something away from the deployment. "It's been great working with the Timorese - you can see how much they appreciate what we're doing to help their country," said Private Martin Jennings. "It makes you feel like you're making a difference. And you really learn to appreciate the things you take for granted in Australia - like fresh water coming out of a tap."

It has been an honor to command this exceptional group of soldiers. We have been a part of history being made in Timor and after a long eight month tour we can all come home knowing we have done an excellent job.

John Spencer

MAJOR

OC ANZAC Company

A note from one of the diggers from 5/6 RVR presently serving in Timor with the RVR Rifle Company.

G'day all!

It is once again time for another update on the comings and goings of life in Timor Leste! Again, sorry that these emails are few and far between, but the sad reality of our day to day lives is a simple case of "Same stuff, different day".

As many will know, Rupert, Houlden and myself have recently completed our JLC Mod 2 course with a week long field Ex at the Metinaro training area. All of us have since passed the course and have returned to the rather dull life of FOB gate piquet! Though as the time for our triumphant Return To Aus draws ever closer, we are all eagerly awaiting the chance to come back and rejoin the band! For more exact dates of our return, ask Jen as she has been fully briefed! There is also a welcome home Parade on the first Sunday after we return, Time, place, etc to be confirmed, I shall advise through Jen more info when it is known! (Though you will likely know whats going on well in advance of us knowing anything anyway!)

Over the last week have have had several events take place, which have both served to bring some manner excitement to the before mentioned dullness of barracks life, but have also caused us to be rather busy as a result!

The first part started off with Exercise Boss Lift flying into country with a gaggle of Civvies being exposed to the Army life for the first time! This kicked off several days of our Platoon providing demo's on Military kit and tactics, as well as safety staff. The highlight of this time was a day at the range, which was organised to allow the Civilian employers to fire many of the Infantry weapons that we have in country. This enterprise involved some 30 members being sent to the range to act as safety staff, work parties, and even a demo squad!

By the end of the day, all of the Civvies had fired 30 Rnds through a Steyr, 100 on the Minimi, and 13 from the Pistol. There were even grand plans to let them fire Prac rounds on the Wombat Guns, but that was cut away due to time restraints! During the

whole time at the range a CH 10 news crew were busy taking footage at every opportunity they could find, along with the Defence Media team in country!

And to put the icing on the cake, we then had to clean all the weapons, and refurbish the range after the Civvies had left, without having fired a shot ourselves!

The other main event for this week has been the no doubt widely publicised (or soon to be) visit to Timor of the surviving members of Sparrow Force who had fought in Timor during WW2. As per usual Rupert and I were warned out 3 days prior to the activity that they required 1xPiper and 1xBugler for the event.... However unknown to us, the Fed Guard were flown over along with a bloke from HMAS Cerberus, also playing Bugle! Next thing we know there are ABC reporters running around with cameras, and more Admirals, Generals, and Sky Captains, than you could poke a stick at!

Rupert did a top job playing Morag and Skyboat as the old fellas were arriving and taking their seats, and then did a stirring rendition of the "Pineapples of Timor" (Actually Flowers of the Forrest, but renamed after the RSM requested he play Fruits of the Forrest!) during the wreath laying. There was an awkward moment when the RSM Fed Guard signaled Rupert to cut off just as he started a the part, which was met by evermore desperate waving of her pace stick as he desperately attempted to reach a point to stop and remove the air from his bag!

Then it was time for the Bugling, with the RAN bloke playing a very mournful Last Post, followed by the 1 min of silence and me blasting out the Rouse. There was then a rather shattering moment when the Cd player failed 2 bars into the National Anthem of Timor Leste, leaving the Guard party and all participants at the present arms listening to stunning silence!! Then no sooner had the guard commander set everyone back to attention, the music started working again!

Their drummer was a kid from the RAAF who has received some form of training from AAB Canberra, and sporting a very nice looking Pearl snare, with one of the NEW adjustable harnesses! Though whether by design or just lack of training, his long rolls for the adoption of the rest on arms were

continually accented on the beat, which just seemed untidy...As for tomorrow, we are off at oh' dark hundred, to the foothills above Dili to do another ceremony at the 2/2 Commando memorial, no doubt again with the ABC following in tow, getting footage and interviews! I will use my contacts within the media cell over here to attempt to ascertain the air date of the story so you can all have a heads up! I shall even try and get a copy of as much of the source material as possible for later posterity!

I hope everyone had fun at the Touch of Scotland Luncheon, I shall attempt to find time to call in on Wednesday and say G'day! Stay safe all, and have a wee dram for all of us today, as we are thinking of you all, and would sorely love to be there with you.

Mapes,
The Laundry Dodger!



ANZAC ADVERTISER

Your ISF community newsletter

Friday 07, September, 2012



Approximately 240 Australian members of the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) were presented with the Timor-Leste Solidarity Medal on Monday 3 September.

The medal presentation ceremony at the Fatu Hada (F-FDTL Headquarters) was led by Chief of the Defence Force, Major General Lere Anan Timur, assisted by PNTL Commander Longuinos Monteiro, Police Commissioner Luis Carrilho, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General Mr Finn Rieseke Nielsen, and representing the Australian Ambassador, Mr Toby Langdon.

Australian soldiers from Anzac Company, the Combat Service Support Team and Force Communications Element 6 have worked very hard to help promote a safe and peaceful

environment for the people of Timor-Leste. They have enjoyed close co-operation with all levels of government, administration and the local population in their efforts to ensure Timorese people can have confidence in their future.

Speaking at the ceremony, MAJ-GEN Lere said that the ISF had contributed markedly towards the development and security of the population of Timore-Leste.

With the increasing stability in Timor-Leste, and the capability of the PNTL and F-FDTL to maintain security, there has been very little requirement recently for ISF to become involved in security operations.

However, MAJ-GEN Lere said the Government of

Timor-Leste was very grateful for the role that ISF has played during its time in the country.

"Australia is a neighbour and a great friend which has been involved from the beginning, supporting development and security in our young nation. We appreciate your commitment, dedication and devotion to duty while you have been here. I hope that your experience working with our people, in a different culture, has been of benefit to you all and I wish you a good homecoming. The people of Timor-Leste and Australia will always be friends," said MAJ-GEN Lere. Australian members from Anzac Company will return to Australia over the next several weeks and will be replaced by members drawn predominantly from 5th Brigade which is based in Sydney.

MORE IMAGES FROM THE TLSM CEREMONY



An Unlikely Reunion

A mantra from Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET) training helped save the life of JTF 631's SGT Sean Halley in 2007.

From being diagnosed as an incomplete quadriplegic in the days following a serious accident to finally walking out of the spinal unit of Austin Hospital, Sean says he has many people to thank, including nursing staff who administered 'tough love' in order to motivate him to push himself beyond what he thought he was capable of.

Recovering to the point where he was medically classified as J1, SGT Halley was on force prep for Operation Astute at Puckapunyal and talking with LT Stuart Riddett, now 2IC/OPSO for CSST in Timor but an Emergency/Trauma Nurse in his civilian life.

"After we joined the dots, I actually remembered being a nurse on duty during Sean's time in the spinal unit at Austin Hospital. He is one of only three people I ever saw walk out of the spinal unit in the nine years I worked there," said Stuart.

"It was amazing that two Reservists could meet twice in such contrasting circumstances. And now we are on deployment together."



SGT Sean Halley (left) and LT Stuart Riddett together in very different circumstances to their first meeting.

Here is SGT Halley's amazing story in his own words:

"I was on leave in December 2007 after returning from a deployment in the Solomon Islands. Whilst dismantling an old set of stables at my property in south west Victoria, a rafter dislodged and struck me on the head causing a hyperextension injury.

I went down like a bag of spuds and couldn't move. Initially I thought I had suffered a head injury because none of the messages were getting through. I couldn't yell out, I couldn't control the movement of my arms and I was in excruciating pain. I was there by myself and unlikely to be found by anyone for a few days.

I admit that I closed my eyes and gave up for a brief moment. Then I heard the words from HUET training,....'go from a known to a known to a known'. This method is used to be aware of your bearing when trying to get out of an airframe underwater. I don't know why it clicked but the training just came back to me.

I was able to get enough control of my arms and run one of my hands across my chest, guided by the other into my pocket to retrieve my mobile phone. I just kept on saying, 'known to a known' and I got the phone out and after a few tries I called 000. About 40 minutes later, two ambulances arrived. The ambos assessed that I had suffered a spinal cord injury. It turns out that I fractured my neck vertebrae at C4 and C5.

This left me paralysed and ultimately admitted to the spinal unit at the Austin Hospital in Victoria. After initially being diagnosed as an incomplete quadriplegic I was told in no uncertain terms that would not walk unassisted again.

Naturally this outcome was difficult on me and my family. Being paralysed and stuck in a hospital pondering the future I went through a whole range of emotions. Before I had surgery on Boxing Day, 2007 I was told that the outcome at worst could include complete paralysis and at best some improvement.

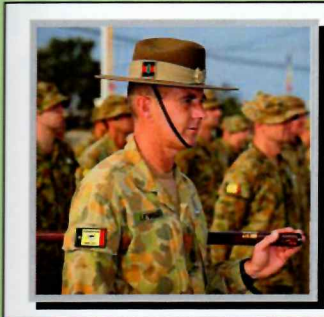
I came out of surgery some eight hours later with titanium discs at C4 C5, a carbon fibre cage around the spinal column and screws and plates. In the next few days I gained movement of all limbs and by New Years day I was walking with assistance. I underwent a huge rehab program and eventually walked out of the spinal unit which is a rare occurrence.

I have a legacy of a large scar on my neck and some residual ongoing pain but I have recovered enough to be J1 and deployable. I completed a 10 km fun run while on ROCL and my fitness is increasing all the time due to ongoing PT.

I never really got the opportunity to thank the staff at the Austin, but I have thanked Stuart for his help. I am pretty sure he remembered my ranting and complaining about everything from the food to the air con being too cold.

I remind him that I am probably fitter than he is these days."

Final Message from the RSM



When I first arrived in February I was impressed with the positive attitude and work ethic of ISF Members as I settled into my position. Six months later my impressions have not changed. You should be very proud of your efforts and I implore you to continue the good work until you leave so you can go home, knowing you

have served your country and the people of Timor Leste well. I would like to thank you all for your support and I wish you a safe return home to your loved ones. The hand over to WO1 Nathan Ahearn has been completed and I wish him all the best for the remainder of his deployment.

Regards
WO1 Greg Lewis
RSM JTF 631

Commander's Corner



No doubt we've all been saddened by the deaths of five of our soldiers in Afghanistan in the past week - Ramp Ceremonies for the repatriation of these men were conducted at Brisbane and Sydney on Wednesday 5 September. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of these fine soldiers. From an ANZAC perspective it's been a tough month when you also consider the loss of five of our Kiwi mates in the last month.

Closer to home - transition and transition planning continues.

I know many of you are in the final month of your deployment; potentially this is the toughest month of your deployment. Stay focussed and make sure you get home safely!

Colonel Luke Foster CISF

Searchable, discoverable, retrievable

With transition looming, and after multiple Operation Astute rotations since 2006, the records that have accumulated over that time are in the process of being assimilated for transfer to Australia.

What does that mean? It's not simply a matter of locking shipping containers of documents and consigning them on their journey. For Victoria Worthy and WOCIS Rodney 'Dutchy' Van Lieshout, their job is to sort through boxes of documents and create a filing system that ensures all relevant records are 'searchable, discoverable and retrievable.'

"There has been no records management tool in theatre for physical records up until this point," says Victoria Worthy, who normally works as Information and Records Management Officer at HQJOC.

"In a nutshell, our job is to apply a managed and organised approach and assist cells in appraising all sorts of records that have been kept here, ensure documents that have historical significance are sent to the correct places and set up a process that will allow EDMS to contain searchable records of all the other documents which need to be kept for the future."

So what can we all do to assist this process? According to WO Van Lieshout, the two most important contributions individuals can make are to ensure files, both physical and electronic, are saved according to naming conventions and for duplicates or personal files to be excluded from the system on handover to your replacement.

"Those two simple functions will reduce the time we have to spend searching through files by a significant amount." WO Van Lieshout said.



TLAG Trains with Aspen Medical

The ability to conduct Aero Medical Evacuations at night sets the Timor-Leste Aviation Group (TLAG) apart from any other emergency response facility in Timor.

When the alert is raised for an AME, an entire mechanism of ground support, medical and flight teams spring into action to ensure departure within 30 minutes. At APOD, support staff await the arrival of a patient who has been stabilised in location and is ready for transport to a medical facility.

On the ground, once the Blackhawk has been skilfully landed at the LZ, the Aspen Medical Team goes to work. To illustrate to ground crews who may otherwise wonder why the teams sometime seem to take a while on the ground before they return, and to demonstrate to aircrew what they can do to help, Aspen Medical staff recently trained together with TLAG crews using a recent AME mission as an example.

So in the relative comfort of an APOD hangar, instead of at night under the turning blades of the AME Blackhawk, Aspen staff showed how they stabilised a recent serious casualty and handled the patient, with the extra hands from the aircrew. Given that all TLAG AMEs occur under the cover of darkness and often in conditions that other helicopters cannot deal with in daytime, it was a useful exercise to show those waiting nervously back at base that there is work to be done together at the LZ before the helicopter returns home.

Anzac Coy tests military skills

Troops in East Timor put their endurance and soldiering skills to the test in a two-day competition, **Sqn-Ldr Paul Lineham** reports.

EIGHT sections from Anzac Company and the Combat Services Support Team and the Force Communications Element tested their endurance and initiative during the International Stabilisation Force military skills competition in East Timor on July 24-25.

After a strong showing from all teams, 3 Section won the competition, which was held at the Helicopter Point of Disembarkation forward operating base.

The competition began with a test of upper body strength with competitors pumping out as many heaves as possible, followed by up to 50 push ups and back to the heave bar for a 20-second flex-arm hang.

LCpl Juan Calixto said starting the competition with the upper-body test was tough.

"I enjoyed finishing it and the boys were doing pretty well," he said.

Sections ran in patrol order to the next stand, which was a memory test.

Teams had two minutes to look at 20 random items of basic equipment before setting out on a 3.2km run in patrol order. After the run, the competitors had to list as a section all the items they could remember.

Anything over 15 items was considered a good result, but all teams

... the people who did surprise me were those who went outside their comfort zones ...

—WO2 Matt Lines, Anzac Coy

scored highly. Three teams recalled all 20 items, four remembered 18 and one remembered 17.

The afternoon of the first day was given over to a bull ring of seven stands.

A first aid scenario on one stand required the sections to respond to

a vehicle accident that included a priority-one casualty with an amputated foot.

Another stand simulated a range incident with an injured soldier.

Rather than the standard weapon-assembly stand, four Steyrs were stripped with the parts mixed. Four blindfolded section members had to assemble and disassemble the weapons with guidance from a fifth member.

Other stands included a mix of physical exercise, weapon handling, developing a picket list and plotting distances on a range card.

The second day of the activity put the sections through their paces on an obstacle course.

Competition organiser WO2 Matt Lines wasn't surprised by the high performance of all sections in the activity.

"They're great soldiers but the people who did surprise me were the people who went out of their comfort zones, like the CSST and the sigs," he said.

"The sigs team went so well they were awarded the team award in recognition of their gut-busting effort."



Under pressure: Ptes Darcy Demasson and Ben Annett prepare to lift Pte Thavin Dash on a stretcher at the scene of a mock vehicle accident during the Anzac Coy military skills competition in Dili, East Timor. Photos by LAC Oliver Carter



Ready, set, go: Cpl Tavis McLaren points out the running route to his section during the competition.



Connecting: Clockwise from top, from left, Pte James Appelhof, Cpl Michelle Rutland and Pte Stewart Lennie browse local produce in Maliana. Pte Stephen Bongiorno (left) and Pte Aaron Pipkorn kick a soccer ball with children during the patrol. Anzac Coy's LCpl Ricky Ward (left), Pte George Collman and Pte Aaron Pipkorn take in the view from the Balibo fort. Photos by Cpl Oliver Carter

Investing in a bright future

ADF role in East Timor is set to change

WHEN members of 3 Pl, Anzac Coy, were kicking around a soccer ball with children in East Timor's Bobonaro District in May, they didn't realise they were making history.

It turned out the soldiers were on the last regional engagement patrol of Operation Astute.

Platoon commander Lt Ted Guinea and his team took great pride in contributing to the strong bonds Australian soldiers have formed with the East Timorese through similar patrols over more than 10 years.

"Ironically the confidence drawn from this successful partnership will mean the end of future regional engagement patrols, as our role in East Timor changes in the coming months," he said.

"To know we are the last in a long line of similar patrols makes the experience an even greater honour for all involved."

"We will fondly remember the people of Bobonaro District and continue to wish them every success as East Timor emerges ever brighter among the nations of the world."

The members of 3 Pl Anzac Coy visited the centres of Maliana, Bobonaro Village, Balibo and Aidabalaten during the eight day patrol.

Lt Guinea said East Timor's rugged beauty was a highlight.

"We experienced mountain ranges covered in fog, beautiful golden beaches and open farming plains," he said.

"Despite the breathtaking scenery, it was

the warm response from locals that was the most humbling experience."

During their time in the villages they interacted with the local communities, making visits to the teachers and students at schools, cheering on local sporting competitions and playing soccer with the kids. A few people were asked to attend family

celebrations at the Chef Suco's house in Rairobo.

"Despite having few of the trappings of the Western world, the people of Bobonaro District showed great pride in their community and country and made us feel welcome," Lt Guinea said.

"They also showed us a thing or two about how to play sport."

Maliana is one of East Timor's largest population centres, with hundreds from across the district travelling to its gymnasium and soccer field daily to play volleyball and soccer. These are the two biggest sports in the nation and provided an opportunity for Anzac Coy soldiers to play against local children and brush up on their Tetum.

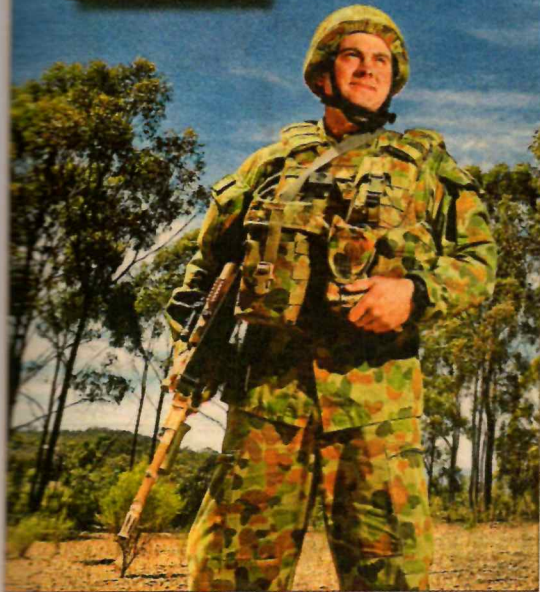
"The children were thrilled to play and work on their English, although on more than one occasion charades helped cross the language barrier, much to the youngsters' delight," Lt Guinea said.

"Regardless of language barriers it also became clear that our soccer skills needed some more work too."

... the people of Bobonaro District showed great pride in their community and country ...

—Lt Ted Guinea, Anzac Coy

Reservists training for



Army Reservists about to be deployed to East Timor have been training at Puckapunyal military base near Seymour. *Bendigo Advertiser* reporter **JOSH FAGAN** and photographer **BRENDAN MCCARTHY** were on hand to meet some of the part-time soldiers before their departure.

A GROUP of 200 Army Reserve soldiers have faced months of intense training conditions in central Victoria, in preparation for their next challenge.

The soldiers from around Victoria, including six from Bendigo, will be in East Timor by early February.

Training conditions at Puckapunyal military base, near Seymour, were designed to simulate the on-the-ground conditions of the small island state. But 4000 kilometres away, and with a national election looming, East Timor promises to offer a whole new challenge.

For most of the reservists, who serve part-time, the eight-month deployment to East Timor will be their first or second overseas mission.

Army Reservist Sam Malone, from Marong, generally works as a bricklayer during the week but in February will be part of the East Timor deployment.

"East Timor will obviously be a new challenge but I can't wait to get over there finally," Corporal Malone said.

"I joined the Reserves when I was 17 and have been doing it ever since, back and forth between work and training.

"I went to the Solomon Islands previously, which was a really good mission to go on.

"It's what you build up for, to be able to go to another country and help out."

The 200 soldiers going to East Timor in February are the first Victorian contingent of army reservists posted there.

They will join more than 450 Australian soldiers currently working as part of the International Stabilisation Force.

Executive officer of the Victorian group Captain Daniel Strack said that with East Timor's elections scheduled for March 17, it was an important time to aid stability measures in the country.

"We're entering a really interesting period in the country, with elections just announced," Captain Strack said.

"It's a really crucial time to go over there."



Bendigo Advertiser
January 21, 2012

overseas deployment

After the country's inaugural election in 2007, President José Ramos-Horta was shot and severely wounded, while Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão was also fired at, but was unharmed. A "state of siege" for the country was declared, and was lifted in May 2008.

Security conditions are currently more stable, but Captain Strack said Australian soldiers were ready to work with the UN, military and local police, especially around the elections.

"We'll be there to create a secure environment and respond to any emergency if we need to," he said.

Captain Strack said training in cultural awareness and Tetum language classes was a key part of preparing the group for the overseas deployment.

The varied backgrounds of the reservists, which includes doctors, scientists, engineers, accountants and PhD candidates, would also give the group a broader understanding of where they could help the East Timorese community, he said.

"We've got a team of very motivated, intelligent people who are focused on the job at hand," he said.

Bendigo graphic designer Tavis McLaren is another reservist being deployed.

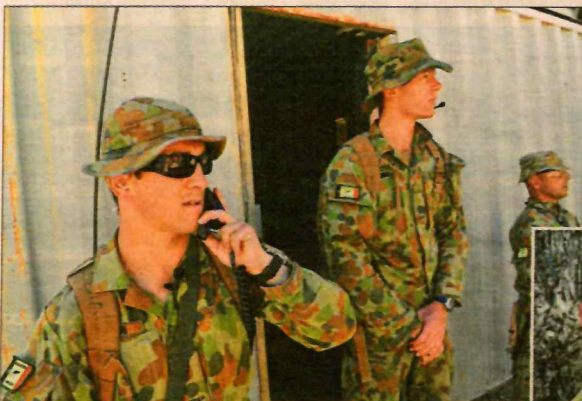
He said it would be a big task to connect with the local people and help improve stability.

"The training in cultural awareness we've had and the insights into the East Timorese culture will be really valuable," Corporal McLaren said.

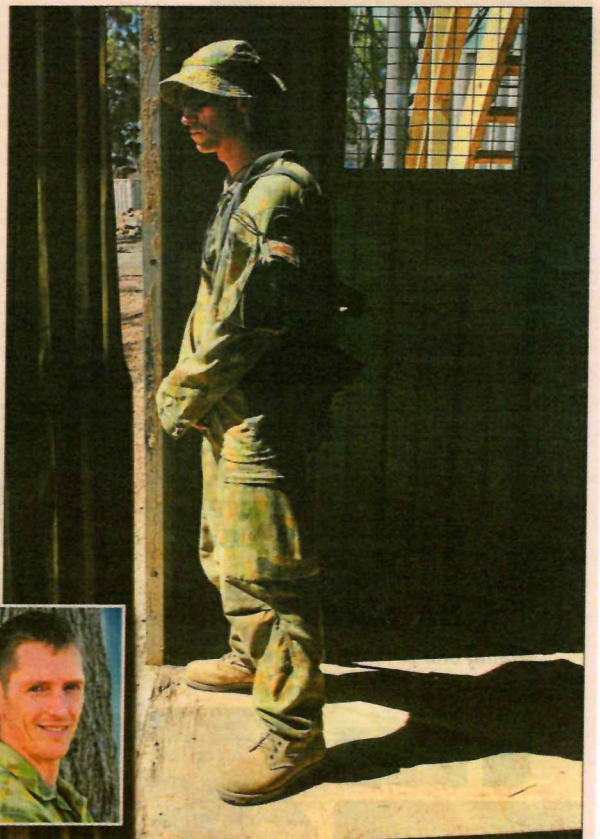
"The biggest challenge will be the elections, because people are very passionate about their politics and passionate about where their country is headed over the next few years."

Corporal McLaren said while conditions in East Timor could easily change, the group's training had prepared them well.

"We understand where the people are coming from and some of the issues they're facing, so we're hopefully well placed to help out," he said.



IN TRAINING: Clockwise from far left: Corporal Sam Malone from Marong; reservists undergoing scenario training and inset right, Captain Daniel Strack, executive officer of the Victorian group of trainees.







B Coy Ballarat
conducting clearance drills
3 April 2012

Around the depots...



BCoy Monegetta
In preparation to move into newly
acquired buildings the boys at
Monegetta give a hand in moving
unused gym equipment and furniture
out. A great time of problem solving and
team work ensured the job was done
efficiently.
15 May 2012

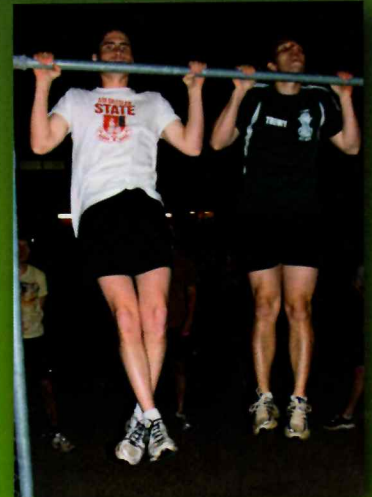




C Coy Shepparton
Using whatever weapons on hand to
practice building clearance drills.
19 Jun 2012



C Coy Bendigo
Boys participating in the
OC's challenge.
Overseen by CPL Hannaford
18 Sep 2012



AASAM the Australian

AASAM

Well we did, not only did we beat 5/6 RVR in every shoot we competed in, we came second

Army Skill at Arms Meeting was held at Puckapunyal in May this year. I was told by the RSM that I would be team captain as I was posted to the OPS SGT position, this was going to be a exciting time because as a private soldier I had always wanted to go to AASAM, but was never in the right Coy to get a go.



overall, only beaten by 2RAR by 50 points but we came first in the Reserve Infantry Battalion weapons championship. First in the team CQP shoot as well as some other first, second and third places, overall a fantastic job for a team using mostly 1.5 x scopes when the rest of the competition were using ACOG 4 x scopes.

AASAM was also a rare opportunity to put a lot of rounds down range between the several lead up weekends with the 4BDE team and nearly two weeks of constant shooting at the competition itself we fired more rounds than we have for years, one of the best parts was the fact that we got to shoot from different positions, scenarios and team events which you don't normally experience.



I found out early that the BN had two Australian Army Combat shooters being CFN Jaden Hopfner (Hoppy) and PTE Scott McMillan (Macca) and they would be competing at AASAM for the Aus team, so I based the team around them, I then asked the Companies for names of members who could shoot straight, B Coy was the first to get back to me and I picked PTE (Now LCPL) Lawrie Edwards (Eddie) and PTE Jarrett Bugeja (Bug).

The first test was to see how good the boys were at the WTTS at Simpson BKS, this was organised to be on Wednesday nights through the 4 BDE team, what a cluster that turned out to be, the first time we only got to shoot for an hour and the second time we were told that 5/6RVR had booked it and we wouldn't get a chance to shoot, this instantly brought up the BN rivalry and we made it our task to beat 5/6 no matter what.

The team events were a highlight for LCPL Edwards because “as a member you feel like you’re contributing to the overall performance in events which incorporate physical effort, obstacle negotiations, co- ordination between team members, tactics we use and shooting skills”.

It wasn’t all serious competition though; we did have a lot of interaction with some of the international teams which often revolved around comparison of weaponry. On one day during a sighting practice all the team had an opportunity to use the M4 and the American army guys used our F88’s.

Prior to the competition starting during a weekend with the 4BDE team, we as a team also competed for the Victorian Challenge Shield. Our first go through at LF 6 all of the team scored 190 or higher with two guys Hoppy and Macca both scoring 235.

This was going to be a dream run, the next go was our scored shoot that would count for the shield. We had no pressure on us as we had the CO, RSM, OPSO, BDE Comd and BDE RSM watching, four of us blew the shoot badly. Hoppy was penalised for shooting a serial in the wrong position, Bug and Eddie had stoppages and I had a insect fly into my eye and missed a whole serial, the only guy to keep his cool was Macca who again scored 235. We all thought we blew it completely but three months later we were told that we had won the shield by a land slide.

The last time the shield was won was in 1984 when the CO LTCOL M. Duckworth was a CPL.

Overall, the time spent was an awesome experience that we all hope to get to do again next year to defend our win in 2013.

Story written by SGT Micallef, LCPL Edwards, PTE McMillan, PTE Bugeja and CFN Hopfner.



Greetings from the **Mildura**

Battalion's most northern depot. 2012 started early for some with members of the depot deploying in support of TLTG 4.

The return to work gain saw the AIRN Shuffle, mandatory training, BFA's, medicals, dentals, weapons and the hair-pulling and grinding of teeth associated with the above mentioned. To contrary belief, the dental visits were not for AIRN but for the fitting of mouth guards when dealing with the Training Sergeant! Most members attended and got something out of it, although some members got more than what they bargained for in regards to fine dining over the Christmas period. No names or pack drills on that one!

The first training weekend saw the team heading off to the sub Antarctic climes of Ballarat. For the newer members of the depot, this was a life changing experience for some and a start of the pain train for others. Fozzy and CSM B Coy hit it off straight away, Watty decided that discretion is the better part of valour and Robbo was introduced to the fun, for want of a better word, in a masochistic way, of a stretcher carry. The "Depot Dinosaur" actually deployed and was last seen checking tickets prior to boarding the "depot nut bus" for the trip home. Nice one Inspector. (Only wish that he could sort the music out. Chicken Kickin' FM is the last thing we want).

The year has seen several new faces in the depot. REC Robinson, REC Borrie and PTE Elder have marched in or in the process of marching in and have made an impact. In fact, REC Borrie makes quite an impact when he spuds in when he comes off the ropes.... priceless. It has been good to see the newer members stepping up and wanting to get on with the job and finish their respective courses unlike previous years and persons. Fozzy, Cammo, Watty, Spence and Clarky don't seem so alone now.

April saw in the first live fire of the year. Due to the amount of ammunition available it was decided to cull numbers. As usual, the pineapple hit C Coy and in particular, Mildura. At this rate we will have enough for a fruit salad! All members that deployed got a lot out of the weekend. Good to see that the

team's weapon handling, marksmanship and fitness was of a good standard. April also saw the team dust off the

poly's, shine brass and work out left from right as we commenced the ANZAC Day training and parades of the year. All went well, as planned and a good day was had by all.



Photo: Mildura Weekly

From all reports, the day went well. The team was also warned out for operations in the South West Pacific next year to the enjoyment of some and the disappointment of others. Hoppy vanished into the Wide World of AASAM again. As usual, he took out a couple of awards and, allegedly, a couple of spectators as well. Nice one Hoppy.

Training so far on a Tuesday night has included weapon handling, First Aid, Navigation, Offensive and Defensive lessons and Low level Ops. This training has been generated and executed by the Section Commanders and the results are now speaking for themselves. Although offensive ops could be misconstrued for the Inspector's attempts at humour in the mess.... but we digress. Weekend training saw the NCO's complete CONOPS and Danger Close missions under the tutelage of, what has been called, the Three Stooges. The next NCO training no doubt will prove to be much more exacting in a tactical environment.

May and part of June saw the team depart for various tasks all over the state and South Australia. Robbo headed to Wagga Wagga, Box completed nav and First Aid, Heckle and Jeckle to complete their

CAM course, Herdy, Jacko, Kev, Watty and Eldo headed off to support the SIO-S Mod 3 course. From all reports, a lot was gained, including new methods of “skull dragging” compliments of CSM B Coy. We don’t think any nachos were used. June also had the Sergeants and Officers heading down to Ballarat dressed as penguins for the first of two Dining In Nights planned for the year.

The team is now stepping up and getting ready for the second half of the year, including Hamel, CATA (Can’t Arrange Transport Anywhere), yes, another trip to “Puckastan” and readying for deployment early next year. To date, this has been a busy time for the team and a lot of experience has been gained. More importantly, an attitude of “can do” continues to exist in the Company. The team now looks forward to the challenges that the future holds. Thanks Team, it’s been a good year.

“Knowledge dispels Fear”

SGT Wayne Herdman
Mildura Depot



Legacy Week



*OPSWO Bob Creelman & OPS SGT Paul Micallef-
Opening of Legacy Week 2012*



*Legacy President Ron Fleming
thanks 8/7 RVR for their
assistance at collecting
donations.*



Ballarat Ranger Military Museum

The BRMM holds the 'Unit Historical Collection' of the Ballarat region of 8/7 RVR. Memorabilia dates back to the days of the Ballarat Rangers (1860s – 1880s) right through until today. The museum now has its own flag, which is flown when the museum is open, and the flag is flown on the museum's own flag pole. For many years that flag pole proudly flew either the Australian or RSL flag outside the Ballarat RSL Sub-branch in Lyons Street South.

The museum is open Thursday afternoon 1300 – 1600 hours, or on the fourth Sunday of the month 0900 – 1200 hours. It is also open 'By appointment'. Contact BHQ for details.

The museum is holding a special day on Wednesday 19 June this year. The date would have been the 135th Birthday for Maj Gen 'Pompey' Elliott, the CO of the 7th Bn, AIF, at Gallipoli and the Commander of the 15th Brigade, AIF, 1916 – 1918. Pompey had a close connection with Ballarat and, of course, with the 7th Bn that forms the number 7 in 8/7 RVR. The museum will be open for 1000 – 1500 hours on the day.

Neil Leckie



Former CO 2 RVR, Lt Col Ted Lynes and the first Curator of the BRMM Maj Bill Akell with the flag on 24 Feb 2013 when Lt Col Lynes unfurled the flag for the first time.

Awards 2012

18 April 2012



Chief Barry Brown



CAPT Jennifer Lee



PTE Luke Winter



PTE S.R. Watkins- Australian Defence Medal 29 May 2012



WO2 M. Greenwood 2 June 2012- 30 years service



PTE English 10 July 2012- Presentation of Soldiers Medallion by OC Coy MAJ P. Neunhoffer



Promotion of CPL Connor 10 July 2012



PTE Deverell

16 August 2012- XO MAJ C. Gowers presenting certificate and check from the Hellenic RSL.



SGT Richardson 28 November 2012- CO presents her promotion certificate (A Coy)



CPL Van Loon & LCP L. Edwards
Promotion certificates
4 September 2012



8/7 RVR Birthday
LTCOL Duckworth and PTE English cut the cake



Chief of Army Lieutenant General David Morrison, AO presents The Federation Star to SGT Rodney Jackson for more than 40 years service in the Australian Defence Force as Mrs Caroline Jackson looks on with pride. 10 December 2012

Dining Out Night

28 October 2012 BHQ

Farewelled 28th October 2012



SGT Mark Bell



CAPT Adam Moss



SGT James Llewellyn



RSM Rodney Rootham



WO2 Mick Greenwood



SGT Darren Mistreat



WO2 S. Armstrong



WO2 Robert Creelman Retires from Army



CPL J. Holl promoted to SGT



Gathering of former and current CO

L-R:

D Ellis 1972-1975

Ted Lynes 1978-1981

Jim Mack 1981-1984

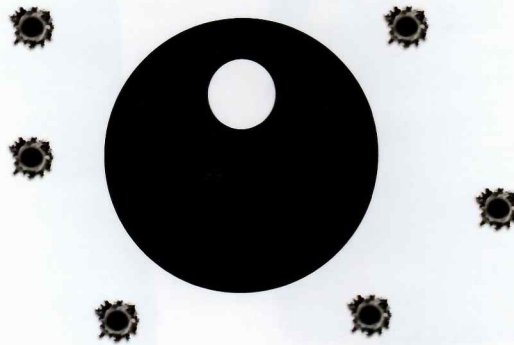
Doug Ball 1988-1990

Wayne Dunbar 1994-1996

BRIG. R. Marsh 2005-2006

LTCOL. Duckworth 2011-

Odd shots...



Paddy took 2 stuffed dogs to the 'Antiques Roadshow'.
"Ooh!" said the presenter, "This is a very rare set, produced by the celebrated Johns Brothers taxidermists who operated in London at the turn of last century. Do you have any idea what they would fetch if they were in good condition?" "...Sticks?" Paddy replied.

Submitted: XO (All copyright infringements notices to be forwarded to above)

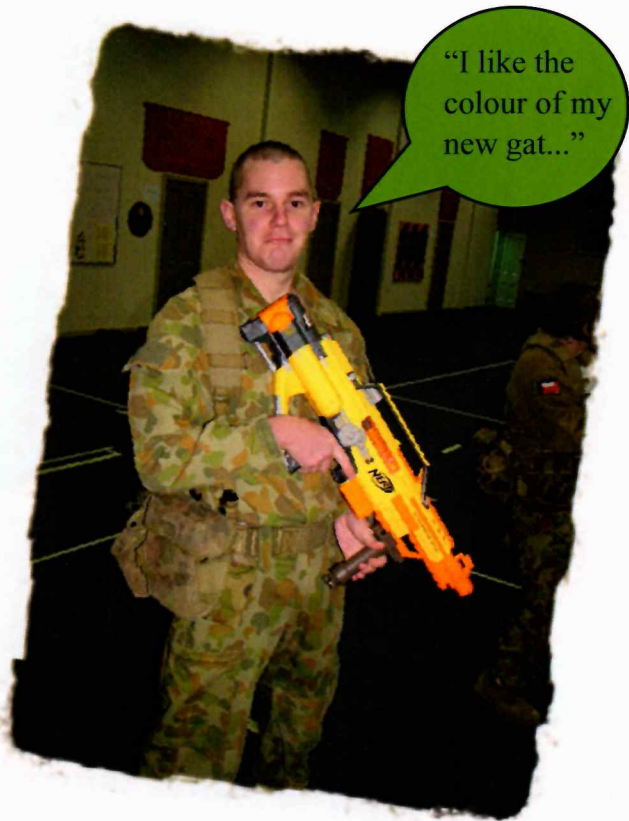
XO's MYTHBUSTERS

1. The colour of my hair doesn't automatically mean I am the XO.
2. There are Privates, Sergeants, Warrant Officers and Officers older than I in the Battalion; guess who?
3. I have served both in the ARA and Army Reserves continuously for 38 years.
4. I am friends (well I speak to them on occasion) with the last three ex 8/7 RVR CO's who were Brigade Commanders and all CO's since 1996.
5. I barrack for Collingwood - deal with it, I mean get over it Princesses.
6. I do not own a walking stick, I borrowed it from MAJ Don Murphy.
7. WO2 Broemmer has not invited me for a 'display location' in the Museum.
8. I am a replacement; get it right 'a replacement' not a replica for MAJ Leckie (now retired).
9. The OPSO invented the water cart.....sounds like a Furphy to me.
10. MAJ Spencer could not handle the harsh discipline of 8/7 RVR and skulked off to 6 RAR as the OPSO.
11. I know where the CO's project car is hidden.
12. The rocks scattered around the Ballarat compound are where they are because CAPT Ross Pringle (then WO1) and MAJ Gowers (then CAPT) spent too much money on building the Regimental Mess and Gym and couldn't afford to move them (except for the opening stone near the mess, that was a love job at the time).
13. The Battalion's time capsule has all the history recorded on 5inch floppy's. I hope someone kept a reader?





"I wasn't even here at the time..."



"I like the colour of my new gat..."



"I'm sure the Pam says it goes in here"



"Well done... you beat my high score !"



"Was that with olives Sir?"



"What do you mean Oops?"



The burning bush ?
(If you don't get it ask the Padre)

“Trust me...
it's a sure
winner mate”



“Oh...
that's
where I
left it...”

“That's pretty
cool Staff SGT.
Can you also
write
backwards?”



PLAN BEERSHEEBA:
Padre/ RSO- Frontline Assault Teams



*XO MAJ C. Gowers presenting the pineapple
award to SGT D. Logan on completion of the
Warnabool Audit.*