

The

RANGER

2013



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

8/7 RVR, 2013:

**Commanding
Officer**
LTCOL Murray
Duckworth CSM

**Regimental
Sergeant Major**
WO1 Michael
Groves

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

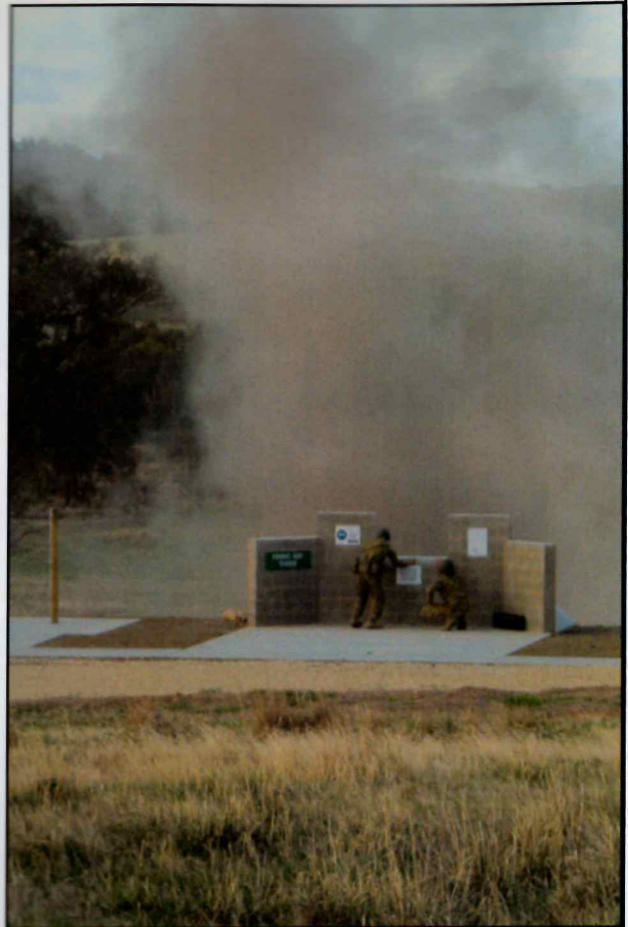
CONTENTS:

REPORTS:

CO
RSM
XO
OPS
Companies

EVENTS:

April LFX
Warrnambool Weekend
Ballarat Weekend
Ex. Hari River
Regimental Dinners
Around Depots
Ranger Museum
Odd shots



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

Front cover: Exercise Hari River- "Taking the Hill"



When assuming command of our magnificent Battalion in 2011, I commented in *The Ranger* of that year that it is an honour to command 8/7 RVR and to contribute to this Annual Journal. The same applies overwhelmingly in 2013, my third and final year of command.

It has been yet another busy year for the Battalion. Not only did our commitment to operations (including OP ANODE R30 – Solomon Islands) and trade and promotion courses for individuals continue, but the headquarters staff and many others worked exceedingly hard to achieve our Technical Regulatory Framework (TRF) accreditation, OBJECTIVE implementation, PLAN BEERSHEBA planning and the 2 DIV Royal Australian Infantry Corps Unit Establishment review (UER). All of this occurred in addition to our training program, support to MUR, ANZAC and other ceremonial commitments, health and safety, security, range audits, AIRN and other governance requirements.

On Sunday, 24 February 2013, Battalion members had the opportunity to attend the 4 Brigade Mounting Team OP ANODE R30 Family Day barbecue at the Mactier Community Centre, Simpson

Barracks. This was a very fitting send-off for Brigade soldiers, including our platoon under LT Appleby. For some, this was their first operation, for some, it was yet another! On Sunday, 4 August, the Brigade welcomed R30 back home at Simpson Barracks Macleod. Whether it was the first or one of a number of operations undertaken, I wish to take this opportunity again to thank all members of the Battalion who have served not only on OP ANODE R30, Timor Leste and Transit Security Element 72 (TSE 72), but all other operations and those in the future. As I have said continually, there is no greater calling than to serve one's country in our uniform.

As you read this edition of *The Ranger*, you will see many images which represent a mere snapshot of Battalion life and activities during 2013. In nearly all of them, you will see people. That is because the Battalion is people. You will see them training, preparing, firing, shooting, resting, listening, talking, exercising, celebrating, commemorating, presenting, patrolling, ensuring safety, smiling, thinking, planning, relaxing, cooking, guarding, competing, being rewarded, climbing, carrying, running, reporting, contemplating and simply being exhausted. You will see nothing but pure EFFORT in all images. These

are the important aspects of being a soldier, more particularly so, in an infantry battalion. Soldiering is about working hard, but also having some fun along the way. I am inspired by the dedication of Battalion members. We are so fortunate to have members from other Corps in 8/7 RVR which provide excellent service. This service enables us to do what we do.

From a training perspective this year, it was my intent to return to Foundation Warfighting skills. In the more recent past, our training has generally focused on security operations from both an operational planning and tactical perspective. It is clear from PLAN BEERSHEBA that the Battalion is likely to have a key role in the future in establishing and training a Battle Group and headquarters. The focus of this training culminated in Exercise HARI RIVER in Puckapunyal in October. Importantly, key staff and JNCOs participated in a number of important planning weekend exercises in the lead up to HARI RIVER. The training value and participation was extremely encouraging. Of particular note and benefit was the close working relationship the Battalion re-forged with 4 CSSB. This will pay dividends in the future. A number of key lessons from HARI RIVER were identified and these will all

go into future planning. For all those who attended the exercise, I will let the images do the talking. A headquarters was established, and both section and platoon level, offensive operations training was conducted. Excellent progress was made and I know that you will build on these individual and collective lessons in the future.

Next year, it is proposed that Battalion members will deploy to Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) and more opportunities are likely to arise for future TSE deployments. If you work hard to remain relevant, trade and



AIRN qualified, opportunities will arise. Embrace them. You cannot help growing old, but you can help growing complacent.

Having had the opportunity to serve in both 8/7 RVR and 5/6 RVR, I was delighted to work collaboratively with 5/6 RVR this year, particularly during the UER process. As the RVR, this bond was strengthened once again by the highly successful combined Battalion's Regimental Dinner at Ballarat in early November. This strong relationship will continue, as will our strong bonds with our Regimental Associations and the rejuvenated Regimental Council.

There are many names of Battalion members included in this journal. While it is impossible for me to thank every individual member of the Battalion, I must thank a number of people for their continued support in 2013. Our new RSM, WO1 Michael (Mick) Groves replaced WO1 Rod Rootham in January. The RSM did an outstanding job and contributed so richly to many facets of the Battalion's endeavours. I would also like to thank the Adjutant, CAPT Aidan Carter who replaced CAPT Adam Moss in January. Aidan stepped up and acted as OC B Coy as well as undertaking his normal duties. I also thank the OPSO, MAJ Don Murphy who had his finger in all of the battalion's pies. Thanks Don for the last three years and I wish you and Sally all the very best up north! MAJ Gowers, the XO worked tirelessly to maintain a number of the Battalion's governance requirements and I thank him for his historical contribution in this journal. Thank you to the OC's Majors Ward, Strack, Neunhoffer and to CAPT Mel Van Twest for all their efforts in commanding our geographically dispersed sub-units. I also thank the editor of *The Ranger*, the Padre CAPT Stephen Maggs for his steady camera hand and ability to capture aspects of our lives both in barracks and in the field.

I trust you will enjoy *The Ranger* and keep it as a memento of your service during 2013.

I also wish to take the opportunity welcome the incoming CO, LTCOL Tom

Biederman and wish him all the very best in 2014.

In closing, I again thank all 8/7 RVR members and their families and friends for their support during 2011-13. It has been an honour and a privilege.

Murray Duckworth, CSM
LTCOL
Commanding Officer

Reports

RSM

WO1 Michael Groves



2013 has been a busy, tough and fast-paced year for the Battalion. The Battalion sent a Platoon sized element to the Solomon Islands as part of OP ANODE in the early part of the year, and from all reports they did a splendid job. To all those who put their normal life on hold, Thank you. You should be proud of your service not only to the nation, but to the people of the Solomon Islands.

participated. Members got to live fire most section weapons. The Battalion also conducted a Mag 58 qualifying practice, fired 84mm, claymores, 40mm HE and some members also got to throw F1/F3 grenades.

The Battalion supported 34 different events as part of our commitment to ANZAC Day 2013. The day was an outstanding success. I have



The first big event for the rest of the Battalion was the live fire weekend at Puckapunyal in April. The weekend was a great success thanks to all of those members who

received numerous letters and phone calls from many RSL clubs and associations telling me how good the soldiers who represented the battalion were. Well Done.

The Battalion has got back to basics this year with a nine day field training exercise. Some members enjoyed it more than others, but the weather was kind and we all got something out of the activity. This year has flown by. It's been an absolute privilege to be your RSM this year, and I look forward to working with you next year. For all of those members leaving on posting or discharge I wish you every success in the future. Have a safe and enjoyable festive season and I look forward to seeing you all next year.

Fair winds and soft landings.

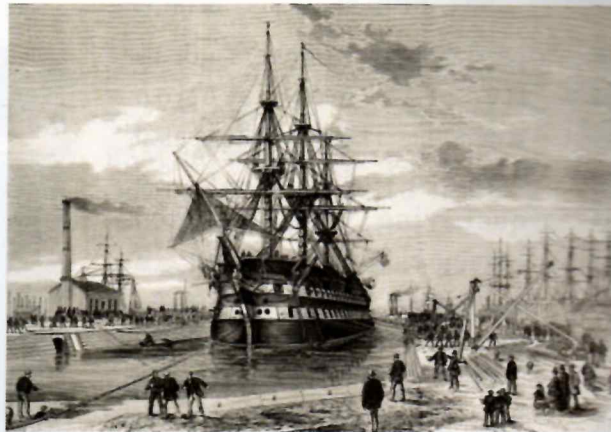
RSM



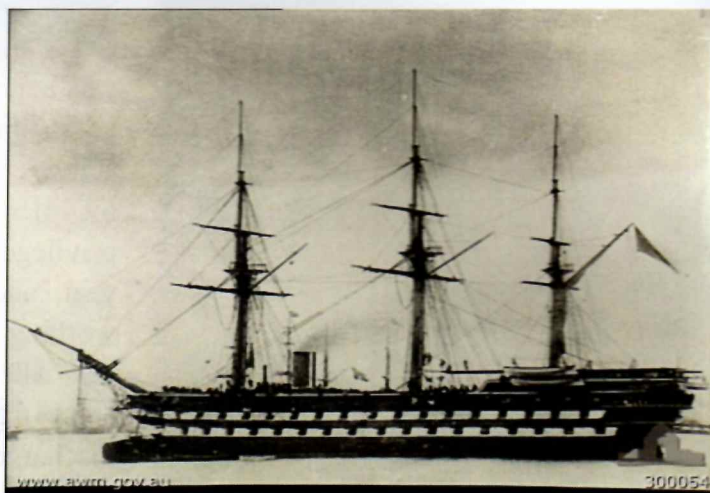
The XO explains: Why do we display two Navy cannons at an Army Unit?

The two cannon in front of Ranger Barracks are 32 pounders from the HMS Nelson and were gifted to the 'People of Ballarat' during the ships dismantling in the 1890's. The cannon were originally placed in front of the old Drill Hall at Curtis Street in or around c1900. In 2001/2002 during the planning phase of moving to the new Ranger Barracks, the then QM (CAPT Cliff Gowers) with the support of the City of Ballarat obtained custodianship of the cannon for the Battalion on the proviso that they be maintained in good condition, kept secured and that they are on display to the public at all times. They are actually 'owned' by the people of Ballarat.

Unfortunately public funds have always been limited in maintaining these magnificent pieces of history so when WO1 Griggs was



offered the opportunity to have the cannon painstakingly restored through the Army School Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (ASEME) to their



*Being floated into the Alfred
Graving Dock at
Williamstown 2 Mar 1874*

original condition it was an opportunity he did not miss. The restoration of the cannon by ASEME conducted in 2009 over a period of 8

months which included the remaking of the new hardwood carriages, has ensured that these behemoths are the best preserved cannon of their type in Victoria and 8/7 RVR are the proud custodians.

It is not about the Navy it is about history, that's why we have the cannon.

HMS NELSON 1814 (short history)

HMS Nelson was a 126-gun first rate ship of the line of the Royal Navy named after Horatio Nelson of Trafalgar fame. She was launched on 4 July 1814 at Woolwich, but then laid up incomplete at Portsmouth (reserve ship of the line). She was converted into a screw ship in 1860, being cut down to a two decker and fitted with an engine of 2,102 horsepower (1,567 kW) for a speed of 10.5 knots (19.4 km/h; 12.1 mph). In 1865, HMS Nelson was gifted to the colony of

Victoria as a training ship, and sailed for Australia in October 1867. She arrived in February 1868 and was the first ship to dock in the newly constructed Alfred Graving Dock in Williamstown Victoria. Her armament in 1874 was listed as two 7-in RML, twenty 64-lb guns, twenty 32-lb guns and six 12-lb howitzers.

In January 1915 she was towed to Hobart for further service as a coal hulk, and towed up river to Shag Bay for gradual breaking up, work continuing into the 1930s, although some of her timbers still survive (Speakers chair at Parliament House Hobart for example).

The figurehead from **HMS Nelson** is on display at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney.

Enjoy your break, be Safe and see you next year.

MAJ C. Gowers
XO

Details	Left Hand Side	Right Hand Side
Serial Number	3777	3914
Date cast	1847	1847
Weight	1,300.75kgs	1,298.5kgs
Carriage	solid hardwood	solid hardwood
Manufacturer	Low Moor Iron Works UK	Low Moor Iron Works UK

*Specifications:
Looking at the Cannon from the road.*



CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

"Getting back to basics"

This year has been about returning to the basics of soldiering. In other words it's been about refreshing and learning the skills and tactics that are essential to do the job of an infantry Battalion.

What are the basics? In the military, as in other highly disciplined jobs, the basics are well defined and broadly taught. There is a DI or 'pam' that explains everything we do, or should be doing. A soldier should never carry out a weapons drill their way. Instead they conform to a drill all know and has been tested over time, regardless of rank. This is universal



principle across defence.

If we consider life in general, what may I ask are the basics of your life? What guides your decisions and actions? What gives you meaning?

Not that long ago in our country most people accepted

a fairly clear answer to that question. On the most part, people lived a certain way that was pretty similar to the family next door.

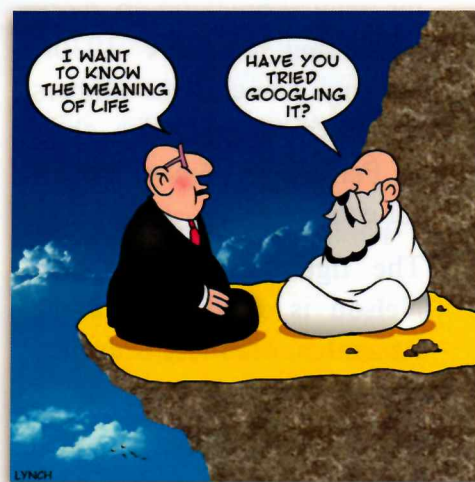
Today, however, many make very different choices in life that are quite different to 50 years ago. In all areas as lifestyle, relationships, jobs and beliefs. Regardless of these decisions, every person makes choices that ultimately are based on some accepted 'basics' of life as they see it. It maybe some religious, social or tribal norm that a group all accept and live by.

Whatever 'it' may be, everyone has a guiding 'something' that helps them make sense of the world. These basics are not generally thought much about until some major issue or tragedy is faced, which challenges the usefulness or 'truth' of that view of the world.

to remember is to be true to what gives you your guidance. If it be religious in nature, then live by that standard faithfully. If it is based on some other view of life, then test it and be sure within yourself it answers these questions and is useful to you.

So I ask you again, what is your guiding principle or 'basics' that helps you be the best person you can be?

CHAP Stephen Maggs



"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."

— Albert Einstein

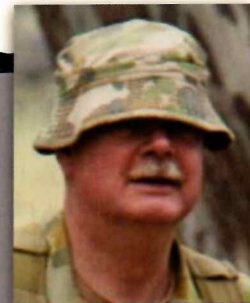
If our basics turn out to not be that helpful after all, we may well feel we lost and not sure how to deal with the new situation we face.

Most people work their way through it to either hold-on tighter or find another 'basic' that works. Whatever choice is made, the important thing

Reports

OPSO

MAJ Don Murphy



2013 saw a new OPSWO march in, WO2 Simon Foley, as WO2 Bob Creelman retired from the ARA after 42 years and took up a new role in the Army Reserve as the S37. CAPT Rupert Dalley and SGT Paul Micallef continued in their respective roles as OPS CAPT (ARes) and OPS SGT.

This year most of the ARA managed a reasonable break over the Christmas period with no DACC or Force Preparation tasking interrupting, which was very welcome after a very busy 2012. However, it wasn't long before we were back at Puckapunyal conducting the Mission Specific Training and Mission Rehearsal Activity for OP Anode Rotation 30.

A highlight of the year was the four-day Live Fire Exercise, which was very well attended, and a number of soldiers across the Battalion were able to fire the 66mm LDFSW, 84mm MDFSW and even the M18A1 Claymore APW.

The Battalion Shooting Team continued their winning endeavours at AASAM in May, and two more members were put on to the list for a call up to the Aussie team.

The 8/7 RVR team consisted of SGT Paul Micallef, PTE Scott McMillan, PTE Alistair Cameron, PTE Robert Geddes and CFN Jaden Hopfner. 8/7 RVR once again won the Reserve Infantry Battalion Championship, as well as coming second overall. We also came first in the falling plate shoot and second in three other competitions: Team Pistol, Team Snap and Service Rifle practices.

The Officers and NCOs of



the Battalion spent two weekends, one at Warrnambool and the other at Ballarat, preparing for the major event of the year, Exercise Hari River, a nine day field exercise at Puckapunyal in October. The focus was on Foundation Warfighting, and the Battalion managed to put a Coy minus, and HQ and CSS elements into the field, ably

supported by 4 CSSB and 108 Sig Sqn.

Members of the Rifle Company were issued SPRs and NVE, and for some of their training were able to utilise TESS, which provided some additional realism to the exercise.

Exercise Hari River provided the Battalion with a baseline for the training to be conducted in 2014. This will continue with Foundation Warfighting, and gradually build upon each weekend's activities to enable the Battalion to achieve the major goal for 2014, with the deployment of a company group to Butterworth in November.

2014 will see a new OPS team with the OPSO, MAJ Don Murphy, returning to his beloved Queensland (and warmer weather) and WO2 Simon Foley moving across to B Coy as the TRGWO. MAJ John Spencer returns to the Battalion as the OPSO after spending 12 months as the OPSO at 6 RAR. WO2 Dave Nelson will move into the OPSWO role, with SGT Paul Micallef providing the continuity for the cell.

The arrival of a new Company Headquarters, the return of soldiers from overseas service and the closure of operations in Timor Leste and Solomon Islands have collectively heralded a new era for A

Company
in 2013.

WO2 Brad Percy joined us from HQ 7BDE as A Company TRG WO and WO2 John Digby as CSM after returning from Timor Leste in 2012. Other new march-ins included SGT Dale Eeles as CQMS (from School of Artillery) and CPL Kieran Hall as Company Clerk (from 2RAR in late 2012).

2013 has been an active year, with A Company deploying soldiers on Op Anode (R30) and returning soldiers from OP Astute (TLTG5). Unit supported activities included lead roles in the Battalion LFX in April with SGT Spong and WO2 Digby running ranges including Standard Grenade and DFSW ranges, qualifying soldiers in 84mm, GLA, M72 and M18A1 weapon systems. A Company then spearheaded

“Combat Team Ranger” in offensive operations

Company

during AFX in October. These two exercises afforded soldiers excellent opportunity to get back to the basics of foundation warfighting soldiering in a field environment. CT Ranger’s pre-attack breakfast of champions - weetbix and milk/yoghurt man packed by CPL Deverell “to the end” - was memorable.

CHQ has worked hard to improve the administrative efficiency of the Company, trimming those not rendering service to ensure training and administration efforts can be focussed on the soldiers that actively parade. While we have seen a reduction of approximately 20% in personnel, the flow on effect has been an improved consistency in attendances and quality in training. This outcome, I

have no doubt, is the result of the quality of junior leadership found within the Company. To that end, I had the pleasure of promoting Poitr Krupa, Jai Wojcieszak, Stewart Lennie and Chris Champion to Lance

Corporal,
a n d Mitchell
Rasmussen to Corporal, as the next crew of junior NCOs stepping up to the plate. LCPL Champion was also awarded Tom O’Brien Digger of the Year (before being promoted), Corporal Ian Deverell received the A Company Outstanding Junior NCO Award, and Corporal Brent Craske with his AFX section were awarded Champion Section.

A Company 2013 Awards Champion Section

CPL Brent Craske
LCPL (CPL) Mitchell Rasmussen
LCPL Steven D’Cunha
PTE (LCPL) Poitr Krupa
PTE TRN Scott Balshaw
PTE Chris Caddy
PTE Steven Hadley
PTE Bob Jiminez

Outstanding Junior NCO
CPL Ian Deverell

“Tom O’Brien” Digger of the Year PTE (LCPL) Chris Champion

Support to ANZAC Day activities was spearheaded by Geelong Depot providing numerous catafalque guards throughout the Geelong area. The centrepiece was the A Company led Geelong Dawn Service at the Boer War Memorial, with attendance growing to in excess of 600 onlookers, including the Mayor of Geelong, who expressed his appreciation for the Unit’s support to the community, posting a photo of CSM on Twitter.

Admin Company personnel have provided notable support to both Geelong and Laverton depots throughout the year. Of particular note have been PTEs Helen Beaton and Jess Challis from Geelong who have provided no end of support to A Company and PTE Khurram Mohammed who continues to cook up a storm of spiced delicacies while regaling us of tales of adventure and conquest in the process.

The transition to Plan Beersheba will provide its own challenges over the foreseeable future, but with those challenges come opportunities - TSE, RCB

and Exercise Hamel to name a few, with the ongoing requirement for Defence Assistance to the Civil Community – A Company soldiers have proven themselves ready and willing to meet the needs of Army.

With a full compliment of qualified Platoon HQs in 2014 ensuring high quality structured training, ongoing operational opportunities and a great feeling around the Company, the future is bright and ready for the taking for those ready. Bring on 2014.

*MAJ D. Strack
OCA Coy*

GEELONG

From the start of the year, Geelong Depot has seen some interesting changes occur. The end of last year saw the amalgamation of 38th Medium Battery, 2/10 Regiment into 5/6 RVR and their subsequent departure from the Geelong Depot.

We found ourselves beginning 2013 with more free space and a Mess that required a lot of redecoration, refurbishment and replacement of key Mess Committee positions,

that were previously held by 2/10 members. The extra space also provided some office rearrangement and the Transport team managed to happily claw their way into their own office and score a new Land Rover for the depot.

With new members elected to Committee positions and after a shaky start, the ball started rolling, being pushed from behind by the new and slightly over-enthusiastic secretary PTE Wojcieszak. This saw the mess forking out some cash on new furniture, decorations and also an increase of social functions occurring roughly once a month, which so far have been a great success.

ANZAC Day saw us up bright and early at those frightening times before the crack of dawn, to pay our respects to our past and current brothers. Our suits were dry cleaned, our medals were pinned and straightened, and our uniforms were ironed impeccably to impress the public.

We made our way down to the Boer War Memorial at Kardinia Park to await the beginning of the Dawn Service. During this time we

had 8/7 RVR members head off to other various locations around the Geelong area for their dawn service duties including the two new services at Torquay and Anglesea, that were picked up after the departure of 2/10.

After the service, it was back to the depot for the traditional gunfire breakfast of bacon and eggs, coffee, rum and snacks. The bar was then opened and CPL Towers and CPL Butterworth displayed excellent JNCO qualities.

Overall, everyone had a successful morning followed by a great afternoon and evening with a special mention for PTE Wojcieszak who organised the raffles and other festivities throughout the day, as well as being awarded Digger of the year for the second time as voted by his peers and much greatly deserved!

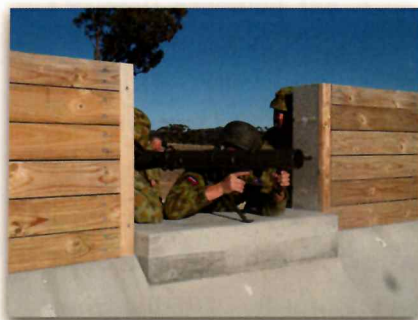
Next came Friday 23 August, in which we had our welcome home celebrations for CPL Craske, CPL Lynch and PTE Gouldson on return from their deployment to Solomon Islands, where they had slugged it out, in the jungle with bugs, spiders, humidity, rain, each other,

more bugs and who knows what else for a period of four and a half months. Waking up at 0545h every morning for no exact reason, but to keep morale high and going out in the jungle for days at a time which was what everyone wanted. None of the guys over there ever wanted any down time to just relax because they are all hardcore soldiers - they just wanted to learn and learn and learn. Everyone is happy to have them back safe and sound in Geelong and for them to pass on their experiences and hard lessons learnt to the ever so eager soldiers of 8/7 RVR.

It is easy to say that Geelong has seen a positive year with an increase in consistent parading numbers. This coming from no small effort,

by the new rotation of staff that have been providing us with some excellent Tuesday night training, to the great new atmosphere and look in the mess, with these things in mind we're looking forward to what 2014 will bring.

*By: LCPL Uldrikis,
LCPL Champion,
PTE Challis*



This year, 2013, at A Coy we've given the opportunity to our up and coming junior leaders to share some of their unique experiences within the Laverton depot.

LT Thuan

LAVERTON

2013 has seen much productive training occur at Laverton, partly due to the availability of a variety of teaching and training areas. With a bit of creativity, drive and access to a variety of indoor and outdoor training facilities, Laverton soldiers have really capitalised on training opportunities ranging from classroom theory lessons and walk-through-talk-through rehearsal of concept drills, all the way to the full scale execution of the tasks in the training environment.

Focussing of the AFX in October, training has been centred on getting back to basic soldier skills and getting out bush to practice individual, section and platoon level tactics. We've completed navigation, signals/RATEL, CASEVAC rehearsals, weapon handling, patrolling, VCP/VAP, building clearance,

ambushing and attacks for sections and platoons.

The large open areas of Laverton give the lads the chance to properly go out and practice skills, carry out tasks that would otherwise not be possible outside of training weekends and exercises. We've also been fortunate enough to have members from 108 Sig Sqn come in and deliver lessons on the tools of their trade, which is often over looked but nonetheless important aspect of infantry work.

In April, soldiers had several full days of hands on range practices for the Battalion LFX. They developed marksmanship skills across F88, F89, and MAG 58. This was followed by extensive HE practices. Soldiers gained qualifications, and refined their employment of F1 grenades, Claymores, GLAs, M72 and 84mm at Puckapunyal's excellent HE range facilities. The large panoramic viewing windows in the waiting bays, gave personnel an excellent view of the effects of each weapon system.

The conclusion of operations in East Timor and Solomon Islands has seen many Laverton soldiers returning

with valuable operational experience, and a level of professionalism and new skills to share with the Unit.

Laverton Members conducted the Dawn Service at Geelong as well as in Bacchus Marsh and, as always, the RSL members and local community greatly appreciated the attendance and involvement of 8/7 members in their activities. Participation in the services by members is a privilege and a great opportunity to give something back to the community and represent the Unit.

The Laverton Mess has really kicked on in 2013, and has been pivotal in hosting a variety of social events for members friends and family throughout the year, most notably on ANZAC Day, Grand Final day, Melbourne Cup Day and the A COY end of year Christmas Party.

Despite being in an old aircraft hangar, the mess is always in a state of improvement with the latest addition being a suitable area for our resident cook to whip up some great food for the end of parade. It can't be understated how much the members of the depot appreciate the efforts put in

by Lisa Edwards and the bar staff when it comes to putting on tasty and interesting food. The Mess has proven an essential part in promoting the good esprit de corps across all ranks at the Laverton depot and gives both the soldiers and the officers a chance to socialise and catch up after the night's training activities, with many interesting discussions, stories and debates being shared within the walls of the Mess.

Corporal Rasmussen was promoted in November, in the Laverton Mess.

By LCPL Rasmussen and LCPL Rohkamper

CSS Laverton

2013 was another fantastic year for Combat Service Support (CSS) at (8/7RVR) Laverton depot. CSS plays a vital role in the unit's ability of tactical effectiveness and sustainment. The members of Laverton Depot are made up of reservist soldiers from all walks of life - we are students, employees, family members and colleagues. We are an inclusive unit which represents the diversity and vitality of the Australian community. We also feel



very much at home amongst our Infantry comrades.

There were a number of qualified new personnel who had joined CSS this year. These new members have already made great contributions in Transport, Catering, as well as in Supply. There were a number of opportunities for CSS personnel to participate in exercises and various other support roles



throughout the year. As an Army Reserve unit it relies heavily upon the goodwill

and support of our members' families, friends, employers, and local industry to assist us and our

members to attend military activities. We value and appreciate the recognition of the wider community



provided to Laverton Depot, and the way in which all of the community contributes to the Australian Defence Force.

As a qualified Arabic linguist, PTE Mohammed undertook a three week Defence sponsored Language Study Tour to the University of Jordan in September.

By PTE Khurram Mohammed

2013 has been a busy year for Bravo Company, with the manning of the final rotation of Operation ANODE, participation in the Battalion Live Fire activity in April, EX H A R I RIVER

84mm proved to be a key highlight for Company members. EX H A R I RIVER saw a good end

who is moving North after a career as both a soldier and Officer in B Coy. Company 2IC LT Appleby also leaves us for a training role at Melbourne University Regiment. Bravo Company looks forward

Bravo Company

in October, and numerous courses. Our soldiers have had a lot on their plates.

The Battalion live fire exercise was a great opportunity for Bravo Company soldiers to utilise a range of Platoon and Company weapons. With a focus on basic skills and weapon safety, significant training value was achieved. The main effort of the exercise was to allow members to hone their skills on the F88, F89 and Mag 58, this was demonstrated with some impressive shooting by Bravo Company members in the final shoots of the day. In addition to the F88, F89 and Mag 58 a number of soldiers were able to gain qualification of the 40mm GLA, 66mm M72AL and 84mm Carl Gustav. The live fire of HE with the

to the year, with Bravo Company successfully contributing 30 soldiers to the Exercise. The Exercise saw the return to foundation war fighting skills and the soldiers went through from the basics of a section patrol and attack to the complexity of platoon operations in the field environment. A barbecue saw the end of the Exercise and all were in high spirits with everyone taking on board the learning opportunities.

The end of 2013 sees the farewell of the Company Sergeant Major, WO2 Bryan Wethling. Wo2 Wethling has been a part of 8/7 RVR for five years now and has contributed greatly to the training of the soldiers of Bravo Company. 2013 also sees the farewell of LT Boak

to another busy year ahead in 2014.

Chainsaw Training in Ballarat

Twenty Two Construction Regiment was in Ballarat Friday 23rd August 2013 completing a construction task at the Ranger Barracks Depot. Taking advantage of their visit were members of Bravo Company 4PL for some chainsaw training. LCPL Ward of Ballarat said that the cooperation between the units was good to see and the knowledge sharing between the units was beneficial to the soldiers of 4PL.



L to R: LCPL Edwards, Pte McConville, Pte Wood (22 Construction), Pte Darcy, LCPL Ward.

It is hard to believe I have had the honour and privilege of working with the men and women of C Coy 8/7 RVR for another

year. 2013 started with members being deployed to the Solomon Islands, which included our new CSM John Blanchard. It was literally a case of "Hi, see you in 6 months". We also welcomed SGT Kyriakos Tsirigotis (AKA Ken) in Shepparton into C Coy.

Our ARA Cadre Staff kept things ticking along in all depots with some major housekeeping conducted in Mildura and Shepparton which unearthed a large amount of memorabilia and other items.

We welcomed back those members of C Coy that went to the Solomons and also a few members from the Timor deployment in 2012 mid year. No sooner had we started to settle into a training routine when nominations were being called for Op Resolute and Rifle Coy Butterworth.

The year seemed to fly by and we found ourselves in

Company

December farewelling SGT Herdman from Mildura (I

think he may have been packed and gone before the actual orders came through),

previously SGT now WO2 Ken Tsirigotis from Shepparton who is off to 4BDE so we will keep a close eye on him and previously, CPL now SGT Hannaford from CHQ, who if nothing else now closes the door when he goes out for a smoke at night. We wish you all the best!

In December C Coy also officially got a 2IC, in Capt Guinea on promotion, and I personally look forward to him taking on all the jobs OCs don't want to do!

I would like to personally thank each and every member of C Coy for their contribution and support during the year and I look forward to working with the men and women of C Coy again in 2014.

MAJ P. Neunhoffer
OC C Coy



Battle PT familiarisation session- Bendigo.

MILDURA: A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF...

Greetings from the Battalion's northern flank. 2013 started quite literally with a bang for the team in Mildura. After a very merry Christmas for some, the command team deployed to the sun baked plains of the Monaro (Canberra for the uneducated types) in support of the GSO TB5 course. In the words of one of the section 2IC's, who will no doubt wish to remain anonymous, "This place is - - - awesome!He had only been at RMC for five minutes, but we digress....."

After four weeks away in the field, a few quiet ales were in order. While SGT Herdman was done up like a penguin at the Grad Dinner and Ball (great photos taken as well, who was that young lady, eh SGT Herdman?)

Upon return to Mildura, the team was off again, this time supporting Anode Rotation 30. with Fozzy (PTE Leigh Foster to the uninitiated) about to deploy, the rest of the team was working hard to get him ready to deploy. From all reports, Fozzy is now a man mountain from all the time spent in the gym.

First report back from him was that "it rains in the jungle". Definite National Geographic Channel material. We look forward to having Fozzy back in time for our next function, although at times it feels that Fozzy's dad, Leo provides the entertainment.

Operationally wise, we have seen the return of Mr Guinea from his sojourn in Timor Leste. Mr Guinea came back to the news he was now the acting Company 2IC. It has been rumoured that he had even



starred in a movie. Something about a slightly aggressive, beer drinking, pot smoking bear with a bad attitude. Further changes were the new CSM John Blanchard, marching in then heading off to the Solomons for a paid vacation. As a result, SGT Herdman was thrown in the deep end as Company Training WO. Even to the point of being referred to as SGT "Random Yelling" by some of the unit's lesser beings.....

ANZAC Day came and went in a blur. We provided

the Catafalque Guard for the Dawn Service and the Mid Morning Service. Due to Blanchy being "sick."

SGT Herdman had to take over as Guard Commander. The RSL again was appreciative of the effort put in by the soldiers.

Battalion Live Fire came around with the usual "can do" attitude being demonstrated. Some really good shoots were conducted. Although one digger still hasn't mastered the art of weapon cleaning. Guess he was being "fully sick" again. The "Depot Dinosaur" decided that he didn't need an escort vehicle and that a Rover can do the same speed as the Transit. Just because there is a 110 in the nomenclature of the Rover doesn't mean that it will do so, especially on the flat!

In fact, this year, we have seen the "Depot Dinosaur" try to break the land speed record especially when coming back from Adelaide after a WTTS practice. Think that Eldo is still attached to the roof by his finger nails!

The Dining in night was a good one. OC Eight Platoon spent most of the return trip asleep. Hosting a guest is such a chore, SGT Logan looked like Count Dracula, OC Charlie was "cutting the rug", the Coy 2IC muttering

“never again” and the Training Sergeant calling it an early night. Apparently it is something to do with being over the age of 40! Fun was had by all.

Mildura has seen some changes in personnel this year. We said farewell to PTE Borrie and PTE Spencer to “civvy street”, although it has been whispered that the

“Bozzatron” as he styles himself will be starring on next year’s “Biggest Loser” and PTE Farrawell returned to the ARA. We welcomed CPL Connor aka “Scotty, the slightly aggressive corporal,” PTE Paynting, PTE “Harry” Hickey and PTE Smith.....with two f’s.

LT Matt Laxton took over as OC 8 Platoon and soon became well known for his running ability, especially when it comes to 3.2 k runs. Well, he is about 6ft 4!

CPL “CDM” Noonan provided us with some light entertainment in regards to his suspect pick up lines over the phone and the suggestion that we “follow his blog” while he was in Europe. CPL Day decided that a career change was in order and requested to be transferred back to the ARA. Daysy vanished in September for the wilds of CTC Live playing enemy.

Course wise, we have been busy either with members going on course, preparing for courses or

supporting courses. Courses have included, CAM, MOD 2 IET, Driver’s courses, TB5, IPOC and unit continuation training. This has included First Aid re training, weapon revision, BFA and CFA. A lot of ground has been covered and the soldiers have benefitted from this, as a result we feel confident of the challenges that we know are coming our way. Come December, we say farewell to SGT Herdman as he departs for the greener pastures of 1 RTB, heaven help the recruits.....



SGT Wayne Herdman



When I arrived on 8/7 RVR's doorstep in January, having just moved back to Ballarat after a few years away, I was prepared to take on the RMO role but didn't expect to

ensure that CSS Coy fulfils its role effectively and stays integrated with the Unit as a whole. My personal thanks

have helped us perform at a level far above what could be expected from a small and largely, part-time Coy.

CARMIN Company

find myself stepping into the shoes of OC of the CSS Coy during the year!

The former OC, CAPT Jennie Lee, made the momentous decision to move on in May. Although her expertise is sadly missed we hope she is enjoying her new life and wish her all the best for the future.

Though we have had a change of name from Admin Coy, we still bring to 8/7 RVR most of the logistics support the Infantry needs in order to carry out its fighting role. Comprising of Q, Transport, Medical, Catering and including a RAEME element, CSS Company has a wide range of skills, trades and ranks whose expert knowledge is essential to supporting the Rifle Companies.

This year we welcomed WO2 Dave Nelson in the role of Trg WO. WO2 Nelson immediately embraced the role and has worked tirelessly all year to

are given to him for his support, particularly after I took on the OC role at short notice.

The main efforts for CSS Coy this year were the LFX weekend in April and Ex Hari River in October. Both were extremely successful activities with big logistics input.

In particular on Ex Hari River CSS Coy members gained valuable experience in field operations for logistics. The core team of 17 CSS members worked very hard for ten days as part of the A Echelon, with a further group from Catering detached to 4 CSST for their field kitchen, and doing us proud there.

I would like to thank all members of CSS Coy, particularly those with whom I have worked closely this year (you know who you are!), for your support and expert advice which

For those CSS Coy members moving on posting I wish you the very best and hope to work with you again one day. For everyone else, thanks again for your efforts in 2013 and I look forward to working with you in 2014.

CAPT Melanie Van Twest
RMO/OC CSS Coy





The catering members receiving a certificate celebrating the 70th year of the Corps.

RAP Report

Lots of comings and goings in the RAP this year alright, more 'goings' really. We lost the excellent services of LCPL Rosewarne to FNQ and CPT Jenny Lee to retirement. LT Baxter blew in...and blew out, who was that quiet bloke in the glasses? CPT Van Twest has been kept busy with both the RMO and OC CSS roles.

The one constant has been the ubiquitous SGT Creelman you never know whether she'll hit you for a mess fee deposit or a urine sample deposit! Seriously though, Karen has kept things running smoothly, especially on Ex Hari River (providing LT Baxter kept her well supplied with coffee and cigarettes!)

LT Baxter



The RAEME Wanderers

It's that time again where you can see what we were up to

over the year. A few things happened to the RAEME tech support over the past year with the MAS restricting our operation to conduct maintenance and the restructure of all RAEME elements within the 4th Brigade. With that in mind it took us a while to get back on our feet and working again. A few other notable occurrences have happened over this time with the some of the members details listed below:

CFN Jayden Hopfner, the crack shot of the Unit achieved a 3rd overall placing at the recent Champion Shot of the Army at the 2013 AASAM competition; he also qualified as an Armourer after a lengthy post course practical assessment that concluded in September. Congratulations Jayden for your efforts.

CPL Steve Linton moved to Bendigo early last year and he found himself parading out of the Bendigo MUD. Due to recent restructure of the Technical Regulatory Framework, Steve was posted to 4CSSB and attached to 8/7RVR as part of the Forward Repair Team.

SGT Rodney (Jacko) Jackson has recently come off a two week course at ALTC to up skill his position as the Armourer up in Mildura Depot. Jacko is soon reaching his compulsory retirement next year; he will be sadly missed by his colleagues, well done mate.

SGT Darren Werry over the last year has worked behind the scenes assisting personnel in achieving our Technical

Regulatory Framework accreditation. Darren also attended a seven day accreditation course held by 4 CSSB in Albury in late April to which he received his technical authority to conduct maintenance on the Unit's equipment. Darren also completed his final promotion course for Warrant Officer which was held in October and is now qualified to wear the Artificers badge as a proficient tradesman in the RAEME brotherhood.

In September the RAEME personnel from 4CSSB and 8/7RVR came together for a maintenance weekend at Ballarat Ranger Barracks in which most of the equipment were inspected and repaired for use for Exercise Hari River in October. This was the first time in two years that this was done and hopefully many more to come. Next year we will face some more challenges but with a lot of hard work and resilience we will overcome them. Bye for now.

WO2 David Nelson
TRG WO ADMIN COY

ARTE et MARTE



Technical Regulatory Framework Accreditation Certificate



Live Fire Exercise

14-16 April 2013 - Puckapunyal























EXERCISE HARI RIVER

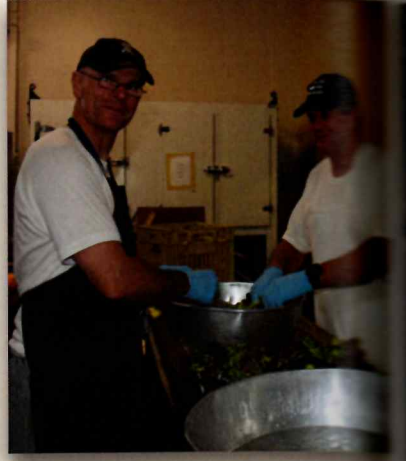
PREPLANNING- WARNAMIBOOL. 25-26 MAY

Type to enter text













EXERCISE: HARI RIVER

PREPLANNING- BALLARAT 14-15 SEPTEMBER







CPL W. Beals Timor Leste Clasp



CPL T. Bubb Australia Service medal





EXERCISE: HARI RIVER

OCTOBER 12-20
2013



DAY 1

Leaving NSL for Area of Operations.





SITREP:
ESTABLISHING THE
BGHQ AND CSS
LOCATIONS, WHILE
COYS ESTABLISH
POSITIONS AND BEGIN
PATROLLING.

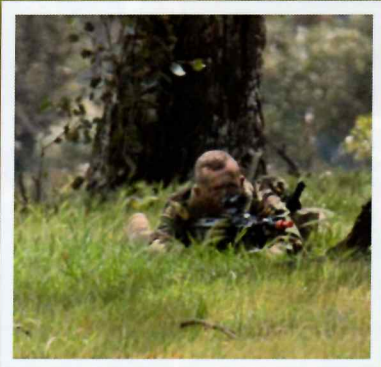


DAY 2

Section Level Patrolling



SITREP:
COLD NIGHT WITH A
LITTLE RAIN.
SECTION LEVEL
PATROLLING BEGINS.

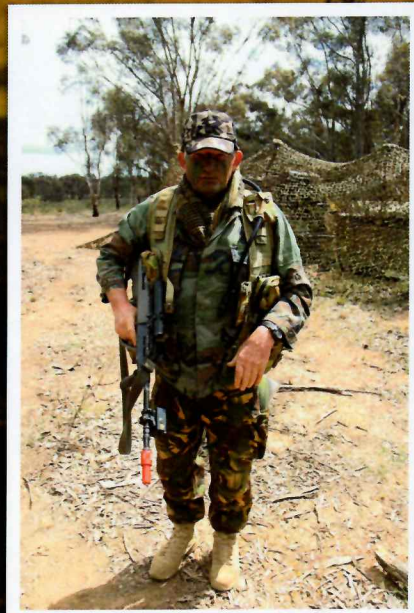
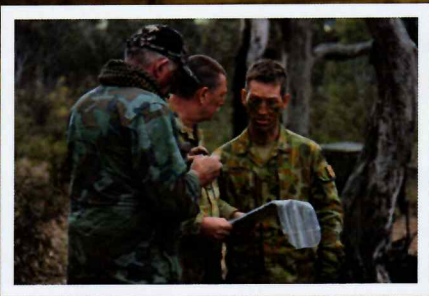
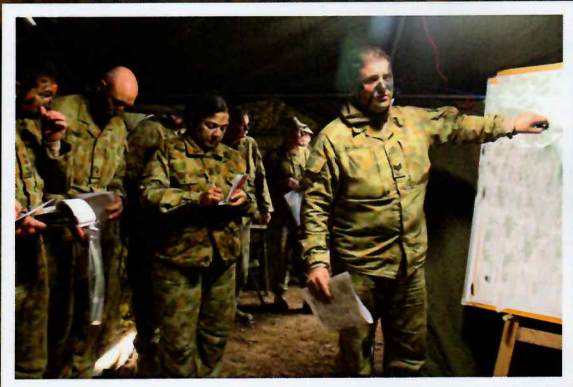




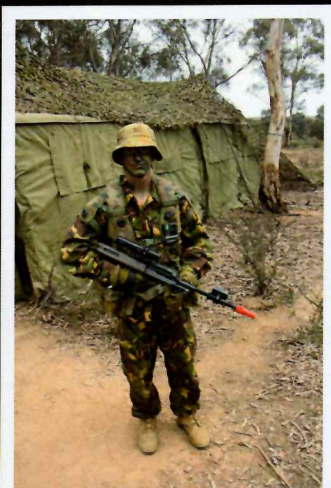
RAP RESPONDING TO LEG INJURY



DAILY OPFOR BRIEF TO CO

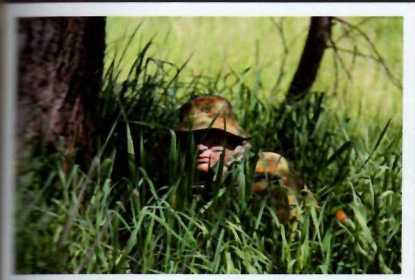


ENEMY PARTY CLOSE AT HAND



DAY 3

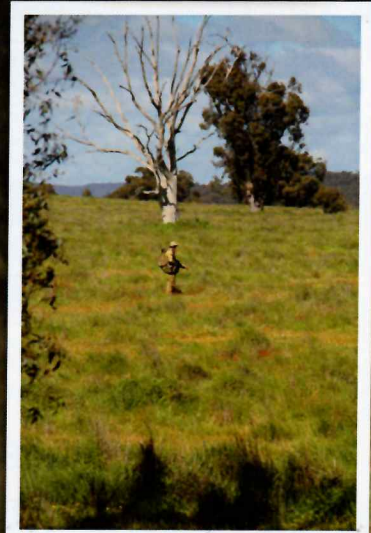
Contact Drills



SITREP:
VERY COLD NIGHT
WITH FOG.
CONTACT DRILLS.

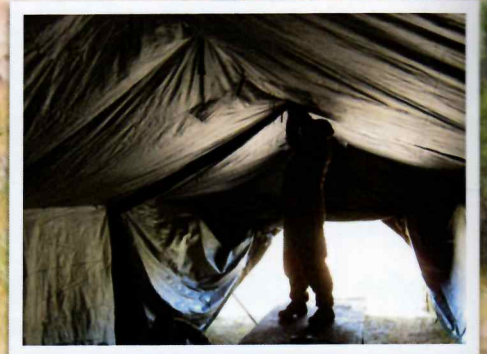


CHURCH PARADE



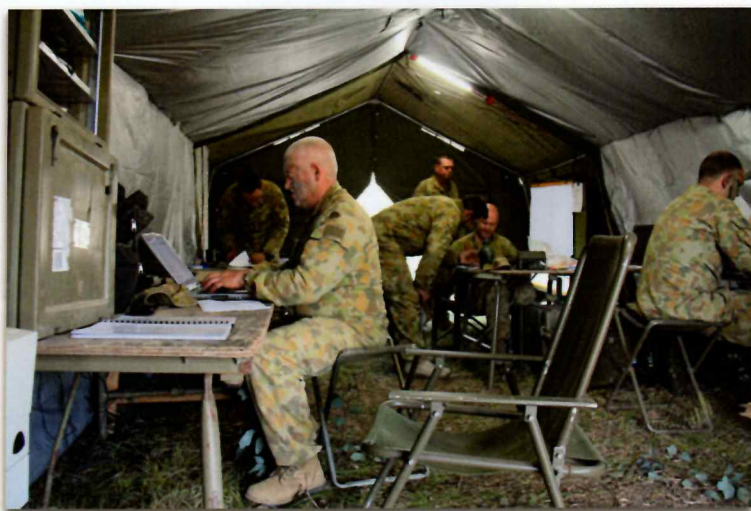
DAY 4

Move to Fogarty's Bridge

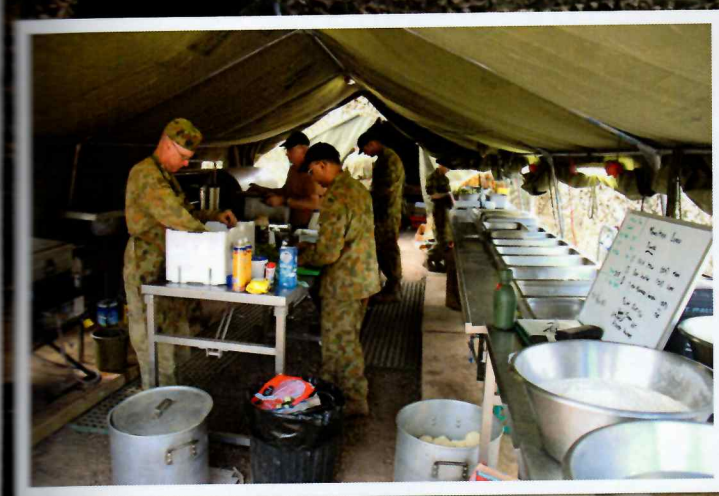


SITREP:
BGHD RELOCATE TO
FOGARTY'S BRIDGE.

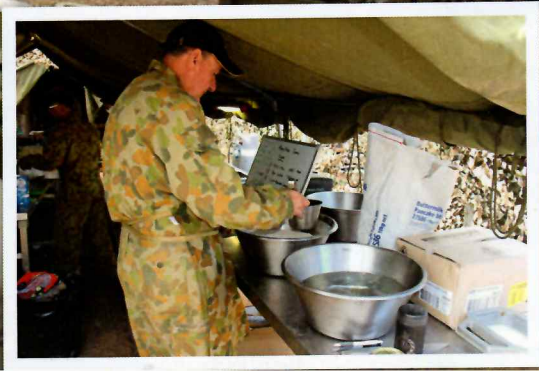




BRIGADE COMD BRIG M. ANNETT AND
RSM WO1 M. JOHNSON PAY A VISIT

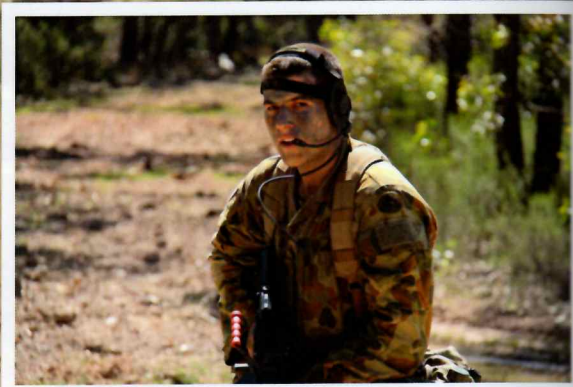


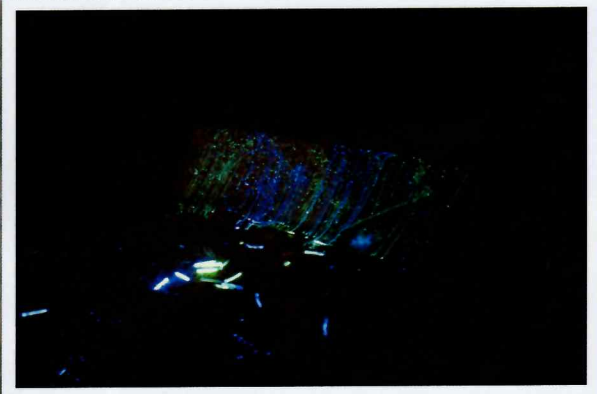
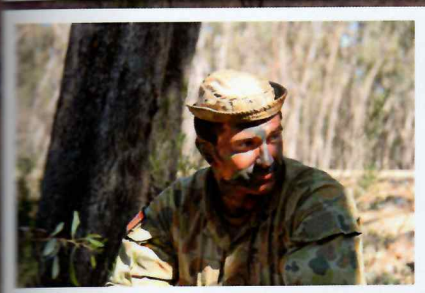
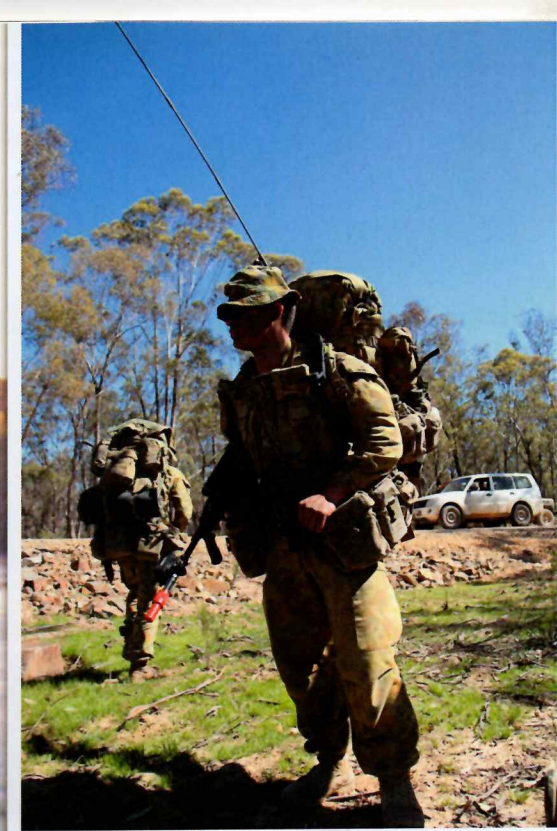
CATERING: THE TEAM THAT FED US



DAY 5

PL level Patrolling





THE CO'S HOOTCHIE WAS THOUGHTFULLY REDECORATED TO MARK HIS LAST NIGHT OUT.



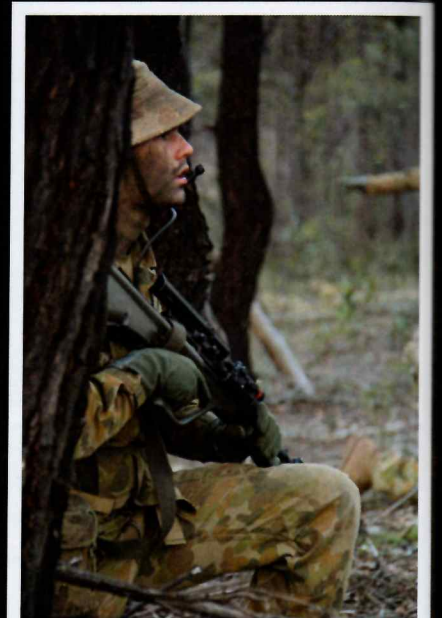
LTCOL DUCKWORTH AND CAPT DALLEY DISCUSS THE WAR... THIS WAS THE LAST NIGHT EITHER WOULD BE OUT FIELD, BECAUSE OF RE-POSTING AND RETIREMENT.



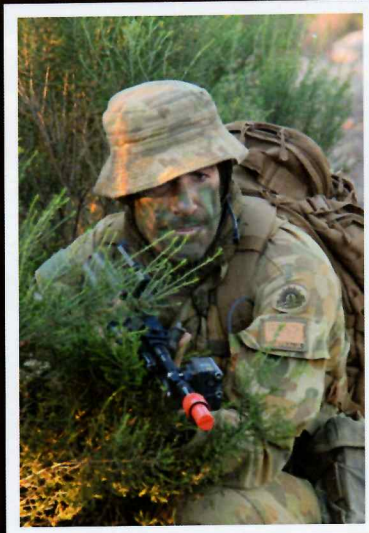
THE SUSPECTS

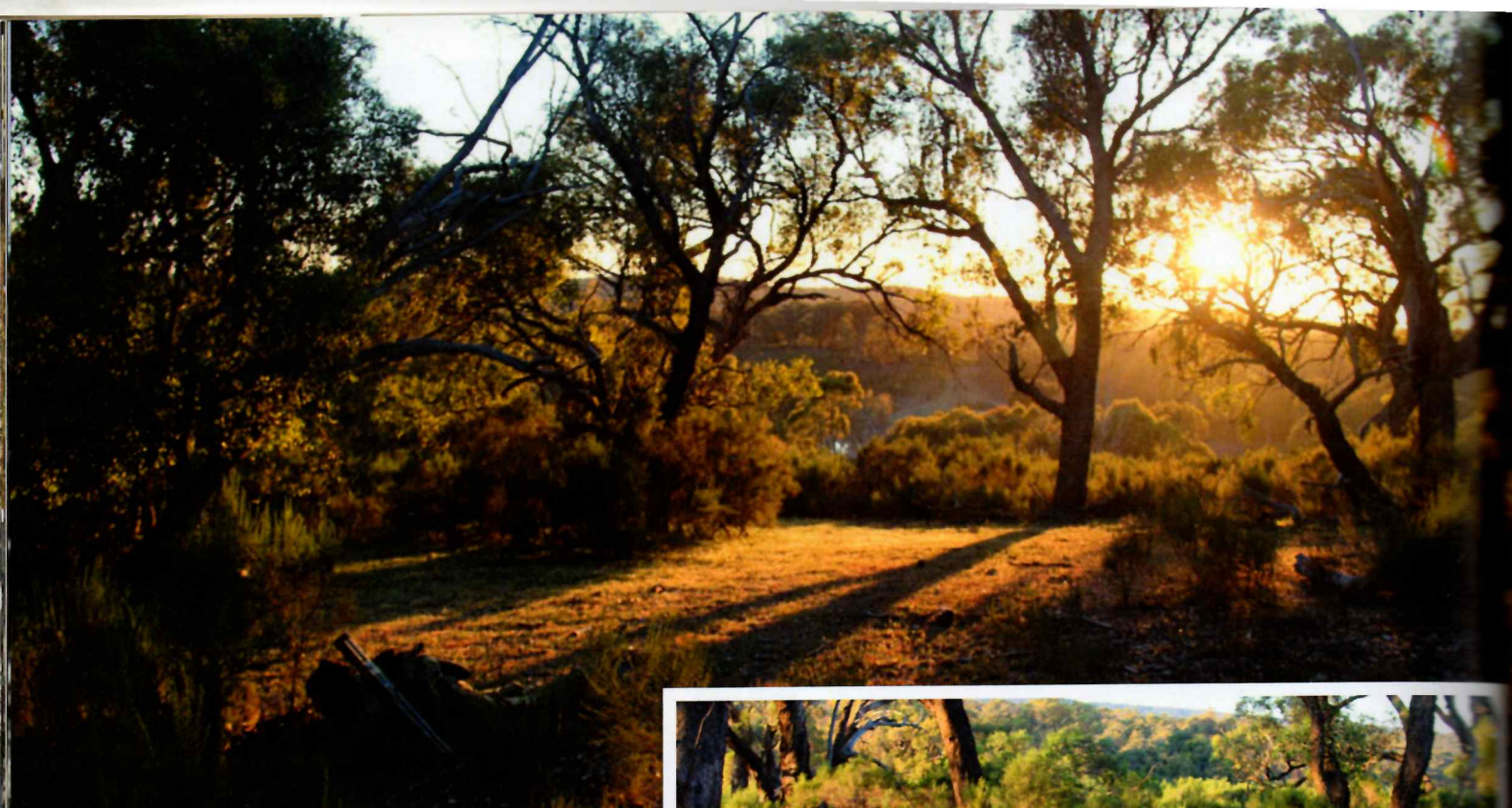
DAY 6

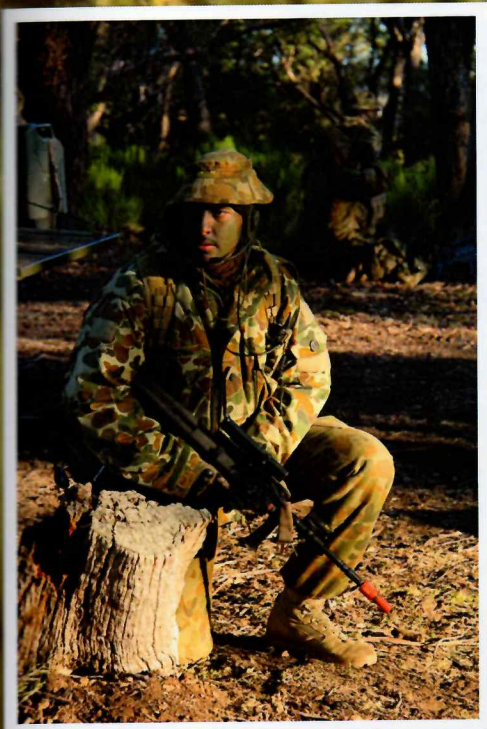
PL level Patrolling



SITREP: DAWN PL ATTACK ON EN FEATURE



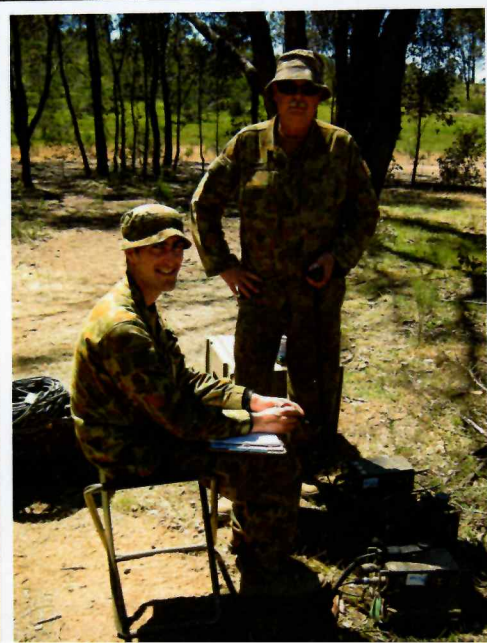




SITREP: CASEVAC EXERCISE



CSS TEAM



BHQ- WHAT'S LEFT OF IT!





DAY 7

Going Home



DEPARTING MEMBERS: CPL BAYLISS, SGT HANNAFORD, SGT TSIRIGOTIS, MAJ MURPHY, CAPT DALLEY AND SGT HERDMAN WITH CO LTCOL DUCKWORTH



PTE T. GOODMAN
COMMENDATION



PROMOTED: LCPL P. MACUMBER, SGT D. AGNEW SGT A. KINCAID 25 YEAR CLASP



WO2 Brad Percy, Trg WO A Coy, receiving his Warrant from COMD 2 DIV MAJGEN S. Smith.



CAPT Jennifer Lee being farewelled from the 8/7 RVR Mess by the CO.



Steve Brookes receiving his CO's commendation from 2 CAV



Around the Depots



ASSAM 2013
 Reserve Infantry Battalion Weapons championship - **FIRST**
 Service Rifle Falling Plate - **FIRST**
 Pistol Teams Championship - **SECOND**
 Team Snap - **SECOND**
 Unit Weapons Championship - **SECOND**
 Service Rifle Teams Championship - **SECOND**

SGT P. Micallef, PTE S. McMillian, PTE A. Cameron, CFN J. Hopfner & PTE R. Geddes

Christmas Breakup- Ballarat



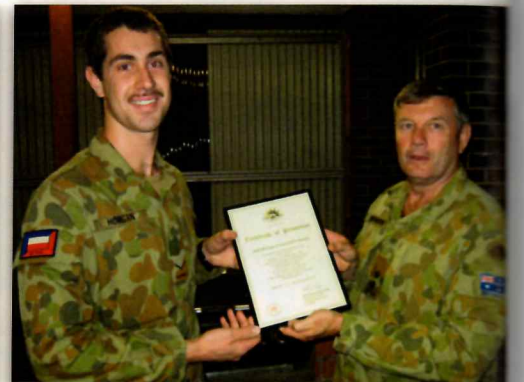
Legacy Representatives thanking 8/7 RVR for their support



Promotions: CPL Ward



LCPL J. Challis



LCPL D. Horgan

8/7 RVR would like to thank the following Ballarat businesses for their generous support for the Christmas Raffle

Toyworld

The body shop

elle beauty therapy

Pre-mix King

Hairhouse

Pumpkin Patch

NEXTRA

Budget store in stock lands

Supercheap Auto

Drummond golf

EB Games

The Lake View Hotel

Target

Collins Books

Regent cinemas

Ballarat indoor go-kart

Clearwater Gallery

Budget Vendor in stock lands

Mars

Gloria Jeans

Skin,Ski+Surf

Ballarat Golf Club

The Pancake Kitchen

Block Buster

Macarther Gallery

AvantiPlus Bikes

Matty Owen (Dons Meats)

Dan Murphys

Good Guys

Big W

BLC

Subway

BCF

RPM



Regimental Dinners

9th November 2013
Combined
8/7 & 5/6 RVR







30th November 2013
Dining Out







Promotions: SGT D. Hannaford



CAPT E. Guinea



Promotions: WO2 K. Tsirigotis



SGT S. Fitton



Promoted/ Farewell: WO2 P. Hardcastle



Farewells: MAJ M. Pawlukowski



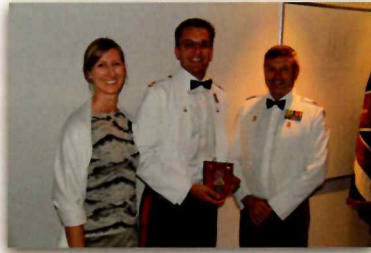
CAPT R. Dalley



Farewell: MAJ D. Murphy



Farewell: LTCOL M. Duckworth



Ranger Museum

VALE: KEVIN DOWER, FORMER CO, 2 RVR

Kevin Dower was born on 7 December 1932 in Ballarat in a good Catholic family of 7



brothers and 3 sisters. He was educated at St Aloysius' Primary School, Sebastopol, and St Patrick's College, Ballarat. Kevin commenced work in the Postmaster-General's Department (PMG) as a Clerk and remained with the PMG until retirement in 1991. His life was structured through his clerical skills and his love of lists. On 4 January 1952, 3/741703 Kevin Dower commenced his National Service in the 15th National Service Battalion, Puckapunyal. On 11 April

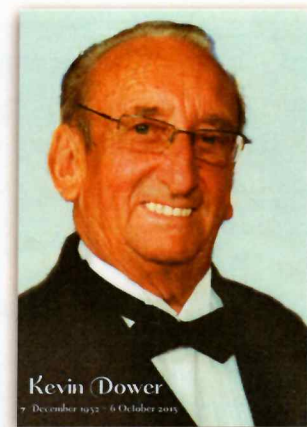
1952 Kevin transferred to the 8th/7th Battalion, The North-Western Victorian Regiment (Ballarat) where on 8 April 1954 he was commissioned as LT. On 10 October 1957 he was made Temporary Captain and then promoted to Captain with the 8/7 Bn on 22 July 1958.

During this era, his good friend and fellow 8/7 Bn officer (later Major) Jim Malone (8/7 Bn, 2 RVR and 22 RVR) and his wife Margaret introduced Kevin to their friend Katherine (known to all as Kit). Kevin and Kit married in 1959 and their marriage would produce 7 daughters.

On 1 July 1960, when the 8/7 Bn became a company of the newly formed 2 RVR, Kevin joined 2 RVR. Kevin was placed on the Southern Command RAInf Unallotted List on 11 April 1962, re-joining 2 RVR on 1 November 1963. He was promoted to Major with 2 RVR on 30 June 1964.

On the retirement of Lt Colonel Brian Colbert due to ill health and having completed his promotion course, Kevin was promoted

Lieutenant Colonel and given command of 2 RVR on 1 July 1970. During his time as CO 2 RVR, as 387630 Kevin went on Temporary Full-time Service from 7 June to 24 June 1971 attached to 4th



Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment in Vietnam from 9 – 23 June 1971. Kevin's term as CO finished on 8 November 1972 and he officially retired from the CMF on 1 January 1973.

During his service Kevin was awarded the Efficiency Decoration, The Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 (with Vietnam Clasp) and the Vietnam Logistic and Support Medal.

Kevin had not been well in recent years and died in Ballarat on 6 October 2013. His funeral at St Columba's

Church in Ballarat on 11 October was well attended by family, friends and the Ex-Service community. Kevin was buried in the Ballarat New Cemetery with Ballarat R&SL Sub-branch President Alex Taskas performing the R&SL Service. A well attended 'Wake' was held at the nearby Midlands Golf Club.

39th Battalion

The 39th Battalion was formed on 21 February 1916 at the Ballarat Showgrounds in Victoria and drew most of its recruits from the state's Western District.

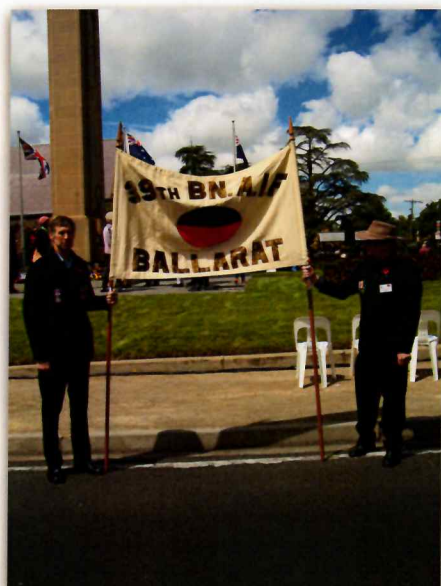
The Commanding Officer was a former Commanding Officer and OC A Company from the 14th Battalion Lieutenant Colonel Robert Rankine (52th Infantry). Major Rankine had been awarded a DSO for Gallantry on the night 26/27th April at Gaba Tepe, Gallipoli.

The 39th battalion became part of the 10th Brigade of the 3rd Division. Sailing from Melbourne on 27 May on H.M.A.T. *Ascanius*, the battalion arrived in Britain on 18 July and commenced four months of training.

It crossed to France in late November and moved into the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 9 December, just in time for the onset of the terrible winter of 1916-17.

A former 38th Battalion officer, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Oswald Henderson (formerly 67th Infantry) took over the battalion on 15th February 1917 when Lieutenant Colonel Rankine was posted to command of Number 1 Command Depot.

The 39th fought in its first major battle at Messines, in Belgium, between 7-9 June 1917. During its march to the start-line for this operation the Battalion suffered heavily



39th BN Association original Banner held by Neil Leckie & Tim Fitzgerald- Remembrance Day Ballarat

from a German gas bombardment and less than a third of the troops earmarked to attack actually did so. The Battalion, however, captured all of its objectives and for his part in this battle Captain Alexander Thomas Paterson (formerly 52th Infantry) from D Company was awarded a Military Cross.

The 39th fought in another two major attacks in this sector — the carefully planned and executed battle of Broodseinde on 4 October, and the disastrous battle of Passchendaele on 12 October. The CO Lieutenant Colonel Henderson was awarded a DSO for his courage and leadership in those two battles.

Belgium remained the focus of the 39th Battalion's activities for the next five months as it was rotated between service in the rear areas and the front line.

Alexander Thomas Paterson was promoted Temporary Lieutenant Colonel on 28 March and took over as Commanding Officer. When the German Army launched its last great offensive in the spring of 1918, the Battalion was rushed south to France and played a role in turning the German drive aimed at the vital railway junction of Amiens.

The Allies launched their own offensive on 8 August 1918, but the 10th Brigade was the 3rd Division's reserve on this day so the 39th did not play an active role. It was involved, however, in an ill-conceived attack that failed to capture the village of Proyart on 10 August.

Not daunted by this experience, the Battalion continued to play an active role throughout August and

early September in the 3rd Division's advance along the Somme Valley.

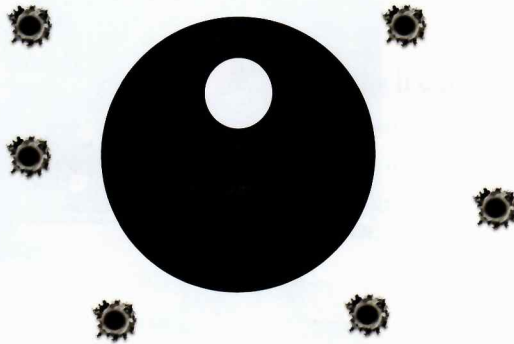
The 39th participated in its last major action of the war between 29 September and 2 October 1918 as part of the Australian-American operation that breached the formidable defences of the Hindenburg Line along the St Quentin Canal. Lieutenant Colonel Henderson was killed on 29th September and Acting Commanding Officer Paterson's rank as Lieutenant Colonel was confirmed on 3th November. Along with much of the AIF, the 39th was resting out of the line when the war ended in November. It was disbanded in March 1919.



MAJ D. Murphy laying wreath on behalf of 8/7 RVR - Remembrance Day Ballarat



Odd shots...



Roman soldiers weren't actually paid in salt, as some suggest. They were obliged to buy their own food, weapons etc. and had the cost of these deducted from their wages in advance.

<http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/worth-ones-salt.html>



I thought you said I couldn't get ebay on DRN !



Hey RSM...

The many moods of Carter...





NO, flap A goes to B...



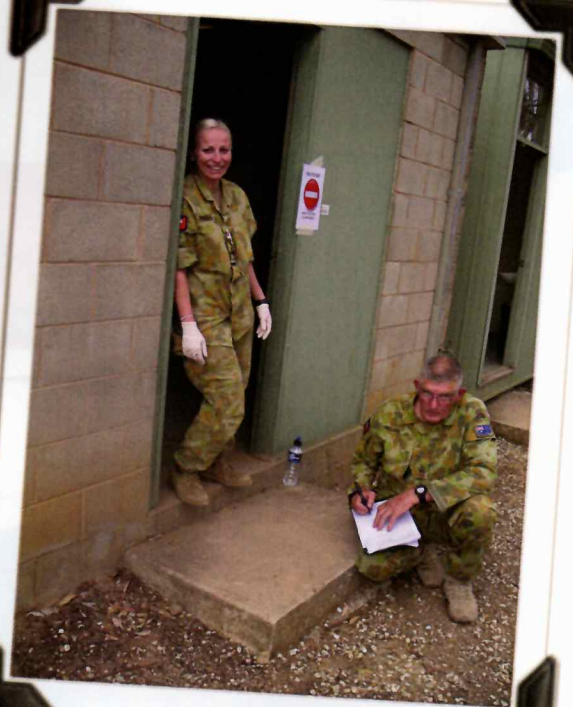
Cardiac in motion !



The lessons paid off...



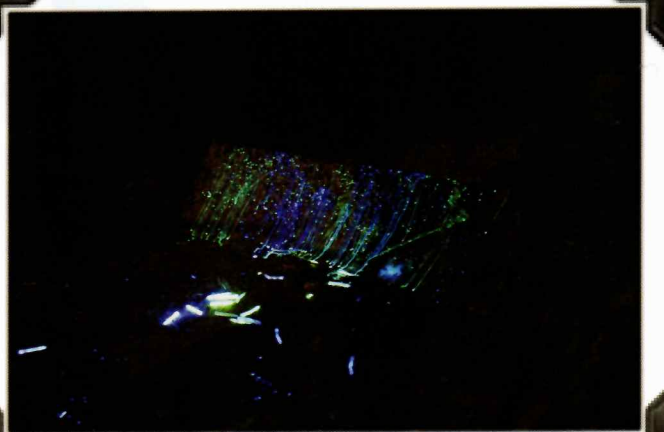
"Keep digging boys, the map says it's buried here..."



"I want your wee..."



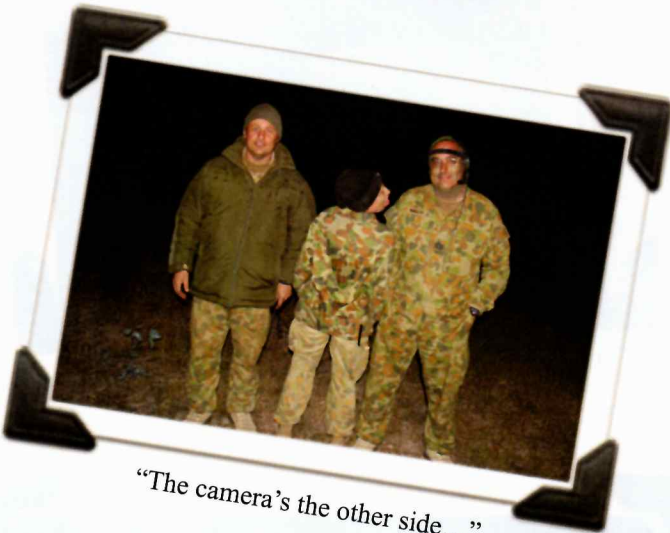
Spongy's attempt at poetry failed to meet expectations...



The trial of the new hootchie may have a tactical disadvantage...



The result of leaving my camera un-guarded. Ed.



"The camera's the other side..."

DUTY OFFR/NCO PIQUET		
NAME	DAY	TIME
XO	18 OCT	1900 - 2100
CAPT DALLEY	18 OCT	2100 - 2300
SSGT SANDMAN	18-19 OCT	2300 - 0100
SGT AGNEW	19 OCT	0100 - 0300
LT DIGNAM	19 OCT	0300 - 0500
SEAGULL	19 OCT	0500 - 0700
DUTY RUNNER	DAY	TIME
CAPT DALLEY	18 OCT	1900 - 2100
CAPT DALLEY	18 OCT	2100 - 2300
CAPT DALLEY	18-19 OCT	2300 - 0100
CAPT DALLEY	19 OCT	0100 - 0300
CAPT DALLEY	19 OCT	0300 - 0500
CAPT DALLEY	19 OCT	0500 - 0700

0900, W.B. 11.4°C ✓



"and this little piggy..."

