

II



2ND BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

MAGAZINE 2013

Second to None





II

REGIMENTAL HIERARCHY

Colonel in Chief

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Commander in Chief

The Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia
Her Excellency, The Honourable
Quentin Bryce, AC, CVO

Colonel Commandant

Major General James Connelly, AO, CSC (Retd)

Regimental Colonel

Brigadier Christopher Field, CSC

Regimental Sergeant Major to the Royal Australian Regiment

Warrant Officer Class One Darren Murch, OAM

Commanding Officer

Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Smith, DSC, CSC

Regimental Sergeant Major

Warrant Officer Class One Brian Buskell, CSM

Regimental Alliances

The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment
The Royal Malay Regiment
The Brigade of Gurkhas
Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

Battalion Alliance

Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards

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From the CO



During 2013, members of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment trained in Malaysia, Singapore, San Diego, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Wales and Canada. Through the many exercises of 2013, soldiers participated in jungle warfare, amphibious raids, airmobile operations, clandestine small boat insertions, evacuated Australian and foreign nationals, defended a working port, infiltrated 20km by night to seize an urban objective, mounted advances in APC supported by tanks and attack helicopters, a battle group live fire breach and attack, defended the Ten Mile Gap and destroyed two thirds of the 2/14 Light Horse Regiment Battle Group, rescued downed pilots, and more.

The Battalion won the Duke of Gloucester Cup for the second year running and achieved the first gold medal in the Cambrian Patrol for the Regiment for the first time in close to three decades. On top of all this, we won the brigade shooting again, and our girls won the Brigade athletics carnival. I am also confident that we will win the Australian Rules Football grand final before the end of the year. There were many more achievements and a greater diversity of activity in 2013 than is expressed in my words, but this brief summary should give you a sense of great pride.

It is easy to get lost in the tensions and frictions of daily soldiering and forget about the important stuff. This journal serves as an opportunity to see how everything came to together. In recounting the stories of 2013 this journal serves to remind us of what a remarkably professional body of soldiers the 2nd Battalion is.

The hallmarks of professionalism are attention to the small things and a strong sense of responsibility. These factors, coupled with a long tradition of letting our actions speak louder than our words, are the hallmarks of the 2nd Battalion. You have, through your actions this year, lived up to the great tradition of soldiering established by your forebears.

We are fortunate to have been so ably supported by our comrades within the 3rd Brigade, other local units and the Townsville community. We are also very fortunate to have been supported so selflessly by our spouses and loved ones. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their patience and tolerance throughout a year of long absences and hard work.

I have had the greatest of all possible fortunes, which was to command this magnificent Battalion for three years. It has been a privilege to serve as your Commanding Officer. Given what is in store for the future, I envy those remaining in the Battalion

Second to None!

C.R. Smith, DSC, CSC
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer ■



RSM's Foreword



2013 has proven to be an emotional but extremely successful year for the 2nd Battalion. You have all brought further credit to the premier Battalion of the Regiment, by carrying out your many and varied tasks in the most professional manner. I take great pride in all of our achievements, too various to mention for the fear of missing some worthy person. But I will take this opportunity though to acknowledge the Duke of Gloucester Cup team and our women's athletics team, well done.

To the Platoon and Section Commanders I thank you for your outstanding efforts. Everybody knows that your task is the hardest. You have direct command of the men and women of the Battalion on a 24 hour basis and you are responsible not only to train your troops, but also to guide, discipline and set the professional standards for them at all times whether on or off duty. Make no mistake your rank and your job is most important and that you are critical to the Battalion's success. History has shown that wars are won and lost at your level.

To the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, I urge you to continue to set and demand the high standards of all those posted to Battalion should aspire to and continue to offer correct and forthright advice in a professional and tactful manner to your commanders.

2013 has been a very demanding year for the Battalion, one of the busiest in my 25 years service in the Regiment, but that said it has been one of the most gratifying years of my service life. To be appointed as the RSM of a Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment is the culminating point of an infantry soldier's career, but to have the opportunity to serve as your RSM in the Battalion were I learnt my trade has been far more rewarding that I could have imagined.

I can confidently say the Battalion is at the highest level of collective capability of any of the Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment. There is no Battalion more combat ready or capable than this Battalion. That's due to the dedication, professionalism and competence of the men and women of the Battalion.

Enjoy your leave, return safely and good to go for 2014.

"Second to None"

Warrant Officer Class 1
B.J. Buskell, CSM ■



A word from the Padre



2ND BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT HONOUR ROLL

KOREA

SGT K.H. Ewald
PTE D.W. Neal
CPL J.B. Ashe (MIA)
PTE G.C. Fritz
PTE D.E. Nelson
PTE E.G. Bourke (MIA)
PTE T.B. Hallard
PTE G.L. Norle
CPL K.J. Cooper
PTE C.C. Ingra
PTE N.C. Pettitt
PTE L.J. Dawes
PTE C.A. Jay
PTE S.E. Radomi
SGT K. Foran
PTE H.M. Jephson
PTE J.C. Rivett
PTE P. Green
PTE A.M. Keen
PTE J. Rogers
CPL G.J. Hanley
PTE D. MacVicar
WO2 R.S. Smith
PTE B.F. Haworth
PTE J.N. Metcalf
PTE D. L. Thompson
PTE T.G. Howarth
PTE J. F. Potts
PTE D. J. Tully
PTE J.R. Jamieson
PTE J. Wilson
SGT J.W. Twoomey
LCPL H.G. Morgan

MALAYA

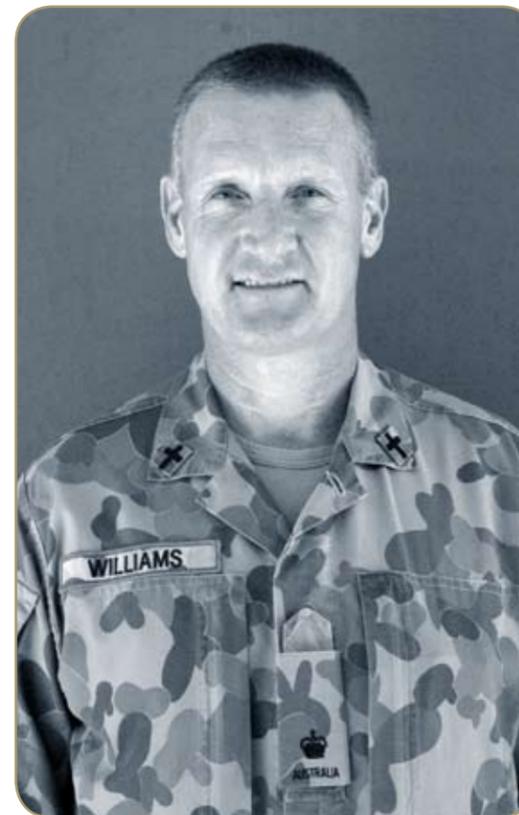
PTE P.J. Lyons
CPL J.N. Allan
LCPL P.E. McDuff
SGT C.C. Anderson
PTE P.S. McGarry
PTE J.I. Decent
PTE D.W. Morrison

VIETNAM

PTE L.J. Weston
PTE R.J. McCoy
PTE L.W.H. Adams
PTE G.I. Willoughby
PTE F.C. McDonnell
PTE R.J. Bell
LCPL K.R. Wilson
PTE J.W. Russell
PTE R.P. Binning
LCPL R.J. Woolford
PTE R.C. Rackley
SGT T. Birnie
PTE D. Samson
PTE W.J. Brett
PTE A.H. Shaw
PTE R.S. Chapman
PTE C.B. Sheah
PTE T.J. Cutcliffe
CPL A.G. Smith
PTE F.J. Fewquandie
CPL A.J. Wells
CPL T.J. Grose
PTE B.J. Welsh
PTE N.S. Harold
PTE G.W. York
PTE F.A. Hyland
CPL P. Leddin
PTE P.F. Kowalski

AFGHANISTAN

LCPL L.N. Gavin
PTE M.C. Lambert



2RAR – Second to None.... but those we serve beside.

The Army can sometimes seem a little disorganised... my posting for 2013 was to 3CSSB after leaving a very entertaining three year stint with 3RAR. After four weeks I was re-posted under the direction of Commander 3 Brigade to fill the agreed vacancy here at 2RAR. My first task was to officiate at LCPL Daniel Halpin's memorial service on the 25th February, at Admin Coy Parade ground; it was a 'dark' introduction to the Unit. However I can honestly say the darkness has subsequently lifted.

It was difficult to resist making comparisons between "second to none" and "old faithful". However it was infantry – and I appreciate and enjoy the culture of light infantry. It has a deeply ingrained persona; seasoned, decisive, enduring, all very simple and uncomplicated. All that said I believe I have the best job in the Army, as a chaplain. I don't endure piquet or the responsibilities of a weapon in the field. Some say we have a gold card, "access all areas". Which is true, we chaplains do enjoy a great freedom of movement.

On the flip side we do have the many and varied experiences of a soldier's ingenuity out of hours. The issues that walk in my door or come over the phone are bewildering, and that is just from the Unit; when I 'enjoy' the on-call duty phone for the Brigade every few weeks and get that 0200hrs call Saturday evening – that can prove massively 'entertaining'.

Ironically 'Padre' is Latin for father, and sometimes it feels like parenting. As a Father of three, I quickly discovered it is not a popularity contest. Your kids think you're great if they get what they want when they want it... but you're the world's worse if as Mick Molloy coins it you give some 'tough love'. Trying to be popular does no-one any favours - approachable is not the same as being popular. It is difficult to speak honestly to a soldier who wants to stay home and not go bush because of personal issues. Certainly the Unit can support the member to a point, but we have to remember the Unit exists to do a job for the Australian Government.

Unit 'support', like parenting, cannot be understood as allowing the member to get what they want when they want it. There is always tension for those in command, be it a corporal or the Commanding Officer. The tension between supporting the member and achieving what we are all being paid to be and do. 'Support' does not mean the Unit is responsible for resolving the individual's personal problems. Time and space may be offered, but even this cannot be assumed to be automatically granted. Many personal issues have history well before the Unit gets involved. If issues are addressed early, a great deal of angst could be prevented. The Commanding Officer has made an insightful observation; the word responsibility – means the 'ability' to 'respond'. Each of us has the ability to respond to any given circumstance.

I can only invite all of us to engage personal issues early. Take responsibility for our personal lives, in doing so much of the tension with service life can be tempered. I am not naïve to suggest that Army does not plan poorly or make unreasonable demands, and as soldiers it is our families who pay a price. That is when it becomes my task to advocate on behalf a member to the chain of command to alleviate work pressure.

This year has been a good one, busy certainly, intriguing with the new amphibious role, frustrating absolutely, maddening of course. Will this change, I doubt it; which means we must value our families when we are with them, this helps reduce tension. Respond early to personal issues, struth call a chaplain. I would rather be involved early than when your partner is walking out the door.

All said and done, I would like to thank the Battalion for my time, as short as it will be – I return to 3CSSB in 2014.

Chaplain Kent Williams ■



Battalion Headquarters

INTELLIGENCE CELL

It has been a busy year for Bn and so it has been for 2 RAR Intelligence Cell. New Intelligence Officer (IO) marched into the cell in Feb which marked the beginning of cell restructure. In addition to a traditional S2 shop structure, 2 RAR multi-media cell was created to provide photography and web design support to the unit. As the Battalion was tasked with developing new Army and ADF concepts, namely the Multi-role Combat Brigade and the Amphibious Ready Element, the S2 shop had learn how to provide intelligence support to such constructs. This required hard work by all members of the cell with everyone in it embarking on very steep learning curve.



Although the majority of the hard work occurred behind the scenes, Battalion members will remember the epic mud models both on land and on ship. Work on those mud models was the result of some very talented JNCOs. Of note were efforts by CPL Hook who brought an artistic touch to this venture. His love of working with soaked tarps and big blocks of hard-wood earned him a special place in hearts of all those involved in loading OA's vehicles. CPL Yeoman contributed to the amphib mud-model by designing a 1:1 ratio LCM8 landing craft out of plywood and milk cartons firmly glued together with job satisfaction. This able team of JNCOs was joined by PTE Northam after CATA. PTE Northam's fresh approach reminded everyone of the aesthetic value of square-gating and his insightful interpretation of wearing military equipment impressed those of us constrained by old ways.

Always at the right place, the unit multi-media cell was taking photos and developing articles for the Battalion web-site throughout this period. The team, led by LCPL Spencer designed and maintained the best looking Army unit web-site. PTE Rigoli, who is a qualified mechanic, took up a camera instead of a wrench (and treated it as such by the way). Their adventurous spirit resulted in a Go-Pro camera being attached to the front of an Abrams MBT during CATA. Coincidentally, same MBT crashed into a ditch with a Go-Pro firmly attached to it. Although no direct blame was put onto 2 RAR multi-media cell, LCPL Spencer disappeared from Townsville Field Training Area like a ninja on a dark night.



Throughout the year, the cell eventually grew to six people. Noting that in February the cell only had two personnel; the IO was accused of creating an empire. This tension was further complicated by the OPSO being threatened by IOs fitness standard. The issue finally come to a head during BDE X-country where IO left OPSO in the dust trail. The exchange that occurred after IOs glorious win had to be redacted due to OPSO's overly emotional language.

Above all, the Int cell brought a little bit of sunshine to 2 RAR BHQ. The personality vacuum left by OPS, LOG and SIG CAPTs was filled by a socially apt IO. Int cell PTEs and JNCOs did their best to improve SNCO outlook. The RSM recognised this effort by the Int cell and remarked that his best memories were indeed those spent as a Battle Group Intelligence Cell CPL. Improved performance of BHQ was recognised by the CO who informally approved the growth of the cell. He stated that in the age of asymmetric dismounts we definitely need

more people to think about the problem than to act against the problem.

CAPT D. Mujkanovic
Intelligence Officer ■

OPERATIONS CELL

Like the rest of the Battalion, the 2RAR Operation Cell's 2013 tempo was frenetic. The Cell was required to plan for two major trials that will shape the direction of the Army into the Future – the Mechanised Combat Brigade and Amphibious Ready Element. Parallel to these major trials, was the raising of the alternate headquarters, maintenance of day to day Battalion Operations, coordination of a significant external support bill, all whilst conforming to Bravo Company's own unique battle rhythm.

With all the predictability of a fly that exposes itself only after the bedroom lights have been switched off, the cell was constantly switching between foundation war fighting, amphibious operations and routine staff work. Planning for Amphibious Blocks was conducted at High Range and planning for CATA and Talisman Sabre occurred on HMAS Choules. To ensure that the Commanding Officer was aware of how much work there was to be done; one anonymous Major within the cell was notorious for using the delay send function to purportedly send email correspondence at 0200h on a Sunday night.

Maintaining the tempo required this year would have been impossible without substance abuse. Caffeine was the drug of choice and regardless of what ever the main effort at the time happened to be or the geographic location we found ourselves, the log team were always quick to identify who the purveyor of the best coffee was. It is with a keen sense of anticipation that the Operation Sergeants look forward to the opening of the new drive through coffee shop so that they can continue to conduct their daily 'coffee runs' which are actually a thinly veiled man date on work time.

The major highlight of the year was not the hugely successful defence of the Ten Mile Gap on Talisman Sabre, nor was it the battle group attack on CATA that supported the first ARH live fire (after only 10 years! Now only if ARH could fly at night... or over water...), the highlight was not even the finalisation of the Amphibious Ready Element equipment schedule, the highlight was the design,

development and deployment of the new OA Command Post tent. This 14x14 tent which was modified to join three command variant protected mobility vehicles together is now the envy of the Brigade, and demonstrated that the initiative, ingenuity and man from the land rugged good looks of the ANZAC digger is still alive and well in 2RAR.



As 2013 draws to a close the members of the Operations Cell look to the future...

- The OPSO is looking forward to attending Staff College. After graduating he will finally be able to understand a Bde Task Order.
- CAPT Grogan has plans to open an adult themed outdoor recreation park where for only a jerry of diesel a man can shoot a panther, club a baby seal or wrestle an albino tiger.
- CAPT Huggins is hopeful that his wife is promoted, so he can be the good CAPT Huggins again.
- The S4 dreams that the Defence contract with Microsoft collapses and Excel is deleted from the Defence Restricted Network.
- The OPSWO will continue to push his agenda for 450cc motocross bikes to be included in the ARE's equipment holdings.
- WO2 Bowen is keenly anticipating a long period away from the Army, oh, and the wonderful addition to her family that makes that leave possible.
- WO2 Lynn will train, he will train the trainer, he will resource the training, he will be assessing the training, he will fix the training. Then he will have a smoke.
- We are not to sure what SGT Watkins will be up to, but he seems to have quietly amassed a substantial nest egg. One source indicates he apparently has plans to move to a tax free atoll far, far away from the Australian Tax Office and for some reason the Brigade resource officer?
- Whilst waiting for Shredders next diabolical plan to destroy the Ninja Turtles, Rocksteady (SGT Marks) and Bebop (SGT Cause) will be buying more new toys. If it's bad for the environment, has wheels, burns fuel, or makes noise, it will make its way onto their wish list.



- CPL Hartley is leaving 2RAR on posting and moving onto bigger things. CPL Hartley will miss the Espresso Delight coffee machine, but not the incompetent men around her that can not make it work.
- CPL Powell is rumoured to be paving a new career in boat sales. If these rumours prove to be true, we can not think of anyone more knowledgeable in boats than CPL Powell. ■

BATTALLION ORDERLY ROOM 'The Administrative Hub'

Looking back over the year, I involuntarily let out a sigh of relief that the year is coming to an end, but am to easily reminded that yes the admin train slows down from time to time but it does not stop (it never stops).

Starting the year off with a new Adjutant, Ack Adjutant, Chief Clerk, Orderly Room Sergeant, Movement Clerk and three new Company Clerks, it was evident that there was going to be some late nights ahead.

We rolled through the march in process and induction phase of the year and before you knew it companies and soldiers were strewn around the countryside. As soon as we had welcomed home LCPL Ham and PTE Manson from Rifle Company Butterworth, PTE Manson received her posting order for her Corps transfer and she was off to the School of Military Engineering. PTE Haughton spent time on his backside only it wasn't behind his desk; it was behind the wheel of a mog and 6 x 6. Charlie Coy went field to Tully taking along with them their clerk CPL Stannard, who after I said to her "Enjoy Tully" says to me "Chief, what do I do?, I've never been field before".

Then the ARE was born and the first training requirement was Silicon Brolga and to this day even the thought of Silicon Brolga gives me a headache. The ARE SOP's were created, war gamed and adjusted, however the big test would be ARE Block two.

Life aboard the HMAS Choules was a challenge to get used to, accounting for soldiers leaving and boarding the ship. PTE Haughton soon became as nimble as a rat up a drain pipe, running from one end of the ship to the tother to account for every movement. The most common comment onboard the ship during block two was "I'm over these *\$&%^\$ stairs"

Block two lead into CATA and that was soon followed by Block three, back on HMAS Choules and more *\$&%^\$ stairs. With our processes tested and refined during Block two, Block three was smooth sailing, with the exception of CPL Stannard who had taken over from PTE Haughton and was getting her port side and starboard side mixed up.

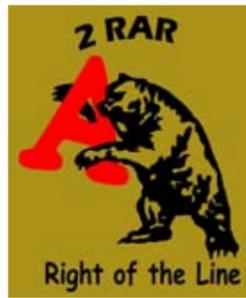
During the busy year the youngest member of the team PTE Smith was beating up fellow female soldiers, sailors and air women on the rugby sporting field. So desperate to escape the admin train PTE Smith trained hard for a position in the 3rd Brigade, The Army and the Tri Service female rugby teams.

The courses period was a time of reconciliation and a time to prepare for the march out season. Then the ARE OMD was released and with only a short time frame for it to be populated and DP1 folders to be raised the admin train is picking up speed as it rolls forward to the end of the year.

I congratulate you all on your effort during an extremely busy year and with the ARE here to stay I envisage that the tempo from this year will become the status quo. Enjoy the Christmas stand down period, you have earned the break.

'Sua Tela Tonanti'

WO2 M. Orr
Chief Clerk ■



A Company

ALPHA COMPANY – Right of the Line

Twenty thirteen has been a busy but interesting and beneficial for A Company. The year began with the Company reaching the end of the Rifle Company Butterworth 100 rotation which commenced in October 2012 and saw A Company refine their skills in the jungles of Malaysia and Urban Training Facility of Singapore. Upon returning to 2 RAR in February A Company conducted a marksmanship and combat shooting package and the Section Competition before heading out on the three big exercises of the year, CATA, Dev Block 2 and Talisman Sabre.

The highlights for A Company from these exercises were: the 20km night patrol to the MOUT village, surprising the enemy and thereby achieving a relatively unopposed break in; the simultaneous sea, air and land seizure of Mourilyan Harbour; and leading the Battle Group mechanized assault, resulting in the destruction of the enemy gun line, and identification and attrition of the counter attack force. Overall A Company has performed extremely well during three diverse and challenging exercises.

The final exercise for the year saw A Company deploy to Wewak, Papua New Guinea, for Wantok Warrior 13. This saw integrated training with the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Pacific Islands Regiment in marksmanship, combat shooting, tactics and jungle operations. This exercise was of great benefit to the soldiers of both countries and enhanced the capabilities of PNG as our partner in regional security.

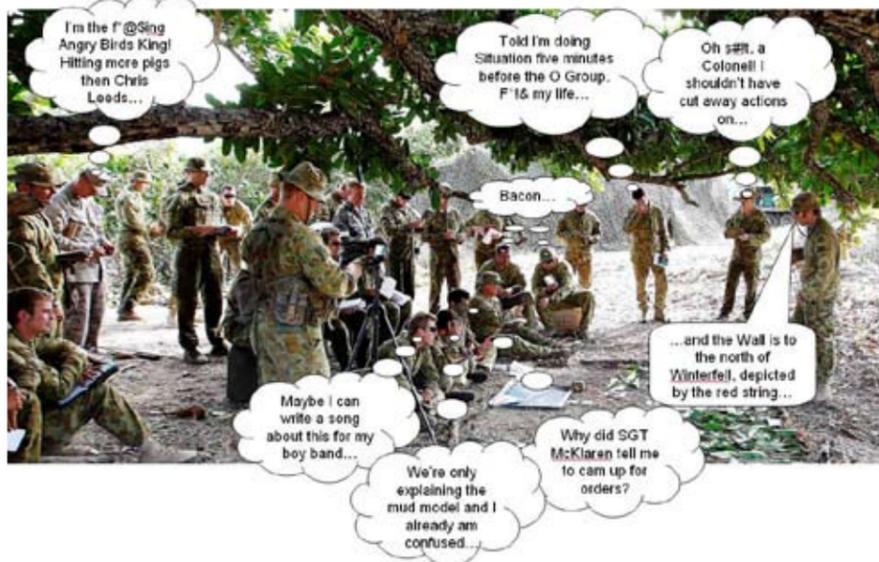
A Company has developed strong skill sets in conventional and security operations in various challenging environments. The Company has also shown a high level

of proficiency in performing amphibious, airmobile and mechanized operations. The outstanding performance by the soldiers and officers has seen A Company secure in its position right of the line.

CAPT A. Titcume

1 PLATOON

Often referred to the work horse of A Company, 1 PI has prided itself through out the year in having the strongest and hardest working soldiers within the Company and it is whispered amongst some circles that they may have some of the highest performing men of the Battalion.



1 PI's men believe that good hard realistic training is the only way forward. You will often find many of the PI's members participating in concurrent training, PTE Bhagat went as far as to read whilst on piquet in order improve his vocabulary whilst looking out. But having the best drilled PI is not all that 1 PI focuses on, we also believe that it is important to conduct community engagement in order to better develop the relationship that the Battalion and the civilian population of Townsville coexist in. Some members of the PI have been put through vigorous screening for both appearance and likability, codenamed OP SHOWPONY. Graduating at the top of his class with exceptional hair and childish schoolboy looks was PTE Carlton

he later appeared on local television and participated in media interviews with great success.

Due to 1 PL's ability to operate independent of A Company it has been detached from the Battalion multiple times during exercises through out the year. During one of these times away from the Battalion the PL was involved in the attack of hill 111, it was here that the undermanned PI absent its armoured support stumbled upon the enemy regimental headquarters. Backing itself against the sluggish and somewhat undisciplined enemy defence 1 PL proceeded to push forward and quickly consumed the enemy's position

before claiming the head of their commander and thus ending EX TALASMAN SABRE. It was here that members of the PI showed their metal; of note was PTE Altman who assaulted an enemy BMP with nothing but his F88 and a grenade in order to prevent further suppression of his comrades. A grand victory for the PI and in turn the Battalion.

2 PLATOON

In true 'Vacation Platoon' style 2 Platoon commenced 2013 with post-deployment leave following RCB 100. The new working year kicked-in in March and quickly shaped up to be busy and challenging.

In the two months prior to field, 2 Platoon spent many days at the 25 metre range honing their combat shooting skills. This put the platoon and company in good stead for the battalion's Military Skills Competition which was preceded by the Infantry Physical Employment Standards Assessment. 2 Platoon fielded one section to a comfortable finish and the PHQ team placed first out of all rifle platoons in the battalion (even with the platoon sergeant's attempt to sabotage their results in the 3.2km run).

Ex CATA provided a good opportunity for the newer members of the platoon to work with armoured vehicles and air assets. 2 Platoon, being the most reliable and experienced platoon, led A Company during a 20km advance, at night, through arduous terrain in which many members of the company found themselves suddenly at the bottom of a crevasse or ditch. A textbook urban assault followed, with 2 Platoon being re-tasked to achieve the break-in, covering for 'Intel Platoon' as they decided to go walkabout.

ARE Development Block 2 saw the platoon conducting non-combatant evacuation operations staged off the 'land ship' (literally) as Bravo Company spent two weeks getting sea-sick. This exercise culminated with the reliable 2 Platoon inserting via Zodiac by night and seizing the SPOD (supported by 1 and 3 Platoons).

Ex Talisman Sabre again saw 2 Platoon working with armoured vehicles and air assets. Of note, during the final mission PTE Field was able to spot an enemy T80U during the advance from a considerable distance, setting the conditions for its destruction by friendly armour.

The platoon starburst for six weeks as members completed Support Company courses including Basic Mortars, Recon, Pioneers and DFSW. At the time of writing, 2 Platoon is about to board a plane to PNG for Ex Wantok Warrior 13. Commencing again with a few weeks leave, 2 Platoon will see out the year conducting an individual 100km navigation exercise and the remainder nursing sore feet.

3 PLATOON

With A Coy being passed over for the role of the Amphibious Ready Element for 2013 the Company has had to look for more interesting ways to distinguish itself in the Battalion. For the Platoons it has meant proving the point that you don't have to physically be on a boat to get the most out of amphibious training.

3 Platoon took this line very seriously. When the Platoon heard that for ARE Dev 2 we would be operating from HMAS Landship we knew we would have an important role to play in the upcoming exercise. The platoon was entrusted with securing the sea landing point for the first three days; whilst 1 and 2 PI stayed in the sheltered townships surrounding Cowley Beach, 3 PI did it rough protecting the beaches. 3 PI would again see its skills required to deal while protecting Mourilyan Harbour when we relieved 1 PI, who were unable to keep the peace with the local population; a position which they held for 18 hours, 3 PI held for a further three days without incident.

Another moment of pride for 3 PI came during Ex TALISMAN SABRE, where 3 PI's sections found their own niche roles. CPL Anderson's section became the AARMD operators, effectively engaging and destroying numerous BMPs. CPL Galonski's section defined themselves as the sharp eyes of the platoon, able to spot any enemy position well before we were in danger. Finally CPL Robinson's section was so adept at reconnaissance that they managed to capture an enemy as he unknowingly approached what he thought was an unoccupied and peaceful place to go to the toilet.

While 1 PI is known as the 'Unwanted Platoon', due to their knack for being detached from the Coy at every given opportunity, and 2 PI as the 'Vacation Platoon' since they prefer to sit inside their vehicles or at the back and let the other platoons do the fighting, 3 PI has opted away from nicknames, preferring to focus more on skills than names.

LT Swanson





B Company

BRAVO COMPANY

To the soldiers and commanders of B Coy.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your efforts over the two and a half years I have commanded B Coy. The Coy has seen considerable change over that period and no more than in 2013 where the Coy undertook the Amphibious Ready Element (ARE).

To prepare for the ARE role, an intensive training program was developed to build the Coy into an organisation that could go anywhere, anytime and achieve the mission. This meant we needed adaptable soldiers and organisations who could learn and learn rapidly. The training program focussed on two key areas: our individual and collective skills and the culture/character of our organisation. The following were the key Exercises the Coy completed prior to Bn/Bde level Exercises:

EX MAKO – Ranges (small arms)

EX BULL SHARK – basic soldier skills

EX BLUE DRAGON – Coy close country skills

CT SIMEX – Coy airmobile simulation

EX BARRACUDA – Coy close country skills

EX MAKO 2 – Ranges (small arms)

EX NORTH SHARK 1 – (section attack, section ambush, section defence range)

PPC (Population Protection Control)

Each of the exercises involved aspects to challenge the character of individuals and our organisations. This was achieved through the conduct of arduous culminating activities. Many of the soldiers who participated will remember their respective PI culminating activities in CBTA early in the year. All three PIs executed physically and mentally demanding culminating activities that saw soldiers and commanders alike pushed to the edge. These training activities set the standard and ensured the character of B Coy in the upcoming Bn/Bde Exercises.

CATA, ARE BLOCK 2, ARE BLOCK 3 + Talisman Sabre were a series of Bn and Bde exercises where the Coy participated in Coy Airmobiles, Breaching (deliberate and in-stride), Mech assaults, an urban assault, raids (Browns Beach and Tully), Non-combatant Evacuation Operation, a Joint Forcible Entry Operation to secure Sabina Point, the block of the '10 Mile Gap' and as part of a Bn advance to contact, just to name a few key activities. All of these activities were executed in good order. The success of the Coy on these activities did not rely on an individual but rather the collective discipline and standard of our Bricks, Sections and Platoons.

The standard you demonstrated during the conduct of the Amphibious BLOCK training periods was noted by key personal of HMAS CHOULES and international observers from the USMC. All of which made positive comments about the ethos and character of the soldiers and commanders of B Coy. Again, this should be credited to the hard training conducted earlier in the year.

It should also be noted that at the time of writing the Coy had won the Bn Shooting Comp, Bn Obs course competition, the PI Competition and achieved outstanding results across the Section and Soldier Competitions.

To finish, I am extremely proud of you all and appreciate your effort during 2013.

Good soldiering.

HOOK IN

MAJ John Eccleston

Officer Commanding Bravo Company

2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

4 PLATOON

4 Platoon returned to 2 RAR to start work in early January. Being the middle of the wet season the weather reflected the attitude of most of the platoon "wet and unpredictable". It was also the start of the ARE development, not just for the platoon but for the company. This new role would see us away for the greater part of the year, much of that time being spent aboard HMAS Choules. The early part of the year was spent in Cowley Beach practicing, refining and getting the newer members of the platoon up to speed on the lessons learned the previous year in training areas such as Bluewater and JTW Tully. CBTA also became the site of the infamous 24 hour culminating event which saw members participate in a 7 kilometre stretcher carry along the beach, pack marching through thick jungle, and a 9

kilometre fighting withdrawal while persevering through chronic chafe and severe prickly heat.

The following training evolution involved the platoon being introduced to its new specialist role involving insertion by zodiacs. During a two day familiarisation course on the units zodiacs with Assault Pioneers at Ross Island, we quickly became aware of how 'interesting' our new role could be. This would become apparent in future exercises specifically Talisman Sabre. The platoon also attended a Personnel Protection Course (PPC) run by the company for a week and was tested through scenario based training. CATA saw the platoon deployed for 2 weeks, training alongside armoured vehicles such as APC's and MBT's as well as airframes such as Tigers, CH47's and S70's. We took part in the battalion's assault on the urban facility and the Main Defensive position on the final day of the exercise.

ARE Block 2 took place mainly on the HMAS Choules with the first exercise (Sea Lion) being based around an Australian NEO from a foreign country in turmoil. It was the platoon's first opportunity to experience living aboard and operationally training from a ship. The three weeks saw 4 Platoon on and off choppers, in and out of LCM 8's and zodiacs, and up and down every stair case on the ship. Although the exercise was rather large and much was learnt from the time we spent on the HMAS Choules, 4 platoon had only a few small tasks assigned to them with 21A being the only call sign in the platoon to be given a mission profile. This however changed at the end of the exercise when the company was tasked to perform a dawn assault on suspected enemy jungle camps in the Tully training area. During this assault our platoon supported by larger members from Mortars suffered more than 50% casualties against an established 20 man enemy camp. One elite member (PTE Gaillard) showed his dedication to duty by crawling through human faeces during the fight through only to be subsequently killed. On CASEVAC to HMAS Choules the navy medics cut off and burnt his DPCU's because the extreme smell. The member was placed in a sperm suit for decontamination purposes prior to having his dignity returned and allowed a shower. Mission success achieved noting that SEAL Team 6 (C/S 23) saw and destroyed nil enemy.

Talisman Sabre 2013: This was the largest event the Platoon took part in during the year. 4 Platoon spent a week on HMAS Choules getting into location for the main landing while trying to avoid kitchen duty and the friendlier members of the crew. The platoon executed a raid on Leicester Island just off the coast of Shoalwater Bay Training Area. It was a 36 hour operation and our first chance to put our small boat role into practice. The raid went well and gave the platoon its first complete water born mission profile with support provided by 62 and 63 C/S. PTE Collinson single handily delayed H-hour by 45 minutes when he got lost at 2200 the night before moving from piquet to his pit. He was recovered at 0450 the following morning after spending a lonely night in the rain during the platoon insertion to the FUP. The winner shirt was subsequently awarded.



The second phase of the exercise involved 4 Platoon landing in Shoalwater Bay Training Area. On D-Day the platoon was tasked as an anti-amour blocking and ambush force. We were inserted in the early hours of the morning at low tide onto mud flats. The insertion took over an hour to move 600 metres through waist high mud, while carrying over 40 kgs of equipment including Javelins and 84's. After several days in our assigned positions, the company moved to a Main Defensive Position along the 10 Mile Gap Track astride a small the mountain range in Shoalwater Bay. During the first night we were stood too at 2100 and remained at stand too until 1000 the next day. The only cold snap of the exercise occurred then with temperatures plummeting to 4 degrees. Early the next morning the Company MDP was engaged by an armoured column. In this short engagement the enemy was destroyed, suffering 15 vehicle kills, 30 personnel kills and took 59 prisoners.

On returning from Talisman Sabre the platoon commenced preparation for the Support Courses. Members of 4 Platoon took part in Assault Pioneers, Recon, Mortars, DFSW and Snipers Courses as well as Tracking and Signals and dominated. The tail end of 2013 sees 4 Platoon ready to deploy as of November 1st. The result from the 20 plus weeks spent in the field was that 4 platoon and B Coy is now deployable as the ARE until late 2014.

By the men of 21 ■

5 PLATOON

This has been a busy year for 5 Platoon and all member of the Second Battalion to say the least. As part of B Company, 5 Platoon has had the great opportunity to be able to test and develop the Australian Army's Amphibious Ready Element (ARE) throughout the 2013 training year.

The platoon took part in a number of battalion and company level activities early in the year, testing and developing amphibious standard operating procedures to be used later in the year's major exercises. These exercises allowed 2 RAR to realise the reality of having an ARE capable of conducting amphibious operations effectively in conjunction with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).

Having spent the best part of the year preparing for and conducting a wide variety of training activities, 5 Platoon has had the opportunity to work with nearly all corps in the Army throughout the major exercises in 2013. From working APCs, main battle tanks and artillery on CATA, to gaining experience working with all of Army's aviation assets on Talisman Sabre and even working with zodiacs, landing craft and a wide range of naval vessels on ARE blocks 2 and 3.

The platoon gained valuable experience from working with other units and services and has prepared us to fight in a number of different environments and meet new challenges with confidence. Although the focus for 2 RAR this year has been on developing the amphibious capability, the platoon has taken every opportunity throughout the year to continue to hone our core skill of disembarked soldiering as no matter what the method of insertion or supporting assets, our role remains unchanged, to seek out and close with the enemy.

Soldiers within the platoon also gained a wide variety of skills throughout the year on courses; having members qualified in airborne rappelling, suspended extraction, combat first aid, basic reconnaissance, tracking, mortars and communications just to name a few. These skills enhance the platoon's overall capability and knowledge base from which to draw upon in the future.

Our focus this year has not only been on developing the platoon's group and individual fighting capability, but also on the culture of our organisation. Just as important as our skill in combat is fostering a positive culture within the platoon where all members know their role, carry it out to the best of their ability, and hold themselves and their peers to the highest standard in regards to personal discipline and work ethic.

It has been a very busy but rewarding year for the platoon; the knowledge and skills we have acquired this year will set us in good stead for next year where we will continue work with the Navy and develop the amphibious capability. ■

6 PLATOON

It all began on the 1st of January, everyone was on leave.

Some time later, 6 PI embarked on their first adventure for the year to CBTA, this was the "lid" platoon's first field exercise and where the first casualty for the year occurred on the morning before the buses even departed. The SGT assembled the platoon, called out the names one by one and PTE Johnson appeared to be missing in action... he is yet to be found.

Not long after this incident, the now notorious PTE Davey appeared to turn to the cruel mistress of drugs, and became known as the Townsville underworld kingpin for the sale and distribution of narcotics. (This later became unfounded as PTE Davey did not even know what drugs were.)

At CBTA the first steps into soldiering were impeded by dense jungle and wait-a-while, and with reality, morale soon diminished. The sections split and were tasked to set up a series of OP's on an impassable feature. Bravo Sect suffered their first battle casualty

30 minutes after step-off; fortunately they were only 100m from the insertion point. PTE Skinner, who later in the year would become a member of 6 Platoon, looked up to and attempted to imitate our first casualty for the year in PTE Moore and followed suit by going down during the culminating activity. All in all, the first trip to CBTA was a great success.

The men would have a chance for redemption soon enough as the next exercise was also in CBTA. This trip was far more successful, but like all things too good to be true, the first night saw the entire platoon fall victim to prickly heat. Despite being in agony and constantly praying for rain to take the pain away, the men completed all the training goals and honed the platoon drills and attacks.

The next activity for the year was a real highlight, it saw a regular rifle platoon being propelled to dizzying heights of airmobile warfare and becoming the airborne element for the entire ARE. It was from this point forward that the platoon became infamously referred to as SEAL Team Six Platoon.

TFTA was consecutively visited by the PI for live fire training. During both visits Star River was at breaking point, levies barely holding and hence interfered with the safety vehicle being able to save those who were weak enough to bleed their own blood. Nevertheless the PI completed a series of live fire section attacks, sneaker lanes, ambushes and HE defensive training. All the while the robust safety plan was tested and subsequently passed with flying colours, seeing PTE Ford deciding to prove his manhood, by ignoring his serious peanut allergy and consume a vast quantity of peanuts during dinner.

PPC training followed and appeared to be purpose designed to let members of rear details understand that being a role player was not where an infantryman should be. The platoon was then qualified to handle all levels and intricacies of riot situations, provided they weren't too frenzied.

Next was the first big exercise for the year CATA 13. 6 Platoon was tasked with occupying an area near the rest of the Battalion. The platoon completed this to the highest of standards by sitting around and occasionally doing attacks alongside APC's and M1A1s. After two weeks, 6 Platoon finally was let loose on two attacks and was the spearhead in the Battalion urban clearance in the final assault on the enemy compound.

After CATA 13, 6 Platoon took out the champion Platoon in the Military Skills competition with Charlie Sect being the runners up in the Battalion and Bravo Sect coming third. PTE Davey humbly coming first in the General Knowledge test for the entire Battalion. Proceeded by discussion of his application to become an officer.

ARE Block 2 was the baptism of fire into the workings of the Australian Navy. HMAS CHOULES was to be the 6 Platoon home for the next month. The platoon training onboard consisted of washing dishes and fulfilling every trifling need and desire of officers in their mess. The platoon became great, slick and qualified in moving equipment from the marine hold to the assembly area, back and back again. Like all greatness, this did not come easy and saw this being practiced at least twice a day, every day. The platoon soon discovered that one rifle section had more firepower than the HMAS CHOULES complete.

ARE Block 2 provided the first opportunity to use the rappel skills in an actual mission where the gunners soon realised that standing up in MO combat load was no easy feat. During a practice drop, PTE Steinscherer was cut away from the FRAD, resulting in him falling backwards out of the helicopter, being caught on camera and marking a confidence milestone for SEAL Team Six Platoon.

ARE Block 3 saw 6 Platoon contribute to the Brigade's efforts at Shoalwater Bay for TS 13, by securing an MSR, occupying a defensive position as part of a company and Bravo Sect securing a hotly contested island being used for re-trans by Signals Platoon. Unfortunately the MSR being secured over countless sleepless nights was being bypassed by all forces. During the defensive battle, the platoon was almost wiped out completely leaving SGT Stewart and PTE O'Keefe to hold the defensive position by themselves and Bravo Sect deployed as re-trans security with no water, 66mm or claymores courtesy of 2IC Fitzgerald who instead insisted on brining 50 Shades of Grey.

At the completion of TS 13 the beloved CSM WO2 West was the superstar of the Army Newspaper scoring himself an exemplary photo of being the senior soldier in the Coy, manning his pit, which he didn't dig, facing out, alert, focused and poised for anything the enemy could throw at him.

Upon returning from TS 13 6 Platoon along with the rest of 2RAR went their separate ways for support courses, with the majority going to Assault Pioneers and Reconnaissance. All things considered the soldiers from 6 PI preformed very well and dominated their courses, demonstrating their readiness to continue taking the Battalion vision to greater heights.

As always, TIP OF THE SPEAR.

By the men of 23 ■





C Company

CHARLIE COMPANY

2013 saw the decline and eventual demise of C Company in 2 RAR. Having received word from higher at the end of last year that the company would be reduced to two platoons it was expected, but was none-the-less a blow to the soldiers of the company. The end came on 3 May 13 with a small and understated flag lowering ceremony attended by the company's soldiers and officers. The formal removal of the company from the Battalion ORBAT was confirmed during a manning review by Army Headquarters (AHQ) under the new Amphibious Ready Group construct and the majority of soldiers moved to bolster the numbers in A Company.

The disbandment of the company did not prevent some excellent training to be carried out prior to 6 May. The main focus for the first quarter was on our Jungle Training

Wing (JTW) rotation at the end of March. In preparation for the event the company combined with B Company for Ex BLUE DRAGON at Cowley Beach Training Area in February. The close country at Cowley Beach offered an excellent training environment for basic jungle skills of patrolling, ambushing and counter ambushing to be practiced and Platoon SOP to be rehearsed. LT Ryan in particular pushed his men hard, which would pay dividends when it came to JTW rotation itself, with 7 Platoon putting in a fine performance with very few soldiers dropping out.

The tempo changed little on the company's return from the jungle. The focus did change however to live firing and operations in the more open terrain of the Townsville Field Training Area. This was to prepare the soldiers of the company for their role in the

3 Brigade live fire Combined Arms Training Activity (CATA). This promised to be an excellent exercise involving all elements of the combined arms team for tanks, APC, artillery and attack helicopters. The company would not last to be part of this exercise however, with the last activity for C Company being the Battalion Military Skills competition on 1 May. This involved all members of the company completing the Infantry Physical Employment Standards test followed by the sections completing a round robin of stands, testing their physical and mental toughness as well as their soldiering skills. CPL Galonski's section proved that C Company was not letting their demise get them down by placing third in the Battalion with his section from 7 Platoon. This went well with his section's win in the Battalion Obstacle Course competition held earlier in the year.

Following the 6 May disbandment and the re-allocation of soldiers, C Company HQ took up the mantle of Battalion Rear Details as it embarked on a series of almost nonstop exercises beginning with the Brigade CATA in May and ending with Exercise TALISMIN SABRE at the end of July 13. The final act of C Company HQ was to run the Battalion Supervisor Infantry Operations – Section course during the Battalion Courses period in Aug and Sep. The conclusion of which saw the OC, MAJ John Leevers, who had been with the battalion since before its MTF 3 deployment, post out to Army Headquarters. The company 2IC, CAPT Leeds, who was also part of the MTF 3 deployment as a Platoon Commander, joined A Company for their deployment to Papua New Guinea. The CSM, WO2 Alex King, who joined the Company this year, moved to manage the Battalion Cambrian Patrol team and then into the Battalion Operations Cell.

The history of C Company, 2 RAR is as proud as any in the battalion with it contributing to all the battalions operations in a significant way. Whether it is was during the Korean War at the Battle of the Hook or the arid mountains of the Caher Cineh or Langhar Valleys' in Afghanistan the Company has always been in the thick of the fighting. We all hope that this will not be the last chapter in the history of C Company, 2 RAR.

“Stay Loose” ■

7 PLATOON

7 Platoon commenced the year with only a few new faces and a focus on jungle training. The Platoon was quickly out field conducting shake outs initially at Mount Stuart and closely followed by Cowley Beach. It wasn't long before the Platoon was in Tully where it managed to not only survive unscathed, unlike another platoon in the Company, but actually preformed quite well. It's important to note that this did occur with the assistance of a mortar section that was added at the last minute. It, however, wasn't just the Platoon as a whole that preformed well during the year with CPL Galonski leading his section to victory in the Battalion Obstacle Course Competition and CPL Wells achieving third for his section in the Battalion Military Skills Competition. May saw the Platoon move from Charley to Alpha Company and subsequently its unfortunate disbandment. Regrettably there were some tough times though with the Platoon suffering the loss of LCPL Halpin who passed away early in the year. ■

8 PLATOON

8 Platoon, aka Prison Farmers, were set for full year focusing on close country and urban training exercises to follow on from Blue Water, Cowley Beach and Line Creek Junction with Ex Won Tok 2012.

Led by LT Hamill and SGT Tobin, the year started well with a good shake out at Cowley Beach to be followed up with Jungle Training Wing course at Tully. LCPL's Boyce, Francis and Groth quickly had to step up as section commanders in the absence of all three of the platoon's CPL's: Keep, Pride and Randle, who were out of action due to injuries sustained.

Unfortunately injuries plagued the platoon, and Charlie Company as a whole, and attachments were needed to bolster the platoons from Pipes and Drums and Mortars. Although vital skills were learnt at JTW, the platoon as a whole suffered numerous environmental and heat related injuries, which ended in only one out of the two sections completing the course. Pride was not lost however; as this section led by LCPL Boyce won the end of course competition, 'True Grit,' against our 7PL counterparts.

Inevitably due to lack of able bodied soldiers, Charlie Company, and the beloved 8 Platoon Prison Farmers were disbanded mid year.

Viva la C-Coy.

Stay Loose. ■





Support Company

2013 was a hectic year for Support Company due to the company's platoons being spread to the four winds in support of programmed activities (and a fair swag of short notice tasking) for the majority of the year. This dynamic required a large effort from company headquarters staff to lift the majority of administration burden from the coalface and allow the company's soldiers, seniors and officers within the six key capabilities platoons to focus on training and maintaining operational preparedness.

This year's 'caretakers' of the Company Headquarters' both in command and supporting staff positions have kept a solid grip on the discipline, welfare and administration which is a constant 'battle against the tide'. Despite the heavy weight of tasking throughout the year, Support Company soldiers have won almost every sporting and military competition that they have entered. Overall the Company is concrete in its ability to deliver capability to the Commander Officer and is a strong position to support the future 'online' amphibious force in 2014.

Major Activities

Each of the Support Company platoons have conducted individual major live fire exercises, Brigade level training activities and have all participated in the progressive amphibious development blocks throughout the year. The Company also ran a suite of specialist skill courses to train the next generation of Support Company soldiers, which was well subscribed and delivered.

The only major company level activity that was conducted this year as a galvanised entity was Ex BUSU LANDING, the inaugural concentration of the ADF amphibious capability's Pre-Landing Force (PLF) elements. Conducted in Shoalwater Bay Training Area, with almost 20 different units represented, the exercise sought to integrate the operations of land and sea combat / supporting elements and develop procedures to conduct joint PLF operations. Mostly coordinated by CAPT Blackmore the exercise was heralded as a great step towards interoperability and will now become a permanent fixture in the amphibious development cycle for the ARE.

Personnel

As with each year in the battalion, the 2013 posting cycle rolled around forcing a complete changeover of personnel in Support Company Headquarters. This year the following personalities filled the key company headquarters staff positions:

OC Support: Major Rubin, a highly skilled 4x4 driver that managed to juggle not only the admin of command but also the responsibilities of his first child, a house renovation and a fetish for drinking Pepsi Maxx.

2IC Support: CAPT Blackmore, colloquially known as the 'Company Racing Snake' he slithered from abroad to share his experience and shame most of the Company in his ability to run the 3.2 km test in under 12 minutes.

CSM Support: WO2 Bosworth, secretly a property mogul in the Townsville region, the CSM will be remembered for his devotion to knife / stick fighting which made you think twice about getting on his bad side.

CQ Support: WO2 Smith, confirmed as having two black thumbs, with her attempts to cultivate flowers in the headquarters garden ended badly on at least three occasions. CQ will also be opening her own car sales lot as she owns no less than eight. Luckily her husband works in the mines therefore they can afford registration and insurance.

Clerks: At the commencement of the year this position was filled by PTE Smith (Georgia type); however, after ASRU discovered her she was required to quit her day job and focus on professional Rugby. Her replacement was CPL Moran who has worked hard to re-order the orderly room "his way". Other memorable moments by CPL Moran include bragging that he bought a \$2800 'BUG-A-BOO' pram for his son and trying to convert soldiers in the Company to a 'rabbit food' weight loss program that "shows great results ... just look at me".

Storeman: PTE Wright has been a diligent soldier within the Q Store and has had an almost faultless year. However, at one stage I was considering charging PTE Wright for 'Self Inflicted Injuries' as he would complain

about difficulties walking after conducting a morning gym session of 1000 burpees and squats. This being said, I did applaud his masochist efforts despite the fact that he was usually physically unable to lift anything around in the Q store till after lunch. ■

DIRECT FIRE SUPPORT WEAPONS PLATOON

DFSW Platoon, AKA Nutscratchers started the year off with a shake out up at high range blowing off the cobwebs honing and mastering our craft and getting ready for a busy year ahead by getting a K-Kill in 3/4 Cav's garden gnome putting the platoon in the right frame of mind in preparation for ARE.

Exercise Eagle Fires was conducted along side other SPT Company elements and gave the platoon a chance to utilising our new movement capability: the PMV Bushmaster.

Stepping into EX CATA where the platoon's main role was anti-armour where the infamous cross country by night death march took place. After the assault on the urban village we moved into the live fire phase where we were employed two live Javelin anti-armour missiles with successful hits on targets.

ARE Dev Block 2 saw the platoon having some exposure to the amphibious capability on the HMAS Landship where we practise landing the Bushmasters on a beach head using the LCM8's. DFSW was utilised in the operation of a civilian evacuation point on Innisfail airport working hand in hand with the Maggots, MP's and the civvies from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. During the main assaults on Mourilyan harbour and Tully, the platoon got a name for its self for bogging Bushmasters and tearing up nicely landscaped grass everywhere we went. Nevertheless, Nutscratchers performed admirably in a range of tasks from anti-armour roles to MG blocks and hostile detention.

Talisman Sabre the platoon took its anti-armour role and was attached separately to both Alpha and Bravo Coy. CPL Edwards lead his section attached to Bravo Company and found themselves digging-in to block

an armoured assault while CPL Learnmonth's section with Alpha took to the skies and moved around by helicopter in support for the assault of Raspberry Creek. The platoon regrouped to assist the battalion's main assault where 70% of the platoon were taken out by enemy armour assets on the road of death. The remaining three survivors salvaged the remainder of the platoon's weapons and set up an anti-armour ambush where they also would have died in a blaze of gun fire and glory.

Since Returning from TS the platoon went on a course period and helped the development of the future Nutscratchers. ■

MORTAR PLATOON

To date, 2013 has proven to be a busy but rewarding year for Mortar Platoon. Thus far we have deployed on EX Eagle Fires, the Combined Arms Training Activity, ARE Dev Block 2, and Talisman Sabre and most recently a section attached to A Coy for Wantok Warrior. Each of these exercises have seen an increase in the level of complexity coupled with a steady improvement associated with mortar specific skills, as well as those relating to basic soldiering.

The year kicked off with exercise Eagle Fires which was an eye opener for the men that went, seeing first hand the drills of 3 RAR Mortar Platoon that was attached to the platoon for the week. The exercise consisted of SOP's to polish up on any skills that may have become rusty over leave and a 5 day live fire, giving the Platoon a great stepping stone for the rest of the year.

In May the Platoon participated in the Combined Arms Training Activity. SGT Bushnell had the best present he has ever received from the regiment, a 20 clicker for his 38th birthday. The two sections lead by CPL Logan and CPL Grinstead were integrated with 1 ACR conducting Vital Asset Protection for their A Echelon. This finished in a culminating live fire attack which consisted of a tactical road move from Cormorant air field to the air weapons tower (zombie fall back point). The mortar platoon silently setup at night and in the morning conducted a combined arms live fire attack which saw mortar platoon firing a rate 10 for four minutes.

With a short turn around the platoon then deployed to Cowley Beach. The platoon witnessed the extremes of the Australian Defence force budget cuts and embarked on a 'land ship'. Members of the platoon felt quite sea sick and there was a case of a member falling overboard and being devoured by a land shark. From there on short notice the platoon moved to Innisfail to establish an evacuation handling centre. The platoon then moved to Tully to conduct



a raid with wannabe SAS B Coy (squadron) where B Coy had no comms, relying on the 89 vehicle to provide comms for the whole attack.

The culminating exercise of the year was Talisman Sabre, which saw the platoon split up to their respective Coy's. CPL Grinstead and the rest of 81 were attached to A Coy which was the brigade reserve. CPL Logan and the rest of 82 had left prior to the rest of the platoon and had the lovely boat trip down to Shoal Water Bay on the HMAS Choules. 82 were flown in by MRH off the Choules to establish a firing point for the subsequent beach landing conducted by Recon PI and B Coy. 82 were fortunate enough to drop simulated bombs on the enemy which had 30 confirmed kills from the attack. The 89 vehicle and the rest of OA had witnessed the new meaning of the Blackout in the



OA tent with the RSM's dramatic entry one morning.

Overall, Mortar Platoon has had a very busy and successful 2013. ■

ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

2013 has been an eventful year for Assault Pioneer Platoon as it has taken on the Small Boat role for the battalion as part of the ARE. The year has seen the platoon's participation in the amphibious development blocks as well as its own specialist courses and the running of a Brigade Assault Pioneer course.

The year commenced late for much of the platoon, having just returned from Rifle Company Butterworth over the Christmas period. First up was demolitions refresher training with a Limited Urban Breaching Course at High Range.

May saw the platoon deploy to Shoalwater Bay for Busu Landing which the first of the Amphibious Development Blocks with a Pre Landing Force concentration. This tri service exercise was an important introduction for much of the platoon as to what to expect for the coming months, and allowed for the development of TTPs and SOPs with not only Reconnaissance Platoon but Clearance Divers, Engineers, Sigs and Forward Observers. Specifically the platoon focused on the small craft insertion and extraction of ground forces and parent vessel drills with LCM-8s.

Next up for the platoon was CATA 2013. For the platoon this involved a dismounted night

insertion with A Coy and a dawn attack onto the objective. Then for the live fire the platoon got its chainsaws out for an LZ clearance task for the new MRH-90s to land. This was followed by the clearance of a lane through an obstacle belt for the Battalion to pass through on its way to the attack.

ARE Blocks 2 and 3 including Talisman Sabre 2013 followed shortly thereafter. For these exercises the platoon embarked on HMAS Choules as part of the ARE, with the ship serving as the LHD HMAS Canberra for various training serials. Again the PLF construct and phase was rehearsed with the platoon conducting a number of night time insertions and extractions for various ground call signs.

The Brigade Courses period followed shortly after Talisman Sabre with PHQ running a Brigade Basic Course with soldiers and officers from 1, 2, 3 and 5 RAR comprising the panel. The course proved intensive for both instructors and trainees but nonetheless proved a success with 54 trainees gaining the full qualifications. A key outcome for the course was the new permanent camp at Cowley Beach Training Area. The camp itself has a conventional forward operating base design and ideally will be incorporated into training activities for years to come.

The final major exercise for many in the platoon for the year was Wantok Warrior 13 with a section deploying to Papua New Guinea with A Coy. At time of writing this exercise is on going and will provide an important refresher for many in operating in the close terrain.

Overall 2013 has been an important and busy year for both the platoon and the Assault Pioneer discipline as a whole. With a number of other battalions now raising their platoons there are undoubtedly exciting times ahead. For 2 RAR in particular the small boat role will provide a number of exciting training opportunities as the skill set develops.

CPL Lindeblad ■



RECONNAISSANCE & SNIPER PLATOON

2013 has been an excellent year for the Platoon, following on from a strong 2012. The platoon has seen a transformation in its structure with the removal of the Surveillance Cell and a sniper pair from the manning. It has also seen a modification to the way in which Reconnaissance patrols and Sniper pairs are working together, often joining as a seven man element. In a very busy year for the Platoon its members have achieved some excellent results on a national and international stage. The following lists the representatives for each:

Duke of Gloucester Cup Representatives (1st Place) – CPL Katz (Sec Comd), LCPL Fabreschi (2IC), PTE Lambert, PTE Siebert, PTE Stuart, PTE Kiernan, PTE Ford, PTE Ryan.

Cambrian Patrol Representatives – CPL Katz (Sec Comd), LCPL Fabreschi (2IC), PTE Lambert, PTE Siebert, PTE Stuart, PTE Kiernan, PTE Ford.

2 RAR Mii Skills (1st Place) – CPL Harvey (Sec Comd), LCPL Braithwaite (2IC), PTE Lucas (Runner Up Champion Soldier), PTE Sweeney, PTE Barerra, PTE Shaw (Champion Soldier), PTE Morris, McAuley.

ASSAM Representatives (2nd Place) – LCPL Turner and LCPL Jankusik.

Canadian International Sniper Concentration – CPL Oram and LCPL Fabreschi.



2013 has run at a very high tempo for the Platoon, which included participation in major exercises including Ex Busu Landing; an Amphibious Ready Element (ARE) Pre Landing Force (PLF) concentration, Ex CATA, ARE Dev Blocks 2 and 3, Talisman Sabre and Wantok Warrior. Additional to this the platoon has conducted two Airborne Rappelling Courses (both basic and Air Safety Officer), a Suspended Extraction Course (both basic and the Ground Safety Officer), the Reconnaissance Pre Selection and Basic Course and the Sniper Pre Selection and Basic Course.

The Reconnaissance Basic Course undertook a large transformation in 2013 with a focus on the mental and physical preparation of trainees within the platoon. With a group of very strong JNCO's from across 2 RAR and the BDE, the course was a major success and will have a lasting benefit on those trainees that participated.

The Sniper Course again proved challenging setting the highest standard of trainees within the Brigade. Unfortunately there was no one from 2 RAR successful in passing the course, however those that did complete the



course will have undoubtedly experienced one of the most rewarding jobs available in the Regiment.

During 2013 the Platoon has worked hard with limited time to develop its understanding of new communication suites in the Harris 150/152 and combine them with limited hardware to create an employable Image Capture and Transfer (ICAT) capability. A number of new pieces of amphibious equipment should make its way into the Platoon in 2014.

2014 will be an exciting year for the PL with a number of new insertion methods, including helo-casting and fast roping gaining approval in 2013. Insertion by parachute is on the near horizon and is being pushed by the School of Infantry Reconnaissance and Sniper Team. The ICAT suite should arrive in early 2014 giving the Platoon a variety of new optics and recording devices. The Snipers will see the arrival of the Blaser and the Leupold MK4 spotting scope which will bring them to the same equipment level as Snipers around the world.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those that have left the Army or joined Special Forces units in 2013, after many years of service to the Platoon.

SASR – CPL Woodman, CPL Harvey, LCPL Phillips and PTE Lambert.



2 CDO – CPL Newham.

Departed – CPL Croon, PTE Lucas, PTE Ryan, PTE Campbell, PTE Randell, PTE Laux, PTE Connaughton, PTE Robinson.

LT L. Vallance ■

SIGNALS PLATOON

At the end of a long and busy 2013 the Communication Specialists from 2 RAR finally get a chance to put our handsets and brew mugs down and reflect on the year that was. We all know that Sigs is a mentally and physically challenging job as you would have guessed by the amount of battle ready soldiers we have in the platoon.

During the course of the year the hardy signallers (really just the ones still left standing) supported all exercises undertaken by the Battalion, as always undermanned, under equipped and under appreciated. On many occasions the diggers in the Platoon had to step up and take on a leadership role which was quite foreign to them, but like any good infanteer they read their hat badge (something about duties?) and cracked on with the job at hand, performing well in almost every case, the notable exception being the 30 seconds that PTE Edward "Worst moustache ever" Reeve was Retransmission Detachment Commander.

There were many funny, strange and interesting moments had by the Platoon this year, some of the most notable being:

- Having more than half of the Platoon actually signals qualified (a new record within the RAR);
- On Ex BUSU LANDING, the Boss deciding to practice for the 2014 Paris-Dakar Rally and make his own route,

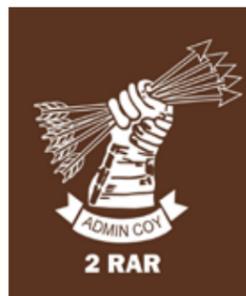


rejoining the rest of the party a couple of hours and a couple of packets of cigarettes later;

- Pioneering the very first floating Retrans on Dev Block 2, with a solitary FFR calmly plodding across the Coral Sea on an LCH and getting better comms than the HMAS Choules;
- PTE John "Peri" Perikleous' persecution complex on Ex TALISMAN SABRE (we really didn't pick on him that much); and
- PTE Alex "Killer" Stenlakes choice of internet videos, which made the small amount of cage time we did a lot less boring.

However, there is always one person within each group that seems to find themselves at the centre of every good story, and we Handbag Hooligans are lucky enough to have one PTE Brendon Borgman. If we had as much room as the Game of Thrones series we might just have enough space to tell all the stories this intrepid young fellow has been involved in, from shedding a tear in a helicopter and asking the pilot to "make this stop," to being a big "hit" at the boozier in PNG while also making himself friendly with the locals.

All in all 2013 wasn't a bad year to be a Muppet (not even joking). As usual, many old faces are leaving and many new ones will be joining in 2014. To those leaving, good luck with your next endeavour, whether you are moving across the Battalion, posting out or moving on to the bright lights of Civi Street. To those unfortunates who are staying or posting in, 2014 promises to be another busy year with a 100% chance of pineapples. Wait out. ■



Admin Company

Administration Company has had a dynamic year providing logistic support to the 2nd Battalion's exercises and activities. It is the first time in many years that the entire 95 callsign has deployed regularly in support of the Battlegroup.

The year started with us preparing for field by conducting a shakeout at High Range Training Area which allowed us to dust the cobwebs off the cam nets. Before we knew it we were into back to back big exercises starting with the 3 Bde Combined Arms Training Activity, ARE Development Block 2 and Exercise Talisman Sabre. The company performed to an excellent standard across the suite of exercises even getting a mention from the Forces Commander on Exercise Talisman Sabre remarking that it was the best Administration Company position he had ever seen.

On top of the field activities, Admin Coy has also been busy conducting various courses and training. TPT PL and CHQ provided an amphibious driver training package on Herald Island (or Cyclone Island as it became known) for the newly established Amphibious Ready Element. A range of driver courses from Land Rover to Unimog to 8T Trailer were run also, just for good measure!

Administration Company owns the sometimes under appreciated Transitions PL which provides support to the Battalion's injured personnel undergoing significant medical issues. Transitions Platoon Commander, Warrant Officer Class Two Mick Kowski has done a fantastic job all year and has become the font of all knowledge in regards to handling medical, physiological and administrative affected personnel in the unit.

Company Headquarters will be having a big changing of the guard next year with the following personnel marching out:

Major McCarthy – Taking up appointment as OC Alpha Company

Captain Lumb – Posted to Joint Logistics Command

Warrant Officer Class Two Timms – Posted to Combat Training Centre

Corporal Krystal Smith – Posted to 3 CSSB



Corporal Kate Stannard – Posted to 7 CSR

Private Tegen Densem – Corps transfer to become a Psych Examiner

This will see the end of matching black Mazda 3s being parked at CHQ.

Overall Administration Company soldiers can hold their heads high with a job well done both in barracks and on exercise. ■

MAIN Q STORE

This year saw the arrival of the QM, CAPT Andrew Lawrence, and the RQMS, WO1 Glenn Murdoch. Once again a busy start to the year providing support to the battalion and the ARE DEV Block exercises, with development of the logistic support required for the ARE and stocktaking being the main points of focus.

The TQMS, WO2 Peter Lukic, has been rebuilt and has his own NSN after his numerous medical procedures, and is now truly the hardest man in the battalion thanks to titanium implants, as highlighted in the attached picture.

Welcome to our new arrivals PTE's Hugo and Payne, and farewell to SGT Horsfield who is discharging after 23 years of service. We would also like to wish the best of luck to CPL Baynton, CPL Bell, CPL Smith, PTE Buckingham, PTE Bielby and PTE Byers on their respective postings in 2014.



Overall an eventful and productive year that will hopefully allow us to step off on the right foot in 2014, all due to the hard work and effort put in by all of the logistical staff, and the tolerance of their families throughout the year. Wishing all a merry and safe Christmas and happy New Year. ■

CATERING PLATOON

2013 has turned out to be a very busy year for 2 RAR Catering Platoon as we have now taken up the role of becoming amphibious. From day one catering platoon has been conducting training with the Battalion to get us ready for this role. This has included

vigorous training sessions with the lovely TBAS. On one of our adventures the Admin Company went over to Maggie Island where we had to walk off an LCM 8 up the boat ramp and over the hill to the other bay which was 8 km away. Just when you think you are on the down hill run of a hill it goes up again. All up our little adventure over Maggie Island took a good 6 hours to complete the task, however, when we were suppose to board the LCM8 at the other side the tide was out. So everyone had to walk 500 meters in to the water with weapons above our heads to board the LCM8. Bearing in mind this area was full of lovely tourists and they were watching the whole time.

The year became very busy for Catering Platoon with the usual field trips, lovely Cowley beach where every morning you get to wake up to a lovely view from the kitchen of the water, High Range where there are lovely views but no toilets and showers. At the position in the Star sector 2 RAR set out to practice their water crossing and other various tasks, catering for this activity was SGT Holland, CPL Hammond, CPL Dickson and PTE Emerson. Then we finally came to the fun stuff. Our next trip was working with the RAAF and NAVY the catering section was issued TESS and boarded HMAS Choules.

When we arrived at work to get ready to board the ship everyone was excited about ARE Block 2. This field exercise was the first one for our amphibious role. Our catering members SGT Holland, CPL Seymour, LCPL Phillips, PTE Sahin and PTE Braithwaite waited out at Ross Island ready to board the LCM 8. The ship was sitting out in the bay so we had to travel out to them. It took an hour to travel out to the ship and the LCM 8 moved in to the back of the ship through large doors at the back then docked up. All together it took 7 hours to load all of our equipment and stores needed to conduct the exercise. But one thing that Army did when we were only on ship for 20 min is break it. We had to manually lift our weapons and trunks up 8 flights of stairs to the armoury. As we were loading the weapons and trunks into the armoury we snapped the end of a fire sprinkler system off its bracket and water began to flood the ship. Well didn't the navy go frantically running around to try and fix everything.

After this incident it started a bench mark for 2 RAR being on board. The whole trip was interesting working on a ship gives a whole new insight to how much better the Army have it. At least we can have fridges which are easy accessible not down stairs and our food is a lot fresher as we have ration breaks every few days.

Whilst SGT Holland lead her team on HMAS Choules; the Caterer, WO2 T. Griffiths, SGT Dyer and SGT Brown lead a team of 2 RAR, 3 Brigade and 4 Navy chefs on the land

ship at CBTA. The land ship catered for in-between 500 and 900 defence personal. All members of the team gelled extremely well from the get go, with a little bit of unit and cross service banter. The lines were drawn and the navy were taught that just because you have rank doesn't mean you sit on your dot out the back.

All in all it was a very good trip and all corps learnt a thing or two when working in a tri service environment. The end of this year is not getting any easier for us as the tempo for the battalion wont change. We have now deployed members to PNG being SGT Dyer, CPL Seymour, PTE Braithwaite and LCPL Taylor. They are deploying for a period of one month. Which is lucky as that is just in time for all the end of year functions and our combined function with all the units of 3 Brigade. ■

TECHNICAL SUPPORT PLATOON

2 RAR Technical Support Platoon has been resupplied with some fresh faces in 2013 including a new platoon commander LT Buntine, two new Sergeants SGT Dowd and SGT Myers, our first electrician in 2 years CPL Jaeschke and a new vehicle corporal CPL Wilton. The beginning of the year went by fast with the VM's (vehicle mechanic) and boffins (electronics technician) struggling to get the hand me down Bushmasters given to the unit, up to scratch for use on exercise. At the same time the gun plumbers (Fitters) were off doing courses to allow them to maintain all the new amphibious equipment coming into the unit.

Amphibious exercises were this year's flavour, and this brought new challenges for TSP in both maintaining and repairing unit equipment in a sea environment. Fitters were flat out with outboard repairs on most exercises, not to mention the odd gun plumping task, and the VM's had more than their share of breakdowns and non fair wear to contend with. All the skills acquired in the year's earlier exercises were well and truly put to use on exercise Talisman Sabre. Not only was TSP to provide maintenance and technical support for the unit, but we were also required to guard the rear of the battalion, which meant we had to get our war fighter on and dig some holes. While we were off fighting the wars, Gabby our production clerk held the place together in our absence with the help of our civi mechanic Shaun.

PTE Buckingham from the RPS (repair parts store) after giving birth to her baby girl will be posting to Sydney. Also end of the year will see most VM's, a fitter along with the ASM moving on to bigger and better things, leaving holes for new faces to fill in 2014. Good Luck!

CFN Crewther ■

TRANSITIONS PLATOON

The 2nd Battalion Training and Recovery Platoon has recently had its name changed to Transitions Platoon in order to better reflect the role of the platoon.

The aim of the platoon is to facilitate the discharge administration and transition requirements of separating members and to assist members who are Corps /Service transferring.

As members of the Transitions Platoon have certain medical restrictions preventing them from performing their usual infantry duties, finding suitable duties and activities outside guard duties, armoury tasks and light office work can be difficult.

One of the opportunities that the platoon provides for discharging members is the ability to send members out on work experience; this allows the member to gain some of the necessary experience to transition into their chosen field once separated from Defence.

Prior to his separation from Defence, PTE Moelaart spent several weeks working for a local dive company gaining experience to ultimately gain employment as a commercial diver. PTE Tim Green is currently in Tasmania undergoing a Commercial Air Divers Course as part of his CTAS entitlement and is looking at a career as an underwater welder.

PTE James Bogle and PTE Tim Guesmer are both working full time at JLU-NQ. James is training in the Occupational Health and Safety field and has just completed a CERT IV in OH&S and Tim is learning all there is to know about warehousing and MILIS. PTE Brett Bazley was also conducting OJE at JLU-NQ and is now employed there full time as a civilian.

Earlier this year, PTE Jesse Bell separated from Defence and along with PTE Lo, started his own Company called Boar n Barra. Jesse is an Inbound Tourism Service Provider targeting the lucrative Japanese and American markets.

Transitions Platoon also provides opportunities for ongoing military courses. PTE David Luey and PTE Richard Simmons both attended the Brigade Battle Group Intelligence Course which will enhance the unit's intelligence capability and the member's employability within 2 RAR.

PTE Ryan Smith is currently attending his RACT IET Course and after successfully completion, will finalise his Corps transfer.

Along with many successful transitions, there have also been several instances where things have not gone as smoothly as one would hope. The main contributing factor is the apathy and lack of planning by the member. In many of these cases, members had failed to submit DVA claims on time

or had not been 'up front' with all of their medical conditions when lodging the initial claim.

Apart from compassionate postings and successful corps transfers, Transitions Platoon has facilitated separation from the ADF of the following members so far this year and further 11 members are scheduled to separate before the end of 2013.

PTE Z.B. Taylor – 06 Mar 13
 CPL S.M. Rycen – 22 Mar 13
 PTE D.R. Pearce – 06 Mar 13
 PTE B.J. Harmer – 28 Mar 13
 PTE J.J. Smith – 28 Mar 13
 PTE B.J.A. Elices-Vega – 02 Apr 13
 PTE M.J. Cook – 17 May 13
 PTE D.B.T. Davies – 21 May 13
 PTE A.C. Davey – 23 May 13
 PTE M.J. Margera – 02 Jun 13
 PTE J.K. Bell – 08 Jun 13
 PTE D.G.P. Holloway – 09 Jun 13
 CPL M.A.T. Crank – 10 Jun 13
 PTE L. George – 17 Jun 13
 PTE J.L. Shillabeer – 24 Jun 13
 PTE D. Angus – 30 Jun 13
 PTE R.J. Hall – 02 Jul 13
 PTE C.L. Quirke – 08 Jul 13
 PTE J.S. Gibson – 15 Jul 13
 PTE A.J. Goldsworthy – 18 Jul 13
 PTE C.J. Burke – 22 Jul 13
 PTE C.J. Wharton – 22 Jul 13
 PTE B.P. Duynhoven – 25 Jul 13
 PTE B.L.S. Moelaart – 31 Jul 13
 PTE C.B. Devine-Williams – 01 Aug 13
 CPL G.N. Thomas - 28 Aug 13
 PTE B.C. Corbett – 28 Aug 13
 PTE J.C.L. Thomas – 10 Sep 13
 PTE T.E. Latham – 11 Sep 13
 PTE B.A. Bazley – 21 Sep 13 ■

TRANSPORT PLATOON

Keep the wheels turning, as we like to say in the Transport Platoon (TPT PL) of The Second Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, and that's what we did in 2013. From exercises to guard we kept the Battalion rolling to achieve Commanding Officers intent.

2013 brought a new start with a new boss, WO2 A.C. Tronson. The platoon started the year with a lot of new soldiers, there was training to do and courses to run. These included Landrover 4X4, 6X6, Unimog and trailers. These courses were a vital asset to the Battalion due to our new role as the Amphibious Ready Battalion.

ARE BLOCK 1, which was held at Herald Island saw Transport Platoon conducting vehicle training on and off LCM8's and LCH's

in the middle of what we would call "blowing a gail" and in some of the worst rain that we had seen. Herald Island is made up of sand, trees, and rocks and more sand, so setting up tents and hootchies was close to impossible. Some members of the platoon (SGT Cox/CPL Lill) did not have experience the cyclone conditions, as they got to share the luxuries of a 5 star vessel named Ocean Shield; watching free movies and lapping up the free WI-FI, also enjoying the cooked hot food as the rest of us chomped on our not so fresh ration packs.

CATA, proved to be a very beneficial exercise to us. It gave the platoon the opportunity to practice conventional war fighting skills. CPL Muller even had the opportunity to move forward as a replicated M113 AS4.

ARE BLOCK 2, was conducted at Cowley Beach. The platoon was split between HMAS Choules and the Land ship which replicated NUSHIP Canberra. Those platoon members on HMAS Choules enjoyed the luxury of being on the ship, while we on the ground enjoyed being smashed by the platoon SGT's and TOCWO's PT sessions. As the activity progressed we were given the opportunity to conduct troop lifting to and from the beach. The platoon's skills for driving on and off LCM8's came more refined during this exercise as we needed to manoeuvre our Unimogs to and from different locations.

ARE BLOCK 3/Talisman Sabre, again had the platoon split with half road deploying whilst some had a relaxing boat ride down the coast. The boat trip was that relaxing that one of the senior section members (CPL Lill) realised that he had in fact forgotten to bring any field gear what so ever. The other transport members, who were still driving at this time, were happy to hear about the funny news. The platoon's defensive skills were put to the test as we supported the defence of 10 Mile Track. On step up, 10 Mile Track proved to be a difficult move testing all of the drivers' skills.

We finish the year conducting more driver training. We have grown in size with the platoon welcoming eight new members. We also farewell long term members of the platoon: SGT Cox posts to recruiting in Parramatta, CPL Lill proceeds on discharge ,CPL Muller posts to RAAF Richmond, LCPL Gouge posts to SASR, PTE Bramwell posts to 26 TPT SQN and last but not least PTE Byers the TPT PL Storeman (acting truckie) posts to 10 FSB.

PAR ONERI ■

PIPES & DRUMS

Leading from the front

The Pipes and Drums of the Second Battalion Royal Australia Regiment

Drum Sgt Major – WO2 D Timms;
Drum Major – Pte A. Moloney;
Drummers – Pte A. Luiten, Pte G. Bennett, Pte R. Carter, Pte L. Hildebrandt and Pte T.Gard;
Pipe Major – Cpl T. Ryan;
Pipers – LCPL J. Mears, Pte I. Valjan, Pte J. Wiecek, Pte J. Crockford,
Pte T. Weir and Pte J. Maxwell;
Bugler – Pte A. Dinsmore.

*'Hark, when the night is falling
 Hear, hear the pipes are calling
 Loudly and proudly calling
 Down through the Glen.
 There where the hills are sleeping
 Now feel the blood a leaping
 High as the spirits
 Of the Old Highland men.'*

In the field 2013 it was a great year for the Pipers and Drummers of the Black Battalion. The section did an outstanding job supporting the rifle companies. They where constantly requested to assist all the companies when they deployed in the field.

The members of P & D's proved that they are infantry soldiers first and foremost, by winning the 'Kokoda Log' challenge on the sub unit course at Tully with C Coy.

On EX CATA, ARE DEV BLOCK 2 and EX Talisman Sabre, section members had a broad array of tasks with all the Companies. Tasks ranged from defending ships with Javelin, hunting tanks or attacking helicopters with flares. Another task on EX Talisman Sabre was to play amazing grace on the eve of battle and 60th anniversary of the Battle of Samichon. The next morning the Pipers played A Coy into battle as they crossed the line of departure.

On the Parade grounds and in the mess halls they played loudly and proudly. They started the year with ANZAC day, a stirring lament in the early hours of the morning then followed by a day of war hymns at the Strand and numerous venues. However, some of the members commemorated ANZAC day in a different way. They were on the Junior Leaders Course, pushing a rover during the sleep deprivation phase.

Some of Pipers and Drummers were centre stage to honour the fallen at funerals and memorials. LCPL Mears honoured the fallen at Lake Tinaroo at the opening of the memorial to the fallen soldiers in Afghanistan.

CPL Ryan had the pleasure of the Lone Piper at Townsville's gala event the Legacy Ball. Also during Legacy week the P & D's conducted 'Operation Flash Kilt,' it was a flash mob at local shopping centres to help legacy stands. Little kids were crying from the deafening sound whilst women crooned at the sweet tunes.

Another honour that the P&Ds were requested to play in 2013 was the RAAOC banner parade. The parade saw the RAAOC banner and many dignitaries in attendance.

A very enjoyable event to support was the 2/4 RAR Reunion dinner at the Townsville R.S.L. This dinner saw the colours of 2 RAR and 4 RAR reunite as well as ex-members. The P&Ds played at the dinner to the reminiscent crowds who couldn't get enough. Some ex - Pipers got up and showed the young Pipers how to play tunes. The night also saw a few kilts highland dancing around the dance floor with some older lassies.

The P&Ds also supported the 3 Bde Beat Retreat with a few tunes of glory and the drummers Salute in front of the Townsville public. On the 23rd of November 1 RAR, 2 RAR and 3 RAR held a 65th Anniversary dinner where the highlight was P&D's playing Amazing Grace as a mark of respect to the fallen.

Some Pipers also had the great honour of going to Brisbane and training with a piper of some 40 years, Roddy McDonald.

In 2014 the Pipes and Drums are set for bigger things. In the field as part of the

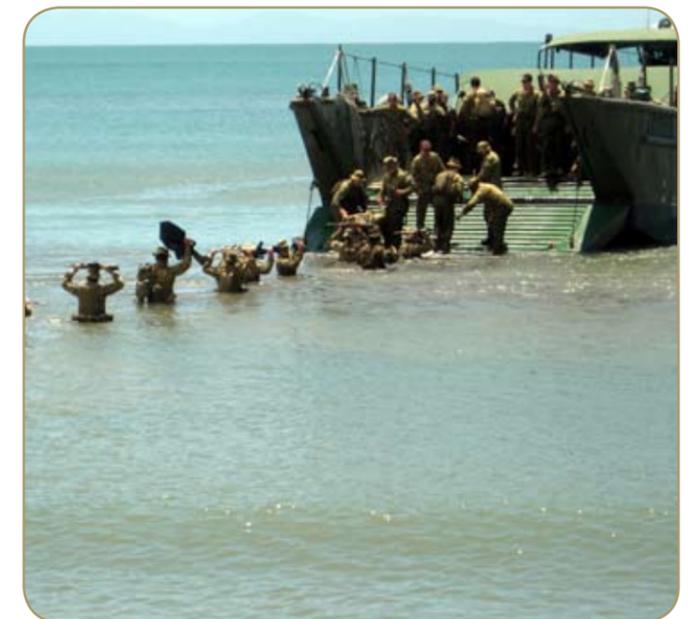
Amphibious Ready Element they will be the evac crew mounted in PMVs whilst on the square a very experienced ex 2 RAR Pipe Major will return to Townsville and assist training the P&Ds. New equipment should also arrive to totally kit them out, so they look and sound grouse for any big future events.

This year see's the departure of PTE Maxwell, PTE Bennett, PTE Dinsmore, PTE Carter, PTE Gard and PTE Wiecek. The new exciting year of 2014 welcomes to the Pipers Cave, PTE Fone, PTE Strutt and PTE Simmons.

Overall, it was a great year for the Pipes and Drums of the Second Battalion Royal Australia Regiment. Its future is always it's past and just remember that all this was achieved without wearing any underwear.

*'You'll see a piper play his soldier home.
He'd seen the glory, he'd told his story
Of battles glorious and deeds victorious
The bugles cease now, he is at peace now
Far from those green hills of Tyrol.'*

Damien Timms
Warrant Officer Class Two ■





EXERCISE CATA 2013

COMBINED ARMS TRAINING ACTIVITY

The 3rd Bde Combined Arms Training Activity 2013 was the Brigade's and 2RAR's first chance to work with the newly raised Armoured Cavalry Regiment. This new organisation was based on 1 Armoured Regiment and was smashed together from 2 Cavalry Regiment and anywhere else they could find vehicle crews to operate their three types of vehicle: M1 tank, ASLAV and M113 APC. This was our chance to develop relationships and the tactics, techniques and procedures that would set the conditions for successful operations on Exercise Talisman Sabre later in the year.

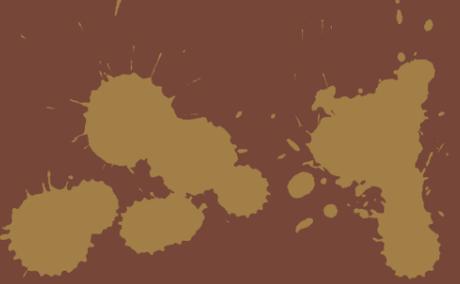
So it was with much amusement that 2RAR embraced this new Mechanised Beast like a planter wart from the B Coy showers and promptly sent the ACR off to act as a faint whilst A Coy stuck to what they knew and pack marched 20km to attack the Urban Operations Training Facility.

The men of A Coy, emboldened by their OC's ingenious infiltration measure, knowing full well that the leader had chosen to follow his light infantry instincts over accepting a lift from the APC's, were further inspired as they death marched past the tank echelon some 5 km into the walk. This walk tested some attachments and proved that there is something worse than carrying a MAG58, 84 or Javelin – a 10ft ladder was quite a sight as the Engineers stepped off. None, however, were tested more than the CO and his sleepy signaller which resulted in the CO's Tac party becoming dislocated from the main body requiring the CO to reach back to his

own OC Recon command post and navigate independently to the assembly area.

Once A Coy had secured the Urban Operations Training Facility, B Coy had flown in with time to brew up and OC Admin had finally figured out how to deliver a hot box, 2RAR switched its focus to the live fire. The live fire brought together all of the Battle Group's combined weapons effects to bear on two innocent pieces of terrain with artillery firing danger close and companies attacking mounted with tanks in support onto a fortified enemy objective. It was gratifying to see that after only 10 years in service, Aviation corps had found a way for the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter to fire a missile in addition to their normal and assumed primary task of show boating for the cameras.

CATA 13 concluded for 2RAR with a Bn sized airmobile from the range to the 2RAR Parade Ground and relief that we would have a whole 5 days to plan and execute our next activity being Amphibious Development Block 2... then Talisman Sabre... then Courses... then Katipo... then Wontock Warrior... ■



AMPHIBIOUS READY ELEMENT DEVELOPMENT BLOCK 2



The Battalion conducted the Amphibious Ready Element Development Block 2 exercise from 08 – 29 June 2013. The exercise took place in and around Cowley Beach, Tully, the Atherton tablelands and on HMAS Choules. The scenario was initially a Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) and transitioned into Security And Stability Ops (SASO) towards the end of the exercise.

B Coy were embarked on the Choules for the first time since her commissioning and spent the majority of the exercise adapting to ship's routine. They conducted two missions towards the end which included the securing a downed helicopter in Atherton and the clearance of an enemy camp in Tully.

A Coy as well as elements of Support and Admin Company, in an effort to simulate a second LHD, built and embarked on the Landship; a tent city near Cowley Beach range control. The Landship had all the comforts of the Choules, including a gym, mess and theatre, but with more space, less sea sickness and daily runs on the beach. When the box went live A Coy scored the lion's share of the missions. 3 PI, working with Pioneers, inserted via Zodiacs and secured Red Beach for the arrival of the rest of A Coy. After marrying up with the 3/4 Cav attachments, DFAT and AFP, A Coy moved in PMV to the Atherton Rifle Range for the conduct of the first Evacuation Assembly Area (EAA), opening the next day. A Coy fought through the problems thrown devised by the

most creative minds from Combat Training Centre and after successfully completing the first EAA, they repeated the process in Mareeba the following day before redeploying to Red Beach to await further tasks.

Concurrent to A Company's conduct of the EAAs, Admin and Support Coy were running the Evacuee Handling Centre (EHC) in Innisfail, and B Coy were eating three hot meals a day while waiting for a job. Much to the chagrin of OC Support, MAJ McCarthy hijacked his company and took Mortars and DFSW to the field as rifle platoons. They proceeded to supply Defence funded work to the local plumber as they managed to hit every water pipe buried under 6 inches of soil at the Innisfail Airport while banging in star pickets for the barbed wire. Two days later they did it again.

The highlight of the exercise was the seizure of Mourilyan Harbour by A Coy, involving a sea, air and land insertion. With platoons mounted in PMVs, Blackhawks and on Zodiacs, A Coy achieved a simultaneous insertion into the harbour, securing all key points rapidly. The only asset they weren't provided was enemy, meaning that although flawlessly executed the insertion was totally unopposed. For the next four days the Company settled in to a routine of managing the nearby IDP camp, patrolling the port facility, and filling in the ruts made by DFSW fish tailing in their PMVs.

Overall the exercise was very beneficial for all involved. Some important lessons were learned at all levels in the conduct of amphibious operations, as well as NEO and SASO. This exercise was particularly useful for the development and refinement of SOPs, which came in handy when B Coy finally found work on Talisman Sabre in July.

CAPT A. Titcume





EXERCISE TALISMAN SABRE 2013

OFFICER TEWT WEEK



The Platoon commander's eyes scanned the shoreline ahead, he breathed in the blanket of darkness around him, the waves of the ebbing tide gently caressed the bow of the boat as it approached the shore. He knew he carried with him destruction only the devil himself could rival and he readied himself to let loose his dogs of war. The boat slid silently to the shore, he leapt forward, heart pounding in his throat, each step seemed to get heavier until at last he looked down and realised. He was sinking in the mud.

For the Battalion Ex Talisman Sabre 13 (TS13) started at sea in the now familiar confines of HMAS Choules. Whilst the majority of the exercise was to be on land for the ARE it started a week early with a seaborne approach to Shoalwater and the seizure of Sabina Point.

Sabina Point was to be first test of the ARE post evaluation by CTC. The initial force landing by small boats getting literally bogged down on tidal flats aside it was overall a very smooth landing and lodgement. Unfortunately the anticipated OPFOR never materialised to test the battle plan and the landing force instead found itself in the sights of an assembled media throng the likes of which had not been seen since the USMC landings in Somalia in 1992.

The exercise main saw 2 RAR somewhat held in reserve after a year of being the big show in the Brigade. A Coy formed part of the Brigade reserve and B Coy was tasked with flank security blocking a long but narrow approach to the Brigade's flank. Dug in and reinforced with DFSW, APCs, Engineers and mortars B Coy set an PI anti armour ambush forward of a Coy defensive position while recon and snipers

screened the mouth of the valley and we all settled in expecting an uneventful TS13.

Fleeting glimpses of OPFOR vehicles were seen entering and just as quickly leaving 'The valley' until the evening of day two when 63 and 65 started reporting packets of 2-3 vehicles entering with only one or two leaving. Having been defeated at Raspberry Creek by 1 RAR and with his HQ destroyed by 1 Armoured Regiment this narrow approach to the flank was all too tempting for the cavalier commander of the OPFOR.

With at least 13 A-vehicles known to be in the valley by 2200 h 5 PI's ambush was triggered and they dropped back, expecting significant follow up, to the MDP and assumed their post. For 8 hours the Coy waited (for 65X the wait was worse as an ASLAV had decided to park less than 50m from their position) until finally the OPFOR tried a few strafing runs from the air before rolling in and graciously conforming to the Battalion battle plan by coming straight into the anti armour engagement area. The resulting carnage saw 14 of his vehicles destroyed, a Coy minus of his force killed or captured and the other half of his armoured force retreating tail between their legs. A minor revenge was to be had a few nights later when an exhausted A Coy was caught in a vehicular ambush during an admin move by a pair of ASLAVs in the early hours of the morning.

With an OPFOR in disarray and concentrating his forces around MT Vincent for a Custer like last stand the Bde envelopment began. All was going well until a deft and cunning LAV section used the creek lines to sneak up on the exposed flank of BHQ and destroy OA but

fortunately missed Niner. The usually second fiddle 95A found it was there time to shine and with Niner on the radio calling the shots directly to his OCs. This incident was soon nothing more than a bump on the road to inevitable victory; only occasionally interrupted by the dulcet tones of Mr Rick Astley jamming the net. ■



In accordance with the CO's intent to conduct meaningful officer training and produce some tactical geniuses amongst the lieutenants and captains a location was chosen on the absolute frontier of the nation and the Battalion's officers were ordered to report to RAAF Base Townsville and await a Hercules to the Torres Strait. The Battalion's officers were about to indulge in a week of Tactical Exercises Without Troops (TEWT) or the other time honoured method of developing battlefield cunning: the PENIS (Practical Exercise Not Involving Soldiers). The junior officers dutifully reported looking relatively dejected as they anticipated a repeat of their RMC tactics training with sleepless nights preparing overlays and concept of operations briefs only to be destroyed in detail by a disinterested captain lazing in a collapsible chair on a wind swept hill. LT Robertson in particular was non-plussed with an additional two hours

on an un-sound proofed aircraft after having landed in Townsville from the USA and leave two hours previously. Instead they were treated to a week of rigorous professional development on and around Thursday Island.

The RAAF C130 managed to get the contingent into the local pub just in time for the second half of the league grand final and for most of the officers to assess that collared shirts and tailored shorts exceeded the island's minimum dress standard significantly. The next morning's familiarisation run around the island brought out some inevitable competition and did prove the Adjutant does not necessarily run as fast as he can turn around staff work for the CO's signature. Over the next few days, tactical freedom of expression blossomed, as the CO continued his campaign against hyperbole, synchronisation, orchestration and the use of big

words. LT Glushko's tactical flair was matched only by his creativity when leading a morning PT session consisting only of burpees. He was served up a barrage of verbal JDAMs by directing staff and peers alike when constructive criticism of his conop was called for later that day.

Surprisingly the return RAAF flight at the end of the week arrived on time and even landed early back on the mainland. The M61 Vulcan gaiting gun strapped to the tail ramp resembling a tail gun prompted some to wonder if the Japanese were bombing these islands again but not as much as wondering whether the control of the Battalion could be wrested back from the RSM and his Senior NCOs. ■



EXERCISE WANTOK WARRIOR



In October, A Company and attachments from Support and Admin Company, 4 Regiment, 2 Close Health Company, and 2 General Health Battalion deployed on Exercise Wantok Warrior 13 to Wewak, Papua New Guinea. The exercise was hosted by the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Pacific Islands Regiment and went for three and a half weeks and consisted of barracks training and a week-long offensive operations exercise in the jungle near Urimo. Despite only just returning from a six month border operation in Vanimo, A Coy 2 RPIR provided all three platoons for the conduct of the exercise. Platoons in both companies were integrated and gained benefit from the training and experience of their counterparts. Additionally, 2 RPIR conducting a jungle survival package, Mortar Platoon ran an abridged mortar basic course, CAPT Leeds ran an urban training package, and Pioneer Platoon refurbished the 2 RPIR Obstacle Course and rebuilt the dais on the parade ground. Overall the exercise objectives were met, and all participants gained benefit from the experience.

Highlights of the trip included LT "Ozzy Osbourne" Titmarsh biting the head off a chicken, PTE Jobbins' 4x4 driving, that one time when the 2 GHB medics wore cams and did something, and the RAAF, who were reliable, consistent and on time as usual allowing for an effortless redeployment.

CAPT Titcume ■



Mission Hill overlooking Wewak. PTE Edward Kenna was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions in taking Japanese gun positions on this Hill in May, 1945. He was the last living Australian Second World War recipient of the Victoria Cross.

Events

Battalion Ball

On 9 Nov 13, 2 RAR conducted its Annual Battalion Ball at RSL Stadium in Annandale. The ball provided an opportunity for members of 2 RAR to reflect on their yearly accomplishments in company of their partners and their peers. Considering the tempo during this year, it was a first opportunity to gather so many 2 RAR members outside of field training environment with guest list numbering around 380.

The ball was organised by a social committee headed by OC Admin Coy. The venue and presentation reflected the traditional formality afforded to this occasion and efforts by all those who were involved in the organisation did not go unnoticed by the guests. The guests were greeted at the venue foyer with selection of sparkling white wines and champagne, whilst those with more stereotypical tastes were provided beer. A well presented three course dinner was accompanied by a complementary selection of wine.

The Battalion ball marked an appropriate conclusion to a very busy year. It gave an opportunity to 2 RAR members to invite their partners to an appropriately set occasion and to socialise in the extended Battalion environment. It also marked last Battalion ball to be attended by CO prior to his posting, giving him an opportunity to spend a night with officers and soldiers. With many highlights throughout the evening, all of those in attendance had a good night out. At the conclusion of the ball, guests were invited to Molly Malones in town for continuation of festivities in somewhat different setting. ■



Blood Week

Held in late November, Blood Week turned out to be slightly less bloody than previous years, with rugby and aussie rules games against 1RAR and 3RAR taking priority. In an effort to protect players from injury in order to be available to bash other battalions the sports chosen for Blood Week were slightly less combative than normal. Instead of inter company rugby, aussie rules and a fight night; touch footy, hockey, basketball, soccer and swimming and a strong man competition were contested.

Competition was intense, none more so than the periodic all in brawls to capture an opposing company's flag. The standard of hockey was relatively inept, the choices of swimming attire selected should be outlawed and PTE King from Sig PI demonstrated he is truly the Battalion's toughest man in destroying his opposition in the Tough Man event. He inhaled his pies and beers with such speed he was able to lap his fellow competitors before sucking down another beer in front of his still competing opposition as he celebrated his win.

At time of writing I'm not sure if anyone actually remembers who won what event. ■



Sports 2013

Rugby Union

Only two games were played this year. Due to training and exercise commitments the Battalion was not able to get a team on the field for the brigade competition during the year. The main event for the season was the inaugural Hummerston-Sketchley Cup to be contested by the three resident Infantry battalions in Townsville and the annual grudge match against the 1RAR for the McAloney Shield.

Notwithstanding an abbreviated season a number of players gained representative honours. PTE Geronimi, PTE Harley, PTE Battig, CPL Lindeblad, LT Hamill, CAPT Leeds and CAPT Huggins played various games for the 3 Brigade team. LT Hamill, PTE Geronimi and PTE Harley were picked in the Army and Australian Services Rugby Union (ASRU) teams and the Battalion's first female representative player was PTE Georgia Smith who also played in the ladies 3 Brigade, Army and ASRU teams.

With 3RAR now in Townsville a three way competition among the battalions was instituted this year. Named after the first two members of the Regiment to be killed in action on 03 Oct 1950 in Korea, CAPT Hummerston and PTE Sketchley, the cup will be contested annually with each of the battalions playing each other once. On 18 Nov 13, under lights at the Hugh St ground, 2RAR took the field against 3RAR. The first 20 minutes was all us with a dominant scrum and consistent pressure leading to an 8 nil lead from a try to PTE Porter and a penalty to PTE McKean. After the game 3RAR admitted to being rattled in this first period of play, however they started to get their act together and took advantage of some quick taps to gain momentum and were able to turn this into three tries and ran out winners 17-8 after a very physical game. PTE McKean was the man of the match making ground and appearing untacklable every time he touched the ball from fullback.

Four days later on 22 Nov 13 the McAloney Shield game against 1RAR was played, again under lights at Hugh St. The Shield was named after COL J.D. McAloney, MC who had served in 4RAR on their tour to Vietnam in 1971/72, was a CO of 1RAR and had been president of the Townsville District Rugby Union in the eighties. This trophy has been contested between 1RAR and

2/4RAR originally, and then 2RAR, annually from 1992. This game also contributed to Hummerston-Sketchley cup honours, however everyone knew that a sheep station was being played for against 1RAR given the tradition and the fact 2RAR had only taken this out on two occasions in the previous 21 years.

The game was tough and physical with 1RAR getting out to a ten nil lead through a converted try in the first half and a penalty. Again we had a dominant scrum and lineout and put pressure on them throughout the first half. A lot of dropped ball and turnovers in the ruck allowed 1RAR to keep us out. It didn't help that the referee was doing his best to blow the pea out of his whistle. In the second half PTE Geronimi got over the try line to get us back in the game with the conversion being missed to make it 10-5. Late in the second half CPL Lindeblad snuck through the ruck to score under the posts to level the score. With five or so minutes to go the conversion was agonisingly bounced off the posts to miss. With 30 seconds left on the clock a scrum collapsed and SGT McFadzen had to be stretched from the field with a neck injury. He was to be released from hospital later that night after being poked and prodded and spending four or five hours staring at the ceiling in the emergency room with whiplash. Full time was declared with the scores locked at 10 all.

The teams retook the field for 10 minutes each way of extra time. Things started poorly with a charged down kick resulting in an unconverted try to 1RAR early followed by a penalty to make it 18-10. Things went better after the restart with some consistent pressure down 1RAR's end resulting in a converted try to PTE McKean after some nice work in the backs for him to go through a gap and score under the sticks. With five minutes to go another try was scored by SGT Rolfe followed by a conversion to make the score 24-18. With a few minutes remaining 2RAR was able to play it out for the win.

A big thankyou to CPL Lindeblad for his efforts in stepping up as captain/coach. In addition thank you to Australian Defence Credit Union and the North Queensland RSL for kitting the team out with new kit. ■



Swimming

The 3 Brigade Sporting Competition began early this year with the Swimming Carnival held on 20 Feb 13. This gave little time in the busy tempo at the start of the year to form a 2 RAR team and conduct training. However with the last competition only 3 months earlier in Nov 12, the members of the last team re-grouped to be the core of the Battalion squad for this competition. The ace we had up our sleeve on this occasion was that, unlike last year, we had a ladies team. They were few in numbers but lead by Captain Badcock, they made a big impact in the pool against other units with larger female teams. The final results placed the 2 RAR ladies in an outstanding second position.

The men's competition was equally hard fought, with 3 RAR even having a competitor swimming the wrong stroke in an event to try and get ahead. Fortunately, we still had our swimming star PTE Parchert from B Coy. He provided us with 3 wins from 3 races. Additionally, the winning "Dream Team" Men's 4x50m Freestyle Relay team was unchanged from last year and again proved far too strong for the other units. The men equalled the ladies in a commendable 2nd place. This was an especially pleasing result as we managed to beat our old nemesis, 1 RAR, who were last year's winners. The Battalion carnival is yet to be held this year but promises to be quite close given the good standard of swimming in the battalion this year. ■



Aussie Rules

A strong victory in the 2012 BDE AFL competition set the conditions for another strong year of footy for 2 RAR. With standout new additions to the team in CPL Julian (PTI), PTE Yeoman (B Coy), PTE Milne (B Coy) and PTE Jessop (B Coy), expectations were high for 2013.

2013 got off to a strong start with victories in the BDE Competition against 3 RAR, 1 RAR, 4 Regt and 3 CSSB, cementing 2 RAR as strong contenders for the BDE Grand Final. The BDE Grand Final was held at the Hermit Park ground under lights in front of a huge crowd from both the 1st and 2nd Battalions. It was a tight contest early however the 1st Battalion kicked away in the second quarter to finish 35 point victors and a final scoreboard of 1 RAR – 14 goals 1 behind to 2 RAR – 7 goals 8 behinds.

There were some spectacular moments in 2013 which included high flying marks from PTE Jessop, goals from PTE McGrath that defied the laws of the game and rock solid defence from CPL Learmonth (SPT Coy). The team under CPL Keep (A Coy) really set a standard for commitment at the ball.

A special mention to CPL Keep and CPL Learmonth for jointly winning the competition's best and fairest award. Also to WO2 Timms for coaching the past two seasons and all those that played their final game for the boys in black. ■

Obstacle Course

The obstacle course competition was again fiercely contested with a section from B Coy taking the title. The all conquering Duke of Gloucester Cup team wasn't available for the Brigade competition and the relentless schedule of field training left a reduced pool of troops available to compete against other units. CPL Lindeblad and his scratch team of volunteers stepped and finished a credible fifth in Brigade competition. ■



Shooting

2013 was a full year for shooting in the Battalion with the Bde Shooting and AASAM competitions held earlier in the year for marksmanship and sniper shooting followed by the conduct of combat shooting and sniper competitions in the later half of the year. The Bn also saw the conduct of M4/M16 weapon familiarisation training conducted by A Coy prior to Ex WANTOK WARRIOR in PNG in September.

Marksmanship and Sniper Shooting

B Company took out the Battalion shooting competition this year and a unit team was selected. During the period 16 – 29 Apr the 2 RAR Marksmanship team conducted lead up marksmanship training on selected days prior to attending the 3 Bde shooting competition and the Australian Army Skill-at-Arms competition in Victoria at the Puckapunyal Military Area (PMA).

In preparation for the year's competitions the 2 RAR Marksmanship team's lead up training was held at MSTA and TFTA ranges IOT conduct a number of skills based and scored match practices allowing for a solid basis for the upcoming events.

Following the preparations and on attendance at the Bde shooting competition a Bn Marksmanship shooting squad of 10 firers shot LF15 in the F88 class, 9mm pistol and LF6 with the F89 with two gunners. By the end of the day with all Bde Units having shot all weapon classes 2 RAR emerged as the leading scoring Unit team overall in first place and also first for each individual weapon class. (2 RAR Bde shooting competition team – CAPT Sparkes, CPL Mazourenko, LCPL Saward, PTE Millar, PTE Harris, PTE Payne, PTE Thompson)

Following the 3 Bde shooting competition five Marksman and a Sniper Pair attended AASAM 13. Over three weeks in May at PMA the Marksman competed as individuals and as a team in a range of complex matches (traditional LF practices, rifle/pistol CQB, night shooting/alternate positions, F89/MAG 58 serials, rundowns and 450m long range serials) against both a number of Australian Army domestic RAR and Unit teams and alongside 21 International teams (China, Japan, US Armed Forces, United Kingdom and a number of Asian Armies). At the same time the Sniper pair also competed in the Sniping matches against the International and RAR teams conducting a range of stalks and engagements out to extended ranges of 1000m. (Marksman team: CAPT Sparkes, LCPL Saward, PTE Millar, PTE Harris, PTE Payne; Sniper Pair: LCPL Turner and LCPL Jankusik).

At the end of the three weeks both the Marksman and Snipers had performed



2 RAR AASAM 13 Marksman Team



The Skill at Arms Badge



The Snipers Badge



The Army Top 20 Badge

exceptionally well. From the Marksman all members were ranked in the top 50 marksman in the Champion Shot of the Army competition however notably PTE Payne was ranked 10th, LCPL Saward 26th (and earned his Skilled-at-Arms Marksman Badge) and PTE Harris won the Night Weapon Sight match. (All members were also nominated for the Australian International Marksmanship course held at the Small Arms Wing Puckapunyal). Additional to the Marksman team the Sniper pair was ranked 6th overall amongst the International sniper teams and 2nd overall in Australia scoring higher than all other RAR sniper teams and coming a close second behind the School of Infantry Sniper Master pair as the highest scoring team. (Following AASAM 13, later in the year the 2 RAR Snipers will also take part in further sniping competitions held in Canada and at the SASR Sniper concentration in Perth). The 3 Bde shooting competition and AASAM provided an excellent opportunity for the Bn marksman and snipers to confirm their shooting skills at the skilled competition level. Overall a very good result for 2 RAR.

AASAM is now recognised globally as one of the biggest military international shooting competitions in the southern hemisphere.

“Marksman” - A soldier employing the marksmanship principles who is an above average shot with a standard issue weapon and can use his/her personal weapon to produce accurate and effective fire to the maximum effective range of the weapon.

In the Australian Army, marksmanship and skill-at-arms is currently recognized by the award of one of three skill-at-arms badges. The ‘Skill at Arms Badge’ consists of a representation of crossed .303 Short Magazine Lee Enfield rifles and is awarded for achieving a prescribed standard of shooting skill. The ‘Sniper’s Badge’ is similar in design but incorporates the letter ‘S’ into the design and is awarded to soldiers who qualify on the Army Sniper’s Course. The ‘Army Top 20 Badge’ consists of crossed .303 rifles upon a laurel wreath and is awarded to the final 20 competitors in the annual Champion Shot for the Army.

The four marksmanship principles remain the foundation for any skilled shooter

Combat Shooting

During the 2nd week of July 2013 a small team of Warrant Officers and SNCOs from SASR provided a one week intensive combat

shooting training “train the trainer” package to 15-20 members of the Battalion.

Combat shooting is the practice of rapid aim fire techniques and is the application of shooting principles applied over a shorter period of time, under greater stress utilising and adapting standard shooting positions to fit the environment and situation. (as a general rule: Combat shooting is applied when the distance to the target is under 200m / marksmanship and sniping is generally applied when the distance to the target is over 200m).

To employ the CS principles a soldier must be; a fit, trained soldier who under all conditions of combat can use the ground for fire and movement, keeping their weapons(s) in action, quickly detecting, engaging and killing the enemy from suboptimal firing positions. The ability to employ CS is underpinned by a soldier's proficiency in marksmanship and their understanding of the marksmanship principles.

Initially during the training package week the participants looked into the finer detail of the theories and concepts associated with combat shooting (breathing and stress/heart rate control, teaching methods, triangulation, 3D visualisation, fine/gross/complex motor skills, workspace management and context for CS and equipment set up and carriage).

Following the theory phase the course conducted its primary CS training on the 9mm pistol rebuilding and confirming the basics of CS techniques (correct weapon grip, body positioning, recoil management, trigger reset and vertical tracking) and the application of the four CS principles:

1. Use an Acceptable Sight Picture;
2. The weapon must be rapidly brought to bear on a target, without the need for perfect body position;
3. The Trigger must be engaged and released rapidly to enable fast accurate engagements; and
4. Recoil must be controlled and managed effectively.

By mid week the course participants had advanced onto CS with both pistol and F88 conducting highly accurate rapid serials from static and moving positions, and in some serials carrying out multiple stoppages with transition drills (pistol and rifle as a primary and secondary system). Overall the CS package provided by SASR trained a number of Offr, SNCO and NCOs to a very high standard of close combat shooting which now can be used as the standard shooting techniques for the close fight when under 200m.

CAPT A. Sparkes, Adjutant 2 RAR ■



“Combat Shooter” - SGT McLaren providing instruction on the M4 weapon series to A Coy at MSTA prior to deployment to PNG. SGT McLaren is also the lead Combat Shooter in 2 RAR.



Orienteering

The overall winner on the day of the Battalion competition was Support Company who narrowly beat A Company by an average of only four minutes. Admin Company came through and placed third while B Company came in fourth.

PTE Marshall of Support Company won the individual event ahead of LCPL Robinson of A Company and LCPL McMillan, also from Support Company.

An ad hoc Battalion team based on the Cambrian Patrol team members was called out at short notice to compete in a hastily

put together Brigade competition. Using it as one of their last hit outs before departing for the UK the team placed fifth. ■

Netball

Netball got off to a ‘doubtful’ start this year with a few people in the Battalion deciding that it was a female only sport and males should not participate. Contrary to popular belief it was in fact a mixed gender sport and 2 RAR combined with 1 RAR & 3 RAR managed to get together a team and enter the comp. A few of the players had never played netball before or were very fresh and still learning but everyone gave it their all. Our first few games were clearly there for

everyone to find their feet and get the feel of the team dynamics. When we found who worked best in what areas of the game, our first win was not far behind. This win opened the door for the team and we became quite solid competition for the other units.

Managing a team across three units was a tricky task due to courses, deployments and bush trips never aligning. There was always someone missing from one week to the next and this proved to be a big damper on a few occasions. The team never let up and everyone knew that when we had all our key players on court, we were a forced to be reckoned with. We slowly climbed the ladder and finished in the top couple of units to make the finals with ease. Unfortunately, for the game that would take us to the grand final, we were missing half of the team to courses and leave.

Those who remained gave it everything they had but nerves got in the way of the game play in first two quarters. The team regathered at half time to make a good recovery and try to come back. At the final whistle we were still two points down and the season was over. 3 CER got to take this one away from us – this time!

CPL Krystal Smith ■

Basketball

During the BDE sporting competition in 2013, the Battalion was spread very thin. Courses period dominated the Brigade sports period with most personnel involved in unit and brigade courses as either an instructor or trainee. Unfortunately for the unit trophy cabinet, this meant that we were unable to consistently field a side in the competition.

It was looking promising in game one and two. A narrow defeat at the hands of 1RAR was followed up in week two by the convincing defeat of 4 REGT. It should be noted that this side then went on and took out the competition, undefeated through the remainder of the draw. The victory, albeit sweet was short-lived. Officials discovered that non-Battalion members had played to help avoid a forfeit, and stripped us of the win. Several further consecutive forfeits prompted the removal of the Battalion side from the competition.

Interest in the basketball side has been increasing as the courses period draws to a close. Providing there are no commitments preventing it, the potential for 2 RAR to field a winning side in 2014 is very strong. ■

Athletics

History was made this year at the athletics carnival with 2 RAR becoming the 3 BDE Champion Female Athletics Unit for 2013.



With about six hours notice of the upcoming athletics carnival, we were on a mission to have a team sorted. Some gruelling try-outs followed which consisted of standing in an office stabbing people for events and gauging who was going to have the least amount of heart failure at the idea of participating.

The morning of the carnival arrived and everyone was pumped and ready to take on the world. While it was cool early on, it quickly turned into a scorcher of a day, there was plenty of sunburn and panda eye tans to be seen by the time it was all over. Everybody that participated put in a solid effort and our guys had a couple of good wins in the triple and high jump events.

The girls of the Battalion dominated the carnival and showed that every aspect of 2 RAR is 'second to none'.

From the outset of the first event, our females had a strong representation and often had some of us turned away from events as we had too many competitors. Wins and placing started to roll in and the points were adding up at a great rate. Our guys were left in 7th position overall on the points tally but the girls bought it home for the Bn and completely blitz the competition - being on top of the leader board from the first announcement and refused to let it go from there. By the end of the day the females had accumulated enough points with placing and participation to bring the overall unit standing to first place (although the award for this got dropped three years back).

A special mention to our female relay teams who totally owned the track and didn't even give the other units a look at the winning line before them. Our 4x100m team were in front from the first step and had a solid win. 2 RAR had 2 4x400m female teams on the track (much to the objection of 3 RAR) as 1 RAR couldn't get a team together at all. The original team, along with the 4x100m girls backing it up straight away, showed the rest how it was done and our winning team could



have walked it in with the length of lead they had at the finish line.

A huge congratulations and thanks to all that participated and made this happen, hopefully 2 RAR can retain the shield to be the champion female unit in 2014.

CPL Krystal Smith ■

Cross Country

The Battalion did not hold a unit cross country event this year. The pace of training, external support tasks and the absence of a large proportion of the unit from barracks made the running of this event problematic and would not have been a true inter company competition. However, the Battalion did field a team for the Brigade competition. With A Company and its attachments in Paua New Guinea, two platoons of B Company in the field, Support Company and Admin all over the place supporting a whole heap of things a commendable fourth place was achieved. This result kept the Battalion in the hunt for the Commander's Trophy for inter-unit competition in the Brigade.

While they didn't make the podium at the Brigade event, CPL Jaeschke from Tech Support Platoon and PTE Efford from Transport Platoon, were the first male and female respectively home, making them the unofficial unit champions for 2013. ■

Duke of Gloucester Cup

With last year's 2RAR Duke of Gloucester Cup team bringing home a win after returning from Afghanistan, the pressure was on us to back it up and keep the trophies at Samichon Lines a further year. The team began a structured and intense training program in March 2013 to prepare for the event which kicked off on 30 April. With two of the team members having experience from past DOG CUP events we were able to set up a practical and demanding training program that would allow us to run into the competition with our most competitive team. We placed heavy emphasis on shooting and battle fitness with PT being conducted twice a day and range days twice a week, working on both long range marksmanship and combat shooting techniques. Care was taken to ensure we did not overtrain as we still needed to enter the competition with a rested yet fit mindset.

While past years competitions revolved around a counter-insurgency type setting utilising a bull-ring system for the individual scored events, the focus this year had shifted to a more traditional defensive style task, encompassing foundation warfighting skills. This format in itself presented its own challenges as there was very little down-time available for the team between events as spare precious seconds were utilised conducting defensive routine, be it digging down stage 3 pits, rotating sentries, camming spoil, and the full gamut of tasks encountered as a platoon in defence.

From the defensive position tasks for the events were issued through warning orders, on receipt of which CPL Katz was required to plan for the upcoming task and write orders in an extremely limited time window. First up was the section ambush, and while we were confident in our rehearsals from our previous training, we were required to also utilise a Manoeuvre Support fire-team which added to the complexity of the layout of the ambush site and the utilisation of weapon systems for optimum effect into the kill zone. After conducting the night ambush and returning to the main defensive position we had approximately a day of development of the position, involving an assessed wiring task and the never ending digging and water re-supplies before we were issued our warning order for the section attack.

The attack itself was situated in a dry creek bed with mine obstacles on either side which served to canalise our section into the depth of the enemy camp-site. The attack was one of the high points of the competition and the effort that had been placed into establishing



the enemy structures, bunkers and civilian KIA complete with rotting meat and blood, was clearly evident. We adopted a dynamic approach to the attack itself given the nature of the terrain and that it involved enemy in a semi-bunkered and rural environment. Both fire teams displayed excellent command, control and communication under relatively complex circumstances, and we rapidly cleared through the enemy camp site, conducted an exploitation of a weapons cache, and were able to withdraw under enemy indirect fire without any confusion.

Following another day stint of position development we were required to conduct a night standing patrol. While it was laid out as a simple gallery shoot we made sure we still adhered to correct routine and track plans and pissers were dug, in spite of knowing we would only be there a short duration. Despite some confusion as to the tactical application of claymores onto a lone DART mech warrior, we managed to still pull away good results on this event due to all the team members being confident with their hold-offs for their Night Aiming Devices.

The following morning after returning to the Main Defensive Position we were forced off the position by the approaching enemy hordes and commenced a tactical withdrawal

which returned us to Lone Pine Barracks. This was the most physically demanding day and component of the entire DOG Cup, involving an 8km, 80kg stretcher carry, followed by a 7km stomp. This leg returned us conveniently to the obstacle course at School of Infantry, which we completed in due order followed immediately by the bayonet assault course. With those two heinous events out of the way we knew the comp was done and dusted, and with the lads chafed, covered in dust from digging, and being well and truly fingered it was time for a well deserved shower and pack of Allens snakes.

For our efforts we were awarded the Royal Ulster Rifles Trophy, the Macdonald Cup and the Duke of Gloucester trophy itself, and more importantly, the right to compete in the 2013 Cambrian patrol competition in Wales.

LCPL Fabreschi ■

Cambrian Patrol

Following our section's victory in the 2013 Dog Cup event in April, we had the privilege of representing the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment and the Australian Army in the 2013 Cambrian Patrol.

The Cambrian Patrol is an extremely arduous patrolling event held in the Brecon Beacons of Wales, UK. The patrol is a competitive 48 hour event with units from all over the UK partaking, as well as a large international competition base. Teams this year came from as far as New Zealand, Italy, Norway, Pakistan, Poland and of course ourselves representing Australia. The competing teams are awarded either a Gold, Silver or Bronze medal, or a certificate of attendance on completion of the task depending on their performance. Recent years have seen 3RAR taking away a silver and bronze, and the 2012 2RAR team also brought home a silver medal. The last time an Australian team came away with a gold medal equivalent was 27 years ago, when a 1RAR section stole victory from the local UK teams the very first time they were invited to compete.

The competition kicked off at 0500 from the primary assembly area, where orders were received and issued complete with a detailed mud-model. Knowing a high percentage of points from the event went into this component, no corners were cut and CPL Katz was able to issue a comprehensive set of patrol orders for the first phase of the patrol. The first stage of the patrol involved a recon task, where we were required to conduct a Close Target Reconnaissance (CTR) on an enemy campsite which was situated in a farming homestead in a large open valley. Once getting eyes-on the target area for the first time, we concluded it would be far more tactically sound to conduct a long range OP on the enemy as opposed to a CTR. In this instance the advantage of having every member of our patrol either from a Recon or Sniper background was immediately evident, as we were able to ascertain minor details such as vehicle rego plates, detailed descriptions of all enemy personnel and develop sketches of the camp layout both panoramic and aerial.

On completion of our time on target for this phase we conducted an 18km foot move to affect marry-up with a friendly-forces guide. However prior to this meeting we were required to have all patrol report documentation prepared, which resulted in the entire patrol conducting an LUP on a freezing-cold wind-swept hill either writing the report itself, drawing overlays, or polishing up

sketches and details of all enemy personal sighted.

After we married up with the guide we were allowed a brief 2.5 hour respite in a friendly rebel forces camp, where orders for the next task were issued and disseminated, and the debrief for the recon task was conducted. At this location the lads were also given a lesson by a UKSF advisor on how to filter water and start a fire using improvised means. At this stage each member of the patrol had approximately 45 minutes sleep, after which we boarded trucks to move to an insertion point for the next stage of the mission. After unhappily watching the comforting red glow of the vehicle headlights disappearing into the 5AM gloom we stepped off for our next leg, a hideous 8km walk which seemingly took us through the heart of Mordor to our next assessed stand which was the water crossing.

Having rehearsed our drills and tactics for a water obstacle crossing we felt it went relatively smoothly, although the 5m sheer mud-bank slip and slide we had to scale once we exited the water made for humorous viewing, as guys were going head over heels trying to drag our hootchie-wrapped packs up the muck. Following a short halt where we smashed a quick feed and put on our dry yet manky kit, we patrolled a further 10km to an RV with another friendly rebel force member who required our assistance in identifying some generic OPFOR weapon systems and mines left behind in a cache. With the cache identified and secured, we had another charming stroll through the Welsh forested mountains until we encountered curiously enough, a camp of French Partisans (their words), who amazingly required their water purified and a camp-fire built. The lads who received the lesson from the UKSF advisor earlier in the patrol expertly instructed the rebels in the optimum purification and fire-starting techniques, and with the Partisans lust for fire appeased we were able to continue on task to a holding area before being transported by truck to the Sennybridge training area.

Immediately on entering the training area, we encountered a civilian vehicle blocking the road which inexplicably required our assistance to move. Lo and behold the second we dismounted the trucks we were immediately ambushed by MNLA enemy rebel forces from the field to our flank. CPL Katz issued snap quick-attack orders and we executed a rapid flanking assault on the first two enemy personal, whereby we were

immediately engaged by a further enemy force approximately 100m to the rear of the first enemy element. These insurgents were also rapidly destroyed by our callsign and following a quick withdrawal from enemy indirect fire, we re-mounted the vehicles for a short drive to a friendly rebel force safe house. At this location it was discovered that enemy personnel were being tortured and we were required to intervene and display the correct procedures for the handling of detainees. By some amazing twist of fate, simultaneously to us giving the Person Under Capture handling lessons a friendly mortar base-plate was running low on ammunition, which of course required our immediate assistance in resupplying them by foot. After we had run 1.8km and dumped the mortar rounds at the feet of the ungrateful friendly rebels, they proceeded to repay us by blowing themselves up while playing with explosives, which was our queue to step in and provide life-saving first aid to the injured personnel, and subsequently move them by foot a further 800m to a helo landing point for a CASEVAC.

Suffice to say by this stage of the game at 2200 hours on the second night we were well and truly exhausted, however knew the bulk of the tough events were behind us. All that remained was a further stomp to a marry-up point, where we conducted a kit-check of all our equipment under the watchful eye of Cambrian Patrol Directing Staff, and provided our debrief for the entire mission. It was noted by the assessing staff at this point the demeanour in which we carried ourselves as a fighting patrol, as although we had suffered through the cold and wet and covered approximately 55km of ground by foot, we were able to still continue on further tasking from this point, with all members having an additional 12 hours of rations and water available. At this stage we had clued on that it was nearly game over, and after some mind-games where we were told we had to complete another mission and patrol a further distance, we were lined up against a wall and told by directing staff that the Cambrian patrol was in fact complete.

Upon returning to Sennybridge Barracks and having a short snooze until 0700 we attended breakfast and gorged ourselves on grease-covered fried eggs and bacon at the mess until it was time for the much-anticipated awards ceremony. Following a heavily over-dramatised announcement that we had won the Gold medal a collective sigh of relief fell out of the entire team. Equal parts that we had won the gold and that the event was completely over.

Every single one of us in the patrol entered the event with the drive and desire to earn the gold. We were confident with our abilities within our respective roles, and felt that the hard work we had put in over the patrol had paid-off. There were ample opportunities to take short cuts, skimp on post-patrol product and reports, and get far more rest than the meagre amount we did, however the entire section was aiming for the gold medal from start to finish, and the determination and mateship we carried through the task allowed us to accomplish the top prize in what is dubbed 'The Ultimate Challenge'.

LCPL Fabreschi ■





News from the Coldstream Guards

2013 has continued to be an exceptionally busy year for the Armed Forces in UK and indeed the Coldstream Guards, although the drawdown of the campaign in Afghanistan is continuing to be a top priority, increasingly the re-organisation of the Army has been a major focus of attention. The Army will be downsized by 20,000 posts, which has involved some level of redundancy across the different Arms and Services with the Coldstream Guards only slightly affected with 32 voluntary redundees. Concurrently with the downsizing of the regular component the Territorial Army (TA) – now known as the 'Army Reserve', is seeing a large uplift in personnel and in the future we will see a Reserve unit providing the 3rd Platoon in rifle companies on operations. This concept is undoubtedly going to be very challenging to deliver, but the British Army and the Coldstream Guards has always adapted and no doubt will continue to make the very best of the resources and missions that are thrown at it by the government of the day.

With respect to senior Coldstreamers; Lieutenant General Sir James Bucknall, our Colonel, continues as the Commander for the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps until October this year, after which he is due to retire from the army but of course will continue as our Colonel. He was recently made a KCB by Her Majesty The Queen. Our Regimental Lieutenant Colonel Brigadier Greville Bibby continues as Commander 15 (NE) Brigade based in York and will be taking an appointment in Andover on the Army staff in 2014.

Number 7 Company, our public duties company, continues on Public Duties in both London and Windsor, with occasional trips away for low level training, adventure training and assistance to other Army units. It provided Number 6 Guard on the 2013 Queen's Birthday Parade and it has a full schedule of Public duties in 2014.

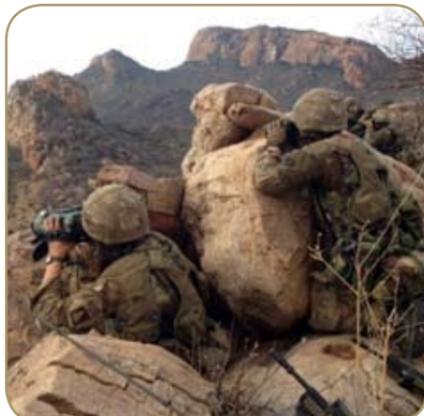
The 1st Battalion is currently based in Victoria Barracks in Windsor has over the last 18 months played a major role, not only nationally in the State Ceremonial and Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, but also in a highly successful Regimental programme which included the Presentation of New

Colours to both Number 7 Company and the 1st Battalion by Her Majesty, as well as the Laying up of Old Colours at Eton College. It was of course a great honour for the regiment to troop the 1st Battalion's Colours at Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Parade in her Diamond Jubilee summer.

After a hectic summer of ceremonial duties the 1st Battalion moved off the 'blue line' – and began training in earnest for a deployment to Afghanistan under the command of a new Commanding Officer Lt Col Toby Till MBE. In January 2013 the Battalion came under the command of 7th Armoured Brigade with nine months to prepare for deployment on OPERATION HERRICK. With this focus in mind the Rifle Company's training has been entirely focused on the Mission Specific Training exercises (MST) in various parts of the United Kingdom. The Battalion's role will be the Kabul Guard Force unit from March to August 2014. The Reconnaissance Platoon will deploy separately in September 2013 as the infantry backbone of the Brigade Reconnaissance Force (BRF), the platoon has been forward mounted to Hohne, Germany where it joins individuals from other regiments to make up a multi-cabbadged squadron. The platoon as part of the BRF has undergone a busy training period with exercises in both the UK and Germany in preparation for the multi-faceted role that the force will undertake on operations in Afghanistan. The Platoon has honed its skills in being a ground and helicopter borne assault force, as well as

specialising in dismounted surveillance and reconnaissance skills on a specially constructed BRF exercise in the Brecon Beacons.

As the summer approached the emphasis for the Coldstream Guards has quickly shifted towards Number 3 Company's deployment to Kenya on EXERCISE ASKARI SPEAR. Number 3 Company who are, not part of the force elements for OPERATION HERRICK, deployed in early July 2013 on this company level training exercise to Kenya. The exercise practiced many different elements of Company level operations and culminated in excellent Company live-firing ranges utilising the fantastic terrain that this unique training area possesses. Towards the end of the exercise there has been the opportunity for all-ranks to conduct various adventurous training opportunities ranging from diving off the East African Coast to summiting Mt. Kenya. The Company under the guidance of Major John Brinn has seized the training opportunity and thoroughly enjoyed the Kenyan experience. ■



Elements of the Fire Support Group in overwatch on Exercise ASKARI SPEAR, Kenya 2013.



Troops engage enemy depth during Company level live firing on Exercise ASKARI SPEAR, Kenya 2013.



HM The Queen accompanied by the Colonel of the Regiment and Regimental Lieutenant Colonel inspect the 1st Battalion at the presentation of New Colours, Windsor Castle – May 2012.



The New Colours of the 1st Battalion lead the parade off the quadrangle at Windsor Castle – May 2012.

The 2RAR Historical Collection 1990-2013

The Historical Collection was first begun on 9th Oct 1990, when the then 'Colonel Commandant' LTGEN A. L. MORRISON AO, DSO, MBE, RL officiated at the opening of our Historical Collection. After the ceremony, he took me aside and asked me to follow him upstairs to the collection and we went inside (he then told his 'aide-de-camp' to wait at the car) and proceeded to let me know what my responsibilities were and; "how he had an offer I couldn't refuse!" In a nut-shell he said he wanted me to do some tertiary education at James Cook University (JCU), to become proficient in museum - management and care, and learn more of the region to our north. He offered to allow me to study in the Army's time however, I needed to do all my duties, bush-trips and operational - service as well as study and, gain a BA and an Associate - Diploma in the courses of 'Museum Management' and 'South East Asian History'. He reiterated that; "if any rank (and I don't care how far up the ladder they are) decides you are not going to uni, then I want to know about it!" The General then gave me his personal card and home numbers, saying, "Don't hold back if there is an issue I can help with and do your best - Corporal!" He stayed about half an hour more and I could see he was probably recalling all those people, places and incidents that he had been involved with over several decades. On the tour of the collection we noted that it was situated in the old Military-Instruction (MI) block and formed part of two classrooms and a film projection-room. There were still reels of old footage on the two projectors in place on their spindles, situated in an alcove behind the refurbished classrooms.

Imagine this, it was during the 2nd/4th Bn era, we had only five years to go before the de-linking of the two battalions and consequently, there was an abundance of memorabilia spanning from the occupation of Japan till just after the Vietnam War. This 'old gentleman' had in fact served during the occupation, and later in Korea, Malaya and Vietnam, so he was to prove a walking and talking wealth of knowledge, while he showed me around and became very helpful over the years. I found him a wonderful and caring person, very passionate about preserving our history and memorabilia and,

he was determined that our heritage be saved and collated for future generations of soldiers coming through the battalion. General Morrison would visit the collection several times afterwards and, I can recall that he would let me know if there were any mistakes in names, awards or locations with the occasional anecdote remembered during his many years of service to the RAR and Australia. 'Alby' as he was known to his friends (always SIR to me) had a remarkable memory and sometimes when I thought I could out fox him with regards to a name or award, it was usually he who knew the subject better. His son David, later became our Commanding Officer 1996 - 98 and actually as 3rd Bde Brigadier he officially opened the new Historical Collection, where we are today - from father to son, quite a coincidence. So now, that I am still part of the furniture although considered by some to be (*the 2 RAR Mannequin Rapist*) with an enviable job. There is still much work to be completed.

In case you were unaware, the unit curator is the CO's representative for interpreting the history, customs and traditions of the Second Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment. The 'Mission Statement' which the Curator must adhere to is as follows; "The Second Battalion Historical Collection will collect, preserve, display and research military objects relating to the following units; The 66th Bn, 2 AR, 2nd Bn, 2nd/4th Bn and the present 2nd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment." My primary aim is to remind members of 2 RAR of the history and traditions that have created the current Battalion. The displays within the collection are set out chronologically and trace the history of the 66th Bn to the present. In fact we celebrated our original birthday dated from 16th Oct 1945.

Thanks to the assistance of many tradesmen (of various eras and units) and the continued support of our hierarchy, I have been able to keep the collection in good nick for twenty-three years so far during ARA and ARES service. I think we can rightly say that the 2 RAR Battalion Historical Collection is "Second To None!"

CPL John Twomey ■



2 RAR Association

This year has largely been one of consolidation following the very successful reunion that was held in Townsville in July of last year. Our membership continues to increase and we have a membership Australia wide that exceeds 500. However, we continue to seek and encourage those who are eligible to come on board and become part of the 2RAR family.

We are proud to announce the appointment of the first patron of the 2RAR Association, Colonel J.M.Church, DSO (Retd), who accepted the appointment in February 2013. Colonel Church has had a long association with 2RAR which included service in Malaysia, Brisbane and Townsville. He was appointed CO 2RAR in September 1968 and from May 1970 to June 1971, commanded the Battalion on its second tour of Vietnam.

The Association continues to enjoy a close relationship with 2RAR. We have followed with interest the unit's emphasis on amphibious training, an obvious very challenging transition from operations in Afghanistan. 2RAR again has achieved outstanding results in many fields throughout the year and we congratulate the Battalion on continuing to display such high standards. 2RAR was again successful in winning the Duke of Gloucester Cup and went one better in the Cambrian Patrol competition by winning the gold medal. Congratulations to those involved and it again shows the high standard that the Battalion has achieved.

We are also pleased to announce that commencing this year, the Association will provide an annual award in the form of \$1000 to the 2RAR champion soldier. Our congratulation go to LCPL R. Shaw of B Company, the inaugural winner of this prize. This award will be made at an appropriate unit activity later this year.

The 2RAR Association AGM, Commemoration Service and Annual Reunion will again be held at the Twin Towns Resort, Tweed Heads on 26 October 2013. There is no entry fee for this activity and all members who have served, or are currently serving with 2RAR and their families are welcome to attend. While this is an Association reunion, many take the opportunity to arrange individual Company and Platoon reunions during the weekend.

A new 2RAR Association website is currently under construction and should be complete by the end of this year. The site will contain a host of information including the history of 2RAR and will be updated regularly to reflect current happenings. It will be the principal vehicle for circulating information to the members. I commend the website to you. The website address is www.2rar-association.com.au

Planning for the 2RAR National Reunion in Adelaide from 22-25 April 2014 is well advanced. The reunion includes the Commemoration of the six soldiers from South Australia who paid the Supreme Sacrifice whilst serving with 2RAR in South Vietnam during the two tours of duty. There will also be the unveiling and dedication of a Memorial dedicated to all former members of 2RAR, since formation, regardless of active service or not. On ANZAC Day, the Association will march through Adelaide. We are looking forward to a good turnout for this activity. Details are located on the website.

"Second to None"

Leo Van De Kamp
President
2RAR Association ■

Nominal Roll

8238275	LTCOL	Smith, Christopher Robert	8245770	SGT	Redwin, Mark Clifford	8561611	CPL	Stannard, Kate	8583397	PTE	Ainsworth, Robert Luke	8543043	PTE	Dean, Geoffrey Wayne	8591233	PTE	Ives, Hayden Wayne	8554757	PTE	Morris, Eric James	8515033	PTE	Seeney, John Thomas
8442365	MAJ	Aisake, Francisco Vamarasi	8222613	SGT	Reid, Glen	8500892	CPL	Stringer, Murray John	8558559	PTE	Aldridge, Nicholas Colin	8568460	PTE	DeLaforce, Patrick Mervyn	8565518	PTE	Jackamarra, Thomas Gordon	8545091	PTE	Morse, Brock Austin	8592512	PTE	Serra, Jamie Ronald
8230650	MAJ	Eccleston, John Richard	8498394	SGT	Robb, Daniel James	8213929	CPL	Sweet, Ernest Henry Keith	8591192	PTE	Alexander, Brenton David	8559545	PTE	Densem, Tegan Kate	8585405	PTE	Jessop, Aiden Ross	8570220	PTE	Mudaliar, Shanil Sanmugam	8250830	PTE	Shillabeer, Jason Lee
8214611	MAJ	Foster, Duncan John	8487771	SGT	Rolfe, Dathan Olaf	8504782	CPL	Thompson, Dirk Francis	8574218	PTE	Altmann, Elliot Justin	8525901	PTE	Desler, Derek Peter	8566222	PTE	Jobbins, Brendan David	8594462	PTE	Mullane, Lauren Claire	8551765	PTE	Shooter, Bryce James
8217605	MAJ	Gower, Adam William	8234980	SGT	Roseler, Timothy Paul	8510953	CPL	Tunncliffe, Mark Andrew	8532090	PTE	Anderson, Lee Thomas	8553302	PTE	Dicicco, Blake Anthony	8593259	PTE	Johnston, Nicholas James	8550283	PTE	Nash, Shane Thomas	8543134	PTE	Short, Joshua William Mark
8519010	MAJ	Leevers, John Nathan	8233509	SGT	Small, Garry Robert	8227817	CPL	Twomey, John David	8595973	PTE	Anderson, Michael Zachary	8490137	PTE	Dinsmore, Aaron	8571175	PTE	Jones, Tyler Robert	8585725	PTE	Neale, Aaron Richard	8543097	PTE	Shorter, Timothy John
8268983	MAJ	McCarthy, Nicholas Glyn	8264128	SGT	Smith, Christopher Mark	851981	CPL	Van Baar, Mia Rae	8250385	PTE	Angus, Daniel Nathan	8571652	PTE	Dobber, Alex James Pieter	8553779	PTE	Judd, Rily John	8548163	PTE	News, Tobbit Alik	8572097	PTE	Siebert, Kai Nathaniel
8236385	MAJ	Rubin, Alexander Charles	8222360	SGT	Stewart, James Alexander	8512689	CPL	Voute, Richard Drake	8541369	PTE	Armstrong, Craig Robert	8543658	PTE	Donnelly, Richard Alan	8559541	PTE	KC, Dip Prakash	8568444	PTE	Newton, Anthony Mark	8553617	PTE	Simmons, Richard Anthony
8437151	MAJ	Williams, Jon Kent	8268450	SGT	Tobin, Brett Samuel	8234281	CPL	Warner, Benjamin James	8530187	PTE	Armstrong, Matthew Alan Thomas	8581201	PTE	Douglas, Ethan John	8577408	PTE	Keegan, Royce Anthony	8572243	PTE	Newton, Samuel Thomas	8551468	PTE	Simpson, Adam Patrick
8509553	CAPT	Badcock, Barbie-Anne	8485284	SGT	Watkins, Scott	8526963	CPL	Wasson, Sara Jane	8542866	PTE	Attwood, Lee Melvern	8559540	PTE	Dovale, Hugo Sequeira	8569126	PTE	Kelly, Alec Kevin	8587902	PTE	Nicholls, Gavin Glen James	8518143	PTE	Simpson, Craig Michael
8518921	CAPT	Best, Matthew James	8262763	CPL	Anderson, Alexander James	8502695	CPL	Wells, Andrew Simon Wykeham	8555862	PTE	Ayton, Malachi Joseph	8571415	PTE	Doyle, Christopher Dean	8571950	PTE	Kent, Morgan James Bernard	8591484	PTE	Nixon, Matthew David	8531110	PTE	Singleton, Guy Neville
8590227	CAPT	Blackmore, Andrew	8442505	CPL	Armstrong, Terry Clarence	8493580	CPL	Weston, Andrew Dean	8564768	PTE	Baber, Dylan Jai Purcell	8594464	PTE	Drake, Elizabeth Jane	8591211	PTE	Kerswell, Shannan Joseph Alan	8589318	PTE	Nixon, Matthew Raymond	8556325	PTE	Singleton, John Colin
8486521	CAPT	Davis, Aaron Neil	8555126	CPL	Ashton, Leigh Thomas	8228219	CPL	Wilton, Troy Allan	8565443	PTE	Bailey, William Thomas Afflick	8538288	PTE	Dunkley, Andrew Steven	8571938	PTE	Kiernan, Liam Gilbert	8567600	PTE	Nolan, Christian James	8586798	PTE	Skinner, Patrick Cant
8247362	CAPT	Grogan, Hugh Michael	8520313	CPL	Barnett, Brett Michael	8502698	CPL	Woodman, Kalan Craig	8524435	PTE	Bain, Zachary Joel	8591197	PTE	Efford, Tianna Jade	8555654	PTE	King, Matthew Arthur	8588890	PTE	Northam, Matthew Alan	8555833	PTE	Small, David James
8270827	CAPT	Huggins, Matthew James	8543403	CPL	Baynton, Jerome Dale Ernest	8265081	CPL	Yeoman, Daniel Scott	8542508	PTE	Baker, Jeremiah John	8541176	PTE	Elices-Vega, Bruno Jose Antonio	8492560	PTE	Kirk, Christopher Thomas	8566147	PTE	Nosworthy, Callum James	8539251	PTE	Smith, Aaron Dale
8538296	CAPT	Lawrence, Andrew James	8527429	CPL	Beattie, Clinton James Douglas	8497731	LCPL	Abberfield, Cameron Ross	85585043	PTE	Barker, Nathan Laurence	8559519	PTE	Ellis, Luke Anthony	8572672	PTE	Klose, Bradley Paul	8572672	PTE	O'Connell, Timothy Liam	8542141	PTE	Smith, Zachary Marshall
8544482	CAPT	Leeds, Christopher James	8568491	CPL	Bell, Robert Craig	8519465	LCPL	Alce, Andrew Mackenzie	8586809	PTE	Baron, Joel Blair	8572153	PTE	El-Sanady, Manuel	8576512	PTE	Koeck, Marcus Stewart	8585074	PTE	O'Connor, Timothy John	8588536	PTE	Smith, Georgia Ellen
8530951	CAPT	Lumb, Andrew John	8439122	CPL	Bevan, Philip Ninalga	8504466	LCPL	Allison, Andrew Stephen	8527332	PTE	Barrera, Carlos Alberto	8554646	PTE	Emerson, Ashley Darren	8565517	PTE	Kuiper, Steven Ronald	8586813	PTE	O'Keefe, Viktor Karlos Alfonso	8519593	PTE	Smith, Ryan John
8280010	CAPT	McGlashan, Christopher Desmond	8498768	CPL	Brennan, Benjamin Steven	8442524	LCPL	Baker, James Vivian	8541467	PTE	Battig, Dominic	8561326	PTE	Fardon, Amos Frederick	8561257	PTE	Kynan Roland	8545544	PTE	Oliver, Leonard James	8539465	PTE	Smyth, Emily Louise
8298250	CAPT	Mujkanovic, Dejan	8250740	CPL	Brown, Jay Anthony	8511238	LCPL	Baker, Patrick John Race	8589297	PTE	Belik, Joshua Troy	8581548	PTE	Field, Robert John	8556716	PTE	Lambert, Trent Bradley	8548170	PTE	O'Rourke, Jesse Anthony	8585615	PTE	Springborg, Jens Dearden
8259449	CAPT	Sparkes, Alistar Eric	8219706	CPL	Campbell, Darren William	8521843	LCPL	Beveridge, Lindsay Shane	8484471	PTE	Bell, Jesse Kalib	8566876	PTE	Fitzgerald, Michael Joseph	8554263	PTE	Lambrinakos, John Michael	8586770	PTE	O'Shea, Brent Christopher	8586765	PTE	Steinscherer, Kurt Rudolf
8499737	CAPT	Titcume, Andrew Bryce	8528176	CPL	Carmen, Peter James	8559602	CPL	Bootsma, Gerard Klaas	8553351	PTE	Bendjie, Nathan David	8571429	PTE	Fone, Dwayne Douglas Bernard	8565304	PTE	Laming, Barry Andrew	8565304	PTE	O'Sullivan, Jacob Ryan	8559839	PTE	Stewart, Mark William
8556125	LT	Buntine, Joel Evan	8238861	CPL	Clark, Wayne Anthony	8532981	LCPL	Boyce, Corey Adam	8557469	PTE	Benjamin, James	8546257	PTE	Ford, Marc Gavin	8440924	PTE	Lang, Damian John	8561248	PTE	Owens, Brent Francis	8553274	PTE	Strutt, Daniel Laurence James
8578920	LT	Epps, Liam Edwin	8532084	CPL	Convery, Jared Miles	8542872	LCPL	Braithwaite, Benjamin Charles	8542761	PTE	Bennett, Gordon Ross	8563241	PTE	Ford, Nathan Mark	8559587	PTE	Lange, Fabian Troy	8570563	PTE	Paehua, Josiah James Te	8556818	PTE	Stuart, Shawn Joseph
8568113	LT	Glushko, Anton	8438181	CPL	Corrin, Cameron Stewart	8559620	LCPL	Carrigan, Colin Lindsay	8578653	PTE	Bhagat, Kabir Babooabhai	8543080	PTE	Forrest, Mitchell Andrew	8573381	PTE	Langham, Cody ALEN	8566144	PTE	Pallister, Todd Andrew	8556288	PTE	Swan, Peter Hamilton
8568039	LT	Hamill, Matthew David	8561565	CPL	Cousins, Leonie Pamela	8560084	LCPL	Cass, Jacob Charles	8580328	PTE	Bielby, Darren John	8558466	PTE	Gaillard, Christopher Julian	8541374	PTE	Larkham, Christopher James	8585389	PTE	Parcheat, Nicholas James	8543019	PTE	Sweeney, Callum Francis
8537568	LT	Hindmarsh, Richard William	8498853	CPL	Crank, Michael Anthony Trevor	8534304	LCPL	Collins, Glen Luke	8551998	PTE	Bingham, Camille Rochelle	8251105	PTE	Galicic, John	8567677	PTE	Latham, Timothy Edward	8106684	PTE	Pardon, Dylan Jacob Edward	8585010	PTE	Sykes, Shannon Jay
8568015	LT	Pepper, David Gerard	8224050	CPL	Croon, Reynaldo	8503351	LCPL	Fabreschi, Karl Benedict	8526314	PTE	Bogle, James Stephen John	8547334	PTE	Garcia, Ashley Elizabeth	8564455	PTE	Lauder, Robert Clay	8574447	PTE	Parker, Benjamin Wayne	8543451	PTE	Symons, Grant Raymond
8561900	LT	Robertson, Michael Charles	8517343	CPL	Davidson, Bruce Damien	8563291	LCPL	Francis, Zachary Charles	8575608	PTE	Bonning, Stevan Raymond Anthony	8522578	PTE	Gard, Timothy Andrew	8571409	PTE	Ledingham, George Douglas	8590870	PTE	Parkinson, Benjamin David	8569143	PTE	Taylor, Benjamin Stephen
8541056	LT	Ryan, Stephen Michael	8551503	CPL	Dickinson, James Robert	8558680	LCPL	Fritz, Adam James	8559135	PTE	Borgman, Brandon Laurence	8543116	PTE	Garth, Jacob Kevin John	8543091	PTE	Leech, Kane Eric	8591412	PTE	Patterson, Jarod Neville	8267065	PTE	Taylor, Heath Lawrence
8550071	LT	Street, Liam Ward	8502181	CPL	Dollard-Hack, Lachlan Matthew	8543108	LCPL	Gouge, Scott Stephen	8566871	PTE	Boyle, Thomas Stephen	8546683	PTE	George, Luke Alexander	8543060	PTE	Lelys, Richard William John	8595335	PTE	Payne, Anthony Luke	8553108	PTE	Tebb, Jason Allan
8550005	LT	Swanson, Aaron James	8519489	CPL	Edwards, Shane Terry	8508986	LCPL	Groth, Ronald William	8566900	PTE	Bradford, Dean Warrick	8585407	PTE	Geronimi, Scott Michael	8540758	PTE	Leo, Christopher James	8554424	PTE	Payne, Christopher Mark	8550263	PTE	Thomas, Jarad Charles Leonard
8573314	LT	Titmarsh, Joel David	8506877	CPL	Galonski, Alexander Heath	8546560	LCPL	Haime, Benjamyin William	8587243	PTE	Braithwaite, Robert Steven	8559099	PTE	Gibson, George Cody	8541488	PTE	Liang, William	8566651	PTE	Peak, Karl Travis	8543476	PTE	Thomas, Matthew William
8556114	LT	Vallance, Lachlan Charles	8528250	CPL	Gatti, Shonn Gregory	8548836	LCPL	Ham, Charlotte Elizabeth	8546192	PTE	Bramwell, Maarten James	8541770	PTE	Gibson, Jake Samuel	8536957	PTE	Lief, Orlando Simon	8574743	PTE	Pearson, Scott William	8581190	PTE	Thompson-Seagrave, Mathew George
8554560	LT	Ward, Benjamin Heath	8503802	CPL	Gawne, Adam Grant	8225319	LCPL	Harris, David John Leslie	8556734	PTE	Brianon, Oliver Thomas	8572791	PTE	Gill, Harrison Brady	8559606	PTE	Little, Nathan Daniel	8555688	PTE	Pearl, Jared Brett Wynne	8555953	PTE	Thomson, Daniel James
8216614	WO1	Buskell, Brian James	8565426	CPL	Geck, Monique Chantelle	8559619	LCPL	Hopper, Shaun Christen	8558906	PTE	Brierley, Amber Marie	8565516	PTE	Gillies, Daniel John	8543160	PTE	Liu, Zhi Jing	8589291	PTE	Pelesema, Tautau	8541196	PTE	Thomson, Shaun Meredith
8217797	WO1	Murdoch, Calvin Glenn	8514981	CPL	Grinstead, Hamish Scott	8542743	LCPL	House, Benjamin Edmund	8563469	PTE	Brooks Seru, Lemeki Jeffrey	8541912	PTE	Gniel, Mark Jeffrey	8439100	PTE	Lo, Martin Chi Yeung	8559443	PTE	Percy, Adam	8569049	PTE	Thorne, Jonathan William
8231805	WO2	Bosworth, Clinton Matthew	8234033	CPL	Hammond, William Leslie	8528222	LCPL	Ingold, Jacob Darryl	8568594	PTE	Buckingham, Kristy	8566549	PTE	Goddard, Jack Vincent	8563430	PTE	Logan, Jarrod Laird	8566673	PTE	Perikleous, John	8548233	PTE	Toby, Dale Gordon
8271004	WO2	Bowen, Cindy Ann	8520954	CPL	Hardy, Tristan James	8544674	LCPL	Jamieson, Bradley John	8529140	PTE	Bulleme, Adam Paul	8541415	PTE	Goldsworthy, Adam Joel	8555560	PTE	Loughlin, Leo Mark Emnas	8581479	PTE	Perrott, Elizabeth Amy	8534908	PTE	Tran, Cong Eric
8234193	WO2	Feltham, Andrew John	8501903	CPL	Hartley, Katie-Ann	8545491	LCPL	Jamsek, Dayne Perrin	8530200	PTE	Burke, Christopher James	8580612	PTE	Goodison, Andrew James	8518575	PTE	Lucas, Warwick Owen	8594117	PTE	Peters, Jesse Lee Francis	8541089	PTE	Trower, Steven
8245054	WO2	Gorman, James Sydney	8528874	CPL	Harvey, Brian Matthew	8519683	LCPL	Jankusik, Slavomir	8579296	PTE	Burnett, Ally Maree	8567349	PTE	Gordon, Alexander Brian	8559453	PTE	Luey, David William	8571791	PTE	Peters, Luke William	8590796	PTE	Vales, Jake Ian
8240532	WO2	Griffiths, Trevor Allan	8541402	CPL	Hayton, Christopher Raymond	8568623	LCPL	King, Ryan Addison	8272248	PTE	Burrow, Bradley Andrew	8594411	PTE	Gough, Danielle Maree	8536829	PTE	Luiten, Alexander James	8548330	PTE	Phillips, Blake Jared	8538069	PTE	Valjan, Ivan Reuben
8232538	WO2	Harris, Mark Richard	8506952	CPL	Herschell, Christopher Mark	8502409	LCPL	Luke, Shannon James	8581779	PTE	Burrow, Sean Michael	8571580	PTE	Gould, Daniel David	8563466	PTE	MacDonald, John Andrew	8585370	PTE	Phillipott, Nathan James	8559865	PTE	Vidal, Aaron Deuben
8255502	WO2	Hubbard, Tom Ward	8506818	CPL	Hodgson, David Iain John	8504927	LCPL	Mackay, Ian Andrew	8552371	PTE	Buskell, Scott Peter	8590687	PTE	Gracie, Jackson Mark	8572045	PTE	Mahony, Joshua Terrence	8548867	PTE	Pickford, Joshua James	8548867	PTE	Volavola, Elliot Livai
8264035	WO2	King, Alexander	8532339	CPL	Hook, Benjamin Reid	8544663	LCPL	McAuley, Michael Alexander	8568508	PTE	Byrne, Michael Ashley	8591558	PTE	Grant, Alastair Robert	8571796	PTE	Mann, Jordan Christopher	8559491	PTE	Pinfold, Rhys Caven	8522577	PTE	Wade, Gareth Michael John
8228393	WO2	Kowski, Michael	8529322	CPL	Jaeschke, Timothy Paul	8560191	LCPL	McLaggan, Rawdon Robertson	8543119	PTE	Byers, Paul	8564742	PTE	Green, Timothy Robert	8529434	PTE	Manson, Kate Dirmity	8593322	PTE	Manson, William Robert	8529434	PTE	Wagner, Tobias Thao
8247309	WO2	Lukic, Peter Gary	8299442	CPL	Katz, Benjamin James	8529009	LCPL	McMillan, Matthew Ronald	8542578	PTE	Byrnes-Sharp, Ryan Thomas	8591397	PTE	Greer, Jake Kenneth	8296711	PTE	Margera, Michael John	8498455	PTE	Poduska, Paul Jacob	8556333	PTE	Walker, Liam Nathan
8214935	WO2	Lynn, Kenneth Mclean	8439861	CPL	Keep, Benjamin Neil	8544639	LCPL	Mears, Jeffrey Junior Josef	8514932	PTE	Campbell, Benjamin	8555434	PTE	Guesmer, Timothy David Herbert	8561333	PTE	Marshall,						

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