



THE BOAR'S GRUNT

THE JOURNAL OF 7TH BATTALION THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT - 2007





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LTCOL S.L. GABRIEL

Commanding Officer
7th Battalion
The Royal Australian Regiment

COMMANDING OFFICER'S FOREWORD

It is a great privilege to provide this foreword to the first Seventh Battalion annual journal since de-linking from the Fifth Battalion on 3 December 2006. It has been a little over 12 months now since the Government decision to increase the size and capability of Army in response to contemporary requirements that resulted in the re-raising of the Seventh Battalion. We are very fortunate to be amongst the first members of the new Seventh Battalion and can be justifiably proud of the outstanding success of our accelerated unit growth in this short period of time.

The original Seventh Battalion gained an enviable reputation as a professional and highly capable infantry battalion through two hard fought tours of active service in South Vietnam and the period of home service prior to linking in December 1973. As the heirs of this reputation and the Battalion traditions, the challenge remains for we current members to add our own character and exploits to the name of the Seventh Battalion.

Our essential task this year was to achieve an Initial Operational Capability of the Battalion Headquarters (including Administration Company key appointments) and two mechanised infantry companies (A and B Companies) by the Battalion birthday on 1 September. The concurrent raising of A Company and the additional expansion enabled upon the return of B Company from their operational deployment with the first Reconstruction Task Force in Afghanistan, provided the accelerated achievement of this objective. The conduct of an Initial Employment Training course (Downward, MM Platoon), combined with the ongoing receipt of riflemen and all-Corps reinforcements and promotion courses, have provided us with further growth.

In October, we commenced the raising of C Company, with the formation of 7 Platoon. The January 2008 posting cycle will provide us with an expanded Administration Company and the



AS4 being put through it's paces.

leadership for C Company. It is my expectation that C Company will grow just as rapidly with the planned unit conducted Initial Employment Training courses and further riflemen reinforcements throughout 2008. The speed of this growth will place our level of capability some two years ahead of original expectations. The sustainment of this growth will require the continued focus of all ranks to seize opportunities through the acceptance of increased responsibility and the attainment of additional skills.

Our growth is directly linked to the attainment of the Army growth objectives within the Enhanced Land Force initiative. A larger Army is required to provide greater depth of response to contemporary threats and operational requirements – the same reasons that resulted in the raising of the original Seventh Battalion in 1965. We can take some satisfaction in knowing that our accelerated growth has also enabled the re-raising of the Eighth/Ninth Battalion from October. We wish them well in the challenges they will face and trust their growth is similarly successful and rapid.

As ever, our focus is operations. The highly successful B Company deployment to Afghanistan and the more recent deployment of 1 Platoon, A Company to East Timor with the Second Battalion, are the first of many such operational tasks that we will conduct. As a mechanised infantry

battalion, we are well placed through our inherent characteristics of firepower, mobility and protection to continue to be the instrument of choice for contemporary operations. We must remain ready as both individuals and teams to maximise these characteristics to ensure success in future operational tasks, wherever and whenever they occur. The arrival of the first delivery of M113AS4 to equip B Company is a significant boost to our combat power and overall capability. The M113ASA4 will further enhance our characteristics of firepower, mobility and protection and enable us to make a greater contribution to combined arms teams.

I trust you enjoy the content of this journal and that it will provide a point of reference for your part as a member of the Seventh Battalion in the first year of our re-raising. We have achieved a great deal in our first year and it is a privilege to be amongst the first members of the Seventh Battalion in this next period of our service. In later years you can look back with some pride and be able to say 'I was part of that'. For now, our task is to remain ready and well prepared to meet whatever challenges we will face in the near future, confident in ourselves and our team – the Pig Battalion.

Duty First





Warrant Officer Class One David Allen
Regimental Sergerant Major
7th Battalion
The Royal Australian Regiment

RSM PAGE

Well the first year is over and what a ride it has been for all the members of the Battalion. We have achieved the Commanders intent in raising the Battalion and overcame a variety of difficult and challenging tasks along the way.

Throughout the year we have seen individuals attending promotion courses throughout Australia, Tracking courses in Tully, Combat First Aider courses, Military Self Defence courses, 343-2 training and not least visiting "sunny" Puckapunyal to complete a variety of M113 courses. Sections and platoons have been completed standard training, mission specific training, mission ready exercises and a myriad of displays on the mechanisation capability of the unit. 1 Platoon more than ably represented the Battalion at the Duke of Gloucester Cup competition. As the RSM, I was proud of their efforts, and note that the unit was congratulated for its attendance and effort in the competition by numerous senior members of the Corps.

Companies have completed standard training, conducted an Infantry Initial Employment Training course, a M113A1 Driver course, a Supervisor Infantry Operations –Section course and various shooting activities to achieve all Stages of the Battle Shot.

The Battalion has created Standard Operating Procedures, Standing Orders, raised and created procedures for the Battalion Q Store from the ground up, a functional administrative framework and an environment that embodies the 'can do attitude' of the Pig Battalion.

There have been several highlights throughout the year, but the biggest, was the Battalion church parade where the Battalion took the original 7 RAR Colours back into service, rededicated itself to the colours and then marched into Binh Ba Lines with the 7 RAR Colours flying.

This has been a busy year and all the members of the Battalion have worked long and hard, often placing pressure upon themselves and family members to achieve the standards we set ourselves within the Pig Battalion for mechanised infantry soldiers, and these sacrifices have been noted by commanders and the seniors across the unit and Army. The skills, knowledge and attitudes that the Battalion has developed will stand us in good stead for future tasking where the Battalion maybe placed in harms way.

The challenge for the unit in 2008 is to continue to grow and develop whilst maintaining the standard we have set ourselves as a minimum. A large percentage of this burden will fall to our junior leaders as they are the direct commanders of the Battalion's soldiers on the battlefield. Officers and seniors will need to encourage our soldiers to grow, learn and make mistakes. All commanders will have to mentor and coach at all levels so we can maintain our position as the premier mechanised battalion within the Corps.

2007 has been a great year, professionally and personally rewarding and I look forward to the challenges of 2008 particularly Exercise Spradbrow (JNCO training activity) where the 'aged lentils and fresh greens' meet.



Officer's and SGT's Mess Dinner.

FROM THE PRESIDENT 7 RAR ASSOCIATION

Greetings and congratulations on this the inaugural edition of The Boar's Grunt which is no doubt destined to become a valuable communications medium for the Battalion, and one with which the older members of the 7 RAR Association will desire to become increasingly familiar.

The re-raising of 7 RAR was greeted with incredible delight by the members of the Association, particularly from the aspect of the return of a direct, intimate link with the men who will serve our country under the Banner Seven. This is no mean privilege, as our forefathers in the Seventh Infantry Battalion and the Second Seventh Infantry Battalion, of the Australian Imperial Forces of The Great War and WWII respectively, have provided us with a heritage which is rich in stoic service and bravery. We wish you well as you continue that service and add to the extensive database of that folklore. In future editions of this periodical, the Senior Vice president of the Association, John Press, will present to you the Citations of the Men of the Seventh. I thank John for the genesis of the idea and know that we will all benefit from John's deep knowledge of and fondness for, military history. By the way, 'Senior Vice President' denotes that John will succeed me as President of the Association and this will be next April.

Part of the concept of forming an Association like ours is to act as a catalyst in creating opportunities

for men who have served together in the defence of our country, to communicate and reunite. Of course this may be through newsletters, individual one-on-one telephone conversations, interaction on the Association web site, or when platoon, company or battalion reunions are conducted. As you would imagine, we congregate at ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services throughout the country under our 7 RAR Banners, and in each State there is an annual gathering either on Suoi Chau Pha Day (6 August) or on the Battalion's Birthday (1 September) or both. After observing the appropriate services we meet to spin a few yarns and tell a few lies. More of this occurs at our reunions, the main one being the Battalion Association reunion which is held every three years in a different State. The last was in Perth/Fremantle and the next will be at Twin Towns at Coolangatta/Tweed Heads in September 2009. Forecasts of our regular activities and special occasions are listed in the Seven News which is published triannually and is now distributed to the Battalion.

But there is another side to Association membership. It is understood that members of our Association will automatically participate in



Gus Pauza of the 7 RAR Association hands over "Porky" the CO's car plate to 9er.

the privilege of watching over their mates and in particular the families of those men who have been killed during their Army service or who have died since. I am proud to report that Seven Battalion men excel at this activity, particularly in detecting and being there for those who are unaware that they are in need of support.

Right now we have over 1100 members, including a number of 2nd /7th veterans, and I would like to think that our Association is the strongest of the Regiment. Your participation is warmly encouraged and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking those serving members who have joined us to date. The annual fee for serving members is \$5 and application forms are available on our Association web site at www.7rar.asn.au (Web Master Kev Gillett) or in the Seven News (Ed XO, Tony Keech).

While I would be absolutely delighted for you to join the 7 RAR Association, please do not hesitate to join us at any of our gatherings, even if you are not a member.

I wish you a safe, happy and rewarding passage through your service with the finest Battalion in the regiment.

Ross Ellis





Rededication of the 7 RAR Colours – 14 Jun 07

Introduction

In November 2006 Prime Minister John Howard announced to the nation that the Australian Army would expand from its current size and structure. The announcement of the Enhanced Land Force saw the 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, returned to the order of battle. This was celebrated with a ceremonial church parade at the Lone Pine Chapel at Robertson Barracks on 14 Jun 07 where the battalion re-dedicated itself to the Queen and Regimental Colour. To understand the significance of re-raising a unit, the history of the 7th Battalion, within the Royal Australian Regiment, needs to be explored.

Unit history

The 7th Battalion was initially raised on 1 Sep 1965 at Puckapunyal, manned predominately by single members drawn from the 3rd Battalion. The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Eric Smith, addressed the battalion after conducting an inspection and due to the untidiness which confronted him; he

named them pigs, an identity that was quickly embraced by the battalion and remains today. The 7th Battalion deployed on two tours to South Vietnam, and following its second tour the battalion was linked with the 5th battalion. As a linked battalion the 5/7 RAR saw active service in East Timor, Solomon Islands, Iraq and Afghanistan.

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MAJGEN Ron Grey AO, DSO (Rtd) arrives at the chapel, greeted by CO 7 RAR.

The re-dedication ceremony not only returned the Colours to the Unit, it re-established our proud unit identity. The battalion will now resume its position for operational rotation to current theatres.

Since 3 Dec 1973, the 5/7th Battalion proudly displayed and paraded both sets of unit Colours. However, when the 5/7th Battalion receive a dedicated unit Queen and Regimental Colour the colours of the 7th Battalion, originally presented to the unit on 6 Oct 1968 by his Excellency, The Governor General of New South Wales, Sir Roden Cutler, VC, KCMG, CBE, were laid up in trust at the Soldiers Chapel at the 1st Recruit Training Battalion. With the re-raising of the 7th Battalion, the colours were bought back into service.

Re-dedication service

Present at the service were Brigadier Craig Orme, Commander 1 Brigade and Principal Official Guest; Major General Ron Grey AO, DSO (retired), Commanding Officer 7th Battalion Nov 68 – May 71; Colonel Eric Smith DSO (retired), Commanding Officer 7th Battalion Sep 65 – Nov 68; Mr Ross Ellis, President of the 7th Battalion Association; members of the association and the Officers, soldiers and families of the 7th Battalion.



The service was a simple yet symbolic activity where the Colour Party, commanded by LT Joshua Mickle, entered the Lone Pine Chapel in preparation for the receipt of the Colours, and the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Shane Gabriel, formally requested the Colours be returned to the unit. With the Colours rededicated to the 7th Battalion, the Colour Party, escorted by the battalion, marched the Colours past 1 Brigade Headquarters and back to the unit lines.



The Bn rededicates themselves to the colours.

With the formalities of the rededication ceremony complete, Commander 1 Brigade and official guests joined the members of the association and members and families of the battalion at the Gary Holmes Club for informal presentations. Members of the association presented to the battalion a replica of the C Coy flag and edition of Conscripts and Regulars. The Commanding Officer accepted the items on behalf of the battalion, and the remainder of the evening provided an opportunity for the current serving members to discuss the unit history and current operations with the members of the association.

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Author

Captain Clarence Hovell has served in the Infantry Corps for 14 years and is currently the OC of A Coy 7 RAR.



COMD 1st BDE, BRIG C. Orme arrives at Lone Pine Chapel.



CO hands over the Battalion colours to LT Lambert.





Then There Were Two

Sunday 3rd December 2006 saw a historic event take place on the 1st Brigade Parade Ground at Robertson Barracks, Darwin. This event has only occurred once before within the proud history of The Royal Australian Regiment. The last of the regular linked Battalions remaining on the Australian Army's Order of Battle, Unlinked. The 5th/7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, after 33 years of loyal and dedicated service to the nation both home and abroad has now become the 5th and the 7th Battalions, The Royal Australian Regiment.

B Coy 7 RAR on Op Slipper lower the 5/7 RAR Flag.

At a Mechanised Parade held on the 1st Brigade Parade Ground, the Officers and Men of 5/7 RAR arrived on Parade in battle order. The Colours for 5/7 RAR were marched on for the final time and the Land Commander Australia, Major General Mark Kelly, AM reviewed the Parade. After the Blessing was given for the new Battalions, by 5/7 RAR Padre, Chaplain Bob Bishop, the Parade Commander and Commanding Officer for the 5/7



RAR, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Short called for the incoming Commanding Officers for 5 and 7 RAR, Lieutenant Colonel Justin Ellwood and Lieutenant Colonel Shane Gabriel to take post on Parade.

The Colours for 5/7 RAR were then marched off the Parade Ground for the final time accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Peter Short and Warrant Officer Class 1 Kevin Ryan, the last Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major for 5/7 RAR.

After the principle invited guests, including the Land Commander, Commander 1st Division, Commander 1st Brigade, the RAR Colonel Commandant and the RAR Regimental Colonel were farwelled from the Parade, the Officers and Men on Parade drove off in separate direction as new Battalions with their Battalion Flags flying in the breeze.

The Parade was attended by a wide range of current and previous serving members, family and friends. Some of whom travelled from across Australia to be present on this auspicious day.

5/7 RAR though leaving the Australian Army Order of Battle, leaves behind a proud and distinguished legacy. After 33 years of service to the nation it has trialled and brought into service a Mechanized Infantry capability, conducted operations abroad with two tours in East Timor, a deployment to the Solomon Islands, two Security Detachments to Baghdad in Iraq, a Company deployment with the Al Muthanna Task Group-One in Iraq, a Battle Group lead deployment as the Al Muthanna Task Group-Two. At the time of unlinking 5/7 RAR has a Company on operations in Southern Iraq with the Over-watch Battle Group (West) Two and a Company is deployed to Afghanistan with the Reconstruction Task Force. In addition, 5/7 RAR supported the Australian Government and people with significant events here at home, notably with relief efforts in Darwin after the tragedy that was Cyclone Tracy, in 1975 and the immediate response to provide protection for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, in the immediate aftermath of the Hilton Bombing in Sydney in 1978.

5 RAR returns to the Order of Battle and brings with it a proud history of service. 5 RAR was first raised at Holsworthy, New South Wales, on 1 March 1965. The Battalion saw service in South

The Battalion drew great praise winning a Battle Honour for actions during the Battle of Binh Ba from 6 to 8 June 1969.

Vietnam over the periods April 1966 to May 1967 and February 1969 to March 1970. The Battalion drew great praise winning a Battle Honour for actions during the Battle of Binh Ba from 6 to 8 June 1969. Since 5 RAR's mascot is a tiger, the unit was referred to colloquially as the Tiger Battalion. 5 RAR will remain in Binh Ba Lines. With effect 3rd December 2006, Delta Company 5/7 RAR will transfer to 5 RAR and will be the first soldiers from 5 RAR on operations (Iraq) since South Vietnam. A 5 RAR led Battle Group has been warned out for possible operations in mid-2007.

With 7 RAR's return to the Order of Battle it also brings with it a proud history and a hectic future. 7 RAR was first raised at Puckapunyal, Victoria, on 1 September 1965. The Battalion saw service in South Vietnam over the periods April 1967 to April 1968 and February 1970 to February 1971. The Battalion drew great praise for actions at Suoi Chau Pha from 4 to 16 August 1967. 7 RAR's mascot is a pig, which dates back to an unflattering remark directed by the Commanding Officer to his men concerning the state of their barracks. In typical Australian larrikin style, the soldiers both responded to the criticism and adopted the moniker as their own. 7 RAR will remain at Binh Ba Lines, Darwin until at least 2008, when they are expected to move permanently to Adelaide, South Australia. With effect 3rd December, Bravo Company 5/7 RAR will transfer to 7 RAR and will be the first soldiers from 7 RAR on operations (Afghanistan) since South Vietnam.

The Unlinking Parade held in Darwin is the first major step in a gradual expansion in the Australian Army for the purpose of meeting Government of Australia security requirements now and in the foreseeable future, in an ever changing and uncertain world.

MAJ Matthew McFarland
OPSO



Operations Cell

The S3 Cell has distinguished itself and consistently displayed a spirit of co-operation with, and assistance to all the agencies within 1 Brigade, in their commitment to assist the Commanding Officer with his direction to raise the unit with a Mechanised capability NLT 01 September 2007.

The cell has displayed extraordinary patience and outstanding performance of duty as the heart of the Battalion over the period 27 Jan 07 to 31 Oct 07.

The cell was constantly attacked savagely by superior headquarters, peers and subordinates under the clangour of stupid and ridiculous requests.

Again and again the blind threw inquiry after inquiry, request after request at the gallant staff and many times penetrated the Cell through walk-ins, telephone, and correspondence and/or under the disguise of Task Orders, but each time the courageous, indomitable and determined men repulsed the fanatical unsafe feral members of the Battalion and Brigade HQ. With every question asked and with little to no support the three stood their ground in resolute defiance. With serene and indefatigable persistence, the team maintained their professionalism and filtered out many knuckleheads not suitable for entry into the S3 Cell.

In some instances when HQ 1 Bde would direct ACMS Support Requests to the battalion the team would eventually discharge it as a non-effective request due to the manning and other tasks already in hand. The seriousness of a mass bombardment of Task Orders, directives and bizarre questions had to be stopped, regardless of agency they originated from. The S3 cell counselled and prepared returns to higher to ensure command was aware of our manning shortfalls; to no avail.

The S3 Cell displayed such gallantry, determination and esprit de corps in accomplishing their mission under extreme difficulty and hazardous conditions as to set them apart and above all other S3 Cells in the Brigade. By these achievements they have bought distinguished credit on themselves, the unit and all Freedom Loving Nations.

The Team:

- S3** - Major Matthew McFarland
- S33** - Warrant Officer Class Two Matt Henderson
- S37** - Warrant Officer Class Two Rob Bennett
- S4** - Captain Richard Hayes
- S37minor** - Corporal Scott Stone

The following activities were participated by OPs pers throughout the year:

PREDATOR STRIKE

CTC MRE 5 RAR

PREDATOR GALLOP

CTC HEAVY ROTATION

DOG CUP

SUPPORT TO 7 BRIGADE OPS

SUPPORT TO THE 'EDINBURGH DEFENCE PRECINCT'

ESTABLISHMENT OF 7 RAR ACMS

TARP FOR 7 RAR OUT TO 2012

In all seriousness, the members of the Cell have enjoyed the challenge of being the first Operations Cell for 7 RAR in 33 years, in establishing the processes and procedures that will aid the Battalion in its growth and successful operations in the years to come.



A COMPANY

THE BLACK BEAR

This year A Company had the privilege of undertaking a task that no other company in the Royal Australian Regiment has had since pre Vietnam; raise a mechanised company by 1 September 2007 and be prepared to conduct sub unit operations in 2008. Our sister battalions will inevitably say that they have in fact done as we have, when in reality they have not. What the other battalions have done is hibernate companies and subsequently reinstated the sub units at a time of their choosing, and while 4 RAR was raised from scratch when the 2/4th battalion was delinked in 1994, the unit was not operating on a restricted time line in preparation for operations. In 2007, taking into account the operational tempo of the Regiment and the greater requirements under the Enhanced Land Force umbrella, A Company has achieved the goals we were set and we are now poised to further commit to operations.

The year commenced with the first soldiers marching into the company on 22 January. It was a small collection of personnel comprising 22 Privates, 2 Corporals, 1 Sergeant, 1 Warrant Officer and a Captain. From these humble beginnings the company moved forward at a pace that caught many people by surprise. While equipment, personnel and resource shortages limited the amount of training we could conduct, SGT Jaramaz, Cpl (now SGT) Anson and CPL Bloffwitch ably managed the soldiers. B Company returned from operations in April and A Company was reinforced with senior soldiers and newly promoted Non Commissioned Officers. A Company was now positioned to commence unit directed activities; train 343-1 Riflemen, DOG Cup and prepare a mechanised platoon for operation in East Timor.

LT Lambert was appointed as Platoon Commander for Downward MM Platoon. It is not an easy task to conduct an IET course in an operational brigade with limited resources and a limited ability to effect changes to a rigid training program, but in unison with his instructional staff they conducted a very challenging and professional Riflemen course. The instructional staff should be proud of their efforts as they have provided the most important capability to the battalion.

For his outstanding efforts as a Junior Non Commissioned Officer, CPL McMahon was rewarded with the appointment of Section Commander for DOG Cup. Taking into account the limited exposure of the section as a whole to Infantry operations and the fact that DOG Cup preparation was conducted as part of training for operations in East Timor, CPL McMahon and his section performed to a very high standard during the competition and their efforts were appreciated by all members of the battalion. In years to come the soldiers of the 2007 DOG Cup section can say they were the first soldiers to represent the battalion in this auspicious competition.

1 Platoon, being the senior and the most combat ready platoon in the company were warned out for operations in support of 2 RAR in East Timor. Preparing 1 Platoon for operational service posed many challenges, because as a collective group 1 Platoon had received limited exposure to Infantry operations. 1 Platoon was unable to effectively exercise for an extended period due to the requirement to send personnel on promotion courses, driver and crew commander qualification courses. 1 Platoon did not come together as a complete entity until after the platoon had participated in the MRE in Townsville. However, regardless of the circumstances faced by the platoon, their conduct during training and the professionalism and attitude displayed by all



However, regardless of the circumstances faced by the platoon, their conduct during training and the professionalism and attitude displayed by all members indicates that 1 Platoon will perform pound for pound with their 3 Brigade counterparts.

members indicates that 1 Platoon will perform pound for pound with their 3 Brigade counterparts. Personally, I look forward to swapping stories about operations in East Timor with the soldiers of 1 Platoon.

The company rounded out this busy training period by deploying to Cultana in September in support of 1 Armoured Regiment rotation through CTC Live. The exercise provided the soldiers an opportunity to participate in a brigade size activity and achieve a qualification on the MAG 58 and 84mm MDFS. I am sure the soldiers will agree that the most enjoyable part of the exercise was the redeployment to Darwin, providing an end to the dust and wind that tormented the company for the entire duration of the exercise.

2007 has been a very busy year for A Company. The year has come and gone very quickly and it would be quite easy to forget our achievements. It is testament to the men of the company that three key activities were conducted concurrently, placing additional strain on the limited availability of personnel and resources. It should be seen that the success of each of these tasks typifies the men of A Company; give us a task, we will get it done with nothing and ask for more. All Officers, Non Commissioned Officers and soldiers of A Company should be proud of their actions be it direct or indirect, regardless of time in rank or time served.

Looking forward A Company will immediately commence training for operations in 2008. The training will be long and hard, the training will challenge all ranks and there will be little time for rest and relaxation. During the deployment the soldiers will be faced with many situations that will require an immediate, well measured and professional response. Success in training and success on operations is underpinned by an enduring acceptance of responsibility and ownership of the company by all members. I am confident that our company will be ready.

Duty First.



1 PL in 2007

The Platoon was unofficially formed on the 22 Jan 07 when 11 members returned from their post deployment leave from Reconstruction Task Force 1. The Platoon then under command of SGT Jaramaz commenced their training for TLBG3. The tempo has been rather high for 1 Platoon. The Platoon as a part of the company has spent a fair amount of its time conducting weapon training with the company spending a few weeks out at KFTA in July, culminating with the field firing exercise in the second last week of August before the Platoon left for Townsville to conduct its pre-deployment training with 2 RAR.

During this time the Platoon also sent away a section to compete in the Duke Of Gloucester (DOG) Cup. The section, commanded by CPL McMahon placed third narrowly beaten by a 2 RAR dream team with soldiers pulled from all over their battalion and a commando section from 4 RAR. Although the section did not place first it was one of the only sections in the competition to finish with all its members intact. Their effort during this gruelling competition was noted by all in attendance, and has further established a strong reputation for the 7th Battalion.

The Platoon's time in Townsville was mainly focused on final preparations for the deployment. One of the highlights was definitely the MRE conducted at High Range in which the Platoon acted as the Battlegroup QRF. Time as the QRF was not all beer and skittles, we spent majority of our time waiting to be reacted for events that never transpired. The Platoon however did get a chance to show the light fighters of 2 RAR how we roll, capturing the Person Of Interest (POI) and rounding up all the violent protesters in a company cordon and search while the light fighters were ditching their webbing in order to try and run faster.



CPL McMahon's team did themselves and the Battalion proud and DOG Cup.

Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET) was also a highlight. For those who do not know, HUET training is conducted in a large helicopter body fitted out like various in service rotary wing aircraft. The aircraft simulator is dunked into a specially designed pool and spun around simulating a helo crash in water. For those who have never done it before it sounds like fun, but for all those who have survived HUET the experience is viewed very differently.

The Platoon completed its pre-deployment training and returned to Darwin with little time to spare. After a short pre-deployment leave we are now finalising everything and gearing up for our departure. While you are reading this the Platoon will already be in Timor fighting the wars and stamping the name of the 7th Battalion into the minds of the Timorese and the light fighters of 3 BDE.

LT BATCHELOR
OC 1 PL
7 RAR



2 Platoon A Company 7 RAR “Yield to None”

2 PI was formed from members of B Coy 7 RAR on their return from OP SLIPPER in early 2007. All of the platoons were grouped under SGT Jaramaz as the only SNCO in the area for the first half of the year until the new lieutenants marched in to take command of the individual platoons. 2 PI were placed under command of LT Trembath.

The first weeks

2 PI was made up of mostly shiny new soldiers that had just finished their IET course, with some senior diggers from B Coy. All of the NCOs were promoted a few weeks prior to the raising of 2 PI, which presented a few challenges in the development and administration of the platoon. The NCOs however were not lacking in enthusiasm and worked hard on all tasks. The platoon maintained its self discipline at an individual level, and all of the members were willing to give anything a shot and displayed physical courage and intestinal fortitude during strenuous physical activities. 2 PI was already demonstrating their motto to be; “Yield to None.”

The Motto

The raising of the PI motto was brought up by SGT Anson, who wanted some history to be dragged across the 33 year linking with 5 RAR from the original 7 RAR. He got in contact with some members of the PI during the second tour of Vietnam and was given the motto “Cede Nullis” which translates into “Yield to None.” That was the motto of the 7th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Division First Australian Imperial Force (AIF), as well as the 2nd/7th Battalion, Second AIF, as the motto is of significant historical value to 7 RAR the RSM was approached by SGT Anson to confirm if 2 PI could use the motto (what the RSM did not know was that 2 PI were going to use it no matter what!) and the request was granted to 2 PI.

Range sentry and other supporting missions

The ME for 2 PI was to support A Coy training for TLBG 3 and the Downward MM PI. This task, combined with various courses ensured that the only people left in the PI office were the PI Comd and PI SGT, allowing them plenty of time to get the administration of the PI sorted out. Assisting 1 PI for TLBG-3 allowed them to get on with their training without any hindrance; the IET platoon



required role players for most of their field phases, which the members of 2 PI enjoyed. 2 PI gave the best training to 1 PL and the IET PI available.

Field

2 PI deployed to CUTA with 7 RAR as the OPFOR for 1 ARMD during EX SOUTHERN REACH 2. This proved to be a good first field exercise for 2 PI, grounding the new members in the basics of mechanized operations and OPFOR TTP. The men of 2 PI are waiting with baited breath for orders to deploy back to Cultana for the next EX SOUTHERN REACH.

The Future

2 PI is looking forward to some hard activities which will push all members of the PI. Christmas leave is looming and the soldiers are looking forward to a hard earned break. 2008 is shaping up to be a very intense year with the PI conducting pre-deployment training, and hopefully a deployment if everything runs smoothly.

Yield to None.

LT R.A.D. TREMBATH
OC 2 PL
A COY 7 RAR



3PL 'CAM UP, FACE OUT...'

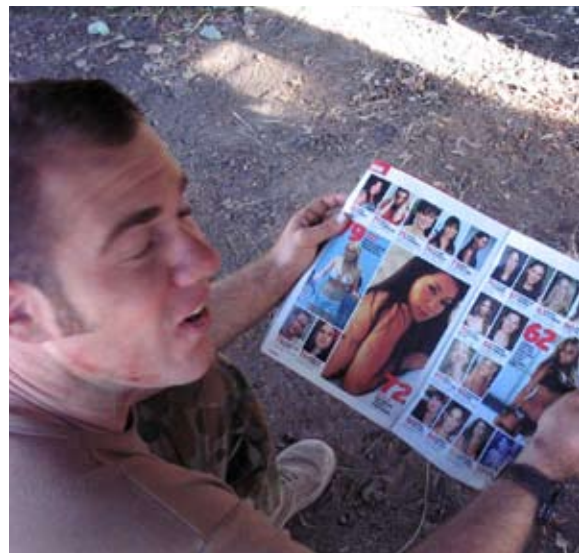
After a long time in the wilderness, the Third Platoon is back. Fans of the group may remember them from such epic films as, 'Hill 241: Where the Hell are We?' or 'India One Three: Better than Bravo Two Zero'. Since the battalion has reformed, so too has the strongest platoon.

Lead by LT Lambert and SGT Bale, the platoon has logged some serious Cultana time in recent months which will see it in good stead for the rigours of the coming training year. Happily, the territory bordering the Spencer Gulf was still as cold and barren as ever. Additionally, an abundance of E rations fortified the hardy soldiers and they were able to fight on to victory in the bloody battles for the villages of Binh Ba II and Hat Dich 2007.

The platoon began as a small, but elite group which has quickly swelled into a capable, no-nonsense outfit. Included in the toughening regime will be numerous laps of the ring road, route marches and push-ups. The once spindly arms and sunken chests of the newer members will become bulbous and full; able to seek out and close with all and sundry.

Amongst the platoon there already exists a culture of dragon slaying and war fighting. Serial pests 'James' Blundell and 'Troy' McClure have already demonstrated a love of the fine arts and fine (ish) women. It is expected that in the coming months the platoon will fight 'diet lite' but still maintain the vestiges of the mechanised fight with superior firepower, manoeuvre, and a steady diet of red meat.

Written by LT Lambert
India One Three: Fortune's Favourites.



Revising the enemy recognition pam.

Citations in recent weeks:

PTE Wells: Valorous conduct in trying to look like a wombat.

PTE Merriman: Able to carry out 84mm drills with one arm.

PTE Bradford and PTE Selwood: Dead tie for World's Tallest Man



B Coy

Bravo Company has been very active since its return from Afghanistan with promotion courses, driver's courses, CTC heavy exercise, new diggers and the returning of the 7 RAR colours.

On returning from deployment we took months leave to catch up with family and friends. The soldiers of Bravo Company had to adjust to the splitting of 5/7 RAR and having the live in members relocate themselves into separate accommodation defining the two battalions as 5 RAR and 7 RAR. With the battalion being re-raised, the returning of the 7 RAR colours was the next event on order. The officers, senior nco's and soldiers of past and present received the colours from the chapel at ARTC, welcoming them home with a church service at the Robertson Barracks chapel.

With the new battalion raised officially, bravo company's senior soldiers were promoted and then subsequently split up between alpha and bravo companies, spreading the knowledge and experience gained from there deployment to Afghanistan. The next hurdle for Bravo Company was the amount of courses being held over the next few months 'till the end of the year, with most of soldiers leaving for courses, like promotional and skill based courses, leaving a small amount of personnel here in Darwin to carry out platoon and section training and to give assistance to courses. Now that most of the members of Bravo Company are back the company is settling in for a couple of months of administration tasks that are required to prepare themselves for future deployments.

Before the end of this year the Coy will conduct a live fire Ex (wild boar) and additional training before the MRE next year. During this time we say good bye to the following members from CHQ, OC Maj Elwin, 2IC Capt Jaunay, CSM Wo2 Uren and the CQMS SGT Kincaid, The Coy also has members from the PL's who will be leaving as well.

4 PL

4 PL has been busy throughout the past year. In the months since the platoon has returned there have been large changes in manning. Throughout the year, the platoon has had members on courses continuously in order to maintain the competencies required. This has been an excellent opportunity for the more senior members who deployed on RTF 1 to conduct promotion courses before taking over new appointments as section 2ICs and section commanders.

The conduct of SIO-S in Darwin saw the more experienced senior soldiers and promising junior NCOs conducting their promotion course to corporal. Throughout this course they performed well, with a large number heading straight on to Sub 1 for Corporal. Throughout the conduct of the SIO-S course, the remainder of the platoon had the opportunity to act as enemy party and in that time got to see what will be expected of them on their promotion courses. In the time since the senior soldiers and junior NCOs were away on course many of the junior members of the platoon have stepped up into leadership positions and have performed admirably given their limited experience and time in the unit.

The remainder of the year will see the continuation of training with the culmination being the live fire shoot at the end of the year. The beginning of next year will see the continuation of platoon training, with a focus on the leadership and soldier aspects.



5 PL

Welcome to the random jottings from the platoon that puts the sting into 'B' Coy. It has been a veritable whirlwind of activity since the return from operations in April. There was a period of leave, followed by another chunk for those who had the days available then training began in earnest. There was a reshuffling of the decks after the leave period ended and many of the familiar faces moved on to greener pastures, or in some cases A Coy. There was a steady stream of soldiers disappearing on mech courses conducted both locally and at the School of Armour. August and September saw the conducting of the SIOS Cse which was remarkable in the fact that soldiers from the platoon who had arrived a year previously and quickly adapted to the requirements of becoming operationally deployable and then serving overseas were now having to adapt again and become ready to step up and become junior leaders. A steep learning curve, indeed, for soldiers with little time behind them. Concurrently with the mech and promotion courses was a steady influx of new march-ins. We have never seen manning at the level we are experiencing now.

As the year draws to a close there has been no let up in the frenetic pace. Cpl Stone has returned back to his duties in 5 platoon from a hectic stint in Robertson barracks medical centre after not being able to handle the power of his quad bike. At the moment the three more senior soldiers of the platoon are away on promotion course and should look forward to promotion and a more demanding job as there section 2IC. The boys are all starting to look forward to a well deserved leave and time with their family's back home wherever that may be. We are also getting set to farewell Sgt Dehnert and Lt Mickle who after completing a very productive tour of Afghanistan on RTF 1 are unfortunately leaving our platoon. Overall the platoon is looking forward to the start of training in late January next year and then if all goes well a successful deployment to the middle east.

6 PL B COY

Were to start?? Let's go back to the start of the year, 6 PI as well as the rest of the company are still serving overseas in Afghanistan as part of RTF 1. We served in Afghanistan for the next few months, finally returning back to Australia in April of this year. On return back to work we started to finish off the necessary lectures that are required on returning to the unit from overseas. This took just over a week, then we then found ourselves on a months, much needed leave, giving the members time and opportunity to catch up with family and friends. On return from the leave period there were lots of stories and brand new cars floating around the company car park.

Afghanistan Nov 07 – Apr 07

The next two weeks or so were used up by reshuffling members of B Company around to not only different platoons but to other companies. We say good bye and good luck to those members that have left and welcome those new members to the platoon. After a couple of weeks we found ourselves back on another three weeks leave. On return from that leave period we were greeted by a lot of new faces from the 'school of cool'. We started minor section training; however, this was found to be difficult due to the ongoing reshuffling still of the company.

Soon it was time for members of six to say good bye and leave for various courses, being drivers, crew commanders, M113AS4 conversion, Sub 1 and SIO-S courses. While members were away from the platoon we said good bye to LT Le Breton and welcome the new boss LT Kleinman to the platoon. However this is not all for the platoon head quarters, later on in the year we will be saying good bye to SGT McLeay, if accepted by the NT coppers, and welcome a new PI SGT, SGT Kilgour.

From now until the end of the year the platoon is busy, going through the basic section and platoon training. At the same time, were getting all members AIRN compliant prior to the end of the month, getting us ready for possible future deployments overseas. The company has a busy next few months ending with a live fire exercise 'Wild Boar IV' in the first couple of weeks in December.

LCPL J.A. FIELD

6PL



7RAR NUTSHELL

As we got underway with the task of building a new unit we started with a minimal crew of five.

Alpha company started the year with SGT Godson as CQMS and PTE "DOC" Curran, storeman. With Bravo company overseas all tasks fell to Alpha Company, which kept them fairly busy. The company conducted an IET course a number of range practices and some minor exercises over the first half of the year. With the CQ away on his crew commanders course all work fell to the storeman. With the help of other units and the understanding of senior members this was managed quite well.

A rifle platoon was sent to East Timor which reminded the Q store the joys of transferring stores to another unit. PTE Curran was promoted to take over Alpha Company while the CQ was away on Exercise Southern Reach (EX SR); lucky for him we received two new march-ins from the school. PTE Spohn moved in as Alpha company storeman and Pte Fairweather within the main Q. The tasks didn't slow up for the end of year with stores required for company range practices and more exercises. PTE Douglas, another straight from the school, joined the Alpha Company store later in the year.

Bravo Company started the year overseas, with SGT "AL" Kincaid as their CQMS and CPL Homan, storeman. After completing their tour in Afghanistan they returned to the real world of a new battalion and a month's leave to catch up with family and friends.

On completion of the unit IET course they received additional members to the company. "AL" was kept busy running the store by himself while experiencing the joys of running a SIO's course with limited supplies. CPL Homan got his corpse transfer through and was whisked away by the end of August to be replaced by PTE Dolman, fresh out of the school. The year finished with more range practices, stores for EX SR and the arrival of PTE Dunlop, again from the school. SGT "AL" Kincaid left on posting by the end of November vowing never to return to Darwin.

Admin Company consisted of the RQMS, WO2 Dale Pratt in the main Q. Kept busy with the building of the new battalion, people soon got sick of his phone calls asking to loan different stores. PTE Fairweather joined the main Q and was immediately put to work in R&I, the only link left between 5RAR and 7RAR. Throughout the year the Q members tackled the tasks of ordering all battalion stores, including those for the anticipated arrival of the new AS4 carriers in November. They also organised stores for the IET, SIO's and M113 driver's courses, a platoon from Alpha Company going to TVL and East Timor, and exercise Southern Reach.

The new year will see the arrival of a near full strength main Q and company Q stores ready for another busy and exciting year in 7RAR.



Infantry Operations in Southern Afghanistan

SGT McLeay in Southern Afghanistan.

By Lieutenants Levon Lambert, Daniel Le Breton and Josh Mickle – B Coy 7 RAR

In the wake of an effective and vigorous Special Forces campaign in Southern Afghanistan, the First Reconstruction Task Force (1 RTF) began focussing on the rebuilding of a peaceful Afghanistan from the ground up. Its predecessor had successfully set the conditions, clearing the opposing military forces out of the northern areas of the war-torn Area of Operations and established a secure foothold for the successful 1 RTF occupation.

Initially, the plan was to insert a large engineer contingent with enough of a security element to provide the necessary security in and around a construction site. Upon realising the need for greater expansion into outlying areas; and due to a greater threat environment, Combat Team Bravo was intensely prepared, equipped and deployed.

The addition of an infantry company provided by the newly re-raised 7 RAR allowed the influence of 1 RTF to expand into key areas significant distances away from Forward Operating Base Davis. With a force package consisting of Bushmaster IMVs and ASLAVs, 1 RTF could rest assured that security of their proposed job sites was in very capable and heavily armed hands.

For the men of B Company, 7 RAR, it was an intense pre-deployment period with high expectations and some trepidation. The majority of the task force had experienced up to three months of operation prior to the arrival of the Combat Team in mid-November 2006. This, however, did not make their arrival any less appreciated.

The first operational mission for 7 RAR since the Vietnam War, occurred in late November with platoon level dismounted patrols into the regional capital of Uruzgan, Tarin Kowt. The first of which, was well executed by 4 platoon. Although the perceived threat of an operational patrol in southern Afghanistan was high, the reality of such a threat was mitigated in Tarin Kowt as a result of



7 RAR have proven themselves
in the challenging and high
threat environment of
southern Afghanistan.

good ground work provided by the Special Forces and a strong offensive posture displayed by the Combat Team.

The protected reconstruction aspect of the mission began shortly thereafter. With an increased security capability, the engineer task group began to focus their efforts on small outlying villages. The Combat Team would move into an area to initially clear and then secure. The engineers could then begin their work on selected buildings of great importance within the village with a high cultural or governmental value.

The infantry on the ground would establish an outer and inner cordon focussed on deterring and preventing any threat likely to come into the worksite, or indeed, from targeted areas within the immediate tactical area of operations. After completing countless missions outside the wire, the men from 7 RAR have proven themselves in the challenging and high threat environment of southern Afghanistan. Most importantly, they have significantly contributed to setting the conditions for the success of the next rotation of soldiers from the Royal Australian Regiment.





1PL A COY 7 RAR ON OP ASTUTE

June 2007. This month marked a new beginning for the men of Alpha Company, First Platoon. Many of the senior soldiers spread out through the sections as well as the section commanders had only a month earlier returned from a six month deployment in Afghanistan. Despite the army's policy on twelve months between deployments, soldiers were granted waivers and thus begun the commencement of training to deploy to East Timor in support of 2 RAR on TLBG 3. The mission- to provide 2 RAR with a hard hitting, fast moving mobile QRF platoon utilising M113 A vehicles in order to assist in stabilisation operations in Dili and the immediate surrounding areas.

Training began immediately with the Platoon's Sergeant Jaramaz filling in as Platoon Commander in Lieutenant Batchelor's absence, while the section commanders rotated through the job of Platoon Sergeant. During the next several months the platoon conducted numerous activities both in barracks and within the field putting them through their paces to build them up physically and mentally for the tasks they would be conducting within the Area of Operations as well as establishing effective standard operating procedures for section and platoon tasks. Once Lieutenant Batchelor returned, from MROC, the platoon began to prepare for operations, deploying to Kangaroo Flats Training Area for activities such as; a snap gallery range as well as scouting lanes, scenario based exercise's encouraging the more junior members of the sections to take charge at times and think for themselves, this also tested the senior members of the sections due for promotion course in regards to command and control and building their confidence in a commanders position, all the while still maintaining battle fitness with the conduct of section and platoon PT when time permitted.

All this training culminated with the final phase being live fire section attacks followed by a mock MRE conducted over a 48hr period within Robertson Barracks and surrounding training areas. The performance by the Platoon throughout each exercise was to a very good standard and the M113's proved to be an asset in themselves which would become even more evident in tasks to follow with 2RAR. On completion of these exercises's the platoon made the move to Townsville to begin training with Bravo Company, 2 RAR. Time in this location would be just short of three weeks with the end result being the completion of the MRE in conjunction with 2 RAR being deemed ready and capable to deploy. It was evident from the beginning there was an 'us and them' mentality due to the fact we are a mechanised unit and 2 RAR are still in the light infantry role. That all changed when 7 RAR proved their worth in the MRE by being the only

call sign the majority of the time to catch enemy role players. The role players would throw rocks, darts and other harmful projectiles at ISF then run away, this being a common problem for ISF in the actual AO. Members of 2 RAR would constantly be unable to catch the enemy due to the amount of equipment being carried weighing them down. This wouldn't be a problem for us as we would simply chase the enemy down with the vehicles then drop ramp right on top of them and immediately detain.

With the MRE and numerous exercises' being completed successfully the battle group was given the approval to deploy. Once we hit the ground we were immediately into the full swing of things; from the distribution of ammo, weapons and all other section equipment and stores to commencing mobile patrols for the section commanders within the TAORS we would be in. As with all tours, things were a bit disjointed to begin with, but once all the men had gotten their bearings it was smooth sailing. In the second week first platoon was utilised to fill the day and night patrols that the kiwis were responsible for whilst their handover was being conducted. This was a good starting off point for the men as our patrols were mainly focused around central Dili and they could have good interaction with the locals and start practicing to speak in Tetum with them. The handover was conducted on the 9th of October with TLBG 2 and the men of First platoon have started getting into a routine thanks to Lieutenant Batchelor fighting for the platoon to be integrated within the patrolling scheme as part of Bravo Company. This has helped break the monotony of Battle Group QRF which was originally the platoon's sole job.

The men are in high spirits and it is quite noticeable how high of a standard the men perform at compared to the other platoons. If everything continues to track as it has been, it will certainly be a rewarding and successful tour for the men of First Platoon, Alpha Company, 7 RAR.

Lance Corporal C.E.Novak



This question has been asked for many years amongst the Mechanised Infantry community.

The road to M113AS4 has been long and with the delivery of the vehicles shortly, the battalion will be ready to deploy at short notice anywhere in the world with them.

Suggestions of an upgraded M113 have been thrown around Army since the early to mid nineties. The endorsement by government in the 2000 Defence White Paper was to upgrade 350 in service M113A1 to AS3 or AS4 specification. The specification selected has improved armoured protection, a powered turret and an upgraded engine and powertrain.

After the delinking of 5 RAR and 7 RAR, a decision was made for 7 RAR to receive the first delivery of the M113AS4. The excitement in the battalion was evident when the announcement was made with many soldiers wanting to conduct conversion training to the AS4.

The first vehicles have been produced and are currently under going evaluation and also being used to train crews. The experience of the crews

trained ranged from our newest mechanised drivers through to the most experienced soldiers and officers of the Battalion and the feedback from those members is that it is a more than capable replacement for the current fleet. After driving it and shooting from the redesigned turret, these people carry an air of anticipation for its entry into service.

Currently the battalion is busy preparing for the arrival of the new vehicle with a handover ceremony on 15 November and the transfer of equipment from DMO to 7 RAR to occur in early December. This vehicle combined with the introduction of capabilities that give the battalion improved firepower, communications and surveillance has placed 7 RAR to lead the corps into the future of mechanised operations.

The opportunity to be involved with such a significant step forward within Mechanised Infantry and the way in which the vehicles are employed has not been taken for granted. 7 RAR has seized this opportunity and will shape the future of mechanised operations within the ADF.





EX SOUTHERN REACH 02/07 - CTC ROTATION

After the Battalion HQ exploits during SR01/07, the CTC Heavy Rotation was the first opportunity to deploy soldiers and equipment to the Cultana Training Area.

The Battalion deployed eight M113 variants to provide a battlegroup headquarters consisting of an ACV and three M113. CTC also required assistance with four M113s to move Observer/Trainers around the range.

The first rotation had BGHQ allocated five M1A1, a troop of ASLAV, troop of mechanised combat engineers and a CSS element from 1 CSSB. Through some creative tasking a mechanised platoon minus was also formed. The rotation saw the enemy (1st Armoured Battlegroup) advance south down the Cultana range with our mission to delay that advance. The ASLAV troop and M1A1 proved that with a well executed plan and hard hitting firepower that a superior force was able to be defeated although our force received significant casualties. Some quick thinking and basic soldier skills by a RAInf and RAAOC soldier showed that by an advancing force not executing drills and skills correctly, two men with various types of weapons can harass a combat team for hours with minimum trouble. Battlegroup Boar at times

had the enemy wondering of our intentions and locations and in the end died heroically achieving the mission end state required.

The second rotation had the battlegroup force structure remain pretty much the same as the first rotation. This mission placed elements of the battlegroup further north than in the first rotation and included some dismounted tasks for the mechanised infantry platoon. Headquarters managed to remain undetected during most of the rotation although a tank heavy combat team managed to pass 100- 200m away without detecting them. When the command to withdraw was given a night move was conducted for all remaining callsigns. This gave both the M113 crews as well as the CSST B vehicle drivers almost three hours of blackout driving as well as trying to evade enemy elements. The remains of the battlegroup were extracted by air and returned to the motherland to fight another day.

Southern Reach was also an opportunity to conduct ECN 343-2 training. This training allowed about fifty soldiers to become MAG 58 and 84mm Anti Armour wpn qualified. With the amount of training timetabled for the rest of the year this was the perfect opportunity for soldiers to be qualified on these weapons.

The following members have been married in 2007

PTE Wooten, Corey Daniel
to Mrs Wooten, Cushla

PTE Murphy, Joshua Bruce
to Mrs Stacey, Nicole

WO1 Allen, David John to
Mrs Lucy Allen

The following members have had children born in 2007

PTE Garcia, Stephen Maxwell -
Baby boy, Zane Garcia (TBA)

CPL Symes, Kristiphor Beau -
Baby boy, Symes, Deegan Geoffrey 13 Apr 2007

SGT Kincaid, Allan - Baby boy,
Kincaid, Kyle Bailey 21 May 2007

PTE Cristea, Matthew -
Baby boy, CRISTEA, LUKE ANTHONY 13 Jul 2007

CFN D'Altera, Nathan -
Baby Boy, D'Altera, Tristan 30 Oct 07



EX SOUTHERN REACH 02/07





*The newest members of 7 RAR.*

IET ARTICLE

'Downward, Ever Downward...' DOWNWARD MM PLATOON

Below is an excerpt the citation awarded to PTE Keith Downward for the Battle of Suoi Chau Pha:

'Private Keith Downward, a forward scout in 2 Platoon, came under heavy fire early in the battle. He continued to crawl towards the enemy until he was within 10 m of a machine gun that was causing the casualties. He leapt to his feet and, disregarding his own safety, charged the machine gun, killed its operator and captured the weapon. He was wounded shortly afterwards by a hand grenade but continued to bring fire on the enemy. When it became necessary to order him to move rearward for treatment, he dragged a wounded comrade with him.'

Private Downward was awarded a Military Medal for his actions in the jungles of South Vietnam on the 6th of August 1967.

The 7th battalion began to grow with its newest members from Downward MM Platoon. The platoon was named after a scout in 2 Platoon, A Coy, who was known for his enduring character and bravery throughout the tour. The course began on the 25th of June 2007 with almost 50 trainees. Not all completed the course, but the toughest, greenest, and youngest prevailed with 37 marching out on the 1st of September, the birthday of the Seventh Battalion.

From Admin week to Range week, to HE week and beyond, the trainees undertook all the required activities to teach and test the core skills of our trade. As the potential soldiers fired and moved their way through the curriculum to attain the coveted skippy badge and the right to bear the motto of 'Duty First' as their own, they quickly learnt the muzzle velocity of the F88, the lethal radius of the F1, and how to sleep standing up.

The trainees went from strength to strength as the training progressed and culminated with the platoon defensive exercise and Ex Hard Corps. After a protracted defensive fight from 0100h on the final morning, they conducted a fighting withdrawal which then saw them begin their final activity on a dark and lonely stretch of Western Rd, somewhere in the Mount Bunday training area.

The training was designed to be arduous in both the mental and physical sense. It was observed many times that the trainee soldiers displayed the toughness and the commitment to get through the course. The long days and lack of spare time were more than made up for at the end as all were able to enjoy a drink with their families and friends during the march-out weekend. Downward MM Platoon's time together, though somewhat short-lived, was vital to the growth and enhancing the capability of the 7th battalion, something the platoon members are very much proud of.



All the comforts of home.

Awards

Champion Soldier: PTE Joubert: for displaying the best soldierly qualities and achieving all-round success throughout the course.

Best at Physical Training: PTE Peacock: for being physically fit and demonstrating a strong commitment to the physical training aspects of the course.

Skill at Arms: PTE Crossman: for achieving highest score in all shooting aspects of the course.

Champion Section: 4 Section (CPL Wood) for achieving the highest score in Ex Hard Corps and providing the best example of teamwork in a section environment.

Written by LT Lambert

India One Three: Fortune's Favourites.





SIO-S COURSE IN REVIEW

During the months of August and September the Battalion conducted its yearly SIO-S course. With members coming from 7 RAR and 5 RAR, there was a wide range of experience with both Battalions returning from deployment overseas.

The course commenced on 20 Aug 07, with the introduction of the staff and the Commanding Officer of 7 RAR LTCOL S.L. Gabriel. Once all the formal introductions were complete the course began with the lesson phase of the SIO-S course, which meant long hours staring at power point lessons. At times the course found the lessons to be long and detailed; however, there was always the class clowns that keep the morale going.

The second day commenced with a bang when the men were introduced to the unit PTI CPL Morgan. With what could only be describe as a PT session from hell to commence the physical training phase of the course. The course new they were in for a fun couple of weeks. As the days passed by, members of the course found the going to be hard with a few electing to withdrawal from course with injuries.

After the completion of week one the course was drained and physical fatigued from the arduous PT sessions throughout the week. With the PT containing team building exercises stretcher carries and the odd couple hundred push ups.

Week two of the course provided the course with more of the same during PT, with CPL Morgan, picking up the intensity of the training. With the PT phase to be completed on Aug 29, the course was left with only one hurdle, the one they were dreading 'the obstacle course'. With the temperature around a balmy 29 degrees the course set off on one of their many run throughs of the course. After all the rehearsals were completed the competition began. The efforts the course displayed were of a very high standard with the winning team being 8 section commanded by LCPL Bohm.

Thursday the 30 Aug, commenced with the men in high spirits ready to commence the SECOPS (security Operations) phase of the course. With many intense activities organised by LT LeBreton and LT Mickle, the course was to find themselves in what some of them quoted as hell. Throughout the next 72h the course were involved in VCP, VAP, patrols and numerous contacts through-out the Brigade. Concluding into a massed assault on the method of entry building. The courses had average of around two to three hours of sleep a night and were beginning to tire. But the fun had only begun with the field phase ready to commence.

The buses reached the Mount Bundy area and the course new their time for sleeping was over and the hard work was to begin. With minimal time to prepare their pits for fighting the men were digging hard, only find out they were digging into a hill side that was made of shale. With the bush phase running for ten days the men were tired after several intense contacts and a range of mortar fire through out the nights. Some quotes used during the field phase will never be forgotten, with quotes of I didn't no what I was doing because I'm tired and they can play these games on us all morning at least we wont have to shave.

In closing the SIO-S course was a great success with the members of the course gaining experience and the attributes to become fine leaders. With the members taking away the knowledge taught through-out the course I wish them the best of luck with their careers.



7 RAR BATTALION BALL – 12 OCTOBER 2007

“The wining and dining of porky’s people”

On the 12th of October 2007, the Seventh Battalion held its first gala event in 33 years. The Ball was named in honour of Operation SANTA FE which 7 RAR, in conjunction with 2 RAR, played a significant part in during their second tour of Vietnam. The evening was a great success, with most members thoroughly enjoying themselves; including the Sky City management who didn't need to bill the unit for breakages the following day.

The evening began at 1830h with champagne, beer and nibbles. Almost every member of the Battalion attended which was an outstanding turnout for the new Battalion. Once the first rounds of drinks were consumed the conversation and atmosphere began to pick up resulting in a rowdy night. All of the ladies who attended were gorgeously dressed and generally their escorts were equally well attired. Many of the people who attended saw the casino disappearing through the rear window of a taxi at the end of the night and felt very sorry for themselves the next day.

The Ball was a first-class function, achieving the aim of a successful first Battalion event. The evening ran smoothly, allowing all members to socialise with personnel and all ranks from across the Battalion in an informal atmosphere. The Santa Fe Ball will continue to be a popular event on the 7 RAR social calendar, and hopefully will become a firmly entrenched tradition for the members of the 7 RAR.









7 RAR Fishing Club

The 7 RAR Fishing Club was officially formed when OC A Coy told the Battalion XO he owned a boat. Since then many hours have been spent casting pieces of metal, plastic, rubber and wood at seemingly barren stretches of water.

The Club has grown and grown (although not really) from these early days. SGT Carpenter has tried valiantly to join the ranks of the piscatorially privileged with the purchase of his shinny new craft, the HMAS FISHLESS. The Monday morning post game wrap-up which invariably occurs over a brew often hears Carps explaining exactly why the fish weren't biting. Unfortunately for Carps he never seems to realise this until he's well off the water. This is not surprising when you learn that his first mate is PTE Chris "Gilligan" or "I know boats" Dakers. On recent form, however, Carps leapt to the front with a nice 60cm Barra.

There have been many memorable moments this year for the 7 RARFC, for example OC A trying to amputate his CSM's legs with his trailer while trying to avoid turning his car into an artificial reef. The first time CAPT Hovell's esky had fish in it (significant only cause he wasn't there). The XO trying to drive the boat through the trailer instead of on it. WO2 Peter "Catfish" Simeon and his impressive, if not annoying, 7kg Catfish and the worlds smallest Barramundi. And of course the meter plus Barra which the XO will let no one forget.

If a fishing club's success is defined by the amount of fish they catch, then the 7 RARFC is as successful the OPSO's dodgy porn mo. We'll chalk this year down as a learning experience and hope like hell we're not deployed for the run off!





7 RAR BN NOM ROLL 2007

8239300	LTCOL	Gabriel, Shane Leslie	8524421	PTE	Arriagada, Daniel Jared
8249511	MAJ	Elwin, Justin Michael	8500070	PTE(P)	Ashley, Brendan John
8256173	MAJ	Kuschert, Glen Alexander	8514296	PTE	Aynscough, Joel Ryan
8252033	MAJ	McFarland, Matthew Richard	8518527	PTE	Banham, Damien David
8244083	CAPT	Hayes, Richard Charles	8516194	PTE	Banks, Jeremy Joe
8234941	CAPT	Hovell, Clarence Vincent	8517452	PTE	Bassingthwaite, Matthew Evan
8272957	CAPT	Jardine, Joshua James	8526217	PTE	Benini, Thomas George
8245330	CAPT	Jaunay, Christopher Paul	8521614	PTE	Bernia, David Anthony Malschafsky
8438100	LT	Batchelor, Daryl	8521632	PTE	Besedin, Daris Slav
8509644	LT	Kleinman, Jacob Alexander	8505322	PTE(P)	Bezemer, James Robert
8255296	LT	Lambert, Levon James	8496700	PTE(P)	Bialkowski, Witold
8230547	LT	Le Breton, Daniel Vincent	8526219	PTE	Bicsak, Jasen Peter
8491944	LT	Mickle, Joshua Robert	8526258	PTE	Blundell, Richard James
8504758	LT	Smith, Jamie David Michael	8404655	PTE	Bormann, Hamilton John
8261127	LT	Thompson, Gary Allan	8500862	PTE(P)	Box, Anthony Robert
8504585	LT	Trembath, Richard Alistair Dunstan	8524178	PTE	Boxall, Damian Ken
8219231	WO1	Allen, David John	8519165	PTE	Bradford, Matthew Allan
8247087	WO2	Bennett, Robert John	8526891	PTE	Brewer, Timothy Douglas
8256265	WO2	Brown, Kevin Murray	8517678	PTE	Brian, Daniel Roy
8231030	WO2	Henderson, Matthew Allan	8517465	PTE	Bridgman, Matthew James Lewis Collen Nigel
8246191	WO2	Pratt, Dale Robert	8523867	PTE	Bristow, Stephen Michael
8215024	WO2	Simeon, Peter John	8511278	PTE(P)	Brooks, Gary Marsden
8242896	WO2	Uren, Allan Thomas	8519147	PTE	Bryson, Matt Gregory
8216034	SGT	Anson, Leslie Mark Arthur	8524479	PTE	Bush-King, Elliot Nial
8235023	SGT	Bale, George Edward Owen	8495678	PTE(P)	Byford, Timothy John
8240627	SGT	Carpenter, Andrew John	8503229	PTE(P)	Byrnes, Joseph William
8263009	SGT	Dehnert, Paul Ashley	8526893	PTE	Callaghan, Michael James
8264241	SGT	Godson, Michael Edwin	8519221	PTE	Carmichael, Errol James
8272185	SGT	Jaramaz, Martin George	8526254	PTE	Casey, Aaron John
8248337	SGT	Kincaid, Allan	8520001	PTE	Cass, Jesse John Stanley
8233833	SGT	McLeay, Graham William	8523265	PTE	Chick, Nathan Adam
8258537	SGT	McLeay, Wayne Allan	8526276	PTE	Chong, Moe-Ava Jeremy Rata Barry
8248206	CPL	Barry, Scott Nicholas	8526176	PTE	Christie, Ian James
8264147	CPL	Bloffwitch, Kent Anthony	8512721	PTE	Cleator, Thomas Eric
8284416	CPL	Field, Jason Alan	8526541	PTE	Colbourne, Andrew James
8231513	CPL	Foreman, Andrew David	8517459	PTE(P)	Coleman, Eric James
8271908	CPL	Gray, Leon David	8524411	PTE	Cooke, Augustine Wayne Hepi
8269155	CPL	Jamieson, Dennis James	8504386	PTE(P)	Cox, David William
8247393	CPL	Majewski, Simon Lawrence	8505293	PTE	Cremming, Daniel James
8259196	CPL	McMahon, Matthew Dominic	8521273	PTE	Cristea, Matthew Luke
8216248	CPL	Pene, Kane Mason Taiaroa	8526401	PTE	Crossman, Joseph
8237650	CPL	Rodway, Richard Michael	8524654	PTE	Culpitt, Cody Walter
8259389	CPL	Scott, Matthew Phillip	8498416	PTE(P)	Dakers, Christopher Anthony
8254278	CPL	Stone, Scott Richard	8526294	PTE	Dallas, James Lloyd
8252794	CPL	Symes, Kristiphor Beau	8492800	PTE(P)	D'Altera, Nathan James
8238691	CPL	Uttley, Simon Morris	8509457	PTE(P)	Deijkers, Timothy Victor Leslie
8249423	CPL	Van Den Hoogen, Antonius Lee	8520778	PTE	Dobe, Steven Jacob
8269069	CPL	Wood, Daniel Gordan	8525367	PTE	Dolman, Matthew Paul
8501771	LCPL	Bohm, Luke David	8517310	PTE	Donohoe, Lloyd Edward
8501717	LCPL	Booth, Andrew Steven	8527395	PTE	Douglas, Christopher Neil
8510952	LCPL	Bottalico, Michael David	8506215	PTE(P)	Dowsing, Joshua Alexander
8275814	LCPL	Curran, Brett James	8526257	PTE	Drummond, Ashley Paul
8493567	LCPL	Curtayne, Robert David	8523175	PTE	Dryden, Leigh Paul
8495171	LCPL	Fillingham, John William Thomas	8528967	PTE	Dunlop, Callum Anthony
8248993	LCPL	Flaherty, Terence	8506530	PTE(P)	Eaton, Shaun David
8218188	LCPL	Griggs, Dwayne William	8524295	PTE	Egan, Michael Philip
8501535	LCPL	Hopkins, Mathew Ricky Andrew	8523239	PTE	Esparon, John Maurice
8504558	LCPL	Iuta Patau, Vaa Pusateri	8524155	PTE	Fairweather, Daniel Milton
8271086	LCPL	Kukura, Brett Anthony	8518677	PTE	Fallon, Damien Thomas
8489090	LCPL	Mattiazzo, Warrick Moreno	8517606	PTE	Ferris, Paul Anthony
8502863	LCPL	McIntosh, Christopher John	8526533	PTE	Fisher, Jarrod
8225674	LCPL	Novak, Carlo Ernest	8523237	PTE	Fotinakis, John
8220782	LCPL	Phillis, Christopher Raymond	8524679	PTE	Gagliardi, Christopher John
8500629	LCPL	Revett, Adam Christopher	8524681	PTE	Gambin, Kye
8499818	LCPL	Schadel, Michael Paul	8485125	PTE(P)	Garcia, Stephen Maxwell
8443161	LCPL	Steele, Stuart Donald	8522608	PTE	Gibbs, Nathan Rodney Peter
8249961	LCPL	Thomson, Brent Douglas	8517668	PTE	Gilliland, Matthew Damien
8525575	PTE	Abellanosa, Garrico	8524044	PTE	Giunta, Nicholas
8442230	PTE	Ahern, Harley Joseph	8525463	PTE	Godfrey, Benjamin Luke
8497047	PTE	Anderson, Matthew Thomas	8522581	PTE	Goulden, Robert Ian
8525457	PTE	Arnold, Joshua Andrew	8506092	PTE(P)	Gray, Kurt Christopher



8525941	PTE	Grono,Lachlan William	8500621	PTE(P)	Pettett,Michael Charles
8526220	PTE	Guyer,Andrew Jean	8519842	PTE	Phoenix,Ryan Daniel
8515566	PTE	Hall,Tristan Andrew	8517442	PTE	Pitt,Genji Tinirau Barlow
8521205	PTE	Halpin,Bradley Joseph	8505249	PTE(P)	Pittaway,William Andrew
8501769	PTE(P)	Hammond,Benjamin James	8521592	PTE	Pontifex,Adam Lyell
8528972	PTE	Hansen,Bradley Richard	8520709	PTE	Power,Maximillion Huge
8506713	PTE(P)	Healy,Damien James	8522603	PTE	Price,Samuel James
8526508	PTE	Heath,Benjamin Adam	8525385	PTE	Price,Thomas Bao-Jin
8485939	PTE(P)	Hevey,Michael Wayne	8484148	PTE(P)	Proctor,Joey Sam
8517410	PTE	Heyworth,Kyle Mark	8508855	PTE(P)	Putman,Jeramie Trent
8525447	PTE	Hicks,Phillip Daniel	8526501	PTE	Randall,Grant Francis
8512103	PTE	Hildrew,Christopher Leslie	8505327	PTE(P)	Reid,Maurice Joseph
8521208	PTE	Hilker,Fabian Alexander	8521783	PTE	Reilly,Michael David
8512818	PTE	Hubbard,Alan Lawrence	8526272	PTE	Reynolds,Cameron Glenn
8521824	PTE	Hudson,Robert John	8526537	PTE	Reynolds,Thomas Joseph
8525368	PTE	Jaffer,Dylan Alexander	8525840	PTE	Rix,Ashley Darren
8524708	PTE	Jennings,Alan Bryan Frank	8526513	PTE	Roberts,William Clive
8518585	PTE	Johnson,Mathew	8511004	PTE(P)	Ronayne,Steven Harold
8267190	PTE(P)	Jones,Dylan Peter	8516499	PTE	Roseman,Troy William
8526545	PTE	Joubert,Jared Francois	8526334	PTE	Ross,Luke Ryan
8528243	PTE	Jowers,Reece Lloyd Walter	8520318	PTE	Rothwell,Brent Andrew
8498396	PTE	Kelly,Michael Horace Steven	8497012	PTE(P)	Rowley,Robert Peter
8508177	PTE(P)	Kiely,Phillip Aaron	8524165	PTE	Run,Daniel
8516279	PTE	Kirkland,Paul Anthony	8225409	PTE(P)	Ryan,Christopher Ray
8436450	PTE(P)	Kirkpatrick,Tristan Turner	8529304	PTE	Ryan,Martin Francis
8519649	PTE	Kirsch,Matthew	8517480	PTE	Salter,Thomas James Wade
8521847	PTE	Kiss,Karl Erich	8520324	PTE	Schulz,Lachlan Brady
8526263	PTE	Klau,Mark Albert Robin	8525387	PTE	Selwood,Mitch William
8519254	PTE	Krajina,Mark Simon	8525399	PTE	Sengstock,Carl James
8526221	PTE	Kroesen,Ashley John	8514806	PTE	Sheridan,Troy Allen
8528976	PTE	Kuczera,James Michael	8517461	PTE	Smedley,Nicholas John
8528064	PTE	Lambert,Adam James	8526324	PTE	Smith,James Hardie
8516418	PTE	Lawrence,Glen Thomas	8236672	PTE	Smith,Kris
8526325	PTE	Leahy,Ryan Andrew	8520896	PTE	Smith,Troy Kim
8526146	PTE	Lee,Matthew James	8517450	PTE	Smith,Warwick Byron
8525998	PTE	Long,Dale Andrew	8525944	PTE	Spencer,Thomas Mark
8520531	PTE	Lorraine,Luke Nicolas Francois	8524652	PTE	Spohn,Daniel Jordan
8511620	PTE(P)	Lukassen,Kane Justin	8520418	PTE	Stait,Joel Christopher
8528237	PTE	Lynch,Douglas William George	8508979	PTE(P)	Stephens,Matthew Karl
8217526	PTE	Madden,Simon John	8526175	PTE	Stockwell,Joshua Vincent
8526930	PTE	Maddison,Luke Michael	8522580	PTE	Stojevski,Zoran
8511746	PTE(P)	Matheson,Robert John	8526328	PTE	Strickland,Alexander James
8510512	PTE(P)	May,Justin Aaron	8521786	PTE	Sudweeks,Daniel Madden
8524035	PTE	McBride,Daniel Richard	8443024	PTE(P)	Tampalini,Scott Philip
8523297	PTE	McCarthy,Daniel James	8502431	PTE(P)	Taraborrelli,Giancarlo Brasil
8524168	PTE	McClellan,Kyle Dean	8526333	PTE	Taylor,Kent Llewellyn
8526262	PTE	McClure,Harley James	8510845	PTE(P)	Thompson,Joshua Ellis Lee
8502653	PTE(P)	McLeish,Jason S	8518531	PTE	Thomson,James Andrew
8514370	PTE	McVicar,Brendan Andrew	8516390	PTE	Tipler,Tory Danial Linden
8525838	PTE	Meehan,Krischan Joseph	8521790	PTE	Titiriga,Adrian
8517947	PTE	Merriman,Jareth Taylor	8232758	PTE(P)	Trevarrow,Christiaan David
8521807	PTE	Moloney,Heath Sebastian	8500632	PTE(P)	Trewartha,Ben Edward Wirth
8519926	PTE	Monikura,Tutu Junior	8525358	PTE	Troiano,Michael John
8503903	PTE(P)	Moodie,Matthew James	8528257	PTE	Troiano,Trenten Edward
8262479	PTE(P)	Moodie,Shane Matthew	8520756	PTE	Tuakalau,Liuola
8526494	PTE	Morrell,Allan David	8520388	PTE	Tulloch,Adam John Allan
8511717	PTE(P)	Morris,David William	8526299	PTE	Turner,David Leslie
8525918	PTE	Murphy,Brendan James	8520716	PTE	Usher,James Thomas
8520796	PTE	Murphy,Joshua Bruce	8519660	PTE	Walters,Benjamin Phillip John
8520089	PTE	Naughton,Jamie Craig	8517646	PTE	Warland,Adam Deane
8523191	PTE	Nicholaou,Michael	8527000	PTE	Watson,Kyle Clement
8517434	PTE	Oelkers,Lee Colin	8218523	PTE(P)	Webb,Nathen Fane Albion
8491621	PTE(P)	Ogden,Brett Anthony	8508873	PTE(P)	Wells,Timothy John
8519865	PTE	Olaussen,Jared Nathan	8516512	PTE	Williamson,Daniel Nicholas
8521767	PTE	O'Meara,Michael Thomas	8526497	PTE	Wood,Graeme John
8517439	PTE	O'Neill,Samuel James	8526512	PTE	Woodruff,Jordan Thomas
8521765	PTE	Osborne,Scott Harry	8524713	PTE	Woodson,Christopher John
8503806	PTE(P)	Osis,Aaron Nicholas	8520092	PTE	Wooten,Corey Daniel
8511458	PTE(P)	Papas,Ashley Philip	8492622	PTE	Xavier,Trynt Ozius
8526889	PTE	Parham,Dylan Jon			
8502091	PTE(P)	Paul,Justin John			
8526135	PTE	Paulsen,Matthew David			
8524159	PTE	Peacock,Mitchell Grant			
8526226	PTE	Peacock,Russell Lance			





