



31st/42nd Battalion

The Royal Queensland Regiment

Vol 1. 10 DEC 22



CO's Introduction



Yet another outstanding year for the mighty Minotaurs. After last year, it was hard to judge what would constitute rating this year as a success. Just like the second album theory, I was a little concerned if we had burned ourselves out post last year's performance or whether we would commit fratricide in our desire to continue to drive this unit further forward.

Fortunately, the units performance (as expected) continue to meet mine and others expectations evidenced by being awarded the James Cannan Cup (best performing unit in the Bde) and the sheer size and tasks that the unit was directed to achieve and the significant increase in manning this year. This magazine article will highlight the series of achievements that clearly demonstrates how we have achieved our commander's intent – which is to make reserve service, meaningful, relevant, enjoyable and most importantly credible. Apart from being viewed as the 'metaphorical bench', the unit continued to strengthen its many relationship with numerous communities IOT demonstrate how we are here to support them in their time of need whilst also reminding them how the unit can be a means for them to better themselves and serve their nation.

As 2021 was closing down the BDE COMD advised me that the unit was directed to conduct a RIP with 51 FNQR in the Torres Strait IOT command OP RESOLUTE ROTO 1A. Furthermore the unit was also directed to undertake FORMOD trials regarding the MLRV as well as be responsible for planning, mounting and leading the 11 BDE commitment to the first pure ARES rotation in Tully in living memory. If that wasn't enough, the unit was also responsible in driving the return of RSS PL into the ARES Bn, rectifying significant shortfalls in ECSC and ECN 343-3 qualifications as well as coordinate HRWS assurance activities in the form of EX Rocky Ready. With regards to all of these tasks, the unit performed admirably as detailed in this latest publication - which is even further impressive considering the size of the unit.

Apart from these capstone activities, the unit has supported multiple DACC 1 SAR tasks with QPS in the region, supported multiple ceremonial activities throughout the large AO, and enhanced its relationships with flanking forces which have led to access to equipment and platforms that are not readily possible. I cannot thank enough the support the unit has been provided by 11 BDE flanking FE, 141 SIG SQN, 5/11 BTY, 5 AVN, 4 HB, 10 FSB and all units within the 3 BDE as we try to achieve optimal solutions under the TWS. I firmly believe that the examples and quality of training achieved this year is an outstanding example of the TWS

The unit's image, social, community engagement and historical links and connections have continued to grow and reform thanks largely to the efforts of the XO, MAJ Mark Smith and civilian contracted

videographer Mr Fisch Racy. The units facilities have also been significantly improved with the arrival of gyms in a box in Mackay and Gladstone, the MWTSS in Rockhampton, free and unrestricted access the 1 RAR yard, the efforts to construct the BullPen in Rockhampton, the occupation of the old APSU –NQ building to enabled DSN enabled JOR named Lavarack Heights, the significant enhancement to the veranda in front of BHQ to make way for the ‘Nev Bullock Performance Centre of Excellence’....are further examples that the unit is moving forward in a big way.

Whilst we are moving forward, the unit will farewell some outstanding operators who provided excellent support to the unit. Whilst the list is long a distinguished, some key players of note: MAJ Barbie Keller and MAJ Rob Grant. Both OCs of their respective Companies should be exceptionally proud of their respective achievements over a tough, compressed and at times highly emotional two years in command. Both OCs have without a doubt, left their respective Coys in a far more productive and capable state in comparison to how it was received. Well done to you both and I wish you all the best in your next adventures.

CAPT Nick Crosbie, flawless performance as ADJT who was also relied upon to act as Battle CAPT and OC for operational tasks, formation level collective training and DACC 1 tasking. Nicks performance led to BDE COMD Bronze commendation – which speaks for itself. He will be posted to the old faithful and will no doubt continue to entertain 3 RAR with Seinfeld and Billy Birmingham quotes like he has done for most of his adult life. CAPT Stephen Wooler who also performed admirably as Cap Coy 2IC whilst supporting the SAF long waited and highly anticipated return to SWBTA. Steve stepped up during certain aspects of the year and has certainly performed to a level that the Army wants to invest in. He will be posted to QUR next year to enhance his instructional level skills whilst also undertaking secondments to Sol.

RQMS WO2 Bradley ‘Snow’ Royal has yet again defined the statement.. ‘don’t worry sir, ill get my hands on it’. Excellent operator, great human being who has gotten access to things that I don’t ask questions about! He is always unit and service first and will be sorely missed as he posts down the road to 3 CSSB. SGT Mike McCulloch who has provided solid contributions to the unit at Gladstone and Cairns depots is preparing himself for another shot at JTW – Tully. Mike all the best in your next posting and thankyou for your support.

WO2 Paul Lergessner, will be formally farewelled at the unit dining in night for 40+ years of solid service to the Army in multiple roles as evidenced with receiving the Federation Star in 2020. Paul retired in August signing off his career as a cherish member of Capricornia Coy and has been an exceptionally loyal member of the unit and provided unrivalled support to MAJ Grant to complete an effective command team. Paul has returned to his family in Mackay and I would like to formally thank him once more for his dedicated service to his nation. All the best Paul and I truly hope you enjoy your retirement.

Lastly, I would like to single out the efforts of the RSM WO1 Dave Harding and the CCLK WO1 Nev Bullock, both who have provided me with countless hours of support and highly valued counsel that has enabled me to command the unit to the best of my ability. They both are the ultimate behind the scenes achievers who devote themselves and do their utmost for the Battalions soldiers and NCOs through dedicated and carefully considered advice.

As I said this time last year, the Battalion is alive and well and has a strong beating pulse. Enjoy your well-deserved Christmas leave.... hopefully nothing happens to remove or impact that opportunity. It has been a pleasure being your commanding officer.

Semper paratus defendere / cede nullius

Dave Gandy

LTCOL

Commanding Officer 31/42 RQR



DP Gandy

LTCOL

Commanding Officer 31/42 RQR

The RSM's message – WO1 David Harding

First off I would like to thank all the members of the Bn for making me feel so welcome. As my first appointment I have learnt a lot and it wasn't without challenges. The unit had a busy year planned and then on top of that we were tasked with commanding Op RESOLUTE which was the first time a non-RFSU had received that task.

This is the first time I had been posted to the 2nd Division since I was a CPL in the mid 2000s. The dedication and the commitment shown by the members of the unit to balance their civilian employment commitments, family and then to provide service is a credit to them. The unit achieved a lot this year and the performance on tasks as varied as Defence Aid to the Civil Community in the form of search and rescue, and foundation warfighting at Tully and Jezzine Fires has sustained a sense of pride to both myself and the Commanding Officer, and is a credit to the soldiers of the unit.

I would like to thank the outgoing Commanding Officer for his unwavering support to the unit and exceptional leadership. Without his personal drive and professionalism the unit would not have been able to achieve half of what it has this year.

Next year the Battalion welcomes a new Commanding Officer with LTCOL Cam McKay at the helm, taking over from LTCOL Dave Gandy who has been appointed as the Military Assistant to the Commander of the Second Division – A position that will mean he will be able to continue to help the unit.

Lastly to all the Officers, Soldiers, family and friends of the Battalion I would like to wish you all a happy holidays and hope you all get to spend some quality time with your families and friends.

Regards

RSM

S1 CELL – Captain Nick Crosbie



Another year began at a cracking pace with the unit reinforcing the work load in the Torres Strait on OP Resolute with a contingent being rapidly assembled for OPS. The trusty S1 cell set about 'building that plane

This year we have welcomed three new clerks to the unit, PTE Higgs, GNR Hageman and PTE Harm. Due to only one of them working at KFC, we currently only have PTE Harm remaining. REMEMBER Popcorn chicken and Tenders grease the wheels of progress....

Early on, the unit readied to deploy on OP RESOLUTE, ably supported by LCPL Ivy Johnson from APAC. She got the good gig working on Tanning on Thursday Island. The other S1 pers were in a constant cycle of chasing and presenting information, all the while the constant Day to Day of the Battalion also bubbled along in the background, but as always we got the task completed. It's also noted that at this stage that CPL McKenzie saw fit to come down with COVID on OPS! You all saw it DVA Claim sent...

Before long, we prepped for 11 BDE's RFX – held in everyone's favourite leech farm, TULLY which then rolled into EX AUSTRAL SHIELD and saw the S1 preparing two separate exercises within the same time period, completing march in, march out, (rinse and repeat) march in and march out again. While this had the potential to go rogue leading to many issues like members not being paid or incidentals going missing, the expertise of the S1 cell, who were closely monitoring the BDE S1 CELL managed to achieve this with nil issues identified.

EX ROCKY READY saw the S1 cell split, with CC and CPL Moore supplemented by CPL Barrett from 11 CSSB remaining in Townsville and the ORS, ORC CAP COY and PTE Harm moving to Rockhampton to conduct the mounting and administration for the task force. The exercise allowed PTE Harm to see the S1 in the wild and see what she had signed onto. This was once again conducted with the professionalism expected of the S1 cell. There were over 100 personnel to march in from many different units from NSW and QLD, to which ran smoothly and efficiently as expected.

And REMEMBER support your Local Bavarian Tavern...We did.

In July, LCPL Bathman flew to Sydney with the CO and RSM to represent the unit in the ceremonial parade that marked the Army's enhancement of 2nd Division to an independent functional command. After many hours of rehearsal she executed almost adequate drill at the beautiful Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park, had the pleasure of meeting many amazing people from all over Australia and lost her luggage on the return flight.

The Adjutant did his usual bail on the S1 cell after some analysis that the unit was looking at a busy period so he found an excuse for another one of his sabbaticals (COAC). He returns almost fully qualified and posts out at the end of the year to 3 RAR

PTE Esther Harm joined us after basic training that she described as the 'best time of her life'.

The Movements Cell 2022 burst out of Covid travel restrictions and realised that they were actually gainfully employed by defence only to spend an hour

Couple of memorable quotes for the year,

"I don't know what I don't know" OPSO week one - 2022

"If it makes sense, it ain't Defence" – Contractor trying to remove the possum urinal above the COs office

"Last minute planning, only takes a minute" – anyone from OPS

"A half arsed effort takes half the time" – as above

"Because Magic Just Happens... that's how" – Chief Clerk

"Who's the work experience kid? - Random digger – "No that's PTE Bathman, she's a 24 year old uni student" – CPL McKenzie

"No one will ever tell that they enjoyed an exercise, but they will be lining up in droves to tell you how bad one was" – ADJT (part time battle Captain, full time smart arse)

S3 Cell – WO2 Steven Marks

'Your lack of planning is not our emergency'

- OPS

The start to 2022 was no different to any other year: Flat out. We pushed through the pain of FPAT which was quickly followed up with the Battalion covering off on all the mandatory shooting requirements prior to getting after the year that lay ahead.

OP RESOLUTE 'ALPHA' saw most of the OPS team deploy although none of us moved any further North than the Strand for a coffee. We sat patiently in the JOR waiting for the daily SITREPS and INTSUM. We can confirm the OPSWO has submitted a DVA claim for PTSD because every time a car backfires it reminds him of the CO slamming the JOR door in frustration.

EX JEZZINES FIRES was conducted over the period 10 – 26 June. This had the Battalion come together to conduct various shooting activities. Big shout out to WO2 Sam Clarke for the successful conduct of the Battalion's first ever Enhanced Combat Shooting Course. This qualification goes a long way towards closing the gap between the Reserve and Regular soldier. We also covered off on some live fire ambushing as well as High Explosive weapons and anti-armour qualifications.

EX REGIONAL WARFIGHTER EXERCISE (Tully) required the OPSWO to dust off his field pack and deploy to Tully as the CSM. He would like to take this opportunity to thank CSM A & B Coy who were 'unavailable to attend' and also his sponsors, Nescafe Blend 43 and Ibuprofen, for the experience.



EX AUSTRAL SHIELD bolted onto the tail end of the Jungle training rotation and was a Brigade activity where it has been reported to OPS that everyone enjoyed themselves and had a great time.

EX ROCKY READY saw BHQ split with half of the 'One' shop deploying south leaving the CCLK and his entourage to move up in the world and occupy a small corner of the JOR. Both cells worked seamlessly together eagerly working away through the high flow

rate of reports and returns being sent in from the Combat Team.



With the year rapidly drawing to a close the ever so friendly team from the OPS cell would like to wish all a very merry Christmas. Stay safe, see you all next year. Less you're on posting in which case think fondly of your time here with these characters:

MAJ Jeff Martin

WO2 Steve Marks

SGT Phil Manning

¹ The Ops team would like to mention that no "Good ideas fairies"¹ were harmed in the writing of this document¹

S4 CELL – WO2 Bradley Royal

2022 started off with a bang for the Q Store, supporting a DACC 1 Task in early February. The task was to be conducted from 15-18 Feb 22. During this time frame the Loggies from both 31/42 RQR & 11 CSSB-NQ pulled together to ensure that members on task went out the door with the correct equipment.

Throughout February, March and April we also concentrated on obtaining equipment prior to the commencement of OP Resolute, as normal there we had the usual hurdles to manoeuvre around obtaining equipment that the Battalion required for the success of the task. SGT Jacobson was forced assigned as the CQMS for this rotation. SGT Jacobson rose to the challenge and provided what was need to all members in a timely manner. During his time on Thursday Island and the surrounding island, he streamlined the process for that he section where able to conduct the mission.

April also was heavy on the Q Store with another DACC 1 Task being conducted, the q store ensured that all members had the right equipment to conduct their Task. We moved into to the drawdown of OP Resolute Surge Alpha patrol with the return of all equipment back to Townsville, and then for onwards movements back to a multitude of ADF agencies.

Over 2022 the Logies from across the Battalion supported the following activities; DACC 1 callout Mackay, OP Resolute surge alpha patrol, DAAC 1 callout Magnetic Island, ANZAC Day, All Company Training weekends, Ex Jezzine Fires, 11 BDE RWFX Tully, 11 BDE EX Austral Shield, RAINF Corp Conference SOI, Numerous Ceremonial activities, RBT (Airsoft Both Coys), EX Rocky Ready, BN Shooting Week and lastly EX First Step and the Regimental Dinner.

Without the support of the Battalion we could haven't been able to conduct this training across the unit.

Over this year the unit has received the following extra equipment to enhance the unit capability.

- We rotated out the old F89A1 to F89A2,
- Increase holding of eNFE with an extra 50 BNVD's & LAIDs.
- Increase holding of SCE-19
 - Tier 0 – 200 Sets
 - SCE-19 Tier 2 – 41 Sets
- Received an extra 76 EF88

We have had 3 x Logies come to us within 2022, PTE Andrew Taylor (BHQ), PTE Harley Davenport (CAP Coy) and PTE Sarah Bowden (CAP Coy) welcome.

Finally I would like to thank my fallow Logies from across the Battalion for their endless support across 2022.

Final quote for the year.

“Log it just happens”

RQMS 31/42 RQR

WO2 Brad Royal



Capricornia Coy – MAJ Grant

Team, I would like to open by saying a thank you again to the soldiers, NCOs, SGTs & Warrant Officers and Officers of Capricornia Company for your efforts in maintaining excellent commitment, drive and moreover you're professional conduct, your commitment to activities & exercises. Your efforts this year have been exceptional and the Coy's overall training level is something you should all be very proud of.

Sadly, in the midyear we had to say goodbye to WO2 Paul Lergessner who discharged for the regular Army after 42 years. He will be missed, Paul was an exceptional & professional Warrant Officer who deeply cared and looked after the soldiers extremely well in the Coy. On behalf of the Coy I would like to wish to Paul and Jenifer good luck in their future endeavours.

I would also like to welcome the new OC – MAJ Ed Dahlheimer into the Coy, who will guide you through another busy two years and he will be sailing the ship from Jan 23 - along with WO2 Iago Walker the new training WO. Welcome to you both.

In addition, I would like to welcome SGT Lillian Middlebrook who is here for the next 18 months on full time service - here in Rockhampton. Welcome Lillian.

On a final note, I would like to sign off again as saying of how proud & fortunate I was to lead such an outstanding and professional team. Please take the time to enjoy the Xmas break with your families, and once again - let's hope it's all Cyclone and flood free. Take care.

Regards to all – MAJ G.

2IC Capricornia Coy – CAPT Wooler

Another full and productive year is coming to its conclusion with an abundance of good training and opportunities across the Battalion with Capricornia having good representation for the majority of activities.

From MLRS trials to Jungle training in Tully as well as the obligatory DACC training activities with 'Austral Shield' and the more local 'Rocky Ready' this year. These activities have all exercised the Battalion and Company's ability to support these events logistically and administratively in conjunction to providing the capability of putting the boots on the ground with admirable outcomes achieved.

Training at the local level has also seen getting field again (albeit slightly damp) with an extended weekend practicing navigation as well as section and Platoon level IMT's. The introduction of the portable MWTSS to Rockhampton and custom setup of the old OR's mess to facilitate is also being well utilised for enhancement of marksmanship skills. Special mention also goes to the support from Kennedy staff (thanks CPL Cavanaugh and demo party) as well as some additional SME input, to be able to qualify and train Capricornia personnel on the Airsoft-FX Gunbolt systems culminating in a CQB-clearance activity.

Ceremonial activities have also been very prevalent during the second half of the year as well with a once in a lifetime opportunity for the Queens Jubilee and parading of both sets of colours for the Battalion. Remembrance Day and Vietnam Veterans Day were also well supported across the region with multiple events having Guards and guest speakers.

It would be remiss not to mention the continued support from all logistics and administrative staff both at COY level and from BHQ that help facilitate and make all these events and training possible and things would not have happened without these people acting as enablers.

Congratulations to all persons completing promotional-specialist courses and continuing growth within the Company as well as providing more capability across the Battalion. Also good luck to all members posting out in the New Year to different positions and locations (myself included) and I am sure there will be opportunities to welcome in new members coming in on the mandatory training weekend next year.

With the year drawing to a close CHQ wishes all to have a good break during stand-down and recharge the batteries, hoping that our holidays are not interrupted by a HRWS event.....

4 Platoon Gladstone – CPL D. Connolly

After a massive year last year, everyone let off steam at the Gladstone Christmas Pool Party. Several Rockhampton members attended to make the event a raging success.

This year our fearless leader, SGT McCulloch moved north, way north, to greener pastures, where he no longer has to endure the bizarre behaviour of the coal and bauxite dust-infused locals.

April was all for the runners beginning with the Gladstone Harbour Festival Fun Run on Good Friday 15th, joined by several Rockhampton members who made the trip to show us how it's done. The following week on the 23rd, EX Walking for Warriors was conducted where members from Gladstone and Rockhampton completed a 6 or 12-hour endurance walk/run. Well done to all who participated especially LCPL Wooler completing the 12-hour event. Concurrently the same week soldiers participated in the Run Amy 22 Virtual event.

May gave us EX Reconner Bull where members had one of their most memorable training weekends due to the relentless howling winds and being utterly wet and cold right up until the sun came out to conduct a range clearance at the end activity.

This year PTE Rowe, unfortunately for Cap Coy has left our Platoon to pursue his calling. He is now working as a chef for 11 CSSB, however he remains part of the Gladstone family and cooks up a storm for the PTE John Payne Club members with tasty and comical menu items such as:

Bunny's Bush Donuts- (Chocolate, jam, or peanut butter filling, dusted with sugar, nutmeg and caster sugar) Kneeny's Nachos- (Lime-soaked beans, diced tomato, red wine vinegar-soaked beef mince with corn chips and melted cheese and served with sour cream and guacamole)

Valentine's Vegetarian/Vegan Option- (Slightly chilled clear liquid drawn directly from a water faucet {hot and cold options available}).

Ex Jezzine Fires in June was popular with Helicopter Rides delivered as promised and ECSC and beaucoup HE rounds and live fire weapon qualifications for all.

Working with the Gurkhas at Shoalwater bay was another highlight with eye-opening tales of how the Gurkhas do and do not operate.

At Tully in July, PTE Batkines lasted mere meters on his first patrol as the lead scout, before he tripped a booby trap wire and blew up, only to suffer a worse fate later that week where he and

PTE Spencer both had to seek psychological help after attending EX Austral Shield 22.

For Legacy Week Gladstone's enthusiastic team helped Legacy sell all of their merchandise and doubled last year's effort by helping raise over \$6000. The Gladstone Legatees expressed their immense gratitude and thanks for the support of our members.



Legacy Week Gladstone: PTE Batkines, PTE Spencer, PTE Bowden

Throughout the year Gladstone members have prepared themselves to go to work sore on Wednesday mornings after Gym-in-a-box PT sessions with PTE Bowden.

In other news, our resident Time Traveller, CPL Boyd completed Subject 2 SGT course this year at Singleton.



Not CPL Boyd... or is it?.....

2022 saw PTE Valentine freed from his employer, kick into high gear and complete Subject One for Corporal course at Singleton, CFA course, ECSC and then return to instruct on the following CFA course. Quote from his debut MMA Fight. *"don't fight a Muay Thai fighter"*



PTE Valentine at the exact moment everything went wrong.

I thank all of our Gladstone family for giving their precious time this year, enabling us to have a successful 2022.

5 Platoon – Rockhampton – by SGT Solis

2022 started with a renewed focus on increasing the Recon capability for the unit and building on the success of 2021. As with every year the Platoon enjoyed the mandatory briefs that February brings, however, the soldiers were looking forward to getting back out into the field to conduct infantry and reconnaissance training.

Ex RECCONABLE provided the soldiers an excellent opportunity to test their navigation skills and would be the first shake out for the year. The four-day training activity commenced with navigation revision prior to a 24hr navigational exercise which saw soldiers cover distances of up to 35km, and in some instances as articulated by LCPL Ford “swim” some of the way!

The soldiers returned from the night nav with moderate moral due to heavy rain, chafe and all-round miserable conditions. On completion of the Nav Ex, soldiers were given a warning order and prepared to conduct a 48hr Full Mission Profile (FMP). The Recon Patrol lead by LCPL Ford stepped of in the early hours of the morning to support the Rifle Sections. 63A effective in supporting the other call signs and conducted a number of point target reconnaissance patrol and gained valuable information that enabled the Rifle Platoon to go on the offensive early the following morning. The activity concluded early Sunday morning after a few cameo enemy appearances from non-other than Hercules himself LTCOL Gandy and the infamous SGT Martin.

Recon Platoon soldiers participated in the unit’s main effort in Tully and Austral Shield where the food was tasty, and the sleep was plentiful. LCPL Ford enjoyed Austral Shield and as advised that he intends to participate next time it is on the training program. *Thank you for your commitment and leadership LCPL Ford.* All reports from the soldiers indicated that Tully was a fantastic exercise and soldier left the “J” better prepared for future employment.

The remainder of the year was spent preparing soldiers to undertake Basic Reconnaissance Courses (BRC) and the unit were fortunate enough to be provided a number of opportunities in order to continue to build the capability for 31/42 RQR. The Platoon greatly appreciates the effort in planning that was conduct from the CO, RSM and Ops in order to provide positions on course. Three soldiers took the challenge by the horns to enhance their soldier skills and complete BRC. LCPL Ford and PTE Daniels travelled to Townsville to complete the 2RAR course and the units very own ‘tank’, LCPL Stanke, travelled to 5RAR to show the northern boys how it was done. Well done to LCPL Ford and PTE Daniels who completed their course. LCPL Stanke is doing very well from all accounts, and we look forward to having in back prior to the end of the year. We also had our awesome PL SGT Solis attend Singleton School of Inf and complete Advance Recon Course and once again with no surprises finishing top 5 on course. All individual efforts work towards achieving the IOC targets regarding the FORGEN requirements and our internal PL goals of soon raising our own BRC.

The Platoon would like to acknowledge LTCOL Gandy on his efforts to support and grow the Reconnaissance capability over his tenure. Additionally, we recognise LT Evans commitment leading the call sign and guidance she has provided over the last two years. 63 will continue to build on the success of the last four years and further establishing itself as the premier Reconnaissance capability for 2nd Division.



2 RAR BRC LCPL Ford & PTE Daniel



Just good pics



No idea who that is – on course just being 'Brilliant'



LCPL MASON conquers Tassie



The 'TANK' in Darwin (5RAR BRC) and he's NOT SWEATING



SGT SOLIS at ARC Singleton



Recon members in Covert OP



PTE Daniel & LCPL Ford “Loving Life” - (2RAR BRC)

6 Platoon Mackay – by SGT Oberg

2022 started off on the right foot for the Mackay platoon, after many years we had a platoon commander (LT Hamilton) and a near full complement of NCO positions filled in the platoon plus a steady influx of new diggers. SGT West continued on as our Depot commander / Training SGT.

Again, the platoon members proved themselves by attending and supporting deployments, exercises, training courses, ceremonial duties and DACC tasks:

- Operation COVID Assist Age Care homes
- Operation Resolute border protection
- Operation Flood Assist Brisbane
- Exercise Austral Shield
- DACC 1 Task – 3 Day search for missing person around Koumala
- Support to Nepalese Army training exercise SWBTA
- Support to QUR courses
- Weapons, promotion and Corps courses and qualifications
- Unit and Brigade courses and exercises.
- Ceremonial duties
- Recruiting / Community engagement activities
- Unit representative at the Chief of Army conference
- Support to Navy Cadet training activity

Some notable events included providing Catafalque parties for the Mackay, Sarina and Koumala ANZAC day services, participating in a four day platoon exercise in SWBTA which was wet, wet, wet great prep for Tully where it did not rain! Members having the opportunity to attend enhanced combat shooting courses and the Q has not let us down with personal issue of the new SCE 19 webbing equipment and cages for the Mackay pers to secure our gear.

2022 saw PTE’s Marley and Tambinayagam promoted to LCPL, promotion has proven fatal for the Mackay platoon with these two continuing the trend and moving on shortly after their promotion, we wish them both all the best in their new QPS posting down South.

Sadly, we also saw the departure of LT Hamilton mid-year to seek employment opportunities overseas and also one of our most senior diggers and “sometimes” LCPL, Pat Stapleton finishing 2022 also with an overseas move. Pat was integral in the training of the ISR members in Mackay and brought a wealth

of experience and leadership to the platoon and a great bloke, he will be sorely missed. All the best to Pat and the family as they embark on new adventures in Canada.

Another big loss will be SGT West who also moving on to support the Gladstone depot at the end of the year, 2023 will see Mackay in the same boat Gladstone was this year with no full-time depot commander or training SGT in support, a challenge for the depot members to cover this vacancy.

On the bright side the recruiting and community engagement activities are paying off with several new members joining the Mackay team including two clerks, SGT Ferguson is relishing the support these two will bring to the orderly room. Several junior and senior soldiers supported the Navy cadets on a field weekend, from the interactions with the cadets and training observed the platoon has several new leaders in the making.

2023 brings many changes in the leadership team, the Mackay platoon looks forward to the new challenges and opportunities that 2023 will present.



2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

Commanding Officer MAJ Barbie Keller

Kennedy Company's bumper year is complete. The Company has gone from strength to strength, building on the significant progress of 2022. Yet again we've been spread across the area of operations and across every activity, operation and support task. Kennedy Company soldiers and officers have certainly risen to the challenge. To put the commitment of the Company into perspective; here are some stats: We have trained in excess of 2300 days. We have five new soldiers become part of Kennedy Army Reserve force, two more joining us before the end of the year. Add to that, 17 more soldiers and officers transferring in from other service categories and units. Not bad...for 12 months.

Our visible presence in the community is paying off with support to Defence Force Recruiting and our local engagement events as you can see in the numbers. The soldiers of Kennedy Company epitomise the modern Army Reserve and display the full spectrum of opportunities to those with the drive, dedication and character.

And not only recruiting, we continue our engagement with Legacy, supporting the legacy week Appeal again in 2022. Kennedy Coy Soldiers raising to donations in our local community and Ingham, all in support of Legacy.





Company branding has come a long way this year as well! With new signs on our doors in Townsville and Cairns, a new Company flag with a revamped logo which blends tradition with a new spirit, and the new sign at the front of our headquarters building.

The sheer volume of activities hasn't left much room for Kennedy Company to squeeze in much more! Second year running, we have not missed an engagement. Yet, every Tuesday night, Kennedy Company is on parade in Cairns and Townsville. Our focus is foundation warfighting. The specific activities the Company has participated in will be covered here in. However, there is nothing like a list to express the volume! From Force Preservation Awareness Training to Exercise JEZZINE FIRES, a rotation through the infamous jungle training, Exercise AUSTRAL SHIELD and Exercise ROCKY READY. Our soldiers were ably represented again on domestic and international operations again this year with Operation RESOLUTE and TSE rotations, not to mention more support to civilian agencies.





We continued our engagement with the Cairns sub-branch of the Returned Services League (RSL), Company Sergeant Major, and Sergeant Jamie Edwards instrumental in fostering this relationship. We conducted a visit in 2021 in which we presented the old D Company flag to the RSL team. D Company was once the Cairns based company of the unit. With the flag framed, we were able to present it, to display more of our Army heritage in this fabulous local museum.



Our civilian qualifications at the fore when PTE Jorgensen deployed in support of our northern neighbours on Exercise PUK PUK, seconded to Papua New Guinea! This year we've even had one of our own, parading from Bamaga in Far North Queensland with the local Army Cadet Unit



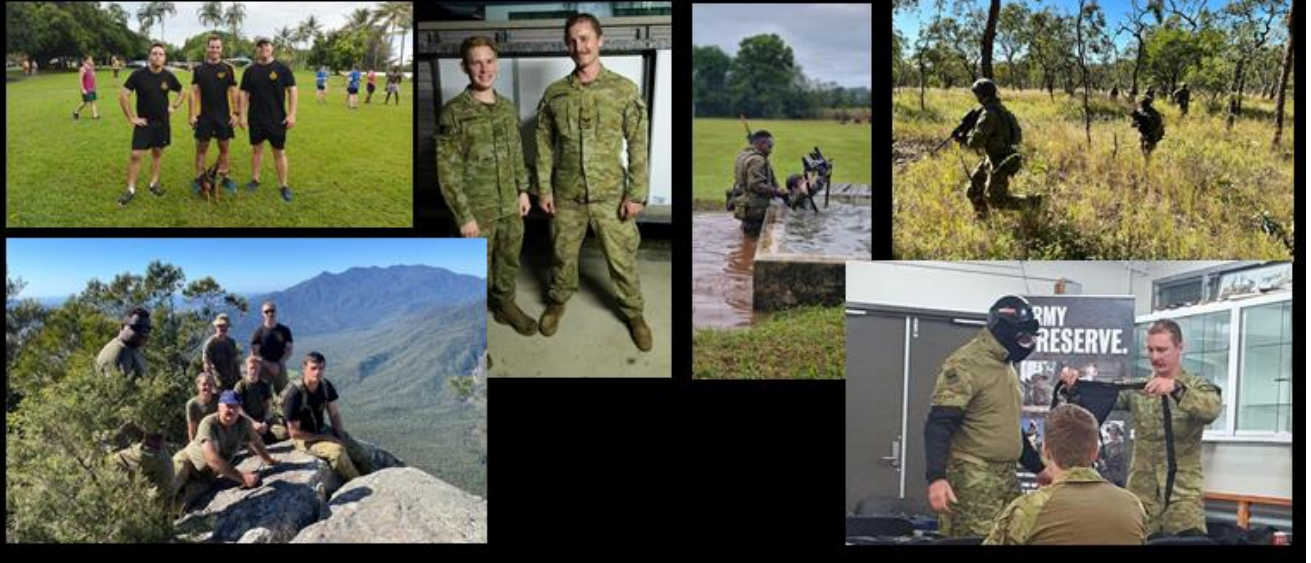
1 Platoon, Townsville

Team Townsville, 1 Platoon, has been steadily growing this year. LT Long and CPL Howe, as the Platoon Sergeant have definitely grown. Townsville's 1 Platoon has welcomed four new soldiers this training year and eight soldiers from other units. 1 Platoon has been hitting the pavement most weekends in the second half of the year, engaging in regular Park Run events in the Townsville community. The benefits of significant training assets has again benefited Townsville's Tuesday night training with regular 25m Range practices, rotations through the 1 RAR Yard Close Training Facility and airsoft less than lethal ammunition practices.



2 Platoon, Cairns

Our Cairns Platoon is not to be outdone. 2 Platoon has received a new Platoon Commander mid-year in LT Mark Hazlett arriving from South East Queensland. CPL Darcy Anderson has again this year ably steered the ship alongside LT Hazlett as the Platoon Sergeant. LT Stewart Clyde-Smith has been free to embrace the acting capacity as Second-in-Command, a role he will fulfil in 2023. While the Headquarters has seen stability and strength, the Platoon has seen a significant increase in attendance. Cairns' 2 Platoon has welcomed one new soldier and five soldiers who have transferred in from other units



Final Words from Officer Commanding Kennedy Company – MAJ Barbie Keller.

As my final days in Command of the surprising, challenging and highly spirited Kennedy Company draw to a close, I have reflected upon my last 17 years of service, the last two in service of Kennedy Company. The dedication, spirit, enthusiasm and determination of Army Reserve soldiers, but especially those of Kennedy Company is nothing short of humbling, unmatched. The soldiers, NCOs, SNCOs, Warrant Officers and Officers of the Company - current and former - have made the transformation of this company. With a final special mention to my CSM, SGT Jamie Edwards. My thanks.

This Company has resurrected itself to once again take pride of place in the 31st/42nd Battalion of the Royal Queensland Regiment. It has been such an adventure and the future of Kennedy Company is resilient. Kennedy strong. OCK

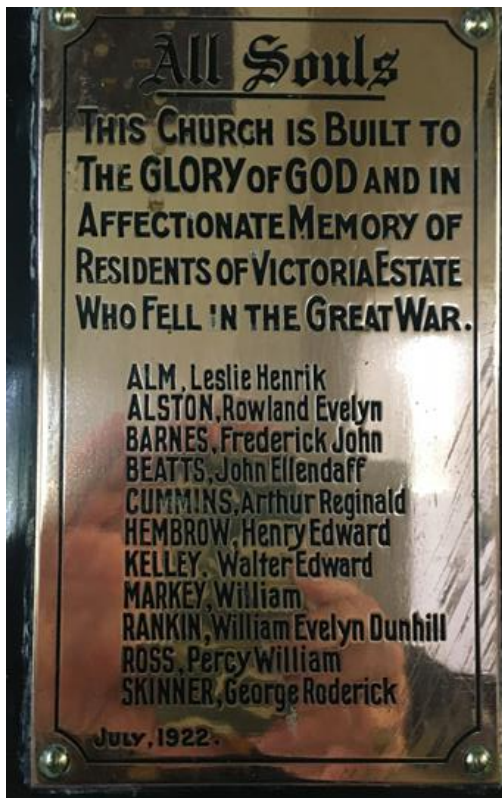


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The myriad of the number of community engagement activities across the Battalion has been outstanding. This newsletter can hardly do justice to all those soldiers across the unit that gave up their time to participate in community activities up and down our vast AO. The Anzac Day ceremonies, the barbeques, the fun runs, charity events to name just a few. Your efforts have not gone unrecognised. Thank you. This is just a small portion of those activities:

A Tribute to Fallen Soldiers – Centenary of All Souls Church Victoria Estate - Commemorations and Ceremonies in Ingham 4-6 Aug 22.

The XO, MAJ Mark Smith, on behalf of the Commanding Officer; LTCOL Dave Gandy 31/42 RQR, attended ceremonies in Ingham to honour 11 brave men who did not return from the Great War.



The plaque that is located inside the church naming those brave soldiers that gave the ultimate sacrifice



The Alter inside the Anglican Church

In 1918, funds commenced to be raised towards the building of a small Anglican Church to perpetuate the memory of the Victoria lads who had fallen in action in the Service of their Country. A small plot of land was donated for the construction of the Church and in 1922 construction was complete. These events over this weekend celebrate the Churches 100th anniversary.

The Anglican Parish of Hinchinbrook, together with members of the Community of Ingham formed a committee to bring together friends and relatives of the fallen and commemorate the memory of the these brave souls. On Friday evening at the Conroy Hall in Ingham, a get together was organised where friends and relatives came together to tell stories about these brave men, these stories were quite personal and had been passed down through generations.

Some travelled from Brisbane to reconnected with close friends, and be a part of the ceremony. They brought with them small mementoes of past memories of their great, great grandfathers which signified the great sacrifice these local men had made for their country and the immense sense of loss that was left behind when these soldiers, like so many others did not return to loved ones. The stories related were quite moving, personal letters were recited, and poems, photos and treasured trinkets were on display.

On Saturday afternoon a large crowd of 160 people gathered at the 'All Souls Anglican Church'. An informal occasion again marked by reciting personal accounts from friends and relatives. A gun, a trophy of war, which rests just outside the Church, had been restored and was unveiled.

The weekend culminated in a Church Service on the Sunday. Sister Rosemary who has recently moved to Mackay, gave blessings and it was a truly solemn, yet joyous occasion.

This exert was inside the front cover of the program of events:

*"Go softly here amidst the shadows cool.
Of ancient trees, and stately silent palms that keep in memory those who took up arms,
That we might sit upon this rustic stool in quiet peace awhile.
This little Church, jewel-box of man and nature wrought.
To keep aflame the names of those who bought our freedom, as Christ himself once did.
Go search the annals of our history; you'll not find in mystic tomb or grand cathedral dome, a gem
more bright than this memorial home of those whose lives were spent for humankind.
Today forever hushed the cannons' dreadful roar. Instead, the yellow cassia bursts about the sunlit
door."...Delphine Roberts – All Saints memorial Church, Victoria Estate.*

It was an honour to attend these events on behalf of the Battalion. - Lest we Forget.

XO





Capricornia wrap up

2022 saw Coffee with a Soldier and Park Runs spreading across the Battalion with the Golden Minotaur symbology representing the unit on many platforms between Cairns and Gladstone.

31/42 RQR moving from strength to strength on many fronts. CrossFit, triathlons, park runs, tracks around Tassie just to mention a few ways we engaged in Community events this year. We even showed up at the QPS vs Corrections footy game at Browne Park Rockhampton.

The constant factor that we know for sure is the unit is growing and it's the work of the soldiers being present and consistent with continual engagements that we have within our broader community.

"Your Unit does all the cool stuff" is frequently a phrase that we hear.



Get in touch with the 31st/42nd Battalion, RQR, to find out more



RECRUITING

Army Reserve Open Day

On the 4 Sep 22 a Sunday, the 31/42 RQR in conjunction with the Australian Army History Unit North Queensland hosted its first Army reserve Open Day here in North Queensland, conducted at the Jezzine Barracks Parade Ground. Jezzine Barracks is the ancestral home of the Battalion and is now home to the Jezzine Barracks Army Museum. All NQ 11 Bde units were represented and as the organiser I cannot thank the immense contribution of some key personal across the Bde. No effort was spared and units went the next level in displaying both informative and interesting exhibits. The backdrop to all this was the military history which we all share and organisations such as the Townsville re-enactors took part and collected funds for Legacy, thus capping off Legacy week.

I was particularly impressed with a number of our junior leaders: LT Kellior, Platoon Commander from 5/11 Battery who, with his small team travelled from Brisbane with his UAS platforms to enhance what was on display. LT Alexander Bluck from 4HB who, with his team set up a small triage unit with mock casualties. I could not have asked for more from these units and a special thanks to WO2 Goody from 11 CSSB who acted as my no 2 and kept me on track, helped with his experience in recruiting and his logistic support that was very much appreciated.

A number of Veteran organisations also contributed and strong links were enhanced with Mates4mates, The OASIS, veteran assistant dogs, Vet Affairs, the RSL, The Kookuburra Kids, the 31st Association, and Open Arms. I met some great people who genuinely have committed their professional and personal lives to providing a service to our veterans.



The Salvation Army also attended and went to a great effort to cook donuts for the public. Donuts it seems was what the Salvation Army used to provide to soldiers long ago no doubt.

Perhaps the greatest lesson learned from our experience is there are many facets to the Army Reserve. To a doctor, joining the ARes may mean an opportunity to travel overseas or to do something entirely different like driving trucks; PTE Jessica Roberts, a local doctor made this point clear in her interview on channel 7. University students or those just leaving school may seek adventure, discipline and learn new skills. The event also brought together the wider Defence Community and highlights that we are all part of this multi-faceted organisation that we are all a part of. My thanks to all those that contributed – an outstanding effort.





CEREMONIAL



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11 Platinum Parade

This year the Bn has supported and conducted over 20 ceremonial activities. This is a massive effort for the unit and included 10 catafalque parties for ANZAC Day, support to Vietnam Veterans Day, Legacy Week and Remembrance Day. Members of the Bn also participated in a number of parades, including the 2 Div Functional Command Parade held at the Sydney War Memorial, and the Queen's Jubilee Parade with all of the Army's Battalion Colours at the School of infantry.

Below I have highlight 4 of the more significant ceremonial activity that member of the unit participated in in 2022.

In addition to providing a number of catafalque parties within the broad Central Queensland region, Capricornia Coy with members from 11 CSSB and 11 ER provided a marching contingent of approximately 50 personnel for the ANZAC parade in Rockhampton.

The 2 Div Functional Command Parade, although a relatively small parade, was significant in that it marked the 2 Div formally cut from Forces Command and becoming a Command reportable to Army

HQ. The Bn was represented by myself, the CO and LCPL Lily Bathman as the unit Flag Bearer. To highlight just how significant the parade was, it was attended by the Chief of Army and the Governor of NSW. It was also the first time that all the Div unit flags had been on parade at the same time.

This year for the first time Kennedy Coy provided catafalque support to the Townsville AFL ANZAC Observance conducted prior to the traditional clash between the Hermit Park Tigers and Carra Swans. CPL Howe and the soldiers in the Catafalque Party did the unit proud.

In Aug CAPTs Crosbie and Wooler with LTs Evans and Clyde-Smith, and PTE Lillian Bathe participated in the Queen's Jubilee Parade held at SOI as part of the Infantry Corps Conference. During the parade every single one of the Infantry units of the Australian Army had their Queens and Regimental Colours on parade.



The RSM and I attended the 106th Anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Frommels held at the cenotaph at the Ipswich cemetery.

Coordinated and led by 31st Battalion Association Brisbane Branch, this event continually attracts an exponentially increasing crowd from local parliamentarians, veterans, family members and representatives from local schools.



Thank you to Ray Fogg & Tony Waddeson for coordinating this excellent commemoration

The event was attended by the Honourable Shayne Neumann MP - Federal Minister for Blair, Teresa Harding - Mayor of Ipswich, COL Arran Hassell CSC ACOMD 11 BDE, Presidents from numerous local RSL sub branches and members from the National Servicemen Pipes and Drums to name a few.

I was given the honour to deliver the main address and lay a wreath alongside the RSM and COL Hassell on behalf of the COMD 11 BDE & the Battalion that is sole operational unit directly associated to this horrific battle which led to 5,533 Australian casualties in 24 hours and is widely known as one of darkest days in our military history.





Cap Coy – marches on Anzac Day 25 Apr 22 – Rockhampton vicinity of the Rockhampton Military Museum. The soldiers of Cap Coy led the parade immediately behind the band.

The CO and I would like to personally thank all the members of the units that made the effort to support all of the ceremonial task the unit conduct. You did the unit and yourself proud.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

The command team has had the privilege presenting a large number honours and awards to members of their unit. This year we have been able to present 2 Bronze commendation, 20 Operational Service Medal, 3 Clasps to the defence Long service medal and a Warrant.

At the time of writing we also have a number of other awards in the final stage of approval witch will see a few more members of the unit recognised for their outstanding service. Although these are all individual awards but none of it can be achieved without a strong team around the members including follow soldiers and family that allow these individuals to achieve such high standards.

Those individuals are as follows:

Army Bronze Level Commendation

*CAPT N Crosbie
WO2 M Greenhatch
WO1 N Bullock
SGT Jacobsen*



Defence Long Service Medal

*WO2 G Tam - 3rd Clasp
WO2 S Clarke 2nd Clasp
WO2 J Bird 1st Clasp*



Operational Service Medal – Border Protection

<i>LTCOL D Gandy</i>	<i>SGT P Manning</i>
<i>MAJ J Martin</i>	<i>SGT P Jacobson</i>
<i>CAPT N Crosbie</i>	<i>CPL J Pearson</i>
<i>WO1 N Bullock</i>	<i>CPL K Mckenzie</i>
<i>WO1 D Harding</i>	<i>PTE L Nolan</i>
<i>WO2 S Marks</i>	<i>PTE W Drage</i>
<i>WO2 J Bird</i>	<i>PTE D Johnson</i>
<i>SGT T Martin</i>	<i>PTE E Williams</i>
<i>SGT M Solis</i>	<i>PTE S Anderson</i>
<i>SGT J Edwards</i>	<i>PTE J Brown</i>



Soldiers Medallion for Exemplary Service

*CPL J Pearson
LCPL R Ford
LCPL J Jensen*

Certificate of Warrant

WO2 J Bird

SPORT

2022 ADF National Football Championship – WO2 Samuel Clarke

This year, over 2 weeks in Oct the best Soccer players from across the ADF descended on Sydney's Valentine Sports Park, the home of Football NSW, to attend the ADF National Football Championship (ADF NFC). The championship is contested between Army, Navy and the RAAF across the Men's, Women's and Masters (over 35) divisions. This year saw a return to the competition after a two year break due to Covid.

The ADF NFC is an excellent opportunity for elite or emerging footballers to take a break from the normal rigour of Army and get away to represent their service and it is open to both ARA and ARES members. I was approved to attend this year in the masters division (after an absence of 16 years). The trials are held at Sydney's Randwick Barracks and I was lucky enough to be selected as team captain of the Army Masters team.

Going in to the tournament as the defending champions and favourite we were expecting fierce competition and we were not to be let down. While we were ultimately pipped for the top prize we had a successful tournament remaining undefeated, but to beaten on goal difference. We were frustrated against a well organised Navy team with a nil all draw, but rebounded with a come from behind 2-1 win over RAAF. This left us at the mercy of the final game result where alas Navy were able to sneak a 2 nil win with three minutes remaining.



Despite our disappointment in losing the Masters title to Navy, Army dominated in both the Men's and Women's divisions handing us the overall Championship. We also took home the individual best and fairest awards for all three divisions (with yours truly getting the vote in the masters☺). We also dominated the ranks of the ADF teams which were selected from the tournament and will compete in various representation activities over the next 12 months.

The ADF has some significant challenges moving forward in the current high tempo environment. Significant among them is recruitment and retention of our members. Army Football, ADF sport and sport in general is more and more being seen as an important value proposition in building capability. This has been formally recognised by the recently released [HQFORCOMD Minute - ARES PERSONNEL SALARY PAYMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN AN ENDORSED SPORT](#).

What does this mean to you? It means that the unit has been allocated money purely for the purpose of paying you to play ADF sport. Therefore any 31/42 RQR members who wish to represent the unit in ADF sport are strongly encouraged to reach out through their chain of command. Any member who wishes to join me in Sydney for the 2023 ADF NFC can feel free to get in touch. Happy Footballing.

31/42 RQR RUGBY 'THE BULLAS' – MAJ Mark Smith XO

March 1940, preparations are being made for an encampment near Bowen consisting of approx. 2,500 soldiers from the 26th, 31st and 51st Battalions along with other units of the 11th Brigade. Part time soldiers had been called up to take part in compulsory military training as part of Australia's mobilisation during World War II amid growing fears of a Japanese invasion. Sporting events were arranged including football matches in three grades with jerseys being secured in representative colours of the units encamped.

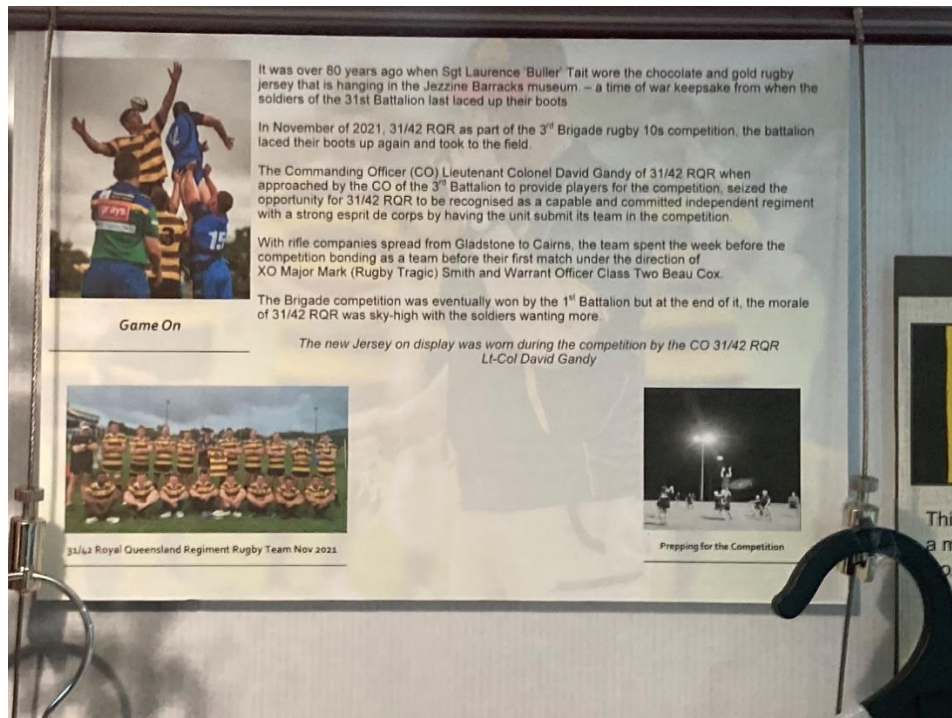
FOR more than 80 years, Sgt Laurence 'Bulla' Tait's brown-and-gold rugby jersey has hung in the Jezzine Barracks' museum – a wartime memento from when soldiers of the 31st Battalion last laced up their boots



Jersey worn by SGT Lawrence (BULLA) Tait 1940



The jersey worn by the Commanding officer, LTCOL David Gandy that took part in the 3 Bde Rugby Comp playing for the 'Bullas' now rests alongside SGT Bulla Tait's jersey at the Jezzine Barracks Museum.



Laurence "Buller" enlisted in Citizen Military Force (Reserve) on 13 Aug 1940 and was posted to 31st Infantry Battalion. He was promoted to Corporal on 4 Oct 1940, Acting Sergeant on 9 Dec 1941 and Sergeant on 13 Jul 1942. He transferred to the A.I.F. on 20 Jul 1942 and posted to 1st Australian Commando Training Squadron on 26 Feb 1943. He reverted to Private at his own request on 8 May 1943 and joined the unit at Canungra, Qld on 15 May 1943. He embarked with the unit for New Guinea aboard S.S. "DUNTROON" on 17 Jun 1943 as a Trooper in No 2 Section, "A" Troop and returned to Australia with them aboard "TAROONA" on 3 Sept 1944. After leave and reorganization, he embarked for New Britain aboard "TAROONA" on 9 Apr 1945 with the unit as a Trooper in No 2 Section, "A" Troop. He was promoted to Acting Corporal on 22 Apr 1945 and confirmed as Corporal on 22 Jul 1945. Left the unit and embarked for Australia aboard "ORMISTON" on 10 Oct 1945 and was discharged on 30 Oct 1945. He was entitled to the 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, War Medal and Australian Service Medal 1939-45, pictured below. He is now also entitled to the Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with a clasp "S.W.Pacific".

Last November 21, 31/42RQR took to the field again, this time for the 3 Bde rugby 10s competition, and the museum later received a second jersey: the game-day strip of CO and second rower Lt-Col Dave Gandy.

The results of the matches held in 1940 might be lost to history, but the return of 31/42RQR to brigade sport was about more than winning, according to Lt-Col Gandy.

“I wanted to open up the opportunity for 31/42 RQR to be recognised as a capable and committed independent regiment, that espouses a strong culture with soldiers committed to enjoy their service and be proud of the unit they serve,”



Australian Defence Force Ice Hockey Association PTE Ryan Miller

During the 2022 calendar year, members of 41/32 have had the opportunity to engage with the Australian Defence Force Ice Hockey Association (ADFIHA). Held weekly for ‘Sporties’, members attend the local family owned business Warrina Ice Rink on a Tuesday. Members train regularly and integrate with the civilian Ice Hockey Club for games on weekends. Soldiers train on and off the ice, utilizing alternative sporting venues to conduct skills based training when the rink is unavailable. 1 RAR’s team, The Seppie Slapshots, train alongside members from the unit as well as RAAF members to develop their capability and fitness. CPL Cavanagh has been playing for the ADFIHA with his previous unit, and has grown the sport considerably over the past few years, as well as being the ADFIHA point of contact for the Townsville region. PTE Miller joined the ADFIHA this year and has been organizing training and meets, as well as recruiting members to the sport. PTE Jurgens has recently come on board as a beginner in the sport, and has made excellent progress in stick handling and skating alike.

The ADFIHA National Conference was held recently, and saw multiple members from Townsville go down and represent for the Tournament, with the Army Knights taking away the first place trophy against the RAAF and Navy teams. Next year, members of 31/42 hope to attend this National event and contribute to the sport further.





CPL Matt Stanke – 100km ULTRA RUN

During March this year, I ran my first 100K Ultra Trail Run at The Noosa Running Festival. The Noosa 100KM Ultra is a spectacular trail run through the Noosa Hinterlands and State Forests and has tough overall 2438m of elevation gain and a course cut-off time of 15 hours. Although I have always had a keen interest in running, the bulk of my motivation for this endeavour simply sparked from a conversation I had back in October 21, talking about completing an ultra-run at this upcoming Noosa event. Firstly, it started with talking about tackling a 50K Ultra but then it quickly turned into taking on the big 100K!

So, I registered for the event the next day knowing that this would help warrant myself to carry it through. In the following months and into the next year while working on the farm at home and still diving into many of the unit's activities, I was running. Definitely not as structured as much as a normal person would prepare for something like this but like what Forrest Gump would say if I was going somewhere I was running, until the 26th March came around.

Driving down to Noosa with my two of my brothers and a ute full of supplies including energy gels, food, electrolytes and the famous pickle juice, I was ready to step off on this insane journey within myself and how far I could push my body. I remember being surrounded by so many amazing people at the start line but feeling anxious and alone as I knew the strain would not only be so much physically but also mentally. Next thing I remember, we were off running down the road and into the National Park. Running the first 32K beside a complete stranger, we had plenty of time to talk each other. It quickly become apparent that this person was not so much a stranger but a Former 1RAR Section Commander named Jacob and when I said do you know Scot Doulis? He replied SCOTTY! And then I said do you know Zac Cavanaugh and yelled CAVS! From then on it was absolutely awesome to run beside someone that had such a similar and strong mindset. After the 32K we nodded at each other as if from then on, we would run our own race. I remember running this 10K out and back Leg of the race and passing him on his way back in from the turn around point. He looked strong in his strides and it was a reminder to myself that I needed to keep pushing even though I was starting to hurt. At around 60K I started listening to music and then soon after blasting the songs that would distract me from my heavy legs. It was before the 3rd checkpoint at 64K where the elevation peaked at around 500m and my legs were cramping bad. I can recall getting my phone out and calling my brother before approaching the check point and telling him to make sure he was there with the pickle juice as my intentions were to guzzle it down when I got there.

At the next checkpoint at 73K, I missed the cut off time for that check point by 8 minutes and was told I couldn't keep going. I was officially cut off from the race. What felt like a massive kick in the guts, I thought to myself, no one was stopping me there! I told him I was going to keep going no matter what. So, I handed my racing bib to him as I wasn't a part of the race anymore and kept going. Reaching the next checkpoint well into the dark, my two brothers and Cameron Mason were there giving me some much-needed motivation. There was something pretty remarkable about being on the trail in the middle of the forest in complete darkness seeing nothing but that lit up trail from my headlight in front of me. Not another headlight in sight. Just myself and the trail and many, many cane toads keeping me company. Reaching the final water point at 93K, Cameron Mason being the awesome mate that he is, ran that last 7Km with me until I crossed that finish line. Completing the 100Km course in 15HRS and 50mins, I did it! Even though I was cut-off, I didn't throw the towel in, I just 'banged it in and got it done' And I hope everyone reading this story takes something away from it because I definitely learnt that if you have a go at something with a full heart and 100% effort, you'd be surprised what your capable of and what you can achieve!



2022 Australian Army Alpine Snowsports Competition. Located at Perisher Valley, NSW. The competition includes 2 weeks of events. Week 1, roughly 70 Army Snowboarders and Skiers battle it out in 3 events to be selected for the Army Team and progress to the second week. Week 2, the Army Team goes head-to-head with the Navy and Air Force teams.

I was lucky enough to be selected to represent in the second week in the Tri-Service Competition.

Overall, it was a great 2 weeks, with everyone working hard allowing them to hone their skills and improve dramatically.

Army Snowboard and Ski Teams managed to earn multiple gold medals and Army as a whole won the Trophy and 12 months bragging rights as Champion Service, as we should.



EXERCISES - OPERATIONS

'The Bank'

Ex Nui Kau – CPL Boyd



With the opening credits still rolling, a heavily armed group stands waiting to storm through the rear entrance of 'The Bank' building. With the local law enforcement looking on, powerless to intervene.

No this is not the opening scene to the latest poorly dubbed Swedish "Netflix original" crime drama, but the final phase of Capricornia Company's latest training weekend. And not just any training weekend, this one has a cast of thousands. But let's start from the beginning in a flash back scene that occurred on a Tuesday night a month before hand.

Gathering at Western Street from the far reaches the Capricornia Company and supporting units were the players in the story, infantry, engineers, Q'ys and drivers all keen to play their part in the upcoming blockbuster.

Under the guidance of the specially picked and highly experienced training team the lead-up began, with the introduction to the weapon system to be used. No not a high-powered handgun or rifle, but an EF-88 turned into a BB gun. Designed to replicate all the actions and drills of the real McCoy without the lethal dose of lead. Although as the power-point training insisted on reinforcing, it was not without its dangers and serious injury could befall the recipient of one of these little buggers if not dressed correctly.

So, we proceeded to learn how to do urban operations like "pro's", clearing hallways, kicking in doors, de-bussing from vehicles and the all-important room entry.

This continued for a further two more Tuesday night training periods with the final night ending "on set" at the old Commonwealth bank building on East St Rockhampton where we saw what we had gotten ourselves into firsthand! Room after room, large open spaces, and stairwells galore. A veritable playground for an adventurous OPFOR.

Cut to the Friday of the weekend, stores prepped, orders written, and a 1/3 scale floor plan of the bank laid out in the Western St depot front carpark ready for the all-important ROC dills on Saturday morning.

The day of the Ex Nui Kau arrives and with a flurry of activity the platoon readies itself with final issues of weapons and stores then dress rehearsals.

Sitting in the vehicles waiting for the green light, dressed in all our "battle rattle" bar helmets and face masks as not to scare the locals on route, we are informed the bad guys are not yet ready for us... That's lunch then! Into the boozer we all trapesed, shedding our body armour, helmets, cod piece, neck protector, face mask, head sock and battle belt. Where is my page boy when I need him?!?

With the standard issue Army packed lunch consumed (not unlike the brown paper bag packed for school by mum when you were 6) we proceeded to saddle up once more and wait..... Waiting, waiting.....and scramble.

Through the gates of the depot the convoy leaped arriving at the rear of the bank via the local police station with numerous members of the local constabulary watching on in amusement. After being herded into the admin area, the 30 pers strong platoon completed safety checks, ammo bombed up we stood, anxiously waiting. "Am I supposed to be able to breathe in all this gear?", one digger was heard saying. The answer came back "no, I don't think so. I can't breathe either!"

The door opens and game is afoot, Alpha section, Bravo section followed by Charlie section with the all-important breaching gear.

Room by room was cleared with minimal fuss and casualties.

With the reorg complete and the wounded unceremoniously evacuated down the stairwell, we debriefed and de-bombed, AAR complete ready for round two. Needless to say we finished the day wet through from sweat but knowing in our hearts the job was done considering the level of training afforded to use in the time we had available.

The final AAR and beer in hand, we fade to black and the closing credits roll.

This was not your average training weekend and was a credit to all involved in its creation.

The challenge now goes out to the Unit for next year, Bring it on!!





Units FORMOD activities

LTEA 063 – MLRV

In Oct 2021, COMD 2 DIV advised the unit that it will be tasked to test the feasibility of the MLRV to be used in concert with other in service mobility platforms within the 2nd Division. The MLRV, which is based off a 79 series Landcruiser, is produced by Army Expeditionary Vehicles (AEV) which is a veteran owned business in Garbutt Townsville.

LTEA 063 trail was conceived with 31/42 RQR as the target unit to test the capacity of this vehicles to meet DFACA, DACC, HRWS and FWF roles. The unit prepared a substantial 12 week training program whereby the vehicle was going to be tested in the multiple roles, however due to the political sensitivities involved with tested a CoTS vehicles, the project was delayed and was restricted to being only tested on Ex Rocky Ready and in support of the 3 RAR Basic Recon Course post a series of driver training activities that took place in Townsville.

A total of 12 personnel across 31/42 RQR, 11 CSSB and 35 ENGR SQN supported the driver training including civilian testing reqs at TMR. These 12 personnel provided the pool of qualified personnel to support the inclusion of the vehicle on these training events.

Whilst substantially restricted in scope, the unit completed the trial requirements and directed tasks which have led to the vehicles being allocated to the HQ 629.3 DOMOPS PL in readiness for a HRWS event until the end of Q1 2023. A very capable vehicle that when further modified can provide substantial capability to the unit and the Div. The benefits of this vehicles are the significantly reduced training burden, ease of which to recover and fault correct and manoeuvrability advantages



MCON

During EX Rocky Ready, COMD 11 BDE tasked the unit to test the viability of the Mobile Cloud Operation Network (MCON), which is a signal and messaging app that relies on Telstra 4G-5G network using issued IPAD and Iphone devices that can be linked back to a CP. The system provide a Blue Force Tracker functionality along with the capacity to message send photos and videos. If the Telstra network is not an issue, EMCON provides significant benefits to maintain SA and enhance C2 of an operation especially when working with multiple agencies as part of a WoG response.

Certainly something the unit seek an allotment of if and when conducting DFACA and DACC HRWS tasks.



OP Resolute Surge Rotation 1A

Just prior to XMAS stand down in 2021, the Brigade COMD called me and wanted to know my Christmas holiday plans? Now when you get a phone call with this question as the opening salvo.. you know something is going on. He told me to pack my bags and get ready to conduct an emergency planning session in Brisbane to examine the possibility of commanding an operation under HQ MBC in Q1 2022. It appeared that OP Resolute was going to be extended yet again with HQ MBC requesting Army to expand and reinforce its commitment to protect the northern borders. 51 FNQR were going to reinforce other parts of the AO and the Bn was directed to conduct a RIP to take responsibility of the Torres Strait region for an undisclosed amount of time.

Boom, things change. Now whilst the unit had a series of challenging training opportunities planned to further its capability, this new direction trumped all previous planning. Unfortunately, whilst the unit was directed to 'BPT' assume command of the operation, no formal order presented itself until the 11th hour, however this didn't mean that we could, or were allowed to sit and wait for the order to present itself. As a result, the unit got thrust into a complex situation whereby we had to reorientate our focus and conceive and detail a mounting program and concept of command without any formal order to do so, just a series of implied tasks to get the unit to the start point. Due to the political sensitivities involved, the units reserve personnel could not fully commit, without any clear detail as to when the operation would start or ... more importantly when it would finish. Due to these unknown time parameters, the unit had to seek manning support from FORCOMD units. In addition to the manning concerns, the unit also was not equipped to undertake this operation without significant support from RFSG, CAV and RAR Bns.

In essence, the unit had its challenges getting this operation started and tensions remained high as the unit mounted 76 personnel from across 24 separate units in Lavarack Barracks, coordinate onward staging to Thursday Island, undertake MST in a significantly reduced / truncated timeline, deploy patrols to remote islands and assume command reporting remotely from the northern tip of Australia through to Thursday Island – Lavarack Barracks – HQMBC in Canberra.

Despite all of these challenges, the unit and the assigned personnel from across the Army performed admirably. For 5-6 weeks the unit successfully commanded the operation with soldiers dispatched to Boigu, Saibai, Masig and Hammond Island, whereby they connected and lived with local communities and conducted live surveillance tasks to support and protect our borders in conjunction with other governmental agencies as part of Whole of Government effect. The soldiers left a lasting positive effect with these communities and restored confidence in the Australian government post the COVID pandemic whereby liberties were restricted.

Whilst there was a degree of tension and frustration with the HOTO and direction of this operation, the soldiers remained focused on the operational task and hand and bonded exceptionally well. I was exceptionally impressed with this solid demonstration of the Total Workforce System, whereby a C/S made up of SERCAT 3, 5 and 7 personnel could form, storm and perform in a short amount of time and rely on their basic training.

All assigned FE were awarded the Operational Service Medal for their service, with several members being recognised with a COMD MBC Bronze Commendation. Outstanding effort and an important historical milestone for the unit that commanded its first operation since forming as a combined unit.



Exercise Rocky Ready 13-16 Oct 2022

Exercise Rockhampton (Rocky) Ready was the BNs second HRWS assurance exercise as part of the 31/42 RQR initiated 'Ready' series that started in Mackay last year. Building on the success of Mackay Ready, Rocky Ready was a very successful exercise at the strategic and operational level. In line with COMD 2 DIV & 11 BDEs guidance, the 2 DIV has been assigned as the home-guard and the C/S responsible to form relationships with regional council / agencies and take the lead on behalf of the ADF to form the Whole of Government (WoG) response to natural disasters and HRWS events. Whilst the BDE and DIV HQs that constitute the JTF and JTG respectively undertake a series of desktop activities, 31/42 RQR in partnership with many units from 3, 16, 17 BDE along with key units from 11 BDE (35 ENGR SQN, 11 CSSB and 12/16 HRL) and 2 DIV (5/11 BTY and 141 SIG SQN), designed these exercises to actually physically test ADFs capacity to respond to hypothetical scenarios in the region.

Whilst the physical aspect of the exercise started in October, the exercise started in late August and early September, whereby members of BHQ, 35 ENGR SQN, JOSS and the incoming CO LTCOL Cam McKay conducted a series of briefs that educated key personnel in the Livingstone and Rockhampton Shires, QPS, QFES and SES that made up the District and Local Disaster Management Groups. In addition to these briefs, the planning team was met with a series of conflicting issues in trying to get the exercise off the ground. With SAF owning access to all of SWBTA and with key enablers stretched to support OP Flood Assist, EX Sea Raider, EX Silicon Broilga and live operational call outs, the planning team was dealing with the possibility of cancelling the activity all together. However lady luck was on the side of the Bn and the exercise was able to go on as planned even though there was a real time call out to support OP Flood Assist in Victoria and NSW in the days leading up to the exercise which forced 5 AVN to be on / off the tasks nearly 4-5 times.

The exercise proper started with the occurrence of a hypothetical CAT 5 TC which formed in the Coral Sea that subsequently caused havoc and overwhelmed the local agencies capacity to support the region. The scope of the damage necessitated the DDMG to request DACC 2 support through JOSS – MSC – HQ JOC which then produced a TASKORD to get the CQ Emergency Support Force (ESF) deployed into the field under command of JTG 629.3. Upon receiving the order, the ESF conducted a mock 'call-for' and concentrated 156 personnel across 10 different units from Cairns to Canberra in the Rockhampton Multi user Depot and Lavarack Barracks within 24 hours. Whilst the FE were concentrating, the command team under MAJ Dave Edwards (OC 35 ENGR SQN) conducted a series of planning sessions with local agencies to understand the dimensions and scope of the tasks, whilst gaining further SA. By the COB Friday 14 Oct, the TU was mounted and ready to deploy with 9 x PMV (including PMV-A), 3 x 40 M transport platforms, 4 x MLRV, 2 x AW-139, 1 x INF PL, 1 x ENGR TRP, ENGR RECON, ENGR PLANT, 1 x JIST, 1 x CHQ with multiple comms platforms provided by a CPM – a substantial capability!!

The day of the exercise was all about managing time and experiencing the joy of interoperability. With the addition of the SES, QFES and QPS, there was close to 250 personnel and 30-40 vehicles. The task evolved from a Route Recon from Rockhampton to SWTBA to a Search and Rescue (SAR) to find 15 lost personnel across of 40 grid square area.

The QPS along SES set up a mobile command post in Camp Growl alongside CHQ and the TU hit the ground running and commenced dissecting the area into sectors IOT assist the search. Due to communication issues with the SES, MAJ Edwards created multiple – multifaceted - combined teams consisting of INF, ENGR, JIST and SES mounted in MLRV and PMVs to search the area and clear tracks, whilst SA was maintained and enhanced by the UAVs and AW 139s.

By the end of the day, all missing pers were accounted for and all personnel from all agencies identified a series of improves which will set them up for the next real time call out.

On the Sunday, all agencies conducted a capability demonstration in the Rockhampton Showgrounds that was fully supported by both councils and Defence Force Recruiting. The RSM (who joined the army for days like this) was responsible to coordinate the layout for all capabilities for the local community to see first-hand. Once all platforms were in place, the capability photo was taken and the gates were open which led into multiple interactive displays and recruiting opportunities for the public to enjoy.

All in all an outstanding success for the region, ADF, the Army and the unit, whereby all agencies were tested, arguably enhanced and now have renewed confidence in their capacity to meet the demands of the next natural disaster / HRWS. Moreover, the regional community has seen first-hand what will come to their aid when called for.





TSE – 104 WO2 Jason Byrd

On the 1st of January 2022, five members from 31/42 RQR deployed as part of Operation Resolute - Transit Security Element (TSE), rotation 104. During the six month rotation, each member had different experiences as well as vast opportunities to develop relationships and skills that they would not have been able to have in civilian life. The rotation quickly grew close as they spent the first 8 weeks of pre-deployment training on base due to COVID 19. TSE 104 quickly took advantage of the limitations, organizing team sports, movie nights, and group PT sessions. Soon after the training was completed, the HOTO with TSE 103 began and Reception, staging and onwards integration commenced seeing deployed members embarked and deployed to the northern waters of Australia.

Although time afloat was limited during the duration, with some members spending more time at sea than others, everyone made the most of their time on board and experiencing life as an embarked force upon various Australian Border Force and naval vessels. These vessels included HMAS Launceston, HMAS Ararat, ABFV Ocean Shield and several others. During the time on board, members sailed thousands of nautical miles around Australia and visited various islands and ports such as Christmas Island, Ashmore Island and Cocos Keeling Island to name a few in support of domestic operations to enforce border regulations and engage with Australians living in remote parts of the nation.

Life aboard the boats was an adjustment for most, and days were filled with different types of training ranging from fire control drills to replenishments at sea. The downtime was filled with movie nights, trivia nights, PT and for some, the opportunity to perform helmsman duties. During this time members took part in various operational activities working to protect sovereign territories in a multi organization force.

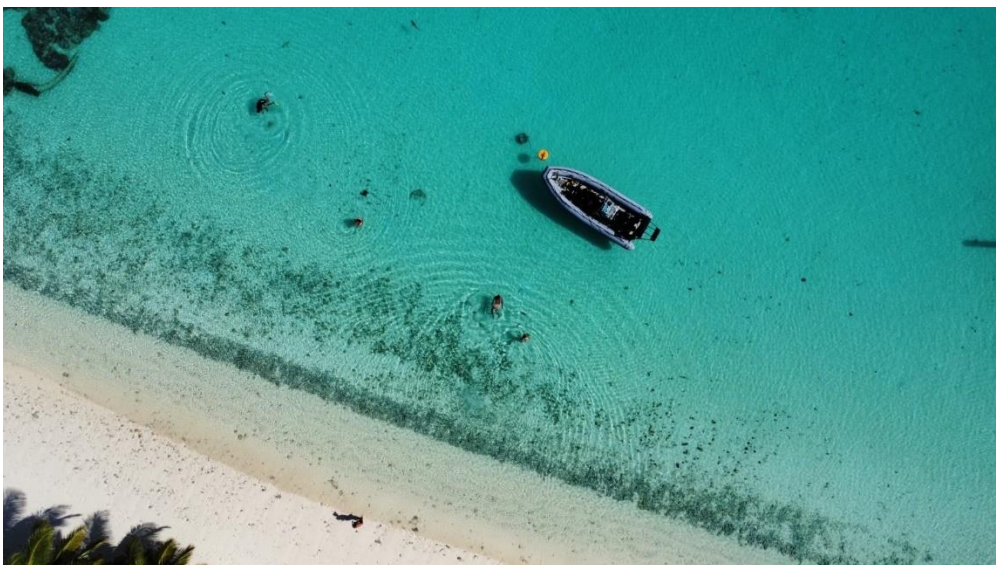
For the members that were between ships waiting to be assigned or had just returned, life on base saw an opportunity for some down time. Members were given the opportunity to organize day trips to Berry Springs, barefoot lawn bowls, fishing, beach trips and friendly volleyball competitions alongside marines from Marine Rotational Force - Darwin (MRF-D).





During the six month rotation, strong relationships were built between various communities and other government agencies. Although the time on base between tasks often longer than we hoped, we to make the most out of the time available by a strong emphasis on fitness and collective training standards being maintained.

Overall the members of TSE 104 had an opportunity to experience life as part of a domestic operation which covered a significant portion of Australia's border by air, land and sea which saw all make a safe return home to their families at the end of the deployment.



11 Brigade Regional War fighter - Tully Training Area.



31/42 RQR members helped form a company group to participate in the newly minted Regional War fighter Exercise at Tully Training Area from the 17-23 July 2022. We were reinforced by our sister RQR battalions

With a heavy burden of Domestic Operations and the training design to suit these contingencies, we were

afforded the opportunity to refine our Foundation Warfighting Skills with a rotation through Tully. The newly named Regional War fighter has similarities to its predecessor Sub Unit Trainer (SUT) but with a switch in focus to the combat team not just the traditional infantry company that some of our former members may recall with mixed feelings.

The traditional Directing Staff (DS) are now referred to as coaches with a different mantra whereby the training is the responsibility of the unit in the field and the coaches are there for expertise and guidance on Jungle Operations.

The company formed at Lavarack Barracks and completed Battle Prep for 3 days and then moved to Tully via coaches and were inducted via the bush lecture room. The section commanders were allocated time with their soldiers and completed a walk-through of the obstacle course in readiness for the True Grit competition. Time was then allocated to sections to practice TTPs and refine their gear carriage before getting out on the tracks. The next few days were filled with section level activities in the form of attacks and ambushes. There was instruction on conducting camp searches and searches of suspicious items.

Once the section training had culminated the focus switched to platoon training in a similar vein. The platoons conducted a patrol and were supported by engineers from 11ER to reduce a number of nuisance mines as part of the scenario. They were also afforded a day of preparation and analysis to emplace a platoon ambush



Morale throughout the exercise was assessed as high and the training was received well by all ranks. It was especially pleasing at the command level to see our men and women seizing the opportunity to train hard and get the most out of the environment that was new to at least 80% of the contingent. Whilst the nature of the next conflict will change there will remain a tendency for infantry soldiers to be the

‘jack of all trades’ and Tully provides you the chance to train in that realm. Due to the 2nd Division’s participation in EX AUSTRAL SHIELD the company group was unable to commit to the full suite of combat team level training. Whilst unavoidable, this was genuinely lamented by commanders as the opportunity to train to as company group organic to 11 BDE is seldom available. All things said and done it was an opportunity that was not wasted and left our soldiers with a thirst for training of this kind in the future.



31/42 RQR Defence Assistance to the Civil Community – Lt Lawrence Long

During 2022, the Battalion demonstrated its capabilities, and its dedication to assisting the Queensland community by participating in a number of DACC tasks. Soldiers from the battalion deployed on multiple search and rescue operations in North Queensland, as well as deploying to SE QLD in order to support Operation Flood Assist 22.

In February 31/42RQR; aided by 9 Regt, 11 ER & 11 CSSB conducted search and rescue operations in support of Queensland Police Service in their efforts to find a missing person in the vicinity of Koumala, in the Mackay region. Soldiers worked through very difficult weather conditions and challenging terrain, demonstrating once again the commitment and perseverance that 31/42RQR soldiers are capable of!



In March soldiers from the Battalion, along with 11 ER and 11 CSSB volunteered their time to assist the residents of Brisbane during the flood crisis in SE QLD and Northern NSW. Soldiers worked tirelessly to remove flood-damaged debris from homes, clean up the streets, and demonstrate to the public the empathy, professionalism and dedication that 11 Brigade is capable of providing to the Queensland community.



In August, whilst already committed to the Regional Warfighter in Tully, and preparing to support a no notice callout for Exercise Austral Shield, the Battalion - supported by 11 ER, 11 CSSB and 9 REGT was able to deploy a Platoon in order to support the Queensland Police Service search and rescue for a missing person on Magnetic Island.



Soldiers of the Battalion should stand proud of their achievements in supporting the Queensland community during 2022. Their continued efforts demonstrate to the community that 11 Brigade, and 31/42 RQR, stand ready to assist them, by day or night, regardless of season, weather or terrain.

Always ready!

LT Lawrence Long,
1PL, Kennedy Company, 31/42 RQR

Combat Shooting

This year the unit has been able help significantly reduce the training gap of soldiers who required either Basic Combat Shooting (BCSC) or Enhanced Combat Shooting (ECSC) course. As part of EX Jezzine fires early in the year the unit conducted a BCSC, and in Oct as part of the Bn shooting week, the unit ran the inaugural 31/42 RQR ECSC which qualified 24 personnel in Enhanced Combat Shooting (Pistol, Rifle, Airsoft/FX Gunlock and PPE) with misc courses including Pistol, Pistol holsters and OIC/SS for Perm Basic Ranges. The culminating activity for the Bn shooting week was a day on the MTR at TFTA for the Applied Marksmanship Practice (AMP) Rifle, with the following results: 8 passes (achieving better than 180 points), with 3 First Class Shots (achieving better than 210 points). This was the first time most of the soldiers had had a chance to conduct the AMP.

None of this would have been achieved without the hard work of WO2 S Clarke supported by WO2 J Bird and CPL's C Potts and Z Cavanaugh. This was also heavily supported by visiting instructors out of 3 BDE. They should be very proud of the work they have done to ensure the unit is not just ready now but future ready. WO2 S Clarke is highly regarded as one of the best Combat Shooting instructors in the army and for this reason was requested to instructor or course manage another 4 ECSC run by 3 BDE units. This in turn gave the unit the opportunity to put trainees on these courses.

This year the unit used Marathon Robotic Targetry for the first time. The use of Marathon targets greatly enhanced the training, providing realistic moving targets requiring sound application of the marksmanship and combat shooting principles to achieve the desired effects.

I would also like to mention the XO who had the initial idea of a Bn Shooting week with the ultimate goal of putting a team in the ASSAM shooting competition. I think we have a little way to go before we are ready for that, but a realistic goal for next year would be a team in the 3 BDE Shooting competition.

RBT

This year the unit was able to start training using the FX Gunlock and Airsoft Reality Based Training Systems (RBTs) a relatively new platform for the 2nd Division. Both Coy's took advantage of the RBTs by conducting a number of training series on Tuesday nights and training weekends. The complex urban environment is the best way to experience this by providing realistic and challenging scenarios that force the soldiers to think and act efficiently under real combat stressors that cannot be replicated in Live or Blank serials.

Reality Based Training is an important component of the training continuum allowing a real life scenario to be trained utilising the same touch points as the live fire EF88 with minimal hindrance from PPE. It is the perfect tool to confirm weapon manipulation, lethality and survivability and their ability to cognitively process information in real time measured against a real world adversary. The training was well received and is an important step in confirming all of their weapon handling training they have received to that point.

Special thanks to the big blue one once again for their support. They have been an outstanding flanking unit that consistently do their utmost to support TWS and 2 DIV.

EXERCISE JEZZINE FIRES

Ex Jezzine Fires was a welcome return to Foundation War fighting for the unit after a number of DACC tasks. Week one was focused on meeting the requirements of soldier that need to progress from 343-2 to 343-3. Over the week the unit conduct a Basic Combat Shooting course, and Section attacks, VAP, VCP, and qualifications for the recently introduced Airsoft and FX Gun Lock RBT wpns and PPE. Week two started with an air insertion into TFTA on 2 x CH47 from 5 AVN. This was a first for many of the soldier involved, and was enjoyed by most however a few did suffer a little bit of motion sickness caused by the tac flying. The LF phase started with the conducted of sneaker ranges and culminated with Section Ambush's which include 11 ER in support to provide battle noise simulation, again this was a first for many of the soldier and the support of 11ER greatly enhanced the activity. This was followed by HE ranges including 84mm, M72A2, grenades. I would like to thanks WO2 J Bird for his efforts to run to a challenging yet safe LF package with limited support staff. The activity concluded with the conduct of a section completion held at Lavarack Barracks which was well received by the training audience. The section completion was designed and coordinated by CPL C Potts and was a credit to him.

As you can tell from above ex Jezzine Fires was a very busy time for the unit trying to squeeze as much training as possible to a short period of time. For all other those involve in the planning should feel proud of the training they provide the unit.

The Adventures of Jimmy

MAJGEN James Cannan CB, CMG, DSO, VD amongst many accolades in his distinguished 43 year career was a commander of the 11th Brigade and the 2 Division. Last year the Brigade Commander choose to announce that the superior unit for the Brigade each year would be awarded the James Cannan Cup named after this highly decorated officer. Whilst the metrics for deciding the Cannan Cup is shrouded in mystery, 31/42 RQR narrowly missed out in 2021 only to be awarded the Cannan Cup during the 2022 11th Brigade dinning in night by the Div Commander MAJGEN Dave Thomae.

Whilst the original trophy remains in Brigade HQ with the victorious unit being immortalised in a small plaque at its base, a smaller replica (*the Jimmy*) is awarded to the unit to be brandished proudly whether they choose. Now, it appears that MAJGEN Cannan was born in Townsville in 1904, so it was honour to bring *Jimmy* home. Firstly, the unit has performed exceptionally well so all soldiers and officers should be exceptionally proud to take *Jimmy* out of the vice like 9 RQR grip.

The RSM and I along with the escorts provided by the ADJT and the OPSO, were honoured to bring *Jimmy* home to Townsville, however it didn't take long to realise that *Jimmy* wasn't just a lifeless object, *Jimmy* has a soul, and Jimmy has a will..... and Jimmy started calling the shots. With the requirement to conduct Exercise Rocky Ready, *Jimmy* wanted to be escorted around and view certain aspects of the exercise. Firstly, on the road from Townsville to Rockhampton *Jimmy* rides shotgun, when we go out for a coffee or a beer, *Jimmy* demands to come along, and the RSM and I had no choice but to comply. During the exercise, *Jimmy* needed to view all platforms, be part of the planning process and provide input to all external and supporting agencies.

Unfortunately whilst *Jimmy* enjoyed the exercise, things got a little too loose when *Jimmy* met LCPL Jimmy Jensen. Clearly there can only be one *Jimmy*, and *Jimmy* got a bit too rowdy and was arrested and placed in the back in the Rockhampton Blue n White despite Jimmy Jensen's best efforts. Whilst *Jimmy* got off with a warning, he continues to have a significant influence over the unit and has demanded the unit to follow his example through donating money to Camscause through growing a respectful tash so we can be more like him. Whilst we have done our utmost to placate *Jimmys* wishes, who knows what directions he imposes on the new commander team in 2023.

Watch this space. !!







THE 31ST BATTALION ASSOCIATION

The Year Ahead – 2022

31ST Battalion Association Annual General Meeting

An email meeting will be held in the first instance. Followed later by a Zoom meeting. All Branches will be notified of the date and time when available.

Fall of Singapore 15th Feb 2022. The Townsville Fall of Singapore was conducted at the Townsville RSL. Paul Ellems attended this ceremony, and a wreath was laid.

Fromelle's Day - Tues 20th July 2022

The Commanding Officer 31st Infantry Battalion has indicated that Fromelle's Day will become the focal annual celebration for the 31/42 Infantry Battalion. He has indicated that he will welcome the support of the Association for this day.

31st Battalion Commemorative Service – Sun 21st Aug 2022

This year's Commemorative Service will be held at St James Cathedral on **Sun 21st August 2022, commencing at 09.00 am.** The Service will be followed by morning tea in the Cathedral. This Service is planned to be a smaller affair compared to last year to reduce the complexity of the organising. The Commanding Officer 31/42 Infantry Battalion has indicated that the Battalion will welcome the opportunity to support this Service.

Commemorative Services

It is our intention to support the following commemorations where possible:

- National Servicemen's Day. 14 Feb 2022. Passed and were unable to attend this year.
- Fall of Singapore. 15 Feb 2022. Attended and lay a wreath.
- Anzac Day. Mon 25th Apr 2022.
- Armistice Day. Fri 11 Nov 2022.
- Texas Terror Commemoration in Ingham. Sun 18th Dec 2022

Reunion Dinner/Luncheon 2022

It is hoped that we can have a Reunion Dinner/Luncheon this year. I will send out further details when we decide on a date and venue.

Ingham and Charters Towers and Brisbane Branches Activities for the Ingham and Charters Towers Branches will be advised as they come to hand. If you plan to be in Brisbane, please contact Tony Wadeson on 0427337177. You will be most welcome. Most of their functions are held at the Sherwood Services Club right next to the Corinda Station.

Vale Elsie Burla

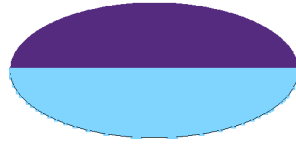
Elsie Burla has a special place in the history of our Battalion and Association. She had an elegant, self-effacing poise that inspired the best behaviour from the rest of us unwashed heathens. As was characteristic of her generation, beneath that modest humility was an iron will and self-discipline. There is a wonderful tribute to Elsie Burla in the Whispering Boomerang that explains all.

Vale John Gardner

John gave many years of dedicated service to our Association. For many years he organised our Association's Memorial Service. We are indebted to him for his efforts. He, like all our members past, will be missed.

The Whispering Boomerang

Martin O'Sullivan continues as co-ordinator of "The Boomerang" website. If you have photos and articles about an event, please write a few paragraphs and forward it to Greg Stokie or Paul Ellems. The web address for the Whispering Boomerang is: <http://31bnassn.org>. It is recommended as a good source of information about the Battalion and its members.



42nd Australian Infantry Battalion Association

A wrap up of the activities of the 42nd Australian Infantry Battalion Association.

Greetings to the Officers and Soldiers of the 31st/42nd Battalion, The Royal Queensland Regiment and to our brothers and sisters of the 31st Battalion Association.

This past year has been quite for the Association. While the Rockhampton branch is still alive some would say on life support. A significant number of past members have moved away in retirement leaving only a small percentage still residing in the Rockhampton region. This has a bearing on the ability to hold a formal annual reunion function. An informal luncheon get together was held in September at a local watering hole. While attendance was small it was an enjoyable relaxed afternoon. The branch will attempt a similar function in September 2023. Possible dates are the 9th or the 16th.

A number of members attended the Combined Services Dinner in Rockhampton. The event was very successful as we have come to expect from the organizing committee ably led by the Gracemeere RSL. The theme for the Combined Services Dinner next year is the 100th anniversary of Legacy. Details will be promulgated to members and the unit in due course,

The Mackay branch is going from strength to strength with a strong showing by members at ANZAC and Remembrance Day activities. The branch conducted their annual reunion dinner in October which was well attended and an enjoyable night for all.

I'm at loss for the right words to express my pleasure and jealousy when I read on Face Book of the exploits of the Battalion and its members. Keep up the good work. You, all can be justifiably proud of your efforts. If only I could lose some birthdays I would be back in a flash.

Last Post

Mr. D Keith Allen SGT (Rtd)

Mr. Doug Angus RFD LT COL (Rtd)

Mr. Colin Harris RFD CAPT (Rtd)

Good soldering, say safe and all the best to you and your families.

Darryl Prizeman
Warrant Officer Class one (Rtd) President
