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*The*

ISSUE NUMBER 20

# RAEME CRAFTSMAN

THE MAGAZINE OF  
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THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL  
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## FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH



3MD RAEME BIRTHDAY MOUNTED PARADE

# EDITORIAL

In the last year, the Army has introduced some changes which will affect the operation of the Corps in the future.

The amalgamation of some Logistic Command RACT, RAAOC and RAEME units into one logistic unit will provide opportunities for better co-ordination of the functions of movements, supply and repair. I do not think, for example, that there would be any tradesman in the Corps, who at some stage or another has not complained about the provision of repair parts. This is one area for us, that better co-ordination with the supply and movements systems can only result in providing a better repair service to the Army.

At the same time, with the formation of Logistic Complexes, there has been a loss of identified RAEME workshops. This makes the retention of a distinctive Corps identity and maintenance of "esprit de corps" just a little bit harder. It also means that work of the Corps Committee, the RAEME Associations, the Corps Museum and the Corps Shop becomes more important. As a means of keeping Corps members informed of "what's going on in the Corps and what other members are doing", this magazine also has an important role to play. We can only do this with the support and contributions of all members, whatever unit they are in.

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BRIGADIER R.M. MILLAR

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

It is with great pleasure and yet a little trepidation that I take up the appointment as your Director General.

Pleasure because it marks the achievement of a long standing ambition but trepidation because of the responsibilities that the position encompasses and the qualities that have been displayed by my predecessors. I am firmly of the opinion that it is my task to ensure that the Corps position is strongly represented on all issues of substance and that such representation makes successful completion of the job by all members of the Corps easier and more satisfying.

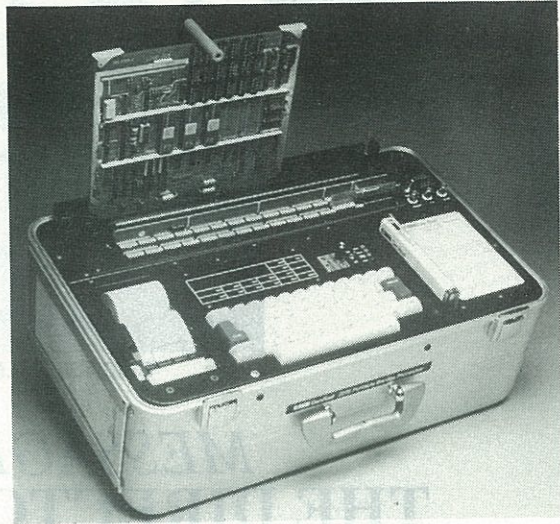
I would like to thank Brigadier Conrad Ermert for his tireless efforts during the past four years as our Director General. He has enhanced the standing of the Corps by seeking and gaining more non-Corps appointments which has led to a greater realisation within the Army of the calibre and value of the RAEME soldier. His efforts in preserving many of the established capabilities and functions, despite increasing pressures on resources, have ensured that the Corps has retained the necessary wherewithall to keep the technical equipment of the Army fit for combat. On your behalf I wish him well in his new appointment as the Director General of Logistics.

If there is one feature of our Corps that is unique it is that we have soldiers serving in almost every unit in the Army. As can be witnessed on any Anzac Day, they often form a close affinity with Arms and Services that they support and therefore possess a broader understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the units and formations in which they serve. We must work at retaining the mutual respect that exists between the supported and the supporting elements of the Army because units and formations that display good rapport, tempered at times with healthy rivalry, are effective and provide a satisfying and rewarding environment in which to work.

Despite the constant pressure on resources which at times causes frustration in the workplace I implore you to exercise restraint in demands for resources and seek better and more efficient ways of achieving your aims within the resources allocated but without compromising quality. This may appear to be a "tall order" but from the calibre of the members of the Corps that I know I have every faith that you will exercise ingenuity in working within the constraints imposed. I look forward to meeting as many of the members of our Corps as possible during my visits and hope that anyone passing through Canberra takes the opportunity to call on me or other members of the Directorate staff.

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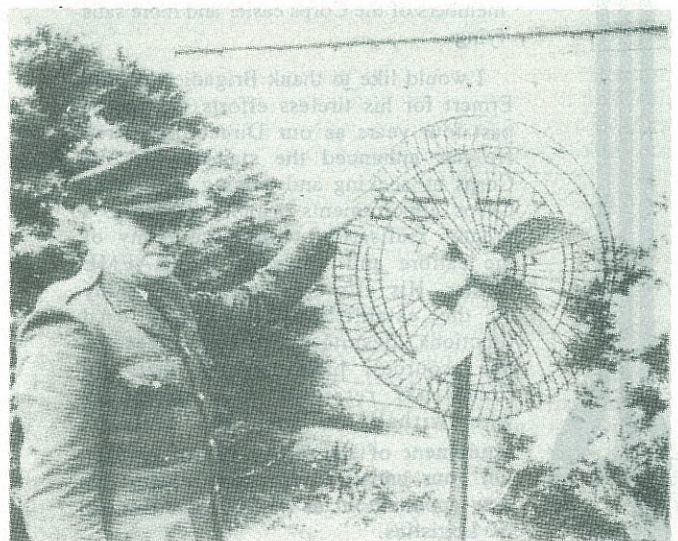
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**SUPPLIERS TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

# THE NEW DGEME

Brigadier R.M. Millar was born in Ipswich, Queensland on 24 January 1944. He was educated at Randwick Boy's High School in Sydney, The Royal Military College Duntroon and the University of Adelaide from where he graduated as a Bachelor of Technology (Mechanical Engineering) in 1967.

He spent his years as a junior officer employed in the aircraft maintenance field. After twelve months post graduate training at the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell in the United Kingdom, postings to 70 Aircraft Workshop, REME; 1st Aviation Regiment Workshop, Amberley; and 161st Independent Reconnaissance Flight, South Vietnam; followed. For service in this latter unit he was mentioned-in-despatches.

Staff appointments as the first RAEME engineer seconded to Headquarters Support Command, RAAF and in the Aircraft Engineering Section of DEME at Army Headquarters, Melbourne were followed in 1974 by appointment as OC 101st Field Workshop. He has also served subsequently in staff appointments in Headquarters Training Command, Headquarters Logistic Command and the Maintenance Engineering Agency.

Brigadier Millar commanded the 5th Base Workshop Battalion at Oakey in 1980-81 and served as the Production Manager/Second in Command of 27 Command Workshop,

REME in 1982-83. He was promoted Colonel in January 1985 and served as the Director of Defence Technical Services - Army on DGEME staff in 1985-86. This was followed by service as the Director of Vehicle Procurement - Army in Materiel Branch in 1987-88. He assumed duty as DGEME-A on 15 December 1988.

Brigadier Millar is a graduate of the Australian Army Staff College in 1976 and the Joint Services Staff College in 1984. He is married with two teenage daughters.

## RAEME OFFICER RESIGNATION LIST

ARMY N <sup>o</sup>	RANK	NAME	DATE	UNIT
218189	Maj	Hinrichsen D.J. (Darrel)	1 Apr 88	LHQ
39158	LtCol	Berry G.H. (Gavin)	10 May 88	RSL 1MD
F522043	Lt	Moylan C.L. (Celia)	23 May 88	Perth Wksp
43955	Maj	Newman R.B. (Ron)	4 Jul 88	RSL 3MD
3411637	Maj	Bevia A.A. (Athol)	4 Jul 88	MEA
163858	Capt	Patronev G.W. (Graham)	7 Aug 88	RTC
182615	Capt	Hill R.M. (Rod)	19 Aug 88	MEA
226810	Capt	Nicholas M.E. (Mark)	4 Sep 88	Perth WKSP
43901	Maj	Beere J.E. (John)	19 Sep 88	RTC
4410508	Maj	Wiltshire T.J. (Trevor)	8 Oct 88	RTC
216591	Maj	Wicks B.J. (Brian)	9 Oct 88	HQ 2MD
44985	Maj	Marks A.G. (Andrew)	16 Oct 88	HQ 4MD
1202369	Maj	Larocca M. (Mario)	9 Jan 89	LWOP
18666	LtCol	Tunbridge K.C. (Kerry)	16 Jan 89	HQ 2MD
57476	Maj	Bergl S.A. (Shane)	16 Jan 89	PERS BR (AO)
225556	Lt	Robertson S.D. (Struan)	20 Jan 89	SYD WKSP COY
5100421	Lt	Mabbs S.A. (Stephen)	25 Jan 89	MEA
242872	Col	Snowdon P.G. (Peter)	6 Feb 89	HQ LOG COMD
2789329	LtCol	Howe A.J. (Jeff)	7 Feb 89	DOD(C)
39766	Maj	Quass W.G. (Wil)	17 Feb 89	DGEME
58699	Maj	Woods B.L. (Brian)	7 Mar 89	1 Base Wksp
1201094	Maj	Bowen R. (Roy)	16 Mar 89	LWOP
48660	Capt	Leslie P. (Peter)	2 Apr 89	1 Base Wksp

## OR DISCHARGE LIST

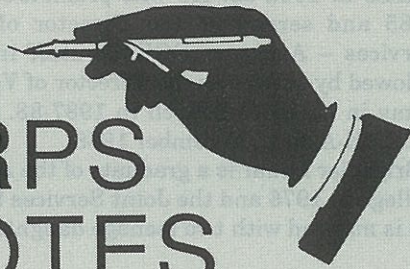
ARMY N <sup>o</sup>	RANK	NAME	UNIT	DATE DISCHARGED
2276712	Cpl	Druett D.C.	Perth Water Tpt Unit	31 Jan 89
219190	Cpl	Fletcher G.W.	3 Cav Regt	22 Jan 89
1202486	Cpl	Pettit C.	162 Recce Sqn	29 Jan 89
313207	Cpl	Treble W.F.	5 Base Wksp Bn	21 Jan 89
218638	Sgt	Brown S.P.	1 MD	20 Jun 88
219077	Sgt	Clarkson W.A.	11 Sup Bn	2 Jan 89
243493	Sgt	Glynn-Armstrong F.J.	4 FD Regt	30 Jan 89
319203	Sgt	Land J.T.	Infantry Centre	31 Jan 89
218130	Sgt	Lawrence K.J.	Sydney Wksp Coy	24 Jan 89
312692	Sgt	Loone L.K.	3 MD	19 Jun 88
313124	Sgt	Walker P.M.	173 Gen Spt Sqn	9 Jan 89
1201070	SSgt	Doherty P.J.	HQ 1 MD	29 Jan 89
55647	SSgt	Hale A.E.	5 MD	8 Feb 88
39968	SSgt	Hokkanen J.J.	1 MD	27 Mar 88
219205	SSgt	McKeough K.D.	2 ESU	21 Jan 89
1201772	SSgt	Peiniger S.M.	1 MD	25 Mar 88
1202107	SSgt	Warren D.J.	1 MD	29 Jun 88
2791985	WO2	McDade S.	Mat Branch	31 Jan 89
62020	WO1	Beven G.L.	3 Base Wksp Bn	23 Jan 89
45061	WO1	Campbell W.R.	4 Base Wksp Bn	27 Jan 89
1201942	WO1	Davidson G.E.	173 Gen Spt Sqn	30 Oct 88
18990	WO1	Edmonds D.N.	U/L 1MD	4 Apr 88
43135	WO1	Folland W.K.	1 MD	26 Jun 88
313208	WO1	Jarvis A.N.	HQ Log Comd	25 Jan 89
44039	WO1	Leonard M.A.	3 MD	1 Feb 88
39217	WO1	Lockwood O.C.	3 MD	21 Feb 88
39076	WO1	Marcus D.J.	5 Base Wksp Bn	4 Jan 89
18652	WO1	Olivieri V.P.	5 Base Wksp Bn	15 Jan 89
39832	WO1	Pickering S.J.	3 MD	4 Feb 88
48668	WO1	Reus P.A.	1 MD	13 Mar 88
39827	WO1	Sargent G.E.	1 MD	22 Mar 88
39949	WO1	Thomas C.R.	3 MD	2 Jun 88
55599	WO1	Trott E.S.	5 MD	28 Feb 88
61880	WO2	Atkinson J.A.	6 MD	6 Mar 88
219179	WO2	Bingham R.C.	RTC	20 Jan 89
44422	WO2	Burns J.H.	3 MD	29 Feb 88
42673	WO2	Clayton F.S.	5 MD	14 May 88
58874	WO2	Forward T.C.	5 MD	1 May 88
175447	WO2	Heffernan M.J.	UL 1 MD	10 Apr 88
313174	WO2	Lowndes P.J.	RTC	19 Jan 89
411475	WO2	Murphy A.J.	Adelaide Wksp Coy	20 Jan 89
2412514	WO2	Myers G.V.	6 MD	30 Apr 88
39835	WO2	Overson R.W.	2 MD	4 Mar 88
44500	WO2	Renshaw P.M.	3 MD	1 Feb 88
39817	WO2	Steers P.J.	Mat Branch	7 Nov 88
62014	WO2	Sutherland S.M.	2/3 Fer Wksp Enoggera	7 Jan 89
219231	WO2	Weekes E.J.	3 Base Wksp Bn	26 Jan 89

## CHANGES IN THE CORPS DIRECTORATE

By now most members of the Corps, past and present, will be aware of the decision of the CGS to transfer executive management of ARA personnel to CARO and the Office of the MS in December 1989. DGEME, in conjunction with Personnel Branch at Army Office, is currently negotiating the size of the Corps cells to be established in CARO and MS and the personnel staff to remain in the directorate so that he can provide advice on personnel with emphasis on key appointments. It is the intention that the current collective knowledge of the DGEME personnel staff be retained by ensuring that they transfer to the new positions established in CARO and MS at the end of the year. RAEME soldiers will continue to be managed by RAEME soldiers.

Further study in Logistic Branch in Army Office is continuing to determine whether other functions of the Corps Directorate should be transferred to staff directorates in the branch and whether the Directorate should be relocated away from Army Office (You will be aware of the move of most Arms Directorates to their Corps Schools at the end of 1989). A decision on the future role and location of DGEME will be made on completion of the study and will be advised widely as soon as possible.

# CORPS NOTES



By Major G. Polkinghorne

## Colonel Commandant 7MD

In October 1988, approval was granted for Brigadier L.J. Lewis to become Colonel Commandant 7MD. This is the first time 7MD has had a RAEME Colonel Commandant.

BRIG Lewis became the Colonel Commandant 4MD/7MD and is the second 'two-hatted' RAEME Colonel Commandant. LTCOL P.R. Tremain is the Colonel Commandant 3MD/6MD.

BRIG Lewis' appointment as COL COMDT 4MD/7MD is until 27 Aug 89.

## 1988 RAEME CORPS COMMITTEE MEETING

The 1988 RAEME Corps Committee Meeting was held at RAEME Trg Centre on 13 Oct 88. The Meeting was attended by BRIG R.S.P. Amos RFD, ED, RL – Representative Colonel Commandant/Colonel Commandant 2MD; COL L.J. Foley – Senior Executive/DDEME; COL T.B. Schoeffler – Colonel Commandant 1MD; LTCOL P.R. Tremain RL – Colonel Commandant 3MD/6MD; LTCOL E.F. McCart RL – Colonel Commandant 5MD; COL P.G. Snowdon – COLOME, HQ Log Comd; LTCOL J.G. Trevivian – CO/CI RAEME Trg Centre; LTCOL T.J. Fardell – Senior RAEME Rep (ARes), Land Comd; MAJ G. Polkinghorne – Secretary; MAJ I. Johnston – Treasurer; WO1 G. Lowe – RSM, RAEME Author. Attendees are pictured below.

BRIG L.J. Lewis – Colonel Commandant 4MD/7MD and LTCOL M.L. Downey – SO1 EME, Land Comd were unable to attend.

A new innovation this year was the attendance of CPL Batten. He was invited to attend to represent the views of the Other Ranks of the Corps.

The Committee discussed the progress of the Corps History, the RAEME Corps Museum, Annual RAEME Subscription, possible uses for the RAEME Corps Fund, appointed 4 Base Wksp Bn to produce the 1989 RAEME Craftsman Port, and agreed to the introduction of a Corps Grace, and a LT Peter Jennings Award.



## CORPS COMMITTEE MEETING

Left to Right. FRONT ROW: Mr T. Barker; COL L.J. Foley; COL T.B. Schoeffler; BRIG R.S.P. Amos RFD, ED, RL; LTCOL P.R. Tremain RL; LTCOL E.F. McCart RL. BACK ROW: MAJ G.B. Polkinghorne; CPL C.L. Batten; COL P.G. Snowdon; LTCOL J.G. Trevivian; MAJ I. Johnston; LTCOL T.J. Fardell; WO1 G. Lowe.

# 1988 RAEME CORPS CONFERENCE

The 1988 RAEME Corps Conference was held at RAEME Trg Centre from 6 to 9 Sep 88. The Conference is a biennial event attended by senior RAEME Officers. The Keynote address for the Conference was given by the ACLOG-A, MAJGEN J.S. Baker, AM. Guests at the Conference included the DGLOG-A, BRIG G.J. Loughton, the DGSUP-A, BRIG I. Wills and the DMOVT-A, COL J. Snare. The central theme for the 1988 Conference was: 'RAEME in the 1990's'.

Two background addresses were given, one by COL D.M. Mueller of DCD-A on 'An Operational Concept for Low Level Contingencies' and the other by COL W.J. Crews of DLP-A on 'A Logistic Concept for Support of Low Level Operations'.

The Conference addressed a number of issues. Each issue was introduced by a speaker then the topic was open for general discussion. The issues covered during the Conference included:

- RAEME Support in the AO – introduced by LTCOL S.B. Coolahan, CDEME.
- RAEME behind the AO – introduced by COL P.G. Snowdon, COLEME, HQ Log Comd.
- Restructuring of the Electrical/Electronic Trades – introduced by MAJ W. Quass, SO2 TDE STRUC, DGEME.
- Apprentice Training – introduced by MAJ G. Holloway, Apprentice Master, AAS.

- Artificer Training - introduced by MAJ W. Quass, SO2 TDE STRUC, DGEME.
- Workshop Management – introduced by LTCOL C.D. Grant, CO1 Base Wksp Bn.

The Conference attendees are pictured below.

## THE RAEME CORPS SHOP

During the RAEME Corps Committee Meeting, it was suggested that many Corps personnel were unaware of the existence of the RAEME Corps Shop. The shop is operated by the Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer from Development Wing, RAEME Trg Centre. Funds from sales are used by the RAEME Corps Committee to finance awards (such as the RAEME Craftsman of the Year, RAEME Artificer of the Year Award, RAEME Regimental Award), presentations, trophies and many other activities.

Orders should be by signal or in writing. Goods will be invoiced to the purchaser showing the cost of each item and the total cost of the order. Payments for goods must be within 21 days from the date of receipt of the order.

Items available to ALL Corps members range from tracksuits, ties and stable belts to special badges, plaques RAEME window decals and a variety of glasses with an engraved RAEME badge. Your ASM should have a price list with a full description.

RAEME CORPS CONFERENCE 1988



**Front Row (Left to Right):** COL M. Caldwell (CONMEA); COL J. Snare (DMOVT-A); COL W. Crews (DLP-A); BRIG I. Wills (DGSUP-A); BRIG . Ermert (DGEME-A); MAJGEN J. Baker AM (ACLOG-A); COL D. Mueller (DCD-A); COL M. Ford (DLO); COL M. Burgess (DDTS-A); COL P. Snowdon (COLEME HQ Log Comd).

**Second Row (Left to Right):** LTCOL J. Trevivian (CO/CI RAEME Trg Centre); LTCOL K. Arnett (CO 4 Base Wksp Bn); LTCOL T. Beaton (SO1 EME HQ 3MD); LT COL O. Aberle (CO 5 Base Wksp Bn); COL L. Foley (DDEME); COL J. Kingston (DEGP-A); LTCOL S. B. Soolahan (CDEME 1 Div); MAJ W. Quass (SO 2 Tde Structures);

**Third Row (Left to Right):** MAJ G. Polkinghorne (SO2 Tde Mngt); LTCOL E. Andrews (CO 2 Base Wksp Bn); LTCOL M. Downey (SO1 EME Land HQ); LTCOL P. Johnston (CO 3 Base Wksp Bn); LTCOL R. Fullford (SO1 Pers Empl); LTCOL J. Reid (SO1 EME HQ 1MD); LTCOL C. Grant (CO 1 Base Wksp Bn); MAJ R. Major (A/SO1 EME HQ 2MD); MAJ G. Holloway (App Master ASS).

# THE RAEME CORPS COMMITTEE WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO US?

By CPL CHRIS 'Bandy' BATTEN

*Is it myth? Is it fact? Is it fiction? These are the immediate thoughts of the Craftsman when the mystical name of the RAEME Corps Committee is mentioned. What is its purpose? What does it do for me? and how can I help if required? are quite often some questions when confronted with the existence of the Corps Committee.*

The National Corps Committee has been concerned for sometime at the lack of representation from the coal face and accordingly invited me to attend the 3MD meeting and then to be a member of the National Committee in 1988. So I decided to investigate and unravel some of the mysteries surrounding this Committee.

Firstly, I found to my amazement that it does exist, and is managed by a Chairman – our Representative Colonel Commandant, the Vice Chairmen – all the RAEME Colonels Commandant of the Military Districts, and a Senior Executive – the Deputy Director of the Corps. And its members are: a RAEME rep from each of the functional commands; the SO/C1, RAEME Training Centre; a senior Army Reserve RAEME Officer (nominated by HQ Land Command); the RSM, RAEME Training Centre; a RAEME Corporal from the Bandiana area; the Secretary – a Major posted to the Directorate; and the Treasurer – an Officer posted to RAEME Training Centre appointed by the CO/CI RAEME Training Centre.

The purpose of the Corps Committee is primarily to foster and develop 'Esprit-de-Corps' and to guide activities of the Corps. The current Terms of Reference and Responsibilities of the Committee cover such things as: advising the DGEME on matters affecting the Corps and on activities which support development of traditions; outlining the form of celebrations such as the RAEME Birthday Parades; preparation of Corps Instructions; management of the RAEME Corps Fund, Corps property and the Corps Museum; recording the History of the Corps and initiating

action on any other matters which may be of value in the promotion of 'Esprit-de-Corps' and tradition.

Additionally each Military District has its own District Corps Committee chaired by the RAEME Colonel Commandant of that Military District.

As you can see the spider web is starting to extend and weave its way throughout the nation to allow contact points for those personnel who have suggestions or solutions to problems.

The Corps Committee initiates and implements Corps instructions on such matters as the RAEME badge, the RAEME flag, RAEME signs (well worth reading), Colonels Commandant, presentations to outstanding students/Offr/WO/NCO, the RAEME Corps Fund (I'll mention this later), the RAEME Centre Piece, Craftsman of the Year Award, RAEME Recognition of Service Award and the Prince Philip Banner.

As I began to discover all these things, a number came as a surprise to me. Firstly the Corps Shop. Who knew there was one? Not me, and what the hell is it? Numerous goodies to trick up the appearance with, e.g.. track suits, t-shirts, singlets, badges port crocks, stationery, etc. The list is long and prices are competitively cheap.

Secondly, the Corps Museum. I thought ours was combined with the RAAOC Centre – it's not. It's located at RAEME Training Centre Headquarters on the second floor, and currently an effort is being made to have all students who come through the Centre pay a visit. It's worth a peek at what RAEME has collected through the years and we plan in

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the not too distant future to re-locate it to the original headquarters (currently Corps Training Wing) when the rebuild commences.

Thirdly and possibly most importantly in this article is the RAEME Corps Fund and the Corps Subscription. The subscription was introduced to bolster the Corps Fund for the following reasons: purchase of appropriate items not available through service supply channels; provision of suitable prizes and trophies for Corps competitions in relevant activities; purchase where deemed necessary of suitable reciprocal items for sister Corps and Allied Forces and funding for other activities such as the Wynns Safari and Westfield Marathons.

In fact at our last Committee meeting, we decided to re-write the Corps instruction which specifies how the fund is to operate and what it can be used for so that the Committee can fund a much wider range of activities involving more members of the Corps.

So what about the collection details? Well, come early February/March each year your SO1 EME should, in conjunction with your Colonel Commandant of your Military District, introduce a system whereby 20% of one days pay will be lifted out of your pockets. This is how much you will pay:

Brigadier	\$31.00
Colonel	\$27.00
Lieutenant Colonel	\$23.00
Major	\$18.00
Captain	\$15.00
Lieutenant	\$12.00
Warrant Officer 1	\$16.00
Warrant Officer 2	\$15.00
Staff Sergeant	\$13.00
Sergeant	\$10.00
Corporal and Craftsman	\$ 5.00

Unlike some other corps, our subscription is not compulsory. We stipulate that this levy is voluntary and no pressure is to be applied to personnel who wish not to contribute.

Now we decided that the dispersment of the funds once collected will be 20% of funds to remain within District Funds Account and 80% of funds to be managed by the National Fund Account.

So why do we need the money? Well, I discovered the Corps Committee has commissioned Mr Theo Barker (a recognized author) to write the History of RAEME. This is to be a factual, pictorial and easily readable account of our Corps. Mr Barker has previously written the History of the

Corps of Signals. The cost of production of the book will be very high and we are relying on all members of the Corps to pay for it. But this history is only one of a whole bunch of things that we can do for all Corps members. We are the second largest Corps in the Army and probably the poorest.

So I rang a few mates around the traps and put it to them. They said, "No problems, Bandy! - We only wish someone would have given us the right oil previously. We have heard the obscene words 'silver fund'; so we thought that would only benefit the Officers' Mess". As I said "No Way, Jose!!" The Messes have nothing to do with this fund nor do they have access to it. Matter of fact, the National Committee is the authorizing body for any expenditure with the exception of the Deputy Director who may spend up to \$300.00 and the CO/CI who may spend up to \$500.00 at one time to maintain stocks in the Corps Shop.

Having told the Committee that all the diggers would like to be informed (more regularly), the suggestion was made to put an article in the RAEME Craftsman Magazine. As the RSM, RAEME Training Centre has stated, 'Diggers read Routine Orders only to see when they are on duty, but they will kill for the RAEME Craftsman'.

So, the ball is back in our court, and I think we should pick it up and run with it. I ask you all to be honest with yourselves for a few moments and make your decision accordingly.

I hope I have spread a little light on a very pertinent subject and look forward to hearing from you. You may have some ideas or problems you wish to impart. We may start a 'Dear Bandy' column.

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4th Base Workshop Battalion  
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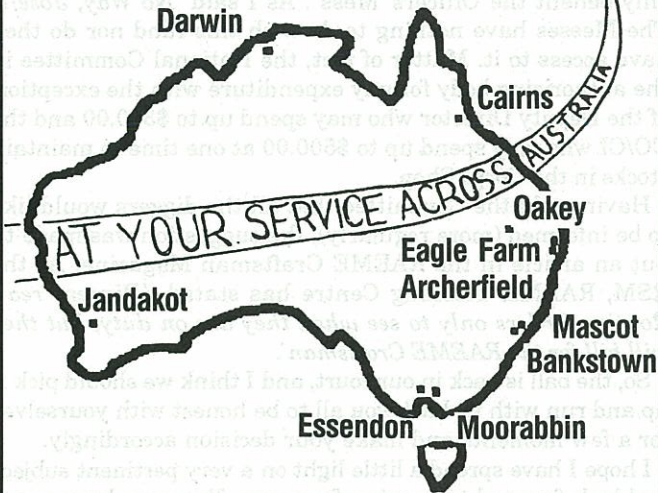
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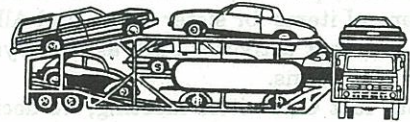
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# RAEME CORPS HISTORY

by MAJ G. POLKINGHORNE

In 1987 the RAEME Corps Committee, under the auspices of the Representative Colonel Commandant Brigadier R.S.P. Amos RFD ED RL, initiated action to have the history written. After months of research and numerous phone calls, an approach was made to Mr Theo Barker (pictured at the RAEME Trg Centre) to ask if he would be interested in taking on the project. At the 1988 Meeting, the Committee agreed to appoint Mr Theo Barker to write the RAEME Corps History.

Mr Barker has a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Degree and a Diploma of Education from the University of Sydney. He is an Australian and served as a Captain in the Signals Corps in the British Army in India. He is a retired history lecturer from Mitchell College of Advanced Education. He is a renowned author and has written several books including "Signals" History of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals 1788-1947.

The RAEME Corps Committee is responsible for funding History. Mr Barker applied for an Australian War Memorial Grant-In-Aid to ease the financial burden on the RAEME Corps Fund. The Committee learned early this year that the War Memorial had approved the grant to Mr Barker and this grant will cover a small portion of Mr Barker's travelling expenses, typing, and reproduction.

Mr Barker plans to carry out preliminary research before presenting a final plan to the Committee for approval. He will commence writing mid 1989 and has estimated that the manuscript will take two years to write. The Committee plan to have the History published in time for the 50th Birthday of the Corps in 1992.

The Committee considered a number of possible titles for the History. The preferred suggestion was 'Craftsman of the Australian Army - The Story of RAEME'. The Colonels Commandant agreed to discuss the matter with their respective Military District Committees and report their findings at the next Corps Committee Meeting.

Mr Barker plans to visit all Military Districts to speak to both current and past serving members of the Corps. He will also be collecting artefacts and photographs for inclusion in the book.



Mr Theo Barker at RAEME Trg Centre



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# WELL DONES

**Congratulations to the following members who received recognition for services rendered on Australia Day 1989.**

Major A.W.C. (Jock) Fraser AM 1 Base Wksp Bn.  
Captain W.J. Coles OAM 2 Base Wksp Bn.

## LT PETER JENNINGS AWARD

*The RAEME Corps Committee has just approved the introduction of a LT Peter Jennings Award.*

Lt Jennings entered RMC in Jan 82 and graduated into RAEME as a LT in 1985. He completed a degree in Mechanical Engineering at ADFA in 1986 and was posted to 4 Base Wksp Bn in January 1987. He died in April 1987 while attending an ROB Course.

His family arranged for his car to be sold and requested that the money (\$15000) be invested and interest used as a perpetual prize for outstanding achievements in the young officers course.

The RAEME Corps Committee agreed that the award should recognise the best officer attending each year's ROB Course. The assessment is to be made from course reports and all other reports available to the selection panel. The award should recognise the overall qualities which indicate the best potential and the most capable officer from the course, a reflection of the same qualities displayed by LT Jennings himself. A Corps Instruction on the Award will be issued in due course.

The Award will consist of a perpetual and individual trophy. The Corps Committee has commissioned Mrs Doris Saaghy, sculpture of Landsborough, Victoria to make the perpetual trophy. Mrs Saaghy produced 'one-offs' destroying the mould after production. She has been responsible for a number of sculptures including the 3MD RAEME Craftsman of the Year trophy. The trophy could not be ready for the inaugural presentation but will be ready for 1989.



*Pictured is the DGEME Brigadier C. Ermert, the inaugural LT Jennings Award winner LT C.A. Sheehan and Mr and Mrs Jennings.*

The inaugural winner is LT Craig Alexander Sheehan of Perth Wksp Coy. LT Sheehan is an ex 34th Intake Electronic Trade Bn. He attended RMC from 13 Jan 87 and graduated as a LT into RAEME on 21 Jun 88. He is currently posted to Perth Wksp Coy. He attended the 2/88 ROB Course. On his course report LT Sheehan was described as an energetic, bright, reliable and enterprising officer who displayed sound judgment to achieve an excellent overall result.

LT Sheehan was presented his award in Adelaide at a special luncheon on 2 Dec 88 hosted by BRIG L.J. Lewis, Colonel Commandant 4MD/7MD. The DGEME, BRIG Ermert made the presentation in the presence of Mr and Mrs Jennings.

## ARTIFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD

1205029 SSGT L.J. Krause was awarded the 1987/88 Artificer of the year award based on his results from 1/87 subj 4 (wo) Electronics. SSGT Krause was recently posted from AAS to RTC.



*SSGT L.J. Krause is presented with the Artificer of the Year Award 1987/88.*

## RAEME REGIMENTAL AWARD

**WO2 J.J. (Jeff) Tierney - 1 Base Wksp Bn**

WO2 Tierney enlisted as an Army Apprentice on 14 Jan 72. He graduated as a Vehicle Mechanic in 1976. WO2 Tierney won the award by being the best student at the Subject Two (RAEME) course in 1988.



*WO2 Jeff Tierney receives the RAEME Regimental Award from MAJGEN P.M. Jeffreg AM, MC, Commander 1st Division at the 1MD RAEME Birthday Parade.*

**CRAFTSMAN OF YEAR WINNERS -  
1988**

**ARA National and 5MD Craftsman of Year  
Award.**

**Cfn M.J. Saltmarsh.**

Cfn Saltmarsh was posted to SASR in Jan 87. He is a 38th Intake apprentice and completed his vehicle mechanic training at 2 Base Wksp Bn. An exceptional tradesman and valued member of the unit, he plays rugby and touch and has represented 5MD



*Cfn Saltmarsh*

**1105574 CFN LINDSAY MORRIS DIGWEED  
National and 1MD ARes Craftsman of the Year  
1988**

CFN Digweed enlisted in the ARes on 7 April 1987 and was posted to 1 TRG GP as a Vehicle Mechanic.

Although a member of the ARes for only a short time, Lindsay has dedicated a great deal of time in support of unit courses and activities.

His co-operative nature and willingness to provide technical assistance to his unit, coupled with his high

standard of trade and military skill, earned him the nomination for Queensland's ARes Craftsman of the year.

Lindsay has recently completed a six month period of full time duty with 6 RAR TECH SPT SECT, and has since returned to his former employer, Greig International at Banyo; obviously a much wiser man for his experience.

The Technical Support Section of 1 TRG GP is looking forward to CFN Digweed's return and can promise him plenty of opportunities to practise his skills leading up to K89.



*CFN Lindsay Morris Digweed*

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**Other Craftsmen of Year 1988 Winners are:**

- 1 MD
- ARA Cfn C.R. Kingston (VM), 5 Base Wksp Bn.
- 2 MD
- ARA Cpl M.B. Kent (Fit Armt) 8/12 Mdm Regt TST
- ARES Cfn J.M. Austin (Clk Adnain) 111 Fd Wksp
- 3 MD
- ARA Cfn C.J. Moule (Stmn Tech), 4 Base Wksp Bn
- ARES Cfn M. Ansell (VM) 8/13 VMR
- 4 MD
- ARA Cfn J.C. Looker (VM) Adelaide Wksp Coy
- ARES Cfn J.T. Gyepes (Spvr Tpt) 107 Fd Wksp
- 5 MD
- ARES Cfn G.R. Baily (VM) 113 Fd Wksp
- 6 MD
- ARA LCpl J.M. Radcliffe (Recov Mech) Hobart Wksp Pl
- ARES Cfn T.A. Williams (Clk Prod) 301 CommZ Fd Wksp
- 7 MD
- ARA LCpl P.D. Hoskings (Fit Elec) HQ 7 MD Wksp Pl

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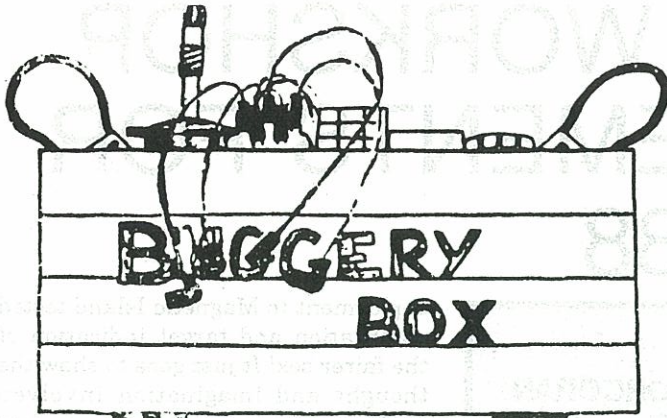
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An EMEMIC Site Supervisors' Conference was held at Randwick in February. Representatives from all sites, HQ Log Comd and DGEME attended and numerous ideas were exchanged and problems sorted out.

\* \* \* \*

WO 1 Trevor Harris, who attempted the Westfield Sydney to Melbourne Ultra-marathon last year, is at it again. He will be attempting to break a world record which has stood for \*\* years. It will involve running 2.6 km every hour for 1000 hrs. A course has been set up near Russell Offices, and support from all Army Office Branches has been arranged. The attempt commences on 25 April and goes for six weeks non stop.

\* \* \* \*

### 106TH FIELD WORKSHOP TWENTY FIRST BIRTHDAY

106th Field Workshop was raised and brought onto the ORBAT of the 1 AS Task Force in Vietnam on the First of November, 1968. The unit will be commemorating this occasion with a Twenty-First Birthday parade and reunion celebrations on the 28th and 29th of October 1989. These activities will be held at the unit, Damour Barracks, Coopers Plains, Brisbane.

All former unit members are invited to attend this celebration. To assist with planning and distribution of invitations, all interested former unit members are asked to write to the unit, giving their name and address and names and addresses of any other former members they know of.

*These should be sent to:*

**106th Field Workshop  
Damour Barracks  
Orange Grove Road  
COOPERS PLAINS QLD 4108**

The current members of the unit look forward to meeting as many of their predecessors as possible on the day.

\* \* \* \*

Hobart Workshop Platoon is sending its unit sign to the Corps Museum to display as a piece of history. The workshop is now a sub-unit of Hobart Logistic Company. Perhaps all other workshops which have been amalgamated into Logistic companies, battalions and groups could do likewise.

\* \* \* \*

### RAEME ASSOCIATION (NSW)

The Seventeenth Annual general Meeting of the RAEME Association (NSW) was held at the Homebush Training Depot on the 24 February 89.

There have been a few changes in the Association Office Bearers.

The Office Bearers for 1989 are:

Patron:	Brig. Harry Martins. O.B.E. (Ret)
President:	Joe Marment
Vice President:	Mike O'Donohoe
Secretary:	Lawrie O'Brien
Treasurer:	Norm McNevin
Asst. Treasurer:	Barry McFayden
Committee:	Ken Clark, David Payne, Peter Attenborough, Ray Preston
Padre:	Rev. David Hayes
Auditor:	Brendan Robertson
Museum Curator:	Lawrie O'Brien
Editor:	John Lehn

Further information on any matter may be obtained from:

L. O'Brien		
Secretary,		2nd Base Wksp Bn,
6 Jacqueline Pl.,	or	Milpo,
Moorebank, 2170.		Holsworthy 2173.
Ph: (02) 601 2692.		Ph: (02) 600 4214.

\* \* \* \*

In the early 70s, at RTC, a new direct entry officer, who had been a civvy the day before, was placed in the care of two 'trustworthy' National Service officers, to show him the ropes.

One morning, the two LTs were watching the Monday morning RSM's Parade, a big affair in those days, with several hundred ORs on parade. No offices allowed, this was a fair dinkum RSM's parade. The new officer came into the office. The conversation went like this:

NEW OFFICER: 'What are you fellows doing?'  
TRUSTWORTHY TWO: 'Watching the RSM's Parade – Cripes mate, you're supposed to be taking the salute.'

NEW OFFICER: 'Yes I know – but what do I do?'

TRUSTWORTHY TWO: 'Well you stand at attention beside the parade ground. You know, feet together, right. Then when the RSM has everybody all in position and lined up, you march straight over to him, make sure you swing your arms, and stop about four paces from him. He will turn to you. You then salute, and say "Taking Over RSM". It's simple from there on, because the RSM will tell you very clearly what to do.'

NEW OFFICER: 'Thanks fellas.'

The new officer stood beside the parade ground waiting. The two trustworthy friends alternated between looking at the Parade through the window, and rolling with laughter on the office floor. Laughing a bit too loudly, because the Adjutant heard the noise and came in asking what the racket was about. The two, with tears of laughter rolling down their face, managed to tell the Adjutant the tale. The Adjutant's eyes popped and jaw dropped as he heard, and when he saw the new officer marching onto the parade to 'Take Over', he bolted towards the Parade Ground, crying 'My God, the RSM will eat him'. At the edge of the Parade ground, he broke into a very, very Quick March. He reached the new officer as he halted near the RSM and quickly brought him off the startled Parade.

Footnote: the two officers seemed to have a lot of extra Duty Officers that month.

# 102ND FIELD WORKSHOP UNIT ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 1988

**A**t last, my lifetime dream is about to be fulfilled – to write for the RAEME Craftsman and to tell all just how good we are at 102 Fd Wksp. That's right, the ODF workshop for all you southerners!

Anyway, enough of this. I'd better start dropping names to keep the boys happy.

Our sporting achievements for the year were numerous, and included beating the grunts at their own game – shooting. The shooting team consisting of CFN Matt Matus and CPL's Pete Mitchell, Kel Lyons, Mick Creaves and Steve Ross managed to win the champion unit trophy and the minor unit trophy.

Other sporting milestones for 1988 include undefeated NQ Area tug-of-war champions. The 102 side proved their worth at the Brigade Athletics

By  
**LT BRETT CORCORAN**  
OCGE

Carnival by winning both weight divisions.

Despite our ongoing commitment to support the ODF we managed to gain third place in the Brigade Military Skills Competition and second place in the Brigade cross-country competition. Could it have been by chance that our SUPO, (LT Aldaus Sveilis Luto doesn't mind having his name mentioned), managed to come 102nd in the brigade cross-country?

All these sporting achievements helped to win the Brigade Commanders Trophy for 1988, signifying our sporting excellence.

Major exercises Max Beagle, Swift Eagle '88 and the unit deployment practised and tested 102's operations in the field. Meanwhile, G.E.'s

deployment to Magnetic Island tested observation and target indication of the fairer sex! It just goes to show the thought and imagination involved with our intensive training programme.

Unfortunately our ex-OC Major Dave Cocker and Corporal John (the Swan) Busher were forced to participate in Exercise Tropic Lightning in Hawaii. I'm told John had a smile from ear to ear the whole time – I just hope he didn't pick up any nasty diseases!

Before I finish, I'd like to leave you with some intriguing questions. – Just how many vehicles ran over LT Morphy's slouch hat on Exercise Nightmare? What was the terminal velocity of the OC when he struck the ground after his para-sailing adventure? And who was the Warrants Officer responsible for bogging a new 110 Landrover on a recon for PT?

Finally, a special mention for the TQMS WO2 Bob Harms who has given 20 years faithful service and is about to retire. Now, about those extra set of cans .....

1988 proved to be an excellent year for 102 Fd Wksp tug-of-war team when, true to RAEME tradition we successfully pulled off every trophy in the North Queensland area.

The year started well in June with the first victories at the Endeavour Foundation Day when the team blitzed the opposition to take the 640 kg, 720 kg and catchweight trophies in the Dr Skip Dorney Perpetual Shield.

This was closely followed by the North Queensland RAEME Birthday competition on the 1st of July (who says we're slow up here?) when again it was the 102 team victorious, this time against all the other Tech Supports in the area.

On July 6 it was another win at the Townsville show day followed by the 640 kg and 720 kg shields at the Brigade sports day. In addition to these we sent members away to Albury Wodonga for the national



CFN Matt MATUS CPL Pete MITCHELL CPL Kel LYONS CPL Mick GREAVES  
CPL Steve ROSS with the champion unit trophy

titles, Texas and Sydney as part of the Lavarack Barracks Team.

So it was that under the leadership of Cpl "Gus" Guthridge, the guidance of WO1 Gavin Bicknell and with principle team members like LCpl "Pico" Picton and Cpl "Ghecko" Spann that 102 pulled its way into the record books to become undisputed North Queensland tug-of-war champions.

## THE PRINCE PHILIP BANNER VISITS NORTH QUEENSLAND

by Lieutenant Ron Parello

On the 1st July 1988, RAEME Units in the Townsville area paraded and celebrated the 46th birthday of "The" Royal Corps. Southern units may think this is strange as the Corps' birthday is the 1st December. The reason behind this is so that the Prince Philip Banner can be seen and paraded by Northern based units.

The parade's Reviewing Officer was Brigadier Doug Formby. He was met by the Host Officer, the Honorary



BRIG Formby promotes LCPL Sault Walter Crock.

RAEME Colonel Commandant for 1st Military District, Colonel T.B. Schoeffler.

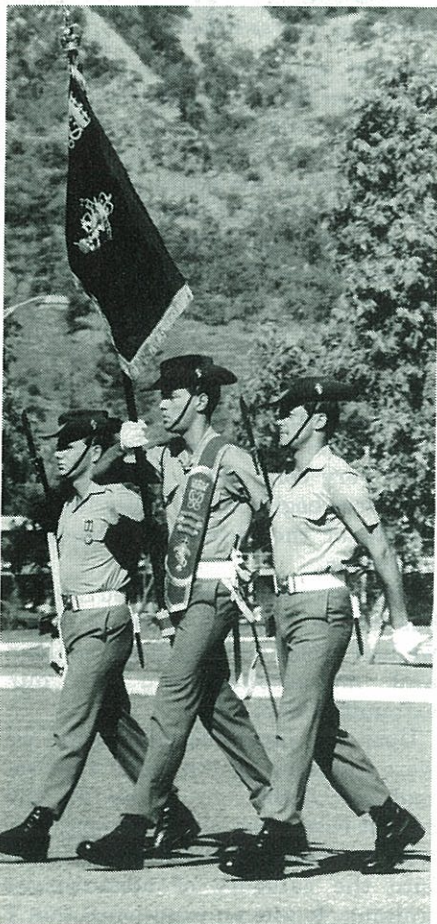
The parade was a huge success, with the flypast of three helicopters from 162 Renaissance Squadron which trailed smoke in the colours of blue, yellow and red. Holding ground during the parade were four Fitters Tracks, which took to their positions at the four corners of the parade ground prior to the parade marching on.

During the parade, the mascot of 102 Field Workshop, Craftsman Sault

Walter Crock, affectionately known as "Snappa", was promoted to Lance Corporal by Brigadier Formby. Snappa's handler, Sergeant Kev Swatten, had more than his hands full as the day warmed up and Snappa became frisky.

The Prince Philip Banner was carried by Lieutenant Tim Gellel and escorted by Warrant Officers Second Class Stewart and Ryan.

After the parade, members departed to the Lavarack Area Pool for a sports afternoon.



The Prince Philip Banner carried by LT T. Gellel and escorted by WO2s Stewart and Ryan.

## OBITUARY

COLONEL C.D. WHEELDON, RL

It is with regret that we record the death of Colonel Charles David Wheeldon, RL, on 8th March, 1989.

Colonel Wheeldon's military career began in 1947 at the Royal Military College. He had many appointments including command of 101 Infantry Workshop and 4th Base Workshop Battalion. His most recent appointments were SO1 EME at Headquarters Field Force Command, Commander Headquarters 1 EME Group, and DLO at Material Branch in Canberra.

As a Corps we extend our sympathy to his wife Margaret, his daughter Sue and his son Peter.

Farewell and God Bless

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I would like to point out an error in your issue Number 19 of the RAEME Craftsman. In the article the DGEME in the 88s WO2 Bob Carlos was given the title "the original CSM 5 Avn Regt Wksp." This in fact is wrong since our current CSM WO2 John McCully is and will always be the original CSM of 5 Aviation Regiment Workshop. WO2 Bob Carlos will be the second CSM to the Unit on his posting to Townsville.

In fairness to WO2 McCully it would be appreciated if this error could be corrected in the next issue of The Craftsman.

Maj. J.J. Michajlow

# Coldest November Day in History or "Exercise Craftsman Canoe, Climber"

by Cpl Dennis Beckett

It was decided in July 88 that the Tech Support Troop from the School of Drop Shorts should partake in an Adventure Training exercise towards the end of the year. Adventure Training Exercises by definition should be both physically and mentally challenging and provide something a little bit different from the norm.

Well Billy (don't tell the boss he has a nick name), decided what the hell we'll walk to the top of the world. (our world anyway). "We'll hike to the top of Mt. Kosciusko". He said, "now which is the hardest route".

A quick trip to the Head Quarters of the National Parks and Wildlife at Saw Pit Creek where Ranger Steve Elkin told us that a walk down Hammels Ridge would probably be as arduous a



*The fragile Alpine region being restored to its regal splendour.*

day trip as any. The boss decided, "Great lets walk up Hammels Ridge". That takes care of a couple of days "What else can we do?"

One thing we decided to do was assist the National Parks and Wildlife people with a little free labour and demolish the foundation of an old Alpine Hut at Lake Albina. It appears some free loaders were living there for weeks at a time, and peeing, etc. above the lake and it was becoming polluted.

The last phase of our exercise was to be a relaxing canoe down part of the Snowy River.

## Part 1:

### The hike up Hammels Ridge

We started to hike up the Ridge early Tuesday morning. It was pretty hard going but really not much out of the ordinary. Just a reasonably hard climb up 1500 metres. That night we camped at Byatts camp which is about 200 mtrs below the summit of Mt Kosciusko. At this point some wanker - CFN Mark Hutchins (Hutch) said and I quote "wouldn't it be great if when we woke the ground was covered by snow". Unquote.

Well he got his wish. We awoke Wednesday morning with a generous

cover of snow and began the final assault on Mt. Kosciusko. As we got higher the wind blew harder and it got colder and colder. After we had been walking for a few hours we were in the middle of a blizzard, and to be quite honest becoming a little worried about our health. We had heard stories about people freezing to death in the Mountains, and as we kept going some of the guys began to think they were going to die, or at least loose finger from frost bite. By the time we reached the road near the summit we were very cold and a couple of the lads were beginning to really feel the effects of the extremely atrocious conditions.

When we eventually climbed into the bus for the ride back to the ski lodge we had icicles hanging from our hair and moustaches and all our extremities were numb.

Upon our return to civilization we were informed by the locals that we had completed our climb on the coldest November Day in history. The walk up Hammels Ridge certainly fell into the category of adventurous training. It was an experience that I will never forget but I should add, I won't be doing it again - ever.

*The day started well.*

## Part 2.

### Demolish Alpine Hut and walk around the Alpine Lakes.

After our ordeal on the mountain we were pleased that we had arranged to stay at the Southern Alps Ski Lodge where we could have a hot shower and sleep in a bed. We had a day of rest on Thursday and walked out to Albina hut, carrying sledge hammers and picks etc. on Friday. The weather had cleared on the way out and we were in fine spirits when we arrived at the ruins. Everything went fine during the demolishing, although I recommend you don't stand too close to the boss when he has a pick in his hand. He is dangerous. The next day we went for a hike around the Alpine Lakes. We saw some magnificent views especially Blue Lake. Apparently the views were just as magnificent, when we walked up Hammels Ridge only we couldn't see it due to the atrocious weather. Anyway we had done our little bit to restore the fragile Alpine region to its regal splendour and the Rangers said we were welcome to come back anytime to do some more interesting tasks for them.



"All our extremities were numb."

## Part 3.

### Canoeing down the Snowy.

Well this was something really exciting. We climbed into our canoes in a side creek and went 400 mtrs and decided we could canoe "no worries", so off to the big river. What a mistake!!!! The river which was usually no more than a trickle, - the same river that we were told we would have to carry our canoes over some parts of it, carried us down most of it. The river was up 20 ft and needless to say, was flowing pretty bloody quickly. The normally placid river was now a Class 3 rapid. Two of the canoes capsized and were threatening to be washed into the

ocean. A rescue mission was undertaken and one hour later the canoes were saved, next, where did the paddles go. So off we set in our canoes and after falling out a couple of times we recovered all but one paddle. The general consensus of opinion was that canoeing was great fun but the snowy river was a bit dangerous with the volume of water that was flowing.

In conclusion we certainly did some unusual activities and fortunately we all came through with a smile, even if it was frozen on. So we most certainly fulfilled the requirement of our adventurous training exercise and I doubt any one could honestly say they did not enjoy the experience.

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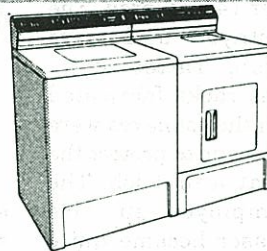
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# FROM THE FIELD TO THE STAGE

REPORT FROM

## TATTOO TECHNICAL SUPPORT TROOP



Bicentennial Military Tattoo

The first of June 1988 started what was rumoured to be the biggest 'SWAN TRIP' you could dream of. Instead the Tech Support of the ARMY TATTOO 88 worked numerous hard and long hours on jobs totally unfamiliar to the tradesmen involved. The ASM, WO2 'RAGS' Magnussen, pathed the way for the Tech Support in gearing up with specialist tools and documentation relevant to any ordinary Tech Support, he started in February with the Q Store and is still going as this story goes to press.

Many tasks given to the Tech Support Tp involved many hours of preparation and material that are usually hard to procure at short notice. The first major task was the refurbishment of 14x20 foot industrial connexes, this became a common task as the connexes issued initially were the wrong ones and they disappeared one day and another 14 appeared. The connexes then stayed and were sprayed olive drab, Tattoo signs secured and clothes racks fabricated and welded in, then the connexes were lined with ply and plastic to protect the costumes, boy, what a first job. The fitter's being employed in the connexes, the greaser became quite good at welding (to their standard) making mirror stands, and numerous minor tasks. Overall a lot of time and effort was place din to tasks prior to the start of rehearsals, in early August.

Other tasks were the making of the Gun Race Obstacles, modifying civilian site safes to hold heritage and service wpns with ammunition particular to the show, modifying Indian toy rifles to be realistic firing muskets, and also refurbishing the Ferret Scout Car and white Scout Car from 2 Cav Regt.

There were some (not too many) funny and memorable times with certain members of TSS having a fear of heights and not even going near the construction and dismantle of the stage set.



SGT Radford, CFNS Rodwell, Bravo, Kelly, Hocking and Naylor, (PL Quick and WO2 Magnussen)

(Sign courtesy of NQ Wksp Coy).

CFN 'Blue' Naylor had a narrow escape when a rampaging 12 inch shifter refused to work and jumped from the stage and attacked him inflicting 3 stitches on his head. The shifter was never seen again.

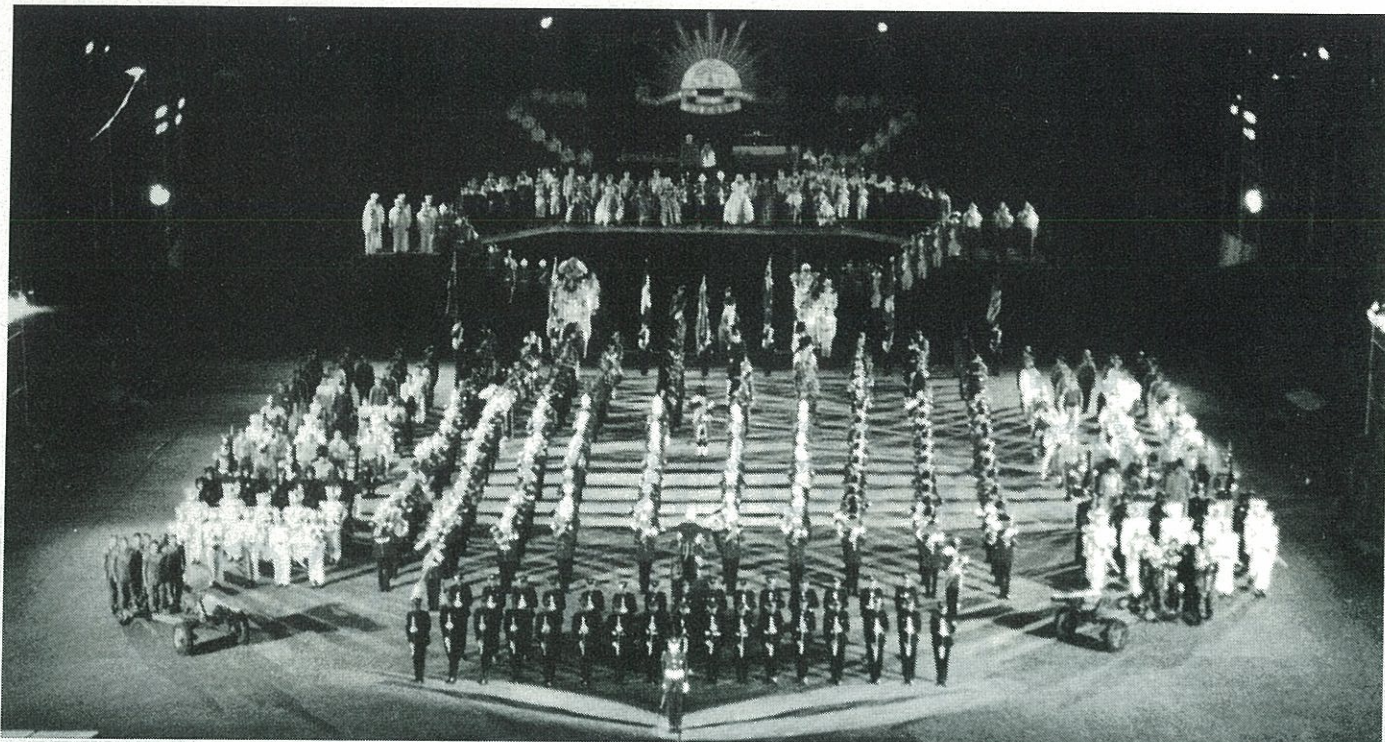
The Tech Support Tp developed a flair for Playboy centrefolds in their section area and comments and complaints grew but the collection grew as the tour developed, also signs started to appear such as 'Performer Free Zone' 'OUI Section' and 'Angry Section' becoming a common sight and getting excellent reviews from the cast and visiting dignatories. Memories of having CFN Tom 'NED' Kelly (103 Fd Wksp) eating breakfast at 3.00am and the section's little drinking session watching the sun rise in many venues.

When the Tattoo Regiment returned to Sydney for a long awaited rest, the

Tech Support did not rest, refurbishing, cleaning, inspecting, restoring almost everything used on the Tattoo. This was tolerable due to the fact that we started working normal working hours. Not 4.00pm till 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. Being nocturnal and wearing sunnies was hard to adjust to on return.

Overall the Tech Support Tp worked hard with definitely little time to relax and sightsee. The quote from the tour remains locked in all members minds, the OC HQ SQN stated "YOU WANT TIME OFF AND SLEEP ALSO?" With that statement we made the most of our free time and tried to enjoy the tour.

With the tour over and memories filed away, the Tech Support Troop of the Tattoo Regiment would like to pass on many thanks and appreciations to the units and their



members around Australia that gave their help and necessary time to maintain and repair the numerous Tattoo stores and equipment. The units that gain particular mention are the 2nd Base Wksp Bn and the TSS of HQ 1 Bde who without their support in the initial stages of the Tattoo, the actual production wouldn't have even gotten into rehearsal stages.

The Tech Support disbanded on the 31st January 1989 ending an era of comradeship and memories. Being part of the Tattoo Regiment and having such a short life span showed all members the ability of the RAEME tradesman to adjust to any situation and carry out very unusual tasks in very hard and enduring environments. The end result in production time was a shock to all members of the Tech Support. 6000 hrs of production were carried out on

very unusual equipment and the ASM and his 7 dwarfs", has become saying came forth at the end. "The common in all ranks of the Tattoo.

**BICENTENNIAL MILITARY TATTOO REGIMENT TECHNICAL SUPPORT  
SUB UNIT  
ROLL CALL**

WO2 Lee 'RAGS' Magnussen	ASM Tattoo Regiment	101 Fd Wksp
SGT John Radford	SGT TSS (occasional Stage Hand)	2nd Base Wksp Bn
'The Real Workers'		
CPL John 'FLASH 1' Quick	CPL Sect leader GE	101 Fd Wksp
CFN 'RODDY' Rodwell	FTR Armt	5/7 RAR Mech Tech Spt Coy
CFN 'NED Kelly	FTR Maint	103 Fd Wksp Leichhardt
CFN Steve 'SHOCKER' Hockings	Welder	101 Fd Wksp
CFN Dave 'FLASH2' Bravo	Veh Mech	101 Fd Wksp
CFN Gary 'BLUE' Naylor	Veh Mech	101 Fd Wksp

Written by WO2 Magnussen & Cfn Naylor  
Photograph by CPL Quick

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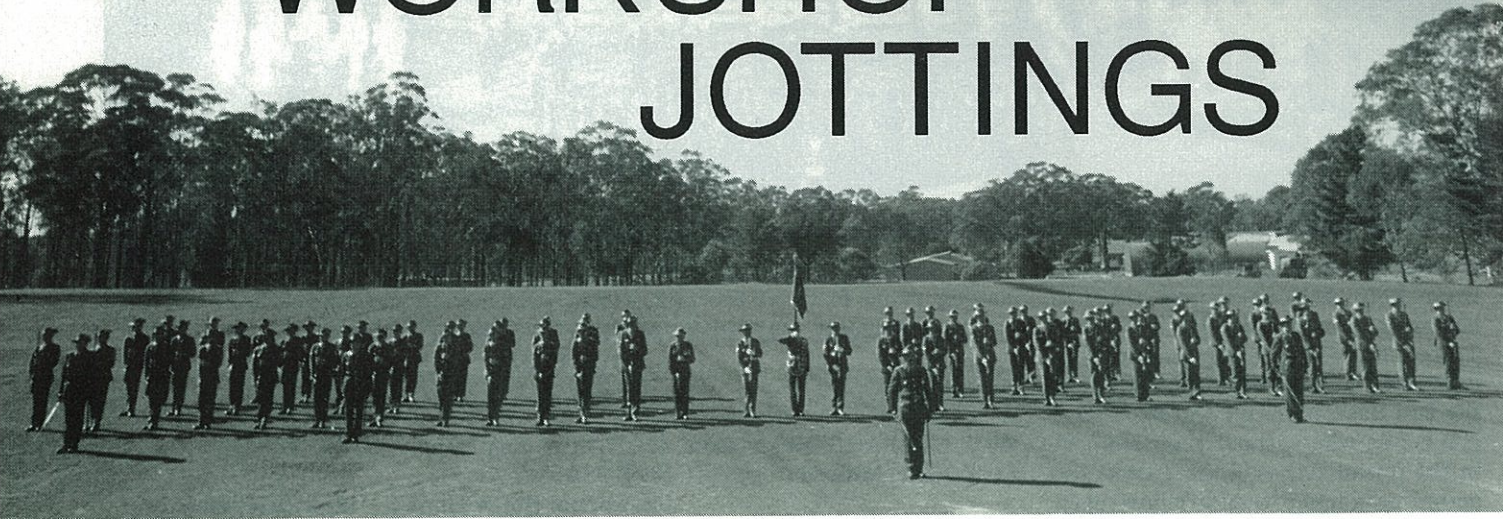
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# 101st FIELD WORKSHOP – JOTTINGS



101 Fd Wksp On Parade Flypast by 161 Recce Sqn.

*With 1988 at a close it's a good time to reflect on a year gone by.*

**T**hank God we only have one bicentennial year and I won't be around for the tricentennial (tri to get it right next time). Well the unit has not touched the ground with two feet at the same time since January. With all the ceremonial activities we've been involved in the Christmas break is looking good.

With close ties to Campbelltown, the unit was involved with Australia Day citizenship ceremonies, opening of an RSL Community Centre and a guard for the opening of the Australian Squash Championships. To round the year off we exercised our right of Freedom of the City of Campbelltown by leading the famous Fishers Ghost Festival through the streets of Campbelltown. As a sign of our ties

with the city the Campbelltown Council invited us to join our unit Christmas function with their Christmas ball, a great night as had by all.

Close to home ceremonial activities involved the unit Birthday Parade with Brig Sanderson and Campbelltown Council members as official guests. The parade as usual was a success with the Pipes and Drums of 3 and 5/7 Bn RAR providing musical support with a fly past by 161 Recce Sqn trailing the Corps colours (I hear that Comd 1 Bde was asking the OC how he got air hours when the Comd count'd, obvious, that's why they posted the OC to 101 Fd Wksp). After the unit Birthday parade, RAEME Birthday was upon us. As per usual 101 Fd Wksp won the sports competition (I see that CPL Rob McConnell really put his guts into and out of the trailer race). When will you all learn that 101 cant be beaten (OK 2

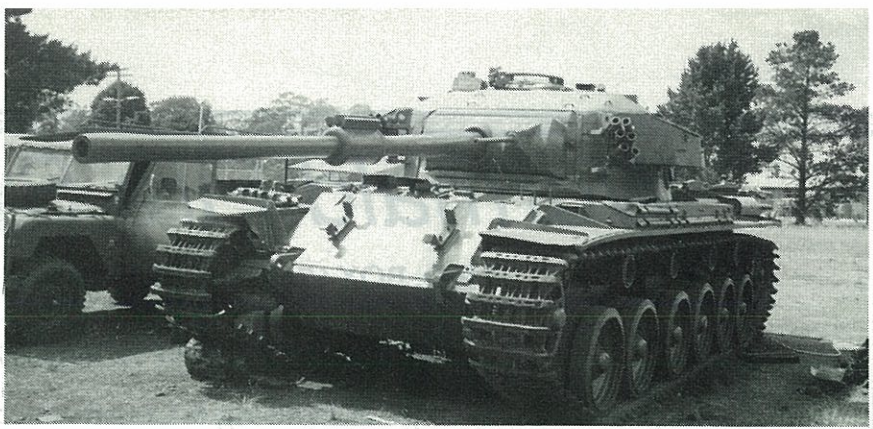
Base you're good at tuggin') at sports. CPL "Ning" McGrane's operation was a success (remember last year's dislexic egg thrower) and the chain of command relay had only a 15% mortality rate. Even with the bade 'yoke' by 1 Werft of knocking our eggs off they couldn't win.

On the sports field 101 was represented in most of the major sporting events with our Rugby, Touch and Golf teams becoming the 'bridesmaids' this year; better luck next year (from a small unit comes a big bark and a big bite). In the basketball the unit team has been blitzing the opposition and took out the premiership (one thing grunts don't like is being beaten by RAEME poges).

When we had spare time (I wish) the unit got down to doing its main job and that was supporting the units of 1 Bde and anything else that was thrown our way. A very productive year with all our customers satisfied.

This year the unit was tasked with refurbishing a Centurian tank for a static display outside the Holsworthy Barracks entrance. Expert advice was sought from our resident 'Cent' expert WO2 Neil 'Butch' Butcher, (who it seems worked on the same vehicle when it was in service. Memories! Butch, did you join the Army when centurion was a rank or a tank?) Anyway we are now the only workshop with our own Centurion complete with '88 tac sign. Could this be a start for an armoured field workshop?

On the training side the first deployment of the year was to Holsworthy for a shake out in February on exercise Rusty Bolt. Iron Triangle was next, the LSG exercise gave us a chance to practise in our role as LSG workshop in a new area where we hadn't previously exercised, S.A. (bloody hot). To round the training year off Ex Tight Nut was conducted in conjunction with a TEWT for officers and senior NCO's. ARes RTC and Sydney unit reps attended and were practised in actually siting a workshop. There were a few surprised faces when the unit was laid out, a bit different from the visions of some in



Centurian tank refurbished.

the fields of defence and area required. I hear that SGT "Fingers' Ryan" enjoyed the exercise so much he said we could keep the tip (not pointing the finger at anyone Dennis but then again you can't, can you!), rumour has it that the finger received full military honours.

Once again, a group of intrepid crafties set off to Tully to do battle with the Gympie and wait-a-while. Lt Ken (Bush Tucker Man) Hoppe escorted our crafties into the wild. Ken displayed his naturalist talent of identification by calling an ambush off when the ambushers were ambushed by snakes. CFN Chase was looking forward to Tully so much that in his excitement he forgot to turn up (Chasey said on Friday afternoon "See

ya on Monday" - Chasey, where ever you are, Merry Christmas!)

With the close of the year, we welcome back to the unit our Tattoo Tech Support who have travelled the country. We also say goodbye or Bon Voyage to our UNTAG members who are going to Nambibia with the engineers.

With so many people being posted in and out I would need another five pages to list them all. But we offer our OC, Major George Yacoub a fond farewell and wish him all the success at Command and Staff College and warm welcome to Major O'Brien who marches in as the new OC.

So, from all members of 101 Fd Wksp we offer you a safe and prosperous New Year.



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21 Const Sqn Wksp is a very busy unit 1988 was as usual a full and hard working year. During the year the Wksp or at least some element of the Wksp was deployed to many various localities. These included New Zealand, Malaysia, South Australia, Western Australia, North Queensland, New South Wales and of course various areas within Victoria.

The year started off with the OC, Capt Tony Rice, being sent to New Zealand for two weeks as part of an Australian Observer Group on a Kiwi Force Maintenance Group exercise. Meanwhile a large proportion of Wksp personnel were away on an all expenses paid holiday to Victoria Barracks, Sydney, as part of the now annual Squadron guard commitment.

This was followed by many weeks of preparing, packing and checking equipment during Ex Steady Pack, the Logistic Support Group (LSG) check on our requirement to deploy with 28 days notice. Once the check was completed it was off to Port Augusta, S.A., for Operation Iron Triangle, a combination of the LSG exercise, an ARES Brigade exercise and a Logistics Over the Shore exercise (LOTS). Wksp members found themselves very busy supporting road moves, manning FRT's and completing repairs at the Wksp site. The exercise lasted four weeks.

Two weeks after returning home in May, farewells were once again exchanged as the Wksp deployed to Singleton range as part of 1 Const Regt for another four week exercise. By this time the Squadron had received their entitlement to Perentie vehicles much to the delight of the lead footed drivers. However the ASM, WO1 Mal Polson was kept very busy raising numerous Rodums, mainly concerning cracked chassis and lifting eyes amongst several quality control faults.

During this time Cfn Jamie Hickenbotham was detached to support a Const Tp deployed to Butterworth for two months. He returned in early August well tanned and a little poorer. The Wksp returned from the Regt exercise late June to enjoy about six weeks at home. However training for Land Comd Battle School in Tully which was planned for August began almost

# 21 CONST SQN WKSP ANOTHER FULL YEAR

By Capt Tony RICE

immediately on return from Singleton.

This consisted of route marches, endurance training and mil skills. Everybody (?) was really looking forward to Tully?? When the awesome event finally arrived it turned out less daunting than everybody had imagined. On the contrary most people found the challenge rewarding and all Wksp members performed extremely well.

September saw the start of an AFV Field Firing Target System project. This project demands extensive engineer resources and is planned to continue well into 1989. The Wksp is kept very busy supporting Squadron equipment especially the Komatsu scrapers which have serious problems remaining taskworthy. The consolation for family members is the project is on the Puckapunyal range and they can look forward to remaining home for several months.

However there were still numerous chances for other Wksp personnel to be deployed away from Puckapunyal. Support to Squadron DFACC projects in central Victoria and Gippsland were still required. Adventure training opportunities were available to some members. CPL Graham Barnett went to New Zealand for the basic adventure training course which lasted over two weeks. Cfn Steve Muscolino went to Perth for a month to form part of the crew to sail a square rigger for adventure training.

Besides career courses many other activities required Wksp personnel to be detached. These included support to the unit drivers course in July. Cpl's Peter Sherwood and Danny Murphy got to see the sights of outback central Australia and were kept busy maintaining the course vehicles on the road. Cpl Troy Leissner and Cfn Steve Budde were able to relive memories of Woomera from 1987 when they supported a Const Troop deployed there in March. Cpl's Mick Cross and Graham Barnett along with Cfn Warren Archer spent a week amongst the recruits at Kapooka

helping the engineers complete the classification range project. Many of us have nearly forgotten SGT Ray Allen who has been detached to the Tattoo Regt from June until December.

Other activities which demanded time and effort included the unit football team, whereby the Wksp was well represented, and the Freedom of the City of Kilmore parade conducted in October.

Looking back on 1988 we wonder how we managed to fit everything in. It had been a challenging year which demanded effort and commitment from all Wksp members. It has been proven by our performance in all aspects of our duties that 21 Cont Sqn Wksp provides a good service to our parent unit and is flexible enough to handle many varied tasks. Should you desire a posting that provides challenge, variety and the chance to travel to many localities then this is the unit for you. But be warned hard work is the normal and more than often we are called upon to perform above the normal.

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# Resident Contract Changes Hands

W.J. Coles

**A** change is as good as a holiday so they say. In these tough times 2nd Base Workshop Battalion could not afford to go on holidays so we opted for change instead.

On the 16 Jan 1989 at a ceremony attended by the 'who's who' of the Defence Contracting Organisation, Motor Traders Association and the Unit the resident vehicle contract officially changed hands. Mr John Bray of AVIBODY PTY LTD handed the keys to Mr Lew Williams of WRENDCO AUTOMOTIVE REPAIRS PTY LTD.

Big deal you say, contractors at Base Workshops change all the time. However, this one is different to say the least. Apart from being the biggest of its kind in the Army it is unique in its new concepts.

A resident vehicle contractors has existed at 2 Base for approximately 40 years. Auto Diesel had the contract form 1949 - 1952, followed by St. George Motors Pty Ltd until 1980, when Lew Williams Automotive Repair took over. He was succeeded by Avibody Pty Ltd in 1985 until WRENDCO assumed the reins this

year. Mr Lew Williams was the successful tenderer from eight (8) applications.

Over the last 40 years the contract has operated with very little change to its original conditions. This type of contract was referred to as a 'quote and order' and time and material' contract.

Prior to calling for tenders for this contract the Battalion Officers and Warrant Officers participated in a training day to establish guidelines for tenders. After being warned that this was not a resettlement seminar they split into several syndicates of unknown ability and under the supervision of "experts" in the field each syndicate was asked to tender for the contract. Surprisingly all syndicates, even those of dubious character, no names no pack drill, came within a few dollars of the accepted tender. With the easy part over, now to reduce overheads, reduce turnaround times and provide contractor incentive. This contract achieves these aims, naturally we designed it.

For the first time the contractor can now work to repair times as laid down by the Aust Automobile Chamber of Commerce and the NSW Motor Traders Association. This will allow



Mr John Bray hands over the keys to Lew Williams.

jobs that have been pre-inspected by RAEME inspectors to be loaded direct to the contractor on order. That is to say if the repair manual states three (3) hours for a repair the order is raised for three (3) hours avoiding the necessity to quote. Naturally built into this is the incentive for the contractor, if he can reduce repair time by new techniques or the introduction of new equipment. This produces better turnaround time for us the customer and increased profit for him.

Previously the Army supplied a large number of repair parts. Now any item not immediately available becomes the contractor's responsibility. In addition this contractor is supplied with \$200,000

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worth of tools and equipment, however, when any of this equipment becomes unserviceable it is the contractor's responsibility to replace these items, not the Army.

So it can be seen that 'paper warfare' is greatly reduced for uniformed supervisory and support staff. This may explain Sydney's unseasonal Christmas weather caused by QM Capt Roger Hutchinson, SUPO Capt Graham Robinson, and Supervisors WO2 Boat Davies, Sgt Dino Perry and Sgt Snow herodes expending lots of sighs of relief and screaming about bloody time they looked after themselves. Whilst our brand new Contract Repair Officer Capt Sue Smith cried for divine assistance. These personnel can now be more beneficially employed in line with current defence policies.

The outgoing contractor Mr John Bray throughout the past five (5) years has been a valued and respected member of 2nd Base Workshop Battalion and the local community. He has actively participated in unit activities, sponsoring the well publicised and much acclaimed Tug of War Team and sponsoring fifty (50) work experience students from local

high schools. He is to return to his business at The Oaks. In addition to John we have lost a well known unit and Corps identity Mr Ray Fitzpatrick, after 27 years with the various resident contractors. Ray ha

moved on to manage Mr Bray's business.

I feel sure that members of the Corps join us in wishing the outgoing and incoming contractors all the best in their future endeavours.



Mr Lew Williams signs the new contract in front of, (from left) LTCOL Andrews, Mr Andrew Banyai (Defence Contracting), John Bray and Roy Privett (Motor Traders Assoc.).

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# —Repair Parts Ordering Trial—

One of the big bug-bears in the repair system is the process involved in ordering parts. There are numerous referrals to RPS, transcriptions of repair parts list numbers, conversions to NSNs, checking supercessions or 'in-lieus', writing, errors, keying-in and, of course, delays in finding out if a part is available and getting it.

Wouldn't it be a good idea if you could identify the desired part on a terminal screen and push a button and have the computer do the rest? Well there are such systems available and DGEME arranged for funding under the PEP-UP Scheme, for a trial at 1 Base Wksp Bn.

The purpose of the trial was to: test whether electronics interface with SCUBA would work;

determine any increases in efficiency and effectiveness, both with the interface and with just the production of the SQ 304.

While there are several systems on the market which allow ordering of parts by common name, nickname etc., the system chosen for the trial had the additional feature of ordering parts from a graphic display of an RPS drawing on the screen. It was decided to use the SCIMAS package because apart from this feature, it incorporated the features available on other systems.

## REPAIR PARTS ORDERING TRIAL

1 Base Workshop handles around 12,000 jobs annually, and efforts to streamline the supply of parts for these jobs has resulted in the trial of a computer based identification and Ordering System. A Brisbane software house, IBG, was approached to develop the trial system, and has supplied a package that has been received favourably by both RAAOC and RAEME.

The system is based on their proven commercial stock control system, SCIMAS, and has been modified to link into SCUBA. RPS's for all three versions of the Series 3 Land Rover were transferred into the trial database in both numeric and graphical formats. All the line drawings of parts may be seen on the graphics terminal supplied as part of the trial, allowing RAEME tradesmen to select parts "off the drawing". A tradesman only has to select the number of the part as shown on the drawing, and all relevant information is then transferred to a computer generated SQ-304. This eliminates many of the transcription errors that can occur as the order moves from the workshop floor through

the RPS to delivery of the part. It has been estimated that a transcription error is possible at nine different points in this process.

The SCUBA link also allows the tradesman to determine the local availability of a part at the time he orders the part. Currently this may take several days. Immediate access to part availability allows management decisions to be made earlier and more efficiently. It also eliminates delays caused by re-ordering when the tradesman requests an alternative to an unavailable part. If the part is known to be unavailable at the time of ordering, the alternative may be ordered immediately. This saves the time of both the tradesman and RPS personnel.

Having a graphical interface also allows the tradesman to identify the part correctly, and reduces the number of parts ordered incorrectly. This too saves time by allowing the correct part to be delivered the first time.

Several jobs were automated by SCIMAS, making the efforts of RPS personnel more efficient. Once information is entered into SCIMAS, it does not have to be re-entered. If it is required in another place, it is transferred automatically, or electronically copied at the user's request. At all stages in the process though, staff have the final authorisation. SCIMAS will not over-ride staff decisions.

While these benefits were realised immediately, all who used SCIMAS could see added benefits of a full system. With the link to SCUBA, all database information would be up to date and accurate. (In the trial, access to SCUBA was limited for security reasons). Accurate information allows the tradesman to make better decisions on the parts required. If for example, a carburettor gasket was required, but not available, the tradesman has the option of ordering a complete carburettor and returning the unserviceable carburettor as a repairable item. These decisions may be made without approach to the RPS, saving their time and saving

frustration on the part of the tradesman. With an integrated system more information is available to management. For example, the breakdown of parts ordered by tradesmen may be displayed. Management can then make decisions based on accurate information. All terminals in a SCIMAS system would be electronically linked, allowing orders that are currently transferred manually from one location to another to be transferred electronically. A lot of time would be saved by this alone.

Automatic links between related departments would eliminate a lot of existing paperwork. Many categories of issues are automatically approved. The role of Ordnance in "rubber-stamping" these would be eliminated as the necessary Ordnance records would be generated as the order was made and issued. This allows more time for RPS personnel to concentrate on the more important tasks of CA buy, referrals, provisioning etc. A paperless workshop is possible, and much repetitive typing would be eliminated.

Initial response by those involved in the trial has been universally favourable. It is easy to use — most are fluent operators by the time they have filled out the fifth order — and many want the trial system expanded to help in their specific area. In summary, the SCIMAS trial has shown the promise to be a cost-effective means of improving efficiency within workshops and at the same time is an easy to use system.

The trial ends in March. Based on the report of the trial a full cost effectiveness study can be undertaken with the aim of supporting the introducing an integrated EME and SUP system into workshops and logistic complexes. The project has already been given the name SUPREMELINK.

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# 20 Div Engr Spt Sqn Wksp

—by Capt B. Lavinger—

*While EXPO and Bicentennial activities overshadowed the lives of most people in Brisbane, 1988 was still an active and rewarding year for members of the 20th Divisional Engineer Support Squadron Workshop.*

The year started steadily with some of the guys celebrating in the New Year in Sydney on Victoria Barracks Guard duty. Tom Gill enjoyed it so much that he volunteered for another tour in 1989. As everyone filtered back from Christmas leave the pace picked up. It wasn't long before we were off to Wide Bay Training Area for our annual IMT exercise. The new boss tried to kill everyone on a death march in sweltering heat, however the workshop survived to fight another day. The exercise concluded with a leisurely 15 km midnight stroll along the beach with webbing and rifle.

The training year then coasted along fairly quietly without any major hiccups. The engineers were kept busy with numerous minor jobs in the rea (a far cry from the days on Townshend Island). Tasks involved construction of a timber bridge in the national forest at Kin Kin, upgrading of the Belmont rifle range by construction of a new firing mound and providing drainage, and the upgrading of the airstrip at Wide Bay. Support from the workshop was provided from Enoggera, with only a few detachments required for any length of time.

Throughout the winter the engineers met with mixed success on the sporting field, however, many members of the workshop enjoyed personal success. Four members represented 6 Brigade in Inter Brigade sporting competitions to show the depth of sporting talent in the unit. A special mention goes to Sgt Ian Beattie who represented Army SE Qld at the National Pistol Shooting championships.

Unfortunately, despite this wealth of sporting talent, the annual rugby league challenge trophy left our workshop and headed over to 1 Signal Regiment Workshop after a very close encounter. Our major sporting success was the Melbourne Cup. The workshop really cleaned up the Calcutta proving that a bit of horse knowledge goes a long way. Maybe we can buy some repair parts with that money.

September saw the squadron embark on a major deployment exercise at Shoalwater Bay. During the training phase the workshop was well serviced by a new barrel boy and the Raspberry Vale Creek dance was another big success. Of course no engineer exercise is complete without the customary NBCD training much to the delight of the workshop warriors. No RAEME training is complete without the traditional game of volleyball. Hidden underneath masks of obscurity many previously unknown 'sharks' surfaced to steal the game. The finale of the exercise was the demolition of many targets by highly trained workshop demolition teams.

Following our highly successful jaunt into the world of low level operations, the unit embarked on an action packed Adventure Training programme. Four activities were planned. Some members of the unit headed off on Exercise Dusty Road 1 which was a combined adventure training and driving course conducted in the southern and central districts of Queensland. A distance of 4 100 km was covered over terrain varying from sealed bitumen to desert rack. The route involved travelling west to the South Australian border, north across the Sturt Stony Desert to Birdsville, further north across the Simpson Desert to Boulia and then west through Longreach back to Brisbane. The Muirhead commission will be pleased to know that race relations have been greatly enhanced by the squadron's visit.

Others not so adventurous went on a survival exercise trekking across Fraser Island. (Some say with fishing line in tow). Those with more adventurous spirit tackled the might of the Numboida River near Grafton. Five days of thrills and spills produced moments of great excitement and sometimes danger. Those involved say that they would jump at the chance to do it again.

Everyone knows that Queensland is beautiful one day, perfect the next. Two weeks diving at Moreton Island certainly proved that. An Open Water and Advanced diving course conducted over this period proved to be a demanding and testing activity. The boss has already received a request from Val Taylor for WO2 Mick Hodge to assist her in making a new documentary on sharks in Moreton Bay. Frog decided that none of the above activities were wild enough

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for him, so he decided to do a bit of stunt riding on his bike. A stint at 1 Military Hospital has cured him of his problem.

The busy social calendar ensured that all members of the workshop were in prime physical condition. The workshop peaked for annual cricket challenge – the 'Aces Ashes'. Through skill and determination rarely seen before the boss's XI successfully managed to get through their allotted grog faster than the ASM's XI. Some spirited fielding by Yogi Rankin ensured that the trophy will remain on the OC's desk for another year.

The highlight of the social calendar was undoubtedly the workshop Christmas function held at Brentleighs theatre restaurant. Most of the workshop personnel who had been at the unit at any time of the year plus wives and girlfriends returned and had a great evening. I'm sure that some of the guys in the workshop have chosen the wrong vocation in life.

1988 saw a large turnover in terms of postings-in and out. New arrivals include;

CPL D. Prince	AST
CFN P. Lowe	RTC
CFN C. Gallagher	RTC
CFN C. Wynn	RTC
CFN W. Montgomery	RTC
CPL G. Twidale	Darwin Wksp P1
CPL R. Morgan	1 Base Wksp Bn
CPL R. Whip	HQ 3 Bde
LCPL R. Wheeler	1 Base Wksp Bn
PTE G. Shaw	3 Base Wksp Bn
SSGT G. Shipley	173 Gen Spt Sqn Wksp
SFN Fletcher	ACT Wksp P1
CAPT B. Lauinger	1 Base Wksp Bn

CPL Bailey	3 Base Wksp Bn
CFN Smart	1 Tpt Sqn Wksp
SFN Richardson	1 RTB

It is always sad to say farewell to people who are departing from the workshop. The loss of Dick and Dino ends another chapter in workshop history. Best wishes of luck for all those who have left, and an international hello to the Ace and family.

Those who have moved on to drier pastures are:

SGT D. Biggs	8/12 Mdm Regt Wksp
LCPL D. Tilbrook	Discharge Perth
LCPL M. Lohman	AST
CFN J. Duffus	Discharge Brisbane
PTE D. Eldridge	32 Sup Bn
LCPL D. Friday	Discharge Perth
CFN S. Jones	18 Tpt Sqn Wksp
CFN M. Salmon	106 Fd Wksp
SSGT K. Watkinson	2/14 QMI
CFN L. Walker	2 Fd Sup Bn
CPL D. Menz	RTC
CPL H. Neuendorf	1 Base Wksp Bn
CPL P. Myhill	Darwin Wksp P1
CPL A. Perry	2 Base Wksp Bn
CPL P. Smith	1 Base Wksp Bn
CPL A. Cameron	Discharge Brisbane
WO1 C. Simpson	12 CE Wks PNG

All in all 1988 was a very enjoyable year. Many friendships were formed and congratulations go to Paul and Katrina Lowe for the birth of their second child. For those of you lucky enough to be posted into this unit next year, a warm welcome awaits you.

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# MT EVEREST AND BEYOND WITH THE ARMY ALPINE ASSOCIATION

---

MAJOR JACK WALKER

---

**O**n leaving MEA for an Adventure Training trip to Mt Everest I was informed by the Controller that I would have to sing for my supper (i.e. write an article for the Craftsman magazine) and how right he was – literally. The food was not very plentiful and so to keep up morale we made it a group SOP to sing every night – everything from traditional Australian ballads, contemporary pop songs to religious songs such as OJC (No manna fell from heaven though).

Anyway, you may well ask, how about the trip? It was organised by the Army Alpine Association (AAA) and there were 3 groups of about 17 personnel each and each group travelled a week apart starting early to late Mar 88 and returning 5 weeks later. The groups were made up of a mixed group of people – both military (ARA, ARES, RAN and RAAF) and civilian. The only other RAEME representative was LT Chris Mead of 101 Fd Wksp. The trip cost us each about \$2,200 for air fares, hotel and



*Second night: camped by a river.*

tented accommodation, most meals (if you dare call them that) and portorage (luckily we only had to carry a day pack as all the heavy gear such as food, tents, sleeping bags, extra warm

clothing etc. was carried either by hired porters or Yaks).

The aim of the trip was to visit Mt Everest base camp and meet the members of the Australian Bicentennial Everest Expedition there preparing to climb it (as you may have read Major Pat Cullinan of 1 Cdo Regt and 2 civilian members of the team were successful in May 88) and then to climb the 20,150ft Island Peak.

After gathering at Randwick for last minute administrative preparations we flew to Katmandu after an overnight stay in Bangkok. After checking into our hotel, a terrible storm hit the city and the ensuing chaos created a crowd stampede resulting in about 80 deaths. The next day, on a bus tour of the city, we saw some of the bodies being cremated at the local Hindu temple. We also used this rest day to hire climbing gear from the many shops in Katmandu which specialise in buying/selling/hiring all sorts of gear left over from mountain climbing expeditions. After a group



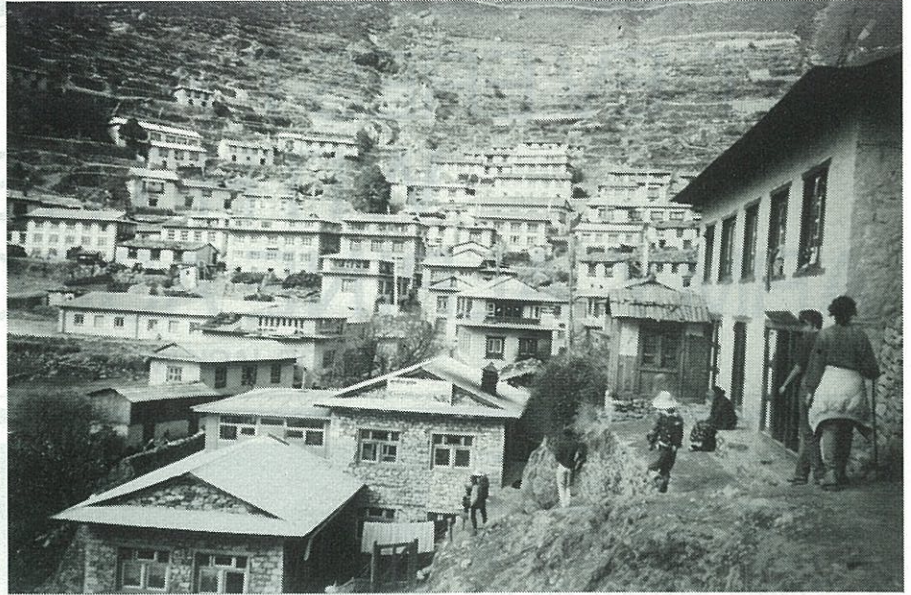
*Guides and porters waiting for tourists at Lukla Airfield.*

# MT EVEREST AND BEYOND CONTINUED

"last supper" at one of the best restaurants in town (Japanese style - 3 course - \$6) we then retired for our last night on mattresses for 4 weeks.

We flew in 12 seat Twin Otters from Katmandu to the small village airstrip of Lukla which was at 9,200 ft. The next day our guides hired porters and Yaks and our trek started. Fortunately we only had to walk for about 3hrs that day and we camped by the river next to a spectacular suspension bridge. The most unusual sight that day was a Japanese carrying a push bike (literally days away from any navigable roads).

The next day we left the river and climbed up about 2,000ft to the village of Namche Bazaar which is the largest in the region and, as the name suggests, the Focal trading area. We had a rest day here to help us acclimatize then it was off to the village of Kumjung via the run down and little used Everest View Hotel at 13,000ft. (This was built by the Japanese - guests were flown in to an airstrip at 12,000ft and stayed overnight in oxygen equipped rooms).

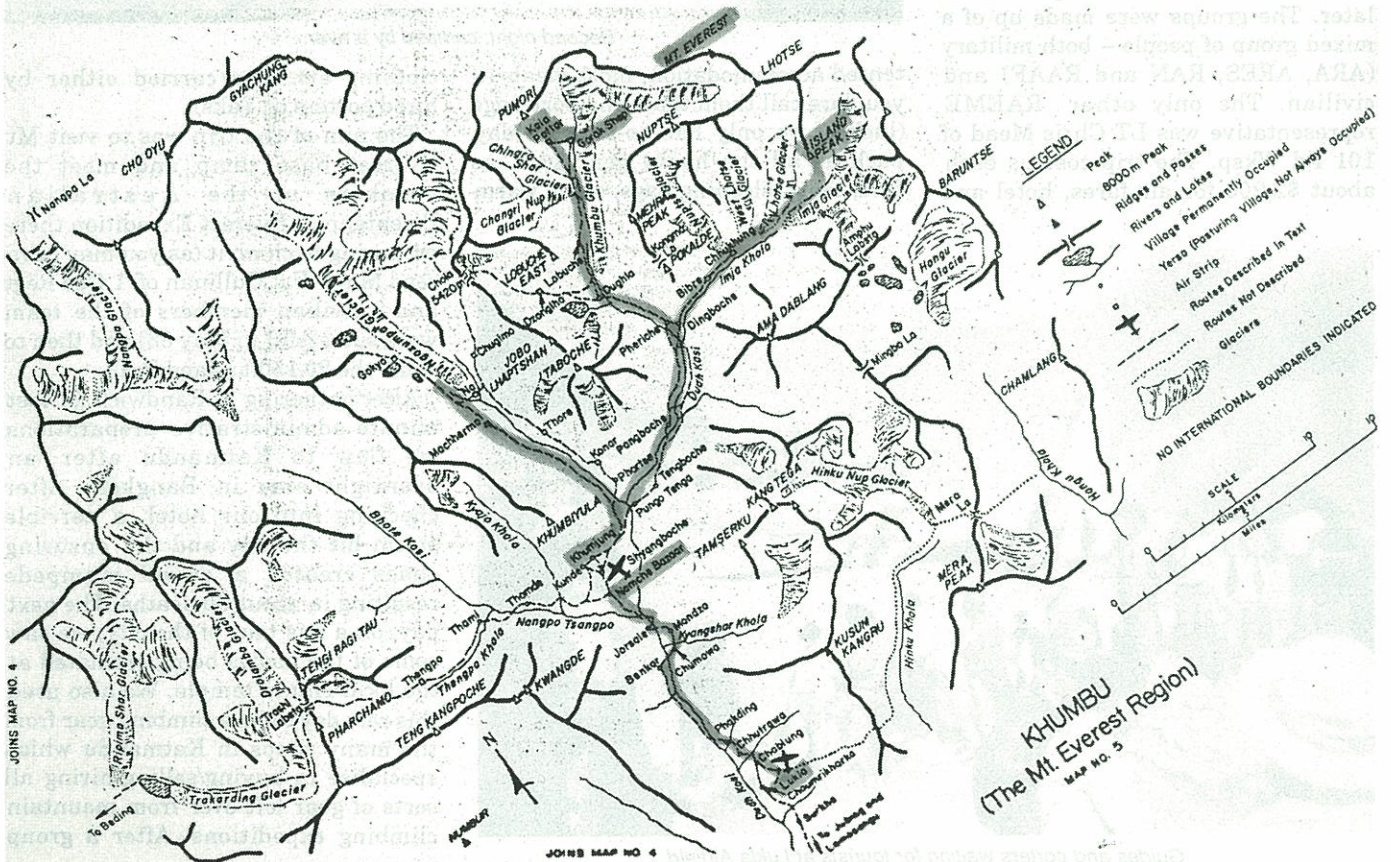


Namche Bazaar.

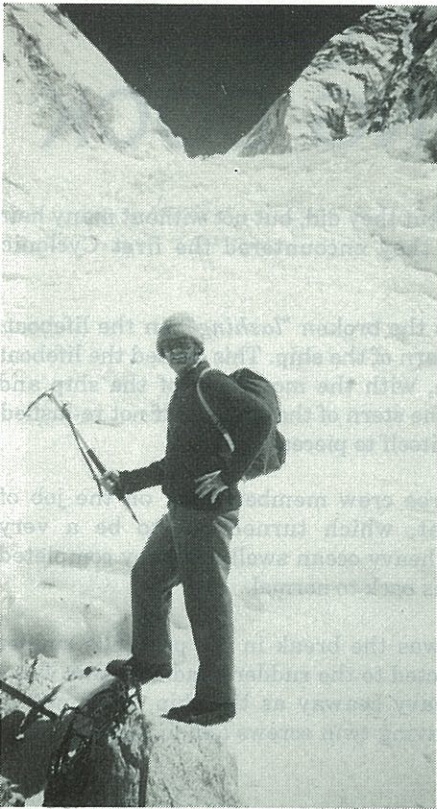
Overnight we had our first snow - 6 inches then it was another rest day to help us acclimatize, during which we visited the Sir Edmond Hillary Hospital in the village staffed by 2 NZ doctors and viewed the fake "YETI" scalps at the local monastery.

The next day was the longest with about a 9hr walk to Luza at about 14,000ft. Overnight it got down to about -9°C and the next day there was plenty of snow on the slopes to

practise with our climbing gear. We then headed back down the valley, away from the snow, overnighed at another village then started up the valley towards Everest and our first views of Island Peak. After a leisurely trek up the valley and several overnight stays we camped in the snow at Gora-Shep at about 17,000ft. To prevent altitude sickness it is advised to gradually acclimatize and not go too high too fast.



**MT EVEREST AND  
BEYOND  
CONTINUED**



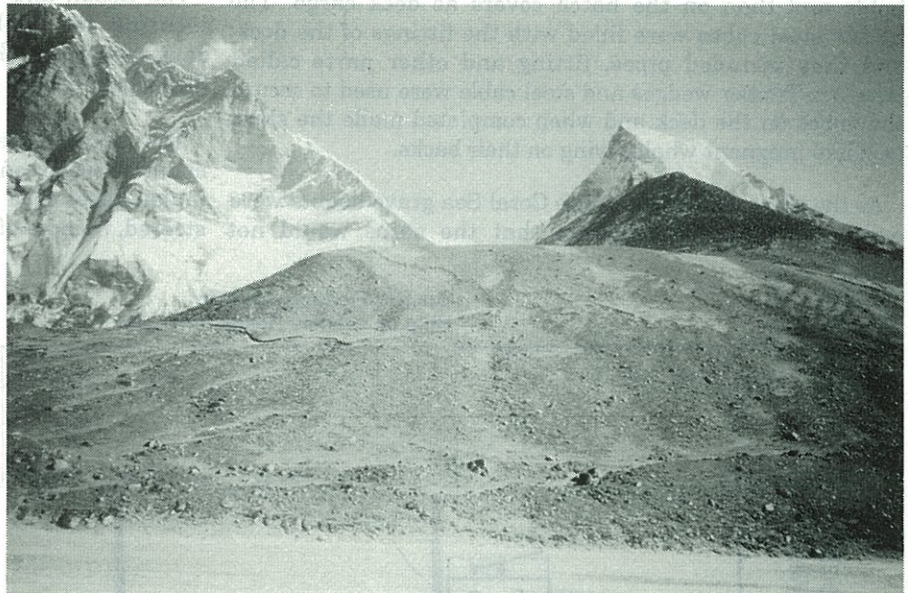
*MAJ Jack Walker at the base of Mt Everest.*

From our camp we climbed the rocky Kala-Patar (18,150ft) in about 2hrs for some great views of Mt Everest. The next day we walked about 3hrs to Base Camp (17,600ft) and lunched with the Australian team. The next 2 days we headed away from Everest then headed up another valley towards Island Peak. We left all our non-essential gear at Low Camp (16,000ft) and climbed about 2,000ft to High Camp on Island Peak. We pitched our tents on a rocky ledge and it was a long, cold and windy night with our tents just managing to stay in one piece in spite of the ferocious wind. We divided into 2 teams because of the lack of climbing gear and so half of us rose at 5am and climbed over the rocks to the snowline, changed into ice boots and crampons then headed for the summit. For safety we roped together in teams of 4 and we reached the top (20,150ft) about 10.30am on Fri 1 Apr 88 (April Fools Day – how apt). It was a beautiful sunny day but the wind was very strong. After a quick round of photos we headed down to High Camp, handed over our climbing gear to the second team, then headed

May, 1989



*Kumjung – Yaks being unloaded.*



*The rocky peak of Kala-Patar (Black Peak on right).*

back down to Low Camp. We had a well earned rest day there waiting for the other team and they arrived triumphant at about 4pm after starting their ascent at dawn.

It was all downhill now and it took us 5 days to retrace our steps back to Lukla airfield where we had to wait another 4 days for our pre-booked flight back to Katmandu. For the 4 days we eagerly lined up every morning at the airline office (with 20 or 30 other tourists) to see if we could get out earlier but only 3 of our 17 were successful. We then had 4 days of living it up in Katmandu then we flew out to Bangkok, had a 24hr stopover, which included dinner with LTCOL Ron and Mrs Dulcie Dyne,

RAEME CRAFTSMAN

then back home after the trip of my life (mid-life crisis is how my wife puts it).

Incidentally, I lost 7kg on the trip due to the lack of food, the strenuous exercise and the absence of alcohol. Beer was freely available at most tea houses on the trail but was rather expensive as it had to be transported there by person or Yak.

The long term aim of the AAA is to climb the highest peaks in all seven continents before the year 2000 and the next major epic is Mt Aconcagua (22,835ft) in Argentina in Dec 89/Jan 90. It is also planned to take a trekking group so if you are interested in joining the AAA please contact me or the Secretary, CAPT McLachlan at 2 Fd Svy Sqn, Randwick.

Page Thirty Five

# AEME TRANSPORT OF 3 AUSTRALIAN FLOATING DOCK

*The transport of the 3 Aust Floating Dock from Cairns to Torokina (Solomon Islands) was done by AEME.*

The steel cubes that made up the dock were loaded aboard two AEME 250 tonners at Cairns.

The trip across the Coral Sea and then the Solomon Sea was an experience not to be repeated if possible. The ships were unwieldy and unstable as the cubes were fitted in the holds and then on the hatch covers as deck cargo. The hollow steel cubes were filled with the fittings of the dock, and they included pipes, fitting and other parts called jewellery. Timber wedges and steel cable were used to secure the cubes on the deck and when completed made the ships look like pregnant whales lying on their backs.

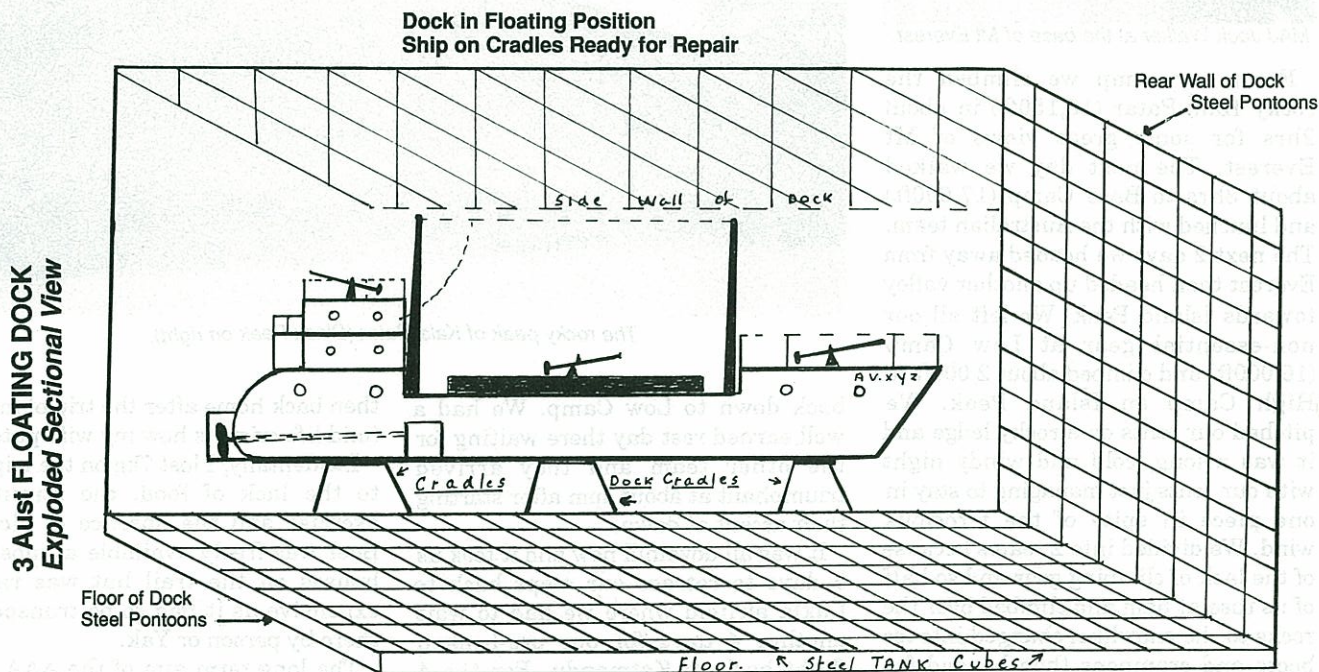
As the ships sailed across the Coral Sea grave doubts were expressed by crew members that the ships would not

complete the voyage, but they did, but not without many hair raising hours when they encountered the first Cyclonic Blow.

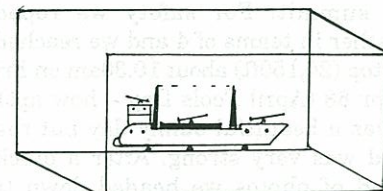
The first upset was the broken "lashing" on the lifeboat, "swung out", at the stern of the ship. This caused the lifeboat to move back and in, with the movement of the ship and smash itself against the stern of the ship and if not re-lashed would quickly smash itself to pieces.

The Bosun and three crew members took on the job of securing the lifeboat, which turned out to be a very dangerous job in the heavy ocean swell, but they completed the lashing and all was back to normal.

The second upset was the break in the port side rudder chain where it connected to the rudder quadrant, this was a major upset in a heavy seaway as the ship could not be steered, in spite of having twin screws and in spite of all we



Floating dock built of hollow steel cubes connected by special pipes and unions and arranged so that the cubes can be pumped full of water, so that the docks sinks and a small ship can be sailed into the dock secured on cradles. The steel cubes are pumped dry and the dock rises to its "floating" position and the ship is left high and dry and ready to be repaired.



Inset dock and ship to be repaired

**AEME TRANSPORT OF FLOATING DOCK  
CONTINUED**

had been taught that a ship can be steered without a rudder, by using the twin screws (*nonsense*).

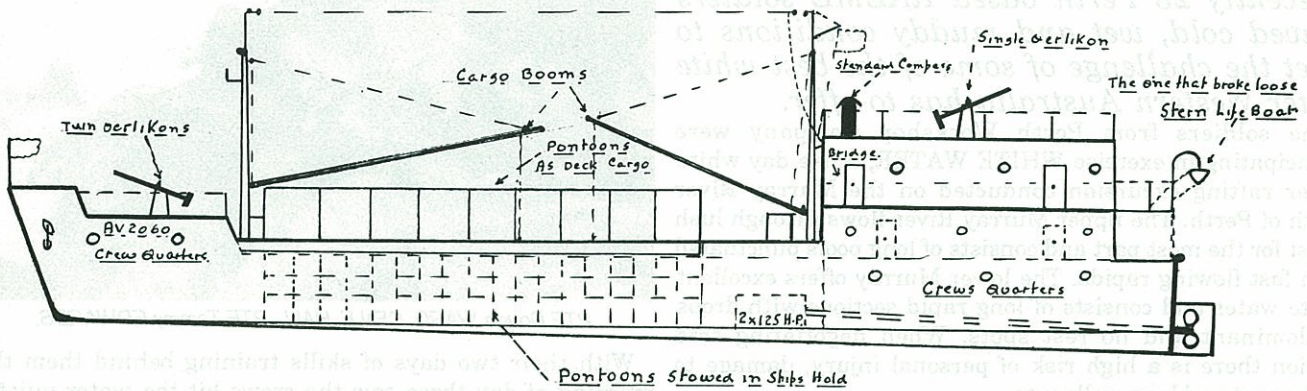
The rudder chain had to be repaired and quickly, otherwise we stood the risk of being rolled over, by the heavy beam sea from the south east quarter. The brand new unused sea anchor was taken from the Bosun's locker, connected to the port side anchor chain and streamed out over the bow of the ship. Slowly the ships head came around to the sea and the

ship steadied. Both engines were stopped and work begun on the broken rudder chain.

The rudder quadrant was jammed into the amidships position by using large wooden chocks. The broken link removed from the quadrant and a block and tackle connected to the port side rudder chain so that it could be again connected to the quadrant by means of a new "shackle". This repair took time but it was completed without mishap and the ship was back to normal.

The balance of the run to Torokina was normal except the Jap bombing attack one night away from Torokina, but they were all near-misses and no damage was done.

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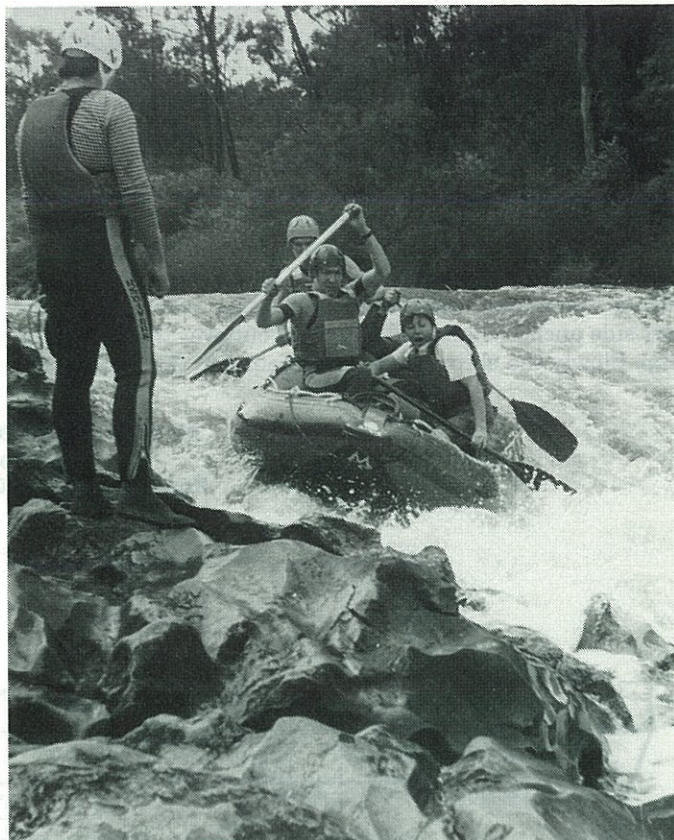
# ADVENTURE TRAINING WITH PERTH WORKSHOP COMPANY

*Recently 23 Perth based RAEME soldiers braved cold, wet and muddy conditions to meet the challenge of some of the best white water Western Australia has to offer.*

The soldiers from Perth Workshop Company were participating in exercise WHITE WATER, a five day white water rafting excursion conducted on the Murray River south of Perth. The upper Murray River flows through lush forest for the most part and consists of long pools punctuated with fast flowing rapids. The lower Murray offers excellent white water and consists of long rapid sections with drops predominant and no rest spots. When negotiating this section there is a high risk of personal injury, damage to equipment and long walk outs.

The adventure training exercise was organised and conducted by the Unit's Admin/Training Officer, LT Peter York, in conjunction with a human resource development company – Adventure West. Perth Wksp Coy provided the logistics and items of major equipment, with Adventure West providing some minor equipment and qualified rafting instructors Brian Schneider and Dave Cameron.

During the first two days of the exercise four man teams were selected and allocated to a 'Callegari' inflatable raft. (Although designed for use in open water the Callegaris were to prove ideal for the exercise). The first days were spent on the quieter upper Murray and consisted of instruction in paddling, manoeuvring and safety. These two days saw all exercise participants overboard at least once, as they developed the skills and teamwork that would be necessary to tackle the bigger water of the lower Murray.



PTE Dough WARD, CFN E. HALL, PTE Tammy EDWARDS.

With their two days of skills training behind them the morning of day three saw the crews hit the water quietly confident, but cautious. There was a good reason for the trepidation as the first major rapid of the day was known as Baden Powell Water Spout. This is a grade five rapid that has claimed several lives in the past. With rescue teams lining the bank, the first raft manoeuvred into position, within seconds the raft had disappeared into a wall of white water only to appear moments later to the excited screams of the crew. They and all teams were successful in conquering the Spout!

This was the pattern for the remaining three days; screams of excitement piercing the tranquility of the forest and the continuous roar of the river, as the white water warriors thrilled and spilled into the best the Murray could offer.

Exercise White Water was a very successful training activity that placed its participants in potentially dangerous situations, requiring them to overcome personal fears and

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utilize their initiative and skill. Many rapids required deft manoeuvring and teamwork was critical.

Next year hopes to hear the whoops and shouts as the wet suited and helmeted white water freaks take on the Murray again.

### EXERCISE WHITE WATER - FACTS SHEET

1. UNIT - Perth Workshop Company (RAEME).
2. ACTIVITY - Adventure Training (White Water Rafting).
3. DATES - 5 - 9 Sep 88.
4. PARTICIPANTS - 22 male, one female, two civilians
5. LOCATION - Murray River Dwellingup.
6. COST - \$1000 (\$60 per head).
7. MAJOR EQUIPMENT - a. Toyota Landcruiser,  
b. Unimog,  
c. D913,  
d. Callegari 3 man inflatable boats.
8. INSTRUCTION - Adventure West.
9. PUBLIC RELATIONS - Feature story Western Australian Newspaper.
10. NUMBER OF RAFT TEAMS - Five (four man).
11. AIM - To provide challenge and excitement and to develop such personal qualities as leadership, initiative, trust and teamwork.
12. INJURIES - Nil.



Left to Right: CFN Mick POLGLASE, CFN Darryl PHILLIPS, SGT Bill BUFFETT, CFN Charlie MANSON.

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# 1988 3MD RAEME Corps Birthday

**T**he birthday parade in 3MD was held at Puckapunyal on 1 December 1988. The mounted parade used historic A and B Vehicles relevant to the Corps role and was reviewed by the Commander of 3MD, BRIG P. Davies AM and was hosted by the 3MD Colonel Commandant, LTCOL P.R. Tremain.

The parade was followed by the traditional games competition and a BBQ.



Reviewing Offs BRIG Davies AM accompanied by COL Tremain and MAJ Vearing.



The youngest CFN: Greg Kaddatz and COL P.R. Tremain.

(Photos by SGTs Bob Lauro and John Verri).

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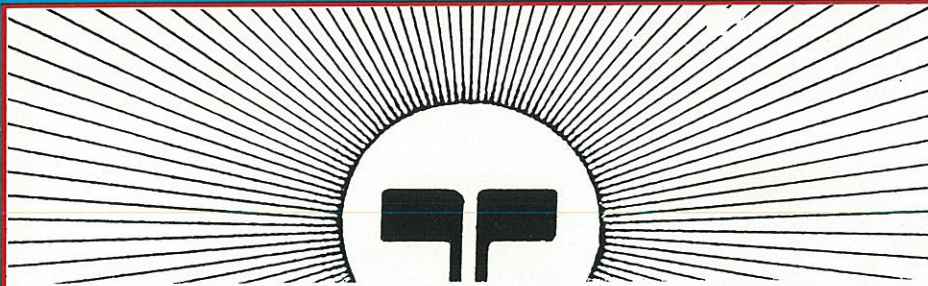
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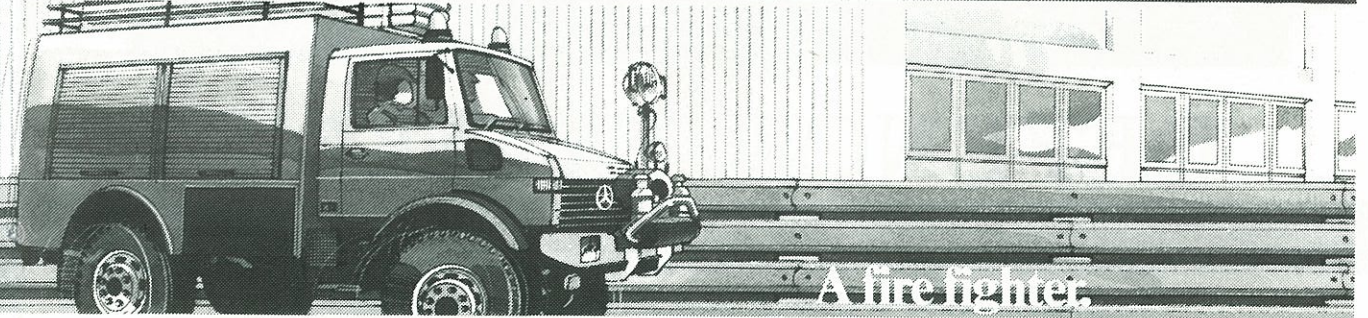
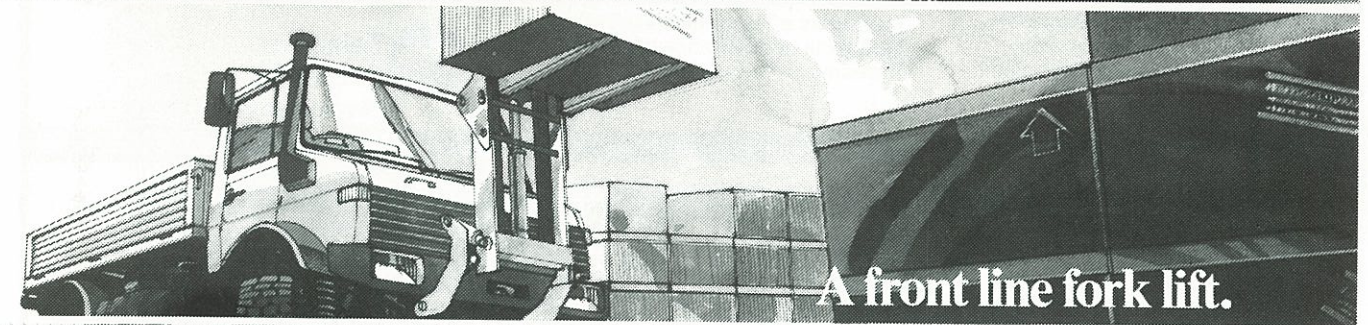
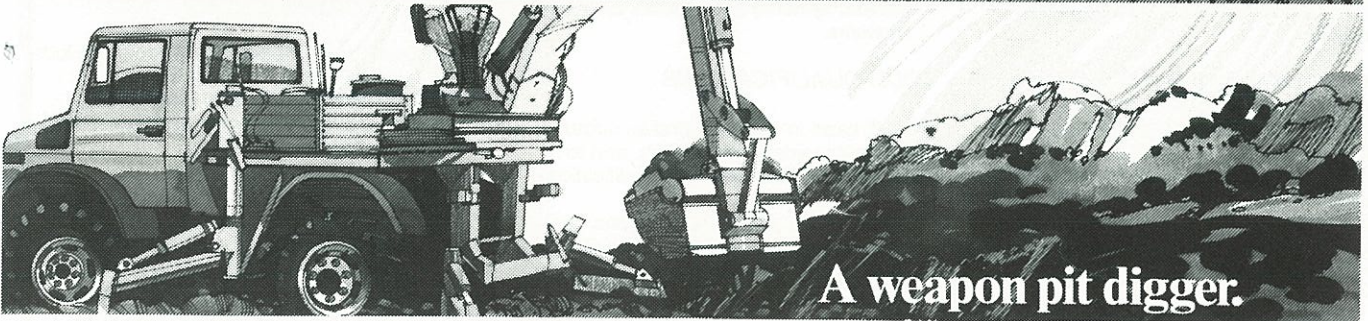
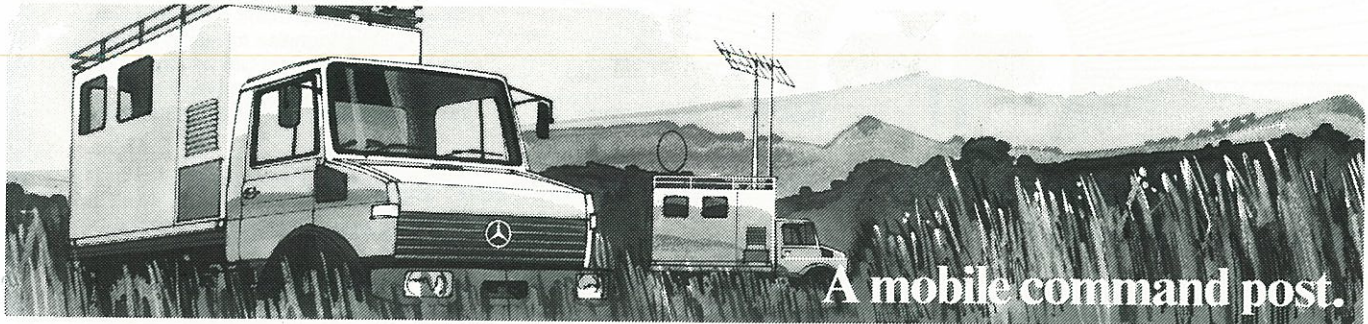
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