

“IT IS STILL APINING” NEWS FROM THE NORTH

D. WINTER

I have just arrived at 1st Armd Regt after a move from Tamworth and thought a few lines of news would be in order. It is the middle of the wet season but that **has not stopped the Regt training**, it just means it has to do it some where else. Courtesy of C Sqn, Southern Logistics Battalion and the School of Armour, Sqns have been rotating through vehicles prepositioned at Puckapunyal conducting stage 4 gunnery and other training. The last group A Squadron are about to start. It makes for a full calendar year and a **busy start to the new year**.

Whilst visiting B Sqn I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the AGM. It was pleasing to see so many different faces there and the professional manner in which the branch is setting about the responsibility of taking the reins of the **Federal Executive**. There was word at that meeting of a fledgling branch of the association in this loc, more on that when I find out the details.

For those not aware, the Regt is fully established in Chauvel Lines at Robertson Barracks. The facilities are first class and so they should be, the climate and working conditions are harsh and along with our RAAC neighbours, 2 Cav Regt, the Regt will carry the flag for the Corps in the new restructured Army of the 21st century. Having said that, we are well aware of our links to the past and from where we come, unlike some other units of the Corps. To that end, a major unit activity with the required ceremony will take place on 7 Jul 1999 at Robertson Barracks to celebrate the units **50th birthday. More on that later.**

Soldiers from the Regt were heavily involved in the Defence Force support to the town of Katherine. Showing the immense flexibility for which they are known, the soldiers deployed to Katherine at short notice, and **provided much needed assistance** to the towns people who were trying to get themselves re-established after the devastating floods. The people of the town had nothing but words of praise for the professional and compassionate way in which the men **approached their task**.

Right now however we are awaiting more information on the Regt's role in the restructured Army. We are likely to see the impact of the recent decision to increase the life of type of the Leopard AS1 MBT to the year 2020 and the onset of the dry season to, begin our top end training and the much awaited Restructure of the Army trial. The CO, LTCOL Craig Orme and the members of First Armoured Regiment send their kind regards to the RAACA (Vic Branch) and its members.

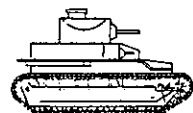
WO1 Peter Still
RSM

The Victorian Branch welcomes the following new members :

KEVIN JAMES ANDERSON (Re-Joined) DAVID JOHN DUFF

ANTHONY CECIL BLAIN (Re-Joined) Paid Life Member

CARL EDWARD LEWINGTON



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