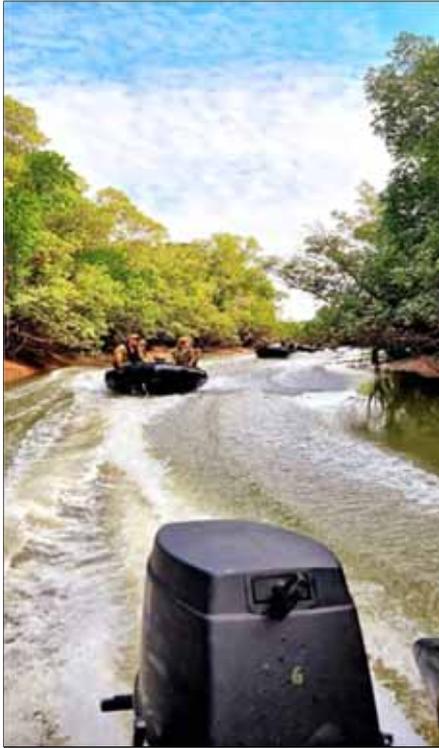


CHARLIE COMPANY REPORT – August 2022



Members of 8 Platoon (Small Boats) conduct riverine training in support of growing 5 RAR's littoral manoeuvre capability.

Life is always busy in the Battalion, and that has again proven to be the case for Charlie Company as we reflect on the first six months of 2022. Having only recently returned from a well earned break, it was not long before the entire company was committed to Domestic Operations by early March. As the COVID outbreak ravaged Aged Care facilities across Queensland and Northern NSW, 50 members of Charlie with company headquarters flew by C-130 to Brisbane. Once at Gallipoli Barracks, we formed small teams led by our junior NCO's which were tasked to provide support to overwhelmed and understaffed Aged Care Homes from Mareeba in Far North Queensland to Grafton in Northern NSW.

Over a six week period, the company provided support to over 30 different homes, and as flood waters rose supported the evacuation of over 200 aged care residents. Whilst the work differed greatly from the traditional role of the infantry, our soldiers and junior leaders continued to distinguish themselves. They formed small teams that travelled vast distances, entering into what were often foreign environments, where they were required to quickly build relationships with stakeholders and determine how they could best provide support. Working independently and at times in difficult conditions, they unfailingly demonstrated initiative, teamwork, and most importantly, the greatest of respect to our elderly.

The remainder of the Company deployed on Operation Flood Assist with the rest of the Battalion, supporting the response, clean up and recovery of the flood affected communities of Casino and Lismore. With the Company Sergeant Major

performing the role of Camp Commandant, the company worked with soldiers from across the 1st Brigade, Navy and Air Force. Disaster response is dirty work and a long way removed from battle training many expected we would be doing. Being able to provide direct support to our community in its time of need though is something of which we can be proud.

Having only recently consolidated after Easter and celebrated ANZAC Day, it was with heavy hearts that the company learnt of the passing of PTE Thomas Halloran. Tom had been a valued member of 8 Platoon, where his small boats qualifications and experience had been invaluable to the development of the capability. Tom's willingness to help his mates, sense of humour and positive attitude were just some of the attributes that his friends both in Charlie and across the Battalion will miss so much. Tom's family visited the company over Binh Ba week, where they were able to meet our veterans and connect with Tom's friends. They are now also Tigers for life.



A member of C Coy manoeuvring towards cover whilst participating in a Live Fire Platoon Attack as part of Exercise Tigers Walk 22.

Throughout June and July, 7 and 8 Platoon have been preparing to undertake Exercise Garuda Shield in Sumatra, Indonesia in August. This has seen us return to our core soldiering skills – conducting platoon live fire attacks, and getting back to basics in the field environment. The team will depart for Indonesia in late July and partner with our friends from the Indonesian, Singaporean, and US Army in what will be a significant multi-national activity that will culminate with a Brigade live fire activity. Concurrently, 8 platoon has continued to grow its littoral capability, undertaking small boats training in

and around the Darwin harbour. The team have been steadily building our qualifications and experience in preparation to support the 1st Brigade in our major training activity of the year – Exercise Predators Run, which will test Army's Littoral Operations concept.

With another trip to Indonesia scheduled for October and more small boats training planned for November, I look forward to reporting back to you in December with tales of our adventures in Indonesia and the continued development of the littoral capability.