

Subject: FW: 2-4 RAR Short Story from Stuart Ian Laughton

Date: Thursday, 4 May 2017 at 10:51:55 AM Australian Eastern Standard Time

From: John (Jancsi) Mark

The message is:

Select date: 28 Apr 2017

Your Full Name: Stuart Ian Laughton

Your Website (if applicable):

Name The Story: Element of surprise!

What Year is this short from: End of 1982

What Company, Platoon and or Section: 4PL B Coy

Your Short Story - 500 Words or Less (you can come back and submit as many as you like, just one story per session): In Oct/Nov 82 I was selected to attend Sub 2 for CPL in Tully. Back then it was known as 1 DIV Battle School. There were other 2/4 soldiers and also a mixture of 1 RAR and even Brizzy soldiers (6 and 8/9 RAR). At the time most of the instructors were ex Vietnam vets and the CO was none other than LTCOL 'Wary' George Mansford. After PT that consisted of bayonet training we filed into the lecture room for a lecture on Ambushing conducted by the good CO himself. He asked us what was the most important aspect of a good ambush. We called out firepower, cam and concealment etc and old George just kept shaking his head. When we were all out of ideas he paused, lifted his stick (he always had his pet stick with him) and brought it down hard on the front desk making a loud bang. At the very same time not one but two M60s went off outside on either side of the lecture room! Obviously they snuck into position as the class started. That style of teaching never leaves ones memory and sadly those days are long gone. Regards, Stu

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