

9th Battalion The Royal Queensland Regiment



EX SHAGGY RIDGE—HUMOUR FILE

You've read the hype in the Battalion Magazine, and heard some of the rumours—bikie parties, sand dune shenanigans, failed recruitment bids and borrowed vehicles. Now read the true stories from EX SHAGGY RIDGE. Only the names have been changed to protect the guilty.

EX SHAGGY RIDGE was a small group leadership and initiative activity. If these stories don't make sense then you had to be there.

Intelligence over bravado

At an early morning checkpoint and in the freezing cold, a friendly guide was dismayed when the first section approached wet up to their chests and shaking from the cold. When asked how they got wet the troops replied they had to wade through a swamp to get to the checkpoint. Brave stuff! A minute later a second section arrived and they were dry. Confused the guide asked why they were not wet. They replied, 'We didn't want to get wet, so we walked around.'

Better part of valour

A certain D Company section was confronted by a lone MAF Corporal. At first the Corporal was supremely confident when he declared they were nicked. Then he realised he was only one man against the nine man D Company section! The Corporal became very nervous and quickly though more timidly mentioned he had 'backup'. The section replied, 'Bring it on!' ... but still they scarpered.

Maintaining cover (or 'I'm not in the Army, Sir!')

When asked by the MAF, 'Why are you here?' one young D Company member replied, 'We're on a fishing trip, but it was cancelled because of the high winds'. MAF observed, 'Are you serious. There is not enough wind to fly a kite! You're nicked.'

MAF intelligence reported that there were about 80 young men either 'walking to a fishing charter boat' or 'heading to the RSL'. Great cover stories! And we thought Generation Y was creative.

A female MAF "spy" incognito sidled up to a young innocent digger in civilian attire and hit on him. Amongst other flirty conversation she asked, 'What are you doing this weekend?' Thinking he was "on a winner" Private X replied confidently, 'I'm on exercise with the Army.' Of course he was nicked. Sadly for Private X he did not notice that for the entire conversation his "love interest" was holding an ADF field message notebook. Love blinds all.

When stopped by Warrant Officer McDonald, a certain Delta Company member who was trying to maintain his cover that he was not in the Army asked, "What is the crown on your uniform stand for?" Warrant Officer McDonald replied, 'I'm the King of Musoria! You're nicked.'

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Warrant Officer McDonald questioned another likely digger in the streets of Bribie, 'Have you ever been in the military?' The well thought out reply 'No Sir!' got him nicked.

Playing with the Enemy

Corporal K got nicked at a MAF post and was returned 5 kms back along his route. Within minutes he returned to the spot opposite the MAF post after flagging down a passing civvie vehicle. Cheekily he waved to his erstwhile captors and hastily withdrew (scarpered).

MAF vehicle patrol saw a section hiding in a wet drain. MAF drove off a short distance and then reversed back towards the section. They did this several times just for the humour value of watching the section dive into the drain again and again.

Staying away from trouble (or What the police wish they knew)

One group was offered to go in local's house as they had 'bongs and a heater, man.'

What does PARTY + BIKIES + CARS + BOOZE + SMASH EM UP DERBY + FIREARMS equal? One section withdrawing and taking a very long detour.

Who's on who's side?

One obliging local civvie decided he would help out. He was telling a MAF patrol which direction a section had gone. This plan ran into trouble when the section broke cover too early and MAF could see them crossing the road behind the civvie's back.

One MAF patrol started questioning a pair thinking they were a team. It took some time before the MAF slowly realised the pair were actually locals. Oops.

Two C Company members (Privates B and W) scarpered from the MAF into the scrub. After a short search two young local kids helped the soldiers by pointing out the two Crocs lying in the scrub.

Classic moment

Private H managed to get a car [so the story goes] and was filling it up with fuel at a service station when Warrant Officer Matson arrived in an Army vehicle to do likewise. Private H tried to maintain his cover but Warrant Officer Matson being pleasant struck up a conversation with, 'You interested in joining the Army?'

Editor's Note: Large portions of the above stories may be fictitious. But who knows what really went on in the lonely sand dunes of Bribie Island. Strange things happen to the mind when cold, hungry and tired.

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