

THE DUNTRON SOCIETY

Newsletter 1/1999

May 1999

Motor Vessel *Duntroon*

Ross Howarth

This story begins on 14 October 1935, when the new interstate liner *Duntroon* reached Melbourne from the UK at the end of her maiden voyage. She was nicknamed the 'Ghost Ship' because of her silent diesel engines. *The Herald* of Melbourne reported that, *not even the tick of the clock disturbed the quietness of the reading and lounge rooms*. However, on her trials and her maiden voyage, she did have problems with her engines.

Included in the passenger list were Mr D. York Syme, then the Chairman of Directors of the Melbourne Steamship Company (the owners of the vessel), the WA Minister for Lands, the Chairman and General Manager of the Adelaide Steamship Company and the Vice Consul for Finland. The Master was Captain I.L. Lloyd, formerly of the *Dimboola*.

The vessel was the most modern for her time. She was the second of three ships built of similar tonnage in that period, the others being the *Manunda* and *Westralia*. She was twin-screw, 10,500 tons and capable of attaining 19 knots. Built at Newcastle-on-Tyne in the UK by Swan Hunter and Wigham Richardson under special survey to Lloyd's Register and launched on 4 April 1935, she was 472 feet long and had eight watertight compartments. There were three cargo holds forward and two aft. Midships four compartments carried refrigerated cargo. A fire detecting and extinguishing system (pyrene gas) was installed and fire resisting paint was used in the accommodation areas. The first class cabins were well appointed and panelled in mahogany and birch. The vessel carried accommodation for 266 first class and 107 second class passengers. The sports deck was exceptionally large at 216 feet and the promenade deck was 280 feet.

On 12 October 1939 she was requisitioned for conversion to an armed merchant cruiser but, because of engine faults, was rejected for this type of work. She was returned to the owners on 3 November 1939 and *Westralia* was requisitioned in her place. In February 1942 she was requisitioned as a troopship. Captain Lloyd remained in command for the remainder of the War of 1939-45 with Lieutenant Colonel W.E. Holmes, CO 2 Aust Ships Staff, as OC Troops on board. She steamed to Colombo in 1942 delivering United States reinforcements and stores, then carried troops and stores to Rabaul, Madang, Lae, Milne Bay, Finschhafen and Hollandia and, in 1945, transported Australian PoWs back from Singapore. In all, *Duntroon* carried over 170,000 troops and travelled over 220,000 miles as a troopship.

Despite her distinguished career, *Duntroon* was involved in two accidents. On 20 November 1940 the auxiliary minesweeper HMAS *Gooraangai* collided with *Duntroon* while crossing Port Phillip Bay and foundered

immediately with the loss of the full complement of 24 officers and men. The news quickly reached the newspapers, who claimed the right of immediate publication (a marine accident not involving national security). The upshot of this was that the War Cabinet issued instructions that, in the event of future Service accidents in Australia or Australian waters, relatives of those who had lost their lives should receive notification of their death before media release and immediate action should be taken by the Service concerned to advise the next-of-kin by urgent telegram.

At 0200 on the morning of 29 November 1943, the American Navy destroyer, USS *Perkins* collided with *Duntroon* near Cape Vogel, New Guinea and sank with the loss of nine seamen dead and one injured. A Court of Inquiry convened on board the USS *Rigel* at San Francisco on 1 December 1943 recommended that the captain of USS *Perkins* and the executive officer be brought to trial by General Court Martial and that the Officer of the Deck be reprimanded. *Duntroon*, with the bow twisted one foot to starboard, proceeded to Milne Bay with the survivors. The wreck of the *Perkins* was marked by HMAST *Reserve* on 30 November.

After the ship was repaired, *Duntroon's* owners, Melbourne Steamship Company, eventually received an account for US\$1,000,000 as a contributor to the collision. The account was passed on to the Department of the Navy but it is not clear as to whether it was ever paid.

Duntroon was handed back to its owners in April 1946, but was again taken on charter in July for the transport of supplies and troops to Japan. In March 1949 she was again transferred to the owners and, in 1960, was sold to the Grosvenor Shipping Company to be towed to Hong Kong. Here she was again sold and, after a refit, renamed the *Tong Hoo* carrying pilgrims from Indonesia to Jeddah. In 1946 there was another name change, this time to *Lydia*, but she was sold to Taiwanese shipbreakers and scrapped in 1968.

On 9 March 1978 the ship's bell was presented¹ to the College in memory of the late Brigadier B.C. Forward (BSM 1948). The bell is mounted at the base of the flagpole and is used in the daily routine of the College.

In 1994 memorabilia from the estate of the daughter of the Ship's Master, Captain I. Lloyd, was presented to the RMC Archives.

¹ Mrs Rosemary Boyden, the widow of Brigadier Forward, and Mr John Evans, a director of the owners of MV *Duntroon*, Howard Smith and Company and brother-in-law of the Brigadier, made the presentation to the Commandant RMC, Major General Morrison, at the beginning of the evening's performance of *Beating the Retreat* and the 1812 Overture.



MV Duntroon under way at sea in her pre-war livery.

In August 1998 a painting by A.V. Gregory of the MV Duntroon off Gabo Island in 1936 was donated to the College by Mr Colin Buckley of Victoria. Mr Buckley noted that it had been given to his late sister after a raffle, but he has no idea of the identity of A.V. Gregory. The painting has been re-framed and is on display in the RMC Museum.

References

- Gill, G. Hermon, *Australia in the War of 1939-45, Vol II, Royal Australian Navy, 1942-1945*, 2nd Edition, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, 1985.
- Lloyd, Captain I.L. Collection of.
Naval Historian, *Proceedings of US Navy Court of Inquiry, USS Rigel, 1943*.
- Plowman, *Passenger Ships of Australia & New Zealand, 1913-1980*.
- Royal Military College Archives.
- Straczek, *RAN Ships, Aircraft and Shore Establishments. The Herald, 1935*.

On 20 July 1995 Mr Ross Howarth became the RMC Archivist on the retirement of Major A.(Bill) Harkness (1954). Since then he has also taken on the role of Curator of the RMC Museum. He has previously contributed to the Newsletter with his writings, and his seeking, from its readers, identifications of some items in the historical photographic collection of the RMC Archives

This, That and the Other

A splendid occasion took place on Saturday, 30 May 1998, when the Campbell Bicentenary Dinner was held in Duntroon House to commemorate the arrival in Australia of Robert Campbell on 10 June 1798. Of the 110 who sat down to dinner, 104 were Campbell family descendants. Robert Campbell, the great, great, grandson of Robert senior, spoke on behalf of his family in thanking the Commandant of the RMC for the generosity of the RMC in making the Officers' Mess available for the celebration. To mark the occasion, and as a gesture of thanks, Robert Campbell presented a fine silver salver to the Mess.

The Commandant, Brigadier P.L.G. Pursey, proposed the Loyal Toast and then addressed the guests on the present activity of the RMC. The toast to Robert Campbell senior was proposed by Brian Kelly whose great, great, grandfather arrived in the same year and was associated with Robert senior when in Sydney.

[Major B.F. Kelly, MBE served on the RMC staff as the Deputy Assistant Adjutant General from 18 December 1965 to 3 July 1979 and was the Mess Secretary for much of that time. His intense interest in the history of Duntroon House and its furnishings led him, inter alia, to trace and restore the magnificent four-poster bed now adding splendour to the main bedroom of the House. Ed]

The Prodigal Son's Corner

[This is the tenth in the series of personal stories with the theme as set out in *Newsletter 2/1989*. What follows generally fits the criteria for these accounts, although it was written after the subject's death (*Newsletter 1/1999*). It is a matter of some regret that this should be so, as there are many who chose a different path from that of their soldiering classmates. Their experiences deserve to be recorded. Colonel R.A. Clark (1950) used published sources and his personal knowledge to contribute this brief summary. Ed.]

Neil Raymond McPhee was educated at Geelong College, the Royal Military College, Duntroon and Melbourne University. During his time at the RMC Neil was a very colourful and capable staff cadet, a born organiser and leader and a great classmate and friend. He captained the Australian Rules Football Team at the RMC for two years as well as organising and conducting an outstanding cadet choir which was recorded for the ABC. However, Neil had a problem in his first year at the RMC – he was a smoker and smoking was strictly taboo for Fourth Class. He was caught on numerous occasions and received awards of Confinement to Barracks (CB) growing from one to seven, 14 and 21 days in several instances. CB involved two defaulters parades each day, not to mention a total restriction on leaving the College area. His extra drills totalled several hundred in that first year – but he had them down to a fine art. This was particularly apparent when we had PT for the last period of the day and he had just 30 minutes to prepare for Defaulters. However, his classmates would rush down to his room, clean his boots and rifle and prepare his kit, while Neil strolled down to his room, had a leisurely shower, was assisted with his dressing and arrived on parade with commendable aplomb, knowing this his turnout would satisfy the most officious Orderly Sergeant.

He graduated from the RMC in 1950 into the Royal Australian Corps of Signals and saw service with 3 RAR in Korea, before deciding that the legal profession would better suit his talents. And how right he was. At Melbourne University he topped his year in Law despite arriving 2½ hours late for his jurisprudence exam. He wrote for 30 minutes but still took second class honours. He also gained a Fulbright Scholarship and became a Queen's Counsel in 1971.

It was in Law that Neil's particular skills came to the fore. He had a great ability to absorb all the detail of a complex case and to plan questions and responses in advance. One colleague said that, *whereas most barristers were happy if they could think two or three moves ahead, Neil was always eight or nine moves ahead. He has always thought through every answer to a question and was ready with the next question, no matter what the answer.* He appeared in many prominent legal cases and was retained by Fairfax Ltd., publisher of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Indeed, he had an abiding interest in the media and appeared in many high profile defamation cases

on behalf of Fairfax as well as playing a key role in Fairfax's turbulent recovery from Warwick Fairfax's takeover of the family company and the receivership that ensued. His intense interest in horse racing led to him being retained by the Victorian Racing Club stewards. The President of Victoria's Court of Appeal, Mr Justice Winneke, described him as, *the finest exponent of legal advocacy in all its forms, in the present generation.*

His other interests included yachting and Australian Rules Football, especially Richmond Club. Neil retained very fond memories of his time at the RMC and attended the class reunion held on the Gold Coast to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our entry to Duntroon. Regrettably he died last year and will be sadly missed by his many friends and colleagues.

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As It Once Was

80 years Ago – April 1919

- Taken on strength from 8 April – Mrs N. Holmes as Kitchen-woman, Civilians' Mess.
- From RMC Orders, 25 April. When Staff Cadets are out mounted on Tactical Exercises, horses are never to move at a faster pace than a trot.
- Mr G.J. Burrows, BSc vacated his temporary appointment as Lecturer in Chemistry on 30 April consequent on the return from active service of Dr C.E. McKenzie.

40 Years Ago – April 1959

- A meeting of all Sunday School teachers will be held in the Chapel on Saturday, 4 April 1959 commencing at 1100 hrs.
- A ladies' tennis tournament to aid the Duntroon Public School will be held on the four new gravel courts on Wednesday, 8 April 1959. Nominations to Mrs Klintworth.
- Six cadets of First Class successfully completed flying training in light aircraft under instruction from Kingsford Smith Flying Service.

20 Years Ago – April 1979

- The Honourable Mr Duwabane, Minister for Defence, Papua New Guinea visited the RMC on 5 April 1979.
- A group of two officers and 20 cadets from the Indonesian Armed Forces Academy (AKABRI) visited the College during 7-11 April 1979.
- As from 22 April 1979 entrance to films shown in the RMC Theatre will be \$1.00.

Operation *Christian Soldier*

– A Tasmanian Retrospective

P.R. Phillips

The Anzac Memorial Chapel of St Paul, now more than 30 years old, is long established as a spiritual home for the College and its graduates. Living in Canberra means that one is often at the Chapel for weddings, ex-service associations' commemorative ceremonies and, all too often, for funeral services. On these occasions, I often recall the great effort, Operation *Christian Soldier*, that provided much of the funds necessary to build the Chapel. My own association with the Chapel's inception is remote but I recount it as a treasured memory of the one and only occasion on which I met that great soldier, Lieutenant General Sir Sydney Rowell, KBE, CB (1914).

The year was 1963 and I was reluctantly entering my third year as a CMF adjutant in Hobart, having been much involved in the demise of 40th Battalion, The Derwent Regiment, and the raising of the 'pentropic' Derwent Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Tasmania Regiment. I did not relish, therefore, the extra duty given to me of being Secretary of the Tasmanian Committee for Operation *Christian Soldier*. In the event, the Committee really only comprised me and the Chairman, Brigadier H.J. Strutt, DSO, ED. Horrie Strutt was a genial chairman, a venerable and distinguished Gunner. Fortuitously he was a Director of the Cascade Brewery in Hobart which gave a substantial donation of, as I recall, a thousand pounds [\$21,580 at 1999 values] which was half of the target that had been set for Tasmania.

Later that year I was told that, as the brigadier was unable to attend the meeting of the National Fundraising Committee for Operation *Christian Soldier*, I was to take myself off to Duntroon to represent him. The trip was a welcome relief but it was with some trepidation that I took my seat at the conference table in Duntroon House. Still a raw young captain, it was only the second occasion on which I had entered the hallowed halls, the other being 'First Class drinks' on my graduation eve eight years before.

The Commandant, Major General C.H. Finlay, CBE (1931), made us all feel welcome and handed over to General Rowell who proceeded to note the attendance. I was seated opposite the Chairman, and could see from the place cards that I was sitting next to Henry Gullett Esquire, MC. I knew that 'Joe' Gullett was a renowned infantry officer and a former Chief Government Whip, but had retired to his property Lambrigg, near Tharwa. First, some episcopal gentlemen were introduced. They were followed by Air Vice Marshal F.M. Bladin, CB, CBE (1920) was National Secretary and H.C. Newman Esquire, CBE, a former Auditor General, was National Treasurer. J.E. Pagan, MBE, ED (later Brigadier Sir John) was the Chairman of the New South Wales Committee. There was some talk of Mr Charles Moses (later Sir Charles Moses, Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission), who was helping the NSW Committee and Mr Asher Joel (later Sir Asher Joel) who had designed the appeal's brochure. This led to some light-hearted banter about the biblical connotations in the surnames with further hilarity when the

Chairman introduced The Hon Sir Josiah Francis, Kt, Queensland's Chairman and erstwhile Minister for the Army.

Despite the light hearted proceedings, I was more than a little overawed by the company I was keeping. However, I took some heart that Victoria's chairman, Lieutenant General Sir Ragnar Garrett, KBE, CB (1921), was represented by Major Bert Lazarus, an affable acquaintance and fellow infantryman. At this stage, the meeting came to the conclusion that, even though we had a Pagan, having a Lazarus, a Moses and a Josiah was particularly auspicious, as we needed a minor miracle to raise the £35,000 [\$756,000 at 1999 values] set as the national target.

The Chairman then came to me and remarked, *I suppose this young man is going to tell us that he's Saint Peter and that he walked on water to get here!* Sadly, I was not in the miracle business... and Tasmania never did reach its modest target. But the chapel was built... and I still keep a yellowed newspaper clipping to recall my encounter with the great Australian.

Ten years ago, I was able to launch a public appeal for the re-erection of the Changi Chapel in the College grounds adjacent to the Anzac Memorial Chapel of St Paul. I am pleased to say that, on this occasion, the appeal was over-subscribed! In fact, a trust fund was able to be established for the maintenance of the Chapel as a National Prisoner of War Memorial. This year, I note with some irony that trusteeship for that fund has been handed to the Trustees of the Returned and Service League of Australia, of which I am a member in my capacity as the League's National President.

As a further aside, I think it worth noting that the suggestion for Operation *Christian Soldier* came from the then Brigadier The Hon Stanley Eskell, ED, MLC (1939). Stan has resided in London for many years and has been and continues to be an outstanding representative of the League on the Council of the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League.

Major General P.R. Phillips, AO, MC, entered the RMC on 9 February 1952 and graduated on 13 December 1955 to serve in the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. He retired from his final posting on 1 March 1991 after its title, during his tenure, had changed for the third time into Assistant Chief of the General Staff – Personnel. His first contribution appeared in Newsletter 2/1996.





*A vision finally takes form in May 1965. The Chapel in a very early stage but already recognisable.
 In the upper right corner is the hut in which your Editor, as a staff cadet with his
 Class, was subjected to the lecturing of Staff Sergeant H.V. (Harry) Hutton.
 By 1952 that hut had metamorphosed into two married quarters,
 the left one becoming the first married quarter of that same Editor.*

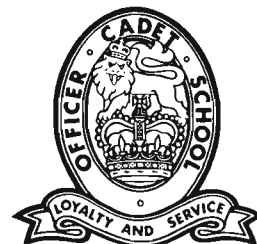
Defence Force Chaplaincy

Some 250 senior members of the Australian Defence Force, diplomatic representatives and members of the Royal Military College, the Australian Defence Force Academy and the wider defence community, gathered on Sunday, 2 May 1999 at the ANZAC Memorial Chapel of St Paul, Duntroon to celebrate the 33rd anniversary of its dedication. The Chapel serves as the religious centre of the defence community of Canberra and especially the RMC and the ADF. It serves as the Cathedral for the Anglican Bishop to the ADF.

The service was led by the chaplains from the RMC, the ADFA and Air Force Headquarters. The preacher was Bishop Adrian Charles, the former Bishop to the ADF. During the service the congregation heard that the provision of suitable clergy to the chaplains in the three Services was facing a crisis. A major cause was the severe imbalance in the ages of the active clergy. Very few are under the age of 40 years. Indeed, the majority are over 50 years so that the pool from which suitable chaplains can be drawn is quite small with the trend showing it likely to be even smaller.

At the end of the service, Bishop Charles opened a public appeal for the ADF chaplaincy. It is to be known as the Military Training Scholarship and is to be an annual award. In memory of a former RMC Chaplain, it will carry the title of the Reverend Dennis Johnson Scholarship. He was one of those responsible for building the Chapel (*Newsletter 1/1998*). The scholarship, which is designed to help address the demand for chaplains, is an initiative of the Congregation of the Chapel of St Paul, Duntroon

For those interested in donating to this scholarship or in seeking further information, contact Chaplain Sempell at the RMC on (02) 6265 9509.



New Challenges for the Royal Military College

Lieutenant Colonel J.P. Cantwell

[Parallel with the major and quite striking alterations in the bricks and mortar of the RMC (*Newsletters 1/1996, 2/1996, 1/1997 & 1/1998*), equally major and quite far reaching changes have occurred within the student body and their training. Two previous Newsletters, *2/1994 & 1/1995*, briefly described them. Since then, some of those changes have themselves been modified or further changes have been made. The departing Commanding Officer, who oversees most of the work involved in implementing these variations has agreed to describe the present training regime at the RMC. Ed.]

I should start this article by clarifying my title at the RMC. I am correctly known as Commanding Officer of the Royal Military College Training Unit (CO RTU) which combines the two roles of CO CSC and Chief Instructor. This new title owes little to history however, and I inevitably introduce myself as CO CSC to former cadets and staff of the College. I must say that I prefer the traditional title and have always felt a small glow of pride to be announced as the Commanding Officer of the Corps of Staff Cadets during ceremonial parades. I have often thought of reverting to the older title, but that would ignore my role as CO of the instructional and support staff who actually deliver training, so I have retained the practical, if unlovely, title of CO RTU. However, I am sure that my successors will not mind being addressed as CO CSC by visiting alumni. Having got that sorted out, on with the main purpose of this article.

Over the last two and a half years I have seen and helped implement a number of significant changes to the training conducted at the RMC. I have intermittently briefed the Executive Council of the Duntroon Society on the new directions which the College has taken, and the Editor, Colonel Harding twisted my arm to provide a piece for the Society Newsletter explaining the new challenges faced by the College.

Firstly, the training of officers for the Full Time Army (as the ARA is now known) remains the centrepiece and benchmark for all other training conducted by the RMC. The course lasts 18 months for cadets who enter directly from 'civvy street' or from the ranks, or 12 months for those who have completed their undergraduate degrees at the Australian Defence Force Academy. The course is divided into semesters of 21 weeks each and there are three Classes in training at any time, thus preserving the important Class structure on which the Corps has traditionally been organised. From 1999 the start date of the Full Time course was pushed back to the end of January in order to make room for the Part Time (formerly the Army Reserve) officer training, which has been the major area of change in recent years.

Part Time officer training has been conducted in the various University Regiments around Australia for many years. Many aspects of this system of training produced good results, but the disparate nature of the training

establishments and the lack of a truly common basis of training tended to reduce the effectiveness of the training of officers for the Reserve. In 1997 all of the University Regiments, along with small detachments in Darwin, Townsville and Tasmania, were placed under the command of the Commandant of the RMC, who assumed national responsibility for all pre-commissioning training in the Army, both Full Time and Part Time. The training unit at Duntroon, based on the CSC, became but one unit in the RMC formation. It remains, however, the keystone of the Part Time training process.

The University Regiments, which are known by the awkward acronym of ROITES (Reserve Officer Initial Training Establishments), are no longer part of their local Training Groups. The COs of the ROITESs report directly to the Commandant RMC and are responsible to him for the delivery of officer training in their region. The ROITES deliver initial training and two of six modules by which Part Time cadets are trained. The first of these is an Officer Induction Module (OIM) of about six weeks duration. The OIM is currently being trialled in some ROITES. This is followed by Modules 1A and 1B. Module 1A is a 16-day introduction to officer all-Corps subjects, and can be completed as either continuous or non-continuous training. Module 1B is a 16-day continuous course of training which leads to the cadets being moderately competent to command at section level. A small number of the regular staff from the RMC are sent to the ROITES to help them deliver this training, which is the last involvement of the ROITES in the training process.

The Commandant, DMA and staff of HQ RMC are responsible for juggling the sequencing of Part Time training to achieve a smooth flow through the training pipeline around the country. Many cadets are flown interstate to produce efficiency in course panelling. Staff are also moved around to the point of maximum effort. This is a very complex management activity.

The cadets complete the sequence of Modules 2,3 and 4 at Duntroon. Each Module is 16 days in length, and can be completed as a single block of training or as three separate modules. Modules 2, 3 and 4 are scheduled in the December-February period and also in June to give the cadets, who are mostly university students, the best opportunity to attend. At the end of Module 4 the successful cadets are commissioned as Second Lieutenants. They graduate from Duntroon and enjoy a Graduation Parade and a Ball similar to Full Time graduands. They are then posted to units in the Part Time Army to attend the Regimental Officers' Basic Course and learn on-the-job. During this time they complete Module 5, which is a task book that their new CO must supervise. It includes such activities as vehicle accident investigations, military history, Service writing and unit administration.

When the officers have completed their task books and are deemed proficient, they may be promoted to the rank of lieutenant. The final element of their training, Module 6, deals with company level tactics and more all-Corps military subjects. Module 6 may be undertaken at the RMC, but this is still under discussion.



2/99 Part Time First Appointment Course on its Graduation Parade at Duntroon on 3 February 1999.

The RMC also runs training for Specialist Service Officers (SSOs) formerly known as DEOs – Direct Entry Officers such as pilots, lawyers, doctors, nurses, padres and so on. This training is a combined course for Full Time and Part Time officers, consisting of two two-week modules. The SSO pilots stay on for another two weeks to complete a course in company level tactics. In the future this may be extended to four weeks to include a ‘bridging’ course on platoon level tactics, which is currently a gap in the pilot training sequence. SSO courses are run twice a year.

If this was the only training conducted at the RMC most would agree that the College would be a very busy place in which to work, but wait – there’s more! The RMC also delivers training for the Army cadets who are studying for their degrees at the ADFA. This training, known as Single Service Training or SST, consists primarily of military skills and field training. SST is run for each of the three years cadets are at ADFA, mostly in January-February and November, with some additional training in May. In January 1998 the College was simultaneously running training for the Full Time course, the Part Time modules and the SST, which represented around 880 cadets in training. The RMC received very little external instructor support during this time and the regular staff, both the trainers and the support staff, were stretched to the limit. With indicators that there would be approximately 1,000 cadets in training in January-February 1999, something had to be done to spread the load and thus some of the modules and the SST training have been moved to December and May. For many of the RMC staff, this means that the working year extended until just before Christmas and resumed on 2 January 1999. Some members of the military training staff notched up

around 120 days in the field during 1998. Finding time for leave is becoming something of a challenge for a number of the staff.

On top of all of this, life at the College continues to be hectic, with the usual demands of the Full Time course such as involvement in sport, Guidance Officer duties, curriculum development, preparation and delivery of lessons, TEWTs, field exercises, ceremonial activities and a host of other tasks. Challenges which lie ahead include the continued refinement of Part Time officer training, which is still ‘work in progress’, streamlining elements of the Full Time course, and developing training for officers of school cadets. There is no risk of being bored at Duntroon!

Finally, despite the hectic pace of life at Duntroon, it remains an enormously rewarding place in which to work. No one can fail to feel a sense of achievement when a group of cadets or trainee officers, Full Time or Part Time, marches off the RMC Square to take up careers as commissioned officers. It is a demanding job, but one which is crucial to the Army’s future. *Doctrina Vim Promovet.*

Lieutenant Colonel J.P. Cantwell, AM entered the OCS, Portsea in January 1981 and, after gaining the Governor-General’s Award and four of the other major academic prizes, graduated on 8 December 1981 to be allocated to the Royal Australian Armoured Corps. He became the Commanding Officer, Royal Military College Training Unit on 9 September 1996 and departed from it on 18 January 1999 to take up his next posting as an instructor at the Staff College, Camberley.

Duntroon Society Council at the conclusion of its meeting in Patterson Hall on 12 March 1999.

From the left: R.R. Harding (1948), C.A. Wood (1963), Lieutenant Colonel C.J. Anstey (1981), R.W.O. Pugh (1948), J.M. Healy (WRAAC OCS 9/60), Brigadier P.L.G. Pursey (OTU 4/70), J.G. Hughes (1956), P.J.A. Evans (1958), A.R. Roberts (OCS June 1952).



Council Column

At its meeting on 12 March 1999, Council had as its new National Secretary, Captain M.A. King (June 1991). In addition to routine business, Council dealt with other matters including:

Centenary Project

Consideration is being given to applying for contributions for this project to be granted a taxation exemption and it is understood that the Victoria Branch convener, Lieutenant Colonel A.M. Stove (1963), has experience in such matters. This will be pursued and further suggestions for a suitable gift are still welcome. Within the next 18 months, however, tax law changes are anticipated so it was decided to defer this item until the first meeting of Council in 2001.

Society Charter

The last review of the Society Charter occurred in 1995, since when the scope of the training conducted by the RMC has been much changed. It was decided that the present Charter generally provides for those changes, but that it should be reviewed as a matter of course.

Commandant's Desk

The original Commandant's desk, after being refurbished, is to be returned to the Commandant's old office in Duntroon House. The Commandant has proposed to the RMC Heritage Committee that, to signify the desk's origins, the Commandant's original office in Duntroon House be restored to a condition similar to that existing before 1996.

Reunion Air Fares

Flowing from an enquiry put by the Duntroon Society, the staff at the RMC contacted the Qantas Defence Manager who drew attention to the following arrangement that is now available to reunion groups.

The reunion group co-ordinator (that probably means the Class Orderly) should contact the Qantas Group Fares Reservation Office (Telephone: 13 12 75) to obtain a group number. Members of that group need only quote that number to receive a discount of 50% on the airfare. A minimum participation of ten people is required to activate this procedure.

Other ways of reducing costs are provided by seniors discounts and the advance purchase of fares.

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Corrections

The following errors appeared in *Newsletter 2/1998*:

p.3. Footnote about Lieutenant Colonel Bullen.

The years of entry and graduation from the RMC should read 1956 and 1958 respectively.

p.4. **Australian Capital Territory**, eighth line.

The lady was a graduate of the WRAAC Officer School, Georges Heights.

p. 6. **Obituary**

The title of M.E. Gilchrist is Mrs.

The Dawn of Enlightenment

J.E. Bullen

Until 1956, young Duntroon graduates were highly vulnerable to the risks of sudden exposure to money, liquor, cars and women. The order of importance of these four temptations varied greatly from cadet to cadet. Their vulnerability was inevitable after four years in a monastic existence which totally forbade liquor and cars, and held back 'deferred pay' until graduation. While women were not actually forbidden by Corps of Staff Cadets Standing Orders, opportunity was severely limited.

Pay deserves extra comment. In the 1950s cadets received only about a shilling a day [approx \$5 at 1999 values] until their account books were 'out of the red' and until their initial issues of Corps of Staff Cadets clothing and sporting gear had been paid for. It took nearly all the first year in Fourth Class to erase the initial debt. Pay in the hand then jumped to several shillings a day for the rest of the cadet's stay at the College. During this time the remainder of the cadet's full pay was held back as 'deferred pay', which was handed over in a lump sum on graduation. The deferred pay cheque was usually several hundred pounds, which was a heady sum, especially considering that a lieutenant's annual gross salary at that time was £1,000 [approx \$27,630 at 1999 values].

Later, the lack of female companionship for cadets was dictated by a shortage of free time, the geographic isolation of Duntroon, and the small size of Canberra which then had a population of between 20,000 and 30,000. These were the days when taxis charged both ways for a run to Duntroon because it was deemed beyond the metropolitan area, so taxis were strictly for state occasions only. Fortunately there were a few surviving CSC bicycles still around and Canberra girls must have been a very hardy lot. Girls were a major cadet interest and demand always exceeded supply.

Later, the consequences of inexperienced graduates being suddenly exposed to temptation were manifold, and sometimes disastrous. In the worst cases this could lead to a rapid squandering of the precious deferred pay, and to becoming an embarrassing spectacle in Officers' Mess bars, with expert help from highly experienced veterans of the War of 1939-45 (remember Captain J.F. McClafferty?), to judicious car purchases often followed by crashes, injury and occasional death, to say nothing of hasty and disastrous marriages. Change was desperately needed.

In 1956, two great reforms came, thanks to the efforts of Colonel F.G. Hassett (1938), who was then both DMA and CO CSC. He pushed through these necessary and overdue reforms against considerable reluctance from the Commandant, though this was not generally realised by cadets at the time. The Quarter Bar offered First Class a more gradual introduction to liquor. Permission to indulge had the effect of dampening the thrill of the illicit. This quite possibly reduced the overall amount of liquor consumed, at least by First Class. Deferred pay was greatly reduced for all cadets, who were now encouraged to learn to manage their money, instead of struggling to make ends meet on a few shillings a week and then suddenly receiving more on graduation than they had the experience to cope with. Young graduates were still vulnerable, but at least a couple of major steps had been taken to improve the

situation. However, this was only the dawn of enlightenment, because two of the four problems were still outstanding, and the DMA recognised this.

The solution to the car problem has an interesting history. Before the War of 1939-45, family cars were far from universal in the community and the only young people with their own cars were the rich and privileged. It took a few years for the country to recover from the war and not until 1949 did the family car really begin to take hold as the post-war Austins, Morris Minors and the first Holdens appeared. By the 1950s, more young men began to own/buy? their own cars, often elderly 'bombs' with wooden artillery wheels. At Duntroon, there had always been the occasional enterprising cadet with an illegal motor-bike or car hidden from official eyes, but their numbers were few until the 1950s. As cars became more fashionable amongst young men in the civilian community, so Duntroon cadets followed the trend.

By the mid-1950s, those in First Class with illegal cars outnumbered those without and the surrounding bush on Russell Hill was beginning to run out of hiding space. Matters had now reached the stage where authority could hardly have turned a blind eye, even if they had wanted to and the inevitable 'purge' was mounted. A few months before graduation in 1956, First Class were ordered to surrender cars for internment in the old Australian War Memorial storage hanger beyond the RMC transport lines. The very small number of daring cadets in junior classes who owned cars did not consider themselves bound by the Great First Class Car Purge, and lay low, but that is another story. Their sentence finally served, the First Class cars were released from their internment for Graduation Week in 1956.

In 1956 the car problem had been tackled by authority, but not solved. It was certain to rear its head again in 1957, and the 1956 approach was already recognised as being of rather doubtful legality. Authority now regrouped, came up with a fresh approach and allowed First Class to own/possess ? cars in the latter half of 1957, thus moving into step with the Australian community at large. However the teething problems of 1956 were not without their memorable moments, which have been delightfully documented in **Of Cars and Other Things** (Newsletter 1/1998) written about ten years ago by N.R. (Neville) Bergin (1956).

Of the four initial problems, this now left only the delicate matter of women unresolved. And there it remained, sitting for the next 30 years in the Too Hard basket, until the 1980s when female cadets entered the RMC in their own right. At least the situation in the 1950s (which did improve steadily) was vastly better than in the day of General Bridges who is reported by a cadet of that era (later Lieutenant General Sir Sydney Rowell) to have specified that if the College was forced to accept female laundresses, then careful selection was to be exercised to ensure that they were, *darned old and ugly!*

Lieutenant Colonel J.E. Bullen entered the RMC in 1956 and graduated in 1958. Following his resignation from the Army and the Royal Australian Survey Corps in 1983 he was appointed to a position in the Australian War Memorial from which he has now retired. He has, for many years, been the Secretary of the ACT Branch of the Society. His first contribution to these pages appeared in Newsletter 2/1984, with others in subsequent issues.

The Bridges Oak

R.W.O. Pugh

It was Dr Robinson¹ who told me about the tree, early in 1963. He was visiting Duntroon 50 years after he had joined the RMC staff, and I was one of those fortunate enough then to hear him talk of those early days of the College. I remember him telling of the shock of the news of General Bridges' death when the Adjutant, Captain Tristram James [Newsletter 1/1993], announced it in the Officers' Mess and of the members deciding to commemorate the occasion by planting an oak tree in Duntroon gardens.

In 1963 there was a variety of trees of many sizes in the area of the gardens east of the house; the grass was cut but not tended as lawn and not many people walked there. Dr Robinson took me straight to a shapely English Oak which, after only 50 years, was no giant among its neighbours. Immediately he found the plate which had fallen from the trunk and was partly hidden by the grass at the foot of the tree. It read:

This oak was planted by the original members of the RMC Staff upon receiving news of the death of Major-General Sir W.T. Bridges, KCB, CMG.

¹ The late Dr F.W. Robinson was Assistant Professor and later Professor of Modern Languages at the RMC from 1913 until 1922, except for his period of service in the AAMC from 1915 until the end of the War of 1914-18. His visit to the RMC is recorded in the *RMC Journal* for 1963.

Once you knew about it, the oak was easy to spot from the drive past Duntroon House. In my subsequent years at the RMC, I came to regard 'the Bridges Oak' as one of the landmarks on the way through the gardens.

Then in March 1997, when I was talking to a Classmate in front of the House, it struck me that I could not see the oak and I wondered if I had forgotten where to look. So he and I searched for it among the trees, but it had gone. There were three gardeners working with a tractor nearby so I told them what we were looking for.

You are three weeks too late, one of them said. *That tree was dead and we had to remove it.* He took us back to the site beside a new garden bed. *There was one and only one acorn from the tree that struck and I have moved it into the garden bed so that it will have a better chance of survival.* He had locked the brass plate in the garden shed for safety.

Now, two years later, the leafy shoot is a foot high and thriving. The shoot needs a marker to identify it until it is time for our successors to mount the brass plate on the adult tree. It will be a legitimate successor to the original 'Bridges Oak', as the small oak raised by Msgr John Hoare (Newsletter 1/1995) and planted closer to the House, is the successor to 'Fred's Tree'. Compare the Royal Oak at Boscobel, which is a great grand-descendant of the actual tree which hid King Charles II.

Beginning in Newsletter 1/1980, Mr R.W.O. (Roy) Pugh, AM (1948) has contributed to many issues of the Newsletter. From 1967 to 1986 he was the one and only Registrar of the Faculty of the University of NSW at the RMC. (Newsletter 1/1987) He is presently the Convener of the NSW Branch of the Society.



At an age of two years, the successor 'Bridges Oak' appears about 30 centimetres high in the immediate foreground and just to the right of the short, vertical, dark-coloured spray unit.

Graduation 1958

The Governor-General's Address

[Graduation parades almost inevitably are accompanied by an address from the reviewing dignitary. From him words of advice are expected and are usually forthcoming, although with differing impacts on the staff cadets on parade. During the four-year courses the graduates would have been able to make comparisons with those delivered at earlier graduations. Whatever the quality of the addresses, most are now unrecorded and have faded with the passing years. Happily one that did make an impact and is recorded was that of the Governor General, Field Marshal Sir William Slim, GCB, GCMG, GCVO, GBE, DSO, MC to the graduating class of 1958. What he offered that day is timeless and, despite all the major changes in the Australian Army since then, is equally applicable now. With the permission of the Editor of the RMC Journal, his address is reprinted below. Ed.]

A passing-out parade at the Royal Military College is much more than a graduation ceremony at a University. A degree records that its recipient has acquired a certain standard of academic knowledge. The Queen's Commission, on the other hand, means that the young officer who receives it has been chosen to lead his countrymen in battle and in return for that great honour he has dedicated himself to the service of his country.

As an old soldier who has trodden the path on which you are now setting out, may I give you some thoughts on the people who will travel that road with you and on those whom you will meet along it.

As you go forward along it you will deal mainly with three classes of people,

- a. your superiors,
- b. your subordinates, and
- c. the civilian community around you.

The first thing to remember about your superiors is that as long as you are in the Army – or for that matter any other employment – you will have superiors, so you'd better learn how to get along with them. When I was newly commissioned I was told by an officer of experience that, as a subaltern when in conversation with a senior, I should confine my remarks to *Yes Sir! No Sir! and Sorry Sir!* Used in the right order I was assured they would see me through the most difficult interview. Now-a-days, I am sure senior officers are more approachable and you may, without danger, enlarge your vocabulary.

Still, all superiors are irksome at times. They may even be so blind as not to put as high a value on you as you do yourself. With your Duntroon prizes for this, that and the other shining on your shelves you may be tempted to think your seniors are behind the times. If you are, consider how out of date Wellington would appear at Duntroon today – but he would still, I suspect, have a good deal to teach us about war, men and leadership.

If you do become impatient with your seniors, remind yourselves of two things;

- a. they **have** succeeded in doing something you **hope** to do – become senior officers, and

- b. you, too, are a superior, even if only to the men in your platoon and you are probably just as annoying to them as your superiors are to you.

Have a look at the beam in your own eye before you squint too sourly at those above you. Whether you like them or not, you owe your superiors obedience and loyalty. And loyalty means, among other things, that you do not criticize them in front of your subordinates or do anything that tends to lower their authority.

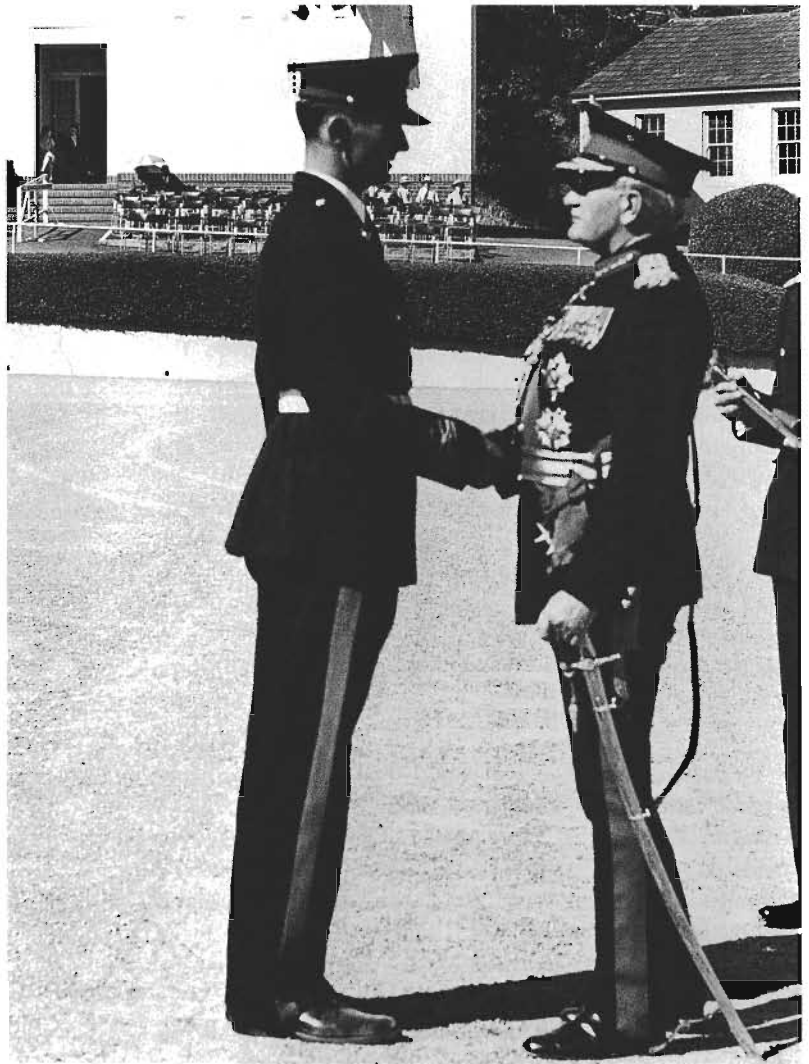
Then your subordinates – the men of your platoon or section. Don't worry too much whether they like you or dislike you. What they want from you is knowledge of your job, unselfishness and leadership. Give them those and without any more trouble on your part they will give you their respect and trust.

I believe more young officers are frightened of their own men more than they are of the enemy. No one respects the man who is frightened of him, so never be frightened of your own men. Don't nag and never be sarcastic, but when a man needs pulling up, pull him up. You should know the job of every one in your platoon better than he does himself but above all, and always, put their safety, their comfort, their well-being before your own. That should be not only your duty but your pride. They will repay you by following you anywhere.

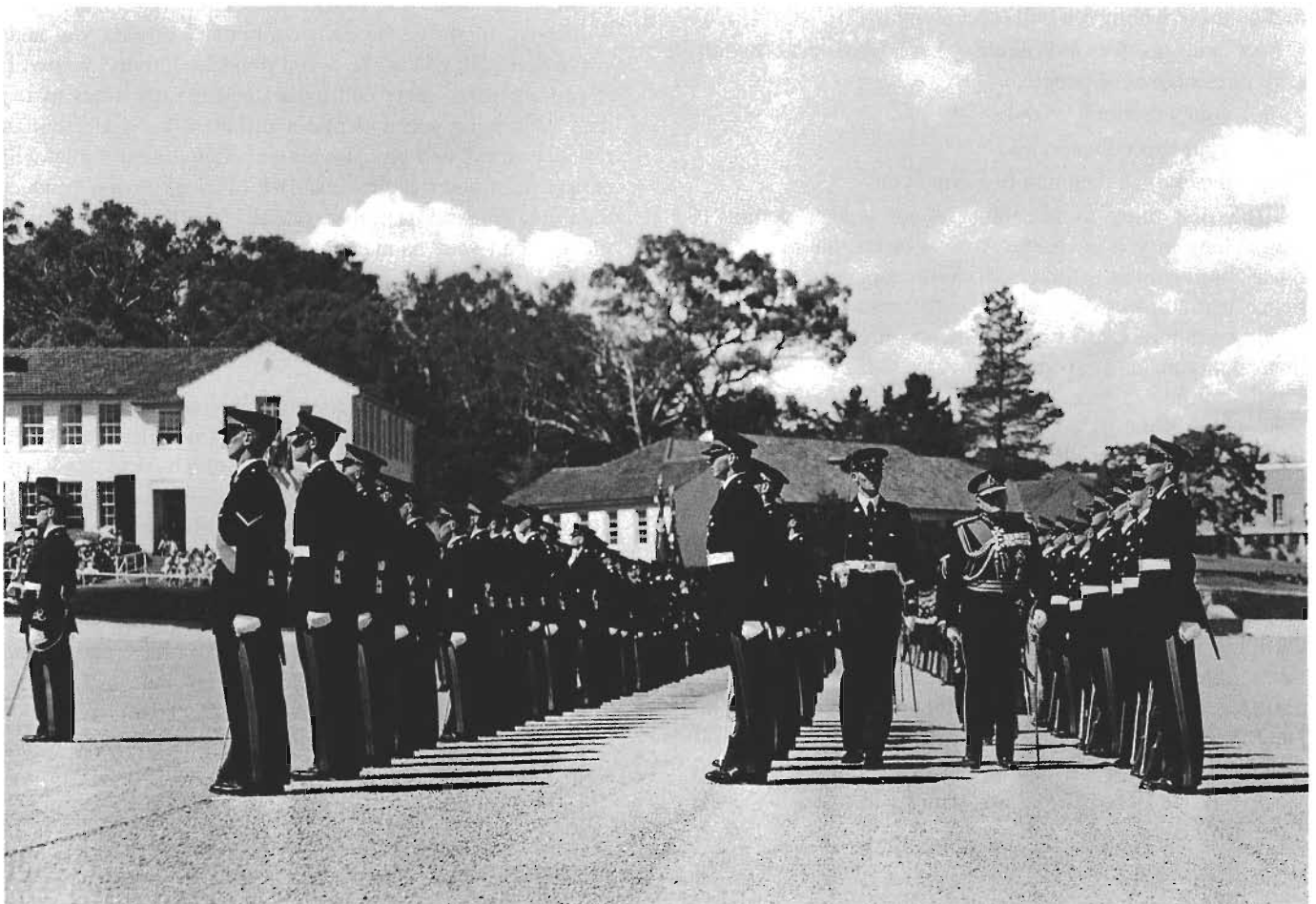
Soldiers and officers, at least in Her Majesty's dominions, are not a class apart. We are citizens as well as soldiers; the better the soldier, the better the citizen. You will move freely in the civil community around you and, while you will, of course, avoid political activity, you will, if you are wise, study and understand the questions of the day. One thing you will find and that is that your civilian fellow citizens will pay you a great compliment – they will expect from you a higher standard of integrity and conduct than they demand from themselves. See that you give it to them, for in your hands lies not only your honour but that of the Army.

To you, the most important person who will travel the Army road with you is – yourself. Your first duty is to lead and you can only do that by projecting your personality, yourself. The whole of you, body, mind and spirit, must be flung into service. The officer must be prepared to accept a higher degree of physical hardship, fatigue and strain than the men he leads. You will, therefore, harden your body to activity and endurance, especially to endurance, for endurance is the essence of military fitness. Without exercise, your mind will get as lazy as your body would. Don't think that when you leave the RMC you have done with study. You have chosen the most interesting and comprehensive of all professions. Study it, think about it, discuss it and not only with your brother soldiers. The world militarily and in every way is changing. Unless you keep your mind alert, receptive and flexible, the world will leave you behind and an officer who has been left behind is a pathetic sight. So don't be left behind – exercise your mind, keep it like your swords, keen and bright.

Moments before being presented with the Sword of Honour by the Governor-General, Senior Under Officer J.M. Moody reaches a high point in his time at the RMC. Having begun to walk that long road with such promise, it appears that some of the encouragement offered by the Governor-General did not endure. As an infantryman, Lieutenant Moody spent two years in a National Service Training Battalion and four months in 3 RAR before resigning in May 1960.



The Corps of Staff Cadets withstands the searching gaze of the Governor-General who is accompanied by the Battalion Sergeant Major. Because of the gravel surface of that time there were no lines drawn on the parade ground to assist those dressing the ranks.



You will need the tough and active body of an officer; the quick and questing mind of an officer; but above all you will need the spirit of an officer. That spirit is based on courage, faith and integrity. Courage enduring beyond mere physical courage; faith in the old fashioned manly things your forerunners lived for and died to keep: freedom, honour, country and faith itself. Integrity is not so much a virtue in itself but the element in which all other virtues function, as fishes swim in water. It is only a spiritual foundation that will meet the real tests that sooner or later confront you as an officer.

You have set foot today on a road that will not always be smooth but which, if you follow it with all the strength of body, mind and spirit that God has given you, will constantly open to you new vistas of interest, adventure and service.

Tread firmly and unafraid and God speed you on your journey.

Shorts

- In March 1999 Mrs Diana Chase kindly donated the negative of a photograph of RMC staff cadets on HMAS *Melbourne* off Jervis Bay in 1923. Mrs Chase is the daughter-in-law of the late Major C.L.D. Chase who entered the RMC in February 1922 as one of the special entry provided for selected candidates over 19 years of age. He graduated on December 1924 and was allotted to infantry before being posted to the British Army in India. His military connexions were noteworthy in that an uncle had been awarded the VC in operations in Khandahar, India, while another uncle had been killed in action on Gallipoli. Some of his classmates were Air Chief Marshal Sir Frederick Scherger, Lieutenant General Sir Reginald Pollard and Brigadier T.W. White.
- Mr O. Williamson, the OTU member of the Duntroon Society Council, notes that many Duntroon graduates retire in south-east Queensland. He offers a cordial invitation for those retirees to join the OTU members at their monthly luncheon on the second Thursday of each month at 1245 hours at Friday's Restaurant in Eagle Street, Brisbane. Contact is Mr Michael Hart on (07) 3839 5222.
- In *Newsletter 1/1988* was given the method now in use of designating the Class or Course Year of a Member when appropriate. In response to some queries it is printed again.
 - RMC (Year of graduation).
 - OCS (OCS and year & month of graduation).
 - OTU (OTU & course number).
 - WRAAC OCS (WRAAC & course number).
- Miss Sylvia Curley, a well known Duntroon and Canberra personality, died in Canberra on 24 March 1999. She was born at Duntroon on 8 November 1898 and was the second eldest daughter of John Curley. The Curleys lived in a cottage on Woolshed Creek and later moved up to one of the cottages near Duntroon House. They moved from there to Mugga Mugga in

1913. In May 1990, the RMC Archivist, Major A. (Bill) Harkness (1954), interviewed Miss Curley in Duntroon House. It is planned to publish the transcript of that interview in a future edition of the Newsletter.

- The Duntroon Society Award at the graduation on 8 December 1998, was presented to Sergeant D.J. Yates who graduated into the Australian Army Aviation Corps. He is currently posted to the Royal Western Australian Regiment awaiting the beginning of his ab initio flying training at the school operated by British Aerospace Flight Training(Aust) at Tamworth, N.S.W..
- Negotiations are proceeding to have the book *Duntroon* by Chris Coulthard-Clark (1972), updated and published by November 2000.
- Two Aleppo Pines, which are the progeny of the 'Lone Pine' from Gallipoli, were planted below General Bridges' grave in 1993. The RSL has proposed that these trees bear a plaque dedicated to the graduates of the RMC who served on Gallipoli. Together with the RSL, the Commandant RMC, Brigadier P.L.G. Pursey, is considering the wording of the plaque and the date of its dedication.
- At ANZAC Cove on Gallipoli on ANZAC Day 1999, the Catafalque Party was commanded by the Sergeant Major of the Drill Wing of the RMC Training Unit. Three members of that Party were staff cadets from the RMC – one who was a RAAF cadet and one who was a New Zealand cadet, while the fourth was a local member of the RAN.
- **Endpiece**
[Recently, an erstwhile but somewhat cynical Member told me that, in his view, the RMC Duntroon, per se, has ceased to exist. He maintains that it has been replaced by the OPSM Duntroon – the Officer Producing Sausage Machine. Hmmm! Ed.]

Obituary

Since the publication of the last Newsletter we have learned of the deaths of the following:

- Feb 1997 Squadron Leader W.E. Bishop-Kinleyside (1951)
- 17 Apr 1997 Major R.M. Martin (Jun 1942)
- 2 Jan 1998 Mr V.C. Butler
- Feb 1998 Captain J.O. Spicer (Jun 1942)
- 16 May 1998 Lieutenant Colonel B.J. Falvey (1950)
- 29 Sep 1998 Air Marshal Sir Valston Hancock (1928)
- 16 Oct 1998 Major N.R. McPhee (1950)
- 7 Nov 1998 Lieutenant Colonel F.L. Skinner (1930)
- Dec 1998 Major C.C. Sanders (1968)
- 16 Dec 1998 Lieutenant Colonel D.S. Smith (1946)
- 17 Dec 1998 Lieutenant Colonel R. Stanley-Harris (1944)
- 10 Jan 1999 Lieutenant Colonel R.R. Warfe (1967)
- 1 Feb 1999 Lieutenant Colonel D.J. Commerford (1951)
- 9 Feb 1999 Major General K.H. Kirkland (1951)
- 6 Mar 1999 Mr D.C. Tatnell (1947)
- 26 Mar 1999 Lieutenant Colonel C.E. Ginn (Apr 1944)
- 9 May 1999 Colonel J.A. Warr (1947)
- 12 May 1999 Colonel R.H. Smith (1944)

More On Cars at the RMC

R.A. Clark

[Despite a number of years as your Editor, the variety of subjects that cause a rush of fingers to the keyboard is still surprising. Since the appearance in *Newsletter 1/1998* of Neville Bergin's (1956) article **Of Cars and Other Things**, there have been many responses – perhaps in part, a reflection of the strong feelings that are often aroused between a man and his car. Whatever the reason, with the three published in *Newsletter 2/1998* there were two more that have been held over in the cause of balance until this Newsletter. Ed.]

Further to the recent articles and correspondence on the above subject, I have my own story to add. At the time that my brother, L.G. Clark (1947) was posted to Japan in 1950, he had acquired a new Ford Anglia sports soft top, which he asked me to look after during his absence overseas. As the car was then at Ingleburn and I did not have a driving licence, I enlisted the assistance of classmate, N.R. McPhee (1950), to drive the car back to Duntroon. The trip was uneventful except that, as we crossed the old wooden bridge over the river at Liverpool, the car began to hop quite alarmingly and continued to do so all the way across. We were at a loss to explain this behaviour, but subsequently we worked out that Neil had let out the clutch too quickly and the clutch kept engaging and releasing all the way across.

Then there was the question of housing the car at the RMC. This was always going to be a problem especially as ownership of a car was strictly against Standing Orders. However the bugler, Corporal Rundle, lived in makeshift married quarters about half way up the hill to General Bridges' grave. This was very convenient for him as he was able to sound 'reveille' and 'lights out' by standing and playing outside his front door which was midway between Ack Block and Kokoda. In those days the bugle calls were the real thing – no canned music calls for us. Anyway, Corporal Rundle allowed me to keep the car in a carport adjacent to his home where it resided undetected until graduation day.

It certainly was great to have a car in the final year – it opened up our social life considerably. I remember midweek dances at Hall, Saturday nights in Canberra and Sunday drives to the Cotter and other attractions. I still do not know if the Staff were aware of the existence of the vehicle, but Neil and I received a great shock one Morning Parade when the Adjutant, Captain J.W. Norrie (1942), threw up the window of his office which overlooked the parade ground and called, *RSM, I want to see Clark and McPhee in my office now*. Our hearts sank and with great trepidation we reported as directed, only to find that he wanted to talk about the cricket teams in which we were both involved. We have a sneaking suspicion that he knew our secret and was just trying to scare us.

Colonel R.A. Clark entered the RMC on 22 February 1947 and, as a member of the first of the four-year post-war courses, graduated on 10 December 1950, when he was allotted to the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. As the Director, Communications, as the professional head of his Corps was then titled, he retired on 21 March 1978.

Branch Reports

Australian Capital Territory

A rapid change in just 24 hours from balmy autumn to windy winter with a maximum temperature just making it to 11°C on the day, served to mute any nostalgia that the 75 Members and guests may have felt about enjoying being under the departed Fred's Tree during the Autumn Luncheon on Tuesday, 27 April 1999. Instead, they gathered in the Officers' Mess ante room and then repaired to the still-new dining room.

Among those present, in addition to graduates and former staff of the RMC, were Society Members from OTU Scheyville, OCS Portsea and the WRAAC OCS. Professor J.T. (John) Laird was accompanied by his daughter, Mrs Margaret Frisch, who grew up and lived in Duntroon until she married. Another child of Duntroon who attended was Mrs Cheryl Lipcznski, who travelled from Sydney for the occasion. She is the daughter of the late Major C. Starkey, the long-serving OC of HQ Coy RMC, after whom the park opposite the Family Store is named.

President of the Duntroon Society and Commandant of the RMC, Brigadier P.L.G. Pursey (OTU 4/70) took the opportunity to brief the assembly about the current activity at the RMC, especially the beginning on 1 July 1999 of the contracts for many of the support services for the RMC and on the visit on 20 April 1999 of HRH Crown Prince Mahidol Vajiralongkorn (1975).

New South Wales

The customary luncheon to mark the RMC Graduation Day was held in the Officers' Mess, Victoria Barracks on Tuesday, 8 December 1998. Fifty-six Members attended and 43 sent their apologies.

Of the 226 Members in the NSW Branch only the 99 mentioned above responded to the notices sent to them by the Branch. With a view to containing secretariat costs and effort, it has been proposed that the NSW Members be asked to inform the Branch if they do not wish to receive notices of functions.

New Zealand

The Wellington sub-Branch held its annual luncheon in the Officers' Mess, Trentham on Sunday, 6 December 1998.

On 8 December 1998, the Northern sub-Branch held its customary Graduation Night Dinner at the Northern Club with 37 attending. They were played into dinner and later entertained by the Band of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery.

As at 31 December 1998, the Branch had 127 financial Members, of whom 36 were Life Members. The Branch includes nine ex-OCS, Portsea and one ex-RMA, Sandhurst.

On 13-14 February 1999, golfers from Wellington and Auckland, together with their wives, spent a very enjoyable and relaxing weekend of golf at Taupo. Twenty-five played golf and 28 attended dinner on Saturday night.

1998 Graduation Dinner in NZ



From the left: R.G. Williams (1952), E.B. Bestic (1962) & R.D.P. Hassett (1942). Williams and Hassett retired from the posting of CGS in 1984 and 1978 respectively.



From the left: R.J. Andrews (1957), I.H. Burrows (1953), W.S. Hopkirk (1950) & J.T. Burrows (OCS Dec 1980). The two Burrows are father and son.

1998 Graduation Dinner in NZ



The Band of the Royal Regiment of NZ Artillery in attendance under the Director of Music, Warrant Officer Class One J.D. Knowles. The sergeant Cornet Horn player at bottom left is an Australian who played the Post Horn Gallop as a solo.



At the Graduation Night Dinner at the Northern Club on 8 December 1988. Our man in New Zealand, R.K.G. (Ralph) Porter (1944), the Branch Convener and, on the right, P.J. (Rod) Baldwin (1966).

Queensland

The Branch match for the Annual Postal Golf Competition was played on 23 October 1998 at Royal Queensland Golf Club in perfect conditions. Fifteen Members enjoyed the day but, with a couple of notable exceptions, the scores did not reflect the playing conditions.

On 2 December, a total of 32 members and partners enjoyed a Black Tie Dinner at the Officers' Mess, Victoria Barracks. Major General J. Pearn, the Surgeon General, was the guest and he provided a most interesting insight into a range of Defence Medical issues.

South Australia

The 1998 Branch round of the Annual Postal Golf Competition was played at the Grange Golf Club on Friday, 27 November 1998. Twelve players hit off in fine but windy conditions. At the light luncheon preceding the match J. (John) Duff (1951) was presented with his certificate of Life Membership of the Duntroon Society. There are now 11 Members of the Branch who have been so awarded.

On Tuesday, 8 December, the 1998 Graduation Luncheon was held in the Officers' Mess, Keswick Barracks with 22 Members attending. A special drive is proposed to increase both Branch membership and function attendance.

Victoria

On 4 March 1999 one of the largest number in recent years gathered for the traditional Summer Luncheon at the Officers' Mess, Victoria Barracks. Framed Life Membership certificates were presented at this function. Brigadier I.G.C.(Ian) Gilmore (1946) briefed the assembly on the future of the Army Command and Staff College with its impending closure at Fort Queenscliff and relocation to Canberra.

Officer Training Unit Association Report

As at 12 March 1999, the OTU Association had a membership of approximately 380 graduates who are to receive the Scheyvillian Magazine in March, July and November each year.

During 1998 the National Executive Committee transferred from Perth to Melbourne under a new National Chairman, Mr B.C.T. (Brian) Cooper (OTU 3/69) who expressed his thanks to the outgoing National Chairman, Mr B.R. (Bruce) Thorpe (OTU 4/66) and his Perth-based Committee. All contact with the Association can now be made through the Secretary,

Mr T. (Terry) White (OTU 3/69)

OTU Association

National Office

GPO Box 4312 PP

Melbourne

Victoria. 3001

Telephone: (03) 9663 3564

The new National Committee will:

- a. Look at the allocation of funds to sponsor children through leadership courses,
- b. Investigate and action a range of new initiatives including,
 - (1) the possibility of paid advertising to offset the costs of the Scheyvillian Magazine,
 - (2) a series of articles tracing well known and interesting graduates and,
 - (3) the examination of the concept of incorporating the national body.

Mr O.C. (Owen) Williamson (OTU 4/70) will remain the OTU Association representative on the Duntroon Society Council. The Association is committed to supporting the Duntroon Society.

The Association is looking forward to being able to store its memorabilia at Duntroon.

Wanted

An Honorary Secretary/Treasurer for the NSW Branch.

Lieutenant Colonel R.D. (Ron) Hamlyn, after nearly 20 years in harness, is keen to retire and is **urgently** seeking someone to take over from him. If you are interested and willing to do the job for, say two years, please phone him after business hours on (02) 9387 2158 or Roy Pugh on (02) 4384 6933.

Profile of the Students at the RMC

Current strength (10 May 1999)	338
CSC	
First Class	50
Second Class	173
Third Class	57
Specialist Service Officers Course	58
Fiji	4
New Zealand	2
Papua New Guinea	6
RAAF	6
Thailand	1
Tonga	2
ADFA Graduates	106
ADFA Transfers	5
Married	28
Females	54
Cadets with previous military experience	82

The statistics above, although accurate for the date given, do not reflect the training workload that exists at other times of the year. For example, at the beginning of last February, there were two Reserve First Appointment Courses training at the RMC. Together with the University Regiments, the RMC at that time was responsible for the training of some 1,100 candidates for a commission.

Annual Postal Golf Competition

New blood is a great thing. The two newest teams in our continuing competition have risen to the top. Congratulations to the ACT Federal team for a fine victory and commiserations to the New Zealand Wellington team for being the bridesmaid for the second year in a row. There were some fine four ball scores as well. Come on W.A.!! How about a team for 1999?

● Team event results were:

1st: ACT (Federal Golf Club) (210) Friday, 18 Dec 1998 Fine & calm.	B.G. Stephens (1969) P.D. Knight (1965) G.R. Wainwright (1965) F.C. Lehman (1960) I.F. Ahearn (1966) G. Ogden	39 37 37 34 33 30 210
	W.T. Kendall (OCS Jun 1967) R.W. Fisher (1960)	30 28
2nd: New Zealand (Wellington) (209) At Martinborough Golf Club Sunday, 13 Dec 1998 Perfect weather.	A.T.A. Mataira (1950) J.A. Brandon (1965) M.F. Dodson (1965) S.A.P. Davies D.J. Grant (OCS Dec 1961) T.A. Harker (1961)	39 36 35 35 33 31 209
	J.P. Gatley (1956) M.J. Ross (1956) D.W.S. Moloney (1960)	31 31 29
3rd: Victoria (204) At Sorrento Golf Club Thursday, 10 Dec 1998 Fine & warm.	J.C. Burns (1969) G. Hollings (1948) D.J. Gilroy (1958) G. Watts (1974) T.C. Bannister (1955) A.M. Stove (1963)	37 36 34 33 32 32 204
4th: Queensland (199) Royal Queensland Golf Club Friday, 23 Oct 1998 No weather. [cancelled due to lack of public interest?]	L.R. Greville (1946) N.J. McGuire (1953) D.N. Collins (OCS Dec 1966) P.N. Arnison (1962) S.R. Hinton (1962) B. McGuire	38 33 33 32 32 31 199
	G.R. Maughan (OCS Jun 1963) K.R. Hall (1961)	30 30
5th: New Zealand (Auckland) (195) At Helensville Golf Club Friday, 6 Nov 1998 Fine, gentle breeze.	R.G. Williams (1952) M.J. Dudman (1959) T.A. Aldridge (1961) R.G.K. Porter (1944) G.M. McKay (1953) C.M. Dixon (1954)	42 39 33 28 28 25 195
	I.H. Burrows (1953) G.A. Hitchings (1952)	21 19

6th: ACT (Royal Canberra Golf Club 1) (193) Monday, 30 Nov 1998 Fine & warm.	J.A.F. Gilchrist (OCS Dec 1974) D.K. Baker (1954) T.A. McGee (1961) A.J. Fittock (1961) A.L. Vickers (1960) N.L. Horn (1961)	35 34 34 31 30 29 193
	J.H. Townley (1960)	28
7th: S.A. (184) At Grange Golf Club Friday, 27 Nov 1998 Clear, strong winds.	J.A. Clark (1947) P.O.G. Forbes J.E. Duff (1951) J.DeB. Forbes (1942) P.J. Bridge (1966) J.D. Cambridge (1966)	36 34 31 31 28 24 184
8th: New South Wales (182) At Avondale Golf Club Wednesday, 11 Nov 1998 Fine & hot.	L.R. Greville (1946) L.S. Sheringham (1956) G. Grimsdale (1959) G.W. Hurford (OTU 2/69) R. Fotheringham B.A. Andrews (1942)	33 32 31 30 29 27 182
9th: ACT (Royal Canberra Golf Club 2) (181) Monday, 30 Nov 1998 Fine & warm.	J.D. Langtry J.S. Baker (1957) B.J. Stark (OCS Jun 1954) S.S. Agnew G.T. Salmon (1959) P.J.A. Evans (1958)	35 32 30 26 26 24 181
10th: ACT (Royal Canberra Golf Club) (156) Monday, 30 Nov 1998 Fine & warm.	A.L. Morrison (1947) I.G. Porteous (1954) N.P. Farquhar W.J.S. Gordon (1942) R.J. Copley (1962) D.S. Sutton (1988)	30 27 27 26 24 22 156

● Individual scores were:

1st	R.G. Williams NZ (Auckland)	42
Equal 2nd	M.J. Dudman NZ (Auckland)	39
	B. Stephens ACT (Federal)	39
	A.T.A. Mataira NZ (Wellington)	39
5th	L.R. Greville (Queensland)	38

● Four Ball Scores were:

1st: NZ (Wellington)	J.A. Brandon	(48)
	J.P. Gatley	
Equal 2nd: NZ Auckland	M.J. Dudman	(46 o.c.b.)
	T.A. Aldridge	
ACT (RCGC 1)	T.A. Gee	(46 o.c.b.)
	D.K. Baker	
NZ (Auckland)	R.G. Williams	(46 o.c.b.)
	G.A. Hitchings	
Equal 5th: Queensland	P.M. Arnison	(45 o.c.b.)
	S.R. Hinton	
Queensland	L.R. Greville	(45 o.c.b.)
	N.J. McGuire	

Thank you to all the golfers for making this event such a fine annual re-union on the golf course and such an interesting look nationally, or internationally, at our golfing form. Best wishes for this year's competition. Should you be interested in joining the event for 1999, please contact one of the members of the Match Committee listed below:

Chairman	A.L. (Alan) Vickers (02) 6295 0663 (H) (02) 6249 7790 (FAX)
A.C.T.	J.H. (Jim) Townley (02) 6295 2078 (H)
N.S.W.	B.A. (Bruce) Andrews (02) 9349 3671 (H)
New Zealand	R.K.G. (Ralph) Porter 33 Coldham Cres St John's Park Auckland 5 New Zealand (09) 521 2195 (H)
Queensland	R.B.(Ross) Bishop (07) 3268 1127 (W) (07) 3268 1951 (FAX)
S.A.	J.A. (Alex) Clark (08) 8272 5968
Victoria	A.M. (Tony) Stove (03) 9583 6318 (H) (03) 9592 6294 (W)
W.A.	C.J. (Colin) Purcell (08) 9791 1530



Lads' Army – RMC 1942–43

P.D. Yonge

We New South Welshmen and Queenslanders arrived before daylight at Queanbeyan Railway Station on 28 February 1942. As part of the air raid precautions recently introduced, a 'brown out' was in force in Queanbeyan and Canberra. Our eight New Zealand classmates turned up a week later – their ship had been dodging Japanese submarines.

There was no First Class. Second Class was to graduate in June after 2½ years at the RMC and Third Class would graduate in December 1942 after training for two years. We were then reluctantly facing two years at the RMC while there was a war going on close to our shores. However, most of us were too young to join the AIF anyway.

Second Class – the Big Class – began with 51 Australians and ten New Zealanders but, mainly in

December 1941, ten Australians and one from New Zealand had been discharged for such crimes as keeping a car behind Russell Hill or for being poor at mathematics! Most of those discharged joined the AIF where they were commissioned and beat their classmates to the war by six months. One discharged for poor mathematics (R.B. (Bob) Delohery) was a captain by the end of the war outranking most of his classmates. He spent the ensuing peace as General Manager of Schweppes (Australia). Two, N.E.L. (Noel) Rossiter and B.N. (Brian) Dobson shot through [absented themselves without leave] in October 1941 and joined the AIF under assumed names. Noel was apprehended and spent his last six months at the RMC confined to barracks before graduating and reaching the rank of captain in the AIF. Brian was not found. He was a sergeant in the 8th Division where he was wounded and then captured in Singapore. Happily he survived. Two of Third Class (G.F. Gyngell and P.St.G. Gore) repeated a year and joined us in Fourth Class in 1942.

With the war against Japan at full intensity, life was taken seriously by all at the RMC. Training for the week finished at mid-day on Saturdays after which we played sport. Then it was off to the pictures at Civic or Manuka or the Services Club – with a girl if our seven shillings and six pence, provided by our fathers as our sole income, could cope. Sunday mornings came with compulsory Church Parade when we were marched off to church service in the cadets' recreation room if you were a 'Protester', or off to the science laboratories if you were the other sort.

Provided one had a letter (meal ticket) from a family in Canberra or the surrounding district, the rest of Sunday could be spent with them – the lunch and the daughter being the attraction, but not necessarily in that order. (My father-in-law, Colonel R.G. Legge, back in 1939, had to remind one of the cadet Under Officers that, if he wrote his own 'meal ticket', he should remember to fold the sheet to prove that it had come through the mail before placing it in the Orderly Room tray!). The occasional 'Hops' in the gymnasium or recreation room required that one's prospective dance partner must be an approved entry in the 'Chook Book' held in the Orderly Room. We soon learned that the young ladies from 'Toorak' behind Mt Pleasant – the left-over construction camp of the 1920s in wood and hessian – were not to be entered in the 'Chook Book'! During this infrequent entertainment, Fourth Class training was temporarily eased until the next morning when it was resumed as an essential education for our Army careers.

The Australian War Memorial, finished a few months earlier in 1941, was an essential destination on foot across the open paddocks on a fine Sunday. The suburb of Campbell did not then exist. RAAF Station Canberra with a very small civil terminal on the south side remained a constant reminder of the Japanese activity to the north of our shores. A Dutch bomber squadron evacuated from Java was stationed there. [18, 119 and 120 (Netherlands East Indies) Squadrons were based at Canberra between April 1942 and May 1944]. Occasionally the noise of bombers taking off and landing during the night marked their attempts to bomb the Japanese submarines operating off the Australian east coast. The submarines shelled Sydney, where only one round exploded, and Newcastle and launched midget

submarines to enter Sydney Harbour. Then we had the excitement of the arrival of our new Tactics Instructor¹, Major N.R. (Tusker) McLeod (1938), who had survived the collapse of Rabaul and had escaped through the jungle along the north of New Britain to be taken off by boat from the north-west end. The War become personally closer when a summons to the Company Orderly Room on 10 August 1942 revealed that my brother, Lieutenant (E) Brabazon Yonge, RAN was missing, believed killed in HMAS *Canberra* off Gaudacanal.

Fourth Class 1942 was the rare exception of having no repeats and none who failed to graduate. We had seen with dismay, in December 1942, the discharge of one of Third Class on the day before graduation. Often the bizarre reason for discharge was failure to satisfy in mathematics.

Some years later, when I was back on the RMC staff as Instructor Engineers and Staff Officer Engineer Services, I enjoyed the sport of the Board of Studies meetings. A familiar mathematician advised the Commandant that Staff Cadet So & So, *Must go!* The Commandant asked the Medical Officer, Major J.R. Nimmo, to comment. That sound judge of cadets, 'Doc' Nimmo, said, *You saw his solid play last Saturday on the Rugby field. I think that he deserves another chance. Thank you Major Nimmo, I agree,* was the Commandant's reply.

When we graduated, the New Zealand Classmates were the envy of all of us jungle-bound Australians. They were off to a civilized European war in Italy with wine and senioritas! At the end of the War all eight of those New Zealanders were captains. On the other hand, we Australians mustered three temporary captains and 22 lieutenants who were finally promoted to captain in 1948.

After the Japanese surrender many of us at the end of 1945 headed from remote parts of New Guinea or Borneo and Morotai to form 28 Australian Infantry Brigade for service in BCOF in Japan. We lingered at Morotai until February 1946 before our cargo ships arrived to transport us to Japan. When we arrived there we found that our N.Z. Captain Classmates had sailed from Italy to Japan in style in passenger liners in September 1945.

However, 15 December 1943 and graduation marked the potential for a great adventure. Three of us, D. Willett, J.D. Andrew and Yonge were commissioned in the AIF before we were old enough to join it. The same had happened in December 1942 when W.J.S. Gordon and S.A. Cameron were still 18 at graduation. LADS' ARMY was off to war!

¹ His posting at the RMC was Deputy Assistant Adjutant General but it seems that he did teach tactics, either full or part-time.

Brigadier P.D Yonge, AO, entered the RMC on 28 February 1942 and graduated on 14 December 1943 when he was allotted to the Royal Australian Engineers. From June 1951 to April 1952 he returned to the RMC as the Instructor Engineers and Staff Officer Engineer Services. He retired from his last appointment as Director General Materiel at Army Office on 13 January 1980.

Coming Events

N.S.W. Branch

Monday, 14 June 1999 (Queen's Birthday Weekend). The annual buffet and race day at the AJC's Randwick Racecourse. Members and their guests from other Branches are most welcome to attend this popular function – probably for the last time at Randwick. All NSW Branch Members will be sent the notices and forms. Other prospective participants may get the notices and forms in early May from either Lieutenant Colonel R.D. (Ron) Hamlyn on (02) 9387 2158 or the NSW Convener, Mr R.W.O.(Roy) Pugh on (02) 4384 6933.

New Zealand Branch

Saturday/Sunday, 12-13 February 2000. Annual North/South golfing weekend at Taupo.

Queensland Branch

Saturday, 10 April 1999. An evening at Silk's Restaurant.

TBA. Black Tie Dinner (mixed) with guest speaker.

Friday, 8 October 1999. Branch match for the Annual Postal Golf Competition.

Thursday, 28 October 1999. Reception at Government House.

TBA. Enoggera visit and Annual General Meeting.

Victoria Branch

Late April or early May 1999. The Branch match for the Annual Postal Golf Competition.

RMC Ceremonial Parades

Saturday, 12 June 1999. The Queen's Birthday Parade and Trooping the Colour.

Wednesday, 23 June 1999. The Sovereign's Banner Parade.

Tuesday, 29 June 1999. The Graduation Parade.

Further information can be obtained from the Protocol Officer, Warrant Officer Class 1 K.F. Noon on (02)6265 9539.

Open Day Duntroon House

Sunday, 10 October 1999. On this day Duntroon House will be open to the public who are invited to view the House and its surrounds. Volunteer guides will be available, the Band of the RMC will be in attendance and refreshments will be provided.

