

# THE DUNTRON SOCIETY

Newsletter 2/1990

April 1990

## The 'A.M. Forbes Block'

On the north side of the Parade Ground is a two story building listed on the Register of Assets as A33. Since its erection in 1936 it has been used variously as a library, a military instruction building, a major examination centre and, later, as an academic block. Its most consistent role has been that of displaying the RMC Clock. Presently it is the Corps of Staff Cadets' Battalion Headquarters building and is occupied by the BSM and the BQMS.

Earlier this year approval was given to name it 'The A.M. Forbes Block'. During his farewell visit to the RMC on 15 March 90, the Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General L.G. O'Donnell, (1951) formally named the building. Brigadier Forbes' son, The Honourable Doctor A.J. Forbes attended the ceremony with his daughter Sarah Forbes. A slightly edited text of the CGS's remarks on that occasion follows.

### The First BSM of RMC, Duntroon

The late Brigadier Alexander Moore Forbes, MVO, MC was a distinguished soldier. He was born in St Kilda, Victoria on 19 May 1892 and educated at the Church of England Grammar School in Melbourne where he obtained honours in English and History.

His military career commenced when he entered the newly formed Royal Military College, Duntroon on 22 June 1911 as one of the forty-two Australian and New Zealand cadets who formed the "initial batch" (as it was termed at the time). In recognition of his excellent results in the examination for admission to RMC, held in February 1911, Forbes was allotted the cadet No. 2 and was the second cadet to be attested by the Commandant, Brigadier General Bridges.

Staff Cadet Forbes' excellent general performance and outstanding leadership potential were recognised and he became the first cadet to be promoted — to the exalted rank of Acting Lance Corporal! — on 1 July 1911. Further promotion in the cadet ranks followed and on 1 February 1914 he was appointed Battalion Sergeant Major of the Corps of Staff Cadets and became the first BSM of the Royal Military College, Duntroon. He was later awarded the first Sword of Honour for "exemplary conduct and performance of duties".

Following the outbreak of World War I in August 1914, BSM Forbes, along with the other members of his class, was specially graduated for active service with the Australian Imperial Force, on 14 August 1914. In 1917 the then Captain Forbes was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry and in 1918, having reached the rank of Major, was mentioned in despatches by Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig.

He returned to Duntroon following the end of WWI and was Adjutant of RMC from 1921 to 1922. In 1938 he was the organiser of the unveiling ceremony of the Villers-Bretonneux War Memorial by His Majesty King George VI and was appointed as a member of the Royal Victorian Order for service to the Crown. He continued to serve throughout World War II and reached the rank

of Brigadier. His military career ended when he retired on 1 December 1946.

At the Jubilee Parade in 1961 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Royal Military College, Brigadier Forbes' Sword of Honour was presented to the Corps of Staff Cadets by his son, The Honourable Doctor Alexander James Forbes, CMG, MC. Dr Forbes was himself a graduate of the RMC, holder of the Military Cross for gallantry and Minister for the Army during a distinguished military and political career.

This sword, the first Sword of Honour, has since been carried by the Battalion Sergeant Major on all ceremonial occasions at the Royal Military College, Duntroon.

## Coming Events

### A.C.T. Branch

Friday, 20 April 1990. The annual autumn luncheon in the Duntroon House gardens near Fred's Tree.

Saturday-Sunday, 26-27 May 1990. Combined excursion with Victorian Branch to Victorian wineries and Corps Museums in the Rutherglen and Bandiana areas. Other Branch Members and partners are very welcome.

### N.S.W. Branch

Monday, 11 June 1990 (the Queen's Birthday weekend). The annual buffet luncheon and raceday at the AJC's Randwick Racecourse. Members from other Branches are welcome. ACT Members who are interested in attending are requested to contact Lieutenant Colonel Ron Hamlyn on (02) 262 5173 (W) or (02) 387 2158 (H).

### Queensland Branch

The annual cocktail party will be held in late August or early September. The Branch will be participating in the Postal Golf Match Competition.

### Victorian Branch

Wednesdays, 30 May & 5 September 1990. Luncheons will be held in the Robertson Room, Army Officers' Mess, Victoria Barracks. Other Branch Members and partners are most welcome.

### RMC Ceremonial Parades

9 June 1990 — The Queen's Birthday Parade

26 June 1990 — 1/90 Graduation Parade.

Further information can be obtained from the S03 (Ceremonial), Captain R.G. Curtis on (06) 275 9539.



*As is their custom, the Northern Sub-branch N.Z. Members and their ladies posed briefly during their Graduation Night Dinner on 12 December 1989 at the Officers' Mess, Narrow Neck, Auckland.*



*Back Row: M.J. Dudman (1956), A.C. Hamilton (1950), I.H. Burrows (1950),  
Front Row: G.M. McKay (1950), J.R. Clarke (1946), S.F. Sim (1950), T.G. Martin (1951).*

## Branch Reports

### Australian Capital Territory

Insufficient support caused the cancellation of the boat trip on Lake Burley Griffin planned for 26 November 1989. However a small group had an excellent weekend at Thredbo in ideal conditions on 24-25 February 1990.

### New South Wales

Although not on Graduation Day as is traditional, the biennial meeting was held on 14 December 1989 and preceded an excellent lunch. Attendance was 61 with 48 apologies. Members were very pleased to see Mr A.E. Shepherd ('Shep') (Newsletter 1/1989, 'From Chalk to Drum') after some 40 years.

As was forecast in Newsletter 2/1989, the Vice Regal Stand at Randwick has been demolished. However an alternative venue has been set aside for the use of the Society on the Queen's Birthday holiday on 11 June 1990.

### New Zealand

Wellington Members held a luncheon at Fort Dorset on 10 December 1989. In Auckland over 50 Members and their wives attended the annual Graduation Night Dinner at the Narrow Neck Officers' Mess.

### Victoria

Over 50 Members and friends attended a luncheon at the Officers' Mess, Victoria Barracks on 5 October 1989.

### South Australia

An enjoyable and well attended December luncheon was held at the Officers' Mess, Keswick Barracks at which the proposed Society Projects were discussed.

## This, That and the Other

Air Commodore Heffernan reacted to Newsletter 2/1989 with this unusual snippet.

Having been interested in family genealogy for many years, I noticed Marianne Collison Close's name in the article "A Stroll Around the Old Homestead" and it started to ring bells. I dug into my archives and, lo and behold, I find that I am indirectly connected with the original Campbell of Duntroon.

It happened like this. Marianne Close was the granddaughter of John Palmer, the purser to the First Fleet in the 'Sirius'. Her mother had married an Edward Close. Marianne had three brothers, one of whom, also Edward, married Louisa Platt and had five children. One of these was Peter Collison Close and he married one Laura Boyd as her second husband. That disposes of that side of the family.

Laura Josephson, a daughter of Judge Josephson (son of a convict Jacob who was a most unscupulous old sod) married a Thomas Bowyer. Laura was one of my great aunts and when Thomas died she married Peter Close. Through this tangled line of Aunts etc., I can claim to be vaguely related to the man who founded Duntroon.

## Victorian Branch Luncheon 5 October 1989

*T.J. Cahill (1951), G.W. Haselgrove (1949),  
N. Bland, C.R. Hook (1951).*



*1946 doesn't seem all that long ago.  
G. Hollings, A. Argent & V.T. Hauser.*

# Duntroon Society Office Bearers

At its meeting on 15 March 1990 Council had as its Chairman the new President of the Duntroon Society, Brigadier R.G. Curtis (1960). Also at that meeting was the new Honorary Secretary, Major J.M. Low (1977). These and other changes that have been effected since the last listing in 1987 make it useful to reprint the complete set of office bearers of the Society.

**President** Brigadier R.G. Curtis, AM, MC  
Commandant,  
Royal Military College,  
A.C.T. 2600  
(06) 275 9430 (W)

**The Honorary Secretary** Major J.M. Low,  
Office of the Commandant,  
Royal Military College,  
Duntroon,  
A.C.T. 2600  
(06) 275 9701 (W)

**Commanding Officer, CSC** Lieutenant Colonel E.H. Cameron  
Royal Military College,  
Duntroon,  
A.C.T. 2600  
(06) 275 9592 (W)

## ACT Branch

**Convenor** Brigadier P.J.A. Evans,  
Australian Defence Force Academy,  
Northcott Drive,  
Campbell,  
A.C.T. 2601  
(06) 268 8238 (W)

**Co-convenor** Brigadier W.J. Morrow, CBE  
5/24 Empire Circuit.,  
Forrest,  
A.C.T. 2603  
(06) 295 6422 (H)

**Proxy** Colonel P.E. Seddon,  
4 Banks Crescent,  
McKellar,  
A.C.T. 2617  
(06) 258 7832 (H)

**Secretary** Lieutenant Colonel J.E. Bullen,  
Australian War Memorial,  
Anzac Parade,  
Campbell,  
A.C.T. 2601  
(06) 243 4316 (W)

## New South Wales

**Convenor** Brigadier N.R. Charlesworth, DSO  
6 Prahran Ave.,  
Frenchs Forest,  
N.S.W. 2086  
(02) 452 219 (H)

**Contact (Sec/Tres)** Lieutenant Colonel R. Hamlyn,  
31 Kenilworth St.,  
Bondi Junction,  
N.S.W. 2022  
(02) 262 5173 (W)  
(02) 387 2158 (H)

## New Zealand

**Convenor** Colonel R.K.G. Porter, OBE  
33 Coldham Crescent,  
St Johns Park,  
Auckland 5,  
New Zealand

**Secretary** Major R.S. McMillan,  
C/o HQ Land Force Command,  
Private Bag,  
Takapuna,  
Auckland 9,  
New Zealand

**Proxy** Brigadier M.J. Dudman, LVO, OBE,  
AFNZIM  
New Zealand High Commission,  
Commonwealth Ave.,  
Canberra,  
A.C.T. 2600  
(06) 273 3611 (W)

## Queensland

**Convenor** Colonel J.H. Humphrey,  
57 Upper Lancaster Rd.,  
Ascot,  
Queensland 4007  
(07) 262 4946 (H)

**Co-convenor** Colonel D.V. Smith  
134 Kenmore Rd.,  
Kenmore,  
Queensland 4069  
(07) 378 1936 (H)

**Proxy** Brigadier F.J. Hartridge,  
39/1 Wilkins St.,  
Mawson,  
A.C.T. 2607  
(06) 286 2103 (H)

## S.A. Branch

**Convenor** Brigadier D. Willett,  
27 Glenunga Ave.,  
Glenunga, S.A. 5064  
(08) 338 2782

**Proxy** The Hon Dr A.J.B. Forbes, CMG, MC  
2 Tenth Ave.,  
St Peters,  
S.A. 5069  
(08) 42 6928 (H)

## Victoria

**Convenor** Colonel D.C. Fenwick,  
61 Church St.,  
Beaumaris,  
Victoria 3193  
(03) 652 5671 (W)  
(03) 583 6373 (H)

**Proxy** Brigadier J.G. Hughes, AM  
8 Coleman St.,  
Pearce,  
A.C.T. 2607  
(06) 285 1855 (W)  
(06) 286 2683 (H)

## Western Australia

**Convenor** Lieutenant Colonel C.J. Purcell,  
93 Dunstan St.,  
Bunbury,  
W.A. 6530  
(097) 21 7023 (H)

**Proxy** Colonel W.J. Slocombe, OBE  
RMB 2038,  
The Ridgeway,  
Queanbeyan,  
N.S.W. 2620  
(06) 297 4006 (H)

## The G.J. Watson Drill and Ceremonial Prize

Newsletter 1/1989 of April last year included a brief announcement about this award and an appeal for contributions to establish it. Although not a Society project the award was endorsed by the Commandant RMC.

The appeal was successful and Mrs Dorothea Saaghy of Landsborough, Victoria was commissioned to provide the statuette and the medallions. She sculptured from photographs of Regimental Sergeant Major Watson in his 'heyday' and captured an excellent likeness of his face and his bearing.

His widow, Mrs Grace Watson, on behalf of the contributors, presented the statuette to the RMC on 1 December 1989. Ten days later the Commandant RMC,

Major General M.P. Blake, made the inaugural award for the cadet of First Class graduating with the highest gradings in drill and ceremonial to Corporal P.A.M. Bonney at the graduation prize giving.

Sufficient donations were received to provide the bronze statuette and a supply of 51 medallions. The statuette remains, of course, with the RMC as does the medallion die, the supply of medallions and the records associated with the award.

[The critical part played by Brigadier I.R.J. Hodgkinson (1950) as Secretary/Treasurer of this project should not go unheralded. Ed.]



*Presentation on 1 December 1989 by Mrs Grace Watson of the G.J. Watson Drill and Ceremonial Prize (Statuette) to the Commandant RMC, Major General M.P. Blake.*

### In Short

- Last December Lieutenant Y.K. Phua became the first Singaporean Member of the Duntroon Society. He entered the RMC in July 1988.
- The Harrison Memorial Lecture will be presented to the Graduating Class on 15 June 1990 by the New Zealand Patron of the Duntroon Society, Lieutenant General Sir Leonard Thornton, KCB, CBE.
- Miss Australia 1989, Miss Lea Dickson, was the guest of the Corps of Staff Cadets on 10 March 1989. She was accompanied by Miss NSW 1989, Miss Debra-Leigh Griffin and the highest fund raiser in the ACT and NSW for the Spastic Centre, Miss Sharon Watt.

### Obituary

Since the publication of the last Newsletter we have been notified of the deaths of the following:

- 15 Jun 1989 Brigadier T.N. Gooch (1917)
- 28 Aug 1989 Major G.K. Bunce (1940)
- 28 Sep 1989 Lieutenant Colonel S.R. Lewis (1941)
- 2 Oct 1989 Lieutenant Colonel J.G. Demetrovics (1957)
- 6 Jan 1990 Brigadier G.R.L. Adams (1915)
- 24 Jan 1990 Lieutenant General Sir Richard Webb (1939)
- 4 Mar 1990 Brigadier E.J.H. Howard (1938)
- 25 Mar 1990 Major General P. Falkland (1943)

# The Funeral

[As Commander of the Australian Imperial Force and of 1st Australian Division on Gallipoli, Major General Sir William Throsby Bridges, KCB, CMG, was visiting the trench lines near Steele's Post on 15 May 1915 when he was seriously wounded. Although quickly taken aboard the hospital ship 'Gascon' he died three days later, before the ship had reached Alexandria. Not only was he 'a gallant and erudite soldier', he was a very highly regarded and respected one. So much so that the Australian Government decided to have his body brought back to Australia to be buried.

One of the Staff Cadets who took part in the ceremonies associated with that funeral was R.N.L. Hopkins who had entered the RMC on 18 February 1915. In Newsletter 1/1986 the 75th 'Jubilee Chat' project was outlined together with the request that members of the RMC and the OCS, both as individuals and in groups, record recollections of their time as cadets or staff. Major General Hopkins responded with tapes of his reminiscences of his three periods as Staff Cadet, instructor in cavalry and as Commandant. Part of that recording described his impressions of the funeral of Major General Bridges almost 75 years ago. To mark that historic occasion Major General Hopkins has kindly agreed to have that section of his recording reproduced here. Ed.]

When the news came the whole Duntroon community was greatly distressed to hear of the death of General Bridges, our founding Commandant, from fatal wounds on Gallipoli. Quite soon the College became closely involved when the Australian Government decided that General Bridges' body would be brought back from the Middle East and given a State Funeral and Burial on the slopes of Mt Pleasant immediately overlooking the College he founded.

This took place on September the 3rd, 1915 when only Third and Fourth Classes were available. The Third Class provided a small guard over the Catafalque for the brief Lying-in-State in St John's Church and the Corps of Staff Cadets — all that were available from both Classes — formed the escort as the coffin was borne on a gun carriage to the gravesite on a crest of the ridge over-looking the College. We, the Corps, had practised the unusual slow march which started and finished the road journey between St John's and Mt Pleasant and the drill movements 'Reverse Arms' and 'Rest on your Arms Reversed'. In the former the rifle is gripped under the left armpit with the butt to the front and the barrel pointing downward behind the soldier's back. To rest on reversed arms the rifle was turned upside down and rested with the muzzle between the feet and the butt held centrally against the body. The hands, one at a time with elbows square, were then rested on the butt, the elbows slowly lowered and the head bent over the rifle butt in slow time.

We, the escort, were formed up outside the Church. Every notable figure in Australian political and Service life was present watching our every move. Drums of the Band were draped in black. The General's horse, the only horse taken to war ever to return, stood behind the gun carriage with the General's boots reversed in the stirrups. We presented arms as the coffin was placed on the gun carriage then, with 'Arms Reversed', began the slow march of the funeral procession away from the Church. The Band, I seem to remember, played 'The Dead March From Saul'. I found the music to be the most harrowing part

of a really awesome experience. The solemnity of the slow march coupled with the muffled drums and a heart breaking rendition of the saddest music ever written was certainly my abiding memory from this eventful day. The cortege slowly marched along the unpaved road for three or four hundred yards and then broke into quick time for the mile or so more to Duntroon. The day was ideal and there was little dust as we marched over the spur to Mt Ainslie and proceeded to the College grounds.

We entered the Yass Gate, later to be called the Gun Gate. Here we began the steepish track through the trees and up the ridge to the grave-site. Once again the funeral music tore our heart strings. The track was lined with spectators but one was concentrating as never before in maintaining a correct and even slow march on this, by no means smooth, track up the hill. I have no recollection of the sermon or the Service, only that we presented arms when the guns (I think they were doing it on the Parade Ground), began to fire a 13-gun salute. Still it was not over. The very distinguished assemblage watched critically as we sloped arms, formed fours and marched down the hill behind the Band. And then a quite astounding thing happened. On the Square we were dismissed which, as you know, is a right turn, pause and break off. The Cadets moved to one side of the Square and just simply sat down, on the steps, on the ground — it didn't seem to matter. We felt proud, no doubt our part had gone well, but I don't believe any of us could have moved another yard until we had recaptured our composure.

In later years ceremonial occasions held considerable importance in College life and, indeed, in the community life of Canberra. The Corps of Staff Cadets has, for instance, always celebrated the Sovereign's Birthday, Graduation Day and similar events with colourful exhibitions of ceremonial drill but, in my day as a Cadet, we had little experience of this beyond General Bridges' funeral. I can recall a couple of Guards of Honour held on the Duntroon House lawn for important visitors, but nothing more. It must be remembered, I think, that the College was too young to have formed traditions and that war came very early in its history and made us concentrate on training rather than ceremonial. There was also the consideration, obviously forgotten these days, that there were no people living in Canberra and, therefore, no audience for parades. The important and popular gatherings for ceremonial parades at Duntroon were still far into the future at the time of the first Great War. Look at the photographs of the few early ceremonials at Duntroon from those times and you will see what I mean.

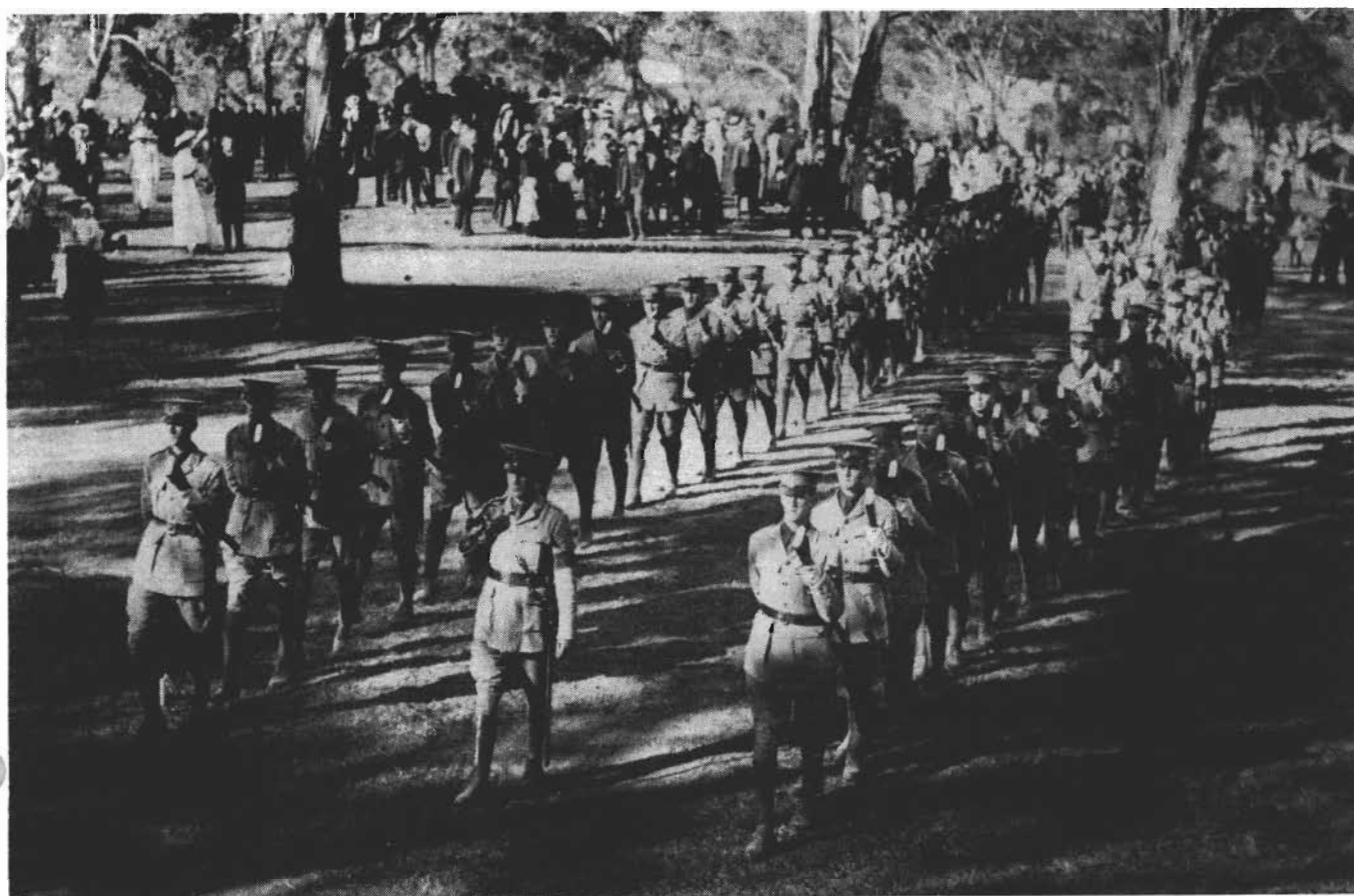
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***A graduate of 31 December 1917, Major General Hopkins was Instructor in Cavalry and Riding and Officer Commanding B Company from 2 February to 3 December 1926 and the Commandant from 20 February 1951 to 24 May 1954. Some readers may recall the report in Newsletter 2/1987 on 'Operation Hoppy 90' held by the South Australian Branch on 25 May 1987 to mark the General's 90th Birthday. Although he holds the distinction of being the second oldest Member of the Duntroon Society, his clear memory has spanned the previous 75 years with apparent ease.***

*The Lying-in-State of the late Major General Sir William Throsby Bridges, KCB, CMG in St John's Church on 3 September 1915. This was the first State occasion for which the Commonwealth Government found St John's to be a fitting venue.*



*On the slopes of Mt Pleasant the escort provided by the Corps of Staff Cadets approaches the grave site in preparation for the Burial Service on 3 September 1915.*



## Reunion — “The Slack 60”

The 50th anniversary of the entry into Duntroon of the 1940 intake, often known later as “The Slack 60”, was celebrated by 27 members of the Class (including four New Zealanders) during the weekend of 23-25 February. Accompanied by their wives they attended three major functions during those three days.

February 24th was the most significant date as this was the day in 1940 when virtually all of the members physically marched into the RMC. At that time, with 50 Australians and 10 New Zealanders, it was the biggest single intake ever to enter the College — hence the “60” but the origin of “The Slack” is somewhat blurred by time. However the War had just started and there was a feeling that it would end before the Class had graduated and, given the increasing urgency of the times, it was hard to relate the hours spent on Academic subjects and on the square becoming more guardsmanlike than the Guards, to the perceived need to become field soldiers. It was probably this reluctance to unquestioningly accept the status quo that led to a senior classman, or was it a staff member, to mutter about the “slack lot”.

However, “The Slack 60” believes that it holds one record — the only class to produce two Chiefs of the General Staff (one Australian and one New Zealand) and one State Governor. They are Lieutenant General Sir Donald Dunstan and Major General R.H.F. Holloway.

Finally, why celebrate the entry as opposed to the graduation? Along the way to graduation the Class lost 11 members, mainly for academic reasons. As a Class,

however, friendships started on 24 February 1940, not on 30 June 1942, thus they hold the entry date as much more important than graduation. Perhaps that is a indicator of “The Slack 60’s” somewhat irreverant 1940s view of life.

## Taskforce Gallipoli

Four Staff Cadets from the Senior Class at the Royal Military College, Colour Sergeant P.C. Tinley and Sergeants L.P. Minon, D.J. Wainwright and G.W. Spink will provide a four-man catafalque party at Gallipoli as part of the activities to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the landing by the ANZACs.

The cadets will depart with the main body of 146 soldiers, 60 Gallipoli veterans, eight war widows, eight Legatees and 18 medical staff aboard a chartered Boeing 747 on 20 April. The contingent will board HMAS Tobruk at Istanbul on the 22nd and next day will sail through the Dardanelles to ANZAC Cove. The dawn service at ANZAC Cove will be followed by an international ceremony at the Turkish Memorial at Cape Helles and an Australian wreath laying ceremony at Lone Pine. The party will return to Sydney on 30 April.

[No doubt there will be occasions during their time at ANZAC Cove when the four Staff Cadets will be able to reflect on the fact that 71 graduates served there and that 17 of them were killed and another 34 were wounded. Ed.]



*Fifty years on with ‘The Slack 60’ at their Cocktail Party in The Royal Canberra Golf Club on 23 February 1990. From the left: Standing: I.A. Geddes, K.J. Oram, K.A. Peddle, R.S. Plater, R.D. Egerton, P.L. Molineaux, C.E.M. Newton, C.T.W. Dixon, D.V. Goldsmith, P.F. Hewitt, L.C. Wood, R. Sutton, R.B. Ewart, R.H. Holloway, J.M. Maxwell, J.F. Keane, N.E. Swan, R.M. Gurr, D.J. Barnes. Kneeling: B.N. Dobson, D.J. Davies. Sitting: W.J.A. Wills, D.D. Patterson, R.G.P.S. McNamara.*



## A 'Bridge' for Entrance to Duntroon

[In Newsletter 2/1987 was begun the arrangement by the Commandant for a series of articles about the RMC to be published from time to time. This is the third. Ed.]

A number of Royal Military College (RMC) candidates are lost to the Army in the period between the time of their Selection Boards and the date they would commence training. This is particularly so for those who are deferred for six or 12 months because of relative immaturity. As a result of his 1988 tour of foreign military colleges, the Commandant RMC has initiated a potential solution to this problem.

At the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst an organisation known as Rowallan Company trains young people considered to have officer potential but who lack maturity and team leadership skills. These candidates spend three months in training which fosters self-confidence, initiative and leadership, before they commence the Sandhurst course proper. The success rate at Sandhurst of cadets who have completed Rowallan Company is about 90%.

An Australian equivalent of Rowallan Company was approved by the Chief of the General Staff's Advisory Committee in February 1989. The unit, which is known as 'Bridges Company', (after the first Commandant of the College) has as its aim, 'to prepare male and female candidates selected for entry into the Royal Military College, Duntroon by developing their personal qualities of self-reliance, self-confidence and self-discipline'.

On 26 October 1989, 24 male and five female candidates began the initial Bridges Company Course. After two days, during which they received their initial issues and were inducted into the Army, they moved to Tharwa in the ACT where, under the direction of 'Outward Bound Australia', they underwent a 46 day 'adventurous' exercise. This included rafting on the Snowy River, rogaining (24 hour orienteering), abseiling and participating in community projects such as rebuilding bridges. The exercise culminated in a trek over Mt Kosciusko and in following the Snowy River to its mouth at Orbost, after which they returned to Canberra and viewed the December 1989 Graduation Parade before proceeding on trainee leave. They began their RMC training course as Third Class cadets on 22 January 1990.

From 1990 two courses, with about 30 candidates, will be run each year. With the raising of the Army Adventurous Training Centre (AATC) at Bonegilla, the Bridges Company course will consist of an Outward Bound phase, a week long break during which candidates will return to their families, and three weeks at AATC to hone their personal qualities and better prepare them for entry to the RMC.

Bridges Company is an innovative concept. It offers an opportunity for rapid development of candidates who previously would not have been selected because of immaturity. It helps bridge the gap between young school leavers and mature young officers and assists the RMC to produce the number of junior officers needed by Army.

## Letters to the Editor

Perhaps I have been Editor for too short a time not to be surprised by the subjects that stir readers to respond. "A Stroll Around the Old Homestead" in Newsletter 2/1989 last September generated more points than most articles do. Rather than publish the relevant letters in

full I offer the following in the interests of historical accuracy:

- The paragraphs noting Fred's Tree give the impression that Fred was the son of the original Robert Campbell, the Sydney merchant who died in 1846. In fact, Frederick Arthur Campbell was the grandson of that Robert Campbell and was born on 13 March 1861.
- A younger and, unfortunately, lesser known oak not far from Duntroon House had affixed to it a plate which reads, "This oak was planted in 1915 by the original members of the RMC Staff upon receiving news of the death of Major-General Sir W.T. Bridges, KCB, CMG."
- It is unlikely that the Campbell family still owned a shipping line when Marianne Campbell was planting her trees. A later descendant, Arthur Campbell, believes that the trees were from each country that her husband George visited.
- The first maze was not privet but was probably catoneaster, as now. Anyone who regularly retrieved tennis balls from it would probably remember. Although widely thought to be based on the Hampton Court design, the RMC maze is quite unlike that layout. Major A.J.A. (Bert) Easter, the CRE during 1965, replanted the maze using a large vertical photo of the original to survey it in. He was most particular to duplicate it exactly. Despite this, a photo of the 1870s shows people standing on a platform at the centre yet it does not appear in the later aerial photo.
- A hedge of English Hawthorn does indeed still mark the original perimeter of the garden but a photo of about 1862 already shows that hedge, so it is even older than the 100 years claimed for it in the article.

## Society Projects

Newsletter 2/1989 mentioned two proposed Society projects, one for a perpetual trophy in the form of a statuette of a staff cadet, and the other for a life-sized statue of General Bridges as a centennial gift to the Royal Military College. New Zealand and the State Branches subsequently considered the proposals, and their reactions were reported to the Council at its meeting on 15 March 1990.

### Duntroon Society Trophy

In general, the Branches supported the establishment of the perpetual Duntroon Society Trophy; but were lukewarm about a statuette. The NSW Branch, in particular, suggested that the form of the trophy should preferably be 'something unique, original in concept and appropriate for both male and female cadets.'

The Council agreed that the trophy ought to be something other than a statuette, and felt that the form of it should be for the Commandant to decide after consulting with the CO CSC on what the Corps might prefer and regard as appropriate. The Council agreed that an amount of up to \$5000 be allocated for the establishment of a perpetual Duntroon Society Trophy, to be awarded to a member of the graduating class at each Graduation, together with an appropriate memento for each recipient.

### Centennial Gift

The Branches were in favour of the Society making a substantial gift to the Royal Military College at its

centenary in 2011, but were generally opposed to the proposal for a statue of General Bridges. The opposition was on two main grounds:

a. that a commemorative statue would be superfluous and inappropriate, as General Bridges' Grave was his monument at Duntroon.

b. that it was too early to make a decision on the nature of the presentation.

It was suggested that members of the Society should be invited to offer suggestions which would be recorded for consideration in the future.

The Council adopted the following resolutions based on the NSW Branch's views:

a that the Society make no decision regarding the nature of a presentation to mark the centenary of the Royal Military College before 1 January 2004.

b that a 'centennial fund' be established at an early date for the Society to use to mark the centenary of the Royal Military College in 2011.

c that no money be drawn or committed from the 'centennial fund' before 1 January 2004.

The Council further resolved that Members of the Society and Branches be invited to make suggestions regarding the nature of the centennial presentation, and that such suggestions should be recorded for consideration by the Council at an appropriate date. It is to be noted that the resolutions do not exclude the possibility of a statue of General Bridges if, in 2004, that is what the Society decides upon. More about the centennial fund will appear in later Newsletters.

### Suggestions

With respect to the above, Members are invited to send suggestions to:

The Secretary  
Duntroon Society  
Royal Military College  
Duntroon ACT 2600

From time to time, suggestions received will be reported in the Newsletter. The suggestions recorded at the date of going to press are:

- A life-sized statue of General Bridges.
- A fellowship for study and research. (NZ Branch)
- A special library gift in books. (NZ Branch)
- In addition to a more substantial gift, a bronze plaque be set near the flagpole referring to General Bridges as the founder of RMC and the location of his grave. (NZ Branch)

## The Prodigal Son's Corner

[This is the second in the series of personal stories with the theme as set out by the originator of the idea, P.J. Cook (1943) in Newsletter 2/1989. Dr J. Reed-Hankey, whose story this is, entered the RMC on 27 February 1943. Ed.]

After graduating from the RMC in December 1944, I eventually found myself posted to the 2nd New Guinea Infantry Battalion (2 NGIB) which was attached to the 17th Australian Infantry Brigade then advancing through the mountain villages in the Prince Alexander Range southwest of Wewak and gradually wresting control of the area from General Adachi's XVIII Japanese Army. Units of native troops were originally intended to act in the reconnaissance role but, at this time, 2 NGIB was fulfilling the role of an ordinary infantry battalion without the usual headquarters company heavy weapons support.

With the 2nd/5th Australian Infantry Battalion in the same area were six of my classmates, D.S.P. (Hippo) Baldwin, K.S. (Ken) McKenzie, C.H. (Colin) Brown, K.W. (Bunny) Newton, B.A. (Bruce) McDonald and B.B. (Bruce) Hearn, the latter three of whom were to win the Military Cross. Joining me in 2 NGIB were D.F. (David) Hadfield and E.W. (Russ) Cornish, who was tragically killed in action in the last fortnight of the war.

At this time I also became a casualty, and the efficiency and sophistication of the medical treatment and evacuation of casualties in the fairly primitive conditions aroused my interest in medicine. A surgical post was attached to the unit, run by a trained surgeon, Bill Dick, who operated in a small hut using a bush table, and sterile equipment parachuted in by the ubiquitous "biscuit bombers". A parachute suspended from the roof kept the surgical wound free of falling insects and other debris. The ward beds consisted of blankets fastened between poles. There were various other makeshift devices whose purpose and ingenuity only became apparent to me in later years when I studied medicine, and could understand the care and thought which had gone into fashioning from primitive materials, devices which performed the functions of far more sophisticated equipment in modern hospitals.

Evacuation was by the native carrier teams made famous by mainland publicity in the earlier New Guinea campaigns, and then from a landing ground at Yamil by light aircraft to the 2nd/11th Australian General Hospital at Aitape.

Many years later I met Bill Dick in another operating theatre, this time in a modern hospital in Perth. He was visiting the West, having in the meantime become an anaesthetist, practising in Ballarat, until his death a few years ago.

At the beginning of 1948 I was a first-year medical student at Melbourne University; not in Melbourne however, but in Mildura. Because of the large influx of ex-servicemen pursuing university studies with the help of the post-war Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme, some faculties had to shift their first-year students to an ex-RAAF camp at Mildura. These were the science-based Faculties of Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry, Architecture and Science. Studying first-year Engineering at Mildura at the same time that I was there were RMC graduates T.L. (Trevor) Barker (1944) and J.F. (John) McDonagh (1944).

After graduation and a year as a Resident Medical Officer at the Alfred Hospital, I entered general practice in a country town in Western Australia. During this period I became interested in anaesthesia, and early in 1960 I commenced anaesthetic training at Royal Perth Hospital. Before this time anaesthetists had been regarded as minor members of the surgical team, but all this was to change with the advent of such sophisticated techniques as open-heart surgery, which required a high level of expertise in the anaesthetist. During my training I was involved in a minor way in the early work on open-heart surgery in Western Australia, using techniques and apparatus which would be regarded as pretty antiquated by modern standards, but which laid the groundwork for present-day spectacular results in cardiac, lung, renal and liver transplant surgery.

After some years in anaesthetic practice I obtained a private pilot's licence and commenced flying to the Kimberley region in northern Western Australia, making regular visits in company with an orthopaedic surgeon offering an orthopaedic service to the people of this remote area, the size of France.

The original purpose of an orthopaedic team making regular visits to the Kimberley region had been to provide

a service in the treatment of the sequelae of leprosy. Leprosy is a disease which invades and damages nerve fibres. The damage to motor fibres in particular nerves results in characteristic deformities of the hand and fingers which eventually render them useless. As if this were not bad enough, invasion of sensory nerves results in damage to the hands and feet, due to their inability to feel and respond to trauma. Consequently the leper gradually suffers attrition of his fingers and toes. Damage to the feet is severe, as many Aboriginal sufferers walk barefoot and injury is frequent and extensive. Orthopaedic and plastic surgical techniques, together with the devoted care of the nuns nursing at the Derby Leprosarium, produced improvement in deformity and the healing of damaged skin and deeper tissues. Chemotherapeutic treatment and improved hygiene have now virtually eradicated the disease in Western Australia.

The Kimberley area is full of interesting places and personalities. One of the most well-known cattle stations is Fossil Downs, formerly run by the indomitable Mrs Maxine McDonald who came from the social scene in Sydney with her husband in the thirties. When he died, she became chatelaine of a million acres, which she ran alone until handing its management over to her son-in-law, while still presiding over the magnificent two-storey homestead on the Fitzroy River.

Fossil Downs is so-called because of the plentiful fossils to be found in the Precambrian rocks there. On the southern edge of the Kimberley-Canning basin have been found Earth's oldest recorded organic remains — Stromatolites 3500 million years old, formed by single-celled Cyanobacteria.

Many of the settlements visited by us had been established by Christian missionaries. Until recent years the hospitals at Fitzroy Crossing and Halls Creek had been run by the Inland Mission. Catholic missions were visited by our team at La Grange, Balgo, Beagle Bay and One Arm Point and Kalumburu. Kalumburu is the northernmost settlement in Western Australia, run until recently by Spanish Benedictine priests and nuns, until handed over, together with Carson River Station, to the local Aboriginal community. Kalumburu had been a RAAF fighter base during World War II and was heavily bombed by Japanese aircraft.

Though the professions of arms and medicine are dissimilar, there are some principles common to the proper practice of them both. The observance of precepts which I was taught at the RMC has stood me in good stead during my medical career. For example, the wise advice that "time spent on reconnaissance is seldom wasted" has prevented many a hasty and ill-considered action in medicine as in war.

## Presentation by Second Class 1939



*On 10 December 1989 with Major E.V. Shaw in Duntroon House, Major General R.A. Hay presents the plaque to Under Officer J.B.R. Phillips.*

At the time of the RMC Graduation of December 1989, the 1939 graduating classes celebrated the 50th anniversary of their Graduation. Due to the outbreak of World War II, the 1937 intake found itself the senior class (2nd Class) in 1939. The surviving members of that Class presented to the Corps of Staff Cadets' Mess a bronze cast plaque commemorating the part played by

the Remounts in Duntroon life from 1911 to 1943.

The plaque, which was designed and arranged by Major E.V. Shaw, was presented by Major General R.A. Hay and accepted on behalf of the Corps of Staff Cadets by their PMC, Under Officer J.B.R. Phillips. It has been mounted on a wall in the Red Room of the Staff Cadets' Mess.

## Artistic Presentation



*Lieutenant Colonel Warwick Hamilton and Colonel Ross Thomas presenting 'Blue Hills' to Under Officer Richard Overheu in the Badcoe Hall of the Military Instruction Block at the RMC.*

On Thursday, 2 November 1989, Colonel A.R. Thomas and Lieutenant Colonel W.R. Hamilton, representing the entry of 1957, presented a landscape water colour to the Corps of Staff Cadets' Mess. The painting, which is titled 'Blue Hills', was painted by Lieutenant Colonel H.M. Hall, a former member of the Royal Australian Survey Corps. It depicts a scene of the Mitta Valley in Victoria, considered by the Class to be typical of the country-side of south eastern Australia and reminiscent of the Majura Range.

The Class was first prompted to donate a painting after several Members of the Class visited the Staff Cadets' Mess. It is an impressive structure that incorporates the old dining area as an ante room and has as its focus a grand dining room on the site of the former Gymnasium. However, much of the wall space was without decoration or art. As a result, Class members discussed a suitable presentation and, after examining a series of pieces, chose 'Blue Hills' early in 1989. The painting was accepted on behalf of the Corps by the PMC of the Staff Cadets' Mess, Under Officer R.W. Overheu (June 1988).

## TOC and CORK

**P.G. Heffernan**

I wonder how many of the modern young servicemen and women know what these peculiar words mean? If by any chance they have acquired a copy of the recently issued thesis on Duntroon slang they will have found a clue. However, what brings this up is that, during a massive clean up of the usual pile of disinformation that one collects over the years, I came across a heap of notes that I made some 61 years ago.

Once a week during our last three months before graduation, there appeared on the weekly programme, usually on Thursdays, the mysterious symbols T & C 1930. This was translated into the fact that the Commandant himself would be giving an hour or so of his valuable time to tell the graduating class some of the Traditions and Customs of the Service in order to smooth off the rough edges acquired during our time at the Clink.

During the aforesaid clean up, I also found a copy of a letter, which had been written by General Wolfe in 1757 to a young man, apparently a family friend, who had just bought himself a commission in one of the British Regiments. On reading it, I realised that there was a great deal of similarity between the teachings of the Commandant and General Wolfe. Therefore I will take the risk of being a crusty old bore by quoting from both my notes and the letter just to show that there has been little change in the basic principles on which the Services were founded. Wolfe's letter begins:

*Dear Huuy,*

*By a letter from my Mother I find that you are now an officer in Lord Chas. Hay's Regiment, which I heartily give you joy of and as I sincerely wish you success in life, you will give me leave to give you a few hints which*

may be of use to you in it. *The Field you are now going into is quite new to you, but may be trod very safely and soon made known to you, if you only get into it by the proper entrance. I have no doubt that you have entirely laid aside the Boy and all Boyish amusements and have considered yourself as a young man going into a manly profession, where you must be answerable for your own conduct.*

*Your character in life must be that of a soldier and a gentleman, the first is to be acquired by application and attendance to your duty; the second, by adhering most strictly to the Dictates of Honour and the Rules of Good Breeding.*

*To be more particular in these points, when you join your Regiment if there are any Officer's Guard mounted, be sure constantly to attend the Parade, observe carefully the manner of the Officers taking their posts, the exercise of the Esponton.<sup>1</sup> When the Guard is marched off the Parade, attend it to the place of relief and observe the manner and form of relieving and when you return to your Chamber (which should be as soon as you could, lest what you saw slip out of your memory) consult Bland's Military Discipline on the Head. This will be the readiest method of learning this part of your duty, which is what you will be soonest called on to perform.*

1. A species of halberd or half-pike carried by infantry officers in the 18th C.

So now let us hear what the Commandant had to say on the same subject. On the appointed night, he would dine in the Officers' Mess, wearing informal Mess Dress and, on the dot of 1930, would enter the lecture room. Sometimes he would be wearing a blue cape, with scarlet lining and the way he would casually toss it onto a chair always seemed to make a big impression on me. He would then turn to the class and say, "Be seated, gentlemen". So we seated ourselves and he would commence his chat. I call it a chat, because it was really a series of reminiscences, dating back to before the Boer War. He had a habit of preceeding most of his remarks with a "Hummmm", consequently he acquired the nickname of "Hummdummick". I have noticed that it is the popular person who acquires a nickname, the derivation usually coming from a habit or perhaps rhyming slang. So when I refer to our departed Commandant by his nickname, I mean no offence. Morale meant everything, as he would say, the morale is to the physical as three to one. Set an example and never ask your men to do anything that you would not do yourself. The old cavalry saying, "Feed your horses, look to your men and then to your own needs" holds good in any Service. An officer should be infallible in his drill, acknowledge salutes properly as the casual touching of the cap peak indicates slovenliness.

So back to Wolfe. *When off duty get a Sergeant or Corporal, whom the Adjutant will recommend to you, to teach you the exercise of the firelock, which I beg of you to make yourself as much master of as if you were a simple soldier; the exact and nice knowledge of this will readily bring you to understand all other parts of your duty, make you a proper judge of the performance of the Men; and qualify you for the post of an Adjutant and in time many other employments of credit.*

Hummdummick again. Never call a parade a minute before it is wanted, as having your men standing around will surely call for "sotto voce" remarks. Never swear to the men and make sure that the drill instructors contain their language. What a pity that some of the present day drill instructors who I have seen in action do not remember that recruits are human beings and not (expletive deleted) horrible men and women. Don't lounge around while

waiting to take post on parade. Get to know your men and their problems. Remember the saying, "There are no bad Regiments, only bad Colonels".

Wolfe again. *When you are posted to your Company, take care that the Sergeants and Corporals constantly bring you the orders; treat these officers with kindness, but keep them at a distance, so will you be beloved and respected by them; read your orders with attention and if anything in particular concerns yourself, put it down in your Memorandum Book, which I would have you constantly in your Pocket ready for any remarks; be sure to attend constantly morning and evening the Roll Calling of the Company, watch carefully the Absentees and enquire into reasons for their being so and particularly be watchful they do not endeavour to impose on you sham excuses, which they are apt to do to with young Officers, but will be deterred from it by a proper severity in detecting them.* Here Wolfe's letter continues with family business.

So back to Humdummick and his favourite subject, the Mess and personal Regimental life. When posted to a new unit always leave cards on the Mess, one addressed to the P.M.C. and the other entitled "The Ettamogah Officers' Mess". Then start the round of social calling. Find out what day Mrs C.O. will be "at home", don your best bib and tucker and round 1600 knock on the door. When the maid (Did we ever have such a person?) answers, enquire if Mrs C.O. is "at home?" If the answer is "yea", enter and spend the next 30 minutes or so balancing a cup of tea and an anchovy sandwich on your knee, while making polite conversation. As you depart, leave two cards on the silver salver, usually found on the hat stand in the hall, then belt back to the Mess for a very welcome pot of beer. You then repeat the performance with the next senior wife and finally heave a sigh of relief. One very good tip from the Commandant was, "Never make an enemy of a senior officer's wife". How true in those days and many is the time I have heard that young Frogsbottom was such a nice young man and that Prune was N.O.C. (Not Our Class). I heard from my contemporaries that when serving on stations in India a far more civilised method of calling was practised. You borrowed a bike, pedalled along the married quarters, dropping two cards into each letter box and then waited to be invited for tea or whatever. One vital matter I forgot, visiting cards MUST always be engraved, NEVER printed. They should only have your rank, name and unit marked on them. Never put decorations. Join a good Club and include the name on the card.

An officer MUST have a Mess Kit, even if it meant paying it off at the rate of 10/- a week to your tailor, which reminds me of a totally different matter. When two others and I arrived in Melbourne en route to the RAAF, we enquired where uniforms were purchased. Messrs Rossiter, Shipp and Wright were the local tailors, so we duly visited them and placed our orders for Mess Kits etc. I suppose that between the three of us we owed the firm a couple of hundred pounds. We also wanted to buy a car and having selected the one we wanted, we could only raise £30 out of the necessary £40 required to complete the purchase. Then A.G. (Tony) Carr (1925) came up with one of his brilliant ideas, "let's touch Rossiter for £10". The following Saturday, when we paid our usual visit to his establishment, to pay a bit off the mortgage, we popped the question of a loan. He would be delighted to oblige, so we got our £40 and our car, paying off our debts over the next couple of years.

However, back to T & C. A newly commissioned officer was required to "live in" so that he would get to know his fellow officers and to learn how gentlemen behaved

in the Mess. In the evenings, you waited for the senior officer present to enter the dining room and you never left the dining table, unless for some very urgent reason, before the port had gone round twice. Then Humdummick got onto his pet hate, "Yaller haired bits of fluff" who were looking for husbands. As he warmed to his subject, his face would take on a light shade of purple. Who would make a better husband than an Officer of the Staff Corps? Besides, if you got married, you would not be able to afford to keep a wife and "live in" at the same time and what's more you would not be able to afford a Mess Kit. In the pre-1939 days the RAF had a good idea. If you got married before the age of 30 or before becoming a Squadron Leader, bad luck. But if one attained the necessary rank and age, you got free married quarters, allowances and all the trimmings.

It seems to me that it is a pity that some of these old customs do not continue to be practised. When I first joined the RAAF, it was customary to salute Flight Lieutenants and the idea of using their christian names was just not on. Perhaps after a few months it was allowable. The unfortunate modern habit of the indiscriminate use of christian names amongst officers and other ranks does not help in maintaining proper discipline. Having called your Flight Sergeant "Bert" or whatever, how can you deal properly with him when on a charge before you? Remember Wolfe's statement: "Re Sergeants and Corporals, treat these men with kindness, but keep them at a distance". This paralled another of Humdummick's dictums, "Familiarity breeds contempt". Fifty years or more ago, the idea of referring to Sir Robert Menzies as "Bob" in the newspapers would never have been done, yet today it is common practice to use the christian name of everybody from the Governor-General down.

It is said that time marches on, whether it is for the good or the bad, I do not know, but one thing that I do know is that I will never forget what the Commandant told us. Brigadier Heritage was an officer and gentleman in the true sense and I know that those of us who followed his dictates have never regretted so doing.

***Air Commodore Heffernan needs no introduction. His fertile memory continues to entertain and inform.***

## Annual Postal Golf Match

[The Chairman of the 1989 Match Committee, Lieutenant Colonel A.M. (Tony) Stove (1960) has kindly provided the 1989 results — together with his thanks to all those who participated, particularly the Team Captains. Ed.]

As for the 1988 Competition, six teams competed. The Competition attracted 80 golfers, including 14 wives who competed unofficially. The ACT Team scooped the pool, winning all three events.

### ● Teams Event

1st: A.C.T. (226)	R.A. Hay (1937)	44
At Royal Canberra Golf Club	D.K. Baker (1951)	40
18 players (three ladies)	A.L. Vickers (1957)	37
Warm and no wind, late light shower of rain.	T.A. Gee (1958)	35
	L.G. O'Donnell (1951)	35
	R.A. Sunderland (1950)	35
2nd: S.A. (204)	P. Devine	38
At Royal Adelaide Golf Club	J.A. Clark (1945)	38
10 players	D.L. Burzacott	34
Fine but windy.	J.E. Duff (1948)	32
	D.M. Chapman (1977)	31
	A.J. de B. Forbes (1941)	31

3rd: New Zealand (198)	I.H. Burrows (1950)	39
At North Shore Golf Club (Auckland)	R.K.G. Porter (1943)	36
20 players (eight ladies)	C.M. Dixon (1951)	32
Wet and windy!	M.J. Dudman (1956)	31
	B. Meldrum (1956)	30
	J.R. Clarke (1946)	30
4th: Victoria (177)	P.J. Lawrence (1968)	34
At Peninsula Golf Country Club	D.M. Butler (1946)	30
12 players (three ladies)	G. Ward	31
Perfect golfing weather.	B. Vale	29
	R.M. Gurr (1940)	27
	D.C.J. Deighton (1949)	27
5th: Queensland (152)	B.G. Bond (1957)	32
At Royal Queensland Golf Club	W.N. Hutton (1945)	27
Nine players	P.J. Greville (1943)	24
Fine day, strong S.E. wind.	D.G.M. Murphy (1939)	24
	J.H. Humphrey (1948)	24
	D.V. Smith (1950)	21
6th: N.S.W. (150)	M.R. Price (1967)	32
At the Australian Golf Club	B.A. Andrews	30
11 players	R.S. Fotheringham (1942)	23
Fine weather, strong S.W. wind.	G.W. Grimdale (1956)	22
	C.K.R. Bryant (1954)	22
	A.L. Casey (1971)	21

### ● Individual Scores were:

First: R.A. Hay (ACT)	44
Second: D.K. Baker (A.C.T.)	40

### ● Four Ball Best Ball scores were:

1st: A.C.T. (49)	R.A. Hay	T.A. Gee
2nd: S.A. (46)	J.A. Clark	F.N. Paramor (1948)
3rd: NZ (43)	I.H. Burrows	M.J. Dudman
4th: Victoria (42)	G. Ward	P.J. Lawrence
5th: Queensland (39)	B.G. Bond	D.G.M. Murphy
6th: N.S.W. (38)	A.L. Casey	M.R. Price

The S.A. Branch is responsible for the organisation of the 1990 Competition. The Chairman of the Match Committee will be in contact with the Branches in mid-1990. Together with the State and NZ Branches, Council is considering a number of amendments to the rules of the Postal Golf Match Competition. Those agreed will apply to the 1990 competition.

## George

### P.G. Heffernan

To any Staffka whose number starts in the early 500's, the name George will probably mean nothing, but to those of us who were at the Clink between 1922 and 1930, I hope that these few words will bring back some happy memories of a rather amazing little pooch.

Quite a few regiments have an animal mascot of some kind. One English regiment even has a billy goat, who leads the parade on ceremonial occasions, but as far as I know George was the only animal mascot ever taken on to the College strength. Where he came from nobody seemed to know, but he turned up either in 1922 or 1923. Looking at him, he was basically a fox terrier, but I fear that a bit of blue heeler and probably other mutts had something to do with his ancestry. He must have been somebody's pet, because his tail had been lopped in approved foxy fashion. Having appreciated the fact that he could get a good feed from the Cadets' Mess, George decided that he was on to a good thing and stayed put.



*'George' on light duty shortly after his left leg was amputated in early 1929.*

In common with most dogs of a mixed breed, George had a lot of brains and very quickly sorted out who was who among the Staff Cadets. He would attend the 0800 Colour hoist to find out the programme for the day. If he saw a class with plane tables, he woke up to the fact that they were going into the country to do some mapping. Rabbits abounded during these years and as a day in the country meant being able to chase rabbits, George would join the class and leap aboard the three ton truck. Round 1200, work would cease while we consumed the usual meaty and jammy sandwiches, or possibly some luke warm hash brought by the G.S. Wagon. George would similarly cease his rabbiting and join us for lunch. He also woke up very quickly to the fact that, unless he rejoined the class about 1500, he was faced with a long walk home.

I don't know how he did it, but he soon recognised the difference between a class which was going to the riding school or was going to do infantry or musketry. Probably it was the fact that for riding the puttees were rolled down and tied at the ankle, but for other work they were rolled up. Anyway having sighted a class for mounted work, he would cheerfully trot alongside it to

the stables. Once again, some doggy instinct made him stop and think. If the troop turned left to the stables, it meant that it was going into the inside riding school. Now, if he joined this class, it meant running round on a mixture of horse manure and wattle bark, with no escape for an hour or so, which was not to his liking. But if the class proceeded directly onto the moor, the once open space between the oval and the married quarters, he was in his seventh heaven. He would follow over all the jumps except the four foot brush fence. This was a bit too much for him, so he would race round the side to rejoin the jumpers.

By the time I got to the Clink in 1925, George had been promoted to the rank of Sergeant, having three small metal stripes on his collar. The following year he was commissioned and the stripes were replaced with two pips. Raising him to commissioned rank created another chore for the unfortunate Fourth Class boy, who was supposed to salute George once by day. Usually we got away with such trifling acts, but if detected by an over enthusiastic senior, this meant wasting some time in the corridor cupboard.

Disaster struck George sometime in 1927, when he appeared one evening with a badly crushed left forepaw. He was carried to casualty, where Colonel A.G. Butler, the Medical Officer, amputated the damaged paw.

Now here's another instance of brains. When a Staff Cadet wished to report sick, he fell in some paces apart from his class on the left hand side. When the main parade marched off, the sick parade turned left and went to casualty. Believe it or not, but George joined the sick and hopped along with them to have his wound dressed. Once healed, the loss of one foot did not seem to worry George, except for one thing. Like all dogs he had a full bladder and as there were many trees and posts in the College grounds, George watered them regularly. He soon discovered that if he lifted his left hind leg he would get a bullseye every time, but if he lifted his right hind leg, he overbalanced. While on this subject, I think that the only "black" ever committed by George was to cock his leg on the flag pole during a colour hoist. I think that it was from habit rather than with any treasonable intent.

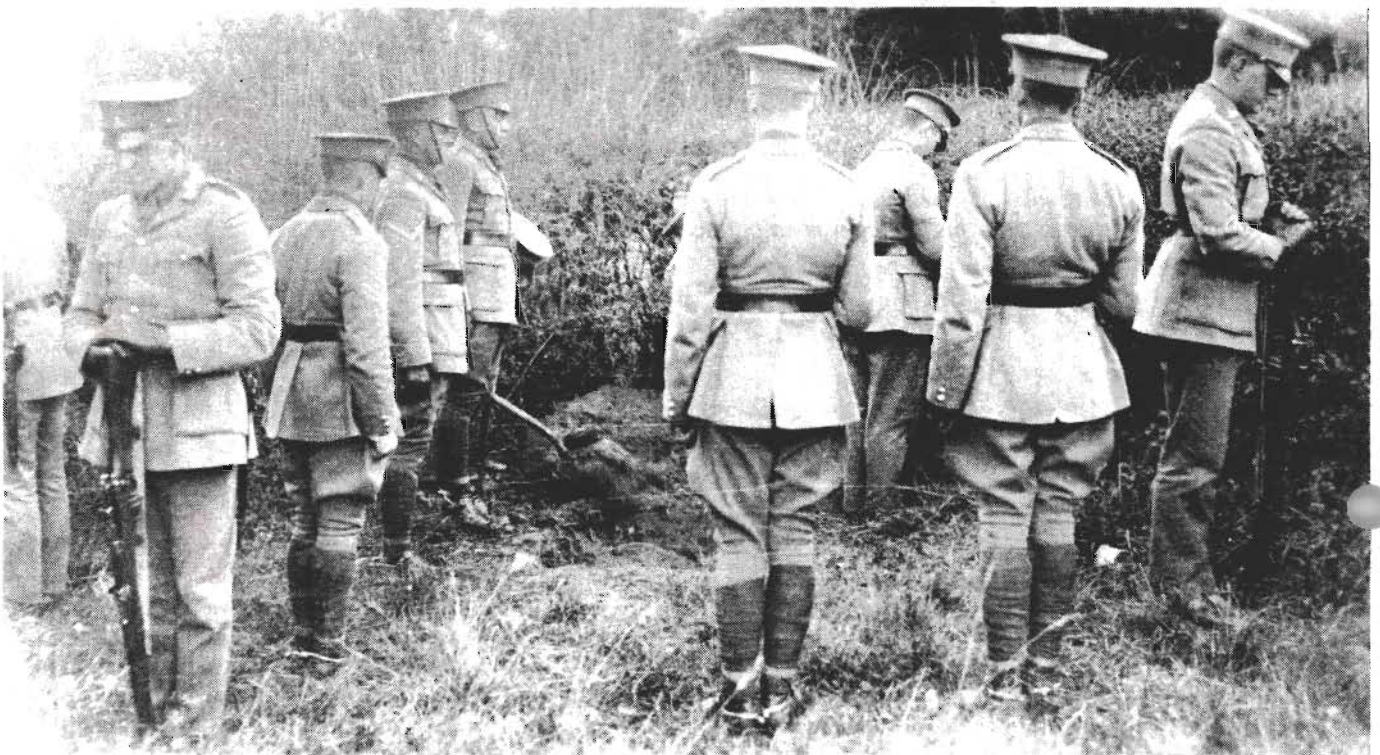
George had one other habit which earned him credit from some and discredit from others. E.J. (Evan) Jenkins

(1924) fancied himself as a musician and practiced on the banjo and saxophone on Sundays. We discovered that George hated the saxophone and would sit outside Evan's room howling mournfully. I might add that Evan's tootlings and twangings interfered with our Sunday siesta so naturally we encouraged George to howl all the louder.

I don't think that there is much more I can say about George. His period of voluntary enlistment came to an end in either 1929 or 1930 when, I believe, he was kicked by a horse. However, I am happy to stand corrected by any member of the CSC of those years regarding George's untimely end. I do know that he was given a proper military funeral, complete with firing party. He was buried near the Maze in the gardens, but whether any memorial stands over it today, I know not, but I hope he is enjoying his life in doggy heaven.

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*With his prodigious memory and deft touch Air Commodore Heffernan again evokes as clear a picture as anyone can of life in the earlier days of the institution that he recalls with obvious affection.*



*The funeral of 'Major George' in late 1929.*