

Japan and Korea Revisited

Allan Limburg

[Although this was written in 1989, the story is not diminished by time. Ed.]

The savage Korean War, the forgotten war, erupted in June 1950 and lasted until July 1953. Twenty one countries came to the aid of South Korea. Almost 17,000 Australians served there. They took part in many significant sea, ground and air actions, adding great lustre to our fighting reputation. I served there from July 1952 to July 1953, during which time many of my good friends were killed or wounded. Most servicemen trained and took their leave in Japan. Many were hospitalised there. In 1989 I was invited to join a party of Australian Korean veterans and their wives on a return trip to Japan and Korea as guests of the Korean Veterans' Association. I needed no persuasion. My thoughts often drew me back to the 'land of the morning calm'. Many times I woke, shaking and sweating, from nightmares of those days. It might be possible to exorcise those demons. It would be a chance to speak again to our many friends eternally buried in Korea's soil. One wonders whether the sacrifices made for other nations are ever appreciated. We would soon learn that the Korean people still have a very powerful affection and love for those who willingly laid down their lives for her. An added highlight of our trip was that we would also return to Japan, to the places that we knew so well.

At Mascot, I was delighted to meet an old friend, Wally Mills, who had been our company sergeant major in 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR). Our group of 41 included army and navy men, one New Zealander and one from London—Ruth Larson, whose brother Eric had been killed in Korea. Most had served with 1, 2, or 3 RAR. One was a gunner. There were 15 wives and one daughter. Talk flowed freely as we flew in the luxurious comfort of Cathay Pacific. We stayed overnight at Lee Gardens Hotel, on Hong Kong Island, as busy, bustling, and noisy as ever. After putting down at Fukuoka airport in Japan, we stepped onto Japanese soil, once again. It was a nostalgic moment. Thirty-seven years had passed since we were last there. How had it changed? The economy had certainly changed. When last there, our dollar was worth 504 yen (now worth only 84 [and now worth 94, Ed.]), the country was devastated and the people, dressed in their traditional clothes, poor. Factories and shipyards lay in ruins. Now, the changes were quite dramatic. Everywhere there was industrial bustle. Clean, new modern buildings; people all dressed smartly in Western dress; no graffiti; school children all in uniform; new roads; no car or truck older than four years; all taxi drivers and railway staff in smart uniforms; no sign of any policemen, but everywhere order and control; smiling schoolchildren who welcomed us in English and raised two fingers—peace and friendship.

We travelled by bullet train to Hiroshima, the site of the first atomic bomb. It was unrecognizable from the devastated city we had first seen 37 years ago—now, modern, dynamic and beautiful. At the Peace Park we were transported back to the past, unbelievably terrible destruction. As we gazed at the preserved dome shell of the city library, beat the large Peace Bell, walked amongst the monuments, read the story and saw the piled offerings at the statue to a little girl, we got some idea of what it meant to them. But nothing had prepared us for the Peace Memorial Museum. The large, noisy, chattering crowds of people that walked into it were now completely, utterly silent, and horrified, struck dumb at the photos, panoramas, relics and exhibits. We were shown a film of the dropping of the bomb and its effects. We came out stunned, wet-eyed and speechless. The ashes of 70,000 bodies lay outside under grass mounds. On memorials were the names of more than 150,000 dead.

We spent three nights at the Grand Hotel in Hiroshima. A sandwich each and a cup of coffee cost \$24, a nip of whisky \$13 and a raw fish dinner \$54. Our lovely Japanese guide, Taka, told us all about Japan and her family. She sang us songs. She made small paper birds for each of us. We learned that a small Japanese apartment can cost \$298,000, solar hot water systems are prevalent, there are 2,500 liquor bars in Hiroshima, grass grew immediately after the bomb, trees sprouted the next spring, Hiroshima is now a large thriving industrial and military complex with unemployment only 2–5%, streets are safe at night, Mazda and Toyota have their headquarters there, a single trip from Hiroshima to Tokyo on the bullet train costs \$202, and Hiroshima is now the largest city in the western end of the Japanese mainland. She told us that women were the power in the home and when a girl married she became responsible for the parents. We heard that 97% of Japanese students study English for six years, shops open seven days a week, students attend school on Saturday mornings and cram intensively, 25% of power is from nuclear reactors (the fourth highest in the world), Japan has 10,000 traffic accidents and 25,000 suicides a year.

We went to Kure, now a giant, thriving, ship building complex arisen from the bombed-out wrecks of shipyards and factories that we had known. At the shipyards we saw many gleaming modern warships and submarines. Kure had been the large base for Australia's occupation forces and for the Korean War, so we knew it well. Yet, we hardly recognised it from the city we had known. Modern shops; high rise buildings; wide paved roads; flower beds; smiling people, in western dress, hurrying about. At the Civic Centre, we were given a warm Civic Welcome. Gifts were exchanged and speeches made to a backdrop of Australian and Japanese flags. We drove on to Hiro where the

Reinforcement Holding Unit had been. A large factory now occupied the site. The lovely officers' mess, next to the canal, was no more. We walked the streets we all knew so well. While the younger Japanese paid us little attention, many of the older people smiled at us or came over to greet us. The beer halls that we had frequented were all long gone. Then up into the hills to Haramura where we had trained at the Commonwealth Division Battle School. Little had changed. It was now occupied by the Japanese Defence Forces. A Japanese major took us into the training area. Smart, professional troops were conducting realistic battle exercises. Back at Kure we visited all the military sites we had known and the large hospital where many of us had lain. To the ordnance and base installations, to the HQ buildings—many now occupied by Japanese Defence Forces. Then back to Fukuoka for our flight to Pusan in Korea. You may recall that not much earlier a Korean plane had been blown up in flight. We were to travel by Korean Airlines. They were taking no chances. Every bag was opened and searched. An attractive Korean girl gave each of us a detailed body search—I fronted up for a second! In Pusan, after being driven past towering modern apartment blocks, we booked into the modern, impressive, Westin Chosun Beach Hotel.

The following morning was the 25th April—Anzac Day. A modern coach, with large banners on its sides proclaiming 'Welcome to Australian Korean Veterans', arrived to take us to the United Nations Cemetery. The girls all wore their best dresses, while we were in our best be-medalled suits. The cemetery, which we had known as desolate and bare-earthed, with simple wooden crosses, was now a beautiful, permanent memorial. From the many large flagpoles proudly fluttered the flags of each of the twenty-two countries that had fought there in the war. An immaculate Korean Guard of Honour was drawn up before us. Two Korean soldiers stood ready with their bugles. We laid our first wreath at a central monument, as the rising and falling, mournful notes of the Korean Last Post rang out across the grave sites. From there we moved to the large, impressive Commonwealth Monument, commemorating 1,461 Commonwealth soldiers killed in action, including 186 who have no known resting place. We walked through the lines of dead from Norway, Colombia, Italy, Sweden, the Philippines, New Zealand, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Thailand, South Africa, Korea, Belgium, Luxembourg, Turkey, Britain, USA, the Netherlands, Canada, India, and Australia. We were very touched to see that a small Australian flag fluttered on each of the 265 Australian headstones. We conducted our own service, to recorded tape music.



Lieutenant Colonel Ted O'Sullivan wept as he read the Prologue. There was hardly a dry eye present as our Last Post was sounded. On bronze plaques for those with no known grave we read the names of 36 Australians. They included two of my friends, Geoff Smith (1951) and Bruce Gillan. The plaque for 77 Squadron RAAF listed the names of 18 Australian pilots, shot down over enemy territory. We then moved, ever so slowly, along the lines of the 265 Australians headstones, pausing before each one that we had known. We placed a red poppy on each one. Ruth Larson laid a large sheaf of flowers on the grave of her brother, whom I had known well. Head bowed, overwhelmed, I paused at the headstones of my friends Bobby Unsworth (1951), Eric Larson (1948), Bryan Luscombe (1948), John Seaton, Laurie Ryan, Peter Cliff, and others that I had known. A typical age was 22, with some only 18 or 19. Moving among the graves were large parties of smartly dressed Korean school children. Their schools take it in turns to tend the graves and conduct a service, as a tribute to those who came to help them. They tend our fallen as their own. In 1988, over one million people, including over 80,000 from overseas, visited the cemetery.

At historic Kyung-ju we saw many relics of the Shilla Dynasty (57 BC–935 AD) and museums full of treasures. We visited old monasteries. We saw Koreans being married in their beautiful, traditional dress. We spent the night in the Kyung-Ju Chosun Hotel, overlooking a lovely lake. On the drive up to Seoul we could see dramatic changes everywhere. South Korea's population of 20 million had now more than doubled to 42 million. Modern highways now traversed the country. It was evident that the country was still on a war footing. The further north we went, the more we saw army helicopters and fighter planes. In places, the highways widened to nine lanes of concrete, for use as airfields. In addition to our young guide, a Korean girl, we also had an army lieutenant colonel as a guide. He informed us that the Americans still had 40,000 troops there, including one division in the front line. He told me they had 19 ROK divisions dug in along the demilitarised line. Hard to believe, but as we had had 15 divisions in the 155-mile front line, it could well be true. The mud walled, thatched roof houses had been replaced with brick, tiles, and timber. There wasn't an A frame to be seen. There was no shortage of powered tractors which had replaced oxen. In all directions were miles and miles of plastic sheeting, protecting seedlings and crops—bringing dramatic increases in yields. Pumps had replaced water wheels. There were TV aerials and under-floor heating. Once-bare hillsides were now covered with new forests.

We hardly recognised the capital, Seoul, from the dirty, broken, smashed, dispirited, slow-moving place that we had known—a place then of cold, chaos, destruction and despair. The single bridge over the Han River had been replaced with 17 modern ones and more were being built. Modern high-rise buildings extended as far as the eye could see, along with well dressed busy people obviously with a pride in themselves and their country. Their recent Olympic Games was their showcase to the world. The charm of her ancient culture, lilting folk music, graceful court dance and stately royal palaces had all been re-discovered. Thriving export industries now abounded in the now modern, highly industrialised nation. Outside Seoul two new satellite towns were being built to take another 720,000. We booked into

the Ambassador Hotel, for a five-night stay. The food was out of this world. The next day, be-medalled and dressed in all our finery, we drove to the huge Korean National Cemetery. Beautifully laid out, beautifully kept, replete with impressive monuments, statuary and sweeping gardens and trees. Here, the bodies of over 45,000 South Korean soldiers killed in the war lay peacefully resting, amongst the graves of martyrs, kings, and leading notables of the land. We walked through the immaculate Honour Guard at the impressive central monument. I laid a wreath as the haunting, mournful Korean Last Post was sounded.

After visiting the large Korean War museum in Seoul, we drove to the British Commonwealth Memorial, where a similar service was held. Then onto the Australian Kapyong Memorial, on a small hill overlooking where 3 RAR, at a vital stage in the war, stood and fought the might of the Chinese army. Once again, we had a fine Korean Guard of Honour. Wreaths were laid, including one by Mervyn Learmonth, who had taken part in that epic battle, on the eve of Anzac Day, 1951. The bugle calls sounded a haunting, lingering lament, across the hills where Australian soldiers had fought and died. The school children from the small Kapyong village are entrusted with the upkeep of this little piece of Australia and they do it with great pride. My wife gave the schoolmaster a book on Australia, which we had brought with us. The others also gave him gifts for his school children. Next morning we were taken on a tour of Kyongbok Palace and its grounds, followed by the National Central Museum.

That night was the highlight of the trip. We were invited by our hosts to cocktails, dinner, and a presentation in the Emerald Room of the Lotte World Hotel. There, we were greeted by seven Korean generals and their wives. It was a beautifully laid out setting, featuring Australian and Korean flags. After a few rounds of drinks, each veteran was individually called forward, to be presented by General Joon-Yeol So, the President of the Korean Veterans' Association, with a special Korea Veteran medal, which he pinned on their chest. He then handed each one several other gifts. For each of us it was a very moving, emotional moment. At dinner each table was chaired by a general and his wife. As the wine flowed, speeches were made and gifts exchanged.

Next day, we were off to the American division's Camp Bonifas and a tour of Panmunjom. As we drew near, there was more and more evidence of a country at war. There were road blocks, guards, sentries, and tank traps. We passed army convoys and many camps with tanks, trucks and weapons of war. American soldiers, ready for instant action, slept in their clothes and boots. After lunch we went to the briefing room where we were told all about Panmunjom, the demarcation lines, and warned what we could and could not do when we went forward, through no man's land, to Panmunjom, in North Korea. Following the armistice, signed in July 1953, a four-kilometre wide, 155-mile long demilitarized zone was established roughly along the 38th parallel, dividing north and south Korea. The zone contains mines and wire obstacles with tall watch towers. Even today, more than one million troops guard the tense border. South Korea has over 630,000 regular troops and North Korea over 1,130,000. Each side also has over 3.5 million reserves. As we neared Panmunjom, we were shown the North Korean village of Kijongdong. The North Koreans

call it 'Peace Village'. The Americans call it 'Propaganda Village'. It contains about forty, three- to five-storey buildings, erected purely for propaganda purposes. It is a ghost town. Nobody has ever lived there. Every day a team of caretakers moves in to clean and spruce it up. Loudspeakers daily broadcast a barrage of propaganda. Erected there is the world's largest flagpole (160 metres), flying the world's longest flag (30 metres).

At Panmunjom, under close scrutiny of North Korean soldiers, we entered the room in which the cease fire was signed and where, ever since for 41 years, both sides have met to argue and bicker. They sit at a table with a line down the centre. Microphones are permanently connected to both sides. Even our conversations were being monitored. We were shown where an American officer and his men were brutally hacked to death with axes. Later, we were taken to one of several tunnels which the Chinese had dug under the demarcation lines, hoping to pass divisions of troops to retake Seoul. On the trip back to Seoul, we drove towards where we had held the Jamestown Line. Although prevented from getting to it, we did get to Teal Bridge, not far from the Hook, where Australians fought off savage attacks in the dying days of the war. We found smartly dressed Korean troops dug in, on instant alert. We looked across towards Hill 355, which we had held. Next day we visited a fascinating Korean Folk Village which has been built to show village life of 200 years ago. After more shopping for the girls, we dined for the last night. Then back to Hong Kong for more shopping and our final dinner together, before heading home. It had been a most memorable, profoundly moving trip—long to be remembered.



~~~~~  
*Colonel Allan E. Limburg entered RMC in 1948 and graduated in 1951. He was medically discharged in 1977 and has taken a keen interest in story writing and military history. As the Director for the Royal Visit to Northern Territory he was invested as a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order by HM in 1963. He is a graduate of the Staff College, Joint Services Staff College, British Administrative College and Industrial Management at Manchester University. He attended various courses in the UK and a posting to Germany. He also held senior instructor and command positions.*  
 ~~~~~

The Boy from Parkes

Tiit Tõnuri

We met early in February 1960 at Point Hut: a disparate group of 78 young men thrown together by our choice of careers, tented on a bend of the Murrumbidgee River. Four of us were summonsed: Anatoly (Tony) Danilenko, Tõnu (Tony) Loorparg, Wilhelmus (Bill) Regtop, and me. I was somewhat apprehensive; after all, I had been bawled out on the very first morning parade and told to double away to get dressed properly. Without the invaluable benefit of a Cadet Corps background, I had chosen the only wrong way to put on my web gaiters. Not knowing which item of my dress was 'improper' I just sat on my camp stretcher until someone came to get me and I presume told me how to get 'properly' dressed. I wonder who that someone was.

I need not have worried since it quickly transpired that the four of us were to be interviewed by a newspaper reporter (they were not called journalists in those days) and subsequently an article was published in the Melbourne *Sun* under the heading 'Arms and the New Men'. That is how I first met Tony Danilenko.

Tony had been born in Germany to Russian parents who had been displaced by the war sweeping across Europe. Tony Loorparg was a New Zealander of Estonian background, Bill was born in Holland and had migrated to Australia with his parents while I, like Tony Loorparg, was of Estonian background having migrated from post WWII Germany with my mother in 1950.

We were all asked the predictable questions of why we chose to join the Army and enter the Royal Military College. I recall that Tony, who had grown up in Parkes, said that 'his father had some experience with some army in Europe'.

Tony graduated into Infantry and I into Ordnance and the next four years after graduation flew by, filled with corps-oriented training and postings. It was not until we were both in South Vietnam that we met again. Tony was with HQ AFV as the SAS Liaison Officer and I was posted to HQ 1ATF. In early 1968 Tony joined AATTV and was serving with Mike Force in Pleiku, II Corps, when he was killed north of Dak Pek on ANZAC Day 1968.

I had just returned to Australia a couple of days earlier and I recall how a woman anti-war demonstrator threw red paint over the CO (and soldiers) of a returning battalion during the Sydney ANZAC Day march while Tony was laying down his life for his adopted country though, of course, I was unaware of Tony's death until a few days later. Over the years when I have delivered ANZAC Day addresses and Australia Day orations, Tony's sacrifice for his country is always included in the message.

I now live in Cowra and visit Parkes now and then. When there, I go and speak to my mate Tony at the Parkes Cemetery where he is buried between his parents. His father's headstone mentions a daughter Lydia while his mother's mentions Lydia and Jenina. The council will not divulge any information on the daughters. A nearby street is named after him, but few living in the street know the origin of the street's name. An internet search of White Pages throughout Australia failed to reveal any Danilenkos, although Tony's sisters would probably have married and changed their names.

Several years ago my son David surprised me by having my arrival in Australia commemorated on the Welcome Wall at the National Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour, Sydney. As well as recording the name in bronze, brief details are recorded on a database (www.anmm.gov.au/ww), together with the name of the person initiating the commemoration. On the remote chance that the Danilenkos arrival in Australia had been so recorded, I accessed the database and 'bingo' the arrival of the Danilenkos in 1952, originally from Russia, is indeed recorded and was submitted by a grand-daughter who, together with her sister, was brought up by their grandparents.

Another internet search located the grand-daughter in Sydney but a phone call established that, while those Danilenkos were not Tony's parents, there had been a number of brothers who had served in the Russian Imperial Army and who had been scattered to the four winds after the Russian Revolution. The question now arose whether Tony's parents were related to these other Danilenkos and the grand-daughter was very excited at the prospect of discovering some of these long-lost relatives.

During a recent visit to Parkes I decided to call in at the local Funeral Director. I explained to the receptionist that I was a mate of Tony Danilenko who was killed in Vietnam 'on the 25th of April 1968' said a voice out of an adjoining office. It transpired that the current Funeral Director had been a schoolmate of Tony's and a close friend of the family. Due to Tony's parents' poor grasp of English, he had been asked by the local priest and the policeman to break the news of Tony's death to Tony's parents.

I then explained my involvement in tracking down Tony's sisters and establishing any relationship between the two Danilenko families. It was then that the Funeral Director revealed that Danilenko was not Tony's parents' real name at all. Tony's father had changed his name so that the Communists would not be able to track him down. This phobia about the Communists was not at all uncommon.

I then asked about the discrepancy with the daughters, Lydia on the father's headstone and Lydia and Jenina on the mother's. Jenina was Tony's older sister who somehow got separated from the family during the war and was assumed to have died. It was only after Tony's father died in the 1970s that Jenina was discovered alive and well and married and living in Poland. She was reunited with her mother and still lives in Parkes. Sadly, she had never met Tony. Tony's other sister Lydia lives at Port Macquarie. What was their original name? I did not bother to ask. He is still Tony Danilenko to me.

As to the other Danilenkos, they fled Russia with a four-year old son after the Russian Revolution and settled in Shanghai in China. The son Toby went to university and qualified as an engineer. He met a French concert pianist and married her and they had two daughters. When the oldest was four years old the mother left them and China forever. In 1952 the Danilenkos migrated to Australia and the grandparents brought up the two girls.

~~~~~  
*Tiit Tõnuri entered the RMC in February 1960 and graduated into the Royal Australian Ordnance Corps in December 1963. He left the Army in 1990 and worked in the Department of Defence until 1997 when he retired to live in Cowra with his wife Jan.*  
~~~~~

Anzac Memorial Chapel of St Paul—Processional Cross and Candle Sticks

John Bullen

[These notes were compiled by John Bullen, a 1950s RMC cadet, from notes taken at his bedside discussion with Monsignor John Hoare three days before Monsignor Hoare's death. The discussion took much longer than Monsignor Hoare was really capable of at that stage, but he was determined to have the full story recorded for his beloved Duntroon. Ed.]

Father John Hoare was the Roman Catholic Chaplain at RMC from 1950 to 1977. He later became Monsignor J.M. Hoare, MBE, OAM, ED, VG, retaining a deep personal interest in RMC for the rest of his long life.

When the ANZAC Memorial Chapel at Duntroon was being planned in the early 1960s, Chaplain Hoare believed that a processional cross was needed and he created the concept of a cross made from an army ceremonial sword.

Thinking further, Father Hoare extended his idea. The cross would bear a Christ figure and would be followed in a procession by a pair of altar boys bearing suitably mounted candles to match the cross. Father Hoare wished to use a real sword. Initially he sought an unserviceable sword from Ordnance Corps resources at Bandiana, but none was available.

Brian 'Jock' Quinn had graduated from RMC into the New Zealand Army in 1952 and was now back at Duntroon on the staff as a major. Jock Quinn had a strong connection with Canberra through his wife. Anne Hawes, daughter of the Manuka cinema proprietor, and Jock Quinn had been married in St Christopher's, Manuka, by Father Hoare.

Jock Quinn donated a New Zealand cavalry sword for the Chapel. This sword is very different from its Australian counterpart, with conspicuous Maori patterns on the guard.

Now well on the way to achieving his dream, Father Hoare then succeeded in obtaining tips from two Australian swords. These were welded at right angles to the blade of the New Zealand sword at a suitable distance from its tip, forming a steel cross. The hilts from the same two Australian swords were now modified to bear a candle each. Father Hoare possessed a suitable Christ figure which was temporarily mounted on the sword cross for the opening of the Chapel in April 1966 by the Governor-General, Lord Casey, KG, PC, GCMG, CH, DSO, MC.

But Father Hoare's project was not yet complete. He had already engaged the eminent Australian sculptor Tom Bass, AM to sculpt a Christ figure especially for this purpose. Tom Bass had recently sculpted Christ on the cross for the church in Yass, but something quite different was required for Duntroon.

Father Hoare did not wish to repeat the style of the Yass sculpture portraying Christ in extreme pain. To inspire Duntroon cadets, he envisaged a figure to exemplify triumph over suffering. Chin up, in the face of adversity!

He invited Tom Bass to come to Duntroon to see the College and its cadets for himself. As part of this orientation visit, Tom Bass attended the Graduation Parade in 1965. After the parade, Father Hoare introduced Tom Bass to Senior Under Officer Jim Connolly (later Major General

J.M. Connolly, AO, CSC) who had commanded the parade and had just been awarded the Sword of Honour.

Tom Bass was struck by SUO Connolly's face. The tension of commanding this important parade was still evident, but it was accompanied by a happiness that all had gone well. He had very obviously just come through a testing experience.

Later that day, Tom Bass with Father Hoare at his elbow sat down for some preparatory modelling. Tom Bass then completed the Christ figure in his studio. Its facial expression was initially regarded as being too severe and was softened slightly. The figure was then cast in bronze and permanently mounted on the sword cross.

Tom Bass afterwards said that his inspiration came from the recognition of the relieved tension in the face of SUO Connolly at the conclusion of that successful parade.

The cross and the matching candlesticks are a proud possession at Duntroon today. They embrace Duntroon history, cadet experience, future inspiration, the long friendship of Australia and New Zealand, and above all, triumph over suffering. They are also a valued tribute to a highly dedicated and much loved College Chaplain.



Photographs courtesy of the Defence Publishing Service AudioVisual, Duntroon.

~~~~~  
*Lieutenant Colonel John Bullen entered the RMC in February 1956 and in December 1958 became the College's first graduate into the Royal Australian Survey Corps. He retired from the Army in 1983. John is not a Catholic, yet he and his wife shared a long and warm friendship with Monsignor John Hoare, whose well known attitude to ecumenism was truly ahead of his time.*  
~~~~~

The Method of Calculating Cadets' Marks for the Class of 1954–57

John Stein

RMC Cadets were assessed throughout their course and the assessment marks they received served a number of purposes—confirmation that the Cadet's progress was sufficiently satisfactory for him to be retained on the course, confirmation that the results of Civil Studies qualified the Cadet for relevant credits by tertiary institutions, and determination of RMC and subsequent Army seniority.

The subject of RMC Cadets' marks arose recently when a few classmates and I were discussing the forthcoming celebration by our class of 50 years from Graduation. It very quickly became obvious that no one present knew the detail of how our marks had been determined. We reflected that, as busy young men, we had taken the system on faith and that was probably appropriate at the time. I decided to look into the matter and the system I have described here is that which I now understand operated during 1954–1957. It seems probable that classes before and after us would have experienced a similar system, so hopefully there might be a common thread of interest for other RMC classes.

As Cadets we were not privy to the detailed method of calculation of our marks. We were informed of our subject gradings, but were not aware of two significant weighting factors subsequently applied to those gradings. Much of the following summary as to how our final mark was determined was gleaned, long after Graduation, from my RMC Form No. 27, 'Record of Marks for Years 1954–1957'. Such a Form was maintained for every Cadet.

RMC assessment subjects fell into one of three categories, Military Studies, Civil Studies, and Officer Qualities. For all subjects, Cadets received a Subject Grading of from 1 (the lowest) to 9 (the highest). A general coverage of the subject grading system was provided in Corps of Staff Cadets (CSC) Standing Orders 1953. Beyond that, standard normal distribution (bell curve) principles were applied to arrive at our examination gradings. As this process is fairly well known I have not pursued further the determination of Subject Gradings.

Subject Gradings for Military and Civil Subjects were notified to Cadets by being posted on Corps of Staff Cadets notice boards. For the first three years, they were confirmed in individual Cadet Annual Reports which were forwarded to the Cadet's parents. The Subject Gradings for Officer Qualities were also included in these Annual Reports, but this was their only notification to Cadets who were not informed of the process by which they were determined. Subject Gradings are not recorded on RMC Form No. 27 and subject mark entries have already had their weighting factors applied. It is thus the combination of an individual's subject gradings (from personal records) and the individual's RMC 'Record of Marks' which has enabled me to determine the Subject Weighting Factors retrospectively.

A detailed examination of syllabus hours for our four-year period shows that Military and Civil Studies shared the syllabus time about equally. They were graded by examinations. In stark contrast, Officer Qualities involved no formal syllabus time and gradings were determined by averaging assessments which were made of all Cadets by

Military and Civil Instructors and other selected staff members. These assessments drew on the full gamut of Cadet activities such as lectures, field exercises and sporting endeavours. The assessment proforma used by the staff in 1956 shows that 14 staff members participated but that some did not grade all ten qualities. The 1957 proforma shows that in that year the process gave some weighting to the assessment by the Cadet's Company Commander. His gradings were listed separately from the assessments of the other 13 staff participants, and were averaged with the average of the thirteen. Unlike the usual whole number gradings for Military and Civil subjects, the gradings for Officer Qualities in 2nd and 1st Class were averaged to two decimal places. This could well have been influenced by the high number of marks allocated to Officer Qualities during these two years (10,728 in total, 4,248 in 2nd Class and 6,480 in 1st Class).

There were ten 'Officer Qualities' assessed, as listed and described in CSC Standing Orders 1953: Interest in Work, Presence, Physical Activity, Initiative, Self Control, Co-operation, Judgment, Control of Others, Moral Fibre, and Leadership. In 4th Class, only the first three qualities were assessed and incorporated into the mark system, and they represented a relatively minor 10% of the Total Marks Available for the year. In 3rd Class, all ten qualities were assessed but only the first six contributed to our marks, their contribution to Total Marks being 21%. In 2nd and 1st Classes, all ten contributed very significantly, representing 32% of Total Marks Available in 1956 and 46% in 1957.

As already mentioned, every Military, Civil and Officer Qualities subject had its own weighting factor. The list ranged widely, from 0.5 for Engineering History to 45 for Tactics. I have not seen an RMC writing that addresses how Subject Weighting Factors were determined. For some subjects there is a degree of correlation between the factor and the number of subject syllabus hours, but there are also some marked exceptions to this. It would seem reasonable to presume that the importance of the subject and its degree of difficulty would have been taken into account. Having determined the Subject Grading and the Subject Weighting Factor, their product then gave the total marks received for that subject, the Subject Total. The sum of all these Subject Totals within the same category then gave a Category Grading, that is, a grading mark for each of Military Studies, Civil Studies, and Officer Qualities.

We now arrive at the insertion into the mark calculation process of a second weighting factor, a Category Weighting Factor. All three categories of assessment, namely Military Studies, Civil Studies and Officer Qualities, had their own weighting factor. The Category Weighting Factors used in RMC Form No. 27 were: Military Studies—4; Civil Studies—12.5; and Officer Qualities—8.

The Category Grading multiplied by the Category Weighting Factor gave the Category Total received by Cadets, and the sum of these Category Totals for each year was the Total Mark earned by the Cadet for that year. However this mark was subject to deductions, there being a separate system of forfeiture of marks for disciplinary offences, once again set out in CSC Standing Orders 1953. Mark forfeitures incurred in 1954 and 1955 were not deducted in the year of offence but were combined with the 1956 mark forfeiture and deducted from our 1956 Total

Mark. Disciplinary mark forfeiture in 1957 was deducted from the 1957 Total Mark.

What was the impact of introducing weighting factors into the calculation of our marks? If we take 2nd Class Infantry as an example, the maximum achievable marks in this subject were 576 (being a Subject Grading of 9× a Subject Weighting Factor of 16× a Military Studies Category Grading Factor of 4). The difference to a Cadet's marks by achieving a Subject Grading one level higher (say from a 5 to a 6 on the 9-point scale) was worth 64 marks (Subject Weighting Factor 16× Category Weighting Factor 4). Some other examples follow of the marks a Cadet would have gained if he had achieved one jump in grading level:

Class	Subject	Mark	Calculation
4 th	Pure Mathematics	62.5	(5×12.5)
4 th	Drill and Ceremonial	12	(3×4)
4 th	Interest in Work	16	(2×8)
3 rd	Pure Mathematics	100	(8×12.5)
3 rd	Weapon Training	16	(4×4)
3 rd	Self Control	16	(2×8)
2 nd	Physics	150	(12×12.5)
2 nd	Artillery	32	(8×4)
2 nd	Military History & Current Affairs	80	(20×4)
2 nd	Physical Activity	48	(6×8)
1 st	Tactics	180	(45×4)
1 st	Structural Design	63	(12×5.229)
1 st	Leadership	160	(20×8)

The mark system had the flexibility to cope with the different Civil subjects taken by the three sub-classes, Arts, Science, and Engineering, and in 1st Class by the various faculty streams within the Engineering class. Equity was normally achieved by ensuring that the maximum achievable Category Grading was the same for all sub-classes and faculty groups. For our final year in 1957 there was an additional complication. Our Arts and Science classes had 250 hours of Corps Specialization and 135 hours at the Jungle Training Centre which were not assessed whilst the Engineering class spent these 385 hours on additional Civil Studies which had to be assessed for tertiary institution qualification. All ten Engineering subject gradings were included in calculations for the RMC mark system, thereby potentially raising the Category Grading for this sub-class as the Arts and Science classes studied one Civil subject only for the year. To maintain equity between the sub-classes, the Civil Studies Weighting Factor for the Engineering Class was therefore reduced from 12.5 to 5.229 and this adjustment, in conjunction with a high Subject Weighting Factor for the Arts/Science Civil subject, produced a common Category Total.

For our Class, a detailed calculation involving every subject, subject weighting factor and category weighting factor shows that the theoretical maximum possible Total Mark, based on receiving a grading of 9 in every subject and incurring no forfeitures for disciplinary offences, was 37,806.25. This total comprised 11,508 marks in Military Studies, 13,698.25 marks in Civil Studies and 12,600 marks for Officer Qualities. With little consideration for personal privacy, the individual marks achieved by all Cadets annually and progressively were included in the RMC Annual Reports presented to the Commonwealth Parliament. From the 1957 Report it can be noted that marks on Graduation for members of my Class ranged from 17,665.3 to 28,268.6.

For 1954, our RMC seniority was determined by the RMC Selection Board. It was represented by our RMC Number, from our class senior No 1535 to our class junior No 1610. Thereafter, RMC seniority was a combination of rank and Total Marks within the same rank. Thus a Lance Corporal was senior to a Staff Cadet regardless of progressive Total Marks, but Total Marks determined seniority between two Cadets of the same rank. RMC Graduation Seniority, determined by the Total Marks gained over the four year course, became Australian Regular Army seniority and retained its currency until, from memory, the early 1980s (see the prescribed seniority annotations for Colonels in the CGS Corps List of Officers of the ARA, 30 September 1979).

My examination of the records available to me, limited though they were, left me impressed by the comprehensiveness of the RMC assessment system which applied in the years 1954–1957 and by the integrity and clarity of its audit trail. Without doubt there is some scope for debate on how the relativities of the Subject Weighting Factors and the Category Weighting Factors were determined and on their reasonableness. When one considers the probable influence on the process of the normal rivalry between academic and military staffs, Corps rivalry within the military and, not unusually, the opinion of the senior officer present at the deliberations, the prospect of now sensibly unravelling any apparent Weighting Factor issues diminishes rapidly. With the benefit of hindsight, my personal opinion is that our taking the assessment system on faith almost 50 years ago proved to be well founded.

My initial intent in penning this article was to give a factual account of how our RMC marks were calculated. It was only after I became aware of mark weightings that I felt it appropriate to provide some limited insight to the impact of those weightings on our seniority. I quite deliberately chose not to pursue where this was leading, namely whether the syllabus for our course had the appropriate Military/Civil balance. That is the subject for a more complex article, as would be known by those who were aware at the time, or have since read in the various College histories, of the conflicting views that were held by senior Army Officers in the 1950s on the desirability or otherwise of moving the RMC course to University level. Our course was very much caught up in the politics of that era.

This short summary of the RMC mark system could no doubt be filled out for detail by those who were involved in designing or using it. Perhaps there is an RMC archive somewhere which will provide the definitive account. Very little about the mark system seems to have been made public, perhaps because it was confidential or considered to be so, perhaps because of a reluctance to open a complex issue of RMC and Army seniority which has long since been discarded. Nevertheless it now offers an interesting relic which was of significance to our lives as Cadets, and in some cases to our Army careers for many years afterwards.

~~~~~  
*Major General J.N. Stein, AO entered RMC on 30 Jan 1954, graduated on 11 Dec 1957, and was allotted to RAE. He served in TPNG (1964–65), Borneo (1965–66), and Vietnam (1968). His principal appointments were Chief of Logistics (1985-87) and GOC Logistic Command (1987-1991). He retired in 1991.*  
 ~~~~~

The Air Observation Post (Air OP)

John Macpherson

On Sunday 18th March 2007, Major General John Whitelaw AO, CBE opened a new display at North Fort, home of the National Artillery Museum. Among those attending were many of the 29 Australian Gunner officers who were trained initially to fly small Auster aircraft (and from 1959, Cessna aircraft) and observe fall of shot. Four Burmese artillery officers were also trained in Australia.

Eleven former Air OP pilots attended the opening: Harry Benson (OCS 2/52), Doug McPherson (OCS 3/53), Evard Cape (OCS 3/53), Reg Colebatch (OCS 2/52), Barry O'Neill (OCS 5/54), Brian Cooper (OCS 4/53), Dick Knight (OCS 6/54), Ron Morris (1956), Brian Oxley (1957), Graeme Hill-Smith (OCS 5/54) and Phil Calvert (1958). Also present were relatives and families of Joe Luscombe (1948), Brien Forward (1948), Rex Deacon (1950), Craig Beck (1948), George Constable (1957), Laurie Doyle (OCS 1/52), and Peter Wood (OCS 2/52).

The remaining Australians trained as Air OP pilots were: Ken Oram (1942), Peter Benjamin (1942), Bill Slocombe (1947), Bill Hatton (1947), Vern Simms (ex RAAF), Harry Baker (OCS 1/52), Col Haywood (OCS 1/52), Bill Silverstone (1952), Trevor Reed (1952), Neil Harden (OCS 3/53), Norm Thomson (1956), Graham Annear (OCS June 56), and Geoff Precians (OCS 4/53).

The concept of an Air OP display arose when Mrs. Lloyd Ramsay, sister of former Air OP pilot Captain Bryan (Joe) Luscombe, presented the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC) with a generous donation with which to commemorate her brother. With Mrs Ramsay's agreement, the RAAHC sought and obtained a grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs Saluting Their Service Programme to expand the commemoration to include not only Joe Luscombe, but also George Constable who was killed in action in 1968 in Vietnam.

The Air OP Display features commemorative photos of Joe Luscombe and George Constable with miniatures of the medals to which each is entitled plus annotated maps of the operational areas in which they were flying before their aircraft were hit by enemy ground fire. In Joe Luscombe's case he was unable to control his critically damaged aircraft as it came into land at the Divisional airfield from which he operated. In George Constable's case, eye witness reports indicate that his aircraft was also hit by enemy ground fire but as the aircraft was engulfed by fire when it hit the ground the extent of the damage could not be determined.

The remainder of the display shows a large number of photos which were provided by former pilots and families. The first photo group covers Korea and general shots of Austers being flown in various circumstances in Australia. A second group shows a number of former pilots individually and in groups, including Ken Oram and Bill Slocombe who were two of the first three Australians trained in England to fly and instruct.

The third group of photos covers South Vietnam, including the building of Luscombe Field and the introduction of helicopters. All but one of the OCs of 161 (Independent) Recce Flight in SVN were former RAA Air OP Pilots and several went on to become senior officers in the Aviation Corps.

The Air OP Display was mounted by former Air OP pilot Dick Knight and John Macpherson (OCS 5/54) with the very generous and able support of Mrs Lloyd Ramsay, Mrs Annette Cowling (formerly Constable), Mrs Anne Deacon, General Sir Phillip Bennett (a 1948 RMC classmate of Joe Luscombe), Mr Len Avery (Custodian of 161 Recce Flight records and memorabilia), Colonel Ross Harding (1948) and Major General John Whitelaw (Chairman of the RAA Regimental Committee's History Sub Committee). The Australian War Memorial and National Archives assisted with the provision of maps and archival material, while RAAHC Board member and North Fort volunteer Mr John Saltwell did a superb job in mounting several medal sets and framing over 30 photos.

The Air OP Display, housed in Whitelaw Artillery Hall, is open to the public on Wednesdays and most weekends from 1030 to 1600. For more details phone (02) 9976 6102.



Nine of the eleven former Air OP pilots who attended the opening of the Air OP Display. They are L to R: Dick Knight, Ron Morris, Reg Colebatch, Barry O'Neill, Graeme Hill-Smith, Brian Oxley, Phil Calvert, Harry Benson, Brian Cooper.



Also present at the opening of the Air OP Display. L to R: Major John Gallagher (Manager RAA National Museum), Dick Knight, Brigadier Gerard Fogarty, Ron Morris, Major General John Whitelaw, Brian Oxley, Phil Calvert, Barry O'Neill (behind), Graeme Hill-Smith, Reg Colebatch (behind), Harry Benson, Brian Cooper, Major General Tim Ford (Representative Colonel Commandant RAA) and John Macpherson (behind).

~~~~~  
*Lieutenant Colonel John Macpherson graduated from OCS in June 1954. He was allocated to RAA and served in several Field regiments; 1st, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>. He retired from the Regular Army in 1981 and has been involved with the RAA National Museum at North Fort for about 15 years.*  
~~~~~

Eighth Biennial Reunion— Narrandera, 9–11 May 2008

Ray Sunderland

Members who attended the Seventh Biennial Reunion of the Duntroon Society, held in Echuca in 2006, will recall that ACT was appointed to organise the reunion in 2008 at Narrandera. Ray Sunderland and John Sullivan, assisted by their wives, undertook to organise the event. The weekend selected, from 9 to 11 May 2008, was chosen to avoid Easter, ANZAC Day and the NSW school holidays.

Ray and Donna Sunderland visited John and Molly Sullivan in July 2007 to plan the event. John and Molly used their detailed local knowledge and contacts to assist in planning. We are confident that you will enjoy the programme, which includes visits to a cattle property, a state of the art feed lot, an inland fisheries research station, including barbecue lunch, and a reunion dinner.

We are planning on about 90 attendees and your early return of the registration form is requested.

Non-members of the Society are welcome as your guests. We look forward to your company.

The cut off date for registration is Friday 29 February 2008. Please complete the registration form (see insert).

For further details, contact:

Brig R.A. Sunderland

7-3 Cabarita Terrace

O'Malley, ACT 2606

Telephone: (02)62861926

Mobile: 0402241174

E-mail: rasun@cyberone.com.au

Reunion programme

Friday 9 May 2008

Afternoon: Members / wives / partners / guests arrive at Narrandera and check in to motel(s).

6.00 pm: Gather in bar of Ex-Servicemens Club for fellowship and details of weekend programme—'parish notices'.

6.30 pm: Welcome reception. (same location—coat and tie)

Evening: Free. For dining, see list of local restaurants/clubs in information pack.

Saturday 10 May 2008

9.00 am: Assemble at the Ex-Servicemen's Club for a bus tour of a cattle property, a state of the art feed lot and an inland fisheries research station. Tour includes morning tea and barbecue lunch.

7.00 pm: Gather in Bowling Club bar.

7.30 pm: Reunion Dinner. (Same location – coat and tie)

Sunday 11 May 2008

8.00 am: Golf tee-off at Narrandera Golf Club.

Members/wives/partners and guests disperse.

Centenary Plaque—Progress Report on its Development

Dr Bastiaan provided the following brief report on the progress of the development of the Centenary Plaque:

The RMC plaque is being completed in stages. The relief crests of the Australian Army, New Zealand Army and the Duntroon Badge have been sent to the foundry for preparation. The relief badges of the four organisations behind the plaque [that is, the Duntroon Society badges] are with the foundry.

The main central sculpture is at the 'first pull' stage and is to be worked on in reverse. It will need two more pulls before it is ready for casting. The central sculpture is 31 by 22 cm. The picture that is being worked up is of the RMC's Opening Ceremony on the Parade Ground in 1911, and it is being refined to the level where the fine details of the figures in the image have to be defined before casting will be started. The text was completed last year.

Casting will not occur until at least the end of 2007 as other plaques are currently being completed.

OCS December 1954 Reunion

Warren Bassam

The OCS December 1954 class re-union was held 2–4 May 2007, in Hobart, Tasmania. This was a break away from tradition since previous re-unions have been held in Canberra and at Duntroon. We were slightly down in numbers from previous years, given that we were only a small class anyway (23) and a few pre-arranged overseas trips prevented some classmates making it on this occasion. David Solomon and his wife Hazel made up a great local arrangement plan with visits on and around beautiful Hobart. Several of us took advantage of the good weather to tour Tasmania both before and after the re-union—a plan encouraged by those of us who had the pleasure of serving in Tasmania during our service years. The next re-union will be held in Adelaide where a maximum number of graduates and their ladies are expected to attend. Our photo was taken on the only wet day we had south of Hobart.



Left to right: Hazel Solomon, Patsy Ferrier, Rod Ferrier, Miriam Jarratt (kneeling), Trish Bassam, Keith Thomas (rear), Warren Bassam, Greg Hombsch, Christine Hombsch, Dick Knight (rear), Ken Petersen, Thelma Petersen, Ruth Knight, Peter Jarratt, David Solomon.

The Prodigal Son's Corner— Memories of Maralinga 1956

David Davies & David Hurford-Jones

[David Davies recently provided the following brief memories of his experiences at the atomic trials at Maralinga in 1956. As I was preparing his contribution for this issue of the Newsletter I received correspondence from David Hurford-Jones with change-of-address information. In his e-mail he mentioned in passing that he had been one of the British Army officers present at the trials. Since Providence rarely smiles so broadly on an editor, I immediately grasped the opportunity to ask him to add his experiences to the account. The result is a double contribution to this issue's Prodigal Son's Corner. Ed.]

David Davies

As few Australian officers had the opportunity to witness an atomic fission, this article could be of interest. Early in 1956 we were told that volunteer officers were required to act as conductors at Maralinga. Being interested in nuclear physics, I asked the CRA for permission to apply and was subsequently selected as one of 13 officers who ranged in rank from colonel to captain. We were flown to the airstrip at Maralinga beside Len's Camp, so named after the army surveyor Len Beadell who did the initial reconnaissance of the area. Maralinga is a few miles north of Watson, a fettlers siding on the east-west railway, and on the Nullarbor Plain. The treeless plain stops a mile north of Watson; to the north the country is covered with mulga and scrub, the boundary between is a straight line as far as the eye can see.

The visitors camp commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Peach was a few hundred yards north of this boundary, and housed 250 observer officers, mainly from UK with a few from NZ and Canada. Each conductor was allotted 20 observers. The climate was freezing at night but pleasantly hot in the day for August. The messing and showers were excellent. I saw one UK major light his pipe, reverse the bowl and walk under his shower.

Work parties were voluntary; personnel were driven to the firing area where they helped to arrange the military exhibits around the tower. These exhibits comprised, to name the main items: aircraft, guns, vehicles, small arms, and huts at 1,000 yards containing articulated dummies with pressure gauges in them. The exhibits were laid out in a semicircle around an aluminium tower between 300 and 1,000 yards—aluminium was used as its radioactive isotope has a short half-life. As a conductor I went out almost every day as I had to learn the layout in order to brief my team. One day they called for two officers who were conversant with the theodolite; I jumped in quickly as I had a good idea as to what the others would be doing; they were given axes and equipment to cut down mulga and clear scrub. The day was hot and flies were present in their thousands.

We were briefed by the scientists on a 'need-to-know' basis, even though we were cleared to 'Top Secret Atomic'.

Ideally the tests were to be held between first light and sunrise so the cameras could function without sun's rays interfering. As 1 kg of fissile material fissions in 1 microsecond (μs), the cameras were designed to cope. One

of them exposed 140 frames over a period of 600 microseconds, while the other exposed 160 frames, each frame's exposure time was 1,120th of a microsecond!

The critical factor is always the wind which has a major bearing on safety; for example a north-westerly would have blown the mushroom cloud (containing radioactive iodine and strontium particles) over South Australia and Victoria. So we needed either a south-westerly or southerly wind.

We took our parties around the site slowly so that they had a good idea of where the exhibits were. After the firing, our second walk would see us all in respirators which would inhibit communication as we examined the results of the explosion. The scientists had to plan 24 hours ahead of firing time as it took most of that time to set up everything.

Our time table on a firing day was: reveille 3:30am; warm clothing and a hearty breakfast; then embus and drive for an hour to the test site. We were close to Control at 5 miles (8 km) from ground zero (GZ). We were briefed by loudspeaker with our backs to the tower as the flash will blind immediately and permanently.

We were given a countdown from 30 seconds, which finished with '4, 3, 2, 1, FLASH, TURN AROUND.' At 'FLASH', the countryside changed from orange to a brilliant white; at the same time I felt a hot burning sensation on the back of my neck. When we turned around we saw the fireball, now red and rising and the mushroom cloud forming. Seventeen seconds later we felt the blast.

Next day each group walked around having donned 'space suits' which resembled those of the moon walkers but without a big box on the back. We each had a dosimeter to indicate the aggregate absorption of Gamma rays, and each party had one Geiger Counter which ticked loudly when struck by a Gamma ray. I had an officer carry ours and keep close to me at all times. At 300 yards the Geiger started to get rather too excited, so we retreated a short distance and then walked around the exhibits. After that we were checked through the Health Section who were very thorough; we then resumed normal uniform.

Next day we flew over the GZ; there was a saucer shaped disc about 100 yards in radius where the fireball had touched the ground and melted the surface. It was green in colour as being transparent like glass, the brown earth below and the reflection of the blue sky combined. Beyond that it looked as though a giant broom had swept everything before it for about half a mile or more. Then RTU.

David Hurford-Jones

I was very interested in the article about the atomic trials at Maralinga. It brought back many memories. There were approximately 250 service officers from the Commonwealth attending as witnesses. Three were generals and seven were subalterns, of which I was one, and the remainder were in between. In fact I was selected to stay for a second test where I was one of only two subalterns. I am not sure why I was selected to go to these trials as I was on active service on the Yemen border at the time and had difficulty joining the party of British officers flying to Maralinga via Edinburgh Field near Adelaide. I think one reason might be that there were very few infantry officers in the British army at that time who had the minimum of first year university maths and physics that we all had to have to graduate from

Duntroon. This was necessary to understand the lectures we received from the scientists at these Buffalo Trials.

On arrival we were met by the camp adjutant, Captain Jack (J.H.) Skipper (1951) and my fellow British officers were surprised when he greeted me by name. The contractors, putting in the Anderson Shelters and other items for testing, had got behind and, because the top secret materials and personnel had arrived, the serving officers had to take over the manual labour. We subalterns loved seeing colonels, one of whom had commanded the Long Range Desert Group in North Africa during the World War II, shovelling cement while, of course, we subalterns had quickly got ourselves driving tractors, etc. My lasting recollection is of standing on ground zero the day after the first explosion, dressed as described in space suits. Another fun recollection was of opening the batting for England in a 'Test Match' against Australia on a piece of the desert. This 'Test Match' was written up in the London Times newspaper of the time and I still have a copy!!

In truth, whilst attending these atomic trials was a truly special experience, I do not believe that any of us were properly used by the British Army to pass on what we had learned. Even during two years as an instructor at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst I was never asked to share this experience with the cadets or staff.

~~~~~  
*Colonel D.J. Davies graduated from RMC in June 1942 into RAA. His first military service was as a gunner, 20th Heavy Battery, RAA(M), Fort Largs, 1938/40. His early service after graduation was as an AA troop commander, AA Defences Darwin 1942/43 and AA Gun Controller at AAOR, Darwin, with 5 Fighter Sector, RAAF in 1943. He saw overseas service in 1945 in field gunnery. Between 1945 and 1953, his postings included the Long Range Weapons Establishment, Army HQ, and instructor at the School of Tactics. During that time, he completed the Staff School, the Long Radar Course, Australian Staff College, and the Long Gunnery Staff Course at Larkhill, UK. Between 1954 and 1958 he was posted to raise HQ Corps Artillery CMF Sydney (1954), was appointed as a conductor at the atomic tests Maralinga (1956), raised and trained 101 Field Battery (1957), and was the second in command of 1st Field Regiment (1958). During 1959 to 1964 he was the BMRA 2nd Division, BMRA 1st Division, DAA and QMG HQ Eastern Command, and GSO2 HQ Comm Zone. In July 1964 he transferred to the CMF and was promoted to lieutenant colonel to command 9 LAA Regt. He retired from the Army in 1970.*

~~~~~  
David Hurford-Jones graduated from RMC in 1954. He transferred immediately to the Glosters and by March 1955 was in command of a combat tracker team on active service in Kenya (Mau Mau). From there his unit went to be the first battalion in the Yemen, on to the Persian Gulf to defend Kuwait from Iraq and then to Cyprus to combat the EOKA movement for union with Greece. He attended the Buffalo Atomic Trials at Maralinga in 1956, and from 1958 to 1960 was ADC to HE Sir Dallas Brooks in Melbourne, then three years as adjutant of the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment in the UK and Cyprus, followed by two years as an instructor at the RMA Sandhurst. He left the Army as a captain in 1965.

OCS June 1957 Reunion

Laurie Hall

The smallest class ever to graduate from OCS Portsea had its 50-year reunion in central Queensland in June 2007. The June 1957 class had started as 30 candidates and graduated 15, of whom 11 were Army and 4 RAAF.

The class assembled at the Rosslyn Bay Resort near Yeppoon and over three days of activities reminisced with tales of long ago—some were actually true! It was a far cry from its first reunion in Canberra at the 40-year point when our classmate, the Hon. Bob Halverson OBE, was Speaker of the House of Representatives, and we moved between RMC and Parliament House.

It was decided to have the 55-year reunion in Sydney.



Back (L-R): Peter Caskey, Ian Boughton (RAAF), Brian Doyle, Laurie Hall, John Neenan, Peter Belt, Ian Devereux (RAAF)
Front (L-R): David Kelly (son of Terry Kelly, deceased), Don Randall, Bruce Brown (RAAF), David Menzie, Jack Campbell.

Jazz at RMC Duntroon 1952-55— Revisited

Ross Harding

Long-time readers of the Duntroon Society Newsletter may recall an article written by Colonel R.A. (Ray) Clarke (1950) in *Newsletter 1/1999*. Although under the title of **The Prodigal Son's Corner**, it included a fleeting reference to the fact that the Prodigal Son, N.R. (Neil) McPhee (1950), for two years conducted an outstanding cadet choir. That writing gave rise to another article **Music Hath Charms** by G.M. McKay (1955) which, in turn, prompted L.A. (Lachie) Thomson (1955) to write in *Newsletter 1/2000*, an entertaining and, as it transpired, a seminal piece **Jazz at RMC Duntroon 1952-55** which described the formation of the RMC Steamboat Stompers.

The cadet musicians at the RMC had not gone unnoticed in the wider jazz community, to the extent that a book about jazz in Canberra included references to the RMC Steamboat Stompers. From that, in early 2006 Major G.S. (Geoff) Grey, the Music Director of the RMC Band, conceived the notion of adding a jazz band to his stable of 'bands within the band' or small musical ensembles that he could allot as appropriate to various functions that did not warrant the use of the complete RMC Band. Sergeant G.D. (Graeme) Reynolds, the Band's senior trumpet player, was given the job and quickly established the New RMC Steamboat Stompers, resplendent in RMC blazers.

When Major Grey became involved in presenting *Army In Concert* he included the New RMC Steamboat Stompers in the program. Not only that but, mainly through Lachie Thomson, he gathered together five of the original Steamboat Stompers in Canberra for the *Army In Concert* performance on 15 August 2007. The five original members were Lachie Thomson, Peter Evans (1958), Brian Oxley (1957), Blue Lake (1955) and Ian Mackay (1955). Three of them were coaxed into performing on the night but were afforded only a very brief rehearsal. After the New RMC Steamboat Stompers had delighted the audience with Stumbling, the five originals were brought on stage and introduced to a highly expectant audience. Lachie Thomson then stood in line with the 'Blazers' while Peter Evans took over the drums and Brian Oxley the piano. A now thoroughly appreciative hall of concert goers was treated to a wonderful rendition of *Muskrat Ramble*. What an accomplishment after 50 or so years? Even as musicians, *Old Soldiers Never Die!*

If readers would like to keep up to date with news and performances of the current RMC Band, head to www.army.gov/rmcband.

From the Commandant

Brigadier Mark Bornholt

It has now been a year since I assumed the appointment as Commandant of the Royal Military College and it has been an enjoyable and rewarding time. In my last report I presaged the many changes as a result of Project MONASH and a year later, we are well advanced in the implementation of the new curriculum.

I gave you my priorities in the last Newsletter and in this iteration, I will update on the progress to meet those priorities and provide you with a general overview of the College in 2007.

Priority 1 – Develop the Regular Army course to produce contemporary platoon commanders in a complex environment for the Hardened and Networked Army. The July 2007 intake has begun in the new curriculum whilst First and Second Class are in transition. The initial feedback from those in transition has been positive.

Priority 2 – Develop a new Part Time course that trains platoon commanders for peace and security operations. In June 2007 the Chief of Army Senior Advisory Committee endorsed the revised Army Reserve First Appointment Course and approved implementation from January 2008. In contrast to a previously complicated and lengthy modularised course with an attrition rate of approximately 60%; the new course focuses on instilling Army's values in a similar fashion to soldier basic training, and then provides junior officer candidates with the leadership, operational skills and knowledge required for service as a junior commander within the Army Reserve. The operations component will produce an all-corps platoon commander capable of leading soldiers on peace and security operations. It will also provide the basic knowledge necessary to allow Army Reserve officers to organise and conduct training within units to support the generation of specified Active Reserve and High Readiness Reserve capabilities. The management component will provide the basic knowledge required by junior Army Reserve officers to manage soldiers and conduct sub-unit governance. The new course

commences with a four-week module at Army's Recruit Training Centre. Modules two, three and four are each two weeks in length delivered in national centres of expertise with course milestones and competencies aligned to the Regular Course. The final four week module is delivered by the RMC at Duntroon. Training is delivered to a differing level of proficiency from the Regular course with common core standards retained where time permits.

Other Priorities – In response to the current operational tempo and lack of support due to these operations, Plan HAMEL has also generated new initiatives which are being introduced in 2007. Residential course lengths have been reduced to allow sufficient time for annual staff leave and induction training. From 2008 the College will not return to work until late January to allow existing staff to clear five weeks of leave and new starters to have time for leave and removals. External support requirements have been reduced through longer, less frequent exercises and the creation of a new more self sufficient manning regime. This includes the creation of a mobile Reserve Training Team and an External Training Wing. All Army Officer Selection Boards are now centralised at the College and conducted throughout the year. The success of this initiative was demonstrated in July 2007 with the largest mid-year intake in a decade. A new Urban Operations Training Facility was built at Majura Range in July 2007 and will be the scene of most contemporary field training in future years. Additional HAMEL tasks are planned for later years to include the development of a new course for lateral transferees and officers promoted from other sources.

As you can see, we have come a long way in the last twelve months and I am extremely pleased with progress and proud of the work of the staff.

Amidst all of this change, we remain a busy institution. We have 160 cadets in First Class, 105 in Second Class and 95 in Third Class. Approximately 20 cadets are undergoing rehabilitation. Our staff numbers are very good, reflecting the high priority placed upon the College by the Chief of Army. Key changes to the staff are now public with Colonel Mark Smethurst assuming the Director of Military Art appointment in 2008, Lieutenant Colonel Mitch Kent appointed as the Commanding Officer of the Corps and Lieutenant Colonel Jamie McDonald recently assuming the Chief of Staff job.

Organisationally I expect to relinquish command of the regionally based University Regiments to Land Command in July 2008. These units will be restructured to deliver individual training to habitually related regional Brigades with Training Command retaining technical control of the content of the courses. The College will ultimately return to being more self sufficient with a responsibility to deliver the Regular Course, the third and final module of the Army Reserve course, Specialist Service Officer courses and Single Service Training for ADFA.

I enjoyed the opportunity to address the Duntroon Society lunch here in Canberra earlier in the year and the NSW Branch lunch mid-year. Both were well attended. Many of you will be aware that I released the Director of Military Art for an operational deployment in April and in his absence, I have not been able to further develop the initiatives regarding the future of the Society and the Centenary to the extent that I had hoped. I have developed a Terms of Reference to begin reviewing the current

arrangements and this will be discussed at the next Executive Council Meeting. Additionally, a new Australian Public Service position has been approved to support the development and administration of the Society and other heritage related aspects of the College. I expect to fill this appointment by January 2008.

Finally, we conducted a successful Trooping of the Colour in June and the Graduation Parade saw a change to format that involved the graduating class all carrying swords. The feedback from spectators and participants was overwhelmingly positive. The Band of the Royal Military College continued to positively promote Army and the College and amongst their more notable results, raised \$20,000 for Legacy through the Army in Concert spectacular at the Canberra Theatre. It is a pleasure to be associated with the Band and we are all extremely proud of them.

I look forward to another year in the best job in the Army surrounded by enthusiastic, committed and professional people and to discussing issues with you who have contributed so much to shaping our heritage and future.

From the Central Office

Peter Evans

The web pages at www.dunsoc.com are up and running but will remain a work-in-progress for some time yet. Past Newsletters are accessible on the site. We rely on Branches to provide information on social events. Very favourable comments have been received from the membership.

We warmly welcome the following new members:

Mr D.P. (David) Bell
Lieutenant Colonel R. (Robert) Buchanan
Captain M.R. (Mark) Kelly
Mr R.J. (Richard) Knight
Major D.M. (Donald) Quinn
Major K.J. (Keith) Petersen
Lieutenant Colonel G. (Gordon) Rickards
Major B.D. (Bradley) Ross

From the Branches

Australian Capital Territory

The annual Autumn Lunch was held in Duntroon House on Tuesday 19 April and was attended by 53, including the Commandant who briefly addressed the interested gathering.

The annual Dinner and Speech will be held in Duntroon House on Thursday 25 October. The speaker will be Lieutenant General John Coates (1955), Commandant (dare we say it?) a quarter of a century ago.

New South Wales

The executive group in the NSW Branch and their respective email addresses are as follows (until 11 December 2007):

Convener: Roy Pugh roywpugh@bigpond.com
Treasurer: John Chapman jchapman@bigpond.com
Secretary: Wal Stinson walterhelen@yahoo.com.au
Member: Viv Morgan morgan53@bigpond.net.au

The 2007 Winter Lunch was held at the Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess on Thursday 28 June. The Commandant attended as a guest of the Branch, and after lunch spoke

about the RMC in 2007. Members present were very interested to learn about the current training policy and practices.

The annual Graduation Lunch will be held at the Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess on Tuesday 11 December, and as usual it will be a mixed function. Members of other Branches and their wives and guests will be welcome to attend, but they must be sure to contact Wal Stinson before 1 December. They will be welcome also to attend the general meeting beforehand.

The Biennial General Meeting for the NSW Branch will be held in the anteroom of the Officers' Mess at 12.30pm on Tuesday 11 December, just before the Graduation Lunch. The agenda will include the election of office bearers for the next two-year term. Nominations for office bearers will be called for at the meeting, but Branch members who are interested in standing for election themselves or who wish to propose other members are invited to advise Wal Stinson in advance by email.

New Zealand

Auckland Sub-branch Winter Lunch 2007. Thirty four Auckland members and their wives and friends gathered at the Remuera Golf Club for the traditional Winter lunch on 22 July 2007. The function was organised and hosted by Colonel Tom Aldridge (1961). By a happy coincidence the lunch was held the day after the Bledisloe Cup (we won't mention the result) and Bill Middleton (1961), visiting from New York for the game, caught up with us at the lunch.

Wellington Sub-branch Winter Dinner 2007. Thirty five Wellington members and guests attended the Winter Dinner at the Trentham Officers' Mess on 19 June 2007. The Chief of Army, Major General L.J. Gardiner (1975), was a guest and spoke to the group.



Tom Aldridge, Bill Middleton and Laurie Pilling (all Class 1961) at the Auckland Sub-branch Winter Lunch 2007.



Maureen Porter, Jan Meldrum, Sheena Pilling, and Jill Williams at the Auckland Sub-branch Winter Lunch 2007.

Queensland

The Theatre Night on 12 July went well for those who were there. Fifteen of us enjoyed Alan Ayckbourn's *Bedroom Farce* and a supper at the Brisbane Arts Theatre.

The postal golf scheduled for 6 September was rained out and is rescheduled for Thursday 29 November—at McLeod Country Golf Club as before. The remaining social event for the year will be a Mixed Lunch at Enoggera on Thursday 11 October preceded by either or both of weapons handling (electronically firing the Steyr) and museum visiting/memorial walking. This event is in effect a merging of two events that had been proposed in the program promulgated at the start of the year, namely the weapons handling and a separate mixed lunch. First in 2008 will be a night at the Phantom of the Opera on Tuesday 12 February.

South Australia

The Convener of the South Australia Branch is Neville Bergin. There are no other office holders in the Branch. Neville has held this appointment continuously since 1994 when he assumed the role of Convener from the late Alex Clark. Branch activities have been managed solely by the Convener for some 17 years.

Our Golf Coordinator, Peter Bridge, continues to explore innovative approaches that may allow the South Australia Branch to re-enter a team in the Annual Postal Golf Competition.

Victoria & Tasmania

Victoria continues to operate by committee with occasional meetings and primary contact by email. It consists of Bob Slater (Co-ordinator), Alan McDonald (Treasurer), Phil Davies, Conrad Ermert and Richard Coates (OCS rep). Craig Wood remains proxy for Canberra-based meetings.

The 2007 luncheon will be held at Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess on Friday 26th October with guest speaker Brigadier 'Hutch' Hutchinson, who commanded the Australian Army contingent in Iraq before his recent retirement.

Western Australia

The WA Convenor is Bob Hunter and the Social Convenor is Kevin Poynton. These appointments are endorsed by WA members but are held informally.

A recent lunch on 28 August 2007 at Leeuwin Barracks saw a good turnout of both members and past officer graduates, including some short term visitors from interstate. Unfortunately a few of our more senior members are currently struggling with a variety of illnesses so were unable to attend. We wish them a speedy recovery.

The final luncheon for 2007 will be held on Graduation Day, Tue 11 Dec. Interstate visitors are welcome.

Contact for all functions is to WA Convenor through e-mail at bhunter@oam-group.com or phone (08) 9226 5520.

Coming Events

ACT Branch

Thursday, 25 October 2007. Annual Dinner & Speech, Duntroon House. Guest Speaker: Lieutenant General John Coates.

NSW Branch

11 December 2007. Graduation Lunch in the Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess, Paddington.

New Zealand Branch

Friday, 16 November 2007. The Auckland teams in the Postal Golf Competition are to play at 1230 hrs at Helensville Golf Club.

Sunday, 2 December 2007. Wellington Sub-branch Christmas Lunch at midday (venue to be advised).

Sunday, 2 December 2007. Auckland Sub-branch Christmas Lunch at midday at Auckland Golf Club.

December 2007. Wellington teams in the Postal Golf Competition (details TBA).

Monday–Wednesday, 24–26 March 2008. Okoroire Golf (details TBA)

Queensland Branch

Thursday 11 October 2007. Mixed Lunch at Enoggera.

Thursday 29 November 2007. Postal golf (rescheduled) at McLeod Country Golf Club.

12 February 2008. *Phantom of the Opera*.

South Australia Branch (incorporating NT)

Tuesday 4 December 2007. Annual Graduation Luncheon at the Keswick Barracks Officers' Mess.

Victoria Branch (incorporating Tasmania)

Friday 26 October 2007. Lunch at Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess.

Western Australia Branch

Tuesday, 11 December 2007. RMC Graduation Day lunch in Perth.

NZ Golfing Holiday—March 2008

For some years the golfing fraternity of the NZ Branch and their wives have been getting together over a couple of days in the summer to play golf and enjoy each others company. For many years we met up at Lake Taupo but earlier this year we decided to go travelling and spent two pleasant days in Tauranga. Next summer we are travelling again, this time to the Waikato, about two hour's drive south of Auckland.

There is a very pleasant country pub at a spot called Okoroire and, if numbers from past years are maintained, we will virtually have the place to ourselves. There are a number of suitable golf courses within half an hour's drive and we will finalise which to play later this year.

One of our Australian brethren was in NZ recently and, when told of this event, intimated that he and his wife might return at that time and join the group. That prompted us to bring it to the attention of all members in the hope that some may join us. The majority of the NZ participants were at RMC in the 1950s and early 1960s but we would welcome members of any era. The dates are Monday and Tuesday, 24 and 25 March 2008.

If you have any interest in joining the group please contact Graeme McKay (graemenanmckay@clear.net.nz) who will keep you posted as details are confirmed.

Shorts

- RMC staff and cadets from the early '60s will recall the British exchange officer, the late Major Allen Main, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and his family at Duntroon. They remember him as a popular instructor and sports

coach, and also for the work he and his wife, Ilona, did for the Duntroon preschool. After his tragic death in New Zealand, when a new permanent preschool was built it was named as a memorial to him. Mrs Main and her family have continued to keep touch with the preschool and with old friends from those days. The youngest son, Michael, here in August on a brief stop from London, visited his father's grave in Canberra Cemetery. He also made a quick nostalgic call to view his former home in Harrison Road and to photograph the preschool.

Letters to the Editor

Replies to 'Apropos of Something or Nothing at All' from Tiit Tönuri

From Bill Fleming (1955)

Tiit Tonuri wonders whether his concern about serviette rings is something or perhaps nothing at all. I can assure him it is of singular significance, indicative of what we have all known, that the world has gone to the dogs in our own lifetime. The Editor and his distinguished predecessor, now Associate Editor, have both missed out on a seeming entitlement, euphemistically referred to by the Editor as 'personalised' serviette rings, while poor Tiit got one with motto miss-spelt and the boomerangs crossed the wrong way. Horrified by these tales of woe, I was forced to unearth my own blackened specimen from 1952. After copious applications of Silvo I can authoritatively state that 'our' serviette rings had the boomerangs crossed right over left (but through the fog of years hesitate to declare that as right or wrong), and that although Hardy Bros. engraver got his Latin right, the badge is topped by the Tudor crown of HM George VI. But our Class swore allegiance to Elizabeth the Second by the Grace of God (although I can recall the Adjutant being somewhat undecided as to whether HM was 'our Sovereign Lord' or 'our Sovereign Lady' and so just to make sure had me swear to both). Rightly then the crown should have been that of HM Elizabeth II, that is the crown of St Edward the Confessor. So although our motto is right, our crown is wrong. We've all missed out!

Added to which a stamp '1426' in my view has rather a ring of Port Arthur or Norfolk Island about it; perhaps appropriate for 'Clink', but hardly 'personalised'. And the very presence of the crown from a previous reign makes it clear that our serviette rings, far from being unique and individual, came as part of a job lot—Hardy Bros. put in the lowest bid for a batch of 1,000. Sadly the King died before 'stock in hand' had dwindled to that magic re-order point. And by then 'a working knowledge of Latin' was no longer in the Duty Statement of the Chief Engraver of Hardy Bros.

What is the world coming to?

From John Bullen (1958)

Several 1950s graduates also remember those serviette rings—a painful memory due to the substantial compulsory cost! They weren't issued to my year (1958), though.

From George Salmon (1959)

In respect of 'Apropos of Something or Nothing at All', I don't know the answers to the bottom line question but I note that the RMC badge in the sandstone over the fireplace

in the 'new' dining room of Duntroon House and the one on the front of the Cadets' Mess both have the boomerangs incorrectly crossed, relative to the standard accepted at least since the 1950s, though the form of the badge on the Mess might raise the question 'What was the standard when the Cadet's Mess was built in the mid 1930s, immediately prior to the return of the College from Sydney?'

Morrie Stanley (1953)

I graduated 1953 and still have my serviette ring. It does appear that the boomerang on the right is on the top, however the writing is correct.

David Wilkins (1963)

Tiit's letter sent me scurrying to check my own serviette ring for the accuracy of its engraved RMC badge. The motto is correct but (like Tiit's) the boomerangs are wrongly crossed so that the left one is underneath instead of on top. Then, in a display of true pedantry, I also noticed the crown to be from King George's reign instead of the QE II version, which would be more appropriate for issue in 1960. Finally, as the editor mentioned that some classes were not issued with serviette rings, I have included a photograph of mine, RMC number 2003.



David Wilkins' 'personalised' serviette ring from 1963.
Photograph courtesy of David Wilkins.

Re "Mysterious, Unique Lake George, and a Duntroon Tragedy" by Allan Limburg Newsletter 1/2007

Tiit Tönuri

I read with some interest Allan Limburg's article about Lake George, his family achievements and the establishment of the Mount Ginini Ski Lodge. In relation to the European discovery of Lake George, reference to primary sources, namely Lachlan Macquarie's personal journal (located at the Mitchell Library), reveals that it was indeed discovered by Joseph Wild and Charles Throsby on 19 August 1820 after Throsby had been told by natives of the existence of a great salt water lake. Throsby advised Lachlan Macquarie of this discovery on 4 September 1820. With the intention of making a tour of inspection of the new country discovered by Throsby, Macquarie, accompanied by Throsby, Antill, and Reverend Cartwright and others, set out from Parramatta on 16 October 1820 (not 1812 as stated by Allan in his article) and finally reached the lake on 27 October 1820 and the next day Macquarie named Lake George 'in honour of His present Majesty'. Based on official records there is no evidence of Cartwright or any other European having discovered Lake George in 1812, and there was no Collector in 1820 let alone a parsonage. The first permanent European settler in Collector was T.A. Murray in 1829.

Profile of Students at the RMC

Current strength (14 September 2007)	
CSC	354
First Class	151
Second Class	108
Third Class	95
East Timor	2
New Zealand	4
Papua New Guinea	8
Philippines	3
Thailand	1
Tonga	1
RAAF	3
ADFA Graduates	83
Females	47
Cadets with previous military experience	37

Obituary

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

29 Dec 2006	Colonel H.L. Sabin (1939)
27 Apr 2007	Major G.W. Boscoe (OCS Dec 1955)
30 Apr 2007	Colonel K.E. Gallard (1942)
6 May 2007	Lieutenant R.F. Freeman (1951)
14 May 2007	Brigadier D.O.A Magee (1944)
17 May 2007	Lieutenant Colonel J.T.D. Stewart
29 May 2007	Lieutenant P.F. Hewitt (June 1942)
6 Jun 2007	Colonel E.L. Cook (1933) * · **
11 Jun 2007	Lieutenant Colonel P.W. Bourke (1957)
16 Jun 2007	Lieutenant Colonel R. Sutton (June 1942)
2 Jul 2007	Lieutenant R.B. Ewart (June 1942)
9 Jul 2007	General J.S. Baker (1957)
27 Jul 2007	Brigadier I.A. Geddes (June 1942)
28 Jul 2007	Major General J.W. Norrie (1942)
1 Aug 2007	Brigadier J.A. Hooper (1951)
8 Aug 2007	Lieutenant Colonel R.T. Willing (1957)
22 Aug 2007	Brigadier J.F. White (Jun 1941)
17 Sep 2007	Brigadier J.O. Furner (OCS June 1952)
25 Sep 2007	Colonel J.D. Andrew (1943)

* Brief obituary entries are available on the web site (www.dunsoc.com/news.htm).

** Brief obituary entry follows.

Colonel Leo Cook (1912–2007)

Ross Harding

Leo Cook entered the RMC in 1930 and graduated in 1933 when the College was within Victoria Barracks, Paddington. As a lieutenant, he returned to the RMC on 11 July 1940 as an Instructor Artillery and Signals until 26 January 1942. He rejoined the RMC staff as a major in January 1946 to be the Instructor in Artillery, where he remained until 24 February 1948. For part of that time he also instructed in Map Reading and Field Sketching. Without detracting from his talent as an instructor, it must be said that among cadets his reputation rested mainly on other activities. A dedicated horseman, he continued to ride during his Army service,

though on horses of his own. Indeed, stories abound of him, as CO of 12 National Service Training Battalion in the 1950s, inspecting the unit while riding his horse across the front of his drawn up troops. At the RMC he arranged a number of successful gymkhanas with the assistance of some local land owners. A tall man, he could cut a dashing figure in his full Mess Kit, clinking spurs and his cape flung over a shoulder as he strode in to the Gymnasium for the occasional formal ball then conducted at the RMC. In keeping with his personal flair and ‘gunner’ background he was the obvious choice to teach staff cadets etiquette and table manners. This he did with aplomb and good humour as well as adding a few snippets of great interest to his audience, although best not described here. At least two of his Artillery lectures were dedicated to teaching cadets how to tie bow ties (‘clip-ons’ being anathema), and practising the art around their thighs.

Like most instructors then at the RMC he had an excellent understanding of the antics and behaviour of staff cadets. Weekly programmes of instruction appeared on notice boards a few days before the week in question. On one of these Major Cook had set a morning field sketching exercise in an area south of Narrabundah. One of the wilier members of the Class involved managed to confirm with the Transport Office that Major Cook had not ordered any transport for himself for that morning. This surely indicated that he did not intend to go to the exercise area to check on the progress of the Class. The morning arrived, particularly cold with a blustery wind, as the Class in their greatcoats and gloves and carrying their map boards, embussed to be taken to the work site. Secure in the knowledge that they would remain undisturbed that morning, groups found a variety of protected places to transcribe from 1 inch to 1 mile maps the details for their field sketches that should have been garnered by tramping over the ground and estimating distances. About mid-morning one large group, contentedly settled in a deep donga, were startled and amazed to be ordered to put themselves on a charge by a loud voice coming from Major Cook astride his horse high above them. Defaulters’ parades on the square for the next few days were very well attended. There were a number of such incidents during his tenure, yet they served only to enhance his reputation as a colourful character and, among the staff cadets of the day, generate a wry affection that continued to grow with the passing years.

Editorial Issues

Editor

Dr M.J. (Mike) Ryan
School of ITEE
Australian Defence Force Academy
Northcott Drive
CAMPBELL ACT 2600
Telephone: (02) 6268 8200
Fax: (02) 6268 8443
E-mail: editor@dunsoc.com

Associate Editor

Colonel R.R. Harding (Retd)
37 Quandong St.
O’CONNOR ACT 2602
Telephone: (02) 6248 5494