On Anzac Day, if at no other time, it is lawful to remember, and, remembering, perhaps also to speak. Not that the Dead of Duntroon, or of any other place or Regiment, claim our sole remembrance on such a day. But we each realise the whole extent of the sacrifice best through the memory of those we knew best, and for the writer those were the men of Duntroon who went and returned not.

There were 42 of them who died, from every State of the Commonwealth, and from New Zealand also. In the year 1914 for the first time Duntroon contained practically its full complement—147 men. General Bridges gave up the position of Commandant on June 1. None had then any thought of impending war. But on August 12 he called for the senior class to ‘volunteer for service outside Australia’. The days just before this time were tense beyond description. Thinking, as we all did think in that far-off time, that it was going to be ‘a short war’, there was utter anxiety in every heart that they might not be deemed old enough, trained enough to go. But on August 13 the First Class left, specially graduated for active service. In November the Second Class followed them; in July 1915, the third, and in April 1916, the fourth. Still later some of the fifth batch left in time to see active service, making a hundred and fifty eight in all. Gallipoli accounted for seventeen. April 25 ‘… he was about the first to land, and was in charge of the Battalion Scouts. When scouting became impossible he took up his duty on the machine guns, and was working the same when he was wounded by shrapnel in the temple. He was laid at the back of his gun for dead. Next morning he was found to be alive, and lingered on for five days’. ‘Waters was caught by a sniper looking over the parapet with his field glasses. He was very keen and enthusiastic’. Talbot Smith (10 Bn) had the perfect knack of spotting enemy targets for the artillery. Everybody was sorry; he was a great worker and spared no pains to show a fellow officer targets when he was not needed. Robertson bet them they could not make their first billets in France. D Company thought they did not need any training. Robertson spoke of his D Company, the roughest of the lot, in our way through a small wood and thicket near by, and come out on the far side in anything like a fighting line. Duntroonmen had left the Light Horse, as things seemed too ‘slow’ in Sinai. Memory still holds the lament uttered by a badly wounded boy on the night of July 19 over his captain, who made them all feel that their company was the best company. The same thing was echoed in the words of an officer later; ‘The fellows reckoned he knew more than anybody in the battalion. They would do anything for him.’

The bloody murder of Fromelles took further heavy toll of the men of Duntroon. Among them were Arblaster above-mentioned (53 Bn) and his friend Hutchinson (58 Bn). Both had left the Light Horse, as things seemed too ‘slow’ in Sinai. Memory still holds the lament uttered by a badly wounded boy on the night of July 19 over his captain, who made them all feel that their company was the best company. Among them were Pen Patterson (12 Bn) and N. Durston (16 Bn) were the first. The name of the former runs through many pages of Bean’s tale of the landing. Weary Waters (15 Bn) was killed on April 28. I find on a scrap of paper the note given later by one of his men: ‘Waters was caught by a sniper looking over the parapet with his field glasses. He was very keen and enthusiastic’. Talbot Smith (10 Bn) had the perfect knack of exasperating an instructor with little things. When it came to farewell, however, there was a wink of the eye which cut out all memory of little things. On April 25 … he was about the first to land, and was in charge of the Battalion Scouts. When scouting became impossible he took up his duty on the machine guns, and was working the same when he was wounded by shrapnel in the temple. He was laid at the back of his gun for dead. Next morning he was found to be alive, and lingered on for five days’. ‘I miss Lieutenant Talbot Smith very much, indeed,’ wrote his commanding officer. ‘He had such a thorough knowledge of military subjects that he was always chosen to fill any emergency gap. He was in turn Ass. Adjutant, Scout Master, M.G. Officer, and Platoon Commander.’

Curwen Walker (14 Bn) was probably the worst speller of English who ever entered Duntroon, and withal the most lovable. Sitting in a tent at Tel-el-Kebir, his friend Arblaster told how he went out to the death he knew awaited him, in obedience to the orders of untrained ignorance.

As a sapper, Dawkins (2 Fld Coy Engrs) was charged at Gallipoli with finding an adequate water supply—a matter of highest importance of which GHQ had been, to Birdwood’s great concern, very negligent. By the evening of April 26 Dawkins had 20 shallow wells sunk, giving 20,000 gallons of water. In working on the pipe lines on May 12 he met his fate: ‘… the first shell of the morning burst low in front of him, and he was killed’. Bluey Thorne (7 LH) was fiery as to hair and temper. To hear rather than to see Bluey charging down the Rugger field swearing at himself for encouragement was exhilarating, indeed. A shell caught him and his best friend, Tom Elliott. Thorne was killed. Noel Biden—‘Bi’ or ‘Togo’ to his friends—was perhaps the most brilliant man intellectually to enter Duntroon. He served right through at Anzac with the 3 Fld Coy Engrs, only to die of double pneumonia just after the evacuation. His only brother, ‘Bushhorse’ (not a Duntrooner) enlisted to take his place and was quickly killed.

The exact origin of this piece is unclear—it most likely comes from a speech given on Anzac Day in 1919 or 1920 by Dr Robinson, assistant professor of modern languages at the Royal Military College. Ed.]
And so it continued, to the end.

These are personal reminiscences. Why risk the censure of indecency by setting them forth thus publicly? For two reasons, the Duntrooners were before all else Australians. They, in common with 60,000 others, paid the price of our liberties and of our nationhood. Anzac Day is sacred to that memory. But they were also trained men, and just because of that were ‘worth their weight in gold to Australia and the AIF’. Such was the sober statement of their first Commander-in-Chief, and such, too, one thinks is the burden of these memories. It is not enough to be gallant: it is not enough to have natural initiative—these must be backed by knowledge and training, a long intense training for a selected few. General Bridges recognised this when he chose the college motto; ‘Doctrina vim promovet’, which, freely rendered may be read; ‘Training brings out the stuff that’s in a man’.

On no grounds of economy can we refuse to face this fact, and imperil the future by crippling or abolishing Duntroon.

Meanwhile, it is enough to remember today that above this college Australia holds in her own land at least one Anzac grave.

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In February 1913 Dr Frederick Walter Robinson was appointed assistant professor of modern languages at the Royal Military College. During World War I he organized courses in intelligence until he enlisted in the AIF on 18 July 1915 and joined the 8th Field Ambulance. He was commissioned, promoted honorary captain and served from January 1917 as intelligence officer with the 5th Division. He was wounded and mentioned in dispatches. In July 1918 he was appointed to the Australian Corps School and subsequently to the Education Service School, becoming Assistant Director of Education, AIF Depots in Britain. He was re-appointed to his previous position at RMC on 1 Feb 1918, retiring on 31 July 1922.

On 15 February 1923 Robinson was appointed lecturer in English and German at the University of Queensland; he retired as head of department in 1958. During World War II he served briefly as a major in intelligence, then as a censor. He died on 26 August 1971.

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CSC 49 Leslie John Waters

by “CSC 1097”

Following a visit to the Gallipoli Peninsula in the late 1960s I wrote [in the Australian Army Journal, Ed.] about Quinn of Quinn’s Post and the Australian War Memorial sent me a photograph of the officers of 15 Battalion, Quinn’s unit. This photograph, taken at Broadmeadows Camp in December 1914, showed the variety of uniforms and caps worn and the differing badges during the early days of the raising of the AIF. One officer, Lt L.J. Waters, was wearing his RMC cap badge. This is his brief history and, sadly, typical of many of his contemporaries.

He was born on 3 June 1894 in Hawthorn, an eastern suburb of Melbourne, and attended schools in Stawell and Camberwell, a business college and then a coaching college. Under the schemes prior to the Great War, Waters was in the Camberwell Cadets from June 1906 to December 1907 and in the compulsory militia from June 1911 to 29 February 1912, a week before he marched into Duntroon. His father was a head teacher and a major in the Citizen Forces and the family home was “Cooloongatta”, Burke Road, East Kew and then at “Duntroon”, Park Street, Middle Brighton. (The Brighton home no longer stands, having been replaced by an uninspired stack of bricks. It was along Park Street that Adam Lindsay Gordon made his fateful walk on 24 June 1870.)

Waters entered RMC on 7 March 1912, one of the 32 Australians and five New Zealanders of the Second Entry. In the CSC he was promoted corporal on 15 August 1914, the day after the First Entry graduated early to be enlisted in the AIF and the NZEF. When his Class also graduated early, on 2 November 1914, Waters’ seniority was 18th in a Class of 35. He was enlisted in the AIF next day and posted to 15 Battalion, 4 Brigade AIF and later given command of 1 Platoon, one of the two platoons of F Company. At full strength a company had three officers and 116 men.

15 Battalion was raised in Brisbane on 23 September 1914 with six rifle companies of men from the city, Toowoomba, Gympie and Maryborough and the remaining two, G and H Companies, were camped at Claremont, a northern Hobart suburb. On 22 November 15 Battalion entrained at Brisbane for a two-day journey to Broadmeadows and there, with the Tasmanian companies bringing the roll call to 32 officers and 991 men, joined 13 Battalion from West Australia, thus concentrating Monash’s 4 Brigade in one area. The Brigade marched through Melbourne on 17 December and five days later embarked 32 officers, 996 men, 57 draught and pack horses, 11 riding horses, 17 carts, and nine bicycles to Port Melbourne. Their destination was Egypt. In this second contingent there were 19 ships with 10,500 Australians and 2,000 New Zealanders. During the voyage Waters made his will, leaving his effects and AMP Life Insurance to his mother. The Will was signed and witnessed on 26 January 1915 by 2Lt G.F. Dickinson, the other F Company platoon commander and 2Lt A. Douglas. (Within eight months the 21-year-old Dickinson, recovered from a head wound, would be acting CO 15 Battalion at Anzac). Waters’ signature is also one with those of his Battalion, 16 Battalion and ASC Details officers around a photograph of their troopship, A40 Ceramic. After 41 days at sea 15 Battalion disembarked at Alexandria on 3 February 1915 and immediately entrained for Zeitoun and then marched two miles on sea legs to their camp at Heliopolis on the northern outskirts of Cairo. Here the Battalions re-organised to four rifle companies, I to 4. (A to D only came into use in early April 1915 although at Anzac some officers were still referring to ‘1 Company’ etc), each of four platoons, thus conforming to the recent British Army change. Waters’ F Company joined 2 Company and his...
Platoon re-numbered. At full strength a company had six officers and 222 other ranks.

4 Brigade, 1 Aust L H Brigade and the NZ Mounted Rifles were the formations of the NZ & A Division and with 1 Aust Division were constituted as the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. All units trained hard in the desert and Waters would have read in 15 Battalion Routine Orders his men were to be ‘...physically fit, trained (particularly in marching, musketry and use of bayonet), disciplined and efficient to endure the European Campaign.’ At platoon level there were no such weapons as hand grenades and bombs and no advice on infantry minor tactics and trench warfare from the wealth of experience accumulating on the Western Front. However, some 15 Battalion officers had periscopes made in Cairo at their own expense.

It was during this time that colour patches were issued and Waters had the rectangular brown (third battalion of the brigade) over dark blue (4 Brigade colour) sewn on both sleeves just below the shoulder seam.

There were Brigade and Divisional parades. For Colonel Monash’s inspection the Battalion paraded in mass. Waters’ company commander was mounted, as were also the CO and his batman, the 2IC, the other three company commanders, the adjutant, RMO, TO and his sergeant, the machine gun and signalling officers, the QM and chaplain. All the draught and pack horses and wagons embarked at Melbourne were on parade as were the nine bicycles.

In the course of his duties, and also when Orderly Officer, Waters came in contact with the two most prevalent offences in the AIF—AWL and drunkenness. AWL attracted detention and forfeiture of pay, drunkenness fines from 2/6 to 10/-. Routine Orders gave the names of those who contracted VD and their time in hospital. These soldiers were levied 2/- per day for each day in hospital.

On 13 March 1915, 15 Battalion Routine Orders had this, ‘... warm clothing and cardigan jackets or jerseys will be required on embarkation. Caps will be invariably worn, and no advice on infantry minor tactics and trench warfare from the wealth of experience accumulating on the Western Front. However, some 15 Battalion officers had periscopes made in Cairo at their own expense.

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On 13 March 1915, 15 Battalion Routine Orders had this, ‘... warm clothing and cardigan jackets or jerseys will be required on embarkation. Caps will be invariably worn, but hats may be taken for the voyage’. Three weeks later, on 11 April, at Alexandria, Battalion HQ and B and D companies embarked in Australiaind, A and C Companies in Seeang Bee for the 48-hour voyage to Mudros Harbour, Lemnos Island, about 50 nautical miles south-west of the Gallipoli Peninsula. The Casualty Form—Active Service for Waters has the hand-written entry, ‘12 April 1915 Proceeded to join MEF Gallipoli’. All troops remained on board while final plans were made for the landing on the Peninsula.

B Company landed at Anzac Cove in the darkness and confusion at 2000 hours Sunday 25 April. Waters’ Platoon was then detached from B Company and was sent north more than a 1,000 yards towards Fishermens Huts and then inland to the hills as it was feared the Turks may attempt to outflank the landing. Next morning the Platoon suffered casualties from Turk artillery when Waters lead them back to the Cove. Here they joined the just-landed C Company of the Battalion, the other three platoons of B Company having been deployed on the high ground south of Shrapnel Gully. C Company, with Waters’ Platoon in the rear, moved up Shrapnel Gully and Monash Valley to below the crests of what were to be known as Pope’s Hill and Quinn’s Post. They began to dig a communication trench to the high ground above them as some protection from enfilading small arms fire. Next day, 27 April, Waters was killed here. He was buried at Pope’s Hill cemetery.

Next month his parents were notified by telegram of his death and by March 1916 his personal effects, which included two swords and scabbards, camera and helmet, in the kit store in Cairo had been returned to Melbourne by the AIF’s agent, Thomas Cook and Son. Over the next seven years his parents received material relating to their son’s service. There were his Form of Commission, three photographs of his grave, a Memorial Scroll, his three medals and a Memorial Plaque. All required an acknowledgement of receipt.

In 1919 and 1920 the remains of those buried at Pope’s Hill were re-interred a short distance away at Quin’s Post cemetery. The crosses were later replaced with today’s small headstone.

Of the 28 Australian graduates of the Second Entry, 11 were killed on Gallipoli (six from 4 Brigade battalions, five from Light Horse regiments), five who were at Anzac later died as infantry officers on the Western Front and seven survived their wounds. By chance, many years ago, when I was ‘drest in a little brief authority’, I dealt with an application from one of the seven. One of the very few of the Second Entry who came through unscahed was to be our C-in-C BCOF [Lieutenant General Sir Horace Robertson, Ed].

Cavalry in an unaccustomed role!

John Bullen

Major John Paley, later Brigadier J.T. Paley, CBE, MC, DL, was the British exchange officer at Duntroon, from late 1955 to late 1957. He left behind a host of cherished and highly entertaining memories amongst his ‘bloody Colonials’ who never quite knew what had hit them.

His indefatigable efforts for the next 40 years as the self-appointed Duntroon Ambassador to the Mother Country deservedly earned him Honorary Life Membership of the Duntroon Society. Not in the best of health these days, he lives quietly in Wiltshire.

Major John Paley, MC, Fourth Queen’s Own Hussars, clad in his British Army “warm”, enthusiastically fires the Vickers medium machine gun at the Molonglian hordes advancing across the Majura field firing range in 1956, under the watchful supervision of the weapon training instructor, Captain Russell Lloyd, MC (1951). Photo courtesy of Jeff Sanders (1958, NZ).
60th Reunion—Class of 1947

John Hutcheson

Lou and Dulcie Brumfield and Margaret Morrison organised the gathering at the Canberra Commonwealth Club commencing with cocktails on 10 December 2007. The group attended the Graduation Parade on 11 December, followed by morning tea with the Governor General at Duntroon House, and then an evening formal dinner at the Club. On 12 December, grazier Mike Gorman hosted a lunch at his property for the stayers.

Eighth Biennial Reunion:
Narrandera, 9–11 May 2008

Ray Sunderland

Planning for the Eighth Biennial Reunion of The Duntroon Society at Narrandera from 9–11 May 2008 is on track. A registration form was included in the September 2007 edition of The Duntroon Society Newsletter (Newsletter 2/2007). Non-members of the Society are welcome as member’s guests.

We are confident that you will enjoy the programme being organised by John and Molly Sullivan, which includes visits to a cattle property, a state-of-the-art feed lot, and an inland fisheries research station. The programme also includes a barbecue lunch, and a reunion dinner.

As of mid-February we have received about 60 nominations to attend. If you have forgotten to register please send the Registration Form to Ray Sunderland as soon as possible. The cut off date for registration was 29 February. We will take late registrations, but make it soon. Don’t miss out on what promises to be a wonderful weekend at Narrandera.

We look forward to your company.

From the Central Office

Peter Evans

Australian membership of the Society stands at 613, which represents a net loss of 30 over the last two years. Affiliate Membership stands at about 1,000.

Invoices for the 131 members financial to 2007 were sent out early in the year. Of these 94 were sent via e-mail, which represents a considerable saving in postage costs. Of the 94, 11 addresses were invalid and invoices were re-sent by surface mail with a request for a corrected e-mail address. At time of writing there were 83 outstanding invoices for 2007.

New Members

We warmly welcome the following new members:

Mr H.L. (Hugh) Bowers
Lieutenant Colonel M.A. (Margaret) Fletcher (nee Frearson, WRAAC OCS Nov 1968)
Major D.J.F. (David) Nickols (1963)
Lieutenant Colonel D.R. (Dan) Simpkins (1963)
Squadron Leader M.P. (Michael) Walsh (OCS Dec 1982)
Mr W.E. (Bill) Wells (1953)

E-mail

Given the potential for cost savings, may I again request that members inform me if they change e-mail addresses so that the database can be maintained accurately?

Centenary Donation

The Class of 1956 have kindly donated $200 to the College Centenary Fund.
Victoria Branch Annual Luncheon

Bob Slater

Thirty three members and partners attended the annual Victoria Branch luncheon held at Victoria Barracks Officers’ Mess on Friday, 26 October 2007. There were a number of apologies, notably including members attending other DunSoc-related activities.

The guest speaker was recently retired Brigadier Peter ‘Hutch’ Hutchinson (1978), who gave an insightful talk on his experience and observations of his time as the commander of the Australian force in Iraq in 2004. All agreed that part of the benefit of the annual luncheons is the opportunity presented to older retired members to hear directly from the current generation of commanders about subjects of general interest, and be uplifted by the quality and dedication they display. New members of Victoria Branch, Hugh Bowers (1970) and Patrick (1979) and Victoria Gallagher, attended for the first time.

In welcoming members and guests, Convener Bob Slater (1963) expressed a special welcome to Ivan ‘Lou’ Brumfield (1947) and Dulcie Brumfield (nee Verinder) (Dec 1952) (WRAAC OCS) who were guests of Ian (1946) and Alison Gilmore, and congratulated Ian Gilmore and Laurence McCredie (1948) on their recent Order of Australia awards.
From the Commandant

Brigadier Mark Bornholt

Many of you will remember from your days in uniform the challenges that come when many key staff change over in the January period. Of course with the challenges come opportunities, with fresh new views on the way we do business and this year has been no exception. The College has many new faces and I am extremely happy with the quality of the new staff. The later start to the year has allowed the staff to refresh and the new starters to actually get some leave after removals. It has also helped our attrition rates with the Third Class cadets as the married ones have also had time to get sorted out after Christmas and before training commenced.

Our biggest challenge this year is already upon us and it comes from the success of our centralised selection board processes from last year. We are slightly over our actual capacity and are struggling to fit all of the cadets into the accommodation. Thankfully Third Class spends the first couple of months at Majura so we will have room by the time they return. With 423 cadets in training and a few undergoing rehabilitation, the College is a busy place. These numbers reflect our best ever recruitment result with 120 cadets commencing Third Class and a best ever result at ADFA with 163 Army cadets starting out. In a further development of the centralised selection process, all ADFA selections will be conducted here at RMC from March so they can see the establishment they will ultimately graduate from. We are in the process of re-developing the Pool Room in the Cadets’ Mess so that it can be used permanently as a Board Room.

We have also commenced the new Army Reserve Officer course and it has gone extremely well— the cadets have spent a considerable amount of their training time in the field actually commanding platoons and I am confident that they will be better prepared to lead soldiers on the operations where we are now using the Reserve. The initiative to have the Reserve officer candidates commence their military training by completing the recruit course at Kapooka has gone well. I reviewed a march-out parade in February where 100 of these young men and women all made it through and were grateful for the opportunity and better for the experience. There are still some cultural issues to deal with, largely in the expectation management area, but having a common standard will ensure we have a good base for their later officer training. We graduated 70 Reserve Officers in February and expect to graduate more in August.

The terms of reference for the review of the future of the Society have been released and now that we are through the leave period, I expect to soon begin to make progress. I have been slowed down in the recruitment process for the new Australian Public Service officer who will support the development and administration of the Society and other heritage related aspects of the College. I now expect to fill this appointment by July 2008 at which time we can adjust some of the timelines in the review and move forward.

Thank you for your continued interest and support to the College. I look forward to another year in the best job in the Army and to discussing issues with you who have contributed so much to shaping our heritage.

Donation by OCS Classes of 1956

Brian Edwards

Subsequent to their 50th Anniversary activities in December 2006, the OCS classes (June and December) of 1956 found themselves with funds remaining. Members were canvassed and it was agreed that the sum of $1,250 be donated to the Duntroon Society. With the centenary of Duntroon almost upon us, our class mates would like to see the funds used to enhance in some way the knowledge of the place of OCS in the development of the Officer Corps in the Australian Army in the 20th Century.

As representatives of the OCS Classes of 1956, M.B. (Brian) Edwards (Dec) and I.T. (Jock) Stewart (Jun) presented the Commandant with a cheque for $1,250. Photograph courtesy of the Defence Publishing Service AudioVisual, Duntroon.

From the Branches

Australian Capital Territory

Branch Office Holders

The ACT Branch Committee is:

Convenor: Brigadier Peter Evans (1958)
Secretary: Lieutenant Colonel John Bullen (1958)
Treasurer: Lieutenant Colonel Dr Mike Ryan (1981)

Members: Dr Moreen Dee (WRAAC OCS 1966); Brigadier George Salmon (1959); Colonel Mike Ford (1957); Major Stuart Althaus (RMC & OCS 1982)

Autumn Lunch, 2008

This year’s Autumn Lunch is on Tuesday 29 April 2008, in Duntroon House as usual. The Commandant will be attending. Enquiries to John Bullen on (02) 6288 7312.

Annual Dinner and Speech

Last year’s annual Dinner & Speech was held in Duntroon House on 25 November 2007. The speaker was Lieutenant General John Coates, AC, MBE who admirably met the Society’s aim of hearing an entertaining and informative talk.

Being well aware that the previous two speakers (Ross Bastiaan 2005 and Jack Waterford 2006) had been appointed Members of the Order of Australia shortly after addressing the Duntroon Society, Lieutenant General Coates
was relieved that his speech on 25 November 2007 did not lead to him being downgraded to AM.

This year’s Dinner & Speech will be on Wednesday 19 November 2008 and the speaker (definitely not lured by the prospect of an AM!) will be the very recently retired Governor-General Major General Michael Jeffery.

Committee Dinner, 2008

The ACT Branch Committee proposes to organise the annual Duntroon Society Executive Dinner for present and former ACT Branch Committee members and for Duntroon Society Council delegates, and all partners, to be held in Duntroon House on the evening before the Council meeting in September or October.

New South Wales

Branch Office Holders

With effect from 11 December 2007, there has been a “generational” change in the NSW Branch Office Bearers. The new executive group took up their appointments on 31 January 2008 and their contact details are as follows:

Convenor: Viv Morgan, morgan53@bigpond.net.au, (02) 9331 3252.
Acting Convenor: Duncan Spencer, daspen@tpg.com.au, (02) 9969 0772, 0414 573 574.
Treasurer: Ian Taylor, ita01@ozemail.com.au, (02) 9953 9441, 0407 539 441.
Secretary: Keith Petersen, keith.petersen@defence.gov.au, (02)9339 2467, 0434 699 610.

Branch Social Functions

As at the time of preparing this report, the only functions planned for 2008 are the Mid-Year luncheon to be held in June, and the Graduation Luncheon to be held on the second Tuesday in December.

We aim to have the Mid-Year Lunch close to, and having relevance to, the Duntroon Mid-Year Graduation, depending on the availability of attendees and/or guest speakers.

It is intended that both luncheons will be held in the Victoria Barracks Officers’ Mess.

New Zealand

Branch Social Functions

The Wellington Chapter enjoyed their Summer Luncheon at the Royal Wellington Golf Club, Heretaunga on 24 February 2008. Both CDS (Lieutenant General J. Mateparae, OCS Dec 1976) and Chief of Army (Major General L.J. Gardiner, 1975), both Society members, were among those who attended.

Auckland members and their partners gathered at the Auckland Golf Club for the traditional Christmas lunch on Sunday 2 December 2007. The function was hosted by Colonel Tom Aldridge (1961). Twenty nine members and their partners attended.

Branch Membership

Membership of the New Zealand Branch is 133 including sixteen spouses of deceased members.

Queensland

Branch Office Holders

Convenor is Graeme Loughton assisted by an advisory panel of past convenors.

Branch Social Functions

In 2007 around 20, on each occasion, attended a cocktail party, the ADF Dinner at United Services Club, a theatre night at the Arts Theatre, golf at McLeod, and a mixed Steyr shoot and lunch at Enoggera. While a former SAS member scored best with the Steyr, a novice (a lady) came second. Great fun and thanks to Ted Chitham of the RAR Association for organising it.

The first event for 2008 was the Phantom of the Opera at the Lyric Theatre, which was thoroughly enjoyed by a total of 20, including a few guests.

South Australia

Branch Social Functions

Twenty two members and guests attended an enjoyable Branch Annual Graduation Luncheon in the Keswick Barracks Officers’ Mess on Tuesday, 4 December 2007. Luncheon cost elements, such as a Mess Usage Fee imposed by the Mess Committee, a mandatory additional Mess Fee charged by Transfield Services and paid to Defence, a Transfield Services Management Fee, and GST are all serving to make such Mess events untenable. So much for the once vaunted economies of the Defence Commercial Support Program and for traditional Mess life!! Negotiations are being pursued with the Mess Committee, Transfield Services and Defence to recognise the Service nature of Society activities and waive mess usage fees. If this is not achieved, it is likely that our future Graduation Luncheons will have to be held at a more economic location.

The broad proposals for the future of The Duntroon Society, as outlined in the Commandant’s Directive 11/07 and subsequent correspondence, provided a basis for lively discussion at the Graduation Luncheon on 4 December. The reactions and general views of members on this subject have been passed separately to Brigadier Peter Evans, as coordinator of the Review of the Charter of the Society.
Forthcoming Events

The Branch Annual Graduation Luncheon for 2008 is to be held on Tuesday, 2 December. The location of the luncheon will be advised later.

Despite the continuing efforts of our Golf Coordinator, Peter Bridge, innovative attempts to combine with one or more of the other branches to field a team in the Annual Postal Golf Competition are making little headway.

Branch Membership

Branch membership remains stable at 42 members. Efforts to identify and attract new members continue.

Victoria & Tasmania

Branch Office Holders

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 Ernert, and Richard Coates (OCS representative). Craig Wood remains proxy for Canberra-based meetings.

Branch Social Functions

Thirty three members and partners attended the annual Victoria Branch luncheon held at Victoria Barracks Officers’ Mess on 26 October 2007. The guest speaker was recently retired Brigadier Peter ‘Hutch’ Hutchinson (1978), who gave an insightful talk on his experience and observations of his time as the commander of the Australian force in Iraq in 2004. [See full report on p. 5. Ed]

Attempts were made during the past six months to activate postal golf, but to date we have not found any interest.

There has been no recent campaign to increase numbers and participation in DunSoc in Victoria, although we quietly encourage people to attend the annual luncheon. Victoria remains without a ‘champion’ ARA headquarters. Successive Logistic/Support Command leaders have not seen themselves as catalysts for extracurricular activities, and there is no single Army focal point in or around Melbourne. Defence adherence to privacy laws prevents any distribution of contact details for newcomers to Victoria so we wait to be approached. Notwithstanding this, there are numerous small groups of retired officers who meet regularly for their own mini-reunions (usually based on cohort and/or Corps affiliation), and who are quite happy to continue doing so in their own way attracting members of similar persuasion as they go rather than become part of a wider group. A widening of DunSoc membership to include all officers and other interested parties as an alumni, and widening circulation of the Newsletter (including published reports on these smaller, as-yet-unaligned group gatherings) may help to bond these groups.

Western Australia

Branch Office Holders

Convenor: Bob Hunter
Social Convenor: Kevin Poynton

Note these positions are both endorsed by members but held informally as no specific constitution is in place for the group.

Branch Social Functions

Three successful functions were held during 2007 and this will be repeated in 2008. We continue to attract a small but hardy group that span a number of generations. We are noting that attendances by a few of our senior members have unfortunately reduced for recent luncheons due to various ailments.

Luncheon program for 2008 all are currently scheduled to be held at Leeuwin Barracks Officers/SNCO Messing facility at Fremantle on Tuesdays 15 April, 26 August, and 9 December.

Contact detail for all functions is to WA Convenor through e-mail at bhunter@oam-group.com or phone, 08 9335 5520.

Coming Events

ACT Branch

29 April 2008. Autumn Lunch at 12:30pm at Duntroon House.


NSW Branch


New Zealand Branch


Queensland Branch


21 June 2008. Tattersall’ Winter Races at Eagle Farm.

5 September 2008. ADF Dinner at United Services Club.

TBA, October 2008. Lunch and Steyr Shoot (partners included) at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera.
South Australia Branch (incorporating NT)
2 December 2008. Annual Graduation Luncheon (location to be advised).

Victoria Branch (incorporating Tasmania)

Western Australia Branch
15 April 2008. Lunch at the Officers’/Sergeants’ Mess, Leeuwin Barracks
26 August 2008. Lunch at the Officers’/Sergeants’ Mess, Leeuwin Barracks
9 December 2008. Lunch at the Officers’/Sergeants’ Mess, Leeuwin Barracks

RMC Ceremonial Parades
17 June 2008. Queen’s Birthday Parade and Trooping the Colour.

Further information can be obtained from the SO3 Ceremonial, Captain S.M. (Stephen) Hladio on (02) 6265 9539.

Open Day Duntroon House
Sunday, 28 September 2007. From 11:00am. The Duntroon Guides will be available, the Band of the RMC will be in attendance, and refreshments will be provided.

Shorts
- With the death of Colonel Geoffrey Brennan on 31 December 2007 (see Obituary section on pp. 10–11), the Elder of the Duntroon Society is now Colonel C.W.T. Kyngdon (1932) who was born on 8 March 1910. He entered the RMC with the CSC number 512 on 13 February 1929 and moved to Victoria Barracks, Paddington when the RMC relocated to that place in early 1931. There were nine in his class when they graduated on 13 December 1932. He was allocated to the Australian Army Service Corps but spent the next six years with light horse regiments, followed by ‘training abroad’. From 1940 he returned to his Corps to serve with the AIF in Australia and overseas. Now in his 98th year, Colonel Kyngdon is living in a nursing home in Toorak, Victoria where he is in reasonable health although suffering from mild dementia and confined to a wheelchair.
- At the Graduation on Tuesday, 14 December 2007, the Duntroon Society Award went to Corporal B.J. Howard who was allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps and is posted to 5 RAR in Darwin.
- The Lieutenant Eric Larson Memorial Travelling Scholarship was awarded to Colour Sergeant J.C. Turner who was also allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps and is posted to 6 RAR in Enogerra.
- From 14 January 2008 the Director of Military Art is Colonel M.A. Smethurst (1986) who graduated from the RMC exactly 30 years after his father, Major General N.R. Smethurst. The new DMA came to his present posting from being the Commanding Officer of 4 RAR.

The Lieutenant Colonel G.J. McKay, MC Lecture Theatre

The Duntroon Heritage Committee has endorsed the OTU Scheyville Association’s nomination that a lecture theatre in the Military Instruction Block be named the Lieutenant Colonel G.J. McKay MC Lecture Theatre. This follows the precedent of naming facilities within RMC after distinguished officers in order to provide inspiration to cadets and staff, while maintaining an ongoing commitment to Australia’s rich military heritage.

Gary McKay was conscripted into the Army in 1968 and was commissioned into the Royal Australian Infantry on graduation from OTU Scheyville in October of that year. He was awarded the Military Cross for his courage and steadiness as a platoon commander on operations with 4RAR in Vietnam in 1971, during which time he was wounded in action. His Military Cross (the last awarded to an Australian officer) is presently on display at the Australian War Memorial.

Gary served on the staff of the RMC as Senior Instructor Tactics and later commanded 8/9 RAR. He retired from the Army in 1998 and is now a full-time non-fiction writer and freelance historian. His autobiographical In Good Company remains on the reading lists for cadets and junior officers.

Letters to the Editor

Re “Mysterious, Unique Lake George, and a Duntroon Tragedy” by Allan Limburg

Newsletter 1/2007

Paul Yonge

After reading Allan’s very interesting record of Lake George I wrote to him mentioning two more activities on the lake. He invited me to pass the information on to you. I apologise for my delay in doing so, resulting from the time it took to check dates.

The first dealt with surveying base lines along dry portions of the lake for mapping NSW. The first were established in 1928 by Sir Thomas Mitchell. In 1870 to 1871 a 6½-mile base line was established by George Smalley, the Assistant Surveyor General. The base line was measured using a 22-yard-long chain of jointed metal rods. The temperature of the chain had to be maintained constant to ensure its correct length. This required overhead tentage about 25 yards long to keep the sun off the metal. A constant tension measured with instruments was also required. All of this meant that 6½ miles took some time to measure accurately. From these base lines, angles to trig stations
established on the hills around Lake George were measured with theodolites establishing a triangulation survey to map NSW.

The second activity was in the late 1970s when Dr Gurdeep Singh from the Australian National University drilled a geological borehole in the middle of the lake. He had a small artificial island built which was big enough to accommodate a drilling rig. The cores extracted produced a history of the geology, vegetation, fire, and lake levels back to about 750,000 years ago.

Re Colonel Cook and a distant relative
Newsletter 1/2007
Ted Swinbourne

Two brief comments on items in the last Newsletter. Firstly on Colonel Leo Cook whom I got to know quite well at RMC and later in Eastern Command. Amongst other things, he was the Officer in Charge of Swimming. On one occasion, and it must have been in 1946, an RMC Swimming team took part in a carnival in Manuka Pool. The carnival had been postponed due to heavy rain and ended up being held in April. In true Canberra fashion, it was a very cold night and the water was even colder. Anyhow, our team, of some four or five, competed and froze. On return to the College we were taken down to Leo’s quarter and, by courtesy of Mrs Cook, were given a good hot supper before being returned to our quarters. It was an act of kindness not only appreciated but long remembered, as you can see.

Secondly, I note from David Wilkins’ letter that his cadet number was 2003. Well, David, my number was 1003. I am not sure what relationship that involves—how may ‘greats’ to add to ‘grandfather’—but I felt it worth remarking about.

[Corps numbers have progressed considerably since 1003 and 2003—the latest addition to the ‘03 family is Staff Cadet McLeod Wood who has the corps number 10903 (yes, that is ten thousand and ninety three—incidentally, the last number is currently 10984). Now, that is a lot of ‘greats’?. Ed]

Profile of Students at the RMC

Current strength (31 March 2008)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSC</td>
<td>405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Class</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Class</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Class</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Timor</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADFA Graduates</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cadets with previous military service</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to those at Duntroon the number in training in University Regiments is approximately 540, but from 1 July 2008 training in these regiments will no longer be the responsibility of the Commandant of the RMC.

Obituary

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

6 Feb 07 Captain A.A. Paljakka (Jun 2000)
30 Apr 07 Colonel K.E. Gallard (1942)
14 May 07 Brigadier W.A. Brydie (Apr 1944)
14 May 07 Lieutenant Colonel J.B.M. Trenerry (1944)
25 May 07 Major C.R. Bunbury (1939)
11 Aug 07 Lieutenant I.D. Dunsmore (1942)
25 Sep 07 Colonel J.D. Andrew (1943)
28 Sep 07 Mr N.V. Tunstill (1955)
14 Oct 07 Lieutenant Colonel I. Throssell (OCS Jun 1952)
5 Nov 07 Brigadier I.M. Hunter (1939)
5 Nov 07 Colonel J. Fletcher (1955)
5 Nov 07 Brigadier M. Tebbutt (1944)
30 Nov 07 Colonel D.A. Chinn (1954)
16 Dec 07 Brigadier M.H. MacKenzie-Orr
31 Dec 07 Colonel T.G. Brennan (1930)*
19 Feb 08 Lieutenant Colonel J.J. Tattam (OCS Jun 1954)
16 Mar 08 Miss Ruth Larson **
17 Mar 08 Major K.J. Farrell (1960)
22 Mar 08 Major General K.J. Taylor (1950)
30 Mar 08 Lieutenant Colonel P.G. Wilkins (1957)

* His funeral service was held on Friday, 11 January 2007 at St Mary Immaculate Catholic Church in Falmouth, Cornwall. He was the Elder of the Society from 11 January 2007 until his death just 14 days short of his 99th birthday. As far as can be determined, he was the second oldest graduate of the RMC after Colonel D.D. Pitt (1929), the previous Elder of the Society, who had exceeded Geoffrey Brennan’s age by 6½ months. Interestingly, as far as we know, an RMC graduate has yet to reach 100 years. See obituary on p. 11.

** Miss Larson endowed in 2003 the Lieutenant Eric Larson Memorial Travelling Sponsorship, which will continue in perpetuity. Lieutenant Larson, Miss Larson’s brother, was the first member of the class of 1948 to be killed in action in Korea.

Unconfirmed information has been received about the following and any advice would be appreciated:

Captain D.W. Harris (1987)
Major B.G. Saunders (1965)
Colonel N.W. Sharpe (OCS Jun 1953)

Book Review

A Matter of Pride: A Short History of the RMC Duntroon Class of 1948. Edited by Colonel Peter Scott DSO, ret.

This book details the personalities, the impressions and the experiences of the RMC Duntroon Class of 1948. Its members entered Duntroon in 1946 to undertake the three-year course (as the Duntroon syllabus was in those days), at a time when Australia had just completed a major involvement in a global war. The Australian Army was
being down-sized from about 380,000 to a peacetime force of about 20,000—in the immediate post-war period, there was little by way of obvious national threat to Australia. The post-war government had the task of restoring economic stability to Australia and, externally, to assist in restoring stable government to Japan, and the occupation forces undertook that latter role most admirably. The Class began with 58 and graduated 43 including five New Zealanders. 27 were then posted to BCOF, Japan. Later, 30 served in Korea; 14 in Malaya/Borneo, and 16 in Vietnam.

The book opens with a group photograph of the intake—by all appearances, a typical cross-section of Australian and New Zealand youth, but young men with a determination to make a career in the Army. Some found the reality of Army life a little different from what they had imagined and reverted to civilian status. It interesting to read how they fared. The others, however, accepted the challenge presented by the gruelling Duntroon curriculum, and not only graduated but acquitted themselves well as graduates.

Those who can read between the lines in a book such as this will recognise the validity of what has been said of military academies—they teach you to dance before they give you a sword’. The aim of military academies is, inter alia, to graduate junior officers with the necessary qualities of leadership and with a basis for continued development throughout a lifetime of service to one’s country. The book certainly bears out that, in the case of the Class of 1948, this aim has largely been met.

A Matter of Pride provides an interesting insight into the lives of a group of young men who, around 60 years ago, made up a class enrolled at one of Australia’s most revered places of learning. It is also a valuable record of one aspect of the military history of Australia.


Ross Eastgate

With few career prospects in Australia, many Depression-era Duntroon graduates opted for careers in the British or Indian armies. Despite winning the Sword of Honour in his 1930 graduating class, Geoffrey Brennan opted to join the Royal Artillery, spending the next seven years as a gunner officer on operations in India’s northwest frontier.

He arrived in the UK in time to deploy to France with the British Expeditionary Force on the eve of World War II. In December 1939 he was withdrawn to attend Staff College, spending the next four years on the staff, including 14 months in Washington. He would not see action until he landed in northwest Europe on D+5.

After the war he was sent to instruct at the staff college in Haifa in Palestine, before being given command of 20 Field Regiment in Korea. In what would be the last major battle of the Korean War, the Chinese made a third attempt to capture a 65m feature known as The Hook. On the morning of May 28, 1953, Chinese artillery commenced firing and the British responded with counter battery fire, firing over 37,000 shells along a 1-km front. The Hook held, and Brennan was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. After Korea, he held a series of staff appointments in the UK and Middle East before retiring from the Army as a colonel in 1959.

Thomas Geoffrey Brennan was born in Melbourne on January 14, 1909, where his father was the Chief Accountant with the Victorian Railways. He was educated at Xavier College, Melbourne, and later at the Royal Military College, Duntroon.

In addition to the DSO, Colonel Brennan was awarded the OBE, later advanced to CBE, The French Legion of Honour, and the US Legion of Merit.

Colonel Brennan, who was twice married, died on December 31, aged 98. He is survived by his wife Ba, and two sons and a daughter. At the time of his death, he was the oldest living graduate of the Royal Military College.

Editorial Issues

Submissions to the Newsletter are always welcome. If possible, please provide electronic copy by e-mail to the Editor.

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Annual Postal Golf Competition 2007

As for the 2006 competition, five teams from Australian States and two from New Zealand participated in the 2007 Annual Postal Golf Competition. Although Vic and SA were unable to raise the numbers to join this year’s competition, and WA still has no co-ordinator, it is pleasing to see a number of new names becoming involved (along with many of the regulars from former years). It would be nice to get back to the situation we had a few years ago, when up to eleven teams of eight were eagerly contesting the top spots in the Teams, Individual and 4BBB events, as well as a number of ladies joining in with a parallel competition.

Once again the New Zealand teams came out on top, taking the Teams, Individual and 4BBB crowns, in a word, blitzing the field! This is the second time this has happened in the past three years, and it is up to our Australian golfers to make a concerted effort to redress this imbalance. Hearty congratulations to all the winners.

Team event results were:

1st: NZ Auckland
(McLeod Country Golf Club)
16 Dec 2007
M.J. Dudman (1959) 41
F. Burns 40
M. Ritchie (RMA Sandhurst) 34
J.W. Redward (1964) 33
C.M. Dixon (1954) 29
T.A. Aldridge (1961) 27
R.G. Williams (1952) 27

2nd: NZ Wellington
(Martinborough Golf Club)
18 Dec 2007
I.J. Duthie (1962) 36
G.J. Crowley (OCS Dec 1962) 35
M.F. Dodson (1965) 34
G.M. Talbot (1962) 33
J.G. Cutler (OCS Jun 1968) 31
C. Lilley (OCS Jun 1974) 30
D.J. Grant (OCS Dec 1961) 27

3rd: ACT (Royal Canberra Golf Club Red)
19 Nov 2007
G.T. Salmon (1959) 35
D.K. Baker (1954) 35
J.A.F. Gilchrist (OCS Jun 1967) 33
J. Wilson (1967) 31
S.S. Agnew (Staff 1960-62) 30
K.J. Hilton 28

4th: ACT (Federal Golf Club)
1 Dec 2007
I.F. Ahearn (1966) 35
K. McLoughlin (Staff 89-91) 33
W.H. Hall (OTTU 1968) 32
D.H.E. Gillett (OCS Dec 1964) 31
M.J. Eley 29
G.R. Wainwright (1965) 28
G.C. Hay (1974) 25
F.C. Lehman (1960) 25

5th: ACT (Royal Canberra Golf Club Black)
19 Nov 2007
R.A. Sunderland (1953) 35
B.J. Stark (OCS Jun 1954) 34
I.R. Smith (1957) 32
L.G. O’Donnell (1954) 31
R.J. Copley (1962) 27
I.G. Porteous (1954) 26

6th: Queensland
(McLeod Country Golf Club)
27 Nov 2007
A.R. Burke 32
M.J. Patch (1978) 31
B.D.V. Lindsay (1958) 30
L. Hall 29
A.J. Fittock (1961) 27
G.J. Loughton (1956) 27
B.G. Bond (1960) 26

7th: NSW
(Avondale Golf Club)
Nov 2007
L. Sherrington 33
M.A. Shepherd (1986) 31
G. McDowall 29
W.F. Bassam (OCS Dec 1954) 21
R.H. Magnusson (1959) 21
M.G. Colley (1967) 20
G.E. Ball (OCS Jun 1952) 18
P.M. Reid (1964) 16

Best Individual Scores were:

1st M.J. Dudman NZ 41
2nd F. Burns NZ 40
3rd I.J. Duthie NZ 36
4th G.T. Salmon ACT 35

Four Ball Scores were:

1st M.J. Dudman NZ 47
J.W. Redward
2nd G.T. Salmon ACT 45
S.S. Agnew
3rd F. Burns NZ 45
C. Dixon

Match Committee

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WA To be notified

Best wishes for the 2008 competition. I would invite any WA golfers interested in putting together a team for 2008 to contact me for details.