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Two Royal Australian Air Force FA/18 Hornets, fly in formation over RAAF Base Williamtown, New South Wales.
Divided Loyalties

Dear Sir,

Major R. A. Hall’s timely letter regarding Professor Blainey’s opinions on the negative effects of multiculturalism upon our Defence Force should provide plenty of food for thought.

Major Hall correctly argues that Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders will be an invaluable asset in any future conflict especially in Northern Australia.

But it is not so easy to brush aside the possibility of divided loyalties. As a member of the Cadre Staff of an ARES Officer Cadet Unit, I remember a Cadet of foreign descent saying that he would never raise his rifle against the people of his ethnic origins regardless of Australia’s stand in any conflict.

NO. I’m not a bigot nor do I have any special antipathy towards multiculturalism I simply repeat the sober statement of a potential Australian Officer who, along with his parents, held Australian Citizenship.

Recently, a reportedly Australian born 16 year old was shot protesting at the Yugoslav Consulate. The reason for his protest? Ill treatment of minorities in his homeland. I don’t know whether the Blainey view is absolutely right, if only I could be sure that it’s wrong.

C. T. Ainslie
Captain

Conventional Deterrence

Dear Sir,

Lieutenant Colonel Smith’s article, Conventional Deterrence and Australian Military Strategy, (DFJ Jul/Aug 88) approaches the subject of conventional deterrence from a global perspective, then relates the lessons to Australia’s geostrategic circumstances.

If approached from an Australian perspective, that is from the point of view expressed in endorsed strategic guidance, a strategy containing elements of deterrence is worth consideration. Based on possible contingencies pronounced by Defence of Australia 1987, deterrence needs to be examined at two levels. First, in the shorter term to deter an aggressor from a campaign of low-level operations; second, in the longer term to deter an aggressor from large scale conventional operations.

In relation to shorter term contingencies, an adversary’s strategy is expected to indirect. That is, his military operations will be secondary to other means of progressing the conflict. Andre Beaufre’s excellent analysis of indirect strategy in ‘Introduction to Strategy’, narrows the scope of this strategy when he describes the ‘erosion method’. The types of activities he describes here can be directly related to current enemy concepts being discussed in Defence circles. Beaufre further describes measures to counter this ‘erosion method’. Large scale resources should not be used and the concept of the ‘exterior manoeuvre’ needs to be applied. This manoeuvre is designed to assure freedom of action while simultaneously ‘paralysing the enemy by a multitude of deterrent checks’. He states, ‘As with all operations designed to deter, action will of course be primarily psychological; political, economic and military resources will all be combined towards the same end.’

This would seem to place deterrence for shorter term contingencies at the level of national strategy not military strategy. By combining other elements of national power with military power, Australia can have a believable and affordable national strategy to deter an enemy in the shorter term.

In regard to longer term contingencies, some of Colonel Smith’s conclusions and lessons may appear valid. But again they are related to global perspectives and the replacement, as Air Commodore Ashworth pointed out (DFJ Nov/Dec 88), of the superpower nuclear deterrent with conventional deterrence.

Colonel Smith dismisses Langtry and Ball based on historical evidence that ‘indicates that far from being deterred from conflict, a position of inferiority may actually provide a catalyst for military action.’ Langtry and Ball’s discussion on relative combat power, does however have relevance to a strategy of deterrence in longer term contingencies. The bottom line of this discussion is that an aggressor would
need a minimum of a 3 to 1 capability and force ratio before contemplating large scale conventional operations against Australia. Therefore each $1 spent on Australian capability means at least $3 spent by an aggressor to retain capability ratios. This is still too simplistic an equation, for an adversary would need additional investment in the maritime capabilities to transport and support his forces. Few economies in our ADM1 could be expected to support that level of military expansion without suffering severe consequences. This will not mean an arms race either. Even our current forces, regular and reserve, indicate that an adversary would need at least a reinforced corps with significant naval and air support to even contemplate this type of operation.

Thus the primary deterrent value of the ADF lies not in its use pre-emptively or in threat of retaliation, but as an economic deterrent in the longer term.

Consequently there is a place for a strategy of deterrence within Australia’s geostrategic environment. Its place is at a national level where correctly applied it could be supported in general terms by the current capabilities of the ADF.

A. F. Webster
Major

Table of Decorations
Dear Sir,

Receipt is acknowledged with thanks of additional copies of Issue No. 73 of the Journal, availability of which is greatly appreciated by our Association.

There is a printing error on page 24, where in the table of decorations awarded to 2/14 Battalion in 1942, the number of MM’s is shown as “1” instead of “11”. We would be grateful if a correction could be included in a future issue.

J. C. McAllester
Defending Freedom and Pursuing Peace

By The Reverend Campbell Egan, ARES

Introduction

A national POW memorial was opened and dedicated in the grounds of RMC Dundroon during 1988. The memorial consists of the Catholic chapel used in Changi POW camp during the second world war. The building was dismantled, stored, transported and now reconstructed, and is a splendid memorial that honours our POWs and especially those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

On the island of Singapore a war cemetery preserves the memory of the Changi experience. The cemetery is maintained immaculately. Hundreds and hundreds of little white crosses cover the lawns. They stand for fallen warriors. On the central memorial stone these words are carved:

THEY DIED FOR ALL FREE MEN

In Australia today there are two movements which go their separate ways but which have a great deal in common. They are both interested in gaining, maintaining and enhancing peace.

Anzac Tradition

Large sections of the Australian nation pause for a while on the 25 April. This truly national day helps citizens to honour the sacrifices made by men and women in previous days in preserving the freedom that we enjoy today.

Ordinary men and women from all walks of life, at various times in our history and from all parts of the Commonwealth responded when the Government of the day made a commitment to particular military conflicts. Australia was committed to the two great world wars and successive campaigns in the past 40 years, including commitments to peace keeping initiatives of the United Nations Organisation.

The National Government made the decision to be committed to these conflicts, and ordinary Australian men and women responded. Anzac day reminds the nation of the importance of values such as national pride and national service, devotion to duty and self sacrifice, bravery the defence of freedom, resistance to aggression and the preservation of peace.

Anzac 1989 stresses the fact that had our fighting men and women of previous days not deterred the aggression of Japan and defeated the evils of Nazism, then life in this land of the Southern Cross might well be radically different.

The nation should never be allowed to forget the sacrifices of Australian people of previous days who fought for freedom and the preservation of peace. The nation should not forget the sacrifices made by our fighting men and women, but also the sacrifice and contribution to the national cause by those who remained at home.

The moral qualities of the Anzac tradition - resistance to aggression, courage in conflict, sacrifice for the common good, the defence of freedom and the pursuit of peace - should not be allowed to be washed away by the unthinking tides of materialism, hedonism and careless forgetfulness.

Peace Movement

In recent years another powerful movement has developed with a strong interest in the welfare of the nation and indeed the preservation of the whole world. This movement is largely, though not exclusively associated with Palm Sunday. Marches, rallies and meetings are held throughout the nation. The necessity of peace pursuing policies, programmes and perceptions is emphasised. The movement looks more to the future than to the past. It stresses the danger that arises from man's increased technology in the production of more and more powerful weapons of destruction and more effective delivery systems. It highlights the dangers of the nuclear age, and the fragility of a world peace that rests on mutual fear of annihilation. The Peace Movement challenges politicians and the public to think more of peace than the heroics of the past, more of the future than the days of yore, more of friendship building than reliance on bigger and more lethal weapons of destruction.

Excesses

I believe that these two movements have a great deal in common when shorn of their excesses.
The Anzac tradition is not enhanced by the glorification of war or of the rattling of the drum of jingoism. A boozey celebration of the ‘one day of the year’ does not uplift the true essence of the Anzac tradition.

Similarly for many the shrill ‘go home yank’ shouts of many marchers, and the adoption of an impractical: ‘No to the nuclear age’, detract for many, from the moral tone of the peace movement. A tendency to dishonour the contributions to national service of men and women in the defence forces by some, is not necessary to promote the virtues of the peace movement.

Common Interests

The realism of the Anzac tradition and the idealism of the Peace Movement need to be linked. The Anzac tradition reminds us that freedom has been defended and peace preserved at enormous cost both to the nation and to families and citizens. This tradition is committed to peace. This however can be achieved sometimes, only by the use of military power. Appeasement to an aggressor is like tissue paper to a rampaging bull. Often in life a bully can only be contained by force.

On the other hand however, the idealism of the Peace Movement is vital. Peace based on mutual terror is a fragile peace. Peace that rests only on military might is inadequate. The Peace Movement projects a vision of world peace in which reliance on military hardware is reduced, and peace is promoted by friendship, tolerance and trust. It advocates that more resources at the disposal of the governments of the world should be directed to enhancing human life and so reducing some of the causes of conflict. It advocates that fewer resources be directed to the invention of more and more lethal instruments of destruction and to the accumulation of massive arsenals. That more resources be directed to peace making endeavours.

People of both movements should cultivate a dialogue. Bridges of goodwill and trust should be developed. We need to sit down and genuinely listen to the advocacy of the other side. We need to get behind the catchcries and slogans we employ, often merely to win points in a debate. People of the Anzac tradition and people of the Peace Movement should together explore the true nature of peace and freedom and devise realistic ways of advancing the cause they share in common.

Major Conflict

A major moral issue facing the world for the past several decades has been the contrast between the police state and the free state. Totalitarian regimes, whether to the left or the right of the political spectrum, rule by might. The police and military dominate. Freedom of movement, expression, assembly and worship are severely curtailed. Political dissent is minimized by imprisonment or liquidation. No sensible person can deny this reality in a score of countries in different parts of the world.

In contrast to the police state, the western democracies despite all their defects maximise individual freedom of thought, expression and action.

The conflict between the open and closed societies constitutes one of the most dominant moral issues of the second part of the twentieth century.

Since the descent of the iron curtain and the erection of the bamboo curtain, the relationship between the nations of the western alliance and the countries of the socialist empire has been marked by suspicion, fear, malice and mistrust. In more recent years the ‘cold war’ has thawed somewhat with the emergence of detente and then in more recent days the policies advanced by the Soviet leader, namely glasnost (openness) and perestroika (renewal) have generated warmer and friendlier attitudes.

These developments should be welcomed by all.

The people of the Anzac tradition would caution against lowering the guard in the face of remarkable changes that appear to be endorsed by the leaders of the USSR. Despite all advances however the totalitarian states of communism have a vast way to go to achieve the level of personal freedom that marks the society of western democracies.

The dictum is relevant — “The price of liberty is eternal vigilance.”

Australia retains a moral commitment in the cause of freedom by its association with the western alliance. The nation is firmly wedded by the American alliance to peace through nuclear deterrence. The joint Australian-American bases are an essential part of the nuclear defence structure. This commitment now has been extended for another ten years. This commitment is not merely a national insurance policy. It is also a moral commitment to one of the critical issues of the day. It is a
commitment to the free society in contrast to the police state.

When members of the Peace Movement express their idealism in political terms such as an anti-American stance, and advocate a reversion to a pre-nuclear era, they engage in political utopianism and antagonise many who sympathise with their vision of peace.

Peace Making

The Peace Movement advocates policies that break down the walls of divisions and the curtains of mistrust. They promote concepts such as bridging the political and social gaps by friendships. The things that are conducive to war are suspicion, fear, ignorance, mistrust as well as a desire by people and nations to control resources and people.

Some of these negative and destructive attitudes can be removed or at least reduced, by people coming together in a variety of ways.

Exchanges between nations and peoples at every level are more likely to produce peace and goodwill than by the peoples snarling their fears and hates through barriers of ignorance and prejudice.

The Australian Government should, in my opinion, advance more policies and programmes that result in people exchanges. To have Chinese table tennis players, Russian ice skaters, Polish dancers, South African cricketers, Brazilian footballers and Indonesian craftsman visit and perform in Australia is a far more effective pursuit of peace than trade boycott economic sanctions, and propaganda salvo.

One of the most creative peace making initiatives in recent times was that of the American Peace Corps. Programmes that perform a similar function now should be expanded.

Australia should put more resources into peace making programmes at every level from arms control and disarmament negotiations to student exchanges and sporting, cultural interchanges. When people meet each other at the human level and talk, and play and engage in constructive enterprises, then the seeds of goodwill and trust are planted which eventually produce the flowers of peace and trust.

The Peace Movement draws attention to the distressing in feature of modern life that so many resources, natural and human, are directed to a military end while genuine human need increases through neglect.

Somehow the idealism of the Peace Movements needs to be harnessed and expressed in political programmes. Peace needs to be pursued. It does not just happen. The reality of human life is that it is easier to poison relationships through ignorance, fear and malice than to build up goodwill, trust and respect.

"Lest we forget" in 1989 should synthesize the realism of the Anzac tradition that peace and freedom at times have to be achieved through military strength, the idealism of the Peace Movement which points to the future and the necessity to make peace and not merely to talk about it and wistfully hope that it will happen at the end of a military programme.

A Pillar Of Peace

In Jerusalem there stands a tall pillar on the top of which is a sculptured likeness of a dove with an olive branch in its beak. It is a powerful symbol for peace.

The monument was erected in honour of the Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat. Sadat together with the American President Jimmy Carter and the Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin transcended religious, national and political differences to gain a peace in Sinai.

That achievement was fuelled by a vision of peace. It was achieved only by strong and determined leadership. The dove and the olive branch remains an abiding symbol of peace, a desire and a hope shared by most people. The people of the Anzac tradition acknowledge the sacrifices made by our fighting men and women. They honour the determination, dedication and sacrifice made by them to gain freedom and achieve peace. That tradition in Australia should never be forgotten. The people of the Peace Movement share that same vision, that men and women, nations and races might dwell together on this planet and live in peace. The vision of peace never becomes a reality without hard work, determined leadership and genuine bridge building enterprises.

In the Christian tradition these two strands of thought are combined. There is the vision that one day 'swords' would be beaten into 'ploughshares' and 'spears into 'pruning hooks', and that "nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war
anymore. Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree and no one will make them afraid.” That is the vision, the idealism. On the other hand however the Christian Faith has a down to earth realism about human nature. It acknowledges that man the individual and man in corporate collectives is greedy, lustful, aggressive, envious and very proud. Individuals always fight and brawl. Nations always strive to gain the upper hand and so conflict, tension and a fierce competitiveness marks inter-nation relationships. Realism in terms of human nature requires vigilance and the readiness to defend and protect, and so the importance of military preparedness.

The idealism should not be allowed to flower into utopianism, nor the realism degenerate into an iron or nuclear ghetto. The two must be linked in the defence of freedom and the pursuit of peace.

The Reverend Campbell Egan has served in the Army Reserve since 1970, mainly as Senior Chaplain (Presbyterian) in the 4th and 2nd Military Districts. He trained at the Universities of Sydney and Edinburgh and holds the degrees B.A., B.D., Theol. M. He has served in various parishes in NSW — Thirroul, Broken Hill, Artarmon, Wagga Wagga and is now Minister of the Uniting Church in Australia at St. Columba’s Braddon, ACT. Chaplain Egan has been keenly interested in Church and Nation matters and served for 10 years as Convener of the Church and Nation Committee in the Presbyterian Church in NSW, 2 years as Secretary of the NSW Council of Churches, and four years as an Alderman of the Wagga City Council. He was also Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in NSW in 1979/80.

Presently he is serving as a Staff Officer to the Principal Chaplain, Chaplain Ern Sabel, at Army Office, Russell, ACT.

UK SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE ARRIVES IN CANBERRA

The United Kingdom Secretary of State for Defence, Mr George Younger, arrived in Canberra in March for high level talks with Government and Department of Defence officials.

During his visit he held talks with the Minister for Defence, Mr Kim Beazley; the Minister for Defence Science and Personnell, Mrs Ros Kelly; the Secretary of the Department of Defence, Mr Tony Ayers; and the Acting Chief of the Defence Force, Vice Admiral Michael Hudson.

Mr Younger had already visited HMAS Stirling in Perth and the Defence Science and Technology Organisation in Salisbury, Adelaide, since his arrival in Australia.

The Secretary of State for Defence attended the handover of new Land Rover vehicles to the Australian Army at Victoria Barracks in Sydney, before returning to the United Kingdom.
The Case for Establishing a Retired Member Employment Stream within the ADF

By Lieutenant Colonel R. J. Dace, RAAOC

Introduction

It is a fact that for most members of the ADF, regardless of rank, there comes a point in their career when they have exhausted their promotion potential, when the circumstances of domestic living in a peacetime environment tend to make them less mobile, and when pressures increase to move into employment which will be available for the rest of that member’s working life. This tends to be around the time when that member becomes eligible for a Service pension.

The net result of these factors is that many members of the ADF leave while they still have the potential to make a valuable contribution to the defence of Australia. The consequences of the current high separation rate, in terms of declining defence capability, financial costs and the morale of those who remain, are well known. The most widely touted proposed solution has been to increase the rates of pay, but while this would no doubt be widely welcome it may not be the only — or even the best — option.

In an effort to mitigate the effects of this wastage, and at the same time fill new positions seen as essential to meet new Defence commitments, numerous studies are being undertaken to identify service positions which could be transferred to the Australian Public Service — yet these seem doomed to achieve only marginal success.

Even were the APS willing to take on new responsibilities within the tight manpower limits which currently apply, there is a high degree of military resistance to these proposals. While there are no doubt many Service positions where arms will never need to be borne, the expertise gained as a result of years of military training and service is seen as a crucial factor in carrying out the responsibilities of those positions.

Is there a solution based upon the experience of others?

The UK Experience

It was in response to very similar circumstances in the UK many years ago that led to the creation of the Retired Officer employment stream within the UK Civil Service. Under this scheme a number of military positions were identified as requiring the expertise which came with extensive military service but which did not require all those attributes which were nominally required of the serving officer e.g. physical fitness to a high degree, domestic mobility, and which did not play a significant part in the career development of officers.

These positions were then given a unique category within the Civil Service, and are offered exclusively to retired Service officers. When a retiring UK officer accepts employment as a Retired Officer (RO) he/she takes his/her pension, his/her lump sum commutation, and is subsequently paid on a Civil Service pay scale LESS the annual Service pension.

The UK scheme retains expertise in the Department of Defence, but without the accusation of ‘double dipping’ that is sometimes levelled at ex-Service personnel now employed in the APS. In return the RO receives employment until age 60, (in an environment where he/she is both happy and well suited), and with a subsequently enhanced Service pension at age 60.

If the UK scheme works as well as it appears to do, could we have a similar scheme in the ADF?

A Retired Member (RM) Employment Stream For The ADF

While there may be a need for some legislative or administrative amendments, the answer is clearly yes; but can we adapt the UK scheme to more closely meet the current needs of the ADF? And can we overcome some entrenched attitudes regarding a role for retired service personnel in what has been seen by many as a traditional preserve of the Public Servant?
If we were to introduce a RM employment stream in the ADF or Department there are four specific matters that would need to be addressed. These are:

   Eligibility,
   Identification of suitable positions,
   Salary scales, and
   Conditions of Employment.

Eligibility

The first, and major difference, between the UK and an Australian proposal would be recognition of the valuable contribution which Warrant Officers and Non Commissioned Officers make to the overall effectiveness of the ADF. To deny ourselves access to that considerable pool of talent residing in service personnel in their late thirties/early forties makes no economic sense. And moreover, to do otherwise reflects adversely upon those concepts of leadership and 'man-management' upon which the Services pride themselves.

An Australian RM employment stream should therefore be open to those who have held those ranks between PO/SSGT/FSGT and CAPT(RAN)/COL/GPCAPT. Those below the rank of SSGT(E) would be unlikely to have the range of experience and skills to fill positions where continuity is a significant factor.

A further constraint would be to restrict entry to RM employment to members who have satisfactorily completed a minimum period of Service in the Regular Forces: perhaps 21 years for WOs and NCOs, up to 28 years for the COL(E). Such a constraint would encourage members to complete a significant period of Regular service without the fear of being too old to obtain later employment.

Identification of Suitable Positions

Suitable positions would need to be identified by the three Services. These would essentially be positions identified as 'non-combatant', in Establishments where there is no significant change of role between peace and war. Those Establishments might include static headquarters (such as Russell Offices), stores depots, training units, etc.

There would be obvious incentives to the Services to identify the maximum number of positions for conversion to a RM stream: the Services would reduce their military manpower commitment while retaining military skills, there would be a reduction in the indirect costs associated with employing military members (removal expenses, provision of married quarters, the military training of replacements), and they would be identifying positions in which there could be a vested long term self interest.

Nor should the ADF/Department overlook those positions which might previously have been civilianised and which are currently difficult to fill eg. the Technical Officer employment category in the APS.

On the basis of some preliminary calculations there would appear to be in the some 2500 military positions throughout the ADF which could be filled by Retired Members, without in any meaningful way diminishing the operational capability of the ADF.

Salary Scales

Unlike the UK scheme, the pay of RMs should not be reduced by an amount equal to their service pension, but nor should there be total 'double dipping'. The RM salary scales should be tied to, but not be equal to, Public Service ASO grades. The ASO pay level should be abated by an amount to reflect the fact that the RM is employed in a protected category, ie. in a position not open to public entry. It should however, still reflect that the RM possesses skills which a member of the APS could not be expected to possess, and must also acknowledge that the Service pension has already been earned.

The suggested abatement could vary by ASO grade but might average around 33% of the pension after maximum commutation has been taken. For a WO(E) that abatement would be in the region of $4400 a year, while for a LTCOL(E) it would be around $5600 a year. The direct savings to the Department of Defence would be the abatement x the number of RM positions, an estimated $13.5m each year. In addition, indirect savings would be worth a further $1m each year.

The following indicative pay scales for RM grades might form the basis for discussion.
The linking of specified ASO levels to RM grades would facilitate the indexing of RM pay scales. In arriving at appropriate rates of pay the aim should be to recognise the equivalent work value of the military position, LESS an amount for those unique conditions to which a military member is subject. In these rates of pay, as with the condition of employment, neither the Department nor the RM should seek to maximise their financial potential to the disadvantage of the other.

Conditions of Employment

In developing the conditions of employment for RMs the opportunity should be taken to meet both the manning needs of the ADF, and the employment requirements of the retired service member. Perhaps the following would be appropriate:

- employment would be in a separate employment category within the ADF which would not provide for subsequent transfer into the Australian Public Service ie. no ‘back door’ entry into the Public Service. (Retired members would of course retain the right to join the APS in the normal way);
- the base pay level, ie. the abated ASO pay, would be tied to the median level of ASO pay within each level;
- the RM would be eligible for employment within the RM stream until age 60, subject to maintaining a satisfactory level of performance and subject to meeting specified health and fitness criteria;
- the RM would, once employed within the RM stream, be eligible to apply for positions listed as RM positions but would not be eligible for any financial remuneration or reimbursement associated with taking up that position;
- a retired service member would normally be eligible for appointment to a RM Grade equivalent to, or one above or one below the equivalent retiring service rank eg. a MAJ(E) would be eligible to apply for RM Grade 2, 3 and 4 positions.
- RMs would not be eligible for Service accommodation or married quarters unless facilities surplus to Service requirements existed: in such circumstances an economic rent would be charged to the RM occupant;
- RMs would not be eligible for treatment under Service medical and dental arrangements. RMs would pay the full Medicare levy;
- RMs would be employed under contract arrangements which would allow the CDF, with the approval of the Minister, to ‘call out’ RMs for extended service in circumstances falling short of a National Emergency eg. a natural disaster. During such periods of employment their salary would be supplemented in recognition of additional hours worked or additional responsibilities, eg. a RM Grade 5 would during the period of call out be paid as a WO1(E) PLUS the pension entitlement.
- RMs would not be eligible for overtime payments but would receive time off in lieu; and
- RMs might be eligible to continue subscribing to the DFRDB in order to receive an enhanced pension at age 60, or at some earlier retiring age. RMs may opt not to continue participation in the DFRDB scheme.

Administration

Given the range of skills which exist within the ADF, RM employment should not be limited to areas of members previous military service. Employment should be on the basis of merit and ADF requirements, although it would not be unreasonable to expect that a career in a specific Service would offer an advantage for employment as a RM with that Service.

Any RM scheme which might be introduced could either be administered through the single Service offices, by the Department, or by HQ ADF. There are apparent advantages and disadvantages to each option, and it would be necessary to weigh these before any final management system were put into place.

Conclusion

The introduction of a Retired Member employment stream would appear to offer to
the ADF a number of significant advantages at this time:

- the prospect of reducing the number of established Service positions in the ADF without sacrificing capability or the experience necessary for the effective performance of essential functions,
- encouragement to Service retention with the prospect of continuing employment beyond the normal retiring age in a familiar environment, and
- the potential to reduce expenditure on the personnel function by around $14.5m a year.

The question that now has to be asked, is the ADF ready and flexible enough to grasp the opportunities which a Retired Member employment stream could offer?

LTCOL R. J. Dace enlisted into the British Army, into the Intelligence Corps, in 1961 and was commissioned into the RAOC in 1964. While in the RAOC he served in a number of Regimental and Staff appointments, as well as on the Directing Staff of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and the Royal Military College of Science. He resigned from the British Army and was commissioned into the RAAOC in 1982. His service qualifications include ato, psc, and jssc. He has a Diploma in Management Sciences from Manchester University. LTCOL Dace is currently posted to Materiel Branch-Army as SOI Materiel Programming.

BLACK HAWK HELICOPTER FACILITIES OPENED IN TOWNSVILLE

The Minister for Defence, Mr Kim Beazley, opened new facilities for the Army’s Black Hawk battlefield helicopter unit, the 5th Aviation Regiment, at RAAF Base Townsville on 14 March.

“The opening of the $19.3 million administration and maintenance facilities marks a major milestone in the implementation of the White Paper which calls for the development of highly mobile forces to protect Australia’s vast northern region,’’ Mr Beazley said.

Twenty-seven new Black Hawk utility helicopters will use the facility and be capable of airlifting a company group of 150 troops over a radius of 160 kilometres in one operation.

Later this year, some of the Black Hawks will play an important role in Exercise Kangaroo 89, providing training prior to the unit becoming operational at the end of this year.

Mr Beazley said he was particularly pleased with the way Air Force and Army had collaborated in bringing about the battlefield helicopter transfer to the new regiment. The decision to transfer battlefield helicopters from the RAAF to the Army was announced in November 1986.

“The Black Hawk has performed credibly in hot, dusty conditions during Exercise Swift Eagle last year, proving itself well suited to the testing northern Australian environment,” Mr Beazley said.

“United States Black Hawk units will work closely with the 5th Aviation Regiment during Exercise Kangaroo 89 later this year.”
The RAAF Writes its Doctrine

By Wing Commander David Schubert and Wing Commander Brian Kavanagh, RAAF

In a reference to doctrine and doctrine writing, General Momyer, USAF (ret'd) once wrote,

“We find ourselves constantly in a dilemma as to whether too much detail has been presented or whether we have become so terse that the meaning (of doctrine) is clouded and darkness descends upon the reader.”

A mere discussion of doctrine causes some people to shudder, others to expound, at length, on the many different views of its meaning, while the remainder seem to sink slowly and interminably into Momyer’s darkness. Mention of doctrine within the RAAF will elicit, at best, confusion, and at worst, looks of derision from many. In the words of the indomitable Professor Julius Sumner Miller, “Why is it so?”

A Borrowed Doctrine

The straightforward answer is that in the past the RAAF has not perceived a need for an Australian doctrine. This has been a consequence of Australia’s earlier ‘Forward Defence’ policy whereby the assistance of ‘big league’ sponsors such as the UK and the US has allowed the RAAF to adopt, wholesale, the doctrines of air forces of these nations. This luxury has, at the same time, proved a disincentive to the independent development of air power strategic thought here in Australia. RAAF doctrine therefore has been the doctrine of others, not directed specifically at this nation, nor influenced significantly by members of its air force. In short, few members of the RAAF have thought about doctrine; of those who have, even fewer have contemplated it in an Australian context.

An example of the borrowed doctrine was the RAF AP 1300, Operations manual. This manual was a significant influence on the RAAF until a major shift in UK strategic strike defence policy in the sixties rendered much of its content obsolete. Until that time, concepts used in Australia such as ‘The Balanced Air Force’ were derived from this useful manual, which was for years the unofficial ‘bible’ of air operations in the RAAF.

Times have changed. Major shifts in world politics — the US ‘Guam Doctrine’ and the emergence of regional economic and national powers, just to name two — have altered Australia’s strategic circumstances. In turn, Australia’s national strategies and defence policies have changed; old reliances are now irrelevant and the absence of a specifically Australian doctrine is becoming apparent. The RAAF can no longer rely on the doctrinal precepts of other, generally larger, broader based air forces which support fundamentally different national policies and military strategies. Their doctrines are at times outdated, but more importantly, inappropriate to Australian conditions. Moreover, reliance on other air forces to formulate how this nation will use its air power in future hostilities is contrary to the fundamental principles of Australia’s newly adopted defence policy of self reliance.

There is however another, more important, philosophical reason why an increasingly self reliant fighting force should have its unique, formalised doctrine. Unless a fighting force has a clear understanding, which is manifested in a definitive statement, of how it is going to fight in war, it has no explicit and absolute basis on which to focus its strategy and planning. Of equal importance, without a requisite doctrine that fosters broadly based understanding, a fighting force lacks those shared assumptions among commanders and subordinates that enable them to know intuitively what each is likely to do under the pressures that cause confusion in combat. For doctrine, if it is sound, is the means of reducing the ‘fog’ and ‘friction’ of war and is the foundation of all successful military enterprises.

Doctrine — The Holy Writ?

Contrary to popular folklore, doctrine is not locked up as some kind of codified law enunciating immutable rules on how to fight war, nor is it a dusty book of commandments kept in an old trunk in a deep, dark cellar, guarded by monks and brought out only for Kangaroo Exercise washups. This idea suggests something sacrosanct, that is to say, unchanging and unchallengeable. This is not doctrine, this is
dogma. The rigidity of dogma inevitably leads to failure — as history and experience show. Military operations do not aim to fail, so dogma has no place in their domain.

Military doctrine is a body of central beliefs about war that guides the application of power in combat: it is authoritative but only a guide and requires judgement in its use. Doctrine is derived from a synergy of two sources — fundamental principles and innovative ideas about the best use of combat power. Fundamental principles draw on experience and are time-honoured as the optimum way to succeed, or, what has worked best in the past. Conversely, innovative ideas look only to the future and include theoretical as well as practical applications. Fundamental principles are, by nature, relatively permanent, evolving slowly, whereas innovation embraces continuous change. The overall interaction of the two therefore makes military doctrine a particularly dynamic process bounded only by the limits of our imagination.

Air Power Doctrine

We have defined doctrine here in a general sense, as it applies to any combat power. Air power doctrine however has a more specific focus. Firstly, consider what air power is. The widely recognised, Mason and Armitage definition proclaims air power as:

"... the ability to project military force by or from a platform in the third dimension above the surface of the earth."

So air power doctrine can be described as the central beliefs about the conduct of war that guide air services in the application of military power within the third dimension above the surface of the earth.

Note that air power doctrine is not just concerned with the air war nor confined solely to air forces. . . . Air power doctrine is about the best use of air services to exploit the intrinsic qualities of air power in the achievement of national objectives. The characteristics of air power, its advantages and limitations, must be conveyed within the context and form of future warfare. While air power doctrine logically may be based on the past and established in the present, its prime concern is with the future. Lord Tedder, as an exponent of air power, encapsulated the concept of doctrine when he stated,

"We must look forward from the past. . . . not back to the past"

The Shaping of Air Power Doctrine in Australia

Let us then take Lord Tedder’s advice and dwell for a moment on the historical events that have shaped air power doctrine both globally and nationally. In this way we will have a better understanding of where RAAF doctrine is today and where it should go from here.

Throughout the relatively short history of air power, some 75 years, opportunities for development of air power doctrine have been few. This was initially the result of a harmful effect on the efficacy of air power doctrine by some over-earnest, politically motivated proponents of air power who were actively seeking the independence of air forces. It was also the result of undue emphasis on air power’s responsibility to support land and maritime powers, often to the detriment of singular development of operations within the dimension of the air. Air power can be applied in support of other combat powers; it can also be applied independently. Both applications are vital to a nation’s security, yet history suggests the latter has received a disproportionate emphasis in the past.

An unrelated, but parallel development was the attitudinal change to warfare since the end of WW II. The idea of global confrontation, either conventional or nuclear, which was the driving force behind Western military doctrine immediately after WW II and for the next twenty years, has steadily given way to greater emphasis now on limited warfare. For political or military reasons, modern warfare now seeks limited objectives rather than the total victory of the past, and conflicts may take the form of counter-insurgency, guerrilla warfare or counter-terrorism. The Granada invasion and the Libya raid are examples of the modern use of combat force, and are acknowledged in today’s warfare lexicon with its reference to low-intensity conflict, or in Australia’s case, escalated low-level conflict. The attitudinal changes to warfare over the four decades since WW II have had a major impact on the application of air power.

Technology too has had an impact. Technology has improved the performance of military equipment with the direct result that numbers of weapons and weapon systems within military inventories have decreased. This has not been without corresponding and dramatic rises in costs. Also, the cost of retain-
ing and training personnel has increased relative to the past. In short, past capabilities can now be matched with fewer resources, but rising costs and diminishing numbers of assets are factors of concern within a modern military force.

There is no doubt that the RAAF today is a high technology force, but it is still a small force with a decreasing inventory and, paradoxically, an increasing demand for provision of air services. This latter point is exemplified in that RAAF air power assets are now needed for fleet protection following disbandment of the RAN Fleet Air Arm. At the same time strategic guidance from the White Paper emphasises how the newly adopted Australian defence policy of self reliance and defence in depth; "... gives priority to the air and sea defences in our area of direct military interest."

Furthermore, this large area of Australia’s direct military interest is unlikely to decrease in the future.

To reiterate, air power in Australia today faces different challenges to those of the past in terms of perceived real threats, forms of combat and tasks. Air power is now responsible for defence of an enormous, Australian area of direct military interest using more lethal but more expensive and gradually decreasing numbers of air assets. Allocation of these limited assets is now the most significant, single issue of command and control within the ADF. This last point is controversial because there is increasing pressure to divide unnecessarily Australia’s air services — a concept which defies doctrinal precepts on the best use of air power.

Considerations When Writing Doctrine

Doctrine was defined earlier, and from that definition an understanding of air power doctrine was developed. While this theoretical aspect is important and necessary, it is not a sufficient condition for doctrine to be successful. The practical consideration must be that doctrine is recorded, in order that the body of central beliefs is accurately reflected and correctly perceived. The right perspective is an integral part of the revision and refinement which make doctrine a dynamic process. Recording the collective memory of central beliefs enforces a discipline and clarity of thought which helps sustain this dynamic process.

From the earlier theoretical appreciation, doctrine was shown to have its roots in the relative permanence of fundamental principles and the dynamics of innovative ideas. It is this relative permanence associated with fundamental principles that provides the keystone for doctrine writing. When these principles, which chiefly arise from combat experience, are distilled more or less in a vacuum, they will provide an ideal foundation to develop air power doctrine. The foundation of principles is then melded with innovative ideas and the reaction of the two becomes the core or philosophical basis of doctrine. But a working doctrine cannot end there; in this form it is sterile, it is in a vacuum and for it to be effective for the organization, it must be adjusted to the dominant influencing factors and realities of the organization.

The realities that directly influence the doctrine of a military organization are the defence policy of the nation, the geography and geo-strategic perspectives. An offensive national defence posture, for example, would engender a far different military doctrine from one that is intrinsically defensive. Similarly, a doctrine for protecting an island nation with a vast area of national interest and regional influence must be different from that of a small land-locked country with hostile borders. Other influences such as economics and threat assessment add to the equation, but they shape the defence policies and geo-strategic perspectives more so than directly influencing military doctrine.

Force structure — or the current force in being — is an influence that must be considered in the task of initially recording air power doctrine. No military organization starts from a
'clean slate'; existing conditions are already part of the central body of beliefs. Once doctrine is written, based on the present organization, force structure should then be reactive rather than proactive to the dynamics of doctrine.

Figure 1 is an attempt to show the complexities and dynamics of a viable, continuous doctrine. It represents a symbolic still. In the distillation process the container is the framework and fabric of a nation and its perspectives of warfighting. The fluid to be distilled — a mix of national defence policy and national geostrategic perspectives — is both activated and fed by a 'yeast' containing the core elements of principles and innovation — both theoretical and practical. This core is alive, volatile and is capable of crystallization or precipitation depending on the state of the solution. The product distilled is doctrine. Doctrine slowly reacts with a force structure prescription thus changing the force structure over time. Eventually the modified force structure feeds back, maturing and mellowing the original distillation process.

This analogy attempts to show the interactions of the various dynamic elements and stresses that doctrine development, being akin to an ongoing chemical reaction, should be viewed as a continuum. There is no suggestion that the 'still' or its ingredients have not existed in the past. The process of distilling doctrine is perennial — the end product, after all, is a body of thought. There is also no suggestion that the distillation process will not operate without all the ingredients, however in that situation the end product may not be the best available. In Australia's case defence self-reliance has changed the content of the ingredients, and now there is a need to critically examine the quality of the 'yeast' used previously. Given the changed ingredients, the most appropriate 'yeast', and the continuing 'chemical' reaction, the best doctrinal distillate will flow as a matter of course.

Relevance of Doctrine to the RAAF

After all that good theory you may ask yourself, "so what, how is all this doctrinal 'moonshine' relevant to the RAAF and what's it got to do with aeroplanes?" Perhaps the best way to begin to answer this question is to determine what we in the RAAF believe a doctrine should achieve, or why we think we need to formalise our doctrine.

It is common sense that an organization the size and proportions of the RAAF which shares responsibility for the security of the nation, should have a common set of assumptions, ideas, values and attitudes as a guide to its future actions, and that all members from the initial trainee through the operational aircrew to the highest ranking leader share an understanding of how air power can best be applied in an Australian context. This can be achieved by documenting that understanding. Once recorded, the central beliefs provide the common baseline for education and dissemination of the collective thought. Should nothing else be achieved, recording a doctrine is at least a common starting point from which to educate RAAF Servicemen.

A recognised, accepted and duly recorded doctrine will also provide a common framework for planning within the RAAF. It will also influence the future force structure of the RAAF. So, establishing a doctrinal framework gives direction to force structure and to development of the most appropriate strategies from which evolve in turn the operational art and, at the unit level, the best tactics for use of its resources. Once again the point is stressed that doctrine is only a guide, it shows the direction — it is not a panacea but is rather one particular, but necessary part of the planning process.

Viewed simplistically, the whole fabric of planning can be likened to developing a playing field. The National Defence Policy dictates the range of games to be played. Doctrine is the initial selection and clearing of a patch in the wilderness, levelling the ground and growing the grass. Some long-range planning is then needed so that the correct lines can be drawn on the ground and the appropriate goalposts erected. Once this is done team leaders and members can then determine the best strategies, operational art and tactics to play the game. There is nothing to prevent a team working out its plays in advance, provided these plays are for the range of games dictated. There is more to playing the game however than strategies and tactics, and the results may not be as hoped for, particularly if the game then has to be played in the wilderness.

So, in answer to the sceptics — doctrine has a lot to do with the RAAF and is not just about flying aeroplanes. Doctrine gives all RAAF personnel a common understanding of why the
Service exists and how air power can best be used to protect the nation. Doctrine, as a guide, influences every level of planning for the best employment and support of aircraft. Furthermore, it directly affects the selection of the RAAF’s future aircraft, weapon systems and air power capabilities.

**Why a Single Service Doctrine?**

Most military commanders in Australia recognise that the ADF is at present firmly committed to joint operations, and that future defence commitments for this country will most likely be joint in nature. Why then should the RAAF pursue its own doctrine in what appears to be an increasingly joint service environment? Or, in other words, is a dedicated single service doctrine applicable within today’s ADF which strives for jointness?

Jointness, when used in the context of military operations, means two or more independent services functioning in their own operational environment, whether land, sea or air, under a single point of command to meet a common aim. The point to stress here is that although command is centralised, the services still function in their unique realm. Each strives to exploit the characteristics of its own combat power within its operating medium to complement the combat powers of the other two.

As long as ships continue to ply the seas, tanks roll over the ground and aircraft take to the skies, there will always be fundamental differences between the three arms of the defence force. The differences will continue to be manifest in a number of ways. First, their force structures for the most part will remain separate because of basic differences in equipment and operating conditions. Also, the peculiarities of the land, sea and air will demand different skills, applications and tactical thinking of the people who operate in their respective environments, such that training requirements will continue to differ. More importantly, the roles that each service undertake will continue to be aligned to their environmental dimension, and in many cases can be carried out as single service tasks just as readily as joint service tasks.

There is nothing to suggest therefore that jointness means integration of the three armed services. Equally, there is nothing to suggest that increased jointness will reduce the need for single service roles in the future. The diversities between land, sea and air as military operating media are too vast to permit an amalgamation of their essential functions and the applications of land, sea or air power cannot simply be lumped together for economic, technical or any other expediency. Perhaps this may be feasible if and when a military vehicle is built which is capable of operating across the full spectrum of the world’s operating environments, including space. Until then, for overall defence efficiency, some support functions may be joint or given over to one service; but, while the functional divisions remain, there will always be a requirement for single services to carry out specialist roles and tasks unique to their own environment.

Justification of single service doctrine would not be necessary if jointness was looked at in its true perspective. In 1942, during the North Africa campaign of WW II, Field Marshal Montgomery and Air Marshall Coningham created the Allied Tactical Air Forces and introduced air land battle doctrine. They showed that the quintessence of jointness in an air land battle was cooperation — cooperation, in this case, between land and air forces with their unique functions, and also cooperation amongst allied nations. Having all the joint doctrine and procedures in the world, but without cooperation, will not bring together three organizations as disparate as the fighting arms of a nation. Conversely, with cooperation, jointness will triumph with even a modicum of pre-ordination.

The true perspective is absent: jointness is building up a momentum of its own, almost as an end in itself rather than a means, something which tends to de-emphasise the need for single services yet avoids fully fledged service integration. And all too often, initiatives which are in the “interests of jointness” are considered sacrosanct. To challenge them borders on heresy. Perhaps we need to rigorously question some joint initiatives, particularly those which may reduce a service’s capacity to operate effectively within its own medium. Perhaps we need to engender a sense of cooperation among the services which will have the way for joint operations in war, rather than manufacture an artificial construct which compromises between continuing demands, yet will detract from individual performance.
The Way Ahead

Where then does RAAF doctrine go from here? If, as stated, single service doctrine is still necessary and written doctrine is so important, then a doctrine suitable for the RAAF must surely be recorded. Well, that is precisely what is happening.

The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Fun­nell has taken the initiative and nominated two officers from RAAF Development Division as project officers in the development of a recorded RAAF doctrine. These two officers, (the authors of this article) are tasked directly by CAS and now work in relative isolation at RAAF Staff College. Their project is to develop a manual of air power doctrine for use within the RAAF and to determine a means by which this recorded doctrine can be continually verified and updated within the organization.

The task is a ‘first’ for the RAAF; it is also rather onerous because, as the historian R.F. Futrell pointed out, “...the writing of manuals is perhaps one of the most difficult tasks in the field of military writing.” Yet the stakes are high, the future of air power is vital to Australia. The RAAF has a compelling responsibility to make air power better understood and appreciated within the defence community of Australia. The alternatives are ignorance, suspicion, misemployment and inefficiencies — characteristics which nestle comfortably under the mantle of Momyer’s darkness.

Wing Commander Schubert is a recent graduate of the USAF’s Air War College (AWC), and was posted to his present position, the CAS Project of writing doctrine for the RAAF, from AWC. He is a graduate of the RAAF Academy, RAAF Staff College and RAF Aerosystem Course. As a navigator he flew P3s with 11Sqn and on exchange with the RNZAF’s 5Sqn. Wing Commander Schubert has held command and staff positions, including CO of Officers’ Training School and a posting in JIO. He is co-author with Wing Commander P. J. Criss, AFC of a research paper on air power application in Australia that is soon to be published as a book.

Wing Commander Kavanagh has been working on RAAF doctrine for eighteen months. After Air War College, he was posted to Air Force Plans — Doctrine, which led to his subsequent position on the CAS Project for doctrine. Wing Commander Kavanagh has extensive and diverse expertise; a tour in Vietnam, flying maritime with both 10 and 11 Squadrons, Commands, including Commanding Officer of the Joint Communications Unit at Narrungar, as well as staff positions briefly summarise over twenty years experience in the RAAF. He is the author of a book on water sources for desert survival in Australia; a result of his knowledge and expertise built up in working with combat survival for the RAAF. A research paper on the changing western alliance in the South Pacific written by Wing Commander Kavanagh was published by the USAF’s Air University in 1987.
Recruit Training Injuries: Indemic or Epidemic

Introduction

THE numbers of young recruits lost to the Army early in the training process in recent years, because of injury, has given grave cause for concern. With wastage levels as high as 35%, it is a problem that has Army Chiefs puzzled and concerned.

After being posted to 17th TRG REGT RA and DEPOT, Woolwich, London, in October 1986, from the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, also in Woolwich, where many of the injured recruits were treated, WO2 (QMSI) Brennan carried out an analysis of the possible causative factors influencing the high injury rate in this Unit, and which seemed general throughout the training system. This analysis revealed that Regimental Instructional Staff, comprising some 85% of the Recruit Training Team were, in aspects of the physical standards asked of their recruit groups, somewhat at a variance to the standards demanded by the CMS(R). To resolve the immediate misinterpretational problems of the Regimental Staff and so that an unclouded view of the actual injury problems could be assessed, the following measures were implemented:

To assist the injury problem assessment, the following areas of concern were considered incorrect practice.

F101 Any additional remedial training in the first four weeks, other than post injury.

1. Any off syllabus and extra to that programmed, PT.
2. Any Regimental Staff and non-qualified initiated PT.
3. Any form of PT as a reward for misconduct.

Making a Start to Improve Present Injury Statistics

After the above problem areas had been addressed, the following measures were introduced as normal working practice, on a daily basis:

- All physical training staff were instructed to become more aware of safety, lesson content, correct programme planning, with special attention to accurate syllabus interpretation and application.
- All new physical and regimental training staff (JNCOs) were instructed to be more sensitive and sympathetic toward recruits with injuries, earlier in the acute phase.
- More efficient post-injury physiotherapy treatment regimes were introduced, with greater therapist involvement throughout the training process.
- Follow-up remedial programmes were given in the sub-acute phase of injuries, performed in the Gymnasium during PT sessions, thus keeping the recruits with their peer groups.
- Co-ordination groups between the training staff, Doctor and Physiotherapist met regularly to discuss problem areas.
- The syllabus was adjusted to allow more progressive basic physical training in the gymnasium in the early weeks and less vigorous endurance and obstacle training.
- Senior Officers in charge of general programming were requested to programme recovery days in between hard and vigorous working days, to allow physical recovery.
- Good quality training shoes were introduced, replacing the old Army plimsolls.
- Boots, combat high, were not worn by recruits for any physical activity, “except Drill”, in their first four weeks of training. Boots were gradually introduced in the latter fourth and throughout the fifth week of training.

In the twelve months following the introduction of this control programme, dramatic results were achieved. The wastage rate of recruits through injury in the first four to six weeks was reduced from 30% to 5%. However, as significant as these results were, the overall injury rate remained high.

Background to This General Problem

Local left wing council policy on Education, especially in the United Kingdom, has influenc-
ed the way in which the physical education policy of many schools has been interpreted. A general policy of non-competitiveness in all sports may have affected the physical quality of young people leaving schools and colleges and possibly thinking of a military career. With governmental policy graduating towards a general reduction in the recruit training programme, training these young people to become potential soldiers becomes more intensive, stressful and generally harder for young lower limbs to cope with. The high incidents of injuries recorded proves a big problem exists.

Preventative Measures

Training in General

Only thorough training leads to good results, enabling the recruit to build up his muscles, strengthen his joints and bone structure and improve his co-ordination. Active training will eventually produce the desired performance levels. It is important that the body parts that are loaded during training should be given the opportunity to rest and recover. The harder the training the longer the break needed for full recovery. Exercising repetitively with a heavy load, for example, would require 1-3 days recuperation before the next session. Running and other less strenuous forms of training, on the other hand, can be practised daily.

Daily training, however, after a very long lay-off, or if the individual is physically unfit, is of little benefit and may lead to over use syndromes and/or injuries. Perhaps more analysis should take place by Army Chiefs on the demands placed upon young recruits, and what is actually required of them in the training process. Apart from the specialised techniques demanded of the recruit, there are other factors which may influence performances. Those in charge of training should consider the following questions:

A. What factors influence performance during training?
B. Which of these factors can be influenced to improve training?
C. How should the system change to influence each of these factors?
D. How much time should be devoted to training, in order to influence each specific factor, which will eventually help the recruit in training, prevent injury?

Is Military Fitness Too High a Standard of Basic Fitness and, if so, Should we Demand it of Our Recruits?

Basic Physical Fitness

It goes without saying that good physical fitness is of the utmost importance in avoiding injury. Those whose basic fitness is below normal are more prone to injury both from accidents and from over-use. This becomes more acute as one gets older. After a period of inactivity, the ability of the body tissues to absorb oxygen decreases noticeably. In one experiment, five health test subjects stayed in bed for 20-days without any physical activity whatsoever. This relatively short period of inactivity reduced their capacity to absorb oxygen by 20-45 per cent. This and similar experiments demonstrate how quickly the body adapts to the physical demands made upon it. When the demands are reduced there is a corresponding decrease in the cardiac output, muscle mass decreases (atrophy) and blood volume decreases. The body is less efficient in transporting oxygen from the lungs to the tissues and, as a result, the energy supply of the muscles is reduced.

A basic physical fitness can be achieved by exercises and general physical activity carried out throughout the year. All training aimed at achieving good basic fitness should be progressive, especially in those not so young. During a period of rehabilitation following illness, injury, or a break in training, it is important that a reasonable level of basic physical fitness is reached through remedial programmes, before PTT/BFT or recruit training resumes.

Military Fitness

Major Stephen J. Rudzki RAAMC defines Military fitness (P28, DFJ Aust No 70 May/June 1988) as, “the ability to perform military tasks in adverse situations. That is, to function effectively and delay fatigue whilst undergoing arduous tasks”. He goes on to say, “the context of military environment involves simultaneous multiple task performance, eg walking, weight carriage, visual scanning and audio alertness, whilst patrolling”. Is it not the responsibility of our recruit training establishments to provide only the fitness platform on which the above physical demands can be developed, or are these establishments demanding too much of young civilians in Ar-
my uniform by trying to achieve "Military fitness" too soon. I agree with Major Rudzki, that occupationally orientated fitness training for trained soldiers matching their function and role in war is essential and I also agree that the present Australian PTT is perhaps a test for testing’s sake on regular soldiers. However, a high proportion of our young trainee recruits are still getting injured.

The Biomechanics of Training Related Injuries (In Brief)

Biomechanics is the Science of Mechanical Functioning of the human body, including locomotion. An application of the laws of mechanics helps to explain the mechanisms of injuries caused by accidents and overloading.

Some of the laws of classical mechanics can be used to explain the relationships between the human body and its environment, while other laws cannot, of course, be entirely accurate in their prediction when applied to the human body because of individual variations and because of the difficulties encountered in obtaining precise descriptions of the mechanisms of injury. Nevertheless, they provide useful guidelines.

Load

Physiological Load and Adaptability

Man thrives on a certain amount of physical activity which exercises his muscles, skeleton, soft tissue and joints physiologically. That is, within an injury free range. Body tissues can adapt to strain and progressive loading. This adaptability is more evident in the young. However, physiological limits may be exceeded and injury is the result.

Overloading Injuries

Body tissue will break when its innate strength is exceeded. These properties and the load applied will decide individual tolerance levels; this is determined by the magnitude of forces brought to bear, the direction and time. Resultant injuries may involve tearing, breaking, or permanent structural change and, as a consequence, functional impairment.

Force and Motion

Injuries caused by the force of gravity may occur when no fall is involved, for example Sprains. The relationship between forces which affect a body and the state of motion or equilibrium of that body can be summarised by the three laws of motion: The Law of Inertia; The Law of Acceleration, and The Law of Equal and Opposite Reaction.

Action and Reaction

Forces develop at the points of contact between a body and its environment. The effect of the body on the environment is an action force while the effect of the environment on the body is a reaction force. According to Newton’s Third Law: “For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction”. Every force acting on a body possesses a point of action, magnitude and direction. The effect of force on the body is determined by all these factors. Thus, when a person stands up, walks or runs, in accordance with Newton’s Third Law, the force of the foot against the surface is always equal, but opposite to the force of the surface against the foot.

Equilibrium

When a body is at rest or moving in a straight line, with constant velocity, certain laws of equilibrium apply. One relates to the equilibrium of the centre of gravity and the other to the equilibrium of rotation motion around a joint.

According to Newton’s Second Law, a body is in equilibrium if the forces acting on it fulfil the following conditions:

— the sum of all external forces acting on the body is zero (the condition for static equilibrium); and

— the sum of all external torque acting on the body is zero (the condition of rotational equilibrium).

The law of The Lever and its Importance in the Mechanism of Injuries

Two boys, Peter and John, are going to play on a seesaw (see diagram One) Peter weighs 30-kg and John 20-kg, roughly equivalent to 300 N and 200 N respectively. The seesaw is 6m long and is balanced on a central support. John is sitting at one end. How great is the force on the support and, where should Peter sit for the seesaw to balance? The weight of the seesaw itself can be ignored. Let us assume that the force on the support is x newtons and that the distance between the point where Peter is sitting and the central support is y metres. If the up
hard force is regarded as positive, it follows from the law of equilibrium that:

\[ X - 200 - 300 = 0 \]

\[ X = 500 \]

Therefore, the force on the support is 500N. According to the law of movement it follows that:

\[ 300 \cdot Y - 200 \cdot Y = 0 \]

\[ Y = 2 \]

Therefore, Peter should sit 2m from the fulcrum. The later equation can also be written:

\[ 300 \cdot Y = 200 \cdot Y \cdot 3 \]

stating in effect that the moment of rotation, that is, the product of each force and the distance from its line of action (the pivot of the seesaw), is equal.

This is called the law of the Lever. The Law of the Lever implies that a small force can have a large moment of rotation if its lever is long. Similarly, the force must be large to achieve the moment of rotation if the lever is short.

Diagram One

The laws of equilibrium; an example of the law of the lever:

X the force on the support.

Y the distance from the fulcrum

The law of the lever can be used to explain why certain sports/training injuries, such as sprains, occur near joints or as a result of poor landings from, for example, assault course obstacles, etc. Ligaments and muscle attachments near a joint usually have short levers compared to those of the external force. According to the law of the lever, the force acting on these body structures is greater than the external force. The strength limit can easily be exceeded if the relationship between the levers is unfavourable. The result is an injury.

Injuries Specific to Recruits in Training

The lower part of the leg comprises the shin bone (tibia) and the splint bone, the non-weight bearing (fibula). It is connected at the top to the knee joint and at the bottom to the ankle joint.

There are many injuries which may occur in this area of the body, but only the most common injuries experienced by Army recruits will be considered here, along with follow-up action and treatment.

Fractures

There are many types of fractures which may occur in this area, too many to discuss individually here. However, to help assess the possibility of a fracture occurring in your facility, observe the following first aid procedures:

Symptoms and Diagnosis

(a) Intense, instantaneous pain in the injured area.

(b) Tenderness and swelling over the fracture.

(c) Inability to use injured leg.

(d) Loss of normal bone alignment and leg contour.

Treatment

(a) Cover any open injury with a clean bandage or cloth.

(b) Carefully immobilize the limb by splinting.

(c) Elevate the injured limb.

(d) Arrange transport to hospital immediately for X-ray.

Stress Fractures

The healthy foot has two jobs to do in its long working life. Firstly, it acts as a rigid lever to help you move across the ground, and secondly, it helps to absorb the shock caused by impact with the ground.

The foot can cope with these functions up to a point, but repeated and prolonged impact with the floor can cause stress and produce injuries to the feet, lower legs, knees and eventually, the hips and lower back. Young recruits are subjected to such intensive stresses in all aspects of their training process. Research has proven that appropriate footwear can reduce potential harmful stress on feet and legs. While there can never be a boot designed that is the "best" for all recruits, the ideal design and shape should provide shock absorption on heel strike and on the ball of the foot, they should also control undesirable motions of the foot when and while coming into contact with the
floor. The boot should also allow natural foot movements and not restrict mobility or normal blood flow.

The tibia, fibula and metatarsal bones are the site of stress fractures in the lower leg. They occur after prolonged and repeated over-loading, for example, intensive Drill, running, jumping and obstacle training. They occur in two main ways to young recruits:

1. As previously mentioned, jumping on to hard surfaces from heights and over exuberances with incorrect techniques during Drill sessions.
2. The pull of hyperdeveloped, lower limb anti gravity muscles on young bone, when the bone has not had time to have adjusted its lines of stress resistance (Trebeculea) to cope with the new extremes of both muscle power and opposite ranges of movement intensity.

**Symptoms and Diagnosis**

A. Pain usually develops slowly as a dull ache, exacerbated by continued running, Drill and assault course activity, until further continuous exercise is impossible, due to pain with the individuals, usually gait affected.

B. There is local pain and tenderness, with swelling over the fracture site.

C. Initially, the fracture may be so fine it will show on an X-ray. A repeat X-ray should be taken 2-4 weeks after the first one. Often then the fracture is detectable in the healing phase only.

D. If new periostal bone formation is seen on X-ray, it should be interpreted as a sight of a stress fracture.

**Treatment**

Rest and non-weight bearing remedial exercise programmes. Immobilisation is not necessary, but is sometimes implemented should a problem persist. The patient should protect the area and not return to normal exercise until re-X-rayed and directed by a Medical Officer.

**Overuse Syndromes**

Many injuries can develop from the overuse syndrome and usually follow this pain cycle:

**Overuse Syndromes are particularly difficult to diagnose and treat. These injuries are becoming increasingly common as recruit training shortens and intensifies. Despite documentation on overuse injuries as early as 1855, little research has been carried out and today's knowledge is based mainly on experienced therapists practical and clinical interest in this area.**

Overuse injuries are generally caused by overload of repeated microscopic injuries to the muscle-skeleton system. Tissues can withstand great loads, but there is a critical limit to this capacity, which varies greatly between individuals. Over-use, without rest days has proven to be one of the causative and most exacerbating factors to the injury problems of recruits in training. However, other predisposing intrinsic and extrinsic factors also make the tissues susceptible to injury.

**Intrinsic:** Such as mal-alignment of the leg, muscle imbalance and other anatomical factors.

**Extrinsic:** Such as training errors, faulty techniques, incorrect use of equipment, surfaces and poor training conditions, plus non-qualified trainers.

The actual frequency of injury due to overuse is unknown, but the percentages which manifest as painful incapacitating injuries to recruits who have to seek medical help is on the increase.
Muscular and Soft Tissue Conditions in the Lower Leg

The musculature of the lower leg is enclosed in four tight, intrinsic compartments of connective tissue which are anchored to the tibia and fibula. In front, between the tibia and fibula, there is the interior compartment which contains the tibialis anterior muscle, the toe extensors and the blood vessels and nerves which supply the front of the lower leg and foot. At the back, the lower leg is divided into two compartments, one deep and one superficial. The deep one, which is located between the tibia and the fibula and behind the tight connective tissue band (interossius membrane) that connects the two, contains the long toe flexers (flexor digitorum longus and flexor hallucis longus) and the tibialis posterior muscle. Nerves and blood vessels pass to the back of the lower leg and sole of the foot through this deep compartment. The posterior superficial muscle compartment at the back contains the broad, deep calf muscle (the solens) and the superficial calf muscle (the gastrocnemius). On the lateral aspect of the leg, around the fibula, is a lateral compartment which encloses the long and short muscles that arise from that bone (the peroneus longus and brevis).

Chronic Compartment Syndromes

Chronic compartment syndromes can occur as a result of the increase in muscle bulk following prolonged intensive training. The increase in bulk causes the muscle to grow larger than is allowed for by the surrounding fascia since these tight membranes are not particularly elastic. When the muscles are at rest there is no problem, but during muscular work thousands of small blood vessels dilate, in order to increase the blood flow and thus increase the bulk of the muscles too.

Pressure is increased (which can cause pain) if a muscle in the lower leg is then required to work for any length of time and the blood flow is obstructed, causing a relative lack of oxygen. This changes the cell environment by the formation of lactic acid and fluid begins to leak from the capillaries. Swelling (oedema) occurs within the muscle and this further increases the pressure (and pain) on the muscle compartment, impairing blood flow even more. This vicious circle continues unless exercise ceases.

Muscular contraction within the compartments can also exert traction on the periosteum, causing it to become inflamed (periostitis). Compartment syndromes can give symptoms at the front, at the back and on each side of the lower leg.

Symptoms and Diagnosis

(a) Anterior (front) compartment syndrome (acute)
- A characteristic symptom is acute pain which gradually increases until it becomes impossible to continue running.
- Weakness can occur when the foot is bent upwards.
- A sensation of numbness extending down the foot may be felt.
- Local swelling and tenderness can be present over the tibialis anterior muscle.
- Pain can be triggered when the foot or toes are passively bent downwards (plantar flexion).

Treatment:
The Recruit/Patient
- Rest actively;
- Cool the injured area.

The Therapist
- Apply ice compression and elevation.
- Slow active non-weight bearing foot movements in the second 24-hours.
- Gentle massage from ankle upwards to mobilise venus blood, lymphatics and oedema.
- Pulsed ultra sound in the acute phase.
- Rest.

The Doctor
- Prescribe diuretics.
- Prescribe anti-inflammatory medication.
- Check effectiveness of treatment by measuring the pressure in the muscle compartment.
- In extreme cases, perform surgery (facialotomy).

Symptoms and Diagnosis

(b) Anterior Compartment Syndrome (chronic)
- Pain which increases under load and which finally makes continued muscle work impossible.
Army recruit training injuries—"Indemnic or Epidemic"

- The pain disappears after a short period of rest, but recurs when physical activity is resumed.
- A sensation of numbness in the cleft between the big toe and second toe.
- Marked weakness in raising the foot (Dorsiflexion).
- Local swelling and tenderness over them muscle belly on the outside of the tibia.
- Passive plantar toe flexion will provoke pain.
- Increased pressure can be measured in the chronic phase, and it tends to remain.

Treatment

The Recruit/Patient
- Rest until pain is resolved.
- Apply contrast heat and cold therapy.
- Analyse running surfaces, running technique, training, type of shoes, and so on.

The Therapist
- Treat as for the acute condition, but insist on more rest.

The Doctor
- Treat as for the acute condition, but facialototomy may not be ruled out in these chronic cases.

Symptoms and Diagnosis

(c) Posterior Deep Compartment Syndrome
- Difficult to detect which muscle or muscles are involved without specific intrinsic examination.
- Increased pressure in the muscle compartment after provocation of pain.
- Periostitis must be considered (inflammation of periosteum).
- Usual course is an increased muscle bulk due to prolonged intensive training.
- Always perform examination after provocation.
- Pain presents on kicking, taking off, heel raising etc. It starts insidiously and gradually intensifies until physical activity is rendered impossible.
- A sensation of numbness in the foot and weakness on taking off from the surface.

Treatment
- The symptoms abate after resting, but recur when there is renewed exertion.
- The treatment by Recruit, Therapist and Doctor is as for previous acute and chronic conditions in this area.
- Treat symptomatically.

Medial Tibial Stress (Periostitis of the Medial (inside) Margin of the Tibia "Shin Splints")

Symptoms and Diagnosis
Perhaps the single most commonly complained about condition in this area of the body.
- Recruits/athletes who train on alternating surfaces, shoes, techniques and constantly varying intensities in workload and muscle range of movement, experience this common complaint.
- There is tenderness over the distal medial margin of the tibia and is especially pronounced over the lower half of the bone.
- A certain degree of swelling can be felt and seen.
- The pain eases at rest, but returns on renewed loading (see pain cycle diagram).
- Pain is triggered when toes or ankle joints are bent downwards (plantaflexion).
- An X-ray examination is indicated when symptoms persist (to rule out a stress fracture possibility).
- Pressure in the compartment is usually normal.

Preventative Measures
- Move careful progression in variety and intensity of training programme and training areas.
- Correct equipment (shoes etc) for the training area and surface.
- Correct and careful warm-up.

Treatment
- Training and competition should cease as early as possible.
- Pain is the warning which should signal rest.
- Training should not re-commence until there is no pain under load conditions, and tenderness over the tibia has gone.
- Fitness levels may be maintained by swimming and cycling etc.
Contrast heat and cold therapy will help the healing process.
- Heat retainer sleeves may help the healing process during activities involving hard and repeated loading.
- Physiotherapy treatment as for previously mentioned conditions in this area of the body.
- The Doctor can also treat as for previously mentioned conditions in this body area.

It is considered that after close statistical analysis the conditions mentioned are the most commonly documented in recruit training establishments, medical record offices.

**General Treatment and Rehabilitation Tips**

If injuries are to heal satisfactorily they must be treated in the right way at the right time. The treatment must be based on accurate diagnosis. This is assured when there is close, therapist, doctor and patient co-operation.

Training and sport injuries are often acute and caused by contact impact on the training/sports field. In such cases urgent action is required, in order to limit bleeding and/or swelling. The more prompt the follow-up treatment, the quicker the healing process.

As previously mentioned, other injuries are caused by over-use and their treatment is covered earlier in this article. Various alternative treatments of training/sports injuries are also available.

**Rest**

After an injury it is usually necessary to rest the affected part, and sometimes a period of bedrest is prescribed.

In cases of over use and/or ligament injuries with swelling, strapping and taping will be useful to give relief, accompanied by elevation of injured limb. This reduces blood flow to the area, helps reduce swelling and pain by reducing pressure.

Rest without load, but with gentle muscle action, (active rest) is permissible in certain cases, such as ligament injuries or slight muscle haematoma, either immediately after the injury, or after an interval of 24-48 hours.

**Active Rest**

Complete rest after an injury is, as a rule, unnecessary. The injured part should be rested and unloaded while all other parts of the body are exercised by active muscle contraction and conditioning.

**Advice When in Plaster**

Even when an injury necessitates a plaster cast, other parts of the body can still be exercised. A lower leg plaster does not prevent physical fitness from continuing. The plastered limb should be supported in elevation and exercised with static contractions. If your immobilised limb feels painful, numb or cold, medical advice should be sought.

**Cooling (Cryotherapy)**

Cooling is a common and important method of treating acute soft tissue injuries. Its aim is to minimise the bleeding and swelling which are an inevitable accompaniment of such injuries and can interfere with the healing process. Cooling also helps reduce the pain and muscle spasm (analgesic). When applying ice, treat the skin first with oil or tissue between ice pack and skin.

**Cooling is beneficial because**
- The patient feels an improvement in his symptoms.
The treatment is easy to carry out and is well tolerated.
- There are few contraindications.
- It is inexpensive.

**Heat Treatment (Thermotherapy)**

Heat has been used for thousands of years in the treatment of different types of pain. Experience shows that it has a beneficial effect on pain arising from inflammation which is the body's defence mechanism in cases of injury caused by trauma or over-use.

**Heat is beneficial because**
- 48-hours post injury - it helps in the healing process when the risk of haemorrhage is over.
- It increases blood flow.
- It increases the elasticity of collagen (connective tissue) fibres, i.e. Tendon is composed of 90 per cent collagen fibre.
- It decreases joint stiffness.
- It relieves muscle spasm.
- It reduces the risk of further injury.

**Other forms of heat application**
- Heat lamps, heating pads, hot baths and sauna baths increase blood flow and may have a beneficial effect on stiffness after training etc.

**Short Wave**

Short wave treatment involves a high frequency alternating current passing through the body, generating heat in deeper tissues.

**Ultrasound**

High frequency ultrasonic sound waves passing through soft tissue can generate heat by vibration. Acoustic streaming the dosage penetrates heat to the deeper tissues.

**Interferential**

This treatment consists of a varying medium frequency current which penetrates into the tissues.

**Heat Pads or Packs**

Heating pads or packs contain a gel which has the capacity to store both cold and heat. They are immersed in hot water before being applied to the area to be treated.

---

**INJURIES SUSTAINED IN AEROBIC DANCE**

(103 of 105 Instructors had 220 injuries)

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<th>% OF INSTRUCTORS</th>
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<td>7</td>
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TOTAL 141: 70% below knee

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<tr>
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TOTAL 79: 68% below knee

**INJURIES SUSTAINED IN 1 RTB KAPOOKA**

1 JUN 86 — 1 JUN 87

(Total Number of Groups 87: Total Number of Reported Injuries 340)

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<th>CALF</th>
<th>KNEE</th>
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TOTAL 340: 55% below knee

**INJURIES SUSTAINED IN 17 TRG REGT RA & DEPOT**

SEPT. 86 — SEPT. 87

(Total Number of Groups 8: Total Number of Reported Injuries 210)

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TOTAL 210: 60% below knee

**Summary**

When analysing the statistical injury research of the two Army Training Establishments involved in this report, 17th Trg Regt RA & Depot, Woolwich, London, and 1 RTB Kapooka, Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, plus that of an Aerobic Dance School for Teachers in San Diego, California, USA, one can see that the findings have many similarities, especially in the high percentages recorded in the lower limb area. What emerges from further analysis is the workloads involved, the high...
intensity, frequency and lack of recovery time. All these factors inevitably lead to the development of overuse syndromes, which without rest manifest as painful acute and lead to chronic injury problems.

Is this Service problem with recruits injuries out of control? If one considers the outstanding results from 17th Trg Regt recorded by the APRE team from the RAE, then it would appear that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Further continued success could still be achieved. Those involved in recruit training must work as a co-ordinated team, and not as individuals seeking higher ideals.

Ignorance of standards and mass misinterpretation of the CMSR also must be resolved. Young recruits must only have those demands placed on them required of the CMSR in its essence, only then will we be on course towards the total resolution of the problem.

WO2 (QMS1) J. P. Brennan APTC joined the APTC from 1 PARA in January 1971, qualified as a Remedial Gymnast in 1978 (MSRG), was promoted W02 in March 1979. He qualified as a Chartered Physiotherapist (MCSP) in December 1985. Since then has specialised in sport and training related injuries. He is due to complete his Service career in April 1989, where upon he will begin his own business career in private practice in London and Europe.

AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS COMPETE AT INTERNATIONAL SKILLS MEETING

A team of 40 soldiers, from Army units Australia wide, participated in the Brunei International Skill at Arms Meeting (BISAM) 1989 in Brunei recently.

The Australian team contested the four small arms categories of self-loading rifle, sub-machine gun, pistol and Bren light machine gun.

The 40 soldiers attending BISAM won their places in the team during elimination contests throughout Australia. The competition ended on March 30.
Remnants of the Raj

by Judy Thomson

Foreword

Three months after our marriage in 1955, my husband, Major David Thomson, was posted to Quetta. We travelled by P & O ship to Bombay and by cargo boat to Karachi where we stayed briefly with the Australian High Commissioner and Mrs Cawthorn — old Indian army hands. Mrs Cawthorn did not approve of the thread-bare Mohamed, our predecessor’s Bearer who had come to Karachi to meet us. But his tatty clothes were meant to remind us that we were responsible for clothing him in a new and suitably fitting Bearer’s uniform. Another remnant of the Raj.

Remnants of the Raj

At Karachi Railway station an endless line of red-clad baggage coolies squatted on their haunches waiting for the train. As the Bolan Mail pulled in, passengers and coolies fought over bags until 2nd and 3rd class travellers were settled onto hard benches, purdah ladies and servants had found their separate carriages and the Thomsons were alone in a Victorian double coupe with a splendid picnic hamper from the Residence to last the twenty-hour journey north.

‘Everything all right Sahib?’ Mohamed’s face appeared at our window every time the train lurched to a stop — like Dr Aziz on that fateful train journey to the Malabar Caves. Our Passage to Quetta had brought us overnight through the Sind desert broken now by distant rocky foothills. ‘Chota hazri, Sahib, Memsahib. You are sleeping well?’

We peered out from our bedrolls and gladly took the cups of tea. ‘Yes thank you, but it’s much colder Mohamed.’

‘Very cold Sahib. At Sibi we are getting more engines to climb the mountain. Then not long after we are coming to Quetta.’

The main road and a camel track now ran beside the line. Biblical bearded men led camels carrying bedding and tents, cooking pots, wives and hens. Secure in our carriage, I thought of Francis Thompson’s ‘Arab Love Song’ and doubted the romance of their lives as they plodded by on hunched camels.

We slowly climbed through the Bolan Pass, one of the historic routes to and from Afghanistan. Reaching Mach, the train continued along a brown barren valley to Quetta, 6000 feet up. Quetta in mid winter, with a bitter wind blowing off the snow-capped Murdah Mountain.

Elspeth Wotton, a British instructor’s wife who’d travelled with us to Bombay, was waiting on the platform. Leaving David with Mohamed and a Pakistani staff officer to help sort out our baggage, she bundled me out of the biting cold and into her car. Skirting the main town, we were soon driving through the cantonment, which in 1900 had been the largest military station in the Indian sub-continent, to reach the Staff College, and our house amongst the family quarters, at 22 Williams Road.

Major Sahib and Memsahib, Bombay 1955, en route to Quetta.
On the small porch of a large faded concrete, earthquake-proof house sat another British instructor's wife, turning up the hems of our curtains. She had collected and installed our Army issue furniture and fittings and engaged the staff: Dost the Sweeper was polishing the red concrete floors inside; Subhan Khan, the Cook, stood awaiting my instructions.

Astrakhan cap on head, eyes gleaming through black-rimmed spectacles, he burst out, 'Me first-class English cook, Memsahib. Roast dinner, caramel custard, cheese souffles. Very good cook Mem. I am going bazaar Mem. You tell me. I buy meat, eggs, vegetable.' What did we need? Elspeth rescued me by suggesting a simple menu for that night and inviting us for lunch with her.

Later we unpacked the crates. I stared bewildered at the mounting pile of toilet paper, vegemite, tinned cheese ... I could open a shop. 'Mem must lock these all away. No good men otherwise use all up. And Mem is locking up tea and flour rations from quartermaster's store. Each day, Mem is giving out enough ... .' The wisdom of Mohamed.

There was a general shortage of food, barely enough for the local population. We would soon tire of stringy chickens, tough mutton or water buffalo steak and butter, but we were comparatively well off.

Next the Dhobi boy arrived and I was sorting out some washing for him. Mohamed drew up a chair. 'Mem is sitting down and making list. I am finding dirty clothes.'
A band of Ali Baba’s descendants appeared — the wood wallahs. Their small donkeys, almost buckling under their loads, were blindfolded, whilst Mohamed supervised the weighing of the wood, piece by piece, on hand scales and argued the cost with the swarthy desperado leader. A Staff College truck delivered our coal ration and by evening, coal fires were warming some of the house.

We sat down to hot soup served meticulously by the Bearer; the table laid with our best silver. Finally crawling exhausted into a small hard bed, my toes touched a hot water bottle. Mohamed, that ‘seedy, grubby fellow’, was indeed a Bearer beyond price.

Next day, David signed on at the Quetta Staff College which was modelled on Camberley in England and provided a post-graduate year for Captains and Majors ‘on the way up’. Australia, Canada and India had similar Colleges and they all exchanged students. Some British instructors remained, but they were rapidly being replaced by Pakistanis. That year, two British, a Canadian, an American, Turk and Iraqi made up the other foreign students. On the plaque listing students for 1911, Captain T.A. Blamey’s name had a star to show he’d reach Field Marshal. Australia’s first student at Quetta had made his mark.

The Deputy Commandant, Brigadier Shahbazdar Yaqub Khan’ addressed the students on the importance of maintaining high standards of work and warned against cheating. He advised that required reading for current affairs would be American *Time* and *Dawn*, Pakistan’s main English language daily.

Two weeks later, *Dawn*’s editorial thundered against a proposed routine visit to Pakistan of First Sea Lord Mountbatten, ‘this principal instrument of the rape of Kashmir and of the misery of millions’. *Dawn* reminded readers that from March 23rd Pakistan would be a Republic, that the Navy would no longer be Royal and therefore Britain’s First Sea Lord ‘nobody to it’. The Pakistanis blamed Mountbatten, last Viceroy of India, for all the troubles which followed the Partition of India in 1947. Pakistan still remained in the Commonwealth, but the British were on the way out.

How would we colonials be accepted? Current affairs for David might be tricky.

Each morning he hurried off early to meet with the ten men of his Syndicate. Very often, they returned to our house to work together on an Appreciation of a Military Situation in which AIDNI was the enemy. (I didn’t have to be a cryptic crossword fan to work out who that was.) Whilst they planned, I remained on stand
by. As each page was hand-written I would type it with perfect Minor Staff Duties, even to the commas and fullstops. That was easy. Typing completed, the Syndicate Leader would race off by bike to hand the Exercise in on time.

I felt part of their team and was glad to help but I didn’t realise I was starting a thirty year unpaid job as home secretary.

Major Staff Duties were not as simple. I didn’t know who did what in my household.

‘No problem, Mem,’ said Mohamed. ‘Dost is Sweeper. He is carrying coal, cleaning toilets, sweeping floors to top of skirting boards. The Bearer, Mem is dusting and polishing silver, waiting on table, looking after the Major Sahib’s clothes.’ I soon found he was Lord High Everything Else except when it came to cleaning up after a newly-acquired puppy. That was the Sweeper’s job. And more often, mine. The Cook, however, had his own rules.

‘Subhan. How can you use twelve eggs for one pudding for two people?’ We were studying his daily cookbook. ‘And every day a puncture?’

‘You like my chocolate souffle Mem? I am beating it many hours for you.’ Yes, on a flat plate with a fork. It was delicious. ‘And the road, Mem, is very bad. Every day, bike-wallah is repairing tyre.’ Five annas for a puncture was his percentage.

‘Why you go every day to bazaar?’ But I knew the answer. Meat had to be freshly killed for Muslims each day.

The Major Sahib was longing for a hot curry but that was beneath our first-class English cook. Instead, his wife, hidden away in his rooms in the compound at the bottom of our garden, was persuaded to make one for us.

Subhan was never satisfied. ‘Mem. My pay not good. American sahib in town pay more.’ Blackmail, but I knew I’d never manage his old fuel stove. I stalled and said I’d talk to the Major Sahib.
I was budgetting very carefully. We couldn’t afford to hire a car, horse-drawn tongas were a luxury. We borrowed the servants’ bikes. Now Mohamed said the bike we’d brought him from Australia was no good. Would we lend him money for a new one and for his sick wife! Keeping a staff of five, keeping up face, clinging to this remnant of the Raj seemed ridiculous, but it was expected of us. And of the Pakistani officers too. Servants were a way of life. It was useless questioning it.

One morning I was debating whether to read another John Master’s book or write a letter when Elspeth’s car pulled up outside. ‘The double bed that you hired from the bazaar should be here in a couple of hours,’ she said. ‘I passed two men pushing it by barrow on my way home from Quetta.’

‘Oh no,’ I blushed. ‘Everyone will see it coming. Can’t you hear their comments?’ I turned hurriedly to another problem. ‘I don’t want to spend my mornings playing bridge or mahjong or sitting around waiting to type for David. You’ve got your physio job. There must be something I could do.’

And Elspeth, like the other instructors’ wives, who were used to counselling the newcomers, answered, ‘Let’s see what the Wives’ meeting brings up.’

Major General Mohammed Latif Khan, the Commandant, was a remote Orson Welles figure who strode past our house exercising three Alsatians. He was reputed to have a priceless collection of Persian carpets. His wife, Begum Latif, who was rarely seen, summoned all the wives to Morning Coffee in the Ladies Room at the Mess.

Pakistani Officers were discouraged from bringing more than one wife to the Staff College. Wives were expected to come out of purdah and to mix socially with their husbands. For those who came from remote villages, spoke a dialect and knew neither Urdu nor English, it was very difficult to shed the veils or burqas (those all-enveloping tents) which had shielded them from the sight of other men. Others, with liberalised, Anglicised husbands, who’d learnt English in Purdah schools, were more at ease.

The American wife and I walked into a room full of brilliantly plumed, chattering women, some in saris others in shalwar (baggy trousers) and quamez (long-sleeved top) — vermilion red, grass green or white threaded with gold; eyes
outlined in black kohl and arms and ankles laden with golden bangles. The few dowdy palefaces sat together, or discussed children, the weather and gardens with those begums who spoke enough English.

A senior wife read out Begum Latif's message: 'In future, we will meet regularly and sew toys for charity so that men will not say ladies only gossip and waste their day.'

Quite right, but Elspeth, whose four-year-old son was dying to go to school, had meantime dreamed up a better idea for me. Why not run a small kindergarten? My last pupils had been teenagers from London's East End whom I'd supervised for woodwork, whilst employed as a supply teacher in 1953. Compared with having my back to the wall, never daring to turn away in case a tool became a handy weapon, a kindergarten would be child's play.

And so Mrs Thomson's Little School opened for two hours each morning at our house. Begums begged me to help their little ones learn English, but I decided to limit numbers to four Pakistanis and three English children — all I could manage with my limited skills and one empty room.

Materials were scarce. Mothers provided drawing paper and scraps of wool for sewing cards, a blackboard and chalks. 'Now Inam, hold your pencil like this. John stop fidgetting. That's a beautiful C for Cat and C for Christopher. No more writing. Let's sing a song together. Tim bring your stool closer to Sher-

Dhobi boy delivers Sahib's uniform and washing.

ernaz.' I was happily fitting in to my school ma'am role — a cross between Joyce Grenfell and Anna and The King of Siam. I was singing 'Three little ducks went out one day... Use your fingers Nadim. Pretend they're the little

Mali with weekly ration of one hour's irrigation water for garden.
Black tents of Powindas at top of Bolan Pass.

ducks.' Suddenly our song was interrupted by the strains of 'Scotland the Brave' from pipes and drums. 'School' disintegrated as the children rushed outside to watch the Baluchi Regimental band, resplendent in puggarees, white jackets and dark trousers, marching proudly past. Beyond, following their traditional route, another nomadic family was moving westward along the same dusty road.

Each year hundreds of thousands of these Powindas or tribal nomads travelled seasonally between the plains of Pakistan and the hills of Afghanistan. We had visited a friendly encampment near Mach, with its low-slung black camel-hair tents and herds of goats and fatted sheep and seen them in the bazaar at Pishin, near the Afghan border, bartering skins and unscoured wool for raw lump sugar or embroidered woollen jackets studded with Baluchi mirror work. Colourful people to us, but a problem for the government who felt their animals were using precious grazing areas and carrying diseases across the border.

Sunday 11th March '56
Dearest Mum and Dad,

Our life here is settling into a routine now and the kitchen crises are decreasing. David has to work in most spare hours so I'm thrown back on my own devices more. However am reading a lot. If you can get hold of Leonora Starr's 'The Colonel's Lady' you will have a pretty good and most amusing picture of Quetta pre-War and pre-earthquake and at the same time an idea of Quetta army life today, except for the ascendency of the Paks, the descendancy of gay life at the Club and climatically far less water . . .

David is helping to exercise the polo ponies of a British officer friend at the polo-cum-cricket-cum-race course. Yesterday I had my second ride on the quietest most placid horse with David tutoring me on holding the reins and gripping by the knees. The ground is really grassy and quite a thrilling sight after the stony desert everywhere else.

Sharing such an exotic life, laughing over our endless problems with the cook, yet realising that having servants allowed us more time together — all these things were helping to make that first year of marriage exciting and different.

A Bearer arrived one morning with a chitti, 'Would you care to dine on Friday next after the Cinema? Reply by Return Bearer.' There were no telephones.

The durzi squatted on the floor taking up the hem of my best dress; Bundoo, visiting hairdresser, set my hair in the bathroom. What would happen to him when the last British left? Mohamed laid the Major Sahib's dinner jacket out and then saluted us approvingly as we walked off to the home of a very pukkah English officer, not far away.

All the guests were pale-faces. We sipped drinks for an hour until their Bearer announced that dinner was ready. The table was laid with
magnificent pieces of silver, crystal goblets and candles glowing. During the four course meal, I looked over my shoulder to thank the Bearer who was serving and found our Mohamed beaming back at me. He had come with our china — by Servants’ gentleman’s agreement.

British army life, pay and unknown fellow officers were discussed. After dinner, the ladies retreated to the fire for coffee, liqueurs and more of babies, ayahs, children, servants, until dulled or lulled to silence. The men lingered over port. I sat there hating being separated from what might have been more interesting conversation.

When it was our turn to be hosts, we considered casual dress but Mohamed was quite distressed. ‘Not right Sahib.’ After dinner, David, prompted by me, asked the gentlemen to join the ladies for port. The officer from the Queen’s Bays remarked, ‘Of course, we don’t do this in our country.’ Colonials still.

Dinner with the Bengali Ikramullahs was quite different. Their quarter was sparsely furnished. Like many, they had lost most of their possessions when fleeing to Pakistan after Partition. However, Japanese scrolls, an Edinburgh plate and Toby jug told of our hosts’ overseas travels. We all drank orange juice except David who was plied with expensive whiskey. At dinner, ladies sat at one end and the gentlemen the other. From a sideboard we selected khebabs, grilled mutton, curried eggs or delicately spiced liver. Dessert was a coconut ice covered in golden syrup. We ate everything pressed on us.

Afterwards we were introduced to pan — betel nut and a bitter lime paste wrapped in green leaves (not an easily acquired taste). The others chewed happily all evening as we discussed Muslim versus Christian marriages which they thought ‘Flippant: married one day, divorced the next.’ They played us a favourite Urdu song about the lady and her dupatta (veil) which falls romantically at the feet of a farmer. That night we returned home exhilarated. This was more like the real Pakistan which we were so keen to discover.

On Republic Day we wrapped up warmly to sit in the main street and watch unit after unit of Pakistanis march by, their leaders turning by mistake to salute David — the red felt on his ‘blues’ cap making him look like a general! That night the Officers’ Mess held a ceremonial dinner. For the last time, the officers toasted Her Majesty the Queen and David saw tears in the eyes of many Pakistani officers; then great pride when a toast to Jinnah, President of their new Republic was called, thus signifying formally the end of the Raj.

Spring came and my strange dry garden suddenly blossomed with hyacinths, verbenas and marigolds. With the weekly ration of an hour’s irrigation water, I couldn’t resist joining the Mali (our gardener) paddling barefoot as we channelled and blocked off water for the flower beds. Mohamed watched me disapprovingly.

The month of Ramazan coincided with the first really hot weather. All good Muslims neither ate, drank nor smoked from sunrise to sundown and everyone’s work suffered. Our staff moved in a daze and our meals was torment for them.

It was hardly the best time to go for a driving licence, but a sick friend had briefly lent us his car. We found offices closed with no explanation, or staff too tired to understand our questions. Finally we discovered the Superintendent. He asked many questions. ‘What would you be doing if your brakes failed on a steep road with
a precipice ahead.’ Our licence depended on this.

‘Pray hard,’ we chorused.

‘Correct. And Inshallah, God Willing, you would be saved.’

Ramazan ends with the sighting of the new moon. Humphrey Davy, the last British Political Agent, still administering justice amongst the tribes, combined ancient wisdom with modern technology and sent up a small plane to fly over the mountain and return with the news of the moon’s appearance.

Jubilation. Celebrations. Fireworks, parties and gifts for staff and friends. ‘Eid Mubarak’ was the greeting as they presented us with halva carrot cake, enveloped in real silver foil, the latter with supposedly aphrodisiac properties.

In the July break, we travelled by plane, train and crowded local buses north and up into the mountains until we reached Nathia Gali, a tiny hill station looking towards Kashmir. I sketched the pine forests whilst David studied or we wandered peacefully along winding tracks.

Two months later the tenor of my letters changed. Instead of descriptions of picnics with friends at Dak Bungalows or gatherings of Pakistanis and pale-faces at the Pool, I was writing to my mother asking her to book me into a cheap Melbourne hospital. I would be returning alone by plane for Christmas. David had to complete a tour of India and would then travel by cargo boat from Bombay.

Suddenly my letters were full of baby talk. I could now compete with the other wives. I was no longer the bride of the year. Elspeth taught me relaxation exercises. The Canadian sold me her glamorous maternity clothes and I started knitting furiously. Mohamed solemnly brought me Horlicks sitting in a saucepan on the silver salver, after serving David his port. Not even the Suez Crisis seemed to faze me. There was no television which today might have incited local reaction against British residents. Early in November I wrote:

The Suez dispute has certainly had everyone on their toes here. We’ve heard the BBC quite often and generally tried not to get into argument with our Pak. friends who are largely pro-Nasser. The newspapers refer to Eden as the next Hitler and made a great bloomer saying that it was really a war between the Muslims and a Christian-Zionist union. The next day the paper recanted saying that of course there were still some good Christians, e.g. the Americans. We had great amusement with our American neighbours, chipping them over this . . . the Iraqi student, usually a most jovial soul, snubbed us completely . . .

The invasion of the Suez Canal by English, French and Israeli soldiers and the subsequent blocking of the Canal meant that passenger ships could no longer travel that route. I didn’t want to stay in Quetta to have the baby, nor could I risk the slow journey homeward. In my letters I looked only on the bright side and didn’t let on that I was very anaemic, burst into tears every time I had to have an iron injection or sat through a sad movie. What had happened to that tough, tomboyish young wife? She was pregnant and dreamt of lamb chops and green peas, of Haverbrack Avenue, home and mother.

In Melbourne the Suez Crisis and the Olympic Games were supplanted in my mother’s conversation by the news of a future Thomson grandchild.

NOTES

1. Shahabzader Yagub Khan is now Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Pakistan government.

2. Perhaps today’s Quetta student could tell of the fate of these gypsy-like people for whom the Afghan civil war must have spelt disaster.

Remnants of the Raj is a chapter from an unpublished autobiography completed in 1987. Judy Thomson has since researched and edited Reaching Back, an oral history describing the lives of some Aboriginal people associated with the earliest days of Yarrabah Mission in Far North Queensland. It is being published this year by Aboriginal Studies Press, the publishing section of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, Canberra.

Judy Thomson is the wife of Brigadier The Hon David Thomson, MC, RL.
Australian Public Opinions of Defence

By Lisa Keen, Department of Defence.

In these days of rapid technological advances, mass media coverage and changing political climates, it is an elusive matter to pinpoint public opinion. Glib assertions of 'norms' of public opinion can often cloud the very complex attitudinal stances which people take in reaction to a barrage of information, and how this fits into their personal beliefs and values. Nevertheless, the process of monitoring public opinion is central to the efforts of the Public Relations organization, and over time, detailed investigations can identify trends which will directly impact upon the organization as a whole. While care must be taken in methodology and interpretation, it is important to gain an overview of the various ideological preferences of the population, and to track these over time.

The Directorate of Public Relations recently commissioned two Market Research surveys into public attitudes towards Defence issues. While some of the results simply validate or reinforce presumptions of the public perceptions of these issues, there has also been a range of complex findings that enable a useful break-up of the community's views (based on age, gender, ethnicity and level of education variables). They also indicate some prevalent attitudinal trends which have significant implications for the larger Defence organization, and more particularly, for the ADF.

For those service personnel who operate under the assumption that the general public is neither interested nor very supportive of their activities, the findings of the two major market research surveys may offer some satisfaction. This article briefly investigates the findings of the studies and explores in greater depth some specific attitudes towards Defence issues. Some of these findings have clarified areas of complex and inconsistent attitudinal standpoints.

Other findings have virtually invalidated popular beliefs, for example, the assumption that women and NESB people have 'barriers' towards Defence issues in general, and the ADF in particular. Finally, it will be revealed that where popular ideology has tended to interpret public opinion in a fairly generalized way, the current findings show that issues relating to Defence produce a complex range of attitudes. The one clear and consistent opinion which emerges from these diverse views is the public's overwhelming support and high regard for the Australian Defence Forces.

Note On Methodology

The methodology of public opinion polling can have significant effects on the findings. For example, the wording of questions and the presentation of alternatives for answer can be crucial in either exaggerating or minimizing bias. A 1972 US study found that the provision of "don't know" or "no opinion" options (filter options) is essential in polls researching areas of complex attitudes, such as foreign policy polls. They found that 10-20% of respondents use a filter when it is offered. This process lessens the tendency of respondents to construct an opinion on an issue when in fact, they have no opinion at all.

The use of such filter options in the two studies in questions has allowed for more accurate monitoring of the levels of public consciousness, knowledge and concern about Defence issues.

The Attitudes of Australians

Where some members of Australia's Defence Forces have interpreted the current tone of political debate on Defence issues in this country as implying negative opinions of service personnel, the research findings have found otherwise. It has been demonstrated that a significant shift in public opinion has occurred during the 80s towards a more supportive and favourable view of the Defence Forces. Some key findings were:

- A majority of respondents stated that they think of ADF personnel in favourable terms and are interested in the values and ideals promoted by the ADF.
- The great majority of the respondents (86%) regards the average member of the
Army, Navy or Air Force as being capable, 95% of people are of the view that it is important to have a permanent Defence Force. Another recent study which has collated all Defence related public opinion poll research undertaken since 1947 has found that a generalized level of support has been evident over an extended period of time:

"Australian's have consistently affirmed the view that Australia's (Defence) Forces should be substantially increased in size and that the Government should pay more attention to Defence issues."

Conversely, there are several areas where public opinion is divided. In general, this division is evident on issues where the level of knowledge is low. For instance, research into subjects such as training, the Reserves and Defence equipment has produced disparate and 'scrambled' findings based on low levels of knowledge. The University of Wollongong survey found that many respondents with negative opinions towards various Defence issues gave completely wrong answers in the knowledge test. They later commented:

"It is understandable that there is a fair amount of confusion concerning the role of the ADF since its peacetime activities are not well publicised and Australia has not been under any imminent threat of attack since World War II".

The main message here is that the public generally does have a positive attitude towards the ADF, and most people are interested in obtaining more information about a range of Defence issues. This is a favourable position from which to start a program which will address the information requirements of the community and clarify areas where a lack of information has lead to confusion.

Some Myths Dispelled

The Attitudes of Women.

It has traditionally been assumed that women have an innate ‘barrier’ to Defence issues due to their particular socialization as nurturers and care-givers, and therefore, that they are likely to repudiate activities associated with warfighting.

These assumptions have been questioned in part by the findings of the University of Wollongong. In terms of attitudes towards, and level of interest in Defence issues, the research showed that there was virtually no difference between women and men. In fact, the research findings suggest that if there is a difference, women in general have more positive attitudes towards the ADF than men.

The Education Variable.

The most significant disparities in public opinion were found to be attributable to the variable of level of education rather than gender. Both males and females with tertiary education were found to be more critical on subjects such as the Australia/US alliance, and of Defence issues in general.

The Attitudes of Non-English Speaking People.

Recent estimates of the proportion of people from a non-English speaking background (NESB) serving with the Forces have suggested that they are severely under-represented.

It has further been postulated that NESB groups may have reservations of cultural origin (or through actual experience) which result in negativity towards certain defence issues. The University of Wollongong was tasked to investigate these possibilities. Their findings have been diverse and sometimes surprising.

Taken generally, the attitudes of NESB people were found to be more supportive of the US alliance, National Service, employment with the ADF and the ADF’s capabilities than the general community. There were, however, quite diverse views which could be separated by particular ethnic origin. The research findings suggest that people of Polish, Vietnamese and Cantonese descent hold the ADF in higher esteem than the general population. Conversely, the English, Italian, Greek and South Slav groups tend to be far more sceptical.

One of the main findings in this area is that NESB people (in general) are much less likely to know where to obtain information about the ADF than the control group. At the same time, they are; "twice as likely to think the ADF would be effective in the event of an attack" than the anglophone group, and "far more favourably disposed towards service personel".

Given that there is a markedly higher level of support for the ADF amongst many people from non-English speaking backgrounds, these findings provide valuable indicators for future campaigns to address information requirements, and to build upon this positive attitudinal base.
Levels of Knowledge and Information Requirements

The two research studies discovered a widespread lack of knowledge and understanding in the general population about subjects such as strategic issues, the ADF, the Reserves, employment in the Forces and defence industry.

While the majority of respondents felt themselves to be ill-informed on Defence issues, they self-assessed this level of knowledge to be "about average". At the same time, at least half of all the people surveyed stated that they would like more information on various Defence issues such as allies, strategies, defence spending and the role of the ADF.

In terms of preferred sources of information, an overwhelming proportion of respondents felt that they would go directly to ADF promotions for reliable and credible information. This finding correlates with the favourable attitudes which the majority of the community hold towards service personnel.

Of all respondents, those with service acquaintances were found to be the best informed, most interested and most concerned groups in the community. The ANOP researchers commented that;

"Servicemen and women have fairly widespread contact with the community and our results suggest that they convey a favourable view of Defence Force life ... Nevertheless, considering the extent of their contact with the community, and the community's generally low level of knowledge and understanding of Defence issues, they tend to be a rather 'silent service', and an under-utilized form of communications and image building."

The conclusions of the University of Wollongong study confirmed these views and emphasised the importance of providing relevant and interesting information to the public:

"There is sufficient evidence that the Australian public does have in interest in, and opinion of the ADF and Defence policies. Unless the information supplied to the public is accurate and of interest to them, they will continue to form and maintain opinions that are perhaps based on misinformation."

Complex Standpoints

In many ways, public opinion research can pose as many questions as it answers. Where issues such as alliances and strategies are concerned, the state of play with international politics can have marked effects on the findings. Precisely because they are complex issues, it is necessary to analyse related public opinion in greater depth.

The ANOP research has allowed for the tracking of public opinion on specific issues over the last decade. It has identified some significant shifts over this period. One of the major trends evident from the analysis is that a remarkable shift has occurred in relation to the Defence Force and its capability, which links in with the increased community confidence in Australia's defence capacity.

This level of confidence also needs to be interpreted in the context of public perceptions of threats to Australia. This correlation can be seen in the changing attitudes of young people over recent years. When young people were most concerned about the possibility of a nuclear war, they tended to believe that they, and Australia, were powerless. At this time there was a corresponding crop in the level of importance placed on having a permanent Defence Force and its perceived effectiveness.

The perception of threat among young people has dropped from 66% (believing that external threat was likely) in 1980 to 38% in 1987. In turn, their level of support for the ADF has risen significantly.

These are fairly straightforward links. There are, however, far more complex attitudinal stances which impact upon people's overall conceptions of Defence issues.

The University of Wollongong study revealed that many respondents held critical opinions of the Australia/US Alliance.

For example;
- A large proportion of respondents felt that the alliance encouraged the threat of attack to Australia.
- A majority believed that Australia relies too heavily on the alliance for defence,
- A majority considered it true that Australia's interests are often overlooked in favour of foreign interests.

On the face of it, these findings appear to indicate a significant groundswell of opinion against the alliance. Conversely, the ANOP research found that the Defence strategy
favoured by the majority of respondents was "to be as self-reliant as possible in defending Australia, but also to maintain our ties with our allies." (This was, incidentally, the option which most closely expressed the current Defence Policy). Related public opinion research undertaken in 1988 also found that of those people with a view on the alliance, 88% strongly supported it.

It can be seen that opposition to some manifestations of the alliance does not translate into opposition to the alliance per se. The public is aware that there are some costs involved in the alliance, but the great majority believe that the benefits far outweigh these costs.

Similarly complex findings were evident in relation to public perceptions of Australia's defence capacity. ANOP found that in 1987, 53% of respondents felt that Australia could not defend itself effectively. (This was a marked drop from the 73% who considered this to be true in 1980). Of the people holding this view in 1987, the main reasons given to explain their beliefs were related to the size of the Defence Force, the vastness of the coastline and the perception that the equipment was largely outdated. Of those 42% of respondents who were confident of Australia's defence capacity, the main reasons given were; Australia has a well-trained, effective Defence Force, the ADF is well equipped and up to date, and that Australia's allies would lend assistance in the event of an external threat.

Aside from a dichotomy of views relating to equipment, the findings reveal a basic faith in the capability of the Defence Force. Even among those who do not think that Australia could defend itself effectively, their concerns pertained to the size of the ADF and the efficacy of Defence equipment rather than the capabilities of the personnel. As with the alliance issue, it can be seen that scepticism relating to Australia's defence capacity does not necessarily reflect people's opinions of the Defence Forces.

From their research over three surveys, ANOP concluded;

"An important trend evident from the analysis of these reasons is that the most significant shifts have been related to the Defence Force and its capability (rather than factors related to geography, allies or defence expenditure), indicating the link between increased community confidence in Australia's defence capacity and the enhanced image of the ADF".

The Future

The DPR sponsored research has produced some significant and far-reaching findings concerning public opinion on Defence. It has been able to reveal evident discrepancies between popular assumptions and the stated beliefs of some sections of the community. In addition, various areas of seemingly inconsistent or complex attitudinal standpoints have been clarified. Trends in public opinion, and changes over time have been monitored in order to obtain as accurate a picture as possible. This process will continue.

Public opinion represents the perceptions of the community at a particular point in time, and is influenced by events, media portrayals and popular ideologies. In circumstances where the public's level of knowledge on Defence issues is low, or where information emanating from alternate sources has a negative bias, a situation exists which allows misnomers and negative opinions among some sections of the community to persist. The Chief of the Defence Force has highlighted this issue:

"Political expediency often means that untruths are publicised, or conversely that the truth is hidden. Both, if they are unchecked run the risk of causing Australians to lose confidence in the ADF, depresses the ADF itself and, of a more serious concern, sends the wrong signals to neighbours and allies."16

This situation indicates the particular need for the provision of accurate information to the public which is interesting, well presented and positive. There is an obvious lack of knowledge and understanding in the population on various Defence issues, despite the fact that there is a corresponding interest in these issues.

It is evident that a strong supportive base exists from which communications activities can be projected to relevant sections of the community. Further research is now being planned which will examine the underlying value system held by Australians, and how this impacts on public opinion regarding Defence issues. Current initiatives will identify the best ways to address the specific information and education requirements of various sections of the community, and to capitalise on the existing levels of support and high regard for the ADF.
Notes

5. ANOP, op. cit., p. 51.
7. ANOP, op. cit., p. 34.

The Public Opinion polls referred to throughout this article are both recent studies commissioned by the Directorate of Public Relations. The first was through Australian National Opinion Polls (ANOP). It was designed to:
(1) monitor trends from two previous ANOP surveys (1980 and 1984), and to
(2) explore public attitudes to Defence issues in greater depth and monitor the image of, and attitudes to, Defence Force employment.

The second survey was carried out by the Centre for Multicultural Studies at the University of Wollongong. This research was intended to investigate the attitudes towards, and knowledge levels about, the ADF, of two groups of people: Namely, women of all ethnicities and migrants of non-English speaking background (NESB). The University of Wollongong survey used three variables to test the groups surveyed. These were; ethnic background, gender and level of education.

Lisa Keen completed an Honours degree in Politics and History in 1986. She joined the Department of Defence as a Graduate Administrative Assistant and has worked in Marketing and the Office of Defence Production. Lisa is currently working as a Research Officer for Defence Public Relations.

SUCCESS FOR FAMILY INFORMATION NETWORK

More than 1000 Defence families and personnel have called the new Family Information Network for Defence (FIND) service in its first two weeks of operation.

The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel Ros Kelly officially launched the 008 telephone service for Defence families in March.

She said the response rate was a clear indication of the success of the FIND initiative.

“FIND is available to every Service person and family to make sure they are informed of the changing areas of service conditions and family entitlements.

“The number of people who have already made use of FIND demonstrates that it is meeting a need in helping break down the feeling of isolation sometimes experienced by Service families.”

Mrs Kelly said it was essential that families were aware of the range of allowances and the help available, particularly when they were in areas or cities unfamiliar to them.

“No question is too trivial. FIND is confidential and callers can remain anonymous.

“FIND operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Operators are available between 9am and 4pm on working days and messages may be left after hours.

“Defence families can contact FIND by phoning (008) 02 0031 Australia wide, or 57 2444 for Canberra callers,” Mrs Kelly said.
The Rt Hon Sir George Foster Pearce (1870-1952)
Trials and Triumphs of an Australian Defence Minister

By Major Warren Perry, RL

Introductory Remarks

It is our business tonight to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Senator Pearce and to do this by examining a few of his achievements, as Minister of State for Defence in the Commonwealth of Australia, and to paint, by way of conclusion, some kind of word picture of his personality.

Any discussion of Australia's defence history since Federation would be incomplete if it failed to mention, and to mention often, the name of Senator Pearce. Yet today his part in making this history does not seem to be widely known in any detail. Indeed he may be himself partly to blame for this situation for in discharging his ministerial duties in the Department of Defence he does not seem to have considered anything beyond the demands of good day to day public administration and he certainly did nothing to seek publicity for himself. He kept no private diaries; he kept no personal papers in any systematic way; and so what he bequeathed to posterity in the way of personal records of his public life were disappointing quantitatively.

George Foster Pearce was born in humble circumstances on the 14 January 1870 at Mount Barker in South Australia. It was later in that year that the British Government withdrew the last detachments of its troops from duty in Australia. Pearce was 11 years old when he left school to become at first a farm labourer and later an apprentice carpenter; he was 31 years old when the Commonwealth of Australia was inaugurated in 1901; he was 44 years of age when the Commonwealth of Australia was inaugurated in 1901; he was 44 years of age when, in August 1914, the War of 1914-18 began and he became, in the following month, Minister for Defence; and in his 69th year he left, for the last time in June 1938, the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia in the Senate of which he had sat continuously as an original member since 1901.

Pearce's political career, although a successful one in terms of tenure and achievements as a cabinet minister, was one of sustained conflict in a political environment of friction, provocation and hostility. He knew the hisses of the ill-informed crowd; he endured the intolerance and rancour of political opponents; he felt the private silence of former political friends; and he long knew well the truth of the German proverb that “Ingratitude is the reward of the world”. A weaker and less practical man than Pearce would have sunk under the load of undeserved unpopularity and unmerited abuse that he had to bear throughout his long ministerial career; but especially during the War of 1914-18, when he crossed the floor of the Senate. Indeed, there were few contemporaries whose public work was more persistently misinterpreted, more bitterly assailed or more ignorantly judged than that of Senator Pearce. But like President Truman later, Senator Pearce withstood “the heat in the kitchen” and survived politically until the elections of 1937.

Although in his post-war parliamentary career Senator Pearce was Minister for Home and Territories on one occasion and on a later one Minister for External Affairs and Territories, he is more widely remembered probably for his work, as Minister for Defence, which occupied the greater part of his ministerial career. We will be concerned, therefore, solely with his work as a ministerial head in administering the Department of Defence. We will not be concerned with his activities within the political parties to which he belonged; and we will be concerned very little with his activities on the government and opposition benches in Parliament.

Mr John Merrit of Western Australia said in 1963, in his unpublished thesis, George Foster Pearce: Labour Leader, that: “No attempt has been made to study in detail Pearce the administrator.” In December of that year, however, an important paper was published entitled “Sir George Pearce as Administrator” by Sir Peter Heydon of Canberra who had been Senator Pearce's private secretary during Pearce's last year or so as a minister in 1936-37.

I propose, therefore, to proceed to an examination of six major areas of Senator
Pearce’s Departmental work as an administrator. These are:

(a) The introduction of Universal Training in 1911.
(b) The establishment of the Royal Military College at Duntroon.
(c) His part in the War of 1914-18.
(d) His work in London in 1919.
(e) The re-construction of Australia’s post-war Army in 1920-21.
(f) His attendance at the Washington Conference for the Limitation of Armaments in 1921-22.

The Introduction of Universal Training

Compulsory military training was discussed in Australia for more than a decade prior to its adoption by statute in 1909. The Defence Acts of 1903 and 1904 imposed on all male citizens of Australia, between the ages of 18 and 60, liability to service in time of war. But these Acts did not make the obligation effective because they did not provide for the training in peacetime of the persons liable. This omission was remedied when the Deakin Government enacted the Defence Act 1909. By this Act the principle of universal liability to be trained, militarily, was made law for the first time in an English-speaking country. Regulations made under this Act also provided by registration, enrolment and exemption. Statutes were subsequently passed extending or modifying the legislative provisions, removing obstacles and difficulties and, where necessary, providing administrative machinery.

At the invitation of the Deakin Government, Field Marshal Lord Kitchener visited Australia. He arrived in Australia in December 1909 and the object of his visit was to advise the Federal Government on ways and means for the effective execution of the provisions of the Defence Act 1909; and to inspect and report on Australia’s military forces and establishments. Pearce said: “There were two Kitchener reports: one to be made public and one for Ministers only. In the former he dealt almost entirely with the new proposals, but in the confidential one he spared nobody. He picked out the misfits and the inefficient, but he also picked those who, he thought, would help to make the new scheme a success.”

At the time of the Field Marshal’s visit, Pearce was, of course, out of office; and he was in Western Australia when Lord Kitchener visited that State in January 1910. Through the efforts of the State Governor, Sir Gerald Strickland, Pearce met Lord Kitchener at Government House in Perth. There Lord Kitchener said, in effect, to Pearce: “I have been informed that you have been a Minister for Defence and that if there should be a change of Government, you will be Minister for Defence again. There are some things that I am telling the Minister for Defence which I will not put in my report. I have the Minister’s permission to tell them to you.” Then, said Pearce: “For twenty minutes he outlined these things. They dealt mainly with the transition period of the changeover from the old Militia system to the system of universal military training.” They dealt also with questions of the officers who could have responsibility for the new system. Mercilessly, he analysed the capabilities or lack of them as he summed them up. When he had finished Pearce asked him some questions; and he said that, “to all he had a ready reply, a reply that went straight to the heart of the problem.”

Although the Defence Act 1909 was assented to on 13 December 1909 it did not come into force until the 1 January 1911. By that time the second Fisher Government was again in power; it had been sworn in, eight months earlier, in April 1910; and Pearce had again become the Minister for Defence in this second Fisher Government. The main physical preparations for the introduction of the scheme and the provision of the necessary commanders, staff officers and instructors became Pearce’s responsibility.

The training of Senior Cadets began on 1 July 1911; and the first intake of Universal Trainees into the Citizen Forces began on 1 July 1912.

For the nation at that time the Universal Training scheme was a big one, organisationally and administratively. On the whole, however, the scheme worked well from the outset; but it needed a great deal of close supervision and adjustment to adapt it to the social conditions in which it had to work. Peace watched its development too but not from his office chair; he went out into the field to talk to officers and men and to observe closely the scheme’s operation at the grass roots level. In planning a scheme of this magnitude foresight was bound to overlook some things. One cause
of friction was the behaviour of conscientious objectors who protested against their obligations to serve and who, in some instances, refused to serve. But this aspect of the scheme has been covered in some detail in Dr L.C. Jauncey’s book, “The Story of Conscription in Australia” and so we must leave Pearce’s introduction of the Universal Training scheme at this point.

The Royal Military College at Duntroon

Concurrently with the introduction and development of the Universal Training scheme, Pearce was engaged on a related task — the establishment and opening of a military college.

Discussions in Australia on the need for a military college were almost as old as Pearce himself. This need first became apparent probably after the opening of the Royal Military College of Canada at Kingston in June 1876.* Facilities of varying degrees of efficiency were available in the military forces of the Australian colonies to enable their part-time officers to be instructed in their duties. But there had always been difficulties in obtaining persons, suitable educationally and otherwise, for commissions in the permanent forces for instructional and administrative duties.

As far back as December 1886 the Government of the Colony of Victoria got as far as introducing a Bill to establish a college for military education — “The Wellington College Bill 1886”. The purpose of the college was to give “Instruction in the military profession and of promoting the study of the sciences and arts thereto pertaining”. But the Bill was subsequently withdrawn. Three years later Major General Sir J. Bevan Edwards of the British Army carried out inspections of the military forces of the Australian colonies. In his report to the Horse Guards in London, dated 10 October 1889, he recommended the establishment in Australia of a “Federal Military College” similar to that of the Royal Military College of Canada. In the first Federal Defence Bill 1901 introduced into the House of Representatives in June 1901 but later withdrawn, provision was made in a proposed amendment to this Bill for the establishment of “The Australian Military College”. But, after Federation, almost a decade passed before some effective action was taken to establish a military college in Australia.

The Deakin Government’s Defence Act 1909 authorised the establishment of an Australian military college for the training of cadets for appointment to the Permanent Military Forces as combatant officers. But before the Deakin Government could execute the provisions of this Act it was succeeded, in April 1910, by the Fisher Government in which Peace was the Minister for Defence. It therefore became Pearce’s responsibility to implement the provisions of this Act.

Universal Training was probably the weight that tipped the scales in favour of the opening of a military college. At that time the immediate object of the Universal Training scheme was to build up the Citizen Military Forces to a strength of 80,000 men of all ranks. This object required the provision of the necessary number of adequately trained regular officers to train, instruct and administer this large part-time army. The provision of these officers became one of Peace’s most serious and most urgent problems.

Four weeks after Peace had resumed ministerial control of the Department of Defence, that is on 30 May 1910, Colonel Bridges returned to Melbourne from an inspection of overseas military colleges; and, on Senator Pearce’s recommendation he was appointed, as from that date, to command the Military College of Australia with the rank of Brigadier General. At this stage, of course, the college had no physical existence. Bridges made his headquarters, temporarily, in the Department of Defence then located at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne. There he set to work and concurrently selected and assembled a staff to assist him with this work.

It was Pearce and Bridges who jointly gave the College its physical existence. Five days after Bridges became Commandant of the College, he submitted to Senator Pearce an outline plan, based on Australia’s requirements, for the creation of a military college. Senator Peace agreed with this plan and it was approved by the Fisher Government. The Government directed that the college be built in the Australian Capital Territory. Bridges visited that area and, on 1 July 1910, he selected “Duntroon” as the site for the college. This was the homestead area of a sheep station which was owned by Colonel John Edward Campbell. On 1 October 1910 Senator Pearce, after inspecting alternative sites, agreed with
the Duntroon site selected by Bridges as the site for the new college. Eight months later the college was ready to begin its first course.

A contemporary military writer, Captain Niesigh (1862-1931), said that the model chosen for the administration of the college was the famous United States Military Academy at West Point. Lieutenant General Sir Edward Hutton, Major General Sir John Hoad, and Major General Bridges had preferred "West Point" to "Sandhurst", "The Shop" at Woolwich or the Royal Military College of Canada and other military colleges. Field-Marshall Lord Kitchener had also agreed with this preference for West Point. Therefore, Senator Pearce accepted the responsibility for modelling "Duntroon" on "West Point".

His Excellency the Governor-General, the Earl of Dudley, opened the College officially on Tuesday afternoon 27 June 1911 and named it The Royal Military College of Australia. This opening ceremony was conducted in the presence of Ministers of State, Official Guests, the Commandant and members of his Staff, the first intake of Staff Cadets and members of the public. This ceremony was one on a small scale; it was not comparable in scale and splendour with a ceremonial parade of the Brigade of Guards in London at a Trooping of the King's Colour; and it can be presumed that each of the Corps of Staff Cadets present was filled with thoughts about how he was "going to run in the grand military steeplechase of an army career".

There were two notable absentees from this important event in Australia's military history. Senator Pearce was absent in London and Major General Sir John Hoad, who was the Chief of the Australian General Staff, was absent on sick leave. Senator Pearce had gone to London to attend the Imperial Conference of 1911 and to witness the coronation of King George V. Four months after the opening of the College General Hoad died.

The War of 1914-18.

Some of the nation's Defence leaders were absent from their posts in Melbourne when the War of 1914-18 began officially. Government and Opposition members of the Federal Parliament were scattered throughout Australia conducting an election campaign. The Inspector General of the Forces, Brigadier General Bridges, was in Queensland on duty; the recently appointed Chief of the Australian General Staff, Colonel J.G. Legge, was on his way home to Melbourne to take up duty after having spent the previous two years at the War Office in London; and the permanent head of the Department of Defence, Commander Pethebridge, reached Melbourne on 5 August after an absence of about two months spent in the Union of South Africa.

Pearce, as a member of the Opposition had no ministerial responsibilities at this early stage of the war. He was in the Denmark district of Western Australia when the news reached him of the outbreak of war. At the request of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Andrew Fisher, he returned without delay to Melbourne. There, Pearce said, it was decided not to form a National Government, as was proposed, but to proceed with the election campaign.

The Cook Government was defeated at these elections. The third Fisher Government was sworn in, in the sixth week of the war, on 17 September 1914 when Senator Pearce replaced Senator Millen as Minister for Defence.

Senator Pearce’s Department of Defence was the only Service Department in 1914. Therefore, it administered directly the Navy and the Army which, until after the War of 1914-18, included the Air Force. It also discharged industrial functions until early in 1939 when these functions were transferred to other Government authorities. In addition the Department of Defence was responsible for civil censorship during the War of 1914-18. But during the War of 1939-45 this responsibility had been transferred to another Government authority. It is beyond the scope of this paper however to deal with the history of the Department of Defence after the close of Senator Pearce’s Parliamentary career in June 1938.

The burdens of office, which pressed heavily on Pearce in the Department of Defence, were not wholly consequences which flowed from the outbreak of the war. They were due partly, at least to causes which had their origins in earlier times. These causes resided in weaknesses in the Department’s organisation, its system of administration, and the system for the recruitment and training of its civil staff. Senator Pearce informed the Senate, in October 1914, that:

...we have inherited a legacy of an almost vicious character from State Administrations. Prior to Federation, the Minister of
Defence of each Colony had comparatively an easy time. He had only a small naval force and a small military force to deal with. The consequence was that he was able to give his attention to the minutest details of administration, and members of Parliament were able to bring under his personal notice minute questions of administration.

Then, with the coming of Federation in 1901, what happened to these administrative systems? Senator Pearce gave the answer by saying:

At Federation all these six administrations were formed into one Department, but, unfortunately we inherited the system of administration that was previously carried out in the various Colonies. Under that system the Minister had to approve of the minutest details of administration, and we have followed the same system. It is impossible for the Minister under Federation to deal with all the matters of routine that are now left to him as a consequence of the system we have inherited.

At this point Pearce’s immediate predecessor in the office of Minister for Defence, Senator Millen, interjected to say: “Compensation to the extent of 2 for a wounded horseman cannot be made without the matter coming before the Minister for Defence.”

We must now leave this aspect of Pearce’s ministerial work; enough has been said to show that he was submerged in a mass of detail which left him insufficient time to devote to more important decision making and to policy matters.

In some ways Pearce was fortunate when he took over the ministerial control of the Department of Defence in September 1914, from Senator Millen. He found that the previous Government had already done much of the spade work concerned with placing Australia in a state of preparedness for war. It had, on 10 August 1914, transferred all vessels, officers and seamen of Australia’s naval forces to the direct control of the Admiralty in London; this transference was agreed on at the Imperial Conference of 1911 in London at which Pearce was present. In addition the Cook Government had taken the initial steps to raise two expeditionary forces for active service overseas. This was necessary because the Defence Act did not permit the Federal Government to send its peacetime land forces overseas.

When Senator Pearce assumed ministerial control of the Department of Defence in September 1914 his immediate tasks, which were military rather than naval, were:

(a) To maintain the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force in German New Guinea;
(b) To complete all preparations necessary for Major General Bridges’ first contingent of the A.I.F. to embark and sail, with naval escorts, to its overseas destination.
(c) To complete the mobilisation of the second contingent of the A.I.F. to enable it to proceed overseas. It consisted of the 4th Infantry Brigade, A.I.F. Two days before the Cook Government went out of office Colonel John Monash had been appointed to command this brigade.

Pearce said: “It will probably come as a surprise to many Australians when I say that in the early stages of the organisation of our military overseas forces I was subjected to some very bitter criticism on the question of the appointment of Colonel John Monash . . . [to] the A.I.F.” What caused this criticism? Although Monash was born in Melbourne his parents, who died before Federation, had come from Prussia. Pearce said: “A whispering campaign began against Monash” and that “It was said that he had strong German sympathies”. But Pearce said that he was “quite satisfied that Monash was loyal” and so nothing was done by the Fisher Government to cancel Monash’s appointment to the A.I.F. Pearce said that: “If I had listened to gossip and slander, as I was urged to do, Monash would never have gone to the War”. In taking this stand in defence of Monash, Pearce displayed very considerable and indeed very unusual moral courage.

In May 1915 Major General Bridges, when commanding the 1st Australian Division in the Gallipoli campaign, was mortally wounded in action. Senator Pearce, with Cabinet approval, sent his C.G.S., Major General Legge, to take over Bridges duties. Legge had done good work as Australia’s first wartime Chief of the General Staff and he had been of great assistance to Pearce in this appointment. He had earlier done much of the planning of the Universal Training scheme which Pearce had put into operation in July 1911. At this time he was one of the best of the senior staff officers that the Australian Army had produced. His military career had been superimposed on a good academic and legal background. He was a
graduate in Arts and Law of the University of Sydney; and before he became a regular officer in 1894 he was practising at the New South Wales Bar.

Senator Pearce's new Chief of the General Staff in 1915 was Colonel (later Major-General) G.G.H. Irving (1867-1937). His family had close connections with the University of Melbourne. His father Lieutenant-Colonel M.H. Irving, MA (Oxon) held the Chair of Classical and Comparative Philology in the University of Melbourne from 1856 to 1871; and his son Brigadier R.G.H. Irving (1898-1965), late of the Australian Staff Corps, occupied in the University of Melbourne, at the time of his death in December 1965, the appointment of Secretary of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee.

Pearce's work load, as Minister for Defence, continued to increase and in July 1915 he was obliged to take action in Parliament to have the Ministry increased from seven to eight members. In moving the second reading of the Ministers of State Bill 1915 in the Senate, on 9 July 1915, Pearce said:

...in the early years of Federation, our total expenditure on defence, both Naval and Military, was less than £1,000,000. Our defence system of today was not then in operation. We had a defence system of the most casual character. Under that system it was possible for the Minister to give attention to details on comparatively minor matters. After an interjection Senator Pearce went on to say:

The necessity for systematised defence had not then become so apparent. It was only after world-wide events of great significance that the truth was brought home to Australia that our defence system must become a real one. I confess, without any compunction, that the event which first awakened me to its true significance was the Russo-Japanese war. Prior to that struggle I had regarded the question of defence as an extremely minor one for Australia. But the war forced upon me the conviction that we had been drawn into the maelstrom of world politics, and from that time onwards defence to me became a matter of absorbing interest and of vital importance to the Commonwealth.

This Bill was assented to and on 12 July 1915; a Minister for Navy, the Hon J.A. Jensen, was sworn in; and a separate Department of the Navy was created. This change reduced the work load of Senator Pearce.

Four months later Pearce informed the Senate that the Prime Minister, Mr Hughes, had accepted an invitation of the British Government to go to London to obtain a more intimate knowledge of the war situation. Mr Hughes left Sydney, secretly, on 16 January 1916 for London via Canada and the U.S.A. During his absence of seven months from Australia, Pearce acted as Prime Minister; but he continued to discharge concurrently his duties as Minister for Defence.

In the month following the Prime Minister's departure for London, Senator Pearce made an important announcement concerning Australia's expanding war effort. He announced on 9 February 1916 that the Australian Government had decided to increase the fighting strength of the A.I.F. from two to five divisions. Two of these divisions, he said — to be designated the 4th Australian Division and the 5th Australian Division — were to be formed in Egypt; and the remaining division — to be designated the 3rd Australian Division — was to be formed in Australia. The 3rd Australian Division with 1st reinforcements — a total of 20,092 all ranks — embarked in Australia during the months of May and June 1916 and sailed for England where it concentrated in Southern Command under the command of Major General Monash.

Since becoming the wartime Minister for Defence, Senator Pearce had often spoken in Parliament of the inadequacies of his Department's system of administration. In those times the Commonwealth Public Service did not produce officers who were skilled in high level organisation and methods work. The Department's daily administration did not pass the tests of war; and it was strongly criticised in the press and in Parliament. Defects came to notice first on a major scale in the Paymaster's Branch. There the staff, without efficient higher direction, had failed to cope effectively with the unforeseen expansion in the volume and complexity of their work. After obtaining advice from Brigadier General Sir Robert Anderson, a former Town Clerk of the City of Sydney and a forerunner of the present day Management experts, Pearce re-organised this branch and improved its direction and control. In 1916 a number of public accountants were
appointed to the Department from private practice.

It had also become evident to Senator Pearce that the immense volume of purchases by the Department for its fighting services could not be carried out efficiently and promptly unless better trained and more highly experienced officers were employed than those who had sufficed for peacetime requirements. In order to correct this unsatisfactory situation Pearce had established, in November 1915, a Contracts and Supply Board and henceforth all Departmental purchases were made only through this board. By taking advantage of its strong position in dealing with tenderers, in breaking down combines when necessary, and in ruling out undesirable contractors, this Board, under the chairmanship of Mr M.M. Maguire,19 who was the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Defence, prevented exploitation and profiteering at the expense of the public.

Nevertheless, rumours of irregularities in administration continued to cause public anxiety. Senator Pearce was obliged to take notice of this situation too. On 2 July 1917 a Royal Commission was appointed to investigate the entire business administration of the Department of Defence. Under the chairmanship of Mr W.G. McBeath20 the Commission conducted its investigations; and it issued its findings and recommendations in four separate reports.

On 22 March 1918 The Age announced that “three more reports” of the Royal Commission had been made public the previous day. The Commissioners criticised severely the Department of Defence's accounting and paying systems. This criticism, The Age said, “constituted a most amazing and damning indictment of the Department, and it abounds with instances of lax administration, irregularities, and official ineptitude”. The Commissioners recommended that the “business sections” of the Department be directed and controlled, under the Minister's direction by a Business Board of Administration. Senator Pearce approved of this and the Hon George Swinburne became the Board’s full-time chairman.

Senator Pearce made a public statement on the work of the Royal Commission and by way of conclusion he said:

I do not claim for myself or the military staff infallibility, but I do say, without hesitation that we have tackled the onerous and respon-

sible task with all our powers, and that, when all the circumstances are taken into consideration, we have achieved a very fair measure of success. In almost every belligerent country similar complaints have been or are being made, while in some charges of corruption have been laid at the door of the army administration. Happily, nothing of the kind in regard to Australia is mooted in these reports.21

At this time, when Pearce was having to withstand these attacks against his competence to administer the Department of Defence, the German High Command launched on 21 March 1918 a gigantic offensive on the Western Front in Europe. The Allied forces, in taking the first impact of this offensive, were greatly demoralised and until order was restored it was widely believed that the Allied forces faced imminent disaster. But in due course the tide turned in favour of the Allies. At last the “cease fire” was sounded at 11 a.m. on the 11 November 1918 in all theatres of war at sea, on land and in the air in response to a request by the German Government for an armistice.

An important contribution towards the bringing about of this military result had been made by the commander whom Pearce had succeeded in having placed in command of the A.I.F. on the Western Front in June 1918, after a very distinguished career as a divisional commander — Lieutenant General Sir John Monash.22

With the “Cease fire” the war was over as far as the fighting soldier was concerned. But it was not, figuratively speaking, a “Cease fire” for Senator Pearce. The immediate post-war problems which crowded in on him were as onerous and as voluminous as were those with which he had to cope during the conduct of the war.

His Work in London in 1919.

With the cessation of hostilities the Australian Government was faced with the need to disband its overseas war organisation and to repatriate to Australia as quickly as possible about 180,000 members of the A.I.F. and civil workers engaged on war work overseas.

General Monash was appointed Director General of Repatriation and Demobilisation, with headquarters in London, and he took up duty there on 1 December 1918.23 He worked under the ministerial direction of the Prime Minister.
Minister, Mr Hughes, until, early in the following month, when Mr Hughes went to France to take part in the long drawn out preparations for the Peace Conference which took place at Versailles in June 1919. In France Mr Hughes could give Monash in London little if any assistance. The Australian Government decided that Monash's work in London needed to be presided over by a Senior Australian Minister and so, on 20 December 1918, the Acting Prime Minister, Mr W.A. Watt, informed the House of Representatives that Senator Pearce had consented to go to London for this purpose.

This announcement of Senator Pearce's mission to London in 1919 released a torrent of public abuse in Australia against Senator Pearce. Much of it originated in R.S.L. sub-branches and it reflected on the whole an appalling ignorance, on the part of the critics, of the functions of the Stateman and the Soldier in matters of policy and its execution. Pearce said himself that: "It was urged that . . . Sir John Monash could quite adequately do the job. What these critics did not realise was that I, as a Minister, could and did go direct to British ministers to obtain ships and facilities for the demobilisation of our soldiers. Sir John Monash could not do this but could only make his representations to officers like himself." On the 16 January 1919 The Argus published the full text of a long letter from Senator Pearce to the Victorian Branch of the R.S.L. in which he pointed out that:

The Army of which you have been part is admitted to have been the best equipped, the best paid, and the best fed of all the armies taking part. Your leadership has been good. All these factors have been the foundation upon which your success has rested. Without them your success would not have been as great as it has. These things did not merely happen, or come by chance, but were the direct and unquestionable result of administration. How has that equipment for instance been provided? Let me remind you that before this war — from 1910 to 1913 I, as Minister for Defence, was by my administration preparing Australia for war. During these years by strenuous work . . . I built up equipment in Australia of a modern type spending no less than over £600,000 to this end, with the result that when the time came for our first divisions to enter the field we had arms and equipment with which to send them forth — the direct result of the expenditure referred to.

Pearce sailed from Melbourne on 25 January 1919 and he arrived in London on 19 March 1919. This was his first visit to England since his attendance at the Imperial Conference in London in 1911. His six months in London on this occasion was spent in work of great benefit to Australia; it was also work which dealt with wider aspects of the war than repatriation and demobilisation. He said that: "Among the matters I had to deal with whilst in London was that of the financial adjustment with the British Government of charges for expenditure in and arising out of the war." The Australian Government had undertaken to finance all its war efforts, and the disentangling and dissection of accounts was a gigantic task." He was assisted in this work by the Australian High Commissioner in London, Mr Andrew Fisher, and his staff.

The financial relations which had developed between the British and Australian Governments in connection with war and post-war expenditure, and particularly that connected with the repatriation and demobilisation of the A.I.F., covered a wide range and involved large sums of money. On matters of financial adjustment with the War Office in London, Senator Pearce said:

The Australian Government provided or paid for the equipment of the A.I.F., with the exception of the Air Force, heavy artillery and motor transport. At the end of the war practically all the equipment on charge to the A.I.F. was partly worn and the War Office agreed to give the Australian Government new equipment, in exchange for the part-worn equipment, for five infantry divisions and two light horse divisions. They also made us a free gift of 100 aeroplanes."

In due course the work in Europe, which Senator Pearce and the Australian Prime Minister had gone there to do, was finished. Mr W.M. Hughes, whose work on this occasion had reached its zenith in the previous month at the signing of the Treaty of Versailles between the Allies and Germany in the Palace of Versailles on Saturday 28 June 1919, was the first to go, accompanied by the Australian Minister for the Navy, Sir Joseph Cook. They left London by train on Tuesday 8 July 1919 for Plymouth. En route Mr Hughes addressed Australian troops staging at Sutton Veny,
where the A.I.F. Training Depot had been converted into a Holding Depot for troops awaiting embarkation for Australia. That same day the Prime Minister and the Minister for the Navy sailed from Plymouth for Australia where they disembarked at Melbourne on Saturday 30 August 1919.

Senator Pearce followed later. He sailed from Tilbury, on or about 27 September 1919, for Fremantle, accompanied by Lieutenant-General Sir Talbot Hobbs of Western Australia.

Any notions which had been held earlier that Senator Pearce’s visit to Great Britain was a “joy ride” were later dispelled by the evidence which emerged from the work he did there. His public statements were usually characterised by the completeness and accuracy of the information they contained. So after his arrival at Fremantle, on or about Thursday 30 October 1919, his press interview ran true to normal form and it makes interesting reading even today. In one part he said:

It was essential that there should have been an Australian Minister in London to meet British Ministers on an equal footing and to put forward Australia’s claims for just treatment. No official could initiate these matters which were those involving policy. Had there not been a responsible Minister in London these important questions would have had to be initiated in Australia, and passed through official channels, by Ministers who could not have had the full information that could be obtained on the spot.

He commented, also at this press interview in Perth, on the work of Repatriation and Demobilisation in the United Kingdom. This work had been almost completed at the end of October 1919 for there were only 18,281 Australian soldiers, munition workers and dependants left at the time in the United Kingdom. Very good work had been done, he said, by the Department of Repatriation and Demobilisation in London and the Federal Government had been very fortunate in having officers like General Sir William Birdwood, Lieutenant General Sir John Monash and Brigadier General T. Griffiths to direct and control this work. Senator Pearce went on to say that:

Some time prior to leaving London I gave instructions for the closing down of such camps as could be conveniently closed and the concentration of troops at Sutton Veny. This was arranged accordingly. Instructions were also given that from 1 October 1919 the Repatriation and Demobilisation Staff were to be amalgamated with that of Headquarters, A.I.F. with Brigadier-General Jess in charge.

This has been a fast gallop through six important months of Pearce’s ministerial career in London; we have hardly had time to look at the mile-posts as we raced along; but time is running out and we must now turn to his task of reconstructing Australia’s post-war Army.

Australia’s Post-War Army.

At the opening of the new year in 1920 the Australian defence situation, administratively, was as follows: Senator Pearce’s Department of Defence administered the Army and the Air Force; and the Air Force was still a branch of the Army. The Navy was still administered by the separate and independent Department of the Navy.

The Federal Government set up separate committees to formulate plans for the nation’s post-war naval, military and air defence. The military committee had its first meeting, on 22 January 1920, in Melbourne; it was presided over by Senator Peace who explained that the problem of the re-organisation of Australia’s naval, military and air forces would be reviewed by the several committees appointed for the purpose with due regard to the experience which had been gained in the late war and with due regard, also, to Australia’s conditions at home and overseas. The military committee, under the chairmanship of General Chauvel, submitted its report, dated 6 February 1920, to Senator Pearce.

A meeting of the Council of Defence took place in Melbourne, on 9 February 1920, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, Mr Hughes, to consider and co-ordinate the naval, military and air defence schemes which had been worked out by the respective committees during the previous three weeks. Senator Pearce attended this meeting, accompanied by his military and air advisers — Lieut-General Chauvel, Lieutenant General Monash, Major General Legge (C.G.S.), Major General Sir Brudenell White (C.G.S. designate) and Lieutenant Colonel Richard Williams (Air Force).

Seven months later, on the 17 September 1920, Senator Pearce made a policy statement...
It was based on the reports of the naval, military and air committees and the comments of the Council of Defence. After referring to the effects of the late war on the nation's defence system and pointing out that a fresh policy had become necessary in consequence, he said that the Government adhered to the policy of maintaining its military forces on a Citizen Force basis; that permanent troops were to be maintained only in sufficient numbers to administer and instruct the Citizen Forces, and to provide the nuclei of certain technical services. Later in this speech Pearce said that the Government adhered to the policy of Universal Training which had been applied for the previous nine years; and that the peace establishment of this new army would be approximately 130,000 all ranks.

This post war part-time field army adopted the divisional organisation of the A.I.F. on the Western Front in Europe. This change involved the grouping of infantry brigades into divisions and the numbering of formations and units in accordance with the system that had operated in the A.I.F. Hitherto the largest tactical formation in Australia's peacetime forces had been the infantry brigade; but henceforth it was to be the division. This new organisation demanded larger establishments of senior commanders and staff officers. Early in February 1921 Senator Pearce announced the names of the seven new divisional commanders whose appointments became effective on 1 May 1921. All these divisional commanders, except one cavalry commander, had been subordinate commanders of General Monash on the Western Front in the late war; and only one of these divisional commanders was a regular officer. Each divisional commander was to be responsible direct to the Military Board then in Melbourne. The scheme lowered the status of the District Commandants and changed their title to that of Base Commandant. Senator Pearce explained that this re-organisation was not big enough to provide a command appointment for General Monash; but the Prime Minister proposed to invite him to become a military member of the Council of Defence. Monash subsequently became a military member of this Council to date 13 April 1921. But in this Council, which was advisory and which did not meet regularly, the Government could not make the optimum use of Monash's military knowledge and high level command experience. The Army would have gained greater benefits from his services if he had been a Military Member of the Military Board. But that would have cost money even if only to give the Chief of the Australian General Staff equivalent rank.

Two comments on this re-organisation of Australia's land forces after the War of 1914-18 may be of interest even at this late stage. Organisationally, it was a mistake, some may consider, to have truncated this new organisation for the field army at the divisional level. The five divisions could have been grouped under two corps headquarters. This arrangement would have provided training and experience for two corps commanders — one a regular commander and the other a non-regular commander. This would have provided more career prospects for the officers of the Australian Staff Corps also.

A second grave defect in this new organisation — an organisation in which the C.M.F. provided the field army — was the failure to provide for a general officer of the C.M.F. to be a full Military Member of the Military Board. This defect was surely indefensible on any military grounds. Any financial objections could have been overruled as negligible.

There is just time now to take a last look at Pearce in another role which again took him overseas but, this time, to Washington.

The Washington Conference in Disarmament, 1921-22.

In July 1921 the United States Government issued invitations to a number of governments, including the British, French, Italian and Japanese, to attend a conference in Washington. Its purpose was, mainly, to devise a scheme to arrest the ruinous competition, among the major powers, in naval armaments. Political problems relating to the Pacific were also considered.

The British Government accepted the invitation to attend on behalf of the British Empire and it requested Australia and other Dominions to nominate delegates to attend with the British representatives. Mr A.J. Balfour led the British Empire Delegation which included Senator Pearce as Australia's representative.

The Conference opened in Washington on 12 November 1921. Its four principal figures were: Mr A.J. Balfour (U.K.), Mr Charles Evans
Hughes (U.S.A.), Mr Briand (France) and Baron Kato (Japan). The conference was a long drawn out one of three months duration; and it ended on 6 February 1922.  

Pearce’s performance at this Conference impressed Mr Balfour very favourably. Balfour, by that time an elder British statesman and one of the pre- eminent European political figures of his age. In War Memoirs of David Lloyd George, Mr Lloyd George has bequeathed to us a personality sketch of Mr A.J. Balfour in which he said of him: “His was a trained mind of the finest quality, of the ripest experience, of the greatest penetration, piercing and dissecting problems and laying them bare before his colleagues for their examination and judgment.” (Vol.1, p.607). Mr Balfour had great confidence in Pearce’s judgment and he had private discussions with Pearce daily on the business of the Conference. These consultations were stimulating and beneficial experiences for Senator Pearce. Although he was a senior and widely experienced Australian Minister of State, when he went to this Washington Conference, he enriched his knowledge and experience there still further and his biographer, the late Sir Peter Heydon, has told us that: “The Washington Conference widened Pearce’s horizon and gave him a broader concept of Australia’s future international role”; and that he discovered during this visit to the U.S.A. a “lack of adequate information about Australia overseas even in most friendly countries.”  

Senator Pearce reported on his attendance at this Conference in a speech in the Senate in Melbourne on 27 July 1922. He expressed some judgments in this speech which, for the age in which he was speaking, had elements of prophecy while others, in the course of time, proved to be wrong. He foresaw the importance of good relations between Australia and Asian countries; his estimates of Japanese intentions were cautious and in part erroneous; and he predicted that the U.S.A. would in due course end its isolation.  

We have already seen that the course of Pearce’s political life never ran smoothly. In the post-war era his detractors were as active and as vicious as they had been in previous times. A leader in The Sunday Times of Perth, on 11 February 1923, said: “He [Pearce] put in a bill for 8500 for a little jaunt to Washington, where he was merely a mole on the back of the Conference.”

The Summing Up

We have only been able to take a few fleeting glances at Senator Peace, as he journeyed along the roadway of life discharging his public duties quietly and promptly and with efficiency and fearlessness. But time is fast running out. So after a few general observations we must close this lecture commemorating the centenary of Senator Pearce’s birth at Mt Barker in South Australia.  

Pearce was a tall, well-built man physically and in his earlier years he had rather long, unruly hair. He lived through his period of immaturity, as a politician, quickly. By the time he first entered the Federal Cabinet in 1908 he had matured. He had ceased to be arrogant and impatient with members of the Opposition; and his speeches had ceased to be dogmatic and provocative. He was no orator as Brutus was. But as a Minister his speeches were well prepared and informative; although they were rarely inspiring. He enjoyed a joke and he could see the humorous side of things; but he was not himself either witty or humorous; and he wisely made no attempt to be the one or the other in public speeches or in private conversation. Because his manner was discreet, restrained and undemonstrative, political audiences did not idolise him as they did Sir George Reid and Mr W.M. Hughes.  

Pearce was a quiet and even tempered man; and in public he seldom showed agitation or excitement. He had none of the behavioural characteristics or physical features which cartoonists, lampoonists and feature writers eagerly look for in public men. He was indeed a modest and undemonstrative man who shunned publicity.  

In 1910 Pearce had a nervous breakdown. It had been caused by worry and overwork; and when he recovered he took effective precautions to prevent a recurrence. These precautions included a number of refusals. He refused henceforth to take official work home to do; he refused to meet people at home to transact official business there; and he refused to review decisions once he had made them unless he was convinced that new evidence demanded revision. He worked 8 hours daily; he worked a 5 1/2 day week; and even during the war he did not change these working conditions and hours.
Pearce’s standards of behaviour were unimpeachable. During his parliamentary career no suspicion of corruption or scandal was ever associated with his name. He amassed no great fortune; he sought no honours; and he was awarded but few despite the length and achievements of his public service. But his name will live on for it is inseparable from Australia’s defence history since Federation. It is associated with important Defence conferences of his time; it is linked with the building up of Australia’s own navy; it is connected with the creation of the Royal Military College at Dun troon and the Royal Australian Naval College at Jervis Bay; it is linked with Australia’s first national service training scheme; it is linked with the building up, the operational achievements and the demobilisation of the first A.I.F.; and his name is associated with the reconstruction of Australia’s army after the War of 1914-18.

Sir George Foster Pearce died in Melbourne on 24 June 1952, aged 82 years. Tributes were paid to his work in the Federal Parliament on 6 August 1952. The Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, and the Leader of the Federal Opposition, Dr H.V. Evatt, spoke. Another speaker was Pearce’s wartime Prime Minister, Mr W.M. Hughes. He knew Pearce longer and more intimately than either of the other two speakers, for Hughes and Pearce had been original members of the First Federal Parliament. They had shared together in moments of triumph and in times of crises, the dust and ashes of success. Let us therefore close by listening to the words of Mr Hughes, who was no mean orator, when he said in the House of Representatives in Canberra on this occasion:

It was my privilege to know the late Sir George Pearce intimately. We entered the Parliament together and for many years were closely associated as fellow members of Parliament and as members of the same governments.

He was one of the best administrators I have known. He was tireless in his efforts to serve his country and to promote the well-being and interests of members of the defence forces and of the people generally. It is inevitable that memories of the past should crowd in upon me on the occasion when we are lamenting the passing of a great parliamentarian. Sir George Pearce may be so called, because he passed the greater part of his life in parliaments.

Nobody is better able than I am to speak of his many great qualities. He had wide vision and ripe judgment. Keenly alive to the vital issues at stake in World War I, he bent all his efforts to perfecting our defence. He had a gift for details, and the defence forces of Australia, which covered themselves with glory, owed much to his sleepless care. He stood in the forefront of the governments of his day. His outstanding quality, however, was his gift of administration. It has been my fortune to be associated in governments with men who had great oratorical powers and wide learning, but whose administrative qualities fell short of perfection. Sir George Pearce, as a parliamentarian, administrator and statesman earned for himself a high place on the roll of distinguished men who guided and led Australia through its darkest years. During my absence in England in 1916, he was the Acting Prime Minister. I can say of him that he was a man upon whom one could surely rely. He was my friend, faithful and just to me.

Notes

1. A Public Lecture delivered in the Copland Theatre of the University of Melbourne on Wednesday evening 30 September 1970 to commemorate the Centenary of the birth of the Rt Hon. Sir George Foster Pearce at Mount Barker in South Australia on 14 January 1870. No changes of substance have been made in its text since it was delivered.


6. Pearce, Carpenter to Cabinet., p.72.

7. Since this paper was written the following relevant book has been published: Dr John Barrett, Falling In. Published by Hale and Iremonger, Sydney, 1979, pp.xii 320 including Index.

8. Professor R.A. Preston, Canada’s R.M.C. Published by the University of Toronto Press for the Royal Military College of Canada, 1969, p.50.

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pp434-437. See also Mr C.C. Coulthard-Clark's Dunroon. Allen and Unwin, Sydney. Chapter 1. This work of substance and authority was not published, however, when this Pearce paper was written 16 years earlier.


14. For Order-in-Council authorising the transfer see C.A.G. No.55, dated 10 August 1914, p.1381.


16. See Warren Perry, “Lieutenant-General James Gordon Legge”. Published in the Victorian Historical Journal. August 1977, pp.179-226. This is the most comprehensive biographical research paper yet published on General Legge. It had not been published at the time this Pearce paper was delivered as a lecture on 30 September 1970.


23. For the achievements of this Department see The History of the Department of Repatriation and Demobilisation, A.I.F. from November 1918 to September 1919 with an Introduction by its Director-General, Lieutenant-General Sir John Monash. Published by the Department in London in 1919, pp.130 including graph, tables and appendixes.


25. For related but later work at the Admiralty, London by the Australian Director of Navy Accounts, Mr Ralph Abercrombie, see Warren Perry, The Naval and Military Club, Melbourne: A History of its first Hundred Years. Published by the Club, 1981, p.252.


29. This Department of Repatriation and Demobilisation was a Department within the A.I.F. It was not a Department of State.


33. The Herald, Melbourne, 8 Feb., 1921, p.1.

34. C.A.G., No.38, dated April 1921, pp.767-768.


SCHOOL ENROLMENT AGREEMENT IN QUEENSLAND

The Queensland Government's agreement to amend legislation relating to school enrolment ages will be of great benefit to Defence families, the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel Ros Kelly said recently.

Mrs Kelly said she had been advised by the Queensland Education Minister Brian Littleproud that the Queensland Government proposed to amend its legislation by the middle of this year.

"This change will overcome the problems experienced by many Defence families whose children start school in another state but are below the starting age for Queensland schools," Mrs Kelly said.

"This will prevent any educational disadvantage for these children."

She said similar changes are proposed for pre-schools.

"These changes will overcome a situation that has caused problems for a number of Defence families and their children.

"Many Defence families have outlined the difficulties experienced when their children who had already started school were required to return to pre-school.

"This was particularly difficult for some children who had already spent a full year at school in another State," she said.

Mrs Kelly said she was delighted with the Queensland Government’s decision and knew that Defence families would welcome the move.
Mobility for Infantry Engaged in Low-Level Operations

Major S. F. Larkins, RAInf

General

A low-level conflict is defined as one in which the opponent engages in politically motivated hostile acts, ranging from non-violent infringements of, to small scale military action against Australian sovereignty or interests.

This article considers the mobility problems encountered by conventional infantry units against the background of low-level operations. It examines the concept of using motorcycles as a possible means of overcoming the mobility limitations currently evident, thereby significantly enhancing the capability of the infantry battalion in this environment.

Low-Level Operations

The probability of a low-level conflict developing either in isolation or in concert with a higher level of enemy activity in Australia or its Territories, is a contentious issue. Whether or not an antagonist could land, sustain and extract forces in pursuance of such a strategy was critically examined in LtCol Crawshaws article.

As was demonstrated on Exercise K-83, small groups of enemy operating in civilian vehicles, can move with relative impunity over much of our area of direct defence interest, even in the face of a significant military effort.

The fact that the enemy force in that exercise was largely indistinguishable from the local population, was not inserted from a neighbouring country, had organic non-military transport, and was logistically supported from "on-shore" presents significantly different circumstances to those which could be reasonably expected in a "real" contingency.

However, the current rate of change in the economic and military balance of power in our region coupled with alarming demographic trends and political instability in neighbouring states provides fuel for any number of scenarios to be considered. The possibility of low-level operations against us cannot be discounted; neither can higher level conflict particularly in the medium to long term.

For better or worse, we have grasped the nettle of low-level operations as the most credible near term Defence contingency. The focal scenario of current ADF planning represents a considerable divergence from the requirements of the medium-level conflict contingencies upon which doctrine and procurement policy were previously based. Existing organisations and equipment have to be adapted for use in what is for most of our Army, still an unfamiliar operating environment. In adapting to meet the challenges of the low-level operations environment, maximum consideration should be given to innovation aimed at enhancing existing capability, rather than radical alteration to force structure and major equipment procurement.

Area of Operations

The north of Australia is seen as the focus of our area of Direct Military Interest in the low-level scenario. Because it is closest to neighbouring land masses from which incursions could be launched, and the fact that it contains significant natural resources and associated economic activity, it is perhaps one of the most likely areas in which a dispute could develop.

Stretching from the Pilbarra to the Pacific coast, the land area concerned is contained within a radius of 2000 km from Darwin as the geographic centre. The area is characterised by a low population density, large distances between centres of population, economic and defence activity, and a limited transport and communications infrastructure.

The terrain is varied in type, but is generally open. Large areas of wooded savannah grassland, and semi-arid plains extend across much of the region. The area thus defined also includes large expanses of desert, including the Gibson, Simpson and Great Sandy Deserts. Close country, including tropical forest, is found primarily on the Pacific seaboard extending west into the mountains and in the far north, to the Gulf of Carpentaria. Mountainous areas exist in the Kimberleys, the Pilbarra (Hammersley
and Chichester ranges) and on the Pacific seaboard.

Much of the area is negotiable by military vehicles travelling off-road. However, operations in the “Wet” can be severely hampered by marked deterioration in trafficability. As the road network is so limited, a significant level of off-road use must be expected of other than third line logistic vehicles.

Mobility

For the purposes of this article, the following definitions are applied.

a. Strategic Mobility. The capacity of a force to deploy into a theatre of operations, from an outside base.

b. Operational Mobility. The capacity of a force to be redeployed within a theatre of operations.

c. Tactical Mobility. The capacity of a force to manoeuvre tactically, to win encounters with the enemy.

ODF infantry battalions are optimised for a high degree of strategic mobility, primarily by the use of transport aircraft. The provision of operational mobility is effected generally by the support of rotary wing (R/W) aircraft, and tactical fixed wing aircraft. A limited amount of wheeled transport is also available, but space and weight limitations in supporting aircraft normally preclude the carriage of useful numbers of vehicles in conjunction with a troop move, either strategic or operational.

At the tactical mobility level, the capacity, of the ODF is almost exclusively pedestrian. It can be argued that R/W aircraft and wheeled transport offset this to some extent, but the limited availability of these resources is such that it is rare that more than one sub-unit at a time can be allocated sufficient aircraft or trucks for a simultaneous move of all personnel. In any case, once the supporting agency departs, the infantrymen revert to “shanks pony”. While this presents no problem in close country operations or urban warfare, the rate of movement thus afforded is inadequate for the more open country which typifies our area of interest. This inadequacy applies to low and higher level operations, given the very limited military resources available.

The remaining formations of the Army lack the strategic mobility of the ODF in that they are less easily transported by air. They would need to deploy by road (with major logistic and security implications), sea (limited capacity) or rail (which extends only to Alice Springs, and would involve the difficulties of gauge changes in many cases). However, these formations do have a higher operational and tactical mobility because of the larger number of wheeled and tracked vehicles in their inventories. Non ODF infantry battalions suffer mobility penalties similar to those of their light scales colleagues, unless they are given the benefit of APC or B vehicle support.

Enemy Military Operations

Low level contingency scenarios are based on the supposition that small parties of enemy personnel could operate in the area of concern, in support of the political objectives of a nation in dispute with Australia.

Foreseeable enemy action embraces small scale raids on specific military, economic or political objectives, or perhaps longer term harassment and attack of the same objectives by small mobile parties of enemy similar to the scenario of Exercise K-83. Although there are difficulties associated with the conduct of the latter category of operation as described by Lt Col Crawshaw, it would by no means be impossible particularly in the early stages of conflict, or if conducted in concert with disturbances in another region.

The Response

To contain enemy activity, we look to a “Vital Asset Protection” strategy, supplemented by extensive Reconnaissance and Surveillance. However, all this can become very manpower intensive, and the ADF manpower bill quickly spirals. “Large scale military operations in the area, to control designated assets, could only be supported with a massive logistic effort”. Because of the limited infrastructure of the area, a support operation of unprecedented scale would be required to sustain a major deployment in the area, such as will be undertaken for Exercise K-89. If such an operation had to be sustained for an indefinite period in the face of an apparent threat, our capability to sustain it must be questioned. Quite apart from the logistic difficulties, a major deployment of conventional forces against a small number of enemy could well work in favour of the enemy.

In such a situation, the ADF response could very easily be made to appear out of all proportion to the perceived threat. The prospect
of a mobile, fleeting enemy evading a seemingly inept and cumbersome response force would be humiliating and damaging for us, and encouraging to the hostile nation and its supporters. Indeed, such a result must be considered a primary objective of our low level antagonist.

There is also the danger of deploying a significant component of the ADF, and generating the enormous associated logistic effort leaving precious little in reserve to deal with possible developments elsewhere.

It is desirable, therefore that the best possible use is made of a limited force deployed as a counter to low level military action. Any form of combat power multiplier should be considered in attempting to limit the size of the deployed force, until of course the situation develops beyond the “low level threshold” (however that is defined).

The Regional Force Surveillance Units (RFSU) based in the area of interest are the first level of a military response. With the imminent redeployment of 2 Cav Regt to Darwin, a unit of appreciable size and capability will supplement the RFSU. However, to counter the insertion of a force of small groups across a wide area, greater resources than those available in the immediate area would be required. The insertion of a conventional infantry based force, probably based on the ODF, is the next logical step, and was practised on Exercise K-83. As was glaringly evident then, and is still the case, the effectiveness of the battalion is severely limited by its lack of tactical mobility.

Even if the Vital Asset protection role is taken over by the ARES, the effectiveness of infantry battalions as instruments of containment or destruction of the enemy is severely limited by their lack of mobility. Mobility is more important than firepower, if we are to accept the “credible contingency” scenario. The ability to provide timely large area coverage is important. B vehicle or APC support can create as many problems as it solves. The escalation in logistic effort and manpower to support large scale vehicle operations would be of critical significance. At the same time the human cargo is little more than ballast for much of the time, making little real contribution to the coverage of the area concerned.

However, a battalion in its current state can do little more than employ a Key Point security approach, man static OPs, or with the limited movements assets available, dispatch the occasional “knee-jerk” response group of up to company size. Such an approach is inherently manpower intensive, and tends to cede the initiative to the antagonist. To be more effective, the battalion must be able to adopt a more positive posture. With enhanced mobility the battalion could make use of highly mobile patrols to locate and fix the enemy groups, and then summons, if needed, an airmobile response force of up to company strength.

The requirement exists for a means of increasing the tactical mobility of infantry units, but without significantly degrading the levels of operational and strategic mobility inherent in the organisation and equipment of these units in the air mobile and air landing contexts.

It is considered that the use of motorcycles of an appropriate configuration can fulfil the requirements described above, significantly enhancing the effectiveness and flexibility of infantry units operating in the low level operations environment.

Historical Analogy

The Australian Light Horse of WW 1, and the Colonial Mounted Infantry of the Boer War demonstrated the utility of a highly mobile infantry force compared to their pedestrian counterparts. In both instances, the horses were primarily used as an agency of tactical and operational mobility. They were not “fighting vehicles” as such; with the notable exception of Beersheeba, and a number of small scale actions, these units fought dismounted.

In the open expanses in which they operated, manoeuvre and mobility were the key elements of success. In the Boer War particularly, the analogy is most appropriate; the Colonial Mounted Infantry units were the first to put effective pressure on the fast moving Boer Commandos.

Modern Applications

The resurrection of a horse/camel mounted force was examined some years ago. Livestock do offer many advantages over vehicles, particularly in the case of Regional Force Surveillance Units. The exploits and experience of the WW II Northern Observer Units provide some interesting and relevant lessons for their modern day counterparts. However, as was admitted by Maj Guy in his article, the use of livestock mounts by units who are normally based outside the Area of Operations, such as those likely to
constitute a response force, is not a practical option.

There are major drawbacks associated with the use of livestock. The skills needed to support the formation and maintenance of a horse/camel mounted unit are not widely available. Horsemanship and livestock care were imbued in our Light Horsemen as a result of their largely rural upbringing. Most of our soldiers are "urbanites" and are more at ease with motorcycles than with animals. Horsebreakers, farriers, veterinaries and saddlers would need to be identified and recruited, or trained, and the soldiers themselves trained to ride and care for their mounts.

Livestock also lack the endurance of machines; a statement of the obvious perhaps, but a fact often overlooked. A study of Light Horse and Imperial Camel Corps operations in Palestine and Syria puts some of the limitations of livestock into perspective. Distances covered in tactical manoeuvre were generally in the order of 30-40 km per day. The animals were just as susceptible to exhaustion as their riders, and required considerably more in the way of daily attention than would be the case with a motorcycle.

Perhaps the single most detrimental aspect is the lack of compatibility with strategic mobility resources that livestock would impose. They would preclude any form of air mobility, because of the difficulties involved in moving livestock in aircraft.

The Motorcycle Option
As was stated earlier, any options for improving the mobility of infantry forces in the low level environment should not result in a significant degradation of the existing capacity for strategic and operational redeployment; namely the airportability inherent in the organisation and equipment of the infantry battalion.

At first glance, this might appear to be a rather tall order, but it is the contention of the author that the use of motorcycles of a configuration similar to the in service Suzuki DR250s Patrol Motorcycles, could well provide an effective solution.

Motorcycles of this class, in conjunction with a suitable loading frame accommodating perhaps four bikes, could allow the transportation of riders and "mounts" in both fixed and rotary wing aircraft. The C 130 could have sufficient capacity for as many as 32 such vehicles and their riders; in other words, a platoon of motorcycle mounted infantry. The procurement of Sikorsky Blackhawk helicopters provides a significant improvement in capacity, range and underslung load performance over the ubiquitous UH-1H Iroquois. It is the contention of the author that the internal carriage of troops, and their motorcycles as an underslung load, is a practical option in these aircraft.

While it is immediately apparent that fewer numbers of "mounted infantry" would be thus transportable than would be the case with exclusively pedestrian infantry, the advantages should be equally apparent. As has been the case in numerous instances, both historically and on contemporary exercises, a platoon of soldiers able to influence the course of events at the site of an incident is patently better than any number some kilometres distant and unable to close the gap.

The Equipment Requirement
A number of criticisms may be addressed at the viability of motorcycles in this role. Many motorcycles are noisy, a characteristic that does not sit well with any self-respecting infantryman. Motorcycles require replenishment and maintenance. The vehicle must accommodate the rider, and his equipment; the term "light scales" is often a misnomer as far as the loads carried by individual soldiers is concerned. Wheeled vehicles have proven vulnerable to tyre staking in the north of Australia. Motorcyclists are vulnerable to hazards such as fences or more intentionally installed hazards of similar effect. On top of such considerations is of course the effect of the machines on the command and control of sections, platoons and companies thus equipped.

However, none of these problems are such that they cannot be adequately addressed by the application of either technical solutions, or a measure of flexibility and common sense.

Equipment Characteristics
As a starting point for determining specific elements of the equipment requirement, it is considered that an infantry patrol motorcycle should have the following principal characteristics;

- **Endurance.** The motorcycle should be capable of an un-refuelled range of 300-400 km, on an unsealed road at an average speed of 70 kmh. This provides a signifi-
Cycle Mounted Patrol Deployment.
1. Ground and release slung carry frame.
2. Troops deplane.
3. Unload cycles, and re-connect slung load.
4. Aircraft and troops depart LZ.

• **Operational Mobility**. It is essential that the motorcycle have significant operational mobility capacity independent of aircraft, or the capacity to operate off-road for a considerable period.

• **Capacity**. The motorcycle must be capable of carrying an infantry soldier equipped to marching order. The carriage of section weapons or a platoon radio must be provided for.

• **Reliability**. The machine is to be used separately from significant logistic support. It must be inherently simple, affording ease of operator maintenance. It should have a high (85-90%) probability of completing its battlefield mission without major subsystem failure due to mechanical or electrical breakdown. On such equipment, major subsystems would constitute;
  (1) Power Train, and
  (2) Suspension.

**Operating Requirements**

**Battlefield Mission.**

• **Duration**. The vehicle should be capable of operation over a 48-hr period, without the need for servicing, replacement or replenishment.

• **Distance**. A Mission distance of 200 km over the 48-hr period is considered appropriate, comprising:
  (1) 80 km on rough tracks,
  (2) 40 km cross country, and
  (3) 80 km on second class roads.

• **Operating Time**. It is anticipated that the vehicle would generally be subjected to up to twelve hours intense operation during the 48-hr period comprising;
  (1) 10% idling,
  (2) 45% cross country from rest to maximum safe speed,
  (3) 25% rough tracks from rest to maximum safe speed, and
  (4) 20% second class roads from rest to maximum safe speed.

**Automotive.**

• **Engine**. An air cooled, 4-stroke ULP fuelled engine is preferred. Air cooling is specified in the interests of simplicity. A 4-stroke engine is more amenable to noise reduction measures than a 2-stroke, and eliminates the need for pre mixed fuel. ULP is specified, as a motorcycle engine designed for ULP and without a catalytic converter, can
use either Super or ULP. A diesel engine would impose significant weight penalties in this application.

- **Transmission.** A drive chain system is preferred for reasons of simplicity.

- **Electrical.** A magneto based electrical system would be preferable, eliminating the need for a battery.

**Weight.** The vehicle should have an unladen mass not exceeding 135 kg, including CES carried on the machine.

**Maintenance.** The daily operator maintenance tasks should not take one man more than 10 minutes, using standard tools carried on the machine.

**Noise Levels.** It is essential that noise levels be kept to a minimum in the interests of reducing operator fatigue as well as the more obvious requirements of concealment. It may well be that measures to reduce noise could detract from the performance of the machine. The penalties would have to be considered and a compromise decided on.

**Tyre Staking.** Tyre staking is a major problem confronting wheeled vehicles operating off-road in northern Australia. While motorcycles are inherently less susceptible than larger more heavily laden vehicles, the problem remains, even if to a lesser extent. “Run-Flat” tyres are often cited as the universal panacea for this problem; however they provide an emergency solution only, in the case of vehicles with more than two wheel stations. Even then, they are only good for about fifty or so kilometres, before the tyre starts to disintegrate. In the case of motorcycles the utility of such tyres would have to be questionable as the effect on the rider and the suspension of the motorcycle would be detrimental at least. Trials are currently being undertaken to evaluate the utility of a tyre self sealant, as a means of combating staking. This latter approach is probably more likely to produce the results needed for the application envisaged. There are commercially available repair kits which are capable of speedy repair of staked tyres; these could also be an option in countering this rather significant problem. Combined with design features such as quick release wheels, such problems are unlikely to present the same difficulties as is the case with the more heavily loaded wheels of larger vehicles.

**Performance.** It is not considered appropriate to attempt to specify levels of performance at this stage, other than to suggest that characteristics such as gradability and torque power levels are probably of greater importance than speed and acceleration.

**Operational Employment.**

The employment of motorcycles in an infantry battalion would allow a considerable extension of the area of influence of the battalion itself, and of course its component elements down to section level. It is not necessary or even desirable that each of the rifle companies be simultaneously cycle-mounted; it is envisaged that one company group, with elements of support company, would provide an airborne assault force, capable of reacting to and destroying an enemy group once located and fixed by the mobile patrols.

The use of motorcycles would foreseeably result in a greater emphasis on section and platoon level operation. Just as in close country operations on foot, the demands of navigation and control would be considerable. However, motorcycles would provide an opportunity to get lost more quickly and by a greater margin than is currently the case. A change in navigation training may be warranted to provide soldiers with an alternative to the map/compass approach.

Infantrymen have often lamented the lack of a section radio. In this environment, small handheld VHF sets would greatly assist operations, allowing smaller groups to operate over wider areas, yet retaining a reasonable degree of communications between elements.

Just as the Light Horse operated in four-man sections, infantry elements based on a fire team of four men might be more appropriate than a seven to nine man section.

An increased logistic burden is immediately apparent. However, the experience of the RFSU and their predecessors should be drawn on to address the problems of rations, water and POL resupply, recovery etc. The temptation of loading the soldier and his machine to beyond sensible limits as a means of reducing the frequency of resupply must be vigorously resisted. Medevac may also pose problems, but they are unlikely to be insurmountable, particularly if aviation support is available.

**Conclusion**

Low-level operations in northern Australia pose a wide range of problems for the planners...
of military operations. The “tyranny of distance”, associated logistic implications and the nature of the threat demand alternatives to the application of “combat power” in the conventional sense. Adaptation and innovation can provide effective solutions to some of our capability problems. Directing a major proportion of the ADF effort against such a threat would be a waste of resources leaving very little in reserve.

Infantry units have the manpower, can be easily deployed, are relatively easily supported logistically, and have more than adequate firepower to deal with the low-level threat. What they currently lack is an effective means of covering the distances over which they would be expected to operate in the tactical environment.

Motorcycles offer the infantry battalion greatly enhanced tactical mobility without significantly degrading it’s inherent operational and strategic mobility. With their mobility thus improved, infantry battalions could then exert a much more effective presence against a low level antagonist.

Notes
(1) WOLFE, Maj K, “K 83: An Exercise With a Difference” Defence Force Journal No 42, Sept/Oct ’83
(2) CRAWSHAW, Lt Col R, “Low Level Conflict — A Closer Scrutiny” Defence Force Journal No 69, Mar/Apr ‘88
(3) JUCHA, Maj W. A, “Preparing to Defeat the Low Level Threat” Defence Force Journal No 60 Sept/Oct ’86

Major Larkins graduated from OCS in December 1976. He has served in Regimental appointments with 3 RAR, 2/4 RAR and 10 RSAR. He attended Division II of the British Army Staff Course at RMCS in 1987, and is currently posted as S02 Mobility Engineering Division, at the Engineering Development Establishment Maribyrnong.

Book Review

NO AUSTRALIAN NEED APPLY
by C. D. Coulthard-Clark.
Published by Allen & Unwin
Price $29.95.

Reviewed by Colonel John Buckley, OBE.

This is the story of Lieutenant General Gordon Legge, who played an important role in Australian military history before and during World War 1.

Legge was intensely Australian in outlook, but he was the loser in the battle between the Australian nationalists (generals) and the British Imperialist generals to keep Australian officers from high command on Gallipoli and in France. Hence the apt title. The British generals exhibited the same tactics in World War 2.

The author has carried out his research with great dedication and ability. It is a significant contribution to Australian history. Little has been written about Legge, although at various times he was Chief of the General Staff and Commander of the A.I.F. overseas (after the death of General Bridges on Gallipoli).

Coulthard-Clark infers that war historian Bean had his ‘pet’ generals and some of his conclusions on a few could be questioned. Likewise the Government-General, Munro Ferguson tried to interfere with higher appointments in the Australian Army, especially if the officers were “nationalist” in outlook.

It is about time Legge’s contribution to the progress and performance of the Australian Ar-
my was published. The author has done this in a sympathetic and understanding manner. The book is a worthy successor to his biography of Sir William Throsby Bridges — “A Heritage of Spirit”.

“No Australian Need Apply” — its a good book and I recommend it to all readers interested in Australian history. I hope Coulthard-Clark continues with his biographies; there is still much to be done to plug the gaps in our history.

ESPRIT DE CORPS
THE HISTORY OF THE VICTORIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT AND THE 5TH INFANTRY BATTALION
Edited by Brigadier F. W. Speed OBE, ED.
Allen and Unwin, Australia, 1988, $39.95

Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel R. E. Bradford

THAT intangible asset, Esprit De Corps, could be regarded as a necessity for any unit that is to be committed to operations. In many regards it is also a necessity in peacetime soldiering, as it allows the unit or organization involved to react to and overcome the many problems involved in peacetime activity. In this book, the authors have attempted to describe and analyse the regiment’s role in the many campaigns during the two world wars, its training activities and organization in peacetime, and how it survived the many re-organizations of the Army during its lifetime. At the end of it all, the regiment still survives. Not only survive, but maintain its Scottish heritage, its traditions, and especially a high ‘esprit de corps’.

The Victorian Scottish Regiment was first formed in 1898 as a volunteer unit (unpaid), for Scots and Scottish descendants. It was initially sponsored by the Caledonian Society of Melbourne and towards the end of 1899 began parading in kilts. Only very keen officers and men remained in the regiment because they had to purchase their own uniforms, and before going to camp procure two blankets, a ground sheet, a tin plate, a tin pannikin and a knife, fork and spoon. Soldiers this keen would undoubtedly establish a firm basis for high regimental pride. It is about this time that men from the Regiment first saw active service in the Boer War, although not as a formed body, but as part of the Victorian contingent.

The first change to the Regiment occurred in 1908 when its name was changed to the First Battalion, Victorian Scottish Regiment. With the advent of universal training in 1908 the regiment changed its name to the 52nd Infantry, and two years later became the 52nd (Hobsons Bay) Infantry.

With the outbreak of war in 1914, the 5th Battalion AIF was raised with a cadre of volunteers from the 52nd (Hobsons Bay) Infantry. The 52nd continued as a separate unit during the war but was largely inactive. Five chapters in the book are devoted to the operations of the 5th Battalion AIF and the unit was to serve with distinction at places such as Gallipoli, the Somme, Bullecourt, Ypres, Menin Road, Passchendaele, and the Hindenburg line. Vivid descriptions abound in these chapters as to the kitting out, training and active service undertaken by the Battalion. The issue of clothing to the unit for example, of defective boots, odd sizes of clothing etc did little to dampen the enthusiasm and morale of the troops. The fifth chapter (Gallipoli) provides excellent graphic description of the conditions in the trenches especially the problems with food, water shortages, flies, water and poor health.

With the end of the War, and the demobilization of the 5th Battalion AIF, universal training was re-introduced in 1919, and the 52nd (Hobsons Bay) Infantry underwent re-organization and became the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment. When the divisional organization was introduced in 1921, it became the 5th Battalion and again in 1927 underwent reorganization with the name changing to the 5th Battalion Victorian Scottish Regiment. Once the Scottish title was regained the Scottish traditions were strengthened and again helped to develop the ‘esprit de corps’.

World War Two saw the raising of the 2/5 Battalion AIF and similar to World War One, a nucleus of 5th Battalion members enlisted in the new unit. The 2/5 Battalion saw a great deal of action in North Africa, Syria, Greece and New Guinea, and a number of chapters are devoted to these campaigns. Whilst the AIF Battalion was absent from Australia the 5th Battalion served in various Australian areas including Western Australia and Northern Territory until it was disbanded in 1944.
With the establishment of the CMF in 1948, the 5th Battalion Victorian Scottish Regiment was reformed. In various forms as part of the 1st Battalion Royal Victorian Regiment, 5th Battalion Royal Victorian Regiment, part of 1st Battalion Royal Victorian Regiment and finally 5th/6th Battalion Royal Victorian Regiment, has continued serving to this day. Despite the peacetime re-organization and the wartime activities, the spirit of the original Victorian Scottish Regiment has remained. The survival of the Pipes and Drums of the regiment today, and the traditions they maintain epitomise the pride displayed by generations who served in the Regiment over the last 90 years. The many tamperings with organizations, structure and the various military systems over the years has done little to dampen the obvious pride these generations of soldiers have in their Regiment.

The eight authors who co-operated in writing the book have achieved excellent results. The descriptions of wartime soldiering are graphic, without getting over involvement in personal actions or endless detail. The provision of maps throughout the book is generous and remain most helpful in the reading and understanding of the operations.

Overall the book is most pleasing in its presentation and layout. The use of photographs, and as I mentioned map, provide excellent support to the text. I do not hesitate to recommend the book to anyone interested in Australia military history.

THE PIONEERS — 2/1ST AUST. PIONEER BATTALION
Edited by the late Lieut-Colonel Gordon Osborn.
Published by M. D. Herron 3 Enoggera Rd. Beverly Hills NSW.

Reviewed by Colonel John Buckley, OBE.

The book has been written by members of the battalion and edited by Gordon Osborn, who was able to complete his book before his death in August 1987.

The battalion had an excellent war record. Its Battle Honours include North Africa, Defence of Tobruk, The Salient, Kokoda Trail, Ioribaiwa, Borneo and Balikpapan.

The foreward has been written by its last C.O. Lieut-Colonel Adrian Buckley (no relation). With a name like that it would have to be a good battalion!

There are several people in this unit who should be mentioned. Its first R.M.O. was Stanley Goulston, who was a legend in Tobruk for his bravery during the siege. He won the M.C. and several M.I.D.s. later, as a Major, RAAMC serving on Australian Army Staff, London, he gave outstanding service to the wounded during a Vl strike (pilot less bomb) at Australia House in 1944. Like all of those wounded at the time, I have never forgotten his dedicated attention, then and after. Now an ex-President of the Royal Australian College of Physicians, Stan is regarded by his peers as one of the most outstanding physicians in Australia.

Major Vic Tunbridge served from Lieutenant to Administering Command of the battalion gave very distinguished service. After the war he became a legend at Geelong Grammar School serving with Sir James Darling. Vic was the “Mr Chips” of the School until he retired a few years ago. I have never heard one old G.G.S. boy ever say anything but praise for “Old Vic”.

Capt. (later Brigadier) S.T.G. Coleman was the first adjutant. Nicknamed “Dave” he was a well known character during his Army Service. An expert on Infantry and infantry weapons, Dave gave excellent Army service.

Lieut. Colonel Paddy MacGillicuddy was the first C.O. He gained fame and the gratitude of many convalescent officers in Cairo by throwing the objectionable C.O. of the Convalescent Leave Boat into the Nile. Unfortunately as the officer was a close briend of the G.O.C. it did not do much for Paddy’s promotion in the A.I.F. The maps and photographs and the statistical data are first class, but there is no Index. All military history book should have an INDEX.

The book will have wide appeal — it is well written — and clearly describes the excellent performance of the unit in Tobruk and the S.W.P.A.
Defence Force Journal
Contributions of any length will be considered but, as a guide, 3000 words is the ideal length. Articles should be typed double spaced, on one side of the paper, and submitted in duplicate.

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