

WAUR  
20 Mounts Bay Road  
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Distribution: All Ranks

CO NEWSLETTER

1. This newsletter is the first of a quarterly communique that I will be issuing to keep you informed of the "State of the Unit".

You should by now be aware of a few changes in training policy and structure of the unit that have recently taken place. These changes are the direct result of two important decisions made at a high level (in Canberra) which are: the primary role of University Regiments is now, to provide military training for undergraduates, and in so doing to produce officers for the Army Reserve (our secondary role). The other decision is that due to financial restrictions all ARES units will get a block allocation of training days (which means dollars) based on 36 days per man for the unit strength for this new training year.

The emphasis therefore is now being placed on Infantry training for the majority of unit members who have now been posted into a Rifle Coy (A Coy). You should read Annex A to RO Pt 1 74/78 to see where you fit in. There are two Rifle Pls, the third Pl in fact being Spt Pl consisting of our specialists, the Mortarmen and Assault Pioneers. Great guys!

Capt Fletcher is OC and Lt Montgomery is Coy 2IC. We have a HQ Coy with our QM Capt Stewart as OC, which contains our other specialists in the Med, QM and Sig Pls. All a very necessary part of the team. Training Coy under Capt Wright, with Lt Thorpe as 2IC, has the Recruit Pl, IET Pl and an Officer/NCO Pl.

As indicated in Annex A of my Training Directive dated 21 Apr 78, inter Coy postings will occur based on unit requirement and individuals personal choice, except into Training Coy. The progression is Rec Pl -- IET Pl -- Rifle Pl, where the training will be intensive and demanding. Once in a Rifle Pl you will become part of an integrated team, with a stable manning which will be affected only by people being seconded to the Officer/NCO Pl for a promotion course, or elsewhere for a specialist course, after which they return to their own Pl and their mates.

The Officer/NCO Pl consists therefore of a training staff only, who conduct all promotion courses within the unit to which students are sent for the duration of the course.

In view of the additional days consumed in conducting promotion courses it is obvious that economy of effort must be exercised to conserve the training days which are essential for the Rifle Coy training.

Therefore it is imperative that we must be more selective in accepting nominations for promotion courses. As leadership and man management training is so extremely important I regard it as essential that aspiring NCO's and officers should receive as much experience in this field as can possibly be attained during their service. This experience can only be gained by contact with troops and this in turn only by regular and prolonged attendance at unit training activities.

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Therefore, regular attendance is one of the numerous criteria which I have decided to include in the selection of nominees for promotion courses. Another is previous performance, (ie) at Rec and IET level as well as in the Rifle Pl.

The effect of all this will be of benefit to everyone. Your training days will not be wasted by other people and you will get the best NCOs and officers we can produce - the ones you deserve. But it also means that you will have to be just that little bit better than the next bloke if you want to get promotion. If you think you have got what it takes, the opportunity is there. If you have got it - you'll make it.

For your benefit and for that of the unit as a whole you must attend all the parades scheduled. It is realized that there are probably as many reasons for joining the ARES as there are people in it, but regardless of your reason for joining - you undertook a personal obligation when you joined. In accepting you the unit also took on an obligation - to train you to a certain standard, an obligation which cannot be fulfilled if you are not prepared to put the time in. This unit has a good name for the quality of soldier in it, and it is simply not acceptable that we carry dead wood as this reflects on the Unit.

As Groucho Marx once said when asked why he didn't belong to any clubs or organisations, "I wouldn't join any outfit that would accept someone like me as a member". If you take pride in yourself and your unit POPO !

2. On a lighter note, we have been upstaged - AUR has its very own Regimental tie, and its cool! Done in silk with an embossed crest designed by a one man unit committee (the CO) and made in Melbourne at a competitive price, the first lot sold (to members only of course) in three weeks. One WRAAC even bought three? I would like to see a design contest run, with a panel from OR Canteen, Sgts and Officers Messes to adjudicate. What about it for WAUR? Pass your thoughts on to your Pl Comd.

3. The Army Museum of WA at the corner of Bulwer and Lord Sts, East Perth, is now open to the public for viewing on Sunday afternoons from 1300 to 1630 hours. Admission is free, but you may feel inclined to deposit a coin in the donation box, which incidently was made by our 2IC who is the Regimental Rep. As Chairman of the Management Board and Museum President, I would be very pleased to see some familiar WAUR faces pass through the portals.

4. Our first weekend bivouac for the new training year was held at Muchea on 15/16 Jul and the Aslt Pnr Pl, assisted by Engineer effort from 22 Constrn Sqn, made a start on a fully dug in Bn CP and Mortar pits. These will be completed in a month or so and a defensive position subsequently developed that can be used during exercises and for demo purposes by us and other units. It has been suggested there is a sort of Freudian symbolism in this project by the Assault Pioneers!

Meanwhile, A Coy and IET combined and did some grunting.

5. WAUR entered a team in the annual Assault-at-Arms contest which this year was held at Swanbourne. We came third - well done those who took part.

6. Because we couldn't fulfill the safety requirements in the time available we were not permitted to enter a Unit team in the Avon Descent, although approval has been given to do so next year as part of our adventure training program. Planning for that will commence four months prior to the event. Meanwhile some members are entering this years Descent individually and we wish them luck.

7. Canungra has been frustrated because the other University Regiments couldn't provide enough personnel to make up a Coy sized group. Another bid has been made for a training period at Land Warfare Centre in the first half of '79.

8. Courses and promotions. Several members will be able to qualify as Basic Rappelers in October, and a few of those already qualified, it is hoped to qualify as instructors (myself included). There have been 13 promotions to L/Cpl, Cpl and Sgt this year, with 7 going on a Subject 1 to Sgt course at Northam in September, Sgt Tonkin is nominated for a RQMS course at Canungra, Sgt Leary also for Subject 1 to WO2 at Singleton, NSW, in November, and Maj Richardson to a Staff Log Course in Sydney in August.

I have just returned from a Training Systems Management Course in Sydney and a visit to SUR, UNSWR, MUR and AUR which was most profitable. Lt Hopkins qualified at a Young Officers Course at the Infantry Centre recently. We also had two members qualify on a driving course at 26 Tpt Pl and two new members pass the Recruit Course run by 5 Trg Gp. We are currently calling for nominations for two NCO's and two officers to attend Mor Offr/NCO courses at Singleton 19 Nov - 2 Dec 78.

9. 22 April 79 is the unit's 30th birthday. This occasion provides a most appropriate opportunity for an all ranks function which could be held in the Depot. You will hear more of this and will be invited to contribute your ideas and assistance when planning commences later this year.

10. Unit strength currently stands at 179 all ranks. It could be worse, but it could be a lot better. Are you doing your bit? It would seem if you are, you're not being altogether successful! We have taken in only 22 since January with another 14 in the pipeline. Bearing in mind we want quality, not quantity, if every one in the unit brought in ONE person we would be up to our unit establishment. Just think, training at Coy level with no more of those "phantom" sections! BRING A MATE IN 78!



(R.M. WILLOX)  
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