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The views expressed in the articles in this Journal are the author's own and do not necessarily represent General Staff opinion or policy.



Photo: Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

YPRES 1917

When the Western Front became stabilised early in 1915 after a brief period of open warfare the opposing trench lines bent in a deep salient round the important Allied communications centre of Ypres.

The Ypres Salient became one of the most difficult and unpleasant sectors of the whole front. German guns constantly pounded the interior with enfilade fire from both sides. The whole area became a deep morass in which movement was accomplished only with extreme difficulty. How many men, animals and guns simply disappeared in the mud, no-one will ever know.

Service in the Salient remains the most unpleasant memory of the Australian formations which fought in one or other of the battles waged in attempts to win a little more ground. Casualties were always heavy, the execution of quite simple tasks required an immense physical effort. It is probably true to say that more men died in the Salient than on any other piece of ground of similar size in the whole annals of war.

The picture shows Australian Infantry moving forward over the duckboards at dusk in 1917.

THE PRODUCTION OF CMF OFFICERS IN EASTERN COMMAND

Major-General P. A. Cullen, DSO, ED.
Commander Communication Zone

The Effects of the Reorganisation of the AMF

IMMEDIATELY

prior to the reorganisation of the Australian Military Forces in 1960 the Citizen Military Force officer situation in Eastern Command appeared to be reasonably satisfactory. The standard was, in general, higher than ever before, for the following reasons:

- (a) Most officers of field rank were of a suitable age and most of them had had war experience. Furthermore, they were thoroughly experienced in the administration of their CMF units.
- (b) The junior officers were nearly all ex-National Servicemen. They had received a thorough basic training and the average intelligence rating was high. These officers, of course, had been

drawn from the cream of the youth of the nation, resulting from the compulsory National Service call up.

But since the reorganisation of 1960 this situation has changed dramatically. Firstly, there has been a steady and serious decline in officer strengths, as Table A shows.

More ominous, however, has been the sharp decline in standards. The ranks of the officers with war service are thinning out, due principally to age, and the experienced officers of field rank have been almost completely preoccupied with recruiting and retaining the other ranks needed in their units and sub-units. At the same time the type of recruit enlisted produces a much lower proportion of officer material than had been the case when the product of National Service training had been avail-

30 June	Establishment or Ceiling	Officers Posted	Percentage
1960	1827	1412	77.28
1961	1487	1346	90.52
1962	1576	1232	78.17
1963	1752	1145	65.35

Table A

able. This lower standard of recruit is probably the most serious aspect of all since, traditionally and by regulation, it is from the ranks that the majority of the officers of the CMF are drawn. There are many reasons for this lowered recruit standard, but undoubtedly the main ones are:

Firstly, those more likely to provide the bulk of our officer material have been preoccupied with tertiary education during the immediate post war years — and in these days of intense competition for entrance to, and retention in, Universities, etc., students are loath to undertake any activities likely to interfere seriously with their studies.

Secondly, those of high officer intelligence rating who have completed their tertiary education, or who, at the age of 22 or 23 have established themselves in their professions, can find no companionship or interests in common with the less educated, immature young men who are free to join up at 17 or 18.

Thirdly, the greater attractions of other part time occupations now available.

Fourthly, the lack of any dramatic Government appeal in respect of the national importance of the CMF.

The Situation in Communication Zone

As the strength states were examined month by month, the pattern of decline in officer strengths in the Communication Zone became increasingly evident to the Commander, the author of this article.

A survey was therefore made of the officer potential in the ranks of the CMF Service units which form the bulk of the Communication Zone (i.e. excluding University Regiments and Special Reserve units). The result was, to say the least, disturbing. Of an establishment of 321 officers there existed a deficiency of 108 (that is, more than one third) — but, worst of all, the commanding officers could point with confidence to only a total of 17 soldiers in the ranks who had the necessary potential to become officers — a figure of less than one per cent. of the other ranks of the whole formation (again excluding University Regiments and Special Reserve units).

Clearly, the number of officers who could be appointed from the ranks within the next few years would not begin to replace anticipated wastage — let alone overcome the already existing deficiency of 108!

Other Units

Enquiries revealed that, although some of the more attractive corps in the Command, such as Armour and part of the Infantry, were in slightly better condition, the general average was not much different to the figures quoted in respect of the Communication Zone service units. In fact some Artillery units seemed to be in even worse case.

The Officer Training Cadre

Drastic corrective action was clearly required. The solution decided upon by the Commander Communication Zone was to form an officer Training Cadre

within the Communication Zone, aimed at enlisting, for the sole purpose of preparing them to be officers, the better educated and more mature men who, as has been stated, were now free to undertake service, but who would now feel hesitant about joining the ranks of younger men with whom they had so little in common.

The Approach

Accordingly, a brochure, aimed at making a personal impact on the group we were seeking, was prepared. Copies of this brochure, under cover of a letter signed personally by the Commander Communication Zone, were sent to 585 addresses, ranging from personal friends in Government circles and commerce and industry, to personally unknown heads of Departments, Government Agencies, Trade Associations, Managing Directors of big companies, etc. A certain amount of publicity was also obtained from the Australian Broadcasting Commission and a feature article in the "Daily Telegraph".

In the brochure the training requirements were stated (briefly, one course and one camp a year plus one night a week and one week-end a month); and in a letter to the employers a three-point appeal (and perhaps "demand" might be a more appropriate word) was made. These points were considered to be fundamental to the success of the scheme as the following extract illustrates:—

"Firstly — by ensuring that the enclosed circular is brought to the notice of men whom you consider most likely to meet the

standards at which we aim. Should an individual approach be impracticable, the publication of the circular, or an epitome, either by exhibiting it on a notice board or in your organisation's magazine, would undoubtedly help. Your own personal recommendation would be invaluable.

"Secondly — by assuring candidates that military service will have no adverse effect on their civilian careers, and by permitting them to attend the annual camp and at least one course a year without loss of normal annual leave. Military pay may not, particularly in the initial stages, equal their civilian pay, and any action by your organisation to overcome the discrepancy would be a most valuable contribution to this project.

"Finally — by taking an active interest in the military progress of any candidates from your organisation."

The Response

It soon became apparent that the tone in which the appeal was pitched, the irrefutable state of affairs in the CMF, and the importance to the usefulness of the CMF of gaining more and better officers, was eliciting a considerable response. Promises of support from Government circles, commerce and industry, poured in, in various forms of acknowledgment. Of course, some did not answer and three stated that they were not prepared to assist — which was a frank and interesting aspect and perhaps reflected the attitude of quite a number who did not reply at all. But this was more than balanced

Letters sent out (between 1st and 10th August, 1963)	— 585 (publicity also during this period)
Enquiries received	— 202
Completed applications received	— 127 (or 64% of enquiries)
Medically fit	— 101 (or 79% of the applicants)
Number selected for OTC	— 76 (or 60% of applications)

Table B

by the tremendous efforts made by certain large institutions, both government and commercial.

As a result of these efforts, 202 enquiries were received. Immediately on receipt of each such enquiry a letter was returned to the enquirer, enclosing a form of application to enlist in the CMF, together with a self-measurement form, and appointing a date for his medical examination and psychological tests.

As a result of this 127 firm applications were received. The statistics shown in Table B are of interest.

Although it was intended to take only 60 candidates, it was unthinkable, in view of the response (both by individuals and their employers) that all suitable applicants should not be given the opportunity when they wanted it, and as set out in the brochure.

The support of HQ Eastern Command was therefore sought to enable the crash programme to be enlarged. This support was readily given. So, 76 cadets, of an average age of 26, all of them of above average educational standard, and all potential officers, took the oath *en masse* at Victoria Barracks, Sydney, on 3 Oct. 63. This attestation ceremony, though brief and simple, was

most impressive, and was witnessed by the friends and relatives of the cadets, by their future commanding officers, and, most importantly (having regard for their future support) by representatives of their civilian firms and organisations.

Two days later the cadets marched into camp at Studley Park for their initial eight-day training course.

Public Support

The letters and publicity had several side issues, which are of some interest.

One was the tremendous additional and real support given by at least some of the employers. One of the personnel officers of an extremely large institution, in conversation with the Chief of Staff, said, "We are sending at least ten." We never quite knew what he meant by "sending", but we assumed it meant that they were actively seeking out suitable men, encouraging them to apply, and assuring them that their civil promotion and prospects would be improved by their becoming CMF officers, as we had requested. Anyway 16 applicants arrived from this particular concern and nine of them were accepted.

All of the major companies have taken a keen interest in

knowing just who among their applicants was accepted; in one case it was with the stated intention of ensuring that no man would be transferred in his civil posting until he had a chance of completing the course.

One entirely unforeseen consequence of the publicity given the Officer Training Cadre is that five officers on the Reserve have now rejoined units that we know about, principally because of improved employer support, and also because they felt it was of importance to do so.

During the period when the letters were going out to the companies, etc., a conference, attended by 223 officers of Communication Zone units, was held. The purpose of the conference, after surveying the general importance of the Communication Zone and need for adequate numbers and quality of officers for it, was to ask each officer present to use his best endeavours to produce one applicant to the OTC. This conference was important, as the presence of 200 officers at one meeting where there was considerable free discussion, alerted an even larger sphere of influence in attracting suitable applicants for the Officer Training Cadre. Whilst the traceable, direct results of the officers' meeting were disappointing, who can tell which lump of coal makes the whistle blow? For instance, one lieutenant at the meeting turned out to be the assistant to the personnel officer of a company which sent the largest number of applicants!

At this stage I think it is appropriate to say that without

the enthusiastic support and efficient co-operation of the Regular staff of this Headquarters, it would not have been possible to have carried out this project at all.

A point which caused some concern was how to deal with applications from present members of the CMF wishing to join the Cadre. In practically every case we advised them, particularly if they belonged to another formation, to "soldier on"; if they were of the right calibre, we said, they would get their chance in their units.

However, in several cases, serving NCOs volunteered to revert to the rank of private for the purpose of joining the Cadre, and we could only give them the opportunity of taking the preliminary tests, subject to the consent of their commanding officers to the transfer, which they later obtained.

Standard letters were carefully prepared to be sent to those people who failed in either their medical or intelligence tests. The aim was to ensure that no offence was given and that in fact the candidate was encouraged to apply again when either his medical disability had been remedied, or after he had gained some experience in a CMF unit. The latter course was felt to be appropriate where the candidate appeared to be lacking in maturity and was at the lower end of the acceptable age bracket.

Conclusion

It remains to be seen how many of the 73 keen young men who entered camp at Studley

Park for the initial eight-day course on 5 Oct. 63 will, in fact, become officers — and when; but at least the project is off to a promising start.

In any case the CMF has already benefitted. The stature of the CMF in the eyes of employers has generally been improved. Most of the major organisations contacted have taken a new look at the conditions under which their em-

ployees might serve in the CMF, and these conditions generally have been made adequate, at least in a significant number of the more important organisations.

There is no doubt that, in turn, this will have a beneficial effect on the attitude of very many people, both employers and employees, in relation to service in the Regular Army.

One can but try!

COMPETITION FOR AUTHORS

The Board of Review has awarded first place and the prize of £5 for the best original article in the November issue to "The Influence of Revolutionary War on Modern Military Thought" by Lieutenant Colonel R. S. Garland, MC, Royal Australian Infantry.

POPULATION CONTROL TECHNIQUES OF COMMUNIST INSURGENTS

A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Franklin Mark Osanka

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IT IS NOW generally recognised that guerillas cannot operate nor exist for long without the active support of a small portion of the population and the passive indifference of a large portion of the population. It is also recognised that the guerillas actually represent only a small segment of the insurgents. The larger segment consists of a covert underground apparatus within the civilian population. In brief, the guerillas carry out overt actions on the basis of timely intelligence information from the population about the movements of government forces. The population further aids the guerillas by providing food, shelter, medical care, labour and recruits. Most importantly, the population under insurgent control denies information to the counter-insurgency forces concerning the hideouts of the guerillas and the identities of underground apparatus personnel within the population.

The purpose of this paper is to examine some of the control measures employed at the village level by Communist insurgents to ensure population loyalty during the pre-guerilla and early-guerilla stages of insurgency. This paper does not pretend to cover all the factors involved nor does it address itself to any specific past or current insurgency. However, it should be noted that it is the author's contention that Chinese-Communist-style insurgency is the archetype for most insurgencies in the under-developed areas of the world, and that insurgency is the principal export item of Red China.

Insurgent's Operational Environment

It is dangerous to generalise about geographic areas, but it is now commonly recognised that most rural areas of the under-developed nations manifest certain environmental characteristics which insurgents can ex-

plot in order to achieve their own ends. In many of these rural areas, living conditions are intolerable: illiteracy, disease, hunger, poverty, inadequate housing, a low crude-birth rate, a high early death rate, definite levels of social stratification, and tribal animosities are the rule rather than the exception. The peasants are usually a simple people, primarily farmers, who do not own the land they (as have probably their fathers before them) have worked all

their lives and who are frequently exploited by the land owners. They are often mistreated by the representatives of the government that they encounter (e.g., security forces and tax collectors) and as a result are extremely suspicious of all strangers. Probably their greatest desire is to own their own land.

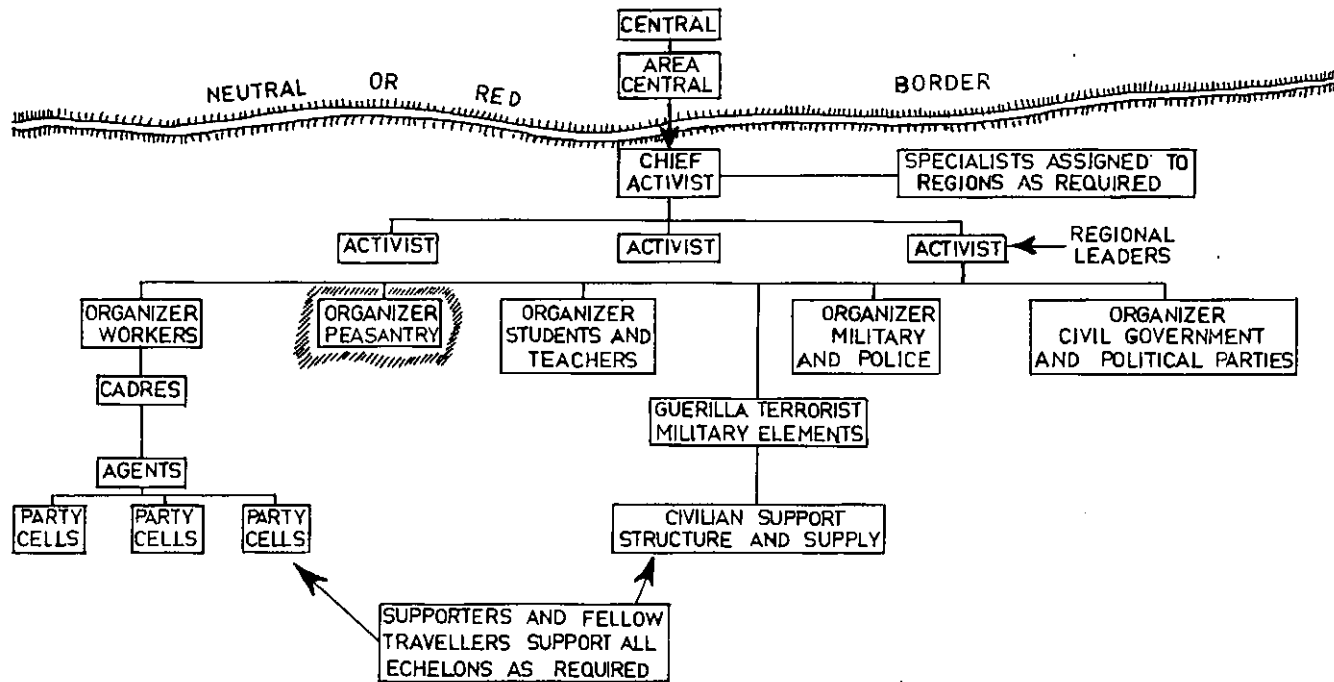
They are politically unsophisticated and their opinions and attitudes are formed on the basis of what they see and hear in

Franklin Mark Osanka, Special Warfare Consultant, Naval Ordnance Test Station, China Lake, California, holds both a B.S. in Ed., and M.A. in Sociology/Anthropology from Northern Illinois University. He has held several U.S. university positions. He served with the U.S. Marine Corps special "Force Recon" companies, For the last ten years he has been actively engaged in both research and operational aspects of special warfare. His formal special warfare training includes completing the U.S. Army's "Airborne and Jump Master", "Special Forces Officers'", and "Counter-insurgency Officers'" courses, the U.S. Navy's "SCUBA" school, the U.S. Marine Corps' "Communist Guerilla Warfare" and "Amphibious Reconnaissance" courses, the U.S. Information Agency's "Counter-insurgency" orientation, and U.S. Air Force Air University "Counter-insurgency" courses. He has served as a lecturer and/or consultant for most of these as well as many other civilian and military schools and agencies.

His written works have appeared in both military and civilian publication. His book, Modern Guerilla Warfare, (reviewed in Australian Army Journal, July 1962), is considered to be the international standard text and reference work on the subject. He is currently working on a manuscript entitled "Revolutionary Guerilla Warfare" which will be published in the new International Encyclopaedia Of The Social Sciences.

This study is based on the author's analysis of unclassified documents and diaries captured during the Chinese Civil War, the French Indo-China War, the current struggle in Viet-Nam, and discussions with veterans of these three conflicts.

COMMUNIST INSURGENT PARTY STRUCTURE (SCHEMATIC).



Communist insurgents penetrate all institutions of society. This chart shows the place of the Peasant Organizer in the overall underground apparatus.

their own immediate area rather than being influenced by mass media.¹ Communications from the ruling class (which is traditionally located in the urban areas) is usually poor at best. The ruling powers seldom view the peasants as an important or powerful political threat. Insurgents, and particularly Communist insurgents, take the opposite view!

The Insurgent Organisers

Long before the first insurgency shot is heard, Communist Insurgent Organisers (hereafter mentioned as Organisers), infiltrate the sparsely populated regions of the target country. These men are natives of the target country and very often were born in or near the area they have been assigned to control. They speak the local dialect, are of the same ethnic origin, and blend easily into the population.

The organisers have had at least three years of intensive revolutionary training in a communist country with heavy emphasis on the political-military doctrine as expressed in Selected Works by Mao Tse-tung.² Although the organisers are dogmatic in purpose, they are extremely practical and flexible operationally. They realise that each target area has its own social dynamics and that they must adapt their methods according to the norms, folkways and mores of the region. They are hard-cored communists who sincerely believe that their creed is just.

They believe, as do their Chinese Communist mentors,

that thought determines action. Therefore, if one can control the thoughts of people, one can dictate the actions of the people. Their mission is to establish an effective underground apparatus, and they are prepared to die rather than fail. Their method of area penetration will follow three phases: identification, propagation, organisation.

Identification Phase

A team of two organisers enters a village and requests an audience with the village leader. The organisers are very polite and humble men. They say, "We have come to tell you of the things that we have seen. But first, as we can see that it is harvest time, we would like to help you gather in your life-sustaining crops. We shall have plenty of time to talk later." The organisers labour in the field and continually talk to the villagers. In the evening, the organisers entertain the villagers with folk-songs and stories of the wonderful countries they have seen. Countries where "everyone" owns land; all farmers have a good mule and a fine house; where children wear fine clothes and go to fine schools and live a long life; where no one is ever hungry because the people work together for the benefit of all; and where the government's function is to serve the people.

The organisers never mention communism nor the pending insurgency. Political terminology

¹ For an illuminating view of one peasant's outlook see: Pierre Marchant, "A Columbian Peon Tells His Moving Story", Realities, September 1962, pp. 65-68.

² The five volumes are published in the United States by International Publishers, New York, 1954.

is avoided, "plain talk" is the vogue. The organisers' songs, folk-tales, and conversations are always designed to have some meaning to the immediate lives of the villagers. The objectives of the identification phase are to: establish rapport by identifying with the lives of the villagers; determine the basic needs and aspirations of the villagers; discover the weaknesses of the social norms that dictate the accepted reaction to problems; and slowly plant the seeds of rebellion.

Propagation Phase

The propagation process is both destructive and constructive in nature. Destructively, the organisers must aggravate all the existing social ills and raise them to the surface, then transfer the cause of the ills to the existing government. Constructively, the organisers must convince the villagers that through co-operation, united action, and loyalty to each other, all social ills can be eliminated and individual aspirations can be realised. Sociologically, the process is one of inducing an awareness of definite in-group/out-group relationships, the in-group being the people and the out-group being the government. The organisers know that stories of the corruptness of the ruling group in the capital city will have little impression on the villagers. In many cases the villagers do not realise there is a capital city, much less an established government. To establish credibility and meaning to their propaganda theme, that government is the source of

all social ills, the organisers most often use the indirect approach.

The organisers' propaganda as transmitted in folk-tales, songs, and conversations all has the same general theme: "the rich get richer while the poor get poorer." For example, a conversation with a tenant farmer might sound like this: "You have been working this same plot of land for 20 years. Before you, your father worked it and before him, his father worked it. And what, my friend, do you have to show for an accumulated 70 years of sweat and labour? Of the seven children you have created, four died at birth, two never lived to enjoy their second birthday, and one has survived to do what you, your father, and his father have done — sweat and labour so that the landlord can live in comfort in his fine house and watch his healthy children grow up to exploit your son. Is that right? Is that just? The answer, of course, is that it is not just. Did God create some men to live in comfort by the sweat of other men? The answer is no! How then has it occurred that a small minority of men can legally exploit the larger majority of men? The answer is organisation. Many years ago, a small group of men discovered that by working together and co-operating with each other, they could enjoy the fruits of the peoples' labour. Using various devious methods, they acquired all of the land. They knew that in order to rule they would need a permanent police force and an army, otherwise the people would take back the land. So you see, my friend, your landlord is the

grandson of one of these men who originally stole the land. He is able to exploit your labours because he has organised a police force and an army in order to suppress the peoples' ability to acquire what is justly theirs anyway.

"How then can the people attain what is legally and morally theirs? The answer, my friend, is organisation. The minority can exploit the majority because they are organised. Does it not follow then that if the people who are the majority organise, they will be stronger than the minority landlords? All over this country, the people are beginning to organise. Men like yourself are preparing to acquire what is justly theirs. These men know that some will die but they say, 'Is it not better to die quickly and honourably for one's rights than to suffer a living slow death at the hands of the exploiters?'"

Perhaps Roucek best sums up the propagation phase when he writes, "At the core of their activities lies the argument that the . . . oppressor has no legal or moral right to exercise power . . . and that the members and leaders of the secret societies are the expression of the 'legal' will of the . . . people. The leaders must generate in their followers a readiness to die and a proclivity for united action."³

Organisation Phase

Once three villagers have been won over, the organisers can establish the first cell of the underground organisation within the village. As more recruits join the organisers, they are sent off

to previously established training camps. Here their training is 75% ideological and 25% military. Most of these individuals return to their village and form the nucleus of the underground apparatus, and can serve as a reserve force for the guerillas. Others receive further military training and later form into small bands which will establish camps in rugged areas near the village. A few receive further ideological training and serve as assistant organisers to penetrate other villages in the area. One or two will be sent to a communist country for a year and undergo intensified ideological and military training.

The organisers encourage and direct the establishment of a village medical clinic as well as an elementary school. A variety of civic activities are performed by the underground organisation. The organisers' purpose here is to enhance village solidarity behind the insurgents. Tactically, the village medical clinic will prove useful once the guerilla stage of the insurgency is under way. Psychologically, the school provides the organisers an additional opportunity to propagandise the young. If the government troops, in an effort to weaken the insurgents' organisation, requisition the medicines of the clinic and outlaw the school, the insurgents have won a psychological victory. The organisers can attribute the government's action to a desire to suppress the people by keeping them ignorant and weak with

³ Joseph S. Roucek, "Sociology of Secret Societies", *The American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, Vol. 19, No. 2, January 1960, p. 164.

diseases. The organisers' propaganda theme will be, "the government knows that an educated and healthy people cannot be exploited!"

Insurgency Population Control

The successful completion of the identification, propagation, and organisation phases at the village level, results in four principal conditions of control. They are: in-group loyalty, insurgent terror tactics, personal commitment, and government terror tactics.

The in-group loyalty condition is the result of acceptance by the majority of the villagers, of the idea that the insurgent activities are just and that the government is unjust. Insurgent terror tactics are directly related to the in-group loyalty condition. Those who aid the enemy are traitors and harmful to the people and, therefore, must be eliminated. The penalty for traitors, while not often quick, is final. Here, the in-group loyalty condition is reinforced by the underground's spy system which keeps the organisers informed of everything that is happening in the village.

Personal commitment is probably the most effective condition of control. The organisers make every effort to involve in one way or another, a member of every family. Consequently, families are reluctant to betray the insurgency thereby directly or indirectly increasing the possibility of prison, and most likely death, for a member of their family. The personal commitment condition is also

operating in those individuals who have made large contributions to the insurgency and expect to be rewarded when the insurgents win.

Being unable to locate and annihilate the guerilla forces, many governments have resorted to terroristic methods in an attempt to secure the support of the population. Government terror tactics such as burning villages, slaughtering innocent people, and generally mistreating the population, are well-documented in the annals of guerilla warfare history. It is equally well documented that such tactics tend to reinforce the solidarity of the people behind the insurgents. The communist insurgents are well aware of the population's reaction to such action and very often provoke the government into committing drastic actions. Indeed, one noted specialist maintains that, "the greatest contribution of guerillas and saboteurs lies in catalysing and intensifying counter-terror which further alienates the government from the local population."⁴

Conclusion

What has been discussed occurs during the pre-violence stage and the early stage of guerilla action in an insurgency. As the insurgency escalates into country-wide guerilla warfare, and later regular warfare, new population control conditions are born. These new conditions can be favourable to either the insur-

⁴J. K. Zawodny. "Unconventional Warfare". *The American Scholar*, Vol. 31, No. 3, Summer 1962, p. 292.

gents or counter-insurgents, depending primarily upon the actions and attitudes of the counter-insurgents. If the counter-insurgents react to the wide-spread guerilla violence solely with traditional military and police repressive measures, they will simply reinforce the validity of the insurgent propaganda and insure continual population support to the insurgents. If, on the other hand, the counter-insurgents incorporate into their pacification programme at the village level, the "psychological action", "civic action", and "population security" principles pioneered primarily by the U.S. Army's Civil Affairs and Special Warfare Schools, they will destroy the very foundation on which the insurgency rests. For it is only when the counter-insurgents

demonstrate by attitude and action their desire and ability to eliminate the basic social ills and legitimate personal grievances, as well as to protect the people from the insurgents, will the population transfer its loyalty. As the insurgents lose the support of the population, they will be forced to depend solely upon increased terroristic methods of population control and then it is only a matter of time before the insurgents are either eliminated or rendered ineffectual.

When the immediate threat of the insurgency is eliminated, and a positive "nation-building" programme is implemented, the country can be on its way to a state of socio-political stability which greatly reduces the possibility of the recurrence of insurgency.

Major Jim Ewan (The Black Watch), was back in peace-time Scotland applying for the job of Recruiting Officer in Dundee. He was called to Highland House in Perth for interview by the GOC Highland District — General Colville at the time. "Now, Jim," said the General, "if I were to come as a potential recruit into your Dundee office and say I wanted to join the Scaforth's — what would you do?"

"I'd say 'Right laddie, I'll fix you up,'" replied Jim.

"But remember Jim," the General went on, "you are in Dundee and in the heart of The Black Watch recruiting area."

"Ay sir — but I'd still do as he asked."

"Why that?" said the General searchingly.

"I didna like his face," came the reply.

— From "The Red Hackle"

INSIGNIA OF RANK

SOME SUGGESTED CHANGES

Warrant Officer L. Thompson,
Royal Australian Signals

THE present system of insignia of rank and the method of wearing it is, in the opinion of the writer, wasteful of time and money and in some cases causes confusion as to the actual rank of a member due to the fact that the insignia is sometimes difficult to see.

At present the practice of permanently attaching the insignia to the sleeves of jackets, great-coats, shirts and jerseys causes, on promotion, some discolouration through unequal fading of the material previously occupied by the old insignia. In some cases this discolouration is so evident that members have been compelled to purchase new uniforms even though the old uniform is still completely serviceable. This applies particularly to NCOs promoted to Warrant rank and also to NCOs/WOs appointed to commissioned rank — both of these cases requiring the insignia to be worn in a different position. This situation is particularly noticeable with summer dress shirts where discolouration always occurs after only a few launderings.

A solution to this problem would be the adoption of "slip-

ons" to be worn on the shoulder. To avoid any possible confusion with commissioned officers, the "slip-ons" could be made of a material different in colour from those on normal issue to officers. Possibly the colour could be applicable to the Corps of the member. With the insignia worn in this way evidence of rank would always be obvious and, in addition, the "slip-on" could also be worn with working and/or protective dress.

The present "chevron" system should still apply for NCOs but it is considered that the insignia for Warrant Officers should change as follows:—

- (a) WO2 —
2 embroidered stars on gold stripes.
- (b) WO1 other than RSMs —
3 embroidered stars on gold stripes.
- (c) WO1 RSMs —
embroidered crown on gold stripe.

Note: These would be similar in appearance to the insignia worn by Viceroy Commissioned Officers of the old Indian Army but, in view of the suggested colour difference of material, no

possible confusion could occur between officers and Warrant Officers.

When worn with No. 1 or No. 2 Dress, the "slip-ons" could be the present hard shoulder board of the same colour as the uniform.

It is considered that with the larger numbers of Army trades and appointments being filled by WO1s some distinction should be given to the holders of RSM type appointments.

This suggested system could result in a considerable saving in money apart from unnecessary costs incurred in the purchase of new uniforms, shirts, etc., as follows:—

(a) WO1: The present cost of outfitting a WO1 with insignia of rank, i.e., bullion, embroidered and woven for blues, battle dress, shirts and greatcoat not to mention the jersey, is approximately £7-13-6 plus additional purchases for uniforms not an

issue, e.g., No. 7 dress, additional shirts etc.

(b) WO2: As for WO1 issues it would cost approximately £3-14-0 plus additional purchases for uniforms not an issue.

(c) Sgt.: Similar issues to WO1 would cost approximately £1-15-0 for insignia.

(d) Capt.: "Slip-ons" as issued to officers at present cost only 13/10 per set of two.

As can be seen in the previous paragraph initial cost of insignia could be drastically reduced as only one set of "slip-ons" need be issued to members for use on all uniforms.

A similar problem also occurs with officers and their method of wearing insignia, particularly when a Captain is promoted to Major, leaving a series of obvious perforations on the shoulder strap which cannot be concealed by the small crown insignia.

A demonstration had been arranged soon after the arrival of these guns, and some of the local Boer farmers had been invited to watch it. The guns were drawn up 3,000 yards away from a ridge called Wagon Hill, and twenty goats were tethered on the hill. Shrapnel fire from the guns began and was continued for twenty minutes. Hosts and visitors then went to inspect the dead goats. But not one of them was dead. On the contrary, their numbers had been increased from twenty to twenty-two, two kids having been born during the shooting.

— From "Buller's Campaigns",
by Julian Symons.



Major K. E. Gallard
Royal Australian Infantry

SPARE a thought for New Zealand during a visit by the famous All Blacks rugby team or when a New Zealand horse all too frequently wins the Melbourne Cup. Pass a few sentimental public remarks on Anzac Day. What else does the average Australian know of this sister Dominion so close and yet so far away across the Tasman Sea?

Tourist publicity describes New Zealand as a comparable earthly paradise. Unfortunately the impression gained is that the country is full of Maoris and snow-clad mountains. One wonders how the minority European types fare against these always (depicted) ferocious natives, and if there are some Europeans about whether their main occupations are breeding kiwis or climbing mountains in the tradition of Sir Edmund Hillary.

The truth is, of course, that New Zealand has a great deal in common with Australia in that both countries are members of the Commonwealth and have

almost identical flags and customs. However, there are wide variations which are inconceivable in the light of current needs in Australasia. These are mainly in the important fields of economics and defence, some of the features of which are discussed below.

Therefore, this article is written in two parts. The first part deals with background to enable the reader to grasp some of the problems that beset New Zealand, and then there is a brief treatise on defence which endeavours to show current New Zealand policy.

Geographical

There are two main islands; the North Island of about 44,000 square miles and the South Island of some 58,000 square miles. In addition, New Zealand is concerned in the administration of four island groups, the most prominent of which are in West Samoa and the Tokelau Islands. A great deal of assistance is also given to Fiji and Tonga.

The two mainland islands are worthy of some general notes without going into a terrain study that may be found in any school atlas. Within the two islands there is just about every variety of terrain and vegetation found in the temperate zone. High snow-capped mountains give way to verdant, fertile plains and the predominant colour is green all the year around. This is a lush country and yet in the centre of the North Island one may find desert or semi-desert conditions brought about by some earth shattering cataclysm many years ago. The country varies from open cultivated fields to open savannah, and more often the hillsides are covered with dense rain forest.

A feature of the climate is the bountiful annual rainfall which often goes as high as 300 inches annually in the Southern Alps. It is as low as 13 inches in some parts of Otago but a fair average over the whole country runs as high as 40 to 50 inches. This of course means few, if any, water problems and excellent agricultural yields. The well filled rivers provide a most convenient source of hydro-electric power and as yet the many resources have scarcely been touched. One finds it difficult to reconcile progress in New Zealand to the fact that many centres are only now holding their centenary celebrations.

Australians, generally would say that New Zealand is a cold country by comparison. However, the mean temperature range is a little better than Tasmania, being between 42 and 65 degrees F. It very seldom

gets really hot although 80 degrees F. is uncomfortable due to the very high humidity. The low temperatures are often accompanied by strong winds which also produce unpleasant conditions, making it necessary in most areas to wear suitable cold weather clothing.

The geothermal area in the North Island produces much tourist revenue but is also a source of power. Raw steam is trapped below ground level and fed to power turbines. Natural gases are also being exploited commercially and in some areas natural hot water is laid on to the extent of being available in private homes. Again, these resources have not been used to any great extent; existing projects representing portions of the planning stage of development.

The mineral resources of New Zealand are limited; particularly with regard to metallic ores. Coal is by far the biggest mining industry producing about 3 million tons annually. Gold mining has always been prominent in New Zealand history but has declined steadily from the peak production figure in 1866 of 736,000 ounces to a current annual output of about 36,700 ounces.

It is interesting to note that about 200,000 gallons of crude petroleum are produced annually together with approximately 5½ million cubic feet of natural gas. Oil search continues and there are high hopes that success will mean that oil production will become a factor in the development of the national economy.

Other ferrous and non-ferrous metals are mined in varying quantities but insufficient for the national requirement. For example, imports of steel are a big item of overseas expenditure.

Agricultural and Pastoral

Agricultural and pastoral pursuits are the principal sources of overseas income and are mainly wool, fat lambs and dairy products. Statistics are boring and are dealt with briefly under a trade heading below. However, it is of interest to note that New Zealand is not self-sufficient in fruit production. Apples, pears and berry fruits are exported but oranges, bananas and tropical fruits are imported from literally all over the world, in fact from any country of origin which has a favourable trade balance with New Zealand. This of course naturally excludes Australia.

Communications

Whilst the remarkable annual rainfall may have proved a boon in most respects it has proved a difficult problem to face when making roads and railways. Quite often the "construction season" is limited to three or four months of the year. The achievements are therefore quite unbelievable.

The railways cover all main centres of the North and South Islands and are interconnected across Cook Strait by a recently purchased road-rail ferry of the most modern type. The 3 ft. 6 in. gauge is small, but is more than offset by efficient operating over recent years and the acquisition of modern rolling stock. There are many New Zealanders who will disagree about the railways'

efficiency but the results are there for all to see. Replacement of old rolling stock continues and the mileage has grown to 3,336 in just over 100 years. One can only assume that the early settlers were fantastic workers when one considers that 2,100 miles of rails were put in between 1860 and 1880 with a population of less than one hundred thousand. Tonnage carried by the railways in 1962 was 10½ million tons.

There is an extensive main roads system covering both North and South Islands. The roads are generally very good and were made Class 1 for the most part only over the past ten years. There is much to wonder at in the engineering effort involved in the construction of these major road systems. Heavy rainfall associated with rugged mountainous terrain calls for expert technical knowledge. The frequent landslides are a constant source of irritation. Therefore, the resulting first class roads are a matter for national pride in that they are generally in better condition than those in Australia and are kept open under the most adverse conditions.

An extensive internal government air service operates through all main centres. Freighting by air is also a growing facility. The government overseas airline TEAL is at present equipped with Electras which are to be replaced in the near future by more modern type aircraft.

The New Zealand register holds a reasonable tonnage of overseas and coastal shipping sufficient to

cope with most emergencies. This is one of the assets which could well be used by Australia in closer co-operation.

Population

Growth has been from approximately 816,000 in 1901 to about 2½ millions today. Over more recent years there has been a steady annual increase of 2.3 per cent. due to a healthy birth rate and the reasonable flow of immigrants. The projected figures for the year 2000 are about 5 to 6 millions; not a happy circumstance in these days of warnings of overcrowded world population.

Maoris number about 40,000 full bloods and castes with marked Maori racial characteristics. In addition, there are about 26,000 quarter castes or castes from Maori stock with racial characteristics other than European or Polynesian. The Maori increase is about 3.5 per cent. annually compared with only 2.24 per cent. increase for the European segment.

The sterling qualities of the Maoris need no elaboration here. Suffice to say that there is no official racial discrimination although it does work unofficially now and then.

Of the total population, about 70 per cent. live in the North Island, including the bulk of the Maoris, no doubt preferring the warmer and less rugged climate.

In common with most western countries, there is a constant increase in density in the cities at the expense of rural areas.

The ratio of males to females is about 50 per cent.

Social Security and Public Health

Many New Zealanders refer somewhat disparagingly to their so-called "welfare" state. Nevertheless, the advantages are many. Social security is well provided for in the form of the usual benefits; i.e., old age, deserted wives, unemployment, sickness, war pensions, etc. What is not generally known is that there is a great deal of close co-operation with Australia in the administration of benefits. The Social Security (Reciprocity with Australia) Act of 1948 provides for a wide range of benefits to be paid in the event of persons moving to and becoming resident in either country. However, it is expensive and expenditure in terms of the National Income is over 1 per cent.

The free medicine and hospitalisation scheme is impressive. The best illustration would be to quote a concrete example. Child-birth, with the best specialist attending, in a private hospital would cost, in most cases, less than £20. In a public hospital it costs nothing. The cost in terms of taxation is about £50 per head of mean population annually.

National Income and Taxation

Annual private income is about £1,132 millions and direct and indirect taxation takes about 27 per cent. Yet, individuals with incomes in excess of £2000 comprise only 5 per cent. of the total wage earners. This shows only a small percentage of the population blessed with adequate finance. Taken out of context it makes dry reading but the fact remains that the bulk of private

assets' are in the hands of comparatively few people.

The average New Zealander is a "battler" and the general effect is for a wage earner to reach a certain earning capacity and then to lose incentive through excessive regularising taxation.

An example of direct taxation is given for a married man with three children. An income of £20 per week calls for £2-0-6 taxation. To double the income to £40 per week calls for £7-15-9 taxation. These figures should serve to illustrate the point regarding taxation.

Trade

The country is burdened by a heavy restriction on imports due to an almost constant adverse balance of trade over the past few years. The situation is improving as the table below will show. However, general economic opinion is that the restrictions will stay for a long time yet. The table shows visible exports balanced against imports 1954 to 1960:—

1954	minus	£ 1½ million	
1955	"	£28	"
1956	"	£ 9	"
1957	"	£20½	"
1958	"	£35	"
1959	plus	£62	"
1960	"	£21¾	"

The NZ Year Book states that in 1960 invisibles, such as transportation, exchange, freights and travel accounted for an additional £50 million on the debit side of the ledger. All this is very confusing but does highlight a delicate financial situation.

It is interesting to note that visible trade balances are favour-

able with all importing countries with Australia being a notable exception. The NZ adverse balance with Australia accrues at the rate of about £30 million a year plus exchange. It is not hard to see why New Zealanders regard trade with Australia as an unfortunate necessity. The main difficulty is, of course, the inability of Australia to accept NZ major imports, such as lamb or dairy produce; the latter industry being heavily subsidised in both countries.

Although the logic is accepted, the adverse balance of trade with Australia calls for some fairly outspoken comment by public officials in New Zealand and rates a great deal of space in the national press often in bitter and not so flattering terms. Again, many well informed people realise that it cannot be expected that NZ can make a profit in its trading with everybody, particularly as secondary and tertiary industry does not provide a fifth of the manufactured goods required in NZ.

Secondary industry is carried on piecemeal and is in the struggling stages. A case in point is the recent foundering of the heavily assisted glass industry. It didn't even get into production before increased capital costs revealed that it would be impossible to compete with low priced imports.

Nevertheless, New Zealanders rate third in car ownership in the world. One person in four drives a vehicle despite strict control of imports and a much over-valued second hand market. There are a lot of "bombs"

about but on the other hand some 60,000 to 70,000 vehicles are imported yearly either as complete vehicles or "knock-up" assemblies.

The General Scene

Education and culture have not been mentioned because the education system and reaction to the fine arts is remarkably similar in both countries. The statistics given provide a background to the average New Zealander. There is, in fact, no average New Zealander although the visiting American or Australian always seems to say that most middle and upper class New Zealanders are more British than the British. This is probably earned in some ways. However, there are some more interesting characteristics and pastimes.

Work

The wage-earner no doubt is worth his hire but is no world-beater in either enthusiasm or speed. In common with his Australian counterpart he prefers to allow the work to come to him rather than seek it out. This is partly attributable to full employment and the easy provisions of social security. There is no sign of any easing of the acute labour shortage.

Sport

Sport is a national pastime for young and old, ladies and gentlemen. Rugby should be classified as a vice although New Zealanders are generally good all rounders. The few who specialise such as Peter Snell, world mile record holder, are in a class apart.

An All Blacks tour will set everyone talking twenty-four hours a day and, of course, there is reason for national pride in this direction.

Horse-racing is extremely popular and provides an excellent source of internal revenue because all on-course and off-course betting is under government control. There is a betting agency in every town and bets may be placed on any meeting in the country. New Zealand horses are famous the world over and the annual yearling sales attract many overseas buyers, including Australians, no doubt looking for a future Melbourne Cup winner.

Cricket is a great love and bitter words are often spoken of Australia's reluctance to send anything other than a "Second XI" to play the New Zealand Test Team.

Aquatic sports are practised in the fine harbours and on many beaches probably a little below Australian standards. Swimming is becoming prominent as more and more children are taught to swim in the numerous fine pools throughout the country.

Another favourite pastime of thousands is mountain climbing. This has resulted in the local production of some excellent lightweight cold weather clothing and man-portable equipment.

Some of the best trout fishing in the world is available. Other outdoor activities such as duck shooting (in season) and the ever satisfying deer stalking are favoured despite rather rugged conditions.

The diverse nature of all these outdoor sports available to practically anyone sound of wind and limb has the effect of moulding an adventurous, independent spirit which is quickly apparent to a casual visitor.

Beer

A worthy subject and although it may remain a matter of opinion, a New Zealander tippler considers the local brew the best in the world and generally attempts to prove his point by consuming a terrific amount of it. However, this is not the "stuff" for Australians who are generally horrified at its temperature (lukewarm), and its texture (heavy and flat). Another barbaric feature is to see this product further desecrated by decantation from the equivalent of petrol tankers into huge storage vats in the local hostelry. These vats take the place of a multitude of barrels. Unfortunately, the pouring of the "dregs" of a tank into a jug or glass for enthusiastic consumption is a depressing sight to the uninitiated visitor.

Public house conditions are improving, and they could do with it. Early closing (6 p.m.) makes for quick powerhouse selling and drinking like a hundred yards sprint. Nevertheless, one doesn't hear any complaints, except in the popular press. The solution to after 6 p.m. drinking is to decant some brew into a half gallon jar and lug it home to continue in comfort.

Politics

Voting is not compulsory and therefore politics is hardly a live

issue. Elections are held every three years and of late the thought seems to be that each major party, National and Labour, will only exchange sides of the House at each succeeding election. The National Party holds sway at the moment probably by a slender marginal vote. This sort of thing makes a mockery of continuity of national policy and planning.

The Press

The press is outspoken, direct and a great champion of the armed services. Editorial comment is reasonably fair, but there is a strong National party bias in all the national dailies. There are no true week-end newspapers. Perhaps the greatest contrast between Australian and New Zealand papers is the very conservative nature of the latter. Neither do NZ papers indulge in "circulation wars". Quite the contrary — on occasions it is difficult to buy a newspaper.

There are very few national magazines and these are of mediocre standard and most known varieties are imported and are responsible for a considerable impact on fashions, customs and cultural ideas. The "new looks" come and go like the fleeting warmer weather.

Customs

The quaint illusion that New Zealanders are more British than the British is heightened by the residual effect of many "home" customs. It is amusing to see all schoolboys irrespective of size and age wearing skull caps and short trousers. The effect of hearing a six foot, seventeen-

year-old holding forth in a basso profundo, in short pants, whiskers, hairy legs and cap sitting on back of head, is staggering. The custom is carried to extreme lengths. Some years ago a Royal Military College candidate of eighteen who had left school two years previously had to return to school to obtain the necessary education qualifications. He returned in now too-small school "uniform" with side-splitting results. He is still bitter about it.

The older New Zealander is very conservative in dress and habits. These are modest folk who individually deprecate their efforts. Of course, in public or a crowd quite the reverse is the case.

This older New Zealander is very jealous of his preserves be they exclusive clubs or the local Returned Soldiers Association Rooms. Speech, inclusive of high school graduates, has the slight flavour of the so-called Oxford accent. The older womenfolk, generally, apply themselves assiduously to the full-time care of their families.

Teenagers have the same characteristics the world over and New Zealanders are no exception. The American style is the main. However, they do seem to attain maturity quickly probably due to the leavening influence of the many outdoor sporting activities.

The "jeans" and "limbo" sects average 15 to 17 years. After this life becomes a serious business and is manifest in more conservative dress and customs.

DEFENCE OF NEW ZEALAND

Costs

The foregoing paragraphs on finance give some idea of the problems that must be met in New Zealand before the word defence has any meaning either in policy or fact. The defence budget of £33 million a year doesn't go far in these days of costly complex equipments and the need to maintain an adequate pay code in competition with civilian industry. The government recognises that even to maintain the existing inadequate forces and equipment will mean increasing expenditure year by year.

The existing five year equipment programme commenced in 1958 will probably bog down in the morass of detail attendant to the need of increasing economies. The Defence Fund has almost been exhausted and the full weight of defence expenditure must fall on the shoulders of the taxpayers aided by consolidated funds.

Therefore, faced with steeply rising costs and the constantly changing nature of defence schemes and costly equipments, the government has twice reorganised the defence forces in 1958 and 1961; both with a view to achieving suitable economies. There is no reason to assume that defence reorganisation will not occur again for some time but there are other factors to be considered which are discussed in later paragraphs.

Defence Policy

Until the outbreak of hostilities in 1939 New Zealand defence

policy in all aspects embraced that of the United Kingdom apart from a few minor local aspects. Since that time New Zealand has come to realise that its defence policy must be closely associated with the strategic interests of the United States and Australia. This is manifest in New Zealand's participation in ANZUS, ANZAM and SEATO and valuable contributions have been promised. However, it is also most apparent that New Zealand closely follows the United Kingdom "line" in its approach to these regional security pacts.

The government of the day has never strayed from one focal point — the protection of New Zealand's trade outlets. Defence planning has always remained secondary to the need to cultivate more markets and preserve the balance of payments. This is also the case in Australia so that there is a common bond in this regard.

It is often erroneously thought that New Zealand will continue to concentrate on training large numbers of men for future wars. It is the considered opinion now that large bodies of troops have no place under conditions of nuclear stalemate and that smaller forces "on call" for collective security action are the more likely requirement.

Therefore, the emphasis is the same as that of Australia; on ground forces with adequate provision for reinforcement to be available at short notice for operations in the South East Asian theatre.

In addition, New Zealand maintains a considerable contri-

bution to the Commonwealth Strategic Reserve in the form of a Regular Battalion of the New Zealand Regiment, a half squadron of medium range transport aircraft (Bristols) and a naval unit.

The Navy

The roles assigned to the Navy are the maintenance of command of the sea, protection of sea communications and trade and the provision of support to land forces.

The size and shape of the New Zealand Navy makes it essential that it operates in close co-operation with the Navies of the other SEATO powers. A naval unit, either a cruiser or a frigate, is always stationed in Singapore under the Command of C-in-C, Far East Fleet, as part of the Commonwealth Strategic Reserve.

A listing of operational ships of the New Zealand Navy is as follows:

- (a) Two modern Whitby class frigates ordered in 1956 and commissioned in 1959/60.
- (b) A modified Dido - class cruiser expected to remain in service until about 1966.
- (c) Two Loch-class frigates also somewhat outmoded and expected to go out of service by 1966.
- (d) A naval antarctic support ship.
- (e) A survey ship fast approaching the end of her effective life.
- (f) In reserve, there are two Loch-class frigates and four minesweepers which may be made operational at short notice.

Therefore, it can be seen that the Navy is facing up to a costly programme to maintain or replace its existing ships.

The intention is ultimately to re-equip with Whitby-class frigates and minesweepers. However, the cost precludes this being done in the near future.

The current Regular Naval ceiling strength is 3,350 all ranks, but posted strength still remains several hundred below this figure.

There is a reasonable Naval Reserve and Volunteer Reserve which could meet expansion in an emergency.

The problems involved, mainly financial but also lack of recruits, in just maintaining the current standard in the Navy seem insurmountable. The hard truth is, that in the existing economic climate, the nation just cannot afford the huge capital cost in replacing ships without making some drastic internal sacrifice.

The Air Force

As mentioned previously, the NZ Air Force maintains certain units at operational readiness mainly under the provisions of the various collective security arrangements.

In war the likely roles are long range transport from NZ to the overseas theatre, possible interdiction tasks, maritime patrols, escort work against submarines and medium range transport within the theatre of operations.

The aircraft in use to meet these possible roles and to keep alive the necessary techniques are:

- (a) Long range transport — An outdated Hastings fleet and

a few DC6 aircraft purchased in 1960 from TEAL, the Government Civil Overseas Airline.

- (b) The interdiction role is provided for by two Squadrons of outdated Canberra bombers.
- (c) The maritime technique is kept alive by maintaining a few Sunderland flying boats in service as a stop-gap measure.
- (d) Medium transport is represented by a squadron of Bristol freighters half of which are part of New Zealand's contribution to the Commonwealth Strategic Reserve.

Certain publicity has been given to a possible re-equipment programme for the RNZAF and it is understood that the Air Department is making representations to re-equip with Hercules C130 aircraft. However, again the expense and subsequent drain on overseas funds is probably more than the Government can manage in an election year.

Reorganisation along more economical lines has long been the order of the day for a number of years now so that transition to Hercules type aircraft in any numbers could pose special problems. There are really no suitable maintenance facilities in New Zealand and an expansion to cope with this problem would meet expected manpower difficulties. In common with the other Services, the RNZAF is well below strength and struggling hard to maintain an effective strength of 3,500 against a ceiling of 4,300. Also, reorganisation is

still progressing to reduce the ceiling by about another 300.

The Army

The Army is having its manpower problems too. In the defence review of 1958 provision was made for a Divisional type organisation, the hard core of which would be a Regular Brigade Group of 5,600 all ranks supported by a Static Force of 2,500 Regulars. The Territorial Force was to make up the residue.

1961 saw the Army still short of its manpower target by about 3,000 so that another reorganisation scheme provided for:—

- (a) A group of Regular Field Force Units to be built up over a period of five years to approximately 3,000 including the Infantry Battalion in Malaya.
- (b) A Territorial Force of three reduced Bde Gps to be built up over four years to a total of 10,000 all ranks.
- (c) A Static Regular Force of 3,253 including young soldiers under training.

The aim of this latter review in 1961 was to provide for the rapid deployment of an initial maximum force of about 13,000 for operations in South East Asia. Increased emphasis was placed on Regular Forces being at "ready" notice for overseas movement.

The programme called for the provision of modern equipment for the Brigade Group. Initially this posed no great problems as NZ has always closely followed the UK line both in establishments and equipment tables.

However, the special needs of the South East Asia theatre caused NZ to think again and to shop elsewhere in some cases. Having no organisation to develop or test equipments, the Army programme has suffered some teething pains. The specialised requirement for equipment has raised problems never before realised. In the past an expeditionary force could count on being equipped with UK items in the overseas theatre. The situation today requires that the expeditionary force move off fully equipped with weapons, vehicles, ammunition and supplies. This has imposed a considerable administrative and economic burden on the Army both in the planning stages and in the paucity of overseas funds.

The unfortunate truth is that the Army has not reached its manpower targets and still is experiencing difficulty in producing an effective field force. The equipment programme lags not only from a lack of overseas funds but rather in the inability to deal with the multitude of items needed with the existing meagre organisation staff.

The Territorial Force will reach its expected target without much difficulty due to the introduction of Selective National Service (explained in more detail below). However, the equipping of the Territorial side of the Army with modern equipment is a long way off.

National Service

The Selective National Service Scheme for the training of Army personnel deserves some examination.

Young men are called up at 20 years of age and undergo three months intensive training, eventually being fed into the Territorial Force. The call-up is by ballot for the numbers required for each intake, normally between 700 and 800 strong. This in itself poses no problems. However, there is no guarantee that the end trained result will be available for service. Some live out of radius from Training Centres and do "in camp" training only. Others move on to reserved occupations, and although training continues such members would not be available for emergency call-up for operations overseas.

A really bright spot is the fact that the scheme does produce a reasonable product. Better in fact than was produced in Australia in the same period of training.

In common with the other Services the Army has its manpower worries and is struggling to reach its Regular Force target figures.

The Future

The requirements of the three Services add up to a sum which the country cannot afford, and in an endeavour to co-ordinate and standardise these requirements, a Ministry of Defence is to be formed which, it is understood, will closely follow the Australian pattern.

There is a growing awareness of the need to co-operate more closely with Australia. There can be little doubt that eventually the two countries, with such common interests, will become more aligned both commercially and in the interests of defence. It will be a slow process because there is a deal of divided opinion regarding just how far such a measure may be taken. On the one hand there is a great deal of fear that New Zealand independence will be jeopardised in that the economically stronger Australia will dominate policy. This opinion also finds it hard to sever the ties that have bound New Zealand to Great Britain for the past century. On the other hand there is strong and outspoken opinion that New Zealand's best interests lie in complete alliance with Australia. More extreme versions of the latter advocate New Zealand becoming a State of Australia with its attendant measures of closer accord to United States policy. The former opinion is naturally the more predominant although it is not unusual to hear wealthy land-owners expressing the latter view.

It seems that necessity will determine the outcome although it is to be hoped that necessity will not be brought about by calamitous circumstances that will make any closer alliance too late to be effective.

AVIATION'S FUTURE STAFF OFFICERS

Captain T. J. Shaughnessy and Captain Pierce Robertson
United States Army

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ARMY AVIATION has untold wealth in good aviators. The Army on the whole has many good staff officers. But what about the combination — the aviation staff officers?

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find a good aviation staff officer, one who is oriented in the broad spectrum of aviation activities and well founded in tactics employed by the combat ground elements. Any officer can do the job — particularly if the work is rudimentary and not too challenging. But we're talking about the officer who can be assigned to any unit and do a superior job for aviation. The man we need must have a knowledge of the capabilities and limitations of all aircraft in the Army inventory, be cognizant of regulations, be current in supply and logistics procedures, and be aware of maintenance and supply problems. He must also be abreast of changes in tactics pertaining to methods and techniques employed by ground commanders and aviation commanders. Above all, this staff

officer must have a cool head, a discriminating eye, and the good judgment gained from professional experience. Where do we go to find the genuine article, this all-round, "triple threat" aviation staff officer?

Aviation commanders find themselves faced with this serious and controversial problem created by the unexpected and rapid growth of aviation. The number of experienced officers available is not sufficient to meet the present demand. There just aren't enough to go around. We now have a great influx of newly trained aviators, a few of whom are senior in rank. They are needed to fill the staff positions required in the ROAD divisions, the new Air Assault Division, and aviation jobs at higher levels.

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Little difficulty will be experienced employing the more senior officers in staff positions. These officers will adapt, but the vast majority of new aviators do not have the professional background or training and are, therefore, scarcely prepared to cope with the problems they will confront as aviation staff officers. Graduates of branch career courses are taught firm concepts in staff procedures but are not exposed to the more involved and more detailed problems related to the specialised area of aviation command decision-making.

We in aviation realise that we have increased the store of aviation knowledge and the theory of its application beyond belief. Yet, we have made it correspondingly difficult for aviation commanders to keep themselves or their staff officers trained and abreast of these new developments. These problems, if not given consideration now, will affect all aviation units, tactical units employing aviation, and every aviator. They will affect the type leadership received now and in the years ahead. This is but one of the ironic side effects caused by Army aviation's accelerated growth.

The aviation staff problem existing today was expressed by two senior officers overheard discussing their problems after a flight. Their conversation gradually drifted to a more pressing topic of command. We will call them Lt. Col. Pat O'Foresight and Lt. Col. Bill McHindsight. Not surprisingly, their conversation reflects the changing

attitude and thinking of many of our officers today.

"Colonel O'Foresight, did you get the impression that the people in ATC were rather impatient this morning?"

"Well, Colonel, I thought they were attempting to hurry us, and at the same time bring us up-to-date on the proper reporting procedures, SID departures, and changes in the holding patterns."

"What you're saying so politely, Pat, is that ATC was impatient with me, not us. I'm afraid I'll have to admit that my mind was on other matters. The truth is, I haven't given too much thought to flying in the past few months, not since I took over this new aviation battalion. I've had so darn much work getting the battalion organised, and I haven't been able to get an experienced staff together to carry much of the load. All the problems that come up are new ones. It's not like the good old days."

"I understand your situation, Bill, and I can sympathise with you. I've had similar difficulties over in my outfit. It's tough finding time enough to remain current and proficient, even though I've been rated 16 years. However, my staff has performed remarkably well considering the short time they have worked together. They stay on top of problems or potential problem areas. Oh, I'll admit, I had a few anxious days after I was hustled off to take over the new outfit, but things fell in place. It wasn't spontaneous development at all; my staff required training but I feel they are all

officers with an extraordinarily high level of individual aptitude and competence."

"You were fortunate, Pat, to acquire all that ability. How did you luck out, or did you handpick your personnel?"

"Neither, Bill. On one of my trips to Rucker, I heard of the aviation staff officers' course, and, after a little investigating, I realised that this course had real value. I could have kicked myself for not looking through a school catalogue first. It would have saved me a considerable amount of time, but then I always do things the hard way. Nevertheless, I took advantage of my discovery and decided to send two of my more experienced officers. These officers were well grounded in aviation and had considerable flying experience, but were not well acquainted with aviation staff matters.

"As a result of their attendance, I was particularly impressed with their performance and completely sold on the value of the staff course. Since then, I have instituted a policy of scheduling my potential staff officers into the course."

"All of what you have told me is great, Pat, but it doesn't solve my predicament. First of all, I don't have the officers to spare; and secondly, the time lost sending them to a long course of instruction wouldn't be practical."

"Bill, I don't think I succeeded in getting my point across very well. When I stumbled onto the idea of sending my officers to the staff course, I didn't have an excess of personnel. I doubt if I

had any more officers available than you have now. I could not have spared any of my staff officers for an extended period, and that's what convinced me to try this aviation staff course. It only lasts three weeks. Yet, by an intensive schedule, the students become familiar with current organisations, equipment, characteristics of aviation units, and are given a working knowledge of employment, staff procedures, and the principles of operation.

"The course also includes an extensive guest speaker programme which provides the students with the latest information on concepts and doctrine, supply procedures, command and staff relationship, and some additional considerations involved in aviation maintenance. Probably the most valuable aspect of the course, which is often overlooked, is gained from the students' exchange of new ideas and techniques as they apply their ideas to the test-tube type map exercise.

"Bill, I believe I saved time overall by sending my officers to school for three weeks. They were given an up-to-date liberal education in aviation staff and command functions. I don't know of any other school which would have suited my purpose to a greater degree. The officers I sent are now oriented to aviation staff problems. Where else can you find a concentration of modern Army Aviation thinking, particularly where it is so close to the centre of Army Aviation research and technological development?"

"You've sold me, Pat! I was sceptical about sending my officers away to school when we began our conversation, but now I think you have helped solve my problem. Let's finish our coffee and file out so I can get back to my office. I want to check the school quotas, and get several officers in this command and staff course."

"Good enough, Bill, let's go. I'll check the weather."

At first sight, it may seem odd that a conversation like the one depicted above could have taken place. Possibly it has been oversimplified. Nonetheless, officers from units similar to that commanded by Colonel McHindsight attend the Army Aviation Command and Staff Officer Course each time it is presented. The instruction they receive is interesting and diversified, and includes subjects such as: Army Air Traffic Regulation and Identification Systems and Organisations, Operation of the Army Aviation Element in the Division Tactical Operation Centre, Automatic Data Proces-

sing Systems, Concepts Pertaining to the Air Assault Division, and Concepts Pertaining to the Air Assault Division, and Concepts for Future Organisations. All subjects are intended to emphasise the vast amount of information used today by our aviation staff officers.

Whether all aviation units receive the best possible leadership and management in the years ahead depends in part on the way our new commanders and staff officers face or ignore the staff training problem. Will the young aviators just going into staff positions be prepared to recognise and deal with aviation staff problems as they are trained to recognise and handle difficulties encountered while flying? They will be if allowed to develop their abilities through proper training and schooling. Our potential leaders will meet the challenge created by the rapid expansion of Army Aviation; and they will become the aggressive aviation officers needed to assume positions of responsibility.

THE AMF

AND

SPORTS PARACHUTING

Lance Corporal M. M. Johnson,
Royal Australian Infantry.

“ . . . sharing the free space playground with another parachutist opens a realm of experience comparable to nothing known to man — it is unlimited in joy and satisfaction learning what really can be done . . . ”

— *A Canadian Parachutist,*
by Daryl Henry.

HOW MANY TIMES do people discuss this sport and shake their heads, condemning the mere thought of the subject without having first made a study of it? Far too often this happens and adverse comments are made by those who no doubt in times past would have condemned flying and motor cars just as strongly.

Regrettably this attitude is found within the AMF. The aim of this article is to show:—

- (1) The progress made by Australian Parachute Clubs in the few short years of existence, and the scope of training within these clubs;
- (2) The importance of this sport in a military role;
- (3) That parachuting is not dangerous and is strictly controlled;
- (4) Interest by other Armies and general acceptance of parachuting overseas; and
- (5) A suggested plan for the future.

Progress in Australia

It is only four years ago that two parachute clubs were formed in Australia — one in Queensland, the other in Victoria. Their aim was to form the foundation of a sport that was becoming very popular overseas. Today we have over 30 parachute clubs in Australia with approximately 1200 members actively jumping. A high percentage of these members are AMF personnel. Many have joined these clubs because they have been unable to attend service parachute courses. A study will show that such personnel are genuine parachutists, as these sports clubs tend to sort out such members that join for the so-called “glory”, or members who are not psychologically adjusted. Knowledge gained from overseas clubs has allowed the sport to progress satisfactorily in Australia and a very strong training programme is in force with the emphasis on free fall parachuting.

Training

Sport parachute clubs train the pupil in basic ground procedure and on completion of eight static descents the pupil, if he so wishes, can graduate to free fall. Freefalling requires detailed knowledge and some courage as, unlike static jumping which is taught to a drill, freefall parachuting differs to the extent that from the time the pupil exits from an aircraft until the time he pulls his ripcord to activate his parachute, he is completely on his own.

The student is taught the various flight positions that enable a parachutist to control the body in the same manner as an aeroplane or bird, with the only exception that height lost cannot be regained. These various flight positions are termed "stabilisation". This means that a falling body can stabilise in flight, by using legs, arms and body as a pilot of an aircraft uses rudder, ailerons and elevators; the parachutist can keep control of his fall and perform a number of manoeuvres as required at championship jumping. Without this control a parachutist would spin and tumble through the air and could black out. These various positions can also alter your speed in the air. Thus it is possible for two or more members to meet in mid-air and pass to each other a baton. This "mid-air relay race" is becoming very popular now in Australia.

Aid to Defence

Where could one find a sport that directly helps train men in the defence of the country?

These are some examples — Rifle Clubs and Aero Clubs. Because of their indirect defence value these sports are, or were, subsidised by the Commonwealth. However, to date unfortunately parachuting has not been so recognised and blessed. There is a strong argument for financial and material support because, through parachute clubs, the Army gains excellent material in dedicated members who, with further applied training could form the nucleus of parachute battalions.

The American Army has proved that small patrols can be dropped behind enemy lines satisfactorily, especially if the patrol is made up of freefallers and exits from light aircraft at heights of up to 20,000 feet. The small aircraft is difficult to detect on radar and the parachutist can freefall 18,000 feet before deploying their parachutes, thus helping to arrive unseen. In certain cases this method is better than sending in large aircraft at low altitudes and exiting static parachutists who may well become floating targets.

At present our Army depends entirely on the RAAF for aircraft and parachute packers — it has been said that these two go hand in hand. Now that the Army has its own light aircraft squadron and, as a fully trained sport parachutist is taught to pack his own parachute, a useful partnership is in the offing. Packing parachutes is extremely difficult and many hours under strict supervision are involved before a member can qualify for a packer's certificate. These

certificates can only be issued by a Master Rigger, of which there are only three in Australia.

As sport is vital to help build the physical standard of the serviceman, the sport of parachuting is excellent as all the muscles in the body are used and co-ordination of mind and reflexes is essential. Thus the sport of parachuting provides the following:—

- (a) Voluntary physical training for AMF members;
- (b) Excellent recruits for Army parachute training;
- (c) Specialists in free fall parachuting; and
- (d) Parachute packers.

It has been said that sports parachuting and packing tends to be lax in regards to safety and many people honestly believe that this sport could be costly in prestige and money to the Army, due to the supposed number of injuries involved. This thinking is without justification as accidents or incidents seldom occur.

Accidents

In the year ending June 1963 over 3,000 descents were made by AMF personnel jumping with civilian clubs and injuries sustained in comparison to recognised sports such as football were small. Of course there is the risk of death, as in all sports that place a high demand on skill, self-discipline and judgment. In all cases it has been found that the accident was due to the fault of the parachutist, not his equipment. For example, recently in NSW there was a case of equipment not being correctly checked and a parachutist

exited the aircraft without connecting up some of his gear. He was killed when the parachute opened incorrectly and in such a manner that it was impossible to deploy the emergency parachute. There was another recent case where an incorrect drill was carried out when a member landed in water, resulting in the member drowning. These are human failings. It might be said of the sport as it is said of aviation, that "parachuting in itself is not inherently dangerous — but like the sea, it is terribly unforgiving of any carelessness, incapacity or neglect." In order to lessen the risks, a very precise operational plan has been drafted and a body formed to ensure that this plan is abided by.

Control

The Department of Civil Aviation is the controlling body here in Australia and they have amended Air Navigation Orders mainly on the advice of the Australian Parachute Federation. This body, commonly referred to the APF, has been formed on the same basis as parachute federations overseas. The main purpose of the federation is to control the safety factors of Australian parachuting. It has gathered world wide technical information and reports of accidents and overseas operational plans, and from these a set of rules has been drafted to ensure that no parachutist jumps outside his capabilities. As yet it is not compulsory to be a federation member, but all the larger Clubs in Australia are insisting that members join, and before very long it can safely be

said that all parachutists in Australia will come under the one body.

If a member breaks federation regulations, he and usually his club, are penalised. These powers are held by area safety officers and state councils, who now observe all jumping operations. Most clubs throughout the world have this type of control and are affiliated with a parent body which is the Federale Aeronautic Internationale. The FAI studies various reports, including accident reports, and every so often they issue their own technical findings. Parachute modifications are one of their many responsibilities and this is covered in the next paragraphs.

Modifications

Because the sport is now highly competitive, modified parachutes are necessary to compete in spot-parachute competitions. These modifications are virtually unknown in the military world with the exception of America.

The AMF has used single blank gore and dairy slot modifications, but these are quite outmoded and would not be suitable for present day competitions. The general principle of these modifications is very simple — a portion of the parachute is cut away and this allows an outlet for part of the air that fills the canopy. This air constantly escaping forms a "jet propulsion" action that pushes the parachutist in the direction he is facing. The parachute can then be turned thus enabling the parachutist to steer towards his target. Various

modifications have different uses — some are for turning, others are for drive.

Overseas Operations and Acceptance of Parachute Clubs

Russia, France, America and Britain now have officially recognised parachute clubs within their forces. Many of these of their service clubs with both countries support the activities equipment and finance. The Americans have four Army parachute teams who do nothing else but free fall parachuting. Over 8,000 members of the American Army are participating in the sport. It has been readily accepted as an important recreational training.

The Russian Army parachute teams receive, by our standards, amazing support. The British Army is now supporting club activities and recently went to great expense in setting the height record. They also sent two teams to the World Championships.

France has two parachute schools, where members from all over the world can enter the courses designed to improve techniques. These courses, apart from living expenses, are completely free of charge. The cost is borne by the government. Germany is also fast entering the field and at the present moment has well over fifty sports clubs in operation, again receiving government assistance.

In Australia the picture is nothing like so rosy. In fact the sport of parachuting receives no official recognition or support, if it is not actually discouraged.

A Plan for the Future

The sport has now caught on to the extent that AMF members will continue to jump with civilian clubs if the sport is not recognised by the Army. If one takes into consideration safety, it would be preferable if the sport were recognised as then an instruction could be issued to cover soldiers. This would serve two purposes:—

- (a) To ensure that AMF members are participating in the sport with a full appreciation of safety; and
- (b) To ensure that adequate ground training, supervised equipment checking, and emergency drills are standardised; these points tend to be overlooked by some civilian clubs.

For years we have followed the examples set by larger armies who, because of their financial allocations, can afford to "experiment" on new ideas. We cannot afford to be slow in accepting new ideas lest we find ourselves adopting theories and equipment soon to be superseded. I feel that in regards to sports parachuting we can no longer "turn a blind eye" and we must both accept and finance this sport as it offers unlimited help gladly given by its members.

The 3 RAR Parachute Club has laid a good foundation for the future. In its twelve months of operation it has:—

- (i) Bought and paid for £1000 worth of equipment;
- (ii) Trained 50 AMF members to parachute and make over 600 descents;
- (iii) Set the Queensland height record of 20,500 feet delaying opening for 95 seconds;
- (iv) Carried out twelve successful "baton passes"; and
- (v) Set the Australian record in despatching 74 descents in one weekend using one Cessna 180 aircraft.

In view of this it is only natural that we would like to see our efforts recognised by the military authorities and financial assistance given to offset the individual's burden.

Conclusion

There is much more to say about parachuting — such things as opening devices which are automatic, oxygen equipment, types of aircraft, right-hand ripcords. However, the points covered in this article should draw attention to what happens in other countries and other armies and what happens in Australia and the AMF.

The late General de Lattre de Tassigny when speaking of the qualities required by the modern soldier said . . . "dynamic human qualities of imagination and curiosity, initiative and willingness together with alertness and flexibility are required."

Parachuting can help us towards this goal.

PUBLIC RELATIONS IN THE PENTROPIC DIVISION

Captain A. Dunne
Public Relations Officer, Northern Command

PUBLIC Relations is a tactical military weapon. In the hands of competent and experienced PR staff, it can mean more to a Commander than another Division.

Public Relations can mould the thoughts and actions, and lift, or lower, the morale of the Army, the public, or the enemy, as no other psychological weapon can.

The Nazis held Germany and much of Europe through the terror of World War II largely as a result of mental conditioning by propaganda (Public Relations). For nearly two decades this same weapon has replaced massed armies in the front line of the ideological struggle of the "Cold War." It has successfully maintained a state of confusion and indecision in the minds of the smaller nations, and cowed an entire world with the threat of nuclear annihilation.

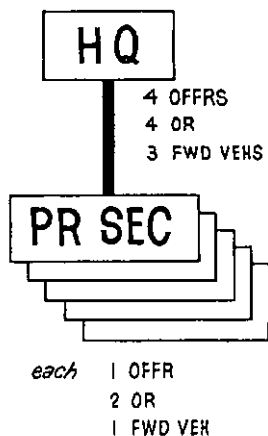
Be this threat true or false, there is no denying that world morale has reached such depths as a result of the propaganda (PR) campaign that it has stood by impotently and watched an entire people "walled-off," as in Berlin, and a gallant nation raped and murdered as was Hungary.

An examination of the psychological state of the world today will make it abundantly clear how important Public Relations is to a modern army.

Presuming we are agreed then that PR is a psychological weapon, and that depending on how it is applied, it can make or destroy images in the mind; it is logical to consider this power as a weapon best invested in the Commander and his staff.

For this reason it is suggested that Public Relations should logically be part of "G" Branch

DIV PR UNIT



TOTALS

9 OFFRS
14 OR
8 +TON FWD VEHs

with direct responsibility to and under the control of the General Staff.

It is the responsibility of an Army in peace time to train for war. The Australian Army has decided on the Pentropic formation as that best suited to its needs and role in warfare. The following is a suggested Public Relations war establishment tailored for the Pentropic Division.

At Division level is the Division Public Relations Unit.

**(Div PR Unit)
HQ**

Commander

2IC

PRO Tech

PRO Tech

Reporter

ADPR (Lieutenant Colonel)

DADPR (Major)

Captain, Photographer

Captain, Journalist)

WO2

Three Batmen/drivers with vehicles.

Five Sections, each —

PRO (Captain)

Photographer (Sergeant)

Batman/driver with vehicle.

Allocation is on the basis of one Section to a Battalion/Battle Group.

Roles

1. To exploit the tactical situation in accordance with the Commander's PR plan.
2. To collect material, make films and take photographs in accordance with this plan.
3. Conduct visiting Press, Radio, and TV representatives, and supply them with information in accordance with the Commander's PR plan.

Staffing

The ADPR is adviser to the Commander on PR matters, and is responsible for the Division PR Unit.

The DADPR is 2IC to the ADPR, and is responsible for unit administration (internal) and co-ordination.

The PRO Tech is responsible for all photographic equipment and material held by the unit. His duties include supervision of all field processing.

The PRO Press is charged with the responsibility for co-ordinating PR activity at Div HQ level. Part of his task is to ensure the onward movement of press matter from the Sections.

In addition, he assists the ADPR and the DADPR with the movement of visiting media representatives, and co-ordinates their activities with the sections.

The Warrant Officer/Reporter is responsible for the clerical tasks of the unit not covered by the Divisional Adm staff or the PROs, and may be required to supplement and assist the PRO Press in his activities.

Administration

Administration of the Divisional Public Relations Unit is the responsibility of the Division. All Unit A and Q Matters are handled by the Division's A and Q machinery. Unit staff are responsible for demands and acquittals.

Within the framework of the Division Administration, Sections attached to elements of the Division become the responsibility of those elements. That is to say, Sections will be rationed and

quartered by the unit to which it is for the time being attached for duty.

Public Relations Unit HQ will be the responsibility of the Div HQ Company.

Visiting Press are the responsibility of the ADPR and his staff. The same administrative procedure will apply as operates for the Div PR Unit.

Each PR Section should be self-contained as far as possible so as to make the minimum of demands on the unit to which it is attached.

Flexibility

A key consideration in the structure of the Div PR Unit is flexibility. It is not envisaged that all five Sections will be committed at the one time unless the Division, as a whole, is committed to combat. The LOB Sections, not detailed off for specific tasks by the ADPR, therefore can be held in reserve to reinforce or supplement the Sections already allocated. Alternatively, they can be sent back to the Comm Z, the LSF, or detailed off to the Combat Support Force.

At the discretion of the ADPR, mindful of the Commander's PR requirements, Sections can be ordered forward, back, or to either flank in whatever strength he may consider the task requires (within the limits of his available staff), so as to exploit every Public Relations potential available.

Economy

The Div PR Unit lends itself to the economic use of manpower. The suggested structure

is adaptable to simple reduction for Task Force or Battle Group unit tasks merely by withdrawing the surplus sections from establishment and by reducing the HQ command by the ADPR, his driver and vehicle.

Division of the Unit HQ

A possible division of the Div PR Unit HQ is as follows:

Div Main

ADPR
PRO Press
WO2 Reporter
Driver/Batman and vehicle (2).

Div Rear

ADPR
Pro Tech
Driver/Batman and vehicle (1).

The division of the Unit HQ is determined by the tasks of the officers concerned.

With the DADPR and the PRO Tech largely taken up with the A and Q aspects of Unit administration, it is desirable to locate them with the A and Q staff of the Division at Rear.

Alternatively, as the ADPR and the PRO Press are mainly interested in the staff and planning aspects of operations, it is logical that they should be located with the Commander and his Staff.

Because of the manifest tasks of the Public Relations Service in war time, it is not possible to detail them here.

The suggestions contained in this brief article are meant as a guide to a possible establishment only. While by no means a military paper, it is suggested that it offers a basic plan for the introduction of Public Relations into the field army.



2/24 — A HISTORY OF THE 2/24 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION. Edited by Major R. P. Serle. (The Jacaranda Press Pty. Ltd., 73 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane.)

Few units have contributed more to the fighting traditions of the Australian Army than the infantry battalions which have borne the numeral 24. The first 24th was formed early in 1915 for service with the A.I.F. in World War I. Between the wars the numeral and the colours were carried by the 24th in the C.M.F. In World War II the 2/24th was raised for service with the second A.I.F. while the C.M.F. 24th carried on in Australia and later rendered distinguished service in New Guinea.

Consider some of the battle honours won by these battalions. ANZAC — POZIERS — BULLECOURT — DEFENCE OF TOBRUK — EL ALAMEIN — BOBDUBI — MIVO RIVER — SATTELBERG — TARAKAN. These great names go rolling down the years to stand as a challenge to succeeding generations of Australian soldiers. The deeds they represent may be equalled; they will never be surpassed.

And consider some of the men who commanded one or other of the 24ths. A. R. L. Wiltshire (The

Black Prince), Stan Savige, Alan Spowers, Charles Weir, George Warfe — great warriors who became legends in their own lifetime.

Thinking of these deeds and these men, one is constrained to query the wisdom of submerging the splendid individual traditions of so many fighting units in the colourless generality of our new infantry organisation. Something precious has been lost, something that enters into the souls of young soldiers when they join a unit with a shining history of battles fought and won. Why do we forgo the immense moral value of the honours so hardly won? A neat layout on a scrap of paper won't win a battle, but a proud tradition will.

The 2/24th Battalion was raised for service abroad with the Second A.I.F. in mid-1940 when the disasters sustained by the Allies in Europe resolved all doubts about Australia's role in the war. The new unit, with Lieutenant Colonel Alan Spowers, DSO, MC, as its first Commanding Officer, was allotted to 26 Brigade which originally formed part of 7 Division. Early in 1941, however, 26 Brigade was transferred to 9 Division and served with that formation throughout the war.

The battalion established its first HQ in a couple of rooms in "H" Block, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, where Colonel Spowers began to select his officers. His choice for adjutant fell upon Captain Charles Weir who had been commissioned in 24 Battalion CMF, in which unit he had earned a reputation for soldierly ability and riotous propensities. Captain Frank Budge and Lieutenant Lin Canty also came from 24 Battalion. On 12 August the battalion, with a strength of six officers and nine other ranks, set itself up in business at its first camp at Wangaratta. From that point the battalion grew rapidly in strength, moved to Bonegilla and sailed with 26 Brigade for the Middle East on 15 November.

When the decision was made to send British troops from the Middle East to Greece early in 1941 it was not expected that the enemy would be unable to undertake offensive action in North Africa for a long time. Consequently it was expected that the ill-equipped and imperfectly-trained 9 Division would have no difficulty in holding the recently won territory in Cyrenaica while the more experienced formations were sent to Greece. The unexpected arrival of General Erwin Rommel with his highly-trained Afrika Korps brought that convenient arrangement to a violent end. If the division was rather bewildered by the sudden onslaught, it never lost its cohesion. When it got back to the firm base of Tobruk it dug its heels in and, together with an assortment of British units in the fortress, stood up to fight. In the

beginning they did not have much to fight with, but they used what they had with a remarkable genius for improvisation.

2/24 Battalion was holding the sector of the perimeter on which fell the full weight of Rommel's first great effort to capture the fortress. The main armour-infantry blow fell squarely on the battalion on 1 May. In two days of heavy fighting the battalion was overrun by sheer weight of men and metal, but it was not driven off its ground. It stood right there and fought it out, with the result that the Panzers ground to a halt. Casualties of course were heavy, but a unit less able or willing to accept severe punishment might have let the attack penetrate deep into the fortress.

Is it nothing more than coincidence that in the first week in May, 1917, the original 24th sustained similar heavy losses through its flat refusal to accept defeat?

After leaving Tobruk 9 Division recuperated and trained in Syria before being hastily rushed back to the Western Desert when Rommel overthrew the Eighth Army at Gazala and broke through to El Alamein. The 2/24th signalled its return to the desert with a magnificent attack at Tel el Eisa. Then it settled down to prepare for the coming battle of El Alamein.

The story of these preparations is an excellent account of an infantry battalion getting ready for a big battle. We all know, or we ought to know, what the manuals have to say about this subject. But manuals make dry,

remote reading. We need to know a great deal more than the manuals can tell us. One way to find out is to read the relevant passages in this book. There is no over-writing, no dramatics in these passages. They constitute a straightforward, well-told story of competent soldiers going about their business with rare singleness of purpose, but without any fuss or bother. In a very striking way, they illuminate all that we have been told about the art of leadership in war.

A Commanding Officer must be very sure of his unit to say, as Colonel Charles Weir said in the course of his address to his troops on the eve of Alamein —

“Finally, I say this. If there is a man among you who hasn't the guts to fight shoulder to shoulder with us, and who hopes in some way to dodge his share of the job, let him go and let no-one stop him. We will take no-one into this fight who is not dedicated to the task.”

Is it any wonder that we find, as officer casualties mounted during the battle, companies commanded by sergeants, and even by corporals, still *attacking* magnificently? Is it any wonder that we find a platoon, without any officers or NCOs left at all, still pressing resolutely on to its objective?

The 2/24th appears to have seen nothing unusual in these things. They seem to have regarded them as perfectly normal, routine events; if they had not occurred it would have been unusual. But they are, in fact, the

hall-marks of a unit superbly trained and supremely confident in itself. The training manuals talk about these things. Here is a unit that accomplished them as a matter of course.

After Alamein the 2/24th returned to Australia with 9 Division and participated in the amphibious landings for the successful attacks on Lae and Finschafen. These operations, of course, posed problems very different from operations in the Western Desert. The battalion approached these new problems in its usual resolute, if apparently casual, way. They simply attacked the problem as they attacked the enemy. They displayed their mastery of the new techniques in their last hard fight at Tarakan.

This book was written by four different authors and many others contributed passages. In the circumstances one would have expected some lack of unity and uniformity of style. On the contrary, the general editor, Major R. P. Serle, has performed a remarkable feat in producing a story of outstanding literary and historical merit. The printers and publishers have done an equally good job in presenting the story in a most attractive form.

This book is the most outstanding unit history it has been my privilege to review. In my opinion it is a model of what a unit history should be — “the 2/24th have done it again”.

No doubt the editor and his authors had in mind nothing more ambitious than the produc-

tion of their unit's story in World War II. But they have done much more than that. They have produced an enthralling, exciting book about the Australian citizen soldier at war, a book that could be, and should be, a mine of information and a source of inspiration to the younger generation of officers striving to

fit themselves for the leadership of their fellow men in the remorseless crucible of battle. Since in any future conflict bigger than a dog fight, by far the greater proportion of our army will consist of citizen soldiers, it is a book which all officers will neglect to their own peril and the peril of this country.

— E.G.K.
