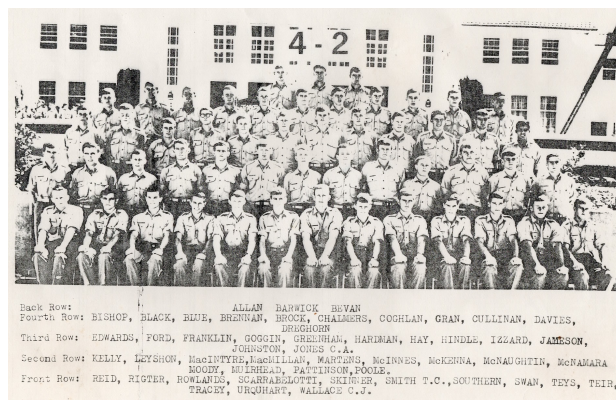


50 Years ago - it all happened in 1969....



The Scope of Military Instruction

The scope of the military syllabuses varied by classes and the aims for each were achieved. These were:

Fourth Class. To make the cadet proficient in the basic skills required to bring him to recruit soldier standard.¹

Fourth Class

On entry into the College, the new cadets received four weeks of continuous military training. As in previous years, three weeks of this period were spent at the Orientation Camp at Point Hut some 20 miles from Duntroon. Here the cadets received their introduction to *Army life*. The major part of their orientation was in the basic subjects of Weapon Training, Drill and Physical Training. In addition they received instruction on aspects of the Corps of Staff Cadets to better fit them into College life.

In May a tour of Army establishments in Eastern Command was carried out. Considerable value was gained from the demonstrations staged and the cadets' knowledge of the Army was generally broadened.

This military education was further continued throughout the year during the five periods allotted each week, and all subjects in the Fourth Class curriculum were covered.

This progression led on to the field training exercise at the end of the year, in which the class participated with the remainder of the Corps of Staff Cadets.²

Strength of the Corps of Staff Cadets – 1 February 1969.³

Class	NSW	Qld	Vic	WA	Tas	ACT	SA	NT	NZ	Foreign	Total
1	31	7	6	2	..	4	3	..	3	..	56
2	12	7	9	3	..	2	3	2	6	1	45
3	18	13	11	7	..	6	7	1	4	..	67
4	46	18	14	6	2	3	10	2	5	..	106
Total	107	45	40	18	2	15	23	5	18	1	274

¹ REPORT ON THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF AUSTRALIA FOR PERIOD 1 February 1969 to 31 January 1970, p5. Accessed at <https://duntroonclassof1972.files.wordpress.com/2019/01/fox-report-committee-of-inquiry.pdf>

² Ibid, p 6.

³ Ibid, p 25.

Results of 1969 Courses⁴

FACULTY OF MILITARY STUDIES

	BA (Mil) Course	BSc (Mil) Courses	
	<i>Arts</i>	<i>Applied Science</i>	<i>Engineering</i>
First Year			
Admitted	43	16	21
Sat for examinations	43	14	20
Passed	25	7	17
To repeat	8	5	1

DIPLOMA COURSES

	<i>Arts</i>	<i>Applied Science</i>	<i>Engineering</i>
First Year			
Admitted	20	..	4
Transferred from degree course	7	..	3
Passed	19	..	3
To repeat	4	..	1

Honours and Awards

The following members of the College staff received awards in 1969: **The Victoria Cross**

W02 K. Payne, RA Inf⁵

The Thompson Cup-Best Performance in Novice Boxing Championships: *SIC* R. B. Simmons⁶

The Smith Shield - Cadet of the Fourth Class most proficient in Weapon Training: *SIC* G.C. Hay⁷

Sport – Full Colours: Swimming: *S/C* P.M.Newman⁸

Sport – Half Colours: Australian Rules : *SIC* J. J. Black, *SIC* R. L. Shaw⁹

Awards¹⁰

Fourth Class

Combined Military Subjects	<i>S/C</i> G. C. Hay
Combined Subjects in the Arts Course	<i>S/C</i> K. J. Hindle
Combined Subjects in the Applied Science Course	<i>S/C</i> R. C. Wallace
Combined Subjects in the Engineering Course	<i>S/C</i> D. G. Poole

⁴ Ibid, p 11.

⁵ Ibid, p 23.

⁶ Ibid, p 30.

⁷ Ibid, p 30.

⁸ Ibid, p 32

⁹ Ibid, p 32

¹⁰ Ibid, p 29.

Timeline (selective and abridged)

January 12: *Led Zeppelin*, the first Led Zeppelin album, is released in the United States.

January 16: Two cosmonauts transfer from Soyuz 5 to Soyuz 4 via a spacewalk while the two craft are docked together, the first time such a transfer takes place. The two spacecraft undock and return to Earth two days later.

January 20: Richard Nixon is sworn in as the 37th President of the United States.

24 January (or thereabouts): Fourth Class entered RMC.

January 30: The Beatles give their last public performance, of several tracks on the roof of Apple Records, London (featured in *Let It Be* (1970 film)). The Mariner 6 Mars probe is launched from the United States.

March 2: In Toulouse, France the first Concorde test flight is conducted.

March 17: Golda Meir becomes the first female prime minister of Israel.

March 18: Operation Breakfast, the covert bombing of Cambodia by U.S. planes, begins.

April 4: Dr. Denton Cooley implants the first temporary artificial heart.

April 20: The Battle of Dong Ap Bia, also known as Hamburger Hill, begins during the Vietnam War.³⁰

April: Sir Paul Hasluck becomes Governor-General of Australia after the retirement of Lord Casey.

May 15: An American teenager known as 'Robert R.' dies in St. Louis, Missouri, of a baffling medical condition. In 1984 it will be identified as the earliest confirmed case of HIV/AIDS in North America.

19-23 May: Fourth Class tour of Army establishments in Eastern Command.

May 25: *Midnight Cowboy*, an X-rated, Oscar-winning John Schlesinger film, is released.

June 3: While operating at sea on SEATO maneuvers, the Australian aircraft carrier HMAS *Melbourne* accidentally rams and slices into the American destroyer USS *Frank E. Evans* in the South China Sea, killing 74 American seamen.

June 8: U.S. President Richard Nixon and South Vietnamese President Nguyễn Văn Thiệu meet at Midway Island. Nixon announces that 25,000 U.S. troops will be withdrawn by September.¹⁹

June: The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission rules that equal pay for women doing the same work as men must be phased in by 1972.

June 28: The Stonewall riots in New York City mark the start of the modern gay rights movement in the U.S.

July 18: Edward M. Kennedy drives off a bridge on his way home from a party on Chappaquiddick Island, Massachusetts. Mary Jo Kopechne, a former campaign aide to his brother, dies in the early morning hours of July 19 in the submerged car.

July 20: Apollo program: The lunar module *Eagle*/Apollo 11 lands on the lunar surface. An estimated 500 million people worldwide watch in awe as Neil Armstrong takes his historic first steps on the Moon at 10:56 pm ET (02:56 UTC July 21), the largest television audience for a live broadcast at that time.

July 25: U.S. President Richard Nixon declares the Nixon Doctrine, stating that the United States now expects its Asian allies to take care of their own military defense. This starts the "Vietnamization" of the war.

August 4: At the apartment of French intermediary Jean Sainteny in Paris, U.S. representative Henry Kissinger and North Vietnamese representative Xuan Thuy begin secret peace negotiations. They eventually fail since both sides cannot agree to any terms.

August 9: Members of the Manson Family invade the home of actress Sharon Tate and her husband Roman Polanski in Los Angeles. The followers kill Tate (who was 8 months pregnant), and her friends. More than 100 stab wounds are found on the victims.

August 15–18: The Woodstock Festival is held near White Lake, New York, featuring some of the top rock musicians of the era.

25 August: Gerald Walsh writes to the Commandant of RMC about bastardisation.

28 August: Fourth Class Engineering students toured the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme.

September 1: A bloodless coup in Libya ousts King Idris, and brings Colonel Muammar Gaddafi to power.

September 2: The first automatic teller machine in the United States is installed in Rockville Centre, New York. Ho Chi Minh, the president of the North Vietnam, dies at the age of 79.

September 5: Lieutenant William Calley is charged with six counts of premeditated murder, for the 1968 My Lai Massacre deaths of 109 Vietnamese civilians in My Lai, Vietnam.

8 September: an internal Board of Inquiry convened to examine the issues raised by Gerald Walsh.

20 September – The Balmain Tigers defeated South Sydney Rabbitohs in the NSWRL Rugby League Grand Final at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

September 22–25: An Islamic conference in Rabat, Morocco, following the al-Aqsa Mosque fire (August 21), condemns the Israeli claim of ownership of Jerusalem.

September 23: China carries out an underground nuclear bomb test.

26 September: Board of Inquiry outcomes announced by Minister Lynch. The Fox Inquiry is announced.

27 September – Richmond 12.13 (85) beats Carlton 8.12 (60) for its seventh premiership.

2 October – Tennis player Rod Laver beats fellow Australian Tony Roche in the men's singles final of the U.S. Open, achieving his second Grand Slam (having also won the Australian Open, the French Open and Wimbledon in that year).

October 5: *Monty Python's Flying Circus* first airs on BBC One.

October 25: John Gorton's Liberal/Country Coalition Government is narrowly re-elected with a sharply reduced majority, defeating a resurgent Labor Party led by Gough Whitlam.

October 29: The first message is sent over ARPANET, the forerunner of the internet..

November 12: Independent investigative journalist Seymour Hersh breaks the My Lai story.

13 November : Former Minister for Air, Dudley Erwin, expresses to journalists his belief that Prime Minister Gorton's young secretary, Ainsley Gotto, was responsible for him being dropped from his ministerial position. Erwin also asserted Gotto severely restricted access to Gorton which he and other ministers had previously enjoyed. When asked what political manoeuvre had been used to get him out of office, he replied "it's shapely, it wiggles, it's cold-blooded and its name is Ainsley Gotto".

November 17: Negotiators from the Soviet Union and the United States meet in Helsinki, to begin the SALT I negotiations aimed at limiting the number of strategic weapons on both sides.

December 2: The Boeing 747 jumbo jet makes its first passenger flight. It carries 191 people, most of them reporters and photographers, from Seattle, to New York City.

9 December: RMC Graduation Parade.

16 December: Prime Minister John Gorton announces that a withdrawal of Australian Army troops from the Vietnam War would begin in 1970.