

MODULE FOUR - HISTORY OF THE AAC

CONTENTS

Explain the History of the AAC [part IO 1120]

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KEY DATES

- A. 1850's** British soldiers were stationed in Australian colonies and trained locals. As early as 1834 some school students were receiving drill training.
- B. 1866** **Reverend Macarthur raised the first official cadet unit on 29 March 1866 at St Mark's Collegiate School in Sydney. In 1868 he was transferred to King's School and the unit was re-raised there under the name King's School Cadet Corps.**
- C. 1890's** The number of cadet units increased in Eastern colonies (ie: NSW, VIC etc due to greater population) until 1890's when the depression saw many close. Development in QLD and TAS was slower and WA did not get a cadet unit until the early 1900's. A unit was raised in Fremantle at around this time.
- D. 1901** Federation occurred on 1 January 1901 but cadets remained under state control until 1906 when the Commonwealth Cadet Corps was raised on 16 July 1906.
- E. 1910** The Universal Training Scheme was introduced in this year. Under the scheme all medically fit males 14-18 years had to serve in Cadets. Boys who didn't comply were charged and dealt with by the courts.
- F. 1914** The outbreak of World War I saw many ex-cadets join up thinking they were heading off for a big adventure. Reports of heavy casualties filtered back to Australia by early 1915 and showed that they had been tragically mistaken.
- G. 1918** Peace! Military spending decreased and many cadet units closed.

H. 1929 The Wall Street Crash sparked a worldwide depression. The Universal training scheme started in 1910 was abolished and replaced with voluntary Militia Training. Cadets were divided into two groups:

Regimental Detachments of Senior Cadets aged between 16-18 years were attached to what were called Militia Units (we would now call these GRES units); and

Senior cadets aged 14 - 16 years were attached to school based units. Officers came from the teaching staff and selected cadets were made "Cadet Lieutenants".

- J. 1939** The outbreak of World War II - Regimental cadet detachments were disbanded as staff were needed to train soldiers for overseas service. Some school based units closed but others struggled on.
- K. 1949-51** Cadet units were attached to CMF (Citizen Military Forces) units. CMF units were what we would now call GRES units. Some regimental cadet units still existed at this time.
- L. 1951** The Australian Cadet Corps (ACC) was raised.
- M. 1963** **Field Marshall His Royal Highness, Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh KC, KT, OM, GBE became the Colonel-in-Chief of the ACC on 24 May 1963.**
- N. 1970** **The Duke of Edinburgh's Banner was presented to the ACC on 2 May 1970 at Victoria Barracks in Sydney. At that time there were 46,000 cadets in Australia and PNG.**
- O. 1975** The ACC was disbanded by the Whitlam Labor Government but was re-raised by on 1 October 1976 by the Fraser Liberal Government following the Federal.
- P. 1985** The Regional Cadet Unit (RCU) scheme was introduced. Instead of being based at high schools, units now served separate areas or regions. This is where the "RCU" abbreviation comes from.
- Q. 1996** The state based Youth Training Scheme (YTS) commences. The first YTS Army Cadet unit in Western Australia was Eastern Hills.
- R. 1998** Existing Regional Cadet Units become eligible for YTS funding. Limited support units are phased out and become fully supported. The Army Cadet Unit at Scotch College is disbanded.

