

THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS-

REPORT

relating to the proposed construction of

CADETS' BARRACK BLOCKS

at the

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE,

DUNTROON, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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THE PARLTAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

CADETS' BARRACK BLOCKS, ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE,
DUNTROON, A.G.T.

Report

His Excellency the Administrator in Council has referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for inquiry and report to the House of Representatives, the proposal to erect cadets' barrack blocks at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, Australian Capital Territory. The Committee have the honour to report as follows:-

General

1. The Committee made an inspection of the Royal Military
College, particularly the existing accommodation for cadets and the sites
for the proposed barrack blocks. Evidence was heard from representatives
of the Department of the Army and the Department of Works.

Historical

- 2. Early in 1910, as a result of a visit by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff to advise on the defences of Australia, the Commonwealth Government decided to establish a military college for the training of officer cadets for the Australian Army.
- 3. The site at Duntroon was selected on 1st July, 1910, and the first class of staff cadets entered the Royal Military College on 27th June, 1911. Except for the period from 1931 to 1936, when for financial reasons it was located in Sydney, the College has continued to function at Duntroon.

4. Initially provision was made for 100 cadets in four classes of 25. The number has increased to a strength this year of 219.

The role of the Royal Military College

- 5. The Royal Military College, Duntroon, is established to train cadets for careers in the service of the Crown, as officers in the Australian Army.
- 6. Its aim is to give each cadet the knowledge necessary to fit him to enter upon such a career and to foster in him the moral and mental qualities on which leadership depends.
- 7. The course of instruction is designed:-
 - (a) to promote a sense of honour and loyalty, duty and responsibility; to inculcate habits of discipline and soldierly conduct; and to give a correct understanding of the place of the arred services in the Australian nation;
 - (b) to provide a balanced and liberal education in the arts and sciences taking into account the special needs of the service and the aptitude of the cadet;
 - (c) to develop a capacity for clear and logical thought and clarity of expression;
 - (d) to give a sound military education in the science and principles of war; and
 - (e) to instruct the cadet in the military skills and techniques of modern warfare required of the junior regimental officer, and in the organisation, roles and employment of the various arms and services; and to provide specialist knowledge adequate for his appointment as a lieutenant in a particular arm or service.
- At the request of the New Zealand Government, provision has been made since the inception of the College, for training cadets from New Zealand.

9. To carry out its role the College has to provide for the military and academic training of the cadets and for the living and recreational requirements of cadets and of military and academic staff.

Existing barrack accommodation

- 10. Barrack accommodation in permanent and temporary buildings can be provided for 265 cadets. Most of this accommodation is in permanent buildings.
- 11. <u>Permanent buildings.</u> Permanent accommodation is provided in five buildings conveniently grouped around the instructional, messing and recreational facilities for cadets. The buildings accommodate 211 cadets under conditions which are of suitable standard.
- 12. <u>Temporary buildings.</u>— Accommodation can be provided for 54 cadets in temporary buildings erected in wartime. These buildings were not designed for prolonged use and they are reaching the end of their economic life. They are extremely cold in winter and are unsuitable for cadet living and study accommodation.
- 13. The majority of this temporary accommodation is inconveniently located in relation to the main College buildings and classrooms.

The need for new buildings

- 14. <u>Number of cadets.</u>— A Committee appointed by the Minister for the Army in 1959 to examine the methods of production of officers for the Australian Regular Army recommended that planning for the next 20 years should be based on a yearly requirement of 200 officers, 100 of whom should be graduates of the Royal Military College.
- 15. Although over-all planning for the Royal Military College envisages the eventual production of 100 cadets a year, we were told that the full intake to achieve this is not likely for some years. The accommodation proposed in the reference before the Committee, therefore, is for a smaller number.
- 16. In 1961 there are 219 cadets at the College. The table which follows gives the cadet strength in each class for 1961 and the

estimated strengths to 1965. The figures include an expected intake of 10 cadets each year from New Zealand.

	<u>1961</u>	1962	1963	1964	1965
4th class (intake)	71	114	114	114	114
3rd class	65	61	99	99	99
2nd class	44	59	56	90	90
1st class (graduating)	39	43	58	55	88
Totals	219	277	327	358	391

- 17. Wastage through the course arises from such causes as failure to attain the required military or academic standard, medical downgrading and withdrawal, on payment, for personal reasons.
- 18. The introduction of a scholarship scheme and an increased number of applications for entry into the Royal Military College in 1962 support the hopes expressed by Army witnesses that the estimated strengths will be achieved.
- 19. Available accommodation. As already mentioned, accommodation can be found for 265 cadets, 54 of whom would have to live in temporary buildings.
- 20. Without new buildings and if the estimated cadet strength is achieved, permanent accommodation would fall short in the years to 1965 as follows:-

1962 1963 1964 1965 Shortage of permanent accommodation 66 116 147 180

- 21. It is obvious from the foregoing table that, to accommodate the number of cadets expected during the next few years, there is an urgent need for additional barrack blocks.
- 22. Until new barrack blocks are erected, increasing use will have to be made of temporary accommodation in buildings which have fallen into disrepair and which will require renovation.
- 23. The Committee consider that this poor accommodation, which lacks heating and which is mostly located some distance from the main area of cadet activity should cease to be used for cadet barracks as soon as possible.

The proposed buildings

- 24. The proposal before the Committee is to erect two buildings, one of which will accommodate 79 cadets (cadet block No.2) and the other 99 (cadet block No.3). It is intended to erect the smaller building first.
- 25. The buildings will contain bedrooms for cadets, toilet and shower facilities, box rooms, linen closets, laundries, an office and games, recreation and syndicate rooms.
- 26. The design.- Load bearing brick walls are proposed for the 3 storey structures. The main wings will contain bedrooms and the smaller wings, of two floors only, will contain accommodation for senior and junior under officers, the games and recreation rooms and the laundry.
- 27. <u>Building materials and finishes.</u> External walls will be of brick and the roof of timber frame covered with cement roofing tiles.
- 28. Internal walls and ceilings will be painted and floors generally will be covered with linoleum tiles. Toilet floors will have moravian tiles and walls will have tiled dadoes, rendered above.
- 29. Engineering services. Engineering services will include hot and cold water to toilet and laundry areas and hot water radiators for the internal heating of the building. Normal electrical services will be installed and provision has been made for a thermal fire alarm system and internal fire bydrants with fixed hoses.
- 30. Accommodation standards for cadets. Evidence was given that where appropriate the plans conform to the Scales and Standards of Accommodation for the Services in Peace. However, the scales do not make any provision for single bedrooms which are also used as studies.
- 31. The bedrooms will be approximately 100 square feet in area. This compares with 150 square feet for a junior officer, 80 square feet for other ranks and 100 square feet for a sergeant.
- 32. Built-in furniture is to be provided and the rooms will compare with those in the existing permanent accommodation.
- 33. The Committee believe that the bedrooms, as planned, will

provide suitable accommodation for cadet living and study.

- 34. Showers. From the plans submitted, the Committee noted that only 3 showers were shown for each floor of 25 cadets. It was revealed during the hearing of evidence, however, that 5 showers are to be provided. Witnesses from the Department of the Army are satisfied with this number and the Committee consider that it is sufficient.
- 35. Evidence was given that the National Capital Development Commission has no objection to the work proposed.
- 36. Construction of the cadets' barrack blocks to the sizes and design proposed, is recommended.
- 37. <u>Construction time</u>. It has been estimated that, after instructions to proceed are given, 16 weeks will be required to complete contract documents, invite tenders and accept a contract for cadet block No.2. Construction time has been estimated to be 78 weeks, however, we were told that the estimate is conservative and that it should be possible to construct the building in a shorter period.
- 38. A motion that it is expedient to carry cut the proposed work cannot be moved until after the House of Representatives resumes and this report is presented in August, 1961. On the basis of the 98 wooks involved in planning and construction, the building would not be ready for occupation until June, 1963.
- 39. The expected cadet strength being 277 in 1962, a small additional amount of temporary accommodation will have to be made ready and brought into use next year. There would then be 66 cadets in temporary accommodation.
- 40. The estimated cadet strength in 1963 is 327. If the construction time for cadet block No.2, to accommodate 79, is not shortened there will be a need to find further temporary accommodation for 50 cadets.
- 41. The provision of temporary accommodation to the extent of 116 rooms should be avoided.
- 42. The Committee recommend that stremuous efforts be made to reduce the construction time of cadet block No.2 so that it can be occupied in January, 1963, and thus avoid the provision of temporary accommodation

beyond the 66 rooms needed for the estimated cadet strength in 1962.

- 43. If this can be achieved, the Royal Military College will have permanent accommodation for 290 and temporary accommodation for 66 a total of 356 against an estimated strength of 327 in 1963 and 358 in 1964.
- 44. It follows that to provide for an estimated cadet strength of 391 and in order to do away with temporary accommodation, cadet block No.3, to accommodate 99, will need to be ready for occupation by January, 1965.
- 45. Estimates of cost. The estimated cost of the two cadet blocks is £341,000, made up as follows:-

	Gadet Block No.2.	Cadet Block No.3.
Building works	118,900	124,800
Furniture	11,780	12,470
Mochanical	13,570	14,350
Electrical ('including Canberra Electric Supply)	5,370	5,690
Thermal alarms	3,160	3,345
Hydraulics, sewers and stormwater drainage	1,510	4,790
Internal fire mains and hydrants	1,340	1,425
Site works	7,370	11,130
	£163,000	£178,000

The site

- 46. The sites for the proposed barrack blocks we located harly to the main College buildings and classrooms. They are within the College boundaries as defined by the Department of the Interior following a recommendation by the National Capital Development Commission.
- During the course of our inquiries it was mentioned that the Royal Military College boundary on the western side falls below the top of Mount Pleasant. While the College authorities have no wish to deny to the public the opportunity to view the city of Canberra from this very good

vantage point, they would not want the College area overlooked by residential development. It is their strong hope that the area will remain as a public reserve.

- 48. A recommendation along these lines was made in 1955 by the Senate Select Committee on the Development of Camberra.
- 49. We agree that residential development overlooking the Royal Military College area would be most undesirable. Therefore, if no decision has yet been made, the Committee recommend that action be taken which will ensure for all time, that residential development overlooking the Royal Military College will not take place and that the Mount Pleasant lookout remains a public reserve.

Other proposed work at the Royal Military College

50. A considerable amount of work, of which the two cadets!

barrack blocks form part, is proposed at the Royal Military College.

The total proposal as endorsed by the Defence Business Board, is estimated to cost £739,360 and is made up of the following components:-

Stage 1.	£	£
Cadets' barrack block No.2	163,000	
Kitchen and mess for H.Q.Company	58,500	
Living block for W.R.A.A.C.	73,000	
New sub-station	6,000	
Alterations to chemical	,	
laboratories	5,500	
Engineering laboratories	16,300	
Additions to staff cadet mess	6,600	
Development of field firing range	20,000	900,900
a		
Stage 2.		
Cadets' barrack block No.3	178,000	
Extension of H.Q.Company		
barrack block	62,700	
R.A.E.M.E. workshop	102,500	
Alterations to hospital	8,160	
Retaining walls, drainage, footpaths,		
kerbing and guttering	8,500	
H.Q. orderly room	15,950	
Additional offices to physics	•	
block	8,550	
Latrine in service block	2,600	
Stormwater drainage, H.Q.Company		
area	3,500	390,460
		£739,360

51. The Committee note with concern that of all this work, estimated to cost £739,360, which could be described as a planned programme of reconstruction and development, only two items estimated to cost £341,000 have been referred for inquiry and report.

The Committee's recommendations and conclusions, arrived

Summary of recommendations and conclusions

52.

at after studying the evidence and material submitted, are set out below. The paragraph quoted alongside each recommendation and conclusion refers to the relevant portion of the report. Paragraph in report. (1) There is an urgent need for additional barrack blocks for cadets. 21 (2) Poor standard temporary accommodation should cease 23 to be used as soon as possible. (3) Bedrooms as planned will be suitable as cadet living 33 and study accommodation. (4) The number of showers to be provided is sufficient. 34 (5) Construction of the buildings, as proposed, is recommended. 36 (6) The provision of temporary accommodation to the extent of 116 rooms should be avoided. 41 (7) To avoid expenditure on the provision of additional temporary accommodation, strenuous efforts should be made to ensure that cadet block No.2 is ready for occupation by January, 1963. 1.2 (8) Cadet block No.3 will be needed by January 1965. 44 (9) The estimated cost of the proposed buildings is £341,000. 45 (10) If no decision has been made, action is recommended to ensure that residential development overlooking the Royal Military College will not take place and that the Mount Pleasant lookout remains a public reserve. 49

(Allen Fairhall.)
Chairman.

Office of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works,

Parliament House, Canberra. A.C.T.

11th July, 1961.