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THE ONCE AND FUTURE ARMY

DAYTON MCCARTHY



A HISTORY OF THE CITIZEN MILITARY FORCES, 1947-74

The Once and Future Army examines the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) from 1947 to 1974, after which time it continued to function under the new title of the Army Reserve (ARES). The CMF was once the central component in defence planning and, tasked with providing expeditionary forces to the Middle East, it continued a century-old tradition of relying on part-time soldiers.

The Regular Army, by contrast, was a junior player in the wider history of the Army, but rose in prominence and importance during this period. Although much has been written on the exploits of the Regular Army, the CMF has been largely ignored despite the important role it once played. This book seeks to bring the role of the CMF and the story of its post-war citizen soldiers into the public domain.

In this book, Dayton McCarthy examines the role and place of the CMF in post-war defence plans. He demonstrates that changes in the prevailing military policy – with its emphasis on the role of smaller, professional, readily available armies – favoured the newly created Regular Army to the detriment of the CMF. At the same time, both the pentropic reorganisation and exclusion from operational service in Vietnam adversely affected the CMF. Combined, these factors ensured that by the mid-1970s the CMF, with its membership and morale falling, was struggling to define a role for itself, and the future of its cherished ideal, the ‘brilliant amateur’, seemed to be in jeopardy.

Indications suggest that today the ARES is playing a far more substantial role in deploying troops overseas than at any time in its recent past, and this has refocused attention on its primary function within the Army. If the part-time soldier is to play a greater role, the peculiar problems the CMF faced in the past must be avoided. Replete with such bitter lessons, this is the story of the post-war citizen-soldier experience. With greater attention being paid to the ARES, this book is now more relevant than ever.

Dr Dayton McCarthy was educated at Toowoomba Grammar School, Emmanuel College at the University of Queensland, and the University College, ADEFA, University of New South Wales. Awarded his PhD from ADEFA in 1997, this is his first book. He is a member of the Sydney University Regiment and the Coogee Surf Life Saving Club, where he is currently writing the club's centenary history. He has contributed to the Oxford University Press Centenary History of Defence volume, *Australian Defence: Sources and Statistics*. Dr McCarthy is a consulting historian and lives in Coogee, NSW.



AUSTRALIAN ARMY HISTORY SERIES

This volume is part of a series of studies of the Australian Army's history produced in association with the Army History Unit under the editorship of Professor David Horner.

Front cover picture: The Colour Party from the 5th Infantry Battalion (Victorian Scottish) at a memorial service for its ancestor unit, the 5th Battalion, AIF at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance, 1956 (George Derham).

Back cover picture: The 3rd Infantry Battalion (The Werriwa Regiment) Australian War Memorial, Anzac Day, 1950 (AWM 134271).

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Lieutenant-General Frank Hickling
Former Chief of Army

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