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BOOK REVIEW

The history of the University of New South Wales Regiment 1952 – 2006

by D. J. Deasey and K. J. McKay

The UNSWR Association: Sydney; 2009; 377 pp.; ISBN 978- 0-64651-521-2; RRP \$49.95 (hardback)¹; Ursula Davidson Library cal no .Q503.2 DEAS 2009

Part-time soldiering, as represented by today's Army Reserve [known as the Citizen Military Forces prior to 1975], has been an integral component of the Australian military forces from early colonial times. The university regiments are renowned for their role in training officers for these reserve forces and also for providing military training for undergraduates. A significant number of university regiment officers went on to become successful commanders at all levels in peace and war, as well as respected leaders within the civil community.

Lieutenant Colonel David Deasey and Major Ken McKay have now produced a magnificent history of the University of New South Wales Regiment – formerly the University of Technology Regiment. It must be one of the most descriptive records of any regiment; and it recognises those who served, and those who continue to serve, as reservists, national servicemen or in the regular army component. It records many aspects in the life of the regiment – annual field training and exercises, major

ceremonial events, training activities, weapons and equipment, the band, badges and embellishments – and it will become a major reference on the development of pre-commissioning training in the reserve forces.

The book is in two parts: Part One 1952 – 1977, by David Deasey, with editing by Ken McKay, is a revised edition of David Deasey's earlier history of the Regiment, which was published in 1978 by Haldane Press, Sydney. Part Two, 1978 – 2006, by Ken McKay, is all new material. Among the more than 200 photographs are 29 pages of colour plates, including those of the Regiment's colours, regimental silver and trophies. There is a detailed profile of each of the Regiment's honorary colonels and commanding officers; and a concise nominal role of the more than 600 members of the Regiment who were commissioned as officers. Supporting data are provided in appendices and there is a large index.

This is a quality regimental history which will appeal to those who served in the Regiment. It also would be an important inclusion in any collection of Australian military history.

Rod White

¹Available for \$49.95 per copy (\$39.95 + \$10.00 for packaging and postage per copy) from the Honorary Secretary, UNSWR Association, Telephone: (02) 4721 4752 or e-mail: secretary@unswr.com.