
PADRE'S REPORT



Chaplain R. Peacock

This year has been a very interesting year for me. Firstly, to come into an Infantry Battalion as a chaplain and comparing the experience with my previous experience in a Battalion as a "digger". Secondly, to come into the ARA directly from a parish (though doing some work in the ARES) and adjusting to a totally different lifestyle. It has been a very positive experience for me. It has been a joy to me to have met many of you and to discover that this generation of young soldiers are not a lot different to the generation of soldiers I served with.

A chaplain's role within the army is quite a bit different to normal soldiering. I see my role as having two aspects. Firstly, a social service role in which a chaplain helps out with social and administrative problems that soldiers and their families have from time to time. Secondly a spiritual role. What I mean by a spiritual role is

much broader than doing things like weddings, baptisms, funerals and the occasional service in the bush. It is a role in which a chaplain reminds all whom he serves with that we are in a deadly game (pun intended) which requires disciplined and responsible leadership, and discipline on the part of the ordinary soldier. For we are not only answerable to our political masters and the people of Australia but as I believe, we will all need to give an account of our lives at some point in time to the living God.

This year has been an exciting time for me, and I look forward to meeting those of you whom I have not as yet met. As we prepare for the Christmas block leave period I pray that you will have a happy and joyful Christmas with your families and may the God of love and peace be with you and your loved ones.