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WACOL CAMP WILL SOON BE ALMOST 'DESERTED'

After this week, Wacol Army camp will be 'dead' for several weeks. The first of the 1500 National Service trainees who have completed three months of training left yesterday, and the remainder will depart in stages up to Friday.

University students and apprentices, whose training had been deferred, will comprise most of the 1465 men who will march in during the next intake beginning on January 5.

Between now and then, the 50 members of the permanent staff, including instructors, will take at least 18 days' leave. The Commanding Officer (Lieutenant-Colonel J. Kelly) will begin his leave next week.

Ban lifted

Wacol camp had been under strict quarantine for six days due to a meningitis case, which unfortunately resulted in the victim's death. Army authorities lifted the ban at 7 am yesterday, and 282 members of D Company left for their homes in Brisbane, on the South Coast, and in the near west.

The National Servicemen held an informal 'passing-out' parade last Saturday, without rifles, during which trophies were presented. The Secombe Shield, for parade drill, general training, and company administration, was awarded to A Company.

ARMY GOT 7 RECRUITS

At 9 am yesterday, seven National Service trainees marched out of Wacol Camp. At noon, they were enlisted and sworn into the Regular Army. These seven were so attracted to Army life by their three months' basic training that they decided to 'take it on' for the next six years.

Some of their reasons included:

Private Jim Bartlett, who had been a head stockman on an Inverell (NSW) sheep property for 12 months, mentioned: "Conditions, 'tucker,' and the prospects of learning a trade are all good in the Army, and I think I would like to get to Korea."

Private Edward Taylor, from Rockhampton and a former dry cleaner, expressed, "Australia has got to be defended, and that's all there is to it."