

Foreword

It was a privilege to have been invited by the RAAOC ARES Vintage Club to have had the opportunity to read the history manuscript for the publication *Ordnance Citizen Forces Queensland - A history of Units and Personnel 1925 - 1998*.

It is most appropriate that perhaps the best known Ordnance identity in Queensland, WO1 Graham Sheehan, OAM (Retired) was chosen by the Army Reserve fraternity of the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps (RAAOC) in the 1st Military District to research and produce such a thorough and interesting history which so aptly captures the *esprit de corps* and dedication of all of those AOC and RAAOC personnel who, both collectively and individually, helped to forge the reputation and hard won respect earned by the Ordnance Reserve Units in Queensland. The reputation of the efficient logistic support provided by the Ordnance Reserve Units over more than seven decades is a proud and significant achievement; commencing with the AOC Military units in 1925, and continuing right through until 1998, when the arbitrary Army reorganisation of the logistics infrastructure brought to an end the days of corps supply and services units in favour of integrated logistics groups.

An Army in peace has one prime aim - to be ready for war! In that regard the Ordnance Militia units acquitted themselves well at the outbreak of World War 2 when the AOC personnel rallied and formed the nucleus of many Ordnance units that were established in wartime Australia; and particularly those 'Reserve' officers and soldiers that served in the Middle East, in Malaya/Singapore (where many perished as prisoners or war) and in New Guinea and the islands of the SW Pacific. Without this invaluable 'core' of well trained and enthusiastic Ordnance personnel, Australia's mobilisation effort in raising and despatching the 2nd AIF in 1939 would have been in jeopardy.

It will be seen from WO1 Graham Sheehan's fine history work on Ordnance Reserve Forces units in Queensland that this spirit of preparedness in continuing to maintain the capability of providing vital logistic services to the Army has continued unabated in the CMF and Army Reserve units ever since World War 2, despite the many adversities and reorganisations over the decades which have been addressed by the author in this book.

The origin of the military Ordnance services in Australia dates back to the very early colonial period. WO I Graham Sheehan's history of the Reserve units in



Queensland commences in 1925, and traces all of the important events, anecdotal stories, the evolution of uniforms and conditions of service and pay, the myriad of unit name changes and the key AAOC and RAAOC personnel, who over many years of hard work and a strong sense of duty, has each helped to build the good reputation that our Corps currently enjoys with other Army units and the community; not only in Queensland, but throughout Australia.

Those servicemen and servicewomen who are presently serving in RAAOC appointments and positions in the current integrated logistic units or headquarters, or who are just joining the Army Reserve as members of our Corps, should all be encouraged to read this history to gain an appreciation of what Ordnance has achieved in the past, and so that they can understand for themselves what a proud tradition they have inherited, which they can now contribute to and build upon in future years.

This excellent publication which captures the detailed history, spirit and notable achievements of Ordnance Reserve Forces Units in Queensland should be read by all to appreciate the dedication to duty of all those AAOC and RAAOC members past and present who served with the units which have been addressed in this publication.

In particular this history work should be viewed as a tribute to those notable RAAOC personnel who throughout their adult working life chose to selflessly dedicate their life's worth of 'leisure hours' and family interests in order to serve in the Army Reserve. Such unique persons can only be described as '*TWICE the Citizen*', and from a military perspective surely these persons can only be judged as being '*TWICE the Soldier*'. Without doubt the author of this excellent history, WO I Graham Sheehan, with more than 36 years of Reserve service, must rank very high with this philosophy.

Sua Tela Tonanti (To the Warrior his Arms).

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