

## **Author's Acknowledgement**

A small citizens' force Ordnance Unit, designated the First Company, Australian Army Ordnance Corps was first raised in Brisbane in 1925. In attempting to record the history of this and all the other Militia, CMF and ARES Ordnance units in Queensland over these past 75 years, I have not been able to cover all aspects or every topic worthy of mention. I have, however, attempted to portray a year by year dialogue of main events

Many people have made a major commitment in their lives towards serving in the Citizens Forces. Unfortunately, I have not been able to cover all the significant efforts of these people. Nor do time and space permit me to record the many other stories that would have been of interest.

The Citizen Soldier is a unique person, primarily a civilian with a commitment to a civilian employer, and a soldier second. Beside this commitment, the Citizen Soldier strives to maintain a family life as well as other social activities.

I am indebted to the late visionary LTCOL D.W. Lovejoy for seeing the need to record the units' history for future generations and for his encouragement to me to start and continue the task. I was further privileged to have met pre World War II officers who commanded the units in early days, and who went on to have distinguished army careers. Meeting MAJ G.M. McKay, COL J.B. Duncan and BRIG J.W. Lawson, and gaining first-hand information from them gave me further encouragement to undertake the task.

I had the honour of serving under each Commanding Officer/Officer Commanding of the major post war units until my retirement. I sincerely hope I have portrayed their commitment correctly.

In preparing this history, I must pay tribute to the following for their assistance in typing early drafts of the book: WO2 D. Cobanov, WO2 E. Rose, WO2 J. Shorrock and CPL R. McLellan. MAJ G.A. Privitera edited these drafts and produced a small number of copies that ensured the records were not lost. In 1998 the RAAOC ARES Vintage Club - a group of former long-serving and serving personnel who banded together in 1988 to enjoy continued comradeship and assist in preserving the history of RAAOC ARES in Queensland - decided to publish this work in greater detail. MAJ R.K. Cattle, MAJ R.Z. Marszalek, MAJ G.W. Oliver and WO2 J. Shorrock gave me



invaluable assistance in researching and preparing this material. The publication in its present form would not have been possible without the dedication of MAJ Glen Oliver who took on the task of co-ordinating this effort. His enthusiasm and skills in preparing this material for publication ensured that the final product is one of which we can all be proud. My thanks also go to BRIG Graeme Loughton, Honorary Colonel of the Corps in Queensland, MAJ Rod Norman of the RAAOC Corps Committee, MAJ Richard Marszalek and WO2 John Sherington for their assistance in procuring the necessary funding. This ensured that we could preserve and share with others a vital part of the history of the Corps.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to my dear wife Shirley who over 31 years raised our children and never challenged my commitment in serving, and encouraged me at all times. She sacrificed many hours in typing drafts and assisting in the recording of this history.

During the writing of this history, it became clear there were going to be many gaps in the finished product due to effluence of time, fading memories and time constraints. I have taken great care in trying to get the details of this history right, but acknowledge that there may well be errors or omissions. For these, I sincerely apologize. Should the reader note any such errors or omissions, I would be grateful to hear about these so that they might be corrected in any subsequent edition of this history.

To the many soldiers who enlisted in the Citizens Forces and served in Ordnance units, I thank you for the memories.

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