

PART 2

THE CITIZEN MILITARY FORCES

1948 - 1975

Chapter 4

1 Advanced Ordnance Depot (Det) 1948 - 1951

The Kerr Years - 1948 to 1951

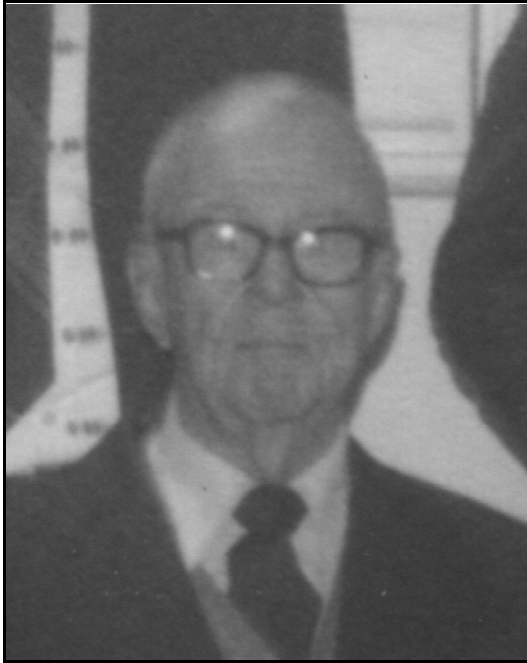
Upon the re-introduction of part-time military training by the Commonwealth Government in July 1948, an Ordnance unit was established at McDonald Road, Albion. The first unit formed was designated as 1 Advanced Ordnance Depot (Detachment). The role of the unit was to establish in time of war an Advanced Depot for the Base Ordnance Depot.

The officer appointed to command this unit was LTCOL L.G. Kerr ED. Although the OC's posting was that of a MAJ, LTCOL Kerr accepted the position and reduction in pay, bringing with him vast experience gained during the long war years.

Other officers who accepted positions in the first unit were: MAJ W.J. Powell, CAPT C.V. White, CAPT J.F. Hughes, CAPT R. Parry, CAPT C.S. Shirley. Also answering the call was CPL I.D. Pettit, a pre-war veteran.

At the first parade 12 to 16 men were on the roll and recruitment was slow until the advent of compulsory National Service which was introduced in February 1952. A good sound volunteer unit existed during this period. War surplus equipment was available and the OC was able to run exercises and ensure sufficient vehicles and equipment were available.

An officer who deserves special mention in those early days of the unit was CAPT P.T. Humble who served as the first Adjutant from 1 July 1948 to 3 December 1951. He played a significant role in raising and fostering the unit.



LTCOL L.G. Kerr

Another Regular Army training WO at this time was WO2 M.L. Sheehan who served as the training WO from 1951 to 1953. WO2 M.L. Sheehan later rose to the rank of COL. He was later appointed Honorary Colonel of the Ordnance Corps in Queensland in 1983. He was a well-liked and respected officer.

Bivouacs at this stage were conducted at Lacey's Creek, Dayboro and at Samford while camps were held at Enoggera and Wacol.

Many of the officers of this period remember the exercise at Samford that was dubbed at its conclusion as 'Humble's Folly'. This exercise remained notorious for many years because of the evident lack of planning in the map reading. Those taking part were unfortunately subjected to an exhaustive physical exercise in the hills of Samford.

When the AOD (Det) was disbanded on 15 January 1951, it had a strength of 8 Officers and 22 ORs, a manning well below the authorised establishment. The introduction of National Service the following year would see the ranks



swelled by a wave of new conscripts. A great deal of forward planning became necessary.



Albion Training Depot and the location of HQ CRAAOC, at McDonald Rd Albion from July 1948 until February 1963.

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