

Chapter 8

101 Field Supply Company (Divisional Troops) 1987 - 1989

The Oliver Years - 1987 to 1988

January 1988 dawned as the start of Australia's Bicentennial year, and the unit members were greeted with the long awaited news of a unit name change, manning and equipment level changes.

The unit was re-designated as the 101 Field Supply Company (Divisional Troops), (101 Fd Sup Coy {Div Tps}) and the 77 Combat Supplies Platoon (77 Cbt Sup Pl).

Manning levels were as follows:

- (a) 101 Fd Sup Coy (Div Tps) 7 Offr and 84 Or
- (b) 77 Cbt Sup Pl 2 Offr and 32 Or

The bracket (Div Tps) was deleted from reference by June of the following year.

The new establishment fortunately catered for all existing ranks. Command came under HQ 1 Div Sup. The unit was now part of Australia's famous 1st Division.

With the re-designation of the units another change occurred in manning structures. ARA members ceased to be called Cadre staff and were posted to unit establishments and part of unit strength. Some ARA members had difficulty with this procedure, particularly when a unit parade was called and they had to fall in with the rank and file, and also at bivouacs where they were required to participate. This caused some disharmony at various times. They usually avoided having to do Duty Officer requirement and other mundane duties. CAPT G.R. Henley, when he became 2IC of the unit, was most adamant about the One Army concept and enforced the situation. He further ensured



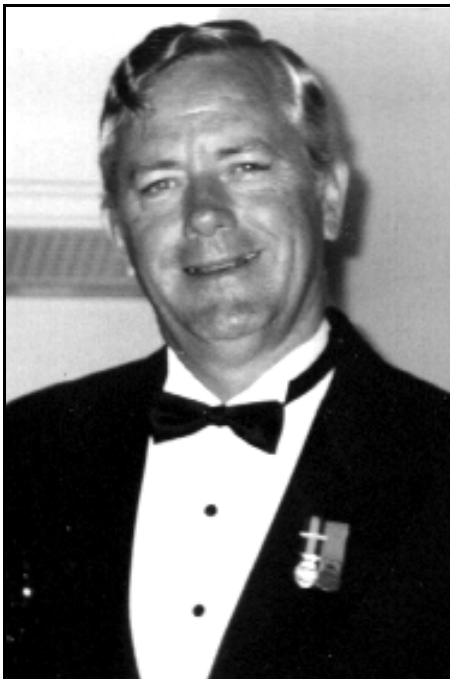
that the unit received all due entitlements, which included a full complement of vehicles.

The McGahan Years - 1988 to 1989

Control of the Unit passed to MAJ J.P. McGahan on 2 February 1988. A unit parade was held to mark the occasion. MAJ McGahan, an OCTU graduate, transferred from 1 Supply Depot RAASC in 1973 following the disbandment of RAASC.

The unit marched with 11 Sup Bn and the RAAOC Association in the Anzac Day Parade after the dawn service at Zillmere. This was a large Ordnance contingent, which paraded past and serving members through the city, marching behind the Ordnance banner.

Annual camp was held at Enoggera, whilst a contingent was raised to support Artillery Units with combat supplies in Exercise Long Guns at Shoalwater Bay.



MAJ J.P. McGahan, RFD.



The annual range practice was conducted at Greenbank and for the first time soldiers conducted night firing exercises, which proved to be a most interesting exercise.

The end of the year parade was unfortunately washed out due to a severe storm, which started prior to the march on. The rain ceased one hour later and the presentation of trophies went ahead.

In recognition of his 35 years of service to the RAAOC Training Units a new inter platoon trophy was raised and called the 'G. BRANNIGAN INTER PLATOON TROPHY'. This trophy was awarded to the leading sub-unit based on a number of criteria including technical proficiency. WO2 Brannigan's commitment was enormous, his technical role and ability unsurpassed. He retired on 30 June 1989.



WO2 G. Brannigan

Unit strength at the end of 1988 was 77 all ranks.

On 15 February 1989 the Moorooka detachment was closed and all personnel and equipment was transferred back to Enoggera. All units were allocated new space for work and office areas and the unit settled down to a one identity again. Members who had served apart over this period were pleased to be reunited with friends. However, inter-platoon rivalry was as strong as ever.



In April 1989, the role of the senior ARA member being that of Unit Adjutant was changed. That position was replaced by an ARES appointment as Administration Officer/ Quartermaster. This was a return to a previous position where there was an ARES posting of Adjutant/Quartermaster. CAPT R.K. Cattle was appointed to fill this new position, a position she ably filled for the next two and a half years. CAPT Cattle had gained significant experience in administration whilst progressing through the ranks in 1 WRAAC Coy and 1 Trg Group.



CAPT R.K. Cattle

RAAOC Corps Committee

The role of the RAAOC Corps Committee was to develop career patterns for all Corps personnel. In this respect promotions and transfers were recommended to the OC.

A command directive at the time determined that all clerical, stores and warehousing personnel in all units of the army should transfer to the RAAOC but could remain in the unit of posting. This directive then placed many more ARES personnel in the promotional and employment theatre. Persons in other units could challenge for a position in the Fd Sup Coy.

The Corps Committee set about tracing all these new corps personnel in Queensland and recording their details. It was found that many were in temporary rank or had been appointed without Subject 2 RAAOC.



The RAAOC centre at Bandiana was responsible for the conduct of Subject 2 RAAOC courses for promotion, but as only one or two a year were conducted for ARA personnel, it was difficult to obtain places for ARES members. A new modular training package was developed by the centre and with the CDSup LTCOL C. Wallace championing the cause, 101 Fd Sup Coy was nominated to be the sponsoring unit.

A location at Woodford in the state forest was chosen and seventeen students attended and qualified. The course was an outstanding success due to the commitment of WO2 G.L. Mullavey, the ARA training officer, who was nominated Course Director. 101 Fd Sup Coy provided the training and support staff in all facets. When the course results were forwarded to the Ordnance Centre there was some criticism as to the fact that all students passed. This was totally unfounded as all instructors were very experienced in the roles given to them and took great care and attention to detail. The CD Sup had visited the course on two occasions and took great interest in the proceedings.



LTCOL Wallace and students. Course included Mess Dining procedures.

Uniform changes in February 1989 saw the end of the old faithful greens as work dress. The polyester dress was to be used only on ceremonial occasions. The new disruptive pattern camouflage uniform of overshirt and trousers was introduced and became general issue and worn on all home training parades.

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