

Chapter 10

7 Field Supply Company 1991 - 1994

The Alexander Years - 1991 to 1993

On 4 November 1991 a further name change was announced and 7 Fd Sup Coy was raised with similar establishment levels.

An end of year reward came with a weekend adventure training exercise at Cabarita in Northern New South Wales. A final day Parade was held on 18 November 1991.

The supply of foodstuffs continued to be the major role of 7 Fd Sup Coy in 1992 with the Annual Camp being held at Shoalwater Bay and called 'Silken Venture'.

The posting of a Pharmacist to oversee the role of the Medical and Dental stores added a new dimension. The first officer appointed was CAPT P.J. Balkin, a practising Pharmacist and a member of the Medical Corps.

A significant change came about with the closures of the Officers Mess in 1991 and the Sergeants Mess in 1992 respectively. All ranks now used the Soldiers Club for social activity. The two major messes had played a significant part in the life of every Officer, Warrant Officer and Sergeant. Besides being the social home and training vehicle for junior ranks, the Sergeants Mess was the heart of the unit and was maintained that way by the senior Warrant Officers who recognised the privileges afforded by its presence. The Sergeants Mess held a magnificent collection of silverware and many plaques donated by members and visitors over the years.

WO2 E.G. Wall was promoted to WO1 in June. He had been the Unit CSM for 13 years and now was assigned a Training Role. He became the fourth person to be promoted through the ranks of this unit to that position.



WO1 E.G. Wall

WO2 J.J. Sherington received his certificate of recognition at a Corps farewell night at Bandiana in July. He had served 33 years and was congratulated by the Director of Ordnance COL J.G. Mears and unit members who travelled to the ceremony.

The role of 77 Combat Supplies Pl was extinguished and taken off the Orbat during the latter part of 1992 and CAPT A. Whiting was appointed 2IC of 7 Fd Sup Coy.

Night Training continued with issues of combat rations and clothing to 7 Bde units.

WO2 J.J. Sherington now on detachment to EME Services Unit retired in November 1992 having reached the compulsory retirement age of 55. WO2 Sherington was a pillar of strength to his unit. He was highly skilled in Ordnance requirements in all trades, had extensive experience in Sergeants Mess administration, and was the unit's Senior Testing Officer for motor vehicle licensing purposes.

Reductions in manning in 1993 shortened the service life of several long-standing members and forced the transfer of others so they could continue a career. Promotion from within the unit was now severely restricted.



WO2 J.J. Sherington OAM - 'The more things change, the more they stay the same.'

The manner in which the changes occurred and the way they were handled left many bitter memories with those effected and gave concern to those still serving as to their future role. The WO1 and four WO2 positions were deleted from unit strength. WO1 Wall after 35 years service was now without a unit. He received his recognition of Service certificate from COL H.J. Browleit in July 1993.

A Courses camp was held in May 1993 on the subject of Drivers and Storemans roles.

Another historic change occurred with the phasing out of the 7.62 SLR rifle and the introduction of the STEYR F88 rifle to unit members. This rifle fired a 5.56mm round, weighed 4.1 kg and had a 30 round magazine with a muzzle velocity of 930 metres per second.

Unit members underwent significant training to master the firing options as well as the drill and ceremonial changes required.

A final day parade was reviewed by LTCOL J. Scanlan CO of 1 Trg Group.

The Marszalek Years - 1993 to 1994

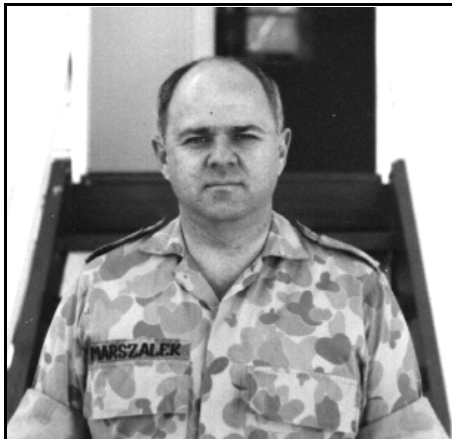
MAJ C.E. Alexander retired as OC of 7Fd Sup Coy on 12 December 1993 and the role was entrusted to MAJ R.Z. Marszalek, a former unit member who enlisted in Ordnance after graduating from OCTU.



MAJ Marszalek served in many positions during his term as a junior officer in Ordnance. As a junior officer, he was well initiated into unit activities early in his career by senior long serving members. As a mature age graduate he worked hard and deserved his appointment.

Review of Defence structure and planning in 1993 brought further changes into 1994. These changes rumoured the end of the ARES Ordnance Unit as a stand-alone identity with its separate housing arrangements since inception in 1948.

7 Fd Sup Coy was now to be designated as part of a new formation called 7 Brigade Administrative Support Battalion (7 BASB) and to be known as 7 BASB Fd Sup Coy.



MAJ R.Z. Marszalek

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