

Chapter 6

1 Base Vehicle Depot

1960 - 1975

The Magor Year - 1960

A changing Role

With the exception of 104 Infantry Workshop Stores Section, now under command of LT L.J. Koch, all units were disbanded on 30 June 1960. The major unit now became 1 Base Vehicle Depot (1 BVD) commanded by LTCOL H.R. Magor with the title of Chief Ordnance Officer (COO). Other officers had the title of Ordnance Officer (OO). 1 Casualty Clearing Station Laundry Platoon (1 CCS Ldy Pl) commanded by CAPT I.D. Pettitt was also raised to provide support to the RAAMC unit, 1 Casualty Clearing Station. 104 Inf Wksp Stores Sec was eventually disbanded on 22 December 1965. This unit had given 7 officers the experience of commanding a unit.



1 BVD bivouac during 1960

The role of 1 BVD was to receive, store and issue A (armoured), B (troop and load carrying) and C (engineer) class vehicles. The BVD consisted of four vehicle parks, each capable of accommodating a total of 400 fit A & C vehicles, 1800 B Vehicles, and 400 unfit vehicles. (1BVD handled only B class vehicles). Each vehicle park had a HQ group, a Stock and Maintenance PL and a Receipt and Issue PL. RAEME personnel were posted to provide mechanical expertise in the service station. Weapons consisted of 5 x L2A2 SLR and one 3.5 Rocket



Launcher. In practice the unit operated as an Ordnance training depot, with only one of the four Vehicle Parks - A Park - becoming functional.

As the main aim of the CMF was to train officers and senior NCOs, advantage was taken of the senior rank establishment of the other three parks in 1 BVD. This allowed existing surplus officers and senior NCOs to be retained and it provided opportunities for promotion that would otherwise not have been possible. The rank of LTCOL was maintained and a MAJ 'shadow-posted' to each Park.

The Rodgers Years - 1960 to 1962

On 15 November 1960 LTCOL E.E. Rodgers replaced LTCOL Magor. LTCOL Rodgers had transferred from RAE to take this command. In civilian employment he was State Manager of Simpson Manufacturing Corp.



*Sergeants Mess Dining-in 1960. Seated: SGT K. Shepherd, SGT G. McDonald, SGT C.C. Floyd, SSGT R. Greve, SGT H. Kurth, SGT B. Brown, SGT E. Beran, WO2 G.J. Sheehan
Standing: SGT R.J. Wing, SGT S.T. Green, SGT E.N. Schilling, SGT G. Brannigan, SGT E. Barlow, SGT D.J. Coss, SSGT L. Witt, SGT D. Busst, SGT B.J. Genrich*



New weaponry and uniforms

Range practices now were conducted at Greenbank using hand held 'figure targets' in lieu of the old manually raised and lowered bulls-eye targets. Scoring methods changed in that each hit counted as one point. Members of the training depot always had their share of marksmen as the wearing of crossed rifles on the sleeves of winter dress was eagerly sought. Soldiers were now able to practice with the 3.5 RL, both with practice and HEAT Rockets. This practice had its dangerous moments when a rocket failed to explode and a demolition person was required to go on to the range and place a demolition charge against the failed missile and explode it. Due to the high cost of each HEAT Rocket the availability of this practice was limited.

The 7.62 mm Self Loading Rifle (SLR) was introduced and replaced the Lee Enfield .303 rifle. Members also bade farewell to the Bren Light Machine Gun that was replaced by the heavy barrelled automatic L2A2 SLR. Due to the semi-automatic nature of the weapon members no longer took rifles home. As security of the new weapon was of paramount importance, unit Q Stores and armouries underwent a significant upgrade. Steel mesh was installed on floors, walls and ceilings. Weapons were stored in heavy steel cabinets fitted with combination locks.



1 BVD Camp at Gaythorne - 1961



Along with the changes in weaponry, uniforms changed from khaki to jungle green. However, this did not mean the issuing of new uniforms. Members merely handed in a set of khakis that were immersed in a boiler of jungle green dye and handed back to the member dripping wet. Members were also required to blacken their blanched belts and gaiters. The walking-out dress consisted of a long-sleeved polyester khaki shirt and trousers. Members also wore a tie that had to be delicately measured so that both ends were level and the tie pinned to the shirt. Invariably members used scissors to achieve this and eventually ties became so short they had to be replaced. Officers and WOs wore peak caps and ORs were issued with berets. Officers and Sergeants mess dress remained the same, as did the winter battle dress.

Early in 1962, A Park of 1 BVD, under command of MAJ Swan, carried out their functional role at Banyo whilst camping under very trying field conditions at Aspley. Members slept on palliasses on the ground. Three days before the start of camp, bush fires had scorched the area and members were greeted with a dismal scene. All foliage was black and the dust could not be controlled. Even simple movement by foot through the camp area raised dust that settled in a thick layer on camping and personal equipment. Water and power had to be brought to the camp site. This training area was used on many occasions afterwards for infantry training and officer examination boards.

1 CCS Laundry Platoon personnel had camped at 1 Base Hospital at Yeronga in support of 1 Casualty Clearing Station. During the mid weekend of this camp the equipment was taken to Greenbank and the clothing of members of 9 BN was washed and dried for them. This was greatly appreciated by those unit members and provided valuable training for the laundry personnel in movement, deployment and operations.

National Service had ceased two years earlier, recruiting had increased significantly and the depot was now completely manned by volunteers. The compulsion of national service was replaced with volunteers who chose to join the unit and the difference in attitude could be gauged by the increased numbers attending parades and their enthusiastic participation in training activities.



Members of the Vehicle Group of 1 BVD at camp in the Service Station Banyo 1962.

The Smith Years - 1962 to 1964

LTCOL E.E. Rodgers was transferred to Adelaide in his civilian employment and was replaced on 13 November 1962 as CO 1 BVD by LTCOL P.P. Smith, MBE.

A 'New' Depot

The Albion link and tradition was finally broken on 18 February 1963, when, after almost 15 years, the McDonald Road depot was closed and the units moved to a run down storehouse located at Grays Rd, Gaythorne. Members who surveyed the scene were disillusioned. There was very little office space, no ceiling, the Q store leaned on its foundations, windows would or could not open and the cement floor was cracked, un-level and oil stained. The building was inhabited by pigeons that created a health hazard which would not have passed OH & S standards of a modern era.

A machinery shed attached to the storehouse was earmarked as the ORs canteen. After removing concrete machinery blocks and bases and filling in a sump, a somewhat level floor was obtained and the Soldiers Club was on its way (a far cry from the facilities they eventually became!).



On the positive side, the depot area offered almost unlimited training areas such as Enoggera Hill and the now almost unused Main and Siberia rifle ranges. Unlike the Albion drill hall, a parade ground was now available to members, and for those who were doing examinations it was much easier to drill a squad on the hard standing than in the confines of a drill hall and on a wooden floor. Map reading exercises were conducted in the vast area available and many a climb was made to the top by different routes. On one occasion a member became lost and was not found till 8 pm that evening, to the relief of the CO. As usual all good things do not last. By 1968 most of the training areas were unavailable due to building re-location and security upgrading of the Enoggera hill area and ranges, which were now training areas for Vietnam bound forces.



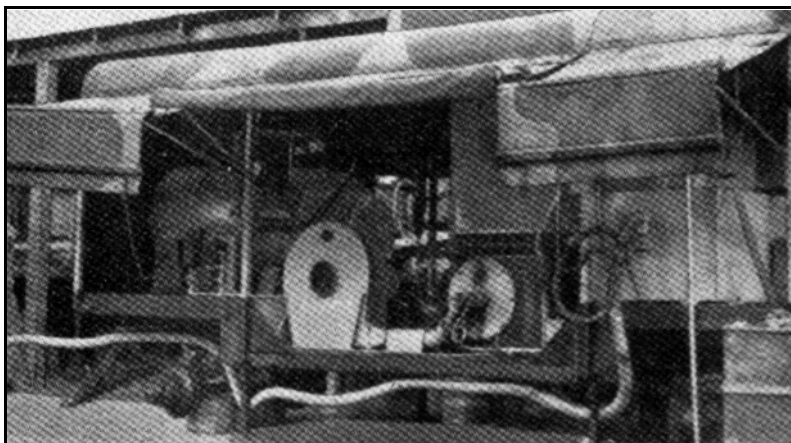
HQ 1 Base Vehicle Depot Grays Rd Gaythorne.

Along with the general restructuring, Officers and Sergeants were afforded full membership of 1 Base Ordnance Depot Officers and Sergeants Messes and became the first CMF members in Queensland to be integrated into Regular Army Messes. This integration did not always afford harmonious relationships as the ARA/CMF bias became an issue on many occasions. However 13 new members in the Officers Mess and 19 in the Sergeants Mess substantially raised finances and membership levels. In 1970 there were 28 CMF members in the Sergeants mess at Gaythorne; a greater number than the ARA component posted there. But for the CMF membership, the mess would have been forced to close due to insufficient membership as the bulk of Ordnance Officers and Sergeants were located at Meeandah.



The Laundry Platoon

The Laundry Platoon was now well established and carried out its functional role at 1 Camp Hospital and at Greenbank. The members posted to this unit formed a tight little band and were to stay together almost until the unit was disbanded in 1973. During this period, and without the officers knowing, members had a lucrative side business going during some camps. Laundry Platoon members were supplied with amber fluids or cash payments in exchange for the laundering and ironing of uniforms for members of other units.



Laundry unit similar to the one used by 1 CCS Ldy Pl.

MAJ Pickburn

A history of 1963 would not be complete without some mention of MAJ F.J.A. (Fred) Pickburn who had served as the unit Adjutant (ARA) since 5 July 1957 until 21 January 1963. Not only was MAJ Pickburn meticulous in his duties as Adjutant, he was also a trainer of officers, adviser, social convener, contact on business deals, wholesaler, and buffer between employers and the Department of Defence. Many unit members sought his advice on numerous personal and military matters, and none were refused. His paternal advice and confidence was sought and shared by many. None went short of food on bivouacs and camps, nor did any miss out on their entitlement whilst MAJ Pickburn was at the helm. He never refused any task or request. MAJ Pickburn was replaced as Adjutant by MAJ D.A. (Doug) Crawford, formerly a DAQMG. He was



christened 'Mushy' because of his large moustache. The unit was also fortunate, as he was a most competent officer.

Exercise 'Carbine'

Exercise 'Carbine' in September 1963 gave the members of 1 BVD their first major chance to fulfill their role. A Logistic Support Force camp was arranged at Bargara outside Bundaberg. Simulated combat conditions were planned. Vehicles were unloaded from the aircraft carrier HMAS Sydney by landing craft onto Mon Repos Beach (now a major tourist attraction as a turtle breeding ground). These were then driven to the BVD campsite where they were received, serviced, stored and issued from the BVD. (The vehicles were eventually driven back to Brisbane by New Zealand Army transport unit). Much to the annoyance of the ORs, Officers were given the opportunity to be flown by helicopter to HMAS Sydney to view these operations.

The Vehicle depot set up a defensive perimeter around their compound and, as part of the exercise, was regularly attacked by enemy forces, both by day and night. 1 CCS Ldy Pl supported the Medical units also in the field.

All units participating in Exercise Carbine were invited to parade through the city of Bundaberg at the conclusion of the camp period. The Mayor of the city took the salute.

The camp was unfortunately marred by an accident on the return journey to Brisbane, when a civilian truck struck an army vehicle on the Stewarts Camp Creek Bridge south of Tiaro. A member of 1 Hygiene Control Unit (1 HCU) was killed and 12 others were injured. 1 HCU had shared the camp with 1 BVD and were travelling in convoy under command. It was a saddened camp that night at the Gympie staging area as civilian and army authorities questioned members and they tried to come to terms with the carnage seen. In line with attitudes at the time, no formal counselling was given to members. MAJ D.A. Crawford was appointed Investigating Officer of this accident. Some soldiers were off work for up to six months due to their injuries.

Shortly after this camp, the unit lost the services of MAJ W.G. Moody, MC. He had rendered service to the Depot since 6 February 1951 except for a period of four years when he was transferred to 9 Inf Bn. His presence in the unit



always commanded respect. Whilst a LT in WW2 he had been decorated with the MC and had received the Japanese surrender at the Nevo River in New Guinea. His knowledge of infantry tactics and man management was now lost to the unit. However, he continued in various positions in the CMF including a posting to CSTU as an instructor of Military history. His final posting was as Deputy Assistant Adjutant General [CMF] HQ Northern Command, a position he held for two years until his retirement in 1971 with the rank of LTCOL.

1 BVD was to continue in its active role for the next three years. The unit went to camp in 1964 at Greenbank. Enjoying the luxury of aircraft travel, two trips were made to Macrossan in 1965 as a camp and 1966 as a course. During the 1965 camp, over 200 vehicles were processed. Some of these arrived by rail at the Macrossan siding and because of the presence of two railway shunters in the unit, no outside help was required in the unloading process. The 1966 course was remembered by all because of the poor ration situation. The ADJT proposed the local purchase of all food supplies. However a mistake was made in calculating the amount of money available for this purpose and rations were limited. For example, fresh meat consisted only of luncheon sausage and beef sausages, both of which were served daily. There was no shortage of bread and cold meals were more prominent than hot.



Unit members at Ex Carbine.



MAJ Bill Moody, MC accepting Japanese surrender.

Of the other units, 1 CCS Ldy Pl was functional at Greenbank and Bargara, whilst 104 Wksp Stores Sect supported its parent unit at Coomera Gorge, Mt Archer and Greenbank.



The OR lines at Greenbank.

Promotions were eagerly sought in this era and between 1964 and 1967 saw what was the greatest number of promotions ever achieved. In 1966 the unit boasted one Lieutenant Colonel, five Majors, many Captains and Lieutenants. It also supported six Warrant Officers who had risen from the ranks. This was the highest number of Officers of field rank ever held in the training depot.



However, because of transfers and normal retirements, this situation only lasted for three years.

Officers seeking promotion were required to pass AHQ exams for the rank of LT in Subject C (Military Law) and Subject D (Corps Training). Subjects A (Weapons and drill) and B (Unit training and tactics) were set by the unit. Subject B usually involved the sighting of an Ordnance unit in the field with necessary camouflage and concealment, weapon siting and vehicle placement requirements. Several candidates over the years who had presented themselves for first appointment found they could pass Subjects A and C but surprisingly failed subject B - coincidentally with a 48 or 49% rating.

The Swan Years 1964 to 1967

On 23 August 1964, LTCOL H.P.J. Swan became the first RAAOC officer to be appointed CO from officers within the unit. At a 'Beating of the Retreat' ceremony in front of his troops and their visitors at a Greenbank camp, LTCOL Swan received a special presentation for his efforts in Tac 5 promotions having narrowly missed winning the Blamey Shield award. LTCOL Swan's army career began with his enlistment in 1940 in 9th Infantry Battalion AIF. He rose through the ranks, was commissioned on 11 January 1942 and served as a PL COMD, Coy COMD and ADJT of that BN. After hostilities ended, LT Swan was placed on the Reserve of Officers (R OF O). After eight years of civilian life he joined the CMF as a LT in 1954. In later years, he was Queensland Secretary of Nylex Corporation.

LTCOL Swan was later to become COMD 10 ST Colm, COMD 2 Spt Gp and then finally COMD 7 Task Force. He also served as ADC to Governor's General Casey and Hasluck. His final appointment highlighted his illustrious career. He was a unit man at heart and, no matter in what section he served, he pushed hard for his men at all times. He trained his officers hard and those who could not produce their staff officers notebook, or recite the Principles of War, felt his wrath, as did those who did not keep to appointed times. He was firm, fair and friendly and deserved his higher appointments.

In 1965 LTCOL Swan established the position of Training Officer and designated 'D' Park as the Training Cell to accommodate this role, and provide



a separate identity for this function. MAJ D.W. Lovejoy was appointed Trg Officer and WO2 J.F. Bishop his assistant.

The role of the Training Office was to plan and develop training policy from Recruit Training to advanced Technical needs of the unit. Curriculum was developed as well all Programs of Parades, training notifications, and promotional examination material. The Training Office posting was to provide valuable career opportunities for many officers over the ensuing years, and become a vital part of unit activities.

WO2 J.F. Bishop a former regular soldier was a Public Servant in an auditing role at 1 BOD, a role that carried a rank equivalent to CPL. Mess protocol prevented him entering the SGTs Mess during the week, however he could enjoy the privileges of the Mess whilst in service at parade times. WO2 Bishop was a dedicated member and an excellent instructor. His compulsory age retirement in 1968, whilst still being able to provide sterling service, was a loss to the unit.



Then LTCOL Swan at a N Comd Offrs Mess RAASC Corps dinner. Left to right Comd RAASC N Comd, LTCOL A.E. Goodall, GOC N Comd, MAJGEN T.F. Cape, Director Sups & Tpt, LTCOL E.R. Smith, Asst DST N Comd, LTCOL Swan. ('Army' 12 OCT 1967).



BRIG H.P.J. Swan - CO 1 BVD 1964 to 1967. Comd 7 Task Force, the highest rank attained by a part-time army Ordnance officer.



Driving and Servicing Courses

Driving and Servicing Courses remained a very important part of the units' training requirements and were conducted over three weekends and four nights. Members were licensed in a variety of vehicles with training in driving, fording, winching, load-carrying, towing and minor fault finding. An eagerly anticipated feature of these courses was a convoy drive on the final weekend of the course. One memorable occasion at Wallangarra involved a number of members being involved in a serious indiscretion. On the Saturday night, leave was granted for all to Tenterfield. Two leave trucks were allocated to take members into town to occupy themselves until the closure of the local picture theatre at 11 pm. At the appointed time, it was found that one group had left early - presumably back to camp. On the arrival of the second vehicle at camp it was found that the first vehicle hadn't arrived. Close questioning found that the missing members had 'gone to a dance at a local shearing shed'. WO2 Sheehan was dispatched by MAJ Peel with strict instructions to 'Go and get them!' the group was located at the dance, enjoying themselves immensely with the local population, dancing and enjoying supper and refreshments and generally having a good time. All were rounded up and returned to camp where MAJ Peel confronted them. He eloquently and forcefully proceeded to point out their indiscretions and their breach of trust. There were quite a few NCOs with bruised and dented pride licking their wounds on the return journey to Brisbane the next day.

The depot lost the services of MAJ T.G. Peel, ED on posting on 1 September 1965. This officer had given sterling service to the unit. He had joined the CMF in February 1952 after having previously served 10 years in the AIF and Interim Army. MAJ Peel had served at Milne Bay in WW2 as a WO1 and was promoted in the field. Because of his sound knowledge of the Ordnance Corps, his administrative ability and gentlemanly manner he was respected by all ranks. MAJ Peel had been appointed OC A Park of 1 AVD in 1959 and 1960 and 1BVD in 1961, 1964 and 1965. He was a member of many promotions coaching boards and many of the unit NCOs were indebted to him. So high was his standing amongst all, that one cannot remember any derogatory remarks passed about him. He was posted as Camp Commandant to 2 Sup Gp, a role he filled until his compulsory retirement on 23 December 1969.



MAJ T.G. Peel ED

Reintroduction of National Service

When National Service was re-introduced in 1964, young men of 20 years of age could either take their chance with two years compulsory service under the ballot system or enlist in the CMF for six years. Several men enlisted in the CMF prior to the ballot to avoid the risk of call-up. However, this legislation only resulted in a marginal increase in unit strength and once again volunteer members had to adhere to obligatory measures invoked for the period of National Service.

To overcome a shortage of officers in all Corps at this stage, the Officer Cadet Training Unit (OCTU) was introduced. Young men of suitable standard were selected from recommendations by unit OCs or they answered newspaper advertisements. It was a very rigorous and demanding course conducted over an 18 months period. This involved two weekends most months and two periods of continuous training of 14 days each year. None who completed the course would ever forget their experience because of the demands on their personal, family and civilian work commitments. Members recommended for promotion were posted to OCTU for the 18 month period.

7 Ordnance Field Park

On 1 May 1966, 7 Ordnance Field Park was raised and staffed by selected personnel in the depot with LT C.C. Floyd appointed the first OC. Six other officers were appointed as OC during the lifetime of this unit. Staff of 7 OFP had to raise the unit entitlements, structure, and SOPs in a short period of time to make the unit functional. The Field Park had the distinction of being the first CMF Ordnance unit to provide supply support to an ARA exercise called 'Nilla



Qua' at Shoalwater Bay in 1967. Unfortunately, 7 OFP was unable to exercise unit members in the role as planned as the ARA OFP also allocated to the exercise had completed the issue program prior to the arrival of the CMF unit. However, members still had an enjoyable and productive camp training in drill, infantry minor tactics and weapon training. As a result, six of the PTEs who attended qualified for CPL by the end of the year.

CAPT L.J. Koch became ADJ and QM of 1 BVD on 20 October 1966, having taken a two year appointment on full time duty from his civilian employment. This position was a critical appointment and had previously been occupied by senior ARA Majors. CAPT Koch served with distinction in this appointment and gained invaluable experience in preparation for his eventual command of the unit. Unfortunately his untimely death prevented this.

Recruit training, which up to now had been a unit responsibility, was placed under the control of 2 Support Group. This unit held three recruit courses per year each consisting of eight nights and three weekend. A feature of the course was the final march-out parade where three platoons of in excess of 40 recruits each paraded before the COMD, family and friends. At one course, 1 BVD supplied 16 students and five instructors. The experience gained by the instructors stood them in good stead and they were able to bring back good instructional techniques to other members.

The 9mm F1 SMG was introduced to the CMF weaponry at this time.

The Petitt Years 1967 to 1970

After the departure of LTCOL Swan, LTCOL I.D. Petitt ED was appointed CO 30 January 1967 and remained for three years. LTCOL Petitt had the distinction of being the first Ordnance CO to rise from the ranks. He joined the Militia in November 1938, and served in the Middle East and New Guinea. He rejoined the CMF at its inception in 1948 rising through the ranks to become CO. The officer strength at this stage had declined and LTCOL Petitt found himself to be the last officer in the unit with war time experience. In civilian life, LTCOL Petitt was a Bank Officer with the Commonwealth Bank in Brisbane.



LTCOL I.D. Petitt ED

During these years, the unit adopted a more technical role, with members being dispersed through 1 BOD in many tasks during their camps and from an army viewpoint this form of training was desirable. Unfortunately, the tasks given were menial and mundane. Two weeks of moving stores from one side of a shed to the other, straightening stacks, repainting lines along warehouse floors, sweeping floors and the like were hardly conducive to maintaining the interest of soldiers who were looking for a sense of adventure. The civilian staff and/or Regular soldiers would normally have done these duties, but someone had decided this was a good opportunity to employ the ARES to do them. It resulted in crushing the members' interest and enthusiasm and the services of many soldiers were lost during this period. The strength of the unit fell by one-third in one year alone.

Many successful bivouacs were conducted and battles raged throughout the day and night at 'Bunya', Greenbank, Jindalee, Mt. Nebo and the Samford valley. Most were based on a PL defended locality for training purposes. At one such exercise at Jindalee (now the Sumner Park Industrial Estate), unit members arrived on the Friday night and worked throughout the darkened hours to develop a fortified position consisting of full stage weapon pits and barbed wire entanglements. A simulated attack occurred on the Coy position on the second night. The night was one of the coldest experienced for many years, and many



members felt its full effect whilst in the weapon pits. While shivering in the weapon pits, the defenders and attackers were most pleased to hear the CO call a halt to the exercise and invite members to warm up around a fire.

Social activities during this period included the annual Officers and Sergeants Mess cricket match. The Officers, due to the sporting capabilities of the young subalterns, usually won these matches. The Sergeants mess further conducted its own sporting activities and members challenged each other for the Sportsman of the year award. Their names were engraved on the CAPT Ron Backman shield.

During LTCOL Pettitt's period in command of 1BVD, no vehicle functional role was established in which members supported other units and the unit was limited to non-technical activities, tasks and exercises.

At the ceremonial passing out parade for LTCOL Pettitt on 30 January 1970, 96 unit members paraded with the Regular Army's 5th Field Regiment Band on the 1 BOD parade ground. It was a great occasion and possibly the best parade ever put on by the unit with unit Officers carrying swords for the first time. LTCOL Pettitt farewelled his men in great style and it was a sad day in his career to have to leave his unit after serving in it in every rank from 1948 to 1970. During his time as CO, he gained the respect of his men for the attitude he showed towards them and their welfare. A measure of his command style is the fact that during his term of command, no disciplinary charge was ever upheld. Surprisingly he never drove a motor vehicle and attended all parades by public transport or by courtesy of a unit member.

The only other occasion when the unit had large parade experiences were at Royal Review celebrations at Victoria Park on the Sovereign's Birthday, when all ARA and CMF took part.

The Ross Years - 1970 to 1973

LTCOL D.A. Ross, ED was appointed to succeed LTCOL Pettitt on 30 January 1970. He was called up as a National Serviceman in 11 NS Trg Bn in 1953 and served in most of the CMF RAAOC units in Brisbane. As a result he had a good first hand knowledge of RAAOC operations and the unit personnel. LTCOL Ross, in civilian life, was Company Secretary of the Narm Corporation.



He had the distinction of being the first post-war National Service trainee to command the Training Depot Units.



LTCOL Ross ED

The unit lost a popular and competent member in September 1971, when WO2 R.J. Wing, a CMF WO, was killed in a car accident.

The Mt Coolum Camp

The flow of National Servicemen was decreasing in this period as several of those eligible for the ballot system decided to take their chances and others who had joined the CMF and had been passed over in the ballot took their discharge. The monotony of camping at Wacol and Greenbank, and travelling and working in the Ordnance depots at Gaythorne and Meeandah, was having its effect on unit morale. After the 1970 camp it was decided that a change of locality and type of activity might encourage recruiting and lift morale. To justify the selection of LTCOL Ross's preferred camp site near Mt Coolum, it was necessary to do a cost comparison of that option against the traditional camp sites. Due to the creative accounting ability of the planners, the Mt Coolum site was costed at \$10 less than the alternatives. Members then embarked on a camp designed to further their knowledge in infantry training, minor tactics and regimental training. A recruit course was also conducted concurrently with other activities.



A relatively successful three day exercise was conducted towards the final stage of the camp which culminated in a BBQ being held on the beach. Safety precautions precluded members from enjoying the full benefits of the beach location as no lifesaver was on duty by the time training had finished for the day. Those who took part in the field exercise will always remember the climb over Mt. Coolum and the magnificent view afforded to those who made the climb to the top. During this camp, members were also introduced to the new grenade simulators, an experience which several members did not enjoy due to them landing too close for comfort.

Wallangarra again!

Because of a lack of technical types of camps, 1 BVD returned to Wallangarra in 1972 for Camp training. There the members were afforded the luxury of Greyhound bus travel and barrack room accommodation. Members trained in the Ammunition Depot and also observed demolition exercises that were carried out by the Regular Army personnel of the depot. Members also visited local points of interest, including Bald Rock and Girraween National Park. During WWII, 'The Rock' (not to be confused with Bald Rock) on the camp border was painted with an arrow in white paint. This point was used by the Depot artificer to assist in calibrating compasses as the painted arrow was due north of the artificer's position. The arrow on the rock is in the middle of the photo. During the 1972 camp, four junior officers of the unit incurred the wrath of the CO at a Mess function and, as a punishment, were ordered to re-paint the arrow on 'The Rock'. At the cessation of training the next day, armed with paint, brushes and rope, the recalcitrants took off to undertake this task. They arrived back later that night rather tired, but 'mission completed' and their initials also emblazoned near the arrow.

A cricket match and a tug of war competition were arranged between the Regular Army's 112 Sup Coy and 1 BVD. The CMF members were successful in both events and took back to Gaythorne the trophies presented for the occasion. At a sports day conducted at the Tenterfield show-ground, a tug-of-war competition was won by the CMF team and the prize money of \$80 was donated to Tenterfield Legacy. Unit members training for this event consisted of pulling a 'Wrecker' around the camp area.



Wallangarra Depot 1972.



CPL B. Robinson (Centre man), PTE A. Ross (2nd man), CPL D. Sullivan (3rd man), WO2 J.J. Sherington (Anchor), CPL (later SGT) R. Pringle (in uniform).

As a stark contrast to the earlier camps, this camp was rated as being highly successful and members looked forward to a return the next year.



LEGACY WINS



Presentation to Legacy by Tug-o-war team at Wallangarra Army Depot

At the Sports day conducted by Tenterfield Rugby League the tug-o-war was won by an Army team. On Friday last at the Army Camp at Wallangarra, during a brief ceremony, the prize money of eighty dollars was handed to Tenterfield Legacy.

Present, by invitation, to receive the cheque were Legatee Bert Hood, chairman, and Legatee Harrie Brewer, secretary, of Tenterfield Legacy Group.

Fifty-two officers and men of 1 Base Vehicle Company C.M.F., Brisbane, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. Lowejoy have been conducting their annual training camp at Wallangarra using the facilities of the Australian Regular Army

unit there, the 112 Supply Company commanded by Major M. W. H. Kuit.

The winning tug-o-war team was made up of personnel from both units and the presentation of the cheque was made jointly by W.O.2 J. J. Sherrington of 1 Base Vehicle Depot and Sergeant R. Cavanagh of 112 Supply Company.

The C.M.F. men have returned to their homes and civilian occupations in Brisbane leaving their share of the prize money in Tenterfield and if their annual camp is conducted next year at Wallangarra they intend to try again to win some money for Legacy.

Article in the Tenterfield News after the 1 BVD Camp at Wallangarra in 1972



Presenting the cheque to Tenterfield Legacy members. L to R MAJ M. Kuit, LTCOL D.W. Lovejoy, CAPT E.N. Schilling and WO2 W.T. Robertson.



Disbanding of the Laundry Platoon

The Laundry Platoon, having served its purpose, was disbanded at this stage and its members were absorbed into the BVD. This unit had given nine officers the chance of having command experience. The original laundry trailer, that beloved piece of machinery that arrived from the south in 1961, was retired and sent to auction. It had lain at Gaythorne for many years and was only used for home training parades because it could not be shifted due to size, lack of brakes, damage to aged parts due to constant movement, and the need for a tractor type vehicle to pull it. The trailer with its steam boiler etc was WW2 vintage. In later years laundry equipment consisting of two small mobile trailers borrowed from 3 CCS Ldy Pl was used. However, because of ARA commitments, this equipment was not always available.

The Australian Government was still at this time committed to the war in Vietnam. Several of the officers of the unit visited that country on short tours and gained valuable first hand knowledge of Ordnance in the Combat Zone. Officers who visited the theatre of war included LTCOL D.W. Lovejoy and MAJ L.J. Koch.

Abolition of National Service

A change of government in December 1972 saw the abolition of National Service, and Citizen Forces members hoped for greater Defence spending for the CMF. This, unfortunately, did not eventuate but the government set up a committee, known as the Miller Committee, to report on the future needs of Citizens Forces. During the investigations conducted by this committee, members of the armed forces were invited to make submissions. All CMF soldiers completed questionnaires. The abolition of National Service on 6 December 1972 again made the CMF a volunteer service and recruiting was still a major problem.

A steady increase in numbers saw a larger number of people at the 1973 camp at Wallangarra. Besides working in the Ammo Depot, a Vehicle Driving and Storeman course as well as a Recruit Course were also conducted. Drivers were now being licensed on the Army's new International 4x4 2 ½ ton Mark I and II. 1 BVD returned home again with the trophies for sports competition but lost the tug of war in 1974.



Transfer of RAASC personnel to RAAOC

A further historic event took place on 23 April 1973, when members of 1 Supply Depot (1 Sup Dep), RAASC transferred to the Ordnance Corps and were absorbed into 'C' Park of the BVD. This transfer was brought about by the historic disbandment of the RAASC. Two officers and 16 Other Ranks were presented with their new Corps badge by the Honorary Colonel of the RAAOC, BRIG J.W. Lawson OBE at a parade held in the depot. Two future OCs of 101 Fd Sup Coy came from 1 Supply Depot; MAJ G.W. Oliver (1985-88) and MAJ J.P. McGahan (1988-91) as did CAPT W.Q.C. Carson-Beales who saw long service in many postings in Ordnance and Infantry units and headquarters. Long and dedicated service in the Foodstuffs role of the unit was also given by three of these members. WO2 H.W. Evans, WO2 E.J.W. Oliver, and SGT R. (Dick) Grayson brought considerable expertise from their previous Corps and formed the nucleus of the unit's Combat Supplies group.

The Lovejoy Years - 1973 to 1975

LTCOL D.W. Lovejoy ED took command of the depot in January 1973. He had joined 11 NS Battalion in 1953 and was then posted to Albion. He rose through all ranks, except Warrant Officer. He distinguished himself prior to this appointment by being promoted to SI DEG Wing CSTU with the rank of LTCOL. He was a Senior Audit Inspector with the Queensland Auditor General's Department. He encouraged recruiting vigorously, he fought tirelessly for a meaningful role for his units, he saw the benefits that an active social presence had on improving morale, and actively sought to have members trained and ready for promotion.

'The Numbers Game'

The Officer Cadet Training Unit had supplied the depot by now with several officers but the other rank structure was at a low level. LTCOL Lovejoy embarked on a vigorous recruiting campaign. 'The Numbers Game', as it became known, was the order of the day. He introduced three-hour parades for night training in an attempt to gain continuity of training as a new training directive demanded efficiencies at all levels. Members who were absent from parades were required to do alternative training days to make up the lectures they had missed. This action of course put extra pressure on the training staff



to do additional time. Staff could serve up to 100 days per year with full pay. Any more and you weren't paid. Several members still exceeded the allocated number of days.

As part of 'The Numbers Game', Saturday mornings saw unit members assemble the recruiting display stands and head off to various shopping centres. As can be seen from the photo, the main messages were Tax Free Pay and the chance for adventure and excitement. LTCOL Lovejoy established the position of Recruiting Officer and appointed LT R.T. Brown to this position. He worked tirelessly in this position and as a keen photography enthusiast developed a comprehensive album of unit activities to show at displays. A camera was purchased from Regimental Funds for this purpose. Very few restrictions were placed on the Recruiting Officer and his staff in respect of paid man hours. LT A.M.G. Grant and LT P. Wintour also achieved good results during their time as Recruiting Officer.



Unit members at recruiting display stand.

Members of 1 BVD began a tradition in 1974 when they provided a ceremonial guard for the Zillmere/Geebung RSL on Anzac Day. This service became an annual event.



LTCOL D.W. Lovejoy ED delivering the 1974 Anzac Service Address.

The Miller Report

In May 1974 the Minister for Defence tabled the Miller Report. The report recommended a major overhaul of the CMF structure and training. Significant recommendations included a name change from CMF to the Army Reserve (ARES), training to be structured on Unit Training rather than Officer and NCO training, and units were to be counterparts of Regular units with complementary and compatible training programs.

More advanced training, higher rates of pay, career planning and improved uniform arrangements also resulted from the review. The Miller Report also recommended that female members be permitted to join ARES Services units and that the previous training unit 1 WRAAC Coy at Kelvin Grove be disbanded from 1 January 1975.

In 1974, 1 BVD again travelled to Wallangarra to pursue a full training camp in non Corps activities. However, on arrival the OC of the Wallangarra Depot, MAJ M. Kuit requested assistance in handling, repairing and storing flood damaged stock that had been sent to his Depot after the Australia Day floods which had ravaged the Brisbane area. The training programme was thrown into total disarray and members were deployed in the storehouses for four days each week on this task. Unit Officers and NCOs were clearly disappointed as they had spent several weeks in their own time preparing lectures for the courses they had planned.

BRIG J.W. Lawson OBE reviewed the final parade for 1974. This was to be the last occasion of an 'all-male' parade for the unit.



Preparing for what was to be the last 'All male' parade.



BRIG Lawson inspecting the parade.

Females Join the Ranks

In 1975, the first female member transferring to RAAOC was PTE D. Cobanov followed by PTE T. Hall. A steady stream of women followed with female strength totalling in later years 34 members.

These women set a very high standard for others to follow - they set the benchmark. They were both very efficient and capable at manning recruiting displays and later when promoted proved very capable Stores Section leaders. They were both promoted to Senior NCO rank and became technical experts



in Stores employment. They also figured prominently in the organising of social activities within the Soldiers Club and Sgts Mess.

With the introduction of the female members to the ranks, it required a change of delivery by the Drill Instructor in the method of getting the troops to stand to attention. Gone was the usual cry of “Stand erect, shoulders back, head high, push your chest out, arms straight, bends out of your elbows, clench your fist and place your thumb behind the seam of your trousers”, for obvious reasons.



First female RAAOC CMF members. PTE D. Cobanov and PTE T. Hall

The end of the Citizens Military Force

In compliance with the Miller Report recommendations, 1 BVD was disbanded on 31 August 1975. Members were absorbed into new Army Reserve units; namely 1 Ordnance Services Unit and 1 Ordnance Platoon and a Headquarters unit to be known as 1 Supply Group (ARES) Elm. 104 Field Workshop Stores section was also disbanded on 30 June. Five officers had gained command experience in this unit. This small but practical unit, over its 10 years of existence, had given members valuable experience in processing vehicle repair parts, and supporting other units in their camp activities.

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