

# **PART 3**

## **THE ARMY RESERVE**

### **1975 - 1994**

#### **Chapter 7**

##### **1 Ordnance Services Unit**

**1975 - 1987**

##### **The Harmon Years - 1975 to 1977**

Leading up to the Government's adoption of the recommendations of the Miller Report, a new Ordnance unit, 1 Ordnance Platoon (1 Ord Pl) was formed on 1 July 1975 and was placed under command of CAPT E.N. Schilling. The unit was allotted to Field Force Command with a Combat Supplies role in support of 7 Task Force units, and was located at Gona Barracks, Kelvin Grove. A Bath Section was also raised to become part of the PL's function. 1 Ord Pl remained in Field Force until 5 February 1977 at which time LTCOL Lovejoy was successful in having it reallocated to Logistics Command. It remained a Logistics Command unit until its disbandment on 2 February 1988.



*CAPT E.N. Schilling*  
*RFD, ED*



Control of the depot was now passed over to the inaugural OC of 1 Ordnance Services Unit (1 Ord Svc Unit), MAJ G.J. Harmon on 1 September 1975. In civilian life, MAJ Harmon was a Forensic Scientist with the Queensland Police Department.

The unit had been raised on 25 August 1975, under command of LTCOL Lovejoy, in readiness for the disbandment of 1 BVD on 31 August. The raising of the Ord Svc Unit promised new horizons. Besides having a Stores Group, a Vehicle Group and a Foodstuffs Group, a Training Cell was attached. Members were posted to trade positions and were initially allotted a trade qualification based on the position they were posted to at that time. Later, trade testing became important for pay and promotion as a result of the Coldham report, which allied ARES trade and military skill pay to that of the ARA.



*MAJ G.J. Harmon*

LTCOL Lovejoy became the first SOI (ARES) of Headquarters 1st Supply Group (HQ 1 Sup Gp). It was decided to locate the ARES element at Gaythorne in the ARES Depot to facilitate contact with the ARES units, rather than at Victoria Barracks. The element became self-contained administratively.

The new organization reduced the rank structure previously enjoyed by the levels in the Vehicle Depot. However, positions were found for all existing members in the two units at Gaythorne and the ARES element of HQ 1 Sup Gp.



*LTCOL D.W. Lovejoy ED*

### ***50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary***

During Corps Week activities in 1975, and being 50 years since the founding of the RAAOC Militia, a special programme was planned to commemorate the occasion. All units paraded before the Honorary Colonel, BRIG J.W. Lawson, OBE, who unveiled an Honour Board listing previous Commanding Officers of the major Ordnance units in Queensland since the advent of voluntary part time service. This function saw the greatest gathering of senior officer rank ever seen in the depot in CMF/ARES history. Those in attendance were -

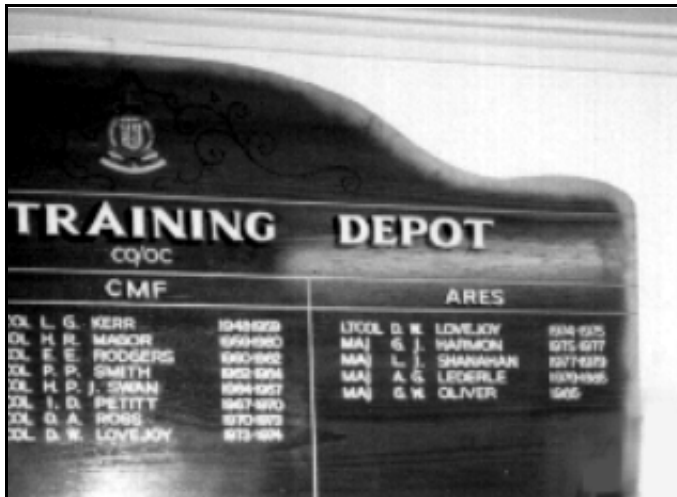
BRIG	J.W. LAWSON, OBE
BRIG	H.P.J. SWAN, ED
COL	L.G. KERR, ED
COL	I.D. PETTIT, ED
COL	J.B. DUNCAN, OBE
COL	N.C. MILES,
LTCOL	D.A. ROSS, ED
LTCOL	D.W. LOVEJOY, ED

Apologies were received from COL H.N. Vidgen, and MAJ G.M. McKay.

The Honour Board was created through the efforts of members of the unit, and is an example of Army Reserve craftsmanship.



*Honour Board function dignitaries*



*RAAOC Training Depot Honour Board COs/OCs*

### *Esprit de Corps*

The unit now boasted a first class Soldiers Club, a far cry from the machinery shed of 1963. Much of the funding for this improvement came from high volume alcohol sales to unit members and those of surrounding units. Bulk sales were also made to many of the Regular Army messes in the area as they





were supposed to purchase their supplies from Canteen Services, but the lower prices available from the soldiers club proved too great a temptation. The club was able to purchase direct from the brewery at a significant discount and offer “the cheapest beer in town”. All of the profits of this enterprise were ploughed back into improving facilities in the club and the unit area generally. Members, both existing and new, received the benefits of this upgraded facility. It had been brought about by a great volunteer effort over the years by many members, an interested ARA Cadre Staff, and the strong encouragement and support of LTCOL Lovejoy. The success of the Soldiers Club had kept the unit together as it often served as a combined mess, lecture room and recruit catcher.



*1 BVD Soldier's Club circa 1975*

Social committees organised and conducted barbecues, film evenings and also published a unit newsletter which was called “Pogo”. The driving force behind the publication of the newsletter was CPL I. White. Other notable personalities involved in these activities included CPLs B. Robinson, O. Harch, J. Seymour, and P. Krech.

On one notable occasion during a camp at Macrossan, CPL White (Whitey), a qualified butcher in civilian life, provided the meat for a unit barbecue. SSGT B.J. Mewburn was driving a Land Rover back to camp when he hit and killed a pig wandering across the road. He continued back to camp where he enlisted the aid of WO2 Sherington to recover the body. Two personnel were



dispatched to bring the animal back. Whitey was engaged to prepare the pig for consumption. It was scalded in a 44-gallon drum to remove the hair, taken to the ablution block where it was dressed, and then put in the chiller in the kitchen. This all had to be carried out secretly as it was not known who owned the pig. The non-edible remains were removed in the back of a Land Rover and secretly buried in a deep hole at the aerodrome at Macrossan. The carcass was hanging in the kitchen chiller when the pig's owner arrived looking for his prize-winning animal - this was no ordinary pig! However, the owner continued on his unsuccessful search and the unit members later enjoyed a roasted pig. Attached RAEME personnel made the roasting spit. For his efforts, Whitey was presented with a butcher's knife mounted on a wooden plaque, suitably inscribed to mark the occasion. It was later discovered that the pig belonged to a resident ARA Staff Sergeant.

### ***Skill at arms***

Rifle shooting at the Greenbank range was changed to what was known as the 'Trainfire method' and members had a new concept of range firing to master. This replaced the old manually operated 'bulls-eye' targets and 'figure' targets. A range shoot involved two practices. The first involved firing from a static position at a number of different ranges at a variety of targets. The highlight of the shoot was the second phase where the detail moved forward at a walk with the range controller operating the raising and lowering of a variety of targets over ranges of 50, 100, 200 and 300 m. Different firing positions and number of rounds to be fired were nominated. Scoring was automatically recorded on the controller's console. However, some scores were a bit suspect as a shot fired into the ground close to the target could throw up sufficient dirt and stones to record a hit. The Trainfire method reduced the manpower necessary to conduct a shoot, as butt parties were not needed. During the conduct of the shoot, the most labour intensive activity was the 'emu bob' collecting the spent brass. A pre-determined brass recovery weight had to be achieved, otherwise a second sweep was necessary. The 9 mm F1 SMG and 9 mm Browning pistol were fired on the 25 m. range.

The final parade for 1975 was reviewed by BRIG H.P.J. Swan ED who was very pleased to officiate and renew acquaintances with old members. He presented trophies and awarded promotions to members of 1 Ord Svc Unit and 1 Ord Pl. The year 1975 passed on and members began to look forward to



promised changes in the New Year. If members thought that 1975 was a year for great changes, they were in for great surprises in 1976.



*Greenbank Range 1975*

Ordnance Reserve support was keenly sought for the many activities which were to be conducted during this year. The units supplied support to 131 Supply Company at Wallangarra with the Stores Group, the 121 Supply Company at Charters Towers, while the Vehicle Group and an EME Repair Parts Platoon supported the 1 Field Force Group (FF Gp) camp at Tin Can Bay. The Foodstuffs and POL Group supported various ARA and ARES units at Bribie Island and Greenbank areas. 1 Ord Pl provided support at Greenbank to 1 FF Gp.

1 Ord Svc Unit was saddened in February 1976 by the death of MAJ L.J. Koch, the unit 2IC. He had enlisted as a PTE in 1952, rose through the ranks, commanded a number of the Sub-units and served as Adjutant QM in 1966-67 on full time duty. He also held many CSTU positions. His drive and initiative were indeed a great loss. He had served in practically every unit ever raised in the Ordnance Training Depot. He had qualified in TAC 5 and was an excellent example of the total commitment of a dedicated member of the ARES.

With the disbandment of 1 WRAAC Coy as a specialist unit, as recommended by the Miller Report, all existing ranks were offered the choice of transfer to another unit. 1 Ord Svc Unit was fortunate in gaining the services of CAPT N.E. Edwards, a highly skilled clerical and administrative officer who on transfer was appointed Adj/QM, a position she held from 1976 to 1980 when she took a discharge. She became the first ARES officer on part time training



to fill this role and proved a capable occupant of the position. She was the first female Officer posted to the unit.



*CAPT N.E. Edwards*



*MAJ L.J. Koch a few months before his untimely death.*

Shortly afterwards, LT M.F. Archer was posted to the unit. She was one of the first two female graduates from OCTU and was posted as Sup O (Foodstuffs/POL). She was later to figure prominently in a command position in a variety of supply support roles that the unit undertook. A most competent officer, she was later appointed to the position of Unit Training Officer before retiring from the service.

### ***Promotions***

Further changes in the system saw the introduction of NCO promotion courses run by 1 Training Group (1 Trg Gp) on a full time basis over 16 days. Officers and Warrant Officers and senior NCO's were called for the last time to run unit promotional courses. One great last effort was made to enable members to gain their subjects for promotion prior to the introduction of full-time courses. This



was necessary as the limited number of places available to each unit on these courses meant that some members would have to wait to attend a subsequent course, possibly a year or more later. That had the effect of deferring members' promotions and career progression. All promotion courses were successfully conducted. However, all members who had qualified for promotion were unable to be promoted because of the procedural implementation of the re-organization following recommendations of the Miller Committee. Fortunately their qualifications remained and they could be promoted as vacancies occurred.


Courses for promotion since 1948 had been conducted by the Unit on a part-time basis over several week-ends. Examinations had been set by selected members for Subjects A (Drill and Weapons), B1 (Tactics), B2 (Corps) and C (Military Law) for all ranks through to Warrant Officer. Subject C for WO was an AHQ conducted course. This was an onerous task for some members who spent their entire 14 day camp preparing examination papers and formulating the unit's training program for the ensuing year.

Efforts by the SO1 ARES, LTCOL Lovejoy, in gaining new establishments, brought rewards to many, and perhaps the greatest of these was the official granting to the Unit of Establishment positions for two Warrant Officers Class 1, the first such positions since 12 March 1954. Only one of these positions was ever filled, as both positions were in a Training Cell.

On the Final Parade of the year on 29 November 1976, members paraded before the Formation COMD, COL N.C. Miles, COMD 1 Sup Gp, who inspected 1 Ord Svc Unit and 1 Ord Pl. He addressed members and handed out promotions to those who were fortunate enough to receive them.

That evening was a special occasion for W02 G.J. Sheehan who was promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer Class 1. It was only the third occasion that this rank had been held, in the long history of the Ordnance Citizen Forces, since 1948. The last occasion this rank had been worn was on the 12 March 1954 by I.D. Pettitt before he was commissioned. On promotion, W01 Sheehan was appointed RSM HQ 1 Sup Gp (ARES Element).



	
<h1 style="margin: 0;">Australian Military Forces</h1>	
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Warrant.</h2>	
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"><div style="font-size: 2em; margin-right: 10px;">To</div><div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 300px;"></div></div>	
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"><div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 300px;"></div><div style="margin-left: 10px;">Graham John SHEEHAN</div></div>	
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"><div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 300px;"></div><div style="margin-left: 10px;">ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS</div></div>	
<p><i>By virtue of the authority given in the Defence Act 1903-1953 and by the Regulations made thereunder, I do hereby appoint you the said</i></p>	
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"><div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 300px;"></div><div style="margin-left: 10px;">Graham John SHEEHAN</div></div>	
<p><i>to be a Warrant Officer (Class 2) in the Australian</i></p>	
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"><div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 300px;"></div><div style="margin-left: 10px;">CITIZEN</div><div style="margin-left: 10px;"><i>Military Forces from</i></div><div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 100px;"></div><div style="margin-left: 10px;"><i>1st February 1960</i></div></div>	
<p><i>You are, therefore, carefully and diligently to discharge your duty as such by doing and performing all things thereunto belonging as required by the Laws and Orders relating to the Australian Military Forces:</i></p>	
<p><i>and you are to observe and follow such orders and directions as you shall receive from your Commanding, or any other your Superior Officer, according to the Laws and Orders relating to those Forces</i></p>	
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"><div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 300px;"></div><div style="margin-left: 10px;">CANBERRA</div></div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"><div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 300px;"></div><div style="margin-left: 10px;">Signature</div><div style="margin-left: 10px;">Major-General</div></div>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"><div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 300px;"></div><div style="margin-left: 10px;">Date of Issue</div><div style="margin-left: 10px;"><i>21st MARCH 1960</i></div></div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"><div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 300px;"></div><div style="margin-left: 10px;">ADJUTANT-GENERAL</div><div style="margin-left: 10px;">Appointment</div></div>

Sample Warrant

WO1 Sheehan had enlisted in the Ordnance Corps after completion of National Service training in 1955. He served in most units in the training depot in a variety of postings. Prior to his promotion he had spent the previous ten years in the training section of the depot. During the period 1959-76, as a Warrant Officer Class 2 he had the primary responsibility for the training of recruits and the coaching of NCO's for higher promotion. Most members who came into the units during this period would have benefited from WO1



Sheehan's experience, encouragement and training skills during a whole range of recruit, trade training and promotional courses, weapon and infantry minor tactics exercises.



*WO1 G.J. Sheehan,  
OAM*

### ***Unit Historian***

LTCOL Lovejoy appointed Warrant Officer Sheehan to be Unit Historian in 1975. He wanted to ensure that the rich history of the part time Ordnance soldier since 1925 was not lost to future generations over the passage of time. In addition to his normal duties, WO1 Sheehan was to devote whatever time was necessary to carry out this research and to document past, present and future events of historical and statistical interest. He got off to a flying start on this project when he had the opportunity to spend two weeks in Victoria Barracks researching unit histories and personnel records. He found records which, in later years, would have been destroyed. Officers 'Stud Books' were also extremely helpful in tracing early Corps identities and their relationship with the Ordnance Citizen Forces. He was also fortunate in being able to interview surviving Militia and Citizen Forces members. Notably, the second and third Militia OCs - MAJ G.M. McKay and COL J.B. Duncan - gave valuable details of the early years, details that would not have been available from any other source. Their recollections, originally preserved on audio tape and in letters, have now been digitally stored for posterity.



### ***Occupation of 11 Sup Bn buildings***

With the movement of HQ 11 Sup Bn from Gaythorne to Meeandah, the HQ, Administration Block, Damascus Club and other storehouses were vacated. HQ 1 Sup Gp (ARES Element) were relocated in the Administration Block, thus making more room available in the old drill hall for 1 Ord Svc Unit.

The Ord Pl took over office space in the Administration Block and further storage space beside the old Damascus Club.



*Administration Block, Gaythorne.*

### ***ARA and ARES command co-operation***

The HQ 1 Sup Gp (ARES Element) became officially established on 1 January 1977 and all positions were now filled according to an official establishment. Prior to this the element operated on 'ad hoc' establishment cover. During 1976-77 Ordnance members undertook 12 separate supply operational activities





in support of their functional role at Townsville, Tin Can Bay, Greenbank and 11 Sup Bn areas.

COL N.C. Miles was transferred to Logistic Command Headquarters in Melbourne in January 1977 and it was most unfortunate that the Unit did not have a chance to farewell its Formation COMD, who had done so much to help the ARES through a difficult era. The Training Depot had never, since the inception of the CMF, worked so closely with their ARA counterparts in the field and received such co-operation. The ARES element on the HQ clearly established itself as a practical and effective command and control body. The groups of 1 Ord Svc Unit and 1 Ord Pl carried out their functional roles at Ashgrove, Banyo and Meeandah. The placing of ARES RAAOC under command of 1 Sup Gp, together with an active effort by Regular and Reserve personnel at all levels had achieved one of the aims of the Miller reforms: One Army - with Regular and Reserve components.

This co-operation was evident in camps conducted during the year. The Vehicle Storemen were encouraged to parade on extra weekends at the Vehicle Depot Banyo and physically work the Service Station. This allowed the Vehicle Depot to increase its throughput of serviced vehicles. In recognition of this assistance, the ARES personnel were presented with a memento in the form of a model GS vehicle, mounted and suitably engraved. This was hung with pride in the Soldiers Club.

COL J.F. Hiley who succeeded COL Miles continued with the same close relationship. On his re-posting in 1978 and the disbandment of the HQ 1 Sup Gp, the situation took a turn for the worse. The ARES units came under direct command of Log Comd based in Melbourne and lost the support of a local Formation COMD and found themselves without any meaningful role.

### ***Foodstuffs and POL training and tasking***

It was during this year that the Foodstuffs Group of 1 Ord Svc Unit was given priority. LTCOL Lovejoy had previously tasked LT G.W. Oliver with developing the unit's foodstuffs supply capability with a view to undertaking operational foodstuffs/POL tasks. LT Oliver had gained considerable experience in this field while serving as a RAASC Supply Officer with 1 Supply Depot and as Assistant Adjutant of 42 RQR. Training courses were developed



and delivered for foodstuffs/POL Supply Clerks and Storemen. To generate interest and improve attendance, the training program for the 'Greengrocers' included site visits to various commercial food processing and distribution centres. The group visited the Brisbane Markets at Rocklea, Tip Top Bakery at Nundah, the Cannon Hill Abattoirs and a number of wholesale grocery warehouse and distribution centres. The most popular and well-attended visit, however, was to the Castlemaine Perkins XXXX Brewery at Milton. The stated Objective of this activity was "To study the special issues and challenges associated with the receipt, storage and issue of beverages". The fact that visitors who inspected the brewery facilities were encouraged to taste test the range of beers for an hour after the visit had absolutely nothing to do with its selection over the Tristram's soft drink factory! A later visit to the Pauls Milk factory at West End allowed the trainees to compare the two facilities (and products).

This training was the start of an on-going program which saw the Foodstuffs Group of 1 Ord Svc Unit, and units which followed, undertake the full range of Combat Supplies support to both ARA and ARES exercises.

### **The Shanahan Years - 1977 to 1979**

Control of 1 Ord Svc Unit passed from MAJ G.J. Harmon to MAJ L.J. Shanahan on 1 April 1977. Becoming OC was a personal triumph for MAJ Shanahan who joined 1 Base Vehicle Depot as a PTE at the age of 34 years. He attended the second course of OCTU and was commissioned as a LT. He served in most of the units established at the training depot, and became the first OCTU graduate to command a Reserve Supply Unit in 1 MD. During his term of command, he suffered many disappointments in terms of financial restrictions, which reduced training time allotment, and was unable to fulfil many of the elements of his reform agenda for the unit.



*MAJ LJ. Shanahan RFD.*

### ***Establishment of new Messes***

The joys of the traditionalists had been let loose in February 1977 when the units were once again allowed to conduct their own messes, following the transfer of 11 Sup Bn Messes to Meeandah. The exuberance of the members quickly put the rooms into shape and Corps Week was celebrated for the first time since 1962 in the Units' own messes. The inaugural Dining-In Night of 1 Ord Svc Unit Sgts mess was an outstanding success on 21 September 1977. It was a fine effort by those concerned in arranging this event. Guest of Honour was COL J.F. Hiley. The dinner was held in the Soldiers Club as the Sergeants' Mess consisted only of one small room. All the mess silverware was acquired by the Sergeants Mess through mess funds and member levies raised during the year. After dinner, members adjourned to the mess to participate in the usual after-dinner activities. The COMD suffered a fractured rib whilst participating in a mess game, referred to as 'Boats'.

Thanks to some foresight by the OC at the time when leaving Albion, the Officers and Sergeants Mess accounts were never closed and a caretaker executive was always appointed throughout this time. This action made it easy to re-activate the system rather than go through formal procedures of establishing messes.



*1977 Sergeants Mess Dining-In Night*



*1977 Sergeants Mess Dining-In Night*

The CO appointed the Mess President, Treasurer and Secretary and this duty became an extra unpaid responsibility borne by the appointee. The Sergeants Mess conducted annual dining-in nights, and other formal dinners until its closure in 1992.

The hallowed walls of the Sergeants Mess echoed to the voices of its first female members in August 1977, when SGTs Cobonov and Hall were



promoted. The Officers Mess had been graced 18 months previously by CAPT N.E. Edwards.

On 21 September 1977, COL Hiley presented LTCOL Lovejoy with the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal for his service to the country in both civil and military life. The unit paraded in the drill hall and witnessed the presentation. It was a fine reward for a man who had given so much to the Citizen Forces in over 25 years of service.

### ***The Coldham Report***

To further align ARA and ARES conditions of service, in 1977 the Australian Government commissioned another enquiry into service conditions. Known as the Coldham Report, its recommendations included:

- ARES personnel be fully IET trained in their Corps employment;
- An incremental pay system, based on years of service in each Employment ECN and rank, be introduced;
- Personnel confidential reports (PR66) were to be prepared by OCs on the standard of training capabilities and leadership qualities of all ranks of SGT and above;
- Physical fitness training and testing according to age and gender;
- Weapons proficiency training and qualification requirement.

These recommendations were designed to place the ARES on a comparable system of promotion and employment to that of the ARA.

To this purpose Ordnance people had to be trained in various Corps responsibilities and Training Depot staff undertook Initial Employment Training (IET) courses in clerical, vehicle and stores requirements. Even OR's who had been given an IET now had to confirm that trade to maintain their rank and posting. CAPT M.F. Archer, CAPT N.E. Edwards and LT J.E. White were appointed Trade Testing Officers for Foodstuffs, Clerical and Storeman trades respectively. Warrant Officers were required to attain the code of a Warehouse Supervisor. Despite many years of carrying out this role and having been designated a Warehouse Supervisor in 1975, all existing WOs were now required to submit to trade testing and obtain a trade test certificate.



The original trade training instructional material was to be provided by the Ordnance Centre at Bandianna, but this did not eventuate. In 1977 the ARES training staff drew up this material. With the limited ARES resources available, this proved to be a monumental task. The courses were conducted on a part time basis and proved an outstanding success as evidenced by the high pass rate brought about by the attitude and willingness of the students to succeed. These courses were conducted in October 1977 and set the standard for future requirements. The ARES had risen to the task again when given the opportunity. The ARA people in contact with the unit could no longer say that the ARES were not up to the job. All future trade testing for Warehouse Supervisor was to be conducted at the Ordnance Centre at Bandianna. SGTs E. Rose, D. Cobanov and G.R. Cochrane were the first to attend and qualify at these full-time courses.

### ***Changes in Pay structure***

Daily rates of pay for members at this time were:

Private	\$17.30
Corporal	\$18.55
Sergeant	\$19.69
Warrant Officer 2	\$28.26
Lieutenant	\$26.72
Captain	\$31.48
Major	\$38.70
Lieutenant Colonel	\$44.63
Colonel	\$50.81

The pay structure also altered in that each trade skill was recognised and daily rates in each category rose in accordance with the number of years in the trade since promotion, with the highest being that of a level 6. The Warrant Officer level, especially that of a Warehouse Supervisor on a level 2, carried a rate of pay equal to that of a CAPT. This matter was of course an issue of controversy with the junior officers, who claimed that they had studied for a number of years to attain their rank and found themselves on less favourable monetary terms.



This new pay structure attracted many ex- ARA personnel to the ARES, as the thought of 100 days tax-free pay was highly attractive. However, as many found out, spreading the 100 days allocation over a full 12 months was not as attractive as it first seemed. They preferred to do this allocation in one block, or when it best suited them, and then get on with their retirement for the rest of the year. A further disincentive was having to prepare for training periods in their own time. To his credit, and with the respect of his NCO structure, MAJ Shanahan adopted a policy of not accepting ex-ARA personnel unless there was a clear requirement for that skill and that person's appointment did not block the career progression of a long term member. Other OCs supported this doctrine in later years.

One notable enlistment at this stage was that of SSGT A.J. Crook, a Vietnam Veteran, who was posted to the 'Q' store. He quickly slotted into the Reserve environment, and did not object to being called a 'cut lunch commando'. His ability to get things done without fuss earned him wide respect. He was always available for duty and was ready and willing to be employed on any task. SSGT Crook's usual mode of working dress in either summer or winter was trousers and dark blue singlet. Whilst serving with 1 Ord Svc Unit he was presented with the Defence Force Service Medal for his ARA service and the Bravery Medal (BM) for bravery in rescuing a person who had jumped into the Brisbane River. SSGT Crook jumped from the Victoria Bridge into the river and supported the person until further help arrived.

Cutbacks in expenditure Service-wide had a serious effect on the morale and activities of the units. The senior staff on many occasions had seen their plans for well devised, enthusiastic activities destroyed only days before the programmed date and request for support from other units dwindled. Unit training had to be costed for each activity. ARES Admin and training Staff spent many hours, most often in an unpaid capacity, in costing wages, food and POL to fit a strict monetary budget. MAJ Shanahan could have enjoyed more support from some of his Regular Army Cadre Staff at various times, as their attention to this onerous Administrative task would have relieved the severe strain on the Reservists involved, who also had to adhere to and maintain the strict Training Schedule to continue to meet the ongoing requirements of the unit, in the limited time at their disposal. This budget could not be overspent as, if this happened, there were no parades at all. It seemed ridiculous costing kerosene for lanterns and working out how much petrol to the litre was



required for an exercise. The budget determined how many people could be brought in for an exercise and staff were rotated with each activity.

CAPT R.T. Brown succeeded CAPT E.N. Schilling as OC 1 Ord Pl to complete the major senior posting for the year. The year of 1977 came to a close with a final parade reviewed by the new Honorary Colonel BRIG J.F. McLean OBE and a unit Christmas party was celebrated in the depot.



*CAPT R.T. Brown RFD.*

### ***30 years on***

By 1978, part time soldiers had given 30 years of efficient, loyal service to the Crown, country, and the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps since the CMF was formed. The members had come from various walks of life to contribute this service. The Unit had lost the services of many valued members at various times because of civilian commitments and forced retirements, either through age or family commitments.

The Corps had been well served by its members. One of the true values of Citizen soldiers was their ability to adapt to any situation and use their civilian experience to successfully undertake the military task at hand. Members came from many walks of life: company executives, bank officers, administrative, clerical and professional officers, trades persons and other manual workers. A





CO could always find a person in the ranks whose skills could be used in particular situations that might arise. This was a continuation of the valuable skills and experience that mature and skilled civilians had brought to Australia's Defence Forces during two world wars.

At the end of the 30th year, eight commissioned officers had been awarded the Efficiency Decoration with three of those also awarded the bar for 18 years of service. Six Warrant Officers had been awarded the Efficiency Medal and two the first clasp. Both medals were awarded after 12 years, and the bar and clasp awarded for each six years of efficient service thereafter.

Imperial Awards had been withdrawn in 1974, much to the disappointment of some members who were very close to the length of service required in order to be awarded the medal or a further clasp or bar. The Australian Government introduced the National Medal in substitution for the Imperial Awards. However, this award was not as highly regarded as the Imperial awards as it was not exclusively a military medal – it was awarded to both military and civilian personnel for long service in a variety of Government service organisations.

Many members, of all ranks, had made a significant contribution to the success of unit activities over 30 years. Mention must be made of the commitment of the Warrant Officer element of the various units. Through their dedication, unselfishness, and pride of rank and Corps they engendered, by their attendance and knowledge of the subject, the maximum training benefit was gained and activities achieved their objectives. The Warrant Officer generally had a lengthy career opportunity that was not always available to the commissioned officers whose career path often required a variety of postings. As a result, the Warrant Officers provided the continuity and stability so necessary for a succession of COs/OCs. The training depot at one time in 1968 boasted 10 Warrant Officers Class 2 ARES and 2 Warrant Officers Class 2 ARA.

Between 1948 and 1978 the Corps in 1 MD had had 70 Reserve Officers and 30 Reserve Warrant Officers appointed. Apart from 9 Lieutenant Colonels and 2 Majors appointed to command the major units, 24 other Commissioned Officers had been appointed as Officers Commanding of the 12 minor units under command. The valuable experience gained in these commands proved advantageous when some were later appointed to command the major unit.



The Australian Regular Army had posted 13 Officers as Adjutants and 17 Warrant Officer Class 2, 2 Staff Sergeants, 2 Sergeants and 6 Corporals in a variety of administration, training and Quartermaster postings. In the main, there was some outstanding service given by the ARA personnel whose professionalism and high standards provided excellent role models for the part time soldiers. Many of them were posted to large ARA units and went on to attain higher ranks, up to MAJ.

An interesting and unique factor of historical importance was that the Unit accounting number of Q45 had remained unchanged since 1948. It served as the Unit's Q Accounting Number until 1 Ord Services Unit was disbanded in 1987. This situation was unique, as 17 successive Ordnance units had carried that Q Number.

The last 30 years had seen many changes in society since WW 2 and the citizen soldier had to cope with these changing attitudes. Following the lack of public support for Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, it was not now fashionable to be a soldier and to wear uniforms in a public place. ARES soldiers would often be set upon by gangs of youths while going to or from parade. Orders were issued that soldiers were not to wear uniforms on public transport or in other public places for their own protection.

Severe cutbacks in the nation's economy during conflicts in Malaya, Korea and Vietnam also limited the amount of expenditure of public funds available for training of the citizen soldier. Equipment was now not as readily available as in the formative years. The massive stockpile of surplus war equipment following WW 2 had either been used up or disposed of at auction. Citizen force units were now restricted to a limited vehicle allocation as priority was given to equipping the Regular Army.

### ***Re-location***

Requirements for more area for ARA units in the Enoggera /Gaythorne area saw the unit once again change its location to Nimmo Rd at the Ashgrove end of the Enoggera complex on 24 February 1978. This area was historically known as Frasers Paddock and had been a training camp in World War 1 and adjoined the Ammunition Depot.



The old training depot at Gaythorne was by now in a serious state of disrepair due to white ant infestation and bird lice. A new weapons armoury had been built at Meeandah so the adjoining storehouse was demolished as well. These two relics of WW2 vintage were destroyed.

1 Ord Svc Unit and 1 Ord Pl took up residence and shared accommodation with the Clerical Instruction Wing of 1 Trg Gp. Office accommodation was provided on the ground floor for HQ, while a training office and Unit Canteen were allocated second floor space. To provide for unit training requirements, two old wooden accommodation blocks were relocated to the area. Space in these buildings was allocated to Pl HQ and Officers & Sergeants Messes as well and all became functional quickly. Renovations were carried out using unit labour, working voluntarily at nights and weekends.



*Training Depot - Nimmo Rd Ashgrove*

During August 1978, an attempt to integrate unit training with that of 11 Supply Battalion in a field exercise followed by depot training was held at Camp Kerr, Tin Can Bay. The exercise was called "Wallaby Tree", and to most members proved to be a dismal failure, due to the planning staff's inability to co-ordinate planned activities.

The second week at Meeandah proved a greater disaster as most of the Regular component of that unit had been stood down following their field activity the previous week. Morale suffered accordingly as ARES members were left with civilian storemen and received no benefit at all from the proposed ARA/ARES interaction.



Range Parades and Bivouacs were held at Greenbank and formed part of the training year programme in order for members to be deemed efficient for pay and promotional requirements.

Unit strength at the end of the year was 81.

### ***Honours and Awards***

A new award system replaced the National Medal for the Armed Forces. For the Reserve, the Reserve Force Decoration (Officers) and the Reserve Force



*Examples of Australian and Imperial awards to Officers for long and efficient service - Left to right - Reserve Forces Decoration (RFD) and Efficiency Decoration (ED)*



*Examples of Australian and Imperial awards to Other Ranks for long and efficient service. Left to right, Order of Australia Medal (OAM) awarded for outstanding service, Reserve Forces Medal (RFM), National Medal and Efficiency Medal.*

Medal (Other Ranks) was introduced. Several members were eligible immediately under the guidelines. Clasps to these awards were awarded for further efficient service.

### ***Cross trade training***

To further expand the trade qualifications of unit members and to improve the capacity of the units to provide supply support, the unit embarked on a program of cross corps (IET) training. The aim was to ensure that sufficient technically qualified people would be available to meet demands. This concept



was ahead of its time as the Regular Army operated on the principle of trade streaming under which a member usually had only one trade qualification for their entire career. This program of training enabled the OC to confidently commit the units to fulfill their technical roles using members of all ranks with dual qualifications of both Clerk Tech and Storeman Tech. This 'multi-skilling' created much vigorous debate between unit members and the Cadre Staff. The OC's decision to undertake this style of training was vindicated in later years when many more functional demands were placed on the unit. Because of the existence of a pool of widely trained key personnel, later OCs had greater flexibility and confidence in providing staff to fulfill the unit's role.

HQ 1 Sup Gp (ARES Element) was disbanded on 4 March 1979 and some members were absorbed in 1 Ord Svc Unit and 1 Ord Pl. However, six officers could not be absorbed into the units' manning, as there were insufficient postings available. Some sought transfers and the remainder were placed on the unallotted list; an unfortunate situation as some promising careers were cut short.

This situation brought about the end of direct command service for LTCOL Lovejoy. He was appointed Head of the RAAOC Corps Committee in Queensland and remained as a staff officer for a further twelve months until inactivity and disappointment with his role encouraged his retirement.

### ***1 EME Repair Parts Pl***

On 1 July 1979, 1 EME Repair Parts Pl was raised. The PL's role was to supply MT spares to 1 EME Coy located at Bulimba. Initially, the PL was manned by four specially selected members of 1 Ord Svc Unit; WO2 D. Sommersford, SSGT R.C. Green, CPLs D.W. Smith and G. Evans and commanded by a RAEME Officer from 1 EME Svc Unit. The PL immediately set about acquiring the necessary stock levels and developing SOPs. This activity was warmly welcomed by 1 EME Coy as it improved its capacity to carry out its role and maintain its command structure. Later in the year, LT A.M.G. Grant, was posted as PL COMD. This posting became a training ground for junior unit officers and the position was filled in the early years on a rotation basis. For the following 18 years, this PL continuously fulfilled its role. Due to the existence of having a meaningful and practical Ordnance role (often involving extensive travel throughout Queensland) members jealously guarded their



postings to this unit and often resisted attempts to re-post them even if this meant a promotion.

### **The Lederle Years - 1979 to 1985**

On 10 December 1979 MAJ A.G. Lederle replaced MAJ L.J. Shanahan as OC. This was the start of a long term of five years tenure for MAJ Lederle.

Unit effective strength had fallen to 71 at the end of 1979 so a determined effort was required by all to recruit new members. More recruiting displays were set up in shopping complexes and large-scale mail drops in most suburbs took place. The unit strength of 108 a year later proved the exercise worthwhile.

In May 1980, CAPT N.E. Edwards took a discharge after distinguishing herself in the position of Adjt/QM. CAPT G.W. Oliver was now appointed to this posting and served in this position until his appointment as OC in March 1985. CAPT Oliver was the last person to serve with this appointment as the role was split into two separate postings - Adjt, an ARA posting, and QM/AsstAdjt, an ARES posting.



*MAJ A.G. Lederle, RFD.*



### ***Transfer to Field Force Command - a supply support role***

On 1 July 1980 both Ord Units came under control of Field Force Command and all ties with Logistics Command (Log Comd) ceased to exist. The Unit had for some five years suffered an identity problem, as no functional role could be found. Many promises of action by visitors from HQ Log Comd remained unfulfilled.

MAJ Lederle, with the co-operation of the CDSUP COL Cox, was able to convince the command structure that 1 OSU needed a practical supply support role to assist with recruiting and retention. To this end it was agreed that 1 OSU would become the supplier of all stationery requirements to 7 Bde units. This task was undertaken with vigour. New storage bays were erected under the Catering Wing of the adjoining 1 Training Group building and a full supply support system put into operation. 1 OSU became a second line supply support unit, demanding on 11 Sup Bn and private contractors. Members gained experience in collating unit demands, placing consolidated indents, raising local purchase orders, receiving stock in bulk, breaking bulk into unit lots, storage procedures, and issuing items to units.

This procedure was agreed to because of the significant reduction in effort required of 11 Sup Bn in supporting the individual units of the Bde. However, before all of this could begin, units were required to estimate their three months holdings and demands were consolidated and placed accordingly. To ensure the successful implementation of this role, the CDSUP interviewed and arranged for the posting of two experienced ARA personnel to overcome any potential administrative and training problems that might arise and to make the system work. WO2 P.D. Smith was posted as Admin Officer and WO2 R.C. Honeyman filled the position of Training WO. These members proved to be excellent choices as both fitted in extremely well into the Reserve environment and were willing to pass on their vast experience to all ranks. WO2 Smith had himself served as a Reservist and had further served in the ARA in ARES units. WO2 Honeyman had the ability to successfully convince the supported units' staff that the new arrangements would be to their advantage. His knowledge of Ordnance services was then able to be passed on to these units as well as Unit members. Both Warrant Officers spent long hours in their duties - well above the expected requirement. Building on the success of this activity, MAJ Lederle



negotiated an expansion of this role to include a range of clothing items, field webbing equipment, and vehicle tyres.

Once this preliminary second line supply support role was established, MAJ Lederle was able to encourage other ARES units to take advantage of the services that the unit had now proven it was capable of fulfilling. The Bath Section and Combat Rations Section of 1 Ord Pl were also able to be more gainfully employed. An Ordnance Cell at 2/14 QMI at Wacol was established.

Due to the expanding operational role of the units and the rapidly increasing unit strength, it became necessary to conduct basic IET training for new members at an annual camp, whilst more experienced members took part in Exercise Drought-master - a 7 Bde exercise in South-west Queensland.

A pledge by the Fraser Government to increase the Army Reserve allowed for a greater percentage of female members in units. Previous limitations on the percentage of unit's strength that could be female were eased.

The unit expanded in numbers and boasted that its strength represented in excess of one third of all the Ordnance ARES personnel in Australia. There were 35 female members in the unit and they marched separately in PL formation at the end of year parade.



*Female contingent on parade.*





The 2/14 QMI band provided musical support for the 1980 end of year parade. This was the first time in 10 years that band support had been provided.

By 1982 the supply support role provided by 1 Ord Svc Unit had expanded to such an extent that no storehouse space remained available. Space was promised at Gaythorne in one of the old World War 1 vintage storehouses in Samford Road Gaythorne and detailed plans for its occupation were drawn up. However the area was eventually allocated to 6 Fd Sup Coy, an ARA unit. 1 OSU had to remain in the current cramped accommodation for the time being.

Camp training at this stage was undergoing considerable change. Due to the requirement by other units for supply support on particular items only, the unit as a complete identity was not being called upon. Pl COMDs now had the opportunity to exercise their groups themselves. The OC and HQ staff usually paraded at HQ each year and carried out planning, training and administrative requirements.

Because of the rapidly increasing unit numbers and the need for more junior NCOs in the unit, MAJ Lederle sought to encourage members to seek these promotions and take greater responsibility, by appointing 18 members as Lance Corporals on the one day. This action created great enthusiasm. A high time was had by all in the Soldiers Club on promotion night.

An ammunition element was set up and selected members were introduced to ammunition storage, issue and salvage procedures. WO2 D. Groundwater, an ATO, took his discharge from the ARA to take on this new training role in the unit. Members gained access to Frasers Paddock and Wallangarra Ammunition Depots for training.

The highlight of the year was a successful Driving and Servicing course conducted by the Unit for some 20 students from 7 Bde units. All licensing requirements on a range of vehicles were covered in the two-week course. 1 OSU provided the instructional, testing and administration staff and 1 EME Svc Unit the mechanical support. A TPT PL compound was made available at Enoggera for storage and instructional purposes. Members lived in barrack accommodation at Enoggera. The highlight was an extensive convoy highway drive of three days from Brisbane to Gympie, Kingaroy, Toowoomba, Wallangarra and return to Brisbane. Unit members were extremely proud of



their achievements, particularly as this was a task outside the unit's usual role. All participants were successful in obtaining a license code in at least one vehicle type. The Unimog was now introduced for the first time at this course and it was to become the issue vehicle to the ARES for all purposes. Selected personnel also gained experience on the MACK range of trucks. A heavy duty all-terrain forklift had become part of the unit inventory and members were trained to operate this vehicle.

A foodstuffs role in support of 7 Bde was carried out at Tin Can Bay for the second successive year. This was to become an annual task for the next few years.

During this period, the OC took advantage of the conditions of the Prescribed Service Officers scheme. Selected Warrant Officers, after initial interviewing by a panel, followed by recommendation, were promoted to Captain. Two such promotions took effect from ex ARA Warrant Officers Class 1 who had joined the previous year on the understanding that they would apply for promotion under this scheme. WO1 B.J. Genrich and WO1 M.C. Harding were duly promoted and both gave the unit many years of valuable service in their new roles.

### *A new home*

The long awaited promised move to a new home with expanded storage facilities took place and both units were re-located to Wynter Rd, Enoggera. Unit resources were deployed to undertake the move of all stores and equipment and operational stock holdings. Occupation was completed by 9 September 1983.

Once again the unit was in independent accommodation, but storage space was still limited. The buildings allotted were from WW1 era, having been used originally as blacksmith shop, veterinary stalls, barn, and harness repair area from the remount depot of the early 1920's. All were heritage listed and therefore unable to be altered in any form. This caused some storage problems.

The building allocated to the Solders Club was in disrepair so major renovations were required. The work was done by ARA members, in particular WO1 G. Malherbe and WO2s Smith and Honeyman, who used great ingenuity



in acquiring building materials and manpower from other sources. With further assistance from ARES members the building was soon put into a fine habitable state.



*Training Depot - Wynter Rd, Enoggera.*



*Old barn, which later became the Q Store and then HQ 77 Combat Supplies Pl.*



### ***Reduction in Training Allocations and Budget cuts***

The new Commonwealth Government pressed the destruction button on the Army Reserve during the year by introducing Income Tax on Reservists pay and further reducing the amount of training days available to unit commanders.

The previous Government had raised the ceiling of the Reserve forces to almost 32,000 personnel and had spent many millions of dollars on TV and media resources to encourage ARES activities.

1 Ord Svc Unit training allotment was reduced by 1800 man-days. This was quite a significant number as the annual training requirement for classification for efficiency was 14 days Continuous Training and 19 days part-time Home Training. So this reduction removed the capacity of the unit to provide training for up to 55 members. This cutback was in addition to that announced in 1977. So the situation had now become quite serious, as the unit was still required to maintain its day-to-day administration as well as fulfilling a greatly enhanced role to its technical dependencies.

To keep the unit functioning, MAJ Lederle appealed to all members to serve on. Pay was to be available for one night a month and paid training time was reduced from three hours to two. However, Officers and NCOs continued to put in the same level of time and effort as previously. Members paraded on a voluntary unpaid basis for any other attendance. Planned weekend activities were cancelled. The resolve of senior members was clearly shown when they paraded voluntarily and unpaid for most activities for almost 12 months.

Previous CMF/ARES pay reviews had set Army Reserve pay levels below ARA levels partly in acknowledgement of its tax free status. However, at this time Army Reserve pay was well below ARA levels and was now being taxed. When added to a member's civilian pay many found themselves in a situation where it cost them money to be in the Reserve. Despite widespread discontent with this new tax impost, most members remained on the books and the unit's strength at the end of 1983 was almost unchanged from the previous year at 108.

However, during 1984 the decision to tax Reserve pay started to have an effect and upset many members so they took their discharge. The tax impost and the



shortage of training time severely affected the units' ability to function as before. However the usual stalwarts carried the day by serving without pay for a considerable time. By the end of this year, unit strength had fallen from 108 to 85.

Simultaneously with this reduction in available training time and pay arrangements, Army planning was proposing a reduction in the Establishment and Role of Ord Svc Units Australia wide. A proposal was put forward that 1 OSU be reduced to PL size. This would have meant a drastic reduction in manpower and rank structure. The senior rank position would have been that of a CAPT with consequential reduction in officer and NCO numbers. MAJ Lederle argued strongly and forcibly with his superiors on this issue to maintain a Company structure. He argued that the high level of supply support provided by 1 Ord Svc Unit and 1 Ord Pl to its regular dependencies, as well as ad hoc support to ARA exercises, showed a strong need for a three PL structure as well as the need to have even more storage area. He successfully argued that the units' Establishments be maintained and suitable areas were sought for expansion. A move to the old 2/14 QMI drill hall in Hamilton Road Moorooka was mooted.

An unfortunate accident in an adventure training exercise on 3 August 1984 claimed the life of CPL K. Pankhurst at Spicers Gap. CPL Pankhurst, a bright, intelligent girl, was destined for higher rank in the unit. A memorial photograph was placed in the unit canteen as a mark of respect. A full Military Funeral from her parish church to the Pinaroo crematorium was conducted with unit members participating and attending. A full and thorough investigation, lasting several months, took place, and put severe strain on ARA and ARES members who were in charge, or close by, when the accident happened. WO2 Smith, as the organiser of this activity, bore the brunt of this investigation. No blame was placed on any unit member.

BRIG H.P.J. Swan also passed away in September after a long illness.



*MAJ Lederle and CPL Pankhurst's parents.*



*The Sherington family.*



Family commitment is an important part of ARES life to serving members and during this era it is important to record the commitment made by the Sherington family to 1 Ord Svc Unit. Three members of the family were all unit members at the one time. They were -

W02 J.J. Sherington, (father)  
CPL L.M. Sherington, (daughter)  
L/CPL M.J. Sherington, (son)

This family commitment was unique in the ARES at this time. There were other father/son, father/daughter relationships in later years, notably the Pringle and Hanlen families.

Discussions and planning still continued into the unit's capabilities to provide more supply support and of course more area was required. To this end a move to Moorooka was put in place for the Stores group.

The unit's first female enlistee D. Cobanov attained the rank of Warrant Officer and was presented with her badges of rank on the final parade in November 1984.

Particular mention must be made of the contribution of MAJ Lederle who relinquished command at the end of the year. He transferred into the unit as a LT and qualified later for MAJ. His foresight and tenacity to push a decision by argument to higher authority brought him great respect. His good work was set back by Government Policy. Upon his posting from the unit he was assigned to HQ 1 Div Sup, and he assumed the role of Head Of Corps Committee. Gifted with a quick wit and the ability to talk for lengthy periods, MAJ Lederle became synonymous with lengthy but productive O Groups lasting into the late hours of the night. No post-war OC was required to cope with so many frustrations during his command.

### **The Oliver Years - 1985 to 1987**

On 6 March 1985, stewardship of the Unit passed to MAJ G.W. Oliver who was promoted MAJ and assumed command.



*MAJ G.W. Oliver, RFD, ED.*

By this time, the Units' strength was 86. MAJ Lederle had employed a two-pronged approach to increasing unit numbers over the previous five years:

1. Innovative and frequent recruiting activities to increase the number of new members; and
2. Improvement in retention rates through varied and interesting training activities, with an emphasis on 'hands-on' technical activities.

This had had mixed success over this period with a high of 113 and a low of 71 'on the books'. At this time, Reserve service pay did not count as income for unemployment benefits purposes. The unemployed could earn 100 days ARES pay in a year and still collect 'the dole'. As a result, it was quite clear that there was a high correlation between the prevailing unemployment rate and recruiting/retention levels – as national unemployment rose, so too did the recruiting/retention rate. This was probably the greatest single influence on the unit's strength levels.

On assuming command of the unit, MAJ Oliver was given quite specific instructions by the COMD 7 Bde: Achieve an effective strength of 100 within six months and 110 within 12 months. The 'numbers game' was alive and well! To achieve these targets he was told to 'put in a big recruiting effort and provide varied and interesting training' (what goes around comes around). He was given assurance that adequate paid training days would be made available





to the unit for all reasonable training activities for these numbers of personnel; this, despite the savage cutbacks in resources which the unit (and other units) had endured in recent years. MAJ Oliver was to have the freedom to decide on the form of training to be undertaken so the unit could fulfil its role in support of the Bde. It later became clear that this was consistent policy throughout the Bde. All Services support to the Bde was to be provided by integral units where at all possible. Only where this was not possible was external support sought or approved. On many occasions, the OC was contacted by Bde HQ Staff seeking advice on the units' supply support capacity. Only where the unit was not able to provide the required support, or it was inappropriate for them to do so, were Bde units permitted to use other supply agencies.

This directive set the framework for the direction of the units over the coming three years.

### ***The Moorooka move***

Following the success of MAJ Lederle's push for extra responsibility for the unit and the considered opinion that recruitment may increase with a detachment located on the south side of the city, the Stores Group were dispatched to the old 2/14 QMI Drill hall at Hamilton Rd, Moorooka.

From this base the stores group provided stationery, tyres, expense stores and combat clothing to units of 7 Bde. The detachment paraded on a Monday night. The unit held a full parade and celebrated the new acquisition.

Recruitment provided about six new members within the first few months. The demand on the recruiting and training staff was considerable, as they were working on both sides of the city and parading two nights a week.

### ***1985***

1985 began auspiciously with WO1 G.J. Sheehan being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Australia Day Honours List for his services to the Army Reserve. It was an honour for him and recognition for the unit. This award was the first Australian or Imperial Honour afforded to a unit member.



*WO1 G.J. Sheehan, OAM*



*LT J.E. White*

Another notable event occurred on 25 April 1985, when the unit was invited by the RAAOC Association to march in the Anzac Day Parade. On this occasion the unit was reviewed by HRH The Duke of Kent who took the salute outside the GPO in Queen Street, Brisbane.



*BRIG McDonald presenting the Inter Platoon Cup to CAPT M.C. Harding with the OC MAJ Oliver looking on.*



*1 Ord Svc Unit advancing in Review Order.*

Sadly, the year also saw the passing of one of the unit's stalwarts, LT J.E. White, who passed away in June after a long illness. A dedicated and popular member, he had given strong support and his commitment would be missed.



During the year, combat supply function was conducted at Tin Can Bay in support of 2 Transport Squadron and a further detachment went to Townsville to work in the Ordnance Depot.

Once again, the year saw severe limitations on the units' allocation of paid training days. Regular monthly 'Mandays Usage Budget Reports' were required to be submitted to Bde HQ. In addition, separate reporting was required for individual members who had exceeded 60 days paid training in the year, instead of the usual limitation of 100 days.

BRIG H. McDonald, the Formation COMD, reviewed the final parade on 1 December 1985, making promotions and awarding the Inter Platoon Cup, the Warrant Officers Cup for the most regimental soldier, and other rifle shooting trophies.

Unit strength at the end of 1985 was 85.

### ***The Dibb Report***

In June 1986 the Federal Government released the Dibb Committee report. The committee reported into all aspects of Australia's Current Military requirements for the Defence of Australia. The committee had worked for twelve months on their charter and placed particular emphasis on the need for greater defence in the north. It also proposed significant change in emphasis to operational concepts and the training of the army.

Greater emphasis was placed on low level contingencies and less on maintaining the expansion base.

Dibb recommended that the ARES be given a more central role in the real immediate defence problems of the country, particularly in the north. He fully recognised a need for closer affiliation and integration with ARA units and that additional resources and conditions of service and training time be increased. He further proposed that ARA strength remain at 32,000 personnel and that the ARES expand from 23,000 to 26,000 by 1988.

The Dibb report had changed the course of policy and planning began for a large scale defence Exercise - Kangaroo 89 - for the Northern Territory area



around Katherine. The path for 1 Ord Svc Unit had now been set for the next three years.

In view of the One Army Concept now being introduced, a requirement existed for all personnel to be dual trade trained for future promotion. Not only was an employment code required, but it was considered that each member should have two employment codes for the unit to be able to meet all requirements when supporting ARA units. 1 Ord Svc Unit had implemented this practice some years ago to ensure sufficient trained personnel were available to carry out the diverse supply support roles of the unit.

To this end all remaining personnel with only one trade qualification were cross trade trained in 1986 to meet this formal requirement.

The unit was tasked to support a 6 Bde major exercise called *Diamond Dollar 86*. To achieve this, a combined ARES/ARA unit named 1 Australian Replenishment Park (1 Aust RP) was formed from 21 July to 17 August 1986, and the unit took up a site at Shoalwater Bay. Members were congratulated by the Bde COMD on their success and presented with a plaque to mark the occasion.

This was the first time an Aust RP had been raised since WW2. It was commanded by CAPT M.C. Harding, with LT R.Z. Marszalek as the 2IC. Apart from Combat Supplies, the Aust RP also held and issued on a demand basis large quantities of Engineer defence stores and ammunition. Included in the ammunition were several types of 105mm shells as well as mortar rounds. WO2 D. Groundwater, a former ARA ATO who had joined the ARES, carried out extensive training of selected ARES personnel prior to the exercise in all facets of the receipt, storage and issue of ammunition in the field. ARES personnel travelled to and from the exercise area by vehicle convoy from Brisbane.

### ***A new pay system***

ARES pay ceased to be taxable income from December 1986. This move provided welcome relief and fairness to unit members as well as providing a boost to recruiting and retention.



The method of making payment to ARES personnel now undertook a major change. Instead of receiving payment for attendance by cheque each six months, each member was issued with a pay book containing detachable vouchers. This system required the member to submit a signed voucher for each attendance. Payments were then made directly into the member's bank account each month. Leaving the pay books with members proved to be unsatisfactory as some members either lost or misplaced their book or they turned up for a parade without their voucher. To overcome this problem, all pay books were surrendered to the Orderly Room and pay staff would remove a voucher when names were checked against the roll books. This requirement necessitated strict control be kept on roll books and pay book. A staff of three was required each parade night to carry out this task and to prepare master sheets for forwarding to the regional pay office.

Range Practices, TEWTs and Bivouacs were completed as part of the training year, based on the deployment of a Fd Sup Coy concept. The Greenbank Training Area was extensively used because of the need for a large area for dispersal of stock, etc.

1986 saw a continuation of the need to closely monitor training day allocations. Such were the reductions at one stage, it only became clear on Day One of a scheduled course, after a telephone call from the Bde Comd, whether the course would proceed or be cancelled.

In an attempt to revitalise the previous ammunition training program, which had finished due to the discharge of the unit's ATO, WO2 D. Groundwater, WO2 N. Henderson was enlisted into the unit. He was a qualified ATO and had recently taken his discharge from the ARA. He was charged with the role of developing a new and appropriate training program that would allow the unit to indent for, receive and issue ammunition to Bde units for their range practices. This proved to be a worthwhile exercise as it gave unit members some practical exposure to the supply of ammunition.

The focus for the year was on retention of members rather than recruiting. To gain a better understanding of the positive and negative aspects of ARES service, the unit undertook a formal Retention Study. Serving members were surveyed and statistics on attendances, absences and discharges were compiled. Although many negatives raised in the survey were outside the units' control,



the project confirmed what many Officers and NCOs believed: more hands-on technical training, adventure type training, better planning of activities and greater focus on training of junior leaders were called for.

BRIG D. Luttrell, the new COMD of HQ 7 Bde, presented badges of rank and Defence Force Medals on the Final Parade on 23 November 1986.



*BRIG Luttrell presenting the Petitt trophy to WO2 D.G. Webb, SGT R. Pringle, WO1 G.J. Sheehan - WO2 E.G. Wall and MAJ G.W. Oliver looking on. WO2 Webb won this and other shooting trophies on many occasions.*

BRIG Luttrell was later promoted MAJGEN and appointed Chief of Army Reserve - the highest ranking ARES position in the Australian Army.

The services of the 1 Div Royal Australian Artillery Band were provided for the parade. The unit had gained the services of one of Australia's finest ARES bands.

A new rifle shooting trophy was presented to the Unit by the Sergeant's Mess and was called the 'C.C.C. O'Brien Trophy' in recognition of the commitment and service by that Warrant Officer to the Unit and the Australian Army. A WW2 veteran he rejoined the ARES in 1964 and served until he was 60 years of age. WO2 O'Brien passed away the following year.



*WO2 C.C.C. O'Brien presenting the trophy for the first time.*

Unit members were placed in selected roles with members of the ARA's 6 Fd Sup Coy for an exercise on Cape York called *Diamond Dollar 87*. The unit raised for this purpose was 101 Field Supply Company (Divisional Troops), not to be confused with the later ARES unit.

101 Fd Sup Coy (Div Tps) was a combined ARA/ARES unit comprising personnel from 6 Fd Sup Coy (ARA), 52 Cbt Sup Pl (ARA) and 1 Ord Svc Unit/1 Ord Pl (ARES). In all 41 ARES and 5 ARA personnel from 1 Ord Svc Unit/1 Ord Pl were involved.

This unit was commanded by the OC of 6 Fd Sup Coy, with the 2IC being CAPT R.Z. Marszalek and CSM WO2 E.G. Wall both of 101 Fd Sup Coy.

The ARES personnel gained invaluable experience in all aspects of the receipt, storage and issue of all classes of supply in the field. The work was carried out in very high temperatures, averaging 35/40 degrees centigrade during the day. On a number of occasions refuelling work stopped when the temperature reached 45/50.

The resourcefulness of the soldier came to the fore on several occasions. One worthy of mention was the attempts to keep cool. A swimming pool was created using a vehicle trailer and lining it with a tarpaulin/plastic, add water and there you have it.





ARES members were flown to the exercise area at Lakeland Downs from the RAAF base at Amberley and then trucked to the Sup Coy location. The location was astride the main north/south road leading to/from Cape York.

At the end of the exercise, the ARES members less a small rear party were bussed back to Brisbane, a trip of some 26 hours. Some members were heard to say “never again” at the end of a very long and tedious journey.

At this time, the Government commenced a program of rationalising its holding of military properties and various training areas and establishment were considered for disposal. Included in the list was the unit’s Moorooka depot. Fortunately, like many other units which had their properties under threat of disposal, a rear guard action was fought with the bureaucracy and this successfully delayed the inevitable until after 1989.

In the 1987 Queens Birthday Honours list WO 2 J.J. Sherington was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his services to the Army Reserve. The Unit now boasted two recipients.

CAPT E.N. Schilling retired from service late in the year after some 31 years of service with various units of the training depot. His contribution was significant in the fact that he had risen from the ranks and had been appointed OC of many of the units under command. Upon retirement he had attained the distinction of being the longest serving ARES Ordnance officer in Queensland.

The end of the year also saw the last unit parade before the retirement of MAJ Oliver as OC, and from the service. MAJ Oliver had been allotted to RAASC after National Service training in 1959 and, upon the reorganization methods used in 1973 he eventually transferred to Ordnance. During a six-year period of civilian employment in Central Queensland, he had served in Infantry. He rose through the ranks except Warrant rank. His contribution was also highly significant in that he held the positions of Supply Officer, Adjutant, 2IC and OC in the various Ordnance units.



*WO2 J.J. Sherington at  
Government House after award of  
OAM.*



*CAPT E.N. Schilling Dining-  
Out night.*

MAJ Oliver saw his Unit's services sought after by Formation for a variety of roles. The Units travelled extensively in carrying out their roles. The opportunity for travel was a great morale boost for unit members. This afforded him a most rewarding command.

1 Ord Svc Unit and 1 Ord P ceased to exist as from midnight 1 December 1987.

-----oOo-----