

Chapter 9

101 Field Supply Company 1989 - 1991

The McGahan Years - 1989 to 1991

The unit's first major role in 1989 was to support units both ARES and ARA in Exercise Kangaroo 89 held at Katherine in the Northern Territory in July/August.

An advance party commanded by CAPT R.G. Hall, (later to be 2IC 7 BMA during K89) and consisting of 22 personnel from 101 Fd Sup Coy and 77 Cbt Sup Pl, moved in a 10 vehicle convoy to Katherine. They took seven days and travelled a total road distance of 3,776 kms. Overnight stops were at Miles, Augathella, Winton, Mt Isa, Tennant Creek and Daly Waters. Other members were airlifted by commercial flights of Ansett Australia and returned by QANTAS.

HQ 101 Fd Sup Coy was located at Katherine. Some members participated as admin personnel in the Bde exercise whilst others provided bath support to units in the DMA.

77 Cbt Sup Pl was deployed to Willaroo, 130 km south west of Katherine for the period 6 - 18 August 1989 where it provided supply support to 7 Bde units, RAAF elements, 3RAR and 1 Armd Regt. The Pl comprising 25 personnel was commanded by CAPT R.Z. Marszalek, 2IC was CAPT S.A. Rogers with WO2 N. Henderson being the CSM. During the exercise 13,811 perishable rations, 14,763 non-perishable rations and 6350 combat ration packs were issued by the PL. On redeployment at the end of the exercise, members of the PL were given the opportunity to visit Katherine Gorge and become tourists with visitors from overseas; A fitting end to a very long and hard exercise during which PL members maintained a high standard of technical proficiency and well and truly maintained RAAOC standards of proficiency and professionalism.

A suitable letter of thanks was received from BRIG Luttrell, Comd 7 Bde to the members of 77 Cbt Sup Pl.



A most enjoyable weekend adventure training activity was conducted on Stradbroke Island in October of that year. This was the first time the unit conducted an activity off-shore. Training was supplemented by surfing and physical training. A successful reconnaissance of the Island was undertaken. Members subscribed from their own pockets the cost involved of transporting three unit vehicles by car ferry to the island, so this weekend could take place.

No range practice was held this year because of shortages of radios, equipment and money allocation as a result of exercise K89.

The final parade was reviewed by the CDSUP, LTCOL C. Wallace. Band support was by 1 Div Artillery Band. 101 Fd Sup Coy had progressed through a very busy training year.



Stradbroke Island activity.

Following the huge expense of Exercise Kangaroo 89 and wear on equipment, no major exercise was planned for 1990. Units operated on a restricted basis whereby vehicle and other controlled stores required for training purposes were not available, and as a result only one weekend training activity, the Range Practice, was conducted before June 1990.



Members of the unit paraded with 7 Bde at the ANZAC Day march through the city. This was the first occasion the Bde had requested the participation of supporting units.

The Ordnance History book 'To the Warrior His Arms' was distributed and records in detail the early history of units and the services provided. Many unit members were listed in the Ordnance Official List of Service, as at the time of publication.

LTCOL C. Wallace was transferred to a posting as Deputy Director of Ordnance and severed the close relationship between he and the ARES units that had been developed over the previous 12 months.

Prior to his departure, he had advised that 101 Fd Sup Coy was to be the Ordnance supply unit for 7 Bde units. This role again set up the supply system and gave members valuable work experience. By 22 June 1990 the unit had received 1530 indents for supply. Computers arrived in the unit in March 1990. The Divisional Inventory Control Visibility Accounting System (DICVAS) of computer recording of stock held by the unit made obsolete the manual accounting card system. Equipping ARES units with computers was a major step in rationalizing supply methods. Being a First Division unit had its advantages.

During this year, the unit had the honour of having a recipient of the 'Prince of Wales Award'. CAPT S.A. Rogers, SUPO Support and Services PL 101 Fd Sup Coy, was awarded this honour on 26 February 1990. This award allowed CAPT Rogers to travel and study in the USA for one month. She visited Military Supply Units, studying rations and USA NATICR Laboratory functions, and Civilian Meat Processing establishments and technology. The latter complemented her civilian employment as a Food Technologist at the Queensland Food Institute, Department of Primary Industries.

On 6 July 1990, WO1 G.J. Sheehan OAM was farewelled by COL J.G. Mears, Director of Ordnance, at the RAAOC Centre Sergeants Mess at Bandiana. WO1 Sheehan received a Recognition of Service Certificate for 36 years service. Three other unit members accompanied him to the farewell dinner.



PRINCIPAL CONDITIONS OF SERVICE -		CONDITIONS OF SERVICE - ARMY RESERVE		ARMY RESERVE	
Pay 1. Members are entitled to receive pay and allowances for attendance at unit training parades which they are bound to attend and, for such further periods as may be directed provided such service does not exceed 100 days. 2. Pay for continuous training is normally available in cash at the conclusion of the activity. Pay for home training is paid directly to bank accounts. Minimum Periods of Unit Training 3. For the purpose of the Defence Act 1903, Section 50, you are bound to attend a minimum period of unit training in each year of 26 days, comprising 14 days continuous and 12 days home training. 4. A proportion of the unit training will involve a camp of continuous training, the remainder will comprise home training activities usually for a number of night parades, single days and/or week-ends. The officer in command will determine the nature of these minimum periods of unit training in accordance with the regulations. 5. Members who fail to attend the minimum period of unit training may be declared non-efficient and discharged from the Army Reserve.		GENERAL INFORMATION 1. Enlistment Age - Minimum Maximum 17 years 35 years (may be extended to 43 years when the member possesses skills which are in demand). 55 years. 2. Retirement - 3. Pay - From \$35.15 a day for Recruit, as from 23 Nov 89 rising thereafter with each promotion in rank and adjusted in accordance with national wage increases. 4. Training - Home Training (to comprise night parades of short duration, day parades and bivouac) - minimum of Annual Camp - 12 days - 14 days 5. General - The standard of proficiency of each individual soldier depends on the amount of time spent in training. Attend parades regularly and attain efficiency. 6. Promotion - Promotion to NCO, Warrant or Commissioned Rank may be obtained by qualifications at competitive examinations.		ARMY RESERVE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS 101 FIELD SUPPLY COMPANY 77 COMBAT SUPPLIES PLATOON MAJOR J.P. MCGAHAN, RFD. OFFICER COMMANDING	
Leave 6. Where a member finds that he will be unable to attend any programmed activity, he is obliged to inform the unit headquarters in advance of his inability to parade. Relationship with Employer 7. The Defence (Re-Establishment) Act places legal obligations on all employers to release employees for those periods of unit training which a member is bound to attend. On request, the unit is to provide a member with a formal Training Notice which may assist him/her in informing the employer of such a period. 8. There is no obligation on employers to pay wages for time spent in Reserve service.		PROGRAMME OF TRAINING FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 1991 Address of Unit HQ: 101 FIELD SUPPLY COMPANY, WYNTER ROAD, ENOGGERA QLD. 4052 Telephone: 354 7957 Postal Address: 101 FD SUP COY, MILPO, ENOGGERA QLD. 4052 77 COMBAT SUPPLIES PLATY, WYNTER ROAD, ENOGGERA QLD. 4052 77 COMBAT SUP PL, MILPO, ENOGGERA QLD. 4052 This card is issued to: Army No. _____ Rank _____ Name _____ Address _____ Member's Signature _____ Admin Officer _____		SHOW THIS CARD TO YOUR FRIENDS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO ENLIST IN YOUR UNIT.	

Programme of Training 1991.



A weekend navigational exercise was conducted in the Woodford State Forest in August. In October the unit again travelled to North Stradbroke Island for a weekend of Navigation, driving and physical training. A camp concert held on the beach at night revealed some well-kept secrets in respect of talent never expressed before.

In 1990 both the Officers and Sergeants Messes were redecorated, and both were a shining example of co-operation between members to provide for themselves an excellent facility. The sergeant's mess now has an excellent collection of silverware to grace their tables at Dining-in nights. Both messes have come a long way since their approval to re-open and function in 1977, and have provided good training to all members and a home to relax and enjoy comradeship.

Rates of pay for members in 1990 were:

Private	\$ 48.50
Corporal	\$ 51.30
Sergeant	\$ 56.00
Warrant Officer Class 2	\$ 72.40
Warrant Officer Class 1	\$ 80.05
Lieutenant	\$ 64.25
Captain	\$ 76.50
Major	\$ 96.70
Lieutenant Colonel	\$113.85
Colonel	\$131.10

The unit now boasted 1 Officer and 3 Warrant Officers with in excess of 30 years service each.

The final parade for 1990 was held on Sunday 18 November at Enoggera. The parade was reviewed by LTCOL M. Leahy, the CDSUP, and was attended by the Honorary Colonel, COL M.L. Sheehan.

The unit farewelled the following officers: OC MAJ J.P. McGahan who retired after 30 years service; the 2IC CAPT G.R. Henley who was posted; and WO1 G.J. Sheehan who retired after reaching the compulsory retiring age. All were



farewelled after congratulatory speeches by unit members and guests. MAJ McGahan was able to hand over a very functional unit to his successor.

The Alexander Year - 1991

For the first time in the history of the CMF and ARES, there was no suitably qualified ARES Ordnance officer available after the retirement of MAJ McGahan. As a result of this, on 12 February 1991 command of 101 Fd Sup Coy was handed over to MAJ C.E. Alexander, a recently retired ARA officer. MAJ Alexander had enlisted as an Army Apprentice in 1962, transferred to the ARA in 1963, rose through the ranks in a variety of RAAOC postings, commissioned in 1981 and retired from the ARA on 18 March 1990. He had become the first post-war Regular Army Officer to be appointed OC of a RAAOC Citizen Forces unit in Queensland. His 2IC, CAPT C. Minto was also a Regular soldier. This command structure heralded a complete change in culture and direction for the training depot. The re-structuring which was commencing at this time in the public service and the wider community would dictate a new direction for the unit.

Unit camp held in May 1991 was located in two areas with tactical training at Inglewood and adventure training at Wallangarra, both State Forest areas.

Once again, due to a slight indiscretion in tactical calculations during training, three officers and the CSM faced a 'Kangaroo Court' and as punishment had to trek to the Big Rock at Wallangarra and paint the arrow so refurbished by their fellow Unit members some 15 years earlier for a similar indiscretion.

Foodstuffs personnel in support of 9 RQR and 25 RQR carried out a further role at Tin Can Bay.

The new high tech computerised bath equipment was delivered and put into service. This unit re-circulated its own water and doubled the capacity of its predecessors with throughput. The equipment was so technical in nature that it did not reach expectations and was not able to be fully utilised due to lack of trained operators and costly repair and maintenance problems.



MAJ C.E. Alexander

During the course of this year the unit became more computer orientated with further supply of terminals and the need for more training. The manual systems were by now almost extinct.

-----oOo-----