

Jeffrey Silvester (Jeff) Seymour (1/66)

Jeff Seymour was born in Bathurst, NSW, on 28 March 1945. He was a graduate of Hawkesbury Agricultural College and obtained work with the Bureau of Sugar Experiment in 1965. However, Jeff was called up for National Service with the first intake in 1965, but a knee injury delayed his enlistment until the second intake as 1731418 on 28 September 1965 and first went to 1 RTB Kapooka. He commenced at OTU on 15 October, and was a Section Commander in his Senior Term, graduating with Class 1/66 on 21 July 1966.



Left: Cpl Seymour, Sect Comd 7 Sect, 9 Platoon on right.



He was allocated to the Artillery. With Merv Michell, Jeff travelled to the Gold Coast for leave. Shortly after they returned to Sydney and the School of Artillery at North Head with Jim Box and Paul McLaren. Merv said that Jeff went to ‘bird gunnery’ whereas he did ‘field gunnery’. They lost contact then. On Completion of his Young Officer’s (Air Defence) Course on 11 October 1966 Jeff was posted, with Paul, to the Army Guided Weapons Trails Unit (AGWTU) at Woomera in South Australia, where he saw out his National Service, discharging on 27 September 1967.



Jeff Seymour: front row, second from left. Photo courtesy of Royal Australian Artillery Historical Coy.

Jeff married Kerry and had two children: Ben and Camilla.

On 4 March 1968 Jeff joined the Citizen Military Forces with 133 Divisional Locating Battery. On 25 March he commenced CMF (Full Time Duty) returning to the AGWTU. Jeff transferred to the Australian Regular Army 17 December 1970, remaining with the AGWTU until he attended a Vietnamese Languages Course at Laverton, Vic. Jeff was sent to Vietnam with 1st Australian Civil Affairs Unit at Nui Dat on 1 June 1971. He transferred to 1 Australian Task Force on 25 November. Jeff was heavily involved in the withdrawal of the Australian forces from Vietnam.

On 8 March 1972 Jeff returned to Australia and was posted as Battery Captain 111 LAA Battery, 16 Air Defence Regiment, in Woodside, SA. Postings to 113 Anti-Aircraft Battery, 7 Field Regiment (Army Reserve) as Adjutant and 4 Field Regiments followed. On 12 August 1976 Jeff commenced a four month's detachment on Exercise 'Long Look' with 25 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, in Germany. He returned to 4 Field Regiment on 30 November 1976 s Battery Captain of 107 Field Battery. Then followed a further deployment, this time in the Middle East with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) on the Golan Heights and Damascus from 3 February 1978 to 27 May 1979. Postings to 23 and 7 Field Regiments followed. Jeff was posted to HQ Field Force Command on 4 August 1980 and HQ 1 Division Royal Australian Artillery on 11 January 1982. Jeff's final deployment was to 65 Ground Liaison Section, RAAF Base Butterworth, Malaysia on 1 November 1982, returning to HQ FF Command on 15 January 1985. Jeff retired from the ARA on 9 June 1986.

On retirement from the Army, Jeff ran a newsagency at Seaforth on the North Shore of Sydney. However, on 19 April Jeff was back in uniform with the Army Reserve at Land HQ, then on 9 October 1989 he returned to the School of Artillery as an Army Reservist on Full-time Service. He was involved with the setting up the North Head Tourist attraction at North Head in Sydney.

Jeff retired from the Army for good on 8 April 1990. With over 30 years in every category of Army service, Jeff definitely would have been a 'crusty old Major' on retirement. Jeff spent twelve years with Telstra in HR. During this time, he and Kerry separated. In late 1997 was appointed as the Private Secretary to the Governor of NSW, Peter Sinclair. In later years he purchased a 'haven' in Moncalvo in Piedmont, Italy, where he spent fifteen winters away from Kirribilli. Jeff was also an active member of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company at North Head in Sydney.

After a long battle with cancer, Jeff died on the weekend 5/6 March 2022. He leaves behind his former wife Kerry, Ben and Jenny, and Camilla. Jeff's funeral was held on 17 March at Magnolia Chapel, Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium, in North Ryde. The wake was held at The Bluespoint Hotel at McMahons Point.

