

WORLD WAR I

The diversionary attack through the Dardenelles by British, British Dominion and French navy and army forces in April 1915 was a disaster and a complete withdrawal of the area was completed by mid December 1915.

In mid January 1916 it was decided that the 40,000 or so unattached ANZAC soldiers in Egypt should be utilised to form 2 new Australian Divisions (Divs) - the 4th & 5th plus a New Zealand Div. With the 3rd Div then being formed in Australia there would be 5 Australian Infantry Divs - the 1st & 2nd had already been raised, the 1st had led the Australian contribution to the Gallipoli campaign and 2nd (less the artillery) had also served on Gallipoli. The Australian and New Zealand Mounted Brigades (Bdes) would be brought together to form the Anzac Mounted Div.

The expansion of the AIF posed many problems for the artillery, officers had to be trained in the art of gunnery, specialists for the technical positions were required and you could not take men trained in infantry/other warfare and place them on a gun or howitzer without further training.

On 29 February 1916 orders were received, 1st ANZAC Corps, commanded by General Birdwood comprising 1st & 2nd Australian Divs and the New Zealand Div, would embark for France in a fortnight.

It was important that the Australian Divs should have Field (Fd) artillery on the same scale as the British Divs in France, which had 3 Fd artillery Bdes, each of 4 Fd artillery Batteries (Btys) and a Bde of Howitzers (Hows), also of 4 Btys. The Australians had already begun to raise a number of How Btys (the 101st How Bty was raised at TEL-EL-KABIR, EGYPT ON 8 MARCH 1916), but now had to increase their total Fd Btys from 36 to 60.

Since the 1st & 2nd Divs had to be at full establishment before departing for France, it was decided to return the 3rd & 4th Fd artillery Bdes to their home Divs and to use the Fd artillery Btys of the recently raised Fd artillery Bdes of the 4th & 5th Divs to form the additional Fd artillery Bdes for the 1st & 2nd Divs.

The How Bdes would be formed from men in the ammunition columns and elsewhere and would have to undertake their training once they reached France. Unlike the British How Bdes, which had 4 Btys, the Australian How Bdes had 3 Btys of 4 x QF 4.5 inch Hows.

When the artillery of the 1st & 2nd Divs sailed for France in mid March 1916 it was reasonably well trained and in each Fd artillery Bty there was a nucleus of experienced men. The How Btys however had only recently been formed and would need considerably more training in France.

From 31 March 1916 the artillery began to reach their Divs, which were in the line in the Armentieres sector in Flanders. This area was known as the nursery; it was relatively quiet and enabled new Divs to become familiar with the routine of trench warfare on the Western Front. While the infantry practised patrolling, the artillery began to learn the latest gunnery techniques. This period of training was particularly important for the 2nd Div Fd artillery, which had not previously seen action and also the How Btys of both Divs, which had received their first Hows only after they reached France.

From the 101st FIELD BATTERY RAA, *A SHORT HISTORY, BY MAJ. J. H. PHILLIPS & LT. D. M. FORSTER (no date when written but probably about 1974-1975 when Maj Phillips was BC)*, it states that the Bty first saw action at a small village called Laventie on 15 May 1916 and remained in the line until 2 July 1916. After relief it became part of the 1st Fd artillery Bde.

From May - July 1916 there was a further reorganisation of the Australian artillery to bring it into line with the British. The 3rd Div artillery was formed in July 1916 with the remainder of the Div, on Salisbury Plain in England. Also about this time the Reserve Bde Australian artillery was formed in England as the main Australian artillery training depot. The 1st Australian Div artillery was now: 1st Australian Fd Artillery Bde (AFA Bde) comprising 1, 2, 3 Btys, AFA & 101 How Bty, 2nd AFA Bde (4, 5, 6 Btys AFA, 102 How Bty), 3rd AFA Bde (7, 8, 9 Btys AFA, 103 How Bty) & 21st AFA Bde (22, 23, 24 Btys AFA). The other Divs artillery organization were identical - 12 x 18 Pounder Btys & 3 x 4.5 inch How Btys. Within the 5 x Divs, 18 Pounder Btys were numbered 1 to 60 and How Btys 101 to 116.

The shortage of ammunition throughout 1915 had been a problem (on Gallipoli and the Western Front), this was rectified in 1916, but at the expense of quality. Of all the various calibres, problems with the 4.5 inch how ammunition was by far the worst, the How Btys became known as SUICIDE CLUBS.

The commander of the 101st How Bty, Capt. Selmes described an incident on 28 June 1916: It was caused by the bugbear of all How Bty Commanders - 'A premature'...I had fired some 45/50 rounds and ordered a switch...the shell...burst about 50 yards from the muzzle. BANG and when the smoke cleared I found poor SMALL (no rank given), a fine chap from North Shore C of E Grammer School, quite dead and Gunner McAuley rather badly wounded.

Early July 1916 saw the 1st Div moved from the nursery. Planning for the attack on the Somme was underway. The 1st ANZAC Corps (1st & 2nd Divs) would form part of the British 5th Army and was to take the village of Pozieres. The attack would be mounted in the early hours of 23 July 1916 by the 1st Div. The artillery were the first to see action, at 0930 hours 16 July 1916 units began to move towards the Somme. On the night of 19 July 1916, the 1st Div artillery moved into the line in Sausage Valley, near La Boisselle and at 0900 hours the next morning, took over the guns of the 19th British Div artillery. They immediately commenced to register targets and began the systematic bombardment of targets for the coming attack. The attack was planned to begin at 0030 hours 23 July 1916 and would be preceded by 2 minutes of frantic bombardment. The barrages would then lift at half hour intervals through to 0130 hours and would continue to fire throughout the morning. At 0028 hours, all hell let loose. In an outstanding operation the 1st Div captured Pozieres. The British and Australian gunners played an important role in breaking up the German counter attacks, but over the next 2 days, the infantry suffered cruelly under intense German artillery bombardment. By 25 July 1916 the buffer springs of the 18 Pounders were worn out and the gunners were having trouble keeping their pieces in action. The problem with the 18 Pounders put an extra load on the How Btys, as Capt. Selmes, commander of the 101st How Bty later explained: I had to cover the whole front of the Bde and from 0900 to 2000 hours when I ceased fire, I expended 1,672 rounds, completely using up all available ammunition, but fortunately, by dint of hard work, the armament artificers had repaired the 18 Pounders and the 3 Bty's took up their tasks. My boys just dropped at their posts dead beat after having handled in 11 hours - 28 tons in weight besides laying and firing the guns, a really great performance.

Lessons from the Somme campaign resulted in changes to the artillery organization. The order was issued on 20 January 1917 and the changes were introduced over the next 2 months. All Div artillery was changed to 2 Bdes per Div with the 1st Div artillery now comprised of: 1st AFA Bde (1, 2, 3, 101 Btys), 2nd Bde (4, 5, 6, 102 Btys). Btys went from 4 guns/hows per Bty to 6

guns/howers per Bty. From the reorganisation, 3 x (Army) AFA Brigades were formed, the 3rd, 6th & 12th. They were organised as the Div artillery with 3 x 18 Pounder Btys and 1 How Bty. These Bdes were allotted to the 1st Anzac Corps so in reality not a great deal changed (old Div artillery (5 Divs)-60 x 18 Pounder Btys (240 guns)/15 x How Btys (60 hows) to 30 x 18 Pounder Btys (180 guns) & 10 x How Btys (60 hows) plus the Army Bde artillery of 9 x 18 Pounder Btys (54 guns)/3 x How Btys (18 hows) - 240 guns & 60 hows versus 234 guns & 78 hows).

1917 saw all 5 Australian Divs in their allocated Corps, in almost continuous action. On 1 November 1917 orders were issued that all 5 Divs were to form the Australian Corps (AUST CORPS). With 1917 ended, 1918 saw no let up for the AUST CORPS. Its last actions of the war were in the attack on the Hindenburg Line Outpost in mid September 1918 (1st & 4th Aust Divs with artillery support from all 13 Australian & 2 British (Army artillery) Bdes). Late September 1918 saw the preparation for the task of breaking the hitherto impregnable Hindenburg Line begin. The attack was to be mounted by the AUST CORPS with 2 British Corps on either flank. Allocated to the AUST CORPS were 2 American infantry Divs (27th & 30th) for the initial assault and then the Australians would pass through to secure the final objective. At 0550 hours 29 September 1918, a tremendous artillery bombardment commenced, but in spite of this, the American Divs attacks did not go well. The 3rd & 5th Divs, being held for the second phase of the attack, were brought forward and their battle experience turned the tide of the battle from failure to success. The 2nd Div then moved through to continue the attack. It was the last attack of the war for most of the Australians. On 5 October 1918, the exhausted AUST CORPS withdrew for rest and saw no further action before the Armistice on 11 November 1918. However, the artillery of the 3rd, 4th & 5th Divs were transferred to the 2nd American Corps, then to the 6th British Div and as the American Corps then the 6th British Div were withdrawn from the battle they moved on to support 1st & 32nd British Divs. On 5 November the Australian artillery were withdrawn except for the Australian Siege artillery Bde, they were still in action when the Armistice took effect on 11 November 1918. At wars end, Gallipoli veterans serving in France were returned to England then returned to Australia first, followed by the other veterans by enlistment date. By end 1919 all AIF personnel were demobbed, units disbanded and regular army gunners returned to a basically pre-war artillery organization.

POST WORLD WAR 1

Towards the end of 1921 representatives of Britain, France, Italy, the USA and Japan met for a disarmament conference in Washington. As a result of this conference, Australia drastically reduced the defence vote, with nearly half the RAN's ships decommissioned and the Army organization cut savagely. Militia Fd artillery Bdes, who had maintained their WW1 organisations of 3 Fd & 1 How Bty, lost one of their Fd Btys. In 1924, 101st How Bty was part of 1st Australian Fd artillery Bde (Citizen Forces i.e. Militia) based at Newcastle NSW.

On 1 July 1927, all Australian artillery units (fd, how, anti-aircraft (AA), coastal), both Permanent and Militia became the ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY (RAA).

In mid-1939 each Bde re-raised the Fd Bty that had been disbanded in 1922.

WORLD WAR 2

On 3 September 1939, Australia declared war with Germany following Britains declaration of war. When on the 15 September 1939, the Prime Minister announced that a Div with auxiliary units was to be formed for service at home or abroad, it was realised that the new units may have to operate with British units and therefore the new Div would have to be organised on British establishments. This new Div, to be known as the 6th Div, 2nd AIF, would have 3 infantry Bdes and 3 Fd Regiments (Regts) of artillery plus an additional Fd Regt of artillery as the Div slice of Corps artillery Troops.

The new artillery Regts were raised on a geographic basis as were the artillery Bdes of WW1. The 2/1st Fd Regt was formed in NSW and its CO (Lt. Col. L. Kelly) had commanded the 1st Fd Bde since 1934. The 2/2nd was formed in Vic, its CO (Lt. Col. A. Ramsay) was the ex CO of 10th Fd and 2nd Medium Bdes, the 2/3rd was from SA, WA, NT and NSW, its CO (Lt. Col. A. Hobbs) was an ex CO of 3rd Fd Bde. Queensland formed most of the fourth Regt, this was where the Militia 5th Fd Bde was located so it was designated the 5th Fd Regt (Tasmania raised one of the Btys and it was from Tasmania that the 5th CO - Lt. Col. H. Strutt came from, he was the ex CO of the 6th Fd Bde). In November 1939 it was decided to deploy the 6th Div to the Middle East and in January 1940 the first units departed - 16th Infantry Bde and 2/1st Fd Regt. The remainder of the 6th Div units soon followed. The 7th Div was raised in February 1940, the 8th in May and the 9th in September. The 7th & 9th Divs served in the Middle East and the 8th Div which was held in reserve, went to Malaya when Japan entered the war and was captured at the fall of Singapore. All three Divs sent to the Middle East eventually returned to Australia and all served in the Pacific campaigns (one of 7th Div's Bdes en route to Australia was diverted to the Dutch East Indies and was captured by the Japanese).

From March 1941, the militia Fd Bdes began to change their titles and adopt the establishments of Fd Regts. It was about this time that the 101st How Bty may have been disbanded? The July 1942 organisation of the Australian Army does not show units at Bty level, so whether a 101 Bty served is not known. The 2nd Corps comprising the 1st, 2nd & 10th Divs were based around Sydney NSW. In the 10th Div is listed a 1st Fd Regt (not the 2/1st), whether this was the new name for the 1st Fd artillery Bde is not known. The end December 1944 organization of the Australian Army shows no 10th Div? In the Northern Territory Force (Darwin), a 1st Fd Regt is listed. Was the 10th Div disbanded, re-organised? Did a 101 serve at all during the war, if so when was it disbanded? The 101st FIELD BATTERY RAA, *A SHORT HISTORY*, states there is no record of overseas participation by the unit and it was disbanded in 1946.

POST WORLD WAR 2

An Army HQ plan for an Army of 33,461 Permanent Military Force (PMF) & 42,421 Citizen Military Force (CMF) was submitted in December 1946 to Cabinet, it was not approved, for many reasons, Army HQ was told to prepare another plan. The new plan was produced and approved by the Government in mid 1947, it would consist of 19,000 PMF & 50,000 CMF. The Army was divided into the field force and fixed establishment troops, the latter included training units, base supply, logistics units and fixed defences. The field force was considered to be the most important part of the Army as it was to contain the fighting elements.

The 1st Fd Regt was formed at North Head, Sydney, 25 May 1949 and consisted of 'A' Bty - 25 pounder guns, 'B' (AA) Bty - 40mm Bofors guns and 'C' (Observation) Troop (Tp) - surveying and sound ranging equipment.

In June 1950, the Korean War commenced. No Australian artillery unit served in Korea, Australian gunner officers were seconded to British and New Zealand artillery units or served in the infantry battalions of the newly designated Royal Australian

Regiment (RAR). Both, World War 2 other rank gunners who enlisted for service in Korea and other rank gunners who enlisted into the artillery after WW2 who wanted to serve in Korea, had to transfer to the RAR.

In early 1955, a change to the numbering of RAA units, whether they were fd, medium, heavy AA or light AA was carried out, with all Btys being numbered sequentially from 100. The three 1949 Regular artillery Btys, between 1949-1955 had become 'A' Bty, 3rd AA Bty and 4th Locating Bty. 'A' Bty became 100th (A) Fd Bty, 3rd AA Bty became 103rd AA Bty and 4th Locating Bty became 104th Locating Bty. The 105th Fd Bty (25 pounders) was raised 24 May 1955 specifically for service in Malaya and it arrived in Georgetown, Penang Island, Malaya 19 October 1955.

By early 1957, 1st Fd Regt was now based at Georges Heights, Sydney (RHQ, 100th 'A' Fd Bty), with 103rd AA Bty and 104th Locating Bty at nearby Middle Head.

Maj. D. J. (David) Davies psc G, RAA (a WW2 artillery veteran, some years later retiring as a Colonel), joined 1st Fd Regt in February 1957. On his arrival, he was tasked by the CO Lt. Col. S. A. (Sam) Fletcher RAA, to take over 104th Locating Bty from Maj. E. (Eric) Nowell RAA and convert it into a Fd Bty of two x 4 gun Tps (25 pounders) and it had to be ready to be the depot Bty to the School of Artillery by 30 June 1957. Now designated as BC, Maj. Davies moved across to Middle Head and with one WO2 (Norman Orchard) and some 25 artillery signallers and surveyors (104 Bty's total strength), started to raise a gun Bty. Other rank artillery personnel immediately commenced to arrive, being drafted in from units all over Australia. Initially the BC was given one 2Lt, but until the Troop Commanders (TC's) arrived, two senior subalterns were lent from 100th (A) Fd Bty RAA as acting TC's. Sgt M. (Mick) Cole was the Bty's first Sgt.

In April, 1st Fd Regt received orders to move to Holsworthy, into the barracks (named Kokoda) being vacated by the disbanded 12th National Service Bn. Holsworthy, on the western outskirts of Sydney, near the suburb of Liverpool, was very close to the Holsworthy Field Firing Range and was the perfect place to establish a large artillery unit. The move took place in early May. Officers/WOs/Sgts/junior NCOs/gunners, guns and stores arrived in a piecemeal fashion until equipment and manning establishment was reached at the end of May. The BK, Capt. J. (Jack) Kelly RAA (later to become a Major General) was the last to arrive.

The Bty received its numerical name when the CO asked Maj. Davies what he would like his Bty to be called, he chose 101 and so AFTER SOME 11 YEARS??? - A 101 BTY RETURNED TO THE RAA.

Sgt. L. E. (Len) Cooper (a member of the Bty's Malaya tour, later Maj. RAA), states he was the last orderly Sgt of 12th National Service Bn and in that capacity he mounted duty on 6 May 1957. At 0001 hours, 7 May 1957, Kokoda Barracks became the home of 1 Fd Regt RAA. Initially, the Bty occupied E Block. In late June/early July, the new Regt CO, Lt. Col. E. J. H. (John) Howard RAA moved the Bty to A Block (the block nearest the internal road that ran from the main Liverpool to Heathcote road, southwards passed Kokoda Barracks, to the Field Firing Range). The 100th (A) Fd Bty went into C Block, the 102nd Light (Lt) Bty RAA (4.2 inch mortars) went into D Block and a Signals Squadron moved into E Block. B Block housed the Regt's Headquarters junior NCO's and other ranks personnel e.g. Regt surveyors, Regt clerks, Regt drivers, Regt sigs, Regt QM staff, Regt batmen etc.

The Regt consisted of Regt Headquarters (RHQ), a Headquarters element (see paragraph above), 'P' Bty (100th (A) Fd Bty), 'Q' Bty (101st Fd Bty) - both 8 x 25 pounder gun Bty's and 'S' Lt Bty (102nd Lt Bty, later 102nd Fd Bty) - 12 x 4.2 inch mortars. The giving of letters of the alphabet to artillery Btys followed the time honoured tradition of not having to refer to a Bty's identity within a Fd Regt i.e. the senior Bty became 'P' Bty, next senior 'Q' Bty and the third Bty - 'R' Bty. If a fourth Bty was attached to the Regt then it became 'S' Bty. Bty seniority in a Regt was not by age but numerically.

The 100th (A) Fd Bty was warned that it would replace the 105th in Malaya and this was carried out in late 1957, with the 105th returning to Holsworthy in October 1957.

In the first week of July 1957, 101 Bty fulfilled its task as the School's depot Bty, with the Schools IG (Major Ken Fulford RAA) reporting that although a little slow to react, the shooting was excellent. The BSM was now WO2 E. (Eric) Morris, WO2 Orchard having been posted to the School of Artillery in June.

November 1957 saw the Regt (101, 102 Btys), conduct its first major exercise in the Tianjara State Forest and live firing in the Tianjara Field Firing Range, near Nowra in southern NSW. 105 Bty under new BC Maj. R. M. C. (Dick) Cubis RAA remained at Holsworthy, it was reforming after returning from 2 years active service in Malaya. It occupied C Block, vacated by 100 (A) Fd Bty.

In January 1958, Maj. Davies moved to RHQ as the Regt 2IC and Maj. E.U. (Ted) Gooch RAA became BC of 101. 1958 saw all Btys training/live firing in the Holsworthy, Singleton, Tianjara artillery ranges/training areas. At the end of 1958, Maj. P. J. (Peter) Norton RAA (a WW2/Korea artillery veteran and to later reach the rank of Brigadier), who was the BC of 102 Lt Bty took over as BC 101, replacing Maj. Gooch, who became BC of 102.

In early 1959, 101 Fd Bty, consisting of Bty Headquarters (BHQ), C and D Tps, was warned as the replacement battery for 100 (A) Fd Bty in Malaya. The battery, somewhat under strength, was filled to its full complement with volunteers from the adjacent Headquarters element, 105 Fd Bty, 102 Light Bty and members of 111 Light AA Bty stationed at Middle Head.

Field firing was conducted by both Tps on the Holsworthy range in the early part of the year.

Along with other units of the newly formed 1st Infantry Bde (1st Inf Bde), 1st Fd Regt took part in Exercise 'GRAND SLAM' which was held in the Nth Qld area, inland from the town of Mackay in April/May and in early June, the Bde conducted a mounted parade through Brisbane then returned to Holsworthy. The Bty took a short leave break then conducted minor infantry training in July within the Holsworthy area.

Pre-embarkation leave was taken in August and all personnel were back in Holsworthy camp by early September.

The Bty and members of 1st Tp Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) left Sydney on 18 September 1959 on the m.v. Flaminia, stopping at Brisbane to embark the 1st Bn RAR. Some wives of members of the Bty, 1 Tp and 1 Bn were also on the ship.

In Brisbane, Capt. D. K. (Don) Baker, who was OC 101 Bty on the Flaminia, received by officer courier a TOP SECRET communication from the Director Military Operation and Plans. The envelope was to be opened 30 mins after sailing. At sea, Capt. Baker opened the envelope. The signal contained inside warned that because of the communist threat in neighbouring Laos, the Bty could be deployed there shortly after the ship arrived in Singapore. Physical training activities of up to 4 hours per day was conducted by all Bty personnel for the rest of the voyage. As history has shown, this deployment to Laos did not eventuate.

The Flaminia arrived in Singapore 2 October 1959 where the Bn disembarked (less their wives), then continued on to Georgetown, Penang Island, Malaya, arriving 4 October 1959 where Bty and 1 Tp personnel were greeted by their respective advance

parties (who had flown from Australia shortly after the *Flaminia* sailed from Sydney). The Bty and 1 Tp married men, wives, children, 1 Bn wives and children were moved to married quarters or the Australia Hostel (Aussie Hostel), the single men (both Bty and 1 Tp), were trucked from the *Flaminia* via the Penang-Butterworth ferry to the Bty and 1 Tp camps on the mainland (called Quebec Lines) some 2-3 miles south of the Butterworth RAAF Base and just to the north of the Malayan town of Butterworth.

After a short period of intensive training/acclimatisation (see copy of the Bty War Diary for month of October/59 attached), the Bty commenced anti-terrorist operations as part of the 28th Commonwealth Infantry Bde. Some four weeks after landing at Georgetown, D Tp deployed with 25 pounders on 'OPERATION JAYA' (Op JAYA) in early November. With D Tp deployed on Op Jaya, C Tp carried out conversion training on their 4.2 inch mortars. From mid November to end December, C & D Tp's rotated as fire supporting artillery. After D Tp's first operation (3-10 November 1959) it carried out conversion training on their 4.2 inch mortars.

With the political situation in neighbouring Laos still deteriorating, the Bty's ability to use 4.2 inch mortars became very important. Besides carrying out anti-terrorist operations, as part of the 28th Commonwealth Inf Bde, the Bde's units had a role as part of the South East-Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO), see page 6. The Bty was designated as the close support Bty for the 1st Battalion, 3rd East Anglian Regiment (1/3 East Anglians), a British infantry Battalion and as such would be among the first units to serve outside Malaya if a SEATO country (or 'protocol' state) required military help.

January to June 1960 saw continued anti-terrorist, gun and mortar deployments. The main task of these deployments were to provide harassing fire on possible communist terrorist (CT) escape routes in conjunction with infantry patrols and to assist Special Branch security forces in denying CT's access to food supplies and intelligence from local villagers/villages. Members of the Bty deployed as infantry with the 1/3 East Anglians on jungle patrols and ambushes, others deployed with the 13th/18th Hussars (a British Armoured Corps Reconnaissance unit) and a small group joined 1 Tp RAE building an airstrip by hand (no mechanical machines of any kind) at a place called Fort Tapong (a Malaya Police Field Force outpost) on the Malaya and Thailand border.

The EMERGENCY officially ended on 31 July 1960. Prior to this date Op BAMBOO came into effect with large numbers of infantry sub-units deployed to the Malaya/Thailand border. At the time it was thought that CT forces, who had by now been forced north from Malaya and were camped on the Thailand side of the border area, may stage some sort of activity to spoil the celebrations on the 1st of August. The Bty's role in Op BAMBOO saw D Tp under Tp Comd Capt. Baker (later Colonel), with extra personnel from BHQ and C Tp, depart Butterworth 26 July 1960 and deploy to Grik (now called Gerik), some 50 miles inland from Butterworth and 15 miles south of the border. From 27 July - 6 August, D Tp fired 400 rounds 25 pounder HE and 350 rounds 4.2 inch mortar HE in support of 1 RAR and in addition, supplied armed escorts for the boats re-supplying the infantry patrol bases along the Perak River. The Tp returned to Butterworth on 7 August 1960. Whilst D Tp was carrying out its border deployment, some 30 members of C Tp under Lt. G. C. (Gavin) Andrews (later Lt. Col.) left Butterworth on 26th July with 25 pounders to take part in the huge Victory Parade held in the Malayan capital of Kuala Lumpur on 1st August. Bty HQ stayed as the support element for D Tp and to protect the camp at Butterworth in case of trouble. C Tp returned to Butterworth camp 2 August 1960. A copy of the Bty War Diary's for Jul/60 and Aug/60 are attached.

September/October 1960 saw the Bty move some 150 miles south to become the third Bty of 26 Fd Regt RA (a British artillery unit) stationed at the newly constructed Terendak Camp, near the old coastal town of Malacca. Here the Bty organization changed to the 6 gun British artillery establishment (25 pounder guns), however only 101 Bty had 4.2 inch mortars as an alternative equipment. Training now was predominately artillery oriented as part of 28 Commonwealth Inf Bde's artillery component to Britain, Australia and NZ's SEATO commitment. Field firing on the nearby Asahan firing range, with air mobility and mobilisation exercises conducted on a regular basis at Terendak and nearby air force bases, formed the routine for the Bty for the next 10 months. It was from the Asahan firing range that it was thought Sgt Lionel Tucker (Bty command post TARA Sgt) contacted the deadly leptosperosis disease in mid February 1961 and after a very short period in hospital, he died on 26th. His short illness and sudden death shocked all members of the Bty, Sgt Tucker was a well liked member of the unit and was one of the longest serving Bty members. 101 was considered a lucky unit, having not had a major casualty (operation or post operation related) since arriving in Malaya some 16 months earlier. He was buried in Terendak Camp cemetery (now - 2004, Terendak Camp is a Malaysian Army camp). Gnr Tom Simpson who served the full Malayan tour with the Bty is also buried in the same cemetery. Tom went to South Vietnam with 105 Bty in September 1965 and died from cerebral malaria in December 1965.

In April 1961 the Bty was mobilised for operations in Laos, with the advance party en route to Singapore some two and a half hours after the warning order was issued. The operation was called off before the gun group was to follow.

April 1961 saw the departure of the BC who had trained the Bty before service in Malaya and during its 10 months of active service/8 and a half months SEATO service, Maj. Norton. The new BC was Maj. J. A. (Jim) Loveday RAA (later Lt Col), a WW2 artillery veteran.

In mid 1961, NCO training (subjects A & C for Bdr/Cpl & Sgt) was conducted in the Cameron Highlands in the mountains of Central Malaya some half way in distance between Butterworth and Kuala Lumpur. Here saw jumpers (pullover), long trousers, blankets on beds, fires in fireplaces become the order of the day after the sun went down.

September 1961 saw married members/families start to return by air to Australia and the advance party of the relieving Bty, the 103rd Fd Bty RAA arrive. The m.v. *Flaminia* was again to be the ship to bring the relieving units from Australia, but an engine room fire in early September in Sydney saw the main changeover delayed. More members of 103 Bty were flown over in October to replace the married members that had returned to Australia. The 101 Bty single men by this time were getting restless, the m.v. *Flaminia* was now scheduled not to arrive until late October. With basically nothing to do (103 Bty had taken over the third Bty role in the Regt), they were moved out of Terendak, to the north of a small town named Kuantan, on Malaya's east coast 130 miles from Kuala Lumpur. Camp was set up on the beach and here their excess energy was put to use with surfing, inter Bty rugby union, aussie rules and basketball against the local Kuantan teams. Local food was purchased to supplement the British rations, with all personnel putting in amounts of money and the cooks and cooks offsiders were provided on a roster system from the Bdr's, Cpl's, L/Bdr's, L/Cpl's, Gnr's and Cfn. Bdr Phil Button (later WO2), who during his 2 years in country with the Bty, had learnt to speak Malay extremely well, was sent each morning to the Kuantan markets to buy meat, fish and produce for the days lunch, dinner and the following days breakfast. A tidal creek that separated the side road from the main Kuantan to Kuala Terengganu road, into the camp

was bridged (this used up more excess energy) and christened the LOVEDAY BRIDGE, in honour of the BC, Maj. Jim Loveday RAA.

The Flaminia finally arrived with 2 RAR/103 Bty etc in Singapore 26 October 1961. After their disembarkation, the Bty single members embarked and the ship left the next day. The Flaminia had to go north to Georgetown, Penang Island, to take on board members of 1 RAR, the Bn had never moved down to Terendak and had stayed in their company camps throughout their 2 year tour. Whilst loading 1 RAR, most of the Bty's single personnel did one last trip to the old drinking etc etc haunts of their days and nights on leave in Georgetown when stationed in Butterworth. On the morning of 29 October 1961, some two years and 26 days after disembarking at Penang, the remnants of 101 Bty waved goodbye to Penang. An uneventful, mostly calm trip home was changed when a day out of Sydney the sky became overcast and the sea started to rise. After a very rough 24 hours, the Flaminia berthed in Sydney on the morning of 12 November 1961. All members were trucked to Eastern Command Personnel Depot (ECPD) at South Head. Those members who were on postings to states other than Qld, were taken onto ECPD strength, the remainder, after having been given a meal, were trucked to Sydney Central Station where they boarded the night train to Brisbane. **THE MALAYA TOUR OF THE 101ST FIELD BATTERY RAA HAD COME TO AN END.**

In the Bty's time in Malaya, it was considered to be a very efficient sub unit of the 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade and post Emergency this carried on within 26 Fd Regt RA at Malacca. This efficiency can only be attributed to the high military standards set by both BC's, that members of the Bty were expected/had to achieve. The technical expertise, efficiency and morale of all ranks in 101 (all volunteers), stood out against the other Btys of 26 Fd Regt RA (volunteers and National Service).

On the sporting field, Bty teams and individuals did well. The Bty basketball team won the 17th Gurkha Div Minor units competition in 1961 captained by Gnr Ken Murphy (later WO2) and they provided 90% of the 26 Fd Regt basketball team who were defeated by 1 Bn RNZIR in the 1961 Major units final. In cricket, L/Bdr Warren Cottee (later WO1) achieved All Malayan honours in 1960/1961 and Malacca State selection in 1961 together with Sgt Arthur Hird and Cpl Ernie Palmer. Cpl Palmer was also selected for the 28th Commonwealth Brigade Team. In Butterworth the Bty played visiting RAN/RNZN ships companies cricket, rugby, aussie rules, basketball. Basketball was played against local teams on Penang Island. Various sporting matches against RAAF Base Butterworth were a frequent occurrence when members of the Bty were not in the field. In Malacca, inter Bty competition within 26 Fd was fierce in the above sports (less aussie rules) plus athletics, tennis and boxing, however our soccer skills never matched those of our British brothers. Rugby matches were always well fought, but it was against the NZ Bn that the word brutal best describes those games and we lost every time (the fact that several former/current/future NZ All Blacks were in the team may have had something to do with it). The 26 Fd Regt RA basketball team (90% 101) played numerous local Malacca teams and participated in the Malacca Basketball Assn championship in late 1961. Socially after the matches, the Bty team members and their supporters became legends, showing RAAF, RAN, RNZN, British Army and NZ Army how to conduct a post sporting fixture party. Other than the names mentioned above, it would be almost impossible to name all the other individuals who participated in the various sports. The younger officers did not shirk their duty in putting their lives on the line when required, the older officers, WOs, Sgts and junior ranks provided ex-cellent coaching staff, officials and very vocal supporters, with the younger WO's, Sgts, junior ranks fleshing out the teams, whether they were good at that particular sport or not. One sport must be mentioned that really required some people to stand out - the Regt Boxing Competition. Where volunteers for every other sport were easy to find, the queue for filling the Bty boxing team was very small. Credit must be given to L/Bdr 'Raging' Ray Chadburn, Gnr 'Horrible' Harry Schnarrs, Pte 'The Great' Geordie Martin, Gnr 'Fearless' Frank Pope (the writers memory loss is to blame for other members of the team not being named).

Whether the Bty's teams won or lost, the opposition always knew they had played 101 Fd Bty RAA by the bruises, broken skin (broken bones at times), aches and pains. All Bty members took seriously, the honour of defending the Btys good name.

FOOTNOTE. The information listed above is from *THE GUNNERS – A History of Australian Artillery* by DAVID HORNER. 101st FIELD BATTERY RAA – A SHORT HISTORY BY MAJ. J. H. PHILLIPS RAA & LT. D. M. FORSTER RAA. COL. D. J. (David) DAVIES RAA (ret'd), BC 1957-1958, COL. D. K. (Don) BAKER (ret'd), TC D Tp 1959-1961, personal memories of several former members of the Bty and personal memories of the writer- 5/410427 (later 5/4170) BDR. K. J. (Kevin) SALTER (later CAPT (ret'd)), who served as a gun bombardier, in the Bty 4 Mar 59- 13 Nov 61. Please note that there are some minor discrepancies between what is written in the GUNNERS and the 101ST FIELD BATTERY RAA, A SHORT HISTORY.

Whether a link to the 101st Howitzer Battery of the 1st World War can be traced as the forerunner to the 101st Field Battery RAA raised in 1957 is really immaterial. It is sufficient for the writer to say that if a 101 Bty was raised in 1915, disbanded in 1946 (or before) and in 1957 a 101 Bty is raised, then why should there not be a link???

13 NOVEMBER 1961 TO THE PRESENT

The Bty had become a subunit of 4th Fd Regt at Wacol, on the western outskirts of Brisbane when the advance party had left Malaya in September 1961. As many Malaya tour personnel were to be posted or had been posted out of the unit, the single men staying with the unit, marching into the Bty lines on 13 November 1961, saw many new faces..

Peacetime training for war commenced after Xmas 1961/1962 leave. The Bty converted to the Italian designed L5 105mm Pack Howitzers mid 1962 and participated in all the Regt's and major Australian Army exercises conducted in 1962. It again participated in all the Regt's/major Australian Army exercises conducted in 1963, 1964. Some members volunteered to become members of the Australian Army's training commitment to South Vietnam (SVN) when it was commenced in 1962. When in mid 1964, the Australian Government announced that a Bn Group would join the USA led forces in SVN, in addition to its training commitment, training in the 4th Fd Regt changed dramatically. With the Bn Group scheduled to go to SVN commencing mid 1965, 105 Bty was designated as the Bty to go, it was quickly brought to full strength, with 101 Bty culled for personnel. Training was changed to what would be its role in SVN. The 105th Fd Bty moved by air and sea to SVN in late 1965. Much information was sent back to the Regt after 105 Bty commenced operations and this was reflected in future training. In early 1966, 101 Bty was designated to replace 105 (September 1966), so February/March saw the Bty training hard and slowly being brought up to strength. Among the regulars in 101, there saw in May 1966, 40 national servicemen joining the unit. The Bty served in SVN 20 September 1966-May 1967. On return to Australia it joined 1st Fd Regt at Wacol (1st Fd Regt had gone from Holsworthy NSW to SVN, then to Wacol when it was replaced

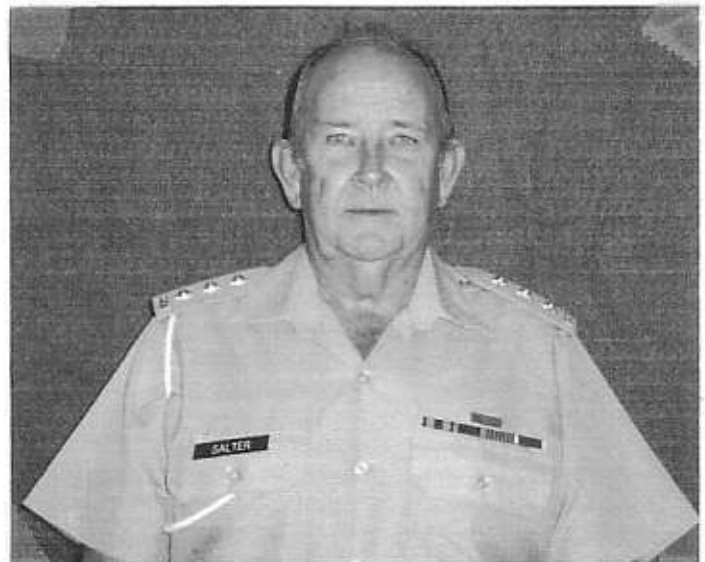
by 4th Fd Regt). Until warned for its second SVN tour, the Bty's strength remained at a very low level. The Bty's second SVN tour was 11 May 69–8 May 70. On return to Australia, 1st Fd Regt had moved to Enoggera and so it was to here that the Bty was to remain for many years. Tom Martin, a 100 'A' Fd Bty, Gnr reinforcement in 1958, who then transferred to 101 when it arrived, was BSM 1970-1972. In late 1971, it commenced preparing for a third SVN tour, scheduled for mid/late 1972, but Australia's commitment of troops was winding down, the RAA commitment ending in December 1971. Warren Cottee who was a Gnr, then L/Bdr in 101 during its Malaya tour was BSM 1974-1975.

Peacetime training was again in force. With the National Service scheme now finished, Bty numbers continued to be low for many years. Brought up to strength in 1998, it took part in a 1998/1999 trial when it became a part of 6 RAR as fire support howitzer company (M2A2 105mm hows). At trials end it returned to 1 Fd Regt. In early 2000 it was decided to re-locate 8th/12th Medium Regt RAA from Holsworthy (less 100th 'A' Fd Bty RAA), north to Darwin and 101 would become its second Bty (155mm Hows). At present, the 101st Medium Battery RAA forms part of the 8th/12th Medium Regt RAA, 1st Infantry Bde, at Ypres Lines in Robertson Barracks at Palmerston, on the southern outskirts of Darwin in the NT.

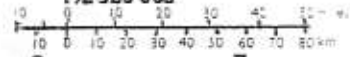
FOOTNOTE *The information listed above is from the 101st FIELD BATTERY RAA - A SHORT HISTORY BY MAJ. J. H. PHILLIPS RAA & LT. D.M. FORSTER RAA and some of the writers personal information.*

NATO – The South East-Asia Treaty Organisation was formed in the mid 1950's fearing further communist expansion in South-East Asia after the French were comprehensively defeated at their base at Dien Bien Phu, central North Vietnam in May 1954 by the communist controlled VIET MINH (who were supplied by China and Russia). Under it, the United States, United Kingdom, France, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, the Philippines and Pakistan agreed they would act in concert to defend military aggression against any of the signatories. They also designated several 'protocol' states, whose security was guaranteed by the treaty. Laos and South Vietnam were two of the designated 'protocol' states.

The writer enlisted into the ARA – Corps RAA 16 Apr 57, Perth WA (direct from 17 NS Trg Bn, Swanbourne WA, 8 Jan – 15 Apr 57). School of Arty, North Head, Sydney, May – Aug 57, general duties then 25 Pr DP3 Gun Course. 1 Fd Regt RAA, Holsworthy NSW, Aug 57 – Sep 59 (Sig Arty 102 Bty, Regt Svyr RHQ, Gun Bdr 101 Bty). 101 Fd Bty RAA, Malaya, Oct 59 – Oct 61 (Gun Bdr). 4 Fd Regt RAA, Wacol, Brisbane, Qld, Nov 61 – Jun 67 (Regt Svy Sgt HQ Bty, BG 106 Bty, BG 105 Bty). School of Arty, Jul 67 – Dec 70 (AIG Loc Wing). 11 Fd Regt RAA Annerley, Brisbane, Qld, Jan 71 – Dec 73 (ARA BSM). Long Term Student, Royal School of Arty, Larkhill, Wiltshire, UK, Jan 74 – Mar 75 (Gunnery Staff Course/Loc (NCO's)). RA Gunnery Training Establishment, Hohne, West Germany, Apr – Sep 75 (AIG/Loc). School of Arty, Oct 75 – Aug 77 (Senior AIG Loc Wing). 131 Div Loc Bty RAA, Holsworthy, NSW, Sep 77 – Jul 78 (BSM. First WO1 BSM of the re-organised Div Loc Bty). IMD Pers Depot, Ashgrove, Brisbane Qld, Aug – Sep 78 (resettlement leave). Honourably discharged 8 Sep 78. Enlisted Army Reserve – Corps RAA 3 Oct 78, Brisbane Qld. Served in 5/11 Fd Regt (Light) RAA, Annerley, Brisbane, Qld, 78 – 82 (WO2 Regt Svy Offr, Capt Regt Svy Offr (prom Capt PSO – Jan 82). 1 Trg Gp Wacol, Brisbane, Qld, 83 – 85 (Capt Instr WO/NCO Wing). 5/11 Fd Regt RAA, Annerley, 86 – 87 (BC HQ Bty). 131 Div Loc Bty RAA (ARes element) Enoggera, Brisbane, Qld, 88 – 93 (Tp Comd, 3 Weapon Loc Tp). Discharged 13 Mar 93. Service of 21 years, 5 months ARA and 14 years, 5 months ARes/GRes, total 35 years, 10 months, ALL RAA.



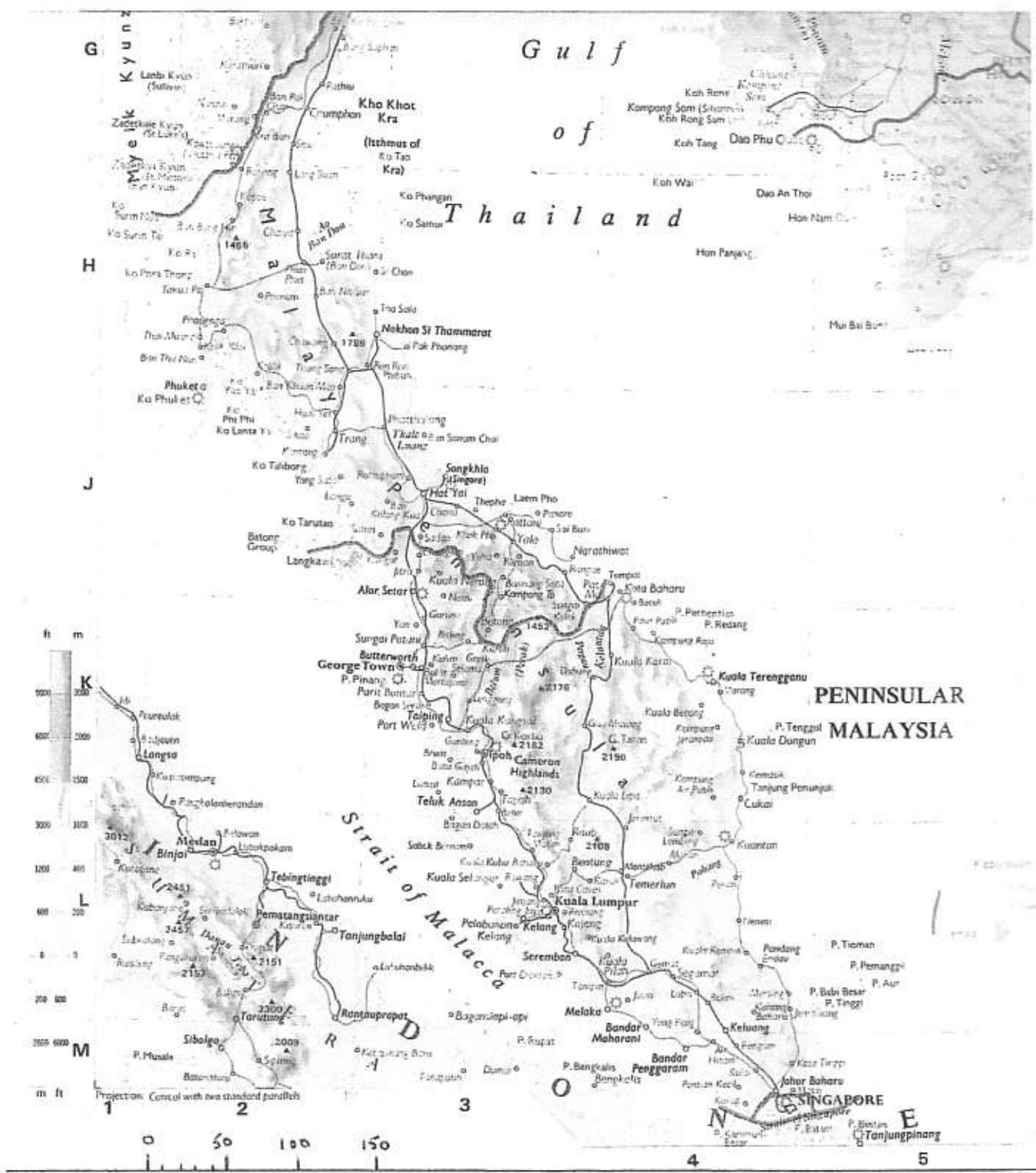
THE WRITER – EARLY 1993



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Strait of Malacca

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March 2008

In early 2007, Dale Hayes, one of our RAEME Cfn who came to the Bty as a reinforcement from 1 August 1960 onwards and stayed on with 103 Bty after we came home, contacted me re a copy of the history of 101 that I had compiled. In a letter dated 3 April 2007, he wrote to me with information that he had found re the militia 1 Fd Regt and 101 How Bty.

10th Inf Div was raised about April 1942 and was disbanded in August 1942.

1 Fd Regt was raised a 1 Aust Field Artillery Brigade RAA, date ? and was assigned to I Inf Div from Sep 1939 to March 1941. It consisted of 1, 2, 3 Bty's and 101 How Bty. Was redesignated 1 Fd Regt RAA in March 1941 as a 3 Bty Regt and 101 How Bty disbanded and its pers absorbed into the other 3 Bty's. 101 Fd Bty was raised as 101 How Bty, date ? and was disbanded about March 1941.

In December 1941 I Inf Div was mobilised and reorganised in February 1942.

1 Fd Regt was reallocated to the Newcastle Covering Force February 1942 – April 1942, reassigned to 10 Inf Div February 1942 to August 1942. August 1942 – 1943 not known where it served but served in the NT Force 1943-1945.

The above info has been taken from the publication: The British Armies in WW2, an Organisation History Vol 5, The Australian Army. Available from specialist Mil History book shops in Aust

or

The Nafziger Collection Inc, PO Box 1522, West Chester OH. Email nafziger@fuse.net.

*I have not worried about trying to collect any more info.
March 1941 or thereabouts looks like a good date that 101 How Bty was disbanded
and will suffice for this unit history.*

*Kevin Salter
2 March 2008.*