



101 Field Battery RAA

Malaya 1959-1961

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September 2019 Newsletter.

Sadly, four of our members have passed on since our Newsletter in January.

Norman Stanley Ryan.

Died 1st February 2019.

3410436

Born 20th February 1938

Enlisted 18th July 1956

1 Field Regiment, 'A' Battery/101 Battery 1957

Malaya: Gunner (Delta Troop - Driver Operator) 101 Battery 4th October 1959

101 Field Battery Royal Australian Artillery/26 Field Regiment Royal Artillery 17th October 1960.

4 Field Regiment 9th October 1961

Discharged 23rd January 1963.

AASM (Malaya & Thai-Malay)

GSM (Malaya)

ASM (SE ASIA)

ADM. Pinjat Jasa

Malaysia Medal

Return from Active Service Badge

ACB



Lyle R Parker (Fess)

Died 18th March 2019.

14334

Born 10th May 1939.

Enlisted 14th January 1957.

1 Field Regiment, 102 Field Battery.

Lance Bombardier 11th December 1958.

1 Field Regiment, 101 Field Battery.

Malaya: Lance Bombardier 101 Battery (Charlie Troop-Gun Number) 4th October 1959.

101 Field Battery Royal Australian Artillery/26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery 17th October 1960.

Bombardier 20th March 1961.

4 Field Regiment, 101 Field Battery 27th October 1961.

Discharged 13th January 1963.

Medals:

AASM (Malaya)

GSM (Malaya)

ASM (SE ASIA)

ADM

Pinjat Jasa Malaysia Medal

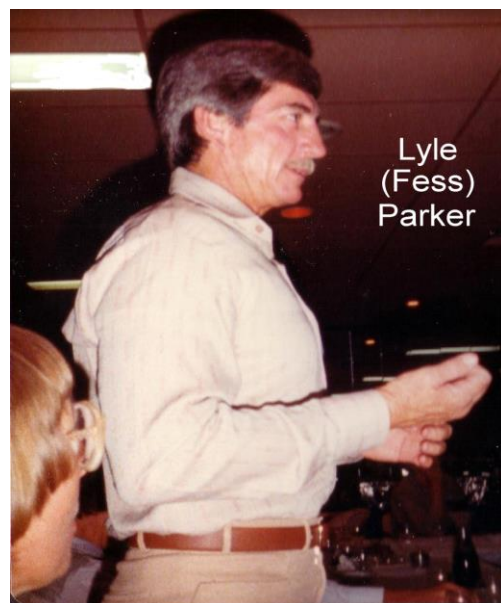
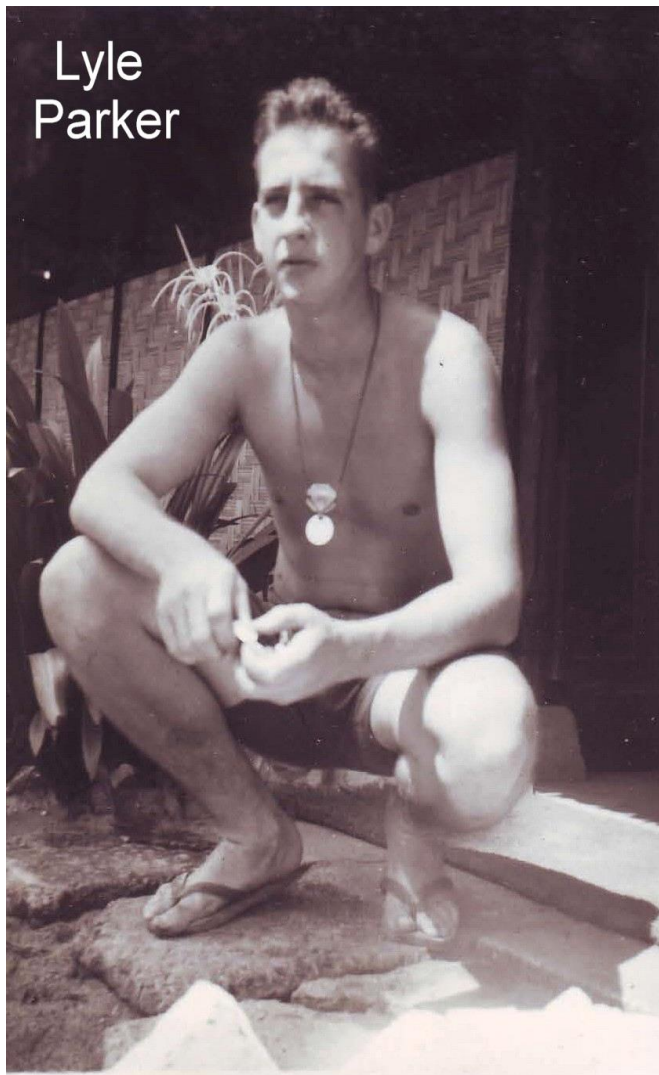
Returned from Active Service Badge

ACB

I received the following from The Public Trustee of Queensland.

Dear Mr Troedel,

*The Public Trustee is administering the estate of Lyle Parker.
Your correspondence addressed to Mr Parker has been received.
I wish to inform you of the passing of Mr Parker.
Please accept my condolences for the loss of your friend.*



Reginald John Poole.

Died 19th May 2019.

3/778616 – 36251

Born 1st April 1938. Western Australia.

20 National Service Training Battalion 8th October 1957 to 23rd December 1957.

CMF: 15 Field Regiment 24th December 1957 to 20th January 1958.

Enlisted ARA 21st January 1958.

School of Artillery 31st January 1958.

1 Field Regiment, 102 Field Battery 14th July 1958.

1 Field Regiment, 101 Field Battery 21st August 1959.

Malaya: Gunner 101 Battery (Delta Troop-Gun No) 4th October 1959.
101 Field Battery Royal Australian Artillery/26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery 17th
October 1960.

Transferred to Un-allotted List Southern Command 1st November 1960.

1 Field Regiment 10th February 1961.

Bombardier 1 RTB 13th February 1962.

4 Field Regiment 26th August 1964.

Bombardier 2 RTB 1965.

Bombardier Discharged 2nd February 1967.

Medals:

AASM (Malaya & Thai-Malay)

GSM (Malaya)

ASM (SE ASIA)

ADM.

Pinjat Jasa Malaysia Medal

Return from Active Service Badge

ACB



Clive Herbert Castles (Lofty)

Died 26th July 2019.

1/722441 - 14310

Born 7th January 1936.

11 National Service Training Battalion 13th August 1956 to 22nd November 1956.

Enlisted ARA 23rd November 1956.

NCPD.

School of Artillery 15th January 1957.

1 Field Regiment, 104 Locating Battery, Q Battery, 101 Field Battery 1957.

Malaya: 100 (A) Field Battery October 1958.

Gunner 101 Battery (Delta Troop-Driver) 4th October 1959.

101 Field Battery Royal Australian Artillery/26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery 17th October 1960.

RTA 5th December 1960.

1 Field Regiment, 105 Field Battery 1961.

Transferred to RAEME, Bulimba Workshops 1961.

RAEME Workshops Duntroon August 1961.

Corporal.

Transferred to RAASC (Computer Operator) 1967.

Army EDP Centre Canberra.

Sergeant 1968.

Transferred to RAAOC.

WO2 1969.

LS&GCM

Discharged 17th August 1976.

Medals:

AASM (Malaya & Thai-Malay)

GSM (Malaya)

ASM (SE ASIA)

Defence Force Service Medal (1st Clasp)

National Medal.

ADM.

LS&GCM

Anniversary of National Service Medal.

Pinjat Jasa Malaysia Medal

Returned from Active Service Badge

ACB



Written by Clive 10th April 2019.

In the middle of 1956, I left home and started work in Brisbane. I only stayed at a steel Works for 6 months.

I received a conscription letter telling me that I needed to be at Kelvingrove Barracks on 13 Aug 1956 at 08:30 to catch a bus to Enoggera Barracks. I was at Enoggera Barracks for a couple of days and during this time we were in a class room. I found some of the problem solving were just not possible.

The evening of the 15th August I arrived at "D" Coy R.A.A. where we spent the next three months. My National Service finished on 23 November 1956.

I went to the recruitment office and signed up with the regular army for 6 years and my regular army was 1/4310.

I stayed at N.C.P.D. until January 1957. We took a train to North Head School of Artillery where I completed the field Gunnery Course. I was then posted to 104 LOC BTY Holsworthy which was then changed to "Q" BTY and then 101 BTY.

I stayed in 101 BTY as a trainee T.A.R.A., got a Drivers Licence and ended up with as a member in the command post staff.

I was posted in Oct 1958 to "A" FD BTY at Butterworth Malaya where I became a Gun Tractor Driver. I stayed in Malaya until the changeover with 101BTY in October 1959. I arrived back in Australia 5 December 1960.

After taking leave over Christmas I went to 105 FD BTY at Wacol for 3 months as QM's Driver/Batman and three months later I was posted to RAEME at Bulimba Workshops in Brisbane.

In August 1961 I attended a recovery course at Bandiana Victoria and on my return, I was posted to the Work Shops at Duntroon. I stayed at the Work Shops for six years. During that time, I was promoted to Corporal.

In 1967 I volunteered my name for a computing job at Russell Hill Canberra. I only waited a few days until the job was mine. The army trained a shift of fifteen service men to be ready to take over the running of the system programs, together with three civilian shifts.

During my time there I attended many operating courses and was promoted to Sergeant /Room supervisor. 1968 I went to Puckapunyal and completed my WO2 course. I then worked outside the computer room preparing and scheduling the work prior to the computing room. I finished my 20 years of service in the Army and resigned.

2019 National Gunner Dinner

The 2019 National Gunner Dinner was held on 24th August and 101 Battery was well represented. There were three tables of ten from 101 Battery Malaya marking sixty years since we sailed for Malaya. And three tables of ten from 101 Battery Vietnam marking fifty years since the second tour of Vietnam.

The following travelled to Caloundra to attend the dinner.

Wayne Astill and Julie Basire
Tom Beynon
Ann Bright and Son Ray and Son-in law Marino Yerman
Peter Brown
Sid Farrow and Sue Tighe
Jim King
Frank Kohlmann
Nev and Pat Lemon
Rex and Noeleen Martin
Ken and Jeanette Murphy
Darryl and Joan Nicholls, Roslyn and Melissa Ledger
Graham Pember
Sid and Carol Pike
Kevin and Marjorie Salter
Tex Simmons and Leona Kirby
David and Pat Troedel

The Happy Hour on Friday 23rd August was quite enjoyable, catching up with those we had not seen for some time.



Noeleen and Rex Martin, Graham Hampton and Kim McGrath



Kim McGrath



Darryl Nicholls, Kevin Salter and Wayne Astill



Julie Basire and Wayne Astill



John Pollock, Syd Farrow, Darryl Nicholls and Kevin Salter



Pat Troedel, Shakayla Yelland, Carol and Sid Pike and Julie Basire

It was pleasing to have Shakayla Harmony Yelland join us for dinner at the Happy Hour. Shakayla is Roy Dillon's daughter. Roy was one our cooks at Butterworth and Shakayla was aboard the MV Flaminia on our voyage to Penang in 1959.



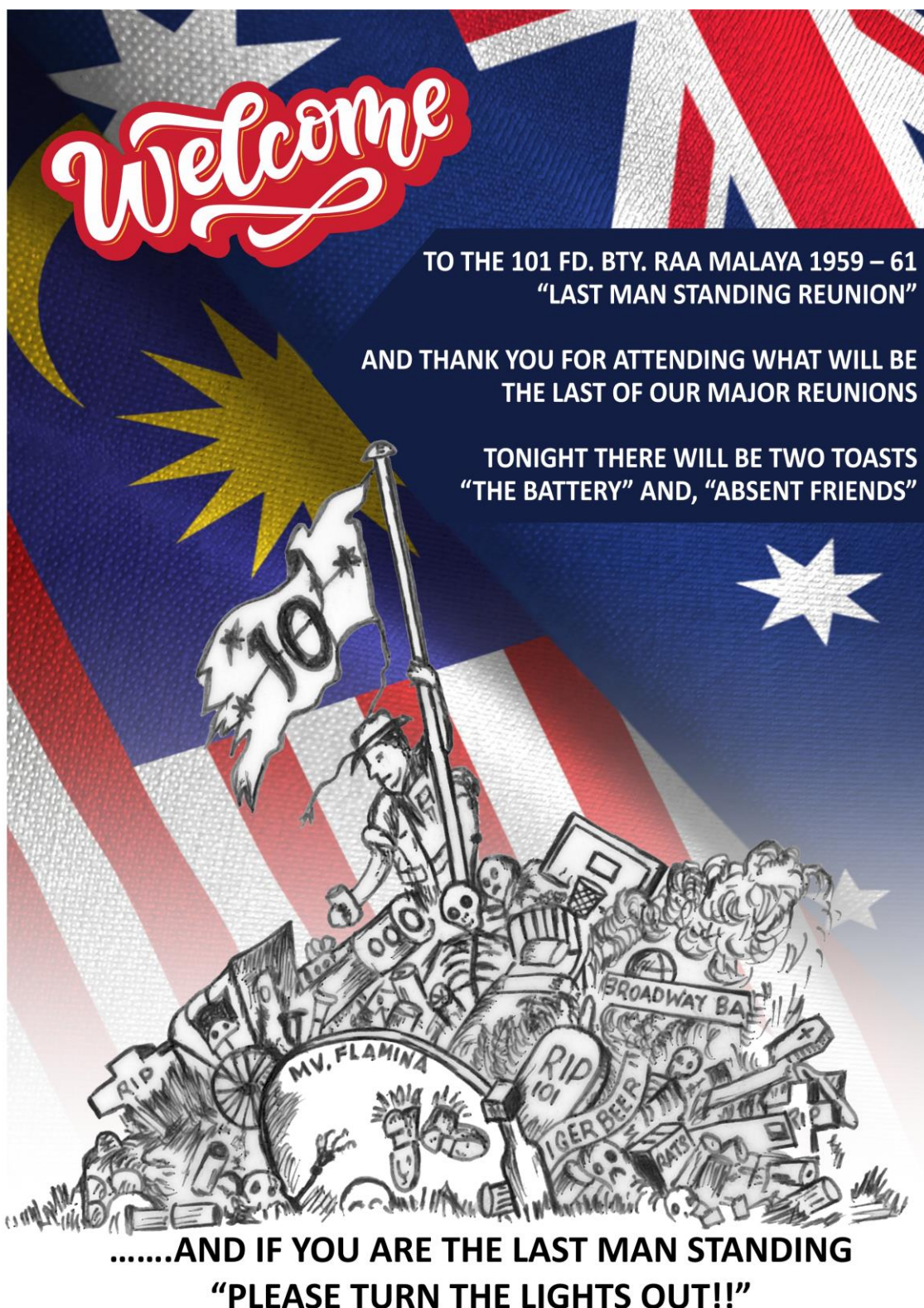
Shakayla and Myself



Members of the Morten Bay Symphony Orchestra All volunteered to come together as a quintet and play background music for us at the Happy Hour. They rehearsed once a week for 3 hours for the past 3 months prior to performing. Note Paul the only male in the quintet is also a member of the Band of the 1st Regiment RAA (Reservist) and performed with the band again the next night at the dinner.

On Saturday afternoon some of us attended the 101 Battery Association Annual General Meeting at the Caloundra RSL Club.

Ken Murphy produced a black and white drawing of the 101 Battery Last Stand and we had it incorporated in a poster that was placed on each chair for the Gunner Dinner.



TO THE 101 FD. BTY. RAA MALAYA 1959 – 61
"LAST MAN STANDING REUNION"

AND THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING WHAT WILL BE
THE LAST OF OUR MAJOR REUNIONS

TONIGHT THERE WILL BE TWO TOASTS
"THE BATTERY" AND, "ABSENT FRIENDS"

.....AND IF YOU ARE THE LAST MAN STANDING
"PLEASE TURN THE LIGHTS OUT!!"

Les Anderson a cook at Butterworth and Malacca kindly produced pens to mark the occasion for all the Battery members.



Gunner Dinner



Rex and Noelene Martin and Don Sinclair



Peter Brown and Kevin Salter



Peter Brown, Frank Kohlmann, Kevin and Marjorie Salter



Ann Bright, Ray Bright and Marino Yerman



Bob and Sandra Crelley, Syd Farrow, Sue Tighe and Tom Beynon



Pat and David Troedel



Pat and Neville Lemon



Wayne Astill



Jim King



Rex and Noelene Martin



Darryl Nicholls



Joan Nicholls and Roslyn Ledger



Ken and Jeanette Murphy



Tex Simmons rear view only, Pat and Neville Lemon



Ray Bright and Marino Yerman



Wayne Astill and Julie Basire, Pat and David Troedel and Frank Kohlmann



Sid Pike



Tom Beynon, Jeanette Murphy, Kevin Salter, Ken Murphy and Peter Brown



Peter Brown





1 Regiment RAA. Band



Hana and Graham Hampton



Graham Hampton and Kim McGrath



Kim McGrath and Bombardier Luke Illes

Bombardier Luke Illes a member of the 1st Regiment. Luke was the 2018 recipient of the Mattner award which is given to the NCO of the Year.

You can view the full range of photos on the following website
<https://ubique.smugmug.com/2019-National-Gunner-Dinner-111>)

We must thank and acknowledge the organizers that put the National Gunner Dinner together. Both Graham Hampton and Kim McGrath did a wonderful job once again. And allowing 101 Battery Malaya to hold our reunion as part of the dinner.

101 Battery Malaya 1959 - 1961

All the information I have collected over the years plus the records of service of the 226 members that served in 101 Field Battery in Malaya has been transferred to USB's and distributed to appropriate persons so that our history will not be lost.

A lot of information was sourced from the draft of "End of Mission" Being A Record of Service of Royal Australian Artillery Veterans 1946 – 2000 (Including non-Corps Personnel Attached) by Cameron Simpson and Darryl Kelly and "Mostly Unsung" Australia and the Commonwealth in the Malaya Emergency 1948-60 by Lieutenant Colonel Neil C Smith, AM. Neil Smith has also helped with collecting service histories for some members. I thank Cameron Simpson, Darryl Kelly and Neil Smith for their valuable assistance.

Our members have also been willing to supplying their service histories which was much appreciated.

As well as the Records of Service of the 226 members I have included the history of David Davies, the founding Battery Commander, Edward Gooch who took over from David and Bill Silverstone who commanded the Battery post Malaya as a lot of our members served under him.

We have the unenviable distinction of having the first Gunner to die in Vietnam and the last Australian Serviceman to die in Vietnam to have served with 101 Battery in Malaya.

Sergeant Lionel Tucker. Died of Leptospirosis, Malacca General Hospital 26th July 1961.

Bombardier Barry Algar. 111 Light Aircraft Battery. Died of injuries 23rd September 1964, General Hospital, Penang, Malaya.

Gunner Thomas Simpson. 105 Field Battery. Died of Disease at the 93 Evacuation Hospital Bein Hao 9th December 1965.

Captain Barry Donald. 161 (Independent) Reconnaissance Flight. Killed in Action 3rd December 1969, Vietnam.

Staff Sergeant John Hall. 12 Field Regiment. Murdered in a brawl with a Vietnamese National, Vung Tau 27th October 1971.

Of the 226 that served in Malaya, 134 are known to be deceased, 7 are probably deceased, 20 that we have lost contact with which only leaves 65 of us still able to man the guns.

Murphy's Law (maybe Murphy's suggestions would be closer!)

It was a marvelous night but it would not have been anything without Dave Troedel. Again, we must acknowledge the amount of effort and dedication Dave puts into keeping all of us together, the time it takes is enormous and how his long suffering, Lady Patricia copes is amazing. The amount of research he does is staggering and its' the rest of us who are the

recipients. Dave you typify all that is best about the great blokes that made up 101 you look after your mates giving the best of your-self and not caring what is given in return. For myself I will be eternally grateful that I had the opportunity to serve with you and the best group of blokes that was ever assembled, they represented the best Australia had to offer and as Gunners were second to none. I will until I'm called to that last parade remember the friendships forged over the years and be thankful.

Ken Murphy Sep. 2019

Where do we go from here?