



THE OBSERVATION POST

The official publication of the
National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc
South Australia & Northern Territory Branch

SA/NT Branch Patron:
Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia

Volume 15, number 5C – ME75 COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE, MAY 2025



HONOURING OUR VETERANS

Malayan Emergency, 16 June 1948 to 31 July 1960

The SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA has adopted a four-pronged approach to commemoration, and one of our four pillars is “Honour the living”. In 2025, as we mark the 75th anniversary of the start of Australia’s involvement in the Emergency on 31 May 1950, we acknowledge the surviving veterans of the Malayan Emergency (1948-1960).

Their collective contribution served to uphold the sovereignty of the Federation of Malaya allowing the successful attainment of independence on 31 August 1957 and self-governance in Singapore on 3 June 1959, which ultimately led to the creation of Malaysia on 16 September 1963, and the early development of Malaysia and Singapore as independent nations.

This commemorative edition gives profiles of our surviving veterans of the Malayan Emergency.



Veterans

The SA/NT Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc acknowledges the following association members who are veterans of the Malayan Emergency:



22890515 Bombardier Bernard 'Bernie' Boxer, British Army

Served in the Federation of Malaya in 1953-54 as an Acting Sergeant with 93 (Le Cateau) Field Battery, 25 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

Bernie has been a member of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA since 2018



PO/X 6832 Corporal James Corry 'Jim' Deering, Royal Marines

Served in the Federation of Malaya in 1949-50 with 40 Commando Royal Marines, assigned to 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines



1293 Police Lieutenant Jim Deering, Federation of Malaya Police

Returned to Malaya to serve in the late 1950s as a Police Lieutenant in Johore with Area Security Unit Kampung Bekok, and later No 4 Police Field Force

Jim has been a member of the SA/NT Branch and its predecessors since 1995



23546795 Corporal Christopher James 'Chris' Howard, British Army

Served on the Malay Peninsula in 1959-62 as an Aircraft Technician (Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) with No 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps

Chris has been a member of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA since 2015



4/410117 Private Wallace Martin 'Oscar' Johnsson, Australian Regular Army

Served on the Malay Peninsula in 1957-59 with Support Company of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment; subsequently attained the rank of Staff-Sergeant

Oscar has been a member of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA since 2010



200046 Captain Ansel Emile Mathews, Malayan Federation Army

Served during the Malayan Emergency in 1955-60 with the 1st Battalion, Federation Regiment; subsequently attained the rank of Major

Ansel has been a member of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA since 2011



R/50044 Able Seaman Edward Jack 'Ted' Richardson, Royal Australian Navy

Served aboard the destroyer HMAS Anzac in Malayan waters in 1955-56 and 1957-58

Ted has been a member of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA since 2019



Acknowledgment

The following messages of acknowledgment of our surviving veterans of the Malayan Emergency have been received:

Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC

Governor of South Australia

Patron of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA

This year marks 75 years since Australia first became involved in the Malayan Emergency - one of the longest military commitments in our country's history.

From 1948 to 1960, more than 7,000 Australians served in Malaya, under challenging and dangerous conditions.

Our servicemen and women patrolled dense jungles, undertook dangerous missions, supported local communities and worked tirelessly to prevent supplies from reaching enemy forces.

Sadly, 39 Australians lost their lives and 27 were wounded.

As we commemorate this anniversary, I pay tribute to all who served, with a special acknowledgment to the six surviving veterans from the South Australia/Northern Territory Branch of the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association.

Your service not only upheld the sovereignty of the Federation of Malaya but also played a crucial role in supporting Malaysia during its early years as an independent nation and in strengthening the ties between our countries.

Lest we forget

Senator Andrew McLachlan CSC

Senator for South Australia, and Deputy President of the Australian Senate

On the 75th Anniversary of the start of Australia's involvement in the Malayan Emergency, I extend my great admiration for all that served in this conflict.

The Branch performs exceptional work in keeping the memory alive of the important and selfless service of our veterans during those difficult times. We especially remember the fallen and the grief their families endured.

Those soldiers and their families have our eternal gratitude.

It has been a privilege to have attended your meetings and become acquainted with many of you.

On this special occasion, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for your courage in the cause of freedom.

If we are to take any solace from this dangerous time, it is the enduring friendship between the peoples of Australia and Malaya.

Lest we forget



Mr Kahlil Fegan DSC AM
Repatriation Commissioner
Department of Veterans' Affairs

2025 marks the 75th anniversary of Australian service in the Malayan Emergency.

I commend the South Australia & Northern Territory Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association of Australia for holding this special ceremony in Adelaide to recognise the service and sacrifice of those who served.

I am sorry I cannot be there in person.

Britain declared a State of Emergency in Malaya in June 1948 in response to escalating violence by communist guerrillas seeking to overthrow the colonial administration.

Australian involvement in the conflict began with the deployment of two Royal Australian Air Force squadrons to Singapore in 1950. Australian Army and Royal Australian Navy personnel also served in Malaya from 1955.

Lasting some 13 years, Australia's involvement in the Malayan Emergency was one of our longest continuous military commitments during the 20th century.

Thousands of Australian military personnel served in the Malayan Emergency, of which 39 Australians lost their lives; 15 a result of operations. A further 27 were wounded, most of whom were in the Army.

Today, I acknowledge and thank all the Malayan Emergency veterans here at this ceremony for their selflessness and distinguished service. In particular, I acknowledge:

- *Bombardier Bernie Boxer who served in the British Army;*
- *Corporal Jim Deering who served in the Royal Marines;*
- *Staff-Sergeant Wallace Martin 'Oscar' Johnsson who served in the Australian Army with the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment;*
- *Major Ansel Mathews who served in the Malaysian Army; and*
- *Able Seaman Edward Jack 'Ted' Richardson who served in the Royal Australian Navy on the destroyer HMAS Anzac*

You should be very proud of your service.

Today, we also remember and honour the memory of those who never came home. And 75 years on, we also remember their families who had to carry the burden of living life without their loved one by their side.

I'd also like to remind everyone here today that the Department of Veterans' Affairs will hold a National Commemorative Service in Canberra on 31 August 2025 to mark the 75th anniversary of Australian service in the Malayan Emergency.

I encourage you to attend if you are able. As a nation we honour and acknowledge the contribution of those who served in The Malayan Emergency. Recognition they richly deserve.

Lest we forget



THE MALAYAN EMERGENCY

16 June 1948 to 31 July 1960

In 2025, we observe the 77th anniversary of the start of the 'Malayan Emergency', the first of three undeclared Malayan wars which immediately followed World War 2. This was a guerrilla war fought in the Federation of Malaya which lasted from 1948 until 1960 and cost the lives of 39 Australians.

In particular this year, we also commemorate the 75th anniversary of the start of Australia's involvement in the Emergency on 31 May 1950, and honour the surviving veterans.

The Federation of Malaya came into existence on 1 February 1948 – as a federation of eleven states (nine Malay states plus two of the British Straits Settlements, Penang and Malacca). The 'Malayan Emergency' was the Commonwealth response to a 'National Liberation War' fought by communist guerrillas who sought to overthrow the British colonial administration.

The Emergency began on Wednesday 16 June 1948 when three European plantation managers, and a Chinese rubber contractor and a rubber foreman, were shot dead in two separate incidents by members of the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) near Sungei Siput near Ipoh, in the northern State of Perak.

Britain declared a State of Emergency in several districts of Perak and Johore that evening, and throughout those states the following day. Then on 18 June, emergency measures were enacted throughout the whole federation – and also in Singapore on 24 June.

The Emergency was an 'undeclared war' between the armed forces of the Commonwealth and the Malayan National Liberation Army (MNLA), the military arm of the CPM: the rubber plantations and tin-mining industries urged the use of the term 'emergency' since their losses would not have been covered by Lloyd's insurers if it had been termed a 'war'.

The Commonwealth contribution included Malayan and British units, including Gurkhas and Royal Marines, operating in support of the Federation of Malaya Police. The other troop contributing nations were Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia.

Australia's commitment to operations fell within the context of its membership of the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve (BCFESR). The Royal Australian Navy commitment to the FESR initially comprised two destroyers, followed by the aircraft carriers HMA Ships *Melbourne* and *Sydney* and nine destroyers for three to nine months at a time.

The Royal Australian Air Force deployed Lincoln bombers (No 1 Squadron) and C-47 Dakota transports (No 38 Squadron) operating out of Singapore and later Kuala Lumpur with the Far East Air Force (FEAF), and Canberra bombers and Sabre fighters operating from Butterworth air base.

All ground forces came under the operational command of General Headquarters Far East Land Forces (FAREL).

The counterinsurgency was at first fought by up to twelve battalions operating under the command of three brigade headquarters, which in turn reported to Headquarters Malaya District. From 1 September 1953 a more conventional command structure was established, with the 1st Federation Division responsible for the north of the peninsula and the 17th Gurkha Division the south, with the 18th Independent Infantry Brigade in the centre.



The formation insignia of General Headquarters Far East Land Forces

75th anniversary of Australian service in the

Malayan Emergency



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Anzac Portal
anzacportal.dva.gov.au

AWM DUN/55/0824/EC, AWM HOB/56/0495/MC, AWM FEAF1030, AWM 304874/02.

In 2025 we will mark the 75th Anniversary of the start of Australia's involvement in the Malayan Emergency on 31 May 1950. This commemorative poster released by DVA shows soldiers of 'D' Company of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR), a crew from No 1 Squadron, RAAF in front of an Avro Lincoln bomber, naval ships in formation representing the RAN, and six nurses to represent the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC).

Communist Gangs Kill Three British Planters, Two Chinese In Malaya Outrages

SINGAPORE, June 16 (A.A.P.-Reuter).— Three British planters, a Chinese rubber contractor and a Chinese rubber foreman were shot dead to-day by Chinese bandits in Malaya.

A senior police officer declared the murders were undoubtedly committed by Communists determined to destroy the rubber and tin industries of Malaya. The High Commissioner for the Federation of Malaya, Sir Edward Gent, has given sweeping emergency powers to the police to deal with the growing lawlessness in western Malaya.

This article on the front page of the 'Sydney Morning Herald' of Thursday 17 June announced the five murders on the Malay Peninsula.

In the Sungei Siput area, Mr Walker of Elphil Estate was shot in his office with pistols; Mr Allison and Mr Christian of Phinsoon Estate were tied up and executed using Sten guns.

In the afternoon, a Chinese rubber contractor was murdered north of Taiping, and the Chinese foreman of Senai Rubber Estate 15 miles north of Johore Baru was assassinated.



This marker stands in front of the graves of the plantation managers who were killed on 16 June 1948 near Sungei Siput in the Kuala Kangsar District, State of Perak:

Mr AE 'Wally' Walker of Edinburgh, manager of Elphil Estate

Mr John Munt Allison of London, manager of Phinsoon Estate

Mr Ian Deare Christian, assistant manager of Phinsoon Estate (late Captain in the 8th Gurkha Rifles)

They were buried in the Batu Gajah Christian Cemetery, located 10 km from Ipoh, later known as 'God's Little Acre'.



SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA members (left to right): Clive Dubois (Secretary), Brian Selby (President) and Don Cameron (Vice-President).

In 2014, members of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA visited Batu Gajah Christian Cemetery and located the grave of founding member and Chairman of the Malaya & Borneo Veterans association in SA in 1995-96, Raymond James Stephen 'Dick' Villiers (1924-2013).

Dick had served during the Malayan Emergency from May 1950 with 3 Commando Brigade in Kuala Kangsar district. He returned to Malaya in 1953 and served a further six years in the State of Perak as a Police Lieutenant in the Federation of Malaya Police.

Dick was cremated in Adelaide but in 2014 his family took his ashes to be buried in the Batu Gajah Christian Cemetery in Perak with his mates.

Ultimately three battalion groups from the Royal Australian Regiment, with artillery and engineering support, served in Malaya, operating under the control of Australian Army Force, FARELF.

The Australian ground units in Malaya were assigned to the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group, based at Minden Barracks on Penang Island – a formation which was created in Malaya on 16 September 1955.

The brigade comprised units from Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom – primarily three infantry battalions (Australia contributing a rotating battalion group), and a British field artillery regiment with an Australian field artillery battery.

2RAR was the first Australian battalion to be assigned to the Brigade.

Gurkha Infantry Brigades began operating in Malaya from 1949, raised locally or deployed from Hong Kong.

The 17th Gurkha Division was formed in February 1950 at Maxwell Road Camp in the Federation of Malaya. Headquarters 17th Gurkha Division was the operational headquarters for all British Gurkha units in Malaya. It had operational responsibility for the southern states of Negri Sembilan, Malacca and Johore.

It controlled 26 Gurkha Brigade (drawn from Hong Kong in April 1950), 48 Gurkha Brigade (formed in December 1949 through the redesignation of Johore Sub-District in Penang), 63 Gurkha Brigade (formed in Negri Sembilan in July 1950), and 99 Gurkha Brigade (formed in Malaya in September 1952).

While the Emergency was underway the Federation of Malaya became independent on 31 August 1957.

On *Hari Merdeka* ('Independence Day'), an 'M' Day Parade in Penang marked Malayan Independence Day while the declaration of independence from the British Empire was read by Tunku Abdul Rahman at the Merdeka Stadium in Kuala Lumpur.

By the end of 1958, the Communist Party of Malaya had completely withdrawn its armed units to southern Thailand. The government of the Federation of Malaya officially declared the Emergency over on 31 July 1960.

The South Australia & Northern Territory Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc recognises 39 Australians who lost their lives on operational service during the prescribed period of the Malayan Emergency between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1960, and a further ten who died in the period following the closing date for this campaign.

An insurrection in the British protectorate of Brunei in December 1962 (the 'Brunei Revolt') was soon quelled, but was the opening phase of the Indonesia Confrontation with Malaysia which followed. Malaysia was formed on 16 September 1963 when the federation united with the Singapore, North Borneo and Sarawak Crown Colonies.

Despite the drawdown in violence from 1960, communist leader Chin Peng declared the CPM's return to armed revolt and renewed the insurgency against the Malaysian government, leading to a 'Second Malayan Emergency' from 1968 to 1989. Meanwhile, Confrontation ended on 11 August 1966.

The 'Emergency' was brought to a close with the formal end of armed hostilities under the 'Agreement between the Government of Malaysia and the Communist Party of Malaya to Terminate Hostilities' which was signed at the Lee Gardens Hotel in Haadyai in southern Thailand on 2 December 1989.



The formation insignia of '28 COMWEL Brigade'.



The badge of the 17th Gurkha Division is printed in dark green on diagonal weave cotton drill material, with the crossed kukris in white as a reverse silhouette.

Recognition

Formal recognition of service was made through the following awards – Commonwealth awards issued by the United Kingdom, Australian awards issued after 1995 under the Australian Honours System, and a war medal instituted in 2004 by the Government of Malaysia:

Naval General Service Medal 1909-1962

The Naval General Service Medal 1909-1962 was instituted by King George V on 6 August 1915 to reward service by members of the Commonwealth naval forces and the Royal Marines in minor warlike operations from 1909 for which no separate medal was issued. It was not awarded without a clasp.

The clasp 'MALAYA' was established by Command Paper 7907/1950 (and amended by Admiralty Fleet Orders No 2861/52 and 2466/1960) to recognise service between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1960 (or until 31 January 1959 for service in Singapore). Awards of the Naval General Service Medal with clasp 'MALAYA' to Commonwealth naval forces, including the Royal Marines, total about 7,800. Of these, about 1,800 were to Australians.

The medal was struck in sterling silver at the Royal Mint. The medal has the standard straight suspender bar, with plain claw mount attaching the suspension bar to the medal disc with a horizontal pin.

General Service Medal, 1918-1962

The General Service Medal 1918-1962 was instituted by King George V on 19 January 1923 and authorised by Army Order No 3 to reward service by members of the Army and Air Force from throughout the Commonwealth in minor warlike operations after the end of World War 1, other than in India and Africa, for which no separate medal was issued. The General Service Medal was not awarded without a clasp.

The clasp 'MALAYA' was awarded for service between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1960 (or until 31 January 1959 for service in Singapore). There were about 4,634 awards of the General Service Medal with clasp 'MALAYA' to Australians.

The medal was struck in sterling silver at the Royal Mint. The medal has an ornate swivelling suspender bar, with an elaborate mount attaching the suspension bar to the medal disc with a vertical pin.

Australian Service Medal 1945-75

The Australian Service Medal 1945-75 was instituted by Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia, by Letters Patent dated 22 February 1995, for service in prescribed non-warlike operations between 3 September 1945 and 16 September 1975 (*Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* S122 of 3 April 1995). The Australian Service Medal 1945-75 was not awarded without a clasp.

For service with the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve between 2 July 1955 and 31 October 1971 this medal may be awarded with the clasp 'FESR' (authorised 3 April 1995; *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* S122 of 3 April 1995).

For service on land in Malaya/Malaysia or in Singapore immediately following the end of the Emergency, between 1 August 1960 and 16 August 1964, this medal may be awarded with the clasp 'SE ASIA' (authorised 23 March 2001; *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* S102 of 27 March 2001).

Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75

The Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 was established by Letters Patent dated 11 December 1997, for service in prescribed warlike operations from 3 September 1945 until 13 February 1975 (*Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* no S18 of 19 January 1998). The Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 was not awarded without a clasp.

For service in the Federation of Malaya or the Colony of Singapore during the Malayan Emergency between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1960 this medal may be awarded with the clasp 'MALAYA' (authorised 30 January 1998; *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* S54 of 10 February 1998).

Pingat Jasa Malaysia

The *Pingat Jasa Malaysia* is a Malaysian operational campaign medal established on 3 March 2004, and awarded by the King and Government of Malaysia. This war medal is awarded in recognition of 'distinguished chivalry, gallantry, sacrifice or loyalty' in contributing to the freedom and independence of Malaysia. The medal broadly recognises service by members of the Malaysian Armed Forces during the First Malayan Emergency, the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia, and the Second Malayan Emergency.

The medal was also offered for award to members of the Commonwealth forces from Australia, Fiji, India, Nepal, New Zealand and the United Kingdom (including Gurkhas) who served in Malaya or Malaysia during the prescribed periods of the Malayan Emergency and Confrontation for at least 90 days – specifically, between 31 August 1957 (the date of Malaya's independence) and 11 August 1966 (the signing of the Malaysia-Indonesia Peace Agreement or 'Jakarta Accord' at Istana Merdeka in Jakarta).

For members of the Malaysian Armed Forces, the medal is awarded with the clasp 'DARURAT' ('Emergency'), rewarding operational service during the First Malayan Emergency between 31 August 1957 and 12 August 1966.

For service by Commonwealth troops, the prescribed period ends on 31 July 1960 (the declared end of the Emergency by the government of the Federation of Malaya).

The medal comprises a circular silver-finished disc 36 mm in diameter. The obverse bears the coat of arms of Malaysia over the inscription title JASA MALAYSIA ('Malaysian Service'). The reverse of the medal bears a map of Malaysia, including West (peninsular) Malaysia and East Malaysia (Sarawak and Sabah), above the letters 'P.J.M'.

The medal is suspended by two crossed palas palm fronds, which are attached to a straight suspension bar covered in a decorative pattern. The suspension ribbon is in the colours of the Malaysian national flag (*Jalur Gemilang*). The central red stripe symbolises chivalry and gallantry. This is flanked by dark blue stripes representing the contribution made by supporting forces during the campaigns and the appreciation of the Malaysian people, and these are edged by yellow stripes representing the sovereignty of Malaysia.

RIBBONS

of the medals associated with the Malayan Emergency



Australian Active Service Medal, 1945-75

with the clasp 'MALAYA'



Naval General Service Medal, 1909-1962

with the clasp 'MALAYA'



General Service Medal, 1918-1962

with the clasp 'MALAYA'



Australian Service Medal, 1945-75

with the clasp 'FESR' or 'SE ASIA'



Pingat Jasa Malaysia [Malaysia]

*for service in Malaysia between 31 August 1957 and 31 December 1966,
or in Singapore between 31 August 1957 and 9 August 1965*



Some Malayan Emergency veterans pictured at the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA Christmas Lunch on Saturday 10 December 2022: Jim Deering (standing, third from the right), Ansel Mathews (seated, centre) and Bernie Boxer (seated, second from the right); with the Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, His Excellency Dr Justin Lee (standing, far left) and Mrs Janice Silby, Deputy Commissioner SA for the Department of Veterans' Affairs (standing, far right).

22890515 Bombardier Bernie Boxer British Army

Bernie Boxer served in the Federation of Malaya in 1953-54 during the Malayan Emergency as an Acting Sergeant with the British Army (Royal Artillery). Bernie has been a member of the South Australia & Northern Territory Branch, NMBVAA since 2018.

Bernard Boxer was born in the UK in 1935, the son of Army veteran Mark Boxer and his wife Fay.

Bernie enlisted in the Regular Army on 25 June 1953, just three weeks after the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. After recruit and artillery corps training, he was assigned to the Royal Artillery as a Gunner.

Bernie served with 93 (Le Cateau) Field Battery of the 25th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, subsequently attaining the rank of Bombardier. He initially served in Kowloon in Hong Kong, and then in Negri Sembilan in the Federation of Malaya, on the Malay Peninsula's southwest coast, north of Malacca.

The battery has a history dating back to 6 December 1803.

On 1 April 1947, 27 Field Regiment, RA at Gunclub Barracks in Kowloon, Hong Kong was redesignated 25 Field Regiment, RA. The sergeants and officers were initially based at Whitfield Barracks. The regiment was assigned to the British 40 Infantry Division, which had been re-raised in 1949 to form the permanent garrison in Hong Kong. The division comprised the 26 Gurkha Infantry Brigade, 27 and 28 Infantry Brigades, and the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment.

There is an interesting Australian connection to 40 Infantry Division. Having served in Sicily during the autumn of 1943, the division was again reformed in Hong Kong in 1949 using the original WW1 insignia of a bantam cockerel on a black square.

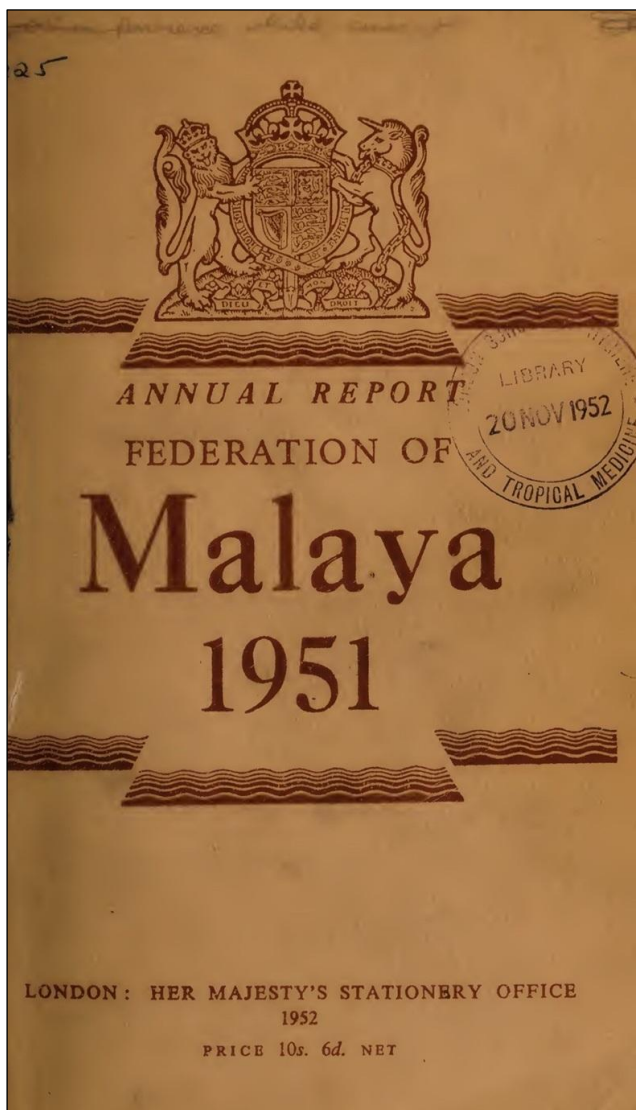
In 1950, its 27th Infantry Brigade (the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment and the 1st Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders), incorporated the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment to form the 27th Commonwealth Brigade, which took part in operations during the Korean War.

25 Field Regiment comprised 35, 54 and 93 Field Batteries. It was equipped with 25 pounder howitzers ('Ordnance Quick-firing 25-pounder'), operating only three guns per troop rather than the war service standard of four.

The battle honour 'Le Cateau' was awarded to 93 Battery in June 1948 in recognition of their actions in Malaya during World War 2.



*The formation Badge of
40 Infantry Division*



MAJOR OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE SECURITY FORCES

A number of major operations, in which the Services and the Police took part, were launched against the enemy during the year. Among these were:

- (a) Operation "PROSAIC" (from January-March) in the South-east Pahang area. The first operation of the S.A.S. Regiment (The Malayan Scouts) deep into the jungle.
- (b) Operation "WARBLER" (in June) in Johore and Negri Sembilan. All troops, Police and the Administration in the two States took part in this operation, which constituted a general intensification of the operational effort against the enemy in the areas concerned.
- (c) Operation "PURSUIT" (in October/November) in Pahang. This operation was mounted following the murder by terrorists of His Excellency the High Commissioner. Its objective was to bring the killers to book. The troops taking part included the 1st Battalion the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, the 1/10th Gurkha Rifles, and the 2/6th Gurkha Rifles, as well as 93 Field Battery, Royal Artillery. During this operation the first real use of artillery was made. Although it did not achieve its primary object the operation effected the complete disruption of the terrorist company operating in the area, which remained virtually free from incidents for some months afterwards. The Army assisted the Police in the evacuation of the entire civilian population of the village of Tras during this operation.

- (d) Operation "SPRINGTIDE" (in December) in Central Perak. Troops of 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines, carried out this operation against particularly active and well-organised enemy Independent Platoons. The operation achieved the disorganisation of the enemy's food-supply and their contacts with the subversive elements of the civilian population.

The Royal Navy assisted most ably in a number of operations. In Operation "PROSAIC" in January, the Navy transported the S.A.S. Regiment (the Malayan Scouts) from Port Dickson in Negri Sembilan by sea and river to Ulu Rompin in Pahang. This involved some difficult navigation along a river which had burst its banks and had flooded the country-side. In operations in the Teluk Anson area of Perak naval vessels supported troops of 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines, and in the Muar area of Johore the Navy operated in support of the 1st Battalion The Cameronians.

This extract from the 'Federation of Malaya Annual Report 1951' refers to the participation of 93 (Le Cateau) Field Battery (25 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery) in Operation 'PURSUIT' in Pahang in October/November 1951 – when the first real use of artillery in the Emergency was made.

In 1949, 25 Field Regiment relocated to the New Territories in Hong Kong for Internal Security duties, supporting 26 Gurkha Infantry Brigade which had been formed in July 1948.

During the period 1950-56, 25 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery deployed a field battery in support of the Malayan Emergency.

54 (Maharajpore) Field Battery, RA deployed first, to Negri Sembilan from October 1950 to July 1951, comprising 'C' (Charlie) and 'D' (Dog) Troops with their 25 pounder QF guns.

In this early phase of the Emergency (prior to 1 September 1953), the counterinsurgency was fought by up to twelve infantry battalions and supporting elements operating under the command of three brigade headquarters.

These brigades reported to Headquarters Malaya District, which was upgraded to full command status as 'Malaya Command' on 1 August 1950.

The 63rd Gurkha Brigade was formed in Negri Sembilan on the southern Malay Peninsula in July 1950: it operated initially in Johore and then Negeri Sembilan from July 1950 until July 1960.

Central Malaya sub-District was renamed 'South Malaya sub-District', to include Johore, Negri Sembilan and Malacca in its sphere of operations, and extra battalions were allotted to Negri Sembilan under command of 63 Gurkha Infantry Brigade. Before long, South Malaya Sub-District had under its command 18 Infantry Brigade, 26 Gurkha Infantry Brigade and 63 Gurkha Infantry Brigade.

In July 1951, 54 Battery was replaced by 93 (Le Cateau) Field Battery, RA, which comprised 'E' (Easy) and 'F' (Fox) Troops. The Battery had its headquarters at Tampin in the State of Negri Sembilan.



*The formation Badge of
63 Gurkha Brigade*

Operation 'PURSUIT' in Pahang in October/November 1951 was mounted following the murder of the High Commissioner by terrorists. During this operation, the first real use of artillery was made – by 93 Field Battery, RA.

On 3 December 1952 the General Officer Commanding Malaya, Major-General Hugh Stockwell, fired the 100,000th shell to be let off from the 25-pounder guns of 93 Field Battery, RA against the Communist Terrorists in the Federation of Malaya (*The Straits Times*, 4 December 1952). This was in the Kuala Langat area in the southwestern part of the State of Selangor.

After enlisting on 25 June 1953, Bernie deployed to Malaya, via Singapore, as part of a reinforcement group for 93 (Le Cateau) Field Battery, RA. Bernie served in Negri Sembilan from 1 October 1953 to 1 June 1955 with 'E' (Easy) Troop, with the rank of Acting Sergeant.

Since 1 September 1953, a more conventional command structure had been established, with the 1st Federation Division responsible for the north of the peninsula and the 17th Gurkha Division the south, with the 18th Independent Infantry Brigade in the centre. Headquarters 17th Gurkha Division became the operational headquarters for all British Gurkha units in Malaya and other assigned elements. It controlled at various times 26, 48, 63 and 99 Gurkha Infantry Brigades (although at certain times 26 and 48 Brigades left Malaya to join the Hong Kong garrison).

Operating from its base at Tampin in Negri Sembilan, 93 (Le Cateau) Field Battery, RA was actively engaged against the enemy and provided artillery support to a number of operations.

Bernie was 'SOS FARELF' (Struck-off-Strength Far East Land Forces) the day after the battery finished its service in Malaya in 1955. From Malaya, the regiment returned to England, initially based at Beacon Barracks, and later at Gordon Barracks in Bulford on Salisbury Plain.

For his service in Malaya, Bernie received the General Service Medal 1918-1962 with clasp 'MALAYA'. The campaign medal roll for the General Service Medal 1918-1964 with clasp 'MALAYA' is held by The National Archives within "WO 212 - War Office: Orders of Battle and Organisation Tables" – WO 212/695: "General Service Medal with clasp 'Malaya' (1948-1960)" but has not yet been digitised.

Because Bernie's operational service on the Malay Peninsula was before 31 August 1957 (the date of the Federation of Malaya's independence), he is not eligible to receive the *Pingat Jasa Malaysia* medal.

Bernie departed Tilbury Dock in London and arrived in Sydney, via the Suez Canal, on 28 March 1959 aboard the SS *Oronsay* – an Orient Line passenger liner built after World War 2, sister to the SS *Orcades*.

Bernie and his wife Barbara settled in Adelaide, and Bernie became a member of Hyde Park Rotary Club.

Bernie joined the South Australia & Northern Territory Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc on 24 February 2018, with membership number '5117'.



Bernie Boxer at the Thebarton Senior College 2015 Graduation & Awards Ceremony receiving the Volunteering Award for Outstanding Service from the Principal of Thebarton Senior College Eva Kannis-Torrey (left) and the Honourable Susan Close, Minister for Education & Child Development.

For many years Bernie provided volunteer service to Thebarton Senior College. During the College's 2015 Graduation & Awards Ceremony, Bernie was recognised for his many years of volunteer service. The Volunteering Award for Outstanding Service was presented to Bernie by the Honourable Susan Close, Minister for Education & Child Development.

Bernie's citation reads as follows:

This year, we were invited by our state government to nominate a volunteer for outstanding service to the college.

And given that this award is from the Minister for Education & Child Development, what a perfect opportunity to ask her to present this award today.

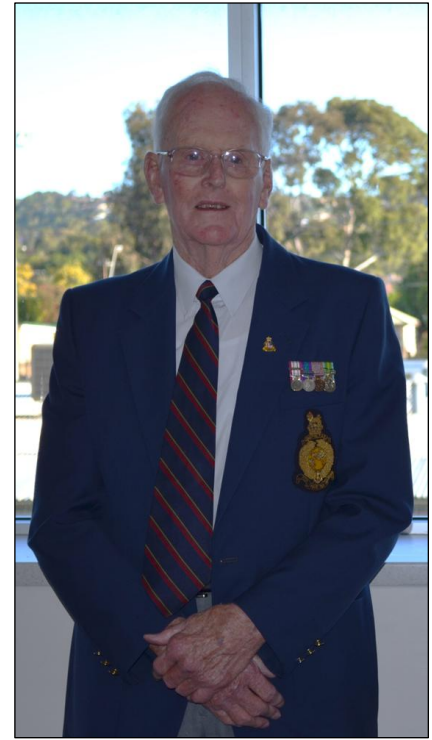
As someone who has supported in so many classes over the years including mine, I take great personal pleasure in calling up Bernie Boxer to receive the Volunteering Award for Outstanding Service.

Bernie has volunteered to support English classes for many years, especially to help students' reading and pronunciation.

He also takes a genuine interest in the students' lives, helping them to develop conversational skills. His presence and encouragement has been a great motivation for hundreds of students.

Bernie has also worked tirelessly with our Rotaract students to support their attendance at Rotary Youth Leadership camps through his Hyde Park Rotary Club and attended countless Rotaract meetings here at college to support students with matters relating to Rotary and Rotaract.

He is truly deserving of this Volunteering Award, selflessly giving his time for the benefit of others. Congratulations Bernie.



PO/X 6832 Corporal Jim Deering, Royal Marines 1293 Police Lieutenant Jim Deering, Federation of Malaya Police

Jim Deering first served in the Federation of Malaya in 1949-50 at the beginning of the Malayan Emergency as a Corporal with 40 Commando Royal Marines, and again in independent Malaya in the late 1950s as a Police Lieutenant with the Federation of Malaya Police. Jim has been a member of the South Australia & Northern Territory Branch, NMBVAA and its predecessors continually since 1995.

James Corry ('Jim') Deering was born in Dublin on 9 May 1930. His father was James Corry Victor Deering (1897-1981), born in Clones in County Monaghan in Ireland, the son of James Deering (born in Clones in 1860) and Eleanor (née Henderson, born in 1865 in neighbouring County Cavan, based on the historic Gaelic territory of 'East Breffny') who had married in Drumblane in County Cavan on 11 August 1885.

Jim's mother was Anna Emma Deering (née Fairbrother, 1904-1989) from Dublin; she and James Corry Victor Deering had married in Dublin South in 1929. At the age of 17, Jim enlisted in the Royal Marines in the UK on 23 September 1947 – swearing an oath to "*well and truly serve His Majesty King George VI, his heirs and successors according to law*".

Jim undertook his basic training at the Royal Marines Depot in Deal, Kent, and then infantry training at the Infantry Training Centre, RM at Lympstone, Devon – wearing the Royal Marines badge on a blue beret with a red patch.

He completed seamanship training at HMS *Royalist* in Portsmouth and then a Naval Gunnery Course at RM Barracks Eastney near Portsmouth. He then completed the Commando Course at the Commando School Royal Marines in Bickleigh, Devon near Plymouth. He graduated with the green beret of the Royal Marines, and then completed cliff assault and small boats training in Cornwall.

After this exhaustive period of training, he was drafted to 40 Commando Royal Marines.

In the immediate post-war era, 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines consisted of 40 Commando, 42 Commando and 45 Commando.

All personnel serving with 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines wore a red embroidered dagger formation badge, with the tip uppermost, on navy blue backing, on each shoulder of the Battledress jacket. This 'Commando Fighting Knife' badge was a 3 Commando formation patch during the post-war era (1946-1972).

The first pattern badges had a squared off top (1945-48), while the second pattern with the rounded top was worn during the Emergency.

These patches were worn on each shoulder of the Battledress jacket (until 1964 when Battledress was replaced by Lovat Dress).

40CDO has its origin in the first Royal Marines commando unit, which was formed at Deal in Kent on 14 February 1942 and designated 'The Royal Marine Commando'.



*The formation Badge of
3 Commando Brigade RM*

Soon after it was re-designated RM 'A' Commando (2 Commando Brigade), and saw operational service in the Dieppe Raid. Retitled '40 (RM) Commando', it saw action in Italy and the Aegean, Yugoslavia and Albania, and policing duties on Corfu before being disbanded.

The post-war 3 Commando Brigade initially comprised 42(RM), 44(RM) and 45(RM). To recognise the wartime service of 2 Commando Brigade, 44(RM) was renamed to become 40(RM).

During his early military career, Jim saw service in Malta and Hong Kong. Jim deployed to the Federation of Malaya with 40 Commando Royal Marines, and served there during the early phase of the Malayan Emergency in 1949-50.

3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines deployed to Malaya from May 1950 until March 1952, being the operational headquarters for 40, 42 and 45 RM Commando. In Malaya, 40(RM) was based near Kuala Kangsar.

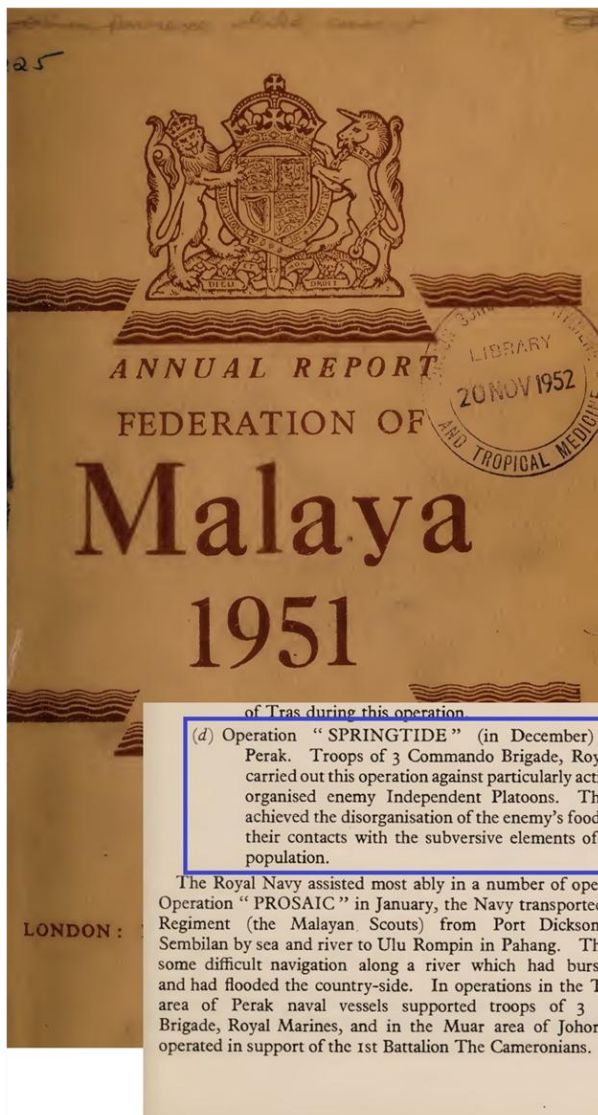
For this service, Jim received the Naval General Service Medal 1909-1962 with clasp 'MALAYA'. This clasp was typically awarded for 28 days' naval service afloat after 16 June 1948 in ships or craft patrolling off the Malayan coast in support of operations against bandits.

The Naval General Service Medal could also be awarded for naval service ashore – one day or more on duty ashore in the Federation of Malaya after 16 June 1948. Admiralty Fleet Orders 2466/1960 amended previous conditions and confirmed the terminal date as 31 July 1960. There were about 7,800 awards of the Naval General Service Medal with clasp 'MALAYA' to Commonwealth naval forces, including the Royal Marines.

In their two-year deployment, the Marines suffered 34 casualties, while accounting for more than 200 communist terrorists (171 killed and 50 captured). 40 Commando subsequently undertook security duties in Cyprus, Hong Kong and Egypt before moving to Singapore in 1961.

Jim then served as a Corporal with the Weapons Training Wing at Royal Marines Barracks Eastney, and then at the RM Commando School in Bickleigh, Devon. He joined 3 Commando Brigade Headquarters, and saw duty in Suez and Malta.

Jim returned to post-independence Malaya in the late 1950s, and was appointed a Police Lieutenant with the Federation of Malaya Police.



This extract from the 'Federation of Malaya Annual Report 1951' refers to the participation of 40 Commando Royal Marines with 3 Commando Brigade in Operation 'SPRINGTIDE' in Central Perak in December 1951.

He first served with the Area Security Unit in Kampung Bekok in Johore, and later with No 4 Police Field Force at Kulai, the capital of Kulai District in Johore.

The British police force and its Malayan counterpart played key roles during the Malayan Emergency.

Each of these forces had locally appointed or deputed Assistant Constables, which shifted much of the burden of responsibility for safeguarding villages against the Communist Terrorists (CTs) from the British to the indigenous population.

These native police contingents ranged from the formal (Malay members of the Federation of Malaya Police) through to the very informal (local volunteer groups operating under British guidance).

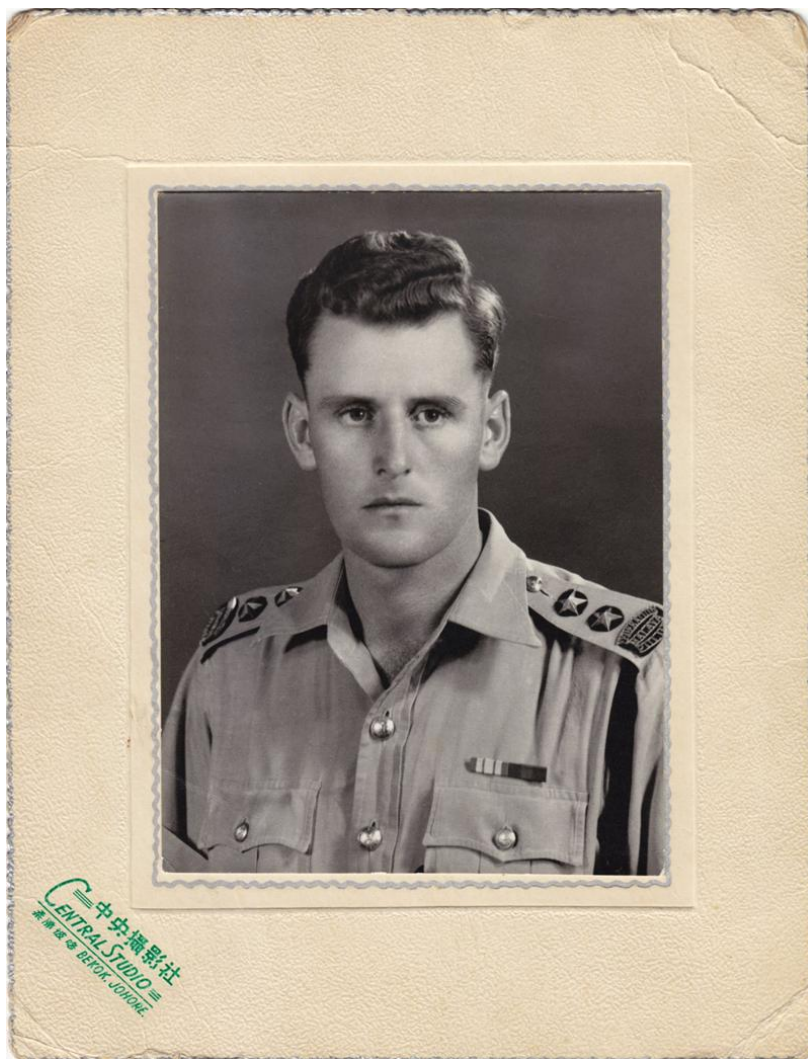
The FOM Police suffered heavily during the Emergency, with a total of 2,947 casualties.

On *Hari Merdeka* ('Independence Day'), 31 August 1957, the declaration of independence from the British Empire was read by Tunku Abdul Rahman at the Merdeka Stadium in Kuala Lumpur. From this time, the Police were granted the title of 'Royal Federation of Malaya Police'.

For this service with the FOM Police, Jim received the General Service Medal 1918-1962 with clasp 'MALAYA'. This was the Army and Air Force version, which was also authorised to be awarded to members of specified Police Forces who qualified.

Jim was also awarded the *Pingat Khidmat Berbakti* (PKB), the 'Active Service Medal', a Malaysian award created on 29 July 1960 as a reward for long service and good conduct.

Because Jim's operational service on the Malay Peninsula was before 31 August 1957 (the date of the Federation of Malaya's independence), he was not entitled to claim the Malaysian war medal *Pingat Jasa Malaysia*.



This portrait of Police Lieutenant Jim Deering, Federation of Malaya Police, was produced at Central Studio in Bekok in Johore. He is wearing the ribbons of the Naval General Service Medal 1909-1962 and the General Service Medal 1918-1962 – both with the clasp 'MALAYA'.

Among the attendees at this foundation dinner with the earliest membership numbers were Ross Ortmann (number 'AS001'), Jim Deering ('AS011') and Don Cameron ('AS014'). Ross Ortmann (1935-2002), who had served with 2RAR during the Malayan Emergency, was President and Secretary from the establishment of the SA Branch in 1997 until his death on 19 May 2002, aged 66. Don Cameron succeeded Jim Deering as Treasurer, serving from 1997 to 2005.

Jim was among the first to join the re-formed South Australian Branch of the NMBVAA, established by the inaugural Annual General Meeting held at the Hilton RSL on Saturday 21 August 2010.

At this meeting, Brian 'Snowy' Selby was elected President of the SA&NT Branch (membership number '5001'). Among the other early members were Don Cameron ('5002') and Jenny Cameron ('5004'), Alan Davies ('5005') and Di Davies ('5011'), and Jim Deering ('5012').

Jim travelled to Australia in 1970 under the Assisted Passage Migration Scheme, with his wife Jacqueline Jane (née Alderton, born 10 December 1934) and children James Corry (born 1965) and Catherine Jane (1967), by aircraft departing the UK on 5 October 1970.

Jim was a founding member of the association of Malaya and Borneo veterans in South Australia, which was affiliated with the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association in the United Kingdom (NMBVA).

Jim and Jackie became members on 17 July 1995.

The South Australian sub-branch had as its Chairman Raymond (Dick) Villiers from Coromandel Valley, who had joined on 7 July 1995. Jim Deering from Hope Valley was Treasurer, and in 1996 John Murray from Salisbury became Secretary.

On 29 February 1996 an Australian national association was established as a Company with Directors, registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission under the name "National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association (Australia) Incorporated".

This date represents the first occasion on which a uniquely Australian association of Malaya and Borneo veterans was established.

The National Headquarters was registered in Queensland, and the first Annual General Meeting was held at the RSL Geebung, with Richard Webber elected as the inaugural National Chairman.

Following this inaugural AGM, South Australian members gathered on Wednesday 31 June 1997 to form a state branch.

SA GOVERNOR, SA NT BRANCH PATRON

The Hon. Hieu Van Le AC hosted Jim Deering, Bill Hanson, Roger Burzacott, Paul Bayliss, Don Cameron and Brian Selby at Government House on Wednesday, 6 July, for morning tea. The purpose of the visit was to present the Governor with his SA NT Branch Membership Certificate and a NMBVAA Inc plaque. *Banyak bagus...*

L-R Paul Bayliss, Bill Hanson, Hon. Hieu Van Le AC, Brian Selby, Don Cameron, Roger Burzacott, Jim Deering.....



This extract from 'The Observation Post' of June-July 2016 shows Jim Deering (far right) with His Excellency the Governor of South Australia at Government House on 6 July 2016 with fellow members of the SA&NT Branch, NMBVAA.

In 2011, the Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs designated 31 August (the date of Malayan Independence in 1957) as the official date of commemoration for the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia. On Wednesday 31 August 2011, Jim attended the inaugural Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service in Adelaide, which was held at the National War Memorial on North Terrace.

The principal guest was His Excellency Rear-Admiral Kevin Scarce AC AO(Mil) CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia. The Catafalque Party was provided by No 604 Squadron, Australian Air Force Cadets. The ceremony was followed by a reunion at the Adelaide Rowing Club beside the River Torrens.

Jim's wife Jackie (Jacqueline Jane, née Alderton, 1934-2016) passed away in Adelaide on 28 February 2016, aged 81. A Service of Farewell to celebrate Jackie's life was held on Friday 4 March 2016.

At the SA/NT Branch Christmas Lunch on Saturday 10 December 2022, Jim was announced as a recipient of a Certificate of Membership in recognition of 10 years' membership of the South Australia & Northern Territory Branch of the NMBVAA since its reformation in 2010.



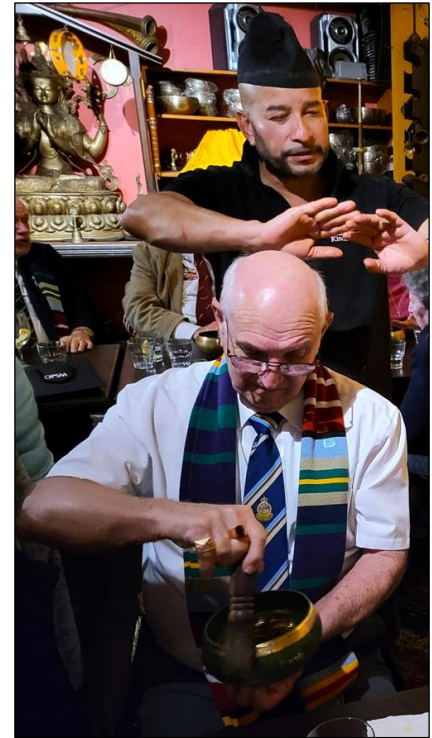
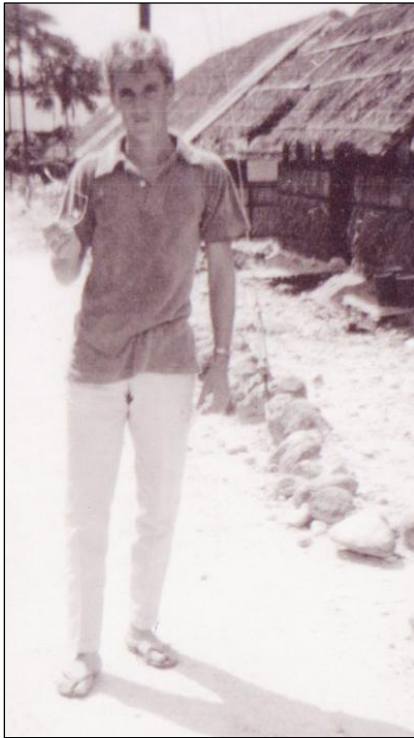
Jim Deering (centre) at the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the SA/NT Branch on 29 September 2017.



Jim was among the first to join the re-formed South Australian Branch of the NMBVAA – on 21 August 2010.

At the SA/NT Branch Christmas Lunch on Saturday 10 December 2022, Jim was presented with a Certificate of Membership in recognition of 10 years' membership of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA since its reformation in 2010.

The Branch was privileged to have the Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, His Excellency Dr Justin Lee, in attendance to present these certificates.



23546795 Corporal Chris Howard **British Army**

Chris Howard served in post-independence Malaya in 1959-62, during and immediately after the Emergency, as a Corporal (Aircraft Technician) with the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, attached to 656 Squadron of the Army Air Corps. Chris has been a member of the South Australia & Northern Territory Branch, NMBVAA since 2015.

* * * * *

Christopher James Howard was born in the UK on 4 December 1939, the son of Frederick George Howard. Frederick had been born on 29 January 1912, and he enlisted in the British Regular Army in 1931 at the age of 19. He joined the 1st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment and served during World War 2 on garrison duties in El Daba in Egypt, in Palestine, at Moascar and Mersa Matruh, and then in Malta, later serving as an Artificer with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and achieving the rank of Warrant Officer Class 1. When the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda asked the British Government to reopen the military barracks, WO1 Howard was offered the job with a Captain but a WO2 was required, so Frederick reverted in rank to Warrant Officer Class 2 in 1951 and served in Bermuda until 1953. He saw operational service during the Suez Crisis, later receiving the General Service Medal 1918-1962 with clasp 'CANAL ZONE' (awarded retrospectively in 2003 for service between October 1951 and October 1954). He took his discharge in 1960 after almost three decades of service.

Chris Howard enlisted in the Regular Army on 17 March 1958. In April 1958 he joined 1 Platoon, 'A' Company of No 1 Training Battalion of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) at Blandford. He underwent REME Corps training and was given the rank of Craftsman. He spent his military career posted to REME Light Aircraft Squadron Detachments in support of the Army Air Corps.

The Army Air Corps, the aviation arm of the British Army, was first formed in 1942 and has today grown to some eight regiments as well as independent flights and independent squadrons which deploy in support of operations. The wartime Army Air Corps was disbanded in 1949, but in 1957 the 'Glider Pilot and Parachute Corps' was split, creating the Parachute Regiment as an independent formation, while the Glider Pilot Regiment was merged with the Air Observation Squadrons of the Royal Artillery into a new unit – the Army Air Corps.

The post-war service of the RAF was largely a colonial policing role, conducting internal security operations from the late 1940s through to the early 1970s. The largest such commitment was the Malayan Emergency, and the provision of Air Support during the Emergency was code-named Operation 'Firedog'. No 656 Squadron, RAF was established on 29 June 1948 at Sembawang in Malaya, to operate in support of Army and Police operations against Communist Terrorists during the Malayan Emergency. It comprised a Squadron Headquarters and four Air Observation Post Flights – 1902, 1907, 1911 and 1914 – which operated independently from small airstrips in Perak, Taiping and Ipoh. In April 1950, Squadron Headquarters moved to Noble Field in Kuala Lumpur.

The Far East Air Force (FEAF) had its headquarters in Singapore and bases throughout Malaya: its role was to support the police, army and the civil government in their counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency operations. Air Headquarters Malaya, was based at Changi on Singapore Island when the insurgency began, with an Advanced Headquarters at Kuala Lumpur. The Air Force operations centre was located at GHQ Malaya District, Kuala Lumpur: this ultimately evolved into a fully-fledged Joint Operations Centre for the campaign. In total, 31 different basic types of aircraft in 36 versions were engaged in 'Firedog' over 12 years. On 1 September 1957, No 656 Squadron, RAF went over to Army control as No 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps.



Corporal Chris Howard (indicated by the red dot) with the pilots and ground crew of 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps with an Auster Mk 9 at Noble Field in Kuala Lumpur, circa 1960.

Chris deployed to Malaya on 12 May 1959, as an Aircraft Technician with 656 Squadron. He was first based in Ipoh with 2 Recce Flight, then at Taiping with 7 Recce Flight (see image upper left) in North Malaya, and then with 14 Liaison Flight at Noble Field in Kuala Lumpur.

On 28 February 1959, the squadron had completed 150,000 operational hours in support of the Emergency in Malaya – noted as being equivalent to seventeen years of non-stop flying by a single Auster, or 498 times around the world.

The squadron performed a total of 143,000 operations in Malaya during its time in support of Operation 'Firedog'. Early aircraft in use with the AAC were the Taylorcraft Auster Mk 7, and later Mk 9, fixed-wing light aircraft (light communication plane), the Saunders-Roe Skeeter 7 helicopter (introduced in 1958), and later the Aérospatiale Alouette II and Westland Scout AH 1.

With its Auster AOP Mk 9 aircraft, the squadron carried out 171,241 sorties plus some 40,000 training, demonstration and air test flights. It located 2,140 Communist Terrorist camps, dropped 6,675 pounds of supplies, and carried 50,000 passengers.

The Auster primarily served as an Air Observation Post (AOP), and carried flares which were used as target markers during jungle bombing raids: the squadron conducted 3,500 air spotting sorties for the Royal Artillery, and conducted some 4,000 air strikes for bombers.

The Auster was also used to drop leaflets for psychological warfare operations: it is estimated that some 237 million leaflets were dropped during the Emergency.

656 Squadron lost three pilots during the emergency in aircraft crashes in the jungle, but only one could be recovered. He was buried in the Taiping (Kamunting Road) Christian Cemetery in Perak, with Chris Howard participating as member of the Guard of Honour.



Chris and Barb Howard pictured on Anzac Day 2020 with their son Leo (left) and grandson Jake (right).



Above: 14 Liaison Flight of 656 Squadron at Noble Field in Kuala Lumpur, Malaya circa 1960 with Auster AOP Mk 9 serial number 'WZ721', which saw service in the Far East during the Malayan Emergency and in Germany with the British Army on the Rhine (photo taken by Chris Howard, 14 Flight).



Left: Auster AOP9 serial number 'WZ721', now on display in the Army Flying Museum in Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hampshire.



At commemorative services in Adelaide and in Kuching members of the SAINT Branch, NMBVAA solemnly repeat the promise to remember the fallen, while at the same time honouring the surviving veterans.

Chris and Barbara Howard are pictured here attending the 2022 Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service in Adelaide.

The government of the Federation of Malaya officially declared the Emergency over on 31 July 1960, but Chris continued to serve on the Malay Peninsula until 28 May 1962. For his service during the Malayan Emergency, Chris received the General Service Medal 1918-1962 with clasp 'MALAYA'. Because his service was after 31 August 1957 (the date of Malaya's independence), he later became entitled to receive the *Pingat Jasa Malaysia* from the Malaysian government.

The *Pingat Jasa Malaysia* ('Service to Malaysia Award') was created in 2004 as an operational campaign medal for members of the Malaysian Armed Forces, but it was also offered to members of Commonwealth forces. In 2005, the UK initially refused the medal as 'contrary to British Medals Policy'. After intensive lobbying by veteran groups, on 31 January 2006 British veterans were approved to accept the medal, but they were not allowed to wear it.

After further lobbying, on 6 November 2011 British veterans were given permission to wear the PJM, starting with Remembrance Sunday in 2011 ('unrestricted permission to receive and wear').

Chris briefly returned to the UK, and then from 22 August 1962 served with British Forces Germany until 10 February 1964, with 655 Squadron, Army Air Corps. 655 Squadron had been created as an RAF Air Observation Post unit in 1942, and during the war served in North Africa and Italy. The squadron was reformed in Hildesheim, Germany on 1 April 1962 as an Army Air Corps Light Aircraft Squadron.

The squadron was assigned to the British Army on the Rhine (BAOR) in the Rhineland of West Germany to face the potential threat of Soviet invasion into West Germany during the Cold War. 655 Light Aircraft Squadron, AAC served as the 1st (British) Corps support squadron at Detmold in West Germany, providing battlefield support, observation, casualty evacuation and anti-tank guided weapon operations in the forward area, in anticipation of a European war involving the armies of the Warsaw Pact.

During its service with BAOR, the squadron operated the Auster Mk 9 Air Observation Post as well as the Aérospatiale Alouette II, the Westland-upgraded Bell 47 G4, and the Westland 'Scout' AH 1 helicopters.

Corporal Howard served at home from 11 February to 13 April 1964, completing a total of 6 years and 28 days in the Regular Army.

Chris continued in uniform as a member of the Army Reserve in South Wigston, south of Leicester in Leicestershire, serving with REME until 16 March 1970, completing a total of 5 years and 334 days as an Army Reservist – for a total of 12 years' military service.

Chris and his wife Barbara, with their two children Mercedes and Leo, emigrated to Australia, arriving in May 1977. They have lived in South Australia since their arrival, and Chris ran a business at Lonsdale from 1978 until his retirement in 2024.

Chris joined the REME Association of South Australia. Chris and Barbara joined the SA/NT Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc on 7 August 2015, and have been regular attenders at the Branch's services of commemoration.

Each year in August, on the Friday closest to 31 August (Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day), the Branch hosts a commemoration service in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens with the generous support of the Mayor and the City of West Torrens Council. This service marks the anniversaries of the end of the Malayan Emergency (1948-1960) and the end of the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia (1962-1966) – part of the Branch's four-pronged approach to commemoration, to 'Remember the Fallen'.

At the Branch Annual General Meeting on Friday 16 August 2024, Mayor Glenn Docherty of the City of Playford was Guest Speaker. After his address, Mayor Docherty presented Chris Howard with a Certificate of Membership in recognition of 10 years' continuous membership of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA. There was also a Certificate for Barb Howard, which Chris kindly accepted on her behalf.



Chris Howard received a Certificate of Membership in recognition of 10 years' membership of the SA/NT Branch at the Branch AGM at the Maid of Auckland Hotel on Friday 16 August 2024.

The Branch was privileged to have Mayor Glenn Docherty of the City of Playford as Guest Speaker, to present a number of certificates to our members.

Army form B108

Certificate of Service

Army No. 23546795
Surname HOWARD
Christian or Fore Name(s) CHRISTOPHER JAMES
Enlisted at 1 TRG BN REME
Enlisted on 17 MAR 58
Corps for which enlisted ROYAL ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

Warning

Should this certificate be lost or mislaid no duplicate can be obtained. Should, however, loss be due to exceptional circumstances, a certificate, on Army Form B108A may be obtained on application to the officer-in-charge, Records concerned.

The person to whom this Certificate is issued should on no account part with it, or forward it by post when applying for a situation but should use a copy.

Any alteration of the particulars given in this Certificate may render the holder liable to prosecution under the Seamen's and Soldiers' False Characters Act, 1906.

Soldiers on leaving Her Majesty's Service are hereby reminded that the unauthorized communication by them to another person AT ANY TIME of any information they may have acquired which might be useful to an enemy in War renders them liable to prosecution under the Official Secrets Acts.

T91-3287 WLS8353 25,000 Bks. 1/63 B & T Nottm.

Certificate of Transfer to Army Reserve

Date of Transfer 13 APRIL 1964
Rank on Transfer CORPORAL
Cause of Transfer QR 1951 para 502 (ii) (a) (i)
AT 501015 GWD. TRAGUAT. RIF. SHR. DOLCA
Corps from which Transferred REME
Army Service on Date of Transfer 6 years 28 days
Placed Ch. Light. Sec. Major (Signature)
Date 19 MAR 1970 Officer in charge REME Records

Certificate of Discharge

Date of Discharge 16 MARCH 1970
Rank on Discharge CORPORAL
Cause of Discharge THE REG. DIS. (ARMY) REG. PT. II. Para 100. (iii)
ON TERMINATION OF SERVICE IN REG. A. SAR
Corps from which Discharged REME
Service on (a) in Army Service 6 years 28 days
Date of Discharge (b) in the Reserve 5 years 23 days
TOTAL SERVICE 11 years - days
Place WILSTON (Signature)
LEICESTER
Date 16 MAR 1970 Officer in charge SAR REME RECORD OFFICE Records

The inside pages of Chris Howard's 'B108' Army Record of Service booklet record his enlistment in the Regular Army on 17 March 1958, his appointment to the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME), his discharge from the Regular Army on 13 April 1964, and his discharge from the Army Reserve on 16 March 1970, completing a total of 12 years' military service.

REME Military Training Certificate

This is to Certify that No. 23546795
Rank CPL Name H. HOWARD, C.
has passed the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineer's Military Training Test held at Noble Field, Kuala Lumpur
on 19 November 1960 and is awarded Class A1/II/III
Certificate of Proficiency.

DRILL	% Marks	WEAPON TRAINING	% Marks	MAP READING	% Marks	TACTICS PRACTICAL	% Marks
Elementary	75	T.O.E.T. Std.	65	Elementary	70	Fieldcraft	50
Squad drill	65	Knowledge of subject	60	Practical	60	Section Leading	50
Coy drill	-	Instructional ability	60			Corps Trg in Field	-

Issued on this 2 day of December 1960
at Noble Field, Kuala Lumpur
H W Storey
Officer Commanding
Unit 656 Light Aircraft Squadron Workshops REME

Printed by The War Press & Co., Faversham

4

Army service, showing transfers if any, to other Corps.

Corps	Country	From	To
REME	UK	17 MAR 58	13 MAY 59
REME	MALAYA	12 MAY 59	28 MAY 62
REME	UK	29 MAY 62	21 AUG 62
REME	GERMANY	22 AUG 62	10 FEB 64
REME	HOMES	11 FEB 64	13 APR 64
RESERVE SERVICE		14 FEB 64	16 MAR 70

Medals, clasps, decorations, mentions in despatches and any special acts of gallantry or distinguished conduct recorded on the regimental conduct sheet.

GSM AND CLASP MALAYA

WTC
3037

After the government of the Federation of Malaya officially declared the Emergency finished on 31 July 1960, Corporal Chris Howard continued to serve in Malaya as an Aircraft Technician with 14 Liaison Flight, 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps.

He was required to undergo REME Military Training Testing at Noble Field in Kuala Lumpur on 19 November 1960.

On 9 December 1960 he was issued with this Certificate of Proficiency by Major HW Storey, Officer Commanding 656 Light Aircraft Squadron Workshops REME.

Chris Howard's 'B108' Army Record of Service booklet records his service in the Federation of Malaya from 12 May 1959 to 28 May 1962.

For his service during the Malayan Emergency, up to 31 July 1960, he received the General Service Medal 1918-1962 with clasp 'MALAYA'.

On 31 January 2006 he was approved to accept (but not wear) the Pingat Jasa Malaysia. On 6 November 2011 he was given 'unrestricted permission to receive and wear' the PJM.



Oscar Johnsson (left) at a Garden Reception at Government House, Adelaide hosted by His Excellency the Governor of South Australia, the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, and Mrs Lan Le.

4/410117 Private Oscar Johnsson Australian Regular Army

In his long military career in the Australian Regular Army, Oscar Johnsson saw operational service in the Federation of Malaya in 1957-59 during the Malayan Emergency, and on the Malay Peninsula in 1963-65, in Sarawak on Borneo in 1965, and in South Vietnam in 1968-69. Oscar has been a member of the South Australia & Northern Territory Branch, NMBVAA continually since 2010.

Wallace Martin 'Oscar' Johnsson was born in Alberton on 30 March 1937, the son of Arthur and Mary Johnsson of Port Adelaide.

His father, Arthur Armstrong Johnsson (1902-1975), was born in Port Adelaide on 14 June 1902, the fifth and last child of John Johnsson (1848-1936). John Johnsson had been born in Vänersborg, Västra Götaland in Sweden in 1848, and in 1864 at the age of 16 emigrated with his 20 year old brother on the passenger ship *SS Eastern Empire*. John married Eliza Gray Armstrong (1854-1935) at St Paul's Church in Adelaide on 10 October 1887.

Eliza was the daughter of Alfred Armstrong (1826-1904) from Glasgow, Scotland, a 27 year old engineer who arrived at Port Phillip Bay on the *SS New Orleans* on 13 October 1852, and Christina (née Wards, 1830-1912) from Everby on the island of Bressay within the Shetland archipelago northeast of Scotland who arrived in Adelaide on the *SS Charlotte Jane* in 1852, aged 21.

John and Eliza's first child Robert John Johnsson (1889-1978), Oscar's uncle, was employed as a Signaller with the South Australian Railways, aged 25, when he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 4 August 1915. Robert was the only person with the surname 'Johnsson' to serve in the AIF during the Great War. He saw operational service in Europe with the 13th Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps (7963 Lance Corporal Robert John Johnsson), and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM).

Oscar's grandmother Eliza died on 16 June 1935, aged 70, and John died on 24 September 1936, aged 80; they were buried together in Cheltenham Cemetery.

Their fifth child, Arthur Armstrong Johnsson, registered on 1 January 1917 with Official Number '918', to serve under the Universal Training Scheme – the first National Service scheme in Australia. In 1929, Arthur married Mary Kirsten Nielson (born in 1906) in Port Adelaide, and Oscar was born in 1937.

Oscar was a member of the 3 January 1956 intake for National Service Training (Registration Number 'S18607'). This was the third National Service scheme in Australia, which commenced in 1951 and ended in 1957: all men aged 18 were required to register for national service and to undertake various training obligations, depending on which force they served in.

Oscar underwent training with the 16th National Service Training Battalion at Woodside in the Adelaide Hills, however on 3 October 1956, at the age of 19, he enlisted in the Australian Regular Army.

He was given the Service number '4/410117' – with the '4' prefix indicating an enlistment in South Australia, the army's 4th Military District. He completed recruit training at Kapooka, and infantry Corps training at Ingleburn, and was assigned to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps (RAINF). He believed he was being posted as a Rifleman to the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR).

The battalion had been formed on Morotai on 20 October 1945 as the 67th Battalion, a component of the 34th Australian Infantry Brigade, and had served with the Occupation Force in Japan. The battalion was redesignated '3rd Battalion, Australian Regiment' in November 1948, and the regiment was granted the Royal prefix on 31 March 1949. From Japan, 3RAR deployed directly to Pusan for duty with the United Nations force during the Korean War, largely serving with the 1st Commonwealth Division.

The battalion was awarded the US Distinguished Unit Citation (as it was then known) for 'extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of combat duties in action against the armed enemy' near Kapyong on 23 and 24 April 1951.

He was in fact detailed to join Support Company. As a unique distinction, Oscar Johnsson wore the gold-framed blue ribbon citation emblem on each shoulder for the duration of his posting to 3RAR.

Private Johnsson embarked in Sydney with the 3RAR Signals Platoon on HMT *New Australia* on 25 September 1957. He recalls that prior to departure for Malaya the Commanding Officer briefed the troops: "*The only thing I can promise you over there is hard work*".

3RAR disembarked in Singapore on 11 October 1957, and then replaced 2RAR as the Australian battalion assigned to the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group, a formation which had been created in Malaya on 16 September 1955. All ground forces came under the operational command of Headquarters Far East Land Forces (FARELF).

The arrival of 3RAR followed closely upon the celebration of the granting of independence from the British Empire on 31 August 1957 – *Hari Merdeka* ('Independence Day').

The battalion first underwent acclimatisation and training at the FARELF Training Centre at Kota Tinggi, and then in November joined 28 COMWEL Brigade at Minden Barracks on the eastern side of Penang Island.

3 RAR established its Battalion Headquarters at Kuala Kangsar, and the rifle companies occupied base camps at Lasah, Sungei Siput, Penang and Lintang. From November 1957, the battalion was engaged in military operations against the Malayan National Liberation Army (MNLA) in northern Malaya. Many MNLA camps and food dumps were located and destroyed.

Oscar served as a Regimental Signaller, operating from a communications centre in the local police station in Sungei Siput. He also accompanied the rifle platoons on 'long patrols'.

On 1 December, 3RAR joined Operation 'Shark North', an ongoing search and security mission which aimed to destroy the communist influence in the Kuala Kangsar and Upper Perak districts.

From January 1958, the battalion joined Operation 'Ginger' with the intent of disrupting food supply by searching the areas between terrorist bases and food stores. When Operation 'Ginger' concluded on 21 April 1959, Perak was declared a safe area.

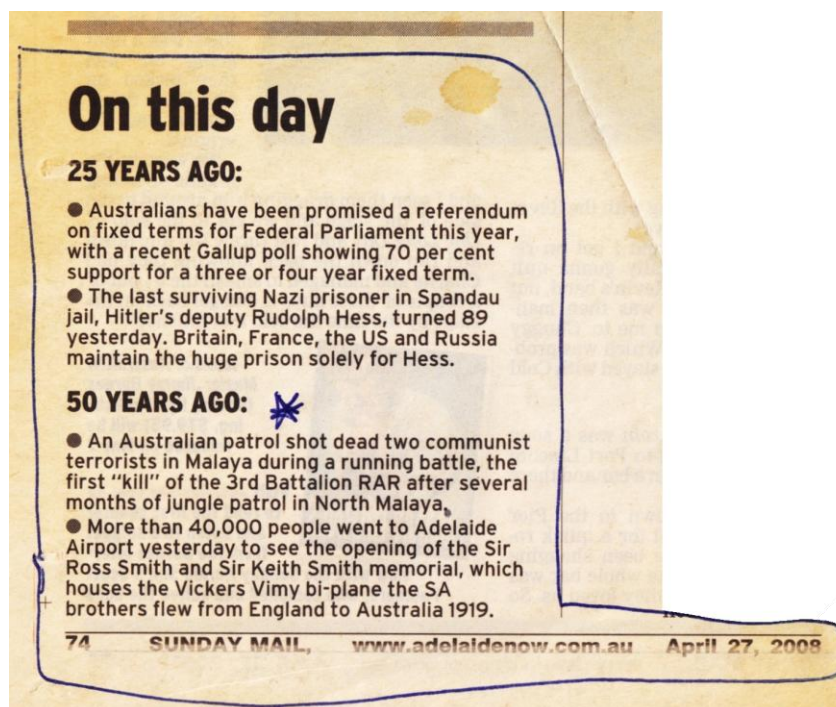
Late in 3RAR's tour of duty, Private Johnsson emplaned in Singapore on 27 August 1959, arriving in Melbourne the following day. At the beginning of October, 3RAR was succeeded in Malaya by the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR).

The Government of the Federation of Malaya declared the Emergency over on 31 July 1960.

For his service during the Malayan Emergency, Oscar received the General Service Medal 1918-1962 with clasp 'MALAYA', and the Returned from Active Service Badge.

He also qualified for the Infantry Combat Badge after it was established by the Military Board in January 1970, being made retrospective to include operations in Malaya from 16 June 1948.

This news clipping from the 'Adelaide Sunday Mail' of 27 April 2008 relates the circumstances of a successful action against Communist Terrorists (CTs) carried out by the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR) in 1958.



GENERAL INDEX		PROM (620/2011/58)	AAF A 274
Emb "New Australia" Sydney for Singapore 25/9/57		Surname JOHNSSON (BLOCK CAPITALS)	
Disemb	Singapore 11.10.57	Other Names W. M.	
Emb SINGAPORE FOR POST Dep MELB 27.8.59 28.8.59		4/410117	
		Personal or Army No	
		Rank Pte	
		Unit 3 RAR	
THE GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL With Clasp — Malaya ENG		DISCHARGED! 2/10/59 R.A.S.B. No 401772 P. with Discharge 25/10/59.	
2 3 AHQ Press. RAAOC—136/55—4/55—1M 4 5 6		SP Coy <i>Ensigned on SS 'Braside' Melb 1.7.58.</i>	

Record of issue of the General Service Medal 1918-1962 with clasp 'MALAYA' and the Returned from Active Service Badge to Private Wallace Martin Johnsson (Australian War Memorial: GSM Army-AF Register H-J, AWM2017.877.1.14).

Because his deployment included service after 31 August 1957 (the date of Malaya's independence), Oscar subsequently also received the *Pingat Jasa Malaysia* from the Malaysian government.

Oscar took his discharge from the Australian Regular Army on 2 October 1959, however he re-enlisted on 1 June 1961 at the age of 24. He was given the new Service number '42680' (the oblique stroke in post-war Regular Army numbers was discontinued in 1961). Oscar was again assigned to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps (RAINF) and was posted to the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR). In the 1963 Electoral Roll, Oscar was recorded as living in the 3RAR Barracks at Enoggera, Queensland.

In December 1962 Oscar deployed with 'C' Company, 3RAR to Terendak Garrison in Malacca, Malaysia for service with the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve. The battalion was assigned to the 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Group, which had been formed at Minden Barracks on Penang Island on 16 September 1955 for operations during the Malan Emergency.

After independence on 31 August 1957, the brigade relocated from Penang to Malacca. Bukit Terendak close to Malacca was chosen for the new Brigade Headquarters, housing the entire brigade with its infantry battalions and support units, a military hospital, airstrip, married quarters areas and a shopping precinct. The construction and occupation of Terendak was completed by August 1962.

During Oscar's deployment to the Malay Peninsula (1962-65), he participated in counter-insurgency patrols on the Thai-Malay Border with 3RAR between 20 February and 5 April 1964, under command of the 17th Gurkha Division (Far East Land Forces). His deployment included 'special service' from 17 August 1964 to 20 March 1965 on Operation 'Crimp', the Australian Army deployments during the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia. Oscar was awarded the General Service Medal, 1962– with clasp 'MALAY PENINSULA'.

On 13 February, 3RAR was warned to prepare for a deployment to Sarawak, and the first advance parties went to Kuching on 15 and 19 February.

On 20 March, Private Johnsson embarked with 'C' Company in Singapore on the *Auby*.

The company disembarked in Kuching on 22 March, and the platoons were moved by truck to Bau. From Bau, they moved by 'tactical march' to the company's border position at Kampung Serikin – hoping this would impress the Gurkhas at the border.

All companies of the battalion were in position on 23 March, and on that same day 3RAR relieved the 1st Battalion, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles (1/7GR) and assumed responsibility for the Bau sector in the First Division of Sarawak.

The Australian forces were assigned under the command of Headquarters West Brigade (based on Headquarters 99 Gurkha Infantry Brigade). 3RAR's task was to defend the line of approach from Indonesian territory to Kuching by taking responsibility for a sector of the Sarawak-Kalimantan border, some 23 km in length.

The battalion conducted counter-insurgency patrols from fortified company patrol bases in the Bau District, close to the border between Sarawak and Indonesian Kalimantan.

Oscar was based with 'C' Company, 3RAR near Kampung Serikin – the middle of the three forward company positions, covering a major Indonesian infiltration route, the Jagoi Ridge running between Serikin and Stass to the northwest.



The Australian Military Forces insignia was worn on the left shoulder of the Jungle Green shirt from 1965 onwards by Army personnel serving overseas.



Members of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA at the Adelaide Rowing Club with Air Force Cadets from No 604 Squadron following the inaugural Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service on Wednesday 31 August 2011 – Oscar Johnsson is standing, eighth from the left.

On 14 July 1965, the battalion advance party departed Sarawak by RAF aircraft for Terendak Camp in Malacca. On the same day, an advance party of the 2nd Battalion, 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles (2/10GR) arrived at Cambrai Camp in Bau.

3RAR Routine Order No 176 was promulgated on 28 July – an 'Order of the Day' marking the battalion's departure from Sarawak. Oscar embarked with the 3RAR main body on the morning of 28 July: the companies were lifted by Royal Navy helicopter from their operational locations direct to HMAS *Albion* for return to Terendak, Malacca.

Two companies of 2/10GR deployed to the forward locations, and at midday the Gurkha battalion assumed responsibility for the Bau sector.

HMAS *Albion* sailed for Singapore the following morning. After a three-day voyage, on 31 July the *Albion* arrived off Malacca and the battalion stormed ashore in assault landing craft. Standing on the beach were senior staff officers and families to welcome them home.

For this service during Confrontation, Oscar was awarded the clasp 'Borneo' to his General Service Medal.

A farewell parade to mark the departure of 3RAR from Terendak Camp was held on Thursday 9 September 1965. Oscar transferred with the battalion to a new barracks – Kapyong Lines in Woodside Army Camp in the Adelaide Hills. Corporal Johnsson was posted as cadre staff for the formation of the 9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (9RAR) for service in Vietnam.

Oscar married Joan at Woodside Barracks in December 1967. He then deployed to South Vietnam, serving as a Sergeant Instructor and Platoon Commander with 1 Australian Reinforcement Unit from 10 June to 12 November 1968. He then served with 9RAR from 13 November 1968 to 9 June 1969.

Oscar was subsequently awarded the Australian Active Service Medal, 1945-75 with clasps 'Malaya', 'Malaysia' and 'Vietnam', and the Australian Service Medal, 1945-75 with clasps 'SE Asia' and 'Thai-Malay'.

After Vietnam, Oscar was posted as a Staff-Sergeant to 1 Recruit Training Battalion at Wagga (1969-72). In January 1972, Oscar and Joan moved to Mildura where he was based as part of the Regular Army cadre with an Army Reserve unit, the 1st Independent Rifle Company.

On 27 January 1978, Staff-Sergeant Johnsson was awarded the National Medal for 15 years' long service in the Australian Army (*Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, S26 dated 10 February 1978). This medal was instituted by Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia by Letters Patent dated 14 February 1975 to recognise long service by operational members of specified eligible organisations, including the Australian Defence Force. It was introduced as an original component of the new Australian Honours System.

He also received the Defence Force Service Medal, awarded to permanent members of the Australian Defence Force for 15 years of diligent service. Oscar took his discharge from the Army on 1 November 1978, holding the rank of Staff-Sergeant, and was farewelled from the Army in the 3RAR Sergeants Mess.

On 18 January 2002, Oscar was awarded the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal. This commemorative medal was instituted by Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia, by Letters Patent dated 10 October 2001. It was established to recognise those who completed their obligation under the two National Service schemes that had operated in Australia between 1951 and 1972.

He was subsequently also awarded the Australian Defence Medal after it was instituted by Letters Patent dated 20 March 2006.

Oscar joined the South Australian Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc on 30 April 2010.

The inaugural Annual General Meeting, held to 'reform' the South Australian Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc, was held at the Hilton RSL on Saturday 21 August 2010. There were 24 members in attendance, who also enjoyed a light luncheon provided by the Hilton RSL Ladies Auxiliary.

At this meeting, Brian 'Snowy' Selby was elected President of the SA&NT Branch. Brian's membership number was '5001'; among the other early members were Don Cameron ('5002') and Jenny Cameron ('5004'), Alan Davies ('5005') and Di Davies ('5011'), Jim Deering ('5012') and Oscar Johnsson (membership number '5069').



Oscar Johnsson (right) marching with members of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA during the Adelaide Anzac March on Monday 25 April 2022 (image courtesy of Luke Scott Photography).

In 2011, the Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs designated 31 August (the date of Malayan Independence in 1957) as the official date of commemoration for the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia.

Oscar attended the inaugural Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service, held by the SA/NT Branch at the National War Memorial on North Terrace in Adelaide on Wednesday 31 August 2011. Among the other Malayan Emergency veterans in attendance at this service were Jim Deering and Ansel Mathews.

The principal guest was His Excellency Rear-Admiral Kevin Scarce AC AO(Mil) CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia.

The Catafalque Party was provided by No 604 Squadron, Australian Air Force Cadets from Hampstead Barracks, beginning a long-standing tradition of support for the SA/NT Branch each year since that date. The ceremony was followed by a reunion at the Adelaide Rowing Club beside the River Torrens.

At the SA/NT Branch Christmas Lunch on Saturday 10 December 2022, Oscar was announced as a recipient of a Certificate of Membership in recognition of 10 years' membership of the South Australia & Northern Territory Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc, since its reformation in 2010.

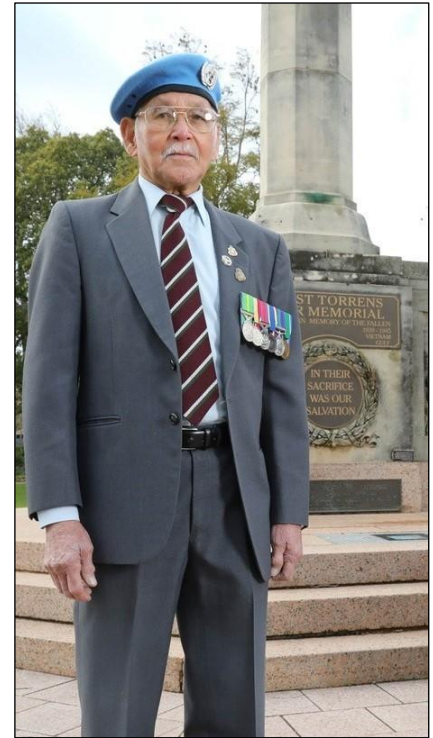
When Oscar became unable to attend the Branch events and Christmas Lunches, he would donate a 'mystery gift' which typically involved much unwrapping and unravelling, with a very generous gift contained inside.



Oscar's mystery gift 'He Who Dares, Wins' at the 2023 Christmas Lunch was won by Lynne Nicholson



Oscar's mystery gift 'You Beaut' at the 2024 Christmas Lunch was won by Crisel Rosenzweig



200046 Major Ansel Mathews Malayan Federation Army

In his long military career in the Malayan Federation Army and Royal Malaysian Army, Ansel saw service in the United Kingdom and Germany, peacekeeping service in the Congo, warlike service on jungle operations on the Malay Peninsula, and representational service in the UK – as well as operational service against the Communist Terrorists during the Malayan Emergency. Ansel has been a member of the South Australia & Northern Territory Branch, NMBVAA continually since 2011.

Ansel Emile Mathews was born on 2 September 1933, the son of Michael Mathews, a Eurasian high school teacher who lived at the foot of the mountains near the coastal town of Batu Pahat in the State of Johore, in the Federation of Malaya.

Beside Michael's property was the site occupied by an Australian infantry battalion of the Second AIF until December 1941; Michael knew many of them before the Japanese occupation and their captivity, and retained throughout his life souvenirs from these Diggers including a walking stick, letters and rising sun badges.

Michael Mathews later recalled that the Medical Officer Captain Hazelton came out in the middle of the night to attend to his sick daughter – this was most likely NX35134 Captain Alan Richard Hazelton, of 'C' Company, 2/10 Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps, who was taken prisoner of war in Singapore in February 1942 and was held in camps along the Burma-Thai railway where he was the Senior Medical Officer for 'D Force', and at Nakom Pathom Base Camp in Thailand.

Ansel enlisted in the Malayan Army in Kuala Lumpur on 1 April 1953. This followed a nationwide recruiting tour and the selection of a group of young Malayan men specifically to support the creation of the multiracial 'Federation Regiment'. The first candidates were named the '12 Superb Men' by the Malayan Press – they were first sent to Eaton Hall in Chester, and then underwent Officer Cadet Training at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

Ansel first completed Officer Cadet training at Port Dickson in the Federation of Malaya in 1954 in order to serve in the Malayan Army. He was then selected to attend a Short Service Commission training course at Eaton Hall in Cheshire, UK. He was then posted to the Royal Military Academy–Sandhurst to complete the Regular Army officer course. After this, he completed a Platoon Commander course, and various other specialist courses.

In 1954, Lieutenant Mathews was posted for duty with the 1st Battalion, Royal Ulster Rifles based at Colchester.

In April, 1RUR deployed to Anglesey Barracks in Wuppertal, Germany for duty with British Forces Germany, assigned to the British Army on the Rhine (BAOR) to face the potential threat of Soviet invasion into West Germany. 1RUR was assigned under command 6 Infantry Brigade, which had its headquarters in St Sebastian Barracks in Soest. BAOR was the British Army occupation force in the Rhineland of West Germany during the Cold War, part of NATO's Northern Army Group (NORTHAG). Its role was to defend the North German Plain from the armies of the Warsaw Pact.

After his tour of duty in Germany, Ansel returned to Malaya and was posted as a platoon commander in the 1st Battalion, Federation Regiment.



The decorations and medals from the military career of Major Ansel Mathews with the Malaysian Army – prior to receiving the Pingat Jasa Malaysia in 2024 (left to right):

Pingat Khidmat Berbakti (PKB): Active Service Medal, established by Tuanku Hisamuddin Alam Shah on 29 July 1960 as a reward for long service and good conduct with the Malaysian Armed Forces

Pingat Perkhidmatan Am (PPA): General Service Medal, established by Tuanku Hisamuddin Alam Shah on 29 July 1960 to recognise service by members of the Malaysian Armed Forces in support of the civilian population

Pingat Peringatan Malaysia: Malaysian Commemorative Medal, established by Tuanku Syed Putra in 1965 as a reward for meritorious service in the formation of the Federation of Malaysia on 16 September 1963

General Service Medal, 1918-1962: instituted by King George V on 19 January 1923; awarded with the clasp 'MALAYA'

United Nations Service Medal (UNOC): for service with the United Nations Operation in the Congo between 1960 and 1964

The Federation Regiment was created under the *Federation Regiment Bill* of July 1952, with the 1st Battalion formed soon after, comprising 434 men of all races, of which 75 were of Chinese descent. On 11 June 1956, the Federation Regiment, the Malay Regiment and an armoured vehicle squadron merged to form the 'Malayan Federation Army'.

The Federation Regiment was a multiracial infantry unit raised for operational service against the Communist Terrorists during the Malayan Emergency. Its creation was necessitated by the fact that the post-war Malay Regiment only had a strength of three infantry battalions and, with the onset of the Malayan Emergency, the British Administration determined that the regiment would comprise ten battalions – but the expansion did not occur as planned, and by 1957 only seven battalions had been raised.

At this time, Ansel completed further training at the Jungle Warfare School at Kota Tinggi in Johore as preparation for conducting jungle operations.

The 1st Battalion, Federation Regiment conducted successful counter-insurgency operations at Singei Bong near Butterworth, at Melaka and Muar, around Jasin, and in the District of Bahau. In a later posting, Ansel was an Intelligence Officer on the staff of Brigade Headquarters. For this service, Ansel received the Commonwealth General Service Medal 1918-1962 with clasp 'MALAYA'.

On 1 January 1960, the Federation Regiment and the Federation Reconnaissance Regiment amalgamated to create the 'Federation Reconnaissance Corps' – comprising two reconnaissance regiments. Ansel was posted to the 1st Reconnaissance Regiment.

Later in 1960, Ansel was assigned to 'C' Squadron of the 2nd Reconnaissance Regiment. The regiment deployed to the United Nations Operation in the Congo (Opération des Nations Unies au Congo, ONUC): this was a peacekeeping force in the Republic of the Congo established under UN Security Council Resolution 143 of 14 July 1960, launched to help restore stability to the Congo after it fell into conflict and disorder following independence. The ONUC 'Malayan Special Force' contingent despatched by Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman comprised a total of 613 personnel (42 officers and 571 other ranks). They were drawn from the 4th Battalion, the Royal Malay Regiment, and the 2nd Reconnaissance Regiment.

On return to Malaya, Ansel was posted as the regimental adjutant. On promotion to Major, he served as a squadron commander with the Federal Mobile Reserve. This was one of the first local units to engage Indonesian insurgents at Pontian, and near Labis in Johore at the start of the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia.

Ansel attended the UK Defence & Staff College, and was then posted as the Assistant Defence Advisor to the United Kingdom at the Malaysian High Commission in London. On his return to Malaysia, he was posted as Brigade Major – the brigade was responsible for containing the racial riots, particularly in the federal capital, Kuala Lumpur. The brigade relocated to Terendak Camp at Malacca in late 1971 after the 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Group withdrew from Malaya (the COMWEL Brigade ceased to exist on 31 October 1971 when it relocated to Singapore).

A final posting to the Ministry of Defence completed Ansel's military career, before he retired and emigrated to Australia with his wife Celine and children Michael (aged 13), Bryan (11) and Sharon (9) – arriving in January 1973 during a heat-wave just before Australia Day.

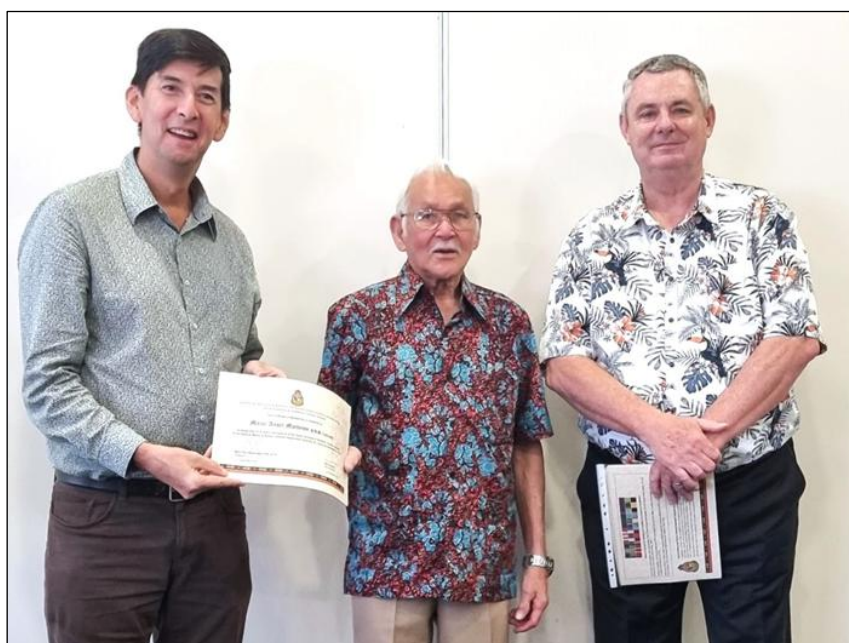
Ansel joined the SA/NT Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc on 24 January 2011, with membership number '5047'.

In 2011, the Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs designated 31 August (the date of Malayan Independence in 1957) as the official date of commemoration for the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia. Ansel Mathews attended the inaugural Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service, held in Adelaide at the National War Memorial on North Terrace on Wednesday 31 August 2011.

The principal guest was His Excellency Rear-Admiral Kevin Scarce AC AO(Mil) CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia. The Catafalque Party was provided by No 604 Squadron, Australian Air Force Cadets. The ceremony was followed by a reunion at the Adelaide Rowing Club beside the River Torrens.



Members of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA at the Adelaide Rowing Club following the inaugural Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service on Wednesday 31 August 2011 – Ansel Mathews is standing, fourth from the left.



Ansel joined the SA/NT Branch of the NMBVAA on 24 January 2011.

At the SA/NT Branch Christmas Lunch on Saturday 10 December 2022, Ansel was presented with a Certificate of Membership in recognition of 10 years' membership of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA since its reformation in 2010.

The Branch was privileged to have the Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, His Excellency Dr Justin Lee, in attendance to present these certificates.

In a small gathering of family, friends and Branch members at the OG Hotel in Adelaide on Sunday 26 May 2024, the *Pingat Jasa Malaysia* was presented to Major Ansel Mathews (ret'd) by State President Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd) assisted by Vice-President Don Cameron.

The *Pingat Jasa Malaysia* was established by the Government of Malaysia on 3 March 2004 to recognise service by members of the Malaysian Armed Forces during the First Malayan Emergency, the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia, and the Second Malayan Emergency.

The suspension ribbon is in the colours of the Malaysian national flag (*Jalur Gemilang*).

The medal awarded to Ansel bears the clasp 'DARURAT' ('Emergency'), rewarding operational service during the First Malayan Emergency between 31 August 1957 and 12 August 1966 (when awarded to Commonwealth personnel, the prescribed period ends on 31 July 1960).

Ansel's daughter Sharon joined the SA/NT Branch on 6 April 2011. At the Christmas Lunch on Saturday 10 December 2022, Sharon was presented with a Certificate of Membership in recognition of 10 years' membership since the Branch's reformation in 2010.

Her certificate was presented by the Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, His Excellency Dr Justin Lee.

Ansel's son Bryan continued the tradition of military service as a member of the Australian Army Reserve in the late 1970s and 1980s. Today he continues to serve as an Instructor of Cadets with the Australian Air Force Cadets.



The suspension ribbon of Ansel's Pingat Jasa Malaysia bears the clasp DARURAT ('Emergency'), recognising operational service during the First Malayan Emergency between 31 August 1957 and 12 August 1966.



Ansel Mathews after the NMBVAA Memorial dedication service in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens in Hilton on 22 April 2017.



Major Ansel Mathews receives the Pingat Jasa Malaysia from the State President of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd), at the OG Hotel in Klemzig on 26 May 2024.



Ansel with his family after he received the Pingat Jasa Malaysia on 26 May 2024.



The certificate awarded to Major Ansel Mathews with his Pingat Jasa Malaysia with clasp 'DARURAT'.

Ansel Mathews

On Sunday 26th May, 90 year old army veteran, Ansel Mathews was presented with Pingat Jasa Malaysia (Malaysian Service Medal).

In his long military career in the Royal Malaysian Army, Ansel saw service in the United Kingdom, in Germany with the 1st Battalion, Royal Ulster Rifles, service at home as a squadron commander in the 1st Reconnaissance Regiment, peacekeeping service with the United Nations in the Congo in 1960, and representational service as a military attache in the UK.

The Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal recognises service by members of the Malaysian Armed Forces during the First Malayan Emergency between 1957 and 1966 and the Second Malayan Emergency between 1969 and 1990. The medal was also offered for award to members of the Commonwealth forces.



Ansel Mathews being presented with the medal by State President Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd).

This report on Ansel's medal ceremony was published by Tony Zappia MP in his Makin Community News in September 2024.



Ted Richardson, at the Kuching Hilton during the 2023 NMBVAA Reunion Visit to Sarawak.



Paying respects in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching during the 2023 NMBVAA Reunion Visit.

R/50044 Able Seaman Ted Richardson Royal Australian Navy

Ted Richardson is a Royal Australian Navy veteran who served in the waters of Malaya with the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve (BCFESR) during the Malayan Emergency. Ted has been a member of the South Australia & Northern Territory Branch, NMBVAA since 2019.

* * * * *

Edward Jack Richardson was born in Casino, NSW on 11 February 1936, the first child of Phillip Jack Richardson (1914-1975) and Nona Isabel Jane Ekert (1915-2002).

Ted's father, Phillip Jack Richardson, was born in Casino on 8 January 1914. Ted's paternal grandparents were Samuel Allan Richardson (1882-1959), an automobile proprietor living in Raphael Street in Casino, and Vida Calnan Dyball (1895-1956) from Taree.

Ted's grandmother Vida traced her ancestry back to John McDonald of Laggan, Inverness shire in Scotland, born in 1761 – through her parents Catherine 'Kitty' McDonald (1865-1946) from Manning River, NSW who married Charles Edward Dyball (1860-1919) from Wingham, NSW; her father Angus McDonald (1838-1925) from Ross and Cromarty in Scotland who came to Australia with his parents Alexander McDonald (1813-1887) and Catherine 'Cattie' McDonald (1812-1880) who arrived in Sydney on the SS *Golden Era* on 16 June 1855 and settled in Taree; Angus McDonald (1790-c1855) of Laggan, Inverness shire, Scotland; through to Ted's great-great-great-great-grandfather John McDonald who lived in Inverness at the end of the 18th century.

Ted's paternal grandparents both died while Ted was serving with the Navy, and are buried in Casino General Cemetery.

Ted's father, Phillip married Nona Isabel Jane Ekert (1915-2002) in Casino on 27 November 1935; she had been born in Tatham, Casino on 18 August 1915. Phillip and Nona lived at first with Phillip's parents in Raphael Street, while Phillip worked as a butcher's assistant. They were later living in Charlton Street in Lambton, NSW, while Ted attended Lithgow High School.

Ted was a railway employee living in Charlton Street when he enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy in Sydney on 25 February 1954 for a term of six years.

Ted served as an Able Seaman on HMA Ships *Harman*, *Albatross*, *Anzac* and *Watson*. He served aboard HMAS *Anzac* (D59) from 26 September 1955 to 14 April 1958. HMAS *Anzac* was a Battle-class destroyer, launched on 20 August 1948 and named after the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps of World War 1.

1913 to 1943 REC

RECORD OF SERVICE (PETTY OFFICERS AND MEN)

(OFFICIAL NUMBER) 8146 OTHER STONY

NAME RICHARDSON EDWARD JACOB

Date of Birth 11th February 1926 Place of Birth Carlisle, N.S.W. Religion Methodist Home Port SYDNEY

Address on Entry 116 Charlton St. Campbell, N.S.W.

Nest of Kin (Relationship and Address) Parents: David & Josephine, 44 George St, Sydney, N.S.W. Trade Refrigerator Fitter

ENGAGEMENTS		Date of first Engagement	MEALS, COAL, ETC.	General Class for Discharge	Special Class for Leave
Date of Commencement	Period	Date Received	Nature of Discharge	From	To
25 Feb 1954	6/11/55	25/2/54	1. <u>100</u> in Charlton St, Campbell, N.S.W.	From	To
				From	To

TIME FORFEITED

Days	Nat. of Days	Date	Nat. of Days	Date
10	10	1-2-58	10	1-2-58

Description of FELONY

Offence	Height	Colour of Hair	Markings	Wounds and Scars	
Chr. Part Entry	F	Ins.	Hair	Ins.	Comparison
On First Entry	5	7	Black	Brown	JACOB
On Re-entry					Red, Patches, RR, Calf, leg

EXAMINATIONS AND NOTATIONS

Date	Particulars	Date	Particulars
1954-55	1. <u>100</u> in Charlton St, Campbell, N.S.W.		
23 May 55	2. <u>100</u> in Charlton St, Campbell, N.S.W.		
25 Aug 55	3. <u>100</u> in Charlton St, Campbell, N.S.W.		
24 Nov 55	4. <u>100</u> in Charlton St, Campbell, N.S.W.		
24 Nov 55	5. <u>100</u> in Charlton St, Campbell, N.S.W.		

GOOD CONDUCT BADGES

In 1st. Ind.	Date	Original Period	In 2nd. Ind.	Date	Original Period
1st	1-2-58	100 days	2nd	1-2-58	100 days

Remarks on Entry, Discharge, Extension, Leave, Special Recommendation, etc.

1st Entry, 1. 116 Charlton St, Campbell, N.S.W.

2nd Entry, 1. 116 Charlton St, Campbell, N.S.W.

3rd Entry, 1. 116 Charlton St, Campbell, N.S.W.

4th Entry, 1. 116 Charlton St, Campbell, N.S.W.

5th Entry, 1. 116 Charlton St, Campbell, N.S.W.

[illegible]

*Ted Richardson's RAN Record of Service card
(National Australia Archives: A6770, 'RICHARDSON E J', item ID 4551647).*

Ted joined HMAS Anzac on 26 September 1955, and her two-and-a-half-month refit was completed on 7 October. For the next five weeks HMAS Anzac remained in Sydney, except for a brief visit to Newcastle.

Ted saw two deployments to Malayan waters during the Malayan Emergency with HMAS Anzac, part of the RAN Contingent to the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve. First, on 16 November 1955 HMAS Anzac departed Sydney for Singapore via Fremantle to become part of the FESR on the Far East Station. She served in waters off the Malayan coast in support of operations until 12 November 1956

In the first of just two offensive actions undertaken by Royal Australian Navy ships during the Malayan Emergency, HMAS *Anzac* and HMAS *Tobruk* bombarded terrorist positions south of Jason Bay in Johore State on 29 September 1956.

HMAS Anzac underwent a refit and a visit to Tasmania, and then returned to the Far East Station from 10 April 1957 to 1 January 1958. She arrived in Sydney on 8 February for a major refit.

The Royal Australian Navy suffered two deaths during the prescribed period of the Malayan Emergency, one of them from D59 HMAS *Anzac* during this second deployment – R51381 Cook Alan Campbell Cooper from Bendigo, Victoria, who drowned in Singapore Naval Base on 25 December 1957. Cooper was buried in Bidadari Cemetery in Singapore. This cemetery, on the grounds of the former Istana Bidadari, had been accepting burials since 1907; notable burials include Christian soldiers killed during the 1915 Sepoy Mutiny.

Ulu Pandan Cemetery was established south of Ulu Pandan Road, then a remote part of Singapore, in September 1955 for British Servicemen and their families, and military civilians who died in Singapore. In 1969, the remains of Able Seaman Cooper were exhumed and re-interred in Ulu Pandan British Military Cemetery. As Singaporeans became more affluent in the late-1960s a new form of public housing was created, and there was an increased need for land for development. It was subsequently found necessary to remove the graves of Servicemen and their families from Pasir Panjang and Ulu Pandan cemeteries to make way for urban development, and in 1975 his remains were transferred to Kranji Military Cemetery. Able Seaman Cooper is one of 50 Australian fallen from the Malayan wars (42 from the Emergency and 8 from Confrontation) who still remain buried overseas.

Following an overhaul of the RAN battle honours system, on 1 March 2010 HMAS Anzac was retroactively awarded a Battle Honour to recognise its service in the Emergency: "Malaya 1956".

For his seagoing service patrolling off the Malaya coast in support of operations against bandits, Ted received the Naval General Service Medal 1909-1962 with clasp 'MALAYA'.

While the Naval General Service Medal 1909-1962 was originally instituted by King George V in 1915, and was awarded retrospectively for minor warlike operations as far back as 1909, the clasp 'MALAYA' was established in 1950 by Command Paper 7907. The eligibility criteria were amended by Admiralty Fleet Orders No 2861/52 and 2466/1960: for naval service afloat, the qualifying period was 28 days since 16 June 1948 and until 31 July 1960, both dates inclusive.

There were about 1,800 awards of the NGSM with clasp 'MALAYA' to Australians.

Ted later received the *Pingat Jasa Malaysia* for service between 31 August 1957 (the date of Malaysia's independence) and 31 July 1960 (the date the government of the Federation of Malaya declared the Emergency to be finished).

On 9 February 1960 Ted was awarded the Good Conduct Badge, and he took his discharge on 24 February 1960.

Ted married Ruth Dicford in Maroubra, Queensland in 1960.

The 1963 Electoral Roll for Hunter shows that Ted and his wife were living with Ted's parents Phillip and Nona Isabel Jane Ekert in Charlton Street in Lambton, NSW. Phillip was recorded as a locomotive driver, and Ted was a fireman.

By 1968, Ted and Ruth were living in Maurie Avenue in Spears Point (later Warners Bay) in Boolaroo, and Ted was recorded as a fireman.



Ted Richardson (third from the left) pictured in Sydney on Anzac Day 2022, with Commodore John Stavridis RAN, a former Captain of the Anzac-class frigate HMAS Anzac (FFH 150) in 2011-13 and still a serving officer, who visited from Canberra to lead the contingent in the march.

By 1977, Ted and Ruth were living in Guildford Road in Guilford, and Ted was recorded as a fire officer.

Ted's father died on 9 November 1978, while Nona lived until 30 October 2002.

On 10 April 1981, Ted Richardson was awarded the National Medal for 15 years' long service in the NSW Fire Brigades (*Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, S73 dated 23 April 1981). This medal was instituted by Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia by Letters Patent dated 14 February 1975 to recognise long service by operational members of specified eligible organisations, including the Australian Defence Force. It was introduced as an original component of the new Australian Honours System.

As a Station Officer, on 15 May 1986 he was awarded the first Bar to the National Medal for an additional 10 years' service (*Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, S248 dated 30 May 1986). He received his second Bar for an additional 10 years' service on 20 May 1996, recognising a total of 35 years' service.

Ted is a member of the Norfolk Island RSL.

Ted participated in the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA 2019 Reunion Visit to Sarawak. This visit included a combined Australia-New Zealand-Malaysia service of commemoration in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching on Thursday 29 August 2019. The arrangements for the ceremony were co-ordinated by Dato Lim Kian Hock and Fiona Marcus Raja of the Sarawak Tourism Federation Heritage Development Committee. The ceremony was attended by both the High Commissioner of Australia to Malaysia, His Excellency Mr Andrew Golezdzinski AM, and the High Commissioner of New Zealand, His Excellency Mr Hunter Nottage.

These visits, conducted with the generous support of the Sarawak Ministry of Tourism, Creative Industry & Performing Arts, the Sarawak Tourism Federation and the Sarawak Veterans Association, form a third part of the Branch's four-pronged approach to commemoration, to 'Remember Malaysia'.

An additional component of this is the ongoing assistance provided to three schools in the Bau District of Sarawak, Malaysia, supporting the growth of upcoming generations. These schools are located in areas where Australian forces were deployed in 1965 and 1966 during Confrontation. This support, including a financial donation and the provision of books, is the fourth component of the Branch's approach to commemoration, to 'Look to the Future'.

As a direct result of the experiences and camaraderie of this reunion visit to Sarawak, Ted joined the South Australia & Northern Territory Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc on 23 December 2019, with membership number '5128'.

Ted then participated in the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA 2023 Reunion Visit to Sarawak (Operation 'Hornbill 2023').

This again included a combined Australia-New Zealand-Malaysia service of commemoration in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching on Monday 28 August 2023. Also participating in this ceremony in Kuching was a British Forces Brunei detachment including four members from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles.



Ted Richardson (rear, centre) at SK Serabak school in Kampung Serikin during the 2019 Reunion Visit to Sarawak by the SAINT Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc.



Ted Richardson (front row, far right) at the Kuching Hilton during the 2023 Reunion Visit to Sarawak by the SAINT Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc, Operation 'Hornbill 2023'.