



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 6 – JUNE 2025



National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc
South Australia & Northern Territory Branch

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

SA & NT Branch Annual Dinner 2025

Himalayan Kitchen, 73 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide ~ Friday 27 June 2025

Marking the 15th anniversary of the first meeting to re-form the SA Branch (17 July 2010) and the inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Branch (21 August 2010), honouring service and sacrifice during the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation (particularly the 50 Australians from the Malayan wars who still remain buried overseas), remembering absent friends, and supporting our sponsorship of schools in the Bau District of Sarawak where Australian and Commonwealth military forces were deployed during Confrontation.

LEST WE FORGET



KAMI JANGAN LUPAKAN

2025 ANNUAL DINNER

We will be holding our Branch annual dinner at the Himalayan Kitchen on Friday 27 June.

This event marks the 15th anniversary of the first meeting to re-form the SA Branch through a meeting of veterans and partners on 17 July 2010, and the inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Branch which was held at the Hilton RSL on 21 August 2010.

We will have a raffle with some interesting prizes to choose from, and merchandise to purchase: all funds collected go towards our future donations to the schools in the Bau District of Sarawak which we sponsor, located in areas in the Bau District where Australian military forces – the 'Sarawak Defenders' – were deployed during Confrontation.



NOTICES

BRANCH COMMITTEE 2025

Paul Rosenzweig OAM
*President, Secretary
Public Affairs Officer*

Don Cameron
*Vice-President
Ceremonial Officer*

Paul Bayliss

Jenny Cameron
Treasurer

Vicki Crannaford
Assistant Treasurer

Di Davies

Beverley Dubois
Minutes Secretary

Jeff Hiscock

Mal White
Merchandise Officer

* * *

Major Quentin Castle
Branch Chaplain

THANK YOU

We thank Tony Zappia MP and the staff of his Makin Electorate Office for their generous assistance with all our printing needs

BRANCH UPDATES 'KEEPING IN THE LOOP'

We would like to send a special thank you to Tony Zappia MP and the staff of his Makin Electorate Office for their ongoing support: we have a number of members who either do not have internet access or are unable to read on the screen, and the provision of a printed copy of our newsletter is of great benefit to them, to keep everyone informed of our activities and progress.

Bernie Boxer and Ted Richardson sent their apologies for our service to mark the 75th Anniversary of the start of Australia's involvement in the Malayan Emergency. Ted wrote: *"I want to thank you for the offer to attend, I do appreciate it greatly, & would love nothing more than to accept it in all the sincerity I can muster, but unfortunately with regret & sadness I have to decline your generous invitation, it would have been great to catch up with everyone & enjoy the moment, & the companionship, I have many great memories from the past events that keep me in good stead, so I know how well this Commemoration will be conducted & enjoyed by everyone. So please accept my apologies, & have a beer for me, cheers to all. Regards, Ted"*.

Our 'Medal of the Month' is the Africa Star with a special clasp for service with the 8th Army under Lieutenant-General Sir Bernard Montgomery.

Looking ahead, we will be holding our branch AGM on Friday 15 August with an interesting guest speaker, a veteran of service at RAAF Butterworth.

Please advise Paul Rosenzweig if you wish to remember a particular veteran and place a tribute at our Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day commemoration on Friday 29 August.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June meeting: 1115h Friday 20 June
Maid of Auckland Hotel,
followed by lunch



<https://www.facebook.com/MaidEdwardstown>

Annual Dinner: Friday 28 June, 6 for 6.30 pm:
*Himalayan Kitchen Tibetan and Nepalese
Restaurant, 73 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide*

Malayan Emergency: Saturday 12 July 2025:
*The 65th anniversary of the End of the Malayan
Emergency (1960)*

July meeting: Friday 18 July 2025:
Maid of Auckland Hotel, followed by lunch



Visit our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/NMBVAAadelaide/>



Visit our Website:
https://www.nmbvaa.org.au/sa_nt.php



COMMEMORATION



ANZAC DAWN SERVICE 25 April 2025

Our State President Paul Rosenzweig represented the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA as an official guest of Hilton RSL at their Dawn Service (pictured below with Lana Gelonese and Surrender Pal, Councillors for Plympton Ward, who are strong supporters of our annual Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day Services).

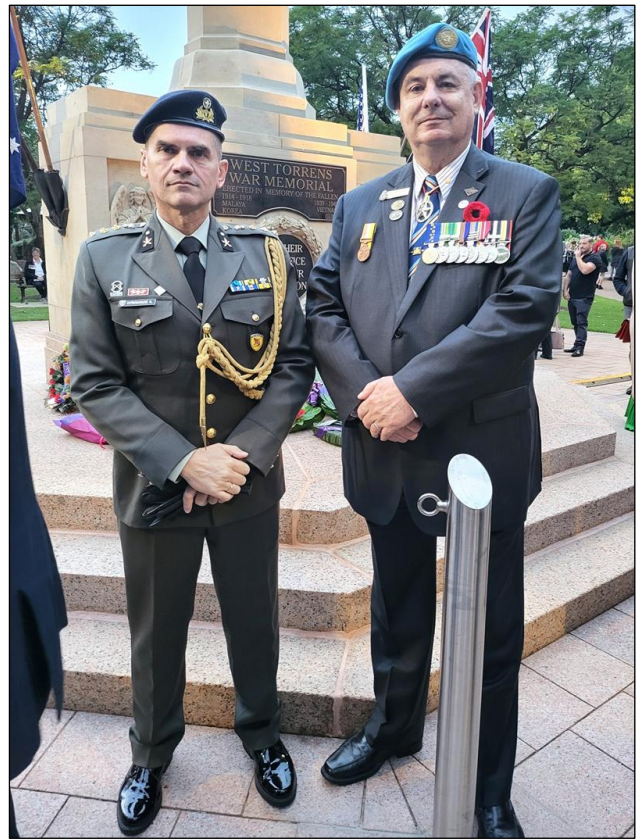
The ceremony commenced with a march of a veterans' contingent along Sir Donald Bradman Drive led by Branch President Bill Parry, followed by the Evzones, the Greek Presidential Guard from Athens.

The March ended at the Cross of Sacrifice within the City of West Torrens War Memorial Gardens. Paul placed a tribute in memory of the fallen – notably recalling sacrifice in the Malayan Emergency (1948-1960) as we observe the 75th anniversary of the start of Australia's involvement in the Emergency on 31 May 1950.





The Hilton RSL Dawn Service was supported by the Evzones – the Greek Presidential Guard – a ceremonial unit that guards the Greek Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Presidential Mansion in Athens.



The Defence Attaché from the Embassy of Greece in Canberra, Colonel (Artillery) Kyriakos Kyriakakos of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, who arranged the attendance of the Evzones.



The Dawn Service in the City of West Torrens War Memorial Gardens was hosted by Mayor Michael Coxon, a great supporter of the Branch who hosts our annual Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day services.



COMMEMORATION

ANZAC MARCH 25 April 2025

Our Branch Vice-President Don Cameron once again led the Malaya & Borneo Veterans contingent in the Adelaide Anzac March, and Warrant Officer Class 2 Nathan Price was the Australian National Flag bearer.

Ben Ortmann and Matt Kuna were our NMBVAA Banner bearers.

Vicki Crannaford carried the Malaysian National Flag in memory of her brother Signelman John Tassell of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals.

John died on operational service near Terengganu in northeastern peninsular Malaysia on 4 April 1966 while attached for duty to the 208th (Commonwealth) Signals Squadron, of the 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Group.

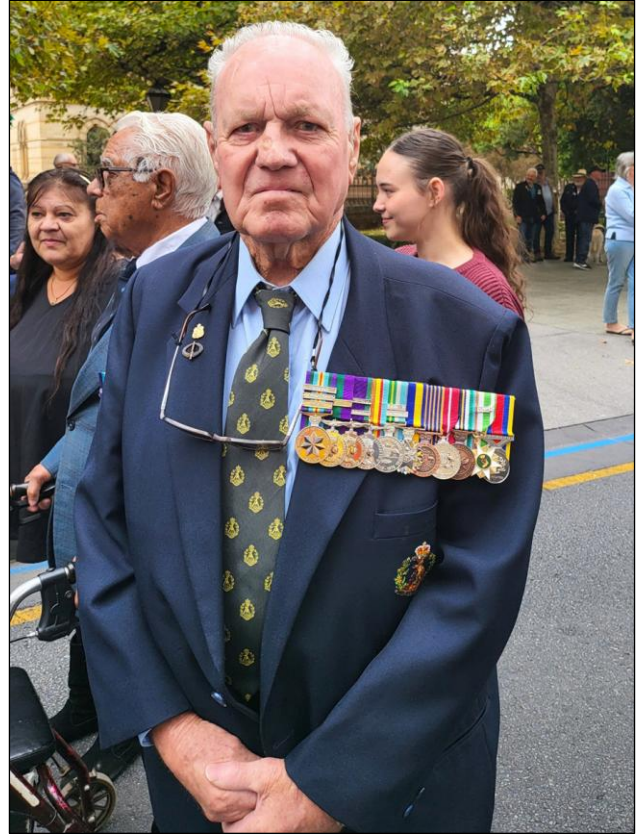
John was originally buried in the Terendak Military Cemetery in Malacca, and was repatriated on 2 June 2016 in Operation 'Reunite' and interred in Enfield Memorial Park on 10 June 2016.

The other Flag Bearers were Anthony Cameron (Sabah) and Paul Rosenzweig (Sarawak).



Major Ansel Mathews (ret'd)





Oscar Johnsson saw operational service as a Regimental Signaller with 3RAR in the Federation of Malaya in 1957-59 during the Malayan Emergency, on the Malay Peninsula in 1963-65, and as a Rifleman with 'C' Company at Serikin in Sarawak in 1965. This Australian War Memorial image (above left) shows Private Johnson (centre) and Iban Tracker Lutut on patrol near the Sarawak-Kalimantan border. This is believed to be Lutut anak Aloh from Kapit.

We Choose Sarawak
dayak
daily

Anzac Day 2025: Aussie veterans honour Sarawak defenders

Apr 28, 2025 @ 14:58



RECENT POSTS

Main access road to Masjid Darul Ibadah Batu Kawa to close for upgrading works (April 29-May 27)

Anzac Day 2025: Aussie veterans honour Sarawak defenders

Deputy Premier Uggah: Proposal for rural road maintenance and upgrading to be tabled to Sarawak Cabinet for approval

Ex-Youth chief backs John Brian Anthony Guan for PBDS presidency, urges open contest to regain grassroots trust

Btg Rambungan Bridge eyes early completion by July 2026 despite contractor change

MBKS mayor: Unity, open communication, teamwork key to better serving Kuching

Call for submissions: Borneo Inspires Legacy Awards 2025 now open

The Sarawak flag once again featured prominently at the head of our Malaya & Borneo column, honouring the defenders of Sarawak and the brave Ibans who supported them. This report was published by 'Dayak Daily' (Sarawak, online):

<https://dayakdaily.com/anzac-day-2025-aussie-veterans-honour-sarawak-defenders/>



Ben Ortmann and Matt Kuna (obscured) were our NMBVAA Banner bearers: Ben is a grandson of Corporal Ross Ortmann (1935-2002), founding President from 1995 until his death on 19 May 2002, aged 66. Image courtesy of Luke Scott Photography – Adelaide Military Commemoration Photos.

Utusan Borneo Online

Bendera Sarawak dikibar dengan megah semasa perbarisan sempena Hari Anzac

© April 29, 2025, Selasa - 6:30pm

Rosenzweig (kuman) membawa bendera Sarawak semasa perbarisan sempena Anzac Day 2025.

KUCHING: Bendera Sarawak dikibar dengan megah semasa perbarisan sempena Hari Anzac di Adelaide, Australia Selatan Jumaat lalu apabila kontingen Nasional Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc (NMBVAA) menghargai jasa dan pengorbanan mereka yang mempertahankan Sarawak pada 1965.

*This report was published
by 'Utusan Borneo Online'*

BORNEO POST online
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YOU ARE AT: Home » News » Sarawak » Anzac Day 2025 honours Confrontation's Iban Trackers, Sarawak defenders

Anzac Day 2025 honours Confrontation's Iban Trackers, Sarawak defenders

BY SAMUEL AUBREY ON APRIL 30, 2025, WEDNESDAY AT 8:03 AM SARAWAK

For the freshest news, join [The Borneo Post's Telegram Channel](#) and [The Borneo Post on Newsday](#).

The flags of Sarawak, Sabah and Malaysia on display during the march by the contingent of Malaya and Borneo veterans during Anzac Day 2025.

KUCHING (April 30): The Sarawak flag was featured prominently at the Anzac Day march in Adelaide, South Australia last Friday, as the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc (NMBVAA) contingent honoured the services and sacrifices of those defending Sarawak in 1965.

*This report was published
by 'The Borneo Post Online'*



CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION



Two of the Diggers, who were wounded in engagements with Communist terrorists in North Kedah, near the Thai border.

On the right is Pte. Jackie Hewitt, luckiest man in the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, whose patrol clashed with terrorists on Tuesday in their second contact. He is shown holding a cigarette tin, which was hit by a shotgun pellet. The tin was in his trouser pocket. Hewitt was slightly wounded in the arm.

On the left is Pte. T. D. Hogg of Primbee, N. S. W., who was wounded in the sharp but bitter clash with 30 terrorists on Monday. He is shown above being carried from the helicopter that lifted him from his jungle base by Cpl. V. N. Stack (5-ft) of Brisbane and Capt. A. B. Rolfe of the 16th Field Ambulance.

GUNNERS POUNDING FLEEING REDS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 26.—Following Monday's sharp and bitter clash between a four-man patrol of the 2nd Bn. Royal Australian Regiment and a gang of 30 Communist terrorists near the Thai border, Australian gunners have been pounding the terrorists' position since last night. Heavy airstrikes were carried out on known terrorist camps by RAF Venoms, operating from Butterworth.

During the follow-up yesterday, a contact was made with two of the terrorists. An exchange of fire took place. The terrorists broke off the engagement and fled.

There were no known terrorist casualties. One man of the assault platoon of the RA

R. Pte. J. Hewitt, was slightly wounded in the left arm. He was taken out of the jungle by a helicopter to the British Military Hospital at Kamunting.

2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

In late April 1956, 2RAR embarked on its second operation – Operation 'Shark North' – in Perak Province, a known centre of guerrilla activity. On Friday 22 June 1956, a patrol from 1 Platoon was ambushed by Communist Terrorists (CTs), and three Australians were killed (see Roll of Honour below).

This newspaper report describes a follow-up action in North Kedah in which two soldiers were wounded-in-action. One of them was described as 'the luckiest man' in 2RAR – 2/8721 Private Jackie Hewitt from Balmain, NSW.





MEMORIES OF THE CONFRONTATION IN THE KELABIT HIGHLANDS

SPEAKER: DATU OSE MURANG

Borneo Cultures Museum Auditorium

Sunday 16 March 2025

2pm



Confrontation in the Kelabit Highlands

In March, Datu Ose Murang gave a talk at the Borneo Cultures Museum, arranged by the Friends of Sarawak Museum. His topic was "Memories of the Confrontation in the Kelabit Highlands".

Datu Ose Murang retired in 2016 after serving seven years as Deputy State Secretary in the Sarawak Civil Service. After that he was Chairman of Curtin (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd, the owner and manager of the Curtin Malaysia University Campus in Miri.

During Confrontation, he was a primary school student at the schools near the Long Banga and Bario Army camps, and he has fond childhood memories of the Confrontation. This talk drew mainly on reminiscences and photographs taken by soldiers from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and Gurkha regiments stationed in the Kelabit highlands.

The 'Hearts and Minds' war strategy involved the people along the international border with Kalimantan, Indonesia to counter Indonesian incursions into Sarawak. The photographs provided an initial documentation of the role played by the people in the Kelabit Highlands and local reminiscences and photographs touched on the role of the Border Scouts supporting the role of the allied forces.

At our combined Service of Commemoration in Kuching on Monday 28 August 2023, Datu Ose Murang had placed the primary commemorative tribute – representing Malaysia, Sarawak and the British Commonwealth.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION



Above: Captain Doug Griffiths OAM RAN, with the Governor-General, Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC.

Below: Doug at Government House Canberra with his wife Captain Emma Griffiths RAN (the current Defence Attaché for the Solomon Islands) and his father Wing Commander John Griffiths MBE (ret'd).



The Order of Australia

Those who joined our 2019 Reunion Visit to Sarawak may recall the Assistant Defence Advisor who joined us from the High Commission in Kuala Lumpur – Commander Doug Griffiths RAN (see images above).

He accompanied the Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia His Excellency Mr Andrew Goledzinowski AM, and during our commemoration service on 29 August they placed a wreath at the NMBVAA plaque in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching.

In this year's Australia Day Honour List, Doug received the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Military Division, "For meritorious service to international engagement for the Australian Defence Force". His citation notes:

Captain Griffiths has displayed inspirational leadership, initiative and meritorious commitment to improving Australian Defence Force international relationships. His thoughtful, insightful and energetic engagement, spanning multiple operations and long-term representational postings, have delivered significant benefits to military operations.

Captain Griffiths has also enabled new opportunities for Australian defence industry and enhanced Australia's Defence relationships and reputation as a capable and trusted partner.

At the beginning of May Doug received his OAM in an investiture ceremony in Canberra.



BRANCH MEETING Friday 16 May 2025

The Ode of Remembrance was recited by Vice President Don Cameron.

We particularly recalled Corporal David Ross Ortmann (1935-2002) and Staff-Sergeant Clive Lewis Dubois (1942-2017).

Paul Rosenzweig brought an album containing original photos which had belonged to Private Darryl Easton from Perth, who served in 'C' Company, 3RAR based at Serikin in 1965 near the Sarawak-Kalimantan border.

On returning to Australia in October 1965, 3RAR occupied Kapyong Lines at Woodside in the Adelaide Hills. Easton took his discharge on 25 December 1965, and was subsequently a professional ambulance officer in WA for over 26 years.



We also noted the passing of Patricia Cattley Ong, wife of our friend Edward Mansell in Sarawak, who died in Kuching on 12 May, aged 89.

This image from The Borneo Post shows Sarawak Governor Tun Pehin Sri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar comforting Edward Lakin Mansel while paying his last respects to the late Patricia Cattley Ong at the St Thomas' Cathedral Multipurpose Hall in Kuching. Ong and Wan Junaidi's late wife Datin Seri Feona Norjanah Sim Abdullah were cousins.

Also seen from right are Wan Junaidi's wife Toh Puan Datuk Patinggi Fauziah Mohd Sanusi, as well as his daughters Sharifah Nong-Jasima and Sharifah Fariah.



Serikin Longhouse



Iban camp helpers



No 604 SQUADRON, AAFC

RECRUIT UNIFORM ISSUES

Sunday 5 April 2025

At the beginning of April, 604 Squadron issued uniforms to most members of 'Romeo' (Recruit) Flight. In a very short space of time up to this weekend, the recruits had progressed from being 'civilians' to active members of the Air Force Cadets community – a cohesive team, in their 'uniform' of black squadron T-shirts and baseball caps (see 'Before' image below). A dedicated NCO cohort attended on the Sunday to coordinate and deliver training on how to wear and maintain the uniform. The endstate was 24 Recruits going home correctly dressed in AAFC uniform (see 'After' image below).

Of note, a further eight recruits who could not attend on this day received their uniform and training the following weekend.

BEFORE (1030H):



AFTER (1530H):



ANZAC COMMEMORATIONS 24-25 April 2025

A significant number of 604 Squadron Cadets and staff participated in the overnight Anzac Youth Vigil in the city, and then in the Adelaide Anzac March, marching with the 6 Wing AAFC contingent.

The Squadron had the special privilege of carrying not one Banner but two – the 604 Squadron Banner, and 604 Squadron Cadets were selected by the Wing Warrant Officer to form the Banner Party for the 6 Wing Banner marching at the head of the AAFC contingent.



The 6 Wing Banner Party (left) comprised Cadet Under Officer Gustaw Czechowicz (Banner Bearer), Cadet Warrant Officer Katarina Czechowicz (Banner Warrant Officer) and Cadet Sergeants Roshan Abraham and Jeevan Abraham as Banner Escorts. The 604 Squadron Banner Bearer was Cadet Sergeant Daneron Marshal.

AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS

604 SQUADRON || HEAR THE LION ROAR



INTEGRITY || TEAMWORK || RESPONSIBILITY

The 604 Squadron ceremonial detachment for the 2025 Anzac March, with the Banner Bearers at the centre: CUO Gustaw Czechowicz (6 Wing Banner Bearer) and CSGT Daneron Marshal (604 Squadron Banner Bearer).



MEDAL OF THE MONTH

AFRICA STAR WITH '8th ARMY' CLASP

This campaign star was instituted on 8 July 1943, for award to British and Commonwealth Service personnel who served in an operational area in North Africa between 10 June 1940 and 12 May 1943.

It is a six-pointed star, struck in yellow copper zinc alloy, with a ring suspender that passes through an eyelet formed above the uppermost point of the star.

Three clasps were authorised, but only the first one earned could be worn.

The '8th ARMY' clasp recognised service between 23 October 1942 and 12 May 1943 inclusive.

The clasp was denoted by a numeral '8' on the service ribbon.

British officers and Gurkha soldiers who only saw operational service prior to 23 October 1942, or were still in Reinforcement Camps in Egypt and had not joined the battalion before the cessation of operations, received the Africa Star without the '8th Army' clasp.

As part of the 8th Army under Lieutenant-General Sir Bernard Montgomery, Gurkhas took part in all the major battles in North Africa, including the Second Battle of El Alamein and the pursuit of the defeated Axis army across Libya to the Tunisian border.

Gurkhas suffered heavy losses at battles such as Tobruk, where the 2nd Battalion, 7th Gurkha Rifles was captured.



*Africa Star with '8th ARMY' clasp
awarded to Sergeant Harakbahadur Thapa.*

21132009 Sergeant Harakbahadur Thapa

1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles)

Harakbahadur Thapa was a Gurkha from western Nepal who saw war service in North Africa, Italy and Greece during World War 2, at the 2GR Home Station in India from May 1946, and then operational service in the Federation of Malaya during the opening phase of the Malayan Emergency from June 1948 until being admitted to the British Military Hospital Singapore for surgery, where he died on 5 November 1949.

The Thapa are a sub-clan of the Magar, an ethnic Nepali group native to the western and central regions of Nepal. The name 'Bahadur' in Nepali means 'brave and courageous'; many Gurkhas have 'Bahadur' as a middle name representing their martial ethos and heritage.

In about 1939, soon after the outbreak of war, Harakbahadur Thapa enlisted in the 2nd KEO Goorkha Rifles at Dehra Dun, the Gurkha Rifles Recruiting Centre for 2GR, 3GR and 9GR.

He was allocated to the 1st Battalion (1/2GR), which had its Home Station at the 2GR Regimental Centre and Depot at Dehra Dun in the Garwhal Province of northern India, bordering Tibet at the western end of the Himalayas, 160 miles west of Nepal and 25 miles southeast of Sirmoor. This was the regiment's Home Station from 1864 until 1948.

This regiment was the second to have been raised as an irregular battalion on 24 April 1815, during the Anglo-Nepalese War, for service with the army of the British East India Company. It comprised men from the Sirmoor tribal area in the lower Himalayas in far western Nepal (now District Sirmour in the state of Himachal Pradesh in India, in the outer Himalayas), and was titled 'The Sirmoor Battalion'.

During the Indian Rebellion of 1857 (the 'Indian Mutiny'), when the Crown took over direct rule of British India from the East India Company, this battalion was one of the few Indian units that remained loyal to Britain. Scarlet facings and the unique red and black diced headband on the Kilmarnock cap were adopted in recognition of 2GR's close association with the 60th Rifles who had fought alongside them in Delhi during the Indian Mutiny.

The spelling 'Goorkha' is peculiar to this regiment and quite unofficial. The spelling 'Goorkha' was used in the titles of Gurkha regiments until it was standardised to 'Gurkha' in 1891, however 2GR continued to refer to itself as 'Goorkha'.

Jai Gurkha!

The tribes and clans (*jaat*) of Nepal are extremely complex, and their hierarchy, religious and social order is deeply rooted in ancient religion and mythology going back thousands of years.

During their military training, Gurkha surnames have been useful indicators of where a given recruit has come from.

Traditionally recruits of Indian Gorkha or Nepalese nationality came from one of four major *jaat* groupings:

> Gurung and Magar from the western and central regions of Nepal

> Limbu and Rai from eastern Nepal

Magars are divided into the following six tribes, or clans: Ale, Bura/Burathoki, Gharti, Pun, Rana and THAPA. These tribes all intermarry with each other, have the same customs, and are in every way equal as regards to social standing.

Until 1914, the British and Indian Armies had primarily recruited Gurungs and Magars into their Gurkha regiments; after 1948 they formed the majority of soldiers in the 'western' battalions (2GR and 6GR).

2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkha Rifles

The Sirmoor Battalion, one of the first three irregular Gurkha battalions raised on 24 April 1815 for service with the British East India Company, subsequently had the following titles:

> 66th Goorkha Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry: the regiment became a regular infantry unit in 1850 and was taken into the Bengal line and under the authority of the British Crown.

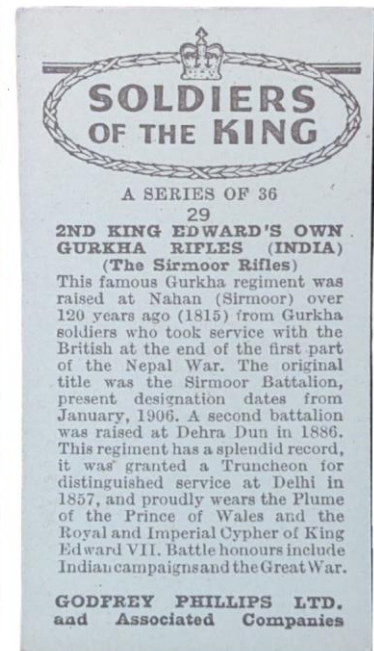
> 2nd Goorkha (The Sirmoor Rifles) Regiment: redesignated in 1861 after the Gurkha regiments which had remained loyal during the Indian Mutiny were developed into their own Line of rifle regiments, numbered sequentially in order of their raising.

> 2nd (Prince of Wales's Own) Goorkha Regiment (The Sirmoor Rifles): in 1876, the regiment acquired the then Prince of Wales (the eldest son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert) as royal patron.

> 2nd King Edward's Own Goorkha Regiment (The Sirmoor Rifles): the royal title was granted by King Edward VII (the former Prince of Wales) in 1906.

> 2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkha Regiment (The Sirmoor Rifles): the royal title was amended in 1936.

Following Indian independence, under the 1947 tripartite agreement, 2GR was one of four Gurkha regiments which became part of the British Army on 1 January 1948.



2nd Gurkha Rifles

This is a collectible Trading Card produced by the tobacco manufacturer Godfrey Phillips Ltd, number 29 in a set of 36 entitled 'Soldiers of the King' released in 1939 depicting a Rifleman of the 2nd Goorkhas.

World War 2

For his operational war service, Rifleman Thapa received the 1939-1945 Star, Africa Star with '8th ARMY' clasp, Italy Star and War Medal 1939-1945.

The 1st Battalion, 2nd Goorkhas qualified for the 1939-45 Star through service in Waziristan, Iran, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Italy and Greece.

On 17 July 1941, the 1st Battalion embarked aboard HMT *Lancashire* and left Bombay for Basra, where it was deployed to defend the Anglo-Iranian oilfields.

On 27 August, 1/2GR crossed the Shatt-el-Arab and advanced towards Ahwaz, and then to Kut Abdullah in search of the enemy. The battalion returned to Abadan for further oil field guarding duties. It then moved through Baghdad and on to Nineveh to work on the defences for the next five months.

In January 1942, 1/2GR was in Kurdistan, then from April at RAF Habbaniyah. From the Palestinian port of Haifa, 1/2GR was sent to Cyprus to form a mobile reaction force as part of as part of 7 Indian Infantry Brigade.

On 26 August 1942, 7 Indian Infantry Brigade arrived in Egypt and was encamped at Mena, beside the Pyramids.

Rifleman Thapa qualified for the Africa Star through service in the Western Desert from 31 August with 7 Indian Infantry Brigade, assigned to 4 Indian Division. From 17 September, 1/2GR occupied a very extensive Front Line approximately 25km long between the South African Division along the sea shore to the North and the Free French to the South.

Rifleman Thapa then fought with 1/2GR under the 8th Army under Lieutenant-General Sir Bernard Montgomery between 23 October 1942 and 12 May 1943 inclusive, qualifying for the '8th ARMY' clasp,

This included the Second Battle of El Alamein and the pursuit of the defeated Axis army across Libya to the Tunisian border.



The war service medals and General Service Medal 1918-1964 awarded to Sergeant Harakbahadur Thapa, 1/2nd KEO Gurkha Rifles, court-mounted for display.

After May 1943, Rifleman Thapa served under 4 Indian Division, rounding up remnants of the trapped Axis Armies. 1/2GR was ordered to cut the road from Tunis to St Marie du Zit, where elements of HQ Afrika Corps were discovered, including the Commander-in-Chief Axis forces in Africa, General von Arnim.

On 18 May 1943, 1/2GR began the 500-mile journey back to Tripoli.

On 16 June they paraded for a surprise visit by King George VI, who bestowed the Victoria Cross on Subedar Lalbahadur Thapa.

1/2GR left for Egypt on 22 June 1943, reaching Alexandria on 8 July. The battalion carried out normal training until 10 September when it moved to Palestine as part of 4 Indian Division.

On 11 October 1943, 1/2GR moved to Syria for mountain warfare training before returning to Egypt.

Rifleman Thapa then served in the Italian campaign, including the invasion of mainland Italy, the fourth Battle of Monte Cassino, the Allied capture of Rome and the capture of Florence. At the end of the war, he was serving in Greece.

Indian Independence Medal 1948

On 27 January 1946, 1/2GR embarked on HMT Carthage and arrived at Karachi on 7 February, before eventually reaching Dehra Dun on 10 February 1946.

Rifleman Thapa was still serving on Indian Independence Day, 15 August 1947, and elected to serve until 1 January 1948, and received the Indian Independence Medal. His medal is named on the rim in small impressed capitals:

The 2nd, 6th, 7th and 10th Gurkha Rifles transferred their service to the British Army with effect from 1 January 1948 to form The Gurkha Regiment (later Brigade of Gurkhas).

On 1 January 1948, Harakbahadur Thapa re-enlisted in the British Army and was assigned to 1/2GR.

He was promoted to the rank of Corporal, and became an instructor at the regiment's Home Station and Depot at Dehra Dun. Harakbahadur Thapa was subsequently promoted to the rank of Sergeant.



2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkha Regiment (The Sirmoor Rifles)

The regimental badge used from 1906 featured the crest of the Prince of Wales – a plume of three ostrich feathers within a royal coronet, with a scroll containing the motto ICH DIEN ('I Serve'). Early badges were produced in blackened brass.



Between 1901 and 1994, a rectangular patch of diced red and black was worn on the left side of the Terai Hat or Gurkha Hat, drawn from the diced band on the Kilmarnock. The patch was worn vertically on the puggaree, in opposite ways by the two battalions: 1/2GR wore the one red square to the front.

Malayan Emergency

In March 1948, Sergeant Harakbahadur Thapa deployed with the 2nd KEO Gurkha Rifles from India to Singapore, and on 11 March they occupied Slim Barracks. 2GR was assigned directly under command of Singapore District, which had its headquarters located at Fort Canning Hill.

In August 1948, Sergeant Thapa deployed with 1/2GR to Johore Sub-District on counter-insurgency operations, operating under the command of Headquarters Malaya District. Sergeant Harakbahadur Thapa was awarded the General Service Medal 1918-1964 with clasp 'MALAYA' for his service during the Emergency after 16 June 1948.

Commemoration

In late 1949, Sergeant Harakbahadur Thapa was admitted to the British Military Hospital Singapore for surgery, where he died on 5 November 1949.

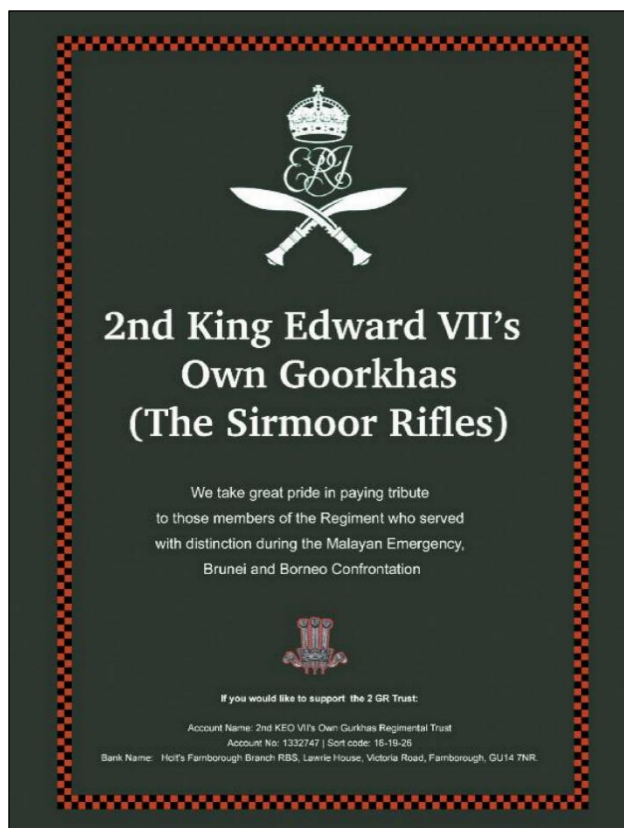
He was buried in Ulu Pandan Military Cemetery. Two decades later it was found necessary to close Ulu Pandan and Pasir Panjang cemeteries, and the remains of Servicemen and their families were removed to Kranji Military Cemetery in 1975.

Sergeant Thapa's remains were exhumed and re-interred in Kranji in the Gurkha Garden.

During the 12 years of the Malayan Emergency, the Brigade of Gurkhas suffered a total of 369 casualties – 97 members of the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (2GR) were killed or died on active service.



Kranji Military Cemetery in Singapore is a substantial non-world war site of 1,422 burials, including Gurkha casualties from the Malayan emergency buried in the Gurkha Garden.



This memorial tribute was produced by the 2nd KEO Gurkhas Regimental Trust in memory of the officers and men of 2GR who gave their lives between 1948 and 1966.

21149945	Rifleman	Chamarsing Gurung	2nd Bn	Pahang	12 08 1951
348147	Major	Thomas Anthony Wimbush	1st Bn	Johore	02 07 1951
21131228	Rifleman	Balcho Rai	1st Bn	Johore	02 07 1951
21144942	Rifleman	Takbahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	23 07 1951
21145763	Rifleman	Gamsarsing Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	23 07 1951
21131039	Corporal	Parthaji Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	25 07 1951
21132165	Lance Corporal	Daling Thapa	1st Bn	Johore	30 07 1951
21133449	Rifleman	Kharakbahadur Pun	2nd Bn	Perak	01 10 1951
21147005	Rifleman	Tapahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	07 11 1951
21144877	Rifleman	Khenbahadur Pun	2nd Bn	Johore?	02 01 1952
391073	Major	William Shaw	2nd Bn	Negeri Sembilan	30 07 1952
21131344	Rifleman	Pakambahadur Gurung	1st Bn	Johore	20 08 1952
21144863	Rifleman	Sobhasing Rana	1st Bn	Johore	20 08 1952
21131395	Rifleman	Tibbahadur Rana	1st Bn	Johore	20 08 1952
21132628	Rifleman	Haradur Thapa	2nd Bn	Selangor	04 03 1953
21131421	Rifleman	Pattu Pun	1st Bn	Selangor	03 02 1954
21132694	Rifleman	Birkbahadur Rana	1st Bn	Selangor	22 04 1954
21133421	Corporal	Mehsar (Maison) Thapa	2nd Bn	Seremban	11 04 1957
21132387	Corporal	Chandrabahadur Gurung	1st Bn	Johore	28 01 1958
21141162	Lance Corporal	Dababhadur Gurung	1st Bn	Brunei	09 12 1962
452804	Lieutenant	Davi Emory Stephens	1st Bn	Brunei	12 12 1962
21153056	Rifleman	Dhanbahadur Gurung	1st Bn	Sarawak	28 09 1963
21153163	Rifleman	Chandrabahadur Gurung	1st Bn	Sarawak	28 09 1963
21141275	Corporal	Krishnabhadur Sani	2nd Bn	Sarawak	29 08 1964
21153099	Rifleman	Chinabhadur Chhetri	2nd Bn	Sarawak	29 08 1964
21153183	Rifleman	Sukbahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Sarawak	03 10 1964
21152793	Rifleman	Shyambahadur Thapa	1st Bn	Sarawak	30 01 1965
21151635	Rifleman	Bababhadur Thapa	2nd Bn	Sarawak	18 12 1965

Killed, Missing or Died on Active Service

21132110	Lance Corporal	Lalsing Thapa	1st Bn	Singapore	18 08 1948
21132072	Lance Corporal	Bhagbahadur Rana	1st Bn	Singapore	30 09 1948
21132055	Corporal	Jagbahadur Pun	1st Bn	Singapore	07 03 1949
21144302	Rifleman	Gauraji Pun	2nd Bn	Perak	26 11 1948
21144849	Rifleman	Dhanbahadur Mall	2nd Bn	Perak?	15 12 1948
21153399	Lance Corporal	Lambahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	10 05 1949
21152170	Lance Corporal	Gurman (Sing) Gurung	1st Bn	Johore	12 04 1949
482727	Jemadar	Karabhadur Pun	1st Bn	Johore	10 05 1949
21131088	Sergeant	Jitu Ghale	2nd Bn	Perak	13 05 1949
21153701	Rifleman	Alibahadur Tamang	2nd Bn	Perak	16 06 1949
21153076	Corporal	Kaling Rana	2nd Bn	Singapore	18 05 1949
21133400	Rifleman	Rambahadur Rana	2nd Bn	Singapore	27 07 1949
21145808	Rifleman	Lala Pun	Trg Wing	Perak	30 07 1949
21152440	Rifleman	Chaman Ale	1st Bn	Johore	11 09 1949
21131526	Rifleman	Dhanbahadur Gaudri	2nd Bn	Perak	26 08 1949
21132009	Sergeant	Harakbahadur Thapa	1st Bn	Singapore	05 11 1949
21153001	Rifleman	Chandrabhadur Pun	2nd Bn	Malaya	02 06 1950
21143831	Corporal	Narabhadur Thapa	2nd Bn	Johore	26 08 1950
21153115	Corporal	Rukbahadur Thapa	1st Bn	Johore	20 05 1951
388465	Captain (GCO)	Bishanbahadur Gurung, ICM, ISDM	1st Bn	Penang	22 12 1951
21132167	Corporal	Lalbahadur Pun	1st Bn	Johore?	10 08 1952
21144001	Rifleman	Rambahadur Mall	1st Bn	Johore?	09 01 1953
21133363	Rifleman	Balkar Gurung	2nd Bn	Malacca	23 05 1953
21141159	Rifleman	Gyanbahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	25 05 1953
21144612	Rifleman	Purnabhadur Gurung	1st Bn	Selangor	16 11 1953
21142483	Rifleman	Debalai Thapa	1st Bn	Singapore	08 10 1954
21131353	Rifleman	Tubabhadur Gurung	1st Bn	Singapore	27 07 1955
21131074	Rifleman	Indrabahadur Newar	1st Bn	Singapore	11 08 1955
21137736	Rifleman	Jaharasing Thapa	1st Bn	Selangor	11 08 1955
21133491	Rifleman	Bababhadur Gurung	1st Bn	Selangor	11 08 1955
21142538	Rifleman	Pahalsing Thapa	1st Bn	Selangor	11 08 1955
345107	Major	Dorabai Andrew Truss	2nd Bn	Selangor	07 06 1956
388466	Major (GCO)	Pahalsing Gurung, MBE, ISDM	2nd Bn	Selangor	07 06 1956
21131061	Rifleman	Bhambahadur Rana	2nd Bn	Johore	30 06 1956
599107	Captain (GCO)	Sunar Gurung	2nd Bn	Singapore	05 05 1957
21140389	Lance Corporal	Padambahadur Thapa	1st Bn	Brunei	29 01 1963
453383	Captain (GCO)	Rukbahadur Gurung, BEH	1st Bn	Singapore	30 01 1963
450985	Captain (GCO)	Purnabhadur Gurung, ISDM	1st Bn	Sarawak	18 09 1963
21153241	Rifleman	Bhambahadur Thapa	1st Bn	Sarawak	11 10 1963
21145550	Rifleman	Ugrabhadur Ale	1st Bn	Sarawak	10 02 1964
21153226	Rifleman	Tumbahadur Pun	2nd Bn	Singapore	27 03 1964
21153949	Rifleman	Gopal Gurung	1st Bn	Sabah	18 08 1964
21152914	Rifleman	Krishnabhadur Pun	1st Bn	Brunei	19 10 1964
21146119	Rifleman	Sukbahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Sarawak	28 09 1965
21158992	Rifleman	Dhankumar Tamang	2nd Bn	Singapore	23 01 1966
21153209	Rifleman	Mangnes Thapa	ETC	Pahang	29 03 1966

Their Names Shall Live For Ever

The roll includes the name of Sergeant Harakbahadur Thapa who died in Singapore on 5 November 1949 during the early phase of the Malayan Emergency.



UPCOMING EVENTS



LAST CALL

Friday 27 June 2025 2025 Annual Dinner

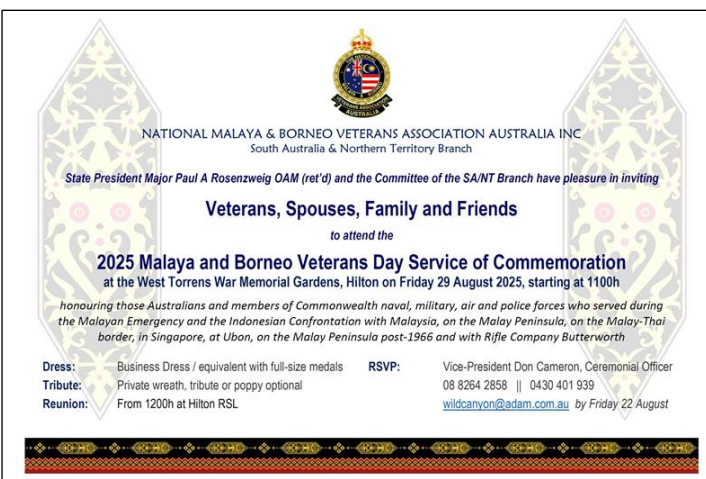
Our Branch annual dinner will be held at the Himalayan Kitchen in Melbourne Street on Friday 27 June at 1800h, starting at 1830h. There will be a raffle with some interesting prizes to choose from, and merchandise to purchase. Please contact Jenny Cameron asap if you wish to attend. You can find more details here:

<https://thehimalayankitchen.com/>



Friday 15 August 2025 2025 Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM gives us an opportunity to reflect on our history and to mark the 28th anniversary of the formation of the SA Branch of the Australian national association in Adelaide on Wednesday 31 June 1997.



INVITATION

Friday 29 August 2025 Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day

We will hold our annual Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service in the City of West Torrens War Memorial Gardens on Friday 29 August.

Our Branch Padre Major Quentin Castle will officiate, and the Air Force Cadets of No 604 Squadron will again provide the armed Catafalque Party, Honour Guard and Banner Party. The ceremony will be followed by a reunion and lunch at Hilton RSL. See you there!




ANNIVERSARY OF THE MALAYAN EMERGENCY

'Alumni Magazine' – Australian Air Cadets Alumni Network

The 'Alumni Magazine' is the official publication of the Australian Air Cadets Alumni Network. The Alumni is open to those who have worn a uniform as a cadet or staff member of the ATC, AirTC, AAFC or equivalent organisations in Commonwealth nations. Membership is free.


The May 2025 issue of the 'Alumni Magazine' contains several pages of contributions from Aviation Operations Wing of the Australian Air Force Cadets, including this special feature 'Honouring Malaysian Emergency Veterans'.

In 2025, Australia will mark the 75th anniversary of the start of Australia's involvement in the Malaysian Emergency on 31 May 1950. As part of this commemoration, on 31 May the SA/NT Branch hosted a small ceremony to acknowledge six of its members who are surviving veterans of the Malaysian Emergency



ALUMNI Magazine

May 2025




Flight Lieutenant (AAFC) Paul A Rosenzweig OAM
Public Affairs & Communication Officer
Aviation Operations Wing | Australian Air Force Cadets
PACO-AOW 008/25
17 March 2025

ALUMNI magazine

Our History Page

HONOURING MALAYAN EMERGENCY VETERANS



Among South Australia's surviving veterans of the Malaysian Emergency is Chris Howard (indicated above by the red dot), who served with the British Army on the Malay Peninsula in 1959-62, as a Corporal (Aircraft Technician) with the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers attached to 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps which operated the Taylorcraft Auster Mk 9 fixed-wing Air Observation Post aircraft, based at Noble Field in Kuala Lumpur (image supplied).


In 2025, Australia will mark the 75th anniversary of the start of Australia's involvement in the Malaysian Emergency on 31 May 1950.

The Australian contribution during the Malaysian Emergency (16 June 1948 to 31 July 1960), beside members of Commonwealth and Malaysian naval, military, air and police forces, served to uphold the sovereignty of the Federation of Malaysia – 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.

The 'Malayan Emergency' was an undeclared war, a guerrilla campaign fought in the Federation of Malaysia which cost the lives of 39 Australians.

The Commonwealth contribution included Malaysian and British units, including Gurkhas and Royal Marines, operating in support of the Federation of Malaysia Police.

ALUMNI magazine



The grave of A11167 Warrant Officer Heathcote Byron Brown (1907-1953) of No 1 ('Bomber') Squadron in Kranji Military Cemetery in Singapore. Heathcote Brown was a veteran of World War 2 (Mentioned-in-Despatches) and the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan. He suffered a heart attack on 8 April 1953, aged 45, and died in Batu Gajah General Hospital in Perak the following day after surgery (image by Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP).

Other troop contributing nations included 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 RAAF 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.

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

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.

The formal end of armed hostilities came with 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 Haadys in southern Thailand on 2 December 1989.

ALUMNI magazine

National commemoration

On Sunday 31 August 2025, the Department of Veterans' Affairs will hold a national commemoration acknowledging the 75th Anniversary of Australia's involvement in the Malaysian Emergency – at Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra, commencing at 1030h.

The service will be live telecast by ABC TV and iView. The focus will be on veterans of the Malaysian Emergency and family members. Prior to the televised ceremony there will be accounts from veterans who are present, plus film footage from various sources. Further information will be provided by DVA through their website and the 'VETAFFAIRS' newspaper.

Local commemoration

On Saturday 31 May 2025, the South Australia & Northern Territory Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc. will hold a private ceremony in Adelaide to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the start of Australia's involvement in the Emergency on 31 May 1950.

The service will particularly acknowledge the surviving veterans of the Malaysian Emergency and the families of those no longer with us.

The SANT Branch, NMBVA recognises 39 Australians who lost their lives on operational service during the prescribed period of the Malaysian Emergency between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1960, and a further seven who died in the period immediately following the closing date for this campaign.



The grave of A197 Warrant Officer George Robert Tait (1910-1951) of No 38 (Transport) Squadron in Kuala Lumpur (Cheras Road) Civil Cemetery, Malaysia. George Tait was a veteran of two tours with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan. He died of illness in Kuala Lumpur on 22 April 1951, aged 40 (image by Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP).

ALUMNI magazine

The SANT Branch will acknowledge six of its members who are surviving veterans of the Malaysian Emergency, including former Corporal (Aircraft Technician) Chris Howard of the Army Air Corps. Prayers will be offered by the Branch Chaplain Major Quentin Castle, and messages will be read to the surviving veterans from the SANT Branch Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, and other dignitaries. The service will be supported by local Air Force Cadets.

SANT Branch Vice-President Don Cameron said, "Each veteran will receive a personalised Certificate of Appreciation from the Branch to acknowledge their operational service on the Malay Peninsula and their role in upholding the sovereignty of the Federation of Malaysia during the Malaysian Emergency".



Chris Howard (pictured left) as an Aircraft Technician with 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps in Taiping, Malaya in 1957, as a Corporal with the British Army on the Rhine (BAOR) in Germany with 655 Squadron, Army Air Corps (centre) and in Adelaide today.

The post-war Army Air Corps of the British Army was created in 1957, and 656 Squadron was formed later that year. Its heritage lay in No 656 Squadron, RAAF which had been raised at Sembawang in Malaya on 29 June 1948 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 which operated independently from small airstrips in Perak, Taiping and Ipoh. In April 1950, Squadron Headquarters moved to Noble Field in Kuala Lumpur, and on 1 September 1957, No 656 Squadron, RAAF went over to Army control as 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps.

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Chris Howard with 14 Flights of 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps at Noble Field in Kuala Lumpur with Auster AOP Mk 9 (Air Observation Post) serial number 'XZ721' nicknamed 'Dragon', which saw service in the Far East and in Germany. The Auster was an Air Observation Post (AOP) and was used to drop leaflets; it also carried flares which were used as target markers during jungle bombing raids. This aircraft 'XZ721' is now on display in the Army Flying Museum in Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hampshire.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Malayan Emergency, 16 June 1948 to 31 July 1960

Honouring the 39 Australians who lost their lives on operational service during the prescribed period of the Malaysian Emergency between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1960, and a further seven who died in the period immediately following the closing date for this campaign. These included the following aviation personnel:

Commemorated on the Memorial Wall at Terendak Military Cemetery, Malacca, Malaysia: no known grave
A22152 Flight-Sergeant Gordon John McDonald, No 38 (Transport) Squadron, RAAF: 31 August 1950

Buried in Kuala Lumpur (Cheras Road) Civil Cemetery, Malaysia

A197 Warrant Officer George Robert Tait, No 38 (Transport) Squadron, RAAF: 22 April 1951

Buried in Kranji Military Cemetery, Singapore

A31107 Warrant Officer Heathcote Byron Brown, No 1 (Bomber) Squadron, RAAF: 9 April 1953

A51076 Leading Aircraftman Michael Murphy, No 1 (Bomber) Squadron, RAAF: 3 December 1956

O15609 Flying Officer Michael Vaughan Curtis, No 71 (Fighter) Squadron, RAAF: 16 June 1961

C5680 Wing Commander Norman Henry Neeson DFC, Royal Australian Air Force: 9 February 1961

Crushed in Hong Kong

O52768 Flight Lieutenant Dennis St George Greaves OBE, Base Squadron, RAAF Butterworth (Detachment 'A', Hong Kong): 10 July 1959

Buried in Penang (Western Road) Cemetery, Malaysia

A332124 Corporal John Martin O'Donnell, No 2 Airfield Construction Squadron, RAAF: 17 March 1957

A312847 Leading Aircraftman Derek John Hall, Headquarters No 78 Wing, RAAF: 4 March 1959

A312844 Leading Aircraftman William Patrick Duffly, Base Squadron, RAAF Butterworth: 26 July 1959

A312178 Aircraftman John George Lawson, Base Squadron, RAAF Butterworth: 26 July 1959

A317271 Leading Aircraftman Colin John Rose, Base Squadron, RAAF Butterworth: 18 September 1959

O15609 Flying Officer Michael Vaughan Curtis, No 71 (Fighter) Squadron, RAAF: 16 June 1961

O52902 Flight Lieutenant Ronald Ellis OBE, Pilot, No 3 (Fighter) Squadron, RAAF Butterworth: 11 September 1962

Let's we Forget

ALUMNI magazine



MALAYAN EMERGENCY Roll of Honour – June

Honouring the sacrifice of the 45 Australians who died on operational service during the general period of the Malayan Emergency, 16 June 1948 to 31 July 1960.

2/2836 Corporal John Norman Allan,
2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
22 June 1956

1/3693 Private Geoffrey Clyde Fritz (MID),
2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
22 June 1956

1/3207 Private Cedric Charles Ingra,
2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
22 June 1956

2/9108 Private Thomas Benjamin Hallard,
2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
24 June 1957

2/7623 Private Jack Frederick Potts,
2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
24 June 1957

3/410140 Private Joseph James Wilson,
2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
26 June 1957

O15609 Flying Officer Michael Vaughan Curtis,
No 77 (Fighter) Squadron RAAF: 16 June 1961

Lest we Forget

CONFRONTATION Roll of Honour – June

Honouring the sacrifice of the 26 Australians who died during the general period of the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia, 24 December 1962 to 11 August 1966.

37562 Lance-Corporal Paul Harold Denehey,
Royal Australian Corps of Signals,
1 Special Air Service Company:
6 June 1965

311512 Private Victor Herbert Richards,
4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
20 June 1966

Lest we Forget



O15609 Flying Officer Michael Vaughan Curtis (1934-1961)

Flying Officer Michael Curtis, a pilot with No 77 (Fighter) Squadron RAAF, died in the Federation of Malaya on 16 June 1961, aged 27.

Born in Japan on 22 January 1934, Curtis had earlier joined a National Service intake which commenced on 5 January 1953, serving with the 11th National Service Training Battalion at Wacol, Queensland.

Flying Officer Curtis was participating in an Army Co-operation Exercise, flying a Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation CA-27 Sabre Mk 32 jet aircraft, number 'A94-977'. He was conducting a demonstration of attacking ground targets (without armament release) under simulated forward air controlling in the Sunggei Patani area when his aircraft crashed into the United Patani Rubber Estate, 15 nautical miles north-east of the RAAF Base at Butterworth.

Curtis was buried on 17 June in the Penang (Western Road) Cemetery. He is one of 50 Australians from the Malayan wars who still remain buried overseas.

His name is not listed by the Australian War Memorial as his death occurred after 31 July 1960, the date the government of Malaya officially declared the Emergency over.

Lest we Forget





37562 Lance-Corporal Paul Harold Denehey (1944-1965) – Operation ‘Sharp Look’

One of the more tragic of the deaths from Confrontation resulted not from enemy action, but through being gored by an elephant: Lance-Corporal Paul Denehey is one of 50 Australian fallen from the Malayan wars who still remain buried overseas.

Paul Denehey joined the Australian Regular Army on 22 February 1962, and was allocated to the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. On 13 August 1963 he joined 1 SAS Company, The Royal Australian Regiment.

On 22 February 1965 he deployed from Singapore to Brunei. He joined a four-man Operation ‘Claret’ reconnaissance patrol in Sabah – patrol 12, on Operation ‘Sharp Look’ – operating along the Sabah-Kalimantan border. On 2 June, Lance-Corporal Denehey was attacked by a rogue elephant, and died of his wounds in the jungle several days later – a date of death was later recorded by Army as 6 June 1965.

Lance-Corporal Denehey was the first member of the Special Air Service Regiment to die on active service, and is commemorated on the SASR Memorial known simply as ‘The Rock’ in Campbell Barracks in Swanbourne, WA.

Lest we Forget



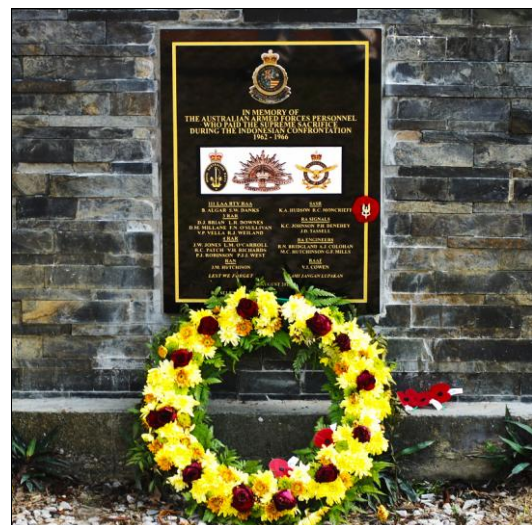
Lance-Corporal Paul Denehey was buried with full military honours in Ulu Pandan Military Cemetery in Singapore on 12 June 1965.



In 1975, Lance-Corporal Paul Denehey’s remains were exhumed and re-interred in Kranji Military Cemetery, Singapore.



LCPL Denehey is honoured on the Special Air Service Regiment plaque in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park, unveiled on 4 August 2015.



LCPL Denehey is honoured on the SA/NT Branch Confrontation plaque in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park, unveiled on 29 August 2016.