



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 7 – JULY 2025



MALAYAN EMERGENCY-75

On 31 May 2025, 75 years after the start of Australia's involvement in the Malayan Emergency, members and families gathered in the City of West Torrens War Memorial Gardens to honour those Australians and members of Commonwealth and Malayan naval, military, air and police forces who served in Malaya and Singapore between 1948 and 1960.

We honoured service and sacrifice, and also acknowledged the six members of our Branch who are surviving veterans of the Malayan Emergency. We were privileged to have Mrs Janice Silby, Deputy Commissioner SA with the Department of Veterans' Affairs attend and give an address, and place a tribute in memory of the fallen and to acknowledge the service of all veterans of these campaigns. In particular, Deputy Commissioner Janice Silby and Branch Vice-President Don Cameron honoured the four veterans who were able to be in attendance.



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'

Many thanks to all who attended our Branch annual dinner at the Himalayan Kitchen, and congratulations to the raffle prize winners.

Our 'Medal of the Month' is the India Service Medal 1939-1945 awarded to a Gurkha Senior NCO at the end of World War 2. His regiment, the 1st King George V's Own Gurkha Rifles, was one of six Gurkha regiments which transferred to the new Indian Army on 1 January 1948, becoming the 1st Gorkha Rifles.

Of particular relevance to us, on 24 August 1949 Field-Marshal Sir William Slim GCB GBE DSO MC, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, was appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the 1st Gorkha Rifles. The regimental history recorded: *"All ranks of the Regiment, past and present, were also delighted when in March, 1953, the Field-Marshal was appointed Governor-General of Australia"*.

Hugh Ritchie in Perth sent us this message: *"Thanks for that recent interesting wide ranging Issue of 'The Observation Post' recently received. Best Regards, and to All"*. Thanks Hugh!

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. And please let Jenny know if you'll be staying for lunch.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Branch Anniversary: Thursday 17 July 2025:
The 15th anniversary of the first meeting to rebuild the SA Branch (2010)

July meeting: 1115h Friday 18 July
Maid of Auckland Hotel,
followed by lunch



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

Sarawak Day: Tuesday 22 July 2025:
Hari Sarawak (1963)

Confrontation: Monday 11 August 2025:
The 59th anniversary of the end of Confrontation (1966)



Visit our Facebook page:

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



Visit our Website:

https://www.nmbvaa.org.au/sa_nt.php



COMMEMORATION



ANZAC DAY 25 April 2025

After the Anzac March, Paul Rosenzweig and Don Cameron caught up with Leading Aircraftman Aaron Musk.

Aaron is a former Cadet and staff member of 604 Squadron. As a Cadet Sergeant, he was Catafalque Party Commander for our 2015 Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service. As a Cadet Under Officer, he was Catafalque Party Commander for our 2016 service in Kuching, and he was then Guard Commander for our 2017 service in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens.

Aaron is pictured below left with Datuk Philip Ting AM at the Sarawak Club in Kuching in August 2016.

At Hampstead Barracks, then President Brian Selby presented CUO Aaron Musk with a Certificate of Appreciation for his participation in the first Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service to be conducted in Kuching (below right).





HONOURING OUR MALAYAN EMERGENCY VETERANS

Saturday 31 May 2025

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the start of Australia's involvement in the Malayan Emergency – on 31 May 1950. We held a small personalised ceremony at our NMBVAA memorial in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens to honour the surviving veterans of the Malayan Emergency.

Once again, 604 Squadron provided outstanding support through the provision of a ceremonial detachment – a Guard and Guard Commander, Honour Guard, a Squadron Banner party, two NMBVAA Banner Bearers, a speaker and wreath layers.

Since our first commemorative event in 2011, 604 Squadron has mounted a Catafalque Party for our annual Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day services. They also provided a Catafalque Party which travelled to Kuching in Sarawak for the 2016 Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service, and a Guard for the unveiling and dedication of our Branch memorial in 2017.

The SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA has adopted a four-pronged approach to commemoration, and one of our four pillars is "Honour the living". Included among our Branch members are six surviving veterans of the Malayan Emergency – of which we were able to honour four at this ceremony.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to hold this service at our NMBVAA Memorial Stone, and we thank His Worship Mr Michael Coxon, Mayor of West Torrens. We also appreciate the support of the WTCC Events Team in making the area ready, and arranging access to chairs. We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support of the City of West Torrens.

We honoured service and sacrifice, and we also acknowledged the six members of our Branch who are surviving veterans of the Malayan Emergency. We were privileged to have Deputy Commissioner South Australia Mrs Janice Silby attend on behalf of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (below centre). Janice gave an address, and placed a tribute in memory of the fallen and to acknowledge the service of all veterans of these campaigns. In particular, Janice and Vice-President Mr Don Cameron honoured the four veterans who were able to be in attendance.

We received messages of acknowledgment for our surviving veterans, which were read out on the day, and a copy was included in the binder presented to each veteran with their Certificate of Appreciation. Extracts of these messages are given on the following pages.





Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC
Governor of South Australia, and 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.

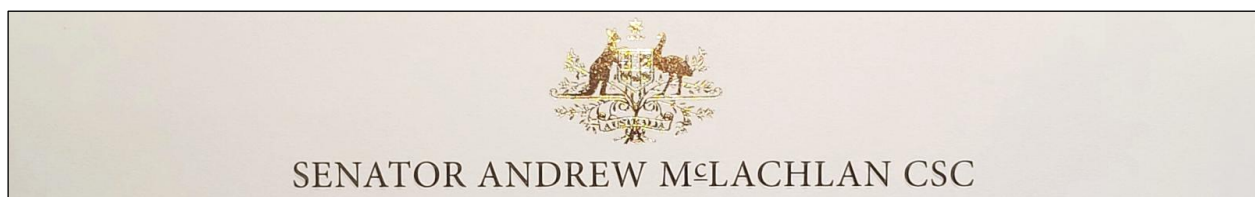
From 1948 to 1960, more than 7,000 Australians served in Malaya, under challenging and dangerous conditions.

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.



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.



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

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.

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.

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

Mrs Janice Silby

Deputy Commissioner South Australia, Department of Veterans' Affairs

The Emergency was one of Australia's first post-Second World War armed conflicts and helped stem the tide of communism at the height of the Cold War. We recognise that Australian forces served alongside forces from other parts of the Commonwealth, including Great Britain, Malaya, Singapore, Kenya, Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia, Fiji, and New Zealand. It is fitting that the veterans with us today represent this Commonwealth effort and Australia's contribution to it.

Today, as a representative from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, I recognise the diverse contributions of our veterans who served in the Malayan Emergency and most especially wish to thank those who are present here today.

Our six veterans being honoured here in South Australia today include men who served in the Australian Defence Force and men who came to call Australia home, and were welcomed into our veteran community after their military service.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to all of you, your contribution served to uphold the sovereignty of the Federation of Malaya, and independent Malaya after 31 August 1957.

In recognising the contributions of the veterans here today, we honour all veterans of the Malayan Emergency and Thai-Malay border operations, from Australia and other countries, who were committed to the common cause of defeating a communist insurgency.

I recognise also the families of those who served and who continue to share stories of their loved one's experience to uphold the legacy of involvement in the Malayan Emergency.



Former Corporal Jim Deering receives his commemorative folder and Certificate of Appreciation from Mrs Janice Silby. Jim served in the Federation of Malaya in 1949-50 with 40 Commando Royal Marines, 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines, and he returned to Malaya in the late 1950s to serve as a Police Lieutenant with the Federation of Malaya Police 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.



Former Corporal Chris Howard receives his commemorative folder and Certificate of Appreciation from Mrs Janice Silby. Chris served in Malaya in 1959-62 with the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, British Army, assigned as an Aircraft Technician to 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps. This squadron comprised four Air Observation Post Flights using the Taylorcraft Auster fixed-wing light aircraft, operating independently from small airstrips in Perak, Taiping, Ipoh and Noble Field in Kuala Lumpur. Chris has been a member of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA since 2015.

Images by Leading Aircraftman (AAFC) Oliver Farnden, 604 Squadron, Australian Air Force Cadets



Former Staff-Sergeant Oscar Johnsson receives his commemorative folder and Certificate of Appreciation from Mrs Janice Silby. Oscar served as a Private in the Australian Regular Army, and saw active service on the Malay Peninsula in 1957-59 as a Regimental Signaller with Support Company of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment; he subsequently served at Terendak Garrison in Malacca, in Sarawak and in South Vietnam, and attained the rank of Staff-Sergeant. Oscar has been a member of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA since 2010.



Major Ansel Mathews (ret'd) receives his commemorative folder and Certificate of Appreciation from Mrs Janice Silby. Ansel served as a Captain in the Malayan Federation Army, and saw active service during the Malayan Emergency in 1955-60 with the 1st Battalion Federation Regiment. He was subsequently promoted to Major, and was posted as the Assistant Defence Advisor to the United Kingdom at the Malaysian High Commission in London. Ansel has been a member of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA since 2011.

This image by Leading Aircraftman (AAFC) Oliver Farnden, 604 Squadron, Australian Air Force Cadets



CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION



Bernie Boxer. Bernie was unfortunately unable to attend our service on 31 May in which we marked the 75th Anniversary of the start of Australia's involvement in the Malayan Emergency on 31 May 1950.

Bernie is one of our six surviving veterans of the Emergency. He served in Malaya in 1953-54 as a Bombardier (Acting Sergeant) with 93 (Le Cateau) Field Battery, 25 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. He sent us this image where he is sitting on a 25 pounder QF howitzer ('Ordnance Quick-firing 25-pounder') of 'E' (Easy) Troop in Negri Sembilan, 1953.



Gawai 2025. After receiving our June newsletter, Lieutenant-General Stephen Mundaw PGBK sent us this image (above) and message – celebrating Gawai 2025 with the Veterans' Association of Sarawak:

Thank you Paul.

Cheers & oooooohhaaaa fm Swk. 🤗

We r still very much on "Gawai" mood at the moment

Hari Gawai, also known as 'the Gawai Dayak Festival', is a Sarawak rice harvest religious and social festival of thanks-giving celebrated on 1 and 2 June annually.

Gawai celebrates the end of the rice harvesting season, when the hard work that goes into rice harvesting is largely finished. The next planting season will begin in September, and so June is a month of rest and reward for those who had laboured over their rice fields.



Our friends in Kampung Stass in Sarawak preparing to celebrate Gawai Dayak 2025.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION



On this day. This article, published in *The News* of Monday 8 July 1963, refers to a visit by members of 'B' Company of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment to Kanchanaburi War Cemetery in Thailand.

Privates Don Cameron, Bill Fields and Boyce Moffatt are among the soldiers pictured with Dr Jim Forbes MC, the Liberal Party Member of the House of Representatives for the Division of Barker in South Australia (1956-75).

A wartime graduate of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, Forbes had been stationed in Darwin in 1943, and was then assigned to the 2nd Australian Mountain Battery. He served in New Guinea, Bougainville, Japan and Germany. On 24 April 1945, he was decorated with the Military Cross (MC) in recognition of gallant and distinguished service in the South West Pacific. After the war he continued his service within the Citizen Military Forces as a member of the Adelaide University Regiment until 1956.

After the 1963 Australian federal election on 30 November 1963, Forbes served as Minister for the Army (1963-66) in the Menzies Government. He also served as Minister for the Navy (1963-64), Health (1966-71) and Immigration (1971-72). In the 1978 New Year's Honours List, the Honourable Dr Alexander James Forbes was appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in recognition of his services to parliament. In 2001 he was awarded the Centenary Medal, "*For service to the Commonwealth Parliament and as Chairman, Commonwealth Serum Laboratories*".

After enlisting in the Australian Regular Army in 1962, 42919 Private Don Cameron was allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. Don was first posted as a Rifleman to 2RAR, and in December 1962 deployed to Terendak Garrison in Malacca, Malaya for service with the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve. During this time, he participated in a Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) exercise in northern Thailand.

Don was serving on the Malay Peninsula on 16 September 1963 when independent Malaya united with the then British crown colonies of North Borneo, Sarawak, and Singapore to become Malaysia. In 1964, Don transferred to 'B' Company, 3RAR and served on the Thai-Malay Border in 1964 and in Sarawak in 1965.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION

Captain Imbahadur Ghale. In a previous newsletter we mentioned that Captain Imbahadur Ghale received an Intermediate Regular Commission to continue serving in the British Army. Im was the commander of the British Forces Brunei contingent which participated in our 2023 Malaya & Borneo service in Kuching.

Im has now been posted to 34 (Seringapatam) Battery in the King's Gurkha Artillery based at Royal Artillery Barracks, Larkhill in the UK.

The formation of The King's Gurkha Artillery (KGA), and the creation of the seventh cap badge of the Brigade of Gurkhas, was officially announced in the UK Parliament on 28 April 2025: *"The KGA will strengthen the UK Armed Forces' artillery capabilities by taking on 400 Gurkha personnel. The new regiment will add to the wide range of excellence that the Brigade of Gurkhas deliver and the proud Gurkha history of military service to the UK and their homeland of Nepal"*.

This is reminiscent of 1948 when the two battalions of the 7th Gurkha Rifles were renamed as field regiments of the Royal Artillery.

At Sikamet Camp in Seremban (South Malaya Sub-District) in May 1948, the 1st Battalion (1/7GR) began its conversion to 101 Field Regiment, RA. At the same time, at Wardieburn Camp in Kuala Lumpur (Central Malaya Sub-District), the 2nd Battalion (2/7GR) began its conversion to become 102 Field Regiment, RA.

This plan, to create an all-arms Gurkha division, was short-lived however because 7GR was soon committed to the campaign against communist insurgents in Malaya, and reverted to the infantry role in June 1949.

On 2 June 2025, the first batch of Gurkha Artillerymen arrived at Larkhill and were presented with their new cap badges and berets. The Colonel of the Regiment for The King's Gurkha Artillery, Brigadier Charlie Harmer, received the salute. 34 (Seringapatam) Battery belongs to 14 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.

These images show our good friend Captain Im Ghale (KGA Training Officer) with Buddhist Spiritual Leader Keshang Ghale conducting a Temple Service for members of the King's Gurkha Artillery at Larkhill prior to their capbadging ceremony on 2 June.





ANNIVERSARIES

1 July 1994: THE ROYAL GURKHA RIFLES

On 1 July 1994, the four existing infantry regiments of the Brigade of Gurkhas (2GR, 6GR, 7GR and 10GR) were re-formed as 'The Royal Gurkha Rifles'.

All eight battalions of the British Army's Gurkha regiments and other support elements saw active duty during the Malayan wars, including the Brunei Revolt in December 1962.

After the end of Confrontation in 1966, a draw-down within the Brigade of Gurkhas began. The early 1990s saw the amalgamation of several British Army regiments, including those within the Brigade of Gurkhas.

On 1 July 1994, the four Gurkha Rifle Regiments were disbanded and reformed into a large regiment, The Royal Gurkha Rifles (RGR), which initially consisted of:

> 1st Battalion (1RGR): formed by the amalgamation and renaming of the 1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (2GR) and the 1st Battalion, 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles (6GR).

> 2nd Battalion (2RGR): formed in Brunei by the renaming of the 1st Battalion, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles (7GR).

> 3rd Battalion (3RGR): formed by the renaming of the 1st Battalion, 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles (10GR).

Following the withdrawal of 1RGR from Hong Kong to the UK, the RGR was reduced to two battalions – 3RGR was disbanded in November 1996 and was amalgamated into 2RGR in Brunei. 1RGR and 2RGR alternate their time between being stationed with British Forces Brunei, and in St John Moore Barracks in Kent in the UK.

Pictured here are two of the members of the British Forces Brunei / 1RGR detachment who attended our 2023 Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service in Kuching.

Captain Imbahadur Ghale (left), wearing No 4 Dress (Warm Weather Parade), spoke to acknowledge the passing of Rambahadur Limbu VC and read his VC citation.

Colour-Sergeant Tuljung Gurung MC (right), wearing No 6 Dress (Warm Weather Parade) was the 1RGR Mortar Sergeant. As a Rifleman in Afghanistan in 2013, he ferociously fought off two insurgents who attacked Patrol Base Sparta in Nahr-e Saraj in hand-to-hand combat and then with his kukri, and was awarded the Military Cross.



The regimental badge of The Royal Gurkha Rifles comprises two kukris with the blades crossed left over right, cutting edges facing outwards and downwards, since 2022 the kukris have been surmounted by the Tudor Crown of King Charles III.





No 604 SQUADRON, AAFC



HONOURS AND AWARDS Flight Sergeant (AAFC) Kim Edgar

Congratulations to Flight Sergeant (AAFC) Kim Edgar who has been awarded a 10 Year Service Certificate from the Director General Cadets–Air Force, Air Commodore Craig Heap AM CSC, to recognise his service as a uniformed Instructor of Cadets from 1 April 2014.

Kim had earlier served as a Cadet with No 12 Flight, South Australian Squadron Air Training Corps (Mount Gambier), and later with No 1 Flight SAAIRTC (Keswick Barracks).

He was announced as the most outstanding Air Cadet in Mount Gambier for 1993, receiving the Lieutenant Tony Casadio Memorial Trophy. This award was named after a helicopter pilot from Port Lincoln who died during the Vietnam War on 21 August 1968 while serving with the RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam and was Mentioned in Dispatches for bravery.

On 3 August 1995, Kim joined the Air Training Corps as an adult Instructor of Cadets, and he was awarded an AIRTC Meritorious Service Award on 19 May 1996.

Of particular note, Kim has supported nine of our Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day services since he was appointed an Instructor of Cadets in 2014.

In addition, he trained the ceremonial detachment which supported the 2016 Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service in Kuching, and he supported our Malaya-Borneo Memorial Unveiling and Dedication Service on 22 April 2017, and the 70th Anniversary of the Start of the Malayan Emergency Service on 16 June 2018.

Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated!





MEDAL OF THE MONTH

INDIA SERVICE MEDAL 1939-1945

During World War 2 India was still part of the British Commonwealth, and its Service personnel were eligible to receive Commonwealth awards. Two further awards were instituted, specifically acknowledging India's participation in the war – the India Service Medal and the India Overseas Service Badge.

The India Service Medal was instituted on 6 June 1946 for award to Indian personnel of the Indian Army or personnel serving with the British Forces in India, in recognition of at least 3 years' non-operational service in India between 3 September 1939 and 2 September 1945.

In effect, it took the place of the Defence Medal 1939-1945 in respect of Indian forces.

Eligible personnel included British officers and other ranks resident in India, and Viceroy commissioned officers. Indian personnel included members of the Indian Territorial and Auxiliary Forces, Indian State Forces and the Indian Women's Services.

The obverse design features the crowned effigy of King George VI and the title REX ET INDIAE IMP (*Rex et Indiae Imperator*) – 'King and Emperor of India', signifying his rule over British India as its imperial head of state.

The ribbon colours of dark and light blue represent the ribbons of the Order of the Indian Empire and the Order of the Star of India respectively.

This medal is struck in cupro-nickel; it has a straight non-swivelling suspender attached to the medal by a plain claw mount, indicating the medal was struck at the Mint in Calcutta. There were 222,000 medals issued.



India Service Medal 1939-1945 awarded to Company Havildar Major Udbahadur Rana, struck in cupro-nickel at the Calcutta Mint and named on the rim in small impressed capitals.

1473 Company Havildar Major Udbahadur Rana 1st King George V's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment)

Udbahadur Rana was a Gurkha Senior NCO of the Magar tribe (*jaat*) from western Nepal, who served during World War 2 with the 1st Gurkha Rifles, seeing at least three years' aggregated non-operational service within the borders of British India between 1939 and 1945.

Udbahadur Rana most likely enlisted as a Rifleman in the 1st Gurkha Rifles prior to 1939, at the 1GR Gurkha Rifles Recruiting Centre at Dharmsala in far northern India. In the Indian Army, soldiers in the infantry had carried the rank of 'Sepoy'; this term was no longer used for Gurkhas after 1920, and from that time a Gurkha soldier held the rank of 'Rifleman'.

1GR was the most senior Gurkha Infantry regiment of the Indian Army, 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 was a mixed rifle regiment comprising men from the Magar and Khas tribes, ethnic Nepali groups from the Kumaon, Garhwal and Kangra hills in the lower Himalayas in far western Nepal (now the Indian state of Uttarakhand in the Indian Himalayas). It was titled the 'First Nusseree (or Nasiri) Battalion'.

In 1939-45, Udbahadur Rana served with the 1st Gurkha Rifles at the regimental Home Station and Depot at Dharmsala in the Kangra Valley of the Punjab (far northern India), in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. During the war there were five regular battalions: 1st Battalion (1815-1947), 2nd Battalion (1886-1947), 3rd Battalion (1917-1921, 1940-47), 4th Battalion (1941-1947) and 5th Battalion (1942-1947). Each battalion was run by British officers and senior NCOs, with Nepalese officers holding the rank of Subadar-Major (Captain), Subadar (Lieutenant) and Jemadar (Sub-Lieutenant). As time went on, the British senior NCOs were replaced by Havildar-Majors.

Udbahadur Rana attained the rank of Company Havildar Major ('Company Sergeant Major', equivalent to Warrant Officer Class 2 in the British Army).

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 western and central 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.

1st Gurkha Rifles

This regiment was raised in 1815 as an irregular Gurkha battalion, the 'First Nusseree (or 'Loyal') Battalion'. It subsequently had the following titles:

- > First Nusseri (Gorkha) Battalion: declared to be a 'Local Battalion' on 2 May 1823.
- > 66th (Goorkha) Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry': became a regular infantry unit in 1850.
- > 1st Gurkha Regiment: redesignated in 1861 after the 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; formally known as the '1st Goorkha Light Infantry Regiment'.

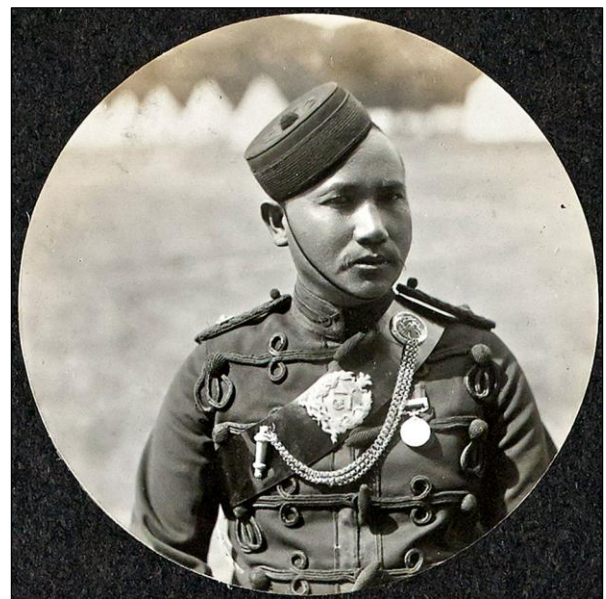
The spelling 'Goorkha' continued to be used for Gurkha regiments until 1891 when it was changed to 'Gurkha'.

- > 1st Gurkha (Rifle) Regiment: redesignated as a rifle regiment in 1891, with the standardised spelling 'Gurkha' being adopted.
- > 1st Gurkha Rifles: adopted as part of a broad reorganisation of the Indian Army in 1901.
- > 1st Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment): 1903.
- > 1st Prince of Wales's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment): King Edward VII appointed the Prince of Wales Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment on 1 January 1906, and a new badge was sanctioned in July 1909.
- > 1st King George's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment): retitled upon the ascension of the Prince of Wales to the throne as King George V on 6 May 1910; the Royal cipher 'GRI' and the Tudor Crown were added to the regimental badge.
- > 1st King George V's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment): retitled upon the death of King George V, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, on 20 January 1936.
- > 1st Gorkha Rifles: one of the six Gurkha regiments which transferred to the Indian Army on 1 January 1948 after independence under the tripartite agreement of 1947, with the spelling 'Gorkha' being adopted in 1949.



1st Gurkha Rifles

The original 1GR regimental badge worn before 1909 comprised a pair of crossed kukris with the blades facing outwards and downwards, with the numeral '1' above.

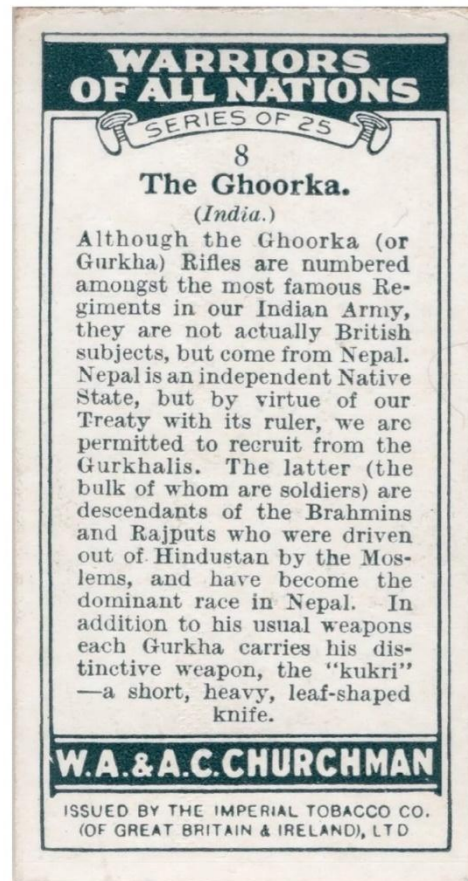


A junior officer (Jemadar) of the 1st King George's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment), 1911.



1st KGO Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment)

The badge worn from 1909 until 1947 comprised a pair of crossed kukris surmounted by the Royal crest of the Prince of Wales – reflecting the Royal designation granted in 1906 – with the numeral '1' and a stringed bugle-horn below the kukris.

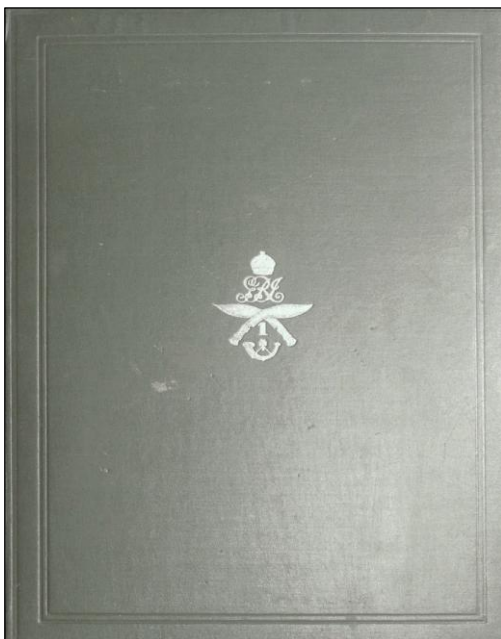


'THE GOORKHA' **1st King George's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment)**

This is a collectible Trading Card produced by the tobacco and cigarette manufacturer WA & AC Churchman, number 8 in a series of 25 entitled 'Warriors of All Nations' released in 1929. Founded by William Churchman in 1790 and based in Ipswich, Suffolk, Churchman's became a subsidiary of John Player & Sons, of the Imperial Tobacco Company of Great Britain and Ireland Ltd.

The single chevron indicates this Gurkha's rank as Lance-Corporal. In the Indian Army prior to 1920, soldiers in the infantry carried the rank of 'Sepoy' and the junior non-commissioned officers were 'Lance-Naik' and 'Naik'. From 1920, a Gurkha soldier held the rank of 'Rifleman', and Gurkha NCOs were known as Lance-Corporal and Corporal.

The scarlet backing to his rank chevron suggests he might belong to either the 1st or the 2nd Gurkha Rifles. The dark green rectangular patch on the puggaree of the 'Terai Hat' or Gurkha Hat however indicates that he belongs to the 1st King George's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment).



The 1GR regimental history (volume 1, 1815-1921) features on the cover the regimental badge sanctioned in July 1909, surmounted with the Tudor Crown of King George V.

The badge bears the Royal cipher 'GRI' which was adopted after the Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, acceded to the throne as King George V, King-Emperor of the United Kingdom and its Dominions, and Emperor of India – Georgius V Rex et Imperator ('GRI').

From May 1936, the title of the regiment was '1st King George V's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment)'.

World War 2

Udbahadur Rana was awarded the India Service Medal 1939-1945 for service at the regimental Home Station and Depot at Dharmasala as a Company Havildar Major ('Company Sergeant Major') with one of the five regular battalions of the 1st King George V's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment).

The British Honours Committee decided that World War 2 campaign stars and medals awarded to British forces would be issued unnamed. This practice was not followed however by three British Commonwealth countries – India, South Africa and Australia.

In these cases, the recipient's name was impressed in block capitals on the reverse of the campaign star or on the rim of the medal. Of note: members of the Royal Nepalese Army and Gurkhas who served in the Indian Army received medals which were named, but those who went into British service received unnamed medals.

This medal is correctly named on the rim in small impressed capitals:

1473 C.H.M. UDBAHADUR RANA, 1 G.R.

Company Havildar Major Udbahadur Rana was most likely also entitled to receive the War Medal 1939-1945.

Post-Independence

At the start of World War 2, an agreement was reached between the British government and the Indian independence movement whereby India would be granted independence after victory over the Axis Powers, in exchange for India's full cooperation in the war.

On 18 July 1947, the Indian Independence Bill was enacted by the British Government, and voting in the Bengal and Punjab Provinces resulted in the decision that both provinces should be partitioned.

Pakistan was granted independence at midnight on 14 August 1947; India was granted independence the following day.

Havildar Major Udbahadur Rana may have been eligible to receive the Indian Independence Medal 1948.

As a result of negotiations between the Nepalese, British and Indian Governments (known as the 'Tripartite Agreement'), 1GR was one of the six Gurkha regiments which transferred to the new Indian Army.

If he continued serving after Indian Independence Day, Havildar Major Udbahadur Rana would have transferred to the Indian Army on 1 January 1948.

He would have served at the Regimental Centre in Subathu in Himachal Pradesh in the far north with:

- > 1st King George V's Own Gorkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment) – the spelling 'Gorkha' was adopted in 1949.
- > 1st Gorkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment), from 1950.



1st Gorkha Rifles (Indian Army)

The regimental badge worn since 1948 comprises crossed kukris, with a stringed bugle-horn below, and the numeral '1' above the kukri blades.



The reverse of the India Service Medal 1939-1945 depicts a relief map of the Indian sub-continent.

The six former Gurkha regiments retained their imperial titles until India's transition to a republic, which came into effect on 26 January 1950.

1GR (comprising two battalions) was then designated '1st Gorkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment)'.

Subathu, a cantonment town in Solan district, is the home of the 1GR Regimental Centre and is also the site where the original Nusseree Battalion was raised over 200 years ago, on 24 April 1815.

Three additional battalions were subsequently raised, in 1959, 1963 and 1965.

Of interest, the 3rd Battalion of the 1st Gorkha Rifles served with the United Nations mission in the Congo (UNOC) in 1961.



UPCOMING EVENTS



2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Friday 15 August 2025

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



Dress is smart casual / business. Bring your jacket, beret and full-size medals for a Branch photograph – miniature medals are ok to wear as well. As usual, spouses and descendants should wear family medals on the right side.

Our Guest Speaker will be RAAF Butterworth veteran Reverend Brenton Daulby OAM JP, speaking on the topic "The Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force, 1914". The AN&MEF was the first expeditionary force raised by Australia in World War 1, to conduct operations to seize German possessions and wireless communications facilities in the Pacific to disrupt the operation of the East Asiatic Squadron. The force experienced the first Australian casualty of the war and also the first Australian gallantry decoration of the war.

Reverend Brenton Daulby OAM JP

Brenton Daulby is a Police, Air Force and St John Ambulance Chaplain, and a Justice of the Peace for SA.

He first served as a Police Officer, from 1971 to 1984. He later served as Chaplain to the Police Association of South Australia for approximately 10 years, Police Chaplain to Henley Beach Police (1996-00) and Police Chaplain to the South Australia Police Academy from 2000. He has received the South Australia Police Service Medal, recognising ten years' continuous, diligent and ethical service to SAPOL.

He served in the RAAF Active Reserve (1975-84) and then as a full-time RAAF Chaplain (1988-96), which included service at RAAF Butterworth, which was recognised by the Australian Service Medal with clasp "SE ASIA".

He has for many years been the State Chaplain for the Air Force Association (South Australia Division).

Reverend Daulby was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division in the Australia Day Honours List of 26 January 2007, "For service to the community through chaplaincy roles supporting serving and retired police and defence force personnel".

Since enrolling in St John Ambulance in February 2014, Reverend Daulby has been the State Chaplain for St John.


He was admitted to the Order of St John at the grade of Officer (OStJ) in 2016, and has been awarded the Service Medal of the Order of St John recognising 10 years' service.



The Reverend Brenton Daulby OAM JP with Air Force Cadets, placing a Rosemary tribute after the RAAF Birthday Sunset Wreath Laying service on 31 March 2025.



UPCOMING EVENTS



NATIONAL MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA INC
South Australia & Northern Territory Branch

State President Major Paul A Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd) and the Committee of the SA/NT Branch have pleasure in inviting

Veterans, Spouses, Family and Friends

to attend the

2025 Malaya and Borneo Veterans Day Service of Commemoration
at the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens, Hilton on Friday 29 August 2025, starting at 1100h

honouring those Australians and members of Commonwealth naval, military, air and police forces who served during the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia, on the Malay Peninsula, on the Malay-Thai border, in Singapore, at Ubon, on the Malay Peninsula post-1966 and with Rifle Company Butterworth

Dress: Business Dress / equivalent with full-size medals
Tribute: Private wreath, tribute or poppy optional
Reunion: From 1200h at Hilton RSL


RSVP: Vice-President Don Cameron, Ceremonial Officer
08 8264 2658 || 0430 401 939
wildcanyon@adam.com.au by Friday 22 August

REMINDER

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. We hope to see you there!



INFANTRYMAN

The Journal of the RAR Association SA
Keeping the Spirit Alive

April 2012

ONLY SECOND TIME IN AUSTRALIA

Malaya and Borneo campaigns honoured on August 31

August 31 is now a permanent fixture in the Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Day commemorations calendar, taking its place alongside Viet Nam Veterans Day, Kapyong Day, etc in the South Australian Ex-Services Commemorative Calendar for 2012.

SA & NT Branch President Brian Selby says: "This year is the only the second time it has been celebrated in Australia.


"Commemorations honour the two post WW2 campaigns on the Malayan Peninsula and in Borneo. "If Korea is remembered as the Forgotten War, we need to canvas names for the 1948-1960 Malayan Emergency, and the 1962-1966 Indonesian Confrontation."

On Friday August 31 at 1100 hrs a commemoration service will be held in the War Memorial Gardens, Brooker Terrace, Hilton.

The service will include the Commemoration address and addresses on the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation.

The chaplain's address will be given by Captain Quentin Castle, the branch padre and there will be wreath and tribute placing. The MC will be Mr Ian LeRaye, Vice President of the Naval Association of Australia Port Adelaide Sub-Branch.

The catafalque party will be mounted by 6 Wing 604 Sqn AAFC.



Brian said: "The South East Asia areas of Malaya, Borneo, Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore are the places, other than Gallipoli, France and Belgium that have caused more Australian Armed Forces casualties than any other place on Earth.

"The two major undeclared wars, post WW2, are the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation.

"Casualty lists have never been made public and there are omissions on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial.

"There is no memorial in Canberra. These are the only two campaigns to not be honoured."

The NT & SA Branch, which is affiliated with the RAR SA Association, holds regular meetings and social functions and offers DVA assistance, welfare and health advice.

Those who served in Malaya, Malaysia, Sabah, Sarawak, Singapore, Ubon and East Timor between 1940 and the present day with any Armed Forces from Australia, New Zealand, the UK and Malaysia as well as former and current serving RAR members and attached troops, who have been posted to 30 Bn RAR Butterworth are eligible to join the branch.

Details are available from Brian Selby on 8387 1672 or 0416 118 843 or brian.selby@virginbroadband.com.au

MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS DAY West Torrens, Friday 31 August 2012

This extract from 'The Infantryman' newsletter of April 2012 advised that the second Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service in Adelaide would be conducted on Friday 31 August 2012, supported by a Catafalque Party provided by No 604 Squadron, AAFC. The ceremony, to be held at the Cross of Sacrifice in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens in Hilton, was intended to mark the 52nd Anniversary of the End of the Malayan Emergency, and the 46th anniversary of the End of Confrontation.



MALAYAN EMERGENCY Roll of Honour – July

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.

1/3542 Private James Neville Metcalf,
2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
4 July 1957

O52768 Flight Lieutenant
Dennis St George Greaves Oates,
Base Squadron, RAAF Butterworth:
10 July 1959

A218384 Leading Aircraftman
William Patrick Duffy,
Base Squadron, RAAF Butterworth:
26 July 1959

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

2/8409 Lieutenant Clive William Bridge,
1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
28 July 1961

Lest we Forget

CONFRONTATION Roll of Honour – July

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.

213347 Signalman Kenneth Charles Johnson,
208th Signals Squadron (Commonwealth):
3 July 1965

342550 Corporal Peter John West,
Assault Pioneer Platoon, Support Company,
4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
2 July 1966

3411676 Sapper Reginald Nevill Bridgland,
22 Construction Squadron,
Royal Australian Engineers:
31 July 1966

Lest we Forget



213347 Signalman Kenneth Charles Johnson (1941-1965)

Signalman Kenneth Johnson served with the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. During Confrontation, he deployed to the Malay Peninsula and was attached to 208 (Commonwealth) Signals Squadron, 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Group.

Johnson was injured in motor vehicle accident on the Malay Peninsula, and died in Kuala Lumpur General Hospital on 3 July 1965, aged 24.

Signalman Johnson was buried in the Terendak Garrison Cemetery in Malacca, Malaysia with full military honours.

On 2 June 2016, his remains were repatriated in a C-17A Globemaster aircraft in Operation 'Reunite'.

Aircraft bearing the coffins of 25 Servicemen and eight dependants from Terendak Military Cemetery in Malaysia and Kranji Cemetery in Singapore landed at RAAF Base Richmond in Sydney, after which a military repatriation ceremony and memorial service for families was conducted, attended by the Governor-General, friends and former colleagues of the deceased.

Signalman Johnson was reinterred in the Sydney War Cemetery in Rookwood, NSW.

His name is listed on the Rolls of Honour (panel 3) in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial.

Lest we Forget

