



# 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 8 – AUGUST 2025**



## **2025 ANNUAL DINNER**

On Friday 27 June we held our Branch annual dinner at the Himalayan Kitchen, to mark 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.

In recent years, the SA/NT Branch has adopted a four-pronged approach to commemoration: Remember the fallen; Remember Malaysia; Honour the living; Look to the future. We continue to acknowledge the service of our veterans through ceremonial events, an active advocacy and welfare program, recognition of service and achievements, an active information-based social media presence, and through social gatherings and reunions such as this. We also recalled the brave Ibans and Gurkhas our veterans served beside in Sarawak 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*

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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 welcome some new corresponding members. Welcome to Fred Lynch from WA, who served a short period in Infantry but mostly in Artillery units.

Another to join our mailing list is John Ward, who saw 52 years' service in the RAAF, including duty at RAAF Butterworth at the tail end of Confrontation flying Sabres, and also at Ubon in Thailand. He and his wife Annie attended two commemoration services, while serving at Butterworth and a few years ago in a visit from Australia.

Also joining us as a corresponding member is Malayan Emergency RAN and FESR veteran Randall Kellas, who was a member of the Admiral's Band aboard the aircraft carrier HMAS *Melbourne* and served as an ammunition loader on an anti-aircraft gun. Hopefully our readers will contribute some stories to improve the naval representation in the newsletter.

It is with sadness that we report on the passing of Ray Marshall of the New Zealand Malayan Veterans Association. Roy would be known to our members who joined the Sarawak Reunion visits in 2019 and 2023. One colleague wrote, "*I know he will be missed by all those who had the privilege of meeting and knowing him*". Ray's daughter recalled, "*Memories are so precious, Dad had many solid gold memories of his precious mates*". Lest we Forget

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

2025 AGM: 1115h Friday 15 August 2025  
Maid of Auckland Hotel  
With a Guest Speaker,  
followed by lunch



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

Branch Anniversary: Thursday 21 August 2025:  
*The 15th anniversary of the inaugural Annual  
General Meeting at the Hilton RSL (2010)*

MBV Day Service: 1100h Friday 29 August 2025  
*Malaya-Borneo Veterans Day Service of  
Commemoration, West Torrens War Memorial  
Gardens, Brooker Terrace*

Hari Merdeka: Sunday 31 August 2025:  
*Hari Merdeka / Independence Day (1957)*



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



Visit our Website:  
[https://www.nmbvaa.org.au/sa\\_nt.php](https://www.nmbvaa.org.au/sa_nt.php)





### **HONOURING OUR MALAYAN EMERGENCY VETERANS** **Saturday 31 May 2025**

On 31 May 2025, 75 years after the start of Australia's involvement in the Malayan Emergency, we gathered beside our memorial in the City of West Torrens War Memorial Gardens to hold a small personalised ceremony 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 acknowledged the contribution of four of our surviving Malayan Emergency veterans:

- > former Corporal (Aircraft Technician) Chris Howard (REME attached to No 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps)
- > former Regimental Signaller Oscar Johnsson (3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment)
- > former Corporal Jim Deering (40 Commando Royal Marines), and later Police Lieutenant
- > Major Ansel Mathews, ret'd (1st Battalion, Federation Regiment, Malayan Federation Army)

We received apologies from Bernie Boxer (Bombardier and Acting Sergeant, 93 (Le Cateau) Field Battery, 25 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery) and Ted Richardson (Able Seaman, Royal Australian Navy, HMAS Anzac).

We thank Mrs Janice Silby, DVA Deputy Commissioner SA for placing a tribute in memory of the fallen, giving an address to acknowledge the veterans of these campaigns, and for making a presentation to each veteran present.

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.

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.

Of particular note, this was the sixteenth time No 604 Squadron, AAFC has provided a ceremonial detachment in support of our commemorative events during the period 2011 to 2025.

The 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. Thank you 604 Squadron!





### BRANCH MEETING Friday 16 May 2025

As is our custom, the Ode of Remembrance was recited by Don Cameron. We particularly remembered Ross Ortmann (19 May 2002, 66) and Clive Dubois (28 May 2017, 74).

Mal White reminded members of merchandise available, including stubby holders and scarves. Paul showed a hat holder he has produced for 604 Squadron AAFC – it can fit a slouch hat, even with the brim turned up.

Don advised of the recent visit from Queensland by members Graeme and Jen Hanisch. They had been visiting Graeme's uncle Roy Hanisch on the occasion of his 100th Birthday.

### BRANCH MEETING Friday 20 June 2025

Numbers were a bit down with the weather and various bugs floating around. We wish a speedy recovery to all affected.

Paul thanked all who attended the Malayan Emergency event on Saturday 31 May, and noted that a very enjoyable lunch was held afterwards at The Schnithouse. Certificates of Appreciation have been prepared for the Cadets and staff from 604 Squadron, AAFC.

Mal had some new merchandise, including NMBVAA-branded pens – some everyday ones (\$5 each) and some other samples that might be suitable as presentation items.



*Ray is pictured here (foreground) as the RSM for the combined Australia-New Zealand-Malaysia service of commemoration held in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching on Monday 28 August 2023.*

### VALE

#### 931934 Warrant Officer Class 1 Raymond Charles Marshall (1941-2025)

It is with sadness that we advise of the passing of former Warrant Officer Class 1 Ray Marshall, New Zealand Army. Ray passed away peacefully early on the morning of Wednesday 25 June at the Wellington Hospital, aged 84.

Ray was born in Matura, New Zealand. He enlisted on 4 June 1963, and served with 'D' Company of the 1st New Zealand Regiment in Malaya from November 1963 to December 1965: on the Thai-Malay Border, and at Labis, Pontian and Muir.

Meanwhile, in April 1964 1NZR became the 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment. Ray served with 1RNZIR in Sarawak from April to October 1965.

He also served with 1RNZIR in Nee Soon Camp, Singapore, and then with 'Victor-6' Company, 4RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion in South Vietnam in 1971. Having attained the rank of Warrant Officer Class 1, Ray retired from the Army on 7 September 1983 after 20 years' service.

Ray received the imperial campaign medals for the Malay Peninsula, Borneo and Vietnam, as well as the Pingat Jasa Malaysia and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. He also received the NZ Operational Service Medal, NZ General Service Medal 1992 (Warlike), the NZ Defence Service Medal and the NZ Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Ray was a stalwart of the Malayan Veterans Association of New Zealand. In addition to his operational service in Sarawak in 1965, Ray returned to Sarawak four times with the MVA: in 2007, 2017, 2019 and 2023. He was RSM for the commemorative services in Kuching, and the MVA contingent which marched in the Merdeka Parade in 2019 and 2023.

Lest we Forget





## 2025 ANNUAL DINNER

Friday 27 June 2025

We held our Branch annual dinner at the Himalayan Kitchen in Melbourne Street.

As well as an opportunity to gather and renew acquaintanceships, this dinner was a chance to mark the 15th anniversary of the re-formation of the SA Branch through a meeting of veterans and partners in 2010.

It was also an opportunity to honour service and sacrifice during the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation (particularly those who remain buried overseas) and to remember fallen comrades and absent friends.



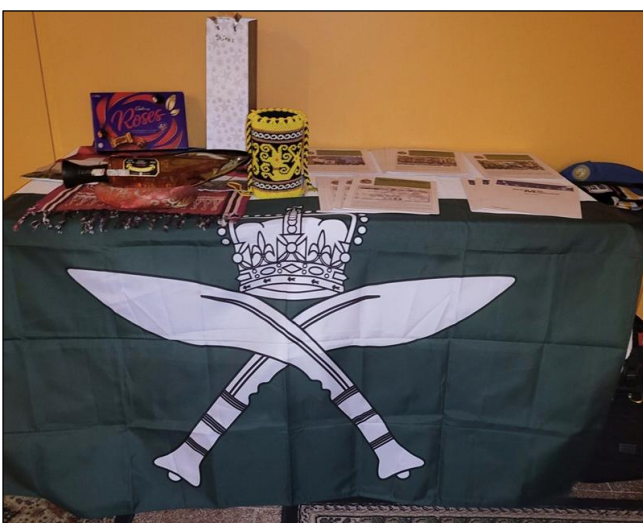
<https://www.facebook.com/The.Himalayan.Kitchen>



*The generous donations will go towards our sponsorship of the Sarawak schools which we support. These are located in areas in the Bau District where Australian military forces – among the 'Sarawak Defenders' – were deployed during the period of Confrontation.*



*We had the traditional place-setting for absent comrades. Vice-President Don Cameron recited the Ode of Remembrance. Later, Paul Bayliss proposed the Loyal Toast, and Don Cameron proposed the toast to Absent Friends.*



*We recalled the brave Ibans and Gurkhas our veterans served beside in Sarawak during Confrontation.*



*Congratulations to Paul Bayliss who won the main lucky door prize – a pair of 18" square red poppy throw pillow covers.*





3RAR veterans – Ken Mathews and Don Cameron



Ken with Helen Meyer

We were pleased to have Branch member Ken Matthews join us from Melbourne. Ken and Don Cameron served together in 'B' Company of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment at Terendak Garrison on the Malay Peninsula. From there, Don and Ken both deployed on 'Special Service' on the Thai-Malay Border from 3 September to 24 November 1964. They then served in Sarawak, at a fortified rifle company patrol base near Kampung Gumbang in the Bau District, close to the Sarawak-Kalimantan border. Ken took his discharge on 27 September 1966. He subsequently served in the RAAF, including service in South Vietnam as a Leading Aircraftman (Engine Fitter) with No 35 Squadron from 17 December 1969 to 16 October 1970.

Private Don Cameron (indicated by the blue arrow) and Private Ken Matthews (red arrow) are pictured below near Bau with 6 Platoon, 'B' Company, 3RAR ('Old Faithful'). The battalion had 24 Iban Trackers attached for operational duty, with two of them assigned to 6 Platoon – Unchat anak Unyong (front row, far left) and Balling anak Ajong (front row, second from the right).

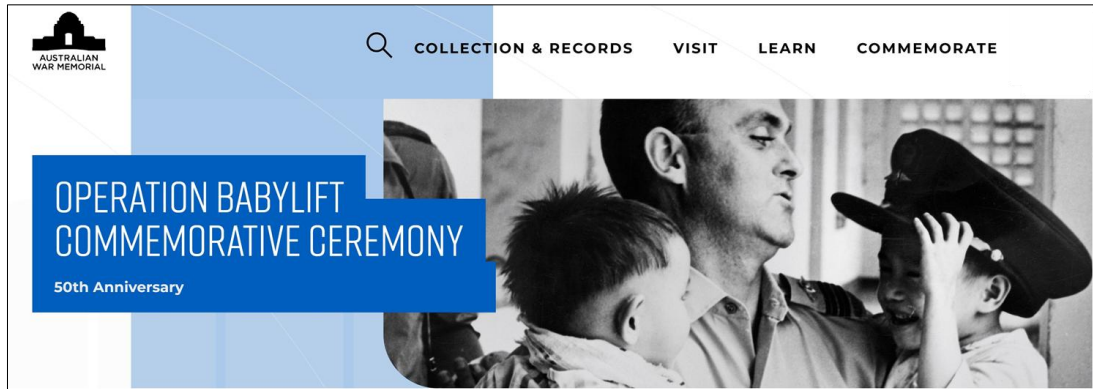
During our liaison visit to Sarawak in 2022, we travelled to Sibu and were privileged to meet with the family of the late Unchat, who had come from an Iban longhouse located on the Bena Sot River in the village of Kapit.







## CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION



### HQRIC DETACHMENT 'S' Canberra, 23 July 2025

Flight Sergeant (AAFC) Kim Edgar from No 604 Squadron, AAFC attended the HQRIC Detachment 'S' 50th Anniversary Commemoration at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

After decades of war in the Republic of Vietnam, a humanitarian mission named Operation 'BABYLIFT' was launched to evacuate more than 3,000 orphaned children from South Vietnam. They were taken by military and civilian air transport to the various safe haven countries around for world for adoption – including Australia. This ceremony at the AWM commemorates the 50th anniversary of this event, honouring those involved and acknowledging the lives saved and lost during this mission.

Kim Edgar was one of those Vietnamese adoptees, evacuated to Australia in April 1975 as part of Operation 'BABYLIFT'.

Kim has provided this personal story of an adoptee whose life path was shaped by this operation:

*My life, like that of many others, was forever shaped by the actions of the RAAF personnel of HQRIC Detachment 'S', including No 37 Squadron and associated RAAF aircrew, medics and support staff.*

*My adoption, arrival in Australia, and subsequent upbringing led directly to my involvement with the South Australia Squadron Air Training Corps, which eventually evolved into my current role within the Australian Air Force Cadets. Attending this ceremony in uniform symbolises my full-circle journey from an orphaned child rescued by the Air Force, to now proudly serving as an instructor developing today's youth under the Air Force banner.*

Kim observed:

*The day concluded with the Australian War Memorial's Last Post Ceremony, a solemn and nationally significant ritual that honours the service and sacrifice of members of the Australian Defence Force.*

*To be present at this ceremony in AAFC uniform was a deeply personal honour and privilege, symbolising the connection between past and present generations of the Air Force family. It also respectfully acknowledged not only my own journey, but the service of those who made it possible, while demonstrating the continued commitment of the AAFC to honouring Defence traditions.*



*Flight Sergeant (AAFC) Kim Edgar placed a poppy at the Australian War Memorial on behalf of 604 Squadron in honour of all who served and died during the Malayan Emergency.*





**Keith John Seaton.** These images were sent to us by Malayan Emergency veteran Mr Keith Seaton. He was a National Serviceman with the Royal Army Medical Corps, stationed at British Military Hospital Kinrara in 1960-61. BMH Kinrara was located close to Kuala Lumpur: it operated from 1959 to 1964, and was known for its close relationship with the Lady Templer Hospital in Kuala Lumpur. It has its origins in an 18-bedded ward opened in 1950 to treat Gurkhas suffering from tuberculosis. Many staff members were later transferred to the new Military Hospital in Terendak Camp, Malacca.

Keith was Secretary and Standard Bearer of a UK branch, no longer operational because there are only a few members. He visited KL and the memorial there in 1989 to pay his respects, and raised the funds for a small memorial in the Peace Gardens in his home town of Spalding (centre). At the beginning of June, he visited the NMBVA Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. Keith sends his best wishes to all NMBVA members in Australia.

## BRANCH MEETING Friday 18 July 2025

When Don Cameron recited the Ode of Remembrance, we particularly remembered our late member John James Meers, who passed away in Murray Bridge just a few days earlier.

Born in Terowie, John enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 2 January 1962, aged 19. He served during Confrontation as a Sapper, later Lance-Corporal, with 21 Construction Squadron Royal Australian Engineers, on deployment in British North Borneo (Sabah) on Operation 'Granite', from 10 December 1965 to 19 June 1966.

He was awarded RSL Life Membership for his service to veterans and the veteran community.

John's funeral service will be held at the Murray Bridge RSL on Friday 25 July, 10.30am. Medals should be worn.

Our July meeting coincided with the Maid of Auckland's monthly special – Christmas in July – and our members enjoyed main meals including Roast Turkey and Baked Snapper.







## No 604 SQUADRON, AAFC

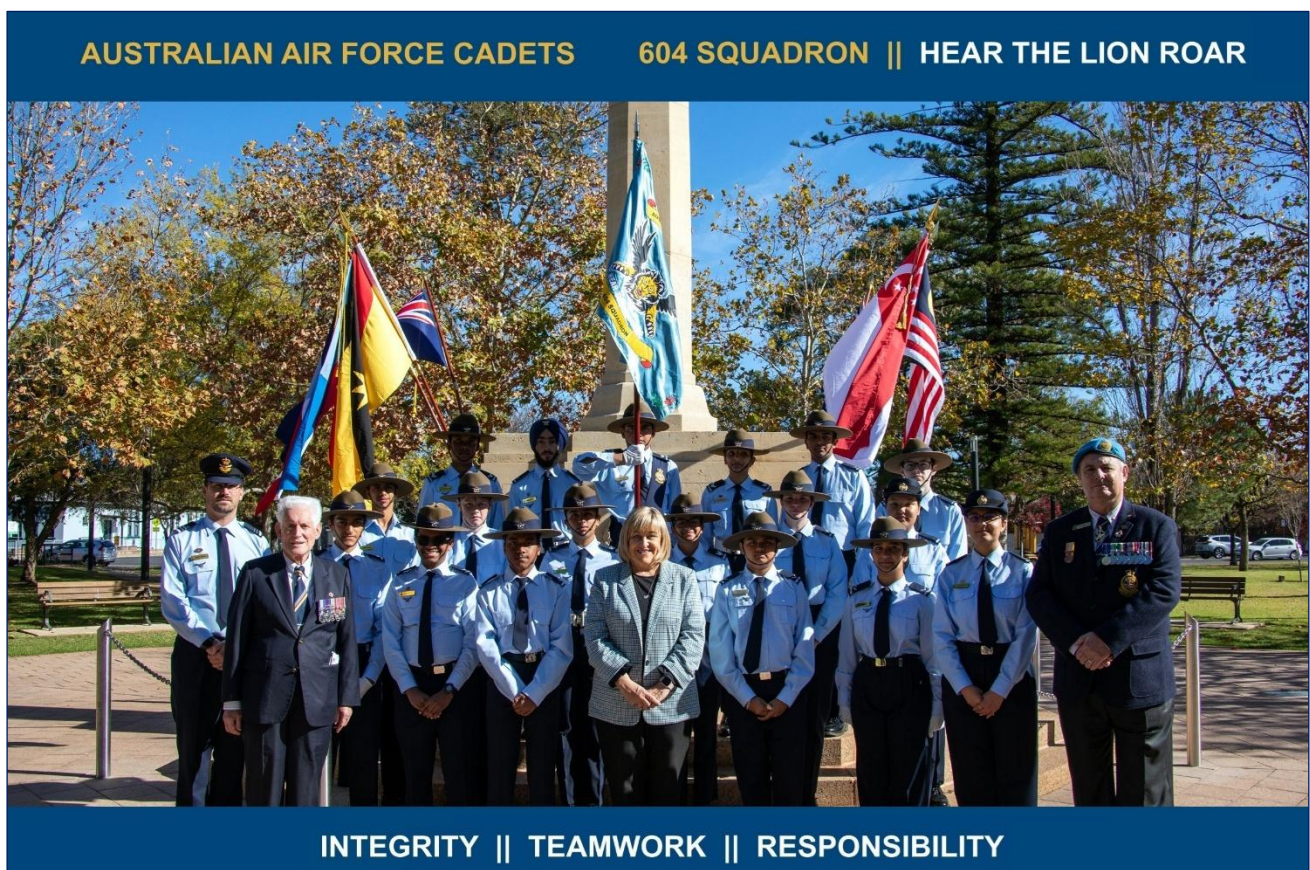
### HONOURING OUR MALAYAN EMERGENCY VETERANS Friday 31 May 2025

For our ceremony at our NMBVAA memorial in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens to honour the surviving veterans of the Malayan Emergency, 604 Squadron once again provided outstanding support through the provision of a ceremonial detachment – a Guard and Guard Commander, Honour Guard, Squadron Banner party, 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.

We were privileged to have Deputy Commissioner South Australia Mrs Janice Silby attend on behalf of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, to honour service and sacrifice. Janice helped us acknowledge the six members of our Branch who are surviving veterans of the Malayan Emergency – in particular, the four who were able to be in attendance.



*Mrs Janice Silby, Deputy Commissioner SA for DVA (centre), with Vice-President Don Cameron and State President Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd), who currently serves as Commanding Officer of 604 Squadron.*

*Many thanks to the Guard Commander Cadet Sergeant Aishwarya Srikanth, and the 604 Squadron Banner Bearer Cadet Corporal Dev Patel, and all Cadets who participated including two guests from No 622 Squadron in Murray Bridge.*

*We also thank Flight Lieutenant (AAFC) Kieran Wandel who was the Activity Officer-in-Command. This was the fourth commemorative service attended by Kieran, including three Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day services (two as Commanding Officer of 604 Squadron).*



## No 604 SQUADRON, AAFC

### 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE START OF THE MALAYAN EMERGENCY

On Wednesday 25 June, 'ME-75' Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the participants in our Malayan Emergency Commemoration service. Many thanks to all who supported us!



Rear (left to right): LCDT Veer Thakur, NMBVAA Banner Bearer; CCPL Dev Patel, 604SQN Banner Bearer; LCDT Jaibir Singh, 604SQN Banner Escort; LCDT Mudit Prasad, Guard member; CCPL Karthik Suresh, Guard member; LCDT Aryan Patel, Guard member; CDT Liam Jackson, Tribute Layer.

Front: LCDT Veer Abani, Tribute Layer; LCDT Shaun Thomas, NMBVAA Banner Bearer; LCDT Rudra Patel, Speaker (preliminaries and introduction); LCDT Ishi Saini, Guard member; CSGT Aishwarya Srikanth, Guard Commander; CCPL Vama Nanavati, 604SQN Banner Escort.

Presented separately: CCPL Delisha Panchal, 604 Squadron Banner Warrant Officer



Staff certificates: LACW(AAFC) Stuti Patel, LAC(AAFC) Oliver Farnden and AC(AAFC) Samira Khan.



On the last night of Term 2, the CO of 604 Squadron presented a Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award badge to Leading Cadet Mudit Prasad. With recent completions – including 7 approved so far in 2025 – it was with great pleasure that the CO could announce that LCDT Prasad's Silver Award was the **100th Award** approved in 604 Squadron since the first completion was recorded on 7 October 2016.

To mark this significant occasion, LCDT Prasad also received a Royal Australian Air Force Challenge Coin – a 48mm cutout medallion with enamel detail depicting Air Force's 21st century identity. The obverse depicts the RAAF roundel and the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter; the reverse features the RAAF crest surrounded by the RAAF Values.







## MEDAL OF THE MONTH

### GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL 1918-1964

The General Service Medal 1918-1964 was instituted on 19 January 1923 by Army Order No 3 to reward service by members of the Army and Air Force in minor warlike operations after the end of World War 1, other than in India and Africa, for which no separate medal was issued.

The medals were struck in sterling silver at the Royal Mint in London.

The medal has an ornate swivelling suspender bar with an elaborate mount attaching the suspension bar to the medal disc.

There were six obverse designs of the medal: this is the third pattern medal, featuring the crowned effigy of King George VI facing left – issued between 1937 and 1949, the period preceding Indian independence.

The legend includes the title REX ET IND IMP ("Rex et Indiae Imperator") – 'King and Emperor of India' – to signify King George VI's rule over British India as its imperial head of state.

The General Service Medal 1918-1964 was not issued without a clasp, with a total of 18 clasps ultimately authorised.

When subsequent clasps are awarded, they are added above the first-issued clasp so the 'record of service' reads upwards from the medal.



*General Service Medal 1918-1964 with clasps 'S.E. ASIA 1945-46' and 'MALAYA' awarded to Rifleman Khambe Rai, struck in sterling silver (third pattern medal, 1937-1949).*

### 108919 Rifleman Khambe Rai

#### 3rd Battalion, later 1st Battalion, 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles

Khambe Rai was a Gurkha rifleman from the eastern mountains of Nepal, who saw operational service in the Netherlands East Indies after the end of World War 2, with the 48th Gurkha Infantry Brigade in Malaya during the early years of the Malayan Emergency, and possibly on internal security tasks in Hong Kong after 1957. The Rai and Limbu are the main ethnic Nepali groups native to the east of Nepal.

Khambe Rai enlisted in the 10th Gurkha Rifles after the end of World War 2 at Shillong in eastern India, the Gurkha Rifles Recruiting Centre for 7GR and 10GR. Rifleman Khambe Rai was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, which had its Home Station at the 10GR Regimental Centre and Depot at Dehra Dun in northwestern India.

10GR has an ancestry, and regimental number, dating back to the '10th Madras Infantry' which was formed as a rifle regiment of the British Indian Army in 1890. This itself had a heritage dating back to the 14th Battalion of Coast Sepoys, raised at Vellore in south India in 1766 as part of the Honourable East India Company's Madras Army. This subsequently became the Amboor Battalion (1767), 11th Carnatic Battalion (1769), 10th Carnatic Battalion (1770), 10th Madras Battalion (1784) and ultimately the 10th Regiment Madras Native Infantry (1796).

Meanwhile the Kubo Valley Military Police was raised at Manipur in India on 9 April 1887 after the end of the Third Burmese War – a freshly recruited military police force to replace the war-weary regular army battalions. It was intended to be a temporary force to establish order in districts of upper Burma and then hand over those districts to the civil police. It comprised equal numbers of Gurkha and Assam hillmen recruits, and deployed to Burma.

On 1 June 1890, the 10th Regiment (1st Burma Battalion) of Madras Infantry was formed for permanent service with the British Indian Army in Burma which had been annexed five years earlier. It comprised men from the disbanded 10th Madras Infantry and Kubo Valley Military Police Battalion, plus detachments transferred in from the 42nd, 43rd and 44th Gurkha Rifles together with men from the hill-tribes of Assam and a few Dogras and Hindustanis.

As a rifle regiment of the British Indian Army from 1890, its assigned recruiting areas were in the Limbu and Rai tribal areas of eastern Nepal, drawing Rai and Limbu men, with smaller numbers of Sunwars and Tamangs.



## 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.

Traditionally recruits of Indian Gorkha or Nepalese nationality came from one of four major *jaat* groupings – the Gurung and Magar from western and central Nepal, and the Limbu and Rai from eastern Nepal.

Those named Rai, Limbu, Tamang and Sunwar, as well as some Sherpas (of Tibetan origin, from the Himalayan mountains of Nepal), have traditionally come from the east of Nepal. They were recruited by the British into their 'eastern regiments' (7GR and 10GR).



### 10th Gurkha Rifles

*The original 10GR regimental badge comprised crossed kukris with the blades facing outwards and downwards, with the numeral '10' above the blades.*

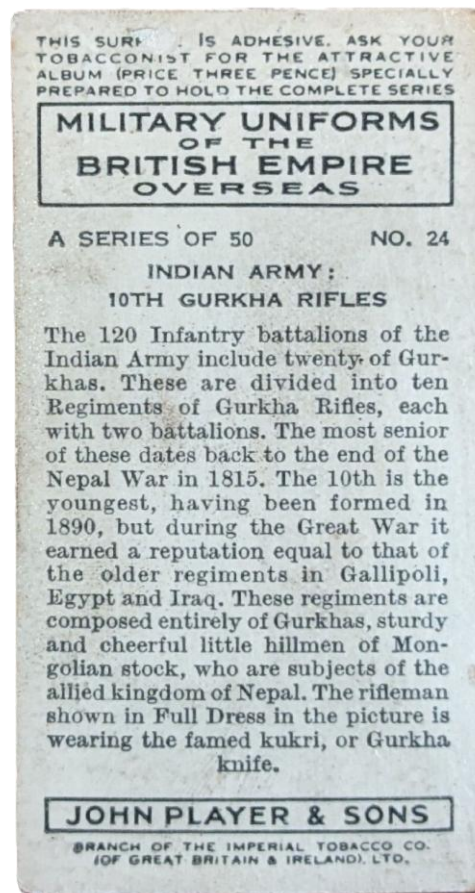
### 10th Gurkha Rifles

The 10th Regiment gained the designation '1st Burma Rifles' on becoming a rifle regiment in Burma on 9 February 1892. It then became the 10th Regiment (1st Burma Gurkha Rifles) of Madras Infantry on 3 May 1895 after it became composed only of Gurkha soldiers. The spelling 'Goorkha' in unit titles had ceased in 1891 when the standardised spelling 'Gurkha' was adopted. The regiment subsequently had the following titles:

The title '10th Gurkha Rifles' was granted to the regiment by King Edward VII 13 September 1901.

The regiment was one of the four (of ten) Gurkha regiments which transferred to the British Army after independence under the tripartite agreement of 1947 (2GR, 6GR, 7GR and 10GR). The title '10th Gurkha Rifles, The Gurkha Regiment' was granted on 1 January 1948 – the Gurkha Regiment subsequently became the Brigade of Gurkhas.

In October 1949, the Royal designation to honour HRH Princess Mary, The Princess Royal was granted by King George VI, and the regiment became titled '10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles'.



### 10th Gurkha Rifles

*This is a collectible Trading Card produced by the tobacco manufacturer John Player and Sons, number 24 in a set of 50 entitled 'Military Uniforms of the British Empire Overseas' released in 1938. The 10th Gurkha Rifles transferred to the British Army after independence, and in October 1949 became the '10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles'.*

## Netherlands East Indies

After the conclusion of World War 2, Rifleman Khambe Rai served with the 3rd Battalion, 10th Gurkha Rifles, which was responsible for securing the islands of the territories of Java and Sumatra in the Netherlands East Indies between 3 September 1945 and 30 November 1946.

3/10GR was the only battalion of 10GR to serve in this theatre, assigned to the 37th Indian Brigade, of the 23rd Indian Division.

## Burma

In 1947, the 3rd Battalion was disbanded and Rifleman Khambe Rai transferred to the 1st Battalion, which served on garrison duty in Burma.

On 1 January 1948, following the granting of Indian independence, the regiment was allocated to the British Army as the '10th Gurkha Rifles, The Gurkha Regiment'. 1/10GR was one of the three battalions which attended the independence ceremony in Rangoon in January 1948. After this, 1/10GR moved by sea to Malaya.

## Malaya

Rifleman Khambe Rai deployed with 1/10GR to Malaya in January 1948. The battalion was assigned to Johore Sub-District, which came under command of Malaya District, formerly the pre-war Malaya Command, with its headquarters at Fort Canning Hill in Singapore.

Malaya District operated under command of General Headquarters Far East Land Forces (HQ FARELF), which had been established in Singapore in August 1947 and exercised overall command over all British land forces in the Asia and Pacific regions.

By 30 April 1948, all eight Gurkha battalions had deployed to the Malay Peninsula and were under the command of HQ FARELF in Singapore. Headquarters Johore Sub-district transferred to Singapore during 1948.

## Malayan Emergency

On 16 June 1948, after three European plantation managers in Perak state on the Malay Peninsula were executed by members of the Malayan Communist Party, a State of Emergency was declared in the states of Perak and Johore on 17 June, and then throughout the Federated Malay States the following day.

Initially the counterinsurgency was fought by up to twelve battalions operating under the command of three independent brigade headquarters, which in turn reported to HQ Malaya District.

In December 1949, Johore Sub-district was converted to the 48th Gurkha Infantry Brigade.

This brigade was responsible for controlling assigned battalions in the Johore Sub-district in the south of the Malay Peninsula from December 1949 until July 1960.

1/10 Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles was assigned to 48 Gurkha Brigade for operations from December 1949 to April 1953.

48 Gurkha Brigade became a subordinate formation of the 17th Gurkha Division after the division was formed in February 1950. On 1 August 1950, Malaya District was upgraded to full command status as 'Malaya Command'.

The 17th Gurkha Division was formed at Maxwell Road Camp in Malaya, and served as the operational headquarters for all British Gurkha units in Malaya. It controlled the 26th, 48th and 63rd Gurkha Brigades, and the 99th Gurkha Brigade after its formation in 1952.



### 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles

*The regimental badge introduced in 1948 comprised a stringed bugle horn, interlaced with a kukri with the blade to the right and facing down, with the numeral '10' above the kukri, within the strings of the bugle.*

*From 1950, the badge incorporated the Royal Cypher of HRH Princess Mary, The Princess Royal; at the base of the badge is a scroll with the title 'Princess Mary's Own'.*



### 48th Gurkha Infantry Brigade

*The formation badge of 48 Gurkha Brigade was printed in scarlet on diagonal weave cotton drill material, a format unique to Gurkha formation insignia, leaving the crossed kukris in white as a reverse silhouette.*



### 17th Gurkha Division

*The formation badge of 17 Gurkha Division was printed in dark green on diagonal weave cotton drill material leaving the crossed kukris in white as a reverse silhouette.*



## Hong Kong

After over nine years on operations in Malaya, in 1957 1/10GR embarked for duty in Hong Kong.

1/10GR was assigned to the British Army garrison of British Forces Overseas Hong Kong from 1957 until 1960.

During its tour of duty, the battalion remained assigned to the 48th Gurkha Infantry Brigade based at Cassino Lines. The battalion was engaged in internal security tasks (which included responding to civil disturbances resulting from China's Cultural Revolution).

## Malayan Emergency

The British granted independence to Malaya on 31 August 1957, and the State of Emergency formally ended on 31 July 1960, but Headquarters British Far East Land Forces (FARELF) remained in Malaya as a deterrent to any further communist aggression.

1/10GR returned to Malaya in 1960, assigned to the 17th Gurkha Division. The battalion was present for the creation of Malaysia on 16 September 1963, and continued serving until 1969, returning to Hong Kong in 1969-73.

Following the declaration of the State of Emergency throughout the Federated Malay States, for the following twelve years the Gurkha battalions of 2GR, 6GR, 7GR and 10GR were continuously on operations against the Communist Terrorists in the Malayan jungle, supported by the 50th Gurkha Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers (67 and 68 Gurkha Field Squadrons) and the 17th (Gurkha) Signal Regiment.

During the Malayan Emergency, the Brigade of Gurkhas suffered a total of 369 casualties – 85 members of the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles (10GR) were killed or died on active service.

Rifleman Khambe Rai was awarded the General Service Medal 1918-1964 with the two clasps 'S.E.ASIA 1945-46' and 'MALAYA'.

He had enlisted after the end of hostilities in World War 2 on 3 September 1945, and was therefore not eligible to receive the War Medal 1939-1945.

**Clasp 'S.E.ASIA 1945-46'.** This was the sixth clasp to be authorised for the General Service Medal 1918-1964, by Army Order 31 of 1947.

This clasp was awarded to five Gurkha infantry battalions for post-war operational service with the 20th Indian Division in French Indo-China between 3 September 1945 and 28 January 1946 inclusive.

This clasp was awarded to seven Gurkha battalions for service in Java and Sumatra in the Netherlands East Indies, between 3 September 1945 and 30 November 1946 inclusive, assigned to the 23rd Indian Division – 3/4GR (9 Indian Brigade); 1/8GR (36 Indian Brigade); 3/3GR, 3/5RGR, 4/8GR and 3/10GR (37 Indian Brigade).

And also 3/9GR (123 Indian Brigade) assigned to 5 Indian Division.

Rifleman Khambe Rai qualified for this clasp through his service with 3/10 Gurkha Rifles in Java and Sumatra, with the 37th Indian Brigade of the 23rd Indian Division.

**Clasp 'MALAYA'.** This clasp was authorised by Army Order 58 of 1960 for service during the Malayan Emergency, between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1960 (the date the Government of the Federation of Malaya officially declared the Emergency over).

The qualification period in the Colony of Singapore ended on 31 January 1959.

This clasp was awarded to members of the eight Gurkha infantry battalions, as well as Gurkha engineer and signals elements.

Rifleman Khambe Rai qualified for this clasp through his service with 1/10 PMO Gurkha Rifles in the Johore Sub-district in the south of the Malay Peninsula after December 1949, assigned to the 48th Gurkha Infantry Brigade, which in February 1950 became a subordinate formation of the 17th Gurkha Division, Headquarters Far East Land Forces.



*Reverse of the General Service Medal 1918-1964 with clasps 'S.E.ASIA 1945-46' and 'MALAYA' awarded to Rifleman Khambe Rai (third pattern medal, 1937-49).*

*The first clasp was awarded for post-war service in Java and Sumatra in the Netherlands East Indies with the 3rd Battalion, 10th Gurkha Rifles. assigned to 37 Indian Brigade, of 23 Indian Division.*

*The second was awarded for service with the 1st Battalion, 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles in Singapore and Malaya during the early phase of the Malayan Emergency.*





## UPCOMING EVENTS



### 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Friday 15 August 2025

Our Guest Speaker will be RAAF Butterworth veteran Reverend Brenton Daulby OAM JP, on the topic "The Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force, 1914", Australia's first expeditionary force of the Great War.

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.

The AN&MEF was a force raised independently of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). It conducted operations, suffered the first Australian casualty and gained the first Australian gallantry decoration of the war – several months before the famed ANZAC landings on the Gallipoli Peninsula, yet has been largely overlooked and most people today would be unaware that it even existed.

The Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force was raised immediately after the outbreak of war with Germany, when Australia was threatened by the presence of nearby colonial outposts and the East Asiatic Squadron in the Pacific region.

Although the AN&MEF was superior to the German troops and their Melanesian militia stationed in New Guinea, Brenton will describe how the Australians met unexpected resistance at Kabakaul, in the Battle of Bitapaka.

Brenton Daulby is a Police, Air Force and St John Ambulance Chaplain, and a Justice of the Peace for SA. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia 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*".

He has served as a Police Officer (1971-84) and in the RAAF Active Reserve (1975-84), as a full-time RAAF Chaplain (1988-96), State Chaplain for the Air Force Association (SA Division) and State Chaplain for St John (since 2014).



For his non-warlike service at RAAF Butterworth in Malaysia, Brenton received the Australian Service Medal with clasp "SE ASIA".

He has received the South Australia Police Service Medal recognising ten years' continuous, diligent and ethical service.

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.





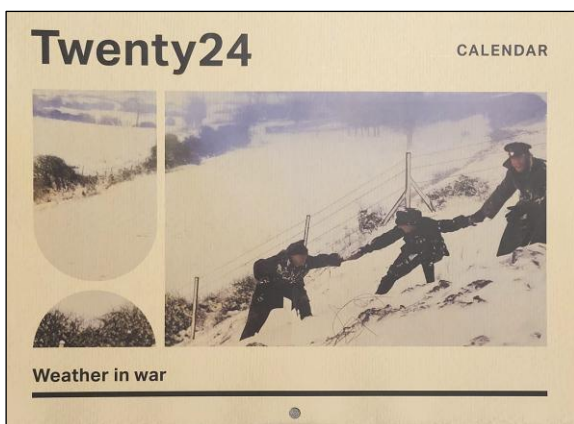


## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Monday 18 August 2025 Vietnam Veterans Day

The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Service will honour the service of all Australian, New Zealand and Republic of Vietnam Service personnel who fought in the Vietnam War, and particularly the 523 Australians, 37 New Zealanders and as many as 300,000 Service personnel from the Republic of Vietnam who lost their lives during the Vietnam War. Our State President and Vice-President will represent the SA/NT Branch.

Vietnam veteran 43921 Norman Leslie Cameron, Don's brother, was a member of the Royal Australian Infantry Corps and served in South Vietnam with the 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment from 12 April 1967 to 16 April 1968. Norm was featured in the DVA 2024 Calendar: "A glum group of Australians and two tracker dogs wait at a helipad under a tropical downpour in Vietnam in 1967".



*Thanks to Norm Cameron for the additional description: this is Norm with 'Tiber' at Nui Dat Airfield while doing harness training, together with Gordon Hay (centre) and Reggie Parker, ex-3RAR (right).*





## UPCOMING EVENTS



## 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!



### **MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS DAY** **West Torrens, Saturday 29 August 2015**

*Ten years ago, we again held the annual Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service at the Cross of Sacrifice in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens in Hilton.*

*The ceremony marked the 55th Anniversary of the End of the Malayan Emergency and the 49th anniversary of the End of the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia.*

*No 604 Squadron, Australian Air Force Cadets provided the Catafalque Party and Honour Guard, under the guidance of Leading Aircraftman (AAFC) Kim Edgar, Squadron Executive Instructor.*

*Pictured above, left to right: Leading Cadet Anthony Sanchez; Catafalque Party Commander Cadet Sergeant Aaron Musk (partially obscured); Leading Cadet Kavous Shahneshin; Leading Cadet Britney Shorter (obscured); Leading Cadet Tharane Thamodarar.*

*AAFC Civilian Instructor Paul Rosenzweig JP delivered the commemorative address.*







## MALAYAN EMERGENCY Roll of Honour – August

Honouring the sacrifice of the 46 Australians who died on operational service during the Malayan Emergency, 16 June 1948 to 31 July 1960, and in the period immediately after.

A22152 Pilot III Gordon John McDonald,  
No 38 (Transport) Squadron, RAAF:  
31 August 1950

3/2983 Private Henry Maxwell Jephson,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:  
18 August 1956

2/8649 Bombardier Donald Keith Sutton,  
105 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery:  
2 August 1957

2/12680 Private Brian Howard Ferrell,  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:  
23 August 1960

*Lest we Forget*

### 2/8649 Bombardier Donald Keith Sutton (1936-1957)

Donald Sutton enlisted in the Australian Army on 25 May 1954 in Marrickville, NSW.

On 20 July 1955, Gunner Sutton was posted to 105 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery.

He was later promoted to the rank of Bombardier, serving with Headquarters Battery.

Sutton embarked in Sydney with 105 Field Battery, RAA in the MS *Georgic* on 6 October 1955, and sailed via Brisbane for Malaya with the 2RAR Battalion Group.

The battery disembarked with the battalion group at George Town, Penang on 20 October 1955, and was assigned to the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group, a formation which had only just been created – on 16 September 1955.

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

Bombardier Sutton died in Malaya on 2 August 1957 as the result of a motor vehicle accident near Sunggei Patani in Kedah, aged 21.

He was buried with military honours in the Taiping (Kamunting Road) Christian Cemetery in Perak on 4 August 1957.

Bombardier Sutton's name is honoured at the Australian War Memorial (panel 2 in the Commemorative Area).



## CONFRONTATION Roll of Honour – August

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.

37746 Private Dennis Michael Millane,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:  
27 August 1965

5713692 Sapper Geoffrey Francis Mills,  
22 Construction Squadron,  
Royal Australian Engineers:  
9 August 1966

*Lest we Forget*

### 37746 Private Dennis Michael Millane (1943-1965)

Private Millane served in Sarawak with 'C' Company, 3RAR from a fortified company patrol base near Kampung Serikin: the central of the three 3RAR forward company positions.

Diagnosed with encephalitis, Millane was evacuated to Kuching and then to the RAF Base Hospital in Changi, Singapore on 23 April. His mother Betty from Kew, Melbourne was flown at Army expense to be near her son.

Millane was then transferred in a Qantas mercy flight from Singapore to Australia, encased in an iron lung, and was admitted to Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital for further treatment. He remained in the iron lung, basically in a coma, for a few months until his death on 27 August 1965, aged 21.

During the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia, eleven Australian soldiers lost their lives while on operational service in defence of Sarawak – eight died in Sarawak, and a further three died after being medically evacuated from Sarawak.

The sacrifice of these eleven Australian defenders of Sarawak has been documented in this research paper published by the Sarawak Museum Department, State of Sarawak:



**2/12680 Private Brian Howard Ferrell (1931-1960)**

The '2' prefix to his number indicates that Brian Ferrell enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in NSW, the Army's 2nd Military District. The number is followed by an oblique stroke, indicating an enlistment before 1961 when the oblique stroke in post-war Regular Army numbers was discontinued.

After recruit training, Private Ferrell was assigned to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. After Corps training, he was posted as a Rifleman to 'C' Company of the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

In 1959, during the Malayan Emergency, sea and air transport was arranged to deploy about 700 soldiers and 250 families to Malaya between August and November, to replace the 2RAR group. On 20 September 1959, the 1RAR group embarked on the chartered troopship MV *Flaminia* for Singapore, comprising 101 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery and 1 Field Troop, Royal Australian Engineers. The *Flaminia* was a former passenger liner, in the service of the British Merchant Navy during the early years of World War 2 as the *Empire Swan*. This exchange of troops in 1959 occurred between migrant transfers from Trieste, Rotterdam and Bremerhaven (1958-59) and further migrant voyages from Europe to Australia until November 1961.

They were soon reported to be 'flat out', getting their first month-long taste of the Malayan jungle.

**GENERAL INDEX**

Enl M.V. *Flaminia* Bus 20-9-59  
Disemb Singapore 2-10-59

Surname **FERRELL**  
(BLOCK CAPITALS)

Other Names **B H**

Personal or Army No **2/12680**

Rank **PTE**

Unit **1RAR**

**THE GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL**

With Clasp—  
1 Malaya Aug-May 1960  
2  
3 AHQ Press RAAOC—136/55—4/55—1M  
4  
5  
6

*Medal. Rlt 16/12/60*

*Consigned to Street-Becker Melb. 3-9-60*

*9/5 PROM 918/2971/60*

*Dead at Malaya 24-8-60  
Maying believed drowned whilst on Army exercises in Malaya  
Body recovered (confirmed)*

*NOK MOTHER CORP  
Mrs EMILY AGNES FERRELL  
121 MARGARET ST  
NTH ADELAIDE  
S.A.  
9.5M  
Posted 26-1-61.*

AAF A 274

Private Ferrell qualified for the General Service Medal, 1918-62 with clasp 'MALAYA', and on 3 September 1960 this medal was consigned to his mother Mrs Emily Agnes Cora Ferrell in Margaret Street, North Adelaide.

KAMUNTING ROAD CHRISTIAN CEMETERY TAIPING, PERAK.			
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY PERSONNEL			
ALLAN, J.N	ANDERSON, C.C	BLANCH, S.J	DECENT, J
DUCAT, J	EWALD, K.H	FERRELL, B.H	FRITZ, G.C
HALLARD, T.B	HAYNES, P.L	HENDERSON, D.M.D	INGRA, C.C
JAY, C.A	JEPHSON, H.M	JONAS, L.M	JONES, K.V
KEEN, A.W	MACVICAR, D	METCALF, J.N	SEESINK, D.A
NORRIS, E.R	POTTS, J.F	RYAN, M	TULLOCH, A.J
SMEDLEY, L.R	SUTTON, D.K	THOMPSON, E.F	
WILSON, J			
DEPENDANTS of ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY PERSONNEL			
BAKER, H.D (Daughter of)	COLLINS, G.A (Daughter of)	CORDREY, J.F (Daughter of)	
ROSTER, (Son of)	MICHAEL, J.A (Wife of)	MUSCAT, R.E (Wife of)	
		MURPHY, R.E (Daughter of)	

Private Ferrell remains at rest in Taiping Christian Cemetery in Perak, Malaysia



The family memorial in honour of Brian Howard Ferrell (1931-1960)





*The name of Private Brian Ferrell is commemorated on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial under the title 'SOUTHEAST ASIA, 1955-1975' (panel 2 in the Commemorative Area).*



*Original photographs of the military funeral of Private Ferrell are contained in a scrapbook held by the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment 'Clancy Scholes' Museum at Lavarack Barracks.*

The following month they moved to Perak State and joined the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group in the continuing hunt for communist-terrorists in North Malaya. The brigade group came under the control of Australian Army Force, Headquarters Far East Land Forces (FARELFL).

The Government of the Federation of Malaya declared the Emergency over on 31 July 1960, but the 1RAR Group continued on operations until the end of its scheduled tour of duty in October 1961. Three weeks after the Emergency was declared over, on 23 August 1960 Private Ferrell drowned accidentally in Perak, near the Thai border, aged 28.

His body was recovered in Sunggei Perak on 25 August, and he was buried with full military honours in the Taiping (Kamunting Road) Christian Cemetery in Perak, Malaysia.

The Australian repatriation policy in place at that time directed that Service personnel who died overseas after World War 2 were to be interred in the closest practicable Commonwealth cemetery.

His death is not listed by the Australian War Memorial under 'MALAYAN EMERGENCY' as his death occurred after 31 July 1960: it is instead listed under the title 'SOUTHEAST ASIA, 1955-1975'.

Lest we Forget

Adelaide High School is currently preparing commemorative Honour Boards for the old scholars known to have served in the Korean War and Vietnam War, and later they will make an Honour Wall for the old scholar servicemen and women who served in WW2, and a Memorial Garden to the Fallen listing those killed-in-action. Among the names being researched are several Service personnel believed to have served during the Malayan Emergency or Confrontation – Private Brian Howard Ferrell being among them.

Private Ferrell is one of 50 Australian fallen from the Malayan wars – 42 from the Emergency and 8 from Confrontation – who remain buried overseas. Read more here:

“In our Neighbours’ Soil our Anzacs Sleep”

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/our-neighbours-soil-anzacs-sleep-paul-rosenzweig-oam-jp>