



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 9 – SEPTEMBER 2025



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We held our Annual General Meeting on Friday 15 August 2025, starting with the traditional reciting of the Ode of Remembrance by Vice-President Don Cameron. This meeting preceded the 15th anniversary of the inaugural AGM held at the Hilton RSL on 21 August 2010 to 'reform' the former SA Branch, NMBVAA.

Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP and Don Cameron were again re-elected as State President and Vice-President respectively. Paul and Don thanked all incumbents, who had agreed to take on a role with the Branch Committee and were re-elected to their roles and appointments.

Many thanks to Reverend Brenton Daulby OAM JP who was our guest speaker. Paul and Don presented Brenton with one of our NMBVAA scarves.



NOTICES

BRANCH COMMITTEE

Re-elected for 2025-26

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 Annual General Meeting at the Maid of Auckland Hotel – congratulations to the Branch executive and committee members re-elected for 2025-26, and congratulations also to the raffle prize winners who have supported our schools contributions.

In his address at the AGM, Vice President Don Cameron said: *"What a great year we have had! Thank you for your support during the year. It makes for a strong association. Jenny and I are pleased to see you all, at the monthly meetings and other events. Last but not least, thank you all for what you do for the Association"*.

Thanks also to all who braved the weather and attended our Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day commemoration in West Torrens on 29 August. There will be more images in the next newsletter.

While commemorating service and sacrifice in these undeclared Malayan wars, it was especially fitting that we could honour and remember particular veterans and keep the emphasis on personalised remembrance.

Please note the date for our Christmas Lunch at the Maid of Auckland Hotel. All are welcome. Financial members will receive the traditional cashback bonus.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September meeting: 1115h Friday 19 September
Maid of Auckland Hotel,
followed by lunch



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

October meeting: 1115h Friday 17 October
Maid of Auckland Hotel, followed by lunch

War Widows Day: Annual day of commemoration in the Chapel,
Repatriation Health Precinct, Daw Park
Sunday 19 October 2024

Remembrance Day: Tuesday 11 November 2025:
Personal observance

November meeting: 1115h Friday 21 November
Maid of Auckland Hotel, followed by lunch

Christmas Lunch: 12 for 12.30 pm, Saturday 13 December 2025
Maid of Auckland Hotel



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



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



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 15 August 2025

Many thanks to all who attended our Branch AGM, it was pleasing to see such a great turnout.

Returning Officer Paul Bayliss declared all positions vacant, and advised that only one valid nomination for each position had been received by the due date, so a ballot was not required. He confirmed that the nominees were prepared to accept their nomination, and all were elected/appointed unanimously.

Congratulations to the following who were elected to their respective positions, or accepted the respective roles:

Appointments:

President:	Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP
Vice-President:	Don Cameron
Secretary:	Paul Rosenzweig
Treasurer:	Jenny Cameron
Committee Members:	
	Paul Bayliss
	Vicki Crannaford
	Dianne Davies
	Beverley Dubois
	Jeff Hiscock
	Mal White

Roles:

Ceremonial Officer:	Don Cameron
Public Affairs Officer:	Paul Rosenzweig
Historian/Editor:	Paul Rosenzweig
Assistant Treasurer:	Vicki Crannaford
Minutes Secretary:	Beverley Dubois
Merchandise Officer:	Mal White
Branch Chaplain:	Major Quentin Castle
Branch Auditor:	Mr Ken Seymour

Some roles remain available if anyone wishes to be a co-opted member to support the Branch Committee:

Social Officer, Welfare Officer, Membership Officer





2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 15 August 2025

The Guest Speaker at our 2025 AGM was RAAF Butterworth veteran Reverend Brenton Daulby OAM JP, who spoke about Australia's first expeditionary force of the Great War.

Brenton served as a Police Officer (1971-84), and received the South Australia Police Service Medal recognising ten years' continuous, diligent and ethical service.

Brenton also served in the RAAF Active Reserve (1975-84), and then as a full-time RAAF Chaplain (1988-96). For his non-warlike service at RAAF Butterworth in Malaysia, Brenton received the Australian Service Medal with clasp "SE ASIA".

Brenton is a Police Chaplain, State Chaplain for the Air Force Association (SA Division), State Chaplain for St John Ambulance SA (since 2014), and a Justice of the Peace for SA.

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

In his Chaplaincy role with St John Ambulance SA Brenton was admitted to the Order of St John at the grade of Officer (OStJ) in 2016.

He has also been awarded the Service Medal of the Order of St John for 10 years' service.

The Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) was a volunteer force raised independently of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). It was the first Australian military unit raised for service overseas – specifically to seize German possessions in the Pacific.

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 ever 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 described how the Australians met unexpected resistance at Kabakaul, in the Battle of Bitapaka.



Reverend Brenton Daulby OAM OStJ JP



ANNIVERSARIES

ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST AGM

Thursday 21 August 2025

At this year's AGM it was noted that the following Thursday would be the fifteenth anniversary of the inaugural Annual General Meeting.

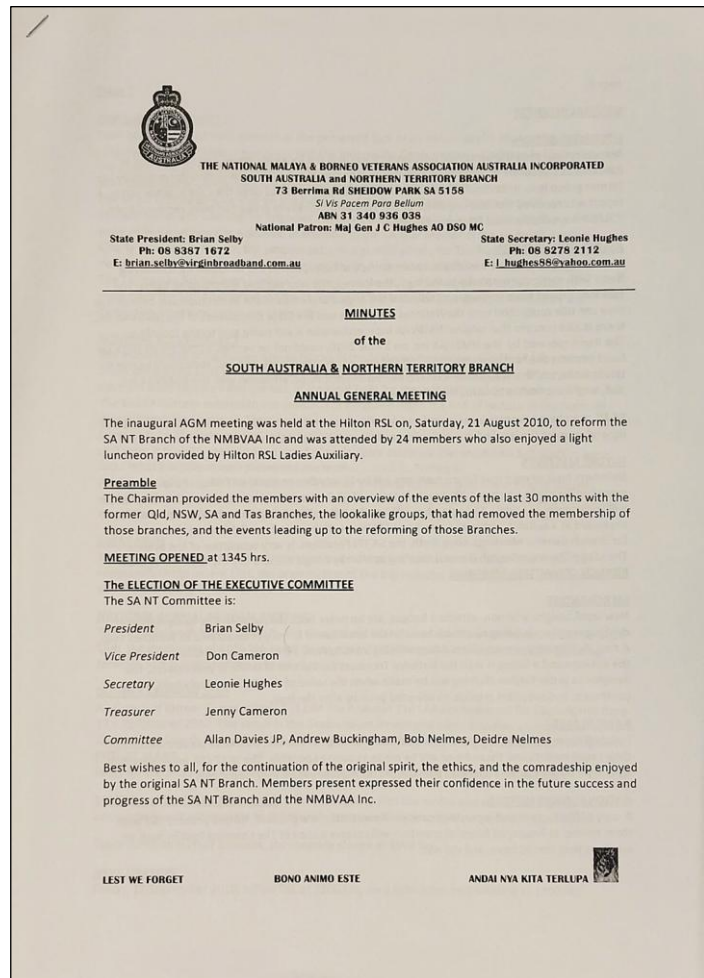
This AGM was held at the Hilton RSL on Saturday 21 August 2010 to 'reform' the former SA Branch of the NMBVAA Inc.

There were 24 members in attendance, who also enjoyed a light luncheon provided by the Hilton RSL Ladies Auxiliary.

During this meeting, Brian Selby was elected President of the 'South Australia & Northern Territory Branch'.

Brian and Chris Selby's Membership Application form is dated 21 August 2010. Brian's membership number was '5001', and Christine's was '5030'.

Among the other early members were Don Cameron (21 August 2010, 5002) and Jenny Cameron (5004), Leonie Hughes (5003), Allan Davies (5005), Di Davies (5011), Roger Burzacott (5009) and Jim Deering (5012).



The Minutes of the inaugural AGM held on 21 August 2010.

80TH ANNIVERSARY: BATTLE OF BALIKPAPAN

1-21 July 1945

The Battle of Balikpapan was the concluding stage of Operation 'Oboe' – the campaign to liberate Japanese-held British and Dutch Borneo.

The Allied landings took place on 1 July 1945. The Allied fleet comprised over 100 mainly US and Australian warships. The landings were made using tank landing ships (LSTs) and smaller landing craft, including Alligator tracked landing vehicles (LVTs), DUKWs and LCVs.

The 7th Australian Division (18, 21 and 25 Infantry Brigades) made an amphibious landing, codenamed Operation 'Oboe Two', a few miles north of Balikpapan.

Major combat operations concluded on 21 July, but mopping-up operations continued until mid-August. Australian troops remained in the area until early 1946.



This limited edition commemorative coin recalls that tank support for the Balikpapan landings was provided by the 1st Armoured Regiment of the Second AIF, equipped with Matilda tanks.



COMMEMORATION

VIETNAM VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

Monday 18 August 2025

The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Service was held at the Vietnam War Memorial at Torrens Parade Ground on Monday 18 August. This commemoration honoured 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.

Photographer Luke Scott (Adelaide Military Commemoration Photos) said, *"The service paid tribute to the courage, service, and sacrifice of all who served, and honoured the memory of those who did not return"*.

The principal guests were the Governor's Deputy His Excellency Dr Richard Harris SC OAM, and Mrs Fiona Harris.

Dr 'Harry' Harris received the Star of Courage (SC) on 24 July 2018 for 'acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril' during the Thailand Cave Rescue operation. On the same date he received the OAM, *"For service to the international community through specialist response roles during the Tham Luang cave rescue in Thailand in 2018"*. On 7 September 2018, the King of Thailand appointed Dr Harris as a Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Admirable Order of the Direkgunabhorn.

The SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA was represented by State President Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd), and Vice-President Don Cameron.

Also among those in attendance was Vietnam veteran Lieutenant-Colonel John Spencer OAM RFD (ret'd).



South Australian anaesthetist and Thai cave rescue hero Dr Richard 'Harry' Harris SC OAM was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of South Australia on 25 January 2024.

On this occasion His Excellency Dr Harris attended in his capacity as Deputy of the Governor of South Australia. Image by Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP.

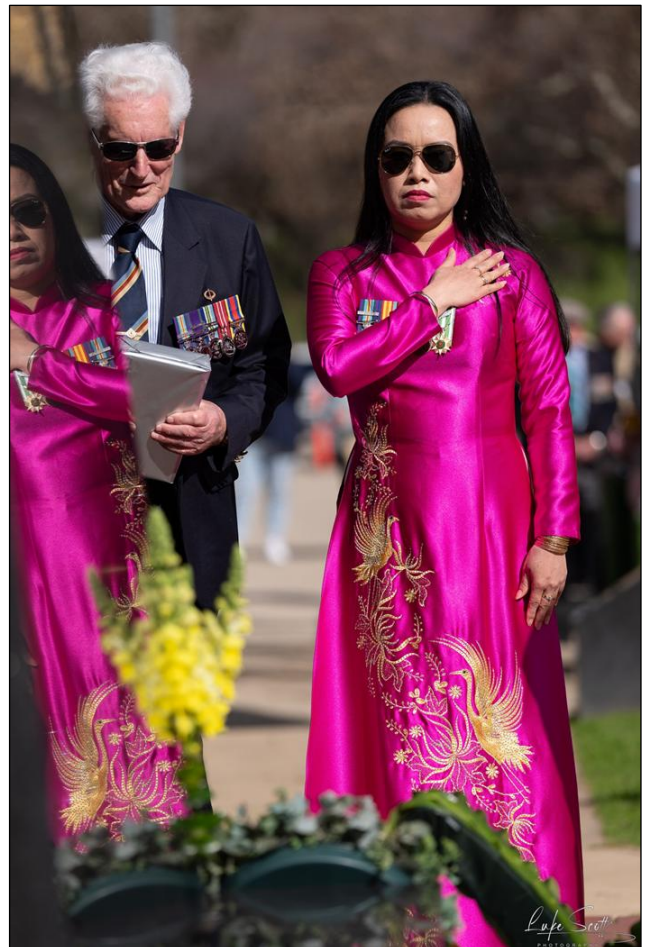


Image by Luke Scott, Adelaide Military Commemoration Photos



CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION



Cross of Sacrifice. This image of the Cross of Sacrifice in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens was captured last year after our President and Vice-President attended a meeting of the West Torrens City Council on Tuesday 17 September – they gave a brief presentation, thanked Mayor Michael Coxon for providing the venue for our ceremony each year, thanked the Councillors who attend our services, and particularly thanked the West Torrens City Council Events Team for the substantial support and assistance they provide.

The Cross of Sacrifice is a replica of the 'Cross of Sacrifice' with bronze Crusader's sword designed in 1918 by Sir Reginald Bloomfield for the Imperial War Graves Commission (now Commonwealth War Graves Commission). Such a Cross of Sacrifice is present in Commonwealth war cemeteries containing 40 or more graves.

Shown right is the invitation to the first Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service to be held at the Cross of Sacrifice in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens in Hilton. The Chaplain's Address was given by Captain Quentin Castle (Salvation Army), and the Catafalque Party was again provided by No 604 Squadron AAFC (Hampstead Barracks).



We thank the official guests, family members, representatives of ex-Service organisations and Air Force Cadets of 604 Squadron who attend each year and place wreaths and tributes in memory of the fallen in the Malayan Wars. The SA/NT Branch looks to the future through our sponsorship of schools in the Bau district where Australian forces served in 1965-66 during Confrontation – the books that are placed as tributes at our commemorative events are taken with us on our return visits to Sarawak to be donated to these schools.



MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS DAY Friday 29 August 2016

These are newly discovered images from our inaugural Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service in Kuching, Sarawak.

The 2016 service was held in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Jalan Taman Budaya in Kuching, specifically marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia (1962-1966).

The Catafalque Party for the ceremony comprised Air Force Cadets from South Australia, primarily drawn from No 604 Squadron AAFC, commanded by Cadet Under Officer Aaron Musk.

Left: Vice-President Don Cameron with our friend Desmond from Kampung Gumbang. The Australia reunion party had visited Gumbang on Thursday 28 August and told Desmond they were holding the service the next day, and he travelled to Kuching on his motorbike. He wears a polo shirt he had been given by Bob Curry of 4RAR during their visit on Anzac Day that year.

Below: Don and Desmond with Branch Secretary Clive Dubois (1942-2017) and Sarawak military and police veterans and an unidentified Royal Marines officer.





CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION

King's Gurkha Artillery. We previously reported that our friend Captain Imbahadur Ghale (1RGR) has been posted as Training Officer for the King's Gurkha Artillery at Larkhill. On 2 June, the first batch of Gurkha Artillerymen for 34 (Seringapatam) Battery, Royal Artillery were presented their new cap badges and berets, and the Colonel of the Regiment for KGA, Brigadier Charlie Harmer, received the salute.

The Gurkha connection to artillery began in 1948 when the two battalions of the 7th Gurkha Rifles were renamed the 101st and 102nd Field Regiments, Royal Artillery as part of a plan to create an all-arms Gurkha division. They held this role for just a year though, reverting to infantry in June 1949 when 7GR was committed to the counter-insurgency campaign in Malaya. Although no Battle Honour was awarded for service during the Emergency, 7GR was honoured with the Royal prefix on 1 January 1959: the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles.

1st Battalion, 7th Gurkha Rifles: 1/7GR transferred from Burma to Sikamet Camp in Seremban, Malaya in March 1948. In May it began conversion to 101 Field Regiment, RA. From June the battalion was conducting operations in Selangor and Negri Sembilan, assigned to South Malaya Sub-District (Johore Bahru). In June 1949 however, 1/7GR converted back to the infantry role, assigned to South Malaya Sub-District from December 1949. The battalion was subsequently assigned to 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade in Johore, and later 63 Gurkha Infantry Brigade at Kluang until April 1959 when it embarked for duty in Hong Kong.

2nd Battalion, 7th Gurkha Rifles: 2/7GR transferred from India to Circular Road Camp in Kuala Lumpur, Malaya in March 1948. In May it began conversion to 102 Field Regiment, RA in Wardieburn Camp, Kuala Lumpur. From June the battalion was conducting operations in Selangor and Negri Sembilan, assigned to Central Malaya Sub-District (Seremban). In June 1949 however, 2/7GR converted back to the infantry role, assigned to Central Malaya Sub-District. The battalion was subsequently assigned to 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade in Johore, and later 63 Gurkha Infantry Brigade at Kluang until April 1954 when it embarked for duty in Hong Kong.

AIF Gurkhas? This is the cover from a militaria dealer's catalogue from February 1987, back in the days when collectors had to subscribe and then wait patiently to receive a printed catalogue in the mail!

This image shows the only Gurkha known to have served with the Australian forces in World War 1.

The caption on the reverse of the original image reads: *'Charlie the Gurkha' our orderly, Court Martial Section 5th T. Bn. Fovant.* The source is the 5th Training Battalion, AIF which was formed on 8 August 1916 in Rollestone Camp on Salisbury Plain, in Wiltshire, England.

The battalion moved to Codford on 18 April 1917, and then to Fovant on 11 October, joining the 2nd Training Brigade which was formed at Fovant on 8 November 1917.

The battalion was based at Fovant when this photograph was taken on 1 November 1918.

After the end of the war, the 5th Training Battalion, AIF returned to the major camp at Codford on 14 December 1918.





CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION

From the Archives. This extract from the archives summarises news reports relating to Australia's pledge of assistance to Malaysia in the face of increasing aggression – following the creation of Malaysia on 16 September 1963.

The prescribed qualifying period for the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia on Borneo commenced on 24 December 1962. The prescribed period for the Malay Peninsula began on 17 August 1964.

AUSTRALIA PLEDGES TO ASSIST MALAYA

WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 1963. The Prime Minister; Sir Robert Menzies; has pledged Australian military assistance to the newly independent South-East Asian state of Malaysia.

The decision comes in response to the open hostility of Indonesia's President Sukarno to Malaysia's independence; and seeks to protect Australian interests by opposing anticipated Indonesian military aggression.

The New Zealand Government also pledged its support to the Malaysian Government.

Sir Robert told Parliament; 'We shall to the best of our powers and by such means as shall be agreed upon with the Government of Malaysia; add our military assistance to the efforts of Malaysia and the United Kingdom in the defence of Malaysia's territorial integrity and political independence.'



MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS DAY Friday 29 August 2025

We were very privileged to have as our guest of honour His Excellency Dr Richard 'Harry' Harris SC OAM, Lieutenant Governor of South Australia – who attended on this occasion as the Deputy Governor.

Major Peer Cathcart from the Salvation Army represented our Branch Chaplain and officiated for the service, which was supported by a Vocalist and Bugler from the Royal Australian Navy Band – South Australia.

The Air Force Cadets from No 604 Squadron once again provided the Catafalque Party, with Cadet Warrant Officer Katarina Czechowicz as Catafalque Party Commander. The Catafalque Party carried innocuous .303-inch SMLE rifles representative of the era of the Malayan wars.

They once again paraded their Squadron Banner, with Cadet Corporal Ishi Saini as Banner Bearer.

We sincerely thank Mayor Michael Coxon and the Councillors of West Torrens City Council, and in particular Gordon and Mia and the WTCC Events Team for the substantial support and assistance they provided.



The Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur has been supporting various commemorative events this year – see their anniversary year logo above.

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 have continued to 'Remember Malaysia', particularly in this special anniversary year, firstly through our service to mark 75 years since the start of Australia's involvement in the Malayan Emergency.

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

And this month our President and Vice-President will return to Sarawak to participate in 80th Anniversary commemorations relating to the Japanese Surrender and the Liberation of Batu Lintang POW and Civilian Internee Camp by Brigadier Tom Eastick DSO ED from South Australia.

They will continue our sponsorship of Sarawak schools (*Sekolah Kebangsaan*) in the Bau District of Sarawak located on or near sites where Australian military forces – the 'Sarawak Defenders' – were deployed during the period of Confrontation.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION

Fred Lynch. We welcome our new corresponding member Fred Lynch from WA.

Except for a short period in Infantry, I saw out my 15 years in various Artillery branches, including in 100 'A' Field Battery from about March to December 1958. As I recall the dropping of the '100' from the name took place in about July 1958. I became involved with the WA Branch of NMBVAA some years ago. At that time, the chair of WA Branch was Hugh Ritchie, a very good friend. Later, to provide Hugh some respite from those responsibilities, I accepted the task of organising and chairing, what was then, a regular monthly luncheon meeting, well attended and enjoyable.

Unfortunately, the very strict period during the pandemic prevented the group from continuing to get together and so it was that the structure of the group became non-existent.

As we have grown older, with ever increasing aches and pains, the chance of re-energising the group here has become very unlikely. Despite this, like Hugh, I have kept up to date through internet connections and information.

Your South Australian/NT group seems to have flourished and stands out as a fine example of how to keep the organisation alive.

Added to this is at 91 my own medical challenges are severely limiting many things I would like to do.

John Ward. We also welcome John Ward, a veteran of RAAF service in Butterworth, Ubon in Thailand, and South Vietnam.

1966-68 Butterworth, Sabres (last months of Confrontation) plus two two-month attachments to Ubon in Thailand as base Sabre fighter cover for F-4s bombing North Vietnam, then Phan Rang Air Base in South Vietnam with Canberras, thence back to Butterworth. All as aircraft electrician.

Returned Oz in October 1968 for pilot training. Flew Maritime patrol (Lockheed P-2 Neptune), fighters (Dassault Mirage A3-3) instructing on Macchis in Perth, on loan as an instructor with Singapore Air Force (with Angus Houston). We lost two F-111 instructors when they hit a flock of pelicans that smashed the canopies so I was sent home onto F-111s for 12 years. Flew as squadron operational jock, through to FLTCDR then Commanding Officer 6 Squadron, a training and reconnaissance squadron.

RAAF HQ Glenbrook, Integrated Air Defence HQ at Butterworth in 1994-96, Base Commander Tindal 1997-98. Served 35 years. Then 18 years in Reserve working 200 days per year, commanding three services commitment to Australian International Air Show at Avalon for five shows.

Finally, 20 years as RAAF rep for the redevelopment of RAAF Base Amberley spending \$2.5 billion.

Retired at 71.

Andrew Goledzinowski AM. As the Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia (2017-21), Andrew joined our 2019 Sarawak Reunion Visit and gave a keynote address at our combined Service of Commemoration at the Sarawak Heroes Cemetery in Kuching on 29 August 2019.

Andrew has been a career diplomat until retiring from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on 5 March this year, having also served as Ambassador to Vietnam (2022-25) and Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York (2008-11).

We are pleased that Andrew has asked to remain a corresponding member of the SA/NT Branch. Recently he sent us some images:

I am in PNG this week and just returned from a trip to the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Bomana. Mostly killed in action on the Kokoda Track. Beautiful and moving. The last photo is of the grave stones of two airmen who were buried just last week – after being MIA (missing-in-action) for more than 80 years!

Warrant Officer Clement Wiggins (Pilot) and Warrant Officer Russell Grigg (Navigator) from No 100 Squadron (Beaufort 'A9-186') lost their lives during a mission over Papua New Guinea in September 1943.



The remains of Warrant Officers Wiggins and Grigg were laid to rest in a committal service on Monday 19 May 2025 at Bomana War Cemetery in Port Moresby.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION

Adelaide High School Honour Board and Memorial Projects. We have been contacted by Adelaide High School regarding their memorial projects. The school is creating an Honour Board for its 232 old scholars who served in the Vietnam War, and another Honour Board for the Korean War veterans. A future project is to make an Honour Wall for the several thousand servicemen and women who served in WW2, and a Memorial Garden to the Fallen on the school grounds which will have the names of the few hundred old scholar servicemen and women who were killed-in-action.

The coordinator was very pleased to receive information from our Branch member Jim Litchfield about his late father-in-law, SX10066 James Joseph Mannion GM. Mannion was an AHS old scholar and WW2 veteran, who was awarded the George Medal for bravery in clearing a burning building in Tennant Creek in 1956. *"We didn't know about James Mannion's WW2 service, so we're really delighted to add his name to our list of names of old scholars who were WW2 service personnel".*

We are assisting them to review the names of some 16 who may be Malaya / Borneo veterans. These include our inaugural Branch President Ross Ortmann.

Anielia Siam PPC. In September 2022, Paul Rosenzweig and Don Cameron conducted a reconnaissance visit to Sarawak to prepare for our proposed Service of Commemoration the following year to commemorate the 57th anniversary of the End of the Indonesian Confrontation in 1966.

On 13 September, the party travelled to the Bau District to meet with representatives of schools located in the areas where Australian troops served during Confrontation. At that time they called in to the Bau District Office, and met with officials including the Bau District Officer ('regional Mayor' Puan Anielia anak Siam.

After her service in Bau, Anielia became Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Sarawak Ministry of Education, Innovation and Talent Development.

In an investiture ceremony on 3 July hosted by the Governor of Sarawak His Excellency Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar, Anielia was awarded the *Pingat Perkhidmatan Cemerlang* (PPC).

The PPC is the second grade of the Sarawak Public Administration Medal, known as the 'Meritorious Service Medal (Silver)'. Congratulations Anielia!



Randall Kellas. Also joining us as a corresponding member is Malayan Emergency RAN and FESR veteran Randall Kellas, who lives in South Australia but is generally unable to attend our activities.

There was a lot to read in your newsletter. Destroyers had a lot more activities than the aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne of which I was a member of the Admiral's band.

My action station was as an ammunition loader on one of our anti-aircraft guns. However, it turned out that we only spent a total of 90 hours over the three years of our involvement that we actually went into what was clarified as the war zone.

Randall has encouraged our readers to contribute some stories to improve the naval representation in the newsletter.

Janice Silby. We are sad to announce the departure of Janice, who has been the DVA Deputy Commissioner for South Australia for the past nine years.

Janice attended the Vietnam Veterans' Commemorative Service at Torrens Parade Ground, at which time our President Paul Rosenzweig and Vice-President Don Cameron presented Janice with an NMBVAA coin.

Janice wrote: *"I would also like to take this opportunity to give my heartfelt thanks to everyone for your unwavering support to the veteran community and tireless work in this space.*

Working collaboratively with you to accomplish real changes for veterans and their families has been the highlight of my career. I have been truly honoured and humbled to work with you all, thank you for everything".



CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION

King Charles III. The RAAF has announced the introduction of a new crest bearing the Tudor Crown of King Charles III – who is King of Australia, and also Marshal of the Royal Australian Air Force.

The new design was approved by the Chief of Air Force, and came into effect on 1 August.

Concurrent with the roll-out of the new design, all insignia with the St Edward's Crown remain valid.

Uniform items such as hat badges, rank insignia and buttons will not be replaced until the current stock items are exhausted.

A badge fit for a King

IT'S been a proud symbol of service for 70 years, but from August Air Force will begin the process of updating royal symbols to reflect the new Tudor Crown in the King's cypher.

CAF Air Marshal Stephen Chappell recently approved the new CIIR pattern of the Royal Australian Air Force badge, the first Air Force badge to feature the new crown.

The new pattern comes into effect on August 1, 2025, with digital uses, including websites and public-facing templates, among the first to be updated.

The updates will involve more than just a change in crowns, with Air Force also bringing its badges into the 21st century by redrawing each as digital-by-design.

Redrawing the new CIIR pattern badge has also enabled some important corrections to be made, including a new rendering of the national floral emblem – modelled on the Governor-General's cypher – and a return to the monumental style of typeface used in the sovereign-approved badge of 1939.

Updates to all other badges will be phased in, aligning with the



King's wish to avoid unnecessary expenditure. Active unit badges will be redrawn and rolled out in tranches over the coming six to 12 months.

Badges for inactive units will continue to reflect the pattern in use at the time of disbanding.

Some units are expected to receive updated badges this year, including those participating in the upcoming Richmond Air Show. Officers' Training School will also be an early change, coinciding with the presentation of new colours.

Crowns on uniform items will be last to change, as clothing stores exhaust inventory and new orders gradually enter the system.

The last time Defence changed royal symbols was when Queen Elizabeth II took the throne in 1952, with updates spread over nearly a decade.

Guidance regarding the change in royal symbols across Air Force is available from Air Force Brand and Air Force Ceremonial. All current unit and establishment badges featuring the St Edward's crown remain valid, and should continue to be used until a new pattern receives formal approval.

The Air Force Badge was originally drawn by John Heaton-Armstrong from the United Kingdom College of Arms in 1939, and was subsequently redrawn by the College of Arms in 1955 when the Tudor Crown of King George VI was replaced with the St Edward's Crown of Queen Elizabeth II. The change-over to the St Edward's crown was made over a period of ten years.

The Royal Australian Navy and Australian Army have similarly announced the introduction of new crests (see below), which also came into effect on 1 August. During his first Royal Visit to Australia as sovereign, on 19 October 2024 King Charles III was appointed Admiral of the Fleet of the RAN and Field Marshal of the Australian Army.

Even the Australian Federal Police have started introducing the Tudor Crown (below right).

The St Edward's Crown and Tudor Crown are both valid representations of Royal authority, and both designs may be used simultaneously during the transition period.



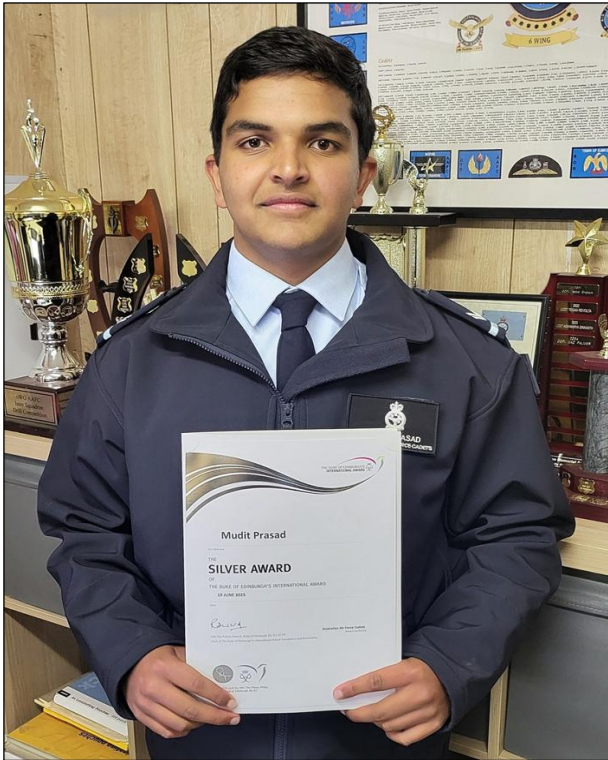
Meanwhile in the UK, Royal Mail has been installing postboxes bearing the Royal Cypher of King Charles III. The cypher will appear on new and replacement postboxes: existing post boxes will retain the cypher from the period in which they were installed. Over 115,000 postboxes across the UK record the succession of monarchs, from the first bearing the 'VR' Royal Cypher of Queen Victoria.



No 604 SQUADRON, AAFC



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD



Cadet Corporal Mudit Prasad has had his Silver Duke of Edinburgh's International Award approved – this was the seventh for the year, and the **100th Award** approved for 604 Squadron since the first completion was recorded on 7 October 2016!



"FIRE TEAM LEO"



In the 6 Wing .22 Rifle Shooting Competition held on the weekend 2-3 August, the 604 Squadron shooting team placed second overall. Of note, Cadet Sergeant Palmer was selected to compete with the 6 Wing shooting team at the National Firearms Competition at RAAF Richmond.

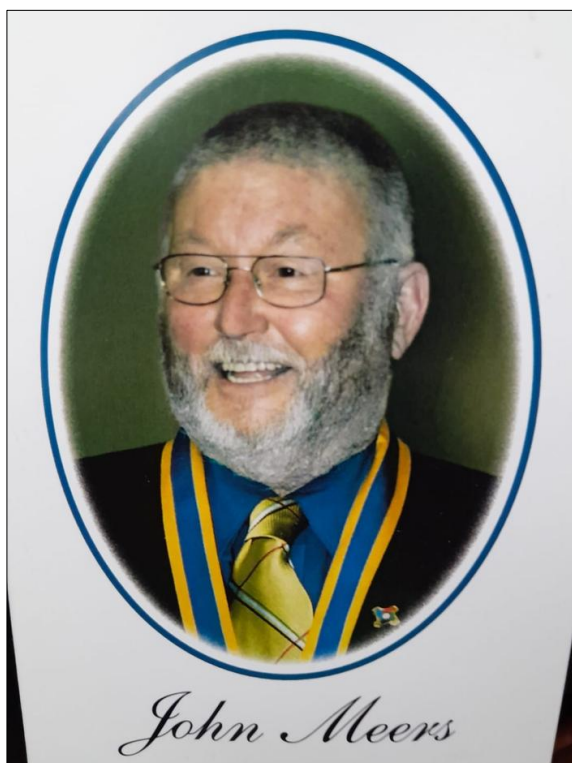


INDIVIDUAL PROFICIENCY

The Individual Proficiency Badge (IPB) can be awarded to Air Force Cadets and staff who meet certain minimum requirements in dress and attendance, and consistently maintain high proficiency standards over a 12-month period.

Congratulations to the recent recipients!





Sapper John Meers served in Sabah on Operation 'Granite' with 21 Construction Squadron, RAE in 1965-66, assigned to the Directorate of Borneo Operations (DOBOPS).

VALE

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

In our August newsletter we recorded the passing of former WO1 Ray Marshall, New Zealand Army, a stalwart of the Malayan Veterans Association of NZ. Ray was RSM for the Malaya-Borneo commemorative services in Kuching, and for the MVA contingent which marched in the Merdeka Parades in Kuala Lumpur. We received the following message:

Tony Easterby: *Served with 4RAR in Malaysia 65-67, Borneo 66 and Vietnam 68. We were always an ANZAC Battalion with two companies of New Zealanders by our side. So proud to have served and worked with such a great bunch of troops. Many fond memories especially in the boozier in Terendak Garrison, also had Kiwi members in our Four Winds Parachute club in Terendak.*

42811 Lance-Corporal John James Meers (1944-2025)

John Meers passed away in Murray Bridge on 5 July 2025, aged 80 years.

Born in Terowie on 16 July 1944, 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 took his discharge from the Army on 3 January 1968 and settled in Murray Bridge.

Don and Jenny Cameron, and Jeff and Louisa Hiscock, represented the SA/NT Branch at John's funeral at the Murray Bridge RSL on Friday 25 July. John had been a member there for 53 years, and three years ago was awarded RSL Life Membership for his service to veterans and the veteran community. John's grand-daughter Sarah was pleased to receive a card from our Association.

Lest we Forget



Squadron-Leader Len Peake

Bill Denny AM BM has advised that RAAF veteran Mr Len Peake of Victor Harbour passed very recently.

Len was known for his dedication to his fellow veterans, his remarkable life experiences, and his ever-present sense of humour, and was a proud member of the RSL. It was noted that he will be remembered for his strength, having overcome personal challenges with unwavering determination. Even through illness or injury, Len remained committed to visiting the club and staying connected with the traditions he held dear.



MEDAL OF THE MONTH

INDIAN INDEPENDENCE MEDAL 1948

The Indian Independence Medal was instituted by King George VI by Royal Warrant dated 21 July 1948.

It was awarded by the Dominion of India to British personnel (including Gurkhas) who were serving with the armed forces of the Dominion on Independence Day, 15 August 1947, and who had volunteered to continue serving until 1 January 1948.

This medal is struck in cupro-nickel. It has a straight non-swivelling suspender attached to the medal by the standard Commonwealth-pattern claw mount with a pin through the upper edge of the medal.

The obverse of this medal features the imperial crown of King George VI and Asoka's Chakra. The reverse features the three lions of Asoka (Emperor of India from 268 to 226 BC) as depicted on Asoka's Pillar at Sarnath, with the title "INDIAN INDEPENDENCE" and the date "15TH AUGUST 1947".

The suspension ribbon is in three equal stripes of saffron, white and green, representing the colours of the new Indian flag.

When worn by British troops, the Indian Independence Medal is considered a commemorative award and is worn after war and campaign medals.



Indian Independence Medal awarded to Rifleman Dusthi Gurung, 2/3 Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles

42811 Rifleman Dusthi Gurung

2nd Battalion, 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles

Dusthi Gurung was a Gurkha rifleman from western Nepal, who was serving in India on Indian Independence Day, 15 August 1947, and continued serving until 1 January 1948. The Gurung and Magar are the main ethnic Nepali groups native to the from the western and central regions of Nepal.

Following the end of World War 2, in 1946 or 1947 Dusthi Gurung enlisted as a Rifleman in the 3rd Gurkha Rifles at the 3GR Gurkha Rifles Recruiting Centre at Lansdowne in north-western India, at the western end of the Himalayas, bordering Nepal.

The regiment had been raised on 24 April 1815, during the Anglo-Nepalese War, from the Kumaon tribal area in the lower Himalayas in far western Nepal (now the Indian state of Uttarakhand in the Indian Himalayas). It was one of three irregular battalions raised in 1815 for service with the army of the British East India Company, titled the 'Kumaon Battalion'. Its base was at Almora, a cantonment town located on a ridge at the southern edge of the Kumaon Hills of the Himalaya range, and the Gurkha soldiers were used for policing the Nepal border.

In 1861, the Kumaon Battalion became a regular infantry unit, and was re-designated as the '18th Bengal Native Infantry'. After the Gurkha regiments developed into their own Line of rifle regiments, the regiment became the '3rd (Kumaon) Goorkha Regiment'.

In April 1887, orders were issued for the raising of a 2nd Battalion at Almora, composed of Garhwalis from upper Garhwal. The title 'Kumaon' was dropped from the regimental title in August 1887, and the spelling 'Goorkha' continued to be used for Gurkha regiments until 1891 when it was changed to 'Gurkha'.

The Battalion left Almora for Kaludanda in the Garhwal Province of north-western India, arriving there on 4 November 1887. In September 1890 this cantonment was named 'Lansdowne' after Lord Lansdowne, the then Viceroy and Governor-General. Lansdowne remained the Battalion's Home Station until 1948.

At the very end of 1889, the two Gurkha companies, most of the Gurkha officers and NCOs, and some of the British officers, formed the nucleus of a new (and entirely Gurkha) 2nd Battalion, 3rd Gurkha Rifles.

In 1907, King Edward VII gave the Royal title 'The Queens Own Gurkha Rifles' in honour of Alexandra of Denmark, Queen Consort. Between 1908 and 1948, the regiment had the title '3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles'.

Rifleman Dusthi Gurung was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd QAO Gurkha Rifles.

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

- > Gurung and Magar from the western and central regions of Nepal
- > Limbu and Rai from eastern Nepal

The Gurung (also called 'Tamu') are an indigenous people of the foothills and mountains of the Himalayas, primarily around the Annapurna Region, most commonly using the surnames 'Gurung' and 'Ghale'. The Gurung are divided into four clans (*char-jaat*) – Ghale, Ghotane, Lama and Lamechane. Their religion combines ancient animistic rituals and Buddhist beliefs.

Indian 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, 15 August 1947.

After the partition of India and Pakistan, as a result of negotiations between the Nepalese, British and Indian Governments (known as the 'Tripartite Agreement'), the 2nd, 6th, 7th and 10th Gurkha Rifles of the former British Indian Army transferred their service to the British Army with effect from 1 January 1948.

3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles

On Independence Day, 15 August 1947, Rifleman Dusthi Gurung was serving with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd QAO Gurkha Rifles in its Home Station cantonment and Depot of 'Lansdowne'.

He volunteered to continue serving until 1 January 1948.

The 3rd Gurkha Rifles, comprising three battalions, was one of the six (of ten) Gurkha regiments which transferred to the new Indian Army.

On 1 January 1948, Rifleman Dusthi Gurung transferred to the Indian Army.



In 1949, the spelling of 'Gurkha' was changed to 'Gorkha'.

The regiment was retitled the '3rd Gorkha Rifles', and its Home Station became Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.

For Rifleman Dusthi Gurung, who continued to serve in the Republic of India after 1 January 1948, his Independence Medal was considered to be an Indian award.



The regimental badge of the 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles (1908-48) included the Royal cipher of Queen Alexandra (two crossed letters 'A') between the blades of the kukris above the numeral '3', surmounted by the Tudor Crown of King Edward VII.



The reverse of this medal features the three lions of Asoka (Emperor of India from 268 to 226 BC) as depicted on Asoka's Pillar at Sarnath, with the title "INDIAN INDEPENDENCE" and the date "15TH AUGUST 1947".



The Indian Independence Medal and war service medals awarded to Rifleman Tare Rana, 3/3rd QAO Gurkha Rifles.

10190 Rifleman Tare Rana

3rd Battalion, 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles

Tare Rana was a Gurkha rifleman from western Nepal, of the Rana clan of the Magar ethnic group (*jaat*), a veteran of the Burma campaign of World War 2, who was serving in India on Indian Independence Day, 15 August 1947, and continued serving until 1 January 1948.

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. Each tribe is subdivided into many sub-clans. The Rana clan of Magar tribes are original inhabitants of Gorkha.

Tare Rana enlisted as a Rifleman in the 3rd Gurkha Rifles soon after the outbreak of World War 2. During the war, 3GR comprised four battalions (although 4-3GR did not leave India) – Rifleman Rana was allocated to the 3rd Battalion (3/3GR) which was re-raised in 1940.

Rifleman Tare Rana completed at least 3 years' non-operational service in India with 3/3GR between 3 September 1939 and 2 September 1945, and thereby qualified for the India Service Medal 1939-1945. Receiving this medal, he was ineligible to receive the Defence Medal 1939-1945.

Rifleman Rana served with the 3rd Battalion, 3rd QAO Gurkha Rifles in the Burma campaign, opposing the advancing Japanese assaults, halting the Japanese advances towards India at the battles of Kohima and Imphal in 1944, and in the fightback into Burma.

For his operational service Rifleman Rana received the 1939-1945 Star, Burma Star and War Medal 1939-1945.

The stars and medals are Calcutta Mint issue, with correct impressed naming, and are court-mounted Nepalese style.

On Independence Day, 15 August 1947, Rifleman Tare Rana was serving with the 3rd Battalion, 3rd QAO Gurkha Rifles in its Home Station cantonment and Depot of 'Lansdowne'. He volunteered to continue serving until 1 January 1948.

After 3GR transferred to the new Indian Army, Rifleman Dusthi Gurung transferred to the Indian Army on 1 January 1948 to continue serving with the 3rd Gorkha Rifles.

For Rifleman Tare Rana, his British WW2 medals were now considered to be foreign awards – he correctly has the Indian Independence Medal (an Indian award) mounted first in the order of precedence.



During World War 2 there were ultimately 42 Gurkha Battalions in British service, as well as parachute, garrison and training units, with some 250,000 Gurkhas serving.

The India Overseas Service Badge 1939-45 was an official service award instituted by King George VI for Indian and Gurkha troops who served overseas during World War 2. It was awarded in addition to any campaign medals earned. The badge was struck in bronze, and was worn on the left breast of the tunic above the medals and ribbons.



MALAYAN EMERGENCY Roll of Honour – September

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.

A217227 Leading Aircraftman Colin John Rowe,
Base Squadron, RAAF Butterworth:
18 September 1959

3/42616 Signalman Kevin Victor Jones,
Royal Australian Corps of Signals,
28th Commonwealth Brigade Signal Squadron:
18 September 1959

O52902 Flight Lieutenant Offord,
No 3 Squadron, RAAF Butterworth:
11 September 1962

Lest we Forget



FAR EAST STRATEGIC RESERVE 2 July 1955 to 14 March 1975 Roll of Honour – September

Honouring the sacrifice of the three Australians who died during service with the Royal Australian Navy during the general period of the Malayan Emergency and in Southeast Asia.

R55650 Able Seaman Brian Paul Pelgrave,
HMAS *Queenborough*:
28 September 1962

CONFRONTATION Roll of Honour – September

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.

2411093 Bombardier Barrington 'Barry' Algar,
111 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery,
Royal Australian Artillery:
23 September 1964

O19993 Flying Officer Victor John Cowen,
No 2 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force:
19 September 1965

3/42616 Signalman Kevin Victor Jones (1937-1959)

Kevin Victor Jones enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in Victoria and trained at the Army Apprentices School at Balcombe Camp. He was a member of the 8th intake, and graduated as a Telecom Technician at Mace Oval, Balcombe on 10 December 1955.

He was assigned to the Royal Australian Army Corps of Signals: His Majesty King George VI conferred the title 'Royal' on the Australian Corps of Signals on 10 November 1948.

During the Malayan Emergency, Signalman Jones embarked on the *New Australia* in Sydney on 25 September 1957, bound for Singapore.

He served in Singapore attached to the 28th Commonwealth Brigade Signal Squadron (Far East Land Forces) from 11 October 1957 to 19 November 1958, and on completion of his deployment he returned to Australia by air.

Jones flew to Singapore on a second deployment on 26 January 1959, again attached to the 28th COMWEL Signal Squadron. This was a component of the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group.

On 18 September 1959, Signalman Jones died as a result of a motor vehicle accident.

Signalman Jones was buried with full military honours in the Taiping (Kamunting Road) Christian Cemetery in Perak State.

He is one of 50 Australian fallen from the Malayan wars – 42 from the Emergency and 8 from Confrontation – who remain buried overseas.



The name of Signalman Kevin Victor Jones is listed in the Rolls of Honour at the Australian War Memorial (panel 2).



2411093 Bombardier Barrington 'Barry' Algar (1937-1964)

In 1957, Barrington Fish enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in NSW, the army's 2nd Military District (2MD), gaining the numeric '2/' prefix (the oblique slash was discontinued in 1961). He was posted to 101 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery.

During the Malayan Emergency, Lance-Bombardier Fish embarked in Sydney on 18 September 1959 on the chartered troopship *MV Flaminia*, with the 1RAR battalion group – comprising the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), 1 Field Troop, Royal Australian Engineers and 101 Field Battery. The Battery disembarked at Singapore on 4 October and underwent jungle training at the Jungle Warfare School at Kota Tinggi. The following month they moved to Perak State and joined the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group on continuing operations against communist-terrorists in North Malaya. Lance-Bombardier Fish received the General Service Medal, 1918-1962 with clasp 'Malaya' and the Returned from Active Service Badge.

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. The battalion group left Penang on 29 October on the *MV Flaminia*, and on return to Australia Lance-Bombardier Fish was posted to 4 Field Regiment, RAA.

On 19 September 1962, Queen Elizabeth II granted the Royal Australian Artillery the title of 'The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery'. On 11 November 1962, Barry Fish changed his surname by Deed Poll to 'Algar'.

Barry Algar was among a number of experienced Gunners and NCOs from 101 Field Battery who were transferred to 111 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, RAA. On 24 May 1964, he embarked on *HMAS Sydney (III)* to serve at RAAF Base Butterworth.

Bombardier Algar was injured in a motor vehicle accident at RAAF Butterworth on 23 September 1964 – he was the No 3 on 'H' gun, and was injured during a crew changeover. He died in Penang General Hospital, Malaysia on the same day, aged 26. His daughter Vicki was just 6 months of age.

A military memorial service was held at RAAF Butterworth, and he was repatriated to RAAF Richmond in Sydney by RAAF C-130 aircraft. Bombardier Algar was buried in Rookwood Cemetery, Cumberland Council, NSW.

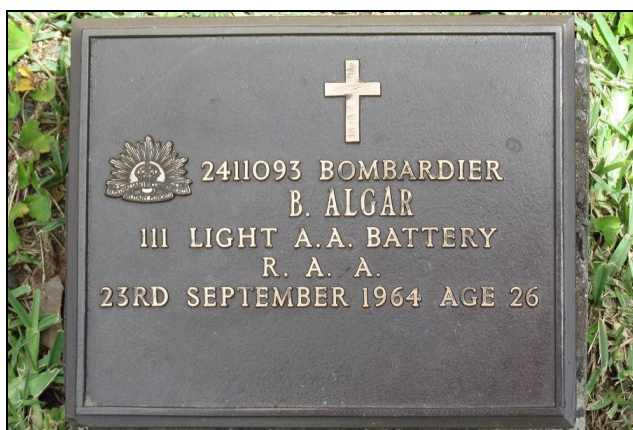
His name was not originally listed on the Australian War Memorial Rolls of Honour. Following protracted negotiations with the Australian War Memorial and Defence over a period of about 15 years, the names of Bombardier Algar and others were added in June 2013 under the title 'Indonesian Confrontation, 1962-1966', with the relevant panel recast and replaced.

Of the 26 Australians who lost their lives on operational service during the general period of Confrontation, Barry Algar was among just five who were returned to Australia for burial.

Four were cremated in Singapore and repatriated, and two died in Australia and were buried locally. Three were buried in Terendak Military Cemetery but have since been repatriated, and another two who were missing were subsequently repatriated in April 2010. Two were lost at sea and have no known grave.

Eight Australians from Confrontation remain buried overseas – one in Kuala Lumpur, and seven in Kranji Military Cemetery.

Lest we Forget



Bombardier Algar's headstone in Rookwood Cemetery, NSW.



Bombardier Algar's name is honoured in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching.