



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

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IN MEMORIAM

This special issue of our newsletter gives short commemorative profiles of those affiliated with our association who passed during the month of May.

These include our founding President when a South Australian Branch was created, after the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association was established in Australia in 1995, who continued to serve as President and lead our Anzac Day contingent until his death in Adelaide in 2002, and a stalwart member of the NMBVAA from 1998 and a member of the Branch Committee from 2011 until his passing in 2017, who had accompanied the first visits to Sarawak in 2014 and 2016.

We still remember them
Lest we Forget



IN MEMORIAM

Malayan Emergency, 1948-1960

† 4/1815 Corporal David Ross ORTMANN (1935-2002)



Born in Mitcham, SA on 1 June 1935, Ross Ortmann first served with a National Service intake commencing on 27 April 1954, completing his training with 16 National Service Training Battalion at Woodside Barracks. Private Ortmann served in South Korea as a Rifleman with the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment after the Armistice, from 23 December 1955 to 4 March 1956.

On 13 October 1956, he emplaned in Sydney for Singapore, for duty on the Malay Peninsula with 2RAR, assigned to the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group at Minden Barracks on Penang Island.

On 30 October 1958, Corporal Ortmann embarked in Singapore on the SS *New Holland*, and disembarked in Sydney on 19 November.

Ross was the founding President of the SA Branch of the NMBVAA when it was established in Australia in 1995, and continued to serve as President until his death in Adelaide on 19 May 2002, aged 66.

During the Adelaide Anzac Day March each year, Ross is represented by his grandson Ben Ortmann as one of the SA/NT Branch Banner Bearers.

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4/1815 Corporal David Ross Ortmann (1935-2002)

This month we recall the service of the late Corporal Ross Ortmann, founding President of the SA Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association when it was established in Australia in 1995 until his death on 19 May 2002, aged 66.

Ross first served as an 18 year old under the National Service Training Scheme (registration number S10695), with an intake commencing on 27 April 1954, and began his training with 16 National Service Training Battalion at Woodside Army Barracks.

He then enlisted in the Australian Regular Army: he was assigned to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps, and was posted to the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, and saw active service in South Korea after the Armistice (1955-56). He transferred to 2RAR, and saw active service during the Malayan Emergency (1956-58).

Australia's commitment to Malaya fell within the context of its membership of the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve (BCFESR). The Australian ground units were assigned to the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group, based at Minden Barracks on Penang Island. Ross was serving overseas when the Federation of Malaya gained independence on 31 August 1957.

Ross was the founding President of the SA Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association when it was established in Australia in 1995, and continued to serve as President until his death in Adelaide in 2002.

Ross was predeceased on 21 May 1991 by his wife Daphne. His funeral service was conducted at Queenstown on 23 May 2002, and he was buried in Cheltenham Cemetery.

Duty First || Lest we Forget



*'28 COMWEL Brigade'
was formed in Malaya
on 16 September 1955.*



IN MEMORIAM

Confrontation, 1962-1966

† 7106 Staff-Sergeant Clive Lewis DUBOIS (1942-2017)



Born on 2 June 1942, Clive Dubois was of the Arrernte people of Alice Springs, the son of Roy Dubois, a truck driver serving during WW2.

Clive enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 26 April 1962, and after recruit training was assigned to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

Clive was posted to 'C' Company of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, and in December 1963 deployed to Terendak Garrison at Malacca on the Malay Peninsula. He was detached for 'special service' on the Thai-Malay border with the Gurkhas from 20 February to 5 April 1964, and again from 3 September to 19 October 1964.

On 20 March 1965, Private Dubois embarked with 'C' Company, 3RAR in Singapore, disembarking at Kuching on 22 March. The company deployed to the First Division of Sarawak on Borneo, and occupied the forward patrol base at Serikin until 28 July 1965. He married Beverley on 13 April 1968.

Clive and Beverley joined the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA on 27 April 1998. They accompanied the first visit to Sarawak in 2014, and also joined the official 2016 reunion visit. Clive died in Adelaide on 28 May 2017.

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7106 Staff-Sergeant Clive Lewis Dubois (1942-2017)

This month we recall the service of the late Staff-Sergeant Clive Dubois, who passed away on 28 May 2017, aged 74.

Apart from his deployments during Confrontation, Clive's military service between 1962 and 1986 included postings with 2RAR and 3RAR, as a Corporal with the 42nd Battalion, Royal South Australian Regiment (42RSAR), as a Sergeant with the Adelaide University Regiment, with the District Support Units in Melbourne and Adelaide, and with 2 Training Group at Ingleburn where he qualified for appointment to Staff-Sergeant. He took his discharge in Adelaide on 26 April 1986.

Clive became a member of the NMBVAA on 27 April 1998, and Beverley on 22 February 2013. Clive was a member of the Branch Committee from 2011 until his passing in 2017, and Beverley has been a Committee member since 2018.

Clive and Beverley accompanied the first visit to Sarawak in 2014, and they both then joined the 2016 reunion visit. They also travelled to Penang, Ipoh and Sabah in 2014, and Penang again in 2016.

For the reunion in August 2023, Beverley again visited Sarawak to honour her late husband, but this time was accompanied by their daughter Lynette Hunt, who wanted to visit some of the locations where her father had served – including the Serikin patrol base site, which was occupied by 'C' Company, 3RAR from March to July 1965.



In 2023, Beverley and Lynette visited the SK Serabak school, kindly hosted by Principal Mrs Phiong Kiuk Fa and Magdalena anak Joseph Nyadi, Senior Assistant for Student Affairs.



HONOURING THE FALLEN

Malayan Emergency, 16 June 1948 to 31 July 1960

The SA/NT Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc has adopted a four-pronged approach to commemoration, and one of our four pillars is “Remember the fallen”.

In 2025, as we mark the 75th anniversary of the start of Australia’s involvement in the Emergency on 31 May 1950, we acknowledge those who lost their lives during the Malayan Emergency (1948-1960) and immediately after.

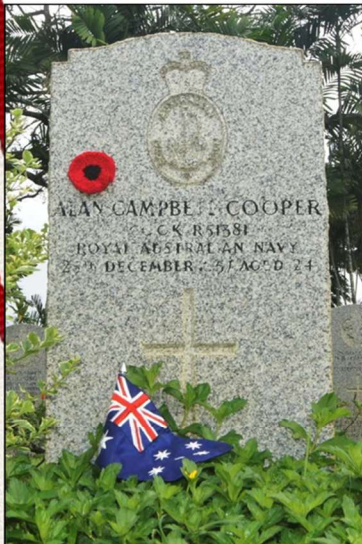
We recognise 39 Australians who lost their lives on operational service during the prescribed period of the Malayan Emergency between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1960, and a further ten who died in the period following the closing date for this campaign.

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

Lest we Forget

Malayan Emergency, 1948-1960

† Sacrifice during the Malayan Emergency - Royal Australian Navy



During the prescribed period of the Malayan Emergency, from 16 June 1948 to 31 July 1960, two members of the RAN lost their lives overseas.

One (D37 HMAS *Tobruk*, 26 April 1957) was buried at sea, and the other (D59 HMAS *Anzac*, 25 December 1957) was buried in Kranji Military Cemetery (pictured left). These deaths are listed in the Rolls of Honour in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra under the title ‘MALAYAN EMERGENCY’.

A further three naval personnel died while serving with the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve – after 31 July 1960 (the date the government of Malaya officially declared the Emergency over) but before the prescribed start date for Confrontation. These deaths are listed under the title ‘SOUTHEAST ASIA, 1955-1975 (FESR, SEATO)’.

One (HMAS *Quickmatch*, 14 May 1961) is buried in Cheltenham Cemetery in Adelaide; one (HMAS *Vampire*, 1 December 1961) was buried at sea; and the third (HMAS *Queenborough*, 28 September 1962) has no known grave (drowned at sea, body never recovered).

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*This panel features the ribbon of the **Naval General Service Medal 1909-1962** which was instituted by King George V on 6 August 1915 to reward service by members of the Commonwealth naval forces and the Royal Marines in minor warlike operations from 1909 for which no separate medal was issued. There were about 1,800 awards of the Naval General Service Medal with clasp ‘MALAYA’ to Australians.*

75th anniversary of Australian service in the

Malayan Emergency




Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Anzac Portal
anzacportal.dva.gov.au

AWM DUN/55/0824/EC, AWM HOB/56/0495/MC, AWM FEA1030, AWM 304874/02.

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

Malayan Emergency, 1948-1960

† Sacrifice during the Malayan Emergency ~ Australian Army



During the prescribed period of the Malayan Emergency, from 16 June 1948 to 31 July 1960, 27 members of the Australian Army lost their lives on operational service overseas.

These deaths are listed under the title 'MALAYAN EMERGENCY' in the Rolls of Honour in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Of these, 26 are buried in Taiping (Kamunting Road) Christian Cemetery in Perak, and one is buried in Kranji Military Cemetery in Singapore.

A further four members of the Australian Army died after 31 July 1960 (the date the government of Malaya officially declared the Emergency over) but before the prescribed start date for Confrontation. Three of them are listed under the title 'SOUTHEAST ASIA, 1955-1975 (FESR, SEATO)'.

Two (23 August 1960, 12 March 1961) are buried in Taiping (Kamunting Road) Christian Cemetery in Perak, one (26 February 1961) is buried in Cheras Road Civil Cemetery in Kuala Lumpur, and one (28 July 1961) is buried in Kranji Military Cemetery in Singapore (pictured left).

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Malayan Emergency, 1948-1960

† Sacrifice during the Malayan Emergency - Royal Australian Air Force



During the prescribed period of the Malayan Emergency, from 16 June 1948 to 31 July 1960, 10 members of the Royal Australian Air Force lost their lives overseas.

These deaths are listed under the title 'MALAYAN EMERGENCY' in the Rolls of Honour in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Of these, five are buried in Penang (Western Road) Cemetery in Malaysia, one is buried in Cheras Road Civil Cemetery in Kuala Lumpur (pictured left), and two are buried in Kranji Military Cemetery in Singapore.

One died of illness in the British Military Hospital in Hong Kong and was cremated in Hong Kong, and one was lost on operations in the South China Sea (Dakota Mk IV 'KN240', 31 August 1950) and has no known grave.

Three RAAF members died after 31 July 1960, and are not listed in the Rolls of Honour at the Australian War Memorial. One (9 February 1961) is buried in Kranji Military Cemetery, and two (16 June 1961, 11 September 1962) are buried in Penang (Western Road) Cemetery.

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*These panels feature the ribbon of the **General Service Medal 1918-1962** which was instituted by King George V on 19 January 1923 to reward service by members of the Army, Air Force and Police from throughout the Commonwealth in minor warlike operations after the end of World War 1 for which no separate medal was issued. There were about 4,634 awards of the General Service Medal with clasp 'MALAYA' to Australians.*