



# 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 March.

These include two stalwart members of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA who served during the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia including the late Captain Aileen Ryan (see image above), and the late Roger Burzacott RFD, son of an Army Commando who died on Borneo, who served as an Army Cadet, Craftsman in the Regular Army, officer in the Citizen Military Forces and rose to become an Honorary Colonel.

We still remember them  
Lest we Forget



## IN MEMORIAM

### Confrontation, 1962-1966

#### † 48588 Major Michael Roger 'Buzz' Burzacott RFD (1943-2020)



Roger was born in Adelaide on 21 April 1943, and enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 9 January 1959. He served as a Craftsman (Electrical Fitter) with the Light Aid Detachment of 111 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, RAA at Holsworthy and at RAAF Base Butterworth in Malaysia, including qualifying service from 17 August 1964 until 12 June 1965.

Taking discharge on 8 January 1968, he enlisted in the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) the following day, joining 107 Field Workshop.

He graduated from the Officer Cadet Training Unit as a Second Lieutenant in 1971, and served in the Army Reserve until 23 September 1989 – mainly with 'A' Squadron, 3rd/9th Light Horse Regiment (South Australian Mounted Rifles) and ultimately as Officer Commanding. Roger served as the regiment's Honorary Colonel from January 2005 to December 2012.

In 2010 he received the Australian Active Service Medal, 1945–75 with clasp 'MALAYSIA' (created on 13 July 2010).

Roger was a member of the reformed SA & NT Branch NMBVAA continuously from 21 August 2010. He died on 19 March 2020, aged 77.

### THANKS DIGGER

Virtual Museum and Commemoration Centre

<https://www.facebook.com/Thanks.Digger> | [ThanksDigger@gmail.com](mailto:ThanksDigger@gmail.com)

#### 48588 Major Michael Roger 'Buzz' Burzacott RFD (1943-2020)

This month we recall Branch member Major Roger Burzacott RFD, who died in Adelaide on 19 March 2020, aged 77.

Roger Burzacott was born in Adelaide on 21 April 1943, the son of Lieutenant Louis Bevan Burzacott of the 2/3rd Commando Squadron, who was killed at Balikpapan on 3 July 1945. Roger attended Nailsworth Boys Technical High School, and served in the school's cadet unit.

Enlisting in the Regular Army on 9 January 1959, Roger was a graduate of the Army Apprentice School's 14th Intake, graduating in December 1961 as an Electrical Fitter & Mechanic, Royal Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers. As a RAEME Craftsman, he had postings with Central Command Workshop at Keswick (1962) and 101 Infantry Workshop (1963). He was then posted to the Light Aid Detachment of 111 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery at Holsworthy. On 24 May 1964, Roger embarked on HMAS Sydney (III).

He served in Malaysia with 111 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery's Light Aid Detachment at RAAF Base Butterworth, including qualifying service from 17 August 1964 until 12 June 1965.

He took his discharge on 8 January 1968, and then served in the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) with 107 Field Workshop. Roger underwent training with the Officer Cadet Training Unit (OCTU), and graduated as a Second Lieutenant in 1971. He served in the Army Reserve until 23 September 1989 – mainly with 'A' Squadron, 3rd/9th Light Horse Regiment (South Australian Mounted Rifles) and ultimately as their Officer Commanding. Roger was the regiment's Honorary Colonel from January 2005 to December 2012.

In 2010 he received the Australian Active Service Medal, 1945-75 with clasp 'MALAYSIA' (created on 13 July 2010). Roger was a member of the reformed SA & NT Branch NMBVAA continuously from 21 August 2010 until his passing.

# IN MEMORIAM

## F45054 Captain Aileen Cecilia Ryan (1926-2024)

Our long-standing Branch member Captain Aileen Ryan, RAANC passed away in the Allambi Nursing Home in Glengowrie on Good Friday 29 March 2024, aged 97.

Aileen was born in South Australia on 17 June 1926, the daughter of Percy William 'Brick' Ryan (1895-1967) and his wife Monica Margaret (née Maher, 1901-1999). Aileen enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in Adelaide, and was allocated to the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC).

During the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia, she served as a Nursing Officer at the Military Hospital Terendak, within Terendak Garrison in Malacca with the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group, from 4 January 1964 to 12 June 1965.

During this period, she also served a term in British Military Hospital (BMH) Cameron Highlands, a hospital in the Cameron Highlands which supported Headquarters Far East Land Forces (FARELF). She also saw periods of duty in BMH Singapore.

After returning to Australia, Captain Ryan served as the Army's Nursing Corps representative at Central Command Headquarters at Keswick Barracks, serving as Adjutant of the 9th Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps Training Unit. In the late 1960s, she ran a recruitment campaign to attract young ladies to train as Army Nurses in the Citizen Military Forces.

Aileen was a regular attendee at our Branch meetings and events after joining the NMBVAA on 15 September 1998. She attended the inaugural Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service at the National War Memorial on North Terrace on 31 August 2011. She never missed an Anzac March or monthly meeting until her health made it impossible for her to attend.

On Friday 12 April 2024, Paul Rosenzweig and Don and Jenny Cameron represented the SA/NT Branch at a Graveside Service at Centennial Park for Aileen. Paul recited the Ode of Remembrance, which was punctuated by the Last Post.

Pro Humanitate || Lest we Forget



*Images from Aileen's nursing and military career*



*Nursing and military memories of Aileen*

