

National Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Association Australia Inc

South Australia & Northern Territory Branch

ABN 31 340 936 038

COMMEMORATION IN 2018

In 2018, we will commemorate the 103rd anniversary of the Gallipoli landings in 1915, and the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day when – on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month – the guns fell silent on the Western Front. This Great War had seen the mobilisation of over 70 million people, with as many as 13 million dead and perhaps one-third of them with no known grave.

In 2018, we will also commemorate 70th anniversary of the start of the undeclared war known as the 'Malayan Emergency'. This was a guerrilla war fought in the Federation of Malaya which lasted from 1948 until 1960 and cost the lives of 39 Australians.

The Federation of Malaya, a federation of eleven states (nine Malay states plus two of the British Straits Settlements, Penang and Malacca), came into existence on 1 February 1948. Essentially, the Emergency began on 16 June 1948 when three European plantation managers in Perak were executed by three members of the Malayan Communist Party. The British declared a State of Emergency in Perak on 18 June, and then enacted emergency measures country-wide from July. It was an 'undeclared war': the rubber plantations and tin-mining industries urged the use of the term 'emergency' since their losses would not have been covered by Lloyd's insurers if it had been termed a 'war'.

Most official records give '18 June 1948' as the declared commencement of the Malayan Emergency, however the qualifying period for the Commonwealth clasp 'MALAYA' actually begins on 16 June 1948.

While the Emergency was underway the Federation of Malaya became independent on 31 August 1957, with Tunku Abdul Rahman as Prime Minister (it is important to note that Malaysia did not come into existence until 16 September 1963).

The Commonwealth contribution included Malayan and British units, including Gurkhas, operating in support of the Federation of Malaya Police. Other Commonwealth troop contributing nations included Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia.

Australia's commitment to operations fell within the context of its membership of the Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR).

Ultimately each of the three battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment served in Malaya under Headquarters Far East Land Forces (FARELF). The Royal Australian Air Force deployed Lincoln bombers and C-47 Dakota transports operating out of Singapore and later Kuala Lumpur with the Far East Air Force (FEAF), and Canberra bombers and Sabres operating from Butterworth air base. The Royal Australian Navy initially committed two destroyers, followed by the aircraft carriers HMAS *Melbourne* and HMAS *Sydney* and nine destroyers for three to nine months at a time.

Thirty-nine Australian servicemen lost their lives (RAN 2, Army 27 and RAAF 10), fifteen of them as a result of operations, and 27 were wounded.

The government of the Federation of Malaya officially declared the Emergency over on 31 July 1960. This is the closing date of the qualifying period for the clasp 'MALAYA'. Despite the drawdown in violence from 1960, communist leader Chin Peng renewed the insurgency against the Malaysian government, leading to a 'Second Malayan Emergency' from 1968 to 1989.



LEST WE FORGET



KAMI JANGAN LUPAKAN

Service awards

Service in the Malayan Emergency by personnel of the Commonwealth naval forces (including the Royal Marines) was recognised by the **Naval General Service Medal, 1915-1962**. Equivalent service by Commonwealth army and air force personnel was recognised by the **General Service Medal, 1918-1962**. Both the NGSM and GSM were awarded for minor conflicts for which no other specific campaign medal was awarded. They were never awarded without a clasp.

The qualifying date period for the clasp 'MALAYA' for both medals was between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1960. For service in Singapore, the date period was between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1959.

The **Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75** was approved in 1997, for service in prescribed warlike operations from 3 September 1945 until 13 February 1975. For service during the Malayan Emergency between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1960 it may be awarded with the clasp 'MALAYA'.

The **Australian Service Medal 1945-75** was approved in 1995, for service in prescribed non-warlike operations from 3 September 1945 until 16 September 1975. For service with the Far East Strategic Reserve between 2 July 1955 and 31 October 1971 it may be awarded with the clasp 'FESR'.

The *Pingat Jasa Malaysia* is a Malaysian operational campaign medal established on 3 March 2004 to recognise service by members of the Malaysian Armed Forces. The PJM was also offered to members of Commonwealth forces who served to uphold the sovereignty of Malaysia – Australia, Fiji, India, Nepal, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, who served with the Far East Strategic Reserve between 31 August 1957 (the date of Malaya's independence) and 31 December 1966.

Observation

The sacrifice of our 39 Australians, among the 1,800 Malayan and Commonwealth troops who lost their lives in this 12 year conflict, was not in vain, serving to uphold the sovereignty of Malaya allowing the successful attainment of independence on 31 August 1957, and the eventual creation of Malaysia on 16 September 1963.

NMBVAA members are strongly encouraged to observe the following dates in 2018:

Wednesday 25 April	Anzac Day: March and Service of Commemoration <i>City march, with a members' reunion to follow</i>
Saturday 16 June	70 th anniversary of the commencement of the Malayan Emergency <i>Private observation only at this time</i>
Saturday 25 August	Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Day: Service of Commemoration <i>West Torrens War Memorial Gardens</i>
Sunday 11 November	Remembrance Day: Service of Commemoration <i>Private observation at your venue of choice</i>



Contact us

Phone: Brian Selby (President) 08 8387 1672
Don Cameron (Vice-President) 08 8264 2858
Email: Mr Brian Selby (President) oneoneecho111@gmail.com
National website: <http://www.nmbvaa.org.au/>
Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NMBVAAadelaide/>



Please Like and Share

Through our SA/NT Branch Facebook page we share historical images and current news items for NMBVAA members and veterans, their families and friends.