

# **MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS' DAY**

**31 AUGUST 2017**

## **RAR NATIONAL MEMORIAL WALK ENOGGERA**

**March: 1030hrs**

**Service: 1100hrs**

MALAYA

BORNEO

SINGAPORE

MALAYSIA



SABAH

SARAWAK

BRUNEI

EAST TIMOR

## **ORDER OF SERVICE INFORMATION BOOKLET**

*At this annual commemoration service, we remember those who gave their lives in the Malayan Emergency, in Confrontation, in Timor Leste and during the Japanese occupation of Malaya and Singapore during the Second World War.*

*Address by Lt Col Brian Avery (Retd)*

*Lt Col Brian Avery saw active service in the Malayan Emergency with 3RAR and 1 RAR from 1958 to 1960. He later graduated from the Officer Cadet School in June 1962.*

*He joined 4 RAR in Woodside SA in 1964 and served with the battalion in Malaysia and Borneo as a rifle platoon commander and company second in command. He remained with the battalion for its first tour in Vietnam where he commanded a mortar platoon. He left 4 RAR in June 1969.*

*In 1971-72, he served as a company commander in 8RAR. After a short stint as an exercise planner with SEATO in Bangkok, he attended the Australian Staff College in 1974. This was followed by a posting as instructor in Tactics Wing at the Land Warfare Centre. Brian resigned from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1985 and served with the Army Reserve until reaching retirement age in 1989.*

*Brian has written four histories and a number of articles.*

*In early 2016, Lt Col Brian Avery (Retd) accepted the position of Patron of the National Malaya and Borneo Veteran's Association Queensland and Brisbane Branch.*

# **Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Day**

**31 August 2017**

## **ORDER OF SERVICE**

**WELCOME/MC**      *Mr Ron Virgen OAM    ex 4RAR*

**OPENING PRAYER**    *Major Gary Craig, Salvation Army  
NMBVAA QLD and Brisbane Branch Chaplain*

**ADDRESS**              *Lt Col Brian Avery (Retd)*

**HONOUR ROLL**        *Service Representatives  
Mr David Brewer (Australia)  
Ms Megan Humphreys (NZ)*

**CHAPLAIN'S ADDRESS**    *Major Gary Craig*

**PLACING OF WREATHS** *Official Guests and members  
of the public will be invited to lay a wreath.*

**ODE**                      *Mr Allen Edwards, President NMBVAA  
Queensland and Brisbane Branch*

**LAST POST – MINUTE'S SILENCE – ROUSE**

**AUSTRALIAN and NZ NATIONAL ANTHEMS**

**CEREMONY CLOSE**

*Bugler:                      Mr Chris Greathead*

*Catafalque Party: Sixth Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment*

*Pipes and Drums: National Servicemen's Memorial*

*Pipes and Drums*

**Please stay for a light luncheon, tea or coffee and fellowship.  
Alcoholic drinks and soft drinks will be on sale.**

**Malayan Emergency 1948 – 1960**  
**British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve 1955 - 1971**  
**Indonesian Confrontation 1962 – 1966**

**MEMORIAL ROLL**  
**MALAYAN EMERGENCY AND BCFESR**

**NAVY**

**HMAS Anzac**

R51381	COOPER, Alan Campbell	<i>Cook</i>
	<b><u>HMAS Melbourne</u></b>	
	KENNEL, Edward George	<i>Lieutenant</i>
	<b><u>HMAS Queenborough</u></b>	
R55650	PELGRAVE, Brian Paul	<i>Abel Seaman</i>
	<b><u>HMAS Quickmatch</u></b>	
R56594	HOARE, Dennis Keith	<i>Engineer Mechanic</i>
	<b><u>HMAS Tobruk</u></b>	
R49694	SPOONER, Robert William	<i>Able Seaman</i>
	<b><u>HMAS Vampire</u></b>	
R54324	PLINT, Bryan Edward	<i>Chief Petty Officer</i>

**ARMY**

**1 RAR**

28409	BRIDGE, C.W.	<i>Lieutenant</i>
21680	FERRELL, B.H.	<i>Private</i>
12817	HARRISON, John Robert	<i>Corporal</i>
29849	SMEDLEY, Leslie Ray	<i>Private</i>

**2 RAR**

22836	ALLAN, John Norman	<i>Corporal</i>
27271	ANDERSON, Cecil Charles	<i>Sergeant</i>
28606	DECENT, James Ian	<i>Private</i>
12706	EWALD, Keith Henry	<i>Sergeant</i>
13693	FRITZ, Geoffrey Clyde	<i>Private</i>
29108	HALLARD, Thomas Benjamin	<i>Private</i>
13207	INGRA, Cedric Charles	<i>Private</i>
28764	JAY, Carl Adrian	<i>Private</i>
32983	JEPHSON, Henry Maxwell	<i>Private</i>
2410190	KEEN, Alfred William	<i>Private</i>
28234	MacVICAR, Duncan	<i>Corporal</i>
13542	METCALF, James Neville	<i>Private</i>

27623	POTTS, Jack Frederick	<i>Private</i>
3410140	WILSON, Joseph	<i>Private</i>

### 3 RAR

28924	HAYNES, Peter Leslie	<i>Corporal</i>
215217	HORNE, Neville Wayne	<i>Private</i>
13339	O'SULLIVAN, F.N.	<i>Private</i>
13822	SEESINK, David Arthur	<i>Corporal</i>
5410165	TULLOCH, Aeneas John	<i>Corporal</i>

### 3 RAR (RAASC attached)

6143	RYAN, Maurice	<i>Sergeant</i>
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### RA Inf

VX108282	SMITH, James Harold	<i>Captain</i>
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### RA Sigs

42960	TASSELL, John Darrell	<i>Signalman</i>
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### 28 Bde Sig Sqn

342616	JONES, Kevin Victor	<i>Signalman</i>
35778	NORRIS, Edward Raymond	<i>Signalman</i>

### 22 Constr Sqn RAE

210091	MATHESON, M.	<i>Warrant Officer 2</i>
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### 126 Tpt PI RAASC

14104	THOMPSON, Eugene Francis	<i>Private</i>
	PAYNE, Maxwell	<i>Private</i>

### A Fd Bty LAD RAEME

242764	HENDERSON, Bruce Dudley	<i>Craftsman</i>
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### A Fd Bty RAA

29510	BLANCH, Sydney John	<i>Gunner</i>
13546	DUCAT, Ross Macleay	<i>Gunner</i>

### 101 Fd Bty RAA

27789	TUCKER, Lionel Aubrey	<i>Sergeant</i>
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### 105 Fd Bty RAA

28649	SUTTON, Donald Keith	<i>Bombardier</i>
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**16 Comwel Fd Amb, RAAMC**

36331

JONAS, I.M.

Private

**RAAF**

O15609

CURTIS, M.V.

*Flying Officer*

A218384

DUFFY, William Patrick

*Leading Aircraftman*

A312847

HALL, D.J.

*Leading Aircraftman*

A46472

HIGNETT, W. J.

*Aircraftman*

A312178

LAWSON, John George

*Aircraftman*

A22463

MARLEY, J. F

*Corporal*

A51076

MURPHY, M.

*Leading Aircraftman*

OFFORD, R.E.

*Flight Lieutenant*

O210232

POTTS, John William

*Squadron Leader*

A217227

ROWE, Colin John

*Leading Aircraftman*

O3606

NIXON DFC, Norman Henry

*Wing Commander*

**1 Sqn RAAF**

A31167

BROWN, Heathcote Byron

*Warrant Officer*

**38 Sqn RAAF**

A197

TAIT, George Robert

*Warrant Officer*

**38 Sqn, RAAF(atch 110 Sqn RAF)**

A22152

McDONALD, Gordon John

*Pilot Officer 3*

**2 Airfield Constr Sqn RAAF**

A32323

O'DONNELL, John Marcus

*Corporal*

**Base Sqn, Butterworth**

O52768

OATES, Dennis St George Greaves

*Flight Lieutenant*

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**INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION**

**NAVY**

**HMAS Melbourne**

HUTCHISON, John Morgan

*Acting Sub-Lieutenant*

**ARMY**

**3 RAR**

29720

BRIAN, David John

*Lieutenant*

1200029

DOWNES, Larry Richard

*Private*

37746

MILLANE, Dennis Michael

*Private*

61207	VELLA, Vincent Phillip	<i>Sergeant</i>
5976	WEILAND, Reginald John	<i>Sergeant</i>

#### **4 RAR**

14982	JONES, John Wynne	<i>Private</i>
215881	O'CARROLL, Liam Mallows	<i>Private</i>
14840	PATCH, Ronald Charles	<i>Corporal</i>
311512	RICHARDS, Victor Herbert	<i>Private</i>
342550	WEST, Peter John J.	<i>Corporal</i>
38094	ROBINSON, Peter John	<i>Private</i>

#### **1 SAS Sqn**

37562	DENEHEY, Paul Harold	<i>Lance Corporal</i>
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#### **2 SAS Sqn**

14172	HUDSON, Kenneth Ambrose	<i>Lieutenant</i>
2412209	MONCRIEFF, Robert Charles	<i>Private</i>

#### **21 Constr Sqn RAE**

58702	COLOHAN, Anthony John	<i>Sapper</i>
6363	HUTCHINSON, Maxwell Clyde	<i>Warrant Officer 2</i>

#### **22 Constr Sqn RAE**

3411676	BRIDGLAND, Reginald Neville	<i>Sapper</i>
5713692	MILLS, Geoffrey Francis	<i>Sapper</i>

#### **24 Constr Sqn RAE**

213347	JOHNSON, Kenneth Charles	<i>Sapper</i>
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#### **111 LAA Bty, RAA**

2411093	ALGAR, Barry (Fish)	<i>Bombardier</i>
215303	DANKS, Stephen Wallis	<i>Gunner</i>

### **RAAF**

#### **2 Sqn RAAF**

C19993	COWEN, Victor John	<i>Flight Lieutenant</i>
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**NEW ZEALAND**  
**MALAYA AND BORNEO 1949 – 1966**

**ROLL OF HONOUR**

**MALAYAN EMERGENCY AND BCFESR**

**ARMY**

**1 NZR**

594826	KAWHA, T.U.	<i>Private</i>
552227	TUXWORTH, Brian James.	<i>Private</i>
12879	BREITMEYER, Robert Malcolm.	<i>Private</i>
204524	BROWN, P.	<i>Lance Corporal</i>
	(IWIHORA, Teriwhero Percy)	
207882	SHANNON, Lawrence Bruce	<i>Captain</i>
467149	DUNN, Michael Joseph.	<i>Private</i>
625776	RICHARDS, N. L.	<i>Private</i>

**2 NZR**

920845	AMAS, George Whitelock	<i>Private</i>
38797	HAY, Bruce Harvey	<i>Private</i>
38890	SOLIA, T.F.	<i>Private</i>

**NZ SAS Sqn**

34872	THOMAS, Adrian Raymond	<i>Trooper</i>
208473	BUCHANAN, A.G. (Buck)	<i>Corporal</i>

**NZ Regt (atch FIJI Regt)**

207275	HARGEST, Peter Miles.	<i>Second Lieutenant</i>
35329	NEPIA, George	<i>Sergeant</i>
373889	PEKE, Harold R	<i>Private</i>

**AIR FORCE**

**5 Sqn RNZAF**

76649	FRASER, R.	<i>Flight Sergeant</i>
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**14 Sqn RNZAF**

70154	TIE, A.S.	<i>Squadron Leader</i>
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**41 Sqn RNZAF**

73883  
76940

DEVESCOVI, W.A.  
NELSON, D.E.

*Flying Officer*  
*Flying Officer*

**75 Sqn RNZAF**

72157  
77296  
78306

BERRY, William E.  
FINN, David Lloyd  
GUDSELL, James Allan R.

*Sergeant*  
*Flying Officer*  
*Leading Aircraftman*

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**INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION**

**NAVY**

**HMNZS Royalist**

ROGERS, J. L.

*Chief Radio Electrician*

**ARMY**

**1RNZIR**

474706  
650478  
41477  
653823  
336882  
653769  
38469

BONNER, Peter William.  
DAWSON, Owen Thomas.  
HONATANA, R.  
HEALEY, T.J.  
KING, Isaac Leonard.  
MONK, Alexander William.  
TONI, W.

*Private*  
*Private*  
*Private*  
*Private*  
*Sergeant*  
*Private*  
*Sapper*

**RNZASC**

329603

FRY, Richard Edwards

*Sergeant*

**AIR FORCE**

**14 Sqn RNZAF**

80904  
79363  
78266

RYDER, Geoffrey Paul.  
SOUTHGATE, James William  
THOMSON, Russell Bennett

*Leading Aircraftman*  
*Flight Lieutenant*  
*Flying Officer*



## **BRITISH COMMONWEALTH** **FAR EAST STRATEGIC RESERVE 1955-1971**

Following the success of communism in China, North Korea, North Vietnam and Laos, Western nations became conscious of a need for protective defence arrangements against a perceived threat in South East Asia, leading to the South East Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO).

In 1953, the British Minister for Defence proposed the creation of a strategic force consisting of naval, ground and air forces from the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, to protect British Commonwealth interests in the region from external or internal threats, and to provide the Commonwealth's initial contribution to any SEATO commitment.

This force, to be known as the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve (BCFESR), would consist of warships based in Singapore, a tri-national infantry brigade group and squadrons of the RAF, RN Fleet Air Arm, RAAF and RNZAF located in Singapore and Malaya.

With the freeing up of forces following the Korean War truce, the establishment of the BCFESR became possible and it came into being in 1955, leading to the deployment of the 2RAR group and 1NZ Regt to Malaya.

The participation of Australian Forces in BCFESR was announced by the Prime Minister, R G Menzies, in April 1955.

The commitment was to be an infantry battalion group, between two and four destroyers or frigates home-ported in Singapore, and up to three squadrons of fighter and bomber aircraft located in Singapore (later transferred to the new air base constructed at Butterworth in North Malaya). In addition, a RAN carrier group would visit the region annually for combined exercises.

**These forces were to remain under Australian command and control, but were to be employed under directives issued by the (British) Commander in Chief Far East.**

**RAN ships served as part of the RN Far East Fleet, the infantry battalion group was integrated into 28 Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group (28 Bde) as part of the Far East Land Forces (FARELF) and RAAF units served as part of the Far East Air Force.**

**The Commander of 28 Bde, a brigadier, was to be rotated between the three nations. Australia set up a small, non-operational national administrative headquarters in Singapore.**

**The BCFESR, as part of the much larger effort of the Commonwealth Forces, took part in operations against the MRLA during the Malayan Emergency and in the defence of Malaysia during Confrontation. Elements of the BCFESR also took part in exercises conducted by SEATO.**

**With the British policy of military disengagement in the Far East, major British Forces were no longer available and the BCFESR ceased to exist in 1971.**

**The Whitlam Government withdrew the Australian Army Force from Singapore, not replacing 6RAR in 1973, and SEATO was wound up soon after.**

**As a replacement for BCFESR, a Five Power mutual defence treaty was instituted, to include Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore, but this treaty does not include the stationing of major forces in the region.**

**By Lt Col B. Avery (Retd)**

## **THE MALAYAN EMERGENCY 1948-1960**

During the Japanese occupation of Malaya during the Second World War, a communist guerrilla movement, the Malayan Peoples Anti-Japanese Army (MPAJA), supported and armed by the British, led the struggle against the Japanese. By 1948, this had transformed into the Malayan Races Liberation Army (MRLA), the armed wing of the Malayan Communist Party (MCP), which aimed to achieve independence from the British by armed insurrection. In June 1948, the insurrection broke out with the murder of three British rubber planters in Perak, in the north of the country. The Malayan Government declared a state of emergency, the commencement of an internal conflict which lasted until 1960 and became known as the Malayan Emergency.

The MCP was predominantly supported by ethnic Chinese, mainly the descendants of immigrants from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries who had moved to Malaya to work in the growing rubber, tin and forestry industries. The MCP got little support from the Malay and Indian populations, nor the older *baba* Chinese community who had lived in Malaya and Singapore for centuries. As the emergency progressed, the British and Malayan Governments were able to use this loyalty as a strategy against the MCP. British and Malayan response to the Emergency was at first low key, but following the assassination of the British High Commissioner in 1951, Britain became galvanised into taking more intensive action.

A new High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, was appointed and the British stepped up their military and civil campaigns. Prolonged operations over the following years aimed to drive the guerrillas (CTs – communist terrorists) into the jungle, separating them from their civilian support in the towns and villages and thereby depriving them of food and information, while protecting the population from coercion.

**Australian support to the counter-terrorism campaign commenced in 1950 with the arrival of two RAAF squadrons in Singapore – 1 Sqn flying Lincoln bombers and 38 Sqn flying C38 Dakota transport aircraft. The Australian Army was fully committed to the war in Korea but Australian instructors were sent to the newly opened Jungle Warfare School at Kota Tinggi in Johore. The transport aircraft carried cargo, dropped supplies and paratroopers, did leaflet drops and moved troops. The bombers began bombing CT camps in the jungle, and in one highly successful operation in conjunction with RAF Lincolns, destroyed a camp killing 13 CTs. Later, night raids were even more successful but once the Lincolns were replaced by faster Canberra bombers, the effectiveness of these operations decreased. In the later part of the Emergency, an RAAF Airfield Construction Squadron built the main runway at the base at Butterworth which became the main RAAF base in Malaya until transferred to the Royal Malaysian Air Force in the 1970s.**

**With the withdrawal of Australian combat units from the Korean War, Australia was able to increase its participation in the Emergency. In October 1955, 2RAR arrived in the island of Penang, and in early 1956 was deployed to the mainland to commence operations against the main CT force in the Kedah/Perak area, as part of 28 Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Group (28 Bde). 2RAR was supported by 105 Fd Bty RAA and 4 Fd Tp RAE, both located at Butterworth. Other Australians were included as an Australian Component in supporting units of 28 Bde, including the Headquarters, the Field Workshop REME, Transport Company RASC, Field Ambulance RAMC and the Brigade Signals Squadron. Nursing officers from the RAANC were posted to various British Military Hospitals.**

**By the time 2RAR commenced operations against the CTs, the outcome of the Emergency was no longer in doubt. From 1956, however, another five years of protracted operations against the CTs saw the remnants driven into the jungle on the border with Thailand, where they were no longer a threat to Malayan security.**

**Malaya received full independence in August 1959, further undermining the MCP's cause. In 1957, 2RAR was replaced by 3RAR. That battalion's operations were centred about the area of Sungei Siput in Perak where the Emergency had started, and aimed at depriving the CTs of food, starving them into surrender, a highly successful strategy which saw the area cleared of CTs by the time 1RAR arrived to replace 3RAR in 1959.**

**1RAR's operations were concentrated on eliminating the remnant in the border area but with little actual contact. In July 1960, the end of the Emergency was officially declared, although operations against this remnant continued well into the 1960s. Units operating on the border were forbidden to cross the border into Thailand, even if CT positions were known.**

**With the end of the Emergency, 28 Bde with its Australian component moved to the new permanent base at Terendak in the southern Malayan State of Malacca. In 1961, 1RAR was replaced by 2RAR on its second tour, the first battalion to complete a full tour of duty in the new base. 2RAR also took part in operations on the border with Thailand, in Kedah and Perak, pursuing the CT remnants, operations which did net it some success. 2RAR in turn was replaced in 1963 by 3RAR which took part in border operations and was actively engaged during Confrontation. The two air defence batteries located at Butterworth also took part in border operations as infantry**

**In addition to the operational activities of the RAAF and the Australian Army during the Emergency, ships of the RAN were based in Singapore as part of the Far East Fleet and on occasions gave gunfire support to land operations against CT bases on the peninsula. Besides the Australian forces, troops from the Federation of Malaya, Britain (including Gurkhas), New Zealand, Singapore, Fiji, Rhodesia and Sarawak took part in the Emergency. At any one time, up to twenty infantry battalions would have been operating against the CTs. A total of sixty Australians lost their lives during the Emergency. Twenty five New Zealanders lost their lives, including three seconded to the Fiji Infantry Regiment.**

**By Lt Col B .Avery (Retd)**

## **INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION 1962-1966**

**In 1960, the Malayan Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, proposed the unification of the Federation of Malaya and the British colonies of Singapore, Brunei, North Borneo (later renamed Sabah) and Sarawak into a single nation to be called Malaysia. The proposal was supported by referenda in the colonies and had the support of the British government as it was in accordance with their policies of military withdrawal from the Far East and decolonisation.**

**The decision was confirmed in 1962 and initially the Indonesian Foreign Minister supported the proposal in the United Nations. A revolt in Brunei in October 1962 was put down by British forces but the Sultan of Brunei withdrew from the proposal.**

**The President of Indonesia, Dr Sukarno, then declared that Malaysia was simply the continuation of British imperialism and launched a campaign of military, economic and political aggression to crush Malaysia – Confrontation. In 1965, Singapore was faced with race riots and withdrew from the Federation, becoming an independent republic. Singapore and Brunei remained allies of Malaysia against Indonesian aggression throughout Confrontation.**

**(A few Australians were deployed to Brunei to support the British operation to defeat the revolt. These were mainly logistics personnel from the Australian force headquarters in Singapore. No casualties were suffered by this Australian contingent.)**

**During 1963, Indonesian military action gradually increased. Malaysia rapidly increased its defence forces to meet the threat and British forces in Malaysia and Singapore were reinforced by redeploying forces from Hong Kong, Britain and Germany.**

**Malaysia also sought assistance from Australia and**

**New Zealand. New Zealand quickly committed an infantry battalion - 1RNZIR, based in Malacca - which undertook two tours in Sarawak.**

**The Australian Government for a number of reasons was initially reluctant to provide assistance, but in late 1963 agreed to provide limited military assistance in the form of 111 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery (111 LAA Bty RAA) to assist in the defence of the RAAF base at Butterworth, engineers to build roads in Sabah and naval small ships to assist in protective patrols in coastal waters. Australian warships serving in Singapore also were used to escort the commando carrier HMS Bulwark and the aircraft carrier HMS Albion to Borneo. RAAF units in Butterworth commenced active combat air patrols to protect Malaysian airspace. The engineer presence in Sabah continued, with a number of squadrons rotated through until after hostilities ceased in 1966. 111 LAA Bty was replaced by 110 LAA Bty in 1965 and that unit returned to Australia at the end of Confrontation without being replaced.**

**Indonesian aggression continued to escalate in Borneo and a number of large scale landings in Johore in West Malaysia led to further requests for assistance. In 1964, the Australian Government agreed that the Australian component of 28 Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Group (28 Bde), located in Malacca, could be used against landings close to the base. Not long after, a large sea-borne incursion took place near Muar on the border of Malacca and Johore. A force, including 3RAR, was deployed to bottle up the landing in a swamp and subjected the group to harassing fire throughout the night. The next morning, 3RAR entered the swamp and captured 53 dispirited Indonesians without casualties to either side. Finally, in late 1964, the Australian Government gave approval for combat troops to be deployed to Borneo.**

**In January 1965 1 Sqn SAS Regt deployed from Perth to Sabah and became part of the British 22 SAS Regt; also serving with**



**22 SAS was the NZ SAS Sqn. From 28 Bde, 2 Fd Tp RAE and 3RAR (March 1965) and 102 Fd Bty RAA (May 1965) were deployed to Sarawak, to the most active area of Bau on the direct approach to the capital, Kuching. In January 1966, 2SAS Sqn was deployed from Perth to Kuching and in April 1966, 4RAR, which had replaced 3RAR in Malacca, deployed to Bau.**

**The main task of infantry units in Borneo was to protect the 1200kilometre porous border by detecting and eliminating Indonesian incursions.**

**The main tasks of SAS were location and surveillance of Indonesian positions and activities. 3RAR, 4RAR and the two SAS Squadrons also took part in highly secret CLARET operations, in which they crossed the border into Indonesia to take the conflict to the Indonesians, by ambushing movement, attacking smaller bases and detecting Indonesian intentions.**

**Subject to the UK Official Secrets Act, it was 1996 before details of these operations could be revealed. 3RAR in particular had a number of highly successful ambushes in their area of operations. With peace talks underway, 4RAR CLARET operations were limited to surveillance patrols but the battalion did eliminate one major Indonesian incursion into the Bau district.**

**By early 1966, it became obvious that the Indonesian campaign had failed and there had been a major political realignment in Jakarta.**

**On 11 August 1966, a Peace Accord was signed in Bangkok, putting an end to hostilities and guaranteeing Malaysian sovereignty. All non-Malaysian troops would be required to leave Borneo within 28 days, a major task given that 20,000 non-Malaysian troops were involved. An exception was made for the Australian engineer squadron in Sabah, which remained until its tour of duty constructing roads was completed.**

**By Lt Col B. Avery (Retd)**

**AUSTRALIA'S CONTRIBUTION**  
**MALAYAN EMERGENCY 16 JUNE 1948 – 31 JULY 1960**  
**(ALSO SERVED AS PART OF BCFESR\*)**

**NAVY**

*13 Royal Australian Navy ships were attached to the Commonwealth Strategic Reserve at various times between 1955-1960 and all took turns patrolling Malayan Waters.*

- *Aircraft Carriers\*: HMAS Melbourne, HMAS Sydney*
- *Destroyers, Frigates\*: HMAS Anzac, HMAS Arunta, HMAS Quadrant, HMAS Queenborough, HMAS Quiberon, HMAS Quickmatch, HMAS Tobruk, HMAS Vampire, HMAS Vendetta, HMAS Voyager and HMAS Warramunga.*

**ARMY**

- *HQ Australian Army FARELF*
- *1 RAR\*; 2RAR\*; 3RAR\*.*
- *A Fd Bty RAA\*; 101 Fd Bty, RAA\*; 105 Fd Bty, RAA\**
- *1 Fd Tp RAE\*; 2 Fd Tp RAE\*, 1957-59 Malaya. Troop attached to 11 Independent Fd Sqn, RE, Butterworth; 4Fd Tp RAE\*.*
- *126 Tpt Pl RAASC\* (Oct 1955-1957).*
- *1 Australian Observer Unit.*
- *Australian Section RAAMC, 16 Comwel Fd Amb\**
- *33 Dental Unit RAADC\**

*Australian components/individuals served in HQ 28 Bde\*, Brigade support units\*, British Military Hospitals and as instructors at Jungle Warfare School.*

**AIR FORCE**

- *1 Sqn RAAF(Bombers; 2 Sqn RAAF(Bombers)\*, 3 Sqn RAAF(Fighters)\*, 38 Sqn RAAF(Transport) and 77 Sqn RAAF(Fighters)\*.*
- RAAF Personnel also served with 274 Liaison Unit RAF (Ground operations).*

Extracts from Website [www.britains-smallwars.com/malaya/reg.html](http://www.britains-smallwars.com/malaya/reg.html)

References: Australian War Memorial website for complete list, Navy website and Lt Col B. Avery (Retd)

**AUSTRALIA'S CONTRIBUTION**  
**INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION 24 DEC 1962-11 AUG 1966**  
**(UNITS ALSO SERVED AS PART OF BCFESR \*)**

**NAVY**

- Aircraft Carriers\*: HMAS *Melbourne*, HMAS *Sydney* transported troops and equipment.
- Frigates\*: – HMAS *Yarra*, HMAS *Parramatta*, HMAS *Derwent*.
- Destroyers\*: HMAS *Vampire* and HMAS *Vendetta*
- Minesweepers: HMAS *Teal*, HMAS *Hawk* and HMAS *Ibis*, HMAS *Curlew*, HMAS *Gull*, HMAS *Snipe*

**ARMY**

- 1 Sqn SASR, 2 Sqn SASR
- 3 RAR\*, 4RAR\*
- Troop of Royal Australian Signals and RA Sigs attachments
- 'A' Field Battery, RAA\*
- 110 LAA Bty RAA and 111 LAA Bty RAA.
- 102 Fd Bty RAA\*; 103 Fd Bty RAA (1961,1963)\*
- 1 Fd Sqn RAE; 2 Fd Tp RAE\*; 7 Fd Sqn RAE;
- 21 Constr Sqn RAE; 22 Constr Sqn RAE, 24 Constr RAE;  
32 Small Ship Sqn RAE.
- RAEME Lt Aid Detachment
- RAAMC attachments and RAANC(Sisters) attachments

Australian components and individuals serving with HQ 28 Bde and supporting units\*; Individual personnel of 28 Bde served in Borneo on attachment to British units such as HQ DOBOPS (Director of Base Ops), Royal Artillery Regiments and 7 Flt AAC.

**AIR FORCE**

- 5 Sqn RAAF (Utility Helicopter)
- 36 Sqn RAAF (Transport)
- 77 Sqn, RAAF (Fighters)
- Base Sqn, Butterworth
- Ground Defence Guards, Butterworth
- RAAF Hospital Butterworth
- RAAF Nurses (Sisters)

**Reference:** Britain Small Wars Websites, Australian War Memorial Website for complete list, Navy Website, *An Atlas of Australia's Wars* by John Coates and Lt Col B. Avery (Retd).

## **National Malaya & Borneo Veteran'** **Association Australia Inc.**

The National Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Association was founded on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 1994 in Nottingham, England, UK. The concept of forming the Association started in late 1992 as a direct result of a group of veterans getting together on returning from a re-union in Malaysia. A campaign was started to obtain an award in the form of a medal for those who saw service during the Malayan Emergency, the Indonesian Confrontation and the Japanese Occupation of Malaya and Singapore.

The medal campaign set them on the path to forming the Association.

The Association Motto is "Bono Animo Este" (Be of Good Courage).

The Association Emblem – the Royal Crown, depicting our loyalty to H.M. the Queen and respective countries, the flags of the Union and Malaysia, side by side. The Associations colours represent the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines and the Royal Air Force, an Association of men and women sharing a common bond through their Military Service.

The organisation has spread worldwide with branches and affiliations in United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Fiji, Singapore and USA. The total number of members in the UK is in excess of 4000.

The National Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Association Australia was originally a branch of the parent association in the United Kingdom (NMBVA) until 5<sup>th</sup> January 1996 when Australia formed its own

Incorporated association with the National Headquarters being registered in Queensland. The first Annual General Meeting was held at the RSL Geebung with the following office bearers elected:

### **INAUGURAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

National Chairman/Secretary-----Richard H. Webber

National Treasurer----- John Rooney

Assistant Secretary/Committee----- Cyril Hunter

State Chairman Queensland----- David Kent

Sub Branch Chairman Sunshine Coast---- Fred Simpson

Veterans' Liaison ----- Tom Turnbull

In early 1999 the founding Chairman gave notice to "stand down" due to severe ill health, a short while later the association mourned his death.

Richard Webber who initiated the association in Australia surely must have been satisfied to see his efforts rewarded with branches and sub-branches in all States and Territories.

(Extract: NMBVA website)

# **The National Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Association**

## **Queensland and Brisbane Branch**

The venue for meetings/luncheons for 2018, held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, is the Wynnum RSL located in Tingal Road, Wynnum.

Meetings start at 11am.

February 27<sup>th</sup>

March 27<sup>th</sup>

April 25<sup>th</sup> (ANZAC Day Luncheon held at New Farm Bowls Club)

May 22<sup>nd</sup>

June 26<sup>th</sup>

July 24<sup>th</sup>

August 28<sup>th</sup> (Meeting and AGM)

August 31<sup>st</sup> (Malay/Borneo Veteran's Commemoration Day)

September 25<sup>th</sup>

October 23<sup>rd</sup>

November 11<sup>th</sup> (Remembrance Day)

November 27<sup>th</sup>

December 15<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Party)

Bus trips still to be organised. Please give suggestions to David.

### **President:**

Mr Allen Edwards

Phone: (07)3396 6705

Email: [robertedwards14@bigpond.com](mailto:robertedwards14@bigpond.com)

### **Vice President:**

Mr David Brewer

### **Secretary/Treasurer:**

Mrs Laraine Edwards

Phone: (07) 3396 6705

Email: [robertedwards14@bigpond.com](mailto:robertedwards14@bigpond.com)

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**ORDINARY:** Ex-Service Members

**ASSOCIATE:** Family and friends

**JUNIOR:** under 18

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS** are due on 1 January or with membership application.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Members, \$20 year; Associates, \$10 year.

*Ordinary Membership is open to all Australian and Allied Ex-Armed Forces personnel who served in the prescribed areas of Malaya, Malaysia, Sabah, Sarawak, the Thai-Malay Border, Brunei, Ubon and Singapore during WW2, the Malayan Emergency (1948 – 1960) the Indonesian Confrontation (1962 – 1966) and post 1966 on the Malayan Peninsula and East Timor. Associate and Junior Membership is open to family and friends.*

## Service and Ex-Service Associations

Bravery Trust (ADF Assistance Trust)	1300 652 103
British Commonwealth Occupation Forces (BCOF)	
National Association (Qld)	(07)3201 6926
Combat Support Association	0412 503 203
Dad's Army	0417 464 251
Defence Service Nurses RSL S-B Bris.	(07)3341 2069
Diggers Association (Qld)	(07)3844 3620
Diggers Rest - A Soldier's Retreat	0488 280 884
Department of Veterans' Affairs 133254 or	1800 555254
Ex-Servicewomen's RSL Sub-Branch	(07)3865 2280
Legacy Brisbane	(07)3029 5600
Mates 4Mates	1300 462 837
NMBVAA, Qld and Brisbane Branch	(07)3396 6705
National Servicemen's Assoc. (Qld)	(07)3254 2455
Naval Association (Qld Section)	(07)3891 3040
Operation PTSD Support	0430 166 070
RAAF Association (QLD)	(07)5428 7305
Returned & Services League Aust. (Qld)	(07)3634 9444
Red Shield Defence Services	0407 830 488
Royal Australian Regiment Association	(07) 3332 5371
1 RAR Association PO Box 725, Townsville, Qld	4810
2 RAR Association	(07)5443 5583
3 RAR Association	(07)3843 1438
4 RAR Association	(07)3273 7073
Soldier On	(07)5525 0798
Veterans and Veterans Family Counselling Service (VVCS)	(24hrs) 1800 011 046
Women's Royal Aust. Army Corp Assoc.	0410 448 433
Women's Veterans Network Australia	0408 020 394
War Widows Guild of Australia (Qld)	(07)3221 1391
Wynnum RSL Sub-Branch	(07)3396 1155

Information on above ESO's: refer RSL (Qld) Website

## CONTACTS

### Acknowledgement

*This Booklet, compiled for the first official commemoration of this day in 2011, has had a number of changes over the years. I'd like to express my appreciation of those interested personnel who have come forward with information and suggestions. It is only with the help of those who were there that we are able to produce a document with, hopefully, accurate information.*

*Every endeavour has been made to ensure the information contained herein is accurate, however, if you are aware of any errors or omissions, please contact the Secretary on (07) 3396 6705. Many thanks for your assistance.*

*Dell Shears RFD*



**This Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Day is to commemorate the 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Malayan Emergency (1948-1960) and the 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the cessation of the Indonesian Confrontation (1962-1966) The Far East Strategic Reserve (1955-1971) has been included.**

**These conflicts were first honoured in Australia in 2011.**

**Today, we have gathered to remember the men and women who paid the supreme sacrifice or were wounded or injured in the course of carrying out their duty and to pay tribute to all who served their country in this theatre of war.**

**Sacrifices made by the men and women of the Australian and Commonwealth Armed Forces in assisting to bring peace to the Peninsula of Malaya and the Island of Borneo were greatly appreciated by the friendly people of these nations.**

**On this day, 31 August at 1100 hours, each year, throughout Australia, there will be Services to commemorate these two major conflicts.**

.....  
**The Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Association would like to thank  
Royal Australian Regiment Association,  
Bayside National Servicemen's Association, Dad's Army and  
the Banyo RSL Sub-Branch  
for their assistance in making this day possible.**

.....  
***The National Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Association of Australia  
Queensland and Brisbane Branch  
appreciate your attendance.***

**LEST WE FORGET**

**ANDAI NYA KITA TERLUPA**



Note: Due to illness and circumstances beyond our control,  
last minute changes were made to the program.

*Mr. Allen Price (4RAR)*  
presented the *Address* and performed the duties of *MC*.

*The Catafalque Party* was from 8/9<sup>th</sup> *Battalion,*  
*Royal Australian Regiment.*

The *Bugler* was a member of the *Band of the*  
*National Servicemen's Memorial Pipes & Drums.*