



THE OBSERVATION POST

The official publication of the
National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc
South Australia & Northern Territory Branch

National Patron: General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK AC(Mil) CVO MC (ret'd)
SA/NT Branch Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia



ANZAC DAY

On Anzac Day this year, the SA & NT Branch NMBVAA will again honour those who served and lost their lives on active service overseas during the undeclared Malayan wars which immediately followed World War 2.

Branch members and Malaya-Borneo veterans are strongly encouraged to join us. The March will be followed by a Service of Commemoration for those who wish to attend, and a reunion in the Combined Mess at Torrens Depot.

For more detailed information on the form-up point, free shuttle buses and 'Eyes Right' commands given on the march refer to the information flyer which will be sent out separately.





NOTICES

RAP

Group-Captain
Robert Black AM RFD
Di Davies
Russ Rowatt
Captain Aileen Ryan
(ret'd), RAANC
Bill Voyce

COMMITTEE

Paul Rosenzweig OAM
President
Public Affairs Officer
Don Cameron
Vice-President
Ceremonial Officer
Paul Bayliss
Jenny Cameron
Treasurer
Vicki Crannaford
Di Davies
Beverley Dubois
Minutes Secretary
Jeff Hiscock
Chris Selby
Mal White
Merchandise Officer

THANK YOU

We thank Tony Zappia MP and the staff of his Makin Electorate Office for their generous assistance with our printing needs.

BRANCH UPDATES

In this newsletter we continue to acknowledge some of the affiliations we have formed – including long-standing ones such as No 604 Squadron, AAFC and SK Serabak in the Bau District of Sarawak, and more recently established affiliations including the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award and the State Library of South Australia.

Paul Rosenzweig has travelled to the Philippines (at his own expense), and while there has had interaction with Army Reserve Command of the Philippine Army. This in part relates to research he has been conducting into Filipino-Australians who served overseas with the Australian military forces from World War 1 to the Vietnam War – including some who served during the Malayan Emergency and Confrontation.

Due to the interest shown in the insignia which appeared in the March newsletter, we have started a regular feature called 'Badge of the Month'. If you have a particular badge you would like featured, send an image and some notes to Paul.

Our second regular meeting of the year was held at the Maid of Auckland Hotel in Edwardstown – thanks Don for officiating. Some people with a New Zealand heritage have already commented how pleased they are that we have made this Anzac connection.

As to our Gurkha connection, please note the date – Saturday 27 May – for our 2023 Annual Dinner which will be held at the Himalayan Kitchen.

If you haven't yet renewed your membership, please contact Jenny Cameron to make payment, and advise if any personal details have changed. We look forward to your continuing membership and engagement.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April meeting: 1115h Friday 21 April
Maid of Auckland Hotel, followed by lunch
- Easter: 7 to 10 April 2023
- Anzac Dawn Service: Tuesday 25 April, together with the unveiling of the Post-WW2 Memorial on North Terrace
- Anzac March: Tuesday 25 April: form up on North Terrace west of Pulteney Street by 0930h
- Date of interest: Saturday 6 May: Coronation of King Charles III, King of Australia and the fifth monarch of the House of Windsor
- May meeting: 1115h Friday 19 May
Maid of Auckland Hotel, followed by lunch
- 2023 Annual Dinner: 1830h Saturday 27 May, Himalayan Kitchen, Melbourne Street, North Adelaide



Visit our Facebook page:

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



AFFILIATIONS

Sekolah Kebangsaan Serabak

Our Branch provides assistance to three schools in the Bau District of Sarawak, located in areas where Australian forces were deployed in 1965 and 1966 during Confrontation.

One of these is SK Serabak at Serikin.



Last year our executive liaison party had the chance to visit Serapi Farm at the foot of the Matang Range, a new venture of our friend Datuk Dr Philip Ting PGBK AM, the Australian Honorary Consul to Sarawak.

Then while we were at SK Serabak presenting our donations to the three schools, Datuk Philip kindly offered to host the students on a visit to his farm. This offer came to fruition recently.



Ms Magdalena anak Joseph Nyadi from SK Serabak, who hosted our presentation ceremony in September last year, has written:

It's an honor to be invited to experience this field trip. We learnt and gained knowledge about hydroponics and fertigation.

The students were able to experience the process of it. The staff were also friendly and kind while guiding us in Serapi Farm.

Again, thank you for having us especially to Mr Randell Lim and his wife, Tiffany. And special thanks to Datuk Dr Philip Ting. We had a wonderful trip.

SK Serabak school was built on the site of a patrol base which had been occupied by 'C' Company of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR) from March to July 1965.

This was the middle of the three 3RAR forward company positions, located close to the Sarawak-Kalimantan border and covering a major infiltration route, the Jagoi Ridge running between Serikin and Stass to the northwest. Resupply in this remote region was largely by helicopter and parachute drop: the helicopter Landing Zone at Serikin was designated 'Red 22'.

These rifle company patrol bases in the First Division of Sarawak had the aim of protecting the capital Kuching by defending the main approaches to Bau – which was recognised as “the key to the door of Kuching”.





AFFILIATIONS

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award

In accordance with our philosophy of "Look to the future", the SA/NT Branch is now a *Friend of the Award*.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a global framework for non-formal education.

The Award challenges young people aged 14 to 24 years to discover their potential and find their purpose, passion, and place in order to become #WORLDREADY

Young people participate in activities over a minimum length of time to qualify for the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Each level is progressively more challenging.

We have made a small donation, which will help at least two disadvantaged young South Australians to participate in the Award where they might not otherwise have the opportunity.

Through this contribution, we are pleased to be playing a small part in the development of emerging South Australian leaders and community members.



State Library of South Australia

We have now begun an affiliation with the State Library of South Australia (SLSA).

Our regular newsletters and other publications of historic interest are being collated by the SLSA Serials Department, and are lodged on the 'National eDeposit' platform.

As well as becoming a permanent historical record, this allows our newsletter to be accessible to a much wider audience via Trove and the eResources site.

No 604 Squadron, AAFC

At a parade night at the beginning of Term 1, the squadron welcomed its newest intake of recruits – a staggering 44 of them! They are pictured right, awaiting issue of their uniforms and kit.

The squadron has grown considerably in recent times, and some of the longer-serving members recently completed various levels of a Personal Development and Leadership Course – full-time residential training courses conducted at RAAF Edinburgh.





No 604 Squadron, AAFC Award Ceremony, 15 February 2023

Six Cadets were recently presented with their Certificates and Badges of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. This takes to 50 the number of awards approved for 604 Squadron in the last six years.

Several of these Cadets supported our 2022 Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service of commemoration. Their volunteer service and leadership roles count towards the Service section of their Award, while the drill and ceremonial aspects of the ceremony and the rehearsals are counted towards the Physical Recreation section.

Congratulations to all, and we look forward to seeing you at West Torrens in August this year!

Photos by Cadet Under Officer Devanshee Jain.



Leading Cadet Jacob Maunder, Honour Guard Commander on Malaya-Borneo Veterans Day 2022, receives his Bronze Award from the 6 Wing Duke of Edinburgh's Award Manager Flight-Lieutenant (AAFC) John Bennett (left)



Bronze Award recipient and solo pilot Cadet Under Officer Jesse Isaac, a member of the Catafalque Party on Malaya-Borneo Veterans Day 2022, received the Silver Award.



Cadet Warrant Officer Sukhmani Kaur, a member of the Catafalque Party on Malaya-Borneo Veterans Day 2022, received the Silver Award.



Bronze Award holder Cadet Corporal Prashan Anjanpalage received the Silver Award.



Cadet Corporal Jiya Sargun received the Bronze Award of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award.



FILIPINO-AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERYMEN

7128 Bombardier Charles Michael Angeles (1940-1977)

Charles Michael Austin Angeles was born in Darwin on 3 December 1940, the son of Territorian Timothy Thomas 'Tim' Angeles (1908-1977), a drover, and Elna Annie Erlandson (1911-1986).

Mick Angeles was the grandson of Valeriano Angeles (1884-1950), who had come to Port Darwin from the Philippines in 1899 as a pearl diver under the Indentured Labour Scheme, and Paulina Lenneth from Pine Creek.

Like the other families of Filipinos such as Antonio Cubillo and Tolentino Conanan, Valeriano's family lived for many years in the 'Police Paddock', the old camp outside Darwin town overlooking Frances Bay.

Tim Angeles was a member of the White Horse Boxing Club, together with other Filipino-Australians such as Delfin Cubillo, Dan Spain, Joe Odegaard and six Cubillo boys including Juan Roque Cubillo, a waterside worker on Darwin Wharf who was killed in the Bombing of Darwin on 19 February 1942.

On 10 January 1942, in anticipation of the air raids on Darwin, Valeriano and Paulina and Elna, aged 30, and seven children were evacuated to Brisbane on the SS *Montoro* with their family – including 1 year old Mick.

Mick's father Tim remained behind. Their home on Beetson Street in Darwin was destroyed in the Bombing of Darwin, and Tim was wounded. Tim received medical treatment in Adelaide in the years following, hosted by Allan Davies during one of those visits during the 1960s.

Mick enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in Darwin, and was allocated to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery as a Gunner.

He trained at the School of Artillery at North Head, Sydney, and joined 110 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, RAA when it was raised at Woodside Barracks in the Adelaide Hills on 10 May 1965.

During the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia, Mick deployed with 110 LAA Battery from 14 June 1966 until May 1967, defending the RAAF Base at Butterworth.

Allan Davies recalled that he and Mick served together during Confrontation in Malaysia: *"I had the privilege of becoming an acquaintance of the family on our return to Australia. A very proud family with hearts of gold"*.

Valeriano passed away in Darwin on 16 April 1950, aged 69, and Paulina passed away three years later, on 13 May 1953, aged 69. By 1968, Mick was living at Fannie Bay in Darwin.

In the following years he deployed twice to South Vietnam.

He first deployed in 1970 with 32 Small Ship Squadron based at Vung Tau, serving as a gun number for the 40 mm Bofors guns mounted on the Landing Ships Medium.

He served aboard AV 1356 *Clive Steele* (11 June to 3 September) and then AV 1354 *Brudenell White* (22 September to 24 October).

Bombardier Angeles then served in Saigon as an instructor with the Australian Army Training Team-Vietnam, from 5 August 1971 to 15 January 1972.



Hat badge of the Royal Australian Artillery bearing the St Edward's crown of Queen Elizabeth II, which was approved in 1954. The current title 'Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery' was adopted on 19 September 1962.



Shoulder insignia of the Australian Military Forces, worn on the left shoulder by personnel serving overseas between 1965 and 1986.



In South Vietnam in 1970, Bombardier Mick Angeles served with No 1 Small Ship Troop based at Vung Tau aboard the Landing Ship Medium AV 1356 Clive Steele. affectionately known to its crew as “The Stainless”.

He returned later in the year with No 4 Small Ship Troop with the LSM AV 1354 Brudenell White, known as “The Broody Hen”.

This plaque commemorating the service of 32 Small Ship Squadron was unveiled in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial on 6 April 2006.

In 1974 the Angeles family home in Darwin was again destroyed – by Cyclone Tracy. Just over two years later, Tim Angeles died in Darwin on 23 January 1977 following a long illness, and Mick died in Adelaide on 19 July. Elna died at the Royal Darwin Hospital on 17 April 1986.

Commemoration. A memorial to the service of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery in Malaysia during Confrontation can be found on the Light Anti-Aircraft Memorial installed at Woodside Barracks, SA. This consists of a Mk12 40 mm Bofors anti-aircraft gun in the deployed position, with two plaques mounted on the gun’s shield. The first plaque commemorates the departure of 111 LAA Battery to Malaysia in 1964, and the second commemorates the service of both 110 and 111 LAA Battery in Malaysia over the period 1964-1966.

The name of Bombardier Mick Angeles is included in a nominal roll of members of the Australian Army Training Team-Vietnam at the Australian Army Regional Training Centre (originally the Army’s Jungle Training Centre) at Canungra in Queensland. In addition, he was honoured with a tree in his memory in the AATTV Memorial Grove.

In the Top End, on 2 May 2013 Palmerston City Council named ‘Angeles Street’ in Durack in honour of Valeriano and Paulina Angeles and their descendants – including Tim Angeles who was wounded during the Bombing of Darwin, and Mick Angeles, a veteran of Confrontation and three tours of duty in South Vietnam.

BADGE OF THE MONTH

Central Command, 1950-1960

This is an original machine-woven cotton formation sign of Central Command (South Australia), worn between 1950 and 1960.

The wartime Australian Imperial Force (Second AIF) ceased to exist on 30 June 1947, replaced by the Interim Army, a transitional body taking the army from a wartime to a peace-time footing. The Australian Regular Army was established on 30 September 1947.

From 1950, machine-woven cotton formation signs were worn on the right shoulder of the Australian Army winter and summer uniforms.

In July 1960, with the introduction of the 1st Division (Pentropic) – a five battalion division – cloth formation signs such as this were abolished. Central Command subsequently became the army’s 4th Military District (4MD).



The formation sign of Central Command features the SA state badge – a white-backed magpie, or piping shrike, standing on a staff representing a gum tree bough, set against a golden disc representing the rising sun.



FILIPINO-AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERYMEN

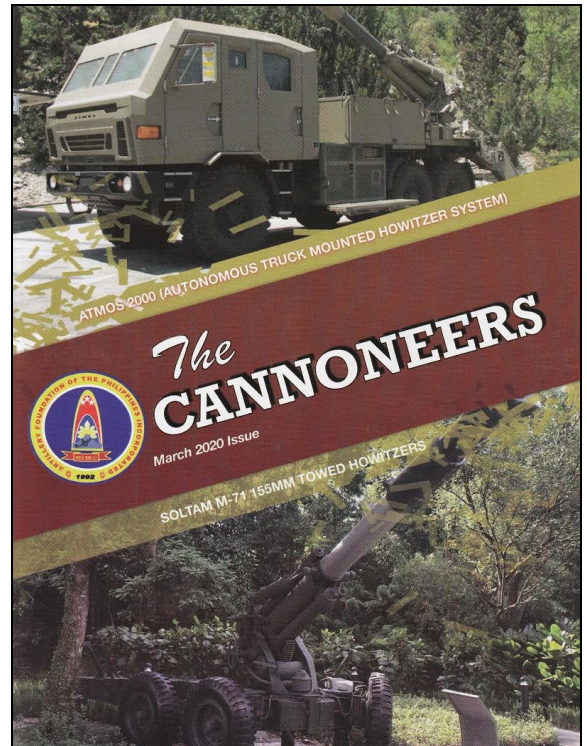
Each year, the Artillery Foundation of the Philippines Incorporated (AFPI) has celebrated the anniversary of the founding of the Philippine Artillery by the Commonwealth Government on 8 March 1937.

At the same time, through research papers published in the AFPI annual magazine 'The Cannoneers', our President Paul Rosenzweig has been paying tribute to the Filipino-Australians who have served overseas with the Royal Australian Artillery from World War 2 to the Vietnam War

This includes three who served during the periods of the Malayan Emergency and Confrontation.

In March 2020, as the AFPI celebrated the 83rd Anniversary of the Philippine Artillery, Paul was announced as a recipient of an AFPI Plaque of Recognition:

"In grateful appreciation of his efforts in documenting the deeds of Filipino-Australians in the service of both our countries".



The COVID-19 Pandemic lockdown which commenced that same month however, prevented the opportunity to have the award presented in Manila as planned.

Recently, Paul travelled to the Philippines (at his own expense): on Saturday 4 March, he was guest of honour at a dinner at the Philippine Army barracks with members of the AFPI.

The event was hosted by Colonel Ferdinand Rey Ga PA (Artillery) MNSA of Reserve Command (RESCOM), Philippine Army (left of image).

This year, Paul has been awarded a second Plaque of Recognition — by Lieutenant-General Arthur Tabaquero AFP (ret'd), Chairman of the Artillery Foundation of the Philippines Incorporated.

During the dinner at Fort Andrés Bonifacio in Taguig, Paul was presented with the Plaque by Brigadier-General Agane Adriatico AFP (ret'd), former commander of the Philippine Army Artillery Regiment and President of the Artillery Foundation of the Philippines.





Plaque of Recognition awarded by Lieutenant-General Arthur Tabaquero AFP (ret'd), Chairman of the Artillery Foundation of the Philippines Incorporated (AFPI).



Paul was also presented with this pair of personalised glass steins by Colonel Ferdinand Rey Ga, who is the Group Commander of the National Capital Region Regional Community Defense Group (NCR RCDG), Army Reserve Command, Philippine Army.

Colonel Ga is the former Chief of International Military Affairs, and a senior officer of the Artillery Foundation of the Philippines Inc (AFPI).



This is the memorial to the fallen from Tawa District, north of Wellington, New Zealand. This memorial includes the war medal ribbon designs from the Boer War, World War 1 and World War 2.

ANZAC DAY Tuesday 25 April 2023

The date of 11 November and the use of poppies is widely associated with the remembrance of those who died in World War 1 – but surprisingly perhaps, the date is of less significance in New Zealand than Anzac Day.

The date was originally known widely as ‘Armistice Day’, being the date and time the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front took effect, following the signing of an agreement to cease fighting as a prelude to peace negotiations.

During World War 2, many Commonwealth states including Australia adopted the name ‘Remembrance Day’.

In contrast, the US adopted the name ‘Veterans Day’.

Armistice Day is still observed by many countries such as Belgium, France, Germany, Kenya, Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria.

New Zealand however, adopted Anzac Day to be its national day of remembrance, using the Flanders poppy as a symbol of remembrance.

Armistice Day was observed in New Zealand between the World Wars, although it was always secondary to Anzac Day.

As in several other countries, New Zealand changed the name to ‘Remembrance Day’ after World War 2, but this was not a success.

By the mid-1950s, the day was being virtually ignored, even by veterans’ groups.

There is an interesting historical reason how poppies came to be associated with Anzac Day in New Zealand.

During 1921, paper Flanders poppies were prepared for that year’s Armistice Day commemoration services, but they arrived by ship too late for the ceremonies on 11 November 1921.

A Returned Servicemen’s Association (RSA) branch saved the poppies, and distributed them at the next commemoration – Anzac Day, 25 April 1922.

Thus ‘Poppy Day’ became a tradition in New Zealand.

Today ‘Poppy Day’ usually occurs on the Friday before Anzac Day.



This memorial in Tawa includes a cut-out metal plate bearing a portion of the Ode of Remembrance in Māori.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Tuesday 25 April 2023

Dawn Service – Post-WW2 Memorial

The refurbished Post-WW2 Memorial at the corner of North Terrace and Kintore Avenue will be unveiled at the Adelaide Anzac Day Dawn Service.

This updated memorial will commemorate all Service personnel with close links to South Australia who lost their lives as a result of their service in an overseas conflict or operation since the end of World War 2.

Our President and members of John Tassell's family will attend and witness this significant occasion.



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 27 May 2023
2023 Annual Dinner

This year's SA&NT Branch annual dinner will be held at the Himalayan Kitchen in Melbourne Street, North Adelaide on Saturday 27 May at 1800h, starting at 1830h. There will be a raffle with some interesting prizes to choose from. You can find more details here:

<https://thehimalayankitchen.com/>



Friday 11 August 2023
Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day

Mayor Coxon has given approval for the SA&NT Branch to hold our 2023 Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day Service of Commemoration on Friday 11 August 2023. Our Branch Padre Major Quentin Castle will officiate. No 604 Squadron, Australian Air Force Cadets will again provide the armed Catafalque Party and Honour Guard. The ceremony will be followed by a reunion and lunch at Hilton RSL.



Sunday 13 August 2023
2023 Annual General Meeting

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held at the Maid of Auckland Hotel at 926 South Road in Edwardstown, commencing at 11.15 am, and followed by lunch. Agenda, portfolio reports and other details to follow. Paul Bayliss will be the Returning Officer.



Thursday 19 October 2023
War Widows and Widowers

'Service Voices' has advised that the Premier Peter Malinauskas MP and State Minister for Veterans' Affairs Geoff Brock MP have announced that South Australia will formally recognise the contribution and personal sacrifices of Australian war widows and widowers with an annual day of commemoration on 19 October.



OPERATION 'HORNBILL 2023'

The SA&NT Branch, NMBVAA has a strong connection with Sarawak through our various reunion visits, tree-planting ceremonies, support to the three schools in the Bau District, and our services of commemoration.

We are now looking forward to co-hosting the 2023 Service of Commemoration in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park with our New Zealand colleagues.

Please contact Paul Rosenzweig if you need the Order Form for the 2023 Sarawak tour shirts (the left breast design is pictured, right). There is also an option for a white shirt.

In addition, please let Paul know if you think you'll be coming to Sarawak this year – even if it's only a 'maybe' – so he can add you to a tailored distribution list.

And contact Jenny Cameron to renew your Branch membership for 2023, or to pay for your Sarawak tour shirt(s).



Some general updates

- * On Friday 25 August, after dinner, those who wish to are welcome to come to 'Bottoms Up' Bar for pre-drinks with members of the Sarawak Veterans' Association (own expense).
- * We aim to have an opportunity for contingent members to make a visit to the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park to view recent developments and place a tribute at the Brian Selby Norfolk Island Pine on the entrance pathway.
- * The SA/NT Branch contingent informal 'Meet-n-Greet' event will be on Saturday 26 August 2023 at 1700h, at the James Brooke Bistro & Café on Jalan Main Bazaar (drinks at own expense), a short walk from the Hilton Hotel.
- * Those who wish to attend a Church service may choose to attend St Thomas's Cathedral Kuching in Jalan McDougall (the Dean, the Very Reverend Kho Thong Meng, will be officiating at our service on Monday), or your own alternate venue.
- * On Monday 28 August we have our service of commemoration in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park followed by lunch at the Sarawak Club.
- * On Monday evening for those who are interested, we may have an informal Australia and New Zealand evening function, at The Waterfront Hotel (drinks and/or dinner at own expense).
- * On Tuesday 29 August, those who wish to will transfer to 'Bottoms Up' Bar to meet with the Sarawak Veterans' Association (drinks at own expense).

Some ceremony updates

- * On arrival at the Memorial Park, guests may wish to place a personal tribute at the Brian Selby Norfolk Island Pine.
- * The Very Reverend Kho Thong Meng, Dean of St Thomas's Cathedral Kuching, will officiate.
- * The NZ Contingent will march on their Colours led by the Kaumatua (Elders) and present the Colours for placement.
- * Paul Rosenzweig then Bill Russell will deliver the Welcome addresses.
- * Fiona Marcus, Chair of the Sarawak Heritage Development Committee, Sarawak Tourism Federation will give a site acknowledgment and tribute to Dato Lim Kian Hock.
- * Colonel Kim Hoskin FRGS (ret'd) will present the Historical context (British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve).
- * Don Cameron will recite the Ode of Remembrance in English, and a former Iban Tracker will recite in Bahasa Melayu.
- * We will invite the Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia His Excellency Dr Justin Lee, and the New Zealand High Commissioner Her Excellency Pam Chong Dunn to deliver the keynote addresses.
- * The primary commemorative tribute will be placed at the Wall of Remembrance by a local Sarawak dignitary (Yang Berhormat Datuk) representing Malaysia and Sarawak, and the British High Commissioner to Malaysia or Defence Advisor representing the British Commonwealth.



R49694 Able Seaman Robert William Spooner (1935-1957)

Able Seaman Bobby Spooner, who died this month 66 years ago, aged 21, is honoured on Adelaide's Post-WW2 Memorial at the corner of North Terrace and Kintore Avenue. He was born in Adelaide on 16 September 1935, and was a shop assistant in Clarence Park when he entered the RAN on 24 August 1953.

AB Spooner was a member of the ship's company of HMAS *Tobruk* when he was accidentally killed at sea in Malayan waters on 26 April 1957. This was his second deployment to the Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR): Spooner had previously deployed to Malaya in HMAS *Tobruk* in 1956, accumulating 87 days in the area of operations and qualifying for the Naval General Service Medal and the Returned From Active Service Badge.

AB Spooner was killed when he was struck by a star shell case fired by HMS *Cockade* in the course of an operational exercise.

HMAS *Tobruk* arrived in the prescribed area of operations of Malaya on 18 April, and sailed from Singapore on 24 April in company with a number of RN and RAN ships for Exercise 'Astra', an operational training exercise north of Singapore centred on the Malayan island of Pulau Tioman. The continuation operational training was needed for ships engaged in the primary and secondary roles of the FESR, including the conduct of operations against communist terrorists during the Malayan Emergency. The Australian Department of Defence included an area of operations extending to 12 nautical miles around the island of Pulau Tioman for the purpose of qualifying for active service medals and repatriation benefits.

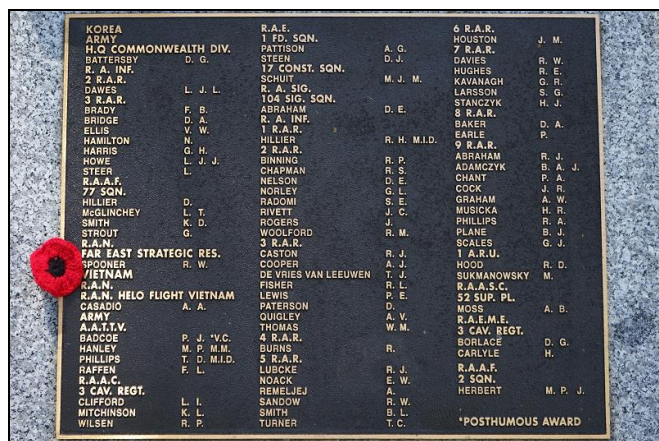
On the night of 26 April 1957, the RN and RAN ships participated in a Night Encounter Exercise (NEX), a surface action between two groups of ships. HMS *Cockade* was part of Orange Force based on the aircraft carrier HMAS *Melbourne*, while HMAS *Tobruk* was part of Blue Force. Orange Force engaged Blue Force with 4.5-inch star shells, and as the Blue Force units were illuminated by star shells bursting immediately overhead, many of the empty star shell cases fell around HMAS *Tobruk*.

One of the empty star shell cases hit HMAS *Tobruk*, piercing the upper deck, passing through No 3 Mess deck, and striking two sailors in 'A' Gun Bay. AB Spooner died within three minutes due to loss of blood following the loss of his left leg, hip and pelvis floor. HMAS *Tobruk* disengaged from the Night Encounter Exercise to take the other wounded sailor at maximum speed to Singapore, then returned to the exercise area. AB Spooner was buried at sea at 1340h local time on 27 April 1957, in position 2 Degrees 37 Minutes North, 104 Degrees 26 Minutes East, near the island of Pulau Tioman.

Through committed lobbying by the Naval Association of Australia to the Australian War Memorial Council, the name of AB Spooner was eventually included on the Rolls of Honour under the title 'Malayan Emergency' (panel 2). However on the South Australian Post-WW2 Memorial, Spooner was listed under the title 'Far East Strategic Reserve'.

The RSL (SA) Anzac Day Committee has received a grant from the South Australian Anzac Day Commemoration Fund to update this memorial, to commemorate all Service personnel with close links to South Australia who lost their lives as a result of their service in an overseas conflict or operation since the end of World War 2. Our Branch has long been keen to fix this key error, and it is pleasing to note that on the updated plaque AB Bobby Spooner's name will be correctly listed under the title 'Malayan Emergency'.

Lest we Forget



AB Spooner's previous listing on the South Australian Post-WW2 Memorial under the title 'Far East Strategic Reserve'.



AB Spooner's name under the title 'Malayan Emergency' on the Rolls of Honour at the Australian War Memorial.



R49694 Able Seaman Robert William Spooner (1935-1957)

AB Spooner was buried at sea on 27 April 1957 in position 2 Degrees 37 Minutes North, 104 Degrees 26 Minutes East, near the island of Pulau Tioman.



42960 Signalmán John Darrell Tassell (1944-1966)

Another South Australian who died on operational service this month, 57 years ago, was Signalmán John Tassell of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, attached for duty to the 208th (Commonwealth) Signals Squadron.

John died on 4 April 1966, aged 21, in a night-time single vehicle roll-over near Terengganu (earlier known as 'Trengganu'), en route to Kuala Dungun in northeastern peninsular Malaysia during Exercise 'Lion's Roar', a 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade redeployment exercise. John was killed along with two British signallers, Jim Hardy and Brian Leigh.

John was originally buried in the Terendak Military Cemetery in Malacca, Malaysia. Fifty years later, his remains were repatriated to Australia by an RAAF C-17A Globemaster aircraft on 2 June 2016, and John was interred in Enfield Memorial Park on 10 June 2016. His name was not added to the Rolls of Honour at the Australian War Memorial, however after 18 years of perseverance by his family, John's name was finally included in late 2017 under the title 'Indonesian Confrontation, 1962-1966'. His name was not included however, on Adelaide's Post-WW2 Memorial on North Terrace.

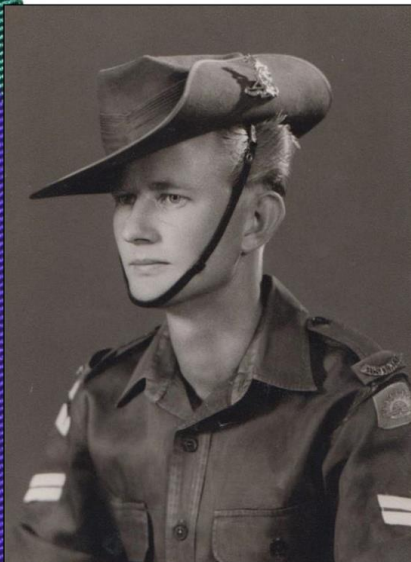
Our Branch has long been keen to fix this key omission, and it is pleasing to note that on the updated plaque Signalmán John Tassell's name will be included.

Lest we Forget

IN MEMORIAM

Confrontation, 1962-1966

† 214743 Bombardier Brian James 'Snowy' Selby (1945-2022)



Brian Selby was born in Belmore, NSW on 21 March 1945. He first served with 23 Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery (CMF) in 1961-62, and then enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 24 June 1962, aged 17.

He joined 111 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, RAA. On 24 May 1964, he embarked on the aircraft carrier HMAS *Sydney* (III), and served in Malaysia as an Observation Post commander at RAAF Base Butterworth, including 'qualifying service' from 17 August 1964 to 12 June 1965.

From 28 October 1964, Brian was in a party detached to 'B' Company of 3RAR for infantry training. He was attached to a platoon which conducted patrols on the Thai-Malay Border on 30-31 October and 15-16 November.

Brian took his discharge on 25 June 1968, although he served again as a Transport Section Commander from July 1968 until 14 August 1970.

Brian was a long-serving member of the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc. He was SA Branch President from 2002 to 2006 and, after the reformation of the SA & NT Branch in 2010, from 21 August 2010 until his passing on 15 April 2022, aged 77.

THANKS DIGGER

Virtual Museum and Commemoration Centre

<https://www.facebook.com/Thanks.Digger> | ThanksDigger@gmail.com

We recall our late Branch President Brian Selby who served with 23 Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery (CMF) before deploying with 111 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, RAA to RAAF Base Butterworth. Brian was a long-serving member of the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc. He was SA Branch President from 2002 to 2006 and, after the reformation of the SA & NT Branch in 2010, from 21 August 2010 until his passing on 15 April 2022, aged 77.

Lest we Forget



MALAYAN EMERGENCY Roll of Honour – April

Honouring the sacrifice of the 45 Australians who died on operational service during the general period of the Malayan Emergency, 16 June 1948 to 31 July 1960.

A197 Warrant Officer George Robert Tait,
No 38 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force:
22 April 1951

A31167 Warrant Officer Heathcote Byron Brown,
No 1 Squadron,
Royal Australian Air Force:
9 April 1953

R49694 Able Seaman Robert William
Spooner, D37 HMAS *Tobruk* (I):
26 April 1957

Lest we Forget



CONFRONTATION Roll of Honour – April

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.

42960 Signalman John Darrell Tassell,
208th Signals Squadron (Commonwealth):
4 April 1966

6363 Warrant Officer Class 2 Maxwell Clyde
Hutchinson, 21 Construction Squadron,
Royal Australian Engineers:
8 April 1966

Lieutenant Edward George Kennell RAN,
No 816 Squadron, Fleet Air Arm:
28 April 1966

Lest we Forget

A31167 Warrant Officer Heathcote Byron Brown (1907-1953)

Warrant Officer 'Heath' Brown of No 1 ('Bomber') Squadron, RAAF died in Singapore on 9 April 1953, aged 45.

Heathcote Byron Brown was born in Penguin, Tasmania on 2 November 1907. He enlisted on 12 October 1938 and served during World War 2. As a Warrant Officer, he was Mentioned-in-Despatches in May 1945 for distinguished service in the South West Pacific area with 10 Operational Group, RAAF in the battles of Tarakan, North Borneo and Balikpapan. He served in Japan for two years with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force. After serving at Sale and Richmond, in July 1950 he deployed with No 1 ('B') Squadron, with A73 Lincoln B Mk 30 bombers based at RAF Station Tengah Singapore.

After a year back in Australia he deployed again on 22 August 1952, as Warrant Officer Disciplinary with No 1 Squadron at Singapore. In 1953, during Easter Leave with friends at Melim Nawah in Perak, Heath Brown suffered a heart attack on 8 April.

He was evacuated to Batu Gajah General Hospital in Perak but died the following day after surgery. His body was taken by helicopter to Kuala Lumpur, and then in a Lincoln bomber to Singapore where he was buried in Pasir Panjang Cemetery.

By the early 1970s, the Singapore Government was finding it necessary to close down Ulu Pandan and Pasir Panjang cemeteries to make way for urban development. The Government announced their intention to have Pasir Panjang Cemetery cleared by 1 January 1974. Accordingly, in November 1973 Brown's next-of-kin were notified of a choice of alternative options to be carried out at public expense (although the return of cremated remains to Australia would be at their expense).

The family chose to have his remains exhumed and re-interred in Kranji Military Cemetery in Singapore. In December 1975 the family were notified that this had been done.

Warrant Officer Brown is one of 50 Australian fallen from the Malayan wars who still remain buried overseas.

Six of the fallen from the Malayan Emergency remain buried in Kranji Military Cemetery.

At the Australian War Memorial, Warrant Officer Brown's name will be projected onto the exterior of the Hall of Memory on Anzac Day, Tuesday 25 April at 3:39 am.

Lest we Forget

