



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

Volume 15, number 4 - APRIL 2025



HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III

We are grateful to Senator Andrew McLachlan CSC, Senator for South Australia and Deputy President of the Australian Senate, for visiting us during our regular monthly meeting at the Maid of Auckland on 21 February, the first for this year.

Senator McLachlan is a strong supporter of the Branch and a regular attender at our annual Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day ceremonies. He attended our 2023 AGM as Guest Speaker, and kindly presented an Australian National Flag and a South Australian Flag for use in our various commemorative services and events.

At the February meeting, Senator McLachlan presented the Branch with a framed portrait of His Majesty King Charles III, King of Australia. Many thanks Senator McLachlan!



NOTICES

BRANCH COMMITTEE 2025

Paul Rosenzweig OAM
*President, Secretary
Public Affairs Officer*

Don Cameron
*Vice-President
Ceremonial Officer*

Paul Bayliss

Jenny Cameron
Treasurer

Vicki Crannaford
Assistant Treasurer

Di Davies

Beverley Dubois
Minutes Secretary

Jeff Hiscock

Mal White
Merchandise Officer

Major Quentin Castle
Branch Chaplain

THANK YOU

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

BRANCH UPDATES 'KEEPING IN THE LOOP'

Please note that Anzac Day is on Friday 25 April, and Good Friday is on 18 April, so we will hold this month's meeting on Friday 11 April. Apologies for any inconvenience this causes.

Apart from our commitment to Anzac Day, we have a couple of key events coming up. First, we will hold a small personal commemoration of our surviving Malayan Emergency veterans on Saturday 31 May.

And secondly, you are invited to attend this year's SA/NT Branch annual dinner, to be held at the Himalayan Kitchen on Friday 27 June. This will mark the 15th anniversary of the first meeting to re-form the SA Branch (17 July 2010) and also the inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Branch at the Hilton RSL (21 August 2010). We are expecting at least one interstate guest.

We will have a raffle with some interesting prizes to choose from, and merchandise to purchase – all funds collected go towards our future donations to the schools in the Bau District of Sarawak which we sponsor, located in areas in the Bau District where Australian military forces were deployed during Confrontation. We look forward to seeing you there.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April meeting: 1115h Friday 11 April
Maid of Auckland Hotel,
followed by lunch



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

Anzac Day: Friday 25 April 2025
The 110th anniversary of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli

May meeting: 1115h Friday 16 May
Maid of Auckland Hotel, followed by lunch

Malayan Emergency: 1100h Saturday 31 May:
*West Torrens War Memorial Gardens
To honour our surviving veterans of the
Malayan Emergency*

June meeting: 1115h Friday 20 June
Maid of Auckland Hotel, followed by lunch

Annual Dinner: Friday 27 June, 6 for 6.30 pm:
*Himalayan Kitchen Tibetan and Nepalese
Restaurant, 73 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide*



Visit our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/NMBVAAadelaide/>



Visit our Website:
https://www.nmbvaa.org.au/sa_nt.php



CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION

On this day. This contributed news clipping comes from the *Adelaide Sunday Mail* of 27 April 2008.

It relates the circumstances of a successful action against Communist Terrorists (CTs) carried out by the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR) in 1958.

The Australian ground units in Malaya involved in the continuing hunt for CTs in North Malaya were assigned to the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group, a formation created in Malaya on 16 September 1955.

The Australians operated under the control of Australian Army Force, General Headquarters Far East Land Forces (FARELF) – part of the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve.



FROM OUR FILES – April 4

1965

The Australian Army has returned to near Flanders conditions in its new war in Borneo.

Mud and rats as big as cats, are two major problems facing the troops of the Third Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment in forward locations on the Indonesian border.

There is big demand for sandbags and rat-proof galvanised cans in which to store food.

Reports from Company posts about 40 miles southwest of the State capital, say things are pretty tough up there but the boys are standing up to it well.

Until troops on the border are fully settled, the Battalion Commander, Lt Dol B.A. MacDonald, is not permitting civilian observers coast the battalion headquarters at Bau, about 10 miles from the border.

There is a further World War One touch in the name of the Bau base... cambrai Camp.

The Australians have now been on the border for nearly two weeks.

They had come under Indonesian mortar small arms fire, have had a sergeant killed, two men wounded in a booby trap.

Another man had been wounded in an accidental shooting.

The battalion which stands in one of the defiles leading from Indonesian towards Kuching is expected to be in Borneo for about four months.

'Rats as big as cats'. This is an archive file of a news report on the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment published on 4 April 1965 (source unknown).

It describes the arrival of 3RAR in the Bau district of Sarawak in March 1965, and the establishment of battalion headquarters in Cambrai Camp.

The report also refers to the death of Sergeant Reginald John Weiland (1927-1965), who had deployed to Sarawak as the Platoon Sergeant of 3 Platoon of 'A' Company, 3RAR.

Sergeant 'Reno' Weiland was a veteran of World War 2 and service in Japan with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force, and had received the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal at Terendak Camp in Malacca in 1963.

Sergeant Weiland was killed-in-action on 23 March 1965 – 3RAR's first day of operations in Sarawak. He was killed instantly by a concealed M2A3 anti-personnel land-mine near the Sarawak-Kalimantan border while leading a reconnaissance patrol from the 'A' Company fortified position near Kampung Stass.

Corporal John Hyland was seriously wounded in the right leg and Private Bill Lee was struck in the right arm by a fragment.

Private Shaw received a fragment in his foot but was able to walk back to camp.

Iban tracker Mudah Anak Jali, aged 19, received severe wounds in the blast, and died while being carried back to the 3RAR camp; the second Iban tracker Enggil anak Japing was not wounded.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION

Cross of Sacrifice. This is the Cross of Sacrifice in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens, where we have held our commemorative services since 2012.

We thank the successive Mayors and the Councillors of West Torrens City Council who have maintained and improved this site of reverence, and the WTCC Events Team for the substantial support and assistance they have provided to us each year. It is greatly appreciated!



Devonport memorial. 604 Squadron staff member Dennis Medlow has been a regular attendee at our Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day commemorative events.

Dennis has sent us these images of a war memorial he found in Devonport, New Zealand.

This historic marine suburb at the southern tip of Auckland's North Shore peninsula was initially called 'Flagstaff' after a signalling station was set up on Takarunga (Mount Victoria) in 1841.

The locality was renamed 'Devonport' in 1868. The establishment of the Devonport Steam Ferry Company in 1881 – connecting the settlement to central Auckland – transformed it into a suburb.

Frank Lynch's bronze statue of the 'untidy soldier' features on the Devonport First World War memorial.

At the base, a more recent granite plaque recalls the post-WW2 conflicts.





CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION

On Her Majesty's Special Service. Paul Baylis may have seen 'special service' on Borneo during Confrontation, but recently he has seen another 'OHMS' deployment aboard the 'Queen Elizabeth' (pictured right).

The MS *Queen Elizabeth* is a cruise ship of the Vista class operated by the Cunard Line, launched on 5 January 2010.

The naming of the ship as *Queen Elizabeth* brings about a situation similar to that between 1940 and 1948, when Cunard's original *Queen Elizabeth* was in service at the same time as the Royal Navy battleship HMS *Queen Elizabeth*.

Today, the luxury cruise ship MS *Queen Elizabeth* is in service at the same time as the Royal Navy's HMS *Queen Elizabeth* (R08), the lead ship of the Queen Elizabeth-class of aircraft carriers, commissioned on 7 December 2017.

Mr Bayliss seemed to be perfectly at home with the grandeur of the *Queen Elizabeth's* art deco interior touches evoking the era of the 1930s, the Britannia Club, the Garden Lounge, and of course the cocktails.

All that our international agent seems to be missing is a set of **007[™]** cufflinks . . .



Our President and Vice-President with our new portrait of King Charles III, King of Australia, which was kindly presented to the SAINT Branch by Senator Andrew McLachlan CSC, Deputy President of the Australian Senate.

His Majesty The King. We are very fortunate to have received a portrait of King Charles III, King of Australia, from Senator Andrew McLachlan CSC, Senator for South Australia and Deputy President of the Australian Senate, which he presented at our February meeting.

This new Royal Portrait was released ahead of the 2024 Royal Visit by King Charles III and Queen Camilla to Australia.

King Charles III wears the insignia of Sovereign of the Order of Australia, an appointment he has held since his accession to the throne on 8 September 2022.

Earlier, on 14 March 1981, the then Prince of Wales had been appointed a Knight of the Order of Australia (AK).

Our Branch's veteran members all began their military career by swearing an oath to "*well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, her heirs and successors according to law*".

In fact, at least one of our surviving veterans swore such an oath of allegiance to King George VI and his heirs and successors according to law!



CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION

Dato Lim Kian Hock OAM. Dato Lim is the former Heritage Adviser to the Sarawak Tourism Federation.

Dato Lim had served in the Sarawak Civil Service during Confrontation, and took part in security operations, notably beside Gurkha units.

From August 1962 to March 1963, a young Lim Kian Hock was serving under the British District Officer, Mr Desmond Bruen. He was serving when the Brunei Revolt started in December 1962, which led on to the wider campaign of Confrontation.

In April 1963, he was transferred to Belaga in the Kapit District of northern Sarawak as Administration Officer in Charge. Among his duties was to support preparations for the upcoming formation of Malaysia on 16 September 1963.

It was during his time there that a large Indonesian force attacked the outpost at Long Jawai in Belaga district, which was successfully repelled by Gurkha soldiers.



Lim Kian Hock in 1963 with two Iban Chiefs at the longhouse in Kanowit District, Sarawak.



1RAR, Malayan Emergency. This is the Banner of the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment Association at our 2012 Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service.

This service was held on Friday 31 August 2012, at the Cross of Sacrifice in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens in Hilton to mark the 52nd Anniversary of the End of the Malayan Emergency.

For the second time, the Catafalque Party was provided by No 604 Squadron AAFC (Hampstead Barracks). The Chaplain's Address was given by the Branch Chaplain, Captain Quentin Castle (Salvation Army).

On 20 September 1959, the 1RAR group embarked on the chartered troopship MV *Flaminia* for Singapore. It comprised the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), 101 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery, and 1 Field Troop, Royal Australian Engineers.

The companies were deployed to separate locations in upper Perak. Battalion Headquarters, Admin Company and 'C' Company were based at Kuala Kangsar, northeast of Ipoh and southeast of Penang.

'A' Company was at Kampung Lasah north of Sungai Siput, and 'B' Company was at Sungai Siput north of Ipoh and east of Taiping. Support Company was at Kampung Lintang north of Sungai Siput.

The Forward Operational Base was at Grik northeast of Penang near the Thai border.

Although operating in the Thai border regions, 1RAR made no contact with the enemy. It was forbidden to move into Thailand, even when the presence and location of Communist Terrorists was known.

The Government of the Federation of Malaya declared the Emergency over on 31 July 1960, but the 1RAR Group continued on operations until the end of its scheduled tour of duty. The main body of the 1RAR group left Penang for Australia on 29 October on the MV *Flaminia*.



GREETINGS

Jeli Mike Abdullah Sarawak's last surviving child POW

In Kuching on 8 February, Dato Lim Kian Hock OAM had the opportunity to present a personalised birthday card to Jeli Mike Abdullah for his 85th Birthday, which would be on 18 March. Jeli is Sarawak's last surviving child Prisoner-of-War from World War 2. Some of our members including Don and Jenny Cameron and Beverley Dubois met Jeli (Mike) during the 2016 Reunion Visit to Kuching.

Dato Lim's son Wilfred had taken him to Sarawak to visit his brothers and sister and families in Kuching to celebrate Chinese New Year. Jeli was the special guest at a tea gathering with President Audry Wan Ullok and our Sarawak Tourism Federation friends.

Dato Lim presented his hand-drawn Birthday Card – the NMBVAA was kindly included – and also a traditional Ang Pau ('Red Envelope') for the Chinese New Year celebration. Thanks Dato Lim for including us in this celebration!

Dato Lim said:

Congratulations on your 85th Birthday in March to warm of the spirit of our WW2 80th Anniversary and the memory of POWs and the people who suffered the atrocity of the WW2 Japanese occupation.

It also reflects on the Liberation of Sarawak, and the surrender of the Japanese Army on 11 September 1945 on the signing of Surrender document by Japanese Commander Major General, Hyōe Yamamura at Pending Point Kuching.

We cherish your presence as the only surviving child POW and in helping STF to publish your book – "A Priceless Journey" – which was presented and received by Queen Elizabeth II on her Diamond Jubilee in 2012 in Buckingham Palace.

We hope for your continued support to help STF in its Sarawak historical development for the young generation to remember the past and the discovery of faith to build a kinder world of the future.



Jeli Mike Abdullah (right) with Dato Lim Kian Hock OAM



The personalised birthday card prepared by Dato Lim



On the day of his 85th Birthday, our President sent greetings to Jeli Mike Abdullah in Kuching, via his grandson Afio Rudi. On that day Jeli was enjoying a birthday feast with his family (pictured left).

Afio replied:

Hi Paul, thanks for the wishes! I have to apologise on behalf my grandad Jeli.

He has forgotten names but he was really delighted for the kindness and thoughtfulness of you and your members Don, Jenny and Beverley as well.

We had a short video call with Dato Lim and Ryan Rowland of Borneo Exhibition Group too just now. Also, here are some of photos taken just now.

Thanks again Paul for the wishes from the Land Down Under, from us in the Land of the Hornbill, Sarawak, Borneo.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Friday 25 April 2025 Anzac Day

In accordance with the *Anzac Day Commemoration Act* of 2005 (South Australia), 25 April each year is designated as 'Anzac Day'. The SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA will form up for the 2025 Anzac March as usual on North Terrace near the Art Gallery.



SAVE THE DATE

Friday 29 August 2025 Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day

We will hold our annual Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service in the City of West Torrens War Memorial Gardens on Friday 29 August.

Our Branch Padre Major Quentin Castle will officiate, and the Air Force Cadets of No 604 Squadron will again provide the armed Catafalque Party, Honour Guard and Banner Party.

The ceremony will be followed by a reunion and lunch at Hilton RSL. We hope to see you there!



GREETINGS

Captain Imbahadur Ghale. We had planned to send our very best wishes to Captain Imbahadur Ghale at Toker Lines in Seria (British Forces Brunei), who was due to retire this month after 27 years' military service – instead we send him our hearty congratulations on receiving an Intermediate Regular Commission.

Captain Ghale has served as a Company Quarter-Master Sergeant, Mechanical Transport Warrant Officer and as a Company Sergeant-Major of the Gurkha Training Company. Commissioned as an officer, he has held appointments in 1RGR as an infantry platoon commander, Mechanical Transport Officer and Company 2IC. His operational deployments have included Bosnia (twice), Kosovo (twice) and Afghanistan (five tours).

Many of our members will remember Im from Kuching as the commander of the contingent which represented the Commanding Officer British Forces Brunei and the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles at our combined 2023 Malaya & Borneo service of commemoration. Congratulations Im on four more years in the British Army!



Captain Imbahadur Ghale acknowledged the passing of Rambahadur Limbu VC and read the Victoria Cross citation.



Captain Imbahadur Ghale placed a floral tribute on behalf of Commander British Forces Brunei.

Andrew Goledzinowski AM. We send our very best wishes to Andrew Goledzinowski AM, who retired from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on Wednesday 5 March.

Andrew has been a career diplomat, serving as Ambassador to Vietnam (2022-25), High Commissioner to Malaysia (2017-21) and Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York (2008-11).

In addition to being appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), he has been awarded the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal, the Australian Defence Force Medal and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service (USA).

We were very fortunate that His Excellency could join our 2019 Sarawak Reunion Visit, together with the New Zealand High Commissioner. The two Anzac High Commissioners to Malaysia gave the keynote addresses at our combined Service of Commemoration at the Sarawak Heroes Cemetery in Kuching on 29 August 2019. Best wishes in retirement!





COMMEMORATION

OPERATION 'OBOE' 80th ANNIVERSARY, 1945-2025

Part 1

This year is the 80th anniversary of the allied occupation of Tarakan Island at the end of World War 2, which was code-named Operation 'Oboe One'.

Paul and Don recently called on Borneo veteran Roy Hanisch as he approaches his 100th Birthday. Roy – who served in World War 2 as 141038 Leading Aircraftman Roy Hanisch – is the uncle of Graeme Hanisch in Nanango, Queensland. Graeme and his wife Jen are both members of the SA/NT Branch, and accompanied us on our 2019 and 2023 Sarawak Reunion Tours.

Roy Hanisch was born in Meadows in the Adelaide Hills on 10 May 1925, the son of Alfred Ferdinand Hanisch (1878-1962) and Eugene May (née Nunn, 1888-1967, later known as 'Nanna May').

Alf Hanisch had been born at Bagot's Well, north-east of Kapunda, on 10 April 1878, the last of nine children of Johann Gottlieb Hanisch (1826-1906), who was born in Prussia, emigrated from Hamburg to Port Adelaide in 1857, and settled at Eudunda. In 1908, Alf married Eugene May Nunn.

Giving his age as 36, and with five children, 2697 Private Alfred Ferdinand Hanisch had enlisted on 22 June 1916.

He embarked for war service on the troopship HMAT *Commonwealth* (A73) on 21 September 1916 with the 5th Reinforcements for the 5th Pioneer Battalion, AIF.

He joined the Pioneer Training Battalion in England but fell ill with Rheumatism, and returned to Australia on the Hospital Ship *Beltana*, arriving on 17 March 1917, and was discharged on 24 August.

May had 14 births, of which nine children survived. Roy was a surviving twin: the other died shortly after birth.

Roy was a Driver's Assistant, employed by John Martin's department store in Rundle Street in Adelaide, and was living with his parents in Albert Street, Goodwood Park when he was called up for military service.

The National Archives holds a Mobilisation Attestation Form for the Australian Military Forces, showing that Roy was attested in Unley on 25 June 1943, soon after his 18th birthday.



Roy Hanisch in August 1943 (aged 18) and in March 2025 (aged 99).



Paul and Don with Borneo veteran Roy Hanisch, 10 March 2025.

This did not proceed, as Roy later recalled: *"I was selected to go into the Royal Australian Air Force"*.

Alf and May saw six out of their seven boys enlist for military service.

Roy was enlisted at No 5 Recruiting Centre on 16 August 1943 (all personnel recruited for the RAAF in South Australia were processed through No 5 Recruit Centre).

Roy was appointed Aircraftman 1st Class, and attended training at 1 Recruit Depot in Shepparton. He recalls drilling and marching with a .303" SMLE rifle – *"almost as big as me"*.

He attended No 3 Bombing and Air Gunnery School (3BAGS) at Sale in Victoria, but on medical grounds was subsequently selected for Mess duties.

He then went to Sandgate near Brisbane, and then north by train.

Roy recalled: *"I was sent to Townsville, this was for me the stepping stone to being sent into active service, the Pacific Islands"*.

In his wartime recollections, recorded by his grandson Chris in 1992, Roy recalled: *"On boarding a troopship at Townsville I was walking up the gangplank, when I heard my name being called. On looking up to the ship I saw one of my brothers aboard, he had boarded this ship in Brisbane. He was a Commando in the Army; this was quite a surprise for both of us"*.

Roy served at Morotai in the Netherlands East Indies from 24 March 1945, *"but my brother and I were unable to keep in contact with one another"*. Roy's brother was on one of the first landing craft ashore at Tarakan.

The Borneo campaign was launched from Morotai in 1945 – known as the 'Oboe' series of operations – including Operation 'Oboe One' (Battle of Tarakan), Operation 'Oboe Two' (Battle of Balikpapan) and Operation 'Oboe Six' (Battle of North Borneo). Roy took part in the landing on Tarakan Island, and then served there as a Cook's Assistant with 29 Air Stores Park from 24 May to 2 July 1945.



Roy pictured in 2016, wearing both his war medals and the medals of his late wife, former 114833 Aircraftwoman Daphne Nunn.



Roy with his children Wayne, Des and Julie and their partners, 10 March 2025.

Roy then served with the Australian First Tactical Air Force (No 1 TAF) Telecommunications Unit at Labuan.

He departed Labuan by ship for Brisbane in December 1945 and returned to Adelaide: *"I arrived home xmas morning"*.

"Another surprise was before me, my brother who I had met on my travels had also arrived home on the same train as I".

Roy was discharged in Adelaide on 22 March 1946.

To be continued . . .



COMMEMORATION



Malayan Emergency Commemoration Saturday 31 May 2025

The SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA will hold a small personalised service to give acknowledgement to our Branch's surviving veterans of the Malayan Emergency (1948-1960) – whose contribution served to uphold the sovereignty of the Federation of Malaya, and independent Malaya after 31 August 1957.

Full-size medals should be worn; a private tribute or poppy may be placed.

If you wish to attend, please RSVP to our Ceremonial Officer Don Cameron by Friday 23 May and advise if you wish to stay for lunch.

2025 Annual Dinner Friday 27 June 2025

Please note the date for this year's Branch annual dinner.

It will be held at the Himalayan Kitchen in Melbourne Street, North Adelaide.

Arrive from 1800h to catch up and buy your raffle tickets, with the event starting at 1830h.

This will be an opportunity to mark the 15th anniversary of the first meeting on 17 July 2010 to re-form the SA Branch, and the inaugural Branch Annual General Meeting, which was held at the Hilton RSL on 21 August 2010.

There will be ongoing historical pieces in the newsletters this year relating to the NMBVAA and our Branch history.

If anyone has information to add or photographs to share – particularly from Anzac Day or our Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day services – we would be very pleased to have the opportunity to copy them.

There will be merchandise to purchase at the dinner, and a raffle to support our future contributions to the schools in the Bau District of Sarawak which we sponsor.

You can find more details here:

<https://thehimalayankitchen.com/>





THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Jemma, the SA State Manager for The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Australia, has kindly provided us with brief profiles of two young South Australian Awardees that our 2024 contribution has assisted and impacted, changing names to maintain appropriate privacy. The benefits of our commitment can be seen to be very far-reaching and really out of all proportion to our small contribution.

EDWARD

Duke of Ed helps Edward thrive beyond his comfort zone

Edward's journey with the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award has been one of growth, resilience, and discovery (*).

Diagnosed with autism, Edward faced challenges in social and emotional settings, but through his in-school flexible learning options (FLO) program in Adelaide, he found a supportive space to develop confidence and independence.

Starting with his Bronze Award, Edward took small steps – walking in his neighbourhood and learning to cook at home – before pushing himself further, including an overnight camp at Adelaide Zoo and volunteering at the Wildlife Park.

By the time he reached Silver, Edward was playing cricket, learning to drive, and joining a two-day adventure camp with peers from across Adelaide.

Edward has recently started working towards his Gold Award.

Edward dedicates his time to volunteering at the Southern Koala and Echidna Rescue Service and his local Community Centre, where he helps with wildlife care and sustainable gardening.

His biggest challenge yet was a five-day sailing expedition with 'One and All', where he worked as part of a team to navigate a tall ship along the southern coast.

Edward's journey showcases the transformative impact of the Duke of Ed Framework – helping him gain confidence, life skills and a passion for giving back.

* Names have been changed to maintain privacy

LOGAN

Duke of Ed journey builds confidence and life skills

When Logan first signed up for the Duke of Ed his goal was simple: earn SACE credits (*).

But what started as a high school requirement quickly became a transformative experience, leading him to complete his Silver Award through the Duke of Ed Centre.

The Duke of Ed Centre integrates the Duke of Ed Framework into its curriculum, helping young people develop core life skills.

For Logan, it was an opportunity to build confidence, improve communication, and form lasting connections.

"You discover so much about yourself and experience so many new things" Logan said.

Logan embraced the challenge of completing his hours through a diverse range of activities. For Service, he volunteered at Elizabeth House, studied under Indigenous artist Micky Barlow, and crafted snuffle mats for Guide Dogs. His Skills Section saw him learning Japanese, cooking, making coffee, drumming, and even creating keyrings. Walking became his Physical Recreation, and he soon found joy in the routine, often inviting friends to join him.

One of Logan's biggest challenges was stepping out of his comfort zone and talking to new people: *"I realised I just had to give it a go, and it got easier the more I did it"* he shared.

Through the Duke of Ed program, Logan not only gained confidence but also valuable life skills that continue to shape his future.

He encourages others to take on the challenge, saying, *"It's a great experience that can open so many doors"*.



No 604 SQUADRON, AAFC



VIETNAMESE TẾT FESTIVAL 2025

Weekend 1-2 February 2025

Staff and Cadets from 604 Squadron supported the Vietnamese Community in Australia as they celebrated Vietnamese New Year, with a two-day festival to celebrate the traditions of the Vietnamese people in the Year of the Snake.

In Vietnamese culture, the Snake symbolises wisdom, calmness, resilience and luck – all valuable attributes as the Vietnamese community welcomes the new year and shares their heritage and traditions with our future generations and the wider multicultural community.

At the same time, this year South Australians from a Vietnamese refugee background are commemorating 50 Years of being in their 'Home Away From Home'.

The festival included an Opening Ceremony with firecrackers and a lion dance on the Saturday, and on the Sunday a Children's Áo-Dài Cultural Costume Competition.



Leading Cadet Jaibir Singh from 604 Squadron (front), with Air Force Cadets from 617 Squadron and 620 Squadron.



MEDAL OF THE MONTH

INDIA GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL 1908-1935

The India General Service Medal 1908-1935 was instituted on 1 January 1909 to reward service by members of the British and Indian armies in minor campaigns and warlike operations in India. From 1919, it was also awarded to personnel of the Royal Air Force and Commonwealth air forces.

The medals were struck in sterling silver at the Royal Mint in London and by the Indian government in Calcutta. The medal has a floreated swivelling suspender bar, attached to the medal disc with a vertical pin.

The Royal Mint medals have an elaborate claw mount attaching the medal disc to the suspension bar, whereas Calcutta Mint medals have a plain claw mount.

For early campaigns up to 1919, the medal was awarded in silver to combatants and bronze to non-combatants.

There were three obverse designs: this is the second pattern medal with a raised rim, featuring the effigy of King George V in crown and robes as Emperor of India.

The legend includes the title KAISAR-I-HIND – 'Emperor of India' in Hindustani language to signify the King's rule over British India as its imperial head of state.

The India General Service Medal was not issued without a clasp, with a total of twelve clasps ultimately authorised. When subsequent clasps are awarded, they are added above the first-awarded clasp so the 'record of service' reads upwards from the medal.

3606 Rifleman Harising Chetri **2nd Battalion, 5th Gurkha Rifles ('Frontier Force')**

Harising Chetri was a Gurkha rifleman of the Gorkhali ethnic 'Khas' clan, native to the western Himalayan region of the Indian subcontinent, who saw operational service on India's North-Western Frontier between 18 December 1919 and January 1921.

Following the end of World War 1, in late 1918 or early 1919 Harising Chetri enlisted as a Sepoy in the 5th Gurkha Rifles (5GR) at Abbottabad in northern Bengal, the Gurkha Rifles Recruiting Centre for 5GR and 6GR. In the Indian Army prior to 1920, soldiers in the infantry had carried the rank of 'Sepoy'; this term was no longer used for Gurkhas after 1920, and from that time a Gurkha soldier held the rank of 'Rifleman'.

There is no Medal Index Card in the War Office records for 3606 Rifleman Harising Chetri, indicating that he saw no service in World War 1, and had no entitlement to war medals.

Sepoy Harising Chetri was assigned to the 2nd Battalion of the 5th Gurkha Rifles (2/5GR) which had its barracks at the Regimental Depot at Abbottabad in far north-western India, a hill station situated northeast of Rawalpindi.

This battalion had been raised on 20 October 1886 from a cadre of the 1st Battalion and men from the 42nd, 43rd and 44th Gurkha regiments.

In late December 1919, 2/5GR was ordered to urgently begin preparations for field service in Waziristan on the North-West Frontier – with Christmas Day being given over almost entirely to the issuing of equipment.

The Commanding Officer returned from leave on the evening of 25 December, and assumed command in the middle of a full mobilisation, reportedly being very surprised that the battalion was proceeding on active service the following day.

After a series of delays caused by new mules unused to pack work, the battalion deployed to Palosina Camp on Black Hill Ridge, arriving there on 3 January 1920.



India General Service Medal 1908-1935 with two clasps 'MAHSUD 1919-20' and 'WAZIRISTAN 1919-21' awarded to Rifleman Harising Chetri, struck in sterling silver at the Calcutta Mint (second pattern medal, issued between 1910 and 1930).

Jai Gurkha!

The tribes and clans (*jaat*) of Nepal are extremely complex, and their hierarchy, religious and social order is deeply rooted in ancient religion and mythology going back thousands of years.

The surname Chettri (or Chettri) refers to a Gorkhali ethnic Indian and Nepali *jaat* native to the western Himalayan region of the Indian subcontinent, which was originally known by the clan name of 'Khas'.

Until the 19th century, the Gorkhali referred to the lands of their ancient empire as Khas Desh ('Khas country').

5th Gurkha Rifles

The 5th Gurkha Rifles had been raised in 1858 as the 25th Native Punjab Infantry (Hazara Goorkha Battalion).

Its base and Regimental Depot was at Abbottabad in northern Bengal, a hill station situated northeast of Rawalpindi, and remained so until 1947. The regiment subsequently had the following titles:

- > 7th Regiment of Infantry, Punjab Irregular Force: redesignated in early 1861.

- > 5th Goorkha Regiment: redesignated in 1861 after the Gurkha regiments which had remained loyal during the Indian Mutiny were developed into their own Line of rifle regiments, numbered sequentially in order of their raising.

The spelling 'Goorkha' continued to be used for Gurkha regiments until 1891 when it was changed to 'Gurkha'.

- > 5th Gurkha (Rifle) Regiment: redesignated in 1891, with the standardised spelling 'Gurkha' being adopted.

- > 5th Gurkha Rifles: redesignated as part of a broad reorganisation of the Indian Army in 1901.

- > 5th Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force): as the only Gurkha regiment to serve in the Punjab Frontier Force, and with its base located on the North West Frontier during the British Raj, in 1903 the regiment became known as 'Frontier Force'.

- > 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force): granted the Royal title in 1921; on the regimental badge, the numeral '5' was surmounted by the Royal Crest (the Tudor Crown and lion).



- > 5th Gurkha Rifles: transferred to the Indian Army after independence under the tripartite agreement of 1947.



5th Gurkha Rifles

This postcard (circa 1902) depicts a Havildar (left) and Sepoy of the 5th Gurkha Rifles (after 1920 these ranks were known as Sergeant and Rifleman). The regimental badge comprised a pair of crossed kukris with the blades facing upwards and inwards, with the numeral '5' between.

North West Frontier

The battalion joined the 67th Infantry Brigade at Palosina Camp on 3 January 1920. This brigade contained, amongst other units, the 2/9 and 4/3 Gurkhas. The situation on the ground seemed tainted by low morale and so on 6 January the brigade moved forward to Kotaki to join up with more reinforcements.

The North-West Frontier between British India and Afghanistan was a source of political tension for most of the 19th century and beyond. Following the British military commitment during World War 1, the fiercely independent tribesmen on the North West Frontier of India became unsettled. The brief Third Afghan War (6 May to 8 August 1919) was an invasion of India by Afghan regulars with some tribal support.

Mahsud

The tribes that inhabited this region launched a series of large-scale raids in the administered areas. By November 1919, they had killed over 200 people and wounded a further 200. British and Indian forces first launched a military campaign in Waziristan in 1919-20 to subdue the Tochi Wazirs.

Much of 1920 and 1921 was spent dealing with the results of this conflict, quelling revolt in large hostile Waziri and Mahsud tribal groups. In December 1919, the British and Indian forces challenged the most dangerous of these tribes, the Mahsud.



5th Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force)

This oil on canvas painting by Frederick Roe (1864-1947), circa 1920, depicts the action of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Gurkha Rifles at Ahnai Tangi on the North-West Frontier of India on 14 January 1920.

Ahnai Tangi

The largely inexperienced British Indian columns met heavy resistance from determined, well-armed tribesmen, and the fighting continued for about 12 months. Most of the battalions had disproportionately large numbers of very young soldiers with inexperienced officers.

Standing out among the successes was the stand of 2nd Battalion, 5th Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force) during the eight-day battle at Ahnai Tangi in the Himalayas in January 1920.

In January 1920, 2/5GR was assigned to the Derajat Column (43rd and 67th Brigades).

Their mission was to advance on and capture the feature known as Ahnai Tangi gorge, in the Himalaya Mountains, to secure passage into the country beyond and obtain more intelligence about enemy movements there.

The gorge of Ahnai Tangi is about 72 metres long and only 27 metres wide; its sides are precipitous and rise to a height of 45 metres above the river bed. A painting of the action depicts the intense fighting to capture the areas of high ground held by the enemy.

One of the main features of the fighting was the enemy's use of British military tactics, since many of them were deserters from the Indian Army or militia, causing many casualties within the Derajat Column. Nevertheless, the Mahsuds suffered heavy casualties during the fighting and were temporarily subdued.

After several days of skirmishes, the actual gorge was captured and advanced through on 14 January. But overlooking the Tangi River still lay two high ground positions, known as 'Flathead Left' and 'Flathead Right' which would give any enemy a clear line of sight and fire onto advancing troops.

It was determined that these positions had to be taken before any further advance could be made.

On 14 January 1920, the 2/5 Gurkhas went into action to secure both Flatheads.

Flathead Left was soon captured and Battalion headquarters was established there. As the site was still overlooked by Flathead Right and coming under fire however, 'A' Company was ordered to secure it.

The company moved off and were soon out of sight in a dip between the two features. They did not return, and at this point it is believed that a strong party of enemy soldiers managed to rush the troops and overwhelm them.

A wounded Gurkha soldier later managed to crawl back to camp at Kotaki that night and report that some of the party had managed to reach the top of Flathead Right, in spite of the opposition, but were massively outnumbered and were driven back and killed.

With Flathead Right still uncaptured and the troops on Flathead Left under accurate and heavy covering fire, more and more enemy troops began to make their way closer and closer to the headquarters position, which by now was running short of ammunition.

To attempt to reverse the situation the Commanding Officer led a charge into the attackers, which drove them back, but he himself was killed.

For the rest of the day the soldiers of 2/5GR dug-in around Flathead Left and fought off six attacks from Waziri troops, managing to fight off each one but only after sustaining heavy casualties. By 7.30 pm the position on Flathead Left had been reinforced by other troops from 67 Brigade and the battalion was finally able to withdraw.

Waziristan 1919-21

Meanwhile, since 1919 another group of independent tribesmen on the North West Frontier of India – the Waziris – had been taking advantage of the unrest in Afghanistan following the Third Anglo-Afghan War to launch minor raids against British garrisons.

British and Indian forces responded with forays against the tribesmen but, following the disbandment of Indian Army units after World War 1, troop levels were lower than usual.

After an early military campaign in Waziristan to subdue the Tochi Wazirs, the Wana Wazirs rose up in November 1920, with raids continuing into 1921. They received no support from the Mahsuds however, and the Waziri rebellion faded away. Wana was successfully re-occupied on 22 December 1920.

A change of policy in 1921 saw the establishment of a permanent military garrison of regular troops at Razmak, to prevent such unrest occurring again.

The 2nd Battalion, 5th Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force) had seen some of the fiercest fighting of the Waziristan campaign.

The casualties the Gurkhas caused amongst the Waziri and Mahsud insurgents played a large role in quelling subsequent revolts by Mahsud groups, preventing them from joining further revolts the year afterwards.

Rifleman Harising Chetri was awarded the India General Service Medal with the clasps 'MAHSUD 1919-20' and 'WAZIRISTAN 1919-21' for operations with the 2/5 Gurkha Rifles at Dera Ismail Khan in the Derajat Area and the battle at Ahnai Tangi in the Himalayas.

Clasp 'MAHSUD 1919-20'. This was the fourth clasp for the IGSM 1908-1935, created by Army Order 361 of 1921. It rewarded service in the punitive operations against the warlike Tochi Waziri and Mahsud tribes in north-western India between 18 December 1919 and 8 April 1920. As this territory is enclosed by North and South Waziristan, this clasp is usually found with the clasp 'WAZIRISTAN 1919-21'.

Six Gurkha battalions qualified for this clasp.

Clasp 'WAZIRISTAN 1919-21'. This was the fifth clasp created, for participation in punitive operations against the warlike Wana Waziri tribe of Waziristan between 1 October 1919 and 20 December 1921.

Ten Gurkha battalions, and reinforcements from four others, qualified for this clasp.

Rifleman Harising Chetri qualified for these clasps through his service with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Gurkha Rifles in the post-war Waziristan campaigns against the warlike Tochi Waziri, Mahsud and Wana Waziri tribes on the North West Frontier of India.

The 2/5 Gurkha Rifles deployed with the 67th Infantry Brigade, one of two brigades which made up the Derajat Column which operated from Dera Ismail Khan in the Derajat Area.



The reverse of the India General Service Medal 1908-1935 depicts the fort at Jamrud which commanded the historic Khyber Pass from Peshawar (in India) to Jellalabad (in Afghanistan).



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 then 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.

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.

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.

Lest we Forget





0632 Lieutenant Edward George Kennell RAN (1936-1966)

Lieutenant Ted Kennell was an Observer with 'B' Flight of No 816 Squadron, Fleet Air Arm when he died in a flying accident on 28 April 1966 while providing anti-submarine and air protection during Far East Strategic Reserve operations.

Born in Cairns in North Queensland on 10 August 1936, 18 year old Ted Kennell enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy in Brisbane on 22 January 1954 for six years, dated from 10 August 1954. He completed his basic training as a Recruit Seaman on 26 January 1954, and was rated Ordinary Seaman on 22 August 1954. Selected for the Fleet Air Arm, on 4 January 1955 he was rated Provisional Naval Airman (Aircrew) and was posted to RAAF Uranquinty to join the Basic Flying Training School.

He trained in Tiger Moths and Wirraways, and then joined an Observers Course. He was promoted Midshipman on 4 December 1955 and was drafted to HMAS *Albatross*, the Naval Air Station at Nowra. On completing a 12-month Observer Training Course on 22 November 1956, Kennell was promoted Acting Sub-Lieutenant (O) and was granted a 7-year Short Term Commission. In 1957 he completed a specialist Observer's night-fighter training course. He joined No 724 Squadron at Nowra and trained on the de Havilland DH.112 Sea Venom aircraft; he was promoted to Sub-Lieutenant (O) on 23 November 1957.

Kennell was promoted to Lieutenant on 22 September 1958, and the following year he joined No 816 Squadron specialising in anti-submarine operations. He then served successively with 805, 724 and 816 Squadrons, including several embarkations on HMAS *Melbourne* for South East Asia duties, and on 2 June 1963 was granted a Permanent Commission.

On 25 October 1965, Lieutenant Kennell re-joined No 816 Squadron – in the newly created 'B' Flight (Sea Venom fighters) in response to the deteriorating strategic situation in South East Asia. No 816 Squadron embarked on HMAS *Melbourne* at Jervis Bay on 19 February 1966, sailing for South East Asia on escort duties with HMAS *Sydney*. During flying operations in the Sulu Sea in the southern Philippines, Lieutenant J R Da Costa (Pilot) and Lieutenant Kennell (Observer) were flying de Havilland DH.112 Sea Venom FAW.53, N4-900 number '866'.

At about 3 pm on 28 April 1966, they touched down on the flight deck of HMAS *Melbourne*. The Sea Venom engaged No 2 arrestor-wire, but the port knuckle broke allowing the aircraft to race unrestrained along the flight deck and over the ship's side into the sea.

Lieutenant Da Costa made a successful low-level ejection and was rescued by helicopter. Kennell ejected just as the aircraft hit the water, but searches by an airborne Wessex air-sea-rescue helicopter and diver were unsuccessful.

Lieutenant Kennell has no known grave – the aircraft and his body were never recovered.

Lieutenant Kennell's name is not listed by the Australian War Memorial, but his death occurred during the prescribed period of the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia.

Lest we Forget



In 2018, the HMAS Sydney & Vietnam Logistical Support Veterans Association held a dedication service at the Naval Association Club to unveil a memorial plaque in memory of Lieutenant Ted Kennell.



Da Costa and Kennell's de Havilland DH.112 Sea Venom crashing off the deck during a landing on HMAS Melbourne.