



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 9S – SEPTEMBER (MBV SPECIAL) 2025



MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS DAY

At commemorative services both in Adelaide and in Kuching, members of the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA solemnly repeat the promise to remember the fallen.

In this year's Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service of commemoration in Adelaide, we marked the 65th anniversary of the End of the Malayan Emergency, the 63rd anniversary of the suppression of the Brunei Revolt, and the 59th anniversary of the end of Confrontation.

We greatly appreciate the support provided by the Air Force Cadets from No 604 Squadron, and ADF support facilitated by Joint Operations Support Staff–South Australia at Keswick Barracks.

We particularly appreciate the significant support provided by the West Torrens City Council Events team, especially at short notice as we changed to an indoor venue.



MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS DAY Friday 29 August 2025

We were very privileged to have as our guest of honour His Excellency Dr Richard Harris SC OAM, the Lieutenant Governor of South Australia who on this occasion attended as Deputy Governor of South Australia.

Dr 'Harry' Harris is best known for the crucial role he played in the 2018 Tham Luang cave rescue in Thailand.

We thank Mayor Michael Coxon and the Councillors of West Torrens City Council, and the WTCC Events Team for the substantial support and assistance they provided.

We are grateful to HMAS *Encounter*, Royal Australian Navy who provided a Community Engagement Stand including boarding party gear and firefighting uniforms. Our veterans saw the improvements in technology from their era, while the Air Force Cadets in attendance saw opportunities for their future service.

The Royal Australian Navy Band – SA provided a Bugler to play the Last Post and Rouse, and a Vocalist sang the Australian National Anthem.

We thank those who placed official wreaths and tributes in memory of the fallen:

His Excellency Dr Richard Harris SC OAM; Mayor Michael Coxon of the City of West Torrens; Senator Andrew McLachlan CSC, Senator for South Australia; Mr Robert Klose representing Mr Tony Zappia MP, Federal Member for Makin; Repatriation Commissioner Mr Kahlil Fegan DSC AM and Deputy Commissioner South Australia Ms Jennifer (Jenn) Buckler, Department of Veterans' Affairs.

We again kept the focus on a more select group of family members honouring specific named personnel.

Lynette Hunt placed a tribute in memory of her father, former Branch member Clive Dubois.

Cadets from No 604 Squadron, AAFC placed tributes on behalf of Branch members who could not attend:

- ✚ on behalf of Mrs Vicki Crannaford, in memory of her brother Signalman John Darrell Tassell who died on 4 April 1966
- ✚ on behalf of Mrs Jenny Macintosh OAM, in memory of her husband Group Captain Bob Macintosh AFC OAM
- ✚ on behalf of Warrant Officer Class 2 Nathan Price, in memory of his father, former Branch member Dennis Price
- ✚ on behalf of Mrs Chris Selby, in memory of her husband Brian Selby, late SA/NT Branch President 2002-06 and 2010-22
- ✚ on behalf of Mrs Mary Murray, in memory of her sister Major Aileen Ryan, Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps

Ms Amy Worswick and Cadet Corporal Rudra Mehta from Adelaide High School placed a tribute in honour of Pilot Officer Alex Gordon Pritchard (1928-1954), an Old Scholar who served during the Malayan Emergency.

Our Vice-President Don Cameron placed a tribute in memory of the loyal Iban trackers.

Mr Paul Bayliss placed a special poppy wreath in honour of the Federation of Malaya Police, North Borneo Armed Constabulary and the Sarawak Constabulary, and in memory of all SA/NT Branch members who are no longer with us.

Cadet Corporal Rien Nair and Cadet Tarquan Leao placed a tribute on behalf of No 604 Squadron, AAFC.



ORDER OF SERVICE

Malaya and Borneo Veterans Day Service of Commemoration 2025

West Torrens War Memorial Gardens, Hilton
1100h Friday 29 August 2025



Marking the 59th anniversary of the signing of the
Malaysia-Indonesia Peace Agreement which brought
to an end the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia

Honouring those Australians and members of Commonwealth and Malaysian naval, military, air and police forces who served during the Malayan Emergency (1948-1960), the Brunei Revolt (1962) and the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia (1962-1966); on the Malay Peninsula; in Singapore; on the Thai-Malay border; in Brunei, Sabah and Sarawak; at Ubon in Thailand; on the Malay Peninsula post-1966; and with Rifle Company Butterworth





MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS DAY

We planned to hold our annual service of commemoration at the Cross of Sacrifice in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens as usual, but with inclement weather and severe storm warnings it was deemed prudent to relocate the ceremony into the City of West Torrens Hamra Library Auditorium. A ceremonial detachment was again provided by No 604 Squadron, AAFC.



Our impromptu memorial Cenotaph



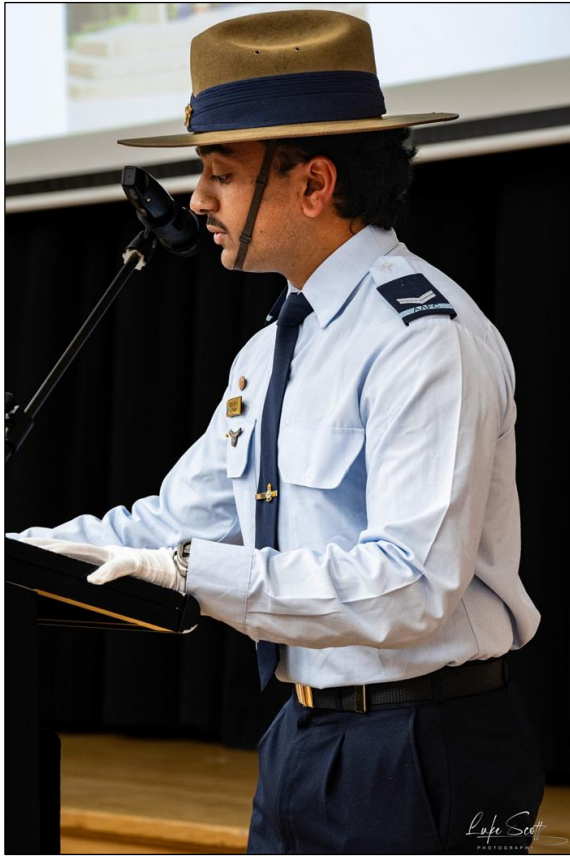
*Our guest of honour was His Excellency Dr Richard Harris SC OAM,
Deputy Governor of South Australia*

AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS

604 SQUADRON || HEAR THE LION ROAR



INTEGRITY || TEAMWORK || RESPONSIBILITY



Our special guest and principal wreath layer His Excellency Dr Richard Harris SC OAM, the Governor's Deputy, was introduced by Cadet Corporal Rudra Mehta from No 604 Squadron, AAFC.



SA-NT Branch, NMBVAA State President Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd)



Major Peer Cathcart (Salvation Army) officiated, giving the Prayer, the Response and the Benediction



The Catafalque Party was commanded by Cadet Warrant Officer Katarina Czechowicz (right).



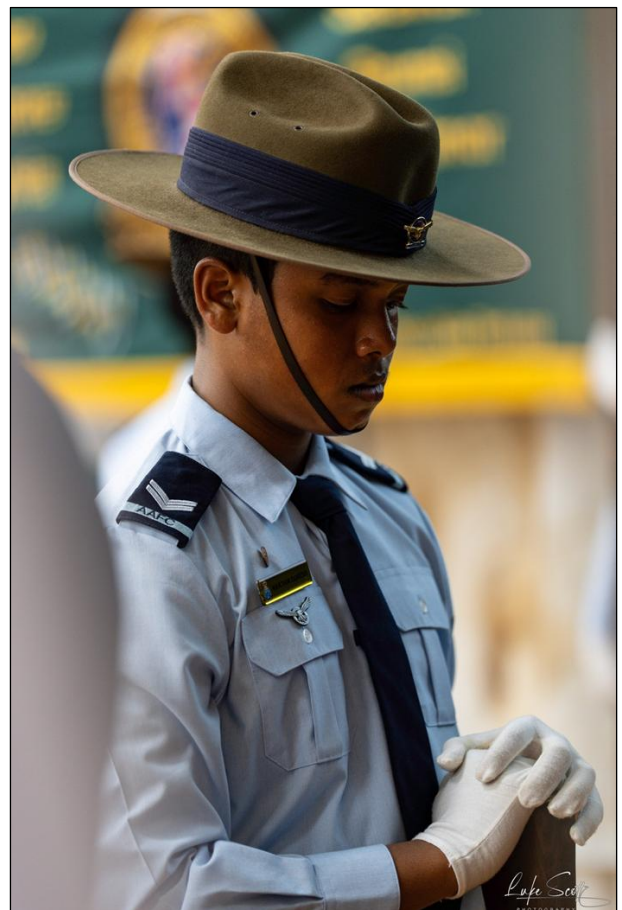
NMBVAA Banner Bearers – Cadet Corporal Mudit Prasad and Leading Cadet Aryan Patel.



604 Squadron again provided the armed Catafalque Party.



Cadets placed tributes for those who could not attend.





TRIBUTES

The SA and NT Branch, NMBVAA has adopted a four-pronged approach to commemoration, and the first of these is 'Remember the fallen'.

We thank the dignitaries and representatives of Ex-Service Organisations who attended and placed tributes. Many of our veterans, families and guests placed books as tributes to honour family members and the fallen, in lieu of the traditional floral wreath.

Two of our other pillars of commemoration are 'Remember Malaysia' and 'Look to the future'.

One of the ways we achieve this is through our sponsorship of schools in the Bau district of Sarawak. These schools are located on or near the sites near the border of Sarawak and Indonesian Kalimantan where Australian military forces served in 1965-66 during Confrontation – the 'Sarawak Defenders'.

These fortified company patrol bases 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".



We thank all who placed wreaths and tributes in memory of the fallen: the books will be donated on our next visit to the schools in the Bau district of Sarawak which we sponsor.





State President Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd) invited the official representatives forward to lay a wreath or tribute: "Let us place a tribute today, and recall the sacrifices our colleagues and forebears made overseas".

His Excellency Dr Richard Harris SC OAM, Deputy Governor of South Australia, and Mayor Michael Coxon of the City of West Torrens, placed wreaths in memory of the fallen.



For the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA our Vice-President Don Cameron placed a tribute in memory of the Iban trackers.

Paul Bayliss (pictured above) placed a special hand-made poppy wreath in honour of the fallen members of the Federation of Malaya Police, North Borneo Armed Constabulary and the Sarawak Constabulary, and in memory of all Branch members who are no longer with us.



Repatriation Commissioner Mr Kahlil Fegan DSC AM and Deputy Commissioner SA Ms Jenn Buckler, Department of Veterans' Affairs, placed tributes in memory of the fallen and to acknowledge the service of all Service veterans.



Meredith Burgess (representing the State Board) and Tara Belton (Chief Executive Officer) attended for RSL SA/NT & Broken Hill, and Meredith placed a tribute in memory of those who gave their lives in the Malayan Wars.

Mrs Jan Milham, President, placed a tribute on behalf of Australia War Widows SA.



Senator Andrew McLachlan CSC, Senator for South Australia, and Mr Robert Klose representing Mr Tony Zappia MP, Federal Member for Makin, placed tributes on behalf of the Australian Government.

Legatee Keith Bleachmore (right), Legacy Past President, representing Heather Willis, President, placed a tribute on behalf of the Legacy Club of SA & Broken Hill Inc.



Leading Cadet Mehan Balamurli and Cadet Corporal Rien Nair were among the tribute layers from 604 Squadron.



*Lieutenant-Colonel John Spencer
OAM RFD (ret'd), on behalf of the
National Service Assn (SA Branch)*



*Mr Lawrence Ng, President
of the Air Force Association,
South Australia Division*



*Ms Amy Worswick from Adelaide
High School honoured Old Scholar
Service personnel*



*Teacher Amy Worswick and Cadet Corporal Rudra Mehta from Adelaide High School placed a tribute in honour
of Pilot Officer Alex Gordon Pritchard (1928-1954), an Old Scholar who served during the Malayan Emergency.*

Adelaide High School has begun a project to honouring Old Scholar Service personnel, and among them are a few from the Malaya and Borneo campaigns. During our 2025 commemorative service we remembered Pilot Officer Alex Gordon Pritchard (1928-1954). Alex Pritchard enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 14 January 1952, and in 1953-54 was a Pilot with No 1 (Bomber) Squadron during the Malayan Emergency, flying Lincoln Bombers from RAF Base Tengah on Singapore Island.

Pritchard later served with the Central Flying School at RAAF East Sale, where he died in a Wirraway crash on 13 July 1954. His action in staying with his aircraft as it plummeted from 3,000 feet to 200 feet, and steering it away from Pearsonvale School, saved the lives of at least 17 school students.



SUPPORT – WEST TORRENS CITY COUNCIL

We thank Mayor Michael Coxon of the West Torrens City Council for once again being our host, and for delivering the Acknowledgment of Country. A number of Servicemen of indigenous descent served overseas during the Malayan Wars, including former NMBVAA member Staff-Sergeant Clive Dubois who passed away in 2017, who was of the Arunta people of Alice Springs and the son of a World War 2 veteran. Clive served at Terendak on the Malay Peninsula, on the Thai-Malay border with the Gurkhas, and with 'C' Company 3RAR at the forward patrol base at Serikin near the Sarawak-Kalimantan border. Clive was remembered by his wife Beverley, and his daughter Lynette Hunt placed a tribute in his memory.

We are particularly grateful for the support of Gordon, Mia and members of the WTCC Events Team for the substantial assistance they provided for our event. We also appreciate the attendance of the Chief Executive Officer Mr Angelo Catinari (pictured below, centre) and Councillors George Demetriou (Morphett Ward) and Surender Pal (Plympton Ward).





SUPPORT – ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

Our service of commemoration was supported by a Community Engagement Stand provided by the Royal Australian Navy. Members from HMAS *Encounter* had equipment on display, including boarding party gear and firefighting uniforms. Our veterans saw the improvements in technology from their era, while the Air Force Cadets saw opportunities for their future service. We also appreciate the support of the Royal Australian Navy Band–South Australia.



Able Seaman Musician Sergey Grynchuk returned to support our service, playing the Last Post and Rouse



Able Seaman Musician Kelly Doddridge led the singing of the Australian National Anthem.



SUPPORT – HILTON RSL

We appreciated the attendance of the current Hilton RSL Sub-Branch President Mr Bill Parry (right), Past-President Mr Ian Gardiner (below left) and Past Vice President Mr Ray Vadeikis (below right).

We also greatly appreciated the hospitality of Hilton RSL in hosting our reunion following the service. It was very much appreciated! Image by Luke Scott, Adelaide Military Commemoration Photos.





No 604 SQUADRON, AAFC



After the ceremony the Governor's Deputy, His Excellency Dr Richard 'Harry' Harris SC OAM, spent time with the Air Force Cadets of 604 Squadron who had supported the service.



After supporting our service of commemoration in the City of West Torrens Hamra Library Auditorium, the Air Force Cadets of 604 Squadron rugged up for the move across to Hilton RSL for lunch – pictured here with Councillor Surender Pal, Councillor for Plympton Ward.



Malaya & Borneo Veterans Reunion

We thank RSL Hilton Sub-Branch for again providing the venue for our reunion after the ceremony. Our members and guests were able to buy a light lunch, while the Branch provided lunches and soft drinks for the Air Force Cadets and staff, and we gave Hilton RSL a small donation to cover expenses. Branch President Paul Rosenzweig and Vice-President Don Cameron made some presentations. Thanks to those who made donations for the Sarawak schools we sponsor.

Major Peer Cathcart Salvation Army

Major Quentin Castle has supported the SA/NT Branch for well over ten years as our Chaplain, since the inaugural Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service in Adelaide, as well as particular events, and last year we made special mention of Quentin's support.

This year he was ably represented by Major Peer Cathcart, a former Red Shield Defence Services 'Sallyman' with 7RAR.

Thanks Peer for supporting us this year!



Cadet Warrant Officer Katarina Czechowicz No 604 Squadron, AAFC

CWOFF Czechowicz, the Cadet Squadron Warrant Officer of 604 Squadron, was this year's Catafalque Party Commander.

CWOFF Czechowicz has previously supported us twice as a member of the Catafalque Party. On the Adelaide Anzac March this year, she was Banner Warrant Officer for the No 6 Wing Australian Air Force Cadets Banner.

In the Hilton RSL, Vice-President Don Cameron presented CWOFF Czechowicz with an SA/NT Branch NMBVAA coin.



Flight Sergeant (AAFC) Kim Edgar No 604 Squadron, AAFC

FSGT(AAFC) Kim Edgar has supported ten of our Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day services since he was appointed an Instructor of Cadets in 2014.

In addition, he has also supported the Malaya-Borneo Memorial Unveiling and Dedication Service on 22 April 2017, and also the 70th Anniversary of the Start of the Malayan Emergency Service on 16 June 2018.

Vice-President Don Cameron presented Kim with an SA/NT Branch NMBVAA coin. Your support is greatly appreciated!

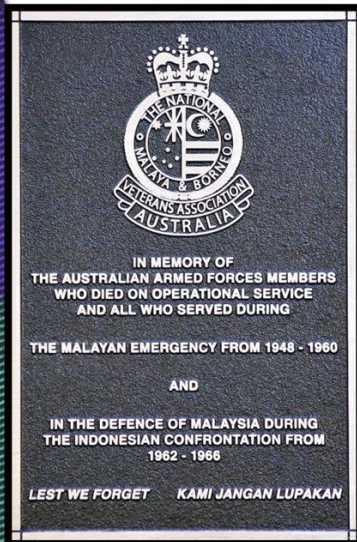




COMMEMORATION

Malayan Emergency, 1948-1960

Sacrifice during the Malayan Emergency



During the prescribed period of the Malayan Emergency, from 16 June 1948 to 31 July 1960, 39 Australian servicemen lost their lives overseas and are listed under the title 'MALAYAN EMERGENCY' in the Rolls of Honour at the Australian War Memorial.

A further ten died on operational service in the period immediately following the closing date for this campaign but before the prescribed start date for Confrontation. These are not listed in the Rolls of Honour under the title 'MALAYAN EMERGENCY', although some are listed under the title 'SOUTHEAST ASIA, 1955-1975 (FESR, SEATO)'.

Of the 49 Australian fallen from the Malayan Emergency and immediately after, two were buried at sea, one was lost in an aircraft crash during operations in the South China Sea, and two have no grave identified.

The remainder were buried in a variety of places: 28 have graves in Taiping (Kamunting Road) Christian Cemetery in Perak, seven in Penang (Western Road) Cemetery, two in Kuala Lumpur (Cheras Road) Civil Cemetery, six in Kranji Military Cemetery in Singapore, and one is buried in Adelaide.

THANKS DIGGER

Virtual Museum and Commemoration Centre

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

THE MALAYAN EMERGENCY 16 June 1948 to 31 July 1960

On 31 July 1960, the government of Malaya officially declared the Emergency over.

We honour the 39 Australians who lost their lives on operational service during the prescribed period of the Malayan Emergency between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1960.

We also acknowledge a further seven who died in the period immediately following the closing date for this campaign, but before the prescribed start date for Confrontation. Additional to these are three naval personnel who died while serving with the Far East Strategic Reserve.

Of the Australian fallen from the Malayan Emergency and immediately following: one was buried at sea in Malayan waters; one was lost in an aircraft crash in the South China Sea; and one has no grave identified. Of the three FESR members who died overseas, one was buried at sea off Hong Kong and one was lost at sea and has no known grave.

There are 42 Australian fallen from the Malayan Emergency who remain buried overseas – 36 have graves in Malaysia and 6 remain buried in Singapore.

The formal end of armed hostilities came with the 'Agreement between the Government of Malaysia and the Communist Party of Malaya to Terminate Hostilities' which was signed in Haadval, Thailand on 1 December 1989.

The sacrifice of these 49 Australians, among some 1,800 Malayan and Commonwealth troops who died on operational service during and immediately after this 12-year conflict, was not in vain, serving to uphold the sovereignty of the Federation of Malaya allowing the successful attainment of independence on 31 August 1957, self-governance in Singapore on 3 June 1959, the creation of Malaysia on 16 September 1963, and the early development of Malaysia and Singapore as independent nations.

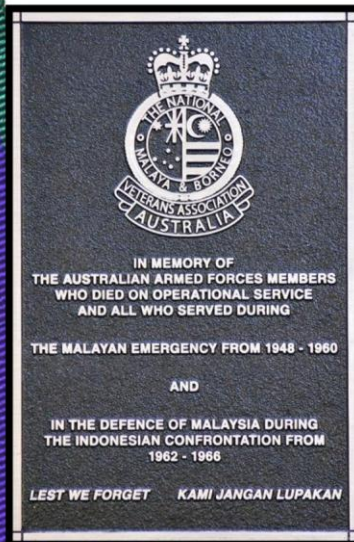
Lest we Forget



COMMEMORATION

Confrontation, 1962-1966

Sacrifice during the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia



During the general period of Confrontation, 28 Australians lost their lives on operational service. Three were serving or former National Servicemen. Two died in the period immediately before or during Confrontation and are listed at the Australian War Memorial under the title 'Malay Peninsula, 1964-1966'. Two RAAF personnel who died at Ubon, Thailand are listed under the title 'Thailand, 1965-1968'.

Two were lost at sea and have no known grave. Five soldiers died in Sabah, nine died in Sarawak, and two evacuated from Sarawak died in Australia.

Six were returned to Australia for burial, four were cremated in Singapore and repatriated, and the two who died in Australia were buried locally.

Three were buried in Terendak Military Cemetery in Malacca, but were repatriated in 2016. For four decades, two had no known grave, but their remains were subsequently recovered and repatriated in April 2010.

Seven were buried in Ulu Pandan Cemetery in Singapore, and in 1975 were exhumed and re-interred in Kranji Military Cemetery, where they remain at rest today. One remains buried in the Kuala Lumpur Civil Cemetery.

THANKS DIGGER

Virtual Museum and Commemoration Centre

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THE INDOONESIAN CONFRONTATION WITH MALAYSIA 24 December 1962 to 11 August 1966

We honour the 28 Australians who lost their lives on operational service during the prescribed period of Confrontation between 24 December 1962 and 11 August 1966.

Our Roll of Honour includes two members who died before the prescribed start date of Confrontation on the Malay Peninsula who are listed on the Rolls of Honour in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial under the title 'Malay Peninsula, 1964-1966', and two RAAF personnel who are listed under the title 'Thailand, 1965-1968'.

The Roll also includes two RAN members who died at sea while serving with No 816 Squadron, Fleet Air Arm, whose bodies and aircraft were never recovered. One Pilot died in a flying accident in the Strait of Malacca and is listed under the title 'Malay Peninsula, 1964-1966'; one Observer died in a flying accident in the Philippine Sea and is not listed.

Of the Australian fallen from the period of Confrontation: two were lost at sea and have no known grave. The grave of one of the airmen who died during service at the Royal Thai Air Force Base Ubon has not yet been identified. Six were returned to Australia for burial, and four were cremated in Singapore and repatriated. Two died in Australia and were buried locally. Three were buried in Terendak Military Cemetery in Malacca, but have since been repatriated. For four decades, two soldiers who died on an Operation 'Claret' patrol had no known grave, but their remains were recovered and repatriated in April 2010.

There are eight Australian fallen from Confrontation who remain buried overseas – one has a grave in Malaysia and seven remain buried in Singapore.

The end of hostilities came with the 'Malaysia-Indonesia Peace Agreement' or 'Jakarta Accord' which was signed at Istana Merdeka, Jakarta, Indonesia on 11 August 1966. The sacrifice of these 28 Australians was not in vain, serving to uphold the sovereignty of Malaysia and supporting the early development of Malaysia and Singapore as independent nations.

Lest we Forget

From the Archives. This extract from the archives summarises news reports relating to the deployment of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment group to Malaya.

2RAR departed Brisbane on 8 October 1955 in the MS *Georgic*, and on arrival in Penang the battalion was assigned to the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group.

This formation was created on 16 September 1955. It comprised units from Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom – three infantry battalions (Australia contributing a rotating battalion group), and a British field artillery regiment with an Australian field artillery battery.

AUSTRALIAN TROOPS IN MALAYA

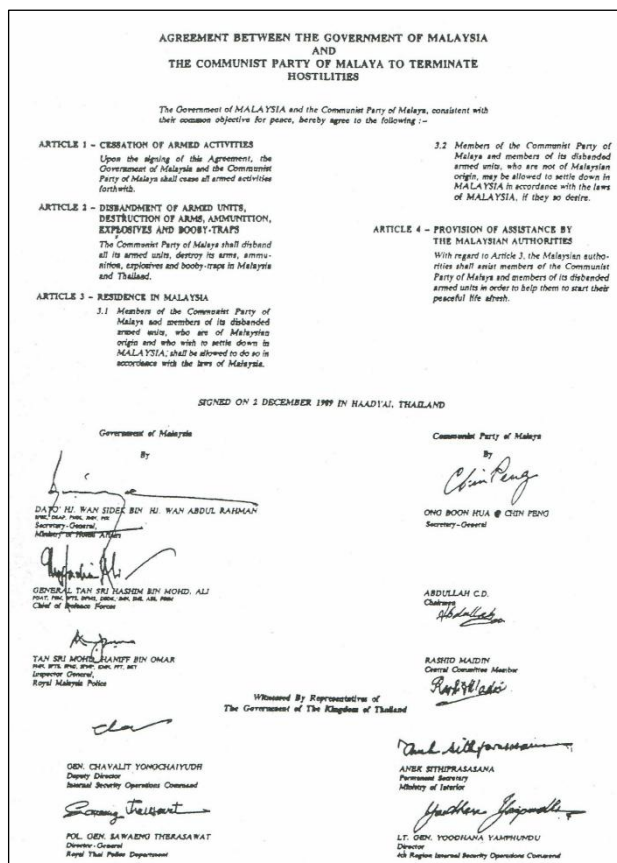
WEDNESDAY 19TH OCTOBER 1955. The main detachment of Australian troops being deployed in the Malaya conflict arrived in Penang today; greeted by four RAAF Lincoln bombers that flew past as a salute. The 1200 troops from the Second Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment will go ashore tomorrow to barracks on Penang Island.

The troops arrived on the steamer *Georgic*; accompanied by the Australian destroyers *Arunta* and *Warramunga*. This is the second detachment of Australian forces in the area. A vanguard of 450 men; largely from the No.2 Airfield Construction Squadron RAAF; arrived in September. The first arrivals have been constructing airfields for Australian-built Canberra bombers and sabre fighter aircraft.

The troops will join the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve. It comprises troops from Australia; New Zealand; and the United Kingdom. The reserve was developed as an alternative to Australia's concept of a standing force of SEATO member countries. The US has refused to permanently deploy troops in South-East Asia; but remains committed to mobilise forces at short notice should they be required to defend non-communist countries in the region.

The new detachment was welcomed by Lieutenant-General Geoffrey Bourne; the General Officer Commanding Malaya; who said he was proud to have them within his command to assist in the defeat of the communist rebels. We are fighting the communists in Malaya; but they are now a very much smaller and less aggressive force; he said. 'They have been reduced from a total of over 8000 men to only 3000.'

A message from Australia's Minister for External Affairs; Mr. Casey; was read to the battalion as it entered Penang. The arrival of the main body of the second battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment is an important event' he said. 'It illustrates the increasing part which Australia is undertaking in this part of the world.'



The government of the Federation of Malaya officially declared the Malayan Emergency over on 31 July 1960.

The Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia or 'Konfrontasi' was brought to a close through the 'Malaysia-Indonesia Peace Agreement' – or 'Jakarta Accord' – which was signed at Istana Merdeka in Jakarta, Indonesia on 11 August 1966.

However the formal end of armed hostilities did not come about until the 'Agreement between the Government of Malaysia and the Communist Party of Malaya to Terminate Hostilities' – which was signed at the Lee Gardens Hotel in Haadyai in southern Thailand on 2 December 1989.



42960 Signalmán John Darrell Tassell (1944-1966)

On Malaya-Borneo Veterans Day we particularly recall Signalmán John Tassell of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, a South Australian who died on operational service on the Malay Peninsula while serving on attachment to the 208th (Commonwealth) Signals Squadron.

John died on 4 April 1966, in a night-time single vehicle roll-over near Terengganu (earlier known as 'Trengganu'), 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'.

Lest we Forget



The name of Signalmán John Tassell was also not originally included on Adelaide's Post-WW2 Memorial on North Terrace.

This was one of several omissions rectified by the RSL (SA) Anzac Day Committee, and on the updated plaque John Tassell's name is correctly listed under the title 'Indonesian Confrontation'.

This new plaque now commemorates all Service personnel with close links to South Australia (including Broken Hill) who lost their lives as a result of their service in an overseas conflict or operation since the end of World War 2.



On Anzac Day, Vicki Crannaford carries the Malaysian National Flag with the SA/NT Branch NMBVAA contingent in memory of her brother, Signalmán John Tassell.



The name of 42960 Signalmán John Tassell (1944-1966) has now been included on Adelaide's Post-WW2 Operations Memorial.



IN MEMORIAM

2411093 Bombardier Barrington 'Barry' Algar (1937-1964)

At the National Commemorative Service to mark the 75th anniversary of Australian service in the Malayan Emergency, held at Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra on Sunday 31 August 2025, the late Bombardier Barry Algar was represented by his widow Jan and daughter Vicki Tieggs OAM and her husband Ross Farrell.

Barrington Fish was born in Isleworth in the County of Middlesex, England on 27 November 1937. His father was James Henry Fish (1907-1981), a taxicab driver from Perivale, Ealing, and his mother was Gladys May (née Algar, 1907-2010) from Durham.

Jim Fish was later a chauffeur, and served as a Staff-Sergeant with the British Army in North Africa during World War 2. In Sydney on 8 February 1955, Jim changed his surname by Deed Poll to 'Algar'.

Barry's grandfather, John William Fish (1876-1936) had served in France during World War 1 with the Northumberland Fusiliers (Private, regimental number '5971').

Barry's great-grandfather, John Fish (1845-1921) was a Chimney Sweep who later served in the Army from 1864 to 1885, a Colour Sergeant who served at Malta and Gibraltar, and was later a Chelsea Pensioner.

In 1957, Barrington Fish enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in NSW and was assigned the army number '2/411093'. The '2' prefix to his Service number indicates his enlistment in New South Wales, the army's 2nd Military District (the oblique slash was discontinued in 1961).

He underwent training with the Recruit Training Battalion at Kapooka, and was assigned to the Royal Australian Artillery (RAA). He then underwent Corps training at the School of Artillery at North Head, after which he was posted to 101 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery with the rank of Gunner.

During the Malayan Emergency, Lance-Bombardier Fish embarked in Sydney on 18 September 1959 on the chartered troopship MV *Flaminia*, with the 1RAR battalion group – comprising the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), 1 Field Troop, Royal Australian Engineers and 101 Field Battery. The Battery disembarked at Singapore on 4 October and underwent jungle training at the Jungle Warfare School at Kota Tinggi.

The following month they moved to Perak State and joined the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group on continuing operations against communist-terrorists in North Malaya. During their tour of duty during the Malayan Emergency (1959-61), the battery fired in support of the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment among other units, and the gunners were also employed as infantry, carrying out ambush and patrolling tasks. On occasions they manned roadblocks, engaged in patrolling, acted as a tactical reserve and performed garrison and security duties.

He received the General Service Medal, 1918-1962 with clasp 'Malaya' and the Returned from Active Service Badge.

SEE DOCKET UNDER NAME OF
B FISH.

GENERAL INDEX

AAF A 274

Surname ALGAR
(BLOCK CAPITALS)

Other Names B

Personal or Army No. 2411093

Rank L/BDR

Unit 101 Fd Bty (RAA)

AHQ Press RAAOC—136/55—4/55—1M

64 ALEXANDER ST.
SMITHFIELD RASB
N.S.W.
29. 9. 64

Reg No 217
4 FD Regt
Milpo
Wooler
WA

Awards & R.I.P.
under Docket of B. Fish

Changed Name by Deed Poll 11.11.60. C169/912/60
to B ALGAR

GENERAL INDEX

AAF A 274

Surname FISH
(BLOCK CAPITALS)

Other Names B

Personal or Army No. 2/411093

Rank L/BDR

Unit 101 Fd Bty (RAA)

AHQ Press RAAOC—136/55—4/55—1M

THE GENERAL SERVICE
MEDAL

With Clasp —
1 Malaya —
2 —
3 —
4 —
5 —
6 —

Ensl M.V. Flaminia Sydney 18.9.59
Disemb Penang 4.10.59

Ensl Por 1957 Posted 28.1.60

→ Unit 101 Fd Bty (RAA)
P.I.B.
A405201
Posted 8/62

4 FD Regt
Milpo
Wooler
Jed

Record of issue of the General Service Medal 1918-1962 with clasp 'MALAYA' and the Returned from Active Service Badge to Lance-Bombardier Barry Algar (Australian War Memorial: GSM Army-AF Register A-B, AWM2017.877.1.11 and GSM Army-AF Register E-G, AWM2017.877.1.13).

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 in October 1961. The battalion group left Penang on 29 October on the MV *Flaminia*, and on return to Australia Lance-Bombardier Fish was posted to 4 Field Regiment, RAA.

On 11 November 1960, he changed his name by Deed Poll to 'Barry Algar'. On 19 September 1962, Queen Elizabeth II granted the Royal Australian Artillery the title of 'The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery'.

Barry Algar was among a number of experienced Gunners and NCOs from 101 Field Battery who were transferred to 111 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, RAA at Holsworthy. On 24 May 1964, he embarked on HMAS *Sydney* (III) (R17) and the following day deployed for service at RAAF Base Butterworth in Malaysia.

Bombardier Algar was injured in a motor vehicle accident at RAAF Butterworth on 23 September 1964 – he was the No 3 on 'H' gun, and was injured during a crew changeover. He died in Penang General Hospital, Malaysia on the same day, aged 26.

He was survived by his wife Janice and daughter Vicki, who was just 6 months old. A military memorial service was held at RAAF Butterworth, and he was repatriated to RAAF Richmond in Sydney by RAAF C-130 aircraft.

SMITHFIELD MAN KILLED IN MALAYA



Barrington Algar

A 26-year-old Smithfield man left Australia in May this year to serve with the 111 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery in Malaya.

This week, his wife and parents learned that Bombardier Barrington Algar had been killed by a vehicle near Penang.

They heard when they received a telegram saying he had fallen from a vehicle. It said he had died in the Penang General Hospital.

He had been taken there with extensive injuries.

Now, his wife, Janice and six month old daughter Vicki Maree have only a few photos to remember him by.

They had been married only two years.

Mr. Algar had been in the forces for seven years.

Janice and her daughter are now living with Barry's mother and father in Alexander Street.

Said Janice: "The last time I saw him was on May 22, a day before he boarded HMAS Sydney to leave for Malaya.

"I saw him last on Friday and he sailed on the Saturday morning. There was no way I could foresee anything like this.

"He had written several times, and one of the last things he sent us was a photo of himself, taken in Penang."

In the right-hand corner of the photo is a short message: "With love—Barry."

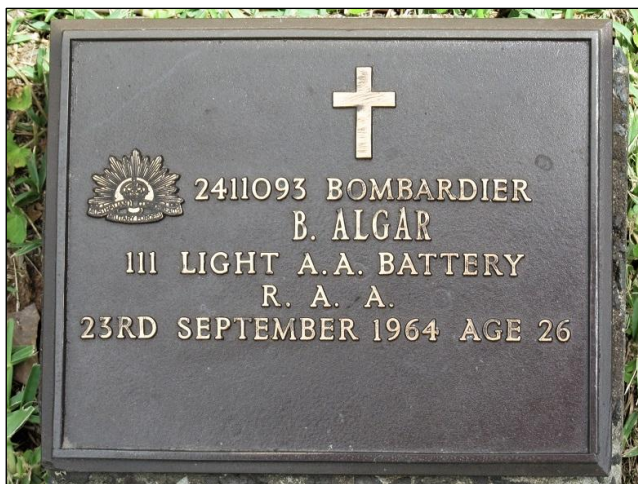
Bombardier Algar was buried in Rookwood Cemetery, Cumberland Council, NSW.

Of the 26 Australians who lost their lives on operational service during the general period of Confrontation, Barry Algar was among just five who were returned to Australia for burial.

Barry Algar's name was not originally listed on the Australian War Memorial Rolls of Honour. Following protracted negotiations with the AWM and Defence over a period of about 15 years, the names of Bombardier Algar and others were finally added in June 2013 under the title 'Indonesian Confrontation, 1962-1966'.

Bombardier Algar's name is honoured in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching on a plaque installed by the SA/NT Branch of the National Malaya Borneo Veterans Association, which was unveiled on 29 August 2016.

Branch members have paid tributes at this plaque during Sarawak Reunion Visits in 2019, 2022 and 2023.



Bombardier Algar's headstone in Rookwood Cemetery, NSW.



Barry Algar's widow Jan Algar and daughter Vicki Ties, at the AWM with Brian Selby, 2 August 2018.



Bombardier Algar's name is honoured in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching.



Marking Bombardier Algar's name in Kuching during the 2019 Reunion Visit to Sarawak.