

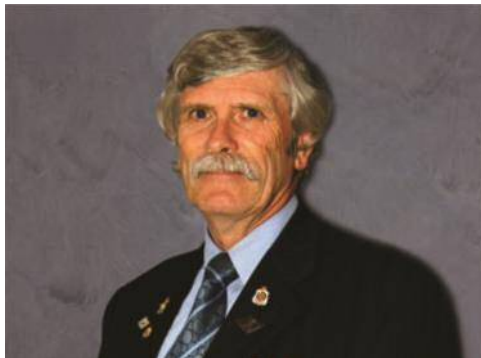


The Listening Post

National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc

Winter Issue 2019

President's Address



We now are feeling the final weather of winter albeit by the time you read this it will be spring.

I guess in the southern states someone forgot to tell the weather maker.

Since the last edition of listening post we have lost two more of our original members who contributed a lot over the years and will be sadly missed.

You may have known them, Reg Poole and Owen Preece.

The most exciting news at this time is the progress of the fund raising for the memorial in honour of those who served and

more importantly those who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation.

Attached is the document that will be sent to likely donors, you should give it to anyone whom you feel would want to donate.

It will be distributed to all RSLs throughout the country in time.

We have now seen out Anzac Day and August 31 for 2019 and many photos appear in this edition.

A special interview with George Douglas is in this edition, George lives in country Victoria and like with George you will find country papers are more than happy to do such interviews and promote them in the local press.

If you know a member who has a story to tell contact them and suggest you can arrange it for them.

A comment from George after it appeared was when he goes down the street in Kerang everyone now says hello.

The SA trip this year went well and photos appear in this edition, one can see the warmth the local people have for Brian and those who attended this year.

I guess I have taken enough space so will close for now wishing you all good health and happiness.

Owen Marshall
National President

Merchandise available to order online www.nmbvaa.org.au

Support your association with the purchase of Bumper Stickers, badges, caps, shirts and other items. Detail online on our website.



The Listening Post

Winter Issue 2019

Malaya and Borneo Veterans Group ANZAC Day Luncheon

VICTORIAN BRANCH



Thomas Carr College 2019



This photo is of the group who went to Malaysia last month, the man on the top right is Wes McNair one of the Vic members.

Victoria



Contact

Owen Marshall 0414 238 698

Published in the Gannawarra
Times Tuesday, April 23,
2019



George Douglass, with his daughter, Tanya, will be honoured in the ANZAC Day veterans' motorcade at the MCG for his war service.

Service veteran's honour on MCG

JENNY DENTON

KERANG resident George Douglass will be recognised very publicly on ANZAC Day for his service in Australia's armed forces.

The 81-year-old Navy man, a veteran of the 'Malayan Emergency', will be part of the motorcade of service people introduced and driven around the MCG before the opening of the Anzac Day match between Essendon and Collingwood.

As it happens, he is an Essendon fan from way back and likes the team's chances.

"They're getting better each game actually. We're all pretty certain we'll play finals," he says.

George, a boy from Ballarat, joined up in 1955 on his 17th birthday.

The following year he was sent to Malaya, where a Communist guerilla insurgency was in its eighth year in the British-controlled territory.

"As a young sailor – I'd just barely turned 18 – it was more or less an adventure," he says.

"I was part of the crew of HMAS Quadrant, which alongside HMAS Quickmatch was sent up to Malaya to relieve the ships that had already served up there. We were patrolling the Malayan coast preventing possible Chinese supplies reaching the Communists. Our ships were available for firing on suspected Communist camps."

"I was on guns – twin 4-inch, 63 pound shell. We wore a padded mitt, so you would hold the shell in one arm, walk up to the breech, push the front in and then punch it in and get your hand out real quick. It was quite strenuous for a bloke my size, I can tell you."

As well as working as a gunner, the new re-

cruit was on DJ duties.

He took personal messages for crew members transmitted via Radio Australia and broadcast them, along with requests, over the Ship's Radio Entertainment system.

"We had a little room with a turntable, and the ship's company could choose a record – I think the main one in those days was The Platters with The Great Pretender. Everybody wanted that."

An early morning wake-up ritual with another popular song earned him the nickname Ding Dong.

"I would go around and turn the speakers on in all the mess decks, and when it was time for the sailors to get up, I'd put on my favourite record, Giddy Up Ding Dong."

Despite the music, discipline was strict and living conditions were basic on the ships.

The crew slept in hammocks, and although he didn't suffer from seasickness, it wasn't fun in rough seas, George says.

"You were bashing into the bloke next to you and he was bashing into you. And it was nothing to leap out of your hammock in the middle of the night to go on your watch into 6 to 8 inches of water."

They were stationed in the tropics but there was no air conditioning, and if they got sunburnt the sailors were fined for "self-inflicted injury."

George did a nine-month tour of duty in Malaya then finished his six-year stint in the navy travelling throughout Southeast Asia and working on Japanese fishing patrols around Australia's coast line.

After leaving, he spent another six years with the army reserves.

On civvy street, he worked as a tiler and

painter, and also managed one of the first tenpin bowling alleys in Ballarat.

After retiring, aged 60, he returned to travelling, spending 20 years on the road with a camper trailer, visiting every state and territory in Australia.

Wherever he went, he would raise his navy flag, and immediately connect up with any naval people around.

"The minute they see the flag they're straight over," his daughter, Tanya, says. "It's like an automatic welcome."

Since 2017, when George followed Tanya to Kerang, father and daughter have joined several veterans organisations, including the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association, which organised his involvement in the MCG event.

"We have such a good association with that group," Tanya says. "It's a real close knit group. It's a pleasure to meet up with them."

"They get together and tell stories. A lot of them served together. They all know each other and they've got a great sense of humour. And it's not like a boys club; it's like a family."

That's exactly what it is, a family," George says.

George Douglass is one of two veterans from the association who will be part of the motorcade on Thursday.

It is only in the last decade or so that armed forces personnel who served in the Malayan emergency and Konfrontasi conflicts of the 1950s and '60s have been recognized as war veterans by Australian Defence authorities.

"For many years we didn't really get recognition... It's taken a long time for people to recognise our service," George says.

The Listening Post

Winter Issue 2019

This Stunning Tribute to our ANZACS was made by a Bloke in QLD Named Dale. I wanted to share this with all of you here because this great piece of artwork deserves to be seen across the world. Dale also custom makes firepits for anyone who is interested in looking at some of his other work his page is <https://www.facebook.com/DalesFreehandFirepits>

WHY DOES A MAN CONTINUE?

Why does a man continue
When he knows his courage has failed?
Why does a man still march to his front
When it would be so easy to turn tail?

Why does a man continue
After losing his dignity and pride?
Why does a man still advance
When it would be so easy to hide?

When a man has only his Honour
There is little left he can lose,
So be thankful you are living,
Trust to your luck
And march to your fate like a Soldier.

THE CONUNDRUM (PTSD in Short)

How can it be that
A man is perpetually scared yet he fears nothing?
Scared that others will take his life,
Yet he places no value on that life?
Scared to step outside his door,
Yet he yearns to travel great distances?

How can it be that
A man loves with all his heart,
Yet he is unable to show that love?
Scared of losing the one he loves the most,
Yet he constantly drives her away?
Scared of having to live on his own,
Yet he is a solitary being?

How can it be that
A man lives the perfect life in a free and safe
country;

A loving family, reasonable health,
An income to sustain him,
Yet he dreams and longs for the mind numbing
fear,
The incessant roar
And the odious sights of battle?

How can this be?
In ocean wastes no poppies blow,
No crosses stand in ordered row,
There young hearts sleep... beneath the waves...
The spirited, the good, the brave,...
But stars a constant vigil keep,

For them who lie beneath the deep.
'Tis true you cannot kneel in prayer
On certain spot and think. "He's there."
But you can to the ocean go...

See whitecaps marching row on row;
Know one for him will always ride...
In and out... with every tide.

And when your span of life is passed,
He'll meet you at the "Captain's Mast."
And they who mourn on distant shore

For sailors who'll come home no more,
Can dry their tears and pray for these
Who rest beneath the heaving seas...

For stars that shine and winds that blow
And whitecaps marching row on row.

And they can never lonely be
For when they lived... they chose the sea.



Lest We Forget

The Listening Post

Winter Issue 2019

**Commemoration of 42960 Signalman
John Darrell TASSELL (1944-1966)
Royal Australian Corps of Signals**

S.A & N.T BRANCH

These are some images from a ceremony held on Saturday 6 April 2019 in which the SA/NT Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Association of Australia acknowledged the service and sacrifice of Signalman John Tassell, Royal Australian Corps of Signals, by holding a graveside service to mark the anniversary of John's death 53 years ago during the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia.

The Branch was supported by the Korean War Veterans Association of NSW, and 'Thanks Digger' – <https://www.facebook.com/Thanks.Digger/>

The commemoration address, and more about John's service and the efforts to have his sacrifice recognised, can be heard on 'Service Voices' on Radio Adelaide 101.5FM:

<http://radioadelaide.org.au/2019/04/08/john-d-tassell-commemoration-service/>

Signalman John Darrell Tassell

19 September 1944 – 4 April 1966



Mr Brian Selby, President of the SA/NT Branch NMBVAA; Ms Vicki Crannaford, sister of Signalman John Tassell; and Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd), Public Affairs Officer for the SA/NT Branch, NMBVAA

John Tassell's sister Vicki honoured his sacrifice at a Service of Commemoration held in Adelaide by the SA/NT Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Association on Saturday 16 June 2018.



S.A / N.T



Contact

Brian Selby 0416 118 843

The Listening Post

Winter Issue 2019

S.A & N.T BRANCH

Some Photos of SA trip this year to Borneo.



S.A / N.T



Contact

Brian Selby 0416 118 843

This clipping is from the August 30 issue of The Illawarra Mercury Digital Edition.

LETTERS

LEST WE FORGET

On Saturday August 31, Australia will remember all those who served in the Malayan Emergency (1948-1960) and the Indonesian Confrontation, or Konfrontasi, (1962-1966).

In June 1948, after the Malayan Communist Party launched an insurgency against British colonial rule, a state of emergency was declared in Malaya.

Australia's involvement in the Emergency started in 1950, when aircraft and personnel from the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) arrived in Singapore.

The Emergency officially ended in 1960, however, Australian forces continued operations against communist forces until 1963.

Personnel from the Navy, Army, and RAAF played a vital role in Malaya.

Australia's involvement in the Malayan Emergency was one of the nation's longest continuing military commitments and tragically the names of 39 Australians are listed on the Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour.

The Indonesian Confrontation began in 1962 when Indonesian-backed forces launched a coup against the pro-British

Sultanate of Brunei.

Australian involvement started in 1964 and, in 1965, along with other Commonwealth troops, they conducted small-scale operations in the thickly forested terrain of Borneo.

As an undeclared war there were sensitivities around the cross-border operations and it received very little coverage in the Australian press, however, the experiences in the Confrontation informed the conduct of operations in Vietnam.

More than 20 Australians died during the Confrontation.

While these two post-Second World War conflicts might not be well-known in the Australian community, the nation is grateful for the actions of those who served.

Thank you for your service, and for the sacrifices made by your families who supported you.

On Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Day, I encourage all Australians to reflect on the service and sacrifice of those who served in the Malayan Emergency and Indonesian Confrontation.

Lest we forget.

Darren Chester MP Minister for Veter-



N.S.W / A.C.T



Contact

Ian Davenport (02) 6258 8988

The Listening Post

Winter Issue 2019

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

This clipping from the Gladstone Observer Sept 2018.

PROUD SERVICE: Malayan Emergency servicemen Roy Aiton and Barry Simpson holding a Gurkha khukuri (Nepalese knife) encouraged people to know more about Australia's lesser known conflicts since World War II.

THEY may have grown old and age has wearied them, but for Roy Aiton and Barry Simpson the memories of the Malayan Emergency decades ago still resonate with them today.

Friday was Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Day to recognise Australian military personnel who served in the two campaigns.

The Malayan Emergency went from 1948 to 1960 and the Indonesian Confrontation (Konfrontasi) was 1962 to 1966.

Lasting 13 years, the Malayan Emergency was the longest continuous military commitment in Australia's history with 7000 serving, 51 dead and 27 wounded.

It was one of the few successful counter-insurgency operations undertaken by the Western powers during the Cold War and saw British and Commonwealth forces defeat a communist revolt in Malaya.

The Indonesian Confrontation had 3500 serving with 23 dead and eight wounded.

Australian units fought during Konfrontasi as part of a larger British and Commonwealth force under British command with commitments to operations against Indonesia in Borneo and West Malaysia.

Roy served with the Royal Australian Air Force in Malaysia in 1958 during the emergency with the Base Squadron as a transport fitter.

"I was there for about 12 months before I had to be medevaced (medically evacuated) out on a Hercules C130 due to a skin condition," Roy said.

"We are not looking for any special treatment, just recognition that people know and learn about all of the conflicts Australians have fought in since World War II."

Roy was also a participant in another period of Australian history not many people know about - the atomic testing in Western Australian and South Australia during the 1950s.

"I was at Maralinga for Operation Antler and saw three of the atomic bomb blasts carried out while I was there," Roy said.

The Malayan Emergency was a Commonwealth effort with Britain sending troops over to support the Malaysian government who were under threat from guerrillas of the Malayan Communist Party.

Barry Simpson served with the First Kings Dragoon Guards in the 17th Gurkha Division and still has memories like yesterday of the conflict.

"I was there primarily as a musician playing the trombone and did road and jungle patrols and had a couple of contacts with the enemy," Barry said.

"I spent most of my time all over Malaysia and the emergency was a part of history that seldom gets mentioned."



Queensland



Contact

Allen Edwards (07) 3396 6705

The Listening Post

Winter Issue 2019

Photos from the Christmas Lunch, with appreciation to Ken Mutton.

WA SOCIAL CLUB

Thank You for your attendance and enjoying the good day.

from Co Organisers, *Hugh & Yvonne, Ken & Jan, Steve & Mike & Heather.*



Western Australia



Contact

Owen Marshall 0414 238 698

The Listening Post

Winter Issue 2019

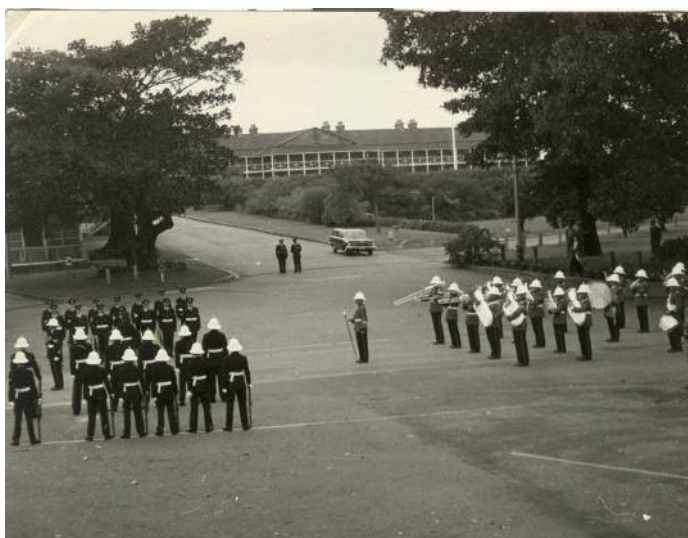
Some Photo Memories contributed by Vernon Joseph



Charlie gun training 1964



Gunner Vern Joseph (driver Radio Operator) with Bdr Barry Algar on O P in Kampong 1964.



VIC Bks 1963



Harry Chauvel 32 small ships in South China Sea 1970 Gun Crew from 16 AD Regt .



111 LAA BTY changing of the guard Vic Bks oct 1963

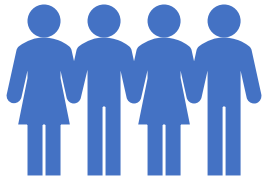


Sergeants Mess



Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) War Memorial Foundation Inc.

National Patron: Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC (Retd)



Donor Proposal to build a Memorial within the Australian War Memorial Precinct (Canberra) to recognise the men and women who served in the Malayan Emergency & Indonesian Confrontation





Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) War Memorial Foundation Inc.

National Patron: Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC (Retd)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) War Memorial Foundation Inc.**(the Foundation) has been established to raise funds through donations to facilitate the construction and installation of a permanent memorial (the Memorial) on the Australian War Memorial grounds in Canberra.

The Memorial will acknowledge the service and sacrifice of those who served in the Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) - the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Australian forces were engaged in two conflicts involving Malaya (now Malaysia). British Commonwealth forces played a key role in combatting a twelve-year long Communist insurgency, known as the Malayan Emergency, between 1948 and 1960. From 1964, Australians served in support of the newly federated state of Malaysia.

This second conflict, known as Confrontation, ended in 1966, by which time Australians had engaged in operations in Indonesian territory and on the Malayan peninsula.

Forty four Australian servicemen (RAN 7 Army 27 and RAAF 10) lost their lives during the Emergency, fifteen of them as a result of operations, and 27 were wounded. During Confrontation, 22 (Army 21, RAAF 1) lost their lives and 8 were wounded.*

This document provides information on the purpose of the Memorial and provides a background for its need.

*Source: Australian War Memorial



Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) War Memorial Foundation Inc.

National Patron: Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC (Retd)

Former RSL National President and Brigadier Alfred Barrett Garland, AM commanded the first Australian SAS into Malaya and stated the following of Confrontation:

“No one knew we went up there. No one knew we fought there. Now, no one cares. It’s a disgrace.”

The Indonesian Confrontation is referred to by many of those who were involved as the Unknown War. Korea was the Forgotten War but at least people knew about it and sadly tucked it away in a corner between WW2 and Vietnam.

We are determined to make the unknown, known, and ensure our mates who served and died during the Emergency and Confrontation are not forgotten.

We invite you to assist us in creating a memorial in Canberra within the precinct of the Australian War Memorial.



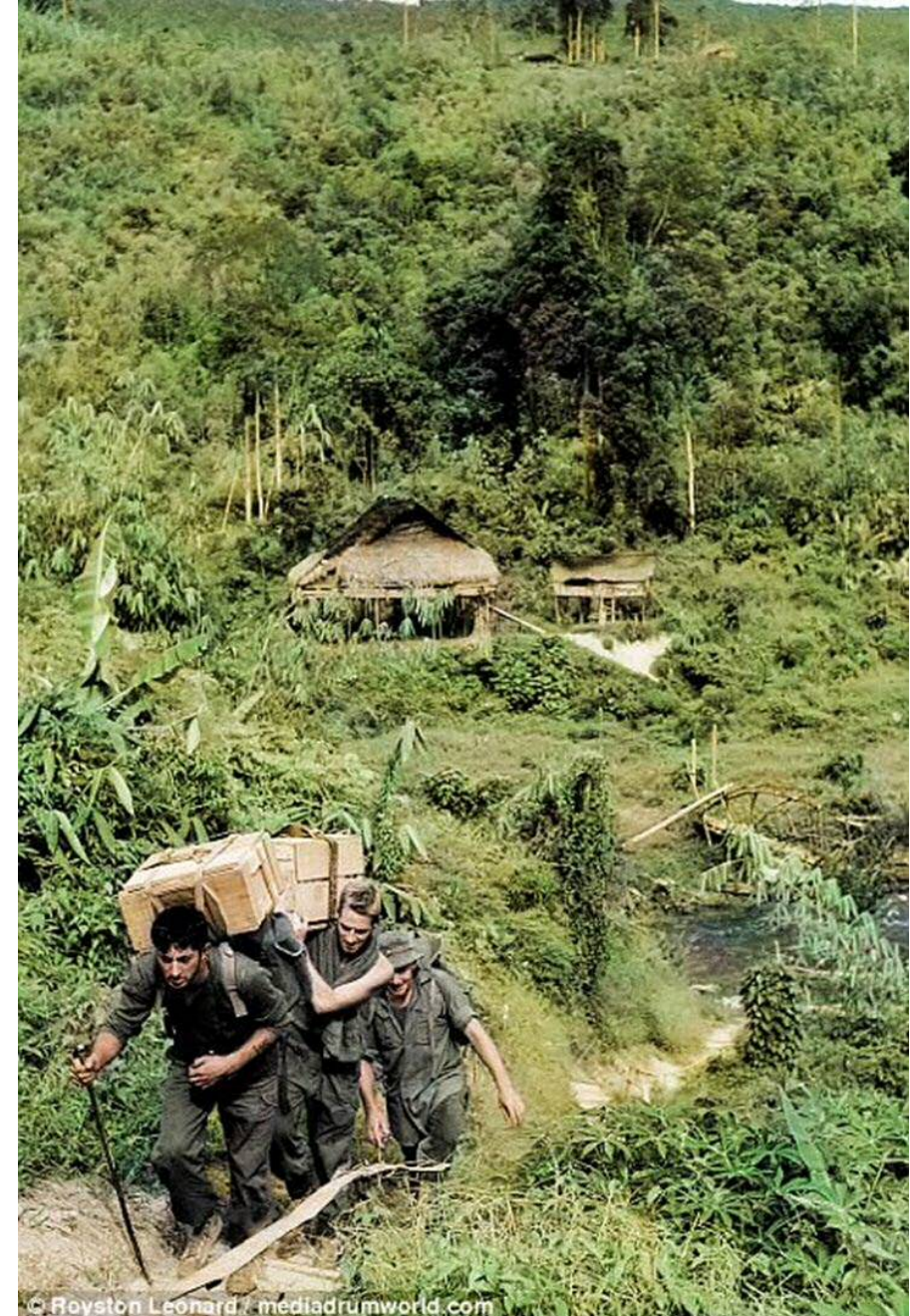


Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) War Memorial Foundation Inc.

National Patron: Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC (Retd)

Contents

- About The Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR)
- Purpose of the Memorial
- About The Malayan Emergency
- About The Indonesian Confrontation
- Why was it a Secret War?
- Australian Casualties
- Recognition to Date
- Words from Barry Algar's daughter
- How you can help
- Fundraising Governance
- Confirmation of Donation
- Our Contact Details



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Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) War Memorial Foundation Inc.

National Patron: Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC (Retd)

About The Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR)

During the 1950s and 1960s, Australian forces were engaged in two conflicts involving Malaya (now Malaysia). British Commonwealth forces played a key role in combatting a twelve-year long Communist insurgency, known as the Malayan Emergency, between 1948 and 1960.

From 1964, Australians served in support of the newly Federated States of Malaysia. This second conflict, known as Confrontation, ended in 1966, by which time Australians had engaged in operations in Indonesian territory on the island of Borneo and on the Malayan peninsula.

The Commonwealth contribution included Malayan and British units, including the Gurkhas and Royal Marines, operating in support of the Federation of Malaya Police.

Other troop contributing nations included Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia.

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





Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) War Memorial Foundation Inc.

National Patron: Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC (Retd)

Purpose of the Memorial

This Memorial would commemorate the service and sacrifice of servicemen and women of the Australian Defence Force who served in the Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve from 1948 to 1971.

This period remains today, as the longest operational commitment in Australian Military History and embraces the Malayan Emergency 1955-1960, the Indonesian Confrontation 1962-1966 and several periods of unrest until 1971. Australian Defence Records and Military Historians indicate the following broad statistics of government allotments to the respective theatres:

Malayan Emergency 1955-1960

- RAN - 13 Ships, some with multiple tours of duty, plus personnel seconded to the Royal Malayan Navy.
- Army - 1, 2 and 3 Battalions RAR plus Ancillary Services.
- RAAF - No. 1 and No. 38 Squadrons.
- 808, 805, 816 and 817 Squadrons of the RAN Fleet Air Arm embarked in HMAS Melbourne.

Indonesian Confrontation 1962-1966

- RAN – 13 Ships, some with multiple tours of duty, plus personnel serving in and developing the Royal Malaysian Navy.
- Army - 3 and 4 Battalions RAR, RA Signals Corps, RA Engineers, RA Artillery, Ancillary Services, and 2 Squadrons of the Special Air Service.
- 805, 816 and 817 Squadrons of the RAN Fleet Air Arm embarked in HMAS Melbourne.
- No.5 and No.79 Squadrons RAAF
- Clearance Diving Team 1 RAN.



Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) War Memorial Foundation Inc.

National Patron: Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC (Retd)

The Malayan Emergency was declared in June 1948 when three European estate managers were killed by Malayan Communist Party (MCP) guerrillas. Denied the opportunity to gain Malayan citizenship, Malayan Chinese members of the MCP sought to use violence to overthrow British colonial rule after Japan's defeat in the Second World War. The MCP's assassination of the British High Commissioner in October 1951 made Britain more determined to meet the communist threat.

Australia's involvement began in 1950 when Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) aircraft and personnel arrived in Singapore as part of the Far East Air Force. The first Royal Australian Navy (RAN) ships the destroyers HMAS Arunta and HMAS Warramunga sailed into the operational area off Singapore on 2 July 1955 closely followed on the following day by the frigate HMAS Quadrant.

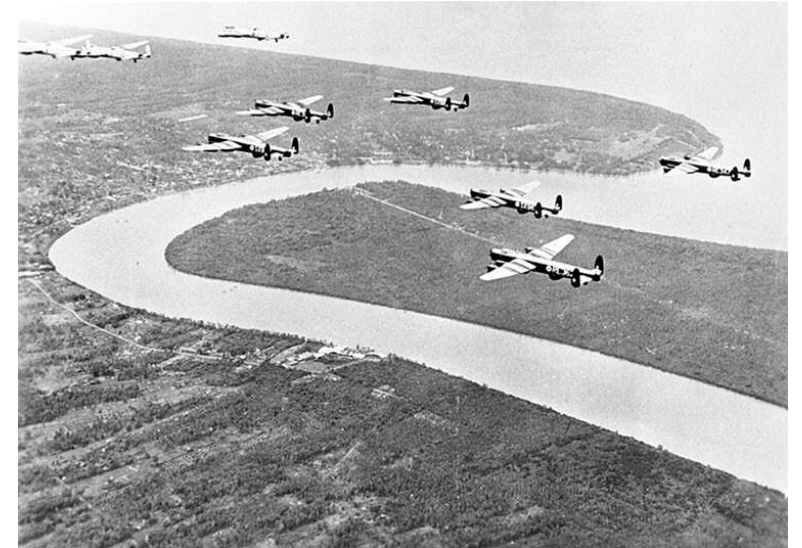
The first Australian ground troops, the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR), arrived in Malaya in October 1955 and were followed in 1957 by 3RAR and by 1RAR in 1959. All were engaged in patrols, ambushes, and in guarding villages. Australian artillery, engineers, and an airfield construction squadron also served in Malaya. Other ships that served in Malayan waters during the Emergency were HMA Ships *Anzac*, *Melbourne*, *Queenborough*, *Quiberon*, *Quickmatch*, *Sydney*, *Tobruk*, *Vampire*, *Vendetta* and *Voyager* some of which took part in shore bombardments against terrorist positions in the Johore State.

With limited support, the MCP was poorly resourced and lacked the numbers to succeed. By 1959 operations were winding up and many members of the MCP crossed the border into Thailand. The Emergency was declared officially over on 31 July 1960 but anti-MCP operations continued into 1963.

Australia's involvement in the Malayan Emergency was one of the nation's longest continuing military commitments. The Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour lists the names of 44 Australians who lost their lives during the Malayan

Emergency, the majority of whom were in the army.

About The Malayan Emergency





Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) War Memorial Foundation Inc.

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About The Indonesian Confrontation

In early 1963, small parties of Indonesian troops began infiltrating Malaysian territory on the island of Borneo to conduct propaganda and sabotage missions. Indonesian President Sukarno believed that the creation of the Malaysian Federation was an extension of British colonial rule in south-east Asia. In 1964 Indonesian regular army units became involved in the conflict.

In May 1964 HMAS Sydney, the destroyers *Vampire*, *Vendetta* and *Duchess* and the frigate *Derwent* were sent to the area. Sydney had by then been converted to a fast troop transport and carried troops and equipment to Jesselton in North Borneo.

Six Ton class coastal minesweepers were also assigned for duties during Confrontation arriving in Malaysian waters in May 1964 - they comprised of HMA Ships *Curlew*, *Gull*, *Hawk*, *Ibis*, *Snipe* & *Teal*, initially their patrol duties were centred in Borneo.

National Service for a period of 2 years was introduced in Australia to commence in 1965 as a means of building the Army strength to counter a perceived threat from the Indonesian Confrontation and a developing situation in Vietnam. The first “Nasho” to serve in an Active Service area did so with 21 Construction Squadron RAE in Sabah in early 1966.





Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) War Memorial Foundation Inc.

National Patron: Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC (Retd)

About The Indonesian Confrontation cont'd



Late in 1965 HMAS Melbourne, Yarra and Parramatta moved into the conflict zone. In September and October of that year, Australian troops stationed on the Malayan peninsula were used in mopping-up operations against external attacks.

In January 1965, Australia agreed to send a battalion to Borneo under overall British command. In the same year the British Government permitted highly secret cross-border operations under the codename Claret. Uncertain about where the Commonwealth forces might strike next, the Indonesians devoted more of their resources to protecting their own positions and less on offensive operations. 3RAR arrived in Borneo in March 1965 and served in Sarawak until the end of July. They conducted extensive operations on both sides of the border involving some major contacts and landmine incidents.

Between April and August 1966 4RAR also served in Sarawak and operated covertly on the Indonesian side of the border. In addition to the infantry battalions, two squadrons of the Special Air Service (SAS), several artillery batteries, parties of the Royal Australian Engineers, and ships of the RAN were involved in Borneo and in surrounding waters. Several RAAF squadrons were also involved in the Confrontation.

The Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour lists the names of 22 Australians who lost their lives during the Indonesian Confrontation. Because of the sensitivity of the secret cross-border operations, the Confrontation received very little coverage in the Australian press. Indonesia and Malaysia signed a peace treaty in Bangkok in August 1966, ending the conflict.



Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) War Memorial Foundation Inc.

National Patron: Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC (Retd)

This was a guerrilla war fought in the Federation of Malaya which lasted from 1948 until 1960 and cost the lives of 44 Australians. The Malayan Emergency was a conflict fought between the UK, Commonwealth and other security forces against Communist insurgents led by Chin Peng in Malaya.

The Federation of Malaya, a federation of eleven states (nine Malay states plus two of the British Straits Settlements, Penang and Malacca), came into existence on 1 February 1948. Essentially, the Emergency began on 16 June 1948 when European plantation managers in Perak were executed by members of the Malayan Communist Party.

The British declared a State of Emergency in Perak on 18 June, and then enacted emergency measures country-wide from July.

It was an 'undeclared war': the rubber plantations and tin-mining industries urged the use of the term 'emergency' since their losses would not have been covered by Lloyd's insurers if it had been termed a 'war'. Amazingly, the battle was never branded a war due to insurance purposes. The Malayan Government officially declared the Emergency over on 31 July 1960. Continuing negotiations between Indonesia and Malaya ended the Confrontation, and the two sides signed a peace treaty in Bangkok in August 1966.

Twenty-two Australians were killed during Confrontation, seven of them on operations, and eight were wounded.

Why was it a Secret War?





Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) War Memorial Foundation Inc.

National Patron: Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC (Retd)

Australian Casualties

The Australian War Memorial records the following numbers of Australian Defence Force personnel killed whilst serving in the respective theatres:

- Malayan Emergency 44 (RAN 7 Army 27 and RAAF 10)
- Indonesian Confrontation 22 (Army 21, RAAF 1)

The numbers injured from, or disabled by active service in both theatres is known to be considerable, and of course many have since died from medical legacies of their service discharged for this country over 50 years ago.

Overall Commonwealth casualties from the Malayan Emergency were 1,961 and 425 from the Indonesian Confrontation.



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Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) War Memorial Foundation Inc.

National Patron: Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC (Retd)

The sacrifice of 44 Australians, among the 1,800 Malayan and Commonwealth troops who lost their lives in this 12 year conflict, was not in vain, serving to uphold the sovereignty of Malaya allowing the successful attainment of independence on 31 August 1957, and the eventual creation of Malaysia on 16 September 1963.

After some 47 years since the Indonesian Confrontation was declared over, and after around 10 years of submissions, in 2014 the Australian War Memorial mounted a new Roll of Honour for the soldiers who were Killed in Action, Died of Wounds, or, Died of Injuries, during the prescribed period of June 1962 - August 1966, the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia.

Of great importance to the members from 111 LAA Bty RAA, was the confirmation that Gunner Stephen Danks and Bombardier Barry Algar were properly recorded.

Recognition to Date





Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) War Memorial Foundation Inc.

National Patron: Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC (Retd)

Words from Barry Algar's daughter

"As a child growing up, nothing was known about these two campaigns and I was often bullied and called a liar when I said my father had died on a tour of duty in Malaya. In fact most thought I was lying to cover up that he died in Vietnam... or in fact that my father never existed and hence I was called a 'fatherless child'.

"The inclusion of Dad on the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour in 2014 has provided credibility to his service and given our family recognition of his loss.

"The small exhibit that details the Malayan Emergency and Indonesian Confrontation at the AWM has provided me with information about Dad's service as Mum chose not to talk about it due to the heartache the discussions brought on.

"A Memorial within the precinct of the AWM will provide further education to all Australians of the service of those during the Malayan Emergency and Indonesian Confrontation. It can be a secret war no more and needs to be acknowledged as part of Australia's military history, not just through a Memorial but on ANZAC Day and with a heightened awareness around Malay Borneo Day on August 31."

Vicki Tiegs (nee Algar)





Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) War Memorial Foundation Inc.

National Patron: Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC (Retd)

How You Can Help

To date, the Foundation has raised \$45,000 towards the target of \$60,000 for a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be developed with the Australian War Memorial. Once signed, the project scope and design process commences.

Fundraising for the Memorial will then commence in earnest with hundreds of thousands of dollars required to create the Memorial within the AWM precinct. When the project design is agreed, a formal funding schedule will be developed, based on the total project budget and cash required to meet contract milestones. Once the design is agreed upon, the Commonwealth Government will consider a grant application. Until that time, accumulated donations to the AWM account are quarantined and applied for this purpose only.

We ask that you give what you can to assist us in reaching our \$60,000 target for the signing of the MOU.

Any donations beyond that will assist in creating the Memorial to recognise those that served and died during the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation.





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Fundraising Governance

Allocation of donations

All donations received by the Australian War Memorial for the FESR memorial will be separately recorded against a specific funds centre to ensure contributions are quarantined and applied for this purpose only.

Tax deductibility of donations

Donations made to the Australian War Memorial over \$2 are tax deductible, and receipts will be issued where donor contact details are provided by the FESR War Memorial Foundation Inc. or direct to the AWM.

Donations collected by the Foundation

The Australian War Memorial will accept donations for the FESR memorial via the Foundation provided:

- they are made for the express purpose of the construction of the permanent FESR memorial at the Australian War Memorial, and
- no material benefit was provided to the donor in return for their contribution.
- An interim receipt will be issued by the Foundation until the donation is transferred to the AWM account.

Transfer of donations to the Australian War Memorial

Donations received via the FESR War Memorial Foundation Inc. will be transferred to the Australian War Memorial in the financial year they were made by the donor.

Budget status

The status of the total project budget and donations transferred will be reported to the Project Steering Group, in accordance with the governance arrangements negotiated at the time project budget is confirmed. Where transfers are made in advance of the project officially commencing, the Australian War Memorial's CFO can provide updates on the status of the project budget to the Foundation.





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CONFIRMATION OF DONATION

I/We wish to donate to the FESR Memorial which acknowledges those who served our country during the Malayan Emergency and Indonesian Confrontation.

I wish to donate as indicated below (please tick appropriate box):

- ☐ Over \$10,000. Please nominate amount.....
- ☐ \$5,000 - \$9,999. Please nominate amount
- ☐ \$1,000 - \$4,999. Please nominate amount
- ☐ \$100 - \$999. Please nominate amount
- ☐ Under \$100 Please nominate amount

Donations can be made to the following account:

Bank: Bendigo Bank

Account Name: FESR War Memorial Fund Donations

BSB: 633 000

Account Number: 137775318

Reference: Donor's name.

Once you have deposited your funds, please send this completed document to the FESR Foundation Secretary **Ian Davenport** via the below options.

Email: maindav@bigpond.com

Post: FESR War Memorial Foundation Inc., PO Box 670, Jamison Centre ACT 2614

Should you have any further queries, please call Ian Davenport on Landline 02 6258 8988 or mobile 0427 225670.

Donations over \$2 made to the FESR War Memorial Foundation Inc or direct to the Australian War Memorial are tax deductible and receipts will be issued where donor contact details are provided.

Individual or Company Name:.....

Signature:.....

Print Name: Date:.....

Title:.....

Postal Address:.....

..... P/code:.....

Phone Landline (direct):..... Mobile:.....

Email:.....

☐ Please tick this box if you wish to receive updates on the progression of the project.



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The FESR War Memorial Foundation Committee are working together to help raise awareness and funds to establish a Memorial within the Australian War Memorial precinct.

We thank you for considering our request for financial support. Together we can deliver a Memorial that reminds Australians of the service of the men and women who served in the Malayan Emergency and Indonesian Confrontation.

Should you require any further information please either revert back to the committee member who originally contacted you or email the Foundation President or Secretary:

President:

Mr Les Bailey

Email: lephilis@lvv.com.au

Mob. 0411 143443 / 03 9780 2310

Secretary:

Mr Ian Davenport

Email: maindav@bigpond.com

Mobile: 0427 225 670

More information can also be found at www.fesrmemorial.org.au

Thank You

