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THE OBSERVATION POST

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

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



SARAWAK LIAISON

As part of the planning for the combined Australia-New Zealand commemoration in Sarawak in August 2023, Paul Rosenzweig and Don Cameron, with their wives, made a private trip to Kuching as a reconnaissance and liaison visit.

The party travelled to Sekolah Kebangsaan Serabak school in the Bau District, where our President planted a Calamansi Tree – beside the Red Water Apple Tree ('Pohon Jambuh Air Merah') which had been planted by Brian Selby in 2019. The liaison party are pictured here standing with this tree, which is now some 15 feet tall and bearing fruit. Arrangements were kindly made by Fiona Marcus Raja (right), Chair of the Sarawak Heritage Development Committee, Sarawak Tourism Federation.





NOTICES

RAP

Alan Davies
Digger Digance
Jenny Macintosh OAM
Wendy Organ

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Public Affairs Officer

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Ceremonial Officer

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THANK YOU

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

BRANCH UPDATES

Branch President Paul Rosenzweig and Vice-President Don Cameron recently met with Ian Smith, Chair of the RSL (SA) Anzac Day Committee. Ian provided a briefing on a project the RSL is currently undertaking to update the Post-WW2 Memorial on North Terrace in Adelaide – to fix errors and include contemporary campaigns. The aim is to unveil the refurbished memorial at the Dawn Service on Anzac Day 2023.

Following the very successful reconnaissance and liaison visit to Sarawak, on 30 September Paul and Don called on Tony Zappia MP to brief him on the outcomes of the trip and to thank him personally for his ongoing support.

On Monday 17 October, Paul and Don joined an information session hosted by Matt Burnell MP, Federal Member for Spence, in which the Minister for Veterans' Affairs the Honourable Matt Keogh MP outlined plans for the proposed new northern suburbs Veterans' Hub.

There has been much follow-on correspondence since the trip, with documents being sent to the Sarawak Veterans' Association and the Borneo Cultures Museum, and we have been contacted by a Malaysian television service to do an interview with Don.

On 29 September, a story on Don's 'reunion' with the family of Tracker Unchat was published in the Sarawak online news portal 'Dayak Daily':

<https://dayakdaily.com/australian-confrontation-veteran-reunites-with-iban-trackers-family/>

On 18 October, a second story was published in Sarawak:

<https://dayakdaily.com/iban-trackers-honoured-in-three-commemorative-ceremonies-by-australian-veterans/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>Date of interest:</i>	<i>Remembrance Day: Friday 11 November</i>
<i>November meeting:</i>	<i>1100h Friday 18 November 2022 Avoca Hotel, followed by lunch</i>
<i>Christmas Lunch:</i>	<i>12 for 1230h Saturday 10 December 2022 Hills Room East Function Room, Club Marion, 262 Sturt Road, Marion Three-course set Christmas Lunch menu; purchase drinks from a private bar</i>
<i>No 604 Squadron:</i>	<i>Sunday 18 December End of Year Parade, Hampstead Barracks; President and VP to present certificates</i>
<i>Date of interest:</i>	<i>Australia Day: Thursday 26 January 2023</i>
<i>February meeting:</i>	<i>1100h Friday 17 February 2023 Avoca Hotel, followed by lunch</i>



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



Dato Lim Kian Hock OAM

We offer our heartiest congratulations to our good friend Dato Lim Kian Hock, who has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (Honorary):

"For service to Australia-Malaysia relations, particularly to commemorating the role played by Australians in Sarawak, Malaysia, during World War II".



The award was announced in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette no G582 of 8 July 2022.

Dato Lim played a significant role in establishing the Sarawak Heroes Cemetery to include the graves of Iban Trackers from Sarawak who were killed in action during the Malayan Emergency, previously buried at various sites in Malaya and Singapore.

Dato Lim has also played a key role in acknowledging the service of Australians and New Zealanders during Confrontation.



Dato Lim speaking at the combined service of commemoration in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park on 29 August 2019.

Commonwealth of Australia Gazette
GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Published by the Commonwealth of Australia

HONORARY MEDAL (OAM) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

Dato LIM Kian HOCK, Malaysia
For service to Australia-Malaysia relations, particularly to commemorating the role played by Australians in Sarawak, Malaysia, during World War II.

By His Excellency's command


Paul Singer MVO
Official Secretary to the Governor-General

Government House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
8 July 2022

Government Notices Gazette C2022G00582 08/07/2022

AWARDED AN HONORARY MEDAL (OAM)
IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

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For service to Australia-Malaysia relations, particularly to commemorating the role played by Australians in Sarawak, Malaysia, during World War II.

Dato Lim Kian Hock's passion and advocacy for bilateral relations between Malaysia and Australia has contributed to the relationship between the two countries, particularly in the sphere of military service.

For decades, Dato Lim has dedicated himself to commemorating the Australian Armed Forces, and those who served alongside them, between 1942 and 1945 in World War II. His work in collaborating, directing and developing the Sarawak Tourism Federation, History and Heritage Development Committee, is a reflection of his larger vision of documenting this history and paying homage to all the Allied Prisoners of War and the Australian Army Liberators who entered Sarawak during the occupation to finally bring freedom to local people. Moreover, in 2013 he campaigned and advocated for the permanent recognition of the Australian Z-Units for their gallantry, with the support of the Bario Rurum Kelabit Committee and Communities, the Malaysian Armed Forces, the Sarawak Tourism Federation (STF) Heritage Development Committee, the late Jack Tredrea, the commando's families and friends, and all well-wishers.

Dato Lim is held in high esteem by Australian World War II veterans and their families who acknowledge his efforts in "keeping the spirit of the ANZAC alive in Sarawak." Without Dato Lim's dedication and commitment, and the strong support of the Committee, the STF Heritage Development Committee, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Sarawak Museum, Kuching City Councils of Kuching South and Kuching North, the Royal Malaysian Police, the Malaysian Armed Forces and their veterans, Government Departments, and Agencies, the Borneo Exhibitions Group Inc.(BEG) W.A, authors of wartime history and all well-wishers, much of Sarawak wartime history, including the Australian war component, would have been forgotten and lost.

On the basis of his longstanding service to Australian-Malaysian relations, Dato Lim Kian Hock has been formally recognised with an honorary Medal in the General Division of the Order of Australia (OAM).



Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day

In honouring the service of Australian and Commonwealth Service personnel, we shifted the focus slightly from generic tributes to a more select group including veterans and family members, honouring specific named personnel. One of our guests at the ceremony said:

It was an excellent service! I found the wreath laying section very moving. You made it mean so much more by sharing the individual stories. Thank you to everyone for your contributions in making it a great commemoration!



Air Force Cadets from No 601 Squadron (Keswick Barracks) and No 604 Squadron (Hampstead Barracks) supported the ceremony. We received the following feedback on the Cadet participation: *Absolutely brilliant to see the catafalque party using the SMLEs . . . that the cadets have learnt the drills using those firearms is simply fantastic.*





OPERATION 'HORNBILL 2022'

The reconnaissance and liaison visit to Sarawak at the beginning of September was extremely valuable, in establishing contacts and visiting likely venues for our activities next year.

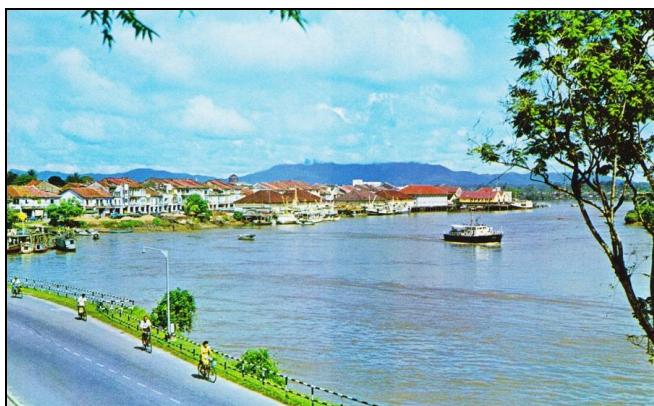
With the easing of COVID restrictions, tourism in Sarawak is set to flourish.

We strongly recommend planning now to join our reunion and commemoration service in Kuching in August 2023.

This would be an ideal opportunity to bring your grandchildren with you – to see where you served, and to set a foundation for future reunion visits.



Don and Paul outside the Hornbill Room at the Sarawak Club.



In 1965, Private Don Cameron ('B' Company, 3RAR) bought this postcard showing the Sarawak River and the Kuching Riverfront, with the hills of the Matang Range in the background.



Don Cameron in 2022 holding his original 1965 postcard, against a backdrop of the Sarawak River and the southern bank of the modern Kuching Riverfront.



Paul and Don were hosted on a tour of the new Borneo Cultures Museum which displays Sarawak's rich cultural heritage.



The Borneo Cultures Museum in Kuching includes a post-WW2 section with displays relating to the Malayan Emergency and Confrontation.



Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park

Our commemoration service and tree-planting ceremony held in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching on Friday 9 September received this write-up in 'The Borneo Post' of Saturday 10 September 2022:

<https://www.theborneopost.com/2022/09/10/special-service-held-in-honour-of-australian-veterans-association-chief-in-kuching>



Special service honours late NMBVAA branch chief

KUCHING: The South Australian branch of the National Malaya Borneo Veterans Association of Australia (NMBVAA) held a special service at the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park here yesterday, to pay tribute for former president Brian Selby (1945-2022).

Arranged by the Sarawak Tourism Federation Heritage Development Committee, the service involved a ceremony whereby a tree was planted in memory of Selby, who was the president of NMBVAA South Australia from 2002 to 2006, and again from 2010 until his passing at home in Adelaide on April 15 this year.

He was 76.

"Brian Selby had visited Kuching in the past, and arranged major veterans' reunions and commemoration ceremonies in 2016 and 2019.

"The party will place tributes, including one from the widow, Mrs Christine Selby," said the branch in a statement.

Among those present yesterday were Honorary Consul for the Australian Consulate in Kuching Datuk Philip Ting, NMBVAA president Major Paul A Rosenzweig (Rtd) and vice president Don Cameron, as well as Sarawak Tourism Federation Heritage Development Committee chairman Fiona Marcus Raja.



Handout photo shows (from left) Ting, Rosenzweig, Fiona and Cameron during the special service held to honour the memory of the late Brian Selby.



Batu Lintang Liberation

Our liaison party held a commemorative service and wreath-laying ceremony at Batu Lintang Memorial Square in Kuching on Sunday 11 September 2022 to honour those who died in Batu Lintang POW Camp during WW2, to honour the men of the 9th Australian Division who liberated the camp, and to recall with thanks Brigadier Tom Eastick DSO, Commander Kuching Force, from South Australia – later Sir Thomas Eastick CMG DSO ED JP, and a Companion of the Order of the Star of Sarawak.

On 11 September 1945, on board HMAS *Kapunda*, Brigadier Tom Eastick accepted the surrender of the Japanese forces in the Kuching area from their commander, Major-General Hiyo Yamamura. Later that day in the main square of the camp, Eastick accepted the sword of Lieutenant-Colonel Suga. Prepared 'Death Orders' were found in the camp – its timely liberation prevented the murder of over 2,000 men, women and children.

For the ceremony, the SA/NT Branch party was joined by Datuk Wee Hong Seng, Mayor of the City of Kuching South. We were privileged to also welcome Colonel Ratnam (ret'd) and Lieutenant-Colonel Fabian Wong (ret'd), representing the Veterans' Association of Sarawak.

Our ceremony received wide coverage in the Sarawak print and television media, including this write-up in the 'New Sarawak Tribune' of Monday 12 September 2022:

<https://www.newsarawaktribune.com.my/aussie-veterans-commemorate-batu-lintang-liberation/>

Aussie veterans commemorate Batu Lintang liberation

KUCHING: The South Australian Branch of the National Malaya Borneo Veterans Association of Australia (NMBVAA) visited the Batu Lintang Memorial on the anniversary of the liberation of Batu Lintang prisoners of war (PoWs), yesterday (Sept 11). The visit was also to a tribute to Brigadier Tom Eastick DSO, Commander Kuching Force, who came from South Australia. NMBVAA's president Major Paul Rosenzweig said the association has set four approaches to the commemoration namely; 'Remember the fallen'; 'Honour the living'; 'Remember Malaysia' and 'Look to the future'. "The approaches to commemoration include respecting and honouring the fallen, we support our veterans and their families, we remember the friendship with Malaysia and we also look into the future. "The commemoration also includes sponsorship to three schools – SK Serabak, SK Suba Buan and SK Stass," said Rosenzweig when met by the media here.

He added that the three schools

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were where the Australian troops served during Confrontation period and the association will travel to Bau on Sept 13 to hand over the financial aid.

In a related matter, Rosenzweig also said that a commemoration service will be held at the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in August 2023.

"We are coming back next year in August to have a ceremony where the Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Malaysian veterans all come together to commemorate the fallen," he said.

The visit also saw the association pay tribute to those who served and made the ultimate sacrifice during the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian-Malayan Confrontation (1963-1966).

In 2016, the South Australian branch of NMBVAA installed a

commemorative plaque in the Sarawak Heroes

Memorial Park. This plaque lists the names of the Australians who died during the Confrontation period. Also present were NMBVAA's vice president Don Cameron, Australian Honorary Consul to

Sarawak Datuk Philip Ting, Kuching South City Council (MBKS) Mayor Datuk Wee Hong Seng and chairman of the Sarawak Tourism Federation (STF) Fiona Marcus Raja.

WEE (centre), Cameron (front, right) and Rosenzweig (behind, right) observe a minute of silence.

THE war veterans at the Batu Lintang Memorial.



Left: Colonel Ratnam (ret'd) served with the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ, 1992-94).

Right: Lieutenant-Colonel Fabian Wong served with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM, 1992-95).

Both have been decorated by both the Federal and Sarawak State governments, and both wear the *Pingat Jasa Malaysia*.



At the Batu Lintang Historical Museum after the commemorative service on Sunday 11 September 2022, left to right: Colonel Ratnam (ret'd); SA/NT Branch Vice-President Don Cameron; President Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd); Datuk Wee Hong Seng, Mayor of the City of Kuching South; Lieutenant-Colonel Fabian Wong (ret'd); Datuk Dr Philip Ting AM PGBK, Australian Honorary Consul to Sarawak; Fiona Marcus Raja, Chair of the Sarawak Heritage Development Committee, Sarawak Tourism Federation.



Sekolah Kebangsaan

On Tuesday 13 September, our recon and liaison party visited Sekolah Kebangsaan Serabak in Serikin.

During our visit to the school on 30 August 2019, then Branch President Brian Selby had planted a Red Water Apple Tree ('Pohon Jambuh Air Merah'). We visited that tree, and found that it had grown substantially and was already bearing fruit.

The visit was hosted by Ms Magdalena anak Joseph Nyadi (second from left) and Mr Lipeng Nyogen (second from right), both English Teachers.



President Paul Rosenzweig planted a Calamansi Tree on behalf of the SA/NT Branch, assisted by Vice-President Don Cameron and Mr Lipeng Nyogen.

We are extremely grateful for the generous support of Datuk Dr Philip Ting AM, the Australian Honorary Consul to Sarawak (second from the right) who contributed to our donations, and Fiona Marcus, Chair of the Sarawak Heritage Development Committee, Sarawak Tourism Federation (right) who made most the arrangements for our various visits.

New SARAWAK TRIBUNE

And the party will travel to SK Serabak in the Bau District on Sept 13 In the branch's approach to commemoration, two other aspects are 'Remember Malaysia' and 'Look to the future'.

The SA branch of National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia (NMBVAA) has adopted three schools in the areas where Australian troops served during Confrontation. The president and vice-president will pass over a financial donation to each of the schools – SK Serabak, SK Suba Buan and SK Stass.

In this way the branch remembers the support of the Sarawak people in 1965 and 1966.

The party will also make a donation to the Sarawak Tourism Federation for the development of a memorial park in Kampung Gumbang, the first in a series of sites which will comprise the Sarawak Defenders Heritage Trail.

The liaison visit to Sarawak received extensive media coverage: this is from the 'New Sarawak Tribune' (online) of Saturday 10 September 2022.





Kampung Gumbang

This is the proposed site for the first park which will comprise the 'Sarawak Defenders Historical Trail'.

This Trail is being developed by the Sarawak Tourism Federation at a series of key sites near the Sarawak-Kalimantan border which were held by the Australian rifle companies in 1965-66.

These giant boulders in Kampung Gumbang marked the path to the Australian forward defensive position named 'Bukit Knuckle', which was occupied by 'B' Company 3RAR from March to July 1965.



Bau District

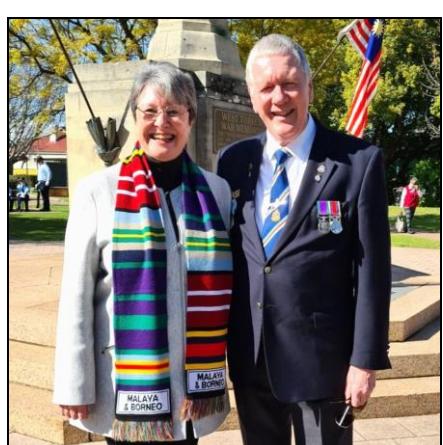
On Tuesday 13 September, our liaison party called on Ms Anielia Siam, the Bau District Officer (Mayor) and Chair of the Bau District Council. She is the daughter of an Iban Tracker, Siam anak Ngoyang.

Bau District is near the Sarawak-Kalimantan border. During Confrontation, Commonwealth patrol bases were based in Bau District with the aim of protecting Kuching by defending the approaches to Bau – which was seen as "the key to the door of Kuching".

Deputy Minister for Tourism

On Tuesday 13 September, our liaison party met with Yang Berhormat Datuk Sebastian Ting, the Deputy Minister for Tourism for Sarawak.

We presented him with one of our Malaya & Borneo scarves, as well as our donation to go towards the development of a memorial park in Kampung Gumbang, the first in the series of sites which will ultimately comprise the Sarawak Defenders Heritage Trail.



NMBVAA MERCHANDISE

Proceeds from the sale of our NMBVAA merchandise go towards our donations to the three schools in the Bau district of Sarawak and the 'Sarawak Defenders Historical Trail'.

The Malaya-Borneo scarves are very high quality, and excellent value at \$33 each, plus postage if you need it mailed to you. Stubby coolers are available, in the ribbon colours of the *Pingat Jasa Malaysia*, for just \$10 each.

We also have badges, bullion blazer badges and other memorabilia.

Please contact Mal White: malwhite@mail.com



Iban Princess Beer

On Saturday 30 July, Branch President Paul Rosenzweig attended a Malaysian Night in Tawa, north of Wellington hosted by the Malayan Veterans Association and the New Zealand Malaysian Society.

One of the highlights of the night was the locally-made 'Iban Princess' beer, produced by a local craft brewery. This was the initiative of Sarawakian Laura Munan, who is of New Zealand origin but has lived in Kuching for a number of years.

Laura grew up in Kuching but returned to NZ to complete her tertiary studies at the school of music at Victoria University in Wellington. During this time, while working as a bartender, she created a unique beer that would pay homage to her Iban roots. *"That is how 'The Iban Princess' was born!"* she said.

The Iban Princess beer incorporates local flavours such as pandan and lemongrass, giving the beer a fresh and tangy taste.



The Iban Princess - Borneo Ale was dreamt up through the Fortune Favours staff experimental series by our team member Laura Munan. Inspired by her Iban heritage, this beer pays homage to the native people of Malaysian Borneo, drawing inspiration from the local cuisine.

A clean, crisp and refreshing Cream Ale infused with Lemongrass and Pandan. The Lemongrass gives a zesty lemon kick while the Pandan finishes things off with subtle green banana and earthy vanilla characters. Incredibly refreshing and a perfect food matching beer.

A one-litre can of Iban Princess beer is on offer as a raffle prize at the SA/NT Branch Christmas Lunch on Saturday 10 December.

Jenny Macintosh OAM

On 6 August, we held a very successful Annual Dinner at the Himalayan Kitchen Tibetan and Nepalese Restaurant in North Adelaide. During the dinner, various conversations led to talk of flying experiences – of which Jenny Macintosh OAM has had many. These conversations included a promise of a flight in a 1918-model Tiger Moth.

This offer came to fruition recently.

Jenny said the memories came flooding back as soon as she got into the cockpit.

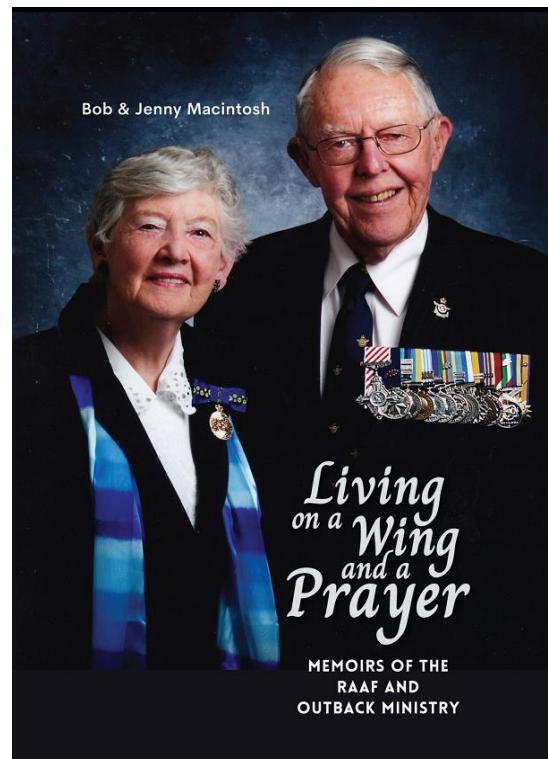
She remembered all the controls, and was so excited to be able to take to the skies again.

The weather was great, and Jenny and her daughter Mandi said it was a magical experience.

Meanwhile, Jenny has released a 'double autobiography' written by herself and her late husband, Wing Commander Bob Macintosh AFC OAM MID – *Living on a Wing and a Prayer; Memoirs of the RAAF and Outback Ministry*.

Among his many and varied exploits, in 1965-66 Bob completed an operational tour flying the Iroquois helicopter on sorties deploying Gurkhas and Australian soldiers into the Malayan jungles, and was awarded the *Pingat Jasa Malaysia* medal.

The hardcover book was published by DoctorZed Publishing, and is available online, via Kindle and through most bookstores.





Waikou National Army Museum

The Waikou National Army Museum Te Mata Toa on the North Island of New Zealand includes a very good display documenting New Zealand's military contribution to the Malayan Emergency and Confrontation.

The NZ Special Air Service first deployed to counter the activities of the Communist Terrorists (CTs), followed by the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the New Zealand Regiment. The Royal New Zealand Air Force conducted strike missions and supply-dropping operations.

During Confrontation, in 1964 the 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment deployed to the Malay Peninsula and then to Borneo. A detachment from the NZ Special Air Service also served on Borneo in 1965-65.

After Confrontation ended in 1966, New Zealand stationed an infantry battalion in the region, first in Malaysia and afterwards in Singapore. This battalion came home in 1989.

Read more about the National Army Museum here:

<https://www.armymuseum.co.nz/>

The Confrontation display includes uniform items, an Air Supply Drop Marker flag, an Iban quiver with darts, and a traditional *klewang* bladed sword/machete.

Find out more about the Emergency and Confrontation display here:

<https://www.armymuseum.co.nz/visit/exhibitions/malaya/>

Approximately 4,000 New Zealand servicemen served in Malaya/Malaysia between 1948 and 1966, of whom 20 lost their lives on operational service. Some records quote 33 deaths.



MALAYAN EMERGENCY Roll of Honour – November

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.

2/8234 Corporal Duncan MacVicar
2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
2 November 1956

Lest we Forget

CONFRONTATION Roll of Honour – November

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.

13339 Private Francis Noel O'Sullivan
3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
14 November 1963

Lest we Forget

