



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 3 – MARCH 2025



NMBVAA ANNIVERSARY

From sharing the camaraderie at our Christmas Lunch (above), we have now marked the 29th anniversary of the formation of a unique Australian national body – the “National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association (Australia) Incorporated”, formed on 29 February 1996.

After the first national AGM, South Australian members gathered on Wednesday 31 June 1997 to form a state branch, with some familiar names among the attendees at that inaugural meeting including Jim Deering and Don Cameron.

In 2000, the national body began the process of changing from the ‘Company’ model to an incorporated body, and this was finally achieved on 10 May 2002 with the creation of the “National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association Australia Incorporated”.



NOTICES

BRANCH COMMITTEE 2025

Paul Rosenzweig OAM
*President, Secretary
Public Affairs Officer*

Don Cameron
*Vice-President
Ceremonial Officer*

Paul Bayliss

Jenny Cameron
Treasurer

Vicki Crannaford
Assistant Treasurer

Di Davies

Beverley Dubois
Minutes Secretary

Jeff Hiscock

Mal White
Merchandise Officer

* * *

Major Quentin Castle
Branch Chaplain

THANK YOU

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

BRANCH UPDATES 'KEEPING IN THE LOOP'

Thanks to everyone who attended our first general meeting for the year at the Maid of Auckland Hotel, it's great to see the year off to a good start.

Just a reminder that subscriptions for 2025 are now due, and your contributions in support of the SA/NT Branch are greatly appreciated. Looking ahead, remember that financial members will receive a cashback bonus at the 2025 Christmas Lunch.

This newsletter's 'Medal of the Month' feature looks at the General Service Medal 1918-1964. This is the 'GSM' we are all very familiar with, which was awarded for service by members of the Army and Air Force during the Malayan Emergency. But the medal was actually instituted some three decades earlier, by King George V on 19 January 1923, and backdated to cover service after the end of World War 1. This feature looks at an early GSM awarded to a Gurkha for service in Kurdistan in northern Mesopotamia in 1919 and in Mesopotamia in 1919-20 (Mesopotamia became 'Iraq' in 1921).

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

We are also planning to hold a small private ceremony to honour our surviving veterans of the Malayan Emergency. More to follow on this.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| March meeting: | 1115h Friday 21 March
Maid of Auckland Hotel, followed by lunch |
| April meeting: | 1115h Friday 11 April (<i>to avoid Good Friday</i>)
Maid of Auckland Hotel, followed by lunch |
| Anzac Day: | Friday 25 April
<i>The 110th anniversary of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli</i> |
| May meeting: | 1115h Friday 16 May
Maid of Auckland Hotel, followed by lunch |
| Malayan Emergency: | 1100h Saturday 31 May
<i>West Torrens War Memorial Gardens
To honour our surviving veterans of the Malayan Emergency</i> |
| June meeting: | 1115h Friday 20 June
Maid of Auckland Hotel, followed by lunch |



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



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



2025 Australia Day Honours Sunday 26 January 2025

Congratulations to Colonel Peter Scott DSO OAM (ret'd), who has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), "For service to veterans and their families".

Peter Scott served during the Korean War with the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment from 19 July 1951 to 19 July 1952.

He is noted for his leadership at Hill 317 in the Battle of Maryang San during Operation 'Commando' in October 1951. He was Mentioned-in-Dispatches for his 'coolness, efficiency, ability & courage of high order' in Korea (*The London Gazette*, 3 October 1952).

He served in South Vietnam in October 1969, December 1970, and then from February to October 1971. On 1 September 1972 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for service as Commanding Officer of 3RAR.



Colonel Scott at the SA National War Memorial on Thursday 27 July 2023 marking Korean Veterans' Day and the 70th anniversary of the signing of the 'Korean Armistice Agreement' which ended the fighting in the Korean War.

Defence Organisations Luncheon Tuesday 4 February 2025

Our President was recently invited to a luncheon at Government House hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia and our Branch Patron, and Mr Rod Bunten. The purpose was to bring together organisations related to the Australian Defence Force and veterans. It was a very enjoyable and productive luncheon gathering, and all organisations present agreed to the Official Secretary sharing our contact details to bring about some synergy in our operations.

The first opportunity for this was the ability for our Branch to share information regarding plans being made by the Department of Veterans' Affairs to mark the 75th Anniversary of the start of Australia's involvement in the Malayan Emergency (31 May 1950). DVA plans to hold a national commemoration to acknowledge this, in conjunction with marking Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day, by hosting a ceremony at Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra on Sunday 31 August 2025. Ian Davenport from our national committee is representing us on the Malayan Emergency Consultative Committee (MECC) which is coordinating arrangements.

We have started communicating through these like-minded organisations to give notice to veterans, and families of Malayan Emergency veterans, so they can make arrangements to attend in Canberra if they wish. Further details will be made available by DVA through the VETAFFAIRS newsletter.

Separate to this official commemoration, we plan to conduct a small personalised service to give acknowledgement to our Branch's surviving Malayan Emergency veterans. More to follow on this.

VICE-REGAL

On Tuesday morning, at Prospect, Her Excellency the Governor and Mr Bunten visited Prescott College, where they addressed and took questions from students.

Afterwards, at Government House, the Governor and Mr Bunten hosted a luncheon with patronage organisations linked to the Defence Force. Guests were

Ms Annette Moore, chair, Combined Ex Services Mess; Mr John Godwin, chair, Military and Emergency Services Health Australia; Brigadier Michael Burgess, president, Defence Force Welfare Association – South Australia Branch; Mrs Helen Fischer, president, South Australian Women's Memorial Playing Fields Trust; Major Brett Grosser (Rtd), president, Association of Totally and

Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Service Men and Women; Ms Diana Hill, president, Navy League of Australia – South Australia Division; Mrs Jan Milham, president Australian War Widows (SA); Mr Lawrence Ng, state president, Air Force Association South Australian Division; Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP (Rtd), president, National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc (SA & NT Branch);

Mrs Heather Willis, president, Legacy Club of South Australia and Broken Hill; Mr Timothy Keffe, deputy chair, Trojan's Trek; and Mr Andrew Mannix, past chair, Military and Emergency Services Health Australia.

In the evening, the Governor hosted a reception to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia.



**Senator Andrew McLachlan CSC
Friday 21 February 2025**

At our February meeting we returned to the Maid of Auckland, and welcomed back a large number of our members who were able to attend. It was a cheerful reunion after what seemed like a very long holiday hiatus.

Quite a number were unable to join us due to illness or recent or impending surgery. We send you all our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

We were very pleased to be visited by Senator Andrew McLachlan CSC, Senator for South Australia and Deputy President of the Australian Senate.

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

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

This portrait will be very much appreciated by our members.



We are very grateful to Senator Andrew McLachlan CSC for presenting the Branch with this framed portrait of His Majesty King Charles III.





CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION

3rd East Anglians. Reginald Steers from West Sussex wrote to us: *"I had many great friends in 3RAR in Malaya during the fifties and sixties.....Where are they all now?"*.

Reg served with the East Anglian Regiment on the Malay Peninsula. The 3rd East Anglians came from Dortmund, West Germany in 1959 for duty in the Emergency, and served with the 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Group until 1962, then serving in Northern Ireland.

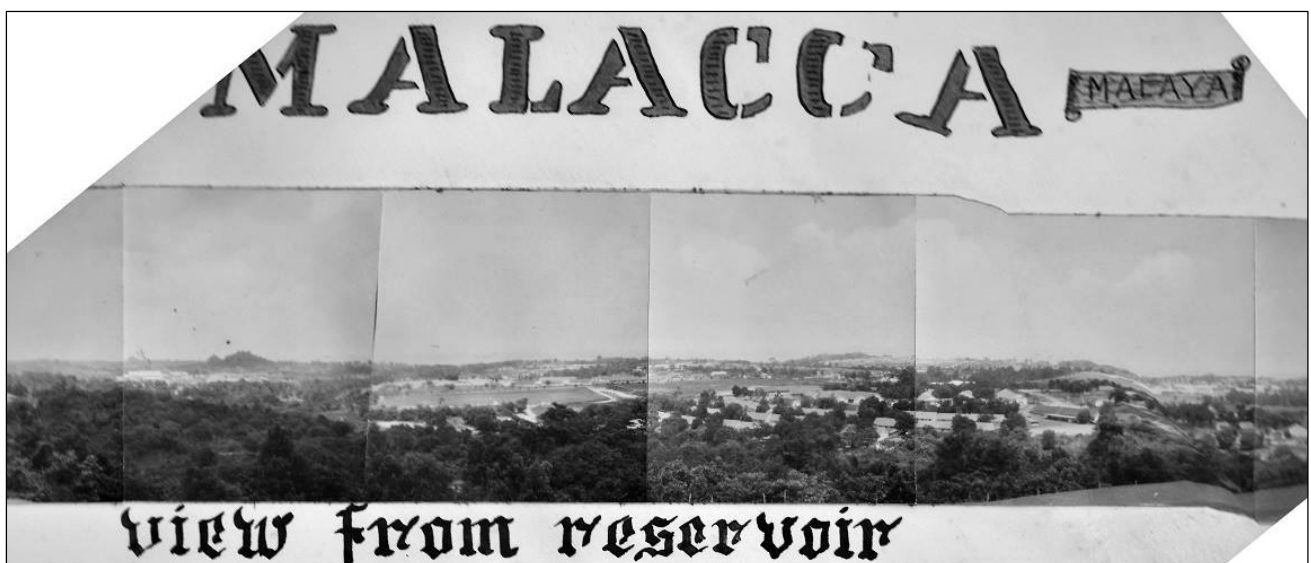
Reg recalls joining 3RAR for operations around Ipoh, Perak in late 1959 before everyone moved down to Terendak Camp. He remembers Vic Byquire from Terendak Camp, Ray Bishop from Terendak Defence Platoon, and other mates from 208 (Commonwealth) Signals Squadron.

Terendak Camp. Former Corporal (later Acting-Sergeant) Bill Lagas and Mrs Isabel Lagas have previously shared images regarding 3RAR's period of duty at Terendak Camp. The Australian battalions in Malaya were first stationed at Minden Barracks on Penang Island.

Bukit Terendak in the Malay state of Malacca was later chosen to be the 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Group base, located on the west coast, about 23km north of the state capital of Malacca.

The camp was fully occupied by mid-1960.

Dato Lim Kian Hock OAM. Late last year Dato Lim and his son Wilfred visited the Museum on the site of the former Hỏa Lò Prison in Hanoi. During the Vietnam War this old prison was used by North Vietnam to house US prisoners of war – it came to be known to American POWs as the 'Hanoi Hilton'.



Terendak Camp in July 1963 (courtesy Bill Lagas): the camp was built by the British, Australian and New Zealand governments from June 1957, and the first units moved into Terendak Camp in late 1959. 2RAR was based here between October 1961 and August 1963, and 3RAR from July 1963.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION

Stass visitors. We received this report from our friends at SK Stass in January:

“Today we have visitor from the daughter of British Army veteran. Her father, John Simpson was here during confrontation 1965-1966”.

A troop from 40 Royal Marine Commando established the first post in Stass in late 1963. They were followed by a troop from 42 Royal Marine Commando in 1964, and then a platoon of Gurkhas.

7 Platoon of ‘B’ Company, 1st Green Jackets served here from July 1964, followed by 9 Platoon of ‘C’ Company, 1st Green Jackets in October 1964.



They were followed by a rifle platoon from the 1st Battalion, 7th Duke of Edinburgh’s Own Gurkha Rifles in 1964-65. ‘A’ Company, 3RAR (March to July 1965) established the post as a rifle company defensive position. They were followed by a rifle company from the 2nd Battalion, 10th Princess Mary’s Own Gurkha Rifles (1965-66), a rifle company from the 1st Battalion, 10th PMO Gurkha Rifles (1966), ‘B’ Company, 4RAR (April to September 1966) and ‘D’ Company, 1st Malaysian Renjers (from September 1965).

New Zealand High Commissioner. The New Zealand High Commission in Kuala Lumpur has reported that their incoming High Commissioner to Malaysia is His Excellency Michael Wehi Mailitonga Walsh.

His Excellency Michael Walsh presented his credentials to His Majesty the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong on 28 January 2025 (pictured right).

The 17th and current Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King of Malaysia) is Ibrahim Iskandar of Johor. He was elected on 26 October 2023 at a special meeting of the Conference of Rulers.

He took the oath of office and was sworn in at the Istana Negara on 31 January 2024.

High Commissioner Walsh wore a *korowai* or traditional Māori cloak to provide a visual representation of New Zealand’s cultural heritage and to reflect the *mana* (honour) of the occasion.

Prior to this posting, High Commissioner Walsh was New Zealand’s Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He has also served in Kiribati, Samoa, South Africa and Saudi Arabia. He is of Māori, Tongan and European descent.





GREETINGS

✨ Happy Chinese New Year 2025! ✨

The Sarawak Tourism Federation (STF) has sent us this greeting:

As the Year of the Snake slithers into our lives, may it bring with it:

- 🌿 Unending prosperity to empower your dreams,
- 🌿 Boundless health to enrich your journey,
- 🌿 Infinite happiness to light your path.

Let the strength and grace of the Snake guide us toward a year filled with remarkable achievements and cherished moments.

🌸 From all of us at STF MANAGEMENT OFFICE, we wish you and your loved ones a joyous and prosperous Lunar New Year! 🌸

☀️ May your days be as bright as the lanterns and your fortunes as golden as the ingots ☀️



Jeli Mike Abdullah Sarawak's last surviving child POW

On 18 March, Sarawak's last surviving child POW Jeli Mike Abdullah will celebrate his 85th Birthday. Dato Lim Kian Hock OAM has prepared a hand-drawn Birthday Card for him, and has kindly included our details. Some of our members including Don and Jenny Cameron and Beverley Dubois met Jeli (Mike) during our 2016 visit to Kuching.

Jeli Abdullah's mother died from labour complications after giving birth to him and his twin brother. To his Bisaya tribe, this was seen as a bad omen, and his father did not know what to do with the twins.

Fortunately, an Australian missionary couple decided to adopt the newborns.

But misfortune fell upon the new family when the Japanese Imperial Army invaded Borneo in 1941.

Together with other captured Europeans, the one year old Jeli and his family were sent to the Batu Lintang POW camp in Kuching.

This report from 16 August 2019 tells some of his story:

<https://www.rage.com.my/lastsurvivors-jeli/>

As the last known child prisoner-of-war in Sarawak, 79-year-old Jeli said that he felt that it is important for the younger generation to learn their history.

"But unfortunately, the younger generation are not really interested in history. They pay more attention to the latest gadgets" he said.



Jeli Mike Abdullah with Australian Commando Ron Hatch, taken during Ron's last visit to Sarawak in 2016.



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Within our four-pronged approach to commemoration, the South Australia and Northern Territory Branch of the NMBVAA has committed to "Look to the future". One way we achieve this is by supporting youth development.

We have once again made a small donation to the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Australia, which will help at least two disadvantaged young South Australians to participate in the Award where they might not otherwise have the opportunity.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a global framework for non-formal education, which was founded by the late Prince Philip in 1956.

The Award was introduced in Australia in 1959, and inspires over 40,000 young Australians each year to undertake Voluntary Service, Skills, Physical Recreation and an Adventurous Journey as part of their Bronze, Silver or Gold Award. Each level is progressively more challenging.

It challenges young people aged 14 to 24 years to find their purpose, passion and place in the world. To become 'World Ready'.



Philip Mountbatten was appointed Duke of Edinburgh by King George VI on 19 November 1947. Upon Prince Philip's death on 9 April 2021, his eldest son Charles, Prince of Wales, succeeded to the title Duke of Edinburgh. Upon Charles's accession to the throne as King Charles III on 8 September 2022, all of his peerages merged in the Crown and ceased to exist.

The dukedom was bestowed on Prince Edward on the occasion of his 59th birthday on 10 March 2023. This was the fourth creation of the title, and was a life peerage, meaning that Prince Edward's son will not inherit the dukedom.

As a continuing *Friend of the Award* for 2025, we are pleased to be playing a small part in the development of emerging South Australian leaders and community members.



Branch Committee member Paul Bayliss undertook the prestigious Gold Award of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in the UK while serving in the British Army, completing his Award in February 1965.

Paul received his Gold Award certificate and badge personally from HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh in Singapore in March 1967.



Paul Rosenzweig received a Duke of Edinburgh's Award Certificate of Recognition in 2020 for his continued support to award participants despite the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 Pandemic, and in 2021 he received the Medal of Recognition for Long Service. He has recently re-qualified as a Level 2 Award Leader, denoted by a red Award Leader's badge (pictured left).

Paul has met the current Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward KG GCVO ADC, on two occasions.



No 604 SQUADRON, AAFC



Congratulations to newly-promoted Cadet Under Officer Gustaw Czechowicz (above) and Cadet Warrant Officer Katarina Czechowicz (below), who recently graduated from a residential Personal Development & Leadership Course – pictured here outside the RAAF Edinburgh Officers Mess on Saturday 11 January 2025. They have twice supported our Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day services in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens, as Catafalque Party members in 2023 and 2024. Photography by Aircraftman (AAFC) Oliver Farnden, 604 Squadron.





MEDAL OF THE MONTH

GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL 1918-1964

The General Service Medal 1918-1964 was instituted on 19 January 1923 by Army Order No 3 to reward service by members of the Army and Air Force in minor warlike operations after the end of World War 1, other than in India and Africa, for which no separate medal was issued.

The medals were struck in sterling silver at the Royal Mint in London. The medal has an ornate swivelling suspender bar, with an elaborate mount attaching the suspension bar to the medal disc with a vertical pin.

Some King George V issues were struck in Calcutta, and have a plain claw mount.

There were six obverse designs of the medal: this is the first pattern medal with no rim, struck in Calcutta, featuring the uncrowned effigy of King George V – this pattern was issued between 1918 and 1934.

The legend includes the title REX ET IND IMP ("Rex et Indiae Imperator") – 'King and Emperor of India' – to signify King George V's rule over British India as its imperial head of state.

The General Service Medal was not issued without a clasp, with a total of 18 clasps ultimately authorised.

When subsequent clasps are awarded, they are added above the first-issued clasp so the 'record of service' reads upwards from the medal.

3397 Naik Damdhar Pun

1st Battalion, 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles

Damdhar Pun was a Gurkha rifleman, from the Magar ethnic group native to the western and central regions of Nepal, who saw operational service during the post-war campaigns in Southern Kurdistan and Mesopotamia (Iraq) between May 1919 and November 1920.

Following the end of World War 1, in late 1918 or early 1919 Damdhar Pun enlisted as a Sepoy (Private) in the 3rd Gurkha Rifles at the Gurkha Rifles Recruiting Centre at Almora in the Kumaon Province of northern India, at the western end of the Himalayas, bordering Nepal.

His Medal Index Card shows that Damdhar Pun saw no service during World War 1, and had no entitlement to war medals.

The 3rd Gurkha Rifles had been formed as the 'Kumaon Battalion' on 24 April 1815, during the Anglo-Nepalese War, an irregular Gurkha battalion raised for service with the British East India Company.

The East India Company had its own armed forces in the form of three presidency armies, totalling about 260,000 soldiers – twice the size of the British army at the time. The Kumaon Battalion drew Gurkha soldiers from the Kumaon tribal area in the lower Himalayas in far western Nepal (now the Indian state of Uttarakhand in the Indian Himalayas).

By 1901 the regiment was known as the 3rd Gurkha Rifles, no longer using the spelling 'Goorkha'.

In 1907, King Edward VII granted the regiment a Royal title in honour of Alexandra of Denmark, Queen Consort, and the regiment became '3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles'.

Sepoy Pun was assigned to 'A' Company of the 1st Battalion at Almora. He soon rose to the rank of Naik (Corporal).

In the Indian Army prior to 1920, soldiers in the infantry carried the rank of 'Sepoy' and junior NCOs had the title 'Naik'. Such terms were no longer used for Gurkhas after 1920 – from that time, a Gurkha soldier held the rank of 'Rifleman', while a 'Naik' was designated 'Corporal'.



General Service Medal 1918-1964 with clasps 'KURDISTAN' and 'IRAQ' awarded to Naik Damdhar Pun, struck in sterling silver at the Calcutta Mint (first pattern medal, issued between 1918 and 1934).

Jai Gurkha!

The name 'Gurkha' is derived from the traditional name 'Goorkha' – an ancient Empire whose soldiers were Chhetris and others from the tribes of western Nepal, mostly from the Magar and Gurung tribes.

The name 'Gurkha' is the British version, adopted after the Nepal War of 1814 when Gurkhas were first recruited into the East India Company's Armies in 1815 – known in Nepalese as 'Gorkhali'.

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

During their military training, Gurkha surnames have been useful indicators of where a given recruit has come from.

Traditionally recruits of Indian Gorkha or Nepalese nationality came from one of four major *jaat* groupings:

- > Gurung and Magar (including, Ghale, Pun, Rana and Thakur) from the western and central regions of Nepal
- > Limbu and Rai (including Tamang and Sunwar, and some Sherpas) from eastern Nepal

Magars are divided into the following six tribes, or clans: Ale, Bura/Burathoki, Gharti, Pun, Rana and Thapa. These tribes all intermarry with each other, have the same customs, and are in every way equal as regards to social standing. Each tribe is subdivided into many sub-clans. Very few Magar tribes remained connected with Buddhism religion, and they celebrate more Hindu festivals than the Gurung.

3rd Gurkha Rifles

From its origins as an irregular Gurkha battalion raised in 1815 for service during the Anglo-Nepalese War, the Kumaon Battalion subsequently had the following titles:

> 18th Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry: the Kumaon Battalion became a regular infantry unit in 1861.

> 3rd (Kumaon) Goorkha Regiment: redesignated in 1861 after the Gurkha regiments developed into their own Line of rifle regiments. The spelling 'Goorkha' was used until 1891.

> a 2nd Battalion was raided at Almora in April 1887 to be composed of Garhwalis from upper Garhwal; the title 'Kumaon' was dropped in August 1887.

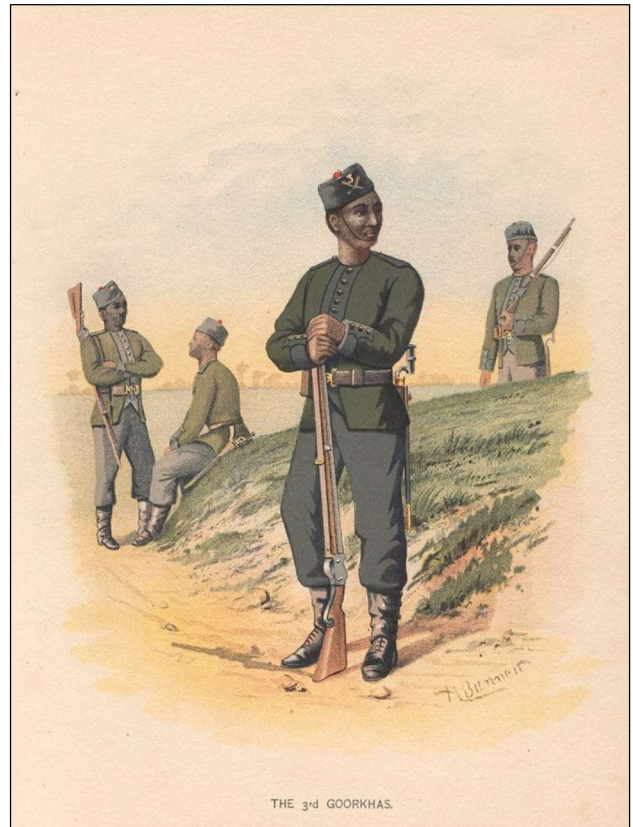
> 3rd Gurkha (Rifle) Regiment: redesignated in 1891, with the standardised spelling 'Gurkha' being adopted.

> 3rd Gurkha Rifles: adopted as part of a broad reorganisation of the Indian Army in 1901.

> 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles: the Royal title was granted by King Edward VII in 1907 in honour of Alexandra of Denmark, Queen Consort.

> 3rd Gorkha Rifles: transferred to the Indian Army after independence under the tripartite agreement of 1947, with the spelling 'Gorkha' being adopted in 1949.

Naik Damdhar Pun participated in operations with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Gurkha Rifles in South Kurdistan and northern Mesopotamia between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers between May 1919 and December 1920.



3rd (Kumaon) Goorkha Regiment

Uniforms of the 3rd Goorkhas 1864-91; from a painting by Godfrey Douglas Giles, published in 'Her Majesty's Army Indian & Colonial Forces' by Walter Richards, 1890.



Prior to 1907, the regimental badge of the 3rd Gurkha Rifles comprised a pair of crossed kukris with the blades facing upwards and inwards, with the numeral '3' between the blades.



The regimental badge of the 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles (1908-48) included the Royal cipher of Queen Alexandra (two crossed letters 'A') between the blades of the kukris above the numeral '3', surmounted by the Tudor Crown of King Edward VII.

Mesopotamia

During Turkish rule, and under British administration after 1918, the Kurdish people of Mesopotamia were only governed loosely, largely due to the difficulty of the terrain, with mountain ranges rising up to nearly 2,500 metres, hillsides covered in trees that provided ample cover for snipers, narrow gorges that invited ambushes and a lack of roads – pack-mules being the method of transporting supplies and goods.

In Southern Kurdistan, Sheikh Mahmud of Sulimanieh was appointed by the British administration to control the area, supported by a few British political and military officers.

The Kurds sought to obtain independence and an insurrection followed, with Sheikh Mahmud calling for a *jihad* ('holy war') against the British.

Damdhar Pun was awarded the General Service Medal 1918-1964 with the two clasps 'KURDISTAN' and 'IRAQ'.

The medal roll of 'A' Company of the 1st Battalion, 3rd QAO Gurkha Rifles was compiled and signed by the Officer Commanding at Razmak, North West Frontier of British India, on 30 August 1923. The roll shows that after this campaign, Naik Pun was Pensioned.

Clasp 'KURDISTAN'. This was the second clasp created for the GSM 1918-1964, by Army Order no 4 of 1923, for participation in operations against the Kurdish chief Sheikh Mahmoud in northern Mesopotamia between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers between 23 May 1919 and 6 December 1919. Just three Gurkha battalions qualified for this clasp.

Clasp 'IRAQ'. The clasp 'IRAQ' was the third clasp created for the GSM 1918-1964, by Army Order no 4 of 1923, for service north of and including Ramadi between 10 December 1919 and 13 June 1920, or within the boundaries of Mesopotamia between 1 July and 17 November 1920 (Mesopotamia was named 'Iraq' in 1921). Five Gurkha battalions qualified for this clasp.

Naik Pun qualified for this clasp through his service with 'A' Company of 1/3 QAO Gurkha Rifles which was attached to 55 Brigade, assigned to the 18th Division.

Of note, 1/3 Gurkha Rifles was one of only three Gurkha battalions eligible to receive the GSM 1918-1964 with the two clasps 'KURDISTAN' and 'IRAQ'.



The reverse of the General Service Medal 1918-1964 bears the winged figure of Victory in a Corinthian helmet carrying a trident, bestowing a wreath on the emblems of the Army (a sword) and the Air Force (the wings).

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the General Service Medal and Clasps (or clasps only) under Army Instruction (India) 460 of 1923.		REGIMENT OR CORPS.		STATE CLASPS ENTITLED TO UNDER ABOVE-QUOTED ARMY INSTRUCTION (INDIA).		Record of disposal of decorations.	REMARKS.
No.	Rank.	NAME.	Regiment or Corps to which attached, and whether held therein, also the highest rank, whether substantive, acting or temporary, recorded as having been held during the qualifying period. This attached to should also be shown.	IRAQ	KURDISTAN		
3727	2nd NK	DANBIR THAPA	1/3rd QAO GURKHA RIFLES	No	Yes		
3658	—	DALBAHADUR GURUNG		No	Yes		
3698	—	DAMDHAR THAPA		No	Yes		Auth. 25/1/1915
4326	—	DHANIRAM RANA		No	Yes		
4582	RFM	DILU THAPA		No	Yes		
4359	—	DHANBAHADUR MAL		No	Yes		
5708	—	DALBAHADUR GUR		No	Yes		Opinion on payment in 8/1876 d/c 1/26 657/130
6207	—	DALBIR THAPA		No	Yes		
5814	—	DHANBIR THAPA		No	Yes		
5822	—	DEWAN SING GURUNG		No	Yes		
3547	NK	DAMDHAR PUN		No	Yes		Pensioned
4115	RFM	DANBIR THAPA		No	Yes		Discharged
4324	—	DILESORE THAPA		No	Yes		—
4475	—	DALBAHADUR GURUNG		No	Yes		—
4728	—	DHAN SING BHANDARI		No	Yes		—
4801	—	DIBBAHADUR CHHETRA	No	Yes		—	
5196	—	DEORATAN PUN	No	Yes		—	
5220	—	DHANRAJ GHARTI	No	Yes		—	
4252	—	DALSING THAPA	No	Yes		—	

This is the medal roll showing Naik Damdhar Pun's entitlement to the clasps 'KURDISTAN' and 'IRAQ'.

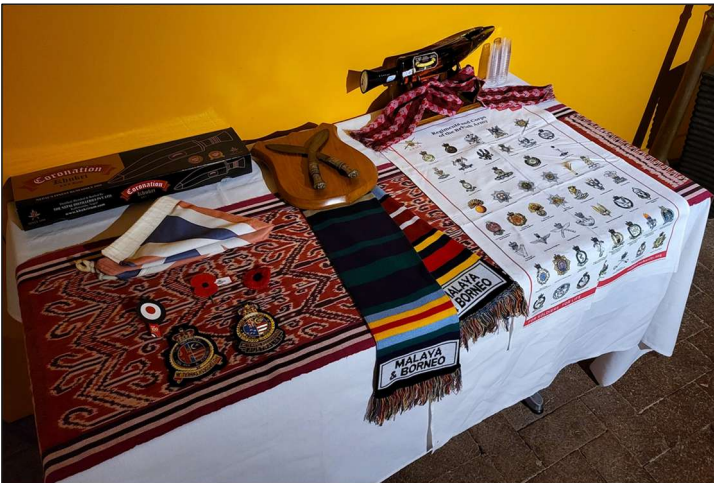


UPCOMING EVENTS



Friday 25 April 2025 Anzac Day

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



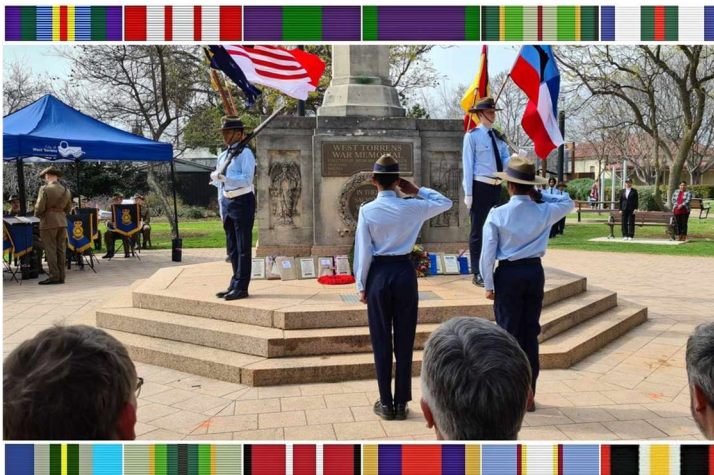
INVITATION

Friday 27 June 2025 2025 Annual Dinner

This year's SA&NT Branch annual dinner will be held at the Himalayan Kitchen in Melbourne Street, North Adelaide on Friday 27 June at 1800h, starting at 1830h. There will be a raffle with some interesting prizes to choose from, and merchandise to purchase.

You can find more details here:

<https://thehimalayankitchen.com/>



SAVE THE DATE

Friday 29 August 2025 Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day

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

Our Branch Padre Major Quentin Castle will officiate, and the Air Force Cadets of No 604 Squadron will again provide the armed Catafalque Party, Honour Guard and Banner Party. The ceremony will be followed by a reunion and lunch at Hilton RSL. We hope to see you there!



ANNIVERSARIES

ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE NMBVAA “The National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association (Australia) Incorporated”

On 29 February 1996 a uniquely Australian association of Malaya and Borneo veterans was established – the “National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association (Australia) Incorporated” (ABN 74 072 982 793). This association was established as a Company with Directors, registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC).

Following the first national Annual General Meeting, South Australian members gathered on Wednesday 31 June 1997 to form a state branch.

National Serviceman and Malayan Emergency veteran Ross Ortmann was elected as President and Secretary, and served until 2002. Founding member Don Cameron served as Treasurer from 1997 to 2004.

In early 1999 the founding national chairman gave notice to ‘stand down’ due to severe ill health, and a short while later the association mourned his death. Bryce Matthews (NSW Branch President) assumed the role of Chairman – with the association still operating under the 1996 ‘Company’ model.

On 9 June 2000, the national body adopted the trading name of “National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association Australia Incorporated” as a means of starting the process of breaking away from the flawed ‘Company’ model.

On 22 November 2001 the national association became incorporated in the ACT under the name “Association of Malaya and Borneo Veterans of Australia Incorporated” – the name had to be substantially different from the existing company name previously registered with ASIC.

In time, the original “NMBVA (Australia) Inc” could be dissolved – the ABN was cancelled on 10 May 2002, and the entity was deregistered on 26 June 2003.

This allowed the national association to gain new incorporation (right) on 10 May 2002, as the “National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association Australia Incorporated” (association number A03689, ABN 31 340 936 038).

After a long illness, founding SA Branch President Ross Ortmann died in Adelaide on 19 May 2002, aged 66. Brian Selby had been acting in the role, and took over as President, serving from 2002 to 2007.

Brian also served as Branch Secretary (2002-03), followed by John Plenty (2004-06). The Treasurer was Bevan Keenihan (2005-06).



Certificate of Incorporation dated 10 May 2002

ABN Lookup	
Current details for ABN 74 072 982 793	
ABN details	
Entity name:	NATIONAL MALAYA AND BORNEO VETERANS ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) INCORPORATED
ABN status:	Cancelled from 10 May 2002
Entity type:	Other Incorporated Entity
Goods & Services Tax (GST):	Not currently registered for GST
Main business location:	ACT 2615

The original National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association (Australia) Incorporated, founded on 29 February 1996, had its ABN cancelled on 10 May 2002.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE NMBVAA

ABN Lookup	
Current details for ABN 31 340 936 038	
ABN details	
Entity name:	National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Incorporated
ABN status:	Active from 10 May 2002
Entity type:	Other Incorporated Entity
Goods & Services Tax (GST):	Not currently registered for GST
Main business location:	ACT 2615
Deductible gift recipient status	
Not entitled to receive tax deductible gifts	

After the original NMBVA (Australia) Inc had its ABN cancelled on 10 May 2002, the national association gained new incorporation on the same date as the “National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association Australia Incorporated”.

Australian Registered Body	
 <small>ASIC Australian Securities & Investments Commission</small>	NATIONAL MALAYA AND BORNEO VETERANS ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) INCORPORATED <small>ARBN 072 982 793</small>
<small>Extracted from ASIC's database at AEST 15:12:04 on 22/07/2024</small>	
Australian Registered Body Summary	
Name:	NATIONAL MALAYA AND BORNEO VETERANS ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) INCORPORATED
ARBN:	072 982 793
ABN:	74 072 982 793
Registration Date:	29/02/1996
Status:	Deregistered
Date Deregistered:	26/06/2003
Type:	Registered Australian Body
Locality of Registered Office:	
Regulator:	Australian Securities & Investments Commission

After having its ABN cancelled on 10 May 2002, the original National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association (Australia) Incorporated was deregistered by ASIC on 26 June 2003.

John Plenty served as SA Branch President from 2006, with P Doherty as Branch Secretary (2006-10) and B Wright as Treasurer (2006-10). In 2010 however, he created a South Australian association independent of the NMBVAA Inc known as the “Malaya, Borneo and Timor Veteran’s (sic) Association SA”.

On Saturday 17 July 2010, a dinner was held to re-form the official NMBVAA Branch in South Australia.

Then, the first Annual General Meeting of the reformed SA/NT Branch was held at Hilton RSL on Wednesday 21 August 2010, with 24 in attendance.

Brian Selby gained the new South Australian membership number ‘5001’. Chris and Brian’s Membership Application form is dated 21 August 2010, and Chris was given the new membership number ‘5030’.

Others with the earliest membership numbers were Vice-President Don Cameron (21 August 2010, 5002) and Treasurer Jenny Cameron (5004), Secretary Leonie Hughes (5003), Allan Davies (5005) and Di Davies (5011), Roger Burzacott (5009) and Jim Deering (5012).

At this time a national Constitution of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Incorporated was adopted.



The badge of the “National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc” (incorporated on 10 May 2002) as used on correspondence by the SA Branch in 2003.



MALAYAN EMERGENCY Roll of Honour – March

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.

2/7271 Sergeant Cecil Charles Anderson,
2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
4 March 1956

2/8608 Private James Ian Decent,
2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
23 March 1956

2/8764 Private Carl Adrian Jay,
2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
23 March 1956

A32323 Corporal John Marcus O'Donnell,
No 2 Airfield Construction Squadron, RAAF:
17 March 1957

1/4104 Private Eugene Francis Thompson,
Royal Australian Army Service Corps,
126 Transport Platoon:
22 March 1957

3/5778 Signaller Edward Raymond Norris,
28th Commonwealth Brigade Signal Squadron:
22 March 1958

A312847 Leading Aircraftman Derek John Hall,
Headquarters No 78 Wing, RAAF:
4 March 1959

3/6331 Private Ian Maxwell Jonas,
Royal Australian Army Medical Corps,
16th Commonwealth Field Ambulance:
12 March 1961

Lest we Forget

CONFRONTATION Roll of Honour – March

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.

29720 Lieutenant David John Brian,
'D' Company, 3rd Battalion,
Royal Australian Regiment:
5 March 1964

5976 Sergeant Reginald John Weiland,
'A' Company, 3rd Battalion,
Royal Australian Regiment:
23 March 1965

Acting Sub-Lieutenant John Morgan Hutchison,
RAN, No 816 Squadron, Fleet Air Arm
aboard HMAS *Melbourne*:
24 March 1965

14172 Lieutenant Kenneth Ambrose Hudson,
'E' Troop, 2 Special Air Service Squadron,
Special Air Service Regiment:
21 March 1966

2412209 Private Robert Charles Moncrieff,
'E' Troop, 2 Special Air Service Squadron,
Special Air Service Regiment:
21 March 1966

Lest we Forget



**KAMUNTING ROAD CHRISTIAN CEMETERY
TAIPING, PERAK.**

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY PERSONNEL

ALLAN, J.N	ANDERSON, C.C	BLANCH, S.J	DECENT, J
DUCAT, J	EWALD, K.H	FERRELL, B.H	FRITZ, G.C
HALLARD, T.B	HAYNES, P.L	HENDERSON, R.A.D	INGRA, C.C
JAY, C.A	JEFFERSON, H.M	JONAS, I.M	JONES, K.V
KEEN, A.W	MACVICAR, D	MICALF, S.M	SEESINK, D.A
NORRIS, E.R	POTTS, J.F	RYAN, M	TULLOCH, A.J
SMEDLEY, L.R	SUTTON, D.K	THOMPSON, E.F	
WILSON, J			

DEPENDANTS of ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY PERSONNEL

BAKER, H.D (Daughter of)	COLLINS, G.A (Daughter of)	CORDREY J.F (Daughter of)
KOSTER, (Son of)	MICHAEL, J.A (Wife of)	MUSCAT, R.E (Wife of)

3/6331 Private Ian Maxwell Jonas (1935-1961)

Private Max Jonas of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps is a South Australian who died as a result of his service overseas during the Malayan Emergency.

Jonas was attached to the 16th Commonwealth Field Ambulance (28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade, Far East Land Forces). He died of illness on 12 March 1961, aged 27.

Because he died after 31 July 1960, the date the government of the Federation of Malaya officially declared the Emergency over, his name is not listed on the Rolls of Honour at the Australian War Memorial.

Lest we Forget



A312847 Leading Aircraftman Derek John Hall (1925-1959)

Leading Aircraftman Derek Hall of Headquarters No 78 Wing, RAAF (Far East Air Forces) died on active service in Butterworth, Malaya on 4 March 1959 (ground accident), aged 33. He was buried in the Penang (Western Road) Cemetery, Malaysia.



LAC Hall was buried in the Penang (Western Road) Cemetery, Malaysia.

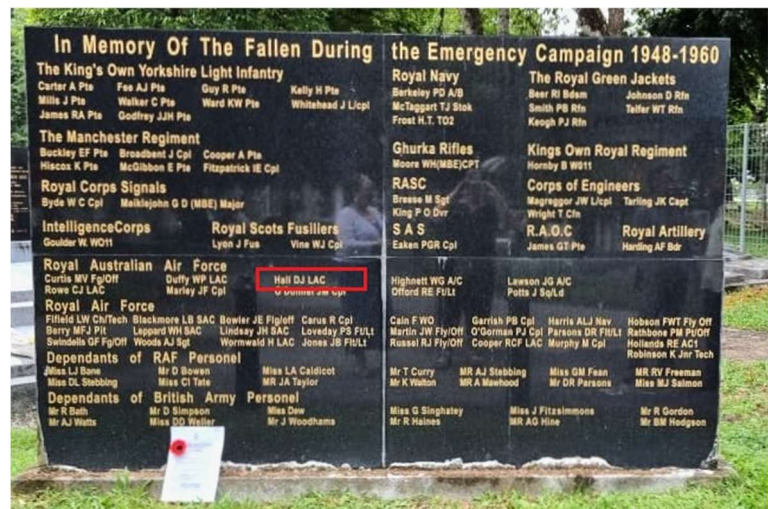


LAC Hall is honoured in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial (panel 2).

In Augus last year, Her Excellency the Governor (and our and Branch Patron) conducted an official visit to Malaysia to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Adelaide and George Town, the capital city of Penang.

Penang has a very special connection to Malaya-Borneo veterans – many Australians were based in Penang after the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group was formed in Malaya on 16 September 1955, with its headquarters located at Minden Barracks on Penang Island.

There are 50 Australian fallen from the Malayan wars who remain buried overseas – six of them are buried in the Penang (Western Road) Cemetery.



LAC Hall's name is honoured on the memorial wall in the Penang (Western Road) Cemetery, Malaysia.



On Wednesday 30 August 2024, Her Excellency placed a wreath for Malaya and Borneo Veterans Day.



Her Excellency the Governor with Penang Veterans in the Penang (Western Road) Cemetery.



5976 Sergeant Reginald John Weiland (1927-1965)

Sergeant 'Reno' Weiland deployed to Sarawak in March 1965 as the Platoon Sergeant of 3 Platoon, 'A' Company of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. He was a veteran of World War 2 and service in Japan with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force. He transferred to the Australian Regular Army upon its formation on 30 September 1947, and received the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in 1963. Before deploying to Borneo, he served on the Malay Peninsula with 3RAR based at Terendak Army Camp in Malacca, and participated in counter-terrorist patrols on the Thai-Malay border.

Sergeant Weiland emplaned in Singapore on 9 March 1965 and arrived in Kuching the same day.

Weiland was killed-in-action in the Bau district of Sarawak on 23 March 1965, aged 38. This was the battalion's first day of operations in Sarawak. *The Canberra Times* recorded on 25 March: "In the brief period they have been in Borneo, the Australians have been fired on with mortars and small arms. A sergeant has been killed and two men wounded by booby traps".

Weiland was leading a reconnaissance patrol from the 'A' Company fortified position near Kampung Stass when he was killed instantly by a concealed M2A3 anti-personnel land-mine near the Sarawak-Kalimantan border.

Corporal John Hyland was seriously wounded in the right leg, and Private Bill Lee was struck in the right arm by a fragment; Private Shaw received a fragment in his foot but was able to walk back to camp. The three were evacuated to Kuching General Hospital, for onward evacuation to Singapore. Iban tracker Mudah Anak Jali, aged 19, received severe wounds in the blast, and died while being carried back to the 3RAR camp; the second Iban tracker Enggil anak Japing was not wounded.

Memorial services were held at Terendak Army Camp, and at Mount Vernon crematorium in Singapore where he was cremated; Mrs Eiko Weiland (née Fukuoka) from Terendak Camp attended both, and returned to Perth on 27 March with her husband's ashes for interment. Sergeant Weiland was memorialised by a Family Shrub in Karrakatta Cemetery, Nedlands, WA.

In Sarawak, Sergeant Weiland's name is honoured on our SA&NT Branch NMBVAA plaque in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching, which was unveiled on 29 August 2016.

The Sarawak Museum Journal, LXXXV (106) (2022): 47-75

IN OUR NEIGHBOURS' SOIL OUR ANZACS SLEEP

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ABSTRACT

The Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching contains a black marble plaque, installed on 29 August 2016, honouring the Australian military personnel who died during the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia. Incomplete records however, led to this plaque containing minor errors and omissions. Three years later, as a member of the South Australia and Northern Territory Branch of the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association of Australia Inc, I was invited to deliver a commemorative address for Malaya-Borneo Veterans Day in Kuching on 29 August 2019. This presented the opportunity to extensively research the fallen, and a new plaque was installed prior to this ceremony. My address, included here, drew attention to the 50 Australian fallen from the Malayan wars who remain buried overseas, acknowledging Malaysia and Singapore for looking after our 'Anzacs'. In particular, of the Australians who died during Confrontation, I noted that eight died in Sarawak (while a further three died after being evacuated from Sarawak). This paper includes this commemorative address, followed by an analysis of the circumstances of each of the eleven Australian defenders of Sarawak in 1965-66 who lost their lives. Concluding this research, the graves of the Australian fallen in Kranji Military Cemetery in Singapore were visited and photographed in December 2019, including the four Australian soldiers who died in Sarawak and remain buried overseas. The significance of the 2019 ceremony in Kuching has been heightened by the inability of veterans to schedule any further reunion visits because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Keywords: Confrontation, Veterans, Commemoration, Australia, Sarawak, Sacrifice

THE SARAWAK MUSEUM JOURNAL | 47 | DECEMBER 2022

Sarawak Museum Journal

Eleven Australian soldiers died during Confrontation as a result of operational service in defence of Sarawak – eight died in Sarawak and a further three died after being medically evacuated from Sarawak.

These included Sergeant Reg Weiland of 3RAR (see profile above) and Lieutenant Ken Hudson and Private Bob Moncrieff of the SASR (see following pages).

The sacrifice of these eleven Australian defenders of Sarawak has been documented in this research paper which was published in the *Sarawak Museum Journal*:

Rosenzweig, PA (2022) 'In our Neighbours' Soil our Anzacs Sleep'.

The Sarawak Museum Journal, LXXXV (106): 47-75

A copy of this paper may be downloaded here:

[Sarawak Museum Journal](#)

If anyone visits Kuching, hard copies of the *Sarawak Museum Journal* can be purchased from the Sarawak Museum and the Borneo Cultures Museum.

The money changer in the old Sarawak Plaza also holds copies of the journal – just along the north (river side) of Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman to the east of the Grand Margherita Hotel and the famous Kuching Cats Statue.



**14172 Lieutenant Kenneth Ambrose Hudson (1936-1966)
2412209 Private Robert Charles Moncrieff (1944-1966)**

Lieutenant Ken Hudson and Private Bob Moncrieff were among the members of 'E' Troop, 2 Special Air Service Squadron, Special Air Service Regiment who commenced Special Service in Brunei on 25 January 1966.

They had emplaned in Singapore, and deplaned in Kuching on 28 January 1966 for operational service in Sarawak.

Hudson was the Troop Commander of 'E' Troop. On 21 March, he was operating in the vicinity of Kampung Entabang, leading a 4-man Operation 'Claret' cross-border patrol. The patrol was approaching a suspected enemy base on the far side of the rapidly flowing Sekayan River.

While crossing, before dawn in heavy rain, Hudson and Moncrieff were swept away by the strong current and were reported missing-in-action, presumed drowned. They were aged 30 and 21 respectively.

Ken 'Rock' Hudson was educated at Industrial High School in Brisbane, and served with the Australian Cadet Corps from 1950 to 1955. He was a National Serviceman from the 1951-59 scheme, called up in 1955 for training with the 11th National Service Training Battalion at Wacol. He enlisted in the Regular Army on 30 April 1956 and was allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps, and first served with the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. As a Corporal, he served with 2RAR as a Section Commander around the end of 1960 or early 1961, and was then a Sergeant (Airborne Platoon at Williamstown) before being commissioned on 9 September 1964. He joined the Special Air Service Regiment on 24 February 1965.

Bob Moncrieff was born in Adamstown in Newcastle, NSW on 17 December 1944, the son of W McDonald Moncrieff. He enlisted on 21 April 1964 and was allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps, initially serving with 2RAR. After passing SAS selection in 1965, he was posted to 'E' Troop, 2 Special Air Service Squadron, SASR on 21 April 1965.

A Death Certificate for Lieutenant Hudson and Private Moncrieff was issued by Army on 1 April 1966.



The names of Lieutenant Hudson and Private Moncrieff are honoured on the SASR Memorial in Campbell Barracks in Swanbourne, WA.



Their names are also honoured on a large bronze panel installed at the Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur and unveiled on 24 April 2019.



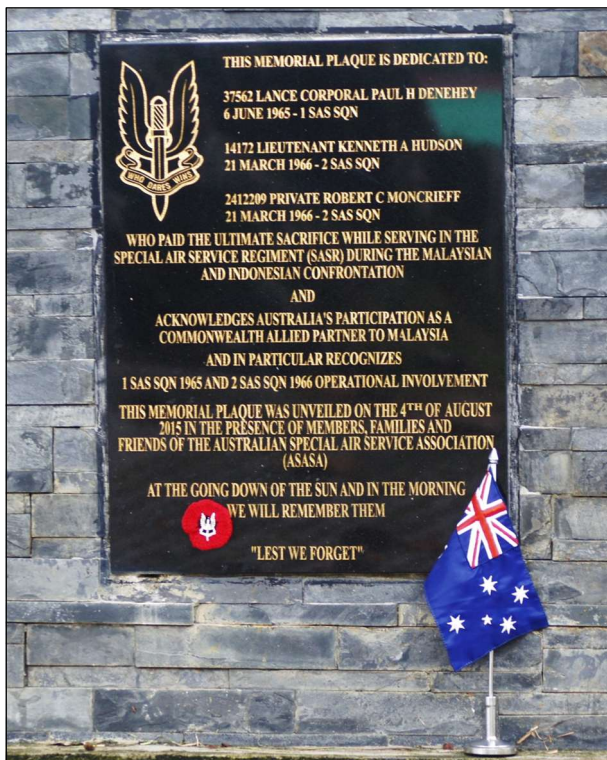
The names of Lieutenant Hudson and Private Moncrieff are listed in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial (panel 3).

On 4 April, under the heading 'Two SAS men missing in Borneo', *The Canberra Times* reported: "Two members of the Australian Army Special Air Services Squadron now on operational duty in Borneo, are missing, believed dead".

In October 2009, the remains of Lieutenant Hudson and Private Moncrieff were recovered from two separate burial sites in West Kalimantan, Indonesia. Their bodies had washed ashore downriver, and were found and buried by local civilians. With the help of locals, members of the Australian and Indonesian militaries located these graves in March 2010, and the remains were formally handed over to Australia in Jakarta on 12 April 2010.

Lieutenant Hudson was originally commemorated in the Queensland Garden of Remembrance at Pinnaroo Cemetery and Crematorium, Bridgeman Downs in Brisbane, Queensland. After his remains were recovered in 2010, he was interred in Lutwyche Cemetery in Brisbane.

Private Moncrieff was first commemorated in the NSW Garden of Remembrance. In 2010, his remains were cremated at Karrakatta Cemetery and Crematorium in Nedlands, Western Australia (the ashes were collected by the family).



The names of Lieutenant Hudson and Private Moncrieff are honoured on the Special Air Service Regiment plaque in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching, unveiled on 4 August 2015.



Their names are also honoured on our NMBVAA Branch plaque in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching, which we unveiled during our Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day Service on 29 August 2016.