



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 10 – OCTOBER 2025



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Join us at the Maid of Auckland Hotel for our annual Christmas Lunch on Saturday 13 December.

This will be an opportunity to reflect on the events of the year, in which we marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Sarawak, the 75th anniversary of the start of Australia's involvement in the Malayan Emergency, and the 59th anniversary of the end of Confrontation, and to look forward to 2026 in which we will mark the 30th anniversary of the formation of the "National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association (Australia) Incorporated".

We will also support our sponsorship of four schools in the Bau District of Sarawak where Australian and Commonwealth military forces were deployed during Confrontation, as part of our philosophy of 'Remembering Malaysia' and 'Looking to the Future'.



NOTICES

BRANCH COMMITTEE

Re-elected for 2025-26

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'

We were very privileged to have the national Repatriation Commissioner from the Department of Veterans' Affairs Mr Kahlil Fegan DSC AM attend our Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day commemoration, particularly since he had to be back in Canberra for the National Commemorative Service at Lake Burley Griffin on Sunday 31 August.

He wrote in response to the MBV Special Edition of 'The Observation Post':

Another wonderful edition and thank you for sharing. I also thoroughly enjoyed our commemoration in Adelaide and had the privilege of participating in the commemoration in Canberra on Sunday.

Both were wonderful events and a great opportunity to engage with some of our most valuable veterans. All the very best and see you soon.

We now settle into some routine social meetings at the Maid of Auckland Hotel, and coming up in December is our 2025 Christmas Lunch – remember that that financial members will receive a cashback bonus at the lunch.

For 2026 we will have a social lunch in January for anyone that wants to join (lunch only, no meeting).

The first general meeting for the year will be on Friday 20 February.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October meeting: 1115h Friday 17 October
Maid of Auckland Hotel,
followed by lunch



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

Remembrance Day: Tuesday 11 November 2025:
Personal observance

November meeting: 1115h Friday 21 November
Maid of Auckland Hotel, followed by lunch

Christmas Lunch: 12 for 12.30 pm, Saturday 13 December 2025
Maid of Auckland Hotel

January Social Lunch: 1200h Friday 16 January 2026
Lunch get-together only, Maid of Auckland Hotel

February meeting: 1115h Friday 20 February 2026
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



CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION

Australian War Widows. This clipping from *The Advertiser* of Friday 20 October 2023 refers to a reception hosted by Her Excellency the Governor and Mr Bunten for the first annual War Widows Day of commemoration in South Australia, marked on 19 October 2023. The following year National War Widows Day was established on the commemorations calendar.



We have received the following message from the Australian War Widows SA:

Whilst it has been a sad time to deal with the transition of Australian War Widows we need to remind ourselves that our organisation will benefit hugely into the future. As of today the committee is no longer, however Maria Barclay as Public Officer and Deborah Lennard as Admin are still contactable by email. The future for South Australia has been voted by our members on 2nd September at a Special general meeting to join with Families of Veterans Guild (Australian War Widows NSW Ltd).

Families of Veterans Guild provides connection, support and resources for veteran and defence families, honouring their service and sacrifice. Join our community and get involved in initiatives dedicated to supporting those who support our defence personnel.

<https://familiesofveterans.org.au/>



Our friend and 2023 tour guide Antony ('Kuching Ant') recently posted this image, and when the Operation 'Hornbill 2023' badge was spotted, he replied:

"Paul Rosenzweig just wanted to test your alertness soldier! Good one, carry on 🤡🤡🤡".

Operation "Hornbill 2025". Our good friend Dato Lim Kian Hock OAM has sent us the following message following our visit to Sarawak and special newsletter:

Tq for your express service for good reporting. Your presence enlightened our joint celebration in Kuching and hopefully it will encourage more of our Aussie friends to make pilgrimage visits to all the heritage sites and particularly to sites where you and MBVA had educational programme and future plans.

These sites include the schools in Kampung Stass, Serikin and Suba Buan – and now also in Kg Gumbang.

During the visit to the Sarawak State Assembly, *Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak*, Paul and Don placed a goodwill message and some Australian military items of historical interest into a time capsule, to remain sealed until the year 2030. Included was a uniform button which had belonged to the late Major Aileen Ryan (1926-2024), Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps. Aileen's sister Mary sent the following message:

Thank you so much for your email and so lovely that Aileen's small memento is included in the time capsule. I really appreciate all that you, Don and Jenny have done for my dear sister, and for me. Thank you once again for your thoughtfulness and kindness.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGES AND INFORMATION

Medal of the Order of Australia. One of the recipients of an OAM in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours List was Henry Samuel Calhoun Young, awarded "*For service to veterans, and to tennis*".

Henry Young, now aged 102, is recognised as the world's oldest competitive tennis player.

Born in Glenelg in 1923, as a ten year old he moved with his family to New Zealand. He enlisted in the New Zealand Army in 1942, and then joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force in 1943 – this had been known as the 'New Zealand Permanent Air Force' until 1937 when it was renamed.

He then transferred to the Royal New Zealand Navy (1943-46): the former 'New Zealand Division' of the Royal Navy had become the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) on 1 October 1941.

Recruitment of New Zealanders for service with the Fleet Air Arm, Royal Navy was carried out under 'Scheme F'. Henry's service included secondments for pilot training with the US Navy (1944) and the Royal Navy (1944, 1945).

After the war, he was commissioned to serve as a Lieutenant with the Fleet Air Arm, Royal Australian Navy from 6 January 1948 (granted seniority from 26 March 1946). He served aboard the aircraft carrier HMAS *Sydney* until 28 July 1950 when he chose to transfer to the RAN Emergency List.

He has been a member of the Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia (South Australian Division) since 1996, and is the senior member of the Navy League of Australia (South Australia Division).



Henry Young OAM was acknowledged at a New Recipients' Reception hosted by the Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch at Payneham Library on Monday 22 September 2025.

Member of the Order of Australia. Former Royal Malaysian Air Force Chief General Tan Sri Mohd Asghar Khan Goriman Khan has been appointed an Honorary Member of the Order of Australia in the Military Division (AM).

General Asghar enlisted in July 1983; of note, he completed his Qualified Flying Instructor course in East Sale, Victoria. He served as Chief of the RMAF from 7 March 2022 until handing over command of the Air Force in June this year.

The award recognises General Asghar's close collaboration with the Royal Australian Air Force to strengthen the deep and enduring relationship between our two nations and to further our bilateral defence partnership.



The insignia was presented in Kuala Lumpur by the Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia Her Excellency Danielle Heinecke, on behalf of the Governor-General.



HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III

The crowned effigy of King Charles III, the 'CIIIR' Royal Cipher, and the Tudor Crown are starting to appear on new service medals, insignia and currency throughout the Commonwealth.

From 1 August 2025, new crests bearing the Tudor Crown of King Charles III came into effect for the RAN, Australian Army and RAAF.

Similar changes are gradually taking place throughout other organisations such as the Australian Federal Police.



Both versions of the crown are valid representations of Royal authority – the transition from the Tudor Crown used by King George VI to the “Queen’s Crown” was made over a ten year period. There is no objection to using two different designs simultaneously during the transition period. In general, uniform items will not be replaced until current stock items are exhausted – these include hat badges (see below), buttons and some rank insignia.



This is the current pattern hat badge for RAAF and AAFC officers and CUOs, bearing the St Edward's Crown or "Queen's Crown" of Queen Elizabeth II.



This is the new pattern hat badge for RAAF and AAFC officers and CUOs, bearing the Tudor Crown or "King's Crown" of King Charles III.

This image (from Eddie's Medal Mounting Service) shows the new King's Ambulance Service Medal (KAM) bearing the effigy of King Charles III.

The King's Ambulance Service Medal (formerly the Queen's Ambulance Service Medal, QAM) is awarded to members of the four National Health Services Ambulance Service and equivalents in the United Kingdom, Isle of Man and Channel Islands for distinguished service. It was introduced on 11 July 2011.



MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS DAY

Friday 29 August 2025

AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS

604 SQUADRON || HEAR THE LION ROAR



INTEGRITY || TEAMWORK || RESPONSIBILITY

We greatly appreciate the contribution of the Air Force Cadets from No 604 Squadron, who once again provided a ceremonial detachment in support of our annual Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service. Cadet Warrant Officer Katarina Czechowicz was the Catafalque Party Commander, and the members of the Catafalque Party carried innocuous .303-inch SMLE rifles representative of the era of the Malayan wars.



Confrontation veterans Don Cameron (3RAR), Bill Voyce and Dave McCarthy (Royal Marines) and Paul Bayliss (Corps of Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers).



We were very privileged to have as our guest of honour and principal wreath layer His Excellency Dr Richard 'Harry' Harris SC OAM, Deputy Governor of South Australia.



We thank Mayor Michael Coxon of the West Torrens City Council for once again being our host, and we are particularly grateful for the support of the WTCC Events Team.

Hilton RSL

We thank RSL Hilton Sub-Branch for again providing the venue for our reunion after the ceremony. Our members and guests were able to buy a light lunch, while the Branch provided lunches and soft drinks for the Air Force Cadets and staff, and we gave Hilton RSL a small donation to cover expenses.

Thanks to those who made donations for the Sarawak schools we sponsor.





No 604 SQUADRON, AAFC

SUPPORT TO LEGACY WEEK

Sunday 31 August 2025

Saturday 6 September 2025

Air Force Cadets from 604 Squadron (Hampstead Barracks) again demonstrated their commitment to supporting ex-Service and veterans organisations by providing support to Legacy during Legacy Week.

The Cadets operated a stand at Bunnings Modbury selling Legacy-branded merchandise and collecting donations, to help Legacy keep The Promise made on the battlefield all those years ago.

Legatees were on duty with them promoting the work Legacy does in serving the families of those who served.

After being on duty on the first day, Sunday 31 August, another team returned to operate the display on the last day of Legacy Week, Saturday 6 September.

The team was very privileged to have Mrs Meredith Wyles, Board Chair and Vice-President of the Legacy Club of South Australia and Broken Hill, join the 604 Squadron Cadets for the day, and she thanked them for their efforts.



AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS

604 SQUADRON || HEAR THE LION ROAR



INTEGRITY || TEAMWORK || RESPONSIBILITY

Immediately after our Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service, the Air Force Cadets from No 604 Squadron were on duty again over two days in support of the Legacy Club of South Australia and Broken Hill.

No 604 SQUADRON, AAFC



AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS

604 SQUADRON || HEAR THE LION ROAR



INTEGRITY || TEAMWORK || RESPONSIBILITY

The Air Force Cadets from No 604 Squadron were on duty again on Saturday 6 September in support of Legacy.

**AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE
VETERANS' COVENANT**
Wednesday 3 September 2025

Congratulations to Flight Sergeant (AAFC) Kim Edgar on receiving the Defence Veterans' Covenant and the Australian Defence Reservist Badge from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

The awards were presented at Hampstead Barracks by Colonel Ilona Horan, Commander SA Brigade, Australian Army Cadets.

The Defence Veterans' Covenant serves to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service and the contribution of veterans and their families.

Through the Covenant, DVA and the community show respect and recognition of military service. It is a declaration on behalf of the Australian people to give enduring and formal recognition of the valued contribution that current and former members of the Australian Defence Force and their families have made to our country.

The Badge provides the opportunity for veterans to demonstrate their military service when in civilian dress.

In recognition of Kim's service to the nation – as a member of the Australian Army Reserve, with the 10th/27th Battalion, Royal South Australian Regiment in Mount Gambier – he has been awarded the **Australian Defence Reservist Badge**.



Congratulations to Kim Edgar on receiving the Defence Veterans' Covenant and the Australian Defence Reservist Badge from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.



In the same ceremony FLTLT(AAFC) Paul Rosenzweig received the **Australian Defence Veteran Badge**, recognising his extensive service in both the Army Reserve and Australian Regular Army.

Paul began his military service with the Adelaide University Regiment (AUR) attaining the rank of Sergeant. His service over a period of 32 years has included reconnaissance troop and squadron command appointments in the North West Mobile Force, operational deployments to East Timor, and overseas postings to the Philippines and Timor Leste.

Congratulations to FLTLT(AAFC) Paul Rosenzweig and FSGT(AAFC) Kim Edgar on receiving these prestigious awards.

Colonel Horan presented a certificate of promotion and rank slides to Cadet Flight Sergeant Jeevan Abraham, Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Silver badges to CCPL Delisha Panchal and LCDT Aryan Patel, and congratulated CCPL Ishi Saini on achieving the Bronze Award.



Congratulations to Paul Rosenzweig on receiving the Australian Defence Veteran Badge from DVA.



OPERATION "HORNBILL 2025"

The Rajah of Sarawak Fund Medal. This Fund was established in 1932 by Rajah Sir Charles Vyner Brooke KCMG for the education of children of British colonial or Sarawak civil servants of European descent. The story of the Brooke family in Sarawak is fascinating and almost unbelievable. The first 'White Rajah' was James Brooke who, in 1841, was awarded land in Borneo by the Sultan of Brunei as reward for tackling a pirate problem. The family ruled Sarawak for a century as independent rajahs, until Japanese occupation in 1941 effectively ended their rule. Vyner Brooke was a benevolent ruler who fostered indigenous traditions.

The *British North Borneo Herald* of 1 February 1932 reported that a Fund had been established by His Highness the Rajah for the purpose of assisting in the education of children of certain Colonial Civil Servants: *Candidates eligible for such assistance must be children of European descent whose parents are British subjects, one of whom is or was a higher Civil Servant (serving, retired, or deceased) of any Colony, Protectorate, or Protected State in or associated by treaty or otherwise with the British Empire, or any Mandated Territory in respect of which the Mandate is exercised by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, but not of self-governing Dominions nor the Indian Empire nor Protected States within that Empire. Except for some special reason, no assistance will be granted to or for the benefit of a child under the age of 13 years.*

The coin was produced in pure silver by the Birmingham Mint. The obverse bears the head of the Third Rajah of Sarawak, Charles Vyner Brooke, facing right. The reverse bears the Sarawak coat of arms (the arms and motto of the Brooke family) with hallmarks for either 1932 or 1932-33 under the shield.

This is a collector's copy of this rare coin, with minor variations from the original design – a genuine silver coin in good condition is worth \$3,000 or more.

Japanese forces landed at Miri in Sarawak on 16 December 1941: Brooke and his family were visiting Sydney, where remained for the duration of the war. He returned to Sarawak on 15 April 1946 and temporarily resumed power as Rajah, until 1 July 1946 when he ceded Sarawak to the British government as a Crown colony, thus ending White Rajah rule in Sarawak.

The steamship *SS Vyner Brooke*, launched on 10 November 1927, was named in his honour. At the outbreak of war with Japan, the Royal Navy requisitioned and armed her, and while evacuating nurses and wounded servicemen from Singapore Japanese aircraft sank her in 1942 (some of the survivors who reached Bangka Island east of Sumatra in the Dutch East Indies were massacred by the Imperial Japanese Army).





BRANCH MEETING Friday 19 September 2025

The Ode of Remembrance was recited by Vice President Don Cameron.

We acknowledged the passing of Ruby Harrison, mother of Keith Harrison from RSL SA.

We also acknowledged the recent passing of the Honourable Sir Eric Neal Kt AC CVO (1924-2025) on 2 September 2025, aged 101.

Sir Eric was an International Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (1987-97), and he and Lady Joan Neal AM were World Fellows of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association. As South Australian Governor from 1996 to 2001, Sir Eric was Patron of the Award. At Government House on 17 June this year, Sir Eric was appointed a Life Patron of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award–Australia. He was just the second Australian to receive this honour.

The SA/NT Branch is proud to be a Friend of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award.



GOLD AWARD CEREMONY Tuesday 23 September 2025

Paul Rosenzweig attended a Gold Award ceremony at Adelaide Town Hall, where recipients received their Duke of Edinburgh's International Award certificates from Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia.

Among them were two who completed their Gold Award whilst serving with 604 Squadron:

Leading Aircraftman (AAFC)
Andrzej Czechowicz

Former Cadet Under Officer
Juliana Therese Buerano

LAC(AAFC) Andrzej Czechowicz is currently serving with 601 Squadron at Keswick Barracks. As a Cadet Corporal in 2021, Andrzej was a member of the 604 Squadron Catafalque Party for our Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service at West Torrens on 27 August 2021.

His siblings Gustaw and Katarina have supported three Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day services, twice as Catafalque Party members (2023 & 2024).

Cadet Warrant Officer Katarina Czechowicz was this year's Catafalque Party Commander.





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 medal has an ornate swivelling suspender bar, with an elaborate mount attaching the suspension bar to the medal disc with a vertical pin.

There were six obverse designs of the medal: this is the fourth pattern medal, featuring the crowned effigy of King George VI – struck in sterling silver at the Royal Mint in London and issued between 1949 and 1952.

This was the period following Indian independence and before the ascension to the throne of Queen Elizabeth II (the title 'King and Emperor of India' previously included in the legend has been omitted).

The General Service Medal 1918-1964 was not issued without a clasp, with a total of 18 clasps ultimately authorised.

The clasps comprise silver bars bearing the name of the relevant campaign or theatre of operations.

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



General Service Medal 1918-1964 with clasp 'MALAYA' awarded to Sergeant Jitu Ghale, struck in sterling silver (fourth pattern medal, issued between 1949 and 1952).

21131088 Sergeant Jitu Ghale

2nd Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles)

Jitu Ghale was a Gurkha from western Nepal who saw operational service in the Federation of Malaya during the opening phase of the Malayan Emergency, 1948-49.

The Ghale are one of the four Nepalese clans (*char-jaat*) of the Gurung communities of the western and central regions of Nepal.

After the end of World War 2, Jitu Ghale enlisted in the 2nd KEO Goorkha Rifles at Dehra Dun, the Gurkha Rifles Recruiting Centre for 2GR, 3GR and 9GR.

He was allocated to the 2nd Battalion after it was reformed on 14 May 1946: 2/2GR had its Home Station at the 2GR Regimental Centre and Depot at Dehra Dun in the Garwhal Province of northern India, bordering Tibet at the western end of the Himalayas, 160 miles west of Nepal and 25 miles southeast of Sirmoor. This was the regiment's Home Station from 1864 until 1948.

This regiment was the second to have been raised as an irregular battalion on 24 April 1815, during the Anglo-Nepalese War, for service with the army of the British East India Company. It comprised men from the Sirmoor tribal area in the lower Himalayas in far western Nepal (now District Sirmour in the state of Himachal Pradesh in India, in the outer Himalayas), and was titled 'The Sirmoor Battalion'.

During the Indian Rebellion of 1857 (the 'Indian Mutiny'), when the Crown took over direct rule of British India from the East India Company, this battalion was one of the few Indian units that remained loyal to Britain. Scarlet facings and the unique red and black diced headband on the Kilmarnock cap were adopted in recognition of 2GR's close association with the 60th Rifles who had fought alongside them in Delhi during the Indian Mutiny.

In 1886, the regiment raised a 2nd Battalion, which served in various Indian cantonments, on the North West Frontier and during the two world wars; it was subsequently disbanded but was reformed in 1946.

The spelling 'Goorkha' is peculiar to this regiment and quite unofficial. The spelling 'Goorkha' was used in the titles of Gurkha regiments until it was standardised to 'Gurkha' in 1891, however 2GR continued to refer to itself as 'Goorkha'.

Jai Gurkha!

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

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

> Gurung and Magar from the western and central regions of Nepal

> Limbu and Rai from eastern Nepal

The Gurung (also called 'Tamu') are an indigenous people of the foothills and mountains of the Himalayas, primarily around the Annapurna Region, most commonly using the surnames 'Gurung' and 'Ghale'.

The Gurung are divided into four clans (*char-jaat*) – Ghale, Ghotane, Lama and Lamechane. Their religion combines ancient animistic rituals and Buddhist beliefs.

Until 1914, the British and Indian Armies had primarily recruited Gurungs and Magars into their Gurkha regiments; after 1948 they formed the majority of soldiers in the 'western' battalions (2GR and 6GR).

2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkha Rifles

The Sirmoor Battalion, one of the first three irregular Gurkha battalions raised on 24 April 1815 for service with the British East India Company, subsequently had the following titles:

> 66th Goorkha Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry: the regiment became a regular infantry unit in 1850 and was taken into the Bengal line and under the authority of the British Crown.

> 2nd Goorkha (The Sirmoor Rifles) Regiment: redesignated in 1861 after the Gurkha regiments which had remained loyal during the Indian Mutiny were developed into their own Line of rifle regiments, numbered sequentially in order of their raising.

> 2nd (Prince of Wales's Own) Goorkha Regiment (The Sirmoor Rifles): in 1876, the regiment acquired the then Prince of Wales (the eldest son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert) as royal patron.

> 2nd King Edward's Own Goorkha Regiment (The Sirmoor Rifles): the royal title was granted by King Edward VII (the former Prince of Wales) in 1906.

> 2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkha Regiment (The Sirmoor Rifles): the royal title was amended in 1936.

Following Indian independence, under the 1947 tripartite agreement, 2GR was one of four Gurkha regiments which became part of the British Army on 1 January 1948.



2nd (Prince of Wales's Own) Goorkha Regiment (The Sirmoor Rifles)

This greeting card produced by the Gurkha Museum shows a Gurkha rifleman wearing the traditional Gurkha Kilmarnock ('pillbox hat') – which for members of the 2nd KEO Gurkha Rifles was black, with a distinctive red toorie (pom-pom) and a red and black diced band. A black regimental badge, comprising the crest of the Prince of Wales, was worn on the diced band.

The Kilmarnock Hat was first introduced for Gurkhas in the Honourable East India Company's service in about 1845; its use fell into abeyance after World War 1, but the 2nd Goorkhas re-introduced it for Drill Order in 1927. In 1948, in Malaya, all Gurkha regiments were obliged to conform to a standard hard pill-box cap with chin-strap, which was worn by the Brigade of Gurkhas from that time forward.



In 1876 the regiment adopted the crest of the Prince of Wales – a plume of three ostrich feathers within a royal coronet, with a scroll containing the motto ICH DIEN ('I Serve') above a large numeral '2'.

Upon Queen Victoria's death on 22 January 1901 Edward, Prince of Wales acceded to the throne as King of the United Kingdom, Emperor of India and King of the British Dominions.

The regiment was redesignated in 1906, but the crest of the Prince of Wales was retained, without the numeral '2'.

Indian Independence

Following the granting of Indian independence on 15 August 1947, the 2nd Goorkhas (comprising two battalions) was the first regiment selected to be transferred from the Indian Army to the British Army, forming The Gurkha Regiment.

Rifleman Jitu Ghale swore his oath of allegiance on 1 January 1948 at the 2GR regimental Home Station at Dehra Dun.

He was promoted to the rank of Corporal, and then Sergeant, and became an instructor at Dehra Dun.

In March 1948, the 2nd KEO Gurkha Rifles transferred to Singapore to develop their expertise in jungle fighting.

Malaya

Sergeant Jitu Ghale deployed from India with 2/2GR, disembarking in Singapore on 11 March. The regiment was met by military bands and a fly-past, and 2GR occupied its new home at Slim Barracks.

2GR was initially assigned to Singapore District, operating under the authority of General Headquarters British Commonwealth Far East Land Forces (FARELF), which had been established in Singapore in August 1947 and exercised overall command over all British land forces in the Asia and Pacific regions.

By 30 April 1948, all eight Gurkha battalions had deployed to the Malay Peninsula and were under the command of HQ FARELF in Singapore.

In April 1948, Sergeant Ghale deployed with 2/2GR by train to Ipoh in the State of Perak, on the northern Malay Peninsula, north of Kuala Lumpur, the capital of the Malayan Federation, to undertake security duties.

The battalion was assigned to the Northern Malaya Sub-District, which had its Headquarters at Kuala Kangsar.

Northern Malaya Sub-District came under command of Malaya District, formerly the pre-war Malaya Command, with its headquarters at Fort Canning Hill in Singapore. Malaya District operated under command of HQ FARELF.

By coincidence, their new camp was where many of the battalion's members had previously been held as prisoners of war by the Japanese – 2/2GR was one of three Gurkha battalions which took part in the defence and withdrawal from Malaya: they served at Ipoh, on the Jitra Line and the withdrawal to Singapore, and spent the remainder of the war (17 February 1942 to 8 September 1945) in POW internment in Singapore as Far East Prisoners of War (FEPOW).

2/2GR was immediately engaged on operations in the Grik area of Perak against 'bandits', as widespread Communist unrest was beginning to break out throughout the Malay Peninsula.

Malayan Emergency

On 16 June 1948, three European plantation managers in Perak state on the Malay Peninsula were executed by members of the Malayan Communist Party.

A State of Emergency was declared in the states of Perak and Johore on 17 June, and then throughout the Federated Malay States the following day.

For the following twelve years the Gurkha battalions of 2GR, 6GR, 7GR and 10GR were continuously on operations against the Communist Terrorists (CT) in the Malayan jungle.

They were supported by the 50th Gurkha Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers (67 and 68 Gurkha Field Squadrons) and the 17th (Gurkha) Signal Regiment.

A full-scale guerrilla war was fought against the Malayan Peoples' Anti-British Army (later titled Malayan Races' Liberation Army) and the Min Yuen (Masses Movement), both commanded by the Malayan Communist Party.

2/2GR made an impressive start to the campaign in July 1948 with an attack on a Communist Terrorists camp South of Ipoh resulting in death of seven CTs.

2/2GR had a demanding time fighting the elusive CT in the jungles of the State of Perak.

Operations extended to the north at Sungei Siput and to the south at Tanjong Malim and Slim River, as well as amongst the western foothills of the Cameron Highlands which lay east of the road and railway running from Kuala Lumpur to Penang.



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).

Commemoration

Sergeant Jitu Ghale was killed during operations in Ipoh in Perak State on 13 May 1949; his body was not recovered.

During the Emergency, the Brigade of Gurkhas suffered a total of 369 casualties – 97 members of the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (2GR) were killed or died on active service.

Sergeant Ghale's family received the General Service Medal 1918-1964 with the clasp 'MALAYA' in recognition of his service in 1948-49 during the Malayan Emergency with the 2nd Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles).

Clasp 'MALAYA'. This clasp was authorised by Army Order 58 of 1960 for service during the Malayan Emergency, between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1960 (the date the Government of the Federation of Malaya officially declared the Emergency over).

The qualification period in the Colony of Singapore ended on 31 January 1959.

Sergeant Jitu Ghale qualified for this clasp through his service from June 1948 in Perak State under the command of Northern Malaya Sub-District of Malaya District.

Sergeant Ghale's name is among the 37 members of 2GR listed on the Memorial Wall in Terendak Military Cemetery, Malacca honouring those with no known grave.



The Memorial Wall within Terendak Military Cemetery, located 21 km north of Malacca, commemorates 184 Service personnel, including 60 Gurkhas, who died or were killed during the Emergency and Confrontation but whose bodies were never recovered.

**2nd King Edward VII's
Own Goorkhas
(The Sirmoor Rifles)**

We take great pride in paying tribute
to those members of the Regiment who served
with distinction during the Malayan Emergency,
Brunei and Borneo Confrontation

If you would like to support the 2 GR Trust:
Account Name: 2nd KEO VII's Own Gurkhas Regimental Trust
Account No: 1332747 | Sort code: 16-19-26
Bank Name: Hoif's Farnborough Branch: RBS, Lawrie House, Victoria Road, Farnborough, GU14 7NR.

This memorial tribute was produced by the 2nd KEO Gurkhas Regimental Trust in memory of the officers and men of 2GR who gave their lives in the South-East Asian campaigns between 1948 and 1966.

2114945	Rifleman	Chamarsing Gurung	2nd Bn	Pahang	12 08 1951
345147	Major	Thomas Anthony Winbush	1st Bn	Johore	02 07 1951
2113128	Rifleman	Balhoj Rai	1st Bn	Johore	02 07 1951
2114492	Rifleman	Takbahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	23 07 1951
21145763	Rifleman	Gamsarsing Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	23 07 1951
2113109	Corporal	Pantaji Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	25 07 1951
21132165	Lance Corporal	Debsing Thapa	1st Bn	Johore	30 07 1951
21133449	Rifleman	Kharabhadur Pun	2nd Bn	Perak	01 10 1951
21147005	Rifleman	Tegbahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	07 11 1951
21144977	Rifleman	Kombahadur Pun	2nd Bn	Johore?	02 01 1952
391073	Major	William Shaw	2nd Bn	Negeri Sembilan	03 07 1952
21131344	Rifleman	Padambahadur Gurung	1st Bn	Johore	20 08 1952
21144863	Rifleman	Sothasing Rana	1st Bn	Johore	20 08 1952
21131385	Rifleman	Tilbahadur Rana	1st Bn	Johore	26 08 1952
21133528	Rifleman	Hajibasa Thapa	2nd Bn	Selangor	04 03 1953
21131421	Rifleman	Pantu Pun	1st Bn	Selangor	03 02 1954
21138394	Rifleman	Birkbahadur Rana	1st Bn	Selangor	22 04 1954
21133421	Corporal	Mehar (Mansori) Thapa	2nd Bn	Seremban	11 04 1957
21132367	Corporal	Chandrabhadur Gurung	1st Bn	Johore	08 01 1958
21141162	Lance Corporal	Dalbhadur Gurung	1st Bn	Brunei	09 12 1962
428204	Lieutenant	David Emory Stephens	1st Bn	Brunei	12 12 1962
21153056	Rifleman	Dhambahadur Gurung	1st Bn	Sarawak	28 08 1963
21153163	Rifleman	Chandrabhadur Gurung	1st Bn	Sarawak	28 08 1963
21141275	Corporal	Kirababhadur Sahi	2nd Bn	Sarawak	29 08 1964
21153399	Rifleman	Chirabhadur Chhetri	2nd Bn	Sarawak	29 08 1964
21153163	Rifleman	Sukabhadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Sarawak	30 01 1964
21152793	Rifleman	Shyambahadur Thapa	1st Bn	Sarawak	30 01 1965
21151635	Rifleman	Batbahadur Thapa	2nd Bn	Sarawak	18 12 1965
Killed, Missing or Died on Active Service					
21132110	Lance Corporal	Lalasing Thapa	1st Bn	Singapore	18 08 1948
21132072	Lance Corporal	Bhagbahadur Rana	1st Bn	Singapore	30 09 1948
21132055	Corporal	Jagbahadur Pun	1st Bn	Singapore	07 10 1948
21144362	Rifleman	Ganga Pun	2nd Bn	Perak	26 11 1948
21144949	Rifleman	Dhambahadur Mall	2nd Bn	Perak?	15 12 1948
21133069	Lance Corporal	Lambahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	10 04 1949
21132170	Lance Corporal	Guman (Sing) Gurung	1st Bn	Johore	12 04 1949
492227	Major	Kerababhadur Pun	1st Bn	Johore	10 05 1949
21131096	Sergeant	Ju Ghale	2nd Bn	Perak	18 05 1949
21135701	Rifleman	Jasbahadur Tamang	2nd Bn	Perak	18 05 1949
21133076	Corporal	Kabang Rana	2nd Bn	Singapore	18 05 1949
21134300	Rifleman	Bhagbahadur Rana	2nd Bn	Singapore	27 07 1949
21145806	Rifleman	Lake Pun	Trg Wing	Perak	30 07 1949
21132440	Rifleman	Chaman Ale	1st Bn	Johore	11 08 1949
21131526	Rifleman	Bhambahadur Gharti	2nd Bn	Penang	26 08 1949
21132009	Sergeant	Harabhadur Thapa	1st Bn	Singapore	05 11 1949
21145801	Rifleman	Batbahadur Pun	2nd Bn	Malaya	02 08 1950
21143831	Corporal	Narbahadur Thapa	2nd Bn	Johore	26 08 1950
21132115	Corporal	Rakbahadur Thapa	1st Bn	Johore	20 05 1951
389465	Captain (GOC)	Batbahadur Gurung, ISM, IDSM	1st Bn	Penang	22 12 1951
21132167	Corporal	Lakbahadur Pun	1st Bn	Johore?	10 08 1952
21143001	Rifleman	Ratbahadur Mall	1st Bn	Johore?	09 01 1953
21133363	Rifleman	Batji Gurung	2nd Bn	Malacca	23 05 1953
21144159	Rifleman	Oyambahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	25 05 1953
21144012	Rifleman	Punbahadur Gurung	1st Bn	Selangor	16 11 1953
21142483	Rifleman	Debi Lal Thapa	1st Bn	Singapore	08 10 1954
21131353	Rifleman	Tutbahadur Gurung	1st Bn	Singapore	27 07 1955
21131074	Rifleman	Indrabhadur Newer	1st Bn	Selangor	11 03 1955
21137736	Rifleman	Jaharsing Thapa	1st Bn	Selangor	11 08 1955
21133491	Rifleman	Satbahadur Gurung	1st Bn	Singapore	11 08 1955
21142538	Rifleman	Phalsing Thapa	1st Bn	Selangor	11 08 1955
345107	Major	Donald Andrew Tuoss	2nd Bn	Selangor	07 06 1956
386466	Major (GOC)	Phalsamsing Gurung, MRE, IDSM	2nd Bn	Selangor	07 06 1956
21131061	Rifleman	Bhambahadur Rana	1st Bn	Johore	30 06 1956
389107	Captain (GOC)	Sunur Gurung	2nd Bn	Singapore	05 05 1957
21140289	Lance Corporal	Padambahadur Thapa	1st Bn	Brunei	20 01 1963
453383	Captain (GOC)	Rakbahadur Gurung, BEM	1st Bn	Singapore	30 01 1963
428295	Captain (GOC)	Punbahadur Gurung, IDSM	1st Bn	Sarawak	08 09 1963
21153241	Rifleman	Bhambahadur Thapa	1st Bn	Sarawak	11 10 1963
21146550	Rifleman	Ujrbahadur Ale	1st Bn	Sarawak	10 02 1964
21153206	Rifleman	Tunbahadur Pun	2nd Bn	Singapore	27 03 1964
21153949	Rifleman	Gopal Gurung	1st Bn	Sabah	18 08 1964
21152914	Rifleman	Kirababhadur Pun	1st Bn	Brunei	19 11 1964
21149119	Rifleman	Sukabhadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Sarawak	20 08 1965
21156992	Rifleman	Dhankumar Tamang	2nd Bn	Singapore	23 01 1966
21153209	Rifleman	Malsaras Thapa	ERE	Pahang	29 03 1966
Their Names Shall Live For Ever					

The roll includes the name of Sergeant Jitu Ghale who was killed-in-action on 13 May 1949 during operations in Ipoh in Perak State, Federated Malay States during the Malayan Emergency.

UPCOMING EVENTS

604 SQUADRON DINING IN NIGHT

A formal evening to celebrate our achievements, recognise our supporters, and uphold our proud traditions.

WHERE?

Naval, Military & Air Force Club



WHEN?

Thursday, 11 December 2025

Sunday 7 December 2025

604 Squadron End of Year Parade

Vice-President Don Cameron will attend the 604 Squadron End of Year Parade at Hampstead Barracks. Don will present the Squadron Executive Instructor's Award 2025, which has been sponsored by the SA/NT Branch – this award recognises consistent excellence in drill and ceremonial activities throughout the year. Senator Andrew MacLachlan CSC has been invited to be the Reviewing Officer. After the conclusion of the parade, Don will present Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day Certificates of Appreciation.

Thursday 11 December 2025

604 Squadron Dining-in Night

Vice-President Don Cameron will represent the SA/NT Branch at the 604 Squadron formal Dining-in Night at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club in Hutt Street in Adelaide. The host will be the Reverend Brenton Daulby OAM OstJ JP.

Saturday 13 December 2025

SA & NT Branch Christmas Lunch

Join us at the Maid of Auckland Hotel for our annual lunch to reflect on the events of the year and to support our sponsorship of the four schools in the Bau District of Sarawak. Donations of raffle prizes are most welcome – these can be brought to a general meeting or on the day.

National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc
South Australia & Northern Territory Branch

SA/NT Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia

SA & NT Branch Christmas Lunch 2025

Maid of Auckland Hotel, 926 South Road, Edwardstown ~ Saturday 13 December 2025

An opportunity to reflect on the events of the year, in which we marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Sarawak, the 75th anniversary of the start of Australia's involvement in the Malayan Emergency, and the 59th anniversary of the end of Confrontation, and to look forward to 2026 in which we will mark the 30th anniversary of the formation of the "National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association (Australia) Incorporated", while also supporting our sponsorship of four schools in the Bau District of Sarawak where Australian and Commonwealth military forces were deployed during Confrontation.

LEST WE FORGET

KAMI JANGAN LUPAKAN



Adelaide High School

ADELAIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Adelaide High School is currently preparing commemorative Honour Boards for the old scholars known to have served in the Korean War and Vietnam War, and later they will make an Honour Wall for the old scholar servicemen and women who served in WW2, and a Memorial Garden to the Fallen listing those killed-in-action.

Among the names being researched are three Royal Australian Engineers personnel who saw operational service in British North Borneo (Sabah) on Operation 'Granite' during Confrontation, receiving the Campaign Service Medal, 1962– with clasp 'BORNEO'.



At our commemorative events we display the Sabah flag, honouring the Five Australians who lost their lives on active service in Sabah in 1964-66: one member of 1 Special Air Service Squadron, and four members of the Royal Australian Engineers serving on Operation 'Granite'.

41118 Sergeant Ralph Kinley SMITH **7 Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers**

On 16 April 1964, 7 Field Squadron Group, RAE made the first deployment to Borneo to carry out construction tasks. Serving with the squadron was Adelaide High School old scholar Sergeant Ralph Kinley Smith, who served in Sabah from 4 June to 24 November 1964. He subsequently saw further active service during the Vietnam War as a Warrant Officer Class 2 with 198 Works Section, Royal Australian Engineers, Australian Forces Vietnam (29 January 1968 to 21 January 1969).

The 7 Field Squadron Group was followed by 1 Field Squadron, then 24 Construction Squadron. Their task was to work on the isolated Keningau-Pensiangan Road, with associated roading and infrastructure including airstrips and camps. Engineer stores, RAEME and other groups supported the project for 30 challenging months under insecure conditions. Ultimately, 100 kilometres of main road was constructed through rugged mountains.

3411724 Sapper John Walter BLACKET **21 Construction Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers**

Next to deploy on a six-month tour was 21 Construction Squadron, including Adelaide High School old scholar Sapper John Blacket. He served in Sabah on Operation 'Granite' from November 1965 to 7 June 1966, and later attended the Officer Cadet School Portsea and was commissioned.

42490 Sergeant John Charles CORKRAN **21 Construction Squadron Independent Workshop**

Serving with the 21 Construction Squadron Independent Workshop was Adelaide High School old scholar Sergeant John Charles Corkran, Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, from November 1965 to 7 June 1966. He subsequently saw further active service during the Vietnam War with 1st Armoured Regiment Light Aid Detachments ('C' Squadron Section, 18 December 1968 to 10 February 1969, and 'B' Squadron Section, 11 February to 3 September 1969).

Four RAE members lost their lives in Sabah – two of them from 21 Construction Squadron at the Base Camp 'Pandewan Barracks' at North Pandewan: 58702 Sapper Anthony John Colohan, Plant Troop Workshop (died of electrocution on 15 December 1965), and 6363 Warrant Officer Class 2 Maxwell Clyde Hutchinson, Vehicle Warrant Officer, Transport Troop (died of gunshot wounds on 8 April 1966).

21 Construction Squadron was succeeded by 22 Construction Squadron on a six-month tour. A further two RAE members lost their lives, both in motor vehicle accidents: 3411676 Sapper Reginald Nevill Bridgland, Driver (31 July 1966) and 5713692 Sapper Geoffrey Francis Mills, Field Engineer (9 August 1966).



IN MEMORIAM

Confrontation, 1962-1966

† 4410434 Private Dennis Vernon PRICE (1942-2015)



Dennis Price enlisted in the Australian Regular Army at Keswick Barracks on 11 January 1962, aged 19. After recruit training he was assigned to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps, and ultimately served in three battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment between 1962 and 1965.

From September 1962 to August 1964, he spent two years on the Malay Peninsula with 'D' Company of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR) based at Terendak Army Camp in Malacca, assigned to the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group.

He deployed with 2RAR to the Thai-Malay border on 30 April 1963: this included 'special service' in counter-terrorist operations from 28 May to 2 July 1963, and again later with 3RAR from 20 February to 5 April 1964.

He was assigned to No 2 War Dog Training Unit as a Pony Handler (6 August 1963 to 22 January 1964), and also had an attachment to the British Jungle Warfare School at Kota Tinggi in Johor.

Dennis returned to Australia on 16 August 1964, and served with 1RAR until taking his discharge on 10 January 1965.

THANKS DIGGER

Virtual Museum and Commemoration Centre

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

4410434 Private Dennis Vernon Price (1942-2015)

Dennis Price was born at Wayville, SA on 15 December 1942. On 11 January 1962, at the age of 19, he enlisted in the Australian Regular Army at Keswick Barracks.

After recruit training he was assigned to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps, and ultimately served in three battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment between 1962 and 1965.

From September 1962 to August 1964, he spent two years on the Malay Peninsula with 'D' Company of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR) based at Terendak Army Camp in Malacca, assigned to the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group.

He deployed twice with 2RAR to the Thai-Malay border on 30 April 1963: this included 'special service' in counter-terrorist operations from 28 May to 2 July 1963, and again later with 3RAR from 20 February to 5 April 1964.

He had a posting to No 2 War Dog Training Unit as a Pony Handler (6 August 1963 to 22 January 1964), and also had an attachment to the British Jungle Warfare School at Kota Tinggi in Johor.

Dennis returned to Australia on 16 August 1964, and served with 1RAR until taking his discharge on 10 January 1965.

After the reformation of the SA/NT Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia, Dennis joined the Branch on 31 August 2011, and attended the inaugural Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service at the National War Memorial on North Terrace on that day.

Dennis was an active member of the SA/NT Branch until his passing in Adelaide on 21 October 2015, aged 72.

Ubique || Lest we Forget



MALAYAN EMERGENCY Roll of Honour – October

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.

2/410190 Private Alfred William Keen,
2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:
21 October 1956

Lest we Forget



Private Keen is one of 50 Australian fallen from the Malayan wars (42 from the Emergency and 8 from Confrontation) who still remain buried overseas.

2/410190 Private Alfred William Keen (1930-1956)

Born in Albury, NSW on 16 January 1930, Alfred Keen enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in Victoria on 17 March 1948 and was given the Army number '3/1458'.

He was assigned to the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps. He was first posted as a Driver/Clerk with 1 Base Workshops in Bulimba, Queensland and was later a Driver with 1 Central Ordnance Depot.

Keen served with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan from 18 December 1950 to 23 August 1951.

He transferred to the Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and served in South Korea, first with Australian Forces in Korea (7 November 1951 to 21 January 1952) and then from 9 February to 7 November 1952 with the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

He discharged on 11 April 1954, but on 29 November he re-enlisted and was given the new Army number '2/410190'. He was posted to the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

During the Malayan Emergency, on 8 October 1953 he embarked on the *Georgic* when 2RAR sailed for its first tour of duty in Malaya, assigned to the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group. He disembarked in Penang on 20 October.

Private Alfred William Keen died of illness (meningeal encephalitis) at the British Military Hospital Kamunting on 21 October 1956, aged 26.

He was buried with full military honours in the Taiping (Kamunting Road) Christian Cemetery in Perak, Federation of Malaya.

Private Keen's name is located at panel 2 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial.

Lest we Forget

