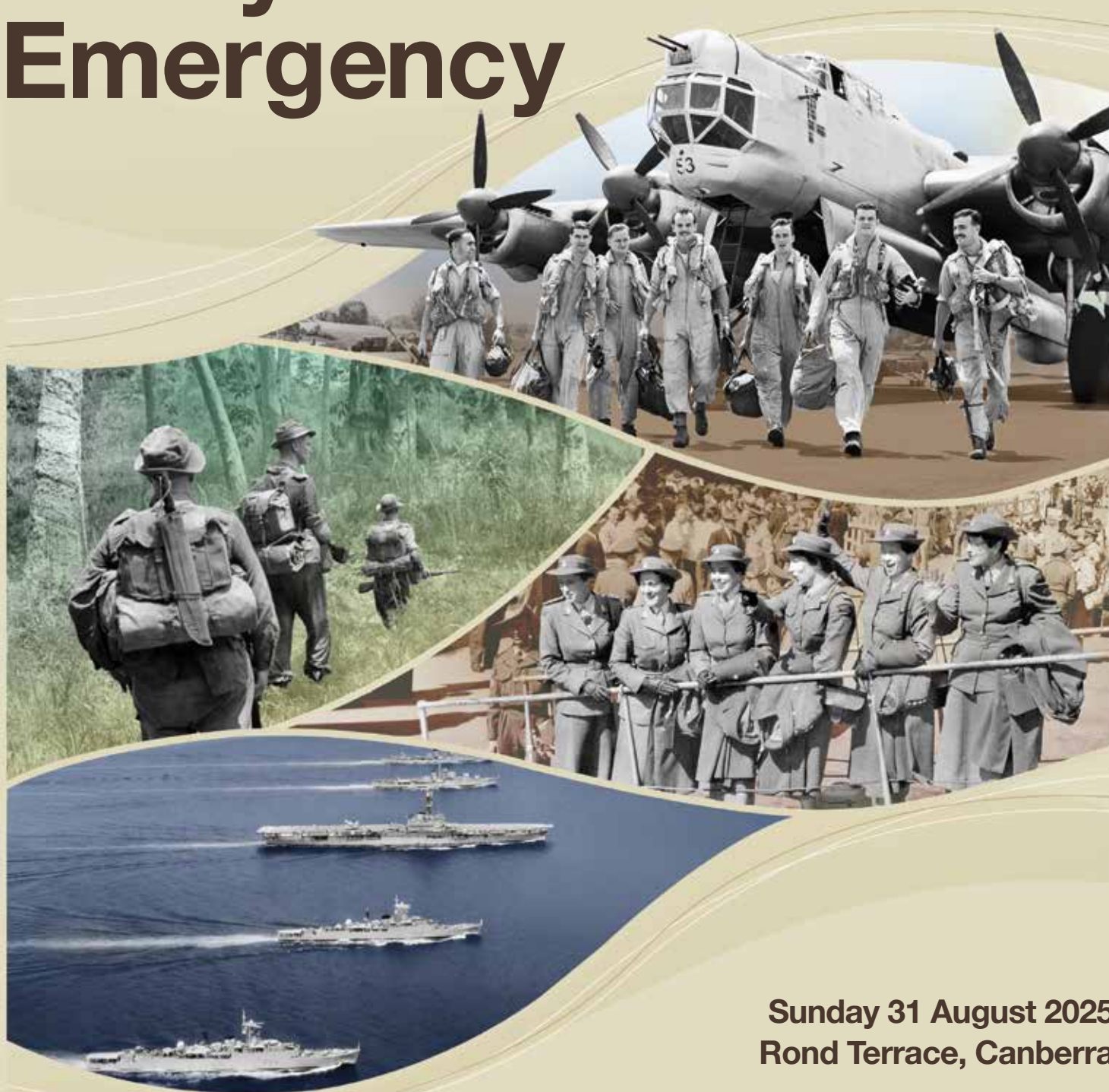


75th anniversary of Australian service in the

Malayan Emergency



Sunday 31 August 2025
Rond Terrace, Canberra

Front cover images

Top: Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) crew from No. 1 (Bomber) Squadron in front of their Avro Lincoln bomber after returning from a mission over Malaya. AWM FEA1030

Left: Men of D Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR), move through a rubber plantation as they hunt Communist insurgents in Perak. AWM HOB/56/0495/MC

Right: Six sisters of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC) wave farewell from the gangplank of SS *New Australia* on embarkation for service in Malaya, 1955. AWM DUN/55/0824/EC

Bottom: The destroyers HMAS *Tobruk* and *Anzac*, aircraft carrier HMAS *Melbourne* and frigates HMAS *Queenborough* and *Quickmatch* in Far Eastern waters. AWM 304874/02

ANDAMAN SEA



Australian bases in Malaya and Singapore







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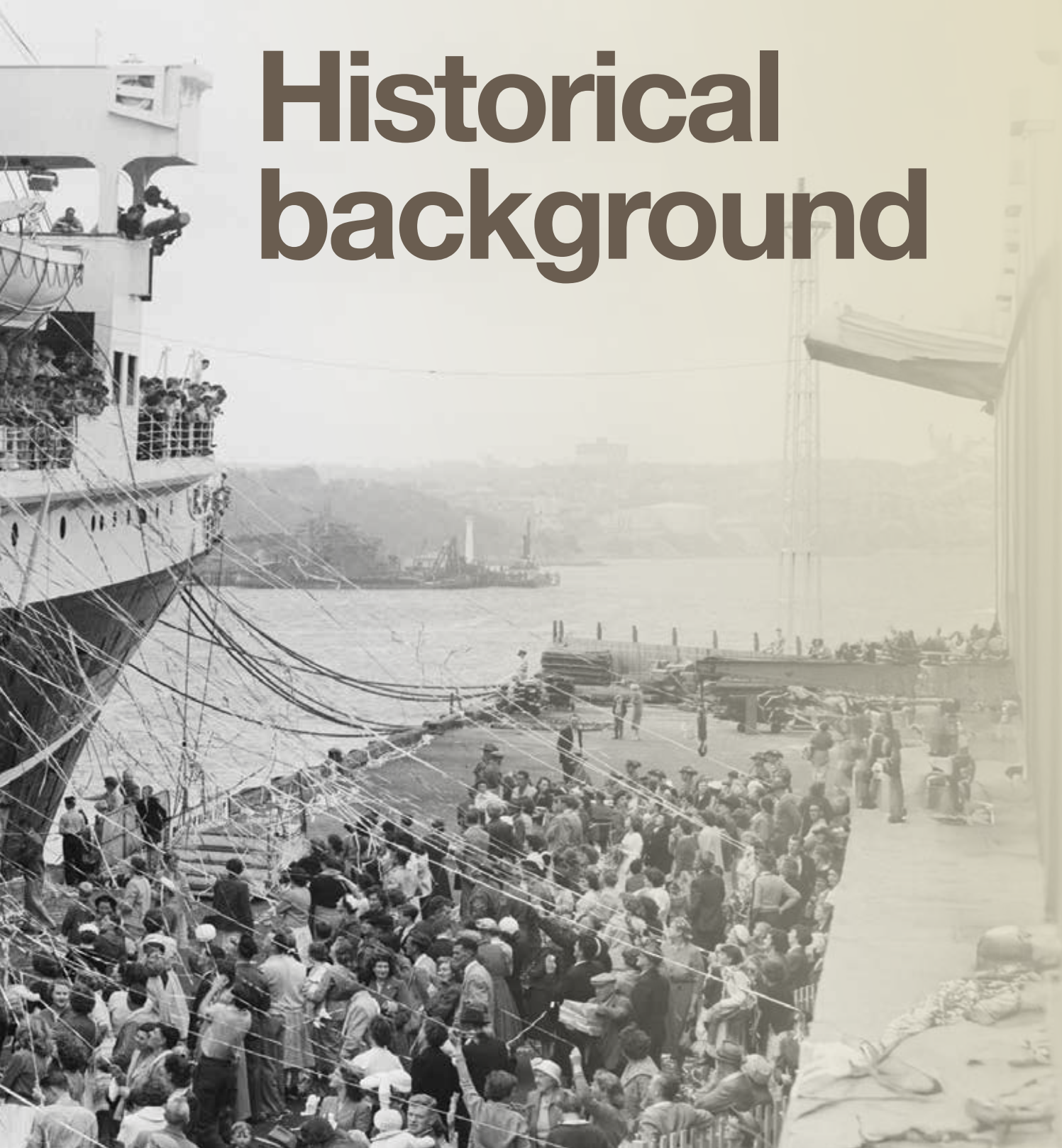
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Men from D Company, 2RAR, walk via a village as part of an 8-day patrol through Perak.
AWM HOB/56/0513/MC



Soldiers and sailors farewell their family and friends as SS New Australia departs Sydney for Malaya. AWM DUN/57/1993/EC

Historical background

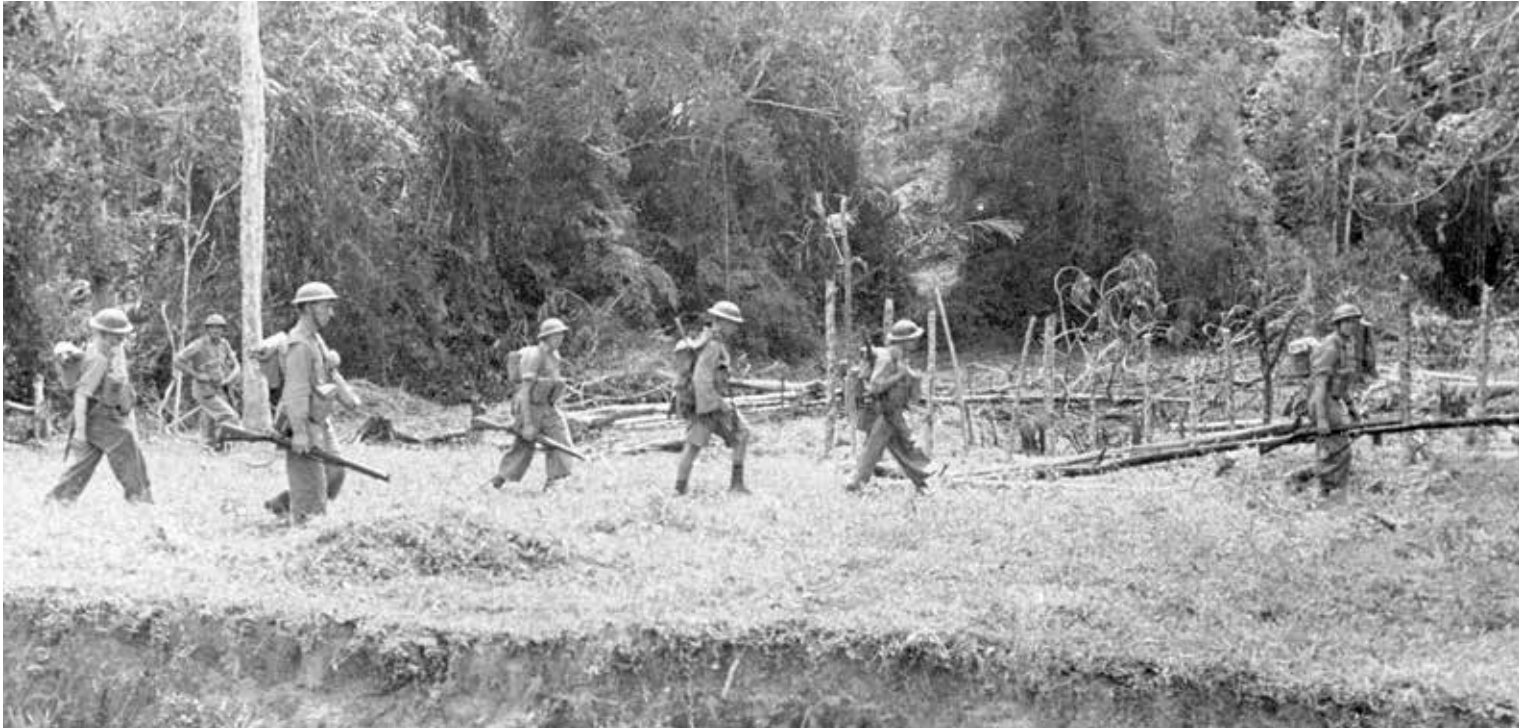


Historical background

Historical background

The Malayan Emergency (1948 to 1960) began in the wake of the globally devastating Second World War. It was largely overshadowed by the Cold War's nuclear arms race and larger regional wars including those in Korea and Vietnam. The conflict is significant as one of the earliest post-1945 modern insurgencies and one of the few truly successful counter-insurgency campaigns. Forces deployed to Malaya pioneered modern counter-insurgency operations and ultimately were successful in defeating a communist threat. For Australians, whose contribution was from June 1950 to 1960, the Malayan Emergency was the first armed conflict after the Second World War to which Australia announced a force deployment. For a time, it also held the status of Australia's longest sustained military commitment to any war or armed conflict—a status that is now held by the Afghanistan war.

The Malayan Emergency had its roots in the age of European imperialism. From the 16th century onwards, Portugal, then The Netherlands, and finally Great Britain colonised parts of the Malay Peninsula. British colonisation began in 1786 when the East India Company established a trading post at Penang on the peninsula's north-eastern coast. This was soon followed by another at Singapore in 1819. The 1824 Anglo-Dutch Treaty gave Britain control of Malacca (previously a Portuguese and then Dutch colony) in the south-east. This enabled Britain to gradually exert control over other Malay states to form 'British Malaya'. The northern half of the peninsula remained part of Siam (Thailand).



Australia had contributed to Malaya's defence during both world wars. Soldiers of the 8th Australian Division are shown on patrol in southern Malaya prior to going into action against the Japanese. State Library of Victoria (SLV) H99.200/477

As European imperialism and international trade extended north into East Asia, the Malayan Peninsula also assumed strategic importance due to its location at the junction of the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The Malacca Strait, passing between the peninsula and Sumatra, became a valuable naval and shipping route between Asia and Europe.

After the First World War, Britain pledged to construct a naval base in Singapore for the Royal Navy to be able to operate in both oceans in the event of a regional war. Fearing a war against Japan, Australians placed their faith in the 'Singapore strategy'. They were shocked when the Japanese invaded Malaya in December 1941 and stunned when Singapore fell on 15 February 1942. The Japanese occupied Malaya and Singapore until the end of the war. These events made Australians acutely aware of the Malay Peninsula's strategic importance.

After 1945, Britain re-exerted control over Malaya but faced rising anti-colonial sentiment. In 1946, it formally unified the Malay states (excluding Singapore) under a central government by forming the Malayan Union. Malay opposition to this prompted Britain to create the self-governing, but still colonised, Federation of Malaya (FoM) on 1 February 1948.

Britain's refusal to grant independence contributed to widespread discontent and escalating civil opposition. The Malayan Communist Party (MCP), which was largely ethnically Chinese, was one of the more aggressive opposition groups. The MCP sought to achieve independence and the creation of a communist state. It had the means of taking up arms. During the Second World War, British forces had trained and equipped MCP guerrilla groups to oppose the Japanese. After the war, the MCP handed over most of its wartime-supplied arms and ammunition but withheld enough for future use if necessary.

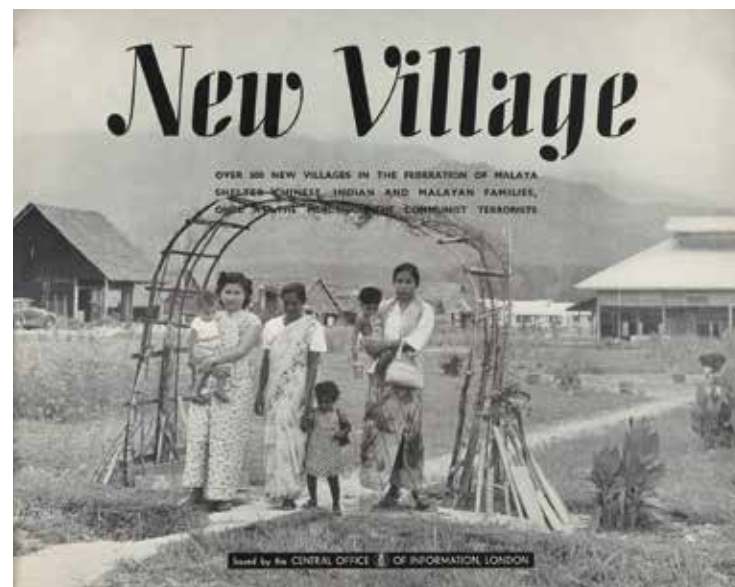
Historical background

The Malayan Emergency began on 16 June 1948 when MCP gunmen attacked two plantations, killing three Britons. This came on top of earlier violent incidents. The FoM declared a local State of Emergency and extended this to the whole country two days later. The MCP initially planned an ambitious military campaign but soon switched to a long war strategy involving guerrilla warfare. The initial British and Malayan response was ineffectual due to a lack of understanding of non-conventional warfare and a tendency to underestimate the enemy. As well as engaging the guerrillas, British and Malay forces conducted aggressive 'sweeps' of rural areas. This involved arresting many civilians, deporting thousands of ethnically Chinese people, and destroying many homes and farms. These sweeps were aimed at coercing the populace and undermining support for the MCP.

In February 1949, the MCP formed the Malayan National Liberation Army (MNLA) to step up the armed insurgency. Early actions included targeting military and police forces and villages perceived as pro-British. By early 1950, the FoM grasped that the MNLA could not be shrugged off as 'bandits' and that the insurgency represented a serious threat to the colony's security and political future.

In March 1950, Lieutenant-General Harold Briggs, a retired British Army officer, was appointed as the FoM's Director of Operations. His role was to ensure greater control and oversight of the counter-insurgency campaign. Briggs argued that victory would require both increased military effort and coordinated civil actions to tightly control and secure vulnerable areas. He would devise the 'Briggs Plan'. This entailed continuing to engage the MNLA while also taking forceful, and at times ruthless, actions targeting the populace in vulnerable areas.

The intention was to isolate the MNLA from supporters and cut off access to supplies. One of the most controversial actions was the forced removal of close to a million civilians into guarded, barbed wire-enclosed concentration camps known as 'new villages'.



The front page of a British propaganda booklet promoting the FoM's 'new village' initiative. This entailed resettling people in vulnerable areas in new guarded villages. The staged photograph shows Malay, Indian and Chinese women and children inside a 'new village'. Central Office of Information, Great Britain, 1953. Library of Congress 2023630568

The British also began calling on their Commonwealth members for military support. Several responded to the call. In April 1950, Britain requested Australian support in the form of transport and bomber aircraft. Forces operating in the Malayan jungles required air supply and air support to locate and attack MNLA camps and supply lines. Although 'deeply conscious of the serious position that exists in Malaya', the government of Prime Minister Robert Menzies was wary of being dragged into a potentially unwinnable conflict. On 19 May, Cabinet cautiously agreed to offer a transport flight (ultimately increased to a squadron). Then, on 27 June, when discussing the outbreak of war in Korea two days before, Cabinet decided that the communist threat in Malaya was a serious concern. Its members agreed that Australia should offer a bomber squadron and a eight-man jungle warfare advisory team. The latter offer reflected a mistaken belief that the British did not have much experience in jungle warfare. Cabinet members also did not understand the complex nature of counter-insurgency operations in Malaya.

On 19 June 1950, the advance party of No. 38 (Transport) Squadron Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) landed at Changi airbase, Singapore. This marked the start of Australia's military involvement in the Malayan Emergency. It was also the first time since the end of the Second World War that an Australian unit had been deployed to an armed conflict. The importance of the moment was not lost on the airmen disembarking from their Dakota aircraft to be received by senior Royal Air Force (RAF) officers and a multitude of press reporters and photographers'. By 6 July, the whole squadron had arrived, finding the facilities sparse, with most airmen living in tents for the first three months. The squadron was soon conducting supply drops, evacuating casualties from forward airstrips, and flying courier services. Although short of manpower and spare parts, groundcrews achieved a high level of aircraft serviceability right up until the squadron's return home in December 1952.



A Dakota of No. 38 (Transport) Squadron enroute to central Malaya to drop supplies to an isolated police station. SLV AN009534



A navigator on a Lincoln bomber. SLV AN009512

Historical background

No. 1 (Bomber) Squadron RAAF reached Tengah, Singapore, in July, to contribute to the air campaign against the MNLA, called 'Operation Firedog'. The squadron's Lincoln bombers had been designed for strategic bombing of industrial targets, but they were also effective in the conditions encountered in Malaya. They could drop 14 1000-pound, high explosive bombs to blast jungle areas believed to contain MNLA camps and supply routes. Bombing runs were hazardous as crews flew at a low level over jungle-covered, mountainous terrain that was often obscured by cloud and mist. Dense vegetation made insurgent casualties and damage difficult to gauge, but the bombing undoubtedly contributed to weakening the MNLA.

The Emergency peaked in 1951, but the MNLA was far from defeated. General Sir Harold Templer arrived in January 1952 as British High Commissioner to Malaya and assumed responsibility for the counter-insurgency. He recognised that the war would be won not merely by defeating the MNLA but winning 'hearts and minds'. He persisted with the Briggs plan of exerting control over the populace in threatened areas before progressively relaxing conditions to restore security and economic prosperity to the Malayan people.



Crew of a Lincoln bomber of No. 1 Squadron at Tengah, Singapore.
SLV AN009556



Ground staff of No. 1 Squadron standing in front of a Lincoln bomber
at Tengah airbase, Singapore. SLV H99.206/1612

Although the Emergency had peaked, there was mounting concern regarding communist expansionism in Asia. The insurgency had to be defeated before a communist state could intervene. In September 1954, Australia and seven other countries formed the Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) to cooperate against any new communist military threats. Then, in February 1955, Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand established the Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) to defend Malaya and Singapore. On 1 April, Menzies announced Australia's commitment to the FESR, denouncing communism as Australia's primary threat and declaring that Australian forces would meet the threat 'as far north ... as possible'. The strategy was known as 'forward defence'.

The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) immediately diverted two destroyers, HMAS *Arunta* and *Warramunga*, from exercises off Malaya to the FESR. They were the first of 13 Australian warships to serve with the FESR during the Malayan Emergency. Most completed multiple tours. The warships mostly patrolled Malayan and Singaporean waters but also supported the land campaign. In September 1956, the destroyers *Tobruk* and *Anzac* bombarded shore positions. A British forward observation officer reported their fire as 'most effective'. Frigates *Quickmatch* and *Queenborough* shelled targets in January 1957, and *Tobruk*, on its third tour, did so again in August 1957.



The frigate HMAS *Queenborough*. AWM 301241



Working on electrical equipment aboard the frigate HMAS *Quickmatch*
AWM 304828

Historical background

In July 1955, No. 2 Airfield Construction Squadron RAAF began deploying to Butterworth in north-eastern Malaya to upgrade an airbase there. The project was bigger than anticipated and the work hindered by equipment and supply shortages. Men faced a heightened threat of malaria and other tropical diseases due to the area's swampiness. These issues were compounded early on by poor rations and substandard accommodation, including beetle-infested huts. When RAAF nurses were first posted to Butterworth in 1956–57, their accommodation was even worse. Fortunately, steps were taken to correct the shortcomings. The squadron completed the construction project and returned home in June 1958.

The Army's main contribution began in October 1955 when the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR) deployed. 2RAR was the first Australian infantry battalion to serve in a tropical operational area since the Second World War. Other units deployed included 'B' Troop of 105 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery, and 4 Troop (and later also 2 Troop), Royal Australian Engineers. The Army also deployed an array of other support troops, including planning and intelligence staff, logistics personnel, military police, and medical and nursing personnel.



Sappers of 4 Troop, Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) constructing a bridge in Malaya. AWM P01325.012



Construction of the airfield at Butterworth, Malaya. AWM FEA0698



Members of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps and Royal Australian Army Service Corps ahead of deploying to Malaya. SLV H99.200/725



Australian nurses at Puckapunyal before leaving for Malaya. SLV H99.200/704



Australian service personnel asking directions from a policeman from their trishaw at Mitchell Pier, Butterworth. SLV H99.200/678

Historical background

Australian soldiers had built a reputation as skilled jungle fighters during the Second World War. By 1955 the skill was fading. The Army reopened the Canungra Jungle Warfare School in Queensland with the aim to prepare men physically and mentally for jungle fighting. But 2RAR only received instruction in counterinsurgency after arriving in Malaya where British, Gurkha and Malayan troops with experience fighting the MNLA could deliver courses.

In December 1955, 2RAR and 'B' Troop gunners participated in 'Operation Deuce'. They patrolled in the stifling and often wet jungle and across rough terrain searching for MNLA camps and food caches. This was the first of many such operations. Patrols would often be inserted deep into jungle areas, using helicopters for tactical mobility and resupply. Men had to stay alert and demonstrate fire discipline as there was always the possibility of ambushes or clashes. There was the added danger of 'friendly fire', a known and accepted risk in dense vegetation. During its two-year tour, 2RAR lost six men who were killed in action and three who were accidentally shot in patrol areas; others were wounded. As was the case with other units in Malaya, there were deaths from non-combat incidents, including accidents and illnesses.



A base camp being set up by members of 2RAR in Southern Kedah. The soldiers are building poncho shelters with bamboo poles.
AWM HOB/56/0319/MC



Gunners of A Troop, 105th Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery, fire their 25 pounder field gun against insurgent targets during the night.
AWM HOB/56/0658/MC



These men from B Company, 2RAR are members of a food party who have just met a ration truck at the fringe of the jungle to collect supplies for their fellow troops. AWM HOB/56/0601/MC

Contacts (where Australians fired first) and incidents (where insurgents fired first) were always possible, but most patrols were 'routine'. Troops often found evidence of insurgent activity but armed clashes with insurgents were infrequent. Normally, men patrolled or occupied ambush positions for hours without result. Such was the unremitting and painstaking nature of counter-insurgency operations. While the lack of opportunity to engage the enemy frustrated troops, it showed they were achieving the objective of controlling the ground and curtailing insurgent activity. The situation persisted, with even fewer clashes, when 3RAR took over in October 1957, and when 1RAR took over in September 1959.

Despite the ever-reducing chances of contacts and incidents, the physicality and psychological demands of jungle warfare tested men. A 3RAR veteran recalled the jungle pressing in, 'with no break in the canopy of trees ... [while] the maximum visibility was about twenty metres'. Eyes and ears strained to detect movement or any other sign of insurgent activity like a footprint or a bent twig on a track; sounds of animals and falling tree branches were unnerving; and leeches and ants became a torment. The battalions nevertheless restored the Australian reputation for skill in jungle warfare.



Members of 3 Platoon, A Company, 3RAR, return from a jungle patrol across a wooden bridge. AWM ELL/58/0283/MC



Two soldiers of C Company, 1RAR, going into operations by canoe on the Sungei Rhui (River) in North Malaya. AWM P01306.028



Two members of 1RAR, take a moment to rest on logs during a patrol in the jungle. AWM P01858.002



Ground crew of No.2 Squadron RAAF loading bombs on a Canberra bomber. AWM FEA1060

In July 1958, No. 1 Squadron returned home as its ageing Lincoln bombers were due for replacement with new Canberra jet bombers. Hundreds of aircrew and ground staff had rotated through the squadron over eight years. That month, No. 2 Squadron deployed to Butterworth with Canberra bombers. They soon engaged in air strikes against identified or suspected insurgent camps and supply lines. In August, Nos. 3 and 77 Squadrons, with Sabre fighters, arrived and each also mounted air strikes. The remaining MNLA forces had by then withdrawn into jungle areas around the Thai-Malay border.

On 31 July 1960, Malaya (granted independence on 31 August 1957) declared the state of emergency over.

The communist threat was considered 'contained'. By then, more than 7,000 Australians had served in the Malayan Emergency, with 39 losing their lives.

Although the state of emergency was lifted, anti-MNLA operations continued. Between 1960 and 1964, 1RAR, 2RAR, 3RAR, and support units took their turn undertaking jungle patrols in the border region against a dwindling band of insurgents who still refused to surrender. Troops demonstrated the mastery of jungle warfare. Patrols were physically challenging, and they could be mentally taxing both from the confines of the jungle and the frustration of having few actual contacts. Two Australians were killed while on these operations. In the same period, and up until early 1966, RAAF units also participated in anti-MNLA operations.

While not part of the Malayan Emergency, Thai-Malay border operations in 1960-66 marked the winding down and ending of Australian operations to secure the new nation of Malaysia. Australia also contributed to Malaysia's security during the Confrontation with Indonesia, the success of which was in large measure attributable to counter-insurgency and jungle warfare skills forged in the Malayan Emergency. Australian forces began to be progressively withdrawn from Malaysia in the 1970s. The RAAF presence at Butterworth in this era ended in 1988, with the Army's Rifle Company Butterworth withdrawn from the airbase defence role the following year. Australia's commitment to Malaysia nonetheless is sustained to this day with defence cooperation under the Five Power Defence Arrangements. Those men and women who served in the Malayan Emergency laid the foundation for an enduring defence relationship between Australia and Malaysia.



Soldiers from 3RAR farewelling some local children. 3RAR was preparing to return to Australia after completing a 2-year tour of operations in Malaya.
AWM ELL/59/0499/MC



Members of 2RAR form an Honour Guard for fallen comrades. Corporal John Norman Allen, Private Geoffrey Clyde Fritz and Private Cedric Charles Ingra were all killed on 22 June 1956 in an action known as the Sungei Siput pipeline ambush. AWM P05001.007

Order of Service



Order of Service

The music for the service is provided by: **The Band of the Royal Military College**

Captain Amelia Dangerfield
Music Director

OFFICIAL PARTY ARRIVAL

PLAYING OF THE DIDGERIDOO

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

CATAFALQUE PARTY AND COLOUR PARTY ARE MOUNTED

COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS

FIRST VETERAN REFLECTION

MUSICAL PIECE

Able Seaman Todd McGrady
Royal Australian Navy

Master of Ceremonies
Group Captain Jamie Scott
Royal Australian Air Force

Members of Australia's Federation Guard

Senior Government Representative

Mr Ross Beadman
Royal Australian Navy veteran

I'll Be Seeing You
Performed by members of
The Band of the Royal Military College



A group of soldiers from A Company, 2RAR in the back of a truck en route to the jungles of southern Kedah where they will patrol. AWM HOB/56/0363/MC



Two soldiers of A Company, 1RAR, handing out Christmas food treats to the children of Kampong Lasah, Perak. AWM P04866.008

SECOND VETERAN REFLECTION

Mr Brian Avery
Australian Army veteran

POEM

Australian Veterans Buried in Malaysia
Recited by Ms Vicki Tiegs OAM
Daughter of the late Mr Barrington Algar

THIRD VETERAN REFLECTION

Mr Roy Aiton
Royal Australian Air Force veteran

PRAYER OF COMMEMORATION

Chaplain Josh Bouzanquet
Australian Army

OFFICIAL WREATH LAYING

Official representatives to lay wreaths

ODE OF REMEMBRANCE

Mr Ian Davenport
President, ACT and NSW Branch
National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association Australia

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

Response:
We will remember them.

All:
Lest we forget.

LAST POST

ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE

ROUSE

NATIONAL ANTHEM OF AUSTRALIA

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

FINAL BLESSING

Chaplain Josh Bouzanquet
Australian Army

**CATAFALQUE PARTY AND COLOUR
PARTY ARE DISMOUNTED**

Members of Australia's Federation Guard

PUBLIC WREATH LAYING

Members of the public are invited to lay
floral tributes. Attendees not laying wreaths
are asked to remain seated.

CONCLUSION OF SERVICE

OFFICIAL PARTY DEPARTS



An Australian soldier sharing water from his bottle with a local tribesman. AWM CUN/60/0218/MC

Lieutenant General Sir Henry Wells KBE CB DSO, Chief of the General Staff, Australian Military Forces (the Army's official title at the time), inspecting men from Support Company, 2RAR at Battalion Headquarters in Kuala Kangsar, Perak. AWM HOB/56/0628/MC





Customs, traditions and protocols

Customs, traditions and protocols

PLAYING OF THE DIDGERIDOO

The didgeridoo (or as it is known by the Traditional Custodians of the Yolngu clans of north-east Arnhem Land, the 'yidaki'), is not traditionally played in Ngunnawal or Wiradjuri country. However, it is played here today with the permission of the Ngunnawal people to acknowledge and pay respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have contributed to the defence of Australia in times of peace and war.

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE COLOURS

The practice of carrying symbols into battle has existed for centuries, with the Eagle Standards of the Roman legions being perhaps the best known. In the 13th century, the nobility went into battle with their entire body and most of their horse hidden by defensive armour, and displayed distinctive badges or crests on their equipment and banners to aid identification. It is from these banners carrying ensigns of heraldry that Regimental Colours are directly derived. Colours are no longer carried in battle, but they remain a strong focal point for a regiment and are treated with great respect.

CATAFALQUE PARTY

Historically, a catafalque was a support for a coffin, but it has come to represent a remembrance stone or a tomb. A Catafalque Party was originally appointed to guard a coffin from theft or desecration. Now it performs a ceremonial role, honouring the dead.



1RAR participates in the victory parade in Kuala Lumpur to celebrate Malaya's victory over Communist insurgents, after 12 years of fighting. The colour party of 1RAR is followed (off camera) by 100 members of 1RAR. AWM CUN/60/0241/MC

COMPLIMENTS TO COLOURS

Compliments are to be accorded to the uncased Colours when carried by a Colour Party, when on parade. When Colours are to be received on parade, attendees are to stand on the Senior Ensign's order: 'Colour Party ... quick march'; and they should remain standing until the Colour Party is in position on parade, with the completion of the musical salute *Point of War*. Service personnel in uniform are to salute only for the playing of *Point of War*.

When Colours are marched-off parade, attendees are to stand on the order: 'march-off the Colours'; and those service personnel in uniform are to salute only while the band plays *Point of War*. At the completion of the musical salute, service personnel complete the salute; however, they remain standing until the Colours have cleared the parade ground and the Catafalque Party returns to the attention position. The Colours are not saluted as they pass by service personnel during the march-on and march-off procedure. Compliments are not accorded to cased Colours.

FLAG PROTOCOLS

Flags are important symbols of all nations, and of those who have fought and died for those nations, and as such should be treated with respect at all times. They should not be subjected to indignity or displayed in a position or size inferior to any other flag.

They should always be flown aloft and free and should not be allowed to fall or lie upon the ground. Please note that 'flag draping' (i.e. wearing the flag as a cape or cloak), allowing the flag to touch the ground, or defacing the flag by writing on it, may be considered disrespectful acts and are discouraged at this service. When a flag is raised or lowered, or when it is carried past in a parade or review, all present should face the flag, remove headwear and refrain from talking. Service personnel in uniform are to salute.



Greasing a gun on the anti-submarine frigate HMAS *Quadrant* after a surface shoot in the Strait of Malacca. AWM 305431



Men of 2RAR exit an armoured truck ready to begin a foot pursuit in Perak. AWM HOB/56/0749/MC



Private Don Pickering of 9 Platoon, C Company, 2RAR, waiting for a RAF helicopter that will take him into a jungle area in Perak for the start of a 14-day patrol.
AWM HOB/56/0673/MC



Members of 2RAR walk past one of two British Westland Whirlwind helicopters from No. 155 Squadron RAF, which have landed on a sports field in preparation for a jungle insertion. AWM HOB/56/0675/MC

LAST POST

The *Last Post* is a bugle call which signals the end of the day. It became incorporated into funeral and memorial services as a final farewell and symbolises that the duty of the dead is over and they can rest in peace.

Attendees should stand, remove headwear and refrain from talking during the playing of the *Last Post*. Service personnel in uniform are to salute.

ODE OF REMEMBRANCE

Many ceremonies of remembrance include a recitation of the Ode. It is the fourth stanza of *For the Fallen*, a poem written by Laurence Binyon (1869–1943) in 1914. It can also include the third stanza. The Ode has been recited in ceremonies since 1919.

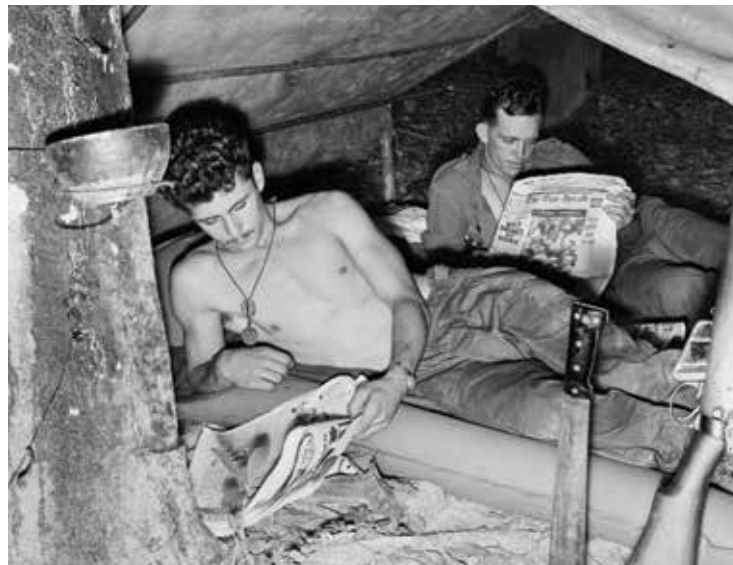
Attendees should stand, remove headwear and refrain from talking during the reciting of the Ode.



Men of C Company, 1RAR, relaxing after returning from a 21-day jungle patrol in northern Malaya. Although the Malayan Emergency was officially over by this stage, Australian troops were still heavily committed to jungle operations and patrols to clear the remaining Communist insurgents. AWM CUN/60/0254/MC



After a fortnight on patrol, men from 2RAR take a moment to freshen up by the side of a creek. AWM HOB/56/0256/MC



Two soldiers of Support Company, 2RAR, reading newspapers during a well-deserved rest. The previous night, the pair had participated in an all-night ambush in the jungle of Southern Kedah. AWM HOB/56/0308/MC



Crew members of No.1 Squadron standing under the bomb bay of a Lincoln bomber. AWM P00677.004

ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE

The practice of observing one minute of silence originated soon after the First World War and provides an opportunity for quiet reflection on the sacrifice of those who served and lost their lives.

Attendees should stand, remove headwear and refrain from talking during the period of silence.

ROUSE

After the one minute of silence, flags are raised from half-mast to the masthead as the *Rouse* is sounded. Traditionally the *Rouse* called soldiers' spirits to arise, ready to fight for another day. Today it is associated with the Last Post at all military funerals, and at services of dedication and remembrance.

Note: The Navy *Reveille* bugle call is different to that played by Army and Air Force. Navy does not play *Rouse* and only plays *Reveille*.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Attendees should stand facing the flags, remove headwear and refrain from talking during the playing of the national anthem. Service personnel in uniform are to salute.



Commissioning ceremony for HMAS *Queenborough*, following the ship's conversion from destroyer to anti-submarine frigate, 1954. AWM 305389

Artist : Khalil Ibrahim
Title: *Kampung Landscape*
Year: 1955
Medium: Oil on Canvas
Size: 30cm x 44.5cm

Collection of Galeri Z, Kuala Lumpur.

This painting depicts a coastal Malayan village during the period of the Malayan Emergency. Khalil Ibrahim was part of an artistic movement that 'featured picturesque and peaceful landscapes, and portrayal that created a sense of calm and tranquillity amidst the violent climate of the Malayan Emergency to alleviate anxieties and provide solace to the public'.

Abdullah, S. and Lee, Y. B. (2025)
"The Malayan Landscape Paintings:
From Western Representations
to Malayan Renditions", SPAFA
Journal, 9, pp. 18–37. doi: 10.26721/
spafajournal.6mq21e13an.







Australian Government

Department of Veterans' Affairs