



War Veterans Village [Narrabeen] RSL Sub-Branch

Through an active membership we keep the ANZAC spirit alive and growing

JULY 2016

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Sub-Branch Office Hours. Monday and Thursday 9am – noon. Phone: 8978 4266

"Faults are thick where Love is thin"

The President's Message



Thanks to all who attended our last monthly meeting. The presentation by Adrian Talbot, the Manager for "Home for Heroes" was moving. The presentation highlighted the many issues that our young veterans are facing and the difficulties they encounter each day trying to survive. The issues faced by our youngest veterans appear to be similar issues that have been experienced by all veterans since the beginning of time. You would think by now that the Government would have a better system in place to take care of our veterans.

The powers to be are happy to fund and provide whatever the soldier needs to fight a war but appear to be reluctant to fund and support our injured troops on their return from war. That is why organizations like "Home for Heroes" are necessary to ensure that those veterans in need are cared for and supported.

By the way, please remind your fellow Sub-branch members to attend our next monthly meeting in the Monty Center.

My Vietnam 1969

I thought I would share some of my photos of my time in Vietnam. I arrived in Vietnam in 1969 as a young 19-year-old tank driver posted to "B" Squadron 1st Armoured Regiment. From the photos below you will see that I spent more time digging my tank out of bogs or collapsing bridges.



Looking forward to catching up with you.

George Main
President

Chaplain's Corner

Having just had *root canal* I couldn't resist a little "Denture Humour", plus some others!

It seems there was this minister who just had all of his remaining teeth pulled and new dentures were being made.

The first Sunday, he only preached 10 minutes.

The second Sunday, he preached only 20 minutes.

But, on the third Sunday, he preached 1 hour 25 minutes.

When asked about this by some of the congregation, he responded this way.

The first Sunday, my gums were so sore it hurt to talk.

The second Sunday, my dentures were hurting a lot.

*The third Sunday, I accidentally grabbed my wife's dentures... and I couldn't stop talking!
(with apologies to Lesley!!)*

"No God-No Peace. Know God-Know Peace."

"Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!"

"Try our Sundays. They are better than Baskin-Robbins."

"Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!"

"An ad for St. Joseph's Episcopal Church has a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed and a headline that reads, "For fast, fast, fast relief, take two tablets."

When the restaurant next to the Lutheran Church put out a big sign with red letters that said, "Open Sundays," the church reciprocated with its own message: "We are open on Sundays, too."

"Have trouble sleeping? We have sermons - come hear one!"

A singing group called "The Resurrection" was scheduled to sing at a church. When a big snowstorm postponed the performance, the pastor fixed the outside sign to read, "The Resurrection is postponed."

"People are like tea bags - you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are."

"God so loved the world that He did not send a committee."

"Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!"

"When down in the mouth, remember Jonah. He came out alright."

"Sign broken. Message inside this Sunday."

Grace & Peace
Bob Durbin
Chaplain

The Malayan Emergency 1950 - 1960

The Malayan Emergency was declared on 18 June 1948, after three estate managers were murdered in Perak, northern Malaya. The men were murdered by guerrillas of the Malayan Communist Party (MCP), an outgrowth of the anti-Japanese guerrilla movement which had emerged during the Second World War. Despite never having had more than a few thousand members, the MCP was able to draw on the support of many disaffected Malayan Chinese, who were upset that British promises of an easier path to full Malayan citizenship had not been fulfilled. The harsh post-war economic and social conditions also contributed to the rise of anti-government activity.

The Malayan government was slow to react to the MCP at first and did not appoint a director of operations to counter the insurgency until March 1950. The new director planned to address the underlying economic, social, and political problems facing the Chinese community while, at the same time, bringing government control to the fringe areas where the MCP received much of its support. Before this plan was fully implemented, however, the situation deteriorated further with the assassination of the British High Commissioner in October 1951. The attack galvanised British resolve to meet the threat posed by the MCP; the Malayan government, in turn, stepped up counter-insurgency measures. Prolonged operations were undertaken against the communists in an effort to destroy their base of support in local communities and to drive them into the jungle, where it would be difficult for them to receive supplies from supporters.

Australia's involvement in the Emergency began in 1950 with the arrival of RAAF aircraft and personnel in Singapore. Dakotas from 38 Squadron were deployed on cargo runs, troop movements, and paratroop and leaflet drops in Malaya, while six Lincoln bombers of 1 Squadron provided the backbone of aerial operations. As the capacity of army and police units operating against the communists improved, however, the need for air power decreased, and by 1952 Lincolns were increasingly used as part of combined air-ground assaults against the communists. One of the major military successes of the conflict was one such coordinated operation in July 1954, east of Ipoh, in Perak state. In Operation Termite, as the exercise was known, five RAAF Lincolns and six from a RAF squadron made simultaneous attacks on two communist camps, followed by paratroop drops, a ground attack, and further bombing runs ten days later. The operation destroyed 181 camps and killed 13 communists; one communist surrendered.

By October 1955, when the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR), arrived in Penang, the outcome of the Emergency was no longer in doubt, although a lengthy "mopping up" stage followed, largely undertaken by Australian troops. After several false starts 2RAR crossed to the mainland in January 1956 to begin anti-communist operations. Over the next 20 months, as part of 28 Commonwealth Brigade, 2RAR participated in a variety of operations, mainly in Perak, one of the main areas of communist activity. Their work consisted of extensive patrolling, watching for contacts in the rubber plantations, and mounting a perimeter guard on the New Villages, settlements which the government had established to provide infrastructure and services in outlying areas in the hope of denying the guerrillas access to their support base.

Contacts were rare, however, and the battalion had a mixed record, killing two communists in an ambush on 25 June 1956 but losing three of its own troops.

2RAR left Malaya in October 1957 and was replaced by 3RAR in the same month. After six weeks of training in jungle warfare 3RAR began driving the insurgents into the jungle in Perak and Kedah, separating them from food and other supplies. Early successes for the battalion confirmed the growing ascendancy of the security forces over the communists and by April 1959 one of the main communist centres, Perak, was declared secure. By late 1959 operations against the communists were in their final phase and many communists had crossed Malaya's northern border into Thailand. 3RAR left Malaya in October 1959 to be replaced by 1RAR. Although operating in the border region 1RAR made no contact with the enemy and was forbidden to move into Thailand, even when the presence and location of communists was known.

As the threat continued to dissipate, the Malayan government officially declared the Emergency over on 31 July 1960, though 1RAR remained in Malaya until October the following year, when 2RAR returned for a second tour. In August 1962 the battalion was committed to anti-communist operations in Perlis and Kedah, completing its tour in August 1963.

In addition to air and infantry forces, Australia also provided artillery and engineering support, and an airfield construction squadron built the main runway for the air force base at Butterworth. RAN ships also served in Malayan waters had occasion to fire on suspected communist positions in 1956 and 1957. Australian ground forces in Malaya formed part of Australia's contribution to the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve, which was established in 1955 primarily to deter external communist aggression against countries in south-east Asia, especially Malaya and Singapore.

Thirty-nine Australian servicemen were killed in Malaya, although only 15 of these deaths occurred as a result of operations, and 27 were wounded, most of whom were in the army.

This article is from the Australian War Memorial Web Site.

Dates to Remember

Monday 11th July Committee Meeting 11.00am
(**Stephen Stack Room**)

Thursday 14th July **General Meeting** 9.30am
(**Montgomery Centre**)

Monday 8th August Committee Meeting 11.00am
(**Stephen Stack Room**)

Thursday 11th August **General Meeting** 9.30am
(**Montgomery Centre**)

Membership

Our strength at 27th June 2016 =135

CHRISTMAS IN JULY 2016

Waterview Restaurant Berowra.

Thursday 21st July 2016, 12.00pm.

*Bus leaves 9.45am from Colooli Road
in front of the Gallipoli Centre*

\$60 per person. Max.50 people

Envelope for your payment available at the July General Meeting or the Sub-Branch office.