

# Researching Australian military service Malayan Emergency, 1948-1960

## Overview of the conflict

Australian military history overview: Malayan Emergency 1950-1960  
<http://www.awm.gov.au/atwar/emergency.htm>

## Nominal Roll

"Nominal roll of the Australian Military Forces who qualified for the General Service Medal Bar Malaya ", in Neil C. Smith, *Mostly unsung: Australia and the Commonwealth in the Malayan Emergency 1948–1960* (Melbourne, 1989), appendix 8, pp. 47–125

## Personal service records

Service records of those who served with Australian forces are held by the National Archives of Australia. You can apply to the National Archives for copies of personal service records.  
<http://www.naa.gov.au/info/forms/pww-inquiry.aspx>

## Those who died while serving

The Roll of Honour, <http://www.awm.gov.au/roh/>, records the names of service men and women who died during or as a result of service with Australian military forces. The Roll of Honour introduction provides detailed information about Roll of Honour eligibility, <http://www.awm.gov.au/roh/intro.asp#eligibility>.

## Where they served

### Army

War diaries were kept by the commanding officer of the unit to record their daily activities and location. The war diaries are held in the Official records series AWM95, which has been digitised and is available at <http://www.awm.gov.au/diaries/seasia/index.asp>.

There are a limited number of unit profiles of Malayan Emergency units available on the Memorial's website, <http://www.awm.gov.au/units/malaya.asp>. The profiles include a short history of the unit, details of its casualties, decorations, battle honours and commanding officers.

### Royal Australian Navy

Reports of Proceedings (ROPs), known earlier as "Letters of Proceedings", are summaries of a ship's or shore base's activities. The reports were submitted by commanding officers to the Chief of Naval Staff. To identify relevant ROPs in the Memorial's collection search the RecordSearch database, <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/recordsearch.aspx>, using the name of the ship as your keywords and AWM78 in the reference numbers field. These records are available for viewing in the Research Centre.

## **Royal Australian Air Force**

RAAF Formation and Unit records (AWM64) were kept to record operations and activities of RAAF units. The records are available for viewing on microfilm in the Research Centre. The original records have been withdrawn from public access due to their fragile nature. Original records are only issued when no microfilm copy is available.

## **Official history**

Official histories are a detailed chronological record of all services and all theatres of conflict.

Peter Dennis and Jeffery Grey, *Emergency and Confrontation: Australian military operations in Malaya and Borneo 1950-1966* (Allen and Unwin and the Australian War Memorial: Sydney, 1996)

Volume 5 of *The Official History of Australia's Involvement in Southeast Asian Conflicts 1948-1975* deals with Australian military involvement of all three services in the Malayan Emergency and Indonesian / Malaysian Confrontation.

For further information refer to our information sheet Researching the history of a unit, [http://www.awm.gov.au/research/infosheets/unit\\_history.asp](http://www.awm.gov.au/research/infosheets/unit_history.asp).

## **Medals and awards**

- Information sheet: Campaign and service medals  
<http://www.awm.gov.au/research/infosheets/medals.asp>
- Information sheet: Australian military honours and awards  
[http://www.awm.gov.au/research/infosheets/honours\\_awards.asp](http://www.awm.gov.au/research/infosheets/honours_awards.asp)

## **Where to look for photographs**

- Collections Search, <http://www.awm.gov.au/database/collection.asp>, provides access to images of photographs held by the Memorial.
- Picture Australia, <http://www.pictureaustralia.org/>, has images held by a range of major Australian libraries, archives, and other cultural institutions
- State libraries and archival repositories,  
[http://www.awm.gov.au/research/infosheets/addresses\\_aust.asp](http://www.awm.gov.au/research/infosheets/addresses_aust.asp)