Researching Australian military service: Malayan Emergency, 1948-1960

Overview of the conflict


Nominal Roll


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 [reftracker.naa.gov.au/reft100.aspx?key=09AdvReq].

Those who died while serving


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 [www.aa.gov.au/cgi-bin/Search?Number=AWM95], which has been digitised and is available for viewing on the Memorial's website. |
| Royal Australian Navy (RAN) | Reports of Proceedings (ROPs), known previously 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 [www.naa.gov.au/collection/search/] entering the name of the ship as your keyword and AWM78 [www.aa.gov.au/cgi-bin/Search?Number=AWM78] in the series number field. These records are available for viewing in the Research Centre. The Memorial is progressively digitising its collection of ROPs, many of which are now available for viewing online [www.awm.gov.au/learn/understanding-military-history/navy-reports]. |
| Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) | RAAF Formation and Unit records (AWM64 [www.aa.gov.au/cgi-bin/Search?Number=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 The original records have been withdrawn from public access due to their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. The National Archives of Australia has a duplicate series A9186, many records of which have been digitised and are available online through the RecordSearch database [www.naa.gov.au/collection/search].

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<th>Official history</th>
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<td>• Official histories are a detailed chronological record of all services and all theatres of a conflict. Volume 5 of <em>The Official History of Australia's Involvement in Southeast Asian Conflicts 1948-1975</em> deals with Australian military involvement of all three services in the Malayan Emergency and Indonesian/Malaysian Confrontation:</td>
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For further information refer to our guide, Researching the history of a unit [www.awm.gov.au/research/guide/unit-history].

**Medals and awards**

Refer to our research guides:
• Campaign and service medals [www.awm.gov.au/research/guide/campaign-medals]
• Australian military honours and awards [www.awm.gov.au/research/guide/honours]

**Where to look for photographs**

• Collections Search [www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/] gives access to images of photographs held by the Memorial.
• Trove [trove.nla.gov.au] includes photographs and other images held by a range of major Australian libraries, archives, and other cultural institutions.