

# South East Asian Veterans Association Magazine



Dec 2025



This SEAVA magazine is to keep all those who served in South East Asia abreast of Association activities and share some stories of interest to those Veterans.

Many thanks to all those who contributed to this issue and the Editor of the Army News who has allowed us to use parts to the Army News in this magazine

Some articles in this magazine have been sourced from the Internet median and may not always be factual or correct but of interest, our thanks go to the originators of those articles and their photos.



Royal Sailors' Rest at Sembawang Naval Base 1963 and later was to become The Fernleaf

## **SEAVA News from the last executive meeting.**

There are still many SEAVA members wishing to join our Facebook page **BUT** not completing the question please answer the questions or your request to join the page will put in the to hard basket and deleted.

It is official, recce done and dusted, the SEAVA Xmas function is in Rotorua Citizens Club on the 13th December gathering at 1700 hrs, food is supplied at about 2030 hrs looking forward to seeing you there.

**Note : Subs can now be paid via PayPal on the membership page of our Web Site.**

## **SEAVA Xmas Message**

Kia ora folks

Well thanks for staying with us in SEAVA since we took over the job to keep SEAVA alive I have had a good clean out of our Fb site and stopped and blocked a lot of the BS that was put on it.

Good news we have not been sitting on our arses doing nothing I have made contact with a MP that is very interested in the forgotten service pers ( Singapore) and a meeting should take place early in the new year.

We have also finally got a SEAVA shirt in progress getting made for pers to purchase in the new year more later on how to get one & cost to send NZ,AUS,Raro

Dieppie Barracks wall blessing at the moment I can not get a confirmed date when it will happen but as soon as I do I will post it on SEAVA site for all to see.

Other than that enjoy Xmas and take care I would like to see you in the new year cheers all from the your committee have a great xmas

Jim Clarke

President

# PAPANUI RSA

I spent a sad evening at the Papanui RSA on Friday night before the RSA closes its door on Saturday for the final time.

Papanui has been the home for RNZE for many a year having hosted Reunions and Corp Day celebration's and has been the HQ for many services and organizations over the years. But like many RSA though out NZ rising costs and a drop in membership and patronage makes it very hard to stay afloat.



And to be honest and compare apples with apples we as an organization SEAVA could quite easily find itself in the same boat with a dwindling membership which would pity with so many SEAVA vets to draw from.

So what ever the next chapter in the life of the Papanui RSA is we wish them all the best.

But remember if your traveling to Christchurch there are still two RSA for you to drop into and meet up with old mate and have a quick beer or two



## Templeton RSA & Rangiora RSA



# K9



The Vietnam War had many unsung heroes, including the war dogs—courageous canines who made a huge impact during the conflict. Trained to serve as sentries, scouts, and trackers, these dogs showcased remarkable skill in detecting danger, offering vital support to their human counterparts. Their contributions are believed to have saved countless lives, potentially preventing around 10,000 American casualties. These are the inspiring tales of these brave four-legged warriors.

Dogs that served in the Vietnam War continued a long tradition of using canines in combat. However, it was during World War II that the United States began officially training dogs for military roles beyond carrying messages on the battlefield. Between 1943 and 1945, the US Marine Corps trained dogs donated to the war effort to serve in the Pacific Theatre, accepting all breeds. The Doberman Pinscher notably became the Marines' official war dog.

This program proved successful, leading the US military to re-establish K9 units when the Vietnam War began. Though records prior to 1968 are somewhat unclear, around 5,000 dogs were deployed from that year until the end of the conflict, with approximately 10,000 servicemen acting as their handlers.

Unlike soldiers who completed their tours and returned home, these dogs remained in Vietnam, transferred to new handlers.

Labrador Retrievers were one of the dog breeds used in Vietnam, primarily as trackers. Their training allowed them to alert handlers to the presence of snipers, tripwires and hidden weapon caches. Rick Claggett, a Vietnam War veteran, explained their exceptional ability to follow blood trails. Lab teams, made up of the dog, its handler, a cover man, the team leader, and a visual tracker, were deployed when troops needed to locate an injured enemy or missing person.

Labradors were preferred over other tracking breeds like Beagles and Bloodhounds because they were much quieter.

In Australia, K9 units were created using 11 shelter dogs adopted from Sydney. These dogs, named after Roman emperors, were expected to serve in Vietnam for three years. Although they occasionally worked with U.S. troops, German Shepherds were the main breed used by the Australian forces.

During the Vietnam War, military dogs demonstrated remarkable versatility, undertaking a variety of important roles such as sentry duty, scouting, mining, tunnelling, and tracking. Rick Claggett, who worked with Big Boy, one of these expertly trained canine scouts, recalled their primary task: leading patrols through fields. These dogs were meticulously trained to detect booby traps and ambushes by scent, a skill that made their position at the forefront of such missions particularly dangerous. According to Claggett, this role carried the third-highest mortality rate during the conflict.

Sentry dogs were deployed to patrol the perimeters of U.S. outposts, acting as the first line of defence against enemy forces. German Shepherds were also used in water patrols, using their keen senses to detect enemy soldiers concealed underwater, ready to attack amphibious craft. The exceptional effectiveness of these teams made them valuable targets for Viet Cong guerrillas, who offered bounties for both the dogs and their handlers, even going so far as to attack their kennels to claim the rewards.

**REMEMBER PURPLE POPPY DAY 24TH FEBRUARY**

## SEAVA Challenge Coin



SEAVA Challenge coin available at \$25 includes postage within NZ

Contact Maurice Grover for Account number and any other information about the coin

Maurice [mauricegrover@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:mauricegrover@hotmail.co.nz)

SEAVA new logo on one side the old SEAVA original logo on the reverse side



The new logo is available From Maurice

Selling pocket, pin and stick anywhere badge for \$35.00 includes postage NZ only. Overseas \$40.00

Maurice [mauricegrover@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:mauricegrover@hotmail.co.nz)

The annual subscription period for SEAVA is from 1 July to 30 June and the membership fee is \$20.00 (\$22.00 if paid by Pay Pal) per year from 1st July.

The bank account details are:

**Westpac Account Number: 03-1587-0034895-00**

***Please:*** include your Name in the reference and the word Subs somewhere too.

**For those paying Via SWIFT:**

Westpac New Zealand, 03 1587 0034895 00. the swift code is WPACNZ2W.

For those who wish to pay Via Pay Pal there is a direct link on the SEAVA Web Page at the dropdown box

[\*\*ORGANISATION/JOIN US\*\*](#)

***(this link is direct you don't have to have a Pay Pal Account)***



## Old Army Flashback

Portable military VHF/FM transceiver if you didn't carry one you properly had to carry a spare battery.

AN/PRC-77, also known under different names, is a portable military VHF/FM transceiver for the 30 to 86 MHz band, introduced in 1968 by the US Army as the successor to the AN/PRC-25. The radio was used heavily during the Vietnam War (1955-1975), and differs from its predecessor in that its RF power amplifier stage (PA) is fully solid state, whereas the PA of the PRC-25 was made with thermionic valves (vacuum tubes). It also adds support for digital voice encryption devices.

The PRC-77 consists of an RT-841 transceiver and some additional components, made by various companies. It is suitable for secure voice operation, by selecting the so-called X-MODE and adding an external voice encryption unit, such as KY-38 (NESTOR) and KY-57 (VINSON).

For the European market, it was made by Telemet Electronic GmbH in München (Germany). Telemet improved the radio in several ways, including changing the channel spacing from 50 kHz to 25 kHz. As a result, the radio is still interoperable with most modern military VHF/FM radios today.

Both receiver and transmitter cover the 30-75.95 MHz frequency range, divided over two bands, in steps of 50 kHz (or 25 kHz for the European version).<sup>2</sup> The receiver has a sensitivity of 0.5  $\mu$ V, whilst the transmitter delivers between 1.3 and 4 Watts to the 50 $\Omega$  antenna. The device measures 273 x 273 x 100 mm and weighs 6.2 kg. It should be powered by a 12.5 to 15V DC voltage that is usually supplied by military batteries, such as the (BA-4386/U, BA-398/U or BA-55984)



From the late 1980s onwards, the PRC-77 was gradually replaced by the newly introduced Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINCGARS), starting in 1988 with the RT-1439.

The SINCGARS radios are backward compatible with the PRC-77 and offer Frequency Hopping (FH) as an Electronic Counter Counter Measure (ECCM). It also supports the same encryption devices, and offers digital communication in addition to analogue

voice (FM). Nevertheless, many PRC-77 units remained in use well into the 1990s, and in some countries even as late as 2018



## Ray Trembath

Born in 1955 and joined the New Zealand Army in 1972 as an Infantry soldier, serving in Singapore. His platoon commander was a young Jerry Matapare – later NZ CDF and Governor General of New Zealand. They remained friends and once when Jerry was Governor General he excused himself from the officials he was with as he had spied Sergeant Trembath and went off for a chat. He left the army in 1986 and travelled to the US, which he rode across on a push bike. He travelled to South Africa where he attempted to enlist in 32 Batt which was not possible due to his NZ citizenship. He then made his way to France where he joined the French Foreign Legion with whom he served from 1989 to 1994. He qualified as a sniper parachutist, soon finding the action he sought in Rwanda, Somalia and Djibouti and Chad.

When he was done he rode his motorbike home to NZ through Africa. He was interviewed many times by media about his service, life and travels. Once saying “When you’ve got a whole lot of bullets coming into your position it’s quite exhilarating. It’s alright shooting targets, rabbits and deer, but when the targets, rabbit and deer shoot back it’s even more fun.” The “fun” was not without consequence, with his unit suffering casualties, but he said nonchalantly that was part of the job. A chat with Trem was an experience and you ran the probability of hearing a great deal more about his exploits than you needed or wanted to know. Having an interest in surveying he undertook casual work on some of the projects in Auckland but his true passion was the military and he served in both our Regular and Territorial Forces. In 1999, he walked the length of the country, stopping an artillery live firing exercise at Waiouru when he walked through the training area.

In 2000, hearing we were sending troops overseas, he enlisted in New Zealand’s territorial forces and was deployed to East Timor – one of a handful of NZers there with previous combat experience despite his low rank. He later served in the Solomon Islands (where his father had served during WW2), Timor Leste and the Sinai -his favourite deployment, before retiring as a Staff Sergeant in 2015.

### **Born 24 April 1955 - Died 30 August 2022**

New Zealand Army (1972–1986, 2000–2015)

Served in Singapore as an infantry soldier

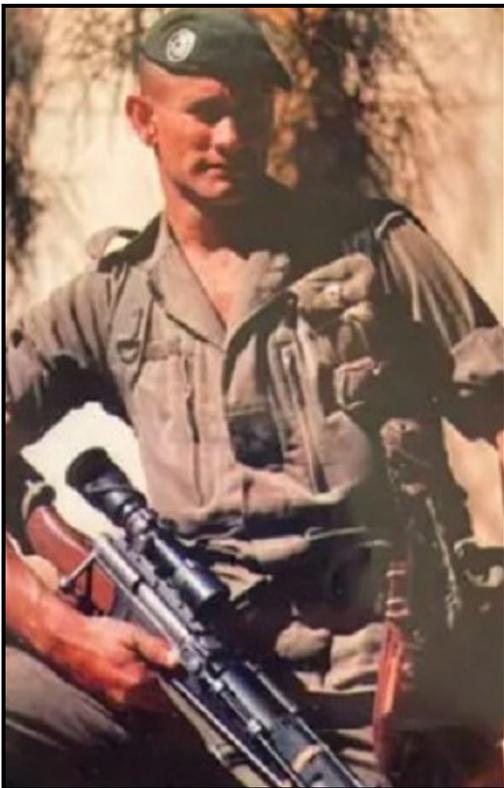
Deployed to East Timor, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, and the Sinai Peninsula

Retired as Staff Sergeant in 2015

French Foreign Legion (1989–1994)

Qualified as sniper parachutist

Served in Rwanda, Somalia, Djibouti, and Chad



# Rangiora RSA Veterans celebrate and remember NZ Vietnam Veterans Day and the battle of Long Tan



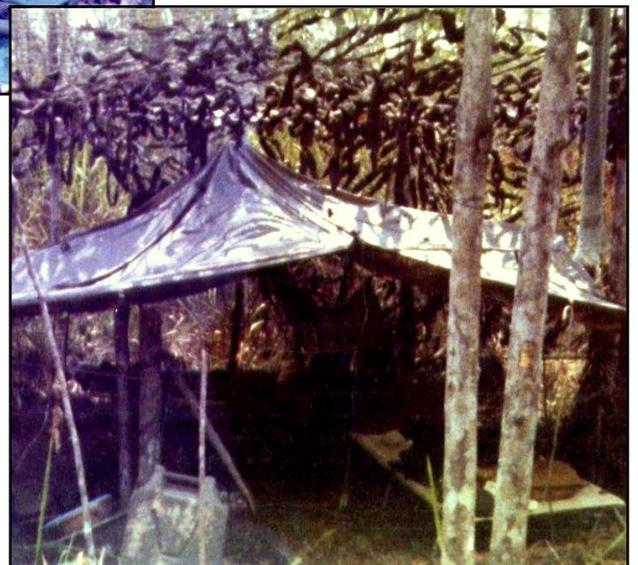
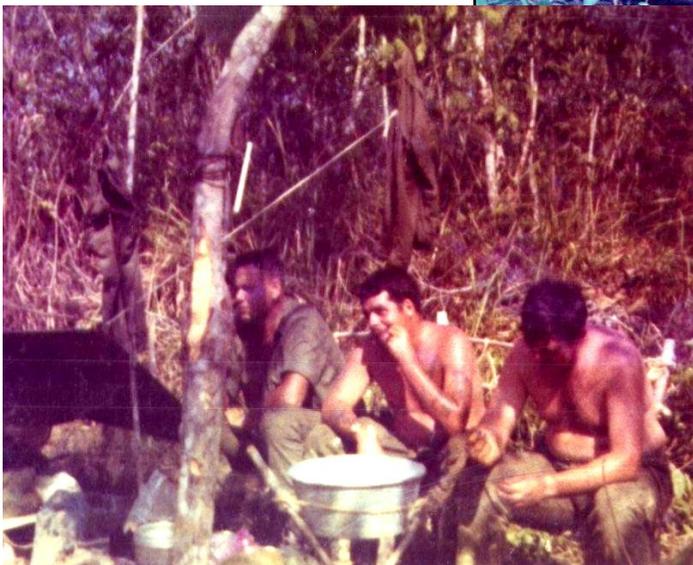
## Exercise Jalan Ulu

Exercise Jalan Ulu was a jungle warfare training exercise conducted by the New Zealand Army in Singapore during their deployment as part of the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA). It was part of a broader effort to maintain stability and enhance New Zealand's regional influence in Southeast Asia. The exercise involved personnel from all three branches of the New Zealand Defence Force and fostered cooperation with other FPDA nations.

Exercise Jalan Ulu focused on jungle warfare, a crucial skill for operating in the Southeast Asian environment. The exercises were designed to enhance interoperability and build relationships between the participating nations' militaries.

As well as personnel based in Singapore, the Army at times sent troops from New Zealand to participate in exercises in the Singapore / Malaysia region. A series of exercise deployments were the 'Jalan Ulu' exercises. They were primarily to test 1 RNZIR in jungle conditions, alongside units of the Malaysian Army. They also involved relatively large contingents (up to company size) from units in New Zealand (usually 2/1 RNZIR, but with some Territorial Force soldiers). The series started in September 1972, with a deployment of engineer troops to a Singapore exercise.

The first deployment from New Zealand was Jalan Ulu II, 26 March–30 April 1973, when troops went to participate in Ex King Cobra, a 28 ANZUK Brigade exercise. The Jalan Ulu series continued until at least Jalan Ulu 28, 1-7 March 1986.



## New Zealand Navy's pride of the past



### **Achilles**

Leander-class light  
cruiser

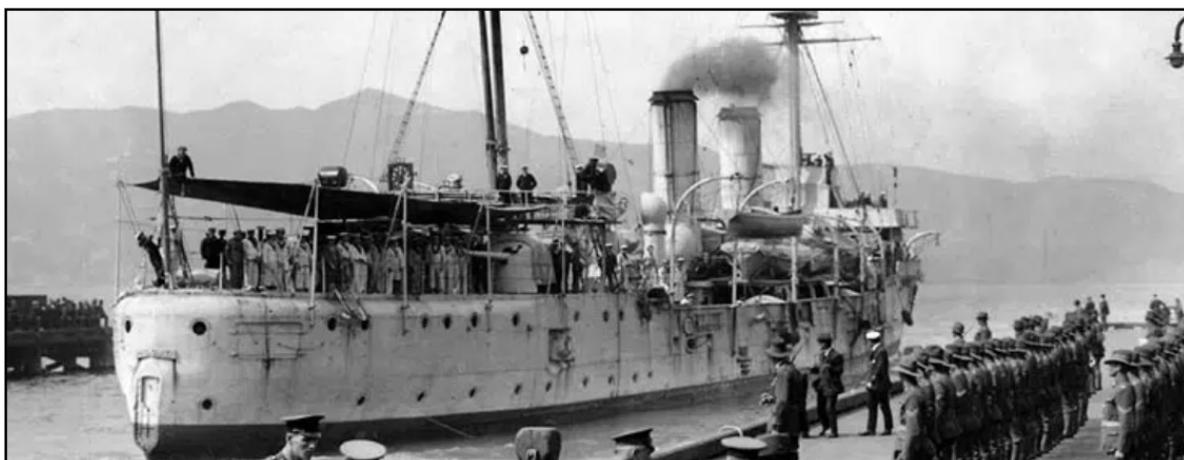
**Complement:** 550



### **Gambia**

Fiji-class cruiser

**Complement:** 920



### **Philomel**

Pearl-class cruiser  
(3rd-class)

**Complement:** 221



### **Taranaki**

Rothesay-class anti-  
-submarine frigate

**Complement:** 240

## MIA

MIA stands for Missing in Action, a military casualty classification for service members who do not return from a military operation and whose fate (killed, wounded, captured, etc.) cannot be confirmed

United Kingdom/Commonwealth: Over 126,000 personnel are commemorated on memorials to the missing from just the Battle of the Somme (72,090 names) and the Ypres Salient (54,896 names) during World War I.

Germany: Approximately two million Germans are still missing from World War II, with the German War Graves Commission actively working on recoveries

Russia/Former Soviet Union: Approximately 4 million Russian service personnel are unaccounted for from World War II

Vietnam: The Vietnamese government estimated it had around 300,000 MIAs from the Vietnam War as of 1999.

Iran/Iraq: The Iran-Iraq War (1980–1988) left tens of thousands of combatants from both sides unaccounted for, with estimates of more than 52,000 Iraqis and 8,000 Iranians listed as missing

As of early 2025, there are approximately 1,573 U.S. service members still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. The original number of missing in action (MIA) personnel at the war's end in 1973 was 2,646.

### **New Zealand**

**First World War:** Thousands of New Zealand soldiers are listed as missing in action or have no known grave They are commemorated on national memorials in Gallipoli, France, and Belgium.

**Second World War:** A total of 2,892 New Zealand servicemen and women who died are commemorated on memorials to the missing, as their bodies were never found or identified.

**Korean War:** Two New Zealand seamen lost during the Korean War have no known grave and are commemorated on a memorial to the missing in South Korea.

In more recent conflicts and peacekeeping operations since 1945, fewer than a hundred New Zealanders have died in battle, and only two have no known grave.

### **Never give up hope on our MIA soldiers**

**John Robertson:** A former US Army Sergeant, Robertson was discovered in a rural Vietnamese village 44 years after his disappearance in 1968. He was 76 years old at the time and could no longer speak English

**Alva Krogman:** An American pilot whose remains were discovered 54 years after he went missing in Vietnam, and was honored posthumously in 2020 Lieutenant Krogman will be laid to rest next to his mom and dad, in the same spot his mother saved for him, just in case she ever saw this day.

New Zealand's most recent large-scale repatriation of soldiers was in August 2018, when the remains of 27 New Zealand Army soldiers and one child were returned to their families. The last NZ soldier to be found was Private Michael Ross in 2012, but the term "last" can be ambiguous and may refer to the most recent large-scale repatriation event.

A military or civil person, who disappeared during a military conflict, can be declared dead no earlier than 2 years after the conflict is over.



## COLDITZ

Colditz is an 11th Century Gothic castle with 700 rooms atop a cliff overlooking the town of Colditz in Saxony, Germany.

During World War II Colditz Castle was a high-security prison and was the place the Germans sent their most difficult POWs – many of those held there had previously attempted escape from other camps.

The Nazi's thought the castle would be impossible to escape from but there were more escape attempts from Colditz than any other prisoner of war camp

After the war, Colditz Castle reverted to being a specialist hospital until its closure. The authorities of Saxony - and Germans in general - are proud of their striking castles with their equally striking histories. Nonetheless, at that point, the thousand year old Castle's future was very much in doubt. An international hotel chain looked at converting it into a 5\* hotel - but that plan came to nothing. Finally, the castle was converted into a Youth Hostel.

Officers from Britain, France, Poland, Belgium, and America were held at Colditz



. Archives mentions more than 30 successful escape attempts, with 10 of those being by British and Commonwealth officers.



It held prominent figures like Winston Churchill's nephew and the nephew of the British King .

Friday, April 13, 1945, just weeks away from the end of World War II in Europe, and a group of prisoners were being corralled onto a bus by unsmiling German soldiers with machine guns. Everything looked greenish yellow under the arc lights outside the infamous German prison. Among the prisoners were British royal family members, aristocrats, a relative of Winston Churchill, and two Māori soldiers from Northland, Ben McLean and Reginald Mitai.



McLean was born Penamene Makarini Titore but adopted the name Ben McLean. On McLean's first day back in New Zealand after returning from war, he went to the local pub. The barman refused to serve him because he was Māori. McLean died in 1999 at the age of 79 .



Reginald Mitai moved back to Auckland after the war, where he worked at the Chelsea sugar factory. In the late 1940s, he changed his name to Cedric Brass. He died in 1970 at the age of 54

Spare a thought for poor old Michael O'Leary, Chief Executive of Ryanair. After arriving in a hotel in Manchester, he went to the bar and asked for a pint of Guinness.

The barman nodded and said, "That will be £3 please, Mr. O'Leary."

Somewhat taken aback, O'Leary replied, "That's very cheap," and handed over his money.

"Well, we do try to stay ahead of the competition", said the barman. "And we are serving free pints every Wednesday from 6 pm until 8 pm. We have the cheapest beer in England".

"That is remarkable value", Michael comments.

"I see you don't seem to have a glass, so you'll probably need one of ours. That will be £4 please."

O'Leary scowled, but paid up.

He took his drink and walked towards a seat. "Ah, you want to sit down?" said the barman. "That'll be an extra £4. You could have pre-booked the seat, and it would have only cost you £2."

"I think you may be too big for the seat sir, can I ask you to sit in this frame please".

Michael attempts to sit down but the frame is too small and when he can't squeeze in, he complains "Nobody would fit in that little frame".

"I'm afraid if you can't fit in the frame you'll have to pay an extra surcharge of £4 for your seat sir".

O'Leary swore to himself, but paid up. "I see that you have brought your laptop with you" added the barman. "And since that wasn't pre-booked either, that will be another £4."

O'Leary was so incensed that he walked back to the bar, slammed his drink on the counter, and yelled, "This is ridiculous, I want to speak to the manager".

"I see you want to use the counter," says the barman, "that will be £2 please."

O'Leary's face was red with rage. "Do you know who I am?"

"Of course I do Mr. O'Leary."

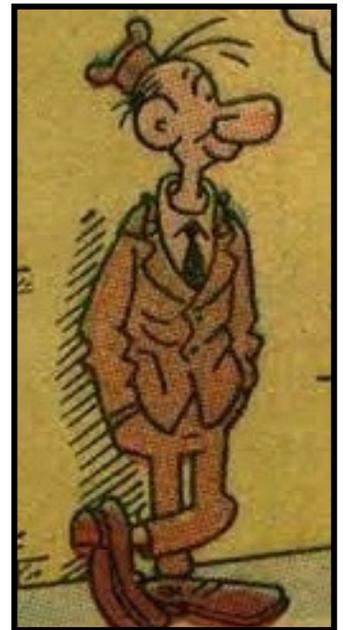
"I've had enough! What sort of a Hotel is this? I come in for a quiet drink and you treat me like this. I insist on speaking to a manager!"

"Here is his e-mail address, or if you wish, you can contact him between 9.00 am and 9.01am every morning, Monday to Tuesday at this free phone number. Calls are free, until they are answered, then there is a talking charge of only £1 per second, or part thereof".

"I will never use this bar again".

"OK sir, but do remember, we are the only hotel in England selling pints for £3."

Have a good weekend.



## This was Singapore & Dieppe 1972—1989

In the first five years after 1968, the CPM groups set up a secret network of supporters across Malaysia, and in 1974 it began a campaign of bombings and assassinations in both Malaysia and Singapore. Its victims included Tan Sri Abdul Rahman bin Hashim, Inspector-General of the Malaysian Police. Communist guerrillas created a series of strongholds across the border from Malaysia in Southern Thailand. The absence of a concerted Thai-Malaysian response to their activities played into the hands of the CPM, which profited from the two governments' failure to cooperate effectively. So began life at Dieppe for Kiwi troops until 1998.



**Dieppe 1973**



**Dieppe 2025**

The construction plans include the removal of all buildings on site, with the exception of the old 1RNZIR Sergeants' Mess and the Old Tasman Club, both of which will be maintained and preserved as heritage buildings.

**Should anyone need or know of any SEAVA Veteran or Widow that may need support or help please let SEAVA know we maybe able to assist**

## **Funding available for descendants of veterans**

Heritage Canterbury provides financial assistance to children and grandchildren – including young adults – who are the descendants of those who have served in the New Zealand Armed Forces, overseas or in New Zealand.

Financial assistance for other educational or special needs is available. Each application is assessed on its merits. Recipients, or their family, must have their primary place of residence in Canterbury.

For more information contact the Secretary, Heritage (Canterbury) Inc.:

Mrs Karen Clarke:

c/- 24 Westlake Drive, Christchurch, 8025

+64 3 3 379 7122

heritagecanterburyinc@gmail.com



The RSA was formed in New Zealand in 1916 by returning Anzacs during World War One to provide support and comfort for service men and women and their families. The Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association is made up of over 180 local RSAs around the country, each an entity in their own right, with over 100,000 members. Local RSAs are managed by their own executive committee while being united with the RNZRSA in our strategic pillars, vision, and values. We believe in a nation joined by a heartfelt connection to the Anzac spirit of courage, commitment, comradeship and compassion.



## **IF YOU NEED TO TALK OR HELP**



If you need to talk to someone here is free helplines operating 24/7: NZDF 24/7 HELPLINE: 0800 NZDF

### **GUNFIRE BREAKFAST**

Gunfire Breakfast following the Dawn Service, but do you know why?

Rather than artillery, 'gunfire' refers to the rum-laced coffee or tea that is served alongside the bacon and eggs. It harks back to the measure of liquid courage that was served up at the beginning of the day to help soldiers face the coming battle.

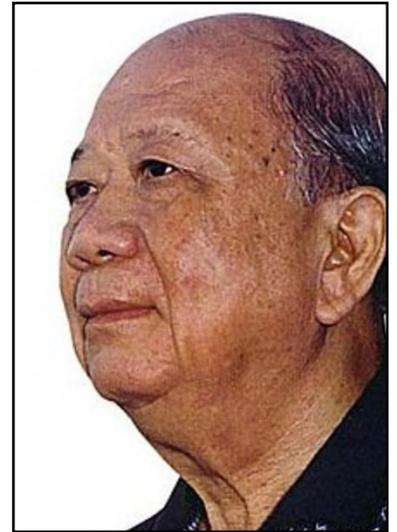
## New Zealand Troops help Malaysia build its armed forces

We know the communists retreated to Southern Thailand, proving how power these New Zealand soldiers were after they came to Malaya and helped us. But the communists didn't actually sit there quietly.

The communist party led by Chin Peng actually gathered resources for a renewed arm revolt against Malaya and Singapore during the 'lull' period (a.k.a the period between Malayan Emergency to the year communist insurgency began). This includes its effort to recruit the Malays. The success of Vietnam War and meeting between the party's leader, Chin Peng and Chinese politician from China, Deng Xiaoping inspired the party to prepare for another attack.

This time around, the communists were unsatisfied when the Brits gave Singapore and Malaysia independence. They wanted to establish a 'Malayan People's Republic' and claimed that both nations weren't independent and sovereign states but were only British's 'neo-colonies'. In this period, the communists' attacks were worse than during the Malayan Emergency.

The attack which started the insurgency happened at Kroh-Betong, Perak when 17 members of security forces were killed. However, the act of terrorism upsurged in 1974 through assassinations, sabotage and bombing including a high-profile assassination of Tan Sri Abdul Rahman bin Hashim, Inspector-General of Malaysian Police



Chin Peng

So when does New Zealand appear in this narrative? Unlike during the Malayan Emergency, New Zealand wasn't directly involved in this insurgency. The Malaysia go men formed special forces called VAT69 which was based on British special air service. As a matter of fact, this force was trained by British before they leave the country.

New Zealand was actually requested to remain in the country along with other foreign troops until Malaysia's internal security and armed forces could be built up.

When the Brits left, New Zealand sort of acted like a substitute teacher when its soldiers took over the training programme and trained 208 men. And just like any dedicated teacher, New Zealand's soldiers actually handpicked and trained 13 VAT69 soldiers so that they (as in the VAT69 soldiers) could train the squadron after them. But like a substitute teacher, New Zealand's soldiers eventually left Malaysia after serving their purposes here.

Although New Zealand didn't exactly ended the communist insurgency, it helped Malaysia to combat the communist by building its national armed forces. The insurgency ended when the communist party signed a peace accord in Hatyai, Thailand. This is due to internal conflict in the party, bilateral relationship Malaysia gomen built with China and the encouragement the party received from Deng Xiaoping.

New Zealand played a minor role in another incident when it showed support to the anti-communist in the communist insurgency incident in Sarawak which happened at (somewhat) the same time this insurgency occurred. The Sarawak insurgency was said to be related to another conflict; the Indonesian-Malaysia confrontation.

Chin died of cancer at the age of 88 at a private hospital in Bangkok, with only his 50-year-old niece by his side, on the morning of 16 September 2013, the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Malaysia

In November 2019, his remains were announced to have been returned in secrecy by a small action committee on 16 September 2019; his ashes were ceremoniously transported through Sitiawan before scattering at a hillside near Chemor and at sea.

## 5,000 War Dogs Served in Vietnam and Almost All of Them Were Left Behind

The dogs that served in the Vietnam War certainly weren't the first, as canines have been used in combat throughout history. It was during the Second World War that the Americans officially began training them for military purposes outside of delivering messages on the battlefield. From 1943-45, the US Marine Corps trained those that had been donated to the war effort for use in the Pacific Theater. While all breeds were eligible, the Doberman Pinscher was the official Marine dog.

Their implementation was considered a success, so when the Vietnam War broke out, the US military, yet again, put together K9 units. Numbers prior to 1968 don't exist, but between then and the end of the conflict, 5,000 dogs were put into service, with approximately 10,000 servicemen working as their handlers. Unlike the troops who finished their tours and returned Stateside, these animals remained in Vietnam, where they were passed on to different handlers.

One breed of dog used in Vietnam was the Labrador Retriever, which served mainly in tracker roles. Their training meant they could alert their handlers to snipers, tripwires and weapons caches. Rick Claggett, a veteran of the war, explained that they were excellent at following blood trails. If troops were looking for an injured enemy or missing personnel, the Lab teams, made up of the dog, its handler, a cover man, the team leader and a visual tracker, were called.

Labs were picked specifically over other tracking dogs, like Beagles and Bloodhounds, because they were significantly quieter than these other breeds.

The Australians created their own K9 units made up of 11 shelter dogs adopted from Sydney. Named after Roman emperors, they were expected to serve in Vietnam for three years. Although it seems that they served with US troops to a degree, it was certainly German Shepherds that made up the bulk of the Aussies' war dogs.

War dogs in Vietnam were extremely versatile; they conducted sentry and scouting duties, mining and tunneling, and even some tracking.

Sentry dogs walked the perimeters of US outposts and acted as the first line of defense against the enemy. German Shepherds were also used on water patrols, trained to detect enemy soldiers hidden below the surface, waiting to attack amphibious craft. These well-trained teams soon became the target of Viet Cong guerrillas, who offered a bounty for killing a dog or their handler and started to attack their kennels to make this happen regularly.



Australian servicemen with their tracking dogs, 1967

## Military Ration Packs: New Zealand Army 1972

Back then the New Zealand Army used canned food in its rations small cans of meat stew, baked beans and spaghetti.

You could also get another variant with Baked Beans and Meatballs and Lamb and Vegetable Casserole. Spiced mutton stew

Cup of Soup, sachet (different flavors) Rice, 85gm bag Service Biscuits, sweet (2 packets) Honey, liquid (tube) Sparkles hard candies, packet Chocolate, military, dark (1 bar) Sultan-  
as, 50 gms (1 packet) Salt, 7 gms (2 sachets) Curry Powder Tea Coffee Sugar



## NZ Army MRE 24h Ration pack 2022

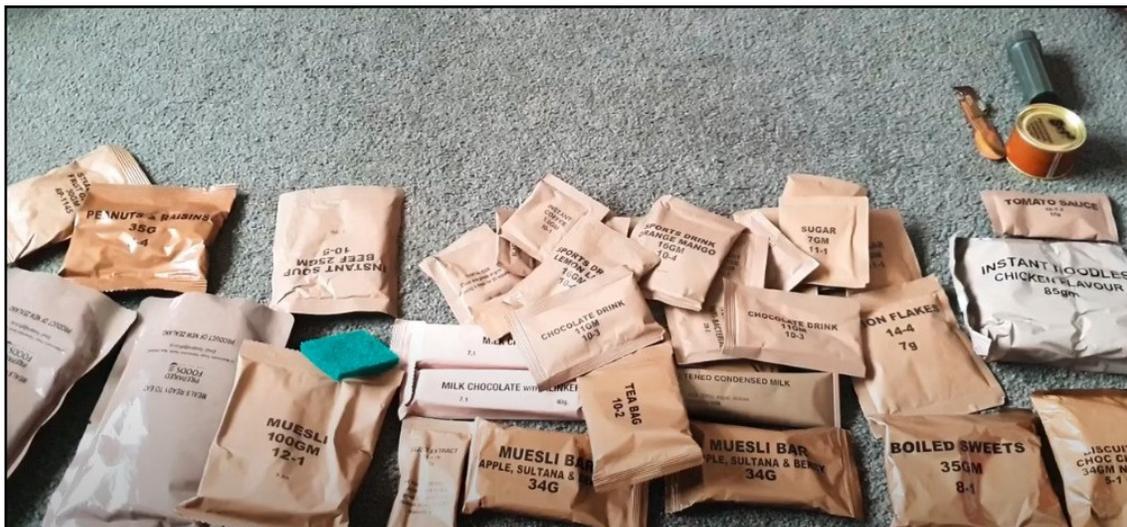
These also come in a patrol pack size only fit for use of 12 hours and half the size too

This is the NZDF issued 24h ration pack (rats pack) that our soldiers get issued either on a training exercise, or over seas deployment. This pack is designed to supply a soldier with 24 hours food worth of nutrients, carbs, and vitamins for them to carry out the mission.

The MRE is a totally self-contained operational ration consisting of a full meal packed in a flexible meal bag. The full bag is lightweight and fits easily into military field clothing pockets. Each meal bag contains an entrée and a variety of other components



1x Chilli Beef & Rice 300g 1x Chicken Casserole 300g 1x Anzac Biscuit 35g 2x Jam 13g 1x Sweet Chilli Sauce 110g 2x Salt 1g 6x Towlettes wipes 1x Cabin Bread 38g 1x Cheese Canned 56g 3x Tea Bags bags 1x Glucose Sweets 35g 6x Sugar 7g 2x Chocolate Drink 11g 1x Pad Scouring pad 1x Fruit Grains 30g 1x Peanuts & Raisin 35g 1x Muesli Cereal 100g 2x Sports Drink 16g 1x Milk (Tube) 85g 1x Instant Noodles 85g 1x Soup Powder 25g 2x Pepper 1g 3x Coffee Instant 1.5g 1x Onion Flakes 7g 2x Recaldent Gum Pkts 1x Bags Plastic bag 1x 2x Muesli Bar 34g 1x Menu Sheet each 1x Matches Waterproof Vial 2x Chocolate 40g



## Antarctica



The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) plays a significant role in supporting New Zealand's scientific and logistical operations in Antarctica, particularly during the summer season. This support includes providing personnel for various roles at Scott Base and McMurdo Station, as well as logistical and transportation assistance.

This is one of the NZDF's largest deployments, involving around 140 personnel each year. NZDF personnel fill roles such as communications operators, chefs, cargo handlers, logistics staff, plant operators, and firefighters, among others.

Sixty-six years ago the RNZAF Antarctic Flight was formed to help the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition. Squadron Leader JR Claydon led the three-strong flight, which was equipped with a de Havilland Beaver and an Auster floatplane, according to NZ History. It helped transport men, dog teams and supplies, and carried out geological mapping over two summers (1956–1958) before it was disbanded in 1960.

Alongside the fixed wing aircraft, the Air Force's Iroquois helicopters also operated in Antarctica, from 1985 until 2000, supporting science events. No. 3 Squadron pilots were brought down for valuable flying training in extreme conditions back then they were painted orange. They would bring down pilots – it was valuable training for them. But East Timor was cranking up at the time and there was a high demand from the NZDF to have that Iroquois fleet on other high demand operations, so we finished in 2000 and ever since then, we've utilised civilian helicopter companies out of New Zealand.



Following the Air New Zealand Flight 901 crash on Mount Erebus in 1979, the NZDF, particularly the Army, played a crucial role in the recovery and identification operation, Operation Overdue.

This involved personnel assisting with the recovery of victims and wreckage, and later with the identification process, which was a challenging and traumatic task.

The DVI teams (Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) team had recovered 114 substantially intact bodies, 133 bags of human remains, and countless personal belongings.

Recognition was given to the post-traumatic stress suffered by those involved in Operation Overdue. Counselling was offered to all who wanted it, and the debriefing report completed by psychiatrist Alan Frazier and psychologist Tony Taylor emphasised the need..



## Why Are Coins Left On Headstones – Find Out The Real Reason Here

You see it all the time – people leaving coins on headstones, graves, and tombs, specifically on military headstones. People have been doing it for centuries, and nobody really knows why. Some say it's to pay the ferryman, others to show respect. But what is the real reason? Why do we leave coins on headstones?

Leaving coins on a headstone — specifically a deceased soldier's headstone — is a way to convey respect. It's a message to the deceased's family that someone has visited the grave and that the person who left the coins will never forget the sacrifice that was made.

The tradition of leaving coins on headstones dates back centuries. It's been done all over the world, from Europe to Asia to the Americas.

The most common theory is that the tradition started with the Roman Empire. Soldiers who died in battle would have coins placed in their mouths before burial. This was done as a way to ensure that the deceased soldier could cross the River Styx and enter the Underworld.

Yes, this sounds like a thrilling scene from a Hollywood movie, but it's actually based on actual Roman customs. In ancient Rome, it was believed that the dead needed to pay Charon, the ferryman who transported souls across the River Styx, in order to enter the afterlife. The coins served as payment for this journey.

Of course, there are other theories about the origins of this tradition. Some say that the coins were left as a way to ensure that the dead would have enough money in the afterlife. Others believe that the coins were left as an offering to the gods in hopes that they would look favorably upon the deceased.

Whatever the origins of the tradition, it's clear that leaving coins on headstones has been a part of human culture for centuries. And while the reasons for doing it have changed over time, the act itself remains a way to pay respects to the dead.



Here's a breakdown of the common coin meanings:

**Penny:** A simple visit and paying respects.

**Nickel:** Indicates the visitor served with the deceased in basic training.

**Dime:** Suggests the visitor served alongside the deceased.

**Quarter:** Signifies the visitor was present when the soldier died.

Coins can be left on the headstones of civilians as well. The meaning is the same — they're a way of showing respect and remembrance.

A nickel (10c) means you and the deceased went to the same school.

A dime ( 20c ) means you worked with the deceased.

A quarter ( 50c ) means you were with the deceased during their final moments. And in many cemeteries, the coins are collected regularly and donated to veteran support organizations — turning remembrance into real-world help.

If you want to honor the fallen in a more subtle way, you can wear a red poppy. The red poppy is the official flower of Veterans Day and Memorial Day in the United States. It's also worn on Remembrance Day in Canada and Commonwealth countries.

The red poppy became a symbol of remembrance after World War I. In the poem "In Flanders Fields," John McCrae wrote about how the red poppies growing on the battlefields were a sign of hope and life amidst all the death.

### **Did You know**

The anchors on an Iowa-class battleship (USS Iowa, New Jersey, Missouri, and Wisconsin) are massive pieces of naval hardware designed to hold a ship displacing over 57,000 tons in place.

Here are the key details:

Type: Stockless anchors (Navy standard design of the WWII era)

Material: High-tensile steel

Weight: Each anchor weighs about 30,000 pounds (~15 tons)

Quantity: Two bow anchors (one on each side) plus a stern anchor on some units

Chain: Each anchor chain link is about 23 inches long and weighs roughly 120 pounds per link.

Chain length: Over 1,000 feet per anchor chain, giving flexibility for anchoring in deep water.

When stowed, the bow anchors are recessed into hawse pipes along the hull near the forecastle. To drop anchor, the crew uses a windlass system in the forward anchor handling room, with mechanical brakes to control the free-fall.

During operations, dropping an Iowa-class anchor was no casual affair—when those 15 tons of steel hit the water, the sound and vibration could be felt throughout the forward decks, and safety rules kept sailors well clear of the anchor chain path.





Our own Maurice Grover was at Pukeahu for the national commemoration of service in military operations in Malaya and Malaysia. We were honoured to welcome veterans from all corners of the motu.

Honourable Chris Penk, Minister for Veterans addressed the commemoration: “Through the courageous efforts of all who served – in the air, in the sea and on the ground – New Zealand made an important contribution to international efforts and the achievement of lasting peace for Malaysia.”

Chair of the National War Memorial Advisory Council, Major (Rtd) Fiona Cassidy recited the whakatauki “Kaua e warewaretia ngā mahi a rātou mā. Do not forget the deeds of those who have gone before” and promised “Here, at the National War Memorial, service in Malaya and Malaysia will not be forgotten.”





## Support at home

Support can include things like mowing your lawns, cleaning your gutters or helping with chores around your home.

The type of support we might be able to help you with will depend on your individual needs. We'll work with you to complete a needs assessment to understand your situation.

### [About our needs assessment](#)

#### Veterans' Independence Programme

The Veterans' Independence Programme supports you to remain independent in your own home. As long as you have Qualifying Service you don't need to have a service-related condition to receive services from the programme.

### [Veterans' Independence Programme](#)

#### Social Rehabilitation

Social Rehabilitation can cover many different things such as home modification, training for independence, and attendant care.

## [VIP Services Team](#)

If you only receive VIP Services from us, the VIP Services Team will be available to assist you. Any one of the team will be able to arrange all your services for you.

The VIP Services Team hours are 8:00am to 5:00pm.

If in the future you successfully claim an entitlement, we will allocate you a case manager.

Call us [0800 483 8372](tel:08004838372)

If you're outside New Zealand [+64 4 495 2070](tel:+6444952070)

We can use the New Zealand Relay to contact you if you are deaf, hearing-impaired, deaf-blind, or speech

#### Opening hours

Our phone lines are open from **8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday.**

**Our ranks grow thin but  
we will remember them**

**MAY YOUR SOULS REST IN PEACE  
AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE**

Because of the increasing number of our servicemen and women that pass away this page is a Memorial to all those who have Crossed the Bar or have Marched Off the Parade Ground for the Last time.

Let us take a moment to remember those who are longer with us



***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.***

## Things you should know.

If you own your own home and income is under a certain amount especially pensioners, do you know about rates rebates

What you can do to reduce the cost: Rates can be a significant burden, particularly for those on lower incomes. What many people don't know is that some councils offer rebates for eligible ratepayers. For instance, some regions provide rebates for households where income is within a certain threshold. Additionally, if you have significant equity in your home, you may be able to postpone paying rates until you sell the property or when it's more financially feasible. In some cases, even tenants might benefit from these rebates if they qualify.

Check if you're eligible for a rates rebate from your local council.

Investigate options for postponing rates if you have significant home equity. Rates

Travel Allowance, you must be on one of these permanently or for 3 continuous years:

War Disablement Pension with your impairment being at least 100%

Disablement Pension for whole-person impairment of at least 75%

Permanent Impairment Compensation for whole-person impairment of at least 75%.

One of these must also apply:

some of that pension or compensation is for loss of at least part of a limb

you're totally blind

you're medically assessed as unfit to travel alone.

Assessment of needs

You must also be assessed as needing Travel Allowance. You'll be assessed if you need help to:

do day-to-day errands—such as shopping and paying bills, and

stay independent in your home.

You can get financial support from Veterans Affairs' if you're ill or injured and have Qualifying Service with the New Zealand Defence Force. Your family or whānau may be able to get financial support, too.

Qualifying Service means you were deployed to an area that has been declared a Qualifying Operational Service, or you served in New Zealand Armed Forces before 1 April 1974 (Qualifying Routine Service).



I hope you enjoyed the magazine but I'm still on the lookout for more articles and photos for future issues of this magazine.

If you have any stories or photos of interest you wish to share please send them through to me at:

[SEAVAmag@gmail.com](mailto:SEAVAmag@gmail.com)

***April-August-December***

## **SEAVA THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE**



**“It is a proud privilege to be a serviceman – a good serviceman ... with discipline, self-respect, pride in his unit & service and in his country, a high sense of duty and obligation to comrades and to his superiors, and a self confidence born of demonstrated ability.”**

***Editor SEAVA Magazine***