

[08/07/1999 Submission 2 RAR Thai Malaya 1962, Noel Payne on behalf of the FESR Association](#)

Re: 2RAR – THAI/MALAY BORDERS 1962

We tender this submission in support of our Army colleagues who served as part of 2nd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR) on the Thai/Malay Border in 1962.

2RAR, then commanded by Colonel Alan Stretton, was placed under the tactical command of the Malayan District Commander, Brigadier M. Hamid.

In 1962 they were sent to the Thai/Malay Border following receipt of intelligence that approximately 500 Communist Terrorists were planning insurgence into Malaysia. The Battalion was placed on Active Service and patrolled the designated areas on the Malay side of the border. These operations were of a 'war like' nature. On 4 August 1962 members of a platoon from A Company, saw a group of Terrorists approaching. The Platoon set up an ambush; an exchange of small arms fire took place. The Communists retreated to a position beyond the Thai Border. In accordance with their orders, the Platoon did not enter the territory of Thailand. Subsequent intelligence reported that one Terrorist had died from wounds received, and another was seriously wounded. These events are covered more widely, and expertly, in Major-General Alan Stretton's book, 'Soldier in a Storm'. Note: the original submission also contained copies of pages 161, 162, 163 and 164.

We recommend full recognition and entitlements for 2RAR for service on the Thai/Malay Border in 1962. That is, award of the Australian Active Service Medal 1945/75 (Malaysia), the General Service Medal (1962) (Malay/Peninsula) and entitlement to claim Service Pensions through the granting of "Qualifying Service" under the provisions of the Veterans/ Entitlements Act (1986) (as amended).

In our View, these proud Australian Army personnel performed Active Service on behalf of their country in obedience to the Government of the day. They contacted, engaged and killed the enemy. We are privileged to support a recommendation by the Review for their full recognition as worthy combatants and true veterans of war.

Yours sincerely,

Signed
Noel Payne
National President
FESR