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NZ and the Malayan Emergency

1948 Malayan Emergency



[New Zealand](#)

[Special Air Service](#)

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The Malayan Emergency (1948–60), the Malayan Communist Party to overthrow the British colonial administration of Malaya. Over the twelve years that the conflict took place, New Zealand soldiers, sailors and airmen made a significant contribution to the Commonwealth effort to defeat the communist insurgency.

Twenty-two New Zealand servicemen lost their lives during the Emergency - three as a result of enemy action. For the New

Zealand Army, with its experience of jungle warfare limited to a few small actions during the Second World War, the operations in Malaya marked a new departure. They were an important stage in the movement of New Zealand military forces from a non-regular to a regular framework of organisation. They also offered an opportunity to develop professional skills, and laid the basis for effective service in the Vietnam War.

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Community contributions

admin

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In response to G.A. O'Connell - this is fascinating information that we have - as you indicate - not been able to find in any official history. If you have more information about this that you would be willing to share please either post it here or email me at info@nzhistory.net.nz. In the meantime we'll try and see if there is any reference in Archives NZ files. It is obviously important that there is official recognition of this service, especially of the man who was killed in action. Regards
Jamie Mackay

G A O'Connell

22 Apr 2008

In 1955, the Federation of Malaya Government recruited 12 New Zealanders to serve as Police Lieutenants in the Malayan Police. Some of these men were recruited from Army camps and returned to service after their stint. Their employment was solely anti-terrorist.

