

[20/09/00 President's Report: WE ARE ALMOST THERE](#)

The Minister has announced the naval 'Area of Operations' at 12nm from the coast of Malaya.

It has also been confirmed those days at Singapore before 31 January 1959 will count toward qualifying for the NGSM. The reason for the 31 January 1959 cut-off is that there was a Command Paper issued in 1959 which excluded all military service in Singapore, after that date, as being qualifying days for the award of medals. This rule applied to Army, RAAF and Navy alike.

Based upon the above criteria, I have received a list of dates from the Department of Defence. Using these dates, I have compiled the schedule, which is attached to this newsletter. Please read the notes to the schedule carefully. There has been enough buzz spreading about medals, entitlements etc. If you are not sure what you are talking about, say nothing.

The following are your entitlements:

Personnel who served 30 days or more in the FESR between 2/7/55 and the end of FESR 30/10/71 are entitled to claim the Australian Service Medal 1945-1975 with FESR clasp. The award of this medal carries no other entitlements.

Personnel who served in ships in the FESR between 2/7/55 and 25/5/63, between the dates listed in Schedule 2 of the Veterans' Entitlements Act, are eligible to claim Disability Pension for injuries and diseases, which can be linked to that service.

Personnel who served in the FESR between 2/7/55 and 31/7/60 are eligible to apply for a Defence Service Homes' Loan (War Service Home).

Personnel who served in the FESR for 1 day or more between 2/7/55 and 31/7/60 (in ships, and during dates, listed in the attachment to this newsletter) are eligible for the award of the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975, the Returned from Active Service Badge and are entitled to claim a Service Pension (Qualifying Service) on reaching the age of 60 and being no longer employed. The Service Pension is income and assets tested, and therefore, each veteran will be assessed on their own circumstances. Some veterans will have to return their Australian Service Medal when they are issued with the Australian Active Service Medal. However, do not do this until the Department of Defence advises you to do so. You should apply for the Australian Active Service Medal, and wait for their advice regarding your Australian Service Medal. Some people will be able to keep both, particularly those who did more than one trip.

Personnel who served in ships listed in the attachment to this newsletter, and who have accumulated 28 days, as per that list, will be eligible for the award of the Naval General Service Medal (Malaya).

Some important notes:

The days listed in Schedule 2 of the Veterans' Entitlements Act for Disability Pension (Operational Service) have no relevance in relation to Medal issue.

The days counted for award of the Australian Service Medal have no relevance to the days counted for the Australian Active Service Medal, the Returned from Active Service Badge or the Naval General Service Medal. Days in FESR count for the Australian Service Medal, whereas days within the Area of Operations (12nm limit) count for the others.

If you are in doubt, ring a Committee member.

In summary:

Everyone who served in ships during the Malaya Emergency 2/7/55 and 31/7/60 will receive the AASM, RAS Badge, Service Pension entitlement (Qualifying Service) and Defence Home Loan entitlement. Those who have accumulated 28 days, according to attached list, will receive the Naval General Service Medal.

I am aware that some of you will be disappointed with the above. However, 4 years ago we had nothing at all. At

the end of the day, we have been instrumental in bringing about a Review of Entitlements, which has delivered benefits to many people, from all Services. At the same time we have corrected years of misinformation, flawed decisions and bad bureaucratic advice. I believe we have much to be proud of, and happy, about.

You have all played a part in this result. You can all claim to have been a part of the biggest review of Service anomalies in our country's history.

You have achieved a place in Australia's military history, and can march proudly, and equally, with other veterans.

I cannot commend enough the efforts of the following individuals: Vice Admiral Peek, who worked tirelessly, over many years, for his sailors to gain recognition. Bob Gibbs and Roger deLisle who researched and prepared many of the submissions to the authorities and whose work formed the base of much of the final submissions to the Mohr Review. When all seemed lost, along came Admiral Hudson and the Naval Association. Admiral Hudson formed the Consultative Group, which included all the above as well as many other senior defence people. After countless hours of work by Commander Peter Cooke-Russell, the Government appointed Major General Mohr and Rear Admiral Kennedy to review ours', and other, issues. We found new friends in Commander Tim Bloomfield, Wing Commander Cec White and Pat Clarke. The result of all this is: 'we have come along way together and we have achieved a remarkable result'. We have truly changed recorded history in our country. You were all involved in this achievement.

There is still the issue of the Honour Roll to be considered by the appropriate authorities. Admiral Mike Hudson is heading up a team, including our Association, represented by me, in preparing a submission for consideration by the Australian War Memorial Council, which sits in November. The AWM Council is the ultimate authority on these things. Its decisions are independent of the Government or the Department. However, they do seek advice from the Department of Defence. I remain optimistic about Bob Spooner and Alan Cooper having their names on the AWM Honour Roll. However, time will tell. The submission, by Admiral Hudson and team, is thorough and logical. I can see no advantage in us as a group, or as individuals, making separate representations to the AWM.

In closing my report this month, Margaret and I wish you all well. I thank you, on behalf of all involved, for your support and efforts over this long campaign. At this point I wish to thank John Carlyon, Col Wurtz and Ken Staff for their loyalty, hard work and advice.

We are nearly at the end. It has been a long and, sometimes, arduous task. We have had differences of opinion with various groups and individuals along the way. However, these are behind us now, and everyone involved has played a positive part in the outcome. If we had been offered the outcome, that we now have achieved, in 1997, we would have grabbed it with both hands.

Good luck, and stay well.

Yours aye..... Noel Payne.

Attachment : DAYS FOR AWARD OF NGSM

This assessment is using raw figures produced by H & A Section.

HMAS ANZAC

01 Deployment: from 02/07/55 to 02/07/55, Days in Area: 01, Days in S/Pore: 00, Post 31/01/59: 0	Total: 1
02 Deployment: from 01/12/55 to 02/10/56, Days in Area: 52, Days in S/Pore: 43, Post 31/01/59: 0	Total: 95
03 Deployment: from 17/04/57 to 20/01/58, Days in Area: 73, Days in S/Pore: 50, Post 31/01/59: 0	Total: 123
04 Deployment: from 01/04/59 to 28/11/59, Days in Area: 39, Days in S/Pore: 80, Post 31/01/59: 80	Total: 39

HMAS ARUNTA

05 Deployment: from 28/07/55 to 05/12/55, Days in Area: 19, Days in S/Pore: 42, Post 31/01/59: 0	Total: 61
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HMAS MELBOURNE

06 Deployment: from 28/09/56 to 02/10/56, Days in Area: 02, Days in S/Pore: 03, Post 31/01/59: 0	Total: 5
07 Deployment: from 17/04/57 to 22/06/57, Days in Area: 05, Days in S/Pore: 13, Post 31/01/59: 0	Total: 18
08 Deployment: from 25/03/58 to 05/05/58, Days in Area: 05, Days in S/Pore: 04, Post 31/01/59: 0	Total: 9
09 Deployment: from 26/03/59 to 20/04/59, Days in Area: 06, Days in S/Pore: 19, Post 31/01/59: 19	Total: 6
10 Deployment: from 14/04/60 to 14/06/60, Days in Area: 04, Days in S/Pore: 10, Post 31/01/59: 10	Total: 4

HMAS QUADRANT

11 Deployment: from 03/07/55 to 03/07/55, Days in Area: 01, Days in S/Pore: 02, Post 31/01/59: 0	Total: 3
12 Deployment: from 14/03/56 to 04/04/56, Days in Area: 05, Days in S/Pore: 07, Post 31/01/59: 0	Total: 12

13 Deployment: from 28/09/56 to 02/10/56, Days in Area: 02, Days in S/Pore: 03, Post 31/01/59: 0 Total: 5

HMAS QUEENBOROUGH

14 Deployment: from 11/03/56 to 04/04/56, Days in Area: 17, Days in S/Pore: 08, Post 31/01/59: 0 Total: 25
15 Deployment: from 28/09/56 to 21/06/57, Days in Area: 50, Days in S/Pore: 38, Post 31/01/59: 0 Total: 88
16 Deployment: from 11/02/59 to 20/04/59, Days in Area: 27, Days in S/Pore: 25, Post 31/01/59: 25 Total: 27
17 Deployment: from 02/03/60 to 29/06/60, Days in Area: 30, Days in S/Pore: 28, Post 31/01/59: 28 Total: 30

HMAS QUIBERON

18 Deployment: from 25/03/58 to 28/03/58, Days in Area: 02, Days in S/Pore: 02, Post 31/01/59: 0 Total: 4
19 Deployment: from 19/08/58 to 20/04/59, Days in Area: 43, Days in S/Pore: 82, Post 31/01/59: 27 Total: 98
20 Deployment: from 29/06/60 to 22/07/60, Days in Area: 03, Days in S/Pore: 13, Post 31/01/59: 13 Total: 3

HMAS QUICKMATCH

21 Deployment: from 14/03/56 to 04/04/56, Days in Area: 05, Days in S/Pore: 07, Post 31/01/59: 0 Total: 12
22 Deployment: from 28/09/56 to 21/06/57, Days in Area: 52, Days in S/Pore: 37, Post 31/01/59: 0 Total: 89
23 Deployment: from 30/09/58 to 01/12/58, Days in Area: 19, Days in S/Pore: 22, Post 31/01/59: 0 Total: 41
24 Deployment: from 03/12/59 to 01/03/60, Days in Area: 32, Days in S/Pore: 25, Post 31/01/59: 25 Total: 32

HMAS SYDNEY

25 Deployment: from 28/09/56 to 02/10/56, Days in Area: 02, Days in S/Pore: 03, Post 31/01/59: 0 Total: 5

HMAS TOBRUK

26 Deployment: from 02/07/55 to 02/07/55, Days in Area: 01, Days in S/Pore: 00, Post 31/01/59: 0 Total: 1
27 Deployment: from 01/12/55 to 02/10/56, Days in Area: 49, Days in S/Pore: 38, Post 31/01/59: 0 Total: 87
28 Deployment: from 18/04/57 to 20/01/58, Days in Area: 74, Days in S/Pore: 50, Post 31/01/59: 0 Total: 124
29 Deployment: from 01/04/59 to 20/11/59, Days in Area: 30, Days in S/Pore: 71, Post 31/01/59: 71 Total: 30

HMAS VAMPIRE

30 Deployment: from 29/06/60 to 30/07/60, Days in Area: 05, Days in S/Pore: 10, Post 31/01/59: 10 Total: 5

HMAS VENDETTA

31 Deployment: from 03/12/59 to 29/06/60, Days in Area: 38, Days in S/Pore: 27, Post 31/01/59: 27 Total: 38

HMAS VOYAGER

32 Deployment: from 27/01/58 to 12/08/58, Days in Area: 48, Days in S/Pore: 51, Post 31/01/59: 0 Total: 99
33 Deployment: from 26/03/59 to 14/04/59, Days in Area: 07, Days in S/Pore: 11, Post 31/01/59: 11 Total: 7
34 Deployment: from 13/04/60 to 01/06/60, Days in Area: 12, Days in S/Pore: 09, Post 31/01/59: 9 Total: 12

HMAS WARRAMUNGA

35 Deployment: from 11/07/55 to 05/12/55, Days in Area: 25, Days in S/Pore: 25, Post 31/01/59: 0 Total: 50
36 Deployment: from 18/04/57 to 24/04/57, Days in Area: 02, Days in S/Pore: 05, Post 31/01/59: 0 Total: 7
37 Deployment: from 27/01/58 to 12/08/58, Days in Area: 54, Days in S/Pore: 64, Post 31/01/59: 0 Total: 118

PLEASE NOTE -

1. The list above uses dates supplied by the Department of Defence. These have been compiled using the 12 mile 'Area of Operations' announced by the Minister last month.
2. The Department has counted time in Singapore, except after 31/1/59. A Command Paper, no. 7907, was published in 1959 which excluded Singapore, after this date, for ALL military personnel.
3. The dates have nothing to do with those in the VEA for Disability Pension. Those dates include 'port to port' provisions. These have no relevance in relation to medals. Please do not confuse the two.
4. The deployment dates are from the first day on station to the day of departure. They do not include stops at Japan, Philippines etc. on the way up, on the way home or while on FESR.
5. If you changed ships, or left mid deployment, then you will need to apply, and have your time assessed. I can help with most queries.
6. If you did more than one trip, your time can accumulate.

7. I know some of you are going to be disappointed with these figures. However, I think we must consider where we were 4 years ago; we had nothing. Now, everyone will receive the AASM, RAS Badge, Service Pension entitlement, Disability Pension entitlement and Home Loan entitlement. Those with 28 days will also get the NGSM.

8. There are still issues to be settled. The War Memorial Council will meet in November to consider Bob Spooner and Alan Cooper for the Honour Roll. The Naval Association, under Admiral Mike Hudson, has appointed a small group to prepare a submission. I am part of that group, and I am confident that Admiral Hudson will put forward the best case possible. I don't think it will help for individuals to be submitting their own requests. If the NAA submission is not successful, then we can consider our next line of attack. I urge you all to be patient, and await the outcome of the NAA (Admiral Hudson) submission.

9. Think of how far we have come. For those who missed on the NGSM; your cup is almost full; not almost empty.

Yours aye..... Noel Payne.