



# AUSTRALIAN ARMY

## 2<sup>nd</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> TRAINING GROUP

Royal Malaysia Air Force Base, 12990, Butterworth, Malaysia.

CO2/30 TRG GP/OUT/007/09

The Secretary  
2<sup>nd</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion (AIF) Association  
PO Box 108  
Pennant Hills, NSW 2120

*Dear Sir,*

### **AUSTRALIAN ARMY PRESENCE IN BUTTERWORTH, MALAYSIA**

By way of introduction, my name is Campbell Paine and I have just taken over as the Commanding Officer of the 2nd/30th Training Group at Butterworth, Malaysia.

I am writing to you, and many similar associations, due to your association with the region within which I am fortunate enough to be currently living, and of course due to your battalion's proud history here. We are an Australian Army Unit that under a variety of different names have been stationed in Butterworth, Malaysia since the early 1970's. I have a small cadre staff and we facilitate and command a rotation of an Australian Rifle Company (about 120 personnel) through Malaysia every 3 months. The company will conduct jungle training, urban warfare and trench warfare, bi-lateral exercises with Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei and Singapore (depending on who's doing what at the time), historical training and a variety of other activities. My permanent staff lives here on Penang. I should also add that there is also a permanent RAAF detachment here that provides logistic support to transiting aircraft and exercises.

The 2nd / 30th Training Group has only been in existence - in its current name - since late 2007, with the blessing of the Australian 2/30 Battalion Association. As a result of our location in SE Asia we are in an ideal position to be able to assist associations with a range of activities that are conducted in the region. Many, which I might add, go on without our knowledge - despite our willingness and ability to support (generally). ANZAC Day for example we will be providing, at the request of various High Commissions and Embassy's, Catafalque parties to Malaysia (including Sandakan), Thailand, Brunei and Singapore. We have for a number of years also provided soldiers to help restore the Burma Thai Railway, assist the Museum with renovations, and have assisted and restored numerous other historical sites and memorials in the peninsula. We also have a good relationship with the Changi Museum Director, whom contacts military history tours for us and I have established links with the Army Office of War Graves and the Department of Veterans Affairs, with the specific focus on servicemen's graves whether they be in Commonwealth Cemetery's or elsewhere.

By way of a more personal example, we recently attended a memorial service at Taiping, with the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association - UK. With very short notice, we were able to provide a padre, lay a wreath and subsequently host the travelling members to the



ADF All Ranks Club in Penang. Within this Christian Cemetery lie 40 Australian's including 12 family members of ADF personnel who died during the Malayan Emergency, including many young children and babies.

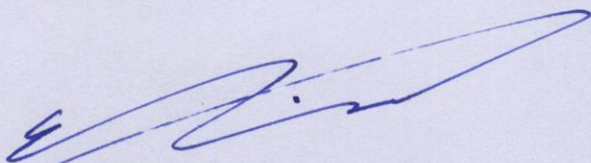
Despite my major role here being one of training, any opportunity to support our military associations is one I will always give serious consideration to, even if that just amounts to hosting members passing through the area, taking a simple photograph to email home, or visiting a gravesite.

The young soldiers of today, many of whom were born after 1990, if that seems possible, revel in any opportunity that provides them with a link to the military past of which we are all so very proud. Assisting in the remembrance of fallen comrades is not a burden for us, nor is maintaining the links between young and old soldiers, and we welcome any opportunity to strengthen the links, understanding and friendship.

If there is anything we can do to assist you and the association please feel free to call or email us, anytime.

Regards and best wishes

Yours faithfully,



**Campbell W. Paine**  
Lieutenant Colonel  
Commanding Officer  
2<sup>nd</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> Training Group

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