

20 The Clarke committee came to the same conclusion as this extracted table shows :

a) SUMMARY OF SERVICE REQUIRED FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR DISABILITY AND SERVICE PENSIONS

b) Table 10.1 summarises the service required for eligibility for the disability and service pensions for veterans of the Australian armed services and World War II Australian mariners.

a) Table 10.1 Required service

(d) Post-World War II — allotted for duty in operational area

	From	To	Disability pension	Service pension
Korea	27 Jun 50	19 Apr 56	Yes	Yes
Malaya	29 Jun 50	31 Aug 57	Yes	Yes
Malaya and Singapore	1 Sep 57	31 Jul 60	Yes	Yes
Thai-Malay border	1 Aug 60	16 Aug 64	Yes	Yes
Borneo (Brunei, Sabah, Sarawak)	8 Dec 62	16 Aug 64	Yes	Yes
Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei	17 Aug 64	30 Sept 67	Yes	Yes
Vietnam	31 Jul 62	11 Jan 73	Yes	Yes
Namibia	18 Feb 89	10 Apr 90	Yes	Yes
Persian Gulf	2 Aug 90	9 Jun 91	Yes	Yes
Iraq/Kuwait	23 Feb 91	9 Jun 91	Yes	Yes
Cambodia, Laos and Thailand	20 Oct 91	7 Oct 93	Yes	Yes
Former Republic of Yugoslavia	12 Jan 92	24 Jan 97	Yes	Yes
Somalia	20 Oct 92	30 Nov 97	Yes	Yes

21 4 RAR was located and operating as a viable infantry battalion in the operational area of Malaysia from October 1965 to and including September 1967. This period falls within the period highlighted in the table above. I have never personally sighted the document which officially allotted the unit for duty to Malaysia but I could safely assume that it couldn't have moved itself there from Woodside SA, without the approval, authority and resources of the Australian Government and the invitation, request or agreement of the Malaysian and British Governments. This is not some sleight-of-hand move by these former soldiers or some attempt to elbow their way into entitlements they didn't earn. They were there. They did the job they were sent to do under conditions no civilian and no trade union would accept without taking to the streets and attempting to bring down the Government.