

Remains of Australians buried overseas returned

On 25 May 2015, the Australian Government extended an offer of repatriation to the families of 36 Australian servicemen and dependants buried in the Terendak Military Cemetery in Malaysia, and the Military Annex of the Kranji War Cemetery in Singapore. The families of 33 Australians accepted the Government's offer of repatriation. For further detail, see this site -

<https://www.dva.gov.au/recognition/events-and-reminders-all-who-served/reminders-our-war-dead/our-vietnam-war-dead#:~:text=On%20%20June%202016%2C%20the,Air%20Force%20Base%20Richmond%2C%20Sydney.&text=Three%20Australian%20casualties%20of%20the,maintained%20by%20OAWG%20in%20perpetuity.>

The story of the repatriation offer is here courtesy of the ABC.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-05-31/repatriation-of-australian-soldiers-from-malaysia/7461796>

Among those who accepted were the families of LT David Brian and LT Robert Birse. The full list is here -

<https://www.dva.gov.au/recognition/events-and-reminders-all-who-served/office-australian-war-graves/graves-and-memorials-2>

Lieutenant David Brian was killed while patrolling the Thai-Malay border on 5 March 1964. Lieutenant Brian served with the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. At the time, his body could not be returned without enormous personal expense to the family.

Lieutenant Robert Birse was killed on 10 December 1967 in Vietnam. Lieutenant Birse served with the 4th Field Regiment, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

The remains of these soldiers were transported from Malaysia and Singapore then on to Australia. The two coffins from Malaya were handed over to Australian care with full military honours.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-36415138>

On arrival at Richmond, a repatriation ceremony was conducted with the families of those who died and several hundred veterans. A story from the ABC is here.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-06-02/repatriation-ceremony-vietnam-malaysia-service-personnel/7469362>

A video of the arrival can be seen here.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-06-02/repatriation-ceremony-vietnam-malaysia-service-personnel/7469362>