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Roger C. Arditti

Counterinsurgency
Intelligence and the
Emergency in Malaya

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I have been brought up to believe that if something is worth doing, it is worth doing well and this is likely to take sustained hard work. I am not sure if this book goes to prove or disapprove these sentiments, but I certainly hope it is the former. If nothing else, I can take some comfort in the fact that it has been a protracted effort to bring this work to fruition.

I returned to Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, as it was then, in 1992 after my time in the Royal Air Force was cut short. I was bereft of any long-term plans and decided to study for a master's degree in modern history to buy some time to think. While doing this I met Professor Anthony Stockwell. I would not dream to attempt to characterise Tony, perhaps only to say he is the academic I aspire to be. Tony introduced me to the Malayan Emergency and I was immediately gripped. I am still not sure why but suspect it might be due to the heady mix of politics and warfare, of the rapidly changing colonial context, and of characters under desperate pressure who managed to create the foundations of modern counterinsurgency theory.

I decided to follow-up my master's degree with a Ph.D., again under Tony's supervision, examining the origins of the counterinsurgency strategy in Malaya. However, I also had to get a job and so joined the Metropolitan Police. Unfortunately, a serious accident at work cut short my plans to complete my Ph.D. at Royal Holloway. However, after a number of years recuperating, I decided to test my recovery and enrolled in a master's degree in Intelligence and Security Studies

at Brunel University London. It was here that I met Professor Phillip Davies. Again, I would not attempt to characterise Phil but I do owe him an incalculable debt of gratitude. He encouraged me to look at the Emergency afresh, through the prism of intelligence and, with the help of Dr. Kristian Gustafson, we constructed a ruthless battleplan to study for a Ph.D. The thrill (or more probably the sense of relief) when Professor Richard Aldrich, my external examiner, announced some three and half years later that I had passed the viva remains indescribable. This book is the development of my Ph.D. thesis. I have had another two years to contemplate the management of intelligence during the Emergency, to conduct further archival research, and restructure the work significantly. I hope these changes have improved upon my original thesis. However, this work has been undertaken without Tony or Phil's guidance and I am fully responsible for any errors that may have inadvertently crept in.

However, while this work is my own, it would not have been possible for the support of many colleagues and friends over the years. I was highly fortunate to be taught at undergraduate and postgraduate level at Royal Holloway by Professors Nigel Saul, Sara Ansari, Penny Corfield, and Justin Champion. They were all equally inspiring—however, the memory of being admonished by Nigel for submitting an essay written with a ballpoint pen remains fresh and I have not used such an instrument since that day! The teaching team at the Brunel Centre for Intelligence Studies was much smaller than Royal Holloway but had an equal, if not greater, influence upon me. In addition to Phil and Kristian, I was again fortunate to be taught by Andrew Marrin. At Brunel, I also realised that I was not the only postgraduate student striving for a doctorate! Mo Mojothi, James Thomson, Neveen Abdulla, and Andrew Brunetti (and Dr. Seetha Davies and the Davies twins) formed a fantastic support network. More broadly, I met a young Rory Cormac who gave me much encouragement for which I remain grateful. It has been fantastic to see his career bloom. I also became friends with the late Chikara Hashimoto, who was particularly gracious in helping me get my first article published. It is desperately sad that we shall not see his potential fulfilled.

I have spent many, many, hours in various archives, primarily The National Archives at Kew. The service provided by the staff at The National Archives is consistently first-rate and without them, this work would not be possible. I have also had the pleasure of using a number of other archives, each with its own character—I have particularly fond

memories of drinking endless cups of tea while reading fascinating Operational Summaries in the Gurkha Museum in Winchester, of being amazed at the stereoscopic images at RAF Medeneham, and feeling very lucky to have gained access to the Intelligence Museum where I had a fabulous conversation with the staff on a number of topics (which I like to pretend I cannot tell you about!)

While an historian tends to spend the majority of their working life in an archive, in silence only punctured by stifled whoops of joy if a key document is discovered, in writing this I have realised it is very much a team effort. Central to this team were Matt Anstice, Mike Powter, Tom Northcott, Bernadette Turner and my brother Nicholas, each of whom have provided a unique but equally welcome form of encouragement! Since completing my Ph.D., Professor Robin Bryant has taken on the role of de facto academic mentor and if were not for his encouragement it is unlikely that I would have sent the email to Palgrave Macmillan which led to this book being published. Further, it would be entirely remiss not to recognise the support and advice provided by my editors, Maeve Sinnott and Molly Beck.

Most importantly, however, I must acknowledge the influence and support of my parents. My mother, Mary, has proofread every essay, dissertation and chapter I have ever written (often multiple times), despite regularly professing her dislike of history. Surely she must, by now, qualify for some form of postgraduate or long-service award? Finally, in my mind, the presence of my late father, Christopher, can be felt in each page of this work simply because he gave me a love of history and the determination to complete the job. I hope these are qualities I might be able to pass on to my three wonderful girls.

January 2019

Roger C. Arditti

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACFE	Air Command Far East
ACP	Assistant Commissioner of Police
AHQ	Air Headquarters
ALFSEA	Allied Land Forces South East Asia
AOC	Air Officer Commanding
APIU	Air Photographic Interpretation Unit
APS	Axis Planning Staff
ASP	Assistant Superintendent of Police
BDCC (FE)	British Defence Coordination Committee (Far East)
BMA	British Military Administration
CCP	Chinese Communist Party
CEP	Captured Enemy Personnel; Combined Emergency Planners
CICB	Counter-Intelligence Combined Board
CICI	Combined Intelligence Centre Iraq
CID	Committee of Imperial Defence
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CIGS	Chief of the British Imperial General Staff
CIS	Central Intelligence Staff
CIU	Central Interpretation Unit
CLC	Civil Liaison Corps
CO	Commanding Officer
CoS	Chiefs of Staff
CP	Commissioner of Police
CPA	Chief Political Advisor
CPM	Communist Party of Malaya
CPO	Chief Police Officer

CSDIC	Combined Services Detailed Interrogation Centre
CT	Communist Terrorist
DALCO	Dalley's Company
DCM	District Committee Member
DMI	Director of Military Intelligence
DMO&I	Director of Military Operations and Intelligence
DOI	Director of Intelligence
DSO	Defence Security Officer
DWEC	District War Executive Committee
EIS	Economic Intelligence Section; Emergency Information Service
FARELF	Far East Land Forces
FEAF	Far East Air Force
FECB	Far East Combined Intelligence Bureau
FELF	Far East Land Forces
FIC	Federal Intelligence Committee
FMS	Federated Malay States
FOES	Future Operations Enemy Section
FSS	Field Security Service/Section
FWEC	Federal War Executive Committee
GLU	General Labour Union
GOC	General Officer Commanding
GOS II (Int)	General Staff Officer II (Intelligence)
HD(S)E	Home Defence (Security) Executive
HUMINT	Human Intelligence
INA	Indian National Army
ISIC	Interservice Intelligence Committee
ISLD	Inter-Service Liaison Department
ISTD	Interservice Topographical Department
JAPIB	Joint Air Photographic Intelligence Board
JAPIC	Joint Air Photographic Intelligence Centre
JIB	Joint Intelligence Bureau
JIC	Joint Intelligence Committee
JID	Joint Intelligence Division
JIO	Joint Intelligence Organisation
JIS	Joint Intelligence Staff
JOC	Joint Operations Room
JPS	Joint Planning Staff
KMT	Kuomintang
LDC	Local Defence Committee
LIC	Local Intelligence Committee
LSO	Local Security Officer

MCA	Malayan Chinese Affairs
MCP	Malayan Communist Party
MDU	Malayan Democratic Union
MEF	Middle East Force
MEIC	Middle East Intelligence Centre
MELF	Middle East Land Forces
MI5	The Security Service
MI6	Secret Intelligence Service (SIS)
MIO	Military Intelligence Officer
MNLA	Malayan National Liberation Army
MNP	Malay Nationalist Party
MPABA	Malayan People's Anti-British Army
MPAJA	Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Army
MRLA	Malayan Races Liberation Army
MSS	Malayan Security Service
NDYL	New Democratic Youth League
OC	Overseas Control
OCPD	Officer-in-Charge Police District
OPSUM	Operational Summary
OSPC	Officer Superintending Police Circle
OSS	Office of Strategic Services
OWI	Office of War Information
Photint	Photographic Intelligence
PIAW	Political Intelligence Arab World
PIJ	Political Intelligence Journal
PMFTU	Pan-Malayan Federation of Trade Unions
PRC	People's Republic of China
PRO	Public Records Office
PWE	Political Warfare Executive
PWS	Psychological Warfare Section
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
RAF	Royal Air Force
RN	Royal Navy
SAC	Supreme Allied Commander
SACSEA	Supreme Allied Commander South East Asia
SAS	Special Air Service
SB	Special Branch
SC	Special Constable
SEAC	Southeast Asia Command
SEIO	State Emergency Information Officer
SEP	Surrendered Enemy Personnel

SFTU	Singapore Federation of Trade Unions
SIFE	Security Intelligence Far East
SIME	Security Intelligence Middle East
SIS	Secret Intelligence Service
SLO	Security Liaison Officer
SOE	Special Operations Executive
SOVF	Special Operations Volunteer Force
SRC	Situation Report Centre
SWEC	State/Settlement War Executive Committee

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Boucher, General Sir Charles (1898–1951), was born in 1898 and educated at Wellington College. He was appointed to the Indian Army in 1916, attached to the 2nd King Edwards VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, and served in Palestine and the North West Frontier. During the Second World War, Boucher commanded the 10th Indian Infantry Brigade in North Africa and the 17th Indian Infantry Brigade in Italy. He was appointed General Officer Commanding Malaya District in 1948. He retired in 1951, dying shortly after.

Bourne, General Geoffrey (1902–1982), was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1923. Bourne served as a member of the Joint Planning Staff between 1939 and 1941. He was posted to the Joint Staff Mission in Washington in 1942. He then commanded the 152nd Field Regiment in Italy and was a member of the General Staff Airborne Corps fighting in Belgium. After a number of staff appointments, Bourne was appointed General Officer Commanding Malaya between 1954 and 1956. He retired from the Army in 1960.

Bower, General Sir Roger (1903–1990), was educated at Sandhurst, Bower was commissioned into the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in 1923. He served in India and Hong Kong in the interwar years. During the Second World War Bower took part in Operation Market

Garden. After the war, he served in Palestine and Germany. Bower served as General Officer Commanding and Director of Operations for Malaya between 1956 and 1958. He retired from the Army in 1960.

Briggs, General Sir Harold Rawdon (1894–1952), was born in Pipestone, Minnesota, USA in 1894. Briggs attended Sunburst and was subsequently attached to the 4th Bn King's Regiment, fighting in France in 1915. In the following year he transferred to the 31st Punjab Regiment of the Indian Army, seeing action in Mesopotamia and Palestine. In the interwar period he saw action on the North West Frontier. During the Second World War, Briggs saw action in Eritrea, North Africa and Burma, including the battle for Kohima. In April 1946 he was appointed General Officer Commanding, Burma before retiring from the Army when Burma obtained independence in 1948. He subsequently served in a civilian capacity as Director of Operations in Malaya between 1950 and 1952. He died in Limassol on 27 October 1952.

Chin Peng (1924–2013), was born in Sitiawan, Perak, Malaya in 1924. In 1937 he joined the Chinese Anti Enemy Backing Up Society and by early 1939 had discovered Communism. He was an active member of the Malayan Peoples Anti-Japanese Army during the Second World War and worked with Force 136. Following the departure of Lai Tak in 1947, Chin Peng became Secretary General of the Malayan Communist Party (MCP) and led it through the Emergency. He subsequently took refuge in the jungles of Thailand, remaining in exile until the MCP formally laid down its arms in 1989.

Dalley, Lt. Col. John (dates unknown), was a police officer in the Federated Malay States Police Force. Following the invasion of Malaya by the Japanese in December 1941, Dalley created a guerrilla network called Dalforce, which numbered some 4000 fighters. Dalforce was disbanded in 1942, following the British surrender. Dalley was subsequently captured and spent the rest of the war a captive of the Japanese. After liberation, Dalley returned to Malaya and was appointed Head of the Malayan Security Service (MSS). However, the MSS was disbanded in 1948 and Dalley played no further part in the Malayan Emergency.

Gent, Sir (Gerard) Edward James (1895–1948), was born in Kingston, Surrey in 1894. Enlisted with the Duke of Cornwall's Light

Infantry in August 1914 and served in Flanders and Italy, winning the MC and DSO. Gent then entered Colonial Office as an assistant principal. He spent much of the 1930s in the Far Eastern department and was its head from 1939 to 1942. In 1945 he was appointed as Governor of the Malaya Union, declaring a state of emergency in June 1948. Shortly after Gent was recalled to London for talks. The aircraft in which he was returning crashed on approach to Northolt airport on 4 July 1948, killing Gent and all other passengers and crew.

Gray, Col. Nicol (1908–1988), was educated at Trinity College and qualified as a chartered surveyor in 1939. He joined 2nd Battalion of the Royal Marine Brigade and served in North Africa and the Middle East. He landed in Normandy on D-Day, as second-in-command of 45 Commando. He fought through France and Low Countries to Germany. Between 1946 and 1948 he was Inspector General of Palestine Police. In 1948 he was appointed Commissioner the Federation of Malaya Police Service. Gray retired and returned to Britain in 1952.

Gurney, Sir Henry Lovell Goldsworthy (1908–1951), was born in Bude, Cornwall in 1898. He was commissioned in the King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1917 and was wounded shortly before the end of First World War. After attending Oxford, Gurney joined the Colonial Office, spending much time in East Africa in the 1930s and early 1940s, before being transferred to Gold Coast in 1944 as Colonial Secretary. In 1946 he transferred to Palestine, as Chief Secretary. In 1948 he was posted to the newly created Federation of Malaya, to replace Sir Edward Gent as High Commissioner. On 6 October 1951, when travelling from Kuala Lumpur to Fraser's Hill, he ambushed and murdered by Communist insurgents.

Hayter, Sir William Goodenough (1906–1995), was born on 1 August 1906 in Oxford, where he was subsequently educated. In 1930 he joined the Diplomatic Service and enjoyed postings to the League of Nations, Vienna, Moscow, and Shanghai. He was posted to Washington as the first secretary in December 1940. He returned to London in May 1944 and was promoted to Assistant Under-Secretary of State in February 1948. He was chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee between 1948 and 1949. Hayter was then posted to Paris and served as ambassador to Moscow between 1953 and 1957. After his posting to Moscow, Hayter accepted the wardenship of New College, Oxford. He died in Oxfordshire in 1995.

Jenkin, Sir William (dates unknown), served in the Indian Police Special Branch and the Indian Intelligence Bureau before being appointed as Advisor of the Special Branch/CID of the Malayan Police in June 1950. Shortly after he was appointed as Malaya's first Director of Intelligence, a post he held until October 1951.

Liddell, Guy (1892–1958), was born in London on 8 November 1892. He served with the Royal Horse Artillery during the First World War and won a MC. Joined Special Branch in 1919. In October 1931, Liddell joined the Security Service and was appointed Deputy Director of Counter-Espionage. He was promoted to Director of B Division in June 1940. After the war he came Deputy Director General, working to Sir Percy Sillitoe. He was tarnished by the defection of his friend Guy Burgess and retired from the Security Service in 1953.

Lyttelton, Sir Oliver (Viscount Chandos) (1893–1972), was born on 15 March 1893. He was educated at Eton and Cambridge, leaving university early to serve with the Grenadier Guards in France between 1915 and 1918. Lyttelton had a successful career with the British Metal Corporation in the interwar years. In 1942 he replaced Beaverbrook as Minister of Production in Churchill's war cabinet. After the Second World War, Lyttelton returned to commerce but retained a parliamentary seat. Upon the formation of Churchill's post-war government, he was invited to become Secretary of State for the Colonies, a post he held until 1954, when he was elevated to the House of Lords as Viscount Chandos. Lyttelton died in 1972.

MacDonald, Malcolm John (1901–1981), was born at Lossiemouth, Scotland, on 17 August 1901. In 1931 he was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary in the Dominions Office. Between 1935 and 1940 he held various cabinet offices, including Secretary of State for the Colonies and Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs. He served in Churchill's government as Minister of Health and then in 1941 he was appointed High Commissioner to Canada. In 1946 MacDonald was appointed Governor General, Far East Asia. In 1955 he was appointed High Commissioner to India. In 1963 he became Britain's last Governor and Commander-in-Chief in Kenya. MacDonald died in 1981.

MacGillivray, Sir Donald Charles (1906–1966), was born in Edinburgh on 22 September 1906. He attended Oxford University before

entering the Colonial Service in 1928. His first posting was as a District Officer in Tanganyika. In 1938 he went to Palestine, serving as Private Secretary to Sir Harold Macmillan, a District Officer, and Under-Secretary to the Palestine government. Between 1947 and 1952 he was Colonial Secretary in Jamaica. In 1952 MacGillivray was sent to Malaya, serving as deputy High Commissioner to Templer. He succeeded Templer in 1954, and was the Federation's last High Commissioner. He retired from the Colonial Service when Malaya gained independence in 1957.

Mountbatten, Louis, first Earl of Mountbatten of Burma (1900–1979), was born at Frogmore House, Windsor on 25 June 1900. He was educated at The Royal Naval Colleges, Osborne and Dartmouth, Mountbatten was appointed midshipman in July 1916. The interwar years were spent building his Naval career. In June 1939 he took command of the destroyer, *Kelly*. In 1942, Churchill appointed Mountbatten as Chief of Command Staff, during which time he oversaw the Dieppe operation of August 1942. In August 1943 he was appointed Supreme Commander, Southeast Asia. In September 1945 he received the formal surrender of the Japanese at Singapore. In December 1946 he was invited to become India's last viceroy. After independence, Mountbatten returned to Navy, becoming First Sea Lord in October 1954 and Chief of the Defence Staff in July 1959. Mountbatten retired from the Navy in 1965. He was murdered by the IRA in 1979 while fishing off the coast of County Sligo, Eire.

Petrie, Sir David (1879–1961), was born on 9 September 1879 at Inveravon, Banffshire. Petrie studied at Aberdeen University before entering the Indian Police Service in 1900. He investigated the bomb attack on the viceroy, Lord Hardinge, in Delhi in December 1912 and was wounded in a gun battle with Sikh revolutionaries in 1914. Petrie was instrumental in creating the government of India's overseas intelligence network. He retired from India in 1936. On the outbreak of the Second World War, Petrie was commissioned into the Intelligence Corps and in November 1940 was recalled to London and asked to become Director General of MI5. Petrie retired in 1946.

Ritchie, General Sir Neil Methuen (1897–1983), was born in Essequibo, British Guiana on 29 July 1897. Ritchie attended Sandhurst and in 1914 was commissioned into the Black Watch, and saw service

in France and Mesopotamia during the First World War. In 1938 he took command of the 1st Bn King's Own Royal Regiment and served in Palestine. In 1939 he was appointed to the General Staff of 2nd Corps, commanded by Alan Brooke. In 1941 Richie was sent to North Africa, taking command of the Eighth Army until dismissed by Auchinleck the following year. He subsequently commanded 12th Corps through the campaign in North West Europe. In 1947 he was promoted to General and took the post of Commander-in-Chief Far East Land Forces. He was posted in 1950 to head of the British Army staff in the joint service mission to the USA. He retired to Canada in 1951.

Scrivener, Sir Patrick (1897–1966), was born in 1897. Scrivener became a career diplomat. Between 1941 and 1947 he was Head of Egyptian Department of the Foreign Office. Subsequently appointed Minister to Syria in 1947. Served as Deputy Commissioner General, South East Asia between 1948 and 1949 and chaired the Joint Intelligence Committee (Far East). Also served as ambassador to Switzerland between 1950 and 1953.

Sillitoe, Sir Percy Joseph (1888–1962), was born in Tulse Hill, London on 22 May 1888. In 1908 he became a trooper in the British South Africa police. He transferred to the Northern Rhodesia police in 1911. He took part in the campaign in German East Africa and was a political officer in Tanganyika from 1916–1922. He returned to the UK and became Chief Constable of Chesterfield, East Riding, and Sheffield successively. In 1931 he was appointed Chief Constable of Glasgow, a post he held for twelve years. In 1943 Sillitoe was appointed Chief Constable of Kent. He was appointed Director General of MI5 in May 1946. He retired from MI5 in 1953.

Templer, General Sir Gerald (1898–1979), was born in Colchester, Essex on 11 Sept 1898. He was commissioned into the Royal Irish Fusiliers and saw service in France during the First World War. Templer subsequently served in Persia, Iraq, Egypt and Palestine. In 1938, as a brevet Lieutenant Colonel, Templer became a GO2 in intelligence. He saw active service in France in 1940 and Italy in 1943 where he was wounded. In 1945 Templer was appointed Director of Civil Affairs and Military Government in Germany. In March 1946 he was appointed Director of Military Intelligence (DMI) and then in 1948 as Vice Chief

of the Imperial General Staff (VCIGS). He served in Malaya as High Commissioner between 1952 and 1954. After Malaya, Templer became Chief of the Imperial General Staff (CIGS) and was appointed Field Marshal in 1956. Templer retired from the Army in 1958.

Young, Sir Arthur Edwin (1907–1979), was born on 15 February 1907 in Eastleigh, Hampshire. Young joined Portsmouth police in 1923 and by 1938 he was the Chief Constable of Leamington Spa. In 1941 he was appointed as Senior Assistant Chief Constable for Birmingham; in 1943 he was selected to establish a training school for police officers who would maintain law and order in liberated axis territories; ten weeks later he was Director of Public Safety in the allied government in Italy. After the war, Young served as Chief Constable of Hertfordshire; Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police; and Commissioner of the City of London Police. He was appointed as Commissioner of the Federation of Malaya police service between 1952 and 1954. He subsequently left Malaya to be Commissioner of the Kenyan police service in 1954. He then returned to the City of London police but went to Ireland in 1969 to implement the Hunt Report. Young died on 20 January 1979.

TIMELINE

- December 1941 Japanese forces invade Malaya.
February 1942 Singapore surrenders to the Japanese.
January 1945 *The Intelligence Machine*, A report by Denis Capel-Dunn report released.
July 1945 Clement Attlee became Prime Minister.
August 1945 Japanese surrender.
September 1945 Start of the British Military Administration (BMA) in Malaya.
March 1946 Governor Sir Edward Gent arrived in Malaya.
April 1946 Malcolm MacDonald appointed Governor General, Southeast Asia.
Start of the Malayan Union.
Sir Edward Gent appointed Governor of the Malayan Union.
Sir Franklin Gimson appointed Governor of Singapore.
Creation of the British Defence Coordinating Committee/Far East (BDCC/FE).
Col. John Dalley appointed head of the reconstituted Malayan Security Service (MSS).
Col. Cyril Dixon appointed head of the newly constituted Security Intelligence Far East (SIFE).
Sir Percy Sillitoe appointed Director General of the Security Service (MI5).
June 1946 Field Marshall Sir Bernard Montgomery appointed Chief of the Imperial General Staff (CIGS).
October 1946 Arthur Creech Jones appointed Secretary of State for the Colonies.
November 1946 Malcolm Johnston replaced Dixon as Head of SIFE.

- 1947 Creation of the Joint Intelligence Committee/Far East (JIC/FE).
- April 1947 General Sir Neil Ritchie appointed Commander-in-Chief, Far East Land Forces (FELF).
- November 1947 *Review of Intelligence Organisations, 1947*, by Sir ACM Douglas Evill released.
- February 1948 William Hayter appointed chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee (London) [JIC (London)].
- April 1948 Start of the Federation of Malaya.
- June 1948 State of Emergency declared in Malaya.
Mr. Langworthy, Commissioner of Police in Malaya resigns.
General Ashton Wade, General Officer Commanding (GOC) Malaya retires.
General Charles Boucher appointed GOC Malaya.
- July 1948 Sir Edward Gent dies in aircraft crash.
- August 1948 Col W (Nicol) Gray arrives in Malaya as Commissioner of Police.
Alec Kellar replaced Johnson (died in service) as H/SIFE.
- October 1948 Colonial Office joins the JIC (London).
Sir Henry Gurney installed as High Commissioner.
Patrick Scrivener, chairman of the JIC (FE) visits London.
- November 1948 Field Marshall William Slim appointed Chief of the Imperial General Staff (CIGS).
- May 1949 Jack Morton replaces Kellar as H/SIFE.
- July 1949 General Sir John Harding appointed C-in-C. Far East Land Forces (FELF).
- 1950 Patrick Reilly replaces William Hayter as chairman of the JIC (London).
- February 1950 Jim Griffiths appointed Secretary of State for the Colonies, replacing Arthur Creech Jones.
- March 1950 Sir Harold Briggs is appointed as Director of Operations in Malaya.
General Boucher invalided home.
General Roy Urquhart appointed GOC Malaya.
- June 1950 Sir William Jenkin arrives in Malaya as intelligence advisor.
- November 1950 Jenkin appointed Director of Intelligence.
- September 1951 Jenkin retires.
- October 1951 Sir Henry Gurney is murdered by Communist insurgents.
Sir Winston Churchill became Prime Minister.
Oliver Lyttelton replaces Jim Griffiths as Secretary of State for the Colonies.

- The Malayan Communist Party (MCP) issues the October Directives.
- November 1951 Briggs retires, to be replaced by General Sir Robert Lockhart. Field Marshall Sir John Harding appointed CIGS.
- c. January 1952 Sir Arthur Young is appointed Commissioner of Police, replacing Nicol Gray.
- January 1952 General Sir Gerald Templer is appointed High Commissioner.
- May 1952 Courtenay Young replaced Morton as H/SIFE.
- June 1952 General Hugh Stockwell replaces Urquhart as GOC Malaya.
- November 1952 Sir Franklin Gimson retires.
- 1953 Sir John Sinclair replaces Sir Stewart Menzies as Chief of the Security Service.
- May 1954 Sir Donald MacGillivray succeeds Sir Gerald Templer as High Commissioner.
General Sir Geoffrey Bourne becomes Director of Operations and GOC Malaya.
- July 1954 Alan Lennox-Boyd appointed Secretary of State for the Colonies.
- July 1955 Elections in Malaya held.
Tunku Abdul Rahman appointed Chief Minister.
- August 1955 R. Thistlewaite replaces Young as H/SIFE.
- December 1955 Baling Peace Talks.
- 1956 General Sir Roger Bower replaces Bourne as Director of Operations.
- August 1957 Malaya granted independence.
- July 1960 State of Emergency in Malaya rescinded.
- December 1989 A treaty is signed between the Communists, Thailand and Malaya.