



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017  
At the Tillington Hall Hotel, Stafford**

**Meeting Opened @ 10:04**

**Item 1:** The National Standard was paraded into the meeting by Debbie Lofts, The Union Standard by Charles McIntosh, accepted by Clive Boyles MSM.

**Item 2:** The Homage was read by Malcolm White.

**Item 3:** Short Prayer Rev Roger Perry - The Association Padre

*Heavenly Farther we thank you that we are able to meet once again freely in this hotel.  
Guide us as we make our choice for Vice Chairman and lead us in the way you would have us. Amen*

**Item 4:** Pause for 2 minutes silence and reflection.

We remember especially today those members of our association who have departed this life since the last AGM.

Names read out by Malcolm White.

**Roll of Honour - 2016-2017**

<u>Membership No</u>	<u>Forename</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Branch</u>	<u>Date Deceased</u>	
UK/O/1673	Ritchie	Osbourne	Bridgend	01/12/2016	Trans from Resigned file
UK/O/6134	John	Ambrose	Colchester	N/K	
UK/O/0055	Peter	Black	Colchester	01/01/2017	
UK/O/6701	Clifford	Brown	Colchester	15/06/2017	
UK/O/1689	Edward	Evans	Colchester	09/09/2017	
UK/O/6789	John	Farrance	Colchester	N/K	
UK/O/7504	John	Goring	Colchester	26/10/2016	
UK/O/3809	Robert	Jackson	Colchester	26/10/2016	
UK/A/7191	Kathleen W	Jackson	Colchester	27/10/2016	
UK/O/7435	Derek	King	Colchester	30/11/2016	
UK/O/4466	Glover	Monty	Colchester	07/10/2017	
UK/O/6300	Richard	Sonnex	Colchester	N/K	
UK/O/4495	Leslie	Sutton	Colchester	N/K	
UK/O/4454	Neville	Stubbings	Doncaster	K/N	
UK/O/2805	Robert	Jones	Durham	N/K	
UK/O/4090	Brian	Gilbert	Durham	19-Mar-17	
UK/O/6691	James	Doran	Grantham	22/09/2016	

UK/O/6591	Michael	Dodd	Grantham	01/10/2016	
UK/O/6481	Raymond	Cook	Grantham	22/11/2016	
UK/O/7463	Alan James	Philby	Grantham	02/02/2017	
UK/O/7528	David	Thirtle	Grantham	17/05/2017	
UK/O/6809	Dennis (Ted)	Jervis	Leicester	26/01/2017	
U/O/4247	Brian Roger	Callis	Leicester	31/10/2016	
U/K/o0127	William	Adams	Manchester	13/03/2017	Trans from old database
UK/O/2608	Norman	Martin	North Kent	21/10/2016	
UK/O/5176	Terry	Hughes	North Kent	Jul-16	
Up/O/6988	Leon (Bob)	Wetherill	Nottingham	Dec-16	Trans from lost touch file
UK/O/5752	Thomas	Thurman	Overseas	06/03/2017	
UK/O/4483	Alan	Adams	Pontypridd	21/01/2017	
UK/O/1424	Albert	Burgess	Pontypridd	N/K	
UK/O/6245	Fredrick	Hudson	Postal North	30/10/2016	
UK/O/0619	Leslie	Metcalfe	Postal North	26/10/2016	
UK/O/5634	James	Connelly	Postal North	01/11/2016	
UK/O/2613	Jack	Mann	Postal North	May-16	
UK/O/6559	John	Bond	Postal North	22/06/2016	
UK/O/1331	Ernest (Jock)	Third	Postal North	01 July 2013	Trans from lost touch file
UK/O/5849	Anthony	Brown	Postal North	06/01/2017	
UK/O/7333	Kenneth	Shaw	Postal North	04/04/2017	
UK/O/4448	Graham	Green	Postal North	N/K	
UK/O/6069	Michael	Tyrer	Postal South	15/01/2017	
UK/O/0274	Peter	Cattermole	Postal South	17/03/2016	
UK/O/0168	Allan Gerald	Edwards	Postal South	Sep-16	
UK/O/2489	Kenneth	Hudson	Postal South	20/01/2017	
UK/O/7826	Thomas	Cameron	Postal North	01/08/2016	
UK/O/5989	Robin	Stockwell	Solent	13/05/2017	
UK/O/5665	Edward	Brown	Southern	28/01/2017	
UK/O/6073	Keith	Card	Southern	Jan-17	
UK/O/2489	Kenneth	Hudson	Surrey	07/01/2017	
UK/O/7876	Paul	Singleton	Thames Valley	N/K	
UK/O/2643	Brian	Holdershaw	Tyneside	27/10/2016	
UK/O/7798	John	Hunt	Ulster	30/09/2017	

**Item 5:** National Chairman's Report - Mr David Neil.

Unfortunately, David was unwell and unable to attend the meeting. Therefore Malcolm White read out the Chairman's report.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2016/17****The Chairman's Annual Report to the AGM 2017**  
**Read out by Malcolm White**

Greetings colleagues and welcome to the 2017 AGM and Reunion Dinner. I hope the meeting will be productive and you meet old friends and make new ones, but above all enjoy yourselves.

Commencing with a mention of the more notable and pleasant events of the past year when we once more had the opportunity to take advantage of many outstanding visits and dinners offered to us by our good friends from the Not Forgotten Association, persuaded and or seduced by the charm of our silken tongued National Secretary, Ted. This usually produces a few more tickets. Well done Ted.

We also were invited to attend the reopening of the National Army Museum in London. I regret to say it was, in our opinion, a total waste of time and money. This was confirmed by the many letters which appeared in the national press in the following week. All were akin to our view.

Moving on, there is one other event which is worthy of a mention, that being the Blackpool Spring Break. This continues to grow year on year. A wonderful time was had by all who attended. It provides outstanding value for money, with fantastic food served by pleasant well supervised staff and in the evening excellent quality entertainment. All at low cost. So, book early so as not to be disappointed. (No doubt Ted will tell you in his report).

To continue, at the time of writing this report, this is what I call work in progress, that being the trip to Malaysia for the 60<sup>th</sup> Merdeka Celebration. I know they will receive an extremely warm welcome from an appreciative nation for the assistance given in the 40's, 50's, and 60's, which I am sure we are so proud of ourselves for. After all it was the only armed conflict against communism which ended in victory for a western power. So, to all those members on that trip, bon voyage and a safe return home. (Latest headlines from Malaysia "British Veterans regard Malaysia as their second home".)

Sadly this will be my last report as I will retire from active office on Sunday morning after the Church Parade. I shall have more to say tonight at the Gala Dinner.

It only remains now to say a few thank you's which will be very difficult as there are so many, but some I will leave until after dinner this evening. So for now I will start by thanking every member, and I do mean every one. Then all the NEC's I have had the honor and pleasure to work with. Some of those have now gone on to their last posting, but the ones from the early days, the bad old days, who are not here to be with me, thank you for your loyalty. We fought the good fight and won that one too.

And we have the present NEC. Once more I feel blessed for once again I could not wish for anything better. They are so dedicated and loyal, but I will single out one and I am sure the rest of the NEC will approve. It is Ted, our National Secretary, who works 25 hours a day. Thank you Ted and your team. What about getting the team to organize our exit from the EU!

I must mention our President General Sir Garry Johnson KBC OBE MC whose presence has enhanced the Association, without his backing the poorer we would be.

David W Neil

Malcolm: as I did not write the report I cannot answer questions on it.

**Item 6: National Executive Committee Present**

Vice Chairman and Editor of NMBVA Publications: Malcolm White; National Secretary: EJ Williams; Treasurer: Dick Richardson; Membership Secretary and Postal North Coordinator Bob Roberts; Webmaster and Regalia Officer: Annie Burden; NEC Member and Postal South Coordinator: Brian Roche; NEC Member and Postal Central Coordinator: Clive Boyles MSM; NEC Member and Overseas Coordinator: Valerie Nisbet.

**Item 7: Apologies**

Gen Brigadier Kamarol Said, unfortunately has had to go back to Malaysia on temporary duties, he sends his best wishes. Also received yesterday an apology from Mr Grahame Bamford whose wife is dangerously ill.

I have received either written or verbal apologies from the following: Mr & Mrs David Dafters; Mr & Mrs Bob Johnson; Mr & Mrs John McAulay; Mr Geoff Blanchard; Mr John Barker; Mr Ernest West; Mr Tony Barker MBE; Mr Don Mott; Mr John Sandilands; Mr Reg Hollins; Mr Alan Ralston-Good; Mrs Angela Ralson-Good; Mr P Mockett MBE; Mr & Mrs John Mansell; Mr Ron Blain; Mr John Barker, Mr Tony Baker MBE.

If I have missed any I apologise.

Proposed by John Cross, Postal North, seconded by Dick Richardson, National Treasurer.  
Accepted

I have also received the following report:



**Report from Dato Ahmad Tejuddin the NMBVA Representative for Malaysia and SE Asia. To the NMBVA AGM on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

I would like to thank the National NMBVA Committee for entrusting me as the NMBVA representative, based in Kuala Lumpur and I am glad to continue in this role for the foreseeable future.

To date I have made and kept contact with various veterans associations that have a relevance with the NMBVA UK's cause in matters related to the First Malayan Emergency 1948 – 1960 and the Confrontation period 1963 -1966, in particular the Malaysian Little Acre Organisation memorial events at which I have the honour to represent NMBVA UK every year.

In any connections with Malaysian Military Veterans that I might have the case of the NMBVA is put forward as effectively as possible. The British High Commission has been exceptionally receptive and cordial in its dealings with matters related to the NMBVA. Since my appointment as Patron of the Northern Ireland Branch and later National Representative in Kuala Lumpur the NMBVA is a permanent feature on the BHC invitation list for events such as Annual Remembrance Day Service and wreath laying, plus other veteran related ceremonies. It would be remiss of me not to mention

that the British High Commissioner, Her Excellency Vicky Treadell CMG MVO is a diplomat her nation can be proud of.

We do need more media coverage in the Malaysian press and media generally as past conflicts, especially those involving British and Commonwealth Forces, are gradually slipping away from public notice, especially with the younger generation. The local newspapers are hungry for articles and apparently there is a heavy demand now.

Any fairly concise articles could be forwarded to the Malaysian Press corps through me, in order to raise the knowledge level of past historical events leading up to and in the founding of today's Malaysia.

Finally, I wish to thank all outgoing office holders and new incumbents of the NMBVA National Executive, many happy days ahead.

#### **Item 8: Minutes of AGM 2016**

Malcolm: you should all have a copy of the minutes, we will go through them in the order they are printed off. Malcom went through the 2016 minutes:

#### Acceptance of Minutes

Proposed by Bob Roberts seconded by Paul Cross, Postal North.

#### **Items 9: National Secretaries Report**

I shall keep this brief:

- Blackpool this year was a huge success, we are going to cap the numbers this year because we don't want the success to kill the event by over stretching resources. The one hiccup we had there was not enough spaces on the trips, this was since the majority leaving bookings until they arrived. Therefore, not to be disappointed, please book trips with your booking. It is easier to cancel if you change your mind.
- Awards: there are many members who have worked hard to keep the association alive for many years (Branch Secretaries, Treasures etc.) without any recognition, therefore the NEC in looking at awarding these members and their names will be published in the in the "Keris"
- We have now got the overseas members well taken care of by Valerie Nisbet.
- We are trying to prevent Branches form poaching members from other Branches. This is not ethical and causes a lot of ill feeling.
- I should like to remind members that David Neil is standing down as National Chairman.  
This is his second term and, like the embryonic days, he steered the association through some very choppy waters.

#### **Item 10: National Treasures Report - Dick Richards**

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen. I apologise for not being here last year, but a medical condition prevented me. Dick ensured that everyone had the appropriate documentation.

The amount we have according to the Audit report is not really accurate because at the time of compiling, the insurance for standards etc was still being negotiated, and will therefore be the figure will be in charged on the years account. You will note that subscriptions are well up on the previous year, this is because a lot of members paid late, it is not because of greater numbers.

Dick started by reading figures from various accounts all of which we had copies of:

We gave the National Army Museum £2500 and The Not Forgotten Association we raised £1922.20, but we gave them £2,000. Expenditure: - The cost of the Keris also includes the postage of the journal from the previous year. Although costs have risen in the last few years but no additional cost.

Dick, not a bad year. NEC has cut their costs dramatically, most of the NEC does not claim for what they do, in fact we have cut cost down by over 50%.

Malcolm thanked Dick for an excellent presentation.

### **Item 11: Membership Secretary's Report**

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

Here is my report of comings and goings of members since the last AGM.

As we are getting older it is inevitable that members are being posted upstairs. The average passing's over the last 7 years is 48.

As you will see from my figures there are several members who have not yet paid their annual subscriptions for the year 2017/2018. This includes a few branches that have not come in line with the financial year as proposed at the AGM of 2011. It was agreed that branches would pay their subs by the 30<sup>th</sup> June each year, with the exception of members who pay by standing order. These affect the Treasurers financial forecast.

Recruitment this year has been average, there are still a few people finding us, but figures are made up by returning members.

<b>Membership of the association</b>	Oct 2016	Oct 2017
Association Membership is:		
A: Members on the database	1526	1469
B: Paid up members	1343	1192
C: In arrears	183	277*
<b>Membership is made up of</b>		
A: Associate Members	140	143
B: Honorary Members	18	17
C: Ordinary Members	1368	1309
<b>Recruitment since last AGM</b>		
A: Associate Members	15	12
B: Ordinary Members	23	28
C: Returning Members	34	39
<b>We have lost since the last AGM</b>		
A: Deceased	48	48
B: Lost Touch	100	32
C: Resigned	42	38

\*Of the 277 who have not paid their subscription some are members who pay by standing order who I cannot isolate when compiling my list. Once again, I must ask branch secretaries/treasurers to help

me keep the database up to date by letting me know about the circumstances of their members who have not paid their subs.

With the closure of two branches and the members requesting to transfer to postal membership this has made a substantial increase in the workload of the two postal coordinators, who now have between them over 600 members. It has been decided by the NEC that a third area would be formed. This is known as Postal Central and Clive Boyles has agreed to be the new Postal Coordinator and he will cover central England and will be up and running by the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017.

Proposed that the report be accepted by Annie Burden seconded by John Cross

**Item 12:** John Meacham International Liaison Officer  
And Organiser of NMBVA trip to Malaysia on the 60 Anniversary of Merdeka



I would like to give a brief summary of the recent NMBVA's visit to Malaysia.

First of all I would like to thank Brig General Kamerol for securing our position on the Malaysian 60<sup>th</sup> National Day Parade, which was our objective for going to Malaysia. When we landed in Kuala Lumpur we were greeted by TV reporters and journalist, and our arrival was well publicised nationally and right through to the Borneo Post.

Although we had a tight schedule in Kuala Lumpur with very early morning starts, our Defence Section in KL and the Asst Defence Advisor guided us through each events along with the Malaysian Liaisons Officers assigned to us. All our members stepped up to the mark and were there on time and appropriately turned out for each event. One thing I did notice this time that our security was a lot tighter, apart from the police escort to the parade, we were kept away in a confined area and room until it was our time to march.

The parade itself was something I don't think many of our members will forget, especially those who marched, we were a small group of 34 British Veterans marching alongside 18,000 Malaysian Military Personal with the King of Malaysia taking the salute..

I would like to say how very proud I was of those who marched, for the way they conducted themselves and for their excellent turn out, they were a credit to the NMBVA.

During our trip we visited 4 memorials to honour our lost hero's, with a parade at each one, which included standard bearers and a bugler and where wreaths were respectfully laid. Not forgetting the many rolls that were carry out by eager volunteers wanting the take part in the Parades, I sincerely thank them for their contributions.

Along the way we were invited to the High Commissioner's residents for a Cocktail reception hosted by both the High Commissioner's for UK and New Zealand. With visits to Malaysian National War Memory and Cenotaph, Cheras Road Military Cemetery and to Terendak Camp near Malacca. Moving on to Penang after 5 days in KL. We carried out a further duty and paraded before the Penang Cenotaph were we were joined by the Penang Veterans, with a service conducted by an RAAF Chaplin. Following this, we went to the renowned Eastern & Oriental Hotel for a delightful Afternoon Tea. We also had fantastic open boat trip around part of the Island stopping at turtle and monkey beach along the way, plus a separate visit to Orang-utan Island and a farewell dinner at our hotel.

I know for some of our members that it was the first time in 50 plus years that they had returned to Malaysia, although they were met with a very modern country, I'm sure that it did rekindle some memories back to the 1950/60's when they were young men and women.

It was an honour and a pleasure to have the opportunity to lead our veterans on this Malaysian adventure.

Thank you.

There was a huge round of applause.

Malcolm; Thanked John for organising such a successful trip to Malaysia and all those who took part in the parade for representing the NMBVA Well done.

**Item 13:** Notice of Motions: Amendment to the NMBVA Constitution Section 14c  
Proposed by Mrs Annie Burden, seconded By Mr Dick Richardson  
Preamble

It is felt the system of the show of hands is unfair and does not comply with the present legislation for the following reasons:

There is no system in the constitution for an election only for motions

- a) With the show of hands, one can be intimidated by other members
- b) A member can vote for more than one nominee
- c) The accuracy of counting
- d) Time taken
- e) And there cannot be a recount

The last time we had an election we had over 30 more votes than the numbers in the room. It is further suggested that if members accept the above it will be actioned immediately; this will save a lot of time later in the procedures.

The proposal was carried unanimously.

**Item 14:** National Secretary - Communication.

The cost of postage is astronomical, and slow. For example, although we use the cheapest post possible i.e. franking to send out invitations for the AGM/Blackpool it costs more than £1,500. This cost reflects in the cost you pay. If everyone (I appreciate not everyone has a computer) but for those who do we could send e-mails and to those who don't we could email another member of your family on your behalf, this would knock approximately £8 of every ones bill. What is even more important I should be able to send out to all members' information on various social functions that we are offered from time to time. Therefore please help me to save your money and go from snail mail to speed mail.

**Item 15:** Motion to increase subscriptions by Mr Dick Richardson (National Treasurer)

It must be admitted that the financial prospects of the Association are very poor. To keep up the standards of the Association, we must think in terms of raising the subscriptions.

Remember the only income we have is the subscription of £7, nothing else comes our way. Look at it from a personnel angle. What do I get for £7? Assuming we have 1,000 members @ £7 per head that = £7,000.

Admin Support £1.20 (this also covers poppy wreaths, garden of remembrance/St Paul's and other incidentals).

We now have an expenditure of £8840 leaving a deficit of £1,840.

The last increase was to bring Branch Members into line with Postal Members. No one should pay more than another member for membership.

Most other Associations have membership fees between £15 - £20 and some even more. I am a member of 3 associations, RBL I pay £22 (this is made of £17 National and £5 Branch), Suez Canal Association £15, Army Air Corps £15.

This would be a once in a life time increase of £3. I hear howls of rage; you cannot buy a beer for less even a cup of tea with a cake cost more.

Ted pointed out that the OAP has increased, and that our increase in April is based on the rate of inflation in September. We can all expect an annual increase in excess of a £150.

There was a lengthy debate, some members suggesting that perhaps it should be £15. Colin Barnes posed the question of how long will the Association be here. Estimation seemed to be 5 years at the most. Mick Smith; whatever we decide its got to be a one off, we are still struggling getting members to change Sanding Orders from the Last increase. Dick; this won't come into effect until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018. Mick; I think it should be more, prices are still increasing. John Meacham; whatever we decide today to remember we also have to pay Branch subscriptions. Mal White; I believe we should go along with Colin Barnes suggestion, we keep to the proposed increase of £3 and if in a number of years we decide we would have to increase it again, depending on numbers, we may be able to start running reserve account down. Another member proposed we re-examine the situation in 2 years.

Ted: we are debating whether or not we increase the subscription by £3; this is what we have got to decide. Mike Weller; I don't think the increase of £3 is too much; therefore I support the increase of £3.

On a vote only one was against the motion, therefore it was carried.

**Item 16:** There is a trip being organized Nepal January 2019, by Alan Ralston-Good Thames

**Item 17:** Proposed by Ted Williams seconded by Dick Richardson that the monies collected at the raffle and Church service collection is retained by the association. The Association is not wealthy; the presentations made to Honored Guests have been paid for by members of the NEC. This year we have we have already, through the generosity of members, given £2,500 and £2,000 to the Not Forgotten Association. **Carried**

**Item 18:** Mike Weller (Association Vice President)

The Association was founded in 1994. I attended the first meeting and walked out as the National Standard Bearer. The Association has been through some very rough times, when out of the blue came David Neil. David, along with his NEC, has guided the Association out of the gloom. We are going to miss him, please join with me and put your hands together.

There was a long applause for David.

**Item 19:** Election of NEC for 2017/18 which will assume at the close of the AGM

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Nominated By</b>
Chairman of the Association	Malcolm White	Elected
<b>National Vice Chair</b>	<b>Note there are 3 Candidates</b>	<b>Therefore a vote is required</b>
	Mr Grahame Bamford	John Crossly Carl Lawrence
	Mr Clive Boyles	Danny Doherty David Thomas
	Mr Colin Barnes	Robert Webster Keith Whyte
<p>Chairman; there are 3 candidates for the position of Vice Chairman, unfortunately one of the candidates, Mr. Grahame Bamford, through very sad family circumstances, cannot be here today. At an NEC meeting last night it was decided, on compassionate grounds to let his sponsor speak for him. Is there anyone against this? No one opposed.</p> <p>Each candidate was given the opportunity to give a 5-minutes presentation if they wish, and answer any questions from the floor. You all have a copy of each candidates resume. The Chairman asked the candidates to step outside. He advised members not to vote until they heard each candidate.</p> <p>The National Secretary checked that everyone had a ballot paper and only one.</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Candidate Grahame Bamford case was put forward by Mr. Carl Lawrence.  2<sup>nd</sup> Candidate Clive Boyles, put his case forward, there were no questions.  3<sup>rd</sup> Candidate Colin Barnes, put his case forward, there were no questions.  Votes Grahame Bamford 21, Clive Boyles 12 Colin Barnes 11, spoiled paper 1  Therefore Vice Chairman for 2017/18 is Grahame Bamford. We wish him well and thank both Clive Boyles and Colin Barnes for their interest and hope this set back will not deter them for volunteering in the future.</p>		
Vice Chairman	Grahame Bamford	Elected
Secretary of the Association	Ted Williams Sitting Secretary	Unopposed
Treasurer of the Association	Dick Richardson Sitting Treasurer	Unopposed
Membership Secretary of the Association	Bob Roberts Sitting Membership Secretary	Unopposed
Association Webmaster	Annie Burden Sitting Webmaster	Unopposed
Member of the NEC	Clive Boyles Sitting NEC Member	Unopposed
Member of the NEC	Valerie Nisbet Sitting NEC Member	Unopposed
Member of the NEC	Brian C Roche Sitting NEC Member	Unopposed

<b>Non-Executive Officers</b>		
NEC Resident representative Kuala Lumpur	Dhato Ahmad Tejudin	Ted Williams Seconded: David Neil
Regalia Officer	Annie Burden	Also Webmaster
Cenotaph Organising Officer	Don Mott	This is an Appointment
Postal Coordinator Central	Clive Boyles	Also NEC member
Postal Coordinator North	Bob Roberts	Also NEC member
Postal Coordinator South	Brian Roche	Also NEC member
Postal Coordinator Overseas	Valerie Nisbet	Also NEC member
International Liaison Officer	John Meacham	
Editor Of the Kris Magazine	Malcolm White	Also National Vice Chairman
National Standard Bearer	Ms Debbie Lofts	
Westminster Abbey Garden of Remembrance Organizer	Surry Branch has taken responsibility	
NMBVA Padre	Rev Roger Perry	

**Item 20:** Polite reminder: Dress for Reunion Dinner

Black tie with miniatures or Lounge Suit with miniatures or Blazers with medals.

We would be grateful if members would ensure their guests adhere to the dress code.

Wine reception in the Garden Suite at 1830. Members and guests to be seated in Dining room by 1900hs.

The Chairman and all the NEC wish you a very enjoyable evening.

**Item 21:** Recovery of National Standard and Union Standard.

Chairman closes meeting at...1145 hrs.