

The Jungle Drum

NMBVA Newsletter



September 2022. Issue 4.

Autumn Edition

Message from the National Chairman(interim) John Measham



In our last newsletter in June, I mentioned our Queens platinum Jubilee celebrations and the magical weekend it produced. How very sad just 3 months later, that we are all mourning our Queens passing. All our veterans had served her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and were proud to do so, and it is with deep sorrow to hear that our sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth II is no longer with us, and I'm sure it has effected us all, knowing her gracious and extreme devotion to duty, for which we offer our sincere gratitude.

I'm sure, we veterans of the NMBVA will all give our new King, King Charles III, our Commander in Chief the same respect and loyalty, as we did our late Queen. God save the King.

Moving forward, our AGM is looming, however, because of the cancellation of our Reunion weekend due to the lack of numbers for the event, we are now holding our AGM on Zoom, our Secretary, Gillian Bowtell will furnish you with details, please contact her, should you wish to take part.

Our website is there for your information as well as an up to date Newsletter and regalia for sale, also there is a Newsletter from our Australian Brothers, that you will find interesting



Report from the National Secretary, Gillian Bowtell



Welcome to our September Autumn edition of the Jungle Drum hopefully helping our NMBVA members stay informed. We are trying to ensure all our members have access to a copy and also encourage everyone to contribute to the editions with photographs or short stories or articles of interest. It is also accessible to those who have access to the website on NMBVA.co.uk along with other messages and articles.

The NEC were very saddened that we were not able to run our usual AGM and Reunion this year as we did not have enough numbers to make it a viable event. We are therefore running the AGM as a Zoom event this year. We know that this type of digital media meeting will not be suitable for all our members and clearly may have to rethink how we hold our AGMs in the future.

Finally, I am sure all members were very saddened by the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II earlier this month. Our Veterans had the unique distinction of being given permission by Her Majesty to wear the PJM award in-line with other British Military campaign medals. The NMBVA have sent our condolences to King Charles and the Royal family on their sad loss.

Hoping that you are all keeping healthy and well.



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National Chaplain, Archbishop Paul Miles-Knight
Prayer for our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth II



Eternal God and Father of us all, we bless your holy name for all that you have given us in and through the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth.

We give you thanks: for her love of family and her gift of friendship; for her devotion to this nation and the nations of the Commonwealth; for her grace, dignity and courtesy; and for her generosity and love of life. We praise you for the courage that she showed in testing times; the depth of her Christian faith, and the witness she bore to it in word and deed.

We pray for our Sovereign Lord the King and all the Royal Family, that you might reassure them of your continuing love and lift them from the depths of grief into the peace and light of your presence. Amen.



Condolence letter to King Charles III



THE NATIONAL MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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15th September 2022

Your Majesty,

On behalf of the National Executive Committee and Veteran members of the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association, I would like to express our deep sorrow at the very sad loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to you and the Royal family and hope that at this sad time you will find some comfort in knowing you are in the thoughts of the members of our association.

The Veterans of the association served in all disciplines of the military family and were given the unique distinction of permission by Her Majesty to wear in line with British campaign medals, the Malaysian Campaign Medal awarded by the Malaysian Government to the British military Services; the Pingat Jasa Malaysia following the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation in the 1950's and 1960's.

We all would wish to thank Her Majesty for her gracious, inspirational, stoic and unwavering commitment over the 70 years of her reign and also our gratitude for everything Her Majesty did for our nation.

We remain Your Majesty's loyal subjects.

Gillian Bowtell
NMBVA National Secretary



PRESS RELEASE

Laying up of the Standard of the North Wales Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veteran's Association (NMBVA)

At St. Mary's Church Denbigh on 6th. September 2022



The NMBVA was formed in June 1994 to represent personnel who served in the Malaya Emergency and Borneo Confrontation.

The NMBVA has branches and affiliations in the UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Fiji, Singapore and United States.

The North Wales branch included many who served in the 2nd. Battalion of the Royal Welch Fusiliers who landed in Singapore in September of 1954.

With the passage of time the few remaining veterans resolved to the lay up the Standard at St. Mary's Church, Denbigh where it was originally blessed for its safekeeping and to be viewed by future generations.

The photograph includes church officials, Denbigh Mayor and town councillors who originally funded the purchase of the Standard, representatives of the National Executive Committee of the NMBVA and veterans and friends.

In the Malaya Emergency British and Commonwealth over 2000 casualties were suffered, whereas in the Borneo Confrontation over 400 British resulted in casualties.

Alan Jones



HMS Albion off Borneo 1965

Last Man Standing by David Neil

Our former Chairman, David Neil has written this book based his army life from the Malay Emergency as a young man, then moving forward to the age of 92,

when he decided to write this book.



Endorsed by our President

*"I read the words and can hear him talk as he writes:
a good story in so many ways"*

Gen: Sir Garry Johnson KCB OBE MC

The cost is £10 + £3 postage.

Please contact David Neil:

email: davidwneil@hotmail.co.uk; tel: 0191 266 3193

RAFA/NMBVA Steam Train Journey



Why are these 6 people standing in front of a train carriage on the 15th September 2022? Well, these are some of the Solent Branch members of the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association who were invited to join with the members of the Alresford Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association for a Cream Tea celebration of Battle of Britain Day in a reserved carriage pulled by a 4-6-4, 1958 Steam train for a journey on the Watercress Line. This line is a Heritage railway, staffed by volunteers which runs on the line between Alresford and Alton, some 12 miles with stops/stations at Ropley and Four Marks. This line, which originally ran between Alton and Winchester as part of the London to Bournemouth stopping service was axed in the 60s by the infamous Doctor Beeching and was resurrected and restored by volunteers some 9 years later - and this is an ongoing task.

Before boarding we all gathered on the platform, along with other passengers for a 2 minute silence and the playing of the last Post by a local trumpeter. There were no reserved seats in our carriage so it was nice to "mingle" and join together to enjoy the excellent homemade scones and jam with real Cornish Cream and plenty of tea or coffee plus talk about our careers and Branch activities as the train made the journey to Alton with stops along the way. At Alton we could get off and watch as the steam engine uncoupled, switched lines, steamed back to the other end, switch lines to be coupled back on to our carriages for the return journey to Alresford. We had 20 minutes here to chat with other passengers answering questions regarding our medals, the Battle of Britain and the Malaya & Borneo campaigns.

On returning to Alresford and leaving the train we, the Solent Branch members, got together for the above photo and contacts were made to join forces again sometime in the future.

David Chandler.

Chairman, Solent Branch NMBVA

President, Hampshire Region, RAF Association



Association Christmas Cards

£5 for a pack of 10

Post & Packaging £3.40

You can order these cards from our website under "Regalia"

WWW.NMBVA.CO.UK



Citation: Lieutenant Michael John Calverly ROBERTSON MC

Lieutenant Michael John Calverly ROBERTSON 2nd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets, The King's Royal Rifle Corps. On the 16th August 1965, Lieutenant Robertson was ordered to take his platoon and lay an ambush near the border in the Serian District of Sarawak on a likely enemy approach route. To achieve this he had to negotiate some extremely difficult country with an ever present risk of an enemy ambush en route. He sited his ambush most skilfully and maintained it carefully concealed for three days before anything came into it. Then late on the third day a party of approximately 30 walked into the ambush area. Lieutenant Robertson waited until ten of the enemy were in the killing area and then personally sprung the ambush killing the centre man. Rapid fire was then opened by the rest of the ambush party at a range of about 70 yards and six of the enemy were seen to fall killed or seriously wounded. He then gave the order "watch and shoot". In the ensuing 10 to 15 minutes the enemy tried hard to retaliate and regain the initiative but every one of their efforts was thwarted by Lieutenant Robertson who was calmly controlling the battle with great skill. When the enemy brought down mortar fire close to his position he called for artillery support which quickly silenced the mortaring, and when the enemy got first one and then two machine guns into action he ordered his platoon sergeant to engage them with a rifle grenade. This action effectively silenced each gun in turn. When there were no more targets still visible to engage Lieutenant Robertson withdrew his ambush in good order to a pre-arranged rendezvous. During this withdrawal one rifleman was hit in the leg by a burst of fire and Lieutenant Robertson immediately went to his aid and helped to carry him back to the rendezvous where his wounds could be dressed before continuing the arduous journey back to the company base. Throughout this highly successful action Lieutenant Robertson was in complete control and by his calmness, courage and good tactical sense displayed leadership of a high order which set an inspiring example to his men. Lieutenant Michael John Calverly ROBERTSON Military Cross for this action.



This painting depicts the action, with Lt Robinson assisting a wounded Rifleman



Solent Branch Days Out

Chichester Canal Cream Tea



Soaking up the last days of summer, a cream tea cruising on a barge during the last days of summer. Charlie McIntosh organised a cream tea for some of Solent members on the Chichester Canal, a thoroughly good afternoon was had by all.



Not Forgotten Association

A few members of the Solent branch attended a Summer Garden Party "Happy Together" Drive In at The Grange in Alresford, on the afternoon of Monday 5th September. The weather was a little bit damp and cool but this did not stop us and many other Veterans getting together for a Hog Roast (in a bun) ,tea /coffee and some good fun entertainment thrown into the mix by Annie Riley, Gary Goodmaze along with the Harmonious Sounds of Musicality aided on occasion by those of us who could sing and remember the words.



Charlie McIntosh



Bridgend Branch



Gillian Bowtell NMBVA National Secretary (Centre)

Clive Boyles National Postal Coordinator (Right) Ted Stokes Trearlaw Branch RBL (left)

Members of the NMBVA Bridgend and District Branch and family come together with the Royal Artillery Association and The Royal British Legion to lay flowers in memory of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II at Tonypanyd Memorial.



"C" coy Mortar Plt 2RGJ Serudong Laut



11pl "C" coy 2RGJ Patrol Briefing



Cpl Measham & Sambridge Brew up 1965



"A"coy 2RGJ returning from a patrol



Lest We Forget



Oddy Raymond	Colchester	Date Unknown
Ward Dennis	Postal South	24 June 2022
Snelgrove Stanley	Colchester	30 June 2022
Cairns John	Postal North	27 June 2022
Spence Gordon	Postal North	27 July 2022
Jackson Kenneth	Colchester	16 Aug 2022



.....and finally

