

The Jungle Drum NMBVA Newsletter



July 2024

Special Edition

Obituary

David Neil 22nd July 1929 - 2nd July 2024

In 1994, on hearing of the launch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association, David, along with friends and comrades, set about forming the Tyneside Branch of the association. He became the branches chairman, and at the following national AGM was nominated and elected to the position of National Chairman, a position he held until retiring from national duties to care for his wife Betty. On Betty's passing he once again picked up the baton and was put forward and elected as National Chairman, until stepping down due to his own health issues. He was then elected as a national Vice President.

David oversaw or participated in many events for the association: the placement, dedication and re-dedication of a plaque in St Paul's Cathedral, London; the placement, dedication and re-dedication of a memorial in the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas; numerous AGM's; the spring break in Blackpool; and attending many events and functions nationwide on behalf of the NMBVA.

David was a dedicated soldier and veteran, and supported veterans charities, in particular the Gurkha Welfare Trust and the Not Forgotten Association. He wrote 3 poetry books and his memoirs proceeds from which raised thousands of pounds for the GWT.

He will be missed by his family, his friends and associates in the NMBVA.

The Last Man Standing has taken his leave and re-joined those that have gone before him to their final posting.

RIP David, from the committee and members of Tyneside Branch.

A memory from his son David

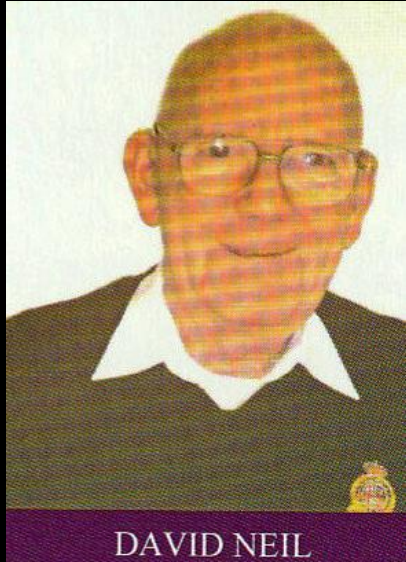
The Malayan Emergency - the two aspects he most would speak of was how he was there in the early years when it was at its most hostile with many casualties. He often spoke of the loss of National Servicemen who, unlike volunteer "regulars" such as him, weren't there from choice. And there was his great anger of this being classed an "emergency" rather than a "war" which it really was (other than for the political reasons).

His "Last Man Standing" title, comes from him being one of the last of those who were sent out in the early stages of the conflict.

David Neil Jnr

Our thoughts are with David Neil's family and the Tyneside Branch, from the Chairman, NEC and members of the NMBVA, we sincerely thank David Neil for his long service, fortitude and dedication to the Association.

John Measham



DAVID NEIL