

The Jungle Drum

NMBVA Newsletter

June 2024. Issue 10.

Summer Edition



President
Lt Colonel Tex Pembleton OBE (retd)

Message from the National Chairman John Measham



I hope this finds you all in good health and spirits.

At last we have some warmer weather, and I hope you are all making the most out of the summer sun.

Our June 30th anniversary event at the National Memorial Arboretum went well with a good turnout by members; please read the article below in the newsletter.

As always, we are looking for personal stories from members and events held by our branches to keep the newsletter going; already, we have reduced the publication from quarterly to half-yearly because of the lack of articles.

I have 34 interested members in the Malaysia 2025 trip, with the British High Commission and the Malaysia High Commission on board. We will not have a cost yet although hotels have been picked, however, we have to wait for the cost of the airline tickets, which will not be available until October this year. If anyone else is interested, please forward your name to me and you will be added to the list and you will be updated as soon as I receive further information.

Please take a look at our website for updates nmbva.co.uk

Report from the National Secretary Gillian Bowtell



I hope all our members across the UK are keeping well. The NEC has been continuing to work hard for the NMBVA over the last 6 months. Most notable is our successful 30th Anniversary Event held at the National Memorial Arboretum in June this year. The weather held while we had a service at the NMBVA Memorial Stone followed by a wonderful lunch in the Oak Rooms of the Aspect Centre. I am sure all that attended thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Thank you to everyone who participated to make it a memorable day.

Our continued strategy is to ensure we have contact with all our members and does rely on being informed when members move house or change any contact details, so please keep in contact. Sadly, branches and their member numbers are declining. Their committees reluctantly have made the decision to close their branch. However, we are encouraging these members to move to our 'postal membership' to keep in contact with the association.

The next major occasion will be at the Cenotaph Whitehall in November. Please ensure you register with our Cenotaph organiser John Black, we hope there is an excellent NMBVA turnout this year.

Keep healthy and well and have a good summer everyone

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.....and finally



Pingat Jasa Malaysia



NMBVA Malaysia 2025

We are hoping to repeat our 2017 visit to Malaysia in August 2025, interested parties please submit your names to John Measham by email (nmbva.jsm@gmail.com)

The trip will be 4 nights in Kuala Lumpur, followed by 10 nights in Penang, in much the same format as our last visit. Includes 14 nights B&B at 4*hotels, Parades, taking part in the Independence Parade in KL, visits to War Memorials, Military Cemeteries and Units, Boat Trip around Penang, High Tea at the Eastern & Oriental Hotel, Gala Night Buffet, and other trips and events, to make your trip a **lasting memory**.

Photos from the 2017 trip



The New King & Queen of Malaysia



31st January 2024, 17th King of Malaysia His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim the King of Malaysia and Her Majesty Raja Zarith Sofiah the Queen of Malaysia



SOLENT BRANCH

We are a happy Branch situated down here on the South Coast. We meet in the Royal Naval Club in Waterlooville at 12-30 on the 1st Saturday of each month bar December {when we invite guests and friends, especially from the Surrey Branch, to our Christmas Lunch at the Havant Rugby Club on the 1st or 2nd Friday depending on availability}. The Branch AGM will be held on the 1st Saturday in April and this year we will be having a Cream Tea on completion. We have an expert Veteran Army Chef as a member and his scones are “to die for” and apparently he provides this ‘service to other Veterans events, specifically the various Veterans Hubs in Hampshire and South West Surrey.

The Branch consists of Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Merchant Navy, Army and Royal Air Force Veterans. Much banter goes on especially when Service “hiccups” are highlighted in the press/News. Each month the RNA Club run a meat raffle and as we do not pay a monthly rent the members fully support it – often winning a couple of the prizes each month. We usually get 18/20 to each meeting and the format is that the 3 man Committee sit at their table, the male members, mostly Navy as we are so close to Portsmouth, tend to gather at one table (the naughty table) while the ladies gather together at the opposite side of the room.

Everyone appears happy with this situation and much ‘banter’ passes between them. The Chairman always sends the meeting home with a smile as he tells a ‘funny’ story. We are finding that some of the Surrey Branch like to attend our meetings and have joined us as Social members. It has been reciprocated too as a few Solent members now attend the Surrey Branch. It’s another ‘day out’ for some.

We can be serious. We always start the meeting with the Branch Prayer and Dedications plus a period of Silence before passing out information, both National and local and getting feedback from the members. We are fortunate in having both the National Chairman and Membership Secretary as members of the Branch. No favours granted but we do get updates “straight from the horses mouth”.

Members have attended the Merdeka Carnival, the National Memorial Arboretum, the Remembrance Cenotaph Parade plus the various local parades and events (80th Anniversary of D Day coming shortly and being close to Portsmouth we will no doubt be involved). Our members have enjoyed fish & chips and plans are in hand for a sweet buffet and possibly a Shepherds Pie at future meetings.

By finding the time and writing this little story of our Branch I am hoping that some of our members across the Association who read the NMBVA Newsletter, The Jungle Drum, will find the time to put pen to paper and let others in on your stories. I know the Editor is always looking for items/stories to include.

My best wishes to you all.

David Chandler, Chairman Solent Branch, NMBVA.



Surrey Branch AGM 13th June 2024



*Surrey branch 19 strong, hold their AGM with committee members
Chairman John Hotston & Secretary Graham Chillton*



Slim School Terendak Reunion

The photograph below is of the Slim School Class of 1965 and a number of Veterans in Terendak Camp Cemetery and at the Memorial. The 'children' are mainly the children of the British Military who lived on and attended Slim School in Terendak Camp. The school was founded by General Slim to allow children to be located for their schooling in one place rather than boarded in Singapore for example. Many now are living in Australia and New Zealand as well as Nepal and various locations around the world. This occasion is a reunion of the 'school children' and veterans serving in Malaysia meeting to pay respects and lay wreaths in the cemetery of both military (British, Australian, New Zealand as well as their dependents). The service was taken by current and retired Malaysian Military. Clive Boyles, our NEC member although based in Tampin in the 1960's and not in Terendak spent time in the camp as part of his duties and Gillian Bowtell our National Secretary are both in the photograph.



Slim School Class of 1965



R&R 1965



11plt C Coy
2RGJ
On our way to
R&R following a
5 month tour in
Sarawak Borneo.
LtoR
John Leslie,
Len Friend,
John Measham
&
Ron Read.



30th Year Celebration at the National Memorial Arboretum



Centred our Guest Group Capt(retd) Anny Read OBE & Members of the NMBVA



Chaplain-Rev Victor M Van Den Berg

We had a fantastic attendance at the NMA for our 30th anniversary celebration! The day began with a member parade to the Memorial Stone, where they were met by the Chaplain, who led the memory service for eighty-two members, spouses, and partners. Our guest of honour, former Group Captain Anny Read OBE, took the salute during the service's march past. After the service, members stroll the Arboretum grounds in contemplation before lunch.

The Chairman spoke after lunch of the close relationship we have with the Malaysian High Commission and said "the Malaysian government has played a big part in our association throughout the years, not only by supporting our visits to Malaysia but also by honouring former British servicemen and women" and also said "We are here at the National Memorial Arboretum today not only to commemorate our anniversary but also to honour the friends and comrades we lost in Malaya all those years ago. We also remember the sacrifices made by service members on D-Day, which took place yesterday, 6th June 1944, eighty years ago."

Our honoured guest, Mrs. Anny Reid OBE, Chair of the NMA's trustee board, discussed the roles that the NMA and the British Legion play in providing assistance to former service members. Mrs. Reid also expressed her gratitude for being our esteemed guest.



*Chairman John Measham, Secretary Gillian Bowtell,
Mrs Anny Read OBE Group Capt(Retd) &
Mr David Read*

We are grateful to our National Secretary, Gillian Bowtell, for organising the day's activities. We also thank the NEC for their rolls throughout the day, the NMA for their hospitality, and the NMA for providing a delicious buffet.

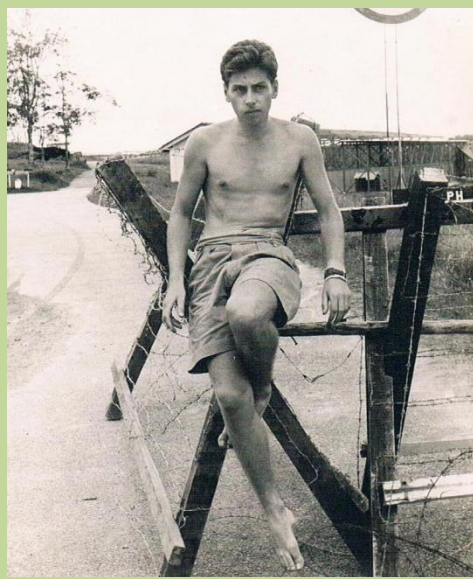


RAF Tengah

Here are a few random gallery images I took at RAF Tengah during my time serving in the Far East Air Force. I was an armourer for twenty-four years, four of them in the Far East. I've spent my entire adult life as an amateur photographer. In addition to several images of Singapore and Malaya from the 1960s

Al Mudge





Bomb Dump. Cpl Roy Montgomery.



Bomb Dump drivers, LACs Clive Marshall, Derek Cotton, Ron Partridge



*Bomb Dump. SAC Al Mudge & LAC Chan.
PR Photo*



*SAC Al Mudge & Cpl Tony Laurent.
Jungle Warfare School.*



*Bomb Dump. J/T Dave Sharples,
later Sqn Ldr RAF Regiment.*



Bomb Dumb labourers



Cenotaph 2024

Would you like to join us on Sunday November 10 th for the Remembrance Service and march past at the Cenotaph in London ? Your presence will be very welcome , and much appreciated! All "Campaign" groups naturally see their numbers steadily decline over time, whereas Regimental Associations and the like constantly replenish their numbers as new "veterans" join.





Last year, 31 people registered to march with us, but on the day only 19 turned up. Our ticket allocation was reduced last year from the previous 98 to 50. This year we have been allocated 70 tickets which is really great news.

The only thing which distinguishes us from the other contingents is the PJM ribbon, whereas the Falklands veterans wear their distinctive scarf, the Military Police have their scarlet berets, the Ganges Boys Association have their naval caps etc, etc. If a few of our members were sporting this scarf we would certainly stand out on parade. My wife won't be making them for everyone but she has got the pattern and the exact wool colours to share with anyone that wants to make one. The total cost she thinks is less than £10, and because it was crocheted rather than knitted, it was pretty quick to make. (See photo)

Last year we were fortunate to be mentioned by the BBC commentator and even shown on TV as we approached the Cenotaph during the march past.

This year, if any of our members have a story they would like to share we can send it in advance to the producers and perhaps we might even qualify for an interview on the Sunday with Sophie Rayworth or whoever is covering the event. The various stages of the Borneo campaign are hardly known about by the British public, and it is our fault if we don't bring it to their attention.



John Black

After the event we are planning to complete the day once again with a curry lunch.

If you would like to be part of the NMBVA contingent at the Cenotaph, the process for obtaining a ticket is straightforward. Send your email address to John Black at johnblack46@gmail.com. As soon as the registration system opens, we will send you an alert for you to sign up. This is done via a dedicated online portal with the Royal British Legion. You will receive an immediate confirmation and the actual tickets will be sent by email on 30 th -31 st October.

For anyone who would like to be there but cannot actually march because of ill health or disability, wheelchairs are available on the day and we will have volunteers to push them. If anyone wishes to have a family member for this task, they will also need a ticket.

The eligibility criteria to qualify for a ticket are:

Ex-service personnel from the UK and the Commonwealth who have served the Crown.
Retired emergency services personnel from the UK and Commonwealth who have served the Crown.

Partners or first-generation family members of those who served in His Majesty's Armed Forces and have died. This only includes the following:

- o Wives, husbands, partners or civil partners
- o Siblings
- o Parents
- o Children

Those marching on behalf of their organisations that have historically played a significant role in times of conflict, supporting the Armed Forces community or who are key organisations in Remembrance.

A carer of a veteran requiring wheelchair assistance.

1 May All association ticket requests to be submitted. Any requests received after this deadline will not be accepted.

15 May RBL to confirm 2024 ticket allocation to each association.

22 August Deadline for associations to complete individual participant information. Registration closes.

30-31 October E-tickets and joining instructions sent to individuals.

Finally, if you are likely to need overnight accommodation in London, you should book it ASAP. We look forward to welcoming as many as possible to this memorable and heart-warming event.



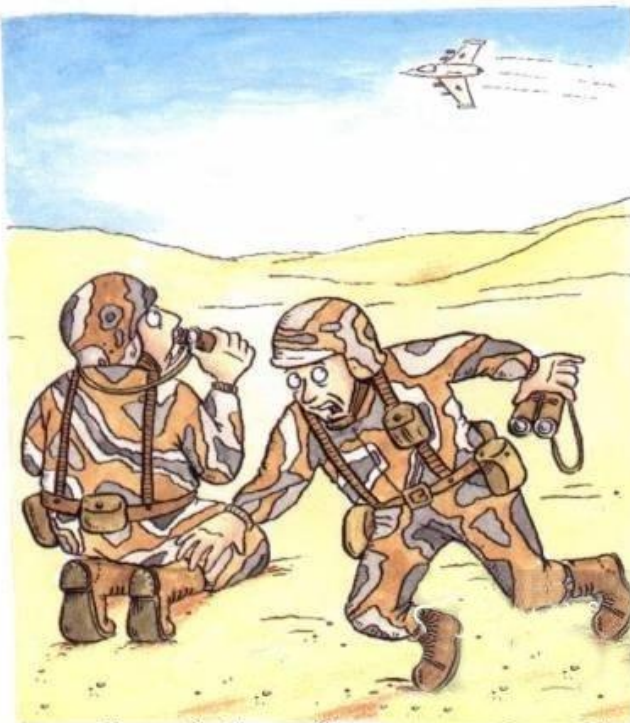


Lest We Forget

John Marshall	Doncaster	Aug 2023
Terance Rolf	Postal South	Nov 2023
John Martland	1 st Lincolnshire	March 2024
Dereck Oliver	Colchester	29 March 2024
Derek Pollard	Postal South	Not Known
Brinley Caddick	Pontypridd	2023
Eugene McKenna	Pontypridd	14 Apr 2024
John Bailey	Postal Central	Not Know
Kenneth Austin	Postal South	28 Apr 2024
Gwendoline Jandrell	Tyneside	13 Mar 2024
Reginald Wells	1st Lincolnshire	Not Known
Neville Upton	Plymouth	Not Known
Neville Hodson	Postal Central	May 2024



.....and finally



**Quick, take cover.
It's one of ours!**