



MALAYA, BORNEO AND FAR EAST VETERANS ASSOCIATION BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT BRANCH

Patron - The Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of the City of Birmingham
President - Brian Swallow - Vice President and liaison officer - Gerald Rose
Trustee - Henry Boughton (tel 0121 357 8585) - Trustee - Brian Swallow (tel 0121 770 8718)
Chairman: Gordon Blake (tel 0121 244 4695) - Treasurer: Terry Gibbs (0121 478 3057)
Branch Liason Officer - Gerald Rose (tel 0121 373 4668) Secretary: Geoff. Parkes (tel 0121 552 1177)
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All gave some, some gave some "in the name of humanity.

BRANCH QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER: April 2011

Dear member,

The Branch committee send their sincere greetings to you and your family. We are now preparing for the coming year and arrangements are being made to advertise our Branch throughout the midlands to encourage ex servicemen who have no affiliation to any branch to come and join us.

Comradeship and camaraderie is hard to find these days but it is out there if you look for it; so we will be doing our utmost to secure new members. May I at this point remind some of you who have not yet forwarded your subscription for 2011 may still do so. If the credit crunch has affected any members income the branch will willingly help out; or the reason may be that you may no longer wish to remain a member of this branch but that is your prerogative but please realise that the branch informs you every quarter as to what we are doing and what has been done. I am also aware that the National Association has during the past few months been informing members that they now have everything in order and a new committee has now been voted in at the A.G.M, but please take notice and look at the information being given to you to try and persuade you to rejoin the Association. I would not for one minute dissuade you as you have minds of your own and you are at liberty to rejoin them if you so wish, but be aware that the vast majority of branches may not agree with their findings. I don't believe that you have been fully informed. It is with reluctance that I have had to broach this subject but after years of long hard work by your committee to hold the branch together when other previous branch executives misappropriated our branch funds. They put a lot of hard work into this branch to hold together, when 10 years ago we had to start all over again to raise funds to support the membership and we are very lucky to be as solvent as we are today. You should all know me by now and I am not trying to coherse any of you into deciding to remain a member, but by the same token I don't want to see the eventuality of the branch running out of funds or having to disband because of the lack of members. I must say that we are nowhere near that situation at the moment and if we were you would be the first to know. As secretary I must always look forward for the benefit of our branch members and I can sometimes see problems that others are unaware of, this is the reason why I am addressing you in this manner as I believe the subject matter is very important. If any of you have an enquiry a comment or a criticism good or bad or indifferent please feel free to contact me or any other committee member whose contact address's are at the top of our branch letter heading.

It has come to my notice that our branch website is not being used to its full potential and I would like to see more members signing in. Our site address is www.theorderlyroom.info go to this site and follow the links. You can sign in and register your details and you can contact

your old friends, place photographs in the appropriate sections or do all manner of things, so please take advantage of this free service which is being subsidised by your branch funds. If you get into any difficulty you can contact our webmaster Jim Rawson on (ARO12L3137@blueyonder.co.uk.) or on 0121 605 2320 and he will give you all the assistance you may require.

All our service personnel who were evacuated from Afghanistan to Selly Oak hospital are now comfortably ensconced after their traumatic move from Selly Oak Hospital to the Queen Elizabeth site, but we have now found another unacceptable practice which we will put right as soon as possible. It was pointed out to me that all of our severely injured service personnel in the Queen Elizabeth hospital have to pay £25 for a weekly television card at their own expense which I think is an affront. Our W.R.A.C contingent of the Federation of ex servicemen have been organising line dancing nights at various venues in to raise funds for our comrades, with all of the proceeds going to our servicemen at the hospital; I will of course keep you all informed of the amount of money collected by our sister comrades in arms. It is a marvellous gesture and we must not forget that our female comrades injured in Afghanistan are also benefiting from the fund raising being carried out.

As I have previously stated in Newsletters the need to keep our branch up to strength along with other branches so that we can help in keeping our wounded comrades and other service personnel comfortable. We have also been fortunate in having the Ghurkha veterans from Nuneaton affiliated to our branch and they are entitled to attend any of our meetings and have full voting rights. On buffet nights and other functions we encourage them to attend such venues accompanied by their wives, but at the moment we are moving slowly so that they do not feel uncomfortable in our company.

I must remind you of the event that Gerald Rose your Branch liaison officer and chairman of the National service memorial foundation is organising which is to be held at the National arboretum Alrewas on Sunday June 26th starting at 11.30 am. Gerald has worked tirelessly organising this event and alone has found in the region of £50,000 from sponsors to cover the expenses to make this event a success year after year. It will be attended by many dignitaries along with 5,500 servicemen and visitors who wish to pay their respects to the national service personnel who gave their service to Queen and country from (1939 to 1960) in the name of humanity. I must now close, but I send my kindest regards to you and your families and remain yours always in comradeship.

Geoff (Branch Secretary Birmingham and District.)