



MALAYA, BORNEO AND FAR EAST VETERANS ASSOCIATION BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT BRANCH

Patron – The Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of the City of Birmingham

Hon President – Brian Swallow – Hon Vice President – Gerald Rose

1st Trustee – Brian Swallow (tel 0121 770 8718) 2nd Trustee Gordon Blake 0121 244 4695

Hon Chairman: Gordon Blake (tel 0121 244 4695) – Hon Treasurer: Mr 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 all in the name of humanity”.

DECEMBER AND CHRISTMAS BRANCH QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER 2011.

Dear Member,

Once again it is time to report on our previous quarterly activities in which the branch has been engaged. However this is the time of the year I have to remind you that your 2012 subscriptions will shortly be due and I hope that you will remain members of our illustrious branch, as you have done in the past. The committee and I wish to thank you for the support you have given during the past years and hope that you will continue to do so. At this point in time we are in a healthy position and hope to remain so well into the future and remain solvent. Will you please forward your subscription of £7.00 by cheque or postal order to me, made out to the Birmingham branch NMBVA by January 31st 2012 or at your own convenience; I will of course remind anyone at a later date that their subscriptions are due if you may have forgotten.

Our branch along with the Federation of ex servicemen's associations have again been supporting Troop aid who look after our wounded comrades repatriated from Afghanistan who are recuperating from their wounds in the Queen Elizabeth hospital Birmingham. Troop aid have also acquired a flat on the old Selly Oak Hospital complex for relatives who have travelled great distances to see their loved ones so they and others may stay over for a few days if they so wish. Troop aid have also provided mobile phones free of charge to all patients for their personal use which enables them to use their phones in comfort whenever they wish instead of using the hospitals facilities. Additional clothing for both sexes is also provided in wardrobes for future use; these facilities are also given to the female patients who are sometimes forgotten.

You may recall that our branch is affiliated to “British Gurkha Veterans Association” based in Nuneaton, who with our support formed their own branch in 2010, so it gives me pleasure to report that our branch were invited to Gamecock barracks to attend their attestation ceremony which is where the Gurkha recruits swear their allegiance to the Queen; we have also been invited to attend other passing out parades which we have graciously accepted.

The branch committee attended a Gurkha family evening held in Nuneaton where we were introduced to Gurkha families and a pleasant evening was had by all. Our President won a bottle of rum shaped in the figure of a kukri and our Treasurer won a replica kukri, so I do not envisage that we will be invited back again having won the star prizes. The comradeship and camaraderie during the

evening was in abundance which is as it should be amongst comrades. During the event we swung the lamp with the Gurkhas joining in but courteously we made sure that they won the night as we were their guests

The annual Remembrance Day service was held in Centenary square Birmingham on Sunday 13th November with many citizens lining the streets applauding as we marched off preceded by a mass pipe band. Before the main parade we visited our branch plaque which is situated in the peace garden at St Thomas's church Granville street Birmingham with red roses being laid in honour of all of those who made the ultimate sacrifice and never returned (LEST WE FORGET).

The branch Christmas buffet was held in the presence of our patron “The Worshipful Lord Mayor of the City of Birmingham” and other dignitaries some of who are members of SSAFA and the Royal British Legion and also members of our branch; who may be able to help you if you have a problem. This service may be of some use to you so please contact me or any other branch committee member if you have a problem. During the evening our branch committee members were presented with certificates of appreciation for the excellent work they carry out on your behalf in administering our branch affairs. We also held a raffle with prizes being donated by Tesco comprising of: a bicycle, digital camera, a note book., 4 bottles of wine, a bottle of gin, a bottle of whisky, a slow cooker, two tickets for two guests at a local restaurant and wine bar and many other smaller prizes which allowed our members and guests to take advantage of possibly winning an excellent prize.

It gives me pleasure to inform you that the Foreign and Commonwealth office has confirmed that Her Majesty the Queen has graciously given her consent for all armed forces personnel who were awarded the Ping at Jasa Medal may now officially wear the medal at any time along with any other decorations they may have been awarded.

It is now time to close with the committee and I wishing you and your family a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year. I look forward to contacting you again in 2012. Yours always in comradeship,

Geoff Branch Secretary
Malaya Borneo and Far East Veterans Branch