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REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE - BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, JAVA/SUMATRA & Brigade of Gurkhas 1948 - 1966

Bono Animo Este
(Be of Good Courage)

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THE NATIONAL MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

50th Anniversary Tribute & Commemoration

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The National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association (NMBVA) was founded on 1st June 1994. Its motto is 'Bono Animo Este' 'Be Of Good Courage'. Its aims are to bring together in true comradeship those who served in Malaya, Borneo, Republic of Singapore, and Brunei Darussalam, during WWII, the Dutch East Indies Insurrection (Java, Sumatra), the Malayan Emergency and the Brunei Insurrection, the Borneo Indonesian Confrontation and thereafter in the above Countries.

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Image: Cameron Highlands, Pahang

Published by **Horizon Publications Limited**,
Horizon House, 4 Ravenswood Avenue,
Rock Ferry, Wirral CH42 4NX.
Telephone/Fax: **0151 645 5332**
Email: **hpl01@sky.com**
Web: **horizonpublications.co.uk**

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Editor-in-Chief: **Mr AC Talbott**
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Distribution: **Mr CA Talbott**

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BUCKINGHAM PALACE

MESSAGE FROM
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II



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Please convey my warm thanks to the Chairman and Members of the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association for their loyal greetings on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the hostilities in Malaya and Borneo.

I appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, send my best wishes to all concerned for a most memorable event.

ELIZABETH R.

28th April 2016



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MESSAGE FROM
GENERAL SIR GARRY JOHNSON
KCB OBE MC
PATRON, NATIONAL MALAYA AND BORNEO VETERANS' ASSOCIATION



Between 1948 and 1966 the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom, together with Commonwealth Forces, fought campaigns in South East Asia which had long-lasting and beneficial effects on the peace of the region.

In Malaya, attempts by Communist terrorists to seize power by force were defeated and Malaya and Singapore gained their independence. Following this, in the Borneo territories, attempts by Indonesia to subvert Brunei and to prevent the formation of Malaysia by provoking insurrection by external aggression by regular forces were similarly defeated.

These campaigns were singularly successful. Cooperation between the withdrawing British administration and the local governments which would succeed to power was close and friendly. The armed forces, police and other security agencies of all countries concerned worked faultlessly together in a common cause. The struggle was marked by a clear recognition that the support of the civilian population was essential to success, and this was willingly given. As a result of this cooperative effort Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei today form an independent, democratic and prosperous core in South East Asia.

Those who fought in these campaigns will always cherish fond memories of the people and countries in whose cause we served. We shall remember with pride our comrades who gave their lives or who suffered in a just cause. We shall continue to meet in this Association and in other gatherings to relive our experiences and to give thanks that we are able to do so.

On the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Association we dedicated a memorial to the fallen in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral. We marked the 50th Anniversary with a Service of Rededication on 28 April 2016, followed by a reception at the Mansion House by kind invitation of the Lord Mayor and Corporation of the City of London. These events were attended by members of the Association and their friends and guests, and served as fitting recognition of all who served in those campaigns.

April 2016

Tun Abdul Razak (left) with Dr Adam Malik (right) signing the peace treaty. Standing between them is Indonesian Army Chief, General Suharto.



PEACE WITH HONOUR

Peace came on 11 August 1966, a peace that brought an end to the strange undeclared war in Borneo, a war that rarely hit the headlines because for a variety of reasons both sides shunned publicity.

The stamina and health of the British, Gurkha and Commonwealth soldiers had withstood the stress and rigours of operating for long periods in some of the toughest terrain in the world. Their determination and physical fitness inspired a flood of congratulatory messages that poured in after the Confrontation was over. Many came from the local people who had feared Sukarno and his ambitions. The then Secretary of State for War, the Rt Hon Denis Healey MP, paid tribute to the soldiers of the British and Commonwealth nations:

'The campaign has been a model of inter-Service co-operation; all three Services have worked as one. We should pay tribute to all those, from the highest to the lowest rank, who have served alongside the forces of our Commonwealth partners and who have made so single a contribution to the settlement which has been achieved. I should like to pay a special tribute to the Gurkhas.'

1966 - 2016, FIFTY YEARS OF PEACE

It was this blend which helped to keep the newly formed Malaysian state intact.

The Confrontation was a small war by most standards, and by those of Korea and Vietnam a very small war. At its height there were only about 17,000 Commonwealth Servicemen in Borneo with another 10,000 immediately available elsewhere in the Far East.

The Commonwealth casualties for the whole period were 114 killed and 181 wounded, while the civilians suffered 36 killed, 53 wounded and four captured. Some would affirm that even these were too many but as the price of a nation's very existence against a huge adversary they were slight, so slight as to be scarcely credible.

Moreover, victory was total both in the military and political sense and was not the sort in which the enemy was ground to pulp and smashed into submission; it was the better kind that all wars ought to aim for but few achieve, whereby the objectives are limited to those that are truly vital, the force used is adequate to ensure success, de-escalation is pursued whenever possible, and the inevitable war of words is based as far as possible on truth. In such a case when the day is won and

the least physical and mental damage has been caused, friendship can be renewed with few hard feelings.

The vital achievement was Malaysia's complete independence of Indonesia - even to the extent of voluntarily retaining British bases on its own territory, which it chose to do after the conflict was over. And in a remarkably quick time friendship was revived between Indonesia on the one hand and Malaysia and Great Britain and their Commonwealth partners on the other.

Sukarno tried to dominate the tip of Asia and its islands and establish Maphilindo, to revive Indonesia's ancient empire. He tried to do it tactically by armed subversion and infiltration, hoping to establish cells of terrorists and saboteurs from which he could build up internal support, and then by aggression from over the border threaten the whole nation of Malaysia.

The Borneo campaign stands out as being a notable example of how highly trained professional infantrymen, with full support from the other arms and services, can achieve a decisive victory against a well-armed and aggressive foe. ●



MESSAGE FROM DAVID W NEIL

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN
NATIONAL MALAYA AND BORNEO VETERANS' ASSOCIATION



Back in 2006 I had the honour of being requested to write a small article for the NMBVA 40th Anniversary Journal. Well here I am once more commemorating the 50th Anniversary.

This time the theme is a little different. It is an alternative situation and a different enemy, but still the same old jungle. I must point out that I myself was at no time involved in the Borneo Campaign therefore I will leave that to someone more qualified than myself. I know from the many conversations I have had with my colleagues that the campaign was another tough but by then familiar battle.

I have, on a number of occasions, had the pleasure to return to Malaysia and on all occasions have been welcomed by the people I have met. I must confess I have been totally besotted by the beauty of the land and the outstanding development they have made. I know now the struggle was worth it.

The post 1957 members were presented with the Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM) Medal by the Malaysian Government, we have always been involved on Armed Forces Day, and we now have a large number of local memorials throughout the British Isles, with a magnificent granite memorial in the National Arboretum in Staffordshire. I would like to thank our members, friends and supporters for their dedication and support.

Thank you all

April 2016



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Malay Races Liberation Army (MRLA) was a creation of the Communist Party (MCP) and, by extension, led and dominated by ethnic Chinese

communists. It was also a successor of the Malayan Peoples' Anti-Japanese Army (MPAJA) that the British had trained and equipped during World War II. The MCP had been legalized after the war, but had stored most of the MPAJA's weapons for later use. The MCP disagreed with the British idea of a Malayan Federation because there seemed to be no direct way to communism. The party's new leader Chin Peng decided to get the revolution rolling. On June 16, 1948, MRLA guerillas killed three British rubber planters. Britain declared a State of Emergency. The enemy was nicknamed 'Charlie Tango' - Communist Terrorists, or "terrs" for short. A term that would be used again in Rhodesia to describe ZANU or ZAPU guerillas. Despite the term 'emergency' it was a full-scale guerilla war between MRLA and British, Commonwealth and Malayan authorities. MRLA tortured, gang raped, humiliated and killed dozens of British and Malay civilians (including children), ambushed soldiers, sabotaged installations, attacked slightly-defended rubber farms and destroyed transportation in a deliberate terror campaign. Four hundred civilians died in the first year.

Support for the MRLA was mainly based among about 500,000 ethnic Chinese (there were 3.12 million Chinese in total); the Malay population at large did not support them. The Chinese had no franchise in elections, no land rights to speak of and were usually very poor. MRLA called their agents within the Chinese population 'Min Yuen'. The MRLA had its hideouts in the rather inaccessible jungle. Most of them were Chinese with some Malays and Indonesians. They were organized into communist political regiments with political sections, commissars, instructors and secret service. They also had lectures about Marxism-Leninism and political newspapers.

MRLA included many women and soldiers had to get official permission for romance.

Abroad, the emerging Korean War eclipsed the developing conflict. Part of the British attempt at resolving the situation was the so called Brigg's plan that meant resettlement of people – especially 400,000 Chinese – living in jungle areas to the relative safety of new, partially fortified villages. People resented this but some became content with the better living standards in the villages. They were given money and ownership of the land they lived on. Removing a population which might be sympathetic to guerrillas was a counter insurgency technique which the British had used before, notable against the Boer Commandos in the Second Boer War. The British also brought in soldiers from units like the Worcester regiment and Highlander Marines. One side effect was a re-creation of Special Air Service as a jungle commando unit in 1950. The Permanent Secretary of Defence for Malaya was Sir Robert Thompson who had served as an officer in the Chindits during World War II. This meant he had a lot of experience in jungle warfare and was supportive of the development of jungle commando units.

In 1951 some British army units begun a 'hearts and minds' campaign by giving medical and food aid to Malays and indigenous Sakai tribes. At the same time, they put pressure on MRLA by patrolling the jungle. Units like the SAS, Rhodesian Selous Scouts, Royal Marines and Gurkha Brigades drove MRLA guerillas deeper into the jungle and denied them resources. MRLA had to extort food from Sakai and earned their enmity. Many of the captured guerillas changed sides. In turn, MRLA never released any Britons alive. In the end there was about 35,000 British and 100,000 Malay troops against maybe up to 80,000 communist guerillas.

On October 7 1951, the MRLA ambushed and killed British High Commissioner Sir Henry Gurney. Gurney's successor Lieutenant-General Gerald Templer pushed through measures to give ethnic Chinese residents a right to vote. He also continued the Brigg's plan, installed Malay executives and speeded up formation of a

Malayan army. His most important deal was a promise of independence once the insurrection was over. He also instituted financial rewards for detecting guerillas and expanded intelligence gathering. Australia was willing to send troops to help a SEATO ally; Australian troops arrived in 1955. Chin Peng failed to come to agreement with the Malayan leaders in Baling in 1955. New Zealand and other Commonwealth members also sent troops to aid the British.

With the independence of Malaya under Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman on August 31, 1957, the insurrection lost its rationale as a war of colonial liberation. The last serious resistance from MRLA guerillas ended with a surrender in the Telok Anson marsh area in 1958. The remaining MRLA forces fled to the Thai border and further east. In July 31 1960 the Malayan government declared that the Emergency was over. Chin Peng fled to China.

During the conflict security forces killed 6710 MRLA guerillas and captured 1287. Of the guerillas, 2702 surrendered during the conflict and about 500 at the end of the conflict. There were 1346 Malayan troops and 519 British military personnel killed. There were 2478 civilians killed and 810 missing as a result of the conflict.

INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION

In 1961, the island of Borneo was divided by four separate states: Kalimantan, an Indonesian province, was located in the south of the island. In the north were the kingdom of Brunei and two British colonies - Sarawak and British North Borneo (which was later renamed Sabah). As a part of its withdrawal from its Southeast Asian colonies, the UK moved to combine its colonies on Borneo with those on peninsular Malaya, to form Malaysia. This move was opposed by the government of Indonesia; President Sukarno argued that Malaysia was a puppet of the British, and that the consolidation of Malaysia would increase British control over the region, threatening Indonesia's independence. Similarly, the Philippines made a claim for Sabah, arguing that it had historic links with the Philippines through the Sulu archipelago.

THE MALAYAN EMERGENCY & INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION

WELCOME/SELAMAT DATANG FROM THE EDITOR, TONY TALBOTT

In Brunei, the Indonesian-backed North Kalimantan National Army (TKNU) revolted on December 8, 1962. They tried to capture the Sultan of Brunei, seize the oil fields and take European hostages. The Sultan escaped and asked for British help. He received British and Gurkha troops from Singapore. On December 16, British Far Eastern Command claimed that all major rebel centers had been occupied, and on April 17, 1963, the rebel commander was captured and the rebellion ended.

The Philippines and Indonesia formally agreed to accept the formation of Malaysia if a majority in the disputed region voted for it in a referendum organized by the United Nations. However, on September 16, before the results of the vote were reported, the Malaysian government announced that the federation would be created, depicting the decision as an internal matter, with no need for consultation. The Indonesian government saw this as a broken promise and as evidence of British imperialism.

THE WAR

On January 20, 1963, Indonesian Foreign Minister Subandrio announced that Indonesia would pursue a policy of Konfrontasi with Malaysia. On April 12, Indonesian volunteers - allegedly Indonesian Army personnel - began to infiltrate Sarawak and Sabah, to engage in raids and sabotage, and spread propaganda. On July 27, Sukarno declared that he was going to "crush Malaysia".

On August 16, troopers of the Brigade of Gurkhas clashed with fifty Indonesian guerillas. While the Philippines did not engage in warfare, they did break off diplomatic relations with Malaysia. The Federation of Malaysia was formally formed on September 16, 1963. Brunei decided against joining, and Singapore separated later. Tensions rose on both sides of the Straits of Malacca. Two days later rioters burned the British embassy in Jakarta. Several hundred rioters sacked the Singapore embassy in Jakarta and the homes of Singaporean diplomats. In Malaysia, Indonesian agents were captured and crowds attacked the Indonesian embassy in Kuala Lumpur. Along the remote jungle border in Borneo, there was an

ongoing border war; Indonesian troops and irregulars tried to occupy Sarawak and Sabah, with little success.

In 1964, Indonesian troops began to raid areas in the Malaysian peninsula. In August, 16 armed Indonesian agents were captured in Johore. Activity by regular Indonesian Army over the border also increased. The British Royal Navy deployed a number of warships, including aircraft carriers, to the area to defend Malaysia and the Royal Air Force also deployed many squadrons of aircraft. Commonwealth ground forces - 18 battalions, including elements of the Brigade of Gurkhas - and three Malaysian battalions, were also committed to the conflict.

The Commonwealth troops were thinly deployed and had to rely on border posts and reconnaissance by light infantry and/or the two commando units of the Royal Marines. Their main mission was to prevent further Indonesian incursions into Malaysia. On August 17, Indonesian paratroopers landed on the southwest coast of Johore and attempted to establish guerilla groups. On September 2, more paratroopers landed in Labis, Johore. On October 29, 52 soldiers landed in Pontian on the Johore-Malacca border and were captured by New Zealand Army personnel.

When the United Nations accepted Malaysia as a nonpermanent member, Sukarno withdrew Indonesia from the UN and attempted to form the Conference of New Emerging Forces (Conefo) as an alternative. In January 1965, after many Malaysian requests, Australia agreed to send troops to Borneo. Australian Army contingent included the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment and the Australian Special Air Service Regiment. There were fourteen thousand British and Commonwealth forces in Borneo by this time. According to official policy, Commonwealth troops could not follow attackers over the Indonesian border. However, units like the British Special Air Service and the Australian Special Air Service did so in secret.

In mid-1965, the Indonesian government began to openly use Indonesian army forces. On June 28, they crossed the border into eastern Sebatik Island near Tawau, Sabah, and clashed with defenders.

THE END OF THE CONFRONTATION

Towards the end of 1965, General Suharto came to power in Indonesia, following a coup d'état. Due to this domestic conflict, Indonesian interest in pursuing the war with Malaysia declined, and combat eased. On May 28, 1966 at a conference in Bangkok, the Malaysian and Indonesian governments declared the conflict over. Violence ended in June, and a peace treaty was signed on August 11 and ratified two days later.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this Journal and the NMBVA. Thank you to our contributors, for your generous support and contribution. Those of us who know Malaysia, for my part my father served there with 28 Commonwealth Brigade, remember with great fondness the splendour of the country and the gracious nature of the people. This tribute not only honours the British and Commonwealth forces who served, but the peoples of that part of South-East Asia also.

On this 50th Anniversary British veterans' will feel justly proud. Their service and legacy is manifested by half a century of peace. The Malaysian Government has awarded the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal to members of the forces who served between 1957 and 1966. The citation accompanying the medal reads: "This medal is awarded to the peacekeeping groups amongst the communion countries for distinguished chivalry, gallantry, sacrifice or loyalty in upholding peninsular of Malaya or Malaysia sovereignty during the period of Emergency and Confrontation". One can only admire their generosity and applaud the recipients.

The British government referred to this bloody and costly struggle as the 'Malayan Emergency'. Yet it was a war that lasted 12 years and cost thousands of lives. By the time it was over, Malaya and Borneo had obtained their independence but on British, not on Communist, terms.

Tony Talbott, Editor
April 2016

COMMEMORATION OF CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN NORTH BORNEO & REDEDICATION OF THE NMBVA PLAQUE



Gurkhas of 70 Gurkha Field Sqn,
36 Engineer Regiment



Malaysian Defence Attaché Brigadier General Dato Kamarol Fauzi Hj. Mohd Said

On Wednesday the 27th of April Malaya and Borneo Association Veterans gathered at the Ibis hotel in London in preparation to commemorate the 50th year since hostilities ceased in North Borneo.

The veterans had travelled from all parts of the UK, by train, bus, and some had flown in. The Isle of Wight tour team headed by MD, Mrs Shirley Wiinn were the at the hotel to greet veterans as they arrived.

On the Wednesday evening a Gala Dinner was held at the hotel. Guests and veterans met and mingled. At the pre-dinner wine reception veterans caught up with comrade's they hadn't seen for some time.



Piper Thomas Jones

The Guest of Honour was the Malaysian High Commissioner, HE Dato' Ahmad Rasidi Hazizi accompanied by his wife and the Malaysian Defence Attaché Brigadier General Dato Kamarol Fauzi Hj. Mohd Said. Our President, General Sir Gary Johnson, presented the guest of honour with a NMBVA Shield.

On the Thursday morning we were all bussed to St. Paul's, where we assembled in the Chapel of Faith. A Guard of Honour was formed by the immaculate Gurkhas of 70 Gurkha Field Squadron, 36 Engineer Regiment. The Chapel was at maximum capacity with 350 veterans and guests in attendance.

The service started at 1100 hours, during which General Sir Gary Johnson, KCB, OBE, MC gave a reading, as did Corporal Mohammed Din of the Honourable Artillery Company Cadet Force. He read a poem, 'The Man Beside Me', which is from the Book of Reflections by David Neil. A very moving and poignant poem.

The Association plaque which was being re-dedicated, was unveiled on the 21st of April 2005 by His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent. The Association also has a Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, dedicated to the memory of our comrades who did not return home.

Towards the end of the service a wreath was laid at the NMBVA plaque whilst a piper, Thomas Jones, played a lament on the bagpipes.

From St Paul's, veterans and guests were bussed to the Mansion House for a buffet lunch and reception. The Gurkhas, once again, formed a Guard of Honour.



Annie Burden lay's wreath at the Plaque



Members of the QARANC



Charles Macintosh - Solent Branch

Veterans and Guests relaxed in a congenial atmosphere with a selection of foods and wine provide by the Mansion House for us. At 1500 hours we retreated back to our Hotel.

London's Lord Mayor was unable to attend due to prior commitments. In his stead we welcomed his representative who gave a welcoming address followed by a few words from General Sir Gary Johnson, KCB, OBE, MC.

We are very grateful to all of those whose tireless efforts, dedication and commitment made this 50th Anniversary event a most memorable occasion.

We commemorate the sacrifice of those men and women who served a cause greater than their self interest, and whose loyalty obliged them to suffer deprivation and hardship. Each veteran has their own unique experience to share, their collective story however, is the story of a struggle against daunting odds to choose their own way; to stay faithful to a shared cause; to remain human beings in a dangerous world.

We remember their service.

Photographs © copyright Graham Lachao.



General Sir Gary Johnson KCB OBE MC



Standard Bearer Left to Right
John Knowles - Tynside Branch, Charles Timms MBE - Surrey Branch,
Deborah Lofts - National Standard Bearer, Dennis Ward - Kent Branch,
Charles Macintosh - Solent Branch, Mick Smith - Nottingham Branch





Loyal Address and Birthday Greetings to Her Majesty The Queen

The President, Chairman and members of the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Association have the great pleasure in sending loyal greetings and birthday wishes on the occasion of Her Majesty's 90th birthday. May your reign continue to be long and glorious for all of your people in the United Kingdom and throughout all the countries of the Commonwealth of Nations.

God Save The Queen





MESSAGE FROM
THE RT HON DAVID CAMERON MP
PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE
AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY



It gives me great pleasure to provide a message of support to all those in the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association, as you mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the conflict in Malaya and Borneo.

Our country greatly appreciates the loyal and dedicated service of all personnel who have served in our Armed Forces, particularly those who served in destinations far away. I can assure you that all your contributions to the defence of this country will be remembered; a contribution which continues to be made by the current generation of Armed Forces.

We must never forget the courage and sacrifices that were made during the Malayan Emergency. In stifling hot, difficult and dangerous conditions, our forces fought against a violent Communist insurgency with great valour and, ultimately, great success.

In doing so, they helped lay the modern foundations of modern Malaysia: an independent and multicultural parliamentary democracy, which the UK is proud to call a friend.

It is a great tribute to the ex-Service community that people come together at occasions such as this to remember and reflect on colleagues with whom they served. Many of them will be with you today and I am sure many old friendships will be rekindled through this special commemoration.

It is also, of course, our duty to remember and pay tribute to the fallen. We mark this anniversary in their memory, by honouring their service to our country and the sacrifices they made in our name.

26 April 2016

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The Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal



MESSAGE FROM
DATO' AHMAD RASIDI HAZIZI
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF MALAYSIA TO
THE UNITED KINGDOM AND NORTHERN IRELAND



I am sincerely honoured for this opportunity to contribute a message on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the end of hostilities in Malaya and Borneo. In no insignificant manner, it is the service and sacrifice of the Commonwealth veterans in defence of Malaya and Borneo that had contributed to the peace, prosperity and stability in these lands.

Those present and their children will continue to owe gratitude to you, members of the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association, for your struggle in the fight for freedom, in which this short message affirms and acknowledges.

Most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Rasidi'.

15 April 2016



THE SLIM SOCIETY

Stat lux In Monte - On a hill stands a light

(Patron: Viscount Slim)

www.slimschoolmalaya.com

The Slim Society membership comprises British & Commonwealth former students who attended Slim School (Cameron Highlands), Malaya. Our fathers were mostly members of the Armed Forces who served throughout Malaya.

We are privileged to have this opportunity to remember their service with pride and to record our support and admiration for the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Association.



CLASS OF 1962



CLASS OF 1962



HIGH COMMISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
LONDON

MESSAGE FROM
MS FOO CHI HSIA
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR LONDON,
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE



As we commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the end of hostilities in Malaya, Borneo, Singapore and Brunei, it is fitting that we remember in particular those who lost their lives or suffered during Konfrontasi.

We also honour and offer our thanks to those who fought bravely to defend us during those turbulent years, including the members of the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association. Today, as we remember the scars left behind by the terrorist attacks during Konfrontasi, we are reminded that we should never ever take our current peace and security for granted.

While old wounds are healed and we now live in peace and cooperation with our neighbours, we can draw lessons from that dark chapter in our history. This will help us face today's challenge against a different threat from extremist organisations, one that threatens the security of many countries in the world.

As we did in the 1960s, we must not allow fear to overwhelm us. Our determination to be prepared, and stay united and resilient in the face of terrorism is the best way to honour the victims of Konfrontasi, especially those who gave up their lives in the pursuit and defence of peace.

26 April 2016



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MESSAGE FROM
THE HON MALCOLM TURNBULL MP
PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA



As we approach the 50th anniversary of the end of the Confrontation, it is timely to reflect on the contribution made by Commonwealth armed forces to the Far Eastern campaigns.

From the dark days of 1942, to actions to protect the new Malaysian federation, our soldiers, sailors and air personnel played an important role in shaping modern Southeast Asia.

Conducted in Australia's region, and involving our nearest neighbours during a time of growing uncertainty, the campaigns undoubtedly deserve greater recognition.

As the ties of Empire that had bound us so closely to Britain faded, we were fortunate that the armed forces of the British Commonwealth remained to bring stability when a communist insurgency threatened Malaya.

And within a few years of the Emergency ending, when the fledgling federation of Malaysia was under attack, Commonwealth forces again took action to preserve the country's new-found independence.

Today, it is with pride and satisfaction that we consider the legacy our veterans left. From the Commonwealth's last major military action in Southeast Asia came a prosperous Malaysia and the seeds of strong and enduring regional alliances.

It is an honour to recognise those who served, and as Australians look to the future, we do so very much as part of a region that the veterans of the Commonwealth's Far Eastern campaigns helped to shape.

22 March 2016

AUSTRALIA IN MALAYA

The Emergency and the Confrontation were the Australian military's first experiences in counter-insurgency operations.

In April 1950 the British Government asked whether some Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) units could be sent to assist in the Malayan Emergency. The Australian Prime Minister Robert Menzies hesitated. Menzies was profoundly pro-British and anti-communist, and he replied that he was 'deeply conscious of the serious position in Malaya.' He nevertheless feared that the electorate would not approve of 'committing Australia to a militaristic policy.' He was also unsure whether the British would win.

Menzies therefore postponed any decision on the matter until after the visit of the British Commissioner-General for South-East Asia, Malcolm MacDonald. But the visit, which took place in early May 1950, made a decision more difficult. Despite urgings in the Australian press for intervention in Malaya, the visit sparked some anti-British demonstrations, while Cabinet was unconvinced by MacDonald himself.

Menzies nevertheless found a compromise that he announced on 19 May 1950: a RAAF unit would be sent to Malaya, but it was to be a transport squadron rather than a fighter or bomber unit. And so the advance party of No. 38 Squadron RAAF arrived in Singapore in the following month in a low-key beginning to what would become Australia's longest involvement in an overseas conflict.

Political and military developments in the mid 1950s led to increased Australian involvement in the Malayan Emergency. In late 1954 Australia signalled a greater commitment to the region by

joining the newly formed South-East Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO), and by agreeing to the establishment of the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve (BCFESR) in Malaya. At the time Australian army units were also returning home following the end of hostilities in Korea.

The BCFESR was made up of an infantry brigade, bomber and fighter squadrons, and naval vessels. The army component of the BCFESR was the 28th Commonwealth Brigade, which had served in Korea, and which re-formed at Penang in Malaya in 1955. Australian infantry battalions and artillery batteries served two-year tours of duty in Malaya from 1955 as part of the 28th Commonwealth Brigade. The RAAF bomber and fighter squadrons based at Butterworth from 1958, and the RAN (Royal Australian Navy) ships involved in the Malayan Emergency, were also part of the BCFESR.

The BCFESR therefore provided the organisational structure for most of the Australian involvement in the Malayan Emergency, including that of 7,000 Australian soldiers. And although the BCFESR only existed in the later stages of the Malayan Emergency, the heaviest fighting involving Australians took place in that period. During the Malayan Emergency there were 15 Australian operational deaths, including 13 from the Australian Army.

The Australian Army was involved in the Malayan Emergency from 1955, and Australian soldiers remained in the region until 1963, three years after the conflict's official end.

ARMY

The 2nd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (2 RAR) arrived in Malaya in October 1955.

Stationed initially on Penang Island, the battalion crossed to the mainland on 1 January 1956 to begin operations as part of the 28th Commonwealth Brigade. The battalion mainly operated in the northern areas of Kedah and Perak, which had been centres of guerrilla activity. Although there were few contacts with the guerrillas when the battalion patrolled these areas, heavy fighting took place in June 1956 during the Pipeline Ambush, in which three Australians were killed.

RAAF

The arrival of RAAF transport and bomber squadrons in 1950 represented Australia's first involvement in the Malayan Emergency. In June 1950 eight Dakota transport aircraft of No. 38 Transport Squadron RAAF landed in Malaya. The squadron was stationed east of Singapore at Changi airfield until April 1951, when it began operating from Kuala Lumpur with No. 1 squadron RNZAF. No. 38 Squadron moved back to Changi in July 1952 and returned to Australia in December that year.

Six Lincoln bombers of No. 1 Squadron (Bomber) RAAF arrived in Malaya in July 1950. The squadron was based at Tengah on the west of Singapore Island. The Lincolns operated in Malaya until 1958, when they were replaced by Canberra bombers of No. 2 Squadron RAAF.

RAN

Between 1955 and 1960 Royal Australian Navy aircraft carriers Melbourne and Sydney, and the destroyers and frigates Anzac, Arunta, Quadrant, Queenborough, Quiberon, Quickmatch, Tobruk, Vampire, Vendetta, Voyager, and Warramunga were attached to the BCFESR for periods of up to six months. These Australian ships took part in patrols and exercises with other Commonwealth vessels throughout the Far East region.

Australian warships in the BCFESR were directly involved in the Malayan Emergency on two occasions. On 29 September 1956 Anzac bombarded a guerrilla camp site, and on 22 January 1957 Queenborough and Quickmatch opened fire against suspected guerrilla positions south of Johore. ●



MESSAGE FROM
THE HON CRAIG FOSS MP
MINISTER OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS NEW ZEALAND



As New Zealand's Minister of Veterans' Affairs it is my honour to contribute this commemorative message for the 50th anniversary of the end of military operations in Malaya/Malaysia. Approximately 4000 New Zealand military personnel served alongside the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve in the Malaya/Malaysia conflict between 1948 and 1966.

This was a defining period in the history of Malaya/Malaysia, but also in the development of New Zealand's identity as a small island nation willing and able to support our allies in the toughest of circumstances.

Today we honour those who served, so far from home, in support of the values and ideals we still hold dear. We honour their courage, their commitment and their comradeship. We also remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in pursuit of peace and freedom.

The service of our brave and honourable men is not diminished with time. We honour you today and we will continue to do so for many generations to come.

26 April 2016

NEW ZEALAND IN MALAYA

New Zealand first became involved in the Emergency in 1949

New Zealand first became involved in Emergency operations in 1949, when a flight of 41 Squadron Dakotas were deployed to Singapore as communist victories in mainland China appeared to threaten Hong Kong. Attached to the British Far East Air Force, these aircraft flew regularly to Hong Kong. One Dakota was stationed in Kuala Lumpur to drop supplies to forces engaging the MRLA. By the time the flight was withdrawn in December 1951, it had made 211 sorties and dropped 284 kg of supplies.

From 1949, several New Zealand Army officers served in Malaya while on secondment with British units. In January 1951 10 officers and 14 NCOs went there with 1st Battalion, Fiji Infantry Regiment. Under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel R.A. Tinker initially, this unit gained a high reputation for effectiveness in operations against the guerrillas. By the time it was withdrawn in 1956 about 40 New Zealanders had served with it, and two had been accidentally killed. In 1954 an RNZN frigate, HMNZS Pukaki, bombarded a suspected guerrilla camp while operating with the Royal Navy's Far East Fleet. This was the first of a number of bombardments by RNZN ships over the next five years.

THE FAR EAST STRATEGIC REVIEW

New Zealand became more directly involved in Emergency operations in 1955 after deciding to contribute forces to the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve. The Reserve's primary roles were to deter communist aggression in South-east Asia, and to respond swiftly if deterrence failed. As a secondary role,

the forces committed to the Reserve were to participate in actions against the guerrillas in Malaya.

The Army's initial contribution to the Reserve, a Special Air Service Squadron commanded by Major Frank Rennie which formed part of 22nd SAS Regiment, was particularly suited for operations against the guerrillas in their jungle sanctuaries. From April 1956 the squadron deployed in the Fort Brooke area on the border of the states of Perak and Kelantan. In a series of operations it eliminated the local MRLA organisation, at the cost of one fatal casualty. During 1957 the squadron operated in Negri Sembilan in an area dubbed Mountainous by the guerrillas, between the towns of Seremban, Kuala Pilah and Tampin. Again it destroyed the local MRLA group. In 1965/6, during Confrontation with Indonesia, SAS squadrons mounted cross-border operations in Borneo.

RNZAF'S ROLE

Meanwhile, RNZAF units in the Strategic Reserve were also operating against the guerrillas. On 1 May 1955 Vampires of 14 Squadron carried out the RNZAF's first operational strike mission since the Second World War – and the first using jet aircraft. Over the next three years the squadron, now equipped with Venoms, mounted 115 strike missions in two categories - 'Firedogs' (pre-planned bombing, strafing, and rocket attacks on suspected guerrilla targets) and 'Smash Hits' (strikes against targets of opportunity in response to a guerrilla raid or 'hot' information). The Canberras of 75 Squadron, which replaced 14 Squadron in the Reserve in July 1958, were also

used on bombing missions. While the effectiveness of air strikes against jungle targets was inevitably limited, they provided much valuable experience for the pilots. In July 1955 41 Squadron, half of which was deployed in the Strategic Reserve, resumed supply-dropping operations in support of anti-guerrilla forces using the highly effective Bristol Freighter.

THE END OF THE EMERGENCY

From March 1958 1st Battalion, New Zealand Regiment, which had replaced the SAS squadron in the Strategic Reserve, took part in operations to clear Perak of insurgents. Operating from Ipoh and later Grik, it mounted a series of deep jungle patrols. Its achievements in eliminating guerrillas were second to none among 28th British Commonwealth Infantry Brigade's battalions. By the time that it was replaced by 2nd Battalion NZR in late 1959, most of the guerrillas had retreated across the border into southern Thailand. The greatly improved security situation was reflected in the official termination of the Emergency on 31 July 1960. For the next four years New Zealand infantrymen periodically deployed in the Border Security Area as part of counter-insurgency measures. During Confrontation they helped hunt Indonesian infiltrators in Johore in 1964, and saw action on the Borneo frontier in 1965. The insurgents did not finally give up until the 1980s.

Fifteen New Zealand servicemen lost their lives in Malaya between 1948 and 1960, three as a result of enemy action. Among the casualties was the crew of a Bristol Freighter which flew into a mountain in 1956. The New Zealand Army's experience of jungle warfare had been limited to the few small actions by 2NZEF's 3rd Division during the Pacific War. With its post-war preparations focused on the Middle East, the operations in Malaya marked a new departure. They were also an important stage in the transition of the New Zealand military forces from a non-regular to a regular framework of organisation. They provided opportunities to develop professional skills in a difficult but not too threatening operational environment, and laid the basis for effective service in the 1960s' Confrontation with Indonesia and the Vietnam War. ●





MESSAGE FROM
FIELD MARSHAL SIR JOHN CHAPPLE
GCB CBE DL



**Field Marshal Sir John Chapple served with the
1st Battalion 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (Sirmoor Rifles)**

It doesn't seem like fifty years since the end of the Confrontation campaign - and fifty six since the formal end of the Malayan Emergency. I remember them both as though it was only yesterday. I am reminded by some nostalgic photographs of the men at the company bases and on patrols. I've no idea who took these photographs. It was probably against orders to do so but they record some exciting service with some very special soldiers. My own time was relatively short but many of the Gurkhas with whom I served had been on continuous active service since transferring to the British Army in 1948. This was because my battalion never left Malaya or Singapore between 1948 and 1960, all of which counted as 'On Active Service'.

I also had six months in command of C Coy 1/2GR in Sarawak in 1965. Again, many good memories, and some long patrols. The Gurkhas bonded well with the local Murut people who retain fond memories of our time together.

Sadly many of the Gurkhas with whom I served are no longer with us - nor are the Murut Border Scouts; but their Service and Sacrifice are not forgotten.

John Chapple
AFC

April 2016

THE GURKHA BRIGADE ASSOCIATION



2nd King Edward VII's
Own Gurkha Rifles
(The Simmoor Rifles)



5th Queen Elizabeth's
Own Gurkha Rifles



7th Duke of Edinburgh's
Own Gurkha Rifles



10th Princess Mary's
Own Gurkha Rifles



The Queen's
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Queen's Gurkha
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Gurkha Army
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Gurkha
Military Police



Gurkha Independent
Parachute Company

The Gurkha Brigade Association takes pride
in paying tribute to those members who served
with distinction during the Malayan Emergency
and Borneo Confrontation



ROYAL MARINES

The Malayan Emergency 1950-1952

by Captain Derek Oakley MBE RM

In July 1949, Communist China threatened the sovereignty of Hong Kong and 3rd Commando Brigade Royal Marines was despatched there, sailing together in the SS *Georgic*, with HQ, 40 & 42 Commandos RM embarking in Malta and picking up 45 Commando RM from Port Suez. For the next eight months they provided the internal security for Hong Kong and the hundreds of outlying islands.

In May 1950, with violence reaching its peak, the whole of 3rd Commando Brigade left Hong Kong for a tour of duty in the long drawn out Malayan Emergency. This was probably the most critical period of the whole campaign. The Chinese Communists, many of whom had fought with the Malayan Peoples' Anti-Japanese Army during WW2, had retained many of their weapons and ammunition. Now, four years later, from bases deep in the jungle, under the title of the Malayan Peoples' Liberation Army, about 4,000 were engaged in infiltrating Chinese and Malay villages, in terrorising the locals, arson, murder and other anti-colonial activities in an attempt to win over the hearts and minds of the people.

Thus 3rd Commando Brigade was tasked with counter-insurgency warfare in support of the civil administration and police. Their area of responsibility, the northern state of Perak, was at least the size of Wales. Whilst being mountainous to the east, it was an area also covered in dense jungle, where the lower parts were mainly swamp and river ridden, with the cultivated parts being mostly rubber estates and tin mines, many managed by British and Australian companies. Brigade Headquarters and 42 Commando were initially based in Ipoh; 40 Commando further north in Kuala Kangsar were given the Thailand border areas of

continued on page 32



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WHO SERVED IN
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Grik and Kroh while 45 Commando had an equally vast area centred on Tapah, from the Cameron Highlands (over 5,000ft) in the east to the coastal plain in the west. Over the next two years all three units were continually involved in jungle fighting and counter terrorist activity. In the early days there were very few contacts with the Communist Terrorists, or bandits as they came to be known. The main enemies were the jungle itself, leeches and malaria. Commando patrols often operated 50 miles (80km) from their headquarters and thus it became a junior leaders' war. Marines matured fast in such a hostile environment

There were a few wartime veterans with jungle experience, but nearly one third were National Servicemen, who like their regular counterparts learnt quickly and harshly the art of jungle warfare. Patrols varied in size from six or seven to Troop (platoon) strength and were often deep in the jungle for up to three weeks or more. Successful patrolling was mentally and physically punishing, but contacts were few – some put it at once every 20 patrols. Tedium was also an enemy and surprise ambushes were laid by both sides. Eating and sleeping in the jungle were fraught with danger, while the smell of cooking could often give away your position. Such wildlife as snakes, leeches and giant centipedes were often life threatening. Water sterilising tablets, insect repellent and Paludrine (anti malarial tablets) were their friends. Intelligence came mainly from the Special Branch of the Malay Police and informers working in conjunction with remote villages. In 1950 the High Commissioner, Sir Henry Gurney, devised a plan to resettle outlying Malay and Chinese villagers into camps nearer to civilisation and under guard to protect them from intimidation by the bandits. When he was assassinated in 1951 and the Army's Lt Gen Harold Briggs took over, it became known as the Briggs Plan and its implementation was highly successful in reducing the activities of the terrorists.

Each Commando had successes but also a few failures, particularly as the enemy could skip across the border into Siam (Thailand) in 40 Commando RM's area or merely fade into



40 Commando RM, Mersing, Malaya. 1952

the surrounding jungle at the first sign of trouble as with 40 and 45 Commando RM. But each unit patrolled deep into the jungle and the only relief for individuals was one week's leave a year, usually spent in rest camps in Penang or Singapore. This came to be known as 'R & R'

The few re-supply aircraft were RAF Valettas, which required fairly large clearings in the jungle before they could drop their supplies. It was not until May 1950 that helicopters were introduced, but at the time with only five Dragonfly S-51s for the whole country, limited casualty evacuation could be carried out, but most casualties had to be physically carried out by the marines. During the two years deployment 3rd Commando Brigade killed over 230 terrorists and captured more than 50 whilst the Brigade lost over 30 killed. The Commander-in-Chief, General Sir John Harding, later described it as 'a record of hard work, devotion to duty and good comradeship of which the Royal Marines have every reason to be proud'. Forty decorations were awarded to the Corps, plus 68 'mentions in despatches'

Today, many of the RM veterans who served in Malayan Emergency belong to the Royal Marines Association, which was established in 1946 as a charitable organisation to keep former Royal Marines in touch with each other and to help them find jobs. That objective remains largely the same in 2016, (although the RMA now embraces serving members and their families), being enshrined in the Association's Constitution in these words:

"To maintain and promote esprit de corps and comradeship amongst all Royal Marines, to keep them in touch with one another, and with the activities of the serving Corps...and to manage any cases of hardship or distress suffered by members of the Corps Family in which direct financial assistance is sought, or other assistance is required."

To find out more about what the RMA does, how you can join it and the support it can offer to those of the Corps Family in need, please look at the Association's website:

www.royalmarinesassociation.org.uk



45 Commando RM, Jungle Patrol, Malaya. c1950-1952



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MESSAGE FROM
FIELD MARSHAL THE RT HON LORD INGE
KG GCB DL



I am pleased to be able to record my admiration and respect to the members of the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Association. I wish you good fortune in this Anniversary year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Inge".

April 2016

THE
GREEN HOWARDS
ASSOCIATION



WE TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN
REMEMBERING THOSE
MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT
WHO SERVED DURING
THE MALAYA EMERGENCY

THANK YOU



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Image courtesy of LTC Daniel F. Bohmer
"Poppies Growing on the HESCOs"



50th ANNIVERSARY BORNEO CONFRONTATION

by General Sir Jeremy Mackenzie GCB OBE DL, former Deputy Allied Commander Europe, former Aide-de-Camp HM The Queen

It gives me great pleasure to contribute to the 50th Anniversary Journal of what was called Confrontation, as Sukarno's attempt to destroy Malaysia and create a pan-Indonesian empire became known. This was a little-known but masterly campaign conducted by British and Commonwealth forces in Borneo between 1962 and 1966.

For me, as a young platoon commander in the 1st Battalion Queen's Own Highlanders, it all began at 03:15 hrs on the 8th December 1962 when a rebel force, led by Azahari and his North Kalimantan National Army (TNKU) captured Seria police station and gained control of the oilfields. The European inhabitants were confined to their houses, and later on at least 50 hostages were taken to the police station in Seria. A short, fierce battle around the Penaga police station, where the rebels used their hostages as a human shield, ended up with one hostage killed and 5 others wounded.



The then 2nd Lt. Mackenzie, behind Pte. Jimmy Skinner (on the light machine gun), 'A' Company, The Queen's Own Highlanders on the Belait River, Sarawak.

That same morning, in Singapore, two companies of the 1st Battalion Queen's Own Highlanders under Lieutenant Colonel W G McHardy were flown by Beverley aircraft to Brunei and, after a brief reconnaissance, Lt Col McHardy decided to launch two simultaneous attacks. One to relieve Penaga police station, and the other to recapture Anduki airfield and relieve Seria police station, which were all in rebel hands.

My company under the command of Major I D Cameron was flown in five Twin Pioneer aircraft to a landing zone on the golf course 2 miles from the Penaga police station. This we captured without much rebel opposition and released the police who had been held captive in their station. We then became involved in a short sharp battle around the area of the telecommunications centre on the Jalan Utara road.

The company commander, meanwhile, was involved in a considerable battle at the Istana Kota Menggalela – the Sultan's country palace. This involved the use of grenades and tear gas grenades and for this sharp action Major Cameron earned the Military Cross.

In Seria the Commanding Officer, with the other company and four Royal Air Force Hunter aircraft as backup, advanced on Seria police station and in a swift action successfully

rescued the 46 hostages that were held there. This small operation, expertly planned by Lieutenant Colonel McHardy and well executed at junior level, ensured the Queen's Own Highlanders suffered not a single casualty, and no hostage was harmed from the time the battalion entered the area on the evening of the 10th until the operation was declared over, only 4 days later.

This was a very small beginning to a campaign which would last almost 4 years but was one that was brilliantly conducted and successfully completed in an area which could easily have become another Vietnam as about 17,000 British, Gurkha and Commonwealth troops took part in an area along a 1,000-mile border against incessant Indonesian guerrilla attacks in some of the most inhospitable and difficult fighting terrain in the world. It earned for Corporal Rambahadar Limbu of 10th Gurkha Rifles the Victoria Cross.

This 50th Anniversary Journal is a fitting tribute to those of you who took part in this campaign 50 years ago which has ensured the independent existence of Sarawak, Brunei and Sabah to this day. ●

March 2016



The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment)

remembers with pride members of the Regiment
who served in Malaya and those who were killed;

Lieutenant John Nigel Rolls Hoare MC - 12 November 1949
(attached to 1st Bn The Seaforth Highlanders)

Lance Corporal George MacKay - 12 November 1949
(attached to 1st Bn Seaforth Highlanders)

Captain Rowland Burch Tarleton - 12 April 1952
(attached to 5th Bn Malay Regiment)

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SCOTS GUARDS

COLONEL-IN-CHIEF: HM THE QUEEN



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GREAT PRIDE IN REMEMBERING
THOSE MEMBERS OF THE
REGIMENT WHO SERVED DURING
THE MALAYAN EMERGENCY
AND CONFRONTATION

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Brunei, 1962 and Borneo, 1963

THE ARGYLL & SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS (Princess Louise's) ASSOCIATION



IN MEMORY OF
THOSE WHO SERVED
IN MALAYA & BORNEO



2nd Lt D.G.F. Pringuer and Cpl J.G. Rawlings 200 (Singapore) Provost Company RMP using the latest communications technology in 1966



LCpl English, 200 (Singapore) Provost Company with the wreck of a Jeep destroyed by rioters, December 1950



Malaya 3 – Anti-Vice patrol, 200 (Singapore) Provost Company RMP, 1960

ROYAL MILITARY POLICE



Malaya 6 - Sgt R Hackett RMP SIB conducting an investigation into the death of a member of an Australian patrol on the Borneo border in May 1966. The investigation was conducted while the patrol continued with their duties.

With the ending of the confrontation with Indonesia in Borneo and Sarawak in 1966, after three years of arduous and rewarding work for the Corps, the last Royal Military Police (RMP) and Gurkha Military Police (GMP) units were withdrawn or, in the case of GMP, disbanded. Only minimal numbers of RMP would stay on to serve in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore before the final withdrawal of British Forces from the Federation in 1976, ending a continuous RMP presence in Malaysia that had started in 1945.

In North Borneo and Sarawak, ambushes, particularly on roads, and attacks against police stations, became regular occurrences. VIP escorts were a frequent duty as a result. Traffic duties conducted by RMP in difficult terrain under the threat of attack are best illustrated by describing the highway upon which the majority of convoys and heavy equipment travelled between Kuching and the border with Indonesian Borneo and the small towns of Serian and Balai Ringin. The road was narrow for its entire length with broken, disintegrated verges and climbed the hills of the central plain in a series of steep gradients and twisting bends. It spanned numerous rivers, many of single gauge and wooden plank construction.

During the Emergency, big demands had been put on RMP, which not only undertook its traditional roles of traffic control, escorting VIPs and high-value and out-of-gauge convoys, maintaining discipline, curfew enforcement and anti-vice duties and the prevention and investigation of crime, but the Military Police were an important source of intelligence, undertaking fighting patrols in the jungle along with the infantry and conducting cordon-and-search operations in urban areas and jungle villages with both the Royal Malaysian Police and Sarawak Constabulary. Investigations included endemic barrack-room larcenies in one of the Sarawak-based infantry battalions, drunkenness, absentees, assaults, the detection of what would be at today's prices a £1 million fraud, and the murder of a Royal Navy Officer.

During the monsoon, where heavy flooding occurred, many of these bridges were liable to be swept away. The road was periodically blocked by floods, which rose at astonishing speed. On such occasions the RMP maintained a constant presence until the road was clear for all through traffic. The regulation of traffic flow and the enforcement of convoy discipline by the RMP were critical factors in ensuring that considerable troop movement, equipment moves and resupply went smoothly and that the Army's 'combat power' was sustained in Borneo.



LCpl R Pridge (UK), LCpl C Rutter (NZ) and Cpl E Gillis (Aus); members of 28 Commonwealth Brigade VIP Bodyguard, who protected Gen Sir Ragnar Garrett, CGS Australian Military Forces.

Many hundreds of RMP and GMP, mostly National Servicemen, would serve in Malaya and Borneo and some remain there to this day and are named in the RMP Roll of Honour thus: Those members of the Royal Military Police who died in Service in Malaya and Borneo 1948-1966

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Lance-Corporal J Brandon | LCpl C Morrison |
| LCpl GWJ Edgar | LCpl AE Morton-Jones |
| LCpl E Elliott | LCpl AD Roe |
| LCpl DWF Grindley | LCpl BA Smy |
| LCpl GW Littlefield | LCpl DJ Taylor |
| LCpl A May | LCpl JR Trotter |

We will remember them!



Ipoh Military Police Detachment, January 1957

THE ROYAL MILITARY POLICE ASSOCIATION



Commemorating the 50th Anniversary

The President and Association take pride in paying tribute to all those members who served with distinction during the Malayan Emergency and Borneo Confrontation

*200 and 210 Provost Companies
(including 2 Guards Brigade Provost Unit), Borneo Provost Unit,
5 and 19 Brigade Provost Units, 17 Gurkha Division, 51 and 99
Gurkha Infantry Brigade Provost Units and 91 Section Special
Investigation Branch Royal Military Police*

PINGAT JASA MALAYSIA

by Barry Fleming

Kami ingin mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih kepada sahabat Malaysia sekalian diatas penganugerahan yang istimewa ini. Terima Kasih.

Calling on my mostly forgotten Malay to its fullest extent, those words in Malay (written in italic above) were drafted to counter the snub that so many Malaysians told us they felt they had been given when the British Government rejected the award of the Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM) to British citizens. The words, which we included on every Petition and Rebuttal, say "We wish to thank our Malaysian friends for the honour they have bestowed upon us. Thank you."

The story of the Fight for the PJM started in 2004 in the House of Lords and it ended there seven years later. That fight was to have a far-reaching impact not only on the Pingat Jasa Malaysia itself but also on the whole of the British Honours System. Here are some of my memories of that epic battle.

The Background to the PJM in the UK

The Pingat Jasa Malaysia was established on the 3rd March 2004 to recognize service by

members of the Malaysian Armed Forces during the Malayan Emergency, the Second Malayan Emergency (yes – there were two!), and the Indonesia-Malaysia Confrontation.

In mid-2004 Malaysia announced that the PJM was also offered to Commonwealth personnel who served in Malaya-Borneo between 1957 and 1966.

In December 2004 Lord Chadlington asked in the Lords whether eligible UK citizens would be "entitled to wear" the PJM. On the 11th January 2005, a written answer stated the rules "preclude the acceptance of medals for events in the distant past or more than 5 years previously". Malaysia made the first approach to offer the PJM to the British on the 17th February 2005 – the approach was withdrawn and re-submitted a month later.

Australia and New Zealand accepted the award under their Honours Rules. The British Government did not.

And so the lobbying had begun in earnest. Questions in Parliament followed; Early Day Motions supporting the PJM; and new Foreign Decorations

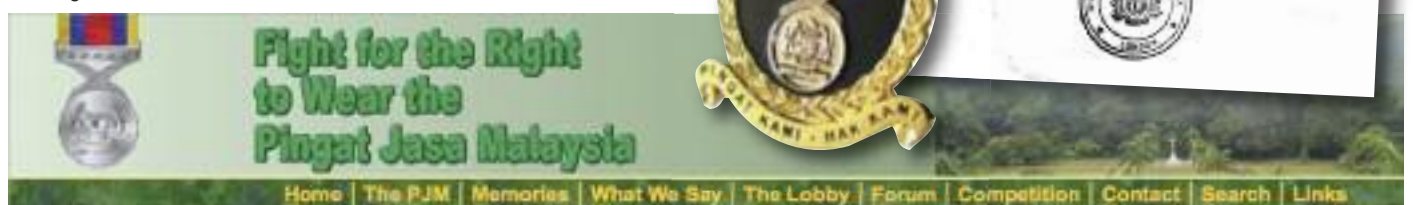
Rules appeared in the Commons Library designed to support the Government's position.

Eventually, the FCO announced that the Malaysian request would be reviewed by the Committee on the Award of Honours, Decorations and Medals (HD Committee). In December 2005, ahead of that review, I sent my first Submission to the Cabinet Office, members of the HD Committee, and key

The PJM Citation that accompanied the medal when it was sent to British recipients and a 'Fight4thePJM' Lapel Pin



The Fight4thePJM Website Banner





politicians and civil servants. It would be the first of many. That review was carried out on the 7th December 2005 but the result was withheld until the 31st January 2006 – the day after the first PJMs were presented in Australia! On that day a Ministerial Statement was presented to Parliament designed to justify the withholding from British Citizens formal permission to wear the Pingat Jasa Malaysia.

The Fight4thePJM goes into Battle

The following month, in February 2006, I launched the Fight4thePJM Website inviting support to a campaign to reverse the incongruous recommendation.

Little did I know at the time that that campaign would entail six years of continuous lobbying; and that thousands of people in thirty countries on five continents would register their support and take an active role in the fight. Lobbying is not the natural habitat of a soldier, sailor or airman, but the shameful recommendation brought us together for one last battle.

I was joined by Malaya-Borneo veterans, from all three services from Canada, the UK and Australia, who 'volunteered' to help lead the campaign. 'Jock' Fenton was volunteered by his committee colleagues to act as Chairman, a post he fulfilled brilliantly until his untimely death in December 2008. He was a true friend. We designed and had manufactured a lapel pin. We came up with our dictum "*Pingat Kami – Hak Kami*". "*Our Medal – Our Right*" which we had checked out in Malaysia to ensure it was not offensive. It was received with tremendous enthusiasm!

Support arrives for the Fight4thePJM

As soon as we promulgated the news of the launch of the Fight4thePJM website and campaign, we received immediate, unstinting, support from these wonderful people:

"The PJM Medal is an honourable award, awarded to honourable men. They will be rightly honoured to display it."

The late Lt Cmdr Ian Fraser VC DSC RD

"The award of the PJM Medal by the Malaysian Government is a timely honour to those who served. We are privileged to receive it with good grace and respect and should wear it with the dignity it warrants."

Bill Speakman-Pitt VC

"I was very pleased to learn that the Queen had given her consent to the PJM and I think that those who earned it should be able to wear it. You have my wholehearted support in your efforts to be given permission to wear your medal."

Dame Vera Lynn DBE LLD MMUS

"I wholeheartedly support the award of the PJM Medal and the right to wear it."

Leslie Thomas OBE

The support we received was humbling and there are too many names to mention here, but I will be forever grateful to two people for their support. They added knowledge, experience and dignity to the campaign.

Major General Corran Purdon CBE MC

CPM: As soon as the Government announced that the PJM could not be worn, General Purdon was immediately up in arms and declared his support for our campaign! I knew of his WWII war service – the raid on the

The 'committee' of the Fight4thePJM
From Left to right: Paul Alders, John Cooper, John Feltham, 'Jock' Fenton, me, Gerry Law, Andy Nicoll, Hamish Waters

dry dock at St Nazaire in March 1942 and his time in Colditz – but I also knew that he served in Borneo commanding the 1st Battalion, Royal Ulster Rifles and so was eligible for the PJM. Indeed, he and I received our PJMs on the same day in July 2006. He maintained contact throughout the campaign via telephone and letters. His support helped keep morale high especially during the dark days.

Brigadier Allan Alstead CBE DL: On that July day in London, 2006, much to my disappointment I did not get to meet Brigadier Alstead who had served with the Kings Own Scottish Borderers in Malaya during the Malayan Emergency. His train from Edinburgh had been delayed and he arrived after I had left the Medal Presentation at the Malaysian High Commission. He was a stunning supporter of our campaign and, like General Purdon, he never wavered. In 2008, he was at Buckingham Palace to be presented with the President's Certificate by the Duke of Edinburgh for his charitable work and, when approached by a journalist, he still managed to get a mention for the PJM! I travelled to Edinburgh to meet him when he very kindly hosted a meeting about our



Being presented with my Pingat Jasa Malaysia at the Malaysian High Commission, London, 19th July 2006

campaign. He and others from the KOSB were key to maintaining momentum and morale throughout the whole of the campaign. The judgment and the support of all these incredible people were vindicated when we won our battle for the Malaysian Medal.

A Petition to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

On the 12th June 2006, three members of the Fight4thePJM committee took to Buckingham Palace the Fight4thePJM Petition to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to grant Formal Permission to her British Veterans to wear "The Pingat Jasa Malaysia".

On our return to base, we completed our work on the Fight4thePJM Rebuttal of the January Ministerial Statement. It had taken four months of intense research, much of it carried out at The National Archives in Kew. Its 32 chapters ran to over 50 pages. It was professionally printed and on the 21st June I sent it to over 300 recipients including Government Ministers, MPs, Civil Servants and all members of the HD Committee. It had an immediate and lasting impact, being a point of referral and focus by all sides over the following years. In our view it successfully rebutted the Government's position, in particular on the Double Medal Rule and the 5-Year Rule that were raised to justify the 'no wear' decision. About that time, the first PJMs arrived in the UK from Malaysia!

First Presentations of the PJM to British Recipients

On the 19th July 2006 I was privileged to be amongst the first forty recipients of the PJM to be presented with the medal by the



Gerald Law, Paul Alders and Barry Fleming at Buckingham Palace – 12th June 2006

Hon. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Malaysia, at the Malaysian High Commission in London.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence had both washed their hands of the medal. They produced arguments about the rules preventing awards for activities in the dim and distant past and in cases where a British medal had already been presented. Interestingly, I had been told by a civil servant that another consideration was the cost in money and time resources! Malaysia had already said it would fund the production of the medal, but if the PJM had received formal acceptance for wear, then the MoD would have had to check each applicant's records, and then potentially pay the cost of postage. So it was down to Regimental and Veterans Associations to manage the applications and the distribution of the PJM. Initially, the late Fred Burden of the NMBVA carried out those duties – and they must have been very onerous. His wife Annie helped and maintained the NMBVA website at the same time – a task she continues today. Later, John Simcock continued with the onerous work of distributing the medals.

The fight continued unabated through 2007. Fight4thePJM members were not the only ones in the ring. Individuals, politicians, organisations and veterans groups were campaigning against the decision that every right-minded person judged to be ludicrous and inappropriate in the third millennium.

Andy's Visit to Holyrood

On Wednesday the 15th November 2006 Andy Nicoll, at that time a member of the Fight4thePJM committee and a Scot still resident in the land of his birth, went to Holyrood in Edinburgh to present to the Public Petitions Committee of the Scottish Parliament the Fight4thePJM Petition which sought the right to wear the PJM for all British citizens. At the end of the day the Committee decided:

- **That our case had been well presented and was a sound one**
- **They also decided that they should now formally write to the Government in London to express their support for the wearing of the PJM**
- **They would seek an explanation as to the 'ludicrous' PJM decision**



Letter from David Cameron's Office

Dear Mr Fleming

Thank you for your letter about the Pingat Jasa Malaysia. I was grateful for your comments. I recognise that the rules governing the awarding of foreign medals and decorations have been implemented inconsistently and understand the frustration of those veterans eligible for the PJM. The contribution made by those who served in Malaysia should not be forgotten. It is also important however that the rules governing these issues should not be disregarded.

My colleague Mark Harper MP, the Shadow Minister for Veterans, has stated that a future Conservative Government would review the rules governing the awarding of foreign medals. The current regulations have been devalued such that the decisions are difficult to take an objective basis. During this review all medal issues can be considered and rules will be drafted to ensure that all medal decisions are thought through and applied consistently.

Yours sincerely
Dr Liam Fox MP



Andy Nicoll and Andil anak Unting (Iban tracker), B Company, 1 KOSB, at Niyor Rubber estate, near Kluang, mid/late 1950's. Photograph taken just before the Iban tracker's friend Dempri was killed in a CT ambush.

• ***They would not accept a simple acknowledgement - they will only be satisfied with a full explanation because that is what they and our case merit.***

Our success in Edinburgh came at the end of a very difficult year for the campaign and was a huge boost to morale.

A Review of the Medal Rules Promised

But in 2007 we achieved a major breakthrough. 'In April I received a letter from the Shadow Defence Secretary, Dr Liam Fox, and a few weeks later David Cameron's office wrote to me to confirm that "a future Conservative Government would review the rules governing the awarding of foreign medals". That was when we realised that politicians were beginning to understand our case for the Pingat Jasa Malaysia and that one day the basis of our fight might affect and perhaps help correct the flawed British Honours rules and the manner in which those rules were 'applied inconsistently' by civil servants. All we wanted was a fair hearing. It would take a change of Government and another four years before that would happen!

Andil's Story

Fight4thePJM support grew and grew through 2007 and 2008. I received several hundred emails and letters every week. New members registered. More letters were sent to MPs. In 2008, an intrepid explorer named Stuart Goring had returned from another trip to the jungles of Borneo where he had met an Iban who told him he had been a tracker for the British and had received a British medal.



Stuart Goring, centre, with Andil proudly displaying his GSM and his Pingat Jasa Malaysia ... and his Fight4thePJM Lapel Pin!

Intrigued, Stuart did some research and spotted an image on our website of an Iban tracker named Andil together with Andy Nicoll a Malaya-Borneo veteran who was to play a leading part in the Fight4thePJM campaign – it was the same tracker!

With Stuart as intermediary, we were able to complete a formal application on Andil's behalf and, once accepted, we collected his PJM, sent it to Stuart who then returned to Borneo to present the medal to that courageous Iban tracker.

The Fight4thePJM is elevated to the Lords

By 2010, considerably more than half of all MPs in the Commons had signed up to support the case for the PJM to be both received and worn on all occasions. In May that year there was a General Election and a change of Government. That, in turn, led to an event that would play a central part in the outcome of our fight – Don Touhig, after many years in the Commons, joined the Lords and became The Rt Hon. the Lord Touhig.

Don Touhig was the Veterans Minister when the fateful rejection announcements were made in 2005 and early 2006. But he always supported us and continued that support in the Lords where, no longer encumbered by the departmental civil servants, and together with other right-minded members, he was prepared to listen to the arguments. That is when one Malaya-Borneo veteran now resident in Australia, Hamish Waters, a leading member of our Fight4thePJM committee, played his vital role. Over many months he corresponded with members of the Lords, giving them only the facts, and asking only for a fair hearing. Hansard mentions

Lord Craig of Radley, Lord Touhig, Lord Palmer, and Lord Lee "and many other noble Lords" in the context of debates involving the PJM.

In October 2011, and using the Armed Forces Bill as their platform, the Lords sent amendments to the Commons that included not only proposals for the PJM to be given unrestricted approval for wear, but also for a thorough review of the honours system which was seen to be flawed.

Hamish had moved to Australia after his time in Malaysia and so, like another Fight4thePJM stalwart committee member John Feltham also now in Oz, he didn't have to spend six years of his life fighting for our cause. As an Australian, he had permission to receive and wear the PJM – so long as he didn't try and wear it in the UK! But both men decided it was their fight, too.

The Pingat Jasa Malaysia Announcement

In 2011 our case that we had set out for the Lords was debated and, after one rejection in the Commons, their view prevailed, the motion was carried and the result was that our campaign had won its case! The British Government approved a recommendation to the Queen for unrestricted wear of the PJM!

And so the Fight4thePJM was over. There was no sense of 'triumph' within the Fight4thePJM. It was with a massive sense of humility and relief that we packed our MFO boxes, closed the doors behind us, and slowly walked away – back to the life that had been put on hold for far too long.



David Dilley, 11th November 2011 - This photograph is, perhaps, one of the most lasting, evocative, images of the campaign, then and now.

Last Post

And my lasting memory? It is of David Dilley, Malaya-Borneo veteran and Fight4thePJM campaigner. The PJM could be worn by British citizens for the first time on the 11th November 2011. At that time, David was in hospital suffering from terminal cancer. His daughter visited him that day and took this photograph when her father unplugged the tubes, put on his dressing gown, pinned on his poppy, and displayed his medals including his Pingat Jasa Malaysia. He asked his daughter to send the image to me so that it could be displayed on our website so that he could say 'Thank you' to Malaysia and his fellow campaigners. That image reached the media in Malaysia. It received an extraordinary reception. "That

special photograph epitomises our campaign," I was quoted as saying, "back then in Malaysia and more recently in the UK." David Dilley did not live to see another Remembrance Day. I have his last message to me just before he died. As I read it now I recall how David served not only his country for many years, but also servicemen and women who hit hard times. His charitable work included 29 years with SSAFA, the Soldiers Sailors Airmen and Families Association, as well as the Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Corps of Transport Associations, and the Royal British Legion.

The Legacy

The Fight4thePJM:

- had had **3,689 active members;**
- in **30 countries;**
- who had made **20,675 posts on our forum;**
- ... and my computer archive contains **11,047 documents!**

Mission accomplished, the Fight4thePJM website was mothballed in 2011 and is now growing old, neglected, somewhere in the ether! Images are gradually fading away, and the text and links no longer work as they once did. Technology has moved on, as must we old soldiers. But fade away? Never! We went out with a bang! The Pingat Jasa Malaysia can now be worn by British citizens, and the Government became committed to a Review of the Honours System so that, we were told, future generations would not have to experience what Malaya-Borneo veterans had experienced.

50 years ago Confrontation came to an end and two days later I sent a telegram home to ask my fiancée if she would fly out to Malaysia so that we could be married. She did and we were – in the Garrison Church, Terendak, Malacca, where I was attached to HQ 28

Commonwealth Brigade. We have three children and six grandchildren and next January we celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. I had learned Malay and, as a result, had built some wonderful friendships with local people both in towns and in the many kampongs that I visited as part of my Intelligence and Security duties. Jane met my Malaysian friends and we were humbled by their generosity of spirit in inviting us into their homes and lives. In the first three months of our marriage, our diary records that we spent just four off-duty evenings at home! We still have many friends from those halcyon days.

But it was time to return home and, for me, a short tour of duty in Cyprus, before entering what had become the somewhat alien world of Civvy Street.

Even the language was different to the one I had been used to in the Army – no more pushing of pulheems, no more Intreps or Sitreps at 15:59hrs Zulu (no more physical challenges, no more Intelligence and Situation Reports to write at midnight in the dim light of a hurricane lamp in a remote jungle longhouse!) And back in Blighty, no more BBC Light Programme or BBC Home Service. Just their replacement stations Radio Two and Radio Four ... with schedules in GMT! No duff, it was a rude awakening!


But I was soon engulfed in work and studies, resuming my career before setting up my Financial Planning business in 1975. Like my lasting friendships from those Malaysia days, I still have clients from over 40 years ago – advising them, their children, and their children's children across generations. Humbling, indeed.

Selamat tinggal, Barry Fleming

It was moments like this that I remember so well fifty years on...




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THE GURKHAS

During the Malayan Emergency, Gurkhas fought as jungle soldiers as they had done in Burma. They also formed four new units – Gurkha Engineers, Signals, Transport and Military Police. They were also used for convoy escort duties, security of the new villages and ambushing guerrillas. In the year of Malayan independence, Gurkha Signals units monitored communications during the first free elections.

MALAYAN EMERGENCY

The Brigade of Gurkhas operated continuously throughout the Malayan Emergency, for 12 years (1948 to 1960) against communist terrorists, and the Gurkha soldier again proved himself to be, as he had previously done in Burma, a superb jungle fighter.

Whilst the majority of the rest of the British Army was fighting in such trouble spots as Korea, Cyprus, Kenya and Aden and maintaining a presence in the UK, Germany and other garrisons in various parts of the world, the Brigade of Gurkhas was providing the backbone, the expertise and the continuity in the campaign in Malaya. Many British units fought in the Malayan Emergency with distinction, but never for more than two or three years before moving on to other theatres.

Gurkha battalions on the other hand served on for year after year, providing the decisive ingredient for victory in this vicious war of stealth and attrition. A peaceful period of two years followed the successful conclusion of this campaign which enabled Gurkha units once again to widen their professional horizons and

train for roles other than operating against communist terrorists in the Malayan jungle. One Gurkha Battalion with Gurkha Corps attachments was stationed in the United Kingdom (at Tidworth) in 1962, but was withdrawn to the Far East after the outbreak of the troubles in Borneo.

BORNEO

Gurkha troops (1st Battalion, 2nd KEO Gurkha Rifles) were the first to be used again in an operational role at the outbreak of the Brunei Revolt in December 1962. The battalion was alerted at 5am on 8th December and the first company was air landed in Brunei, 800 miles away, at 9am the following morning. There followed four years on continuous operations against units of the Indonesian Regular Army in Sabah and Sarawak in which every unit of the Brigade of Gurkhas took part.

As they did in the Malayan Emergency, Gurkha units again provided the bulk and the continuity of the British Army's contribution to this campaign. It was in November 1965 that Lance Corporal Rambahadur Limbu of the 2nd Battalion, 10th PMO Gurkha Rifles was awarded the Victoria Cross. When the Borneo



The Gurkha Chautara at the National Memorial Arboretum



In August 1955 the 1st/10th Gurkhas became the first and only battalion in Malaya to kill 300 terrorists. The record of all the Gurkha battalions during the Emergency was exemplary, and they achieved more in terms of CT eliminations than any other force engaged in the long and difficult campaign.

campaign ended in 1966 there was a short lull before the Brigade found itself engaged in internal security tasks in Hong Kong during civil disturbances resulting from China's Cultural Revolution. Since Borneo, the Brigade left Singapore and Malaya in 1971 and Hong Kong in 1997. The Brigade now consists of two Battalions of RGR, one in Brunei and the other in

Folkestone. The three corps each at regimental strength, are The Queen's Gurkha Engineers, Queen's Gurkha Signals and The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment. Two new corps, the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas and the Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support have since been added to the Gurkha Order of Battle.



General Sir Gerald Templer congratulates Major DH Houston MC and A Coy of the 2/6 GR for successfully destroying a terrorist camp; 1954.



Captain Rambahadur Limbu VC

In November 1965 the 2nd Bn 10th Gurkha Rifles was ordered to dominate a position 5000 metres inside the border between Malaysia and Indonesia near the Bau District of Sarawak. They came across the enemy entrenched on top of a sheer-sided hill. Rambahadur Limbu, who was a Lance-Corporal at the time, saw that the nearest trench was manned with a machine-gun. He inched forward until he was about ten metres away, when he was spotted and came under fire which wounded one of his section.

Rambahadur captured the trench and then left it for a better fire position and to report to his Coy Commander. It was then he spotted the two wounded men. He rushed forward and killed the machine-gunner, but was still under fire from other guns which seriously wounded two more of his men. Limbu spent three minutes trying to reach the wounded men while exposed to two enemy machine guns. Meanwhile two bren-gunners from his platoon had moved up nearer and he called on them to give covering fire which they did as he carried a man to safety.

Having done this he ran back up the hill and completely exposed to fire miraculously returned with the other man. He had spent 20 minutes exposed to extreme danger, but continued to fight, using a bren gun to exact revenge by killing four of the enemy. The battle lasted an hour with the result of 24 enemy deaths to three Gurkhas killed and two wounded.

Gurkha Brigade Association Trust

GBA Trust Objectives

- To relieve either generally or individually Gurkhas and the dependents of Gurkhas who are in conditions of need hardship or distress.
- To advance the education of dependents of Gurkhas who are in need and to provide for the training of such dependents and the retraining of Gurkhas upon discharge in a trade or occupation.
- To foster esprit de corps, comradeship and the welfare of Gurkhas and their dependents and to preserve Gurkha history and tradition.

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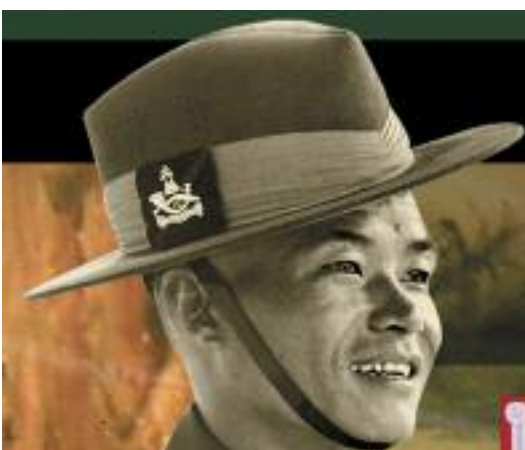
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THE GURKHA MUSEUM

The Gurkha Museum at Winchester tells the moving and unique story of Gurkha service to the British Crown and its people for over 200 years. Gurkha graves are spread across the face of the earth in nearly every country in which Britain has fought - silent testament to Gurkha loyalty and courage.

At the Gurkha Museum you will find a fitting tribute to the 'bravest of the brave most generous of the generous...' As the Gurkha motto tells

Lance Corporal Rambahadur Limbu VC
2nd Battalion, 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles



2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles)



6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles



7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles



10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles



The Gurkha Engineers



Gurkha Signals



The Gurkha Transport Regiment

Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8TS

Tel: (01962) 842832 Fax: (01962) 877597

Email: info@thegurkhamuseum.co.uk Website: www.thegurkhamuseum.co.uk



2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkhas (The Sirmoor Rifles)

We take great pride in paying tribute
to those members of the Regiment who served
with distinction during the Malayan Emergency,
Brunei and Borneo Confrontation



If you would like to support the 2 GR Trust:

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2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkhas (The Sirmoor Rifles)

The 1st Battalion 2nd Goorkhas arrived in Singapore, and the 2nd Battalion in Ipoh, Perak, from India in March 1948. Many of their men were recruits, and few others had any jungle warfare experience. Time for training was short before the Malayan Emergency began on 17 June, and both battalions started operating against the communist terrorists. For the 1st Battalion there was little respite for ten years until it moved to Hong Kong in 1958. And, except for two years in 1954-55 in Hong Kong, the 2nd Battalion fought until the end of the Emergency on 31 July 1960.

A short peace reigned until 8 December 1962 when the 1st Battalion was rushed from Singapore to Brunei to deal with the rebellion which had broken out that day. Together with the subsequent reinforcements they had quelled the rebellion by 23 December. The war against Indonesia, known as "Borneo Confrontation", began on the next day, 24 December 1962, after which both battalions fought in several areas of Borneo until the war ended on 11 August 1966.

During those three campaigns the 2nd Goorkhas fought numerous bloody actions for which no BATTLE HONOUR has been awarded, yet 12 officers and 96 soldiers of the Regiment died and countless more were wounded. Many Sirmoorees received awards for gallantry and merit.

In Memory of those Officers and Men of the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkhas (The Sirmoor Rifles) who gave their lives in South-East Asian campaigns from 1948 to 1966

Killed in Action or Died of Wounds Received in Action

21133157	Corporal	Bhimbahadur Thapa	2nd Bn	Perak	05 10 1948
21131444	Rifleman	Pare Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	05 10 1948
21133242	Rifleman	Resambahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	05 10 1948
21133564	Rifleman	Keshabir Thapa	2nd Bn	Perak	05 10 1948
21133635	Rifleman	Chandrabahadur Thapa	2nd Bn	Perak	05 10 1948
21133644	Rifleman	Aiman Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	05 10 1948
21143671	Rifleman	Santabahadur Ghale	2nd Bn	Perak	05 10 1948
21144319	Rifleman	Padambahadur Thapa	2nd Bn	Perak	05 10 1948
21144703	Rifleman	Ranbahadur Pun	2nd Bn	Perak	05 10 1948
21144799	Rifleman	Ruksing Thapa	2nd Bn	Perak	05 10 1948
21133283	Corporal	Deobahadur Thapa	2nd Bn	Perak	07 11 1948
21133515	Rifleman	Sarki Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	07 11 1948
388595	Jemadar	Birbahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	23 12 1948
21131256	Corporal	Khuile Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	23 12 1948
21133448	Rifleman	Dhanbahadur Pun	2nd Bn	Perak	23 12 1948
21133473	Rifleman	Indrabahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	23 12 1948
21133496	Rifleman	Bhanbahadur Pun	2nd Bn	Perak	23 12 1948
21133442	Rifleman	Bhimbahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	02 02 1949
21132362	Rifleman	Hari Thapa	1st Bn	Johore	12 09 1949
21131590	Rifleman	Bhaktabahadur Ale	1st Bn	Johore	06 01 1950
21144754	Rifleman	Hastabahadur Pun	1st Bn	Johore	22 01 1950
21145721	Rifleman	Dalbahadur Rana	2nd Bn	Perak?	05 04 1950
21133291	Lance Corporal	Gautambahadur Thapa	2nd Bn	Johore	27 11 1950
408513	Lieutenant (KGO)	Shere Thapa	2nd Bn	Johore	28 11 1950
21132347	Rifleman	Dirgasing Gurung	1st Bn	Johore	12 01 1951
21133039	Sergeant	Bhimbahadur Sahi	2nd Bn	Johore	01 02 1951
21132247	Lance Corporal	Laliparsad Pun	1st Bn	Johore	02 05 1951
21131177	Rifleman	Kamansing Rana	1st Bn	Johore	02 05 1951
21131278	Rifleman	Megbahadur Gurung	1st Bn	Johore	02 05 1951
21131485	Rifleman	Juthe Gurung	1st Bn	Johore	02 05 1951
21132384	Rifleman	Kharkabahadur Pun	1st Bn	Johore	02 05 1951
21134710	Rifleman	Nandabahadur Thapa	1st Bn	Johore	02 05 1951
21134851	Rifleman	Chija Gurung	1st Bn	Johore	28 05 1951
21144965	Rifleman	Tekbahadur Thapa	1st Bn	Johore	28 05 1951

21149945	Rifleman	Chamansing Gurung	2nd Bn	Pahang	12 06 1951
348147	Major	Thomas Anthony Wimbush	1st Bn	Johore	02 07 1951
21131228	Rifleman	Baldhoj Rai	1st Bn	Johore	02 07 1951
21144942	Rifleman	Tekbahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	23 07 1951
21145763	Rifleman	Gamarsing Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	23 07 1951
21131039	Corporal	Partajit Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	25 07 1951
21132165	Lance Corporal	Dalsing Thapa	1st Bn	Johore	30 07 1951
21133449	Rifleman	Kharakbahadur Pun	2nd Bn	Perak.	01 10 1951
21147005	Rifleman	Tejbahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak.	07 11 1951
21144877	Rifleman	Khimbahadur Pun	2nd Bn	Johore?	02 01 1952
391073	Major	William Shaw,	2nd Bn	Negri Sembilan	03 07 1952
21131344	Rifleman	Padambahadur Gurung	1st Bn	Johore	20 08 1952
21144863	Rifleman	Sobhasing Rana	1st Bn	Johore	20 08 1952
21131395	Rifleman	Tilbahadur Rana	1st Bn	Johore	26 08 1952
21133628	Rifleman	Hastabir Thapa	2nd Bn	Selangor	04 03 1953
21131421	Rifleman	Partu Pun	1st Bn	Selangor	03 02 1954
21138394	Rifleman	Birkhabahadur Rana	1st Bn	Selangor	22 04 1954
21133421	Corporal	Mehsar [Maisor] Thapa	2nd Bn	Seremban	11 04 1957
21132367	Corporal	Chandrabahadur Gurung	1st Bn	Johore	28 01 1958
21141162	Lance Corporal	Dalbahadur Gurung	1st Bn	Brunei	09 12 1962
452804	Lieutenant	David Emory Stephens	1st Bn	Brunei	12 12 1962
21153056	Rifleman	Dhanbahadur Gurung	1st Bn	Sarawak	28 09 1963
21153163	Rifleman	Chandrabahadur Gurung	1st Bn	Sarawak	28 09 1963
21141275	Corporal	Krishnabahadur Sahi	2nd Bn	Sarawak	29 08 1964
21150399	Rifleman	Chitrabahadur Chhetri	2nd Bn	Sarawak	29 08 1964
21153183	Rifleman	Sukbahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Sarawak	03 10 1964
21152793	Rifleman	Shyambahadur Thapa	1st Bn	Sarawak	30 01 1965
21151635	Rifleman	Balbahadur Thapa	2nd Bn	Sarawak	18 12 1965

Killed, Missing or Died on Active Service

21132110	Lance Corporal	Lalsing Thapa	1st Bn	Singapore	18 08 1948
21132072	Lance Corporal	Bhagbahadur Rana	1st Bn	Singapore	30 09 1948
21132055	Corporal	Jagbahadur Pun	1st Bn	Singapore	07 10 1948
21144302	Rifleman	Gauraj Pun	2nd Bn	Perak	26 11 1948
21144949	Rifleman	Dhanbahadur Mall	2nd Bn	Perak?	15 12 1948
21133069	Lance Corporal	Lambahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	10 04 1949
21132170	Lance Corporal	Guman [Sing] Gurung	1st Bn	Johore	12 04 1949
402727	Jemadar	Karnabahadur Pun	1st Bn	Johore	10 05 1949
21131088	Sergeant	Jitu Ghale	2nd Bn	Perak	13 05 1949
21133701	Rifleman	Jitbahadur Tamang	2nd Bn	Perak	16 06 1949
21133076	Corporal	Kabiraj Rana	2nd Bn	Singapore	18 06 1949
21133400	Rifleman	Ranbahadur Rana	2nd Bn	Singapore	27 07 1949
21145808	Rifleman	Lale Pun	Trg Wing	Perak	30 07 1949
21132440	Rifleman	Chaman Ale	1st Bn	Johore	11 08 1949
21131526	Rifleman	Bhimbahadur Gharti	2nd Bn	Penang	26 08 1949
21132009	Sergeant	Harakbahadur Thapa	1st Bn	Singapore	05 11 1949
21145801	Rifleman	Balbahadur Pun	2nd Bn	Malaya	02 06 1950
21143831	Corporal	Narbahadur Thapa	2nd Bn	Johore	26 08 1950
21132115	Corporal	Rukbahadur Thapa	1st Bn	Johore	20 05 1951
388465	Captain (GCO)	Bishanbahadur Gurung, IOM, IDSM	1st Bn	Penang	22 12 1951
21132167	Corporal	Lalbahadur Pun	1st Bn	Johore?	10 08 1952
21144001	Rifleman	Rudrabahadur Mall	1st Bn	Johore?	09 01 1953
21133363	Rifleman	Balbir Gurung	2nd Bn	Malacca	23 05 1953
21144159	Rifleman	Gyanbahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Perak	25 05 1953
21144612	Rifleman	Purnabahadur Gurung	1st Bn	Selangor	16 11 1953
21142483	Rifleman	Debilal Thapa	1st Bn	Singapore	08 10 1954
21131353	Rifleman	Tulbahadur Gurung	1st Bn	Singapore	27 07 1955
21131074	Rifleman	Indrabahadur Newar	1st Bn	Selangor	11 08 1955
21137736	Rifleman	Jaharsing Thapa	1st Bn	Selangor	11 08 1955
21139491	Rifleman	Birbahadur Gurung	1st Bn	Selangor	11 08 1955
21142538	Rifleman	Pahalsing Thapa	1st Bn	Selangor	11 08 1955
345107	Major	Donald Andrew Truss	2nd Bn	Selangor	07 06 1956
388466	Major (GCO)	Pahalmansing Gurung, MBE, IDSM	2nd Bn	Selangor	07 06 1956
21131061	Rifleman	Bhimbahadur Rana	1st Bn	Johore	30 06 1956
399107	Captain (QGO)	Sunar Gurung	2nd Bn	Singapore	05 05 1957
21140389	Lance Corporal	Padambahadur Thapa	1st Bn	Brunei	29 01 1963
453383	Captain (QGO)	Rukbahadur Gurung, BEM	1st Bn	Singapore	30 01 1963
426085	Captain (GCO)	Purnabahadur Gurung, IDSM	1st Bn	Sarawak	08 09 1963
21153241	Rifleman	Bhimbahadur Thapa	1st Bn	Sarawak	11 10 1963
21149550	Rifleman	Ujurbahadur Ale	1st Bn	Sarawak	10 02 1964
21153236	Rifleman	Tumbahadur Pun	2nd Bn	Singapore	27 03 1964
21153949	Rifleman	Gopal Gurung	1st Bn	Sabah	18 08 1964
21152914	Rifleman	Krishnabahadur Pun	1st Bn	Brunei	19 11 1964
21148119	Rifleman	Sukbahadur Gurung	2nd Bn	Sarawak	20 09 1965
21156992	Rifleman	Dhankumar Tamang	2nd Bn	Singapore	23 01 1966
21153209	Rifleman	Motiparsad Thapa	ERE	Pahang	29 03 1966

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AMBUSH!

The ambush of 4 Troop A Squadron 4th Hussars, 31st December 1948



The Jungle Boys. David Neil (NMBVA Association Chairman - near right). 4th Queen's Hussars patrol in a terrorist camp in the Kuala Lipis area.

On the 31st December 1948, 4 Troop A Squadron 4th Hussars, was sent on a short patrol from Ipoh, north about 20 miles to Sungei Siput and then on up to check out two other roads. The Lintong road and the Jalong road, both ending in dead ends. These roads were about 8 to 10 miles long and passed through a couple of rubber plantations with small villages (kampongs) along the way. The main aim of these and many other patrols was to show the flag to the locals and also show a military presence.

The convoy consisted of the two G.M.C.'s and a 15 cwt open backed truck. Only 19 men went on patrol that day due to sickness and other duties. There were 7 men in the front G.M.C. commanded by Lt Questier. In the 15 cwt there were 5 men and the last G.M.C. under command of 2 Lt Sutro, consisted of another 7 men. Each vehicle carried a Bren gun, and troopers carried small arms of Sten guns and rifles. Grenades were also carried in each vehicle. The last G.M.C. also carried a 2-inch mortar. This was not used in the ambush because of the close proximity of the bandits.

Lt Questier carried his father's nickel plated .45 revolver, of the First World War vintage. All troops were dressed in "jungle greens" with the

exception of 2 Lt Sutro, who was still in khaki, as has yet to be kitted out in "jungle greens". He had only arrived in Malaya on the 20th December 1948. Each vehicle was also equipped with a 19 wireless set. But the range was very limited on the rod aerial, about 10 miles. So a skywave aerial was usually used on most patrols. This consisted of about 15 yards of copper wire, which could be attached to the top of a tree or a long pole.

Whilst on the Jalong road area, east of Sungei Siput, there was a small track leading off the main road, which went to a Y junction. It was here that fate played a cruel hand that would affect so many lives, not only the next few hours but also over many years to come.

At Y junction, 4 Troop met up with a patrol of the 2nd Gurkha's and it was here a tea break was taken and an exchange of information of the surrounding area took place. It was here that it was decided who should patrol the right fork and who the left fork. The outcome that would eventually cost seven men their lives was that the Gurkha's would patrol the left and 4 Troop the right. The time was about noon when the men of 4 Troop moved off. The convoy approached the 2 1/4 mile stone, which was just before an acute S bend. It snaked its way through the bend, so

that the first G.M.C. with Lt Questier, was at the second bend. The 15cwt was in the middle of the bend and the last G.M.C., 2nd Lt Sutro's vehicle, was approximately 100 yards from the first bend. The vehicle being about 100 yards apart at this time. It was about this position the first shots were fired and the G.M.C. was the target. The radio operator of the last G.M.C. signalled to the remaining vehicles that they were under attack.

The leading G.M.C. with Lt Questier had already cleared the ambush area. The 15cwt had stopped as it had its tyres shot out as well as taking many hits to the troops onboard. This blocked the last G.M.C. and cut down its field of fire. The road had ditches as well as high banks on each side, the banks having a very thick tree line, so giving the bandits plenty of cover to fire from. Bullets were flying in all directions,

Tpr Carter, the last G.M.C.'s Bren gunner, was hit in the back. But was able to return accurate fire. Tpr Hunter, the driver of the last G.M.C. was hit by a burst of machine gun fire in the stomach. Severely wounded he managed to get out of the vehicle and crawl to cover underneath it. Whilst he was doing this, he was hit twice more, once to the right elbow and once to his right ear.

continued on page 56

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The bandits were firing down onto the 15cwt and hitting the five troops on board. The 15cwt was under the command of Cpl Finch, the Troop Corporal. Under normal circumstances it would have been under the command of Sgt David. He was not on patrol as he was seeing the dentist.

The wireless operator, in the 15cwt, L/Cpl Henderson saw the massacre going on around him, seeing the driver hit and the truck stop, he along with Cpl Finch, jumped out to return fire and as they did so a number of grenades landed in the back of the 15cwt and exploded. These along with the murderous small arm fire killed troopers, Lynch, Mitchell and Greyson outright. Trooper Rowan, already wounded, managed to get clear of the vehicle and took cover. As L/Cpl Henderson was getting to cover he saw Cpl Finch run along the road firing. Unfortunately he was hit and fell. While he lay on the road wounded the bandits tried to set fire to him. L/Cpl Henderson was hit twice as he fired from cover, once in the arm and once in the chest.

Here they took stock of the situation...

The first G.M.C. under Lt Questier then started to reverse back down the road and took up a position between the 15cwt and the last G.M.C., so that they could try and assist the 15cwt and its wounded. Unfortunately this cut down the field of fire for the last G.M.C. even more. Lt Questier was right in his decision to do this but it would have been better to have his troopers dismount and attack the bandits from behind thus splitting the bandits fire and so halving the fire being directed at the 15cwt and the last G.M.C.

It was then, witnesses saw the bandits examining the bodies of the wounded troopers and in some cases if they moved or groaned were shot at point blank range. Trooper Carter, the Bren gunner in the last G.M.C. fired on the bandits and was able to kill two and drive the rest away.

2nd Lt Sutro and trooper Carter dismounted, as did trooper Smith, all firing at the bandits, some at a range of less than ten yards. Trooper Smith was firing at the bandits from the cover of a ditch at the side of the road and then under the G.M.C., himself being hit several times by grenade splinters and ricochets from the metal of the vehicle.

The first G.M.C. commanded by Lt Questier and driven by trooper Thompson, which had reversed back to help, dismounted as did the rest of the troopers of the vehicle. They returned fire and as they did so a grenade fell near Lt Questier's feet and exploded. It wounded trooper Thompson but some splinters hit Lt Questier in the head and he fell mortally wounded. At this time trooper Byrde was hit by small arms fire.

This then left 2nd Lt Sutro in charge and it was his decision that probably saved the rest of the troop from certain death. He decided to load the dead and wounded on the two G.M.C.'s and try and get out. This was not going to be as easy as it sounds as nearly all the tyres had been shot out. Something had to be done quickly as the ammunition was running low and the wounded needed treatment urgently.

Trooper Hunter, the driver of the last G.M.C. was barely alive. The stomach wound he had received was so bad that he was dying. As the wounded were being loaded, trooper Carter was

wounded again, this time in the throat, also hit was trooper Johns. Although badly wounded trooper Carter was able to return fire with the Bren gun using a full magazine. This killed the bandit that had wounded him.

The two G.M.C.'s pulled out slowly, still under fire, and headed for Jalong village. Radio contact could not be made to summon help. Those that were able to return fire did so. The 15cwt was left behind because it had no armour protection and was in no fit state to drive. Most of the crew had been killed, the driver trooper Rowan and L/Cpl Henderson had gone into hiding, as they were safer there, especially as both were wounded.

The recovery part later picked them up. The two G.M.C.'s arrived at a small rubber plantation settlement, which was only a small square of grass surrounded on all sides by tin huts. Here they took stock of the situation.

Of the thirteen left, four were dead, only three being unhurt, the rest being wounded. Here they were ready, even in their precarious position, to repel any attacks, should they come. The ammunition being critical and the wounded in dire need of hospital treatment. The radios were useless, there was no one who could operate them correctly, the operators all being wounded or missing. By now anyway the radios were well out of range.

At this point 2nd Lt Sutro and trooper Goodier, who was unhurt, decided to take the least damaged G.M.C. and try and return to Sungei Siput for help. This meant driving back through the ambush point with perhaps the bandits still in position. It was a very courageous decision to make. They set out armed with only a couple of rifles and a sten gun. Leaving the rest of the guns and ammunition to the troopers left behind.

They drove through the ambush point, not daring to stop, and reached the Police Station at Sungei Siput. Here 2nd Lt Sutro telephoned the Regiment and found himself speaking to the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Kidston-Mongomerie. He told 2nd Lt Sutro to stay where he was and another troop would be sent out to help them. This duly arrived, led by Captain Strawson and consisted of ambulances, Police and Army Patrols of every description.

The missing wounded were picked up on the way to collect the rest of the troop in the rubber plantation. The wounded were taken to hospital at Ipoh and most sent on leave for a short period of rest afterwards.

It was found on examination of the ambush site, by a company of 2/2 Gurkhas from Ipoh, that at least upwards of seventy bandits had been in position. The bandits were in trenches with a further support group in reserve. Evidence showed that they had been there at least a couple of days before the ambush. The bandits left six dead behind and a few weapons. It was suggested that many had been wounded but no numbers could be given.

The conclusion was that the ambush had been set up for a company of Gurkhas whose strength would have been over a hundred men. The Gurkhas would have been travelling in three-ton trucks, which would have probably resulted in a massacre, the trucks offering little or no protection against small arms fire.

The troop after the ambush, being under strength, was made up of a draft from other troops in the Regiment. The G.M.C.'s were cleaned up and repaired and had the bullet holes in the bins welded up. Uniforms were repaired and replaced where appropriate.

An interesting postscript to this was that the fact that Lt Col Kidston-Mongomerie drafted a memo to the fact that it was in his opinion that Courts of Enquiry, every time a Regiment obtains casualties in action was a sheer nonsense and a certificate signed by the Commanding Officer is all that is necessary.

I will not go into the awards made for this action that was not the idea of relating the incident in this narrative, needless to say many brave deeds were done that day. Some reward with medals, some not so.

I would like to thank Mr Carter and Mr Sutro for their invaluable help in answering the many questions I asked and their patience and memory in relating the facts as they saw them. Thank you

By John Brenchley (Son of 19034875 Sgt. E.J. BRENCHLEY 4TH Hussars)

The arm and equipment lost by 4 Troop A Squadron on that day amounted to:-

- 1 Bren Gun - .303 M.G. (regd No 29279) Mk 3**
- 3 Bren Gun magazines - .303 M.G. No 1**
- 17 Magazines - Machine Carbine, 32 rounds Mk1**
- 2 Magazines - Rifle No 5 Mk 1**
- 4 Bayonets - No 7 Mk 1**
- 3 Bayonets - Rifle No 5**
- 1 Cases transit - 2 inch Mortar - Mk 1**
- 1 Cover - Trigger mechanism Mk 3**

Many hundreds of rounds of rifle and Sten Gun ammunition.

Dedicated to the seven men that died that day, all proud to wear the cap badge of the 4th Hussars

Lieut. M.G. Questier (357595) 4th Hussars
7899938 W/Cpl Finch J.E 4th Hussars
19048147 Trp. Johns T. 4th Hussars
21033932 Trp. Hunter S.G. 4th Hussars
22200493 Trp. Grayson B. 4th Hussars
19047346 Trp. Lynch B. 4th Hussars
21124570 Trp. Mitchell D.G. 4th Hussars

Wounded that day were:-

283889 2nd Lt. Sutro J.L.
14463414 L/Col. Henderson H.E.
X/21001720 Trp. Byrde T.
21023695 Trp. Spence J.
22204291 Trp. Clifford A.
222023278 Trp. Carter C.
21023278 Trp. Rowan J.
19039549 Trp. Smith H.
21187237 Trp. Thompson C.

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1st BATTALION THE ROYAL ULSTER RIFLES BORNEO 1964 - 65

from Major General Corran Purdon CBE MC CPM



At the end of the six week long Exercise 'Sky-High', with the 1st Pentropic Division of the Australian Army in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales, I and my battalion were told to take a very short Christmas leave in Bulford. We were then to depart on a nine month tour in Borneo.

Initially we staged in Hong Kong, from where my companies went to the Jungle Warfare school at Kota Tingi on the Malayan Peninsula. I myself had trained there during the Malaya Emergency, and now spent three weeks in Brunei, Sabah and Sarawak, learning about the latest tactics and techniques, and the different types of terrain.

Initially we spent three months in Sarawaks third division. This had a coastline of mangrove swamps and palms, intersected with inlets, creeks and great brown, powerful looking rivers, the largest of which, the Rajang, was navigable by steamers up as far as Song. The area was covered in jungle with

scarcely a road or logging track. The main means of travel were by waterways or jungle trails. However, we were blessed with the support of 845 Naval Air Commando Sqn, Royal Navy, a piratical collection of superb helicopter pilots, with a splendid crowd of air mechanics and sailors, commanded by the legendary Lieutenant Commander 'Tank' Sherman. Although there had been Indonesian incursions in the past, regrettably none took place in our time, although we constantly patrolled the jungle and ambushed likely entry routes. Our main threat was from the CCO (Chinese Communist Organisation). These, with information supplied by Special Branch, patrolling and raids, we virtually eliminated and got rid of all 8500 of their confiscated weapons to Singapore.

For the rest of our tour in the 1st Division in Sarawak a more open area, and with a number of incursions. We were fortunate to have a good share of successful engagements, and to inflict considerable casualties on the enemy. We found the Indonesian a tough and brave fighter. We served in 99 Gurkha Brigade throughout the campaign, under our dynamic Brigadier (later Major General) Pat Patterson DSO OBE MC. The other battalions were 2nd/2nd Gurkha Rifles, under Lieutenant Colonel Nicky Neill OBE MC and 1st Royal Green Jackets under Lieutenant Colonel (later General Sir) David House MC.

Our Director of Operations, General Sir Walter Walker GCB KBE DSO, was the finest leader I've ever served, and I've served under the best. To him should be given the credit for winning the 'Undeclared War'. My battalion

had taken to jungle soldiering as if they had been born to it. My riflemen were great favourites of his, and I was and still am, very proud of them.

When I left Borneo, I had the following message from General Walker:

'From D of Ops. On relinquishing command of your white Gurkhas I would like you to know that you and your distinguished battalion have exceeded my expectations and added great renown to your already high reputation. Thank you for everything. Bon voyage and best wishes for the future. I rely on you to spread the gospel in the UK'.



Pictures - The Royal Ulster Rifles in Borneo, Courtesy The Royal Ulster Rifles Association.

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BORNEO CONFRONTATION



7th Gurkhas on Operation 'CLARET'

After the Brunei revolt Indonesia now posed the immediate, obvious threat and Gen Walker believed that President Sukarno would probably 'use more than words' in an attempt to prevent the formation of Malaysia during the summer of 1963.

Notwithstanding that the trouble in Borneo had been put down decisively, there was increasing tension along the Indonesian border even though there were those in Headquarters Far East and Whitehall who considered that Sukarno was merely indulging in sabre-rattling propaganda.

After the failure of the Brunei Revolt, Sukarno had to seek other ways of preventing the state of Malaysia from coming into being. His first object was to separate Sarawak and North Borneo from the proposed Malaysian Federation, using tactics based on the guerilla warfare theories as expounded by his Defence Minister, Gen Abdul Nasution. The battleground of what became known as the Confrontation (Sukarno's 'Confrontasi') comprised Sarawak (47,000 sq miles) and Sabah (29,000 sq miles), both being comparatively undeveloped countries. For administrative reasons Sarawak was divided into five Divisions while Sabah was broken down into four Residencies. In every respect the Borneo territories were ideal for guerilla warfare, with a coastline stretching for over 1,500 miles and a land frontier with Kalimantan being almost 1,000 miles long. Within the country there were few roads so that the numerous rivers often constituted the only means of travel between coast and interior, a factor

which has accounted for the development of settlements on the rivers from the border area back into the hinterland. Along the border, mountains rise rapidly to 3,000ft, culminating in peaks which are about 8,000 ft: tough rugged country which was to test the stamina and endurance of every soldier that operated there.

Within West Sarawak there was also a potentially dangerous fifth column in the shape of the Clandestine Communist Organisation (CCO) whose members were Chinese. Special Branch reports were soon to confirm that the underground movement was far stronger and more widespread than had been thought. Special Branch was to begin more detailed investigations after 12 April 1963. On that day a 30-strong party of Indonesian Border Terrorists (IBTs) crossed into the First Division of Sarawak and attacked the police post at Tebedu. The small detachment was taken completely by surprise and a corporal was killed with two more

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An Auster aircraft and armoured car in close operations

policemen wounded. The raiders then looted the bazaar before withdrawing back across the border. At first the identity of the attackers was not known: indeed, it was assumed that a strong cell of the CCO in Tebedu might have carried out the operation. The Indonesians left behind documents intended to give the impression that the raid had been carried out by TNKU (Tentera Nasional Kalimantan Utara) volunteers as an offshoot of the Brunei Revolt but later evidence showed that the raid had been carried out by 'regulars' operating with the IBTs.

The guerillas during the early stages of the Confrontation consisted for the most part of 'volunteers', led and trained by Sukarno's Army, with the regulars coming from specialised units such as the Marines, Paratroopers and Air Force Paratroopers. These instructors had a difficult task to mould the volunteers into efficient sub units; because they tended to be a mixed bunch from several races, including the native Borneo tribes. The Tebedu raid, in itself a minor affair, was to have far-reaching consequences. Gen Walker reacted quickly and 3 Commando Brigade, which had recently moved back from Sarawak to Malaya, was ordered to return together with other reinforcements. A mobile striking force of one Commando troop and two troops of armoured cars was quickly formed and rushed to Tebedu only to find that the incident was over. No longer could the obvious military threats be disregarded although for three weeks the situation remained quiet, three weeks which gave the Security Forces much needed breathing space. Based on the experiences of the Malayan campaign, State Emergency Committees had already been formed and the one in Sarawak agreed that the police, supported by the Army, should crack down on the CCO and, in particular, ensure that all firearms should be surrendered. As a result of surprise raids carried out by the Security Forces, nearly 8,000 shotguns had been collected by the end of the first week. In addition, because it was realised that domination of the border by the Security Forces must be given top priority, a curfew extending over an area of some five miles was imposed between last light and 0400hrs along the border of the First and

Second Divisions, with defensive 'forts' being established, helicopter landing pads constructed, and patrols deployed at various points, using helicopters from 845 and 846 Squadrons RN, operating from Kuching. While the Director of Operations was basing many of the police and military operations on those used in the Emergency, he was always conscious about the fundamental difference. The Emergency had been an internal insurgency: here in Borneo the threat was both internal and external and the culmination of the two could develop into a situation far more serious than anything the Government had faced during the 12-year fight against the CTs in Malaya.

With more and more evidence to show that several training camps for IBTs had been set up at various points along the border. Gen Walker predicted that Great Britain and Malaysia would be led to the brink of war and that if they did not stand firm, supported by the Commonwealth countries of Australia and New Zealand. Borneo would be conquered by force. On 17 May the IBTs attacked a civilian target, with the specific purpose being to establish their identity as an armed force, capable of crossing the border whenever necessary in support of an internal insurrection. This change in tactics increased the Security Forces' problems dramatically because if attacks were no longer confined to military posts, more troops would be needed. The Indonesians concentrated most of their guerilla camps along the border with First and Second Divisions for obvious reasons: the country there was less rugged and, moreover, only 15 miles lay between the border and the CCO areas of influence. Like Chin Peng, Sukarno and Nasution hoped to set up liberated areas, controlled by guerilla pockets within Sarawak itself. On the political front, an important rebuff to Sukarno occurred when the election held during the early summer showed that the vast majority of citizens in North Borneo had supported the pro-Malaysian candidates. Sukarno had to think again, and he had to act quickly if he was to foil the wishes expressed by the people of North Borneo. Incursions across the border were stepped up, and at the same time young Chinese members of the CCO were invited to

cross into Indonesian Kalimantan to undergo military training, the purpose of which was to prepare them for a guerilla role within their own country. The Indonesian leader also sought to distract his opponents and lull them into complacency by agreeing to attend a summit meeting in August at which the Tunku and President Macapagal of the Philippines - who laid claim to North Borneo (Sabah) - would be present. The tripartite summit meeting held in Manila resolved nothing. It was another of Sukarno's propaganda gestures and forays across the border took place even while the three leaders were at the conference table. The Tunku certainly made every effort to find a peaceful solution and agreed to a mission from the UN making a lightning tour of Sabah and Sarawak to ascertain whether the people wished to join the new state of Malaysia. Indonesian-based guerillas continued to cross the border, using every form of intimidation possible in the few weeks before the UN observers arrived and it was clear that more of the 'volunteers' were being led by regulars because leadership at a lower level had improved noticeably - although the determination required to press home any attack was still lacking. Towards the end of August an abortive attack on Gumbang in the First Division by 60 invaders seemed to indicate that the Indonesians had decided to use larger groups for border raids. On September 16 the state of Malaysia was officially proclaimed. A few hours later a mob of students attacked the British Embassy in Jakarta, a fitting prelude to Sukarno's 'Confrontasi' with Malaysia and Great Britain. The time for talking had passed.

THE COMMAND STRUCTURE

What had been a colonial war was transformed overnight into an action waged in support of a Commonwealth ally: now the supreme military authority was no longer GHQ at Singapore but the Malaysian National Defence Council in Kuala Lumpur. This policy-forming body sat under the chairmanship of the Tunku and was linked to London through the British High Commissioner. The Council's strategic decisions were implemented by another committee on which the chief of Malaysian Armed Forces Staff and Inspector-



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Unfortunately the likely incursion points to be watched were far too many...

Pictured, Royal Marines on patrol



General of Police, Sir Claude Fenner, were important figures. As was Admiral Sir Varyl Begg, the Commander-in-Chief Far East, who was Gen Walker's superior; it was he who relayed the NDC's instructions to the Director of Operations in Borneo. In Borneo itself there were State Security Executive Committees in Sarawak and Sabah with Gen Walker being a member of each, as well as being a member of the Sultan of Brunei's State Advisory Council.

At the time that Malaysia was proclaimed it was estimated that the Indonesian Border Terrorists - the IBTs - numbered some 1,500 and were supported by an unknown number of Indonesian regular soldiers, augmented by local defence irregulars. They were deployed along the whole length of the frontier, their strongest concentrations being opposite the First and Second Divisions, with the tempting target of Kuching less than 25 miles from Kalimantan. During the summer and autumn of 1963, Walker had five infantry battalions as a mobile defence force to meet these threats,

although their mobility was undoubtedly limited by the small number of aircraft available to lift them. The difficulties of surveillance along the border of about 1,000 miles had exercised the mind of the Director of Operations from the very start. He did not have troops to spare for this important task: indeed even if he had more soldiers, it would have been the height of folly to have strung them in penny packets along the border.

An early warning system was vital so that the Army units or sub-units could be moved by helicopter or boat to the danger spot. For this purpose he had been sent a squadron of the 22nd Special Air Service (SAS) and, in its support, the Gurkha Independent Parachute Company. Unlike some senior officers, Gen Walker well understood what the SAS could do and was keen to let them use their skills as a border screen in four-man patrols, each equipped with lightweight wireless transmitters. Unfortunately the likely incursion points to be watched were far too many and the Gurkha Parachute Company was also

used, spread out in small patrols through the interior up to the frontier. Such patrols were self-sufficient, often for weeks, and if they had to remain on station thereafter would be supplied by air with certain extra items being given, all considered valuables in the interior, as gifts to win over and reward the friendship of the local tribes.

The requirement for friendly eyes and ears, watching, listening and reporting on or near every likely incursion route, was a tall order and in consequence an unusual unit was raised by Gen Walker to meet this challenge. In the face of opposition from some senior police officers, Walker obtained permission to raise a new type of auxiliary police, later to be known as the Border Scouts. Kelabits and other Borneo tribesmen joined this band of irregulars and were given a modicum of military training by the SAS and the Gurkha Parachute Company. A remarkable officer from the 7th Gurkha Rifles, John Cross, who was a linguist of the highest order, was selected to command the Border Scouts,

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eventually being responsible for over 1,000 men. Initially there were many problems with the hastily enrolled Border Scouts, especially when officers of the Army and police failed to remember that the role of the Scouts was to watch and report, rather than stand and fight. They were never intended to act as a para-military force and after a set-back in late 1963 - when they failed to give warning of an Indonesian force outside the village of Long Jawi - Gen Walker changed their role.

Thereafter the Scouts concentrated their efforts on Intelligence work, with most of them being based in their villages, wearing civilian clothes and carrying on with their original occupations. Their task was to pass on any reports or rumours of Indonesian activity to the Security Forces. With many of them having friends and relatives who regularly crossed the undefined border into Kalimantan to trade, the information they brought back, often supported and verified by the SAS and other surveillance patrols, meant that the Scouts played a vital part in the anti-incursion strategy. Inevitably a few incursions did get through and the three brigades, designated West, Central and East, were fully extended with their frontages at that time being 623, 267 and 81 miles respectively. West Brigade was to cover First and Second Divisions where the bulk of the IBT were based in their camps just over the border in Kalimantan.

After Malaysia had been proclaimed, the IBTs selected the Third Division of Sarawak for a major incursion even though it offered no obvious targets for the raiders. The terrain was mountainous and intersected with fast-flowing rivers which were often impassable. Apart from the few roads around its capital, Sibul, the only way to circumvent the jungle-covered hills was to travel by boat - which the raiders did. The first raid was an ineffectual one but the second captured Long Jawi after a surprise attack. During the action five of the defenders were killed while seven of the captured Border Scouts were murdered in cold blood. Retribution was to follow when the whole of the 1st/2nd Gurkhas, together with all available Wessex helicopters from 845 Squadron, Fleet Air Arm pursued the enemy remorselessly by patrols, ambushes and 'cut-off' parties landed by helicopter. In desperation the invaders split up and the survivors recrossed the border, only after suffering 33 killed and with many others who fell victim to starvation and disease in the jungle. There were lessons to be learnt from this action, the most vital of which was to lead to a change in the role of the Border Scouts so that they could fulfil their primary task as 'eyes and ears'.

There were even more important repercussions for the Indonesians and especially the one that resulted from their folly in murdering their Border Scout prisoners at Long Jawi. The guerilla commander, Maj Muljono, who had attended the British Jungle Warfare School in Malaya, as well as having fought the Japanese occupation force and the Dutch colonialists in the past, decided to teach the Scouts a lesson in order to discourage others from joining the newly raised organisation. In fact, the cold-blooded murders, coupled with the looting of the village itself, had the opposite effect and from longhouse to longhouse went news of the Indonesians' brutality. Muljono himself did manage to escape into Kalimantan and it is

possible that his disastrous experiences were instrumental in his superiors' decision to leave the Third Division alone thereafter. Originally his raiding party had consisted of about 200 armed Indonesians, supported by about 300 unarmed porters, all of whom had crossed the mountains to penetrate more than 50 miles down the Balui river in long boats before falling upon the unsuspecting outpost at Long Jawi.

The quick reaction by the Gurkhas and their supporting helicopters meant an upsurge in morale among the longhouses in the border areas where the majority of the tribes were intensely loyal to the British. That lesson, too, was not lost on the Indonesians and it proved, without exaggeration that a single battalion with six helicopters was worth more to the Director of Operations than a complete brigade with none. The helicopters provided the speed, mobility and flexibility required by security forces.

Immediately after the founding of Malaysia, Malaysian units moved to join British and Gurkhas in the Borneo campaign. As much needed reinforcements, two battalions of the Royal Malay Regiment came across from the mainland with the 3rd Battalion going to Tawau, and the 5th to the First Division - at the opposite end of the country where they joined the Royal Marines in the defence of Kuching. In December 1963 an Indonesian force consisting of 35 regulars and 138 volunteers did not spare the newcomers: after infiltrating to the west of Tawau into the logging area of Kalibakan, the attackers found a company headquarters and two platoons in barracks without alert sentries, and in a short time, they had killed eight and wounded 19 of the Malay battalion before making their getaway. Once again, such a victory was to be short-lived as the 1/10 Gurkha Rifles was flown in and in close co-operation with the patrol craft, operating under the grand title 'Tawau Assault Group', the Gurkhas hunted down the invaders, using their skill at patrolling and their patience in ambushes until about a month later it was over: all but six of the Indonesians had been killed, captured or had surrendered. At the end of 1963, the Director of Operations Gen Walker, wrote: 'A year which began with the end of a revolution and ended with the beginning of an undeclared war'. It was certainly drifting towards such a situation.

OFFENSIVE AND COUNTER-OFFENSIVE

Following Tawau the battle of words increased with the Indonesians making attempts to shrug off direct responsibility, even insisting that the Korps Kommando Operasi (KKO) Marines who had taken part were idealists who had resigned in order to join the volunteers. Sukarno's claim that this was an 'anti-imperialist crusade' changed into a war between Asians, with world opinion veering towards support for Malaysia's cause. While Sukarno was preparing a new political offensive, border incursions continued and in January 1964 a fighting patrol of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment, after following a trail which it estimated had been made by about 80 men, stormed a camp with a subaltern at the head of 10 men only. The Indonesians fled, leaving seven dead behind them as well as many weapons and much ammunition,

equipment and documents. In fact, the Leicester's patrol attacked the raiders' camp some hours after reports had reached Gen Walker's headquarters that, again, Sukarno was ready to agree to a cease-fire.

U Thant, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, had appealed to both the Governments of Indonesia and Malaysia to meet for peace talks rather than continue shooting at one another. His efforts led to an official cease-fire being announced on 23 January, one that was to take effect two days later. Unfortunately, this did not stop the IBTs from making incursions across the border, nor did it influence the CCO into abandoning its training and anti-Government propaganda.

Although Gen Walker suspected that it was a trick, on orders from the NDC in Kuala Lumpur he was told to prevent further infiltration from Kalimantan but to allow insurgents already inside Borneo to return peacefully; operations that had already been mounted were to attempt to capture rather than kill the Indonesians. It was one thing to issue such instructions, another for the Security Forces to carry them out; challenging any suspicious intruder before shooting meant that the situation became farcical and was open to ridicule especially when the Indonesian Government made it clear that the 'volunteer' terrorists, sponsored by them, were not bound by any rules whatever. Ministerial delegations from Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia met in Bangkok during February but these sessions consisted of much bombastic posturing which served only to harden attitudes on both sides. It was at such a time that Indonesian Mustang fighters and B-25 Mitchell bombers began to 'buzz' towns in Sarawak and the situation became even more impossible especially when a group of insurgents, which had penetrated the First Division, was told by the TNI to stay put and await developments. On the Indonesian Government being asked when these invaders were to be withdrawn, its reply was that these men, and any other incursion parties, would stay, and, adding arrogance to intransigence, Sukarno demanded the right to resupply all those troops by air. Not unnaturally, Malaysia's reply was a firm 'no' and for the first time an Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) was set up supported by Royal Air Force fighters: nothing more was heard about any projected Indonesian airdrops over Sarawak thereafter.

On 4 March full-scale operations were resumed when for the last time Indonesia firmly refused to withdraw its insurgents. Undoubtedly Gen Walker's undeclared war was now on and Indonesia set about proving it with a series of raids into the First and Second Divisions by strong forces of well-trained regular troops. By this time the planning and execution of such incursions was far more professional; Indonesian soldiers often fought with skill and tenacity and for the Security Forces the campaign became less like fighting the terrorists in Malaya and more like the jungle war that took place against the Japanese in Burma. Gradually it became clear to British Intelligence that overall direction of operations had been taken over by the TNI, with complete units being deployed as such rather than being split up into groups or as individuals leading half-trained gangs of volunteers. From spring 1964 Sukarno put his insurgency strategy into top gear in the

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Life was never easy for border platoons and conditions made it essential for men to be changed over every three weeks...

Pictured, A GPMG position manned by 40 Commando RM in Tebedu



knowledge that his opponents were forced to keep a wary eye on the potential fifth column in their rear, the CCO, as well as attempting to guard against possible incursions from across the long border.

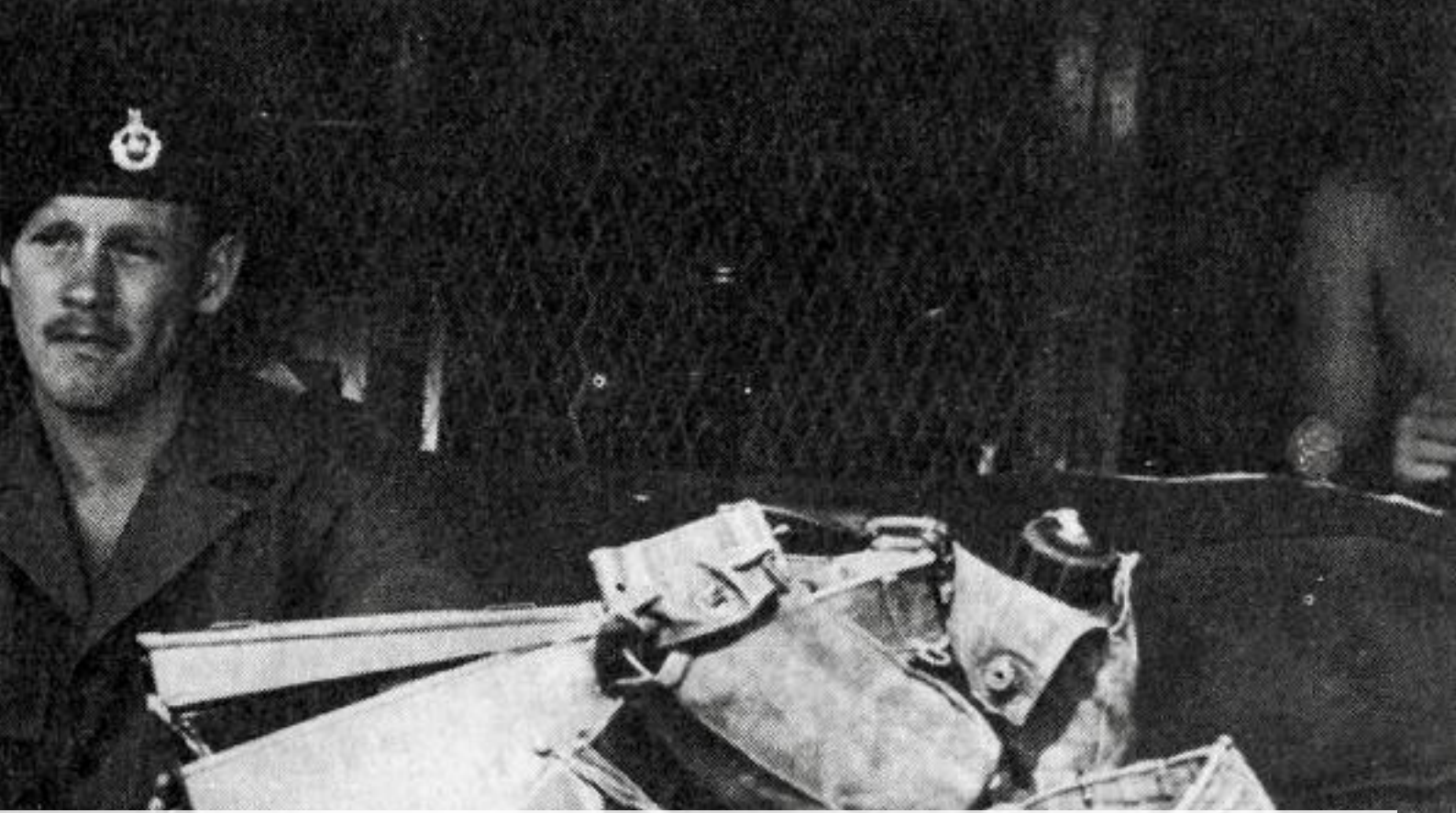
During this trying period, the Director of Operations had to rely on his thinly-spread surveillance screen giving early warning, and there-after, by using his air transport to its maximum deploying troops in an attempt to stop and harass the Indonesian invaders. In June 1964, after military pressures had built up and the scale of fighting escalated, once more Sukarno deemed it an opportune moment to go back to the conference table in the hope that his threatened incursions would induce the Malaysians, in particular, to give in. The Presidents of Indonesia and the Philippines met the Malaysian Prime Minister in Tokyo to resume the talks that had been broken off earlier that year. While this was happening, Sukarno asked for a Thai mission to visit Sarawak in order to witness the apparent withdrawal of his forces from Sarawak back to Kalimantan. It was a carefully rehearsed operation with smart, well-equipped soldiers being filmed and photographed marching out of Sarawak; in fact, they had crossed over a little way along the border earlier that day. On 20 June the Tokyo negotiations broke down and it was back to the war. By now the Commonwealth land forces in Borneo had received reinforcements, and as a consequence, a full divisional organisation was set up under a Land Forces Commander. The three subordinate Service commanders moved out of Brunei to the island of Labuan, leaving Gen Walker with a small staff free to concentrate on the conduct of operations. By this time each of the eight Gurkha battalions was serving a series of six-month tours in the Borneo territories. The Gurkha infantrymen had been quick to learn how to dominate the jungle and thus to own their particular part of the frontier. The ambush became the key operation both for the guerillas and the

Security Forces. An ambush required all the tricks of the Gurkha's trade: an eye for country, camouflage, silence, fire control, guile and, above all, self-discipline. There could be little chance of ambushing the Indonesians if a Gurkha soldier smoked, chewed gum, washed his hands in scented soap, Brylcreemed his hair or whispered or coughed at the wrong moment. In ambush, the Gurkha lay in wait for the dangerous Indonesian raider whose own sense of smell and keen eyesight was remarkable. In the jungle operations the Gurkhas bore the brunt at this stage of the Confrontation because it was to take some time for the British battalions to acclimatise to the terrain and the hot humid climate. Moreover, after serving so long in Europe, they had forgotten how to fight, move or even live in the jungle, which meant that even after attending crash courses at the Jungle Warfare School in Malaya the majority of the British infantrymen did not reach the necessary peak of efficiency until the unit concerned came for its second tour in Borneo. Obviously, there were exceptions, and some notable ones at that - the SAS and 40 Commando, in particular - but few British units had any veterans from the Malayan Emergency, unlike their Gurkha counterparts. The threat to the First Division of Sarawak, in particular, had become a very real one with Kuching being only 25 miles from the international border. As a consequence, along that stretch of the border strongly defended patrol bases were set up at approximately six-mile intervals. These varied in size and shape and eventually became not unlike Beau Geste forts, with sandbag emplacements, overhead cover, protected sleeping accommodation, as well as an ingenious and deadly array of electrically detonated explosives in various positions outside the perimeter of the base.

In time some of these platoon patrol bases were replaced by company 'forts' until the whole frontier began to assume a more war-like appearance. Companies operated from these liases and little or no attempt was made

to conceal them - even if it had proved possible to do so. Contravening the fundamental artillery concept of concentrating guns, the Director of Operations now dispersed them so that one battery might be spread along nearly 100 miles of frontier. Single 105mm howitzers were slung under helicopters and flown to the forts, and as far as was possible each gun's arc interlocked with that of another in the neighbouring company base. The Belvedere helicopters of No 61 Squadron, known as the 'Flying Longhouses', added a new dimension to the fire plan. Not surprisingly, the Indonesians reported that there appeared to be guns in every forward base, an example of the tactical flexibility afforded by air power. In addition to the artillery, most of the forts owned their own medium machine guns and 81mm mortars so that each company commander had under his control a formidable array of defensive weaponry, as well as having the capability to reach out into the jungle and support any of his patrols that reported contacts with the enemy.

Life was never easy for the border platoons and conditions made it essential for the men to be changed over every three weeks. Surveillance tasks near, and on occasions astride, the border exacted a mental toll and were a physical strain on the men who carried out these duties. In most cases patrols moved out before dawn in section plus strength, a total of about 12 men, to set up temporary bases in the jungle near the border. From here two groups of four men operated separately, each leaving behind a signaller guarded by one companion armed with an LMG. Surveillance groups, normally consisted three British or Gurkha soldiers, accompanied by a Border Scout, engaged small parties of enemy if they were seen, or if a large group of Indonesians approached, then two of the soldiers shadowed it while the other two collected the remaining members of the section as well as passing on the information to the permanent platoon or company base by



wireless. It can be seen from this outline why these border patrols needed a minimum of 12 men to carry out their role of 'watch and warn'.

The Indonesians continued to hold the initiative as 1964 slowly passed, secure in the knowledge that they could attack from safe bases in Kalimantan. They knew that the bases were safe as there had been no official declaration of war. Thus with one arm tied behind his back, the Director of Operations had little chance of forcing the Indonesians to go on the defensive so that if Sukarno had continued to keep up the pressure against East Malaysia alone it is likely that the outcome in Borneo would have been as he expected, a defeat for Malaysia and its allies. It was to be an error of judgement which would make Sukarno pay dearly.

THE COMMONWEALTH GOES ON THE OFFENSIVE

In the early hours of 17 August more than 100 raiders - three-quarters of them Indonesian Marines and parachute troops and the remainder of them Chinese Communists - crossed the Straits of Malacca by boat to land on the coast of Southwest Johore. It was evident that the intruders had been told to expect a rapturous welcome from the 'oppressed' citizens of Malaya and had left their boats at Pontian Kechil anticipating little fighting. They were soon to be disillusioned when they were rounded up in a quick and remarkably efficient manner.

A fortnight later came another attack against the mainland, this time when nearly 200 parachute troops emplaned in four transport aircraft at Jakarta with their original plan being to drop near Labis, about 100 miles north of Singapore: this area had been selected because during the Emergency it had been strongly pro-Communist as well as being astride the railway line which ran to Central Malaya. The operation began badly because only three aircraft managed to take off, then one of the three, while trying to make a low

level run to avoid defending radar, crashed into the sea. Ill fortune continued to dog the raiders because the two remaining aircraft flew into a severe electric storm over Labis and scattered their unfortunate parachutists around some five miles of country. After such a beginning, even the most optimistic of the paratroopers must have had little or no confidence in anything - including fate.

Purely by chance, the battalion that had broken up the invaders around Kalabakan and Tawau in East Malaysia some nine months before, the 1/10th Gurkha Rifles, happened to the back in the mainland, resting and retraining before moving back across the water to Borneo. Of equal significance, half of 845 Squadron, Fleet Air Arm flew up from HMS Bulwark to enable the Gurkhas to begin the gigantic man-hunt with maximum speed. After a disillusioned TNI officer, Lt Sukitno, surrendered, a million copies of his statement were dropped over Indonesian territory from Hastings and Argosy aircraft, warning his fellow countrymen that Malaysia would not greet them as 'liberators'.

As if to emphasise that this was a Commonwealth operation, the 1st Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment also arrived to join in the operation, and within a month the raiders were virtually wiped out. The paratroop experiment was not to be repeated but other small parties were to follow, slipping into Malaya by sea while a few agents did manage to land on Singapore Island. All these posed little more than a nuisance threat and failed to achieve anything of note. Thoroughly alarmed at Sukarno's latest actions the Malaysian Government in Kuala Lumpur was now prepared to support the Director of Operation's request that cross-border operations should be approved up to a depth of 5,000 yds inside Kalimantan: faced with this request from its Commonwealth ally, the British Government gave its approval, stressing that there was to be no public announcement and that the operations were

to be carried out under conditions of maximum secrecy. In fact the SAS had been crossing the border for several months, because it was and is part of its role to probe deeper into enemy territory than the conventional forces, reconnoitring and disrupting potentially dangerous enemy dispositions. This it had done in its normal clandestine manner: its four-man patrols had searched for tracks of raiding parties and watched rivers which were the main highways on both sides of the rugged and, in many places, undefined border.

Now, in addition to their watching and reporting role, the SAS patrols were given permission to begin interdiction such as ambushing tracks and rivers and setting booby traps where it was known that only Indonesian raiders would pass. On occasions, their ambushes were sophisticated affairs using the electrically-detonated Claymore mines at both ends of prepared ambush positions while in the middle the troopers raked the killing ground with automatic fire. Such activities suited the SAS well, and with typical wry humour they called such groups 'The Tiptoe Boys', because after a sudden sharp little action by the ambush parties, they vanished into an apparently empty jungle.

A few weeks later it was decided that infantry attacks could be launched in order to pre-empt any suspected or anticipated Indonesian attack. These operations were given the codename of 'Claret' and all were graded 'top secret', to be handled with the greatest of care by the minimum number of officers, on a 'need to know' basis. 'Claret' operations were to change the fortunes of war for both the Indonesians and their Commonwealth opponents and the pattern of operations from this period onwards began to reflect such a major change in British and Commonwealth policy. No longer could the Indonesians feel secure in the border bases and camps even if they were within Kalimantan territory nor would the Security Forces ever feel as frustrated as they had been earlier in the campaign.

Initially, these raids were confined to a penetration depth of 5,000 yds but eventually this was increased, for a few specific raids, to as much as 20,000 yds. There were a set of definite, clear and detailed orders governing 'Claret' operations which came to be known as the 'Golden Rules'. In time these were amended as the situation changed. The control and power of veto remained with the Director of Operations: by holding the reins tightly in his hands. Gen Walter Walker and his successor, Maj Gen George Lea, were able to diminish the possibility of escalation. Minimum force was to be the principle used, rather than large scale attacks which would have invited retaliation and risked turning the border war into something quite different, costly in lives and fraught with international problems.

An American general commented that only the British could have conceived 'Claret' operations and devised the masterly 'Golden Rules' that governed them: later he was generous enough to add that only well-disciplined troops such as the SAS and Gurkhas, under their experienced, capable leaders, could have won the successes that were obtained. Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of these 'Claret' operations was the security and secrecy that was maintained at all levels. It is doubtful whether the Indonesians realised that they were seeing the beginnings of a new Commonwealth strategy. This was partly because the new series of actions took place so near to the border which was, in any case, badly defined, and partly because their communications and administration within Kalimantan could not cope with the flow of reports and assess them quickly and accurately - as was happening in Gen Walker's headquarters.

While the Kalimantan border bases were being harassed, initially by Gurkhas, and then by British and other Commonwealth troops, the world at large still thought that the Indonesians were on the offensive. The 'Claret' early raids achieved limited success only, but all the minor defeats of the Indonesians added up. If two or three Indonesians soldiers were killed after an ambush, the reverse might have local significance only, although in the long term it often led to a withdrawal deeper into Kalimantan territory.

Significantly, Sukarno did not admit any of these setbacks, being prepared to accept them in silence - provided that the blows rained on his forces in Kalimantan were kept under strict control. The Commonwealth knew well that a full-blooded assault, made by a large force, could not have been borne in silence and would have led to a formal complaint to the United Nations about the violation of the Indonesian border by Great Britain and the Commonwealth. Conversely, it was not in the nature of Sukarno to admit reverses to his own people especially after he had promised to crush Malaysia by 1 January.

In 1965, his silence assured, provided any major escalation of the conflict was avoided. The cross-border operations exacted a great mental and physical toll on the troops concerned and more especially on their immediate commanders. The officers concerned with the planning had to ensure that once the troops crossed into Kalimantan



A 105mm howitzer in action at Padawan

as far as possible they were within the supporting limits of artillery, from guns located just over the friendly side of the border, guns that were often flown by helicopter to a pre-planned LZ for the duration of the 'Claret' operation. Perhaps the main concern of all officers engaged in these operations was the problem of getting their own casualties back to Sarawak or Sabah - without using helicopters. This meant they were faced with a tremendous task of man-handling wounded men through thick jungle, up mountain slopes, and across fast-flowing rivers.

Obviously for the badly wounded soldier, carried on a stretcher over such hostile terrain, the chances of survival were greatly reduced. The day of the volunteer was passing and he was being replaced by a tough, professional dedicated enemy. Fortunately for the British and Commonwealth Forces, the TNI lacked efficient communications, relied on primitive administrative support and was hampered by long and tenuous supply lines. The need for reinforcements was urgent, and not only in infantry. For example, more Royal and Gurkha Engineer squadrons were needed for a multitude of tasks - to build airstrips, roads and bridges, and to complete projects that would help to win over the local people, such as the construction of schools, medical centres and improving the supply of water to the villages.

To help the infantry units there were other Malaysian battalions available but there could be no question of using the Royal Malay Regiment for cross-border operations even though it was keen to be allowed to take the offensive. As a result of these reinforcements, by January 1965 the British and Commonwealth forces in Borneo totalled some 14,000 soldiers supported by artillery and two squadrons of armoured cars and four field squadrons of Engineers, with less than 60 troop-carrying helicopters to help the Director of Operations deploy and switch his troops over an area the size of England and Scotland together. Gen Walker was convinced

that the only way he could throw the Indonesians off balance was to increase the number of preventive, cross-border operations, and the Labour Government in London showed its trust in him by allowing 'Claret' raids to increase until the depth of penetration reached first 10,000 and then 20,000 yds. In addition, the Royal Marine Special Boat Sections were authorised to make small-scale amphibious raids round either flank on the coast. While these raids were planned and then launched, the defences along the border were being improved. Basically in most battalion areas there were three lines of defence; a border zone, a middle one and a depth zone so that blows could be struck at any intruding force, even if it managed to penetrate the forward defences or evade detection by the companies in their bases near the border.

With the capital of Sarawak, Kuching but five fighting days from the border, defence in depth was vital if the enemy was to be counter-attacked, and then pursued back into Kalimantan. In all three zones the artillery and mortars had an important part to play: in many places guns and mortars were sited singly so that some form of fire support was readily available, 'on call', to support patrols and for the close defence of the permanent bases - or as mentioned before, to be lifted by helicopter to another location for a specific operation.

In early 1966 the Confrontation in the military sense had been won by British and Commonwealth forces operating along and over the border. That victory had been achieved against numerically superior forces was due in no small way to the 'Claret' operations. The TNI and volunteers had lost the initiative, and once they were forced to abandon their forward camps and bases then defeat was inevitable. The cross-border operations mounted under the stringent 'Golden Rules' proved to be the turning point. In a media-conscious world, that in itself made the Borneo Confrontation unique. ●

Courtesy The Estate of Brigadier ED Smith.

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION



1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders

Malayan Emergency April 1951 - March 1954

Borneo Confrontation January 1965 - February 1966

**The Association takes pride in paying tribute
those members of the Battalion who served
with distinction during the Emergency
and Confrontation**



THE JUNGLE EXPERIENCE

This is not an operating theatre for the weak-hearted as British troops in Borneo and Malaysia experienced.

It is not a benign environment because the jungle is out to get you. The biggest dangers in the jungle include heat exhaustion, flash floods and deadfall – dead branches, trees and other material which can fall out of the jungle canopy tens of metres above and crash onto an unsuspecting trooper below.

There are also the numerous insects and animals as well as the plants themselves which can pierce, scrape, or ooze poisonous sap. A deluge of rain will regularly pour from the sky creating torrents and rapids in a matter of minutes, whilst the break from the heat climbing steep hills is welcome it makes

the surfaces dangerously slippery. It strips the infantry soldier to the bare minimum. It is the purest form of infantry soldiering because there are few added extras – aside from helicopter insertions and air drops there is no support, there are no vehicles and electronic systems have limited use.

Radios can only be used sparingly as the batteries will run out, rifles sights and optics get steamed up, thermal sights are blocked by the jungle and night vision is not much better.

Across this terrain soldiers have to carry everything, rations for your deployment, water, hammocks to sleep in, dry clothes, cooking materials, radios, batteries, ammunition, rifle, medical kit, and more so self-sufficiency is vital.

Navigation is the biggest challenge, map reading is difficult and is based on following ridgelines and contours and pacing distances on grid and magnetic bearings. In the jungle sight is restricted to a matter of 10-20m into the undergrowth at best therefore detecting enemy activity and engaging in contacts is extremely difficult.

Because vision in daytime is so restricted, there is no movement at night because the risk of getting lost is even higher and with sound travelling further it is harder to move undetected.

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The Tunnels stand as a permanent and poignant reminder of the German Occupation of Jersey. During World War II these tunnels bore witness to the particular cruelty of the Nazi regime.

Ending the war as an underground hospital that was never used, it is now home to a series of thought-provoking galleries, dioramas and interactive exhibitions. The experience allows visitors to understand the real impact of the Occupation on Jersey and its people.

During the War more than 5,000 Organisation Todt labourers from all over Europe and North Africa were brought to Jersey. The Tunnels were built by a mixture of workers including Russians (mainly Ukrainians) and Polish, French and Spanish Republicans. The treatment of all of these men was harsh but none suffered more than the Russians.

One of the latest exhibitions to be housed in the tunnels depicts the story of those who suffered under the OT. Titled 'The OT Gallery', it reveals a photorealistic interpretation of OT stories, which have been animated into an engaging sequence of events. The exhibition has been created using high-level, digital production methods that bring Jersey War Tunnels on a par with some of the best museums and attractions in the world.

Jersey War Tunnels - its history, pathos and horror - has always drawn visitors, many with interest fuelled by the myths and atmosphere of the place. They come to remember, reflect or simply to look. As time passes the generation who lived through the Occupation diminishes and there is a need to capture and preserve the memories that illuminate the tunnels so that this chapter of Jersey's history is not forgotten.

To find out more about Jersey War Tunnels visit:

www.jerseywartunnels.com.



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War Widows' Association of Great Britain

The War Widows' Association of Great Britain is recognised as the United Kingdom's leading representative organisation for widows of Armed Forces Personnel where death is attributable to their service.

In the 70 years since the end of World War II some 7,145 UK Armed Forces Personnel have died as a result of Operations in medal earning theatres with only one year; 1968; when no British serviceman was killed in action. Currently there are estimated to be in excess of 20,000 War Widows in the UK.

The War Widows' Association is essentially a campaigning group that exists to improve the conditions of War Widows throughout the United Kingdom. Formed in 1971, its original aim was to fight for the removal of the tax burden from the War Widows' Pension. An article in a Sunday newspaper in 1971 highlighted the plight of Britain's "forgotten women". Laura Connelly, who returned to live in the UK from Australia, where the War Widows' Pension was tax free; she refused to pay tax and found herself in dispute with the Inland Revenue. Fourteen ladies supported her stand and formed the Association which has gone from strength to strength since then.

The Association became a registered charity in 1991 and today in 2016 45 years later continues to remain faithful to its Campaigning foundations. However, change is inevitable and the Association has expanded and now has three supporting pillars; Campaigning, Caring and Remembering. The Association is unique in that it is managed totally by volunteers, it does not have any paid staff or any permanent offices and is very grateful to the

Royal British Legion for providing it with a mail room facility. Day To day management of the Association is carried out by a Committee of Trustees; many also have 'day jobs'. The Association's membership covers the length and breadth of the United Kingdom. To ensure members can regularly access fun, friendship and information the Trustees are supported by a network of Regional Organisers (RO's) who help organise local events.

During the year the Association engages in many events and activities; a few examples are the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and associated events held over 4 days usually late March or early April; in 2016 members attending the AGM enjoyed activities such as a street party to celebrate Her Majesty's the Queen's 90th Birthday and the Association's 45th year. They visited St Fagans just outside Cardiff and enjoyed many of the delights in the city.

Members are looking forward to 2017 when the Association will invade Manchester where members will be treated to a few new surprises. We also have our Liverpool service which is known as our Founders Service, Armed Forces Day where I am sure you will come across a War Widow or three who will only be too happy to talk to you; and of course Remembrance when the Association holds its personal service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in London on the Saturday

immediately before the Sunday National Service in November. Our founders decided that they would like to lay a tribute made of flowers to fallen loved ones and chose white Chrysanthemums, as they were plentiful in November and the herb Rosemary as it signifies remembrance. The shape was chosen to reflect the wooden cross which traditionally marked the place where a soldier had fallen on the battlefield.

It is only in recent years that our Remembrance Service has become recognised as part of the weekend events; in the early days the ladies had to dodge the traffic to lay their wreath, however today thanks to the Metropolitan Police the Service is conducted unimpeded by traffic.

Having successfully campaigned over the years; the Association's most recent victory was to ensure that all War Widows in receipt of their War Widows' Pension on 1st April 2015 would retain this for life irrespective of their marital status. However, there is still much to be done to ensure that the 'forgotten women' are not forgotten. The War Widows' Association remains as relevant today as it was when it was formed and if you are a War Widow or you know a War Widow you are very welcome to join us and help us to help other War Widows in the UK.

If you are not a War Widow but believe in what the Association does you can join us as an associate member, I am sure we can use your expertise and support.

For more information please email info@warwidows.org.uk quoting **NMVBA/June/16**.



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by Jacqueline Hurley

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TEMPLER TIGER OF MALAYA



Field Marshal Sir Gerald Walter Robert Templer KG, GCB, GCMG, KBE, DSO

Field Marshal Gerald Templer was one of the most successful British military commanders of the twentieth century. Most soldiers spend their careers awaiting the call to arms, but Templer was an exception. He joined the army in the middle of the Great War, fought to put down colonial rebellions in the inter-war years, saw the Second World War out from start to finish and then went on to fight and defeat the communist insurgency in Malaya in the twilight of the British Empire. He could with justification claim to be one of Britain's most successful generals; his Malayan campaign is a model for counter-insurgency operations.

At the Rideau Hall conference in Ottawa in January 1952, discussing the weakness of Commonwealth defences, Winston Churchill looked down the dinner table. 'Templer,' the great man growled through the cigar smoke, waving a brandy glass. 'Malaya!' he bellowed. 'Full powers, now, Templer. Full powers,' he added. About ten minutes later, after a whispered confab with his startled advisers, Churchill broke through the conversation again. 'Full power, Gerald Templer. Very heady stuff. Make sure you use it sparingly.' Thus was Sir Gerald Templer appointed governor-general of strife-torn Malaya, with greater military and political powers than any British soldier since Cromwell.

'Full Powers, now, Templer. Full Powers'

A high commissioner at war Gerald Templer arrived in Malaya in February 1952, by which time it looked as if he might be too late. The post-war communist uprising against British rule was succeeding. Over 250,000 soldiers and policemen were combing the jungle fruitlessly trying to locate and destroy a few thousand terrorists led by Chin Peng. Ironically it was the British who had armed

and trained the guerrillas in the first place and used them in their undercover war against the occupying Japanese; they had even given Chin Peng an OBE. Now the 'CTs' ('Communist Terrorists') had turned on their colonial masters. Templer's orders from Churchill were clear: smash the communists and turn Malaya into a single, self-governing, democratic state.

The political challenge would take time but Gerald Templer quickly saw that the real problem was a lack of coordination at every level. The army and the police did not work together; the colonial planters and civil service acted as if the insurgency was the military's problem; and there was deep suspicion between the Chinese and the Malay populations. Morale was low. With characteristic energy Templer decided to shake up the situation from the start. He travelled by armoured car or helicopter and suddenly the spare figure of the sharp-eyed boss was everywhere. Suddenly he, and not the CTs, was driving events. The sleepy civil service was shaken to its core. On one occasion the new governor-general asked a startled civil servant what he did, to be told, 'Nuclear emergency planning, sir.' Templer considered this and said, 'What's the likelihood of a

nuclear strike on Malaya?' The bureaucrat laughed, 'Zero, I would say.' 'Good,' rasped Templer. 'I agree. You're fired.'

The whiplash of Templer's tongue and his eagle-eye settled on the slack, the inefficient and the lazy. Even colonial rubber-plantation managers in the middle of the jungle suddenly realized that they were part of the war. Gerald Templer listened to one planter moaning about inadequate army and police protection. 'Do you ever go down and talk to the troops or the police?' he demanded. 'Of course not, it's not my job,' replied the planter. Templer exploded. 'Well, it's true we've got some bloody bad soldiers and bad police in Malaya, but we've got some bloody bad planters as well – and you're the worst of the lot! Now get the hell out of here!'

FIGHTING AN INSURGENCY

Thirty-five years experience of soldiering had taught Gerald Templer some invaluable professional lessons, all of which came to the fore in Malaya. First and foremost was his understanding that without a clear political goal, there can be no military victory. Second, once he had a clear aim, he stuck to it tenaciously; he even re-read his own list of goals every morning while he shaved. Third, he believed passionately in the unity of command. Others might consider his methods high-handed, but no-one was ever in doubt as to who was in charge and what they were trying to achieve. Reluctant policemen, civil servants and soldiers were all forced to work together from joint command centres and share their information, whether they liked it or not.

Above all, Gerald Templer believed in the importance of intelligence. Not for nothing had he chased elusive guerrillas in the Judean

continued on page 80

THE GRENADIER GUARDS



Honi Soit Mal Y Pense

We take pride in commemorating this 50th Anniversary and pay tribute to the members of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards who served with great distinction during the Malayan Emergency



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hills and gone on to head up branches of military intelligence and SOE. 'Better a well-targeted ambush than endless jungle-bashing,' was his motto. Templer placed military intelligence officers in every static police headquarters and fused military and Special Branch intelligence into a single asset to be used to identify, track and attack the 'Communist Terrorists' (CTs) in their safe retreats. This policy allowed the army to concentrate on offensive tasks, leaving the police and local defence forces as area defence. The result was that gradually the hunters became the hunted. By the time Templer was through, every CT in Malaya was looking over his shoulder, wherever he was hiding.

This blend of politics, good intelligence and taking well-targeted operations to the enemy was highly successful. However, the key to that victory lay not just in the fighting in the jungle and the villages: Templer's real victory was that he managed to win the hearts and minds of the indigenous people. The CTs withered away, either surrendering in droves or retreating into the jungle to flee across the border.

Nevertheless, although Gerald Templer is rightly credited with turning the campaign round, this kind of war will always be a slow business. It would take another seven years before Malaya could be declared free from communist insurgents and final victory declared.

When Gerald Templer left Malaya, the road to the airport was lined with cheering crowds of Malays and Chinese in a spontaneous demonstration of gratitude for the only commander to have crushed a full-blown communist-inspired insurgency. Templer's victory, and his methods, have much to teach us still.



General Templer leaving Malaysia, 31 May 1954.

HEARTS AND MINDS

From the outset the British realized that the real battle in Malaya was not for a military objective but for the popular support. Templer said that with two-thirds of the population on his side he could end the emergency in three months. He also saw that the key to winning the people over was to make them understand that the rule of law had to be observed and the government was going to win.

His secretary of defence and right-hand man, Robert Thompson, emphasized the need for government credibility. The whole policy was summed up as, 'winning the hearts and minds of the people'. In this Gerald Templer was helped by two important advantages: a well-thought-out plan and a political ace card.

The four-point plan laid the foundations for victory: to dominate the populated areas to give a feeling of security and government control; to isolate and disrupt the communist

organization within those populated areas; to cut the bandits off from their food supplies; and finally to destroy the bandits by forcing them to attack the security forces on their own ground. Gerald Templer inherited this plan from the previous director of operations, but he made it work spectacularly successfully.

The key to this strategy was the 'new village programme', where nearly half a million Chinese squatters were moved out of the jungle and rehoused in new government-built protected villages. These were secured by a police force expanded to five times its 1948 level and included large areas for private cultivation. The Chinese settlers were then encouraged to become land-owners and offered citizenship. This was a masterstroke, as it effectively 'drained the sea in which the guerrillas swam' while holding out the hope of a brighter future by incorporating the Chinese into Malayan society and giving them a stake in its success.

Not everyone agreed with this forced resettlement. After one ambush in which twelve British soldiers were killed, Gerald Templer personally swooped on the village and demanded the names of those responsible. On receiving no answer, he locked down the village, restricted its food supplies and told the elders that the restrictions would stay until they gave up those responsible. These tough measures were greeted with a chorus of outrage from newspapers in Britain.

Nevertheless, Templer's grim measures worked. Gradually the locals realized that it was safer to be on Templer's side – and uncomfortable if they were not.



General Templer with the Rulers and Mentri Besars. The Rulers, seated, from left to right: Perak, Kelantan, Kedah, Negri Sembilan, (Gerald Templer), Penang, Selangor, Perlis, Trengganu, the Crown Prince of Johore. Behind each stands his Mentri Besar; and behind Templer is the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal.



General Templar jokes with an ex-terrorist now serving with the Special Operations Volunteer Force, at the Federation Police Jungle Company Training Centre at Sungei Buloh, near Kuala Lumpur; 12 June 1953. 180 former terrorists, in 12 platoons, undertook operations against their erstwhile comrades. (Associated Press)

TEMPLER'S TRUMP CARDS

These measures were backed by a revitalized intelligence service with the police and the army working together in joint operations rooms. Well-targeted special forces raids, air strikes and ambushes began to put the bandits at risk in what they thought of as 'their' jungle: but the jungle is neutral and the re-trained Commonwealth Forces learned to use it to turn the tables to hunt the CTs. Soon military casualties went down by 30 per cent and communist casualties mounted. The first trickle of surrendering bandits began to emerge from the jungle, eventually to turn into a flood.

In all this military effort Gerald Templer was helped by his political ace: nationhood. His appointment as governor-general was a civilian one and he never forgot it. His favourite theme was the new Malaya – but

only when the communists were defeated. Crucially he ensured that the new Malaya would have common citizenship and independence. When he gave the Chinese the vote, the Malays called him 'pro-Chinese'; when he later brought in a modern tax structure that hit the wealthy Chinese hard, they denounced him as being 'pro-Malay'.

The truth was Gerald Templer was focused on building a common new Malaysian identity and nation. His brusque military common sense told him that the days of old-style colonialism were gone and he blew away all the remnants of segregation and imperialism. He was not called the 'Tiger of Malaya' for nothing. On hearing that the Sultan of Selangor had been refused entry into the smart 'Lake Club' because of the colour of his skin, Templer reacted with fury, pointing out that there was no colour bar among his security forces risking their lives to defend

the club members. The committee resigned en masse and segregation ended.

THE MAN BEHIND THE MASK

Despite his manner Gerald Templer was a man of great humanity. He genuinely cared about people: he would suddenly turn up at Malayan weddings, sing raucous army songs with the sergeants' mess and spend as much time organizing a wide-ranging and liberal programme of social legislation as on winning the fight in the jungle. Even the lowliest administrator learned to feel that Templer cared about him personally.

By the time he left Malaya in the summer of 1954 Gerald Templer had effectively broken the back of the insurgency. As he drove to the airport through cheering crowds of Malay and Chinese he genuinely could claim, 'Mission Accomplished'. His remarkable blend of intelligence, training, strategy and leadership, allied to his deft political skills and his sheer force of personality, ranks him as a commander of the highest stature. He won a crucial victory for his country and perhaps a greater one in the emergence of a new united Malaysia.

Although he may be one of Britain's least recognized generals, it is no exaggeration to say that Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer ranks with Marlborough and Wellington as one of its most successful soldiers. The truth is that, without Templer's victory, Southeast Asia – and the postwar world – would be a very different place. ●



The Queen Mother accompanied by Sir Gerald Templer, newly promoted to Field Marshal ; 1956.

Malaya, Singapo



re and Borneo

Killed: 1,346 Malayan troops and police 519 British military personnel
Wounded: 2,406 Malayan and British troops/police

250,000 Malayan Home Guard troops
40,000 regular Commonwealth personnel
37,000 Special Constables
24,000 Federation Police



Malayan Emergency
16 June 1948 – 12 July 1960

Borneo Confrontation
20 January 1963 – 11 August 1966

- ✈ RAF BASE
- ☠ CEMETERY
- 🏠 ARMY BASE
- 🏥 ARMY MILITARY HOSPITAL



MESSAGE FROM

CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF
GENERAL SIR NICHOLAS PATRICK CARTER
KCB CBE DSO ADC GEN



I am honoured to have the opportunity to mark this anniversary with these greetings to all of the veterans of the campaigns in Malaya and Borneo. British and Commonwealth forces routinely displayed bravery, skill, and fortitude that continue to inspire the current military generation. As the son of a veteran of Malaya and Borneo, it is a particular privilege to pay tribute to your efforts on behalf of all who have followed in your footsteps.

Though a half century has passed, the lessons of Malaya and Borneo continue to guide us today. Foremost among these lessons is that strategic success comes only through an effective combination of military and non-military measures. We have also learned the need to understand the culture and aspirations of the people who we seek to protect, the importance of working with law enforcement and other government departments, and the value of international allies and partners. But your experience also emphasises the importance of the martial virtues of courage, resourcefulness, physical prowess, and endurance that are the bedrock of first-rate armies.

It is gratifying to see that your contributions continue to be honoured through recognitions such as the memorial to the British service personnel killed in Malaya, Borneo and Brunei that was unveiled in 2013 in the National Arboretum. It is also fitting that our government has accepted the offer of the Federation of Malaysia to allow veterans to wear the Pingat Jasa Malaysia.

Thank you for your service and your contribution to the security, stability and prosperity that Malaysians enjoy today. The passage of time has given even greater meaning to the significance of your achievement.

April 2016



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The Team

The company is run by a small team of volunteers, all of whom are veterans. Between them the team has extensive experience working within the British Forces Post Office in general and the Forces Philatelic Bureau in particular.



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PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS

Major General Sir Michael Carleton-Smith CBE DL

Probably more by good luck than good management I chanced to be 2IC of A Coy, 1 Rifle Brigade (1RB) in Malaya in 1957 and back to be A Coy Commander in what was by then 3 RGJ eight years later in Borneo. In Malaya of course, we were a National Service Army, in Borneo, regulars. There were inevitable differences not least the levels of experience and maturity but also the much lower turnover with the regulars. However we were wonderfully served by our national servicemen.

The jungle was much the same and of course the climate too. In Malaya the enemy had been Chinese Communist Terrorists, in Borneo the Indonesian Regular Army. Whereas Malaya had essentially been a platoon and section commanders war, in Borneo many operations were conducted at company level. In Malaya we had lived in a tented company camp within a rubber plantation. In Borneo our company base was a two day march in from the road in primary jungle, living in bunkers connected by trenches with a wired and mined perimeter.

We were reinforced by a 4.2" mortar section and a 105mm field gun. Many of our operations were cross-border clandestine raids up to ten days in duration without re-supply.

Malaya was generally a three year tour though 1 RB having come from 18 months in Kenya only spent the second 18 in

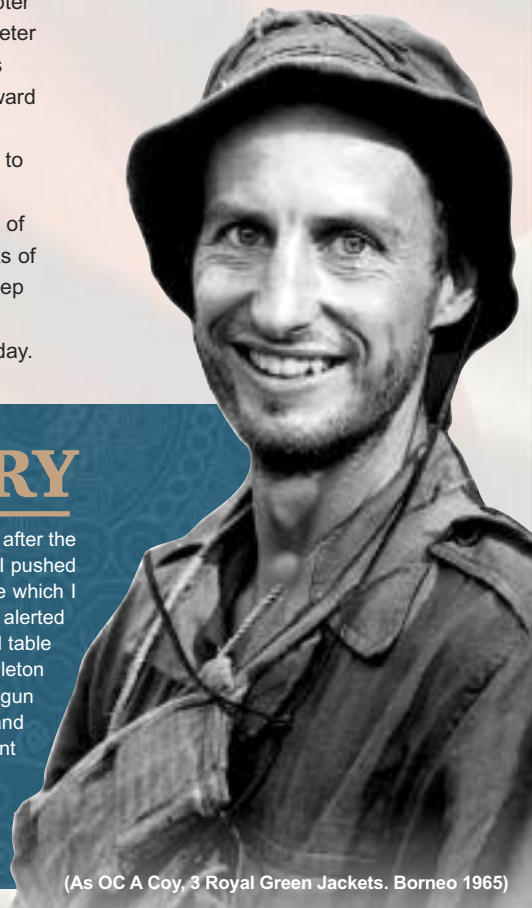
Malaya. In Borneo we spent six months in the deep jungle with only one short R and R break in Kuching. We had spent the previous six months of the years unaccompanied tour in Hong Kong with six weeks at the Jungle Warfare School in Kota Tingi. In Malaya we had been supplied by road in the normal way.

In Borneo we had a weekly RAF airdrop using the Iban locals from our neighbouring longhouse to clear the DZ. Almost daily a Wessex or Sioux helicopter would land on our pad within the perimeter with fresh food, mail, essential supplies and visitors. The Battalion had two forward company bases in Borneo and as the platoons were rotated through them up to six platoons were deployed on a single 'Deep Penetration' operation. A column of about 160 heavily laden men with packs of over 70lbs labouring quietly through deep hilly jungle is a slow business and sometimes covering as little as 1km a day.

Actual contacts were few and far between, at least in our area. However, a neighbouring company base had been attacked shortly before our arrival which kept the 'base wallahs on their toes'. It was a successful, enjoyable and professionally fulfilling tour which closely bonded all those involved.

I wish the members of the NMBVA much success in this 50th anniversary, now and in the future. ●

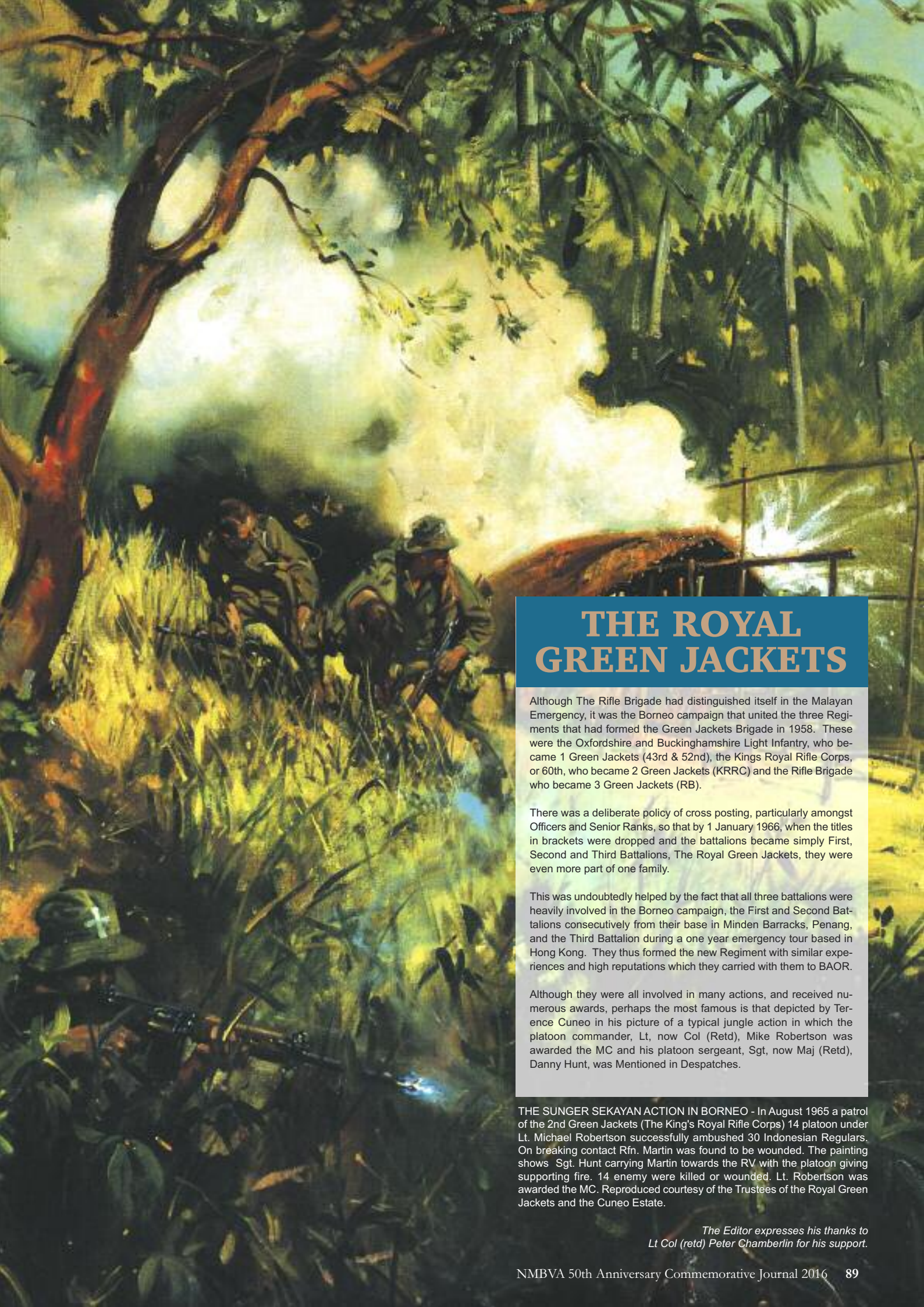
Major General
Sir Michael Carleton-Smith CBE DL
March 2016



(As OC A Coy, 3 Royal Green Jackets. Borneo 1965)

ANOTHER SNAKE STORY

A Coy, 1 RB was based in a Johor rubber plantation in 1957. One night I returned to my tent after the generator had been turned off to find in the moonlight a dead frog lying in the entrance. As I pushed it aside there was a rustle under the bed and I saw yards of snake moving towards a crate which I kicked over. This revealed an aggressive cobra sitting up darting its tongue at me. My cry alerted the company and in no time sarong clad officers were in the tent standing on the chairs and table whilst the tent was surrounded by naked men brandishing their rifles. Charles Marriott, a subleton who was eight years later to be my second-in-command, had brought his 12-bore shot gun which he discharged in the general direction of the snake. This enveloped us in smoke and when our eyes recovered from the flash we could see an enormous hole in the side of the tent through which the snake leapt into the crowd of naked soldierery. The sight of their brown bodies with white bottoms, rifles in the air, leaping over the guy ropes to flee from the snake was an enduring memory. The wretched cobra was eventually cornered, dispatched and skinned by our trackers.



THE ROYAL GREEN JACKETS

Although The Rifle Brigade had distinguished itself in the Malayan Emergency, it was the Borneo campaign that united the three Regiments that had formed the Green Jackets Brigade in 1958. These were the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, who became 1 Green Jackets (43rd & 52nd), the Kings Royal Rifle Corps, or 60th, who became 2 Green Jackets (KRRC) and the Rifle Brigade who became 3 Green Jackets (RB).

There was a deliberate policy of cross posting, particularly amongst Officers and Senior Ranks, so that by 1 January 1966, when the titles in brackets were dropped and the battalions became simply First, Second and Third Battalions, The Royal Green Jackets, they were even more part of one family.

This was undoubtedly helped by the fact that all three battalions were heavily involved in the Borneo campaign, the First and Second Battalions consecutively from their base in Minden Barracks, Penang, and the Third Battalion during a one year emergency tour based in Hong Kong. They thus formed the new Regiment with similar experiences and high reputations which they carried with them to BAOR.

Although they were all involved in many actions, and received numerous awards, perhaps the most famous is that depicted by Terence Cuneo in his picture of a typical jungle action in which the platoon commander, Lt, now Col (Retd), Mike Robertson was awarded the MC and his platoon sergeant, Sgt, now Maj (Retd), Danny Hunt, was Mentioned in Despatches.

THE SUNGER SEKAYAN ACTION IN BORNEO - In August 1965 a patrol of the 2nd Green Jackets (The King's Royal Rifle Corps) 14 platoon under Lt. Michael Robertson successfully ambushed 30 Indonesian Regulars. On breaking contact Rfn. Martin was found to be wounded. The painting shows Sgt. Hunt carrying Martin towards the RV with the platoon giving supporting fire. 14 enemy were killed or wounded. Lt. Robertson was awarded the MC. Reproduced courtesy of the Trustees of the Royal Green Jackets and the Cuneo Estate.

The Editor expresses his thanks to Lt Col (retd) Peter Chamberlin for his support.

26 SQUADRON

BELVEDERES



BELVEDERE HC Mk 1

This Belvedere wears the original transport command colour scheme but during active service in Borneo adopted jungle camouflage.

- The original Type 173 had three wooden-bladed rotors. The production version for the RAF had much more efficient four-bladed metal rotors.

- Prototypes used Leonides Major engines which do not produce adequate power. When Napier Gazelle turboshafts were fitted the Belvedere began to fulfil its potential.

- The heated cockpit was fully equipped for day and night instrument flying. It had dual-controls and provision for an auto-pilot.

- A winch on the port side could lift weights of up to 270kg (600lb).

- Although frail in appearance, the undercarriage was an excellent design allowing operation from rough surfaces. The castoring front wheels gave good manoeuvrability on the ground.

- The production Belvedere for the RAF had steep, anhedral tailplanes which provided good stability and extra lift.

by Association member Vince Williams

In June 1962, I (Vince Williams), was posted to RAF Odiham for the reformation of RAF 26 Squadron, Belvedere helicopters, we had about 6 months familiarisation on the Belvedere systems and our aircrew experienced themselves with the idiosyncrasies of the Twin Rotor chopper, the first British twin rotor chopper.

The production Bristol 192s had an all-metal, skinned fuselage and an anhedral tailplane, compared with the dihedral one of the Type 173. The two rotors had four metal blades, the front rotor rotated counter clockwise while the rear rotated clockwise. front wheels of the fixed quadricycle landing gear were self-castoring. The helicopter's maximum capacity was 2700kg (16 troops with full packs and 2 up front), internal payload. The instrumentation also permitted night flying.

November 1963, after the declaration of Confrontation in Borneo, half of the Squadron were detached to Sarawak in Borneo about 22 ground crew, 4 Belvederes and aircrews. Previously, May 1963, a Belvedere, XG473 of 66 Squadron Seletar crashed in the Trusan River Valley, near Long Merarap, Sarawak, Borneo, after cable failure and subsequent loss of yaw control. This accident was a catalyst for a temporary grounding of the Belvedere fleet for 2 months while investigations were carried out.

The Commander of the rescue patrol Frank Williams was actually meant to travel on the helicopter but was called



to the ops room and it left without him. The Rescue Patrol consisted of WO2 Frank Williams (Comd), Chopper Essex (Lead Scout), Ricky Coomber (Medic) and Steve Callan (Signaller).

A patrol from 22 SAS were inserted into the area. They found the wreck, but sadly all 9 men who had been aboard the helicopter were dead when they got there. The names of the dead were:-

607191 Flt Lt APJ Dobson, Royal Air Force.
166081 Flt Lt DRE Viner, Royal Air Force.
3524433 Cpl JL Williams, Royal Air Force.
22537392 Cpl P Murphy, 22 SAS.
Major RHD Norman MC MBE, 22 SAS.
Major HAI Thompson MC, 22 SAS.
Capt JP Connington, 22 SAS.
Mr MH Day, Foreign Office.
D Reddish, The Borneo Company.

Before leaving Odiham we had to draw up our Wills and obtain our Passports, all operational information was confidential. My wife was 3 months pregnant and I had to take her from our rented cottage in Odiham

to our family home in Sheffield. I left with 26 Squadron ground crew from Stanstead Airport by British Airways and 21 hours later we landed at Singapore's Paya Lebar Airport. Following retrieval of our Belvederes from HMS Albion, some intensive jungle training, preparation of equipment, and acclimatisation to the heat and humidity we were off to Sarawak.

It was December when we arrived at Kuching International Airport there were no facilities and no accommodation for us, a PSP (Primary Supply Point) had been setup for us on the far side of the terminal, adjacent to the jungle, a few tents had been erected for our crewmen, stores and admin. We were allocated accommodation in Semengo Camp with the Royal Marines, 'Active Service' with a vengeance. Needless to say it was a steep learning curve.

...affectionately known as the 'flying longhouses'.

We gained a lot of respect for the Marines and became good friends in the 3 months spent in our attap huts, (bashers) in their camp. We enjoyed a traditional Christmas dinner with the Marines, one of the best ever, even though I was flying that day. I used to drive a 1 tonner from Semengo Camp to the airfield each day, I can remember one time during a monsoon storm driving along the road which was like a river 2 of my wheels went into a monsoon drain, luckily we didn't turn over and in a little while I was able to extract us from the drain and back onto the road. 26 Squadron's task was to provide support to all forces, including trooping, freighting, underslung loads, casivacs or anything else required. We worked with the Royal Marines, SAS, Ghurkhas, Royal Engineers, Royal Artillery, Royal Green jackets, Malayan

Rangers and the RAF Regiment. My promotion to corporal tech came through in February 1964, the effective difference was that one day I was a J/T part of a group on guard duty, the next I was a Cpl/T elevated to being in charge of the group. I was selected to become groundcrew/crewman and underwent composite training in all trades for the Belvedere, when the Belvedere was away from base I had the responsibility of turn-round and 1st. line servicing, also it involved dingy practice which was carried out in a disused quarry at Bau.

My SLR rifle was exchanged for a sterling, the rifle was too cumbersome for stowage in the chopper. We were at Labuan trooping Ghurkha's and I was taken ill with a stomach problem, I was flown to Changi hospital where they diagnosed I'd picked up a bug from the jungle, following removal by surgery I returned to 26 Squadron in Kuching having cadged a lift on a RAAF Twin Pin. On arrival at Kuching I received a telegram to say that I was the father of a baby girl, born 31st, March. The first casivac that I took part in was to airlift a tribal native suffering from shrapnel wounds, a walking wounded, to a field hospital from his kampong. I had to restrain him by the doorway as we climbed above the tree canopy, he did not know that the world existed above the treetops.

Our Squadron dog, 'Butch', was reared on tinned Carnation Milk, and became my responsibility, he went everywhere with me, in the Land Rover and the odd air test. He used to accompany me when we visited the '7 mile bazaars', a village where we crossed an old Japanese airfield, and along tracks past a couple of Kampongs. There we enjoyed drinks



Vince and 'Butch'

of pressed fresh limes, cane sugar and crushed ice, the most refreshing drinks ever. Some of the DZ.s (Drop Zone), Kampongs etc. that I flew to are Lundu, Stass, Samarek, Bintulu, Seria, Brunei, Semengang, Nangagat, Sibul, and Labuan and other no named clearings. The Belvedere's were affectionately known as the 'flying longhouses'.

26 Belvedere Squadron ground crew are unique, having been together for 18 months in Odiham, then 12 months in Borneo, we were posted home in small groups of 3 or 4, and all dispersed by the end of 1964. Some 46 years later one of our former groundcrew went to a lot of effort to contact as many of the group of 22 airmen as possible, in 2010 we had our first reunion in Swindon, there were 12 of us plus our wives. I was a little apprehensive, but should not have been, after two minutes it was as if it was only yesterday that we were back in Borneo.

26 Belvedere Squadron (the only British Twin Rotor Helicopter) and the Confrontation both seem to have been forgotten. I joined the NMBVA in 2011 and am proud to parade with serving Ghurkhas on Remembrance Day at the Cenotaph for the last four years. ●



HQ 28 COMMONWEALTH BDE & SIGNAL SQN TAIPING - MALAYA 1961



BACK ROW - left to right: Sgt RE Jarrett Sgt J Holdings Sgt J Bull Sgt AE Flukes Sgt WFE Wray Sgt JV Danaher Sgt CD Hawkins Sgt J Killen
MIDDLE ROW - left to right: Sgt EHD Binding Sgt T Rickus Sgt KA Pentecoast SSgt R Banham Sgt TW Potter Sgt HE Eaton SSgt Young Sgt G Rushmore
SSgt HJ Knowles SSgt Esselmont
BACK ROW - left to right - SSgt BD Youngman-Smith SSgt GB Bacon WOII VP Svenson MBE WOI Rimmer Lt Col Boynton WOI RJ Russell BEM
Capt RJG Sadler WOI T Deere WOII RHJ Talbott WOI WH Irons

The provision of the right information to the right place at the right time has always been crucial to the successful conduct of war.

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The Corps played a hugely successful role during the Malaya Emergency and Borneo Confrontation.

Special Air Service personnel awaiting helicopters at 'Paddy's Ladan' Malaya 1955. Two of the soldiers are Royal Signals soldiers. Note the Iban tracker who is a member of the Sarawak Rangers.

Photographs courtesy Royal Signals Museum



A mountain-top Radio Re-broadcast site with a Royal Naval Wessex Helicopter, Borneo.

British Forces deployed to Borneo in December 1962 and quickly suppressed an armed revolt in Brunei. However, continued terrorism sponsored by Indonesia called for reinforcement. 247 and 248 Gurkha Signal Squadrons supported both Gurkha and British units in the rugged jungle terrain.

HF communications were difficult but ingenuity and determination were applied to build a successful VHF network of mountain top relay stations. Second Lieutenant (later General KCB CBE) Sam Cowan and his Gurkha soldiers, assisted in this dangerous task by skilled and courageous Royal Naval pilots, succeeded

in inserting such a station on Mount Murud at 8000 feet.

Joint Communications Centre, Borneo.

The Co-ordination of Signal units was needed not only to provide efficiently manned Force communications but also a mobile reserve. JCUB was formed in 1963. Static Comm Centres were established at Labuan and Kuching. The Unit also provided a small air-support comms network. By the end of the Indonesian Confrontation, over 3000 officers and men had served in Signal Units in Borneo and the operation was characterised by successful tri-service co-operation.

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If you drive your own vehicle to base and have been posted to different bases (including outside the UK), there's a good chance the taxman owes you a £2,500 refund. You may also be able to claim for Mess Dress.

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It's for tax relief on the cost of traveling between your main residence and your workplace. Your main residence is the place you go home to when you're on leave.

Can I claim for travel whilst I was training?

It will depend on the type of training. HMRC has strict rules about what is classed as an allowable expense around training. If it was an essential part of your contractual duties of employment then we might be able to claim for the traveling expense.

I already get expenses, can I still claim?

If you receive 45p per mile for the first 10,000 miles plus 25p per mile thereafter, and you haven't paid tax on these amounts, great - you're being fully reimbursed. If it's anything less, you're entitled to claim the difference which is where we can help.

A colleague told me that service personnel can't claim back taxes, is this true?

DIN '2015DIN01-005' has been issued to service personnel to officially confirm that tax refunds for travel are claimable. It also states that you can use an agent to make a claim for you.

RIFT will act as your agent, providing an end to end service if you don't have the time or are not comfortable dealing with the technical legislation set out by HMRC. This supports the previous formal confirmation we received from the Ministry of Defence which can be read here: <http://www.riffrefunds.co.uk/helpand-advice/mod-communications/>

Can't I do my own claim?

Yes. But please be aware that you will need to comply with the legislation on temporary workplaces and have the time to liaise directly with HMRC. However if you don't apply the rules correctly and claim more than you are entitled to, HMRC may seek to recover some or all of your refund.

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Yes, HMRC can if you've claimed too much. The difference from doing it yourself is that we assess your claim thoroughly against the legislation and providing you give us full and accurate information, we offer you our RIFT Guarantee. This means that if any money recovered is repayable to HMRC, RIFT will make the repayment at no cost to you. We will also defend any HMRC enquiry free of charge - it's all part of our service.

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It's free to find out if you are eligible for a claim, we just need to ask you a few qualifying questions first. If you do have a claim, you are not under any obligation to use our services and we don't charge you anything until we get you your refund.

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TUGU NEGARA

Tugu Negara literally National Monument in Malay, is a sculpture that commemorates those who died in Malaysia's struggles for freedom, principally against the Japanese occupation during World War II and Malayan Emergency from 1948 till 1960. It is located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Nearby is the Malaysian Parliament. The monument depicts a group of soldiers holding up the Malaysian national flag, Jalur Gemilang, aloft. Each of the bronze figures symbolizes leadership, suffering, unity, vigilance, strength, courage and sacrifice.

Constructed in 1966, the monument is 15 meters tall, made out of bronze and was designed by Austrian sculptor Felix de Weldon, who was also responsible for the famed USMC War Memorial in Virginia, United States. In 1975, the monument suffered extensive damage due to an explosion set off by a communist terrorist. It has since been restored to its original state and a sturdy fence was erected and the complex was declared a protected area between sunset and dawn.

Mention Tugu Negara and the picture of some huge tall bronze figures of soldiers standing and supporting their fallen comrades would come to mind. Almost all Malaysians have been to the Tugu Negara complex in Taman Tasik Perdana in Kuala Lumpur at least once in their lifetime.

Not many know that the first Tugu was not the one in the form of human figures but was a tall concrete column found within the present complex. On the column was a clear record of dates of great human tragedy: First World War

(1914-1918), Second World War (1939-1945) and the Emergency (1948-1960). Its original location was Jalan Tugu near the roundabout in front of the Kuala Lumpur railway station and opposite Masjid Negara. Most "KLites", if asked, will not remember Jalan Tugu although they may pass by the roundabout often. This is where the first Tugu was set up by the British Administration to commemorate the wars and honour the fallen heroes. Its base is still there, a 10-square-metre flat grass-covered ground. Obviously, it does not attract anyone's attention.

When the present site was chosen for Tugu Negara, the column was moved there with a

permanent base surrounded by a moat. On it are the names of fallen heroes. The present Tugu Negara complex in the Lake Gardens area was opened on Feb 8, 1966. It incorporated a Memorial Park as a symbol of the country's gratitude to the fallen heroes. The RM1.5 million (human figures) monument within the complex is dedicated to the 11,000 people who died during the 12-year Emergency (1948-1960).

On July 31 every year, when the country celebrates Warriors Day, the Tugu is the focus as the King, the Prime Minister and heads of military and police lay wreaths in remembrance of the fallen heroes.

NATIONAL MONUMENT FACTS

- The sculpture cost RM600,000 (when built) and weighs 243 tonnes.
- The marble was from Langkawi.
- There are 42 high shooting fountains and 22 small fountains located in the pool at the front of monument.
- The monument stands in the middle of a pool 280 ft long 101 ft wide.



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VIRGIN SOLDIERS

Tales of a National Serviceman by Leslie Thomas 1931-2014

Nee Soon was a broad, tropics garrison, four three-storeyed concrete barrack blocks around one square and the same pattern repeated a quarter of a mile lower down the hill. They had been planned, intended for Indian troops, in the early days of the war and had been completed conveniently in time for the Japanese Occupation of Singapore. The Japanese fenced them around with wire and allied prisoners were herded into the confines, hundreds of lost souls living in appalling conditions, made to stand for hours on the open square in the fierce sun. Many died and indeed they had little to live for. The military police guard dogs of my day were struck with fear when they passed some of the buildings and refused to enter, snapping at their handlers and with their hackles raised. Bodies were discovered buried in the sports field.

We had taken 35 days on the journey from England...

These deeds were only five years old when I first arrived there in January 1950. I was never aware of any ghosts although the place was bad enough without them. We had taken thirty-five days on the journey from England. Calculating that another thirty-five days might be required to get home again and taking into account disembarkation leave and the process of demobilisation we would probably only serve ten months in Singapore. Just enough to have a good time, perhaps; something of a holiday. Or so we thought. Nee Soon, as so many barracks are in whatever part of the world and whichever army is occupying them,

was a sort of ghetto. We mostly lived, worked, slept and entertained ourselves, within its confines and those of the adjoining village.

The city was a bus journey away and we had little money to spend when we reached it. You could go to the services club and tango with especially selected partners, who were all good girls; you could sprawl out like a nabob in Oriental wicker chairs lined up in the NAAFI lounge, or trudge around and take photographs. That was the way I, and the others, saw it. Very soon all we wanted to do was go home.

Naturally today this attitude embarrasses me. But at eighteen (especially eighteen as it was then) you do not know and appreciate the things that come later in life. In eighteen months in the Far East, for example, I never once sampled Chinese food. Years later I returned to the city with my wife Diana to take part in a television commercial. On arrival we were told that the film would concentrate on the delights of eating in Singapore, which puzzled me since the original contract was for some quite different aspect. The advertising agent explained that the man they had brought out to promote their food on television turned out to be a vegetarian. It was only then, years, later, that I discovered the noodle paradise of Albert Street. In 1950, however, my culinary demands were confined to egg and chips and yellow Tiger Beer in Nee Soon village. There was also real steak, when you could afford it, something I had never seen before. In Britain the mean hand of rationing was still on the land but in Singapore meat (mostly from Australia) was plentiful.

There was also real steak, something I had never seen...

Our barrack rooms were lofty and cool. there were forty beds to a room, a radio loudspeaker in one corner, a balcony overlooking the parade ground at the front and the latrines at the back. We were issued with mosquito nets, but malaria had been eliminated in Singapore Island and we hardly ever used them unless we wanted privacy; a curious but effectual way of shutting yourself off from the army and the world. The net would be hooked over the head of the bed and tucked in at the bottom and the sides. Sometimes, on a Tuesday when I did not even have the price of a beer or a camp cinema seat, I would pull it up like a green sail and sit in bed reading, the life of the barrack room kept outside its confines. If anyone wanted to speak to you they had to tap on the outside like knocking at a door. It was the only privacy we had and was respected by all.

Each morning, in our billowing green shorts and baggy bush jackets, we would troop from the barracks to the offices which were reached by a wooden bridge over a ravine. The bridge was still there when I was last in Singapore, now tramped by the smaller but more businesslike soldiers of the Singapore army. After the British left there were Australian and New Zealand troops at Nee Soon, and before us the Japanese. That old wooden bridge must have been stoutly built for it has known the tread of many different boots. As we went across the bridge we would beat a tinny tattoo

with our eating irons, a knife, fork and spoon clipped together, on our enamel drinking mugs. Two hundred green youths clanked and clattered on their way to the steamy boredom of their desks.

Accounts of troops far up in the Malay jungle...

I made some attempt to hint at my abilities at shorthand and typing, but the orderly room was staffed with pouting Chinese girls in silken cheung sams, split up to their hips. There was no chance for me. Chinese civilians also worked in the office with us. On the transfers section we had two. Mr Wee and Mr Lee. Mr Wee was a dear dodderly old chap who managed to get everything wrong but still somehow clung onto his job. Accounts of troops far up in the Malay jungle would mysteriously turn up at Warley Barracks in Essex and the finger would eventually point to Mr Wee. He stayed because he often bought the tea. Mr Lee was younger and neater. He was also an exceedingly kind little man. On my nineteenth birthday, knowing my writing ambitions, he gave me a present of a Roget's Thesaurus. He was the only one in the world who remembered it was my birthday and I was overcome with gratitude. I took the book back to the barrack room, hoisted the mosquito net, and began to look through its unending pages of words. It lies on the desk before me as I write this, so many years later.

The operation of the transfers section of a Pay Office was scarcely arduous and I began to think I could undertake some work of my own if only I could get away from the gaze, often as bored as mine, of the officer in charge, a bald amiable Welshman, Lieutenant Williams, or the huge sweating Cockney sergeant, a gentle elephant called Darby. We plodded on while the fans whirled eternally. Tea and cakes came and went. Lunchtime saw us clanking over the bridge again, then enduring three hot hours in the afternoon office before trudging back to the barrack room to flop on our beds

until it was time for the evening meal. Where, I used to wonder, had the mystic east gone? My daily job, "Death Cases", by its very definition, had its sad and sometimes grisly aspects. Up-country, in the Ulu as we called it, across the causeway spanning the Straits of Johore, which kept Singapore immune from their activities. Communist guerrillas were waging a deadly and often successful campaign. Almost daily there were jungle ambushes and casualties. I would read about them in the Straits Times or hear the news on the barrack room radio; then, after a few days, the paybooks and the personal financial documents, letters written in round uneducated hands, would arrive on my desk.

So soaked in its owner's blood it had to be prised open...

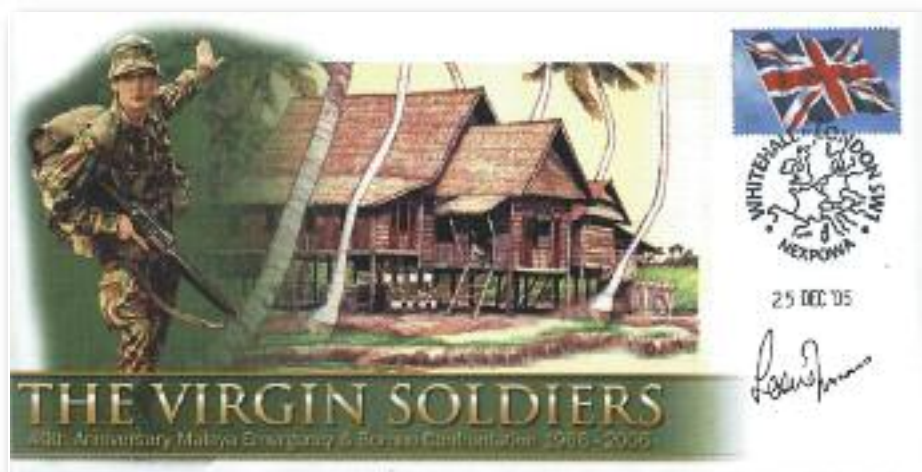
They included a paybook so soaked with its owner's blood that it had to be prised open. I almost threw up as I did it. It was against Kings Regulations to carry the paybook on active duty but this poor young fellow must have forgotten. Then I saw his army number. He had joined up after me; he was three months younger. Standing there that distant morning the steamy sunlight coming through the window with that bloody paybook in my hands, I looked around at the safe domesticity of the office, the fans, the scratching pens, the murmurs, the mugs of tea and the munched cakes, and thought that it was not such a bad place to be after all. ●

Leslie passed away in 2014. He was a lifelong supporter of many veteran organisations and wrote this editorial for us ten years ago. He was a brilliant, clever writer with an infectious sense of humour. A Gentleman in the true sense of the word. Sadly missed. We are grateful to Leslie's family for permitting us to reproduce this article. Editor

THE VIRGIN SOLDIERS

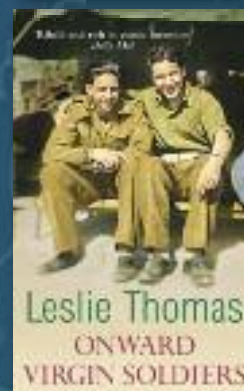
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THE VIRGIN SOLDIERS TRILOGY

by Leslie Thomas



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Leslie Thomas Biography:

Born in Newport, Monmouthshire, 1931, Leslie Thomas was the son of a sailor who was lost at sea in 1943. His boyhood in an orphanage is evoked in This Time Next Week published in 1964. At sixteen, he became a reporter, before going on to do his national service. He won worldwide acclaim with his bestselling novel The Virgin Soldiers, which has achieved international sales of over four million copies.

MESSAGE FROM
Joanna Lumley OBE



I consider it a singular honour on this fiftieth anniversary to be able to record my admiration and respect for members of the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association.

My father Major 'Jimmy' Lumley joined the Gurkha Rifles almost as soon as he had left Sandhurst.

My parents were posted to India and left when partition took place. We then moved to Malaya at the time of the Emergency.

As the proud daughter of a former Chindit, I salute you all with gratitude and fondness. I should also like to say thank you at this opportune time to all of those who have supported the Gurkhas.

I wish you all a successful and memorable year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanna Lumley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

April 2016



Cobseo
**The Confederation
of Service Charities**

MESSAGE FROM

**Lieutenant General
Sir Andrew Ridgway KBE CB**
Chairman, Cobseo
The Confederation of Service Charities



Cobseo - the Confederation of Service Charities, congratulates the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association in its 50th anniversary year. The legacy of the Second World War, the Malayan Emergency and the Borneo, Indonesia confrontation remain relevant to this day and we are extremely proud to support the NMBVA and the members of the Armed Forces of the UK and the Commonwealth, as well as former members of the Malay Police, Members of the Civil Service, St John Ambulance and Auxiliary Forces who served in Malaya, Borneo, Singapore and Brunei and sacrificed so much. The Confederation of Service Charities is more than the sum of its parts and would not exist without the passionate dedication of the Armed Forces community.

Never have the words 'lest we forget' be so poignant; to remember, to commemorate and, most importantly, to apply what we have learnt from the past to our future. This is a message not just for those members of the Armed Forces community, but is to be conveyed to the wider public as well. It is our responsibility to pass these memories on to future generations, to ensure these experiences are preserved and learnt from.

Only we, as veterans, know what it is like to serve our Sovereign and our country. NMBVA veterans, more than most, know what sacrifices and hardships were made and endured by the Allied Forces in the Far East.

We wish you and your members every success in the years ahead!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sir Andrew Ridgway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

April 2016



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THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT



Armed Forces Covenant

Following on from the article published in *Veterans World* Issue 34 about the 2014 Armed Forces Covenant annual report, Chris Wilcox from the MOD Armed Forces Covenant team, provides a further update.

I think it's really important to re-iterate the key principles that underpin the Armed Forces Covenant, because they are enshrined in law, and they drive everything the Government does to provide the support and recognition veterans dedication and sacrifice deserves.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services.

Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given the most, such as the injured and the bereaved.

The Covenant recognises that the whole of society has a moral obligation to support the Armed Forces Community and establishes how they should expect to be treated. We work closely with Other Government Departments, Local Authorities, the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland Administrations, the business world, Families Federations, and Service charities to help make this happen.

The Armed Forces Covenant is supported by the Community and Corporate Covenants. The Community Covenant, encourages Local Authorities to support the Armed Forces Community in their area and promote public understanding and awareness. Every Local Authority in Great Britain has signed a Community Covenant. The Corporate Covenant is a pledge of support from the business world to members of the Armed Forces Community who work for and use their services.

continued on page 102





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What's being done to help Veterans?

- £40 million has been awarded to 16 Veteran's accommodation projects across the UK.
- We have, through the Department of Health, established a long-term solution for prosthetics provision, including a network of multi-disciplinary prosthetic and rehabilitation centres in England. The Welsh Government has agreed to issue a Defence Privilege Card for Veterans in Wales, they have been working collaboratively with the Defence Discount Scheme to promote the card.
- In Scotland, a Veteran's Commissioner has been appointed to help raise the profile of Veterans within Scottish society. His strategy and work plan for 2015 will focus on improving support for housing and employability.
- The Scottish Government increased funding for the Scottish Veterans Fund to £120,000 per annum from 2013-14. They have also given £200,000 over three years to Veterans Scotland.
- In Northern Ireland, a Veterans support forum (along the lines of COBSEO – The Confederation of Service Charities) has been set up with the intention of bringing together MOD, Service Charities, and Veterans support organisations to pool information and resources to ensure those in need can be effectively signposted towards the most effective help.
- The commitment of £75 million of LIBOR fines over the next five years to support Military charities and other good causes [including a £25 million healthcare fund for aged veterans].

The Community Covenant.

In early 2015, we hosted three National Community Covenant conferences in Bristol, Leicester and Manchester. We met with representatives from Local Authorities, other Government Departments, the Armed Forces Community, Service Charities and Families Federations. As well as hearing about the excellent programmes that were being delivered, we discussed how to improve support for ex-Service personnel, and the challenges faced such as; resource constraints and the pressure on local resources that rebasing will bring.

The messages we took away from these events were; organisations, particularly Local Authorities, want to understand better the size and complexity of their local Veterans community; they want to do more to reach out to veterans, but they would really welcome it if veterans would do more to reach out to them. Also, better communications are important so that if

veterans need support, they can be signposted in the right direction. We need to make sure that we spread a consistent policy message about the Covenant throughout all Local Authorities, so that when veterans approach theirs, they already understand the challenges veterans may face and how the Covenant applies to the services they provide. We will continue working closely with them to provide support as they deliver the Covenant in their local communities.

The Corporate Covenant.

Over 600 companies and organisations have signed the Corporate Covenant. Recent key signatories have included Vodafone, construction service providers Laing O'Rourke and The Lloyds Banking Group. The pledges they have made will have a positive impact on the Armed Forces Community.

You can see the full list of all the companies/organisations who have signed up here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-force-corporate-covenant-signed-pledges>.

We will continue working closely with these companies to hold them to their pledges. In the meantime, we would encourage veterans, to let service providers and Local Authorities know that they are a veteran. This is, of course, entirely voluntary, but if veterans do tell their Local Authority, or their NHS GP for example, it will help them provide a better service.

If you speak to people and they are unaware about the Covenant, or if you feel veterans have been disadvantaged, you should report this to *Veterans UK* at Veterans-uk@mod.uk or call the *Veterans UK* helpline on 0808 1914 2.18.

Further information about the good work the Covenant has achieved or is committed to achieve, can be found in the 2014 Armed Forces Covenant Annual Report, which you can access at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/armed-forces-covenant-annual-report>

Contacts:

Stay in touch with Covenant developments by joining our Facebook community and keep up to date with events or share ideas at: www.facebook.com/ArmedForcesCovenant

You can find more about the Armed Forces Covenant at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/fulfilling-the-commitments-of-the-armed-forces-covenant>

You can contact the Armed Forces Covenant Team direct via: Parlibranch-Treat-Officials@mod.uk



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BATTLE AT ULU YAM

Communist Terrorists ambush a platoon of the Royal West Kent Regiment, ranking amongst the worst during the Emergency

The place –The Ulu Caledonian Rubber Estate, near Ulu Yam, Selangor, Malaya, 22nd October 1951. There was a prelude to the events of that day, a typical murder of a planter and his guard that could have had some bearing on the resources available for the follow-up operations of above. Number One Platoon 'A' Company the Royal West Kent Regiment was based at Tanjong Malim was commanded by Lieutenant K S Beale, (later MC) and for a short time Sergeant F Bucknell.

Like most platoons at that time it was under strength with only two sections as apposed to the normal three. Corporal W Harris commanded No.1 Section and I (Corporal J Burrows) commanded No. 2 Section On the fateful day of the 22nd October most of the platoon was on a routine patrol in a rubber estate a few miles from Tanjong Malim. I had been left in charge of the base with several others; we had been on an uneventful night ambush and were resting after the ordeal. It was about mid-morning when a Malayan police inspector rushed into the base to report that firing had been heard coming from another rubber plantation a short distance to the west of Tanjong Malim, and there was much concern for the manager and his police guard who had not returned to the estate office. Could our platoon provide support to his jungle squad as there few police available to follow-up and investigate the incident. He expressed concerned about the lack of protective armour to the police Gharry vehicle.

I explained, the platoon was operating in different area and were not due to return until later that afternoon, but, I could provide back-up in the Dingo scout car, and I would man the twin Brens. There was just the driver and I; we kept fairly close to the Gharry, the police, just young men, seemed very nervous, aware it could have been a ploy by the CTs to draw them into a trap. I like to think the presence of the scout car with its menacing Brens probing from side to side may

have deterred any attempt at that. Having arrived at the scene a short time later, the police started their search of the plantation where the manager with his police guard had been carrying-out routine inspections.

We in the scout car were able to cover the police from the dirt road as they searched the area. It did not take long before the bodies of the manager and his guard were found, both brutally slaughtered. The police loaded the bodies onto the Gharry and returned to base. I was keen to get back and report the incident by radio to HQ knowing it would be a few hours before I could report to the platoon commander at the at RV pick-up. Had it not been for what had happened almost simultaneous that day, I am sure there would have been an immediate follow-up; the intelligence was good, numerous CTs had been seen in the area and the trail was red-hot.

After returning to the platoon base at Tanjong Malim and making what limited preparations we could for an immediate follow-up, should the platoon commander decide? Leading up to the events of the RWK ambush It was about an hour later when Major V Dover MC from BNHQ arrived at the base, he said it was a matter of urgency to mobilise the platoon for an immediate operation of the utmost priority, although there was over an hour before the platoon was due for the pick-up. I was ordered to make hast to the pick-up location to minimise any delay.

The platoon mustered at the base for immediate operations. First, the major addressed the platoon and stated he had grave news. This morning No 11 platoon of 'D' Company had been ambushed on the Ulu Caledonian Estate at Ulu Yam. The battle lasted for over an hour and a half and there had been many fatalities with the rest wounded. Medics had already been despatched to the scene with some supporting troops. But you of No.1 platoon are the nearest available troops to carry-out the follow-up operation to search out the CTs and bring them to battle. He went on to say - The CTs did not have it all their way; they left a number of their own dead. There was no time to lose; we left for Ulu Yam in a matter of minutes in a convoy of two scout cars, one upfront the other at the rear,



with two 3-tonners and the Land Rover between. Only three men were left behind to guard the base with some assistance from the police. The events of the estate murders were of low priority compared with the magnitude of the West Kent's ambush, and unfortunately there were no resources available for a follow-up operation. We arrived at Caledonian estate, the scene of the ambush perhaps an hour later. The drive along the twisting road had frustrated our urgency to get to the scene, but caution prevailed as the opposing forces could outnumber us, and perhaps try their luck again. The ambushed



Top: A Convoy being escorted by a Daimler Dingo scout car with twin Bren guns, an Alvis Saracen brings up the rear.

Bottom: Car F47427, 26 ZS 97 The Alsatian dog had a kennel on the back of the dingo and was nd used to flush out CT's. Image courtesy of Nigel Watson / Jimmy Monte

vehicles, a 3-ton and a 15-cwt truck, with a scout car remained stationary where they had been shot-up - holed and bloodstained. The casualties had already been evacuated; in fact we had passed an ambulance and truck on our approach to the scene. The Brens on the scout car were still in place, but the support carriage had been hit, causing the guns to slew and swing to one side Lieutenant Beale' at once ordered the platoon up the slope above the dirt road and into the CT ambush positions. We found two CT bodies; others had been recovered on the road where they had been killed during the attack. We were ordered to spread out and mop-up, and not to take any chances, and to fire into any suspect hiding place, bush or undergrowth.

The major and the platoon commander waited for the CO to arrive to make an appreciation and issue his orders for the follow-up operations. He was an embittered and worried man, he had lost nearly a tenth of his operational fighting force in just one battle - dead or wounded. It was just after the arrival of the CO when firing broke out from the high ground. He immediately ordered his escorting scout car gunner to train his Brens in the direction of the firing, but to hold fire. He shouted, 'Who's firing?', I replied not knowing it was the CO. 'We are mopping up! No enemy in sight!' The initial operation lasted for two days following the tracks and blood trails left by the retreating terrorists; then the rain came to obliterate any further signs.

Our Iban trackers had all but refused to assist, they had lost all confidence. Three of their comrades had been killed in the ambush. Stubbornly they believed there had been a bad omen, and their lucky charms had not saved them. The following day our platoon was ordered back to base at Tanjong Malim leaving the depleted 'D' Company' to seek out and avenge their lost comrades. Other units assisted in the operations, supported by heavy concentration of mortars and air strikes over a wide area. There were a few brief contacts with the enemy resulting in several eliminations, although it was not established if these were the ambushers. ●

Based on article by John Burrows 2006.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE AT ULU YAM

It was during the morning at about 10.00 hours of 22 October 1951. No. 11 platoon 'D' Company 1/RWK had completed a three day routine patrol. Transport had arrived at the rendezvous to pick them up for the return to Kuala Kubu Bahru (KKB). As they drove through the Ulu Caledonian rubber estate at Ulu Yam they entered a defile with a high embankment. There were three vehicles, the first a 3-ton truck, the second a 15-cwt and the third a scout car at the rear, when all three vehicles were in the embankment.

A sudden intensive burst of automatic fire ripped through the vehicles, with the 3-tonner taking the initial full blast of the attack. It was thought that the company commander and the platoon sergeant were instantly killed together with several men and the rest were wounded. Seconds later more automatics opened up and other small arms and grenades rained down, a distinctive loud single explosion was heard as it struck the scout cars gun carriage effectively rendered the twin LMG's useless.

The gunner brought out his Owen gun and kept firing from the scout car. Suddenly eight CTs charged down to try and grab the weapons from the dead soldiers; several of the charging terrorists were killed. Many of the occupants of the 15-cwt, returned the fire before jumping from the truck into a ditch at the side of the road, it was difficult to fight back firing up the steep embankment. The CTs had chosen their site well. Heavy firing continued with grenades still raining down and exploding in and around the trucks as the troops leapt from the vehicles. The platoon commander was wounded twice. Some of the surviving troops managed to take cover under the embankment, others were pinned in and around the vehicles, few men were able to return the fire, and those who could were directed by the only remaining NCO, a lance corporal, until he too, was wounded.

A senior experienced private (37 years of age, Johnny Pannell a former NCO) took command and rallied the men to fight back; he

personally repulsed several enemy attacks with his Sten and grenades although he too had been wounded four times. He undoubtedly saved a complete annihilation of the young men around him. All the time the CTs were yelling obscenities, some in English, at the soldiers below. Victory was clear-cut or so they thought? But, they had underestimated the sheer guts and determination of the 'White Horse' soldiers from Kent.

As the battle continued, denying the CTs a chance to capture a haul of weapons, including five LMG's and an assortment of other small arms. In their attempt they left six of their dead, and when they withdrew they carried several wounded comrades with them. They had charged down the embankment to capture the weapons from the dead and wounded soldiers but were cut down by withering SMG fire. The rest of the ambushers retreated and split into groups.

Towards the end of the battle a planter and four policemen bravely reinforced the surviving West Kent's. They too sustained casualties. The casualties of the Royal West Kent's were, one officer and ten other ranks and three Iban trackers killed, and one officer, eleven other ranks and one civil liaison officer wounded. This was amongst one of the bloodiest battles of the Malayan Emergency.

It was sometime before any Ibans were prepared to join the affray again, they were convinced that there was some premonition, a warning of a lurking death; the lucky charms of their fallen comrades had failed them.

Private J. L. Pannell was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal Lance Corporal J. C. Martin was awarded the Military Medal. It was later established that some of the CTs ambushers were involved in the ambush and killing of Sir Henry Gurney the High Commissioner - just a few weeks before. They failed then to achieve their objective to capture badly needed weapons and they had failed again.

A Convoy escorted by a Pair of Daimler Scouts

Image courtesy the Imperial War Museum K14063



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RHODESIANS IN MALAYA

In March 1948, the MCP called on the Malayan people to rise up against the British. Three months later, on 16 June, MRLA guerrillas killed three British rubber plantation managers in Perak province. The British High Commissioner in Malaya, Sir Edward Gent, declared a state of emergency two days afterwards, marking the beginning of the Malayan Emergency.

In addition to British and Malayan units and personnel, the Commonwealth forces in Malaya included Australians, New Zealanders, Gurkhas, Fijians, Nyasalanders (now Malawi), and Northern (Zambia) and Southern Rhodesians. Southern Rhodesia had been self-governing since 1923. It ran its own affairs in most matters, including defence, but it was still constitutionally bound to Whitehall insofar as foreign affairs were concerned. The Southern Rhodesian government was therefore able to exercise a large degree of independence militarily, though diplomatically it came under the British flag.

"C" Squadron, Special Air Service (1951–53)

The Special Air Service (SAS) commando unit was formed by the British Army in 1941, during the North African Campaign of the Second World War. Including some Southern Rhodesians in its ranks, it served for the rest

of the conflict, also operating in Italy and on the European Western Front. It was disbanded by the British government in October 1945, and reinstated in 1950 to serve in the Korean War. The situation in Korea had changed by the end of its three-month training period, however, and it was sent to Malaya instead. There it was placed under the command of a British officer, Major Mike Calvert.

Early the following year, Calvert travelled to Southern Rhodesia on a recruitment visit. Roughly 1,000 white Southern Rhodesians, SAS veterans among them, volunteered to go to Malaya from these, about 100 were chosen to form an all-Southern Rhodesian unit. This was the first SAS squadron from a British colony or dominion. Led by the 24-year-old Temporary Captain Peter Walls, the volunteers arrived in Malaya in March 1951. Captain Walls was promoted to major soon after he and his men disembarked at Singapore. The SAS already had two Squadrons, "A" and "B", so the Southern Rhodesians became "C" Squadron, known more informally as the Rhodesian SAS.

Engaged largely in counter-insurgency warfare, the Southern Rhodesians became well-drilled in the relevant principles and doctrines. They noticeably bolstered the hitherto thinly spread ranks of the SAS in Malaya, and performed strongly in the eyes of their superiors, though British Major C L "Dare" Newell believed that their attitude towards "the aborigines" was colder than that of the British soldiers. Barbara Cole, who

wrote a history of the Rhodesian SAS, says by contrast that the Rhodesians became close friends with the Fijians they served alongside, and spent far more time socialising with black and mixed-race soldiers off-duty than their British counterparts did. In March 1953, after serving their required two years in Malaya, the men of "C" Squadron returned home. They were replaced in 1955 by a squadron from New Zealand. Three members of "C" Squadron—Sergeant O H Ernst, and Corporals J B Davies and V E Visagie—were killed while in Malaya. For his services during the emergency, Walls was awarded an MBE.



Lt Col Peter Walls MBE, CO 1RLI, far left, with RSM Ron Reid-Daly, both veterans of the SAS Malaya Campaign and the Rhodesia Light Infantry Colours, presented by HM Queen Elizabeth II in 1963.

Rhodesian African Rifles (1956–58)

Following the departure of "C" Squadron, Southern Rhodesia was uninvolved in Malaya until early 1956, when the 1st Battalion, the Rhodesian African Rifles (RAR) were tasked to relieve the Northern Rhodesia Regiment (NRR) in Johore province. Originally formed in 1916 as the Rhodesian Native Regiment, the RAR were, by Southern Rhodesian standards, an old and well-trying unit; they fought for Britain in East Africa during the First World War, and contributed to the Burma Campaign during the Second.

The regiment's black soldiers and warrant officers, led by white officers, came from both Mashonaland and Matabeleland, with Mashonas in the majority.

The Royal Australian Regiment was also present in Malaya, so to prevent confusion the Rhodesian African Rifles' acronym was temporarily changed to "RhAR".

The regiment's advance party, made up of officers, non-commissioned officers (NCOs) and warrant officers, left the Southern Rhodesian capital Salisbury by air on 13 February 1956. Their tortuous route took them through Nairobi, Aden, Karachi, and RAF Negombo (in Ceylon). After touching down in Singapore, the RhAR's advance party travelled to Kluang in Johore, where they spent three weeks in jungle training with the NRR.

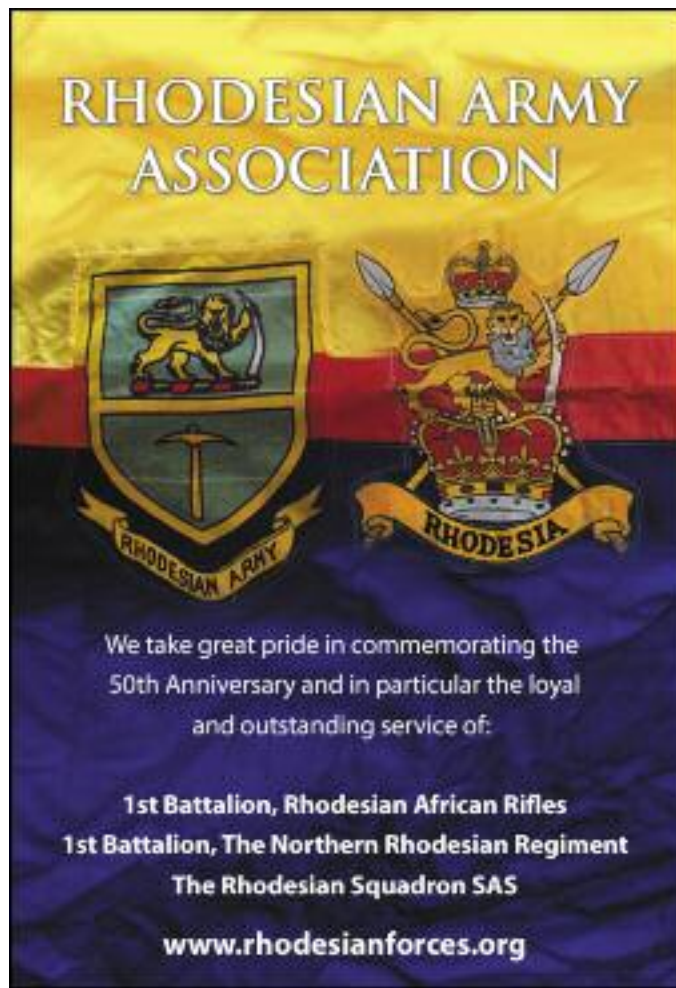
They then redeployed to Batu Pahat, where they camped with the Fiji Infantry Regiment. A spirit of camaraderie quickly developed between the Fijian and Southern Rhodesian soldiers. The RhAR officers and NCOs continued their acclimatisation with the local environment over the following weeks, assisted by the Fijians. The rest of the battalion travelled by sea aboard SS Empire Clyde, and reached Singapore on 26 April 1956. Soon after, the RhAR set up headquarters at Chaah, about 130 kilometres (81 mi) north-west of the port city.

MNLA and RhAR tactics

By this stage of the insurgency, the MNLA had largely split into small groups of guerrillas, which existed by basing themselves in a chosen rural area, subverting local villagers and accumulating from them manpower and supplies. The lot of any security forces posted nearby was to play a constant game of hide-and-seek with the communists, whereby the Army would indefinitely search for and destroy any base camps and food caches the MNLA set up. The Commonwealth leaders surmised that the MNLA could not possibly resist such a campaign forever, and would, in time, simply give up attempting to regroup.

RhAR operations in Malaya

The RhAR patrolled around Johore from May to September 1956 without major incident. The rain of the Malayan monsoon season seemed endless to many of the battalion's men, and actual sightings of the communists were rare in the extreme. Even when the guerrillas were spotted, they almost invariably fled after a few shots. "We can but hope that the chaps will get a chance of seeing a CT [communist terrorist] for a change," reported an RhAR officer in August; "they are all as keen as mustard to come to blows with them." So determined were the RhAR's officers and men to come face to face with the enemy that they ambushed around the railway line at Bekok for seven nights in a row, starting on 30 October 1956. Patrols were led by a different officer each night, but there were no contacts.



Around this time the British Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, operating in the Bahau area, about 200 kilometres (120 mi) north-west of Bekok, reported to the RhAR that they had encountered the communist 32 Independent Platoon, led by Hor Lung, which was then heading south-east towards the Palong River. The RhAR therefore redeployed to intercept Hor Lung's men. On 9 November, a half-section of Southern Rhodesians led by Corporal Munyamani sighted 16 pack-laden guerrillas, marching east. On his own initiative, Munyamani attacked, catching the communists by surprise; the insurgents split up and fled, running in all directions. One fighter attempted to hide behind a tree, but was killed by RhAR rifle fire. On 17 November, the RhAR was withdrawn for a period of rest

and recuperation (R&R). The battalion's Transport Platoon was ambushed by communist guerrillas as it was returning to base: a shot through the windscreen of one of the two trucks nearly hit its driver, but the convoy was able to escape the ambush without anybody being injured. On 26 November, the RhAR and the King's Own Scottish Borderers assisted the local police at Kelapa Sawit in an action called Tartan Rock: the security forces moved into the village and arrested 34 communist sympathisers, most of whom were ethnic Chinese students from the University of Malaya in Singapore. Two days later, the RhAR were back on regular duty.

Starting in February 1957, the RhAR took part in Operations Cobble and Shoe. These were "food denial" operations, whereby efforts to deny supplies to the communists were to be redoubled. Patrols around the rubber plantations and the edges of the jungle were intensified. To prevent guerrilla supplies from north of the Rompin River from reaching the food denial areas to the south, covered by Operation Cobble, an RhAR platoon under Lieutenant David Heppenstall was posted to the area directly south of the river midway through the month.

This action lasted from 21 February to 4 April 1957. There were few contacts, and only one communist was killed by Heppenstall's men, but a great deal of intelligence was secured regarding guerrilla organisation and supply routes.

Over the next few months, RhAR patrols in the Chaah, Labis, Bekok and Sungai Karas areas were stepped up to last between 10 and 18 days each, but contacts with the communist forces remained rare. The constant patrols gradually began to take their toll on the insurgents, and guerrillas began to give themselves up increasingly frequently. A contributing factor here was Britain's granting of independence to Malaya within the Commonwealth on 31 August 1957, which dented the motivation of many fighters. Starting in October 1957, the RhAR were tasked to work alongside former MNLA personnel to wipe out any remaining communist forces in the region. The ex-insurgents were supposed to lead the security forces to MNLA camps and resting places, but this strategy was not successful. The RhAR soon developed a low opinion of these ex-MNLA men.

As it approached the end of its two-year commitment in Malaya, the RhAR continued its patrolling in Johore province without major incident until February 1958, when it returned to Rhodesia. Five of the regiment's number had been killed over the previous two years: Corporal Tavengwa, and Privates Joseph, Hunyani, Manuel and Mjikijelwa.

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Meeting
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The PRA, in partnership with other Regimental Charities, is able to provide welfare support and advice to those in need or distress. The PRA is governed by its Constitution, whose objectives are: to promote the efficiency of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces by fostering esprit de corps and maintaining contact between past and present members thereof; to relieve either generally or individually persons who are serving or who have served in the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces, or the dependants of such persons who are in condition of need, hardship or distress; the commemoration and remembrance of those members of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces who have died while on active service; and the encouragement of public recognition of the sacrifice made by such persons.



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David Thackeray 1937-2015

Captain Dave Thackeray passed away on 24th September 2015, at his home in Harrogate.

A service was held for him at St Peter's Church in Harrogate on Friday 2nd October, where his coffin - dressed with his campaign medals, red beret and a Union Jack - was marched out to the sounds of the Parachute Regiment's March, played by The Band of the Parachute Regiment.

David served in the British Army for 13 years, initially with the Parachute Regiment, and then in the Army Air Corps. He was Mentioned in Despatches for his courageous actions in Borneo, where his plane was shot down while he was transporting an RAF padre to a Forward Operating Base (FOB). Despite being shot twice and breaking his left arm, he landed the plane safely at an alternative FOB. In an interview with ABF The Soldiers' Charity - the Charity that helped him in his time of need - David recounted the remarkable events of that day: "The plane took eight hits altogether. Two caught me in my left shoulder and the Padre was hit in the abdomen. There was blood all over the front panel; my flying suit was all red. I was quickly losing a lot of blood. I had to have three tries at the landing. On the go-around my left arm snapped so I had to take control with my right hand, and have two more goes to get it right. Amazingly, neither of us sustained any further injuries in the actual crash."

Unfortunately, the Padre's gunshot wound proved to be fatal, and David suffered from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as a result of the plane crash. Despite this, he went on to have a long career as a civilian pilot until his health forced him to retire. It was at this point that The Soldiers' Charity stepped in and paid for the installation of a stair-lift in his home. A second grant also paid for a respite break for him and his wife Margaret. Of the support he received, David said: "It's been a godsend. It has absolutely transformed my life. Instead of getting to the top of the stairs gasping for air for about 10 minutes, I now get to the top of the stairs feeling okay, feeling normal."

Originally established in 1944 as the 'Army Benevolent Fund', ABF The Soldiers' Charity provides a lifetime of support to soldiers and veterans like David, to ensure that they are afforded the independence and dignity they deserve. We hope you will join us in remembering a very special man.

See inside front cover for details on how to support the work of The Soldiers' Charity.





ROYAL NAVY PROTECTS MALAYSIA

When the Brunei Revolt broke out, the initial British military response was not very urgent chiefly because the widespread nature of the uprising was not anticipated at first. Once the extent of the emergency had become apparent, the spearhead units, the 1st/2nd Gurkhas followed by the Queen's Own Highlanders, were moved from Singapore by air.

Then it became the task of the Royal Navy to continue the rapid build-up of troops, armoured cars, Auster aircraft and other weapons of war and this it did by using all available ships to the maximum capacity. HMS Bulwark, Britain's first Commando ship, with 42 Royal Marine Commando on board, acted as a fast ferry during this phase as well as operating and maintaining the helicopter force so badly needed at a crucial time. In addition, the 6th Minesweeping Squadron carried out yeoman service by supporting the land forces in a variety of ways. For example, for the assault carried out by 42 Commando against Limbang, the civilian craft used were manned by officers and men from HMS Fiskerton and HMS Chorlton. Prior to sailing, frantic repairs and servicing had to be carried out during the daylight hours before the craft chugged up river for the Marines' dawn assault on the town of Limbang.

HMS Albion and her sister-ship Bulwark had been light aircraft carriers transformed into warships of an entirely new concept: the

Commando ship. In place of fixed-wing aircraft, each ship carried two squadrons of troop-carrying helicopters, a flotilla of assault landing craft and one or two Commandos of Royal Marines. Initially, and while operations were confined to the small state of Brunei, support for the land forces could be given directly from HMS Albion, and later HMS Bulwark when she arrived. However, when operations were in progress a hundred miles from the sea, it was far too far inland for the Wessex and Whirlwind helicopters to operate from the ships. The helicopters had to be based ashore leaving the Commando ship free to become an ideal ferry for vehicles, heavy equipment and troops from Singapore - not a role sought by her crew but one which was to become increasingly important as the campaign continued.

HMS Bulwark had already served three years in the Far East and was due to return to the UK, so that a signal was sent to HMS Albion to move to the Borneo waters at full speed. Her arrival was at a most opportune moment and although originally it had been intended that she would disembark 40 Royal Marine Commando at Miri, she was diverted to Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, in a move to pre-empt trouble among the Clandestine Communist Organisation (CCO).

To prevent any internal security problem posed by the CCO, a battery of the Royal Artillery without its guns was flown to Kuching from the ship and two days later it was reinforced by most of 40 Commando. HMS Albion then steamed

eastward to land the remaining Commando company near Seria and to disembark one of her two helicopter squadrons at Brunei Town. The arrival of the helicopters of 846 Squadron Fleet Air Arm (FAA), now ashore, and the presence of the Wessex helicopters of 845 Squadron added a new dimension to operations: no longer was it necessary to make dangerous assault landings from the air as the Queen's Own Highlanders had done earlier in the rebellion, or attempt to move in trucks along roads like 'C' Company 1st/2nd Gurkhas Rifles had done in their abortive attempt to reach Seria.

HMS Albion was a real work horse throughout the Confrontation, a statement that can be illustrated by the fact that 12 months later the ship was to make her 15th appearance off the North Borneo coast. This time bringing squadrons of RAF Whirlwinds and Belvederes from the Middle East. The arrival of these helicopters enabled the Whirlwinds of 846 Squadron FAA and some Wessex helicopters from 845

continued on page 116



HMS Puncheston, one of the coastal minesweepers that did yeoman service on a variety of tasks, especially up the larger rivers.



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Squadron FAA to rejoin HMS Albion, both squadrons having been based ashore since August 1963. During those 12 months the two squadrons had completed over 8,000 operational sorties.

At one stage in the Borneo Confrontation there was a force of some 16 ships operating in the waters around Borneo, most of them coming from 6 Minesweeping Squadron, with their task being to hunt, stop and search small boat traffic. Indeed, the most dangerous threat from the sea was the humble motor boat, small and powered by a quiet outboard engine. It was by such a means that arms could reach the CCO in Sarawak and the indigenous Indonesians living in North Borneo especially around the Tawau area. Ideally, fast motor torpedo-boats and gunboats would have been best suited to counter this threat but these had been scrapped in the Royal Navy, being replaced by a fleet of small coastal and inshore minesweepers specially designed to meet what was considered to be the main threat, Russian minelaying around the British Isles and in other vital sea arteries. These minesweepers were slow, undergunned and their thin wooden hulls stood high out of the water. Nevertheless they played an important role ferrying men, stores and equipment up the large rivers as well as into the coastal ports. It was a series of these mundane trips that prompted an irate officer from one of the minesweepers to say:

'We sometimes think the Army imagine that we exist to transport them. I suppose from a soldier's outlook this is understandable and they are quite right in thinking we are the only safe, effective and fast means of moving sizeable bodies of troops operationally in Borneo!'

The minesweepers were carrying about 200 troops at a time and were particularly useful in the Third Division of Sarawak where the giant River Rejang was navigable right up to and beyond the capital Sibu, whereas there were no roads connecting Sibu with the coast or further into the interior.

Important though such roles were, it must be stressed that the Royal Navy's primary task during Confrontation was to guard the West Malaysian coastline against incursion by groups of Indonesian regulars, saboteurs and terrorists. Such a task was complicated by the swarms of fishermen and the traditional barter trade which had been carried out over the centuries between the Indonesian islands, the mainland of Malaya and Singapore. During the peak period of Confrontation Naval ships were on patrol continuously for over 700 days and nights and intercepted 90% of the known attempts to infiltrate into West Malaysia by sea. Inevitably, the brunt of the patrols was borne by the small ships of the inshore flotilla which were averaging 21 days a month at sea. It was boring and exacting work and there were few moments of excitement. Two incidents out of the normal humdrum patrolling occurred in 1965 when, first, three coastal minesweepers intercepted and caught three armed 'sampans' and during the firefight eight Indonesian soldiers were killed and 19 captured, all of whom had been trying to get into Southeast Johore. The second occurred on the other side of the water when HMS Puncheston stopped and searched a local boat which was carrying a huge quantity of arms and ammunition destined for the CCO.

Unpublicised was a strange but most efficient force called Naval Party 'Kilo' which sailed hither and thither along Sarawak's South China Sea coast, seeking to prevent any infiltration by Indonesians. This force's patrol boats were camouflaged to look like local fishing boats (kotaks) and after the experiment proved successful, other naval stores tenders and landing craft were camouflaged and converted for the same role. On most ships there was a crew of four with a hidden machine gun nest. As part of their mission, these little ships sailed into coastal kampongs and up to the adjoining rivers so that, in due course, the sailors became very friendly with the local Malays and Sea Dyaks in the longhouses. Apart from serving as a deterrent to hostile small boats, they were able to glean information by using the eyes and ears of the friendly fishermen.

As the military threat to East Malaysia diminished towards the end of the Confrontation, so were the Security Forces able to take opportunities to help the local people in numerous ways. The Royal Navy was not backward in helping the civilians, particularly in the Tawau area where small parties of sailors from patrolling minesweepers dispensed medical aid as well as sponsoring and organising building projects: a wide variety of projects were also undertaken by frigates or destroyers based at Tawau. Away from the coastal plain the helicopters from 845 Squadron FAA flew in nearly 100 cholera patients from a group of longhouses to the nearest civilian hospital, and on more than one occasion lifted desperately ill people from outlying longhouses on their errand of mercy. Not surprisingly, the tribes living in the interior were sorry when the Confrontation ended because it meant that the British and Commonwealth soldiers were about to leave Borneo for the last time. The Muruts, Dyaks and other tribes living alongside the rivers were intensely pro-British and the material help that was given these primitive people during the Confrontation was something that they had never received before. With some reason they viewed their new Malaysian masters with more than a little suspicion and it was to take some time before friendly relations were established in the most inaccessible of areas.

That the effective use of British sea power played a big part in preventing the Confrontation from being escalated to an all-out war cannot be disputed. Apart from raids by a few small parties, the mainland of West Malaysia remained inviolate because Sukarno did not dare risk large parties on forays which - he soon learnt - would have ended in disaster. In the Borneo waters the Royal Navy exerted pressure quietly and efficiently so that help from outside for the CCO and indigenous Indonesians was minimal, brought to a lower pitch by constant vigilance. The land forces saw the Whirlwind and Wessex helicopters from 845 and 846 Squadrons and naturally, in their eyes, those machines were the most important part of the Royal Navy's effort. The pilots, air crew and even ground staff were in the thick of it, often operating from bases well inside Sarawak. Equally important, even though quite unspectacular, were the ships that kept the land forces supplied with heavier sinews of war as well as rotating units to and from Singapore. The presence of the Commando ships, the minesweepers and assorted small craft meant that between 1963 and 1966 Britannia did rule the waves around the Borneo territories. The two Directors of Operations, Gen Walter Walker, and his successor Gen George Lea, were both to receive excellent support from the Royal Navy throughout the campaign with its members operating on land, sea and in the air. ●



A Wessex helicopter in a small clearing in Balaga

FLEET AIR ARM

Brian Bingham

The Navy had an interest in the development of the helicopter from the very beginning but the loan of 3 Dragonfly helicopters out in Korea really triggered it into action. The purchase of a number of Whirlwinds led to 848 Sqn arriving in Malaya in 1953 to assist the Army fighting the rebels. This led on to the world's first helicopter assault at Suez, the formation of a specialist group aircraft, Royal Marine Commandos, and ultimately the Commando Carriers.

HMS Albion was in Mombassa when the Brunei revolt began, when she received the signal to proceed with utmost dispatch. We arrived off Kuching and put 40 Commando ashore at the racecourse and then rushed up to Brunei town where 846 Sqn were disembarked to the airport. Over the next 26 days our aircraft flew 1200 sorties and then sailed up and down the coast assisting wherever stores, etc, were required, that is how she earned the title of 'Grey Ghost' of the Borneo coast.

HMS Albion then became a cross between a troop ship. She supported numerous units including 40/42 Cdo, 1/2, 1/7, 2/7, 1/10, 210 Ghurka Rifles, Green Jackets, KOYLIS, Queens Own Highlanders, and many more.

The Squadrons, meanwhile were located at numerous locations. Some of the glorious places we graced with our presence were, Kuching, Brunei, Labuan, Sibu, Belaga, Nanga-Ghat, Song, and Kapit the list is never ending and if I have missed out your unit or location put it down to old age on my part.

My involvement ends here in mid 1964, but the Navy remained until the end with HMS Bulwark and 848 Sqn taking over the reigns, with the pleasant thought that if it had got really rough HMS Ark Royal, HMS Eagle or HMS Victorious were just over the horizon with their fast jets.

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"From Admiral to Seaman Gunner, we were all shipmates – once Navy, always Navy."

Derek Banham
Resident of The Royal Star & Garter Homes

Derek Banham entered the Royal Navy in 1943, aged 18. He later joined HMS Loch Craggie, and took part in the Battle of the Atlantic. On Churchill's orders, his ship found and sank a German U-boat responsible for the torpedoing of seven Allied ships. The memories of this are still with him.

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JUNGLE WAR

During 12 years of conflict there were 8,750 reported 'contacts' between units of the Security Forces and the Communist enemy

On 16 July 1948 the Malayan Peoples Anti-British Army (MPABA) suffered a blow of incalculable gravity to its immediate plans when Police Superintendent Stafford and his squad of 14 Chinese and Malay detectives made a dawn raid on a hut near Kajang in Selangor. The experienced and irreplaceable Chairman of the MCP's Military Committee, Lau Yew, was shot through the forehead as he raced, firing, from the hut. In the course of this initial exchange of fire, and subsequent skirmishes with some 30 to 50 bandits positioned on an adjacent hill, five other male terrorists and five females were all killed. The battle ended when a police charge up the hill finally put the enemy to flight.

Among the first British troops committed to offensive action were men of the 26th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. Converted to an infantry role, the regiment proved its worth at the end of July when two batteries, operating with the Malayan Police at Batu Arang in Selangor, shared in the elimination of 27 terrorists.

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At this same time an ex-Chindit officer, R.G.K. (later Sir Robert) Thompson of the government Planning Stall, and three former officers of Force 136 formed a special unit named Ferret Force, composed of volunteers from British, Gurkha and Malay battalions, the Malayan Police and Iban trackers from Sarawak. During its short existence of only a few months the 16 infantry sections of Ferret Force developed valuable operational techniques in the jungle. In September the Force also spearheaded a large-scale sweeping operation in which areas of the Johore jungle were strafed by Spitfires and painstakingly combed by the 1st Devons, 1st Seaforths, 1st Inniskillings and 1st/2nd and

1st/10th Gurkhas. Twenty-seven bandits were killed, 12 camps were located and destroyed, and large deposits of ammunition were discovered during this operation. These combined sweeps, which attempted to drive the enemy into waiting cordons of 'stops', were much favoured in this early period, but were later regarded as less effective than small patrols individually probing their battalions' own allotted areas.

Young soldiers, freshly arrived from Britain, could find themselves involved in sudden, deadly encounters. On 31 December, 1948, two officers and 16 men of 4 Troop, A Squadron, 4th Hussars were patrolling in three vehicles along the Jalong road near Sungei Siput in Perak. About 70 bandits, whose armament included at least five Bren light machine guns, were dug in on high ground overlooking a bend in the uphill road, having lain for at least 24 hours in positions covering 300 yards of the road. The 4th Hussars were not supplied with armoured cars until the following year, and the patrol was

continued on page 122



Lt Gen. Sir Harold Briggs; Director of Operations; inspecting Federation Police Jungle Squad; 1950. (BBC Hulton Picture Library)



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Iban tracker interprets signs found near a tin mine in Selangor to Sgt Lister of the 1st Suffolks; 1950. (Imperial War Museum)



Federation Special Police & Malay Constables routine duties, 1949. (BBC Hulton picture Library)

therefore travelling in two GMC Personnel Carriers (with armoured protection at the sides but not over-head) and a 15cwt, truck, the vehicles being spaced about 75 yards apart. When the bandits suddenly opened fire the 15cwt, in the centre of the convoy, was immobilised and most of the men on board killed. Newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Sutro, in command of the rear GMC, then halted his vehicle and provided covering fire for the 15cwt.

Recalling the action, Col. Jon L. Sutro, OBE, MC:

"The first I saw of the opposition was when the barrel of a Thompson sub-machine gun appeared over the bank not more than 15 feet above me, followed by a very worried-looking Chinese, whom we promptly shot. There was another bandit position about 30 to 40 yards to the rear with a machine gun which inflicted several casualties until it was knocked out. The Troop Leader, Lt. Questier, was in the leading GMC. He showed enormous courage and leadership, and could have saved himself at the expense of those in the last GMC if he had chosen to do so. Instead he backed his vehicle some 100 yards or so until he reached the rear GMC".

The Hussars now leapt from their carriers and deployed on the road, determinedly returning the enemy's fire. Col. Sutro continues:

"Grenades were being rolled down a high bank and were exploding among us. Some were landing only a few feet away, but the blast generally went upwards and some of us survived by lying flat on the road. Michael Questier was killed a few yards from me by a grenade splinter between the eyes. One of the troop was killed by a base plug, and many others had wounds from splinters. I had a splinter which went into my left thigh and was removed from the other side of my leg in Ipoh Hospital the next day. I had another small splinter in my back which was left there and I felt a bullet nick the peak of my Service Dress hat".

After holding the enemy at bay for about ten minutes, seven Hussars were dead and all but three of the remaining 11 were wounded. To avoid further casualties 2nd Lt. Sutro gave the order to re-board the two GMCs. With the dead and seriously wounded dragged on board, the two vehicles -one with flat tyres -

were driven slowly forward under heavy fire to a point in a rubber plantation beyond which the road came to a dead-end by a river. Here the young officer organised his men in defence positions in some estate buildings and, after an unsuccessful attempt to contact his regiment by wireless, decided to go for help. Col. Sutro recalls:

"Trooper Goodier was unhurt, and volunteered to drive me back through the ambush position to bring reinforcements. He was a very brave man, as we had every reason to suppose that the position was still held by the terrorists".

his only thought was to return to his men...

Nineteen-year-old 2nd Lt. Sutro was also a very brave man, and was justly awarded the Military Cross. Throughout the action his calm leadership had undoubtedly prevented greater loss of life. After being driven safely to Sungei Siput and telephoning his commanding officer, his only thought was to return to his men despite his wounds; however, a police officer restrained him. Six dead bandits found in the abandoned ambush positions were proof of 4 Troop's spirited defence. A second award - the Distinguished Conduct Medal was made to Tpr. Smith. Although twice wounded on the road, Smith crept around the flank of a terrorist position and, after opening fire with his rifle, was wounded once more. Proceeding further, he observed a party of 20 bandits marching up a track to reinforce the ambush, and shot the last man in the file. Bren gun fire from this party now wounded Tpr. Smith for a fourth time, but he managed to hide until nightfall, when he crawled back to the road. Reaching a hut by daybreak, he was given shelter by the Indian occupant, who then went to Sungei Siput to summon help.

A most successful action was fought on 11 January 1949 by a small patrol of the 1st Bn. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. Sgt. Chadwick and just four other ranks of 11 Platoon, D Company were reconnoitring in a rubber estate near Karangan in Kedah when they spotted five bandits, 40 yards to their front, walking along beside a river. The bandits opened fire on the leading scout and took cover behind the river bank. Also diving into cover the patrol fired back and killed one of

the bandits, whose body then floated downstream. The five KOYLI soldiers found it difficult to locate an adequate target due to the enemy's superior cover. Cautiously they crawled forward down the slope, drawing a hail of bullets at every movement. Then, on one of the occasions when a terrorist leaned up to fire, they shot and killed him. For 15 minutes the exchange of fire continued. When a grenade was thrown at the patrol it fell short and rolled back down into the stream. As the soldiers edged still closer one of the bandits sensed that he was cornered and made a run for it. Jumping over a fence, he was brought down by another fatal volley from the patrol. There were now only two terrorists left - a man and a girl. Sgt. Chadwick commented afterwards:

"The girl had been hit and would not give up. To enable her companion to reload his rifle she went on firing with her pistol. I left two men on the hill and took the rest down and crept up on them. We got to within a few yards while they were still firing at our chaps on the hill. We then opened up with all we had and both were killed".

Sgt. Chadwick was subsequently awarded the Military Medal.

During 1949 the MRLA largely withdrew to regroup and retrain, but towards the close of the year terrorist units, varying in size from 100 to 400 personnel, launched attacks upon rubber estates, tin mines, trains, road convoys, and police and government officials with renewed vigour. For the Security Forces bandit-hunting could sometimes be costly. In the afternoon of 12 November 1949 a composite reconnaissance platoon of B Company, 1st Bn. Seaforth Highlanders located a temporary bandit camp in overgrown rubber west of the village of Chaah, in the Segamat district of Johore. On coming under fire the platoon drove some bandits from several lean-to bashas (shelters) to the north of the camp, and was then engaged in a fierce exchange of fire with 150 to 200 terrorists positioned among other bashas to the south. Lt. Hoare, MC, and Lt. Anderson now advanced on the left flank to a point between two bashas, where Anderson could be seen behind a tree firing at the enemy. Up to this time only one man, Pte. Clarke, had been wounded, but L/Cpl. Mackay was then killed



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when the platoon came under heavy fire from many terrorist weapons, including at least three Bren guns.

After a counter-attack by the bandits had been vigorously repulsed the company commander, Maj. Campbell, ordered a withdrawal to a less exposed position 50 yards to the rear, but was then badly wounded. He gave a direct order to Lt. Brown to leave him and lead the platoon to its new position, which the lieutenant reluctantly obeyed. Almost immediately Maj. Campbell was again hit by a burst of fire and died. Under determined attack from the right flank of its new position the recce platoon was eventually reinforced from the company's temporary base to the rear. When the bandits withdrew, after one and a half hours of fighting, the Seaforths advanced into the camp and located six enemy bodies. They also found Lts. Hoare and Anderson, lying close to one another and both dead. Meanwhile a party of 20 bandits had approached B Company's base, but had fled after a sentry had killed one of them. It was later established that the Seaforths' adversaries had been the ruthless 'Labis gang'.

Early on 22 January 1950, in response to information received from Special Branch regarding a suspected camp of the same gang in the Segamat area, two platoons of B Company, 1st/2nd Gurkha Rifles, commanded by Maj. Richardson, were marching south through the rubber from the Ayer Panas road. Rfn. Bombahadur, near the centre of the extended formation, spotted an enemy sentry sprinting away towards a squatter's hut and shot at him. Several bandits then opened fire from in and around the hut. Without hesitation Bombahadur charged and, firing his rifle from the hip, killed at least four of the enemy. Maj. Richardson, ahead of most of the right-hand platoon, exchanged shots with a bandit, then turned to engage two others and shot both of them dead. The major then saw that the first bandit was now on his knees, chopping with a parang (long-bladed knife) at a Gurkha sprawled beneath him in the grass. Quickly firing again, Maj. Richardson killed the bandit, but it was too late to save the Gurkha soldier, who died later in hospital from severe slashes to the neck and skull. In the meantime the left-hand platoon, led by CSM Bhimbahadur, swung round on the left flank and headed off the remainder of the bandits who were attempting to flee eastwards towards the sanctuary of the jungle beyond the Ayer Panas road. Forced to retreat westwards now through padi and swamps, the bandits were consequently caught in a deadly crossfire from both platoons. A later search revealed 22 enemy dead, though it was believed that there were more bodies in the swamp. Months later it was learned that the total of killed and fatally wounded had been 35 - the highest final score ever achieved. For this action - which proved

to be the most successful of the entire campaign - Maj. Richardson was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and CSM Bhimbahadur the Distinguished Conduct Medal. If proof were needed that the Malaysians were prepared to fight for their country, it was surely provided early in 1950. It was 4am on 23 February when 200 terrorists of the 4th Independent Company MRLA surrounded the police station at the isolated village of Bukit Kepong in Johore. Inside the station Sgt. Jamil hurriedly allocated his 20 Malay constables to defensive positions as the bandits opened fire from all sides. After an hour's heavy exchange of fire Sgt. Jamil was killed, but the constables continued to



1st Cameronians displaying captured Communist flags; Jahore; 1951. (Imperial War Museum)

maintain a determined defence, repulsing several attacks against both the front and rear of the station and refusing all calls to surrender. At daylight the terrorists mounted a massed assault, which this time smashed through into the rear of the compound. Soon the married quarters and the charge room were in flames and the Malay constables, still fighting, were shot down as they were driven out into the open. At one point during the assault Malay and Chinese Auxiliary Police from the village tried to aid the beleaguered station, but were driven back by the bandits with fatal casualties. It took 200 Communists five hours to overcome the 21 gallant defenders of Bukit Kepong. Thirteen Malay policemen, six auxiliaries, two wives and two children were killed. Several of these - some still alive - had been thrown into the blazing buildings. Three of the surviving constables were seriously wounded.

The enemy had suffered at least seven dead and 15 wounded. One month later, on 25

March, a platoon of D Company, 3rd Bn. Malay Regiment, stationed at Pulai in Kelantan, was ambushed in dense jungle on the south bank of the Semur River by a large force of bandits firing from shallow trenches prepared along the opposite bank. The platoon commander, 2nd Lt. Hassan, and several Malay soldiers were killed in the first fusillade, and others wounded. Cpl. Jamaluddin now took command, directing the fire of the remnants of the platoon, who were pinned down along 150 yards of tracks. Calls to the platoon to surrender were answered with hails of bullets and several terrorists who tried to close in on the Malay soldiers were shot down. Meanwhile Police Sergeant Wan Yaacob and 15 Special Constables, with whom the platoon had camped the previous night, hastened towards the sounds of battle, and split into two parties. Seven SCs came under fire and suffered casualties while trying to cross the river. The sergeant and the remainder, scouting round the flank of the terrorists' positions on the north bank, spotted an enemy Bren gunner and shot him dead, but then, on seeing that the platoon was being finally overwhelmed, wisely sought cover. Fifteen Malay soldiers lay dead along the track. Three more - gravely wounded - would die later. There were six others wounded, and only three men of the platoon remained unhurt. The severe casualties inflicted had, however, cost the enemy dear. Later examination of graves at the scene indicated that at least 29 bandits had been killed in the action.

On 21 March 1950 Lt. Gen. Sir Harold Briggs, a Burma veteran brought out of retirement, was appointed Director of Operations. Briggs formed a Federal War Council and State and District War Executive Committees in which representatives of the civil administration, the police and the military co-ordinated their policies.

The principal intention of the 'Briggs Plan' was, commencing in the south, to provide security for the rural population while at the same time removing the main source of MRLA food supplies, funds and recruitment. This meant giving momentum to Sir Henry Gurney's scheme for transporting half a million Chinese squatters from their isolated clusters of shacks and vegetable patches, bordering the jungle fringes, to selected sites, enclosed by barbed-wire fences and guarded by SCs, initially known as Resettlement Areas and later as New Villages. Troops and police, descending on squatter areas before dawn, not un-naturally faced bitter resentment. Perhaps more than any other, however, this harsh measure proved crucial in defeating the terrorists.

A SOLDIERS LIFE

In Malaya (and in Korea) Britain's young National Servicemen proved that they could soldier with the best. After the inevitable 'green' period for new arrivals, hard experience ensured that neither National Servicemen nor Regulars remained 'virgin

soldiers' for long. The jungle in Malaya was even more formidable than the troops had experienced in Burma. In overgrown secondary jungle a patrol might barely cover a mile in four hours. Marching in file along a narrow track, with the overhead foliage completely shutting out the sun and the sky, soldiers had to push, and if necessary chop their way through dense thickets of saplings and attappalms, festoons of creepers and clumps of bamboo. In primary jungle there would be giant, vine covered tree-trunks with roots four feet high and ten yards long over which a patrol would have to clamber. Sometimes there would be fast-flowing rivers to wade across, or vast expanses of foul smelling swamp. The humid heat soaked soldiers in perspiration until they were visibly steaming, and summoned a thirst which experience taught them to quench only sparingly from their water-bottles. Leeches sought their vulnerable flesh and sucked out their blood: a man might find anything between five and 50 of the creatures clamped on to his body. There were also vicious, biting red ants which showered upon them from the trees and jagged, trailing vines which ripped their skin and clothing.

Worst of all was the mountainous nature of the terrain. As they climbed slope after slope, pulling themselves upwards by branches and roots and gulping the musty air of decaying vegetation into their winded lungs, soldiers became ever more aware of the leaden weight of their packs, weapons and ammunition and of the inevitable draining of their strength. It is impossible to convey the feeling of utter exhaustion produced by a hard jungle march. Sprawled out at the side of the track during a five-minute break, a man might feel so agonisingly spent that he would wonder if he would be able to stand up on his feet again. Yet, when the signal came to move on, he would somehow manage to continue placing one foot before the other, perhaps for hours after it had seemed that he had reached the limit of his endurance. Occasionally a soldier would collapse from heat exhaustion and might have to be evacuated. When it was time to halt for the night the patrol would construct three-man shelters, known as bashas, by stretching waterproof poncho-capes over frameworks built from saplings. The night's sleep was invariably disturbed by swarms of whining mosquitoes, biting any exposed flesh and almost as easily through clothing. During the night each man endured a two-hour 'stag' (sentry duty), sitting alone in the dark behind a Bren gun at the edge of the bivouac area. Strange, dark shapes loomed around him and always moved if he looked at them too long, while a continuous cacophony of chirps, whistles, hoots and shrieks assailed him from all sides. The sudden crashing of a falling, rotted branch or the screaming of a monkey might make him start, while the rustling of something moving in the undergrowth would cause him to grip the cocking-handle of the Bren and wait anxiously. All the while the luminous hands of the guard-watch hardly seemed to move. During the monsoon months marching soldiers were drenched at around 4pm every day by torrential rain, which could continue unabated for up to ten hours. Drainage furrows dug to divert rainwater were often



An Iban tracker shares quality time with a member of the Scots Guards (BBC Hulton Picture Library)

inadequate to prevent bashas from being swamped. Consequently men might lie for a large part of the night trying to sleep in streams of muddy water pouring across their groundsheets. With so much fatigue and discomfort, plus the additional hazards of malaria, scrub-typhus, jaundice, dysentery, snake bites, scorpion stings, ulcerated jungle sores, tinea, ringworm, footrot and prickly heat, it might be supposed that soldiers had enough to contend with, but, of course, there was also the enemy.

soldiers became ever more aware of the leaden weight...

Even in Communist-infested regions finding the enemy was far from easy (though men caught in sudden ambush might not agree). One of the largest terrorist camps encountered was in the Bongsu Forest Reserve (Kedah) in April 1951. Sixty bandits, operating from this camp, had carried out some nasty ambushes in the Kulim district during the previous year; yet constant probing of the area had failed to locate the camp until a surrendered terrorist guided 8 Platoon, C Company, 1st KOYLI to it. On this occasion the platoon, commanded by 2nd Lt. Crisp, was unlucky. Two enemy look-outs on the approach track evaded the pursuit of the leading section, and when the platoon reached the camp it was found to have been hastily abandoned. The camp was concealed on a ridge and contained several large bashas, well constructed from bamboo and

attap, incorporating living quarters with sleeping-platforms to accommodate 100, dining-hall, cookhouse and company office, all situated round a hard-earth combined parade ground and basketball pitch.

It had been four and a half months since 8 Platoon's previous contact, when a successful attack had been mounted against a smaller camp occupied by 30 bandits. The intervening 20 weeks of unrewarding "jungle-bashing" were not the waste of time and energy which such periods often seemed, however. Documents taken from a captured terrorist revealed that the number of the company's patrols which were constantly searching the area (in conjunction with the local Police Jungle Squads) made it extremely difficult for units of the MRLA's 8th Regiment or their food suppliers to operate. Every patrol, in fact, harried the enemy one way or another.

Though some units undoubtedly became more expert at bandit-hunting than others, all tackled the task with great enthusiasm and courage. A typical example of British Army spirit in the face of the enemy occurred when a small KOYLI patrol, pinned down in a disadvantageous position and outnumbered five to one, was surprised by a sudden halt in the terrorists' fire. Immediately a small but sturdy private yelled out:

"What's the matter, Johnny? Have you gone for a NAAFI-break?"

THE CRUCIAL YEARS

Although the principal task of the RAF Regiment (Malaya) - locally enlisted but with British officers and NCOs - was to defend airfields, two squadrons were normally employed in jungle operations under Army command. At 1 am on 21 March 1951, A Flight, 94 Rifle Squadron, commanded by Flying Officer Wright, proceeded from its base at Rawang in Selangor to mount a five-day ambush in the Ulau Simpan area. By dawn No. 1 Section was established in an ambush position while Nos. 2 and 3 Sections, under the command of Sgt. Taylor, set out to reconnoitre on the east side of Bukit Munchong. The 19-man patrol encamped near the top of this hill and the following morning, just before dawn, was awoken by the sentry's scream of 'Bandits!' as 40 to 50 terrorists launched attacks from the north, east and south, firing small arms and throwing grenades.

No. 2 Section Commander, Cpl. Ahmad, opened fire with his Sten gun. but was hit by a burst and severely wounded, while AFC Abdullah returned the enemy's fire with his Bren gun and rallied other Malay airmen around him. After being wounded in the arm, Sgt. Taylor was helped to cover behind a tree by LAC Mat, who now took over as Section Commander. AC1 Mahadi was then shot in the chest, but continued firing as he lay dying. Though his left arm was useless, Sgt. Taylor managed to fire his rifle and shot a crawling terrorist at 50 yards range. The attacking groups of bandits were being directed by whistles and by a leader shouting orders from the top of the hill. LAC Mat shot this figure with his Sten gun, and scored at least one other hit before his ammunition was expended. Despite wounds in the knee and arm, AC1 Abdullah continued firing his Bren with only one arm until a third shot struck him in the chest and he collapsed over his gun.

shot a crawling terrorist at 50 yards range

After two hours four of the patrol lay dead and six were wounded (Cpl. Ahmad died the following day), and ammunition was running out. The bandits now closed in and forced the heavily outnumbered patrol to surrender. Sgt. Taylor feigned death and, fortunately, some of the Malay airmen managed to dissuade the terrorists from chopping off his head. The bandits then departed with the patrol's weapons and equipment. It was believed that at least four, and possibly eight of the enemy had been killed. LAC Mat and AC1 Abdullah were both subsequently awarded the Military Medal for their bravery.

A week later, as Easter Monday dawned in the Slim area of Perak, a platoon of the Right Flank Company, and 2nd Bn. Scots Guards charged into a terrorist camp, harrying the surprised bandits into the fire of a surrounding line of 'stops', which in turn drove the remnants back on to the bayonets of the attacking platoon. Ten bandits were killed in the process. Of the two who escaped, one was tracked and killed by the company a few days later and the other surrendered to the police. This great success was achieved

during the Scots Guards' final week of operations in Malaya.

On 1 May 1951, men of 42 Commando, Royal Marines made a flying start to a month in which the unit was to kill 17 terrorists and capture five. Confronting a party of 25 CTs in a rubber estate west of Fusing in Perak, B Troop killed six of the enemy and wounded and captured two in a running fight. Later Capt. Mackay was fatally wounded in the head by enemy fire while leading a subsection of A Troop in a charge up a hill. One bandit was shot in return, but the troop subsequently suffered a second casualty when Lt. Johnson received a chest wound from which he was later to make a good recovery.

Another phase of the 'Briggs Plan' was initiated in June 1951. 'Operation Starvation' imposed strict food control checks on shopkeepers and villagers proceeding to the rubber estates and other work-places, in order to prevent food being smuggled out to the enemy. The 'Briggs Plan' had not yet stemmed the Communist Offensive, however. On 6 October 1951 an independent platoon of 38 terrorists ambushed a Rolls-Royce limousine, escorted by a Police Land Rover on a bend of the road to Fraser's Hill, 40 miles north of Kuala Lumpur and, to their surprise, killed the High Commissioner of Malaya, Sir Henry Gurney.

Just over two weeks later, on the 22nd, another British reverse occurred when severe casualties were suffered by 11 Platoon, D Company, 1st Bn. Royal West Kent Regiment near Ulu Yam in Selangor. While returning from a routine three day patrol the platoon was being carried in a motor transport through the Ulu Caledonian rubber estate. An outburst of machine gun and rifle fire from small hills to the right of a bend in the estate road instantly killed the company commander, Capt. Deeds, and three soldiers in the leading 3-ton truck. The platoon commander, 2nd Lt. Gregson, was wounded twice in the first minutes, and acting platoon sergeant. Cpl. Sulley, killed; but others from the first truck managed to take cover behind the left bank of the road. Meanwhile six men who had leapt out of a 15cwt. truck, 100 yards to the rear, were all killed by grenades slung down upon them from the adjacent hill. Further back an armoured scout car was able to give little help, as enemy fire jammed the control gear of its mounted twin Bren guns.

Behind the left hand bank of the estate road L/Cpl. Martin organised his four remaining men in firing positions. Pte. Pannell and the NCO both repulsed attacking groups of bandits with well-aimed hand-grenades before Martin was struck by a bullet in the shoulder. Not one of the men was now unhurt, but all continued to return the enemy's fire, inspired by Pte. Pannell. Of this 37 year old Regular soldier, one of the other ambushed men, Pte. New, declared:

"Although wounded in four places, he crept along the battle line in a ditch, shouting to us to fight back and directing our fire. When the bandits charged he killed one with a Sten-gun burst."



22 SAS; 14-man patrol after a clash with terrorists in the Ulu Keneboi jungle; 1953. (BBC Hulton Picture Library)



Men of 22 SAS move out for Operation 'Termite' - the largest parachute operation by the SAS during the Emergency, 8 July 1954.

Suddenly the dwindling group was reinforced behind the bank by a planter and four policemen, who jumped from a car which had raced up the estate road. Their combined firing now drove the CTs into retreat towards the nearby jungle. After 90 minutes of battle one West Kents officer, ten other ranks and three Iban trackers lay dead. while one officer, 11 ORs and one CLO (Civil Liaison Officer) had been wounded. One of the five seriously wounded would die later. For their outstanding bravery L/Cpl. Martin was awarded the Military Medal and Pte. Pannell the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

In 1951 alone there were 6,082 recorded terrorist incidents and 1,911 contacts, in which 533 civilians, 354 policemen and 124 soldiers were killed, 1,078 bandits were also killed, 121 captured and 201 surrendered, thereby increasing the total of Communists eliminated in the previous year by a half. In December Gen. Briggs retired with rapidly failing health and died a few months later.

In February 1952, a figure arrived on the scene who was radically to transform the whole situation. Lt.Gen. Sir Gerald Templar, who had been both a divisional and a corps commander during the Second World War,

was appointed to fulfil the combined functions of High Commissioner and Director of Operations. Templer reinvigorated the flagging 'Briggs Plan', and urged closer liaison between the different elements of the State and District War Executive Committees. At the same time he raised civilian morale by underlining the British government's stated intention that Malaya would be granted independence, with its own democratically-elected government, as soon as the security situation permitted. Templer travelled extensively around Malaya in his armoured car, and intervened personally to solve many problems. Though tough, and even ruthless, with both friend and foe in his determination to wipe out Communist terrorism, he was unquestionably dedicated to the people of Malaya. Chinese resettled in the New Villages were encouraged to take responsibility for their own affairs and, in May 1952, elected representatives to village councils. In September Templer granted full citizenship to all aliens born in Malaya, which he hoped would contribute towards forging a united Malayan nation.

The MRLA, in the meantime, was in a process of reorganisation. A meeting of the MCP's Central Executive Committee in Pahang in October 1951 had resolved to attempt to cut their increasing casualty rate by reducing the size of their fighting units from companies of 100 or more to platoons of 20 or 30, which the Security Forces would find more difficult to locate and destroy. It was well into 1952, however, before all MRLA units had received and adapted to this instruction. Another meeting of the Executive Committee, in April 1952, prudently decided to transfer Chin Peng's headquarters to Betong, across the border in southern Thailand.

Welcome reinforcements to the Security Forces, early in 1952, were the 1st Bn. Fiji Infantry Regiment and 1st (Nyasaland) and 3rd (Kenya) Bns. King's African Rifles. Tremendously fit and agile, with many New Zealand officers, the Fijians operated in Johore. They favoured patrols of about five men; if an enemy camp was located one Fijian would kill the sentry while the other four charged the camp, irrespective of the possible size of the opposition. At other times, on operations of platoon or company strength, patrols of only two men each would probe in different directions from a central jungle base. On finding a camp one man would remain to keep watch while the other returned to the base to bring an assault party.

Once they gained experience the KARs soon adapted their African tracking techniques to this new terrain. In July 1952 the 3rd (Kenya) Bn. was contributing to two concurrent operations in Pahang: two companies supported the 1st/10th Gurkha Rifles in the Kuantan coastal region, and the remainder co-operated with the 1st (Nyasa-land) KARs, 4th Malay Regiment and No. 12 Federal Jungle Company (Malayan Police) in the Triang area. In these operations the 3rd (Kenya) killed a total of 11 CTs, four of whom met their end when askaris, uttering tribal war cries, chased them through the jungle and struck them all

down with pangas (large African knives). By the end of their 18-month tour the 3rd (Kenya) had killed more than 60 terrorists.

Meanwhile British troops continued to hunt the enemy with increased success. In the early hours of 12 June 1952, guided by an SEP (Surrendered Enemy Personnel), Capt. Bagnall and ten men of the Machine Gun Platoon, 1st Bn. Green Howards, crept into position on two sides of an MRLA main camp in the Tampin Forest Reserve, Negri Sembilan. Just before dawn a CT suddenly walked out of the camp to undertake his duty at the daytime sentry-post. Positioned behind a tree directly in the terrorist's path, Capt. Bagnall shot him dead. The entire patrol then opened fire in poor light upon CTs fleeing from the bashas, killing three inside the camp and three outside. Capt. Bagnall was awarded a bar to his Military Cross for this action.

and struck them all down with pangas

The 1st Bn. Suffolk Regiment had waged a constant war in South Selangor against the MRLA's 4th Independent Company, known as the 'Kajang gang', for three years. Then, one happy day in July 1952, Special Branch relayed information that the gang's bearded leader Lliew Kon Kim and No. 3 Platoon of his company were to be found in a camp in the Kuala Langat south swamp. The Suffolks, aided by two companies of the Royal West Kents, waded for three days through the south swamp, ten miles by eight in area, in search of the camp. After numerous brief contacts fresh information, obtained from a captured Min Yuen agent, revealed that Lliew could be found in an area to the north of the New Brighton estate. Consequently B Company of the Suffolks, commanded by Maj. Dewar, began to search through the indicated area in nine patrols moving parallel and guided by the informer. This man soon appeared hopelessly

lost; however, the company discovered fresh CT tracks in the area and, on 6 July, was again advancing in nine parallel patrols through the swamp when, at 2pm, 2nd Lt. Hands and his two scouts, Ptes. Baker and Wynant (all three were National Servicemen), spotted a terrorist disappearing into the undergrowth ahead. They immediately opened fire and, running along a log, came suddenly into a small camp on an island and saw three CTs scurrying from one of the bashas 2nd Lt. Hands fired a burst from his M1 carbine, killing one of the enemy. Dashing in pursuit of the others as fast as the murky, thigh-deep swamp would permit, he followed the sounds of splashing and put another fatal burst of fire into a second CT, a woman armed with a shotgun. Hurrying forward for another 150 yards the young officer sighted the third CT, fired once more and, on approaching the fallen figure, found that this time he had killed none other than the bearded Lliew Kon Kim. For his excellent work 2nd Lt. Hands was awarded the Military Cross.

By this time small patrols, moving silently, learning to track and to listen for sounds of the enemy, were earning their reward. During 1952, 1,155 terrorists were killed, and this year proved to be the turning-point in the campaign. With the resettlement of the Chinese squatters largely completed and the security situation improved Gen. Templer felt able, in March 1953, to abolish the much-hated Emergency Regulation 17D which had permitted mass detentions. By then 29, 828 people had been detained since June 1948. Concurrently, food restriction policies were being more strictly and successfully implemented, particularly through curfews and search operations.

It had been known for some time that food was being supplied to the enemy from a New Village called Buloh Kasap, eight miles from Segamat in Johore. All efforts to locate the supply route had drawn a blank until finally a Special Branch agent, planted in the village,



Gunners of A Troop, 75th Battery, 148th Field Regiment RA, run to man their 25pdr. field guns for action against CTs. Tampin area, Negri Sembilan, 1957. (Imperial War Museum).



Men of 22 SAS move out for Operation 'Termite' - the largest parachute operation by the SAS during the Emergency, 8 July 1954.

arranged to deliver a large stock of food to a terrorist leader called Wong Piew. After dark on the night of 14 April 1953, ambush parties of the 1st Bn. Cameronians moved silently into position, both at the south-west of the village's perimeter-fence and at likely escape routes back to the jungle. As 2nd Lt. Weir was leading one of three small groups from C Company to its intended position near the perimeter, the party was suddenly fired on in the darkness from a range of about ten yards. L/Cpl. Tweedie was wounded in the ensuing exchange of fire and at least two hits were claimed by the Cameronians before their attackers finally fled. Meanwhile Maj. Kettles and Lt. Baynes, with an ambush party from the Machine Gun Platoon, had positioned themselves in the rubber by the main Buloh Kasap estate road. After two hours a flashing light to the front of their position indicated someone with a torch moving through the trees. Sounds of approaching men drew closer until a CT suddenly appeared just four yards in front of the Battalion Signals Officer, Lt. Campbell. A long burst from the officer's Bren gun brought the CT down, and the remainder of the ambush party immediately opened fire. The floating lights of Verey pistol cartridges revealed a terrorist collapsing in a swamp to the right and another nearby, apparently badly wounded. At an adjacent position, five minutes later, Sgt. Hannah of the Mortar Platoon fired a few bursts at a figure running along a footpath through the swamp. That night only the body of the CT shot by Lt. Campbell was found, but the following morning, during a search by the Anti-tank Platoon along the edge of the swamp, Rfn. Frew and Fisher surprised and killed a wounded but still armed terrorist amongst the thick rushes. Meanwhile a body had been dragged from the swamp by the estate road, and blood trails were found on the footpath where Sgt. Hannah had fired. The score was now three CTs killed, one of whom was identified as the leader, Wong Piew, and it was believed that there must be another body somewhere in the swamp.

Early in 1953 ten helicopters of 848 Naval Air Squadron were employed in experimental operations, lifting troops into the jungle.

Between March and June men of the 1st and 3rd KARs, 6th Malays, 1st East Yorks, 2nd/6th and 2nd/10th Gurkhas and 1st Manchesters were all involved in operations in Kelantan, Johore and Pahang in which helicopters of this squadron flew the troops into located areas where it was hoped to net MCP Committee Members and other MRLA commanders. These operations were only partially successful. The advantage of speed was countered by the difficulty of finding suitable clearings in the jungle for descent.

Chin Peng and his 'liberation army' had failed

On 3 September 1953 the first 'White Area', considered sufficiently free from terrorist activity for all Emergency restrictions to be lifted, was declared in a coastal region of 221 square miles in Malacca, to be followed during the next few months by areas of Trengganu, Perils, Kedah and Negri Sembilan. By December there were only 2,225 people still held in detention camps. During 1953 the MRLA lost 959 killed, 73 captured and 372 surrendered. Many more died in the jungle from untreated wounds, malnutrition, malaria, beri-beri, dysentery, and execution for 'deviation'. The overall strength now stood at around 6,000, concentrated mainly in Pahang, Perak, Johore and Negri Sembilan. Gen. Templer ended his period of office on 30 May 1954 and, the following month, left Malaya knowing that its people now had the confidence both to defeat Communist insurgency and, very shortly, to govern themselves. Though not yet prepared to admit it, Chin Peng and his 'liberation army' had failed.

THE DEEP JUNGLE

At the close of 1950, during a drive by 45 Commando, RM against hostile aborigines in a region between Tapah and the Cameron Highlands in Perak, Capt. Wild and Marine Blythe of S Troop had the rare experience of being wounded by poisoned darts without fatal consequences. In fact the nomadic, aboriginal tribes that inhabited Malaya's central mountain range were concerned only with survival, and

were therefore prepared to support whichever side appeared to be on the ascendant in their region. The need for a special deep jungle unit prompted Maj. J. M. Calvert, Burma veteran and former commander of the Special Air Service Brigade in Europe during the Second World War, to instigate recruitment towards the end of 1950 for the Malayan Scouts. One hundred volunteers, including former members of the SAS, Force 136 and Ferret Force, were formed into A Squadron, which undertook its first operations in small teams in the jungle around Ipoh in Perak. In January 1951 A Sqn., Malayan Scouts, was reinforced by B Sqn., composed of reservists from the Territorial unit 21 SAS. Volunteers from Rhodesia soon arrived to constitute C Sqn., while a fourth (D Sqn.) was raised towards the end of the year. From this foundation a new regiment was born in May 1952 - 22nd Special Air Service. The regiment specialised in the hazardous technique of parachuting into the tree-tops and then lowering themselves to the ground, a technique first employed operationally, in February 1952, in the Belum Valley near the Thai border. During 1952, as Communist casualties mounted and food sources were increasingly denied them, many MRLA platoons were withdrawn into the deep jungle, where they relied on the aborigines to supply them with food and shelter and to act as a screen against the Security Forces.

The MCP's aim was to establish safe deep jungle bases, with their own cultivation plots, from which a fresh offensive could eventually be launched. To counter this increasing domination of the 50,000 jungle-dwellers, SAS troops landed by helicopter or parachute in remote regions to locate the aborigines and regroup them in protected areas and, where possible, eliminate the local CTs. These operations were normally of 13 weeks duration, during which the troops were resupplied by airdrop.

On 10 April 1953 the Malayan government announced that, with the approval of the Sarawak administration, Iban volunteers would be formed into a fighting unit to be called the Sarawak Rangers. Iban descendants of Sarawak head-hunting tribes had been

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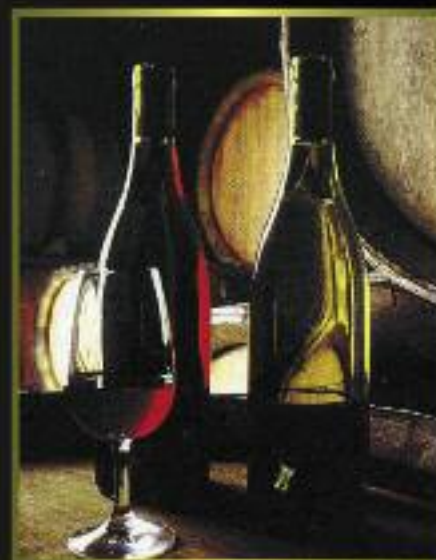
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serving six-month engagements with the Civil Liaison Corps since August 1948, allocated as trackers to British units. The original 47 had grown to an average strength of 200. Subsequently trained by 22 SAS, the Sarawak Rangers made an enthusiastic contribution to deep jungle operations.

Especially active in the task of persuading the jungle people to support the government was the Department of Aborigines. By the end of 1953 more than 200 Malay Field Assistants and Aborigine Field Staff were providing medical clinics, schools and trading posts. These facilities were established in seven jungle forts, garrisoned by platoons of the Police Field Force and regularly supplied by air. Eventually, by 1955, there would be ten forts strategically placed in Perak, Kelantan and Pahang. Between July and November 1954 the largest operation in the campaign so far, Operation 'Termite', was mounted in Perak, in the deep jungle east of Ipoh. RAF Lincolns carried out heavy bombing of suspected hideouts, after which 177 men of three squadrons of 22 SAS parachuted into the clearings blasted by the bombs. The 1st West Yorks, 1st Royal Scots Fusiliers, 1st/6th Gurkhas, 5th Malays and other elements then closed in, some transported by helicopter. Though all the time and trouble only eliminated 15 terrorists, many camps and supply dumps were located. On the other hand, the aborigines in the area were terrified by the bombing and fled. While it could be said that this removed them from previous Communist domination, it would be a long and difficult task to locate these aborigines and bring them into the government fold. Late in 1955 22 SAS was reinforced by the arrival from Britain of the Parachute Regiment Squadron and, in December, the departed Rhodesian Squadron was replaced by another from New Zealand. Commanded by Maj. Rennie and comprising Squadron HQ and four Troops, the New Zealand Squadron had 133 carefully selected personnel, a third of whom were Maoris. Commencing in April 1956, the squadron undertook two 13-week operations on the Perak-Kelantan border during which it smashed a Communist Asal (aborigine) organisation. The first of eight CTs killed was the gang's notorious leader, Ah Ming, who had dominated the aborigines of the Fort Brooke area since 1948. Ah Ming and another terrorist, Kwun Pun, were cut down by automatic fire at first light on 27 April after an aborigine called Alok had guided 3 Troop, commanded by Lt. Burrows, for three days along a trail which was quite indiscernible to the New Zealanders. The following month 2 Troop, led by Lt. Glandell, located and cautiously approached a small CT camp. Opening fire with four Bren guns at ten yards range, the troop was enabled to kill four of the camp's five occupants. Aborigines had been encouraged to contribute to offensive operations: first in the AAPs (Aboriginal Auxiliary Police), who acted mainly as guides and porters for the Police Field Force, then in 19 sections of the PAGs (Police Aboriginal Guards), who were permitted to carry out reconnaissance work. However, R.O.D. Noone, Protector of Aborigines, had felt for some time that the aborigines' operational potential was not being fully utilised, as did Lt.Col. G. H. Lea, commanding officer of 22

SAS. Consequently four sections of ten aborigines each were formed by the Department of Aborigines at the end of 1956, and trained by 22 SAS. Within a year the Senoi Pra'ak (Fighting People) had three squadrons, each with 12 five-man sections which could operate independently in the search for small terrorist bands and remaining hostile aborigine groups.

Meanwhile 22 SAS had continued to wean the jungle-dwellers away from the Communists and to hunt down recalcitrant hostiles and their CT masters. During 14 weeks of operations commencing on 2 May 1956, B Sqn. succeeded in converting 180 aborigines and locating 350 acres of the enemy's crops in the extreme north of the Perak-Kelantan border area, killing two terrorists and wounding four in the process. In this same region, at the end of August, a small patrol of 17 Troop, D Sqn., consisting of Sgt. Turnbull (famed for his speed and accuracy with his automatic shotgun) and three troopers, tracked four CTs for five days. Eventually hearing voices in a clump of bamboo, Sgt. Turnbull reconnoitred and spotted the terrorists' sentry. The patrol now waited until the sentry withdrew into a basha during a rainstorm, then crept up on the basha and killed all four terrorists in a short, sharp engagement. Sgt. Turnbull was subsequently awarded the Military Medal.

In February 1958 37 men from D Sqn, commanded by Maj. Thompson, parachuted into the 180 square mile Anson swamp in Selangor, where they tracked two groups of CTs for 14 weeks and finally forced them to surrender. After a year of little reward in 1958 the Senoi Pra'ak achieved numbers of kills and captures in 1959 which, though small, were larger than those gained by any other military or police unit during that year. From January 1960 the 2nd Bn. New Zealand Regiment was deployed on operations along the Thai border, based in the jungle forts of Upper Perak. The battalion captured four terrorists in that time.

THE FINAL PUSH

Concurrent with the gradual pacification of the deep jungle of the central mountain range, operations were continuing elsewhere in Malaya. From June 1954 until June 1955 Operation 'Apollo' combed 3,464 square miles of territory in the Kuala Lipis region of Pahang and netted 69 terrorists, 18 of whom were killed by the 7th Gurkha Rifles. In Operation 'Nassau', commenced on 21 December 1954, the 1st Royal Hampshires spent eight months wading knee - and sometimes waist - deep through the 100 square miles of the south swamp in the Kuala Langat district of South Selangor. Seeking an independent platoon of 37 CTs, the Hampshires were finally rewarded by 'bagging' 19 of the enemy, while the elimination of a further 16 was shared by the 1st Fiji and 7th Malays. Suspected CT locations were bombarded throughout this operation by artillery, Lincoln bombers and coastal patrolling ships of the Royal Navy. A total of 723 terrorists had been killed during 1954; and by 1955 the depleted 3,000-strong MRLA was becoming harder to find, the

number of contacts being just over half that of the previous year. However, CTs continued to surrender - 211 in 1954 and 249 in 1955. These surrenders were often the result of food denial operations aimed at blocking supply lines to terrorists in a specific area over a period of several months. By April 1955 areas of Pahang and Trengganu had been declared 'White'; and at the end of July Malaya held its first general election. As a result Tunku Abdul Rahman, leader of the UMNO (United Malay National Organisation), headed a Triple Alliance government - a coalition of his own party, the MCA (Malayan Chinese Association) and the MIC (Malayan Indian Congress), who had all previously been mutually distrustful of one another. This new co-operation boded well for the future.

tracked two groups of CTs for five days

Special Branch information obtained from an SEP in Selangor led to a very successful action in December 1955. The deserter had indicated that a course of political instruction for high-ranking CTs was being held in a camp within the jungle fringe, near the village of Ulu Langat. Consequently, on the night of 10 December, a composite company of 4 and 6 Platoons, B Company and 10 Platoon, D Company, 1st Bn. Royal Hampshire Regiment, commanded by Maj. Symes (OCB Company), set out to attack the camp.

Guided by Police Inspector Alias and the SEP, nicknamed 'George', the company had no success in locating the objective throughout the night. After the force appeared to have strayed too far to the west, a fresh bearing was taken and a reconnaissance verified a route which brought the Hampshires across the Sub River; but George was unable to find the vital track until nightfall. At 7 am on the following day Maj. Symes led the company northwards. George now recognised the area and, by 9am, had cautiously guided Maj. Symes and a reconnaissance group to within sight of the camp, which was situated on a steep spur flanked by two streams, beyond which were two ridges, all running roughly from north to south.

With the sounds of their movements obliterated at first by heavy rain, the Hampshires took all of four hours to quietly surround the camp. The assault party, composed of Company HQ and half of 10 Platoon, was positioned along a track on a slope to the north-west of the camp, while the other half of 10 Platoon was deployed to the west as part of the encircling cordon, completed by 6 Platoon to the south-west and south and 4 Platoon to the east and north-east. At 1.20pm Maj. Symes gave the signal to advance. Three assault groups, each of four or five men, commanded by Maj. Symes, Sgt. Hogan and Cpl. Smith, were to advance directly on the camp while Capt. Chandler led a fourth group to intercept an expected sentry and then move in from the north. Maj. James M. Symes, MC (now retired), recalls:

"About ten yards down the slope I yelled: "Charge!" and fired my M1 carbine at a basha 20 yards away almost on the crest of the



LCpl Sage. 1st South Wales Borderers, setting out in search of the enemy near Tampoi, 1957. (Imperial War Museum)

knoll. The rest of the party opened fire; then we slid down the slope, crossed the stream and started to clamber up towards the camp through saplings and undergrowth. It was a sharp incline and very muddy from the recent rain. A single shotgun blast directed at us passed over harmlessly. Then we were in the camp - all three groups - but the terrorists had bolted, leaving the place in a shambles".

Capt. Chandler's group arrived minutes later. Of the sentries supposed to be posted to the north and west there had been no sign. Fleeing both south and east, the CTs tried desperately to escape. A group of eight ran southwards straight into fire from 6 Platoon, which killed at least three and drove the remainder eastwards across the stream, only to be shot down by the waiting men of 4 Platoon. Maj. Symes recalled:

given the Royal Hampshires the highest score

"George had known exactly which escape routes the terrorists would take and where we should place the 'stops'. The two platoons exercised good fire discipline, and I would say the number of rounds expended was extremely low. The boys waited till they saw the whites of their eyes, and let them have it with Brens, shotguns and FN rifles". (In 1955 the Royal Hampshires had been selected for trials of the Belgian FN self-loading Rifle.)

There was sporadic firing for 20 minutes. When the cordon parties were called in to search the area, it was found that 4 Platoon had killed six. CTs and 6 Platoon five. A wounded female terrorist, lying in a thicket, was taken prisoner. Maj. Symes commented:

"She was a real bitch and very hostile, even when one of the young subalterns tried to help her by applying a dressing to the wound in her thigh. Still, I suppose it was understandable under the circumstances".

The only other woman in the camp had been killed. Also among the dead were the Selangor State Committee Secretary, Chan Lo, and a District Committee Member, Wahab. On 22 December the Branch Committee Secretary, Sarlip, was captured by a Hampshires patrol. He had been wounded during the attack and disclosed that he had, in fact, been the sole survivor. With 11 CTs killed and one captured, this classic action had given the Royal Hampshires the highest score of any company engagement since early 1950, and the highest total of terrorists eliminated in one encounter recorded by any British battalion. The 28th Commonwealth Brigade, which had gained fame in the Korean War, was revived in October 1955 when the 2nd Royal Australian Regiment arrived in Malaya, accompanied by a battery of field artillery. Also encompassing the 1st Royal Scots Fusiliers and a New Zealand engineer squadron, the brigade undertook operations in Perak during 1956. Contacts with the enemy throughout Malaya were considerably reduced that year, and troops were increasingly employed on food control and search operations.

Freshly arrived from Kenya the 1st Bn., The Rifle Brigade made a spectacular first kill on 26 August 1956, near Semenyih in South Selangor. Following a Special Branch tip-off, 7 Platoon, B Company was guided by a Police Inspector through a rubber estate to a location close to the jungle's edge, arriving just before dawn. Lt. Alers-Hankey, Sgt. Burrell and the inspector moved forward in the darkness to select ambush positions, and were suddenly aware of something on the ground just in front. Instinctively they opened fire in the pitch blackness, and several forms darted away. As the day dawned it was discovered that seven CTs had been sleeping in the open under mosquito-nets and that at least two had been hit. On the ground lay the dead body of Veong Kwo, Vice-Secretary General of the MCP (second-in-command to Chin Peng). A blood trail showed that a seriously wounded man had escaped.

During 375,849 sorties by aircraft of the RAF, RN and Australian and New Zealand

squadrons the valuable contributions of air supply and casualty evacuation were supplemented by air-strikes in which 33,000 tons of bombs and 100,000 rockets were released against unseen and often non-existent targets in the jungle. On 21 February 1956 Political Commissar Goh Peng Tuan and 13 members of the 7th Independent Platoon, MRLA were killed when a squadron of RAAF Lincolns obliterated a camp near Kluang in Johore by dropping 90,000lbs. of bombs in a rectangle of 700 x 400 yards, which was afterwards strafed by two squadrons of RAF Canberra jets. Similarly, RAAF Lincoln bombers killed the leader of the 3rd Independent Platoon, Tan Fuk Leong, and four others near Seremban in Negri Sembilan on 13 May 1957. In both instances, however, the targets were precisely pinpointed through Special Branch information and, in the case of the former, also by expert reconnaissance by a patrol of the 1st South Wales Borderers. Thirty thousand square miles out of 50,850 had become 'White Areas' by July 1957, and on 31 August Malaya achieved full independence from Britain, remaining within the Commonwealth. The 1st New Zealand Regiment arrived in December and commenced operations in Perak with the 28th Commonwealth Brigade in March 1958.

In one year and nine months of constant patrolling the 1st New Zealand eliminated 28 CTs for the loss of three of its own men and an attached Sarawak Ranger, an excellent record for that late period, which was unsurpassed by any other unit in the Brigade. The MRLA had, meanwhile, been seriously whittled down. By mid-1958, after daring stratagems by SEPs and Special Branch officers had brought about the mass surrenders of 120 CTs in Perak and 160 in Johore, little more than 1,000 of the enemy remained at large, most of them in the north. As terrorist incidents and contacts by the Security Forces reduced to 12 and 27 respectively in 1959, more and more areas were declared 'White' until, on 31 July 1960, restrictions ended everywhere except in zones of Perils, Kedah and Kelantan along the Thailand border. On the other side of this border the last 500 hard-core terrorists of the MRLA had taken sanctuary with the MCP's Secretary-General, Chin Peng: and there, apparently, the ageing survivors are still holed up to this day, living as dacoits in the almost impenetrable jungle. The Malayan Emergency was now officially declared ended.

Available figures indicate that the following numbers of Security Forces personnel lost their lives during the conflict: British Army 340, RM Commandos 30, RAF 76, Gurkha Rifles 169, Australian Army 15, RAAF 12, New Zealand Army 10, NZAF 5, Malayan Army 128, Malayan Police 1,347, plus small numbers of African, Fijian and Sarawak personnel. Known Communist losses were: 6,707 killed, 1,296 captured and 2,681 surrendered. There were also 2,473 civilian fatalities and 810 missing. More than 100,000 British soldiers served in the Malayan campaign. ●

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RAF DEFEATS THE JUNGLE

On 8 December 1962, the day the Brunei Revolt broke out, the Far East Air Force (FEAF) was fortunate in having more transport and heavy aircraft available than usual - by chance rather than due to any planning, because the timing and the nature of the insurrection was a complete surprise to everyone in Singapore, including GHQ FARELF. Consequently, 8 December was a difficult day for the Army as well as the Royal Air Force, but by commandeering a Britannia from Transport Command which was on the ground at RAF Changi, matters were eased somewhat, although the plane had to land at Labuan because there was no airfield in Brunei State capable of accepting such an aircraft.

After 9 December full credit must be given to FEAF for speed and improvisation: during the 8th and 9th, 28 transport aircraft loads were flown into Brunei while at the same time the vital staging post was built up to cope with the heavy traffic.

Every available aircraft was pressed into service including a Bristol Freighter from the RNZAF and a Hercules C-130 from the RAAF. It was a hectic period during which all concerned worked hard around the clock so that by the 13th day after the Revolt had started, the airlift had taken over 3,000 passengers, 113 vehicles, assorted guns and trailers, and two Auster aircraft into Brunei.

All this entailed a tremendous strain on the small and hastily constituted staging post detachment at Labuan. Clearing the Shell Oil complex in Seria had to be done by the Army without air strikes - for obvious reasons - but the ground force received considerable psychological help when four Hunters of No 20 Squadron staged a mock attack on Seria police station to frighten the TNKU (Tentera Nasional Kalimantan Utara), which was followed by a broadcast from a No 209 Squadron Voice Pioneer, calling on the demoralised rebels to surrender. Once the main TNKU insurrection had been broken, RAF Beverleys played a big part in all-important 'hearts and minds' campaign, and particularly after New Year 1963 when the small state experienced some dramatic flooding and countless villages were isolated by the swirling waters.

Food supplies were parachuted to towns and settlements, a humanitarian operation which indirectly influenced the local population into

supporting Britain as well as inducing the fugitive rebels into surrendering. By the time the Confrontation in Borneo had begun, FEAF was in a much stronger position to ensure the inviolability of the new state of Malaysia from hostile air power: the joint headquarters, the establishment of which had initially met with some opposition from the Royal Navy and RAF, had been set up and was working well with the necessary signal communications, while the staging post at Labuan was to grow from 78 personnel to about 500 before the year was out. On the face of it, therefore, the Royal Air Force was readily placed to give maximum support to the ground forces operating along the border with Kalimantan: the main problems to be encountered and overcome were the flying conditions and terrain that existed in Borneo, rather than the threat posed by the Indonesian Air Force.

In most parts of the interior a thick mist remained until about 10am, to be followed by a clear period of good flying weather which lasted for four to five hours. Thereafter there was a gradual build-up of cloud which in the mountainous regions meant that there could be bouts of violent turbulence and severe down draughts, testing the skills of even the most experienced of pilots. As a consequence tactical air operations were usually confined to a few hours in the middle of the day, while to operate at night, especially among the mountains and hills, was impracticable even if it had proved possible to locate targets. The weather could change with dramatic speed and did so many times. To add to the meteorological problems, there was the fact that accurate mapping and survey of most parts of the

country was virtually non-existent and the few small-scale maps available were of little value when tactical flying had to be carried out. This meant that pilots and navigators were compelled to adopt a form of contour navigation to a target area, being forced to rely very much on their personal knowledge of the main features such as prominent ridges, large rivers and distinctive valleys. It soon became clear that experience in the theatre of operations counted for everything and that there was no merit to rotating air crews too quickly - continuity was all-important. The third factor that must be remembered was distance, with Labuan being some 400 miles from the FEAF airfields in Singapore, while away to the east Tawau was over 1,300 miles from the main base of all the aircraft involved. Much flying time was spent in even reaching the target area so that the island of Labuan was ideally situated, and without it the level of air support that was maintained would not have been possible.

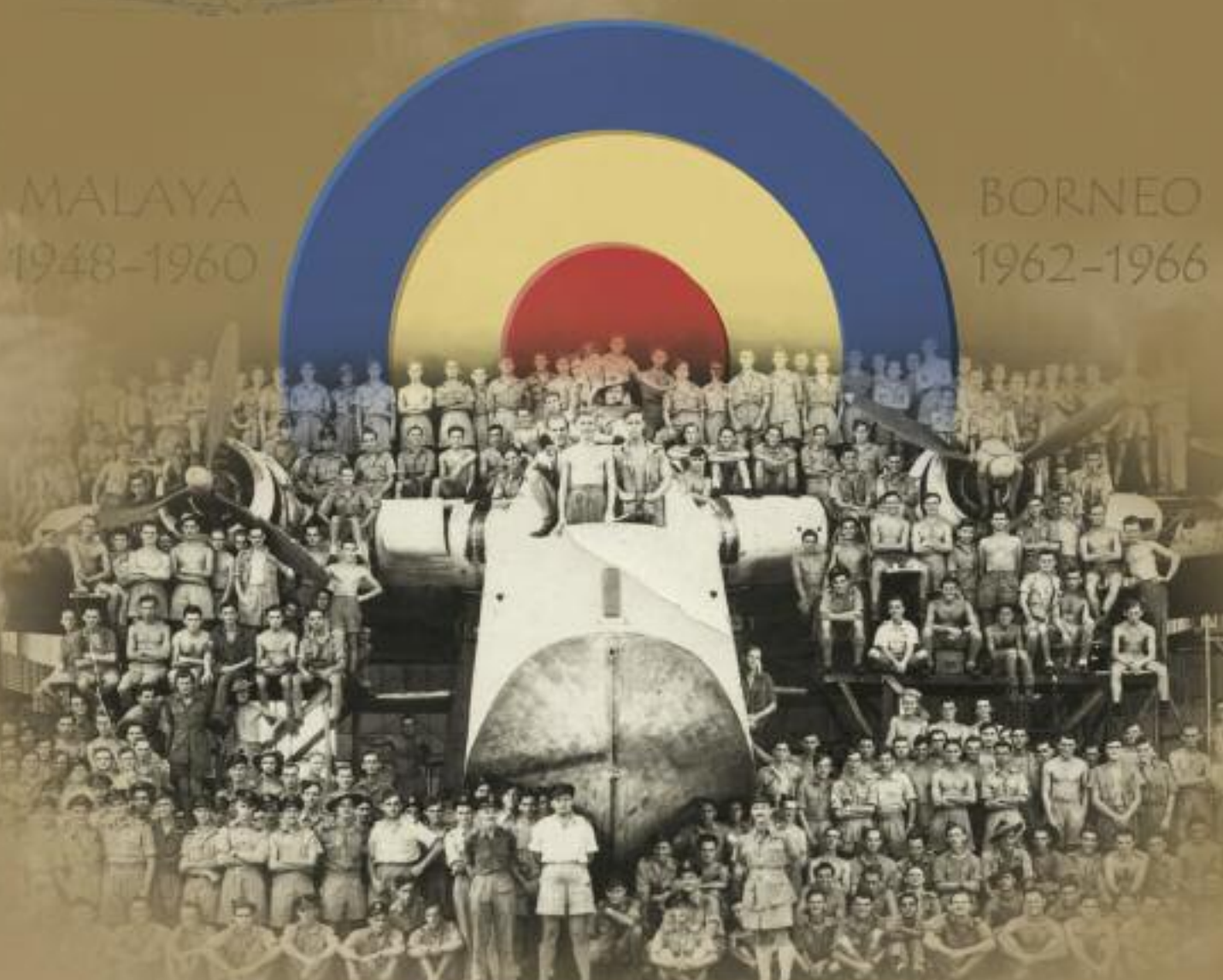
continued on page 134



An RAF Belvedere

MALAYA
1948-1960

BORNEO
1962-1966



SHORT SUNDERLAND SQUADRON - FAR EAST 6150

**IN PROUD REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE
MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE
WHO SERVED AND GAVE THEIR LIVES DURING
THE MALAYA EMERGENCY
& BORNEO CONFRONTATION
1948 - 1966**



After Malaysia had been proclaimed on 19 September 1963, the burning down of the British Embassy and the anti-British sentiments expressed by the volatile students necessitated the sudden evacuation of 400 British nationals from Jakarta to Singapore, the airlift being mounted by three Argosies and one Hastings from No 48 Squadron. Although this exodus went without any major hitch, it was to have an important consequence because thereafter there could be no more flying over Indonesian air space - which for aircraft bound for Australia meant considerable inconvenience and an unwelcome increase in flying time. On the other hand it did not prevent the Indonesian Air Force from flying over Malaysian territory, and during November 1964 there were nine reported incursions made by B-25 Mitchell bombers, escorted by P-51 Mustang fighters.

It is now time to look at the Indonesian Air Force as it was during the Confrontation period. Numerically strong, Sukarno's air force consisted of 550 aircraft but the machines were of mixed national origin and of varying vintage. There were a few Russian 'Badgers', United States B-25 Mitchells, while the fighter squadrons ranged from P-51 Mustang fighters to some old Russian MiG-17s, 19s and 21s. Likewise the transport support fleet was a hybrid one, mainly depending on C-130 Hercules and some ancient Dakotas, while the helicopters were of Russian origin, often without the necessary spares. On numbers alone, the Indonesian Air Force was one to be respected but as the Confrontation went on it became clear that the Indonesian pilots had a wholesome respect for their RAF opponents; once it was known that RAF fighters had been 'scrambled', evasion tactics were adopted on every occasion, all of which proved successful as no aircraft were shot down by either side during the whole period of hostilities. Thus by exercising its complete superiority in the air, the RAF ensured that the Commonwealth troops were given maximum, effective logistic support - in contrast to the Indonesian troops in Kalimantan who had to fight the campaign at the end of a long and tenuous shoestring, invariably relying on local boats operating on the rivers which were often dangerous after heavy rains. The incursions by the Indonesian aircraft meant that an Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) was set up immediately afterwards which not only covered the length of the border but extended to a distance of three miles off-shore as well. In order to police this ADIZ eight Hunters were detached from No 20 Squadron and stationed on Borneo soil - four at Labuan and four at

Kuching. Later, in order to establish a permanent all-weather day and night vigil, two Javelins from No 64 Squadron were positioned at both airports. With the border being so near Kuching, there was no possibility of pilots seeking guidance from higher authority, should an Indonesian incursion by air take place, so that the rules of engagement allowed pilots to attack and destroy any hostile aircraft over-flying the ADIZ, without first having to obtain permission from ground control after the aircraft sighting.

The aim was to deter the Indonesian Air Force from entering Borneo air space and the addition of Mark MR Javelins, carrying long range fuel tanks and Firestreak air-to-air missiles, made No 60 Squadron a formidable force - not surprisingly there was a temporary reduction of violations of air space by Indonesia for an appreciable period after these aircraft went into operational service. After Malaysia had been proclaimed, there was a steady, albeit modest, build-up in the ground and air forces under Gen Walker's command.

All this led to two ever-increasing commitments for the air transport support: firstly, the resupply by air of more patrols and static posts, and secondly, as the campaign increased in tempo, the rotation of units in the forward areas which had to be carried out with speed. As far as air resupply was concerned, Labuan and Kuching were the two forward airfields to where a stream of aircraft daily flew in the supplies, equipment and personnel urgently required in the theatre: the aircraft used for this link in the supply chain were Hastings, Argosies and Beverleys, assisted by RNZAF Bristol Freighters. Thence, Pioneer aircraft from No 209 Squadron and Belvederes from No 66 Squadron had the task of taking personnel and items required in a hurry to the rough and ready airstrips that had been established in the forward areas, usually close to the border, which meant that they had to be defended by ground forces. In certain areas, however, supplies could not be air landed and were dropped by parachute using the medium-range aircraft operating from either Labuan or Kuching. Supplementing the aircraft used on air supply were the workhorses of the campaign, the helicopters. There were never enough of these but welcome reinforcements were received when No 225 Squadron, equipped with Whirlwind 10s and No 26 Squadron, consisting of four Belvederes, were whisked away from Exercise 'Triplex West' in the Middle East and taken by HMS Albion from El Adem to the Far East where they joined the already heavily committed detachments from Nos 110, 66 and 103

Squadrons. Their arrival doubled the total number of helicopters available to the Commonwealth forces in Borneo. The helicopters, from all three Services, became an all-important weapon in the Director of Operations' strategy and were used for a multitude of military purposes from tactical to administrative and, when the situation permitted, to occasionally help the local people living in isolated longhouses.

Under the umbrella of complete air supremacy...

At the height of Confrontation there were usually about 50 machines serviceable and working at maximum pitch. The Belvederes from No 66 Squadron, detached to Kuching, proved invaluable on a number of occasions because they were able to increase the mobility and range of the 105mm guns and mortars, dotted around the forward positions. One helicopter would pick up a 105mm gun while the second carried its equipment, ammunition and the gun crews. By so doing, every cross-border operation was promised fire support 'on call', while the moving of guns from one company position to another led the Indonesians into thinking that there were many more guns opposed to them than there actually were in the forward posts. In addition, Belvederes were able to rescue one or two smaller helicopters which had either crashed or had become unserviceable in the forward areas, to lift them back to base for repair.

Under the umbrella of complete air supremacy the British and Commonwealth troops were able to concentrate on their tactical operations in the knowledge that supplies and ammunition would arrive as near to the time and place as weather conditions allowed. The tempo of activity rose sharply until by December 1964 one million pounds of supplies were dropped in that month alone, and the total continued to rise thereafter. A major air commitment was involved each time battalions were relieved after completing a six-month tour because there was never enough accommodation to meet the needs of the incoming and outgoing units in the Forward Defence Locality (FDL). Because units could not overlap, it meant that a most complicated movement plot had to be devised for each change-round. To add to the complexity of the planning there were no airstrips in the forward areas capable of accepting long-range aircraft so that incoming personnel had to be shuttled forward over the last stage, using the faithful Pioneers and helicopters

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Labuan became the RAF's Operational hub in Borneo

Pictured are Beverley and Twin Pioneer transports as well as Javelin interceptors and Canberra bombers



It's easy to find yourself feeling isolated

**But once you're part of the RAF family,
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even a chat on the phone with
a Royal Air Forces Association
volunteer will soon have you
feeling like your old self again.

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who is, get in touch.

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RAF Victor bomber from No. 57 Squadron Bomber Command.

which then returned with men from the outgoing unit. In general these unit reliefs went extremely well although inevitably there were hitches, particularly when the weather suddenly deteriorated or one or two of the aircraft became unserviceable. Each relief posed a different set of problems to the Movements staff, sometimes taxing their ability to improvise to the limit. While all these operations continued day by day, the Canberras from No 81 Squadron, operating from RAF Tengah in Singapore and using Labuan as an advance base, were carrying out extensive photography and survey along the whole border. With indifferent and sometimes inaccurate maps, it was vital that the soldiers and airmen, of all three Services, who had to police the border were given accurate maps and up-to-date photographs as soon as possible. These were to be forthcoming, and by using the speed of the Canberra aircraft, photographs taken were processed and issued back to the unit concerned in the minimum time possible; as a result, photographic reconnaissance became a weapon of even greater significance than it had been in the Malayan Emergency.

For the Royal Air Force, it was the most unusual campaign

Having established a highly efficient organisation in the Borneo territories, HQ FEAF's attention had to switch suddenly to the defence of the mainland, West Malaysia, when in the summer of 1964 the Indonesians dropped their parachutists in the Labis area. Although only three C-130s escaped the radar net, the fact that there was a gap in it caused great concern and all available fighter aircraft were put on the alert - Javelins from No 60 Squadron, Hunters from No 20 Squadron and RAAF Sabres based at Butterworth near Penang. A few days later, when the men from the 10th Gurkhas were clearing up the pockets of parachutists in the jungles near Labis, Hunters from No 20 Squadron were used to strike against the intruders, firing their rockets at discarded Indonesian parachutes in the jungle as aiming points because no other living targets were visible. When a captured Indonesian officer, thoroughly disillusioned with the way the operation had been planned and executed by his country, consented to make a full

statement to that effect, his message was printed as a leaflet and a million copies were dropped by Hastings and Argosy aircraft at various places over Indonesian Kalimantan territory. As a result of the Labis incursion, the air defence of Singapore and the mainland of Malaya was looked at most carefully and urgent steps were taken to fill the gaps in the radar cover. A 'County' class cruiser, HMS Kent, steamed to the Malacca Straits in an air defence role while Royal Naval Gannets from HMS Victorious supported the RAF coastal aircraft in maritime patrols. Other steps were taken which included eight Javelins being flown into Tengah from No 64 Squadron in the UK, welcome reinforcements to No 60 Squadron as that Squadron had already committed detachments on a semi-permanent basis in the Borneo territories.

All that remained was to make sure that the formidable array of aircraft and weapons was coordinated into a well-knit plan and to this end, at the end of October 1964, a full-scale air defence exercise was held in Singapore which served to boost the morale of the local people as well as serving notice on Sukarno not to attempt anything in the way of ambitious incursions. Notwithstanding this exercise, at the end of March in the following year Indonesian anti-aircraft guns, located on the Riau Islands, began firing at civilian and military aircraft leaving from or returning to the airfields in Singapore. This warlike gesture led to a rapid deterioration in relations between Indonesia and Australia because it meant that even more flying hours had to be expended in order to avoid the hostile guns: Australia's reaction was to despatch a battalion of the Royal Australian Army together with a squadron from its SAS to the Borneo territories where they were to play a full part in blunting Sukarno's aggression.

In spite of these measures, occasional incursions continued to be made by Indonesian aircraft but records show that there was only one meeting and a chance one at that, when a Javelin fighter passed an Indonesian C-130 Hercules near the border; the British pilot reported that the amazed consternation on the faces of the crew was noticeable even when

the planes flashed past each other at speed. Well before the end of the Confrontation the ground forces were in a position to meet and defeat the TNI (Tentera Nasional Indonesia - Indonesian National Army) whenever they came into contact, and before the 'Claret' raids crossed into Indonesian territory the soldiers knew that they were assured of maximum support up to the boundary. Thereafter, for political reasons, there could be no air support while they operated on the Kalimantan side of the border, something that was understood, even if it made each raid hazardous and nervewracking in the minds of those participating - the evacuation of casualties being the biggest fear. There were important lessons in the use of air power during the Borneo Confrontation. The Joint Headquarters worked extremely well under the one Director of Operations, Gen Walker, and then under his relief, Gen Lea. At the beginning when there were few helicopters and the Indonesians retained the initiative, there were one or two occasions when helicopters were put under direct command of a unit and this worked well. However, as the numbers built up, the more conventional centralised tasking fitted the theatre requirement well because it meant that, with their specialist knowledge, the 'taskers' used the available planes and pilots to their maximum capability as well as watching the serviceability of each aircraft, a vital factor under those climatic conditions.

It was very much a helicopter war and all three Services contributed to the full, ensuring that the machines played a dominant role in the campaign both tactically and logistically. The high serviceability rate of the aircraft was a credit to the maintenance crews who worked long hours under hot, humid conditions to ensure the maximum number of planes was available on any given day. Finally, it was a strange war as far as the opposing air forces were concerned. Although through sheer weight of numbers the RAF's opponents in the Indonesian Air Force should have been capable of exerting an important influence on the campaign, a deep fear of retaliation from the Royal Air Force grounded it for most of the time. In addition, the Indonesian Air Force, due to chronic maintenance problems as well as indifferent administration, did not use its machines to the best advantage in support of the TNI, especially when units were in isolated camps near the international border.

For the Royal Air Force, it was a most unusual campaign in which the main opponents were the inhospitable terrain and a climate which could worsen dramatically without any warning - and not the Indonesian pilots. That there were no casualties from enemy air action is a firm indication of how Sukarno's pilots regarded their British, Australian, New Zealand and Malaysian opponents, and this fear meant that unchallenged air superiority gave immense strategic and tactical advantages to the Security Forces during all phases of the campaign. One disadvantage the RAF faced was that even when there were known Indonesian bases, established sometimes a matter of yards on the other side of the border, these retained an inviolability because for political reasons the pilots were not allowed to carry out any interdiction of camps or supply routes, however obvious those targets were to everyone who flew along the border. It must have been frustrating but in the forbearance lay the seeds of final victory because the Confrontation never escalated into full-scale war. ●

Courtesy The Estate of Brigadier ED Smith.

RAF Association wants to take lonely under its wing

Following the successful launch of its Befriending service in Lincolnshire last December, the Royal Air Forces Association has extended the reach of the service to cover the whole of the UK.

Sophie Witkowski, Association Head of Welfare, said: "We launched the befriending service in Lincolnshire as there are a lot of current and former serving RAF personnel in the county. We were delighted with the response, as almost 200 people expressed an interest in getting involved in a very short space of time."

The befriending service was created in response to research published by the Royal British Legion showing that isolation and loneliness is particularly acute within the ex-service community, with one in six reporting some relationship/isolation difficulty. This equates to around 770,000 members of the RAF family. The research suggests that loneliness is particularly prevalent during the transition from Service to civilian life and for older veterans.

Speaking at an event to launch the befriending service, Association President Air Marshal Sir Dusty Miller said: "Life for many of us is busy, and often noisy. I am sure there are times when we all crave solitude and silence, just to be alone with our thoughts. Maybe we want just 10 minutes when the phone doesn't ring, when there are no emails that need our urgent attention, and no knocks at our door from a colleague with 'just a quick question'.



"Take a moment now to imagine that your working life is a long way behind you. You are sitting in your favourite chair at home and there is no one with you. It might be quite an appealing thought, but imagine sitting in that chair day after day, still with no one. The phone doesn't ring. There are no knocks at the door. There are no friendly faces. No smiles. No voices. No one just to ask how you are. No one to share a funny story with. No one to share your favourite biscuits with. No one today. No one tomorrow. No one for days or even weeks."

Someone who needs a befriender could be anyone from a spouse of deployed personnel to a person who is isolated through the use of social

media or an older person who has become increasingly lonely and isolated over time. Sophie continued: "I encourage any member of the RAF family who is feeling isolated to get in touch with the Association. It isn't an easy thing to admit to being lonely, but with so many people living alone these days it's sadly far too common. You can also get in touch with us if you know of an RAF veteran who might appreciate a visit."

You can find out more about the Association's befriending service by calling **0800 0182 361** or emailing welfare@rafa.org.uk

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We remember with immense pride those members of the RAF Regiment who served with great distinction in Malaya & Borneo, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice



Merdeka

THE ROAD TO NATIONHOOD

There is Euphoria, ecstasy, heartbreak and humiliation in the compelling chapter of Malaysia's history which runs from the mid-1940s to the end of the 1960s. The Japanese occupation had been a difficult time for Malaysians, and the post-war era ushered in a flurry of royal celebrations as well as, post Independence in 1957, a full calendar for the King (Yang di-Pertuan Agong), who served on a five year rotation basis. Installations of Sultans which were postponed due to war were enacted with as much pomp and pageantry as before.

Five centuries after the Portugese first seized Malacca, Malaya finally obtained Independence in 1957. It was a heady time for Malaya, renamed Malaysia when Sarawak, North Borneo and Singapore joined the new Federation in 1963. The new nation was thrust into the international arena. It was a time of spiritual and tangible nation building. The colonial years had irretrievably changed the ethnic balance, causing communal problems that resulted in the twelve year communist insurrection, the Malaya Emergency.

One man can be said to personify the era best - Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra. This Cambridge educated lawyer and son of Sultan Abdul Hamid Halimshah of Kedah championed Independence and was also the nation's first Prime Minister. He is pictured in numerous photographs, a few which have become legendary, showing him rallying support for Independence, meeting the notorious guerilla Chin Peng and leading the thunderous cry of 'Merdeka' at the Independence celebrations.

Even before the end of the Japanese Occupation, the colonial administration had already been making plans to merge the Federated Malay States (FMS), Unfederated Malay States (UMS), Penang and Melacca into an independent Malayan Union. Singapore remained a British colony because of its strategic value as a base and its cherished free port status. There had been earlier plans to include Sarawak and North Borneo, but they were finally omitted because of the difficulty of formulating an arrangement. In July 1946, Sarawak and North Borneo became crown colonies, because Rajah Vyner Brooke and the British North Borneo Company could no longer afford

On the 31st August, 1957, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra proudly declared the independence of Malaya by shouting 'Merdeka' seven times at the Merdeka Stadium

the cost of running them. North Borneo raised no objections to the transfer but there was much opposition to it in Sarawak, mounted by some members of the Brooke dynasty and many Malays, which resulted in the assassination of the Governor Duncan Stewart in December 1949. When the plan for the merger was revealed in a White Paper in January 1946, giving sovereignty to the British Crown, and equal rights and citizenship on the basis of local birth or ten years residence, there was strong Malay opposition. Even arch pillars of the empire such as Sir Frank Swettenham and Sir Cecil Clementine joined the opposition, which included the Sultans. It was in May, 1946, that a new political force, the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), was created that ultimately led to the revocation of the Union plan and the creation of the Federation of Malaya in February 1948. The Federation returned sovereignty to the Sultans, enforced more restrictive citizenship rules and gave special privileges to the Malays.

Many Chinese, especially those who had carried on a guerilla war against the Japanese during the occupation, felt betrayed and joined the Malayan Communist Party (MCP). At first they waged an open struggle mainly through the unions, but when party policy changed 'to the road of violent action', many Europeans on estates and mines were attacked and killed. A State of Emergency was declared in mid-1948. Using the dense rainforest as their base and Chinese rural squatter provisions, the communists wrought havoc until the death of High Commissioner Sir Henry Gurney, which prompted measures that included the resettlement of hundreds of thousands of rural Chinese in New Villages. This ultimately led to the communists defeat. Furthermore, they lost whatever political clout they had when the Malayan Chinese Association (MCA) joined forces with UMNO to create the Alliance in 1952.

Compelling images survive from the Emergency in Kelantan, sarong-clad women trained to shoot in defence of their paddy fields while armed soldiers guarded tea pickers in the European tea estates in the Cameron Highlands. Anti-communist rallies and demonstrations were held in major towns nationwide. In 1955 the communist leaders agreed to meet with Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra and a government delegation in the small town of Baling, Kedah. Unfortunately the talks failed - although many believed the communists were beaten when the British agreed to Independence. That historic moment on 31 August 1957 is immortalised in images of the largest-ever Alliance procession in Kuala Lumpur and the jubilant crowds celebrating Malaya's freedom. World leaders and dignitaries came to pay their respects to the new nation.

Rapid development followed Independence, particularly Kuala Lumpur where high-rise buildings began to change the skyline, and new planned townships like Petaling Jaya

revolutionised the way Malaysians lived. High-rise living was an effective solution as an increasing number of Malaysians moved from the rural areas to the city. The nation's infrastructure transformed with the building of schools, hospitals and an international airport at Kuala Lumpur, as well as highways and power stations. The University of Malaya, the first in Malaysia, was established in 1962. A new generation of modern Malaysians emerged. Freedom of expression was very much alive in the early days, with students marching against communal antagonism.

In 1963, following the completion of successful talks in London, Sarawak, Sabah (formerly North Borneo; it had reverted to its original pre-colonial name), and Singapore joined Malaya to create Malaysia. There were objections to this merger, however, from Indonesia and the Philippines, both severing diplomatic ties. However, it was not outside pressures but communal problems that created the biggest problems for the new nation. Political differences arose between Singapore's People's Action Party (PAP) and Malaysia's UMNO, which championed the interests of the Chinese and Malays respectively. With the growing threat of communal violence and political battles becoming more heated, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra enforced Singapore's Secession from the Federation of Malaysia in 1965.

At the formation of Malaysia in 1963, the population stood at almost 10.5 million, with Malays forming 47%, Chinese 34%, Indians 9% and Sabah and Sarawak's indigenous people at about 8%. Maintaining peace in such a plural society was vitally important, and the government worked hard in this respect. Leaders and ministers were highly visible, opening mosques, sending off pilgrims to Mecca, attending Indian and Chinese festivals, and embarking on solidarity campaigns such as the National Language Week. But the nation's future would depend on economic as well as social reconstruction.

Rural development schemes such as the Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA) made huge strides in easing rural poverty. From 1956, enormous tracts of land were opened up and by 1973 about 173 000 landless people had been resettled.

As politics in South-East Asia stabilised and the economy grew, relations between Asian countries improved to the point that in 1967, the ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) was founded, which envisaged close co-operation between Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, Thailand and the Philippines. In recent years Malaysia has developed into a self-confident nation. The last few years tourism has increasingly been promoted, exploiting the country's unique features. Malaysia offers natural beauty with a rich culture, including very diverse ethnic groups, brought together by history in this country on the divide between the monsoons. ●



Anti-Communist at Banting, Selangor, 1957



Alliance Amnesty parade passing the Municipal Building in front of the Padang, 1956.

MALAYSIA A NEW IDENTITY

In one generation, just about everything in Malaysia underwent radical alteration

In the 1970s, travel writers wrote of how coconut palms were becoming dwarfed by the skyline of Asia's newest capital. A generation later, Kuala Lumpur metamorphosed into a futuristic metropolis with some of the world's tallest buildings surrounded by an ocean of suburbs. In the 1970s, most families had only a bicycle for transport. With the National Car Project in the 1980s, many families today own one, if not two, three, or even four cars. Radios have been replaced by satellite television networks, newspapers by the internet, and trishaws by rapid-transport networks.

Rice fields and oil palm plantations that provided employment to many have been replaced by factories and cyber-cities. Villages become increasingly quiet as their inhabitants are drawn to the cities - to the brave new world of 21st century consumerism.

On independence day 31st August, 1970, a new national ideology, The Rukunegara, was announced. It was dedicated towards greater unity within the nation, maintaining a democratic way of life, creating a just society with the nation's wealth equitably shared, ensuring liberality in cultural traditions, and building a progressive society oriented to modern science and technology.

The first tangible step taken towards achieving one of the five goals in the Rukunegara came soon after with the establishment of the new

economic policy (NEP) in 1971, which was designed to eradicate poverty regardless of ethnicity, as well as increase Malay participation in the economy. Despite having the most political clout compared to the other races, the Malays' economic involvement was a mere 2 percent of corporate equity. Although about half of Malaysia's population lived below the poverty line at the time, 3 quarters of them were Malay. Thus the NEP sought not only to redistribute the pie, but also to increase its size to ensure that no ethnic group would be disadvantaged.

To this end, foreign - owned tin and plantation companies were taken over by the government to boost national corporate ownership, trust agencies were established, entrepreneurship was encouraged by government bodies such as the Council of Trust for Indigenous People (MARA), and numerous enterprises such as state economic development corporations were set up. Initially, there were fears that the Chinese would be disadvantaged, but their business acumen soon proved these fears were unfounded. Economic prosperity achieved in the 1970s enabled the government to make considerable progress. However, providence also played a major part, especially with the discovery and development of large natural gas and oil reserves located off the Sarawak and Terengganu coasts.

Also in 1970, after 16 months of Emergency rule under the National Operations Council,

Tun Abdul Razak bin Hussein became Prime Minister upon the retirement of Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra in September. Nicknamed the 'Organisation Man', the Pahang-born lawyer was responsible for expanding the former Alliance coalition to create the Barisan Nasional (BN) that went on to win the 1974 elections and every election since then. In that same year, Malaysia recognised Communist China and also identified itself with the non-aligned countries of the Third World.

In 1976, on the premature death of Tun Abdul Razak at the age of 54, Tun Hussein Onn, a Johor-born lawyer and eldest son of the founder of the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), Dato' Onn Ja'afar, took over as Malaysia's third Prime Minister. He was tireless in his efforts to make the NEP a reality, and towards this end he introduced the National Unit Trust (Amanah Saham Nasional) controlled by the National Equity Corporation (Pennodalan Nasional Berhad, or PNB) which allowed bumiputera (sons of the soil) to invest in its shares. With these funds, the PNB then had the means to take over foreign companies. In 1981, due to ill health, he relinquished his post to his deputy, Datuk Sen Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who became Malaysia's fourth Prime Minister.

Political pundits knew that change would be inevitable under the outspoken, no-nonsense, Kedah-born doctor, who had been expelled from the party after criticising Tunku Abdul



Kuala Lumpur Skyline

PETRONAS TWIN TOWERS

Kuala Lumpur



Rahman Putra about the 1969 civic troubles. He was later re-admitted by Tun Abdul Razak in 1972, and made Minister of Education in 1974.

As the first prime minister who was not educated overseas, Dr Mahathir sought to create a more independent and self-reliant Malaysia without any colonial baggage. When recession struck in the early 1980s, he launched a privatisation programme, 'Malaysia Inc.', which in effect turned the government into a commercial enterprise. Everything from the railways to the national airline, utilities to tolled highways were privatised. At the same time he also initiated a bold policy of heavy industrialisation with a steel industry, oil refineries, and a national car. In 1982, Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Bhd.

(PROTON) was set up and when the first Proton Saga rolled off the assembly line in 1985, it was not only the first car to be manufactured and designed in Malaysia, but also in Southeast Asia. Critics at that time saw the national car as a white elephant, but with the help of tariffs and massive investment, Proton had cornered 65 percent of the local market with almost 1.4 million cars on the road.

The government's move away from agriculture towards industrialisation was also mirrored in the changing lifestyles of Malaysians, who left the plantations in droves to take up less strenuous work in cleaner, air-conditioned factories. Leading the way was the semi-conductor industry, which produced tiny electronic chips that were revolutionising the

way things worked - from mobile phones to rockets. By 1998, the semi-conductor industry represented a fifth of total exports and employed 340, 000 people. Massive broadening of the infrastructure paralleled Malaysia's economic growth - for much of the late 1980s and the 1990s, the country was registering growth in double - digit figures. Business was booming, foreign capital was pouring in, and it seemed as if the entire country was being rebuilt, fuelled by Dr Mahathir's almost obsessive attraction to mega-projects that have seen Malaysia attain world class standards in civil engineering.

There is the 848km long North-South Expressway, the state-of-the-art Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), and Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC), topped by the Petronas Twin Towers, the one of the worlds tallest buildings, and home of the national oil company, Petronas. Malaysia's most successful and largest global player, Petronas, is the only Malaysian company to rank in Fortune magazines listing of the worlds 500 biggest companies.

Industrialisation even seemed passé when the multi-media super corridor (MSC) was announced in 1996. This futuristic mega-plan links KLIA to KLCC and includes the new administrative capital of Putrajaya as well as the 'Intelligent' city, Cyberjaya, Malaysia's answer to America's silicon valley and the hub of what was seen as ground zero of the nations economic transformation in the digital age. However, just when everything seemed possible, as expressed by the slogan Malaysia Boleh! ('Malaysia can do it!'), the bottom fell

out of the Asian financial markets. In 1997, the region experienced it's most severe financial crisis on record. The Ringgit plunged over night, the stock market crashed, and construction sites became ghost towns.

The Prime Minister did not favour what he saw as a set of potentially damaging prescriptions advocated by the international financial community, and instead imposed his own remedies, including exchange controls. His stance has attracted more international support in retrospect than it did at the time.

Malaysians have always been adept at change. The economy has rebounded, and new multi-ethnic political parties have emerged that signal a move away from the ethnic-based parties of the past. In 1998, when Malaysia staged the successful Commonwealth Games, it also showcased the 'New Malaysia', spearheaded by a new generation that gives national concerns precedence over ethnic ones.

They are at the core of 'Vision 2020', the plan to see Malaysia attain the status of a fully developed nation by then. A united country with a shared destiny for all. A liberated and secure society enabling and encouraging excellence. The fostering and development of democracy. The establishment of moral and ethical values. Equality for all people regardless of colour or creed. A progressive, innovative perspective. A caring society. Economically just. A prosperous, competitive, robust and resilient future.

HEMELKOMING

During the Emergency, towns and villages which were in close proximity to some of the worst 'Black Areas' - Regions under Communist control - were vacated. It was only when the main Communist Army, the Malayan Races Liberation Army (MRLA), disbanded in 1958 and the government considered the war practically won that some of the former ghost towns were once again opened and their residence allowed to return. In some cases, the towns and villages had been vacated a decade earlier, so for many of the children who accompanied their parents it was their first visit as they had been born elsewhere. Young children paraded down the main street in high spirits, and traditional red packets known as ang pow were given out once more. The Emergency was over.

Image: Children celebrating their return home, Teras, Pahang, Malaysia, 1958 New Straits Times Press



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THE UBIQUITOUS LAND ROVER

King of the Road and Lord of the Jungle, the Land Rover shows its resilience in the unforgiving Malay climate



A Mark I Land Rover in the Cameron Highlands, its owner proudly preserving the Royal Artillery Unit markings in which it served. Talbott 2004.

The first Land Rover was designed in 1947 by Maurice Wilks, the chief designer at the British car company Rover, as a farm vehicle that could be used for everything from ploughing fields to driving in town.

It is said that he was inspired by an American World War II Jeep that he used on his estate. The first Land Rover prototype 'centre steer' was built on a Jeep chassis. A distinctive feature has been their bodies, constructed of a lightweight rustproof proprietary alloy of aluminium and magnesium called Birmabright. This material was used owing to post-war steel shortages and a plentiful supply of post-war aircraft aluminium.

This metal's resistance to corrosion was one of the factors that allowed the vehicle to build up a reputation for longevity in the toughest conditions. The early choice of colour was dictated by army surplus supplies of paint, so early vehicles only came in various shades of green; all models until recently feature sturdy box section ladder-frame chassis.

Now the Freelander and the Range Rover use a more usual monocoque body construction. The early vehicles, such as the Series 1, were designed to be field-serviced. The British Army maintains the use of the 300TDi engine versions rather than the TD5 to retain some servicing simplicity. This engine also continued in use in some export markets.

After forty years Land Rover continues to lead the way in stamina and durability. A testament to its designer Maurice Wilks.

Cameron Highlands Land Rovers

It is rumoured that there are some 3000+ Land Rovers in the Camerons alone. These range from Series 1's all the way to 90/110's. A large proportion of ex-government and military vehicles end up here, for a new life of toil on the vegetable and tea farms. Most have been modified to "CH Spec" with Japanese engines, welded rear diffs, angle-iron body reinforcements and solid steel racks for transporting farm produce.

They are used because of their aluminium bodies and because they are cheap to buy and run. For many vehicles, the only thing left is the body shell, the rest is likely to be Japanese! As a result of this, the mechanics in Camerons are masters at "cut-and-paste" engineering. Improvisation and ingenuity are their trademarks. Having said that, there are quite a few beautifully restored Landies running around up there. It is truly the home of the Land Rover in Malaysia.

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BRITISH & COMMONWEALTH FORCES ORDER OF BATTLE

THE MALAYAN EMERGENCY

ROYAL AIR FORCE

SQUADRON	TYPE	PERIOD	DEPLOYMENT BASE(S)
7	Lincoln	January 1954 to April 1954 July 1954 to October 1954	Tengah
9	Canberra	March 1956 to June 1956	Butterworth, Changi
12	Canberra	October 1955 - March 1956	Butterworth, Changi
28	Spitfire FR18	January 1948 - May 1949	Semabawang
33	Tempest F.2 to January 1951 Hornet F.3 May 1951 to March 1955	9 August 1949 10 September 1949 13 October 1949 18 March 1950 30 May 1950 7 August 1951 5 January 1952 Disbanded 31 March 1955	Changi Butterworth Changi Tengah Butterworth Tengah Butterworth Changi
45	Brigand Met 3 until June 1949 Brigand B.1 October 1949 to February 1952 Hornet F.3 January 1952 to May 1955 Vampire FB9 May 1955 to January 1956 Venom FB1 October 1955 to November 1957 Canberra B2 November 1957 to December 1962	16 May 1949 5 December 1949 31 March 1955 15 November 1957	Kuala Lumpur Tengah Butterworth Tengah Kuala Lumpur
48	Dakota to May 1951 Valetta C1 June - September 1950 & May 1951 - December 1957 Hasting C1 & C2 June 1959 to October 1960	24 April 1946 1 June 1949 12 December 1949 Disbanded 1 April 1967	Changi Kuala Lumpur Changi
52	Dakota to September 1951 Valetta C1 June 1951 to April 1966 Dakota November 1959 to July 1960	30 July 1947 21 November 1948 31 May 1949 27 August 1949 12 July 1950 12 January 1951 1 August 1959	Changi Kuala Lumpur Seletar Changi Kuala Lumpur Changi Kuala Lumpur

Hornet F3s of 45 Squadron, RAF Tengah
Singapore 1952



SQUADRON	TYPE	PERIOD	DEPLOYMENT BASE(s)
60	Spitfire F18 January 1947 to January 1951 & March 1950 to November 1950 Vampire FB5 December 1950 to March 1952 Vampire FB9 March 1952 to August 1955 Venom FB1 April 1955 to April 1957 Venom FB4 April 1957 to November 1959 Meteor NF14 October 1959 onwards	24 January 1948 31 August 1949 15 October 1949 6 December 1949 31 May 1950	Sembawang Tengah Butterworth Kuala Lumpur Tengah
61	Lincoln	December 1950 - April 1951	Tengah
81	Mosquito PR34 until December 1955 Spitfire PR19 until January 1950 Spitfire FR18 July 1948 - March 1950 & November 1950 to January 1951 Anson C.19 October 1949 - June 1951 Spitfire FR19 January 1951 - June 1954 Meteor PR10 January 1954 - July 1961 Pembroke C(PR) 1 Dec 1955 - August 1960	1 Feb 1948 - 16 March 1950 16 March 1950 - 1 April 1958 1 April 1958	Tengah Seletar Tengah
83	Lincoln	September 1946	Tengah
84	Beaufighter X to October 1948	26 September 1947 1 Feb 1948 - 11 October 1948	Changi Tengah
88	Sunderland GR5 to October 1954	September 1946 24 June 1951 - 1 Oct 1954	Detachments to Iwakuni & Seletar from Kai Tak Seletar
97	Lincoln	April - June 1948 March - June 1950	Tengah
100	Lincoln	May - December 1950	Tengah
101	Canberra	February - June 1955	Butterworth, Changi
110	Dakota to May 1952 Valettea October 1951 to December 1957 Whirlwind HAR4 June 1959	2 July 1948 20 November 1948 27 May 1949 27 August 1949 11 December 1949 12 July 1949 19 July 1949 26 Oct 1951 - 31 Dec 1957 Disbanded 3 June 1957 & reformed 1 Septemeber 1959	Kuala Lumpur Changi Seletar Changi Kuala Lumpur Changi Kuala Lumpur Changi Kuala Lumpur Butterworth
148	Lincoln	October 1954 - February 1955	Tengah
155	Whirlwind HAR 4 Sept 1954 - June 1959	1 September 1954 Merged with 194 Sqn to form 110 Sqn	Kuala Lumpur, detachments to Seletar & Kluang
194	Dragonfly HC2 February 1953 to June 1956 Sycamore HR14 April 1954 to June 1959	2 February 1953 1 May 1953 Disbanded 3 June 1959, merged with 155 Sqn to form 110 Sqn	Sembawang Kuala Lumpur
205	Sunderland GR5 June 1945 to May 1959 Shackleton MR1A May 1958 to September 1962	15 September 1949 1 March 1958	Seletar Changi
209	Sunderland V to January 1955 Auster AOP6 November 1958 - March 1959 Dakota November 1958 to November 1959 Pembroke C1 November 1958 to February 1960 Twin Pioneer CC1 March 1959 to December 1968	1 Novemeber 1958 1 October 1959	Kuala Lumpur Seletar

SQUADRON	TYPE	PERIOD	DEPLOYMENT BASE(s)
267	Dakota February 1954 - November 1958 Auster AOP6 February 1954 - November 1958 Pioneer CC1 February 1954 - November 1958 Pembroke C1 September 1954 - November 1958 Harvard T2B November 1954 - December 1956	15 February 1954 1 November 1958 disbanded	Kuala Lumpur
656	Auster AOP5 June 1948 - May 1951 Auster AOP6 July 1950 - April 1956 Auster AOP9 Sept 1955 - Sept 1957	29 June 1948 15 July 1948 17 August 1949 12 April 1950 1 Sept 1957 - Transferred to Army Air Corps	Sembawang Flights to Taipang, Seremban, Kai Tak, Kuala Lumpur, Temerloh and Muar. Changi, flights to Taipang Kuala Lumpur, Kluang, Temerloh and Muar. Kuala Lumpur, flights to Taipang, Changi, Benta, Sembawang, Ipoh, Johore Bahru, Kluang, Seremban, Temerloh and Port Dickson
617	Canberra	July - November 1955	Butterworth, Changi

Far East Comms Sqn	Various types of aircraft were used by this sqn, including Austers, Dakotas, Devons, Harvards, Hastings, Valettas and Yorks. Aircraft enroute to elsewhere in the Far East were also serviced by this sqn.		R.A.F. Changi, Trips were made to all the far east countries including Vietnam (Saigon & Hanoy) mainly carrying V.I.P.s from England & France.
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AHQ 224 Group was at RAF Kuala Lumpur and part of that Group was Operations Control Malaya, which controlled all Military air activity over the Malayan Peninsular. The Operations Control monitored all airborne operations including Psychological ops, supply drops, strike and bombing raids and working in liaison with Army Intelligence.

Morse code was the primary means of communication due to the long ranges required and a network of telephone contacts was built up over the years including schools, police and railway stations. Thanks to John Cox for this entry.

Royal Air Force Police, Dog Section based at Butterworth

91 Sqn RAF Regiment (Malaya)

92 Sqn RAF Regiment (Malaya)

93 Sqn RAF Regiment (Malaya)

94 Sqn RAF Regiment (Malaya) Changi, Singapore

95 Sqn RAF Regiment (Malaya)

96 Sqn RAF Regiment (Malaya)

19 Air Formation Signals Regiment provided ground communications for HQ Far East Air Force at Changi and to RAF Stations at Changi Seletar and Tengah. Regimental HQ and no 1 Sqn were based at RAF Changi, No 2 Sqn was based at RAF Seletar with a detachment at RAF Tengah.

WRAF (Women's Royal Air Force)

RAAF Butterworth Base Signals Sqn



A Troop, 75th Battery, 148th Field Regiment RA

Tampin, Negri Sembilan, 1957 (*Imperial War Museum*)

BRITISH ARMY

ROYAL ARMoured CORPS

1st King's Dragoon Guards
4th Queen's Own Hussars
A Sqn, *Ipoh Raub Hong Kong*
11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own)

12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales)
13th/18th Royal Hussars
(Queen Mary's Own), *Ipoh north Malaya and
Neesoon Singapore in 1959-60.*

1st Royal Dragoons
15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars
Malaya 1956-1957.
3 RTR, Gurun, April-May'51

INFANTRY

3rd Grenadier Guards
2nd Coldstream Guards
2nd Scots Guards
1st Bn The Queen's Own Regiment
(West Surrey)
1st Bn The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment
1st Bn The Devonshire Regiment
1st Bn The Suffolk Regiment
1st Bn The Somerset Light Infantry
(Prince Albert's)
1st Bn The West Yorkshire Regiment
(The Prince of Wales Own)
1st Bn The East Yorkshire Regiment
(The Duke of York's Own)
1st Bn The Green Howards
(Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own York-
shire Regiment)
1st Bn The Royal Scots Fusiliers,
stationed at Colombo Camp, Ipoh, Perak.
1st Bn The Cheshire Regiment
2nd Bn The Royal Welch Fusiliers
1st Bn The South Wales Regiment
1st Bn The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)
1st Bn The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers
1st Bn The Worcestershire Regiment
1st Bn The Royal Hampshire Regiment
1st Bn The Sherwood Foresters (Notting-
hamshire and
Derbyshire Regiment)

1st Battalion The Loyal Regiment (North
Lancashire) *based at Columbo camp, Ipoh,
1957-1959.*
1st Bn 3rd East Anglian Regiment (16th/44th
Foot) *based at Ipoh & Malacca.*
1st Bn The Queen's Own Royal
West Kent Regiment
1st Bn The King's Own Yorkshire
Light Infantry
2nd Bn The King's Own Yorkshire
Light Infantry
1st Bn The Kings Own Scottish Borderers
1st Bn The Wiltshire Regiment
(Duke of Edinburgh's)
1st Bn The Manchester Regiment
B Company 1951, *Kroh Camp,
Upper Perak, Malaya.*
1st Bn Seaforth Highlanders
(Rosshire Buffs, The Duke of Albany's)
1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
1st Bn The Argyll and Sutherland High-
landers (Princess Louise's)
The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders (Ad-
vance Party), *drafted to Singapore in December
1955*
The Independent Parachute Sqn
1st/2nd King Edwards VII's Own Gurkha Ri-
fles (The Sirmoor Rifles)
2nd/2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles

1st/6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles
2nd/6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha
Rifles, *stationed at Kluang and then moved
slightly further North to Segamat both in Johore
Bahru 1952-1954.*
1st/7th Duke of Edinburgh's
Own Gurkha Rifles
2nd/7th Duke of Edinburgh's
Own Gurkha Rifles
1st/10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles
2nd/10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles
1st Battalion The Rifle Brigade
(Prince Consort's Own)
22 Special Air Service Regiment
Independent Parachute Sqn
The Royal Sussex Regiment
1st Bn South Wales Borderers 3
*Kluang, area including Segamat, Kotta Tinghi,
Johore Bharu, Singapore.*
2nd Bn The King's Own African Rifles
1st Battalion The King's African Rifles
3rd Battalion The King's African Rifles
GHQ 26th Gurkha Infantry Brigade *Kluang-
Bukit Betong-Bidor-Kuala
Pilah-Seremban. 3yr tour.*
The Sarawak Rangers
The Malay Scouts
The Royal Malay Regiment
5th Bn The Royal Malay Regiment

ROYAL ARTILLERY

<p>2nd Field Regiment 4th Field Regiment later became 26th Field Regiment 11th Independent Searchlight Troop, Based at Batu Catonement, Kuala Lumpur 18th Battery 6th Anti Aircraft Regiment 25th Field Regiment 26th Field Regiment 34th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment based in Minden base barracks, Penang</p>	<p>45th Light Regiment, stationed at Sol-Ma Ri lines, Terendak camp, Malacca 1963-66. With attachments of 102 Field battery RAA, 2 Mortar Locating Troop RA. 48th Field Regiment 93 (Le Cateau) Field Battery Stationed in Tampin, Negri Sembilan and shar- ing a barracks there with, initially, the Green Howards and latterly the Gordon Highlanders, 93 Battery was detached from 25 Fd Regt RA in Kowloon.</p>	<p>95 Independent Field Battery Location was Bidor and Batu Gaja in Perak State. Part of 17th Gurkha Division. Supporting 2/6 Gurkha Rifles amongst others such as 2 Royal Malay Regiment 1957-59. Battery comprised 3 Troops: "Charlie Troop" "Dog Troop" and "Command Troop". 1st Singapore Regiment 11th Independent Mortar Troop RA</p>
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ROYAL ENGINEERS

<p>1 Independent Field Sqn, the Sqn was redesignated just before arriving in Singapore about October 1948 as it was the only RE field sqn in an active service area. Moved to Kuala Lump by rail then to Batu Caves by road. HQ Troop 1st Independent Fd Sqn Royal Engineers HQ Troop was based at Batu Caves. Just north of Kuala Lumpur. 2 Troop, 1st Independent Field Sqn Royal Engineers. The troop operated mostly in the highlands attached to the Scots Guards at one time. The troop set up ambushes, patrols, built roads and bridges before being sent to Hong Kong after about two years.</p>	<p>11th Independent Field Sqn 50 Gurkha Field Engineer Regiment 51 Field Engineer Regiment 74 Field Park Sqn 84 Field Survey Sqn Royal Engineers de- tachments in Temerloh, Ipoh, Malacca, Sarawak and Hong Kong. 305 Engineer Stores Depot, Royal Engi- neers depot was in Batu Cantonment 1955/56, the cantonment was within Kuala Lumpur Garrison. 410 Independent Plant Troop Sunge Besi Kuala Lumpur. 554 Field Sqn, Royal Engineers 570 Map Reproduction Troop RE based in Singapore.</p>	<p>Engineer Training Centre Kluang, Johore State 1948 - 1951. Engineer Store Depot located 5 miles north Kuala Lumpur.</p>
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ROYAL SIGNALS

<p>GHQ Signal Regiment 17th (Gurkha) Signal Regiment 18 Independent Infantry Brigade Signals Sqn located at Kuala Lipis, Pahang 1952-56 19th Air Formation Signal Regiment 24th Independent Group, Signals WRAC 1950-1952, Tanglin barracks, GHQ FARELF Singapore</p>	<p>28 Commonwealth Infantry Brigade, Signal Sqn located at Taiping, Perak. Redesignated as 208 Signal Sqn on posting to Terendak Camp, Malacca. 201 Signal Sqn including a six-month detachment in Penang. 208 (Commonwealth) Signal Sqn Malaya Command Signals Sqn Malaya Signal Regiment, 2 Sqn Malaya Signals, Taiping 3 Battalion Malays, Kota Bharu</p>	<p>2 Sqn MSR as above, Nov - Dec '49 1 Sqn Malaya Signals, KL - Dec. '49 Air Support Signals Troop ASST was attached to Malaya Signals Regiment. Ten- tacles at Ipoh and Seremban. The unit directed Lincoln bombers from Tengah on Singapore Island on night ops against the terrorists.</p>
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ROYAL ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

<p>2 Infantry Workshops, REME, Taiping, Perak 10 Infantry Workshop, 40 Base District Workshop, Ayer Rajah, Singapore. 12 Infantry Workshop,</p>	<p>13 Infantry Workshop was based first in Kluang, Johore and Tanjong Rambutan, near Ipoh in 1956. 14 Infantry Workshop embarked to Malaya 1948, Stationed in Klu- ang. Returned to UK 1951.</p>	<p>221 BVD R.A.O.C. 1958-61 REME District Workshop, based at District Workshop Singapore, from November 1948 to November 1949.</p>
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OTHER UNITS

Army Catering Corps	Corps of Royal Military Police	Royal Army Chaplains Department
Royal Army Educational Corps	Royal Army Pay Corps	Royal Army Veterinary Corps
Women's Royal Army Corps	Royal Army Veterinary Corps	Royal Army Dental Corps
Intelligence Corps	Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	Army Physical Training Corps

ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

28 Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group Ordnance Field Park RAOC

Based at The Old Convent, Taiping, Perak, Malaya, between 1957-59

221 Vehicle Battalion RAOC *Johore Bahru*

443 Base Ammunition Depot RAOC *Kranji Singapore 1949-1958*

Printing division C.COY. 30. BN. ROAC 3 B.O.D. *Singapore*

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

8 Field Dressing Station ex 16th Field Ambulance,

stationed on Penang island, also on detachment at Butterworth and Sungei Patani with Gurkhas.

16 Field Ambulance *part of 2nd Guards Brigade, 10 October 1948.*

Camp, Kuala Lumpur. Attached Suffolk Regiment & The Royal West Kents, later The Somerset Light Infantry. Part of the 2/7th Gurkhas.

19 Field Ambulance. *Taiping, Malaya 1951 onwards.*

21st. Field Surgical Team Att. section 16th. field Ambulance. *Stationed in Mentakab Hospital Pahang*

34 Company, British Medical Hospital Kinrara Selangor. *Location, 9th milepost Kinrara Selangor.*

39th Field Ambulance. *Stepak, Kuala Lumpur. The 29th Field Ambulance (RAMC) was at Wardiburn Camp just outside Kuala Lumpur. It was part of the 2/7th Gurkha Regiment.*

Military Hospital Terendak *The Hospital was situated in Terendak Camp Malacca as part of 16 Commonwealth Brigade.*

British Military Hospital Kluang

British Military Hospital Taiping, Oct.- Nov '49

ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS

GHQ 2nd Echelon, *Nee Soon.*

No.1 Supply Depot, Batu Caves, Kuala Lumpur *Based about 7 miles outside of Kuala Lumpur and a mile from Batu caves.*

No.2 Supply Depot, *Located at Taiping, Perak, North Malaya. Mixed BOR/MOR unit. Usual Rations(Supplies) & POL, Including Live Sheep on Hoof for Gurkha tps. Sheep by ship & Rail from S. Africa tour 1955-1957.*

3 Company (T) *part of 2nd Guards Brigade, 10 October 1948. Was in Malaya until all forces returned to the UK.*

6 Company *Located at HMS Sembawang Nee Soon.*

24 Company HQ Kluang Malaya *The Company went on a few operations with the Gurkhas, seeking out bandit outposts.*

27 Company *Ampang Rd, detachments worked with the SAS and Royal Artillery and lost several men killed.*

55 Company AD *Air supply missions over hostile territory in Malay and south Thailand. Several casualties and fatalities were suffered. Worked closely with 22nd SAS and various infantry units. Flying from Sungei Besi airport in K.L. Malaya with the RAF.*

61 Company RASC LEP

ARMY AIR CORPS

7 Flight AAC *Taiping*

Air Support Signals Unit (ASSU), *Unit provided ground control for air strikes. Based near Malaya Signal Regiment and the air strip used by the AOP Flight. Div Sign was a Red Hand on the signals blue and white halved background.*

GURKHA MILITARY POLICE

17 Gurkha Division Provost Company, *Formed at about the same time as the Gurkha Signals, Gurkha ASC and Gurkha Engineers. Company HQ at Rasah Camp Seremban alongside HQ 17 Gurkha Div. Detachments with 63 and 99 Gurkha Bdes at Kluang and Johore Bahru. For short while in 1955/56 used in infantry role operations as additional rifle company attached to Royal Hampshire Regt. Disbanded some time after Brunei/Indonesian operations.*



HMS Triumph
South China Sea, 1950

NAVAL UNITS

ROYAL NAVY

HMS Amethyst

HMS Charity During 1952 Carried out bombardments of positions in Western Malaya at the request of the British Army.

HMS Crane based at Sembawang, Singapore 1959-60.

HMS Defender

HMS Dragonfly

HMS Eagle, served off the coast of Malaya 1965 and sent landing parties ashore during hostilities. Also many helicopter drops to British and Allied forces in the jungle.

HMS Hart served on the east and west coast doing bombardments taking Gurkha troops up rivers and landing them in the ships own boats, operations with Scots Guards & screening operations with the army or police exerting a stabilising influence by showing the flag on both coasts sept 1950 1951.

HMS Llandaff (Type 61 frigate) carried out bandit patrol in the Malacca straits 1959 stopping local Chinese junks and searching them for arms coming over from Sumatra.

HMS Newfoundland

HMS Triumph, 800 (seafires) and 827 (Firefly) NAS carried out strikes against communist terrorists in September 1949.

848 Naval Air Sqn

6th Minesweeping Sqn

was recommissioned from reserve at Singapore in 1950, served on Malayan & Borneo patrol until 1953.

HMS Jaseur

HMS Michael

HMS Maenad

HMS Magicienne

ROYAL MARINES

Royal Marines HQ, 3 Commando Bde

40 Commando

42 Commando Tanjon, Rambutan, Ipoh, Perak, Malaya, 2 Year duration.

45 Commando stationed in Kuala Lumpur, equipped with 4.2" mortars and searchlights. The mortars were in support of ground operations, and the searchlights were used for night illumination and marker beacons for bombing missions. It was composed of Malay gunners, transferred from 1st Singapore Regiment RA and commanded by British officers on detachment from 1SRRA.

HMS Centaur, RM Detachment

COMMONWEALTH

COMMONWEALTH UNITS

Federation Military College, Port Dickson FMC Port Dickson was established to train officers for the new Malayan Army. These were essentially boy soldiers and it had an educational function. In effect it was the Sandhurst for the Malay forces, but took teenage boys. It was commanded by a British CO, and had a British RSM from the Guards and a contingent of RAEC officers. It was well established in 1957 (before Merdeka) and was there for many years afterwards. FMC also had an airstrip attached and was used by Austers and other light aircraft. The British contingent played a key role in preparing the Malaysians to defend themselves - The Malaysians proved to be excellent soldiers.

1st Battalion, Rhodesian African Rifles

1st Battalion The Northern Rhodesia Regiment

The Rhodesia Sqn SAS

1st Battalion The Fiji Infantry Regiment, *served at Jungle Training School at Kotta Tingi 1952-3 then at Bahau(N S) before moving to Batu Pahat(Johore).*

Malaya Signal Regiment attached.

1st Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment

2nd Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment

3rd Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment

A Battery Royal Australian Artillery *serving with 28 Commonwealth Infantry Brigade from 1957 to 1959.*

100 Field Battery Royal Australian Artillery

101 Field Battery Royal Australian Artillery

105 Field Battery Royal Australian Artillery

11 Independent Field Sqn, Royal Australian Engineers 4 troop Royal Australian Engineers. *1955 - 1957. Butterworth and Kuala Lumpur areas. 126 Transport Platoon, Royal Australian Army Service Corps. Aust Component 3 Coy RASC Ipoh Perak, Served Oct 1955 - Oct 1957.. Detachments Cameron Highlands & Baling.*

1 Australian Observer Unit

1 Sqn RAAF

2 Sqn RAAF

3 Sqn RAAF

38 Sqn RAAF

77 Sqn RAAF

The New Zealand Sqn SAS

1st Battalion The New Zealand Regiment

2nd Battalion The New Zealand Regiment

14 Sqn RNZAF

41 Sqn RNZAF

75 Sqn RNZAF

Malayan Artillery, 1955-1957.

Blakan mati, batu contonment Kuala Lumpur.

76th Federal Field Squadron, Federation Engineers.

Kluang from April 1953 onwards.

1st Singapore Infantry Regiment

1st Singapore Regt Royal Artillery

28 Commonwealth Brigade



BRITISH & COMMONWEALTH FORCES ORDER OF BATTLE

THE BORNEO CONFRONTATION



Hawker Hunter of 20 Squadron

Based at Tengah, Singapore, 1965

ROYAL AIR FORCE

SQUADRON	TYPE	BASE
15	Victor B Mk 1A	XV Sqn went to RAF Tengah, First two Victor B Mk 1A's left RAF Cottesmore on the 6th of December 1963. January 1964 moved up to RAAF Butterworth. Continued to operate from there until the sqn came home to the UK to disband in the October of that year (1964). During the early part of this detachment at RAF Tengah. Victor XH648 successfully dropped 35 X 1000 lbs bombs in a single drop on the target range at Song Song, Malaysia.
16	Canberra B(1) 8	Detached from RAF Laarbruch to Kuantan around February to May 1965
20	Hunter FGA 9	Tengah, detachment to Chieng Mai, Kuching and Labuan
28	Hunter GA9	Based Kai Tak (Hong Kong) detachments Labuan/Kuching
32	Canberra B2, B15	Based at Akrotiri, Cyprus. Detachments at Tengah and Kuantan, July 1961
34	Blackburn Beverley	Based at Seletar, detachments based at Labuan
45	Canberra B2, B15	Tengah, detachments at Labuan, Kuching, Kuantan and Kai Tak, Sept 1962
48	Blackburn Beverly C1 Handley Page Hastings C1&	Changi
52	Dakota/Valetta	Butterworth. Voice flight at Penang until 1961, then whole sqn at Butterworth, later moved to Labuan. Valetta detachment at Labuan.
55 57	Victor B Mk 1A	This sqn was equipped with Victor B1A bombers and was detached from UK to Tengah on a rotating system with 57 sqn. Each detachment was scheduled for 2 months but because of the escalation of hostilities (the landing of paratroops in Johore and their subsequent infiltration to Singapore, the detachment of summer 1964 was extended to 4 and a half months.
60	Javelin FAW9	Tengah, detachments at Butterworth, Kuching, Labuan and Kai Tak
64	Javelin FAW9R	Binbrook, detachments at Tengah sqn moved to Tengah in April 1965, detachments at Butterworth, Kuching and Labuan.

SQUADRON	TYPE	BASE
65	Bloodhound	Based Seletar, detachment at Kuching
66	Bristol Belvedere HC1	Seletar, detachments at Kuching, Brunei, Labuan and Butterworth
81	Canberra PR7	Tengah, detachment at Labuan
103	Whirlwind HC10	Reformed at Seletar and detachments sent to Kuching, Labuan and Kai Tak
110	(Hyderabad) Sycamore HR14s and Whirlwind HAR10	Based at Labuan, moved to Kuching in 1965. Detachments based at Labuan, Sibul and Nanga Gaat
205	Shackleton	Changi, detachment at Seletar
209	Pioneer CC1 Twin Pioneer CC1 & CC2s	Seletar, detachments at Labuan, Kuching, Sibul and Bayan Lepas. B Flight 209 sqn had a single Pioneer based at Sibul.
215	Argosy	Based Changi, detachment at Labuan
225	Whirlwind	Based at Seletar from November 1953 and deployed to Kuching the following month. The sqn had two permanent detachments to army units at Simmangang (6 aircraft) and Lundu (1 aircraft). The unit deployed for operations against Indonesian terrorists infiltrating into Malaysia and Borneo.
230	Whirlwind	Based UK detached to various airfields
390 Maint Unit	Seletar, attached to RAF Kuching as part of Mobile Air Operation Team. (MOAT)1964	
RAF Detachment Brunei	Posted from Labuan, this detachment comprised of Tower Control, Crash crew and FATOC	
15 Sqn RAF Regiment	Based at RAF Changi and then RAF Seletar, detachments included, Labuan, Brunei, Kuching, Pensiangan and numerous other jungle strips.	
26 Independent LAA Sqn RAF Regiment	Deployed from RAF Nicosia, Cyprus, mid February 1964 to Changi. Located with 15 Field Sqn, RAF Regiment at Telok Paku. Deployed with 53 (Louisburg) Bty of 22 Light Air Defence Regiment, 30 Battery and 32 Battery of 16 Light Air Defence Regiment Royal Artillery in defence of RAF Changi.	
Detachment 63 LAA Sqn RAF Regiment	RAF TAWAU guarding airstrip using Oerlikons on plinths and ground defence training of RAF Personnel on detachment. From July 1964 till Sept 1965.	
Re-Force (RAF) 6158NOV	Re-force comprised of about 120 RAF Personnel from RAF units throughout the UK. All personnel from the UK were on 24-Hour emergency standby. Kuantan, 1965.	
5001 Sqn RAF Airfield Construction	Stationed at Kuching Airport 1962 on 6 month detachment to construct landing strip and helicopter pads for incoming "Albian" force. The unit was guarded by The Queens Royal Irish Hussars and a small force of Sarawak Rangers based at Tawau, Sabah mid to late 1965. Accommodated at Camp Glenn, next to Tawau airfield.	
Air Portable Comms Element (RAF)	APCE operated from Seletar, it was attached to Group headquarters. The element ran Radio and Radar for temporary airfields, such as Kuching, Gong Kedak. It also ran BASO Brigade Air Support Officer, mostly from a Landover. On Kuching APCE had the Cossor 787 airfield radar, right next to the fence and across from the Javelin fighter. APCE also deployed mobile Eureka beacons.	
Mobile Air Operations Team		
RAF Police	Under the command of the Provost Marshall, Far East, police and police dog handlers served on Labuan, Tawau, Kuching. There were stations at Labuan and at Tawau.	



The Gurkhas in Borneo

BRITISH ARMY

HQ DOBOPS (Director of Borneo Operations). Initially based in Brunei, later moved to Labuan.

HQ DOBOPS Intelligence Section

Central Brigade HQ. Based on HQ 51 Gurkha Infantry Brigade, located in Brunei. Its tactical area of responsibility (TAOR) was the Interior Residency of Sabah, and 4th and 5th Divisions of Sarawak.

Armoured Recce Units

The Life Guards, from UK Spring 1965. Deployed to Singapore, Seremban and Sarawak. Equipped with Ferret scout cars.

1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, deployed from UK 1965-1966. B and C Sqns served in Engillie, Borneo.

The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, arrived in 1962. Based in Malaya. They were then sent to the island of Borneo.

5th Royal Tank Regiment (H Sqn), from UK. H Sqn deployed in North Borneo February-September 1966. Equipped with Saladin armoured cars and Ferret scout cars.

Infantry Units

1st Bn Scots Guards (with 9 Company, Irish Guards under command - 9 Company also included a platoon made up of Coldstream Guards). From UK. Based Terendak, Malaya. Borneo tours Jan-April 65, Sep-Dec 65. Returned to UK 1966.

1st Bn King's Own Scottish Borderers, from UK 1965.

1st Bn Queen's Own Highlanders, arrived Singapore April 1961. Deployed to Seria, Brunei on 8 December 1962 by air and HMS Cavalier to quell revolt. Deployed to Borneo May 1963.

1st Bn Gordon Highlanders, from UK January 1965. Returned to UK February 1966.

1st Bn Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, from Edinburgh, UK 1964. Based in Selarang Barracks, Singapore. Deployed on first tour to Borneo early 64 - September 64 in 4th Division (Belait and Tutong areas), second tour February-May 65 Balai Ringin, Gunong Gajah and Plaman Mapu, third tour November 65- April 66 Serian, Pang Amo and Plaman Mapu. Returned to Seaton Barracks, Plymouth UK in November 1966.

1st Bn Queen's Own Buffs (Royal Kent Regiment), July 1966 from Hong Kong. Borneo tour July 1966 (Sebakang).

1st Battalion, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment)

1st Bn Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers, deployed at end of campaign 1966.

1st Bn Royal Leicestershire Regiment, deployed 1963.

1st Bn Royal Hampshire Regiment, deployed from June 1966.

1st Bn Royal Ulster Rifles, from UK 1964.

1st Bn King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, based Terendak, Malaya. Borneo tours January 1963 to April 1963 and December 1963 to April 1964.

1st Bn Durham Light Infantry, from Hong Kong, June 1963. Returned to UK June '66.

1st Bn Green Jackets (43/52), based Penang, from Spring 1962. Deployed from Singapore aboard HMS Tiger to Brunei. Action at Miri. Returned to Penang April 1963.

2nd Bn Green Jackets (KRRRC), Borneo 1965.

3rd Bn Green Jackets (RB), Borneo 1965.

2nd Bn Parachute Regiment, from UK. Borneo tour Dec 64- June 65. Action at Plaman Mapu. Returned to UK 1965.

3rd Bn Parachute Regiment, D Company Borneo tour Jan - June 1966.

1st Bn South Wales Borderers (3 Platoons deployed at intervals during 1965/66 attached to other battalions while the SWB were based in Hong Kong).

10 Platoon, 'D' Company, 1st Bn South Wales Borderers (24th Regt) A platoon from Hong Kong based 1SWB - attached to 1DLI for the duration of their Borneo tour in 1965/6... Training in Sabah - company base at Bunan Gega.

No 1 Guards Independent Company, Deployed Borneo 1964. Two tours under SAS command. Later redesignated as G Sqn SAS.

22 Special Air Service Regiment

A Sqn deployed to Borneo. Tours Jan 63, August 63, July 64, May 65, Sep 65.

B Sqn deployed to Borneo December 64-Feb 65, July 1966

D Sqn deployed to Borneo Apr 63, Feb 65, May 65

Brigade of Gurkhas

51 Gurkha Infantry Brigade

99 Gurkha Infantry Brigade (West Brigade) stationed in Sarawak.

1st Bn 2nd Gurkha Rifles, stationed in 5th Division Sarawak (including Ba Kelalan) in late 1965, handing over to 1st Bn **6th Gurkha Rifles** in January 1966.

2nd Bn 2nd Gurkha Rifles, based Malaya. Borneo tours 1962, 1964.

1st Bn 6th Gurkha Rifles, stationed in 5th Division Sarawak (including Ba Kelalan) from January 1966, handing over to **1st Bn 7th Gurkha Rifles** in June 1966.

2nd Bn 6th Gurkha Rifles, Borneo tours 1962, 1964.

1st Bn 7th Gurkha Rifles, stationed in 5th Division Sarawak (including Ba Kelalan) in from June 1966 until end of Confrontation. Instrumental in the capture of Lt Sumbi and his band of Sukarelawan (Volunteers) - the unit that carried out the last incursion into Malaysian Borneo.

2nd Bn 7th Gurkha Rifles, Borneo 1965 -66.

1st Bn 10th Gurkha Rifles, Borneo tours 1964, 1965.

2nd Bn 10th Gurkha Rifles, Borneo tours 1964, 1965.

The Royal Malay Regiment

3rd Royal Malay Regiment, deployed to Tawau.

5th Royal Malay Regiment, deployed to First Division.

Royal Artillery

2 Troop attached to 4th Regt RA. The original 2 Troop served in Malaysia from August 1963 to January 1966. Terendak Camp - attached to 45 Field Regt RA. Approximately half the troop went to Borneo from May to December 1965 - Troop HQ was with 4 Regt HQ in Bau with a Green Archer section at Stass and Serekin fortified positions on the border - elements served under fire as radio relay stations with Gurkha patrols on forays against Indonesian CCO's (Clandestine Communist Organisations).

2 Locating Troop, RA. Formed from 22 Locating Battery, 1st May 1963 based in the UK initially at Perham Down then at Larkhill. The Troop on it's second FARELF attachment was part of 6 Light Regt RA based at Terendak Camp Malacca. The troop comprised of 3 sections - met, radar and artillery intelligence. The tour of duty for the attachment to 6 Lt Regt was December 1965 - March 1968.

3 Regiment Royal Horse Artillery (Locating Troop) 3 Locating Troop equipped with Green Archer mortar locating radar. Deployed to Borneo 1965-66.

4 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. In 1963 a platoon (All volunteers) was raised from 4 Field Regiment, RA to strengthen the deployment of the Royal Leicester Regiment which was badly under strength. The platoon operated independently of the Royal Leicester's, and were based at SEPULOT airstrip.

Air Troop, 4 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery. The Air Troop 4 Light Regt. R.A. formed in June 1965 at Kluang, Malaya with 3 Sioux helicopters. Sailed to Kuching on the LST Reginald Kerr.

6th Light Regiment, Royal Artillery based in Terendak camp, Malacca. 6 x 105 Howitzers to cover border areas. Tour of Malaysia was from January 1966 to April 1968. V Bty deployed in Bau and Lundu areas 1966.

12 Light Air Defence Regt: 9 (Plassey)Bty and T(Shah Sujah's Troop)Bty rotated between Tampin (Malay Peninsula) and Borneo. Deployed to Borneo.

16 Light Air Defence Regt. Deployed from BAOR in March 1965 for 30 month tour of Singapore and Borneo.

22 Light Air Defence Regt: From BAOR . Based at Tampin, Malay Peninsula on short emergency tour to provide additional Short Range Air Support and Defence at RAF airfields, reinforcing RAF Regiment LAA Sqns. 42(Alem Hamza) Bty and 53 (Louisburg) Bty deployed to RAF Kuching.

29 Commando Light Regiment RA 20 Bty, 79 (Kirkee)Bty and 145 (Maiwand) Bty. Based in Singapore, Deployed to Borneo to provide artillery support to units in border areas.

22 Locating Battery, RA. A Sound Ranging Troop (22 Locating Bty) left Larkhill December 65 and returned July 66. Deployed at Biarwak.

40 Field Regiment, RA. 38 (Seringapatam) Bty, 129(Dragon) Bty and 137 (Java) Battery.

45 Field Regiment RA

49 Field Regiment RA (Air Operations Troop)

94 Locating Regiment RA, (73(Sphinx) Bty)

Royal Signals

Headquarters 5 Infantry Brigade Signal Sqn (205 Signal Sqn).

10 Signal Regiment

18 Signal Regiment at Princess Mary Barracks

19 Infantry Brigade Signal Sqn (Air Portable)

Ops Troop, 2 Sqn, 19 (Air Formation) Signal Regiment Ops Troop was based at RAF Seletar but deployed in late December 1962, initially to RAF Labuan, then to Brunei and later had a detachment in Kuching.

208 Commonwealth Signal Sqn, This unit was based at Terendak, Malacca. The unit comprised of approximately 60 % British and 40% Australian Signals Corps personnel. Detachments of personnel were sent to Borneo on 3-month tours, usually to Kuching. Units known to have been supported by 208 Commonwealth Signal Sqn are 40 Marine Commando, 1st Scots Guards, HQ 28 Brigade BMA, at least one Gurkha Infantry Regiment as well as providing VHF rebroadcasting support between groups, operating as an independent detachment.

249 (Farelf) Signal Sqn. Based at 18 Signal Regiment in Singapore (Princess Mary Barracks) and was actively involved in Brunei and Borneo for the entire period.

266 Signal Sqn, 606 Troop became 266 Sig Sqn in late 1964.

536 Signal Troop, attached 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders, From UK January 1965.

543 Signal Troop (Royal Signals).

606 Signal Troop, stationed on Labuan from August 1963 to February 1964 then on to Brunei. 606 Signal Troop became Joint Communications Unit Borneo (JCUB) in 1965, Headquarters in Labuan with detachments in Sabah (Tawau) and in Sarawak (Kuching).

651 Signal Troop, located in Kuching. **Gurkha Signals 248 Sqn Queens Gurkha Signals. Based in Kuching.**

247 Sqn Queens Gurkha Signals. Ex UK/BAOR. Deployed to Brunei Feb 64. Based Bolkliah camp.

Royal Army Service Corps (became Royal Corps of Transport on 14th July 1965)

1 Company

3 Company Ipoh in 1962, moved to Terendak camp in Malacca in September 1964.

15 Air Despatch Regiment RCT 55 AD Sqn (formerly 55 Air Despatch Coy RASC)

31 Company

47 Air Despatch Company

32 Regiment RCT (24, 25, 46, 61 Sqns) 46 Sqn was reequipped with the LSTs Arromanches, Ardenne, Ajedabia.

33 Maritime Regiment RCT. 10 Port Sqn (formerly RE), 74/75 LCT Sqn, 37 Maritime Sqn.

10 Port Sqn served at Kuching, Labuan, Brunei and Singapore, supplying all forces in Borneo from 1962 onwards.

11 Air Supply Container Section

50 Supply Depot based at Labuan

61 Company, RCT with LAD REME. Station at Labuan.

130 Flight, RCT based originally at Kluang, Malaya, then Seletar Singapore. bases in Tawau, Brunei, Sibul and Kuching.

Gurkha Transport Regiment 30 sqn, 31 sqn.

RASC Supply Depot, Kuching. Rasc Supply Depot took over in 1964 from 42 commando in Kuching.

Royal Engineers

11 Independent Field Sqn, Royal Engineers. Terendak Malacca Malaysia. 1963-1965.

3 Troop, 19 Topographic Sqn, RE(42 Survey Engineer Regt RE) served in 2nd Division, based at Simangang.

32 Field Sqn. Borneo tour 1965-1966. Stationed in Kuching, Sibul, 1 Division and Sibul, 3 Division.

54 Corps Field Park Sqn. Members of Plant Increment, attached to 54 Corps Fld Prk Sqn RE worked throughout Sabah, Brunei and Sarawak from 1965 to 1966.

59 Independent Field Regiment, served in Singapore and in Malaya.

84 Survey Sqn, 1 Topo Troop based at Sibul & Nanga Gaat. Parent Unit in Singapore. Mapping Sarawak.

50 Gurkha Field Regt

69 Gurkha Independent Field Sqn

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

9 Infantry Workshops and 10 Infantry Workshops. Both detachments operated independently One in Brunei (Bolkliah Camp) and the other in Labuan. In 1966 the workshop in Labuan was detached and was allocated the designation of 69 Stn Wksp to the end of the confrontation.

Mobile Servicing & Repair Detachment 75 Aircraft Wksp., REME was a detachment from the main wksp in Kluang, Jahore. The Unit was on Brunei airport, and serviced Army Beaver, Scout & Sioux aircraft. There was a small detachment on Kuching Airport, servicing Auster AOP aircraft.

P.W.D. Inspection Team att. Det. 10 Inf. Wksp. Brunei Town. The team was raised in Jan 1963 to inspect and report on the condition of the P.W.D. earth moving equipment abandoned by local P.W.D. staff at the start of the insurrection.

Royal Military Police

5 Brigade Provost Unit
19 Brigade Provost Unit
Borneo Provost Section
51 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Provost Unit, Gurkha Military Police.
99 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Provost Unit, Gurkha Military Police. Stationed in Kuching, Sarawak.

Army Air Corps

3 Flight Army Air Corps November 1965.
7 Recce Flight, 656 Lt A/C Sqn AAC 28th Commonwealth Bde Auster aircraft. Detachments to Fort Belaga to get a strip in action and act as aircraft control.
10 Flight Beaver and Scout aircraft. Deployed at Long Pa Sia
11 Flight based at Kluang and Long Pa Sia
14 Flight Sioux helicopters. Operational and supply tasks
20 Flight Austers. Observation tasks.
656 Light Aircraft Sqn deployed Brunei, Sarawak and Sabah 1962-66.

Army Catering Corps

Intelligence Corps

Provided Int Sects to all Formation HQ, ran interrogation centres, and Field Intelligence Officer (FIO).
All FIO's were administered by and belonged to 2 Intelligence Company.
Counter Intelligence Platoon (Malaya)
Counter Intelligence Platoon (Singapore)
2 Intelligence Platoon, 19 Airborne Brigade
5 Intelligence Platoon, 51 Gurkha Infantry Brigade (Central Brigade)
15 Intelligence Platoon, 5 Infantry Brigade (Mid-West Brigade)
19 Intelligence Platoon, 99 Gurkha Infantry Brigade (West Brigade)
20 Intelligence Platoon
21 Intelligence Platoon, (reinforced by personnel from 19 and 22 Intelligence Platoons in Malaya)

Royal Army Medical Corps

15 Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C. Air Portable.
LAD attached to 15 Field Ambulance
16 Commonwealth Field Ambulance, Brunei uprising.
23 Parachute Field Ambulance.

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

19 Ordnance Field Park (Air Portable). Part of the Colchester Based 19 Air Portable Brigade deployment to the First Division of Sarawak from Jan - Nov 1965. It was based in Tanah Puteh, Kuching, with a detachment in Simmanggang in the Second Division.
22 Air Maintenance Platoon
98 Ordnance Maintenance Park, Kuching
99 Ordnance Maintenance Park, Labuan

Royal Army Pay Corps

Royal Army Educational Corps

Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps

Royal Army Chaplains Department

Joint Comms Unit Borneo (J.C.U.B.), Joint Comms Center (Army, Navy, Air Force) Situated in Labuan, Borneo.
Was an experimental Com.Center with all three services working together.
No2 Comcen Troop Joint Communications Unit (Borneo) was stationed in Kuching with 3 Commando Brigade rear HQ at the police headquarters.

ROYAL NAVY

The following ships patrolled Borneo waters between 8th December 1962 and August 1966.

Helicopter Carriers:	HMS. Albion HMS Victorious	HMS Bulwark	HMS Centaur
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Cruisers:	HMS London	HMS Tiger
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Destroyers:	HMS Barossa	HMS Caesar	HMS Cambrian
	HMS Carysfort	HMS Cavalier	HMS Delight
	HMS Devonshire	HMS Hampshire	HMS Kent

Frigates:	HMS Ajax HMS AJAX was Leader of 24th Escort Sqn.		
	HMS Blackpool	HMS Brighton	HMS Chichester
	HMS Crane	HMS Dido	HMS Euryalus
	HMS Lincoln	HMS Llandaff	HMS Loch Fada
	HMS Loch Killisport	HMS Loch Lomond	HMS Plymouth
	HMS Salisbury	HMS Whitby	HMS Zest

Coastal minesweepers:	HMS. Chawton	HMS. Dartington	HMS Dufton
	HMS Fiskerton	HMS Houghton Leader of 6th Minesweeping sqn.	
	HMS Hubberston	HMS Invermoriston	HMS Kildarton
	HMS Lanton	HMS Maryton	HMS Penston
	HMS Picton	HMS Plaston	HMS Puncheston
	HMS Sheraton	HMS Thankerton	HMS Wilkieston
	HMS Woolaston		

Inshore minesweeper:	HMS Ickford
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Minesweeper Support vessel:	HMS Manxman	HMS Woodbridge Haven
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Despatch Vessel:	HMS Alert
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7th Submarine Sqn (SM7) SM 7	HMS Medway	HMS/M Alliance	HMS/M Ambush
	HMS/M Amphion	HMS/M Anchorite	HMS/M Andrew
	HMS/M Auriga	HMS/M Oberon	

Fleet Air Arm:

- 845 Naval Air Sqn, Wessex helicopters. Embarked on board HMS Albion. Deployed to Sibul and Nanga Gaat November 63-June 1965
- 846 Naval Air Sqn, Whirlwind helicopters. Embarked on board HMS Albion.
- 848 Naval Air Sqn, 848 NACS SQN landed ashore in Borneo and after an initial deployment to Kuching.
- 849 Naval Air Sqn, Four Fairey Gannet AEW aircraft B flight from HMS Victorious, flying out of RAF Seletar.

	Royal Fleet Auxiliary		
RFA Eddyrock	RFA Fort Charlotte	RFA Gold Ranger	
RFA Tideflow	RFA Tidepool	RFA Wave Sovereign	

Royal Marines
 3 Commando Brigade
 HQ 3 Commando Brigade, Kuching police compound.
 3 Commando Brigade Intelligence Platoon (Mid-West Brigade & SBS). Based in Singapore. 6 deployments to Borneo:
 5th Division: December 62
 1st Division: December 62- Jan 63, May - Jul 63, Oct 63 - Feb 64, Jul 65 - Nov 65
 2nd Division: May - September 66
 No 42 RM Commando
 5th Division: December 62 - April 63
 1st Division: Aug 63-October 63, Feb-June 64, Dec 65- May 66 , Sabah: Dec 64- May 65
 No. 2 & No. 6 SBS RM

COMMONWEALTH UNITS

Air Forces

No.14 Sqn RNZAF equipped with Canberras

No.41 Sqn RNZAF equipped with Bristol 170 Freighter transport aircraft and based at RAF Changi.

Army units

1 Bn Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, based at Terendak, Malaysia November 61.

3 Bn Royal Australian Regiment, based at Terendak, Malaysia July 1963. Deployed to Borneo March- July 1965.

4 Bn Royal Australian Regiment, based at Terendak, Malaysia September 1965. Deployed to Borneo April - August 1966.

1st Ranger Sqn NZSAS. Detachments deployed to Borneo Feb 65

SAS Regiment, Australia, 1 SAS Sqn deployed from Australia. Operated in Bau, Tebedu, Lundu, Stass, Serian, Balai Ringin areas of Sarawak 1st Division. Tour February-July 1965.

2 SAS Sqn deployed from Australia. Operated in Sapulut, Pensiangan, Long Pa Sia, Long Semado, Saliliran areas of Sarawak 5th Division and Sabah Interior Residency. Tour February-July 1966.

3rd Malaysian Brigade formed the HQ for East Brigade located at Tawau, Sabah. Malaysian Battalion (HQ - Tawau)

Malaysian Battalion (HQ - Sebatik Island)

Tawau Assault Group (HQ - Wallace Bay), by 1965, this was a joint British Army/Malaysian Army/Malaysian Navy/Malaysian Police grouping under tactical command of HQ East Brigade (3rd Malaysian Brigade with HQ at Tawau).

Malaysian Armoured Car Sqn

Malaysian Artillery Battery (Sebatik Island, Serudong Ulu, Serudong Laut)



LCPL Rambahadur Limbu VC

Borneo



Bhatu Gaja Christian Cemetery, near Ipoh

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

Sir Fabian Ware, the Commission's founder who arrived in France early in 1914 was struck by the lack of an organisation to mark and record the graves of fallen soldiers. Due to his energy the Commonwealth War Graves Commission was established by Royal Charter in 1917. The original principles on which the Commission was founded have remained unaltered and are:

- Each of the dead should be commemorated individually by name on a headstone or a memorial
- Headstones and memorials should be permanent
- Headstones should be uniform
- No distinction should be made on account of military or civil rank, race or creed

Borneo Confrontation can do so very easily by accessing the Commission's records through their website. The database, which is searched using the surname of the casualty, can be found at www.cwgc.org and enquiries by telephone (01628 634221), letter or email are also welcome at the Commission's Maidenhead Head Office.

The Commission works in 150 different countries, employing craftsmen to maintain the architectural features of its cemeteries and memorials and gardeners to embellish its sites with horticulture to give the casualties fitting and peaceful commemoration.

Direct responsibilities for the maintenance and upkeep of graves in Malaysia:

Anybody wishing to find the place of commemoration of relatives who lost their lives while in service for a Commonwealth nation during the Malaya Emergency or

- The Directorate of Personal Services MoD. Adjutant General Secretariate, MoD Building 398, Trenchard Lines, Upavon, Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 6BE. Email: agsec@army.mod.uk.net
- British High Commission, Kuala Lumpur & Singapore.

THE MALAYSIAN CEMETERIES

- Kranji Military Cemetery Singapore and Belait Cemetery Brunei.
- Terendak Military Cemetery Malacca & Memorial Wall in memory of those who have no known Graves also those buried at the Bukit Serindit Christian Cemetery Malacca.
- Seremban Christian Cemetery Negri Sembilan.
- Cheras Road Christian Cemetery Kuala Lumpur.
- Batu Gajah Christian Cemetery 'God's Little Acre' near Ipoh, Perak.
- Kamunting Road Christian Cemetery Taiping.
- Western Road Christian Cemetery Penang.



Kranji Military Cemetery, Singapore



Western Road Military Cemetery, Penang

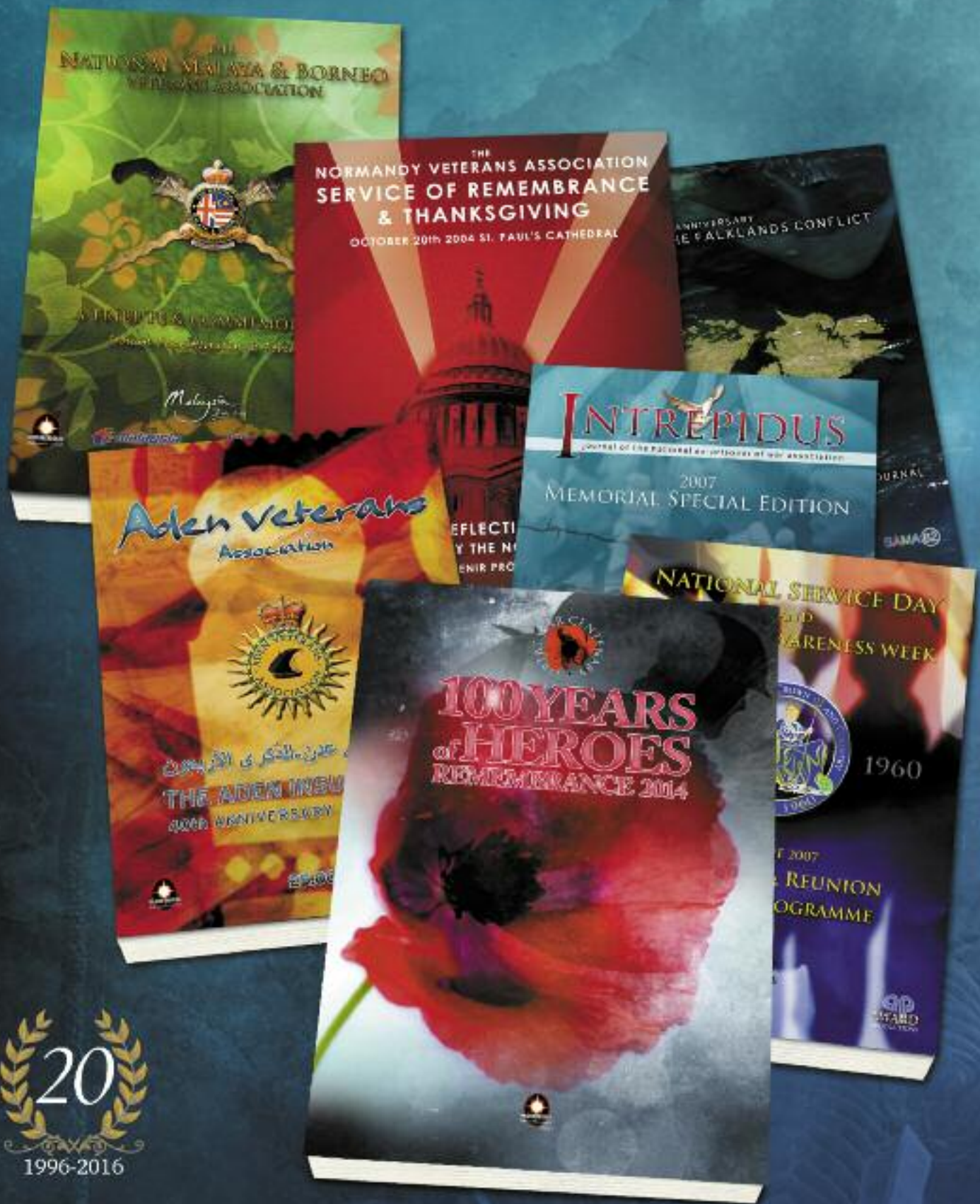


Kamunting Road Christian Cemetery, Taiping



Terendak Military Cemetery, Malacca

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE



Forthcoming Publications
The Armed Forces Remembrance Journal
 November 2016

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