

NMBVA NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH – NEWSLETTER ARTICLE-2025

This has been another reasonably busy year for the Branch. Although getting on in years, most of our small band of members are well. Sadly, one of our stalwart members, Terry Kinghan is in a nursing Home. Some of us meet weekly for Coffee and we enjoy a monthly get together at a Veterans Breakfast Club. Our first formal outing of 2025 was to the ANZAC Day Service at Balance House Lisburn on the 29th of April. Our Standard was paraded and Branch Members participated in the Parade and Service.



(Standards at the ANZAC Parade also Noel Nash with Dennis Topping - Guards Para Borneo)

Our next big event was the VE 80 Commemoration Services. We participated in all the events here in Lisburn, including the Service, the Beacon Lighting and a special Church event.



(VE80 DAY)

On VJ80 Day our Annual Parade and Service was combined with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council. (LCCC) VJ80 Commemorations. Our small Branch played a major part in organising this event. LCCC graciously provided transport to enable Jim Lyons, our venerable President to attend. The Parade and Service was held to remember those who fell in Far East during WW2 or held in captivity by the Japanese as well as those who Fell during the Malaya Emergency, Borneo Confrontation. We also remember those ANZAC's from 28 Commonwealth Brigade who fell in Vietnam. We were joined on this poignant and moving Parade and Service by Sea, Army and Air Cadets, Serving Soldiers, Piper and Bugler, RAMC and RBL Association Members. HM Lord Lieutenant, The Mayor and Councillors, Commander 38 (North Irish) Brigade, and other local dignitaries also attended.

The Venerable Paul Miller CF conducted the Service and the Parade RSM was WO1 (RSM) James Couper SCOTS, the Brigade RSM. A Civic Lunch for all who were on Parade followed. At the Lunch we raised £1050.00 for the Gurkha Welfare Trust.



(Council Launch of VJ80 and Parade led by Piper and Bugler from R Irish Regiment)



(Capt Retired Alan Roach OBE RFA placing our Branch Wreath and the event Group Photo)

We are participating in the Local Festival of Remembrance on the 8th of November as well as assisting with the Poppy Appeal. We wish all NMBVA Members a Happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

Major (Retd) Noel Nash MBE OStJ