

Notice Board

Request for stories of military personnel who married local girls while serving in Malaya.

Journalist, Zaharah Othman from the Malaysian *Straits Times* newspaper has asked whether any of our members would like to share their story.

Zaharah has told many stories of our servicemen over the years and is a very accomplished journalist and writer. Link to one of many stories.

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/2017/02/211752/postcard-zaharah-love-triumphs-tropics-video>

If you would like your story to be told, please contact John Measham, either by email nmbva.jsm@gmail.com or mobile 07899877124.

PJM Ceremony

I would like to provide a brief update regarding the proposed Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM) Conferment Ceremony, which was initially being considered for June 2026. Please be informed that we are currently still awaiting the necessary approval from our Headquarters in Malaysia. As such, it is now unlikely that the ceremony will be held in June as initially anticipated.

We fully appreciate the continued support, patience and cooperation from the UK Medal Office, NMBVA and EXBGA in relation to the PJM matters. We will provide further updates as soon as we receive confirmation and guidance from our Headquarters regarding the way forward and any revised timeline for the ceremony.

We sincerely regret any inconvenience this may cause and thank you once again for your kind understanding and continued assistance.

Defence Office High Commission of Malaysia, London.

Unfortunately, I have been informed by the Malaysian Defence Adviser that there is a further delay until 2027. There are no further details at this time.

****Cenotaph Parade 2026****

Dear NMBVA Comrade

Are you planning or hoping to march with us at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2026?

I am asking you this at this time because 2026 marks the 60th anniversary since the end of the Confrontation and the NMBVA want to honour the occasion by mustering a substantial contingent for the Remembrance march past. Sadly, as with all campaign-based associations, our membership is slowly declining in both numbers and mobility which is why I am reaching out to you this early because every attendee makes a difference, and it is uncertain for how long we will be able to justify our attendance as an accredited contingent.

At this early stage all I am looking for is expressions of interest and, if possible, an indication of potential numbers and I have already made a case to the Cenotaph Team at the Royal British Legion for an appropriate allocation of tickets.

We expect to be notified in March/April of how many tickets we have been allocated for this special year.

In 2025, we had 22 registered marchers and were privileged to receive coverage on the BBC during the televised parade. We want to make the 60th anniversary highly memorable if we can, and your support would be greatly appreciated. I am also attaching some briefing notes about the event to assist you in your decision. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. **Free train travel is available; please ask for details.**

Please reply to John Black at johnmblack46@gmail.com 07712 897525.

Malaysia Trip 2027

I would like to gauge the interest in a trip to Malaysia in August 2027 to celebrate the 70th year of Malaysia's independence.

The trip I am proposing is 10 nights in Penang followed by 4 nights in Kuala Lumpur. This trip will be in the same format as 2007 and 2017. Part official and part holiday. We will be visiting war cemeteries, holding short parades at the Cenotaph in Penang and taking part in Independence Day in Kuala Lumpur. The holiday day will be BBQs, boat trips around the Island of Penang, gala dinner and plenty of free time for you to arrange things for yourselves.

The idea is for us to travel independently but meet up at the same hotels. This is for those that have a budget and for those that may wish to extend that trip.

If you would like to show your interest, please contact John Measham at **nmbva.jsm@gmail.com** or on 07899 877124.