Cenotaph 2026



NMBVA Contingent 2026

Post March Report - Cenotaph 2026.

Mustering on Horseguards Parade on Sunday 8th November, it was grey, chilly and with a slight dampness in the air. But we were undeterred and having worked our way through security, we found our way to our muster point.

Out of 53 ticket holders, 51 veterans and their carers found their way to us, which is a remarkable turnout. This included several not yet members of the association, a number of 1st time attendees at the Cenotaph, and several for whom this was a bucket list moment. We welcomed them all as we tried with only partial success to gather everyone for a group photo, after which we encouraged everyone to take up their positions. We had 7 wheelchair users with us, and these were deployed strategically among the contingent.

Our left marker, and wreath-bearer, was Chelsea Pensioner Roger Tamkin, who served with the West Kents (Buffs). He looked impressive in his scarlets and helped to make us stand out for both the cameras and the crowds .

Our Officer in charge was Lt. Col. Jim Ross, Royal Corps of Signals, and he, as one might expect, did a sterling job of leading us round.

There were several PJM scarves on display and again these helped to make us visible. It was easy to spot us on television and we have received several comments from family members who picked us out. This was made easier because we were fairly close to the Chelsea Pensioners' contingent, which is always guaranteed to be on television, but even more so because we were immediately behind a small contingent of six veterans, members of the CASEVACS Club, all survivors of Iraq and Afghanistan. They drew a lot of very justified attention, which meant that we were also filmed.

At the end of the march, once dismissed, a number of people had to travel home, but a large group of us, 26 in total, had booked a Malaysian restaurant for a traditional curry lunch. We were honoured to entertain the Malaysian Defence Adviser as our guest as we sat down to a wonderful meal with dishes and flavours that transported us immediately back to the villages in Malaya where we had eaten meals more than 60 years ago.

This was a fitting end to a wonderful day. Hopefully, some of the non-members will now take the opportunity to join the association, and we can all prepare to do it all again next year.

John Black, Cenotaph Organiser.



L to R. Roger Hughes-Jones, Roger Tamkin & John Black



Right Centre.
Our Guest of Honour

The Malaysian Defence Adviser
Brigadier General
Dato' Shahir Hafizul Abd Rahman