

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WEAR THE PINGAT JASA MALAYSIA

www.fight4thePJM.org

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

MALAYA-BORNEO VETERANS

IF YOU SERVED in Malaysia or Singapore for at least ninety days between the 31st August 1957 and the 12th August 1966 (9th August 1965 for service in Singapore) then you are eligible for the Pingat Jasa Malaysia, the Malaysian Service Medal. The medal is also awarded to those men and women who died in Malaysia, and to those who have died since. The next of kin of these deceased veterans are eligible to receive the PJM.

THE MEDAL has been graciously offered by the King and Government of Malaysia to Commonwealth forces, civilians and police who helped protect their newly independent country.

THE PJM acknowledges success in a war on terror and aggression. The methods used then by Malaya-Borneo veterans in achieving success, working with the people of Malaysia, are recognised now as being the only hope of achieving a peaceful outcome in today's war on terror. Their service is more relevant today than ever before and must not be forgotten just because "it was long ago".

THE CITATION reads: "Pingat Jasa Malaysia - This medal is awarded to the peacekeeping groups amongst the Commonwealth countries for distinguished chivalry, gallantry, sacrifice or loyalty in upholding Peninsula of Malaya or Malaysia sovereignty during the period of Emergency and Confrontation."

THE QUEEN, as requested by the Australian and New Zealand Governments, has given her consent for their citizens to accept and wear the medal.

BUT BRITISH CITIZENS and next of kin may only receive the PJM, they must not wear it. Permission to wear the medal has been withheld because it would compromise the British "Imperial Honours System". We are trying to establish whether that same system will prevent loyal Gurkha soldiers, and those Malaysians who enlisted in the British Army, from receiving or wearing the PJM.

YET MALAYSIA graciously offered the medal to Commonwealth men and women, not exclusively to the UK. It is a Commonwealth award. The Queen is head of that Commonwealth and in today's world there can be no tenable reason why her subjects in one country should be discriminated against in respect of the same service. We served together, fought together and in some cases died together - we should be able to wear the medal together.

THE UK should not misuse its singular "Imperial Honours System" to discriminate against the citizens of one country within the multi-nation Commonwealth. Nor should the civil servants running the Honours System pretend that their objections to the PJM being worn by British veterans are based upon two "long standing" rules and principles. One first saw the light of day in 2005, one year after the PJM was announced (1)!

OUR CASE is that permission to wear the PJM is being withheld on the erroneous grounds of double-medalling (2) and on the inappropriate grounds that the service was more than five years ago (3).

- (1) The double-medal rule miraculously appeared in the Foreign Decorations Rules for the first time in November 2005.
- (2) HMG's primary objection to the PJM is that it produces two medals for the same service. Not so. The scope of the PJM is wider than any British medallic award and, in any event, for 5 1/2 years in Singapore and on the Peninsula, and for many in the Royal Navy (see Admiralty Fleet Order 2460 1960), no British Medal was awarded.
- (3) The spurious application of the 'more than five years ago' rule has been subtly modified specifically to deny the PJM.

WHAT DOES HMG say about this? Nothing - yet. In response to our questions we receive only a repetition of the erroneous statements. They are unwilling to discuss these issues that are so important to 35,000 men and women, invoking the "Honours in Confidence" system to avoid open discussion about their recommendation to withhold permission from us to wear the PJM.

