



18th. April, 2006.

Mark Harper MP,
Shadow Minister for Veterans on behalf of the Defence Team,
House of Commons,
LONDON.
SW1A 0AA.

Your ref – LDN3959.

Dear Sir,

PINGAT JASA MALAYSIA MEDAL.

I refer to your letter dated 12th. April, 2006, under the above reference.

It is an understatement to say that I am appalled at your comments in your letter in regard to the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal and the British veterans who are eligible for this honour bestowed upon them by a gracious King and Government of Malaysia.

It is beyond my understanding that a member of HMG's Opposition can gladly paddle a government canoe filled to the brim with lies, ambiguity and discrimination. Obviously your talents are wasted in opposition and you should be flaunting them on the government front benches.

I will not waste our time by pointing out the glaring errors in your summation of this matter which you quite obviously have not researched properly, as I am sure by now you will have been inundated with howls of protest from other veterans.

I would, however, like to ask you the following two points:-

- Where have you read that it would be **unfair for those servicemen that have either not received, or received but not been given permission to wear a medal, thus creating inconsistencies within the system.** This is a new one on me and appears to be a figment of

your imagination. Also, you have quoted 'servicemen' and confirmed that the rules are about servicemen, and not citizens and thus do not apply in this case.

- I resent most strongly your last sentence in paragraph 5 which states **'Those that wish to do so may wear this medal'**. I fought for and earned my General Service Medal with clasp Malaya for action in the stinking jungle and in the skies of Malaya (I was with airborne Special Forces) from 1956 to 1958 and I do not require your permission, or anyone's permission to wear or otherwise, a medal presented to me by my country for active service.

I really despair for our country when I read letters like yours purporting to be from the opposition to the present government. An attitude such as yours gives Tony Blair and his totalitarian regime carte blanche to ride rough shod over the lot us, which he has done up to now.

May God help us, we will need it. You seem unable and unwilling to do so.

