

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WEAR THE PINGAT JASA MALAYSIA

www.fight4thePJM.org

Kami ingin mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih kepada sahabat Malaysia sekalian diatas pengantugerahan 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 British Government exacerbate that discrimination by dictating to Malaysia that it restrict the eligibility criteria for their Malaysian medal for British citizens (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 period of eligibility for British citizens has been reduced by four months and the definition of qualifying service has also been changed.

(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 1 1/2 years 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.




THE PJM CITATION that accompanies the medal clearly demonstrates the nature of the PJM. It was honourably awarded and should be honourably worn, not consigned to the status of a trinket - and one that cannot even be worn.

WHAT POSSIBLE HARM can it do to the Imperial Honours System to permit ageing Malaya-Borneo veterans, the vast majority of whom are now civilians, a little bit of pride and joy as we stand together on Remembrance Day remembering this country's dead from all wars, many of whom are our ex-comrades in arms - many of whom died in Malaysia? Should not their widows and next of kin be able to wear the PJM with pride?

'LOBBYING' IS NOT our natural habitat. We are ex-servicemen who have an intrinsic and instinctive sense of discipline and loyalty. As we set out our case, we do so with humility, and with an enduring loyalty to our country and our Queen, but this shameful recommendation has brought us together again for one last battle against a very unpleasant form of discrimination.

WE ARE HONOURED that thousands of people have visited us and many hundreds actively support us in the UK, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United States and, most importantly, Malaysia.

IT'S ALL OVER - A "Field Intelligence Officer" and some of his friends in Malaysia share mutual happiness when Confrontation ended in 1966. "We did it together".



WE FEEL deep humility to have received support from these wonderful people:

"The PJM Medal is an honourable award, awarded to honourable men. They will be rightly honoured to display it."

Lt Cmr Ian Fraser VC DSC RD and Bar JP

"The award of the PJM Medal by the Malaysian government is a timely honour to those who served. We are privileged to receive it with good grace and respect and should wear it with the dignity it warrants."

Bill Speakman-Pitt VC

"I was very pleased to learn that the Queen had given her consent to the PJM and I think that those who earned it should be able to wear it. You have my wholehearted support in your efforts to be given permission to wear your medal."

Dame Vera Lynn DBE LLD MMUS

"I wholeheartedly support the award of the PJM Medal and the right to wear it".

Mr Leslie Thomas OBE

JOIN WITH THEM and help us rectify this injustice by registering your support at:

www.fight4thePJM.org

If you do not have internet access, you can telephone us on 08450 667 007 (local rates, and currently 3p a minute max) or write to us at:

UK and Europe: Fight4thePJM, c/o Gerald Law, 6 Knole Close, 1 Crabtree Park, Worth, Crawley, West Sussex, UK, RH10 7GA

N Ireland & EIRE: Fight4thePJM, c/o George Fleming, 545a, Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 7GQ

Australia and New Zealand: Fight4thePJM, c/o John Feltham, P. O. Box 59, Wulguru, QLD 4811, Australia

Canada and the USA: Fight4thePJM, c/o John Fenton, 328 Hillcroft Street, Oshawa, Ontario, Canada, L1G 2L9

A FOOTNOTE: This year is the 40th Anniversary of the end of Confrontation. It is also the inaugural year of the Government's recently announced Veteran's Day to honour and to remember those who have served this country. It is not a time to demonstrate how veterans are forgotten and discriminated against. Is not this a wonderful opportunity, and in the true spirit of the Commonwealth of Nations, to undo the wrong that has been done and to honour the Malaya-Borneo Veterans by giving formal permission for them to wear the medal they have earned? And, in these days when budgets are inevitably a consideration, the PJM will not cost this country anything - when offering the PJM, the Malaysian Government confirmed they would supply all the medals.

The web site at www.fight4thePJM.org is provided and maintained entirely by Malaya-Borneo Veterans.

We have no political or commercial or any organisational affiliations.

We are not seeking funding. We are only seeking your support. Thank you.

The words in the Malaysian language are our attempt to say: "We wish to thank our Malaysian friends for the honour they have bestowed upon us. Thank you."
(We wrote those words so that the Malaysian people would know how the Pingat Jasa Malaysia is regarded by those who served their country)