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The Right Honourable Tony Blair
10, Downing Street
London
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Dear Prime Minister,

I have recently joined The National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association, and am delighted to find that I am entitled to receive the Pingat Jasa Malaysia. That delight, unfortunately, rapidly turned to a feeling of outrage at the fact that, whilst I am entitled to receive it, I am not allowed to wear it at all for the following reasons.

1. The five year rule
2. Double medalling.
3. Receiving and wearing of foreign decorations

The Governor General of Australia can have this conferred on him, and to wear in public, but I cannot. Tell me, are we or are we not members of the same Commonwealth?

You claim, that, by your reasoning, that this particular action took place a long time ago. So it did. It would therefore surprise you, that, by dint of your own reasoning, the recipients of the many Russian medals, and those eight, English Normandy veterans, who were decorated with The Legion of Honour, at a ceremony in the Admiralty in 2004, should, according to your dictum, not be allowed to wear those rightly deserved honours.

Incidentally, a further few were decorated with the Croix De Guerre, by the French President. Now once again, remind me of your reasoning, as it doesn't quite gel, does it?

If that has not alerted you to the incredible faux pas, that you have foisted on us veterans, then may I quote from Mr Ivor Caplin, The Under Secretary Of State for Defence, and Minister for Veterans:

'I see commemoration, not only as a way of respecting those who fought, and in many cases gave their lives, but as a way of educating younger generations about the debt of gratitude we owe all of our veterans.'

The only education that I can see the younger generation actually receiving from this, is,

1. That Ministers do not actually engage their brains to support what their mouths are saying, because believe me, the young may be little horrors at times, but they can still pick holes in any politician's foolish diatribe.