

2. Why then should they bother to tell the truth when the Government are so clearly not?
3. Double speak, is actually the order of the day. After all, you are all there to set an example, which, by a strange coincidence, you are exceeding all expectations on that score - that of obfuscation.
4. Quite contrary to popular belief, as ably demonstrated by yourselves, you might actually confer with each other and at least walk the same parallel path of political rhetoric. Something to do with solidarity of purpose - but then perhaps that would be too much to expect of your Cabinet at this juncture.
5. Three medals for the Northern Ireland conflict? When I went to school, three, was one more than double, or am I being pedantic. Was the simple mathematics beyond you? Do let me know.
6. Yes! You are a shining example for the younger generation, quite what in, is a total mystery to me, and I suspect others, but they can write to you with their own thoughts.
7. Tell me once again, that Mr Caplin's comments were made to instruct the younger generation about the debt of gratitude that is owed to the Veterans. Or am I being truculent? If I and my comrades in arms, are not allowed to wear it, then how are they going to know about it.

Perhaps you have it in mind to expunge 'our' particular war from the record books; just pretend it never happened. After all, it has been cynically dubbed the 'forgotten war' and from your recently revealed attitudes towards those who participated in this little debacle, it appears that you wish to underscore that premise.

I want you to consider very carefully, those service men and women, who went to the other side of the world to fight in an undeclared war. It was not one of their making, but as being loyal to the Crown and the Government, they went without question.

What they had to endure on a daily basis, defied description;

Snake bites, usually fatal; scorpions very unpleasant; prickly heat sores from the sweat. Mosquito bites, which itched like nobody's business and turned septic.

Dense jungle, where the heat and humidity; reminiscent of fighting in a Turkish bath; rendered you hors de combat within a short space of time; but still they carried on, proud of the badge they served under; and not wishing to bring disgrace on it.

Malaria, from which I still suffer recurrent bouts and I suspect there are many others who do.

Many still suffer from the psychological problems of this 'war' and will do so till their dying day; but they will not admit it, nor try to capitalise on it by getting free hand outs.