

The Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal

Background

In 2005 the Malaysian Government approached the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to seek approval to present their new medal, known as the Pingat Jasa Malaysia, to British veterans and others who served in operations in Malaya/Malaysia between August 1957 and August 1966.

This was not a matter for the Ministry of Defence. On behalf of the Government, the FCO is responsible for administering the policy relating to the acceptance and wear of non-British awards by British citizens. They arranged for the matter to be considered by the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals, (known as the HD Committee). This is a non-political, pan-Departmental committee, Chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, which advises The Queen on such matters. The Committee considered the matter of the PJM in the light of the rules governing the accepting and wearing of non-British awards and made recommendations to The Queen.

As a result, on 31st January 2005 the Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs, Mr Ian Pearson made a Written Ministerial Statement to the House of Commons as follows:

Written Ministerial Statement
31 January 2006

Pingat Jasa Malaysia

“The Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM) is a commemorative medal which the Government of Malaysia would like to award to eligible British citizens, for their service in Malaya or Malaysia between 31 August 1957 and 12 August 1966.

The Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals (the official committee which advises Her Majesty The Queen on matters of honours policy) has recommended that an exception to two of the long-established Rules governing the accepting and wearing of foreign (including Commonwealth) awards be made, to enable the Malaysian Government to present the PJM. Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve this recommendation.

This exception to the Rules means that all of the many thousands of eligible former members of the Armed Forces/Veterans, and others, may receive the PJM. This will be in addition to the British General Service Medal (with appropriate Malaya/Borneo clasp) that many veterans will have been eligible to receive for their service in Malaya/Borneo.

Permission to wear the PJM will not, however, formally be given. It is long standing Government policy that non-British medals will not be approved for events or service:

- that took place more than 5 years before initial consideration, or in connection with events that took place in the distant past (e.g. commemorative medals);

- if the recipient has received a British award for the same service.

However, Her Majesty's Government welcomes, and believes it is important to recognise, the generous gesture by the King and Government of Malaysia, and their wish to acknowledge the service given by veterans and others in the years immediately after Malaysian independence. The exception recommended reflects this and our strong and important relationship with Malaysia.

The Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals reviewed the 5-year and double medalling rules, and considered that, while there were sound reasons why they should be retained, there will be occasions when specific circumstances require exceptions to the rules to be recommended. When such exceptions are contemplated, the Committee will consider each request on a case by case basis, taking into account any special

circumstances at the time. The fact that a similar request has been approved in the past will not mean that permission will be granted in future cases.

Applications for the PJM, and its subsequent distribution will essentially be a matter for the Malaysian authorities, in collaboration with the relevant British Government Departments. Large numbers may be involved. It will take some time for the applications to be processed and for the medal to be distributed. The Malaysian High Commission and the relevant British Government agencies will work together to determine eligible applicants. Veterans' organisations and Service and Regimental Associations will also be involved."

Applying for the Medal

The Ministry of Defence does not have lists of veterans who served in Malaya/Borneo between August 1957 and August 1966, or indeed for any other overseas deployments, so people who wish to receive this medal will have to submit applications individually, through an appropriate veterans' organisation. Individual applications should not be sent to either the Ministry of Defence or the FCO.

In the first instance you should approach your own veterans' organisation and ask them to assess and coordinate applications on your behalf. You should supply as much information about your service in Malaya/Borneo as possible, including your name, present postal address, telephone number and e-mail address if available. Assessment of entitlement to the medal should be possible if you supply your Service Number, the Ship, Regiment, Corps or Squadron in which you served, the years you were in Malaysia and whether you have already received a British General Service Medal with an appropriate clasp for service in Malaya or Borneo.

The National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association (NMBVA) has agreed to coordinate and collate applications on behalf of its members and, in addition, applications from Malaya/Borneo Campaign veterans who are not members of any veterans' organisation, or association. The NMBVA will assess the entitlement to the PJM from the information provided by the applicant, stamp the application as approved and pass lists of successful applicants to the Ministry of Defence for endorsement and despatch to the Malaysian High Commission in London. Any individual applications that have not been cleared by an appropriate veterans' organisation will be sent automatically to the NMBVA. No verification checks will be carried out by the Ministry of Defence.

If you are member of the NMBVA, you can obtain an application form by visiting the Association's Internet website: www.nmbva.co.uk. If you are not a member of any other veterans' organisation or association and wish to claim the medal, it is recommended that use the NMBVA's form. Completed application forms should be sent to the following address:

Mr Fred Burden
Membership Secretary
National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association
44, Meadgate Avenue
Great Baddow
Chelmsford
CM2 7LQ
Tel No. 01245 495238

If you have been given a copy of this information and do not have access to the internet may write to Mr Burden for a form. Please ensure that you enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. We are advised that the medal will be issued posthumously to next of kin.

Can you help?

The Ministry of Defence welcomes offers of assistance from ex-Servicemen's associations and organisations, including Regimental Associations who have members who served in Malaya and Borneo between 1957 and 1966. If your organisation is prepared to coordinate applications from your members and assess the entitlement of those who served in Malaya and Borneo, in your Regiment, on board ship or in a squadron, please ask your Secretary, or other designated official, to contact the Ministry of Defence at the address below to arrange for their contact details to be added to this website. Please write to:

"Pingat Jasa Malaysia"
DS Sec – Honours 1
Ministry of Defence
Level 8/Zone J
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

The veterans' organisations that are assisting with the exercise will be given the qualifying criteria for the PJM published by the Malaysian Government to assist them in determining whether or not applicants have qualified for the medal. We must again stress that the Ministry of Defence and FCO will not deal with individual applications or queries about individual entitlement to the PJM, so please do not submit individual applications to the above branch. Any received which have not been stamped by an appropriate veterans' organisation or Regimental Association will be sent automatically to the NM&BVA for verification.

Obtaining verification of your service

The following organisations have kindly agreed to verify applications from their members. When writing to them, please remember to enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you require a reply. All the following people have volunteered to help in this exercise and are prepared to donate their time, but it is unreasonable for them to have to fund your postage costs. Other organisations and Regimental Associations will be added to this list as required.

UNITED KINGDOM

National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association (Scotland)

Mr T Nisset
2 Bow Butts
Markinch, Fife
Scotland KY7 6DY

Scots Guards

Lance Corporal K Gorman
Non-Effective Records NCO
Archives HQ Scots Guards
Wellington Barracks
Birdcage Walk
London, SW1E 6HQ

Tel: 0207 414 3419
Fax: 0207 414 3445
Email: sgarchives@dial.pipex.com

King's Own Scottish Borderers

Colonel C J O Hogg
Regimental Headquarters
Kings Own Scottish Borderers
The Barracks
Berwick-upon-Tweed
TD15 1DG

Tel: 01289 307426

1st Battalion Malaysia Rangers

Lieutenant Colonel (Rtd) D W F Twigg
21 Helens Park
Aghalee
Craigavon
BT67 0EN

Tel: 028 9265 1081

Royal Ulster Rifles

Major R J Walker MBE
Regimental Secretary
The Royal Ulster Rifles Association
5 Waring Street
Belfast
Northern Ireland
BT1 2EW

Tel: 028 9023 2086

Email: rurmuseum@yahoo.co.uk

Sherwood Foresters

Regimental Headquarters WFR
Foresters House
Chetwynd Barracks
Chilwell
Nottinghamshire
NG9 5HA

Tel: 0115 946 5416

1st Battalion The Royal Leicestershire Regiment

Captain R J Allen
Chairman
The Royal Tigers Association (The Royal Leicestershire Regiment)
TA Centre
Ulverscroft Road
Leicester
LE4 6BY

HMS Albion

Mr K Ridley
Reunion Organiser
HMS Albion Association
18 Littleworth End
Offord Darcy
St. Neots
Cambridgeshire
PE19 5RA

Tel: 01480 810848

Email: hmsalbion@hotmail.com

HMS Cassandra, HMS Caprice, HMS Barossa

Mr M C Longfoot
HMS Cassandra Association
50 Graylands Road
Walton
Liverpool
L4 9UQ

Tel: 0151 226 3675

Email: ongfoo@hotmail.com

The Ton Class Association – (HM Coastal Minesweepers)

Mr P J Down JP FBCS
Honorary Secretary
Ton Class Association
5 Shaw Moor Avenue
Stalybridge
Cheshire
SK15 2RB

Tel: 0161 338 4264
Email: AVOCAQA@aol.com

Royal Fleet Auxiliary Personnel

Captain Rex Cooper OBE
Chairman RFA Association
P.O. Box 120
Hexham
NE48 1XA

Tel: 01434 240002/220000
Email: chairman@rfa-association.org

Royal Air Force Airfield Construction Branch

Mr C Sewell FFB MICW MIIEExE
Membership Secretary
Royal Air Force Construction Branch Association
Wealdon House
Ox Lane
St Michaels
Tenterden
Kent TN30 6NG

Tel: 01580 763347
Email: raf.acba@btinternet.com

RAF Butterworth and Penang Association

Mr A L Parrini
Chairman
RAF Butterworth and Penang Association
Hamethwaite
Rockcliffe
Carlisle
CA6 4AA

Tel: 01228 674553
Email: tony@parrini.co.uk or rcro.penrith@stc.raf.mod.uk

Royal Air Force Aerial Erectors

Mr B Edwards
Ex-RAF Aerial Erectors Association
85 Church Lane
Meanwood
Leeds
LS6 4NP

Tel: 0113 2789378
Email: eddieedwards@supernet.com

**RAF Helicopter Operations (Malaya Emergency) Association
(incorporating RAF Cas-evac Flight, 194, 155 and 110 Squadrons)**

Mr B W Lloyd
32 Redwood
Burnham
Buckinghamshire
SL1 8JN

Tel: 01628 661005
Email: brianlloyd@redwood32.freemove.co.uk

Members of British Korean Veterans association who served in Malaya and Borneo

Mr F Ellison OBE BEM JP
Honorary General Secretary
British Korean Veterans Association
12 Fields Crescent
Hollingworth
Hyde
Cheshire SK14 8JR

Tel: 01457 763699
Fax: 01457 766748

AUSTRALIA

For UK veterans now living in Australia, we are advised that the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia has volunteered to coordinate and verify applications. Please write to:

National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia
Mr Adrian Rogers
C/o St George's Holiday House for ex-Service Personnel
P.O. Box 326
Coolangatta
Queensland 4225
Australia

Tel: 07 5536 1261
Fax: 07 5536 8296
Email: stgeorge.exservice@goldcoast-qld.com

SOUTH AFRICA

Members of the Royal Naval Association now resident in South Africa may contact Mr P O Turton at the address below:

Mr P O Turton
Royal Naval Association
Cape Town Branch
84 Clovelly Road
Clovelly 7975
Cape Town
South Africa

SPAIN

Former Malayan and Borneo Campaign veterans now resident in Spain may contact Mr D E Mills at the address below:

Mr D E Mills
Partida de la Huerta 21
Piso 1
Altea 03590
Alicante
Spain

Do you qualify?

The following qualifying criteria were provided by the Malaysian High Commission in London:

TERMS GOVERNING THE AWARD OF PINGAT JASA MALAYSIA (PJM)

1. For distinguished service and sacrifices towards the involvement of the Armed Forces and security groups from the communion countries who had served in this country during the 2nd Emergency and Confrontation time period, the Malaysian Government has approved to ordain a recognition for this award to be conferred to any entity. This decoration shall be named as Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM).

2. This award is conferred in considering the involvement of the Armed Forces or security group from Australia, Britain, New Zealand, India, Nepal, Fiji and citizen of any other country who served in any peace operations in Malaya or Malaysia, aimed to upholding the peace and sovereignty of this country. For the purpose of conferring this award, the period of service is from 31st August 1957 (after the independent of Malaya) to 12th August 1966 (end of Confrontation).

3. Terms and Service Qualification applies for this award are as follows:

a. Person Eligible. This medal can be awarded to any entity from Peacekeeping Group (Armed Forces, Semi Armed Forces, Police and Security Civilian Staff) from the communion countries either man or women whoever has served in Malaya or Malaysia (including Sabah and Sarawak) during the determined period. (For service stationed in Singapore, please see paragraph e below).

b. The Exact Dates of Operational Service. For the purpose of conferment of this award, the Malaysian Government has declared that the exact dates of Operational Service is from 31st August 1957 to 12th August 1966 only. This medal cannot be offered for period prior to 30th August 1957 (before the independence of Malaya) or after 12th August 1966). (However, if their service does not cover the above mentioned dates, consideration shall be given based on Additional Qualification; please refer to paragraph f below).

c. Type of Services. In order to qualify for this medal, any personnel from the Armed Forces, Semi Armed Forces, Police and Security Civilian Staff service with or attached to any Armed Forces units or security organizations from the said countries or group either involved directly or indirectly and performed their duties in upholding the peace and security of this country, in any type of security operations with Malaya or Malaysia (including Sabah and Sarawak), within the time period as determined above are eligible for the award.

d. Number of Days of Service. Any security personnel from the said organizations and countries fulfilling the qualification below, are eligible for the award;

(1). Any security personnel who directly involved (in the face of enemy) in any operation for the period of three (3) months or more in any Armed Forces or Security Organizations from the said countries or group, stationed in Malaya or Malaysia during the predetermined time period;

(2). or any security personnel who had indirectly served not less than six (6) months as supporting elements in any operation served in any Armed Forces units or security organizations from the said countries or group, stationed in Malaya or Malaysia during the predetermined time period;

(3). or any security personnel attached or posted to any Armed Forces units or security organizations from the said countries or group, stationed in Malaya or Malaysia and performed their duties directly (in the face or enemy) in any operations not less than three (3) months during the predetermined time period;

(4). or any security personnel attached or posted to any Armed Forces units or security organizations from the said countries or group, stationed in Malaya or Malaysia and performed their duties indirectly as supporting element in any operations not less than six (6) months during the predetermined time period;

(5). or any security personnel from the said countries of Armed Forces or security organizations or attached to it, stationed Malaya or Malaysia, who had involved directly or as supporting element, throughout the service despite yet to fulfil the determined period, killed, wounded. or disable due to, performing tasks against the enemy, can be considered for this award.

e. Service in Singapore. if the security personnel from Armed Forces or security organization from the said countries or group, stationed in Singapore and performing tasks against the enemy in upholding the sovereignty of this country, their service should be for the period of 31 August 1957 until 9 August 1965 (Independence of Singapore). Other than period stated are not eligible.

f. Additional Qualifications. Despite the predetermined period (the exact dates of operational service and the number of days of service as mentioned earlier, other Additional Qualifications can be considered based on the following circumstances:

1) the security personnel from any Armed Forces or security organizations from the said countries or group who had served In Malaysia, must be sent by their Government before 12th August 1966; and

(2) after 12th August 1966, he or she must be in or attached to any remaining Armed Forces unit or Security Organisation from the said countries, stationed only in Malaysia and perform their duties during the so called "cooling period"; and

(3) the above service are counted until 31st December 1966 only.

(4) therefore, any entity who fulfil these additional qualifications (paragraph (1), (2) and (3) above eligible for this award.

g. Geographical Land Area. The geographical land area service are defined as the land of Malaya or Malaysia (including Sabah and Sarawak) only.

h. Service At Sea. Area Service at sea area are defined as: "the naval ships must be located in the sea area of Malaya or Malaysia and involved throughout in supporting any operation for Malaya or Malaysia. If the ships are located in Singapore coastal area, the service period should be from 31st August 1957 until 9th August 1965 (independence of Singapore).

i. Flying into and Out. Flying into and out of Malaya or Malaysia on an air force flight as air crew or supernumerary aircrew does not count as qualifying service for the award. However, if the parent unit (the Air Force bases) is stationed in Peninsular of Malaya or Malaysia during the predetermined period, are declared as service for Malaya or Malaysia. However, if the parent units are stationed in Singapore, the service are declared from 31st August 1957 until 9th August 1965 only.

j. Posthumous Awards. This award can be conferred posthumously.