



MEMBERS of the Malaya Borneo Veterans Association (MBVA) having a group photograph after the ceremony. PHOTOS: RAMIDI SUBARI

MBVA memorial plaque unveiled

BY YUSUF SHUKRI

KUCHING: The first Malaya-Borneo Veterans Association (MBVA) Memorial plaque in Borneo was unveiled in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary Borneo Reunion at the Memorial Park, Jalan Taman Budaya here yesterday.

The event was held to remember the selfless devotion to duties and life threatening sacrifices of members of the Commonwealth Armed Forces with many from Australia, United Kingdom and New Zealand who gave a very strong military support for the return of peace in Sarawak and the birth of Malaysia.

"For the peace we have today, many had lost their lives to defend democracy and peace. Hence, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the people of Sarawak to record our heartfelt gratitude for this valuable contribution of the Commonwealth brotherhood and pay tribute to our Australians and MBVA heroes, who lost their lives here in Borneo for peace," said Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Datu Ik Pahon Joyik in his text of speech read by the Honorary Secretary General of Sarawak Tourism Federation (STF), Audrey Wan Ulok.

Ik added that the commemoration has built meaningful collaboration between MBVA and the state where strategic alliance between the state's armed forces



LEUTENANT Colonel Jim Ryan unveiling the Malaya-Borneo Veterans Association (MBVA) Memorial plaque, witnessed by Brian Selby (centre) and Don Cameron.

and STF has materialised through the newly installed flag structure in the park.

"The structure was constructed by the 1st Malaysia Infantry Division and there is no doubt that this development has also enhanced our enduring tribute in our reunion and commemoration today.

"I also sincerely hope that the MBVA memorable plaque will

be an eye opener to our young generation about the essence of peace which comes with responsibilities and paid for by heroes who have sacrificed themselves and that the plaque will continue to be a symbol of MBVA's pride in Borneo," said Ik.

Earlier, President of MBVA, Brian Selby gave a speech on the historical events of the two post World War II (WW2) con-

licts - which were the Malayan Emergency in 1948 and the Indonesian Confrontation in June, 1962.

He said that in Sabah and Sarawak, the Australians, New Zealand Gurkhas and British troops were engaged against the 'hit and run' tactics of the Indonesian intruders where unarmed villages were attacked, police officers, village chiefs and



BRIG General Jamaludin Tambi placing a wreath at the Malaya-Borneo Veterans Association (MBVA) Memorial.



AUDREY Wan Ulok placing a wreath at the Malaya-Borneo Veterans Association (MBVA) Memorial.

civilian administrative officers were murdered.

"This undeclared war is unique to other post WW2 conflicts that Australia was engaged in as it was a total victory with not even an inch of territory was lost to the intruders and there are no demarcation lines drawn on the map.

"Even so, you can only find a scant reference to these undeclared wars that lasted for 16 years

as public knowledge is non-existent. Whenever references are published or discussed in some forums about post WW2 conflicts, it is rarely if ever, included," said Brian.

Later during the ceremony, the unveiling of the MBVA Memorial plaque was done by an Australian Instructor of Malaysian Armed Forces Staff College, Lieutenant Colonel Jim Ryan.



TEACHING THEM YOUNG... Photo shows Awangku Thaqif Al-Taqiuddin Awangku Jefri, 5, riding his bicycle decorated with miniature 'Jalur Gemilang'. He may not know the true meaning of Independence Day. Thus, it is important to instill the patriotism spirit at an early age at all levels - in schools, villages, longhouses, towns and cities nationwide. PHOTO: AWANG KUSHARY JUNAIDI



SHOW OF PATRIOTISM ... Students of SK Merpati Jepang parading the 'streets' of Kampung No. 6 Jalan Muhibbah, Kuching yesterday morning to usher the upcoming National Day celebration. Dressed in their sports attire, they were supervised by their teachers who accompanied them during the parade. The streets were filled with their joyful chitchat and laughter welcoming villagers who are already up in the morning doing their daily chores.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

Tribune

2

HIGHLIGHTS

World's largest gorillas 'one step from going extinct' T3

Four of the Great Apes a step away from extinction



BRIAN Selby (3rd left) presenting Lt. Col. Dunsing (2nd right) with token donations from MBVA witnessed by Don Cameron (left) and Datuk Philip Ting (right).



LIM presenting a WWII book to MBVA Vice President Cameron.

A journey down memory lane for veterans



LIM at the Flora Tribute Batu Lintang WWII Borneo Monument.

It was a special time for veterans and family members of the Malaya-Borneo Veterans Association (MBVA) Australia who flew in to Kuching recently to gather for the historic 50th Anniversary Reunion and Commemoration. Led by MBVA President, Brian Selby, those in attendance had the opportunity to remember their perished comrades and their local supporting armed forces, Police, Border Scouts and Sarawak Administrators involved in the defence against Confrontation and the birth of Malaysia.

Following the formal commemoration ceremony at WWII Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching, a memorable 50th anniversary reunion dinner was held at ChinaHouse at the old Courthouse. During the evening, gifts were exchanged while the MBVA chipped in personal donations towards the Malaysian Veterans Sarawak Association fund.

During their trip to Kuching, MBVA members also visited the forward security locations of the Confrontation, where they were deployed between 1964-1965 in the Bau/Lundu border areas of Stass, Sarabak and more.

Their visit saw them meeting students and teachers of three primary schools from Stass, Sarabak and Suba Buan, which MBVA 'adopted'. It was a joyous occasion organised by the Bau District Education Department and Sarawak Tourism Federation (STF). During the meeting, MBVA members presented the schools with their token donations, Australian flags and books and expressed hope to have a student exchange programme for the Australian and Sarawak students for these areas.

Other places of the MBVA members visited were Batu Lintang WWII Memorial Square and Mini Museum, where they held a flora tribute to all the soldiers, Prisoners of War (POW), and the local communities who lost their lives for peace and the unity and progress in Sarawak. They were surprised by the many changes and development in Sarawak and the rural areas and promised STF and the Sarawak people they will revisit with their descendants.

THE MBVA Memorial Plaque 2016 at the Sarawak WWII Heroes Memorial Park.



PLACING the MBVA Commemoration document into the Batu Lintang WWII Memorial Anzac Capsule.