



ARPO NEWS

Association of Retired Police Officers
Costa Blanca South

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www.arpo.org.uk

Meeting Report

We hope that those of you who spent time in UK during the heat of the Spanish summer didn't get too wet! What a shocker!

54 members attended the June meeting. A one minute silence was held for 2 officers killed on duty. 2 new members joined the Group, we give a warm welcome to Nick Williams (Staffs) and Bill Fountland (Wales). The raffle at Downtown Quesada had raised 125 euros.

The subject of Residencia changes was discussed. The situation on the new procedure was not very clear and different areas appeared to be using different rules to apply the changes. It is hoped to have more information on the subject very shortly.

Last Social Meeting

The June event took place at Restaurante Portico Mar, Guardamar and was attended by some 50 members. The meal was superb as ever and the occasion was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It was pleasing to see David and Marilyn Dando and we wish Marilyn a speedy continued recovery following her surgery. It was also good to see Ivor Jones after his absence for some time.

Thanks to Mike Peters for organising another winning event.

Vacancy - Information Officer

We need to fill the post of Information Officer and interested members are asked to get in touch with the

Chairman or Secretary. It would be preferred that the successful person have access to a computer. It is hoped that whoever is appointed will also be able to take on the role of Editor for the Arpo Newsletter which we hope to publish for the Monthly Meetings rather than 1st of each month.

Electricity Bills

Did you know that you can have your Iberdrola (electricity) bill sent to you in English, all you need to do is pop into the Iberdrola office in Torre Vieja with your last bill and ask them to send the next in English. You can also check them on line. Further information from George at the September meeting.

Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal

At an age of 22 years I had fought to stay with my trade as a Carpenter and Joiner. I had passed the magic age of 18 years. As of that time I was eligible to do my National Service. I had studied on a one day release since 16, and attained a 1st class City & Guilds. (Carpentry and Joinery)

When 18 loomed I was still taking further qualifications, and had to submit deferment papers each year to avoid being 'called up'. This took me onto Ordinary National (Building Studies.) till I was 20 years of age.

The deferment papers were getting more obstructive, and I managed two more years. This took

me to Higher National (Building Studies.)

Then the letter came, From H.M. Queen. - Dear George, I need you I have some niggling problem in Malaya with communist terrorists wanting to take over the area. She sent me to see a nice doctor. The next thing I knew I had a travel warrant and was on the train to Richmond in Yorkshire. I was taken by a big truck all free of charge to some nice men who gave me lots of nice clothes to wear. I even had a Frank Spencer beret with Royal Signals on it. I did lots of training with morse and when I could shuffle all the dots and dashes, they sent me on a nice big boat to Malaya.

I did my two years and then came back to Ashington in Northumberland. I read an article asking servicemen who had served in Malaya and Borneo, for more than 90 days, between fixed years to apply for the medal. This medal was to be issued by the Malaysian Government. I duly completed the form and awaited further developments. Confirmation arrived and we were all to go the Melia Hotel in Alicante, on Wednesday 18.07.07.

We were asked to be there for a rehearsal at 11.00 hrs. The presentation was to be at 12 noon. The day arrived and off we went. We got there early to do a recce first. No Hotel parking, needed to use the public parking nearby. I asked if any rooms had been provided for changing clothing. Polite No. So back to car park, blanket on the ground and started to change. White shirt and regimental tie, new black suit, socks and black shoes. The temperature in the car registered 32. So walked back carrying jacket.

Got Ann seated in the centre of the main hall for a good place to see. Then Peter Padley got all the men, 154, outside in another room. All told to line up in a single file snake in alphabetical order. Told to remember the man in front of you or the whole world would come to an end, what drama. We were left like that for over one hour.

The Malaysian Military Attache, was due to come to the Hotel for the appointed time. All quite casual you may think. Here comes the good bit, wait for it, wait for it, He and his aide were coming in to Alicante on an Easy Jet flight. We got the word the man had arrived at 12.15 hrs. so we were ON. PATTERSON in the snake took 40 minutes to get to the room. Then another 20 minutes moving forward to the platform where Peter Padley called your name and smartly moved on to the stage. Take the medal presentation box, and citation, shake the Colonel by the right hand and move off to the provided seating area.

All in all this lasted for over three and a half hours. In any of that time there was not the sight of any form of drinks, hot or cold. Then at the end no sign either of any food at all. My biggest disappointment was the fact there was no provision for any photographs, unless you carried your own camera. Bearing in mind the main sponsor was the R.T.N.

Even for such a nice occasion there was a slight sour note. The British government have fought this presentation all the way and do not recognise it. All obstruction was put in the way of people organising the entire event. The slight even was carried out on the day to the effect only the deputy British Consul turned up. White blouse and black slacks, need I say more. The huff was taken to the extent the Colonel was only allowed to attend in civilian dress. It was always reported as the *Forgotten War*. I can see why now. Still I was proud to get my medal on the day. It was sad to see five individuals who could not be bothered to adhere to the advised dress code. One had a green open-necked shirt, no jacket and the other four you would just think they had come on off the beach. **George Patterson. Asst. Treasurer. G.S.M. P.J. (Malaya.)**, just my joke.

(Editor's comment - perhaps it doesn't pay to volunteer for anything George, even a medal presentation)

Diary of Events

Wednesday 26th September 2007

Ruby's Restaurant - Indian Meal, Playa Flamenca

1.30pm There is a choice of various strengths of curry dishes plus a non-curry. Price 14.50 euros per head.

Lol and Pat Bilbey 965 482 252

Wednesday 10th October, 2007

Monthly Meeting

Sacko's Bar 10.30am

Wednesday 24th October 2007

Viloriens Restarante 1.30pm

Excellent choice of starters and main menu choice of lambs liver, pork sausages, gammon steak, smoked haddock, bacon & cheese burger, roast chicken, peppered turkey and asparagus & oyster risotto.

Inclusive of 1/2 bottle of wine and coffee - 12.50 euros.

Fred and Dreena Wharton 966 715353

Restaurante Viloriens is located off the CV 920 Rojales to Guardamar road.

Wednesday 14th November, 2007

Monthly Meeting

Sacko's Bar 10.30am

ARPO Christmas Dinner

This has been provisionally arranged for Friday 14th December 2007 at Portico Mar Restaurante, Guardamar. Full details will be published later but this is certain to be fully booked so do get your reservations made early.

This newsletter is printed to provide information and every effort is made to ensure accuracy. All planned and future events contain contact details of the organiser(s) and they should be contacted direct for up to date information