



From the President of the Association.  
Major Derrick J. Coupland, OBE.

" LEST WE FORGET "

---

11th March, 1985

Mr. Charles Powell  
Private Secretary to The Prime Minister  
The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, FRS, MP  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON

Dear Mr. Powell,

At our Committee Meeting held on 9th March, 1985, it was unanimously resolved that you be addressed once again. We are really disappointed to learn, upon enquiring at the British High Commission, Singapore, that, despite our suggestion, planning and near implementation of a Ceremony of only thirty minutes duration to enable Mrs. Thatcher to honour our Comrades who were lost in the Imperial cause during World War II, the revised schedule for the delayed visit to Singapore does not now allow her sufficient time for this duty.

Our surviving Asian comrades, who were very brave in British interests, and their families would feel complimented and touched that their kith and kin are not forgotten. This creates goodwill of unfathomable value for Great Britain. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's visit in 1972 is still discussed with admiration and pride.

Our Vice President, Mr. Tan Yew Kong, a colleague of Mr. Denis Thatcher and also a member of the British Business Association, has written to ask if he would be willing to visit Kranji during the visit to honour our dead and meet our members. We feel that our Association has been excluded from meeting your much admired Prime Minister due to inadequate briefing.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,  
EX-SERVICES' ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE

*Derrick J. Coupland*

DERRICK J. COUPLAND  
Major (Retd)  
President

The Ex-Services' Association of Singapore is always  
"ON ACTIVE SERVICE"  
looking after the welfare of our needy Veterans, their Widows and Dependants.



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11th March, 1985

Mr. Charles Powell  
Private Secretary to The Prime Minister  
The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, FRS, MP  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON

Dear Mr. Powell,

I should like to paraphrase the sentiments expressed by our Committee in the accompanying letter.

The citation which I received in 1976 was "for services to British interests in Singapore and to Anglo-Singaporean relations". I am very proud of my appointment as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire and continue to encourage our Association. This is in accordance with the personal wish expressed to me by our beloved Supremo, the late Admiral of the Fleet, the Earl Mountbatten of Burma, through his then emissary, the incumbent Chairman of the Royal British Legion.

Our members, particularly the older ones, need solicitude and encouragement from VIPs from Great Britain. A former Minister ignored them but indulged in sailing and afforded great publicity to a local tailor. Our members were, therefore, thrilled when they learnt that Mrs. Thatcher was to meet them.

Would you kindly present my personal compliments to Mrs. Thatcher upon her courageous stand against the enemy within. May her successes continue but please recall that we defeated Britain's enemies from without at very great cost in human suffering.

The Association wishes to "rejoice" with her that, due to our deceased comrades' sacrifice for our Victory, we are able to live, work and to receive her in this sunny Island Republic, Member of the Commonwealth.

My best wishes to you, too, Mr. Powell. I hope that you are in the Prime Minister's entourage in the Orient and will contact me.

Yours sincerely,  
EX-SERVICES' ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE

*Derrick J. Coupland*





From the President of the Association.  
Major Derrick J. Coupland, OBE.

30th March, 1985

Mr. Charles Powell  
Private Secretary to The Prime Minister  
The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, FR<sup>S</sup>, MP  
10, Downing Street  
LONDON

Dear Mr. Powell,

Herewith

- a) Two copies of the Proceedings for the Salute by Major (Retd) Denis Thatcher, MBE, TD at Kranji War Memorial on 8th April, 1985.
- b) An invitation to our Visitor to join us for a short while after he has laid his wreath at Kranji.
- c) Photo-copies of two letters of 11th March, 1985 addressed to you in case they have not arrived by airmail.
- d) A cover addressed privately to Major (Retd) Denis Thatcher, MBE, TD, by our Vice President, Mr. Tan Yew Kong.

Please note that if the Prime Minister wishes to change her schedule even at the last minute, to join us at Kranji, she will stir many a dedicated and warm warrior Asian heart.

Our Members will be delighted that if she chooses to honour their former comrades-in-arms who wore British uniforms and paid the supreme sacrifice for our freedom. What better acknowledgement could they expect for the suffering that they experienced all for the benefit of Great Britain. The consequent boost to morale and inevitable publicity will be of immeasurable value. Our timings at Kranji are flexible and will be changed at her behest.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,  
EX-SERVICES' ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE

*Derrick J. Coupland*