

Castle Bromwich
Birmingham
20 February 2024

E-mail: raymond.pearce1935@gmail.com

Dear

Many thanks for your letter of 27th January. No clouds are scudding across the skies today but what a descriptive words for cloud movements. I too have an interesting word, waterlogged. This refers to my left hand and arm, very uncomfortable. It reminded me of the old wireless programme, Waterlogged Spa at sinking in the Ouse. I think Richard Murdoch was in it. Another mythical RAF camp like Much Binding in the Marsh. What happy innocent days.

Two major stories from me since my letter in mid January. It was 70 years ago just after January 23rd 1954 when the troopship pulled into Singapore and I put was into Nee Soon transit to await my posting up country. This came a few days later when I was posted to HQ Malaya, Kuala Lumpur when General Sir Gerald Templer. I appear to be the last Intelligence Corps veteran known to the core. Because of this I was invited to give a talk on January 29 to serving IC soldiers about the army 70 years ago and about the Malayan.



Photographs of Ray Pearce 70 Years ago and of the hut where he gave his talk

Emergency(1948/1960). This was held at the National Memorial Arboretum and I had said it be difficult to get there. Don't worry Ray we will send transport there and back for you. I spoke for just under an hour and it appeared to be well received. When talking about communications I said all was high-tec but, at HQ 35 Brigade in Ipoh in December 1954 it was somewhat different. The 1st Bn The West Yorkshire regiment was camped near by and they still used the bugle call. I remember knowing the calls but an old veteran in the Sergeants Mess

said, for example, Orderly Sergeant B company at the double. After the talk it was lunch time and I had a "new" meal. Sweet potato with Spinach Wellington and plenty of vegetables. Then apple pie and custard and a pot of tea.

Transport then brought me home. On my birthday, at the beginning of this week, the NCO who had organised everything 'phoned to wish me a happy birthday and asked if I would be able to give another similar in the summer.

"Available if selected" was my reply.

And now for something quite completely different.

Many thanks for my birthday card from you "A country lane" by David Holden, not known to me so will google him soon. I spent the birthday morning at the Heart failure clinic being examined who did not find much to worry about apart from my very swollen left hand arm. The locals use the word swole for my condition. I had been to see my own GP about the arm and she increased the water tablet strength and put me on antibiotics. These did not agree and gave me heart burn until last Monday week at 11pm and in bed the pain got worse. I dialled 999 and an ambulance was here in about 10 minutes. They wired me up and found nothing to worry about. The senior paramedic said to be on the safe side they were going to take me to hospital. I was in my pyjamas and dressing gown so put socks and shoes and at 11:30 proceeded to hospital arriving at midnight. There will be a delay but you will be seen, the senior para said. At 5:30 am I was still in the ambulance and I said "I want to go home". No you cannot the senior lady went into the hospital explained the situation and at 5:40 was allowed into the crowded waiting room. Raymond Pearce rang out at 7:00 am . I was there until just before noon but I did get a breakfast and a very thorough examination and was sent home in time for the 1:00pm news. I soon phoned my GPs and said I am stopping the antibiotics at once, within a day or so new ones had been prescribed and I finish them tomorrow. I then had my arm scanned and found it was water in my arm. My GP now has the report from the scanner and I hope to be able to get an appointment to plan the next treatment.

Ray Pearce 15 Feb. 2024