

To kick off this series, we are featuring some of 10TH KL's scouts who have gone on to become Malaysia's military heroes. It is certain that many of our boys have served in the armed forces, guarding and protecting us from harm, even to the extent of placing themselves between the bullet and us. We wish to express our everlasting gratitude to them for their sacrifice. However, it is not possible to list them all, and we hope that as more material comes forth, we will be able to expand this list of military heroes.

## SGT (R) Low Kong Ming



*Mr. and Mrs. Low Kong Meng*

Leading the current pack is our evergreen Low Kong Ming, who joined the army after leaving school in 1957. He joined the Boy Scouts in Form 1 and later moved up to the Senior Scouts. It was during one of his scouting days that the Army came to give a talk on the careers available in the Armed Forces. The talk inspired Kong Ming so much that he enrolled in the Army when he left school. He was trained as a communications operator and was posted to the Federation Signal Squadron.

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The highlight of Kong Ming's service was when his unit was selected as part of the Malayan Special Force. This contingent was a contribution of the Malaysian government to the United Nations peacekeeping force in the Congo, which at that time was ravaged by civil war. Kong Ming's role in the unit was to set up and operate the Communications Centre for the United Nations peacekeeping force. The Centre was a critical component of the operations, serving as the nerve center of the entire peacekeeping force. Kong Ming undertook this task with verve and even exceeded the requirements set by the UN command. By enhancing the techniques and pushing the equipment beyond their specifications, the Malaysian contingent managed to set up a parallel communication network with their Headquarters in Malaysia, bypassing the UN network. Remember that in those days, there were no smartphones and WhatsApp. Perhaps it was his scout training that enabled him to exceed expectations.



*A young Kong Ming*



*Medal haul*

Kong Ming's service to the nation was recognised with several medals, in fact, among the highest number for a non-commissioned officer.

Kong Ming's love for 10th KL was so strong that he sought permission from the Ministry of Defence, Malaysia, to participate in the scouting activities of 10th KL. After obtaining permission, he returned to the group as an ASM. Kong Ming retired after 13 years as a Sergeant and rejoined the civilian world as an employee of Philips Malaysia.

## CAPT (R) Larry Low Pak Hoong



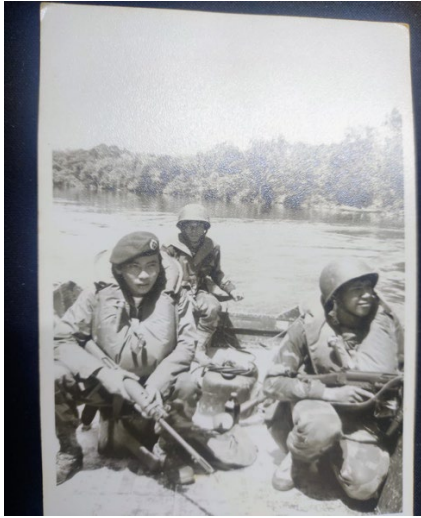
*Capt (R) Larry Low Pak Hoong*

Another intrepid warrior is Capt (R) Larry Low Pak Hoong, who joined 10th KL as a Wolf Cub in 1959. He moved through the various troops and even served as an Assistant Scoutmaster in 1967. He was selected for training with the Cadet Wing of the Royal Military College in preparation for a career with the Malaysian Armed Forces. Upon graduating from the Royal Military College as a brand-new 2nd Lieutenant, he was posted to the 7th Rangers Battalion. The Rangers are descendants of the famous Sarawak Rangers, a specialist jungle warfare unit set up by the British.

During his time with the 7th Rangers Battalion, he was posted to Lundu, Sarawak. There, he engaged with the rampant communist terrorists, often resulting in firefights. As part of his duties, he was tasked to form the Riverine Task Force, where patrols were undertaken to secure the coastal and riverine routes.



*Pak Hoong with his fighting Rangers*



*Full battle gear*

Returning to Peninsular Malaysia, he was posted to Sungai Petani, Kedah, where the area of operation covered the Thai border. His operations included chasing communist terrorists deep into Thai territory. He was then transferred to the 2nd Brigade HQ based in Ipoh with the appointment as General Staff Officer (Operations and Air Support). His area of operation encompassed the northern part of Perak. Jointly with the Thai Armed Forces, the Brigade carried out operations around the border and in southern Thailand, where the communists were active.

He was again transferred, this time to the 4th Ranger Battalion, based in Wardieburn Camp in Genting Klang, Kuala Lumpur. However, perhaps due to his Thai experience and jungle fighting expertise (gained from scouting days?), he was assigned to be part of the joint forces with units of the Thai Rangers for operations up to 40 km north of Betong, deep into Thai territory. Pak Hoong saw action there, as he particularly remembered his last firefight, which lasted for more than an hour. Artillery and gunship support had to be called in to reinforce the ground force. After that, he left the Army, choosing a more sedate lifestyle as a planter.

## CAPT (R) Wong Yoon Fatt

The air scouting ambience and the numerous trips to the air force bases must have had a strong influence on the boys. True enough, among those who went on to take up a career in aviation was Wong Yoon Fatt, affectionately nicknamed Python Joe.

He joined the armed forces in 1975 and entered service in the RMAF as a Lt. Muda (Utara) the following year. He was trained as a helicopter pilot, after which he was posted to 7th Squadron RMAF, stationed in Kuching. There, he served for two years, initially as a co-pilot as he honed his flying skills. He was promoted to Lt. Udara and subsequently to Kapten Udara. From there on, there was no looking back as he was fully operational.

During his time in Sarawak, he actively flew missions as part of the Rajang Security Command (RASCUM) to contain the armed members of the Pasukan Rakyat Kalimantan Utara, a communist group opposed to the formation of Malaysia (Paraku).



*Capt (R) Wong Yoon Fatt*



*Top Gun*

As part of his duties, he was assigned to conduct border surveys between Kalimantan and Sarawak, as in those days, the demarcation was not clearly defined in many places. During his time there, he was called upon to participate in several Search and Rescue missions.

One particular hair-raising episode was when he was ferrying some VVIPs, and the tail rotor of his helicopter broke! It was a critical moment, necessitating an immediate emergency landing. This he did, displaying his superb airmanship. By managing to somehow cushion its landing, he saved the lives of all on board plus a valuable aircraft. For that, he was awarded the Green Endorsement, the highest RMAF award for airmanship.



*Broken tail rotor*

Back in Peninsular Malaysia, his duties encompassed active missions against the communists along the Thai border and the Bentong/Karak area. Yoon Fatt left the RMAF in 1985 to become a commercial helicopter pilot, providing flight services to offshore installations. Recently retired, he is now a full-time instructor attached to a helicopter manufacturing company. Yoon Fatt sums up his life and career succinctly in these words, "All this good life and adventure began with joining the 10th KL (Air Scout) Group."

## CAPT (R) Ho Fooi

The late Capt (R) Ho Fooi did his primary education at Pasar Road English School and only joined MBS in Form 1. He was active in 10th KL, culminating in his Queen Scout Badge. After finishing Form 5, he joined Maybank for a year. Itching for a more active life, he enlisted in the Army in 1967. After graduating from the Royal Military College as a 2nd Lieutenant, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion, Malaysian Rangers, based in Lok Kawi Camp in Kota Kinabalu.



*A young Capt (R) Ho Fooi*



*One of the last photos of Capt (R) Ho Fooi taken during a memorial service at the Tugu Negara*

His unit served in many locations in Sabah. His main duty at that time was to carry out island patrols against pirates attempting to infiltrate Sabah from the Philippine islands of Tawi Tawi and Jolo. The island patrols also served to secure the borders with Indonesia against subversive elements.

Following this stint, he was posted back to the Rangers in Wardieburn Camp in Genting Klang, Kuala Lumpur, before being transferred to the 7th Brigade HQ based in Kluang, Johore, as a General Staff Officer. At that point in time, he resigned from the Army to pursue his studies in Accountancy in the UK. After obtaining his academic qualification, he entered the business world. Together with one of his army mates, he ventured into the armament supply chain and became one of the suppliers of Russian helicopters to the Malaysian Armed Forces.

Sadly, he passed away in July 2021 after a gallant fight against cancer.

## Recipients of the Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM)

In 2004, the Government introduced a medal, the Malaysian Service Medal or Pingat Jasa Malaysia. This medal was to recognize service by the members of the Malaysian Armed Forces during the First and Second Emergencies and the Indonesian Confrontation. This medal was also awarded to Commonwealth forces who served in Malaysia. The award is in recognition of distinguished chivalry, gallantry, sacrifice, and loyalty in contributing to the freedom and independence of Malaysia. (Source: Wikipedia) We are proud to announce that all four of the 10th KL boys featured here were awarded this prestigious medal. To these four individuals, 10th KL salutes you for your gallantry and selflessness in providing assurance and protection to the nation.



*Three of the four recipients of the PJM, standing proudly with their medals*



*The Pingat Jasa Malaysia*

**NOTE:** It may well be that there are more individuals from 10th KL who have served in the military and received similar recognition. We welcome details of such individuals to be highlighted here.