



The Malaysian SEA Games contingent received cheers and applause as they passed the crowds.

ASYRAF RASID/THE SUN

British, NZ allies join in

> Pre-Merdeka war veterans march with locals in parade

KUALA LUMPUR: "Saya sayang Malaysia!"

In typical British accent, William Hammington, 73, a British war veteran, expressed his love for Malaysia, which is regarded as a second home by many war veterans who resided here in the years after Merdeka.

Hammington, who served in then-Malaya as an army sergeant from 1957 until 1965, the National Day parade brought back memories of the first Merdeka celebrations as it was reminiscent of the earlier generations' patriotism and unity at the time the nation gained independence.

"I was one of the witnesses to the memorable moment on Aug 31, 1957. Today, I have the chance to be part of this historical event and march together with my former colleagues in front of

thousands of Malaysians," said Hammington, who joined his last operation in fighting the (communist) terrorists in 1964.

He was one of 60 veterans from Britain and New Zealand, who had served in the military in Malaya from 1940 until 1960, who took part in yesterday's National Day parade.

The war veterans arrived on Tuesday and will be here until Sept 12.

Former navy sergeant, Garry Cousin, 75, from New Zealand said he was mesmerised by the uniqueness and vibrant performances that involved elements such as the country's transformation in the 60 years since it gained independence.

"Malaysia has great soldiers, beautiful places and many things and for that, they should be proud of the achievements of their past and current leaders who had struggled to give the best for this country. - Bernama



ASYRAF RASID/THE SUN



NEGARAKU SEHATISEJIWA

ADIB RAWI/THE SUN



A soldier poses with children dressed in Jalur Gemilang colours after the parade.



The veterans contingent from New Zealand (top) and Britain (above).