



## THE ADEN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

### ADEN - Where, Why & When?

Aden is a port in the South of Yemen, close to the mouth of the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. Captured by the British in 1839, it was made a protectorate in 1870 and a British Colony in 1937. In World War I Britain supported the tribes against the Turks, and during World War II, against the Italians.

Aden was of strategic importance to Britain, as an anti-piracy station to protect the routes to the British Empire in the East. It became more important when the Suez Canal was opened and as a coaling (later oiling), station. When India became independent in 1947, Aden became less important to the UK, though in the 1950 & 60s the airfield was an important staging point for flights to the East.

The people of the Yemen have a long tradition of insurgency and tribal rivalry - they are renowned warriors. In 1950 there was an insurgency against the British Crown Forces in the territories of the Yemen peninsula. The Soviet backed government in Egypt encouraged and armed dissidents in the region. By 1963, and in the following years, anti-British guerrilla groups with varying political objectives formed rival organisations which attacked each other as well as the British. As well as the units keeping the peace, members of all arms of the services, civilian government employees and their families were the targets of terrorist attacks during this time and killing and injuring over 500. In total more than 1,000 Britons lost their lives in Aden between 1839 and 1967.

In keeping with the British Government policy of withdrawing the military presence from East of Suez, the last troops left Aden on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1967.

### VETERANS - Who?

The Aden Veterans Association was formed 15 years ago, and is a Tri-Service organisation which also includes civilians and service personnel who served in the former Colony and its territorial waters. The aims of the association are:

- To maintain the memory of all those who gave their lives for the cause of peace in the Aden Peninsular and the Protectorates
- To promote and maintain a living spirit of comradeship amongst all of the Membership.

There are 16 local branches across the country, with active social calendars, supplemented by national events. The AVA produces a magazine, the 'Dhow' 3 times a year, which is full of member's memories. See the website, [adenveterans.org.uk](http://adenveterans.org.uk) to download membership forms and for further information. **Your local Group Secretary in Plymouth is Vic Freeman 01752564739 or Chairman Pete Johnson 01753561107**

**Website [southwestbranch.adenveterans.com](http://southwestbranch.adenveterans.com)**

**We meet: Every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the Month**

**Time: 7.30p.m**

**Location: RAOB Club. North Hill**