

THE STAR

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Nostalgic trip for ex-soldiers

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NZ army vets here for National Day



Malaysiaku Gemilang

PENANG: Some 96 ex-servicemen from New Zealand who served in the country during the Emergency have made a special trip to Malaysia to celebrate the 50th National Day.

The servicemen and their spouses arrived here on Aug 9 and will be in the country until Sept 2.

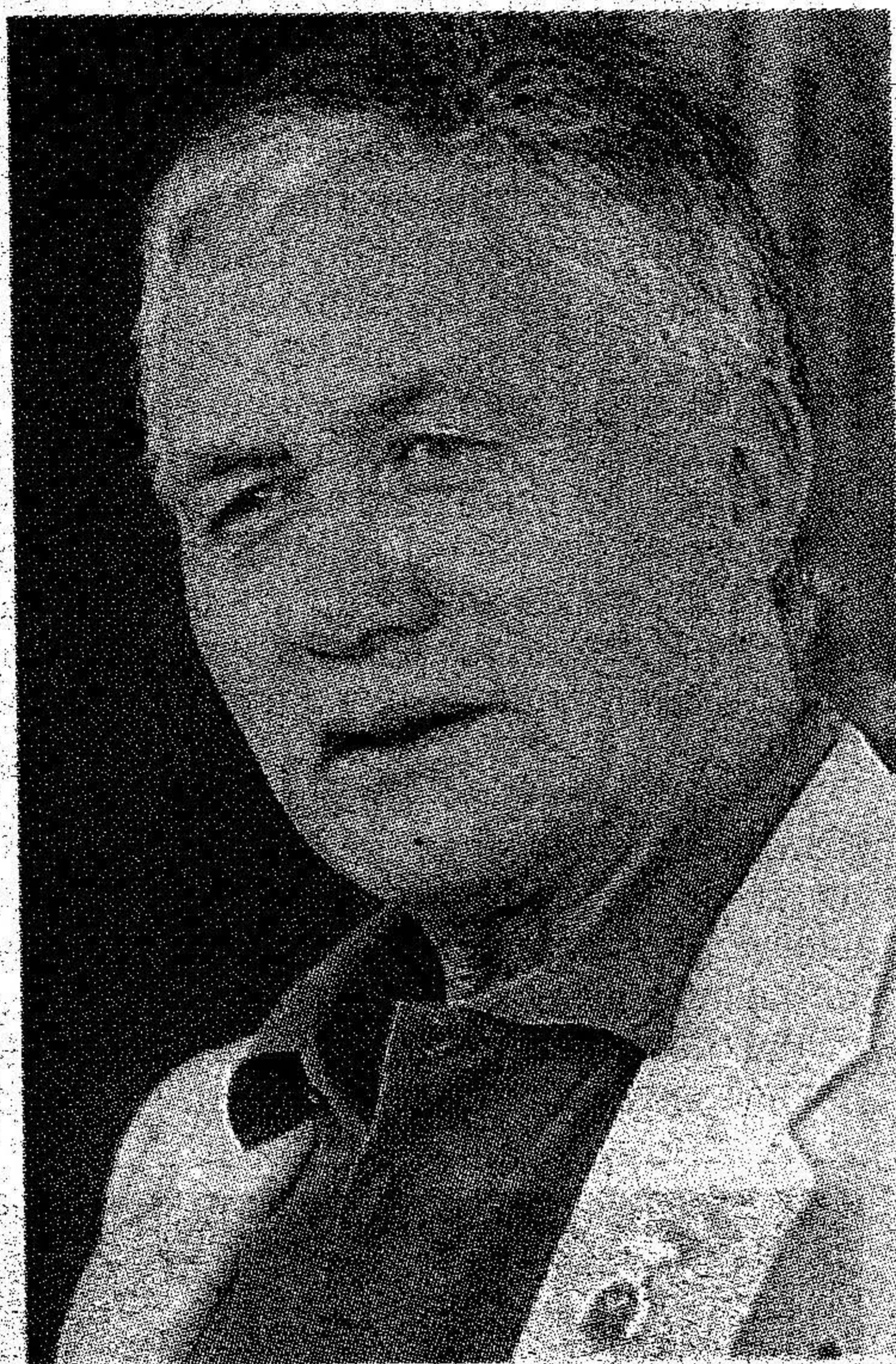
Matutaera Clendon Kaumatua, 67, who is representing the president of the Manurewa branch of the Malayan Veterans Association (MVA), said the event, which was planned two years ago, was a nostalgic trip for them.

"Some of us are back in Malaysia after nearly 40 years and we are proud and amazed with its progress and development over the years," he said.

He added the visit was also to create a working network between the MVA and the Association of Ex-Security Forces Malaysia.

Matutaera said that the New Zealanders, who were in different parts of Malaysia from 1957 to 1966, had served in the army, navy and the air force under the Commonwealth Forces.

"Most of us were very close with the Malaysian community here and we found that both our cultures were similar in many ways, especially the respect we have for our elders," he said.



Matutaera: 'Some of us are back in Malaysia after nearly 40 years'

Matutaera, who had served in Terendak Camp in Malacca from 1963 to 1965, said the group would be in Kuala Lumpur to witness the National Day parade on Aug 31.

The group will be visiting a few historical places in Penang, before heading to Ipoh, Taiping, Cameron Highlands, Malacca, Negri Sembilan, Johor Baru and Singapore before heading to Kuching.

A crew from the Maori TV station will also be here to document part of the trip, according to Matutaera.