

About 'The Borneo Graveyard 1941–1945'

This book portrays the horrific story of Borneo during the Japanese occupation of 1941-1945. Thousands of Australian, British, Dutch and Indian POWs, internees, locals of Borneo and Javanese ramusha perished in Borneo during this period.

Allied POWs, who were sent to various POW camps in British and Dutch Borneo, were to die of maltreatment, malnutrition or execution. Many were forced to walk Death Marches in the jungle which came to a horrifying conclusion. Internees of several nationalities were held in internment camps and suffered dreadfully. The local populace also suffered; torture, executions and massacres occurred and malnutrition was endemic. At great personal sacrifice, however, they helped the POWs and internees. The secretive Z Force gathered intelligence and trained local guerrilla fighters who exacted a heavy toll on the Japanese forces, whilst local tribes took their final revenge. In 1945, the Australian military engaged in bitter fighting to liberate Borneo.

This book closes with the convalescence of survivors at Labuan, followed by the repatriation of British POWs and internees, and the dreadful wall of silence experienced by so many on returning to the UK.

This book is a tribute to the strength of character and bravery of those who endured the Japanese occupation.



About the author

John Tulloch was educated at Victoria College, Jersey, CI. His military career began in 1965 in the New Zealand Army. He attended Officer Cadet School Portsea in Australia, and was commissioned into the Royal New Zealand Artillery (RNZA) in 1966. Whilst serving in Vietnam with 161 Battery RNZA from July 1968 to July 1969, John developed his jungle warfare expertise. This, along with his nine years' service in the New Zealand Army, would become such an important part of his life.

John transferred to the British Army and Royal Artillery in March 1973 and completed two Northern Ireland tours, followed by a two year secondment to the Sultan of Oman's Artillery in 1978. He later commanded 137 (Java) Battery RA, which included a tour in the Falkland Islands in 1982. From 1994 John began advising and instructing for the next 21 years on the British Army's Jungle Warfare Instructors' Course (JWIC) in Brunei. He also supported major jungle exercises in Belize for 10 years.

Retiring from the Army in 2003 and becoming a MOD Civil Servant, John continued to instruct on JWIC until May 2015. He instigated and organised various commemorative projects in Sabah, including SABAH SALUTE, the Royal Artillery Act of Remembrance in Sabah in August 2011. He researched and created the North Borneo Roll of Honour and presented it to the State of Sabah in March 2016 and to the Royal Artillery at the Service of Remembrance in Hyde Park, London, in November 2016.

John was honoured with the MBE in 2003 and the Royal Artillery Medal in 2011.

An author of several articles about the Vietnam War and Borneo, he also gives talks on these subjects to the military, history groups and schools. Since retiring from the Civil Service in 2015, John began writing 'The Borneo Graveyard 1941-1945', the product of 12 years of research. This is his first book.

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Additional information

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