



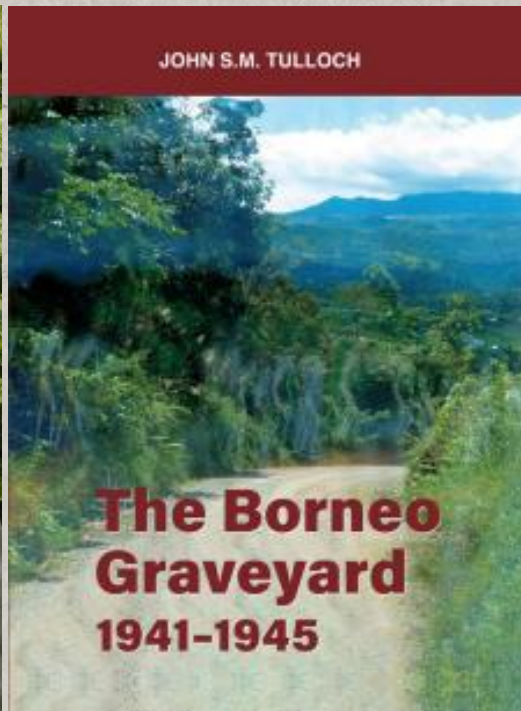
You are warmly invited to attend
our VJ-80 Zoom talk.

1830 hrs UK, Wednesday 27 August 2025

The date specifically commemorates three medical officers
who were executed in Borneo 12 days after the war ended.

Our guest speaker, John S.M. Tulloch, presents

'Remembering VJ Day - The Borneo Graveyard 1941-1945'



John Tulloch's book has kindly been reviewed by Colonel John Richardson. It features as
our Book Review of the Month, see <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/books/>
Special discount rate for Friends of Millbank. Further details below.

See information below about the three medical officers we are commemorating.

Author's podcast about Borneo: <https://ww2podcast.com/ww2-podcast/243-borneo/>.

Proceeds will be donated to the speaker's chosen charity, the [David Nott Foundation](#).

Prior registration required.

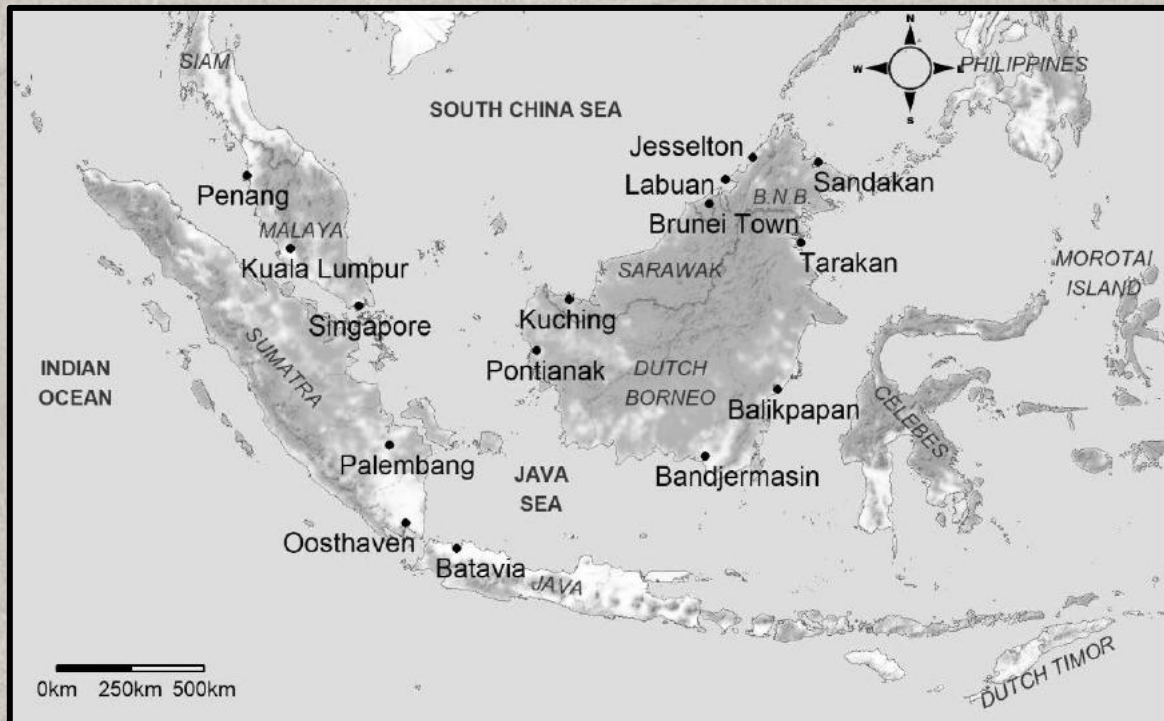
Register [HERE](#) or via www.friendsofmillbank.org



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Where on earth is Borneo, and the POW camp in Sandakan?



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Our Guest Speaker, in his own words



John S.M. Tulloch MBE

I feel I should give a bit of my background and my interest in South East Asia. I had the excitement in following my parents around the world due to my father's military postings, which included India, during Partition, Pakistan and in 1957 for three years in Malaya. We lived in Kuala Lumpur and then Seremban. I was taught how to use a Webley revolver, I hated it, a Sten/Stirling submachine gun, great fun and a jungle carbine. My father said '*just in case Johnny, just in case*'! I went to the Bourne (Army) School for one term and then to board at Uplands School up on Penang Hill for five terms. Uplands is now Uplands International School in Georgetown. I was not the most studious of pupils, especially as I spent most of my time playing in the jungle surrounding the school. On being asked by my father what did I want to do when I was older, I replied 'Tarzan'. That sealed my fate and I was sent to England to prep school and then Victoria College Jersey. Little did I or my parents know, that in 10 years' time, 1968/69, I would be on a 12 month Tour of Duty in the jungles of South Vietnam as a New Zealand Forward Observation Officer supporting Australian Infantry.

In 1973 I transferred to the Royal Artillery. Postings in Germany, UK, The Netherlands, seconded to the Sultan of Oman's Artillery (1978/80), and Tours of Duty in Northern Ireland (1973, 1975) and the Falklands (1982). In 1994, on posting to HQ Infantry Warminster, I started my 21 years of attending every Jungle Warfare Instructors' Course in Brunei, at times three times a year, as a visiting instructor in jungle operations. In 1999, on one of my trips, Victoria and our two children Rowena and John joined me for a week in Brunei. We



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then went on leave in Sabah. 'Wild living', jungle trekking, climbing Mt Kinabalu and other activities.

It was when we were in Sandakan, that I learnt there had been a POW Camp there. I had never heard of it, which embarrassed me as I am a lover and avid reader of history. We visited the site and the newly opened Memorial Hall. I was shocked to learn that 99.75% of the POWs had perished and there were no British POW survivors, only 6 Australians who successfully escaped. I later discovered that half the British POWs were either members of my regiment the Royal Artillery or the RAF and RAF VR. I decided there and then, I had to research and do something to remember the British POWs at the very least.

My talk, based on my 12 years of research and my resulting book *'The 'Borneo Graveyard 1941-1945'*, covers the terrible years of the Japanese Occupation of Borneo. It was an island of vital strategic importance for the Japanese, oil, rubber and iron wood and airstrips and aerodromes which would be later used to attack Australia. The oil from Borneo alone could support the Japanese homeland and all military requirements. But Borneo was ignored by the Allies. Thousands of Australian, British, Dutch and Indian POWs, internees, locals of Borneo and Javanese 'ramusha' perished in Borneo at the hands of the Japanese. Hundreds of Australian troops lost their lives liberating Borneo, as did many locals who assisted them. And then came repatriation and the appalling sound of silence experienced by the returning FEPOWs and internees.

This is not an easy history, as most of the narrative ends with the finality of death, of wanton executions, massacres, cannibalism, crucifixion and death marches, of Japanese depravity, of disease, malnutrition and starvation. It is a history hardly known that has to be told, even repeated, so that it is remembered and never forgotten.

It is the story of Borneo.

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Abbreviated Chairman's Note (for full Note, see Book Review)

We should be inspired by John's tribute to all the Borneo FEPOWs, and grateful to him for also giving us this opportunity to commemorate three medical officers (see further detail below) whose lives were cut short on 27 August 1945, exactly 80 years ago, and 12 days after the Second World War had ended; they were indeed 'Faithful in Adversity'.

The good that they have done has not been interred with their bones, despite the evil intent of their captors. Their memory and their example lives on strongly, as does the memory of the other POWs who died in Borneo. They are the reason that we commemorate VJ-Day.

This is indeed a story that needed to be told.

David Vassallo



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Remembering the three medical officers who were killed on 27 August 1945

In Memory Of

Captain

FRANK LANCELOT KENNETH DANIELS

Service Number: 111986

Royal Army Medical Corps who died on 27 August 1945 Age 39

Son of Jack and Ethel Arrowsmith Daniels; husband of Elsie Daniels, of Copner, Portsmouth, Hampshire. M.B.

In Memory Of

Captain

JOHN BERNARD OAKESHOTT

Service Number: NX76223

A.I.F. 10 Gen. Hosp., Australian Army Medical Corps who died on 27 August 1945 Age 44

Son of George John and Fanny Marion Oakeshott; husband of Enid Kathleen Oakeshott, of Lismore, New South Wales. M.B., Ch.M.

In Memory Of

Captain

DOMENIC GEORGE PICONE

Service Number: QX6380

A.I.F., Australian Army Medical Corps who died on 27 August 1945 Age 36

Son of Anthony and Mary Elizabeth Picone.

Remembered with Honour

LABUAN WAR CEMETERY

Col. grave 12. D. 8-12.



Detail and image courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



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Further detail is available through the links below

Captain Frank Lancelot Kenneth Daniels RAMC

[CWGC Certificate](#)

[Sandakan Roll of honour](#)

The RAMC Online Book of Remembrance is currently unavailable (7 August 2025)

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Captain Domenic George Piccone AMC

[CWGC Certificate](#)

[Australian War Memorial](#)

The daily Australian War Memorial Last Post ceremony of 15 August 2019 honoured Piccone's memory, see <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/E4687>.

The YouTube video of the Last Post ceremony featuring Piccone's story is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IliGvDCDKRs>

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Captain John Bernard Oakeshott AMC

[CWGC Certificate](#)

[CWGC Stories of the Fallen](#)

[Australian War Memorial](#)

[New South Wales War Memorials Register](#)

The daily Australian War Memorial Last Post ceremony of 31 May 2019 honoured Oakeshott's memory, see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4d1_mMj8M5w

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We will remember them



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Special discount offer 'The Borneo Graveyard 1941 – 1945'

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

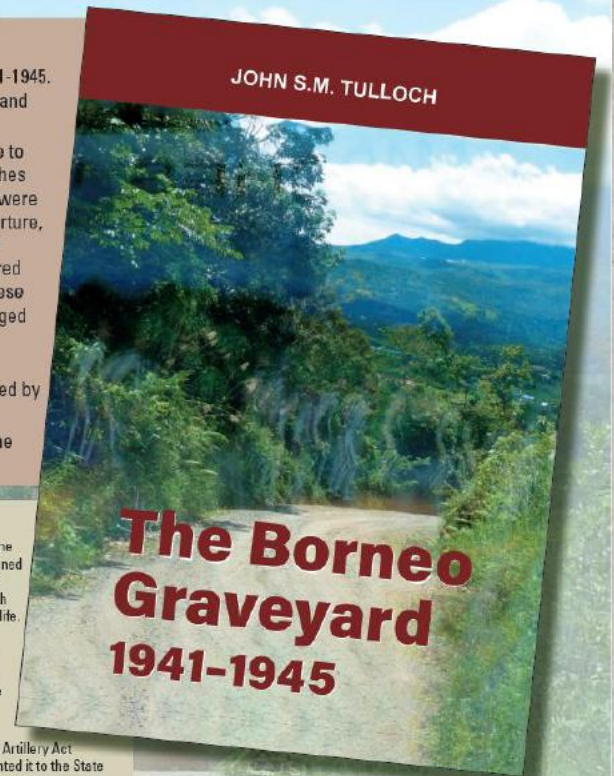
John Tulloch was educated at Victoria College, Jersey, CI. His military career began in 1965 in the New Zealand Army. He attended Officer Cadet School Portsea in Australia, and was commissioned into the Royal New Zealand Artillery (RNZA) in 1966. Whilst serving in Vietnam with 161 Battery RNZA from July 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 1984 John began advising and instructing for the next 21 years on the British Army's Jungle Warfare Instructors' Course (JWIC) in Brunel. 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.



Additional information

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Dimensions 26 x 20 x 3 cm

Contact john.tulloch161@hotmail.com

Cost £25 plus postage

Pages 472

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'The Borneo Graveyard 1941–1945', available in hardback only, normally retails at £25 (plus £6.50 p&p). The author is kindly offering signed, dated and inscribed copies to Friends of Millbank for the special discount price of £20 (plus p&p).

Interested members should contact John Tulloch directly at johnsmtulloch@gmail.com



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