

## **ESCAPES and INCURSIONS**

Another book about Australian soldiers in World War II Borneo By' KEVIN SMITH *ESCAPES and INCURSIONS* tells in authentic and close detail the stories of the perilous adventures and dreadful ordeals of ninety attempted escapes, some successful, by desperate Australian prisoners of war in Borneo 1942 to 1945.

It tells also of the hazards confronted by small teams of intrepid Australian commandoes of Z Special Unit in enemy-occupied Sabah, revealing their achievements on lonely jungle patrols during 1943 to 1945. Interwoven through these many amazing tales is evidence of the courageous assistance given by the local people of the towns and kampongs. Included are the details of the RAAF special duties Flight 200, and the involvement of U.S. submarines.

This self-published book demolishes earlier quite plausible suggestions that the POW rescue operation KINGFISHER was aborted because generals would not make aircraft available for the First Australian Parachute Battalion.

Further, it demolishes the false assertions that only six survived the Borneo captivity, in fact 218 survived out of the 2030 Borneo POWs. There are fascinating stories here never before told in print, retrieved from archival files once classified TOP SECRET or glimpsed clearly through the mists of memories and the mountains.

Approximately 400 pages in length, the book contains over 50 photographs, many previously unpublished, and almost 20 maps directly related to the text. It is well-indexed, with several informative appendices.

ISBN, 0-646-45705-5 This is a companion volume for the author's self-published *BORNEO: AUSTRALIA'S PROUD BUT TRAGIC HERITAGE*(1999), which sold out at just under 3,000 copies and of which the Australian War Memorial's senior historian declared, it " shines with integrity" Bruce Ruxton found '*BORNEO*' one of the most comprehensively researched accounts of the Borneo captivity. It was used by Bryce Courtenay as a source for his novel "Four Fires" The newspaper of the National RSL reported that the author reveals command and control with a thorough knowledge of his subject as he writes in a competent and authoritative manner. For further details of this earlier 1999 book see: <http://users.northnet.com.au/~helkev> *ESCAPES and INCURSIONS* (2006) reflects similar qualities. Tom Pledger (former POW on Ambon), an early purchaser, describes it as one of the best stories he has read about WWII and similar comments are flowing in from other personal mail order readers around Australia. **Contact: Dr Kevin Smith, P.O. Box 440, Armidale NSW 2350 Phone: (02) 6772 2602**