

# About the Author

Manxman Peter Clague was born in 1920 and educated at King William's College in the Isle of Man. He celebrated his 21st birthday as a second lieutenant on a troopship bound for India, being seconded to the Indian Army. In 1943 he was promoted to captain in the Intelligence Corps, and in 1945 to major on the staff of Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander South East Asia. Major Clague served on the staff of the Judge Advocate-General South East Asia from 1947 to 1949, when he was appointed as a magistrate in the Singapore government. In 1952 he was selected for the new post of Police Secretary, Singapore. During his six years as Police Secretary, Clague's duties included public relations, and he made a series of weekly broadcasts of true crime stories under the title *Police File*, some of which were later published in newspapers and magazines. From 1958 until his retirement in 1970 he was employed as a public relations expert, first for the Shell Company, and then for British American Tobacco. Peter Clague, a widower with one son and one daughter, now lives in Kuala Lumpur. He is also the author of *Iron Spearhead*, the story of a communist cell in Singapore during the Malayan Emergency, and *Bridge House*, the chilling true story of a Shanghai chamber of horrors.

For Fenella

*There is a tide in the affairs of men,  
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune . . .*

*Shakespeare*  
Julius Caesar

# JOHN RUSSELL

1855-1930 ■ A tale of early days in the Malay States.

Peter Clague

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