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Foreword by the Director General, Department of Museums and Antiquities, Malaysia



I feel very honoured to have this opportunity to write a few words about this book, **The History of The British Battalion In The Malayan Campaign - 1941-1942** written by Mr. Chye Kooi Loong, a retired Malaysian teacher and a veteran volunteer officer of Home Guard. This unusual and very interesting work is focused on the Battle of Kampar, which took place near the home town of the author during World War II. The defence strategies, the tactics and the fighting spirits as shown by members of the British Battalion resulted in heavy casualties among the attacking Japanese soldiers during their struggle to conquer a strategic ridge at the outskirts of Kampar town. I believe that nobody has previously given such a vivid account of that tragic event, and we are indeed very proud of Mr. Chye Kooi Loong's fine achievement. As has been said many times, 'Old soldiers never die, they simply fade away'. But memories fade too, and it is hard for the present generation to imagine conditions at the time of the Battle of Kampar. However, Mr. Chye Kooi Loong's book will serve to keep alive the heroism of the British Battalion, and together with the actual battleground, which is still to be seen at Kampar, will always remind us of this important and terrible period in our national history.

The Department of Museums and Antiquities Malaysia takes great satisfaction in publishing this second edition of Mr. Chye Kooi Loong's book, which I personally feel will enrich our knowledge of the military history of the region. I should like to express my gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Chye Kooi Loong for his painstaking work, and to thank each and every person who contributed to the production of his book.

Thank you.

DATU' DR. ADI BIN HAJI TAHA

Director General

Department of Museums and Antiquities Malaysia

Dedication



In memory of my late father, CHYE SOOI KHOON, Medal of Honour (France) and to all those brave men and women who took part and gave their lives for freedom in the Malayan Campaign.

This book has been written in the hope that the effort of the British Battalion may not be forgotten.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chye Kooi Loong". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Chye Kooi Loong