

# Death Railway

## T O U R S

### **The Colonel of Tamarkan** **(Philip Toosey & The Bridge On the River Kwai)** **By Julie Summers (2005)**

A book that delves into the myths of the movie along with the motivation for the making of the film in the first place. The story behind the story, why Pierre Boulle created the book and from what inspirations to the manipulation of the story by the Director & Producer.

When you understand the inspiration - the movie plot then tends to fall into place and we further understand the background (of the Academy Award Winning film) and how it was of course mainly fiction (with some snippets of non-fiction).

We are introduced to LTCOL Toosey as a young man working in the Cotton Industry who works in South America and makes excellent contacts in the business and banking trades. We read on his experience in joining up with the Territorials and follow him and his troops to Singapore where the bastion of the east falls to the 'Tiger of Malaya'.

"The Japanese had cleverly dropped a number of fire crackers into the city and caused everybody to think that this was rifle fire.' His driver, a Yorkshireman, turned to him and said, "The trouble with this show is that everybody is afraid of their own bloody shadow". (Summers, 2005: 86).

So many excellent discussions on escapes, covering for his men on headcounts, his time in Nakhon Nayok Officers Camp where he became very sick to the bombing of Nong Pladuk and the terrible consequences of the air raids.

He is well respected by his men who write to him after the war where he joins FEPOW organisations and is deservedly awarded with many post war decorations.

This is a mighty good read with plenty of quotes, period information and insights into this great man who was one of the standout quintessential leaders on the Death Railway.

"He was forced to stand to attention outside the guardhouse for a day in the full tropical sun. It was a public punishment, meant to set an example to the men and to humiliate Toosey." (Summers, 2005: 167).

I highly recommend this book and its purchase from the Thailand-Burma Railway Centre.

#### Bibliography

Summers, Julie (2005) *The Colonel of Tamarkan* – Pocket Books

