

# FOUR PLAQUES COMMEMORATING SEMUT OPERATIONS IN BORNEO

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## ABSTRACT

Three wooden plaques were made during the Japanese Occupation commemorating the role of the Australian Z Special Unit working behind Japanese lines and a replica of one of these was placed in Bario in 2013. This paper traces the background and history of each of these plaques.

Object history; Japanese Occupation; Semut Operations; Tom Harrison

## INTRODUCTION

This plaque commemorating the Z Special operatives in Borneo and some of their local counterparts during the Japanese Occupation is now on display at the Borneo Cultures Museum (Figure 1). It is one of four plaques erected to commemorate events during this era and the purpose of this paper is to highlight and document the story of each of these plaques.

## BACKGROUND