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Four Plaques Commemorating Semut Operations in Borneo

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ABSTRACT

A plaque commemorating the Allied Z Special operatives in Borneo and their local counterparts during the Japanese Occupation of Sarawak 1941-1945, is now on display at the Borneo Cultures Museum. A replica of this plaque was placed in Bario in 2013. Two other wooden plaques were made as memorials of operations of the Z Special Unit working behind Japanese lines training local guerrillas during the Japanese Occupation. This paper traces the background and history of each of these four plaques, which were erected at a time when there was no circulation of written print in the interior of Sarawak.

Keywords: Object history, Japanese Occupation, Semut Operations, Tom Harrisson, Kelabit highlands

FOUR PLAQUES COMMEMORATING SEMUT OPERATIONS IN BORNEO

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References to the relevant legislation are given in the text.

