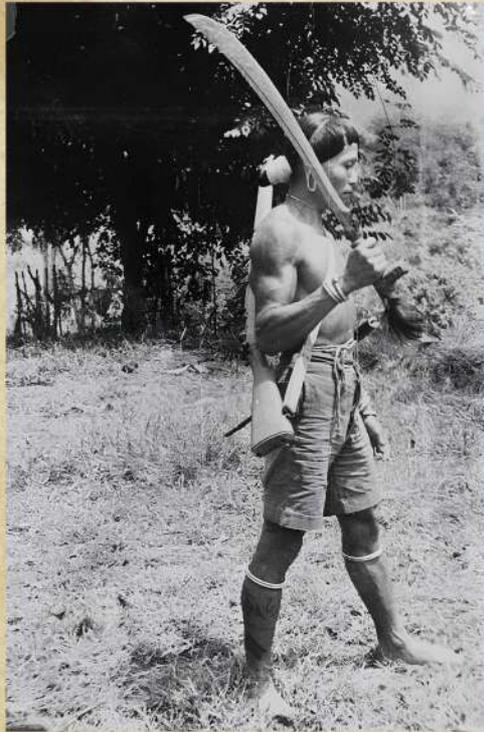
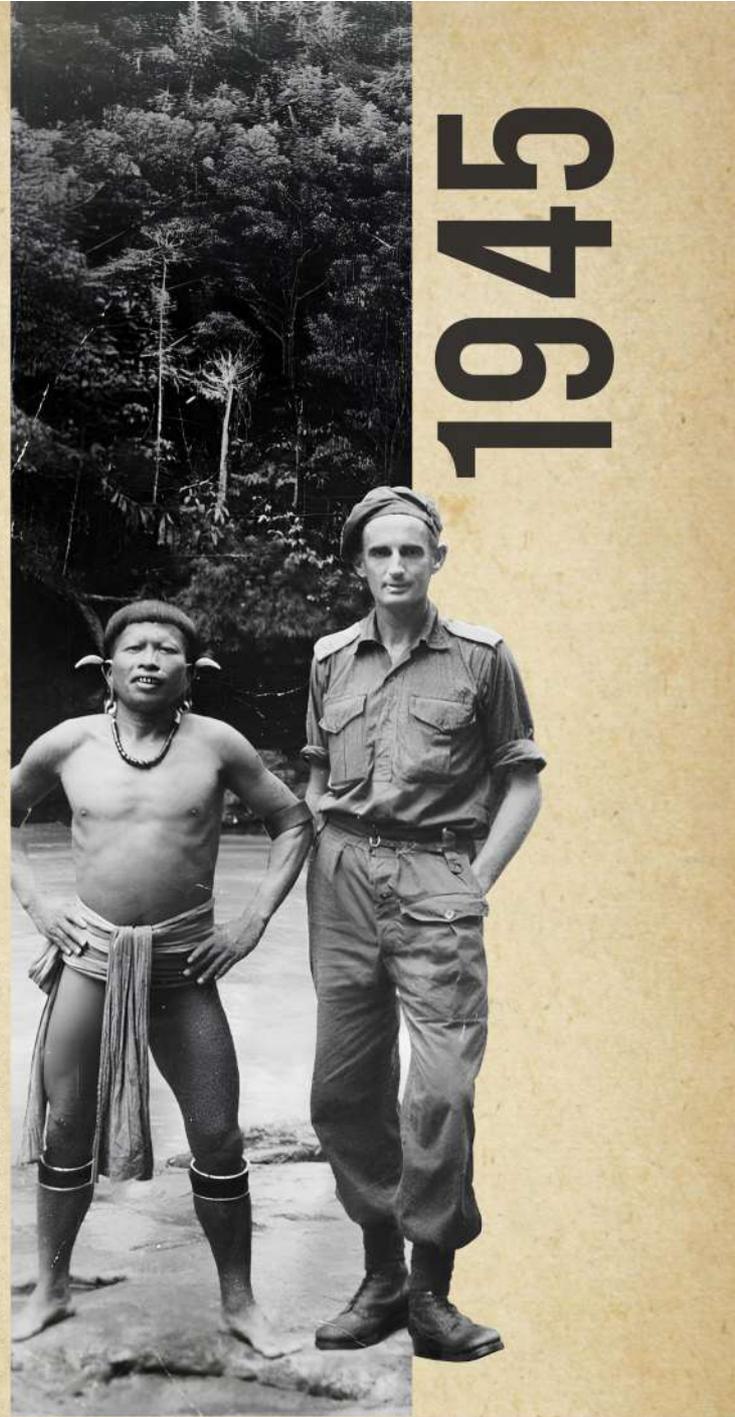


THE JAPANESE ARMY WAS INFAMOUS FOR BEHEADING THEIR ENEMIES. SO THE ALLIES RECRUITED NATIVE HEAD-HUNTERS TO EVEN THE SCORE.

In the brutal Pacific theatre of WWII, the Japanese army's notorious beheading of captives instilled fear in the hearts of Allied forces. In the heart of Borneo, where only a handful of Allied soldiers faced off against the might of the Japanese 37th Army, the Allies had an advantage like nowhere else: they had access to native warriors feared for headhunting. Knowing their ferocity, skill, and bravery, the Z Special Unit unleashed them in a devastating guerilla war. They disrupted supply lines and strategic outposts, shattering Japanese morale with their growing trophy collection. The relentless attacks forced the Japanese to abandon many inland garrisons, significantly weakening their hold and hindering their ability to gather local resources and supplies.

1945



A SHARED LEGACY OF COURAGE: HONOURING AN UNBREAKABLE ALLIANCE.

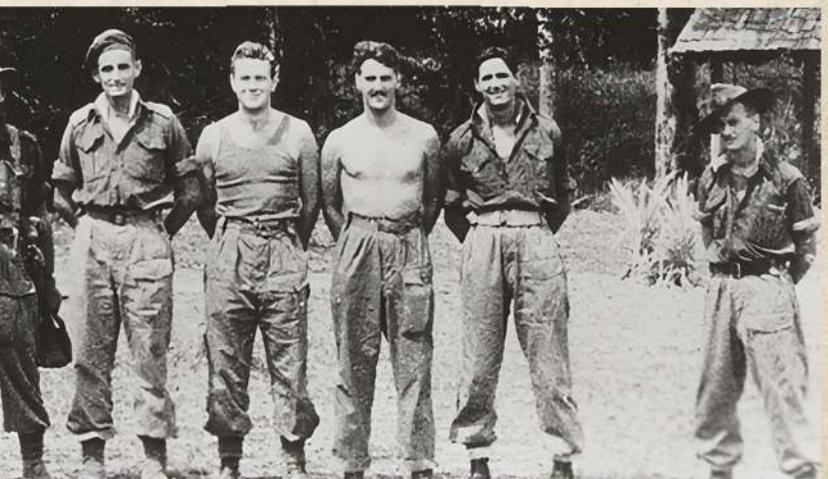
Each March, the people of Bario hosts an international gathering to honour the legacy of Operation SEMUT. This annual tribute remembers the extraordinary courage of the Z Special Unit volunteers and the native warriors who fought side-by-side in 1945. Join veterans, dignitaries, and the Bario community to ensure the story of this daring jungle alliance is never forgotten.



AUSTRALIAN DIGGERS, BRITISH COMMANDERS. THANK GOD THE LOCALS STEPPED IN TO BRIDGE THE GAP.

The relationship between British officers and their Australian counterparts in WWII was, shall we say, complex; with Aussie irreverence often grinding against the rigid traditions of British command. But in the covert battle for Borneo, rank mattered little when faced with the ruthless Japanese and the unforgiving jungle.

The Crown's finest soon found themselves relying heavily on the wisdom and experience of the native warriors. Their expertise in jungle survival and penchant for guerilla warfare was nothing short of a godsend: They kept the soldiers alive and their enemies dead with remarkable efficiency. Notably, not a single Z Special Unit member in the SEMUT operations was lost.



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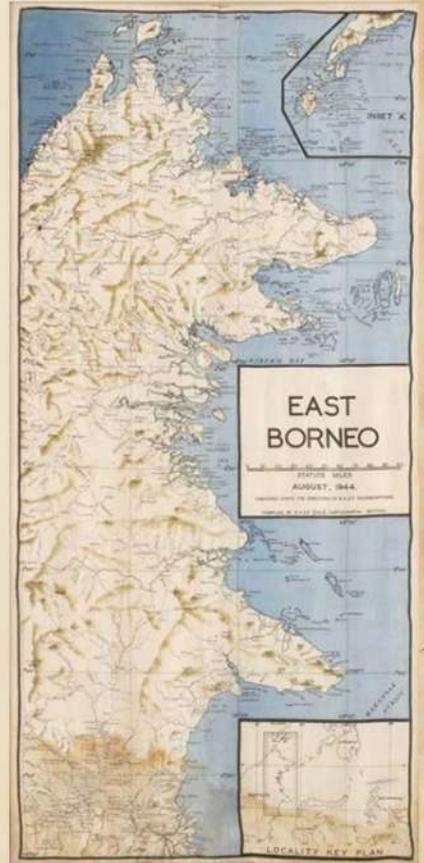
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Z SPECIAL UNIT'S PARACHUTES WERE DESIGNED TO HANDLE THE HEAVIEST OF CARGOES; BALLS OF STEEL.

Z Special Unit soldiers in WWII were volunteers, men who chose to train for missions most couldn't fathom. Parachuting deep into enemy territory was a one-way ticket into the unknown, where capture meant certain torture and death. Yet they jumped and disappeared into the darkness. They were ghosts, slipping behind enemy lines to peek, disrupt, sabotage, and organise a guerrilla force.

They intercepted critical enemy communications, established hidden intelligence posts, and with the assistance of native fighters, they thoroughly bruised the Japanese 37th Army all over the island. By war's end, SEMUT had liberated vast regions of Sarawak and North Borneo, shattering Japanese control months before the main Allied landings, earning recognition as one of the most successful stealth missions of WWII.



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