TOP LEFT: Field Marshal Terauchi Hisaichi, whose Southern Army swept across Southeast Asia in 1941-42.

TOP RIGHT: General Imamura Hitoshi. A veteran of Japan’s long war in China, he put 55,000 combat-hardened troops ashore on Java, overwhelming Allied forces. (Public domain/Australian War Memorial)

ABOVE: On 19 February 1942, ten days before their landing on Java, the Japanese sent nearly 250 fighters and bombers to attack Darwin in northern Australia. One aim was to isolate Allied forces in Java and “prevent another Dunkirk.” In this view from a Japanese plane, two ships burn furiously. (Senshi Sosho 26)
TOP: *Banzai!* Japanese troops celebrate their landing at Merak, West Java, on 1 March 1942.

MIDDLE: Japanese haul a truck ashore at Kragan, East Java. (Kaneko Tomokazu archive)

BOTTOM: Lt. Gen. Hein ter Poorten, the Dutch Commander-in-Chief, surrenders to the Japanese at Kalijati, West Java, 9 March 1942.
ABOVE: Japanese troops enter Jakarta in March 1942. In many parts of the Netherlands East Indies, the Japanese were welcomed as liberators, at least initially. Elsewhere in Southeast Asia they were received by sullen or silent crowds. (Spaarnestad SEA 001003164)

RIGHT: Japanese sentry guards a partly damaged oil storage depot at Tarakan in East Kalimantan. (Senshi Sosho 26)
ABOVE: Sukarno and Hatta greet the Japanese Prime Minister, Lt. Gen. Tojo Hideki, on his arrival in Jakarta in mid-1943. (Djawa Baroe)

LEFT: Former First Lt. Tsuchiya Kiso, right, who recruited Soeharto for the 37,500-man Java Volunteer Defence Force (Peta) in 1943, seen here in 1972 with his wartime colleague, former First Lt. Yanagawa Motoshige, who settled in Jakarta after the war. (Tsuchiya Kiso archive)
ABOVE: Yanagawa [seated] interviews an Indonesian at the Peta training centre in Bogor, October 1943. Lt. Gen. Harada Kumakichi, the Java commander, stands to Yanagawa’s right. Capt. Maruzaki Yoshio is far right. “General Harada loved Peta... and trusted it, too.” Some Japanese did not trust it. (Pradjoerit)

BELOW: Peta officer cadets at bayonet drill. The Japanese gave the Indonesians intensive small-unit training. This proved invaluable during the 1945-49 independence war against the Dutch. (Djawa Baroe)
ABOVE: Peta officer cadets present arms. “Training took place even in heavy rain. Weapons and clothes got soaked. Our lips turned purple. We could not stop trembling. My army sword got rusted through.” (Djawa Baroe)
ABOVE: “I was still young, just a Japanese-trained officer, you see. You know how Japanese training is…. I hit him. I punished him…. I hit him black and blue.” Bashed by the Japanese, some Peta officers became bashers themselves. One who readily admitted as much was Gen. Soemitro, an able, self-confident officer widely seen in the early 1970s as the second most powerful man in Indonesia, after Soeharto. (Dudi Sudibyo)

ABOVE: President Soeharto shares a joke with Vice President Adam Malik and Gen. Surono Reksademedjo in 1982. While serving as Army Chief of Staff, Surono, a karate-do enthusiast, struck a captain who swerved in front of his staff car. Soeharto himself could be tough on his men. (Joe Mangano).
TOP: Maj. Gen. Moersjid: “We caught our first glimpse of the possibility that Indonesia would some day be independent.”
(David Jenkins)

(David Jenkins)

BOTTOM: Prof. K. P. H. Haryasudirja, a Yogyakarta prince who commanded one of Soeharto’s battalions in 1949. In his view, Japan’s creation of a volunteer defence force marked, if not the beginning of any nationalist feelings on Soeharto’s part, then at least a new way of looking at the world.
(David Jenkins)
ABOVE: In 1959, Col. Soeharto, left, commander of the Central Java military region, shakes hands with his deputy, Lt. Col. Pranoto Reksosomodra, whom he had befriended on a 1943 Peta course. Pranoto replaced Soeharto months later after reporting him for smuggling. On coming to power, Soeharto jailed Pranoto for 15 years, alleging he was left-wing. There was no trial. (Catatan Jenderal Pranoto Reksosamodra/Public domain)

RIGHT: Former Kenpeitai sergeant Teramoto Masashi, saw Soeharto in Solo. “I wasn’t particularly impressed with him. I was astounded ... to learn that he had become President.” (Yamaoka Yasuko).

FAR RIGHT: Kaneko Tomokazu, a civilian propagandist in wartime Java, met Soeharto during his 1968 visit to Tokyo. “He was extremely happy to come to Japan after all those experiences as a Peta officer and so on.” (David Jenkins)
LEFT: Sukarno leads Indonesian dignitaries in a rousing cry of “Banzai!” at the former Dutch Governor General’s palace in Jakarta in 1944. Sukarno would hold sway at the palace himself between 1945-65. (Spaarnestad SFA 002022132)

BELOW: Dutch propaganda leaflet shows dead and gravely undernourished Indonesian auxiliary soldiers (heiho) or forced labourers (romusha) in West New Guinea late in the war. Some had been bayoneted by the Japanese, others killed in Allied bombing raids. On Numfoor, an island off the north coast of West New Guinea, starving Japanese troops resorted to cannibalism. (John Scott archive)
ABOVE LEFT: Col. Miyamoto Shizuo at his Tokyo home in 1999. As the 16th Army staff officer for supply, he sent Indonesian forced labourers to the notorious Thai-Burma “death railway” and other projects. Later, as operations officer, he armed, but came to distrust, the Indonesian volunteer army. (David Jenkins)

ABOVE RIGHT: “I shipped them to their deaths. Yes, yes, yes, yes, I am the one.” In a photograph taken near Bogor in 1944, Sukarno exhorts Indonesian romusha to work harder. (Spaarnestad SEA 001021676)

BELOW: A line of romusha, pressed into debilitating servitude by the Japanese, carry earth for a project on the Brantas River in East Java. Tens of thousands of romusha died. (Djava Baroe)
ABOVE: Officers of the 16th Army gather for a group portrait on the steps of the palace in Jakarta in late 1944. Maj. Gen. Yamamoto was both 16th Army Chief of Staff under Lt. Gen. Harada and Head of the Military Administration on Java.

Capt. Maruzaki presided over the birth of Peta, the forerunner of the Indonesian Army. Lieut. Tsuchiya recruited the first 230 officer cadets from Central Java and went on to establish and train three 500-man Peta battalions on Bali. (Tsuchiya Kiso archive)
ABOVE: The Japanese Military Administration on Java issued its own stamps. (Ken Ward archive)

RIGHT: As well as setting up Peta, the 16th Army sent a handful of Indonesians to Japan for higher military training. One of them was Gen. Yoga Sugama, who attended the Imperial Military Academy outside Tokyo. A blunt, flamboyant, high-living intelligence officer, Yoga would become a key pillar of Soeharto’s New Order government. (Sinar Harapan)

ABOVE: Lt. Gen. Harada at a 1943 lunch with Sukarno, right, and his wife, Fatmawati. Harada had been active in pre-war Shanghai, where he was remembered as a “drunken, disreputable and mendacious officer.” He was hanged in Singapore in 1947 for war crimes committed in Java. (Boekoe peringatan)
ABOVE: Fifty-five Indonesian soldiers who revolted against the Japanese at Blitar in February 1945 were brought before a Japanese military court in Jakarta in June that year. All were convicted. At least five were beheaded. The Japanese sent Soeharto, a trusted company commander, to retrain the rump of the Peta Blitar battalion. (Ipphos) INSET: Suprijadi, who led the Blitar revolt. “A strange person, very suggestible.”

ABOVE: Members of the Yogyakarta Kenpeitai detachment. Widely feared enforcers of Japanese rule, the Kenpeitai executed 300 people in Java and intervened at will in civilian police affairs. Soeharto, who served in both the police force and Peta, claimed the Kenpeitai suspected him of disloyalty. [NIOD 161765]
ABOVE: Rear Adm. Maeda Tadashi, seated, left, the Japanese Navy liaison officer in Jakarta, receives an Indonesian guest at his home. In the early hours of 17 August 1945, Maeda allowed Sukarno and Hatta to use his house to draft a Proclamation of Independence. (Public domain)

RIGHT: Adm. Maeda's house, the residence of British ambassadors for many years, is now a museum. (David Jenkins)
ABOVE: At 10am on 17 August 1945 Sukarno proclaims Indonesian independence. The 16th Army, which had strongly opposed such a move only eight hours earlier, did not intervene. (Frans Mendus, Ipphos)

ABOVE: President Soeharto and the author, Rawamangun golf course, Jakarta, 1970. Soeharto played golf several times a week. At weekends, he liked to relax at his cattle ranch in the hills behind Bogor. (Burt Glinn)