

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Leon Comber is a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore, and a Research Fellow (Adjunct) at Monash Asia Institute, Monash University, Melbourne. His interest in Malay/sian affairs extends over more than half a century from the time he first landed as a Major with the returning British and Indian forces (as part of "Operation Zipper") at Morib Beach on the west coast of Malaya in September 1945 following the surrender of the Japanese. Thereafter, he served for several years as a Chinese-speaking Special Branch officer in the Malayan Police dealing with political and security intelligence, during the Malayan Emergency. He subsequently had a distinguished career in book publishing. Over the years, his main interest has been Malaysia and Singapore and he has written extensively about them. He holds a BA (Hons) from SOAS, University of London, an MA (Comparative Asian Studies) from the University of Hong Kong, where he was Director and Publisher of the University of Hong Kong Press, an MBA from the University of East Asia, Macau, and a PhD from Monash University, Melbourne. He speaks Malay, Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin), with some Hindi. He is one of the few European Malaysian citizens.

Among his recent books are:

Singapore Correspondent: Political Dispatches from Singapore (1958–1962);
Malaya's Secret Police 1945–1960: The Role of the Special Branch in the Malayan
Emergency;
13 May 1969: The Darkest Day in Malaysian History;
The Strange Cases of Magistrate Pao;
Xun Miao: The Temples of the Chinese in Singapore (in Chinese with Xu Liying).