

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Leon Comber is a Visiting Senior Fellow at the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore. His interest in Malaysia and Singapore extends from the time he first landed as a Major with the returning British/Indian forces as part of “Operation Zipper” through the surf at Morib Beach on the west coast of Malaya following the Japanese surrender at the end of WWII. Thereafter, he served for many years as a Chinese-speaking Special Branch officer in the Malayan Police dealing with political, security, and operational intelligence during the First Malayan Emergency. After leaving the Special Branch he had a distinguished career in book publishing, and was the Managing Director of Heinemann Asia, a subsidiary of Heinemann Educational Books, London, and the Publisher of the University of Hong Kong Press. He has a BA (Hons.), SOAS, University of London; an MA (Comparative Asian Studies), University of Hong Kong; an MBA (Distinction), University of East Asia, Macau; and a PhD from Monash University, Australia. His languages are Cantonese, Mandarin, and Malay, with some Hindi.

Among his recent books are *Singapore Chronicles: Japanese Occupation; Templer and the Road to Malayan Independence: The Man and his Time; Malaya’s Secret Police 1945–60: The Role of the Special Branch in the Malayan Emergency*; and *Singapore Correspondent: Political Dispatches from Singapore (1958–1962)*.