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It was this remarkable response which created the movement amongst ex POW, with the support of the families and friends of the victims who died in Borneo, for greater recognition of the Sandakan tragedy. This new memorial, integrating the original memorial erected in 1991, includes the names of all the Western Australian members of the Sandakan Force of 2500 who's tragic deaths it will commemorate.

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THE MEMORIAL

The Memorial Committee, - representing the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion Assn., the Ex POW Assn. of W.A. and the families of the men who's names are recorded, - acknowledge on their behalf:

THE BOYUP BROOK SHIRE COUNCIL for their valued support and their contribution to the construction of the memorial ... and ...

WESFARMERS LIMITED contribution of all printing requirements associated with the dedication service and for the future recognition of the Sandakan memorial.

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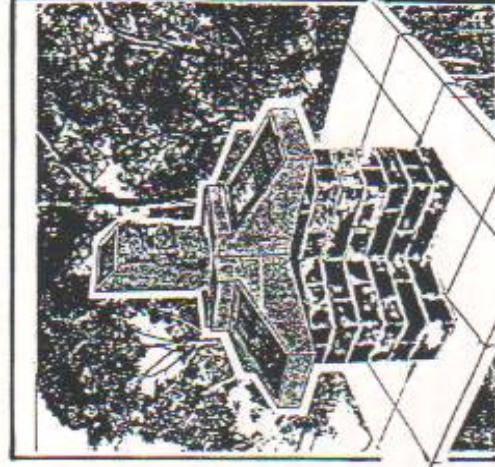
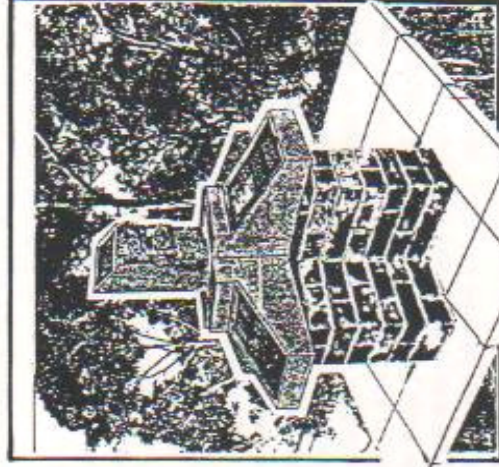
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SANDAKAN/RANAU North Borneo — 1942/1945

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Whilst conditions in the early stages were bearable in terms of their later treatment - in the latter part of 1944 conditions began to deteriorate rapidly. By September the Japanese had reduced the meals to two a day, at 11.30am and 5.30pm - in December the rice ration was between 5 and 7 oz per day.

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The Japanese set fire to the camp destroying all records. That evening the prisoners were told that all able to walk would leave in an hour on a very short journey; the 290 prisoners too ill to move were left to fend for themselves.

The marching groups (each of 50 men) soon realised they had been duped, they were heading for Ranau. Long before the first hail, men were falling by the wayside - those who lagged were driven by rifle butts. At the end of the first days march the track conditions were knee deep in mud, through heavy jungle and hills so steep that men had to crawl up and slide down. At each overnight stop, the many who could not continue were grouped together and shot after the others had moved on.

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At Ranau, no provision had been made for prisoners, they had no huts, little provision for cooking and rain fell constantly. There were no medical supplies, water had to be carried half a mile and the daily food ration of between 70 and 75 grams of rice was the equivalent of a small cup of rice water with about an inch of rice in the bottom.

By the 18th July only 72 survived. That number had been more than halved to 32 by the following week. On the 1st August all who could walk were taken away and shot. The remaining 15 or 17 in so pitiful a condition that it was impossible for them to escape were hunted out of their shelters.

What little is known of the sick who remained at Sandakan is based on statements by Japanese guards:

There were 292 prisoners in the area. By 10th June 30 had died - on that day 75 were taken away and shot. There were then 185 alive. On the 13th July there were only 53 still living and 23 of the 'fittest' were taken to the airfield and shot. The remainder were left to die. **ALL WERE DEAD BY THE 15TH AUGUST 1945.**

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