

Force 136 ~ SOEFE

Shortly after the Japanese surrendered in Malaya, British forces returned to the country imposing a British Military Administration. During the Japanese occupation of Malaya, communist Chinese resistance fighters, led by Chin Peng set up and established deep jungle hide-outs. From their hidden jungle bases they carried out hit and run guerrilla attacks on smaller Japanese units in the countryside. These were in the main skirmishes and ambushes, followed by rapid withdrawal back into the jungle. The guerrilla bands were named the Malayan Peoples Anti-Japanese Army – MPAJA. To keep an allied presence in Malaya, several British military and administrative officers remained behind after the fall of Singapore to form a guerrilla group to harass the Japanese. These British officers joined up with the Chinese communist resistance fighters and helped to train the Chinese guerrillas in jungle warfare and guerrilla tactics. British Far East Command HQ in Ceylon sent commando trained volunteers who were parachuted into the jungle to join the British and Chinese guerrillas. In addition, large drops of arms, ammunition and equipment were also made to strengthen the capability of the combined jungle forces, designated as Force 136. However, after the second world war ended, the enemy of enemy was longer my friend.



Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten with Force 136 leaders



Chinese Canadian members of SOE Force 136

Between 1944 and 1945, Chinese Canadians were recruited and quietly seconded to SOE in Southeast Asia (Force 136). They were told they had a 50-50 chance of surviving. They also were sworn to secrecy. To do this kind of work would require much more than basic army training. The men would need to learn commando warfare techniques. Over the course of several months they learned skills such as: stalking; silent killing; demolition; jungle travel and survival; wireless operations; espionage; and parachuting. Besides their gruelling training, the men would have to fight off illnesses (like malaria, dysentery and broken bones), and endure incredible heat, humidity and monsoons. Each man was offered a cyanide capsule, in case of capture. Some were also given opium capsules or gold coins they could use for bribes. Eventually, each recruit became a specialist and part of a small, self-sufficient team. These Chinese Canadians were all volunteers and my father met and knew many of them. By their selfless devotion to duty, Canada had to change its immigrant policy and treat them as equals. Prior to this a separatism policy existed between white folks and people from other races. A Chinese person, male or female in Canada during pre WW2 era was not allowed to swim in baths with other white folks. If you good enough to die for your country, you are a citizen period.

Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten with Force 136 leaders after their disbandment in Singapore, 1946. Force 136 is better known as Special Operations Executive Far East. Churchill called the SOE the Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare. Some 9000 highly trained agents passed through the

ranks of SOE during the second world war. For those not in the know, SOE went on to train the OSS which became America's Central Intelligence Agency. SOE shortened WW2 by six months. The problem with Force 136 in Malaya was the fact that many members of this clandestine commando unit based in Malaya were communist. When the Japanese Forces surrendered, the Malaya Peoples Anti Japanese Army decided that they should be governing the country, not the British. They were well trained, well funded and very well armed veterans of Jungle Warfare. But because the majority of the nearly 2 million British combat veterans from WW2 were disbanded, that left only conscripts to make up the troop numbers shortfall. British National Servicemen (draftees) were no match for the hard core experience communist jungle fighters in Malaya. Neither was lightly armed post war colonial police.

Enter the Special Constables ten men Jungle Squads, who made the difference lead by a European Police Sergeant.

By the end of this conflict, disallowing for military personnel deaths, the Malayan Federation Police Force suffered 5,554 men killed in communist bandit ambushes but eliminated some 11,222 communist terrorists before this war was over. In total there were 37,000 Special Constables all volunteers who bore the brunt of these brutal attacks because they defended the isolated plantations, tin mines and other British assets throughout Malaya from communist attacks. My late father commanded a company of these guys against them. The Malaya Emergency was Britain's Nam with this difference....we defeated the the communist in Malaya. This undeclared war lasted officially from 1947 through to 1960.



Typical ten men Jungle Squad with Rhodesian SAS or British Officer in command. Rex ,my father was one of those officers in command of Malaya Federation Special Constable Jungle Squads. If you read your redacted history books, note that very little mention is given to these teams who fought and often gave their lives so that the cancer of communism via violent armed struggle is removed from our society.