



THE BRITISH AND JAPANESE ESPIONAGE  
ACTIVITIES IN MALAYA, 1941-1945

BY

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## **ABSTRACT**

The term espionage activities refers to an acts of installing spies in order to collect secret information in other countries. The ultimate aim of espionage activities was to examine the condition of other countries before a suitable method to invade those countries was created. Such activities had given a great impact on Malaya during the World War II because it resulted in British Malaya fell into the hands of the Japanese. It is believed that these two superpowers in their struggle to control Malaya during the war years had conducted espionage activities which in turn affected the life of the local people in Malaya. Thus, the aim of the study is to provide a detailed research about the British and Japanese espionage activities in Malaya since there was a supposition that the Japanese had never gathered secret information on Malaya. Instead, the Japanese espionage activities in Malaya were believed to be merely a propaganda that was set up to promote fear among its enemies during the war. So, the research was undertaken with the aim to highlight the act of Japanese espionage activities in Malaya and the counter-measures taken by the British in facing that of the Japanese. Finally, it analysed the effects of the British and Japanese espionage activities on the life of the local people in Malaya. This study was based on a library research using data from both primary and secondary sources including archival data.

## ملخص البحث

تعرف أنشطة التجسس على أنها عملية زرع جواسيس في بلاد أخرى بغرض جمع المعلومات السرية، وتهدف أساسا إلى معرفة أحوال تلك البلدان من أجل إيجاد طريقة مناسبة لغزوها. وقد كان لأنشطة التجسس أثرا كبيرا على إقليم الملايا خلال الحرب العالمية الثانية، حيث أدت إلى سقوط الإقليم المحتل من قبل بريطانيا في أيدي اليابانيين، كما يعتقد أيضا أن أنشطة التجسس التي انخرطت فيها كل من اليابان وبريطانيا خلال الحرب للسيطرة على الإقليم أثرت تأثيرا كبيرا على حياة السكان المحليين. ولذلك فإن هذه الدراسة تهدف إلى إجراء بحث تفصيلي في أنشطة التجسس البريطانية واليابانية في إقليم الملايا وذلك بالنظر إلى الزعم القائل بأن اليابانيين لم يجمعوا أية معلومات سرية عن المنطقة وأن ما قيل عن أنشطتهم التجسسية لم تكن سوى نوع من الحرب الدعائية لتخويف الأعداء خلال الحرب. وقد ألقت الدراسة الضوء على أنشطة اليابان التجسسية في الإقليم والخطوات المضادة التي قامت بها بريطانيا لمواجهتها، وحللت آثار تلك الأنشطة والخطوات على حياة السكان المحليين، وذلك بإجراء بحث مكثي اعتمد على بيانات أولية وثانوية تضمنت مواد أرشيفية.

## APPROVAL PAGE

I certify that I have supervised and read this study and that in my opinion, it conforms to acceptable standards of scholarly presentation and is fully adequate, in scope and quality, as a dissertation for the degree of Master of Human Sciences in History and Civilization.

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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation is the result of my own investigations, except where otherwise stated. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted as a whole for any other degrees at IIUM or other institutions.

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*This thesis is dedicated to my parents,  
Rukunuthin Bin AbooBaider and Bajarnisha Bt MohdHanifaa*

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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Intelligence gathering activities are one of important strategies that are always used by the military and secret police of a country to obtain leverage against certain country or countries. In general, intelligence activities involve collection of raw data which will be processed so that they can give indispensable information about one's enemies. In the past as well as present, it helps a nation to plan the strategies that can be used especially to attack and capture other countries during a time of conflict. This is because not only do these activities give information about the movement of the enemy but also its strengths and weaknesses. Failure in getting such information about one country's enemy can cause defeat, and worst still, the fall of the nation. Thus, the success or failure in intelligence activities can determine the rise and fall of a country.

Intelligence activities are classified into several broad categories such as combat intelligence, communication intelligence, human resource intelligence, imagery intelligence and many more<sup>1</sup>. The activity of espionage lies under the category of human resource intelligence. Espionage involves hiring spies to get secret information about other nations.

The imperial Japanese army gained huge victory during the Pacific War when Southeast Asian countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaya and Burma were successfully occupied. The Japanese spies were trained in Nakano School<sup>2</sup> in Tokyo

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<sup>1</sup> Leonard, Barry. (Eds.) *Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms*. (United States of America: Diane Publishing, 2011), 234.

<sup>2</sup> Nakano School or *Nakano Gakko* is an Army Intelligence School located in Tokyo. The school was established between 1937-1939. After years of development in the Japanese intelligence activities,

and later sent to other countries including Malaya to get secret information. Formation of agencies such as *F. Kikan* and *Minami Kikan* was the result of training in Nakano School.

*F. Kikan* was headed by Major Fujiwara Iwaichi while *Minami Kikan* was headed by Colonel Suzuki Keiji<sup>3</sup>. Major Fujiwara Iwaichi was given the task of recruiting and training people in Thailand and Malaya to become Japanese spies while Colonel Suzuki Keiji was responsible for training the people in Burma. Local leaders like Suharto, Ne Win, and Ibrahim Yaacob were influenced by the Japanese promises that Malaya and Indonesia would be granted independence. So, cooperation with these leaders made it possible for the Japanese to invade Southeast Asian countries which were left unguarded by Western powers.

Malaya was attacked by the Japanese on 7 December 1941, shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The Japanese occupied the whole peninsular at the speed of light. Malaya was penetrated through Kota Bharu, Kelantan. Subsequently, Kedah, Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Johor and other regions in Malaya began to fall rapidly under the control of the Japanese. It took only around 68 days for them to conquer the entire Malay Peninsula.

The Japanese targeted Malaya and other Southeast Asian countries for several reasons. First, Southeast Asian countries were rich with raw materials such as oil, rubber, and tin. These raw materials were very useful for the Japanese in their effort to win the war. At the same time, the United States of America was putting pressure by imposing embargo onto them. Second, the Japanese wanted to be the leader of Southeast Asian countries by putting an end to European colonialism. So, they

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Japanese authorities decided to form Nakano Gakko-a spy school. See D.Holmes, Ronald. *Diplomatic relations between Japan and Southeast Asia: Progress and challenges through half-a-century*. (Quezon City: Philippines Migration Research Network, 2007), 134-135.

<sup>3</sup> Lebra, Joyce C. *Japanese-Trained Armies*. (Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2010), 6.

launched slogans such as “Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere”<sup>4</sup> and “Asia for the Asians”<sup>5</sup> to attract support from the local people. Third, extra manpower was needed to build Burma-Siam railway<sup>6</sup>. Local people from Southeast Asia were taken either by force or by choice to work on the railway.

At the time of Japanese advancement to Malaya, the country was under the British rule. By 1786, the British had set up its base in Malaya. In 1858, all regions in Malaya were brought under the control of East India Company through negotiations with local authorities and when the Dutch ceded Malacca<sup>7</sup>. Under the British rule, Malaya was divided into Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States and the Unfederated Malay States<sup>8</sup>.

In the year leading to war with the Japanese, the British had amended laws and regulations to crush espionage and intelligence activities. Foreigners or local people who were suspected to be spies would be captured. The government was also aware of the increasing number of Japanese people in Malaya. However, this matter was not taken as a serious problem by the authority.

S. N. Arseculeratne in *Sinhalese Immigrants in Malaysia & Singapore 1860-1990: History through recollection* found the following:

In July 1941, a Ceylon Malay named Ismail, who served in the police in Ipoh and a Sinhalese clerk named Simon Perera were living together in a building in which was a saloon of a Japanese barber. The Japanese

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<sup>4</sup> “Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere” was propaganda by the Japanese. The slogan was made to spread the ambition of Japan to be the leader of Asian countries and free them from Western powers.

<sup>5</sup> “Asia for the Asians” was a campaign designed by the Japanese to promote anti-Western feelings among Asian inhabitants.

<sup>6</sup> Burma-Siam railway or the Death Railway was located between Rangoon, Burma and Bangkok, Thailand. The construction of the railway was planned by the Japanese to bring supplies and troops to Burma. Forced labours were taken from Japan’s conquered territories to build it. Many workers died during the construction due to hunger, sickness and maltreatment.

<sup>7</sup> Olsons S. James, *Historical Dictionary of the British Empire, Volume 2* (United States of America: Greenwood Publishing Group Inc), 710.

<sup>8</sup> Straits Settlements comprised of Penang, Malacca and Singapore. Then, the Federated Malay States consisted of Selangor, Perak, Negeri Sembilan and Pahang while Unfederated Malay States were made up of Johor, Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis and Terengganu.

was very friendly with Ismail and had confided in him that the British expected the Japanese to invade Malaya from Singapore approaching it from the sea. The Japanese barber said “We will come through Kota Baru (on the eastern coast of northern Malaya) in rubber boats and then bicycles. We will attack first and then declare war. Time is the vital factor.” This was most unusual of the Japanese dedication to utmost secrecy. However, Ismail thought it was vital information which he conveyed to the British Chief Police Officer in Ipoh, who just laughed off the story<sup>9</sup>.

Due to this lack of seriousness on the part of the British, Operation Matador ended up with failure. Operation Matador was a plan set by General Arthur Ernest Percival to counter-espionage the Japanese intelligence activities. The implementation of the operation was rejected by the British Cabinet in the first place but later it agreed to further the operation. However, it was carried out too late as the Japanese forces had already landed in Malaya.

The British intelligence activities in Malaya were weak probably because of the concentration of similar activities on the war with Germany. The British had declared war against Germany in 1939 which was just a few years before the Japanese invasion of Malaya<sup>10</sup>. However, some historical evidence also show that the British had taken some significant steps in order to counter-espionage enemies’ intelligence activities. Local people were sent to Burma and Singapore for training to fight against the Japanese in the early 1940s.

There were intelligence schools and several intelligence forces established to counter-espionage the enemies. An intelligence school known as 101 Special Training School was founded in 1941. It was formed by Special Operation Executive (SOE)<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>9</sup> Arseculeratne, S. N., *Immigrants in Malaysia and Singapore, 1860-1990: History through Recollections*. (Colombo: K.V.G. De Silva & Sons, 1991), 10.

<sup>10</sup> World War II started on 1 September 1939 when Germany attacked Poland. In response to this event, Great Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand declared war against Germany on 3 September 1939. See Heden, Karl. *Sunken Ships World War II: US Naval Chronology, Including Submarine Losses of the United States, England, Germany, Japan, Italy*. (Boston: Branden Books, 2006), 12.

<sup>11</sup> SOE was a British organization during the World War II. It was formed in 1940 to conduct espionage and sabotage against the enemies.

The function of this school was to train troops to conduct guerilla warfare, intelligence gathering, sabotage and other activities in Malaya.

The intelligence organisations founded by the British were Force 136 and Inter-Services Liaison Department (ISLD). Force 136 was established to support anti-Japanese group in all Japanese territories with money, men and weapons. Meanwhile, Inter-Services Liaison Department was an agency was responsible collecting secret information in Burma, Indo-China, Siam, Malaya and the Dutch East Indies.

The espionage activities also had great impact on the local people in many ways. Some of the local people were collaborating with the Japanese to defeat the British. This collaboration occurred even before the Japanese occupation of Malaya. Some of the nationalist leaders asked the Japanese for help to overthrow the British because the latter had promised to liberate their countries. However, after the occupation, everything turned chaotic. The local nationalists were divided into two separate camps. Some continued to collaborate with the Japanese while some left because they had lost faith in the Japanese promises.

Soon, some innocent people who were suspected of being British spies were tortured severely by special Japanese force, the *Kempetai*<sup>12</sup> to extract the secret information. Meanwhile, other people lived in fear of Japanese spies who might be living amongst them. The Japanese had set spies in every nook and cranny of Malaya. In that situation, everyone could not be trusted even one's own family members.

There were also local people who, being anti-Japanese, joined MPAJA, MCP and Kuomintang. They also took part in several operations launched by the British in

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<sup>12</sup>*Kempetai* was the Japanese secret police. They were responsible to obtain information from suspected spies by torturing them. See Hussain, Mustapha. *The memoirs of Mustapha Hussain: Malay nationalism before UMNO*. (Kuala Lumpur: Utusan Publications & Distributors, 2005), 201.

order to defeat the Japanese. The British had set up several operations known as Operation Gustavus, Operation Mint, Operation Evidence and Operation Mullet<sup>13</sup>.

The MPAJA or Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Army was a society formed during the Japanese occupation in Malaya. It was dominated by the Chinese in Malaya and supported by Force 136 to fight against the Japanese. The name of the society was changed to Malayan People's Anti-British during the Malayan Emergency. Similar to MPAJA, MCP and Kuomintang were also highly dominated by the Chinese who worked together with the British to combat against the Japanese.

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

This study attempts to analyse the role of espionage activities in Malaya by the Japanese and the British during the war period. Espionage activities are part of the military strategies used by all great Powers during the World War II including the Japanese and the British. Those espionage activities had also affected the people in Malaya in some ways. Some people agreed to get involved in the espionage activities to win the war. Meanwhile, others choose to stay neutral by not involving in any espionage activities. So, the research also examines the involvement of the local people of Malaya on the Japanese and British espionage activities.

The research questions of this study are:

1. To what extent the espionage activities contribute to the Japanese penetration and occupation of Malaya?
2. What were the attitudes and responses of the British to suppress Japanese espionage in Malaya?

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<sup>13</sup> Each operation had its own purpose which was designed according to the situation in Malaya. See Boris Hembry, 223, 267, 240.

3. To what extent was the involvement of the local people in the espionage activities?
4. What were the roles of *Kesatuan Melayu Muda* and Ibrahim Yaacob especially in relation to Japanese espionage activities?

Thus, the research objectives are:

1. To study the contribution of espionage activities network used by the Japanese to occupy Malaya.
2. To analyse the responses and attitudes of the British towards Japanese espionage in Malaya.
3. To examine the involvement of the common people in Malaya in the espionage activities.
4. To analyse the role of *Kesatuan Melayu Muda* and Ibrahim Yaacob with Japanese espionage activities.

### **1.3 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

During World War II and Pacific War, it was common to have espionage network especially for great powers like Japan, Soviet Union, Great Britain and others. The Japanese shocked the European major powers such as the United States of America, the Dutch and British when they attacked Southeast Asia that was left unprotected. To make those attacks possible, Japan had carried out intelligence activities especially espionage activities years before their advent in 1941. The aim of the study is thus to provide comprehensive research about Japanese and British espionage in Malaya during the colonisation and war period.

There are also some views saying that the Japanese never had a spy network in the countries that were occupied. What existed, according to some was the propaganda

about the espionage, which was created merely to promote fear among its enemies before war began. The purpose of this propaganda was to win the battle easily as the enemies were already possessed by fear. As such, the research is undertaken to elucidate the Japanese espionage in Malaya to prove the existence of its espionage not only before but also during the war.

Malaya used to be ruled by the British and the Japanese where the former ruled longer than the latter. It is undeniable that both had their own espionage system which assisted them in making important decision. However, most of the previous written works tend to focus on either one of those foreign powers' espionage activities. This research attempts to study the intelligence activities done by both powers and analyse their impact on Malaya.

The Japanese espionage activities also gave great impact on the local people in Malaya in many ways. Some local people or nationalists cooperated with the Japanese because they believed that the Japanese would free their countries from Western colonialism. Meanwhile, some people were tortured to death when they were suspected as spies of the enemy. There were also those who, having been motivated by anti-Japanese sentiments and Japanese torturous methods, took up arms against the Japanese by means of guerilla attacks. Hence, the research is carried out to clarify the impact of espionage on the local people in Malaya.

#### **1.4 LITERATURE REVIEW**

There are numerous works written about intelligence gathering particularly in the field of espionage activities associated with many countries including Malaya. However, in the case of Malaya, those literatures are scattered and unorganised. In order to arrange and identify the lacuna of the previous studies, they will be categorized into three

major themes. The first theme is the Japanese espionage networks in Malaya, the second theme is the British espionage and counter-espionage in Malaya and the final theme is the impact of espionage activities by those foreign powers on the local people. The following written works had been arranged according to these themes.

In *Japanese-Trained Armies*, Joyce C. Lebra discusses the Japanese intelligence activities in Malaya and other Southeast Asia regions<sup>14</sup>. In this book, the author mentions about two important espionage agencies known as *F.Kikan* and *Minami Kikan* that played important roles to provide information to Japanese administration in Tokyo. *F.Kikan* was controlled by Major Fujiwara Iwaichi while *Minami Kikan* by Colonel Suzuki Keiji. They were recruited after they finished their training at the Army Intelligence School known as *Nakano Gakko*. They were sent to build inter-group communication between the Japanese and local nationalist movement. Fujiwara Iwaichi was sent to cover Malaya and India. In Malaya, a leader of *Kesatuan Melayu Muda*, Ibrahim Yaacob, played an important role because he was cooperating with the Japanese. The author also mentions the type of training given by the Japanese to the local leaders.

Another significant work that is related to the Japanese espionage network is *Malaya Upside Down* by Chin Kee Onn<sup>15</sup>. In this book, another Japanese secret agency was introduced. It was known as *Tekikan* or the Supreme Japanese Military Intelligence. *Tekikan* was more powerful than *F.Kikan* because it had a wide range of espionage network. The intelligence officers from this agency served in all kinds of fields. It was the most secretive intelligence military service because nobody knew the members of *Tekikan*. Its agents were well-trained in international espionage, fifth-

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<sup>14</sup> Joyce C. Lebra, 113-145.

<sup>15</sup> Onn, Chin Kee. *Malaya upside down*. (Singapore: Federal Publications Sdn. Bhd, 1976), 1-121 .

column propaganda, sabotage and the arts of assassination<sup>16</sup>. However, the author further mentions that the sources about this organization are quite few. Since the sources about *Tekikan* are quite difficult to be found, the background of this organisation remains a mystery.

In *The Red Star over Malaya*, Cheah Boon Kheng focuses on the racial tension that rose between the Malays and the Chinese at the end of the Japanese occupation<sup>17</sup>. However, the information about the Japanese espionage in Malaya and Singapore was also included in the book. The author also had personally interviewed the leader of *F.Kikan*, Gen. Fujiwara Iwaichi. Then, the involvement of *Kesatuan Melayu Muda (KMM)* in the Japanese espionage activities was illustrated in-depth. Despite detailed accounts about espionage network mentioned above, the role of *Kempetai* (Japan's secret military police) was not discussed comprehensively. The author should have discussed the espionage activities undertaken by *Kempetai* in-depth because such activities acted as the root of the inter-racial rivalry between the Malays and the Chinese. The Chinese community started to hate the Japanese and Malays because of the treatment given by the *Kempeitai* to them. Later, the Chinese joined the British counter-espionage missions towards Japanese to vent their hatred and vengeance.

In the *Journal of Contemporary History*, Max Everest-Phillips had written "The Pre-War Fear of Japanese Espionage: Its Impact and Legacy" which explains about how the West was afraid of the Japanese espionage and propaganda before the World War II<sup>18</sup>. The article describes about the spreading rumors about the well-planned Japanese espionage networks around the world. The rumors were confirmed

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<sup>16</sup> Ibid., 110.

<sup>17</sup> Kheng, Cheah Boon. *Red Star over Malaya*. (Singapore: Singapore University Press, 2003), 1-101, 148-241.

<sup>18</sup> Everest-Phillips, Max, "The Pre-War Fear of Japanese Espionage: Its Impact and Legacy," *The Journal of Contemporary History*, (2007): 243-265.

as Japanese communities which existed in many countries camouflaged themselves as doctors, tourists, businessmen and so on. The author also points out several accounts from the European military officers who supported the fact that the Japanese had undertaken the intelligence activities for years. The Japanese planned to carry out their espionage activities after the important event known as the Meiji Restoration. The author had sufficiently explained about Japanese secret organisations, Japanese pre-war fear of the West and the collaboration of some Asians with Japanese intelligence officers. He however, failed to give detailed account on the efforts made by European powers to counter-espionage the Japanese intelligence activities.

Michael Smith in his book *The Emperor's Codes: The Breaking of Japan's Secret Ciphers* gives an account on the Bletchley Park, the center of the British codebreakers who was responsible for cracking other countries' secret codes, particularly Japan<sup>19</sup>. The British codebreakers were able to trace a major Japanese spy network since July 1934. In this book, the author emphasis on the cracking codes machines that were used, agents who were responsible for breaking the codes and the movement of the Japanese intelligence activities in the Far East including Malaya. Fundamentally, this book focuses on the Japanese intelligence gathering activities which were tracked by the British codebreakers. Unfortunately, the author fails to address the training that was given to the British codebreakers that allowed them to detect the advancement of their enemies.

In *British Intelligence in the Second World War: Strategic Deception*, Michael Howard explains the role of double agents of the British during the war years<sup>20</sup>. The missions that were given to the double agents were also illustrated clearly. Then, he

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<sup>19</sup> Smith, Michael. *The Emperor's codes: The breaking of Japan's secret codes*. (New York: Arcade Publishing, 2000), 1-191.

<sup>20</sup> Howard, Michael Eliot. *Strategic deception in the Second World War*. (New York: Norton, 1995), 203-223.

also describes the problems faced by the higher authority in the British Military Intelligence to suppress the Japanese attacks on Malaya. There were internal and external problems faced by the British intelligence army. The book also provides the deceptions that were used by the British to overtake their enemies, particularly the Japanese. In spite of providing comprehensive information about deception tactics used by the British to misinform the Japanese regime in the Far East, the role of double agents in Malaya was not provided in detail by the author. Information given about the deception tactics such as double agents, tricks and intercepting radio traffic were incomplete.

A former British spy, Boris Hembry, also left a written account in the book *Malayan Spymaster: Memoirs of a Rubber Planter, Bandit Fighter and Spy* about the situation in Malaya during the Japanese occupation.<sup>21</sup> The author gives a detailed account about his journey to work as a rubber planter. Later, he was recruited as a secret agent in Malaya. He received training to break secret codes at Britain's famous Government code and Cypher School in Bletchley Park. Based on his real experience, the author gives broad explanations about the situation in Malaya from 1930 until 1951.

Another crucial literature for this study is *Operation Matador: World War II: Britain's Attempt to Foil the Japanese Invasion of Malaya and Singapore* by Ong Cit Chung.<sup>22</sup> The British and the local people including Sultan Ibrahim of Johore were suspicious of the influx of Japanese immigrants in Malaya prior to the war. Due to this suspicion, Operation Matador was designed to face the possibility of a Japanese attack on Malaya and Singapore. The failure of Operation Matador was caused by the

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<sup>21</sup> Boris Hembry, 1-424.

<sup>22</sup> Chung, Ong Chit. *Operation Matador: World War II: Britain's attempt to foil the Japanese invasion*. (Singapore: Marshall Cavendish Editions, 2011), 55-161.

British's unsuccessful counter-espionage. The activation of the Operation Matador was too late as the Japanese had already landed in Malaya. Another reason that caused this failure was the British never expected the Japanese would attack from the north of Malaya which is the northern state of Kelantan. Hence, all the preparation for the war was done in Singapore. Even though the author shows that the British had made an effort to prevent the Japanese from invading its colonies, he fails to mention how the British armies were able to know about the Japanese invasion of Malaya at the very last minute and formed Operation Matador.

An article from *Modern Asian Studies* with the title Britain's Secret Intelligence Service in Asia during the Second World War provided crucial information related to this study<sup>23</sup>. The author of the article, Richard J. Aldrich, explains about the role of the British Secret Intelligence Services (SIS) and Special Operations Executive (SOE)<sup>24</sup>, also the problems faced by both organisations were discussed in details. The biggest problem faced by both agencies was lack of intelligence officers to gather secret information. Meanwhile, the remaining secret officers in service could not perform their job well due to lack of experience. Despite the emphasis on the obstacles faced by the intelligence agencies, the author overlooks the role of both British intelligence organisations in Malaya.

*The Struggle for Malaysian Independence* by Dato' J.J. Raj who was a Police Commissioner in Malaya describes the situation of Malaya after the surrender of the Japanese<sup>25</sup>. The Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Army (MPAJA) was supported by the British during the Japanese occupation. However, the MPAJA started to create

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<sup>23</sup>Aldrich, Richard J. "Britain's Secret Intelligence Service in Asia During the Second World War," *Modern Asian Studies*, (1998): 179-217

<sup>24</sup>British Secret Intelligence Services(SIS) and Special Operations Executive(SOE) were the intelligence organisations set by the British to collect enemies' secret information.

<sup>25</sup>J.J.Raj, 45-62, 192, 241, 407-411.

terrors in Malaya after the Japanese surrendered. The author also gives information about Lai Teck who played multiple roles agent of French, Japanese and British. Important historical events such as the Japanese occupation, movement of the MPAJA and the Malayan Emergency were written according to his point of view. However, the movement of the MPAJA during the Japanese occupation was not discussed extensively. The process of recruitment and its impact on the Malayan people was not mentioned by the author either.

*Malay Nationalism before UMNO: The Memoirs of Mustapha Hussain* is an account by Mustapha Hussain himself who was a Former Vice President of *Kesatuan Melayu Muda*.<sup>26</sup> At first, together with Ibrahim Yaacob, they agreed to cooperate with the Japanese to get independence. However, he lost confidence in them and believed that the Japanese had no intention of liberating Malaya. In this book, the author confirmed that Ibrahim Yaacob had a secret deal and received money from the Japanese.

Kua Kia Soong in *Patriots & Pretenders: The Malayan People's Independence Struggle* differentiates between nationalists and those whom he called 'pretenders' in Malaya.<sup>27</sup> The author's motive is to shed light on the real nationalists who fought for the freedom of Malaya. According to the author, there are some political parties nowadays which claim that they were responsible for independence of Malaya but that declaration contradicts with history. The author portrays the people who fought against the Japanese as the national 'heroes'. In this book, the anti-colonial movement lead by the nationalist was illustrated. The roles of MPAJA, MPAJU (Malayan Peoples Anti-Japanese Union) and others were explained. From

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<sup>26</sup>Hussain, Mustapha. *The memoirs of Mustapha Hussain: Malay nationalism before UMNO*. (Kuala Lumpur: Utusan Publications & Distributors, 2005), 99-268.

<sup>27</sup> Soong, KuaKia. *Patriots & Pretenders: The Malayan peoples' independence struggle*. (Kuala Lumpur: Polar Vista SdnBhd, 2011), 2-32.