

# 'Special Operations, Special Consequences'?

## *The Special Operations Executive in Burma, 1941-1950*

THE BRITAIN – BURMA SOCIETY

invites members and their guests to a talk by

**Dr Richard Duckett**

on **Thursday 16th February 2017** at 7.00pm onward

at the Medical Society of London,

11 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W1G 9EB.



The Special Operations Executive (SOE) was formed in the summer of 1940 with a mandate to strike back against the enemy in Nazi occupied Europe, using fair means or foul. There was a fair amount of emphasis on the latter, earning the government department in charge of SOE the sobriquet of 'The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare'. Methods to be used included sabotage, subversion and black propaganda, but the ultimate aim was to raise, train and deploy 'secret armies'. In Burma, Britain was able to raise and train a large 'secret army' to fight the Japanese, which fought with considerable success in 1945. This lecture will survey the SOE commitment to Burma during the war years, and explore the possible consequences of those special operations in the context of the post war years. Did SOE leave a 'legacy' in Burma, as has been alleged? Did some SOE personnel continue their involvement in Burma after the war, as has also been argued? How far did SOE contribute to the beginning of a conflict in Burma that still, sadly, continues to impact on many lives today?



The National Archives, HS7/104

Dr Richard Duckett graduated with a BA in History from the University of Essex in 2000 and a MA in Contemporary History from the University of Reading in 2001. He completed his doctorate from the Open University whilst working fulltime and has been a lecturer in further education at Reading College since 2004. Dr Duckett recently participated in two conferences on the role of the SOE in Burma. His book on the SOE in Burma will be published by IB Tauris, with a target date of August 2017.

**ADMISSION £6.00 (£3.00 for students) PAY AT THE DOOR**

Samosas, tea and coffee from 7.00pm onwards. Lecture begins at 7.30pm.

**Next Meeting:** will be on **Thursday 30th March 2017** when **Professor Marie Lall** will talk about her book 'Understanding Reform in Myanmar'.

**A gentle reminder** for members who have not paid their annual membership fee. Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 the single membership fee has been **£20.00** and for couples **£25.00**. Payments can be sent to the Hon Treasurer (Daw Tin Tin Sann) by cheque (The Britain-Burma Society) or by bank transfer (NatWest Bank Acc No: 13199226. Sort code: 56-00-03).

**Book News:**

### **Dadland: a Journey into Uncharted Territory**

by **Keggie Carew**

When Tom Carew died in 2009, some obituaries called him "Lawrence of Burma" on account of his undercover wartime exploits for which he earned a DSO. Carew's later life decline into dementia prompted his daughter to research his past as a SOE operative in France and Burma. Her account of her father's unorthodox and daring wartime career and of the ups and downs of the family's peacetime life glitters with humour, intrigue and poignancy.

Published by Vintage Press, 2016; 432 pages; paperback. Amazon price **£6.29**.

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*If you wish to attend this event on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February, please return this slip to Barbara Brown, or email her on*  
minnthameebrown@secretary.net  
*The deadline for bookings is Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February.*  
Our website is on <http://Shwepla.net/>

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