



oy Mills 8th Div Medical Officer-City Physician, Newcastle

Artist: Ron Hartree

Roy Markham Mills AM,MB, BS, MD (Hon) Newcastle, FRACP.

***2000 Acrylic on Canvas
1520mm x 1520mm***

BOOK LAUNCH

LEGACY HOUSE (Gymnasium) Bolton Street, Newcastle

5 for 5.30 p.m.

Tuesday, 6th December, 1994

"DOCTOR'S DIARY

and MEMOIRS"

POND'S PARTY, F FORCE, THAI-BURMA RAILWAY

by

ROY MILLS

Published by R.M. Mills, 11 Freyberg Street, New Lambton. NSW. 2305.

Roy Mills kept a diary on the Thai-Burma railway in 1943 when he was Medical Officer to 718 men for over six months, separated from the main body of F Force.

F. Force, half British, half Australian, 7,000 strong, had had to march some 300 kilometres from southern Thailand towards the Burma border to construct the middle section of the railway in mountainous uninhabited country.

Monsoons raged. The force was starved, inadequate polished rice with few supplements. Malaria, dysentery, cholera and tropical ulcers took their toll. Inadequate supplies of quinine and virtually no other drugs were forthcoming from their merciless captors who forced the ill, and even the dying, to work.

The survivors of F Force, walking skeletons, were taken back to Singapore between December, 1943 and April, 1944, by which time 1,058 Australians had died and 2,029 British.

Roy managed to get his diary home.

The diary was requisitioned by the Army in 1947. The history of the Eighth Division was being written. The diary was lost for over 40 years --- returned to Roy in 1988.

After some years he was prevailed upon to publish this diary. Difficulties with publishing firms were encountered. He was obliged to become a self-publisher.

The diary is printed in italics, absolutely unedited. Other writings, stories about persons mentioned in the diary, comments and explanatory notes in each chapter are in ordinary print.

Books, 258 pages, will be available late November

- from the publisher
- from Hunter Street Books, 67 Hunter Street, Newcastle: (ph: 29 1811)

Cost:	Hard Cover	\$35.00	packaging and posting NSW	\$5.50
	Soft Cover	\$25.00	packaging and posting Australia	\$2.50