

TO THE HONOUR OF THE "7th DECEMBER DIVISION"
by a former Officer of the British 7th Armoured (Desert Rat)
Division

Bear with me, soldiers, while I pen this ode
To honoured comrades met upon the lonely Tasik road;
We of the desert know the barren years,
The fever and the cafard and the swift unspoken fears.
At home will they remember
In the years that are to come
The 7th of December.
And the beat of kampong drum ?
We also knew the empty days,
We also wondered why
In bitter bloody swift affrays
We saw our comrades die.
We also knew the anger,
The boredom, aching heart,
The rasped-nerved frustration
We also played the part.....
We also knew the tension
On narrow embushed track,
The burst of bren and sudden sten,
The hidden rifle's crack.....
Be of good heart, good soldiers
We "Desert Rats" remember
The pride of Holland's Army
The 7th of December.....