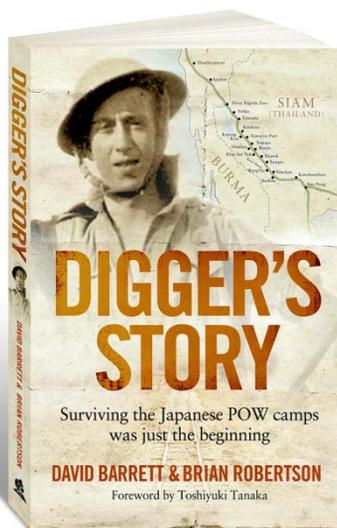


# MEDIA RELEASE

The Five Mile Press AUG 2012

*The massacres and political upheaval in Syria are a grim reminder of the atrocities in World War II that seemed so far behind us.*



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David Barrett and Brian Robertson are based in Queensland and available for interviews

For more information contact Juliet Willcocks at The Five Mile Press on (03) 8756 5538 or [publicity@fivemile.com.au](mailto:publicity@fivemile.com.au)

*Digger's Story* is a never-before-told account of a young medical orderly who went eagerly to Malaya in 1941 but ended up as a prisoner of war in Changi prison, starving on the barest of rations along with his mates and the patients in the camp hospital at Kanchanaburi. It tells the remarkable story of:

- The blood, sweat and tears that built the Thai/Burma railway in World War II
- How a medical orderly, under extraordinary circumstances, can take on the duties of a surgeon
- How far Australia has come with post-war race relations (with a foreword by Yuki Tanaka, Research Professor at the Hiroshima Peace Institute)
- How a private (not an officer) stood up for himself and his mates under incredibly harsh conditions
- How the allied graves on the railway were logged and recorded by the War Graves Commission
- Tells the story of the Australian Reparations Committee for the first time, from its inauguration in 1986 to its conclusion with the awarding of \$25,000 to each and every POW or their widow.

## **About the Author**

Brian Robertson was a schoolteacher with a passion for military history. With continuing communication between David (Digger) Barrett and Brian over the past three years, they put together David's story in a unique and compelling voice that will stay in the mind long after the last page is turned.