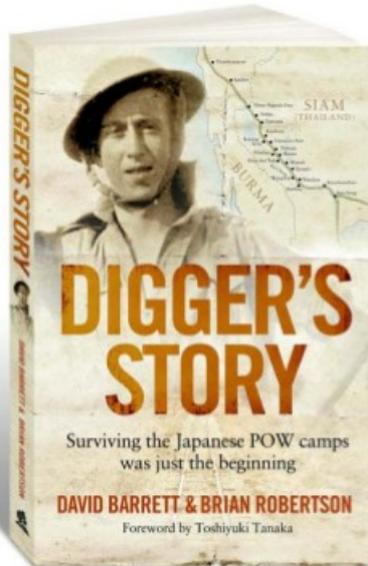


# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Local Connection With Blockbuster Movie

Local author, Brian Robertson was surprised to learn of the close connection his biographical tale of his late friend, David Barrett, had with the blockbuster film, “*The Railway Man*”, that starred Nicole Kidman and Colin Firth.

“Imagine my surprise after seeing the film—I had no idea.” says Brian Robertson, co-author of *Digger’s Story*. “I know a lot about Nagase Takashi from my late friend David Barrett.”

*Digger’s Story* co-written by David Barrett and Brian Robertson, describes in detail Mr. Barrett’s connection and eventual friendship with Nagase Takashi, the alleged torturer in the film *The Railway Man*.

*Digger’s Story* describes the reaction and behaviour of Nagase Takashi during September and October of 1945 immediately after the Japanese surrender in August of that year. David Barrett and Nagase Takashi were members of the Allied War Graves Commission charged with locating and logging the positions of the bodies of the allied soldiers who died on the infamous Thai/Burma railway. Mr. Barrett was charged with “looking after” Takashi by the allied officers in charge of the War Graves Commission project. The officers wanted little to do with him because he was a despised Kempeitai officer. The Kempeitai were the dreaded Imperial Japanese Army police. (Similar in function to the Gestapo in the German army.)

“When writing *Diggers Story*, David described in detail how Nagase confessed to him that he was very worried about being arrested for war crimes. He never admitted to having tortured anyone but said that he was there only as an interpreter,” says Mr. Robertson “David always had his doubts about the truth of this. Nagase and David had long conversations about the attitude of the Japanese to the war and why the Japanese treated their prisoners as they did. David believed that these talks helped engender in Nagase a realisation that what the Japanese Imperial Army did to their prisoners was very wrong.”

In 1986 David Barrett, became the founder of the Australian Ex—POW Reparations Committee, and was again in contact with Takashi for several years, who by this time was devoting his life and considerable resources, trying to make amends for Japan’s war crimes. David and Nagase had a long and mutually supportive friendship over many years until Nagase’s death in 2011.

*The Railway Man* has uncovered an amazing part of wartime history. And you’ll find that *Digger’s Story—Surviving the Japanese POW camps* was just the beginning, will provide much more detail on the life of Nagase Takashi

The book is available on Amazon, and through all local bookstores.