

You are invited to the

BOOK LAUNCH

for

PALEMBANG and BEYOND

by ***Mike Roussel***

on **Saturday 3rd March 2018**

at the **Museum of Army Flying**

Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, SO20 8DY

The book launch will be held in the **Blackburn Beverley room**
starting at **2pm**

You are welcome to arrive at the Museum early. When you arrive please let reception know you are coming to the book launch so that you can go into the museum and eat at the café if you wish.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served at the book launch and so that we can cater for the right number it would be appreciated if you would **RSVP** to Jenny@LittleKnollPress.co.uk

or ring or text: 077 68 630 393

Palembang and Beyond:

In the book's foreword [Rt. Hon Julian Lewis MP](#) writes: '*Mike Roussel recounts many of the operations mounted, in most hazardous circumstances, against Japanese-occupied territory - particularly Operation MERIDIAN, the decisive raids on the Palembang oil refineries, in Sumatra, in early 1945. In doing so, he draws upon the personal testimony of three Fleet Air Arm veterans, all of whom served in 849 Squadron.*'

These first hand recollections are from:

- [Dr A.R.W. Page](#), who as Sub. Lt. (A) Arthur Page, was an Avenger Pilot in 849 Squadron based on the aircraft carrier HMS Victorious
- [Norman 'Dickie' Richardson](#), who was a TAG (Telegraphist Air Gunner) and notably was rescued 'from the drink' by Prince Philip who was at the time serving on HMS Whelp
- and - [John Brown](#) (Sub. Lt. John Brown) an Avenger pilot from 849 Squadron.

Nine of their fellow airmen, known as the '[Palembang Nine](#)', were shot down and captured by the Japanese during the Meridian One and Two attacks on the Palembang refineries.

As Julian Lewis notes: '*They [the three veterans] were far more concerned to tell the tragic story of the nine lost aircrew, tortured and murdered by the Japanese after their Emperor's surrender - an act of wickedness which almost defies description. As you will read, thanks to the determination of family members and Fleet Air Arm veterans, those nine courageous men are now properly commemorated.*'

Please come to meet the author and contributors to the book.