The Invasion of the Dutch East Indies

Remmelink, Willem

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Ten years after the establishment of the War History Office, we are finally ready to publish some of the results of our research one after another. Following The Invasion of Malaya and The Invasion of the Philippines, we now publish The Invasion of the Dutch East Indies. Although the main purpose of the publication [of this series] is to serve as educational and research material for the Self-Defense Forces, its public use has been taken into consideration as well.

As an enormous quantity of historical documents were destroyed, scattered or lost at the end of the war and, moreover, there was a gap of ten years before the establishment of the War History Office, the difficulties of compiling a history of the war were, compared to past war history compilations, beyond description. Yet fortunately, the understanding of all concerned and the enthusiastic support by a great many veterans helped realize the publication of this work. Here, once again, we would like to express our deep gratitude.

Due to space limitations, not a few parts have been omitted in the account. It is also expected that some parts will need further revision in the future because of newly added collections of historical materials. We earnestly solicit the cooperation and comments of all of you, in or outside the War History Office.

This volume was written by war historiographer Matsuki Hidemitsu.

Further, we would especially like to add that the head of the War History Office and the author are solely responsible for the contents of this volume.

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National Defense College
Head of the War History Office
Nishiura Susumu