The Operations of the Navy in the Dutch East Indies and the Bay of Bengal

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Foreword

More than a decade after the establishment of the War History Office, we are finally ready to publish some of the results of our research one after another, and as the twenty-sixth volume [of the series], we now publish *The Operation of the Navy in the Dutch East Indies and the Bay of Bengal*. 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 enormous quantities of 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 in Japan as well as overseas, 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.

The research on the materials for this volume was firstly shared among the war historiographers Tanaka Ken’ichi, Iki Haruki and Nambu Nobukiyo of our office, and on the basis of their results, further research was conducted by war historiographer Sasaki Masao to write this volume.

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.

May 1969

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