

## PRESS RELEASE

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## At the Emperor's Pleasure

Surviving Wartime Captivity in the Far East

Author: Richard Graham

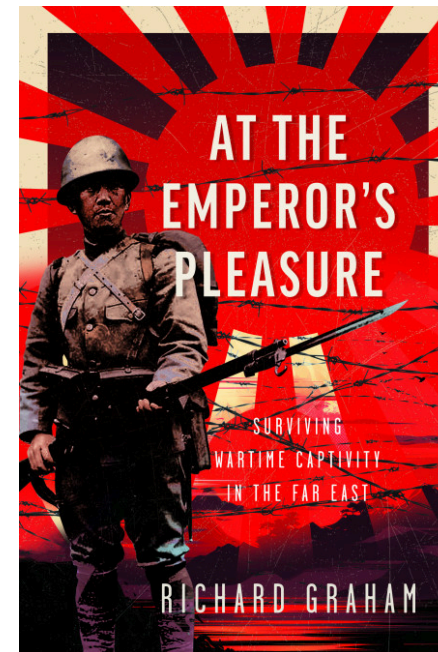
### Highlights

- . The battle for Hong Kong as seen by a young couple, Christopher and 'Topsy' Man, he an infantry captain, she an auxiliary nurse
- . Surviving separation and captivity under the Japanese, Christopher as a prisoner of war in Hong Kong and Kobe, Japan, Topsy as an internee in Stanley Camp, Hong Kong
- . The inhumane transportation of prisoners of war for forced labour in Japan
- . The sinking of the Lisbon Maru, one of World War Two's least known atrocities, and the heroism of humble Chinese fishermen
- . An insight into the clash of western and oriental cultures
- . The end of the Far East War, release from captivity and a chance reunion on the way home

At the Emperor's Pleasure follows the young couple Christopher and Topsy Man through the savage battle for Hong Kong and four years of enforced separation, he as a prisoner of war and forced labourer in Kobe, Japan, she interned in Stanley Camp, Hong Kong.

The book is not about Christopher and Topsy Man alone but also of close friends and colleagues forced to suffer inhumane cruelty and deprivation at the hands of their captors.

Some of Topsy's nursing colleagues were raped and murdered, one friend was imprisoned within shouting distance of her husband being tortured then executed by the Kempeitai, while another died when their camp was mistakenly bombed by the Allies. Topsy was herself the reluctant witness to a macabre ritual execution.



### NEW BOOK RELEASE

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PEN & SWORD MILITARY

Christopher lost brother officers and many of the Cockney soldiers under his command in the battle for Hong Kong. Others drowned in the East China Sea, victims of a barbaric but little-known mass war crime, the sinking of the Lisbon Maru. Still others survived the sinking, some of them rescued by brave Chinese fishermen, only to succumb to the harsh regime of the POW camp in Japan. Perhaps most tragic of all, four of Christopher's men came through the battle, the Lisbon Maru sinking and cruel imprisonment, only to die when the aircraft carrying them to freedom crashed into the sea during a typhoon.

Like many of their generation who suffered at the hands of the Japanese during the second world war, Christopher and Topsy Man rarely spoke of their experience, and when they did, they were guarded in what they chose to share of it, even with those closest to them in their post-war lives.

With privileged access to personal letters, diaries and records from the wartime years, from memories exchanged with those close to Christopher and Topsy and from knowledge generously shared by other historians, the author has written a compelling and moving account of the young couple's lives being torn apart by world events in late 1941.

### About the Author

Richard Graham read modern languages at Jesus College, Cambridge before being commissioned into The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own), known throughout the British Army as The Diehards. His choice of regiment was hugely influenced by Christopher Man who was then Colonel of the Regiment, just nineteen years after his release from captivity in Japan. The author's thirty years as an infantry soldier included command on active service of Cockney soldiers like those whose character and spirit are threads that run through this book. A Man of Kent by birth and upbringing, he has lived in Guernsey since his retirement as a soldier.

