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▶ Volume 12, Issue 1 ▶ Kamikaze Museums and Contents Tourism

Journal of War & Culture Studies >

Volume 12, 2019 - Issue 1: War, Popular Culture, and Contents Tourism in East Asia

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Kamikaze Museums and Contents Tourism

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Pages 67-84 | Published online: 05 Mar 2018

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⚠ https://doi.org/10.1080/17526272.2018.1424432

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Notes

1 '[S]trictly speaking the only real kamikazes were the aerial attack groups organized under Vice Admiral Ohnishi [in the Philippines in October 1944]' (Inoguchi, Nakajima and Pineau 1958, p. xvi), but kamikaze in English is often used to mean any form of suicide attack. In Japanese tokubetsu kōgekitai (tokkō) refers to the various types of suicide weapon in which an attack ordered by military commanders required the death of participating soldiers in order to be carried out. Precise casualty figures remain unknown, but a Chiran Peace Museum internal document given to the author estimates there were 3,963 aircraft pilots who died (1,438 army and 2,525 navy) and another 1,889 who died in other forms of tokkō attack, including tank, submarine, and speedboat (272 army and 1,617 navy). Tokkō does not include suicide attacks made on the initiative of the individuals or group (for example the 'banzai charges' of isolated garrisons choosing death over surrender), nor to operations, like the final one-way mission of the battleship Yamato in 1945, which left open the possibility, however slim, for survival or surrender. This paper discusses only plane attacks. so I will use the term

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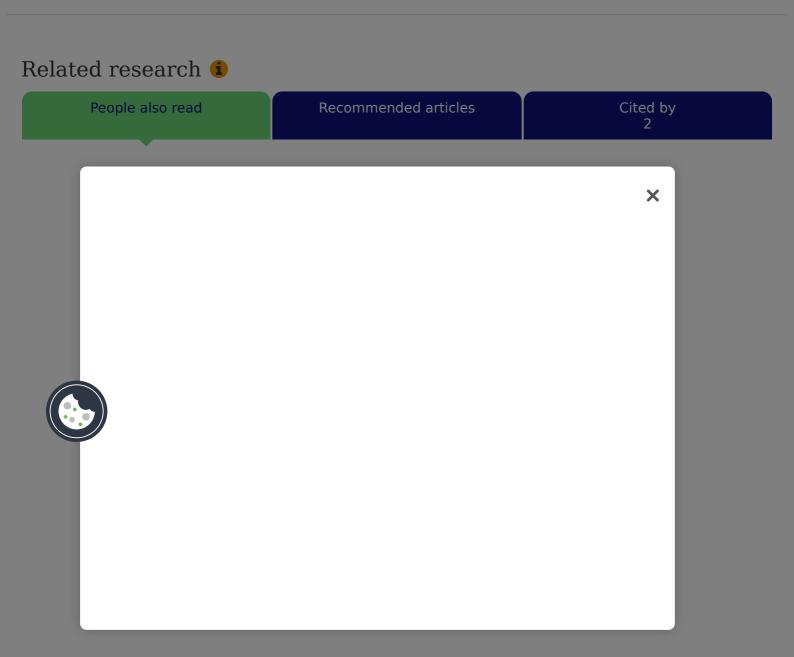
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Philip Seaton is a professor in the Research Faculty of Media and Communication, Hokkaido University, where he is the convenor of the Modern Japanese Studies Program. He is the author of Japan's Contested War Memories (Routledge 2007), Voices from the Shifting Russo-Japanese Border: Karafuto/Sakhalin (Routledge 2015, co-edited with Svetlana Paichadze), Local History and War Memories in Hokkaido (Routledge 2016) and Contents Tourism in Japan: Pilgrimages to 'Sacred Sites' of Popular Culture (Cambria Press, 2017, with Takayoshi Yamamura, Akiko Sugawa-Shimada, and Kyungjae Jang) as well as numerous articles on war memories and contents tourism in Japan. His website is www.philipseaton.net.



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