SUMMARY

An Australian POW’s Memory at Japanese Internment Camp:
From a Novel, No Time to Look Back

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This paper examines the novel, No Time to Look Back (1950), written by Leslie Greener, an Australian ex-Prisoner-of-War (POW) in Changi. By analysing his representation of the old enemy, the Japanese, and the POW themselves along with the atrocities of both sides and the meaning of the title, we can find that the novel is future-oriented and filled with humanity. At the same time, however, it faces the reality of POW life in the predicament and the foolishness of human beings. Due to this two-sidedness, No Time to Look Back was manipulated for each country’s own sake: being discarded in Australia as deviation from the national memory and on the other hand being utilised in Japan for celebrating Australia-Japan friendship in spite of the war. This novel is worthy of a revaluation in order to rethink the past and future of the Australia-Japan relationship.