



Narrative by Lieutenant J.N.C. Hancock, M.R.N.V.R.
(Commanding Officer)

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(a) Movements: Acting under orders contained in a signal from Rear Admiral Malaya to proceed to Batavia via Banka Straits, at 1845/13/2 I sailed from Singapore and anchored at 2125/13/2 at No. 24 Swept Channel Buoy at the North End of Durian Straits Minefield, acting as Markship showing all round white red white lights. At 0620/14/2 I proceeded in a southerly direction, until 0930 when I anchored under north side of Great Durean Island. At 1715/14/2 I weighed and proceeded through Berhala Straits to Berhala Island anchoring there at 0945/15/2 on south west side of the Island. At 1400/15/2 I was bombed by a Japanese seaplane (near misses). At 2300/15/2 I weighed and proceeded south.

At 0900/16/2 anchored close (about 1 cable) to East Coast of Sumatra approximately 54 miles from Berhala Light where I picked up thirty one survivors from s.s. REDANG.

At 0700/17/2 proceeded east. At 0820 a Japanese seaplan (Navy 96 type) circled the ship out of range. I altered course to south west to a bay in the Sumatran coast, where I embarked seventeen survivors from H.M.S. GIANG BEE. About twenty more of these survivors elected to remain ashore under an Engineer Officer of GIANG BEE. I gave them provisions for at least one month and other necessaries. Fresh water was available. Marines G. Hayes (Ply. 100419), A. Wynn (Ply X 100418), A. Williamson, Stoker Purvis (C/KX 94791) and Private A.A. Henderson, A.I.F. (SX 10615) requested to transfer from TAPAH to this group. At 1815/17/2 I proceeded to North End of Banka Strait and at approximately 2245/17/2 with Muntok N. Light bearing east distance 4 miles was intercepted by a warship that signalled me in International Code to follow her to Muntok. I had reason to believe this warship to be Dutch, but later turned out to be a Japanese Cruiser. Confidential books were destroyed and all small arms were dumped overboard. At Muntok TAPAH was boarded by Japanese Naval personnel, Muntok being in their hands. No W/T messages had been received since leaving Singapore.

(b) Ship's Company: Consisted of 2 officers and 17 European ratings in addition to which I was carrying 36 naval and 7 Army personnel and 2 civilians. These figures do not include survivors embarked.

(c) All at (b) became prisoners of war or internees.

(Signed) J.N.C. Hancock,
Lieut.
M.R.N.V.R.

H.M.S. TAPAH.

(Singapore to Muntok, 13th to 17th February, 1942.)

Ships Officers and Company.

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-----|------------|
| Lieut | Hancock | JNC | |
| Sub Lieut | Murray | RJ | MRNVR |
| PO | Skedgell | AT | MRNVR |
| AB | Price | WS | D/JX135065 |
| AB | Clemens | L | D/SSX25430 |
| AB | Bruford | R | D/J102215 |
| AB | Wells | G | D/JX153457 |
| OD | Dentith | TR | D/JX220156 |
| OD | Holland | F | D/JX162944 |
| OD | Atkins Harbin | C | D/JX239979 |
| SPO | Broadway | AG | P/JX273744 |
| L Sto | Fitzpatrick | B | D/KX80238 |
| Sto 1 | Marlow | F | B/24342 |
| Sto 1 | Shute | EG | D/KX105157 |
| Sto 1 | Dykes | J | P/KX90520 |
| Sto 1 | Purves | AG | D/KX101694 |
| Sto 1 | Scutts | JM | C/KX94791 |
| Sto 11 | Bowell | TG | D/KX111624 |
| | | | D/KX134343 |

I certify that these persons were ship's Company of HMS Tapah
 on 13.2.42. JNC Hancock. Lieut C. Officer, 14.7.42.

Passengers.

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-----|------------|
| Paymstr Lieut Copy | Copley | DJ | RNR |
| Lieut | Christie | DH | MRNVR |
| Lieut | Gransden | JC | MRNVR |
| CPO | Siewczynski | FW | D/J15501 |
| AB | Moseley | M | D/SSX23455 |
| OD | Murphy | R | RAN |
| PO TEL | Ainsworth | WG | D/JX133537 |
| YEO of SIGS | Jones | HW | D/JX136832 |
| WRITER | Stubbs | RS | C/JX205607 |
| " | Grandidge | GKW | D/JX218091 |
| SGT | King | J | PLYX773 |
| MNE | Locker | GH | PLY22510 |
| " | Finch | VJR | PLYX2381 |
| " | Edwards | HC | PLY3669 |
| " | Wignal | J | PLY100430 |
| " | Brown | DS | PLYX3807 |
| " | Wynn | LT | PLYX439 |

MNE
"
"Gardiner
Hayes
WynnGA
G
AFLYX1933
FLY100419
FLY100418

I certify that with exception of Lt. Gransden these persons were put on board HMS Tapah on 13.2.42. by Comdr. Alexander RN, on the authority of RAMY. JNC HANCOCK. Lieut C. Officer 14.7.42.

MNE

Williamson
Gomery
Moore
Dixon
Smith
Kent
Brown
Crompton
Bowie
Turner
Fletcher
Hayes
Strong
Healy
Claxton
Smith

SG
JA
W
P

J

JE

FLYX2322
FLY101425
CHX3397
FLYX1409
FLYX3803
FLY100014
CHX3377
FLY100723
FLYX3800
FLYX3340
FLY22344
FLYX2059
FLY100148
FLYX2213
FLYX3725
FLYX3831

I hereby certify that the above were put on board HMS Tapah on 13.2.1942 by Cmr Alexander RN on the authority of RAMY.

JNC HANCOCK. Lieut C. Officer 14.7.42

Lieut Col
Pte
Pte
Pte
Pte
Pte
Gnr

Percy
Stavely
Edwards
Brown
Wardrobe
Taylor
Dwyer

GR
R
W
F
T
AC
F

SSVF

3861631
3528636
2979212
2979531
NX28955
1767762

Recce Corps
" "
A & SH
"
2/18 Bn AIF
RA

Plus a Swiss and his daughter whose names cannot be recollected. I certify that the above nine persons were put on board HMS Tapah by Cmr Alexander RN on 13.2.1942.

JNC HANCOCK Lieut Company. 14.7.42

HMS TAPAH.

1st Party picked up evening of Monday, 16th February, 1942.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------|---------------|
| Richard Frederick Lionel La Nauze | | | |
| Ernest Freeman Hunt | (Hunter?) | British | |
| Douglas Banks | | " | |
| Victor Reginald Furneaux | | " | |
| Wilfred Rogers Gardiner | | " | |
| Eardley Bruce Leybourne | (Laybourne?) | " | All of |
| Algernon Neville Leybourne | } married couple | " | Cable & |
| Gladys Irene Leybourne | | " | Wireless |
| Henry Stanley Tisshaw | | " | Limited. |
| Arthur Charles Wooster | | " | |
| George Oswald Gerald Hoy | | " | |
| Maria Christine Naites | (Naiter?) | " | |
| Mrs. ECM Pugh | | " | (by marriage) |
| Reginald Elston | | " | |
| Duncan Robertson | | " | |
| PO Mooney | | " | |
| Wilhelm Jorgensen | | RN | |
| Anker Holm Andersen | | Danish | |
| Captain S. Rasmussen | | " | |
| Hynek Cervinka | | " | |
| Vi Zelnicek | | Czech | |
| Chong Kiat wife & two children | | " | |
| L/Bdr Anson | Arthur | Chinese | |
| L/Bdr Munro | Brodrick | 856381 | |
| L/Sgt Johnstone | Sam | 860336 | |
| Gnr Hayes | John | 856357 | |
| Gnr Russel | Jack | 37718428 | |
| Henderson | AA (AIF) | JX69551 | Aust |
| | | SX10615 | " |

2nd Party picked up evening of Tuesday, 17th February, 1942.

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Mrs OP Woodford | Miss H Thomas | } from Singapore |
| Mr OP Woodford | Miss E Thomas | |
| Master D Woodford | Miss P Schooling | |
| Mrs D Schooling & baby | Mrs VL Aeria | |
| Mrs C Simpson | Miss A Silvermann | |
| Mr ML Phillips | Mr GW Tarry | |
| Mr GS Reis | From Penang | |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----|-------------------|----|
| | Tobin | J | D/JX177497 | RN |
| | Howell | JM | D/JX213211 | RN |
| | Medley | AV | D/JX238570 | RN |
| | Mellors | D | 11th Ind Div Sigs | |
| <u>Total Complement.</u> | Ship's Company | | 18 | |
| | Passengers (Services 43 - Swiss | | Civ Z)45 | |
| | Two parties picked up | | 49 | |
| | Total: | | 112 | |

Less left behind
Total reaching Muntok in TAPAH.

TAPAH 118

List of Persons left on The East Coast of Sumatra approx. 70 miles
NNW of Palembang.

| | | | | |
|-----|---|-----------|----|-----------------------------|
| | 3 | Henderson | AA | |
| STO | 1 | Purves | A | SX10615 AIF |
| STO | | Simson | W | (Of Victor Harbour S Aust). |
| AB | | Batten | WH | C/KX94791 |
| AB | | Rowe | F | C/KX104981 |
| MNE | 2 | Wynn | A | D/JX161400 |
| DMR | | Murray | H | D/J32869 |
| MNE | 2 | Hayes | G | PLYX100418 |
| SGT | | Isherwood | J | 5826901 |
| GPL | | Peak | A | PLY100419 |
| | | | | 3854855 |
| | | | | 3856662 |
| | | | | 18th Recce Corps |
| | | | | " " " |

CPO Brennan SA RNVR reports Sto Purves & AB Batten POW in Palembang
and MNE Wynn was POW Batavia in Nov. 1943.

Note. The above is an incomplete list of persons remaining behind on
the East Coast of Sumatra as heading. The party consisted of about
twenty persons in all. Those whose names are starred were originally
in the Tapah and elected to remain behind with the remaining members of
the party on land. They are classified as under:-

1. Ship's Company.
2. Passengers taken on board at Singapore.
3. Party taken on board 16th February, 1942.