

Corporal Robert Henry Seddon, PLYX1717, Royal Navy, who, post War, stated in an affidavit to war crimes investigators into the execution on 16 February 1942 of up to 83 civilian women, men and teenagers, Australian Army nurses and servicemen (being survivors of the sinking of the 'SS Vyner Brooke' who had reached Radji Beach, Banka Island) the day after the 'Yin Ping' was sunk - that;

"... I was manning a Lewis gun on the Yin Ping when it was sunk in the evening by a Japanese cruiser and destroyers. The date was about 14 Feb 42 off Banka Island... I swam alone towards the shore and about 24 hours later (about 5 pm the next day) I was about a hundred yards from the shore, I was in a delirious condition but was fit enough to swim without a life raft. I saw a number of people on the beach including Jap soldiers, English soldiers, some civilian women and some nurses. I did not see any children. ... The Japs appeared to be rounding them up and were pushing them with rifles with fixed bayonets. They sorted them into three rows on separate parts of the beach but close together. The party on the right mostly civilian women and some civilian men (apparently old men) were marched about a mile along the beach and disappeared. The other two groups turned to face the sea it looked as though they were ordered to by the Japs. The center group were all women mostly nurses. The left hand group were all men. After they turned I waved and shouted. One of the nurses saw me and waved to me, I thought she meant me to keep down and out of sight. Two or three men and women made a break for it into the water. One was shot but kept on swimming away from the beach to sea. Of the other two one was bayoneted on his waist..... The remaining men and women were trying to escape they were bayoneted and shot.... I was washed on to the beach and collapsed on the beach about two hundred yards along from the Japs... I was trying to see what was going on but was too weak to move. The japs had seen me, two of them (one of them the man with the sword) ... the Jap with the rifle and sword kicked me ... the one with the sword flicked me under both arms. I was too exhausted to move at all. ... I think they considered I was dead. They moved off along the beach. A few hours later I crawled up the beach to some fresh water and drank enough to get into the jungle [Seddon later that day came across L./Seaman Wilding from the 'HMS Li Wo' which had also been sunk and also a Malay sailor from that ship] ...and next morning all three of us returned to the beach and saw the bodies left as they had been killed ...[he also came across stoker Lloyd from the 'SS Vyner Brooke' who had been amongst those shot on the beach but who had swum out to sea and survived the massacre] ..."(source: file in Australian National Archives , Melbourne on War Crime at Radji Beach).

There remains lack of clarity on how many men swam or floated independently to Banka Island and once there either hid in local villages with survivors from other ships, or were executed when captured by Japanese patrols or even specifically those who became POWs. It is the opinion of this researcher that some survivors from the 'HMS Ying Ping' would have been killed by two Japanese patrols which operating along the beaches of the north-western coast of Banka Island from 15 February 1942, with orders to kill all these landing on the Island. This was the fate met by men from other sunken ships such as the 'SS Tandjong Pinang', the 'SS Vyner Brooke', the 'SS Siang Wo' and the 'HMS Li Wo'.

Amongst the POWs in Muntok there were at least " ... 13 RAF AND Army... " men who had been on the 'HMS Yin Ping' since this is the number given by Engineer Captain Chapman – in fact 41 RAF POWs in Palembang and Muntok had a date of capture of 16 February and there were also another 16 naval ratings also with the same date of capture. These men will only ever be linked to the 'HMS Yin Ping' if their complete MI9 Liberation questionnaire is accessed.