

E. GERMAN.
2217

AFFIDAVIT

I, E.H. German, American civilian, being duly sworn do make the following statement :

Enroute from Singapore to Australia, 14 February 1942, on board the S.S. Vynnerbrook (British evacuation ship), we were sunk by Jap bombers in the Bang Ka Straits, off the east coast of Sumatra. 80 of 250 passengers made their way to Bangka Island, at the head of the straits.

On Monday 16 February, a party of about 25 or 30 women and children with 3 men escorts started for the nearby town of Montauk. About 45 of us including 22 Australian nurses, 6 wounded, and 16 men, stayed on the beach to await a Jap patrol. The patrol arrived, ordered seven or eight men to spot down the beach. We heard a few shots, then the Japs came back alone. None of us could speak Japanese but we understood the Jap order to the rest of the men to go down the beach. There they lined up, facing the sea, and bayoneted every man. I received a bayonet stroke that went through my body, coming out below my right breast. I played "Possum" until the Japs left, then escaped to the jungle. I hid out in the jungle for 3 days, then walked into Montauk to surrender. I heard at that time 19 February, 1942 that the 22 Australian nurses had been summarily shot on the beach. Of the 45 who stayed behind that Monday morning, only 3 survived - an Australian nurse who survived a bullet wound, a British soldier who ran for the water and got away, and myself. The nurses had taken the precaution to make Red Cross arm bands, but the Jap executioners ignored them.

I did not know the names nor ranks of any of the Japs who took part in this slaughter. Australian authorities probably have complete records.

Witness:

/s/ E.H. German

/s/ James D. McTighe
Special Agent CIC

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Calcutta, India this 26th day of September, 1945.

/s/ John E. Nowlan
/t/ John E. Nowlan
2nd Lt. QMC

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ John E. Nowlan
/t/ JOHN E. NOWLAN
2nd Lt., QMC

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

Joseph E. Hodgson
JOSEPH E. HODGSON,
2nd Lt. CMP