

## **'HMS SCORPION' (T 67)**

- Sunk in the Berhala Strait on night of 13<sup>th</sup> February 1942.

[Version 1.0.0; May 2021]



**'HMS Scorpion' – appears to be anchored in Hong Kong or Shanghai.**

The invasion of Malaya and Singapore, from the time of the first landings in Northern Malaya on 8 December 1941, was swift and brutal. Within eight weeks the Japanese had taken Malaya and landed on the island of Singapore which had become intensely overcrowded by tens of thousands of fleeing civilians of all races from Malaya plus almost 100,000 servicemen.

By the second week of February 1942 the Japanese army was advancing across Singapore Island and a chaotic evacuation of civilians - mainly Europeans, Eurasians, and a small number of influential Chinese – and selected skilled servicemen, was underway from the port in front of what is today's CBD.

Literally any ocean-going vessel of any size remaining in Singapore harbour was ultimately enlisted by the authorities to evacuate people, under what had become almost constant bombing and machine gunning by Japanese planes. Singapore itself was ablaze, columns of black smoke rose thousands of feet in the air and the streets were littered with the dead and dying.

People desperately clamoured for departure passes from the Colonial government authorities (men under 40 years of age had been banned from leaving the Island for months and women had not been publicly encouraged to leave because it would '... adversely affect morale ...'!) to board any ship leaving the Island. By 11 January 1942 even the rather hidebound men in authority saw the

absurdity of their bureaucratic incompetence and more passes were issued for civilian men and women to leave, so finally some real urgency entered the situation.

About 46 ships of all sizes - from the quite large, refrigerated cargo ship "SS. Empire Star" (525 feet and 12,656 tons) through a range of mid-sized merchant vessels down to some small craft like the "SS. Tandjong Pinang" (which at 97 feet only just qualified in the definition for a 'ship') – were assembled to leave as a convoy during the 48-hour period of 11 – 13 February 1942. There were also several Naval ships of varying sizes identified as evacuation vessels.

The naval ships, apart from a couple of destroyers, which briefly escorted the bigger merchant ships like the 'SS Empire Star' and 'SS Gorgon' after leaving Singapore, included auxiliary (i.e., merchant ships which had been requisitioned) patrol ships, auxiliary minesweepers, flat bottomed ex-Yangste River gunboats and ex Yangste river passenger ships, RAF fast launches and even a large tug like the 'HMS Yin Ping'. Some of these Naval ships had almost exclusively a complement of service personnel on board – but also a few civilians.

Of the 50 to 100 small ships, patrol boats, launches, junks, tongkangs, praus, sailboats and lifeboats leaving during the 'last window of opportunity' to escape to freedom (as many saw it ) only a small minority would make it to safety and apart from 6 or 10 which made it all the way to Batavia the only other successful vessels were - perhaps another dozen - which made the Indragiri river on the east coast of Sumatra. The other perhaps 60 (no one knows and will not until more intensive research is completed) ships would be sunk, run aground, or captured at sea by the Japanese navy and Japanese bombers with many hundreds of their passengers and crew killed, or taken prisoner. The latter would face three and a half years of extremely harsh, malnourished, and medically deprived mistreatment in Internment or POW camps in Sumatra and elsewhere. Many of these women, children and men would die during the remainder of the War in these cruel camps.

To put the research purpose of this document into historical context, the fate of only a small number of the vessels sunk or captured whilst carrying evacuees from Singapore, during the last few days before the Surrender to the Japanese on 15 February 1942, have been thoroughly researched and documented. This is one of the attempts to prevent the lives of those several thousand men, women, and children who did die during their escape attempt being simply consigned, without proper tangible memory, into the dustbin of history.

### **'HMS Scorpion':**

'HMS Scorpion' was a Royal Navy 'Locust' class gunboat built by Messrs. J.S. White & Co. Ltd (John Samuel White, Cowes) and launched in December 1937 in Cowes by Lady Baring, wife of Sir Godfrey Bering ('Portsmouth Evening News' 20.12.37).

It was a 63-metre-long, shallow draft (1.5 metre) steam turbine vessel powered by 2 Parsons geared turbines and with a top speed of 17 knots.

Typically, these river gunboats had reasonable surface armament for river warfare – two either six-inch or four-inch guns, but for anti-aircraft purposes only three machine guns. Depth charges completed their arsenal.

Purpose built specifically as a Yangtze river gunboat with flat bottom and triple rudders – to cope with the fast current, bends and treacherous shoals of the Yangtze - it was towed from the UK and *"...reached Shanghai, China in 1937 to replace 'HMS Bee' as flagship. She was never able to proceed*

to Hankow because of a Chinese blockade on the Yangtze consisting of sunken vessels and mines. She sailed for Singapore in December 1940...". ([www.wrecksite.eu](http://www.wrecksite.eu)).

Sister ships 'HMS Grasshopper' and 'HMS Dragonfly' were withdrawn to Singapore much later at the outbreak of the war with Japan.

Once in Singapore 'HMS Scorpion' and 'HMS Dragonfly' were used in a daring expedition during the nights of 28 January and 1 February 1942 to evacuate 2,000 British troops from behind enemy lines.

To quote 'WSF' (p.146) "... Some of the bitterest fighting in the Malayan Campaign took place in south-west Johore, from the banks of the River Muar southwards to Senggarang and Rengit, and inland along the line of roads to Yong Peng and Ayer Hitam. Much fighting took place around roadblocks and in ambushes and casualties were heavy in terrain where no one knew where the enemy would appear next. Large numbers of British troops were cut off at different stages and, in what has sometimes been described as 'a miniature Dunkirk', the British navy mounted a rescue operation. 'HMS Ping Wo', normally a Chinese passenger and cargo boat, took off 650 troops from Batu Pahat on 29 January and on the next day, 'HMS Scorpion' rescued 2,000 troops from Sungei Senggarang 12 miles further south...". This small flotilla of gunboats and launches was under the overall command of Lt Cmdr. Victor Clarke, RN who later after escaping in HMML 311 and being sunk in the Banka Straits was a POW in Palembang POW camp and on 27.42 composed a letter with official commendations for Lt Fabian, RNVR and Sub Lt Arnold, MRNVR for their conduct in this operation - Clark records the operation as being conducted at 'Sungei Punggar' but this is a long way further north in Malaya and his error is understandable given that he was recording it after harrowing experiences.

A website 'u.boat.net/allies/warships/ship' states that there had been four Commanding officers for 'HMS Scorpion' and it appears that a Lt. Cmdr. Leopold Joseph Hegarty, DSC, RNR was CO during the period 5 August 1940 until 26 January 1941 when he handed over to Lt Cmdr. George Christian Ashworth, SSRNVR. This handover date aligns with the earlier decision to relocate 'HMS Scorpion'; away from the war in China as noted (above) by wrecksite.eu.

#### **Departure from Singapore:**

Even though over 80 men lost their lives in the shelling and sinking of 'HMS Scorpion' the story and detail of this tragedy is largely unknown and little has been written about the end of this ship.

We are fortunate to have a statement (now held in the files of the UK Archives) written by **Stoker Petty Officer House, RN.**, whilst in 'Prisoner of War Camp, Mulo School, Palembang, Sumatra' and dated 11<sup>th</sup> March 1942 which gives us a first-hand account.

*"... We left SINGAPORE at 18.30 on 11 Feb. 42, on passage to Batavia. Due to dive bombing attack the previous day our speed had been reduced to approximately 8 knots. On board we had 38 passengers - Communications Branch Royal Navy - and 3 P.A.D. Civilians (Europeans), one name Mr Major (Mayger).*

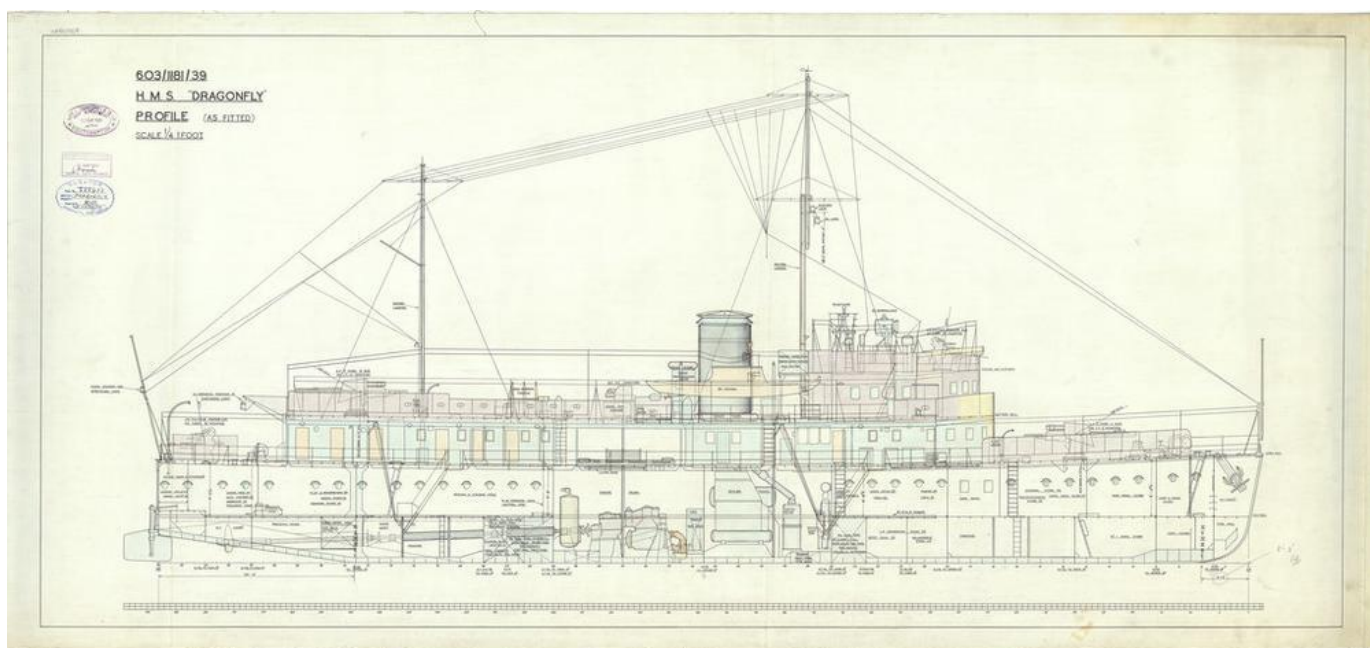
*We joined a small convoy on the morning of 12<sup>th</sup> Feb., which contained some Chinese passenger vessels. I hear that the Durban, Scout, and a new destroyer were included. The convoy was attacked by enemy aircraft. The SCORPION left the convoy and hid away behind a small island off the coast of SUMATRA, until dusk. We camouflaged the ship with brushwood.*

*At 18.30 on 12 Feb., we sailed again until dawn of the 13<sup>th</sup> of Feb. and we hid again behind another island and completed the camouflage. During the day we were sighted by enemy aircraft and moved anchorage about 4 miles.*

*We sailed at 18.30 on the night of 13 Feb. Approximately at 19.30 gunfire was heard and the ship's company closed up to Action Stations. The ship was moving very slowly. At 20.15 approx. one enemy cruiser and two destroyers were sighted at very close range. The enemy used searchlight and the SCORPION put up recognition lights continuously for half a minute. The enemy opened fire – the first shot crossing the bows of the SCORPION, the second a direct hit on the boiler room, and the third in the Captain's Cabin. Meantime SCORPION opened fire with her two 4-inch guns. We got away 7 rounds then the order was given to abandon ship. We got one Carley Raft away which I boarded, still being under enemy fire. By this time there were 29 on the raft, including 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. KEMP and Sub. Lt. Richards. Sub Lt. Richards died from wound within 15 minutes of being on the raft.*

*We watched the ship on fire for approximately 20 minutes, then she heeled to port and went down by the bows. We saw nothing more of the enemy that night..."*

The large calibre, high explosive, shells from the five-inch guns of the Japanese warships which firstly struck the 'boiler room' explain the horrendous death toll that resulted amongst the Stokers of all ranks on 'HMS Scorpion' - with no apparent survivors from the boiler/engine room. The shell striking the 'Captain's cabin' adjacent to the bridge may explain the death of Lt Comdr. George Ashworth. Below is a diagram of a sister ship 'HMS Dragonfly' which is almost the same design.].





**‘HMS Scorpion’**

The book **‘Singapore’s Dunkirk’** (p.187) tells us,

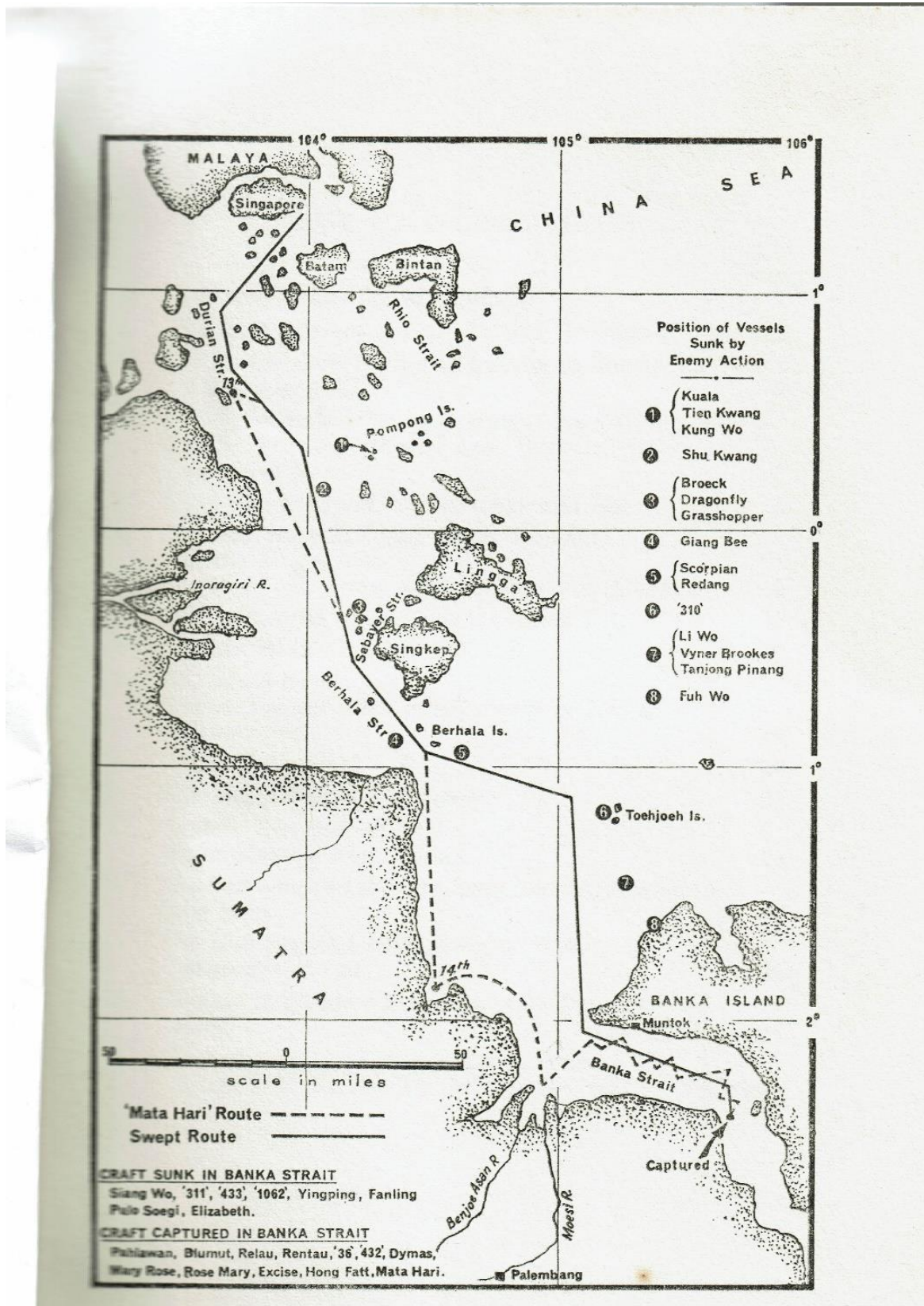
*“...Scorpion passed through the Berhala Strait, nearly seventy miles south of Singapore. Off Berhala island a Japanese cruiser and two destroyers were sighted, and all four [including ‘HMS Scorpion’] ships opened fire immediately. The relatively tiny gunboat had no chance. Out of control, blazing from stern to stern, she was abandoned. Moments later the Scorpion went down. Only three Carley floats could be launched, and there were twenty survivors, all picked up by the Japanese...”.*

We know two of the rafts/Carley Floats were each under the command of **Lt John Cresswell Wallace Kemp** and of **Lt Harold George Fabian, MRNVR** – but the occupants and fate of the third raft is unclear.

The ‘HMS Scorpion’ had come up against a powerful group of Japanese warships (the light Cruiser ‘Sendai’, and the Destroyers ‘Asagiri’ and ‘Fubuki’) providing protection for the huge invasion fleet carrying the Japanese Army heading for Palembang in southern Sumatra. These three ships from the Japanese invasion group - over the next couple of days - worked their way south towards Banka Island, sinking many other evacuation vessels including ‘HDML 1062’ and ‘HMML311’ on 15 February, then on 16 February ‘HMS Yin Ping’, the auxiliary patrol boat ‘Fanling’ and the little launch ‘Elizabeth’ in the Banka Strait.



The following map from the book 'Spotlight on Singapore' (published 1965) by **Denis Russell-Roberts** gives an idea of the havoc wreaked by the Japanese Navy on the evacuation vessels – including 'HMS Scorpion' - along the east coast of Sumatra as they desperately tried to reach Batavia.



It seems likely that the cruiser they encountered was the huge First World War Japanese cruiser 'Sendai' – amazingly this warship was identified literally 78 years later (in 2020) by the fact that it had 'four funnels' by LAC. Shephard, ex RAF and a survivor from the sinking of another evacuation vessel 'HMS Yin Ping'. LAC Shepard was still living in the UK in 2020. The cruiser was 418 feet in length, 5200 tons, had a speed of 35 knots and carried seven turrets of 5.5-inch guns.



**IJN Light Cruiser 'Sendai'**

The log of the IJN destroyer 'Asagiri' also shows that, from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1942 it assisted the destroyer 'Fubuki' in attacking Allied shipping fleeing from Singapore and they sank four vessels with great loss of civilian life. Research has revealed this included the auxiliary merchant ship 'HMS. Giang Bee' on the evening of 13th February and the auxiliary Chinese River steamer 'HMS Li Wo' near Banka island on 14<sup>th</sup> February.



**Imperial Japanese Navy Destroyer "Asagiri"**

[Photo Source: Wikipedia]

The contest between 'HMS Scorpion' and the Japanese flotilla was a cruel mismatch in the extreme – these Destroyers of the 'Fubuki' class in the Imperial Japanese Navy were, at the time, amongst the biggest, fastest, most advanced naval Destroyers in the world at 2090 tons, capable of 38 knots and armed with six five inch guns, over thirty AA guns plus six powerful torpedo tubes.

([www.combinedfleet.com](http://www.combinedfleet.com))



**Imperial Japanese Navy Destroyer 'Fubuki'**



### Who was on board 'HMS Scorpion':

The vessel was under the command of relatively young men who were relatively inexperienced peacetime naval volunteers, with their only wartime experience being the evacuation of soldiers from what was described as the 'Sungei Punggar/Pungkor' (as mentioned above) during the retreat through Malaya. There is no question as to their courage and commitment – several were decorated for bravery during the Japanese invasion – but they were not trained nor equipped to confront heavily armed Japanese warships. The officers comprised.

- **Lt Cmdr. George 'Ketchil' Ashworth, SSRNVR** an employee of the Borneo Company Ltd, Import/Export merchants and traders and one of Malaya's oldest European companies. He was presumably named 'Ketchil' (small) because he was a tall well-built sportsman.
- **Lt. Harold Fabian, MRNVR** – a 30-year-old Assistant with MacKenzie & Co.
- **Lt John Kemp, MRNVR** – a 30-year-old Customs Dept Officer.
- **Sub - Lt. Jack 'Leslie' Arnold, MRNVR** – a 25-year-old Customs Officer
- **Sub- Lt. Selwyn Buckwell, MRNVR** – a 34-year-old Customs Officer
- **Acting Sub – Lt. James Ronaldson, MRNVR** – a Customs Officer who died in the attack and sinking.

The crew were a mix of experienced Royal Navy Petty Officers and seamen – about half the ratings were in the 'Malay Section' of the Royal Navy.

**Captain David Nelson** in his book 'The Story of Changi' (p.234) records *"...Passengers :38 communication ratings, 8 survivors picked up by Japanese destroyer, fate balance unknown..."*.

The eight survivors who were apparently picked up by a Japanese destroyer remain unidentified.

The 38 communications ratings comprised the bulk of the 39 Signalmen/Telegraphists Coders identified as such by research in the individual entries – from information sourced it has been possible to identify only 8 of these as the "...communications ratings..." passengers from Singapore, so most have been left identified as 'crew'.

There were also probably at least 73 naval crew (34 of the men on board were Malay seamen) on the ship, similar in total to the number given on the website [www.wrecksite.eu](http://www.wrecksite.eu) for 'Locust' class sister ships 'HMS Dragonfly' and 'HMS Grasshopper' which were also escaping Singapore.

This indicates 111 men onboard – perhaps a few more given that four civilians have also been identified as being onboard. Naval officers and ratings identified by research as being on board 'HMS Scorpion' totalled 98 men.

Lists of casualties held in the UK Archives record against the name of a few of the naval ratings – specifically the more experienced Yeomen of Signals and several Leading Signalmen - that they were *"...Ex PWSS Mt Faber..."* and *"...ex PWSS Changi..."*. This means that these men had been serving at the 'Port War Signal Station' at Mt Faber ( and presumably there was one located at Changi) in Singapore – a PWSS was regarded as a critical part of the defences of any Allied Port at that time being able to assist identification of enemy vessels approaching the port. This may have had some involvement with Radar technology – it seems an AMES unit was attached - and these men would have been valuable assets to Japanese interrogators if identified when captured. There was also a PWSS at Serapong on Blakan Mati (now Sentosa) presumably to assist the large naval defence guns on that island.

## Survival at Sea:

After the 'HMS Scorpion' disappeared beneath the waves there appear to have been three Carley Floats/Rafts crowded with survivors and other men floating scattered in the sea at night. They appear to have been widely scattered and as a result there were many different experiences to eventual POW camps or death.

One insight into these events is from **Denis Russell-Robert's** book 'Spotlight on Singapore' (p.170) where he is describing the voyage of his wife Ruth on the small merchant vessel 'Mata Hari' which had also escaped Singapore on 13<sup>th</sup> February with 483 crew and civilian and servicemen passengers on board – including 132 women and children. The Captain of the 'Mata Hari' had been attempting to calm the worried passengers on board that the flashes of light that kept occurring were 'lightning'. [In truth this was probably the gun flashes from the Japanese cruiser and destroyers sinking the auxiliary merchant vessel 'HMS Giang Bee' with its passenger load of civilian men, women, and children - causing the deaths of some 180-200 women, children and men] when suddenly,

*"...Shortly after eleven o'clock, the southern end of Singkep [refer to the map above] was abeam and 'Mata Hari' was approaching Berhala islet when more flashes were observed on the horizon ahead. Nothing further happened until about one o'clock in the morning, now Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of February, when suddenly, roughly thirteen miles south east of Berhala, the sound of English voices shouting from the darkness could be heard. The night was very dark, and nothing could be seen, so a couple of lifeboats with guiding lights were set afloat. As the ship approached the floating men, a searchlight was switched on the bridge to be met immediately by frantic cries from the dark '... Don't show a light, for God's sake don't show a light...'. A boat was lowered, and shortly the passengers crowding the decks saw six men ascend the ladder. They were escorted to the bridge and proved to be two officers and six ratings from 'HMS Scorpion', which had been sunk by a Japanese cruiser. They reckoned they were the only survivors. They had been swimming for six hours and it was just benign providence that they should have been seen and hailed the 'Mata Hari' quietly steaming her way south on a calm sea..."*

[The 'Mata Hari' would be herself captured on the evening of the following day - thankfully without shots being fired because Captain Carston very prudently struck his 'White Ensign' rather than firing his little gun- and probably by the same Japanese cruiser that sank 'HMS Scorpion' and many others whilst anchored in the wide mouth of the huge Musi (Moesi) River on the east coast of southern Sumatra. It was escorted to Banka Island and the civilians and servicemen on board began three and a half years of internment in Muntok and later in Palembang on the Sumatran mainland].

The **Captain of the 'Mata Hari'** in his official post war report confirms that, at about 0100hrs on Saturday 14 February near Berhala Lighthouse he picked up six 'swimmers' being Sub-Lt Arnold, Sub-Lt Buckwell and four ratings from 'HMS Scorpion'.

The ratings picked up by 'Mata Hari' appear, from analysis, to have included,

- **Leading Seaman Arthur Leadbitter**
- **Signalman David Cole**
- **ERA Arthur Chatfield**
- **Coder Harold Glayzer**

-these naval ratings were all kept on 'Mata Hari' when it arrived at Muntok and they were then used to crew the 'Mata Hari' back to Singapore, where they all became POWs in Seletar Camp, Singapore.

Despite the lack of optimism (as recorded in Russell-Roberts' book) amongst the survivors picked up by the 'Mata Hari', these six 'swimmers' were not the only survivors from 'HMS Scorpion' and we

return to the report written by **Stoker Petty Officer House** in Palembang POW camp on 11 March 1942 which records the fate of the **29 men** who reached a raft/Carley Float (in some documents referred to as '**Lt Kemps raft**') after the sinking, it says,

*"... The following morning 14 Feb., at daybreak, we sighted one enemy cruiser, two destroyers and two rafts or small fishing smacks. We tried to get in touch with small boats or rafts by one man swimming towards them; this was Ldg. Sea. KILBURNE – I never saw him again, but I believe he was picked up later [ Leading Seaman James Kilburn, RN., was picked up and made it all the way to Batavia in Java to join the crew of 'HMS Stronghold' only to die a few days later in the sinking of that ship in a battle with a Japanese fleet]. Then we lost sight of the enemy and boats, and about noon we signalled by white flag one friendly aircrafts. We got a reply back by Aldis Lamp, but the aircraft left us, and we did not see it again. We drifted the remainder of that day and all the following night, and about 8.00 on the 15 Feb. Ldg. Stoker Mutch died on the raft. At the same time, we saw enemy fishing boats, and were picked up by the NANA MARU. The Captain interviewed me for 45 min. as the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. was too ill. He wanted to know what ship we were off and how we had sunk.*

*With me on the NANA MARU were: -*

*1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kemp J.C.W.*

*Self- K. House S.F.C.*

*M. Derrick. L/Sea*

*Aston. Sig.*

*Biddulph. O/Sea.*

*Mosley. ERA*

*J. Watts 1/Sig.*

*R. Bird. Sig.*

*Gosden. ERA*

*Hutler. A/S*

*Brophy. Sig*

*Wager A/S.*

*Branney. Sig.*

*Todd. L/Sig.*

### **Malays**

*Noordin. L/Sea*

*Mat. Noordin. A/Sea.*

*Budin. A/Sea.*

*(Indecipherable) T/F.*

*Kias T/F.*

*Mo. Rid. L/Tp.*

*Chown Ming Chon Chinese*

*O. Mor. O/Sig. [sic: Signalman Omar or Signalman Bin A. Umar, MN1129]*

[Researcher Note: **ERA Mosley** and **Leading Signalman Todd** were by this stage seriously wounded and died respectively one week and one month later ashore].

*After being aboard about 2 hrs. they gave us water and a little rice. About 17.00 a Malay named **O. Mor, O/Sig.** [sic: presumably, he was thinking of a 'Signalman Omar', and this may have been Able Seaman Mohamad Ali Bin Umar, MN 407, or Signalman Umar Bin Ahmad MN1129] died.*

*We eventually arrived at the mouth of the MOESI RIVER and anchored for the night.*

*On the 16 Feb. we came up to PALEMBANG, accompanied by 13 Enemy Transports, and a large number of small fishing vessels. Arriving off the town, we tied up alongside the Custom's pier.*

*On the morning of 17 Feb., we returned down River; loaded cargo from a Jap Merchant ship and brought back to the Custom's Pier. They put us ashore on the pier. We were sleeping in a shed and stayed there for 3 days. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> night, whilst at the pier, **ERA Mosely** died of wounds. I buried him by weighting his body...". Petty Officer House makes an addendum to his report which states "... I have since heard that Sub. Lt BUCKRIDGE [ sic: Sub. Lt Buckwell, MRNVR] and Sub Lt ARNOLD and L/Sea. BRADY with three other ratings were picked up on the night of 13/14 Feb., and that they are POWs in another camp in Palembang. **Mr Major** [sic: **Mayger**] drifted away from the raft on the night of 14/15 Feb..."*

[We note that Stoker Petty Officer House recorded that Mr Major (in fact Frank James Lenham Mayger) died on or after the night of 14/15 February 1942 – it must be assumed that the CWGC never saw this report because they have Frank Mayger's death officially recorded as on 13 February 1942.]

A month later **Lt. J.C.W. Kemp, MRNVR**, wrote an attachment to the report stating he was in hospital when House compiled his report and that the statement is a good representation of the facts.

There was also a raft/ Carley Float under the command of **Lt. Harold George Fabian, MRNVR** – but no record of who was on it (apart from an unidentified Malay seaman named 'Zulkarri or Sulkarri' and of course Harold Fabian) or where it was captured has been located. Fabian became a POW.

Then there are the experiences (mentioned above) of the ratings **Cole, Chatfield, Glayzer, and Leadbitter** floating at sea and picked up by the 'Mata Hari'. They and others on the 'Mata Hari' were captured in the Banka Strait and taken firstly to Muntok on Banka island – these four men were then ordered to crew the 'Mata Hari' back to Singapore where they became POWs.

**Stoker Petty Officer Acock** records he was captured at Banka Island on 18 February which raises the possibility that he was also picked up by the 'Mata Hari' or another passing vessel which was also captured near Banka Island.

Also, **Leading Seaman James Kilburn** who must have been picked up by a passing vessel (it was not 'Mata Hari') and made it either to Pulau Singkep-Sumatra-Batavia, or somehow on a vessel direct to Batavia, where he was taken onto the crew of 'HMS Stronghold' and on which ship he lost his life in battle.



### **Casualties:**

Two groups on board suffered extremely high casualties – those working in the Boiler Room/Engine Room (Stokers and ERAs) and the Malay seamen on board. Whether many of the Malay ratings were working in the Engine Room or below decks duties is not known. The explanation is probably contained in Petty Officer House's report of the attack "*... The enemy opened fire – the first shot crossing the bows of the SCORPION, the second a direct hit on the boiler room, and the third in the Captain's Cabin...*".

Men working in the Engine Room numbered at least 19 personnel - amongst these Stokers and ERAs at least 15 men died in the shelling and the sinking. This is similar to the concentrated losses in the Engine Rooms of most of the small vessels sunk in the evacuation of Singapore because the attacks were often sudden and surprising, the firepower and shells from the big Japanese warships were disproportionate to the size and often lightweight materials such as wood from which many evacuation vessels were constructed.

There were at least 34 Malay Seamen on board 'HMS Scorpion' and at least 23 men lost their lives as the shells struck, in the sea afterwards or whilst on the three Carley Floats. More died of wounds - either on the rafts/Carley Floats or once they reached shore.

Immediate deaths on board and in the sea amongst the passengers and crew totalled some 60 of the 111 men on board making this attack and sinking amongst the worst casualty figures of the evacuation vessels.

No civilian passengers survived.

### **Survival Ashore:**

So, the end result was that survivors landed variously at Muntok Pier on Banka island after a few days on 'Mata Hari', or at the wharves in Palembang up the Musi River after days on 'Lt Kemps raft' and then the Japanese vessel 'Nan Maru', and even- as in the instance of Leading Seaman Branney who had been with the others on 'Lt Kemps raft' - further south at the Jambi River and then up river to Jambi itself – how this latter journey was achieved this would be a fascinating story. More complex is the experience of Lt Fabian – he was moved as POW almost immediately to Saigon and then Thailand.

As mentioned even once ashore the wounded died. As recounted by Petty Officer House whilst the group from Lt. Kemp's raft were held at the Custom's Pier at Palembang "*...we were visited by a Japanese officer – Interpreter – (later commonly known as 'One-Eye'), and he got us some medical treatment, in a small way, as we were still suffering from shell blast and shrapnel wounds. On the following morning, we were moved to the Prisoners' Camp in the Dutch School. Ldg. Sig. Todd was seriously wounded in the left thigh, and owing to the lack of medical treatment, it is highly likely the wound had become gangrenous. He was taken to Hospital in Palembang on 27 Feb. (He died about 14 days later) ...*".

Amongst the survivors 17 British men from 'HMS Scorpion' became POWs in Palembang camp – and of these four died as a POW later during the war. 5 others ended up almost immediately back in Singapore at Seletar Camp.

Of the estimated (records are almost non-existent) 11-12 Malay seaman who reached Muntok, or Palembang all appear to have been released within a month by the Japanese and it is assumed that the sole Chinese aboard, Chown Min Chow, was also released.

Anyone who has corrections, amendments, clarifications or additional material on the events, the crew, or passengers of 'HMS Scorpion' is most welcome to contact the researcher and compiler of this document: Michael Pether, 2/23 Sanders Avenue, Takapuna, Auckland, 0622, New Zealand. Email is [mncpether@gmail.com](mailto:mncpether@gmail.com). Telephone number is New Zealand 09-4865754 or mobile New Zealand 0274543695.

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Michael Pether.

**Sources:**

- UK Archives
- CWGC
- Ian McLeod database of crews and passengers
- Jonathan Moffatt 'Malayans' database
- Sabrizain.org/Malaya
- 'Singapore's Dunkirk' by Geoffrey Brooke
- website uboat.net
- [www.wrecksite.eu](http://www.wrecksite.eu)

### Passengers:

Lists of casualties held in the UK Archives record against the name of a few of the naval ratings – specifically the more experienced Yeomen of Signals and several Leading Signalmen - that they were “...Ex PWSS Mt Faber...” and “...ex PWSS Changi...”. This means that these men had been serving at the ‘Port War Signal Station’ at Mt Faber ( and presumably there was one located at Changi) in Singapore – a PWSS was regarded as a critical part of the defences of any Allied Port at that time being able to assist identification of enemy vessels approaching the port. This may have had some involvement with Radar technology – it seems an AMES unit was attached - and these men would have been valuable assets to Japanese interrogators if identified when captured. There was also a PWSS at Serapong on Blakan Mati (now Sentosa) presumably to assist the large naval defence guns on that island.

*“... We left SINGAPORE at 18.30 on 11 Feb. 42, on passage to Batavia. Due to dive bombing attack the previous day our speed had been reduced to approximately 8 knots. On board we had 38 passengers - Communications Branch Royal Navy – and 3 P.A.D. Civilians (Europeans), one name Mr Major (Mayger)...”.*

The men from the “... Communications Branch Royal Navy...” would have been those denoted in the file in the UK Archives as having been attached to “... PWSS, Mt Faber...” in Singapore.

- **CARTER** – The official record is “... **Herbert Lewis Carter** died on 13.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’....” (CWGC). Another source states “... CARTER H.L., Civil Engineer: Proprietor & Engineer, H.L. Carter & Co. 22 Orchard Rd, Singapore - left 5.2.42 on the launch Fedjetra. Wife M. & son P. evacuated on Orion. Arrived Fremantle WA 6.1.42 then to Sydney...” (JMM). Herbert Carter was in the wireless/radio importing business in Singapore – as agent and distributor for Phillips radios and AWA household ‘6 Valve All Wave Receivers’ (i.e., Radios). and a Committee member of the Amateur Wireless Society of Malaya (ST. 26.8.32). He was a vocal activist for the establishment of a Broadcasting service in Malaya and Singapore in 1932. He is recorded as going to Australia on holiday during the 1930s so may have originated there? He was also a member of the Singapore Flying Club and made news in 1937 flying professional businesspeople from Singapore to Kuantan – which was saving the passengers some six days unnecessary travel time. Just before the Japanese landed on Singapore Island he was clearly still active and optimistic as a businessman because an advertisement appeared in the ‘Straits Times’ on 26.1.42 for “... Wanted. A few young and intelligent lads as Apprentices. Apply 22 Orchard Road, H.L. Carter & Co.,”. Clearly someone continued to run his business in Singapore after he evacuated and after the Japanese had occupied Singapore because in the renamed ‘Straits Times’ (after occupation the ‘Syonan Times’ of 25.3.42) there appeared an advertisement for “... experienced receiver and transmitter engineers, H.L. Carter, 24 Orchard Road, Syonan-To...”.
- **CLARKE** – the official record is “... **Temporary/ Leading Seaman Stanley James Clarke, D/JX 151544**, RN., ‘died on 13.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’ aged 20 years, the son of William and Mary Clarke of Wigan, Lancashire. He is also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial, Panel 67, Col.3...” (CWGC). Stanley Clarke had previously served on the ‘HMS Repulse’. There is also the record in the UK Archives that he “...was Ldg Sig of Wigan, Lancs., **ex PWSS Mt Faber..**”. In a Royal Navy list of ‘Missing, Believed Killed or Drowned’ there is the note “... S.J. Clark, Ldg. Sig of WIGAN, Lancs ...” and in a list of ‘Missing’ is added “...or CLARK, L/SIG, (Devonport Division) ...”.
- **COLE** – In a casualty list and the ‘Missing’ list for ‘HMS Scorpion’ held in the UK Archives is recorded “... Missing - D. Cole, Sig. (Devonport) ex PWSS Mt Faber...”. In his MI9 Liberation

questionnaire (COFEPOW website) we find the subsequent experiences – **which are remarkably like those of Arthur Chatfield - of Signalman Daniel Rex Cole, TLL231** [service number is almost indecipherable??] **RN**. Daniel was born on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1900 so was one of the much older ratings, he enlisted on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1915. His home address was 11 Hailes Road, Cony Hill, Gloucester, England. He records he was captured “...*At sea Banka Straits, 17.2.42, survivor HMS Scorpion, ex- ‘HMS Prince of Wales’...*” and that he became a POW firstly on IJN Ships 17.2.42; then Seletar Naval Base 1.4.42; then Kranji Hospital – Selarang 15.4.44 and finally Changi Prison No.1. Camp 15.10.44...”.

- **FARR – Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class Alan James Farr, 2041 (RNZN) MPK. FARR - Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class Alan James Farr, #2041, RNZN**, the official record (CWGC and RNZN) is that Alan Farr was most likely killed on 13 February 1942, aged 21 years, on ‘HMS Scorpion’ in the Berhala Straits. Alan Farr does not appear in any of the accessible documents on ‘Scorpion’ compiled by survivors of those on board and now held in the UK Archives. Apart from the large number of ‘Scorpion’ crew there were also 35 Royal Navy servicemen as passengers – in one case referred to as ‘Communicators’- but his skill set does not match the description of these passengers. If Alan Farr was a crew member working as a Stoker he was probably killed by the second shell to hit ‘Scorpion’ in the boiler room. He was the son, one of eight siblings of cattle or dairy farmer Arthur Farr and his wife Alice (nee Maughan) of the tiny farming settlement of Utiku, in the Rangitikei Valley of the central North Island of New Zealand. Despite searching the researcher has been unable to find anything of Alan Farr’s life.
- **GLAYZER – Coder Harold Thomas Glayzer, P/JX 251288, RN**. Navy Office, Seletar. Born 16.11 09 and enlisted 10.12.40. Home address 70 Princes Gardens, West Acton, London. W3. Captured Banka Straits 16.2.42. POW in Seletar March 1942; Selarang March 1944; Sime Road May 1944; Kranji July 1944; Changi Sept 1944. (MI9 Liberation questionnaire – COFEPOW). Although he survived the sinking of ‘HMS Scorpion’ he had been noted in the ‘Missing’ list in the UK Archives and “... *(Portsmouth Division) (C.D.O. Naval Base, Singapore) ...*”. He was recorded as living in London in 1965.
- **HOPKINS** – The official record is “... **Ordinary Coder James Hopkins, D/JX 272201, RN.**, died on 13.2.42 aged 36 years, the son of Augustus and Edith Ellen Hopkins of Kidderminster, Worcestershire, husband of Vera Milbrough Hopkins of Kidderminster. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 68, Col. 2...” (CWGC). James Hopkins previously served on ‘HMS Repulse’. In a list of ‘Missing, Believed Killed or Drowned’ held in the UK Archives is noted “... J. HOPKINS, Coder...”.
- **KEEP** – The official record is “... **Leading Signalman Francis William Keep, C/J 35728, RN.**, died 13.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. He was born in 1899 in Croydon, Surrey, and was the son of James and Flora Keep (Lambert) and husband of Elsie May Keep [1904-1972] of Sheerness, Kent (Sheerness is on the Isle of Sheppey in Kent). Also remembered on the Chatham Naval Memorial, 58.2. (CWGC). In a list of ‘HMS Scorpion’ casualties in the UK Archives we also learn that he was ‘Missing Believed Killed’ and “...*ex PWSS Mt Faber...*”. In a Royal Navy list of ‘Missing, Believed Killed or Drowned’ held in the UK Archives there is the note “...- *KEEP, Leading Sig. ...*”.
- **LAWSON/LARSON** –The official record is “... **Signalman James Hattrick Lawson, D/JX 225301, RN.**, of ‘HMS Sultan’ [ the CWGC do not appear to know he was on ‘HMS Scorpion’ and record him still at the shore base ‘HMS Sultan’ in Singapore] died 13.2.42 aged 23 years son of James and Ellen Letitia Lawson of Chadderton, Lancashire. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 68, Col.1. (CWGC). In a list of casualties and the list of ‘Missing’ from ‘HMS Scorpion’ held in the UK Archives is “...*J.H. Larson/Lawson [??], Sig. Devonport, ex CDO Naval Base...*”.
- **MARCHANT** – The official record is “... **Acting Yeoman of Signals Arthur James Marchant, P/JX 151456, RN.**, died 13.2.42 aged 25 years on ‘HMS Scorpion’ son of Arthur Charles and Kate



Marchant, husband of Emily Marchant of Copnor, Hampshire [on the eastern side of Portsea Island]. Also remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial Panel 66, Col. 2..." (CWGC). In a casualty list for 'HMS Scorpion' held in the UK Archives it is also noted that he was "... ex PWSS Mt Faber..." and another Archives list of 'Missing' records him as 'Yeo of Sigs'..

- **MAYGER** – Petty Officer House stated in his report compiled in Palembang POW Camp "...Mr Major [sic: Mayger] **drifted away from the raft** on the night of 14/15 Feb...". A list of casualties in the UK Archives records against the name 'Major/ Mayjer' that he was 'Presumed Drowned', whilst another list of deaths and casualties in the UK Archives during the evacuation notes "... Major Meyjer/Mayger (S.S. Volunteer Police) Missing from HMS Scorpion (presumed drowned) ...". The 'Jeyes' toilet paper list created secretly in Changi Prison internment camp records "... MAYGER F.J.L. SCOTIA LUBE OIL CO. LEFT BVD DROWNED...". The official record is **Frank James Lenham [sic: Lanham] Mayger** died 13 .2.42 on 'HMS Scorpion' – which indicates that the CWGC believed Frank Mayger had died in the sinking of the ship – and did not realise he survived until the night of 14<sup>th</sup> February when he drifted away from Lt Kemp's raft (CWGC).; then we have "...MAYGER F.J.L. [Frank James Lanham] 'Jimmy' MC 1916. b.1892in Burton-on-Trent the son of James Lanham Mayger and Lucy Emma Mayger. WW1 Service: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt to Captain, South Wales Borderers. Wounded. Served in SVC 1920s. Partner, the Scientific Instrument Company, Finlayson Green, Singapore [1935 Directory] then Proprietor, Scotia Lubricating Oil Company & Scotia Importing Company. Finlayson Green, Singapore. Committee Member, Singapore Cricket Club. Straits Settlement Volunteer Police. Lost at sea 14.2.42 on HMS Scorpion...". (JMM). Perhaps he was married or had relatives in Australia – because the 'Letter of Administration (i.e., Probate) was granted in 1947 in Western Australia.
- **NELMES** – Ordinary Seaman Brynley T Nelmes, C/JX 250141 (ex – 'HMS Prince of Wales') MPK. From a list of casualties in the UK Archives we also learn he was" ... ex PWSS Mt Faber...". In a list of 'Missing, believed Killed or Drowned' held in the UK Archives is noted the name "... NELMES, Sig., C/JX 250230 (approx..) ..." indicating that whoever was recording at that stage was not clear on the service number. The official record is "...**Ordinary Seaman Brynley Thomas Nelmes, C/JX250141, RN, 'HMS Prince of Wales' died 13.2.42 aged 18 years, son of Edwin Morgan Nelmes and Beatrice May Nelmes of Huddersfield, Yorkshire...**" (CWGC). It appears that the CWGC was not aware that Brynley Nelmes escaped Singapore on 'HMS Scorpion'. Brynley Nelmes is also remembered on a plaque attached to a pew at what is now the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Grimshaw Street, Preston (the plaque appears to have been arranged originally by the Preston Grimshaw Street Congregational Church).
- **NEWMAN** – Temp Acting Leading Signalman Rees A Newman, D/SSX 23853, MPK. In a list of casualties from 'HMS Scorpion' we learn also" ...of Northampton ex PWSS Mt Faber..." and in a Royal Navy list of 'Missing, Believed Killed or Drowned' it notes "... R.A. NEWMAN, Ldg. Sig. of Northampton..."and in a list of 'Missing' is added he was 'ex 'HMS REPULSE'. The official record is "... **Leading Signalman Rees Arthur Newman, D/SSX 23853, RN., 'HMS Sultan' died 13.2.42 aged 21 years, son of Arthur and Edith Fanny Newman; husband of Olive Joyce New man of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 67, Col.3...**" (CWGC).It appears that the CWGC were not aware that Rees Newman had escaped Singapore on the 'HMS Scorpion' – after his attachment to shore base 'HMS Sultan'.
- **RODWELL** – This man is an unexplained and unidentified casualty - a casualty list for civilians during the evacuation of Singapore states that "...Inspector RODWELL of S.S. Police was Missing from 'HMS Scorpion...". From the 'Malayans' database of Jonathan Moffatt we have "...RODWELL A.W. F.W.? Straits Settlement Police Inspector. Lost at sea 2.42 [aged 50] on HMS Scorpion. Wife Alice...". There is no CWGC record of such a person dying in the War.

- **SELBY** – Ordinary Seaman Ralph S Selby, P/JX 226733, MPK. is noted in a list of casualties and the list of 'Missing' from 'HMS Scorpion' held in the UK Archives where it is recorded "*...Missing - R S Selby, Sig, P/JX 226730, (Portsmouth) ex CDO Naval Base, Singapore...*". The official record is **Ordinary Seaman Ralph Searle Selby, P/JX 226733, RN.**, 'HMS Scorpion' died 13.2.42 aged 29 years the son of John E. and Alice Louise Selby of Gateshead, Co. Durham. Also remembered on the Portsmouth naval Memorial Panel 66, Col.3 ..." (CWGC). It is unclear whether Ralph Selby was a member of the crew of 'HMS Scorpion'; or one of the skilled naval personnel aboard as a passenger.
- **STOTT** – the official record is that **John Samuel Stott**, civilian, died 13.2.42 on "HMS Scorpion" (CWGC); also, from other sources we have "*... John Samuel Stott, b.1891 Lewisham. A Temp. Lt in the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders during the First World War he was awarded the DCM and later (in the 1919 Birthday Honours) a Military Cross for 'distinguished conduct in the Balkans'. Proprietor, John Stott & Co, 57 Robinson Rd then 8 Raffles Quay, Singapore – importer & manufacturer of building materials, tiles, hardware. Married Mary Robinson 3.31 Singapore. She an Infant Welfare nurse, Singapore Municipality and in 1948 appointed a Justice of the Peace whose main duty was to visit women prisoners and ensure their welfare in Singapore.. John was appointed an Assistant Commissioner, Volunteer Police Reserve August 1940, then Commissioner & Assistant Commandant January 1941. He left Singapore with Mayger [above] on HMS Scorpion which was sunk by Japanese gunfire. He was lost at sea 14.2.42. Mary was evacuated to Australia. She returned to Singapore, was active in the YWCA. Mary died 9.3.1985 Gleneagles Hospital, Singapore...*" (JMM et al)..
- **WHITE** – The official record is "*...Yeoman of Signals George White, C/J 10374*, died on 13.2.42 on 'HMS Scorpion' aged 47 years son of Henry and Catherine White, husband of Rose Ivy White of Beckenham, Kent. Also remembered on the Chatham Naval memorial 58.2..." (CWGC). In a casualty list held in the UK Archives for 'HMS Scorpion' it is also noted that he was "*... ex PWSS Changi...*". He is also listed on a 'Missing' list in the Archives.

## Crew:

*[It is respectfully noted that in the case of ratings from the Malay Section there could be some duplication of men's first and 'family' names because of the unfamiliarity of the compiler of the original wartime list held in the UK Archives with the structure and spelling of Malay names. Names in Italics are apparent errors in recording the names. 'POW L' means POW Liberated.]*

- **ABDUL** – "... Able Seaman Rahman B Y Abdul, MN713 (Malay Section) ..." is listed as MPK. This almost certainly **Able Seaman Abdul Rahman Bin Yaquab, MN 713, RN., (Malay Section)**, see below.
- **ABDULLAH** – Leading Signalman Aziz B S Abdullah, MN527 (Malay Section), is listed as MPK. In a list of casualties from 'HMS Scorpion' held in the UK Archives there is also the note "... ABDULLAH ASIS, L/Sea. Of Ipoh, Perak FMS. This is almost certainly **Leading Seaman Abdullah Aziz Bin Sulaiman, MN 527, RN., (Malay Section)**, see below.
- **ABU** – Leading Seaman Bakar B H Abu, MN 58, (Malay Section) is listed as MPK. This almost certainly **Leading Seaman Abu Bakar Bin Hasan, MN 58, RN., (Malaya Section)** see below.
- **ACOCK** – **Stoker Petty Officer George Richardson Acock, C/K 66405, RN.** Born 23.6.06, the son of George Richardson Acock and Elizabeth Acock. He enlisted in the Royal Navy on 23.6.25. His home address was 144 Northbrook Street, Liverpool 8, Lancashire. In 1929 he married Grace Murphy in West Derby, Lancashire and they had one daughter. He was on 'HMS Scorpion' when it was sunk on 13.2.42 and captured Banka Strait 18.2.42, becoming firstly a POW back in Singapore at Seletar Naval Base in March 1942 (under Sub Lt Sibiriakoff of the MRNVR); then along the coast in the Straits of Johore at Loyang in November 1942; then Changi in July 1944 and finally Krangi [his spelling] in June 1945. (COFEPOW – M19 Liberation questionnaire). In a list of casualties from 'HMS Scorpion' held in the UK Archives there is noted against his name "... (Chatham) (last seen driving lorries at Muntok uninjured, ex HMS Falcon) ...". George Acock died in Knawsley, Merseyside in February 2001.
- **ADDISON** – the official record is **Ordinary Coder John Clifford Addison, D/JX 272103, RN.,** died 13.2.42 aged 31 years the son of Arthur and Susan Addison, husband of Irene Ethel Addison of Meols, Cheshire He is recorded on a list of casualties and the 'Missing' list from 'HMS Scorpion' held in the UK Archives as 'MPK'. John Addison also served on 'HMS Repulse'. He is also commemorated on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 68, Column 2 (CWGC).
- **AHMAD** – an "... Able Seaman Bin H L Ahmad, MN734 (Malay Section) ..." is listed in one source as MPK. – This is **AB Ahmad Bin Haji Talib, MN734** listed in this document under '**Talib**'.
- **AHMAD** - in a list of casualties from 'HMS Scorpion' held in the UK Archives there is a note "... **AHMAD, L/Sea. Released from P.O.W. at Muntok in March 1942...**". An **Able Seaman Abdul Bin Ahmad/Amad** is also recorded in the 'Next of Kin' list in the UK Archives as "... Amad A.B. MN807. Brother Dolah B. Abdul, Kelebang Besar, Malacca, Straits Settlements..." [Kelebang Besar is about six kilometres north along the coast from Malacca City]. He is also recorded as a 'POW L'. (McLeod).
- **AHMAD** - the official record is "... **Signalman Umar Bin Ahmad, MN1129, RN., (Malay Section)**, died 14.2.42 on 'HMS Scorpion'. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 97, Col.3..." (CWGC). Another record lists presumably this man as "... **Bin A. Umar, MPK...**".
- **ALI** – in a list of 'Missing' held in the UK Archives is noted "... **ALI, AB...**". This would appear to be a reference to **Able Seaman Mohamad Ali Bin Umar, MN 407, RN., (Malay Section)**, see below.
- **ARNOLD** – this is **Sub Lt Jack Lawrence Arnold, MRNVR.**, who was born in London on 23 August 1917. His father was the headmaster of Penang Free School so It appears he might have been living in Penang before being sent back to Britain to boarding school or university and returned

to Malaya 1939 on the 'Kaiser – I -Hind' from Europe on 18.7.36. He returned to Europe in September 1936 on the 'Rajputana' and then travelled back to Malaya again on the 'Ranpura' in July 1937. In 1939 he was appointed to the Malayan Customs Service (HM Customs & Excise Dept SS [Penang]). In 1941 (SFPMA 3.4.41) he was groomsman at his sister's wedding at St Andrews Cathedral, Singapore although it appears the family was living in Penang at the time. As a Sub-Lt **MRNVR** on 'HMS Scorpion' he survived the sinking and was picked up from the sea – along with five others - at 0100hrs on 14 February by the passing 'SS Mata Hari'. He was captured on 15.2.42 when that ship full of women and children surrendered without any fight to the Japanese, becoming a POW firstly in Muntok, Banka island (18.2.42 - 8.3.42), then Palembang until May 1945 when he was moved to Changi. Palembang to Singapore. He returned to Malaya 1946. In 1950 he was transferred from Johore Bahru to Kuala Lumpur as a Senior Customs Officer. (JMM and Singapore newspaper Archives).

- **ARSHAD** – *Leading Telegraphist Bin Z Arshad, MN 322 (Malay Section) is listed as MPK and in a list of casualties from 'HMS Scorpion' held in the UK Archives there is also simply the note "... ARSHAD, L/Tel..."*. This is a reference to **Leading Telegraphist Arshad Bin Zainal, MN322, RN., (Malay Section)**, see below.
- **ASHWORTH** – **Lieutenant Commander George Christian Ashworth, SSRNVR, was Captain of the 'HMS Scorpion'**. In a list of 'Missing' (as opposed to those Missing and Believed Killed) held in the UK Archives is noted *"...Lieut. -Commr. C.G. ASHWORTH, MRNVR..."*. George Christian Ashworth was from Harton, County Durham and attended Durham School, Northumberland (and is memorialised on the School Memorial). By 1926 ('Malaya Tribune' 1.10.26) he had arrived in Malaya and was playing rugby in the 'newcomers' team at the Singapore Cricket Club. He had been employed as an Assistant with the Borneo Co. Ltd, Mercantile Bank Building, Singapore. In 1927 he must have been working in Penang and is reported as being knocked down by a car. He was a highly active and fit young man (and quite tall as shown in a 1938 group photo of a soccer team) - and regularly reported playing sport at a high level in Malaya and Singapore. In 1933 (ST 9.7.33) he married Miss Margaret (Rita) Stark of Singapore at the Presbyterian Church, Singapore being described as *"... a keen sportsman and athlete who has played rugby for both Penang, where he lived formerly, and Singapore..."*. In 1937 he was made a Lieutenant in the SSRNVR. Local newspapers reported the birth of his son at the Maternity Hospital, Singapore in April 1939 (ST 13.4.39). He was promoted to Lt. Commander, SSRNVR in 1939 ('Malaya Tribune' 18.12.39). The family lived at 'Chester', Orange Grove Road, Singapore. Wife Margaret J evacuated with son J.R. & daughter Fiona on 'Centaur'. Arrived Fremantle WA 13.1.42. In 1943 a tribute to Captain George A Murray of the 'Centaur' was lodged by Rita Ashworth in 'The Western Australian' newspaper (28.5.43) after the sinking of that ship by a Japanese submarine off the coast of Queensland. Rita later moved from Perth, WA., to Glasgow, Scotland. In 1946 George Ashworth was 'Mentioned in Despatches' for *"...spirited and gallant fighting of his ship..."* (ST 21.2.46) (JMM and Singapore newspaper archives).
- **ASTON** – *"...Signalman Aston was on Lt Kemps raft..."*; this was **Ordinary Seaman John Thomas Charles Aston, D/JX 171806, RN.**, born on 22 July 1923 and enlisted on 21 November 1939. Served on 'HMS Repulse' and after the sinking of 'HMS Scorpion' he was captured in the Banka Straits on 15 February 1942 and - probably after either a short period at Muntok on Banka island or on a Japanese vessel which captured him – he became a POW in Palembang POW camp from 22.2.42 until 21.9.45. Whilst a POW he clearly either had wounds or fell sick because he was in Charitas Hospital in Palembang during 3.5.42 -6.6.42 and then again during November 1942 until December 1942. On repatriation he gave his NOK address as his mother, Mrs F. Aston, 10



Council House, Long Marston, Nr. Stratford on Avon, Worcestershire (COFEPOW -MI9 questionnaire).

- **BAKAR** – In a list of men who ‘Died of Wounds’ held in the UK Archives is noted “...BAKAR, L/Sea Died from wounds Muntok from Singapore...” and with an asterisked notation below “... This Bakar is probably the same rating as Bakar Bin Hassan shown under Died of Wounds category in Miscellaneous Section. Page 8 of Royal Navy List...”. This almost certainly **Leading Seaman Abu Bakar Bin Hasan, MN 58, RN., (Malaya section)**, see below. It appears that Abu Bakar Bin Hasan may have in fact survived the sinking and made it to Banka Island where he died as a POW since the name ‘Bakar’ also appears on a wartime list of “...Malays released at Muntok...”, so he might also have died from his wounds after being released. On the other hand, this might alternatively refer to one Abu Bakar, MN783, who is recorded as finding the body of Lt Cmdr. Horace Vickers, the CO of the MRNVR at the time, who had been executed by the Japanese on Banka Island in late February 1942.
- **BEECH/BEACH** – Acting Yeoman of Signals Charles A Beech, P/JX 140157, (ex-Express), was listed as ‘MPK’ in a casualty list and a ‘Missing’ list for ‘HMS Scorpion’ held in the UK Archives, under the spelling ‘Beach’ it is also noted that he was ex – ‘HMS Express’. The official record is sparse “... Yeoman of Signals Charles Alfred Beech, P/JX 140157, RN., died 13.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’, also commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 66, Column 2...’. (CWGC).
- **BIDDULPH** – “...Ordinary Seaman Biddulph was on Lt Kemp’s raft...”. This was **Able Seaman Kenneth Biddulph, P/SSX 35695, RN.**, born on 21.9.22 and enlisted on 11.2.41. After the sinking he was captured on 15.2.42 in the Banka Straits and became a POW in Palembang POW camp from 15.2.42 until 22.9.45 during which time he noted that Lt Kemp, MRNVR, was his detachment leader in Camp. He gave his NOK address as his Mother, Mrs E. Biddulph, 247 Warstones Road, Penn, Wolverhampton (COFEPOW – MI9 questionnaire).
- **BIRD** – “...Signalman R Bird was on Lt Kemp’s raft...”. It has not been possible to identify this man – although there was a Signalman Fred Bird on ‘HMS Repulse’?
- **BRANNEY** – “...Leading Seaman William Branney, was on Lt Kemp’s raft...”. This was **Leading Seaman William Branney, D/SSZ 19734**, who was on ‘HMS Scorpion’. He was born on 6 September 1916 and enlisted on 24 December 1936. He was “... sunk Bahama Straits [sic Banka Straits] and captured Banka Straits...” He lists being a POW in Huis Van Bennken on 18.2.42, then Djambi RD W.P. on 14.3.42, then Chung Wha 9.4.42, Mulo School 20.4.42 and finally Sungei Ron 5.2.44. The Palembang camp register shows his NOK as his Mother, Mrs Branney, 41 Ardoch Crescent, Bruce Hill, Dumbarton. (COFEPOW – MI9 questionnaire). From this it seems that William Branney must have been separated from his shipmates after the sinking and ended up further south near the Djambi River and held briefly in the town of Djambi before being taken to Palembang.
- **BRATT** – **Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class Harold W Bratt, D/KX 105124, RN.** The official record is that he died on 13.2.42 aged 21 years on ‘HMS Scorpion’. He was the son of Harold and Selina Bratt of Clayton, Manchester and is also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial, panel 70, Column 1 (CWGC).
- **BREWER** – this is **Petty Officer Eric William Brewer, P/JX 141115, RN**, who died on 13.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 62, Col. 2 (CWGC). In a casualty list for ‘HMS Scorpion’ held in the UK Archives it records that he was from Portsmouth Division and ex- ‘HMS Stronghold’. Another list of ‘Missing’ held in the UK Archives lists him as a P.O, from Portsmouth and ‘ex Dauntless’. **Despite the date of death, it maybe he died the following day since survivor records say he died of wounds on one of the rafts and was buried at sea.**

- **BROPHY** – survivors records say he was “...one of the men on Lt Kemp’s raft...” so must have reached shore safely. This is **Signalman John E. Brophy, P/JX 226740, RN.**, who died as a POW in Palembang POW camp on 27.7.45 and was firstly buried in No.2 Camp Cemetery, Grave 213 and post war disinterred and reinterred in Grave 4.C.1 in Jakarta War cemetery. His mother was Mrs. E. Brophy, 2 Alexander Street, Aldershot.
- **BROWN –Engine Room Artificer 4<sup>th</sup> Class Hugh Brown, C/MX 72244, RN., (said to be ex ‘HMS Repulse’)** survived the attack and sinking of ‘HMS Scorpion’ and became a POW in Palembang – and at an unknown point in time he was hospitalised in Charitas Hospital. Palembang but six months after the sinking, on 13.8.42, he died in that Hospital. In a list of ‘Died’ held in the UK Archives is “...H. BROWN, ERA, C/MX 72244, 16/8/42 at Charitas Hospital, Palembang Buried in Grave No. E/II.46 in New European Cemetery, Palembang. Next of Kin Mr J Brown, 192 Waddell (the Palembang Camp Register says Wardle St which does not appear to exist) Street, Glasgow, G.5. Father...” After the war he was disinterred and reinterred in Grave 1.E.1, in Jakarta War Cemetery (CWGC).
- **BROWN** – The official record is “...**Ordinary Seaman John Brown, C/JX 262302, RN.**, died 13.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’ aged 29 years. He was the son of James and Isobell Brown, husband of Jessie Brown of Whitburn, East Lothian. Also remembered on the Chatham Naval memorial 57,2...” (CWGC).
- **BROWN** – The official record is “...**Stoker 2<sup>nd</sup> Class John Wilson Brown, D/KX 134340, RN.**, died on 13.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’ aged 19 years, the son of John and Hannah Brown of Blackburn, Lancashire. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial, panel 70, Col.3...” (CWGC).. He was from the Chatham Division. In a list of ‘Missing, Believed Killed or Drowned’ held in the UK Archives is noted the name of “...J. BROWN, A.B., (Chatham)...”.
- **BROWNE** – The official record is “... **Able Seaman Anthony Mervyn Browne, RNVR, C/LD/X 5288, RN.**, died on 14.2.42 (the day after the sinking) on ‘HMS Scorpion’ aged 26 years. He was the son of Anthony Montague Brown and Maud Alice Mary Brown of Willesden, Sussex...” (CWGC). He was from the Chatham Division. In a list of ‘Missing, Believed Killed or Drowned’ held in the UK Archives is noted the name of “... A. BROWNE, A.B. (Chatham)...”.
- **BUDIN** – “Able Seaman Budin? “was listed by P.O. House as on Lt Kemp’s raft. This was **AB Saat Budin who was a ‘POW L’** in Muntok, or Palembang (McLeod) see below.
- **BUCKWELL** – **Sub Lt S R L Selwyn Robert Leighton Buckwell. MRNVR**, was born on 6.1.18 and was from Tonbridge, Kent, where he attended Sevenoaks School. It appears that soon after leaving school he was appointed to the Malayan Customs & Excise FMS (ST. 28.12.37) in Telok Anson, Perak. In 1940 he passed his Malay exams, he enlisted in the MRNVR (or FMSVF initially since he was also formerly Pte 13260 FMSVF) in January 1941 and at almost the same time he was appointed a Customs Officer (Malaya Tribune ‘15.2.41). Serving on ‘HMS Scorpion’ he survived the sinking and was picked up from the sea – along with five others - at 0100hrs on 14 February by the passing ‘SS Mata Hari’. He was captured on 15.2.42 when that ship full of women and children surrendered without any fight to the Japanese. He was landed at Muntok on Banka Island where he remained a POW until 1 March 1942. He was then transported to Palembang POW camp until 23.2.44, then to Sungei Ron camp from 23.2.44 until 28.5.45 and then [as part of the First Draft on 26.5.45) sent to Changi POW camp Singapore. The Palembang Camp register shows his NOK was his mother, Mrs R.E. Buckwell, Andrew House, 10 London Road, Tonbridge, Kent.. Survivor POW Muntok, Palembang then to Changi 31.5. 45. He returned to Malayan Customs post-war, to Seremban, and was still working in either Malayan Customs or Malayan Income Tax in 1960. (JMM, Singapore newspaper archives and his MI9 Liberation questionnaire).

- **BUDIN** – “... AB Saat Budin POW L...” (McLeod). In the Next of Kin list in the UK Archives is recorded “... **Budin AB MN 798**, Brother Husun B. Sulaiman, Langseng & Co, Sungei Patani, Kedah...”.
- **CHAPPLE** – Ordinary Seaman/Able Seaman **Thomas Henry Chapple, D/JX 217236, RN.**, was born on 11.12.19 and enlisted on 6.6.40. He served on ‘HMS Scorpion’, survived the sinking, and became a POW in Palembang camp on 18.3.42 until liberation in September 1945. It maybe he was in an earlier POW camp since there is a gap of over one month between the date the ship sank and his arrival in Palembang POW camp. The Palembang Camp register shows his address as 62 Bonvilston Road, Pontypridd, South Wales. (MI9 Liberation questionnaire).
- **CHATFIELD** – In a casualty list held in the UK Archives is listed also “... ‘Missing’...*H. Chatfield, ERA (Chatham)*...”. This was in fact – according to his MI9 Liberation questionnaire - **ERA Arthur Bailey Chatfield, CMX 50361, RN.** Born 20.9.12 and enlisted 4.12.38 whose home address was 37 Normanhurst Ave, Bexleyheath, Kent. He was captured in the Banka Straits on 16.2.42 and records his first POW camp as ‘Naval Base Singapore April 42 to June 43’; then Selarang Barracks June 43 until May 44; and finally, Changi Gaol May 44 until August 45. It is not clear whether he drifted southwards away from the other survivors to the Banka Straits and was then – as were a few other naval ratings from vessels sunk in the area – promptly captured and ordered to take a ship back to Singapore where he and others were held (usually on a ship anchored) near the Naval Base in the Straits of Johore. **His experiences follow those of Daniel Cole very closely.**
- **CHOWN** – Chinese crew member ‘Chown Ming Chow ‘was listed by P.O. House as on ‘Lt Kemp’s raft’.
- **CONVERY** – The official record is “...**Ordinary Seaman James Convery, D/JX 191160, RN.**, died 13.2.42 ‘HMS Scorpion’ aged 23 years, son of Joseph and Sarah Convery of Newcastle – On – Tyne. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial, Panel 64, Col. 3 Another record mentions (Devonport). He is listed on a ‘Missing’ list in the UK Archives.
- **COTTINGHAM** – The official record is “... **Ordinary Seaman Joseph Tranfield Cottingham, D/JX 179369, RN.**, died 13.2.42 aged 22 years, son of George and Gertrude Cottingham of Barlborough, Derbyshire. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, panel 64, Col. 3...” (CWGC). He is also mentioned on another record as ‘Devonport’ and is listed in a ‘Missing’ list in the UK Archives.
- **CUMMING** – The official record is “... **Ordinary Seaman Robert Dunlop Cumming, D/JX 191163, RN.**, died 13.2.42 aged 23 years, ‘HMS Scorpion’, son of James and Margaret Cumming of Kilmaurs, Ayrshire. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 64, Col.3...” (CWGC). A document in the UK Archives mentions “... *COMING (Devonport)*...”. In a ‘Missing’ list in the UK Archives he is recorded as “...- *CUMMINGS, A.B., (or COMMINGS) (Devonport)*...”.
- **DAUD** – in a list of ‘Missing’ held in the UK Archives is noted “...*DAUD, AB, drifted from Lieut Kemp’s raft. From Kuala Kuangas, FMS*...”. This would appear to be **Able Seaman Daud Bin Salim, MN736** listed below.
- **DEAN** – The official record is “... **Able Seaman William Henry Dean, P/SSX 19728, RN.**, died 13.2.42 aged 24 years, ‘HMS Scorpion’, son of William henry and Annie Elizabeth Dean of Leicester. He is also remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 63, Col. 3...” (CWGC). He is mentioned in another document in the UK Archives as” ... (Portsmouth)...” and is noted in the ‘Missing’ list in the UK Archives.
- **DERRICK** – “...Leading Seaman M Derrick was on Lt Kems raft...” . This is **Leading Seaman Michael Derrick, P/SSX 19527, RN.**, on ‘HMS Scorpion’, who was born on 28.12.18 and enlisted on 1.12.36. He was captured in the Banka Strait on 15.2.42 and became a POW in Palembang POW camp until release on 21.9.45. Whilst in POW camp his ‘Detachment leader’ was Cmdr.

Scott, MRNVR and his NOK address was recorded as 'Mother', Mrs M. Derrick, Wisbet Field Farm, Letham, Ladybank, Fifeshire. Upon repatriation he gave his address as Craigencaft Farm Cottages, Kingshorn, Fifeshire. (MI9 Liberation questionnaire and Palembang Camp register).

- **DIN** – *An Able Seaman Bin H Din, MN357 (Malay Section), is listed in some sources as MPK. This appears to be a reference to **Able Seaman Din Bin Hasan, No. 357, MRNVR**, listed below.*
- **DON** - the official record is “...**Able Seaman Ibrahim Bin Muhammad Don, MN1194, RN., (Malay Section)**, died on 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 97, Col.1...” (CWGC).
- **DOWDY** – The official record is “... **Acting Leading Stoker Harry Ernest Dowdy, P/KX 79567, RN.,** died 13.2.42 aged 34 years, ‘HMS Scorpion’, son of Jesse and Margaret Ann Dowdy of Sidlesham Common, Essex. Also remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial Panel 68, Col. 1...” (CWGC). Portsmouth Division. He is also listed in the ‘Missing’ list in the UK Archives. Harry Dowdy is remembered on the Sidlesham War Memorial (with his brother Charles who was also in the Royal Navy) located in the churchyard of the early 13<sup>th</sup> century church ‘St Mary Our lady’.
- **EGLINTON/EGLINGTON** – The official record is “... **Signalman Percy William James Eglinton, C/JX 199374, RN.,** died on 13.2.42 aged 24 years, ‘HMS Scorpion’, son of William Charles and Ann Rebecca Feakes Eglinton, husband of Phyllis Eglinton of Shotton, Co. Durham. Also remembered on the Chatham Naval Memorial 58.3...” (CWGC). Signalman Eglinton had served on ‘HMS Prince of Wales’ (www.forcez-survivors). He was from the Chatham Division. He married Phyllis in 1937 and they had one son, David William Eglinton.
- **EVERETT** – The official record is “... **Stoker Petty Officer Edward Stanley Everett, P/KX 79341, RN.,** died 13.2.42, ‘HMS Scorpion’, husband of Hilda Everett of Berkley, Gloucestershire. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 67, Col. 3...” (CWGC). In a Royal Navy list of ‘Missing, believed Killed or Drowned’ held at the UK Archives it is noted “...*E. Everett, SPO, (Portsmouth)...*”.
- **FABIAN** – some documents on lists of ‘Missing, Wounded and Killed’ in the UK Archives refer to ‘Lt Fabian’s raft’ after the sinking, which must refer to “... **Harold George Fabian, DSC 1946 b.1909 London. Mercantile Assistant, Mackenzie & Co. Lt MRNVR HMS Sultan [Singapore Home Base] then on evacuation ship. Captured Banka Straits 15.2.42. POW Singapore. (JMM)...**”. Harold Fabian was born in London on 23 March 1909. the MI9 Liberation questionnaire he completed upon release from being a POW at the end of the war states that he enlisted on 7.1.41 and he was noted in the ‘Malaya Tribune’ (28.2.41) as “...*Mr H.G. Fabian, Shanghai sportsman has left the army for a commission in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve...*”. It is not known when he moved from Shanghai to Singapore but we can assume that it was in 1941 - it may even have been when ‘HMS Scorpion’ relocated to Singapore. Once again his MI9 questionnaire records that he was serving on ‘HMS Scorpion’ and was captured in the Berhala Strait (Java Sea). He was mentioned in an archived record as one of the officers in charge of a raft after the sinking of ‘HMS Scorpion’. In both a casualty list and in the list of ‘Missing’ for ‘HMS Scorpion’ held in the UK Archives the name of ‘Lieutenant Fabian, RNVR’ is noted a ‘Missing’ but further down the list is an Addendum which states “... *Mrs Wallace Kemp in a letter to her husband Lieut. J.C.W Kemp says she has been informed by the Admiralty that Lieut. Fabian is a POW in Singapore...*”. His MI9 questionnaire states that he was firstly a prisoner in ‘SAIGEN’ (it is a little hard to decipher) from 27.3.42 to 28.4.42, then Changi followed by a series of camps in Thailand (Kanyo, Hintok, Kinyasek, Tamuan, and Kanburi). He gave his contact address as c/o MacKenzie & Co. Ltd, 4 Lloyds Ave, London. EC3. In 1946 he was listed in ‘The London Gazette’ as being awarded the Distinguished Service Cross as part of a group of MRNVR men for ‘... Bravery, endurance and marked devotion to duty whilst serving on ‘HMS Scorpion’ during the



withdrawal of troops from Sungei Punggor and in harassing the advancing Japanese in Malaya from December 1941 to January 1942. Both the 'Straits Times' and the Malaya Tribune' of 21.2.46 carried a report of this medal being awarded "... Lieut. H.G. Fabian, Malay RNVR., DSC, for gallantry in action against superior naval forces..."

- **FAULKNER** – the official record is "... Able Seaman Joseph William Faulkner, P/JX 165144, RN died on 13.2.42 on 'HMS Scorpion' and is also remembered on the Portsmouth Naval memorial, Panel 63, Col s..." (CWGC). He is also noted as (Portsmouth Division) and (ex 'HMS Danae') and on the 'Missing' list in the UK Archives.
- **FRANCIS/FRANCES** – the official record is "... Signalman Edward Albert Charles Francis, C/JX 192918, RN., died 13.2.42 on 'HMS Scorpion' aged 22 years, the son of Edward James and Rose Francis of Tottenham, Middlesex. Also remembered on the Chatham naval Memorial 58.3..." (CWGC). Also, in the casualty list in the UK Archives and the list of 'Missing, Believed Killed or Drowned' there appears "... J. Frances, Sig. (Chatham)..." but this appears to be an early error on his identity.
- **GAMU** - the official record is "... Signalman Muhammad Noh Bin Gamu, MN 672, RN., (Malay Section), died 14.2.42 on HMS Scorpion'. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 97, Col. 1..." (CWGC).
- **GOFF** – Able Seaman Harold Sidney Goff, C/JX 190324, 'HMS Scorpion', RN was captured on 17.2.42 and became a POW in Palembang. His wife was Mrs Groff, Rocking Elm, Clacton, Essex.
- **GOODYEAR** – the official record is "... Chief Petty Officer Charles William Goodyear, P/J109481, RN., died 13.2.42 on 'HMS Scorpion'. He is also remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial Panel 62, Col.2..." (CWGC). The UK census of 1911 confirms was born in 1908 in Alton, Hants. As a Leading Seaman he served on 'HMS Hood' during 1934-35 during which time he won trophies for his participation in Royal Navy cutter races. He appears on a casualty list and a "Missing' list held in the UK Archives where it is also noted that he is a Chief Petty Officer and from Alton, Hants.
- **GOSDEN** – Signalman Harry Gosden, D/JX 184063, RN., ex 'HMS Repulse' (the crew list for 'HMS Repulse' shows 'Horace' Robert Martin Gosden, D/JX 184063 survived the sinking of that ship and died on 12.3.2002 aged 80 years). He was born on 15.1.22 and enlisted on 7.2.40, serving on 'HMS Repulse' and after the sinking of that ship then 'HMS Scorpion' and after the sinking of 'HMS Scorpion' was captured on Banka Island on 15.2.42. He then became (presumably after a brief spell in Muntok POW camp on Banka Island) a POW in Palembang Camp from 15.2.42 until 21.9.45. In camp his NOK was his mother, Mrs H. Gosden, 284 Molesey Road, Walton -On- Thames, Surrey. (MI9 Liberation questionnaire and Palembang Camp register). The record is slightly complicated by the fact that in Palembang POW camp was also,
- **GOSDEN** - 'ERA Gosden was on Lt Kemps raft'; ERA Alan Gosden, P/MX 53953, RN., 'HMS Scorpion' also captured 15.2.42 and became a POW in Palembang Camp where his NOK was recorded as (Mother) Mrs A. Gosden, 36 Houghton Bridge, Amberley, Sussex. Alan Gosden died on 26.6.45 in Palembang camp where he was buried in No.2 Camp Cemetery in Grave 96 (CWGC refers to this grave as Palembang cemetery Grave 4.B.6) and later reinterred in Jakarta War Cemetery Grave 4.B.7. He was the son of Harry and Annie Mary Gosden of Amberley, Sussex (CWGC and Palembang camp register).
- **GRAHAM** – The official record is "... Petty Officer Stoker Cyril Graham, P/KX77375, RN. died on 13.2.42 in the sinking of 'HMS Scorpion' aged 36 years, the son of Ambrose and Alice Graham, husband of Cecilia Graham of Dunfermline, Fife [Cecilia died in 2009]. Also remembered on the Portsmouth Naval memorial Panel 67, Col. 3..." (CWGC). In a casualty list and a 'Missing' list held

in the UK Archives it is noted that Cyril Graham was “...*Portsmouth and in ‘HMS Tenedos’ from 22.10.38 to October 1940...*”.

- **HADI** – the official record is “...**O/Sig. Umar Bin Haji Hadi, SE/X 716, MRNVR**, died on 14.2.42 (no ship reference) husband of Hijah Petom binte H.A. Sukor of Singapore. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 98, Col. 2...” (CWGC). There is also a reference using the name Haji Hadi Bin Umar as KIA (McLeod).
- **HASAN/HUSIN** – the official record is “...**Leading Seaman Abu Bakar Bin Hasan, MN 58, RN., (Malaya section)**, died 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 97, Col.1...” (CWGC). In a schedule titled ‘Died of Wounds’ in the UK Archives there is also the record that “...*Bakar Bin Hasan, Leading Seaman, (Malay Navy) No. 58 died at Muntok on 24.2.42...*” so it appears that Abu Bakar Hasan may have in fact survived the sinking and made it to Banka Island where he died as a POW. [The name ‘Bakar’ also appears on a wartime list of “...*Malays released at Muntok...*” - so he might also have died after being released or this might alternatively refer to one Abu Bakar, MN783, who is recorded as finding the body of Lt Cmdr. Horace Vickers, the CO of the MRNVR at the time, who had been executed by the Japanese on Banka Island in late February 1942].
- **HASAN/HUSIN** — The official record is “... **Able Seaman Din Bin Hasan, No. 357, MRNVR**, died on 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’ Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 97, Co.1...” (CWGC). In a list of men who ‘Died of Wounds’ held in the UK Archives is noted “... *DIN BIN HASSAN, A.B. MN No. 397. From Penang, SS... but no date of death is noted*”, also in a list of ‘Missing’ held in the UK Archives is noted “...*HUSIN, AB...*” [ was this alternatively a reference to Able Seaman Muhammad Husain Bin penal, MN 873 who also died on 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’ OR Able Seaman Muhammad Tahir Bin Husain, MN1167 who also died on 14.2.42 but for whom no ship is recorded?].
- **HEMMINGS /HEMMINS** – The official record is “... **Able Seaman Edward Cyril Hemmings, D/SSX 19581, RN.**, died on 13.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’, the son of Robert and Edith Hemmings of Douglas, Isle of man. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 65, Col. 2...” (CWGC). Sometimes incorrectly referred to as HEMMINS (Devonport). This information is repeated in the ‘Missing’ list in the UK Archives.
- **HENDERSON** – The official record is “... **Stoker 1st Class David Charles Henderson, D/KX 110366, RN.**, died on 13.2.42 aged 28 years, the son of David and Lilian Grace Henderson, husband of Florence Edith Henderson of St. Budeaux, Devon. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 70, Col. 1 ...” (CWGC). Another record notes “... Devonport Division – believed Killed in Action...”. In a Royal Navy list of men (only one in this category) who were ‘Killed in Action’ there is the note “... *Henderson, Sto, (Devonport)...*”.
- **HOUSE** – “... Petty Officer House, PK 61408 was on Lt Kemp’s raft ...”. **This was Chief Stoker Kenneth Lawrence George House, P/K 61408, RN.**, of ‘HMS Scorpion’, born 18.12.03 and enlisted 12.6.23 so a very experienced Royal Navy sailor. He was captured in the Banka Strait on 15.2.42 and became a POW possibly briefly in Muntok (although he does not record this) and then Mulo School in Palembang on 22.2.42. He was in Charitas Hospital on 12.9.43 and moved to Sungei Ron on 22.4.44. His NOK as recorded in the Palembang POW camp register whilst a POW was ‘Mother’ Mrs House, Manor Farm, Grately, Andover, Hants. Grately is an ancient (origin was 2,000 years ago) little village in north west Hampshire, England. At the end of the war, he recorded his address as ‘White Parish, Salisbury’, another ancient Parish in Wiltshire. (MI9 Liberation questionnaire).
- **HUTLER** – “...Able Seaman Hutler– was on Lt Kemp’s raft...”; **Able Seaman John Hutler, P/SSX 18302, RN.**, of ‘HMS Scorpion’ survived the sinking and became a POW in Palembang POW camp. In camp his NOK was noted as ‘Mother’ Mrs Hutler, 2 Liddle Terrace, Wheatley Hill, Co. Durham. **He died in POW camp on 4.8.45 (less than a month before Japan officially**

surrendered) aged 35 years and was buried in No.2 Camp cemetery, Grave 249. He was the son of John and Margaret Hutler of Wheatley Hill, Co. Durham. After the war he was disinterred and moved to Jakarta where he is now buried in Grave 4.6.13 in Jakarta War Cemetery (CWGC and Palembang Camp register).

- **IBRAHIM** – one source has Able Seaman Bin M D Ibrahim, MN1194 (Malay Section), MPK. In a list of casualties from 'HMS Scorpion' held in the UK Archives there is simply noted "IBRAHIM, Sig...." and later "...IBRAHIM, AB..". The official record is "...**AB Muhammad Saleh Bin Ibrahim, MN1103, RN., (Malay Section)**. Died 14.2.42 on 'HMS Scorpion'. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 97, Col. 2..." (CWGC).
- **IDRIS** – In a list of casualties from 'HMS Scorpion' held in the UK Archives there is a note *"MISSING – IDRIS, AB, released POW Muntok March 1942..."*
- **INGRAM** – Leading Seaman Daniel J W H Ingram, S 20111 (RANR), MPK. In a casualty list for 'HMS Scorpion' held in the UK Archives there is recorded *"Missing – INGHAM, L/Sig. RAN ex corvette possibly BENDIGO..."*. This is **Leading Seaman Daniel Joseph William Ingram, S 20111, Royal Australian Navy**, born in 1916 or 1917 and we learn *"...AB Daniel Ingram of the RAN. Ingram had been serving on 'HMAS Bendigo' when he was caught ashore in Singapore during an air raid in early February, and missed the ships sailing. He was then allotted to 'Scorpion' and lost his life when that ship was sunk..."* (Naval Historical Society of Australia). Also, reflecting the widespread and ongoing confusion and grief of men lost in the war with the Japanese we see ( five years later) that the circumstances of Daniel Ingram's death is still very clouded for his family ,when the 'Queensland Times' of 13 February 1947 published the following 'Death Notices' *"... INGRAM – In loving memory of our dear son Daniel Joseph William Ingram who was killed in the fall of Singapore on February 13, 1942 ( inserted by his loving mother)..."*; then *"... INGRAM – In fond and loving memory of our dearest brother and brother-in-law and uncle Leading Signalmen Daniel Joseph Ingram, HMAS Bendigo missing in the fall of Singapore presumed dead. Inserted by May, Bill, Dawn..."*.
- **ISMAIL** - the official record is *"... Able Seaman Taj – Ud – Din Bin Ismail, MN748, RN., (Malay Section)* died on 14.2.42 on 'HMS Scorpion'. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 97, Col. 2...(CWGC). In files in the UK Archives an AB Tajudin/ B.I. Taj-U-Din was listed as 'MPK'; also recorded as *"... TAJUDIN, AB, drifted from Lieut. Kemp's raft ..."*; he is also noted as *"...from Kuala Kuangsa, FMS..."* which may have been Kuala Kangsar. So, he survived the attack on and sinking of the 'HMS Scorpion' but died after drifting away from the raft. Another listing has *"...Able Seaman B I Taj-Ud-Din, MN748 (MALAY Section), MPK..."*.
- **JENKINS** – *In a casualty list and also the 'Missing' list for 'HMS Scorpion' held in the UK Archives is recorded "Missing – A. Jenkins, L/Sea. Devonport..." – however it has not been possible to identity this person as either a POW or as a death recorded by the CWGC.*
- **KADIR** – In a list of 'Missing' held in the UK Archives is noted *"...KADIR, AB, released Muntok March 1942..."*.
- **KEMP** – Lt John Cresswell Wallace Kemp reached a raft which eventually had 29 men clinging onto it -before later being picked up by the Japanese fishing boat 'Nana Maru'. This is *"...KEMP J.C.W. [ John Cresswell Wallace] b.1912. Educated Epsom College. To Malaya 1934. Customs Officer, Excise Dept SS. In 11.39 rescued a Chinese woman and 3 children from the sea after sinking of the 'Sirdhana'. Awarded Royal Humane Society Bronze Medal. Sub/Lt SS RNVR 8.36-1939. Lt MRNVR HMS Scorpion POW Palembang, Sumatra. Wife evacuated...(JMM)".* Wallace Kemp appears to have arrived in Malaya in 1934 and was appointed a Probationer in the Trade & Customs Dept, FMS ('Malaya Tribune', 12.11.34). In August 1936 he was Commissioned as Acting Sub-Lieutenant in the Straits Settlement Naval Volunteer Reserve and the following

month he married Miss Joan Mary Ruscoe of Epsom, Surrey at St Andrews Cathedral in Singapore. He was the son of the late Captain W.J. Kemp and Mrs Kemp of Epsom (formerly also of Singapore) ('ST' 6.9.36 with PHOTO). In 1937 he was promoted to Sub-Lieut. SSRNVR ('Malaya Tribune', 23.10.37). His MI9 Liberation questionnaire is sadly almost indecipherable. However, we know he was a POW in Palembang Camp and other researchers such as Jonathan Moffatt have deciphered that he was captured on 13.2.42 whilst on 'HMS Scorpion'. He was in the MRNVR and the camp register for Palembang notes his NOK as "... Mrs. J. Kemp, (wife of J.C. Wallace Kemp), Col. Customs Service, Malayan Dept., Colonial Office, London...". He died in 1995 (National Probate Calendar, England & Wales).

- **KILBURN** – in the casualty list and in the 'Missing' list for 'HMS Scorpion' held in the UK Archives is listed "... J.M. KILBURN, L/Sea., Devonport...". In the report written by Stoker Petty Officer House in Palembang POW camp on 11 March 1942 about the 29 men who reached a raft (in some documents referred to as 'Lt Kemp's raft') after the sinking, it says "... *The following morning 14 Feb., at daybreak, we sighted one enemy cruiser, two destroyers and two rafts or small fishing smacks. We tried to get in touch with small boats or rafts by one man swimming towards them; this was Ldg. Sea. KILBURN – I never saw him again, but I believe he was picked up later...*". It appears that John Kilburn certainly did get picked up by an unknown rescue vessel – because logically he was either picked up by one of the very few evacuation vessels which safely reached Batavia – or more likely – was picked up and taken firstly to Pulau Singkep to the north of where 'HMS Scorpion' was sunk, then by boat to Sumatra, up the Indragiri River across the mountains to the west coast port town of Padang and then boarded a ship which took him to Batavia or Tjilichap where he joined the 'HMS Stronghold' – one of these scenarios must have occurred because **Leading Seaman James Mason Kilburn, D/SSX 19652**, is officially recorded as dying on 2 March 1942 on 'HMS Stronghold' which ship was sunk in an encounter with a more powerful Japanese fleet near Java. In the same manner, quite a number of naval Officers and ratings - including survivors from 'HMS Grasshopper' and 'HMT St Breock' which had been sunk to the north of Pulau Singkep on the same day (14<sup>th</sup> February) and who reached that island and then the Sumatran mainland also reached Batavia and boarded the ill-fated 'HMS Stronghold' – some lost their lives but others such as Lt Ian Forbes, RN (of 'HMS Grasshopper') survived yet another sinking and the consequent hardships of being a Japanese POW. John Kilburn was the son of John Arthur Kilburn and Mary Anyon Kilburn of Fleetwood, Lancashire and is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Column, Panel 64, Col.1(CWGC).
- **KLIAS??** – a T/F Klias 'was listed by P.O. House as on Lt Kemp's raft. No identification of this man has been achieved.
- **LANA** – in a list of 'Missing' held in the UK Archives is noted "... *LANA, AB, Last seen at Muntok...*". No identification of this man has been achieved.
- **LASSETER/LASSITER** – The official record is "... **Petty Officer Sidney Arthur Lasseter, P/JX 133045, RN.**, died 13.2.42 on 'HMS Scorpion'. (CWGC). He was Portsmouth Division and recorded as 'Believed Killed or Drowned'. In a list of men 'Believed Killed or Drowned' held in the UK Archives is noted "... *R. LASSITER, P.O. (Portsmouth)...*".
- **LEADBITTER** – **Able Seaman Arthur Leadbitter, P/SSX 32277, RN.**, Born 14.3.20 and enlisted on 19.12.40, his home address was 94 Copeland Terr., Newcastle-On-Tyne. He was captured at Muntok, Banka Island on 15.2.42 (this suggests he was one of the men picked up by the 'Mata Hari') and became a POW in Muntok Feb.42; Seletar Feb.42; Changi Nov.43; and finally, Kranji June 45. (COFEPOW – MI9 Liberation questionnaire.). In a list of casualties from the 'HMS Scorpion' held in the UK Archives there is noted against his name "... *LEADBITTER, A.B. (Portsmouth) Prisoner of War left Muntok for Singapore on Mata Hari 19.2.42...*".

- **LEMAN** – in a list of ‘Missing’ held in the UK Archives is noted “...LEMAN, AB...”. No identification of this man has been achieved.
- **LETCH** – The official record is “... **Leading Seaman Frederick Wallis Letch, P/JX 140999, RN.**, died 13.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’ aged 23 years, the son of Frederick William Letch and of Emily Ellen Letch of West Ham, Essex. Also remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 62, Col. 3. (CWGC). In the UK Archives one document notes him as ex – ‘HMS Tenedos’ and Portsmouth Division. Also listed in the same manner in the ‘Missing’ list.
- **MABAR** – in a list of ‘Missing’ held in the UK Archives is noted “...**MABAR, AB freed at Muntok...**”. No identification of this man has been achieved.
- **MAIDMENT** – The official record is “... **Leading Stoker Leslie Arthur Maidment, P/KX 84154, RN.**, died 13.2.42 aged 27 years on ‘HMS Scorpion’, the son of Frederick George and Emily Maidment of Bournemouth, Hampshire. Also remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial Panel 68, Col.1...” (CWGC). In the list of ‘Missing’ in the UK Archives is “... *Acting Leading Stoker Leslie A Maidment, P/KX 84154, MPK (Portsmouth Division) ...*”.
- **MAJOR** – in the casualty lists and the ‘Missing, Believed Killed or Drowned’ for ‘HMS Scorpion’ in the UK archives there is an entry for “... -Major, Sto. (Devonport)...”, but this appears to be an error in identifying the civilian passenger Frank Mayger.
- **MARSHALL** – The official record is “... **Stoker Cyril Marshall, RFR, P/SS 119115, RN.**, died 13.2.42 aged 42 years on ‘HMS Scorpion’ son of Harry and Emma Marshall, husband of Mabel Winifred Marshall of Dore, Yorkshire [a large village in South Yorkshire]. Also remembered on the Portsmouth Naval memorial Panel 68, Col.3 ...”. (CWGC). He is noted in the ‘Missing’ list held in the UK Archives as being “...Portsmouth Division...”.
- **MAT** – Able Seaman Zin B U Mat, MN999(Malay Section), MPK. This would appear to be “... “... **Able Seaman Mat Zin Bin Ujang, MN999, RN., (Malay section)** listed below.
- **MILLS** – in a list of casualties from ‘HMS Scorpion’ held in the UK Archives there is the following notation “... *Missing - MILLS, Tel. Missing believed Prisoner of War Singapore. Left Banka Island in ‘Mata Hari’ 19.2.42...*”. It has not been possible to identify ‘Telegraphist Mills, RN.’ from any MI9 Liberation questionnaires in the COFEPOW database. In the crew list of ‘HMS Repulse’ there is a record of Boy Telegraphist George Mills, D/JX 181942, RN but nothing to link him to ‘HMS Scorpion’. Anyone with knowledge of this person could they please contact the researcher of this memorial document.
- **MILTON** – The official record is “... **Leading Stoker John Milton, P/K 18349, RN.**, died 13.2.42 aged 49 years on ‘HMS Scorpion’ husband of Beatrice May Milton of Godalming, Surrey. Also remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial Panel 68, Col. 1...” (CWGC). In the ‘Missing’ list in the UK Archives he is noted as ‘Portsmouth Division’.
- **MO.RID** – a “*Leading Telegraphist Mo. Rid*” was listed by P.O. House as on Lt Kemps’ raft. This does not appear to relate to any of the men listed here with the name Mohammad or Muhammad.
- **MORGAN** – Stoker 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Harry L Morgan, P/KX 121724, MPK. The official record is **Stoker 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Harry Leslie Morgan, P/KX 121724, RN** died on 13.2.42 aged 21 years on ‘HMS Scorpion’, son of George and Edith Morgan of Sandford, Dorsetshire. Also remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial Panel 69, Column 1. (CWGC). He is also noted in the ‘Missing’ list held in the UK Archives as “...Devonport Division...”.
- **MORTON** – The official record is “... **Able Seaman Douglas Haig Lawson Morton, P/SSX18197, RN.**, died 13.2.42 aged 23 years the son of Douglas Lawson Morton and Margaret Morton of Buckhaven, Fife [a town on the coast north of Edinburgh, Scotland]. Also remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial Panel 63, Col. 1...” (CWGC). In the casualty list for ‘HMS Scorpion’ his number is



listed as 18196 and in a 'Missing' list he is recorded as 'L/S, P/SSX 18196' – both files in the UK Archives.

- **MOHAMED** – “...*Zain bin Ujang Mohamed...*” is listed in a post war newspaper as being a casualty (Malay Tribune 29.4.47). This is presumably the same person as **Able Seaman Mat Zin Bin Ujang, MN999, RN., (Malay section)** who is listed below as a casualty.
- **MORRIS** – **Signalman [Sig T/O?] George Morris, D/JX 162191, RN.,** survived the sinking of 'HMS Scorpion'. His MI9 Liberation questionnaire records that he was born on 3.4.23 so was only 19 years old at the time of the sinking, and that after enlisting on 27.3.38 he had served on 'HMS Repulse'. He recorded that he was sunk in 'Bahama Straits' [sic: Banka Straits] and was “...*captured by Jap invasion craft...*” prior to being taken to Sumatra on 15.2.42 [it seems likely that he was actually taken to Muntok on Banka Island on 15.2.42]. Then as a POW he was taken across to the mainland of Sumatra and held firstly in Mulo School (23.2.42-29.8.42); Chung Hwa School (29.8.42-5.2.44); and finally, Sungei Ron POW Camp (5.2.44 – 28.9.45). The Palembang POW camp register records his NOK as 'Mother', Mrs G. Morris, 22 Crompton Street, Derby. (COFEPOW).
- **MOUSLEY/MOSLEY** – “...*ERA Mosley was on Lt Kemp's raft - died...*”. The official record is “...**ERA 4<sup>th</sup> Class Ronald Leopold Mousley, C/MX 71402, RN.,** died 18.2.42 aged 21 years son of Leopold and Alberta Mousley of East Ham, Essex. Also remembered on the Chatham Naval memorial 60.2...”. (CWGC). In a list of men who 'Died of Wounds' held in the UK Archives is noted “...*R.L. MOUSLEY, ERA, C/MX 71402, buried at sea 20.2.42...*” and that he was from 'Chatham'. Stoker Petty Officer House, who was one of those on Lt Kemp's raft, recorded on their capture by the Japanese fishing boat 'Nana Maru', when Ronald Mousley was badly wounded but still alive and” ... *After being aboard about 2 hrs. they gave us water and a little rice. About 17.00 a Malay named O. Mor, O/Sig. [sic: Signalman Omar or Signalman Bin A. Umar MN1129] died. We eventually arrived at the mouth of the MOESI RIVER and anchored for the night. On the 16 Feb. we came up to PALEMBANG, accompanied by 13 Enemy Transports, and a large number of small fishing vessels. Arriving off the town, we tied up alongside the Custom's pier. On the morning of 17 Feb., we returned down River; loaded cargo from a Jap Merchant ship and brought back to the Custom's Pier. They put us ashore on the pier. We were sleeping in a shed and stayed there for 3 days. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> night, whilst at the pier, ERA Mosely died of wounds. I buried him by weighting his body...*”. So, the harsh truth of the matter is that the body of Ronald Leopold Mousley was not “...*buried at sea...*” but was placed into the huge Musi/Moesi River at the city Palembang in southern Sumatra - the river is perhaps two hundred yards wide and from Palembang flows for some 50 miles to a huge delta that runs into the sea.
- **MUHAMMAD** – **Able Seaman Ali B U Muhammad, MN407(Malay section)** is listed as, MPK. This is **Able Seaman Mohamad Ali Bin Umar, MN 407, RN., (Malay Section)** listed below.
- **MUHAMMAD** – **Able Seaman Bin S Muhammad, MN356 (Malay Section),** is listed as MPK. This is **Leading Signalman Muhammad Bin Sayid, RN., (Malay Section),** listed below.
- **MUHAMMAD** – **Able Seaman Daud B S Muhammad, MN736 (Malaya Section),** is listed as MPK. This is **Able Seaman Muhammad Daud Bin Salim, MN736, RN., (Malay section),** who is listed below.
- **MUHAMMAD** - **Able Seaman Husain B P Muhammad, MN873, (Malaya Section),** is listed as MPK. This is **Able Seaman Muhammad Husain Bin Penal, RN., (Malay Section)** listed below.
- **MUHAMMAD** – **Signalman Noh B G Muhammad, MN672 (Malay Section)** is listed as MPK. This is **Signalman Muhammad Noh Bin Gamu, MN 672, RN., (Malay Section),** who is listed below.
- **MUHAMMAD** – **Able Seaman Saleh B I Muhammad, MN1103 (Malay Section)** is listed as MPK. This is **AB Muhammad Saleh Bin Ibrahim, MN1103, RN., (Malay Section)** who is listed above.

- **MUSA**— One source has “...**Tel. Hussein Bin Musa POW L ...**” (McLeod) and in the list of Next of Kin in the UK Archives is “... **Musa Teleprinter, MN505. Uncle, Abdul Manaf, Jalan Dato, Kg. Paloh-Leoh** [this may be a typographical error and could mean to state ‘Paloh-Ipoh’], **Perak, Malaya...**”.
- **MUTCH** – **Acting Leading Stoker Gordon Henry Mutch, P/K 66592, RN., DOW.** In a list of men who ‘Died of Wounds’ held in the UK Archives is noted “... **MUTCH, L/Sto (Portsmouth) buried 15.2.42 at sea ...**”. The official record is that he died on 13.2.42 aged 37 years in the sinking of ‘HMS Scorpion’ and was the son of George and Ella Mutch and the husband of Mary Louisa Mutch of Rock Ferry, Cheshire. He is also remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 68, Col. 1 (CWGC).
- **NATSIN ??– in a list of ‘Missing’ held in the UK Archives is noted “... NATSIN, AB, drifted from Lieut Kemp’s raft: from Negri Sembilan...”.** No one with this name has been identified as having been on the ‘HMS Scorpion’ – or in fact anyone with that name having died in the service of the Royal Navy (Malay Section). **The researcher speculates that it is possible someone has referred to Able Seaman Mat Zain Bin Ujang, MN999?**
- **NEEP** – In a list of men who ‘Died of Wounds’ held in the UK Archives is noted “... **NEEP, Sto. Devonport buried at sea 15.2.42...**”. The official record is “...**Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class Adam William Neep, D/KX 109869, RN.,** [but notes correctly or incorrectly - since ‘HMS Grasshopper’ was sunk on 14.2.42- that he was on ‘HMS Grasshopper’] **died On 13.2.42 aged 22 years. Son of Frederick and Elizabeth Neep of Inverkeithy, Fife. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 70, Col. 2...**” (CWGC) – it appears that the CWGC is not aware of the information that Adam Neep survived the sinking but died at sea (presumably on one of the rafts) two days later.
- **NONCHE**- the official record is “... **Able Seaman Rosli Bin Nonche, MN529, RN., (Malay Section)** died 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 97, Col.2...”. (CWGC). Also referred to as “...Bin N. Rosli, MPK...”.?
- **NORDIN/NOORDIN** – there are two men with a similar last name ‘Nordin’ and **firstly we have “...Noordin was on Lt Kemp’s raft...”.** An “...**AB Mat Noordin...**” was listed as one of the Malay seamen on Lt Kemp’s raft after the sinking; this may have been **Leading Seaman Abdul Rahman Nordin** who has also been identified as a POW (McLeod). In the UK Archives list of ‘Next of Kin’ from the ship his NOK was his “... ‘**Mother**’ **Churnel Bte Ningal, 40 Jalan Hamzah, KG Barraru, KL, Malaya...**”. Today 40 Jalan Hamzah is in Kampung Baru in Kuala Lumpur.
- **NORDIN/NOORDIN** – **there appears to also be another man with the same last name “...Noordin was on Lt Kemp’s raft...”.** An “...**AB Mat Noordin...**” was listed as one of the Malay seamen on Lt Kemp’s raft after the sinking; **Able Seaman Mat/Mohammad Bin Nordin** was recorded in the UK Archives as being on Lt Kemp’s raft and in the ‘Next of Kin’ list in the Archives is recorded “... **Noordin Mat AB, MN800. Father Mat Perak B. Ali, Batu 21 and a half, KG. Gurun Kedah, Malaya...**” [the area known as Kampung Gurun was/is about 20 Km north of Sungei Patani, in Kedah, which is itself north on Penang]. He is recorded as a POW (McLeod).
- **NUK** - the official record is “...**Telegraphist Othman Bin Haji Muhammad Nuk, MN971, RN., (Malaya Section)** died 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 97, Col.3...” (CWGC). A list in the UK Archives of ‘Malays released in Muntok’ has “...**Tel. Bin HMN Othman MN971...**”. **Which suggests that this sailor may have lost his life AFTER reaching Banka Island and spending a short time as a POW.**
- **OMAR/O.MAR** – In a list of men who “Died of Wounds’ is noted “...**OMAR, Sig. buried at sea (16.2.42 deleted) 17.2.42 (Malay Navy) ...**”, also ‘**Able Seaman O Mar**’ was listed by P.O. House as being on Lt Kemp’s raft. This would appear to be **Able Seaman Mohamad Ali Bin Umar, MN 407, RN., (Malay Section)** listed below.

- **OTHMAN** – *Telegraphist Bin H M N Othman, MN971, (Malay Section), MPK. In a list of casualties from ‘HMS Scorpion’ held in the UK Archives there is the note “OTHMAN, Sig. Released from POW, Muntok March 1942...” This may be Telegraphist Othman Bin Haji Muhammad Nuk, MN971, RN., (Malaya Section) who is recorded as having lost his life on 14.2.42 and who is listed below.*
- **PAKEH** - the official record is “... **Able Seaman Sulaiman Bin Pakeh, MN1001, RN., (Malay section)** died 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 97, Col.2...” (CWGC). Another record has “... *AB Bin P. Sulaiman, MPK...*”.
- **PALMER** –The official record is “... **Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class Robert Richard Palmer, P/KX 98634, RN.,** died 13.3.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’ aged 55 years. Son of Frederick and Fanny Palmer of Alton, Hampshire [Alton is a market town in East Hampshire], and husband of Helen Palmer. Also remembered on the Portsmouth Naval memorial Panel 68, Col.3...” (CWGC). He is also noted in the ‘Missing’ list in the UK Archives as “...Devonport Division...”.
- **PENAL** - the official record is “...**Able Seaman Muhammad Husain Bin Penal, RN., (Malay Section)** died 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 97, Col.2...” (CWGC).
- **PRINCE** – Stoker 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Robert Prince, P/KX 121786, MPK. In the list of casualties from ‘HMS Scorpion’ held in the UK Archives it is noted that he was (Devonport). He is also noted in the ‘Missing’ list held in the UK Archives as “...Devonport Division...”.
- The official record is **Stoker 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Robert Prince, P/KX 121786, RN** died on 13.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’ son of Harold and Isabella Prince of Ripon, Yorkshire. Also remembered on the Portsmouth Naval memorial Panel 69, Column 1(CWGC) and the War memorial in Spa Gardens, Ripon as well as in the Ripon Cathedral (on one of the three stone panels on the north wall inside the Cathedral).
- **RAHMAN** – *in a list of ‘Missing’ held in the UK Archives is noted “...RAHMAN, AB...”.* This could refer to a number of men with the name Rahman – listed in this document.
- **RICHARDS** –In a list of men who “Died of Wounds” held in the UK Archives is noted “...*Sub-Lieut RICHARDS, RNVR (Liverpool) (buried at sea 13.2.42) ....*”. The official record is **Sub Lieutenant William Eric Richards, RNVR, ‘HMS Scorpion’,** died 13.2.42 aged 24 years, the son of John and Annie Richards of Liverpool. (CWGC). William Richards was Gazetted as a Midshipman, Mersey as from 19.4.38 and then as a Sub- Lt in 1940. He is remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial Panel 71, Col.2 and on his grandparents’ headstone in St Luke’s Churchyard, Great Crosby, Merseyside.
- **RONALDSON** – **Acting Sub -Lieut. James Theo Ronaldson, MRNVR, MPK.** In a list of Missing’ (as opposed at the time of compilation to a list of ‘Missing, Believed Killed or Drowned’) held in the UK Archives is noted “...*Acting Sub -Lieutenant (J.T.) RONALDSON, MRNVR...*”. The official record is Sub Lieutenant James Theo Ronaldson, MRNVR died 15.2.42, ‘HMS Scorpion’, son of Mrs W. Ronaldson of Birkdale, Lancashire. This is “...*James Theo Ronaldson, b.1917 Belfast. From Birkdale. To Singapore 1938. Singapore Customs Officer, Preventive Branch. Reported prosecuting licensing offences in 1940-41 and playing frequent golf for the Sepoy Lines Golf Club in Singapore (on one occasion in December 1939 against the Japanese Golf Club). Sub-Lt MRNVR Lost at sea 15.2.42 HMS Scorpion. (JMM and Singapore Newspaper Archives) ...*”.
- **ROSLI** – **Able Seaman Bin N Rosli, MN 529 (Malay Section), MPK.** In a list of ‘Missing’ held in the UK Archives is noted “...*ROSLI, AB...*”. This must refer to **Able Seaman Rosli Bin Nonche, MN529, RN., (Malay Section)** listed above.
- **ROWE** –The official record is **Engine Room Artificer 3rd Class Frederick Jim Rowe, D/MX 48907, RN., ‘HMS Scorpion’** died 13.2.42 aged 25 years, son of Frederick and Elsie Rowe of Mutley, Plymouth. Also remembered on the Plymouth naval memorial Panel 68, Col.3(CWGC). In a Royal

Navy list of men 'Missing Believed Killed or Drowned' held in the UK Archives is noted "... J ROWE, ERA (Devonport)...".

- **SALEH /RAJAH SALEH** – In a list of casualties from 'HMS Scorpion' held in the UK Archives there is noted "... "... MISSING -RATING: SALEH, AB ..." This could be a reference to **Able Seaman Saleh B I Muhammad, MN1103 (Malay Section)** listed as MPK. Then there is also **RAJAH SALEH** – In a list of casualties from 'HMS Scorpion' held in the UK Archives there is a note "...MISSING – RATINGS: RAJAH SALEH, released Muntok March 1942...".
- **SALIM** - the official record is "...**Able Seaman Muhammad Daud Bin Salim, MN736, RN., (Malay section)**, died 14.2.42 on 'HMS Scorpion'. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial panel 97, Col.1..." (CWGC).
- **SAYID** - the official record is "... **Leading Signalman Muhammad Bin Sayid, RN., (Malay Section)**, died 14.2.42 on 'HMS Scorpion'. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 97, Col. 2..." (CWGC).
- **SCRIMSHAW** – Recorded in a Casualty list and a 'Missing' list held in the UK Archives where it is noted that he was in Portsmouth Division. The official record is "...**Chief Engine Room Artificer Mervin Eros Parkin Scrimshaw, P/M 24909, RN., 'HMS Scorpion', died 13.2.42 ...**" (CWGC). Mervin Scrimshaw was born in 1902 and lived in Derbyshire (UK census 1911). He is remembered at St Peter's Church, Petersfield, and on the Petersfield War Memorial (Portsmouth, Hampshire) and on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 67, Col.1.
- **SHAFIE - Able Seaman Hashim Bin Shafie** is recorded as a 'POW L' (McLeod) and in the 'Next of Kin' list in the UK Archives is stated as "... Hashim (Shaffi) A.B., MN923. Brother Arrifin B. Shaffi, 155 Kg. Boyan, Taiping, Perak, Malaya..." [Kampung Boyan is today a suburb in the city of Taiping].
- **SMEE** – Ordinary Signalman Herbert P Sme, P/JX 218166, MPK. Devonport Division. In a list of 'Missing, Believed Killed or Drowned' held in the UK Archives is noted the name of "...- SMEE, Sig. (Devonport)...". The official record is "...**Ordinary Signalman Herbert Pennett Sme, P/JX 218166, RN., 'HMS Scorpion' died 13.2.42, son of Francis William and Kate Evelyn Sme of Theydon Bois, Essex. Also remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial Panel 66, Col.3 ...**" (CWGC).
- **STEELE** – Ordinary Seaman Simeon C Steele, D/SSX36098, is listed as MPK, "Steel AB or Steele Ord Sea (Devonport)..." in the UK Archives. The official record is "...**Ordinary Seaman Simeon Steele, D/SSX 36098, RN., 'HMS Scorpion' (also 'HMS Repulse'), died 13.2.42 aged 17 years the son of Thomas and Alice Laura Steele of Carlton, Nottingham. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 67, Col. 2...**" (CWGC).
- **SULAIMAN** – the official record is "... **Leading Seaman Abdullah Aziz Bin Sulaiman, MN527, RN., (Malay Section)** died on 14.2.42 on 'HMS Scorpion' ...". (CWGC). There is also the record of "... **Able Seaman Bin P Sulaiman, MN1001 (Malay section), MPK...**".
- **SULEIMAN/SULAIMAN – Able Seaman Sumin Bin Sulieman** is listed as POW L (McLeod). Another source listing Next of Kin states "... Sulaiman AB, MN742, Brother Arad B. Samin, Jalan Bahru, K. Kangsar, Perak, Malaya...". [Researcher Note: Jalan Baru/Bahru is now known as Jalan Sultan Iskandar Shah in Kula Kangsar].
- **TAJ – UD – DIN (See also ISMAIL) – the official record is "... Able Seaman Taj – Ud – Din Bin Ismail, MN748, RN., (Malay Section)** died on 14.2.42 on 'HMS Scorpion'. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 97, Col. 2...(CWGC). In files in the UK Archives an AB Tajudin/ B.I. Taj-U-Din was listed as 'MPK'; also recorded as "... **TAJUDIN, AB, drifted from Lieut. Kemp's raft ...**"; he is also noted as "...**from Kuala Kuangsa, FMS...**" which may have been Kuala Kangsar. So, he survived the attack on and sinking of the 'HMS Scorpion' but died after drifting



away from the raft. Another listing has “...**Able Seaman B I Taj-Ud-Din, MN748 (MALAY Section), MPK...**”.

- **TAJUDIN** – in a list of ‘Missing’ held in the UK Archives is noted “...TAJUDIN, AB, drifted from Lieut Kemp’s raft. From Kuala Kuangas, FMS...”. See previous entry.
- **TALIB** - the official record is “... **Able Seaman Ahmad Bin Haji Talib, MN734, RN., (Malay Section)** died on 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. He is also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 97, Col. 1...” (CWGC).
- **TAYLOR** – The official record is “... **Able Seaman John William Taylor, P/JX 193333, RN.,** died 13.2.42 aged 21 years on ‘HMS Scorpion’ son of Alfred and Florence M. Taylor of Ruislip Manor, Middlesex. Also remembered on the Portsmouth Naval memorial Panel 65, Col. 1...” (CWGC). In a list of ‘Died’ held in the UK Archives is “... J.T. Taylor, A.B. D/J. 88030 (ex-Falcon) buried at sea 3.4.42...” and he also appears in the ‘Missing’ list in the UK Archives.
- **TODD** – was on ‘Lt Kemps raft’ with Petty Officer House and initially 29 others. House later recorded in Palembang POW camp “... Ldg. Sig. Todd was seriously wounded in the left thigh, and owing to the lack of medical treatment, it is very likely the wound had become gangrenous. He was taken to Hospital in Palembang on 27 Feb. (He died about 14 days later) ...”. In a list of men who ‘Died of Wounds’ held in the UK Archives is noted “... F.G. TODD, L/Sig C/J 32991. 12.3.42 at Charitas Hospital Palembang...”. The official record is “... **Leading Seaman Frederick Charles Todd, C/J 32991, RN.,** died 12.3.42, ‘HMS Sultan’ ...”. (CWGC) – so the CWGC do not appear to realise he had been in the crew of ‘HMS Scorpion’ and appear not to know that he died of his wounds at Charitas Hospital, Palembang. From the Palembang POW camp register, we know that Frederick Todd was initially buried in Grave EII/25 in the New European cemetery Palembang and that his NOK had been recorded as ‘Wife’ Mrs D.H. Todd, 42 Linley Road, Leyton, London.E.10. After the war Frederick was disinterred and reinterred in Grave 1.F.16 in Jakarta War Cemetery, Indonesia.
- **TURNER** – The official record is “... **Leading Seaman David Turner, C/KX 84578, RN.,** died 13.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’ aged 28 years the son of David and Catherine Ann Taylor Turner of Edinburgh. Also remembered on the Chatham Naval memorial 61.1...” (CWGC). in the ‘Missing’ list for ‘HMS Scorpion’ held in the UK Archives is recorded “...*Leading Stoker David Turner, C/KX 84578, (ex – ‘HMS Falcon’) also Chatham Division...*” - the ‘HMS Falcon’ was a Yangtze river gunboat handed over to the Chinese in February 1942 after being taken to Chungking – David Turner must have been transferred to Singapore at an earlier date.
- **UJANG** - the official record is “... **Able Seaman Mat Zin Bin Ujang, MN999, RN., (Malay section)** died 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial panel 91, Col.1...” (CWGC). A list in the UK Archives of “... men on Lt Kemps raft..” includes the name of “...*AB Zin B.U. Mat...*” suggesting that **AB Mat Zin Bin Ujang died on the raft or drifted away at sea??**
- **UMAR** – The official record is “...**Able Seaman Mohamad Ali Bin Umar, MN 407, RN., (Malay Section)** died 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 97, Col.2...” (CWGC). There is also a record of “...**Signalman Bin A. Umar, MN1129 (Malaya section), MPK...**”.
- **WAGER** – “... *Wager was on Lt Kemp’s raft...*”. This is **Able Seaman Sidney James Wager, C/JX 233144, RN.,** ‘HMS Scorpion’ who was born in July 1913 and enlisted on 9.10.40. He survived the sinking and was captured on 15.2.42 in the Banka Straits becoming a POW in Palembang firstly at Mulo School on 23.2.42, then Chung Hwa School in March 1942 and then what he records as ‘San Ju Ron’ [ sic: Sungei Ron] in March 1944. In the Palembang camp register his NOK is recorded



as 'Wife' Mrs Wager, 12 Kenwyn Drive, Cricklewood, London, NW2 (MI9 Liberation questionnaire in COFEPOW website). He is stated to have died in 1998.

- **WALTERS** – In a casualty list for 'HMS Scorpion' held in the UK Archives there is recorded "...Missing – Walters, L/Sig. (Devonport ex CDO Naval Base) ..." with a notation "Dr." However no further identification of this person has been possible. In the list of 'Missing' held also in the UK archives is noted "... (ex C.D.O. Naval Base, Singapore) ...".
- **WATTS** – "...Watts was on Lt Kemp's raft...". This was **Leading Signalman John Watts, C/J 36255, RN.**, 'HMS Scorpion' born on 17.8.98 [ so a very experienced naval serviceman who enlisted in MARCH 1915 and was possibly on 'HMS Repulse' ??]. He was captured in the Banka Strait on 15.2.42 and became a POW in Palembang – firstly in Mulo School on 24.2.42 then Chung Hwa School in September 1942 and finally Sungei Ron in March 1944. In the Palembang camp register his NOK is recorded as 'Wife' Mrs L. Watts, 66 Benged Street, Hertford. (MI9 Liberation questionnaire on COFEPOW website and Palembang POW camp register).
- **WILLIAMS** – The official record is "... **Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class Wilfred Williams, D/KX 108219, RN.**, died on 13.2.42 on 'HMS Scorpion' aged 31 years son of Thomas Henry and Alice Emma Williams of Hereford, husband of Doris May Williams of Hereford. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 70, Col. 3..." (CWGC). **It appears that the CWGC are not aware that Stoker Williams died later and was buried at sea**, because in a list of men who 'Died of Wounds' held in the UK Archives is noted "... WILLIAMS, Sto (Devonport) buried at sea 15.2.42. Dark, thick set about 37..."
- **WILSON** – The official record is "...**Ordinary Signalman Victor Wilson, C/JX 250138, RN.**, died on 13.2.42 on 'HMS Scorpion' aged 21 years, the son of Frank and Lucy Wilson of Apperley Bridge, Yorkshire [ Apperley Bridge is a village in the city of Bradford]. In a list of casualties from 'HMS Scorpion' held in the UK archives is" ... approx.. ex PWSS Mt Faber..." . He is also in the 'Missing' list held in the UK Archives with the number 250130.
- **YAQUAB**- the official record is "... **Able Seaman Abdul Rahman Bin Yaquab, MN 713, RN., (Malay Section)**, died on 14.2.42 on 'HMS Scorpion'. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 91, Col.1..." (CWGC).
- **YASSIM** - The official record is "**Ordinary Seaman Din Bin Yassim, MN398, RN., (Malay Section)** died on 'HMS Scorpion' on **19.4.40** [this date is at a time when 'HMS Scorpion' was operating in the Yangtse River in China - whereas he is listed as being on 'HMS Scorpion' on its final voyage in 1942?]. Also listed on the Singapore (Unmaintainable Graves) Memorial, Col.1 at Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore..." (CWGC), Another source has Hasan Bin Din 'KIA' (McLeod).
- **ZAINAL** – the official record is "... **Leading Telegraphist Arshad Bin Zainal, MN322, RN., (Malay Section)**, died on 14.2.42 on 'HMS Scorpion'..." . Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 92, Col.2..." . (CWGC). Another source has **L/Tel Zainal Bin Arshad KIA** (McLeod).
- **ZULKARRI** – In a list of casualties from 'HMS Scorpion' held in the UK Archives there is the note "**ZULKARRI, Tel. Missing last seen on Lieut Fabian's raft...**" – it has not been possible to identify this man using variations of the name including 'Zulkarri, Sulkarri or Dzulkarri'.

## **APPENDIX:**

### **Malay Seamen (listed by Royal Navy – Malay section number):**

Until the researcher of this memorial document is sure that the names of the Malay seamen aboard 'HMS Scorpion' have been recorded correctly the following section is a cross reference with the above alphabetical listing.

- **58** – the official record is “...**Leading Seaman Abu Bakar Bin Hasan, MN 58, RN., (Malaya section)**, died 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 97, Col.1...”. (CWGC). In a schedule titled ‘Died of Wounds’ in the UK Archives there is also the record that “...*Bakar Bin Hasan, Leading Seaman, (Malay Navy) No. 58 died at Muntok on 24.2.42...*” so it appears that Abu Bakar Hasan may have in fact survived the sinking and made it to Banka Island where he died as a POW. [The name ‘Bakar’ also appears on a wartime list of “...*Malays released at Muntok...*” - so he might also have died after being released or this might alternatively refer to one Abu Bakar, MN783, who is recorded as finding the body of Lt Cmdr. Horace Vickers, the CO of the MRNVR at the time, who had been executed by the Japanese on Banka Island in late February 1942].
- **322** – the official record is “... **Leading Telegraphist Arshad Bin Zainal, MN322, RN., (Malay Section)**, died on 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’...”. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 92, Col.2...”. (CWGC). Another source has L/Tel Zainal Bin Arshad KIA (McLeod).
- **356**- the official record is “... **Leading Signalman Muhammad Bin Sayid, RN., (Malay Section)**, died 14.2.42 on” HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 97, Col. 2...” (CWGC).
- **357** – The official record is “... **Able Seaman Din Bin Hasan, No. 357, MRNVR**, died on 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’ Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 97, Co.1...”. (CWGC).
- **360** – An “...**AB Mat/Muhammad Noordin...**” was listed as one of the Malay seamen on Lt Kemp’s raft after the sinking; this may have been **Leading Seaman Abdul Rahman Nordin** who has also been identified as a POW (McLeod). In the UK Archives list of ‘Next of Kin’ from the ship his NOK was his “... ‘*Mother*’ *Churnel Bte Ningal, 40 Jalan Hamzah, KG Barraru, KL, Malaya...*”. Today 40 Jalan Hamzah is in Kampung Baru in Kuala Lumpur.
- **398** – The official record is “**Ordinary Seaman Din Bin Yassim, MN398, RN., (Malay Section)** died on ‘HMS Scorpion’ on 19.4.40 [this date is at a time when ‘HMS Scorpion’ was operating in the Yangtse River in China - whereas he is listed as being on ‘HMS Scorpion’ on its final voyage in 1942??]. Also listed on the Singapore (Unmaintainable Graves) Memorial, Col.1 at Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore...” (CWGC), Another source has Hasan Bin Din ‘KIA’ (McLeod).
- **407** – The official record is “...**Able Seaman Mohamad Ali Bin Umar, MN 407, RN., (Malay Section)** died 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 97, Col.2...” (CWGC).
- **505** – One source has “...**Tel. Hussein Bin Musa POW L ...**” (McLeod) and in the list of Next of Kin in the UK Archives is “... *Musa Teleprinter, MN505. Uncle, Abdul Manaf, Jalan Dato, Kg. Paloh-Leoh [ this may be a typographical error and could mean to state ‘Paloh-Ipoh’], Perak, Malaya...*”.
- **527** – the official record is “... **Leading Seaman Abdullah Aziz Bin Sulaiman, MN527, RN., (Malay Section)** died on 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’...”. (CWGC).
- **529** – the official record is “... **Able Seaman Rosli Bin Nonche, MN529, RN., (Malay Section)** died 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 97, Col.2...”. (CWGC). Also referred to as Bin N. Rosli, MPK?
- **672** –the official record is “... **Signalman Muhammad Noh Bin Gamu, MN 672, RN., (Malay Section)**, died 14.2.42 on HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 97, Col. 1...”. (CWGC).

- **713** – the official record is “... **Able Seaman Abdul Rahman Bin Yaquab, MN 713, RN., (Malay Section)**, died on 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 91, Col.1...” (CWGC).
- **SE/X 716 – O/Sig. Umar Bin Haji Hadi, SE/X 716, MRNVR**, died on 14.2.42 (no ship reference) husband of Hijah Petom binte H.A. Sukor of Singapore. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 98, Col. 2...” (CWGC). There is also a reference using the name Haji Hadi Bin Umar as KIA (McLeod).
- **734** – the official record is “... **Able Seaman Ahmad Bin Haji Talib, MN734, RN., (Malay Section)** died on 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. He is also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 97, Col. 1...” (CWGC).
- **736** – the official record is “...**Able Seaman Muhammad Daud Bin Salim, MN736, RN., (Malay section)**, died 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial panel 97, Col.1...” (CWGC).
- **742 – Able Seaman Sumin Bin Sulieman** is listed as POW L (McLeod). Another source listing Next of Kin states “... Sulaiman AB, MN742, Brother Arad B. Samin, Jalan Bahru, K. Kangsar, Perak, Malaya...”. [Researcher Note: Jalan Baru/Bahru is now known as Jalan Sultan Iskandar Shah in Kula Kangsar].
- **748 – the official record is “... Able Seaman Taj – Ud – Din Bin Ismail, MN748, RN., (Malay Section)** died on 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 97, Col. 2...(CWGC). In files in the UK Archives an AB Tajudin/ B.I. Taj-U-Din was listed as ‘MPK’; also recorded as “... *TAJUDIN, AB, drifted from Lieut. Kemp’s raft ...*”; he is also noted as “...*from Kuala Kuangsa, FMS...*” which may have been Kuala Kangsar. So, he survived the attack on and sinking of the ‘HMS Scorpion’ but died after drifting away from the raft.
- **798- AB Saat Budin** POW L (McLeod). In the Next of Kin list in the UK Archives is recorded “... Budin AB MN 798, Brother Husun B. Sulaiman, Langseng & Co, Sungei Patani, Kedah...”.
- **800 – Able Seaman Mat/Mohammad Bin Nordin** was recorded in the UK Archives as being on Lt Kemp’s raft and in the ‘Next of Kin’ list in the Archives is recorded “... Noordin Mat AB, MN800. Father Mat Perak B. Ali, Batu 21 and a half, KG. Gurun Kedah, Malaya...” [the area known as Kampung Gurun was/is about 20 Km north of Sungei Patani, in Kedah, which is itself north on Penang]. He is recorded as a POW (McLeod)
- **807 – Able Seaman Abdul Bin Ahmad/Amad** is recorded in the ‘next of Kin’ list in the UK Archives as “... Amad A.B. MN807. Brother Dolah B. Abdul, Kelebang Besar, Malacca, Straits Settlements...” [Kelebang Besar is about six kilometres north along the coast from Malacca City]. He is also recorded as a ‘POW L’. (McLeod).
- **873 – the official record is “...Able Seaman Muhammad Husain Bin Penal, RN., (Malay Section)** died 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 97, Col.2...” (CWGC).
- **923 – Able Seaman Hashim Bin Shafie** is recorded as a ‘POW L’ (McLeod) and in the ‘Next of Kin’ list in the UK Archives is stated as “... Hashim (Shaffi) A.B., MN923. Brother Arrifin B. Shaffi, 155 Kg. Boyan, Taiping, Perak, Malaya...” [Kampung Boyan is today a suburb in the city of Taiping].
- **971** -the official record is “...**Telegraphist Othman Bin Haji Muhammad Nuk, MN971, RN., (Malaya Section)** died 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 97, Col.3...” (CWGC). A list in the UK Archives of ‘Malays released in Muntok’ has “...*Tel. Bin HMN Othman MN971...*”. **Which suggests that this sailor may have lost his life AFTER reaching Banka Island and spending a short time as a POW.**

- **999** – the official record is “... **Able Seaman Mat Zin Bin Ujang, MN999, RN., (Malay section)** died 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial panel 91, Col.1...” (CWGC). A list in the UK Archives of “... men on Lt Kemps raft..” includes the name of “...*AB Zin B.U. Mat...*” suggesting that **AB Mat Zin Bin Ujang died on the raft or drifted away at sea??**
- **1001** –the official record is “... **Able Seaman Sulaiman Bin Pakeh, MN1001, RN., (Malay section)** died 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 97, Col.2...” (CWGC). Another record has “... AB Bin P. Sulaiman, MPK...”.
- **1103** – the official record is “...**AB Muhammad Saleh Bin Ibrahim, MN1103, RN., (Malay Section).** Died 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 97, Col. 2...” (CWGC).
- **1129** – the official record is “...**Signalman Umar Bin Ahmad, MN1129, RN., (Malay Section),** died 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 97, Col.3...” (CWGC). Another record lists presumably this man as “...*Bin A. Umar, MPK...*”.
- **1194** – the official record is “...**Able Seaman Ibrahim Bin Muhammad Don, MN1194, RN., (Malay Section),** died on 14.2.42 on ‘HMS Scorpion’. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval memorial Panel 97, Col.1...” (CWGC).
- **1255** – *the official record is “...Able Seaman Muhammad Deli Bin Haji Ja’afar, MN1255, RN., (Malay Section) died on 12.4.45. Also remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 97, Col.2...” (CWGC). Included here because researcher Ian McLeod has this man as KIA with reference to the ‘HMS Scorpion’..*

#### **Malays on Lt. Fabian’s raft,**

- Zulkari/Zulkarri (Missing: last seen on Lieut Fabian’s raft).

#### **Malays on Lt. Kemp’s raft,**

- T/F Klias
- AB Mat /Muhammad Noordin
- Ldg Tel Mo/Mohammad Rid
- AB Natsin – from Negri Sembilan and drifted away from raft.
- AB Zin B.U. Mat (Muhammad?) MN999
- AB O. Mar/Omar (died on raft)
- AB Tajudin, Kuala Kunasar, drifted from raft.

#### **Malays said to have been released in Muntok,**

- AB Idris
- AB Kadir
- AB Lana
- AB Mabar
- Tel. Bin HMN Othman MN971 (CWGC says died 14.2.42)
- Rajah Saleh
- Ahmad (is this same as CWGC record for Sig Umar Bin Ahmad MN1129?)

- Bakar (could be Abu Bakar, MN783, who found the body of Lt. Cmdr. Horace Vickers, RN., - the CO of the MRNVR – who had been executed by the Japanese on Banka island in late February 1942).

**Malays said to be 'Missing',**

- AB Leman



