

"HELL-SHIP" VICTIMS CARVE NAMES ON HATCH PLANK

Survivors from the Jap "hell-ship," torpedoed by U.S. submarines, carved their names and addresses on a hatch plank, adding "Left to perish by Japanese on September 12, 1944." The story is related by an R.A.A.F. sergeant who was rescued by a submarine. He was an armourer with the R.A.A.F. Lockheed Hudson squadrons in Malaya, Sumatra, and Java.

Describing events after leaving the prison ship the sergeant said he came across a hatch plank and found a mate also on a plank. They lashed the two together and drifted all day. That evening they found a naval man. On the third day the raft broke up. One man became delirious and disappeared "rather than go slowly mad." On the fourth day we recognised a submarine. It took us aboard.