

## AFFIDAVIT

1. I am Ex-F/O J.39592 George Adrian Sourisseau, now residing with my parents at 154 Seine Street, Norwood. I was released from the Air Force at No. 5 Release Centre on the 23rd day of February, 1946. My future intentions are to resume my education at the University in the very near future.
2. I formerly was a member of #354 Squadron, RAF, based at Cuttack, India, flying Liberators. Our particular aircraft was on detachment at Kakasteruai, Ceylon.
3. On the morning of May 15, 1945, at approximately 0600 hours we were despatched on a reconnaissance mission. The crew included the first pilot, F/L Frank Riffle; the navigator, F/O James Hunter, RAF; Flight Engineer, F/S Peter Richards, RAF; Air Gunners, Sgt. Edward Young, RAF, Sgt, John Thomas, RAF; WAGS, F/S Kramp, RCAF, WO2 Casson and WO1 "Bud" Milne both of the R.C.A.F. Wireless Operator Mechanic, F/S George Day, RAF and myself as second pilot.
4. At approximately 1000 hours we were cruising at approximately 1000 feet over the Nicobar Island group when we were fired upon by anti aircraft. Our briefing had not disclosed that these islands were occupied by the enemy. Flak damaged our #4 engine, placing it completely out of commission, and #3 engine started to burn. Taking evasive action we proceeded out to sea, but due to the engine failures we were forced to prepare for ditching. At approximately 1030 hours the aircraft was ditched at a position 12 to 15 miles west of Ketchal Island. During the ditching Young and Richards both suffered broken legs but managed to surface. With some difficulty the dinghy was freed and Riffle, Hunter, Richards, Young, Thomas, Casson and myself were able to get aboard it. We searched for Kramp, Day and Milne but were unable to find many trace of them. Shortly after the freeing of the dinghy a navigation flame-float ignited and caused the floating gasoline and oil to catch fire. Young who was still in the water suffered facial burns before he was able to reach the dinghy. The gasoline also caused burns to his body under his armpit and between his thighs.
5. A rough sea was running and visibility was considerably reduced, so it is doubtful whether we survivors were actually observed by the enemy upon Ketchal Island. However, we made our way towards Ketchal and made a beachhead there at approximately 2000 hours on the northern tip.
6. After giving what emergency first aid we could to Young and Richards we tried to make ourselves comfortable for the night. The density of the tropical growth prohibited us from making our way into the interior, so we camouflaged the dinghy and stayed fairly close to the beach.
7. The following day we contacted a couple of natives, and by signs determined their friendliness and requested food. They brought us bananas and departed. Later on in the day the natives returned with what was apparently the chief of the natives. They all expressed by their attitude friendliness. After spending another night on the island we were approached by two natives bearing a full stock of bananas. After they had deposited the bananas we heard the shouts of Japanese and found that we had been surrounded on our landward side by approximately 20 or

30 Japanese soldiers. Due to our lack of arms and our wounded men we offered no resistance.

8. We were bound and Young and Richards were placed on stretchers and we were taken across to the far side of the island and placed on a landing craft. On boarding the landing craft we were all blindfolded and the landing craft proceeded to sea. After spending approximately three hours aboard this craft we were landed at a point which I believe to have been close to Nacowry Harbour. My only reason for believing this is because when we were on the craft proceeding in towards our landing spot I heard what I thought was children's voices at play.

9. On landing on Comorta Island, the Army who had taken us prisoners turned us over to Navy personnel. Here we were split into two groups and placed in oversized foxholes. Hunter, Thomas and myself were placed in one and the balance in another. There was not room enough to stand fully erect in those holes and they were- about 6' wide by 10' long with a rough lumber floor. We remained in these dug-outs for approximately one month; our elbows being bound behind us and our wrists tied across themselves in front of us, giving only enough action of our arms to feed ourselves. For the first two weeks we remained blindfolded.

10. On the second day of our incarceration in the dug-outs I was taken out and interrogated briefly for about ten minutes. Approximately three days later I was again interrogated for about ten minutes, On neither one of these occasions or at any time was I searched for weapons or any escape aids.

11. After a month in the hands of the Navy we were moved to the care of the Army approximately one mile away. At the Army camp we were relieved of our bonds and hospital facilities were made available to us. We were turned over to the Army on June 17th and two days later Young died after gangrene had set in. About ten days later Richards died after the Japanese doctor had attempted an amputation of his limb. On August 9th Casson died after having gone mentally deficient due to beriberi.

13. Our food at both places was approximately the same, consisting of three meals a day made up of a ball of rice and sometimes a soup that had been made apparently from fish.

13. Towards the end of August we were informed that peace had been declared and on October 6th to Indian sloop entered the harbour of Nacowry and we were taken aboard it.

AND I have signed.

SWORN before me at the City of Winnipeg, in the Province of Manitoba, this 6th day of March, 1946.

(B. C. Andrew) Wing Commander,  
No. 2 Air Command Headquarters, RCAF, WINNIPEG, Manitoba.