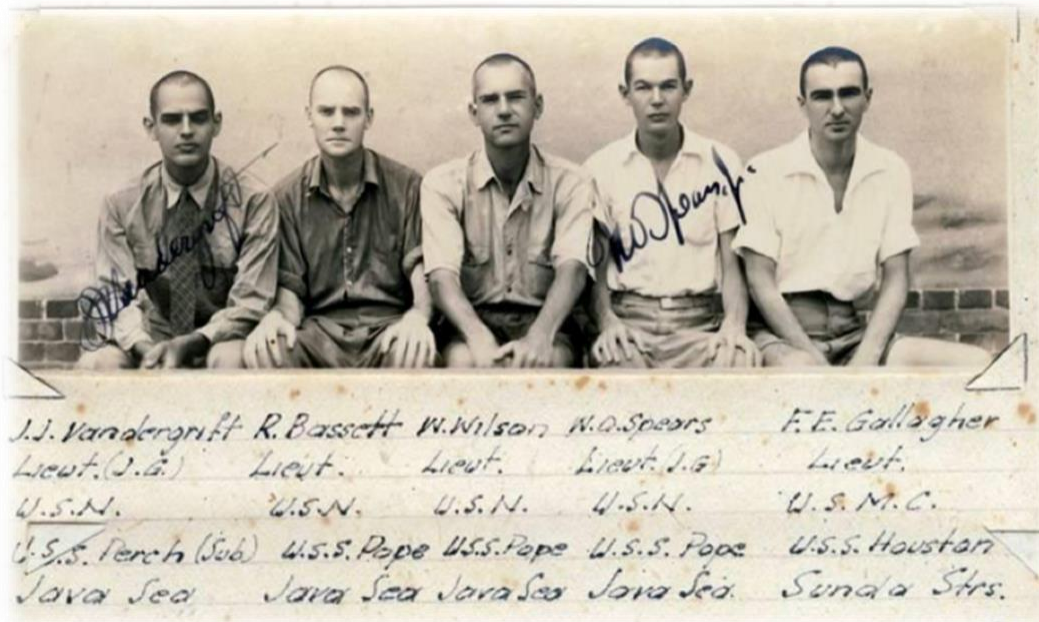


Dark Sequel

In the aftermath of this remarkable sea fight, all surviving crew of **USS *Houston*** and **HMAS *Perth*** were captured by the Imperial Japanese forces then invading Java. Despite a few fantastic claims after the war, no one escaped. All of these young men spent the next three and a half years as prisoners of war. Many were used as slave labor on the infamous *Death Railway* project in Burma and Siam (Thailand) of 1942-43. Others were sent to Japan to be utilized as forced laborers in hazardous jobs for the enemy war machine. A handful remained on Java, where they worked as clerks and typists for the occupation bureaucracy, while a trio of others ('the three Harolds') were shipped over to Borneo as prisoners. Regardless, their treatment was harsh, unpredictable and existence was never easy. When the Pacific War ended with the Japanese surrender on August 15, 1945, most surviving Allied POWs could finally see light at the end of an exceedingly dark tunnel. However, by that time only 291 **USS *Houston*** crewmen and 218 sailors from **HMAS *Perth*** were still alive.

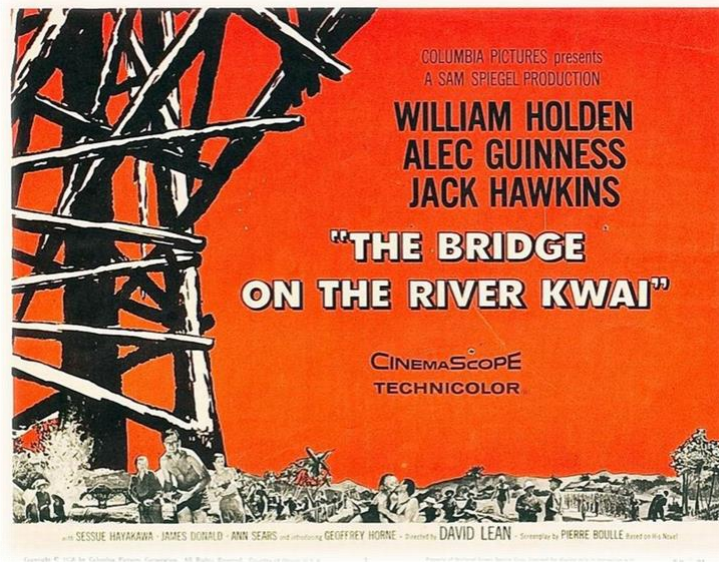


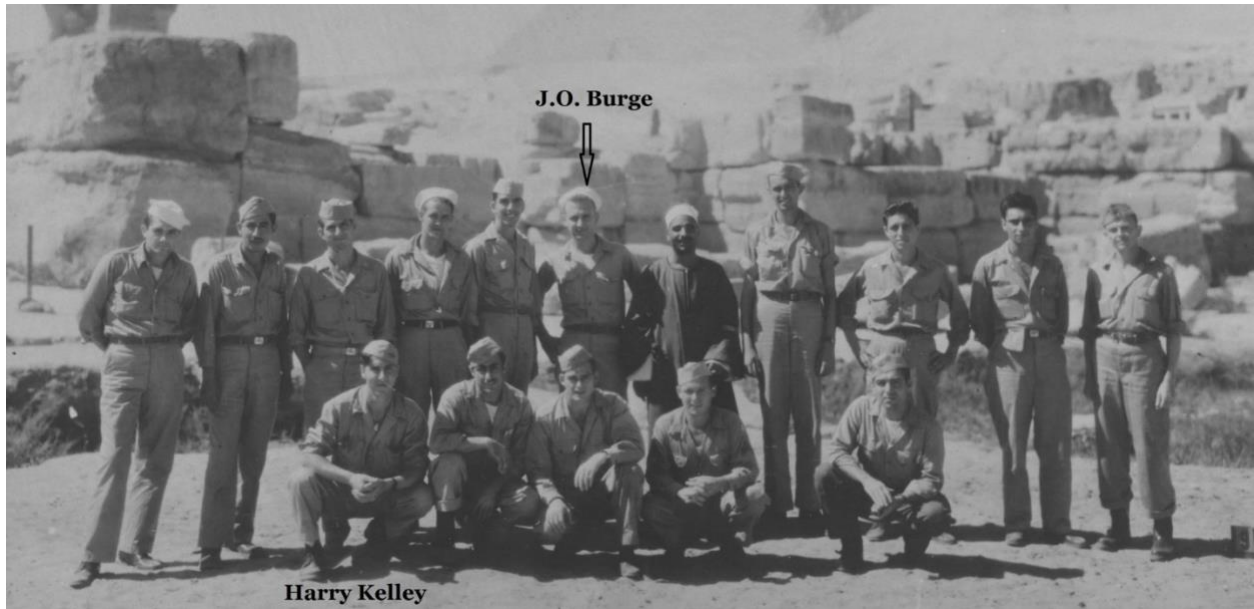
Asiatic Fleet officers (above) captured in the Java Campaign. LT Bill Wilson of **Pope** was a Japanese-speaking officer whose language abilities helped secure the safe rescue of his ship's crew by Japanese destroyers. Frank Gallagher was a junior USMC officer on **Houston**.



A bearded LT Leon Rogers, Division officer from CA-30 (2nd from L) in captivity with other officers from the ship. Photo taken with secret camera.

The stories of the men from these sunken ABDA warships who were used as slave labor by their captors would find their way into many books as well as several films. Most notably the 1957 movie, “*The Bridge on the River Kwai*”, in which William Holden portrays a *Houston* survivor. Some are more harrowing than others, but all are inspiring and memorable.





CA-30 and Lost Battalion survivors in Egypt after the war, on their way home.

When the survivors of *Houston* were finally released from the horrid conditions of the Serang movie theatre in 1942 and taken to Batavia's "Bicycle Camp" they were soon linked with another contingent of American POWs: the 530+ soldiers from the 2nd Bn/131st Field Artillery Rgt. of the Texas National Guard. These were the men who came to be known as *The Lost Battalion* and the bonds many formed with *Houston*'s survivors would be both deep and enduring.



CA-30 survivors at US Army's 142nd General Hospital in Calcutta, recovering after liberation.

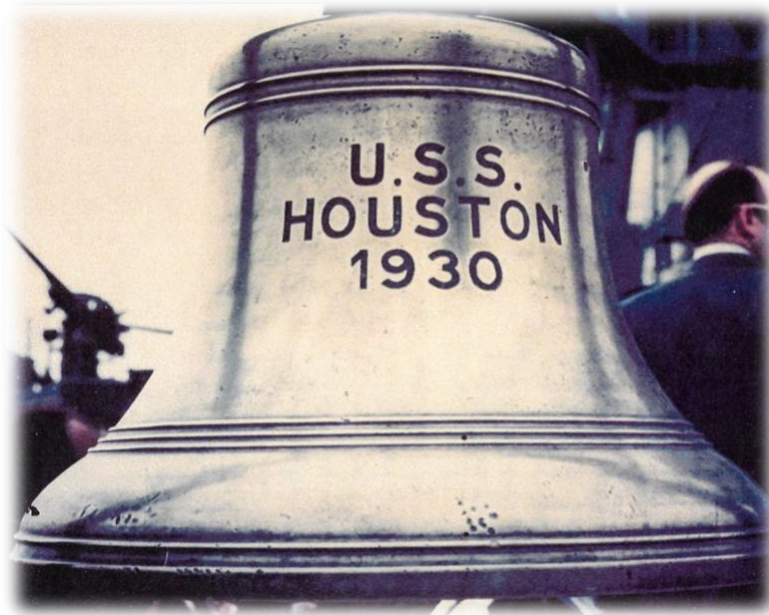
Beginning in the late Forties, a *Houston* survivor named Otto C. Schwarz, at the urging of his wife Trudy, began laboriously assembling a **CA-30** survivor's association. They were often affiliated with a similar *Lost Battalion* organization and the two groups held joint annual reunions for many decades. It was to become, as a renowned film drama famously stated, "*The beginning of a beautiful friendship.*"



*The Real Deal: Ray Goodson & three Marines, John Wisecup, Jimmy Gee, and Charley Pryor.
Four authentic American heroes, all of whom served on USS **Houston** (CA-30).*



Houston's bell was recovered from the wreck in 1973 & returned to the United States by the Indonesian government. It was originally displayed on the battleship *TEXAS* at San Jacinto, but since Nov. 1995 has been emplaced atop the *CA-30* Memorial Monument at the Heritage Society in downtown Houston.





USS Houston (CA-30) Memorial at the Heritage Society's Sam Houston Park near downtown Houston. Built by the Naval Order of the United States—Texas Commandery, and dedicated on November 11, 1995.

