

Statement of S.K. Chu, 2nd Mate, S.S. NANCY MOLLER, sunk March 18, 1944

On March 18th at 8.40 a.m. A.T.S. (or 3.32 GMT) in position Latitude 02.14 N. Longitude 78.25 E., while on her 090° true main course, speed 9.0K through water (ship zigzagging according to diagram No. 11 at that time) diverting from track G/H to J/H, she was torpedoed. The first torpedo hit the engine room from portside, and the second one (fired almost in succession) hit the deep tank under the bridge.

The ship sank within a minute and carried three lifeboats down with her. The fourth lifeboat and all four rafts freed themselves, but the boat was in an upturned condition, and part of the rafts' equipment was lost.

The sub surfaced after 10 minutes. She was painted with dark grayish colour had no identification mark, mounted with one 4 inch gun forward, and had a crew of more than twenty on the lower bridge and fore deck.

She (the submarine) approached one of the rafts on which were Gunlayers Fryers, 2nd Engineer H.T. Shing, Fitter Wong and three Indians. They were ordered to board the sub. Fryers was taken down for examination, and the remaining five were made to kneel down towards the bow. The 2nd Engineer was shot twice with a revolver, and was kicked into the sea. As he wore no lifejacket, he was soon drowned. Fitter Wong received one shot, and as he was wearing his jacket, he managed to struggle in the water and was finally picked up. The three Indians were merely driven into the water without being shot, so they were all rescued later on.

Afterwards the Japs turned the portable machine gun towards the other rafts and opened fire. As the survivors were alert enough to hide their bodies under water with hands grasping the becket lines, nobody was known to be hit. The sub being satisfied that no life was left, drew away out of sight.

Then we picked up and gathered together all the survivors, amounting to 32. (4 British, 2 Chinese, 1 Russian, 25 Indians). The ship originally had a crew of 65, so with the Gunlayer as a prisoner on the sub another 32 persons (including the Captain) lost their lives. (6 British, 5 Chinese and 21 Indians

The survivors drifted on the 4 rafts for four days, and were finally picked up on March 22nd, early morning.

(signed) S.K. Chu,
2nd Mate, ex s/s "Nancy Moller"

Enclosure (F)

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