

I, Rev. Joseph Lamarre S.M. American Catholic Priest, Missionary in Buka Is. North of Bougainville was stationed in Hanahan, Buka, when the Japanese invaded Buka and Bougainville in Mar '42. I was taken prisoner after the Guadalcanal episode on 26 Aug '42 and was kept a prisoner on Sohana Is. near Buka Passage.

On 28 Aug '43 I was brought to the Navy Prison Camp at Rabaul and interred with twelve civilians mostly Australians and there I met American Airman including Robert Curry. I am the only civilian survivor of that camp.

In October '43, an Australian Beaufort Bomber was shot down at night over the St. George Channel, of the four Airmen of this plane I can remember the following names:

John Bailey	Perth.
Geoffrey Vincent	.
Vincent	.

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The four men were brought to our prison camp and one of the four (cannot remember which one of the four) was taken out in the party which included Robert Curry on 25 Nov '43.

The last time I saw the twelve airmen including Robert Curry was at 0900 hours on the 25 Nov '43 when the civilians including myself were taken away to cut cocoanut logs.

When we returned from work they were gone, the Japanese Guards who were Naval personnel told us that the Airmen had been transferred to another Camp.

Harry Badger, linesman for the Australian Survey Dept. Rabaul, who had remained in the Camp acting as the cook told us that the eleven American and one Australian Airman had been lined up outside the Hut and a Japanese Officer who was in charge of Prisons arrived and made a speech which Badger was not able to understand, the Airmen's wrists were bound with rope.

After the speech they were blindfolded and taken away on the lorry, guarded by 12 Japanese, one guard to each airman. They were taken away in the afternoon according to Badger.

About 2 weeks after on or about 10 Dec 43 the civilians including myself went to the plantation belonging to Mrs. YUKER, half-caste wife of a deceased Swiss doctor, to cut cocoanut logs. The plantation was situated in the RATONNO area in Tailli Bay. There, a party of Indians, who were working vegetable gardens for the Japanese told us that 12 airmen had been beheaded. The Indians did not see the executions but stated that a Japanese officer who came to the garden area from Rabaul had told them of the execution.

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