

## RIP, NELSON HEFFERMAN

This is a particularly sad, undated, letter sent to Henry (Pap) Strickland Yates by Able Seaman Nelson Hefferman of the British Navy. Able Seaman Hefferman was on the HMS Encounter, one of the warships sunk by the Japanese during the naval battle of Java in February, 1942, the same battle that resulted in the loss of the USS Perch (SS-176). As with the USS Perch, it was assumed that all hands were lost because the Japanese did not report POWs. He was taken to the Makassar POW camp, which had British barracks nearby to the American barracks that Pap was in.

Here is the text of Able Seaman Nelson Hefferman's letter. A copy of the actual letter found in Pap's belongings is attached further below:

**Dear Pap,**

**I believe there are quite a few eggs in the American Barracks these days. Would it be possible for you to get me some please. I'll pay with clothes – any sort – any size.**

**I've been here three weeks now and feel no better except I have no more malaria.**

**Do your best please Pap and save my life.**

**Nelson Hefferman**

The letter is undated, but he states he had been in the camp for 3 weeks, which probably means it was written around April 1942. We don't know if Pap was able to help at the time, but Nelson died in the POW camp about 26 months later, on February 11, 1945.

