2024 Battle for Australia Ceremony

Student Script No 1:

HMAS PERTH

Lost at Sundra Strait 1942

Speaker: Male Student

Duration: 50secs.

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"I was one of 680 sailors aboard HMAS PERTH during war in the Pacific.

''HMAS PERTH was sent to Java *(now Indonesia)* **to withstand the seemingly invincible Japanese forces.**

"In 1942 … It was at the *'Battle of the Sunda Strait'* **when 350 of the 680 Australian sailors died when our ship was attacked by the Japanese.**

"HMAS PERTH with American ship USS HOUSTON were both torpedoed by a Japanese ambush.

"There was absolute chaos … PERTH sunk … taking more than half of its crew down with it … as some of us scrambled into the water to get away.

"An enemy ship picked us up … we then endured a three year tortuous ordeal as Japanese *'Prisoners of War'.*

"We became slave labour … forced to work on the Burma / Thai railway … death was a constant … but it was camaraderie of mateship that kept us going … if you dropped … you would be left behind to die".

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