

To,  
Commission of Enquiry  
HMAS Sydney

Dear Sir

I am writing to you, to proffer information I may have regarding the loss of Sydney.

My credentials are that I served in Sydney prior to W.W 2 for two years while observing my twelve year tour of duty.

In regard to the ship's vulnerability it was known at that time that when the Captain had to furnish a damage report that mention was made of the power that served H/B turret was exposed to shell fire just abaft the bridge, whether this was rectified I do not know, but it was in the area that Kormorans gun fire impacted.

The other item I wish to report is that when Kormorans crew were questioned in regard to Sydney's loss, one of them mentioned (it was in the newspapers at the time) that when Sydney was closing on Kormoran that he could distinguish men dressed in white jackets were standing in a group on the upper deck near the officer's quarters prior to the ship opening fire on Sydney. This tells me that the men in white jackets were stewards waiting to serve the evening meal in the wardroom & that the ship was

not at either cruising or action stations  
& that when openings fire with short  
range weapons that they (the stewards &  
any other crew members) would have been  
killed, explaining partly the absence of  
crew members in the engagement:

I have always been keenly interested in  
Sydney's loss & any explanation of her loss,  
being of course sure that I personally knew  
quite a few of them.

I have listened over the years to so much rubbish  
from people who can't produce facts, but I  
least have given the enquiry something to  
get their teeth in; I only hope the press  
inquiry can substantiate what I have  
mentioned.

yours faithfully  
A. Breen  
Ex P.O. STWD.