

*The Secretary
 HMAS SYDNEY II
 Commission of Inquiry
 Level 18
 Defence Plaza
 270 Pitt Street
 SYDNEY NSW 2000.
 02 9118 1745*

Dear Sir,

Firstly I am the Son of "Telegraphist Charles Leslie HONOR PAV 24"

*When my father lost his life with his 644 shipmates, I was 4 years Old.
 My brother, William Daniel, [Now deceased] was aged 5 years and my Mother,
 Elva, [Also deceased] was 31 Years of age.
 I have tried to come to grips with my loss for along time, but even today I still
 wrestle with the accepted conclusion of the battle.
 Have I found any more closure in the last 2 months? NO I have not.
 It appears that the Captain, Joseph Burnett, has been ridiculed by a lot of people
 and is basically held responsible for the loss.
 What concerns me am our Government, our Navy, and nearly all the so-called
 scribes have all judged him as an incompetent officer.
 And yet, Every thing I have ever read about Captain Burnett suggests that he was
 the most capable person to take control of such a ship over and above any other
 Officer at that time.
 Admiral Colvin said of Burnett, he was a gunnery specialist of outstanding
 achievement.
 Other Officers of the Royal Australian Navy described him as more than competent.
 And yet, now, he is put down by all and sundry except for a few of us who believe he
 was the victim of something that I believe will NEVER be made public.
 I have spoken to, and read, and listened to most words written by his son, Patrick
 Burnett, and I have come to the same conclusion as he has.
**WE HAVE ONLY BEEN TOLD ONE SIDE OF THE STORY.
 THINK ABOUT THE FOLLOWING.!!!**
 The possibilities of Captain Theodore Detmers Surrendering.
 Was a torpedo fired so many seconds prior to the opening barrage?
 Was a Japanese Submarine involved?
 Was Pearl Harbour equipped with a "PURPLE" code breaking machine,
 supposedly not, and did not know of the impending invasion 18 days after the
 SYDNEY attack.
 Did Captain Detmers request medical help?
 Why did the Kormoran prisoners state the SYDNEY was lowering a boarding
 party?
 Gerhard Grossman, Ex Bosun's mate of Kormoran, stated that when in their
 lifeboats, the gunnery officer came alongside and transferred hand guns and said to
 shoot any SYDNEY survivors in the water.
 He also told his whole story of the SYDNEY being torpedoed by a Japanese
 submarine and being hit twice with torpedoes.
 Was Captain Burnett put in the position of capturing the Kormoran by our Navy?*

FOR ANOTHER 25 YEARS AND NOW WITH THE FINDING OF ASIO BOXES MARKED NOT TO BE OPENED FOR 100 YEARS, AND DATED IN 1941.

Our Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon Julia Gillard has stated that all the boxes will be opened.

Will they be opened in secrecy or will a member of the SYDNEY family be present?

It was also noted that when the German survivors came ashore, their lifeboats were full of Japanese provisions. It has been written before that a Japanese submarine was lying alongside the Kormoran waiting for the Aquitania when the mast of a Perth Class cruiser was seen on the horizon.

Then the Kormoran turned to the West at its best speed and the submarine submerged in wait.

The I Class submarine, I 124, then torpedoed Sydney and when Kormoran realised the peril of Sydney, she returned to confront the stricken ship. Then the most grotesque thing happened.

Either the German survivors, or the Japanese submarine cleaned the area of live survivors, and then Australian soldiers buried the bodies somewhere in the sand hills in or around Shark Bay and were all signed up on secrecy agreements.

Then the most horrific thing of all.

We as a nation BELIEVED everything the German survivors related and our Captain Joseph Burnett took the blame for all things.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ASHAMED FOREVER FOR LAYING THE BLAME ON A DECEASED PERSON, AND ONE OF OUR ONCE RESPECTED CAPTAINS.

Someone is still hiding I believe the truth and at 71 years of age I am doubtful as to whether I will ever know the chain of events and will pass away as have all my family and never be told the TRUTH.

Do I have closure now that our Galant ship has been found ????

NO,I DO NOT.

Yours Faithfully.

Robert Charles [Bob] HONOR

PS. When the Federal Government inquiry was held in 1998 /9, I was registered to receive each and every piece of information totalling over 20 volumes and nearly 5000 pages.

I would like to think that the same could be done again.

Thank you.