

Brooke, Rebecca MS

From: russell patterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 May 2008 16:44
To: Brooke, Rebecca MS
Subject: HMAS Sydney

Could you list the following questions for the enquiry into the sinking of the HMAS Sydney?

1. Was the body which washed up on Christmas Island a crewman from HMAS Sydney?
2. If so, is there any obvious reason why he would have left the ship as it passed Christmas Island the day before the battle?

(A body in the water at the battle scene would not float in a straight line back to Christmas Island, the currents would take it either to Madagascar or around the coast to Darwin)

3. Is it possible that Captain Detmers was looking for HMAS Sydney i.e. had he been ordered to engage her?

4. Why when he sighted HMAS Sydney did Detmers make a turn to a heading SSW which would draw attention to himself, and bring HMAS Sydney and Kormoran on to a parallel course?

(If he had held to his original course the two ships might have passed quickly in opposite directions with few questions being asked)

5. Was there something about the armament on the port side of Kormoran that was superior to that on the starboard side? (Kormoran's deck guns were scrounged from various sources.)

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