

Brooke, Rebecca MS

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Sent: Friday, 2 May 2008 18:56
To: Brooke, Rebecca MS
Subject: HMAS Sydney (version 2)

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 reason why he might 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 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, as it was he set HMAS Sydney up for a broadside)

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, some even from wrecks. Kormoran's positioning might have also placed the sun in Sydney's gunner's eyes.)

6. Why would a crew whose only purpose was to sink merchant shipping, train to decamouflage the ship and fire a first salvo within six seconds? (and one every six seconds thereafter)

(It seems that Kormoran was prepared to meet and take on warships)

7. Was the crew trained in the space of an hour after sighting HMAS Sydney, to hit first the bridge, then the gun turrets whilst laying down heavy small calibre fire over her decks, or was this also a pre arranged strategy for dealing with a warship?

(It would have to be rehearsed, but it could only work up close and broadside on.)

It seems to me that the Navy and most of the 'historians' might still be underestimating Captain Detmer's and the Kormoran.

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