



Brooke, Rebecca MS

From: russell patterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 May 2008 0:17
To: Brooke, Rebecca MS
Subject: HMAS Sydney (version 3)

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 or a raft 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 SW 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. delete

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 within the range of the small calibre guns, and broadside on.)

8. What was the real reason for the 'suspicious ship' message sent by Kormoran? Is it possible that it was a pre arranged signal that it had found and was about to engage the Sydney?

(There would be no need for the real *Straat Mallaka* or any other merchant ship in Australian waters to run from a warship, because it could only be an allied ship.)

This was Detmer's big gamble, to change course in full view to set up the broadside, and not be immediately fired upon.

If as the Navy website suggests, the HMAS Sydney was only about 6 nautical miles away when he performed the manoeuvre, the ships had been in sight of each other for about half an hour. (The horizon would be about 20 nautical miles, and the visibility was good)

Both ships were within range of the others big guns, but as Sydney didn't fire, Detmers just let her come in closer. The closer she came the more of his inventory he could use. He must have been amazed by his good luck, and the stupidity of the cruiser's captain.

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

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Kormoran. The story really needs more rigorous analysis than it has had so far.

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