

Defence (Inquiry) Regulations

2K118586

Chief of the Defence Force

24th May 2008

HMAS SYDNEY 11 COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Dear Sir.

First I must congratulate the Howard Government for making the funds available to find the HMAS Sydney. Not forgetting a team of genuine Aussie stalwarts who stuck to their guns over many years in their beliefs that the HMAS Sydney could be found. I am pleased they have proved their pundits wrong!

As one of many that also believed in these Aussie Stalwarts, and interested enough to send my thoughts in a submission to the last Inquiry, I also enclose my beliefs once again. But this time, after reading each of the 19 Volumes of written submissions and those of oral evidence like a detective in a murder case, I realized one must have the body to make a final decision. We now have two! Albeit two sunken ships. Congratulations to the finder, Mr Mearns and his devoted crew. (May it be the Centaur next)!

I have enclosed copies of two submissions, viz. from David Kennedy, and A.D.M. Clark. These I believe must be given a great deal of thought with a great deal more of detective work by those who will make the final decision of how Captain Burnett was believed to have come so close to the Kormoran. He could have well done so, but it must have been for a reason! That reason holds the key to the Sydney's demise.

Peterson (Pederson) could well may, have been correct in what he told Clark. Every effort must be made to find proof and evidence of his statement to A.D.M. Clark. Let us hope that Clarke has survived the past ten years. Without this, the forever lingering, doubt of what really happened to the HMAS Sydney will continue to exist.

Good luck to all involved with this inquiry, but more than luck will be needed to come up with the correct answer, of which will be free from any doubt.

Yours faithfully,

Doug Bellchambers.

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