

EK119143



Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) T. Warren Whittaker, OBE.

The Secretary  
 HMAS SYDNEY II Commission of Inquiry  
 Level 18 Defence Plaza  
 270 Pitt Street  
 SYDNEY NSW 2000

2 June 2008

Dear Sir,

**HMAS Sydney II Commission of Inquiry. – Evidence from German Survivors.**

I refer to the report on the meeting of the Commission of Inquiry into the Loss of HMAS SYDNEY II held on 30 May 2008 and my letter sent on 26 May 2008. (I see that I had dated it 26 May 1908. My apologies. Please amend the date on my letter.)

I welcome the statement that German survivors from HSK KORMORN are to be interviewed by the President as part of the Inquiry and that, because of their advancing years, the interviews will take place very soon.

I note that the President does not wish to receive submissions that are repetitive of submissions already made to the Parliamentary Inquiry. However, in view of the very short time between now and the interviews, I wish to draw attention to the Submission by Mr. David Kennedy dated 9/11/98.<sup>1</sup> Hans Linke told the truth about the action and was branded “a traitor” by other survivors as for doing so.

I understand that, apart from Hans Linke, the survivors in Germany support Captain Detmers’ account of the battle recorded in his book, “The Raider KORMORAN”. This can be summarized as: *Sydney* and *Kormoran* were steaming on parallel courses about 1,000 yards apart at 14 knots when *Kormoran* hoisted the German Ensign, decamouflaged, and opened fire within 6 seconds, with immediate devastating effect on *Sydney*.

It can be shown that Captain Detmers’ account of the action was fiction designed to hide the fact that he had breached the Law of Naval Operations.

For your convenience, I attached a copy of the Summary of the Evidence relating to the Sydney - Kormoran battle that was attached to my letter dated 26 May.

I hope this helps.

I am, Sir,  
 Your obedient servant,

1. Submissions Volume 19, Page 4650.