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Secretary of the HMAS Sydney11 Commission of Inquiry.

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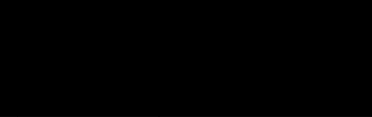
Sydney NSW 2000

HMAS Sydney 11 Commission Of Inquiry

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## THAT KORMORAN SURRENDERED—A REFUTATION

To explain why Sydney came so close to Kormoran in their battle it has become current to believe that the German ship falsely surrendered luring Sydney to close quarters and then opening fire upon Sydney. There is little evidence of this but much speculation. Here I present a contrary opinion based on real evidence.

We all believe Detmers now. At least in the instance of the where sinking locations of Kormoran and Sydney are concerned.

If we now believe Detmers are we not obliged to believe other Germans in other instances?

Wilhem Bunjes was in a lifeboat collected by HMAS Yandra on the 27.11.1941<sup>1</sup>. He was interrogated, along with the other occupants of the boat. A report on the interrogation was completed on 30.11.1941. Bunjes is described in the report as "quite unenthusiastic regarding the war and is quite willing to pass on any knowledge at his disposal..."<sup>2</sup> Bunjes revealed "... Raider 41 was given 'proceed'<sup>3</sup>...". That is, a stopped or slowed Kormoran was given permission to "proceed". Now Captain Burnett would never have given that order to "Straat Malacca" ( Kormoran ) if Kormoran had surrendered. So for a short time Captain Burnett was satisfied of the bona fides of "Straat Malacca"

Bunjes then goes on to reveal that " almost immediately afterwards was ordered to hoist her secret signal." <sup>4</sup> We all know what happened then.

If we believe Bunjes, and surely we must—given the choice of believing Bunjes or Detmers one would choose Bunjes everytime. I think it was Tom Frame who said that Bunjes was one of the more reasonable Germans. Then, Kormoran never surrendered.

- (1) Inquiry into Sinking of HMAS Sydney. Volume 13, page 3241.  
 (2) " " " " " " " " " " 3242  
 (3) " " " " " " " " " " 3243  
 (4) " " " " " " " " " " 3243