

Commissioner Terence Cole
HMAS Sydney Inquiry
Dept. of Defence
CANBERRA
A C T.



8th June 2008

ek120035
Dear Commissioner

When I was in Ward 1, 105 RGH, South Aust. and later convalescing at 'Birralee' in 1948-9 I met a merchant seaman whose ship had been torpedoed without any warning in the Indian Ocean by a Japanese submarine. I don't know what flag the ship was sailing under but Syd was Australian. I cannot remember his last name, unfortunately.

The submarine surfaced amid the survivors in their lifeboats and demanded the captain give himself up. The threat was made that if this demand was not met they would be machine gunned to death. The captain complied with the demand and the last the crew saw of him he was being struck and hauled below.

The submarine then opened fire on the lifeboats and submerged. The survivors in Syd's boat spent the best part of a month at sea until rescue occurred. The captain survived the war and related that after being sent below in such a fashion he was well treated-- all typical Japanese stuff to intimidate.

I do not know what the date of this attack was but there may be records of merchant attacks available that would indicate whether it was before or shortly after the Sydney's sinking.

Sorry I can't be more helpful but it was 60 years ago!

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ray Twist".

Ray Twist.
ex SX33834