

MR P. DAVISON

9.9.08.

Dear Sir

This small tug "QUAYSIDER" and two sister ships "MAXIMUS" and "IMPETUS" were built in "CUXHAVEN" for TUG companies in the late fifties, and all were constructed in what I term typical German manner for vessels large and small, same type plating, same style anchors, same Spelaton, Reed ventilators and the same step at the foot of the bow. I did serve in "IMPETUS" and remember very clearly these features, as opposed to British built ships and tugs. I think even today, if one compares various make vessels sailing in or out of the Heads River, we can get some picture of where they were built, meaning Country not shipyard. Believe many

Ships of the past were built for style as well as function, as opposed of today's ships.

Reading again the German report of the TORPEDO striking H.M.A.S SYDNEY II they did report she lost way and plunged her bow deep into the water but I can't find any mention of "KORMORAN" blowing down at this time, which does appear strange, and again if she lost way and speed bow could she possibly ram "KORMORAN".

Also one report that SYDNEY steered to port at this time I think a steer is something quite different to an attempt to ram, were seen dozen of ships steer to port of Starboard or did this report consider that this turn was not intended and SYDNEY was in fact out of control at this time because of damage to steering or props.

I try in my mind to consider what Detmers thought when "SYDNEY" exposed her Starboard side to his guns, when in fact she was quite Reflexless

- I suppose any attempt to find out why and how H.M.A.S. SYDNEY II was lost with all hands, misfortune or bad luck played a huge part

The supply ship "KULMERLAND" please note the effect the hull shows of the plating as with "KORHORAD" and "SKAUGUM" and the typical German anchor and also main masts

- Komet doesn't show much but the Skeleton Ventilation Heads, another German Standard,

I believe these ships of this period could and should of been identified as being interesting! as one might say

Yours Faithfully
Peter Dawson