

# Notes for readers

## Time zones

Five international time zones are referred to in this report:

- Greenwich Mean Time, or GMT – also known as Zulu, or Z, time
- Golf, or G, time, being GMT plus seven hours
- Western Standard Time – also known as Hotel, or H, time – being GMT plus eight hours
- Eastern Standard Time – also known as Kilo, or K, time – being GMT plus 10 hours
- Singapore time, being GMT plus seven hours and 30 minutes from 1 September 1941 to 15 February 1942.

During World War 2 Australian military and Naval units based in and around Western Australia (including HMAS SYDNEY) kept H time; military and Naval units and establishments in the eastern states kept K time. Signals sent by Australian and British Naval units were dated by reference to Z time. HSK KORMORAN kept G time. For consistency, times shown in original documents have been adjusted to H time, except where indicated.

## Units of measure

Both imperial and metric measures are used in the report.

During World War 2 all British and Australian Naval units, including HMAS SYDNEY, used the imperial scale (yards, miles) when referring to distances at sea. German units, including HSK KORMORAN, used the metric scale (metres, hectometres).

Because of the variety and age of the sources of information used, the report refers variously to yards, metres and nautical miles, according to the source. All references to miles are nautical miles. A nautical mile is equivalent to 2,025 yards or 1,852 metres.

## **The Parliamentary Inquiry**

On 26 August 1997 the Minister for Defence asked the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade to investigate and report on the circumstances of the sinking of HMAS SYDNEY off the Western Australian coast on 19 November 1941, with particular reference to the following:

- (1) The extent to which all available archival material has been fully investigated and whether any relevant material has been misplaced or destroyed;
- (2) All relevant archival material available from allied and former enemy forces;
- (3) The desirability and practicability of conducting a search for HMAS SYDNEY and the extent to which the Commonwealth Government should participate in such a search should one be deemed desirable and practicable;
- (4) The practicability of accurately locating the grave of an alleged body from HMAS SYDNEY which was allegedly buried on Christmas Island;
- (5) The identification of any scientific procedures now available which could verify the identity of human remains alleged to be those of a crewman of HMAS SYDNEY buried on Christmas Island if and when such remains were located;
- (6) Measures which should be taken to protect and honour the final resting places, if and when located, of HMAS SYDNEY and [HSK] KORMORAN.

Upon the dissolution of Parliament on 31 August 1998 the committee was dissolved. On 23 December 1998 the Minister for Defence referred the same matter to a newly constituted committee. The committee held public hearings, heard evidence and received written submissions from members of the public. It handed down its report in March 1999. The evidence and submissions, together with the committee's report, were considered by this Inquiry.

This Inquiry refers to the 1997–1999 inquiry as the 'Parliamentary Inquiry'.

## **Photographs**

Every effort has been made to acknowledge the source of photographs used in this report. If it was not possible to locate the original source, the photograph bears no attribution.

