

Copy from " The hunt for the HMAS Sydney "

West Australian Newspaper, probably from Perth or Carnavon.

" . . . Even after almost 50 years the HMAS Sydney-HSK Kormoran sea battle can be ~~can be~~ an emotive issue, giving rise to suspicions of a Japanese submarine secretly assisting the Germans before they had officially entered the war, plus varied rumours of the HSK Kormoran captain, Theodor Detmers, devising all sorts of dirty tricks in order to lure the Australian vessel within her gun range, or in maliciously dealing with survivors afterwards.

For example, the British author, Michael Montgomery, mentions " the unimpeachable evidence for the shooting up of the BRITISH UNION" in support of one of his fancies that HSK Kormoran may have machine-gunned all HMAS Sydney survivors in the water.

" However, The BRITISH UNION survivor, Neville Finnis, writing from the UK, contradicts this allegation by saying: " The suggestion made . . . that the HSK Kormoran machine-gunned our boats is ludicrous . . . The commander of the HSK Kormoran . . . picked up several . . . men which he located with his searchlight, one of his seamen going overboard three times after them . . . "

Another paragraph :

The persistent question ever since has been: Why did the Australian captain place his ship and crew in such a vulnerable position? The late Captain Joseph Burnett's elder son, Commander Patrick Burnett (retired), with admirable ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ frankness, comments: " I do not believe there was ~~any~~ dubious about the HMAS Sydney-HSK Kormoran action . . . HMAS SYDNEY's placing herself in such a controversial position at the start of the action . . . was an error of judgement on the part of my father, who perhaps was too confident about his ability to handle any situation . . . HMAS Sydney was his first war-time command . . . He could be considered relatively inexperienced in practical warfare".

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*Edmund, I must admire the wonderful honesty of Commander Patrick Burnett's character!*