

THE HMAS SYDNEY ASSOCIATION
THOROUGH AND READY



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27th November 1989

Mr Frank Sheldon-Collins
8 Nepean Avenue
Penrith
NSW. 2750

Dear Frank,

I refer to your letter to Admiral John Crabb, a copy of which you also forwarded to me, and following discussions with the Admiral I can advise that his views on the matters referred to in the letter are in agreement with those of the 'Association' which are that crew members of the 'Kormoran' directly or indirectly may not be invited to participate in the memorial service for HMAS Sydney 11.

The German Navy personnel from Kormoran served their country faithfully and well, as we also did, during the 1939-45 war and for this they have our respect.

There is however a 'Line' which can never be crossed and I think this is best illustrated by the policy of "The Returned Services League of Australia" which does not permit former war-time enemies of Australia to participate in Anzac Day marches and other march assemblies nor to take part directly or indirectly in remembrance ceremonies at Cenotaphs and other places.

During the 1939-45 war there were many naval engagements from which there were survivors from both sides to recount the battle and to give moral and spiritual comfort to the relatives of those who were lost.

With 'Sydney' however the loss was total and the hurt and terrible sadness remains today. The wishes therefore of Association members and also family members who lost friends and loved ones must therefore always be respected and acknowledged.

Because of these facts the 'Association' asks you as the nominated interface, to advise Mr Otto Jurgensen of our decision accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Douglas A Price
Douglas A Price
President/Secretary

Copies to:
Admiral John Crabb
Alaistair Templeton