

The Cormoran after all had left her exploded as it was dark and we could not see far into the small lifeboat we cried in the direction where we had last seen the cruiser disappear. The sea was rather rough and we waited there in the near because we supposed a plane or an Australian man-of-war would come but none of both appeared and so we took our course to the Australian coast with our boat. Sixty-two men in it, however, we did not reach the coast but after 8 days the Australian steamer "Century" took us over then we came ashore in Fremantle as P.O.W's only hearing that the cruiser with which we had the battle was the Sydney.

The Sydney as the Cormoran had suffered very heavy damage and both were lost of course. When the fight began the Sydney was only 1 mile distant from the Cormoran. The Sydney had long range guns while we had old guns of the last great war which were very short, therefore the Sydney wanted more time to practise shooting. Furthermore the Sydney would never have supposed that a German man-of-war in the form of a merchant ship would appear at the Australian coast so the Sydney was very much surprised which of course was an advantage to us and we had already damaged the Sydney before he began to fire. After shooting a torpedo at the Sydney which hit badly, the cruiser intended to ram the Cormoran and was also shooting 4 torpedoes in us which however did not hit because we turned our ship into the same direction as the Sydney and the the fight was finished.

I herewith would like to finish my report and hope that it is of some evidence for you.

Today after the lost war for Germany, I am not interested in telling big stories but I wanted to give facts.

I hope that you kindly will confirm the receipt of this letter. With regretting to the loss of your husband and kind regards to you.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

OTTO WINDROTH. (signed.)