



SUBM.001.0075_R

Jim&Anne

From: "Demetriou, Mike Mr" [redacted]
To: "Jim&Anne" [redacted]
Cc: "Info-XD" <Info-XD@mod.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 January 2008 8:16 PM
Subject: FOI Request - HMAS Sydney II

Mr Eagles,

My apologies for misdirecting you.

I was informed, via the RN Navy Casualty Branch, that the RN Navy Historical Branch had said the Seapower Centre held a copy of the BOI. Under UK FOI legislation we are not required to disclose documents that are "reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means" and we would consider documents held by the Seapower Centre, and in the public domain to so classified. The Navy Casualty Branch are the custodians of RN BOI documents, and I will take this up with them as a matter of urgency.

Once again my apologies for this inaccurate information supplied hitherto.

Mike Demetriou
 Fleet FOI Cell

From: Jim&Anne [mailto:[redacted]]
Sent: 22 January 2008 00:23
To: Demetriou, Mike Mr
Cc: [redacted]; John Perryman; David Kennedy; Ean McDonald; John McArthur; Michael Montgomery; [redacted]; Kathleen Bennett; Garry Baverstock; Ross Willcock; Info-XD
Subject: Fw: FOI Request - HMAS Sydney II

Mr Demetriou

I have, since receiving your reply had contact with the Seapower Centre and they claim that they do not have a copy of the BOI report on the loss of HMAS Sydney. They claim that you are mistaken. I cannot understand how this misunderstanding about a simple FOI request can become so complicated.

As I understand it Admiralty KR & AI Fleet Order (AFO) 4131, stated that "Reports of BOI held to investigate losses of or damage to HM ships by enemy action are to be rendered to the Admiralty in duplicate". I presume this would have been carried out. I think this report also formed the basis of the File M.05540/42, which in turn is cited as the reference source for Battle Summary No 13 issued by the Admiralty in 1942, incorporating the action between HMAS Sydney and the German raider HSK Kormoran.

Therefore I cannot see that you would not hold two copies of this report, otherwise the Battle Summary would not have been able to be completed with the Sydney engagement included.

I am including the Seapower Centre in this email, so they may see that I am following this up so that the matter can be sorted out, hopefully with little delay, with the impending 5 million dollar search to be nearing its start date.

You will also notice that I have included the Australian Minister for Defence, Mr David Mearns the leader of the Sydney search and other researchers, so they may be kept informed of progress. I have also included the email address of the Director of Information Exploitation as a first step as per your email advise.

Regards

James Eagles
 Information Officer,
 Assoc of Family and Friends of HMAS Sydney II

22/01/2008