

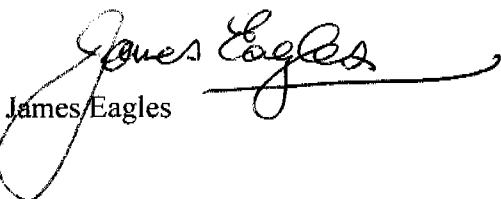


Having taken the preceding information into account, I have come to the conclusion that the photographs etc, do not depict any one ship, but are a selection of various ship photographs from a number of wrecks to fill out the German version of the story of the battle between HMAS Sydney and HSK Kormoran. So far I have found only one candidate for the photograph of the funnel – that of a Leander Class cruiser, which was sunk during the war and that is HMS Neptune.

Neptune was lost off the North African coast in the Mediterranean on 19 December 1941, with only one eventual survivor being rescued. It is said that the ship's exact whereabouts are unknown, however, the President of the Neptune Association is in close contact with David Mearns and the location is almost certainly known to the Royal Navy. Even if its location were known, permission to dive on the wreck would be involved, but probably not forthcoming.

Some of the photographs and video appears to be of more than one ship and likely of those used as target ships of which there were several used for target practice after the war had ended. Likewise the boats seem to be a dump for damaged boats not worth repairing especially now that those of an inflatable type are readily available.

Therefore, I present all of my research, which I still consider valid, all of which has been completed since the Senate Inquiry of 1997-98. I should add that I was extremely pleased initially when I thought that the Sydney had at last been found, but was extremely disappointed when I saw the photographs and video to see how amateurish was the attempt to present it all as the Sydney. It appears the person responsible for the selection of material did not know the difference between a Leander Class cruiser and a Modified Leander Class cruiser like the Sydney. Even Tom Frame in his book on HMAS Sydney depicted the wrong type of ship.


James Eagles