

Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd) T. Warren Whittaker, OBE.

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LCDR Dominic Katter, RANR

23 September 2008

Dear Sir,

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE LOSS OF HMAS SYDNEY II -
EVIDENCE FOR THE LATE CAPTAIN BURNETT'S DEFENCE.

My son Giles has been helping me put this document together. The recent development that delayed submission to you was Herr Messerschmidt's Witness Statement to the Commission of Inquiry. I considered that it was necessary to comment on it in detail.

Herewith a copy of the completed document as promised. I have included my copy of "The Raider Kormoran" by Captain Theodor Detmers. Please return the book to me when it is no longer required.

If you need more copies of our document, I can e-mail the file to you.

I am sending a copy (less Detmers' book) to LCDR Renwick.

I sent earlier versions of Chapters 1, 3 and 4 to the Commission. They have already been reproduced on the Commission's website. Should I send a copy of the complete document to the Commission?

I have not been in contact with CDRE Rory Burnett or his brother. Until recently, I had a strong impression that they had accepted the German version of the battle. I was delighted to see that CDRE Rory had appointed Counsel to look after Captain Burnett's interests. Giles and I had started working on the paper "Evidence for the Late Captain Burnett's Defence" long before we heard of your appointment. We were pleased to see that you will be looking after Captain Burnett's interests.

I hope CDRE Rory will approve of our activities.

A word about my background: I was born and bred in the UK. I served for 30 years in the Indian and British Armies. I migrated to Australia in 1980. I have been researching the sinking of HMAS Sydney off and on for the last ten years or so.

I am 90 years old and my mobility is poor and getting worse. I find travel difficult but if it would help, I am prepared to make the effort to travel to Sydney to appear before the Commission in support of Captain Burnett if it is really necessary.

Yours faithfully,

Warren Whittaker

Copy to:

LCDR Renwick RANR, [REDACTED]

LCDR Ean McDonald RANR (Retd), [REDACTED]