



SURVIVORS FROM THE GERMAN RAIDER KORMORAN ARRIVING AT FREMANTLE.

SYDNEY'S LAST FIGHT

POINT-BLANK BROADSIDE

H.M.A.S. Sydney fought her last action about 300 miles west of Carnarvon at nightfall on November 19.

It appears that the Sydney closed to short range when uncertain of the identity of a ship flying the Norwegian flag.

A sudden broadside from the stranger, inflicting major damage on the Sydney, was the first intimation that she was the German raider Kormoran.

Although blazing fiercely and with her main armaments probably out of action, the Sydney fought gallantly until the raider was sunk. When last seen the Sydney was in flames.

The story was told by survivors of the Kormoran, 291 of whom were picked up at sea and along the north-west coast last week. The only trace found of the Sydney was two empty lifeboats and a Carley float.

All last week an intensive search by air

and sea was carried out between Geraldton and Port Hedland, and the story was pieced together as parties of German prisoners arrived at Fremantle and Carnarvon. The details were released for publication yesterday.

The graphic story of the Sydney's last action, as told by the German prisoners begins at 6.30pm on November 19, when the Kormoran was sighted about 300 miles west of Carnarvon. Apparently the Sydney was doubtful about the identity of the German, which was flying a Norwegian flag.

This disguise evidently misled the Sydney, which closed to short range before the Kormoran opened fire.

Estimates of the opening range varied from half a mile to five miles, but several survivors stated that sailors on the Sydney could be seen with the naked eye.

The raider's first salvo almost com-

pletely destroyed the Sydney's bridge and upper works and a big fire broke out amidships.

Her fire control system and main armament of 6in. guns probably were also put out of action by that first salvo.

Retaliation, although immediate, seemed to be independent gunfire from her secondary 4in. armament, each gun apparently firing over the open sights.

The shooting was accurate, however, and the Kormoran was soon on fire.

The flames spread rapidly and the Germans abandoned ship and pulled towards the Sydney. Shortly afterwards the Kormoran blew up.

By that time, however, the Sydney was a blazing inferno and apparently out of control. Within an hour of the opening of the action she had disappeared, although she was not actually seen to sink.

December 4, 1941

MR. CURTIN'S STATEMENT.

Two empty lifeboats and a Carley float, the latter badly damaged by gunfire, are the only results so far produced by the search for the Sydney, according to the Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin).

Following sifting and checking of evidence resulting from interrogation of prisoners from the German raider Kormoran, Mr. Curtin said, it was possible to reconstruct to an extent the

action between that ship and the Sydney. He emphasised, however, that in the absence of any information from the Sydney, only one side was given from direct evidence. Certain of the aspects on board the Sydney must remain a matter of surmise as to detail.

The broad canvas could, however, be taken as giving an accurate picture.

December 4, 1941

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ANNEX C

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AIR RAID ROUTINE

LONDON, September 11, 1940

Londoners have taken the daily and nightly raids of the German air force in their stride. In one week the entire life of the city has changed. It is now regulated by the visitations of the enemy, and the people have settled down to withstanding the greatest air siege in history.

The first daily raid can be expected about midday, when the Germans make a regular attempt to break through with a mass formation of bombers.

Londoners shrug their shoulders and estimate that their shelter-sitting will last half an hour. The next raid usually arrives about 5 o'clock and lasts about the same period, while the German pilots apparently endeavour to drop fire-starting bombs, to provide guides for them during the night. Some call this "the lighting-up raid."

Then, between 8 o'clock and 9 o'clock, the nightly sessions begin. Everywhere in the vast, sprawling city millions go to shelter, prepared to remain there until about 6 o'clock next morn-

ing. Suburban dwellers have converted Anderson shelters into bedrooms. With children and even pets they go to bed there cheerfully for the night. Those lacking private shelters hurry to public ones, where they settle down in small communities intimately drawn together by the over-shadowing period.

Those living in hotels go to the basements or ground floors, prepared for a fitful vigil.

"Night life" has been abandoned temporarily, and theatres have been closed, but queues remain.

Where once Londoners sat patiently awaiting the opening of the show, being amused by itinerant entertainers, they now wait as patiently for shelters to open with the first note of the sirens, since wardens will not allow seats to be "reserved."

CALMNESS MORE PRONOUNCED.

After the fourth successive nightlong raid the calmness of Londoners has

become even greater, as they have become more accustomed to the new sleeping arrangements. Many families enter the public shelters before the siren which usually sounds before darkness, and which is now regarded as heralding a nightlong bombing. A considerable proportion of those sheltering remain below ground after the all-clear — which sounded this morning at 4.45 — having another hour's sleep before daylight. Then they emerge, wondering firstly whether any of their neighbourhood is left after the pounding from the bombs heard at intervals during the night, and secondly, whether their place of employment is still standing.

The impression that the neighbourhood has probably crumbled into ruins is heightened by the shriek and flash of bombs which always seem to be just in the next street.

A heavy bomb falling many blocks away causes such a shaking that even the floors of Anderson shelters seem to be heaving and rocking.

STRICKEN CITY.

LONDON, Nov. 17. — Newspaper correspondents who reached Coventry on Friday morning, after the remorseless, indiscriminate bombing of the city for hour after hour on Thursday night by successive waves of Nazi planes, declared that nothing in Madrid, Finland or even London could compare with the terrific devastation. Berlin claims that the raid was the biggest air attack in history and that over 500 planes participated.

The latest official estimate of casualties today is 200 dead and over 800 injured. Yesterday the King visited the city and spent more than four hours amid its ruins.

The Berlin radio claims that all Coventry's factories were set on fire, and that "one of the most important centres of the British aeroplane industry was destroyed," but a leading member of the aircraft industry told the "Sunday

Dispatch": "While it would be wrong to describe the damage to industry in Coventry as negligible, the interference with production will not be large and it should be practically normal shortly, so far as armament work is concerned."

The famous cathedral is now little more than a skeleton, masses of rubble forming huge mounds within the bare walls. Its spire stands like a sentinel over the grim scene of destruction. There was scarcely a period of more than two minutes between dusk and dawn when bombs were not heard falling. Squadron after squadron dive-bombed the city in formations. Whole streets were left without a house undamaged and some streets were wiped out. There were craters in every road. Fires were still blazing then the bombers flew off at dawn.

The first arrivals from London on Friday morning found Coventry's shop-

ping centre a smoking mass of ruins and fire. People who had emerged alive were wandering in the skeleton streets, their faces blackened, trying to find families and friends, not sure of the way through their own streets. Walls were still collapsing, chimneys rising forest-like over masses of bricks, with furniture heaped around their roots.

WOOL FROM WHALE BLUBBER

Japanese Scientist's Claim.

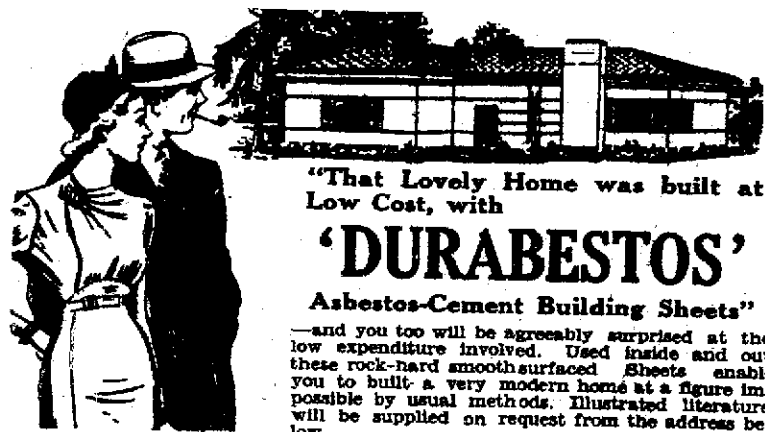
TOKIO, Dec. 13.—The latest wool substitute, which comes from Australia's front door, has been announced by Mr. Yoshio Ishida, director of the chemical research bureau of the Riken Laboratories. After expressing oil from the blubber of Antarctic whales, the fibrous residue can be processed to resemble wool. It is claimed that the artificial product is equal to the genuine article in warmth and other qualities, and that it is cheaper.

NEW FREMANTLE BRIDGE.

Opening Ceremony Today.

The new traffic bridge spanning the Swan River at Fremantle will be officially opened this afternoon by the Premier (Mr. J. C. Willcock). The construction of the approaches to the bridge and the erection of the bridge have occupied nearly two years.

Joint hosts for the opening ceremony will be the Minister for Works (Mr. H. Millington), the city of Fremantle and the municipalities of North Fremantle and East Fremantle. Guests will assemble at Cliff-street, Victoria Quay, Fremantle, at 2.15 p.m., and will be taken by river to the bridge. An inspection of the understructure will be followed by the official opening. Subsequently the Premier will unveil a memorial plaque on the first pylon of the bridge. Launches will convey guests back to Cliff-street, and afternoon tea will be served at the Fremantle Town Hall.



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