

7.10.08.

Dear Sir

I came across this memo of Winston Churchill in his book "The Gathering Storm" and find it ironic in light of the Commission of Inquiry into the loss of H.M.A.S. STONNET II. Seeing he sent it nearly seventy years ago, it really sounds foreboding.

Looking further into "Kormoran's" sister ship "Ostmark" or "Saugum" I'm quite sure she brought many I.S.S. men to Australia after the WWII who were fleeing Europe to escape whatever may have been their fate,

and not all were German!
 again I find this ironic
 too! maybe some future
 Historian will look at a story
 involving this ship.

I found some
 of the stories of ex-crew members
 of H.M.A.S SYDNEY II previous to
 her loss interesting, regarding
 D.F. signals, for one. Tugs
 were often sent to sea to
 search for drifting vessels,
 broken down or lost props or
 mudders, with really no means
 to find them except by D.F. signals
 and most times it had weather
 our radio-men were quite
 important in this type of
 Search & Salvage.

The other story of
 interest to me seem to
 concern Cruisers rolling, &
 remember as a young
 tug boat had towing a

cruiser from Swan-Hunters
Yard to Puseys down-stream
at Tarrow Slab and standing
by while they did inclination
trials, I cant remember how
far they tipped but now, but
I do remember being amazed
at the time!

Our relative in Geelong
served in a cruiser on
the Russian Convoys and he
after said how far over
she rolled in Peary sea's
up round "BEAR ISLAND" and
sometimes German Aircraft flying
low right astern, that they
often opened up on the bunch
to scare them off.

Yours Faithfully

Peter Dawson