

Mrs. A. Cox, [REDACTED]

From a letter dated 29th May, 1992.

The sequence of events of 19th November, 1941, are as follows as I recall My Father had been listening to his Radio on Short-Wave and said that as he twiddled the dial he picked up an unusual amount of foreign voices - they were very clear and excited more so than he had ever heard before, and which in his opinion were Oriental. He did not understand the Japanese language but was sure that that is what it was, and that they were close to our shores. Furthermore, he was always convinced that the Japanese had a hand in the sinking of the Sydney.

I had been in bed - how long I am not sure - but it would be between 11 p.m. on the 19th and the early hours of the 20th that my Father called me to come and see something out to sea. What I saw was a glow far out on or beyond the horizon. This could have been a reflection on the clouds beyond the horizon or it could have been the Sydney as it burnt to the waterline on the horizon. My Father's words were "There is a ship in trouble out there". The night, as I recall, was dark with no moon. It was not a clear intense fire, more of a glow that at times seemed to brighten then fade to a pale golden-orange. A final blaze up then blackness. Of course, in hindsight I wish I had taken much more accurate notice of the length of time we watched etc.

D.R.E. King 15-3-93

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Mrs. Adelina Cox wrote of her memories of World War 11 years in the Geraldton area, mentioning the night of 19th November, 1941.

I wrote to her seeking further information. She states that her Father spent many hours of anight twiddling the dial of his Tasman Cabinet Model radio (Short-wave) for any source of information that he could tune into. The fact that he picked up an unusual amount of traffic on the air that night and was sure it was Japanese would indicate there must have been more than one Craft out there. I wonder Were they moving into position to destroy the Sydney and crew because they believed or knew that the Sydney had proof of their involvement earlier?

Mrs. Cox recalls a brief mention of the column of smoke Gerry Rose spotted and which he claimed was a Cordite burn.

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