

* Finally after 67 years a NSW, The Sydney Foundation has located the Kormoran & the HMAS Sydney.

The Untold Story of the Sinking of the HMAS Sydney
By: Jaime L. Calero

Why is it that secrecy still veils the sinking of the HMAS Sydney tragic and unsolved mystery, which occurred November 19, 1941 three weeks before the bombing of Pearl Harbour - off the coast of Carnarvon, Western Australia?

In their book, 'Betrayal at Pearl Harbour' - Eric Nave, Australian Intelligence, Code expert, RN, RAN, ASIO - as well as James Rusbridge, English stated that, "On November 19, 1941 Japan commenced hostilities. Not against America or Britain but on Australia, when the German surface raider Kormoran met the Australian cruiser HMAS Sydney off the western coast of Australia and fought the most mysterious battle of World War II."

A raft from the HMAS Sydney was found riddled with bullets, suggesting her survivors might have been machine-gunned. The raft is on exhibit at the Canberra War Museum. All of HMAS Sydney 645 crew vanished into into a lost horizon. How, Why and where?

Australia is a country that traditionally honours and remembers it's war veterans, as well as pay's tribute to those who have died in battle - land, sea or air. However there appears to be a different set of standard's that have been employed regarding the cruiser HMAS Sydney it's officers and men, who seemed to have disappeared into thin air on the 19th November 1941.

It is sad to note that 67 years have gone since that tragic event and it is even sadder to note that for many years, on the 19th of November, hardly any mention has been made about the HMAS Sydney. Why?

Does the Media and other agencies have a puppet mentality and tend to follow like sheep and only do what they are allowed?

Is there anyone in the Media, worth their salt that are willing to write the facts as they unfold in their investigation and thereby finally write the true story about the HMAS Sydney?

One of the nagging question's is whether a Japanese, German or Vichy French submarine participated in the sinking of the Sydney?

Were any of the survivors shot while on life raft's or in the water?
Is there a mass grave of the HMAS Sydney's dead somewhere in Australia? Had the Kormoran or the HMAS Sydney already been found, but kept under wraps to this date?

I received an email from my friend, Alfredo Roces dated 22/07/02
Subject: Asahi Shimbun - WWII Records Destroyed

Why wartime documents destroyed?

The Asahi Shimbun

U.S. archives prove wilfull move to destroy war crimes evidence.

The Japanese Military, at the behest of top brass, wilfully destroyed official documents to throw victors off the scent in anticipation of the ensuing Tokyo war crimes trials. The first order to destroy documents was issued at midnight of Aug. 14. It pointed out that on Aug. 15, 1945 the day Japan surrendered after Emperor Hirohito addressed the nation by declaring Japan's surrender in a radio broadcast and the War Ministry ordered secret Imperial army documents and other key papers destroyed to also include major field headquarters to burn documents carrying Emperor Hirohitos' authorisation. It admonished underlings to perform said task "with a sense of worship."

Summaries show that on Aug. 20 the fleet based in Shanghai ordered registers and duty records of high-ranking officers, "immediately burned." The Imperial Navy's base force in Indonesia issued an order on August 24, 1945 - to destroy equipment prepared for chemical warfare.

Hirofumi Hayashi, a professor of modern history at Kanto Gakuin University, uncovered the documents at the U.S. National Archives. He heads the research secretariat for the Centre for Research & documentation on Japan's War Responsibility, a group of historians, legal experts, writers, and ordinary citizens.

These documents formed part of the Far East 'Magic' summaries of Japanese military communications during the war that had been intercepted and deciphered by the U.S. War Department.

Professor Yutaka Yoshida, of modern Japanese history at Hitosubashi University's graduate school, acknowledged the value of the records and said, "documents that were disadvantageous to Japan were destroyed for fear they would be used to press war crime charges. So, it is extremely rare to find documents that substantiate the attempt."