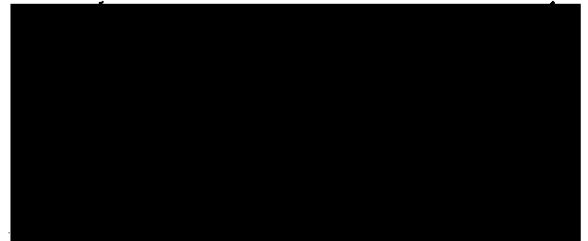




MR. P. DAVISON

20.10.08.



Dear Sir

In a previous letter I suggested that H.M.A.S SYDNEY II was to board "KORMORAN" once she stopped, if this were true, would the boarding party have carried small arms and what weapons were available to them I have no idea what ww II cruisers carried for this event, and were any sighted around her wreck!

It would appear from Petters Book that the position that the action took place was no secret to R.A.N. and R.SYDNEY II being doing several knots, it would have been interesting to ask him if he thought in her condition was a speed pile this appropriate, he must of had some idea what state of readiness H.M.A.S SYDNEY II was

in, previous to the Battle also
 the image of the German
 cruiser sinking, poor "Blowdown"
 shows clearly the resainted
 Swastika on the fore-deck, my
 dear old friend who had been
 a tutor at the German Naval
 College in Flensburg, after the
 War insisted it was!

The photograph of the
 barge floating crane TITAN II
 She was built in Holland
 in 1922 for the T.Y.E. and worked
 for over fifty years, & before
 she could lift over 200 tons.
 She certainly ~~could~~ lifted
 HMAS SYDNEY III GUN TURRETS on
 board, the warships would be
 at Quays, with TITAN alongside
 and all two would bring
 Vickers Armstrongs gun-charge
 down from Elswick Works
 up-river, then set about lifting
 them on-board, we often
 did either job, and it took
 hours, possibly all day, waiting
 to load the barge along
 the gun-gantry took most of
 the day.

3.

I personally feel, of all the images of H.M.A.S. SYDNEY II on the bottom, are of the lifeboats being around the sea. Red, really things from the danger of life at sea. Both Navy & Merchantmen, recently I was talking to my old friend Mr. Gudy Patching in Pt. Bonadale who served in H.M.A.S. PERTH and he was telling me, one of "Perth's" first jobs in the War was escorting a large Convoy from the U.S. to Britain which hit an Atlantic Storm and the Port Boats off her deck or were destroyed in the cradles, it would appear danger lay everywhere, and not just from enemy action, and even large Merchant Ships have lost Boats in Ruge. Seas.

Yours faithfully
Pet Davis