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HMAS Sydney 11 Commission Of Inquiry

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## "FROM SYDNEY NOT A WORD WAS HEARD"

'Also Sprach Zarathustra'. Or more to the point, Herman Gill, the official Navy historian in the 'History Of Royal Australian Navy 1939-1942'. Thus the Navy declared its position. *Sydney* sent no messages. A position confirmed by the 97-99 parliamentary inquiry. A position held today by the Royal Australian Navy.

This submission will show that *Sydney* did send messages. All the above is ,thus, falsified.

Commodore Durnford, the acting Chief Of The Naval Staff, reported on the loss of HMAS *Sydney* to the War Cabinet on 4th December 1941<sup>1</sup>. The first two sentences of that report are :- **" The engagement took place in position 25° South 111° East on 19<sup>th</sup> November, H.M.A.S. "Sydney" on a bearing S.W. from the raider, made the first sighting at a range of 15 miles."**

Ask yourself why did Durnford use the word :- **range**? He could have used :- distance, as most people would have done. Durnford was reporting to a non-naval audience. In deference to that audience he ought to have dropped technical terms and naval jargon. But he did not do so in this case. Why?

The reason why is that partly he was habituated to using that word because he was a naval man of long standing and naval men used range. The other part, the major part, of the reason why is that in composing the report Durnford had along side him a message from *Sydney*. In that message *Sydney* reported that she had **"made the first sighting at a range of 15 miles"** The distance of 15 miles was derived from the range finder function of *Sydney* finding the distance to *Kormoran*. Naturally, *Sydney* would report **"at a range of 15 miles"** because that distance was obtained from the range finder. Durnford probably was not thinking of his audience to the degree he ought to have done when composing his report. Hence,he used *Sydney*'s message and the word **"range"** revealing that *Sydney* sent a message.

Now look at what Durnford said about the position :- **"25° South"**. Why did he use **"25° South"** when virtually all the Germans, capable of knowing, said the position was 26° South? In particular,the German captain gave the position of 26° South. Durnford would have been more influenced by what the German captain said rather than the other officers. Yet Durnford still said **"25° South"**

The reason Durnford used 25° and not 26° was because he had beside him the message from *Sydney* . That message would say **"25° South"** because *Sydney* was in that latitude at the time that she first saw *Kormoran*. *Sydney* would have the better part of an hour's sailing before the battle. In that time *Sydney* went from 25° to 26° latitude.

In 'Freudian Slip Or Smoking Gun'<sup>2</sup> I showed that the Germans could never know that, or when, or where, *Sydney* made the first sighting. For Durnford to say that *Sydney* made the first sighting meant that he had beside him the message from *Sydney* saying just that.

All these things:- the word **range**, the 25° latitude and the **first sighting** combined to show that from *Sydney* words were heard in a message, contrary to Herman Gill.



## **THE COVER UP**

Because the Navy had a message from *Sydney* it knew when and where the engagement took place. For the Navy to not send out search ships and planes until the 24th November, deplorable in itself, is reason enough to explain its cover-up.

## **References**

- (1) Australian Archives (Can) : "The Sinking Of HMAS Sydney, Guide 3" pages 70-71.
- (2) "Inquiry into the Circumstances of the Sinking of HMAS Sydney" Canberra June 1998, Volume 15 page 3545.

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*23/10/2008*