

Hmas Sydney 11.
Commission Of Inquiry
Level 18 Defence Plaza
270 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000



Subject. Commissioner Terrence Cole QC. Hmas Sydney 11 Inquiry.

From. John A Montagu Cd Author The Lost Souls & Ghosts Of Hmas Sydney 11 1941.

Dear Sir.

I bring to your notice my recent correspondence dated 14 July 2008 and the 6 Oct 2008 regarding the Hmas Sydney 11 Inquiry being conducted by Commissioner Terrence Cole Qc.

Over the past couple of weeks since my last correspondence with the COLE INQUIRY, I have been conducting a review on research papers and documents referring too previous contacts made over the last 15 years or so here in WA and the Eastern Seaboard, Germany & the UK, American Archives in Virginia USA & of course British Navel Intelligence, Ministry Of Defence, Whitehall UK. All Of which was in connection with Hmas Sydney 11 sinking & Circumstances there of.

.Apart from the obvious Investigation Scenarios that were chalked over, the questions of how the Hmas Sydney 11 lost her entire Ships Company Of 645 Officers & Ratings always came to the fore. Despite the obvious favourable weather and near Summer Conditions that would help Crewmen off Hmas Sydney 11 to survive if fallen or left in the Indian Ocean to perish.

There are at least three examples of German Atrocities on Australian Crewmen.

1. A Life Raft washed up on Christmas Island in February 1942, North West of the Australian Continent Had a Boiler Suit covered Body on board, It had a bullet hole in the back of the Head. There were two pairs of Canvas shoes in the Raft and the Boiler Suit was white canvas, as worn by Officers on Hmas Sydney . The body was exhumed in 2005-6 from a marked grave On Christmas Island. Despite repeated requests for information to the Perth Coroners office & Canberra. No detailed Information has been released to the Public Forum., to verify actual cause of Death & details.

2. On November ¹⁹⁴¹ 26-27 Navel Bodies were reported washed up under the cliffs off Cape Inscription or Narraloo were the Light House Supply Boat Cape Otway was stationed. The Otway was alleged to have reported Australian dead Crewmen washed up on the the rocks near the Otway anchorage Site. She was instructed To leave the area as soon as possible. Army Engineers from Fremantle based Company were drafted To collect and bury the dead Sailors on the cleft top ground in unmarked Graves. The Company instructed to carry out this task, were the Army Royal Engineers Stationed at the Military Barracks In Fremantle. (Now The Military Museum) They will release no records of such a task, Because It is still on the Government Secret List. ?

3. This item is of course the most serious of the three examples listed in previous correspondence. The importance of the number of Australian Crewmen Off Hmas Sydney 11, who were rescued by the German Personnel off Kormoran and locked in their holding cells (Brig) on the Raider . Not to be released when Kormoran was scuttled on the 22 Nov 1941. on 26 deg + S. 111 deg + E. 2330 h. in the approximate where she rests on the Indian Ocean Sea-bed. In 2500 -3000 Metres of water.

The importance of this statement is that 75 % 300 out of a crew Of 400 Of Kormorans Crew were able to disembark off the Raider when she Sank. Not one of Hmas Sydney 11 Ships Company Of 645 Officers & Crewmen, Wounded or Bodies were officially Rescued or listed as Pow,s by the German Raiders crew. This single occasion was one of Australian Military National disgraceful, in not Investigating This World War 11 Major Atrocity committed so close the Western Australian Coast Line, has been ignored for 67 years Bye Federal Governments of both sides of the Parliament. Also The Countries RSL Who pride themselves, In standing up to be countered, for the lost Souls Of The Hmas Sydney 11 1941. But fall well Short Of There Ideals, When addressing Hmas Sydney 11 Lost Crewmen. under circumstances that have been accepted as fact instead of actual reality & deceite.

Also there remains a Possibility about a bounty paid by the Current Federal Government, To the German Kormorans Association Relating to Were The Hmas Sydney 11 - Hsk Kormoran Actual Wreck Sites were Situated.

Regards John A Montagu >Cd.
16 Oct 2008