

MR P. DAVIDSON

4.2.09

Dear Sir

Please forgive my attempt to wear two hats and both Captain's in two ships, H.M.A.S SYDNEY II and the German Raider "KORMORAN" Captain Burnett on Landing over ZEAHANODIA. to H.M.S DURBAN took a COURSE back to Fremantle which took him just outside the major sealane, which is of course, is the very correct route for a Cruiser to travel, in the belief that if a RAIDER had indeed entered Australian waters, she may indeed be somewhere around this vital area at this time, when



the game was so important.  
 Most Cruisers in Convoy  
 were used in this manner  
 not as close escorts, but as  
 shadows away from the  
 main group, and able to  
 come quickly to any trouble.  
 I feel I quite have  
 Captain Burnett was astute  
 enough to reason a Raider  
 might use his radio to  
 give a false signal such as  
 the Q message and may well  
 have heard it, I think  
 a few Raiders when spotted  
 had already used this ruse  
 and of course H.M.A.S SYDNEY II  
 would know of this.

But now my other  
 part just before blowing up  
 "KORMORAN" I think Captain  
 Delmen had a meeting with

with the Officers and N.C.O's  
 who were in charge of  
 the lifeboats, and gave them  
 a course to steer to safety.  
 One he knew exactly where  
 he was, he had his charts  
 he had sextants, compasses,  
 watches, chronometers, and of  
 course they carried sidearms.

The sea was full of sharks.  
 any Navy in the world would  
 do the same, and best of  
 all, land was very close.

Some Merchant Captains of  
 sunken ships in WWII sailed  
 their lifeboats for thousands  
 of miles to be safe.

KORMORAN'S crew never  
 knew how lucky they were,  
 and we left them and  
 safe for the rest of the war!  
 Yours faithfully

Pet Dawson