

B.O'Sullivan
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Commander K. Radburn RAN,
Secretary
HMAS SYDNEY II
Commission of Inquiry
Office of the Chief of Defence
270 Pitt Street
Sydney 2000

Dear Commander,

I know the Inquiry is now closed, but I thought you may find interesting the Postscript, which seem to appear in many historical novels, and we must admit, because how little fact is known, it is all we can claim for the saga of HMAS SYDNEY.

I think I should add, the German survivors desperation can be measured, when I say, the Lifeboats are big, cumbersome and heavy. The smallest was more than a ton, while the heaviest was at least 3 tons in weight. The Gunnels were of shoulder height, yet they managed to carry/drag them to the ship's side, and lift them at least 12 centimetres over the top of sheer strake plate, before 'throwing them into the sea'.

It was never mentioned by the Germans. I think the abandoning of the ship was foremost in all their minds, with very little thought of what was happening to their opponent, and one can imagine, the 'eternity' they were experiencing to get the boats into the water. Their times are hopelessly unreliable.

This then, leaves history to be recorded by deduced reckoning, based on all known facts, which includes the general practice of seamen at that period.

My best wishes to all,

Your sincerely,

Bernard O'Sullivan

16th March 2009