

The Sydney did not fire any torpedoes at the Kormoran -

\* BOOK 1 WAS TRANSLATED IN BOOK 2 ISSUE (A)

Aber um dies wirkungsvoll zu fahren, war der brennende Kreuzer schon zu weit achteraus gesackt. Er lief auch and passed behind our stern. I looked keine höhere Fahrt.

is from Detmers book - "My eyes were glued seen as I saw that ad come practically to o open fire, the time was

almost as though she were trying to ram us Ich dachte zunächst, dab er seinen but for that she was to get down at the Steuerbord - Torpedorohrsatz stern and she no longer had any speed. &

ses were discharged at 1 to turn 260°, which I in order not to disturb

zum Einsatz bringen wolte, nachdem thought perhaps she was turning in order er den Sicherungsbolzen noch in to bring her starboard Fensterlee gelöst Torpedorohrsatz Fensterlee gelöst hatte. Aber kein

at us. In all probability aft weapons and heavy no one could release the what about the continuous

action after having released the safety Torpedeschub fiel und Zwozentimeter catches in the tubes under cover of her lee,

German army veteran us and passed behind (this point) It looked us, but for that she was he no longer had any speed.

nahmen jetzt seine andere, die Steuerbord, but no torpedoes were fired. \* seite, unter Beschub.

(HMAS Sydney) was no

longer moving."

5, Page 144 - "But no torpedoes were launched at us and our main guns, 37 mm anti-tank, 20 mm A/A and heavy machine guns swept her starboard side devastatingly!" One of the most targeted areas surely would have been the starboard side torpedo tubes, would it not? "I kept to my course but



BOOK 1 WAS THE FIRST EDITION WRITTEN IN GERMAN (1959) AND BOOK 2 WAS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH (1959) & CROSS REFERENCED.

Contentious issues from Detmers book -

- 1) What does this mean. Ref. P142: - "My eyes were glued to the bearing compass and as soon as I saw that the enemy cruiser (HMAS Sydney) had come practically to a standstill I gave the order to open fire, the time was exactly 17,30 hours.
- 2) Ref. Page 143. "My own torpedoes were discharged at the enemy, and to do this I had to turn 260°, which I did with very little helm movement in order not to disturb our gunners."
- 3) P 143 - Not a torpedo was fired at us. In all probability the hail of shells from our anti-aircraft weapons and heavy machine guns was so intense that no one could release the safety catches on the tubes. (What about the continuous fire from the 5.9" (150mm) guns?)  
P.S. enclosed find translation by German army veteran of page 143. -
- 4) The enemy cruiser turned towards us and passed behind our stern. (200 yds between ships at this point) It looked as though she was trying to ram us, but for that she was too far down by the stern, and she no longer had any speed.  
Alternative translation - "the cruiser (HMAS Sydney) was no longer moving."
- 5) Page 144 - "But no torpedoes were launched at us and our main guns, 37mm anti-tank, 20mm A/A and heavy machine guns swept her starboard side devastatingly!"  
One of the most targeted areas surely would have been the starboard side torpedo tubes, would it not? "I kept to my course but

Detmers said 8-4" A/A GUNS

no torpedoes came at us.

5/ Another point - "The Sydney was already so close that through our glasses we could see every detail clearly. In particular we could see that her four double dumbets with their 6" guns and also the port torpedo-tube battery were all directed at us. As far as I could make out her four (2 to Port 2 to Starboard) 4-INCH ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS were not manned," Sydney had only four 4" A/A G.P. guns. So did Detmers have a ship at sea-book describing a "Leander class" cruiser which would have had eight 4-inch - not four 4-inch? Makes you wonder? (This was written on page 140).

6/ The men on board the Kormoran said when the torpedo hit the Sydney - a gush of water/debris rose nearly 100 feet into the air. However when lieutenant Commander Briestneider said in his diary, "On the cruiser there is a tremendous explosion - the ship has disappeared in a black fog, and as the smoke clears we can observe that her bows are slowly sinking."

To those that experienced similar instances this could have meant only one thing - that the magazine closest to the oil tanks had exploded.

As the two ships came to practically a standstill this can mean only one thing - that the Kormoran had been told to "Heave to!" and that a boarding party was about to cross over from the Sydney just before hostilities broke out.

NB I asked Hermann ORTMANN WOULD THE KORMORAN Have ever surrendered?

"No Never - we would never have surrendered!"