

From: RA&BJ Craill [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 June 2009 12:31 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Emailing: Mail0156
Attachments: Mail0156.JPG

Commander, the below letter failed with incorrect punctuation. Remitting.
Sincerely, Barbara Craill

----- Original Message -----

From: RA&BJ Craill
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 12:15 PM
Subject: Fw: Emailing: Mail0156

APOLOGIES.

Dear Commander Radburn,

I wish to alter a date stated below.

The letter from my Grandmother to my mother, was dated the next day, 27th November, 1941.
My mother had received the Telegram dated 26th November 1941 as stated and received it out-of-hours delivery the evening of the same day it was dated, 26th November 1941.

I hope that this makes sense.

1. The telegram was dated 26th November, 1941
2. The telegram was received the same day in the evening of 26th November, 1941.
3. My grandmother was told at 7.30 am on the next day, 27th November 1941. She wrote that day to my mother.

Please convey this correction to Justice Cole. My apologies and thank you.

Sorry for the confusion.

Yours sincerely,
Barbara Craill
[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From: RA&BJ Craill
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 12:06 PM
Subject: Emailing: Mail0156

The Secretary,
Commission of Inquiry,

Dear Commander Radburn,

1. I am enclosing a letter of importance to the COI, that I have just found amongst my mother's effects (thought lost) dated 30 JAN 1946.

Navy Enquiries in Japan

QUOTE:-

"At the termination of hostilities, the Minister for the Navy caused further enquiries to be made from Japan with a view of obtaining news of the fate of H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY", but it is regretted that all enquiries have failed to produce news of any kind."

Signed by the Secretary, Department of the Navy, (H.C. ALLEN) signature unknown
Navy Office, Melbourne. S.C.1.
Ref. No. 6748
487/202/994



It is believed that Captain John Collins, or Commadore Collins as I think he was by this date, was sent to Japan to make such enquiries. My mother was told this at the time also, but I had no written evidence until now. I verify that this letter is to my mother and is in my possession, recently found.

Mrs Kathleen Judith Bennett recalls that Captain Collins being a friend of her parents called on her mother just prior to going to Japan to tell her that he was going in the hope of finding any trace of survivors of H.M.A.S. SYDNEY or information pertaining to this ship. This identifies that it was intended that he enquire, before he left for Japan. No doubt, he was the ideal choice as he was so involved and would recognise many names. I am sure that 'Judith' Bennett would give this information of her own accord as she remembers it clearly.
kbennet@nelsonbay.com

2. The Date of the Telegram and the Date of Receiving the Telegram from the Navy.

I have also found with the above, the Telegram my mother received, which was also recently found with the above. It is Dated the 26th November, 1941. It was not certain when it was received. **However.....**

I have my Grandmother's sympathy letter written to my mother, **dated 26th November**. She was told by a family member (Adelaide General Hospital Military), at 7.30 am on that same day, 26th November. This letter was recently found also, together with the above.

This letter confirms the date that my mother received her telegram, the date which is the same as the date sent. There was no delay. I can remit copies of this letter if required for the records.

3. I am well aware that Justice Cole is in the process of preparing the final Report, or, has already prepared the final Report, but this is of interest to the COI. I am also aware that submission closed in October 2008. This is a letter of interest and information of interest.

4. I am hoping that you will assist me by having Justice Cole read this letter sent to my mother Mrs. A.E. Freer, wife of gunner W.E.A.Freer A.B., Warship SYDNEY.

5. Please, may I have the enclosed attachment lodged on the official web site as it would be of vital interest to readers and followers of this Inquiry?

Your sincerely
Barbara Craill (Mrs)
(nee Freer)

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

Mail0156