

**HMAS SYDNEY II COI
Statutory Declaration of Mr Ernest William Briddick**



WIT.002.0001_R

Commonwealth of Australia

STATUTORY DECLARATION

Statutory Declarations Act 1959

I, Ernest William Briddick, [REDACTED] retiree, make the following declaration under the *Statutory Declarations Act, 1959*:

- 1. I was born 26 December 1919. I enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy Volunteer Reserve on 17 October 1938. I was called up the day before the war started on 2 September 1939 and was initially posted to Leeuwin for about 6 weeks before being posted to HMAS SYDNEY II.
- 2. Annexed to this Statutory Declaration is a copy of my Certificate of Service which lists the ships in which I served.

My Service in HMAS SYDNEY

- 3. I joined HMAS SYDNEY II as an Ordinary Signaller on 29 October ¹⁹³⁹ 1941. I became a signaller on 24 January 1940.
- 4. My Action Station (1st degree of readiness) position and Cruising Station (4th degree of readiness) position was generally on the flagdeck. However, during action stations for the Battle of Calabria I was detailed to go to the lower steering position as the signaller for Commander Hillkin (the 2IC).

W.S.B. 5. When I was ordered to signal or challenge another ship I would generally signal first by lamp. If ships were nearby I would use flags, this was how signals were made in a fleet type of situation involving the manoeuvring of several ships at the one time.

- 6. When we wished to establish the identity of another ship we generally signalled "which ship" by lamp, you'd be too far away to use semaphore. If the other ship was a warship it would generally respond by lamp with the signal of their fleet number. A merchant ship when challenged would generally reply with its name and its secret code. We wouldn't automatically go to action stations upon sighting another ship, often their identity was established very quickly by lamp from a long distance.
- 7. During my time in SYDNEY I have no recollection of any ship not giving the correct code when challenged. However, during my time in SYDNEY she was generally involved in fleet operations.
- 8. I was posted off SYDNEY in May 1941 when I left for further training at CERBERUS.

I understand that a person who intentionally makes a false statement in a statutory declaration is guilty of an offence under section 11 of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* and I believe that the statements in this declaration are true in every particular.

EWB The contents were read to me by LEUT Vesper.

Declared at Perth on *22* of June 2008.

Before me

Ernest William Briddick
 ERNEST WILLIAM BRIDDICK

Before me :
M. T. Vesper
 M. T. VESPER
 Barrister-at-Law

