

# HMAS SYDNEY - Ship Badge Design

As researched by Gary Kinkade, Manager Navy Badges.

**HMAS Sydney I (26 June 1913 – 8 May 1928)**

## Badge Description

HMAS Sydney (I) badge design was inspired by the crest of the City of Sydney Coat of Arms. (Figure 1)



**Figure 1**  
City of Sydney Coat of Arms – granted 30 July 1908

It consisted of a red (gules) star (mullet) above a red (gules) anchor charged with a yellow (Or) crown (mural) sitting on yellow (Or) and blue (Azure) crest wreath.

*Note: The words in brackets are reference to heraldic terms.*

The original artist of the design did take some liberties though in the representation of the crest – the crown should have been a mural crown (as though built of masonry) and the crest wreath appears to have been stylized into a length of rope hawser instead of representing two lengths of silk ribbon twisted together. (Figure 2)



**Figure 2**  
HMAS Sydney I badge design

## Official Blazon

No record.

## Official Motto

The motto of *'Thorough and Ready'* was chosen as an appropriate motto for a warship.

## Official Approval

Navy Office – Canberra records indicate the approved design was forwarded to the Naval Board on the 18 December 1923.

## Other Badge Designs (no record of approval)

The shield design was displayed to represent the shield (Escutcheon) from the City of Sydney Coat of Arms. Note the incorrect colouring of the crest wreath (silk ribbon) of red (Gules) & white (Argent). The correct colouring should have been yellow (Or) & blue (Azure). Also the number of ribbon twists varies in each design the correct amount displayed should have been six.



**Figure 3**  
*Manufactured at  
Garden Island Pattern Shop, Sydney*



**Figure 4**  
*Garden Island, Sydney*



**Figure 5**  
*Line Drawing  
Garden Island Pattern Shop, Sydney*

***HMAS Sydney II (22 September 1935 – 19 November 1941)***

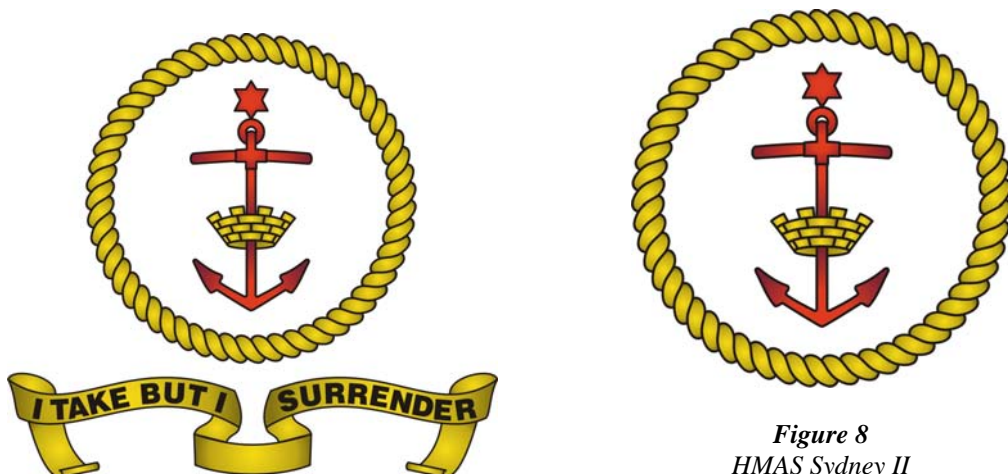
**Badge Description**

*HMAS Sydney (II)* badge was 'as worn' by *Sydney I* but with the addition of a new motto and scroll. (Figure 6)



**Figure 6**  
*HMAS Sydney II*  
official badge design as approved by the Naval Board  
14 March 1935

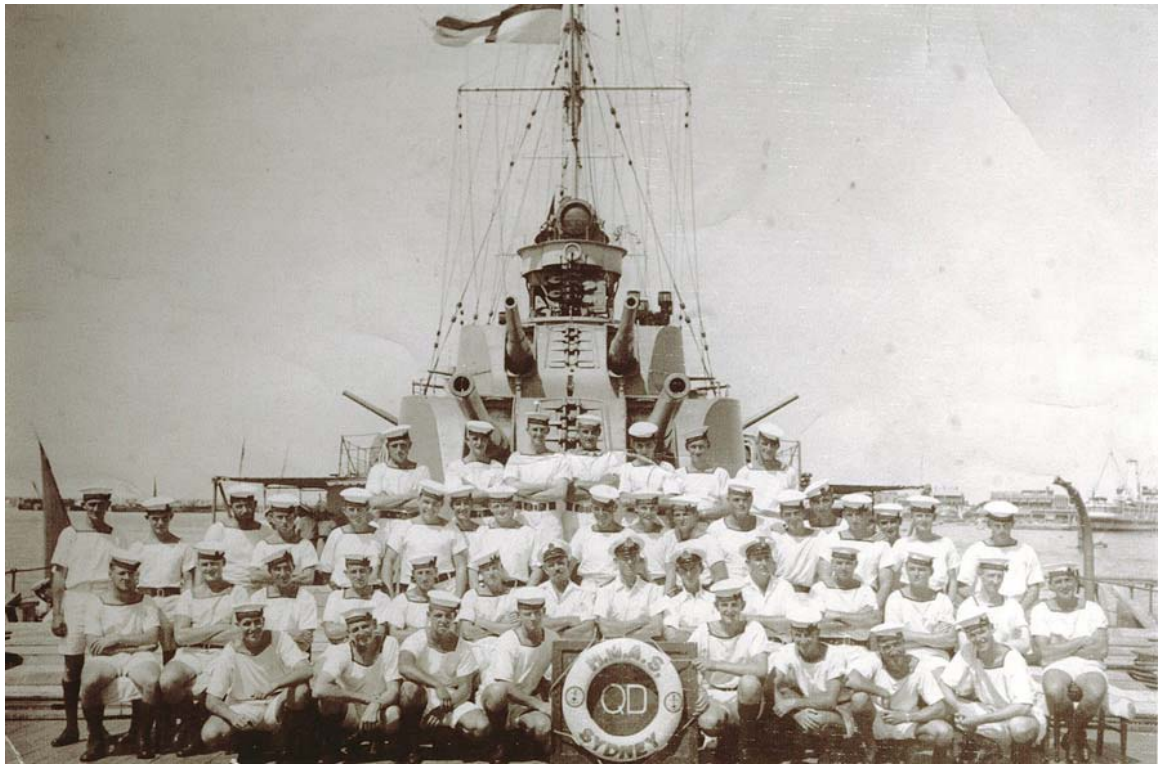
The design was approved for display on 14 March 1935 but may never have been manufactured due to it being redrawn, 4 weeks later, to more accurately represent the anchor from the crest of the City of Sydney Coat of Arms, additionally the rope wreath below the anchor was removed. The replacement badge design was approved on 9 April 1935 (figure 7) and in practice was displayed and manufactured without the motto scroll (figure 8).



**Figure 7**  
*HMAS Sydney II*  
badge design with motto

**Figure 8**  
*HMAS Sydney II*  
badge design without motto scroll  
'as worn'

An Example of the badge design, 'as worn', on her ships ceremonial lifebuoys as displayed in 1935. (Figure 9)



**Figure 9**  
*HMAS Sydney II Quarter Deck Division, 1940*  
*(showing the 'white field' ships badge design on her ceremonial lifebuoy)*

With the 2008 discovery of HMAS *Sydney II* off the coast of Western Australia the 'as worn' boat badge (figure 11) displaying a blue field can be clearly seen. It is not known why her badges displayed a blue field but some advice from the naval board and badge manufactures may have been misunderstood or lost in translation between approval and badge manufacture by the pattern makers. It is apparent that HMAS *Sydney II* displayed two different field colourings during her service. It is not known if both were displayed concurrently or whether the blue replaced the white field on advice from a higher authority.



**Figure 10**  
*HMAS Sydney II*  
*badge design (blue field)*



**Figure 11**  
*HMAS Sydney II – Ship's Boat*  
*(blue badge design)*



**Figure 12**  
*HMAS Sydney II – Motor Boat*  
*(boat badge displayed on bow)*



**Figure 13**  
*HMAS Sydney II – Cutter*  
*( boat badge displayed on bow)*

**Official Blazon**

No record.

**Official Motto**

The motto of ***'I Take But I Surrender'*** was derived from the City of Sydney Coat of Arms and relates to its Supporters, an Australian Aboriginal Man and a European Sailor.

**Official Approval**

Naval Board – 10 April 1935

## *HMAS Sydney III (16 December 1948 – 12 November 1973)*

### **Badge Description**

*HMAS Sydney (III)* had five approved designs during its service.

Design 1 - as worn by *Sydney II* but with the addition of the RN naval crown and ships name scroll. (Figure 11)



**Figure 14**  
*HMAS Sydney III – 1948 badge  
design with RN Naval Crown*

Design 2 – 1950; the second design was approved on 22 August 1950 by the Naval Board with the adoption of a new motto, ‘Thorough and Ready’. The motto of ‘*I Take But I Surrender*’ at that time, was no longer considered appropriate for a warship so the original motto from *Sydney I* was reinstated. (Figure 15 & 16)



**Figure 15**  
*HMAS Sydney III – 1950 badge  
design with motto scroll*



*Figure 16*  
*HMAS Sydney III – Battle Honour Board (with 1950 badge design)*

During 1948 and 1964 the badge was displayed with and without a Naval Crown (RN) and/or Motto Scroll.

Design 3 – 1964; when it was time to update the badge design into the latest approved standard badge design surround the Registrar proposed the new blazon (heraldic description), *Azure; an Admiralty Anchor proper erect, ensigned by a mullet of six points gules and enfiled by a mural crown gold; and for a motto “THOROUGH AND READY.”* Though a heraldic tincture rule discrepancy had been raised with the new blazon and design it was suggested that as long as the star touched the top of the anchor ring no breach was committed. The badge was drawn up accordingly and then officially approved 11 May 1964 by the Chairman of the SNB&HC, DCNP. (Figure 17)



*Figure 17*  
*HMAS Sydney III – 1964 badge design*

Design 4 – 1970; the design changed again by displaying the star as yellow (Or) to correct the heraldic discrepancy that was stated previously by having the star red (Gules) on a blue (Azure) field. The badge design alteration was officially approved 7 May 1970 by the Ships' Names, Badges and Honours Committee (SNB&HC). (Figure 18)



*Figure 18*  
*HMAS Sydney III – 1970 badge design*

Design 5 – 1971; the design finally reflected its correct heraldic description and representation of the crest of the City of Sydney Coat of Arms by displaying the background (field) as white (Argent), mural crown yellow (Or) and the star and anchor as red (Gules). On 15 June 1972 the Commanding Officer, HMAS Sydney, CMDR R.W. Lang, RAN was instructed by the Secretary of the SNB&HC to amend the colours when the need to repaint the “as worn” badges was necessary. (Figure 19)



*Figure 19*  
*HMAS Sydney III – 1971 badge design*

**Official Blazon**

Argent; an Anchor erect ensigned by a Mullet of six points Gules, and enfiled by a Mural Crown Gold.

**Official Motto**

*'Thorough and Ready'*

**Official Approval**

Ships' Names, Badges and Honours Committee (SNB&HC) – 16 June 1971

## HMAS *Sydney* IV (28 June 1983 – Present)

### Badge Description

*HMAS Sydney (IV)* as displayed by *Sydney III* design but had the Mural Crown slightly modified in its representation and placed into the 1975 (current) approved standard badge design surround. (Figure 20)



*Figure 20*  
*HMAS Sydney IV – 1979 badge design*

### Official Blazon

Argent; an Anchor erect ensigned by a Mullet of six points Gules, and enfiled by a Mural Crown Or.

### Official Motto

*‘Thorough and Ready’*

### Official Approval

Chief of Naval Staff - 23 November 1979

### Badge Designers

<i>Sydney I</i>	London, Artist
<i>Sydney II</i>	Construction Branch, Navy Office, Melbourne
<i>Sydney III</i>	Mr Vic Cassells – Navy Heraldic Advisor
<i>Sydney III &amp; IV</i>	Mr Ken Little – Navy Heraldic Advisor/Graphic Designer
<i>Sydney IV</i>	Mr Gary Kinkade – Manager Navy Badges/Graphic Designer