

Commonwealth of
Australia

TF/JB W

Instructed
from despatch
NID 0697/47

Department of the Navy,
Naval Office
Melbourne Sec 1.

CONFIDENTIAL

1-12-47

20th November, 1947..

The Director of Naval Intelligence,
Admiralty,
Whitehall,
LONDON.

KORMORAN DOCUMENTS.

With reference to para 3. of your letter N.I.D. 0697/47 under cover of which documents regarding the above-named vessel were forwarded to me; the documents are returned herewith. Whilst no new information has resulted from research carried out on the documents they have confirmed previous information held. The Naval War Historian has asked me to express his thanks for your assistance.

Director of Naval Intelligence.

World Reading "Lancet" of the 1. 11. 1946, entitled "THE BRAVE", a noted sea writer reconstructs the sinking of H.M.A.S. "Sydney", by Robert S. Close.
Typewritten account in English dated New York, March 1946 entitled "Victim of Torpedo", Loss of the Sydney.
Typewritten report in German of the capture of the vessel between the "Kormoran" and the "Sydney".

*Learning notes of individual doc
at Madras*

①

Name, Johannes DIEBITSCH.

2 pages written on both sides of foolscap, report of the action of the Auxiliary Cruiser "Kormoran" with the "Sydney".

Name, Reinhold v MALAPERT.

8 Pages of Diary written on both sides of the paper from the 19th November '41 (Action with the "Sydney") till the 20th November '41 (Arrival in Melbourne)

Name, Otto Jürgensen.

Typewritten "List of Our Dead".

Typewritten extract in English from the magazine "Digest of World Reading" Issue 5 of the 1. 1. 1942, entitled "TOLL FOR THE BRAVE", a noted sea writer reconstructs the sinking of H.M.A.S. "Sydney", by Robert S. Close.

Typewritten account in English dated New York, March 3, 1943 entitled "Victim of Trickery", Loss of the Sydney.

Typewritten report in German of the report of the action between the "Kormoran" and the "Sydney".

Name, W. THUROW. P W No. 42118.

Written rough draft of the voyage of the "Kormoran", area of operations and a list of the shipping destroyed by the "Kormoran".

2

By Willy BUNJES, Lieut on the "KORMORAN".

20 typewritten foolscap pages, being a narrative of all the actions in which the "Kormoran" was engaged.

Some of the sub-titles,

Story of the Auxiliary Cruiser.
The Auxiliary Cruiser "Kormoran".
Officers of the Auxiliary Cruiser "Kormoran".
The Voyage of the "Kormoran", 4. Dec '40 - 19. Nov. '41.
giving details of her engagements with merchant vessels of various allied nations, about 11 in number, either sunk or taken as prize.
[Naval action between the Australian Cruiser "Sydney" and the Auxiliary Cruiser "Kormoran" on Wednesday, the 19th November 1941.
Sketch in pencil of the above action.
List of the allied Merchant and Warships sunk by the Auxiliary Cruiser "Kormoran" in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.
Seven and a half Days in an Open Lifeboat in the Indian Ocean.
Death and Burial at sea of Rudolf LOESCHE (Engine-room crew) who died in the lifeboat on the 22nd November 1941.

LECTURE IN GERMAN.

Typewritten and roneoed, 20 pages foolscap, being a Lecture on "HONOUR" delivered by Captain DETMERS in November 1943 before the officers of the P.O.W. Camp Dhurringile.

List of the Crew of the Auxiliary Cruiser "Kormoran",

showing	315	Officers and men saved
	80	" " " lost
<u>Total</u>	<u>395</u>	

[Report of the action on the 19th Nov. '41.

Correspondence in English and German re the illness of Captain DETMERS., dated Murchison, Mar. '45 and Tatura, August 1946.

School Exercise Book.

Name, Karl HEINZ.

20 typewritten pages beginning with the diary of the voyage of the "Steiermark"/"Kormoran" in October 1940, a list of the merchant ships sunk in 1940 and 1941, and the action with the Australian Cruiser "Sydney" on the 11th November 1941. Took to the port lifeboat. Entry into the PW Camp Havay. Then follow what appear to be translations into German of newspaper reports culled from the Australian press of articles referring to the sinking of the Cruiser "Sydney". Several cuttings from the Melbourne daily papers. Reports written in German re escape of German Prisoners of war from a camp. Evidently translations of articles appearing in Australian papers.

School Exercise Book.

Name, HARTMANN.

Sketch of a memorial "To Our Fallen Comrades."
Poems in German, some of them extolling the exploits of the "Kormoran". One of them, the words of the German song "Lili Marlene".
Written translation into German of the "Secret of the unfortunate H.M.A.S. "Sydney", by an Australian reporter.
Copy of a 2 paged typewritten article in German with the title, "Discovery of a long Tunnel in a P.O.W. Camp".
List of allied merchant ships with tonnage destroyed by the "Kormoran".
Long list of "Fallen Comrades".

Name, Fritz NOLL, 42394.

List of enemy shipping sunk by the "Kormoran"