

G'day *Sydney* families and friends,

In the last newsletter, I let you know that the WA Museum had promised to prepare and release a small selection of the imagery obtained in April/May exclusively for the families and that it would probably take the project team a little time. This remains the situation as the WA Museum is still occupied with the laborious task of getting the very large image files organised. When that is complete the Museum will be in a position to produce the smaller files required for the image summary. So, I ask you to be patient.

What I can promise you, from what I have seen of the photos, is that the difference of seven year's advance in technology means that the new collection is quite breathtaking in its clarity and in the range of new images and therefore information across the two wrecks.

I am sure that some of you will have seen the video posted by the WA Museum onto You Tube. Regrettably, in recent days another video has been posted by someone outside the Museum and Curtin University which exploits the original by adding previously unreleased images of *Kormoran*. It was intended that these 'pirated' images would be saved for the later exhibitions to preserve the proper context of the story of the expedition so, in order to do that the Museum will be releasing those images in the press this weekend. I have attached them below so that you will see them before the release.

One image is of a *Kormoran* 5.9" gun with the name 'Linda' and a skull and crossbones painted on it. Some people may see this as offensive but it was normal for the Kriegsmarine to give ships guns a person's name. For instance, *Bismarck's* main gun turrets were Anton, Bruno, Caesar and Dora quite different to the British system of letters only like A, B, X & Y on *Sydney*.

The other *Kormoran* images show a list of ships sunk during the Raider's voyage painted onto a part of the ship's structure. Again, as the image has been posted without any context it could be offensive to some. Personally, I see it simply as the traditional, perhaps unfortunate way that belligerents on either side in war use scorecards to maintain an esprit di corps within teams whether they be infantry, tanks, aircraft, submarines or ships.

I wanted to let you know the above to show that the Museum will be proactive about releasing images because it wishes to remain as open as it can about the imagery consistent with its nature as a national asset but also for it to be properly managed for future research, exhibitions and publications. The Museum will release these Kormoran images along with material from the survey of the *Sydney* main wreck as a means to advise about the task ahead and what it hopes the outcome of its work will be.

Kind regards

Bob



*Kormoran* 5.9" Gun Linda



*Kormoran* ships sunk tally on deckhouse screen