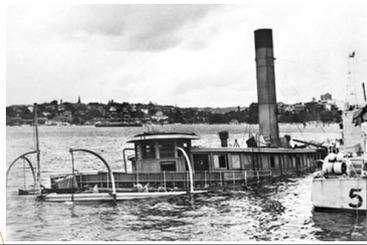
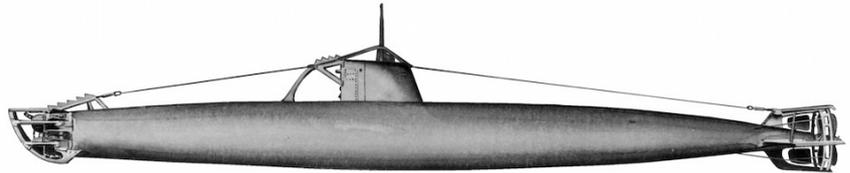


75TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE ATTACK UPON  
SYDNEY HARBOUR



## KUTTABUL COMMEMORATION 1942—2017



# 75th Anniversary of Kuttabul and the Sydney Harbour attack 31st May, 2017

**Sydney Harbour Commemorative Lunchtime Cruise**  
a NOT FOR PROFIT event

**Official Wreath Laying Ceremony on the water near where Kuttabul was  
sunk. Full historical description of the attack  
by author Steven L. CARRUTHERS**

**Includes:- 4 hour cruise aboard the luxury Sydney Harbour Cruise boat  
“Bella Vista” with All Occasion Cruises.**

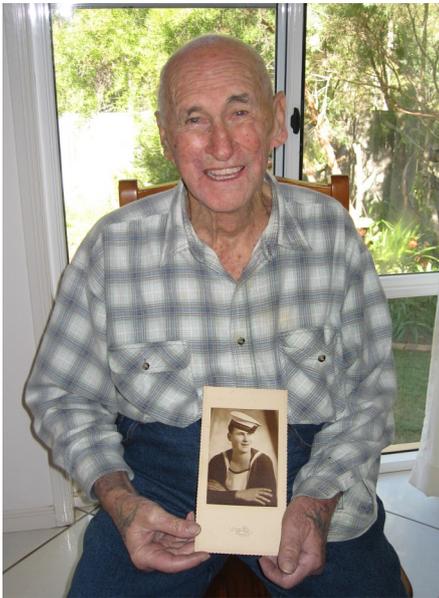
**Full hot buffet lunch, including Unlimited beer, wine, soft drinks**

**Tickets - \$80 per head**

**For more information contact Gary Traynor on 0449 692401  
Email : [customerservice@medalsgonemissing.com](mailto:customerservice@medalsgonemissing.com)**

**A major event on the 75th Anniversary Calendar**

## THIS ANNIVERSARY WE REMEMBER MEN SUCH AS STOKER RAY MAJOR B2993



### Ray Major

*12 Jan 1923 – 12 Jan 2012*

Ray Major from Albany Creek, Queensland, was the last known survivor of *HMAS Kuttabul*, which was sunk in Sydney Harbour by a Japanese torpedo soon after midnight on 1 June 1942. Ray, who was a 19-year-old second-class stoker at the time, had slung his hammock above the stokers mess as usual that night.

“Next thing I knew I was flying through the air then I hit the back (of the ship),” he said.

“There was rubbish all around me and I was clearing that when I noticed a fellow just over from me and he was in trouble. So I took care of a beam that came off the top of the lockers and was across his legs and got him up on

his feet and we crawled out,” said Ray.

Ray remembers his call for help went unheeded and he realised they would have to brave the cold water.

“So I grabbed hold of the sailor and said, ‘let’s get the hell out of here’ because the water was rising and rising,” he said.

“We went over the side and he grabbed hold of the rail and wouldn’t let go. I told him, ‘Come on, we’ve got to get to the boat ramp’, and the next thing, fellers were shouting out... and picked us up.

The *Kuttabul* was a converted harbour ferry requisitioned by the Navy and used to billet naval personnel at its mooring alongside Garden Island. About 12.30 am a Japanese midget submarine fired two torpedoes at the heavy cruiser *USS Chicago* but missed. The first torpedo ran up on the rocks near Gun Wharf on Garden Island and failed to explode; the other passed under the Dutch submarine *K9* and *Kuttabul* and struck a concrete retaining wall. The explosion ripped the bottom out of the barracks vessel, which sank quickly with the loss of 21 Australian and British sailors. Ray was one of only three sailors to survive from the stokers mess.

As a result of the explosion Ray

discharged medically unfit from the Navy in July 1943 on a full disability pension. Miffed that he was no longer deemed physically able to carry out his duties, he became a merchant seaman to prove to himself that he could do the job.

Born in Brisbane, Ray joined the Navy in 1941 as a Steward rating before transferring to the Engineering Branch.

During his service career he served on the auxiliary minesweeper *HMAS Narani* and the cable layer *HMAS Bangalow*, which laid the anti-submarine indicator loops at the entrance to Darwin Harbour.

After the war Ray worked as a cane cutter in Mackay before moving to the Sunshine Coast where he worked in the construction industry until his retirement.

Ray passed away peacefully on his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*This narrative was written by Kuttabul historian Steven Carruthers*

“Next thing I knew I was flying through the air then I hit the back (of the ship),” he said.

Stoker Raymond  
MAJOR

Wish to learn more about Ray MAJOR,  
Please visit the Medals Gone Missing website or visit  
our KUTTABUL COMMEMORATION PROJECT  
Facebook page.

Visit our Facebook page by searching  
for KUTTABUL COMMEMORATION  
PROJECT

**LUXURY HARBOR CRUISE BOAT 'BELLA VISTA' OF  
ALL OCCASION CRUISES - PROUDLY SUPPORTING  
THE KUTTABUL COMMEMORATION 75TH ANNIVERSARY**



Organizers of the 75th Anniversary Commemoration are proud to announce the venue for the lunchtime harbour cruise as being the luxury cruise boat 'Bella Vista'. Operated by All Occasions Cruises, our hosts will engage patrons on a four hour cruise of Sydney Harbour, stopping

at the location where Kuttabul was sunk. A full commemorative service will be held, culminating in a wreath laying upon the water.

Historian Steven L. Carruthers will narrate the history of the battle as the cruise unfolds. Also present will be 'No Frills' diving who will provide a short talk and be available to answer questions, regarding their discovery of the third Japanese midget submarine which was finally located off Sydney's northern beaches in 2006. This wreck site is now protected and preserved as a war grave.



The cruise will commence at 10.30am on Wednesday 31st May, 2017. Returning at 2.30pm. A buffet lunch - prepared and cooked fresh on board will be served after the commemorative ceremony.

Unlimited drinks including beer, wine and soft drinks will be served throughout the four hour cruise.

Tickets will go on sale as from the 13th of March at a cost of \$80 per head. As there are only 250 positions available, it is advised to book quickly. Tickets fully refundable up to April 2017

To secure your ticket, contact Gary Traynor on telephone **0449692401**

or email [customerservice@medalsgonemissing.com](mailto:customerservice@medalsgonemissing.com) for further details. The Kuttabul Commemoration Project is a non profit organisation.



**A non profit organization**