

Name Kimberley Stubbs
Relation First Cousin
Memoirs

Having been born in 1931 my memory of cousin Kim was of the only family member who I knew from his teens to being a service man in the armed forces.

I grew up accepting as normal the ration coupons and the daily wireless news of the progress of the war. Kim was probably a hero figure to me and I was proud to walk with him to the corner shop and accept a lollie or two.

Naturally the loss of the Sydney devastated our family group. In later years I went to visit Auntie Rene (Kim's Mother) when she was close to the end of her life. My brother Mervyn had joined the Navy and called in prior to boarding a train from Perth to Melbourne. For my Aunt to see a uniformed sailor of Kim's age probably evoked painful memories She passed away two days later and the news was telegraphed to Mervyn on the train somewhere on the Trans.

We hope that this meeting would have given her comfort and that it made her life just a little easier at the end.

Having worked and later been married in Geraldton it is fitting that this is the site of the beautiful memorial with the 645 seagulls.

I am proud to be connected to HMAS Sydney 11 and her brave men and women

William Ronald Taylor

From: [Taylor, Ronald MR 3](#)
Date: 29/10/2008 5:27:42 PM
To: [Jolene McHugh](#); [Jean Taylor](#)
Cc: [ronald Taylor](#)
Subject: HMAS Sydney site [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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This is what I want to say.

I grew up hearing of the early death of Kimmy Stubbs from my father and his mother. One of those family stories that are often repeated but surrounded in mystery. There was no ship, no grave.

I grew interested when they went looking for HMAS Sydney 11 and her crew and was genuinely excited for the families and the searchers, particularly my Dad his cousin, when she was found. As a long serving member of the Defence Department I knew how much it meant to the team to get the resources to do this. To the families who waited so long for confirmation their time had come.

Stoker Kim Stubbs died an only child and had no family of his own except a loving mother and father, long gone. . It has fallen onto our family to carry his torch for generations, something we gladly do.

Many Australians are proud of their heritage links to the First Fleet settlers, the Eureka Stockade participants and combatants at Gallipoli and Fromelles. And so they should be. But they would be no more prouder than me to be related to a HMAS Sydney 11 casualty. Hopefully Australia will look on us in the same light.

RIP with your mates Kimberley, we will remember you all, and you were always home. We just didn't know where.

Ronald James Taylor

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