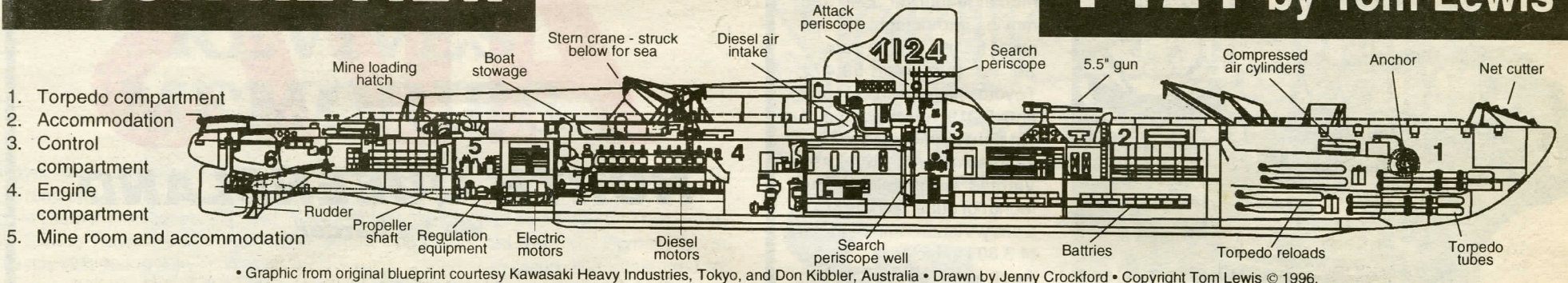


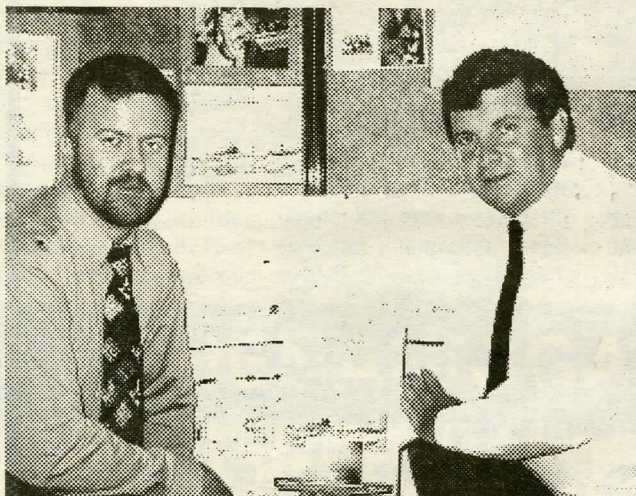
BOOK REVIEW

Imperial Japanese Navy Submarine I-124

I-124 by Tom Lewis



• Graphic from original blueprint courtesy Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Tokyo, and Don Kibbler, Australia • Drawn by Jenny Crockford • Copyright Tom Lewis © 1996.



The author Tom Lewis with the Northern Territory Chief Minister Shane Stone at the book launch.

Sensuikan I-124

by Dales Whyte

LEUT Tom Lewis is a well known Naval historian and in his latest book he tackles one of the most interesting Naval wrecks in Australian waters. The Imperial Japanese Navy Submarine I-124 was sunk on the approach to Darwin Harbour in February, 1942. She was sunk after an unsuccessful torpedo attack on ships attempting to enter the harbour. Her victor was HMAS DELORAINE, which was to go on to become one of the most illustrious of the Corvettes.

The only aspect of the history of I-124 that is not disputed is that she was sunk by DELORAINE in 1942. From there, have grown so many myths and mistruths to fill volumes.

Was the I-124 actually entered by US Navy divers and her code books removed? Tom Lewis suggests not.

Was it really the I-124 that sank and butchered the crew of HMAS Sydney in November, 1941? For that answer you will have to read the book!

Regardless of the stories surrounding the I-124 there are certain unassailable facts and they are that she remains virtually water tight in most of her compartments and

represents a time capsule of a Japanese submarine during the period of the Second World War. The only one of its type known to be surviving to this day.

There has long been an argument to salvage the vessel but the argument has always existed that it is a war grave and as such, should remain undisturbed. But when one considers that the USS PEARY is also a war grave and was cut up for scrap with only one bone recovered to account for the 91 missing sailors, that idea runs out of steam very fast indeed.

For whatever reason, the Australian Government has taken it upon itself to set strict unyielding restrictions on this sunken foe, so much so, that even diving in the vicinity of the boat is restricted. All in all a very strange state of affairs. But back to the book. Sensuikan I-124 not only explores the story of the sinking and answers some, not all of the myths surrounding this submarine, it also offers a very keen

insight into the Navy of the Second World War and in particular, Darwin of that period.

The number of accounts from Sailors who served in the Darwin region is entertaining, amusing and always interesting.

Sensuikan I-124 is a must for anyone who likes to read about ships of war, history or for that matter a good thriller, as it has enough twists and turns to make a great movie. One aspect of the story that does remain certain, is that one day, someone, hopefully the Royal Australian Navy, will have to dive and raise the I-124, for she lies in rest near one of Australia's busiest ports and she still has on board her war stores. These stores consist of torpedoes and mines, all still armed and as time goes on, no doubt becoming unstable. A proposal was put forward to bring up the wreck, send the remains of the gallant crew home to Japan and to preserve this amazing piece of history in a Japanese garden in Darwin. The

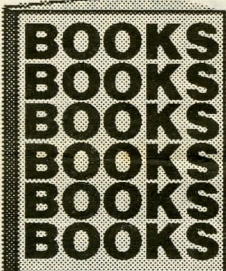
gentleman concerned is the same man who created the Cowra memorial. This would not only answer several questions regarding the past of the I-124, it would also allow her crew to return home in accordance with their custom. If you saw the movie 'Conspiracy Theory', you could be forgiven for thinking the raising of the I-124 could also mean locating the site of our own missing ship and result in bringing HMAS Sydney (2) home to rest as well.

In summary, a great book that I read in a couple of days, with extremely interesting large photos and lots of maps. Good one Tom Lewis, you have written one of your best books yet.

If you are after details of where to get the book, see your local book store or call Australian Military News and we will give you further details.

Most of all it is a good dedication to sailors of all races and creeds who go to the sea in ships and sail in harms way.

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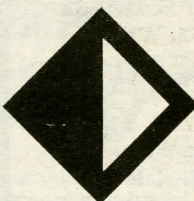


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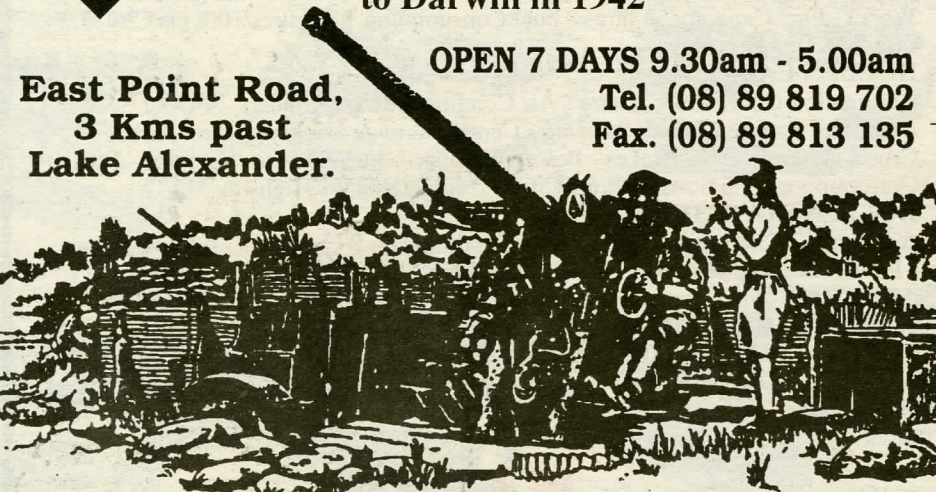


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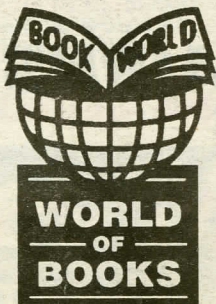


THEATRESPORTS RETURNS TO DARWIN

Darwin Theatre Company is thrilled to be presenting the World's most hilarious spectator sport for the second year running, in Darwin. THEATRESPORTS is a competitive, improvised theatre, played between teams of actors. Teams flip a coin to select a game and must create a scene on the spot, using given suggestions regarding location, topic or title. The scene is then scored by the judges. Anything can happen and it often does... Audiences are forced to the edge of their seats as 1930's gangsters battle burgers at McDonalds, or line dancing

hairdressers flee UFO's. The possibilities are endless and the results are often outrageously zany. Players must remember the golden THEATRESPORTS rule, 'Don't think!' and react spontaneously to a given situation. The terror and excitement of being a Player is unimaginable to mere mortals and yet over thirty crazy Darwinites have agreed to take part in this year's proceedings. Eight teams will battle it out for the overwhelming glory and untold honour of being the 1997 Territory

THEATRESPORTS Champions. Early bookings are recommended, as dozens of unhappy punters were turned away from the 1996 sell out season. THEATRESPORTS will be held in the Darwin Entertainment Centre - Studio Theatre on three consecutive Sunday nights, August 17, 24, and 31 at 7.30pm.
\$12.50 Full/ \$10 Concession. Bookings can be made by telephoning 8981 1222 or further information, ring Robyn or Trish on 8981 8424.



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