

No 22487 STOKER**William LOWENSTEIN**

William (Bill) Lowenstein was born in Kew, Victoria, on 15 January 1921, son of William Ernest and Elsie Lowenstein. He had a younger sister, Vera (later Mrs Marshall). When Bill was about 5 years old they moved to Tasmania where he attended the Bellerive State School in Hobart. His first job after leaving school has him working on the new Constitution Dock in Hobart.

After joining the Royal Australian Navy on 5 September 1938 he was stationed at Flinders Naval Depot (HMAS Cerberus) in Victoria and qualified as a stoker. On his 18th birthday, 15 January 1939, he signed on for 12 years service in the RAN and joined the crew of *HMAS Sydney* with Stoker 11 rate. He became a full rate stoker on 15 January 1940.



William (Bill) LOWENSTEIN

Bill Lowenstein served on *HMAS Sydney* in the Mediterranean through the early war years and was aboard during her many actions at that time including the sinking of the Italian Cruiser, *Bartolomeo Colleoni*, on 19 July 1940. After that action he sent a card home (reproduced here) giving some ideas of his service but the name of his ship was cut out by the Censor.

Following *HMAS Sydney's* triumphant return to Australia, Bill Lowenstein took part in the march through the streets of Sydney when each man was presented with the medallion commemorating the ship's great victory over the *Bartolomeo Colleoni*. He then returned home to Tasmania for some special leave and arrived in Hobart on 13 February 1941. On expiry of the leave the crew members rejoined the *HMAS Sydney* which then left for Fremantle and duty off the coast of Western Australia.

Bill Lowenstein lost his life on 19 November 1941 following *Sydney's* action with the German raider *HSK Kormoran*. It was less than two months before his 21st birthday.

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Tasmanian crewmen off *HMAS SYDNEY*. Bill Lowenstein standing 4th from left.
Picture appeared in the 'Hobart Mercury' on 14 February 1941

"Tasmanian members of the ship's company of HMAS SYDNEY were enthusiastically welcomed yesterday when they arrived home on brief special leave. Above is seen a group of the men on their arrival at the Hobart Railway station."

Dear Murn.

I and the rest of the ship
are OK after our fight and
we hope to be home soon. They
say that as soon as we sink a
battleship we will steam for
home. So roll on the battleship

As we steamed into port
yesterday we received three cheers
from every warship and
merchant ship in harbour and
we're beginning to think that
we have done something enormous
as everyone who passes us in ships
yells out, "Good old, " " "

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I suppose you read about
the action in the papers so
I'll pass over that, although
I'll say that we had a lot of
luck, and that we had
every confidence in our skipper
when he led us in against
two of the enemy, and I hope
he's made an admiral soon.

Well cheers all, another
boiler is waiting to be cleaned &
love from,
Bill.

Card sent home by Bill Lowenstein after the 'Colleoni' action.
Note the Censor has removed the name of his ship.



Early navy days—Bill Lowenstein
(right) and a friend at Flinders
Naval Depot (HMAS Cerberus)



Two Little "Sailors," photographed with ratings from H.M.A.S. Sydney, have had a cosmopolitan life. They are evacuees from Holland. John Kay was born in Holland, brother Anthony, 300 miles from Singapore. Their parents are English. Father is now in London on business.

Magazine clipping—Bill Lowenstein is on the right of picture