

**Table 6.1: People and Debris Recovered after the Engagement, November 1941<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Found by</b>	<b>At:</b>
23 November 1941	26 Germans in a raft	HT <i>Aquitania</i>	24°35'S, 110°57'E (approx. 100 nm off the coast of Carnarvon)
24 November 1941	25 Germans in a raft	MV <i>Trocas</i>	24°06'S, 111°40'E <sup>2</sup> (120 nm North West of Carnarvon).
24 November 1941	Lifeboat with men in it.	Sighted by an aircraft, and picked up by HMAS <i>Yandra</i> on 27 November (see separate entry)	24°52'S, 111°05'E
24 November 1941	Lifeboat containing 46 men	Sighted by aircraft	17-Mile Well, Quobba Station.
25 November 1941	Lifeboat containing 57 men, landed.	Sighted by aircraft	Red Bluff, North of Carnarvon.
26 November 1941	1 lifeboat <sup>3</sup> containing 62 from the <i>Kormoran</i> (61 Germans and 1 Chinese) <sup>4</sup>	SS <i>Centaur</i>	24°30'S, 111°35'E
26 November 1941	31 Germans in a lifeboat	<i>Koolinda</i>	24°07'S, 112°47'E
27 November 1941	Lifeboat containing 70 Germans and 2 Chinese	HMAS <i>Yandra</i> . MV <i>Herstein</i> was also in the vicinity but was ordered to stand clear while <i>Yandra</i> picked up survivors <sup>5</sup>	24°59'S, 112°22'E
27 November 1941	RAN type life belt	HMAS <i>Wyrallah</i>	In vicinity of 24°22'S, 110°49'E
27 November 1941	British life belt	<i>Evagoras</i>	23°06'S, 110°47'E <sup>6</sup>

28 November 1941	Foreign life belt, 2 foreign type carley floats, and 1 dead German	HMAS <i>Wyrallah</i>	In vicinity of 24°10'S, 110°54'E
28 November 1941	RAN type carley float; a green box resembling a dog box was also sighted; a linseed oil patch was also noted in the area.	HMAS <i>Heros</i>	24°07'S, 110°58'E
28 November 1941	Oil patch	Sighted by a Catalina and investigated by <i>Wyrallah</i> but not located	23°49'S, 110°10'E

#### NOTES:

- 1 Compiled from Australian Archives, *Guide to Commonwealth Records No 3: The Sinking of HMAS Sydney*; Montgomery, op cit., Winter op cit., Frame, op cit., Hardstaff, Submission, p. 76.
- 2 This position is disputed by CMDR Hardstaff who believes the correct longitude to be 110° 40'E. CMDR Hardstaff's correction has been accepted by a number of other researchers. Hardstaff, Submission, p. 76.
- 3 There is confusion in some reports on the number of life boats. While the Germans were discovered in one boat, and put under tow, it started to leak. The captain of the *Centaur* then had two life boats lowered, and the Germans transferred into them. Hence, reports of the *Centaur* with two boats in tow as she approached port (See Winter, op cit., pp. 166-168).
- 4 There is also confusion on the exact number of men rescued from the *Kormoran*. Estimates range from 315 to 317 crew, and three of four Chinese who were on board. The confusion appears around the figures for *Centaur* and *Yandra*. Winter's estimate is for 316 Germans and 3 Chinese crew rescued, with 61 Germans and 1 Chinese on *Centaur*, and 70 Germans and 2 Chinese on *Yandra* (p. 254). Frame is less exact, indicating that 'HMAS *Yandra* recovered a further seventy German sailors' (p. 8) with an overall total of 314 Germans and 3 Chinese recorded (Frame, p. 95). Richard Summerrell indicates there were 315 Germans and 3 Chinese rescued: 60 survivors picked up by *Centaur* and 72 by *Yandra* (of whom 2 were Chinese) (Australian Archives Guide, pp. 47, 127).
- 5 See Winter, op cit., p. 170.
- 6 Hardstaff gives a slightly different position for this, namely 24°06'S, 110°49'E (Submission, p. 76). Another submission has challenged this position totally, (see Templeton, Transcript, p. 474).