



Commissioned Gunner Arthur John **BROWN** DSC

[1911 – 1941]



Name: Arthur John **BROWN**

Rank: Commissioned Gunner

Honours, Awards & Decorations: Distinguished Service Cross

Service Number: 19155

Unit: HMAS *Parramatta*

Service: Royal Australian Navy

Born: 13 October 1911; Brunswick, Victoria

Enlisted: 7 December 1928; Melbourne, Vic

We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.

Please do not reproduce them or distribute them outside of the Club membership.

Date of Death: 27 November 1941 (aged 30 years)

Place of Death: off Tobruk, Mediterranean Sea

Cause of Death: Killed in Action - Missing presumed lost

Buried / Commemorated: Plymouth Naval Memorial, United Kingdom [panel 56, col 2]
 Australian War Memorial [panel 4]

Next of Kin: Son of Arthur and Elizabeth Elsie Brown;
 Husband of Ada Sylvia Brown of Armadale, Victoria

In Civilian Life:

On enlistment, lived in Melbourne, Vic.

Military Service:

1928 Enlisted aged 17 (5'4", brown hair, blue eyes, fresh complexion)

1932 Seaman Gunner

1934 Leading Seaman Gunner

1936 Petty Officer

1937 Gunners Mate

1932, 1937 Good Conduct Badges awarded

Served on HMAS *Sydney*, HMAS *Brisbane*; gunnery courses in UK

April 1940 Commissioned as Gunner

April 1940 London Depot (HMS *Excellent*)

May 1940 SS *Strathmore* to Australia

June 1940 HMAS *Cerberus*

June 1940 –

November 1941 HMAS *Parramatta*

8 January 1942 DSC awarded posthumously for "good service, Battle of Crete", May 1941

Circumstances of Death:

On 27 November 1941, HMAS *Parramatta* was escorting transports resupplying the Allied garrison at Tobruk when she was hit by a single torpedo from the German submarine *U-559*. The damage was so significant that the sloop's captain only had time to order 'abandon ship' before *Parramatta* rolled to starboard and sank. Only 24 aboard survived, with 138 killed, including Gunner Brown. The sloop's wartime service was later recognised by the battle honour "Libya 1941".

Sources included:

- Australian War Memorial
- National Archives of Australia
- Sundry web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports and sundry documents