

## 2024 Battle for Australia Ceremony

Student Script No 2:

# HMAS YARRA

Lost in the Indian Ocean 1942

Speaker: Male Student

Duration: 1min. 10secs.

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“HMAS YARRA was lost in a fierce sea battle in 1942 having come under heavy fire from a powerful Japanese *‘Naval Cruiser Squadron’* south of Singapore.

“HMAS YARRA was well armed with three 4-inch anti-aircraft guns ... four 3-pounder guns ... a quadruple .5-inch anti-aircraft gun ... and depth charges ... None of YARRA’s combat capability would save us.

“YARRA was on fire ... shattered by numerous hits.

“Commander ... Lieutenant Commander Robert Rankin ordered *‘Abandoned Ship’* ... minutes later he was killed when a salvo hit the bridge.

“Leading Seaman Taylor, manning the last remaining gun, kept on firing until he too was killed ... and YARRA's guns fell silent.

“The end came after close-range shelling by two Japanese destroyers ... witnessed by survivors on two rafts.

“13 of us escaped the inferno ... drifting for days in two life rafts ... our numbers were reduced by wounds, exposure, and thirst ... we were later picked up by a Dutch submarine.

“Of the complement of 151 ... 138 were killed in the action or died subsequently on the life rafts”.

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