

Topic 4: Australia under attack

Work Sheet 4E: Fact-finding Mission Time Line and Question Sheet

MIDGET SUBMARINE ATTACK ON SYDNEY HARBOUR

The *Flash* animation video (www.wv2australia.gov.au/underattack/sydneyharbour.html) contains a dramatic account of the Japanese midget submarine attack on Sydney Harbour between 29 May and 1 June 1942. Study the animation on the website together with a copy of the text from the animation on *Source Sheet 4D* and complete the time line activity by finding the answers to the questions in the table.

Date/Time	Question	Answer notes
Friday 29 May	How many Japanese submarines take up position outside Sydney Heads?	
Saturday 30 May	What preparations do the Japanese make for their attack?	
3.45 am	What does reconnaissance mean? Name the Japanese officer who is flying the reconnaissance mission.	
4.30 am	What important information about Sydney Harbour defences does his observer sketch?	
5.20 am	What is the name of the ship that Ito sees lying at anchor?	
	How does the floatplane avoid being detected?	
6.30 am	What happens to the floatplane?	

Date/Time	Question	Answer notes
Sunday 31 May 4.54 pm	Note the time of day and weather conditions.	
	Why are they important for the planned Japanese attack?	
5.00–5.40 pm	Name the three pairs of Japanese naval officers who board the midget submarines for their attack on Sydney Harbour.	1. 2. 3.
8.01 pm	How does Chuman’s sub manage to get into the harbour past the anti-submarine boom gate without being spotted?	
8.05–8.15 pm	What happens to Chuman’s sub to prevent him from carrying out his planned attack?	
8.15 pm	What action do the Maritime Services watchman and the patrol boat take when Chuman’s sub is sighted?	
9.48 pm	What is Ban’s sub doing while Chuman is attracting attention?	
10.35 pm	What does Chuman do when he realises he cannot escape from the boom net?	
	How do the naval authorities alert harbour shipping to the danger of a submarine attack?	
10.52–11.14 pm	What problems do Ban and Matsuo have in trying to remain undetected in the harbour?	
	What actions do the USS <i>Chicago</i> , the HMAS <i>Yandra</i> and the HMAS <i>Geelong</i> take when they spot Ban’s and Matsuo’s subs? What is the result?	

Date/Time	Question	Answer notes
Monday 1 June 12.25 am	Why have the floodlights on Garden Island been turned off? (Check the map on this frame of the animation for help.)	
	Where is Ban's sub at this time? What is he planning to do?	
12.30 am	Which ship does Ban target with his torpedo?	
	What happens when he fires his torpedoes at USS <i>Chicago</i> ?	
	What happens to HMAS <i>Kuttabul</i> when the torpedo hits the retaining wall of Garden Island? How many men are killed?	
	Why does Ban fail to make his rendezvous (meeting) with the mother submarines waiting at Port Hacking?	
2.56–3.50am	Matsuo's sub is the only one now left in the harbour. What is happening to it during this time?	
5.00 am	What action does the crew of HMAS <i>Sea Mist</i> take when they spot Matsuo's sub near Taylors Bay?	
	What happens to Matsuo's sub?	
	What do Matsuo and his crewmate, Tsuzuku, do when their submarine is disabled?	