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FOR BX 4

MR. HENNING, WASHINGTON.

PLEASE SEE THAT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE  
IS DELIVERED TO ADMIRAL KING OR HIS SECRETARY AT ONCE.

MAX-1028PCWT

ADMIRAL ERNEST J. KING,  
NAVY DEPARTMENT,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

I ONLY HEARD OF THE NEWSPAPER STORY AT 7 O'CLOCK TONIGHT. I HAD NOT READ THE STORY BEFORE THAT. THE NEWS OF THE BATTLE COMING IN AT 8 O'CLOCK LAST NIGHT SHORTLY AFTER I HAD BEEN TOLD THAT WE COULD NOT HOLD ALASKA, FILLED MY DAY. I THINK IT ALSO AFFECTED OUR MANAGING EDITOR MALONEY'S JUDGMENT. AS A FORMER STAFF OFFICER, OF COURSE I FULLY APPRECIATE THE IMPROPRIETY OF ATTRIBUTING THE SOURCE OF NEWS TO ANY ANONYMOUS STAFF OFFICER, BUT MALONEY, HAVING BEEN A PURSUIT PILOT IN RICKENBACKER'S SQUADRON, DIDN'T SEE IT THAT WAY. THAT WAS THE ONLY BLUNDER I SEE IN THE STORY, WHICH WAS CREDITABLE TO THE NAVY, DISCLOSED NO INFORMATION WHATEVER TO THE ENEMY AND WAS MOST HELPFUL TO PUBLIC MORALE. HAVING BEEN THRU WAR AND BATTLE, AS YOU HAVE, I AM SURE YOU KNOW THE INTIMACY THEY ENGENDER AMONG COMRADES. IT IS QUITE NATURAL THAT OUR CORRESPONDENT, STANLEY JOHNSTONE, KNEW ALL THAT WAS GOING ON. HIS ENTIRE BONA FIDES WAS SHOWN BY HIS SENDING HIS STORY AND HIS PICTURES TO WASHINGTON, AND, OF COURSE, NOT BREATHING A WORD OF THE JAPANESE MOVEMENT UNTIL AFTER THE VICTORY HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED LAST NIGHT. AS SOON AS I HAD HEARD OF THE MISUNDERSTANDING, I ORDERED THAT FULL INFORMATION BE FURNISHED TO YOU, OF COURSE. I HAVE SENT STANLEY JOHNSTONE TO WASHINGTON WITH ORDERS TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU WISH TO KNOW. I HOPE THE MATTER IS CLEARED UP SATISFACTORILY. IF SUCH IS NOT THE CASE I WISH YOU WOULD COMMUNICATE EITHER WITH ME DIRECTLY OR WITH ARTHUR SEARS HENNING, HEAD OF OUR WASHINGTON BUREAU.

ROBERT R. MCCORMICK-1033PCWT



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