

COMINCH FILE

UNITED STATES FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 11, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR:- Mr. Biddle.

Stanley Johnston was in the status of an authorized correspondent returning from the Coral Sea area in the U.S. Navy transport BARNET.

The despatch in question was dated 31 May and was received on board that ship that date.

Johnston when first questioned/insisted that he had put together the substance of his article from general conversation on board the BARNET. He later stated that he had found the text as written by him in his article on a sheet of plain paper on a desk which he used jointly with some of the senior officers with whom he was quartered.

He states that he wrote the substance of the article on Saturday last and turned it over to his managing editor. He claims that the headlines and the statement that the information was obtained in Washington was not his work. He admitted that it was not true.

Mr. Johnston has returned to Chicago but is holding himself in readiness to return to Washington by air.

HOLLIE

RUSSELL WILLSON,
Chief of Staff.

FI

*Room
Old 3052
Navy Bldg.*

Bv. 4901

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