



PTE.001.0010

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Dear Wes,

I almost feel ashamed for not having replied earlier to your letter and thanking you for the „digger hat“ both of which arrived safely and were received with great joy. Thank you ever so much for both.

I must confess that reading your letter I found it difficult to follow your line of thinking which is much more detached than ours can ever be and so it may be that I needed a bit of time to grasp your detached attitude as the basis necessary for the writing of an unbiased report on an event of historical importance.

Concerning a number of aspects of our engagement with Sydney I think that the Australian Navy may hold a key to important facts which are not yet destined to be released.

Next weekend we shall have our annual meeting and discussions will be held as every year on the pros and cons of various aspects which in all likelihood will also lead to one finding that there is nobody to tell us what Capt. Burnett had really decided. For myself I shall continue to believe that he mistook us for our supply ship „Kulmerland“ which he could approach without any fear of harm. That is the only fact that ranges over and before everything else: the close distance of 800 to 1000 metres. Only that fact if it is one can explain that close approach and simultaneously offer a justification of some kind. This can however only be accepted if his mind was already made up before he came in so close and having excluded somehow and absolutely any possibility of „Straat Malakka“ being KORMORAN. With this scenario Capt. Burnett could even live today.

The slouch hat you kindly sent me was of course a very special event since it arrived a day after my birthday and occupied place of pride among the presents. I am most grateful and send you many thanks.

Otherwise I am quite well and trying to keep fit with tennis etc hoping to live to see the finding of the two ships and perhaps even the salvaging of Sydney which may rest in more shallow waters.

So much for now and best wishes

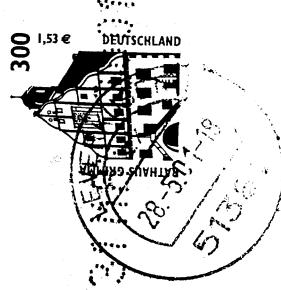


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