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AWM 54

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WAR OF 1939-45
Received from: AUSTRALIAN ARMY STAFF. LONDON.
Recsn. No. 16/2/3.
Indexed 285/4 425/2
A.W.M. File S P1045

Messages between Lieutenant General E.K. Smart, — Major General F.E.W. Simpson — Colonel in P.A. de Bleicks and General Van Straten — on the Subject of proposed Base in Australia for a Dutch Force — 1945.

Register No. Minute Sheet No.

(1)

GOC

POSITION OF DESPATCH OF DUTCH TROOPS TO AUSTRALIA - 19 FEB 45

To-day I interviewed Lt-Col VALE (MO 1) at the War Office, with regard to the basing of Dutch forces in Australia and he tells me

(a) the position is substantially the same as it was when we last communicated on this subject;

(b) the Chiefs of Staffs decision to provide a Dutch Expeditionary Force for the Far Eastern theatre has been submitted to the Supreme Commander AEF NW EUROPE for his consideration. From his reply it does not seem likely that he will be able to make available Dutch forces anywhere near the scale suggested and in any case, not until the complete liberation of Holland. His reply at the present moment is being considered by the planners at the War Office, for submission to the Chiefs of Staffs.

(c) As far as the War Office know, no commitment has been made to the Dutch to transport troops to Australia. (Maj OOSTINDIEN suggests that the first draft would be leaving the UK between 1 and 15 Apr).

(d) The War Office agree that if such troops were to be sent to the Far East, it would certainly be a War Office commitment to equip them with a minimum initial issue of clothing for the voyage.

Recommendation

It is suggested that we advise Maj Oostindien to visit the War Office to discuss the question with the DDSD(A) - Brig Sixmith.

W. T. Robertson
Lt-Col
GS

19 Feb 45
WTR/PMN

Wt. 29149/3862 200m 9/43 KJL/1191/8 38/3

[P.T. Over.

SECRET
PLANS/4/3

7

20927

The War Office
(MO 5(a)),
Whitehall, S.W.1.

31 Jul 45

For attention: Major P.S. Clemente-Smith

EMPLOYMENT OF NEI TROOPS IN SOUTH PACIFIC AREA

1. Reference conversations Major Clemente-Smith - Capt Talbot.

2. LHQ Melbourne have informed us that two companies of NEI Infantry are at present employed on operations under command of the Australian Military Forces. They are numbers 1 and 2 Coy of 1 Bn NEI Inf strengths respectively 5 officers 126 other ranks and 5 officers 145 other ranks.

3. Both these companies are actively engaged under command of 1 Aust Corps, No 1 Coy is located at BALIKPAPAN and No 2 Coy at TARAKAN.

Lieutenant-General
Australian Army Representative

WFT/PMN

IMPORTANT

/JS

INWARD CIPHER MESSAGE

File No 68 Pers/4/3

B4285



FROM LHQ MELBOURNE

TO AAS LONDON

ML4618 27 JUL

SECRET. Your IM3879 141215b two Coys (numbers 1 and 2 of 1 Bn NEI Inf). Strengths respectively 5 officers 126 Or and 5 offrs 145 Or. Both Coys actively engaged under command 1 Aust Corps. Number 1 Coy BALIKPAPAN. Number 2 Coy TARAKAN.

TO G (for action)

Informed Maj Clements South HQ by telephone 1100 30/7/45

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EW/JH

S I G N A L
(CIPHER)

UNPARAPHRASED

PLANS/4/3

FROM : AAS: LONDON
TO : LHQ: MELBOURNE
INFO : AMM: WASHINGTON

LM 3880 /LW 1056 14 Jul

TOPSEC. Ref MW 2394/ML 4149 of 10 Jul. Dutch forces already shipped 8 May 58 offrs 237 OR vessel J9 30 May 11 Offrs 77 OR plus Womens Corps 1 Offr 16 OR vessel J10 18 Jun 35 Offrs 488 OR plus Womens Corps 2 Offrs 14 OR vessel J12. Total all ranks 939. No sailings proposed Jul. Aug plans NOT firm but proposal before Chiefs of Staff not yet approved provides for 2000 all ranks per month commencing mid or end Aug.

Infm from A(M) and SDS (Bigge)

EW.

G2 EW

TOO 1240B .....

THI .....

WR: G-Secy 16/7

MESSAGE
(Cipher)
UNPARAPHRASED

PLANS/4/3

67

FROM : AAS LONDON
TO : LHQ MELBOURNE

LM 3379 14 Jul

SECRET (.) Please infm for War Office str and composition NEI troops under comd Aust Army and actively engaged present ops

G3 WR

TOO 1215 B

THI

WR

G2

66

Dutch Ports

No July Sailings
August plans NOT firm
May
June } Sailings

Date	Vessel	NEI				Women's Corps			
		Offrs	WOs	ORs	TOTAL	Offrs	WOs	ORs	TOTAL
8 May	J9	58	5	232	295	#	#	-	
30 May	J10	11	2	75	88	1	16		17
18 Jun.	J12	35	21	467	523	2	6	8	16
					906				33

orig signature

1100 pax for Aug (until [illegible] date)

propose 2000 max

[illegible] Capt CCS

Stanley 65

TOP SECRET
CIPHER TELEGRAM

059058

WAR OFFICE

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TOP SECRET CYPHER TELEGRAM
DESPATCHED BY O.T.P.

OZ 4316
TOO 111453Z
TOR 111520Z

INTERMEDIATE

From : A.M.S.S.O.

To : J.S.M. Washington

COS(W) 22

11th July, 1945.

Reference JSM 924 and 925.

We consider that Dutch proposals can neither be accepted nor rejected until whole problem of Allied participation in Far East with its implications on employment of Allied Shipping is discussed at TERMINAL.

2. We suggest therefore that Combined Chiefs of Staff should for present acknowledge Dutch notes and give Dutch an assurance that they are being examined.

3. In meantime, we suggest Australian Mission in Washington should ascertain from Australian Government the maximum number of Dutch forces up to 27,000 which Australian Government is prepared to receive.

4. Australian Government has recently felt compelled to refuse small force proposed by Portuguese for eventual re-occupation of Timor because of its straitened manpower position.

T.O.O. 111453Z

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Min of War Tpt (A.I. Anderson Esq)

PLANS/4/3
S.404

64

INWARD TOP SECRET CIPHER MESSAGE

FROM: LHQ: MELBOURNE
TO: AMM: WASHINGTON
AAS: LONDON

MW2394/ML4149 10 Jul

TOPSEC. Ref WM1943. Position obscure. Australia recently refused total force but still considering possible acceptance 5,600 which is being reviewed by Joint Planners. Still consider slight possibility reversal decision. Believe General Van OYEN (or Van OSEN) considers only alternative to acceptance whole force is to train all of it HOLLAND. Meanwhile Some of force is arriving AUSTRALIA.

AUSTARM please advise dates and numbers of Dutch already shipped and those due to sail this month

TO: G1 (For action)

/JH INWARD TOP SECRET CIPHER MESSAGE (S.400)

63

PLANS/4/3

FROM : AMM: WASHINGTON
TO : LHQ: MELBOURNE
RPTD : AAS: LONDON

WM 1943/WL 870 5 Jul

Top secret. for CGS from LAVARACK. Proposal to base Dutch Forces in Australia. If whole commitment not accepted would appreciate advice as to number which it has been agreed to accept.

To ..... (for action)

WTR. 9 Jul '43.

(S.391)

/JH

INWARD TOP SECRET CIPHER MESSAGE

PLANS/4/3

FROM : AMM: WASHINGTON
TO : LHQ: MELBOURNE
RPTD : AAS: LONDON

WM 1849/WL 840 27 Jun.

TOP SECRET. For CGS from LAVARACK. Proposal to base Dutch forces in Australia. Whilst I realise that this matter being handled direct with London from time to time have enquiries here both from BJSM and from ADMIRAL VAN DER KUN of Netherlands Mission. Would therefore appreciate information as to latest developments in this matter particularly as to whether commitment to accept whole force of 27,000 has been agreed to by Australia and as to number of Dutch troops in or en route to Australia.

To ..... (for action)

61

TOP SECRET

054755

CIPHER TELEGRAM.

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TOP SECRET CYPHER TELEGRAM

RECEIVED BY O.T.P.

IMMEDIATE

IZ 6615
TOO 251845Z
TOR 251930Z

From:- J.S.M. WASHINGTON,

To :- A.M.S.S.O.

JSM 924 25th June 1945

Further to F.M.W. 99, Netherlands representatives have now put following formal memorandum to the Combined Chiefs of Staff :

BEGINS :

1. Reference is made to:

(a) The letter of the Netherlands Naval representative dated January 25, 1945 (C.C.S.770) and the letter from the Netherlands representatives dated March 15, 1945 concerning the movement from Holland to Australia of approximately 5600 Netherlands military personnel; (Appendix "D" to C.C.S.770/3).

(b) The reply memorandum of the Combined Chiefs of Staff dated April 16, 1945: (Appendix "A" to C.C.S. 770/3).

(c) Memorandum of May 25, 1945 personally presented by the Netherlands Ambassador to members of the Combined Chiefs of Staff Committee. (F.M.W.98).

2. The Netherlands representatives to the Combined Chiefs of Staff have been instructed to request the consideration of the Combined Chiefs of Staff of the following plan proposed by the Netherlands Government for the transportation of;

(i)	20,000	Internal security troops
(ii)	2,000	Air Force personnel
(iii)	5,000	Militarised civil affairs personnel
TOTAL	27,000	Netherlands military personnel

(Officers, non-commissioned officers and other ranks) from Holland and/or U.K. to Australia.

3. The Netherlands Government request:

(a) Shipping facilities from the U.K. C.Q.Holland to Australia (Perth) for the 27,000 men in contingents of 2,000 to 2,500 every two weeks commencing in the period 10-15th August, 1945

(b) That the British War Ministry undertake to issue clothing to these men in transit camps in Holland or in the United Kingdom on the basis as mentioned in the memorandum of the Netherlands representatives of March 15, 1945, i.e. only for the voyage to Australia where they are to be fully equipped.

4. In the total of 27,000 men are included the 5,600 men referred to in the memoranda mentioned under paragraphs (a) and (b) above, since no shipping facilities to Australia have been provided as yet for the greater majority.

(Over)

The Netherlands Government guarantee the availability of this number of men every two weeks and the receiving capacity in Australia is limited to this number.

5. To ensure a regular flow of personnel from the transit camps in the United Kingdom and/or Holland, the Netherlands Government request the temporary allocation of seven Netherlands ships, suitable for troop conveyance to the tropics.

The ships the Netherlands Government propose to use are:

Name	Capacity
TEGELBERG	2,300 men
BOISSEVAIN	2,300 men
RUYS	2,300 men
NORDAM	2,300 men
POELOE LAUT	2,117 men
INDRAPOERA	2,500 men
JAPARA	1,624 men

Netherlands ships are desired for the reasons expounded in the Netherlands Government memorandum mentioned in sub-paragraph (c) above.

It is pointed out moreover, that what this request amounts to is only the temporary allocation of seven suitable Netherlands ships out of a total of 27 now in the Allied Shipping Pool.

6. It is estimated that six ships will have to make two trips each and one ship a single voyage to Australia. This would result in the withdrawal of six ships for approximately 150 days and one ship for approximately 45 days from the Allied Shipping Pool, into which they will revert upon the completion of this schedule.

The cargo space of the aforementioned seven ships will remain available for Allied cargo, while on the return trips these ships can be used for Allied troop and cargo movement.

7. The Netherlands Government deem it essential that the total of 27,000 men be available in Australia not later than the beginning of 1946.

8. In order to ensure that the schedule outlined above can be put into immediate operation an early decision of the Combined Chiefs of Staff is requested."

Ends

T.O.O. 251845Z

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Min. of Wat Tpt (A.I.Anderston Esq.)

TOP SECRET.

Room 225,
War Office.

20th June 1945.

My dear Edmund,

Many thanks for your letter 16689 (PLANS/4/3) of the 19th June sending me a copy of the message received from Australia on the subject of Dutch Forces.

Yours ever,

Lt.Gen.E.K.Smart, DSO, MC,
Australia House,
Strand,
London, W.C.2.

EKS/JH

PLANS/4/3 59

52

16689.

19th June, 1945.

TOP SECRET.

Dear

Dutch Forces in Australia.

I append below a copy of a message received from Australia dated 16th June on the above subject :-

"Australian Government has agreed in principle and on 31 May recorded a Minute which paraphrased is :-

> that early consideration be given by production Executive and War Cabinet to capacity to accept proposed commitment for Netherlands Forces to be based on Australia particularly in light of increased demands of British Pacific Fleet. Production Executive is to prepare broad statement for consideration and communication to Netherlands Government and Combined Chiefs of Staff.

C in C has told Commander Dutch Army that he considers arrival of Dutch Forces approved though details remain to be fixed. Movement of Allied troops between Eastern Australia and Western Australia is almost impracticable so essential Army component disembark Fremantle."

Yours

Major-General F.E.W.Simpson, CBE, DSO,
ACIGS(O),
WAR OFFICE,
Whitehall, S.W. 1

WTR 19 Jun 45.

COC wrote letter so knows. Thats.

PLANS/4/3 57

S I G N A L
Cipher - By Cable
UNPARAPHRASED

FROM: AAS: LONDON
TO: LHQ: MELBOURNE
RPTD: AMM: WASHINGTON

LM3177/LW915 13 Jun

TOPSEC (.) CGS from SMART (.) DUTCH Forces your ML2707 of 15 May refers (.)

FIRST (.) First party consisting 600 tps being shipped this month direct FREMANTLE to arrive end July (.) Firm dates will be advised when available (.)

SECOND (.) War Office advise no firm arrangements yet made for later parties (.) May NOT always be possible disembark these FREMANTLE but War Office undertake try to arrange this (.)

THIRD (.) War Office assuming that AUSTRALIA has accepted the commitment for the 5,600 so far approved by the Combined Chiefs of Staff (.) Please confirm

G 1 W. Robertson Lt Col
TOO 1430.....B
THI.....

DRAFT APPROVED BY GOC

Q. Please keep an eye on results para FIRST this signal and advise me. WTR 13 Jun '45.

G1 Embarking vessel J 12 - GLASGOW (CLYDE) 18 Jun, Probably depart 19 Jun.
WCR 13 Jun

56

Ref:
BM/3040/M01

Room 225
The War Office
Whitehall SW1

TOP SECRET

8 June 1945

My dear General,

I have now been into the questions raised in your letter dated 23 May.

Arrangements are being made to ship the first party of 600 Dutch troops to Australia in June, so that they will arrive at the end of July. This party will be disembarked at FREMANTLE as you request.

No firm arrangements can yet be made for the later parties, as apart from the availability of ships, we do not yet know when the Dutch will have them ready to sail. It may not always be possible to disembark them at FREMANTLE as not all ships pass that port, but we will always try to arrange this.

As the Joint Administrative Planning Sub-Committee (Australia) recommended in general that the full commitment should be accepted, I am assuming there is no doubt that the Australian Defence Committee will accept the commitment for the 5,600 men so far approved by the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

Yours ever,

Sig pls SMS

Lt-General EK Smart, DSO, MC
Australia House
Strand
London WC2

55

TOP SECRET.

Room 225, War Office.

25th May 1945.

My dear General,

This is to acknowledge, with many thanks, your letter Plans/4/3 of the 23rd May.

I will have the papers you have kindly sent me examined and will then write to you again.

Yours ever,

Lt.General E.K.Smart, DSO, MC,
Australia House,
Strand,
London, W.C.2.

W.T.R. 29 May

From: Lieut-General E.K. Smart DSO MC

Plans/4/3

54

TOP SECRET
13442

23 May 45

With regard to the basing of Dutch Forces in Australia, I have been advised by the CGS Australia that a large part of the accommodation for the 20,000 Dutch troops is already available and that the balance can be made available at short notice.

He has asked me to draw your attention to the acute shortage of transportation for the interstate movement of these forces when they arrive in Australia and earnestly requests that they be shipped direct to Fremantle which is the nearest port to the area allotted to them. My staff has mentioned this to SD5 who are dealing with the move of the initial 600 troops which, it is understood, are to be shipped early next month. It would be much appreciated if I could be given the earliest advice as to the ETD and the ETA of this party and for the shipments of the remaining forces approved by Combined Chiefs of Staff.

The Joint Administration Planning Sub-Committee (Australia) reviewed the requirements for initial supply and maintenance of the force and submitted a report to the Defence Committee on 17 Mar. I attach at Appendix A a copy of the report.

In general terms, the Sub-Committee recommended that the Commonwealth Government should accept the commitment involved in the proposal; but, as it was not then certain that the Combined Chiefs of Staff would agree to any large body of Dutch forces being transported to Australia for service in the NEI, the Defence Committee decided to make no definite recommendations on the question; but submitted a review of the situation to the War Cabinet for consideration.

Yours

Sgd. EKS

Maj-Gen F.E.W. Simpson CB DSO,
ACIGS(O),
The War Office,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

53

TOP SECRET

EXTRACT from CGS's letter A6/1945 to AAR, dated 13 Apr 45

PROPOSAL TO BASE A DUTCH FORCE IN AUSTRALIA

9. With reference to my letter No.A4 of 28th February, 1945, paragraphs 9 - 11, the Joint Administrative Planning Sub-Committee reviewed the requirements for initial supply and maintenance of any Netherlands force based on Australia, and submitted a report dated 17th ~~April~~ March, a copy of which is attached at Appendix "C".

10. In general terms, the Sub-Committee recommended that the Commonwealth Government should acce t the commitment involved in the proposal; but, as it is not yet certain that the Combined Chiefs of Staff will agree to any large body of Dutch forces being transported to Australia for service in the NEI, until the end of the war in Europe, the Defence Committee decided to make no definite recommendation on the question; but submitted a review of the situation to the War Cabinet for consideration.

TOP SECRET 52

APPENDIX "C" to CGS's A6/1945 dated 13 Apr 45.

JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE Ref: NEI/21

BASING OF NETHERLANDS FORCES ON AUSTRALIA

INTRODUCTION

1. The Defence Committee (Minute No. 32/1945) referred the question of basing Netherlands Indies Forces on Australia to the Joint Administrative Planning Sub-Committee for an assessment of the extent to which Australian resources would be committed if the proposals were accepted and for report on the practicability of accepting the commitments in full or in part having regard to existing and potential commitments.

2. In accordance with the direction of the Defence Committee the JAPSC has reviewed the requirements for initial supply and maintenance of Netherlands Forces based on Australia, grouped under broad classifications of supply, and has assessed the manpower which would be involved if the commitment were accepted.

NETHERLANDS INDIES AIR FORCE

3. The commitment as regards the training of NEI air crew and ground personnel, except insofar as it would affect the internal organisation of the RAAF*, would, it is estimated, make additional demands upon the civil economy only to the following extent:-

Food - Rationing probably an average of 1500 personnel rising to 3000 personnel at the peak period.

Manpower - For aircraft and engine overhaul - 200 workers in the Department of Aircraft Production.

Buildings - Provision to a very limited extent.

4. It is understood that these demands would not be made immediately and would represent a progressive commitment as the number of trainees under training built up to the peak. In all the circumstances, the Sub-Committee is of the opinion that these additional demands could be met without any significant repercussion upon the Australian economy.

ESTIMATE OF ARMY REQUIREMENTS

5. The Sub-Committee has considered the requirements of the number of NEI land forces which it is proposed to base on Western Australia. The requirements of these troops are broadly summarised under the headings of:-

(a) Works

(b) Equipment and Supplies

(c) Food

(a) Works

6. Existing camp accommodation in Western Australia will be used, and any additional expenditure on account of the NEI Forces under the heading of works will be negligible.

(b) Equipment and Supplies

7. The value of supplies and equipment has been assessed in terms of broad groups of items, set out in Annexure "I", Table(a),

* This is the subject of a separate report by the Chief of Air Staff.

and no attempt has been made to value itemised lists. The assessment of requirements is based on the following assumptions:-

(i) That the first batch of 1000 personnel will arrive in about the middle of May, 1945, and that further arrivals will be more or less evenly spaced each month until 21,500 have arrived by the end of 1945.

(ii) That first arrivals will include necessary base and administrative personnel required by AMF.

(iii) That although 30,000 NEI personnel may pass through Western Australia L of C Area, it is assumed that there will never be more than 21,500 personnel located there at any one time.

(iv) That provision will be made initially from Australian Army stocks; in some cases these stocks will be surplus to the Army's requirements and no replacement will be necessary; in all other cases stocks will be automatically replaced by increasing Australian Army orders on Production Departments above the level which would otherwise have been necessary.

8. The total cost of initial supply and maintenance together with 30 days' reserves has been reduced to a monthly basis in respect of each of the main groups, and the manpower required to attain output of the specified value has been assessed in terms of the average wages component of the value of output in each of the groups of industry involved.

9. If the estimate of the manpower to be engaged in the production of supplies and equipment for NEI personnel is assessed on the above basis, then about 3000 males and 2300 females would be required. Attention, however, is drawn to the fact that such estimates assume that the full NEI requirements of supplies and equipment are met from Australian sources and that the <u>average</u> amount of manpower used in a particular industry to produce a given value of production will be involved in the meeting of an additional NEI commitment. Closer examination of these assumptions indicates that the above estimates of the manpower involved are likely to have overstated considerably the true additional manpower commitment, which is considered to be more correctly of the order of from 2000 to 3000 workers.

10. This correction is made because of the following factors:-

(a) Even if the acceptance of a commitment in general terms for the total requirements of the NEI Forces is approved, certain of these requirements cannot be met from Australian sources or are in such short supply in Australia that it would be necessary to ask the NEI Forces to procure them elsewhere. To the extent that this occurred, the total commitment would be correspondingly reduced.

(b) The assessment of the additional manpower commitment involved on the basis of the average amount of labour engaged in a particular industry to produce a given value of production does not allow for the fact that in most instances the NEI requirements will be met by very small percentage increases in orders placed with Production Departments by the Australian Army, and that such small increases in the rate of contract production for standard Army items are unlikely to involve the use of additional manpower on the full average scale assumed in the calculations. In other

words, a firm already engaged on Australian Army orders for a particular item is likely to be using a proportion of "overhead staff" (such as office staff, foremen, etc) which it will not need to increase in order to step up the rate of supply by a small percentage, and in addition some extra production may be possible as a result of slightly harder work, longer hours and other means of "taking up the slack" without extra manpower being involved.

11. The Sub-Committee wishes to point out that when considering this manpower commitment it must be borne in mind that provision for the NEI Forces will, in the majority of cases, involve a continuation of an existing Australian Service commitment (which would otherwise have declined) and not the acceptance of a new commitment. Furthermore, examination of Annexure "I", Table (b), shows that a high proportion of the total monthly commitment is in respect of initial equipment. When initial equipment has been completed the continuing monthly commitment for new manufacture is expected to decline from £322,000 to £169,000.

(c) Food

12. Food requirements for NEI forces assessed on a similar basis to equipment and supplies would amount to about £45,000 a month. It is difficult to assess the additional manpower which would be involved in the supply of these foodstuffs, and no attempt has been made to do so. On the basis of existing conditions in food production, it is unlikely that Food Control authorities would be in a position to increase production to meet the additional commitments, and it would consequently be necessary to allocate supplies of food for the NEI Forces from Australian production at the expense of some other claimant.

13. In view of the difficulty of obtaining foodstuffs from overseas, the Sub-Committee considers that it will be essential to undertake the provision of rations to the NEI Forces, any necessary adjustment being made in the level of our food supplies to other claimants.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

14. The following statement summarizes the position in respect of the acceptance of a commitment in general terms for the full requirements of NEI Forces based on Western Australia :

(a) Works - Any additional commitment in respect of works would be negligible.

(b) Equipment and Supplies - The additional manpower commitment in respect of equipment and supplies would be of the order of 2-3,000 workers (men and women).

(c) Food - Food requirements could be met by making relatively minor changes in existing allocations to other claimants.

15. It should be noted that if the commitment in respect of requirements of equipment and supplies were accepted, the manpower allocations for various industrial purposes which War Cabinet recently approved by Minute No. (4063), would be affected to some extent, chiefly because certain releases previously forecast would take place on a smaller scale, but that this effect would be spread over a very wide range of industries in such a way that it would be fruitless to attempt to modify particular allocations in order to allow for the acceptance of NEI commitments. It should also be noted that, if it were decided to give no general approval to the NEI commitment, there would be a number of individual NEI requirements which would be readily available in this country and which would,

because of their bulky nature, be particularly wasteful of shipping space. There would be very strong arguments in favour of such items being supplied from Australian sources even if the decision were reached to refuse acceptance of the total commitment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

16. The Sub-Committee recommends:-

(a) That a commitment be accepted in respect of the provision of works requirements for NEI Army Forces to be based on Australia on the understanding that such requirements will be so small as to be negligible.

(b) That a commitment be accepted in respect of the food requirements of the NEI Army Forces to be based on Australia, this commitment being estimated to involve a cost of about £45,000 per month and to be met by minor diversions of food from existing allocations to other claimants.

(c) That a commitment in general terms be accepted in respect of the full requirements of equipment and supplies for NEI Army Forces to be based on Australia, on the scale at present proposed, subject onlyto the non-availability of particular items which cannot be produced in Australia or which are in particularly short supply in Australia.

(d) That insofar as it affects the civil economy, a commitment be accepted in respect of the training of NEI air crew and ground personnel on the scale outlined in paragraph (3) above.

(e) That it be recognised that the meeting of NEI requirements may absorb manpower which would otherwise have been released, but that no explicit modification be made in any particular manpower allocation approved under War Cabinet Minute No. (4063).

(Sgd) C.M.L. Elliott, Brigadier,
Chairman.
17 Mar 45.

Annexure "I"
to Appendix "A"

Table (a)

ESTIMATED MONTHLY EXPENDITURE FOR NEI FORCES FOR 1945 COMMENCING MAY

ALL ITEMS EXCEPT FOOD

AVERAGE MONTHLY MANUFACTURE

	£	£	
ORDNANCE STORES :			
Clothing	58,360		
Equipment	63,700		
Arms	152,370	274,430	
QMG STORES :			
Expense Stores	8,800		
Medical & Dental Supplies & Equipment	5,200		
Construction Stores	1,300		
Canteen Stores	14,300		
Petrol & Lubricants	17,200		
Engineer Stores	700	47,500	£321,930

Table (b) ORDNANCE STORES

AVERAGE MONTHLY PROCUREMENT DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN INITIAL AND MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT FROM STOCK & MANUFACTURE

Item	Initial			Maintenance		
	Stock surplus to Army requirements	Manufacture	Total	Stock surplus to Army requirements	Manufacture	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Clothing	13,500	40,300	53,800	2,130	18,060	20,190
Equipment	45,700	35,000	80,700	1,050	28,700	29,750
Arms	10,750	78,000	88,750	-	74,370	74,370
	69,950	153,300	223,250	3,180	121,130	124,310

NOTES : 1. All QMG Stores require replacements, except certain engineer stores & medical & dental equipment.
2. Only such Ordnance Stores as are procured from manufacture require replacement.

(S.346)

/JH INWARD TOPSECRET ONE TIME CIPHER

51

FROM : LHQ: MELBOURNE
TO : AAS: LONDON

ML 2707. 15/5(?)

TOP SECRET. For GENERAL SMART from CGS. Your LM 2413. Intend accommodate up to 20,000 odd Dutch forces in Western Australia where big part accommodation available now and rest can be made available quickly. Account Australian transportation difficulties forces should be shipped to destination FREMANTLE. Advise etd UK and eta FREMANTLE for 600 mentioned and for shipments of remaining forces approved by CCS and if information available for those additional numbers mentioned in my ML 2501.

To ..... (for action)

Gvc seen.
G. W.T.R.
Q

Vaughan SDS advised by Telephone WTR. 17 May '45.

TOP SECRET

49

DRAFT/

~~Dear~~

With reference to the basing of Dutch forces in Australia.

The CGS has advised me of a statement of the manpower situation given to him by the NEI Army authorities in Australia. It is believed that this statement is based on figures which were available some time ago and certainly before the complete liberation of Holland.

The NEI Army authorities state that having estimated the liberated available manpower in Holland at 35,000, the Netherlands Government have entered into an agreement with SHAEF to provide for SHAEF 22,000. The remaining 13,000 are to become available to the Netherlands Government. It was further agreed that these personnel would be released from SHAEF control as soon as the arrangements to provide the 22,000 for SHAEF had been made. The date of this was estimated as February.

The Netherlands Government and SHAEF are also reported to have agreed to a reconsideration of the division of manpower as soon as further releases from enemy control were made. It would appear that such a stage has now been reached.

As a result of this manpower survey the CGS, Australia, feels that there is little doubt that ultimately there will be ample manpower available to implement the complete Netherlands plan for the basing of troops in Australia.

He has advised me that the C in C AMF considers that priority over the Dutch forces in their movement to Australia should be given to returning Australian PWs. He has also advised me that the priorities of the componements of the Dutch force will be arranged by the Netherlands authorities in London.

Held WO

Maj-General F E W Simpson, CB, DSO,
ACIGSO,
The War Office.

INWARD TOPSEC CIPHER MESSAGE

Plans/4/3
S333

47

FROM: LHQ: MELBOURNE
TO: AAS: LONDON

ML2501 5 May

AAR from CGS. Your LM2145.

1. NEI Army authorities here state:

A. NETHERLANDS Government and SHAEF entered into agreement estimating available manpower for enlistment from their liberated parts of HOLLAND at 35,000.

B. SHAEF requirements of these 35,000 estimated at 22,000.

C. Balance of 13,000 placed at disposal Netherlands Government free of control from SHAEF as from time Netherlands Government should have agreed arrange provide 22,000 to SHAEF and not as from time 22,000 had actually been provided.

D. Netherlands agreed in February to provide 22,000 to SHAEF.

E. SHAEF already informed that 5,600 out of 13000 are being sent to AUSTRALIA.

F. As soon as manpower beyond 35,000 became a vailable fresh agreement was to be made between SHAEF and NETHERLANDS Government as to division of surplus.

G. SHAEF estimate its total requirements of surplus already given in anticipation leaves little doubt as to ultimate availability of ample manpower to implement completely Netherlands plan re AUSTRALIA.

2. Priorities of components of force will be arranged by Netherlands authorities your end. Australian Army view is that returned PW have priority over all component Netherlands force.

3. Please acknowledge.

GOC seen MK

TO: GOC (For action)

PLANS/4/3

4b

11648

TOP SECRET

Col Rourke 2 May 45

Herewith precis of recent developments as known in this office, about the proposal to base Dutch Forces in Australia.

Will you please inform Mr Bruce.

Sgd E.K.S

Lieutenant-General
Australian Army Representative

TOP SECRET
PLANS/4/3

46A

Present Position with Reference to the Basing of Dutch Forces in Australia

1. On 16 Apr 45, the combined Chiefs of Staff approved a plan for sending to Australia a Dutch force consisting of:-

4,000 internal security troops,
1,000 air personnel,
600 Civil Affairs Military personnel,

these troops being part of the 15 Internal Security Bns which the Netherlands Government desire to base in Australia.

2. The combined Chiefs of Staff have not yet approved of the release of further troops. The provision of the troops mentioned in para 1 are subject to the following conditions.

(a) 20,400 troops must be made available to SHAEF.

(b) Personnel for Dutch Squadrons required by the RAF in SE Asia must be provided.

(c) Sufficient personnel must be made available for small cadres for the Dutch Far East Corps now training in Gt Britain.

(d) Sufficient personnel must still be provided to maintain the strength of Dutch air squadrons operating on or over Western Europe.

3. The provision of shipping for the movement of troops to Australia will depend on other requirements of a higher priority. The War Office have not been able to indicate when such shipping might become available.

4. Clothing and personal equipment for the voyage are being provided in Gt Britain from British sources. The Australian Government has agreed in principle to provide accommodation, storage, weapons and equipment on arrival in Australia. Other logistical support will be furnished from British and Australian resources.

WTR/MP
2 May 45

File... Pl 1.4/3

B.2256

45

INWARD CIPHER MESSAGE.

FROM: LHQ MELBOURNE

TO: AAS LONDON

ML 2383 30 April.

SECRET. Ref your LM 2145 dated 28 Apr Dutch Forces for Australia. Returning Australian ex prisoners of war should be given absolute priority over movement of other personnel referred to. Will advise you later on relative priority of components Dutch Forces.

To GoC (for action).

WTR

MESSAGE
(Cipher)
UNPARAPHRASED

PLANS/4/5

44

FROM: AAS: LONDON
TO : LHQ: MELBOURNE

LM 2145 28 Apr IMPORTANT

TOPSECRET (.) CGS from SMART (.) Dutch Forces for Australia your ML 2149 of 19 Apr refers (.) No firm infm can be given yet regarding the move of personnel referred to (.) War Office do not consider Dutch will become available in large numbers for some time in view large continental commitment WM 1045/WL 461 para SECOND A refers (.) May be of assistance if you could advise me of relative priority of components these personnel with returning ex-PW

W.T.R
Gl.....
TOO.1110B...
THI.....

WTR/MP

Approved by CGS

TOP SECRET

The War Office,

Whitehall, S.W.1.

25 April, 1945.

43

BM/3040(M.O.1.)

My dear General,

In my letter dated 1st March, I told you that the question of sending some 4,000 Dutchmen to Australia had been referred to the Combined Staff Planners in Washington and I promised to let you know the outcome.

I think you will be interested to hear that the Planners' Report has now been approved by the Combined Chiefs of Staff and a reply sent to the Netherlands Representatives, the gist of which is as follows:-

(a) The proposal includes 1,000 air personnel and 600 civil affairs military personnel as well as 4,000 men for duty as internal security troops.

(b) The Combined Chiefs of Staff agree that they may be sent to Australia provided that the Netherlands authorities guarantee that it will not interfere with the provision of 20,400 men for the Allied Expeditionary Force, small cadres for the Dutch Far East Corps now training in the United Kingdom and with a small R.A.F. requirement.

/(c) ...

Lieut.-General E.K. Smart, D.S.O., M.C.,
Australia House,
Strand, W.C.2.

(c) Shipping will depend on other higher priority needs.

(d) Clothing and personal equipment for the voyage out can be provided in Great Britain from British sources. It is understood that the Australian Government is providing accommodation, storage, weapons and equipment. Other logistical support will be furnished from British or Australian sources.

That is how the matter stands at present. It remains to be seen how quickly the Dutch authorities will be able to produce the men, and to what extent shipping will in fact be available.

Yours ever,

P.S. Since writing the above I have received your 10754 of 24 April which shows that you already have some of this information. You will see that there is nothing fresh yet about shipping.

PLANS/4/3

42

10754

TOP SECRET

24 Apr 45

I have been advised by the CGS, Australia, that on 16 Apr 45, the Combined Chiefs of Staff approved the proposal to base a Dutch Force in Australia. Initially, I understand it has been agreed that this force should consist of:-

4,000 Internal Security Troops

1,000 Air personnel

600 Civil Affairs Military personnel.

The Combined Chiefs of Staff, I understand, have not yet approved the additional troops to bring this force up to the equivalent of fifteen security battalions which is the force desired by the Netherlands Government.

The CGS has asked me to enquire what shipping arrangements are being made to move this force to Australia. I would very much appreciate any information you could give me on this matter.

Yours

FWS

Maj-Gen F.E.W. Simpson CB DSO,
ACIGS(O),
The War Office,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

TOP SECRET INWARD CIPHER MESSAGE

Plans/4/3
S319

41

FROM: LHQ: MELBOURNE
TO: AAS: LONDON

THIS MESSAGE WILL NOT BE DISTRIBUTED
OUTSIDE BRITISH OR U.S. GOV. DEPTS.
H.Q.'S OR RE-TRANSMITTED E/N

ML2149 19 Apr

TOPSEC. For General SMART from CGS. Reference Austmil signal WM1045/WL461 Dutch Forces for Australia. Reference THIRD para. Can you advise what arrangements made for shipping and movement these forces to Australia.

TO: GOC

WPK

TOP SECRET INWARD CIPHER MESSAGE

S.315
File Plans/4/3

FROM: AMM: WASHINGTON
TO: LHQ: MELBOURNE
RPTD: AAS: LONDON (For AAR)

THIS MESSAGE WILL NOT BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE [illegible] OR U.S. GOV. DEPTS [illegible] HOSO [illegible] TRANSMITTED EVEN I

40

WM1045/WL461 16 Apr

For CGS from LAVARACK. Proposal to base Dutch Force in AUSTRALIA.

FIRST. Combined Chiefs of Staff on 16 Apr approved following Dutch Force to be sent to Australia. 4,000 Internal Security troops 1,000 Air Personnel 600 Civil Affairs Military personnel. These troops are part of the 15 Internal Security Bns which Netherlands desire basing on Aust. CCS have not approved of further troops in addition to these listed above to build up to 15 Bns.

SECOND. However following provisos made

A 20,400 troops must be made available to SHAEF

B Personnel for Dutch squadrons required by RAF in South East Asis must be provided

C Sufficient personnel be made available for small cadres for Dutch Far East Corps now training in Great Britain

D Sufficient personnel must still be provided to maintain the strength of Dutch Air Squadrons operating on or over Western Europe.

THIRD. Provision of shipping for this movement will depend on other requirements of higher priority. It can probably be made available up to the end of the war in Europe. No cargo

shipping for support of these forces is available at present.

Clothing and personal equipment for voyage will be made available by Great Britain.

Tel. No.— WHI.9400, Ext 1674

Any further communication on the subject should be addressed:—
The Under-Secretary of State,
The War Office
(as opposite)
and the following number quoted.

SECRET

THE WAR OFFICE,

WHITEHALL, SW1.

39

3300/M02

5 Apr 45

RECEIVED 6 APR 1945 AUST. ARMY STAFF

Australian Army Representative,
Australia House,
Strand, WC2.

NO FILE No

Receipt is acknowledged of your 8512 dated 29 Mar 45, giving details of Movement Documents for Dutch Forces moving to Australia. This information has been passed to the appropriate War Office Branches.

Director of Military Operations.

P.43

From: Lt-Gen E K Smart PLANS/4/3

38

8511

TOP SECRET AND PERSONAL 29 Mar 45

Dear

With reference to the conditions of movement set out in my letter 7826 of 22 Mar 45, the Australian Government presupposes that such security vetting as is necessary will have been carried out by UK authorities prior to embarkation.

I have advised the War Office of these conditions of movement.

Yours sincerely
EKS.

Maj-Gen ir H.J.W. Verniers v.d. Loeff,
Section of Military Affairs,
Netherlands Ministry of the Colonies,
Mexborough House,
17 Berkeley Street, W.1.

PLANS/4/3

37

8512

TOP SECRET

29 Mar 45

The War Office,
(MO 2),
Whitehall, S.W.1.

Movement Documents for Dutch Forces Moving to AUSTRALIA

1. In view of the proposal to base considerable Dutch Forces in Australia in the future, I was approached by Maj-Gen N.L.W.F. van Straten, Chief of Staff of the Netherlands East Indies Army, regarding the movement documents the Australian authorities would require such forces to have prior to entry into Australia.

2. Until now, when the numbers of Dutch personnel moving to Australia have been small, the Australian Government has insisted that each soldier be in possession of a Dutch Passport endorsed with the Australian visas, after UK authorities have been satisfied as to their bona fides. Clearly, this is not practicable in the case where large numbers of troops are to be moved and Australia has been approached on this matter.

3. I have been advised that passports and visas may be dispensed with provided the troops travel in uniform, as organised parties under the command of a responsible officer and are accompanied by the normal movement documents as would be required by a similar party of British troops. This presupposes that such security vetting as is necessary, will have been carried out by you prior to embarkation. I have advised the Military Section, Netherlands Ministry for the Colonies, of these conditions.

4. I would much appreciate it if you could advise the appropriate branches of the War Office of these conditions.

Sgd EKS.

Lieutenant-General
Australian Army Representative

Copy to:
Chief Migration Officer,
Australia House.

WTR/PMN

36

MINISTERIE
VAN KOLONIËN
(Netherlands Ministry for the Colonies)
Tel. GRO. 4181

Mexborough House,
~~STRATTON HOUSE~~,
17 Berkeley Street, W.1.
~~STRATTON STREET, W.1~~

LONDEN, 24th March 1945

No. 1128/090103

Section Military Affairs.

Top Secret & Personal.

Dear General,

With reference to your personal letter of the 22nd March, No. 7826, I should like to express my gratitude to you for your kind help.

The arrangements are very satisfactory. The troops will travel in uniform as organised parties under the command of a responsible officer, while the normal movement documents will be obtained for the British War Office.

Yours sincerely

Maj.General ir. H.J.W. Verniers v.d Loeff.

Lt.General E.K. Smart, D.S.O., M.C.,
Australia House,
Strand, W.C.2.

W.T.R.

WTR/PMN

35

7826

22 Mar 45

With reference to your personal letter No.924/090103 written on 6 March. I have made enquiries regarding the necessity for personnel of the Royal Netherlands Indies Army to be in possession of passports for entry into Australia.

I have now been advised, by the Department of External Affairs, to the effect that passports and visas may be dispensed with provided the troops travel in uniform, as organised parties under the command of a responsible officer and are accompanied by the normal movement documents, as would be required by a similar party of British troops.

I regret the delay in advising you of the position but it was necessary for me to cable Australia for instructions regarding this matter.

Yours

EVL

Maj-Gen ir H J W Verniers v.d. Loeff,
Section of Military Affairs,
Netherlands Ministry of the Colonies,
Mexborough House,
17 Berkeley Street, W.1.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

34

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"CROTONATE, ESTRAND, LONDON"
TELEPHONE: TEMPLE BAR 1567
PLEASE REPLY TO
THE OFFICIAL SECRETARY RHW/BC
AND QUOTE

AUSTRALIA HOUSE
STRAND, LONDON
W.C.2

430/3/125

20th March, 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR :

Colonel Robertson,
A.I.F.

With reference to my memorandum of the 9th March concerning the question of whether or not Netherland Troops travelling to Australia in formed bodies should be obliged to have the usual Passports and Visas, I have to advise we have now received a cabled reply from Australia to the effect that under certain conditions the usual procedure may be dispensed with.

Attached for your information is a copy of the cable and we assume that you will advise the Netherlands Authorities accordingly.

R H O'Leary.

Chief Migration Officer.

(This telegram must be paraphrased if the communication of its contents to any person outside Government service is authorised.)

INWARD TELEGRAM

348

MTL. TYPEX.

EXTERNAL TO CROTONATE.

17th March, 1945.

2664. Your 2809 9th March Netherlands Troops

Passports and Visas may be dispensed with subject

procedure mentioned third paragraph your cablegram.

33

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PLEASE REPLY TO
THE OFFICIAL SECRETARY
AND QUOTE

RHW/MH.

AUSTRALIA HOUSE
STRAND · LONDON
W.C.2.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"CROTONATE. ESTRAND. LONDON"
TELEPHONE: TEMPLE BAR 1567

430/3/125/1.

9th March, 1945.

Memorandum for :

Colonel Robertson,
A.I.F.

Attached herewith for your records, is a copy of a cable received from Canberra, together with copy of the reply despatched today after being approved by General Smart.

R W Holmes

Chief Migration Officer.

(This telegram must be paraphrased if the communication of its contents to any person outside Government service is authorised.)

33A

INWARD TELEGRAM

TYPEX
NM

EXTERNAL TO CROTONGATE

28th February 1945.

1995 Netherlands Legation here states advice received that number of Netherlands volunteers have arrived in England with permission of United Kingdom authorities on their pay books with photos instead of passports but that your office insist on passports with visas for Australia although these men would be coming here for service with Netherlands Indies Army. Please telegraph urgently what is difficulty also whether the men would be travelling in uniform under Commanding Officer.

DRAFT CABLEGRAM FOR DESPATCH

TO EXTERNAL

33B

YOUR 1995 of 28th FEBRUARY

FIRST In past small bodies only of Netherlands Troops have gone to Australia from U.K. Individuals were provided with Dutch Passports and Australian visas after U.K. Authorities were satisfied their bona fides. Lists of such personnel are sent Interior periodically.

SECOND A few weeks ago telephone enquiry was made from a Netherlands Office concerning the question of dispensing with Passports for Netherland soldiers proceeding to Australia. Further particulars were sought but no additional information was forthcoming.

THIRD On receipt your 1995 Netherlands Legation was again approached. As result General Van Straaten C.O.S. Royal Netherlands East Indies Army, U.K. called on A.A.R. and advised that in near future it is proposed embark for Australia number of Units Royal Netherlands East Indies Army. They will be travelling in uniform in formed bodies under their own Commanders and Officers. Names of such personnel will be recorded on nominal rolls and normal Army movement documents will accompany the party. U.K. War Office would arrange necessary movement and we assume all such personnel

would be vetted by U.K. Security Services.

FOURTH In circumstances it is thought that ordinary civilian travel documents such as Passports and Visas might be dispensed with for such formed bodies of Allied personnel who would have their normal movement documents.

Do you agree.

RHW/BC.
9.3.45.

32

MINISTERIE
VAN KOLONIËN
(Netherlands Ministry for the Colonies)
Tel. GRO. 4181

Mexborough House,
~~STRATTON HOUSE,~~
17 Berkeley Street, W.1.
~~STRATTON STREET, W.1~~

LONDEN, 6th March 1945

No. 924/090103

Section Military Affairs.

Dear General,

With reference to the conversation Major General N.L.W. van Straten had with you last Tuesday, I beg to confirm that military personnel sent out to Australia to reinforce the Royal Netherlands Indies Army, up to now have had to be in possession of a passport, in which the Australian entry-permit is endorsed.

As in the near future troops will be sent out in units, the arrangement of passports and so on is very difficult, and it would be a great help if the Australian Authorities would permit military units as a whole to leave this country without a special entry-permit.

Therefore I would be very grateful if you could arrange facilities, so that personnel combined in units under an authorized commander, may enter Australia without special entry-permits.

Thanking you in anticipation of an early reply,

Yours sincerely,

~~Major~~ General ir. H.J.W. Verniers
v.d. Loeff.

Lt. General E.K. Smart, D.S.O., M.C.,
Australian Army Staff,
Australia House,
London.

P. Please speak to me about this
EKS

TOP SECRET.

Room 225.

31

BM.3040(MO 1).

1st March 1945.

Dear Ennal,

I am grateful to you for keeping me posted with the latest news from Australia on the Dutch Forces proposal.

Shortly before I received your letter of the 21st February there had been an exchange of telegrams between the Combined Chiefs of Staff in Washington and General Eisenhower, on the question of the probable availability of the 4000 men whom you have mentioned in your letter.

The whole matter has now been referred to the Combined Staff Planners in Washington for an examination of all the various implications, and their report will then be considered by the Combined Chiefs of Staff. I will let you know what happens.

Yours ever,

F.E. Stumme

Lt.Gen. E.K. Smart, DSO, MC,
Australia House,
Strand,
London, W.C.2.

EKS/JH PLANS/4/3

30

52

TOP SECRET. 5112 21st February, 1945.

1. Continuing our correspondence about accommodating and equipping Dutch Forces in Australia - (your letter BM 3040 (MO 1) refers) - I have now received the following in amplification of a signal from C.G.S. Australia which I referred to in my letter to you of 19 Jan :-

"When the Australian Government accepted, in principle, the proposal to base Dutch troops in Australia, the Government also called for a report on the proposal. The report is now being written and will be submitted to the Defence Committee, probably before the end of January. In framing the report, complete agreement has been reached as to the arrangements for maintaining the force; and the whole project has been examined, on the ground, by the RNI Army and Western Command. The GOC RNI Army (Lieutenant-General Van Oyen) will command the forces direct; and Western Command will provide supplies in bulk. The Netherlands forces will be responsible, as far as possible, for establishing and operating their lines of communication; and the implications in relation to Australian manpower will be small, even in the earliest stages.

The main part of the RNI Army Headquarters will be located in Melbourne, and will have a very small Advanced Echelon in Perth. The Headquarters, that is to administer the troops in the field, will be located at Northam, where the bulk of the troops will be accommodation initially.

In addition to the force of 4,000 which is announced as being despatched to Australia, Lieutenant-General Van Oyen hopes to receive an additional 16,000 troops; but it is clearly realised that the project depends on many factors, including shipping limitations.

Major-General F.E.W. Simpson, CB, DSO, PTO
ACIGS(O),
Whitehall, S.W. 1

The Dutch proposal to employ forces in more than one theatre of operations - Europe, South East Asia, and the South West Pacific Area - may cause some confusion in the exchange of information; and it is therefore to be emphasised that, as we understand it, the forces that are projected for despatch to Australia form only a part of the total prospective Dutch commitment. This force will probably be employed in Java, possibly in Sumatra, or if necessary, in other Dutch possessions further to the East. As you will realise, weighty political considerations, in addition to those of a purely military nature, affect the project; and Dutch policy is obviously influenced, to a very great extent, by the wish to recapture and re-occupy Java."

2. Van Straten came to see me yesterday. He had little to add to what we knew and seemed to be well aware that a decision has not yet been taken as to the move of a Dutch contingent to Australia.

He said, however, that there were - fromthe areas in Holland already released - 20,000 volunteers for service in N.E.I.; that he understood that General Eisenhower had agreed to 4,000 odd leaving Europe and that he hoped they would go about mid-April.

With best wishes,

Maj H.A.J. OOSTINDIEN

Also at Same address

and, if not there, at

Mayfair 9571 Ext 102

MEMORANDUM

Army Form C348 (Small)
(Lifts of 50 interleaved)

Sender's Reference	Receiver's Reference	Date 29

From .....

TO: .....

Addresses

General N. L. W. VAN STRATEN
Netherland Ministry for Colonies
17 Berkeley St.

Grosvenor 4181

Wt. 33905/4004. 52,500 pads. 11/44. W.S. Ltd. (Y.P.W.). 51-5360.

Bel 255

PLANS/4/3

WR/JH

TOP SECRET.

28

PROVISION OF UNIFORMS FOR NETHERLAND EAST INDIES ARMY AND AIRFORCE.

On the afternoon of 15th February Major H.A.J. Oostindien of the Netherlands Indies Air Force called at Australia House in connection with the supply of uniforms and clothing generally for Netherlands personnel who were to be recruited in Holland, spend approximately one month in the United Kingdom and then be shipped to Australia. He had already been in touch with Wing Commander Cleary of the Royal Australian Air Force and made preliminary arrangements with him for the supply of similar equipment for similar personnel going out with the Netherlands Indies Air Force.

He indicated that the total liability would be about 10,000 Army personnel at the rate of 1,000-1500 a month and that their immediate need was from 2,000-3,000 uniforms for the personnel who would be leaving this country in the next few months. He advised that the first batch of 1,000-1500 was expected to leave the United Kingdom between 1st and 15th April.

not agreed to by WO.

Major Oostindien is a member of the Netherlands East Indies Mission at present in the United Kingdom under General van Straten, the Mission being responsible for the equipping and movement of these personnel to Australia.

After discussions with G.O.C. and G.1 it was arranged that we would tell Major Oostindien in a few days time what arrangements could be made for General van Straten to see General Smart on the subject, and that meanwhile we were clearing up certain points of detail which were not fixed but which would have to be known before there could be any profitable discussion between the two Generals.

Major McArthur and Major Radford participated in the discussions.

No commitment was made.

15 Feb 45

Wm. G. Radford
Maj
Q
15-Feb-45

BM 3040 (MO 1)

The War Office,
WHITEHALL, S W 1

26

24 January 1945

TOP SECRET

My dear General,

Thank you for your further letter dated 19th January, about the Dutch force for Australia.

I am very much interested to read General Northcott's comments on General Van Straten's memorandum and to note that the latter is substantially correct.

I will keep you in touch with any developments at this end, but at present I have no further information to pass on.

Yours ever,

Lt Gen E K Smart, DSO, MC,
Australia House,
STRAND, W C 2

PLANS/4/3

EKS/JH

1988

25

19th January, 1945.

Referring to your letter of 3 Jan 45 on the subject of basing Dutch forces in Australia, I have just received a signal from Northcott giving his comments on Van Straten's letter of 2 Dec 44.

At the moment the Australian Government has accepted only in principle the proposal to base a Dutch force of 30,000 in Australia. Both the Service and Civilian implications have still to be considered by the Government before final decision is given.

Northcott further says that Lt-General Van Oyen announced on 6 Jan 45 that he had definite information that 4,000 Hollanders would arrive in Australia at a reasonably early date - probably after April 45. (These troops are those to which Van Straten refers in para 2 of his letter).

Subject to the preceding paragraph Northcott says that Van Straten's letter is substantially correct. He has no definite news of any other arrivals in Australia.

214

Major-General F.E.W. Simpson, CBE, DSO,
WAR OFFICE (D.M.O.),
Whitehall, S.W. 1

21

BM 3040 (MO 1)

The War Office,
WHITEHALL, SW 1

3 Jan 45

TOP SECRET

My dear General,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 28 Dec 44, with its information about the Dutch forces in Australia.

I was particularly interested in the clearing up of the point about the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

Yours sincerely,

Lt Gen E K Smart, DSO, MC,
Australia House,
STRAND, WC 2

P.S. The best of luck to you all in 1945.

OFFICES OF THE WAR CABINET,
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
S.W. 1.

3 Jan 45

20

Dear General Grant.

I have given Mr Bruce a summary of the main points in the attached file on the loaning of Dutch troops on Australia & am returning the file herewith.

yours sincerely
S.M. Bruce

Jule 8/1/45

Australian Army Staff,

EKS/JH

19

3226 2

TOP SECRET.

28th December, 1944.

Further to our letters about the proposal to base Dutch forces in Australia (Your BM 3040 (MO1) of 19 Dec), I have had the following additional information by signal :-

(a) In response to a question in Kennedy's letter referring to the first extract I sent. Reference to the Australian Government's agreement in principle subject to endorsement by the Chief of Staffs Committee .... refers to the Combined Chief of Staff Washington NOT Australia.

(b) Referring to the second extract I sent you : "up to the present we have equipped 4 rifle coys of Netherlands West Indian troops".

I received a signal clarifying this by saying "each company one inf bn consists of one platoon West Indians and two mixed platoons - Europeans and Natives both from NEI.

With best wishes,

EKS

Major-General F.E.W. Simpson, CBE, DSO,
D.M.O.,
WAR OFFICE,
Whitehall, S.W. 1

18

TOP SECRET

BM 3040 (MO1) 19th December 1944

Dear General,

Thank you for your letter of 8th December with its further information on the proposal to base a Dutch Force in Australia.

You will remember that in Kennedy's letter to you of 17th November he pointed out that until you wrote to him he had not heard of a direct approach by the Dutch to the Australian Government.

In the course of further discussions between the War Office and the Dutch Military Authorities, however, the latter have recently handed in a Memorandum which purports to record arrangements made by the Dutch with the Australian Government and Army Authorities. I am enclosing a copy of the Memorandum for your information and would be grateful if you would be kind enough to ascertain whether these reported arrangements can be confirmed by the Australian Authorities.

General van Straten is pressing pretty strongly for the Dutch to go to Australia, but we cannot yet make a decision on this point either one way or the other. General van Straten has been left in no doubt about this.

/The present .....

Why is this Dutch Memo here to Aust in A 94 3/8

Lt-Gen EK Smart, DSO, MC,
Australia House,
Strand,
WC2.

The present position is that he has undertaken to get his Government to put forward comprehensive proposals for the raising of the necessary men, having regard to the considerable requirements of General Eisenhower for Dutch forces for North West Europe. These requirements must have first priority and it is evident that it will be some considerable time before there is any possibility of raising forces for the Far East.

That is how the matter stands at present and I shall be glad to receive your comments in due course on the Memorandum.

Yours sincerely,

J. Ehrlich

C O P Y

TOP SECRET

17

Major-General
NLW van Straten
Chief of Staff, RNEI Army

London 2 Dec 44

MEMORANDUM

1. It is the intention of the Royal Netherlands Government to raise troops in the Netherlands for the war against Japan.

2. Part of those troops will be sent at the disposal of the Netherlands Indies Government; they will consist of:-

(a) Approx 15,000 men (15 battalions) of the Royal Netherlands Army.

(b) Approx 5,000 men as first reinforcement for the Royal Netherlands Indies Army.

3. This memorandum concerns only the troops mentioned in Paragraph 2(a) and (b).

4. Major-General van Straten, Chief of the General Staff R NEI A, has been sent to London to expedite the raising and the transportation to Australia of said troops.

5. Prior to his departure from Australia - where the HQ of the R NEI A are stationed for the time being - the following arrangements have been made with the Australian Government and the Australian Army authorities:-

(a) The Australian Government agrees that said troops will be stationed in Australia during the period prior to their going into action, in order to give them an additional training etc.

(b) The Australian Army will provide them with all necessary equipment, initial as well as for maintenance, clothing etc.

(c) A number of camps and campsites, stores, hospitals etc in Western Australia have been put at the disposal of the R NEI A authorities for this purpose.

(d) The agreements sub (b) and (c) will be covered by financial arrangements which are under discussion between the Australian and the NEI Government at the moment.

(e) The Australian Army will assist the additional training of the troops concerned by receiving all appropriate NEI Army personnel at the Australian Army training schools and courses, in numbers agreed upon by the authorities of the two armies concerned.

(f) The R NEI Army will provide as soon as possible the necessary personnel to release the Australian Army personnel, now occupied for base duties in Western Australia (see Paragraph 5(c)).

6. Apart from this agreement the following can be stated:-

(a) The R NEI Army troops, already now in Australia and in the adjacent battle areas will be treated under the same agreement.

/(b) With ..

(b) With the similar help of the Australian Army a sizeable number of NEI Army instructors have already been trained and are ready to start instructing the troops, arriving in Australia; they will be augmented in due time by instructors, yet to train at Australian schools (see paragraph 5 (e)).

7. Upon arrival in London it came to the knowledge of General Van Straten that:-

(a) the place, where the concerned troops will receive their additional training (UNITED KINGDOM or AUSTRALIA) is still under discussion.

(b) informal discussions have taken place concerning the equipment, clothing etc. of said troops - i.e. of 15 battalions of them - by the British Army.

8. General Van Straten has been ordered to investigate the following possibilities:

(a) the troops mentioned in paragraph 2(a) and (b) will receive their additional training in Australia (see paragraph 5(a) and (c));

(b) they will be equipped etc. by the Australian Army upon arrival in Australia (See paragraph 5(b));

(c) the British Army will provide them with clothing necessary for their journey to Australia (as few items as possible);

(d) the troops will be raised and transported to Australia as soon as possible, to begin with the personnel mentioned in paragraph 5(f).

9. The advantages of these suggestions can be explained as follows:-

(a) After their additional training will be completed, the troops will co-operate closely with the NEI troops, already in the SWPA and the available instructors who have been trained following the Australian Army methods; moreover the co-operation with the Australian Army will be facilitated.

(b) As a result of a reorganisation of the Australian Army all equipment, clothing etc. is available in Western Australia. Use of those items will save shipping space and work in this country as against equipment coming from the UK. Moreover the Australian equipment - although there is not much difference with British equipment - will facilitate the training to be done and fix in better with the training, already completed in Australia.

(c) The sooner the troops can be sent to Australia, the sooner they will be ready for action and the shorter they will have to be provided with rations etc. in this theatre.

10. In order to get the troops concerned as soon as possible to their destination it will be necessary to have transportation, either directly from a continental port, or via the UK. In the latter case it will be necessary to maintain the troops in a camp in the UK during the time they are awaiting for further shipment. The help of the British authorities in this matter will be highly appreciated.

/11. Although...

11. Although the circumstances in the Netherlands do not allow to provide exact figures, it is the intention to work on the following scheme:-

December 1944	500 men
January 1945	1000 men
February 1945	2000 men
March 1945	3000 men
April 1945	5000 men
May 1945	5000 men
June 1945	3500 men

12. Besides the above mentioned troops, personnel for the R NEI Army air force will be raised in the Netherlands and sent to Australia for training. Arrangements have been made with the RAAF. The amount of people will be approx 250 per month. It is thought to be an advantage, if transportation and maintenance awaiting shipment - if necessary - could be combined with those of the other troops. As to the providing of clothing for the journey to Australia it is suggested to handle them on the same lines as the other army troops.

ARMY FORM C2136 (Small)

MESSAGE FORM

PLANS/4/3 Register No.

Call	Srl. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions

16

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) Originator: AAS LONDON

Date-Time of Origin: 191530 4

Office Date Stamp

For Action: LHQ MELBOURNE

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

Message Instructions | GR

15

Originator's No.

LM 5771 Your ML6841 of 18 Dec ack

This Message may be sent AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS {EXCEPT / wireless} WIRELESS

Signed [signature]

If liable to be intercepted or to fall into enemy hands, this message must be sent IN CIPHER

Signed

Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority

Time	System	Op.
THI or TOR		
Time cleared		

ACTION COPY

/BJL

INWARD CIPHER MESSAGE.

File. A13/4/3
B.6936.

FROM: LHQ: MELBOURNE.
TO : AAS: LONDON.

Immediate 15

ML6841 18/12. 11

Secret(.) Your LM5642 121230A (.) CGS letter A 13 para 16 and my ML6657 019552K para one C (.) Each Coy one Inf Bn consists one platoon West Indians and two mixed platoons- Europeans and natives both from NEI (.) Please ack(.)

RECEIVED
19 DEC 1944
AUST. ARMY
R
STAFF

Ackd 19 Dec 44.

To: [illegible] (for action)

CGS seen

THIS MESSAGE WILL NOT BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE BRITISH OR U.S. GOV. DEPTS. OR RE-TRANSMITTED EVEN IN CIPHER

/BJL

ACTION COPY

File. Plans/4/3
B.6878.
4.

13

INWARD CIPHER MESSAGE.

FROM: LHQ: MELBOURNE.
TO : AAS: LONDON.

ML6764 14/12.

11.

Restd(.) Have you received my ML6657

December 091552K (.)

To: G2 12 (for action)

Acked by LM 5633 121130A.

LM 5633 re-despatched 16/12.

No action 16 Dec 44.

QA PLANS/4/3.

RECEIVED
15 DEC 1944
AUST. ARMY
R
STAFF

THIS MESSAGE MUST NOT BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE BRITISH OR U.S. GOV. DEPTS. OR H.Q.'s OR RE-TRANSMITTED EVEN IN CIPHER WITHOUT BEING PARAPHRASED.

LIA/4/3

S I G N A L
Cipher
UNPARAPHRASED

FROM : AAS : LONDON
TO : LHQ : MELBOURNE

LM 5642 12Dec

SECRET (.) For CGS from SMART (.) Ref para 16 your letter A13 of 13 Nov (.) Is ref to NETHERLANDS WEST or EAST INDIAN tps

G2
TOO 1530A .....
THI .....

ESW/DJM

ARMY FORM C2136 (Small)

MESSAGE FORM

PLANS/4/3

Register No.

Call	Srl. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions

12

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A) Originator: AAS LONDON

Date-Time of Origin: 121130A

Office Date Stamp

For Action: LHQ MELBOURNE

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

Message Instructions — GR

11

Originator's No. LM/[illegible] 5033 Your ML 6657 9 Dec ack

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT **AS WRITTEN** BY ANY MEANS { EXCEPT incl } WIRELESS

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT **IN CIPHER**

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

Time	System	Op.
THI or TOR		
Time cleared		

SIGNED [signature] Wg

SIGNED

(GV483) Wt. 49525/367. 990,000 Pads. 8/44. B. & S. Ltd. 48-244

/BJL

ACTION COPY

INWARD CIPHER MESSAGE.

File DTG/4/12
B.6773/

Immediate

FROM: LHQ: MELBOURNE.
TO : AAS: LONDON.

ML6657 9/12.

Secret(.) Your LM5467 (.)

One. Locations.

A. Camp Columbia (Brisbane) HQ RNEI Army HQ Netherlands Indies Civil ADMN (NICA) NEFIS (Int Sec) (.) One Guard Coy Motor Pool HQ air transport.

B. Brisbane supply and movt det base repair sec.

C. Casino (NSW) HQ Ground Forces 1 Inf Bn consisting of HQ 1 Fus Coy (For Hollandia) 2 Fus Coy (now training jungle warfare school) 3 Fus Coy 4 Fus Coy (not fully formed) HQ Coy (not fully formed) and Fatigue Coy also NICA det and tec bn of two coys.

D. Sydney procurement supply and movt det air force repair workshop.

E. Melbourne ech HQ RNEI Army.

F. Canberra. Pool Squadron RNEI Army Air Force.

G. Darwin. 18 Sqn (med bomber ?)

H. New Guinea. Dets NICA.

J. Merauke. Convalescent Camp for released PWS(.) Small Garrison Det and 120 SQN (fighters).

Two. Understand foregoing units and personnel not under command any Australian or US formation (except those at Merauke) of which Army units under first Aust Army (.) Believe Dutch GOC offers units to GHQ SWPA

P.T.O.

RECEIVED 11 DEC 1944 AUST. ARMY STAFF

SD2 advised verbally 1/12

THIS MESSAGE WILL NOT BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE BRITISH OR U.S. GOV. DEPTS. OR H.Q. 24 IRE TRANSMITTED EVEN IN CYPHER BEING PARAPHRASED.

or C in C AMF when appropriate (.)

Three. Foregoing infm does not apply proposed force of 30,000 (.)

Four. Please ack (.)

Ackd 12 Dec 44
EWD

To: G2 (for action)

PLANS/4/3
~~SG/4/12~~

TO

SIGNAL
CIPHER
UNPARAPHRASED

FROM: AAS: LONDON
TO: LHQ: MELBOURNE

LM5467 2 Dec

SECRET (.) Request details NETHERLANDS and NEI Army forces SWPA Incl location and higher Aust or US formation each case

See folio 11

G 2 EW

TOO 1700 A

THI

A1 request SD 2 (Mackell)

EW 2/12

Diary

PLANS/4/3 8

EKS/JH

30720

TOP SECRET.

8th December, 1944.

I am writing to you in reply to Kennedy's letter of 17th November which I was very glad to have.

I have now had the following information in a letter from Northcott, dated 13th November, which may be of interest :-

"Proposal to base a Dutch Force in Australia.

"In continuation of my letter A.12/1944, paragraphs 10 - 13, the Australian Joint Staffs, and more particularly the Army Staff, are proceeding with the preliminary investigations for the proposal to base a Dutch Force in Australia, and as to the possibility of equipping, training, and accommodating those troops.

The C-in-C interviewed Dr. van Mook, Lieutenant-Governor General Designate of the Netherlands East Indies and Lieutenant-General van Oyen on the 3rd November; and in order to obviate any large demands on Australian Army manpower for purposes of maintaining the Dutch Force, the C-in-C emphasised with them the necessity for making that force self-contained in organisation and maintenance units.

Up to the present we have equipped four rifle companies of Netherlands West Indian troops."

I should be glad to hear of any further developments from this end.

With best wishes,

Major-General F.E.W. Simpson, CBE, DSO,
WAR OFFICE (D.M.O.),
Whitehall, S.W. 1

6

TOP SECRET.

17th November 1944.

My dear Kenneth

Thank you very much for your interesting letter of the 14th November, dealing with the proposal to base a Dutch force in Australia.

For your information, the other half of this story is that the Combined Chiefs of Staff have agreed that the British should undertake the responsibility for raising, training and equipping the following Dutch forces intended for employment in the Far East:-

A Corps of two divisions;
Fifteen battalions for Internal Security duties.

The time when these forces will become available for employment is, of course, mainly dependent upon the availability of Dutch manpower, and from the point of view of, at any rate, the Dutch Corps, the project must be considered as a long term one.

For this reason it has not yet been decided how these Dutch forces can best be fitted in to the future Allied war effort in the Far East. Prior to your letter, we did not know that a direct approach had been made by the Dutch to the Commonwealth Government, and, if the Dutch go ahead on this unilateral basis, I feel there is a distinct danger of the wires being crossed. I would therefore be very grateful if you felt able to ask your authorities to go slow on this matter and take no final step without consulting us. I assume, incidentally, that the reference to the Chiefs of Staff/

Lt.Gen. E.K. Smart, DSO, MC,
Australia House,
Strand,
London, W.C.2.

of Staff in second paragraph of General Northcott's letter refers to the Australian and not the British Chiefs of Staff.

It would be very helpful if you would be good enough to let me know of any further developments in this connection - I will, of course, reciprocate.

Yours ever

John Kennedy

28412

5

EKS/JH

PERSONAL and SECRET

14th November, 1944.

I have had the following paragraph, which may interest you, in a recent letter from John Northcott :-

"Proposal to base a Dutch Force in Australia.

A few weeks ago, the Commonwealth Government received an intimation from the Netherlands Government, to the effect that the Netherlands Government proposed, subject to British Empire concurrence, to employ a force of approximately 30,000 Free Hollanders in the Netherlands East Indies, and that they wished to base that force in Australia, for training and maintenance purposes.

The proposal is at present only in the initial stages. The Commonwealth Government has signified its agreement, in principle, subject to endorsement by the Chiefs of Staff Committee; and the Australian services are investigating the implications of the proposal.

By the C-in-C's direction, the QMG has reconnoitred Western Australia, which is undoubtedly the most appropriate area for the purpose, as the use of that area would of course be economical in the use of shipping, be in closer proximity to the target area, and cause fewer local complications. As a result of the reconnaissance, the plan is to accommodate the visiting troops in existing camp areas as far as practicable from the larger centres of population.

I would emphasise that the proposal is at the moment extremely nebulous, and that it is clouded with many serious doubts. In the first place, it appears to be rather improbable that the Netherlands Government will be able to procure 30,000 young Dutchmen for service

Major-General J.N. Kennedy, CB, MC,
ACIGS(O),
WAR OFFICE,
Whitehall, S.W. 1

PTO

in the Far East. Next, the Netherlands Government has not yet declared itself as to whether these troops, if they become available, are to be used in combatant operations, or whether they are to be employed in the control of the Netherlands East Indies after the Allied forces have recaptured those areas. These questions are of course for your personal information only."

Yours

MINISTERIE
VAN KOLONIËN
(Netherlands Ministry for the Colonies)
Tel. ~~GRO. 4181~~
REG. 0251

No. 2707/V.O.a.

AFDEELING VIII.
(Section VIII.)

Division of Military
Affairs and Purchasing.

Bijlage(n)
(Encl.) :

MEXBOROUGH HOUSE,
17, BERKELEY STREET, W. 1
~~STRATTON HOUSE,~~
~~STRATTON STREET, W. 1~~

4

LONDEN, 23rd September 1943

To: Colonel G. Harrison,
Australia House,
Strand, W.C.2.

Dear Colonel,

Many thanks for your letter of the 21st instant, Ref. No. 1441, which has made the position completely clear to me.

I hope to have the same pleasant collaboration with you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

P. de Blieck

Col. ir. P.A. de Blieck.

3

JWH/PMN

117

14441

MOST SECRET

21st September, 1943

Dear

Referring to our conversation yesterday, I hope the following information will give you what you want. You will probably think it somewhat long-winded but I want to give you, as best I can, an idea of the procedure by which the assignments of Australian arms and equipment are made and an idea of the major items of equipment which we produce.

PART I

1. First of all it is not necessary for your demands for Australian equipment to be referred to Washington.

2. Briefly the machinery works as follows:-

(a) After the Churchill - Roosevelt Agreement it was decided that the total USA and British Empire production be thrown into a common pool, on which all the United Nations are entitled to draw.

(b) Into this pool goes that proportion of Australia's production which is surplus to her own requirements.

(c) Requirements of individual theatres or countries must be tabled in one place only, that is, either LONDON or WASHINGTON, to prevent the risk of double provision.

(d) As you know, Britain and America have responsibilities towards certain specified Allies and your country is one for which Britain is responsible for equipping. It follows then that your requirements must be stated in London and not Washington. This, however, does not necessarily mean that your requirements would be met from Australian production but if your troops were operating in the South West Pacific Area, that is, based on Australia, it would obviously be more logical to equip them from Australia and the War Office would probably act accordingly.

3. In short, therefore, I am only giving you the present procedure. It may, of course, alter after the war against Germany is finished, in which case you may be able to demand equipment direct from Australia. At the moment, however, your correct course is to state your requirements to the War Office; and not through your representatives in Australia.

4. I hope I have not given you a confused picture of the procedure. Please let me know if you have any doubts.

PART II

5. The following is a list of the major items which Australia is producing. This is by no means a complete list but I have picked out those items in which I think you will be most interested. They are all of either British design or have minor Australian modifications to that design.

Col P.H. de Blieck,
Netherlands Colonial Office,
17 Berkeley Street, W.1.

WEAPONS

Small Arms

Pistols Signal 1" (Mk.III *)
Pistols .38"
Rifles No.1 (.303")
Bren .303" Light Machine Gun
Vickers .303" Medium Machine Gun (Ground)
Austen 9 mm Sub Machine Gun
Owen 9 mm " " "
2" Mortar
3" Mortar
4.2" Mortar
20 mm equipment

Artillery

QF 40 mm AA
QF 3.7" AA
Predictors 3.7" AA
2 pr Anti-tank (and for tanks)
6 pr 7 cwt Anti-tank
17 pr Anti-tank
25 pr equipment

SIGNAL EQUIPMENT

Wireless Set No.11 HP
" " No.19
" " No.22
" " No.109
Charging Set 300 watt
Generating Set 4 KW

OPTICAL INSTRUMENTS

Compasses Prismatic Mk.III
Binoculars No.2
No.7 Director
No.7 Dial Sights
(No further details)

EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING

Gas Respirators
Steel Helmets
Web Equipment (small quantity: not sufficient for own needs)
All Service clothing etc. (some raw materials come from other countries)

MINES, GRENADES AND AMMUNITION

Mines, Anti-tank
Mines, Anti-personnel
Grenades (various, incl 36)
Other ammunition (almost all British types)

ENGINEER EQUIPMENT

Bridging Equipment
Recce Boats
Assault Boats

VEHICLES

Universal Carriers (various ~~vehicles~~ rôles, i.e. mortar, 2 pr A.tk, MG)

Cont

VEHICLES (Cont)

Light Armoured Cars
Scout Cars
Tank Tracks, etc.

6. Concerning tanks I should like to confirm my statement that we are adopting American ones, and, therefore, you would have to get them from America. Concerning other vehicles, we make bodies of various natures but import chassis and engines of British or Canadian type.

Please let me know if I can help you further.

Yours

2

Austen
.303
Pistols
Tanks (68?)
ATk guns.

Transport ?engines in Aust.

Grenades
75

Clothing

?gaiters
?Berets

Col. PH de Bleeck.
17 Berkeley St
Regent 0251 Ext 125
Netherlands Govt Office

MOST SECRET

D

Col P H de BLIECK from the Netherlands Colonial Office called. His Government has under consideration the use of Dutch Forces in the South West Pacific, after the war in Germany has ended and has in mind the equipping of say, 20,000 Dutch for this purpose.

Their present problem in their plan, is the equipping of these forces. In this they wish to explore the possibilities of obtaining arms and equipment from Australian production.

(NOTE: Of British and American types they prefer British)

Can they obtain this from Australia without Washington agreement?

Col Blieck then asked whether Australia produces arms and ammunition of British types (we discussed types of arms in detail). I said ~~that as~~ yes; but fa r a s tanks a re concerned, ~~however,~~ we were trending to American types for various reasons and that if the Dutch Forces wanted tanks they would probably have to conform to these.

I then agreed to produce for him a list of the main arms and equipment which we produce, showing whether they were of British or American type and let him know whether (if these were in sufficient production) they can be allocated through British sources without reference to USA.

Hamson
GSO.1
Major (?!)

20 Sep 43

Have consulted Lt Col WAKE LM 3(a) who has no objection to us telling de BLIECK how he should bid for things (he must go through War Office for bids) and what we make.
Secretariat is producing notes on procedure

Australian Production

Pistols Signal 1" (mk III*)
Pistols .38"
Rifles No1. (.303")
Bren .303" LmG.
Vickers .303" MmG. (ground)
Austen 9 m.m. SmG.
Owen " "
2" mortar
3" "
4.2" "

QF 40 m.m. AA
QF. 3.7" A.A.
Predictors 3.7" A.A.
6 pr 7 cwt ATk
17 pr. "
2 pr. " (& Tanks)

Wireless Set No 11 H.P.
" " No 19
" " No 22
" " No 109
Charging Set 300 watt.
Gen Set 4 Kw.

Compasses Prismatic mk III
Binoculars No. 2.
Gas masks Respirators
Steel Helmets

? web.

25 pr eqpt.
20 m.m. eqpt.
Carriers m.G.
Light Armd Cars.
Lorries ATk
" a. Personnel
Grenades (various) incl 36
Ammn (almost all types)

Bridging Eqpt.
Recce Boats
Assault Boats

Tank tracks etc

X Vehs (B) tabled
washing Pans

? other optcals No 7 Binocs
No 7 Dial sights
(~ 20)

G.

With reference to our conversation today, the following are some of the considerations involved relative to the supply to the NETHERLANDS Govt. of equipments ex AUSTRALIAN production.

1. The War Office is the co-ordinating body to which allies, potential allies, patriot forces, etc., report & state their equipment demands, and it is the War Office which is responsible for the calculation of long-term requirements of the countries concerned under these categories.

2. The assignment machinery agreed between U.K. and U.S.A. following on the CHURCHILL-ROOSEVELT agreement operates briefly as follows:-

(a) The total USA/U.K. production is thrown into a common pool, on which all the United Nations are entitled to draw.

(b) Requirements of individual theatres or countries must be tabled in one place only - either LONDON or WASHINGTON - in order to obviate the risk of double provision.

(c) The L.M.A.B. in LONDON and the CMAB

SPECIAL MILITARY VEHICLES PARTS SERVICE INFORMATION

Date 8-6-43

Letter No. MM 27

Group No.	Part Number Old	Part Number New	Part Name & Models
			Page 32 (Cont'd)
1.8392		1504241	Clamp, oil filter D - 2 All models Add number detail
1.8394	1503516		Screw, oil filter locking C All models Add C note
1.8394		1503694	Screw, oil filter locking D - 1 All models Add number and detail
1.840	5808387		Bracket, oil filter mounting C (All models except 8) Add C Note
1.840	5808506		Bracket, oil filter mounting C (Model 8 only) Add C note
1.840		5819674	Bracket, oil filter mounting D - 1 All models Add number and detail
1.842		5819680	Pipe Assy., oil filter inlet flexible D - 1 All models Add number and detail
1.8421		5819676	Fitting, oil filter pipe D - 1 All models Add number and detail
1.8422		5819677	Bracket, oil filter pipe fitting D - 1 All models Add number and detail
			Note: C - First Jobs for use with 4-5/16" dia. Oil Filter D - After Jobs for use with 5 " dia. Oil Filter
			Page 33
2.012	3650094		Knob, starter pedal push rod (when stock depleted use 367576) All models Add note
2.012		367576	Knob, starter pedal push rod - 1 All models Add number and detail
2.014	597434		Bellows, starter pedal rod (First Jobs only) (when stock depleted use 5822794) All models Add note
2.014		5822794	Boot Assy., starter pedal rod (First Jobs only) - 1 All models Add number and detail
2.033	5808059	597792	Link, starter pedal (First Jobs - with 1st Type Cab) All models Change part number
2.033	597792		Link, starter pedal (when stock depleted use 5808059) All models Delete number and detail from records
			Page 34
2.047	810601		Shoe, starting motor pole (discontinued when stock depleted) All models Add note

in WASHINGTON hold monthly meetings at which available production is allocated according to operational requirements, or a priority decided by these meetings on the basis of operational urgency.

(d) The place of bidding (i.e. where the requirement is recorded) does NOT regulate the source of production. In other words, although a particular requirement may be bidded in LONDON, it may be possible only, or more convenient, to meet it from U.S.A. production. In these cases, U.K. bids on U.S.A. production, and a block assignment is made. The same principle applies in reverse, necessitating U.S.A. bid on U.K.

3. AUSTRALIA has now agreed to throw into the pool that proportion of her local production which is surplus to her home theatre requirements. The Australian Assignment Committee assigns such surplus, on bids made by a U.K. representative in AUSTRALIA, he being briefed by

SPECIAL MILITARY VEHICLES PARTS SERVICE INFORMATION

Date 8-6-43

Letter No. MM 27

Group No.	Part Number Old	Part Number New	Part Name & Models
			Page 27 (Cont'd)
	178302		Clamp, hose (when stock depleted use 111604) All models Add note
		111604	Clamp, hose - 2 All models Add number and detail
1.346	3664180		Cock, shut-off (3/8 - special straight) (After Jobs only) All models Add note
			Page 28
1.519	5269748		Tubing Unit, copper and steel (all sizes) (when stock depleted use 5266375) All models Add note
1.519		5266375	Tubing Unit, copper and steel (all sizes) - AR All models Add number and detail
1.519		5808976	Clip, oil line special - 1 All models Add number and detail
			Page 31
1.769	5269748		Tubing Unit, copper and steel (all sizes) (when stock depleted use 5266375) All models Add note
1.769		5266375	Tubing Unit, copper and steel (all sizes) - AR All models Add number and detail
1.836	853973		Filter Assy., oil (First Jobs)(4-5/16" dia.) (not used with Arcticized Equipment) All models Add note
1.836		1504314	Filter Assy., oil (After Jobs)(5" dia.) - 1 All models Add number and detail
1.837	853472		Element, oil filter replacement C All models Change description and add C note
1.837		1504347	Element, oil filter replacement D - 1 All models Add number and detail
			Page 32
1.838	1504400		Cover, oil filter C All models Add C note
1.838		1504232	Cover, oil filter D - 1 All models Add number and detail
1.839	853463		Gasket, oil filter cover C All models Add C note
1.839		1595257	Gasket, oil filter cover D - 1 All models Add number and detail
1.8391		1504316	Shell & Stud Assy., oil filter D - 1 All models Add number and detail

the W.O. to supply this from AUST. production
so to swell the quantities from U.S.A
and U.K. available for allocation by
the CMAB. and allocations are made
on operational merit in the usual way.

4. From the foregoing, it will appear
that the Dutch must state their
equipment deficiencies to the Service offices
who will obtain from the most
readily available production source —
NOT necessarily AUSTRALIA. But, if
Dutch troops were operating in S.W.P.A.,
it would obviously be economic
to equip and maintain these troops
from AUST. production — they would,
in effect, be based in AUST — and
I imagine that specific bids on AUST.
would be made by U.K. on their
behalf.

5. Para 4 is theoretical only — the
existing machinery does NOT
enable the Dutch to be supplied
by AUSTRALIA on such negotiations

SPECIAL MILITARY VEHICLES PARTS SERVICE INFORMATION

Date 8-6-43

Letter No. MM 27

Group No.	Part Number Old	Part Number New	Part Name & Models
			Page 23 (cont'd)
1.231	374194		Plate, radiator support cushion (3-1/4" long) (First Jobs only) All models Add note
1.231	495418		Plate, radiator support cushion (3-3/4" long) (First Jobs only) All models Add note
1.2341		3675789	Spring, radiator support mounting (after Jobs only) - 2 - All models Add number and detail
			Page 26
1.290	5805402		Tank Assy., Radiator overflow (First Jobs) (on top of fender)(Models - 15A, 30, 60S, 60L, GT) Add note
1.290		5805402	Tank Assy., radiator overflow (First Jobs) (on top of Fender) - 1 (Models 8 & 15) Add number and detail
1.290		5819685	Tank Assy., radiator overflow (After Jobs) (under Fender on Footwell Panel) - 1 All models Add number and detail
1.291		5819823	Hose, radiator overflow tank inlet (2-1/4" long) - 1 All models Add number and detail
1.292	120879		Grommet, radiator overflow hose hole (1-1/16 O.D. x 33/64 I.D.)(when stock depleted use 3654937) All models Add note
1.292		3654937	Grommet, radiator overflow hose hole (1-1/16 O.D. x 5/8 I.D.) - 1 All models Add number and detail
	117972		Grommet, radiator overflow hose hole (1" O.D. x 5/16" I.D.) Remove from records. All models
			Page 27
1.340	5269748		Tubing Unit, copper and steel (all sizes) (when stock depleted use 5266375) All models Add note
1.340		5266375	Tubing Unit, copper and steel (all sizes) - AR All models Add number and detail
1.342	1776152		Loom, steam relief tube 3/8 (cut to length required)(when stock depleted use 5266217) All models Add note
1.342		5266217	Loom, steam relief tube (cut to length required) - AR All models Add number and detail
	137399		Nut, inverted flared tube 3/8" (First Jobs only) All models Add note
	137407		Connector, flared 3/8" (First Jobs only) All models Add note

between them and the AUST. authorities.
However, were the hypothesis on which
our conversation was based to become
a practical possibility, I have no doubt
that the existing assignment machinery
would require to be revised — in
fact, major questions of policy would
then emerge for decision, and I am
in no position to make any realistic
forecast of what would happen.

6. The case you mention is a minor
example of a question I have had
at the back of my mind for some
time — the position which will arise
in the event of AUST, or S.W.P.A. becoming
a popular theatre! — somebody will
certainly have to do a spot of
clear thinking when we have to
miscellaneous collection of troops from
all the United Nations, allies, etc, etc,
all fighting the Japs! But I don't
propose to cross that bridge just yet!

Yours ever.

SPECIAL MILITARY VEHICLES PARTS SERVICE INFORMATION

Date 8-6-43

Letter No. MM 27

Group No.	Part Number Old	Part Number New	Part Name & Models
			Page 16
0.8222	493728		Pad, clutch pedal (discontinued when stock depleted) All models Add note
0.848	1777395		Bushing, pedal shaft bracket (First Jobs - with 1st type cab) 2 All models Change quantity
0.848	5806571		Bushing, pedal shaft bracket (After Jobs - with 2nd type cab) 2 All models Change quantity
			Page 22
1.219	1799082		Core Assy., radiator - complete (on jobs without Overflow Tank)(when stock depleted use 5266540) All models Add note
1.219		5266540	Core Unit, radiator (on jobs without Overflow Tank) 1 All models Add number and detail
1.219	5805401		Core Assy., radiator - complete (on jobs with Overflow Tank)(with 1st type cab)(when stock depleted use 5266539) All models Add note
1.219	5808010		Core Assy., radiator - complete (with 2nd type cab)(when stock depleted use 5266539) All models Add note
1.219		5266539	Core Unit, radiator (on jobs with Overflow Tank) 1 All models Add number and detail
1.220		5818960	Cock Assy., radiator drain (1/2")(with 2nd type cab) 1 All models Add number and detail
1.225	3113718		Outlet, radiator (First Jobs - with 1st type cab)(discontinued when stock depleted) All models Add note
1.225	5807600		Outlet, radiator (After Jobs - with 2nd type cab)(discontinued when stock depleted) All models Add note
1.2281		1794273	Spacer, radiator support 1 (Model 15A) Add number and detail
			Page 23
1.230	374193		Cushion, radiator support (1" x 4")(First Jobs only) All models Add note
1.230	496103		Cushion, radiator support (3-3/4" x 1-1/2") (when stock depleted use 367314) All models Add note
1.230		367314	Cushion, radiator support - upper (First Jobs) 1 All models Add number and detail
1.230		3675788	Cushion, radiator support - upper (After Jobs) (2-1/2" C to C) - 2 - All models Add number and detail