

Australian War Memorial

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NAME OR SUBJECT: Exchange of British & Turkish Prisoners of War

Registered 558852 Pat. France, Germany, U.S.A., Etc.

FROM TO

MAIN	SUB	TAB
4332	17	31

REGISTER AND MOVEMENTS OF PAPERS BELONGING TO THIS FILE.

1616 RULING.

DATE	PRECIS	SUBMITTED TO	DATE RETURNED	DATE	PRECIS	SUBMITTED TO	DATE RETURNED	DATE	PRECIS	SUBMITTED TO	DATE RETURNED	DATE	PRECIS	SUBMITTED TO	DATE RETURNED
7/2/17	A2829 (2088 H) Thgh Com	A.	19/2/17												
15/2/17	A to A.A.G	1st Anzac	19/2/17												
15/2/17	Copies of Correspondence sent to Tidworth & Defence														
13/4/17	AW, 610 (2088 H)	AR	17/4/17												
17/10	A68365 (2088 H.) & All File	A	17/10												
17/10	All File	4 Ar	17/10												
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19/10	" "	4 Ar.	30/10												
26/10	H. C's		30/10												
30/10	A 73795 *	4 Ar													
~~10/11~~	~~A 78634~~														
17/12	All File ex *	4 AR	20/12												
17/7	All File ex *	4 ar	6.8.18												
7/2	All File	RB.	11/5												

RONEO SYSTEMS Government Office Filing System. Folder No. 1616.

ABBREVIATIONS :—P.P. = Previous Papers.
A.F. = All File.
D.R. = Daily Reminder.

Box 106

JT/GMT.

03

17JUL1918

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.
27 OCT. 17 - 11-30 A.M
CENTRAL REGISTRY.
BRANCH.
~~4332/4/5~~

4Ar/4332/7/5.

26th October, 7

27OCT1917

The Official Secretary,
High Commissioner's Office,
Australia House,
Strand, W.C.2.

Receipt is acknowledged of your memo No.2088 H. undated enclosing copy of communication received through the Colonial Office from the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, respecting the proposal for the exchange of British Prisoners of War.

R.E.Spedding
2nd.Lieut,

Lieutenant,
for Officer i/c Records.

P.A.
INITIALS
26/10/17

Acknowledging

Remph

noted with

Remple Sept

26/10/17

TEL. NO. CITY 1743. EXT.....

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"CROTONATE, ESTRAND, LONDON."

Imp Prem Talks
FWP

B

23 OCT 1917

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
~~4332~~ 17/5
A.I.F.

4332/17/31

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

D/S.

Any further communication on this subject to be addressed to
THE OFFICIAL SECRETARY.

A68365

9/0
COMMANDANT,
DATE 18/10/17

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICES,
AUSTRALIA HOUSE,
STRAND,
LONDON, W.C. 2.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

2088 H.

British Prisoners of War
in Turkey.

The Commandant,
A. I. F. Headquarters,
130, Horseferry Road,
S.W. 1.

RECEIVED
OCT 16 1917
CENTRAL REGISTRY

ENCLOSURE

I forward herewith translation of a communication which has been received through the Colonial Office from the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, respecting the proposal for the exchange of British Prisoners of War.

a
Har 19/10.

PPC attached mm

Enclosures Received
mm

F Savage
Assistant Secretary

RECEIVED
A.A.G.
17 OCT A.M.

CA 7/17/10
~~402~~
~~4/10~~

Har 18/10

NOTE FROM TURKISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO NETHERLANDS LEGATION.

The Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs has received, together with the enclosure to the first named, the three verbal Notes which the Legation of H. M. the Queen of the Netherlands has addressed to the Ministry dated respectively the 21st June, the 13th and the 23rd of July, 1917, Nos. 295/83, 427/103 and 473/114, on the subject of the proposal of the British Government concerning the exchange of 100 or 600 invalid prisoners of war, Turkish and British.

In reply, the Imperial Ministry would mention, that on a communication from the Vice-Command General of the Imperial Army, it has already made known to the American Embassy by its memorandum of 9th April, 1917, No.95368, in reply to the communication made to the Ministry by that Mission concerning the proposal of the British Government to exchange on either side 100 prisoners of war of whom 10 are officers, that it cannot find among the British officers, prisoners of war in Turkey, any who are suffering from sickness or infirmities which would give them the right of repatriation or internment in a neutral country; but that the proposal would be carried out in the case of British soldiers prisoners of war, suffering from such sickness or infirmities, without regard to their number, in conformity with the understanding previously arrived at.

The adhesion of the British Government to that understanding was communicated to the Imperial Ministry by the Verbal Note of the United States Embassy dated the 3rd of November, 1916, with a copy of the relative Foreign Office Note dated 3rd October, 1916, No. 193718/1244/P.

The Imperial Government, not being disposed to repatriate officers or soldiers, prisoners of war, recognised

/after

after medical examination to be free of sickness or infirmities it cannot give its consent to the proposal in question.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs begs the Royal Legation to be good enough to bring the foregoing to the knowledge of the British Government, and to enquire whether said Government, respecting its engagement, is prepared to effect the repatriation of invalid prisoners of war.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
SUBLIME PORTE,
13th August, 1917.

AW 1610

TEL. NO. CITY 1743. EXT.....

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"CROTONATE, ESTRAND, LONDON."

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
12 APR. 17 - 4 - 30
CENTRAL REGISTRY.
4332/7/31

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Any further communication on this subject to be addressed to
THE OFFICIAL SECRETARY.

EW/C
IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

2088 H

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICES,
AUSTRALIA HOUSE,
STRAND,
LONDON, W.C. 2.

11th April, 1917

MEMORANDUM TO

The Commandant,
Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F.,
130, Horseferry Road, S.W.

I forward herewith, for your information, copy of a letter, and its enclosure, received from the Colonial Office, in regard to the exchange of British and Turkish combatant prisoners of war.

Encl 2

AR

RECEIVED 12 APR 1917 CENTRAL REGISTRY

Muirhead Collins

P.A.

Extracts taken for Lieut Taplin to HHR.

Captain Keale
Lt Taplin to note & P.A.

16 APR. 1917

16 APR. 1917

COPY.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
London, S.W.

9th April, 1917

Sir,

With reference to the letter from this Department of the 3rd February, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Long to transmit to you, for the information of the High Commissioner, a copy of a note which has been addressed to the United State Ambassador respecting a proposed exchange of British and Turkish combatant prisoners of war.

2. Copies of the note have also been sent to the Governor General of the Commonwealth.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) G.GRINDLE

The Official Secretary
of the Commonwealth of Australia.

C O P Y.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador and has the honour to state that His Majesty's Government are prepared to repatriate six hundred Turkish combatant prisoners of war in exchange for six hundred British combatant prisoners of war, the latter to be composed of two hundred white and four hundred Indian prisoners of war.

Should the Ottoman Government agree to this proposal, His Majesty's Government would be willing to send a hospital ship either to Beyrout or to Mersina in order to effect the exchange.

His Majesty's Government would be greatly obliged if Mr. Page would be so good as to communicate the above by telegraph to the United States Ambassador at Constantinople for transmission to the Ottoman Government.

Foreign Office,
29th March, 1917

TG/DC

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
~~4332/7/5~~
4385/2/32
LONDON

A. 4332/7/5.

17 FEB Rec'd
17 FEB 1917 ak

15th February. 7.

A.A.G., A.I.F.,
Attached 1st Anzac.

Also copies sent to Defence, Melbourne, and Headquarters, Tidworth, on 15.2.17.

Forwarded herewith please find copies of correspondence which has taken place between the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the United States Ambassador regarding arrangements for the exchange of British and Turkish incapacitated prisoners of war.

Lieut.-Col.
A.A.G. A.I.F.

PA DE

17FEB A

COPY

4332/7/5.

4162/1917.

DOWNING STREET.

3rd February, 1917.

Sir,

U.S. Ambassador
8th January, 1917.

To -do- 20 Jan.1917.

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Long to transmit to you, for the information of the High Commissioner, copies of correspondence with the United States Ambassador regarding the arrangements for the exchange of British and Turkish incapacitated prisoners of war.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) H. LAMBERT.

The Official Secretary,
Commonwealth of Australia.

- -

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

High Commissioner's Offices,
Australia House,
Strand, W.C.

MEMORANDUM TO:
The Commandant,
A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters.

I forward herewith, for your information, copies of correspondence, received through the Colonial Office, with the United States Ambassador regarding the arrangements for the exchange of British and Turkish incapacitated prisoners of war.

(Signed) R. Muirhead Collins.
Official Secretary
6/2/17.

4332/7/5.

C O P Y.

No. 1242.

(7472/1244/P).

The American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, with reference to Viscount Grey's Note No. 193718/1244/P of October 3rd last, relative to the repatriation of British and Turkish incapacitated prisoners of war, and to Mr. Page's Note No. 1564 of the 8th ultimo, quoting the text of a telegram received from the Embassy at Constantinople, transmitting the reply of the Sublime Porte, has the honour to transmit herewith copy of a communication, dated the 6th ultimo, from that Embassy, together with copy of the Ottoman Note Verbale dated the 2nd ultimo, on which the above-mentioned telegram was based.

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
LONDON.

January 8th, 1917.

COPY.
E.M.

With reference to the note No. 764 of October 4th last from the American Embassy in London enclosing a communication from the Foreign Office relative to the repatriation of incapacitated prisoners of war, the American Embassy in Constantinople has the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Note Verbale which has been received from the Sublime Porte in answer to the above communication.

The substance of this Note Verbale was transmitted by this Embassy's telegram No. 304 of the 3rd instant.

AMERICAN EMBASSY,
CONSTANTINOPLE.

December 6th, 1916.

Le Ministere Imperial saurait gre a l'Ambassade des Etats-Unis de vouloir bien informer de ce qui precede le Gouvenement Britannique.

A cette occasion, il prie l'Ambassade de la Republique de lui faire connaitre egalement la decision qui a ete prise par le Gouvernement Francais au sujet de la proposition contenue dans la Note Verbale ministerielle du 7 Octobre denier No. 88168/307, concernant le rapatriement ainsi que l'internement en Suisse des prisonniers de querre invalides, et celle du Gouvernement Brittanique relative a cette derniere question.

Copie.

SUBLIME PORTE

Ministere des Affaires Etrangeres.

le 2 Decembre 1916.

No. 61.90233.

No. 51. 387.

NOTE VERBALE.

Le Ministere Imperial des Affaires Etrangeres a eu l'honneur de recevoir la Note Verbale que l'Ambassade des Etats-Unis a bien voulu lui transmettre copie de la Note remise par le Foreign Office Brittanique a l'Ambassade d'Amerique a Londres, relativement au repatriment reciproque des prisonniers de guerre invalides ottomans et anglais.

En response, le Ministere Imperial s'empresse d'informer l'Ambassade des Etats-Unis, sur une communication du Vice-Commandement General de l'Armee Imperiale, que les prisonniers invalides ottomans se trouvant detenus par le Gouvernement Anglais et qui seront repatries conformement a l'entente intervenue, pourront etre transportes a Mersine a bord d'un bateau neutre, qui embarquera egalement les prisonniers de guerre invalides anglais se trouvant en Turquie et dont le nombre s'eleve a onze.

En vue, toutefois, de pouvoir proceder en temps voulu au transport jusqu'a Mersine de ces derniers, qui se trouvent actuellement internes dans differentes garnisons, et a leur embarquement immediat a bord d'un bateau neutre precite, il importe que les Autorites Imperiales soient avisees, au moins quinze jours d'avance, due nom et du pavillon de ce bateau et de la date de son arrivee a Mersine.

His Majesty's Government anticipate that, as the Porte have agreed in principle to the transfer to a neutral country of less seriously incapacitated prisoners of war, they will find no difficulty in assenting to the extension in the manner indicated in the preceding paragraph, of the existing agreement for the repatriation of incapacitated prisoners of war.

The extended agreement for repatriation would, of course, supersede the proposal for the transfer to a neutral country of the less seriously incapacitated prisoners of war.

His Majesty's Government would be much obliged if Mr. Page would enquire by telegram as to whether the Turkish Government accept the above proposal and also whether, in view of the difficulties attending the employment of a neutral vessel, they will allow a British Hospital Ship to enter Mersina in order to carry out the exchange.

FOREIGN OFFICE.

January 20th, 1917.

COPY.

No. 9700/1244/P.

Immediate.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of His Excellency's note of the 8th instant No. 1242 respecting the exchange of British and Turkish incapacitated prisoners of war.

With that note Mr. Page was good enough to enclose a copy of a note verbale from the Turkish Government dated the 2nd December, 1916, in which the Sublime Porte announced their agreement with the proposal that the exchange should be effected at Mersina.

The Note Verbale authorised the employment of a neutral vessel for the purpose and stated that the number of British prisoners of war in Turkey eligible for exchange as incapacitated was only eleven.

The Porte will realise that it is out of the question to charter a neutral vessel or to divert a British Hospital ship in order to transport so small a number of British incapacitated. His Majesty's Government would suggest therefore that the agreement for the release of incapacitated prisoners of war which they have recently concluded with the Turkish Government should be somewhat extended and they propose that the Turkish Authorities should select one hundred British prisoners of war whom they regard as most entitled to repatriation on account of their infirmities; that the British Authorities should similarly select one hundred Turkish prisoners of war; and that the selected British prisoners of war should be exchanged at Mersina for the selected Turkish prisoners of war. They would further propose that ten out of each hundred selected should be officers.

A 2829

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

38 H.

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICES.
AUSTRALIA HOUSE,
STRAND, W.C.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE,
7 - FEB 17 - 4 - 15 P.M
CENTRAL REGISTRY.
"A" BRANCH.
~~4332/7/5~~

Memorandum to—

The Commandant,
A.I.F. Adm.Hqrs.,

4338/17/31

I forward herewith, for your information, copies of correspondence, received through the Colonial Office, with the United States Ambassador regarding the arrangements for the exchange of British and Turkish incapacitated prisoners of war.

ENCLOSURE

T Muirhead Collins

Official Secretary.
6/2/17.

A Pennsell
10/2/17

17FEB A 1

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
A. I. F. LONDON

4162/1917.

Downing Street,
3 February, 1917.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Long to transmit to you, for the information of the High Commissioner, copies of correspondence with the United States Ambassador regarding the arrangements for the exchange of British and Turkish incapacitated prisoners of war.

U.S. Ambassador
8th January, 1917

To -do- 20 Jan. 1917

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. LAMBERT

THE OFFICIAL SECRETARY,
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
4332 17 /31
A. I. F. LONDON

COPY

No.1242

(7472/1244/P).

The American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, with reference to Viscount Grey's Note No.193718/1244/P, of October 3rd last, relative to the repatriation of British and Turkish incapacitated prisoners of war, and to Mr.Page's Note No.1564 of the 6th ultimo, quoting the text of a telegram received from the Embassy at Constantinople, transmitting the reply of the Sublime Porte, has the honour to transmit herewith copy of a communication, dated the 6th ultimo, from that Embassy, together with copy of the Ottoman Note Verbale dated the 2nd ultimo, on which the above-mentioned telegram was based.

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
LONDON,
January 8th, 1917.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
433217/531
I.F. LONDON

COPY
E.M.

With reference to the note No.764 of October 4th last from the American Embassy in London enclosing a communication from the Foreign Office relative to the repatriation of incapacitated prisoners of war, the American Embassy in Constantinople has the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Note Verbale which has been received from the Sublime Porte in answer to the above communication.

The substance of this Note Verbale was transmitted by this Embassy's telegram No.304 of the 3rd instant.

AMERICAN EMBASSY

CONSTANTINOPLE,

December 6th, 1916.

A.I.F. LONDON
4332/17/5 31
CENTRAL REGISTRY
ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

dans differentes garnisons, et à leur embarquement immédiat à bord d'un bateau neutre précité, il importe que les Autorités Impériales soient avisees, au moins quinze jours d'avance, du nom et du pavillon de ce bateau et de la date de son arrivée à Kerseine.

Le Ministère Impérial saurait gré à l'Ambassade des Etats-Unis de vouloir bien informer de ce qui précède le Gouvernement Britannique.

A cette occasion, il prie l'Ambassade de la République de lui faire connaitre également la décision qui a été prise par le Gouvernement Français au sujet de la proposition contenue dans la Note Verbale ministérielle du 7 Octobre dernier No.88168/307, concernant le rapatriement ainsi que l'internement en Suisse des prisonniers de guerre invalides, et celle du Gouvernement Britannique relative à cette dernière question.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
4332/17/531
A.I.F. LONDON

Copie

SUBLIME PORTE

Ministère des Affaires Etrangères le 2 Décembre 1916

No.Gl.90233

No.Sl 387.

Note Verbale

Le Ministère Impérial des Affaires Etrangères a eu l'honneur de recevoir la Note Verbale que l'Ambassade des Etats-Unis a bien voulu lui adresser en date du 3 Novembre No.1922, pour lui transmettre copie de la Note remise par le Foreign Office Britannique à l'Ambassade d'Amérique à Londres, relativement au repatriement réciproque des prisonniers de guerre invalides ottomans et anglais

En réponse, le Ministère Impérial s'empresse d'informer l'Ambassade des Etats-Unis, sur une communication du Vice-Commandement Général de l'Armée Impériale, que les prisonniers invalides ottomans se trouvant détenus par le Gouvernement Anglais et qui seront repatriés conformément à l'entente intervenue, pourront être transportés à Mersine à bord d'un bateau neutre, qui embarquera également les prisonniers de guerre invalides anglais se trouvant en Turquie et dont le nombre s'élève à onze.

En vue, toutefois, de pouvoir procéder en temps voulu au transport jusqu'à Mersine de ces derniers, qui se trouvent actuellement internés

dans

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
4332/17 = 31
A.I.F. LONDON

further propose that ten out of each hundred selected should be officers.

His Majesty's Government anticipate that, as the Porte have agreed in principle to the transfer to a neutral country of less seriously incapacitated prisoners of war, they will find no difficulty in assenting to the extension in the manner indicated in the preceding paragraph, of the existing agreement for the repatriation of incapacitated prisoners of war.

The extended agreement for repatriation would, of course, supersede the proposal for the transfer to a neutral country of the less seriously incapacitated prisoners of war.

His Majesty's Government would be much obliged if Mr. Page would enquire by telegram as to whether the Turkish Government accept the above proposal and also whether, in view of the difficulties attending the employment of aneutral vessel, they will allow a British Hospital Ship to enter Mersina in order to carry out the exchange.

FOREIGN OFFICE

January 20th, 1917.

17FEB A

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
433217/531
A.I.F. LONDON

COPY

No.9700/1244/P.

Immediate

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of his Excellency's note of the 8th instant No.1242 respecting the exchange of British and Turkish incapacitated prisoners of war.

With that note Mr.Page was good enough to enclose a copy of a note verbale from the Turkish Government dated the 2nd December 1916, in which the Sublime Porte announced their agreement with the proposal that the exchange should be effected at Mersina.

The Note Verbale authorised the employment of a neutral vessel for the purpose and stated that the number of British prisoners of war in Turkey eligible for exchange as incapacitated was only eleven.

The Porte will realise that it is out of the question to charter a neutral vessel or to divert a British hospital ship in order to transport so small a number of British incapacitated. His Majesty's Government would suggest therefore that the agreement for the release of incapacitated prisoners of war which they have recently concluded with the Turkish Government should be somewhat extended and they propose that the Turkish authorities should select one hundred British prisoners of war whom they regard as most entitled to repatriation on account of their infirmities; that the British authorities should similarly select one hundred Turkish prisoners of war; and that the selected British prisoners of war should be exchanged at Mersina for the selected Turkish prisoners of war. They would further

NAME OR SUBJECT Exchange of British & Turkish Prisoners of War

Registered 558852 Pat. France, Germany, U.S.A., Etc.

FROM	TO	MAIN	SUB	TAB
		4332	17	31

Feb 6th Australia Hse A. A.2829. Fwd herewith copies of corress receiv ed through Colonial O. U.S.Ambass re arrangements for exchange of British and Turkish incapacitated prisoners of War. (2088/H)

April 11. H.C. AR AW.1610 Fwded attd copy of letter and enclos. recd from Colonial Office re exchange of Brit.& Turk.combatant prisoners of War (2088 H)

4332/7/5

Date

A73795 30/10/17 (WF)
High Commissioners
Offices Strand 29/10/17

Query if telegram,here given, fm Rumbold for yr information.

hich
Off.
al
War.

File No. 4332/7/5

Date 30/10

NAME OR SUBJECT Exchange of British & Turkish Prisoners of War

Registered 558852 Pat. France, Germany, U.S.A., Etc.

FROM	TO	MAIN	SUB	TAB
		4332	14	31

Feb 6th Australia Hse A. A.2829. Fwd herewith copies of corress receiv ed through Colonial O. U.S.Ambass re arrangements for exchange of British and Turkish incapacitated prisoners of War. (2088/H).

April 11. H.C. AR AW.1610 Fwded attd copy of letter and enclos. recd from Colonial Office re exchange of Brit.& Turk.combatant prisoners of War (2088 H)

4332/7/5

A.68365. 16/10/17.(D/E).
Australia Hse.

Fwded attd trans.of a commun.which has been recd through Colonial Off. from Turkish Ministry re proposal for exchange of Brit.Pris's of War.

File No. 4332/4/5

Date 14/10