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Series number: AWM 10
Control symbol: 4337/4/65
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Training of A.I.F. Members in Australia.

65

50M 1018 13119

REGISTER AND POSITION OF PAPERS BELONGING TO THIS FILE. 950 4337-4-65

Date	PARTICULARS	Submitted to	Date Returned	Date	PARTICULARS	Submitted to	Date Returned	Date	PARTICULARS	Submitted to	Date Returned	Date	PARTICULARS	Submitted to	Date Returned
17.10.19	File Transf. from 8023-3-1		17.10.19												

A.I.F. CORRESPONDENCE REGISTRATION FOLDER.

SECRET

4337-4-65

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
~~8023/3/1~~
A.I.F. LONDON

Training of A.I.F. Members in Australia.

SECRET
Signature.....
Date .....

TG/DC.

Ca. 8023/3/1.

23 APR REC'D
23 APR Rec'd on
23 APR Rec'd

23rd April, 7.

Dear General,

I enclose, for your information, copy of -

(a) Memo from Commandant, A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, dated 15th November, addressed to Defence, Melbourne, forwarding copy of memo received from you relative to the training of A.I.F. reinforcements in Australia.

(b) Reply from Defence, Melbourne, dated 27th February.

Yours sincerely,

Major.-Genl. J. Monash, C.B.,
Commanding,
3rd Australian Division,
B.E.F.

P.A. INITIALS

AW.1357 A 20/3/17
Defence 27/2/17
Ref your AB/1392/11/19 of 15/11/16 r fwdg copy of report by Gen Monash re statement which appeared in Aus.papers re ~~tm~~ of A.I.F. in Aus.Minister considers Gen Monash's report to be quite satisfactory (14767)

File No. 8023/3/1

Date.....

Page Nos. .....

Received.....

Time .....m.

C.1

TELEPHONE:
CE[illegible]RA[illegible]80.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO "THE SECRETARY."

AIF.369/1/253.

14767

No.....

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE,

MELBOURNE, 20 APR 17 4 ... P.M

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.
FEB 27 1917
CENTRAL REGISTRY.
"A" BRANCH.
8023 / 3 / 1

AW 1857

MEMORANDUM FOR -

The Commandant,
Australian Imperial Force,
Administrative Headquarters,
130 Horseferry Road,
L o n d o n .

I desire to acknowledge the receipt of your Memorandum No. Ab.1392/11/19, of the 15th.November, forwarding copy of report by General Monash respecting a statement which appeared in the Australian papers in regard to the training of the Australian Imperial Force in Australia, and to inform you that the Minister considers General Monash's report to be quite satisfactory.

RECEIVED 20 A ... 1917 CENTRAL REGISTRY

J. Trumble
A/SECRETARY.

8 MAR Rec'd
" " Desp.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
8023/3/1
A.I.F. LONDON

TG/J.

A 8023/3/1

8 MAR Rec'd

March 7th. 7

A.A.G.
1st Anzac. France.

I enclose for your information copy of a confidential memorandum addressed to Defence, Melbourne, on November the 20th last and copy of reply which has now been received from them.

Lt-Col.
A.A.G. A.I.F.

P.A. INITIALS

6 MAR RECD
2:30 pm
ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
8023/3/1
A.I.F. LONDON

Cl.

DEFENCE.

W.

5211

MELBOURNE. JAN 23 1917

CONFIDENTIAL.

MEMORANDUM FOR :-

The Commandant,
Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F.
LONDON.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your memorandum No.C/81/1/7, of the 20th.November, relative to the training of members of the A.I.F., in Australia, and to inform you that the matter has been very carefully considered, but in view of the arrangements made at the suggestion of the War Office respecting restricted periods of training in Australia, the Minister does not propose to proceed further with the matter at the present juncture.

J. Trumble
Acting Secretary.

A



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Headquarters, 1st Anzac Corps,
10th December 1916.

A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters,
LONDON.

I forward herewith for your information copy of a memo. which has been addressed to the five Australian Divisions relative to the sending to France of 8000 reinforcements who have not yet completed their training.

J. L. Whitham

Lieut.-Colonel.
A.A.G., A.I.F.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
5023/2/1
CENTRAL REGISTRY
681/1/9
A. I. F. LONDON

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Headquarters,
1st Anzac Corps,
10th December 1916.

1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Aust. Divs,
3rd Aust. Div. (through 2nd anzac)

The War Office has been asked to send to France 8000 Australians in various stages of training.

These men have all fired musketry in Australia, and 1700 have fired also in England. All have completed 3 months training in England and Australia combined, and are regarded as having reached the standard of recruits in the 5th to 9th weeks (of) training in England.

On arrival in France these partially trained men will be allotted to Battalions, in excess of establishment, but not more than 150 will be sent to any one Battalion. It is desired that they may receive as much training as possible within the Battalion and every effort made to complete their training and make them effecient. As they become trained and efficient they will be absorbed into the establishment of the Battalion, but while they remain untrained they are to be considered as surplus and the actual deficienoies in the War Establishment will be filled by reinforcements in the ordinary way.

As long as the personnel is available it is proposed that the number of untrained men per Battalion be maintained up to 150 as much as possible during the winter months.

You will be further advised of the probable date of arrival of these drafts so that the necessary arrangements for their reception and training can be made.

J. L. Whitham
Lieut-Colonel,
for A.A.G. A.I.F.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

A.A.G., A.I.F.
31/142

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
C81/1/17
A.I.F. LONDON

Headquarters,
1st Anzac Corps,
27th November 1916

A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters.

I desire to acknowledge your Secret letter C. 81.1.17 dated 21st instant, enclosing copies of certain telegrams.

Lieut. Colonel.
A.A.G. A.I.F.

INWARD KH 4 Copies. C81. 1. 7

The Administrative Headquarters Australian Imperial Force.

COPY OF TELEGRAM

As shown on Cable { Date and time lodged for transmission
Date and time received in London

No.268 AG2 Date and time received at Administrative Headquarters A.I.F.
2-12-16 10 a.m.

From Director of Recruiting, War Office. London.

To Administrative Headquarters A.I.F. London.

268 AG2 1st AAA Reference my 1735 AG2 20th Nov. AAA
Prepare for France eight thousand partially trained
other ranks with 3 or more months training in England
and Australia combined AAA Telegraph date 1st party
ready to move number of Conducting Officers and
Entraining Stations also units to which posted on
arrival overseas AAA Similar report required for other
parties as soon as possible AAA Number in each ~~xxxx~~ party
that fired musketry in England and Australia respectively
is also required AAA Addressed Salaustra Tidworth repeated
Adminaust London and Commandeth Salisbury AAA Acknowledge.

Refilling.

Working copy to..... AIB

Copies for information to.....

PA.

C81--1-7

INWARD KH 4 Copies.

The Administrative Headquarters Australian Imperial Force.

COPY OF TELEGRAM

As shown on Cable { Date and time lodged for transmission
Date and time received in London

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2-12-16 10 a.m.

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268 AG2 1st AAA Reference my 1735 AG2 20th Nov. AAA Prepare for France eight thousand partially trained other ranks with 3 or more months training in England and Australia combined AAA Telegraph date 1st party ready to move number of Conducting Officers and Entraining Stations also units to which posted on arrival overseas AAA Similar report required for other parties as soon as possible AAA Number in each ~~xxxx~~ party that fired musketry in England and Australia respectively is also required AAA Addressed Salaustra Tidworth repeated Adminaust London and Commandeth Salisbury AAA Acknowledge.

Refilling.

Working copy to.....

Copies for information to.....

INWARD KH 4 Copies.

The Administrative Headquarters Australian Imperial Force.

COPY OF TELEGRAM

As shown on Cable { Date and time lodged for transmission
Date and time received in London

No 268 AG2 Date and time received at Administrative Headquarters A.I.F.

~~8-12-16~~ ~~10 a.m.~~

From Director of Recruiting, War Office. London.

To Administrative Headquarters A.I.F. London.

268 AG2 1st AAA Reference my 1735 AG2 20th Nov. AAA Prepare for France eight thousand partially trained other ranks with 3 or more months training in England and Australia combined AAA Telegraph date 1st party ready to move number of Conducting Officers and Entraining Stations also units to which posted on arrival overseas AAA Similar report required for other parties as soon as possible AAA Number in each ~~xxxx~~ party that fired musketry in England and Australia respectively is also required AAA Addressed Salaustra Tidworth repeated Adminaust London and Commandeth Salisbury AAA Acknowledge.

Refilling.

Working copy to.....

Copies for information to.....

INWARD KH 4 Copies.

The Administrative Headquarters Australian Imperial Force.

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Refilling.

Working copy to.....

Copies for information to.....

INWARD

64501

4 Copies.

The Administrative He[adquarters] Australian Imperial Force.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS CENTRAL REGISTRY 69/1/17 A.I.F. LONDON

CENTRAL REGISTRY 1377 10 1 A.I.F. LONDON

CONFIDENTIAL

COPY OF TELEGRAM

As shown on Cable { Date and time lodged for transmission / Date and time received in London

No. A 930 Date and time received at Administrative Headquarters A.I.F.

~~22-11-16~~ ~~1 p.m.~~

From Headquarters A.I F.Depots in U.K. Tidworth.

To Administrative Headquarters A.I.F. London.

A 930 22nd AAA Reference 1735 AG2 20th AAA 8000 men have completed 3 months Training in Australia and England combined 2000 deemed in5th week of Training Stated to have fired musketry in Australia 4000 deemed in 6th 8th week of Training stated to have fired musketry in Australia 700 fired also in England AAA 2000 deemed in 8th week of Training and over stated to have fired musketry Australia 1000 also fired in England AAA Result of tests made of men who are stated to have fired in Australia shows Training unsatisfactory AAA Addressed Refilling London repeated Adminaust London and Commandeth Salisbury.

Salaustra.

PA

Working copy to..... FB

Copies for information to.....

RW 23/11/16

63312

INWARD 4 Copies.

The Administrative H[illegible]rs Australian Imperial Force.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
681/1/7
A.I.F. LONDON
1277 70/1

COPY OF TELEGRAM

As shown on Cable { Date and time lodged for transmission
Date and time received in London

No 1735 AG2 Date and time received at Administrative Headquarters A.I.F.
20-11-16 3.30 p.m.

From Director of Recruiting. War Office. London.

To Administrative Headquarters A.I.F. London.

1735 AG2 20th AAA Proposed to send to complete training in France as many partially trained men as possible AAA Please report urgent largest approximate number that can be made available who have had three months training or more in Australia and England combined AAA Give approximate numbers of these according to various periods of training undergone in Australia and England stating whether they have fired a muskery course in either country and bring largest possible numbers into account in this statement AAA Please reply priority AAA Addressed Salaustra Tidworth repeated Adminaust London and Commandeth Salisbury.

Refilling.

Working copy to..... AB PA

Copies for information to.....

Col. W/DC.

AAX C. 81.1.7.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
681/1/17
A. I. F. LONDON

21st November, 6.

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

With reference to previous correspondence of 17th instant (Ab. 1392/11/20), the attached additional copies of telegrams which have passed between the Governor-General of the Commonwealth and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and between the War Office and the Minister of Defence, Melbourne, are forwarded, for the information of the Lieutenant-General Commanding.

PA

Lt.-Col.
A.A.G.

COPY. SECRET.

C.81.1.7.

The Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.
(Received Colonial Office 2.14 p.m., 11th November, 1916).

The following message is from the Prime Minister :-
It is necessary to amend my cable August 31st. It is not now possible to provide the 20,000 nor the large reinforcements promised. I suggest that for the present Thurd Division be retained in England. I make this suggestion, however, subject to its not interfering with operation plans in progress. If this is done, it will probably be likely to provide by voluntary enlistment reinforcement on present scale of fifteen per cent for infantry for the other four divisions. This month those for five divisions proceed normally.

MUNRO-FERGUSON.

PARAPHRASE TELEGRAM:

The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.
(Received Colonial Office 2.12 p.m., 15th November, 1916).

Your telegram 9th November respecting tonnage for reinforcements. Steamers mentioned not now required in view of information in my telegram of 11th November.

Paraphrase.

Telegram. The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia.
(Sent 6 p.m. 16th November, 1916).

War Office send following message. Begins.
Referring to your telegram 11th November. As already arranged 3rd Division must proceed France on 21st November. It would seriously interfere with plans in progress to cancel this decision. Army Council therefore urge that even if it be not feasible to provide whole or part of 20,000 special draft no effort be spared to maintain adequate reinforcements for 5 Divisions. End of message.

BONAR LAW.

121/Overseas/3056.

From War Office to Minister of Defence, Melbourne.
(No. 25056, cipher S.D.2.) 15th November, 1916. 1 p.m.

Continuation my No. 24967, 13th November. If possible infantry reinforcements should carry out in Australia first six weeks' training laid down in syllabus which was issued with Army Council Instruction No. 1103 or Army Council Instruction No. 1968 when received. Latter has been sent to you. If for any reason despatch of reinforcements who have completed six weeks' training is delayed, instruction should be continued as indicated in syllabus. Number of weeks training completed should be shown in nominal rolls of reinforcements against each man's name. Can you arrange for above.

W 6179—2858 20,000 7/15 H W V (P 298/3)

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
C81/1/17
A. I. F. LONDON

Form No. 3.

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—

The Secretary,
War Office,
London, S.W.,

and the following number quoted.

WAR OFFICE,

LONDON, S.W.,

17th November, 1916.

121/Overseas/3056. (S.D.2.)

The Secretary of the War Office presents his compliments to Administrative Headquarters, Australian Imperial Force,
and is commanded by the Army Council to transmit for ~~the~~ information ~~xx~~ each of a copy of/the documents noted in the subjoined schedule on the subject of the training of Australian infantry reinforcements.

	Date	From	Description
(1)	10-11-16.	Minister of Defence, Australia, to War Office.	Telegram suggesting that reinforcements be given only a few weeks' elementary training prior to their embarkation for England.
(2)	13-11-16.	War Office to Minister of Defence, Australia.	Telegram conveying concurrence of Army Council in proposal contained in above-mentioned telegram "(1)".
(3)	15-11-16.	War Office to Minister of Defence, Australia.	Telegram stating what the elementary training for reinforcements should be.

COPIES OF TELEGRAMS.

121/Overseas/1202.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
C81/1/7
A. I. F. LONDON

(1)

From: Minister of Defence, Australia,

To: War Office.

10-11-16.

C.188.

Do you concur in the following?

It is proposed in future to give only a few weeks elementary training to Australian reinforcements before embarkation, as it is understood that advanced training can be given more efficiently in England.

****

(2)

From: War Office,

To: Minister of Defence, Australia.

13-11-16.

No. 24967 S.D.2. Your C.188 November 11th.

We concur.

- o - o - o - o - o -

SECRET.



(3)

121/*Overseas*/3056.

From War Office to Minister of Defence, Melbourne.

(No. 25056, cipher. S.D. 2.) 15th November, 1916, 1 p.m.

Continuation my No. 24967, 13th November. If possible infantry reinforcements should carry out in Australia first six weeks training laid down in syllabus which was issued with Army Council Instruction No. 1103 or Army Council Instruction No. 1968 when received. Latter has been sent to you. If for any reasou despatch of reinforcements who have completed six weeks training is delayed, instruction should be continued as indicated in syllabus Number of weeks training completed should be shown in nominal rolls of reinforcements against each man's name. Can you arrange for above.

Copy to Army Council. D.M.O., D.S.D., S.D. 2, S.D. 3, D.O., A.G. 1, A.G. 2, M.O. 2, Major Morrice.

(B348) 50 11/16 H&S 1097wo

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
G81/1/9
A.I.F. LONDON

COPIES OF TELEGRAMS.

121/Overseas/1202.

(1)

From: Minister of Defence, Australia,

To: War Office.

10-11-16.

C.188.

Do you concur in the following?

It is proposed in future to give only a few weeks elementary training to Australian reinforcements before embarkation, as it is understood that advanced training can be given more efficiently in England.

****

(2)

From: War Office,

To: Minister of Defence, Australia.

13-11-16.

No. 24967 S.D.2. Your C.188 November 11th

We concur.

- o - o - o - o - o -

SECRET.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
681/1/7
A. I. F. LONDON

(3)

121/*Overseas*/3056.

From War Office to Minister of Defence, Melbourne.

(No. 25056, cipher. S.D. 2.) 15th November, 1916, 1 p.m.

Continuation my No. 24967, 13th November. If possible infantry reinforcements should carry out in Australia first six weeks training laid down in syllabus which was issued with Army Council Instruction No. 1103 or Army Council Instruction No. 1968 when received. Latter has been sent to you. If for any reasou despatch of reinforcements who have completed six weeks training is delayed, instruction should be continued as indicated in syllabus Number of weeks training completed should be shown in nominal rolls of reinforcements against each man's name. Can you arrange for above.

Copy to Army Council. D.M.O., D.S.D., S.D. 2, S.D. 3, D.O., A.G. 1, A.G. 2, M.O. 2, Major Morrice.

(B348) 50 11/16 H&S 1097wo

Col. W/DC.

~~81-1-7~~

81-1-7.

C. ~~1392/11/19~~.

COPY OF LETTER TO BE MADE.

CONFIDENTIAL.

20th November, 6

The Secretary,
Department of Defence,
MELBOURNE.

With reference to the attached copies of cables which were passed to these Headquarters for information by the courtesy of the War Office, I desire to bring the following facts to notice, and also to place certain proposals before you.

I have been informed by the War Office that their reply concurring with the suggestion made by you was sent with a certain amount of diffidence, as it was not known whether any other reason may have been underlying the proposal. But in view of the congested state of the Training Camps in England, and the difficulty in carrying out training during several months of each year on account of the weather conditions, the War Office agree that if training could be conducted in Australia, it would be better for all concerned.

It is therefore suggested that if further consideration may be given to this matter, it may not be too late yet to cancel the decision arrived at. The proposal referred to in my 1392/11/19 and my cable No. HQL.2201 of 11thinstant, to send competent instructors to Australia, trained in all the latest methods and who have actual and recent war experience, would, if adopted, do away with the possibility of any training given in Australia having to be unlearned in England.

May I again respectfully urge that all such matters may be cabled direct to this office, or, if still thought to be

681-1-7

necessary, to send to the War Office, that cables may be repeated here. With the intimate knowledge of requirements for the A.I.F. overseas, and with the added advantage of being able to consult the G.O.C., A.I.F., it is considered that the advice which could be given to the authorities at the War Office would be appreciated by them, and be of distinct advantage to Australia.

Colonel.
Commandant.
Administrative Headquarters,
A.I.F. London.

Col. W/DC.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
681 1 9
1392/11/20
A.I.F. LONDON

Ab. 1392/11/20

17th November, 6

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

The following copies of telegrams which have passed between the Minister of Defence and the War Office have been forwarded by the courtesy of the War Office, and are passed for the information of the Lieutenant General Commanding :-

From Defence - Begins -

"C.188. Do you concur in the following : - It is proposed in future to give only a few weeks' elementary training to Australian reinforcements before embarkation as it is understood that advanced training can be given more efficiently in England."

Ends.

From War Office - Begins -

"24967 cipher S.D.2. Your C.188 November 11th. We concur."

Ends.

Lt.-Col.
A.A.G

P.A.
RwB

W 6179—2858 20,000 7/15 H W V (P 298/3)

Form No. 3.

ADMINISTRATIVE HQ. CENTRAL REGISTRY A.I.F. LONDON

1392 11 20

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—

The Secretary,
War Office,
London, S.W.,

and the following number quoted.

WAR OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.,

13th November, 1916.

121/Overseas/1202. (S.D.2.)

E6069

The Secretary of the War Office presents his compliments

to the O.C. Administrative Headquarters, Australian Imperial Force,

and is commanded by the Army Council to transmit for ~~xxx~~ information ~~of~~ a copy of each of the documents noted in the subjoined schedule on the subject of training of reinforcements from Australia.

Date	From	Description
10-11-16.	Minister of Defence, Australia, to War Office.	Telegram conveying proposal that Australian reinforcements should be given only a few weeks' elementary training in Australia prior to their despatch to England.
13-11-16.	War Office to Minister of Defence, Australia.	Telegram notifying that Army Council concur in the proposal.

RECEIVED NOV 14 1916 MILITARY RECORDS

A.B

2 enclosures

17/11/16

COPY OF TELEGRAM.

~~G81-1-9~~

From Minister of Defence, Australia,

To War Office.

10-11-16.

C.188.

Do you concur in the following?:-

It is proposed in future to give only a few weeks' elementary training to Australian reinforcements before embarkation as it is understood that advanced training can be given more efficiently in England.

C81-1-7

COPY OF TELEGRAM.

From War Office,

To Minister of Defence, Melbourne.

13-11-16, 2.45 p.m.

24967 cipher S.D.2. Your C.188 November 11th. We concur.

CREJ/DC.

CONFIDENTIAL

Ab. 1392/11/19.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
A.I.F. LONDON
1392 11 19
681 1 7

15th November, 6

The Secretary,
Department of Defence,
Australia.

I confirm my telegram No. HQL.2201 of 11th instant, which reads as follows :- Begins -

"Your WY.131 AAA General MONASH'S statement misconstrued AAA No reference made defective Australian training on contrary general training considered good AAA New system bayonet fighting introduced Aldershot this year necessitated retraining personnel AAA Newer pattern bombs machine gun etc. also required special instruction AAA Strongly suggest qualified instructors new system bayonet fighting be sent Australia AAA Letter follows.

Ends.

I attach a copy of a letter received from General Monash with regard to this matter.

P A

Colonel.
Commandant.
Administrative Headquarters,
A.I.F. London.

CREJ/DC.

1392/11/19
x refers Lt Miller

Ab.

28714

C81 - 1-4-7
1392 11 19

13th November, 6

Major-General J. Monash, C.B., V.D.,
Headquarters,
3rd Australian Division,
LARKHILL.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, and note that you will take action with regard to Lieutenant Miller appropriate to the circumstances.

I attach, for your information, a copy of a cable forwarded to Defence on the 11th instant, with reference to the statement alleged to be made by you regarding the training of Australian soldiers in Australia.

I am also forwarding a copy of your letter of 10th instant to Defence.

PA 1392 13/11

~~881. 1-7~~

CONFIDENTIAL

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION,
DURRINGTON CAMP,
SALISBURY PLAIN, 12/11/16.

Colonel Anderson,
Administrative Headquarters,
A.I.F., Horseferry Road,
L O N D O N.

To hand your letter of 10th instant, as a foot-note to copy of your letter of 10th instant to Chief Commonwealth Electoral Officer, MELBOURNE, discussing certain questions relating to Lieutenant MILLER of the 3rd Divisional Signal Company.

I thank you for the information conveyed and shall take action appropriate to the circumstances.

Yours faithfully,

John Monash.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION,
DURRINGTON CAMP,
SALISBURY PLAIN, 10/11/16.

681-1-7

Colonel Anderson,
Administrative Headquarters
A.I.F., Horseferry Road,
L O N D O N.

COPY OF LETTER TO BE MADE.

My dear Colonel,

I have just received your memo of the 9/11/16 No. 1392/11/19 reciting copy of telegram from "Defence," MELBOURNE in the following terms. -

"WY 131 Cablegram in local papers states General "MONASH says soldiers his Division had to unlearn much or "Australian training defective."

and inviting me to comment thereon.

On the first impulse I was disposed to reply that I repudiated entirely being the author of any such statements because of their sweeping nature, but upon very careful reflection I remember the following:-

Some time ago I received a visit from Mr. BREWER of "The Times" office, who was accredited to me by Sir NEWTON MOORE, and who asked for permission to visit the training of the Third Division so that he might cable to AUSTRALIA an article describing its training. - I gave my consent subject to his undertaking that everything he wrote should be submitted to the censor-ship. In the course of a very short and preliminary conversation prior to his visit to the Units of the Division he made the remark that he understood the men had come from AUSTRALIA in an advanced state of training and that he supposed little remained to be done in the way of teaching them after their arrival here. In reply I told him that this was not so, that there were many

C81-1-17

things such as the use of the Mills grenade, rifle grenades, smoke bombs, Vickers machine guns, Lewis machine guns and many other branches of their work which they had had no opportunity at all for learning in AUSTRALIA for the simple reason that the necessary appliances to enable these things to be taught were not available in AUSTRALIA. I also observed that in regard to bayonet fighting an entirely new system of bayonet fighting had recently been introduced by the ALDERSHOT authorities, i.e. since about April or May of this year, and that we had found it necessary to retrain the personnel in this new method of bayonet fighting.

The above is almost the exact purport of the conversation, and so far as I am concerned it was intended merely as explanatory of what he was going to see in his tour of the Divisional Units, and not as a dictum from me which he was to use in his publication. I certainly did not convey, nor intend to convey, that the men had to "unlearn much" the only reference in the conversation to unlearning anything being to the bayonet fighting instruction, and I certainly did not say that the Australian training was defective, because I do not think it is. - On the contrary, all that they were able to teach in AUSTRALIA to the men of this Division they taught extremely well. One thing which they did do in AUSTRALIA for which I, as the Commander of a Division, can never be sufficiently grateful, is that they taught the men to acquire the soldierly spirit and bearing which is, in itself, more than half the battle.

Above is all I can say in explanation of the question

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raised, but I should like to add that on the question of the Bayonet Training, the suggestion has more than once been made that qualified instructors in the new methods of Bayonet Fighting should be sent to AUSTRALIA to institute new methods. - Upon this question allow me to quote two passages from the report of Major-General Sir FRANCIS HOWARD, Inspector of Infantry, of August 27th, 1916 when he came to inspect this Division shortly after its arrival.

> "19. In one essential portion of draft training, "namely Bayonet Fighting, all the personnel are only "in the elementary stage owing to the different systems "obtaining in AUSTRALIA and with us."
>
> "22. I think it is worth considering whether "training in AUSTRALIA would not be expedited and be of "more value if some Instructors were sent out to guide "it into the right lines."

I may add that I am in accord with these observations so far as Bayonet Training is concerned but would like it, nevertheless, understood that I did not emphasise this point more strongly than I have already indicated when talking to Mr. BREWER nor did I in any way make him acquainted with Sir FRANCIS HOWARD'S opinion.

Yours faithfully,

John Monash

OUTWARD

G84/4/4

The Administrative Headquarters Australian Imperial Force.

DESPATCHED 11 NOV. 1916

COPY OF CABLEGRAM

Ab

No. HQL 2201 Despatched 11.11.16 1.30 pm.

From Administrative Headquarters, LONDON.

To Department of Defence MELBOURNE.

HQL 2201 Your ~~WAR~~ WY 131 AAA General MONASH'S statement misconstrued AAA No reference made defective Australian training on contrary general training considered good AAA New system bayonet fighting introduced Aldershot this year necessitated retraining personnel AAA Newer pattern bombs machine guns etc. also required special instruction AAA Strongly suggest qualified instructors new system bayonet fighting be sent AUSTRALIA AAA Letter follows.

STRALIA. LONDON.

COPY OF LETTER TO BE MADE.

LBL

4 Copies

INWARD

56157

E81-1-7

The Administrative Hea[illegible] Australian Imperial Force.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS A.I.F. LONDON

1392 11 19

COPY OF CABLEGRAM

As shown on Cable { Date and time lodged for transmission / Date and time received in London

Decode No. WY 131 Date and time received at Administrative Headquarters A.I.F. 6/11/16 7 p.m.

From Secretary for Defence Melbourne

To Administrative Headquarters A.I.F. London.

WY 131 Cablegram in local press states General MONASH says soldiers his Division had to unlearn much or Australian training defective.

Defence.

Working copy to..... AIB

[redacted] RN.

Copies for information to..... COPY OF LETTER TO BE MADE.

Send copy to Gen Monash

Copy sent 9/1

2051

681-1-7

B
12c.

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.,
and the following number quoted :—
54959/16. (Secret.)

Subject : Australian Reinforcements.

Secret.

Reference to previous correspondence : Confidential.

Letter ~~to~~ *from the Colonial Office of the* 16th *of* November.

HIGH COMMISSIONER.

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Secret

To Commandant
Head Qrs A 17.

Please for your note in case you have not seen this information direct

Angles

D Drummond Collins
20/11/16

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
17th November, 1916.

~~681-1-7~~

54959 Secret.

Paraphrase

Telegram. The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

(Sent 6 p.m. 16th November, 1916)

War Office send following message.. Begins.
Referring to your telegram 11th November. As already arranged 3rd Division must proceed France on 21st November. It would seriously interfere with plans in progress to cancel this decision. Army Council therefore urge that even if it be not feasible to provide whole or part of 20,000 special darft no effort be spared to maintain adequate reinforcements for 5 Divisions.
End of message.

BONAR LAW.

B
12c.

2057

68-1-7

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.,
and the following number quoted :—
54817/16.

Subject : Tonnage for reinforcements from Australia.

COMMONWEALTH SHIPPING
NOV 16 1916

Confidential.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Letter ~~to~~ *from the Colonial Office of the* 10th *of* November, 1916.
(53789/16. Secret.)

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

MR PARKER.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT
16 NOV. 1916
LINE OF STEAMERS

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
16th November, 1916.

54817/16.

2057

£81-1-7

PARAPHRASE TELEGRAM

The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Received, Colonial Office 2.12 p.m., 15th November, 1916).

Confidential.

Your telegram 9th November respecting tonnage for reinforcements. Steamers mentioned not now required in view of information in my telegram of 11th November.

MR PARKER

Colonial Office, Downing Street,

15th November, 1916.

54352/16 Secret.

C81-1-7

PARAPHRASE

TELEGRAM

The Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. (Received, Colonial Office, 2.14 p.m., 11th November, 1916)

The following message is from the Prime Ministers:-

It is necessary to amend my cable August 31st It is not now possible to provide the 20,000 nor the large reinforcements promised. I suggest that for the present third division be retained in England. I make this suggestion, however, subject to its not interfering with operation plans in progress. If this is done, it will probably be likely to provide by voluntary enlistment reinforcement on present scale of fifteen per cent for infantry for the other four divisions. This month those for five divisions proceed normally.

MUNRO-FERGUSON.