

Australian War Memorial

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54

NAME OR SUBJECT: Re Capt AE Geere & Company.

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

FROM TO

MAIN	SUB	TAB
1243	41	34

REGISTER AND MOVEMENTS OF PAPERS BELONGING TO THIS FILE.

1616 RULING.

DATE	PRECIS	SUBMITTED TO	DATE RETURNED
23/4	9875 (2cc)	af	23/4
20/4	Wing 2Cos		
23/4	A3946 & all Dcs	af	27/4
24/4	A3995 (Wing file)	af	26/4
23/4	10254 (2cc) Wing 2Cos	af	26/4
27/4	24/4 Wing 2Cos	BF 30/4	27/4
26/4	Wing 2Cos all Dcs	af	13/5
29/4	DA 12572	af	14/5.
	2 SOAFC from CA		
29/4	Copy DA 12572	CA	14/5.
24/4	Chrono Copy Sec A	Confd Secn	
29/4	DA 12573		
	Enclosures Statements by A.M. Edwards from Cpl. R.E. Bentley Maj. Arch. Elliott.	af	1/5
29/4	Copy of DA 12573	CA - Sec A Confd Secn.	
29/4	Chrono Copy of DA 12573		
30/4	10624 (2cc) Wing 2Cos	af	7/5.
30/4	25069 Wing 2Cos	af	18/5.
1/5	DA 12607 + DA 12573	CA	14/5.
	Copy of DA 12607	af	21/5
30/4	Folder Ref to Comber.		14/5

DATE	PRECIS	SUBMITTED TO	DATE RETURNED
2/5.	DA 12636.	af.	3/5.
	Copy of DA 12636	AF.	14/5
2/5.	10791 (2cc) Wing 2Cos	af	6/5
3/5	2/5 In Division + DA 12636	af	6/5
8/5	9233 (2cc) Wendon	af	10/5.
14/5.	DA 12895 +	af.	
14/5	DA 12895 (Copy) + Ltr	a.	15/5
15/5	" " "	BF 18/5	18/5
13/5	af Letters + P.P.	BF 23/5	22/5
18/5	DA 12895 (Copy) + Ltr	a.	23/5
22/5.	Memo from Ltg + P.P.s re Geere	af.	24/5
23/5	DA 12895 (Copy) + Ltr	af	29/5
24/5	af (Memd) + P.P.s		24/5.
27/5	" "	af.	29/5
29/5	accepte		29/5
31/5	" "	af	30/6
12/6	A83283 x	af	5/7
20/6	all file ers	M	24/6.
24/6	applie R.A.F. Repair Depot		24/6.
24/6.	DA 13812.	ARO.	
24/6	DA 13812 Copy + Main file	af.	1/7

DATE	PRECIS	SUBMITTED TO	DATE RETURNED
24/6.	81999 Letters		27/6.
1/7	29th Memd Copies to Sid 2 Com Depot, Grand + Main file	AB.	5/7 " "
5/7	H/7 Weymouth + Main file	AB.	3/8
3/8	Main file	af	3.8
3.8	" "	AB.	6/8.
8/1/19	" "	AB.	22/1
22/1	21/1 Defence Dept Hdqrs + Main file	AB	24/1
24/1	Main file	2791 - 4	30/3
20/3	Hill file	A.F.	22/3
1/9/19	Hill file	A.F.	2/9/19

DATE	PRECIS	SUBMITTED TO	DATE RETURNED

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

HB/LH

Ab

Original sent by Hand
& not received in Despatch

4343/41/54

4th July, 1954 8

O.I.C.,
No. 2 Command Depot,
Weymouth.

Captain A. E. GEERE. A.F.C.

With reference to our Ab.4343/41/54 of 29th June relative to the return to Australia of the above named Officer, it is advised that Captain Geere will proceed by train leaving Waterloo Station at 12.30 p.m. tomorrow, 5th July, detraining at Weymouth and reporting to you pending his embarkation.

RETURN TO AUSTRALIA
Pay
For

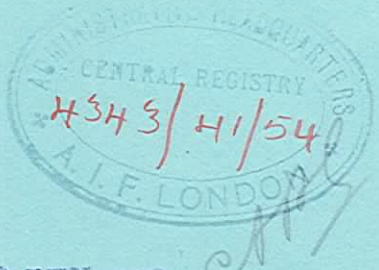
B.F.
ON:-
TO:

Lieut.-Colonel,
A.A.G.

A.F.C. H.Q. OTS.
5-AUG.1918

H/BLH

Ab 4343/41/54



29 JUN 1918

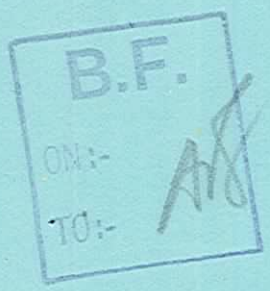
29th June. 8

Commandant,
A.F.C. Training Depot,
Halefield Camp,
Wendover.(through S.O. Aviation).

Copies to:-
H.Q.,A.I.F. Depots in U.K.
O.C., No.2 Command Depot.
Transport Section. Our D.A.13812.

Captain A.E. GEBBE, A.F.C.

Approval having been given for the return to Australia for termination of his appointment of the above named Officer, it is desired that he should be sent as early as practicable to No.2 Command Depot, to await embarkation. It is suggested that this move might be arranged directly with Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots in U.K.,Tidworth.



Brigadier-General,
Commandant.

HB/TAM.

Ab.4343/41/54.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE,
26 JUN. 18-5-....P.M
CENTRAL REGISTRY,
BRANCH.
4343 1/41/54

26 JUN 1918

23rd. June 8

Secretary,
Department of Defence,
MELBOURNE.

Copy for information to:-
Headquarters, A.I.F.
Officers' Records.
Transport Section.

OF Da No. 13812.

Captain A.E. GEERE, - A.F.C.

The above-named Officer was medically boarded at these Headquarters on 28th. May 1918, and was marked "Permanently Unfit for Flying" (copy of Proceedings herewith).

As there is no suitable employment available for Capt. GEERE in the Aust. Flying Corps, or in another branch of the service, arrangements are being made under the authority of the Commandant of these Headquarters for Capt. GEERE's passage to Australia for termination of his appointment by the first available vessel.

Brig.-General,
Commandant.

Transport Section.

Please arrange passage accordingly.

Captain GEERE's location will be advised you shortly.

Brig.-General,
Commandant.

B.F.
ON:-
TO:-

Please ask AF where Capt. G. is now
A.F.C. Trng Depot
Halefield Camp
Wendover

DTM/GS.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE,
24 JUN. 18 - 5:30 P.M
CENTRAL REGISTRY
BRANCH.
4343/41/54

Af. 81999

24th.June. 8.

24 JUN 1918

Officer Commanding,
1st.Wing Headquarters,
Australian Flying Corps,
TETBURY. Glos.

Forwarded under separate cover, Flex-Brive - one, ex belongings of Capt.Geere.

Captain,
Staff Officer for Equipment. A.F.C.

P.A. INITIALS

Halton Camp.
Wendover.
16/6/18.

Major Brinsmead M.C.
A.I.F. London

P.A. INITIALS HCD 20/6

4343/41/54

Dear Brinsmead,

Would it be possible to post me to a R.A.F. Repair depot either in England or overseas. I feel I could do good work there & at least do something for my pay. I should prefer to go overseas if possible Might I come up to London to talk things over with you.

I took my engine invention to the Air Inventions Board & received quite a good reception. The people I saw were quite willing to put it forward officially but suggested there would be a much greater chance of success if I did a little experimental work first in order to put up definite figures.

Saw Capt Scott 20/6/18 HCD.

Yours faithfully
A.E. Seed

A.F.C. HD. QTS.
22 JUN. 1918

A/AAR

1/196

AFC

A83283

Halton Camp East,
Wendover.
7th June 1918.

From O. C.,
A.F.C. Training Depot,
Halton Camp East.

To Staff Officer for Aviation,
Administrative Headquarters,
London, S.W.1.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
A.I.F.
11-6-18 —2-30P.M

11/3213/11/54

The attached application from Captain Geere is forwarded for your information and consideration.

Noted A.F.
HCS
14/6/18.

Major,
O. C., A.F.C. Training Depot.

P.A.
INITIALS W.B.
DATE 5/7/18

A.F.C. HD. QTRS.
12 JUN. 1918

From Capt A.E.Geere
A.F.C.

To O.C. A.F.C. Depot.
Wendover.

I beg to apply that permission be obtained for my posting to R.A.F. Halton School of Technical Training as an instructor.

I have been into the question unofficially with several of the Officers there and append a letter from Major Orde Lees.

A.E.Geere.
Captain. A.F.C.

Halton Camp.
5th June 18.

Copy.

Halton Camp East.
BUCKS.
30th 5. 18.

Dear Captain Geere,

If it could be mutually arranged by our respective superior authorities there is nothing I should like better than to have you as an Assistant Instructor under me in this Section, as it is so difficult to find officers with just the right sort of knowledge for instructing in the theory of internal combustion engines, and as far as I can judge you seem to have exactly the knowledge I require in an Instructor.

Yours very truly.
Sgd. T.Orde Lees.
Major R.A.F.
Chief Instructor. Internal Combustion Engines.
School of Tech Training.

Captain A.E. GEERE.

D.M.I. A.I.F.

As no suitable employment is available for Capt GEERE, it is desired that he be invalided to AUSTRALIA.

18/6

Brig.-Gen. Commandant

GENERAL STAFF 1918 HEADQUARTERS

M 20/3

A.H.Q. As this Officer has been boarded at 1st General Service Depot it is not necessary that he be returned as an Invalid please

21/6/18

Lt-Col. Assistant Adjutant General 3

21/6/18.

CONFIDENTIAL. Army Form A. 45.

MEDICAL BOARD REPORT ON A DISABLED OFFICER.

(ALSO TO BE USED FOR DISABLED NURSES.)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY OFFICES, LONDON.

A.E. Geere

Station _____

Date 28 MAY 1918

1. Rank and Name Capt. A E. Geere
2. Unit A. Flying Corps
3. Age 32. 4. Total Service 2 8/12. War Service { (a) at home _____ (b) abroad _____
5. Address _____

Statement of Case.

NOTE.—In answering the following questions the Board will carefully discriminate between the officer's statements and evidence recorded in his medical documents. When possible, a statement by his medical attendant should be attached.

6 Disability Air Sickness

7. Date of origin of disability _____
8. Place of origin of disability _____
9. Give concisely the essential facts bearing on the history of the disability (personal and family history, etc.) :—

NOTE.—Boards subsequent to the first should record here the progress of the case since the officer's last appearance.

He states that he has lost his zest for flying & can't stand heights. That he has been flying since 1911. +

Opinion of the Medical Board.

NOTES.—(i.) The Board will on no account inform the officer of its opinion on any of the following questions.
(ii.) Clear and decisive answers should be filled in by the Board to enable the Ministry of Pensions to come to a reliable decision on the officer's claim to pension, etc.
(iii.) Expressions such as "may," "might," "probably," should be avoided, if possible.
(iv.) When there is more than one disability the replies will distinguish between them.

10. Was the disability contracted (a) before entering the service ? no
(b) in the service ? yes
11. Was it attributable to military service ? Strain + shock
If so, to what specific military conditions is it attributed ? _____

[Enteric Fever, Dysentery, Malaria, &c., contracted on service in countries where there is a special liability to the disease are to be regarded as attributable to military service.]

12. If not attributable to, was it aggravated by, military service ? _____
If so, by what specific military conditions ? _____
13. Is it attributable to, or aggravated by, the officer's own negligence or misconduct ? If so, in what way, and to what extent ? no

[P.T.O.

14. What is the officer's present condition ? Wounds. He says he
has occasional t[illegible] nervous
[illegible] general condition good

We are of opinion that he will be fit for GS
(not flying) within 2 mths.

15. To what degree is the officer disabled at the present time ?
(Degrees of disablement should be expressed in the following percentages—100, 80, 70, 60, 50, 40, 20, under 20, or nil.)

16. Is the disability permanent ? No

17. If not permanent, how soon is re-examination recommended ? _____ months.

18. Is it necessary that the officer should be re-examined by the same Board ?

19. What treatment is the officer receiving, and where, and from whom ? None

20. Is the officer in need of special medical treatment of any kind, and, if so, of what nature ? None

21. Does the officer require the constant attendance of another person ?

22. Officers will be classified by the Medical Board under one of the following categories, the probable period of unfitness for the higher categories being stated. Explanation of these categories is in para. 5 of A.C.I. 1677/1917. In case of nurses, omit B. and (i) and (ii) of E.

A.—Fit for general service. No 2 mths.

B.—Fit for service in a garrison or labour unit abroad.

C.—Fit for home service :—

(i) Active duty with troops. ~~to 2+ yrs~~ yrs

(ii) Sedentary employment only. yrs

D.—For admission to a command depot. Yes.

E.—Requiring indoor hospital treatment :—

(i) In an officers' military or auxiliary convalescent hospital. No

(ii) In an officers' hospital. No

F.—Permanently unfit for any further military service.

23. In the case of officers suffering from neurasthenia found permanently unfit, has A.C.I. 1289 of 1917 been complied with ?

I consider this Board unfit to report on Capt Rogers

C. Rogers Capt President.

H C Mandsley Lt

Members.

(14436.) Wt. W. 2070—P.P. 313. 500m. 11/17. S. O.

HCB/MEM

M. 4343.41/54.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.
24 MAY. 18-5- P.M
CENTRAL REGISTRY.
BRANCH.
4343/41/54

23rd May 8

24 MAY 1918

Officer Commanding,
Australian Flying Corps Training
Depot,
Halton Park Camp East,
WENDOVER.

On 2nd May, 1918, Captain A E. GEERE, reported to this Headquarters and stated that a Share Register of the Company which he had registered, also certain letters were missing from his papers.

The Officer Commanding, 1st Wing now reports as follows:-

"May Captain Geere be informed please that while his "effects were in my hands nothing was touched with the exception "of the two plan tubes which I opened in the presence of Lieut. "Coates Officer Commanding A.R.S. and which contained several "drawings on tracing linen marked with the Company's name which "I had seen before, as well as several tracings of engine fittings "and general technical drawings."

HCB.

Major.
Staff Officer for Aviation.

P.A. INITIALS HCB.

HD. QTRS 27 MAY 1918

1st. Wing Headquarters, A.F.C.
Tetbury. Glos.

May 18th 1918.

To/
Staff Officer for Aviation,
Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F.
130, Horseferry Road,
London. S.W.1.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS CENTRAL REGISTRY 4343/41/54 A.I.F. LONDON
1ST WING HEADQUARTERS AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS LW 27/1/1 18 MAY 1918

CAPT. A. E. GEERE. COMPANY PAPERS ~~ETC~~. Etc

Reference your Af. 4343.41.54. of 13.5.18. accompanying Capt. Geere's statement and minute by A.A.G. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F.

On the evening of April 28th 1918 Mr. Warn an Officer in the local Volunteer Force reported to me that Capt. Geere had left several boxes and plan tubes at his house on April 19th 1918. Capt. Geere asked Mrs. Warn to keep these articles for him as they contained letters from and photographs of his fiancee, but when on a subsequent visit he expressed a desire for secrecy and seemed very anxious that no one should know where they were, Mrs. Warn became uneasy and mentioned the matter to her husband who reported it at once to me.

As I had just a week previously taken statements from personnel of the A.R.S. dealing with official plans and Company matters I went round to Mr. Warn's house next morning and took over the whole of the articles left there by Capt. Geere and they were taken to Headquarters, A.I.F. by Capt. Fay the next day and handed to Colonel Bruggy with the exception of a Tailor's cardboard box containing a dress suit and some shirts and a small typewriter which I kept here.

These were handed to Capt. Geere 3- 4 days ago.

Whilst Capt. Geere's effects were in my hands nothing was touched with the exception of the two plan tubes which I opened in the presence of Lieut. Coates Officer Commanding A.R.S. and which contained several drawings on tracing linen marked with the Company's name which I had seen before, as well as several tracings of engine fittings and general technical drawings.

These were all returned to the tubes and were taken to Headquarters, A.I.F. by Capt. Fay.

Tetbury

Lieut. Colonel.
Commanding 1st. Wing. A.F.C.

A.F.C. HD. QTS. 22 MAY.1918

HCB/DMK.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.
18 MAY 18 7- P.M
CENTRAL REGISTRY.
BRANCH.
4343/41/54

Af. 4343.41.54.

May 13th. 8.

To The;-
Officer Commanding.,
1st. Wing Headquarters.
Australian Flying Corps.
TETBURY. Glos.

13 MAY 1918

Attached is copy of communication addressed to Staff Officer for Aviation by Captain A.E. GEERE, late Officer Commanding, A.R.S., to-gether with minute from A.A.G. Administrative Headquarters. A.I.F.

Will you please enquire into Captain Geeres' statement, and forward a report at your earliest convenience.

B.F.
ON 23/5
TO AF
INITIALS

Major.
For. Staff Officer for Aviation.

Encl.

C4343/14/54

SB/DMM.

A.4343/[illegible]. CONFIDENTIAL. 13th May, 8

S.O.,
A.F.C.

Herewith, for information, copy of Proceedings of a Court of Enquiry regarding certain drawings of aeroplanes in the position of Captain A.E. GEERE, A.F.C. Will you kindly acknowledge receipt of two cases of drawings.

Lieut.-Col.,
A.A.G.

A.A.G. HD. QTRS. 23 MAY 1918

18/5/18. B.F. ON:- TO:- A.F.C. A.

A217: Wt. W774/836 250,000 4/15 D. D. & L. Sen. 2 Forms A. 2 38

Army Form A. 2.

PROCEEDINGS of a* Court of Inquiry

assembled at A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, 130 Horseferry Road London, S.W.1.

on the 4th day of May 1918.

by order of Brig-General T.Griffiths. C.M.G. D.S.O. Commandant. A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters.

for the purpose of inquiring into the possession by Captain A.E.Geere, A.F.C. of certain drawings of aeroplanes reproduced from official drawings by his instructions and alleged to be marked "Australian Aircraft Company Limited."

*N.B. — The Form being applicable to any Board of Officers, or Committee, or Court of Inquiry, this blank to be filled in accordingly.

The proceedings should be signed by each Officer composing the Board, etc.

PRESIDENT.

Lieut-Col. S. Bruggy. D.S.O.
A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters London.

MEMBERS.

Major C.H.Howard. Administrative Headquarters A.I.F.
Capt. P.H.Newland. Australian Flying Corps.

IN ATTENDANCE.

Captain A.E.Geere. A.F.C.
Captain Fahey. A.F.C.
A/Corporal R.F.Bentley. A.F.C.
1 A/M. Edwards. A.F.C.

The Court having assembled pursuant to order, proceed to take evidence. Captain A.E.Geere A.F.C. is called and is informed of the scope of the inquiry and that he could be present during the whole of the inquiry and will have an opportunity of making any statement he may wish to give, and of cross examining any witnesses or of producing any witnesses.

Captain A.E.Geere elects to give evidence :-

~~My name is~~ Captain Arthur Edward Geere, Australian Flying Corps being duly sworn states:-

The drawings produced marked Exhibits "A" 1, 2 and 3 are reproductions of drawings of the Avro Aeroplane, which was built by A.B.Roe and Company, and were reproduced with the tacit permission of the Wing Commander and Squadron Commander of the 7th Squadron, 25th Wing, Castle Bromwich. The plans are not official and have been produced in publications and magazines. The exhibit marked B 1 which is before the Court and which is marked "Australian Aircraft Coy" is a drawing of an aeroplane of my own design. I did not reproduce it or cause it to be reproduced from any official plan. I only used Exhibit A 5 in my preliminary calculations. The Exhibits before the Court marked C.1. to C.9. are drawings leading up to the production of exhibit marked B.1. These drawings are of my own design and are not reproductions of any official plans. None of the Exhibits marked A.B. or C. were drawn by Acting Corporal Bentley. The plans produced marked A, B, and C were partly drawn by myself and 1 A/M H.P.Wood. I designed the aeroplane shown in the Exhibits marked A to C for the use of the service and had no intention of exploiting it in the interests of the Australian Aircraft Co. Ltd. I did not want my own name to appear on the plans, and so marked Exhibit B 1. Australian Aircraft Co. On the 27th September 1917 I personally registered the Australian Aircraft Co. Ltd. and I signed as a Signatory Shareholder. ~~I took in view~~ When I joined the A.I.F. I left an Aircraft Coy. and have since always had in view the formation of an Aircraft Company. The exhibit marked D.1. and marked Australian Aircraft Coy. Ltd. was reproduced by Acting Corporal Bentley on my instructions from official plans which ~~were~~ were issued to me ~~by the Royal Aircraft~~ from the Royal Aircraft Factory. These plans were issued to me in my official capacity as an Officer of the Australian Flying Corps.

The exhibit "D1" is an exact production of Royal Aircraft Factory's prints Nos. A9238, A9232. of a B.E.2.E aeroplane.

The exhibit "D2" before the Court was drawn by A/Cpl. Bentley on my instructions. It is the preliminary design for a new type of fuselage construction which I had invented, and I was assisted in the preparation of this drawing by consulting R.A.F. drawing No. A.9238.

The exhibit "D3" before the court, was drawn by A/Cpl Bentley on my instructions. It is the preliminary design for a new type of fuselage construction which I had invented, and I was assisted in the preparation of this drawing by consulting R.A.F. drawing No. A.9232.

The exhibits "D4, 5, and 6" were similarly prepared by A/Cpl Bentley on my instructions ~~and are adaptions from R.A.F. Drawings Nos. A.9232 and A.9238.~~

I was stationed at Leighterton on and about the 19th April 1918. My private papers and other effects were in quarters there. I was aware that certain action was being considered by 1st Wing Headquarters. I had occasion to frequently leave my quarters. One day I discovered the key of a box, containing my private papers, had been removed. I did not wish my private affairs inquired into unofficially and so took the precaution of removing most of my effects into safe keeping.

All the exhibits before the Court were included in the effects which I removed. I did not consider whether any of the documents or plans I was taking away were official or otherwise.

The drawings marked "D" are compiled partly from official drawings, but the particular form of fuselage constructions is, I claim, novel and my invention.

Examined by the Court :-

Q. Were the plans, drawn by A/Cpl. Bentley, made on official paper?
A. No.

Q. Did you intend these plans for the use and development of the Australian Aircraft Coy. Ltd.?
A. Yes, but I have always been willing and anxious to be given an opportunity of developing the plans for the use of the Government.

Q. Did A/Cpl. Bentley execute the plans during his working hours?
A. He did spend some of his working hours drawing the plans, but the majority of the time spent on them was at night.

Q. Did you utilise A/Cpl. Bentley's services in drawing the plans for commercial purposes?
A. Yes, but I considered it was part of his training, and he was not otherwise engaged in military work.

Exhibits "F 1 and 2" were copied by A/Cpl. Bentley from designs executed by me for use of the Aircraft Repair Section A.I.F.

Q. Are the plans marked "Australian Aircraft Co" the property of that Company?

A. To the best of my knowledge, Yes.

Q. Were these plans made by Officers or members of the Australian Imperial Forces in the paid employment of the Government?
A. Yes.

Q. Did you utilise the services of Officers and members of the Australian Imperial Force for the purpose of the ~~formation~~ preparation of drawings for that Company? you were forming?
A. Yes, in what I considered to be time not taken up by our usual Military duties.

A. C. Geere Capt

Aeroplane Repair Section. A.F.C.

No. 2588 Acting Corporal Richard Francis Bentley/being duly sworn states:-

I am employed as Draughtsman in the Aeroplane Repair Section, 1st Wing, Leighterton. It was part of my duties to make plans or drawings under instructions of Capt. Geere as O.C. or Lieut Cowell, Equipment Officer. The Exhibits "D.2 to 6" were drawn by me on instructions from Capt. Geere from rough sketches made by him and from data received from official blue prints of two-seater B.E.2.C. and B.E.2.D. machines, the official blue prints being used to save time in calculating the wind resistances, centres of lift and centres of gravity. Exhibit "D.1" is an exact reproduction of portions of blue prints A9238 and A9232. I was aware that a company was to be formed or had been formed named the "Australian Aircraft Coy Ltd", and I marked the plans in that Company's name on Capt. Geere's instructions. The plans ~~were~~ or drawings were prepared mostly after ordinary working hours, but some of the work was done during the day. I applied on a typewritten application form for Ten One pound shares in the Australian Aircraft Company. The application was made to Capt. Geere but no money passed. The original design of Exhibits "F 1 and 2" were prepared by me on rough sketches made by Capt. Geere for the use of the Aeroplane Repair Section A.I.F. The Dope tin, I believe, is being used at the present time in the A.R.S. but I cannot say if the Enamel Baking Oven is in use yet.

B

Cross examined by Capt. A.E.Geere:-

Q. When you came to Wendover were you posted as a Draughtsman?
A. No. a Wood worker.

Q. Had you ever designed aeroplanes before or made any drawings of them.
A. No.

Q. Has the work you did for the Australian Aircraft Company been of any benefit to you in your military work since?
A. Yes, I gained considerable valuable experience which I would not otherwise have obtained from the class of work I am at present engaged on.

Pte. F. Bentley

8

THE COURT IS OF OPINION.

1. That the plans marked "Australian Aircraft Company Limited" were executed by Captain Geere and Acting Corporal Bentley on the former's instructions from data obtained from official plans and specifications at the disposal of Captain Geere as an Officer of the Australian Flying Corps and during hours which should be devoted to work of military nature.

2. That Captain Geere while an Officer of the Australian Flying Corps should not have taken an active part in the formation of the Australian Aircraft Company Limited.

THE COURT RECOMMEND -

1. That the plans so endorsed the Australian Aircraft Company Limited and other plans not so endorsed found in possession of Captain Geere be confiscated and used for such military purposes as the Staff Officer for Aviation A.I.F. may direct.

2. That Captain Geere be informed that his action in using the time and services of a soldier of the A.I.F. as well as his own time in the interests of the Australian Aircraft Company Limited was an indiscretion.

Lt Col } President
Major } Members.
Capt

Recommendation of Court approved. Captain Geere has been informed accordingly.

LONDON.
10. 5.18.

Brigadier-General
Commandant,
Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS,

AM184

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE,

130, HORSEFERRY ROAD,
WESTMINSTER LONDON. S.W. 1.

14 MAY. 11·10 A.M
CENTRAL REGISTRY
A BRANCH
43/43

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "ADMINAUST. LONDON."

SB/DMM.

CABLE ADDRESS: "ADMINAUST, LONDON."

TELEPHONES (10 LINES) VICTORIA 8860.

REPLY COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE COMMANDANT.

IN REPLY QUOTE A.4343/41/54.

CONFIDENTIAL.

13th May. 1918

S.O.,
A.F.C.

Herewith, for information, copy of Proceedings of a Court of Enquiry regarding certain drawings of aeroplanes in the position of Captain A.E. GEERE, A.F.C. Will you kindly acknowledge receipt of two cases of drawings.

Lieut.-Col.,
A.A.G.

A.F.C. HD. QTS.
14 MAY. 1918

P.A. INITIALS

A2171 Wt. W774/836 250,000 4/15 D. D. & L. Scn. 2 Forms A. 2 38

Army Form A. 2.

PROCEEDINGS of a* Court of Inquiry

assembled at A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, 130 Horseferry Road London, S.W.1.

on the 4th day of May 1918.

by order of Brig-General T.Griffiths. C.M.G. D.S.O. Commandant. A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters.

for the purpose of inquiring into the possession by Captain A.E.Geere, A.F.C. of certain drawings of aeroplanes reproduced from official drawings by his instructions and alleged to be marked "Australian Aircraft Company Limited."

*N.B. — The Form being applicable to any Board or Officers, or Committee, or Court of Inquiry, this blank to be filled in accordingly.

The proceedings should be signed by each Officer composing the Board, etc.

PRESIDENT.

Lieut-Col. S. Bruggy. D.S.O.
A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters London.

MEMBERS.

Major C.H.Howard. Administrative Headquarters A.I.F.
Capt. P.H.Newland. Australian Flying Corps.

IN ATTENDANCE.

Captain A.E.Geere. A.F.C.
Captain Fahey. A.F.C.
A/Corporal R.F.Bentley. A.F.C.
1 A/M. Edwards. A.F.C.

The Court having assembled pursuant to order, proceed to take evidence. Captain A.E.Geere A.F.C. is called and is informed of the scope of the inquiry and that he could be present during the whole of the inquiry and will have an opportunity of making any statement he may wish to give, and of cross examining any witnesses or of producing any witnesses.

Captain A.E.Geere elects to give evidence :-

~~My name is~~ Captain Arthur Edward Geere, Australian Flying Corps being duly sworn states:-

The drawings produced marked Exhibits "A" 1, 2 and 3 are reproductions of drawings of the Avro Aeroplane, which was built by A.B.Roe and Company, and were reproduced with the tacit permission of the Wing Commander and Squadron Commander of the 1st Squadron, 2nd Wing, Castle Bromwich. The plans are not official and have been produced in publications and magazines. The exhibit marked B 1 which is before the Court and which is marked "Australian Aircraft Coy" is a drawing of an aeroplane of my own design. I did not reproduce it or cause it to be reproduced from any official plan. I only used Exhibit A 5 in my preliminary calculations. The Exhibits before the Court marked C.1. to C.9. are drawings leading up to the production of exhibit marked B.1. These drawings are of my own design and are not reproductions of any official plans. None of the Exhibits marked A.B. or C. were drawn by Acting Corporal Bentley. The plans produced marked A, B, and C were partly drawn by myself and 1 A/M H.P.Wood. I designed the aeroplane shown in the Exhibits marked A to C for the use of the service and had no intention of exploiting it in the interests of the Australian Aircraft Co. Ltd. I did not want my own name to appear on the plans, and so marked Exhibit B 1. Australian Aircraft Co. On the 27th September 1917 I personally registered the Australian Aircraft Co. Ltd. and I signed as a Signatory Shareholder. ~~I xxx in xxxx~~ When I joined the A.I.F. I left an Aircraft Coy. and have since always had in view the formation of an Aircraft Company. The exhibit marked D.1. and marked Australian Aircraft Coy. Ltd. was reproduced by Acting Corporal Bentley on my instructions from official plans which ~~xxx~~ were issued to me ~~by the Royal Aircraft~~ from the Royal Aircraft Factory. These plans were issued to me in my official capacity as an Officer of the Australian Flying Corps.

The exhibit "D1" is an exact production of parts of Royal Aircraft Factory's prints Nos. A9238, A9232. of a B.E.2.E aeroplane.

The exhibit "D2" before the Court was drawn by A/Cpl. Bentley on my instructions. It is the preliminary design for a new type of fusélage construction which I had invented, and I was assisted in the preparation of this drawing by consulting R.A.F. drawing No. A.9238.

The exhibit "D3" before the court, was drawn by A/Cpl Bentley on my instructions. It is the preliminary design for a new type of fuselage construction which I had invented, and I was assisted in the preparation of this drawing by consulting R.A.F. drawing No. A.9232.

The exhibits "D4, 5, and 6" were similarly prepared by A/Cpl Bentley on my instructions ~~and are adaptions from R.A.F. Drawings Nos. A.9232 and A.9238.~~

I was stationed at Leighterton on and about the 19th April 1918. My private papers and other effects were in quarters there. I was aware that certain action was being considered by 1st Wing Headquarters. I had occasion to frequently leave my quarters. One day I discovered the key of a box, containing my private papers, had been removed. I did not wish my private affairs inquired into unofficially and so took the precaution of removing most of my effects into safe keeping.

All the exhibits before the Court were included in the effects which I removed. I did not consider whether any of the documents or plans I was taking away were official or otherwise.

The drawings marked "D" are compiled partly from official drawings, but the particular form of fuselage constructions is, I claim, novel and my invention.

Examined by the Court :-

Q. Were the plans, drawn by A/Cpl. Bentley, made on official paper?
A. No.

Q. Did you intend these plans for the use and development of the Australian Aircraft Coy. Ltd.?
A. Yes, but I have always been willing and anxious to be given an opportunity of developing the plans for the use of the Government.

Q. Did A/Cpl. Bentley execute the plans during his working hours?
A. He did spend some of his working hours drawing the plans, but the majority of the time spent on them was at night.

Q. Did you utilise A/Cpl. Bentley's services in drawing the plans for commercial purposes?
A. Yes, but I considered it was part of his training, and he was not otherwise engaged in military work.

Exhibits "F 1 and 2" were copied by A/Cpl. Bentley from designs executed by me for use of the Aircraft Repair Section A.I.F.

Q. Are the plans marked "Australian Aircraft Co" the property of that Company?

A. To the best of my knowledge, Yes.

Q. Were these plans made by Officers or members of the Australian Imperial Forces in the paid employment of the Government?
A. Yes.

Q. Did you utilise the services of Officers and members of the Australian Imperial Force for the purpose of the ~~formation~~ preparation of drawings for the Company, you were forming?
A. Yes, in what I considered to be time not taken up by our usual Military duties.

A.E. Geere Capt

Aeroplane Repair Section. A.F.C.

No. 2588 Acting Corporal Richard Francis Bentley/being duly sworn states:-

I am employed as Draughtsman in the Aeroplane Repair Section, 1st Wing, Leighterton. It was part of my duties to make plans or drawings under instructions of Capt. Geere as O.C. or Lieut Cowell, Equipment Officer. The Exhibits "D.2 to 6" were drawn by me on instructions from Capt. Geere from rough sketches made by him and from data received from official blue prints of two-seater B.E.2.C. and B.E.2.D. machines, the official blue prints being used to save time in calculating the wind resistances, centres of lift and centres of gravity. Exhibit "D.1" is an exact reproduction of portions of blue prints A9238 and A9232. I was aware that a company was to be formed or had been formed named the "Australian Aircraft Coy Ltd", and I marked the plans in that Company's name on Capt. Geere's instructions. The plans ~~were prepa~~ or drawings were prepared mostly after ordinary working hours, but some of the work was done during the day. I applied on a typewritten application form for Ten One pound shares in the Australian Aircraft Company. The application was made to Capt. Geere but no money passed. The original design of Exhibits "F 1 and 2" were prepared by me on rough sketches made by Capt. Geere for the use of the Aeroplane Repair Section A.I.F. The Dope tin, I believe, is being used at the present time in the A.R.S. but I cannot say if the Enamel Baking Oven is in use yet.

B

Cross examined by Capt. A.E.Geere:-

Q. When you came to Wendover were you posted as a ~~Draughtsman~~ Draughtsman?
A. No. a Wood worker.

Q. Had you ever designed aeroplanes before or made any drawings of them.
A. No.

Q. Has the work you did for the Australian Aircraft Company been of any benefit to you in your military work since?
A. Yes, I gained considerable valuable experience which I would not otherwise have obtained from the class of work I am at present engaged on.

R. J. Bentley.

THE COURT IS OF OPINION.

1. That the plans marked "Australian Aircraft Company Limited" were executed by Captain Geere and Acting Corporal Bentley. on the former's instructions from data obtained from official plans and specifications at the disposal of Captain Geere as an Officer of the Australian Flying Corps and during hours which should be devoted to work of military nature.

2. That Captain Geere while an Officer of the Australian Flying Corps should not have taken an active part in the formation of the Australian Aircraft Company Limited.

THE COURT RECOMMEND -

1. That the plans so endorsed the Australian Aircraft Company Limited and other plans not so endorsed found in possession of Captain Geere be confiscated and used for such military purposes as the Staff Officer for Aviation A.I.F. may direct.

2. That Captain Geere be informed that his action in using the time and services of a soldier of the A.I.F. as well as his own time in the interests of the Australian Aircraft Company Limited was an indiscretion.

Lieut-Col } President
C.A. Howard Major }
R.R. Rowland Capt } Members.

Recommendation of Court approved. Captain Geere has been informed accordingly.

LONDON.
10. 5.18.

Brigadier-General
Commandant,
Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F.

May 2nd 18.

From Capt A.E.Geere.
A.R.S. A.F.C.

To Staff Officer for Aviation.
A.I.F. Hdqrs London.

With reference to the recent seizure of my clothes and effects. I have to report that since 25th April when I locked the small polished wood box, a Share Register of the Company which I have Registered was removed. A file of letters was tampered with and several documents were removed. There is also missing a letter written me by Lieut Col Watt with reference to my handing over 1st Wing Aeroplane Repair Section.

bI respectfully request these documents be returned and that I be informed by whom and for what purpose they were removed and on what Authority this action was taken.

A.E. Geere
Capt

SO AFC Will you kindly ascertain by whom these were removed - and arrange for their return at an early date -

13/5/18

[illegible] Lt Col
Asst.

EHR/DMK.

Af. 25969

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.
30 APR. 18-8- P.M
CENTRAL REGISTRY
BRANCH
4343/41/54

April 29th. 8.

30 APR 1918

To The;-
Officer Commanding.,
Headquarters.
1st. Australian Wing. A.F.C.
TETBURY. Glos.

The attached copies of statements by Major A.W.L. ELLIS, Officer Commanding, no. 8. Training Squadron, A.F.C. No. 2588. A/Cpl. A.F. BENTLEY, and No. 2866 1/AM. E.W.M. EDWARDS, both of 1st. Australian A.R.S. which were handed by you to the Commandant on the 27th. inst., are forwarded.

The Commandant directs that Captain GEERE be called upon for the reply to these statements, and also with regard to the statement that tracings of designs by him for dope tin and enamelling oven were made by Corporal BENTLEY.

B. F.
ON
TO af
INITIALS

S.H.Q.

S.H.Q.

Lieut;-Colonel.
Staff Officer for Aviation.

COPY.

Australian Imperial Force.
Admin. Hd. Qtrs. A.I.F.
London.
29th. April. 1918.

Confidential.

Staff Officer for Aviation.

In your absence on Saturday, I saw Lieutenant-Colonel Watt, commanding the 1st. Wing Headquarters of the Australian Flying Corps.

He handed to me the enclosed statements by 1st. Air Mechanic Edwards, Acting Corporal BENTLEY and Major Ellis.

You will see that it is stated that Captain GEERE was in possession of a number of blue prints of aeroplanes, that he had drawings of these blue prints made on tracing linen and marked "Australian Aircraft Company Limited" - the obvious intention being that they would be used in the service of the Australian Aircraft Company - a company which Captain GEERE is endeavouring to promote and which has been the subject of recent correspondence.

Will you please at once call upon Captain GEERE for his reply with regard to these statements and also with regard to the statement that tracings of designs by him for "dope tin" and "enamelling oven" were made by Corporal BENTLEY.

You will also note that Major ELLIS in his statement states that shares in the Company were held by Lieutenant-Colonel REYNOLDS and Major BROUN.

For your remarks please. Will you please treat this as Urgent.

(Sgd)
T. GRIFFITH.
Brig;-Gen.
Commandant.

Statement by:-

Tetbury.
April 26th, 1918.

2588 A/Cpl BENTLET, R.F.,
Aeroplane Repair Section,
Australian Flying Corps.

I am employed in 1st Wing A.R.S. as draughtsman.

Under instructions from Captain Geere commanding A.R.S I have made modified copies of several official blue prints of aeroplanes the modifications being conversion of a 2 seater B.E.2.c and B.E.2.d. to a 3 seater machine. I worked mostly at night but occasionally in the day time. All these drawings were done on tracing linen and marked "Australian Aircraft Co. Ltd." Captain Geere handed me a type written application form and I applied for 10 shares in the above company but no money passed. Shares were £1 each.

Captain Geere told me the names of shareholders in the Company but in confidence, there were 7 or 8. Captain Geere designed a "dope tin" and a "stove enamelling oven" for use in the A.R.S. and I made tracings of the original designs which copies were marked with the company's mark. I joined A.R.S. at Tern Hill 16.2.18. and about 2 weeks later went into the drawing office where there was a large case of official blue prints amongst which were the ones alluded to above. This case acting under instructions from Captain Geere, I addressed to Lieut-Colonel Reynolds, Headquarters, A.I.F. London about a week ago.

The company's drawings were kept in two aluminium plan cases and I do not know whethere they went to London in the case or not.

R.F. BENTLEY.

COPY.

Statement by;-

Aus. 2866. 1/AM EDWARDS. E.W.M.
Aeroplane Repair Section.
AUSTRALIAN FLYING Corps.

I am employed as a Storeman in 1st. Wing. A.R.S. but assist in Equipment office Routine work. Last February I was told by Captain Geere to expect two boxes the contents of which would be dealt with by him personally and would not be taken on charge. These duly arrived and were opened the same day in order to find something which Capt. Geere wanted in a hurry. It was then I saw the contents. One case contained miscellaneous engine fittings and spares very roughly packed, the other case being full of official plans and schedules which I knew to be of great importance, and on this account I asked Capt. GEERE about their safe custody as the store was only provided with an ordinary lock. I understood from Capt. GEERE that some difficulty had arisen from his personal possession of these drawings. Shortlay after this Capt. GEERE told me he was formingma Company, and when the A.R.S. Moved to Leighterton a chum of mine showed me a copy of the Company's memorandum of association and I advised him to have nothing to do with it. I was never offered any shares myself. About April 16th. I heard Capt. GEERE say to Corporal BENTLEY in Lieut;-Colonel Reynolds' presence, "send all these things on to me" pointing to the box containing the blue prints. This case was despatched on 18th. or 19th. April addressed to Lt. Colonel E.H. REYNOLDS Staff Officer for Aviation, 130. Horseferry Road, London, the address being written on a large official envelope and lightly tacked "on top of the case.
The case was dark green and stood about 2 ft. 6 in. high, and rather resembled a seamans' chest.

(Sgd). E.W.M. Edwards.
1st. A/M.

TETBURY. Glos.
April 26th. 1918.

Statement by
Major A.W.L. Ellis, M.C.,
Commanding No. 8 T.S., A.F.C.

I was constantly approached by Captain Geere who wished me to become a director of the Australian Aircraft Co.

I refused to comply with his request or to take shares in the Company.

He informed me in casual conversation that shares in the Company were held by:- Lieut-Colonel Reynolds and Major Broun.

He showed me a list of the manufacturing Companies whose Australian agencies he proposed securing for his Company.

He also showed me the Company's printed memorandum of association and a typed prospectus with application's form for shares on one sheet.

26.4.18.

Signed. A.W.L.ELLIS.
Australian Flying Corps.

EHR/DMK.

Af. 4343.41.54.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.
26 APR. 18-2-45 P.M
CENTRAL REGISTRY.
" " BRANCH.
4343/41/Set

April 26th. 8.

26 APR 1918

Officer Commanding.,
1st. Wing Headquarters.
Australian Flying Corps.
TETBURY. Glos.

Re Captain A.E. GEERE. (A.F.C.).

Please advise me of your recommendation as to the disposal of Captain GEERE.

Lieut;-Colonel.
Staff Officer for Aviation.

B.F.
ON:- 30.4.18
TO:- AF

Leighterton Aerodrome.
Gloster.
22nd April 17.

Lieut Col E.H. Reynolds.
S.O. A.F.C.
LONDON.

In reply to your No 4343/41/54. dated 20/4/181

I have to inform you the Australian Aircraft Co Ltd. has not yet been promoted. It has been Registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companys and only the two Signatory Shares have been issued. No Directors have been appointed and no business whatever has been transacted.

The Document you refer to as the prospectus is not a prospectus and is the usual Memorandum and Articles of Association which have to be filed when a Company is Registered. I should inform you the Company is a Private one and under the Act is not allowed to publish a Prospectus.

Major Shaldon and my own positions in the Company are those of Shareholders, it is reasonable to point out the Company cannot trade with a Capital issue of only £2.

I have written to the High Commissioner of Australia asking him to assist me in obtaining Treasuary Sanction for the issue of Capital. I did this as an Australian Citizen and without considering my position as a Soldier.

I wished to obtain Treasury sanction in order the Company might be in a position to meet financial obligations. Any funds were to be devoted to orginisation work also for the purchase of a small quantity of the material now available. I mean material in the hands of Contractors which for various reasons is not required for War purposes.
I had not intended trading or getting into a position to undertake Government or any Contracts till this War is over. My personal inclination is to remain a Soldier till Hostilities cease.

I had before joining the A.I.F. done a considerable amount of pioneer work in Australia in connection with Aircraft and the steps I have taken were solely designed to protect the interests which I left when volunteering for service with the A.F.C.

My authority for taking what action I have is, before doing anything whatever I studied Standing Orders A.I.F. and consulted with people competent to advise me. I could discover no impediment whatever, providing I did not attempt to trade with my Government. This I have not done and do not propose doing till I am discharged from the A.I.F.

If I have infringed any rules or regulations governing my conduct as an Officer I deeply regret it and would state I have acted from the start in good faith and realising as far as possible my position.

What I have done was solely for the purpose of advancing the development of Aircraft in Australia.

Seen by Commandant

P.A. INITIALS B.H.Q.

A.E. Geere
Capt

EHR/DMK.

4343/41/54.

Af. 4343/41/54

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.
20 APR 18 - P.M
CENTRAL REGISTRY.
4343/41/54.

20 APR 1918

April 20th. 8

To;-
Captain A.E. GEMRE.
Aircraft Repair Section.
Australian Flying Corps.
Leighterton.

Copy to;-
Officer Commanding.
1st. Wing Headquarters. A.F.C.
Tetbury. Glos.

I have been informed that a Company has been promoted by you for the manufacture of aeroplanes in Australia, and that you are a Director of the Company, and that a prospectus has been published.

Be good enough to inform me if this is the case, and if so, on what authority you have acted., in consideration of the fact that the regulations forbid Officers of the Australian Forces either forming Companies, or holding offices on Companies of this nature.

Digby Hand

B.F.
ON:- at once
TO:- AF

E-H-R

Lieut;-Colonel.
Staff Officer for Aviation.

DA/FMW. "A" Form.

Army Form C. 2121.
(In pads of 100.)

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message ...

Prefix ..... Code ..... m.	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of: Service.	Recd. at ..... m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.				Date
	Sent			From
	At ..... m.			By
	To		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	
	By			

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE, 19 APR 18 2 5 1 CENTRAL REGISTRY. B.A.F.

TO AUSWING. TETBURY. 323/31/54

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	
* AF.	19.4.18.		AAA

3325

Instruct Captain A.E.Geere report these Headquarters Immediately.

DESPATCHED 19 APR 1918

AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS 19 APR 1918 AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

From Adminaust. London.

Place

Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

B.F. O.K. INITIALS

* This line, except AAA, should be erased if not required.

Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2389.)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.
28 APR. 18-11- AM
CENTRAL REGISTRY
BRANCH
43/3/41/34

Headquarters. 1st Wing,
Australian Flying Corps.

1ST WING. HEADQUARTERS
No 1W89/1/1
21 APR. 1918
AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS

Staff Officer for Aviation,
Administrative Headquarters,
A.I.F. 130 Horseferry Road,
London S.W.

A59486

1st WING AEROPLANE REPAIR SECTION.

When above Unit moved into this Wing on the 22.3.18. a large case containing blue prints arrived with the other Stores. These prints originated from R.F.C.Drawing Office, Farnborough, and are of great technical value to the Section. The above case was taken away from Leighterton in a tender on the afternoon of Friday the 19th April by Capt. Geere, late Officer i/c A.R.S. who left by train for London that same evening and has not yet returned.

I will be very glad if these blue prints can be returned to the A.R.S. as some of them deal with machines now in course of erection and we have no duplicates.

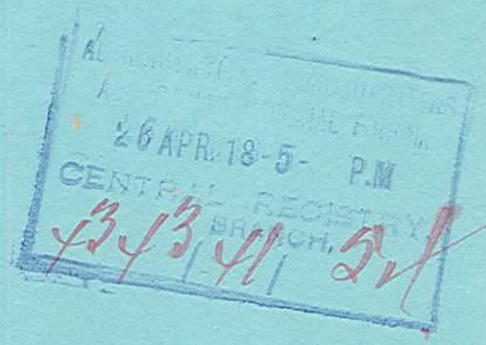
Enc. Recd

Tetbury.
[illegible].4.18.

Lieut. Colonel,
Commanding 1st Wing A.F.C.

EHR/DMK.

Af. 4343.41.54.



April 25th. 8.

To The;-
Officer Commanding.,
1st. Wing Headquarters.
Australian Flying Corps.
Tetbury. Glos.

26 APR 1918

1st. Wing Aeroplane Repair Section.

With reference to your 1/W89/1/1 of the 21st. inst. The prints referred to were obtained at my direction for despatch to Australia.

I gave verbal instructions to the Acting Officer Commanding 1st. Wing, that the case was to be forwarded to my office where it arrived to-day.

Any drawings not required for the Defence Department will be forwarded to you.

P.A. INITIALS EHR

E-HR

Lieut;-Colonel.
Staff Officer for Aviation.

Capt. A. Geere

1st Lieut. Edwards.

2nd " Bentley

Major. Ellis. ?

—"—"—

Privates of Machine

Capt. Fahey

Watts — ?

HCB PRIORITY

"A" Form.

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 121.
(In pads of 100.)

No. of Message.....

Prefix ..... Code ..... m.	Words.	Charge.	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at ..... m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.	Sent		..... Service.	Date .....
	At ..... m.			From
	To		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By
	By			

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE, 2 MAY 18 CENTRAL REGISTRY.

43431/1 5.4.

TO AUSTWING TETBURY

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	
* Af 1079	2.5.18		AAA

Captain A.E. GENRE instructed
remain London pending Court
of Enquiry on Saturday
4th instant AAA Instruct
following personnel report Adminaust
Friday afternoon to remain
on duty London until
further instruction I/A.M. EDWARDS
A/Corporal BENTLEY AAA Instruct
Captain FAY report 10.a.m.
Adminaust Saturday 4th instant
AAA Further instructions will
be sent if necessary
for attendance Lieut-Colonel WATT
and Major ELLIS

DESPATCHED

From Adminaust
Place London
Time 12.noon.

ON
TO
INITIALS

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

*This line, except A A A, should be erased if not required.

Wt. W 3253/P511. 500,000 Pads. 1/18. B. & S. Ltd. (E2388.)

HCB/MMM

Af. 4343.41.54.

Signal by hand by J&CS.



2nd May 8

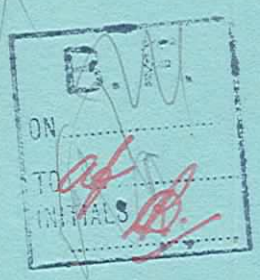
Headquarters,
Training Division, Royal Air
Force,
Mason's Yard, Duke Street,
St. James's. S.W.1.

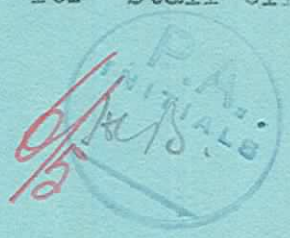
The following is a copy of a telegram sent to-day to Officer Commanding, 1st Australian Wing Headquarters:-

"Captain A.E.GEERE instructed to remain London pending
"Court of Enquiry on Saturday 4th instant AAA Instruct
"following personnel report Adminaust Friday afternoon to
"remain on duty London until further instructions AAA 1st A.M.
" EDWARDS A/Cpl BENTLEY AAA Instruct Captain FAY report 10.a.m.
" Adminaust Saturday 4th instant AAA Further instructions will
" be sent if necessary for attendance Lieut-Colonel WATT and
" Major ELLIS."

Should it be found necessary for Colonel Watt and Major Ellis to appear before the Board you will be again communicated with and requested to arrange their movement.

for Major.
for Staff Officer for Aviation.





DA/FMW.

"A" Form. Army Form C. 2121 (in Pads of 100).

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

7 MAY 18 - 9 - 45 A.M.

CENTRAL REGISTRY. A BRANCH.

4343 / 41

No. of Message .....

Prefix ..... Code ..... m.	Words	Charge.	This message is on a/c of: Service.	Recd. at ..... m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions				Date .....
	Sent At ..... m. To ..... By		(Signature of "Franking Officer")	From ..... By .....

TO: AUSTAERO. WEMDOVER.

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* Af. 1283	7.5.18.		

Instruct Captain A.E.GEERE Report to Staff Officer Aviation 10.15 a.m. [illegible] instant.

DESPATCHED 7 MAY. 1918

Adminaust.

From London.
Place
Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

Censor.

(Z)

Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

INITIALS.

* This line should be erased if not required.

(2328). Wt. W12093/M1217. 150,000 Pads. 1/17. (E764). H. C. & L., Ltd. Forms C/2121/11.

...ode ..... m.

Office of Origin and Service Instructions

Words | Charge.

Sent
At ..... m.
To .....
By .....

This message is on a/c of: ...Service.

Recd at ... m.
Date ...
From ...
By ...

ADMIRALTY, H.Q. HEADQUARTERS
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE,
30 APR. 18 2-20
CENTRAL REGISTRY.
13B 1/4/15

Austwing Tetbury.

Sender's Number: 10624 | Day of Month: | In reply to Number: | AAA

* Af 30.4.16.

Instruct Capt. GEERE to report to Staff Officer for Aviation by first available train aaa

DESPATCHED APR 1916

Af 4345.41.54.

P.A. INITIALS DATE

B.F. TO INITIALS

From Admiralty.
Place London.
Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

Censor.

Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.

(2328). Wt. W12093/M1217. 150,000 Pads. 1/17. (E764). H. C. & L., Ltd.

Forms C/2121/11.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

4343/41/54

SB/DMM.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
2 MAY
CENTRY
4343/41/54

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "ADMINAUST, LONDON."
CABLE ADDRESS: "ADMINAUST, LONDON."
TELEPHONE: VICTORIA 8860 (10 LINES).

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F.,

130, HORSEFERRY ROAD,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

CONFIDENTIAL.

2nd May, 1918

S.O.,
A.F.C.

A Court of Inquiry will assemble at 10 a.m. on Saturday, 4th instant, to enquire into matters contained in correspondence forwarded to you on 29th ultimo No. 4343/41/54.

In confirmation of telephonic communication to the Brigade Major, will you kindly arrange for Captain Newland to be present as a member of the Board. This officer will be required to-morrow, 3rd instant, and until completion of the Board.

The following members are also required at 10 a.m. on Saturday, 4th instant :-

2866 Captain A.E. GEERE
1/A.M. EDWARDS
3588 A/Corporal R.F. BENTLEY
Captain FAHEY.

The following two officers may be required - notification will be sent later, but it is requested that they be held in readiness to proceed here at short notice: -

Lieut.-Colonel WATTS
Major ELLIS.

Lieut.-Col.,
A.A.G.

EHR/DMK.

Af.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.
30 APR. 18-5-30 P.M
CENTRAL REGISTRY.
BRANCH.
4343/41/54

4343/41/54

COPY OF DA No. 12607

April 29th. 8.

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

30 APR 1918

To The;-
Commandant.
A.I.F. Admin. Hd.Qtrs.
London.

With reference to the attached, I have instructed the Wing Commander to obtain the report you desire from Captain GEERE.

This will be forwarded to you as soon as it is received.

I have also to inform you that I am not in any way connected with the Australian Aircraft Company, or any other Company whatsoever.

P.A. INITIALS 18/5

S. H. R.

Lieut;-Colonel.
Staff Officer for Aviation.

Capt. A E. Shore —

1st Lieut. Edwards —

Capt Bentley —

Major Ellis — ?

Capt. Fahey —

Blue Ponds of

Machris

Col. Watts

EHR/DMK.

A343/41/54

Af.

CONFIDENTIAL.

April 29th. 8.

To The;-
Commandant.
A.I.F. Admin. Hd.Qtrs.
London.

With reference to the attached memorandum, as Captain GEERE was one of the Officers originally recommended for transfer to the Central Flying School, Australia, I instructed Major SHELDON and him to obtain certain blue prints to take with them to AUSTRALIA.

When Captain GEERE was appointed Acting O.C. of the A.R.S. , he asked that he might be permitted to retain temporarily some of the blue prints in order to assist him in designing a new type of aeroplane.

As far as I am aware, these blue prints are neither Secret or Confidential. They comprise prints of the Gnome Avro, F.E. 8, B.E. 2.c., and other obsolete or obsolescent types. They were in the personal custody of Captain GEERE, and have been brought to these Headquarters on my instructions to the Wing Commander, in order that they may be forwarded to Australia.

EHR

Lieut;-Colonel.
Staff Officer for Aviation.

TG/JS.

Ca

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
29 APR 1918 4.45 P.M.
CENTRAL REGISTRY,
A BRANCH,
4343 / 141 / 54

COPY OF DA No. 12572.

Confidential

29th April, 8.

Staff Officer for Aviation.

It has been represented that Captain Geere drew a number of blue prints from the Royal Flying Corps other than on requisition through the prescribed channel - that these prints were in his custody at the Headquarters of the Australian Aircraft Repair Section and were subsequently brought by Captain Geere to London.

I shall be glad of a report showing the circumstances under which these blue prints were drawn, and as they are stated to be of a secret and confidential nature, what steps were taken for their custody, and why they have since been brought away from the Repair Section to these Headquarters.

TG

Brig-General,
Commandant.

Back
to CA
4/5/4

TG/JS.

ADMINISTRATIVE
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL
43/41/54
A BRANCH.

Ca

COPY OF DA No. 12573

29th April, 8.

Staff Officer for Aviation.

In your absence on Saturday, I saw Lieutenant-Colonel Watt, commanding the 1st Wing Headquarters of the Australian Flying Corps.

He handed to me the enclosed statements by 1st Air Mechanic Edwards, Acting Corporal Bentley and Major Ellis.

You will see that it is stated that Captain Geere was in possession of a number of blue prints of aeroplanes, that he had drawings of these blue prints made on tracing linen and marked "Australian Aircraft Company Limited" - the obvious intention being that they would be used in the service of the Australian Aircraft Company - a company which Captain Geere is endeavouring to promote and which has been the subject of recent correspondence.

Will you please at once call upon Captain Geere for his reply with regard to these statements and also with regard to the statement that tracings of designs by him for "dope tin" and enamelling oven were made by Corporal Bentley.

You will also note that Major Ellis in his statement states that shares in the Company were held by Lieutenant-Colonel Reynolds and Major Broun.

For your remarks please. Will you please treat this as Urgent.

Brig-General,
Commandant.

Back to CA 29/7/14

4343/41/54

I received instructions from the Commandant this morning, 1st May, to be present with Capt. Manwell, A.F.C. at the opening by Capt. A. E. Geere, A.F.C. of two boxes, a large parcel, two plan cases and an envelope, then lying in the A.A.G's room. The following action was taken:-

Large Yellow Box. Package

This contained pieces of timber, sheets and rods of pressed milk, a circular polishing brush and a few small articles, all of private ownership.

Two Metal Plan Cases

These were opened and the contents cursorily examined, a detailed examination not being practicable at the moment. At the suggestion of Capt. Geere, the whole of these were retained. They are divided into two classes, one being held in each of the cases. One batch was made at Castle Bromwich and Capt. Geere states they were prepared with the knowledge and permission of the Wing Commander, 28th Wing. The remainder were made at Ternhill. In two cases plans were identified as having been copied from technical magazines and these were marked "G" in the corner. They are stated to represent the United States specifications for Wing Sections.

Large Envelope (containing black American leather Wallet)

The contents of this were examined and found to be private property. They included a black-edged note-book, a "Triumph" note-book, "Scout" Diary, a tracing showing the proposed trade marks of the Australian Aircraft Coy. and private letters, receipts, business cards, etc.

Large Trunk

A considerable number of books and papers, and a flexible drive were recognised as Government property, and are held in a brown paper parcel marked "Government property" from large box. It is understood (though this is challenged by Capt. Geere) that certain of these - although as Unit property Capt. Geere had a perfect right to access to them - should not have been kept in a private kit. The box contained, in addition, inks, books (various kinds), a mat, trade catalogues, photos of aircraft engines recognised as private property, and other personal belongings.

Small Box (varnished)

This contained miscellaneous papers and books, the majority having reference to the affairs of the Australian Aircraft Coy. The few papers which are Government property are deposited in envelope marked "Government property" from small box. The box was sealed and its disposal was deferred pending the Commandant's decision, which was later received, to the effect that the papers and books of the Company were not required to be held.

Capt. Geere desires a complaint to be recorded that from the small varnished box the following articles have been removed since he last saw it at Tetbury (1) The Account Book of the Australian Aircraft Coy. (2) Copies of acknowledgements of the purpose for which money was loaned to him by various people (3) Letter from Lieut.-Colonel Watt instructing Capt. Geere to hand over the A. R. S. and thanking him for the work he had done in connection with it.

The two plan cases and the parcel and envelope containing Government property mentioned above, are still lying in the A.A.G's room. The seals of the small varnished box were again broken, and repaired by a carpenter in Capt. Geere's presence this afternoon, and it and the large box have been sent to 9, Elfindale Road, Herne Hill, S.W.

The large yellow parcel is, at Capt. Geere's request, remaining at Room 12 until called for.

ROUTINE ORDER

No. 109.

by
Brig.Gen. T. GRIFFITHS., C.M.G., D.S.O.
Commandant, Administrative Headquarters, Australian Imperial Force

130, Horseferry Road,
WESTMINSTER. S.W.1.
2nd May 1918.

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362. COURT OF INQUIRY

The detail of Officers mentioned below will assemble at Administrative Headquarters on a date to be fixed by the President to enquire into and report upon such matters which will be placed before them.

PRESIDENT. Lt.Col. S. Bruggy, D.S.O.

MEMBERS Major C.H. Howard.
Capt. P.H. Nowland, A.F.C.

363. COURT OF INQUIRY

The detail of Officers mentioned below will assemble at 130, Horseferry Road, London, on Friday, the 3rd May, at 10 a.m. for the purpose of enquiring into the absence of the under mentioned soldiers, and such other soldiers as may be brought before them:-

924 Pte.	Jackson, D.	36th Bn.
962 Pte.	Lunt. W.J.	36th Bn.
608 Sgt	McPhail, A.A.	19th Bn.

PRESIDENT Capt. F. Cass. Administrative Hdqrs.

MEMBERS Lieut. J. Balfour. " "
2/Lt. D.A. Redmond. " "

364. BOUNDS

With reference to Routine Orders Nos. 100/325 of 26.2.18 and 103/339 of 20.3.18 the restrictions placed on the following towns are hereby removed:-

FETHERSTONE (Nr.Pontefract)
TUNSTALL.
HANLEY
BURSLEM.

(Authority. L.D.O. 48/13 of 26/4/18).

With reference to Routine Order No. 104/346 of 2.4.18 the restrictions placed on SWINDON and HIGHWORTH, Wilts. are hereby removed.

(Authority. L.D.O. 46/16 of 19.4.18)

Owing to infectious diseases the following are placed out of bounds until further orders.-

Town of DARTFORD, Kent. (Smallpox)
Urban District of BIGGLESWADE, Bedfordshire. (Measles)

(Auth. L.D.O. 47/21 of 23.4.18)

Bruggy
Lt.Col.
A.A.G.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.
2 MAY 18 2 .... P.M
CENTRAL REGISTRY
& BRANCH.
4343/41/54

SB/DMM.

COPY OF 8a No. 12636

4343/41/54

CONFIDENTIAL.

2nd May, 8

S.O.,
A.F.C.

A Court of Inquiry will assemble at 10 a.m. on Saturday, 4th instant, to enquire into matters contained in correspondence forwarded to you on 29th ultimo No. 4343/41/54.

In confirmation of telephonic communication to the Brigade Major, will you kindly arrange for Captain Newland to be present as a member of the Board. This officer will be required to-morrow, 3rd instant, and until completion of the Board.

The following members are also required at 10 a.m. on Saturday, 4th instant :-

Captain A.E. GEERE
1/A.M. EDWARDS
A/Corporal R.F. BENTLEY
Captain FAHEY.

The following two officers may be required - notification will be sent later, but it is requested that they be held in readiness to proceed here at short notice: -

Lieut.-Colonel WATTS
Major ELLIS.

Seen A Newland Capt

Lieut.-Col.,
A.A.G.

B.F.
ON:-
18:- As above

The below-mentioned goods were booked with Mr & Mrs WARN of TETBURY by Captain GEERE on 19-4-18.

But Mr & Mrs WARN felt uneasy owing to statements made by Capt GEERE and last night Mr WARN, who is a Wireless officer, reported the matter to me & I took delivery of the goods this morning:

1. a "Daimler" green wooden box with hinges, screwed down tightly.
2. a package about 3 feet long wrapped in drapers fabric & tied with string.
3. a small black case containing a "Corona" typewriter.
4. an inlaid chest about 2 feet long.
5. 2 aluminium plan cases.
6. 1 Tailor's box containing a dress suit, shirts collars &c.

The last item, and No 3 the typewriter, I am keeping here & all the rest are being taken up to HQ. AIF London by Capt FAY adjutant 1st Wing AFC.

W W Airey
.....Lt. Col.
COMMANDING 1st WING
AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS.

HEADQUARTERS 1ST WING.
AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS.
TETBURY,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

29-4-18

SB/DMM.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
4343/41/54

29th April, 8

Received from the Adjutant of No. 1 Wing, A.F.C., one Service Green Wooden Case, one Yellow Polished Case, one parcel covered with Aeroplane Fabric, Two Map Cylinders.

The contents of these packages are unknown. They have been sealed in his presence, and are being held by me.

Lieut.-Col.,
A.A.G.

4348/41/54

I received instructions from the Commandant this morning, 1st May, to be present with Capt. Manwell, A.F.C. at the opening by Capt. A. E. Geere, A.F.C. of two boxes, a large parcel, two plan cases and an envelope, then lying in the A.A.G's room. The following action was taken:-

Package

Large Yellow ~~Box~~

This contained pieces of timber, sheets and rods of pressed milk, a circular polishing brush and a few small articles, all of private ownership.

Two Metal Plan Cases

These were opened and the contents cursorily examined, a detailed examination not being practicable at the moment. At the suggestion of Capt. Geere, the whole of these were retained. They are divided into two classes, one being held in each of the cases. One batch was made at Castle Bromwich and Capt. Geere states they were prepared with the knowledge and permission of the Wing Commander, 28th Wing. The remainder were made at Ternhill. In two cases plans were identified as having been copied from technical magazines and these were marked "G" in the corner. They are stated to represent the United States specifications for Wing Sections.

Large Envelope (containing black American leather Wallet)

The contents of this were examined and found to be private property. They included a black-edged note-book, a "Triumph" note-book, "Scout" Diary, a tracing showing the proposed trade marks of the Australian Aircraft Coy. and private letters, receipts, business cards, etc.

4343/41/84

Large Trunk

A considerable number of books and papers, and a flexible drive were recognised as Government property, and are held in a brown paper parcel marked "Government property" from large box. It is understood (though this is challenged by Capt. Geere) that certain of these - although as Unit property Capt. Geere had a perfect right to access to them - should not have been kept in a private kit. The box contained, in addition, inks, books (various kinds), a mat, trade catalogues, photos of aircraft engines recognised as private property and other personal belongings.

Small Box (varnished)

This contained miscellaneous papers and books, the majority having reference to the affairs of the Australian Aircraft Coy. The few papers which are Government property are deposited in envelope marked "Government property" from small box. The box was sealed and its disposal was deferred pending the Commandant's decision, which was later received, to the effect that the papers and books of the Company were not required to be held.

Capt. Geere desires a complaint to be recorded that from the small varnished box the following articles have been removed since he last saw it at Tetbury (1) The Account Book of the Australian Aircraft Coy. (2) Copies of acknowledgements of the purpose for which money was loaned to him by various people (3) Letter from Lieut.-Colonel Watt instructing Capt. Geere to hand over the A. R. S. and thanking him for the work he had done in connection with it.

The two plan cases ~~from~~ and the parcel and envelope containing Government property mentioned above, are still lying in the A.A.G's room. The seals of the small varnished box were again broken, and repaired by a carpenter in Capt. Geere's presence this afternoon, and it and the large box have been sent to 9, Elfindale Road, Herne Hill, S.W.

The large yellow parcel is, at Capt. Geere's request, remaining at Room 12 until called for.

EHR/DMK.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
Af.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"ADMINAUST, LONDON."
CABLE ADDRESS:
"ADMINAUST, LONDON."
TELEPHONE:
VICTORIA 8860 (10 LINES).

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
A.I.F. LONDON
43431/4/54

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F.,

130, HORSEFERRY ROAD,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

CONFIDENTIAL.

April 29th. 1918.

To The;-
Commandant.
A.I.F. Admin. Hd.Qtrs.
London.

With reference to the attached memorandum, as Captain GEERE was one of the Officers originally recommended for transfer to the Central Flying School, Australia, I instructed Major SHELDON and him to obtain certain blue prints to take with them to AUSTRALIA.

When Captain GEERE was appointed Acting O.C. of the A.R.S. , he asked that he might be permitted to retain temporarily some of the blue prints in order to assist him in designing a new type of aeroplane.

As far as I am aware, these blue prints are neither Secret nor Confidential. They comprise prints of the Gnome Avro, F.E. 8, B.E. 2.c., and other obsolete or obsolescent types. They were in the personal custody of Captain GEERE, and have been brought to these Headquarters on my instructions to the Wing Commander, in order that they may be forwarded to Australia.

E.H. Reynolds. Lieut;-Colonel.
Staff Officer for Aviation.

TG/JS.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

Ca

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"ADMINAUST, LONDON."

CABLE ADDRESS:
"ADMINAUST, LONDON."

TELEPHONE: VICTORIA 8860 (10 LINES).

HEADQUARTERS
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE,
29 APR. 18 - 4 - ... P.M.
CENTRAL REGISTRY.
A BRANCH,
4343/41

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F.,

130, HORSEFERRY ROAD,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

29th April, 1918.

Staff Officer for Aviation.

It has been represented that Captain Geere drew a number of blue prints from the Royal Flying Corps other than on requisition through the prescribed channel - that these prints were in his custody at the Headquarters of the Australian Aircraft Repair Section and were subsequently brought by ~~Captain Geere~~ to London.

I shall be glad of a report showing the circumstances under which these blue prints were drawn, and as they are stated to be of a secret and confidential nature, what steps were taken for their custody, and why they have since been brought away from the Repair Section to these Headquarters.

Brig-General,
Commandant.

EHR/DMK.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

Af. 4343/41/54

Howard-Rowland

Rowlands — to Hatfield -

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"ADMINAUST, LONDON."

CABLE ADDRESS:
"ADMINAUST, LONDON."

TELEPHONE:
VICTORIA 8860 (10 LINES).

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE,
1 MAY. 10-11 55 A.M
CENTRAL REGISTRY.
4343/41/54.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F.,

130, HORSEFERRY ROAD,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

April 29th. 1918.

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

To The;-
Commandant.
A.I.F. Admin. Hd.Qtrs.
London.

With reference to the attached, I have instructed the Wing Commander to obtain the report you desire from Captain GEERE.

This will be forwarded to you as soon as it is received.

I have also to inform you that I am not in any way connected with the Australian Aircraft Company, or any other Company whatsoever.

E. H. Reynolds.
Lieut;-Colonel.
Staff Officer for Aviation.

TG/JS.

A[illegible] 9126. 50,000. E. & T. Ltd.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

Ca

ADVANCE AUSTRALIA

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS "ADMINAUST, LONDON."
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE,
CABLE ADDRESS STRALIS, LONDON.
29 APR 18 4 ... P.M
TELEPHONE VICTORIA 8860 (8 LINES).
CENTRAL REGISTRY,
A BRANCH,
4343/41/54.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F.,

130, HORSEFERRY ROAD.

LONDON, S.W.

29th April, 1918.

Staff Officer for Aviation.

In your absence on Saturday, I saw Lieutenant-Colonel Watt, commanding the 1st Wing Headquarters of the Australian Flying Corps.

He handed to me the enclosed statements by 1st Air Mechanic Edwards, Acting Corporal Bentley and Major Ellis.

You will see that it is stated that Captain Geere was in possession of a number of blue prints of aeroplanes, that he had drawings of these blue prints made on tracing linen and marked "Australian Aircraft Company Limited" - the obvious intention being that they would be used in the service of the Australian Aircraft Company - a company which Captain Geere is endeavouring to promote and which has been the subject of recent correspondence.

Will you please at once call upon Captain Geere for his reply with regard to these statements and also with regard to the statement that tracings of designs by him for "dope tin" and "enamelling oven were made by Corporal Bentley.

You will also note that Major Ellis in his statement states that shares in the Company were held by Lieutenant-Colonel Reynolds and Major Broun.

For your remarks please. Will you please treat this as Urgent.

Brig-General,
Commandant.

AF

I wish to see
the C/C privately
about Aircraft
Plans: but I
will not ~~Cannot~~ be
provided by H.C.O.
in this serious
matter.

Wavell

4343/41/52.

Statement by :-

No aus 2866 1 A/M Edwards E.W.M.
Aeroplane Repair Section,
AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS.

I am employed as a storeman in Ist Wing A.R.S. but assist in Equipment office routine work. Last February I was told by Capt Geere to expect 2 boxes the contents of which would be dealt with by him personally and would not be taken on charge. These duly arrived and were opened the same day in order to find something which Capt Geere wanted in a hurry. It was then I saw the contents. I case contained miscellaneous engine fittings and spares very roughly packed the other case being full of official plans and schedules which I knew to be of great importance and on this account I asked Capt Geere about their safe custody as the store was only provided with an ordinary lock. I understood from Capt Geere that some difficulty had arisen from his personal possession of these drawings. Shortly after this Capt Geere told me he was forming a Company and when the A.R.S. moved to Leighterton a chum of mine showed me a copy of the company's memorandum of association and I advised him to have nothing to do with it. I was never offered any shares myself. About April 16th I heard Capt Geere say to Corporal Bentley in Lieut Colonel Reynolds' presence, "send all these things on to me", pointing to the box containing the blue prints. This case was despatched on 18th or 19th April addressed to Lt Colonel E.H.Reynolds Staff Officer for Aviation, 130 Horseferry Road, London, the address being written on a large official envelope and lightly tacked on top of the case.

The case was dark green and stood about 2 ft 6 in high, and rather resembled a seaman's chest.

E. W. M. Edwards.
1st Apm.

TETBURY. GLOUS.

April 26th. 1918.

4343/41/SU

Statement by:-

2588 A/cpl.BENTLEY.RF.
Aeroplane Repair Section.
Australian Flying Corps.

I am employed in Ist Wing A.R.S, as draughtsman, Under instructions from Capt Geere commanding A.R.S. I have made modified copies of several official blue prints of aeroplanes, the modifications being conversion of a 2 seater B.E.2C and B.E.2D to a 3 seater machine. I worked mostly at night but occasionally in the day time. All these drawings were done on tracing linen and marked "Australian Aircraft Co Ltd" Capt Geere handed me a type written application form and I applied for IO shares in the above company but no money passed, Shares were £I each. Capt Geere told me the names of shareholders in the company but in confide-nce, there were 7 or 8. Capt Geere designed a "dope tin" and a "stove enamelling oven" for use in the A.R.S. and I made tracings of the original designs which copies were marked with the company's mark. I joined A.R.S. at Tern Hill 16.2.18. and about 2 weeks later went into the drawing office where there was a large case of official blue prints amongst which were the ones alluded to above. This Case acting under instructions from Capt Geere, I addressed to Lt Col Reynolds Headquarters A.I.F. London about a week ago. The company's drawings were kept in two aluminium plan cases and I do not know whether they went to London in the case or not.

R.H.Bentley.....
a/cpl
2588.

TETBURY.GLOUS.
April 26th.1918.

"A" Form.

Army Form C. 2121.
(In pads of 100.)

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message 4343 | 1 | 54

Prefix ..... Code .....m	Words. / Charge.	*This message is on a/c of:*	Recd. at .....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.	Sent	O.H.M.S. *Service.*	Date .....
COPY.	At .....m.	L.P.Fay.Capt.	From .....
	To	(Sig. of "Franking Officer.")	By .....
	By		

TO { Capt A.E.Geere
A.R.S.
Leighterton.

Sender's Number	Day of Month	In reply to Number	
IW/T/59	19.4.18.		AAA

You	will	report	to
A.F.C.	H'quarters	London.	immediately
aaa			

From 1st Wing.A.F.C.
Place Tetbury.
Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

Censor. Sig. of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.

(27964) Wt. W492/M1647. [E 1187]. 130,000 Pads—5/17. M.R.Co.,Ltd. Forms/C.2121.

1343/41/54

Statement by
Major A.W.L.Ellis.M.C.
Commanding No 8.T.S.A.F.C.

I was constantly approached by Capt Geere who wished me to become a director of the Australian Aircraft Co.

I refused to comply with his request or to take shares in the Company.

He informed me in casual conversation that shares in the Company were held by :- Lieut Colonel Reynolds and

Major Broun.

He showed me a list of the manufacturing Companies whose Australian agencies he proposed securing for his Company.

He also showed me the Company's printed memorandum of association and a typed prospectus with application for shares on one sheet.

A.W.L. Ellis Major.
A.F.C.

26-4-18

Af. 4343.41.54. Copy. 4343/41/54

Australian Imperial Force.
Administrative Headquarters.
130, Horseferry Road.
London.S.W.1.

April. 20th 1918.

To/ Captain A.E. Geere,
Aircraft Repair Section,
Australian Flying Corps.
Leighterton.

Copy to/ Officer Commanding,
1st.Wing Headquarters,
Australian Flying Corps.
Tetbury. Glos.

I have been informed that a Company has been promoted by you for the manufacture of aeroplanes in Australia, and that you are the Director of the Company, and that a prospectus has been published.

Be good enough to inform me if this is the case, and if so, on what Authority you have acted., in consideration of the fact that the regulations forbid Officers of the Australian Forces either forming Companies, or holding Offices on Companies of this nature.

Sgd.E.H. Reynolds.
Lieut. Colonel.
Staff Officer for Aviation.

COPY.

Leighterton.
26/4/18.

From.
Capt A.E.Geere.

To O.C.Ist Wing.Tetbury.

It is requested that I be paraded to Commandant A.I.F.Headquarters.London.

I wish to discover my position regarding the Company I registered some time since.

(signed) A.E.Geere.
Capt.

COPY.

Australian Imperial Force
Administrative Headquarters.
130 Horseferry Road.
London.S.W.1

Af.4343.41.54.

April 26th.1918.

Officer Commanding.
Ist Wing Headquarters.
Australian Flying Corps.
TETBURY. Glous.

RE Captain A.E.Geere. (A.F.C.).

Please advise me of your recommendation as to the disposal of Captain Geere.

(signed) E.H.Reynolds.

Lieut;-Colonel.
Staff Officer for Aviation.

4343/41/54

COPY OF TELEGRAM.

Tetbury. 4.15.pm.
19 AP
18.

O.H.M.S.
Australian Headquarters London. 11.50 a.m. 2.58 p.m.

To - Aust Wing Tetbury.

9825 19.4.18.aaa instruct Capt A.E.Geere report these Headquarters immediately.

Adminaust London.

Capt GEERE left TETBURY by 6 pm train
19-4-18

THD/JS.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
A.I.F.
4343/41/54

C1/ 4343/41/54.

21st January, 9.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

Secretary,
Department of Defence,
MELBOURNE.

In connection with the recent cable messages which have taken place between the High Commissioner's Office, the Director-General of Demobilization and yourself concerning the equipment for the post-War branch of the Australian Flying Corps,&the mention in your cable WQ329 of 2nd January of the names of certain Officers who had recommended to you the description of machines which might be obtained, I desire to inform you that on looking into files in this office, I came across one, a copy of which I attach for your information, as I considered the action of some of the Officers referred to to be sufficiently suspicious as to warrant me in advising you concerning these matters.

You will observe that Lieutenant-Colonel REYNOLDS, Major SHELDON and Captain GEERE and others are all implicated in the matter. I have also been informed from a reliable source that Major MURRAY is also closely related to a family who are reputed to be some of the largest aeroplane manufacturers in England.

You might think it advisable, under the circumstances, to obtain from these Officers to what extent they or their close family relations are concerned in aeroplane manufacture.

T. H. DODDS.
Brigadier-General,
Commandant.

File Enc.

B.F.
ON:- None
TO:- AA
21/4

54

NAME OR SUBJECT Re Capt AE Geere & Company.

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

FROM	TO	MAIN	SUB	TAB
		4343	41	54

DA 13812 ARO. 27/6/18 FP.
Commandant. 26/6/18

Advsng arrangemts are being made ref auth. of Comndnt of thes Hqrs. for Capt. A.E. Geere's passage to Aust for terminatn of apptmt by first avail. vessel. M.B. on 28th May, found "P.U.G.S". attd copy of procdngs.
Ab. 4343/41/54 4343/41/54

(LM)
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NAME OR SUBJECT Re Capt AE Geere & Company.

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

FROM TO

54

MAIN	SUB	TAB
4343	41	34

A83283 AF 11/6/18 (LM)
A,F,C Trng. Depot Halton Camp E.
Wendover . 7/6/18

Fwded. herewith attd applic from Cptn.A.E. Geere A,F,C. for him to be postd to R.A,F. Halton School of Technical Trng. as an instructor. For yr considertn.
1/196

4343 54

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NAME OR SUBJECT: Re Capt A E Goore & Company.

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

FROM | TO

54

MAIN	SUB	TAB
4343	41	54

DA 12895
A.A.G. Af 14.5.18EW
13.5.18.

Herewith fwd for yr inform Copy of Proedngs of a C.of Enquiry re certain drawings of aeroplanes in the possession of Capt. A.E. Goore A.F.C.
A.4343/7/3.

File No. 3-73/14/54

Date.....

R 200,000 3/18 10046

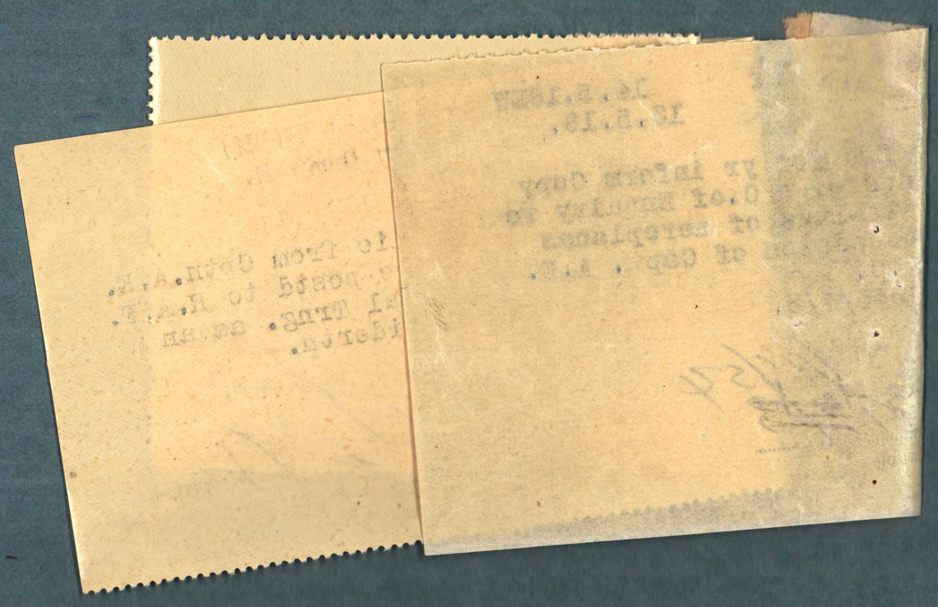
...5/18.W.B.
...y.
...nqy will
...at 4th inst.
...ers contnd
...n 29th. 4343/
...range for
...e present, as
...mbr of board.
...43/41"54.

NAME OR SUBJECT Re Capt AE Greer & Companies.

Registered 558952 Pat. France, Germany, U.S.A., Etc.

FROM TO

MAIN	SUB	TAB
4343	41	54



DA/12636 Af 2/5/18.W.B. 1.
A.A.G. 2nd May.

Stg that a Court of Inqy will assemble at 10. on Sat 4th inst. to enquire into matters contnd in corres. fwd you on 29th. 4343/41/54. Request to arrange for Caotn Newland to be present, as membr of board. 4343/41"54.

File No. / /
Date 4343/41/54

R 20,000 3/18 10046

NAME OR SUBJECT Re Capt AE Geere & Company.

Registered 558952 Pat. France, Germany, U.S.A., Etc.

FROM TO

MAIN	SUB	TAB
4343	41	54

54

DA/12607 Ca 1/5/18.W.B.
Staff Offr for Aviatn 29th Apl.

Ref attchd, stg they have instd the Wing Commander to obtain report you d desire from Captn Geere. which shall be fwd you as soon as recd. Stating also that Capt Reynolds in no way Connected with the Aust Air Corps or any other Coy

4343/41/54

File No. 1/1/

Date 4343/41/54

R 200,000 3/18 10046

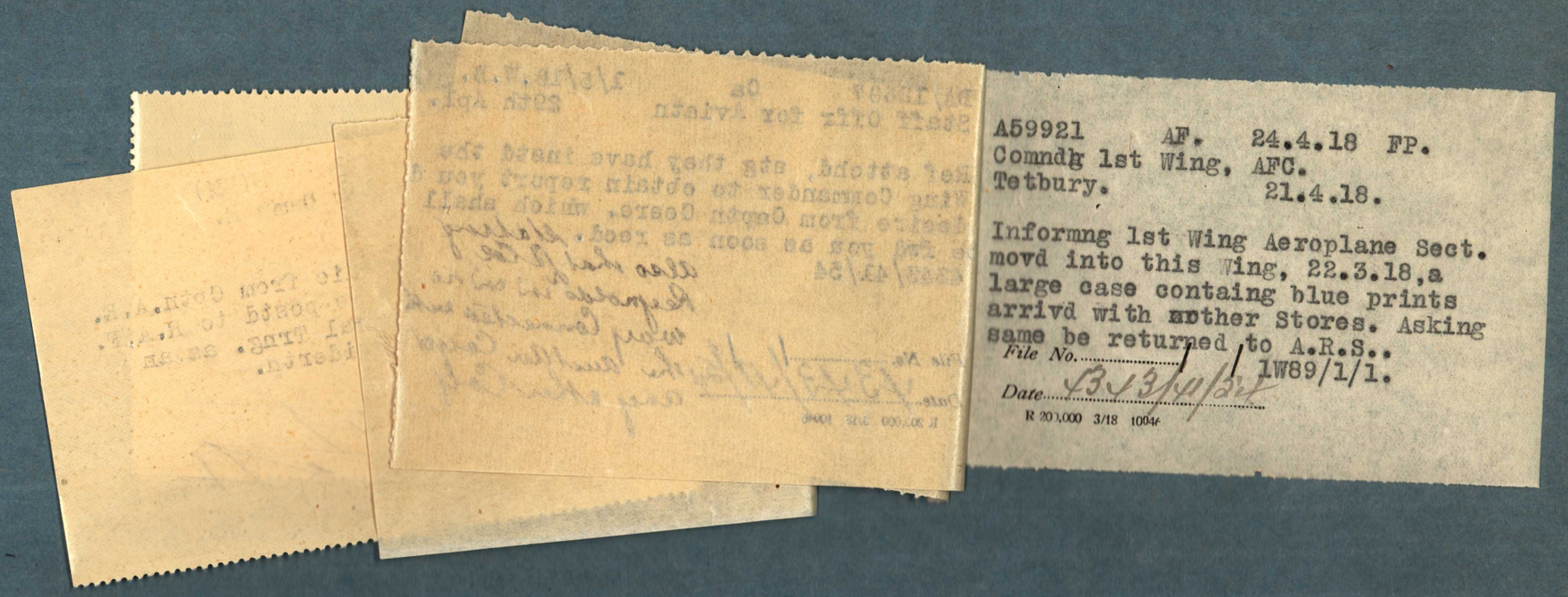
NAME OR SUBJECT Re Capt AE Geare & Companies.

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

FROM TO

MAIN	SUB	TAB
4243	41	34

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A59921 AF. 24.4.18 FP.
Comndg 1st Wing, AFC.
Tetbury. 21.4.18.

Informng 1st Wing Aeroplane Sect. movd into this Wing, 22.3.18, a large case containg blue prints arrivd with mother Stores. Asking same be returned to A.R.S..

File No. / / 1W89/1/1.

Date 23/3/18/24

R 20),000 3/18 1004