SUBJECT: List of trophies captured, position re shipment & ultimate disposal in Aust. | FROM | TO 4386/1/95

50M 1018 13119

4386/1/95. REGISTER AND POSITION OF PAPERS BELONGING TO THIS FILE. 4386/1/95

Date	PARTICULARS	Submitted to	Date Returned	Date	PARTICULARS	Submitted to	Date Returned	Date	PARTICULARS	Submitted to	Date Returned	Date	PARTICULARS	Submitted to	Date Returned
29/3	Off. Sec Aust Home 27/3.	aw.	8.4.19												
4-4-19	E.99007	aw.	8.4.19												
8.4.19	E.99007/2/4/19 pps		8.4.19												
22/5	pps	as	2.6.19.												

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

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"CROTONATE. ESTRAND. LONDON."

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.
4 APR. 19 10-30 A.M
RECORDS REGISTRY.
4386/1/95

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

O'L/MF

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

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

Sc. 438/9/1.

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

2nd April, 1919.

99007

MEMORANDUM TO

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

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I have to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your memorandum 4386/1/95 of the 29th ultimo forwarding statement in regard to trophies captured by the Australian Imperial Force.

E A Bosc
OFFICIAL SECRETARY.

attach d PA.
J2 4/4.

PA's to a/c
2/12/19

JLT/ET.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL REGISTRY
#386/1/95
A.I.F. LONDON

AW #386/1/95

March 27th 9.

Official Secretary.
Australia House.
STRAND. W.C.2.

The attached memorandum regarding the number of trophies captured by the Australian Imperial Force, and position with regard to shipment to Australia and distribution there, is forwarded in accordance with a telephone request made by you this morning.

Sgt. I.G.

Brig. General i/c, Administration,
A.I.F.

To be returned to Capt Treloar

NUMBER OF TROPHIES CAPTURED BY THE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE AND POSITION WITH REGARD TO SHIPMENT TO AUSTRALIA AND DISTRIBUTION THERE.

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1. The War Records Section is responsible for all work in connection with Australian trophies.

2. According to the records in the possession of the Section, the Australian troops claim to have captured the following stores :-

DETAILS.	FRANCE.	EGYPT.
Guns (various types)	369	271
Machine Guns	2268	933
Trench Mortars	320	37
Vehicles (G.S.Wagons, etc.)	133	-
M.T. Vehicles	13	20 approx.
German Tank	1	-
Aeroplanes	5	-

It should be noted that the above are claimed only. It does not necessarily follow that the whole of this number will be allotted the A.I.F. though it has been found that the percentage of A.I.F. claims substantiated is very high - about 90%.

3. In addition to the above the Australian representative on the War Trophies Committee has submitted a formal claim on behalf of the A.I.F. for a proportional share of the guns, etc. ceded by the Germans in accordance with the terms of the armistice, and for the various material not claimed by any particular unit. This has been approved, and his suggestion that the basis of distribution should be in accordance with the number of divisions maintained in the field, has also been accepted.

At a meeting of the War Trophies Committee held this morning, the procedure to be adopted with regard to the disposal of these guns was laid down. Two pools have been formed, one consisting of the guns immediately available, which number about 1036. This number includes only one-third of the guns ceded by the Germans; the remainder (about 1600) are serviceable, and are not yet available for distribution as trophies. Of this first pool, Australia's share is 60, and these guns will be made available almost immediately. The second pool will consist probably of the remainder of the ceded guns, and of unclaimed guns received from all the theatres of war in which British troops have fought. It is estimated that the total number will be approximately 2500. Of these, Australia will receive 140. It is not yet known definitely what material other than guns will become available from this source, but whatever material is available, Australia will share in the same way as in the case of guns.

4. A similar application was also made for a proportional share of the aeroplanes ceded by the Germans, and this claim has been approved. An officer is being sent to France ro select the material required for Australia.

5. Of the trophies, for which claims have been substantiated and already handed over to the A.I.F., 74 machine guns and 28 trench mortars were shipped to Australia about the middle of last year. 220 guns of various types are now being shipped on the "BULLER", due to leave London at the end of this month. Arrangements have been made to ship other trophies immediately

they are handed over. Of the trophies captured by the A.I.F. in Egypt, consignments have for some time past been regularly forwarded to Australia, but the exact number is not known at present.

6. With regard to the allocation of these trophies in Australia, an A.I.F. Order was published toward the end of 1917 stating that the allocation of trophies rested with the Commonwealth Government, and that the C.Os, and officers were not permitted to make any promise with regard to the disposal of material captured by their units. At the same time, however, most units, in submitting claims, express a desire as to the disposal of the trophies referred to, generally to the Australian War Museums or some Municipal authority in Australia.

The following cablegram was also dispatched to the Defence Department on the 20th inst. :-

"AW 56380 Consignment 220 captured guns various types "leaving London per 'BULLER' end March further con- "signments following aaa Egypt also despatching period- "ically aaa Strongly advise no allocation be made until "majority consignments reach Australia and authority "organised control distribution aaa This appears neces- "sary ensure allocation best advantage Commonwealth and "States due regard being paid wishes captors records of "which cannot yet be spared for transmission Australia "and material available which not known until few months "later aaa If public demand necessitates earlier distri- "bution strongly urge system of loan without prejudice "final plan of allotment".

Another telegram on this subject was sent today by Admiralty - We must see we do not clash. WRP

27/3/1919.

SUBJECT List of trophies captured, position re shipment & ultimate disposal in Aust.

FROM

TO 4386/1/95

199007 3/4/19.
Aust House 7/4/19.
Acknowledge 4386/1/95
Send statement re trophies captured by A.I.F.
4386/1/95.