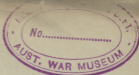


AWM 194

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN



[CMF 121]

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Home and Territories Department.

FILE OF PAPERS.

SUBJECT:

2ND BATTALION, 57TH INFANTRY REGIMENT.

Now by Bu

[CMF 121]

MINUTES NOT TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS COVER.

DISTRIBUTION OF GUNS TO C.M.F. UNITS.

227

11. 3. 20

NOTICE OF DESPATCH ETC.

C.M.F. Unit:- 2nd Battalion, 57th Infantry Regiment.

Address:- Seymour, Vic.

Type and Registered No. of gun:- German 77 mm. gun No. 315.

History:- Captured by the 57th Battalion, A.I.F., during an attack near Bellicourt on the 29th October, 1918.

Perhaps the history of the capture of the gun can be amplified by officers of the 57th Battalion, A.I.F., who may now be serving under your command. If further information is required from official sources it will be supplied upon application.

188

Inspector,
Australian War Museum.

Method of despatch suggested by C.O. Unit:-

BY RAIL TO - Seymour.

PARTICULARS OF DESPATCH (TRUCK NO., ETC.)

Despatched by rail on
3 March 1920
Lodgwick Consignment note
forwarded with original

Date.

3/3/20 J. J. Moynihan

1/c Captured Gun Park.

To be completed and forwarded to C.O. of unit immediately the gun is placed on rails or on board at Melbourne.

Pa
8/13
J. J. Moynihan

To. Director, Australian War Museum.
Wool Exchange, King Street Melbourne
Dear Sir

On behalf of the 2/57th Inf. Regt. I agree to the following conditions in connection with the captured gun it is proposed to send the unit.

- (a) The gun will be made available upon demand to a battalion or regimental association, if such a body is formed and desires to stand the gun near its clubhouse. Subject to this, the gun becomes the property of the unit, and may not pass out of its possession without the approval of the Secretary, Department of Defence.
- (b) The officers commanding units of other arms and services raised in the area from which the battalion or regiment is drawn will be consulted regarding the selection of a site for the gun, etc.
- (c) A suitable ceremony will be arranged for the formal taking over of the gun.
- (d) A suitable platform on which to stand the gun will be provided, and arrangements will be made to ensure its being kept in good order and repair.
- (e) The gun will be delivered at the nearest railway station at the expense of the Australian War Museum. Expenses connected with its transport from the station, installation, etc., will be borne by the unit.

Amendment of 21st Jan. agreed to.

(Signature) *P. Mungrove* Major...
Commanding, 2/57th Inf. Regt.

(Date)

C.O.'s suggestion as to the most economical method of despatch.

BY SEA TO -

BY RAIL TO - SEYMOUR

The above is to be completed and returned as soon as possible to the Director, Australian War Museum, Wool Exchange, King Street, Melbourne. Upon its receipt arrangements will be made to forward the gun.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MUSEUM,

Wool Exchange,

King Street,

Melbourne, 21st January, 1920.

C.O. 2nd Bn., 57th Inf. Regt., Seymour, Vic.

In continuation of this office circulars of the 2nd December and 16th December regarding the presentation of a captured gun to your unit, it has been decided to amend clause (a) of the agreement upon which the gun will be handed over, by the insertion of the words "at any time six months after its receipt by the unit" after the words "upon demand" in the first line of the clause.

2. The clause as amended will read:-

"The gun will be made available upon demand at any time six months after its receipt by the unit, to a battalion or regimental association, if such a body is formed and desires to stand the gun near its clubhouse. Subject to this, the gun becomes the property of the unit, and may not pass out of its possession without the approval of the Secretary, Department of Defence."

3. Unless informed to the contrary, it will be assumed that you agree to this amendment.

H. S. Gullett

Director,
Australian War Museum.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MUSEUM,

Wool Exchange,

King Street,

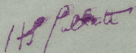
Melbourne, 16th December, 1919.

C.O.....

In continuation of this office circular of the 2nd December informing you that a gun had been allotted to your unit, it is considered desirable to emphasise that this is a gift to the unit, subject to the conditions enumerated in the attachment to the circular, and should not be confused with trophies for which the town in which the unit headquarters may be located may have applied for or may receive in future.

2. In view of this it is considered that the most suitable place for exhibiting the gun will be the grounds on which the unit drill Hall stands. If, for any reason, this is not possible and a site away from the Hall has to be secured from the civil or other authorities, it should be pointed out to them that the gun is the property of the unit, that it may subsequently have to be withdrawn and handed over to the regimental association if such is formed (vide clause (a) of conditions) and that the allocation of the gun to the unit will not affect the claim for War Trophies of the civil authorities in the town concerned.

3. It has been considered desirable specially to emphasise the above point as from replies received to the circular it appears that some units have looked upon the gun allotted them as a gift to the town in which the unit headquarters are situated and have believed themselves to be merely the medium through which this gift is made. As pointed out above this is not so.



Director,
Australian War Museum.

ISSUE OF GUNS TO C.M.E. UNITS.

PARTICULARS INSERTED IN PARAGRAPH 3.

2nd Battalion, 57th Infantry Regiment,
Seymour, Victoria.

German 77 mm. gun No. 315 captured by the 57th Battalion, A.I.F.

MERMITL
BOND

AUSTRALIAN WAR MUSEUM,

Wool Exchange,

King Street,

Melbourne.

C.O.....

In July of this year the Australian War Museum Committee, under the Home & Territories Department, was formed to establish the Australian National War Museum and distribute the trophies and relics captured or acquired by the A.I.F. The Committee decided that trophies and relics not required for the National Museum, which will be the Memorial to the Australian Naval and Military Forces, shall be allotted to States, each State receiving the material captured by the units it raised, and the other material being allotted on a population basis. The distribution of the material within the States was made the responsibility of State Trophy Committees - one for each State - consisting of one Senator, one Member of the House of Representatives, a representative of the State Government to make known its wishes regarding the State Museum and other institutions, an A.I.F. officer, and the Director of the Australian War Museum.

2. A joint meeting of these Committees was held on the 16th October. At this meeting the Director of the War Museum submitted a proposal for the distribution of trophies. This proposal provided inter alia for the distribution of one gun to each C.M.F. Light Horse and Infantry unit. The meeting decided that the question of distribution required mature consideration, which the Federal members will be unable to give it until after the approaching elections. At the special request of the Director the meeting approved, however, of the distribution of guns to C.M.F. units, and then adjourned until early in the New Year.

3. The War Museum desires to hasten the distribution of guns in order that they may reach units while their interest is fresh. German gun No..... captured by the A.I.F., has therefore been selected for despatch to your unit. It is, of course, obvious that the gun cannot be handed over without certain conditions being agreed to. The Defence Department has been consulted on this and the conditions are given on the attached sheet. Will you please complete it and return it as soon as possible.

4. The supply of guns will not permit of one being issued to all C.M.F. units affiliated with A.I.F. units. As, however, these units are raised from the same areas as the Infantry, it is proposed that they should have an interest in the gun allotted to you, and it is desired that officers of these units should be consulted as to the site selected for the gun, etc.

5. The following comments upon the conditions are made for your information:-

- (a) It is suggested that the ceremony at which the gun is formally taken over should be attended by ex-members of the A.I.F., the citizen force and senior cadet battalions, and prominent citizens. At the ceremony the history of the affiliated A.I.F. battalion might be outlined and particulars given of the circumstances in which the gun was captured. The Australian War Museum will supply

any information it has on these subjects. Until the official records arrive about the end of December the information supplied by the War Museum will be limited, but it could doubtless be amplified by ex-officers of the A.I.F.

- (b) Concrete is the most suitable material with which to construct a platform, especially as regards appearance. A platform is required underneath the wheels, and another, a smaller one, for the end of the trail to rest on. The Director of Works was asked to prepare specifications for suitable platforms. He stated that requirements would vary in the different localities according to site, etc., and he advises that the Shire Engineer should be consulted. Doubtless, however, it will be possible to find in the military personnel of the area, men fully qualified to construct the platform.

As regards preservation, the barrel should be plugged to prevent its becoming filled with rainwater or refuse. The gun should be washed down with water and then wiped over with a clean oil rag. The wiping should be repeated once a fortnight. Unless this is done regularly the gun will rust; and if it cannot be provided for the gun should be painted, though this will remove the camouflage and tend to lessen the interest of the gun.

- (c) It will be a great help to the Museum if, with your local knowledge, you will suggest the most economical method of transporting the gun. For example, the headquarters of a unit located in Northern Queensland could probably most economically be reached by shipping to one of the Northern Queensland ports and being railed from there.

6. The gun presented to your unit will not be taken as off-setting the claims of the citizens of the town in which the gun may be placed. Their claims will be considered when the State Trophy Committees next meet.

H.S. Fullerton

Director,
Australian War Museum.

Further remarks applicable to individual units.