Headquarters B 3050
Western and B 3143 (7 lines)
For thes and Drill Halls
see Department of Army in
Telephone Directory.

RMQ AUSTRALIA

959/7/226

RMQ AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES-WESTERN COMMAND

Please quote this Number when replying

1

CR 30

296

Headquarters Western Command Swan Barracks PERTH.

-2 MAN 194646.

L 14046/45

HQ AMF, Victoria Barracks, MELBOURNE S.C.1.

ACCOMMODATION FOR RECUPERATION OF NETHERLANDS INDIES CIVILIANS

Reference HQ AMF memo 137351 of 18 Oct 45 and Western Command memo 30/1/296 of 9 Feb 46.

- 1. To enable release of hired premises at present occupied and required by a manufacturing concern for the re-establishment and rehabilitation of ex-servicemen, it has been found necessary to arrange for the transfer of Western Command Stationery Depot to Camp 20, Guildford, and the taking-over of the Gun Park buildings (main mess) for this purpose.
- 2. The accommodation available for Netherlands Indies evacues, should the camp be eventually required by the Netherlands Government, is accordingly reduced.

July 3. 46

Moase

Major-General

GOC

Western Command

BOASE)

20346 20346

959 / 1226

(259/7/226)

19744

H.Q., Western Command, Swan Barracks, PERTH. W.A.

Feb 46.

ACCOMMODATION FOR RECUPERATION OF NETHERLANDS INDIES GIVILIANS.

EZ MAR 1940

Ref HQ Western Command CR 30/1/296 of 9

It is advised that the proposal for the occupation of the Guildford Camp by Netherlands Indies evacuees has definitely been cancelled. This information was given to this HQ today by Mr. Van Holst Pellekaan, Trade Commissioner for the Netherlands Indies.

Proposals/indicated in para 2 of your memo abovementioned can therefore be implemented.

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Quartermaster-General.

v 8 Feb 46.

Plangse

B 3050 B 3143 (7 line B 3171 (5 line quarters Command For Branches and Drill Halls see Department of Army in Telephone Directory. RMQ AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES-WESTERN COMMAND Headquarters Western Command Please quote this Number when replying Swan Barracks PERTH. CR 30 296 HQ AMF ACCOMMODATION FOR RECUPERATION OF NETHERLANDS INDIES CIVILIANS Reference: HQ AMF memo 137351 of 18 Oct 45 Western Command signal Q4038 of 17 Jan 46 Chief Finance Officer memo (F3/T12) 7451 of 23 Jan 46 It is understood from Mr. Blok, Netherlands representative, that at present the proposal for occupation of the Guildford Camp. by Netherlands Indies evacuees is in abeyance. 2. In order that various accommodation stores originally requested may not be held unnecessarily, and the camp may be put to further use, it is requested that the present position of the matter be advised. please. Major-General GOC Comps no langue needs

O Wet. Kran - 20 see the 30/146 (2) Imr. Jones - Will + expedite return 3 man rangelon A. THASE

F3/T12

7451

259. 4. 226.

23 JAN 194

District Finance Officer, District Accounts Office, Box L.920 G.P.O., PERTH W. A.

USE OF GUILDFORD CAMP BY THE DUTCH

With reference to your telephone conversation with Lt.-Col. Sheeran on 17th January, and your telegram F.4853 of the same date it is desired to confirm this office telegram F of 18th January, which should read:-

*F3797 RESTRICTED YOUR F4853 INFORMATION THIS OFFICE THAT PROPOSED OCCUPATION GUILDFORD CAMP BY N E I CIVILIANS NOT YET FINALISED STOP MATTER DISCUSSED BY TELEPHONE BETWEEN 'Q' BRANCH THIS HEADQUARTERS AND WESTERN COMMAND IN RESPONSE SIGNAL Q4038 STOP SUGGEST YOU NOW DISCUSS WITH COLONEL CARDALE STOP PROPOSAL N E I DEPOSIT ONE THOUSAND POUNDS NOT REPEAT NOT APPROVED**

The information available to this office at the time of the despatch of the telegram was that arrangements for the occupation of the Camp had not been finalised. Further advice from the Dutch representatives was awaited and a representative of 'Q' Branch of this Readquarters was to confer on the telephone with Headquarters Western Command. This office is unaware of the result of such later discussions.

The present view at these Headquarters is that of the Dutch are to take over the Camp and desire alterations such will require to be arranged direct by them with A.W.C. and be subject to any special approvals which may be required. The Army is unable to arrange priorities.

It was in the light of such information that this office telegram F.3797 was despatched.

Should there be any developments in Western Command which may warrant re-consideration the question of accepting a deposit may, of course, be resubmitted. No action should, however, be taken without the prior approval of this office.

Chief Finance Officer.

Aright Lacre Ball Mills 291/46

7/8 Pla Pan Ses

Box L.920 G.P.0., District Accounts Office, District Finance Officer, & 2 7451 HEADQUARING A BUSTRALL AN MILITARY PORCES

FS/T12

of lath Jenuary, which should read:-With reference to your telephone conversation with Lt.-Col. Sheeran on lith January, and your telegram F.4855 of the same date it is desired to confirm this office telegram F

ERANCH THIS HEADQUARTERS AND WESTERN COMMAND IN HESPONSE SIGNAL Q4058 STOP SUGGEST YOU NOW DISCUSS WITH COLONEL CARDALE STOP PROPOSAL N E I DEPOSIT ONE THOUSAND POUNDS NOT REPEAT NOT APPROVED? PROPOSED OCCUPATION OUILDPORD CAMP BY N E I CIVILIANS NOT PROPOSED BY TELEPHONE BETWEEN "F3797 . RESTRICTED YOUR F4855 INFORMATION THIS OFFICE THAT

the result of such later discussions. cooupation of the Camp had not been finalised. Further advice from the Dutch representatives was awaited and a representative of 'Q' Branca of this Headquarters was to confer on the telephone with Headquarters Western Command. This office is unaware of The information available to this office at the time of the despatch of the telegram was that arrangements for the

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which may warrant re-consideration the question of accepting a deposit may, of course, be recubultted. No action should, however, be taken without the prior approval of this office. Should there be any developments in Western Commind

5 JAN 1946

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259. 7. 226.

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LANDFORCES

POMILITARY PERTH



3797

RESTRICTED YOUR

F4853 INFORMATION THIS OFFICE THAT PROPOSED OCCUPATION
GUILDFORD CAMP BY N E I CIVILIANS NOT YET FINALISED
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SIGNAL Q 4038 STOP SUGGEST YOU NOW DISCUSS WITH COLONEL
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NOT REPEAT NOT APPROVED

For Chief Finance Officer

18 JAN 1946

Copy 6 to Brend Confear

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21 JAN 146

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MILITARY FINANCE REAMEN

RECEIVED 21 JAN 346

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LANDFORCES

POMILITARY PERTH

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Res Chief Finance Officer

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A.A. Form F.256 (small) (In Pads of 100) (Reprinted, June, 1942)

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IMPORTANT

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PP

FROM FOMILITARY PERTH 171406 GTION COPY
TO LANDFORDER

GR47 ET

2.7 JAN 1946

F4853 UNCLASS. FOR CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER . REF PROPOSED OCCUPATION GUILDFORD CAMP BY NEI CIVILIANS 23 JAN. NEI REPRESENTATIVE HAS REQUESTED ISSUE W8 ON AWC FOR ALTERATIONS ESTIMATED ONE THOUSAND POUNDS. PROPOSED DEPOSIT CASH WITH DFO . IS THIS FERMISSIBLE. HQS WESTERN COMD SIGNAL Q4038 OF EVEN DATE REFERS ET 171400H

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Q3/1/WPB/17-10

24 NOV 1945 O.M.G. BRANCH

137351

WESTERN COMMAND

ACCOMMODATION FOR RECUPERATION OF NETHERLANDS INDIES CIVILIANS.

With reference to your 30/1/296 of 10th Oct from Colonel i/c Administration to DQMG III, the situation after the recent visit of Mr. Van Holst Pellekaan is noted.

- Approval is given for your action in proceeding with the processing of Harvey Camp for disposal.
- The final decision of the N.E.I. Government has not yet been received, and you will be advised immediately this information is to hand. Meanwhile it appears that the only possible site which may be required is that at Guildford. This and other sites previously mentioned are included in Army postwar requirements, and therefore the question of immediate disposal is not involved.
- It can be assumed that accommodation for R.N.N. is not required from Army sources.

The provision of certain camp and accommodation stores for the N.E.I. Government may be anticipated when any such demands are received. Authorisation is therefore given for you to supply so far as your local resources will permit such articles, /pending submission to LHQ for final authority and decision as to method of transfer.

Major-General. Quartermaster-General.

Headquarters

Wasser Company

B 3050
B 3140
B 3143 (7 lines)
B 3171 (5 lines)

For Branches and Drill Halls
see Department of Army in
Telephone Directory.

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D. Oct 45.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES—WESTERN COMMAND

Please quote this Number when replying

30 / 296

WESTERN COMMAND
Headquarters,
Swan Barracks, 75 9/7 | 126
Francis Street,
PERTH.

Brigadier B. W. PULVER LHQ

Regarding your note of 28 Sep you will probably have since seen Mr. J. Van Holst Pellekaan who returned to Melbourne last week end.

I showed him the Camp at Guildford and told him that it appeared to be the one most likely to be suitable for his purpose. He was doubtful whether it could be used, partly because of its unsuitability and, partly because of Staffdifficulties. I have since been told that it is most unlikely that he will use this or any other of our camps for Dutch Civilians. He has made quite a few arrangements for local Hotels etc.

Regarding the YAL Building he still thinks this may be suitable but I understand he did not look over it again and he is still somewhat uncertain about it. I hope to get a report from the Citizens' Reception Council which will I think show that the building is not required by that Organisation any longer. I shall send this to you as soon as I receive it.

In view of what Mr. Pellekaan has told me we are going ahead in processing Harvey Camp for disposal in accordance with you Q81514 of 3 Oct and in effect disregarded your Q81635 of 3 Oct. Even if it is decided not to dispose of this camp I do not think any harm will be done in having papers prepared for it and I feel certain that Dutch will not require it.

I have heard very little further about the RNN Repatriate is but I understand they propose to use the Dutch Establishments in the University grounds at Crawley for some of them and that they have made private arrangements to take over the Ocean Beach Hotel in addition. This Hotel was occupied by the USN under private arrangements.

I think it most likely that the Dutch will be asking for a number of stores such as beds, bedding including sheets and I advised Mr. Pellekaan to take this matter up with you at LHQ. They will probably want these for places such as the YAL building where they anticipate fitting up dormitories. Should the policy be that such stores are to be made available to them, either on sale or on rental basis, we should be able to fix them up and let them have them in

lieu of the general public through disposals.

Yours sincerely,

Colonel

Colonel in charge of Administration Western Command

Dig Ellist Het. discussion -Quiles office ~ 17 Sys, attached shows laters dorlyment? Phase note, the we have fits back Dame. in Thank you 26 Ach of & pull file ouce OF plight

Mr. J. van Holst Pellekaan, Trade Commissioner for the Netherlands Indies Government, Temple Court, 422 Collins Street, MELBOURNE.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 18th September, 1945, to Major-General Cannan, in which it is noted that the Australian Government agrees in principle to the admission into Australia of Netherlands subjects for recuperative purposes.

Respecting the availability of accommodation for these persons in and around Perth, W.A., the result of preliminary investigation between your representative in Perth (Mr. Ashall of Department of Social Services) and HQ Western Command, has now been received here. For general accommodation required by you, the following camps could be made available by Army:-

Northam
Portion of Northam town Hospital
Harvey
Swanbourne
Guildford
Naval Base Area, Fremantle.

In consultation with the RNN (who also require accommodation for their personnel for similar purposes), your representative considered that Northam, Harvey and the Naval Base were unsuitable, being too remote, and not sewered. In addition RAAF areas at Rottnest Island and Geraldton were also considered, but unacceptable being again too remote. This leaves therefore only Guildford and Swanbourne, and again Swanbourne appears doubtful as to suitability.

- Base area is definitely unsuitable, there is no Army holding in the vicinity of Perth suitable for your needs. The "Bachelor" Quarters previously requested is not available as the Perth University require the premises early in 1946, and allocation in the interim period has definitely been made to Army units who cannot now vacate. It is suggested for these purposes that certain private properties in which Army interest has ceased might fulfil your needs. These are the Phyllis Dean Hostel setups, Savoy Hotel and certain others which are known to you and your local representative. It is stressed that these are now no longer an Army concern, and occupation by you would be a matter for private negotiation.
- 4. Mr. Ashall says that he is not prepared to make a final decision as to the suitability of the possible locations mentioned above, and it appears that a review and such decision must remain in abeyance until your visit to W.A. early next week. Colonel Cardale is the "Q" Officer under Major-General Boase at Western Command, whom it is suggested that you contact.

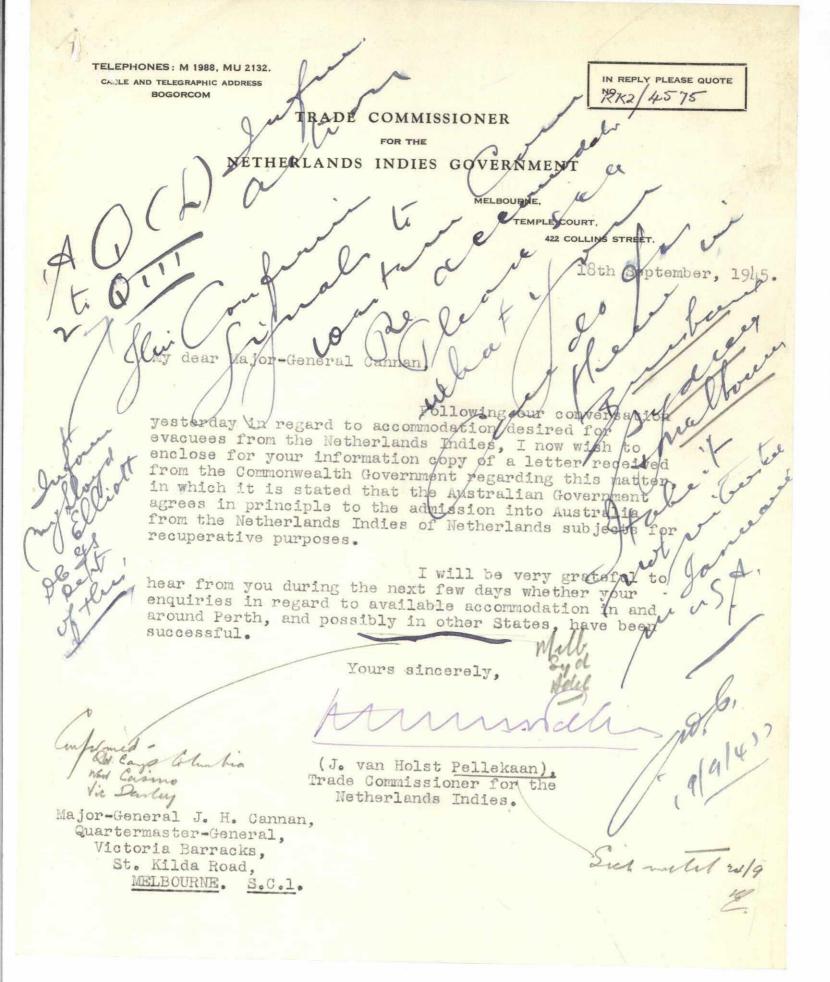
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5. In regard to the last paragraph of your memorandum, your requirements in other States (Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide as confirmed by you on telephone) will be kept closely in mind. For the hostel purposes envisaged however, in these places as in Perth, suitable Army premises are not held. It is possible however that releases from other Services may be passed through our hands, and anything which may possibly suit your needs will be referred to you.

Yours sincerely,

Brigadier, D.Q.M.G. (III).

24/9



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Minister for External Affairs, Canberra.

I.C.45/49/5/1

11th September, 1945.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your Note of August 27th concerning the admission to Australia of Netherlands and Netherlands East Indies evacuees from liberated territories, and now desire to inform you that the Commonwealth Government agrees in principle to the admission into Australia from the Netherlands East Indies of Netherlands Subjects, including Indonesians, for recuperative purposes for any period up to six months, provided that you are able to make satisfactory arrangements for their accommodation with the existing facilities mvailable and subject to the understanding -

- (1) that the Netherlands East Indies Government will be responsible for their maintenance in Australia and for their ultimate return to the Netherlands East Indies, and will supply personnel forlooking after them where such care is necessary; and
- (2) that no persons suffering from dangerous or communicable diseases will be sent to Australia unless prior authority is obtained from the Minister of Immigration after consultation with the Commonwealth Department of Health.
- 2. I should add that this general approval is subject to further agreement as to the numbers to be sent here, and subject to the understanding that all such evacuees will register under the National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations, immediately on their arrival here.
- 3. It is understood that the question of accommodation has been discussed by your representative with the Departments of Social Services and Army and that agreement has been reached to make available the camp areas mentioned in your letter.

I have the honour to be,
With the highest consideration,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(For the Acting Minister of State)

His Excellency, sgd. W.E.Dunk.

Baron F.C. van Aerssen Beyeren van Voshol, M.W.O.,

Her Netherlands Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary

and Minister Plenipotentiary,

Royal Netherlands Legation,

CANBERRA

Minister for External Affairs, Canberra.

lith September, 1945.

I.C.45/49/5/1

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Your most obedient servant, (For the Acting Minister of State)

His Excellency, sgd. W.E.Dunk.
Baron F.C. van Aerssen Beyeren van Voshol, M.W.O.,
Her Netherlands Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary
and Minister Plenipotentiary,
Royal Netherlands Legation,
CANBERRA

576/14A

FROM WESTCOM

TO LFORCES

Q 6965 RESTD. YOUR Q 78076 OF 211000K ASHALL CONSIDERS GUILDFORD AND SWANBOURNE CAMPS POSSIBLY SUITABLE. DUTCH CIVILIANS NEXXECT BUT NOT PREPARED MAKE DECISION. RNN ALSON REQUEST ONE OF THESE CAMPS FOR SERVICE REPATRIATES UNDER SEPARATE ARRANGEMENTS BOTH CONSIDER OTHER CAMPS UNSWITABLE. NORTHAM HARVEY AND NAVAL BASE TOO REMOTE AND NOT SEWERED. TENTED CAMPS QUITE UNACCEPTABLE. ADDITIONAL HUTTED CAMPS OFFERED AIRFIELD ROTTNEST AND RAAF GERALDTON 1200 CAPACITY XXX ALSO TOO REMOTE. CONSIDER. ESSENTIAL RETAIN EITHER GUILDFORD OR SWANBOURNE PREFERABLY THE LATTER FOR ANTICIPATED OVERFLOW AMF CONVALESCENTS DURING OCT SUGGEST MOST SUITABLE SOLUTION. RNN ESTABLISHMENT CRAWLEY PLUS PHYLISS DEAN OSTEL AND HOTELS FOR NEI CIVILIANS. GUILDFORED AND NAVAL BASE CAMPS FOR RNN INCL THEIR PERS FROM CRAWLEY. DQMG(III) ACTION 21st Sept

Naval

LANDFORCES

WESTCOM



RESTRICTED (.) REF LHQ COMMUNICATION BY DIRECT BAG 18
SEP ACCOMMODATION FOR DUTCH CIVILIANS (.) HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO CONFER
WITH MRASHALL REGARDING AVAILABILITY AND LOCATIONS OF ACCOMMODATION (.)
DESIRE IF POSSIBLE THAT YOU ADVISE BY IMMEDIATE SIGNAL TODAY ANY
DECISIONS MADE (.) THIS INFORMATION IS REQUIRED HERE PRIOR TO DEPARTURE
FOR WEST AUSTRALIA OF NEI REPRESENTATIVE

DOMG III

IMMEDIATE

BIF GOC Q in

180940 K

LANDFORCES

WESTCOM

Kosportered by "cirect ling" PM. 18/9.

Q

RESTRICTED (.) FOR

GENERAL BOASE FROM QMG (.) REFERENCE YOUR Q6940 (.) APPROVAL ALLOCATION BACHELOR QUARTERS TO AUST ARMY WILL NOT BE ALTERED (.) GOVERNMENT AGREES MAKE AVAILABLE SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION WA TO NET FOR REHABILITATION DUTCH CIVILIANS INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN (.) REQUIRE (A) CENTRAL COLLECTION AREA VICINITY OF PERTH FOR ARRIVALS EX SHIP SEVERAL WEEKS BEFORE DISPERSAL OTHER AREAS (B) CAMP AREAS MAKES ACCOMMODATION 1,500 to 2,000 FROM END OCT FOR 9 TO 12 MONTHS (.) AREAS ADJACENT TO SWIMMING AND AMUSEMENTS DESIRABLE (.) CONFER WITH MR. ASHALL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES WHO ACTING TEMPORARILY FOR NEI (.) NEI REP FROM HERE INTENDS VISIT PERTH NEXT WEEK (.) REQUEST YOU INVESTIGATE FOLLOWING CAMPS WHICH APPEAR NOT REQUIRED IMMEDIATE AUST PURPOSES (.) GUILDFORD SWANBOURNE HARVEY NORTHAM AND NORTHAM HOSPITAL PORTION NOT REQUIRED BY AAMC (.) NAVAL BASE ALREADY INVESTIGATED BUT NOT REQUIRED STANDARD FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN (.) CONSULT ALSO WITH NAVY AND RAAF RE POSSIBLE LOCATIONS (.) ADVISE MR. ASHALL OF AVAILABILITY PHYLLIS DEAN HOSTEL FACILITIES WHICH NOT REQUIRED AUST PURPOSES (.) REQUEST ADVICE EARLIEST BY SIGNAL ANY ARRANGEMENTS DECIDED BETWEEN YOU AND MR. ASHALL AND LOCATIONS CONSIDERED SUITABLE BY YOU.

Came 3

639 Right 2 RNN reperson

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

PMcL

MESSAGE

WESTCOM

DATE—Time of Origin 151130H

SERIAL No.

FOR ACTION

TO

LANDFORCES

FOR INFORMATION

IMPORTANT

Q6940 RESTD.

FOR GEN CANNON FROM GEN BOASE. Checker

REFERENCE YOUR Q71982 OF 7 SEP OUR Q6918 OF 8 SEP AND YOUR Q74792 OF 11 SEP. UNDERSTAND NET TRADE COMMISSIONER THROUGH STATE AND COMMONWEALTH MINISTERIAL CHENNELS URGING RECONSIDERATION USE BACHELOR OFFICERS QUARTERS MOR NET INTERNEES PLAN UNTIL REQUIRED UNIVERSITY EARLY 1946. HAVE ALREADY ACTED ON APPROVAL GIVEN YOUR Q74792 AND FOUR RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS AND MESSES ANNUAL RENTAL APPROX 1400 IN COURSE DEHIRING IN ACCORDANCE WITH MINISTERIAL DIRECTION. ALSO ANTICIPATE ENABLE DEHIRE OTHER EXPENSIVE OFFICE ACCOMMODATION. NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION EXISTS UNTIL ANTICIPATED REDUCTION DUE DEMOBILISATION BY JANUARY ENABLE ABSORPTION REMAINDER INTO SWAN BARRACKS. REQUEST UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES APPROVAL GIVWN Q74792 BE REVERSED.

DISTRIBUTION-

QMG ACTION AQMG (L) Q(HIRINGS)

15 SEP 45

Attender Sur 700 uso

Offic Nay assente COPY



LANDFORCES

WESTCOM

74792

RESTRICTED (.) YOUR Q6918 (.) USE BA CHELOR QUARTERS BY WESTCOM UNTIL JAN 46 APPROVED SUBJECT CONCURRENCE UNIVERSITY (.)

Lt—Col. 11/9

CRES. MIM9.

() JAMG & plenty

-> (2) RMG plenty

(4) Biscon up at appropriate

fine.

A.Q.M.G. Linkson Roo'd. 13 SEP

File

FROM WESTCOM

081200H

TO LANDFORCES

Q6918 RESTRICTED.

REF YOUR Q71982 OF 8 SEP. UNIVERSITY HAS REQUESTED MINISTER USE
BACHELOR OFFICERS QUARTERS FOR RECONSTRUCTION TRAINEES BUT HAVE
INTIMATED WILL NOT REQUIRE OCCUPY UNTIL JAN 46. DESIRE USE DURING INTERIM
FOR MESSES AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER RELEASE RESIDENCES AND
OTHER HIRINGS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LHQ 11307I OF 29 AUG. PLEASE CONFIRM BY
SIGNAL.

Distribution - Q BR ACTION Q (HIRINGS) Q (AQMG L)

SEP 8th

DQ III ACTION AQ L) D HGS) INF LANDFORCES

071720R

WESTCOM

RESTRICTED (.) UNDERSTAND ROYAL NETHERLANDS NAVY
ARE REQUESTING HIRING OF BACHELOR OFFICERS QUARTERS MOUNTS BAY ROAD
PERTH OCCUPIED BY US ARMY (.) ALSO THAT PERTH UNIVERSITY REQUIRE
RETURN OF LAND (.) DO NOT PROCESS THIS PROPERTY TO ROYAL NETHERLANDS
NAVY PENDING FURTHER ADVICE FROM THIS HQS

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Copies to - AQMG (L)
D Hirings

Requested by R. Neth Navy to rehabilitate suchurued BW earmarked to relieve R. Neth Navy personnel based in Pacific.

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HODGGHM /)

071720R

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AND ANTION HIRLING OF RACHINGS OFFICERS QUARTERS HOURTS BAY HOAD
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Sor and

Q 316, ALL

Copies to - AGMG (L)

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56917

Q3/2/D/8-9.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES MINUTE PAPER

Reference No. Q3/2176

SUBJECT: ACCOMMODATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA FOR DUTCH FORCES.

Secretary :

The attached letter from Rear Admiral Koenraad, Royal Netherlands Navy, requests us to make available to him in Perth, Officers' Quarters in Mount Bay Road, at present occupied by the United States Army, and shortly to be vacated by them. The quarters are required by the Admiral to accommodate repatriated Ps W from the Pacific Area who are to relieve serving members of the Royal Netherlands Navy.

It is requested, please, that the Minister advise regarding Government policy in this and any similar cases which may arise. It is understood that the present policy is that no further commitments for the Netherlands Government will be accepted.

It is also desired to inform the Minister that if this request is approved, hired property belonging to the Perth University, which is required by the owners, would be tied up for an indeterminate period, not less than six months.

Copy to: AQMG (L)

D. Hirings

Golf. This matter is cealt with

of 4/9/45 - copy attached.

Copy to the Application of the Army

Of 1/9/45

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.
MELBOURNE. S.C.1.

No. SS 1704.

4th September, 1945.

MEMORANDUM for :

The Secretary, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

TEMPORARY RETENTION OF CAMPS FOR ACCOMMODATION OF N.E.I. EVACUEES.

Reference is made to your memorandum No. 115212, dated 3rd September, 1945, on the above subject.

- It is advised that no information is available in this Department as to the receipt of an application from on on behalf of the Netherlands Government for camp and hospital facilities in Western Australia for N.E.I. Evacuees. You will be aware, of course, from paragraph 22 of the report attached to your memorandum dated 23rd January, 1945, that the allocation of Northam Camp formed part of the proposal at that time for the basing of a Netherlands Force on Australia. The decisions of War Cabinet in regard to the proposed reception, etc. of this Force were embodied in Minute No. (4293).
- It is observed that by memorandum dated 24th July, 1945, the Secretary, Department of the Interior, advised that the functions associated with the reception and accommodation of civilians transferred to Australia after release from Japanese internment had been taken over by the Department of Social Services. In these circumstances, it is suggested that inquiry might be made of that Department.
- Regarding the policy aspect of the reception of liberated civilians other than Australians, my memorandum No. 1278, dated 3rd September, 1945, addressed to you, covers the present position as known to this Department.

(Sgd.) A.J. WILSON

For (F. G. SHEDDEN)
Secretary.

MARINE COMMANDEMENT AUSTRALIE SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER ROYAL NETHERLANDS NAVY IN AUSTRALIA

441 ST. KILDA ROAD MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

6th September, 1945.

Form 1 50 M-1/44.

Sun. 50.

Quartermaster-General, Victoria Barracks, MELBOURNE.

Attention: Lt.-Col. Summerhayes.

Subject: Requisition of Bachelor Officers Quarters, Mount's Bay Road, Perth.

I beg to advise that the Royal Netherlands Navy Liaison Officer at Perth has been commissioned by me to approach the Army Hirings Service at that city on the subject of requisitioning the Bachelors Officers Quarters at Mounts Bay Road, at present occupied by the United States Army.

The relative premises are required to be occupied by those returned prisoners of war from the Pacific area who may be considered fit enough - after a certain period of convalesence - to relieve Royal Netherlands Navy personnel at present serving in Australia. In the latter category many have been away from their mother-country for periods up to 8 years, and it is for this reason that measures are taken to repatriate these men and relieve them by returned prisoners of war with dependants in the East. The latest information is that these returned prisoners of war may be expected from their transit-stations at Manilla before the end of the month and it is therefore that I would request you to give the necessary directions as to the release of the said premises to the Royal Netherlands Navy.

I understand that the owners of the relative plot of land (University, W.A.) are taking the necessary steps to have these grounds handed back to them. Should this matter be pressed by the owners and no longer be able to be indefinitely postponed, would you at least arrange for the premises to be made available for the duration of the first emergency, for instance 6 (six) months from now.

I would add that this matter formed a subject of discussion between Admiral Fyfe, U. S. Navy, and Admiral C.F.L. Helfrich, R.N.N. (Commander-in-Chief Nether-

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lands Forces in the East). Admiral Fyfe had consented to make the relative premises available to the Royal Netherlands Navy upon vacation by the United States Navy. It is only just learned now that this transfer is to be arranged through the Army Hirings Services hence the delay in taking up this matter with you.

In view of the extreme urgency of this matter I would feel obliged to hear from you as soon as convenient.

P. Koenraad. Rear-Admiral.

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WAR CABINET MINUTE

CANBERRA - 28th JUNE, 1945.

(4293) AGENDUM NO.245/1945 - BASING OF NETHERLANDS FORCES ON AUSTRALIA.

The following decision was taken on the recommendation of the Advisory War Council:-

- (1) In Minute No.3807 of 21st September, 1944, War Cabinet approved that the attitude of the Commonwealth Government to the approach by the Netherlands Government for the basing of a Netherlands Force on Australia be defined as follows:-
 - (a) The proposal of the Netherlands Government for the basing of a Netherlands Force of approximately 30,000 troops on Australia commends itself to the Commonwealth Government, in principle, and the Government is willing to provide facilities and assistance as may be practicable in the light of its existing and potential commitments.
 - (b) As a first step, it will be necessary to ascertain what is involved in accommodating, training and maintaining the proposed Netherlands Force, as well as financial and other detailed arrangements, in order that the proposal may be related to the Government's existing and potential commitments.
- (2) The report of the Defence Committee (Minute No.106/1945) of 27th March) indicates that the provision of the requirements of this Force will absorb manpower to the extent of several thousands. It was noted that the Defence Committee decided not to make any recommendation upon the question whether N.E.I. Forces should be based on and trained in Australia.
- (3) In the meantime, the Government, on 31st May, decided to reduce the strength of the Australian Army and Air Force by 54,000, which figure was increased to 64,000 on 28th June, the primary objective of this reduction being to restore a proper balance between the direct military effort and its industrial basis appropriate to the present and immediately prospective stage of the war. The Government's policy on Allied commitments was recorded in Minute No.(4223) of 31st May 1945, and stated to Parliament by the Acting Frime Minister on 1st June as follows:-

"It has been made clear from the start, that there are considerable limitations on Australia's capacity to accept additional commitments for the maintenance of Forces from Australian sources of manpower and materials. It is of vital importance to other Governments that we should not make promises which we cannot fulfil. It is of equal importance to the Commonwealth that it should not undertake commitments which are beyond the capacity of its resources to provide.

It is the duty of the Production Executive to consider Allied proposals in relation to other aspects of the war effort, in order to assess the capacity to provide for them. To guard against the neutralisation of the measures being taken to establish equilibrium in the war effort, the Production Executive has been requested to fix ceilings for the Allied commitments that can be undertaken."

- (4) In a separate Minute (No.4292) "Review of the Works
 Programmes for the Royal Navy" it has been decided, in
 view of the imperative needs of the housing situation,
 its manpower and material requirements, and the measures
 being taken to restore a proper balance between the direct
 military effort and its industrial basis appropriate to the
 present and immediately prospective stage of the war,
 that no additional works commitments are to be accepted
 for the Royal Navy unless:-
 - (a) They can be met by the diversion of manpower at present employed by the Allied Works Council which cannot be diverted to housing.
 - (b) Revisions can be made in the present Royal Navy works programme which can be carried out by the present labour bloc employed on the Royal Navy works, after providing for the reduction in strength which has been in suspense, and the further reduction which is to be effected by the end of 1945.

It was noted that commitments totalling over £25-millions have already been accepted for the Royal Navy.

(5) It is now evident that the existing and potential commitments referred to in Minute No. (3807) of 21st September, 1944, preclude the acceptance of commitments involving demands on Australian manpower as outlined in the Defence Committee's report for a Force of 30,000 men. In regard to the Force of 5,600, the Government is unable to accept any commitment at present and desires to be informed of the precise manpower commitment involved for the various classes of requirements. The needs proposed to be met from Service Stocks are to be shown clearly, together with an indication as to whether they will be provided from surplus stocks or will entail additional production for replacements.

F. G. SHEDDEN

Secretary, War Cabinet.

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Fleet Victualling Officer, Royal Netherlands Navy in Australia, 441 St. Kilda Road. MELBOURNE.

ACCOMMODATION FOR ROYAL NETHERLANDS NAVY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

With reference to your letter of 26th September, 1945, it is noted that you have no use at present for any of the camps under discussion. In the event of such accommodation being required in the future, if the camps are then available, there should be no difficulty in assisting you with the provision of galley-equipment, bedding, etc. as mentioned.

In regard to paragraph 2 of your letter, this Department will be pleased to give assistance in your procuring further accommodation, on recept of intimation from you.

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Major-General, Quartermaster-General, Oct 45.

MARINE COMMANDEMENT AUSTRALIE SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER ROYAL NETHERLANDS NAVY IN AUSTRALIA

441 ST. KILDA ROAD MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

Form 1 50 M-1/44.

Sun. 62.

26th September, 1945.

Quartermaster-General, Victoria Barracks, MELBOURNE, Vic.

Attention: Lt.-Col. Summerhayes.

Subject: Accommodation for returned Prisoners of War belonging to Royal Netherlands

Navv.

Reference is made to the interview with the writer on the subject of camp-accommodation in Western Australia for returned Royal Netherlands Navy personnel. Owing to the circumstance that the relative camps are not ready for immediate use inasmuch as galley-equipment, bedding, &c. are missing and because of the fact that procurement of same would involve too much time and labour, for which no personnel is available, it is at present not possible to make use of any of the camps under discussion.

Bachelors Officers' Quarters at Perth not now being available, the dislocation of Royal Netherlands Navy personnel in Australia has been changed in such a manner that an effort will be made to billet the men in the existing accommodation at Perth. This accommodation, however, is too limited to guarantee to cover all returned personnel and should, after more definite data are available, the necessity for extension of the present quarters be apparent, I shall feel obliged to receive your assistance in procuring same.

Fleet Victualling Officer.

C. A. de Poorter,

Col Cardale - ajohe 29 Sep. Lt. - Cdr. (S) RMN.

