

NAA File. A816, Item 19.305/125, Dutch Air Force Squadrons in Australia – Movement to NEI [Netherlands East Indies] 1945

Request of 250 RAAF personnel to aid Dutch Squadrons

A/11  
TELEPHONES  
2183  
250  
TW970  
NO.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA. 762/1/118

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY,  
(DEFENCE DIVISION)  
VICTORIA BARRACKS, MELBOURNE, S.C.T.

2 5 OCT 1945  
19 305 125

MEMORANDUM for:  
Secretary,  
DEPARTMENT OF AIR

R.A.A.F. PERSONNEL SERVING WITH N.E.I. SQUADRONS

Reference is made to your memorandum 216227 of 16th October 1945 requesting Treasury concurrence with financial proposals in connection with the loan of 250 R.A.A.F. personnel for service outside Australia with Dutch Squadrons.

2. Whilst there is no Treasury objection in principle to the conditions of service suggested at paragraph 5 of your memorandum, it is not clear whether the Dutch are to provide and be financially and otherwise responsible for items such as rations, medical and dental treatment, transport, accommodation, etc..

3. It also appears that consideration should be given to the question of a per capita rate to cover initial issues and maintenance of clothing and equipment provided from R.A.A.F. sources.

4. There is the further point that if R.A.A.F. personnel serve overseas with Dutch Squadrons, consideration should be given to the financial responsibility for pension benefits, etc. as was the case with E.A.T.S. personnel serving with the R.A.F..

5. Your further advice in regard to the above financial aspects would be appreciated.

6. It is noted that, by direction of War Cabinet in Minute No. 2656 of 15th February 1943 in connection with the provision of ground staffs for Netherlands Squadrons in the Southwest Pacific Area, "R.A.A.F. personnel are not to leave the Australian theatre without the approval of War Cabinet". It is observed that the present arrangements have been discussed between your Minister and the Prime Minister, and it is assumed that the concurrence of the Minister for Defence will also be obtained.

7. Copy of this memorandum has been forwarded to the Department of Defence.

*G. P. N. Watt*  
(G. P. N. Watt)  
First Assistant Secretary

Secretary,  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

Referred. Your attention is invited to para. 6 above.

*Johnston*  
*referred with explanation*  
*2/10/45*

*G. P. N. Watt*  
(G. P. N. Watt)  
First Assistant Secretary

2 5

National Archives of Australia NAA: A816, 19/305/125

About Dutch airforces possibly being moved from Australia to the Netherlands

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.  
**CABLEGRAM.** **SECRET.**

NOTE: The sender of this telegram has asked that its contents be not communicated to any person outside the Service of the Australian Government.

19/305/125

SECRET

.....

RS/PM. I, 33206.

SC567.

DATED: 18th October, 1945, 2250.

RECD: 19th October, 1945.

DECRYPTER FROM -

The Secretary of State  
For Dominion Affairs,  
L O N D O N.

**IMMEDIATE**

IMMEDIATE.

No. 419. TOP SECRET.

We understand that the Netherlands Government may request the return to the Netherlands East Indies of the Dutch Air Force squadrons now in Australia.

2. In view of the delicacy of the present military situation in Java, we should be grateful if in the event of such a request being received, the Commonwealth Government would let us know before consenting to move Dutch squadrons so that we may have an opportunity of co-ordinating necessary arrangements with the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, in the light of circumstances prevailing.

WAR CABINET  
E.A.  
DEFENCE

19th October, 1945.

Secretary,  
Department of Air.

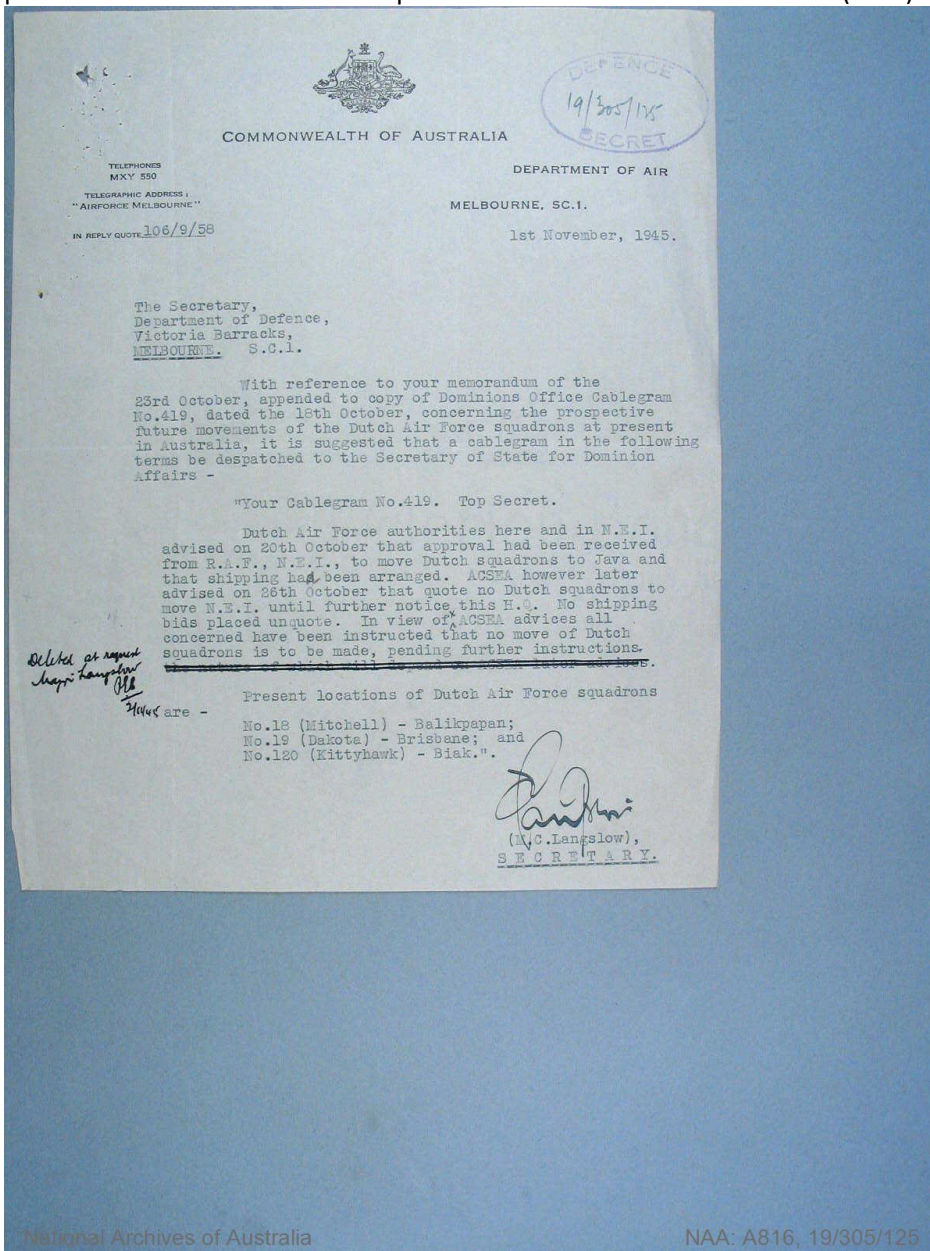
-----

Referred for your information and submission of draft reply to the Dominions Office. It is suggested that details of the Dutch squadrons concerned, their present location and any projected movements of these Squadrons, be included in your draft reply.

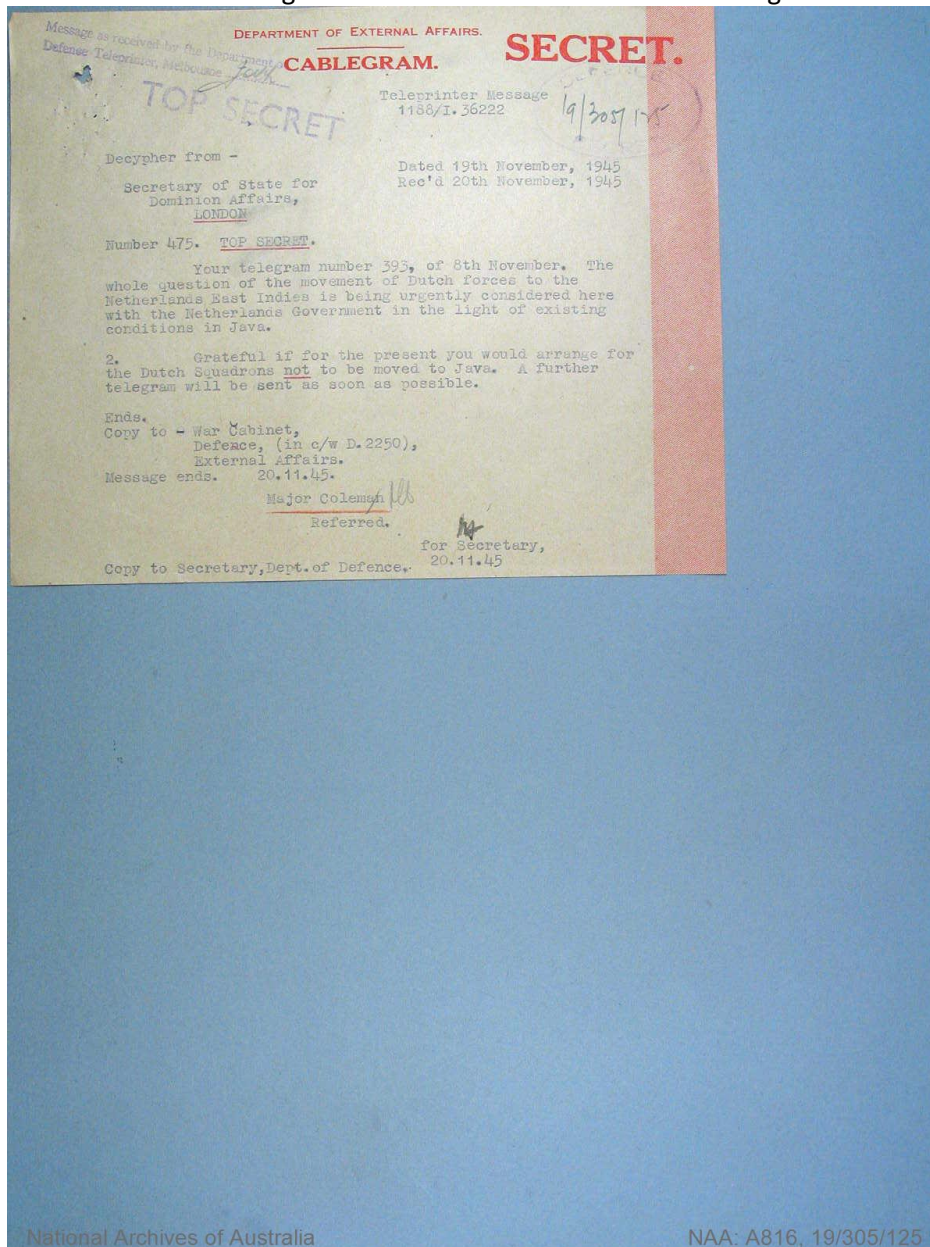
(F. G. Shedden)  
Secretary.  
23/10/1945.

National Archives of Australia NAA: A816, 19/305/125

Letter saying no Dutch airforce should move until Australia can make proper arrangements - provides list of Dutch Air Force squadrons as of November 1945 - One (19th) remains in Brisbane



More about not sending Dutch Air Force over to Java considering the situation



About the 250 RAAF personnel going to Java, in light of the situation over there

762/1/118.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Department of Air.

223595

Melbourne, C.I.

November, 21st, 1945.

First Assistant Secretary,  
Department of the Treasury,  
(Defence Division),  
Victoria Barracks,  
MELBOURNE. S.C.I.

R.A.A.F. PERSONNEL SERVING WITH N.E.I. SQUADRONS.

With reference to your memoranda of the 25th October, No. TD.1970, and of the 9th November, No. TD. 2010, on the abovementioned subject, I desire to inform you that the proposal to loan 250 R.A.A.F. personnel (volunteers) for Service with the two Dutch squadrons on their return to Java was made and approved prior to the existence of the present delicate Military situation in Java.

2. Immediately that unfortunate position became apparent, the Minister directed that all action in relation to the approval referred to be deferred and that no R.A.A.F. personnel are to proceed to Java without special authority of the Government. Those directions will be strictly observed.

3. Under those circumstances, little or no purpose would be achieved by further discussing, at this stage, the financial conditions as, according to present indications, it seems very hypothetical whether any R.A.A.F. personnel will proceed to Java. Should, however, circumstances so change as to warrant the seeking of Governmental approval for any personnel to leave the mainland in that connection, financial aspects would then be discussed with you.

(Sgd) M.C. Lengslow.  
SECRETARY.

Secretary,  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE. *(M. Knapp Coleman)*

For your information.

*M. Knapp Coleman*  
First Assistant Secretary.  
27/11/1945.