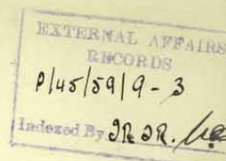


Women used in NEFIS (Netherlands East-Indies Forces Intelligence Services)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.



FOR THE ACTING MINISTER :

NOTE ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF AUSTRALIAN WOMEN IN NETHERLANDS
EAST INDIES FORCES INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (N.E.F.I.S.)

The Dutch Minister has indicated that a Dutch Army representative will be calling upon you this afternoon to discuss the above subject.

2. It is understood that, following upon an approach to the Minister for the Interior by the Dutch Legation in regard to service in Dutch territories by Australian women already attached to N.E.F.I.S., consultation took place between the Minister and the Director-Generals of Manpower and Security early this year.

3. The Dutch Legation pointed out to the Minister that the girls were English speaking and for this reason were of real value to the Dutch in Intelligence work because they facilitated cooperation with Australian, United Kingdom and United States forces. The Director-General of Security supported this view and the Director-General of Manpower raised no objections.

4. Approval was then granted in February last by the Minister of the Interior for seventy-five Australian women who had been attached to N.E.F.I.S. for some time to proceed overseas as required. This approval was, of course, subject to certain conditions for instance, that the total number did not exceed seventy-five, none of the personnel were under twenty-one years of age, would not be employed in any danger zone and would be provided with transport for their return to Australia on the termination of their employment.

5. Subsequently, it is understood, War Cabinet considered an application by the Australian Army seeking permission for Australian women to serve outside the territory of New Guinea. This application, it is believed, was rejected. It was then pointed out that Australian women were being allowed to serve with N.E.F.I.S. in Dutch territories. When this point was brought before War Cabinet it called for a full report and, it is believed, decided that the women serving with N.E.F.I.S. would have to be replaced. In reaching this decision apparently it took the view that the requirements of the Dutch forces could be met from sources in Europe following upon the end of the war there.

6. Three girls have actually embarked and proceeded overseas and the question has now arisen as to how the remaining seventy-two are to be replaced in view of their training and language qualifications. The Dutch, having been given an understanding that the scheme had been approved, are anxious to clarify the position. It is understood that the Dutch Counsellor and a senior officer of the Dutch army will be visiting the Department of the Interior this morning (26th June) to discuss the whole matter with officials there.

7. The Minister for the Interior is fully aware of the whole position and it might be advisable to consult with him before seeing the Dutch representative.

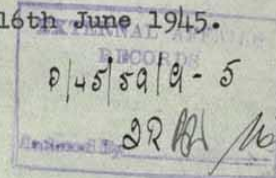
8. The policy of providing every facility and assistance to the Dutch Forces is well accepted and there seems no reason, from our point of view, to depart from that policy in this particular instance.

About the presence and training of NEI troops in Aus:

T 18/1562

ROYAL NETHERLANDS LEGATION

Melbourne 16th June 1945.



Sir,

With reference to my letter of August 16th. 1944 and your reply of September 25th. 1944 concerning the accommodation, maintenance and training of Netherlands troops in Australia, I have the honour to inform you that according to news received, troops now commence to come forward.

In this connection, I would like to make sure that the necessary details mentioned in the letters referred to, have been approved and I would feel much obliged to receive your confirmation in this matter.

I have the honour to be,
With the highest consideration,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Netherlands Minister.

The Honourable
N.J.O. Makin.
Acting Minister for External Affairs.
Canberra. A.C.T.

TOPSECRET

FROM: AUSTMIL WASHINGTON
TO: LANDFORCES MELBOURNE

AUSTARM FOR AAR LONDON (for infm)

WM 1045/W1461 TOPSEC for CGS FROM LAVARACK.

PROPOSAL TO BASE DUTCH FORCE IN AUSTRALIA. FIRST. COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF ON 16 APR APPROVED FOLLOWING DUTCH FORCE TO BE SENT TO AUSTRALIA. 4000 INTERNAL SECURITY TROOPS 1000 AIR PERSONNEL 600 CIVIL AFFAIRS MILITARY PERSONNEL THESE TROOPS ARE PART OF THE 15 INTERNAL SECURITY BNS WHICH NETHERLANDS DESIRE BASING ON AUST. COS HAVE NOT APPROVED OF FURTHER TROOPS IN ADDITION TO THESE LISTED ABOVE TO BUILD UP TO 15 BNS.

SECOND.

HOWEVER FOLLOWING PROVISOS MADE

- A. 20400 TROOPS MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE TO SHAEF.
- B. PERSONNEL FOR DUTCH SQUADRONS REQUIRED BY RAF IN SOUTHEAST ASIA MUST BE PROVIDED
- C. SUFFICIENT PERSONNEL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR SMALL CADRES FOR DUTCH FAR EAST CORPS NOW TRAINING IN GREAT BRITAIN.
- D. SUFFICIENT PERSONNEL MUST STILL BE PROVIDED TO MAINTAIN THE STRENGTH OF DUTCH AIR SQUADRONS OPERATING IN OR OVER WESTERN EUROPE.

THIRD.

PROVISION OF SHIPPING FOR THIS MOVEMENT WILL DEPEND ON OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF HIGHER PRIORITY. IT CAN PROBABLY BE MADE AVAILABLE UP TO THE END OF THE WAR IN EUROPE. NO CARGO SHIPPING FOR SUPPORT OF THESE FORCES IS AVAILABLE AT PRESENT. CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EQUIPMENT FOR VOYAGE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE BY GREAT BRITAIN.

DISTRIBUTION.

C in C
CGS
Brig Elliott

TOP SECRET

ATTACHMENT TO WAR CABINET
AGENDUM NO. 245/1945.

BASING OF NETHERLANDS FORCES ON AUSTRALIA

PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION BY WAR CABINET:

1. It was recorded in War Cabinet Minute No.(3807) of the 21st September, 1944, that the proposal of the Netherlands Government to base a Netherlands Force of approximately 30,000 troops on Australia commended itself to the Commonwealth Government in principle, and that the Government was willing to provide facilities and assistance as might be practicable, in the light of its existing and potential commitments.
2. The Government proposed that Australian Army Staffs in the first instance, and subsequently other Commonwealth representatives, should discuss the proposal with the Netherlands authorities from the aspect of the commitments that would be involved, and that, upon receipt of further detailed information, the Government should again communicate with the Netherlands Government.
3. It was assumed that the proposal would have the approval of the Combined Chiefs of Staff, and that the Netherlands Force would operate in the Southwest Pacific Area under General MacArthur.

VIEWS OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, S.W.P.A.:

4. The proposal was discussed between the Minister for Defence and the Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, and the latter, while agreeing with the Government's decision to accept it in principle, considered that the force should be trained and fully equipped before embarkation from Holland, and should arrive as a complete fighting force available to be handed over to the Commander-in-Chief for operations in Dutch territory. General MacArthur's views were communicated to the Army for consideration in connection with its discussions with the Netherlands authorities.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES AIR FORCE PERSONNEL:

5. On the 17th October, 1944, the Acting Minister for Air submitted to the Minister for Defence a proposal for the training of a certain number of Netherlands East Indies aircrew and ground staff personnel in Australia, and this was referred to the Defence Committee for examination.

REPORT BY ARMY:

6. Following negotiations undertaken in accordance with War Cabinet Minute No.(3807), Army submitted a report on the 23rd January, 1945. In connection with the views expressed by General MacArthur, it was stated that the General Officer Commanding, Royal Netherlands Indies Army in Australia, had discussed the matter with General MacArthur early in January 1945, and had advised that General MacArthur agreed that it was not practicable for the particular Netherlands Forces concerned to be trained and equipped in Holland, and expressed agreement with their being organised and trained in Australia.
7. The report stated that, subject to replacements, it was considered that the Australian Army could provide almost all of the Netherlands Forces' requirements.

8. It was therefore recommended that the Netherlands Indies Forces be received, accommodated, clothed, equipped, supplied and trained in Australia, and that, beyond drawing supplies and stores in bulk from the Australian administrative installations, they should provide all Service troops necessary, except in the early stages when the A.M.F. units would foster the first Netherlands Indies elements.

9. Army stated that, while it appeared that the extent of impact upon Australian economy would be chiefly in connection with food, clothing and equipment for up to a maximum of 30,000 men, in view of the War Cabinet direction a detailed investigation of this commitment had not been made by the Australian Army staff. If such an investigation was considered necessary, it was recommended that immediate authority be given to take the initial action required to receive, equip and maintain the proposed first contingent of 4,000.

CONSIDERATION BY DEFENCE COMMITTEE (MINUTE NO.32/1945):

10. On the 1st February, 1945, the Defence Committee considered the Army Report and the proposal to train Netherlands East Indies Air Force personnel in Australia (paragraph 5 above), and referred both matters to the Joint Administrative Planning Sub-Committee for an assessment of the extent to which Australian resources would be committed by acceptance of the proposals, and a report upon the practicability of accepting such commitments in whole or in part, having regard to existing and potential commitments.

REPORT BY JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE:

11. In its report dated 17th March, 1945, the Joint Administrative Planning Sub-Committee estimated that the training of Netherlands East Indies aircrew and ground personnel would involve a manpower commitment of 200 workers in the Department of Aircraft Production, in addition to the rationing of an average of 1,500 personnel rising to 3,000 at the peak period, and the provision of buildings to a very limited extent. The Sub-Committee expressed the opinion that the additional demands involved in the proposal could be met without any significant repercussion upon the Australian economy, and recommended that, insofar as it affected the civil economy, this commitment be accepted. The Sub-Committee did not consider the proposal from the aspect of its effect on the internal organisation of the R.A.A.F.

12. The Sub-Committee considered the requirements of the number of Netherlands East Indies land forces proposed to be based on Western Australia, under the headings of (a) works, (b) equipment and supplies, and (c) food.

(a) Works: The Sub-Committee observed that existing camp accommodation in Western Australia would be used, and recommended that a commitment be accepted in respect of the provision of works requirements of the Netherlands East Indies Forces, on the understanding that such requirements would be so small as to be negligible.

(b) Equipment and Supplies: The Sub-Committee's assessment of requirements under this heading was based on the assumption that the first batch of 1,000 personnel would arrive about the middle of May 1945, that further arrivals would be more or less evenly spaced each month until 21,500 had arrived by the end of 1945, and that, although 30,000 personnel might pass through Western Australia L. of C. Area, there would never be more than 21,500 personnel located there at any one time. It was also assumed that the first arrivals would include necessary base and administrative personnel, and that provision would be

made initially from Australian Army stocks, which in some cases would be surplus to requirements and would not need to be replaced, and in all other cases would be automatically replaced by increasing Australian Army orders on Production Departments above the level which would otherwise have been necessary.

It was estimated that the provision of equipment and supplies for the Netherlands East Indies forces would involve the continuation of an existing Australian Service commitment of about £322,000 a month (which would otherwise have declined), falling to £169,000 a month and involving what would be the production of 2,000 to 3,000 men and women for a period of about eight months.

The Sub-Committee recommended that a commitment in general terms be accepted in respect of the full requirements of equipment and supplies, subject only to the non-availability of particular items which cannot be produced in Australia or which are in particularly short supply in Australia.

- c Food: It was estimated that food requirements assessed on a similar basis to equipment and supplies would amount to about £45,000 a month and could be met by making relatively minor changes in existing allocations to other claimants. It was recommended that the commitment be accepted and be met by these means.

13. The Sub-Committee also recommended :-

"That it be recognised that the meeting of Netherlands East Indies requirements may absorb manpower which would otherwise have been released, but that no explicit modification be made in any particular manpower allocation approved under War Cabinet Minute No.(4063)."

STATEMENT BY CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF REGARDING NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES AIR FORCE PERSONNEL:

14. The Chief of the Air Staff submitted a report to the Defence Committee, on the effect upon the internal organisation of the R.A.A.F. of the proposal to train 50 Netherlands East Indies aircrew per month for the duration of the war, and 200 ground musterings per month for six months, then 50 per month for the duration of the war. The most important commitment involved was shown to be :-

Aircrew Instructors	up to 84
Ground Staff Instructors	206
Maintenance Personnel	467.

Upon consideration of the report, the Chief of the Air Staff stated his conclusions to be that the training of Netherlands East Indies ground personnel would have little effect on the existing R.A.A.F. organisation, but that the training of Netherlands East Indies aircrew would result in a corresponding reduction in R.A.A.F. operations unless a compensating increase in personnel was effected. While there would be certain advantages from the aspects of Post War Defence in the training of Netherlands East Indies aircrew, he could not recommend that the commitment be undertaken unless the Government decided that such was governmental policy.

CONSIDERATION BY DEFENCE COMMITTEE (MINUTE NO.106/1945):

15. The foregoing reports were considered by the Defence Committee on 27th March, 1945, when the Chief of the General Staff informed the Committee that, on the information available to him,

it was as yet by no means certain that the Combined Chiefs of Staff would agree to any large body of Dutch Forces being transported to Australia for service in the Netherlands East Indies until the end of the war in Europe, and that the Dutch authorities were still trying to make the necessary arrangements.

16. The Defence Committee concluded that, so far as the proposal to receive and train Netherlands East Indies air personnel was concerned, the question as to whether there should be an increase of personnel to the R.A.A.F. to compensate for the additional commitment was a matter for the decision of the Government, having regard to such political advantages as there might be in accepting the commitment.

17. As regards the proposal to base Netherlands East Indies land forces on Australia, the Defence Committee considered that, while it appeared the commitment that would be involved was not large, it was one that would have some effect upon resources that would otherwise be available for non-Service purposes, and that the Committee was not in a position to weigh this against the political advantages of accepting the Netherlands East Indies forces in Australia.

18. The Defence Committee accordingly decided not to make any recommendation upon the question whether Netherlands East Indies Forces should be based and trained in Australia, but to submit its observations and the reports of Army, the Joint Administrative Planning Sub-Committee, and the Chief of the Air Staff for the information of the Government.

DECISION OF COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF:

19. By memorandum of the 19th April, 1945, the Secretary, Department of the Army, forwarded copy of a signal from the Australian Military Mission, Washington, in which it was stated that on the 16th April the Combined Chiefs of Staff had approved of the following Netherlands forces being sent to Australia :
4,000 Army; 1,000 Air; 600 Civil Affairs (Military) personnel.
A copy of the above-mentioned signal forms the Appendix to this Attachment.

20. The matter was again referred to the Joint Administrative Planning Sub-Committee and the Defence Committee for reconsideration in the light of this approval.

21. (It was stated in the Army memorandum referred to in paragraph 19 above that the Joint Administrative Planning Sub-Committee had been directed also to study the possibility of training and basing Portuguese troops on Australia. The following observation was made :-

"Politically it may be desirable if approval is given for the Netherlands forces to come to Australia, also to give approval for the Portuguese forces. From the Service point of view the two problems are entirely separate. The Portuguese requirements are the more difficult to meet."

War Cabinet, in Minute No.(4223), recorded that it was averse to undertaking a further commitment to provide requirements for this force, having regard to existing commitments on Australian resources.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE:

22. In reconsidering the requirements of the proposed Netherlands Forces, the Joint Administrative Planning Sub-Committee had before it the above-mentioned signal from the Australian Military Mission at Washington, and also a letter dated 23rd April

from the General Officer Commanding, Royal Netherlands Indies Army, to the Commander, Allied Land Forces, S.W.P.A. In his letter Lieutenant-General van Oyen stated that, of the personnel approved by the Combined Chiefs of Staff for transfer to Australia, only the 4,000 Army would be sent to Western Australia, but that a total force in Australia of 30,000 odd would eventually be built up by 20,000 Army from Holland, and by units already here and Prisoners-of-War to be freed in future. It was desired to adhere in the long run to administrative plans arranged with General Blamey's Headquarters, but to make modifications as to the time of bringing them into operation.

23. The Sub-Committee was of the opinion that, having regard to Lieutenant-General van Oyen's letter, information contained in the signal did not necessitate any material variation in the Sub-Committee's previous report, except that the postponement of the dates of arrival of the troops from Holland would render somewhat easier the task of receiving them.

CONSIDERATION BY DEFENCE COMMITTEE (MINUTE NO.148/1945):

24. In considering the supplementary report of the Joint Administrative Planning Sub-Committee on the 4th May, 1945, the Defence Committee expressed the view that there had been significant changes in the situation since recording its Minute No.106/1945 (paragraph 15 above). The earlier report was based upon the assumption that 30,000 men would be sent from Holland by the end of 1945 and this number did not include Netherlands East Indies forces already in New South Wales and Queensland nor any released Prisoners of War. Further, in the light of the limited approval of the Combined Chiefs of Staff and the known shortage of shipping accommodation, it could by no means be assumed that 20,000 men would be sent from Holland in the predictable future.

25. The Chief of the Air Staff informed the Committee that, so far as the 1,000 Air Force were concerned, the position stood as stated previously, depending on whether they were ground staff or air crew.

26. The Defence Committee recommended that a statement of the strength, categories and approximate dates of arrival of the Dutch Forces which it is planned should be based in Australia, and of the assistance sought from Australia in respect of such forces, should be requested on a Government level.

27. For the information of the Government, in considering Defence Committee Minute No.106/1945 and this Minute, the Defence Committee expressed the opinion that any reduction in the strength of the Army Forces to be based in Australia below 30,000 would result in an approximately proportional reduction in the size of the commitment for 30,000 men set out in Minute No.106/1945 (paragraph 15 above).

FURTHER ADVICE REGARDING NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES AIR FORCE PERSONNEL:

28. In connection with the 1,000 Netherlands East Indies Air Force personnel approved by the Combined Chiefs of Staff, the Chief of the General Staff, Royal Netherlands Indies Army, advised by letter dated 24th May, 1945, that 250 would be aircrew, of which 70 would be trained at N.E.I.-P.E.P., Canberra, leaving 180 to be trained by R.A.A.F. The Aircrew trainees would arrive in batches of 60 to 70 every month, commencing approximately in July of this year.

29. The above advice was communicated to the Chief of the Air Staff, who advised, on the 2nd June, 1945, that developments in the general strategical situation had resulted in the planning of considerable changes in the R.A.A.F. training organisation. As a result, his conclusions regarding the training of

Netherlands East Indies aircrew (either as originally projected or as now advised) was that it could be undertaken by the R.A.A.F. but only at the expense of deferring the release of personnel who would otherwise become available for other purposes (discharge, etc.). The Chief of the Air Staff stated "I consider it advisable that this training be undertaken by the R.A.A.F. but it must, of course, be decided by the Government as a matter of high policy. An early decision is highly desirable."

DATE OF ARRIVAL OF DUTCH FORCES:

30. The Department of the Army has advised that a cable dated 14th June, 1945, received from the Australian Army representative in London states that the first party of Dutch troops is being shipped this month direct to Fremantle to arrive at the end of July, that the War Office is assuming that Australia has accepted commitment for the 5,600 so far approved by the Combined Chiefs of Staff, and asking for confirmation.

Questions asked in House about NEI troops training in Australia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - WEDNESDAY, 1st AUGUST, 1945.

Question asked in House.

DUTCH TROOPS IN AUSTRALIA.

MR. MENZIES - Can the Prime Minister say whether the Australian Government, or any Minister on its behalf last year agreed that the Netherlands authorities should bring to Australia to be accommodated, trained and equipped in Western Australia a large force of troops, said to be about 30,000 from the Netherlands. Has that arrangement now been cancelled by the Australian Government and if so why? Will the Prime Minister lay on the table of the House the file relating to this matter?

MR. CHIFLEY - ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ There was a suggestion made, I think some time last year that the Dutch would be likely to bring to Australia certain forces, some of which would be quartered in Western Australia, but there was nothing very concrete about the proposal. As is known, there are already some Dutch Forces here, principally members of the Dutch Air Force, I believe. At a later stage, a suggestion was made that a large force of Dutch troops should come to Australia to be trained. In examining the matter, the Government has been guided at all times by the capacity of the Australian nation to meet physical requirements - not by financial considerations. This has been explained to all Allied Governments concerned, including the Government of the U.S.A. There was a point to which we could go, and beyond which we could go no further. Any decision as to what could be done for our Allies has been based in every case upon the physical capacity of this country to meet their need. We have always told the countries concerned what we were able to do so that they would be in no way misled, but would understand the situation.

MR. WHITE - If we had the Dutch troops here they would relieve some of our own men.

MR. CHIFLEY - I do not want to go into the matter in detail. I know of no particular file on this subject. Communications have passed between the Commonwealth Government and the Netherlands Government, and there have been incidental references to the matter in cables and documents. Where we are unable to supply the

the physical needs to meet the requirements of our Allies, either in buildings or equipment -

MR. MENZIES - The right honorable member does not suggest that there is a shortage of military buildings in Western Australia.

MR. CHIFLEY - I was not making any suggestions. I am merely giving an outline of the general position. As I have said, I know of no file of papers on the subject, and any communications that have taken place are of the kind which ordinarily pass between one Government and another. I shall look into the matter, and see whether I can make a more complete statement on it later.

DHR.

PRIME MINISTER.

11 SEP 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Baron Van Aerssen,

I refer to your letter of the 10th August, 1945, regarding the proposal for the basing of a Netherlands Force on Australia.

2. I am pleased to note from your letter that the publicity given to this matter did not originate with you or those responsible to you.

3. Shortly after your letter was written the position in regard to the basing of Netherlands Forces on Australia entirely changed on the cessation of hostilities with Japan, but I feel you should be further informed on certain aspects of your letter as it seems that the circumstances under which the Commonwealth Government reached the decision, conveyed to you by the Minister for External Affairs on 11th July, may not have been fully appreciated.

4. Regarding your reference to a changed attitude of the Commonwealth Government on the general question of the basing of a Netherlands Force on Australia, I cannot agree that there has been any inconsistency in this connection. It is clear, I suggest, that the decision of the Government in September, 1944, reached on the recommendation of the Advisory War Council, that the proposal to base 30,000 Netherlands troops on Australia commended itself in principle, did not involve a definite commitment as it was expressly provided that our ability to accept such a Force was related to Australia's existing and prospective commitments, the crux of the matter, of course, being whether our capacity could meet this additional strain which could only be determined after full examination of the proposals.


5. In your representations it is also felt that you may have overlooked a fundamental consideration that the only decision of the Combined Chiefs of Staff notified to Australia related to a Netherlands Force of 5,600, and that in this connection the Netherlands Authorities had advised that no force of 5,600 would be despatched as the only project contemplated by them was in respect to a force of 30,000 men. No approval of the Combined Chiefs of Staff to the despatch of a force of the latter strength was received by the Australian Government.

6. You refer to full agreement on execution of the proposal, having been reached in discussions with Australian Army Authorities. In this connection you will appreciate that it was only the Government, acting on the advice of the Advisory War Council, Production Executive and the Defence Committee, which was in a position to determine all the considerations involved. Any advice tendered to you on a lower level could not take into account the overall picture and could, therefore, not have had regard to the full impact of the proposals on the Australian War Effort. Any assumptions which you may have reached on such advice would therefore not be competently based.

Change with problems in Java:

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.
CABLEGRAM.

**TOP
SECRET.**



FM: NO'N I. 36282
DECRYPTER FROM: 8061Y
THE SECRETARY OF STATE Dated 19th November, 1945
FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS, 1800
L O N D O N. Recd. 20th November, 1945

No. 475. TOP SECRET.

Your telegram No. 393 of 8th November. The whole question of the movement of Dutch Forces to the Netherlands East Indies is being urgently considered here with the Netherlands Government in the light of existing conditions in Java.

2. Grateful if for the present you would arrange for the Dutch Squadrons not to be moved to Java. A further telegram will be sent as soon as possible.

WAR CABINET
DEFENCE (IN C/W D2250)
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *RFS*

20th November, 1945

National Archives of Australia NAA 591838, 401/4/3/1

Transfer of NEI air squadron out of Australia:



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
Rec'd 23 APR 1947
P46150/4
DEPARTMENT OF AIR.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF AIR.

TELEPHONE: F 0202.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"AIRFORCE, MELBOURNE."

MELBOURNE, C.I.

IN REPLY QUOTE 151/2/1141

SECRET

S.A. 871

21 APR 1947

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

(Copy to Secretary,
Department of Defence)

TRANSFER OF NO. 19 (DUTCH) SQUADRON, ARCHERFIELD,
TO THE NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES.

It is desired to advise the present position regarding the Dutch squadrons located in Australia.

2. All squadrons have been withdrawn from Australia with the exception of No. 19 (Transport) Squadron. This unit was formed at Archerfield in August, 1945, in order that the various Dutch transport aircraft could be grouped into one organisation for the purposes of administration and operational control. The Squadron uses Air Force accommodation but, apart from this, no other services are supplied by the R.A.A.F. The Squadron still retains some spares at Bundaberg, but these are being transferred to Java at present, and all Dutch equipment will probably have been removed from this location in the very near future. The Squadron is maintaining communications between Batavia and Brisbane and is operating with Dutch civil markings.

WP

3. The Chief of the Air Staff has discussed the subject with the Chief Dutch Army Liaison Officer in Australia who advised that all possible efforts were being made to transfer the unit maintenance facilities to Java and he expected that the transfer would be completed early in 1947. He conveyed that the Dutch were most appreciative of the facilities made available to No. 19 Squadron since its formation. Meanwhile, the Squadron theoretically appears to remain a commitment of the Royal Australian Air Force.

4. In view of the position stated in a letter concerning the situation in Indonesia addressed by the Minister for Defence to the Minister for Air on 20th August, 1946 (a copy of which with a copy of report by the Chiefs of Staff on the situation in Indonesia was referred by the Minister for Defence to the Minister for External Affairs for advice on the aspects of political policy involved) it is considered that the exact responsibility of the Royal Australian Air Force towards this Squadron should now be clearly established.

WDF
KR?

5. It would appear to be impossible for the Royal Australian Air Force to exercise any real administrative control over the unit and the view is taken that its continued presence in Australia should be clarified at Government level. In particular, it is considered that a firm date for the withdrawal of the Squadron to the Netherlands East Indies should be established.

P

6. Your advice on the above would be appreciated.

(M.C. LANGSLOW)
Secretary.

Mention of Dutch Servicemen still in Australia during May 1947

W. D.F. said to hold for the moment.

30
6
47.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

P45/5919

Secretary.

During a visit on 7th May the Netherlands Charge d'Affaires, Dr. de Ranitz, mentioned that the Australian Army authorities had told the Netherlands Army authorities in Melbourne that it could not communicate with them now but all communications should be made through diplomatic channels.

2. Mr. de Ranitz suggested that on routine matters not involving questions of policy the Military authorities might exchange communications provided copies were always forwarded from the Netherlands Army to the Legation and from the Australian Army to the Department of External Affairs.

3. He wondered whether the appointment of a Military Attache by the Netherlands Legation would facilitate communications. I said his suggestion would be considered but that, while the question of appointment of a Military Attache was one on which they could make a formal request if they so wished, it was extremely unlikely that Australia would ever wish to reciprocate in The Hague (Mr. de Ranitz mentioned that we might need to appoint Service representatives in the N.E.I.). He added that in any event his Government tried to keep Military Attaches to an absolute minimum and he did not think that any suggestion would be made.

he they had
wanted to
talk to me

4. Mr. de Ranitz mentioned that there was about 100 Dutch servicemen left in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane and that there was still 28,000 tons of goods awaiting shipping to the Indies.

PRH

13 May, 1947.

W.D.F. to compare D. to handling in London with W.D.F.

W.D.F. directed that Harding's rd. not be rung 1/47.

W. Hay AM
W. Kelly: } To note

Find out from Army what they did say: we have no objection to direct appeal: Army trying to avoid difficulties on war materials. See what is behind this.

Mentioned to Mr. Harding (Asst. Sec) who said he knew Army had spoken as above on particular occasions but not as a general rule.

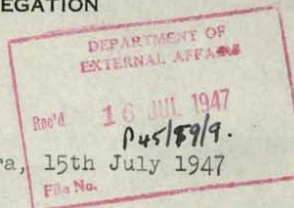
SEA file & off

27/4/47

Movement of the 19th Squadron NEI from Archerfield in July 1947

ROYAL NETHERLANDS LEGATION

L3/3483



Canberra, 15th July 1947

Dear Sir,

Referring to our telephone conversation of a few days ago regarding the evacuation of Archerfield Aerodrome (Brisbane) by the 19th Transport Squadron Royal Netherlands Indies Army I have the honour to inform you that this evacuation is closely connected with the movements of m.s. "Tjibesar" at present in Australian waters.

It is expected that this ship will arrive in Brisbane in the beginning of August and will take from two to three weeks to load 19th Squadron supplies in that port. Therefore, except in the event of unforeseen circumstances the date mentioned in the Legation's Note of the 6th June, No. L3/2781, can be considered final.

I am, dear Sir,

With high consideration,

Your obedient servant,

Secretary of the Legation.

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

P

Mention of the 47 petrol ban on NEI aircrafts

MOST IMMEDIATE:

The Royal Netherlands Legation presents its compliments and has the honour to bring the following to the attention of the Department of External Affairs :-

According to information received from the Commanding Officer 19th Transport Squadron Royal Netherlands Indies Army Air Force, the Royal Australian Air Force at Amberley (Brisbane) has received instructions from the Director of Supply and Equipment of Air Board, Group Captain Acton, at Melbourne not to refuel the aircraft of the 19th Squadron.

It has also been indicated that the Royal Australian Air Force at Darwin (N.T.) will receive similar instructions. Furthermore the Shell Company of Australia Pty.Ltd. has informed the Commanding Officer 19th Squadron that they will not be able to supply 19th Squadron with drums of aviation spirit and oil, as a consequence of threats allegedly made by certain Australian Trade Unions.

The Government of the Netherlands Indies regrets the extremely uncompromising attitude taken by the Royal Australian Air Force - an attitude which strongly contrasts with the hospitality and cooperation previously shown by the Royal Australian Air Force.

Persuant to instructions which have been received The Legation desires to draw the earnest attention of the Department to the fact that the Royal Australian Air Force still enjoys the hospitality and full cooperation of the Royal Netherlands Indies Army Air Force at Morotai (Netherlands Indies). In this connection it is strongly felt that both services rendered by the RAAF on Australian territory and by the RNIAAF in Netherlands Indies territory are a consequence of the former Allied cooperation which should not be unilaterally disrupted by one of the parties.

In view of the above the Legation has been directed to request the Department that the necessary steps be taken in order to provide the 19th Squadron with the desired facilities on Australian territory.

The Legation avails itself of this opportunity to state that eight to nine flights are still contemplated to carry materials of the Squadron, at present in Australia, as well as the personnel of said Squadron to the Netherlands Indies.

A reply at the earliest possible convenience of the Department will be greatly appreciated.



Canberra.
25th August 1947.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM. **SECRET.**

KV.BL.

DECYPHER FROM -

Australian Commission,
SINGAPORE.

I.17055

SC 27

Dated 25th August, 1947

1755

Rec'd 25th August, 1947

10.10 p.m.

476.

Information received that owing to reported ban on service facilities for Dutch planes at Darwin, Cloncurry and Brisbane, facilities at Sourabaya may be refused to Qantas by the Dutch. The Dutch Consul General, Singapore cannot confirm.

26-8-47

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.
" " D/G of Civil Aviation.

P45/59/9 *JK*

Copies received	
Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Asst (D)	<input type="checkbox"/>
ME	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
LC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**Dutch Thanks
To AWU** *MHS*

BRISBANE, Monday. — Dutch officials yesterday thanked the Australian Workers' Union secretary (Mr C. G. Fallon) for his offer to provide supplies and break the Transport Workers' Union ban on petrol for Dutch planes.

But they regretted that it had come too late. The only remaining Dutch plane at Archerfield took off for the Netherlands East Indies at 6.50 a.m. yesterday.

Decisions had already been made to end the Dutch service from Java to Australia from yesterday. No Dutch plane would now come to Australia until the KLM opened a new service.

Dutchmen said they would be happy to accept Mr Fallon's offer if the need still existed then.

Pers/59/9

Melb. Herald

8. 9. 47

A.C.T.U. Protest On Dutch Troops

MELBOURNE, Wednesday. — The Australian Council of Trade Unions will ask the Federal Government to prohibit use of Dutch troops on any work normally done by Australian civilians.

The A.C.T.U. will also ask the Federal Government to close all Dutch bases in Australia.

The secretary of the A.C.T.U. (Mr. A. E. Monk) announced tonight that the interstate executive of the A.C.T.U. had made these decisions today.

He said the decisions followed trouble last week at Geelong, where Dutch authorities were using Dutch servicemen to load a ship.

Mr. Monk said trucks and steel towing barges were being loaded into one ship.

Waterside workers had refused to handle them, and the Vehicle Builders' Union at the Ford works at Geelong, acting on A.C.T.U. instructions, had refused to handle the trucks inside the works.

Mr. Monk said the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) had advised the A.C.T.U. that he would discuss the situation with the Dutch Minister in Australia (Mr. Teppema).

Daily Telegraph.

25/9/47.

P459/9.

24 SEP 1947

ROYAL NETHERLANDS LEGATION

L3/4804

*Pur/vg/9
of Pur/vg/31*

Canberra, 24th September 1947.

Dear Dr. Burton,

Referring to your letter of the 23rd instant and our conversation this morning relative to the two transport questions which you raised, I should like to make the following observations :

1. The attitude of the Department of Trade and Customs with regard to the 19th Squadron has been noted and I shall make some enquiries as to what personnel and supplies of the Squadron are still awaiting transport to the Netherlands Indies.
2. You are no doubt aware that the continued presence of Royal Netherlands Indies Army personnel and supplies in Australia is a consequence of the attitude adopted by certain Australian Trade Unions resulting in a so-called boycott of shipments to the Netherlands Indies, which has now been in force for exactly two years.
3. Precisely to avoid embarrassment to Netherlands-Australian relations in Australia in the future, a plan has been set up to remove both R.N.I.A. supplies and personnel in the near future. To this effect Lt. Colonel H.E. Moquette, former Representative of the Commander-in-Chief of the R.N.I.A. in Australia, informed the Secretary of the Army by letter dated as early as the 15th August that one freighter and one or two L.S.T.'s would be necessary to remove remaining supplies and personnel within two months. It is considered that Colonel Moquette's project is a most reasonable one and should not be unilaterally modified by the Australian Government as this would cause further delay in the removal of both stocks and personnel.
4. It appears that the figures quoted by you on the number of trucks still in Australia are not quite correct and I am making enquiries as to the exact position.

get letters

Yours sincerely,

P. E. Teppema

P. E. Teppema
Netherlands Minister.

Dr. J. W. Burton,
Secretary to Department of
External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

*WP
Please place
copies on internal
files
Pur/vg/28
Pur/vg/31
A. send copy of my
letter to
Doherty. NB*

**ACTU WANTS ALL
DUTCH BASES
TO BE CLOSED**

The ACTU will ask the Federal Government to take steps to close all Dutch bases in Australia and prohibit the use of Dutch troops in performing work in Australia usually done by civilians.

Announcing this decision made by the interstate executive of the ACTU yesterday, Mr A. E. Monk, secretary of the ACTU, said the decision arose out of trouble which occurred at Geelong several days ago, when Dutch service personnel were used to load a vessel.

Waterside workers had refused to handle trucks and steel towing barges which were being loaded. Acting on ACTU instructions, members of the Vehicle Builders' Union employed at the Ford works had refused to handle the trucks inside the works.

P. 25/09/47

*Melb. Argus
25.9.47*

Negotiations between Australia and NEI about purchasing left over munitions and supplies

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

FEC/FF

CABLEGRAM **SECRET.**

1911
Dated 14th Nov. 1947
3:50 p.m.

THE CONTENT OF THIS CABLEGRAM
WITHOUT PARAPHRASE EXCEPT IN A
SECRET DOCUMENT WILL COMPROMISE
THE CYPHER USED, REGARDLESS OF
CONTENT IT MUST ALWAYS REMAIN
SECRET.

DECYPHER TO:

The Australian Legation,
THE HAGUE.....144

REPEATED TO:

The Australian Consul General,
BATAVIA.....347

You should know that we have been negotiating for some months with Netherlands Legation here on question of disposal of Netherlands Indies Army munitions, stores and other equipment still remaining in Australia, and repatriation of maining Netherlands Indies Army personnel.

2. In order to settle this matter as quickly as possible we offered recently to purchase from the Netherlands Government all munitions and other stores remaining in Australia, with exception of some eighty trucks which we had been given to understand were awaiting shipment at Geelong. We indicated we were agreeable to Dutch bringing one ship to Geelong, and using Netherlands Service personnel to load eighty trucks in question.

3. Netherlands Legation agreed to purchase by Australian Government of munitions but not of civil stores and equipment. They indicated that a total of approximately 270 trucks still remained to be loaded at Geelong and Brisbane, and proposed bringing two vessels to Australia to remove all remaining civilian equipment, together with Netherlands Service personnel.

4. Netherlands Legation was advised yesterday that:

- (i) Australian Government would permit the use of Netherlands Service personnel to load no more than one hundred trucks on the M.S. Tjipondok at present at Geelong, and would purchase any other Netherlands trucks in Australia over and above this number;
- (ii) arrangements must be made for immediate departure of all remaining Netherlands Service personnel;
- (iii) M.S. Tasman should be diverted from proposed visit to Brisbane.

5. Above background information should matter be raised with you.

E.A.

18th November 1947

H/S
R.P.
Legal Coun. [Signature] 19/24
shingens and [Signature] 19/9

Copies to
 Secretary
 AS (P)
 ME
 A
 LC
 PI
 Tac
 UN