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INDOCTRINATION EXERCISE - OPERATION LIGHTHOUSE

Minutes of meeting of Board of Management for Atomic Weapons Tests, Working Party, held at 339 Swanston Street, Melbourne, on Tuesday, 29th July, 1958.

PRESENT :

 Department of Supply (Chairman)
Department of Defence
U.K. J.S.L.S.
U.K. M.O.S.S. (A)
U.K. M.O.S.S. (A)
Department of Navy
Department of Army
Department of Army
Department of Army
Department of Army
Department of Air

Members agreed that Australia should take advantage of the U.K. offer to participate in the Indoctrination Exercise at Operation "Lighthouse" and decided that a brief outline of the following proposals be conveyed, through U.K. M.O.S.S. (A) channels, to the appropriate U.K. authorities for consideration and comment in order that detailed planning may proceed at the earliest opportunity. These proposals, together with a request for specific information on certain aspects, have been despatched to the U.K.


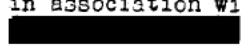
Numbers involved :

Navy, 14 - All above ground. (12 Officers and 2 C.P.O.'s.)
Army, 500 - 350 in trench systems and 150 above ground. (The 350 will be all ranks from the Brigade Group whilst the 150 will be Officers.)
Air, 50 - 35 in trench systems and 15 above ground. (The 35 will comprise 10 Officers and 25 O.R.'s whilst the 15 above ground will be Officers).

Camps :

Two camps to be established by an advance party. One for the troops who will "dig in" and one for the above ground indoctrinees.

Location of camps :

To be determined by the Range Commander  in association with the Atomic Weapons Staff Officer 

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- 1/ It should be impressed on members that Target Response and Indoctrination are, as far as we are concerned for planning purposes, two distinct and entirely separate exercises. There are still one or members who continue to think they should be treated as one subject.
- 2/ The following is a brief summary of events leading up to the calling of the meeting -
 - (a) On 11th March, 1958 the U.K. High Commissioner in writing to the P.M.'s Dept stated -
 - " The War Office has undertaken the planning for the Indoctrination exercise and will shortly get in touch with the Australian Department of the Army. The co-ordination of arrangements in Australia will be dealt with as usual through the United Kingdom Ministry of Supply Staff and the Maralinga Board of Management."
 - (b) Up to the present nothing has been heard from the War Office but it has been learned that the Australian Services would like approximately 1750 troops to take part in the exercise and that a trench system, including command post and weapon pits be constructed and occupied during the explosion.
- 3/ In view of the numbers and field works involved it is desired that this meeting determine tentative proposals for submission to the U.K. covering -
 - (a) Numbers each Service wishes to participate.
 - (b) Will the troops from the three Services proceed to Maralinga as one body and, if so, what will be their means of transport-
 - (1) to Maralinga
 - (2) whilst on site.
 - (c) If camp is to be set up what is the estimated period troops will be on site before and after burst providing weapon is fired on schedule.
 - (d) Proposed location of camp.
 - (e) Will the troops be self supporting including water.
 - (f) In the construction of the trench systems what equipment is likely to be required in view of the limestone nature of the area.
 - (g) Is it anticipated that an advance party will construct the field works.
 - (h) Proposed distance of trench systems upwind from GZ. This of course will depend upon type of burst and yield. (Page 11/12)
- 4/ Channel of communication of Working Party's decisions to the U.K. (Through UKMOSS (A) on policy matters and from War Office to Aust Army on military details ?)

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Domestic Support :

Indoctrinees to be self supporting, including water, as it is unlikely that water can be supplied from the Maralinga distillation plant. (During the "Antler" Operation in 1957, water bought from the Commonwealth Railways and delivered to Watson Railway Siding cost 5.425 pence per gallon).

Movement to and within Maralinga :

This will probably be a combined exercise co-ordinated by the Department of the Army. Method to be determined at a later stage.

Trench systems :

To be constructed by the Engineering Troop component of the indoctrinee force. (No help can be given by the Maralinga Range Support Unit.)

Period Indoctrinees will be on site :

Approximately 2 weeks in all, providing burst takes place on schedule.

Reconnaissance :

A reconnaissance party from the Department of the Army to proceed to Maralinga in the near future for the purpose of preparing an estimate of man hours and equipment involved in the construction of the trench systems.

Blood Counts :

All participating troops to be blood counted before arrival on site.

Information required from U.K. :

- (a) Approximate date of indoctrinee round.
- (b) Site for trench systems. In this connection it is desired that indoctrinees be as close as possible to GZ.
- (c) Approximate numbers and ranks of U.K. indoctrinees expected to take part in the exercise.
- (d) What are the U.K. views on administration of the U.K. indoctrinees camp.