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Australian "Cruiser" tanks: dismantling and disposal of 63 in total 66.

325/0118/1

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES,	VICTORIA
ACCESS DECISION:	
	DATE
OPEN	FEB. 1989
OPEN WITH EXCEPTIONS	
CLOSED	
REMARKS	

325/6118/1

MVD3A(2)/IC -9/10. fulle OSI Quot e in reply: (325/0118/1). B69669 TANKS AUSTRALIAN CRUISER. DOS Peference is made to minute B69030 dated 6 Oct 45. It is advised that the three (3) Cruiser Tanks Australian which are to be retained for War Museums should consist of the one Tank Cruiser (Aust) No .III and the two (2) most complete Tanks Cruiser (Aust) No.1. 3. It is requested that full VOIs be set aside for those three tanks, so that they can be forwarded to the museums in a fully stowed condition.

Colonel, Colonel, Machanical Vehicles.

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(325/0118/1)

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1 Ord Veh Park

# TANKS AUSTRALIAN CRUISER

Further to phone conversation Maj Meadows - Capt White, concerning three (3) Australian Cruiser Tanks which are to be retained for War Museums.

- 2. It is now advised that the three (3) Tanks to be retained will consist of one (1) Tank Cruiser (Aust) No. III and the two (2) most complete Tanks Cruiser (Aust) No. 1.
- 3. It is requested that full VOLs be set aside for these three tanks so that they can be forwarded to the museums in a fully stowed condition.
- 4. Please submit the Army Registration Nos and Engine Nos of the remaining sixtyfive (65) Australian Cruiser Tanks to this Directorate, to enable them to be declared to the CDC.

Regid

Indid

To Date

PROBLE SHO SAPER

Director of the Ordnance Service.

/3 Oct 45.

Quote in reply: (325/0118/1). B69669

Not For File Unless Reply Minuted Revenue

### TANKS AUSTRALIAN CRUISER.

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- 3. It is requested that full VOLs be set aside for those three tanks, so that they can be forwarded to the museums in a fully stowed condition.

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(1) Dispose of Monto.

Director of Mechanical Vehicles.

10 Oct 45.



Quote: (325/0118/1)

CHECKED FOR INDEX

B69030

DMV



### TANKS AUSTRALIAN CRUISER

Permission has been given by the Minister to dispose of sixty five (65) of the total holdings of sixty-eight (68) Tanks Australian Cruiser, the remaining three (3) being retained for UK and Australian War Museums.

2. The total holdings comprise sixty five (65) Tanks Cruiser (Aust) No.1, one only Tanks Cruiser (Aust) No. III and two experimental models which were handed over to Army at the cessation of production.

3. As it is intended to declare these tanks for disposal as soon as possible, it would be appreciated if a direction could be given as to which tanks are to be retained.

Brigadier, Director of the Ordnance Service.

9 Oct 45.

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To Dato

B/F as/ New 3/6

TELEPHONE RECEIVED O SEP 1945 AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES Cenwal Registry (MASTER-GENERAL OF THE ORDNANCE) QUOTE (326/01/405) HEADQUARTERS VICTORIA BARRACKS B58443 MELBOURNE, S.C.1 Secretary (through CGS) (Sgd) J. Northcott TANKS AUSTRALIAN CRUISER 18 Aug 45. It is desired that Ministerial approval be obtained for the dismantling of sixty-three (63) of the total AMF holdings sixty six (66) Tanks Australian Cruiser in order that the serviceable components, for which there is a requirement, can be diverted to other uses within the Army. Approval is also sought to dispose of two (2) experimental models which were handed over to Army at the cessation of tank production. The tanks having been declared obsolete are no longer required by Army, except those for which it is proposed to retain for UK and Australian War Museums. 3. War Cabinet Agendum No. 62/44 deals with the finalisation of the Australian Tank Production project and in paragraph 10, the Commander-in-Chief recommended as follows:-"(a) All ACl Mk. I Tanks to be held by the Army in their present condition. Army will place them in adequate storage as obsolete vehicles. Future action to depend on lod'd A requirement for their use in a converted (i) capacity. A requirement for their breakdown and (ii) economical use of component parts." War Cabinet Minute 3300 AC dated 4 Feb 44 approved of the C-in-C's recommendations. There is no requirement for the tanks in their present state or converted. The most practical step is to dismantle wanted components and bring these into service, for example - engines for initial equipment or maintenance of small craft. The proposal is that the balance of components including hulls, will be disposed through the Commonwealth Disposals Commission or Army Salvage in conjunction with the Commission. 5. Under present conditions, the 65 Australian Cruiser Tanks are causing the Army an embarrassment as proper covered storage is not available and the manhours of labour required to maintain these tanks is a liability which cannot be fully met. ZMajor-General, Master-General of the Ordnance. O Aug 45

(325/30/535)

B64476

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Secretary,

Department of Munitions,

Western House,

83 William Street,

MELBOURNE .. C.1.

17/

325 0118 1 BRANCH

# AUSTRALIAN CRUISER TANKS

Reference is made to your memorandum 229/571/57 dated 30 Aug 45 relative to disposal of tank hulls held at Bradford Kendall Annexe, Sydney, as a consequence of the cessation of Australian Cruiser Tank project.

2. Attention is invited to War Cabinet Minute 3300 to Agendum No. 62-1944, para. (2(e) which states -

"All parts or assemblies not claimed by the Army to be listed by the Centroller of Liquidation, Ministry of Munitions, in order that he may endeavour to realise as far as possible on all items."

3. It would be appreciated, therefore, if disposal of the hulls referred to were effected through the normal

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MADS(a)HWM/GG.

(989/00/999)

B64476

PROCESTED DA LONG

Secretary, Department of Numblons, Wearst House,

Nettern Dougs an William Street. Halmoorna .. C.l.

ADSTRALLAP CRUISES TARKS

Reference is made to your memorendum 220/871/87 quiest 85 aug ab relative to disposal of tenk built hold at Bradiand Mondall Anners, Sydney, as a consequence of the cessation of augmentan Cruiser Tank project.

2. Aptendion is invited to Mar Cabinet Minute 5500 to Agendus No. 62-1964, para. (6(a) watch states -

"All parks or massmolies not claimed by the firmy to be lined by the Controller of Lightdations, Ministry of Bunitions, in order that he may suderyour to realise as far as possible on all

A. It would be appreclated, therefore, if disposal of one bulls referred to were effected through the normal partitions channel.

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13 SEP 1945

13 SEP 1945 MILITARY

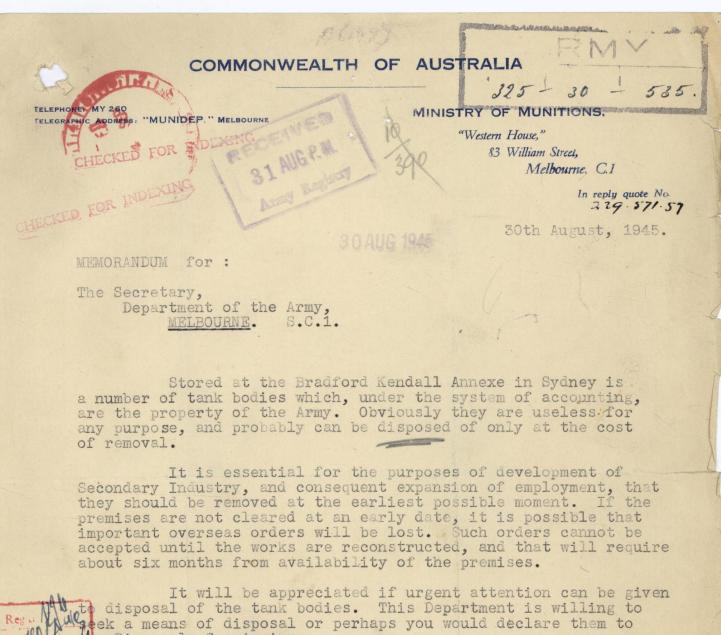
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It will be appreciated if urgent attention disposal of the tank bodies. This Department is we have a means of disposal or perhaps you would declare individual disposals Commission.

To Disposals Commission.

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325/024/45

325 0118 1 PPS 325-024-45

C G S,

## AUSTRALIAN TANK PROGRAMME.

Further to my memorandum B50689 dated 13 July 45 relative to questions raised by Mr. Spender on Australian Tank programme the following additional information is now supplied:

- (i) In addition to the 66 Tanks referred to in my previous memo, the Army are also holding 2 experimental models which were handed over on cessation of Tank production.
- (ii) The total quantity which it is proposed to dismantle (subject to Minister's approval) will, therefore, be 65, including 2 experimental models.

My previous memo B50689 should therefore be amended in accordance with the above advice.

DMV Slep & 17 MVD! 17/8 D.J.

PAMA 17/8 D.J.

W.W. W. Bria

Major-General.
Master-General of the Ordnance.

10 Aug 45.

325 0118

(326/01/405)

B58443

Secretary (through CGS)

### TANKS AUSTRALIAN 'CRUISER

It is desired that Ministerial approval be obtained for the dismantling of sixty-three (63) of the total AMF holdings sixty six (66) Tanks Australian Cruiser in order that the serviceable components for which there is a requirement can be diverted to other uses within the Army. Approval is also sought to dispose of two (2) experimental models which were handed over to Army at the cessation of tank production.

- 2. The tanks having been declared obsolete are no longer required by Army, except those for which it is proposed to retain for UK and Australian War Museums.
- 3. War Cabinet Agendum No. 62/44 deals with the finalisation of the Australian Tank Production project and in paragraph 10, the Commander-in-Chief recommended as follows:-
  - "(a) All ACI Mk.I Tanks to be held by the Army in their present condition. Army will place them in adequate storage as obsolete vehicles. Future action to depend on -
    - (i) A requirement for their use in a converted capacity.
    - (ii) A requirement for their breakdown and economical use of component parts.

War Cabinet Minute 3300 AC dated 4 Feb 44 approved of the C-in-C's recommendations.

4. There is no requirement for the tanks in their present state or converted. The most practical step is to dismantle wanted components and bring these into service, for example - engines for initial equipment or maintenance example for a small craft. The proposal is that the balance of components including hulls, will be disposed through the Commonwealth pisposals Commission or Army Salvage in conjunction with Regid Ind a the Commission. Under present conditions, the 65 Australian ruiser Tanks are causing the Army an embarrassment as proper covered storage is not available and the manhours of labour required to maintain these tanks is a liability thich cannot be fully met.

asis by

Major-General, Master-General of the Ordnance 10 Aug 45.



CGS

### TANKS, AUSTRALIAN CRUISER

The attached submission to the Minister seeking approval to dismantle sixty-five (65) Tanks, Australian Cruiser; is forwarded for your endorsement please.

2. CGS minute 84001 of 25 Jun 45 refers to the Australian programme and MGO B.50689 of 13 Jul 45 in reply indicated an intention to seek the Minister's approval to dismantle Australian cruiser tanks and utilise certain serviceable components for other purposes.

Major-General,
Master-General of the Ordnance.

/O Aug 45.

1 3 AUG 1945

Reg 13 17 13 17

To Date

S/F 05/ Acc.

MVD1/MB.-16/7.

Quote

in reply: (326/01/405)

MVD3

Copy to: - MVDl MADS

### AUST CRUISER TANKS.

Files 336/01/405 and 325/024/45 are referred for further action by your section.

- It is to be noted in Memorandum B50689 MGO to CGS paragraph 2(c), that a complete appreciation is to be prepared regarding the extent to which components of A.C. Tanks can be applied to other uses.
- DOS has prepared a brief submission seeking Ministerial approval to the dismantling of A.C. Tanks and will no doubt seek information from DMV regarding recommendations for disposal and use of serviceable items.
- Will you please detail an officer from your section to undertake a complete survey and prepare information which can be used as a basis for an appreciation to be submitted to the MGO.

Sayor Roberts.

Sommediste acho ne
paras 2, 3. & please

St 16/7

The adam Colonel,

Director of Mechanical Vehicles.

/6 Jul 45.

MVD1/MB.-16/7.

Quote in reply: (326/01/405)

MVD3

Copy to:- MVD1 MVD2

### AUST CRUISER TANKS.

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- 4. Will you please detail an officer from your section to undertake a complete survey and prepare information which can be used as a basis for an appreciation to be submitted to the MGO.

Director of Mechanical Vehicles.

16 Jul 45.

B50689

(d) The Commender-in-Chit's recommondations to the preservition and retention specifications and drawings will be observed.

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sansabiles held by the Department of Munitipus, the acquisition of such teems as are of value to Army is under constant neview.

Considerable quantities of equipment and stores have been acquired for other uses, and it is anticipated that in the future further considerable quantities will be taken over by Army.

C G S.

# AUSTRALIAN TANK PROGRAMME.

With reference to your Memorandum 84001, dated 25 Jun '45, the following information is supplied relative to sub para. (c) of Mr. Spender's questions relating to Australian Tank Programme:-

(i) Orders were placed through the Department of Munitions for 775 Tanks and spare parts for £11,500,000 approx.

On the cessation of production of Australian Tanks, the Department of Munitions advised that the total cost of Australian Tank production to that point had been £4,369,000, which included an amount of approx.

£100,000 for modifications and services to overseas Tanks. The expenditure incurred solely related to Aust. Tanks was therefore £4,269,000 approx.

(ii) Provisional acceptances of complete tanks are as follows:-

Tanks A.C. Mk.I with unheat treated Hulls - 13 with heat treated Hulls - 13 Tanks A.C. Mk.III

Total complete tanks received by Army - 26

All these tanks were accepted by Army with certain qualifications as to improvement in design.

An additional 40 tanks in a similar condition to above were taken over for storage.

In regard to Commander-in-Chief's recommendations as covered by paragraph 10 of War Cabinet Agendum 62/44, the following action is proposed in connection with the 66 A.C.

(a) It is proposed to hold two Tanks A.C. Mk. I and one Tank A.C. Mk. III for physical record.

- (b) In regard to the balance of 63 Tanks A.C. Mk.I. these are now a source of embarrassment from the viewpoint of storage etc., and it is proposed to prepare a submission for presentation to the Minister with a view to obtaining approval to complete dismantling and use of serviceable components for other purposes.
- (c) A complete appreciation is being prepared in connection with (b) above, and after final selection of those numbers of equipment which can be usefully employed, the balance of the tanks will be disposed of in accordance with normal Army disposal procedure.

850689

(d) The Commander-in-Chief's recommendations in regard to the preservation and retention of specifications and drawings will be observed.

In regard to the examination of lists of parts and assemblies held by the Department of Munitions, the acquisition of such items as are of value to Army is under constant review.

Considerable quantities of equipment and stores have been acquired for other uses, and it is anticipated that in the future further considerable quantities will be taken over by Army.

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Tanks A.C. Mr.III

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2. In regard to Commander-in-Chief's recommendations as covered by paragraph 10 of War Cabinet agendem 62/44, the following action is proposed in connection with the 56 4.6. Manks still held on Army charge:-

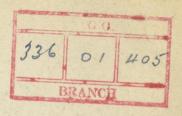
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TELEPHONES: CENTRAL 7185 MXY 440 26 JUN CO





AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

(CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF)

HEADQUARTERS

VICTORIA BARRACKS

MELBOURNE, S.C.1

25 Jun 45.

Quote in

Reply 8400 -

M.G.O.

### AUSTRALIAN TANK PROGRAMME

l. Reference Secretary's minute dated 11 Jun 45 concerning the above, a copy of which is attached. The Secretary advises that the Tank Programme referred to is that for Australian manufacture only.

2. Information concerning sub-paras (a) and (b) of Mr Spender's question is being obtained by this Branch from Ministry of Munitions.

3. In so far as sub-para (c) of Mr Spender's question is concerned, it will be recalled that proposals as to the disposal of tanks, etc., produced locally were submitted to War Cabinet in Agendum No. 62/44 (para 10). Information from you in regard to the present position of those proposals, as they affect you, would be appreciated.

4. The draft of the reply to Mr Spender will be forwarded for your concurrence prior to submission to the Secretary.

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Masdward Brig In Lieutenant-General, Chief of the General Staff.

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om/s/c

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#### TANK PROGRAMME

HQ, A.M.F.

(For C.G.S.)

In a communication addressed to the Secretary, Advisory War Council, the Hon. P.C. Spender, K.C., M.P., has included the following request:-

# "(3) Tank Programme.

I should be glad to know -

- (a) What is the total cost of the Tank Programme to date;
- (b) What appropriations were made from year to year; and
- (c) What was the result of the expenditure of this money."

x x x x

- 2. The Acting Prime Minister has requested that the Acting Minister for the Army should arrange in consultation with the Minister for Munitions to furnish a reply direct to Mr. Spender in regard to the above item, particulars of which have already been communicated to the Minister for Munitions.
- 3. After consultation with the Department of Munitions will you kindly bring forward a draft letter to the Hon. P.C. Spender for the Minister's signature.

Sgd. H. Crawford

for Secretary 11/6/1945

Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Defence, MELBOURNE SC1.

No. SS 1153

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR:-

The Secretary,
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

AGENDUM NO. 62/1944 - FINALISATION OF AUSTRALIAN TANK PRODUCTION

Herewith is forwarded, for necessary action, copy of Minute No. (3300) which records the decision of War Cabinet in relation to the abovementioned agendum.

A copy of this Minute is being forwarded also to the Treasure, the Department of Munitions and the Department of Supply and Shipping.

(Sgd) H N Port

for (F.G. Shedden) Secretary.

### WAR CABINET MINUTE

### CANBERRA - 4TH FEBRUARY, 1944

(3300) AGENDUM NO; 62/1944 - FINALISATION OF AUSTRALIAN TANK PRODUCTION

In view of the decision in Minute No. (2979) relative to the cessation of the Tank Production Programme and the proposals now submitted by the Army regarding the action to be taken in respect of Australian Tanks and components, the War Cabinet assumes that work on tank production in the Munitions Department has ceased.

- The recommendations of the Commander-in-Chief,

  A MF set out in paragraph 10 of the Agendum were approved,
  subject to the disposal of parts and assemblies not required
  by the Army being a matter for consultation by the Controller of
  Liquidation, Department of Munitions, with the Central Realisation
  Board, after consideration by the Treasury of the conditions of
  Lend-Lease procedure in respect of items obtained under Lend-Lease
  from the USA.
- The financial implications of the foregoing decision in relation to the funds authorised under the Army Programme for the provision of tanks are to be examined by the Treasury.

(Sgd.) A J Wilson for Secretary, War Cabinet.

this will also affect the losts and pieces of the 65 tanks referred to in poars 10(a) of Agendom:

SECRET.

AGENDUM No. 62/44

COPY No. . 43.

#### WAR CABINET AGENDUM.

#### FINALIZATION OF AUSTRALIAN TANK PRODUCTION.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION. -

In Minute No. 2969, War Cabinet agreed in principle 1 to the cossation of the Tank Production Programme following consideration of War Cabinet Agenda Nos 299/43 and 319/43 in which the complete history of Tank Production in Australia was summarised.

#### 2. OBJECT OF THE AGENDUM .-

The object of this Agendum is to recommend from the aspect of Army requirements the action to be taken regarding Tanks and components which have been produced, and as funds authorised for tanks have not been specifically earmarked for overseas or Australian production, the opportunity has been taken to review the funds necessary to meet the cost of both Australian and Overseas supplies. The latter is based on the latest advice of prices.

#### 3. TANKS ACCEPTED BY THE ARMY FROM AUSTRALIAN PRODUCTION .-

The following is a statement of Australian Tanks accepted, with certain qualifications, by the Army -

TANKS, AC, MK.I

With un-heat treated hulls .. 12. With heat treated hulls .. 13.

TAUKS. AC, MK.III

Pilot Model (as yet untested). 1.

It is also known that there are 40 No. Tanks, AC, Mk.I, almost ready for delivery and in much the same condition as the 13 No. mentioned above.

#### 4. SERVICEABILITY OF ACI TARKS .-

This subject required consideration under two headings:-

- (a) Automotive (b) Operational
- (a) Automotive The Army was not satisfied with the dependability of the earlier Tanks delivered, and as a result of technical examinations of the vehicles ceased accepting Tanks at No. 25 and listed in detail all items requiring rectification before any more would be accepted. Four of these items were important and also there was a large number of relatively minor changes required. Drawings have been prepared by Armoured Fighting Vehicles Production under guidance from Army Officers and are now complete.

### 4. SERVICEABILITY OF ACT TANKS - (ctd)

#### (a) Automotive - (ctd)

The introduction of all these items into the whole range of 65 No. Tanks would take at least three months and would require the continued employment of manpower and the use of Workshop facilities. Even if these modifications are made there is no certainty that the Tanks would be suitable for issue to units as the further tests made possible by the modifications may disclose matters requiring rectification hitherto not apparent.

(b) Operational — In is now almost two years since the design of Tanks in Australia was put under the single control of Director of Armoured Fighting Vehicles (Production) and the programme given the support necessary for such a huge undertaking. During that period Australia has attempted to carry out the difficult task of development, design and production at the one time, and has aimed at a production figure that, although small for the rest of the world, is large for Australia.

Production was undertaken as a result of the conditions existing at the time, and the one type that has been produced in small numbers is now out of date in its most important feature, that is, its main armament - the 2-pdr gun, although later types were to incorporate heavier armament.

Therefore, the position is that the AC Mk.I Tank with a 2-pdr gun is late in arriving, is out-gunned for modern warfare, and in view of this and the aspect of automotive efficiency is not suitable for issue to units. Furthermore an emple supply of more efficient Tanks is available.

### 5. SERVICEABILITY OF AC MK III TANKS.

As indicated in para 3, the A C. Mk.III Tank is as yet produced only in the pilot form, and has not yet been given routine and continuous tests to gauge its automotive and operational values. It can be anticipated that a considerable period would elapse before the design would reach a stage suitable for production to a standard to meet Service requirements, and it would then be obsolescent in many features.

# 6. TANK PARTS AND ASSEMBLIES UNDER MANUFACTURE. -

There is a very large number of parts and assemblies for both AC Mk.I and AC Mk.III Tanks in various stages of manufacture held by various contractors to the Department of Munitions. The majority of these parts are peculiar to the Tank but a few can be used for other purposes.

#### 7. PROPOSED USE FOR AUSTRALIAN TANKS .-

For reasons indicated in para 4, it is impossible to consider using the Australian Tank as it is at the present moment as an operational weapon unless we should be forced to use our last remaining resources.

Since it is essential for a Tank crew to train as a team, in the Tank, or type of Tank, in which they will subsequently have to fight, it is not possible to use these Tanks for training purposes to any degree at all. They could be used for very elementary training but certain teachings would have to be undone when the pupil graduated into his

PROPOSED USE FOR AUSTRALTAN TANKS .- (ctd)

cperational type Tank. For these reasons their use for training could not be justified.

It is possible that they could be converted for some particular purpose requiring only a few hulls; but this policy is not regarded favourably for spare parts and maintenance of the "orphan" become unnecessary problems, whilst the mechanical reliability is such that they could not be used operationally without considerable development. Therefore, no immediate use or requirement can be seen for these Tanks that have been produced.

# 8. CONFERENCE HELD ON TANK MATTERS .-

A conference was held between representatives of Army and the Ministry of Munitions in regard to various matters from which the following recommendations were made

- (a) The Army to examine all lists of parts and assemblies held by the Department of Munitions and claim all parts or assemblies that can be used by the Army for any project.
- (b) All parts or assemblies not claimed by the Army to be listed by the Controller of Liquidation, Ministry of Munitions, in order that he may endeavour to realise as far as possible on all items.

### 9. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS .-

Consequent upon the cancellation of the production of tanks in Australia and the review of funds required for tanks from Overseas on the basis of the latest known prices, funds amounting to £19,067,324 can be deleted from the Army Programme. Full details of funds are included in Appendices "A" and "B" attached to this Agendum.

Included in the funds remaining in the Army Programme is an amount of £4,369,000 to meet the estimated expenditure on tank production by the Munitions Department. This amount is reserved for expenditure on production, it being left to the Department of Munitions to deal later with any capital expenditure which may have been incurred on tank production. That Department has advised that it will be some little time before the liquidation of the tank projects are sufficiently advanced to enable it to prepare a survey of the irrecoverable expenditure.

# 10. COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS .-

The Commander-in-Chief recommends the following:-

- (a) All AC, Mk.I Tanks to be held by the Army in their present condition. Army will place them in adequate storage as obsolete vehicles. Future action to depend upon
  - i) A requirement for their use in a converted capacity.
  - (ii) A requirement for their breakdown and economical use of component parts.

# 10. COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS .- (ctd)

- (b) All AG, Mk.I drawings will be held by Army in case they are required.
- (e) The pilot model AC, Mk.III and all drawings will be held as for AC, Mk.I Tanks.
- (d) The Army to examine all lists of parts and assemblies held by the Department of Munitions and claim all parts or assemblies that can be used by the Army for any project.
- (a) All parts or assemblies not claimed by the Army to be listed by the Controller of Liquidation, Ministry of Munitions, in order that he may endeavour to realise as far as possible on all items.

### 11. SUBMISSION TO WAR CABINET .-

I submit the report and recommendations for the consideration of the War Cabinet.

> (F.M. FORDE) Minister for the Army.

TANKS.

£.

£19,067,324.

Total funds authorised for provision of Tanks locally and overseas ... 58,035,375

Details of this amount are set out fully in Appendix "B".

Funds required in Programme for 1,500 Tanks notified as being released by the Joint Assignment Board (after allowing for reduction in funds consequent upon advice of revised prices) and orders placed overseas for spares 23,749,051

Funds required in Programme for the provision of 310 Sherman Tacks approved in war Cabinet Minute No.2979 Agendum 299/43 10,850,000

Funds required to meet the estimated production expenditure in connection with the local production of tanks and spare parts and conversion of certain Overseas Tanks to Tank Recovery 4,369,000

Total required in Programme ... £38,968,051

Supplies Funds authorised for Tanks which may be deleted from the Programme

APPENDIX "B"

Statement to show particulars of Total Funds authorised to date for provision of Tanks locally and overseas.

W.C. Agendum	Funds Approved	Remarks			
41/42	6,570,000	A.M.F. Reassessment			
150/40	9,900,000	Armoured Division			
53/41	3,705,000	AIF Initial Equip & War Wastage			
249/42	2,326,000	Overseas Refeases for April and May 1942			
41/42 S.4	390,000	Replacement losses at Sea			
41/42 8.4	40,000	Spare Parts for A.F.Vs.			
249/42 8.1	7,559,000	Overseas Releases for June 1942			
249/42 5.2	1,725,000	" " July 1942			
249/42 8.3	6,425,500	n n August 1942			
249/42 5.4	4,943,250	n n September, 1942			
33/43	868,750	n n n October 1942			
83/43	809,375	n n November 1942			
84/43	1,887,500	n n n December 1942			
299/43	10,850,000	Sherman Tanks (310)			
392/42	24,000	Conversion of M3 Tanks to Tanks Recovery			
533/42	12,000	n n n n n			
No American and a second and a	£58,035,375				

TELEPHONE: MXY 130



AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

(MASTER-GENERAL OF THE ORDNANCE)

Hers.

QUOTE (326/01/405)

HEADQUARTERS
VICTORIA BARRACKS
MELBOURNE, S.C.1

B53294

CGS

TANKS. AUSTRALIAN CRUISER

The attached submission to the Minister seeking approval to dismantle sixty-three (63) Tanks, Australian Cruiser; is forwarded for your endorsement please.

2. CGS minute 84001 of 25 Jun 45 refers to the Australian tank programme and MGO B50689 of 13 Jul 45 in reply indicated an intention to seek the Minister's approval to dismantle Australian cruiser tanks and utilize certain serviceable components for other purposes.

Major-General, Master-General of the Ordnance.

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# AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

(MASTER-GENERAL OF THE ORDNANCE)

QUOTE IN REPLY (326/01/405)

B53295

HEADQUARTERS

VICTORIA BARRACKS

MELBOURNE, S.C.1

Secretary (through CGS)

#### TANKS AUSTRALIAN CRUISER

It is desired that Ministerial approval be obtained for the dismantling of sixty-three (63) of the total AMF holdings sixty-six (66) Tanks Australian Cruiser in order that the serviceable components for which there is a requirement can be diverted to other uses within the Army.

- 2. The tanks having been declared obsolete are no longer required by Army, except those for which it is proposed to retain for UK and Australian War Museums.
- 3. War Cabinet Agendum No.62/44 deals with the finalisation of the Australian Tank Production project and in paragraph 10, the Commander-in-Chief recommended as follows:-
  - "(a) All ACl Mk.I Tanks to be held by the Army in their present condition. Army will place them in adequate storage as obsolete vehicles. Future action to depend on -
    - (i) A requirement for their use in a converted capacity.
    - (ii) A requirement for their breakdown and economical use of component parts."

War Cabinet Minute 3300 AC dated 4 Feb 44 approved of the C-in-C's recommendations.

- 4. There is no requirement for the tanks in their present state or converted. The most practical step is to dismantle wanted components and bring these into service, for example engines for initial equipment or maintenance of smallcraft. The proposal is that the balance of components, including hulls, will be disposed through the Commonwealth Disposals Commission or Army Salvage in conjunction with the Commission.
- 5. Under present conditions, the 65 Australian Cruiser Tanks are causing the Army an embarrassment as proper covered storage is not available and the manhours of labour required to maintain these tanks is a liability which cannot be fully met.

Major-General, Master-General of the Ordnance.

2 5 Jul 45.



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Secretary (through CGS)

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