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War Cabinet Agendum - No 23/1945 - Australian personnel in Control Commissions for Germany and  
Austria



SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

War Cabinet Agendum No. 23/1945

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

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Subject AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL IN CONTROL COMMISSIONS FOR

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

*see also 52/301/164.*



52/301/177  
SECRET  
AGENDUM NO. 23/1945 - AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL IN CONTROL COMMISSIONS  
FOR GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

SS 104  
Secretary, Defence Committee.

(Through Asst. Secretary (Col. Wilson)  
and Major Coleman).

12 JAN 1945

... Herewith is forwarded copy of Minute No. (4007)  
which records the decision of War Cabinet in relation to the  
abovementioned Agendum.

... Copy No. 18 of the Agendum is also enclosed.

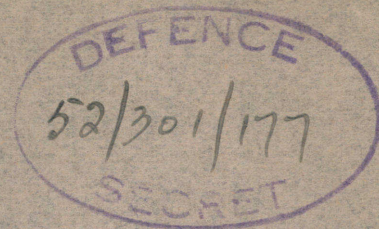
Copies to - Secretary  
Col. Wilson  
Mr. Port

(Sgd.) H. L. PORT  
for Secretary  
/1/1945

1 Mr. Hargreave  
2 P.A. 23/1.

13/1/45





SS100

MEMORANDUM FOR:-

**SECRET**

12 JAN 1945

The Secretary,  
Department of the Treasury,  
CANBERRA.

✓ Secty., Dept. of the Navy ✓  
✓ Secty., Dept. of the Army ✓  
✓ Secty., Department of Air. ✓  
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**AGENDUM NO. 23/1945 - AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL IN CONTROL  
COMMISSIONS FOR GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.**  
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Herewith is forwarded copy of Minute No. (4007)  
which records the decision of War Cabinet in relation to  
the abovementioned Agendum, submitted by the Department of  
External Affairs.

(Sgd.) H. L. PORT

for (F. G. Shedden)  
Secretary

Copiesto -

✓ Treasurer ✓

✓ Asst. Sec. Treas. Def. Div. ✓ [dnc1]

✓ Treasury Rep. ✓

✓ Min. for the Navy ✓

✓ A/Min. for the Army ✓

✓ A/Min. for Air ✓

Secretary

Col. Wilson

Mr. Port



12 JAN 1945

8899

MEMORANDUM FOR:-

SECRET

DEFENCE  
52/301/177  
SECRET

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA.

AGENDUM NO. 23/1945 - AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL IN CONTROL  
COMMISSIONS FOR GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.  
-----

Herewith is forwarded copy of Minute No. (4007)  
which records the decision of War Cabinet in relation to  
the abovementioned Agendum.

A copy of this Minute is also being forwarded to  
the following:-

The Department of the Treasury.  
The Secretary, Defence Committee.  
The Department of the Navy.  
The Department of the Army.  
The Department of Air.

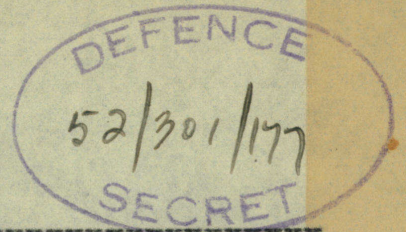
(Sd) H. L. PORT

for (F. G. Shedden)  
Secretary

Copies to -

Minister for External Affairs ✓  
Secretary ✓  
Col. Wilson ✓  
Mr. Port ✓





**SECRET**

CANBERRA. A.C.T.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

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

9 JAN 1945

WAR CABINET AGENDUM.

The following agendum submitted by your Department is being listed for consideration at the next meeting of War Cabinet:-

No. 23/1945 - Australian Personnel in Control  
Commissions for Germany and Austria.

(Sgd.) H. L. PORT

for (F.G. Shedden),  
S e c r e t a r y.



SECRET

WAR CABINET MINUTE

CANBERRA - 9TH JANUARY, 1945.

(4007) AGENDUM NO. 23/1945 - AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL IN  
CONTROL COMMISSIONS FOR GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

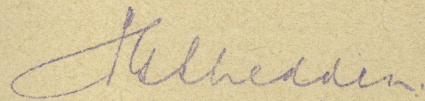
Approval was given to the following recommendations by the Minister for External Affairs set out in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Agendum relative to the nomination of Australian civilian or military personnel to the non-military divisions of the Control Commissions for Germany and Austria:-

- (i) The nomination of Australian civilians or military personnel to the non-military sections of the Armistice control machinery should be limited in number; so far as possible, nominees should be drawn from personnel already in Europe; in considering any nomination, priority should be given to the needs of the Australian war effort and the prospective needs of civil affairs and post-armistice control in the Far East; and nominations should be made on the understanding that Australian personnel specially required for Australian Governmental participation in civil affairs and armistice control in the Far East shall be made available for that purpose. (Paragraph 8 of the Agendum).
- (ii) The selection of Australian nominees to the non-military sections of the Armistice Control Commissions in Europe should be made by the Department of External Affairs in consultation with other departments concerned. (Paragraph 9 of the Agendum).

2. The following recommendations which were made to War Cabinet by the Acting Minister for Defence relative to the provision of personnel for the military divisions of the Control Commissions were also approved:-

- (i) That, in regard to personnel for the military divisions, approval be given for the provision of a maximum of ten Australian Service personnel (including the two officers approved in Minute (3682)), subject to an official request being made by the United Kingdom authorities.
- (ii) That such personnel should as far as practicable be representative of the three Services.
- (iii) That the conditions outlined by the Minister for External Affairs in paragraph 8 of the Agendum, regarding nominations to the non-military divisions should also apply to the military divisions, vide paragraph 1(i) above.

3. The Department of External Affairs and the Service Departments are to confer with the Treasury in regard to questions affecting the pay, allowances and conditions of service in respect of Australian personnel appointed to the non-military and military divisions of the Commissions.

  
Secretary,  
War Cabinet.



AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL IN CONTROL COMMISSIONS FOR  
GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.SUGGESTED ACTION:

It is suggested that War Cabinet approve the recommendations of the Minister for External Affairs in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Agendum<sup>x</sup> relative to the nomination of Australian civilian or military personnel to the non-military divisions of the Control Commissions for Germany and Austria. <sup>x</sup>

2. To enable a consistent policy to be followed, it would be desirable if War Cabinet would also consider the question of nomination of Australian Service personnel to the military divisions of the Commissions. On the Service level a request has been made for the provision of ten Australian officers (including the two covered by War Cabinet Minute No. (3682) and now serving with the Commission).

3. I accordingly submit the following recommendations regarding the provision of personnel for the Military divisions for consideration by War Cabinet:-

- / (i) That, in regard to personnel for the military divisions, approval be given for the provision of a maximum of ten Australian Service personnel (including the two officers approved in Minute (3682)), subject to an official request being made by the United Kingdom authorities.
- (ii) That such personnel should as far as practicable be representative of the three Services.
- (iii) That the conditions outlined by the Minister for External Affairs in paragraph 8 of the Agendum, regarding nominations to the non-military divisions should also apply to the military divisions. <sup>y</sup>

H L.P.  
(By direction of  
the Secy)

9th January, 1945.

Revised  
9/1/45  
1415



DEFENCE  
SECRET

52

301

177

SECRET

8 JAN 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR:-

The Secretary,  
Department of the Treasury,  
CANBERRA.

AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL IN CONTROL COMMISSIONS FOR GERMANY  
AND AUSTRIA.  
-----

... Herewith is forwarded, for your information,  
Copy No. 12 of Agendum No. 23/1945 in relation to the  
abovementioned subject which has been submitted for  
consideration by War Cabinet.

(Sd) H. L. PORT

for (F.G. Shedden)  
Secretary.

Distribution by War  
Cabinet Secretariat.  
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Distribution by Dept. of  
External Affairs.  
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13 - Asst. Sec., Treas., Def. Div.  
14 - Treasury Rep.  
10 & 15 - Secretary  
16 - Mr. Port  
9 - Col. Wilson.

Not stated.



**SECRET**

**Ag. No. 23/1945 - Australian Personnel for  
and Austria:**

**Commissions for Germany**

- (1) Copies Nos. 9 and 17 Forwarded to Colonel Wilson.  
Copy No. 17 to be returned with submission of Notes

*W. H. Pennington*

War Cabinet Secretariat.

**8/1/1945**

(2) For Notes.

7/1944

(3) Copy No. 17 returned on



*Recd. 20 Apr 45  
0440 8/11  
by H.L.P.*

SECRET

*Delivered to  
Defense Secretariat, Canberra,  
without covering letter*

WAR CABINET AGENDUM. 23/1945  
COPY NO. -

11

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

WAR CABINET AGENDUM

AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL IN CONTROL  
COMMISSIONS FOR GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

1. In telegrams 131A, 133A and 135A, received early in October, the Commonwealth Accredited Representative, London, reported that the United Kingdom authorities had under active consideration the possibility of including a proportion of personnel from Australia and other Dominions in the British element of the proposed control machinery for Germany and Austria. These telegrams (copies of which are attached hereto) give the main categories of staff required, including men with qualifications in law, accountancy, finance, banking, insurance, education, public health, industrial relations, industrial welfare, postal, radio and telephone services, general administration and European languages. There are about 390 positions available besides 2,500 interpreters.
2. These positions are in the divisions of the Control Commissions dealing with economics, industry, manpower, transportation, finance, internal affairs and political questions. Both civilian and military personnel can be recruited. These requirements are entirely separate from requirements for military personnel in the service divisions of the Control Commissions.
3. In view of decisions by War Cabinet in Minute No. 2947 of 9th July, 1943, Minute No. 3102 of 19th October, 1943, and Minute No. 3682 of 22nd July, 1944, to the effect that proposals for the attachment of Australian personnel to the service divisions of the Control Commissions in Europe should be submitted to War Cabinet, the matter is referred for consideration. By decision in Minute 3682, War Cabinet confirmed the despatch of two A.M.F. officers who had already been sent abroad to be attached to the Military Section of the Control Commissions for Germany.
4. The chief arguments in favour of the nominations of Australians to the staff of Armistice Control Commissions in Europe are :-
  - (a) in keeping with our claim to be heard in international affairs, we should accept a share of international responsibilities;

/ (b) the



- (b) the value of the experience to the Australian officers who participate.

5. The strength of the first argument is reduced in the present case because any Australians who take part will not serve as representatives of Australia but as elements in a British team, and, notwithstanding the expression of contrary views by the Dominions, the conclusion of armistices in Europe and the control of European armistice machinery remains mainly in the hands of the United States, U.S.S.R., and the United Kingdom Governments.

6. The chief arguments against the nomination of Australians to the Armistice Control Commissions in Europe are :-

- (a) Australian manpower difficulties and particularly the demands for the Australian war effort against Japan;
- (b) the prospective need for qualified men for civil affairs and armistice control in the Far East;
- (c) the difficulty of arranging the transfer of selected civilians or military personnel from Australia to Europe.

7. Furthermore, in view of the decision of Cabinet, endorsing the resolutions of the recent Wellington Conference, to take the strongest possible action to ensure Australia's right of participation in the conclusion of armistices and in armistice control arrangements in the Far East, it is suggested that care should be taken that the nomination of Australians to the European Control Commissions does not imply acceptance for the Far East of a system of "Big Three" control of armistice machinery and exclusion of Dominions from direct representation.

8. Weighing these arguments, and having regard to the decision of Cabinet regarding the military sections of the Control Commissions, it is recommended -

The nomination of Australian civilians or military personnel to the non-military sections of the Armistice control machinery should be limited in number; so far as possible, nominees should be drawn from personnel already in Europe; in considering any nomination, priority should be given to the needs of the Australian war effort and the prospective needs of civil affairs and post-armistice control in the Far East; and nominations should be made on the understanding that Australian personnel specially required for Australian Governmental participation in civil affairs and armistice control in the Far East shall be made available for that purpose.

9. ....



9. To implement this recommendation, it is further recommended -

The selection of Australian nominees to the non-military sections of the Armistice Control Commissions in Europe should be made by the Department of External Affairs in consultation with other departments concerned.

H.V. EVATT

MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANBERRA.

8th January, 1944.



TH/JT

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

**CABLEGRAM.**

I.35830

SC387

**SECRET.**

DECYPHER FROM -  
COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT  
ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVE,  
LONDON.

DATED 5th October, 1944.

1800

RECEIVED 6th October, 1944.

135A.

SECRET.

Australian personnel in Control Commissions. My telegram No. 133A of 3rd October.

Control Commissions have now added a fourth category (D. Interpreters) to their requirements of personnel.

A total of 2,500 interpreters will be required for Germany and 450 for Austria, of whom 92% should be German speaking and the rest Russian speaking. Some of these interpreters will have to be of a very high category suitable for interpreting at important conferences, but the great majority would be ordinary interpreters and translators of sufficiently good education to be able to interpret the matters with which Control staffs would have to deal. A few technical interpreters, who are expert in say engineering, law, finance, etc. would be extremely valuable.

The Commission would be grateful for any assistance we could provide. Interpreters could be in any of the fighting services; or civilians. Pay and grading of interpreters not yet settled but there will clearly be some differentiation between those who are first-class interpreters and ordinary low grade interpreters. Personnel already serving in forces would probably continue to serve in their present rank.

BRUCE.

Min. & Dept. External Affairs  
Defence

6/10/44



## CABLEGRAM.

**SECRET.**

SMC:NB

I. 35080

36456

Dated 29th September, 1944.

1815

Received 30th September, 1944.

DECYPHER FROM -

Commonwealth Government  
Accredited Representative. **SECRET.**L O N D O N

Addressed to the Prime Minister.

131A.

The United Kingdom authorities now have under active consideration the possibility of including a proportion of personnel from Australia and other Dominions in the British Element of the proposed control machinery for Germany and Austria.

For some time past there have been discussions between the War Office and General Smart on the question of inclusion of Australian Officers in Military sections of Control Machinery and Civil Affairs Administration for the Far East. And General Smart has kept the Commander in Chief advised on this.

Recently in addition to Military sections, sections or divisions dealing with Economics, Industry, Manpower and Transportation, finance, internal affairs and political questions have been organised. Steps are being taken to assemble staffs for these divisions and it is desired to explore possibility of similarly including some personnel from Australia, subject to your agreement in principal and to availability of suitable men.

The staff is now being organised and assembled in London. The general idea is that Senior service officers concerned should mainly be of rank of Lieutenant Colonel or Major or corresponding ranks and that civilians would in the main be of military age and experience.

The main categories wanted on the civil side are men for the legal, police, finance, agriculture and transport divisions.

I have not yet been able to get any estimate of numbers involved but a considerable number can be employed. United Kingdom authorities are alive however, to the fact that we will want to play a part in similar control bodies in the Pacific and expect to make extensive requests to us for personnel, and realise therefore that we may have few men to spare. I am pressing for full particulars as soon as possible and meanwhile have assured United Kingdom authorities of Australia's agreement in principal, subject of course to our own special requirements.

Bruce.

WAR CABINET  
DEFENCE  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

30th September, 1944.



PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

ML/SMCC/PA

I. 35597/98/95/95

SC 211

# CABLEGRAM.

RECEIVED: 2nd October, 1944.

7.50 p.m.

RECEIVED: 4th October, 1944.

DECRYPTER FROM:

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVE,

L O N D O N

133A. Addressed to the Prime Minister. SECRET.

Australian personnel in Control Commissions in Germany and Austria.

My telegram 131A of 29th September.

Particulars of requirements are now available. They fall into three categories.

- (a) Military or civilian personnel with special functional qualifications, for appointments in Headquarters Control Commissions at Berlin and Vienna. Appointments in this category will be approximately 50% grade 1 and 50% grade 2 or equivalent civil grades.
- (b) Staff officers, with wide administrative experience, for second and third grade and possibly a few first grade staff appointments in Headquarters Control Commissions at Berlin and Vienna.
- (c) Military or civilian functional personnel, less highly qualified than those in Category A, for employment in provincial military government. Details follow of appointments in these categories for which Australia is asked to nominate candidates.

Selection of personnel would be a matter of negotiation between appropriate divisions and branches of the Commissions and myself, though Control Commissions ask to retain the right of final selection.

With regard to Category A, personnel, the Control Commission is prepared to accept an obviously suitable individual who is in Australia now. In this case arrangements could no doubt be made for him to be flown here as a matter of urgency, once his selection had been approved.

It is emphasised that these requirements are entirely separate from any requirements for military personnel for demilitarisation duties which may exist in the services divisions of the Control Commissions.

## 1. Commission for Germany.

### Category A. Legal. General qualifications.

Qualified barrister or solicitor. Experience in Government or local government departments desirable. Must speak German. Two appointments.

Qualified barrister or solicitor. Knowledge of international law and German or French law required. One appointment.

Qualified barrister or solicitor. Must have had at least one



year's experience in J.A.G.'s Branch. Must speak German. Three appointments.

Accounting. Accountants. Four appointments.

Finance. Knowledge of Public Finance. Experience in provincial budgets and disbursement of public funds. Knowledge of relief and social insurance matters. One appointment. Experienced in customs and excise and frontier control. One appointment.

General knowledge of banking. Knowledge of German banking. One appointment.

Knowledge of financial aspects of life and general insurance. One appointment.

Experience of control of mints and issue of coinage. One appointment.

Knowledge of continental commercial methods. Army Intelligence training. Good business experience. One appointment.

Education. Wide experience educational administration. Must speak German. Two appointments.

Experience in religious administration. Knowledge of German church administration. Must speak German. One appointment.

Knowledge of P. T. organisation. Must speak German. One appointment.

Archives. Professional archivist. Knowledge German essential. One appointment.

Public health. Wide experience public health administration. Two appointments.

Some experience public health administration. General experience local government. One appointment.

Doctors, public health qualifications. Knowledge camp hygiene. Administrative experience. Three appointments.

Welfare. Experience in civil welfare. One appointment.

Labour. Experience in Headquarters of Ministry of Labour, Australia, and have been in charge of a block of work connected with either -

(1) Industrial relations and wages questions, or

(2) Labour supply work and the operation of an employment exchange system or else the operation of social insurance schemes or unemployment relief. Two appointments.

Postal. Experience in control of large fleet of postal vehicles. One appointment.

Experience of radio engineering and administration, with special reference to broadcasting and the use of land lines therefor. One appointment.

Telephone engineering and traffic with special reference to line



# PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

PA

I. 35597/98/96/95

transmission. One appointment.

## CABLEGRAM.

Telegraph engineering and traffic with special reference to teleprinters and teletypes. One appointment.

Printing. Experience of large stationery office organisation and technique. One appointment.

### Category B.

Staff officers with wide administrative staff experience. Six appointments. Trained staff officers with considerable S. and T. experience. Two appointments.

### Category C. (Requirement shown in order of priority)

(In following paragraph figures show number of appointments available at present.)

Food control	77.
Public safety	63.
Legal	59.
Medical	49.
Education	39.
Postal	8.
Trade and Industry	7 - likely to increase greatly.
Engineering (not electrical)	6.
Telecommunications	5.
Finance	4.
Supply	4.
Labour	2.
Displaced persons	2.
Monuments and fine arts	1.

Nominations should state - rank (where applicable) age, detailed qualifications.

### (2) Commission for Austria. Category A.

Category A. Health and welfare.

Staff officer 2. One vacancy. Doctor. Public health qualification essential.

Education. Staff Officer 2. One vacancy.

Legal. D.A.A.G. (Legal) Two vacancies. Barrister at law or admitted solicitor.

Industry and mining. Staff Officer 2/<sup>two</sup> vacancies. Steel or iron manufacturers or expert.

Public utilities. Staff Officer 2. Two vacancies. Training and experience in operation of public utilities essential.

Labour. Staff Officer 2. Two vacancies. Men with labour or manpower mobilisation required.

Food and agriculture. Staff Officer 2. Two vacancies. One with knowledge of food processing. One for forestry.

Finance. Staff Officer 1. One vacancy. Expert in accounting. Staff Officer 2. Four vacancies. Two accountants, two with knowledge



PA

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and experience of provincial or government accounting or taxation.

Posts and telecommunication. Staff Officer 2. Two vacancies.

Transportation. Staff Officer 1. One vacancy. Staff Officer 2. Two vacancies. Experts in I.W.T.

Category B. Staff Officer 2, Staff Officer 3, Six vacancies. Possibly Staff Officer 1 vacancy for suitable candidate.

Category C. Nil.

Approaches are also being made to New Zealand and South Africa.

BRUCE.

War Cabinet  
Dept. E.A.  
" Defence  
5.10.44.



COPY OF TELEPRINTER MESSAGE

*To* ACTING SECRETARY,  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.  
*From* MR. PORT,  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.

6.1.45

1159

*D. 60*  
*R*

Your teleprinter message No. 28. It would be appreciated if copies of the War Cabinet Agendum relative to Australian Personnel on Control Commission for Germany which you desire listed for the next meeting of War Cabinet, could be forwarded to the Defence Secretariat, Canberra, in order that they may be available on my arrival in Canberra on Monday. It is also requested that two copies (Nos. 9<sup>th</sup> & 17) of the Agenda be forwarded to the War Cabinet Section, Department of Defence, Melbourne, by today's mail if possible.

For your future guidance I would invite attention to the rule regarding submission of War Cabinet Agenda, which provides that Agenda should be submitted not later than the Friday preceding War Cabinet Meetings. This is necessary in order that copies may be made available to Ministers <sup>sufficient</sup> in time for study before the meeting.

*n.p.*  
✓

Ends.

*W*

*no 11 file*

*no Port*

~~SECRETARY~~