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In addition to the Singapore Base, a fuelling port will be required in Australia for the use of forces operating in the Southern exits to the Java, Flores and Banda Seas and in the waters between Timor and Australia. These straits possess great strategical importance, and the denial of their passage to enemy surface raiders will go far to ensure the safety of communications in the Indian Ocean and Australian waters. All available information points to Bynoe Harbour as the most suitable site for such a fuelling port.

If oil tanks are located at Bynoe, the provision of mobile defences would be necessary until such time as it may be practicable to provide the port with

The alternative to a fuelling port in Northern Australia is to maintain the oil reserves at a southern port and to accept the resultant larger carry and increased

It must be realised, however, that the alternative is not of equivalent value to reserves strategically situated in Northern Australia, owing to the inadequacy of the world's tankage tonnage, quite apart from any question of vulnerability and wastage by consumption on passage.

#### IV.—Trade.

1. The Trade arrangements have already been communicated to the Commonwealth Government under the headings:

> Naval Control Service Protection. Contraband Control. Naval Control Service

2. It is recommended that the importance of Albany as a Convoy assembly port be borne in mind in connection with the commercial development of the port.

#### V.—Personnel.

- (1.) Officers.
- (2.) Submarine Personnel. (3.) Interchange of Personnel.
- (4.) Personnel for Naval Control Service.

## (1.) Officers.

The system whereby Officers for the R.A.N. are trained in Australia appears to be entirely sound.

The reports which have been received on Officers who have been trained at the R.A.N. College, whilst serving in ships of the Royal Navy, show that these Officers are of at least as high a standard as those trained in similar Colleges in this country.

It is considered that the expense of maintaining a Naval College for small numbers of Officers, although relatively high, is fully justified by the effect of building up the naval spirit of the country, and the retention of the R.A.N. College is most strongly recommended.

## (2.) S/M Personnel.

It is recommended that Officers and ratings who have already specialised in S/M's should be sent to the United Kingdom for employment in the S/M Service until required for Australian S/M's. It is recommended that additional personnel be sent to the United Kingdom for S/M training as required, for manning Australian Submarines should it be decided to build this class of vessel.

## (3.) Interchange of Personnel.

It is recommended that officers and men of the R.A.N. be regarded as interchangeable in all respects with those of the R.N. One of the main drawbacks of a small Navy is that the personnel become stale through long service on one station and in a limited number of ships.

The absence of foreign service must necessarily militate against recruiting. The antidote is a regular system of exchange, whereby the ships and the personnel of the R.A.N. spend a proportion of their time on other stations.

(4.) Personnel for Naval Control Service.

It is recommended that the provision of the Naval crews for Armed Escort Vessels and Defensively equipped Merchant Vessels, together with the personnel and craft for Routeing and Convoy and for Contraband Control, be regarded as an urgent requirement.

#### VI.—Communications.

- (1.) The establishment of a High Power W/T Station in Australia for communication direct or otherwise with Great Britain and other Dominions will not fulfil Naval requirements, because—
  - (a.) The High Power Station could not be constantly available for Naval
  - (b.) The W/T range of a man-of-war is necessarily limited, and coastal stations are therefore necessary for the transmission of orders and the reception
  - (c.) It is an accepted principle that it is uneconomical and technically unsound to employ High Power Stations for short and medium range working.
- (2.) An examination of the power and position of the existing Australian W/T Stations has shown that Naval requirements in the probable theatre of operations in the event of a war in the Far East would be met by the following:-
  - (a.) The existing coastal stations at Perth, Sydney, Townsville and Rabaul to be modernised with valve apparatus.
  - (b.) A medium Power Station to be established at Port Darwin, with a range of 1,500 miles. This station would form a necessary link in the area:-

Sandakan (projected)

O Rabaul Singapore O Darwin

thus facilitating the operations of Naval Forces in the vicinity of this area in war.

This station would be unremunerative in peace time and need not be manned until war is imminent.

The cost of a medium High Power Station is estimated at £50,000. (3.) Wireless communications are vital in war, and must therefore be exercised in peace, or they will fail when most required. It is recommended that an agreement be reached whereby all commercial W/T Stations in Australia which may be required for Naval purposes be placed under Naval Discipline in war. This might well be effected by arranging that the existing personnel of these stations be enrolled in Naval ranks and ratings on the outbreak of war. In peace, as many as possible should be encouraged to join the R.A.N.V.R., and peace exercises are recommended, especially between the stations mentioned in paragraph 2.

(4.) In the matter of Wireless organisation, it is recommended that the Royal Australian Navy maintain a close liaison with the Naval Staff at Singapore.

(5.) It is very necessary that the High Power Station should be able to broadcast to ships on waves not more than 20,000 metres.

# VII.—Stores.

- (1.) Fuel. (2.) Armament Supplies.
- (3.) Naval and Victualling Stores.

(a.) War Reserve.

(1.) Fuel.

It is recommended that 200,000 tons of Oil Fuel be maintained in Australia as a War Reserve. This quantity is approximate and has been arrived at as

Tons of Oil Fuel. 4 oil-burning Light Cruisers : one year's war consumption 96,000 12 T.B.D's. used as Local Defence Craft: one year's war consumption (equivalent to half ordinary war consump-72,000tion because of employment) 7,200 6 Submarines (one year's war consumption) ... 24,800 Armed Escort Vessels, oil tankers, &c. 200,000

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