

Royal Australian Navy.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

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Darwin Navadsta,

18th August, 1960.

Dear

This letter is so long overdue, that apologies are almost superfluous, so without further ado here's the news.

The Online Crypto Extension.

The work has commenced at long last to house the equipment, but it will be at least late September before it is finished. Then the markings have to be installed - we'll do it ourselves, so that shouldn't take long. Points which will hold up the system are -

- (i) the relay equipment which is being modified by S.T.C. since this controls the conversion of Darwin-Canberra to multi channel working
- (ii) Harman's ability to go to multi channel and
- (iii) the connection to C.L.O.

Altogether it would appear to be at least three months before we'll be working online. Not good I'm afraid, but the best I can offer.

Modernization.

- (a) The new aerial system and all that went with it, is installed and we now have as you probably know:-
 - 5 handspeed positions with two receivers each with facilities for putting two aerials to each position and one capable of multi aerial selection (G.S.)
 - 5 Dual path receivers for machine tasks, one with multi aerial selection however, this is all on the "old" style and is in fact the supervisors position.
 - 1 Splitting amplifier rack, fed from any 10 of the 18 rhombics and 2 search aerials (wide band aerials will be installed later this year).
- (b) The operators positions have been adapted into a modification of the system through this has met with some pockets of resistance *among the operators.*
- (c) The major problem here is undoubtedly in processing and traffic flow, which is ghastly from a time/motion study viewpoint, but proposals are in hand about which more later. This is the main reason why we are virtually unable to undertake machine tasks. We are already dealing with 1000 messages a day in a cramped little room. Online Crypto will not provide much relief unless we merely signalled the lot and even that would require relays of keyboard operators. Further complications arise in that the

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linguist has no separate office despite her necessarily higher grading which leads me to the third point.

Linguist.

- (a) I strongly opposed the removal of [redacted], and think that as there appears to be some difference here you should know why. I understand it was believed at D.S.B. that she wasn't being used as a linguist but as an operator. This is not so and should be apparent from what we send, however if there are deficiencies in what is sent we would certainly like to know. [redacted] has actually worked as an operator from time to time but only when she was not otherwise required and because she likes it. As you will appreciate the whole of the message, handling here is built round the linguist, take her away and our system has to be revised. Admittedly [redacted] and [redacted] have a partial knowledge and could be used in a shift system as lower grade ~~scanners~~, for want of a better term, in emergency, but they obviously could not replace her. The small amount of T.A. done here provides much more interest and leads one to hope that by improving and revising we may become more useful.

Future.

- (a) I have told D.S.D. privately that dual path telegraph receivers are no use to an intercept station and this was confirmed by Technical Panel report I saw some time ago. Replacement of these receivers by RACAL'S has been proposed unofficially and this will increase the number of Positions available.
- (b) As indicated before our big problem is handling traffic and a proposal, at present unofficial, has been made to build on to the existing station a good big T.A. room and the appropriate facilities for despatch by mail or signal. Since the building is due to commence in the next financial year I am chasing this pretty hard. It remains to be seen whether the building does start as estimated or whether my proposals are accepted. On one point I am adamant, the urgent requirement is for better handling facilities.

With all this as background your signal DTG 121120Z/8 is a bit of a puzzle, we can take on [redacted] if it goes to machine if the traffic level remains much as it is, as you already know we can intercept machine tasks, it is the handling space for the volume as much as manning that bothers us. Could you clarify the signal a bit please.

This is much briefer than I intended but we have an Admiral's inspection in the offing and time goes too fast.

All the best, when do you come to visit us? , we'd be delighted to see you.

Regards to [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted] - the lot - from [redacted] and me.

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