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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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QUOTE

No.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

11 May, 1962

Officer-in-Charge,
Darwin Naval Radio Station,
COONAWARRA.

Director of Electrical Engineering,
Electrical Engineering Branch,
ALBERT PARK BARRACKS. S.C.3.

Director,
Defence Signals Branch,
VICTORIA BARRACKS. S.C.1.



EXPANSION OF INTERCEPT FACILITIES - DARWIN - REPORT OF VISIT
BY D.S.D., D.E.E. AND D.S.B. REPRESENTATIVES

Attached for your information is one copy (2 copies for
O.I.C D.N.R.S.) of the above report.

A/Commander R.A.N.
Director of Signal Division.

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The purpose of this visit was to investigate, inter alia, the technical and personnel implications of the expansion of No.2 Receiving Station to meet planned Defence requirements and to draw up proposals for implementing these requirements.

Requirement

2. The requirement is divided into three phases:-

- (a) Phase 1. Progressive build-up to 60 communications personnel and 20 operating positions (15 double manual morse (DPM) 2 single printer/single manual morse and 3 single printer) by 30th June, 1963.
- (b) Phase 2. Further build-up to 66 (approx) personnel and 28 positions (22 DPM and 6 single printer) on completion of the new, No. 3, Receiving Building.
- (c) Phase 3. Subsequent transfer of the processing effort (approximately 20 personnel) from Harman to Darwin as soon as circumstances permit.

Existing Facilities

3. The existing facilities at Darwin comprise -

- (a) 6 double manual morse positions.
- (b) 5 single printer positions and associated terminal equipment.
- (c) Aerial exchange/amplifiers to serve (a) and (b).

Utilisation of Existing Facilities

4. At present the operator strength at Darwin is insufficient to obtain maximum use from equipment fitted and an increase in complement (precise numbers cannot be given as this depends on the number and scheduled times of tasks assigned to the station) could be absorbed before additional equipment is needed. However, as it is undesirable for equipment to lag behind personnel available to man it, and observing that the station is currently 7 under complement, it is deemed essential to progressively expand the facilities up to the planned number of positions, beginning as soon as possible.

Equipment Implementation.

5. Implementation of phase 1 of the planned expansion (see para 2(a)) requires installation of 9 new double manual morse bays and extension of the aerial exchange arrangements. Additional furniture and typewriters are also required for these bays and to permit 2 printer positions to be used. The ways and means of implementing phase 1 are presented in tabular form in Appendix "A".

6. The existing aerial exchange and amplifiers have insufficient capacity to cope with the additional receivers. A further rack of 10 amplifiers and extensions to the exchange wiring and internal aerial runs are necessary. As installation is beyond the capacity of ships staff, this aspect will be investigated by D.E.E. with a view to supply and installation by contractor.

7. The layout at Appendix "B" shows the positioning of the new and existing bays to meet phase 1 requirements. This sketch plan was drawn up in conjunction with O.I.C. Darwin Naval Radio Station and has his concurrence.

8. The new layout results in minimum alterations to the present installation and is so designed that subsequent expansion to the ultimate number of positions (28) will follow on as a simple extension. Ad Hoc or temporary installations have been obviated and permanent measures may therefore be taken from the outset.

9. A layout for the final phase (see para 2 (b)) will be produced by OIC DNRS in due course on receipt of the approved staff requirement. An additional position is to be allowed in this layout to compensate for Bay 15 which will be fitted with QR-QS (see Appendix "B" Note 2).

Action Required on Technical Aspect.

10. Following action is required -

<u>Action</u>	<u>By Whom</u>
(a) Advise NOIC NA of Staff Requirement	DSD
(b) Approval for procurement of additional furniture	DSD
(c) Investigate costs and other implications of procurement and installation rack and 10 amplifiers plus extensions to aerial exchange	DKE
(d) Re-allocation and transfer of equipment to Darwin	BSD

Personnel Implementation

11. The present complement of No.2 R.S. Darwin is shown below (figures in brackets indicate the manning state as at 1st May, 1962)

	<u>RAN</u>	<u>WRANS</u>
CRS (S)	1	1 (-1)
RS (S)	1	2 (-1)
LRO/LBO (S)	5 (-1)	5 (-4)
RO/RO (S)	11 (-2)	9 (+2)
TOTAL	18 (-3)	17 (-4)

12. The build-up to 60 (all rates) by 30th June, 1963 involves an increase of 25 over complement. However with an existing shortage of 7 the increase over numbers borne is 32.

13. Billets can be made available in Coonawarra West for:-

- (a) RAN - 16 plus 3 contingency (all junior rates).
- (b) WRANS - (20 including admin. staff). (All junior rates).

14. 10 Billets for RAN ratings are available now and 6 more can be found by moving daymen into Larrakeyah Barracks. 3 contingency billets are normally used for overlap of drafting but could be used 'in a pinch'. However, WRANS billets can be provided only by taking over 2 houses at present under construction as married quarters. The first of these becomes available in August (only houses adjacent to the WRANS barracks have been considered).

15. It is considered that RAN ratings could be accommodated in Larrakeyah in emergency but this is undesirable because of administrative difficulties and should be avoided if possible when men are watchkeepers. Larrakeyah is unsuitable for accommodation of WRANS, no room being available in any case.

16. The new type of married quarters in Darwin can accommodate 10 Wrans. Of the 20 to be accommodated in 2 cottages, 4 billets were set aside for admin. personnel (i.e. cooks/stewards), but if less than 4 are required the spare billets can be filled by communications ratings.

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17. If all billets available now or within the next 3-6 months are filled the build-up to 60 can be achieved. However, this pre-supposes that 16 male ratings can be found. As this appears unlikely, it then becomes necessary to increase WRANS billets to offset the deficiencies in RAN numbers.

18. Billets over 20-No for WRANS, whether to offset RAN deficiencies or to build up from 60 to 66 (phase 2) can be provided only by taking over a third cottage or, alternatively, by building additional WRANS barracks accommodation.

19. In this regard it is undesirable permanently to take over cottages because of the effect on housing rosters and because cottages are unsuitable as long term accommodation for WRANS. At the same time the employment of WRANS instead of RAN reduces the demand for married quarters and, with the present acute male manning position, is probably preferable.

20. In order to provide accommodation for additional personnel required by the build-up to 66 under Phase 2 of the expansion, additions to barracks are essential. It is estimated that a second WRANS block of the same size as the present one is necessary. In this connection, NOIC NA stated that if funds can be made available in time (i.e. early in 1962/63), a second block could be completed by mid-1963 or, at worst, before the end of that year.

21. NOIC NA stressed that the alternative to building this accommodation is to provide more houses to replace those taken over for WRANS living quarters.

22. No attempt was made to assess accommodation requirements for phase 3 when the processing effort is transferred to Darwin. This transfer is dependent on the manning situation in the future and other imponderables such as relative numbers of RAN vis-a-vis WRANS which cannot be foreseen.

23. It may prove advantageous to build more houses instead of additional WRANS barracks to meet phases 1 and 2 accommodation requirements. As the ultimate (phase 3) manning break down RAN/WRANS cannot be forecast the addition of houses would provide necessary female accommodation and, when the manning position is resolved barracks (RAN and/or WRANS) could be built and the houses would revert to married quarters. This would also have the advantage of avoiding heavy expenditure on barracks which could become redundant in the event the Defence effort in Darwin lapses within the next 2-4 years.

Summary of Personnel Situation

24. (a) Up to 16 (and possibly 19) RAN junior ratings can be accommodated at Coenawarra West from June onwards.

(b) Up to 20 WRANS (including cooks/stewards) can be accommodated beginning with an initial draft of 10 in August '62.

(c) Accommodation of WRANS, at least for the time being, can be achieved only at the expense of taking over cottages.

(d) Further build-up is contingent on taking over more cottages unless barracks accommodation can be built.

(e) It is considered that additional WRANS barracks (or houses) to accommodate 31 ratings should be built as soon as possible. (If duplication of existing barracks were adopted, design work etc. could be eliminated and, provided funds were available, construction could begin early in the financial year 1962/63.)

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NO 2 R.D. EXTENSION - PHASE 1

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APPENDIX "A"

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Item No.	Facility	Function	Existing or Additional	Receiving of other Equipment		Additional Ancillaries/Furniture	By Whom Installed	Remarks
				Existing	Additional			
1	Bays 1-5	Double M.M.	E	10 x B40	-		-	
2	Bay 6	Double M.M.	E	1 x B40 1 x RA17	-		-	
3	Bays 7-15	Double M.M.	A	-	5 x B40 13 x RA17	9 x Typewriters 9 x Typing Tables 4 x Receiver Tables	Ships Staff	5 x B40 and 1 x RA17 to be transferred from 'Harman' 12 x RA17 to be supplied ex R.C.L. order. Typing and Receiver tables to be procured locally in Darwin. Typewriters - see Item 5.
4	Bays 16-18	Single Printer	E	3 x PER20	-	-		
5	Bays 19-20	Single Printer/RR	E	2 x PER23	-	2 Typewriters 2 Typing Trolleys	-	12 Typewriters (11 + 1 spare (see Item 3)) to be supplied ex Store. Transfer of up to 4-No from 'Harman' may be necessary. 2 typing trolleys to be transferred from 'Harman'.
6	Aerial Exch		E	-	-	-	-	See Item 8
7	Aerial Amplifiers		E	10 Amplifiers 1 Rack.	-	-	-	See Item 8
8	Aerial Amplifiers		A	-	10 Amplifiers 1 Rack	-	Contract (supply and install)	The Aerial Exchange System will require wiring extensions and an additional 10-No amplifiers and one rack. DEE will investigate availability on a 'supply and install' basis, the contract to include installation of extensions to the exchange proper and runs to bays.

NOTE

1. Allocation of B40/RA17 receivers to bays will be adjusted by OIC DEHS as necessary to meet space requirements.
2. Bay 15 (see App. 'B') is to be fitted 'for but not with' QR-QS in Phase 1. On expansion to Phase 2 (26 positions) Bay 15 is to be fitted with QR-QS. Provision for an additional Double morse position should therefore be made in the lay out for Phase 2 when prepared.

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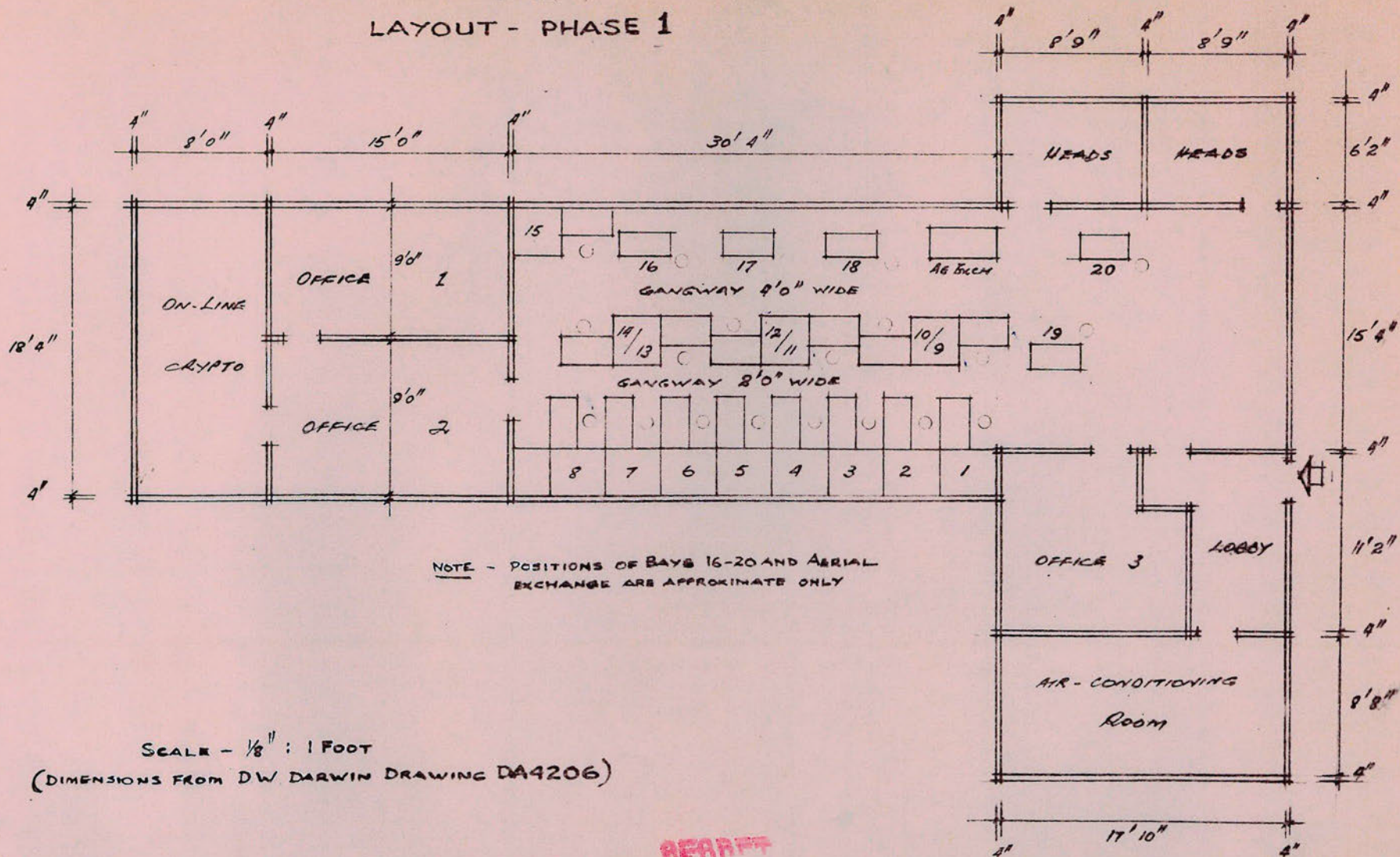
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APPENDIX B

No 2 R. B.

LAYOUT - PHASE 1



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