

NOTICE

REFERENDUM ON THE QUESTION OF COMPULSORY MILITARY
SERVICE OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA.

It is proposed to give an opportunity to members of the A.I.F. serving in France to record their votes on the above referendum.

The question to be submitted is -

Are you in favour of the Government having, in this grave emergency, the same compulsory powers over citizens in regard to requiring their military services for the term of this war, outside the Commonwealth, as it has now in regard to Military Service within the Commonwealth?

Polling Date

Polling will take place about the middle of October, 1916

Who may vote -

Every member of the Commonwealth Naval or Military Forces (including the Australian Army Nursing Service) may vote, who

is of the full age of 21 years; and

is a natural born or naturalised subject of the King; and has at some time resided in Australia for at least six months continuously.

The Government of the Commonwealth desires that attention should be called to the privilege of voting on an issue of such importance at the present time; and it will be evident that the co-operation of all ranks is essential if the opportunity of voting is to be afforded to every eligible Australian with the A.I.F. in France - whether actually serving with his or her unit, in hospital or elsewhere detached.

Full instructions will be issued to all concerned in time for the necessary arrangements to be made.

Who may vote -

-----ooOoo-----

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is of the full age of 21 years; and

is a natural born or naturalised subject of the King; and has at some time resided in Australia for at least six months continuously.

(To be posted in a conspicuous position, accessible to all ranks) -

A U S T R A L I A N I M P E R I A L F O R C E
M I L I T A R Y S E R V I C E R E F E R E N D U M

P E R S O N A L M E S S A G E from General BIRDWOOD to Members of the A.I.F. -

As General Officer Commanding the Australian Imperial Force, it is not for me to interfere in any political matters or to influence the voting of our men on the coming Referendum. I know well that, in any case, all will vote as seems to them necessary in the best interests of AUSTRALIA and the great Empire to which we belong, whose freedom has been and still is in danger of being turned into slavery by GERMANY.

I feel, however, that I can inform you all of how really essential it is that we should get all the men available to keep these magnificent Australian Forces which are now in the Field, and whose fame is renowned throughout the Empire, up to their strength.

Every single man would, I am sure, bitterly resent and regret it if we had to reduce a single Battalion, Battery, or Company - every one of which has now made History, and established a tradition which, we all hope, will last as long as the British Flag flies over the world-wide Empire!

But it is, I think, probable that all ranks do not know as well as I do the absolute necessity of keeping our reinforcements right up to strength: and THE PRESENT SYSTEM IS NOT DOING THIS!

I feel sure all know the great feelings of regard and pride which I have for every man of this Force who has up to now come forward of his own free will, and after great self-sacrifice. Many brave men have given their lives for the sake of our Empire and the freedom of the world - lives which will have been USELESS-
LY SACRIFICED if we relax our efforts in any way, until we have the Germans right down on their knees!

Remember, too, boys, that the word "FREEDOM" does not only mean freedom for ourselves, but what is far more important, freedom for our children and our children's children! For them I know no sacrifice can be too great.

In the magnificent manifesto which our Prime Minister, Mr. HUGHES, has sent to us, he has shown what exemptions there will be when Universal Service is adopted. It will be seen from this that members of families, some of whom have already come forward, will be fully safeguarded, and NO MAN NEED FEAR that there is danger of, we will say, the brother who has been left behind to look after the affairs of the family, being ordered to come out.

THE SHIRKER, however, WILL BE CAUGHT and made to do his share, instead of staying at home, as he has done up to now, not only evading his duties, but getting into soft jobs which we want to see kept for our boys here when they return, or for the representatives of their families who have been left behind in AUSTRALIA.

I have nothing more to say, boys, except to point out to you as strongly as I can that

THE NECESSITY DOES EXIST!

- and I hope that, after these two years during which we have been soldiering together, we know each other well enough to realise that I would not say this without a good reason.

Having said it, I leave it to you to act according to your conscience for the good of our King and Country, the honour of our People, and the safety of our wives and children!

W. R. BIRDWOOD

(Copies)

TELEGRAM from General BIRDWOOD, First ANZAC: (18th October, 1916)
to MURDOCH, Hotel du CREILLON, PARIS:

From your first telegram I thought you wished hold meeting before polling. I, of course, have no objection to meeting such as you suggest, but you have to get Chief's sanction to allow men you send from ENGLAND to visit areas where troops will be. Of course, only portion of the troops will be seen. There are always considerable number of men at ETAPLES, and perhaps meeting there will do: but you may be sure I will arrange anything you wish as far as possible.

HUGHES' manifesto has been issued to all. Have sent him following message -

"In response to request from Mayor KALGOORLIE, who specially asks Miners' message, the following has been sent -

"ANZACS feel sure AUSTRALIA will see sacrifices already made are not in vain, which may be the case unless we are assured that men will be forthcoming to keep effective and up to strength the magnificent Battalions, Batteries and Companies which have made History and have established traditions. Miners' Corps send following message -

'WE ARE STRONGLY IN FAVOUR OF CONSCRIPTION. ALL
'ARE WANTED TO FINISH ENEMY QUICKLY SO THAT WE
'MAY RETURN THE SOONER TO THOSE WE VOLUNTARILY
'CAME AWAY TO SHIELD, CLEARLY CONSCIOUS OF OUR
'DUTY TO THE NATION. DON'T DELAY'

General BIRDWOOD.

TELEGRAM from General BIRDWOOD, First ANZAC: (Dated 18th Oct.)
to Rt.-Hon. W.M.HUGHES, Prime Minister of AUSTRALIA.

(As set forth in the body of the telegram above)

TELEGRAM from General BIRDWOOD, First ANZAC: (Dated 18th Oct.)
to Mayor of KALGOORLIE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

(As set forth in the body of the first telegram above)



Copy of telegram (decode)

From: Rt Hon. Mr W. M. Hughes, P.C.,
Prime Minister, Australia.

To : General Sir W. R. Birdwood,
A. I. F., France.

(Burnie, Tasmania - 14th October, 1916)

Secret and Personal. It is absolutely imperative in Imperial interests as well as Australian interests that the referendum should be carried by a large majority. Opposition to it here still very strong owing to wilful misrepresentation disseminated by certain sections which include syndicalists, Sinn Fein and shirkers. The first and last and second have contrived to capture labor organizations and consequently hundreds of thousands loyal patriotic men and women seem likely to vote "No." The overwhelming majority of the Irish votes in Australia which represent very nearly 25% of the total votes has been swung over by the Sinn Feins and are going to vote "No" in order to strike a severe blow at Great Britain. If referendum defeated it would be disastrous not only dishonouring Australia but would have far-reaching effects on the cause of Great Britain and the Allies. What is wanted is a lead from the men at the front. May I ask you to use your very great influence to the very utmost to ensure an overwhelming majority of the Australian soldiers. I know how dearly you value the reputation, honour, of Australia. In the present crisis I ask you to act without regard to precedent. Reply urgently required.



"C" Form (Original).
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2123.
(In books of 50's in duplicate.)

No. of Message *12*

Prefix <i>sm</i>	Code <i>LD</i>	Words <i>13</i>	Received	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp.
Charges to collect			From <i>Dak</i>	At.....m.	<i>By 26/10/16</i>
Service Instructions.			By <i>How</i>	To.....	
				By.....	

Handed in at *Boulogne MO.* Office *1120* m. Received *1243* m.

TO *Cal 997 Hdqrs 1st Angac*

*Sender's Number	Day of Month <i>26th</i>	In reply to Number	A A A
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The magnitude and intensity of operations here will probably demand the help of every available man and our Brave Dead Boys covered with a mantle of imperishable glory on the Banks of The Somme seem to be known to their living comrades beyond the seas to come and bring to a successful issue the fight for which they have so nobly and gloriously died.

FROM *Archbishop (Line France)*

PLACE & TIME

* This line should be erased if not required.

"C" Form (Original).

Army Form C. 2123.
(In books of 50's in duplicate.)

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....	Words..... £ s. d.	Received From.....	Sent, or sent out At.....m.	Office Stamp.
Charges to collect			By.....	To.....	
Service Instructions.			By.....		
Handed in at.....			Office.....	m. Received.....	m.

TO

General BIRDWOOD ANZAC CORPS

*Sender's Number

Day of Month

In reply to Number

AAA

Please cable Prime Minister that
 in opinion of Captain General
 A. I. F. Archbishop of
 PERTH it is absolutely necessary
 if we wish to win
 the war to keep up
 our numbers. AAA - Our Troops
 having done so well we
 must continue to set a
 good example until the war
 is won. AAA Surely no
 one in AUSTRALIA will refuse
 to carry on work left
 unfinished by our comrades who
 have given up their lives
 for this Country.

FROM

Archbishop of PERTH.


PLACE & TIME

5.50 pm

* This line should be erased if not required.

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code <i>LK</i>	Words <i>115</i>	Received	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp
Charges to collect			From..... <i>HK</i>	At.....	
Service Instructions			By..... <i>McGowan</i>	To.....	
			By..... <i>HK</i>	By.....	

Handed in at the *Paris Va* Office, at *11-50 a* m. Received here at *1-35 p* m.

TO *General BIRDWOOD 1st anzac
abele Boeschepe nord -*

* Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
	<i>18</i>		

Your telegram received mine did not intend to suggest meeting before men vote but a subsequent meeting at which men can be given opportunity to send message to Australian AAA Hughes thinks this of the utmost importance and has made an irresistible appeal for it AAA It would mean open meeting of reserve battalion or brigade without officers AAA If ~~possible~~ impossible it is essential I must consult with you on spot as to what can be done AAA I can come see you Thursday.

FROM
PLACE
TIME

* This line should be erased if not required.

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message..... 67

~~AMM 2113~~ ~~113~~ ~~How~~
~~But~~

Charges to Pay
£ s. d.

Office Stamp.



Service Instructions

Handed in at the g6P Office, at 9.52 a.m. Received here at 10.57 a.m.

TO

General Birdwood
First Anzac

Sender's Number.

Day of Month.

In reply to Number.

AAA

Have urgent cable from
Hughes stating it's absolutely
necessary that voice from
crews be heard to
urgently requesting resolution passed
by men's meeting calling
on Australia to stand
by them. aaa General
Haig has no objections
to any measure that
does not interfere with
discipline and agrees that
meeting of men only

FROM

PLACE

TIME

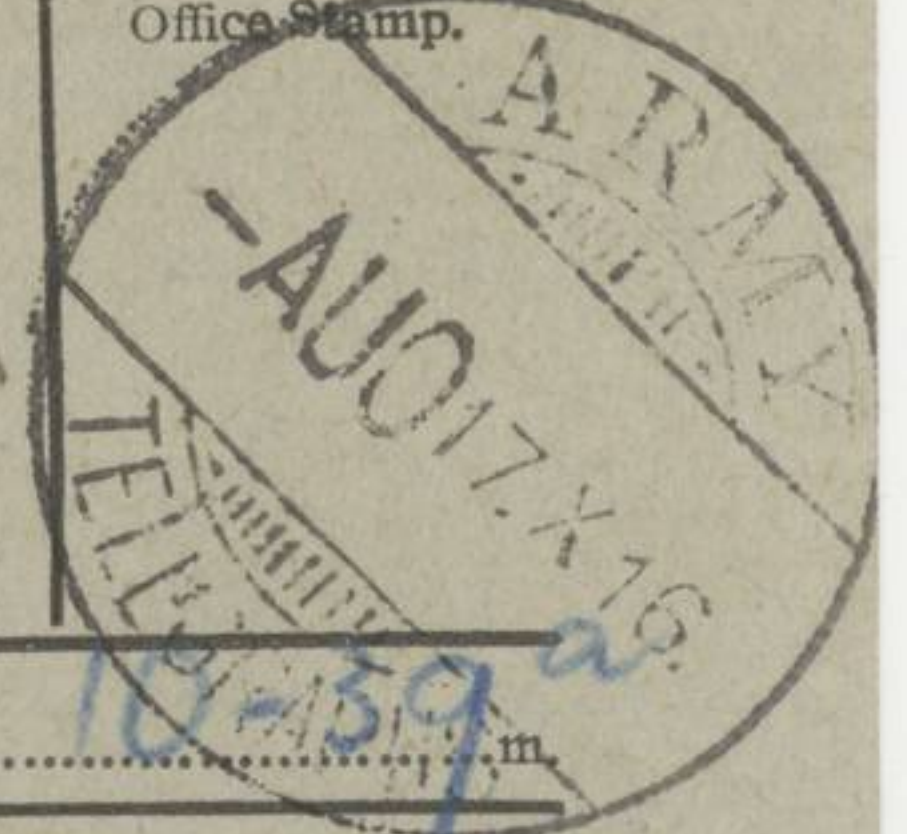
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message.....

67

Charges to Pay
£ s. d.

Office Stamp.



Service Instructions

Handed in at the..... Office, at.....m. Received here at.....m.

gcp

9-52a

10-39a

TO

(2)

General Birdwood
First Anzac

Sender's Number.

Day of Month.

In reply to Number.

AAA

could be called and addressed
by civilians aaa I
am getting experienced men
sent from London on
thursday and suggest that
you pass them on
to Macay who knows
how political resolutions are
carried asa An appeal from
Dis to Australia seems to be
absolutely essential asa I shall
be at Hotel Du Breillon Paris

FROM

Murdoch

PLACE

TIME



Mr Hughes.

On receipt of your telegram I issued the following message to Australian troops in France and ~~Engin~~ England: Begins.

(Interpolate attached.)

ends.

I must of course leave it to your discretion as to whether it is advisable to publish this in Australia aaa My doubts as to advisability of doing so are that the parties you mentioned in your telegram of 14th may attempt to make copy out of the fact that the commanding general is trying to bring pressure on troops under him. aaa

Best of good wishes to you in your great efforts which I trust are not overtaxing you too much.

General Birdwood.

ROUTINE ORDERS

by
Lt-General Sir W.R. BIRDWOOD, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.
Commanding 1st Australian and New Zealand Army Corps

Headquarters
4/11/16

A.

404. CONGRATULATORY.

His Royal Highness Field Marshal The Duke of Connaught and Strathmairne visited the Corps Commander yesterday. His Royal Highness asked General Birdwood to express to the A. & N.Z. Army Corps his great regret that he was not able to see the troops during his present time in France, but that his visit to the Corps Headquarters was one to the Australian Imperial Force.

His Royal Highness commanded General Birdwood to convey to the Officers, N.C.Os. and men of the Anzac Corps his congratulations upon their achievements, and his sincere pleasure at hearing on all sides such excellent accounts of their fortitude and good discipline, while he much looked forward to seeing the troops when he is again able to visit the Front.

405. COMPLIMENTARY.

The Army Corps Commander wishes to express his appreciation of the gallant conduct of No. 3261 Bdr. R. SMELLIE, 1st Australian D.A.C. in the following circumstances :-

No. 3261, Bdr. R. SMELLIE with a number of other men was engaged in de-detonating Mills hand grenades. Noticing on removing a grenade from the box that the pin was missing he promptly warned the party and holding the bomb sufficiently long enough for everyone to get clear he threw the grenade into a ditch where it exploded harmlessly. His presence of mind no doubt averted a serious accident.

J.G. McCONAGHY, Major

D. A. A. & Q. M. G.,

1st Australian and New Zealand Army Corps

NOTICE.

STOLEN. Riding horse, black gelding, 15 hands, blaze, off hind stocking, D2 on near hind hoof.

H.D. black mare, C112 on near hind hoof.
Communicate with O.C., 19th Reserve Park, A.S.C.

POSTAL. Christmas Mail to Australia.

Permission has been granted for the following greeting to be added to Field Service Post-cards (Army Form A2042) :-

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
In the event of anything further being added the card is liable to be destroyed.

MANIFESTO TO AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS

From Mr. W. M. HUGHES, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth.

SOLDIERS OF AUSTRALIA!

AFTER more than two years of heroic effort, the tide of battle, which so long ran strongly with the enemy, who had been prepared for and deliberately provoked war, turns slowly but surely in our favour. The results of the Great Offensive, during which you have added fresh lustre to the glorious name of Anzac, have shown that if the Allies but press resolutely on, decisive victory must crown their heroic labours.

BUT though the valour and dash of the Allied forces have pushed her legions back along a wide front, the day of decisive victory is not yet in sight. No one of you who knows the tremendous resources of the enemy, his courage, his determination, will say that Germany is yet defeated.

YET she must be defeated.

THE world yearns for peace, but any peace would be but a hollow mockery, unless the great disturber of the world's peace were first beaten to her knees. Until Germany is driven headlong from France and Belgium, and decisively beaten on her own soil, she will never consent to the peace that the Allies want and are determined to have.

IN order to ensure decisive victory the Allies have decided to put every available man into the field, so that their Armies may be kept at full strength, and every man in the trenches be kept fit by frequent reliefs.

The Path to Victory.

WHEN you know all this, you know also that the path of victory lies stretched in front of you. You know it is on the Western Front that the crushing blow must be delivered. You know that more men are needed, and **the British Empire must supply them.**

FRANCE for nearly two years endured the brunt of the most ferocious batterings of the enemy. The bones of her gallant sons strew the soil of their dear France like shells on the sea shore. She has covered herself with imperishable glory. She was never so great as in this supreme hour of her trial. Despite their great losses, her glorious soldiers still fight on with unshaken resolution, and will fight while one Frenchman, capable of bearing arms, remains alive.

NOW is the hour when **our** race must prove itself worthy of **its** traditions and **its** heritage.

This is our War, Soldiers!

THIS is Australia's war just as much as France's or Belgium's. Our liberties and our national existence are equally, nay, more, at stake. Australia must do her share. Britain has told us what she expects us to do; it is not more than we can or ought to do, it is, indeed, much less proportionately than she herself has done.

WE have sent overseas and have in camp in Australia or in England and in the field less than three hundred thousand troops. Britain has five million under arms. If we had done as much we should have enlisted five hundred thousand instead of little more than half that number.

VOLUNTARY recruiting has, unfortunately, proved quite inadequate to supply the necessary number of men during the past three months.

THOUGH VOLUNTARYISM FAILS, AUSTRALIA MUST NOT FAIL. DUTY, HONOUR, AND SELF-INTEREST ALIKE POINT THE PATH WE MUST TREAD.

The Spirit of Patriotism: The Duty of Free Men.

UPON the citizens of Australia, the freest democracy the world has ever known, there rests a grave and solemn responsibility. They are called upon to show themselves worthy of their great privileges. The sacred duty of every free man is to fight in the defence of his country. Men ought not to wait to be compelled to do their duty, they ought rather to rush to the ranks on the first sound of the tocsin.

IT was this spirit, soldiers, that inspired you to enlist. It was this spirit that spurred you to your great deeds on Gallipoli and in France. It is this spirit that now upholds you, and urges you on.

Voluntaryism has Failed.

IHAD hoped that this spirit so permeated Australian manhood that we should only need to ask for men to be overwhelmed with recruits; but during these past five months the number of men offering themselves has been steadily falling off, and is now a mere fraction of those required for drafts.

The Government Proposals.

IN these circumstances the Government has decided that the deficiency between the number of men required and the monthly quota must be made up by compulsion. On the twenty-eighth of this month, the citizens of Australia will be asked to vote "Yes" to the following question:—

"Are you in favour of the Government having in this grave emergency, the same compulsory powers over citizens in regard to requiring their military service for the term of the war outside the Commonwealth, as it now has in regard to military service within the Commonwealth?"

If the citizens and soldiers of Australia approve, the Government will thereafter provide that either by voluntary enlistment or by compulsion the regular monthly reinforcement shall be trained and sent abroad to maintain the Australian Army.

Exemptions.

THE Government consider that the number of fit single men without dependents is sufficient, when supplemented by voluntary recruiting, to carry us through the war. The Government believe that it will not be necessary to call up married men. The following classes of single men will be exempt:—

- (1) ALL UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE ;
- (2) ONLY SONS ;
- (3) SINGLE MEN WHO ARE THE SOLE SUPPORT OF DEPENDENTS ;
- (4) WHEN ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OF A FAMILY HAVE ENLISTED, THE REMAINING MEMBERS UP TO AT LEAST ONE HALF OF THE WHOLE FAMILY, WILL BE EXEMPT.

There will also be exemptions for the number of men requisite to carry on certain vital industries.

OTHER men who claim exemption for special reasons will have their cases heard by non-military tribunals, with appeal to a State Judge, and final appeal to a Justice of the High Court of the Commonwealth.

No State to make up any deficiency in the others.

NO State of the Commonwealth which has furnished its own quota of reinforcements by voluntary recruiting or by compulsion will be required to make up the deficiency of any other State.

For the term of the War only.

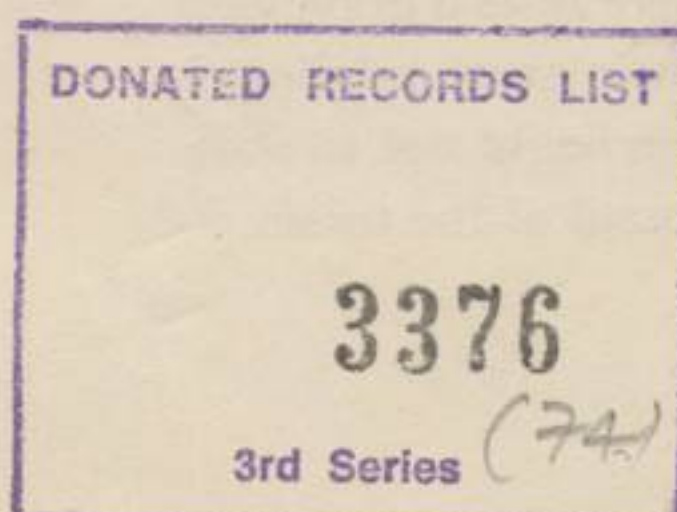
THE power asked for to compel military service abroad will be granted to the Government for the term of the war only.

Australia's duty to Britain and her Allies.

SOLDIERS, if the people of Australia vote "No," they encourage the enemy, they abandon you, they desert France that has shed its blood in the common cause, they desert Belgium, they leave unavenged those foul outrages inflicted upon women, children and helpless noncombatants of the Allied nations, they repudiate the debt they owe to Britain, under the wing of whose mighty Navy they have lain secure and safe from all the horrors of this war. Indeed they cover Australia with the mantle of eternal shame; the glorious name of Anzac becomes a tarnished and dishonoured thing.

Australia Looks to You.

SOLDIERS of Australia, your fellow citizens, confronted with the greatest crisis in their history, look to you for a lead. Your votes are being taken first. I appeal to you who have gone out to fight our battles, who have covered the name of Australia with glory, to lift up your voices and send one mighty shout across the leagues of ocean, bidding your fellow citizens do their duty to Australia, to the Empire, to its Allies and to the cause of liberty and vote "Yes."



W. M. Hughes
Prime Minister.

As G.O.C. A.I.F. it is not for me to interfere in any political matter or to influence the voting of our men on the coming referendum. I know well that in any case all will vote as seems to them necessary in the best interests of Australia, and the great Empire to which we belong whose freedom has been at stake is in danger of being turned into slavery by Germany.

I feel however that I can inform you all of how really essential it is that we should get all the men available to keep these magnificent Australian forces which are now in the field and whose fame is renowned throughout the Empire up to their strength.

Every single man would I am sure bitterly resent & regret it if we had to reduce a single Bn. By a Co. Every one of which has won battle history and established a tradition which we all hope will last as long as the British flag flies over our world wide Empire.

But it is a hard, probable that all ranks do not know as well as I do the absolute necessity of keeping our reinforcements right up to strength and the present system is not doing this. I feel sure all know the great feelings of regard & pride which I have for every man of his piece, who has up to now come forward of his own free will & after great self-sacrifice, & who so many have men have given their lives for the sake of our Empire & the freedom of the world - lives which will have been uselessly sacrificed if we relax our efforts in any way until we have the Germans right down on their knees - Remember too boys, that the word freedom does not only mean freedom for ourselves, but what it means is freedom for our children & our children's children. For them I know no sacrifice can be too great.

In the magnificent manifesto which on P.M. 19th has sent us, he fully shows what exemptions there will be when universal service is adopted. It will be seen from this that members of families some of whom have already come forward will be fully safeguarded, & no man need fear that in danger of me will see his brother who has been left behind to look after the affairs of the family, being ordered to come out. The shirkers however will be caught to do his share instead of staying at home as he has done up to now, not only evading his duties, but getting into soft jobs which we want to see kept in our boys here, when they return, as the representative

BURNIE, TASMANIA, 14th. October, 1916.

To General Birdwood,
Headquarters, A. I. E.,
France.

SECRET AND PERSONAL.

It is absolutely imperative in Imperial interests as well as Australian interests that the referendum should be carried by a large majority.

Opposition to it here is still very strong owing to wilful misrepresentation disseminated by certain sections which include Syndicalists, Sinn Fein and Shirkers.

The first and last, and the second, have contrived to capture labor organizations and consequently hundreds of thousands loyal patriotic men and women seem likely to vote NO.

The overwhelming majority of the Irish vote in Australia which represents very nearly 25% of the total votes has been swung over by the Sinn Feins and are going to vote NO in order to strike a severe blow at Great Britain.

If referendum defeated it would be disastrous, not only dishonouring Australia, but would have a far-reaching effect on the cause of Great Britain and the Allies.

What is wanted is a lead from the men at the front. May I ask you to use your very great influence to the very utmost to ensure an overwhelming majority of the Australian soldiers.

I know how dearly you value the reputation and honour of Australia. In the present crisis I ask you to act without regard to precedent.

Reply urgently required.

HUGHES,

Prime Minister.

DONATED RECORDS LIST

3376

3rd Series

TELEPHONES:

4525 } KENSINGTON.
4526 }

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:

"SPOTLESS, LONDON."

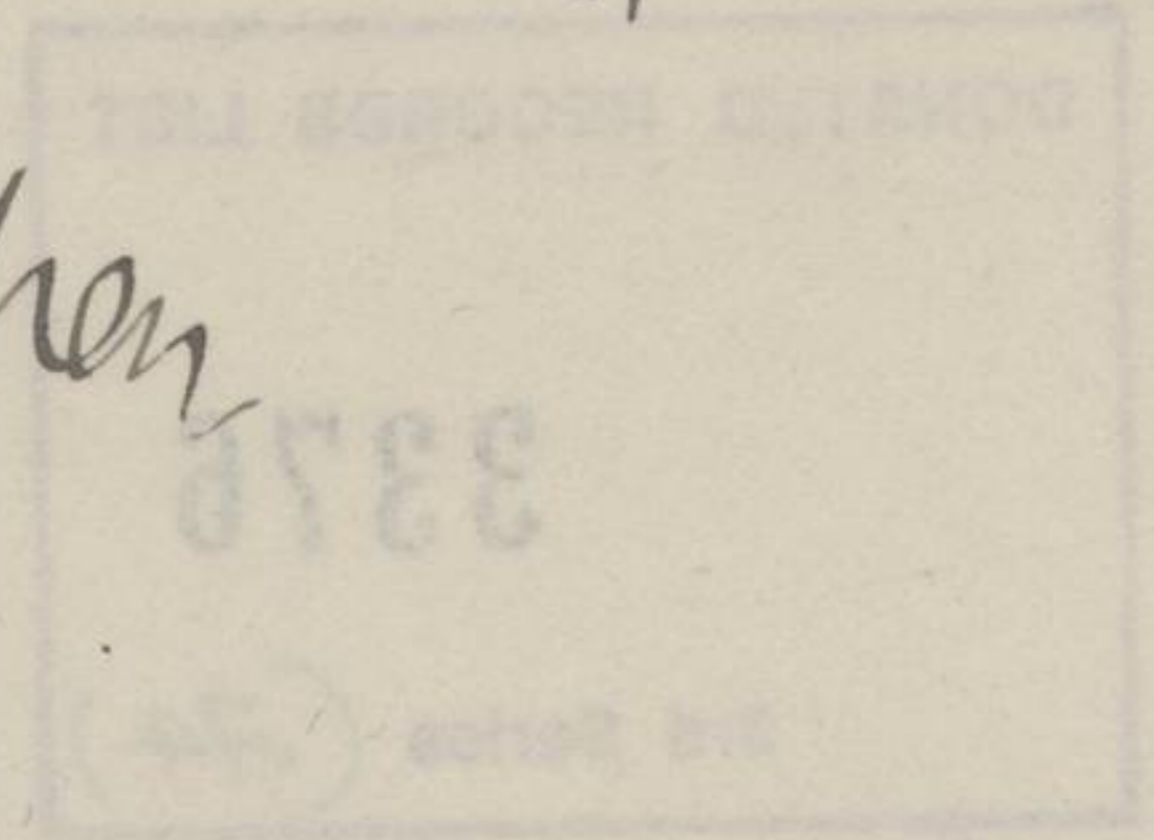
THE SLOANE GATE HOTEL,

KNIGHTSBRIDGE, S.W.

of their families who have been left behind in
Australia.

I have nothing more to say, except to hold
out to you as strongly as I can that, but necessity
dictates exists I hope that after these two years during
which we have been separating to Japan, we know
each other well enough to realise that I would
not say this without good reason.

Nothing said in I leave it to you to
decide according to your experience in the good of our
country - the honour of our King & people, the
safety of our loved children



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Headquarters, 1st ~~Anzac~~ Corps
16th. October, 1916.

MEMORANDUM for

Assistant Returning Officers.

MILITARY SERVICE REFERENDUM

Dates of Polling in France have been fixed at 19th. and 20th. October, 1916.

Your voting papers will, therefore, be handed over to the Postal Service for despatch to London, and you will notify this office as proscribed in the "Instructions" sent you, on the night of the 20th. October, 1916.

If you have not already advised me of the Authorised Witnesses you have appointed, please do so forthwith.

T. GRIFFITHS

Lieut.-Colonel,
A.A.G., A.I.F.
(D. C. R. O. - FRANCE)

POLLING DATE NOT TO APPEAR IN ORDERS

The Military Service Referendum Act, 1916 (Australia).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE POLLING IN FRANCE.

POLLING DATE.

Votes will be recorded on the 16th and 17th October, 1916. (Should these dates be impracticable, IMMEDIATE notice by telegram must be sent to

D. C. R. O.,
H. Q., 1ST ANZAC CORPS,

giving

- (a) reason
- (b) earliest date practicable.

VOTERS' QUALIFICATIONS.

A voter must be

- (i) a member of the forces serving beyond Australia and
- (ii) of the full age of 21 years and
- (iii) either enrolled or eligible to be enrolled as an elector of the Commonwealth.

("Member of the forces" means a member of the Commonwealth Naval or Military Forces employed on active service outside Australia or employed on a ship of war and includes a member of the Army Medical Nursing Service who is accepted or appointed by the Director-General of Medical Services for service outside Australia.)

To be eligible for enrolment as an elector of the Commonwealth it is necessary [in addition to complying with (iii)] to

- (a) be a natural born or naturalised subject of the King, and
- (b) have at some time resided in Australia for at least six months continuously.

NOTE: A natural born subject of the King is one who was born in the British Dominions, but the franchise does not extend to aboriginal natives of Australia.

OFFICERS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE REFERENDUM.

COMMONWEALTH RETURNING OFFICER: COLONEL R. M. McC. ANDERSON, Commandant, A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, 130 Horseferry Road, Westminster, London, S.W.

DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH RETURNING OFFICER (France): LIEUT.-COL. T. GRIFFITHS, A.A.G., A.I.F., Headquarters, 1st Anzac Corps, B.E.F.

ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICERS: Commanding Officers of units of the A.I.F., or of units of other forces with whose commands members of the A.I.F. are located.

"AUTHORISED WITNESSES": These are appointed by the Assistant Returning Officers (except under (d)) from

- (a) Company Officers serving with the Australian Expeditionary Forces;
- (b) Medical Officers of the Australian or Imperial Army Medical Service in charge or sub-charge of Hospitals;
- (c) Naval commissioned officers;
- (d) Such other military commissioned officers and such other persons in the service of the Commonwealth or the

Imperial Army as are appointed authorised witnesses by the Commonwealth Returning Officer.

DOCUMENTS FOR USE IN POLLING.

These are:

- Ballot Papers (white).
- Envelopes bearing voter's declaration (pink).
- Forms to be used for lists of those who have voted and certified returns by the Polling Officers.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES TO BE OBSERVED.

- (i) Secrecy of the ballot.
- (ii) Satisfactory identification of the voter.
- (iii) Verification (so far as is practicable) of the voter's qualifications.
- (iv) Avoidance of duplicate voting.

EXECUTIVE CENTRE.

All demands for documents, requests for instructions, and enquiries to be telegraphed to:

D. C. R. O.,
H. Q. 1st ANZAC Corps.

DUTIES OF THE ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICER.

The A.R.O. is responsible:—

that arrangements are made by which an opportunity of voting is given to every eligible person within or with his Unit: that these instructions are entirely complied with.

A "preliminary notice" has been sent to A.R.Os. for careful attention.

Supplies of the polling documents will be sent to the A.R.Os. by post in a postal bag as soon as ready. Immediately on receipt they should be examined and any shortage or inaccuracy reported by telegram to the D.C.R.O. (France).

If no supplies are received by 11th October, 1916, the D.C.R.O. must be advised by wire on the evening of that day.

The A.R.O. will then:

ensure that every member of his unit present is notified of polling dates; appoint "Authorised Witnesses", having regard to the disposition of the voters for whom he is responsible, and time available in which to take the vote;

(NOTE: Where convenient, as in the case of a unit containing a few voters only, who are not scattered, A.R.O. should also be Authorised Witness.)

hand to each authorised witness a copy of these instructions and issue to him all such local instructions as may be necessary;

notify D. C. R. O. 1st ANZAC Corps H.Q. forthwith of the names, ranks and units of the Authorised Witnesses he has appointed, stating at the same time whether the appointment of any person as an authorised witness in terms of (d) under the heading "Authorised Witnesses," above is recommended.

DUTIES OF THE ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICER. (Continued.)

distribute polling documents to the Authorised Witnesses immediately before the date fixed for the Poll;

(NOTE:— A.R.Os. and Authorised Witnesses are personally responsible for the safe custody of the voting documents while in their keeping;)

supervise (as far as practicable) the taking of the votes and see that these instructions are strictly carried out; receive the whole of the documents back from the Authorised Witnesses (parcelled, attested, and labelled as set forth in the directions to the Authorised Witnesses hereunder;)

place the various parcels in the mail bag in which the papers were originally received from London, securely tie the same and seal it;

address the sealed bag (on the tag sent with it) to

Commonwealth Returning Officer,
130 Horseferry Road,
Westminster, London, S.W.,

and hand it to the nearest Field Post Office on the night of 17th October 1916, obtaining a receipt; telegraph to D.C.R.O., 1st ANZAC H.Q. the following message:

"SABLEMATE" followed by
(i) Number of votes recorded;
(ii) Name of Unit.

Should any eligible person apply to the A.R.O to record his or her vote after 17th October, the A.R.O. will wire to D.C.R.O. 1st ANZAC H. Q. for the necessary papers. No votes may be recorded later than 28th October 1916. All voting papers sent to the Commonwealth Returning Officer, London, otherwise than in the sealed bag must be enclosed in an "O.H.M.S." envelope and despatched by registered mail.

DUTIES OF AUTHORISED WITNESS.

To make himself thoroughly familiar with the copy of these instructions which he receives from the A.R.O.

To examine the voting papers he receives from the A.R.O. and see that any shortages are adjusted before polling day.

To notify (if this has not been done by the A.R.O.) all voters within his detachment or sub-unit of the place and time at which the vote will be taken; and report to the A.R.O. any cases in which voters may have difficulty in attending.

To take the votes in strict compliance with the following instructions:—

The Authorised Witness will put the necessary questions to the voter (the questions are set out hereafter).

The voter having satisfied the authorised witness that he is eligible to vote, the authorised witness will record on the official list the voter's surname, christian names in full, regimental or naval number, rank and unit.

The authorised witness will then complete the form of declaration on the envelope except as to the signature of the voter and the voter will sign same.

The authorised witness will next initial the prescribed form of ballot paper in the circle on the back of the ballot paper, and hand one such initialled ballot paper to the voter.

The voter will mark his vote in private according to his discretion by placing an "X" in the square opposite, either "Yes" or "No," and no other mark must be made on the paper. (See later paragraph as to procedure in the case of an illiterate or incapacitated voter.)

The voter must then fold the ballot paper in such a manner as to ensure his vote being obscured and return the paper to the authorised witness.

The authorised witness, in the presence of the voter, places the ballot paper, without unfolding the same, in the envelope which bears the voter's declaration, and (in the presence of the voter) securely fastens the envelope and places it in some safe receptacle accessible only to the authorised witness.

If a voter satisfies the authorised witness that he has spoiled his ballot paper, the authorised witness may give the voter a second ballot paper, but the spoiled ballot paper must be handed back to the authorised witness, who will write across each spoiled ballot paper the word "Spoilt" and return all such spoiled ballot papers with his parcel of completed declarations.

The questions to be put to the voters are as follows:

(i) Are you a member of the Australian Naval or Military Forces and of the full age of 21 years? (or in the case of nurses: Are you a member of the Australian Army Nursing Service accepted or appointed by the Director of Medical Services for service outside Australia, and of the full age of 21 years?)

(ii) Are you enrolled or eligible to be enrolled as an elector of the Commonwealth?

(iii) Have you already voted either here or elsewhere at this referendum?

NOTE — When putting the above questions the authorised witness must either apprise or exhibit a statement to the voter of the conditions of eligibility for enrolment as an elector of the Commonwealth. (see voter's qualifications page 1.)

No person is entitled to vote during the period (if any) during which he is in custody serving a sentence for any offence committed by him.

If a voter is illiterate or incapacitated he may elect that the Authorised Witness shall mark his ballot paper for him; this must be done in the presence of a second voter, elected by such incapacitated or illiterate voter. His mark on the declaration, thus, "X," must be witnessed and so recorded in writing by the authorised witness.

On completion of the poll the authorised witness will complete and sign the certificate on the foot of each sheet of the list of those who have voted. The numbers of ballot papers received, spoiled and returned unused need, however, only be entered on the declaration at the foot of the topmost sheet.

The authorised witness will next carefully arrange and tie in one parcel:

- (a) all envelopes containing completed votes;
- (b) all spoiled ballot papers and declarations;
- (c) the completed certified list of persons who have voted;

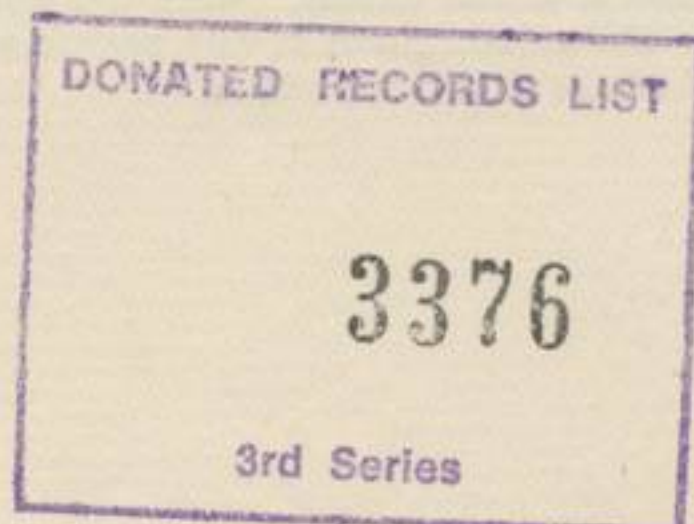
and in another parcel:

all unused ballot papers, envelopes bearing declaration forms and forms for list of voters.

Each of these parcels must be clearly marked showing its contents.

The authorised witness will then hand the parcels to the A.R.O.

T. GRIFFITHS,
Lieutenant-Colonel,
D. C. R. O. (FRANCE).



REGULATIONS relating to Members of the Commonwealth Naval and Military Forces and Crews of Australian transport vessels voting abroad are as follows:—

Referendum (Special Voting) Regulations 1916.

REGULATION 1.

- I. For the purpose of enabling members of the forces serving beyond Australia and members of the crews of any Australian transport vessel employed in the conveyance of members of the forces to or from Australia to vote upon the prescribed question the Governor General may appoint a Commonwealth returning officer in London and a Commonwealth returning officer at the capital city of each state of the Commonwealth.
- II. Subject to the regulation and to any directions of the chief electoral officer for the Commonwealth.
 - (a) The Commonwealth returning officer in London shall be charged with the duty of making all arrangements necessary or convenient for enabling members of the forces not under the age of 21 years serving beyond Australia to vote upon the prescribed question.
 - (b) The Commonwealth returning officers in London, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, and Hobart, shall be charged with the duty of scrutinising the votes of members of the crews of Australian transport vessels employed in the conveyance of members of the forces to or from Australia which are received by them.
- III. The Commonwealth returning officers shall have power to appoint for the purpose of the Referendum such Deputy returning officers to assist them in the distribution and transmission of ballot papers and forms of declaration and at the scrutiny as they think necessary.

REGULATION 2.

- I. Subject to these regulations the following persons shall be entitled to vote as electors before an authorised witness after the eighteenth day of September, 1916, and not later than the twenty-eighth day of October, 1916.
 - (a) All members of the forces not under the age of 21 years serving beyond Australia—
 - i. who are enrolled as electors of the Commonwealth or are eligible to be so enrolled, and

- ii. whose names appear at any time between the eighteenth day of September and the twenty-eighth day of October, 1916, upon an official Naval or Military Roll or list relating to the Expeditionary forces or on an official roll or list relating to the Australian Military and Nursing Service attached to such forces, and
- iii. who duly complete in the presence of an authorised witness the absent voter's declaration prescribed by Regulation 3 of these regulations, and

(b) All members of the crew of any Australian transport vessel employed in the conveyance of members of the forces to or from Australia who—

- i. are enrolled as electors of the Commonwealth or are eligible to be so enrolled, and
- ii. duly complete in the presence of an Authorised Witness the absent voter's declaration prescribed by Regulation 4 of these regulations.

II. Notwithstanding anything contained in these regulations a person shall not be entitled to vote under these regulations during the period (if any) during which he is in Custody serving a sentence for any offence committed by him.

REGULATION 3.—The form of Declaration to be made by a member of the Forces serving beyond Australia who claims to vote under these regulations shall be as follows :—

FORM OF DECLARATION.

ABSENT VOTING.

Australian Forces Serving Abroad. Commonwealth of Australia.
THE MILITARY SERVICE REFERENDUM ACT, 1916.

Vote must be recorded not later than 28th October, 1916.

I declare—

- 1. That I am a member of the Forces* serving beyond Australia.
- 2. That I am of the full age of 21 years and either enrolled or eligible to be enrolled as an elector of the Commonwealth, and
- 3. That my name and designation are as follows :—

Surname.	Christian Names at full length.	Regt. or Naval No.	Rank or Designation. Military or Naval Force.	Unit.

* "MEMBER OF THE FORCES" means a member of the Commonwealth Naval or Military Forces employed on Active Service, outside Australia, or employed on a ship of war, and includes a member of the Army Medical Nursing Service who is accepted or appointed by the Director General of Medical Services for service outside Australia.

I further declare that I have not previously voted at this Referendum, and I promise and declare that if I am permitted to vote I will not again vote or attempt to vote at this Referendum. I am aware that it is an offence to personate or attempt to personate any other person for the purpose of securing a Ballot Paper to which I am not entitled or wilfully to make any false statement in this declaration or to vote more than once at the Referendum.

Personal Signature of Voter.....

Declared before me at.....this.....
 day of.....1916.

Authorised witness.....

Rank.....Unit.....

DIRECTIONS.

1. This form of declaration must, after being filled up, be signed by the Voter with his personal signature in the presence of the Authorised Witness, by whom it must be completed and attested.
2. The Authorised Witness must, if he is satisfied as to the identity of the Voter, then initial and hand to the Voter one form of Ballot Paper headed "Absent Vote, The Military Service Referendum Act, 1916," having thereon the question submitted at the Referendum.
3. The Voter will then :—
 - (a) In private forthwith mark his vote in the manner indicated on the Ballot Paper handed to him, and
 - (b) Fold the Ballot Paper in such a manner as to conceal his vote, and at once return the Ballot Paper so folded to the Authorised Witness, who will then, without unfolding the Ballot Paper; forthwith, in the presence of the Voter, place the Ballot Paper in the envelope bearing the Voter's declaration, and address to the Commonwealth Returning Officer. Securely fasten the envelope, and transmit it to the Commonwealth Returning Officer in accordance with the directions issued by that Officer so as to reach him at the address printed on the face of the envelope as early as practicable, but in any event not later than the ELEVENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1916.

Authorised Witnesses.—The following persons are Authorised Witnesses for the purpose of taking declarations of members of the Forces under the Military Service Referendum Act, 1916 :—

- (a) All Company Officers serving with the Australian Expeditionary Forces.
- (b) All Medical Officers of the Australian or Imperial Army Medical Service in charge or sub-charge of hospitals.
- (c) All Naval Commissioned Officers, and
- (d) Such other Military Commissioned Officers and such other person in the service of the Commonwealth or the Imperial Army as are appointed Authorised Witnesses by the Commonwealth Returning Officer.

REGULATION 4.—The form of declaration to be made by a member of the crew of any Australian transport vessel who claims to vote under these regulations shall be as follows :—

FORM OF DECLARATION.

ABSENT VOTING.

Australian Transport Service.

Commonwealth of Australia.

THE MILITARY SERVICE REFERENDUM ACT, 1916.

I Declare—

- 1. That I am a member of the crew of the Australian Transport Vessel.....which is employed in the conveyance of members of the forces to or from Australia.
- 2. That I am of the full age of twenty-one years, and either enrolled or eligible to be enrolled as an elector of the Commonwealth, and
- 3. That my name and rank or rating are as follows :—

Surname.	Christian Names at full length.	Rank or Rating on Vessel.

I further declare that I have not previously voted at this Referendum, and I promise and declare that if I am permitted to vote I will not again vote or attempt to vote at this Referendum. I am aware that it is an offence to personate or attempt to personate any other person for the

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purpose of securing a Ballot Paper to which I am not entitled or wilfully to make any false statement in this declaration, or to vote more than once at the Referendum.

Personal Signature of Voter.....

Declared before me on board the Steamship.....
this.....day of....., 1916.

Authorised Witness.....

Captain or Chief Officer.

DIRECTIONS.

- 1. This form of declaration must, after being filled up, be signed by the Voter with his personal signature in the presence of the Authorised Witness.
- 2. The Authorised Witness must, if he is satisfied as to the identity of the Voter, and that he is enrolled as an elector of the Commonwealth or is eligible to be so enrolled, then complete and attest the declaration, and initial and hand to the Voter one form of Ballot Paper headed "Absent Vote.—The Military Service Referendum Act, 1916," having thereon the question submitted at the Referendum.
- 3. The voter will then forthwith—
 - (a) In private mark his vote in the manner indicated on the Ballot Paper handed to him, and
 - (b) Fold the Ballot Paper in such a manner as to conceal his vote, and at once return the Ballot Paper so folded to the Authorised Witness, who will then, without unfolding the Ballot Paper, forthwith, in the presence of the Voter, place the Ballot paper in the envelope bearing the voter's declaration and addressed to the Commonwealth Returning Officer, securely fasten the envelope, and transmit it to the Commonwealth Returning Officer to whom it is addressed so as to reach him at the address appearing on the face of the envelope as early as practicable, but in any event not later than the ELEVENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1916.

Authorised Witnesses.—The following persons are Authorised Witnesses for the purpose of taking declarations under the Military Service Referendum Act, 1916, by members of the crews of Australian Transport Vessels employed in the conveyance of members of the Forces to or from Australia :—

The Captain and Chief Officer of each vessel.

REGULATION 5.—The form of Absent Voter's Ballot Paper for the use of—

- (a) Members of the Forces ; and
 - (b) Members of the crew of any Australian Transport Vessel
- who are eligible to vote under these regulations shall be as follows :—

ABSENT VOTE.

BALLOT PAPER.

Commonwealth of Australia.

The Military Service Referendum Act, 1916.

DIRECTIONS TO VOTERS.

The Voter, in the presence of the Authorised Witness, but so that the Authorised Witness cannot see the vote, should indicate his vote as follows :—

IF HE IS IN FAVOUR of the question set forth hereunder he should make a cross in the square opposite the word " YES."

IF HE IS NOT IN FAVOUR of the question set forth hereunder he should make a cross in the square opposite the word " No."

and shall fold the ballot paper so that the vote cannot be seen and return it to the Authorised Witness, who will then in the presence of the elector, without unfolding the ballot paper, forthwith place it in the envelope bearing the declaration of the elector and securely fasten the envelope.

QUESTION.

Are you in favour of the Government having, in this grave emergency, the same compulsory powers over citizens in regard to requiring their military services for the term of this war, outside the Commonwealth, as it has now in regard to military service within the Commonwealth ?

YES.

NO.

REGULATION 6.—Each person claiming to vote and each Authorised Witness shall severally comply with such of the directions contained in the absent voter's declaration prescribed by the regulations as are required to be complied with by him.

REGULATION 7.—Every Authorised Witness shall keep a record of—

- (a) The number of absent voter's declarations and ballot papers received by him ;
- (b) The names of the persons to whom they were issued and who voted before him ;
- (c) The number of unused absent voter's declarations and ballot papers and shall forward to the proper Commonwealth Returning Officer at such intervals and in such manner as the Commonwealth Returning Officer directs but so as to reach the Commonwealth Returning Officer as early as practicable and in any event not later than the 11th day of November, 1916, all addressed envelopes in his possession containing ballot papers. In addition he shall as soon as practicable after the 28th day of October, 1916, forward to the Commonwealth Returning Officer the unused absent voter's declarations and ballot papers and the records kept by him in pursuance of this regulation.

REGULATION 8.—The scrutiny of votes polled by persons voting before Authorised Witnesses in pursuance of these regulations and received by a Commonwealth Returning Officer up to and including the 11th day of November, 1916, shall be conducted by the Commonwealth Returning Officer with such assistance as he deems necessary in accordance with the following provisions :—

- (1) Upon the receipt of any envelopes containing ballot papers the Commonwealth Returning Officer shall place the envelope in a locked ballot box for safe custody pending the scrutiny ;
- (2) He may at such intervals as he determines remove any or all of them from the ballot box for the purpose of the preliminary scrutiny ;
- (3) At the preliminary scrutiny he shall proceed as follows :—
 - (a) He shall examine each declaration with a view to satisfying himself whether the declaration is duly made and attested and the person making the declaration is a person who is entitled under the regulations to vote ;
 - (b) If he is satisfied that the person is entitled to vote he shall make a mark against the name of the person on the official list and shall withdraw from the envelope the ballot paper contained therein and without inspecting or unfolding the ballot paper or allowing any other person to do so deposit the folded ballot paper in a locked and sealed ballot box for further scrutiny and shall retain the envelope in safe custody ;
 - (c) If he is not satisfied that the person is entitled to vote he shall stamp the envelope " Rejected at preliminary scrutiny " and shall retain it unopened in safe custody.

- (4) At any time after the completion of the preliminary scrutiny of any portion of the ballot papers he may proceed with the scrutiny of the ballot papers reserved for further scrutiny retaining in the ballot box from time to time such number of ballot papers as may be necessary to prevent the identity of the voter from being disclosed ;
- (5) On each occasion on which he conducts the further scrutiny of votes he shall take the following action :—
- (a) He shall reject all informal ballot papers ;
 - (b) He shall count all formal ballot papers placing in one parcel those ballot papers containing votes in favour of the prescribed question and in another parcel those containing votes not in favour of the prescribed question ;
 - (c) He shall make separate records of :—
 - (1) The number of ballot papers rejected as informal ;
 - (2) The number of ballot papers containing votes in favour of the prescribed question ; and
 - (3) The number of ballot papers containing votes not in favour of the prescribed question ;
 - (d) He shall fasten and seal each parcel and endorse thereon particulars of the contents thereof and add his signature and the date.

REGULATION 9.—A ballot paper cast by a person voting under these regulations shall be informal if :—

- (a) It has no vote marked on it or has more than one vote marked on it, or
- (b) The cross marked by the voter is placed outside the square in such a position as to render the intention of the voter uncertain ;
- (c) There is upon it any mark or writing (not lawfully authorised to be upon it) which would, in the opinion of the Commonwealth Returning Officer, enable the voter to be identified, and upon conclusion of scrutiny parcel all envelopes and ballot papers and keep in safe custody pending communication by mail. Scrutiny may proceed from time to time during the period covered by voting but no results are to be disclosed until the night of 28th October when please cable progress return and after 11th November final results and informals. Strict compliance with forms not required, substantial compliance will suffice. A Ballot paper is not informal owing to absence of initials of Authorised Witness. There will be no official list to check at scrutiny in case of crews of Transports.

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WIGHTMAN & Co., LTD., Regency Street, Westminster, S.W.

"VOMITERS OF LIES"

MESSAGE CAN BE PROVED, STATES PRIME MINISTER

"BAND OF INCENDIARIES"

On being seen today regarding a report that Mr W. G. Mahony M.H.R. had said that Sir Douglas Haig's message to the Prime Minister emphasising the need for more men at the front, was false, Mr W. M. Hughes, the Prime Minister, invited proof of the allegation.

"The matter is one very easy of proof," said Mr Hughes, "and I invite these persons who vomit forth lies with every breath they exhale to put the matter to the proof. The great majority of the people of Australia will refuse to believe that such men as General Sir William Robertson, General Sir Douglas Haig and Lieut.-General Sir William Birdwood would lend themselves to such practices.

"The great trouble with the anti-conscriptionist is this," continued Mr Hughes, "that he finds himself confronted with such a weight of evidence in favor of conscription that he is driven to the desperate expedient of declaring it all to be false."

Mr Hughes' attention was directed to statements which have been made questioning whether Sir Douglas Haig's cable could be founded on fact in view of the reinforcements at present available.

"The results of the offensive on the Somme have been very costly," said Mr Hughes. "It does not follow, because we have reserves of men in England, that they are all considered to be sufficiently advanced in their training to take their places as effective units in the front firing line in furtherance of this great battle. As for the rest, all I have to say is that, as I said in the House in November last, it is for the British Government to declare what is necessary, and for Australia to do her best to carry out the requests made.

"Generals Sir Douglas Haig and Sir William Birdwood are on the spot," Mr Hughes went on to say, "and they are able to say infinitely better than a band of incendiaries and rebels in our midst, 12,000 miles away, what the requirements of the Australian army are. If the people of this country have to choose between the statements of Generals Haig and Birdwood and those of men whom I know are responsible for a campaign of deliberate falsehood, I know what they will do."

[B. S. B. Cook, 154-162 Flinders St., Melb.]

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MESSAGE FROM THE ANZACS

Appeal for Support.

General Birdwood, commanding the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps in France, has forwarded the following message to the mayor of Kalgoorlie:—

"Anzacs feel sure that Australia will see that sacrifices already made are not in vain, which may be the case unless we are well assured that men will be forthcoming to keep effective and maintain at full strength the magnificent battalions, batteries and companies which have made history and have established tradition."

The Miners' Corps sends a message as follows:—

"We are strongly in favor of conscription. All are wanting to finish enemy quickly, that we may return the sooner to those we voluntarily came away to shield, clearly conscious of our duty to the nation. Don't delay."

Divisions Under Strength.

Message from General Haig.

The Prime Minister has received the following cablegram from General Sir Douglas Haig, Commander in Chief of the British Forces in France:—

"Australian divisions in France are far below strength, and drafts are not arriving in sufficient numbers. The divisions have fought splendidly, and their heroic efforts will live in history, but they cannot continue to achieve results unless their strength is kept up. Successes of past few months justify absolute confidence in power to win final victory. But it is not yet won. To complete our work and ensure a future enduring peace, utmost efforts of Empire and Allies are required for long time yet. I hope strong drafts for your divisions will be despatched and their strength maintained."

"The cable speaks for itself," said Mr. Hughes. "It needs neither interpretation nor comment. It is at once the most complete endorsement of the Government policy and a crushing refutation of statements that men are not needed, that the war is won, that Russians or Indians, or other men should be hired to take the place of Australians. Here from the lips of the Commander in Chief of the greatest armies that the British Empire has put in the field is a plain and unsolicited statement of the present position—that the Australian divisions are far below strength, that reinforcements are not arriving in sufficient numbers, that their splendid heroism and valor will live through history, and that they cannot continue to achieve victories unless reinforcements arrive in sufficient numbers. To all, save enemies of the Empire and of Britain in our midst, this message from this great soldier, General Haig, will carry absolute conviction."

LEGISLATORS FROM THE FRONT

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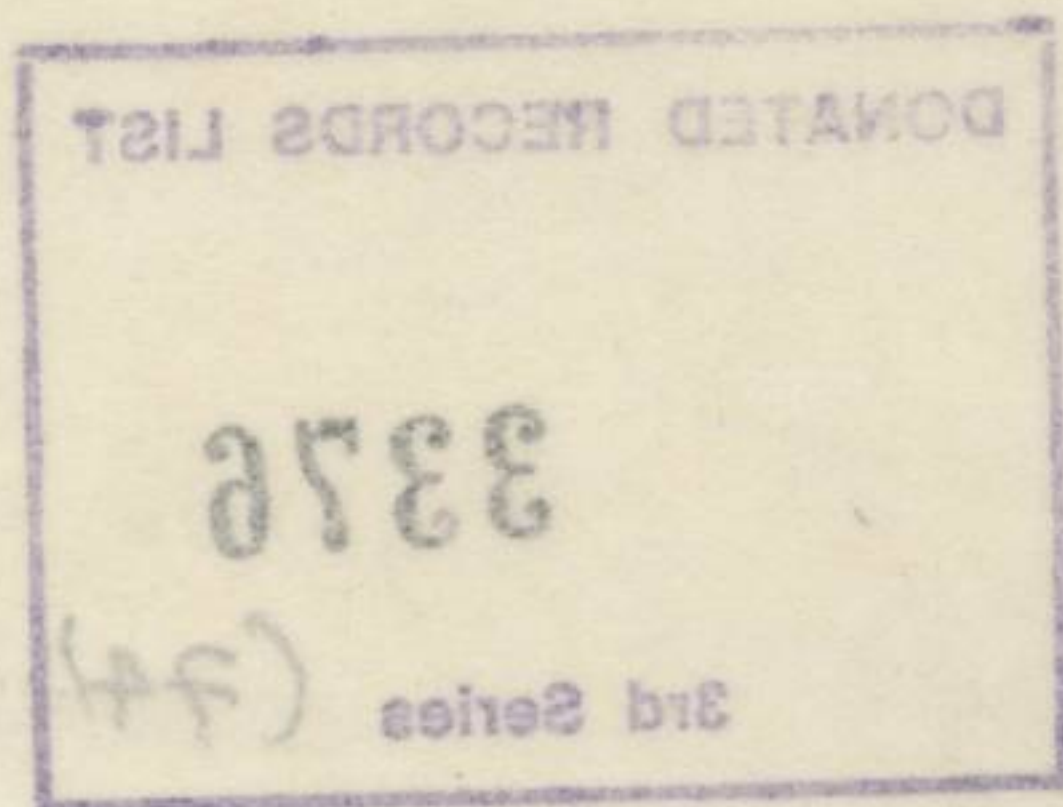
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Spare copies

- (a) Telegram from Mr Hughes.
- (b) " to K.A. Murdoch
- (c) Mr Hughes' manifesto to troops
- (d) General Birdwood's message to troops



1st ANZAC CORPS,
9th NOVEMBER, 1917.

MY DEAR GENERAL,

You will, I am sure, be interested to hear that I have to-day received a telegram from Australia announcing that the Commonwealth Government have decided to take an immediate Referendum on the subject of compulsory service throughout Australia. I feel sure, too, that it will be of interest to all our officers to know how we stand as regards reinforcements, etc., throughout the A.I.F.

I had recently to point out the fact that, owing to lack of reinforcements, we shall probably be at least 8,000 men down by the early spring, and without any reinforcements whatever immediately in sight to replace them. After considering this, G.H.Q. decided that we must withdraw one division into reserve, to act primarily as a feeder for the remainder of the force; but we of course all had to recognise the fact that this might be only the first step, and that, later on, unless the reinforcement situation improved, the question of abolishing one and even, I fear, a second and probably a third division might have to be taken up.

I naturally informed the Commonwealth Government how the situation stood, and told them how deeply all here would feel the breaking up of any single one of the magnificent units, which we have with us, and which have indeed made history for Australia for all time, and I urged the sending of further reinforcements to us without delay. I may mention that at the present time reinforcements are coming forward to the extent of a total of some 2,000 per month, while we must have about four times that number to keep our five divisions efficient in the field.

It is, of course, impossible to foresee what the result of the Referendum may be, but I am convinced that everyone of us must contemplate with horror the possibility of having to break up any of our battalions, brigades, or divisions, and, indeed, I do not know where we should make a start should we unfortunately ever be called upon to do so.

As I think that all will be interested to know about this question of reinforcements, I am sending copies of this letter for all officers.

The information I have given you as regards numbers must of course, be treated as confidential.

Yours very sincerely,

(Sgd.) W. R. BIRDWOOD.

A.P.—344—MM—11-17

Reperendum

10th November, 7.

My dear Griffiths,

Many thanks for sending me copy of the correspondence between Fathers King and Devine. The latter, as a matter of fact, saw me only for a second when here, and did not then mention any trouble of any sort, but Dodds has just told me that he did mention his feelings about King to him. Devine's letter was the first I had heard of their being frequent changes among chaplains. Dodds tells me that these, as a matter of fact do occur, and I have therefore ordered him to send a circular to all chaplains on the subject explaining my views, viz., that continuity is essential to efficiency, and that only after men have been some time in the field should they be changed.

I am wondering if the priest to whom Father Devine refers, is the one about whom you may possibly remember we heard a long time ago as having misbehaved at Cape Town when the troopship passed through. If so, he

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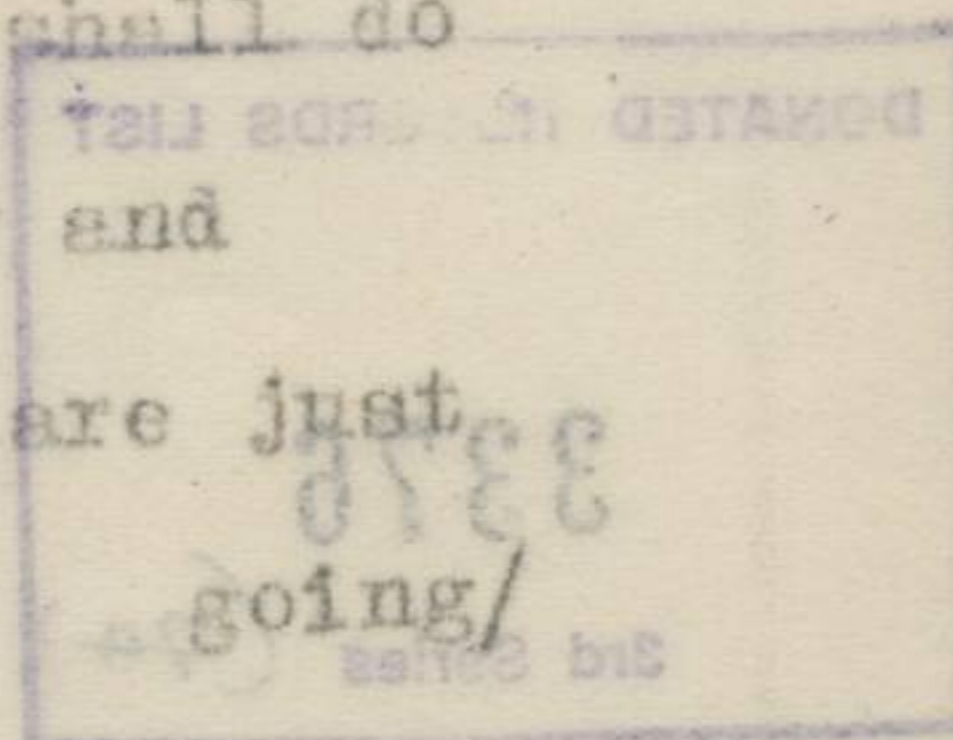
certainly is a man, whom we ought to get rid of, and who should never have been allowed to come back. I shall of course take no notice of the correspondence now sent me, and hope we may not hear more about it, if Dean Brennan is satisfied. I have always understood that Archbishop Clune certainly was so, and in these circumstances no action should be necessary.

The referendum I fancy will have been decided on as a result of the telegrams I sent, informing Government that we now had to relegate one division to reserve, and that this could only be a stepping-stone to its abolition, unless further reinforcements were forthcoming. I think that we should wire at once to Australia asking them to be sure to let us know details as soon as they possibly can. You will remember that the non-receipt of these until very late considerably handicapped us last time, and I am sure resulted in a great many men saying "no", because they were unaware of

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the conditions. This I think especially applies to exemptions, regarding which we should, at all events, have clear statements; also, that under no circumstances would conscription last after the cessation of hostilities, etc. The people to be conscripted will doubtless be in various categories, and would only be called up in turn as the necessity arises. All this information should be in the possession of the men. There may be other points about which you will know, so would you take the question up, and send a telegram to Australia asking for early advice as regards these conditions. When these details arrive, I think we should have a copy printed for every man in the force, so that all may know where they are.

As regards men here, too, I am sure that the voting will depend to a great extent upon their feelings at the time. It therefore behoves us, as we shall do here, to strive all we can to keep them happy and comfortable throughout the winter, and as we are just



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going out of the line, some into comfortable billets, and some into a quiet part, the time would seem to be very favourable.

Another thing which will I know exercise the men's minds very much is whether men are kept what they may think unjustifiably in England. I know that last year they thought that there were lots of men from month to month in England who should have been out here taking their place. If, therefore, you can do more combing out in that direction, it will all be to the good. I know that you are doing it as fast as you can, but it will not do to let men out here think that we have unnecessary numbers in England, and this of course applies to both London and Tidworth.

