

FROM.....THE COMMODORE COMMANDING, H.M. AUSTRALIAN FLEET.

Date.....

No..... 597/A.F. 1250

TO.....THE SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

Former.....

SUBJECT..... SEAPLANE FOR H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA".

Be pleased to lay before the Naval Board the following observations and submissions with reference to embarking a Seaplane on board H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" for the forthcoming cruise to the Islands.

2. I understand that it would be possible for an AVRO Aeroplane fitted as a Seaplane to be available for embarkation together with a Pilot and the Necessary Air Mechanics and, if this is the case, I beg to submit that arrangements may be made as I feel that it is urgent to make some start in obtaining Seaplane reconnaissance experiences in H.M.A. Fleet, the efficiency of which as an "Intelligence" force depends essentially on the Naval use of the air arm.

3. There can be no question of a converted AVRO Aeroplane supplying the requirements adequately but until suitable light modern single-seater Seaplanes, capable of being flown off a Light Cruiser, are supplied, I beg to submit that any temporary measure will provide valuable experience.

4. This AVRO Seaplane will have to be specially prepared for slinging and hoisted in and out by a derrick.

5. I beg to submit that if the above policy is approved a Committee consisting of an Air Officer (with Naval experience), an Air Officer cognisant with the alterations which will have to be carried out to the machine, a Naval constructor and a Naval Officer representing me should at once go into the necessary details, including stowing and securing arrangements, and also design a derrick of suitable length and with a heel stepped in a suitable place for use in H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA".

6. I beg to observe that a converted AVRO would in my opinion be too large and heavy for any experimental work in a Light Cruiser.

7. The question of the flying personnel ~~will be~~ a different one to that of the Grand Fleet, as I understand that the Australian Air Corps is not liable to service outside the Continent of Australia, which is totally incompatible with Naval requirements on this Station. The question of rations and discipline will also require settlement.

8. I need not say that my experience in the matter of flying off and hoisting in Aeroplanes from Men-of-War and their maintenance on board and the relations of the Flying Staff to the Ships' Officers are entirely at the disposal of the Naval Board and of any Committee whom the Naval Board may arrange to take the matter in hand.

9. If it is possible to get this Seaplane ready and embarked, I beg to strongly urge not losing the opportunity of gaining early experience which may be of great value to subsequent development, although in itself not a practicable proposition.

2.

10 Should Naval Board approval be given and everything be ready by the 29th June, H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" could anchor in Port Phillip and hoist in the machine on that day: otherwise there will be no opportunity for the machine without dismantling it and sending it by rail: therefore I beg to submit that the Committee may be appointed at once so that the derrick and heel fitting may be made at Sydney before the Ship sails.



[Signature]
COMMODORE.

3rd nm

(then)

A.S.A.

Will you please remark upon this, so that it may be sent for consideration of 1st. 22 nm - an office is leaving for Sydney to-morrow - 16th June

[Signature]
15.6.20

I am opposed to this at the present time the money will be largely required in other directions.

[Signature]