

S.C.168/1/300

22 April, 1943.

Rear-Admiral-in-Charge,
SYDNEY.

SCORCHED EARTH POLICY - R.A.N. ARMAMENT DEPOTS.

Submitted -

With reference to letter B.S.202/36/281 dated 31st March 1943, concerning the above subject, I have to report that the instructions contained in your directive have been noted, and forwarded herewith, in duplicate, are plans showing in detail the action it is proposed should be taken in respect of the stock, plant, harbour craft and buildings, etc. at the three Establishments under my control, viz. Spectacle Island, Newington and Homebush should it be found necessary to implement at Sydney a "total denial" or "scorched earth" policy.

2. In regard to Spectacle Island it is remarked that since my report of 10th November, 1942, on this subject, a considerable quantity of ammunition has been transferred from this Depot to Newington and it is anticipated that the remainder will be similarly disposed of within the next few months, i.e. when the new buildings at Auburn (extension to Newington) become available. The accompanying plan for Spectacle Island does not allow for storage of any explosives and the plan will, therefore, require slight modification if total denial is to be brought into effect whilst ammunition is stored on the Island.

3. With respect to the demolition of buildings containing explosives at Newington and Homebush, it would appear to be a matter for decision as to the best method of firing the demolition charges, i.e. whether by safety fuze, with a No. 25 detonator, or by utilizing the existing electric wiring in the Depots, in which case No. 21 detonators would be needed. Advice on this subject is, therefore, requested.

4. It is also desired to bring to notice the fact that at Homebush the Explosive Stores are very close to each other the buildings (which are converted brick kilns) being in some cases only about 15 feet apart and it is thought that the destruction by explosives of one of these buildings would in all probability mean the simultaneous demolition of all other Explosive Stores in the area, including, possibly, certain of the magazines as well as the Warhead store at Newington, which is situated only about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile away. An explosion of such a widespread nature would certainly have devastating results and the extent of the danger area requires determination in order that, if considered necessary, the evacuation of all persons from the surrounding district may be provided for in the general scheme. It is interesting to note that Yarralla Military Hospital is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Homebush Magazine Depot and part of Concord West less than 1 mile.

Encl.


 ARMAMENT SUPPLY OFFICER.

SCORCHED EARTH DENIAL PLAN

R.A.N. ARMAMENT DEPOTS,
S I D H S I.
April, 1943.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN AT VARIOUS STAGES OF READINESS.

PRIORITY OF OBJECTIVE ITEMS	TREATMENT METHOD OF DESTRUCTION	NO. & NAMES OF SQUAD	ASSISTANCE REQUIRED DEMOLITION SQUAD TRUCKS TUGS ETC.	STAGES 2 3 4 COMPLETE DENIAL.
SPECTACLE ISLAND.				
Stage 2.				
(1) All C.B.'s and S.P.'s not required in ensuing four days.	To be returned to the C.B.O., N.B., H.Q.	Under the general orders of the Armament Supply Officer and other members of the directing staff, the operations are to be affected by the following squads:-	Personnel:- No assistance in the matter of personnel will be required if Depot staff is available when wanted. If no Depot staff is on hand, it is anticipated that about 100 ratings, together with the necessary Leading Hands, will suffice.	
(2) All portable or vital secret equipment not required in ensuing four days.	To be removed to a safe area for destruction if finally found necessary.			
(3) If practicable remove guns, certain component parts of guns, machine guns, gun barrels, depth charge pistols, gauges, etc. to a selected area in readiness of quick disposal.	To be transferred to lighters from which the gear could either be thrown over-board at the appropriate time or the craft scuttled.	Removal Squad (Item 3) Under the supervision of the Foreman of Stores this work is to be carried out by 4 Storehouses or Assistant Storehouses men and 100 Assistants (Armanent), together with Depot Motor Boat Drivers.		
(4) Stores and Plans (shown in parenthesis) to be subjected to mutilation prior to the demolition of the following buildings, etc. viz:-	Mutilate by hand tools (sledge hammers, chisels, etc.) or destroy by 1 1/2 lb. T.M.T. demolition charges.		Floating Craft:- A derrick punt (e.g. "HAWK") will be needed for lifting heavy gun bodies from Depot gun pounds into lighters prior to the scuttling of latter (see item 3).	
(a) Gun Pounds (gun bodies)				
(b) Gun Fitting Store (small gun bodies and breech mechanisms, etc.)				
(c) Gun Shed (gun bodies and fittings)				
(d) Armanent Artificers' Workshop (Machinery)				
(e) Coppermith's Shop (-do-)				
(f) Joiners Workshop (-do-)				
(g) Forge Shed (Forge)				
(h) Small Cranes on Wharves				
(5) Ordnance Store and adjacent buildings to be demolished:-	2-No. depth charges (to be fitted as described in C.A.F.O. 1147/41) to be suitably placed in this block of buildings.	Mutilation and Landing Squad (Items 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100)		
(a) Ordnance Store (gun parts, etc.)				
(b) Gun Shed (see above)				
(c) A.I.'s Workshop (see above)				
(d) Old Group III No. 1 Magazine (gun parts, side arms, etc.)				
(e) Dockyard Store (Naval stores)				
(f) Produce Store (old metal)				
(g) Miscellaneous Store (old Q&F. cartridge cases, etc.)				
(h) Stationery & Records Room.				
(i) Drawings Room.				
To be demolished:-				
(6) Gun Fitting Store (see above)	Demolish - 1 Depth charge			
(7) Depth Charge Pistol Rooms (see above)	- do. - unless Pistols have been removed when building should be destroyed by fire.			

SCORCHED EARTH DENIAL PLAN

R.A.N.A

ACTION TO BE TAKEN AT VARIOUS STAGES OF READINESS.

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PRIORITY OF OBJECTIVE ITEMS	TREATMENT METHOD OF DESTRUCTION	NO. & NAMES OF SQUAD	ASSISTANCE REQUIRED DEMOLITION SQUAD TRUCKS TUGS ETC.	2
<u>SPECTACLE ISLAND (Contd.)</u>				
<u>Stage 2 (Contd.)</u>				
To be demolished :-				
(18) Paint Shop	Destroy by fire			
(19) Painting Room	- do. -			
(20) Benzine Store	- do. -			
(21) Boat Shed	- do. -			
(22) Main Office (4 buildings)	- do. -			
(23) N.O.I.O.'s office (1 block including Electrical Shop)	- do. -			
(24) Foremen's Offices (3 rooms)	- do. -			
(25) Storehousemen's office	- do. -	See		
(26) Police office	- do. -			
(27) Mess Room	- do. -	previous		
(28) M.B. Drivers Quarters	- do. -			
(29) First Aid Room	- do. -	pages.		
(30) Depot Shifting Room	- do. -			
(31) 4-No. Wharves	- do. -			
(32) 20-ton hand crane on No. 1 Wharf	Demolish by 1-No. 25-lb. Demolition charge.			
<u>Rolling Stock :-</u>				
(33) 18 - 4-wheeled trucks	Dump in deep water.			
18 - 2-wheeled barrows	- do. -			
<u>Floating Craft :-</u>				
(34) Motor Boats	Burn and scuttle (by use of 25-lb. demolition charges where necessary)			
(35) Ammunition Lighters				
(36) Small boats.				
(37) Salt water pump	Destroy by mutilation (see under item 4)			
(38) Fresh water supply	Turn off water on mainland and destroy all hydrants, hoses, etc. (see item 4)			
(39) Other fire fighting appliances such as Portable motor pumps, fire extinguishers, fire buckets, fire ladders and axes.	Dump in deep water.			
(40) Electrical power	Turn off power.			
(41) Petrol, Kerosene etc. required to supplement existing stocks to be requisitioned from N.S.O.				
(42) Obtain from Newington all explosives necessary for demolition work - and prepare for fitting.				
<u>Stage 3.</u>				
(43) Evacuate all female staff.				
(44) Place all office files, documents, etc. in a position to accelerate destruction by fire.				
(45) Place all inflammable material in a position that will accelerate destruction by fire of vital equipment, etc.				

SCORCHED EARTH DENIAL PLAN

ACTION TO BE TAKEN AT VARIOUS STAGES OF READINESS.

R.A.N. ARMANE

PRIORITY OF OBJECTIVE ITEMS	TREATMENT METHOD OF DESTRUCTION	NO. & NAMES OF SQUAD	ASSISTANCE REQUIRED DEMOLITION SQUAD TRUCKS TUGS ETC.	Apri 2
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SPECTACLE ISLAND (Contd.)
Stage 3 (Contd.)

- (46) Have all inflammable liquids such as petrol, kerosene, oil, etc. mustered in positions readily accessible to fire squads.
- (47) Evacuate all male personnel not considered necessary to assist in destruction prior to arrival of fire and demolition squads - except those engaged on essential urgent work.
- (48) Return all remaining C.B.'s and S.P.'s to C.B.O.
- (49) Muster all tools necessary for destruction of equipment, etc.
- (50) Have all explosives and necessary fittings required for demolition purposes placed in suitable positions and made ready for firing.
- (51) Sentries to be stationed at each building in which a demolition charge has been placed.

Stage 4

- (52) Review all preparations with the object of effecting complete denial within one hour.
- (53) Open all doors, windows, skylights, cupboards, lockers, etc.
- (54) All staff to stand by for immediate action.
- (55) Turn off all water (see item 58)
- (56) Turn off electric power (see item 40)

COMPLETE DENIAL.
DESTROY ALL EQUIPMENT BY METHODS PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED.

D E T A C H E D

15 inch gun booms

2 stores at admiralty
house

6 stores at Clark Is.

1 - - - Snapper Is.

10 be unblasted.

1-lb 25 lb demolition
charge to be placed
in each gun.

PRIORITY OF OBJECTIVE ITEMS	TREATMENT METHOD OF DESTRUCTION.	NO. & NAMES OF SQUAD.	ASSISTANCE REQUIRED DEMOLITION SQUAD TRUCKS TUGS ETC.
NEWINGTON -			
- Stage 2 -			
(1) All C.B.'s and S.P.'s (including confidential Admiralty and D.O.T.M. drawings not required in ensuing 4 days.	To be returned to Spectacle Island.	Under the general direction of the Armament Supply Officer and other members of the Directing Staff the operations are to be effected by the following squad:-	Personnel - No assistance as regards personnel will be required if Depot staff is available if and when wanted. If Depot staff is not on hand it is anticipated that about 70 ratings, together with the necessary Leading Hands will suffice.
(2) All portable or vital secret equipment not required in ensuing 4 days	To be removed to a safe area for destruction if found necessary.	Removal Squad - (item 5) Under the supervision of the Foreman of Stores this work is to be carried out by 3 Storehousemen or Assistant Storehouse-	Floating Craft - A tug will be required on 2nd, 3rd and 4th days of stage 2 to tow ammunition lighters from Newington to Spectacle Island where they would remain until time of dumping and/or scuttling in reasonably deep water. Only one tug would be required for both Newington and Homebush (see also remarks on Homebush plans)
(5) If practicable remove gauges and certain types of ammunition such as fuses, tubes, detonators and primers to a selected area in readiness of quick disposal	To be placed in lighters from which the stores could either be thrown overboard at the appropriate time or the craft scuttled.	(Armament) Mutilation and Dumping Squad - (Items 4, 69-72, 81-82, 82) Under the supervision of the Foreman of Stores the mutilation of stores and plant is to be performed by 2 Storehousemen or Assistant Storehouse-	Land Transport - The lorries available should prove sufficient to meet the needs within the Depot. If, however, it is desired to transfer any of the explosives inland it will be necessary to requisition a fleet of lorries from an outside source.
(4) Stores and Plant (shown in parenthesis) to be subjected to mutilation prior to the demolition of the following buildings, etc. viz.	To be mutilated by the use of sledge hammers, etc. and in the case of the electric cranes (item K) the motors should be destroyed by means of 1½ lb. T.N.T. demolition charges.	Assistants (Armament) Demolition Squad - (Items 4-68, 76, 77, 85, 87-89, 92, 96) All demolition work by explosives fire and scuttling is to be implemented by the Laboratory and/or Inspection personnel, the squad being under the orders of either the Laboratory Foreman or the Foreman Examiner. A total of about 3 Laboratorymen (or Assistant Laboratorymen) and 50 Assistants (Armament) will be required.	
(a) Shell Extracting Room (machines)			
(b) Shell Indenting Room (machines)			
(c) Shell Scraping Room (Scraping machine & electric motor)			
(d) S.A.A. Laboratory Room (vacuum testing machine)			
(e) Main Proof House (machines)			
(f) Heat Test Room (electrical apparatus)			
(g) D.A. Fuse Proof Hut (testing apparatus)			
(h) Empty Package Store No. 1 (sprinkler system)			
(i) Garage for Electromobiles (Electrical charging plant)			
(j) Shifting Room block (Heating apparatus)			
(k) Electric cranes on wharf.			
Explosive Buildings, etc. to be demolished :-			
(5) B.L. Magazine No. 1	1-No. Depth charge to be placed in suitable position in each building.		
(6) " " " "			
(7) " " " "			
(8) " " " "			
(9) Q.F. Cartridge Store No. 1	4-No. Depth charges - 1 in each bay.		
(10) " " " "	2 Depth Charges - 1 in each section.		
(11) " " " "	1-No. Depth charge		
(12) " " " "	2 Depth charges to be suitably placed.		
(15) Chemical ammunition store, Group XIII	1-25 lb. Demolition charge.		
(14a) Target Smoke Store, Group XII	- do. -		
(15) Incendiary ammunition, Group XI	- do. -		
(16) Shell Store No. 1			
(17) " " " "	2 Depth charges to be suitably placed in each store.		
(18) " " " "			
(19) " " " "			
(20) Warhead, Bombs, D.C. Store No. 1	2 Depth charges - 1 in each section.		
(21) Gunpowder Magazine	1-25 lb. Demolition charge		
(22) Wet G.C. Magazine	- do. -		
(23) Dry G.C. Magazine	- do. -		
(24) Tube Store (see item 5)	- do. -		
(25) Fuse Store (do. -)	1 D.C. to be placed in centre of floor.		
(26) Warhead, Bomb and D.C. Store No. 2	- do. -		
(27) Pyrotechnic Store	1-25 lb. Demolition charge.		
(28) Detonator Store	1-1½ lb. T.N.T. Demolition charge.		
(29) Smoke Float Store			
(30) Isolation Magazine	Destroy by fire.		
(31) Return Store			
(32) Shell Extracting Room			
(33) Shell Indenting Room			
		Total civilian personnel required for the three squads:- 2 Foremen 5 Storehousemen or Laboratorymen or Assistant Storehousemen or Laboratorymen. 50 Assistants (Armament)	Note - The work shown under item 5 is to be carried out during stage 2 period (i.e. in four days)

SCORCHED EARTH DENIAL PLAN.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN AT VARIOUS STAGES OF READINESS

PRIORITY OF OBJECTIVE ITEMS	TREATMENT METHOD OF DESTRUCTION.	NO. & NAMES OF SQUAD.	ASSISTANCE REQUIRED DEMOLITION SQUAD TRUCKS TUGS ETC.
<u>NEWINGTON</u>			
<u>Stage 2 (contd.)</u>			
<u>Explosive Buildings to be demolished</u> (Contd.)			
(34) Packages and components room	Destroy		
(35) Q.F. cartridge Laboratory (3 rooms)			
(36) - do. - -do.- Tool Room.			
(37) Shell marking Room.	by	See	See
(38) Shell Scraping room			
(39) Warhead Examining Room			
(40) Shell Examining Room No. A.	fire.	previous	previous
(41) - do. - -do. - B			
(42) - do. - -do. - C.			
(43) S.A.A. Laboratory (2 rooms)	previous	previous	previous
(44) B.L. Laboratory etc.(6 rooms)			
(45) - do. - Ready Use Store.			
(46) Main Proof House (2 rooms)	pages		pages
(47) Heat Test room.			
(48) Colour Test room			
(49) D.A. Fuse Proof Hut			
<u>Non-Explosive Buildings to be demolished:-</u>			
(50) Miscellaneous Magazine Store	1 Depth charge to be placed in centre of floor.		
(51) Empty package Store No.1.	Destroy		
(52) Dockyard, Paint & Oil Stores (3)			
(53) Bonsine Store.			
(54) Electrical Workshop	by		
(55) Garage for Electromobiles.			
(56) Main office of 4 rooms			
(57) Wharf office	fire.		
(58) Storehouseman's office 'D'			
(59) - do. - 'E'			
(60) - do. - 'F'			
(61) Police office (3 rooms)			
(62) Main Shifting Room block (7 rooms)			
(63) Main Mess Rooms (6 rooms)	Destroy by fire.		
(64) Residence of officer in charge			
(65) - do. - Foreman.			
(66) - do. - 2 Police			
(67) - do. - 2 Police			
(68) 1 Wharf			
<u>Rolling Stock :-</u>			
(69) 4 Electromobiles.	Dump in deep water.		
(70) Various cartridge trucks.			
(71) Various Shell trucks.			
(72) 1-1 ton Fordson Mobile Crane	Dispose of to best advantage.		
(73) 2- 5 ton Diesel Motor lorries			
(74) 1-10 H.P. Motor car.			
(75) 1 Dray.			
<u>Floating craft.</u>			
(76) Small open motor boat	Burn and scuttle.		
(77) Skiff	- do. -		
<u>Live Stock :</u>			
(78) 1 cart horse	Dispose of to best advantage.		
(79) 2 Police horses			
(80) - Sheep			
(81) <u>Fresh Water supply</u>	Turn off water (near main entrance) and destroy all hydrants, boxes, etc. (vide item 4)		
(82) Other fire fighting appliances such as fire extinguishers, fire and sand buckets, fire ladders and axes.	Dump in deep water		
(83) <u>Electric power</u>	Turn off power.		
(84) Petrol, kerosene etc. required to supplement existing stocks to be obtained from Spectacle Island.			
(85) Obtain from Store all explosives necessary for demolition work - and prepare for fitting.			

SCORCHED EARTH DENIAL PLAN.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN AT VARIOUS STAGES OF READINESS

PRIORITY OF OBJECTIVE ITEMS	TREATMENT METHOD OF DESTRUCTION.	NO. & NAMES OF SQUAD.	ASSISTANCE REQUIRED DEMOLITION SQUAD TRUCKS TUGS ETC.
<u>NEWINGTON. -</u>			
<u>Stage 3.</u>			
(86) Evacuate all female staff (including residents)			
(87) Place all office files, documents, etc. in a position to accelerate destruction by fire.			
(88) Place all inflammable material in a position that will accelerate destruction by fire of vital equipment, etc.			
(89) Have all inflammable liquids such as petrol, kerosene, oil, etc. mustered in positions readily accessible to fire squads.		See	See
(90) Evacuate all male personnel not considered necessary to assist in destruction prior to arrival of fire and demolition squads, except those engaged on essential urgent work.		previous	previous
(91) Return all remaining confidential documents etc. to Spectacle Island.			
(92) Muster all tools necessary for destruction of equipment, etc.		pages	pages
(93) Have all explosives and necessary fittings required for demolition purposes placed in suitable positions and made ready for firing.			
(94) Sentries to be stationed at each (unlocked) building in which a demolition charge has been placed.			
<u>Stage 4 -</u>			
(95) Review all preparations with the object of effecting complete denial within <u>one</u> <u>hour</u>			
(96) Open all doors, windows, skylights, cupboards, lockers, etc.			
(97) All staff to stand by for immediate action.			
(98) Turn off all water (see item 81)			
(99) Turn off all electric power (see item 83)			
<u>COMPLETE DENIAL</u>			
(100) Destroy all equipment by means previously arranged.			

PRIORITY OF OBJECTIVE ITEMS	TREATMENT METHOD OF DESTRUCTION	NO. & NAMES OF SQUAD	ASSISTANCE REQUIRED DEMOLITION SQUAD TRUCKS TUGS ETC.
<u>HOMEBUSH</u>			
<u>Stage 2</u>			
(1) All confidential correspondence, drawings, etc. not required in ensuing 4 days	To be returned to Spectacle Island.	Under the general direction of the Armament Supply Officer and other members of the Directing Staff, the operations are to be effected by the following Squads :-	<u>Personnel -</u> No assistance as regards personnel will be required if Depot staff is available if and when required. If, however, no Depot staff is on hand, it is anticipated that about 50 ratings together with the necessary Land Hands, will suffice.
(2) All portable or vital secret equipment not required in ensuing 4 days	To be removed to a safe area for destruction if finally found necessary.		
(5) If practicable remove gauges, and certain types of ammunition e.g. fuses, tubes, detonators and primers to a selected area in readiness of quick disposal.	To be placed in lighters from which the stores could either be thrown overboard at the appointed time or the craft scuttled.		
(4) Stores and Plant (shown in parenthesis) to be subjected to mutilation prior to the demolition of the following buildings, etc. viz. :- <u>No. 1 Yard -</u> (a) Laboratory Rooms (machines and gauges etc. not possible to remove (see item 3)) (b) W.B. Pumping Station (Pump) (c) Electrical power station (2 transformers, switching gear etc.) <u>No. 2 Yard -</u> (d) Laboratory Rooms (machines, gauges, etc. not possible to remove (see item 3)) (e) Abattoirs Pumping Station (Pump) (f) Electrical power sub-station (transformers switching gear, etc.) <u>Nos. 1 and 2 Yards</u> (g) 5-No. electric cranes (2-Wharf and 1 in No. 1 yard)	To be mutilated by use of sledge hammers chisels, etc. except that the method of destroying items (c) and (f) will depend on whether or not the 'demolition by explosives' of buildings etc. will be by means of Depot electrical power or by safety fuse. The motors of the three cranes (item g) are to be destroyed by use of 1 1/2 lb. T.N.T. demolition blocks.	<u>Removal Squad</u> (see item 5) Under the supervision of the Foreman of Stores (or his deputy) this work will be carried out by two Storehousemen or Assistant Storehousemen and 30 Assistants (Armament)	<u>Floating Craft -</u> A tug will be required on 2nd, 3rd and 4th days of stage 2 to tow ammunition lighters from Homebush to Spectacle Island where they would remain until time of dumping and/or scuttling in reasonably deep water. Only one tug would be required for both Newington and Homebush (see also remarks on Newington plan)
		<u>Mutilation and Dumping Squad</u> (see items 4, 69-71) Under the supervision of the Foreman of Stores (or his deputy) the mutilation of Stores and Plant is to be performed by two Storehousemen or Assistant Storehousemen and about 10 Assistants (Armament)	<u>Land Transport</u> Depot lorries (at Newington should prove adequate for local needs. If, however, it is desired to transfer any of the explosives inland it will certainly be necessary to requisition a fleet of lorries from an outside source.
<u>Buildings to be demolished -</u> <u>No. 1 Yard -</u> <u>Explosive Store :-</u> (5) No. 1 Upper Lower (6) No. 2 Upper Lower (7) No. 3 Upper Lower (8) No. 4 Upper Lower (9) No. 5 Upper Lower <u>Miscellaneous Explosive Store :-</u> (10) No. 1 (11) 1 a (12) 2 (13) 2 a (14) 3 (15) 3 a (16) 4 (17) 5 (18) 5 a (19) 6 (20) 6 a (21) 7 (22) 7 a (23) 8		1 D.C. to be placed in each of 2 Kilns on bottom floor. - do. - - do. - - do. - - do. - - do. - 7 - 25-lb demolition charges will be required for this group of structures, i.e. 1 for each compartment. 7-No. 25-lb. demolition charges - i.e. one for each compartment.	<u>Demolition Squad</u> (see items 4-68) All demolition work by explosives, fire and scuttling is to be implemented by the Laboratory and Inspection personnel the squad being under the orders of either the Foreman of Laboratory or Foreman Examiner (or their deputy) This squad should consist of about 2 Laboratorymen or Assistant Laboratorymen and 30 Assistants (Armt.) Total civilian personnel required:- 2 Foremen (or their deputies) 4 Storehousemen or Laboratorymen (or their assistants) 40 Assistants (Armament) <u>Note -</u> The work shown under item 5 is to be carried out during stage 2 period, i.e. in 4 days.

SCORCHED EARTH DENIAL PLAN
ACTION TO BE TAKEN AT VARIOUS STAGES OF READINESS.

PRIORITY OF OBJECTIVE ITEMS	TREATMENT METHOD OF DESTRUCTION	NO. & NAMES OF SQUAD	ASSISTANCE REQUIRED DEMOLITION SQUAD TRUCKS TUGS ETC.
<u>HOMEBUSH -</u>			
<u>No. 1 Yard - Stage 2 (Contd.)</u>			
Miscellaneous Explosive Store :-			
(24) No. 9	7-No. 25-lb. demolition charges - one per compartment.		
(25) 9 a			
(26) 10			
(27) 10 a			
(28) 11			
(29) 11 a			
(30) 12			
(31) Pyrotechnic Store (21' x 18')	1-No. 25-lb. demolition charge.		
(32) Detonator Store No. 1	1 - 1 1/2 lb. T.N.T. demolition charge.		
(33) 2	1 - do. - do. -		
(34) Engineers shop, boiler house, etc.	Will in all probability be destroyed with demolition of items 5 - 9.	See	See
(35) Machine Shed	- do. - do. -		
(36) Miscellaneous Sheds 1 to 6 (galvanised iron)		previous	previous
(37) Dockyard Store (42' x 58')	Destroy by fire.		
(38) Locomotive Shed (44' x 12')			
(39) Cottages Nos. 1 & 2 (Mess Room)		pages	
(40) Main Office			
(41) Main Annex			
(42) Lavatory Block			pages.
(43) Water Board Pumping Station.	- 1-25 lb demolition charge		
(44) Electrical Power Station	Cannot be given at this stage for reasons stated under item 4.		
<u>No. 2 Yard -</u>			
Explosive Store :-			
(45) No. 6 Upper	1 D.C. to be placed in each of two Kilns on bottom floor.		
(46) Lower			
(47) 7 Upper			
(48) Lower	- do. - do. -		
(49) 8 Upper	- do. - do. -		
(50) Lower			
(48) Shell Store (3 sided)	1 D.C. to be suitably placed.		
Miscellaneous Explosive Stores :-			
(49) No. 13	7-No. 25-lb. Demolition charges will be needed, i.e. one charge for each compartment.		
(50) 13 a			
(51) 14			
(52) 14 a			
(53) 15			
(54) 15a			
(55) 16			
(56) Office (28' x 20')	Destroy by fire.		
(57) Timber Store			
(58) Lavatory Block	Will in all probability be demolished with explosive Store No. 6.		
(59) Electrical power sub-station	Decision to be deferred for reasons given under item 4.		
(60) Abbatoirs Pumping station	1-25 lb. demolition charge.		
(61) Wharf (150 feet in length)	Destroy by fire.		
<u>GENERAL</u>			
<u>Rolling Stock -</u>			
(62) 2-No. Petrol locomotives	Demolish by explosives - Truck and Pump to be left outside Explosive Stores and Barrows etc. to be placed inside Storehouses.		
(63) 25 Shell Trucks			
(64) 40 Cartridge trucks			
(65) Various hand barrows			
(66) Various stacking machines			
(67) Trailer pump			
(68) 1-Electric 2-ton jib crane in No. 1 yard.	To be demolished by T.N.T. charge, vide item 4.		
<u>Floating Craft -</u>			
(69) Small boats	Burn and scuttle.		

SCORCHED EARTH DENIAL PLAN
ACTION TO BE TAKEN AT VARIOUS STAGES OF READINESS.

R.A.F

PRIORITY OF OBJECTIVE ITEMS	TREATMENT METHOD OF DESTRUCTION	NO. & NAMES OF SQUAD	ASSISTANCE REQUIRED DEMOLITION SQUAD TRUCKS TUGS ETC.
<u>HOMEBUSH</u>			
Stage 2 (Contd.)			
<u>Fire Fighting appliances -</u>			
(70) Fire hydrants, ladders, axes, etc.	Mutilate and/or dump in deep water.		
(71) Fire hoses, extinguishers and buckets.			
(72) <u>Fresh water supply</u>	Turn off water.		
(73) Petrol, kerosene etc. required to supplement existing stocks to be obtained from Spectacle Island.			
(74) Obtain from Store all explosives necessary for the demolition work - and prepare for fitting.			
<u>Stage 3</u>			
(75) Evacuate female staff (if any) including residents.			
(76) Place all office files, documents etc. in a position to accelerate destruction by fire.			
(77) Place all inflammable material in a position that will accelerate destruction by fire of vital equipment, etc.			
(78) Have all inflammable liquids such as petrol, oil, etc. mustered in positions readily accessible to fire squads.			
(79) Evacuate all male personnel not considered necessary to assist in destruction prior to arrival of fire and demolition squads, except those engaged on essential urgent work.			
(80) Return all remaining confidential documents etc. to Spectacle Island.			
(81) Muster all tools necessary for destruction of equipment, etc.			
(82) Have all explosives and necessary fittings required for demolition purposes placed in suitable positions and made ready for firing.			
(83) Sentries to be stationed at each unlocked building in which a demolition charge has been placed.			
<u>Stage 4</u>			
(84) Review all preparations with the object of effecting complete denial within <u>one hour</u> .			
(85) Open all doors, windows, skylights, cupboards, lockers, etc.			
(86) All staff to stand by for immediate action.			
(87) Turn off all water (see item 72)			
<u>COMPLETE DENIAL</u>			
(88) DESTROY ALL EQUIPMENT BY MEANS PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED.			

ACTION TO BE TAKEN AT VARIOUS STAGES OF READINESS.

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PRIORITY OF OBJECTIVE ITEMS	TREATMENT METHOD OF DESTRUCTION	NO. & NAMES OF SQUAD	ASSISTANCE REQUIRED DEMOLITION SQUAD TRUCKS TUGS ETC.
SPECTACLE ISLAND:			
Stage 2.			
(1) All U.B.'s and S.P.'s not required in ensuing four days.	To be returned to the C.B.O., N.B., H.Q.	Under the general orders of the Armament Supply Officer and other members of the directing staff, the operations are to be effected by the following squads:-	Personnel - No assistance in the matter of personnel will be required if Depot staff is available when wanted. If no Depot staff is on hand, it is anticipated that about 100 ratings, together with the necessary Leading Hands, will suffice.
(2) All portable or vital secret equipment not required in ensuing four days.	To be removed to a safe area for destruction if finally found necessary.	Removal Squad (Item 5) Under the supervision of the Foreman of Stores this work is to be carried out by 4 Storehousemen or Assistant Storehousemen and 100 Assistants (Armament), together with Depot Motor Boat Drivers.	Floating Craft - A derrick punt (e.g. "HAWK") will be needed for lifting heavy gun bodies from Depot gun pounds into lighters prior to the scuttling of latter (see Item 5).
(3) If practicable remove guns, certain component parts of guns, machine guns, gun barrels, depth charge pistols, gages, etc. to a selected area in readiness of quick disposal.	To be transferred to lighters from which the gear could either be thrown over-board at the appropriate time or the craft scuttled.	Mutilation and Dumping Squad (Items 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100) Under the supervision of the F. of S., the mutilation of stores and plant is to be performed by 10 Artisans (Armament) Artificers, Joiners, (etc.) assisted by 20 Assistants (Armament)	If derrick punt is unavailable, endeavour will be made to mutilate gun bodies by using demolition charges (see item 4). Depot Motor boats should easily be capable of towing Depot lighters to midstream for scuttling purposes.
(4) Stores and Plant (shown in parenthesis) to be subjected to mutilation prior to the demolition of the following buildings, etc. viz:- (a) Gun Pounds (gun bodies) (b) Gun Fitting Store (small gun bodies and breech mechanisms, etc.) (c) Gun Shed (gun bodies and fittings) (d) Armament Artificers' Workshop (Machinery) (e) Copper Smith's Shop (-do.-) (f) Joiners Workshop (-do.-) (g) Forge Shed (Forge) (h) Small Cranes on Wharves	Mutilate by hand tools (sledge hammers, chisels, etc.) or destroy by 1 1/2 lb. T.N.T. demolition charges.		Land Transport - It is expected that the lorries attached to Newington Magazine Depot will meet all requirements.
(5) <u>Ordnance Store and adjacent buildings to be demolished, i.e.:-</u> (a) Ordnance Store (gun parts, etc.) (see above) (b) Gun Shed (see above) (c) A.A.'s Workshop (see above) (d) Old Group III No. 1 Magazine (gun parts, side arms, etc.) (e) Dockyard Store ('Naval' stores) (f) Produce Store (old metal) (g) Miscellaneous Store (old Q.F. cartridge cases, etc.) (h) Stationery & Records Room. (i) Drawings Room.	2-No. depth charges (to be fitted as described in C.A.F.O. 1147/41) to be suitably placed in this block of buildings.	Demolition Squad (Items 4, 5 to 52, 54 to 56, 44 to 46, 50, 55.) All demolition work by explosives, fire and scuttling is to be implemented by the Laboratory and/or Inspection personnel, the squad being under the orders of either the Foreman of Laboratory or the Foreman Examiner - a total of about 2 Laboratorymen or Asst. Laboratorymen and 20 Assistants (Armament) will be required. Total civilian personnel required for the three squads:- Foremen..... 2 Storehousemen etc... 8 1/2 Artisans..... 10 M.B. Drivers..... 4 Assistants (Armt.)..... 100	
To be demolished:- (6) Gun Fitting Store (see above)	Demolish - 1 Depth charge		
(7) Depth Charge Pistol Rooms (see above)	- do. - unless Pistols have been removed when building should be destroyed by fire.		
(8) Anti-gas apparatus Store (Respirators & Parts)	Demolish - 1 25-lb. Demolition charge.		
(9) Old group III No. 2 Magazine (misc. packages - empty)	Demolish with D.C. unless stored with inflammable items when destroy by fire.		
(10) Empty case store	- do. -		
(11) Empty wooden package store	Destroy by fire.		
(12) 5-No. old Small Arm Ammunition stores (miscellaneous stores)	- do. -		
(13) Rigging Shed (Rope slings, etc.)	- do. -		
(14) Old Isolation Store (miscellaneous)	- do. -		
(15) 8-No. old Laboratory Rooms (miscellaneous stores)	- do. -		
(16) Return Store	- do. -		
(17) 2 Paint Stores	- do. -		

S.O.168/1/300

10 November, 1942.

Rear-Admiral-in-Charge,

SYDNEY.

SCORCHED EARTH POLICY -
SYDNEY NAVAL ARMAMENT DEPOTS.

Submitted -

In accordance with the instructions contained in your secret memorandum No. B.S.202/38/204 dated 17th September, 1942, detailed proposals are being formulated in respect of the denial of resources to the enemy insofar as the Sydney Naval Armament Establishments are concerned.

2. As the materials maintained at these Depots would undoubtedly prove of value to the enemy, it would be essential for all Naval Armament stores either to be removed to safety or destroyed.

3. In view of the formidable obstacles which would be met in any attempt made to remove the large stocks of stores, particularly explosives, the main difficulties likely to be experienced being:-

- (a) insufficient time in which to remove stores
- (b) inadequate rail and/or road facilities
- (c) lack of suitable storage accommodation in inland areas
- (d) lack of sea transport (probably nil available)

it would, in all probability, be found necessary to destroy much if not all of the ammunition in store. In respect of the guns, gun parts, small arm gear and other non-explosive Naval Armament stores it might be found practicable to take away the more valuable equipment to selected positions but the bulk of this material would in all likelihood have to be subjected to destruction.

4. As it appears to be a matter for conjecture as to the proportion of Naval Armament equipment which it might or might not be possible to save in the event of denial having to be implemented, it is considered that, for all practical purposes, the organization to be worked to should be based on the assumption that all of the stores, including ammunition, at the several Naval Armament Establishments are to be disposed of either by drowning or demolished by fire or explosives.

5. The chances of removing the whole of the contents from any one explosive store or magazine, appear to be so remote that it is proposed to include all such buildings under the category of "total destruction" and appended hereto are three lists giving constructional particulars of the buildings to be dealt with, together with the nature of their contents and proposed method of destruction.

- Contd. -

S Y D N E Y.

6. Whilst it is considered quite probable that the majority of the buildings at Spectacle Island could be destroyed as a result of the force of the blast from Nos. 1 and 2 Cordite Magazines, proposals for the separate destruction of each building and facility in the Depot have been made on the supposition that the effect of the demolition of the magazines would be of a local character and not of a widespread nature.

7. The remarks contained in the preceding paragraph are more or less applicable to Hornbush Magazine Depot where the Explosive Storehouses in the two yards are situated side by side. In this case also it is considered advisable to arrange for an explosive charge to be allocated to each Store.

8. In respect of Norington, which consists of an area of over 500 acres as compared with 6 acres at Spectacle Island and about 12 acres at Hornbush, the magazines and explosive Stores are widely separated and it will thus be necessary for each structure to be dealt with separately.

9. In addition to the R.N. and R.A.N. stocks maintained at Norington there are, or will be in the near future, a total of 16 Armo Shelters containing ammunition, the property of the United States Navy, but in view of the remarks at item 7 in the enclosure to your memorandum, these buildings and their contents have not been included in the general scheme. Arrangements will, however, be made for their inclusion should it be desired.

10. A considerable amount of organization and work will be involved in providing and preparing the requisite material to ensure the effectiveness of the scheme and before any steps are taken to formulate a definite and detailed plan in this direction, it is recommended that an officer experienced in demolition work be detailed to assist in the drawing up of a suitable plan and to advise as to the nature and quantity of explosive which should be used in respect of each building and the particular means of firing the charges.

11. As regards the staff required to put the plan into operation, no trouble is anticipated in obtaining suitable personnel for this purpose from the Depot staff.

Encl.


ATTACHMENT SUPPLY OFFICER

SCORCHED EARTH POLICY.STATEMENT SHOWING BUILDINGS, ETC. AT THE SYDNEY NAVAL ARMAMENT
DEPOTS AND THE SUGGESTED METHODS OF THEIR DESTRUCTION.

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING, ETC.	PARTICULARS OF CONSTRUCTION	NATURE OF CONTENTS	PROPOSED METHOD OF DESTRUCTION.
<u>BUILDINGS AND STORES</u>				
<u>MAGAZINES, ETC.</u>				
1	No. 1 Group III Magazine	Three Bays, each 48' x 24'. Stone walls and asphalt floors. Fitted with overhead travellers. Ceiling and walls contain silicate of cotton.	Cordite cartridges (B.L.) not containing their own means of ignition.	As complete destruction by fire may prove doubtful, contents of buildings should be demolished by suitable demolition charges.
2	No. 2 Group III Magazine	Brick building 132' x 39' with asphalt floor. Ceiling and walls contain silicate of cotton	Cordite cartridges (B.L.) not containing their own means of ignition, and bulk cordite.	
3	S.A.A. Store No. 1	35' x 35' Stone building with concrete floor.	Small Art ammunition	Demolish by explosives.
4	S.A.A. Store No. 2	33' x 25' Brick building with asphalt floor.	Small Art ammunition	
5	S.A.A. Store No. 3	20' x 18' Brick building with asphalt floor	Small Art ammunition	Demolition.
6	Isolation Store	30' x 25' Brick building with asphalt floor	Small quantities of miscellaneous explosives.	Demolition but not important.
				- Contd. -