

RECEIVED DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
30-JUN-42PM  
CENTRAL REGISTRY

MINUTE PAPER.

ARMY  
652-702-159

SUBJECT: AIR RAIDS AND SHELLING OF AUSTRALIAN CITIES AND TOWNS.

D.C. Public Relations

With reference to your minute 0718 of 22 June June 42 in connection with censorship instructions on the subject of Air Raids and shelling of Australian Cities and Towns, I wish to comment as under :-

1. I am in accord with your suggestion that there should be no mention of unexploded bombs and their treatment.
2. No mention should be made regarding water failure in fire fighting.

*L. W. Bailey*  
 Lieutenant-General.  
 Chief of the General Staff.

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 Ind...  
 for 42

(F.M. FORDE)

3 JUL 1942  
P.P.R

2 JUL 1942

D.P.R.  
2-7-42

57/702/159

3rd July, 1942.

Chief Publicity Censor,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

With reference to GPC/4561 of 8th June, 1942,  
it is the desire of the Chief of the General Staff that no  
mention should be made of

- (a) unexploded bombs and their treatment;
- (b) water failure in fire fighting.

*By* *Errol G. Knox*

Director General of Public Relations.

*DGPR*  
*5-8-42*

C. G. S.

C.G.S.M.I.  
5  
4 - JUL 1942  
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*a.j.m.*  
*6/7*

*J.P.R.*  
P.A.  
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*7/9/42*

P.A.  
DGPR.  
13/8/42

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*14/8/42*

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

DP/EGK/EB.

MINUTE PAPER

QUOTE: 0718

6876.

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G 52-702-	159

SUBJECT: AIR RAIDS OR SHELLING OF AUSTRALIAN CITIES OR TOWNS

C.G.S.

1. The attached tentative instructions have been sent to State Publicity Censor for the Chief Publicity Censor, in connection with Air Raids or Shelling of Australian cities or towns. The only addition I can suggest, and this has been issued as a separate instruction, is that there should be no mention of unexploded bombs or shells.
2. May I have any comments you wish to make for transmission to the Chief Publicity Censor.

*Earl G. Knox*

Director-General Public Relations.

22 June, 1942.

115  
27/6  
26/6

CANBERRA,  
June 8th, 1942.

CPA/4561

G 52-702-159

State Publicity Censor - Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide  
District " " - Perth, Hobart  
Sub-District " " - Launceston, Newcastle  
Publicity Censor - Townsville

TENTATIVE - FOR CENSORS ONLY.

AIR RAIDS OR OTHER ATTACKS ON AUSTRALIAN  
CITIES.

POINTS TO WATCH.

In the event of an air raid or other attack on an Australian city or town, the following Censorship Instructions will apply:-

Some of these Instructions already appear in the list of Current Censorship Instructions, (C.C.I./1), and are included here to provide a complete list for ready reference in an emergency. They are, of course, subject to any special instructions or relaxations which may be prompted by the circumstances of any particular attack.

AIR RAIDS (GENERAL POLICY): In the absence of official reports, the following general principles will apply:

No disclosure of location except in general terms such as "the Sydney area" or "a South Coast district"; no reference to aircraft brought down (our own or enemy); all references to damage or casualties to be in vague terms. (See below.)

AIRCRAFT (DEFENDING): No indication of type of defending aircraft, units or squadrons to which they belong, aerodromes from which they are operating, or personnel involved.

A.R.P.: Criticism of A.R.P. or civilian defence measures such as fire-fighting, or reports of failure of civilian defence measures might cause public alarm and should therefore be considered potentially dangerous.

BOMBS: Detailed description not allowed. Reference should be general, e.g. high explosive or incendiary. No mention of depth of penetration of buildings, earth, etc.

No reference to: (a) jettisoning or 'dumping' of bombs by enemy planes; (b) Places in which delayed-action bombs or land mines have fallen; or (c) Areas closed off pending disposal.

(This also applies to laying of sea or land mines by aircraft, our own or enemy).

(For detailed Instructions on Bomb Disposal see Rule B.4.-  
(Consolidated.)

CASUALTIES: No indication of number of casualties until officially released. It is permissible to mention that 'no casualties', 'slight casualties', or 'some casualties' were caused, but pending official statements no publicity should be given to reports of heavy casualties.

Obituary notices of civilian casualties and general accounts of enemy raids must not include address or place or death, or injury, of casualties, (This is to deny the enemy information about the exact places where his bombs have fallen)

DAMAGE: As with Casualties, no publicity should be given to reports of 'heavy damage'. Exact localities, i.e. streets or suburbs in which bombs have fallen, must not be given unless officially sanctioned by Allied Headquarters. Statements that an objective - e.g. docks - is not damaged are as dangerous as the reverse. Enemy claims of extent or location of damage must be neither confirmed nor denied, except by a named high authority. This is a favourite Japanese form of information-hunting.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES: No reference is permissible to dislocation or failure of essential services such as telephone, telegraph, gas, light, power, water, railway, tramways, bus lines or roads, or arrangements to meet such dislocation, until officially announced.

EMERGENCY INSTRUCTIONS: (to the public in particular areas or to specific Government Departments). Reference to such Instructions should be confined to the terms of official announcements and may not be broadcast unless the Service authorities expressly desire it.

EVACUATIONS: No reference to evacuation of specific localities or specific evacuation area which is used. Where appeals are made for relief funds specific locations or institutions must not be mentioned.

FIRES: Fires of any kind provide valuable navigational aid to raiding aircraft. There must be no reference, therefore, to localities in which fires occur. (This includes bush fires.) Dummy fires and explosions to mislead the enemy must not be mentioned.

FACTORIES, ETC.: Closing or movement of important factories, institutions or public utilities must not be mentioned.

LEAFLETS: Leaflets dropped by enemy planes may not be reproduced wholly or in part without Headquarters' approval.

LOCALITIES: Localities in which bombs or shells have fallen or air raid warnings sounded may be given only in general terms, e.g. 'Sydney area' or 'South coast town, N.S.W.'. This bans names of streets, suburbs, or towns; also flats and other buildings.

MORALE: Reference to morale of civilian population, panics, riots, looting or the like, must be scrutinised carefully. Such copy should be regarded as doubtful in the extreme.

RADIO LOCATION: No mention permitted.

STORES OR DUMPS: Location of stores or dumps of materials or food must not be published.

TIME: Time of sounding of an 'Alert', time at which raid begins, and time at which 'All clear' is sounded must not be given in exact terms. Terms used should be 'soon after noon' or 'early this evening', etc.

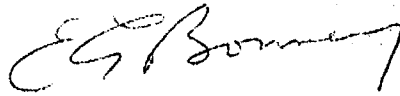
No mention, direct or indirect, may be made to time elapsing between a warning and a raid. This would disclose workings of detector systems.

TARGETS: There must be no indication of any specific Military, industrial or other target or damage to such target or to ships sunk or attacked by the enemy, unless officially announced by Allied Headquarters.

BROADCASTING: Scripts dealing with the above must in all cases be submitted to Censorship. They will be subject to the same limitations as outward overseas Press messages.

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N.B. The above was primarily drawn up to cover air raids. In principle, however, the rules laid down can generally be applied to other enemy operations such as those which occurred recently on and off the N.S.W. coast.



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(E. G. Bonney)  
Chief Publicity Censor.