

TOP SECRET

Special Message for the Australian Delegation

It is April, 1942.

The Japanese have already taken the supposedly impenetrable fortress at Singapore, and have bombed Darwin. The situation is bleak and serious. Until now, your main fighting forces have been in the Middle East assisting the British forces against the Nazis.

You now believe it is time for the 6th, 7th and 8th AIF Divisions to return directly from the Middle East to Australia to respond to Australia's immediate danger of invasion by the Japanese. In February, you were astounded at Churchill's audacity to order the 7th Division to be diverted to Burma—without air support—to assist the British troops stationed there. In a series of cablegrams, you plainly explained to Churchill that this order was NOT to be carried out. It was obvious that Churchill did not fully understand the needs of Australia, or your right to decide how your troops will be deployed!

You will not let Churchill and the British delegation decide where your troops will be stationed. This does not mean that you have forsaken your British heritage but you must stand up to Britain if Australia is to be saved.

Also, you know that the Americans have their own reasons for using Australia as a base for the Pacific war effort. Australia is, after all, well positioned in the Pacific and has a good supply of food, ports, and air strips. You also know that you will lose 'part of your sovereignty' with the Americans leading the show. But, you desperately need the help of the USA to fight the Japanese.

You are also suspicious of the way in which Britain and the USA seem to have taken over all the decision-making for the war.

You must convince the Allies that each resolution must be endorsed by each delegation. The fate of Australia depends on it.

FREDERICK GEOFFREY SHEDDEN

War Cabinet Secretary

You were born in 1893 and joined the Defence Department in 1910. You served as a lieutenant in the Great War. You have always worked in some capacity in areas related to defence, including policy and financial administration and advising ministers at post-war international conferences..

In 1937, you were appointed as Secretary of the Department of Defence.

You are dignified, hard working and rather aloof and in your department you are only known as 'the Secretary' (never by any name less formal). The Department is your whole life and you expect the highest standards of those around you. You set the standards and the rules and you expect others to follow. You are a stickler for accuracy and precision in writing.

FREDERICK MCLAUGHLIN

John Curtin's Private Secretary in the Defence Department

You were born in Victoria in 1894 and enlisted for the A.I.F. in 1916. You were awarded the Military Medal for Gallantry while serving in France. Since 1918 you have worked for the Defence Department and served as Private Secretary to a number of Ministers for Defence.

You take your job as Private Secretary very seriously and are responsible for many confidential files and documents which are in your charge. You have a great respect and admiration for John Curtin and count him as a friend. You have been known to pray with John Curtin at times when the Australian troops were in danger. You act as a sounding board for Curtin's ideas and he trusts you completely.

You sit next to John Curtin at this meeting.

JOHN CURTIN

Prime Minister of Australia
Minister for Defence

You were born in Creswick, Victoria in 1885 but you spent much of your youth living in the working class Melbourne suburb of Brunswick. You had little formal education but you are widely read and have worked in a variety of jobs since leaving school at the age of 14. You were active in the labour movement and worked for various unions before settling in Perth in 1917 to become the editor of the *Westralian Worker*. In 1928, you won the Federal seat of Fremantle and served as a backbencher in Opposition and as a member of Caucus in the Scullin Government. You lost your seat in 1931 but regained it again in 1934. In 1935, you won the leadership of the Parliamentary Labor Party and in October 1941 you became Prime Minister. You are the first Prime Minister to have not previously served in a Cabinet post.

The prime ministership weighs heavily on your shoulders, especially during these times of war. You are well respected by those who serve you and by the Australian public generally. You have a reserved and modest nature and you genuinely believe in your duty to Australia. You are an excellent orator and rarely use notes in your speeches. When you speak you speak with passion and sincerity.

You are determined that Australia's position will be heard at this meeting.

You rely on the emotional and professional support of Fred McLaughlin and Frederick Sheddon, your advisors at this meeting.

DON RODGERS

John Curtin's Press Secretary

You are the first person in Australia to have this role which John Curtin created for you when he was Leader of the Opposition. You have been a journalist for most of your working life and know many people in the media. You relate well with the press and know how to handle their antics.

You are loyal to John Curtin and respect him as a man and prime minister. In particular, you admire John Curtin's ability to inspire Australians: his speeches often leave you with a lump in your throat. You are aware of how much John Curtin has pulled the ALP, in fact all Australians, together. Even though you feel that John Curtin often doubts his own ability, you have the utmost faith in him. You are one of his most loyal and trusted supporters.

You have a special role at this meeting. You must mingle with the Press Gallery to find out their angles on the meeting and to interject if you think the Press Gallery is asking unfair questions.

ROLE CARD: AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION

DR HERBERT VERE EVATT

Minister for External Affairs

You were born on 30 April 1894 and have spent much of your working life as a distinguished lawyer. You entered federal politics as the Labor Member for Barton in 1940.

You have recently been appointed as the Minister for External Affairs and on your recent trip to London and Washington you have had the responsibility of urging the Allied powers for more resources and military equipment to be diverted to the Pacific theatre. You have taken this task very seriously. You have impressed your American and British colleagues with your intellectual ability, your industry and your determination. At times, though, the Allies believe that you are irritatingly naive in your approach to international affairs and your passionate belief in Australian nationalism. You insist that the Allied powers must work together to defeat the Japanese; that Australia—not just the USA and Britain—should play a vital role in any talks regarding Allied defence strategies.

You are particularly concerned about the balance of power in the Allied camp and insist that Curtin recognises this point in his speech.

TOP SECRET

Special message for the British Delegation

It is April 1942.

Your major concern is defeating the Nazis in Europe and in the Middle East. You believe that it is imperative that all available Allied resources should be at your disposal to achieve this goal.

You are aware that the war with Japan has escalated but do not think Australia is in immediate danger. (These Colonials do tend to panic unnecessarily!) It is far more appropriate that Allied troops, including Divisions from the AIF, should be deployed where you think the need is greatest.

In February, you insisted that the Australian 7th Division be diverted from returning to Australia from the Middle East to go to Burma. This decision angered Curtin and the Australian delegation. But, is Curtin a war strategist? Hardly!

You believe the Australians do not fully appreciate the seriousness of the needs of the Empire. Besides, if the Australians were serious about this war, they should have been far more prepared for a full scale effort in armaments production and the training of troops.

You also believe that it is up to the major powers—Britain and the United States—to make the important decisions regarding the war.

It is vital for the interests of the Empire (and your standing in the Allied camp) that none of the three resolutions is passed at this meeting.

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

**Prime Minister of Britain
Minister of Defence**

You were born in 1874 and come from a long line of British aristocrats. You were educated at the exclusive Harrow school but were never regarded as a scholar. You did not attend university. Your early career was in the army where, in the 1890s, you performed military service in the Sudan, India and South Africa. Whilst on these excursions you became the world's first war correspondent. You later published this material in several books.

You became an MP in 1900 and have held a number of important government posts: Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, Home Secretary, First Lord of the Admiralty, Minister for Munitions, Secretary of State for War and Air, Chancellor of the Exchequer and now Prime Minister and Minister of Defence. This wide experience has given you an excellent knowledge of the workings of government and politics. Even though you have built up your reputation, there are many on both sides of politics who despise you. The switching of political parties and your handling of industrial disputes in the 1920s has left you with few political friends.

Even though you were never a scholar, you have read extensively, particularly on European history. This has helped you understand the nature of this war. You are renowned for your oratory and are regarded as a military strategist. You are a formidable character and do not suffer fools.

Your primary goal is to achieve peace in Europe and on this point you have the support of President Roosevelt. You believe that Curtin has exaggerated the seriousness of the Japanese threat to Australia. You also need a 'win' at this meeting to raise the morale of those at home. To achieve this, you desperately need the support of the AIF and the United States to assist you in defeating the Nazis.

DUFF COOPER

British Minister for Information

Since 1939 you have been the British Minister for Information. It is your job to make sure that only the necessary news reaches the public. You do not want to alarm the British public with anything smacking of division within the Allied camp and you want to ensure that the press does not get the wrong idea about British intentions.

You want to ensure that British interests are served at this meeting. The Allies must be informed of the essential need to defeat Hitler first; the Pacific theatre is of secondary importance.

Even though you respect America and what it stands for, indeed you spent some time in that great country in 1940 when you gave a lecture tour; you do not want to see the British position overridden or undermined by America.

At this meeting, you need to woo the Press Gallery by informally chatting to them and making sure that they take away a positive view of British intentions.

SIR ANTHONY EDEN

British Foreign Secretary

Although much younger than Churchill (you were born in 1897), you have had considerable experience in the Foreign Office and you are Churchill's right-hand man in the War Cabinet.

You have a central role in ensuring that Churchill remains on track throughout this meeting. One of your main tasks is to ensure that the prime minister is well acquainted with all the necessary files to prepare his speech. You are keenly aware that Churchill needs to convince the Australians of 'the big picture' of the war—to defend Allied interests in Europe and then focus on the Pacific. The Australians must see that once Hitler has been defeated, especially with the aid of Australian troops, then Britain will come to the aid of Australia and the other British bases in the Far East, especially Ceylon, India and Burma.

The Australians have never let Britain down before, so why are they now?

You must also ensure that not too much is made of Britain's close relationship with President Roosevelt and the decisions they have made together.

GENERAL WAVELL

British Commander in the Far East

You are the former British army commander in the Middle East but have recently been appointed as the commander of the British forces in the Far East (excluding Australia and New Zealand). You know that late last year Churchill intended that you become the Supreme Commander of the Allied forces in the South Pacific, but, with the changing events over the last few months, you are now firmly ensconced in your post in India.

You understand Churchill's desire to 'defend Britain first' before supplying reinforcements to the key British bases located in India, Ceylon, Burma and Australia. However, you are getting very jittery about the exposure of India and Ceylon to Japanese attack. Churchill does need to be aware of this.

TOP SECRET

Special Message for the USA Delegation

It is April 1942.

You have been ordered by President Roosevelt to leave the Philippines and use Australia as a base for the execution of the war effort in the South West Pacific area. You see this as good common sense. Australia has many resources that you need for the attack against Japan—food supply, ports, aerodromes, reasonable communications links. Besides, both you and the Australians have the same goal—to defeat the Japanese.

It is also fortunate that Curtin has been requesting support from America for some time now and has even said so in the press. Who could forget that article Curtin wrote at Christmas time last year about not being guilty about 'looking to America'? Now that article really did cause an upset—even the President had some things to say about that!

But for today's meeting, you really need to show that you are prepared to listen to the Australians and the British.

It is important that the first two resolutions are endorsed so that petty squabbles can be put aside and you can take over the Supreme Command of the South West Pacific area. As for the third resolution, that has obviously come from the Australians and must be defeated. Roosevelt and Churchill have already sewn up that part of the war strategy—you do not need the Australians interfering in matters that they know little about.

GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR

Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in the South West Pacific

You are famous for your egocentricity and your courage. You are confident and can inspire the devotion of your staff. You expect your staff to work as hard as you do with long hours and no days off. This often means that, despite their loyalty to you, your staff can be touchy and sensitive to criticism. You love to talk and are very persuasive but you avoid social occasions and public speeches. You are not known for your warm personality but most respect and admire you, even if they do not especially like you. You are intelligent, have a photographic memory and you love to read military histories.

You are in perfect physical health and you attribute this to your daily afternoon nap, your abstemiousness, your moderate diet and your ability to sleep well. You do not exercise but you are known for your habit of pacing your office. Your hands are never still. You wear your uniform with great pride but you do not clutter it with military decorations.

You are dedicated—to the defence of your country and to your duty. These drive you, absorb you and give you purpose.

At this meeting, you do not have to mention the advantages of an Australian base to America—this is beside the point. The real issue is the defeat of the Japanese.

You must convince the other delegations of the necessity to put aside petty squabbles and to give you their total support.

ROLE CARD: USA DELEGATION

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL GEORGE BRETT

You are Deputy to General MacArthur and Commander of the Allied Air Forces in the Anzac area. You have been in the US Air Force for 27 years and, until the appointment of General MacArthur, you were in charge of US forces in Australia.

Your main responsibility now is to take charge of the combined Allied Air Force in the Anzac area.

You know that Curtin is relieved, both personally and politically, by the presence of the American forces in Australia. You have read the newspapers and are pleased by the positive attention you have received in the local press. You want to ensure that the press remains on-side so that the task of defeating the Japanese can go ahead. The last thing you need is for the Press Gallery to get the wrong idea.

You have a healthy respect for 'the General' but are aware of his single-mindedness.

ROLE CARD: USA DELEGATION

MAJOR GENERAL R. K. SUTHERLAND

You are the Chief of Staff to General MacArthur. This means that you are responsible for the management and deployment of all personnel throughout the armed forces. This is an important position which requires organisational skills and intelligence.

Your primary goal is to assist in the war effort against the Japanese. It must be an offensive strategy to stem the southward thrust of the Japanese war machine.

You must assist 'the General' in all matters arising in this meeting.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Special Representative of President Roosevelt

You are the wife of the US President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. While others in your position in the past have seen their role in more social terms, you have always taken an active role in politics and political issues. You have been involved in the movement for civil rights, equal education for girls, the anti-child labour campaign and workers' rights. During this war you have visited soldiers in hospitals, you have written a weekly column in newspapers about life in the White House and you are frequently heard on the radio.

You see your role as First Lady as one of improving the lot of every person and your active community involvement, together with your candid and personal approach, have won you fans throughout the world.

At this meeting, you are representing your husband—acting as his eyes, ears and legs. You are not fazed by this responsibility as on many occasions you have addressed various groups to inform them about your husband's views. In preparation for this meeting, your husband has briefed you about previous talks that he has had with Churchill about beating Hitler first. He has also told you of Curtin's 'about face' over the shifting of Australian allegiances from Britain to the USA. (This really angered your husband because he thought it smacked of disloyalty to Britain.) You need to be wary of Australia's motives for wanting America to use Australia as a base for the Pacific war effort but you must also ensure that things run smoothly between each delegation. Therefore, you must use your common sense and your ability to handle people when dealing with the other delegations and the press to ensure that only positive things emerge from this meeting.

TOP SECRET

Special Message for the Press Gallery

It is April 1942.

You are part of the Press Gallery, commonly known as 'the press circus'. You are charged with the task of asking relevant and probing questions of each of the dignitaries regarding the current situation. You must listen to their speeches, but should **NOT** necessarily take what they say at face value. Remember that they all have their own interests at stake. Be sure to read the source materials carefully so that you know the facts. Remember that as members of the press you are there to get the whole story.

You are excited by the atmosphere of this historic and unprecedented meeting. When has there ever been such a coming together of dignitaries in Australia, ever? This meeting should provide good copy which will sell many newspapers.

You are well aware of the tension between Churchill and Curtin over Churchill's attempted diversion of the 7th Australian division to Burma from the Middle East. Curtin stood up to the old war horse though—he told him that they were needed here to help fight for Australia.

And, the Americans are here, but what's really in it for them?