

Man Power from U.S.

G208/38/41

Extract from Minutes of Meeting of
British Joint Staff Mission held on
Tuesday, November 4th 1941 (M.M.(41)
30th Meeting)

SECRET

1. BRITISH REQUIREMENTS FOR TECHNICAL OFFICERS FROM
THE UNITED STATES.

(Previous Reference: M.M.(41) 25th Meeting,
Minute 1).

(M.M.(41) 199).

-/34 THE COMMITTEE had before them a Note by Mr. Cribbett
of the Royal Air Force Delegation (M.M.(41) 199).

MR. CRIBBETT explained that with regard to the
technical officers required for the fighting services,
the Service Departments had agreed that these
officers could be commissioned into the British fighting
services, and paid at Canadian rates of pay. However,
while the Admiralty were prepared to grant commissions
on entry in the rank of Acting Lieutenant at the rate
of \$5 a day, the Army and the Royal Air Force were only
prepared to commission these officers into the lowest
ranks; and it was therefore doubtful whether, in view

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of the low pay which they would receive, many volunteers would be forthcoming.

In the course of discussion, difficulties were foreseen in view of the anomalies in pay which would arise should these American technical officers be paid at Canadian rates, whereas American volunteers serving as operational pilots in the Royal Air Force were only being paid at British rates. It was felt that this difficulty might to some extent be overcome if only the comparable British rates were actually paid to the technical officers, while the difference between these and the Canadian rates could be credited to them in the United States.

With reference to the existing British-recruited Civilian Technical Corps, MR. CRIBBETT explained that about 700 had already been recruited, and that it was hoped that the United States would set up an American-recruited Civilian Technical Corps, to whom more attractive rates of pay would be offered. In this event, it was probable that most of the original British-recruited Civilian Technical Corps would wish to turn over to the American organisation.

With regard to the recruitment of technical officers, Mr. Cribbett proposed:-

(a) That for the defence forces (Annex "A" to M.M.(41) 199), the following procedure should be adopted:-

- (i) Pursue the possibility of direct recruitment into the three British Services through the medium of the Clayton Knight Committee.
- (ii) Establish the true nature of the "Conant" scheme, and if suitable make further use of it to supplement (i) above if necessary.
- (iii) If (i) and (ii) above did not have the desired effect, then an approach should be made to the U.S. authorities, with the suggestion that an officer section of the American-recruited Civilian Technical Corps should be created, if and when this organisation was set up.

(b) That for the Supply Departments (Annex "B" to M.M.(41) 199) an officer section of the Civilian Technical Corps, referred to in (a)(iii) above, should be the first line of approach; and that if this did not materialise, it would be necessary to explore the possibility of obtaining civilians of the required professions.

THE COMMITTEE:-

Invited Mr. Cribbett, in consultation as necessary with the other Departments, to pursue the matter on the lines set out above.