

CHAPTER 16

FUNDS OF INTERNEES

1. The various Regulations dealing with money taken from internees on their arrival at Internment Camps or received for them during their internment need not be dealt with fully here. They are precise and permit of no misunderstanding but their implementation in practice called for detailed instructions on general procedure and specific problems relating to books of account, releases, transfers overseas etc. In order that the reader may refer when necessary to these Regulations and orders, they are listed below:-

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Regulations</u>	<u>Camp Order</u>
Definition of money	3	
Action taken on arrival of internee	14	No.10 para 7(3)
Opening of cash account and Trust Account	15	No.10 para 9
Withdrawals of cash by internees	15	No.10 para 9(4)
Audit of accounts	15(6)	
Transfers of money to new camps	25(3)	
Extraction of money from mail	35(2)	
Restrictions on money etc to be held by internee		No.10 para 8(4)&(6)
Prohibition against holding of unauthorised money	41(2) (ga)	
Action on discovery of unauthorised money	41A	
Opening of special accounts	42(7)	

2. Accountancy Instructions to supplement these directions were issued through Finance Branch. These were carefully checked by the Directorate before issue. It was not until 1945 that a firm set of instructions were issued, vide Appendix 10, under the title of "Accountancy Instructions, Part V Chapter 1," and these were found to be of great assistance to camp staffs.

3. Directorate action was necessary to issue certain directions regarding special problems arising during the period of detention of internees in Australia. The more important of these are covered in the following paragraphs.

CONTROL OF INTERNEES' FUNDS.

4. Information received from time to time indicated that in some instances proper control was not being exercised in respect of the use of internees' funds. It was therefore expressly directed that approval for expenditure of an internee's funds under Camp Order No.10 para 9 should not be given by an authorised officer without full consideration of the reason for the proposed expenditure and the person or firm etc to whom the payment was to be made. To guide such officers the following general instructions were given :-

- (a) Internees should not be permitted to expend or invest funds held at their credit at internment camps in the purchase of luxury articles such as watches exceeding the value of £2, jewellery, fitted suitcases, cigarette cases of a value exceeding £1, cameras and other valuable articles not of a necessitous nature.

- (b) Authorised officers should not give consent for withdrawal from internees' accounts of funds for the purchase of such articles nor should these articles be stocked or offered for sale in canteens at internment camps.

FUNDS FOR INTERNEES FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF PROTECTING POWERS.

5. In view of the policy referred to in ^{PART I} Chapter 8 of this report, in respect of the transmission of names and particulars of internees to enemy governments, it was essential at all times to ensure that unauthorised lists of internees were not sent direct from camps to protecting Power representative. This was particularly necessary in regard to lists of persons to participate in funds as in many cases the funds were intended to be paid to internees professing allegiance to enemy governments. The instructions issued in this respect are dealt with in Part I, Chapter 8 (paragraph 7).

DISTRIBUTION OF JAPANESE RED CROSS FUNDS.

6. The International Red Cross Delegate in Australia advised in 1942 that he had certain Japanese Red Cross funds in his possession and desired lists of indigent Japanese internees showing gifts that they desired him to purchase for them from these funds. As full lists of Japanese were not to be made available pending reciprocity by Japan in connection with Australians held, a direction was issued that lists prepared by internees would be sent to the Delegate only after deletion of names thus leaving only the internees' identification numbers and particulars of their requests. Provision was made for gifts to be addressed to internees by these numbers, for receipts to be obtained from internees for gifts received, and for a certificate to be sent to the Delegate stating that delivery had been effected.

TRANSFERS OF FUNDS BETWEEN GERMAN INTERNEES.

7. German internees from Iran made requests for permission to make numerous transfers of money between accounts at their camps but as it was impossible to establish the bona-fides of proposed transfers, and any general approval would be most undesirable, directions were issued that any such transfers would be restricted to £2 per month in respect of each individual transfer. Commands were further instructed to grant approval for transfers only if it could be reasonably established that an obligation rested on the transferor to assist the transferee.

TRANSFERS OF MONEY TO ITALY.

8. Advice was received from the Commonwealth Bank in 1945 that civilian internees could be permitted to make sustenance remittances to close relatives and dependants resident in specified Italian territories at the rate of £30 (English) per month to any one beneficiary with a maximum of £100 ~~per month~~ to any one beneficiary. It was necessary to issue directions for the completion of appropriate Exchange Control forms by internees who desired to effect such transfers and to provide that:

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- (a) any application for transfers which would reduce any account to such balance as would render the internee eligible to receive free issues of clothing or free hospitalization etc., should not be sent to the bank, and
 - (b) the Bank should make all decision as to whether transfer should be permitted.

9. This temporary arrangement was revised in Nov. 45, when the Commonwealth Bank advised that all future applications would be considered individually on their merits and approval would be given only when justified by proof of real hardship or that a continuation of pre-war practice was involved. Subject to the approval of the Bank, remittances were permitted to be made, as from 1 Nov. 45, to all provinces of the Mainland of Italy, Sicily, Sardinia, and the Islands adjacent thereto.

WITHDRAWALS FROM SEPARATE CASH ACCOUNTS.

10. Difficulties were encountered in connection with necessary withdrawals of monies from funds placed to an internee's separate account pursuant to Regulation 41A as in some instances these monies were required to enable payment by internees concerned for clothing issues etc. when their operative accounts did not exceed £5. Action was therefore taken to have an authority signed authorising every officer holding the office or performing the duties of the office, of Commander of a Lines of Communication Area (later Command), to consent to the withdrawal or use by an internee, of the whole or any portion of such funds.

ACTION ON CLOSING OF CAMPS.

11. Instructions concerning action to be taken in relation to any balances remaining in cash accounts after the closing of camps are contained in an amendment to Accountancy Instructions Part V, Chapter 1, vide Appendix 11.