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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE : ~~XXXX~~ F0211  
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS : ~~XXXXXX~~ MELBOURNE  
"Supdep"

SUPPLY,  
DEPARTMENT OF ~~MUNITIONS~~

339 Swanston Street,  
Melbourne, C.I.

In reply quote No.

28th April, 1950.

*CHILMAN*  
*Mr. Clancy*

The Secretary,  
Melbourne & Metropolitan  
Tramways Board,  
Bourke Street,  
MELBOURNE, C.I.

RECEIVED  
APR 28 1950  
ALSO

Dear Sir,

HISTORY OF THE MUNITIONS WAR EFFORT 1939-45.

When the compilation of the Departmental History was commenced, you were asked if you would be prepared to supply details of your Board's wartime activities in relation to the Department of Munitions.

As the work is now nearing completion and as no data has yet been received from the Board would you kindly advise me if and when I may expect your contribution.

Broadly the class of information desired is -

- Production Statistics,
- Production and other problems
- How problems were solved
- Opinions on production methods in operation during the period under review.

Yours faithfully,

*Frank Clancy*

(Frank Clancy)  
HISTORICAL RECORDS OFFICER.

4th May, 1950.

Frank Clancy, Esq.,  
Historical Records Officer,  
Department of Supply,  
339 Swanston Street,  
MELBOURNE, C 1.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge your letter of the 28th ult.

The Secretary's Department has no record of having been asked to supply you with details of the Board's wartime activities in relation to the Department of Munitions ; and certainly no such request was received by me. It is my normal practice to at once comply with such requests, and to keep a copy. The only duplicates in my files are those which concerned replies to the Premier and to the Official War Historian.

So far as our activities are concerned, both in relation to the manufacture of equipment and the provision of transport services to works engaged specially on the provision of equipment for the Services, the particulars I attach may serve the purpose you have in view.

Yours faithfully,

Publicity Officer.

LER.

Soon after war broke out, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board became most actively associated in the war effort. First of all the Board had to improvise bus services on an ever-expanding scale for the huge increases in the number of persons employed at Fisherman's Bend, Footscray, Maribyrnong, Moonee Ponds and North Essendon, and then, secondly, it placed their Preston Works unreservedly at the disposal of the Ministry of Munitions for the manufacture of equipment for the Services at cost. The total value of the Preston-manufactured equipment was £138,900.

The duplications and extensions of tram lines at Footscray, Maribyrnong, Moonee Ponds and North Essendon, including the necessary extensions to car sheds and the erection of sub-station buildings with equipment cost £219,950.

On the purchase of chassis and the fitting of temporary bodies, fabricated at Preston, for the Fisherman's Bend services, the purchase of additional buses for service to the I.C.I. Works, the purchase of buses for the cross-town services asked for by the Department between Fitzroy, Coburg, North Essendon and Maribyrnong, the purchase of buses to supply special chartered services for Defence Services, Shipping Companies and the I.C.I., and the expenditure on the installation of plant to supply town gas for motor buses to conserve petrol and fuel oil, £186,900 was spent. Of that sum, £156,638 was advanced by the Commonwealth Government, of which £78,168 was repayable by the Board. As it turned out, the money spent on the town gas plant was wasted, as before it could be used the scarcity of gas had made it impossible for the Metropolitan Gas Company to guarantee continuity of supply. In addition, the Board's share of the cost of concession fares arranged between the Commonwealth Government and the Board amounted to £5,000. Altogether the Board was involved in a total expenditure of £560,520 as the result of its association with the war effort in the directions which have been indicated.