

C.S.

NAVAL & MILITARY.  (Miscellaneous)
No. 217/28.

1928.

C. C. Def. Force.

SUBJECT.

1928

21st May.

Previous Paper.

REPORT ON CONDITION OF GUNS USED FOR SALUTES ETC.

MINUTES.

*DA  
25/5/28*

1. Letter from C.C.Def. Force dated 21.5.28.

*V.G.  
Submitted.*

*I would suggest that a Summary Officer of the Warships visiting the Colony next month might be asked to report on these guns. His recommendations would no doubt add weight to Capt. Conth's representations.*

*V.G.  
29. V. 28 A.C.S.*

*How C.S*

Subsequent Paper.

*Please. On no account use any guns that are dangerous.*

*3220*

*M.*

O/C Defence Force

with you please so arrange.

W.L.G.  
29. v. 28 for C.S.

Hon Col Sec

Noted. will do as you suggest.

J. M. Lister

30. 5. 28

W.L.G. 24/6/28  
W.L.G. 2/8/28

Report from Captain, H.M.S. "Cornwall" of 30. 6. 28. - 2-6.

Lo to the Commanding Officer, H.M.S. "Cornwall" of 5/7/28

O/C. Defence Force,

To see Pds. 2-6.

L. Barlas

for C.S. 6. 7. 28.

Hon Col Sec.

Seen Thank you

J. M. Lister  
6. 7. 28

Off'ce Sec.

I approve formal condemnation  
of these three sailing firms at their  
destruction by sinking in the deep sea.

W.L.G. 17. 7. 28.

C.S.O. No. 217/28.

Inside Minute Paper.

Sheet No. 2

O. C. Defence Force.

Please see N.S.'s Minute of 7.7.18.

Can you make the necessary arrangements?

W.  
for C.S.  
14. 8. 18

Hon. Col. Sec.

The four muggle loading guns have  
been destroyed as instructed.

M. L. S. 21. 8. 18



Defence Force Headquarters <sup>(1)</sup>

Stanley. 21. 5. 28.

Sir,

I have the honour to report on the condition of the three saluting guns for His Excellency's information.

This morning, Capt Amedroy, Sgt Carl and myself examined the three muzzle-loading guns which are used for the time signals and salutes.

The guns appear to be about 70 years old, they are in a very bad state, and absolutely unsafe for firing salutes.

I believe they were condemned 15 years ago, several of the gun crew refuse to fire them now, and I would ask that those guns be exempted from firing salutes.

I am of the opinion that the War Office would willingly give us guns if we paid the freight.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedient servant.

J. M. South. Capt.

6

No. 123/6/3

H.M.S. "CORNWALL".  
at Stanley.  
30th June 1928.

Sir,

Herewith is forwarded the report in duplicate on the inspection of guns and magazine at Stanley.

2. In general the sentences are as follows:-

- 1. 12 Pdr, 8 cwt. Field Gun. Serviceable.
- 2. Muzzle Loading Guns 3 in No. Condemned for all purposes.
- 3. Cordite should be destroyed. Shell should be returned to an Ordnance Depot to be reconditioned.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C A P T A I N.

H.E. The Acting Governor,  
Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Stanley. FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(5)

REPORT OF INSPECTION AT STANLEY.

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Enclosure<sup>No.1.</sup> to "Cornwall's" letter No. 123/6/3 of 30th June 1928.

12 Pdr. FIELD GUN.

- GUN. 12 pdr, 8 cwt. E.O.C. No. 1227 dated 1900. Landed from H.M.S. "GLASGOW" in 1914.
- LIMBER. No. 262. R.C.D. dated 1903.
- BORE. Bore was very rusty but this appeared to be superficial. It was thoroughly scraped and cleaned with a wire scrubber, greased up and plugged. The bore is now in good condition but is slightly pitted around the tampeon and in one or two small places in the chamber. It is recommended that the plugs be removed and the bore examined at intervals of twelve months if the gun is not in use.
- BREECH MECHANISM.  
The component mechanism was stripped down, cleaned and oiled. It is complete and in good condition. The hinge pin clearance is 8/1000ths. The spare mechanism and breech block (maker V.S.M.) was stripped down, cleaned and oiled. It is in good condition but the catch retaining breech screw open and spring for same are missing. This mechanism cannot be used as a component mechanism until these parts are replaced. There is a spare hinge pin. Mr Turner of the Falkland Island Defence Force attended during the stripping of the Mechanism and was instructed in the examination of gudgeon pins and the necessity for the inspection before firing of the securing pin of striker assembly nut and breech safety arrangements.
- EXTRACTOR. The extractor was stripped and examined. It was replaced in serviceable condition.
- SIGHTS. The fore sight complete is missing. There are two rear speed sight bars and slow elevating nuts but only one, badly damaged, rear sight socket. As far as can be ascertained the Rate Book value of the fore sight is £2.17. 0 and of the rear sight socket £2. 6. 0
- ELEVATING. There is normal backlash on the elevating.
- TRUNNIONS. The gun was lifted and the trunnions cleaned and greased. They are slightly pitted.
- WHEELS. The wheels were removed and the axles cleaned and greased.
- DRAG ROPES. New drag ropes are required but the loops are in good condition.
- LIMBER BOXES.  
The limber boxes were locked and could not be opened but they appeared to be empty.

Enclosure<sup>No. 1.</sup> to "Cornwall's" Letter No. 125/6/3 of 30th June 1928.

12 Pdr. FIELD GUN (Continued)

SPARES & TOOLS.

The only tools appeared to be two Spanners and one handspike. The trail box was empty. There were no spares other than those mentioned above. Below is a list of stores taken with gun and limber as given in the R.N. Handbook of Field Training.

LIMBER. 1 Spade on the side of the right limber box.  
 1 Hand axe on the side of the left limber box.  
 1 Bill hook under the limber on the right in front.  
 1 Pick axe under the limber on the left in front.  
 1 Grease box under the limber on the left in rear.  
 1 Bucket under the limber on the right in rear.  
 1 Swingle-tree )  
 2 Slats ) Strapped on the limber in  
 1 Pair of light drag ropes) front of the limber boxes.  
 1 Sep of men's harness )

TRAIL. 2 Handspikes. (One on the left bracket and one under the trail)  
 1 Clawhammer on the left bracket.  
 1 Hand extractor )  
 1 Short rimer ) In the upper tray of trail  
 1 Universal fuze key ) box.  
 1 Screwdriver )  
 2 Wrenches D. & E. )  
 1 Punch )  
 1 Drift ) In the lower tray of trail  
 1 Oilcan ) box.  
 1 Spanner for the )  
 Elevating gear )  
 1 MacMahon spanner )  
 1 File )

SMALL STORES. (To be placed in limber box.)

1 Spring for breech screw retaining catch.  
 1 Preserving screw for foresight.  
 2 Keep pins for hinge bolt.  
 2 Keep pins for actuating link.  
 2 Keep pins for nut on breech lever.  
 2 Keep pins for extractor axis.  
 1 Trigger complete.  
 1 Metal block for breech mechanism.

It is recommended that a supply of firing pins and a gauge protusion striker be obtained.

REPORT OF INSPECTION AT STANLEY.

Enclosure<sup>No.2</sup> to "Cornwall's" Letter No. 123/6/3 of 30th June 1928.

CONTENTS OF MAGAZINE.

- "A". (1) One rectangular case containing 10 naked cordite charges. (13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> oz size 10) Lot No. 1768 A.C.
- (2) One case containing 10 charges Lot No. W.A. 9780 filled W.A. 24/12/13.

In accordance with Naval Cordite Regulations Article 78, the above charges should be broken up and thrown into the sea. As regards (2) above, the charges should be removed from the cases which should not be thrown away.

"B"

- (1) 114 Shell. Shrapnel lying loose, unfuzed.
- (2) 43 filled Shell pointed common Mk.IV Fuzed W.12/02
- (3) 8 Boxes containing Shrapnel Shell (8 per box) filled 8/06 Unfuzed.
- (4) 2 Practice Shell.

There appear to be no fuzes for (1) and (3) above. The above shell are nearly all in bad condition as regards rust and it is recommended that in view of their age and condition they should be returned to an Ordnance Depot for cleaning and examination. In any case these shells should not be fired without being cleaned and guaged. If there is no guage available it is recommended that one be obtained if it is proposed to keep a stock of ammunition at Stanley.

"C"

- (1) 17 Cases containing empty cylinders.

These are returnable to an Ordnance Depot, and it is possible that an allowance would be made for them.

- (2) 1 Case containing wads, lids, adaptors etc. These are servicable.
- (3) 26 Packing cases containing 2.5 case shot. These appear to be for the old muzzle loaders and are of no value.



REPORT OF INSPECTION AT STANLEY.

Enclosure<sup>No. 3</sup> to "Cornwall's" Letter No.123/5/3 of 30th June 1928.

MUZZLE LOADING GUNS.

The three in number Muzzle Loading Guns, hitherto used for saluting purposes appear to be dangerous. There appears to be excessive pitting at the rear end, which retains smouldering portions of the powder bag.

It is considered that these guns should be condemned for all purposes.

217/28.

5th July, 28.

Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 123/6/3 of the 30th of June, 1928, together with the accompanying report in duplicate on the inspection of guns and magazine at Stanley, and to express to you His Excellency's thanks for your kind offices in this matter.

2. I am to say that His Excellency much appreciates the thoroughness with which the report has been prepared and asks if you so think proper that the gratitude of this Government may be conveyed to the officer immediately responsible for its preparation.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*L. B. ...*  
for Colonial Secretary.

The Commanding Officer,  
H.M.S. "Cornwall",  
HONG KONG.