

~~Confidential~~

DEF/FID/1#3

S q S

1904

No.

(55) C.3

S q S Conf

(SUBJECT.)

1904

16 Mar

Previous Papers.

14

04

Defence Scheme to be prepared.

As to suitability of 2.5" RML  
gun.

(MINUTES.)

HE.

The Supt. Major thinks that it would be an advantage that light limbers should be provided, but it would be necessary to have wheels double the present width.  
2. As to Defence Scheme. Mr. Hall outlined a short scheme some time ago. Is it at F.H.?

WMB  
22 Apr 04

Found on Gov's table. 24 June 04. Also the defence scheme referred to in para 2 above. Although approved, it does not seem to have been issued.

WMB  
24 June 04

Subsequent Papers.

HE

As regards the gun. I enclose a memo. from Supt. Major Hall. It seems that it would hardly be possible to supply them with limbers. I doubt

whether we shall do any better for ourselves. The W & are not in the least likely to give us 9-pers. which could not be made any more suitable for transport purposes than our present guns. See W & Letter of 4 Mar. 04.

2. How would it be worth the expense of improving the approaches to the firing positions unless road-making were undertaken for general public purposes. Road making over the rough camp in the vicinity of Stanley would be very difficult and expensive. nor is there any necessity for it.

3. This might be explained to the W & with an intimation that on occasion and in view of the fact that no other type of gun can <sup>apparently</sup> be made more practicable under local conditions, for transport purposes. it is not proposed to disturb existing arrangements. If there is a chance of the Flag ship coming, we might wait for her in order to examine her guns. The Cambrian had a barrel gun which was I believe much lighter than ours.

4. A second Defence Scheme. This is altogether beyond me, and everyone else here I imagine, except perhaps your Excellency. A simple scheme was prepared last year and is placed in the minute paper. but it has never promulgated. Governor Grey-Kelson had some ideas on the subject and had sent to St. Helena for a



copy of the scheme he had prepared there.  
but I do not think he ever received it.

On this subject it would, I should say, be expedient to consult the Commodore. The last Remarks of the Col Defence Committee are in 14/04 and there are in the safe at Fort Ho. a variety of papers about Defence which might be useful.

5. There has been, as far as I know, no answer to your predecessor's despatch No. 87 of 20 Oct. 03 (draft is 104/02) making proposals for the future of the Volunteers. They are not, I think, at all likely to find favour in military eyes at home.

W/HM

19 Sept. 04

C.S.

Please ask Capt. Major Wall to come and see me on Thursday next at 10 o'clock and I will then discuss <sup>with him</sup> the questions raised in this paper.

W.H. 20/9/04

C.S.

A reply sh<sup>d</sup> be sent to S's Confidential of 16 March last. I have drafted the enclosed.

If I have not put it clearly or omitted anything bring up papers with you to be C and we will discuss it after the meeting.

There is no use introducing the question of timber at present. We will see what is said in reply to para 4 before pressing the matter further, meanwhile we may have the opportunity afforded us to see the Naval Com.

W.H. 26/9/04

C.S,

I feel obliged ,with regret, to return this despatch in order that the first sheet at anyrate may be retyped, as I feel it would never do to send a confidential despatch to the S.S from which the word 'confidential' had been omitted from the first line and then inserted afterwards.

WZ. a  
28.9.04

C.S

Conf of 16 March 04 withdrawn.

These attached papers might now be filed in your Office. I am submitting a simple defence scheme by this mail.

WZ. a  
21.2.05

( all previous Conf despatches in accompanying papers withdrawn )

The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary,

I do not see how limbers could be fitted to the 7 pr. guns without a good deal of expense; they would have to be sent home for alteration and limbers would have to be specially made. It is doubtful if this would be done.

Perhaps the best thing would be to ask for two 9 pr. (600 weight guns) of latest pattern, if these can be supplied on light mountings and light limbers, similar to the 9 pr. gun used by the ships, mountings to be lighter if possible. Wheels not more than 40 inches high and with tyres say about 3½ to 4 inches wide so as to prevent the wheels sinking too much into the ground.

The 7 pr. guns would still be useful for saluting purposes and for business in case of need so long as any ammunition for the remained.

If this meets with your views and the approval of His Excellency, the ammunition now on order for the 7 pr. guns might be postponed by telegram, and if the Home Authorities decide to give us new guns, the order might be cancelled.

14/9/07

*W. H. Murray*

Sent Hays hatt

I showed this to the Commodore  
as you requested, and Mr. Lyles told me  
that he generally concurred. but  
preferred not to write anything about  
it. you had better send it on to  
the Governor for his approval. I approve  
of the Rules proposed.

c. s.

WHS  
21 Mar 03

Good as a start. but only as such -

30<sup>th</sup> April 1903 W. H. W.

This has not acted on

WHS  
28 July 04

Scheme for the defence of Stanley.

- I.           Signal to Assemble , by day - The Fire Bell will be rung three times, a pause of half a minute being made between each ring and the red flag hoisted in the Dockyard by the Constable on duty.   By night - One round will be fired from the Dockyard gun and the Fire Bell rung as above; the above signals will be repeated after a lapse of fifteen minutes if necessary.

On hearing the above signal members will get into uniform as quickly as possible, provide themselves with some rations, which could be tied in a handkerchief and fastened to the back of the belt, and repair to the Assembly Room as quickly as possible.   Both pouches to be worn.

Should the Alarm be sounded by night, when it might not be heard by all concerned, each member should, when on his way to the assembly room, call the member living nearest to him.   Should the Commanding Officer or Sergeant Major not be at the place of assembly, two if necessary out of the first three to arrive should go off at once and call them.

2.           The Commanding Officer will decide from what point the Town shall be defended according to the direction of attack & The Sergeant Major will detail a party to man the guns ( making use of any available civilians for hauling purposes ) also a party to bring ammunition from the magazine( making use of any further available civilians for carrying purposes )
3.           All members having horses in town or who could borrow from non members should saddle up and bring them to the place of assembly so as to be able to act as Mounted Infantry if required.

2. Posts to be taken up for the defense
3. Arrangements for housing & feeding the Company if kept under arms for a considerable time.
4. Contract for supply of provisions
5. Supply of ammunition.
6. Issue of arms to all ~~the~~ civilian who might volunteer to use them
7. The narrows might be defended <sup>by riflemen</sup> from behind the rocks to the south east of the F. J. Company's slaughter-house. The 9 pr guns could be placed behind <sup>additional</sup> corner to the south east of the rocks.

If time allowed the 7 pr guns and a few riflemen might be sent across the Harbour and posted in a position to command Port William; the enemy would



probably think that would be the  
only party they would have to  
contend with and might therefore  
be taken at a disadvantage, if  
attempting to land boats crews  
by the 9 pm guns and rifles  
beyond the slaughter house

If the attack should be made from  
the south shore. The guns could be  
taken to the south west of the Magazine  
Valley and riflemen could be distributed  
in the peat bogs out of sight of the  
enemy.

If from Port Harriet the defence could  
be made from Peppers Hill. Gun could  
be placed in good positions; there is  
also good cover for riflemen.