

C.S.

CONFIDENTIAL.

DEF/NCA/1#17

19 39.

No.

4/8/39.

C. in C. America and West Indies Station.

SUBJECT.

19 39.

1st June.

PROVISION OF PROTECTION TO THE ADMIRALTY OIL FUEL INSTALLATION AT THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

1-5. Letter from Civil. Bermuda, 1 June 1939.

J.R. Submitted. The Defence Force will require to take over the fire-fighting duty, but J.R. will first wish to discuss the matter with the manager H.S. Coy. Ltd.

Met
21.7.39

Plan ask Captain whether he has made provision for the fire fighting party. They should be ready for instruction when Crisis comes

Met 22/7/39

Subsequent Paper.

Adjutant H. Deffen Jones.

Please say.

MCH
C.S.
24.7.39.

Stes.

A N.C.O. and four men have been detailed for this duty.

O. J. J.
O. J. J.
25/7/39

Yr. Submitted. Reply that a five-fighting party consisting of a N.C.O. and four men of the Deffen Jones has been formed and will be ready for instruction when H.M.S. "Apase" arrives.

MCH
C.S.
27.7.39.

Yr please.

I could see ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~O.C.~~ of Mr. Creamer of the + I.C. if he has been charged with the duty of looking after this matter, on Sat morning at noon

~~27/7/39~~ 27/7/39

Yr. Draft letter submitted.

MCH
C.S.
27.7.39.

C.S.O. No. 6/8/39.

Inside Minute Paper.

Sheet No. 1

Yh.
 Mr. Cremer is seeing me about this tomorrow morning. He will bring me the document mentioned in para. 2 of rec ⑤. No appliances have yet arrived and as the Company's Engineer has not yet had time to consider the matter, Mr. Cremer states he is not yet in a position to discuss the question with Yh.

MCH

27.7.39.

Good

~~ttttt~~ 27/7

Yh.
 I have seen Mr. Cremer and he handed me the attached Admiralty document for Yh. to see.

2. It would seem preferable that the matter should await arrival of the "base" unless in the meantime an emergency arises.

3. Draft letter put up.

MCH

28.7.39

~~ttttt~~ 25/7

Cont. letter to Civ. C. America +
W. Es. Station of 28/4/39. (6)

1/2 Letter submitted for signature.

WCH
es.
28.4.39.

~~1/2~~ 20/4

Minute from Naval Officer-in-Charge of 1/7/41 (7)
Minute to Naval Officer-in-Charge of 5/7/41 (8)

Letter to Secretary, Civil Defence Committee of 7.7.41 (9)
Letter from Naval Officer-in-Charge of 14/7/41 10.
Minute to brief Constable of 17/7/41 11.
Minute to Naval Officer-in-Charge of 17/7/41 12.

5

AWI, No. 899.

Postal address:—

The British Naval Commander-in-Chief,
America & West Indies Station,
c/o H.B.M. Consul-General,
New York.

H.M.S. "BERWICK"
at St. Andrews, N.B.
1st June, 1939.

CONFIDENTIAL

Telegraphic address:—

NAVYCOM, BERMUDA.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to forward for your information copies of Admiralty Letter N.S. 12212/38/1826 of 13th February, 1939, and a report of the Commodore, South America, No. 310 of 13th May, 1939, concerning the provision of protection to the Admiralty Oil Fuel Installation at the Falkland Islands.

2. I have requested the Manager of the Falkland Islands Company to discuss this question with you and to show you C.A.F.O. 232/39, two copies of which are in his possession.

3. With reference to paragraph 2(c) of the Commodore, South America's letter, the recommendation that a fire-fighting party should be provided by the Non Commissioned Officer and four men who form the Oil Fuel Installation guard, according to Local Instruction No. 6 of the Defence Scheme, is considered to be the best solution.

4. Information has been received from the Admiralty that two Dennis trailer fire pumps, 350/500 gallons per minute capacity, and equipment were demanded from the Home Office on 6th May, 1939, for supply to the Falkland Islands.

5. H.M.S. "Ajax" is being instructed to render all necessary assistance in connection with the training of the fire-fighting party during her visit to the Falklands in November and December.

6. I have delegated to Commodore, South America, the responsibility for assisting Your Excellency in this matter and it is requested that Your Excellency will confer with him accordingly.

7. Copy of letter addressed to the Manager, Falkland Islands Company, Port Stanley, is enclosed for your information.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your Excellency's obedient servant,

Vice-Admiral,
Commander-in-Chief,
America and West Indies Station.

His Excellency the Governor and
Commander-in-Chief of the
Falkland Islands.

(Copy to Commodore, South America.
Commanding Officer, H.M.S. "Ajax").

(11)

C O P Y

N.S. 12212/38/1826.

ADMIRALTY, S.W.1.

13th February. 1939.

Gentlemen,

I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inform you that it has been decided to provide Admiralty oil fuel depots with means of protection against damage from air or sea attack. Particulars of the protective scheme are contained in Confidential Admiralty Fleet Order No. 232/39, two copies of which are attached.

The Commander-in-Chief, America and West Indies Station, will communicate with the Manager at Falkland Islands depot on this subject in due course. Detailed schemes shewing the constructional work involved are being prepared at the Admiralty and will be forwarded to you when available.

It will be noted from paragraph 13 of the Fleet Order that fire fighting equipment will be provided during the year beginning 1st April, 1939, to all Admiralty oil fuel installations abroad. The Falkland Islands depot will receive one two pump outfit, the equipment being on a smaller scale than that shewn in Appendix 1, page 10; full details will be given to you before supply is made. The fire fighting equipment will be available before the splinter and blast proof buildings referred to in paragraph 33, page 8, and Their Lordships would be glad to hear from you in due course that you will be able to arrange for your local manager to provide suitable temporary accommodation for this equipment.

As regards the water supply for the fire fighting equipment, it would appear that at Falkland Islands water can be obtained from the sea. It would be appreciated if your local manager could give this matter some consideration in advance of receipt of the detailed schemes of constructional work (see paragraph 18, page 4).

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant.

Messrs. The Falkland Islands Co.Ltd.,
61, Gracechurch Street,
E.C.3.

CONFIDENTIAL

DUPLICATE

3

SUBJECT.

FALKLAND ISLANDS - PROTECTION OF OIL FUEL DEPOT.

From ... **THE COMMODORE, SOUTH AMERICA DIVISION, A. & W. I.,**

H.M.S. "EXETER," at BERMUDA.

Date ... 13th May 1939.

No. ... 310.

To ... THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, AMERICA AND WEST INDIES STATION.

Former ...

With reference to A.W.I. No. 899 dated 14th March 1939, and paragraph 41 of Confidential Admiralty Fleet Order 232/39, the following remarks are submitted.

PROVISION AND TRAINING OF FIRE FIGHTING PARTIES.
C.A.F.O. 232/39, paragraphs 30 and 31.

2.

(a) The Admiralty Oil Fuel Installation at the Falkland Islands is situated at some distance away from any source of man power and is under the sole charge of of a caretaker provided by the Falkland Islands Company.

(b) The Admiralty have made no provision for naval personnel to protect it in war time.

(c) An "Operation Order", however, issued by the Commanding Officer, Falkland Islands Defence Force, as Local Instruction No. 6 to the Falkland Islands Defence Scheme, allows for one Non Commissioned Officer and four men to form a Lewis Gun defended post for the protection of the Oil Fuel Tanks. It is suggested that it should be recommended to His Excellency, the Governor of the Falkland Islands, that these men should form the nucleus of a fire fighting party in peace time and that they should be trained as such.

(d) It is considered doubtful whether there is any person in the Falkland Islands conversant with the fire fighting unit concerned. It is therefore recommended that the Commanding Officer, H.M.S. "AJAX", should be directed to arrange for the necessary instruction to be given during the forthcoming visit of H.M.S. "AJAX" to the Falkland Islands.

(e) It must be noted that there is insufficient accommodation at the Installation for a large Fire Fighting party.

Proposals for

(2)

FALKLAND ISLANDS - PROTECTION OF OIL FUEL DEPOT.
(Commodore, South America's No.310 of 13th May 1939).

- 2 -

PROPOSALS FOR OBTAINING WATER SUPPLIES.
C.A.F.O. 232/39, paragraphs 32 and 13.

3.

(a) Paragraph 32. Sea water is available.

(b) Paragraph 13. Sub paragraph (a). The probable length of hose required will be 2000 feet of hose if the pump is operated from the Camber or 400 feet if operated from the H.W. Mark abreast the tanks.

Sub paragraph (b). The prevailing wind will not prevent the operation of a pump from the sea side of the Installation.

Sub paragraph (c). The tide level at low water is less than 24 feet below the level of the pier from which the pump would be operated.

TRACTORS AND THEIR EMPLOYMENT.
C.A.F.O. 232/39, paragraph 34.

4. The Installation is constructed on a hillside on rocky and uneven ground. A tractor would be necessary for the mobility of the unit, and suitable tracks will have to be cleared.

PROVISION OF RAFTS.
C.A.F.O. 232/39, paragraph 8.

5. There are no constructed moats or saucer bunds. Moats or saucer bunds would have to be cut out of solid rock and until this is done no rafts would be required.

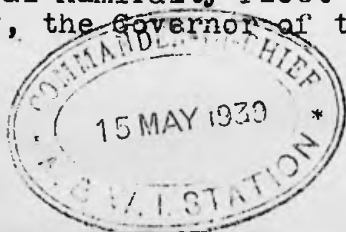
MODIFICATION TO COMPLETE SETS AND UNITS OF PUMPS.
C.A.F.O. 232/39, Appendix I.

6. This is dealt with in Admiralty Letter N.S. 02212/38/1826 dated 13th February 1939 to Messrs. The Falkland Islands Company, Ltd., 61 Gracechurch Street, E.C. 3.

INFORMATION TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR,
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

7. As far as is known His Excellency is not aware of the arrangements being made for the Protection measures for the Oil Fuel Tanks laid down in Confidential Admiralty Fleet Order 232/39, the Falkland Islands company having been consulted direct.

It is recommended therefore that the local manager of the Falkland Islands Company at the Falkland Islands should be requested to discuss the necessary arrangements required with His Excellency the Governor, Falkland Islands. It is also suggested that a copy of the relevant correspondence and Confidential Admiralty Fleet Order 232/39 should be sent to His Excellency, the Governor of the Falkland Islands.



(Sd.) H. H. HARWOOD

COMMODORE.

①

AWI. No. 899.

H.M.S. "BERWICK",
at St. Andrews, N.B.
1st June, 1939.

Sir,

With reference to Admiralty Letter N.S.02218/38/1826 of 13th February, 1939, to your London Office, I am directed by the Commander-in-Chief, America and West Indies Station to inform you that information has been received from the Admiralty that two Dennis trailer fire pumps, 350/500 gallons per minute capacity, and equipment were demanded from the Home Office on 6th May for supply to the Admiralty Oil Fuel Installation, Falkland Islands.

2. The Commander-in-Chief requests that you will discuss the proposed measures for protection of the Oil Fuel Installation with His Excellency the Governor and show him Confidential Admiralty Fleet Order 232/39, which has not been supplied to him by Admiralty.

3. H.M.S. "Ajax" will be visiting the Falkland Islands on 24th November and instructions are being issued by the Commander-in-Chief to the Commanding Officer of the ship to render all necessary assistance in connection with the training of a fire-fighting party.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(SGD.) R. H. PEARCE

Secretary to
Commander-in-Chief,
America & West Indies Station.

The Manager,
Falkland Islands Company,
Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
STANLEY.

28th July, 1939.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential letter No. A.W.I. 899 of the 1st of June, 1939, transmitting for my information copies of Admiralty Letter N.S. 12212/38/1826 of the 13th of February, 1939, and a report of the Commodore, South America, No. 310 of the 13th of May, 1939, concerning the provision of protection to the Admiralty Oil Fuel Installation in this Colony.

2. A fire-fighting party has been formed consisting of a Non Commissioned Officer and four men of the local Defence Force and will be ready for training by H.M.S. "Ajax" during her visit to the Colony in November and December next.

3. The proposed measures for the protection of the Oil Fuel Installation will in due course be discussed with the Manager of the Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) H. HENNIKER-HEATON

GOVERNOR.

VICE-ADMIRAL
SIR SYDNEY J. MEYRICK, K.C.B., R.N.,
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
AMERICA & WEST INDIES STATION,
BERMUDA.

(7)

Office of,
The Naval Officer in Charge,
Stanley, Falkland Islands,

1st July 1941.

The Honourable Colonial Secretary,
The Falkland Islands.

FIRE PRECAUTIONS AT ADMIRALTY OIL FUEL DEPOT.

In the event of a fire at the Admiralty Oil Fuel Depot, it is necessary for the Falkland Islands Company to provide a fire party to handle the fire fighting pumps supplied by the Admiralty.

2. The men named below are detailed for this work and it is requested that they may be seconded from all other civil requirements for fire duty at the Admiralty Oil Fuel Depot when required.

3. I understand that none of these men are in the Defence Force.

4. No: 1 Party :- E. Crawford, D. Stacey,
F. Coleman, W. Watts, F. Davis, S. Kiddle, F. Bonner,
S. Bonner, F. Barnes, M. White.

No: 2 Party :- R. Reive, I. Steen,
H. Anderson, H. Fuhlendorff, L. Sornsen, G. Sornsen, W. Kirk,
A. Hookings, J. Watts, K. Lindenberg.

R. B. Mackie

COMMANDER, R.N.
(Naval Officer in Charge).

No. G/8/39.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted).

MINUTE.

5th July, 19 41.

From The Colonial Secretary,

To The Naval Officer-in-Charge,

STANLEY.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Red 7.

With reference to your Minute of the 1st of July, 1941, I am directed to inform you that the fire parties detailed by you for duty at the Admiralty Oil Fuel Depot will not be used for any other civil duties in the event of an emergency.

for Colonial Secretary.

C/8/39.

9

7th July

41.

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the following persons have been detailed to provide a party to handle the fire fighting pumps in the event of fire at the Admiralty Oil Fuel Depot and to request that they be exempt from all other civil defence duties:-

No.1 Party:- E. Crawford, D. Stacey, F. Coleman, W. Watts, F. Davis, S. Kiddle, F. Bonner, S. Bonner, F. Barnes, M. White.

No 2. Party:- R. Reive, I. Steen, H. Anderson, H. Fuhlendorff, L. Sornsen, G. Sornsen, W. Kirk, A. Hookings, J. Watts, K. Lindenberg.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. S. J.
for Colonial Secretary.

Secretary,
Civil Defence Committee,
Stanley.

(10)

Office of,
The Naval Officer in Charge,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

14th July 1941.

No: S. 2/8.

The Honourable Colonial Secretary,
The Falkland Islands.



FIRE PRECAUTIONS AT ADMIRALTY OIL FUEL DEPOT.

In the event of a fire breaking out at the Admiralty Oil Fuel Depot at night, would it be possible to arrange for the Police to warn the two leaders of the fire parties organized by the Falkland Islands Company.

2. The necessary warning would be given by myself or my Assistant.

3. O.C. Troops informs me that this can not be done from F.I.D.F. Head Quarters, as there is no one on night duty.

4. The names of the men concerned are :-

R. REIVE - Fitzroy Road, East.
H. ANDERSON - Drury Lane.

R.B. Mark

COMMANDER, R.N.
(Naval Officer in Charge).

No. 6/8/39

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted).

MINUTE.

11

18th July, 19 41.

From Colonial Secretary,

To Chief Constable,

Stanley.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

I am directed to request that in the event of a fire breaking out at the Admiralty Fuel Depot at night, you will arrange for the Police to warn R.Reive, Fitzroy Road and H. Anderson, Drury Street.

2. The necessary warning would be given to you by the Naval Officer in Charge or his assistant.



for Colonial Secretary.

No. C/8/39.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number and the date may be quoted).

MINUTE.

18th July, 19 41.

From **Colonial Secretary,**

To **Naval Officer in Charge.**

Stanley.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

With reference to your Memo. No. S 2/8 of the 14th of July, 1941, I am directed to inform you that the necessary instructions have been issued to the Police to warn the two leaders of the fire parties organized by the Falkland Islands Company in the event of a fire breaking out at the Admiralty Oil Fuel Depot at night.



for Colonial Secretary.