

NAVAL AND MILITARY.
DEFENCE FORCE.
No. 18/32.

C.S.

193

H.M.S. "Durban"

SUBJECT.

193 2.
1st January.

TRANSFER TO COLONIAL GOVERNMENT OF NAVAL GUNS FOR THE
DEFENCE OF STANLEY.

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

1-5 Letter from Commodore, H.M.S. "Durban" 1/1/32.

42
Submitted for information. I will
ack. r. with thanks.

Jub

Hon C.S.

6.1.32.

*Thank you:
yes please do!
J.G.
8.1.32*

Subsequent Paper.

3. Letter to the Commodore, H.M.S. "Durban" 9/1/32.

H.M.S. "Durban",

at Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands,

1st January, 1931.

No. 466/31 e

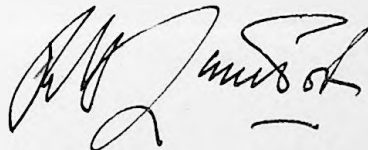
Sir,

I beg to forward for His Excellency the Governor's information the enclosed report of inspection of the gun platforms on Mount Low and Sapper Hill.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



Commodore.

The Colonial Secretary,
Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

H.M.S. "Durban."
31st December, 1931.

Sir;

I have the honour to submit the following report on the structures and condition of the gun platforms on Mount Low and Sapper Hill.

In each case the platform weighs about 5 tons and consists of two layers of pine wood. Each layer has five baulks 30"x10"x12" bound together horizontally by through iron tie bolts.

The layers are placed in the form of a cross, and one upon the other. The central junction is made by long vertical bolts through both layers, assisted by external facings of 4"x4"x $\frac{1}{2}$ " steel plates, and in addition, the upper surface, by the holding down ring, through which the bolts pass.

The pedestal of the gun-mounting is held to the central junction by a second series of bolts, which screw into the holding down ring, and these only can be removed at will!

The upper layer of baulks is flush with the surface of the surrounding ground. The floor of the lower layer is 2' below the surface; these baulks are buried and the earth levelled.

The holding down bolts of the pedestals are in good condition.

The wooden platforms have slight rot in the upper surface near the pedestal and in the outer baulks of the upper layers rot in the way of the horizontal tie bolts. The lower layers are sound.

The platform on Mount Low is well embedded in peat, with the upper surface only visible. It is sound, and fit to be moved intact to whatever position is selected for its further use as a gun platform.

The Sapper Hill platform is barely covered, with large areas of wood exposed between the rocks and sand packing. This platform will remain for some years strong enough to withstand the shock of gun recoil, but renewal of the outer baulks of the upper layer, and embedding the whole platform in peat is desirable.

It is considered that the expense entailed in building a complete new and concrete gun-platform is not necessary. Peat is a preserver of wood, and also an excellent packing material!

The condition of the guns and mountings is good. They are well covered with grease, lead and paint, and could quickly be made workable and efficient by the replacement of the fittings in store.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant!

The Commodore Commanding,
South American Division,
H.M.S. "DURBAN!"

J. Steenson.
Lieutenant Commander "Gn."

18/32.

9th January,

32

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter No. 466/310 of the 1st of January, 1932, enclosing for His Excellency's information a report of inspection of the gun platforms on Mount Low and Sapper Hill.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

LS

Colonial Secretary.

The Commodore Commanding
South American Division,
H.M.S. 'Durban'.