

C.S.

Naval & Military	
Defence Force	
No.	30/30

- 1930 -
~~1929~~

OC. 890F.

SUBJECT.

1930

7th Jan.

Previous Paper.

Tackland Is Defence Force.
Military Funerals

MINUTES.

① minute from OC 890F. 7/1/30
O/C. Defence Force.

Hon Eschellman has given verbal approval of the late Pte H Clifton being accorded a military funeral.

[Signature]
C.S.
9.1.30

Hon. Col. See,

Verbal approval was received and the late Private H. Clifton was buried with full military honours.

Subsequent Paper.

P.H.
14/1/30

DR. Watson, Captain
C/o F.D.S. Force.
10.1.30

Letter from Rev. G.K. Love of 25.9.40.

O.C. Def. 7

J.Y.I. - no doubt you will see H.E. on this matter, so please keep file 1. to them

2)
A.D. 29/11/40

Honourable Colonial Secretary.

This file reached me, unfortunately, after my weekly audience with His Excellency this morning; I do not think it is a matter that will improve by keeping a week & I therefore offer the following comments.

The deceased's father called on me & asked whether a military funeral could be arranged & also whether the cost of the funeral could be met by some form of public funds. As to the former I said with great regret it was impossible & as to the latter I promised to do all I could. I explained that to train a firing party was not possible ^{in the town} & the whole force including the band were all busily engaged in civil life & could not be called out for these purposes. The father was quite contented with my promise to get officers to attend the church & the many men as I could which were made up of men on leave from outposts & a few others who could get there. I had never been my intention that any of the Defence Force should go to the cemetery, but the men present wanted to continue them & certain officers & I did not see the point of stopping them because I had made previous engagements.

I do wish the Rev: here would have mentioned the matter to me first & thus avoided such an unnecessary & unnecessary letter.

A.D. O.C.D.F. 26.11.40.

I attach copy of letter I have today addressed Revd. Love. A.D. 3.

O.C. Def. 7.

This seems to me no matter for the Colonial Secretary. It is purely a military matter & I should be grateful if you would ask your chaplain to carry on (if he so wishes) through you

A.D. 27/11/40

His Excellency the Governor & Commander-in-Chief.

On the assumption that the Chaplain wishes the matter proceed with, it is forwarded for Your Excellency's consideration, please.

A.D. O.C.D.F. 28.11.40.

Am

No.

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

MINUTE.

7th January 19 29.



From O/C F.I.D. Force

To

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Submitted.

Pte.H.Clifton (Deceased) joined the Force August 12th, 1912.

Record. Served on the outposts during 1914 and has been a thorough efficient member of the Defence Force.

The Relatives of the (Deceased) have applied for a Military funeral. I feel justified in recommending this for His Excellency the Commander in Chief's approval.

I am Sir,

your obedient servant,

B.R. Loatson Captain

O/C F.I.D. Force.

Christ Church Cathedral

Port Stanley Falkland Islands

REV GERALD K. LOWE

September 25th, 1940

The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

Honourable Sir:

Would kindly place the following before His
Excellency the Governor and Commander in Chief;

Yesterday I conducted the Funeral of the Late
Pte H.R. Biggs, formerly of Arrow Point Out-post, who was taken
ill while on duty and died in hospital.

As a Priest of the Church, and an Officer of
the Force, I feel that the Funeral in so far as the Force was
concerned was a disgrace to the British Army. Only a handful
of men attended. There was no Parade. We have a Band which was
conspicuous by its absence, having been rehearsing for the past
few weeks. The Officer Commanding and the A.D.C. representative
of the Commander in Chief did not bother to complete their atten-
dance by carrying on with the procession to the Cemetery, but left
after the Service in the Church. The other Officers did carry on
to the cemetery. If this is all the interest taken by those in
command in the spiritual welfare of the men, I am almost tempted to
tender my resignation as Chaplain. I believe in doing things decently
and in order. There could have been a properly organized parade,
complete with Firing Party etc. It was indeed a poor show when com-
pared with the Naval Funerals held from the Cathedral following the
Battle of the Plate. Biggs did not die in battle, it is true, but he
was on active service and as willing as any of us to defend the
Islands, and was therefore entitled to full Military Honours.

I do not send this protest in any ulterior spirit, but in
the hope that steps will be taken to insure future ceremonies of the
above nature will be more in keeping with the spirit and traditions
of the British Army.

Yours Faithfully,

Gerald K. Lowe

Chaplain. F.I.D.F.

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Headquarters,

Falkland Islands Defence Force,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

26th September, 1940.

My Dear Chaplain,

Your letter of the 25th inst. addressed to the Colonial Secretary with reference to the funeral arrangements on the 24th has been referred to me, and I have made reply on the minute paper.

I write you direct to point out that as a matter of service discipline and courtesy letters signed by you as Chaplain should be sent in the first case through me as Commanding Officer. Whether this present case was through ignorance or design, I must ask you to keep to service channels for service matters in future.

Yours sincerely,



Major,
Officer Commanding,
F.I. Defence Force.

Capt. G.K. Lowe,
Chaplain, F.I.D.F.
Stanley.

1st October,

40.

The Officer Commanding,

F.I. Defence Force,

Capt. G.K. Lowe,

Chaplain, F.I.D.F.,

Stanley.

Your letter of the 25th September in connection with Military Funerals addressed to the Hon. Colonial Secretary was forwarded by me to the Commander in Chief and I append a copy of his comments and orders on the subject :-

"It is part of the duty of the Chaplain to the Force to satisfy himself of the arrangements for a funeral before it takes place.

In future every member of the Defence Force on the active list or who dies while the Force is on active service must have a full military funeral with firing party etc."



Major,
Officer Commanding,
F.I. Defence Force.

C.S.O. No.....

Inside Minute Paper.

Sheet No.....

O.C. D. F.,

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~~Handwritten signature~~ 30/9/40

Honourable Colonel Secretary.

M.P. returned to you for safe custody please. Copy of His Excellency's minute above sent to Chaplain as per enclosed memo.

C.S.O.
1. x. 40.
p. a.

30/30

6

28th August

67

To: Adjutant,

From: Colonial Secretary,

F. I. D. F.,

STANLEY

Copies: F.S.M. Juxton; Mr. T. Wallace.

Military Escorts for Funerals

The F.I.D.F. escort at the funeral of the late Mr. C. Skilling was very much appreciated and I was personally glad to see such a smart turn out. On future occasions when an escort is provided, advance notice to Mr. Wallace would assist when arrangements are being made.

(W.H. Thompson)

COLONIAL SECRETARY

ENC.

Reply at 7

PK



7

FALKLAND ISLANDS DEFENCE FORCE.

The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
STANLEY.

Headquarters,
Stanley.
29th August, 1967.

Sir,

Military Escorts for Funerals

Thank you for your memorandum 30/30 of the 28th August, just to hand.

W.I.
30/8.
Replied
8

It is customary for escorts, if members can be released from their normal work, to be provided only by request. This is probably not generally known and if in future the Undertaker would make early enquiries of the relatives concerned as to whether the deceased was a member of the Defence Force and advise the Adjutant if an escort is desired this would be appreciated and certainly assist all concerned.

With regard to the late Mr. C. Skilling, I was not aware that he had passed away until the evening of the 24th August. The Senior Chaplain made a request - by telephone at 9 p.m. - for a Defence Force Escort for the funeral service to be held the next day. As I was then committed to attend a rather important meeting commencing just prior to the funeral service only the ready cooperation of Government personnel made the escort possible apart from other arrangements which I was obliged to make rather quickly.

I am,
Sir,

Yours obediently,

[Handwritten Signature]
ADJUTANT.

Copies enclosed for: F.S.M.

Mr. T. Wallace.

12

30th August

8
67

To: Adjutant,
From: Colonial Secretary, F. I. D. F.,

STANLEY.

Military Escorts for Funerals

Thank you for your letter of the 29th August 1967. I have not yet handed over the copies for Mr. Wallace and the F.S.M. because it would appear that our lines are slightly crossed. 7

I do not want to involve the undertaker in asking families whether they want a military escort at a funeral. So many of our older residents have been members of the Force that if we do this we shall find ourselves attempting to turn out more escorts than we can afford or get volunteers for. As to your last paragraph I think you have misunderstood the situation as there was certainly no complaint and only congratulation on the turn out of the escort.

As Adjutant you alone can be approached for the provision of an escort and it would be unusual to put the Force into the hands of the undertaker (unless the members die in due order).

Might I say that Mr. Wallace has made no complaint but only mentioned in passing that some set tie-up would be preferable to the present ad hoc arrangement.

Unless you think it necessary, and do not bother to tell me unless you do think so, I shall not hand on the copies of your letter.

(W.H. Thompson)
COLONIAL SECRETARY

pmc.

Pa