

C.S.

NAVAL & MILITARY
Defence Force.

1938.

No. 232/38.

H.E. the Governor.

SUBJECT.

1938

10th November.

Previous Paper.

Inspection of Defence Force by Commodore of
South American Squadron.

MINUTES.

1. Minute from H.E. the Governor to Hon. Col. Secretary 10.11.38.

*O.C. Defence Force.
For your observations.
M.H. C.
10. XI. 38*

Hon. Col. Secretary,

I would be glad if His Excellency would consider altering his intention in this matter.

My whole policy since taking over the Force has been to rid it of the inferiority complex engendered by too much naval control.

In days gone by, no doubt this was necessary but now with Captain Fleuret having passed at Eastney as an officer fully qualified to command a 6" coast defence Battery, and with the extensive evidence that he is capable of all that this infers, it would I think be discouraging to this Officer to be placed under examination by Naval Officers who cannot know more about this gun than he himself does.

Also Lieut. Aldridge has just completed a course in which he earned excellent reports in machine gun work.

I am satisfied myself that at the moment the Defence Force is at a stage of efficiency and efficacy never before approached in its previous existence.

Subsequent Paper.

S. Marshall
Major,
O. C. Defence Force,
10th November, 1938.

Yh.

Submitted. The Force has recently proved that it is fully efficient in handling the 6" guns and carrying out remarkably good target practice without Naval assistance.

W.H.

10. XI. 58

The O.C. D. F. has apparently completely mistaken the position and the relation of the Defence Force to the Regular Forces.

I require that he and his officers should suppress by word and example any spirit of jealousy or self sufficiency that may exist in the Force in relation to the Royal Navy.

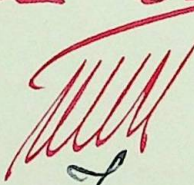
It is specifically provided by Section 36 of the Defence Ordinance that an Inspection of the Force may from time to time be held by an Officer of His Majesty's Force, nominated by the Governor. If this means anything at all it means inspection by a senior naval officer as it has always meant in the past — there being no prospect of a senior military officer being available.

An inspection is demanded not only for my own satisfaction as to the efficiency of the Force but for the assurance which is the due of the

from that we may require. To this he has added an expression of admiration for the strides forward made by the Defence Force since his last visit.

I expect the same spirit of loyal co-operation with the Navy from the O.C. particularly as in the event of war he will have naval forces under his command. There must be no more talk of inferiority ^{complex}.

The advances in efficiency are largely due to Major Marshall and his Adjutant and they should be the first to welcome an inspection by a naval officer of high rank. The inspection will take place.

 11/11/35

O.C. Defence Force.
To see H's minutes.
MCH
cd
11. XI. 35

Hon. Colonial Secretary
Seen. Thank you
S. Marshall major
12. 11. 38.

2 Circlets from H.C. the Governor 17/11/38 (2)
Letter to Commodore, "Crest" of 17/11/38 (3)

1/1

Letter Submitted.

M.H.
ed

17. 21. 38

17/11

O.C. Defence Force.

Please withdraw
letter which H.R. wishes
you to deliver personally
today. Please see red

(2). A copy of the letter is
put up for you to withdraw.

M.H.

ed
17. 21. 38

I believe the
Commission is at
G. H.

Hon. Colonial Secretary

Letter and personal copy
thereof withdrawn, thank you
Red 2. Seen

Smallsall

Major
14. 11. 38

13. Letter to Commodore H.H. Harwood, O.B.E., R.N., 7.12.38.
 14. Letter to Cheanager, Capt. Louis Williams 9.12.38.
 15. _____ F.I.C., of 9.12.38.

OK.
 The O.C. Defence Force to
 see the report? and
 bring it to the notice of
 the members?

WCH
ES
 9. XII. 38

Yes certainly
 2. This a very satisfactory and
 helpful report which will I have
 no doubt cause the O.C. to revise
 his earlier views on the desirability
 of such an inspection.
 3. I propose to transmit a
 copy of the report to the S.C.C.
 and I wish to be in a position
 to assure him that the recom-
 mendations of the Commodore will
 bear fruit

44.

~~WCH~~ 9/12/38

O.C. Defence Force.

To see report and bring
 it to the notice of members

of the Force. In early return
please.

MCH
cl
10. XII. 38

Hon. Colonial Secretary

I have the honour to state that
I have carefully studied the Commodore's report
and will have much pleasure in bringing it before the
notice of the members of the Defence Force.

The Commodore's suggestions will be given effect
to in the syllabus of training for the ensuing
year.

S. Marshall
Major. O.B.F.G.D.F. 12.12.38.

H.

Submitted.

MCH
cl
13. 12. 38.

With draft despatch
18/12

Despatch to S.O.S. no. 195 of 14/12/38.

(16)

H.

Despatch Submitted.

MCH
cl
14. XII. 38

P.A.
16/12/38

(1)

From His Excellency the Governor

to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

I have asked the Commodore
of S.A. Squadron to inspect the
Defence force while the Exeter is
in harbour and he has been
good enough to express his willingness.

Will you please inform the O.C.
Defence force and ask him to see
me about this

I do not attach much value to
a Parade Ground Inspection but am
anxious for an examination of the
handling and knowledge of armaments
and of the system of communications
and movements in the D.F.

W.H.H. 10/11/35

From His Excellency the Governor

to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

2

What action has been taken
to give effect to my instructions
about an inspection of the Defence
Force?

Unless steps have been taken
by the D.C. will you please send
me a letter for signature in terms of
the attached draft. Henry Marshall
could deliver it personally, and I hope
the preliminary action. A copy
would be to him

~~Henry Marshall~~ 17/11/30

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
STANLEY.

17th November, 1938.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 232/38.

Sir,

I have the honour to enquire whether you will be kind enough to carry out an Inspection of the Defence Force while H.M.S. "Exeter" is in Stanley.

Provision is made in the Defence Force Ordinance for inspections by an Officer of His Majesty's Regular Forces at the request of the Governor and the Force could not fail to benefit by your advice and criticism if you would honour it by an inspection.

In the event of a favourable reply from you I would ask that arrangements be made direct with the Officer Commanding the Force.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) H. HENNIKER-HEATON

Governor.

Commodore H. H. Harwood, R.N., O.B.E.,
H.M.S. "Exeter",
at STANLEY.

232/38

(H)

H.M.S. "EXETER",
at Port Stanley.

No. 310A.

18th November 1938.

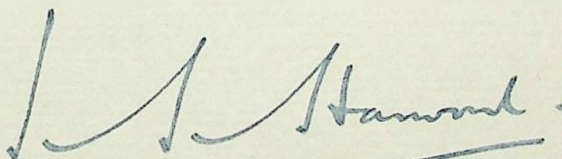
Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 232/38 dated 17th November 1938, in which you enquire whether I will carry out an Inspection of the Falkland Islands Defence Force.

I feel deeply honoured by Your Excellency's kind invitation and it will be a great pleasure to me to inspect the Defence Force.

I have consulted Major Marshall and we have agreed to arrange a date after the return of H.M.S. "EXETER" from South Georgia.

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



COMMODORE.

His Excellency,
The Governor of the Falkland Islands,
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
STANLEY.

232/38
238/38.

5th December, 38.

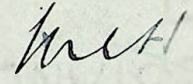
Sir,

I am directed to inform you that Commodore H. H. Harwood, O.B.E., R.N., will carry out an Inspection of the Falkland Islands Defence Force at 4.0 p.m., to-day, Monday the 5th of December, 1938, and to request that you will be good enough to release any members of the Defence Force employed by your Company in sufficient time to permit of their attendance at the Inspection.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Colonial Secretary.

The Manager,
Falkland Islands Company, Limited,
STANLEY.

232/38.

238/38.

5th December,

38.

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that Commodore H. H. Harwood, O.B.E., R.N., will carry out an Inspection of the Falkland Islands Defence Force at 4.0 p.m., to-day, Monday the 5th of December, 1938, and to request that you will be good enough to release any members of the Defence employed by your Firm in sufficient time to permit of their attendance at the Inspection.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

M.H.

Colonial Secretary.

The Manager,
Estate L. Williams,
STANLEY.

232/38

(Y)

No. 238/38.

MINUTE.

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

5th December, 19 38.

From The Colonial Secretary,

To All Heads of Departments,

Stanley.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

I am directed to inform you that Commodore H. H. Harwood, O.B.E., R.N., will carry out an inspection of the Falkland Islands Defence Force at 4.0 p.m., ~~mm~~ to-day, Monday the 5th of December, 1938, and to request that you will be good enough to release on full pay any members of the Defence Force employed in your Department in sufficient time to permit of their attendance at the inspection.

A. I. Fleuret,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. _____

MINUTE.

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

5th December, 19 38.

From The Agricultural Adviser,

To The Honourable

The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

STANLEY.

With reference to your minute of even date, I have the honour to advise you that the members of the Defence Force employed in this Department, will be released to attend the inspection by Commodore H.H. Harwood, O.B.E., R.N.

W.S.A. Weir.

Agricultural Adviser.

[Handwritten signature]

The Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1851.)

REGISTERED 1902.

Stanley

AGENTS FOR LLOYDS.

TELEGRAMS FLEETWING PORTSTANLEY RADIO.

5th December, 1938.

Ref 5

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 238/38 dated 5th December, 1938, I have to advise you that members of the Falkland Islands Defence Force will be released at 3 p.m. to attend an Inspection of the Force at 4 p.m. today.

I am,

Sir,

your obedient servant,

J. J. Creech

for Manager.

The Honourable

The Colonial Secretary.

Stanley.

12

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE
TO THE MANAGER

ESTATE LOUIS WILLIAMS

SUCCESSORS TO CHAS WILLIAMS.

Established 1863.

GENERAL MERCHANTS

PORT STANLEY
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

5th December, 1938.

RADIO ADDRESS
"WILLIAMS"
CODES USED
BENTLEYS
A.B.C. 5TH ED.
A.I.

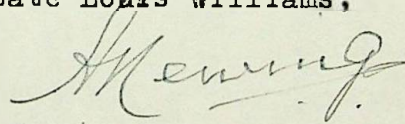
Sir,

We have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No.238/38, and in reply thereto, beg to inform you that, members of the Defence Force employed by this Firm will be released from duty this afternoon in time to attend the inspection of the Force to be carried out by Commodore H.H.Harwood, O.B.E., R.N.,

We are, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

p.p.Estate Louis Williams,



The Hon.

The Colonial Secretary,

STANLEY.

(11)

CONFIDENTIAL

H.M.S. "EXETER",
at Port Stanley.

No. 310A.

6th December 1938.

Your Excellency,

In accordance with the request contained in your letter No. 232/38 of 17th November 1938, I carried out an inspection of the Falkland Islands Defence Force on Monday, 5th December 1938.

I have the greatest pleasure in informing you that I found everything extremely satisfactory and I consider that very great credit is due to Major S. Marshall, his Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and all concerned.

I feel that you would like me to comment on each section in detail and to indicate what in my opinion should be the lines of training of certain of the Sections.

The Guard of Honour. - were extremely well turned out and it was a great pleasure to me to inspect them.

Gun Control Parties. - These parties are perhaps the most important element in the whole of the Defence Force. They are also the most difficult to train. A lot of experience can be gained in the Drill Hall by using the small Spotting Table recently supplied by H.M.S. "EXETER". More progressive practices could be staged by a boat inside the Harbour and mounting the Dumaresq and Range Clock on the Government Jetty. Such a practice would be particularly valuable in estimating inclination and getting the Control Party used to dealing with alterations of course. If a simple bearing plate was fitted in the boat the Signal Section could pass in periodically the relative bearing on each alteration of course.

The greatest value of all would be to take the opportunity of a ship proceeding to sea and to exercise the full Control Party, including sight-setters, range-takers, gunlayers and trainers at the guns themselves. It is most important to reduce the "time on aim" and the "control interval" to a minimum.

Guns' Crews. - The Crew that drilled were thoroughly at home at their loader. Periodical loader drill is very valuable particularly for the training of spare numbers.

Sub Calibre Firings. - The enterprise shown during the last camp period in firings at a "sail" target was excellent and I recommend a repetition of such a sub-calibre practice.

Small Arms Sections appeared to me to be very well trained and conversant with their weapons. Consideration might be given to the firing of Lewis guns at a balloon target.

Signalling Section. Signalling Section is also very important. The Sections that were closed up appeared most efficient. Needless to say any Signal drill that is possible particularly over large distances

His Excellency The Governor, of the
Falkland Islands,
PORT STANLEY.

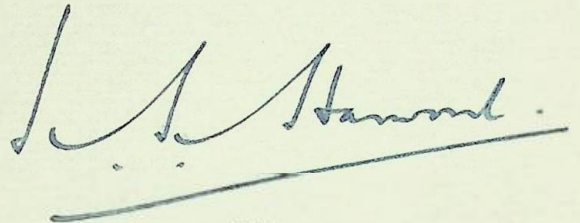
both by day

both by day and night would be extremely valuable.

First Aid Parties were most satisfactory and had been very well trained.

Finally may I say what a great honour and a great pleasure it has been to me to inspect such a keen and live Force.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. A. Howard", is written over a horizontal line.

COMMODORE.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
STANLEY,
7th December, 1938.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.
No. 232/38.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 310A of the 6th of December, 1938, regarding an inspection of the Falkland Islands Defence Force carried out by you on the 5th of December, 1938.

2. I desire to express my grateful thanks to you for having carried out the inspection and I appreciate very sincerely your remarks concurring the zeal and efficiency of the Force.

3. The Officer Commanding and all ranks are honoured by your commendation. The lines of training of certain sections proposed by you will be closely followed up.

4. I would add that I am convinced that your two visits to the Colony have formed a contribution of inestimable value to the defence of these Islands.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) H. HENNIKER-HEATON
Governor.

Commodore H. H. Harwood, O.B.E., R.N.,
H.M.S. "Exeter",
at Punta Arenas,
CHILE.

232/38.

9th December, 38.

Sir,

Red 12.

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th of December, 1938, and to thank you for your kindness in releasing from duty on the afternoon of the 4th of December, members of the Defence Force in your employ to enable them to attend the inspection carried out by Commodore H. H. Harwood, O.B.E., R.N.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Mutl

Colonial Secretary.

The Manager,
Estate Louis Williams,
STANLEY.

232/38.

9th December,

38.

Sir,

Red 9

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th of December, 1938, and to thank you for your kindness in releasing from duty on the afternoon of the 4th of December, members of the Defence Force in your employ to enable them to attend the inspection carried out by Commodore H. H. Harwood, O.B.E., R.N.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

M.H.

Colonial Secretary.

The Manager,
Falkland Islands Co., Ltd.,
STANLEY.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY.

14th December, 1938.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 195.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that at my request Commodore H. H. Harwood, O.B.E., R.N., Commanding the South American Division of the America and West Indies Squadron, inspected the Falkland Islands Defence Force on Monday the 5th of December.

In duplicate.

2. I attach a copy of the Commodore's report for your information. Effect will be given to the suggestions contained therein in the syllabus of training for the forthcoming year.

3. I venture to suggest that the report might be of interest to the Committee of Imperial Defence.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient
humble servant,

(Sd) H. HENRIKER HEATON

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
MALCOLM MACDONALD, M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.