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(Formerly)

SUBJECT:

FALKLAND ISLANDS DEFENCE FORCE.

Exercises between Falkland Islands Defence Force & H.M. Ships.

Number & Year.

CONNECTED FILES.

0838
& Sub-files.

Falkland Islands Defence Force.



H.M.S. VERYAN BAY
at Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands.
27th May, 1952.

No.
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,
PORT STANLEY.

2
I enclose two copies each of the following
draft proposals for the approval of His Excellency
The Governor.

- (a) A combined exercise with the
Falkland Island Defence Force.
- (b) Order of Parade on the occasion
of the official Birthday of Her
Majesty the Queen.

2. Further copies can be supplied.

3. With reference to para. 1 (b), it is
requested that it may be confirmed that "H" Hour
should be at 1100

R. Horncastle

(R. HORNCastle)
COMMANDER IN COMMAND.

Reply at 8

A COMBINED EXERCISE WITH THE FALKLAND ISLAND DEFENCE FORCE

2

SECRET.

EXERCISE "MUTTON".

I. Date. 'D' Day will be between 3rd and 7th June inclusive, depending on weather and other circumstances (but not 5th June). It will be promulgated later.

II Objects. To test the mobility of the Falkland Islands Defence Force.

(2) To exercise the Falkland Islands Defence Force in pinning down or breaking up a small scale enemy landing within a few hours' march of Port Stanley.

(3) To exercise the landing organisation of H.M.S. VERYAN BAY.

III Forces Taking Part.

RED: Falkland Islands Defence Force;
Coastwatchers as necessary.

BLUE: H.M.S. VERYAN BAY with
1 R.M. Platoon)
1 Seaman Platoon) and Co. H.Q.

IV General Idea.

There have been rumors of an impending expedition against the Falkland Islands by a foreign power (Red). A modified form of "Stand to" has therefore been ordered. Work is in hand on the coastal defences.

Blue
7

(2) There is no British warship or R.M. detachment in the vicinity.

(3) The Foreign Frigate "ALMIRANTE CARNERO" (H.M.S. "VERYAN BAY") has orders to land two platoons within striking distance of Port Stanley, which they are then to capture.

(4) She considers that the shore batteries are probably manned, and intends to keep out of their line of fire as long as possible. She will therefore make her landing to the flank; either in BERKELEY SOUND or in the vicinity of PORT HARRIET. The first objectives will be the Naval W/T Transmitting Station or the Government W/T Station, respectively

V Times (Local). H.M.S. VERYAN BAY will leave harbour at first light on 17th Day, and proceed out of sight of land.

- (2) The exercise will start when she re-appears and is reported by coastwatchers.
- (3) The exercise will end at 1500/17th Day, or when the first objectives have been captured, whichever is the earlier.
- (4) The Chief Umpire, or The Commanding Officer, H.M.S. VERYAN BAY, may cancel the exercise earlier if the need arises.

VI The Chief Umpire. His Excellency The Governor and Commander-in-Chief has kindly consented to act.

VII Ammunition and Pyrotechnics.

Blank small arms and self destroying close range ammunition may be fired, the usual safety precautions being observed. Care must be taken to avoid setting fire to tussock grass.

VIII Communications.

Chief Umpire's Exercise Wave.

One H.F. Voice Frequency manned by H.M.S. VERYAN BAY and Government W/T Station.

Red Force Communications.

As ordered by O.C. Falkland Islands Defence Force.

Blue Force Communications.

a) Ship & Shore

1) V/S: In the initial stages of the landing only.

(1) Radio: Portable Set Type 45 to Company Commander.

b) Inter Landing Party.

1) V/S: One signaller will be landed with Seamen Platoon. One S.M. is trained in V/S. Inter platoon V/S will be by semaphore

(2) Radio: Inter section communications by portable sets Type 615 (Army Type 88)

IX. Records.

No records are required. It is intended to hold a meeting as soon as possible after the exercise to discuss the results.

(R. HORNCastle)
COMMANDER IN COMMAND,

4

His Excellency The Governor and Commander in Chief, Falkland Islands.
The Colonial Secretary,
Officer Commanding, Falkland Islands Defence Force.
First Lieutenant.
Lieutenant Marr.
Lieutenant Alexander.
Lieutenant Rooke.
Mr. McLean.

Ref: attached 1-4

5

Birthday Parade

I have no comments except that the Boys Brigade are not mentioned. They are however being catered for. They should be included and should receive part also.

Exercise

O'Lullivan thinks that people will turn out & I suggest it be held subject to the following:-

a) The exercise should be held after the Birthday parade - 6th or preferably 7th a Saturday.
as F.I.C. have only one uniform.

Agree. b) F.I.C. are prepared to release their employees for the Exercise & Stokes

c) Sufficient volunteers are obtained. This could not be ascertained until the weekly parade on Monday June 2nd.

Other considerations are:-

- 1) O'Lullivan will have to be released from duties ~~on~~ 3rd June approx. to organize things. He will also have to call a lot on Hurtle's time for prep.
- 2) Additional uniforms will probably be needed? Self - ? Stokes - ? Canbeel. ? Hurtle?
- 3) The exercise should not be on such a large scale that other Dept: are involved i.e. Medical (R.A.P.), P.T., though I think

6 we can usefully bring H/m into the
picture. Yes.

Q
28/5

? FIGAS.

No comments other than as indicated.

P. Mark Cdr. Sturges.

Mc 23/11



7

H.M.S. VERYAN BAY,
at Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands
29th May 1952

AMENDMENT No 1 to EXERCISE MUTTON

2 Para. IV General Idea.

Line 2, last word, for (RED) read (BLUE)

Amended

P.J. Hall
(P.J.HA.LL)

Lieutenant, Royal Navy.

The Colonial Secretary,
Falkland Islands.

Per Amended.
3256 456

8

30th May, 52.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to ^{your letter 27/5/52} ~~the attached~~ and to express His Excellency's thanks to you for all the trouble you have taken.

2. The plan for the order of Parade is approved "in toto" subject to the inclusion of the Boys' Brigade.

3. The arrangements for the exercise are also approved subject to

- a) The exercise being held on Saturday the 7th of June, 1952,
- b) Sufficient Defence Force members being mustered
- c) The scale of the exercise not including other Government Departments.

4. Further details about the exercise can be concluded next week.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(sgd) C. Campbell.

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The Commanding Officer,
H.M. S. Vervan Bay,
STANLEY.

30th May, 52.

To: The Agriculture Officer,

From: The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley,

Field Exercise.

I am directed to inform you that it is hoped to hold a Field Exercise between the Royal Navy and the Falkland Island Defence Force on Saturday the 7th of June, 1952.

2. His Excellency will be Senior Umpire and there will be not more than three other Umpires.

3. I am to request that you will arrange mounts for the Umpires and accompany the party as guide. Further details will be available later.

(Sgd) C. Campbell.

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Circ. No. 8/52

10.

No. 0838/G

MEMORANDUM.

It is requested that, in any reference to this memorandum the above number and the date may be quoted.

From: The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

4th June, 19 52.

To: All Heads of Departments,

STANLEY.

SUBJECT:- Field Exercise - Falkland Islands Defence Force.

All members of the Falkland Islands Defence Force should be released on Saturday the 7th of June, 1952, to take part in a Field Exercise.

2. Essential services should of course be maintained.

CC & L
COLONIAL SECRETARY.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

12-13
The Chief Umpire, Exercise "Mutton", presents his compliments to the Umpires and has the honour to forward herewith one copy of the Report on the Exercise.

Mr. R. Stokes

1st Lieutenant, H.M.S. "VERYAN BAY".

Honorary Commandant, F.I.D.F.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
STANLEY,
13th June, 1952.

HRL

Copy of 12-13 to F.I.D.F.

The Naval and Marine parties were landed at Berkeley Sound with the Naval Wireless Station as their first objective.

The Marine party under Sgt. Moss made their way direct to Islet Point via Murrel House where they endeavoured to make a crossing of the Murrel River by rubber dinghy.

A plain clothes F.I.D.F. scout at Murrel House reported their presence by telephone and No. 1 platoon under Colour Sgt. Jones moved westwards from their position on the hill-crest covering the Murrel River to resist the crossing.

Only 3 Marines out of a detachment of 24 got across before Colour Sgt. Jones' platoon counter attacked and the umpires decided that these Marines were killed or captured and the remainder dispersed; it is in fact doubtful if they would ever have got across in daylight.

The remainder were unable to effect a crossing at any other spot and were judged to be out of the fight.

It is possible that the Marine party might have killed the scout and cut the telephone wires but even so these actions would have been clearly visible to the defenders in sufficient time to resist the crossing; they were in full view from 12.45.

The Naval party under Lieutenant Alexander made an excellent forced march across country crossing the Murrel high up and they had passed Mount Longdon before they were spotted by Colour Sgt. Blyth who had set out to reconnoitre that area.

Colour Sgt. Blyth returned to his platoon (No. 2.) which had remained in position manning the west end of Wireless Ridge.

On rounding the spur of Wireless Ridge the Naval party split. Lt. Alexander proceeded along the south of the ridge close to the hill and Lt. Rooke took a sweep to the south of the Woody Brook and proceeded down the valley.

Lt. Alexander's party soon came under heavy L.M.G. fire from Colour Sgt. Blyth at close range and later came under fire from two Vickers M.G. from Captain O'Sullivan's Head Quarters platoon which was in position on the east end of Wireless Ridge near the station.

The umpires ruled that Lt. Alexander's party was to all intents and purposes wiped out and their subsequent assault on the wireless station and capture of a lorry was disregarded.

In the meantime Lt. Rooke's party was also under fire from L.M.G. and Vickers M.G. but at a greater range and by judicious use of mortars and sectional covering fire they reached the Wireless Station.

There was a Falkland Islands Defence Force L.M.G. section in the station paddock but no one in the station itself, and the umpires considered that a very few resolute men from this Naval Party would probably have got through and would, if armed with explosives, have done some appreciable damage to the station before being wiped out.

The umpires took note of the fact that the F.I.D.F. based their position on the assumption that one man represented four and that the Naval and Marine party was unaware of this assumption.

Even so/

Even so on a man for man basis it is probable that the results would have been the same with the possible exception that more damage would have been done to the Wireless Station.

The main lessons to be learned by the F.I.D.F. were

- (1) Some guns were sited with an inadequate field of fire (notably Thompson's Bren Gun on the left flank).
- (2) Inter Platoon and Inter Section communications should have been arranged, it is not safe to rely on lamp alone.
- (3) Lorries should have been immobilised.
- (4) Riflemen in defensive positions were bunched too closely round the L.M.G.

The main lessons to be learned by Naval and Marine parties were

- (1) Wide detours should have been made around flocks of sheep which acted as effective standing patrols for the F.I.D.F.
- (2) The Marine section should have made more effective use of ground and cover - it exposed itself to unnecessary casualties.

Miss Blifford.

CHIEF UMPIRE.