

SECRET

WAR/W2H/5#9

C.S.

1941

No.

S/3/41.

N.O.i/c, Stanley.

SUBJECT.

19 41.

21st February.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT ON THE FALKLAND

ISLANDS.

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

- 1-2. Minute from N.O.I.C. of 21/2/41.
3. Minute from N.O.I.C., of 12.10.41.
- 4-12. Minute to N.O.I.C. of 29/12/41.

Subsequent Paper.

S E C R E T

REFERENCE SHEET.

FROM: Director of Naval Intelligence, Admiralty, S.W.1.

DATE: 22 October, 1940.

TO: Staff Officer, (Intelligence) Gibraltar, Alexandria, Colombo, Bombay, Bahrein, Aden, Istanbul, Malta, Singapore, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Wellington, Capetown, Freetown, Kingston, Falkland Islands, Callao and Montevideo, C.O.I.S. Singapore. Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet, Flag Officer Commanding North Atlantic, Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, East Indies, China. Rear-Admiral Commanding H.M. Australian Squadron, Commodore Commanding New Zealand Squadron, Commander-in-Chief South Atlantic, Commodore Commanding South American Division, and C. in C., America and West Indies Station. D.N.I. Ottawa, D.N.I. Melbourne.

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N. I. D. 03595/40

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The attached copies of a planning questionnaire are forwarded for information.

2. This questionnaire is much more detailed than that given in C.B. 3000(38) but S.Os. (I) should study it and make every effort to obtain the details required. Copies of the questionnaire may be given, at the discretion of the S.O. (I), to R.Os. who can be regarded as completely reliable, and possess facilities for the safe custody of the document, or R.Os. may be asked to supply such details as the S.O. (I) judges expedient.

3. It is realised that the collection of many of the items in the questionnaire is primarily the responsibility of the Army and R.A.F., but in those areas where the interests of the Army and R.A.F. are not adequately catered for, it will be necessary for S.Os. (I) to organise the collection of much data referring to the hinterland.

*A. H. Craig*  
*Colonel*

for Director of Naval Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT - FALKLANDS.

FROM ... The Naval Officer in Charge, Port Stanley.

DATE ... 21st February, 1941. No. D. 1/1.

TO ... The Honourable, The Colonial Secretary,  
The Falkland Islands.

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With reference to Admiralty letter N.I.D. 03595/40 of the 22nd October, 1940, paragraph 3, could the information required by the articles enumerated below be supplied by the various Government Departments concerned, please.

Part I :- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22.

Part II :- 26(c) and (d), 27, 28, 29, 30.

*R B Martin*

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

I N T E L L I G E N C E R E P O R T - F A L K L A N D S .

FROM ... The Naval Officer in Charge, Falkland Islands.

DATE ... 12th October 1941.

No: D. 1/1.

TO ... The Honourable Colonial Secretary, Falkland Islands.

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Can reply now be given to my letter No:

D. 1/1 dated 21st February 1941, please.

Red 2

RB Marti.

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

15/3/41

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

MINUTE.

29th December, 19 41.

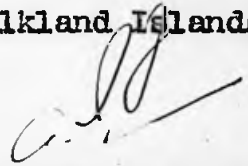
From Colonial Secretary,

To Naval Officer-in-Charge

Stanley.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

With reference to your minute No. D/1/1 of the 21st of February, 1941, I am directed to transmit to you the information required to complete the Intelligence Report on the Falkland Islands.

  
for Colonial Secretary.

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INTELLIGENCE REQUIRED FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

AND FOR COMMANDERS OF PROJECTED OPERATIONS.

PART I - GENERAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL

THEATRE OF OPERATIONS.

1. (a) Geographical and topographical - see Part I pages 2 & 3 of the Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Falkland Islands 1938, - attached hereto.

- (b) Effect on the organisation of a British Force

This is not clearly understood. The present defences against invasion are woefully weak owing to the very serious lack of man power and defensive weapons. - There are no anti tank guns, no A.A. guns and no means of having warning from aerial reconnaissance, accommodation is lacking on the camps (farms) and there is little shelter against the elements.

In the West Falklands there is little to defend but in the Stanley area there is a great deal. It is probable that therefore only East Falklands would be defended seriously.

Any enemy force establishing itself on the West Falkland would find the Sound difficult to cross owing to lack of boats, strong currents, frequent storms and general unsuitable climatic conditions. It is not possible to organise more than a very small force of under 500 men including all branches of the services from those residing in the Falklands. The islands would however provide a magnificent training ground for any force requiring experience in country such as constitutes the islands. Any military force

coming to the Falklands - either East or West would have to send in advance sufficient sectional hutting and equipment to house the troops. It would be a mistake to send raw building material for this purpose as there is a severe shortage of man power and particularly of skilled building class labour. Food also would have to accompany the force.

- (c) Type of country, etc. See Annual 1938 Report pages 2 & 3. The whole country is eternally undulating and there are no really flat areas of any size. These undulations provide wonderful cover for troops movements and at the same time offer strong defensive positions and observation posts both for seaward and land work.

It is suitable for a fully mechanised army particularly in summer. There are few places that could not be approached with caterpillar type vehicles. Rock formations (outcrops) can mostly be circumvented. There is a considerable amount of wet boggy land in winter particularly on the higher ground when the peat subsoil prevents surface water from soaking in. Some of the numerous stone runs would offer serious difficulties and delay movement but tracks could be made across these by engineers as there is always ample stone and filling in material about. Broadly speaking it would be almost impossible for an enemy force to gain a footing and bridge-

against a medium defending force properly equipped and mechanised. The coast is dangerous and rocky and there are not many suitable landing places. Natural protection is strong and the weather uncertain. The diddle-dee (a white heather) which abounds everywhere, tussac grass and numerous small stone outcrops form perfect protection for advancing or defending and khaki under most conditions is an ideal camouflage.

There are many points where pack transport would be almost essential particularly if the area were to be heavily used and the ground become churned up in winter. It should not be necessary in summer that is from the end of October to the end of March.

There are no aerodromes in existence at the moment though two - one East of Stanley and one near Port Darwin could be constructed at some cost but without undue engineering or drainage difficulties.

There is ample scope for the formation of seaplane bases.

- (d) The seasons vary little - See Falkland Islands Report 1938 page 3.

CLIMATE.

- 2. See Meteor report 1940. Winds are strong constant and penetrating.

MEDICAL.

- 3. See Medical Report 1939.

MAINTENANCE.

- 4. General Supplies. Nearly everything is imported with the exception of meat. There are 600,000 sheep in the islands, an unknown but not large number of cows and bullocks and fewer pigs.

Enough vegetables for local needs can be grown. There is no timber and fruit and flour have to be imported as has also all beer, wine and spirits.

- 5. Petrol. Stocks. (a) petrol average 30-50 tons.  
(b) Diesel Fuel Oil: average 20-40 tons

Bulk Storage. (a) Two petrol tanks holding respectively 450 and 200 gallons situated on the premises of the Falkland Islands Company and Messrs. Estate Louis Williams. Two tanks in power house holding 2200 gallons and 400 gallons respectively. In addition there are three tanks at present holding water, which would be suitable for the storage of petrol or diesel oil. One, holding 2200 gallons is on the premises of Messrs. Estate Louis Williams, and the other two, with an aggregate capacity of about 10,000 gallons are onboard the hulk "Fennia".

- (b) Ordinary Commercial Tanks beneath the surface of ground and fitted with petrol pumps.
- (c) See (a) above.
- (d) Two petrol pumps as mentioned in (b), but no cans available. The greater part of both petrol and diesel oil stocks is kept in 44 gallon drums.

Local distribution.

- (a) Practically no distribution, requirements being limited. When sent out of Stanley, delivered in drums.
- (b) None.
- (c) See above (Bulk Storage (a)).

6. Water. Stanley has a plentiful supply of good water and can supply shipping. Each of the camps (Farms) has its own arrangements and supply appears plentiful.

Generally all water is supplied from springs of which there are many. These were widely distributed and the water is good and sometimes slightly discoloured by peat. The water problem should not present difficulties.

7. Electricity. Corporation power supply in Stanley area only - diesel engines. No grid system. The station is situated 100 yards east of the Town Hall in Stanley. Details are as follows :-

- 1 Gardner 4 cylinder 20 KW.
- 1 " 5 " 30 KW.
- 2 Petter Atomic diesel 3 cylinder 70 KW. each.

Distribution by overhead mains.  
Voltage 220. 50 cycle single phase AC.

In the event of Generator failure, one of the remaining sets can be used. If cable failure or mains failure, no duplicate mains exist. If the generating station itself becomes damaged there would be no electric power or light available.

Most farms or outstations have their own plants and sets.

Great use is made of wind propelled dynamos and is very satisfactory as lack of sufficient wind is infrequent

8. Hydro-Power Plants. - Nil.

9. Quarries. Ballast and road metalling is obtainable at numerous points throughout the islands and rock of differing degrees of hardness can usually be found a few inches under the surface or from outcrops.



(8)

10. Labour.

- (a) There is no spare labour in the Colony for these works other than those that could be released by Public Works Department.
- (b) Nil. No trees of any kind do exist.
- (c) As (a) above.

11. Accommodation. Stanley (1931 Census) 1213. There are no other towns.

- (a) about 2000 in Stanley. By using wool sheds about 500 in each settlement.
- (b) About 500 and 100.

Accommodation for British Troops outside Stanley is negligible other than wool sheds above.

No sawn timber is available other than the small quantities held to meet current local needs.

No Cold Storage is available in the Colony.

12. Town Plan. Neaves plan attached.

13. Railways. None.

Locomotive. None.

14. Roads.

- (a) i. Water bound, clay blinding on stone pitch foundation.

- ii. In Stanley fairly good and tarred each year. Elsewhere mere tracks and no topping for several years.

- iii. Outside Stanley varying from 10 to 18 feet. There are no passing places.

- (a) iv./ Outside Stanley including Surf Bay Road a three ton lorry could only be driven at slow speed and in dry weather.

- (b) Nil.

- v. Nil.

- vi. Fairly flat, except track to South from Stanley where steepest gradient about 1 in 7 over a very short distance.

- vii. Not applicable.

- viii. No.

- (b) one from Darwin to Fitzroy on East Island and one from Hill Cove to Roy Cove on West Island.

15. Road Transport. No animals or vehicles are available for hiring or purchase. Those extant are needed to maintain ordinary economic life of Colony. Ton lorries - Morris 6 wheeler, Chevrolet trucks. There

are/

are neither Garages or spare parts available.  
Cold climate oil all the year round.

17. Signals. Land Telegraphs & Telephones.

Location. Foxbay Wireless Station 60° 02' 40" W  
51° 50' 30" S  
South Georgia Wireless Station 36° 33' 00" W  
54° 14' 00" S.

Telephone Exchange Stanley adjoins Police Station  
100 yards South of Electric light Station.

Land telegraph line from Telegraph Office Stanley  
to Naval Wireless Station erected on South side of  
main road.

20. Security.

No Enemy Consular or other officials.

No Enemy Elements.

5th Column activities, possible sabotage, etc, non  
existent so far as is known.

21. Photographs. None available here. It is understood  
that H.M. Ships have caused aerial photographs to  
be taken at different times.

22. Currency, Weights and Measures. See Chapter XV  
Annual Report 1938.

PART II - DETAILED INFORMATION IN CONNECTION  
WITH MILITARY LANDING OPERATIONS.

26. Beaches.

(c) The Hinterland.

- (i) Usually a steep climb of from 10 to 100  
or more feet with valleys here and there  
formed by water courses.
- (ii) Not difficult to find where ever there is  
a landing ground.
- (iii) The islands are hilly but quite possible  
to travel across. All travelling is  
done on horseback as the going is slow  
on foot.
- (iv) Yes at the two points already mentioned  
but not without considerable preparation
- (v) Very little except camouflage. There are  
no trees. Tussock grass would afford  
good cover but this grows mostly on the  
islands.
- (vi) Out crops of rock and boggy surface, but  
these are not difficult to circumvent

(d) Local resources near beach.

(1) Not/

- (i) Not ideal. High winds make tent life precarious. The ground is rough and the thin layer of soil on the rock subsurface is unsuitable for pegs or holdfasts.
- (ii) None except at Farm Headquarters and these are few and far apart.
- (iii) There are numerous good springs but few of them give any great volume of water.
- (iv) This is not available except for meat. There are plenty of sheep and a certain number of bullock.
- (v) None available. Very few horses are stabled and fed. They fend for themselves and the grass is of very poor quality. There is hardly any hay, very little barley and no straw.
- (vi) Peat only.
- (viii) Practically none. It all must be imported and large stocks are not carried.

28.

Defences.

Coastal Batteries. These are as under :-

<u>Stanley.</u>					
Sapper Hill	6"	Naval Mounting.	Range	15,000	yds.
Canopus	6"	" "	" "	15,000	yds.
Mount Low	4"	" "	" "	10,200	yds.
Charles Point	4"	12Pdr"	" "	9,600	yds.
Ordnance Bty.	(2)	3 Pdr	" "	3,000	yds.

Sapper Hill is the challenging station, Canopus Headquarters of Fire Commander, Charles Point the Examination Battery.

The guns are mounted on bases of concrete or wood beams and are all unprotected except for dwarf walls of peat round the emplacements. There are no shields or overhead cover.

Sapper Hill and Canopus accessible by road.

Charles Point and Ordnance by water and camp track.

Mount Low by water and camp track.

Fire control at the moment is practically independent. An inter Battery telephone system is being installed when control will be from Mount Low or Canopus by Fire Commander.

South Georgia.

Leith Harbour	4"	Naval mounting.	Range	13,600.
Grytviken	4"	" "	" "	13,600.

M.G. Posts. Two at each gun for A.A. or ground work.

A.A. Defences.

Searchlights - None.  
Observation and listening posts - None.  
A.A. Batteries - None.

Wire and earth-work.

Booms, A/S nets :- none.

A/T nets :- none.

Hydrophones :- Two in Port William one operating with Charles Point and one with Ordnance Point.

Projected works. Chain of M.G. Posts west of Stanley Harbour and W/T Station. Protecting walls round guns. Completion of Magazine, etc. for Mount Low Gun. Installation of telephone system (wire return) between batteries, Headquarters, etc.

Munition depots and factories.

Former : Ammunition for the guns is distributed and kept in magazine near the guns.

S.A.A. is kept at Headquarters, outposts and Central Magazine. There are no factories.

29. Order of Battle.

Air Force - none.

Only defence against attack can be considered. All the guns are manned but none by complete detachments as men are not available. All the full time soldiers are on the guns. The remainder of the Force are civilly employed. There is no modern equipment in the coast defences. No depression rangers. No position finder. No electrical or mechanical dials and the only means of laying is by case 1

The posting Company comprising part time infantry civilly employed during the day, drills in the evenings and is available to be moved to defensive position on the sounding of a general alarm.

Military Personalities.

O.C. Troops Falkland Islands. Col. C.D. Allderidge, D.S.O., T.D., J.P.,

2nd in Command. Major J.A. Woodgate.

Fire Commander & Adjutant. Captain A.I. Fleuret, O.B.

30. Garrison.

Location.	Units.	Strength.	Equipment.	If trained.
Outpost batteries.	R.A.	77	see 28 above. 8 machine guns.	Yes.
Stanley.	Posting Company.	100 152	17 M.Guns. Rifles.	Yes.
Stanley.	Signals.	7 (does not include signalmen on out post duty.)	10 Heliographs 10 Lamps 24 Flags.	Yes.

<u>Location.</u>	<u>Units.</u>	<u>Strength.</u>	<u>Equipment.</u>	<u>If trained.</u>
Stanley.	R.A.M.C.	5	4 stretchers No ambulance.	Yes.
Various Camps.	Mounted Rifles & Camp members.	194.	48 Rifles.	Attend annual 8 days camp.
South Georgia.	R.A. & Infantry.	62	see 28 above 2 Lewis guns. 50 Rifles.	Yes.

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