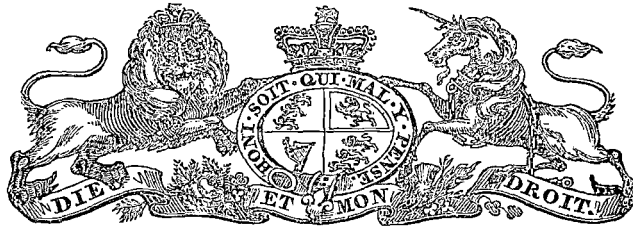


(No. 142.)



1890.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

SELECTION OF GUNNERY LIEUTENANT AS
STAFF OFFICER:

CORRESPONDENCE.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



CORRESPONDENCE *re* SELECTION OF GUNNERY
LIEUTENANT AS STAFF OFFICER.

MEMO.

THE "suggestions" herewith were written at my request by Colonel Bernard, not in any official capacity, but as the result of a conversation I had with him at a time when I was contemplating some changes in the Defence Department, and when I had asked his opinion as to the class of officer that might be obtained to answer the requirements of the Service in Tasmania.

B. STAFFORD BIRD.
12. 9. 90.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF A NAVAL "GUNNERY LIEUTENANT" AS A STAFF OFFICER.

Hobart, November, 1888.

MY DEAR MR. BIRD.

IN continuation of our conversation this morning, I here note down my suggestions.

As the finances, and also the size of your Defence Force, do not admit of a special officer for each detail, and further, as your Artillery is more essentially for harbour and coast defence, I have long thought that one of your staff officers should be a naval officer, such as is known by the official designation "Gunnery Lieutenant."

Such an officer on board a large man-of-war is the instructor: he is a scientific and practical artillerist, a torpedoist, submarine miner, and conversant with the working of the electric searchlight. He would know the artillery drill for "garrison guns" (*i.e.* those in your forts), and, like all naval officers of the present day, sufficient infantry drill for combined movements on land.

He should have the immediate command of your Permanent Artillery, of the torpedo boat with crew, and of the submarine mining arrangements, and, in short, be the Commandant's right hand man for the united working together of the fort and marine defences for your harbours and coasts. His profession will have taught him the tactics adopted by a man-of-war in attack, and of the dangers it has to avoid or overcome; he is the better fitted, therefore, to make the arrangements for foiling such attack. Nevertheless, it is obvious that the Commandant must always be drawn from the Army. An officer with the necessary qualifications could be borrowed from the Admiralty through the Agent-General.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

H. BERNARD.

To the Hon. the Minister of Defence.

Treasury, Hobart, 24th April, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE for some time had under contemplation the desirability of securing the services of a Staff Officer for our Defence Force, who will be qualified to instruct and advise both as to gunnery and torpedo work. The present Staff Officer, Captain Mathieson, is all that could be desired as an officer for torpedo work, submarine mining, &c., but he has not the knowledge of artillery which is desirable. His term of service expires about the end of the year, and in view of that I would wish the Agent-General to be instructed to confer with our Military Adviser as to the selection of a suitable officer to succeed him.

It has been suggested to me that a naval officer, a "Gunnery Lieutenant," would probably be best suited to our requirements, inasmuch as such an officer would be well qualified for artillery and torpedo work, submarine mining, and counter-mining, and would also know infantry company drill. If there should be guns in use here with which such an officer is not familiar, it would be easy for him to post himself up in regard to such guns at Shoeburyness before starting for Tasmania. It is also probable that such an officer would have a better knowledge than a military officer would of the best method of meeting an attack by a hostile cruiser.

The salary paid to the present Staff Officer is £300, with quarters, fuel, and light. We should probably have to pay something more than this for such an officer as I have described, but as to this we can decide after the report of the Agent-General is received.

What I would wish him to do for the present is this, to make full enquiry as to the probability of securing the services of such an officer, and what rate of pay would likely be required. After the receipt of the report there will still be ample time to send instructions for the engagement of an officer, who will not be required to commence his duties here until January next.

I have, &c.

B. STAFFORD BIRD, *Treasurer.*

The Hon. the Premier, Hobart.

*Office of the Agent-General for Tasmania,
3, Westminster Chambers, Victoria-street, London, S.W., 15th July, 1889.*

No. 508.

SIR,

IN reply to your Despatch No. 366, of the 24th April, I have the honor to forward a letter from the Colonial Office, from which it appears that an officer from the active list of the Royal Navy is unobtainable.

General Steward recommends that an advertisement be inserted in the Service papers (*U.S. Gazette, Horse Guards' Gazette, Army and Navy Gazette, and the Broad Arrow*) for a half-pay officer, naming rank, limits of age, length of proposed engagement, amount of pay, allowances, passage-money, &c.; applications received to be submitted, with testimonials, to the Admiralty for selection. The officer selected to be sent, with the sanction of the Admiralty, to Portsmouth for a short gunnery and torpedo course, and then embark for the Colony. The engagement with the Colony to date from signing of agreement, and the period to include training on board *H.M.S. Excellent* and *Vernon*.

I have, &c.

E. N. C. BRADDON, *Agent-General.*

The Honorable the Premier, Hobart, Tasmania.

Colonial Office, Downing-street, 11th July, 1889.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 12th ultimo, enquiring whether an officer of Her Majesty's Navy could be obtained from the active list for a period of three years for the Tasmanian Defence Force, and if so, what salary should be paid to him, I am directed by Lord Knutsford to transmit to you for your information a copy of a letter from the Admiralty on the subject.

I am, &c.

R. H. MEADE.

ADMIRALTY TO COLONIAL OFFICE.

Admiralty, 5th July, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 17th ultimo, and its enclosure from the Agent-General for Tasmania, stating that the Colony has it in contemplation to apply for the services of a Gunnery Lieutenant, R.N., for duty with its Naval Defence Force, and enquiring whether it is probable the services of such a naval officer could be obtained, and the probable cost.

In reply, I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that, in view of the temporary insufficiency of sub-lieutenants and lieutenants for service in the Royal Navy, my Lords regret they would be unable to detail a lieutenant on the active list for service with the Naval Defence Force of Tasmania.

I am, &c.

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

R. D. AWDRY.

Treasury, 3rd May, 1890.

SIR,

REFERRING to despatch from the Agent-General, No. 508, of 15th July, 1889, I have the honor to request that you will instruct the Agent-General to advertise in the Service papers,—*United Service Gazette, Horse Guards' Gazette, Army and Navy Gazette*, and the *Broad Arrow*—for a half-pay officer, being either a naval gunnery lieutenant or a military officer, but who must have a good knowledge of artillery, torpedoes, and submarine mining, so as to be competent to take command of the batteries, and of the Artillery and Torpedo Corps, under a Commandant of the whole of the Forces. He should not be more than fifty years of age; the engagement might be for three or five years; the pay to be offered may be £350, with quarters, or may even be £400 if much difficulty is experienced at the lower rate; there will also be allowances for fuel and light, and passage-money to Tasmania; and return to London on satisfactory termination of engagement will be paid by the Government.

Applications should be submitted, with testimonials, to the Admiralty for selection in the case of naval officers, and, in the case of military officers, to the War Office. It should also be provided that the selected officer should be sent, with the sanction of the Admiralty, to Portsmouth, for a short gunnery and torpedo course, prior to embarking for the Colony.

It will be desirable that the Agent-General should request the favour of assistance as above in the selection of an officer and in affording him the required training.

The engagement with the Colony should date from the time of signing the agreement, and to include the period of training above referred to, half pay being allowed from the time of signing the agreement until arrival in the Colony, and full pay from arrival to the completion of the term of service in the Colony. I should like the engagement to be so made that the time of the officer's arrival in Tasmania shall be February or March, 1891.

I have, &c.

*The Hon. the Premier.*B. STAFFORD BIRD, *Minister of Defence.**Hobart, 2nd September, 1890.*

MY DEAR MR. BIRD,

I NOTICE that you have secured the services of a Naval Officer for your Permanent Artillery, Marine, and Torpedo Defences, as suggested by me in November, 1888.

If any adverse criticisms are made in the House you have a good answer in the following proposed reorganisation of the Artillery by the Home Authorities, as I read in a Home publication of the 17th July last,—viz., the present unwieldy "Regiment of Artillery" to be divided thus:—

1. That portion hitherto known as "Horse Artillery" and "Field Batteries" will become "Field Artillery," divided into "Light" and "Heavy."
2. "Siege Artillery."
3. "Mountain Artillery."
4. What has hitherto been known as "Garrison Artillery" (employed to man the guns in forts) will be made over *en bloc* to the Admiralty and incorporated with the Marine Artillery, so that the defence of harbours and coasts (which includes naval, torpedo, and submarine mining operations) may be worked by the same machinery without divided authority.

You will see that my suggestion of 1888 anticipated the idea of the Home Authorities in 1890.

I remain, &c.

The Hon. the Minister of Defence.

H. BERNARD.