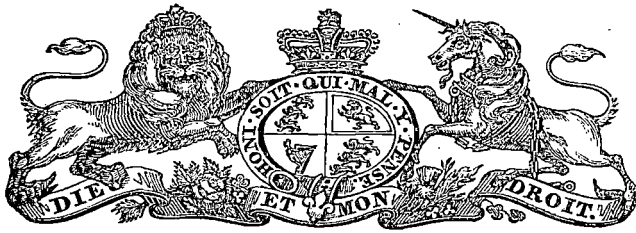


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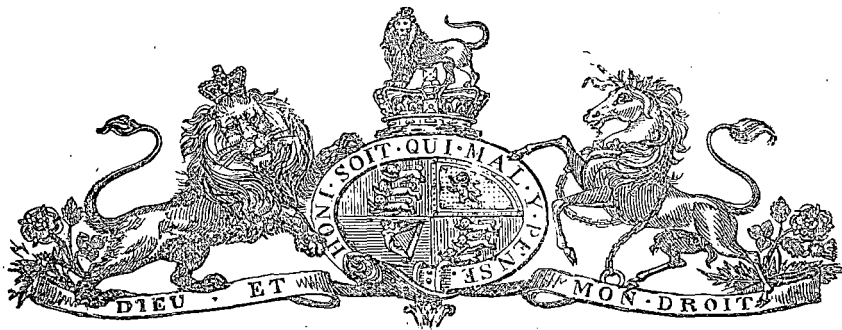
1887.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

DEFENCES OF THE COLONY:

REPORT OF BOARD OF ENQUIRY.

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



DEFENCE FORCES OF TASMANIA.

BOARD OF ENQUIRY.

Premier's Office, Hobart, 5th July, 1887.

MEMORANDUM.

MINISTERS feeling that it is necessary before presenting the Defence Estimates to Parliament that they should have the advantage of independent and technical opinion upon some points, have determined to appoint a Board of Enquiry for this purpose.

In adopting this course, Ministers are practically giving effect to a Resolution of the House of Assembly passed last Session to the effect that a Royal Commission be appointed to enquire into and report upon the present cost and strength of the Tasmanian Defence Force, and the existing provision for rifle practice and drill throughout the Colony.

But inasmuch as that Resolution was passed only because a Motion for a Select Committee had failed, and seeing that a Royal Commission such as was contemplated by that Resolution would be less expeditious in its operation and more costly than a Board of Enquiry, it has been resolved to appoint the latter body, and the following gentlemen are accordingly appointed as Members thereof:—

Major-General Henry Loftus Alexander Tottenham.
Colonel Windle Hill St. Hill.
Major George Priestley.
Major Alfred Harrap.
Captain Albert Augustus Pollard.

It must not be understood that in directing this enquiry to be made Ministers intend or in any way imply any slight to or want of appreciation of those officers and men of the Volunteer Force who have heretofore given freely of their time and convenience in the interests of the movement. But Ministers cannot but feel that it is essential to ascertain that the large sum necessarily spent upon Defences is well spent, and that no larger sum than is absolutely required is expended.

The enquiry of the Board will be directed to the following points:—

1. How far efficiency may be maintained with a reduced expenditure.
2. How far, without largely increased expenditure, efficiency may be increased.
3. To what extent the Naval Defences of these Colonies agreed upon at the Imperial Conference will effect in saving or change of character in our Land Defences.

It is of importance that this enquiry should be commenced at the earliest possible opportunity, and that the labours of the Board should be brought to a termination, and their Report furnished to the Government, not later than the 20th of the present month.

This being so, all the documentary evidence extant will be placed at the disposal of the Board as soon as they shall meet; and it is apprehended that this, together with such information as may be obtained departmentally through the Minister of Defence, and such inspection the Members may wish to make of the batteries and armament, will afford sufficient data upon which to arrive at a sound conclusion.

The Minister of Defence will be glad to co-operate with the Board, and it is through him that they will make any representations that may occur to them during the course of their enquiry.

P. O. FYSH.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1887.

THE Board met at the Parliament Buildings, Hobart. at 11 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

MAJOR-GENERAL H. L. A. TOTTENHAM.
COLONEL W. H. ST. HILL.
MAJOR G. PRIESTLEY.
MAJOR A. HARRAP.
CAPTAIN A. A. POLLARD.

The Board proceeded to elect Major-General Tottenham as President, and Captain Pollard as Secretary.

The President read the letter from the Honorable the Premier constituting the Board of Enquiry.

Col. St. Hill laid before the Board the correspondence between Admiral Tryon, late Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Naval Defences, and the Government of Tasmania, *re* Naval Defence.

Report of Major Evans, received from the Hon. the Minister of Defence, read and laid before the Board.

The Board applied to the Hon. the Minister of Defence requesting that Reports may be furnished from the Commanding Officers of Corps, giving the strength of their Corps up to the 30th of June.

SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1887.

The Board re-assembled at 11 A.M., when the whole of the Members were present.

The Returns called for on the preceding day relative to Parade States were received from the Minister of Defence, and duly examined and deliberated upon.

Other documentary evidence was also received and noted on the proceedings.

MONDAY, JULY 11, 1887.

The Board re-assembled at 11 A.M., when the whole of the Members were present, and they proceeded to examine the following witnesses:—Colonel Bernard, Sergeant-Major Hardy, Sergeant-Major Alderton, Sergeant-Major Brown.

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 1887.

The Board adjourned till to-morrow, owing to the opening of Parliament, when certain witnesses would be engaged in their military capacity.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 1887.

The Board re-assembled at 11 A.M., when the following Members were present:—General Tottenham (President), Colonel St. Hill, Major Priestley, and Captain Pollard.

Sergeant-Major Hardy was called to produce his certificate from Chatham, dated 5th February, 1879.

The following witnesses were then examined:—Lieutenant Mathieson (Staff Officer), Colonel Legge (Commandant).

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 1887.

The Board re-assembled at 11 A.M. at the Treasury, when the whole of the Members were present.

After discussing portions of former evidence and documents received bearing upon it, the Board continued the examination of Colonel Legge (Commandant), and subsequently Mr. Pirie (Naval Expert).

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1887.

The Board re-assembled at 11 A.M., when the whole of the Members were present.

The following witnesses submitted themselves for examination:—Captain Wallack (Staff Adjutant), Mr. Chisholm (Military Storekeeper.)

Discussion followed on evidence given.

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 1887.

The Board re-assembled at 11 A.M., when the following Officers were present:—General Tottenham, Colonel St. Hill, Major Priestley, and Captain Pollard.

Having considered and discussed certain documentary evidence received, the Board proceeded to examine the following witnesses:—Mr. Huxtable, Colonial Storekeeper; and recalled Mr. Chisholm.

MONDAY, JULY 18, 1887.

The Board re-assembled at 11 A.M., when the following Members were present:—General Tottenham, Colonel St. Hill, Major Priestley, and Captain Pollard.

The following witnesses were examined:—Engineer of Torpedo Boat, W. Burrell; Colonel Legge recalled.

Discussion followed.

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 1887.

The Board re-assembled at 11 A.M., when all Members were present, and recalled Mr. Chisholm, Military Storekeeper, for examination.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 1887.

The Board re-assembled at 11 A.M., when all Members were present, and proceeded to draw up their Official Report.

After discussion and deliberation, the following proposals were agreed to :—

Medal or suitable declaration for long service.
 Pass on Government railways.
 Exemption from jury lists.
 Police and Civil Service appointments.
 Efficiency badges.
 Liberal allowance of practice ammunition.
 Encouragement of military libraries.
 Gymnasia.

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1887.

The Board re-assembled at 11 A.M., when all Members were present.

After discussion and deliberation, decision was arrived at on the following subjects :—

The Code of Penalties as now existing.
 The Artillery Force.
 The Torpedo Boat.
 The Engineer Corps.

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 1887.

The Board, on the invitation of the Hon. the Minister of Defence, proceeded at 10 A.M. to pay a visit of inspection to the batteries—the Queen's, the Bluff, and the Alexandra.

On re-assembling at 12 A.M. they continued to draw up their Official Report, adjourning at 5 P.M. to 8 P.M., when they met again.

SATURDAY, JULY 23, 1887.

The Board re-assembled at 10 A.M., when all Members were present except Major Harrap, and continued to draw up their Report and a large number of recommendations.

The Report was finally read and adopted.

HENRY L. A. TOTTENHAM, *Major-General, President
Board of Inquiry on Defences.*

The Treasury Buildings, Hobart, 23rd July, 1887.

SIR,

THE Board of Enquiry, holding its proceedings under the authority of the Honorable the Premier's Memo. of the 5th instant, have the honor to submit the accompanying Report for the consideration of the Government.

In the course of this enquiry the Board have examined 11 witnesses, whose evidence is herewith attached, also the Reports received from the various Commanding Officers, marked A to Y.

In submitting their recommendations, the Board beg respectfully to remark that the subject of Defence is one surrounded by many complications, consequent on the want of some fixed principle in the first instance.

That, in the absence of any particulars of the arrangements come to at the recent Imperial Conference in regard to the Naval Defence of these Colonies, it has been impossible for them to make any definite suggestions in respect of the Colony co-operating in a fixed scheme of local Naval Defence; but they desire to express their belief that a reliable Naval Defence, if so established, must produce a great change of character in our land defences, especially if the Derwent be made the rendezvous for any portion of the proposed increased squadron on this Station.

The Board cannot leave this subject without submitting to the Government the question whether the proposal lately made in Parliament for the construction of a Graving-dock, added to the willingness of the Colony to maintain a properly organised Defence Force, would not tend towards Hobart being created a refitting and coaling station for the Navy in these seas, besides making the Port attractive to ships of the Mercantile Marine.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

HENRY L. A. TOTTENHAM, *Major-General, R.A.,
President Board of Enquiry on Defences.*

W. H. ST. HILL, *Colonel.*

G. PRIESTLEY, *Major.*

ALFRED HARRAP, *Major.*

A. A. POLLARD, *Captain.*

The Honorable the Minister for Defence.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD.

*Inducements to serve.***Inducements to serve.**

The Board being of opinion that the time given gratuitously by Members of the Defence Force has not hitherto been sufficiently appreciated, recommend that a defined system of rewards and privileges should be adopted for the Defence Force, such as will be found embraced below :—

Medal or decoration.

1. A silver decoration with the Tasmanian Coat of Arms on one side, and on the obverse side a Crown with the words "for long and faithful service. Presented to"—attached to a blue and scarlet ribbon (striped).

This honourable reward to be given on the completion of fifteen years' service, six years of which must be actual service. The recipient to be classed efficient, and bear a good character in his regiment.

Every year of active service before the enemy to count as three years' ordinary service.

Pass on railway.

2. That a pass on all Government railways in the Colony should be given to every member of the Force on the completion of six years' continuous service as an effective, entitling him to travel at a reduced rate. This indulgence not to exceed one pass per month.

Exemption from Jury Lists.

3. That exemption from the Jury List be granted to all members of the Defence Force (holding certificates of efficiency) who have served three consecutive years in the active force, as well as three continuous years in the Reserves, or who have been classed efficient for six consecutive years in any Country Rifle Club, so long only as they continue members of the Force. Such exemption to be extended for life after twenty-one years' service in the Tasmanian Defence Force.

Police and Civil Service appointments.

4. That in all first appointments to the Police and to the subordinate grades of the Civil Service of the Colony, preference to be given to efficient members of the Defence Force of the Colony who have served three continuous years in any recognised portion of such Force, provided they have borne a good character, as well as possess the other qualifications required for the Civil Service.

The condition of three years not to apply to retired soldiers of good character from the Imperial Army.

5. That an efficiency badge be granted to members of the Defence Force in all branches after each period of three years' efficient service.

6. That a more liberal allowance of practice ammunition, on the present system of reduced payment, be granted to members of the Defence Force in all branches.

7. That every encouragement should be given to the formation of military libraries and gymnasia.

8. That Government take steps to provide professional and scientific journals, such as that of the Royal United Service Institution, &c., for the benefit of such libraries.

Artillery.

9. That when an Artillery Corps is reported as up to its full strength (efficient), the Commandant should be empowered, on the application of its Commanding Officer, to sanction an issue of special practice ammunition from the old stock, and that a sum be set apart on the estimates providing for the same.

10. The Board regret to find from Major Evans's Report of 5th of January, 1887, (D), that at present the strength of the Southern Artillery is about one-third of its authorised establishment, and consider that every effort should be made to bring that Force up to at least the peace establishment.

Penalties.

11. With regard to the penalties which are set forth in the 84th Section of the Regulations and Orders of the Tasmanian Defence Force, the Board considers such might be modified with advantage, and that such modification would not militate against due discipline.

*Torpedo Boat and Engineer Corps.***Torpedo boat.**

12. That under the altered conditions imposed by the agreement come to at the recent Imperial Conference, and taking into consideration professional opinion expressed during the enquiry, the Board are of opinion that the Torpedo Boat and Service (including Whitehead Torpedoes) should be handed over to the Imperial Government to form a part of the Australian Naval Defences, consequent on the foregoing recommendations.

13. That the Engineer Corps be in future divided into three classes, and receive remuneration for the 102 hours' work annually expected from this Corps, in accordance with the grade of each class. Engineer Corps.

The First Class—consisting of 20 per cent. of the whole Corps, viz., 15 men—to be composed of first-class tradesmen, being also first-class submarine miners, and to receive pay under the same conditions as now obtain, but at the altered rate of one shilling per hour.

The Second Class to consist of 30 men, paid at the rate of 9d. per hour, and to fulfil the same conditions required of the first class, forming a sort of reserve to the first class to fill vacancies in the latter as they occur, by seniority.

The Third Class to consist of the remainder of the Corps—viz., 30 men—paid at the rate of 6d. per hour, forming a second reserve, the men being promoted by seniority to the second class.

The rate of Capitation Grant of this Corps to be assimilated to that of the remainder of the Force.

14. Any member of the Engineer Corps resigning under the altered conditions, and who may join a Corps of another branch of the service, to be allowed to count his previous service towards any future rewards that may be granted.

The question of the strength of this Corps may be found to demand reconsideration when the nature of the future permanent arrangements come to with the Imperial Naval Authorities are disclosed; but on this point the Board, under present information, cannot offer any recommendation.

15. The Board reluctantly feel that they must, under the peculiar circumstances, leave untouched the question of the policy of singling out one branch only of the Defence Force for payment, and have therefore confined themselves to the above suggestion.

Rifle Ranges.

16. The Board being of opinion that the providing of suitable Rifle Ranges with proper accommodation is a *sine quâ non* in obtaining an efficient Defence Force, beg to make the following recommendations:— Rifle ranges and markers.

- (a) That the new ranges be completed and put in order without delay.
- (b) That a Marker's residence, with a small magazine (sufficient only for holding a week's supply of ammunition) be erected at the Hobart range, at a cost of, say, £200.
- (c) That a permanent Marker, at a salary of £80 per annum, be provided for Hobart, also one at £60 for Launceston, whose duties would consist in being on their respective ranges during such hours of daylight as are usually employed for musketry practice or matches; to keep their ranges in repair; and, in the case of the one at Hobart, to be the custodian of the ammunition deposited in the magazine proposed to be erected, and, on the responsibility of Officers commanding Corps, to sell the same at the rate fixed to volunteers practising, or issue to firing parties provided with an order the necessary ammunition.
- (d) That waiting-sheds be erected at both ranges.

With regard to the proposed expenditure of £140 for salaries and £200 for erection of Marker's residence and magazine, the Board would observe that under the present system repairs to range are estimated at £20 (*vide* Item 46), and a Marker (Item 56) at £60—total, £80; to this must be added the S. T. Rifle Association contribution of £10, making £90. The interest at 5 per cent. on £200 would be £10; this, added to the £140 for salaries, would make a total of £150, as opposed to the present outlay of £90, or a total increase of £60,—a proposed addition which the Board considers would be advantageous, and would be productive of the most beneficial results.

Permanent Force.

17. The Board must express their regret that the recommendations of Sir W. Jervois and General Scratchley, R.E., in regard to the constitution of the Permanent Force, have not been complied with, only three (besides the Sergeant-Major) being at present ex-Royal Artillerymen. Moreover, from the evidence brought before the Board, it appears that the present men are more employed on fatigue duties than on purely artillery duties, taking the place in the former respect of the five store labourers formerly employed at the Military Store at a total cost to the Colony of £373 4s. Permanent Force.

With this paragraph, as far as and including the word "artillerymen," I agree; to the remainder I dissent, for reason I can give if required.—H. L. A. T.

The Board, therefore, think that the country should not be at the expense of maintaining a Force so unsatisfactory in its constitution as at present retained longer than is avoidable; but consider that either Sir W. Jervois' scheme should be adopted in its entirety, or that a Force composed of a proportion of three gunners only (out of a total of 19 men), as now existing, should be reorganised on its present numerical basis.

I dissent, as above.—H. L. A. T.

*Permanent Staff.***Permanent Staff.**

18. That, considering the small number of men in the Command, the Board are of opinion that one officer on the Staff of the Commandant for the whole Colony is sufficient, and therefore recommend that the Estimates should be relieved to that extent.

I dissent, for reasons I am prepared to give if required.—H. L. A. T.

*Infantry Instruction to State Schools.***Infantry instruction to State Schools.**

19. With regard to the Infantry Instructor at Hobart, the Board are of opinion that the imparting of military drill to the State schools should form a portion of his duties, *if practicable*.

*General.***Re quarters in Barracks.**

20. The Board are of opinion that all members of the Permanent Staff should be provided with suitable quarters according to rank, and would suggest the unadvisableness of letting buildings in the Barracks on any but short terms, so that they might be at the disposal of the Military authorities with the least possible delay if required, public institutions being excepted.

Capitation grant.

21. That should the recommendations made by the Board in reference to conferring certain privileges and rewards to members of the Defence Force be complied with, the Board are of opinion that a lesser rate of Capitation Grant might be adopted, as well as a reduction made in the present personal allowances for the Camp of Exercise.

I dissent, for reason I am prepared to give if required.—H. L. A. T.

Remuneration to Artillery.

22. The Board would suggest the advisableness of placing a small sum on the Estimates to provide remuneration for men of the Artillery portion of the Defence Force when called upon to fire salutes on the Queen's Birthday or other necessary daylight parades of the year, such remuneration to be based upon the scale proposed by Major Evans in his Report, — viz., one shilling per hour.

Staff appointments.

23. That all paid Staff appointments of the Defence Force of the Colony should not extend beyond three years' duration (to be extended to five years if deemed advisable), following the practice observed in the Imperial Service.

I dissent, for reason I am prepared to give if required.—H. L. A. T.

Fuel and light.

24. That the Imperial scale for fuel and light according to rank be adopted in the Defence Force.

25. The Board recommend reductions or alterations in the following items (numbered as they appear in the Estimates for 1887); viz.—

	Item 11.	£50 instead of £70.	} I dissent, for reasons I am prepared to give if required.—H. L. A. T.
	Item 12.	£25 " £40.	
	Item 13.	£20 " £30.	
Increase	Item 14.	£50 in lieu of £30.	
	Item 40.	£150 " £187 10s.	
	Item 42.	To be struck out.	
	Item 46.	£20 to be struck out. <i>Vide</i> recommendation "Markers."	
	Item 49.	See Board's recommendations on this head.	
	Item 53.	Ditto.	
	Item 56.	Ditto.	
	Item 59.	Ditto.	
	Item 63.	To be struck out.	
	Item 64.	Ditto.	

Military Store Branch.

Item 13. See Military Storekeeper's evidence, page 41.

Cadets.

26. In regard to Cadets, the Board would recommend that every encouragement should be given to this movement, and that an increased sum be placed on the Estimates to provide for an addition to their numbers.

Equitation.

27. The Board are of opinion that the rule obtaining in the Imperial Service be carried out in the Tasmanian Defence Force, of not appointing mounted Officers until they have passed in Equitation.

Country Rifle Clubs.

28. The Board desire to place on record their opinion of the great value of the Country Rifle Clubs to the Defence movement, and to express a hope that every assistance will be afforded by the Country in fostering so patriotic a movement.

In regard to Colonel Bernard's opinion that the increasing number of Country Rifle Clubs necessitates two Sergeant Instructors for this branch of the Service, the Board beg to recommend the addition of a second Instructor at a salary of £100 for this Branch; but that the instruction of the Rifle Clubs within a certain radius of the two cities should form portion of the duties of the Infantry Instructor of Hobart and of the Infantry Instructor at Launceston, if practicable. Should the Colony at any time unfortunately lose the services of Colonel Bernard, and the Country Rifle Clubs be considered fully established, then the Board are of opinion that the Colony should be divided into two Districts, Northern and Southern, for Country Rifle Club purposes: the Commandant to supervise the Clubs in the Southern District, and the Officer Commanding Northern Division the Rifle Clubs in that portion of the Island.

29. That opportunity should be taken of conferring with the Naval Authorities as to the feasibility of utilising our maritime population as a Volunteer Naval Brigade for the future. Naval Defence.

30. The Board consider that a material addition made to the present grant for Prizes for shooting would largely increase the popularity of the Defence Force, foster *esprit de corps*, and tend to efficiency, and that the regulations should be so framed as to permit of the Country Rifle Clubs participating in the competition for such prizes. Prizes for shooting.

31. That in respect to the question of Reserves, the Board fully concur in the opinions given in the evidence taken, that a system of Regimental Reserves is far preferable to that now existing. Reserves.

32. That a simplification of the present system of issue of Stores to the Defence Force is absolutely necessary. Military Store Department.

33. That it is desirable to insert a clause in "The Education Act" requiring, whenever practicable, a course of Squad and Company drills in all State Schools, provision for such instruction being made at an early date. Military education.

34. That there is no reason why a certain amount of military professional instruction should not be arranged for in the principal schools of the Colony, as this would give young men the opportunity of becoming acquainted with what defence really means. Military education.

By pursuing such a course of instruction there will be less strain and loss of valuable time in their ordinary avocations when joining the Defence Force hereafter.

Such a scheme could be easily introduced without much extra cost to the country, and it would be beneficial to both the young men and to society at large, as such military training would induce respect to constituted authority, as well as give an improved bearing both mentally and physically.

35. That all monies voted for Defences and the Defence Force remaining unexpended from the annual Estimates, together with any donations or legacies received from private individuals, should be formed into a Defence Fund, the expenditure from which should be confined to Defence purposes, subject to the authorisation of Parliament: details of expenditure being framed under competent advice. Defence Fund.

36. That the paid Sergeant instructorships, when vacancies occur, should be open to members of the Defence Force who may pass an examination as evidence of proficiency in addition to all other necessary qualifications. Paid instructors.

37. That, in addition to efficiency badges, certificates of proficiency as Drill Instructors, after examinations by a board of competent officers, be given to all members of the Defence Force who may pass successfully. Rewards. Drill Instructor's Certificate.

38. That, should the cost of up-keep not prove excessive, the Imperial Government be solicited to place a training vessel at the disposal of Government for a School of Instruction in Navigation and Seamanship. Education.

39. That an Inspector-General of Defences for all Australasia would be highly useful in securing sufficiency and efficiency as well as uniformity of stores, &c., in the several local Forces. Inspector-General of Australasian Defence Forces.

40. That to prevent large money losses to the Colony in the purchase of arms and stores, the presence of a proper representative at the source of supply is necessary to secure proper advice and competent inspection of all proposed invoices, such being passed under declaration as to quality and numbers. Responsible Colonial Agent.

41. That the efficiency of the Defence Force in time of war will much depend on previous carefully planned medical arrangements and instruction. Medical arrangements. Ambulance instruction.

**Military education ;
Pocket Book.**

42. That an authorised soldier's "Pocket Book," on a smaller and simpler scale than that of Lord Wolseley, should be in the hands of all members of the Defence Force, at the cost of, say, 6d. per copy.

Modern arms.

43. That considering the intelligent character of the members of the Defence Force generally, the very best rifle (*Magazine Rifle, if possible*), should be placed in their hands to make up for paucity of numbers by volume of effective fire.

Ammunition.

44. That a sufficiency of ammunition for both practice and service should be always kept in the Colony; and as service ammunition deteriorates in time, such should be periodically turned over for practice to the troops, but not issued before sufficient to maintain the complement has arrived in the Colony. Further, that rifles sufficient to arm the whole of the Defence Force, including Rifle Clubs, should be maintained; also an adequate reserve for any emergency.

SUMMARY.

It will be seen by the foregoing Recommendations that, in regard to the first in order of the Honorable the Premier's instructions to the Board; viz.—

"1. How far efficiency may be maintained with a reduced expenditure?"—

Recommendation No. 13 (dealing with Engineer Corps) effects saving under items 34 and 40 (of Estimates, 1887) of £301 and £37 10s.; in all, £338 10s.

Recommendation No. 18 (dealing with a reduction of Officers on the Staff) effects saving of £300 under items either 3 or 4.

Recommendation No. 24 (dealing with Fuel and Light allowances) effects saving, according to information received by the Board, of £60 approximately under items 20, 21, 32, 49.

Recommendation No. 25 (dealing with reduction of travelling expenses) effects saving under items 11, 12, 13, of £45.

Recommendation No. 31 (dealing with Reserve Force) effects saving under item 42 of £390.

Making a total of £1133 10s.

And, should the recommendations of the Board contained in Nos. 1 to 10 inclusive, as well as Nos. 16 and 22, be adopted, further retrenchment might well be carried out, without militating against efficiency, as indicated in Recommendation No. 21.

Thus a saving could be effected under item 37 of £155, under item 40 of £37 10s., and under item 41 of £350; in all, £542 10s.

Total proposed saving under the Honorable the Premier's first instruction to the Board, £1676.

In regard to the second in order of the Honorable the Premier's instructions; viz.—

"How far, without largely increased expenditure, efficiency may be increased?"—

Recommendation No. 16 involves increase on Musketry Practice of £60.

Recommendation No. 22 involves increase on daylight Artillery parades of £120.

Recommendation No. 25 involves increase under item 14 of £20.

Recommendation No. 28 involves increase under item 59 of £100 for Country Rifle Clubs Instruction.

Recommendation No. 30 involves increase under item 53 for prizes for good shooting of £80.

Recommendation No. 44 is a general, not a specified one, and will require an estimate from recognised sources to obtain an approximation of outlay required.

Total proposed increase, £380.

There remains, now, the third in order of the instructions of the Honorable the Premier; viz.—

"To what extent the Naval Defences of these Colonies, agreed upon at the Imperial Conference, will effect a saving or change of character in our land defences?"

Recommendation of the Board No. 12 effects a direct saving under item 9 of £180; under item 29 of £182 10s.; item 49 of £50; item 63 of £100, and 64 of £100; in all, £612 10s.

The Honorable the Minister for Defence will observe from the foregoing that economies are recommended to the amount of £2288 10s., and increases to the amount of £380, as shown below.

RECAPITULATION.

			£	s.	d.
Recommendation 12	effects saving of	.....	612	10	0
"	13	"	338	10	0
"	18*	"	300	0	0
"	21*	"	542	10	0
"	24	"	60	0	0
"	25*	"	45	0	0
"	31	"	390	0	0
Being a Total of.....			£2288	10	0

*Carried by Motion.

			£	s.	d.
Recommendation 16,	involves increase of	.....	60	0	0
"	22	"	120	0	0
"	25	"	20	0	0
"	28	"	100	0	0
"	30	"	80	0	0
Being a Total of.....			£380	0	0

A net saving of £1908 10s.

With regard to expenses under the Board's recommendations, Nos. 6, 7, 8, 33, 35, 43, and 44, their recommendation No. 34, if carried out under proper arrangements, would go far to provide the necessary funds without increasing estimates.

(In continuation of Paper No. 89.)

Hobart, 23rd July, 1887.

From Major-General H. L. A. TOTTENHAM, President Board of Enquiry on Defences, to the Honorable B. S. BIRD, Minister of Defence, Tasmania.

SIR,

THE Defence Forces' expenditure of a country can hardly be regarded in any other light than the premium paid for the Assurance Policy against certain risks to the persons and property of its inhabitants.

The efficiency in *personnel* and *matériel* of the Defences so provided is but analogous to the solidity of the office in which the policy is effected.

Holding as I do that Hobart is a position, strategically speaking, so singularly well adapted to become the base or point of departure for assailing nearly every portion of the wealthiest Colonies of Australasia, I consider it to be the duty as well as the interest of every Tasmanian citizen to join heartily in the defence of such a position, and the interest of the Mother Country and of every other Colony in these seas to combine in making the defence of the Derwent more especially so perfect locally as to ensure successful resistance to an enemy's sudden enterprize until such time at least as substantial aid may arrive from the Imperial Fleet to render such hostile attack futile.

Those who may be inclined to question the strategic value of Hobart and the Derwent as a possible coaling and refitting station of refuge for crippled vessels of the Imperial and Australasian fleets, I challenge to point out—with logical argument in support, if they can,—one more convenient and less free from very serious strategical objection.

To say more as regards details in this report, liable as it may be to broadcast publication to the world, I consider would be beyond my duty to the Empire in general and the bounds of military discretion, knowing as I do the tendency of free Parliamentary Institutions to the formation of public opinion that civilian judgment in matters of defence and offence is quite equal to that of professional soldiers who have devoted their whole lives to the study of such problems.

As President of the Board of Enquiry on Defences, I consider that I should incur a grave responsibility were I to omit, in addition to the collective letter of the Board forwarding its proceedings, to place before you the following remarks :—

The idea appears to be abroad that the Staff of the Defence Force is too large for its numbers as at present existent.

A very slight amount of professional knowledge, however, regarding the necessities of disciplined defence forces will show to any but those to whom economy is the sole law, that without a sufficient staff the head of such a force could not, on the outbreak of war, effect the object for which the machine he regulates is intended.

Discipline has to be maintained, drills and exercises have to be kept in uniformity, accounts have to be checked, correspondence and documents to be kept in order for instant reference, stores to be examined, check kept on their issue and their presentation attended to, orders issued, details of duties and marches to be settled and circulated to each of the arms of the service; the victualling, clothing, transport, and supplying with stores and ammunition, medical care and carriage of the sick and wounded—all these *and a multiplicity of other details* have to be provided for in war time, which, during peace, the civilian looker-on sees nothing of, and therefore thinks the machinery for the work useless and a burden; nevertheless the necessary staff, if got together on the outbreak of war only for the first time would, from want of training and practical knowledge of the materials to be worked with, break down and bring heavy disasters on the country.

If the superior officers of an army are deprived of the means of inspection with sufficient frequency, they cannot consistently be held responsible for efficiency. In short, tie up the hands of the steersman, and the vessel is no longer in his control.

It is not in the light of *present numbers commanded* that the staff must be judged, but by the *extent* of the work that *may* fall on them should *war* unhappily visit these shores.

As it is, the people of Tasmania last year actually paid only one shilling and fivepence halfpenny per head for their Defence Force, whilst the charge in the Mother Country was sixteen shillings and eightpence per head. A single watchman in the merchant's warehouse, to prevent robbery only, would cost probably not under five shillings per diem.

As an officer of long experience, and only very late retirement from active duty, I consider it but right to place before you the fact that some of the recommendations of the Board do not meet with my approval, for grave professional reasons, and I have accordingly recorded against them my dissent.

If the Defence Forces of Tasmania are to be thoroughly efficient when the time arrives for their use, they must be armed with the best weapons to be obtained, and their drill, discipline, training, and equipment must necessarily be kept up to the mark by the thorough and frequent supervision and inspection, without which the best armies deteriorate to the state of an armed mob.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

HENRY L. A. TOTTENHAM, Major-General, Rtd.,
President Board of Enquiry on Defences.

(In continuation of Paper No. 89.)

BOARD OF ENQUIRY, TASMANIAN DEFENCES.

WITNESSES.

Col. Bernard.
Sergeant-Major Hardy.
Sergeant-Major Alderton.
Sergeant-Major Brown.
Staff Officer Mathieson.
Col. Legge (Commandant.)

Staff Adjutant Wallack.
Mr. Chisholm, Military Storekeeper.
Mr. Pirie, Torpedo Expert.
Mr. Huxtable, Colonial Storekeeper.
Mr. Burrell, Engineer Torpedo Boat.

EXAMINATION OF WITNESSES.

JULY 11, 1887.

COLONEL BERNARD, *Superintendent of Country Rifle Clubs, called and examined.*

1. Your name? H. L. C. Bernard, Retired Colonel Bengal Staff Corps.
2. In what relation do you stand to the Defensive Forces of Tasmania? I am Superintendent of the Country Rifle Clubs.
3. With regard to the Country Rifle Clubs in this Colony, what is the total cost of such to the Country, and what are the principal items? The total cost up to 31st of December, 1886, was £587 15s. 3d. for 7 months (from May). Of this about £221 is for targets, being expenditure for the first 11 Clubs established. There are now 24 Clubs. The 11 Clubs have only 4 plates instead of 5. Other targets are now being issued to 8 other Clubs.
4. What does it cost to supply a suit of Khakee uniform to a volunteer in a Rifle Club, and how long do you think such would last? The cost is 17s. per year for the Khakee suit, and it lasts 1 year.
5. What are the steps taken in establishing a Club? First thing is to pass the proposed rifle range as to careful site, &c. This is then submitted to Minister with all particulars, and, if he approves, to proceed to clear the ground and build butts where necessary, and at the cost of the Club. Myself or Sergeant Instructor, if any means are left at disposal, go there and assemble the members, and give them theoretical instruction or lecture as to the use of the rifle and duties, giving on an average 3 days to a Club. Being very restricted for want of funds, duration of lecture at a time is 2 or 3 hours at night.
6. How are the arms and accoutrements supplied to these Clubs for drill? Arms and accoutrements are supplied by Government on permanent loan.
7. Are any Officers in command of Rifle Clubs, and how are they taught their duties? No, only one Club, at the Forth, has an Officer (Captain Sage).
8. How is ammunition for practice supplied to Rifle Clubs, and who pays for same? Annual course of 70 rounds per man, at cost of the Government, and also necessary quantity for Government prizes.
9. Should a rifle be damaged or injured while used at target practice, who would be required to pay for its repair? The man who damages the rifle, except from causes beyond the man's control, then by Government.
10. Is there anything you can suggest which would tend to improve the efficiency of the Rifle Clubs? Small grants should be granted, when necessary, to aid the construction of rifle ranges; and, to do this, a sum of about £600 would have to be granted.
11. What is your opinion of the relative value of Rifle Clubs as a defence against external attack for those localities in which they are organised?—Could, for instance, the Mersey Rifle Club defend Torquay or Formby against a sudden assault by an enemy? I should look upon them as excellent guerilla troops, and most valuable auxiliaries to the organised forces, acting by themselves—very good as *Francs-tireurs*. They are now in their infancy, but will develop into very valuable auxiliaries. With regard to Formby—Yes, certainly, if the attacking force consisted of only one small cruiser making a raid.
12. How are the members enrolled? All the members are sworn in on formation, and duly attested and enrolled, to give them belligerent rights.
13. Is there any other ammunition allowance beyond that of 70 rounds per man for target practice? The free issue for prize firing, 50 rounds hitherto per man per month, up to July 1st, could be purchased at a loss to Government of 2s. 9d. per 100. This loss is taken out of the grant in aid of Rifle Clubs. The allowance has since been reduced to 30 rounds per month.
14. Are all the Rifle Clubs supplied with rifles, and if so, with what pattern? Sniders (infantry), 497; Martini-Henry 150,—many of the former are unserviceable: total, 647; leaving 92 active members unarmed.
15. Is there a prospect of the number of Rifle Clubs increasing, as well as the number of members of existing Clubs? I receive continued assurances that the want of arms and accoutrements prevent new Clubs from being formed and fresh members from joining existing ones.
16. Is it necessary for the better efficiency of your Department that there should be an increase in the Staff? Yes; I cannot possibly get through all the office work without clerical assistance. Hitherto I have had that of the Sergeant-Instructor, who, from want of funds, has been but very little absent instructing Clubs. I consider there should be two Sergeant-Instructors, one on £120 a year and the other on £100, each in turn to visit and drill the Clubs and to work in the office.

The witness withdrew.

SERGEANT HARDY, *Instructor of Torpedoes, called and examined.*

1. Your name? Joseph Hardy.
 2. What is your service in the Royal Engineers? 11 years.
 3. Have you had any experience, practical, or from actual service, with torpedo stores and appliances? Yes, I hold a Certificate of Competency from the Military School of Engineering at Chatham. I do not understand the Whitehead torpedo branch.
 4. State what duties you perform? I distribute the men of the Engineer Corps into different classes—(1) a submarine class, (2) a boat's crew, (3) electrical workers and fitters, portions of the latter work requiring very careful and delicate manipulation, (4) signalling. My duties also consist in maintaining discipline and imparting instruction. I instituted these classes myself on taking charge—signalling class, special as well as general.
 5. How often weekly do you impart instruction to the Torpedo Corps? On an average, twice a week, sometimes three times a week.
 6. What are the hours defined for such instruction? From 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 7. Are you in charge of the torpedo boat? No.
 8. What is the course of training for the Engineer Corps? Knotting and splicing, rowing drill, crown and cables, electrical jointing, hydraulic testing, filling and adjusting apparatus, submarine mines.
 9. Is any officer present when instruction is being imparted to the men? Yes, Lieut. Clarke, Commanding Officer Torpedo Corps.
 10. Under what engagement are you to this Colony? Five years from date of landing (landed February, 1887.)
 11. Are all the classes taught every drill night, and do the same men attend? Some men who are in a class do not attend regularly; men of a class are confined to certain subjects.
- The witness withdrew.

SERGEANT-MAJOR ALDERTON, *Infantry Instructor, called and examined.*

1. Your name? William Alderton—Sergeant-Major and Infantry Instructor; served in the 1st Battalion 12th Regiment for 12 years about.
 2. What duties do you perform in the Rifle Regiment? General instruction to all ranks; conducting the instruction of musketry, and instructing recruits; and the preparation of Returns in connection with the above.
 3. How often weekly do you impart instruction to the Rifle Regiment? Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays are fixed nights for drills; on Tuesdays and Thursdays for special classes for recruits; Friday afternoons previous to the night drill I have a class for officers and non-commissioned officers for sword drill. This is exclusive of musketry drills, which are carried on for about six months in the year, when I attend the range about three days a week from 5 a.m. till about 9 or 10 a.m., and on alternate Saturdays and Wednesdays.
 4. What is the longest range fired at, and how many men in the regiment are classed as marksmen? 700 yards. 24 marksmen, as per Return marked I.
 5. Do you impart instruction to boys in any of the State Schools? Not now; I have not done so since September.
 6. What service had you in the regular army? 12 years.
 7. How often are the men marched out to practise judging distance? Not at all last year, to my knowledge.
 8. Were the men practised in judging distance practice at the camp of exercise? No, not the Rifle Regiment.
 9. What steps in your opinion would conduce to filling the ranks with a desirable class of recruits? Good and efficient rifle ranges, with proper accommodation in shape of covering or shelter in case of wet, and cover for stores and ammunition; efficiency badges; exemption from serving on juries during drill season; an allowance of ammunition to every man becoming efficient, say 100 rounds per man per annum; a medal for length of service; a gymnasium under an instructor, also a military library and reading-room.
 10. What is the reason, in your opinion, of the great disparity in attending at drills? There are 24 drills a man must attend in a year: owing to the 12 drills for the past six months being spread over the whole time, some men work off their drills in a lump or consecutively; others take the whole time.
 11. When a recruit joins, what is the procedure in drilling him? As a rule the recruits are attentive and regular in attendance until they pass, and they are not passed into the ranks until inspected by Commanding Officer.
 12. Would the giving of two or more rates of pay for pay parades, in your opinion, increase the number of recruits and efficient? A recompense for loss of wages when called upon to perform military duties in working hours.
 13. What is your opinion about Reserves—should they be regimental or a special corps? Regimental.
 14. Would the raising of an additional corps in Hobart at the present time, in your opinion, affect recruits joining corps already in existence? In my opinion it would.
- The witness withdrew.

SERGEANT-MAJOR BROWN, *Instructor Permanent Force, called and examined.*

1. Your name? Charles Samuel Brown, Sergeant-Major Permanent Artillery.
2. What is your service in the Royal Artillery? 14 years.
3. State please your duties of Sergeant-Major, Instructor, and Quartermaster-Sergeant. I drill the men in all the necessary drills and exercises, keep their accounts; as Sergeant-Major, am responsible for the discipline of the Corps, and keep all records in connection with the Force, and am responsible for custody of guns and everything in the batteries.
4. State how the respective duties of the Permanent Artillery are performed, and if any of such men are on staff employ? They do all necessary fatigue duties at the Military Stores and magazines, batteries, and where necessary. There are none employed on staff employ, except one occasionally employed in staff office.
5. How are they paid, and in whose presence? They are paid four times a month, in presence of Capt. Wallack.

6. How often are they exercised in their duty, and by whom? Every morning from 7 to 8 A.M., and three days a week they have gun-drill from 9.45 to 1 P.M. The officer in command attends at the Queen's Battery, but not at the other batteries.

7. Are you the non-commissioned officer directly in charge of the Permanent Artillery Force, and do you live in the same building or barrack with them? I am the non-commissioned officer in charge, and live in detached quarters adjoining the men's barrack.

8. What is the constitution of the Permanent Artillery? There are 28 men—19 of whom are under pay, and in Tasmania—1 Sergt.-Major, 1 sergeant, 2 corporals, 2 bombardiers, and 22 gunners.

9. How many of these are ex-artillerymen? 4 with myself are ex-Royal Artillery; the others are made up from various branches of the service, 1 being a Cape Mounted Policeman.

10. How many of the 19 men (at head quarters) are efficient gunners? About 15.

11. Are the Volunteer Artillery ever drilled in the batteries with the Permanent Force? No.

12. For what period are you engaged to the Tasmanian Government? Three years, from April, 1886, to April, 1889.

13. Is there any provision in the batteries to prevent intruders going into them? No, beyond the gate being locked. There is a man told off as a district gunner to keep the guns clean. There is no provision made for custody at night.

14. How do you consider yourself responsible for the batteries when you do not reside there? I should be held answerable by the Commandant for anything lost from stores or for damage done.

15. Are there any ammunition stores in the batteries? Yes.

The witness withdrew.

JAMES MATTHIESON, Staff Officer and Director of Torpedo Defence, called and examined.

1. Your name? James Mathieson.

2. In what relation do you stand to the Defence Force of Tasmania? That of Torpedo Director and Staff Officer: my rank is that of Lieutenant.

3. What service had you in the Imperial Army, and what rank did you hold? Nearly 16 years in the Royal Engineers, and held the rank of Quartermaster-Sergeant for a period of about nine years, between the years 1864 and 1873.

4. State what duties you perform in your present capacity of Torpedo Instructor and Staff Officer? As Superintendent of all torpedo operations, including the Torpedo Boat and Whitehead torpedos. Am responsible for torpedo defence for the harbours of the Colony, and advise the Government generally in torpedo defence. I also superintend the instruction of the Torpedo Corps during the year and their annual training. In my capacity of Staff Officer, I have charge of the various Forts at Hobart, and stores and equipments. I am also in the capacity of Commanding Engineer, whose duties are, looking after the various construction and maintenance of Forts and works in all parts of the Island. I help to carry on the correspondence in the office; everything connected with stores and supplies, including encampments.

5. Is the torpedo boat under your charge, and is she in serviceable condition? Yes, under my charge, and is in serviceable condition.

6. How many men are required to work the boat in action? Five men and an officer.

7. Can ordinary seamen be employed to man the torpedo boat? Yes, two of the five ought to be seamen, and should be seamen from the Royal Navy.

8. What does it cost monthly to look after the torpedo boat? The engineer of the boat—a man from the Permanent Force—5s. per day, including all pay.

9. How many times have you used the torpedo boat since you have been in charge? About five or six times, for the purpose of using the engines, until the day before yesterday, when we practised with a Nordenfeldt gun from her.

10. Is the instruction you impart of a practical or theoretical nature? Both.

11. How many times a month do you give lectures, or instruction in this branch of defence? As a rule twice a week, from 7.30 to 9 p.m. This does not include the annual continuous training of a minimum of 60, and a maximum of 100 hours.

12. How many Whitehead torpedoes have you used in giving practical instruction? None; the heads of the torpedoes have only recently arrived—within the past three months.

13. How many times have you exercised your Corps in submarine explosions? During the last annual training and at Camp on the Tamar, and twice since at night; in all, 18 mines. The cost would be under £3 each mine.

14. What is the cost of a Whitehead torpedo landed in this Colony? This information will be given by the Commandant.

15. How many are in the Colony?

16. Since you have been Director of Torpedo Defence, how many Volunteers have qualified themselves to be classed as efficient? The efficient for last year were 70, and about 60 for the past six months, but the Return is not yet complete.

17. Do you submit a weekly or monthly report to the Commandant of duties performed by you? Yes, as regards batteries and equipments, but there is no regulation requiring a report on torpedo matters periodically unless so called for by the Commandant.

18. In case of any sudden attack, how long would it take you to place the torpedo boat in a position to defend the harbour of Hobart by means of a Whitehead torpedo?

19. What armament can the torpedo boat carry? Two Whitehead torpedoes and one Nordenfeldt 1-inch gun.

20. What are the forts and stores which you are in charge of, and how are you assisted? The three Forts, all the stores and equipment within those batteries, having a district gunner under me; he runs out every gun in each battery every week, and trains the guns right and left, and looks over the stores, and also raises the hydro-pneumatic guns, and reports once a week that he has done so, and I report monthly to the Commandant.

21. Have you ever used a Whitehead torpedo in practice with the boat? No.

22. Have you any certificate from Chatham? No, as when I passed through my course certificates were not given, but as an Instructor I have numerous certificates.

23. Since you left the service in May, 1873, how have you been employed? I was offered and accepted the position of Superintendent of a Department for the manufacture of Torpedoes in a large manufacturing firm at Woolwich. I was offered, however, a commission in the Royal Engineers if I remained in the service, but preferred the superintendentship, which I retained for 10 years, at the end of which time I resigned and went into business on my own account, till recommended by General Stewart, R.E., to the War Office for my present appointment.

The witness withdrew.

COLONEL LEGGE, *Commandant of the Tasmanian Defence Force, called and examined.*

1. Your name? William Vincent Legge.

2. What is your position in Tasmanian Defence Force? Commandant.

3. What service had you in the Imperial Army, and what rank did you hold before retiring from it? Twenty-one years service, and retired as Lieut.-Colonel.

4. Before entering on your present duties what positions other than regimental did you hold? I held an appointment as Adjutant of Militia. I was Gunnery Instructor to my Brigade.

5. By a remark on a document purporting to be the strength of Tasmanian Defence Force on June 30th, 1887, and signed by you, it appears that Return does not include the Staff Instructors or Permanent Force, 30 in number. Will you kindly state the number and designation of each of the three components excluded from the Return? Col.-Commandant, Col.-Commandant Northern Division, Staff Officer, Staff Adjutant, Torpedo Instructor, Naval Expert, Artillery Instructor, three Infantry Instructors; the remaining twenty according to the tabulated statement this day handed in.

6. Will you state the duties you expect to be performed by each of the Staff and Instructors of the Force, and by what Regulations are these duties governed? *The Staff Adjutant* is Musketry Instructor to the Force, and has charge of the Musketry drill and instruction of the Infantry Force. He has the checking of all musketry and drill returns, and attends to all matters connected with the drill of the Infantry Force. He is in command of the Permanent Force. Under direction of Commandant, issues all orders and has them initialed by Commandant. He is the channel of communication between Commandant and the Commanding Officers of Corps on all matters concerning discipline. He performs duties of Brigade-Major in Camp, and has charge of the drill and discipline of Garrison Band. To supervise generally correspondence in the office. Regulation and Orders of Tasmanian Defence Force, 1886: *vide*. *Staff Officer*.—Has charge of the upkeep of fortifications and armaments—to inspect them whenever required; to make plans for any repairs, alterations, and additions. He attends personally to all matters of expense in connection with stores; checking the Pay-lists before being presented to Commandant. He is the means of communication between Commandant and Officers Commanding Corps relative to Store branch, &c. He checks Returns of arms and equipments and inspects the Stores in military charge, and reports from time to time if any are deteriorating, and would advise the Commandant in all matters connected with Torpedo defence; to carry out and supervise the annual training of the Torpedo Corps, and make requisitions for all Stores connected with the Torpedo Department, and generally to perform all duties as ordered by Commandant, such as laying out Camp, &c. He has general charge of Torpedo Boat, and to see that the Naval Expert and Artificer do their duty. *Torpedo Instructor Hardy*.—To carry out all instructions under the order of Torpedo Director at the weekly parades, and has the sub-charge of stores, electrical apparatus, &c., machinery, &c. for Electrical Light. He instructs the Corps at annual training. He attends daily at the Stores. *Naval Expert*.—He has charge of the upkeep of Whitehead torpedoes and air-pumping machinery connected with the Whiteheads. Has the working of Whitehead torpedoes on board—he has also fitting work to do—battery artificer's work to do—he has charge of Dynamo Machine when running electric light under the Staff Officer. *Artillery Instructor*.—Besides his duties as Sergeant-Major of the Permanent Force, he has the training, drill, and instruction of the men—he has the instruction of the Volunteer Artillery, and is the Master-Gunner of the Forts. He is responsible for reporting a loss or damage to the Store Department of ammunition. He makes out all necessary Drill Returns. *Infantry Instructors*.—Instruction, drill, and training of their Corps at the weekly parades—Musketry instruction of their Corps, under the Musketry Instructor, and to perform the usual duties of Sergeant-Major on Parades, and make out efficiency Returns and Quarterly and Drill Returns.

7. Is there any well-defined signal by means of which the several components of the Defence Force could be collected ready to present a resistance in case of hostile attack; what is the appointed rendezvous known for each, and how are the signals and rendezvous known to all the officers and men? Firing of one gun at night—two guns in the day-time. The common rendezvous for Infantry would be the Barracks—for the Artillery, the Drill-yard: known to all officers and men.

8. From your professional knowledge will you kindly state the least possible number of highly trained men (Artillerymen) it is necessary to have as part of a gun's crew for the heaviest guns worked by machinery and for those worked by manual labour; this question being considered with reference to the guns in the Tasmanian service? The numbers for ammunition service, those above number six inclusive, might be less trained than the gun numbers. I should prefer having the gun numbers highly trained under six.

9. Could such guns be fairly worked by partially trained men in combination with a nucleus of highly trained Artillerymen with each gun? Yes.

10. Will you kindly inform the Board as to the effective and extreme ranges for shot and shell of the larger classes of guns now likely to be found on board ironclads and cruisers of an enemy entering the Derwent and Tamar? Judging by the guns supplied in England now to English and Foreign cruisers, 8000 yards.

11. Will you inform the Board as to the effective ranges, as well as the extreme of the several guns in the Tasmanian service?

12. Can you furnish a statement of the ammunition for Artillery and Infantry now in store, and certify that it is all serviceable?—the statement to show per-centage to arm, and in whose charge?

13. Since your letter dated 16th September, 1884, to the Chief Secretary with regard to submarine mining apparatus, what practical steps have been actually taken to place that apparatus on a thorough efficient footing so as to be ready to apply at short notice to its all important purpose as part of the Defences of the Colony? The relays were afterwards received from Mr. Joseph, the Manager of the Australian Electric Company, Melbourne, and though they were in a more serviceable condition than heretofore, they were not as perfect as I consider they ought to be.

After the present Director of Torpedoes arrived I instructed him to examine and test them; the result was that he condemned them as unreliable, and thereupon a new set of relays were made in the Colony from patterns supplied by Lieutenant Mathieson, which I have seen tested myself, and which Lieutenant Mathieson reports are satisfactory.

14. When war material of any description is purchased by the Tasmanian Government, so far as your knowledge extends, is such material submitted to any competent professional survey or inspection, either before despatched to the Colony or after its arrival in it?—and if so, by whom? War material is inspected by the Military Adviser, Major-General Stewart, R.E., before its shipment; and I examine it when it comes to the Military Store in this Colony.

15. Are the heavy guns all in position, and if so, are they protected in any way from intruders?

16. In how many minutes could the ammunition for each gun be on the spot ready for use against an enemy arriving in the Derwent?

17. How many men in the Defence Force, to your personal knowledge, can lay and fire the battery guns with a fair chance of striking a moving object, such as a hostile cruiser? 30 to 40 per cent. of the two Corps.

18. What are the means adopted by you for ensuring the attainment by the officers under your command of that professional knowledge in their respective branches without which it is impossible for them to teach their men their various duties? An examination of the officers by myself at my quarterly inspections, when they are called out for drill; tuition of the young officers by the Instructors under their own Commanding Officers, and occasional lectures by myself. All officers have to pass an examination before being confirmed in their rank.

19. What is the system of holding parades for drill and for exercise at present in the several branches of the Defence Force?—and could any improvement in attendance be made by any alteration of the law with reference to the Defence Force? In the active branch there is a weekly Commanding Officer's parade and for drill and exercise, and two weekly instruction parades; a frequent and combined brigade parade by myself or the Officer commanding Northern Division; a quarterly inspection by myself of each Corps; a compulsory course of musketry for the Infantry branches, and an optional one for the Artillery and Torpedo Corps; and four days' continuous practice in Camp; for the Artillery an occasional practice in the Forts—in the case of the Launceston Artillery, a camp for practice on the Prince of Wales' birthday. If some rewards for the fixed term of service which the men are obliged to put in, such as deferred pay, or a continuous paid training at one period of the year, the ranks would be more filled and a better attendance. The Reserves have only to put in 12 parades in one year, with the addition of six parades for the Artillery branch. I hand in with reference to this subject my annual report.

20. Is there any professional (armourer's) examination of the arms made periodically, when, and by whom? An annual inspection by the Military Storekeeper, who is an armourer; but now that the Country Rifle Clubs have been established over the Island, I do not see how the arms can be properly cared for without the services of an armourer.

21. Any defects being detected in the arms at examination, how are the necessary repairs, replacement of parts or the whole effected? By Mr. Chisholm, the Military Storekeeper.

22. Would not the erection of an Expense Magazine, in which a moderate quantity might be stored of practice ammunition be preferable to the present method of the Commandant having to indent on the Military Store Branch for small quantities? Yes; in the present position of the rifle range it would be advantageous to have ammunition thus stored either at the Barracks or at the range.

23. Have all men, other than old soldiers, who have been admitted to the ranks of the Reserves, served three years (continuous) in some Volunteer Corps? The Regulations are that no man shall go into the Reserves without having served three years in the active branch, but when the Force was re-organized I understand some men were admitted who had not three years' service. The system of Reserves is now a regimental one, with the exception of the two Infantry Companies of the Tasmanian Reserve Force, so called, which was organized in 1885.

24. With regard to the Permanent Force as in the Estimates for 1887, are they thoroughly efficient in gun drill, and could they not be made of much more practical use in time of peace in giving instruction to the Volunteer Artillery? There has not been time to put the men through a course of all natures of guns, owing to the heavy fatigue duties they have to perform at the military stores and in the batteries. The men must all be considered as recruits as regards gun drill, as it takes at least three years to make an efficient gunner, and some of the men have only recently joined. The Force is likewise so weak that you cannot as yet get two gun detachments together. It is the intention, when the Force has been properly trained, to make use of the non-commissioned officers, and, perhaps, one or two intelligent gunners as Assistant Instructors. I have applied in this year's Estimates for five extra men, with which increment I could carry out gun-drill more effectively, have more men for responsible positions at the various guns in time of war, and be able to furnish a regular guard at Government House, which would tend to smartness and efficiency.

25. Where is the Permanent Force located? In the old Barrack-room, which has been done up for them.

26. How could its services be utilised in case of any sudden emergency or attack requiring the immediate attention of the men at the batteries? In telling them off into detachments for the several batteries where they would be posted at the most responsible positions at the guns. In war time they would be under canvas at the various batteries.

27. In the arrangement of duties and drills, would it not be better to have drill instruction at one defined season of the year and target practice at another, and is it not customary in the regular army to strike off men undergoing musketry instruction from all other parades and duties? With regard to general drills, I consider it best to have them continuous throughout the year, as the men in the intervening period would lapse into mere civilians and lose their discipline; but as regards musketry course and artillery practice, that should be and is carried out at a fixed season in the year. It would not be practicable to strike the volunteers off all the duties at the musketry course, as one has to take them in when one can get them. No doubt a greater exertion on the part of the Company officers would lead to a more regular attendance of their men at musketry. I have particularly enjoined this upon them for the coming season. The musketry course commences in September. With the Artillery, if there was a continuous training, the time could be entirely taken up with technical instruction as gunners.

28. Do you grant any indulgence or distinction to men of long service in the Volunteers, or are they treated in the same manner as men of much shorter service? Up to this year there has not been any indulgence, but now provision has been made for efficiency badges of the same device, and to be worn in the same manner, as English Volunteers.

29. Is there any shelter or shed to protect men during bad weather at the rifle ranges at Hobart and Launceston? No; and in present condition of rifle range there is no safe and convenient position for one. It is purposed to have one when the land is acquired.

30. Do the Torpedo Corps ever use the torpedo boat when receiving instruction? Only such members as are required to make up a crew. The use of the torpedo boat is not combined with the instruction of the Torpedo

Corps, the members of which are all occupied at the submarine mining work. In this connection, I beg to refer to my Report on the Defences, 1885, section "torpedo boat," paragraph 5.

31. What does it cost for men and coal, &c. for a trip like the last she had? Only the cost of coals, as she is manned and worked by paid members of the Force. Her bunkers hold 10 cwt. of coal.

32. How many of the men of the Torpedo Corps are practically qualified to place a mine and fire it? The submarine mining and testing sections of the corps are especially instructed in this work, which consists of 58 men of the corps—testers, 8; submarine miners, 32; smiths, 4; carpenters, 2; fitters, mines, 12.

34. Could not the small Defence Force of Hobart, with no daily military duties, and only short drills to perform, be efficiently instructed with a less number of paid Staff Officers and non-commissioned Officers than are now retained at a heavy expense to the colony? Not in my opinion, as Hobart is a fortress with an artillery and torpedo defence, and has a torpedo boat, thus necessitating the keeping up of four branches of the service—namely, Artillery, Infantry, Torpedo, and Naval; the latter is in this case blended into the torpedo service. It is not as in the Imperial Service, where the instruction of each corps or regiment is done by its own paid Sergeant-Majors and Colour-Sergeants. In a citizen force there are no paid members for the above purpose, and therefore the instruction has to be a separate item. Here, there is one Instructor for the Infantry branch, another for Artillery, and another for Torpedo, and the instruction of these branches could not be combined. The entire cost of the naval defence is contained in the salary of the torpedo expert, having no paid crew, the boat being driven and stoked by two men of the Permanent Force. The salaries of my two staff officers are very low, and, combined, only equal the salary of the Officer Commanding Permanent Artillery of 180 men in Melbourne. With regard to the torpedo direction, I may state that application was made for a Lieutenant of Royal Engineers, and none could be got to come out under £600 a year.

35. Do you consider the present Defence Force at your disposal sufficient to protect the permanent batteries in case of sudden attack from the land side? Were the corps filled up to their establishment, and the armament for the gorges, which I have applied for, complete, I do; but the success of the defence will all depend upon the strength of the attacking party, and there is more need for a larger field force in the north.

36. To your knowledge what arrangements and appliances are in existence for the removal and attendance of wounded men in case of sudden emergency? Two ambulances with their appliances and stores. There is no ambulance corps.

37. Is there any building in the barrack square, now otherwise occupied, required for military purposes? Yes, there are quarters let to civilians which are much needed for the accommodation of the staff. There is one Instructor living out of the barracks, and the Staff Officers are living in Sergeant's quarters. There is also a messenger living in one of the barrack-rooms which could be occupied by one of the Instructors, or by one of the married men of the Permanent Force.

38. What are the duties performed by the Assistant Military Storekeeper at Launceston? He has charge of the magazine, which has stored in it all the merchants' powder, and also a small quantity of military powder; he has also charge of the dynamite in the Cormiston Battery. As a member of the Launceston Artillery he performs the duties of Instructor of the corps, and likewise has charge of all the military stores in Launceston.

39. Where are the books purchased by means of the Government grant placed, and under what arrangements are they rendered available to those of the force desirous of study? There is no grant at present; those books purchased with the former grant are kept by the commanding officers in the orderly room for reference by members of the corps.

40. Is Captain Wallack, the Musketry Instructor, in possession of a Hythe Certificate or other School of Musketry Certificate? I think not, but he is well up in musketry, and takes a very keen interest in the work.

41. Is the Officer Commanding the Permanent Force an *ex-Royal* Artilleryman? No; the command, from motives of economy, has been placed under the Staff Adjutant, who is working himself up in artillery. The instruction of the corps devolves upon the Sergeant-Major, who is a R.A. serving on his army engagement.

42. Was Captain Wallack in the Regular Army before being employed by the Tasmanian Government, and what service has he? No, he was in the Militia; he was attached to one of the regiments of Guards, I think, for six months. He is a Captain under the Tasmanian Government. He is well up in his work, and very zealous.

43. What position does Mr. Henry (the Government Superintendent of Telegraphs) occupy in the torpedo corps, and what remuneration does he receive? He is Electrician, gives lectures, and is specially charged with the dynamo machine, but receives no remuneration.

The witness withdrew.

MR. PIRIE, *Torpedo Expert, called in and examined.*

1. What is your name? John Pirie.

2. What is your position in the Tasmanian Defence Force? Torpedo Expert.

3. Were you ever employed in the Imperial service? Twenty years and twenty-nine days, as an Armourer and Torpedo Artificer in Her Majesty's Navy.

4. Are you in charge of the torpedo boat, and do you consider her efficient in every respect for active service? I am in charge of the torpedo boat so far as the working of the Whitehead torpedo is concerned. I do not consider her effective, for want of charging pipes, but in 24 hours' notice I could get her ready.

5. Has the Torpedo Corps had any practical instruction in the use of the Whitehead torpedo, and to what extent? None at all.

6. What is the value of a Whitehead torpedo? About £400.

7. How many torpedoes will the boat carry? Two.

8. Are you qualified to instruct the Torpedo Force in the working of torpedoes (Whitehead and others) and do you hold a certificate of competency? Yes, I am competent to teach and instruct, and I hold a certificate of competency.

9. What is the term of your engagement? Three years from the 23rd of June, 1885, to June, 1888.

10. Have you any class in the Torpedo Force under your instruction? No. I have never had any here to instruct, but in England on H.M.S. *Vernon* I had classes.

11. How long would it take to instruct men whom you could trust with yourself to work a Whitehead torpedo? About two months, with regular daily attendance of about two hours.

12. What is the necessary crew for the torpedo boat? Seven (7); in England it would be ten (10).

13. Ought any of the crew to be sailors? Yes, four.

The witness withdrew.

CAPTAIN WALLACK, *Staff Adjutant, Instructor of Musketry, Commanding Officer of the Permanent Defence Force, and in charge of the Band, called in and examined.*

1. Your name? Ernest Townshend Wallack.

2. What is your rank and position in Tasmanian Defence Force? Captain, Staff Adjutant, Officer Commanding Permanent Force, and Instructor of Musketry.

3. As Staff Adjutant of the Defence Force, what duties do you perform? My duties are detailed in Section 9, paragraph 106, under duties of Staff Adjutant, with the addition of four and six of Staff Officers' duties. I have also charge of the Garrison Band.

4. What are your duties as the Officer Commanding Permanent Force, and Instructor of Musketry? As Officer Commanding Permanent Force I fulfil the usual duties of a Commanding Officer. I superintend the whole of the musketry instruction of the Southern Division, theoretically and practically.

5. Who performs the duties of Musketry Instructor in the North? I do not know, as there is no recognised Musketry Instructor there.

6. What is the nature of your engagement to the Tasmanian Government? I have no agreement, considering my appointment to be a permanent one, as I was appointed by the Governor in Council.

7. If so, under what conditions do you receive your pay? By authority of the Governor in Council.

8. Have the Officers and Non-commissioned Officers been daily instructed in sword exercise, or do you leave such duty to Regimental Adjutants? I have never been detailed to perform that duty.

9. Your duties, then, pertain more to those of Brigade Major than Adjutant? Yes, I should think so, certainly.

10. What service had you in the Imperial or Regular Army? None. I was Lieutenant in the 4th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, formerly the Royal East Middlesex Militia, for 2 years and 9 months; and, during that service, I was attached to the Grenadier Guards, at the Wellington and Chelsea Barracks, for 9 months, one month of which I was attached to the School of Instruction, which I passed through, obtaining a certificate. I hold this certificate in addition to the usual certificate held by a Lieutenant in the Militia.

11. Have you a Hythe certificate or one from any other School of Musketry? No, except that derived from the School of Instruction at Wellington Barracks.

12. As Musketry Instructor, do you march out the men for the purpose of judging distance drill and practice, and how often? Up to the present it has not been done, because it is impossible to get the men together in addition to the time spent at the butts at ball practice.

13. Do you think it possible in any way to obtain this necessary training? I do, as soon as the range at Sandy Bay is finished, as ball practice will take less time, and give more time consequently for judging distance.

14. What are the duties performed daily by the Permanent Force in the batteries? Three days in each week set apart for distinct duties in the batteries,—viz., to see that the guns are in good order, to keep the batteries in perfect order, traverse the guns, and clean guns and batteries. The other three days are either devoted to drill, or general fatigue duties under the Military Storekeeper, and also certain fatigue duties in the barracks.

15. Is target practice ever done from the batteries by the Permanent Force? We have had very little practice up to the present, as many of these men are not artillerymen; and we have only fired once in the Alexandra Battery.

16. Have you any instructions for your guidance in case of sudden attack? Yes, I have certain instructions.

17. Are any of the Permanent Force employed on staff duty? Yes, sometimes. One gunner is employed to assist in clerical duties when there is a pressure of work.

18. Do you furnish any weekly report to the Commandant? A monthly report.

The witness withdrew.

MR. CHISHOLM, *Military Storekeeper, called and examined.*

1. Your name? James Chisholm.

2. What position do you hold in connection with the Defence Force of Tasmania? I am Military Storekeeper, Magazine-keeper, Government Armourer, and Inspector of Magazines.

3. Who is personally responsible for the powder, ball ammunition, fuses, and other perishable ammunition, &c. in store, and what are the orders in force with regard to the care of Magazines and Stores? I am responsible for the two Powder Hulks, the Domain Magazine, and Military Stores, and I am not to let anything go without an order. The Royal Laboratory Regulations are in force, and hung up in the respective magazines.

4. Can you state what steps are taken for ensuring the safe custody and the elimination of damaged or deteriorated stores? Two guards at the Domain Magazine—one during day, and one at night—one man remaining on board one of the hulks day and night, except when he comes on shore for meals or duties at the stores. The hulks are under no guard during the absence of the man. No Board has ever sat, as we have had no occasion to condemn stores as damaged, although there are stores that have become obsolete, but we take stock once a year.

5. How far are the Hulks from the Stores? About a mile.

6. What are the duties of the Assistant Military Storekeeper at Launceston? Similar to my own, and he takes orders through me.

7. Item No. 52, "Defence Estimates" for 1887, what are the drill stores for which £50 is noted? I have nothing to do with that particular item.

8. Under the head "Military Store Branch" in the same estimate—what is the item "Store labourer?" I do not know, as I have nothing to do with that item.

9. Under heads "Military Store Branch, contingencies," (the number is 13), what are the expenses in connection with Powder Magazine, stated at £250? I hand in a statement (which being examined is marked R. and attached to the proceedings.)

10. How often in the week do you employ men of the Permanent Force in your stores, and what is the nature of the work they do? There is no definite time, but they sometimes come when not expected, and at other times they come when requested by me, through the Treasurer. On the average they come to the stores twice a week for half a day—the usual time for coming is at 10.15 A.M., and leave about 12.30 or 12.45, and may return about 2.15 to about 4 P.M. They are marched down under a non-commissioned officer. When floating targets have to be placed they come early in the morning.

11. What was the system adopted before the establishment of the Permanent Force as regards fatigue duty at the Military Stores? I was the Master-Gunner and had five permanent labourers under me at 6s. a day, who worked from 9 A.M. till 5 P.M., working at the batteries, magazines, torpedo stores, and boat, cleaning out drill-room, lighting gas, and work at rifle ranges, and one man engaged in driving engine for electric light when testing the same.

12. When warlike stores are received for the Colony, is there any Board appointed to examine and report upon their proper number and good quality? I examine them myself, but no fixed Board has ever sat. On one occasion there were fourteen rifles condemned and sold as damaged, as well as certain camp stores.

13. Were those arms and stores ever replaced? Not those particularly, but other rifles have since been received in the Colony.

The witness withdrew.

MR. HUXTABLE, *Colonial Storekeeper, called and examined.*

1. Your name? Charles Henry Huxtable.

2. What position do you hold in the Colony? Colonial Storekeeper.

3. Can you inform the Board under what system arms and military stores are issued to the Defence Forces of the Colony, as well as where, and in whose charge the surplus and unissued articles of military equipment are kept? The purchase of the stores in England is arranged through my Department, and on the arrival of the stores they are passed over to the Military Storekeeper for custody. The Military Storekeeper keeps two Stock-books, No. 1—one called the Stock-book of Military Stores on "Colonial Storekeeper's Personal Account;" the articles remain on that book until their money value is charged against the proper heads of the service as they indent for them. The Military Storekeeper then transfers the articles to another Stock-book, No. 2, called the Military Stock-book, when I am no longer responsible for them.

4. Can you inform the Board now as to the number of rifles on your Personal Account Book at the present time in the Military Storekeeper's Office? There are about 150 Sniders and about 60 Martini-Henry carbines. I speak from memory only; but some of these arms are, to my knowledge, not actually in store, being with the Country Rifle Clubs on loan.

The witness withdrew.

MR. CHISHOLM, *recalled and examined.*

1. Is there any established rule in the Tasmanian Military Service requiring Commanding Officers of Corps to transfer all arms, accoutrements, &c. in due form to the next senior officer or successor before giving up or leaving his command? There is an Act of Parliament providing for this; but I do not know if it is carried out.

2. Can you inform the Board, from your books, what rifles, carbines, accoutrements, and other stores issued by your Department are in possession of each corps? It would take a long time to do so, as I have been only 12 months in my Department, and have no assistance whatever.

The witness withdrew.

MR. BURRELL, *Torpedo Boat, called in and examined.*

1. Your name? William Gifford Burrell.

2. What position do you hold in the Tasmanian Defence Force? Mechanical engineer of the torpedo boat, and the engineer in charge of the electric machinery.

3. What experience have you had in mechanical engineering? I served my apprenticeship to the above trade at the Great Eastern Railway Works, Stratford, Essex. Subsequently I obtained a position of engineer artificer in the Royal Navy. I also possess the Marine Board of Trade certificate as engineer.

4. From your experience do you consider the torpedo boat an effective weapon under conditions of modern warfare? Yes; I consider her in a good condition, and, as a second-class boat, I consider her effective.

5. What is the nature of your engagement with the Tasmanian Government? I am engaged for five years, from 22nd September last, as engineer of torpedo boat, at the rate of 5s. per day pay, and my services are supposed to be available for any other mechanical engineering work. I have also quarters, which are very inferior, and I am necessitated messing with the gunners, which I have objected to, as being contrary to the rules of the Royal Navy Service as a chief petty officer in Royal Navy. I am also under a bombardier, who is in charge of the room, and is my junior.

I beg to hand in the following documents:—My discharge certificate and papers from H.M.S. *Invincible*; as also a certificate from Marine Board of Trade, Queensland, of competency as 3rd class engineer, dated 11th May, 1886. [Documents were examined and returned to witness.]

6. How long were you in the Royal Navy? Five years and one month, and was engaged in the Egyptian and Soudan campaigns, and during the Egyptian campaign I was employed running despatches in torpedo boats through the Canal.

7. What rate can the torpedo boat ordinarily steam, from your personal knowledge, and for what time? On a trial trip she can go 16 knots, but 13 to 14 knots for a trip of four hours' duration.

8. Is she capable, in your opinion, of weathering rough weather? Quite capable of weathering any storm in the Derwent River. She has never been tried with torpedoes on board.

9. How many men in the Torpedo Corps are, in your opinion, qualified to take part in offensive operations against an enemy on board of the torpedo boat? Anybody is qualified, provided there is a qualified instructor on board to direct him.

The witness withdrew.

COLONEL LEGGE, *Commandant, recalled.*

1. What is the procedure adopted when a change of a Commanding Officer of a Corps takes place, in regard to arms, accoutrements, &c.? The one officer hands over the arms and accoutrements to the succeeding officer, and if the latter asks for it, has to give a receipt. Any injury occurring to an arm or accoutrement a Board of Enquiry assembles to report thereon, and their proceedings being confirmed, are forwarded to the Minister of Defence.

2. Are the arms and accoutrements in possession of batteries and regiments recorded in Battery and Regimental Registers, or in a general register in your possession? In the Quarterly Return of Regiments and Batteries.

3. Could boats land troops from a ship on either side of the mouth of the River Derwent, and so render the batteries useless in any way? There are landing places.

4. Would it be possible for the fire of a man-of-war's guns to reach Hobart from a position abreast of the Iron-pot Lighthouse? No.

5. What guns are in possession of the field batteries of Hobart and Launceston?

6. How are these field guns moved when the batteries are at exercise, as distinguished from drill?

7. Could the torpedo boat of itself, manned as usual, venture to attack a man-of-war, without the probability of being destroyed long before it could get near enough to use its Whitehead torpedoes? The use of a torpedo boat is attended with great risk, so I should not like to assert my opinion, but should the services of a second torpedo boat be available, the chances of success of either one or the other would be greatly increased.

8. Have you any submarine mines now ready for service in case of sudden attack, and are means provided by which you could move them into position? Yes; the whole mine-field is ready to lay out, provided the transport is immediately available.

9. What roads lead to Hobart from the nearest towns on the coast where troops might be landed, and how many miles are they distant from Hobart?

10. How many Nordenfeldt guns are there, and is Launceston provided with any?

11. What men of the Defence Force are taught the necessary exercise of these guns? The Volunteer Artillery.

12. Have any magazine rifles been applied for for the Defence Force? None as yet.

13. Have you had information of a new and improved target which is now being tried at home, which is called "Self-indicating?" They would be useful no doubt as targets for instructing recruits with the Morris Tube.

14. Has the Launceston Artillery Corps any paid Instructor? It has the services of a paid official in the person of the Assistant Military Storekeeper, who is Sergeant-Major of the Corps.

The witness withdrew.

MR. CHISHOLM *recalled.*

1. How many of the Permanent Force come to you, as a rule, for fatigue duty? From 2 to 12 men.

2. Do you consider the old system of store labourers or the present one, of members of the Permanent Force coming to you to perform store labour, the preferable one for your department? The old system, as their services were continuous and I could get hold of them at any time; but their numbers did not exceed five.

3. If the numbers of Rifle Clubs were largely increased, would it be necessary for you to have additional help in regard to the arms supplied them being kept in serviceable order? I see no such necessity, as the arms being interchangeable, with an intelligent instructor to direct the members, the broken or unserviceable parts could be sent to me at Head Quarters or to Launceston, and replaced without skilled labour. I would like to suggest here that a liberal supply of Rangoon oil to each member of a Country Rifle Club be maintained.

The witness withdrew.

APPENDICES.

Head Quarters' Office, 18th June, 1887.

From the Commandant to the Hon. the Minister of Defence.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward to you the accompanying letter from the Officer Commanding Southern Tasmanian Artillery.

The first two were held over by me for the Royal Commission, to which they were to be submitted; but now that I understand this Commission is not required, it is necessary for me to bring so important a subject to your notice and solicit your deepest consideration of it, inasmuch as I deem it to be the most vital question now existent in connection with the Force.

Major Evans has gone so thoroughly into the case, and has shown as ably as any officer could do, even were he in the Imperial Service, how difficult it is for an artilleryman to become proficient in his work; how much time is necessary to gain this end; and how essential it is that a continuous training should be provided so that the men may undergo a proper course of instruction—that I need but add little to what has been written on that score.

I will mention that, following on the pattern of the Imperial Service, so soon as I took up command here I issued orders for a continuous course of instruction to be imparted to the Artillery, but I found that it was not practicable, as it was impossible to get the same men every night in the absence of any special regulations on the subject, and the course had to be abandoned.

In the Imperial Service every battery is taken off duty once a year and put through a course of instruction.

With regard to the second point in question—the filling up the Corps by having a paid training—I am confident that this is the only means of obtaining this desired result. The work of an artilleryman is very hard, and he naturally looks for some pay for his services, more especially now that he has to give his services for three years.

I trust, therefore, that you will favour this project, which is fraught with so much good to the Service, and bring it to the notice of the Cabinet.

I have, &c.

W. V. LEGGE, *Colonel Commandant.*

SOUTHERN TASMANIAN ARTILLERY.

Hobart, 14th July, 1887.

From Major EVANS, Officer Commanding, to the Commandant, Barracks.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of two Orders, dated 13th instant, regarding special detachment of this Corps required for working the 8-inch guns in the Bluff Battery, and the 6-inch guns in the Alexandra Battery, and I will do my utmost to carry out these orders.

I would remind you that these special detachments could easily be provided if the men of this Corps had to undergo a "continuous training" (as I have already suggested in former communications), or if these detachments were paid for their services, for I know how difficult it is to get the same men to turn up continuously for two nights per week for one month without some reward being held out to them for their attendance and work.

I again respectfully ask you to use your best endeavours to induce the Government to sanction a continuous training with payment for the members of this Corps, for without something of the kind I cannot make the men as efficient gunners as they should be; the cost of such training would be well repaid by the increased efficiency obtained.

I would point out the amount of drill each man has to pick up, only for exercise at the garrison guns: Queen's Battery, two descriptions of drill, very similar; Bluff Battery, three descriptions; Alexandra Battery, two descriptions—(in addition to these the men are taught field gun drill, gyn, and repository); and the modern ordnance in these forts require great care in handling.

I desire to see all the men of the Corps I have the honor to command as efficient as possible; but this efficiency cannot be obtained unless I can have all the members present at the same exercises for a certain length of time, and the only way in which to induce them to attend regularly is by instituting the training I speak of.

I have, &c.

T. M. EVANS, *Major.*

THIS letter is forwarded to the Hon. the Minister of Defence. It is in answer to memorandum from this office relative to permanent detachments chosen from the Volunteer Artillery for certain guns in the forts here, and is connected with matter brought before the Defence Committee of January last. The Hon. the Minister will gather further from this correspondence the difficulty of training Volunteer Artillerymen without being able to give up a stated period in the year to the instruction, at which time the men would be compelled to attend. In the other Colonies there are paid daylight drills, during which the gunners are put through a proper course of instruction. What is wanted here is a continuous training at the end of the year.

W. V. LEGGE, *Colonel.*
16. 7. 87.

SOUTHERN TASMANIAN ARTILLERY.

Hobart, 9th June, 1887.

From Major EVANS, Officer Commanding, to the Commandant, Barracks.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to most respectfully request that you will bring under the notice of the Government the suggestions made by me in my reports to you dated the 5th and 13th January, 1887, regarding a continuous training for this Corps, and which (in my opinion) is the only plan that can be adopted to make the members of this Corps efficient artillerymen.

I have no doubt it is the wish of the Government to have a reliable body of men to man the guns in the different forts; and until a continuous training, with payment, is instituted (taking into consideration the varied duties of an artilleryman) it will be impossible to make this Corps as efficient as it ought to be.

I would suggest a 21 days' service at least, or rather that there be 2 hours per night for 18 days, and 3 Saturday afternoons—evening drills 7-30 to 9-30, afternoon 2-30 to 6-30—men to receive 1s. per hour.

At this rate of pay, taking the Corps at the full strength allowed by the Regulations, the cost would be as under:—

	£	s.	d.
1 Major.			
2 Captains.			
4 Lieutenants.			
1 Surgeon.			
214 Rank and file at 1s. per hour, as under	513	12	0
222 TOTAL.....	£513	12	0
18 Evenings, 2 hours each, at 1s. per hour = 36 hours, at 1s.,			
£1 16s. × 214.....	385	4	0
3 Afternoons, 4 hours each = 12 hours at 1s., 12s. × 214....	128	8	0
	£513	12	0

This amount, as you can see, does not include any payment to officers, but of course they should receive something.

At present as our numbers are so few it would not cost one half the sum mentioned—a small amount, which would be well spent in making the Artillery Corps an efficient military force.

I have, &c.

T. M. EVANS, *Major.*

SOUTHERN TASMANIAN ARTILLERY.

*Hobart, 5th January, 1887.**From Major EVANS, Officer Commanding, to the Commandant, Barracks.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to address you regarding this Corps and on other matters connected with the Defence Force of this Colony. I consider it my duty to bring under your notice what, in my opinion, would add to the efficiency of this Corps.

At present the strength of the Artillery is about one-third its authorised establishment—a state of affairs to be deplored, and which I have done my best to alter, but, I regret to say, without any good effect.

At the commencement of the year 1886 the Defence Act of 1885 came into operation. This Act obliges every man (other than an old member of the Corps) to undertake to serve for a period of three years, during which time he has to make himself an efficient in each year by attending a certain number of drills, he being liable to many penalties for non-efficiency and other offences, although, subject to these pains and penalties, he does not receive any reward whatever should he be an efficient in each year. Under these circumstances is it likely that many men will join?

When the Draft Act was circulated amongst Commanding Officers, all, I think, were in favour of some reward for faithful service—at any rate, that was my remark when referring to this time of service. I was always in favour of having the men sworn in for 3 years; but knew very well from past experience, that unless some payment was made the Act would not be of much use, for without some inducement being held out to men to join it would be difficult to obtain recruits; in fact, the Act as it now stands, has no “vitals.”

I consider, and no doubt my opinion is shared in by anyone who has considered the defence of this City, that the artillery branch of the service is the principal arm required, for on them would fall the brunt of the fighting should any hostile cruiser visit this place. If the batteries should be silenced, mines and torpedoes would not avail anything. This being the case, the artillery should be fostered in every way, and the utmost endeavours made to keep it at the full strength allowed by the regulations; this corps has never at any time had its full number: a good many men have appeared on the strength of the corps (paper men), but the real efficient men have at all times been much short of the authorised number.

The only remedy for this state of affairs is to give the men some reward at the end of their service, if efficient, in each year; or better far, in my opinion, pay the men so much an hour for a continuous training, in a similar manner to the Torpedo Corps,—their training consisting of attending so many hours at night and the afternoons of the Saturdays during the training.

The artillery have a great deal to learn, much more than any other corps, for each man has to know (or is expected to know) every other man's duties at all exercises, which is not the case in the other branches of the Defence Force. Take, for instance, the Torpedo Corps: they have separate and special squads for special subjects; these duties cannot be properly learnt by the men unless they can be all drilled together, which cannot be done unless the men are compelled to undergo a certain number of hours continuous training, for which they must receive pay so many hours at night and the Saturday afternoons during the training. There are so many different natures of ordnance wanted in the batteries that it is only by having the same men continually at drill that it is possible to teach them, in a proper manner, their duties at the guns; besides Garrison Gun Drill, they have to undergo Field Gun, Repository, Gyn, and Infantry drill, in which latter is included Manual and Firing Exercise, and the use of the Sword Bayonet.

At present, when a course of instruction is commenced, the same men who are present on the first occasion may all attend the next drill; but after that it is only a few keep to it; the remainder come occasionally, and, as a consequence, do not pick up the whole of the drill, for one cannot keep back the men who are more regular in their attendance. With a continuous training this would be rectified, and all compelled to attend, or suffer for it by being fined for non-attendance.

At inspections the Officers and Instructor cannot present thoroughly trained men to the Inspecting Officer: the men coming by fits and starts would be properly grounded in their duties.

I have no hesitation in stating that, from the year 1868 up to the present time, the artillery have been the most hard worked body of men in the Defence Force, having to undergo, as I have already mentioned, Garrison and Field Gun, Repository, and Gyn Drill; each man is supposed to learn the duties of 9 men at gun drill, and the duties of 9 and 13 men respectively at the other exercises. In some cases the men have to detail the separate duties as they change rounds: to commit these duties to memory requires a certain amount of study, and this exercise of memory is very hard work for the majority of the men.

The artillery have fired all salutes whenever required during the time above mentioned, always at great inconvenience to the men attending, as the time is usually noon; some of the men who attend lose half a day's wages by being present, and this accounts for the small musters, especially since the corps has had so few members. It, however, shows the good spirit of the men who do come forward under these circumstances; still it is hard that any man should be out of pocket by being a Member of the Defence Force; even the thanks of the Government would have been some reward to the men; but no notice is taken of this work; the only reward, if any, that they receive is the thanks of their Commanding Officer, who knows what sacrifices many men have made.

Again, since 1868, the guns mounted or dismounted in the different batteries (I do not include the two 8-inch R.M.L. guns in the Bluff Battery, or the two 6-inch R.B.L. guns in the Alexandra Battery) have been done by this corps, this being right down hard work, officers as well as men working, saving the Government many pounds, for which very scant praise and no thanks has been awarded.

These duties have always been willingly performed, but still a few words of praise go a long way with officers and men; they then see that their exertions are appreciated, and they take a greater interest in the work.

My great object in addressing you is to ask you if it be possible to put the Artillery on the same footing as the Torpedo Corps as regards continuous training and payment during that training, for without this I can see it will be impossible to get the corps up to the state of efficiency I should like to see it in. The payment would, without doubt, be an inducement for men to join, for I know that some members of this corps who left and joined the Torpedo Corps did so solely on account of the payment made. It would also be the means of inducing the proper kind of men coming forward, that is, men of good physique—well-developed, strong-limbed men. Those lately presenting themselves as recruits have been youths of 19 years and under, of stunted growth and poor physique—young fellows employed at indoor work. The men I should like to get are those of 25 years and upwards, who are used to outdoor work. The great difficulty is to devise some means to induce these to join the corps: there are plenty of penalties to read out to recruits, but no rewards are promised.

Why, even in the old days of volunteering each efficient used to receive a certificate and a certain number of rounds of ball cartridge—a very small thing, but it was thought a great deal of in those days; but that would not do now; it is money only that would be accepted, now that payment has once been instituted.

As to recruiting generally, there is no doubt that the manner in which the newspapers are in the habit of writing of, and the Members of Parliament speaking about, the Defence Force and the officers, has a great deal to do with men not coming forward to join the ranks. No body of men like to be held up to ridicule when doing their best to fit themselves for the defence of the Colony. To say the least of such conduct, it shows an utter absence of good taste to do this; this is speaking of it in a very mild manner. I will not use any harder term, as I do not wish to make myself equal in abuse to such as write and speak in the strain that has obtained in this city. People should

remember, when speaking of the officers, that even in the British Army all the officers are not proficient in their profession—far from it—and it should not be expected that all officers of the Defence Force should be as proficient as regulars, who give up all their time (or are supposed to do so) to the study of their profession. Officers of the Colonial Defence Forces undertake their military duties in addition to the duties of their civil appointments; this fact is never remembered, and due allowance made for simple mistakes and shortcomings.

I now have to mention the Reserve Force. This force, as constituted, is a mistake. If any reserve is required there should be regimental reserves; and before this Force was started, it should have been seen that the corps belonging to the active branches of the service were at their authorised strength. This was not done, and this corps was started as a separate and distinct body of men; all sorts and conditions of men were accepted; many who joined had never been efficient in other corps, and some had never undergone drill at any time (condition of service being that they had been in some corps before joining).

This created discontent in other corps, for the members saw ex-members of, say, the Artillery, taken into the Reserves and made non-commissioned officers who were not efficient, and who enjoyed all the privileges (if any) of the active Forces without their hard work.

The first break-up of the Volunteer movement in 1867, it having been started in 1859, was the mistake in having so many separate Corps in the place, and at the time mentioned they were disbanded and only one Corps (Artillery) established, who had to serve for three years. This Corps flourished until the Government of the day broke faith with the men and stopped supplies.

Reserves should be for men to retire into who, after some years' service in the active forces, had not the time nor the inclination to attend the drills required by Regulation, but who could attend about one drill a month to keep themselves from getting rusty, and enabling Commanding Officers to see how they kept their arms and accoutrements. These Regimental Reserves would not cost the Government anything, as they would take their uniforms with them, which, with the small amount of attendance required, would last some years.

There is a practice which should be put a stop to, and that is this: Commanding Officers should not accept the services of men coming from other Corps unless the man can show his discharge, or making inquiries as to whether he left with a clean sheet. Some men who have left this Corps during the year 1886 have been so accepted.

My object, Sir, is to get a *continuous service for the Artillery—Payment for such service*. If this could be done, and recruits come forward, I think the Government would have a most efficient Artillery Force.

Other colonies are spending thousands of pounds on the defence of their chief cities: it must be remembered that when people want a good article, they expect to pay a rather higher price for it than a second-rate article. This is the only colony in which the members of the Defence Force get no pay (I do not allude to the Easter Camp).

I know this payment would cost money; but surely the expenditure of a few thousands a year in the manner I speak of would be money well spent, as a kind of insurance fund (the term has often been used before); for if any enemy came here and found us unprotected, a few thousands referred to would be as "a drop in the bucket" compared to what would be demanded.

Asking your pardon for inflicting on you such a long letter, my excuse being the great interest I take in all matters connected with the defence of this city,

I have, &c.

T. M. EVANS, Major.

SOUTHERN TASMANIAN ARTILLERY.

Hobart, 13th January, 1887.

From Major EVANS, Officer Commanding, to the Commandant, Barracks.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of an Order requesting Commanding Officers to furnish "Reports as to the best means of bringing batteries and companies under their command up to the proper establishment." I have already addressed you on this subject by letter dated the 5th instant.

In addition to what is stated therein, I again urge the necessity of the Government enabling Officers Commanding to promise some reward for services rendered, as an inducement to get men to join the ranks of the Defence Force; and with regard to this corps, I should like to be in a position to tell each man that he would get pay for a continuous training.

I state most emphatically that Artillerymen cannot be taught their duties (which are so varied,) in a proper manner unless they are formed into detachments, and made to attend regularly for a stated time, and drilled together at the different artillery exercises; a continuous training of this kind would enable the men to be well grounded in their duties, and make an efficient body for the defence of the colony.

If the citizens generally could be induced to take some interest in the Defence Force, it would popularise the service, and this would be the means of men coming forward. At present many citizens set their faces against men in their employ becoming members, and those that have men who belong to any corps grumble if a man asks to get away to a parade, and in many instances refuse them leave.

If the different corps met together occasionally of an evening for a short drill, and before the parade was dismissed went for a short march through the city, this might induce men to join.

I have taken the opportunity since my letter of the 5th instant was written to question the sergeants of the corps regarding recruiting, and they assure me it is solely on account of the Torpedo corps receiving payment, and the Artillery not getting anything (plenty of hard work, and nothing for it), that prevents this corps from obtaining more recruits.

This want of recruits is a most serious question, and should be grappled with at once. If officers commanding are thought to blame, don't mince matters—tell them so, and they will retire; at any rate I would do so, and gladly resign my commission, and join the ranks as a gunner. I will do anything for the good of the service.

If all means of inducing men to come forward should fail, there is the compulsory clause of "The Defence Act," which should be put in force.

I have, &c.

T. M. EVANS, Major.

Staff Office, Launceston, 11th July, 1887.

From the Officer Commanding Northern Division to the Honorable the Minister of Defence, Hobart.

SIR,

IN compliance with instructions contained in a letter dated Treasury, Hobart, 5th July, 1887, I have the honor to forward the Report therein requested.

I have, &c.

A. H. WARNER, Lieut.-Colonel Commanding N. Division.

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. WARNER, Commanding Northern Division, Tasmanian Defence Force.

PERMANENT STAFF, NORTHERN DIVISION,

Consists of one Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding, one Artillery Instructor (who receives no salary for this duty, with the exception of allowance for a house), and one Infantry Instructor.

COST OF NORTHERN STAFF PER ANNUM.

	£	s.	d.
Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding	300	0	0
Sergeant-Instructor of Infantry.....	120	0	0
House Allowance, Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding.....	50	0	0
" " Artillery Instructor	30	0	0
Allowance for Uniform, Artillery Instructor	6	0	0
" " Infantry Instructor.....	6	0	0
Fuel and Light, Infantry Instructor, about.....	5	0	0
	<u>£517</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

In addition, £30 per annum is allowed as Travelling Expenses, Northern Division, which is only drawn as required.

An allowance of £20 per annum is made to the Launceston Artillery for clerical assistance. This sum is necessary, as the Assistant Military Storekeeper's (who performs the duty of Instructor) time is fully occupied in attending to his duties at the Magazine, Dynamite Store, and Military Store, and cannot render the assistance as is done by the Infantry Instructor.

£50 per annum is allowed for the services of a marker on the rifle range.

I do not consider it possible to reduce the expenditure on the Northern Staff; the salaries are all most moderate.

ARTILLERY.

The Northern Artillery are at a great disadvantage in consequence of not having a range for artillery practice. Increased efficiency would be obtained if arrangements were made for either a land or water range, and conveyance to and from.

RIFLE RANGE.

The opening of the new rifle range has had a beneficial effect on all the Corps, and increased efficiency will be obtained this year by carrying out the annual course of musketry, and training the soldier in one of the most essential parts of his duty, which was omitted for the last two years for want of a suitable range.

More work is urgently required to be done on the range. Eventually the banks of the river will have to be raised to keep out the flood-water and the overflow of spring tides: but something must now be done, as at high tides the water runs up the ditches and overflows the banks.

I suggest that sluice-gates be provided to keep the water from running up the ditches, and that the raised firing points be extended to the centre embankment, so that the men would not have to stand on the wet ground while waiting their turn to fire. Many men are now deterred from practising, having caught colds by standing on the wet ground.

SUPPLY OF AMMUNITION.

To avoid unnecessary correspondence, which is a source of irritation to Commanding Officers, and eventually leads to extra expense, I would suggest the following arrangement:—At the beginning of each year the amount of ammunition per gun and rifle allowed to be expended during the year for artillery practice and annual course of musketry should be placed in the Launceston Magazine in charge of the Assistant Military Storekeeper, with instructions to issue to Corps as required on the Requisition of a Commanding Officer. At the conclusion of the annual course, the number of rounds expended would be checked by the Officer Commanding Northern Division with the Registers and Practice Reports, to see that the ammunition drawn had been expended at the annual course.

The present system is for Commanding Officers to forward Requisition to the Colonel Commanding Northern Division; from thence it goes through the Commandant to the Minister of Defence, and back again through the same channel to the Commanding Officer, who then forwards to Military Storekeeper, Hobart, who authorises the Assistant Military Storekeeper, Launceston, to issue.

The same roundabout course is adopted with regard to blank ammunition required for salutes and exercise. This could be avoided by placing a fixed number of rounds per gun and rifle in the Launceston Magazine, to be drawn on by Commanding Officers as required, and not to be exceeded, and accounted for at the end of year, when the stock would be replenished, less the number of rounds still in Magazine.

CAMP EQUIPMENT

For the Northern Division is now in store at Launceston. Instruction in tent-pitching is part of a soldier's training, but a tent cannot be drawn without Ministerial consent, when the same course as for ammunition has to be adopted, by giving the Assistant Military Storekeeper authority to issue tents on requisition of the Officer Commanding Northern Division. This could be remedied. On return of tents to store he would at once note and charge for any damage not fair wear and tear.

EQUIPMENT AMMUNITION.

The equipment ammunition for each gun and rifle in the North should be kept in the Launceston Magazine to be ready for immediate use in the case of a sudden outbreak of war. Mistakes might occur if the ammunition was despatched from Hobart in a hurry during a war scare.

CAPITATION GRANT.

The Grant is barely sufficient for the Artillery, owing to the extra wear and tear of clothing the work they perform involves, and cannot be possibly reduced. With regard to the Launceston Rifle Regiment, I do not see any necessity for the full dress tunics. In my opinion an extra serge coat would be quite enough.

If the tunic was discontinued a reduction of 5s. per head might be made in the Capitation Grant, without in any way injuring the efficiency of the Corps.

Great difficulty is experienced in getting Officers for the Rifle Regiment. One of the reasons given is the cost of uniform. Should the tunic be discontinued for the men, the Officers ought not be made to wear it on parade, and it should be optional with them to provide a full dress for levées, balls, &c.

DEFENCE OF RIVER TAMAR.

In conclusion, I consider it my duty to bring to notice the totally undefended state of the River Tamar.

I have, &c.

A. H. WARNER, *Lieutenant-Colonel (late 41st, The Welsh Regiment),
Commanding Northern Division.*

Launceston, 11th July, 1887.

LAUNCESTON ARTILLERY.

Orderly Room, 11th July, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, and, in compliance with the request, to furnish you with a report regarding the expenses of the Corps under my command, beg to submit the following:—

1. I have carefully gone through every item of expenditure at present provided for, and do not consider it is practicable to carry on the maintenance and instruction of the Corps with reduced means. I estimate the total cost of the Corps, at its full strength of 100 men, to be £620 per annum, or, say, £6 4s. per man. This sum includes capitation grant, camp pay and expenses, transport, practice ammunition, and, in fact, every charge that I am aware of.

2. The Corps is without a paid instructor.

3. Greater efficiency would be obtained if facilities existed for obtaining gun practice, which, as a rule, this battery gets a very small proportion of. The Commanding Officer should have power to draw ammunition and stores and engage transport as needed, the quantity and amount of each allowed for the year having previously been stated by the Commandant.

The battery is really without Field Guns. Two 12½ pr. Armstrong B.L Guns at least should be added at once, with equipment of both harness and ammunition.

I have, &c.

GEO. COLLINS, *Major Commanding L.A.*

The Hon. the Minister of Defence, Hobart.

Hobart, 9th July, 1887.

From Lieut. N. E. LEWIS, *Adjutant Tasmanian Reserve Force*, to J. E. PACKER, *Esq., Under Treasurer.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, by direction of the Officer Commanding the Tasmanian Reserve Force, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, requesting him to make a report regarding the expenses of Corps under his command, and to make any suggestions that might occur to him for a reduction of the expenditure, if he should consider any reduction practicable, without impairing efficiency.

In reply, he directs me to state that in the Corps under his command the officers receive no allowance for expenses, the Drill Instructor and Sergeant-Major gives his services to the Corps gratuitously, and the capitation allowance for efficient is only 30s. a year. He therefore cannot see where any reduction can be made.

He also directs me to inform you that a proposal to alter the organisation of the Corps, by which it will be placed in every respect upon the same footing as the other Corps, has recently been submitted by the Commandant to the Honorable the Minister of Defence, and he considers that proposal contains all he has to report.

I have, &c.

N. E. LEWIS, *Lieut., Adjutant Tasmanian Reserve Force.*

Orderly Room, Launceston, 11th July, 1887.

From the Officer Commanding Launceston Rifle Regiment to the Honorable the Treasurer, Hobart.

SIR,

In compliance with your communication of 6th instant, requesting me to report regarding expenditure of the Corps under my command, and making any suggestions that may occur to me for a reduction of the expenditure, if same can be done without impairing efficiency, I have the honor to report as follows:—

As regards the expenditure of the Corps, I find that the proportion of the Defence Vote chargeable against this Corp is approximately £1530 (exclusive of the £75 for Cadets), made up thus—

	£	s.	d.
Capitation Allowance, 225 men, at £2 per head.....	450	0	0
Ditto, 60 Reserves, at £1 10s.	90	0	0
Share of Corps Funds.....	116	0	0
Ditto Prize Money	22	0	0
Ditto Band Money	50	0	0
Share of Marking at Butts	15	0	0
Pay of 285 men, at 6s. a day, for 4 days' camp	342	0	0
Extra pay for N. C. Officers.....	12	0	0
Share of Transport	50	0	0
Ditto loss on ammunition sold.....	10	0	0
Ditto cost of ammunition used at Musketry Course.....	90	0	0
Ditto repairs to Arms.....	5	0	0
Ditto Light	12	0	0
Ditto Advertising	10	0	0
Ditto Drill Stores.....	5	0	0
Ditto Stationery.....	7	0	0
Rations for 360 men, at 1s. 3d. for 4 days' camp	104	0	0
Instructor, including Uniform, and Fuel and Light Allowance	140	0	0
TOTAL.....	£1530	0	0

This gives an average expenditure of £5 7s. 7d.—or, if the Cadets are taken into account, then expenditure is £1605, an average expenditure of a little over £4 9s.—per head per annum. This, I submit, is a very trifling expenditure at which to secure the services of 285 men, and I venture to say no other Colony in Australasia, possessing a force as efficient as the Defence Force of Tasmania, can boast of so low an expenditure; and the marvel to me is that, with so little spent on the Force, it is as efficient as it is.

The heaviest item against the Corps is the capitation allowance of £2 per head for the men on the active list. As regards this, Commanding Officers have had to pinch and screw to keep the men decently clothed; but if the full-dress tunic were dispensed with, leaving it optional with the Officers, not only would the £2 be ample, but I believe a saving of 5s. per head capitation allowance could be effected. The full-dress tunic is not really needed, and if its abolition were sanctioned Commanding Officers would be relieved of a very heavy expense which in no way assists in promoting efficiency; and I for one would be prepared to accept a reduction of 5s. per head in the capitation allowance to men on the active list. This would, in this Corps, effect a saving of about £56 a year.

This is the only direction in which a saving can possibly be effected without very seriously impairing efficiency. If Ministers desire to economise let them sweep away the Permanent Force—a useless body of some 28 men, costing nearly as much as the whole Northern Division of 360 odd men—sell the Torpedo Boat, abolish pay of the Torpedo Corps, do away with Staff Adjutant and Naval Expert for Whitehead Torpedo, and a very considerable saving will be effected without in any way impairing efficiency. The duties of Superintendent of Rifle Clubs could very well be divided between the Northern and Southern Staff, and a further saving thereby effected.

In conclusion, permit me to point out the disparity in the expenditure on the Northern and Southern Divisions. The Southern Division number about 819 all ranks, the Northern Division about 460 all ranks, or $\frac{1}{2}$ of the total strength of the Defence Force; and yet of the total £11,935 Defence Vote (excluding the Rifle Clubs) only £2700 or thereabouts is spent on the Northern Division.

Trusting you will pardon me for having gone somewhat beyond the scope of the Report asked for,

I have, &c.

WM. MARTIN, *Major Commanding Launceston Rifle Regiment.*

SOUTHERN TASMANIAN ARTILLERY.

Hobart, 7th July, 1887.

From Major EVANS, Officer Commanding, to JOHN PACKER, Esquire, Under Treasurer.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 6th instant, and in reply thereto have to inform you that I cannot tell the exact expenditure of this corps, as many items are paid for through the Head Quarters' Office, such as fuel, stationery, stores, gas consumed (part of which is used by the Torpedo Corps), advertising, cost of practice ammunition, and various other small items; the only amounts received by me from the Treasury are the capitation allowance, camp expenses, prize money, and regimental allowances, which for the year ending the 31st December, 1886, are as under:—

	£	s.	d.
Capitation Grant	134	0	0
Regimental Allowances	58	0	0
Prize Money	23	14	2
Camp	72	9	0
TOTAL	£288	3	2

In reply to the other questions in your letter, I have to inform you that I cannot make any suggestions for a *reduction* of the expenditure without greatly impairing efficiency. As a matter of fact the only way in which to obtain greater efficiency in this corps is by an *increased* expenditure, and I would ask you to kindly peruse two reports that I sent in to the Commandant at the commencement of the year, (and which I am informed have been sent on to the Hon. the Minister of Defence): they contain suggestions which, if carried out, would greatly add to the effectiveness of the Members of the Southern Tasmanian Artillery.

I have, &c.

T. M. EVANS, *Major.*

FORWARDED for the perusal of the Board of Enquiry on Defences.

B. STAFFORD BIRD,
8. 7. 87.

Head Quarters' Office, Hobart, 13th July, 1887.

MEMORANDUM.

THE Return of Torpedo and Electric Light Expenditure, called for by the Board of Enquiry, is herewith forwarded for the information of the Hon. the Minister of Defence.

W. V. LEGGE, *Colonel Commandant.*

The Hon. the Minister of Defence.

FORWARDED to the President of the Board of Enquiry.

J. E. PACKER, *for Treasurer.*
13. 7. 87.

EXPENDITURE Account, Torpedo Stores and Electric Light, from 23rd July, 1884, to 30th June, 1887.

	£	s.	d.	
1884—Item 35	29	17	9	
1885—Item 35	120	10	3	
1885—Item 55	280	0	0	Dynamo and Reflectors.
1886—Item 50	87	11	1	
1887—Item 49	56	11	1	
Loans Bill, 49 Vict. No. 45—				
1885—Item 5, (still on the Colonial Storekeeper's account)	600	0	0	4 core and 7 core Cables.
TOTAL.....	£1174	10	2	

W. V. LEGGE, Lt.-Col. R.A., Colonel Commandant.

For the information of the Defence Court of Enquiry, as requested.

PARTICULARS of Item 13 of Estimates, 1887, Military Store Branch; viz., Expenses in connection with Powder Magazines, £250.

	£	s.	d.
Hulk Keeper, Salary, Hobart.....	93	18	0
Night Guard, Magazine, Launceston	91	5	0
Stores, Stationery, Repairs, and Incidental	50	0	0
Cartage and extra Labour	14	17	0
	£250	0	0
Item 8—One Storeman at Military Stores, Hobart	£93	18	0
Item 14—In lieu of House Night-guard, Launceston	£18	5	0
Item, Supplementary Estimates—Two Guards, Hobart, for the Domain Magazine, at 5s. 3d. per day = 12 months.....	191	12	6
Until such time as the Permanent Defence Force is in a position to undertake the duty in connection with the said Magazines.			
In lieu of House Night-guard at Hobart.....	15	0	0
Total Supplementary	£206	12	6

I have, &c.

J. CHISHOLM, Military and Magazine Storekeeper, Tasmania.

The President, Defence Board of Enquiry, Tasmania.

TASMANIAN RIFLE REGIMENT.

Hobart, 14th July, 1887.

From the Officer Commanding Tasmanian Rifle Regiment to the Hon. the Minister of Defence.

SIR,
I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from the Under Treasurer, dated 6th instant, requesting a report regarding the expenses of the Corps under my command, and asking for any suggestions for a reduction of the expenses I may consider practicable.
In reply, I have the honor to state that the expenses connected with the Rifle Regiment are as follows:—Salary of Instructor, £150 per annum; Capitation Grant, at £2 per head for the year 1886, amounted to £258; Capitation Grant for the half-year ended 30th June last will amount to about £140; Allowance to Officers for Regimental purposes for 1886 amounted to £133; and for the half-year ended June, to £66.
With regard to the above items, I am unable to recommend any reduction, and I would much regret any interference with the amounts allowed for the maintenance of the Regiment. The above expenditure is, in my opinion, absolutely necessary to ensure anything like efficiency.
The expenses connected with the Annual Camp have not been included in the above, as it does not appear to me to be a strictly Regimental outlay. I would, however, strongly deprecate any reduction in the pay or rations hitherto allowed, as I regard the Camp as the backbone of the Defence movement, and every encouragement should be given to men to attend it.
I have also omitted mention of the amount hitherto falling to the share of the Regiment for prizes for rifle shooting, on account of its insignificance. I believe the sum placed at my disposal for this purpose for last year was £28, and there were 112 men eligible to compete.

I have, &c.

J. O'BOYLE, Major, Officer Commanding Tasmanian Rifle Regiment.

FORWARDED for the information of the Board of Enquiry on Defence.

B. STAFFORD BIRD.
15. 7. 87.

IN reply as to number of men employed and hours of labour, Time of Permanent Artillery at Military Stores for month of June, 1887, as per Time Book:—

6th—4 Gunners—2.15 to 4 p.m.
 9th—1 Bombardier, 7 Gunners—10.15 to 12.45, and 2.15 to 4 p.m.
 11th—1 Bombardier, 4 Gunners—9.45 to 12.45, and 2.15 to 4 p.m.
 13th—1 Bombardier, 4 Gunners—9.45 to 12.45, and 2.15 to 4 p.m.
 14th—1 Sergeant, 1 Bombardier, 9 Gunners—10.15 to 12.45, and 2.15 to 4 p.m.
 15th—1 Sergeant, 1 Corporal, 1 Bombardier, 7 Gunners—10.15 to 12.45, and 2.15 to 4 p.m.
 17th—1 Bombardier, 2 Gunners—10.15 to 12.45 only.
 20th—6 Gunners—2.15 to 3.45 only.
 24th—1 Bombardier, 7 Gunners—2.15 to 4 p.m. only.
 29th—1 Corporal, 7 Gunners—Time not put down.

The President, Defence Board of Enquiry.

J. CHISHOLM, *Military Storekeeper.*
 15th July, 1887.

TASMANIAN RIFLE REGIMENT.

15th February, 1887.

The Officer Commanding to the Commandant Defence Force.

SIR,

As desired in your Memorandum requesting Commanding Officers of Corps to favour you with their views as to the best means of bringing the batteries and companies under their command up to the proper establishment, I have the honor to inform you that, in my opinion, before the object referred to can be attained much more liberal conditions of service than are now in operation will have to be adopted.

It having come to my knowledge that a large number of men belonging to the Regiment under my command, whose term of service will expire at the end of this month, have decided not to re-enrol, I have instituted inquiry as to the cause, but the result has not been so entirely satisfactory as I could have wished. I have found it very difficult to obtain candid and outspoken reasons for the secession, but I believe the omission from the Regulations of reward for service has more to do with it than anything else. Many of the non-commissioned officers and rank and file have served for several years, and consider they have done all that should be expected from them, but it is not at all improbable that the majority would continue their services were some inducement to do so held out to them. Some of them dislike being compelled to attend the Camp every year in order to be classed as efficient, and others are obliged to retire owing to the difficulty they experience in attending parade regularly. There is also a feeling, not by any means an exceptional one, that one branch of the service is as much entitled to pay for one month in the year as another.

I am afraid the old volunteer spirit is rapidly dying out, and that there is very little probability, except in time of war, when I have no doubt hundreds would come forward willingly enough, of the services of any large number of men being obtained under the present Regulations. As I have stated to you on more than one occasion, I do not see how men can be expected to give up their time and subject themselves to liability to all sorts of pains and penalties year after year without the prospect of remuneration of some kind at the end of their period of enrolment. No doubt there will always be some joining the ranks to whom the novelty will be an attraction, but I have little reason to hope that the number will be anything like that required to bring the several Corps up to their proper establishment, or even to make them what they were twelve months ago.

There will, therefore, I fear, be no alternative but to bring into operation the compulsory enlistment clauses of the Defence Act, or to make some provision for the payment of the men at the end of their term of service. At present they receive absolutely nothing, except pay for attendance at Camp, which they well earn; and, taking all things into consideration, I must candidly admit that I am not at all surprised that more men do not come forward, or that those who have served so long should now seek to retire.

I have just completed the arrangements for the competition for the Government prizes for last year, and I find I have at my disposal the sum of £26 0s. 8d. only to divide into prizes for marksmen and competitors in the first and second classes, numbering in all 115 men.

I have, &c.

J. O'BOYLE, *Major.*

To the Commandant.

Staff Office, Launceston, 2nd February, 1887.

MEMO.

I DELAYED forwarding the report from the Officer Commanding Launceston Artillery, expecting to receive Major Room's report before this.

A. H. WARNER, *Lt.-Col., Com. N.D.*

Head Quarters' Office, Hobart, January 7th, 1887.

MEMO.

THE Commandant would like the Commanding Officers of Corps named below to favour him with their views, embodied in the form of Reports, as to the best means of bringing the Batteries and Companies under their command up to the proper establishment.

In view of the threatening aspect of affairs in Europe, and the probable advent of war at no distant date, in which England may be involved, it is absolutely necessary to bring the Tasmanian Forces up to their strength.

W. V. LEGGE, *Lt.-Col., R.R.A., Colonel Commandant.*

Officer Commanding Launceston Artillery,
 Officer Commanding Hobart Artillery,
 Officer Commanding Tasmanian Rifle Regiment,
 Officer Commanding Launceston Rifle Regiment.

TRUE Copy.

ERNEST T. WALLACK, *Captain, Staff Adjutant.*

WILL Officer Commanding Launceston Artillery be good enough to forward Report as soon as possible? This Memo. to be returned.

A. H. WARNER, *Lieut.-Col., Commanding Northern Division.*
 11. 1. 87.

The Officer Commanding the Northern Division.

MEMO.

THE Officer Commanding Launceston Artillery is unable to suggest any means for bringing up the strength of his Battery under the existing Regulations, other than endeavouring, through the non-commissioned officers, to obtain recruits. In Victoria it is found that payment to the men for drill has worked beneficially.

GEO. COLLINS, *Major, Commanding Launceston Artillery.*
18. 1. 87.

FURTHER MEMO.

IN continuation of the above, I would suggest six compulsory consecutive parades at the end of each quarter, for which the men should be paid, the Commandant holding his quarterly inspection on the last of the six days, so that he may be able to judge of the work done. The number of evening parades might then be reduced proportionately. I take this opportunity of stating that there is a strong feeling on the part of the men against parading in marching order for the quarterly inspections, which acts injuriously, preventing recruits from joining. I would suggest that the quarterly inspections be not in marching order, except on days or parades when the men are paid.

GEO. COLLINS, *Major, Commanding Launceston Artillery.*
21. 1. 87.

FORWARDED to Commandant.

A. H. WARNER, *Lieut.-Col., Commanding Northern Division.*
2. 2. 87.

LAUNCESTON RIFLE REGIMENT.

Orderly Room, 8th February, 1887.

From Officer Commanding Launceston Rifle Regiment to Officer Commanding Northern Division.

SIR,

AGREEABLY with Head Quarter Memo., dated 7th ultimo., *re* best means of raising the Corps under my command to its maximum establishment:

In reply thereto, I have the honor to state for your information, that I have introduced this current year a scheme for the Launceston Rifle Regiment and Cadets, without deviating from the Government requirements for efficiency (*vide* Circulars attached), which I think will be the means of assisting to increase the strength of the several companies. At the same time, there are a few points I would respectfully call your attention to—

1. The early completion of rifle range, so that members may have some practice before the *wet* weather sets in. Rifle shooting is not only the most important branch of our soldiers' training, but it also attracts intelligent men to join the Corps.

2. The inducements offered this year will no doubt be an incentive for members to perfect themselves in the use of their rifles, and become good practical shots.

3. As many men will only attend the two quarterly inspections required for efficiency on account of having to wear the valise equipment, I would suggest the wearing of same be discontinued.

4. A system of deferred pay might be successfully introduced, say a penny per diem for 3 years, payable on completion of the term, providing each man has made himself efficient for each year; it would give the men something to look forward to, and be an extra inducement to make themselves efficient.

5. Efficiency badges for each year of service might be an encouragement—a small, narrow silver stripe, to be worn below the elbow; the cost would be trifling, and could be defrayed out of the Capitation grant.

6. The commanding officers should be permitted to take their corps out for daylight drills of, say 3 hours' duration each, as circumstances would admit, the number to be held during the year not to exceed six, and for which pay might be granted; and I believe a higher standard of efficiency would be obtained.

Herewith I beg to hand you suggestions, respectfully submitted by Captain Gould, and in which Captain Martin fully concurs.

I have, &c.

J. H. ROOM, *Major, Commanding Launceston Rifle Regiment.*

FORWARDED to the Commandant.

A. H. WARNER, *Lieut.-Colonel, Commanding Northern Division.*
Staff Office, Launceston, 9. 2. 87.

Memo. for MAJOR ROOM, from CAPT. T. H. GOULD.

THE mode of being relieved from service through departure from a military district is viewed by the public favourable to the Defence Force as unnecessary and tedious. We would suggest the following as being adequate, and would leave the same results as the mode now in operation, the difference being a saving of time, and easy to understand:—"In the event of a member of the Defence Force having to leave his military district for a period extending over six months, that the following declaration on oath taken before the officer commanding his corps be deemed a sufficient discharge, after having delivered all Government property into store, *without being liable to any fine or penalty*":—

I, _____, solemnly and sincerely declare that I am leaving the military district of _____ and shall not reside within 3 miles of any military district in Tasmania for a period of six months; if I should reside at any time in a military district in Tasmania, I promise to complete my term, as signed for by me, in the Defence Force of Tasmania: and that I have delivered into store all Government property issued to me.

Declared before me at _____

on _____

Commanding Officer

Corps.

Regulation.—In the event of a member returning to a military district in Tasmania (having made the above declaration) to reside therein, and failing to fulfil his agreement in the Defence Force, after having received notice from the commanding officer, to be liable to be fined.

TORPEDO CORPS.

Orderly Room, 20th July, 1887.

SIR,

In accordance with the terms of your letter of the 6th instant, I have the honor to report—

1st. That the capitation allowance which is given to the Corps has always been found barely sufficient to meet the requirements for renewals of uniform, even with the exercise of the greatest care. The nature of the work on which the members of this Corps are employed involves more extra wear and tear than the clothing of the other branches of the Defence Force is exposed to, especially during the training period. This will, I consider, fully justify the extra sum required under this head.

2nd. The pay of the non-commissioned officers and men cannot be reduced, for it must be remembered that the men who receive it (nominally for the days when called out for training) also give their time during the remainder of the year for nothing, and being recruited, in the majority of cases, from a class of men who can always earn money by overtime work, any reduction in the scale set down in the Regulations would materially affect the efficiency of the Corps, and prevent the Commanding Officer from recruiting from the very classes of artisans and mechanics that it is most desirable to obtain and render efficient.

3rd. That the allowance paid to the Commissioned Officers cannot be decreased. I would state that the Corps has never been officered, in accordance with the Regulations, up to its full strength, and great difficulty has been, and is at present experienced in finding nominees for commissions who possess the necessary qualifications.

4th. The cost of the instruction imparted to corps by the Sergeant-Major of Engineers should in no way be decreased if by so doing his services are taken from that duty; without them the Company would immediately resolve itself into a company of infantry.

I have, &c.

JAMES M. CLARKE, *Lieut., O. C. Torpedo Corps.*

The Under Treasurer.

Hobart, 19th August, 1887.

From Major-General H. L. A. TOTTENHAM, *President Board of Inquiry on Defences, to the Hon. B. S. BIRD, Minister of Defence, Tasmania.*

SIR,

In conformity with your request for the reasons for my dissent from several of the decisions of the Board of Inquiry on the Defence Forces of Tasmania, I have the honor to make the following statement:—

No. 17. *Permanent Force.*

With regard to No. 17, which is virtually in favour of the abolition of the Permanent Force, the reasons for my dissent are—The intention of this small permanent body originally was to provide a nucleus of thoroughly trained artillerymen capable of working the heavy guns, upon the efficiency of which, in action, the whole defence of Hobart against sea attack would rest as the prime factor in the possibilities of local land resistance pending the arrival of aid from without. It must be remembered that the guns to be handled are not ordinary *shot-tubes*, but extremely delicate pieces of machinery, which, by careless or ignorant handling in the hurry and excitement of a sudden attack, might be rendered utterly useless by jamming and destruction of the thread of a screw or some other part.

However good the Volunteer Artillerymen may be, still they cannot for a long time to come possess the extreme steadiness and coolness required, and which can only be acquired by long continuous practice as professional Artillerymen.

With three or four regularly trained artillerymen as part of each gun's crew, no doubt intelligent Volunteer Artillery such as we possess would do well, especially if more daylight drills, say of a couple of hours each, can be obtained; but left to themselves, under the system hitherto in vogue they would probably find themselves, after a shot or two (in war time), unable to work these really fine guns.

Another evident intention of the Permanent Force was the provision of a staff of instructors, as well as models for the Volunteer Force. A permanent force of regular soldiers may always be made an excellent example of drill and discipline, the very points in which the volunteer is liable to be the weakest, by reason of the very different nature of the regulations to which it is possible to subject him.

Although the present Force are not all *ex-Royal* Artillerymen, still the term of their engagement will enable all, long before it expires, to become thoroughly trained men; more especially under an Officer so well up in this branch of the Service as the present Commandant, himself an *ex-Royal* Artilleryman.

No. 18. *Permanent Staff.*

With regard to the reduction of the Permanent Staff, beyond stating that the present number, always provided that one of the two is a *capable trained Engineer as well*, is none too many, I need not do more than refer to the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 11th paragraphs of my letter dated 23rd July, 1887, and the details of Staff Duties as given in Lord Wolseley's *Soldiers' Pocket Book*.

No. 21. *Capitation Grant and Camp of Exercise Allowances.*

The reduction of the Capitation Grant from 40 shillings to 30 shillings, and the Camp of Exercise pay from six shillings to five shillings a day, I feel perfectly convinced would preclude the possibility of efficiency, in equipment as well as training. In the mother country, where the rich supporters of the Volunteer movement are numerous, the Capitation Grant might be reduced without affecting the efficiency and appearance of a Volunteer Battalion; and the absence of adequate Camp allowances from Government can be privately prevented from exercising any prejudicial influence on attendance of those too poor, though otherwise willing to devote themselves to a Volunteer defence. In Tasmania, however, the conditions of the Volunteer movement are so different from those existent in the mother country, that no such change as that contemplated by the Members of the Board can safely be introduced. Patriotism is all very well; but a poor labouring man, with perhaps a large family to maintain, can hardly be expected to learn practical soldiering at a Camp of Exercise for less than the sum at present allowed.

The lessons of a Camp of Exercise, properly conducted, are, it must be remembered, of far greater practical value than those learned at five or six times as many drills by dim gaslight on a confined space, with noisy distractions around.

I could not, therefore, honestly, as a practical soldier of experience, endanger the attendance at the Annual Camp by coinciding with such recommendations of the Board.

No. 23. Tenure of Staff Appointments.

Where a Staff appointment is held by an Officer already receiving Regimental pay, as in the Imperial and Indian Services, the limited tenure of Staff appointments does not bear hard on individuals; but in the case of the Tasmanian Defence Forces you would deprive deserving men of both career and livelihood at one blow. On such terms and on such a salary, what man of any ability as a soldier would care to take such an appointment?

It must be recollected that a Staff Officer, to be of any use in war time, must have all his wits about him, and be originally a man of more than average talent.

A scratch Staff freshly appointed, however clever, would make too many mistakes in war time to be of much benefit to the Forces in the field.

No. 25. Reductions of Travelling Allowances.

These reductions I could not positively agree to as a soldier, for without very frequent inspection even a regular army deteriorates; but if efficiency, combined with reasonable economy, is to be studied, I would strongly recommend that the system of travelling passes used in India be introduced here, and a hotel allowance of so much per day given for each tour of inspection.

These passes are received by railways and other carriers as payment so far as the officer travelling is concerned. Countersigned by the latter, these passes serve as vouchers as against the Treasury where they are paid.

The outcome of my dissents to the Board's recommendations is a net saving on the Estimates of £1021, instead of £1908 10s. as shown in copy of the Board's Report herewith returned.

I have, &c.

HENRY L. A. TOTTENHAM, *Major-General,*
President Board of Enquiry on Defences.



*Head Quarters' Office, Tasmanian Defence Force,
20th July, 1887.*

From the Commandant to the Hon. the Minister of Defence.

SIR,

In reply to your letter asking me for any suggestions which might occur to me by which a reduction of expenditure may be effected in the corps and the department under my command, I have the honor to submit the following remarks.

Knowing thoroughly as I do, after more than three years' service, the requirements of my department, and having been enjoined year by year in making out my estimates to keep down expenditure, I am at a loss to see in what direction I can retrench, without upsetting the present satisfactory organization of the Force; and this is rendered the more difficult, as I recently went over my estimates with you for the ensuing year, and endeavoured to cut down expenditure to the best of my ability in all directions, save in the increase of the Permanent Artillery.

Furthermore, in making out these estimates I omitted, much against my will, an estimate for a paid continuous training for the artillery.

I will first deal with the pay of the men. The Forces of the other military colonies of Australia,—viz., Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and South Australia—are paid for their daylight drills throughout the year, in addition to their attendance at the annual camp of instruction. The Force of Tasmania, which Colony, from its important strategic position in the group, needs perhaps the most highly trained body of men of any, is unpaid, except at the camp of instruction, and the consequences are that the men cannot be called out for daylight drills, so necessary for their proper training. I need scarcely say that the reasons for non-attendance at unpaid daylight drills are the loss of wages to the men, and the opposition of employers, which carries weight in the absence of any compensating wage for the drill.

The cost, therefore, of the Tasmanian Force per annum to Government in the matter of pay is the amount disbursed for the four days' camp, and the paid training of the Torpedo Corps.

This year there were 589 paid men (inclusive of corps officers) in camp, and the amount paid was £678. In Victoria the same number of men, not including officers, who are paid there, would cost in addition 2s. per man per day, or £914 in all; and added to this, to arrive at their annual cost, must be calculated the maximum amount of daylight parade pay at £10 per man, or a sum of £5890.

The above is taken from Paper A, 181-210, 17. 9. 83, Victorian Defence Reorganization Scheme.

In Tasmania, the most that a member of the Torpedo Corps can earn (unless he be a non-commissioned officer), is £7 13s. for the whole training, lasting from five to six weeks,—whereas in Victoria a sapper, when undergoing a course of instruction, is paid 6s. per diem.

The officers of the Victorian Forces are paid as follows:—Major, £40; Captain, £30; Lieutenant, £20 per annum; and the establishment there provides also for Lieutenant-Colonels at £50 per annum. In Tasmania officers are unpaid.

Passing now to the Staff. In Tasmania the pay of the Commandant, the Officer Commanding Northern Division, and the two Staff Officers, one of whom is charged with the direction of the torpedo defences, amounts in all to £1400—while in Victoria the pay of the Commandant and Torpedo Director alone amounts to £1700. I take no notice of all the additional members of the Staff required for the much larger Force kept up in Victoria, but I merely show that two members of the Staff there, whose responsibilities are in reality but little heavier than those of the corresponding officers in Tasmania, exceeds by £300 the pay of the entire Tasmanian Staff.

I may also mention that the command of and enforcement of military discipline in the Tasmanian Permanent Artillery is vested in the Staff Adjutant, and costs the Government nothing.

A large annual expenditure is incurred in Victoria in maintaining a "Permanent Section of Engineers." In this the warrant officer is paid £200 a year; engineers, 12s., sappers (13), 7s., stokers, 6s. per diem; artificers, £90 and £105 per annum. In Tasmania no permanent section is maintained, but there are two men allowed for torpedo service, only one of whom is at present enrolled, and who drives the torpedo boat and is employed in the submarine mining store, at a salary of 5s. per diem. This is as yet the total cost of the naval defences to the Colony, as there is no stoker and no crew provided for the torpedo boat.

The foregoing comparisons, it will be seen, relate for the most part to a like number of men and like responsibilities in each of the colonial services. I will now deal with the expense incurred in maintaining the non-commissioned staff for instruction purposes. It requires, I think, but little comment on the difference between the instruction and drill training of Volunteer Regiments and those of the Regular Service, in the latter of which these duties are performed by the paid non-commissioned officers of the regiments, none of which exist in the volunteer service; and it therefore becomes apparent that the instruction must be carried out by paid non-commissioned officers unconnected with the corps; and the more so, where there are no paid Adjutants for corps, as is the case in England.

There must, therefore, of necessity be an Instructor for each branch of the service at each station, when they are separated as widely as Hobart is from Launceston.

At Hobart there are three branches of the service—Artillery, Torpedo, and Infantry—to each of which there must be an Instructor. The instruction of the Artillery has been combined with that of the Permanent Force, whereby the Colony has been saved £150 per annum, the non-commissioned officer charged with this duty being likewise the master-gunner of the three Forts. This is about as great a combination of duties as can be imagined, more especially as added to them are those of sergeant-major of a military corps, which are considerable. I need not comment on the instruction of the Submarine Mining Branch of the service, which requires to be vested in a non-commissioned officer, from a class of the most highly trained in the army. As regards the Infantry, the services of the non-commissioned officer who drills and carries out the Musketry instruction of the Tasmanian Rifle Regiment would be available for a second corps should the formation of the same be sanctioned by you. As to salary, that of the Artillery and Torpedo Instructor is the same as in Victoria, while that of the Infantry Instructor is lower.

In Launceston there is an Instructor for the Infantry, but the position as regards the Artillery is filled by the Assistant Military Storekeeper, who gets no recognised salary for it. Were the duties, however, of the Launceston Artillery as manifold as those of the Hobart Corps, an Imperial Instructor would be necessary for the former.

Dealing, finally, with the Head Quarters' Office, where there is a Staff Clerk employed at a salary of £100, I must point out that the correspondence which now passes through this office is so heavy that at times the clerk cannot get through the work, and I am obliged to get assistance by taking a gunner, who can ill be spared, from the Permanent Artillery. The press of work naturally accrues from the fact that in this office all the pay-work as regards the requisitioning, passing bills of account, and posting up the necessary expenditure books for everything procured for the department on the annual Defence Estimates has to be carried on, as well as all the correspondence relative to the drill, training, and discipline of the Force, the upkeep of the armament and equipment, and all transactions with the Military and Colonial Storekeeper. The consequence is that the clerk requires to be a man of stability, sobriety, and intelligence, capable of mastering the routine of the office, and not carrying out his duties as a mere copying machine.

I think it will be seen, on a careful consideration of the facts laid down here, that no alteration can be made without running the risk of to some extent disorganising the department over which I preside.

A reduction in the pay of the Torpedo men from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 3d. per hour might suggest itself, but I fear that this would create the greatest dissatisfaction in a corps which occupies a rôle second to none in the Force, and you will agree with me that this would be most inadvisable; moreover, the saving effected thereby would be only about £60, taking the training at 60 hours, or £90 for 100 hours, which is the maximum time.

The pay of the second man enumerated in the Estimates for "Torpedo Service" might be reduced to 4s. per diem, provided he be enrolled as a stoker (an absolute necessity for the boat), and all idea of getting sappers for a permanent submarine mining section be abandoned, for the present only, as sooner or later a few men will have to be maintained for this purpose.

Passing now to "Contingencies," the capitation grant is 10s. higher than in England, but the men do three times the work for their classification as "efficients," and clothing is more expensive here than at Home.

The amount incurred in transport for the camp might be reduced by dividing the Force into two camps, one in the north and one in the south, but I consider that the holding of distinct camps would be productive of considerable mischief—in destroying emulation, crippling the numbers (which are small enough as it is) which are required to carry out field work with any advantage as regards instruction, and in diminishing the popularity of the Force by affording a puny display in reviews and manœuvres.

The item "loss on sale of ammunition" is now not nearly sufficient to cover the large sale which must take place to the Force since the establishment of Rifle Clubs and a National Rifle Association.

In reviewing the section "Miscellaneous," the expenses in connection with which are mainly due to the various branches of the Defence Service of the colony, the provision made for the supply of practice ammunition for Artillery and Infantry stands prominently out. The first item is down at £200, and this amount will be reduced as heretofore. The Artillery have suffered from want of ammunition for practice, which is absolutely necessary for their efficiency. In England, each battery of Artillery is allowed 150 rounds for practice, but the amount here provided will scarcely afford 150 rounds for the three batteries in this colony, owing to the expense of modern type ammunition.

The second item could, I think, be reduced from £250 to £220 as an experiment this year. By getting all new supplies for practice purposes out from England on the Colonial Storekeeper's account, and then purchasing what is required for the wants of the service on this item, I may be able to effect a small reduction. The "fuel and light," £100, never suffices, according to the present method, but I have more than once communicated with the Honorable the Minister in reference to a proper scale according to rank, and if this were sanctioned, the item would suffice, perhaps. The consumption of gas is the great cause of expense here, and I am unable to keep it down.

The renewing and upkeep of Torpedo stores is a matter of considerable expense; and it is not possible to say when such expensive instruments may not have to be renewed or procured from Home, so that a reduction in this item is not possible. It will furthermore be observed that the Electric Light—which includes the engine and "dynamo" with boiler, and likewise the working expenses for the year—is a portion of this item.

The number of buildings, including the quarters of the officers and non-commissioned officers of the department, which have to be kept up, necessitates as a matter of course a considerable annual expenditure, and the sum of £100 barely suffices for this service. In the item "Prizes for Shooting," which is an encouragement to members of the Force to render themselves efficient, and is at the same time an aid to proficiency in the use of the rifle, I can recommend no reduction: when divided among the six corps in the service, it comes to a very moderate amount per corps.

Under the head of "Contingencies" (Rifle Clubs and Associations) there are two items, "Aid to Country Rifle Clubs, £500," National Rifle Association, £500," neither of which can be modified as the Rifle Clubs are rapidly increasing in number, and the sum allowed will hardly suffice this year; while, in regard to the second, I consider that every encouragement should be given to the Association in the way of funds for prizes, in order that it may become a powerful means of improving the use of the rifle throughout the Island.

In the last section on the Estimates, "Magazines and Batteries," the first item "Maintenance of Batteries, £150," cannot be touched, as the repairs and occasional works of construction in portions of the interior of the batteries which annually are necessary prove very costly. In the item "Torpedo Boat, £100," as proposed, I think it will be possible to make a reduction this year of £20; but, as I have already stated in my consideration of the Estimates with you this year, I do not think the expenditure connected with the Torpedo Boat, nor the salary of the "The Whitehead Torpedo Expert," should be included under the head of the Military Defence Estimates. These items should be entirely removed, and form a separate branch of expenditure,—viz., "Naval Defences." Their inclusion in the Military Vote is, in my view, quite incorrect, and unlawfully swells the cost of the latter, even though the sum be but comparatively small.

Having reviewed the expenditure of my department in a careful manner in this Memorandum, I trust that the Government will give it due consideration, to which I think it is entitled, owing to the experience I have had during my three years' command. And, in conclusion, I would beg you to note that I could suggest further retrenchment were the Defence Force of Tasmania a SECOND or THIRD "Line of Defence;" but there could be no graver error than to view it in this light, or regard its status as corresponding to the Volunteers of England. It is, in point of fact, the "Standing Army" of the Colony, and all that it has to depend upon for defence in time of war; and this fact justifies a much larger expenditure in its training, arming, and maintenance, than if it were a mere auxiliary body, existing as a "Second Line." Furthermore, the cost of keeping up a small force, divided into separate corps, forming distinct technical branches of the Military Service, with all their concomitant requirements, must of necessity be far greater than of maintaining a like number of men forming a single branch of the service, and which would require no staff. Likewise, the expense of maintaining a small force so apportioned and divided is proportionately greater than that of a similarly constituted larger body, as the same staff is required to organise and handle both Forces.

To cripple the Staff is tantamount to crippling the striking or offensive power of the Force in time of war, and also to depriving the latter of its means of due preparation for war.

Finally, I think it right to notice a specious remark which is not unfrequently made in regard to the Force, and which is to the effect that it numbers only 1000 or 1200 men, and costs as many thousands of pounds to keep up. In taking this view, apparently all sight is lost of the extensive Batteries round Hobart, with their expensive modern armament, to say nothing of the Torpedo Establishment and Naval Defences (though they be but limited) which have to be annually maintained.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. V. LEGGE, *Lt.-Col., R., R.A., Colonel.*

Head Quarters' Office, Hobart, 14th August, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Report of the Board of Officers appointed to enquire into the Defences of the Colony, and, in compliance with your request that I should comment upon the various recommendations made by the Board, I beg to make the following observations on such sections as bear most prominently on the welfare of the Force. The remarks made here should be read in conjunction with my Memorandum submitted to you recently, and dated 20th ultimo.

Sections 1 to 4.

I concur in all these. Every inducement should be offered to make the service popular. No. 1 would be looked upon with great favour by old volunteers, and would be an inducement to men to prolong their service. I would make the period 15 years of *efficient* service; the meaning of the provision *six years' "actual service"* is not clear to me. No. 2 is a very necessary indulgence.

Section 5.

This recommendation has been already made by the Board of Officers appointed in June to revise the Regulations, and the badges are being demanded from England.

Section 6.

A large amount of ammunition for matches, &c. has been demanded this year from England, which will afford an ample supply for purchase, and this should never be allowed to fall below a certain limit. The members of the Defence Force receive ammunition free for Company matches fired in uniform, which is charged to the annual vote "*Ammunition, Infantry.*" Hence they do not purchase in the same large degree as the members of Country Rifle Clubs, who have drawn during the period 1st January to 31st July, 74,350 rounds.

Section 7.

Gymnastic instruction has been strongly recommended by me in my Reports since 1885. A gymnastic instructor from the Royal Artillery has recently been enrolled in the Permanent Force, and there is now a prospect of this matter being arranged.

Section 8.

I concur in this recommendation.

Section 9.

This is a sound recommendation. The case would be met, however, by placing a larger sum on the Estimates for the item "*Ammunition, Artillery.*" The batteries of Artillery in the Colony should have at least 100 rounds of practice ammunition per annum to fire away. At present the allowance is restricted by the vote, which is only £200, out of which rifled gun ammunition (which is, as regards some descriptions, very expensive) has to be provided. The practice ammunition for the Camp, and that for coast practice, as well as two rounds per gun for annual trial of heavy guns, has to be furnished out of this £200. I have called attention more than once to the want of "practice" which the Artillery suffer from.

Section 10.

The work which this Corps has to perform is at least twice what it was several years ago before the introduction of modern type guns, and it is becoming more extended every year as new ordnance arrives in the Colony. The duties are consequently very arduous, and the only way to fill up the Corps is to give the men a paid training.—*Vide* my Report, 1887, and recommendations from Major Evans and myself submitted recently.

Section 11.

The penalties are less than they are in other Colonies, and such as they are, their enforcement is almost impracticable, as the men have no pay from which fines can be deducted, except when at camp.

Section 12.

Should the Government not eventually decide on adopting the recommendation I have long made, as to the maintenance of a paid crew of trained men for the boat, this proposal is a commendable one. It will be found, however, if I mistake not, that the Admiralty will not consent to the subsidy from this Colony going towards the upkeep of *local harbour defences such as a torpedo boat in the Derwent*. The Colonies will probably have to maintain their own local naval defences, while the subsidy goes towards the maintenance of a fleet for "outside work."

Section 13.

The subdivision of the Torpedo Corps into classes as here proposed is quite impracticable, and incompatible with the carrying out of the technical work of the corps. On going into the matter with the Torpedo Director, I find that it would be feasible to distinguish between trained men and recruits going through their *first training*, as regards pay; and 20 men or thereabouts could be paid 1s. an hour on this basis. The number of hours could also be reduced to 80 if more daylight work be carried out, and a reduction of five men could also be made during peace time. This will give 50 men at 1s. 6d. for 80 hours = £301; and 20 men at 1s. for 80 hours = £80; or a total of £381.

With the above reduction in the number of hours, the most that a sapper can earn will be £6 for his six weeks' training, and this is the lowest that men who are skilled mechanics and tradesmen can possibly be expected to work for. But to expect the class of men now in the corps to work at the dangerous profession of submarine mining for 9d. and 6d. an hour is quite out of the question. This corps naturally compare their pay with that of the Victorian corps engaged in precisely similar duties. In the latter Colony a sapper can earn £12 per annum for his training. In Victoria there is likewise a "Permanent Section of Engineers," in which there are 13 sappers who each get 7s. per diem throughout the year, besides higher grades. The torpedo service here is therefore carried out *at present* infinitely cheaper than in Victoria.

Section 16.

(Sub-section A.) This is in accordance with my frequent recommendations.

(Sub-sections B. C.) I concur generally, but as more than one Marker will be required at the new range, I would recommend that two be provided for, one at £30 with the house, and another at £50, without.

(Sub-section D.) This has been recommended by me so far as Launceston is concerned, and it would be advisable to provide a shelter at Hobart as well.

Section 17.

The Board appear to be misinformed as to the intended constitution of the Permanent Artillery. I cannot find it stated that the men should be all ex-Royal Artillerymen, and such an organisation would be without precedent. The Royal Regiment of Artillery, and the Permanent Artillery Corps in Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia, are all recruited from the ranks of civilians, and the men trained as gunners after enlistment. Why should it be otherwise in Tasmania, which Colony, armed with modern ordnance and supplied with Royal Artillery Instructors from England, is surely as good a school for training as any other portion of the British dominions?

The idea of getting ex-Royal Artillerymen, if I mistake not, emanated from myself, when I applied (*vide* letter dated 30th December, 1883,) for 15 ex-Royal Artillerymen from England, which was quite a new departure as regards the formation of a Colonial Artillery Corps. The result was that after calling for volunteers throughout the stations occupied by Royal Artillery at Home and abroad, only eight names were submitted. When the time came for their discharge four withdrew, and four were sent to the Colony. Finding, therefore, that the advent of ex-Royal Artillerymen could not be relied on, I decided to choose men for the corps who had been soldiers, already trained to military service and discipline, and this gave an organisation superior to that of the Permanent Corps in the other colonies, where the men are chosen, as in England, from civil life. In the ranks of our corps now are five Royal Artillerymen (one having recently joined from India), two Victorian Artillerymen, thoroughly trained, and the remainder soldiers from other branches of the Imperial Service, with the exception of two men from the Mounted Police of Australia and the Cape.

With the material, therefore, of which this Corps is composed, trained gunners ought to be turned out in less time than it takes in England.

With regard to the "fatigue duties" performed by the Corps, the Board seem to have mistaken the nature of the evidence given. The duties which the men are mainly employed on are those of artillerymen, and styled technically "district" duties. Hitherto two days a week have had to be devoted to this work, as the Corps was too weak to divide between the two heavily armed batteries; but now one day a week suffices for both Forts. Comprised among the artillery fatigue

duties, apparently supposed by the Board to be unprofessional, have been the making of thousands of pounds of powder for the war equipment cartridges of the Forts, and the stowage and shifting of shell in some of the shell stores.

As regards their Military Store duties, when the Corps was yet small, and there was much work to be done in issuing and cleaning rifles, and sending out targets for the Country Rifle Clubs, and, again, when the whole of the Camp equipment had to be got ready last March, the time of the men was rather more taken up at the Stores than I approved of. But as the numbers increase, the work at the Military Store less affects the ordinary duties of the men, as a party of three or four men sent to the store does not interfere with the gun drill.

From the very outset it has been my instruction that no time should be lost in work at the store, and the following is a true copy of a memorandum I issued on the subject.—

Head Quarters' Office, Hobart, 24th September, 1886.

MEMORANDUM.

THE Commandant desires it to be distinctly understood that all fatigue work done by the Permanent Artillery at the Military Store is to be carried out with the utmost despatch, and the Officer Commanding will be held responsible that the non-commissioned officers superintending the work have orders to this effect.

The Permanent Artillery have a great deal of work to learn, and the Commandant therefore does not approve of their time being taken up in fatigue duties more than is absolutely necessary.

(Signed) W. V. LEGGE, *Colonel Commandant.*

To the Staff Officer and Staff Adjutant.

The Corps is as forward in gun drill and artillery work as any set of artillerymen of a year's service that I have had under me; and I think the Colony may safely leave the question of its usefulness in my hands.

Section 18.

I would refer to my memorandum of the 20th ult. on this head. There I have shown that the comparative cost of the staff here is much less than in Victoria; and the pay of two officers in Victoria, corresponding to two holding like offices here, was shown to exceed that of the entire Tasmanian Staff by £300. It might further have been mentioned that a *Lieutenant* of Royal Engineers could not be engaged two years ago to come out here under £600 a year. These facts speak for the small pay with which the present Staff serve. The fact has also been lost sight of that the command, paying of, and military duty connected with the Permanent Artillery are vested in a staff officer, and the country saved fully £400 a year on that service.

It is not by the number of men in a Force, but by its *constitution*,—by the *rôle* that it has to play in the defence of the country, and by the amount of training required to fit it for that *rôle*,—that the strength of a "Staff" should be computed. If, for example, the entire Tasmanian Force were composed of a body of infantry, destined to defend the country without the co-operation of the sister branches of the service, a single staff officer of infantry would suffice. But when there are fortifications and armament to be maintained and inspected, construction work constantly to be carried on, torpedo defences to be supervised, a permanent force to be commanded—to charge one staff officer with this work, together with the maintenance (under the Commandant) of discipline, the supervision of the interior economy, with all its details, and the drill and training of a Force comprised of Artillery, Infantry, and Engineers, is an idea which is not in accordance with a knowledge of military organisation. Furthermore, those who are conversant with military service know that the staff work and office details connected with corps which number 100 or 200 men are the same as with 700 or 800; and had the Board visited the head-quarters and seen the amount of work which the command and supervision of the five or six corps constituting the Tasmanian Force necessitates, a different recommendation would probably have been the result.

The present staff is so constituted that the Commandant could take the field with the Force up to its full strength, or double that number—always provided the services of a Commissariat Officer were engaged; but with one Staff Officer it would be utterly impracticable. Indeed, the Staff Officer, on the outbreak of war, would have to be relegated to the Torpedo Department, and the Commandant would be left without any personal Staff.

Section 20.—General.

This recommendation is very necessary. The present condition of affairs is undesirable in more ways than one. A civilian occupies quarters next the barrack-room of the Permanent Artillery, and between that and the Instructor's quarters. The parade ground of the Artillery, where punishment drill is carried out sometimes, is consequently public, and this fact has militated against discipline already. A similar occupation of quarters to this is to be found nowhere else. The Staff Officers are both living in single officers' quarters, and they have not living room for their families. This evil would be remedied by the removal of one of the Instructors to the quarters next the barrack-room.

Section 21.

Commanding Officers cannot well clothe their men with less capitation than they have now. Clothing is more expensive than at Home, and the men "earn" more money, as they do more than double the work of English volunteers, who get £1 10s. The only direction in which the capitation

allowance could be cut down would be the Torpedo Corps, and I have already pointed out the inexpediency of this, as the wear and tear in the men's clothing, particularly in the training, is very considerable, and they require canvas suits for working. By "personal allowances" is understood the pay of the men. To cut this down (the only pay the men receive in the year, and the rate the same as in the other Colonies,) would be, in my opinion, an injustice.

Section 22.

I concur in this recommendation, but this will not meet the case sufficiently. What is required is a paid and *continuous training*—*vide* Annual Report for this year, and Major Evans' communication, with my covering letter, dated 18th June, 1887. The training of the Hobart Artillery at the high-class ordnance now in the service here is of such a nature that it cannot be properly carried out without continuous daylight drills, at which the men would be obliged to attend, and for which they should be paid. The adoption of this scheme is the only way of filling up the ranks of the corps. The work to be done now is too hard and too varied to expect men to undertake it without pay.

Section 23.

In the Imperial Service, and in the other Colonies, appointments are for five years. In New South Wales some of them are permanent. Three years' appointments lead to expense as regards passages to and from England.

Section 24.

I have frequently recommended this alteration. If it were made, the issue of fuel to the staff would be less than now; but the gas for parade grounds is, and must always be, the chief item.

Section 25.

The nature of the Commandant's work, connected as it is with defences in the North and South, with Rifle Clubs, defence of ports and rivers, &c., and other details consequent on an insular command, renders it inadvisable to cut down his travelling allowance. I have reduced the travelling allowances of the Staff materially during the past few years, as it was found the money was not spent; and this reduction should be sufficient. The travelling allowance for the Superintendent of Country Rifle Clubs has been already increased to £50 this year in the estimate submitted by me. The remaining items I have already dealt with, except item 42, and here the Board seem to have overlooked the fact that the Reserve Force has been absorbed into Regimental Reserves, with the exception of the two infantry companies at Hobart, and that the capitation for the Regimental Reserves has been fixed at £1.

Section 26.

This is an excellent recommendation. Application has been made already to Government for authority to enrol a Cadet Corps in connection with the Tasmanian Rifle Regiment.

Section 27.

How are the officers to be taught equitation in this Colony without a sum being placed on the Estimates for the purpose? No mention of this desideratum is made. The existence of a riding school is doubtless as much to be desired here as elsewhere.

Section 28.

I trust this recommendation will carry weight with Parliament. It is absolutely necessary to foster this movement, particularly on the N.W. Coast, where the defence of that part of the island will have to be relegated to the Clubs. The Defence Committee appointed by the late Minister of Defence deals with this subject. As to the division of the Country Rifle Clubs into two districts as proposed, I consider that the entire organisation should be under one head, as in Victoria and South Australia. It is a distinct service from the Active Branch of the Defence Force, and is growing in strength every day, with an increasing amount of correspondence and interior economy work, so much so that the small salary paid to the Superintendent is well earned by him. In time of war the Clubs on the N.W. Coast would have to be mobilised under the command of one officer, and this command should of necessity be vested in the officer known to the men of the Clubs, and who has, furthermore, had the training of them in peace time.

Section 30.

The amount of prize money, as I have pointed out more than once, is too small for the present Force; but it is a question whether it has not now been virtually increased by the grant to the National Rifle Association placed annually on the Estimates, and the members of which chiefly belong to the Defence Force.

Section 31.

The Board have here overlooked the fact that the system of Regimental Reserves now exists. This has been alluded to in my remarks on Section 24.

Sections 32-44.

With the exception of Sections 36 and 40, I concur generally in the above.

Section 39 deals with a very desirable change in the maintenance of the Colonial Forces. The advice of an Inspecting General Officer, from whom the respective Governments of the Colonies could obtain an *entirely independent* military opinion on all matters connected with their defences, and the efficiency or otherwise of their Forces, would be doubtless acceptable to them, and would, I think, be welcomed by the Commandants of the various Forces.

The replacing of the present Martini-Henry Rifles with a Magazine or "Repeating" Rifle would be desirable, and would cost, with the war equipment of the Rifles, about £5000. Their cost, however, is not noticed by the Board, I observe.

The question of maintaining an adequate supply of ammunition in this Colony, which is not only isolated from the rest of the group, but equally far from the base of supplies in England, is one of the highest importance. By constant efforts in this direction since my arrival, a suitable war equipment has been set aside both for guns and rifles, and, as remarked in Section 10, large quantities of Infantry ammunition have recently been demanded, which will be available for purchase from the Colonial Storekeeper, and for issue to the Defence Force and Clubs, under item "Ammunition, Infantry" in the annual estimates. When this arrives, and as I believe all the Requisitions have been sent on, it should be all out in the Colony by the beginning of the year, there will be a sufficient supply for the above-mentioned purposes for some time, and likewise enough with which to commence a *War Reserve*. This is the important point to be attended to now,—viz., the putting aside of a reserve to draw upon in war time, when the equipment of some rifles in use must, as a matter of course, run out. To accomplish this I recommended that a sum of money should be voted annually for the next five years to purchase "Reserve" ammunition with: £500 would suffice per annum.

As a matter of course, it will be always the duty of the Commandant to see that the old equipment stock is used and replenished from the reserve, and the reserve again replenished from the most recent supplies for practice.

The acquisition of a supply of Rifles for a Reserve, together with 300,000 rounds of ammunition, was recommended last January by the Local Defence Committee. (Report, No. 1, par. (b.) 2.)

In regard to sections 36 and 40, the acquisition of military instruction for the various corps is one of the most valuable points in the organisation of a citizen army. Thereby the men, as they join, are "moulded into shape," and imbued with a spirit conducive to military discipline in a manner which instruction from the Force would never carry out. Furthermore, the style of instruction as imparted by a soldier is very different from that given by a non-commissioned officer of the volunteer class.

The Board appear to have overlooked the fact that there is a Military Adviser—Major-General Stewart, R.E.,—who inspects all warlike stores, and who sees that all *matériel* sent to the Colony is of the newest pattern and the proper manufacture. If there is an *occasional* omission on the part of the shipper in regard to small parts of machinery, &c., that is not a question which is referable to the inspection of a high military expert, whose office is not that of a packing agent.

Out of the thousands of pounds' worth of war *matériel* imported into this Colony during the last three years, I know of only one store which arrived short,—viz., a copper pipe for the newly-erected Whitehead machinery, and this was being supplied from the spare piping in military charge at the time of the sitting of the Board.

Analysis of some Items in Recapitulation.

"Recommendation 12—saving of £612."

It is not clear how this sum is arrived at. The saving appears to be as follows:—Salary of Expert, £180 + £15 (proportion of item fuel and light) + maintenance of boat, £80 (as recommended in this year's Estimates) = £275. The two "torpedo service" men, item 29 in the Estimates, are not intended for the boat; they are the nucleus of a permanent section of Engineers in connection with the submarine mining service; and these men are required as assistant instructors and "upkeepers" of electrical plant and stores under the Instructor. A very considerable "section" (referred to in my memorandum 20th July) is maintained in Victoria, and also in Queensland, but in Tasmania permission to acquire the two men in question from England has, hitherto, been withheld, and one of the places has been filled by the engineer of the torpedo boat, at the expense, in a certain measure, of the Torpedo Corps. The salaries of these men, therefore, are not affected by this recommendation. Item 64 has, apparently, been included here. This was a special sum voted last year for the alteration of the *mines*, and has no connection with the torpedo boat. Item 49 is not connected with the torpedo boat: this amount is voted annually for the submarine mining service and the electric lighting of the harbour.

The total saving, therefore, under the above recommendation will be £275. It is right to mention in connection with this saving, that, if carried out, and the services of the naval expert dis-

pensed with, there will be no one to carry on the work of battery artificer, for which there is frequent occasion in stations armed with modern ordnance. Mr. Pirie, who is a skilled mechanic, has done considerable work in this direction since he has been here.

“Recommendation 24—saving of £60.”

There is apparently some error here. I calculate the saving in the fuel and light to Staff Non-commissioned Officers when issued on the Imperial scale will be about £25. The gas for night drills, as I have pointed out, is now the chief item, and must remain so.

“Recommendation 31—saving of £390.”

The fact has here been overlooked that, by the new Regulations, twenty Reserve men per battery and company are allowed, to whom it is proposed to pay for efficiency a reduced allowance of £1. The strength of these Reserves is 198. The saving, therefore, effected, supposing the two Infantry Companies, the remnant of the "Reserve Force" now at Hobart, are disbanded, will be £192.

Instead, therefore, of the items in question standing as £612 10s.; £60; £390—they will be £275; £25; £192.

In regard to the saving of £338 10s. on item 13, I have pointed out above that the recommendations of the Board as to subdividing the Torpedo Corps are impracticable, and would disorganise the Corps. The saving, however, as proposed by the Torpedo Director in the foregoing paragraph will amount to £187 15s. on the pay of the Sappers.

As regards the remaining recommendations, Nos. 18, 21, 25, in the Recapitulation, I trust that, after the dissent of the President of the Board and my remarks, they will not be carried out.

Finally, in the recommendations involving increases in the expenditure on the Force, I observe that only those which bear upon items in this year's expenditure are touched upon, and no notice taken of the cost of carrying out others which bear upon the status of the Force in an important degree; for example:—

		£
Recommendation 26 involves a <i>probable</i> increase of		70
" 30 "		100
" 38 "		300
" 39 "		150
" 43 "		5000
" 44 "		2500
TOTAL.....		£8120

It is not clear in what way Recommendation 34, "Military Education," can affect the recommendations cited by the Board—viz., Nos. 6, 7, 8, 33, 35, 43, 44—and which are alluded to in the last paragraph of the Report.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. V. LEGGE, *Colonel Commandant.*

The Hon. the Minister of Defence.

DEFENCE FORCES OF TASMANIA.

Remarks of Colonel BERNARD on the Recommendations of the Board of Enquiry of July, 1887, as called for by Staff Office Memorandum D, 31st August, 1887.

12. *Torpedo Boat*, and 18. *Permanent Staff*.

In the event of the Torpedo Boat and Submarine Mining being made over to the Australian Squadron, as suggested in paragraphs 12, 13, and 25, item 40, there would probably be the necessity for a naval officer, engine-room artificer, and torpedo boat's crew to be permanently quartered at Hobart; in such a case the suggestion in Clause 29 might be carried out. Assuming suggestions in Clauses 12, 13, and 29 to be carried out, the Commandant would lose the staff services of Lieut. Mathieson, who at present acts in what is really the capacity of Assistant Quartermaster-General in addition to his regular duties as Torpedo and Submarine Mining Officer.

If the services of Lieut. Mathieson were thus dispensed with, the amount of work thrown on the remaining staff, Captain Wallack, would be too much for one man to perform in a proper manner, as he has command of the Permanent Force, and also acts as Musketry Instructor and Inspector—i.e., “Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General of Musketry.”

In every country or state the armies are largely reduced in peace time, with the exception of the staff and the combatant officers; the reductions here are infinitesimally small by comparison, for without a trained staff the military machine cannot be expanded in time of war, cannot be mobilised, or, indeed, handled or used for the purpose required of it—i.e., as a movable fighting machine for attack or defence.

The Commandant of the Forces requires a staff to perform the duties of the following departments :—

1. The Adjutant-General's.
2. The Quartermaster-General's.
3. The Intelligence.
4. The Transport.
5. The Ordnance.
6. The Medical and Ambulance.
7. The Commissariat.

&c. &c.

All of which have to arrange the details, and, as far as possible, anticipate in their arrangements and plans every possible requirement and change in war.

Major Just for the Commissariat, Messrs. Chisholm for the Ordnance, and one or two medical officers, have gained a very slight insight of such work through the past Camps of Exercise, the preparations for which are commenced weeks before, with everything working easy in peace time, and not suddenly, with a strain and the disturbing elements of war, and its scare amongst the civilian population.

If the Commandant has but one staff officer, and he combining in himself the *three* first named departments, he would have more than he could properly perform without the command of the Permanent Artillery and the Musketry, even in peace time. His office should accumulate, indexed ready for quick reference, carefully planned schemes for mobilisation, concentration, distribution under varying possibilities of hostile attack, collection of transport, registers of owners of conveyances by land or water, carrying capacities, wells, bridges, and their construction with a view to holding or destroying, &c. And when the emergency arose necessitating the carrying out promptly of these plans, it would require two active, men previously prepared for it, to carry out the work as it should be.

At present Captain Wallack and Lieut. Mathieson command the Permanent Artillery and look after Musketry, the Torpedo and Submarine Mine Service, and carry on the routine work of the departments mentioned (the three first), and, from my own knowledge, have plenty of work to do now in peace time, and I doubt if they can find time to compile and obtain the information I have mentioned as a necessary preparation for war.

If the Defence Force is kept up for mere pageantry, a full enough staff would be one clerk; if kept up to be ready for war, a full and prepared staff must be kept up.

22. Remuneration to Artillery.

I presume this applies to the Volunteer Artillery. Very few men of the Hobart Volunteer Artillery are required to make up the number necessary for salutes if the Permanent Force is also so employed.

Clause 25.

Item 12.—I concur.

Item 13.—I concur.

Item 14.—£50 not enough. The travelling is not simply to Launceston, but all over the Island, from Tasman's Peninsula to Circular Head, and in the interior; by coach and boat as well as by rail; nor is any sum mentioned for travelling of the Sergeant Instructor.

Country Rifle Clubs.

At this date they number 30—active members, over 900. When the rifles arrive from England the clubs will increase in numbers, and the existing clubs (many of which are only partially armed) will largely increase in members. The work to be done is computed more by the number of clubs than of men; each requires its separate correspondence, separate accounts, &c., so that the office work alone is more than the Superintendent and a clerk can keep pace with, unless he (the Superintendent) works pretty frequently overtime. The number of clubs and men now necessitates the constant absence of the Sergeant Instructor from the office to attend to his more legitimate duties of drilling and instructing in musketry, bounded only by the amount of money voted for travelling. As it is inexpedient that the same man should always be absent drilling, and, therefore, away from supervision and thrown into not only temptation to be lax, but into positions where he has to resist downright importunities to drink, I suggested that, instead of a civilian clerk, another Sergeant Instructor be appointed, one to work as clerk in the office, the other absent drilling, relieving each other in these duties at stated intervals.

As no clubs are allowed to be formed within a radius of ten miles of Hobart or Launceston, I do not think any thing is to be gained by the Instructor of those two towns teaching any clubs unless within easy reach by rail.

30. *Prizes for Shooting.*

Certainly. But, as regards rifle clubs, I would prefer the amount for clubs to be separate to that voted for the other portion of the Defence Force, for reasons too many and long to here detail, the exception being the "Champion Medal," which should be open to all, if, as its name implies, it is the "champion" medal of Tasmania.

36. *Paid Instructors.*

I dissent from this. Whatever examinations you may have, the adage will still hold good that "One ounce of experience is worth pounds of theory." I consider the best plan is for every vacancy to be filled up by a man obtained from the Imperial Service, with the actual experience of every newly adopted custom or practice fresh in his memory. Such men have the experience to back up the examinations they have to pass whilst in the Service.

H. BERNARD, *Col.*

From Officer Commanding Launceston Artillery to Officer Commanding Northern Division.

SIR,

IN compliance with instructions contained in Head Quarters Orders of 19th instant, I herewith beg to submit my Report upon the various recommendations of the recent Board of Enquiry on Defences.

Inducements to serve.

I entirely concur in the opinion expressed by the Board, and believe that a defined system of rewards and privileges would have a most beneficial effect.

Medal or Decoration.

1. I attach very great importance to this recommendation, and as far back as 1882 strongly advocated the institution of a long-service distinction (Report on Launceston Artillery to Commandant, 10th July, 1882). In the Corps under my command there are men whose record of service extends from fifteen to twenty-seven years, and whose long and faithful discharge of their duties is in no way recognized. It would, I am sure, be a strong incentive to men to continue to serve if they were certain of obtaining a decoration for long service. Clasps might be added for each three years' service in addition to the period for which the medal is given. The distinction, if introduced, should have retrospective effect, and be open to all ranks alike.

Pass on Railway.

2. The concession proposed is a suitable way of marking appreciation of continuous service.

Exemption from Jury Lists.

3. The Board recommend exemption from the jury list to "all members of the Defence Force (holding certificates of efficiency) who have served three consecutive years in the active force *as well as three consecutive years in the Reserves.*" A man might elect to continue to serve in the active force, and should be exempt after five years' continuous service in same.

Police and Civil Appointments.

4. I concur in this recommendation.

5. I also concur in this recommendation. I am given to understand that it is done almost everywhere but in Tasmania.

6. Referring, I presume, to small-arm ammunition. The greatest encouragement should be given to men to practise as much as possible.

7. If carried into effect, would assist in reaching a higher standard of efficiency.

8. I concur in this recommendation.

Artillery.

9. As a Commanding Officer of an Artillery Corps, I find very great difficulty in obtaining sufficient practice ammunition for the efficient training of my men. The Launceston Artillery is up to its full strength on the Active list. The only practice obtained this year was at the Easter Camp,

when ten 40-pounder and fifteen 7-pounder shell were fired. A recognised range for Artillery practice, situated near one of the lines of the Government Railways, or at a suitable place on the River Tamar, should be selected, and transport for the men and guns arranged for. An Artilleryman has to go through a great deal of dry technical training, involving at times very hard work, and looks forward to gun practice with pleasure, as it affords the only means of testing the value of the knowledge he has taken so much time to acquire.

Penalties.

11. Section 84 of the Regulations should, I consider, be retained.

Torpedo Boat and Engineer Corps.

12 to 15. I do not consider myself competent to offer an opinion.

Rifle Ranges.

16. The new range at Launceston should—

(a) Be completed and put in order without delay. In its present state it is not a fit place to expect men to practise on. The ground requires thoroughly draining, and proper approaches should be made.

(b) A permanent marker, with duties as recommended by the Board, would be of great service and tend to popularise the range.

(c) These improvements are needed.

Permanent Force.

17 to 19. I do not consider it necessary for me, nor am I competent, to offer an opinion.

General.

21. I entirely dissent from the recommendations of the Board on these points. The capitation grant at present paid for efficient Artillerymen, viz. 40s., is the lowest that can be accepted to clothe the men properly. It must be remembered that in the exercise of an Artilleryman's duties he has to lift heavy weights, handle quantities of rough timber, and in many ways put a great strain on his clothing. The present allowance of capitation grant does not admit of a working dress being provided. I understand that in England and elsewhere the capitation grant for Artillery is in excess of that given to Infantry. The small amount of pay given for attendance at the Camp cannot, to my mind, bear any reduction. A man gives up what to many is the best holiday season of the year, and subjects himself to military discipline and the inconveniences and hard work of camp life, and the remuneration allowed does not recoup him for what he foregoes.

22. I concur in this recommendation so far as it applies to men being required during working hours, but not on Queen's Birthday.

23 to 25. I can offer no opinion.

Cadets.

26. Cadet companies under proper regulations and supervision, but distinct from the Defence Force, should, I think, be encouraged. It is not right to include Cadets in the military strength of the Colony as is done at present.

27. I do not concur in this recommendation. It would create an expense that would not produce accompanying advantage.

28. Country Rifle Clubs, adopting a certain amount of useful drill, will no doubt be a beneficial adjunct to the other portions of the Defence Force.

29. I do not feel called upon to express any opinion.

30. Prizes in money, not only for proficiency in rifle shooting but also for gun practice, should be granted to a reasonable amount. At present, the sum set apart is not sufficient.

31. I concur, and have always recommended this.

32. It would be of great assistance to the Officer Commanding if a simpler system were adopted in the issue of stores.

33. I advocate drill instruction in schools.

34. Very good in theory, but how is it to be put into practice?

35. I do not concur in this recommendation.
36. I concur in this recommendation.
37. Would induce men to attain a higher standard of efficiency to qualify as Instructors.
38. I offer no opinion.
39. In my opinion the appointment of such an officer would be beneficial.
40. I presume this recommendation has always been practically carried out hitherto.
41. The formation of ambulance detachments from each corps in the Defence Force should be enforced. At Launceston a certain number of men from both corps are undergoing instruction in this branch.
42. An Artillery Manual, embracing the various drills for the guns in Tasmania, with the nature and use of ammunition for each, would be of great service.
43. The men should be armed with the best modern weapon.
44. I thoroughly agree with the recommendations of the Board under this head. As most of the ammunition required for the guns in Tasmania is manufactured by a private firm, it is most essential that an adequate quantity should be got out as early as possible. In the event of hostilities, no doubt this firm would have great demands made upon it, and the requirements of Tasmania at such a juncture might be overlooked.

I have not had the advantages of seeing the evidence upon which the Board made its recommendations, and have therefore had to deal with them simply upon the printed Report furnished to me.

I am,

Sir,

Yours obediently,

GEO. COLLINS, *Major Commanding
Launceston Artillery.*

Orderly Room, Torpedo Corps, 1st September, 1887.

Lieut. J. M. CLARKE to the Commandant.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit the following remarks on the Report of the Board of Officers appointed to enquire into the Defences of the Colony (Parliamentary Paper, No. 89), so far as the same affects the Torpedo Corps.

Paragraph 13, (page 7.)—The classification and the rate of pay proposed would, I am convinced, result in the corps being left, at the expiration of their time of service, without any men of the description whose presence is essential to carrying out the work required from this branch of the service. The men already on the service roll of the corps are entitled to draw training pay at the rate laid down in the Regulations, therefore any fresh scale of pay can only affect the recruits who may join hereafter. At present there are 14 men who are engaged for three years, 23 for two years, and all are due for the coming course under present scale.

The sum per hour proposed by the Board to be paid to men of the 1st class is less than such tradesmen earn at their daily wages; the amount offered to the 2nd division is at the rate of 6s. per day, and that to the 3rd, 4s. per day, an amount which, I am convinced, will not tempt any but useless applicants to present themselves for enrolment, and that if enforced will have the effect of emasculating the corps,—a fact which was evidently foreseen by the Board, as Par. 14 provides for members of the Engineer Corps resigning to join other branches of the service, *under the altered conditions.*

The reduction in the amount of capitation allowance will be a serious evil, as at present the sum received barely suffices to keep the men clothed so as to present such an appearance as is expected from a corps which is almost a permanent one. It should be borne in mind that the uniforms of the Torpedo Corps have to be worn at work, which other branches of the service are not subject to, as well as all the parades and drills required by the Regulations.

In order to effect a reduction in the amount for training, I would place before you the following scheme :—

- 1st. All recruits enrolled in future to be trained not less than 60 or more than 80 hours, one-half of which must be during daylight.
- 2nd. That they shall be paid 1s. per hour during their first year's training, 1s. 3d. per hour for the 2nd year, and 1s. 6d. for all subsequent years.

To reduce the rate any lower would, I respectfully submit, be fatal to efficiency, and I have therefore preferred to lessen the number of hours, increased the daylight time, and kept the rate nearly at its present scale.

I would point out that this rate, taking the numbers of first, second, and third year men as at present, the sum for training would be £363, if the full amount was earned by all men, as against £568 15s. now estimated.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES M. CLARKE.

Staff Office, Launceston, 2nd September, 1887.

From the Officer Commanding Northern Division to the Commandant, Head Quarters.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward, as requested, my opinion on the Report of the Defence Board of Enquiry.

I entirely agree with the recommendations of the Board 1 to 10.

11.—*Penalties.*

I consider the power to enforce the penalties in 84th Section of Defence Regulations necessary to maintain discipline. No well-behaved man is afraid of them.

12.—*Torpedo Boat.*

I see no objection to this if the Imperial Government consent.

13.—*Engineer Corps.*

I am not in a position to state whether men could be obtained at Hobart at the proposed altered rates.

Item 14.—I see no objection to this.

16.—*Rifle Ranges.*

I approve of the recommendations, but consider a marker's residence with small magazine is required quite as much at Launceston as at Hobart.

17.—*Permanent Force.*

Of course it would have been more desirable in the first instance to have enrolled ex-Royal Artillerymen if their services could have been obtained.

The men enrolled are, in my opinion, an excellent body, under good discipline, and a credit to the Colony, and are quite capable (under the instruction of the Sergt.-Major) of becoming good artillerymen. Taking into consideration the amount of money spent by the Colony in making and equipping batteries at Hobart, I consider the retention of the Permanent Artillery necessary. I do not consider the Force "unsatisfactory in its constitution," and think it would now be unwise to reorganize it.

18.—*Permanent Staff.*

I do not agree with this recommendation. I do not think that numbers alone should be taken into consideration. Admitted that the numbers in a Brigade of Infantry are greatly in excess of Defence Force—but what are the duties of the Brigade Major? In addition to his duties in the field, he has only to conduct the ordinary correspondence with the Head Quarters of Division, Corps of Brigade, and issue Brigade Orders.

The duties at the Head Quarter Office of the Defence Force represent War Office, Adjutant and Quartermaster-General's Office, and entails a vast amount of work. A reference to the books kept in the office will bear out this statement.

In addition to this, one officer has charge of the Permanent Artillery, and the other of torpedoes, submarine mining, &c.

The Staff is sufficient should the strength of the Force be increased. (Increase of numbers does not necessarily mean increase of work ; a Brigade on peace establishment, with regiments 500 strong, has the same Staff as when regiments are 1000 strong.)

In my opinion the work could not be efficiently performed with only one Staff Officer.

20.—*Quarters in Barracks.*—I agree with.

21.—*Capitation Grant.*

I cannot possibly see how this grant can be reduced by conferring certain privileges and rewards on members, as it is given to enable the Commanding Officer to pay for the clothing. I think it would be most unwise to reduce the personal allowance for attendance at camp. It would also be a breach of faith with men now enrolled.

25.—*Items 11, 12, and 13.*

Travelling allowances are only drawn as required to travel. Any unexpired balance remains in Treasury. If amounts are reduced it may lead to supplementary estimates being sometimes necessary.

Item 14.—I agree with.

Item 42.

If this amount is struck out Item 41 will require to be increased to pay capitation grant and regimental reserves.

Item 46.—Repairs to Rifle Ranges.

I consider it necessary to maintain a sum on the Estimates for this purpose. Discs, wire for mantlet windows, &c. have often to be repaired or replaced.

26.—*Cadets.*

I agree with. The sum now voted is not sufficient to pay for uniform without the assistance of the public.

27.—*Equitation.*

A riding school would be required to carry out this recommendation.

28.—*Country Rifle Clubs.*—I agree with.

29.—*Naval Defence.*—I agree with.

30.—*Prizes for Shooting.*—I agree with.

31.—*Reserves.*—I have always advocated Reserves.

32.—*Military Store Department.*—Recommendation most necessary.

33.—*Military Education.*—Most advisable.

34.—*Military Education.*—I agree with.

36.—*Paid Instructors.*

For some years to come I would prefer to see men who had served in the Imperial Army appointed, as they are more fitted, by their military training and experience, to enforce discipline.

37.—*Rewards: Drill Instructor's Certificate.*—I agree with.

38.—*Education.*—I agree with.

39.—*Inspector-General of Australasian Defence Forces.*—In my opinion, most desirable.

40.—*Responsible Colonial Agent.*—I am under the impression one exists.

41.—*Medical Arrangements: Ambulance Instruction.*—Most necessary.

42.—*Military Education Book.*

A book of this description would be most useful, and I would like to see the recommendation at once carried out.

43.—*Modern Arms*.—I agree with.

44.—*Ammunition*.

This is most necessary, and the military storekeeper should on no account be permitted to issue to any corps or individual ammunition of a later date until all the old is finished, *i.e.*, no 1882 ammunition to be issued until all the 1881 in store is exhausted.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. WARNER, *Lieut.-Colonel, Commanding N.D.*

SOUTHERN TASMANIAN ARTILLERY.

Hobart, 5th September, 1887.

From Major EVANS, Officer Commanding, to the Commandant, Barracks.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, in accordance with your instructions, received from the Staff Adjutant this morning (by telephone), to send in the following remarks on "The Report of the Board of Officers on the present cost, &c. of the Tasmanian Defence Force," confining these remarks to that portion of the Report which relates to the Corps which I have the honor to command, my reason for not taking notice of the other parts of the Report being the want of time to do so, as I am very much engaged at present with other matters.

Paragraph 22 refers to the payment of the Artillery for salutes and other necessary daylight parades. This is not enough to enable me to make the men of this Corps efficient gunners. The only means by which this can be done is by having, in addition to payment for salutes, a continuous training, the same as the Torpedo Corps, for which payment must be made, as I have already stated in my Report to you, and which I see the Board had before them. If this be decided upon I can then get the whole of the Corps together at the same time, and thus drill them regularly and continuously at the different guns in the various forts. For some time past the Corps has been parading twice a week at the fort at the Kangaroo Bluff, starting from this side at 7:30 P.M. and returning at 10 P.M. Only a few turn up, the time occupied is long, and the men receive nothing for their hard work. Those men who have attended regularly (and I am glad to say some have done so) are now well up in the drill at the splendid guns in this fort, thus showing what can be done when the same men can be got to attend regularly and drill together.

If the Government want the Artillery to be effective they must not think for a moment of any reduction in the expenditure; it must be the other way; and all one can do is to point to the manner in which the other colonies are carrying out their schemes of defence.

I again urge you to use your best endeavours to obtain for this Corps—

1st. *Continuous training.*

2nd. *Payment for the same*, and, as recommended, payment for salutes.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

T. M. EVANS, *Major.*

Hobart, September, 1887.

From Major J. G. DAVIES, Commanding Reserve Force, to Colonel LEGGE, R.A., Commandant.

SIR,

IN compliance with the Garrison Order dated 19th August, 1887, requesting Officers Commanding Corps to forward to the Staff Office their opinions on the recommendations of the recent Board of Enquiry on Defences, I have the honor to report as follows:—

1. Several of the suggestions made by the Board under the head of "inducements to serve" have been brought under the notice of the proper authorities by Commanding Officers over and over again,—such as exemption from juries, appointments, efficiency badges, practice ammunition, a

gymnasium, &c. Even if all these suggestions be adopted, it will be found impracticable to decrease the amount voted per man for capitation grant without materially impairing the efficiency of the Force: any attempt at making a reduction in this direction would, in my opinion, be a very false step. It is only by practising the utmost economy that the amount now voted is found sufficient to meet the ordinary wants of the different branches of the service. Any reduction would tend to weaken the Force considerably. The only expense incurred by the members of the Force outside their capitation allowance is for the annual camp of exercise. I cannot speak in too strong terms of the importance of this annual training. Any attempt at curtailment in the small outlay for such a large boon would, indeed, be a retrograde step, and suicidal in its character.

2. To imagine for one moment that the Imperial authorities would take over the torpedo boat and maintain it is an absurdity. It is more likely when the proposals for the Australian Naval Defences are made known, it will be found that the Government will have to make further provision in this direction. I will leave those who have practical experience in the engineer branch of the service to deal with the matter of expenditure under this head. It is very apparent that a lack of technical knowledge marks the recommendations of the Board of Enquiry.

3. If I thought that a reduction could be carried out in the Staff I would cheerfully support it; but, judging by the way the duties of the Staff are carried out under the present Commandant, I am persuaded,—unless we want to revert to the old state of things, which was discreditable to all concerned,—no alteration should be made in this direction.

4. The introduction of the system of Regimental Reserves, approved of by the Commandant at the beginning of the present year, I quite agree with; and, in order to assist him in carrying out this object, I agreed to transfer the Artillery portion of the Reserve Force formerly under my command to the Southern Tasmanian Artillery. While the Board approve of this alteration, they are of opinion that a saving can be effected. This is quite true if the Force is to be curtailed, but not otherwise: any diminution of the numbers would, in my opinion, be a great error, for with our full strength we do not number more than a battalion. The formation of a second rifle corps would be beneficial to the movement, as it would be the means of bringing a large accession to the numbers of the Force, and also of causing that spirit of emulation which tends more to keeping up efficiency than anything outside payment for services rendered. I therefore regret that my recommendation to the Government under this head has met with so little attention.

5. I have frequently suggested that the issue of stores might be much simplified by giving more control to the Commandant. I would again urge that this question be taken into consideration.

6. It is very satisfactory to find that the Board are urging upon the Government the necessity of having the rifle ranges in Hobart and Launceston completed. This subject has been brought prominently before the Government on several occasions during the past three years. The want of suitable rifle ranges has had a great deal to do with the slow progress made in the Defence movement. I regret that the Board when advocating this matter did not also suggest an increased amount under the head of ammunition, for the completion of the ranges must more than double the consumption.

In conclusion, I trust that nothing will be done that will have the effect of checking the increase in the numbers of the Force, or of impairing its efficiency through a spirit of false economy.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. G. DAVIES, *Major,*
Commanding Tasmanian Reserves.

EVIDENCES also submitted to the Board of Enquiry.

Report on Tasmanian Defence Force for period from 16th July, 1886, to 1st July, 1887.

Return of Small Arms and Small Arm Ball Ammunition in Colony on 30th June, 1887, and ordered from England.

Parliamentary Paper No. 65, 1885: Report on Defences of Tasmania.

Defence Force—Re-organisation Report: Parliamentary Paper 105, 1884.

Tabular Statement showing authorised Peace Establishment, and the actual, on 30th June, 1887.

Return showing Strength of Defence Force on June 30, 1887.

Return showing Country Rifle Clubs in existence on 6th July, 1887, as gazetted.

Quarterly Drill Return, Launceston Artillery.

" " Launceston Rifle Regiment.

" " Launceston Reserve Company.

Tasmanian Rifle Regiment—Extract from Annual Target Practice Return of Musketry Course from 3rd August, 1886, to 31st January, 1887.

Country Rifle Clubs—Return showing Result of Annual Course of Rifle Practice with Sniders, Season 1886-7.

Country Rifle Clubs—Competition for Government Prizes with Sniders on 24th May, 1887.

Report of Easter Encampment at Newnham, 1887.

Charts connected with Defence of Derwent and Tamar Rivers—(confidential.)

Regulations and Orders of the Tasmanian Defence Force, 1886, together with amendments recommended by Board of Officers.

Memorandum on proposed scheme for the increase of the Imperial Squadron in Australian waters.

Correspondence *re* Naval Defences.

(In continuation of Paper No. 89.)

Orderly Room, Launceston, 13th September, 1887.

From Officer Commanding Launceston Rifle Regiment to Officer Commanding Northern Division.

SIR,

IN compliance with Garrison Order No. 97 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honor to submit my opinion on the Report of the late Board of Officers on the Defence Force of this Colony.

Recommendation 11.

There is, even under the existing state of things, too little power possessed by Commanding Officers over their men, and to carry out this recommendation would still further curtail the authority of Commanding Officers. The present penalties are not feared by the class of men we wish to see in the Force, and they are not deterred from joining by them.

Recommendation 16.

A Marker's residence is required just as much in Launceston as in Hobart; and as the work will be quite as heavy on the one range as on the other, the salaries of the Markers should be the same.

Recommendation 21.

The Board appear to have misunderstood what the capitation allowance is given for; it is not paid to the men, but to Commanding Officers to clothe the men with. To reduce the personal allowance for camp would be a very great mistake indeed; the men get little enough for their services as it is, and to reduce the camp pay would not only cause great dissatisfaction, but would be a breach of faith with all who are now in the Force, as they joined on the understanding that the camp pay would be the same as in the past.

Recommendation 22.

If the Artillery are paid for marching out on Queen's Birthday, &c., the Infantry should be paid too; both branches of the service are composed of civilians, and why should one be paid and not the other?

Recommendation 25.

The recommendation that the capitation allowance for Reserves should be struck out must have been made under some misunderstanding. If this is done the corps capitation allowances must be increased to provide for the Reserve men. The Reserve men are only bound to serve for one year, and no doubt in many cases their old clothing would last that time; but in the great majority of cases the men will serve for several years, and how are they to be clothed if no capitation allowance is made for them?

If the £20 for repairs to butts is struck out, how are repairs to be effected? If the Government would hand over the ranges to the Rifle Association they could be so managed as not only to pay for all repairs, but to become a source of income to the Association.

Recommendation 27.

This recommendation is good, but should go further. Mounted officers should be granted forage allowance, as in the other colonies, and they could then accustom themselves to discharging their duties on horseback. In the past no mounted officers, except the Staff, *have been permitted to mount when in camp.*

Recommendation 36.

This recommendation has much to recommend it, but there would be great danger of incompetent men being appointed.

In conclusion, I may say that while the recommendations of the Board are mostly in the right direction, especially Nos. 1 to 10, yet efficiency would not be attained even were all their recommendations carried out. The men want some *present* encouragement to join: the prospect of rewards 15 years hence has no weight at all with most men.

The days of volunteering pure and simple are gone, at least as regards the first line of defence, in these colonies. You cannot get men efficient in the only work that would be required of them

in time of war—light infantry or extended order drill and ball firing—without *daylight drills*, and you cannot get the men to turn out for daylight drills unless you *pay* them. The Force, at least the Northern Division, was never so nearly up to its authorised establishment (which is much greater than formerly), or so efficient as regards the internal economy of the Corps, as at present, but in drill and discipline it is far below what it was in 1883 and 1884, when paid daylight drills were in vogue. I would recommend the present evening drills being reduced by, say, eight, and eight daylight drills substituted. This, with the four days in camp, would give 12 daylight drills in the year, and all but the camp drills could be done on Saturday afternoons or on other convenient days. I would make these daylight drills of three hours' duration each, except as regards the camp drills, and the pay 5s. a day. The first quarter's pay to be deferred and not paid unless the man became efficient by the end of the year; attendance at, say, six daylight drills, exclusive of the camp, to be necessary for efficiency.

At present the Colony pays a large sum of money each year for Defences, and gets in return nothing but an inefficient Force—for the Force is inefficient in the work that would be required of it in case of war; while, if a system of paid daylight drills were introduced, the present Permanent Force could easily be dispensed with, and the saving thereby effected would more than pay for the daylight drills, and in place of an inefficient Force the Colony would have a Force on which it could rely in case of need, and the Service would become infinitely more popular than at present.

The expenditure on Defences should be regarded in the light of a premium paid on an insurance; and as no sane man would throw away his insurance premiums by insuring in an insecure office, so the Government should not throw away the Annual Defence Vote on a system which would not insure them, but expend it on a system that would.

I trust you will not misunderstand my remarks *re* the Permanent Force. I am not opposed to it; on the contrary, I strongly believe in a small paid Force. But if the Colony is pledged to retrenchment, or at least to refrain from increased expenditure on Defences, do away with the paid Force, and establish a semi-paid Militia, on the line above indicated.

I have the honor to be, .
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. MARTIN, *Major Commanding
Launceston Rifle Regiment.*

STRENGTH of Tasmanian Defence Force on June 30, 1887.

Corps.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Surgeons.	Pay and Quarter Masters.	Electricians.	Warrant Officers.	Staff Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Trumpeters and Buglers.	Bandsmen.	Rank and File.	Officers and Men on Leave.	Recruits.	TOTAL.
Launceston Artillery .....	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	6	4	2	...	64	6	10	95
Southern Tasmanian Artillery	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	1	9	2	...	55	1	6	78
Tasmanian Torpedo Corps .....	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	1	4	2	...	57	3	...	71
Tasmanian Rifle Regiment	1	2	5	1	1	...	...	2	14	8	...	97	10	42	183
Launceston Rifle Regiment .....	...	4	4	1	2	...	...	6	18	6	22	157	7	15	242
Southern Reserve Force	1	2	4	...	...	...	1	2	9	2	...	68	3	...	92
Cadets .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	59	...	12	76
Garrison Band .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	25	...	...	...	28
	3	9	20	4	3	1	2	19	63	22	47	557	30	85	865

This Return does not include the Staff, Instructors, or Permanent Force, which make a Total of 30.

W. V. LEGGE, *Colonel.*

TASMANIAN DEFENCE FORCE.

TABULAR Statement showing authorised Peace Establishment, and the Actuals, on 30th June, 1887.

RANKS.	ARTILLERY.				TORPEDO CORPS.				RIFLE REGIMENT.				RESERVE FORCE.				PERMANENT FORCE.	
	Southern.		Northern.		Southern.		Northern.		Southern.		Northern.		Southern.		Northern.		Peace Staff.	—
	Peace Establishment.	Actual.	Peace Establishment.	Actual.	Peace Establishment.	Actual.	Peace Establishment.	Actual.	Peace Establishment.	Actual.	Peace Establishment.	Actual.	Peace Establishment.	Actual.	Peace Establishment.	Actual.		
Majors.....	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Captains.....	2	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	4	2	3	4	4	2	1	...	...	...
Lieutenants.....	4	2	2	2	3	2	...	...	9	5	7	4	8	4	2	...	...	...
Electricians.....	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Surgeons.....	1	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Assistant Surgeons.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pay and Quarter Masters.....	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
Warrant Officers.....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Sergeant-Majors.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Quartermaster Sergeants.....	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Company or Battery Sergeant-Majors.....	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Orderly-room Clerks.....	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Colour Sergeants.....	...	1	...	6	...	1	...	...	4	2	3	6	2	2	1	...	...	...
Armourers.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sergeants.....	8	9	4	4	4	4	...	...	12	14	9	18	12	9	3	...	1	1
Corporals.....	8	...	4	...	6	...	...	...	16	...	12	...	16	...	4	...	2	1
Second Corporals.....	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bombardiers.....	10	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	2	1
Buglers and Trumpeters.....	2	2	1	2	2	2	...	...	8	8	6	6	3	2	1	...	...	...
Gunners, Sappers, or Privates.....	180	62	60	80	48	60	...	...	208	149	156	179	142	71*	47	...	20	15
Artificers.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Bugle and Trumpet-Major.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	222	78	83	95	75	71	...	...	267	183	201	220	199	92	59	Merged in the Launceston Rifle Regiment.	28	...

STAFF.—1 (Lieut.-Col.) Commandant. 1 (Capt.) Staff Adjutant. 1 (Lieut.) Staff Officer. 3 Instructors. 1 Naval Expert.

* Artillery portion of Reserve being now transferred to Southern Artillery.

W. V. LEGGE, Lt.-Col. R.A., Colonel Commandant.

WILLIAM THOMAS STRUTT,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.