

(No. 42.)



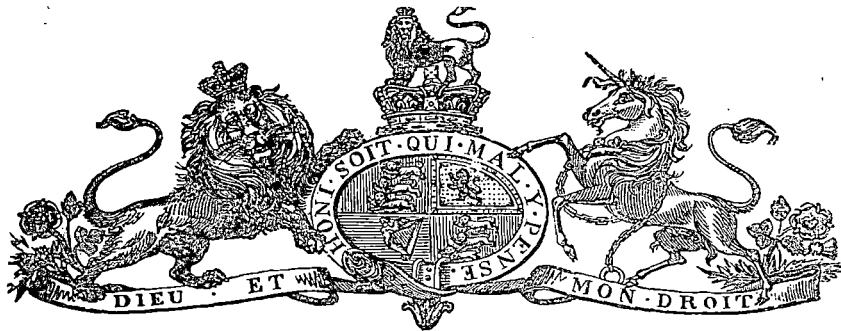
1891.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TASMANIAN DEFENCE FORCE:

REPORT BY THE COMMANDANT,

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



TASMANIAN DEFENCE FORCE.

REPORT BY THE ACTING COMMANDANT.

Head Quarters, Hobart, 29th June, 1891.

SIR,

SINCE the date of my last Report, the Australian Defence Committee visited Tasmania. I accompanied them in their tour through the Colony. I attach copy of their Reports, marked A and B.

With regard to improvements recommended by them in the Batteries :

A. For some years water has been laid on to the Queen's Battery, and recently to the electric light casemate outside the Alexandra Battery, and, with very little expense, can be carried through the communicating gallery into the Battery.

At the Kangaroo Bluff Battery an underground tank exists, but the water in it is unfit for drinking purposes, and is only used for the guns. I have placed a 150-gallon tank in the Battery, which is filled with water carted from Hobart. In the event of necessity other tanks are available for use in the Battery.

Recommendations B, C, D, and E, I thoroughly agree with.

"Floating Defence."—I desire to draw attention to the fact that as far back as January, 1887, the Tasmanian Defence Committee recommended the purchase of a gun-boat for the Derwent.

Whilst agreeing with the other recommendations, I have to point out that the purchase of the ground on the saddle-back in rear of the Alexandra Battery was recommended by the late Commandant in his Annual Report dated 30th June, 1888.

The Local Defence Committee also recommended on the 25th January, 1887, that the steam-tug then about to be built in England for the Tamar "should be so constructed that she could hereafter be adapted for fighting, and that the deck be so arranged that she could carry two quick-firing guns;" and on the 24th September, 1888, again drew attention to the matter.

In report B, Defence of the North West Coast, the Committee consider it would be advisable to reserve $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land at Blackman's Point, Burnie, for defence purposes. As the price of land in this township is daily increasing, I strongly advise that negotiations for its purchase be entered into with the V.D.L. Company without delay.

Defences.

During the past year water was laid on to the electric light casemate, Alexandra Battery, and the pivot to No. 1 eight-inch gun repaired. Captain Parker, R.N., arrived in March, 1891, and took over charge of the batteries, submarine mining stores, torpedo boat, and White-heads from Captain Mathieson, whose term of engagement had expired.

This officer having brought to my notice leakages in roof of magazine, passage, and shell stores, Queen's Battery, and in magazine, light passage, Alexandra Battery, and also that the lamp recesses were omitted in the construction of all the batteries, the Public Works Department have been requested to furnish estimates of cost for the necessary alterations and repairs.

I took advantage of the visit of the Australian Defence Committee to request Major Hannay, R.E. (who accompanied them), to report on the arrangements for submarine mining defence. His report, marked C, is attached. As it is so unsatisfactory, and Capt. Parker, R.N., agrees with it, I strongly recommend that the Victorian Government be asked to place the services of Major Hannay, R.E., at the disposal of this Colony for a short time, in order that, in conjunction with Capt. Parker, R.N., a thorough overhaul of all submarine mining stores be made, and recommendations submitted for an efficient service.

The torpedo boat is reported to be in a serviceable condition. Mr. Milner, late Chief Engine-room Artificer, R.N., arrived on the 27th May, 1891, and has taken up his duties as Torpedo Expert and Assistant Battery Artificer. He is now overhauling the Whitehead torpedoes.

Colonel Legge, in his Annual Reports, 1888 and 1889, called attention to the fact that the torpedo boat had no crew to work her torpedoes. In the former year negotiations were opened with the Hobart Marine Board for subsidising their men as a crew in peace and war time, but these fell through owing to the men requiring higher pay than was offered them.

I desire to draw particular attention to the fact that the ground in rear of the Kangaroo Bluff Battery is being fenced off into allotments. On no account should any more buildings be allowed to be erected in the rear of the battery, and this land should be purchased by the Government without delay.

Nothing has yet been done for the defence of the Tamar.

The Launceston Artillery is still without any practice battery.

Permanent Artillery.

The conduct of this corps has been very good. One gunner was tried by court martial for desertion, and, after undergoing imprisonment, dismissed. One gunner was discharged on account of ill health; one shot himself, "temporary insanity"; one was discharged on termination of engagement; four men enlisted. One inspection has been held, and everything found satisfactory.

The recommendation made in my last year's Report, that the corps should be struck off all duty for the purpose of undergoing an annual training, having been approved, the men were relieved from all duties and a course of training commenced on the 1st September, 1890, and concluded on the 9th October. The men were exercised at gun-drill, and instructions at all guns in the batteries, and also exercised at repository gun-drill and knotting, and on Saturdays at Company drill.

2	rounds were fired from	5-inch B.L.H.P. guns.
8	"	80-pounder M.L.R. guns.
12	"	64-pounder "

Lectures on gunnery, ammunition, and simple mechanics were given by the Instructor. At the end of the course an examination was held for the purpose of awarding gunnery badges and prizes. Sergeant Goucher and Gunner Clifton obtained nearly full marks, and most of the others answered the questions satisfactorily. The value of this annual training cannot be estimated. The non-commissioned officers are now thoroughly acquainted with guns in the batteries, and are capable of instructing the Artillery Defence Force when required. The gunners are being trained to take up the duties required of them, should necessity arise—viz., to be distributed amongst the various modern guns in the batteries and take the most important duties.

I desire to bring particularly to notice the excellent work done during the past year by Sergt.-Major Robertson, S.G., R.A. I trust the recommendation of the Australian Committee of Defence, that the strength of the corps be increased, will be carried out. The numbers are now only sufficient (when every man is available for guard) to give non-commissioned officers four nights, and gunners five nights, in bed. At the present time, owing to two gunners being sick, the gunners, are only getting four nights, in bed. The medical officer informs me that this constant night-work in the winter is injuring the men's health. I therefore recommend that unless the numbers be increased, they be relieved of the guard in the winter time.

Daylight Parades.

I have again to bring to notice the urgent necessity for paid daylight parades for all corps in the Defence Force. In the Australasian Colonies (with the exception of Tasmania) this system is adopted. It is impossible to arrive at *anything like efficiency* with only night drills and the four days' training in camp. In 1882 a Royal Commission assembled and recommended the introduction of paid day-light parades. It was carried out for a short period with success, but discontinued, I presume on account of expense. Every year the necessity grows greater, and I trust a sum will be placed on the Estimates for this purpose.

Launceston Artillery.

The strength of this corps on the 31st March, 1891, was 79. Cadets, 19.

Four inspections have been held. The attendance on each occasion was excellent, the turnout smart, and the drill good. All ranks are most zealous in the performance of their duties.

The corps carried out the annual practice with the 40-pounder and 2·5-inch guns at George Town on the 10th November last.

An advance party of 1 non-commissioned officer and 12 gunners, under charge of Sergt.-Major Martini, proceeded to George Town with guns, camp equipment, platforms, &c. on the 7th, and pitched the camp and got everything ready for the arrival of the main body. At 2·30 P.M. the remainder of the battery embarked at Launceston in the steam-tug *Wybia*. On arrival at George Town a guard was mounted and regular camp duties carried out. Total strength of all ranks in Camp, 79 (including 13 Cadets).

Sunday, 9th.—The battery attended Divine service at the Church of England, George Town, and in the afternoon fixed the targets, &c.

On Monday, 10th, at 9·30 A.M., practice was commenced with the 40-prs. at an earthwork erected on Kelso Beach; five rounds common shell (range 2100 yards) were fired, and nine rounds of shrapnel at a floating target, range 1700 yards. Results were good. During the practice two rounds cast-iron shrapnel shell, fuze with time, only medium Armstrongs, fuzes set at 1·80; the capstan nut being firmly screwed down, broke up at the muzzle of the gun. Ten rounds common shell and ten rounds shrapnel were fired from the 2·5-inch guns at the same targets. The practice with the common shell was good.

The battery, with the exception of the advance party, embarked on the *Wybia* at 3 P.M., and arrived at Launceston at 8 P.M. The advance party, with guns and stores, embarked for Launceston on board the s.s. *Corio* on the morning of the 11th, and arrived at Launceston at 8 P.M.

The cost to the colony of this camp was very small, only £30 (which included the cost of transport of Launceston Rifle Regiment).

The expense of rationing the men for the whole period falls entirely upon the officers. The greatest credit is due to the advance party, who gave up four whole days without receiving any remuneration.

In addition to the above practice, the battery this year fired, at Hobart—

2	rounds from	6-inch B.L.H.P. guns
2	”	5-inch ”
2	”	8-inch M.L.R. guns
12	”	6-pounder Q.F. guns
200	”	5-barrelled Nordenfelt machine guns.

The two field-guns ordered for this corps have arrived, but the carriages and limbers have not yet been received. The officers, non-commissioned officers, and men have their heart in the work, and it only requires paid daylight training, horses for field-guns, a range for practice, increased number of rounds for annual practice, to make the battery thoroughly efficient.

The Cadets attached to this corps deserve a word of praise. They are painstaking, anxious to learn, and take a pleasure in their work, and already have commenced to act as a feeder to the corps, two members having been transferred into the ranks.

Southern Tasmanian Artillery.

The strength of this corps on the 31st March, 1891, was 79 of all ranks, being 143 under the establishment. Year after year the difficulty of obtaining suitable recruits for this corps has been brought to notice in the Commandant's Report. At my request, Capt. Parker, R.N., furnished a

return of numbers of all ranks he would require to man all the guns now in the batteries. (Return attached marked D.*) It will be seen that, exclusive of officers, 198 are required. The numbers now available at Hobart are—

Permanent Artillery.....	25
S. T. Artillery	74
	—
Total.....	99
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In addition to the guns in the batteries there are two field-guns, which would require 1 officer, 2 sergeants, and 16 rank and file. From personal experience I know that the Commanding Officer, the officers, and non-commissioned officers have exerted themselves to get suitable recruits to join, so as to bring the corps up to its establishment. The matter is most serious, and, in my opinion, there are only two ways open. First, by holding out every inducement in the way of liberal payment for drills, and an increase in the number of rounds of ammunition allowed to each gun for practice; and if this fails, to resort to the power given in Clause 18 Defence Act of 1885.

It is necessary to have the corps up to its strength in peace time, so that the men may be told off to guns and be trained in the battery they would be required to man in time of war.

It was in consequence of the S. T. Artillery being so many under its establishment I recommended that the Launceston Artillery should be brought down for the Easter Encampment, and made acquainted with the batteries and guns. Four inspections have been held, the attendance fair, the turn-out clean and smart, and the drill good.

On the 10th November last advantage was taken of the holiday to practise with the 12-pounders. 3 officers, 3 sergeants, and 22 gunners paraded at the Drill Yard at 8 A.M., the two field guns were horsed, and after crossing the Derwent in the ferry proceeded to Rokeby and fired six rounds common shell and 10 rounds of shrapnel. The practice was good. Returned to drill yard at 6 P.M. Credit is due to all ranks for giving up the holiday. The only expense to the Government was the hire of the horses.

In addition to the above practice, the Battery has fired,

2	rounds	6-inch	B.L.H.P. gun.
4	"	5	"
2	"	"	B.L.V. Mountings.
5	"	80-pounder	R.M.L. gun
20	"	64	"
20	"	6	Q.F. gun."

The annual training of the corps has been postponed until the latter end of the year.

Torpedo Corps.

Strength on 31st March, 1891, 69. Four inspections have been held. The attendance was good, and the turn-out clean and smart. The annual training has been postponed until the latter end of the year.

The voluntary attendance at the Easter Camp this year was most satisfactory, and speaks well for the *esprit de corps* existing. Captain Parker, R.N., reports highly on the intelligence and capabilities of the corps, but regrets that owing to there being no proper establishment or stores it is impossible to train them in the duties they would be so able to perform.

As it is contemplated to hand the Engineer yard over to the Railway Department, provision will have to be made for the accommodation of this corps and the Southern Tasmanian Artillery.

Tasmanian Rifle Regiment.

Strength on 31st March, 1891, 154. I have much pleasure in reporting that during the past twelve months this Corps has greatly improved. The attendance at drill has been much better, and the number of efficient on the 31st December, 1891, exceed by 76 the number efficient on the last day of 1890.

Four inspections have been held during the year. The attendance has been good, and the drill greatly improved, but, as I have before stated, the corps can never arrive at proper efficiency until a system of regular daylight parades is introduced, when the men can be properly taught their duties on the field.

On Saturday, the 5th July, 1890, the officers of this corps hired a steamer and provided refreshments at their own expense to hold a daylight parade at Kingston, in conjunction with the detachment of the Auxiliary Force stationed there. At 2 P.M., 5 officers, 4 sergeants, and 37 rank and file embarked at Hobart; and on arrival at Kingston manœuvred with the Auxiliary Force detachment, afterwards marching home, arriving at Hobart at 8 P.M.

Launceston Rifle Regiment.

Strength on the 31st March, 1891, including band, 172. Although the strength of this corps is 42 less than it was on the date the last Return was rendered, yet the number of efficient on the 31st December, 1890, are 38 in excess of the number efficient on the 31st December, 1889. This is an improvement, but the number of non-efficient is still excessive. Four inspections were held during the year. The attendance was fair and the drill good; but the same remarks as to proper efficiency without daylight parades being impossible applies to this corps.

I have much pleasure in reporting that the Commanding Officer, taking advantage of the transport provided for the conveyance of the Launceston Artillery to George Town, arranged for holding a Camp.

On the 7th November an advance party, consisting of 1 corporal and 6 men, proceeded to George Town in charge of camp equipment, stores, &c., and on arrival prepared the Camp for the reception of the main body.

On the 8th the main body embarked with the Launceston Artillery in the *Wybia*. On arrival at George Town guards were mounted and officers told off for duty. Captain Barker, with a detachment of the Tamar Company, also joined the Camp.

On Sunday, 9th, a Roll-call parade was held at 7 A.M., and at 10 A.M. Church parade. The Force was marched to the Church of England, George Town.

Monday, 10th, the early morning parade was devoted to drill in attack practice under Company officers. At 10 A.M. the attack of a position with blank ammunition was practised, Major Martin in command. After an early dinner the Camp was struck, stores packed and placed on steamer.

At 2 P.M. the Rifles, together with a detachment of the Tamar Company, were inspected by me on the George Town Common, after which the Rifles embarked on s.s. *Wybia* for Launceston, and the detachment Tamar Company returned to Lefroy.

To show the friendly feeling existing between the Defence and Auxiliary Forces, I quote the following extract from Major Martin's Report:—"Captain Barker and his men worked with us during the Camp in an excellent spirit, and exhibited a splendid feeling of good comradeship by voluntarily contributing towards the expenses of the Camp."

The following shows the number present at the Camp each day:—

Date.	Officers.	Sergeants.	Band.	Rank and File.	Cadets.	Total.
7th	2	1	—	9	—	12
8th	6	5	—	67	32	110
9th	7	10	16	63	32	128
10th	7	10	18	103	32	170

Rations for the Force were provided at the expense of the officers.

Mrs. Ritchie kindly placed the site for the Camp at the disposal of Major Martin; and Messrs. A. Harrap and Son generously conveyed men from Launceston to George Town on the Sunday free of charge.

Every credit is due to all ranks for voluntarily giving up their holidays to improve themselves in their military duties.

The Cadet Corps numbers 62. Captain Kirkland is still in command; they have improved greatly this year in every way.

Auxiliary Force.

The strength of this Force on the 31st December, 1890, was 1490 of all ranks. Re-enrolment has since taken place, but the Half-yearly Returns are not due until the beginning of July.

The result of the First year's efficiency is, on the whole, satisfactory, 869 having qualified as efficient, and 363 of this number as extra-efficient. The number of efficient were considerably reduced by the rush to the Zeehan and Dundas Silver Fields after enrolment. In all places where the officer in charge takes an interest and does his duty steady progress is being made.

The Instructors are constantly employed travelling round their districts, but on several occasions in one or two detachments have found no men for instruction, owing to the commanding officer neglecting to give notice. An excellent feeling of friendly rivalry exists in the Force.

The classes of instruction for officers and non-commissioned officers held at Hobart have been an unqualified success.

The second class commenced on the 20th October, and concluded on the 8th November, 1890. The class was placed under the command of Major Wallack, whose report I attach—E. At the conclusion of this class, 17 officers and 17 non-commissioned officers passed the necessary examinations for confirmation in their respective ranks.

The third class of instruction is now being held at the Barracks, under the command of Major Wallack. Fifteen officers and 26 non-commissioned officers joined this class, which will conclude on the 5th July.

I arranged this time to accommodate the non-commissioned officers in barracks, and for this purpose had to temporarily occupy the Permanent Artillery Orderly Room and Library.

I cannot speak too highly of the patriotism of all ranks. The officers receive free conveyance to and from Hobart and 5s. per diem for messing and lodging; the non-commissioned officers free travelling and messing and lodging. Several officers, who have passed their examinations, and being desirous of further instruction, are attending this class, receiving only their railway tickets. Many non-commissioned officers are remaining the whole three weeks, at a heavy pecuniary loss.

They are all most eager to learn, and never seem to tire of instruction.

It would be a great advantage if, in future, arrangements could be made for sufficient buildings in the Barracks being handed over to the Defence Department, in order that provision may be made for the accommodation in Barracks of officers as well as non-commissioned officers.

As it is likely the question of compensation to non-commissioned officers and men for attendance at the Annual Camp of Exercise will be brought before Parliament, I venture to recommend, should this be conceded, only those members who were classified as efficient the year before be eligible to attend the Camp.

Mounted Rifle Company.

An amount having been passed for the equipment of a company of Mounted Rifles, I trust a capitation grant for 50 men will be provided this year.

The following shows the strength of the Forces on 31st March, 1891:—

	Number of all Ranks.
Launceston Artillery.....	79
Southern Tasmanian Artillery.....	79
Tasmanian Torpedo Corps.....	69
Tasmanian Rifle Regiment.....	154
Launceston Rifle Regiment and Band.....	172
Garrison Band.....	28
Transport Corps.....	9
Total.....	490
Permanent Artillery.....	26
" Torpedo.....	1
General Staff and Instructors.....	8
Total.....	525
Auxiliary Force, to 31st December, 1890.....	1490
GRAND TOTAL.....	2015
CADETS.	
Launceston Artillery.....	19
" Rifle Regiment.....	62
Total.....	81

The following are the Efficient for the year ending 31st December, 1890:—

Launceston Artillery	78
Southern Tasmanian Artillery	55
Tasmanian Torpedo Corps.....	62
Tasmanian Rifle Regiment.....	120
Launceston Rifle Regiment.....	112
Garrison Band.....	21
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Total.....	448
Auxiliary Force.....	869
	<hr/>
GRAND TOTAL.....	1317
	<hr/> <hr/>

CADETS.

Launceston Artillery	13
„ Rifle Regiment	43
	<hr/>
	56
	<hr/> <hr/>

Attached—(F & G.) Result of Musketry Course, Defence Force; (H) Auxiliary Force, Return of Annual Course of Musketry and Efficient.

General.

Church parades were held at Hobart and Launceston on the 24th May, 1891.

The usual Queen's Birthday parades were held at Hobart and Launceston on the 25th May. At Hobart, 328 of all ranks were present; at Launceston, 228. The number of efficient in the Defence Force on the 31st December, 1890, is 117 in excess of the number efficient on the 31st December, 1889.

M.-H. ammunition for musketry course was issued to both Hobart and Launceston Police. The latter went through the same course as the Defence Force, and are included in the Musketry return; the former have made no report as to expenditure.

I have much pleasure in reporting most favourably on the assistance rendered by Major Wallack during the past year; more particularly at the Camp of Exercise, Ross, and at the Auxiliary Force classes of instruction. At the former he superintended the whole of the preparations of the camp, and, in addition to his duties as Brigade Major, was responsible for all Government stores sent to the camp; and at the latter he has been indefatigable in his endeavours to render the class as instructive as possible to all ranks.

School Cadet Corps.

The Hutchins' School Cadet Corps is making favourable progress. Present strength, 49. The corps was present at the church parade on the 24th May, and at the Queen's Birthday Review on the 25th May.

I have much pleasure in reporting that the High School, Launceston, have formed a cadet corps. They appeared on parade in uniform for the first time on Sunday, the 24th May, at the church parade of the Northern division of the Defence Force. I inspected the corps on the 17th June, 1891, and was very much pleased with the progress made in drill.

Tasmanian Rifle Association.

A prize meeting was held at Hobart on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th December, 1890. Sixty-three competitors. The reduction of the Government subsidy again this year is greatly to be regretted. Unless it is increased it will not be possible for the Association to send teams to other colonies, and also to hold an annual prize meeting, and offer prizes of sufficient value to induce members from any distance to take part.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. WARNER, *Lieut.-Colonel, Acting Commandant.*

The Hon. the Minister of Defence.

A.

REPORT of Committee of Officers on the Defence of Hobart and Launceston, Tasmania.

HOBART.

Improvements
to existing
batteries.

The Committee have refrained as far as possible from suggesting interference with existing armament, but they recommend that *all* batteries be improved in the following particulars:—

- (a) Water should be supplied, either by means of rain-water tanks or in any other way found more suitable.
- (b) Quarters should be provided for a resident caretaker.
- (c) The thickness of parapets round guns of 6-inch calibre and upwards should be increased, so as to give a minimum of 30 feet of earth and concrete or masonry.
- (d) The parapets of the 8-inch M.L. guns at Kangaroo Bluff should be repaired, at least 4 feet of solid concrete being provided in place of existing masonry.
- (e) Hydraulic buffers should be provided for the 8-inch M.L. guns above mentioned, in lieu of the present friction plates.
- (f) The mechanism of all H.P. guns should be simplified and improved as far as possible, as has been done with guns of similar mountings in Victoria.

Floating
defence.

In consequence of the great width of channel (4500 yards) available for vessels approaching Hobart, it is hardly practicable to adequately defend the approaches by fixed guns and mines alone. The Committee, therefore, consider that it is of the first importance that an auxiliary floating defence should be organised, and with this object a coast defence gunboat should be obtained. This gunboat should carry two 4·7-inch quick-firing guns, in addition to auxiliary armament. The estimated cost is £20,000, and the up-keep on a peace establishment £2000 per annum.

Another second-class torpedo boat should be obtained, and two more Whitehead torpedoes. It is possible the Imperial Government may provide such a boat free of cost, provided the Tasmanian Government will defray the cost of transport from England.

Two of the ferry launches should be strengthened, so that each may carry a 3-pr. quick-firing gun, and these guns should be obtained and kept in store for the purpose.

Additional
6-pr. Q.F.
guns.

It is recommended that two more 6-pr. quick-firing guns be obtained,—one for the Alexandra and one for the Kangaroo Bluff Battery.

Land to be
reserved.

The saddle-back in rear of the Alexandra Battery, and the peaks on each side, should be reserved for defence purposes, with a right of way thence to the battery. It will be necessary, in the event of hostilities, to occupy this high ground.

Submarine
mines.

The natural position for a mine-field is from Drouthy Point to Cartwright Point, thus blocking the approach to Hobart. The great width of waterway, however, makes this a large undertaking, and the Committee do not recommend it. The small quantity of submarine mining stores available can be utilised, as proposed locally, across the narrow water opposite Queen's Battery.

Additional
battery.

The Committee consider that the defence would be materially strengthened and rendered more complete by the erection of a battery on Drouthy Hill for two 6-inch B.L. guns, on barbette mountings.

LAUNCESTON.

The situation of Launceston, upwards of 30 miles up a tortuous river, gives it great immunity from attack.

Two 40-pr. B.L. guns and one 64-pr. M.L. are available in Launceston, and the Committee consider it will meet present requirements if these are mounted behind earthworks on the elevation south-east of Garden Island.

The steam-tug *Wybia* should be fitted to carry two quick-firing guns, and these guns should be obtained and kept in store for the purpose.

Although it does not come within the scope of their instructions, the Committee wish to record their opinion that an increase in the Permanent Force is most desirable, and that the organisation of the Forces generally should be assimilated to that of the other colonies.

A. W. MOORE, *Captain R.N.*

ALEX. B. TULLOCH, *Major-General,*
Commandant, Victoria, President.

M. F. DOWNES, *Major-General,*
Commanding, South Australia.

JOHN S. RICHARDSON, *Major-General,*
Commanding, New South Wales.

G. A. FRENCH, *Colonel, R.A.*
Commandant, Queensland.

23rd December, 1890.

B

REPORT for the Tasmanian Government on the Defence of Devonport, Ulverstone, and Emu Bay, on the North Coast.

At the request of the Tasmanian representative (Colonel Bernard), the Committee visited the above-mentioned ports.

The Committee concur generally in the recommendations of the Local Defence Committee, dated 1st January, 1887, regarding the defence of these ports, but they consider it would be preferable to have a small movable armament instead of the fixed 32-prs., S.B., proposed.

9-pr. Field Guns could probably be obtained from the Imperial Government at a small cost, and they would fulfil the objects of encouraging the local Forces and giving confidence to the inhabitants.

At Emu Bay, it would be advisable to reserve 2½ acres of land on Blackman's Point for defence purposes, as this ground may eventually be required as a site for a battery.

ALEX. B. TULLOCH, *Major-General,*
Commandant, Victoria, President.

M. F. DOWNES, *Major-General,*
Commanding, South Australia.

JOHN S. RICHARDSON, *Major-General,*
Commanding, New South Wales.

G. A. FRENCH, *Colonel, R.A.,*
Commandant, Queensland.

A. W. MOORE,
Captain, R.N.

23rd December, 1890.

APPENDIX A.

From Colonel H. Bernard, representing Tasmania, to the President Australian Defence Commission.

SIR,

Launceston, 10th December, 1890.

As your Commission is now in Tasmania for the special purpose of reporting on the Defences of the Derwent and Tamar, I have the honour to request that it may take advantage of the opportunity to visit the ports of Devonport, Ulverstone, and Emu Bay, with a view to an expression of opinion on the recommendations of the Local Defence Committee, dated Hobart, 1st January, 1887, which Committee was convened on the suggestion of the Imperial Colonial Defence Committee, with the object of encouraging the Volunteer Forces on the coast to resist any attempt by hostile cruisers to land parties for the purpose of requisitioning supplies, &c.

I have, &c.

H. BERNARD, *Colonel,*
Tasmanian Representative.

C.

From Military Commandant, Victoria, to Acting Commandant, Tasmania.

13th January, 1891.

THE accompanying Report on the Submarine Mining Defence of Hobart was compiled by the Commanding-Engineer of Victoria, at your verbal request.

The points referred to are all matters of detail, which the Defence Commission were careful to avoid in their Report.

I therefore send the papers to you, to be made use of as you think best.

ALEX. B. TULLOCH, *M.-G.*

Head Quarters, Victorian Military Forces,
Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, 9th January, 1891.

From Commanding-Engineer to Military Commandant.

DURING our recent visit to Tasmania I was verbally requested by the Acting Commandant to examine and report on the arrangements for Submarine Mining Defence.

1. I find there is no steam-boat provided for submarine mining work, nor is there any boat in any way fitted up which can be hired for the purpose. In fact, there is absolutely no system of training men to their work on the water. This in spite of repeated recommendations of the late Commandant, as I read in the first page of his report as long ago as 1885.

Without the provision of a boat, or arrangements for fitting up a suitable boat which can be hired, the system of defence is, in my opinion, absolutely worthless, and a waste of money.

2. The mines are stored in a hulk, and the apparatus is on shore; and a great delay would occur before mines could be made ready to lay out. On the hulk there is no crane, nor any arrangement for hoisting the mines out of the hold.

Either a proper establishment for all stores, with pier, crane, &c., should be built on shore, or else the hulk should be fitted up as a store dépôt. Divided store establishments are fatal to efficiency.

The only test-room is a small hut, in a very bad state. A test-room, to be efficient, should be arranged in accordance with the Submarine Mining Manual, and should be as secure as a main magazine. One shot in the test-room would at once destroy the whole submarine mining defence.

4. The mine cases and apparatus all consist of old pattern stores, now quite obsolete. They cannot be called absolutely unserviceable, but in the present day they would never be used, except as a last resort, in a well organised defence, and are more suitable for dummy than for live mines.

On the whole, I consider the arrangements for Submarine Mining Defence are in a most inefficient condition; and, unless the Colony is prepared to provide a suitable store establishment and test-room, and a steam-boat so that the men can be properly trained, it would be better to abandon the idea of any Submarine Mining Defence.

F. RAINSFORD HANNAY, *Major, Com. Eng.*

E.

Head Quarters Office, Hobart, 8th November, 1890.

From the Staff Adjutant to the Acting Commandant.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit the following Report on the School of Instruction for officers and non-commissioned officers of the Auxiliary Force, which has been carried on for the last three weeks at the Barracks. The hours of parade were 7 to 8 A.M., 10 A.M. to 12 P.M., 2:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Tent accommodation, both for officers and non-commissioned officers, but only five of the former availed themselves of it. The latter—as at last class—were messed in Barracks, the cooking being done by one of the Permanent Artillery. The course of instruction was similar to that adopted in March.

The School opened on the 20th October, when 5 officers and 11 non-commissioned officers joined. Others kept coming in till the 27th.

The average length of attendance per member was very much better than at the last Class. It was therefore much easier to carry on the work.

In addition to the parades above referred to, I gave lectures nearly every evening on drill, musketry, fire-discipline, and duties in garrison and camp. It gives me great pleasure to bring to your notice the zeal shown by all members of the Class, and to the cheerful manner in which they submitted to the strictest discipline.

During the three weeks 17 officers and 17 non-commissioned officers passed satisfactory examinations in the required subjects, and are now eligible to be confirmed in their respective ranks.

Five of the former and eight of the latter have been granted extra certificates.

Four Corporals passed the Sergeant's examination.

All ranks were well grounded in their work, and will now be in a position to impart valuable instruction to their detachments.

I forward herewith three Returns which will show you the exact work done by each member of the Class, and two which give the dates of arrival and departure from the School.

I am also forwarding thirty-four certificates for issue to the successful candidates.

The total number attending the Class was as follows:—officers, 19; non-commissioned officers, 24.

In the last School, 18 of the former and 25 of the latter attended, which gives a grand total of 37 officers and 49 non-commissioned officers who have been instructed during the year.

I have, &c.

ERNEST T. WALLACK, Major, Staff Adjutant.

F.

FIGURE of Merit of Recruits of the Corps of the Tasmanian Defence Force, 1890.

Corps.	No. of Men fired.	Weapon.	Rounds per Man.	Total Points.	Figure of Merit.	Classification.			Merit of Practice as laid down in Imperial Musketry Regulations.
						First-class shots.	Second-class shots.	Third-class shots.	
<i>Southern Division—</i>									
Southern Tasmanian Artillery..	11	M.-H. R.	50	1068	97.09	3	7	1	Good.
Tasmanian Torpedo Corps.....	8	M.-H. R.	50	854	106.75	2	3	3	Very good.
Tasmanian Rifle Regiment....	54	M.-H. R.	50	5789	107.20	9	40	5	Very good.
<i>Northern Division—</i>									
Launceston Artillery	16	M.-H. R.	50	1429	89.31	3	9	4	Good.
Launceston Rifle Regiment....	33	M.-H. R.	50	2054	62.24	1	7	25	Moderate.

ERNEST T. WALLACK, Major,
Instructor of Musketry.

G.

FIGURE of Merit of Trained Men of the Corps of the Tasmanian Defence Force, 1890.

Corps.	No. of Men Fired.	Weapon.	Rounds per Man.	Total Points.	Figure of Merit.	Classification.				Rounds 10. Percentage of hits, Field Practices.	Number of Men exercised in Field Practices.	Merit of Practice as laid down in Imperial Musketry Regulations.
						Marksmen.	First Class Shots.	Second Class Shots.	Third Class Shots.			
<i>Southern Division.</i>												
Tasmanian Permanent Artillery.....	24	M.-H. C.	60	2995	187.28	10	7	5	2	59.74	22	Very good.
Southern Tasmanian Artillery.....	11	M.-H. R.	50	1213	137.54	3	2	4	2	—	—	Very good.
Tasmanian Torpedo Corps.....	24	M.-H. R.	50	2734	143.07	6	7	5	6	—	—	Very good.
Tasmanian Rifle Regiment.....	54	M.-H. R.	50	5530	93.14	7	9	17	21	—	—	Good.
<i>Northern Division.</i>												
Launceston Artillery.....	9	M.-H. R.	50	1121	168.99	4	1	3	1	—	—	Very good.
Launceston Rifle Regiment.....	58	M.-H. R.	50	5675	70.25	8	7	13	31	6.19	21	Moderate.
Launceston Police.....	26	M.-H. R.	50	2663	79.33	4	3	6	13	5.42	26	Moderate.

Figure of Merit calculated in accordance with Army Order, No. 275, June, 1889, by adding percentage of Marksmen and First-class shots, and deducting percentage of Third class.

ERNEST T. WALLACK, Major, Instructor of Musketry.

AUXILIARY FORCE.

RETURN showing result of Annual Course of Musketry and Number of Efficientes for the Year 1890.

No. in order of merit as a Company.	Name of Company.	No. in order of merit as a Detachment.	Name of Detachment.	No. of Members commenced the Practice.	Points obtained in Individual Firing.				Average of Individual Firing.	Classification.				Company Figure of Merit.	Detachment Figure of Merit.	Volley Firing at 400 yds.			Attack Practice, 540 to 150 yds.			Rank and Name of Best Shot in each Detachment.		Efficient.	Extra Efficient.	
					100 to 300 yards.	400 to 600 yards.	700 yds.	Total.		3rd Class.	2nd Class.	1st Class.	Marks-men.			Men.	Points.	Average.	Men.	Points.	Average.	Rank and Name.				No. of Points.
					Rank and Name.		No. of Points.																			
1	MIDLAND	24	Campbell Town	51	2322	1648	641	4611	90·41	28	10	11	2	109·61	61·00	44	155	3·52	44	222	5·04	Corpl. Phillips, W.	149	45	21	
			Ross	35	2051	1538	667	4316	123·31	2	11	13	9			35	101	2·88	35	179	5·14		Pte. Brown, G.	170	35	23
2	CORNWALL	20	Fingal	24	1139	818	330	2287	95·29	11	5	4	4	103·39	82·79	20	86	4·30	20	119	5·95	Pte. Hoskins, T.	151	12	7	
			St. Mary's	28	1322	1026	366	2714	96·92	13	5	7	3			24	49	2·04	24	72	3·00		Lieut. Wardlaw, J. B.	158	27	10
			Avoca	26	1466	1059	439	2964	114·00	7	5	7	7			24	152	6·33	24	151	6·29		Sergt. Dore, J.	147	22	5
3	WEST DEVON	10	Ulverstone	30	1507	1177	453	3137	104·56	8	12	10	—	103·24	111·23	28	164	5·85	28	195	6·96	Pte. Quantrin, J.	139	27	10	
			Forth	20	987	790	257	2004	100·20	9	3	6	2			20	41	2·05	20	73	3·65		Pte. Cash, W.	141	20	14
			Penguin	23	1172	904	320	2396	104·17	10	4	6	3			...	...	...	...	...	...		Lieut. Bruce, J.	166	20	17
4	EAST DEVON	16	Latrobe	19	995	629	254	1878	98·84	9	2	3	5	98·65	93·58	9	35	3·88	9	61	6·77	Pte. Phillips, M. O.	161	8	7	
			Northdown	18	893	646	285	1824	101·33	7	3	5	3			14	70	5·00	14	79	5·64		Pte. Revell, G.	146	12	8
			Sheffield	25	1224	953	335	2515	100·60	12	2	5	6			23	114	4·95	23	131	5·69		Lieut. Clerke, T. J.	166	23	10
6	MEANDER	12	Deloraine	33	1649	1208	499	3356	101·69	14	5	7	7	90·28	101·69	28	221	7·89	22	167	7·59	Corpl. Dunham, C.	155	25	12	
			Westbury	27	1203	814	356	2373	87·88	16	4	4	3			12	72	6·00	12	70	5·83		Pte. Baird, W. G.	158	24	10
			Chudleigh	9	511	338	151	1000	111·11	2	1	5	1			7	35	5·00	7	40	5·71		Pte. Horne, L.	142	9	2
7	CLYDE	27	Bothwell	45	2048	1398	501	3947	87·71	24	14	6	1	82·88	49·93	40	236	5·90	40	284	7·10	Pte. Denholm, A.	145	35	4	
			Hollow Tree	14	763	689	291	1743	124·50	1	3	6	4			14	65	4·64	14	105	7·50		Pte. Byrne, J.	156	12	1
8	DORSET	6	Scottsdale	35	1995	1490	526	4011	114·60	9	6	10	10	82·74	146·03	31	124	4·00	31	195	6·29	Pte. Holmes, H. B.	165	28	17	
			Moorina	15	679	505	162	1346	89·73	7	3	5	—			9	40	4·44	9	51	5·66		Pte. Harper, S.	137	8	1
			Derby	53	2257	1602	607	4466	84·26	32	11	5	5			25	76	3·04	25	93	3·72		Pte. Wall	155	49	14
9	CHANNEL	4	Little Oyster Cove.	26	1371	1202	510	3083	118·57	7	2	11	6	77·08	157·04	19	97	5·10	19	73	3·84	Corpl. Smith, F. G.	161	4	1	
			Margate & Kingston	51	2446	1455	522	4423	86·72	31	7	11	2			...	...	...	...	...	...		Corpl. Meredith, E.	159	32	23
10	WELLINGTON	3	Burnie	23	1271	990	367	2628	114·26	6	1	9	7	72·04	157·74	16	63	3·93	16	101	6·31	Cr.-Sergt. Edgar, A. H.	166	12	2	
			Somerset	18	847	534	116	1497	83·16	12	2	4	—			16	49	3·06	16	77	4·81		Pte. Holmes, R.	137	10	8
			Table Cape	29	1213	812	293	2318	79·93	20	5	4	—			26	42	1·61	25	35	1·40		Pte. Slater, E.	138	14	5
11	HUON	33	Geeveston	30	1394	798	224	2371	79·03	19	7	4	...	71·22	29·03	26	94	3·69	26	55	2·11	Corpl. Pepper, W.	129	22	8	
			Franklin	18	910	709	329	1948	108·22	3	6	8	1			...	...	...	...	...	...		Lieut. Kellaway, S. J.	157	4	4
12	TAMAR	22	Lefroy	55	2499	1834	738	5071	92·20	28	14	11	2	60·72	74·93	52	210	4·03	52	279	5·36	Pte. Stubbs, W. H.	158	43	25	
			Beaconsfield	25	1246	939	329	2514	100·56	12	3	4	6			24	150	6·25	24	167	6·95		Sergt. Allison, W. H.	171	20	...
			George Town	21	846	410	192	1448	68·95	15	3	3	...			10	50	5·00	...	...	...		Sergt. Wills, F. C.	117	12	3
13	SOUTH CHANNEL	23	Dover	27	1237	841	353	2431	90·03	15	4	6	2	47·57	64·10	24	117	4·87	24	115	4·79	Corpl. Owen, J.	149	25	5	
			Hastings	20	891	546	169	1606	80·30	12	7	1	...			12	50	4·16	12	73	6·08		Pte. Kennelly, J.	124	...	...
15	DERWENT	40	New Norfolk	38	1239	734	184	2157	56·76	30	6	1	1	26·90	Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	Cr.-Sergt. Zelle, B.	141	21	6	
			Brighton	18	852	456	120	1428	79·33	13	2	3	...			7	21	3·00	7	39	5·57		Corpl. Gilligan, J.	137	6	...
			Ouse	19	993	765	275	2033	107·00	7	3	5	4			16	101	6·31	16	46	2·87		Pte. Pearce, J.	152	16	7
16	SOMERSET	39	Oatlands	58	2296	1284	402	3982	68·65	44	4	9	1	10·03	10·03	37	77	2·08	37	164	4·43	Corpl. Maclaren, P. D.	147	20	10	
17	ESK	28	Longford	25	1055	738	315	2108	84·32	15	5	3	2	7·71	44·32	22	138	6·27	22	154	7·00	Pte. Clune, J.	144	22	...	
			Carrick	20	726	359	54	1139	56·95	19	1	...	...			20	97	4·85	20	32	1·60		Pte. Eastoe, C.	113	14	4
18	MERSEY	42	Devonport, East	19	744	363	138	1245	65·52	18	1	...	...	6·29	Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	Sergt. Young, K.	103	19	2	
			Devonport, West
19	PORTLAND	31	Don	26	1224	700	234	2158	83·00	19	...	2	5	1·63	36·85	2	7	3·50	2	9	4·50	Sergt. Henry, J.	162	25	14	
			St. Helen's	23	970	588	244	1802	78·34	14	8	1	...			18	53	2·94	18	85	4·72		Pte. Macmichael	126	21	10
5	AFFILIATED TO MIDLAND COMPANY	18	Gould's Country	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1·63	Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	Sergt. Coltheart, J.	...	...	...
			Blue Tier	21	743	402	126	1271	60·52	17	4
14	AFFILIATED TO WELLINGTON COMPANY	32	Stanley	43	1891	1212	409	3512	81·67	28	8	4	3	...	32·83	37	181	4·89	37	204	5·51	Lieut. Spicer, H. G.	170	38	20	
TOTALS AND AVERAGE				1199	55,818	38,510	14,310	108,638	90·60	630	219	231	119	67·25	...	804	3469	4·31	787	4047	5·14	...	...	869	363	

The figure of merit is obtained by adding to the average of Individual Firing the percentage of First Class Shots and Marksmen, and then deducting the percentage of Third Class Shots. Efficientes are members who attended 14 drills and upwards during the year ending 31st December, 1890. Extra Efficientes are those who made themselves efficient as above, and also attended Camp of Exercise, 1890.