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1890.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

D E F E N C E S :

MEMORANDA FROM MAJOR T. C. JUST.

(Return to an Order of the House.)

Laid upon the Table by the Treasurer, September 23, 1890, and ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed, September 24, 1890.



Hobart, 27th September, 1889.

Major JUST, T.D.F., to the COMMANDANT.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward for your consideration a scheme proposed by me for the organisation of an Auxiliary Defence Force, and shall feel obliged if you will submit it to the Hon. Minister of Defence, with such comments as you may deem necessary.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. C. JUST, Major T.D.F.

DEFENCES OF TASMANIA.

PROPOSED Organisation and Disposition of Auxiliary Defence Forces, to be raised under "The Defence Act, 1889," now before Parliament.

BY MAJOR T. C. JUST, T.D.F.

(Explanatory Map attached.)

1. OBJECTS.

- 1st. The formation of District Rifle Companies under local leaders for purely voluntary service.
- 2nd. The organisation of such Companies into Administrative District Commands.
- 3rd. The disposition of Companies to guard exposed coasts and protect railways and property.
- 4th. The speedy mobilisation of the Auxiliary Forces in support of either Division Tasmanian Defence Force.

2. GENERAL REMARKS.

Tasmania is a much more vulnerable portion of the Empire than many incline to believe. Her strategic position would be of vast temporary importance to any hostile vessels desirous of operating quickly against the Australian Colonies, and this for a great variety of reasons.

Her western and south-western shores are comparatively safe from attack; but the whole northern, eastern, and south-eastern coasts, embracing nearly 350 miles of seaboard, are exposed, and liable at any time to hostile visitation.

To think of defending this extensive coast line by permanent works is out of the question; nor is it necessary, except in the case of one or two main positions, such as Hobart and Launceston. None of the smaller ports would, in these days, be attacked for their own sake, although hostile landings might be effected, especially where railways are available, for the purpose of co-operating in an attack on the chief cities.

To oppose such landings should be the duty of the Auxiliary Rifle Companies stationed along the coast, and they should be so organised as to afford mutual assistance to each other, and to form exterior and interior lines of defence. A few machine-guns distributed among leading coast stations would be of advantage.

I have every belief that, under a systematised organisation, gentlemen in the country districts would take an interest in the defence movement, and that companies would be quickly raised on a volunteer basis.

3. STRENGTH.

Three battalions and three half battalions = twenty-nine companies of fifty men = 1450 men.

Officers 115

TOTAL 1565

4. ORGANISATION.

Into Country Battalions, as follows :—

Commands.	County.	Head-Quarters. (Subject to alteration.)	Companies.	Men.	Battalions.	For Defence of (See Map.)
1 {	Wellington	Ulverstone	2	100	1	North-Western Ports (Coast Defence).
Devon, West	Ditto		3	150		
Devon, East	Ditto		3	150		
2	Westmoreland	Deloraine	3	150	$\frac{1}{2}$	Support to North-West and North-East Ports (C. D.)
3 {	Dorset	Ellesmere	3	150	1	North-Eastern Ports (C. D.)
Cornwall			3	150		
4 {	Glamorgan	Campbell Town	2	100	1	Support to Eastern Ports (C. D.)
Somerset			2	100		
5 {	Cumberland	Orford	2	100	$\frac{1}{2}$	South-Eastern Ports and Peninsula (C. D.)
Pembroke			1	50		
6	Monmouth		2	100	$\frac{1}{2}$	Support to S.E. & P. C. D.
	Buckingham	Franklin	3	150	$\frac{1}{2}$	Southern Ports and Channel (C. D.)
						Supports to be drawn from Hobart (D. F.)
		TOTALS.....	29	1450	$4\frac{1}{2}$	

This organisation provides for six Commands, with the following "Establishment" :—

5. ESTABLISHMENT.

Commands.	Defence.	County.	Facings.	Battalions.	Companies.	Lieut.-Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Surgeons.	Staff Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Buglers.	Rank and File.	TOTAL.
1	N.W. Ports	Wellington and Devon ..	Red	1	8	1	2	8	16	2	2	32	32	16	320	431
2	Ditto Supports	Westmorland	Blue	$\frac{1}{2}$	3	—	1	3	6	1	1	12	12	6	120	162
3	N.E. Ports and Supports	Dorset and Cornwall....	White	1	6	1	2	6	12	1	2	24	24	12	240	324
4	E. Ports.....	Glamorgan, Somerset, and Cumberland	Yellow	1	6	1	2	6	12	1	2	24	24	12	240	324
5	S.E. Ports and Penin- sula and Support	Pembroke and Monmouth	Green	$\frac{1}{2}$	3	—	1	3	6	1	1	12	12	6	120	162
6	S. and Channel Ports ..	Buckingham	Buff	$\frac{1}{2}$	3	—	1	3	6	1	1	12	12	6	120	162
				$4\frac{1}{2}$	29	3	9	29	58	7	9	116	116	58	1160	1565

Adjutants to be appointed by Commanding Officers from Company Officers.

6. STAFF AND COST.

The Head Quarters Staff necessary to work this scattered Auxiliary Force would be—

1 Colonel Commanding, and Chief Inspecting Officer Auxiliary Forces; also Commanding Northern Division Tasmanian Defence Force	£450 per annum
1 Brigade Major and Inspecting Officer; also Staff Officer Northern Division Tasmanian Defence Force	300
2 Staff Sergeants-Major and Drill Instructors, at £150.....	300
Travelling Expenses of Staff	150
	1200
Capitation Allowance for 1160 men, at 25s.	1450
Practice Ammunition (say).....	500
Total Auxiliary Forces.....	£3150

7. INITIATORY EXPENDITURE.

At the outset Government would have to supply accoutrements and bugles for the Companies, also necessary record books and stationery. I should strongly recommend that swords and accoutrements be issued to the Company Officers, to be returned into store when changes occur. The cost of Officers' uniforms is a considerable tax upon them, and swords and belts are very unsaleable articles when done with. The cost of the necessary outfit for the whole Force, including these, would be little over £600.

8. UNIFORM.

The uniform to be authorised should be the same for the whole Force, of serviceable grey tweed, with distinguishing facings (collars and cuffs) for the several County Battalions. The name or number of the battalion might also be impressed upon the Regulation head-dress ornament.

9. DISPOSITION—(See Map).

According to the accompanying map, it will be observed—

- 1st. That the exposed northern and north-eastern coast lines are defended by two battalions—14 companies = 755 men—with a “support” available for either flank in the Westmoreland half battalion—three companies = 162 men. This force also guards the railways running eastward, westward, and southward from Launceston, and is backed by the Defence Force of Launceston.
- 2nd. The extreme eastern and south-eastern coasts are sentinelled by local companies at Swansea and Orford = 106 men, with a “support” of five companies, and a “reserve” of two companies of the Glamorgan, Somerset and Cumberland, and Pembroke and Monmouth Battalions (including Perth) = 371 men. These companies are so disposed as to form a cordon protecting the railway system through the centre of the island.
- 3rd. The coast south of Hobart and the Channel Ports are guarded by the companies at Franklin and Port Esperance, with a “reserve” in the New Norfolk Company, and a main “support” in the Defence Force and system at Hobart.

Thus, no position of importance is left unguarded.

10. MOBILISATION.

It would be the duty of the Staff to perfect details as to the speediest means of transit either by rail-road or river, so as to provide for the concentration of the whole Force, or any portion thereof, at any particular point in the shortest possible time.

11. MODE OF FORMATION—REGULATIONS.

1. Offers of service from any number of men, not being less than fifty, should be forwarded to the Governor in Council, through the Commandant Tasmanian Forces.

2. On acceptance of service, the members of the Company should take the Oath of Allegiance and nominate its officers, subject to the approval of the Governor.

3. On the appointment of officers drill could be at once commenced, subject to general regulations approved by the Governor.

4. Appointment of officers should be provisional for six months, subject to the usual examination at the end of that period.

5. Non-commissioned officers to be nominated by captains, and approved by the Officer Commanding the District.

6. On the requisite number of companies being raised within a district, half battalions or battalions to be formed, and the necessary field officers appointed. Until then the companies to work under their own officers, subject to ordinary rules of seniority, when operating together.

(N.B.—There should be no difficulty in finding retired military or volunteer officers willing to assume the responsibility of field rank.)

7. Captains should be held strictly responsible for the discipline and internal economy of their companies, and for the proper care of all arms and Government property issued to them.

8. The Staff Drill Instructors should report particularly on the condition of all arms after every drill, and the arms of every Company should be inspected at least once quarterly by the Officer Commanding or the Brigade Major.

9. If in any quarter the attendances at drill fall short of thirty men for three consecutive company drills, the Governor should be bound by Law to immediately disband the Company; officers' commissions to be cancelled, and the captains held ineligible for future appointment. “Efficient” men to be eligible to join any other company in the Service, or any new company that may be formed.

10. On disbandment of Company, all arms and accoutrements to be immediately called in.

30th August, 1889.

THOS. C. JUST, Major T.D.F.

ADDENDUM.

Principal Camp Equipment necessary for the above Force.

Bell Tents for 29 companies.....	174
Field Officers' Tents	12
Orderly-room ditto	6
Store ditto ..	5
Soyer's Field Stoves	5
Field Ovens	5
Butchers' Tools (sets)	5
Weighing Machines	5
Blankets (pairs), W.P. Sheets.....	1500

I suggest the following draft of a Bill to organise the Auxiliary Forces. It will be better kept separate from the Defence Acts :—

(Draft.)

A BILL

To provide for the formation of an Auxiliary Defence Force.

Preamble.	<p>WHEREAS it is expedient to make provision for the organisation and maintenance of an Auxiliary Defence Force in Tasmania :</p> <p>Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows :—</p>
Short title.	1. This Act may be cited as "The Auxiliary Defence Act, 1889."
Interpretation.	<p>2. The term—</p> <p>"The said Act" shall mean the Act 49 Vict. No. 16, commonly known as "The Defence Act, 1885," or any amendments thereof:</p> <p>"Corps" shall mean any Administrative Battalion or Regiment belonging to any "District," or any Troop, Battery, or Company stationed in any "Locality."</p> <p>"District" shall mean the appointed head quarters of any Administrative Regiment or Battalion :</p> <p>"Locality" shall mean the Local head quarters of any Troop, Battery, or Company.</p>
Governor may enrol Volunteers.	3. It shall be lawful for the Governor, subject to such regulations as may from time to time exist for that purpose under "the said Act," or may be specially made under this Act, to accept and avail himself of the services of such persons as may be willing to serve as volunteers, without receiving any pay ; and to authorise that they be enrolled and organised for the purposes of military drill in such "Districts" or "Localities" as the Governor may from time to time approve, provided they shall take the Oath of Allegiance prescribed by "the said Act."
Strength.	4. The total number of men in such Auxiliary Force shall not, in time of peace, exceed Fifteen hundred, exclusive of Commissioned Officers, and the period of enrolment shall not be less than Two years.
Governor may appoint Commanding Officer, &c.	5. The Governor may from time to time appoint a Commanding Officer of such Auxiliary Force, and such Staff and Inspecting Officers as he may consider necessary for the efficiency and discipline of such Force.
Appointment of Officers and examination.	6. The persons constituting the several Troops, Batteries, or Companies of such Auxiliary Force may, from time to time, nominate proper persons to be Officers of such Troops, Batteries, or Companies : Provided always that no such Officer shall exercise any command, or shall have any rank or authority until his appointment shall have been confirmed by the Governor. All such appointments shall be provisional in the first instance, and no commission shall issue to any such nominated Officer until he shall have passed such examination as the Governor may from time to time approve.
Provisional in first instance.	
Examination.	
Non-commissioned Officers.	7. Non-commissioned Officers of the Auxiliary Force shall be appointed by Commanding Officers of "Districts," on the recommendation of Officers Commanding the Troops, Batteries, or Companies of such Force.
Districts and District Commands.	8. In the event of three or more Troops, Batteries, or Companies being formed in any "Locality," they may be united for military purposes into Administrative Regiments or Battalions, and the Governor shall have power to assign a "District" to such Regiments or Battalions, and to appoint such Field Officers to command such Regiments or Battalions as he may consider necessary.

9. The Governor may make Rules and Regulations for the government of the persons enlisted or enrolled by virtue of this Act and for enforcing good order and discipline among them, and from time to time annul, alter, or amend the same and substitute others in lieu thereof. Governor may make Rules and Regulations.

10. The Governor shall make such Regulations as he shall think fit, from time to time, for securing the "efficiency" of the Auxiliary Force aforesaid, and in the event of the certified returns for any one quarter showing less than two-thirds of any Troop, Battery, or Company to be "efficient," the Governor shall forthwith cause the disbandment of such Troop, Battery, or Company by proclamation in the Government *Gazette*, and the Officer Commanding such Troop, Battery, or Company shall not be again eligible for a command in the Auxiliary Forces: Provided always that the Subaltern Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Men of a Troop, Battery, or Company so disbanded who are certified as "Efficient" at the time of disbandment may be permitted to join any existing Troop, Battery, or Company, or any new Troop, Battery, or Company which may be formed. Efficiency. Proviso as to "Efficients."

11. The Governor shall have power, and is hereby authorised, to issue to the Commanding Officer of the Auxiliary Force such arms, ammunition, accoutrements, and equipment as the Governor may from time to time deem necessary: Provided, that this power shall be exercised under such Regulations as may be from time to time promulgated under the provisions of "the said Act" or of this Act. Governor may provide arms and equipment.

12. Out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund there shall be paid annually to the Commanding Officer of each Corps included in the Auxiliary Force a sum not exceeding One Pound Five Shillings for each effective member of such Corps as shown by the Roll of the preceding year, such payment to be a capitation grant in aid of uniform; and it shall be lawful for the Governor, on the first formation of any Corps, to pay to the Commanding Officer a sum equal to two years' capitation grant by way of advance for the proper clothing of such Corps, such advance to be made and accounted for in such manner and under such conditions as may be prescribed. Capitation Grant. Advance.

13. All the provisions of the said Act relating to the clothing and arms, accoutrements, and equipment of the Defence Force shall apply to the clothing, arms, accoutrements, and equipment of the Auxiliary Force. Certain provisions of 49 Vict. No. 16 to apply.

14. Persons enrolled as Volunteers in the Auxiliary Force shall be entitled to the same exemptions, immunities, and privileges as prescribed in the case of members of the Defence Force enrolled under "the said Act," save and except that they shall not receive any pay or remuneration for their military services. Exemptions, &c.

15. Any fines or penalties inflicted under Regulations lawfully made under the authority of this Act shall be recoverable by Commanding Officers of "Corps" in the same manner as fines and penalties are recoverable under *The Magistrates Summary Procedure Act*. Recovery of Penalties.

COLONEL LEGGE'S Marginal Notes.

- Section 2.—For "Battalion or Regiment" read Company.
 " 4.—I proposed one year, but I would sooner see the term two years.
 " 6.—The Commander should have the right of choice as regards the officers, as men may be nominated who would be thoroughly unfit for efficiency. I prefer Clause 5 as it stands.
 " 7.—In C.R. Corps the greatest care must be taken in selecting the N.C. officers, who now have a high part to play in war.
 " 8.—This will not act in war, and should not be carried out in peace.
 " 10.—Seems to me rather rigid.
 " 14.—Insert after words "any pay," in last line, "in time of peace."

W. V. L.

FORWARDED to the Hon. the Minister.

New Act for C. R. Clubs.

I see no objection to a new Act if it will work better among the Rifle Corps than having the clauses mixed up with those of the Defence Amendment Act.

I have made the alterations in the margin which, according to my view and the scheme already thought out, appear to be necessary.

Proposed Organisation of Force.

This matter has been well thought out by the Staff; and I conferred much with the General on the subject. The scheme already proposed by Colonel Bernard and myself, and referred to in my last Report, was one of Administrative Battalions. This is, however, now found to be impracticable for war purposes and also in peace time, except in one district (the North Coast, where there are retired officers). It is necessary that the Clubs should be so organised that they can be affiliated respectively with the Infantry Battalion in the North and in the South, which would tend, on the declaration of war, to extend or expand to 1000 men per battalion. For war purposes the whole infantry force must act together, mobilised and transported on the lines of railway for the defence of the two cities in case of invasion. Special defences of particular parts of the Coast by particular Corps would be out of the question; and the theory of particular supports and reserves to reinforce Corps, though looking well on paper and on the chart, would be impracticable.

Should population materially increase at any centre on the North Coast, the Head Quarters of a third Infantry Battalion might be established there, and the surrounding Country Corps affiliated with it. It will always be essential that the Country Corps shall be able to rally round a trained "nucleus."

It is proposed to provide machine guns for the Field Force; and the Defence Committee have recommended some Quick-fire guns for the North Coast.

The "Khakee" brown has been selected for the uniform both for Country Rifle Corps and the field dress of the Infantry. It is the universal colour adopted throughout Australia.

Major Just deserves much credit for the thought he has brought to bear on the subject.

W. V. LEGGE, *Lt.-Col. Commanding.*
2. 10. 89.

PROPOSED DEFENCE OF TASMANIA

BY
MAJOR T. C. JUST.

T. D. F.

August 1889

Scale 15 miles to an inch

