

(No. 19.)



1862.

T A S M A N I A.

**ARMS AND AMMUNITION SUPPLIED TO THE
COLONIES.**

DESPATCH FROM THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

Laid on the Table by Mr. Henty, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
24 July, 1862.



[CIRCULAR.—TASMANIA.]

Downing-street, 14th May, 1862.

SIR,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a Copy of a Letter from the War Office, enclosing a Copy of the Rules and Conditions which Secretary Sir George Lewis has adopted for regulating the supply of Arms and Ammunition to Militia and Volunteer Corps in the different Colonies.

I have expressed my entire concurrence in these Rules and Regulations; and I transmit them, together with the explanatory Letter, for your information and guidance.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

NEWCASTLE.

Governor GORE BROWNE, C.B., &c.

SUPPLY OF ARMS, &c., to Colonial MILITIA and VOLUNTEERS.

War Office, 18th March, 1862.

1. Whenever arms of any description are supplied to a Colony, they should be handed over to the Colonial Government as a loan (except when the Colony offers to pay for them), liable to be recalled at any time by the Imperial Government.

2. All ammunition shall be supplied subject to repayment of its value by the Colony.

Applications for Arms, &c.

3. Every application for arms should proceed from the Colonial Government, and be forwarded through the Colonial Office to the Secretary of State for War, for consideration with reference to the following points:—

- 1st. The amount of the existing store of arms.
- 2nd. The demands likely to be made upon that store for Imperial purposes.
- 3rd. The relative claims of the various Colonies.

General Conditions, &c.

4. All applications for arms, &c., should be accompanied by a written agreement to the following effect:—

- 1st. That the arms, &c., will be received as a loan, and will be re-delivered to Her Majesty's Government on demand.
- 2nd. That the Colonial Government holds itself responsible for the arms, &c.
- 3rd. That a proper storehouse will be provided for the deposit of the arms.
- 4th. That the arms will be kept in good condition.
- 5th. That an Officer of Her Majesty's Army, to be appointed by the General or other Officer commanding Her Majesty's Forces in the Colony, shall inspect the arms annually.
- 6th. That an Officer, similarly appointed, be also permitted and have facilities afforded to him to inspect annually each Militia and Volunteer Corps, and that he be furnished by the Commanding Officer of each Corps with a return of the strength of the Corps, and the number, &c. of the arms in its possession, according to a form of return to be prescribed by the Secretary of State for War.

5. When it has been decided to accede to an application, the Colonial Government and the Officer commanding the Troops should be informed; and the arms, &c. should be issued, upon the requisition of the Governor and order of the Officer commanding the Troops, by the Military Store Officer, as follows:—

Rifles for Infantry.

6. These should be issued according to the number of Militia or Volunteers enrolled.

Ammunition for Infantry.

7. Not more than 100 rounds per man per annum, and 110 caps for every 100 rounds, should be supplied. Blank cartridge will not be issued from the Military Store, as it can easily be provided by the Colony.

Arms for Cavalry.

8. Carbines and swords should be supplied according to the number of men enrolled.

Ammunition for Carbines.

9. Fifty rounds per man per annum, with caps in the same proportion as for Infantry, should be supplied.

Garrison Artillery Guns.

10. No guns can be supplied for the exclusive use of Garrison Artillery; but the General or other Officer commanding on the Station should be authorised, at his discretion, to permit Militia and Volunteer Artillery to use the guns of the garrison for the purpose of exercise or practice, under the directions and supervision of the Royal Artillery.

Ammunition and Shot for Guns.

11. An amount of ammunition not exceeding one round per man per annum, including a proportion of shell not greater than 20 per cent., should be supplied, as well as three friction tubes per man per annum.

Carbines.

12. Carbines (Artillery pattern) should be supplied in the proportion of 12 per battery.

Ammunition for Carbines.

13. Fifty rounds per man per annum, with caps in the same proportion as for Infantry, should be supplied.

Field Artillery.

14. The supply of guns, &c., for Field Artillery must form the subject of special consideration in each instance.

[COPY.]

SIR E. LUGARD to SIR F. ROGERS.

SIR,

War Office, 27th March, 1862.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of the several Letters from the Colonial Office noted in the margin,* enclosing applications from Governors and Lieutenant-Governors in the West Indies for Arms and Ammunition. These Requisitions (of which a Schedule is annexed) have suggested to Sir George Lewis the expediency of laying down some general and more definite Rules than he finds to be at present in existence.

It would appear that Small Arms, Ordnance, Ammunition, and other Military Stores have, since the year 1854, been furnished by the War Office to very many of the Colonies. They have been supplied as a gift, on loan, or on repayment; and instances have occurred where, even in the same Colony, all three arrangements have alternately been adopted.

In the year 1860, however, in consequence of the attention of the Secretary of State having been drawn to the absence of system in regulating the issues, it was decided that all Rifles for the use of Volunteers in the Colonies, where not paid for, should be supplied on loan, subject to withdrawal. This decision has been adhered to with general consistency.

Ammunition has not, as a rule, been supplied for some time past to any of the Colonies, except upon repayment.

Again, no steps have been taken, except in a few instances, for procuring information from time to time as to the state of the Arms thus lent, or as to the numbers and degree of efficiency of the men for whose service they were designed.

The above considerations have led Sir George Lewis to devise the series of Rules and Conditions, of which a Copy is transmitted herewith, and which I am to request that you will submit to the Duke of Newcastle for his opinion. Should His Grace concur in them, Sir George Lewis would wish that Copies (which will be supplied for that purpose from hence,) should be sent to all the Colonial Governors for their information and guidance.

I am to add, that Sir George Lewis does not propose to entertain any of the applications from the West Indian Colonies recently forwarded to him, until the Colonial Authorities concerned have been afforded an opportunity of considering the terms on which Arms, &c., will henceforth be issued, and of regulating or renewing their requisitions accordingly.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD LUGARD.

SIR F. ROGERS, *Bart.*, &c.

* 13th February, 1862; 15th February, 1862; 26th February, 1862; 26th February, 1862; 27th February, 1862; 13th March, 1862.