

7896  
1198

War Office.

12<sup>th</sup> August 1873.

Memorandum for the Command-  
ing Royal Engineer, Nova Scotia.

26.  
Reservists  
Army  
Submarine  
torpedoes  
by Lt. Colonel  
entitled "Notes on defense by  
Submarine Mines," is herewith  
forwarded to the f. R. Engineer.

A copy (N<sup>o</sup> 96) of a work on  
torpedoes and submarine mines

by Lt. Colonel Stothard R.E. &  
entitled "Notes on defense by  
Submarine Mines," is herewith  
forwarded to the f. R. Engineer.

This work being strictly  
Confidential, it is to be distinct-  
ly understood that its perusal  
is confined to commissioned  
Officers of the Royal Engineers

in

in the Board's command.

With this end in view the R. Eng<sup>r</sup> is requested to keep a record of the dates upon which the book is issued to, and returned by, the R. Engineer officers to whom he may lend it; to acquaint them of its confidential nature; and at other times to keep it under lock and key.

Wm. Drummond Service

For I. G. F.

---

No. {

1587

179. d.

597

It is requested that in any further communication on this subject, the above Number may be quoted; and the Letter addressed to—

The Under Secretary of State for War,  
War Office,  
Pall Mall, London,  
(S.W.)

WAR OFFICE,

23<sup>rd</sup> June 1886.

Sir

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to transmit to you the accompanying charts and Memoranda showing respectively the recommendations of the Colonial Defence Committee for the defence of Esquimaux, an altered proposal, a tracing showing the proposed submarine Mining Defence, a tracing and description of a Submarine Mining Establishment, together with a copy of Inspector General of Fortifications Circular No. 428, and copy of the memorandum which accompanied Inspector General of Fortifications' Circular No. 417.

2 charts with Memos attached,  
3 Tracings, 3 printed documents,  
1 litho plan of Esquimaux,  
and 4 lithographs  
all in separate parcels

These documents are for the

The General Officer Commanding } information  
Halifax. }  
Nova Scotia.

information of Lieutenant Colonel C. J. O'Brien R.E. who is to proceed to Esquimaux for the purpose of reporting on these proposals under orders which have been already communicated by the Adjutant General.

I am to observe that the arrangement proposed is that, if the Government of Canada will furnish the garrison, bear the cost of constructing the works, maintaining them in a serviceable state, and providing a sufficient force for the defence, the Imperial Government will supply the armament, and Submarine Mines, delivering them free of charge; and will provide skilled assistance in designing and  
construction

constructing the defenses, and in training a submarine mining detachment.

Lt. Colonel O'Brien should on arrival at Esquimelt place himself in communication with the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia with a view of ascertaining whether the Government will construct and maintain the works and furnish a sufficient force to man them on the more extended plan which involves the occupation of both sides of the entrance to Esquimelt Harbor or on the smaller scale of the two which have been proposed.

It is not anticipated that a larger force than 1500 men is likely to be disembarked for the attack; and to

following

following appears to be the minimum garr.  
which should be provided if Rodd Point  
not occupied; -

Artillery 300 (local)

Engineers { <sup>officers</sup> 2  
              { <sup>A.C. officers</sup> } 21 } of Royal Engineers  
              { and Men } 90 (local)

Infantry - 1,200 (local)  
with an addition of 500 if Rodd Point  
be occupied.

He should then carefully consider  
on the spot the two schemes proposed  
and report fully on them, and on what  
he would recommend.

The siting of the four gun: guns on  
Rodd Hill gives, it is considered, a better  
defence to the Harbour; but entails a  
somewhat increased, and more dispersed  
garrison.

The Submarine Mining defence  
project

project embraces the defence of both harbours, it will be seen however that the Colonial Defence Committee does not recommend the employment of Submarine Mines in Victoria Harbour, so that unless considered advisable to do so, the defence of Victoria Harbour by them may be omitted.

I am to request that approximate estimates of the cost of the works proposed may be submitted; together with a report on the facilities existing at the station for carrying them out. These approximate estimates should also include the cost of whatever Barracks, Stores, &c. may be required; as well as that of such piers, wharves, or

any

any other arrangement, as may be necessary for landing, and transporting the guns.

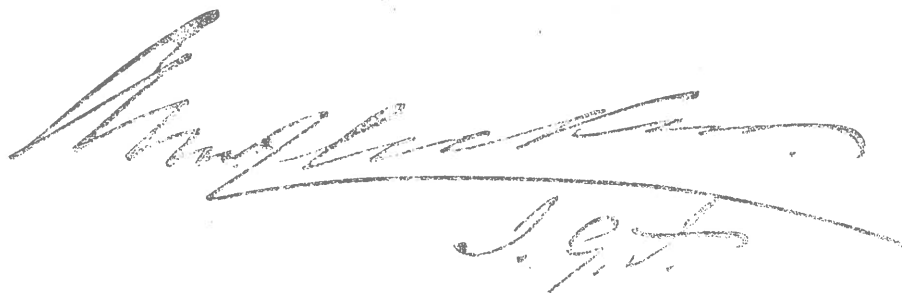
Lieutenant Lang R.N., who has been ordered to Halifax for Esquimaux, will take out with him surveying instruments and typical drawings of emplacements, the various natures of guns.

I have to request that carefully contoured surveys of the sites proposed for batteries may be forwarded to this office.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your obedient servant,

  
J. G. S.



Copy

Government House  
Victoria, British Columbia  
3. 8. 86

Sir,

In the personal interview I had with you the other day when you submitted to me a copy of your instructions and the plans furnished you by the War Office in the matter of the proposed defences of Esquimalt and Victoria.

I pointed out to you that I thought the clause in the instructions directing you to apply to me as Lieut. Governor with "a view of ascertaining whether the Colony will construct and maintain the works and furnish a sufficient force to man them" was founded on a misconception as to the division of responsibilities between the Dominion Government and the local Government of British Columbia. It is with the former that negotiations in the matter have been carried on by the Imperial Government and it is they who have made any agreements that have been come to.

I have taken occasion to speak to the Premier of the Dominion Government the Right Honourable Sir John A. Macdonald who happens to be here, on the subject, and he agrees with me. I should think that your course would be, to carry on the surveys &c. with which you have been engaged and having well advanced with them and formed your estimates &c. to put yourself in communication with the Governor General of

Canada. In the meantime, I shall be glad  
to do all in my power to assist you in carrying  
out your work and hope that if my Government  
can assist you in any way by furnishing copies  
of existing surveys or charts that you will  
apply to me.

I return herewith the copy of your instructions  
left with me and

I have the honor

(S) Clement J. Cornwall

Lieut. Governor

Lieut. Col.

E. D. O'Brien Esq.

Victoria

"Triumph"

at Esquimaux

D. 10. 86.

Sir

In answer to your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> inst: I have to state that in any scheme of defence to be carried out for Esquimaux I consider it essential that batteries should be erected both at Rodd Hill & Sangsters Plains; - the former to obtain a cross fire, - the latter to prevent an enemy laying in Royal Roads & bombarding the Naval Yard, - & both to draw the fire of an enemy from the Naval Yard.

I quite approve of the plan you have drawn up which includes batteries at Sangsters Plains Macaulays Point, Rodd Hill, Brothers Island, & Signal Hill.

With regard to the species of guns proposed I presume it is desired to utilize guns on hand otherwise it would appear desirable there should not be so many different sorts of guns & that they should be all of a recent pattern.

I have to

S<sup>d</sup> M. Culme Seymour

Rear Admiral C-in-C. Pacific Station

To  
Lieut. Col:

E. D. C. O'Brien  
Roy. Engs.

Official Copy

R. E. Office

Halifax

14<sup>th</sup> January 1887

Sir

I have the honor to forward here-  
with for the approval of the G. O. C.  
and transmission to the Under  
Secretary of State for War my report  
and plans for the proposed defense  
for Esquimaux B.C.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> servant

S<sup>d</sup> E. D. C. O'Brien

Lieut: Col: C. R. E.

The A. A. G.

Halifax

The Under Secretary of State for War  
War Office  
London

Forwarded

S<sup>d</sup> A. G. Russell General  
Command in Dominion

Halifax N.S.  
14. 2. 87



Esquimalt-British Columbia.

List of enclosures, Plans &c forwarded with C.R. & letter dated

- 1 Plan General Plan shewing ~~scheme proposed~~ by ~~Lieut Colonel O'Brien~~.
- 2 Tracing Shewing relative positions of Esquimalt, Victoria & Burrards Inlet.
- 3 Map of S. C. District, Vancouver's Island shewing position of lands to be purchased.
- 4 Chart Colonial Defence Committee's Scheme W. O. No 50893.
- 5 Chart War Office Scheme of Defence W. O. No 50894.
- 6 Plan Macaulay Point Battery.
- 7 --- Emplacements for 64 <sup>lbs</sup> to flank Macaulays Point. (Left.)
- 8 " Emplacements for 16 <sup>lbs</sup> to flank Macaulays Point. (Right.)
- 9 Tracing Site Plan of Macaulays Point.
- 10 Plan of Sangsters Plains Battery.

- 11 Tracing Site Plan of Sangsters Plains.
- 12 Plan of Road Hill Battery.
- 13 Tracing Site Plan of Road Hill shewing positions for Infantry.
- 14 Plan Brothers Island.
- 15 Tracing Site Plan Brothers Island.
- 16 Plan of Emplacements 64<sup>pr</sup> Defence of Mine Field.
- 17 --- Emplacements 16<sup>pr</sup> & Hotchkiss guns Defence of Mine Field.
- 18 Tracing Duntze Head & Dockyard.
- 19 Plan Signal Hill. Emplacements for 1-7' 1-64<sup>pr</sup> and 2-16<sup>pr</sup>.
- 20 Plan Signal Hill Emplacement for 1-64<sup>pr</sup>.
- 21 Tracing Site Plan of Signal Hill.
- 22 Chart Sub-marine Mining.
- 23 Tracing Sub-marine Mining Defence Channel.

- 24 Tracing Test Room & Engine House.
- 25 Plan Submarine Mining Establishment.
- 26 Tracing Water supply for Esquimalt and various Batteries.
- 27 Tracing Magazine Island Esquimalt harbour
- 28 ~~Chart~~ <sup>Tracing</sup> Alternative (Minor) scheme of defence.  
by Lt Col: O'Brien
- 29 Tracing Burrard Inlet, shewing proposed Fort and Ordnance Depot.
- 30 Tracing Lt Col O'Brien's complete Scheme

31 Tracing Lt Col O'Brien's ~~complete~~ <sup>Alternative</sup> Scheme

— Enclosures. —

- 1 Letter from Lieut. Governor Victoria B. C. dated August 3<sup>rd</sup> 1886.
- 2 Letter from the Rear Admiral and Command-in-Chief Pacific Station dated 8<sup>th</sup> October 1886
- 3 Estimated cost of Work, Transport and Land
- 4 ~~Names of owners of land proposed to be purchased~~
- 5 Prices from ~~Printed Report~~ Esquimalt Dock & Nanaimo, Esquimalt Railway Co
- 6 Packet of Sketches of Esquimalt and neighbourhood by Lieut. Col: O'Brien. <sup>by O'Brien</sup>

Lieut. Colonel  
Commanding Royal



