

DETACHMENT SERIAL 186

Ref. Map: Botwood Nfld.
186/1940 1/3600

DEFENCE SCHEME
SECRET (1)
3 Aug. 1940.
Copy No. 5

Appendix II

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1. INFORMATION

1. ENEMY

- (a) Warship, armoured cruiser or freighter with or without aircraft.
- (b) Aircraft carrier.
- (c) Aircraft flown direct from EUROPE.
- (d) Crews of ships, using harbour, organized to make surprise attack.
- (e) Sabotage.

The most likely method of attack would be a combination of (a) (d) and (e). The dropping of bombs or parachutists followed by landing of troops.

II. DESCRIPTION OF GROUND

(a) General

Botwood is situated on a blunt point jutting out into the BAY OF EXPLOITS in a N.E. direction approximately two miles across and three miles in depth and about 35 miles from the open sea.

On the north side is the NORTHERN ARM AND PETER'S ARM on the south. The coast line of this portion of NEWFOUNDLAND is very irregular.

The harbour is protected from the open sea and there is sufficient water for ships of any tonnage to come right up opposite the docks.

Both PETER'S ARM and the NORTHERN ARM can be used for ships drawing 30 feet that could anchor in the bay.

There are three wharves known as the COAL, PAPER and GOVERNMENT WHARVES. There is at least 30 feet of water at low tide at the COAL WHARF.

The tides are not high, the spring tide being about 9 feet. There is a current of about 3 M.P.H. at the coal WHARF, which is equipped with a travelling crane and railway sidings.

- (b) There are three other places that could be used for

(over to 2)

11. DESCRIPTION
OF GROUND, cont'd.

making a landing:- first, POINT LEAMINGTON - 18 miles from BOTWOOD, on NEW BAY which is connected to BOTWOOD by a third class road from the S.W. ARM. This port was at one time used by ocean going vessels,

second, LEWISPORT to the N.E. which is connected to the NEWFOUNDLAND RAILWAY by a branch line approximately 8 miles long at NOTRE DAME JUNCTION.

third, NORRIS ARM, S.E. from BOTWOOD across the bay, which is also on the NEWFOUNDLAND RAILWAY.

- (c) The shore line has numerous bays and headlands which would protect from view any possible landing.

BOTWOOD POINT has many rocky outcrops ranging in height from a few feet to 196 feet. The main ridge is the KING'S RIDGE which runs practically due north and south. There are several other outcrops, two of the most prominent near the village are CANNING HILL and CHURCH ROCK. Between the ridges there are valleys and the ground in many places is very low and swampy. There is also a lot of low scrub and, except from the outcrops, there is a very poor field of view.

The SEAPLANE BASE is situated on a small point at the end of the main one.

111. VULNERABLE POINTSBy Water

- (a) Wharves on S.E. side of point.
- (b) SEAPLANE WHARF and beaches in vicinity.
- (c) Landing in the NORTHERN ARM.

By Air

- (a) OLD AIRPORT.
- (b) KING'S RIDGE, S.W. of the PAPER SHEDS.

From Land

Roads: 1. From Grand Falls.

- 2. East of CANNING HILL from the OLD AIRPORT, and low ground covered by bushes north of same.
(over to 3)

11

111. VULNERABLE POINTS cont'd.From Land

- Roads: 3. Track from OLD AIRPORT north of CANNING HILL,
4. Following along shore from NORTHERN ARM.

IV. LOCALITIES WHICH FAVOUR DEFENCE

1. KING'S RIDGE.
2. Shore in vicinity of the WHARVES, MILL POINT, SEAPLANE BASE POINT.
3. Ridge starting at 7458 and running in a southwesternly direction until west of CANNING HILL, then almost due southwest to the KING'S RIDGE.
4. Observation from CHURCH ROCK, CANNING HILL and KING'S RIDGE.
5. At SANDY POINT, three miles down the bay.

V. LOCALITIES REQUIRING SPECIAL DEFENCE.

1. All wharves.
2. Beaches in the area.
3. left flank from ridge about ring contour 120 especially from the ridge paralleling NORTHERN ARM.
4. Approaches through the scrub, particularly from the west and S.W. of CANNING HILL to the OLD AIRPORT ROAD.
5. Road from the OLD AIRPORT.
6. The KING'S RIDGE especially from the threat of parachutists, as it has numerous depressions that could be used for temporary cover.
7. Approach from the open sea. This could best be covered at the narrows off SANDY POINT.

2. INTENTION

To defend BOTWOOD and vicinity from attack from water, land, air or sabotage.

PLAN1. GENERAL PLAN OF DEFENCE

The area will be divided up as follows:-

- (a) One area, right boundary, AIRPORT ROAD at road junction
4349 due south along KING'S RIDGE to shoreline:
(over to 4)

3. PLAN CONT'D.1. GENERAL PLAN OF DEFENCE cont'd.

Left boundary, exclusive rocky knoll at west end northwest ridge to inclusive CANNING HILL to inclusive GOVERNMENT WHARF.

- (b) Second area, right boundary, incl. rocky knoll on west end of N.W. ridge, excl. CANNING HILL, excl. GOVERNMENT WHARF; left boundary, incl. N.W. ridge north to 2 rocky outcrops, incl. east to shoreline at 7366.

11. DISPOSITIONS

- (a) Each sector will be held by one Coy. having alternate posts depending on whether the attack is from the water, land or air, or any combination. The Bn.H.Q. and Details that are not actively employed in the defence will carry out special tasks as detailed and then form a General Reserve.

4. ATTACK FROM WATER (W PLAN)(a) Right Sector (appendix 1)

Two platoons forward and one platoon in reserve to support either flank or cover approach from the rear.

Boundaries

- (1) Right Pl. - Rt. bdry. Shore line at 4227 north incl. end of KING'S RIDGE to rd. junction at 4349.

Lt. bdry. Water front incl. offices, storage sheds A.N.D. Coy. and OLD AIRPORT ROAD to rd. junction at 4349.

- (2) Lt. Pl. - Rt. Bdry. Inter Pl. Bdry

Lt. bdry. incl. GOVERNMENT WHARF, incl. CANNING HILL, excl. rocky knoll on west end of NORTHWEST RIDGE.

- (3) Reserve Pl. (less A.A. gun and crew)

Held in vicinity of HIGHLAND CAMP (A.A. post on CANNING HILL) and prepared to support either Pl. and to watch approaches from rear.

(b) Left Sector (Appendix 2)

- (1) Rt. Pl. - Rt. Bdry. from inter - Coy. bdry. (excl.

GOVERNMENT WHARF, excl. CANNING HILL, incl. rocky knoll on west end of N.W. ridge.

Lt. bdry. ^{Bay} at 8156 to excl. track and road to N.W. RIDGE to rd. junct. at 7054 to N.W. RIDGE at 5450.
(over to 5)

4. ATTACK FROM WATER (W PLAN) cont'd.(b) Left Sector cont'd. (Appendix 2)

(2) Lt. Pl. - Rt. Bdry. Inter-Pl. bdry.
Lt. Bdry. ^{OR} Section bdry.

(3) Reserve Pl.

In vicinity of CHURCH ROCK to support wither Pl. and
take care of rear, excl. CANNING HILL.

(c) Bn.H.Q. and H.Q., plus attached, will carry out the following
duties and tasks:-

(1) Bn.H.Q., H.Q. & Attached

Will be immediately transferred to house at 692450.

Communications will not, however, be discontinued from
present H.Q. until new one has been linked up. The Adjt.
will be responsible that the new H.Q. is organized, ass-
isted by his batman and the N.C.O. in charge of the Orderly
Room.

(2) Intercommunication: Signal Sgt. will be responsible for
the opening and closing of communications between the new
and the old H.Q. and linking up with the Coy.H.Qs. as shown
on the attached appendix.

(3) Intelligence Section: Intelligence Sgt. and one man will
report to Unit H.Q. One man will be detailed to each
Rifle Coy. Area and report to O.C. Coy. to assist in
collecting and relaying information to H.Q.

(4) Amm., Food and Water: The A/RSM, assisted by N.C.O. in
charge of Stores, stovermen and transport section, and also
the General Reserve, if not required for immediate action,
will transfer the marginally noted to a new position, under
cover rear rd, junct. at 6946.

A/RSM will take charge of S.A.A. reserve and will be
responsible that amm. is sent to the Coys. as required.

(5) R.A.P.

Medical Officer will transfer his present equipment to new
R.A.P.- house S.E. of rd. junct. 6946, assisted by members
of the Med. Sect., not on duty with Coys., the Officers'
Mess steward and cook.

(over to 6)

4. ATTACK FROM WATER (W PLAN) cont'd.(6) General Reserve

Officer i/c H.Q. Coy. will command the General Reserve, to be formed from the following:-

R.C.E.	10	
Police	2	
Pioneers	5	
Batmen - not employed as runners	5	22

5. ATTACK FROM LAND (L PLAN)

(a) Boundaries remain the same but to prevent confusion the former left sector will be known as the right sector and the former right sector will be known as the left.

(b) Dispositions

(1) Rt. Sector: 2 Pls. along the front and one in reserve in vicinity of CHURCH ROCK.

(2) Lt. Sector: 2 Pls. along front and one in reserve partly along the shore, balance in vicinity of HIGHLAND CAMP.

(3) General Reserve: In same vicinity as for W Plan.

(c) Rt. Sector (Appendix 3)

(1) Rt. Pl. - Rt. bdry. From rocky outcrop near shore at 7366 along bay to SEAPLANE AIR BASE.

Lt. bdry. Slag heap at 6461 to excl. rd. junct. 7054, incl. CHURCH ROCK.

(2) Lt.-Pl. - Rt. bdry. Excl. slag heap at 6461 to incl. rd. junct. at 7054, excl. CHURCH ROCK.

Lt. bdry. Incl. rocky knoll west end of N.W. Ridge excl. CANNING HILL, excl. GOVERNMENT WHARF.

(3) Reserve Pl.: Held in vicinity of CHURCH ROCK less 1 Sec. near SEAPLANE AIR BASE to watch waterfront.

(d) Lt. Sector (Appendix 4)

(1) Rt. Pl. - Rt. bdry. Excl. rocky knoll west end west ridge, incl. CANNING HILL, incl. GOVERNMENT WHARF.

Lt. bdry. Excl. rd. junct. 4349, excl. A.N.D. Coy. storage sheds, offices etc., incl. rd. to HIGHLAND CAMP to waterfront at 6434.

(2) Lt. Pl. - Rt. bdry. inter-Pl. bdry. (over to 7)

5. ATTACK FROM LAND (L PLAN) cont'd.(d) Left Sector (appendix 4) cont'd.(2) Lt. - Staff Pl. - Lt. bdr. rd, junct. 4349 along the KING'S RIDGE to shore line at 4227.(3) Reserve Pl.

Held in vicinity of storage sheds, less one Sect. to watch waterfront.

(e) Bn. H.Q. and H.Q. will move to same location as for W Plan.

The duties of Bn.H.Q., H.Q. and attached will be the same as for W Plan.

6. ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN
EVENT OF AIR RAID OR
ATTACK (A PLAN)

1. On the first sight of enemy aircraft parachutists or warning of either, sentries on duty will immediately give the Aircraft Action Signal. This Signal is to be repeated by all Posts and the 'Alarm' will be sounded by the duty bugler.
2. All signal stations will immediately relay the 'Alarm' throughout our own system and to the local telephone exchange.
3. The signallers on duty at the ORDERLY ROOM will at once notify the NEWFOUNDLAND AIRPORT.
4. All ranks will carry out the W Plan. Any natural cover and concealment from the air must be taken advantage of when going to their respective posts. Only A.A. Posts will be manned, the remainder of the Section will remain in concealment.
5. Fire will only be opened when the nationality of the plane has been clearly ascertained or after enemy action and then only by those guns that are within close range. Every precaution must be taken to conceal our defensive positions.
6. Detailed instructions are as per appendix attached.

7. ACTION - WHEN ANY
AIRCRAFT IS SIGHTED

Immediately upon aircraft of any kind being sighted the Aircraft Action Signal will be sounded by either the gongs or whistle and relayed by telephone by all signallers on duty. Men on duty at A.A. Posts will not fire until plane has definitely indicated that it is a hostile one. All men will scatter and take cover where

(over to 8)

**7. ACTION - WHEN ANY
AIRCRAFT IS SIGHTED** CONT'D.

available, remainder remaining absolutely still and must not look up. As soon as the plane is recognized as one of our own the 'All Clean' will be sounded by an Officer or Senior N.C.O. and repeated throughout area.

**8. PROTECTION OF
AREA BY DAY****(a) Right Sector (appendix 5)**No. of N.C.Os. and men

1 Post at gate of HIGHLAND CAMP	1	
1 A.A. Post in CAMP AREA	2	
1 A.A. Post on GANNING HILL	<u>2</u>	5

(b) Left Sector (appendix 6)

1 A.A. Post on CHURCH ROCK	2	
1 Post on road in front of CAMP	1	
1 A.A. Post at Rd. Junct. 250 ^x north of CAMP	<u>2</u>	5

**9. PROTECTION OF
AREA BY NIGHT**No. of N.C.Os. and men**(a) Right Sector (appendix 5)**

Patrol		
1 Post in vicinity of PAPER WHARF	2	
Patrol		
1 Post in vicinity of COAL WHARF	2	
1 Patrol to visit all Posts	2	
1 Post over HIGHLAND CAMP	<u>2</u>	8

Patrol visiting all Posts will cover area in rear of storage loading sheds, OLD AIRPORT ROAD to PAPER WHARF.

(b) Left Sector (appendix 6)

1 Post CAMP AREA	3	
1 Post road block 700 ^x along road to NORTHERN ARM from SEAPLANE BASE	2	
1 Post on road about 1200 ^x along road to NORTHERN ARM from SEAPLANE BASE	<u>2</u>	7

The N.CO. posting relief will take 1 man from the CAMP AREA with him and having completed relief these two will patrol rear Sector along road from road junct. at 7759 to main rd. near ARGYLE HOUSE to CAMP.

0. The Pl. Comdr. of the duty Pl. in each area will be responsible to his Coy. Comdr. for the security of the Coy. locality during
(over to 9)

10. cont'd.

his tour of duty. He will be assisted by his Pl. Sgt. and they will each make at least one complete tour of their Posts by night. Every relief will be supervised by an N.C.O. who will question the sentries coming off duty if anything unusual has happened during their tour, he will immediately investigate and if he thinks it necessary, report to his Pl. Comdr. or Pl. Sgt. The balance of the duty Pl. must be at all times available for immediate action in case of 'Alarm'.

11. ACTION TO BE TAKEN
WHEN SHIP IS SIGHTED

Sentries on both O.Ps. will at once report to Orderly Room and Coy. H.Q. Signaller on duty in each H.Q. will notify the Officer on duty and a member of the Intelligence Section at the Orderly Room. The duty Pl. in the Rt. Sector will cover from their Posts the approaches to the Wharf. Two men from this Pl. and a member of the Int. Section will accompany the Customs Officer, when he boards the ship. They will remain with him until he is satisfied that everything is normal. The duty Pl. will then withdraw and a report will be submitted by the Int. Section.

12. FIRE PREVENTION AND
FIRE CONTROL ORDERS

See Appendix 7.

13. SABOTAGE

The following places and things are those in the area that might be sabotaged:

(1) Vicinity of A.N.D. Coy. Offices

- (a) Engine shed
- (b) Machine shop
- (c) Powerhouse
- (d) Supply store bldgs.
- (e) Fire pump house containing electrically operated pump and gasoline operated pump.
- (f) Fresh water pump house containing two electrically driven pumps for town water supply.
- (g) Fresh water storage tank.
- (h) Electrical distribution station.
- (i) Paper storage sheds including supply depot.
- (j) Dynamite shed.

(2) Along waterfront

- (a) Three Wharves (gantry crane on coal wharf)

(over to 10)

13. SABOTAGE cont'd.(3) Near Coal Wharf

Electric sub-station and outdoor transformers and transmission line controlling current from BISHOP'S FALLS for all lighting and power at BOTWOOD.

(4) North of Coal Wharf at street intersection

Post and telegraph office.

(5) Concentrates storage shed and electrically operated cranes.

(6) Seaplane Air Base

Gasoline and oil in storage.

Gasoline on refuelling barge, OSCAR.

Protection for the above places is as follows:

- (1) One night watchman, supplied by the A.N.D. Coy., is on duty to watch places listed in 1 a-j inclusive. I do not feel that this is enough protection and have recommended to Mr. Arklie that they should increase it. → (1) Two members of the R.C.A.S.C.

- (2) ~~sleep in the # 6 Storage Shed or supply depot.~~

- (3) One man on duty in electric sub-station 24 hours per day.

- (4) Post and telegraph Officer open from 0800-2100 hrs. on week days and from 1000 -1200 hrs. on Sundays. One man on duty in building day and night .

- (5) During the hours of darkness our sentries and patrols are covering the area from north of the paper wharf to north of the SEAPLANE AIR BASE. In addition there are the Orderly Officers or Sergeants and the Field Officer of the day.

Anyone has access to the wharves at anytime and loading of the ships using the harbour is done both by day and night.

In addition quite a number of the men working in BOTWOOD come across the bay by boat and a lot of fishing boats tie up in the vicinity of all three wharves.

I have requested that all men working for the A.N.D Coy. are furnished with passes or preferably badges so that they can be identified by our sentries.

(6) Seaplane Air Base

1.No car is permitted to park in the vicinity of the Camp.

2.No smoking is allowed in the vicinity of the reserve of gasolin

13. SABOTAGE cont'd.(6) Seaplane Base cont'd.

3. By night one man patrols the area east of the main rd. and one west. The man patrolling to the west accompanies the N.C.O. of the Guard on his tour when posting sentries.

At present time there is no satisfactory safe-guard against destruction of the reserve of fuel.

The following is recommended:

1. Have one company look after all refuelling. At the present time there are three separate stocks of gasoline. 1st Shell Coy. who refuel for the Imperial Airways (approx. 20,000 gals.)
2nd R.C.A.F. dump, Imperial Oil, at the end of the point (3,800 gals.) used to refuel any R.C.A.F. seaplanes that use BOTWOOD.

3rd The Pan American Airways have about 3,500 gals. of Imperial Oil gasoline in there enclosure. Mr. Dupe of the Imperial Airways estimates that a reserve of 5,000 gals. in the immediate vicinity would be ample.

The Shell Oil Co. is recommended as they have a barge 'Oscar', capacity of 3,000 gals., at which planes can be refuelled in any weather. By using this barge a reserve of gasoline, not to exceed 2,000 gals., need be kept in the Camp Area and should be out of sight in the shed..

2. Remove all surplus gasoline to another site, that should be guarded, where the damage, if ignited, would not be serious.

3. A trench or trenches dug around any supply left here. This trench to be at least 18" deep and 12" across.

4. In case of an enemy force capturing the base, a method of setting fire to the reserve should be prepared. This could be done from a distance by fire from a L.M.G., including tracers.

5. Pan American tanks be camouflaged.

14. NORMAL DISPOSITION OF
DETACHMENT

50% of the strength will at all times be in the immediate vicinity of the Camp Sites. Another 25% may be given permission to go one mile from Camp.

The balance of 25%, when not on duty, may be granted passes to GRAND FALLS or its vicinity. (over to 12)

15. ACTION TO BE TAKEN
BY THOSE ON PASS -
IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

In the event of an emergency, all men on leave or pass, will report at once to the Police Station at either BISHOP'S FALLS or GRAND FALLS. They will then be organized into parties by the senior present for return to Camp, exercising every precaution.

16. SUGGESTED PASSIVE
AIR DEFENCE (appendix 8)

ILI:JEC
1130 hrs.
4 August, 1940.

 Major,
O.C. Detachment, Serial 186.

Copies to:

- 1/2/3 - Serial 753.
- 4. - Serial 186.
- 5. - War Diary.
- 6. - Dept. of Justice.