

130 Beachwood Ave

Duddy

See Distribution

MINUTES OF THE LONDONDERRY CITY CENTRE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE ARMY CONFERENCE ROOM, RUC ST AND ROAD ON
FRIDAY 8 SEP 76

Presents:

Lt Col K G WILEY RA

Supt W M JOHNSTON

Mr J V ARTHUR

Mr L HESON

Mr B DUDDY

Mr R FERRIS

Mr W FERRIS

Mr J HUGHES

Mr F THORPE

Mr R D HILL

Major R W ALLISON RA

Major R W L RA

Major D P EARLAM RA

In Attendance

Major J G BARBER RE

Major R I H HAUGH COH

Captain D B BARRERS RE

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs M JEFFERSON.

Major 43211.207
Ward

CC 16 Lt AD Regt RA (Chairman)

Dep Comd RUC Div 'N'

President Londonderry Chamber of Commerce.

President Londonderry Chamber of Trade.

Londonderry Chamber of Trade

Londonderry Chamber of Trade

Manager Ulsterbus Western Region

Roads Department

Head Postmaster, Londonderry

Senior Civil Adviser

EC 32 (Minden) Lt AD Bty RA

EC 14 (Coles Kop) Lt AD Bty RA

ZIC 16 Lt AD Regt RA (Secretary)

GSO 3 Liaison HQ 8 Inf Bde

GSO 3 Liaison (Designate) HQ 8 Inf Bde

21 Engr Regt Gp

MINUTES

ACTION

1. The Chairman Thanked all present for attending. He introduced Major HAUGH who was about to take over from Major BARBER in Hq 8 Inf Bde and with whom he was attending as an observer in order to meet the civilian members of the committee. Captain SUMMERS was also attending as representative of 21 Engr Regt which was shortly to replace 16 Lt AD Regt.

ITEM 1 -- MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND POINTS ARISING

2. The Chairman said that all members had a copy of the minutes in front of them and he therefore intended to comment only on the items that had required action.

3. Strand Road/Clarendon Street Checkpoint (P10). Priority work was still preventing any progress in this project.

4. Butcher Gate Checkpoint (P15). A handrail had now been installed to assist pedestrians at this checkpoint.

5. Shipquay Gate (P8). At present there was no change to the system of signing a clearance certificate. The Chairman said he would have one more try at the N Div Security Committee meeting. (Secretary's note - see after note below)

16 Lt AD Regt

6. Signing. Mr HUGHES said he was waiting for the new road to be completed before replacing the road signs. Mr DUDDY said what was wanted were pedestrian signs indicating clearly the routes into the City Centre and, in particular, one showing that Magazine Gate was now open during certain hours. Mr HUGHES said he would pass this on to the appropriate agency in his department.

Mr HUGHES

7. Custom House Gate Checkpoint (P8B). For a number of reasons Major WRIGHT said he had postponed his proposal to close this checkpoint earlier on weekdays. It would not be reconsidered until the alterations in the old Victoria Barracks were stabilised. Mr R FERRIS said that when it was reconsidered he would like it open as long as possible because of the Steak House and Monaco establishments.

8. Parking of Post Office Vans. * Major WRIGHT again assured the committee that all vans were searched on entering Custom House Street. Mr HASSON suggested that Guildhall St might be used for this purpose and Major WRIGHT agreed to investigate this. (Secretary's note - see after note below)

BC 14 Bty

ACTION

9. Apart from items arising later in the meeting the Chairman said all the points from the minutes of the last meeting had been covered and this was agreed.

ITEM 2 - SECURITY REVIEW SINCE LAST MEETING

10. The Secretary presented a review of incidents which had involved the Security Forces since the last meeting. The aim of this was to up date members and put some of the security arrangements in force into perspective.

ITEM 3 - TRAFFIC DELAYS AT STRAND ROAD/LAWRENCE HILL JUNCTION AND AT THE QUAYSIDE CHECKPOINT(P9)

11. Strand Road/Lawrence Hill Junction. Mr HUGHES said the blocks in the road were causing delay and frustration and the new ramp required urgent modification. He also recommended that the device was widened to allow two lanes of traffic in a northerly direction. The Chairman said that this matter had already received attention outside the committee and arrangements were in hand to lower the ramp. He said it would still be noisy but some of the plates were being replaced by prongs which might improve that aspect. The concrete blocks would be removed to allow 2 lanes of traffic and Mr HUGHES said a width of at least 18 feet was required. This was noted. It was also suggested that lane lines should be painted on the road and Mr HUGHES agreed to have this done when the new blocks were in position. (Secretary's note - see afternote below).

8 Inf Bde

12. Quayside Checkpoint(P9). Mr HUGHES asked if it would be possible to open up 2 lanes of traffic for cars and one for HGVs at this check point as there used to be. Mr HASSON said that because of the traffic delays more and more people were using the Northlands Road route which went through a largely residential area with the consequent danger to pedestrians and children. The Chairman said he would see if the screen could be moved and 2 lanes for cars reintroduced. (Secretary's note - see afternote below).

16 Lt AD Regt

ITEM 4 - STRAND ROAD TRADERS ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION ON RECEIPT OF BOMB WARNINGS

13. Major WRIGHT explained the recommendations which provided for nominated assembly points and the display of signs in shops to indicate whether or not the premises had been searched. Mr R FERRIS said his committee had approved the system. All present commended the system as it was likely to speed up the return to normal business after a bomb warning. If it was decided to extend the system to other parts of the City the details could be obtained from the Secretary.

ITEM 5. WATERLOO PLACE CHECKPOINT(F1).

ACTION

14. Mr Hill said he wanted to use this particular time to make a few observations on the functions of the committee, one of which he had thought was to discuss future plans. However the wall and work in Waterloo Place had started with no reference to the local traders. He felt the checkpoint and the wall would result in people getting killed as he was certain the terrorists would try and bomb it. The Chairman explained that the checkpoint had been planned some months ago and was necessary because of the rebuild of the Ulster Bank. The wall was a temporary structure only to protect the soldiers working on the building and would come down when the checkpoint was complete. (Secretary's note - see afternote below).

15. There followed a very frank discussion on the functions of the committee and its influence and purpose with regard to security matters. The main conclusions were:

a. Representatives of the traders would like to meet the Brigade Commander or his Deputy. They wished to express to him their concern over the effect of the security measures on the trade of the City and discuss long term plans. The Chairman said he would see if arrangements for such a meeting could be made (Secretary's note-see afternote below).

16 Lt AD Regt RA

b. There was concern at the lack of continuity over City Centre problems caused by the constant changeover of the City Regiment. This, in turn, could affect the way in which the trader's views were presented to the Div N Security Committee as it was currently constituted. Mr Hill said that in his capacity as Civil Adviser he would undertake to present the traders view in future having ascertained them with or without the presence of the Security Forces. He was a member of the N Div Security Committee and considered this would come within his Terms of Reference.

Mr HILL

16. LATERAL TIE (V6).

ACTION

Mr HASSON said there seemed to be a lack of interest in moving traffic at this checkpoint. He asked for the traffic lights to be switched off for an experimental period to see if this would allow a faster flow. The Chairman said he would raise this at the N Div Security Committee Meeting the next day. (Secretarys note-see afternote below).

16 Lt AD Regt

17. Traffic Flow Strand Road. Mr R FERRIS asked if Magazine Gate could be opened to vehicles and two way traffic reintroduced into the Strand Road to ease the traffic flow in the area. The Chairman said that with the Ulster Bank reconstruction about to start there would be congestion in Waterloo Place for some time to come. Two way traffic might only add to this. However he asked Major WRIGHT to investigate these two proposals.

BC 14 Bty

18. Barrelâ at Shipquay Gate. Mr R FERRIS asked if the barrelâ around the construction work in Shipquay Place could be tidied up. This would improve the flow of traffic through Shipquay Gate. This was agreed.

BC 32 Bty

19. Buses in The Walled City. Mr DUDDY said that the minutes of the previous meeting had misinterpreted his remarks. He would like this matter considered again and The Chairman said he would raise it with interested parties.

16 Lt AD Regt

20. Lighting in the City Centre. Mr DUDDY asked if the inoperative street lights in the City Centre could be repaired. The Chairman said he knew of no security reasons why the lights should not be working. Supt JOHNSTON said he would institute a joint inspection of lights with the Roads Department and the army sub units involved. It was pointed out that the timing devices would have to be well secured to prevent vandals from removing them.

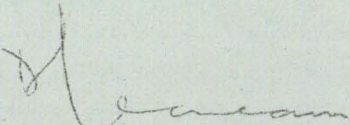
Supt JOHNSTON
Mr HUGHES
BC 32 Bty
BC 30 Bty

VALEDICTORY

21. As this was the last meeting for 16 Lt AD Regt RA Mr HASSON thanked the Chairman for the way they had been looked after for the last three months and asked him to pass this on to all concerned. He said that any words spoken during the meeting were not personal in any way but an expression of the frustration experienced from time to time over the present situation. He wished the Regiment a safe return to Germany and every success in the future. The Chairman thanked him for his remarks and said he was glad the members had spoken frankly. He thanked them for their cooperation and hoped the situation would improve and make the lives of all citizens of Londonderry more tolerable.

22. MEETING

22. The next meeting was agreed for Wednesday 13 Oct 76 when it would be chaired by Lt Col T S SNEYD RE, CO of 21 Engr Regt Gp.


D P EARLAM
Major RA
Secretary

Distribution:

External:

Supt W M JOHNSTON

Mr J V ARTHUR

Mr L HASSON

Mr B LUDDY

Mr R FERRIS

Mr W FERRIS

Mr J HUGHES

Mr F THORPE

Mr R D HILL

Cllr Mrs M JEFFERSON

Hq 8 Inf Bde (2)

Internal:

CO 16 Lt AD Regt RA

BC 32 Lt AD Bty RA

BC 14 Lt AD Bty RA

Ops Offr

Int Offr

UPO

1. As a result of the N Div Security Committee Meeting on 9 Sep 76 certain measures have been agreed. These are listed below with the paragraph in the minutes to which they refer being shown in brackets.

2. Edinburgh Gate (Para 5) Search certificates are no longer used at this check point, although some details of the vehicles are recorded. No action is required by the driver. This is to be reviewed at the next meeting of the CCLC on 13 Oct 76.

3. Parking of Post Office Vans (Para 8) This matter will be discussed at the next meeting following investigations.

4. Strand Road/Lawrence Hill Junction (Para 11) The ramp will be modified to reduce damage to vehicles and the metal plates will be extended to cope with two lanes of traffic. This confirms the Chairman's statement at the meeting.

5. Quayside Checkpoint (Para 12) This will revert to two lanes for private cars and one lane for HGV. It will probably be done before the end of the month, but this timing depends on engineer effort available. The searching of private cars has been speeded up.

6. Waterloo Place Checkpoint (Para 14) Construction will be completed by the end of the month. The blast walls will be removed also by this date.

7. Meeting with 8 Brigade (Para 15) Mr HILL has arranged a meeting with the Deputy Commander for some members of the Committee to discuss any matters concerning security. This would take place on Tuesday 14 Sep 76.

8. Letterkenny VCP (Para 16) The traffic lights will be covered for a trial period.