

MINUTE SHEET

Subject: MINISTERIAL 1983/294

Department:

File No.: Def 7735/2

Date: 2/8/83

1. As you are aware I undertook some research ~~on~~ into this subject a few months ago, as the result of an enquiry from the director of the RNZN Museum. A copy of the results is on Def 7735/2.

2. While not competent to discuss the legal aspects of Mr Earnshaw's request, there are some points in his letter which require comment.

A. "Documentation has apparently been mislaid, lost, destroyed, or simply never existed" The majority of relevant documents are in fact, on three files: D 35/43/3, D 35/43/4 and D 35/43/5; held in National Archives.

B. The Boeings do not appear to have been included in the purchase of the New Zealand Flying School - the deed of sale which is on D 35/43/4 refers to "assets as per attached schedule", which, unfortunately is not attached. However, from the report on the assets made immediately prior to the purchase (D 35/43/4 dated 27 Aug 24) the Boeings are described as "unsuitable or obsolete" and of no value. The Walsh designed seaplane is also described in these terms and was not purchased, (there is further correspondence on this aircraft).

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c. (i) " Officially these tunnels and vaults appear not to exist"

The tunnels appear on two maps which are readily available (one held by Defence Works and one on Army 213/10/1 vol 2). From the files I have perused the tunnels seem to have been sealed relatively recently, rather than during the 1920's or 1930's as is commonly believed.

(ii) The North Battery tunnels are open. The old 8" Emplacement on the summit had a water tank constructed upon it in 1958/59 (see D 7735/2 Annex F).

(iii) An investigation of the tunnels was conducted by Maj RD STEVENSON in 1980. The results were negative and can be seen in D 7735/2 of 8 Jul 83 annexes D and E

3 Although possibly not relevant, the subject of ownership/control of the tunnels was discussed in the early 1960s, the correspondence being on Army 213/10/28

4. Another point which may require resolution is the ownership (re-copyright) of the defence files held in the National Archives.

[Signature]
Lt Col
MA/CDS