

PORT STEPHENS, PORT EDGAR, SOUTH HARBOUR, DOUBLE CREEK AND DYKE ISLAND

Port Stephens was named after **Sir Philip STEPHENS**, First Secretary of the Admiralty 1763-1795. Port Edgar was named after **Lieutenant Thomas EDGAR RN** who surveyed in the Falkland Islands 1786/87.

The 360 ton British barque *Herald* under **Captain JONES**, 79 days out from London and bound for Valparaiso, was totally lost at Bird Island 12 August 1855. The captain drowned in the wreck. Salvage of the cargo was entrusted to **J M DEAN** by the surviving chief officer of the *Herald*. Some of the wrecked goods were also brought in by boats belonging to the Falkland Islands Company Ltd. The cargo was sold for £495. **Mr FALLA** of the schooner *Minerva* was ordered to convey **James le CHERMINANT**, chief officer; **Henry JONES** and **William JONES**, two sons of the captain; **Joseph FENARA**, carpenter; **Thomas CORNOLL**, steward; **John OELAINE** and **Charles CUMBER**, apprentices, to the first port that he touched in the United Kingdom. The *Minerva* departed 28 September 1855. [SHI-REG-1: D7; 69; 70]

On 24 April 1865 **John PHILLIPS** was granted an occupation licence of a station on Arch Islands, Port Albemarle for £5. [BUG-REG-2; 154]

The 1,100 ton Italian ship *Peru* of Genoa was wrecked in Albemarle waters on 19 April 1868. The *Fairy* found the crew onshore, where they would have perished in a few more days, being reduced to eating foxes and whatever they could catch. The *Peru* was in ballast with a few slabs of marble and cases of "very bad" Italian wine. The master, crew and passengers of the *Peru*, 23 persons in all, were conveyed to Montevideo on board the schooner *Louisa*, which sailed 19 May 1868. They were: **Pio FERNANDO**, captain; **Francesco CHIOZZA**, second; **Francesco AMEGLIO**, second helmsman; **Nicolo ALBINO**, steward; **Luigi BETTINO**, carpenter; **Gionomo BONIANDO**, seaman; **Paulo PRATOLONGO**, seaman; **Lazaro CANEVARO**, seaman; **Batto Ricardo GIO**, ship's boy; **Batto Gazdo GIO**, ship's boy; **Stefano FERNANDO**, ship's boy; **Luigi IMPERIALE**, passenger; **Giovani LEONE**, passenger; **Angelo SANGUINETI**, passenger; **Gioseppe CEVASIO**, passenger; these 15 all Italian. **Gregoria CRUZ & 2 sons**, passengers & Chilean; **Carlo LISBOA**, seaman & Portuguese; **DUIBEF**, seaman & French; **ALFONZO**, seaman & French; **FERNANDEZ**; seaman & French; and **GIOSEPPE**, seaman & French. [FIC/D1; 25: D13; pg 139: H26; 83]

On 16 July 1868 **George M DEAN** was granted an occupation licence of Station 10 Port Stephens for £75-6-8. Being 90,400 acres more or less bounded "*on the North, Northwest, West, South West, and South by the Sea starting from the head of the East arm of Double Creek in Port Richards to the head of Anchor Inlet in Port Stephens, thence by a line running East North East 3 ¼ miles to the South arm of the head of the North West arm of Albermarle Harbour. Thence by the Shores of Albermarle Harbour to the North head of the North West Arm. And from thence by a line running North 6 ¾ miles to the starting point at Double Creek, including Dyke Island.*" West Island and Tussac Island in Reef Harbour and Mile Island in Port Stephens were also included in the licence. A declaration was to be made every 6 months of the number and description of wild cattle killed by him and payment of 4/- per bull and 16/- for every animal killed for consumption. Any wild cattle captured for taming were free as long as they were branded and a return was made every 6 months of the animals. [BUG-REG-2; 200]

On 15 January 1869 **Charles Henry WILLIAMS** was granted an occupation licence of Station 9 Port Edgar for £58-17-4. Being 70,650 acres more or less bounded: "*on the West by a line running North 6 ¾ miles from the North head of the North West Arm of Port Albemarle to the head of the East Arm of Double Creek in Port Richards (being the East boundary of Station No*

10) *Thence by the Shores of Double Creek and Port Richards to the head of Port Richards; Thence on the North East by the South West shores of the Lake or Lakes running from the head of Port Richards to the head of Port Edgar Thence on the East, North East, East South and South West by the Sea Shores of Port Edgar, Falkland Sound and Port Albemarle to the Starting point at the head of the North West Arm of Port Albemarle.* A declaration was to be made every 6 months of the number and description of wild cattle killed by him and payment of 4/- per bull and 16/- for every animal killed for consumption. Any wild cattle captured for taming were free as long as they were branded and a return was made every 6 months of the animals [BUG-REG-2; 219]

As he has built a house on Station 10 Port Stephens and stocked it **George M DEAN** was granted Lease 9 on 16 July 1870 for 20 years at an annual rent of £150-13-4. Containing 90,400 acres more or less bounded "*On the North, Northwest, West, Southwest, and South by the sea starting from the head of the East arm of Double Creek in Port Richard to the head of Anchor Inlet in Port Stephens, thence by a line running East North East 3 ¼ miles to the South arm of the head of the North West Arm of Albemarle Harbour, thence by the shores of Albemarle Harbour to the north head of the North West Arm, and from thence by a line running North 6 ¾ miles to the starting point at Double Creek*". A declaration was to be made every 6 months of the number and description of wild cattle killed by him and payment of 4/- per bull and 16/- for every animal killed for consumption. Any wild cattle captured for taming were free as long as they were branded and a return was made every 6 months of the animals. [BUG-REG-2; 251]

On 27 September 1870 Lease 9 Port Stephens was annulled and J M Dean & Son were granted a new lease, under the 5th clause of the Amalgamation Ordinance of the Lease of Crown Lands No 6 of 1870, of the 90,400 acres and additionally the Government Reserve lying between Port Stephens and Albemarle containing 21,700 acres more or less for 21 years at an annual rent of £112-3-0 for the first 10 years and £186-18-8 for the remainder. Bird Island at an annual rent of £15 was also included in the lease. [BUG-REG-2; 254]

On 15 February 1872 **Charles Henry WILLIAMS** was granted an occupation licence of Station 9 Port Edgar for £58-17-4. Being 70,640 acres more or less bounded: "*on the West by a line running North six and three quarter miles from the North head of the North West arm of Port Albemarle to the head of the East arm of Double Creek in Port Richards; (being the East boundary of Station No 10) thence by the shores of Double Creek and Port Richards to the head of Port Richards. Thence on the North East by the South West shores of the lake or lakes running from the head of Port Richards to the head of Port Edgar. Thence on the East, North East, East, South and South West by the sea shores of Port Edgar, Falkland Sound, and Port Albemarle to the starting point at the head of the North West arm of Port Albemarle.* [BUG-REG-2; 279]

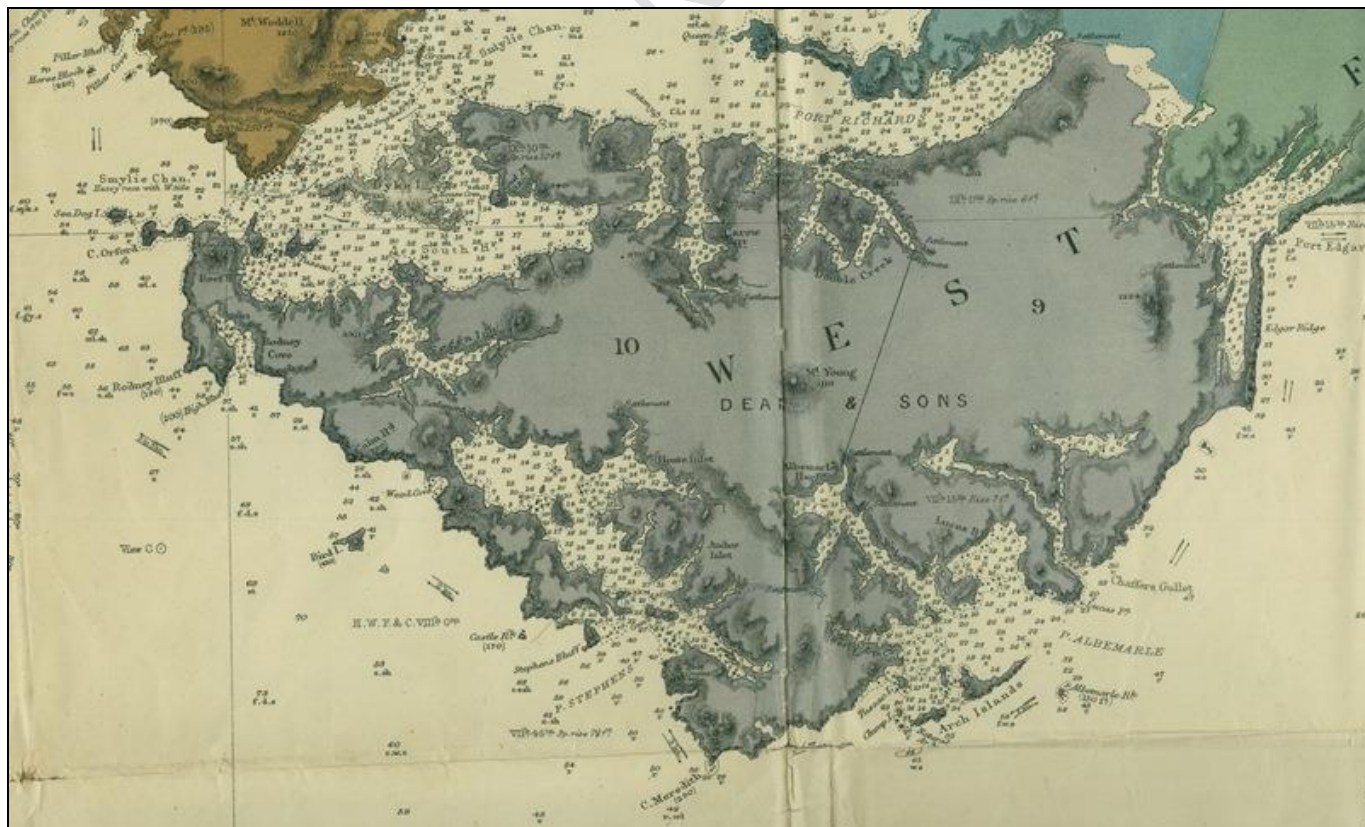
On 14 November 1872 **Charles Henry WILLIAMS** mortgaged "*the wooden house consisting of four appointments and the wooden wool shed and dipping trough now erected or in the course of erection at Port Edgar aforesaid with the pens and enclosures thereunto belonging and also all and singular the furniture household utensils goods chattels and effects in and (first sheet of mortgage sd C H Williams) about the same and all and singular the ewe and wether lambs of the said Charles Henry Williams running about his land leased at Port Edgar of the Colonial Government in number fifty three hundreds or thereabouts and also all the horses and mares of the said Charles Henry Williams upon the said land and numbering Twenty or thereabouts and all the wool, lambs, foals, produce, increase arising from the said lambs or sheep and mares*" to the **Falkland Islands Company Ltd** in respect of a debt of £2,156-4-6. [BUG-REG-1; 344]

On 23 November 1872 Bird Island was removed from the lease of Port Stephens dated 27 September 1870. [BUG-REG-2; 256]

As he has built houses on Station 9 Port Edgar and stocked it and built a house upon Weddell Island and stocked it **Charles Henry WILLIAMS** was granted a lease 15 February 1874 for 21 years at an annual rent of £124-12-9 for the first 10 years and £207-14-8 for the remainder. Port Edgar containing 70,640 acres more or less bounded "On the West by a line running North 6 & $\frac{3}{4}$ miles from the North head of the NW arm of Port Albemarle to the head of the East arm of Double Creek in Port Richards (being the East boundary of Station No 10) thence by the shores of Double Creek and Port Richards to the head of Port Richards, thence on the North East by the South West shores of the Lake of Lakes running from the head of Port Richards to the head of Port Edgar, thence on the East, North East, South and South West by the sea shores of Port Edgar, Falkland Sound and Port Albemarle to the starting point at the head of the North West arm of Port Albemarle". Weddell Island containing 54,000 acres more or less being "Weddell Island and the adjacent Islets of Penn Island, Barclay Island, Fox Island, Quaker Island, Low Island & Hill Island." A declaration was to be made every 6 months of the number and description of wild cattle killed by him and payment of 4/- per bull and 16/- for every animal killed for consumption. Any wild cattle captured for taming were free as long as they were branded and a return was made every 6 months of the animals. [BUG-REG-2; 314]

On 28 August 1874 **Charles Henry WILLIAMS**, assigned by mortgage his lease of Weddell Island and Station No 9 Port Edgar Station to **Alexander Lang ELDER** in respect of a debt of £5,759-2-0. [BUG-REG-3; pg 19]

On 2 April 1878 the mortgage of the lease was re-assigned by **Alexander Lang ELDER** to **John Markham DEAN**. [BUG-REG-3; pg 73]



Farm boundaries 1883 – part of Hudson Chart, JCNA

On 27 May 1884 **Julia WILLIAMS**, widow of **Charles Henry WILLIAMS**, agreed to sell the remainder of the lease of Station 9 Port Edgar and the “*messuages buildings and wool and other sheds and the dipping troughs at or upon the said station and all the pens enclosures and fencing belonging thereto. And also the boats and stores and all and singular the furniture household utensils goods chattels and effects now in or upon or about the said Station or any part thereof and all and singular the Ewes and Wethers Sheep and lambs of the Vendor now depasturing on the said Station and under the superintendence of Thomas Wyrley Birch as Manager and also all the horses and mares in or upon the same Station. And also all the cattle and other the livestock of the Vendor of every description now in or upon the said station or any part thereof. And also all the Lambs foals produce and increase arising or to arise from the said sheep lambs mares and other livestock with all benefits advantages and emoluments to arise from the said premises or any of them*” to **J M Dean & Sons** for £5,000. The transfer took effect 1 July 1884 and in November 1884 **John Markham DEAN** divided the lease which originally covered Weddell Island and Port Edgar and transferred Weddell Island to the heirs of **Charles Henry WILLIAMS**, retaining security for the balance of his mortgage money. [BUG-REG-3; pg 235; 241; 315]

On 12 February 1885 **John Markham DEAN** transferred the Port Edgar portion of the lease of Port Edgar and Weddell Island containing 70,640 acres more or less to **Mesrs J M Dean and Sons**. [BUG-REG-2; 315]

On 8 September 1885 Crown Grant 287 was issued to **John Markham DEAN** for £188 being the compulsory purchase of 1,883 ½ acres on Port Edgar. [CG 287]

On 25 August 1892 Crown Grant 351 was issued to **J M Dean & Sons** for £339-1-0 being the compulsory purchase of 3,390 ½ acres on Port Stephens. [CG 351]

On 2 February 1889 there were 4 houses in Port Stephens settlement and about 20 adults and 5 children. There were 2 houses at Double Creek, 1 house at Carew Harbour, Hoste Inlet, Chafer's Gullet, Albemarle and Campbell Creek, all unoccupied. There were 3 houses at Port Edgar and 9 inhabitants. There was one house on Dyke Island and 5 inhabitants. [H43; 52]

On 9 August 1889 the following houses were on Port Stephens and Port Edgar Station:

Port Stephens: Manager's house – **H H HENNAH**, manager
 House 2 – **W CANN**, carpenter
 House 3 – **L J BACK**, boatman
 Cookhouse – occupied
 Store – unoccupied
 Two unoccupied houses

Port Edgar: Manager's house – **J BLACKLEY**, manager
 Cookhouse
 Store

Lucas Rincon: **H BEHRINS**
Hoste Inlet: **A McLENNAN**
Corner Valley: **R McLEOD**
South Harbour: **E McDONALD**
Carew Harbour: **J McCARTIL**
Campbell Creek: Unoccupied
Double Creek: Unoccupied
Albemarle Port: Unoccupied

[H44; 235]

On 10 July 1890 **Charles Montague DEAN** advised that he was leaving for some length of time and requested that when the lease of Port Stephens expired on 27 September 1891 that the new lease was issued in the names of **John Markham DEAN, Orissa Catherine DEAN** and **Charles Montague Dean** instead of **J M Dean & Son**. The lease of Bird Island was separate under a Penguin licence. [BUG-REG-2; 253]



Old shearing shed Port Edgar, 1997 – JCNA

The stone shearing shed at Port Edgar was built circa 1890

On 1 December 1891 J M Dean & Sons were granted an occupation licence of Section 10 Port Stephens for 21 years at an annual rent of £373-17-4. Containing 90,400 acres more or less bounded “*On the North, North West, West, South West and South by the sea starting from the head of the East Arm of Double Creek in Port Richards to the head of Anchor Inlet in Port Stephens thence by a line running East North East three and a quarter miles to the south arm of the head of the North West Arm of Albemarle Harbour, thence by the shores of Albemarle Harbour to the North Head of the North West Arm and from thence by a line running North six and three quarter miles to the starting point at Double Creek*” also the Government Reserve between Port Stephens and Albemarle containing 21,760 acres more or less. [BUG-REG-2; 253]

On 12 August 1895 a lease of Station 10 Port Stephens was granted to **John Markham DEAN, Orissa Catherine Anne DEAN** and **Charles Montague DEAN** for 21 years from 27 September 1891 at an annual rent of £373-17-4. Containing 90,400 acres more or less and bounded “*on the north, north west, west, south west, and south by the Sea starting from the head of the east arm of Double Creek in Port Richards to the head of Anchor Inlet in Port Stephens, thence by a line running east north east three and a quarter miles to the South arm of the head of the north west arm of Albermarle Harbour thence by the Shores of Albermarle Harbour to the north head of the north west arm and from thence by a line running north six and three quarter miles to the*

starting point at Double Creek” also the Government Reserve between Port Stephens and Albemarle containing 21,760 acres more or less. [BUG-REG-5; 267]

On 12 August 1895 a lease of Station 9 Port Edgar was granted to **John Markham DEAN, Orissa Catherine Anne DEAN** and **Charles Montague DEAN** for 21 years from 15 February 1895 at an annual rent of £235-9-4. Containing 70,640 acres more or less and bounded “*on the west by a line running north six and three quarter miles from the north head of the north west arm of Port Albemarle to the head of the east arm of Double Creek in Port Richards (being the south boundary of Station No 10) thence by the shores of Double Creek and Port Richards to the head of Port Richards thence on the north east by the South west shores of the lake or lakes running from the head of Port Richards to the head of Port Edgar thence on the east, south and south west by a the sea shores of Port Edgar, Falkland Sound and Port Albemarle to the starting point at the head of the north west arm of Port Albemarle.*” [BUG-REG-5; 267]

On 6 November 1895 a lease of Dyke Island was granted to **John Markham DEAN, Orissa Catherine Anne DEAN** and **Charles Montague DEAN** for 21 years from 27 September 1891. [BUG-REG-5; 267]

On 9 February 1899 **John Markham DEAN** assigned his three eighths share of Station 9 Port Edgar, Station 10 Port Stephens and Dyke Island to his son **Charles Montague DEAN**. [BUG-REG-5; 267]

Charles Montague DEAN died in England 6 November 1901 and left all his shares and interest in Port Stephens and Port Edgar farm in equal shares to his sons **William Markham DEAN** and **Harold DEAN**. [BUG-REG-6; 101]

Harold DEAN died in 1905 and left his share in Port Stephens Station to his brother **William Markham DEAN**. [BUG-REG-6; 143]

On 26 November 1908 the purchase of the lands comprised in the leases of Port Edgar and Port Stephens, including Dyke Island by **William Markham DEAN** and **Orissa Catherine Anne DEAN** was sanctioned. Section 9 Port Edgar Station, 70,640 acres, and Section 10 Port Stephens 90,400 acres, including Dyke Island and the tussac islands in Reef Harbour and within Port Stephens, Sea Dog Island, Bird Island and Arch Islands, a total of 161,040 acres at 3/- £24,156 less the freeholds under Crown Grants 287 and 351 a total of 5,274 acres at 3/- giving a total purchase price of £23,364-18-0. Ten per cent to be paid 14 February 1909 and the balance by 30 instalments. The lease of the Government Reserve of 21,760 acres which was due to expire in 1913 to be offered to the Deans at 1d an acre. [P4; 202]

On 27 September 1912 the lease of the Government Reserve between Port Stephens and Port Albemarle was renewed for 3 years to **William Markham DEAN** and **Orissa Catherine Anne DEAN**. [P6; 10]

Orissa DEAN died in Stanley 10 September 1920 and left her share in Port Stephens Station to her nephew **William Markham DEAN** subject to annuities to be paid out of her share. [BUG-REG-8; 344]

William Markham DEAN sold Port Stephens Farm to the Falkland Islands Company Ltd 28 February 1945. The buildings were valued at:

Woolshed, workshop and stores	£400
Blacksmith's shop	£5
Oil store (salt house)	£5
Manager's house	£250

Sub-manager's house	£75
Cottage	£75
Double cottage	£100
Small cottage (fetter man's house)	£10
Cook house	£281
Store	£100
Stable	£20
Cow shed	£10
Jetty	£5
Dyke Island camp house	£75
Dyke Island store shed	£10
Cape Orford house and stable	£75
Hoste Inlet house and stable	£75
Cape Meredith shanty	£10
Tiger Bay house (later Lake Hammond shanty)	£10
Black House	£5
Port Edgar house, stable and shed	£50
Double Creek house, stable and shed	£100
Carew Harbour house, stable and shed	£75
South Harbour house, stable and shed	£75

[FIC/ZD2; 210]

A new house was built at Carew Harbour in 1949 at a cost of £1,718-4-11. [FIC/ZD2; 214]

A new settlement house was built in 1950 at a cost of £1,521-12-3. [FIC/ZD2; 214]



Old manager's house, Port Stephens 1940s – Beaty collection, JCNA

The manager's house at Port Stephens was dismantled in 1951 and a new pre-fabricated manager's house was built at a cost of £2,731-9-2. [FIC/ZD2; 210]

A new pre-fabricated cookhouse was built in the settlement in 1952 at a cost of £3,159-9-2. [FIC/ZD2; 214]



Old South Harbour house 1940s – Beaty collection, JCNA

In 1956 a new house was built at South Harbour at a cost of £3,892-15-9 and a new house at Hoste Inlet at a cost of £3,795-7-7. [FIC/ZD2; 215]

A new shanty was built at Tiger Bay in 1957 at a cost of £664-16-9. [FIC/ZD2; 215]

The Hoste Inlet house and the South Harbour house were demolished in 1958. A new hay barn was built in the Port Stephens settlement at a cost of £719-7-7. [FIC/ZD2; 210; 213; 216]



Aftermath of the woolshed fire at Port Stephens – FIC collection, JCNA

Nearly 40% of the woolshed was destroyed by fire during the night of 16/17 November 1962. [FIC/ZD2; 210: FI Monthly Review Dec 1962]

An assembly hall was built in Port Stephens settlement in 1963 at a cost of £538-3-11 with additions costing £2,256 added in 1964. [FIC/ZD2; 216]

On 31 December 1963 the Albemarle Reserve containing approximately 28,380 acres was put up for tender. The sale included approximately 13 miles of internal fencing and a shanty at Cape Meredith but not the buildings and 100 acres of the old sealing station. [FI Gazette 1964; 2]

In 1964 the Dyke Island store shed was scrapped. [FIC/ZD2; 212]

In 1965 a new store was built in Port Stephens settlement at a cost of £4,247-10-6 and a shanty at Peak Rincon at a cost of £478-17-0. [FIC/ZD2; 217]

During 1966 the Reef Harbour house was built at a cost of £3,092-7-5 and a bungalow was built in the settlement at a cost of £2,099-1-9. [FIC/ZD2; 217]

In 1967 central heating was installed in the manager's house at Port Stephens at a cost of £458-10-0. A petrol storage shed (£150), an extension to the Pump House workshop (£100) and an extension to the vehicle shelter (£50) were also built. [FIC/ZD2; 210; 218]

The galley and cook's quarters were built in 1968 at a cost of £3,676-19-10. [FIC/ZD2; 218]

On 31 January 1978 Sea Dog Island and the Arch Islands, including Arch Island East, Natural Arch, Clump Island, Tussac Island, Pyramid Rock, Last Rock, and Albemarle Rock, were declared nature reserves. [FI Gazette 1978; 104]

Port Stephens farm was sub-divided by the Falkland Islands Company Ltd into 5 sections in 1988 and sold to five employees for a total price of £720,000: Port Stephens; South Harbour; Double Creek; Port Edgar; Hoste Inlet. The Falkland Islands Co Ltd financed the sub-division with 25 year mortgages at 11% fixed interest rate. The purchasers were given a one year moratorium on repayments of interest and capital with the first payment on 1 July 1989. Mortgage interest relief grants were approved on 90% of the official valuation of £636,440 bringing the effective interest rate to 7%.

In January 1991 the Falkland Islands Co Ltd placed their remaining agricultural lands on the market and during negotiations the FIG offered to purchase the Port Stephens mortgages, originally £680,000 at a discount and £500,000 was paid. The benefits of the compromise price was passed on to the mortgagors with the proviso that if a mortgagor sold his section within 15 years from 1 May 1991 for a price exceeding the original deposit plus the revised mortgage balance, the difference between that sum and the sale price of the amount of the mortgage reduction, whichever was the lower, would be repaid to FIG unless otherwise agreed with FIG at the time of the sale.