

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No.

369/16

ANT/GEN/1#18

Governor's Office



From		SUBJECT.
Secretary of State for the Colonies.		Sir E. Shackleton's Expedition.
No.	Date.	Arrangements for the despatch of the S.S. "Discovery" for the purpose of rescuing rescuing the members of
86	3rd August, 1916.	

Colonial Secretary's Record No.

MINUTES.

Desp to S/S. No. 170 of 3rd Oct. 1916.

3.10.16

Registered Number of last Despatch.

319/16

No. next Despatch

Conditions of Publication.

No account or narrative, or photographs or sketches of any description, relating to the Search Expedition as conducted by the "Discovery" is to be published, or communicated to any one in such a manner that may lead to its publication, without the written consent of the Secretary of the Admiralty as representing H.M.'s Government.

The rights of publication and the copyrights of all matters which result from the Relief Expedition are vested in his Majesty's Government.

Admiralty ,

2nd August, 1916.

Sir,

I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that consequent on the failure to obtain a suitable vessel in any of the South American Ports, H.M. Government has directed that a vessel should be sent out from England to rescue the members of your Expedition from Elephant Island.

2. The Antarctic Ship "Discovery" has accordingly been manned and fitted out with all despatch and has been put under the command of Lieutenant-Commander James Fairweather, R.N.R. and Ice Master and seaman of proved experience and ability.

3. The "Discovery" will leave Plymouth on the 5th August, and, owing to the urgency of the case, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have decided that she is to be towed to the Falkland Islands.

4. On her arrival at Port Stanley, Lieutenant-Commander Fairweather will at once confer with you as to the steps to be taken to effect the rescue of the party on Elephant Island. He has been directed to take you on board and carry out your wishes as far as possible in regard to all measures you may advise to effect the rescue of your men, but the command of the ship and all who may be on board, as well as the responsibility for the action he takes, must remain in his hands.

5. A copy of the orders given to him is enclosed for your information, from which you will see that, in
the

SIR ERNEST SHACKLETON, C.V.O.

the event of your not being at Port Stanley, or not being able to accompany him in the ship, he is to carry out the rescue of his party to the best of his ability.

6. A copy is also enclosed of a condition, under which all the Officers and Crew of the "Discovery" have been engaged, respecting the publication of matter relating to this Expedition, which My Lords must ask you to consider as binding on yourself.

7. On the return of the "Discovery" to Port Stanley, the rescued men will be landed and transferred to your charge, except that passage home in the "Discovery" will be given to such as are willing and fit to undergo the long voyage in her.

I am, Etc.

(Sd.) W. Graham Greene.

Government House, Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

10th November, 1916.

Dear Admiral Parry,

Let me say that had the opportunity afforded I would gladly have carried out the wishes of the Admiralty, conveyed to me by your letter of the 8th August last, in respect to the "Discovery" employed on the Shackleton Party Relief Expedition.

Believe me

Very truly yours,

Governor.

Please address:—
The Hydrographer,
Admiralty,
London, S.W.

quoting.....

Hydrographic Department,
Admiralty,
London, S.W.

8th August, 1916.

My dear Governor,

You will have already received through the Colonial Office, the official Instructions from the Admiralty to the Captain of the "Discovery" and the Admiralty letter to Sir Ernest Shackleton: if by any misadventure these should not have reached you, the Captain of the "Discovery" will hand you copies of both of these documents for your information.

From these you will see that the intention of the Admiralty is to retain the copyright on all matters connected with the Relief Expedition, and therefore that it is essential that the first news transmitted after the return of the vessel to Port Stanley should

be/

be the official telegraphic report of the Captain of the
"Discovery" to the Admiralty giving full details of the
result of the Relief Expedition.

Very truly yours,

J. F. Parry.

Rear-Admiral and Hydrographer.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

NO: 86

Downing Street,

3rd August, 1916.



Sir,

With reference to my telegram of today's date I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the Admiralty relative to the arrangements for the despatch of the S.S. "Discovery" for the purpose of rescuing the members of the Shackleton Expedition from Elephant Island. The letter for Sir E. Shackleton is enclosed in original.

2nd August '16

2. I request that you will afford all possible assistance to the Relief Expedition.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

A. Bonar Law

GOVERNOR

W. D. YOUNG, ESQ., C.M.G.,

&c., &c., &c.,

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COPY.

ENCLOSURE TO DESPATCH

No. 86 OF 3/8/16

M.48425/16.

Admiralty,

2nd August, 1916.



Sir,

With reference to previous correspondence regarding the Shackleton Relief Expedition, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and for transmission to the Governor of the Falkland Islands, copy of the orders which have been given to Lieutenant-Commander Fairweather, R.N.R., commanding the "Discovery"; also, under flying seal, for transmission through the same channel, a letter to Sir E. Shackleton.

2. I am to request that the Governor of the Falkland Islands may be directed to afford all possible assistance to the Relief Expedition.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) W. GRAHAM GREENE.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE.

COPY.

M.48425/16.

Admiralty,

2nd August, 1916.

Sir,

I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to signify to you their directions, the S.S. "Discovery" being in all respects ready for sea, to leave Devonport in tow of the Collier "Polesley" on such day as that vessel may be ready to proceed to the Falkland Islands.

A copy of the orders given to the Master of the Collier will be sent to you separately.

2. You are to report your arrival at Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, to the Admiralty, as well as your arrival at and departure from any intermediate port which circumstances may require you to enter.

3. You are also to report your arrival at Port Stanley to the Governor of the Falkland Islands and to inform him fully of the object of your mission and the instructions you have received.

4. Should Sir Ernest Shackleton be at Port Stanley, you are at once to confer with him as to the rescue of the members of his Expedition left on Elephant Island. A copy of the Admiralty letter to Sir Ernest Shackleton is enclosed for your information from which you will see that the "Discovery", under your command, is placed at his disposal, and that, subject to the safety and welfare of the Officers and men committed to your charge and to the risk to the
ship

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER

J. FAIRWEATHER, R.N.R.

ship inseparable from such service, you are to take him on board and carry out his wishes as far as possible in regard to all measures he may advise, to effect the rescue of the party.

5. You are to be guided by his advice as to the treatment of the rescued persons who may be helpless or disabled. If any of the party have died and been buried since their landing on the Island, you are to make suitable arrangements to mark their graves, but their bodies are not to be embarked.

6. Should it be found that the party has left Elephant Island, the time during which the search is to be continued and the distance to which it is to extend is left to your discretion, provided that the "Discovery" is back at Port Stanley by the 1st December, 1916.

7. A full record of the first landing of the party, the time of your visit and the names of those rescued and brought away, packed in a watertight cylinder, is to be placed in a Cairn built on some conspicuous point of the Island.

8. On your return to Port Stanley, the rescued men are to be landed and transferred to the charge of Sir Ernest Shackleton, but if you are ordered home you are authorised to give a passage in the ship to any of those who are willing to accept the accommodation which is available and who are certified by the Medical Officer of the ship to be fit to undergo the voyage home.

9. In the event of Sir Ernest Shackleton's not being at Port Stanley on your arrival from England, or,
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in the event of his not being able to accompany you, you are to proceed, with as little delay as possible, to carry out the rescue to the best of your ability, and, in accordance with the preceding instructions.

10. It is their Lordships intention that you should return to Plymouth as soon as you have completed the work of rescue, but definite orders will be sent to you after the receipt of your report of the result of your expedition, which you are to telegraph to the Admiralty immediately on your arrival

I am, &c.,

(Signed) W. GRAHAM GREENE.

Sep 18th

Dear Sir,

I received a telegram from the
Consul at Montevideo as follows:—

"Message from Shackleton Punta
Arenas. Please ship all my stores and
mail by Messrs. Bygon Company London.
Am unable write for mail; urgent
advices require me London."

It would be as well if Mr. Bygon
could arrange to take back the Naval
Stores one day this week, so that we
shall know exactly what belongs to
Sir E. Shackleton.

Yrs faithfully
The Governor

Yours sincerely
W. Mackenzie

THE WESTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.

OFFICE STAMP.



The following TELEGRAM received at 3.20 p.m.

From Monte Video

Foreign No. _____ No. of Words 27

Dated 16th Sept. Time 3.10 pm

To Governor
Port Stanley.

No. AND CIRCUIT.

3. A Inv.

REMARKS.

B. Govt.

CLERK'S STAMP.

Following from Shackleton begins
much regret urgent official advices
require me in England so cannot
touch Falklands writing you fully.
kindest regards message ends.

- Innes =

Telegrams for Europe and beyond should be marked "Via Madeira" to ensure transmission by the direct cable route.

This form must accompany any enquiry respecting this telegram.

Head Office:—"ELECTRA HOUSE," FINSBURY PAVEMENT, LONDON, E.C.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 170.

Government House, Stanley.

3rd October, 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 86, of the 3rd August, 1916, transmitting copies of correspondence on the subject of the arrangements made for the S.S. "Discovery" to relieve the Shackleton party left on Elephant Island, and enclosing a letter, under flying seal, for Sir E. Shackleton.

2. Before the receipt of your despatch Sir E. Shackleton had rescued his party on Elephant Island, and had returned to Punta Arenas. He has informed me that he is proceeding home from Punta Arenas not touching ^{at} Stanley.

3. I return herewith the letter addressed to Sir E. Shackleton.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

Douglas Young
Governor.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

Ac.,

Ac.,

Ac.