

1921

Miscellaneous.
British Imperial
Antarctic Expedition.
No. 1093/21

C.S.

Governor

SUBJECT.

1921

19th Nov

Previous Paper.

British Imperial Antarctic Expedition
Correspondence between W. Lars.
Christensen & Commander Cope.

Letters from W. ^{MINUTES} Lars Christensen
Letter from Comdr Cope
Letter from W. Christensen
H.C.S.

Encl ①
Encl ②
Encl ③

The enclosed correspondence between W. Christensen
& W. Cope was handed to me yesterday by Captain
Hansen Vermelli (The II) who states that W.
Christensen denies that the Government should
be informed of what had taken place

2. When W. Cope returned from South Shetlands
on 4th April last he told me that he was going to
Mount video to purchase a schooner & that he
intended to return to South Shetlands towards
the end of this year. Captain Hansen Vermelli

stated yesterday that he understood that W. Cope
arrived in England in September but had not
approached W. Christensen or any other whaling companies

Subsequent Paper.

with a view to being furnished with a passport to
South Shetland this season.

3. There has been some correspondence with Mr. Bagshaw
the father of one of ^{the two} members of the party who remained
at Andvord Bay when latter returned to Amund-viden.
Mr. Bagshaw (senior) has been in communication
with the whaling companies with a view to their
sending a catcher to Andvord Bay & bringing back
the party which was left there. Captain Hansen
Venneli, ^{senior} father of the captain of Solbrig
& Svend Eyr, ~~was~~ on arrival at Reception Island,
would send out catches which would endeavor
to get through to Andvord Bay as early as
possible & would continue in their efforts until they
succeeded. The result of visit will be reported
to Stanley by wireless.

4. Inquiries South Shetland should see this
correspondence.

En.
19 Nov. 1921.

En. South Shetland
according
JTH 22/11/21

Hon. Col. Sec.

Seen and noted please

J. B. Hamilton

Superintendent

South Shetland

24/11/21

File

1093/27

copy.

Sandefjord 26/II-1920

The British Imperial Antarctic Expedition,
66, Victoria Street,
London S.W.1.

Dear Sirs,

When Mr.Cope came to Norway last summer to order

various outfit he promised to pay as soon as it was ready .As the gear later arrived here I cabled several times to London and asked for remittance.At last Mr.Cope answered that he would bring the money,when he came to Sandefjord.When he,however,came to Sandefjord he did not bring the money ,but he informed me,that he had sold his Cinematographic pictures to New-York and would get money as soon as he arrived there.He therefore asked me to be good enough to make such arrangement that he could remit the money from New-York,On the same day,when "Thor I" left here,he asked me if I could arrange a loan for £ 5000.-for him on condition that the money was returned from New-York.I answered that I could not do it personally,but that I would ask my Co-directors and then inform London.According to this promise I sent the following telegram on the 8th ult.:

" " " Commander Cope left two days ago I have tried arrange some funds for him here but without result stop he promised send necessary money from New-York " " "

When Mr.Cope arrived at New-York he did not,however, send any money,but cabled,that he would send remittance from Montevideo .While the "Thor I" was on passage from Hampton Roads to Montevideo I ~~XXXXXXXX~~ received a telegram that Mr.Williams had returned to London,and from the documents,which he showed me in Paris,I understood,that Mr.Cope had bought his Camera and promised him payment,as soon as he came to London.On his return to London Mr.Williams,however,did not get any money ,and he has therefore been placed into great difficulties.Mr.Williams brought me a letter from MrsCope,in which she asks me to arrange that Mr.Williams Camera should be returned to him.She also informed me that the Expedition had no available money,and consequently she considered it advisable that the Expedition returned from Montevideo.I accordingly sent the following cable from Paris to Montevideo :

" " " Cope not paid his accounts as promised stop We have had outlays and you must not allow Cope remove anything untill all accounts paid stop he has not paid Cinematograph therefore take care Camera and return same Williams or keep onboard stop if Cope as promised can not remit money from Montevideo he must return " " " .

During his stay in Paris Mr.Williams expressed that he should prefer the Camera to remain on board in the "Thor I" until this ship returned from the fishing grounds in May next year.According to Mr.Williams desire and in order to give Mr.Cope another Chance- although he has repeatedly broken his promise- I sent the following new Cable on the 18/II:

" " " Referring first cable inform Cope I am very disappointed he has not remitted as promised but if he will proceed Shetland we will allow him do so on condition he at once makes arrangement pay William and us or he return Thor I April and we have security all he has onboard " " " .

Mr. Cope: On the 23/II I received the following answer from
" " "

I cannot understand or explain difficulty in London
I failed to meet cash for filmrights in America unless
I proceed I am ruined will you allow me to carry on
and trust me till I return in 1922 and use all gear
can sail in Solstreif end week please reply Christophersen
Cope " " " ,

and in reply to this I cabled him as follows:

" " " Carry on and use gear on condition you return Williams
Camera by Thorone end this whaling season also on con-
dition you cinematograph whaling and send me film end
season stop regarding landing and fetching the Com-
panies consider agreement cancelled but leave to
Captains arrange best possible with you show this cable
captain Thorone. " " " .

The Whaling Companies here in Sandefjord have as you
know promised to bring Mr. Cope, his men, dogs and outfit to
South Shetland, land the expedition, fetch them down there and
bring them to Europe, and we have done this in order to render the
British science a service, as we thought that Mr. Cope was under
the protection of Cambridge University. The obligations before
mentioned will cause great expenses for the Whaling Companies
and also much inconvenience:

X X X I thus express my astonishment at being rewarded
in this way, but- although I think it would be the best, that Mr.
Cope returne~~es~~ - I have in my last cable given him another chance,
and trust that the people in Britain, who have to do with this
Expedition, will understand, that we have done as much as we
possibly could under these circumstances to assist the Expedition.

Yours truly

(sign.

Lars Christensen .

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1093/27

The British Imperial Antarctic
Expedition

c/o Messrs Edward Cooper & Sons,

Calle Zabala 1523

Montevideo.

Thursday, July 1921

Dear Mr. Christensen.

I have to acknowledge your letter of 22/6-21 and in reply there to as follows:

- 1) Referring to the outlays you have had for me. In the first place in your own house and without my asking you in any way you offered to pay all my accounts in Norway and it was agreed between us that I should send you monies from New-York, but if anything went wrong, I was to repay you at my earliest convenience. Secondly the only outlay I ever asked you for^{you} did not keep your promise about either.
Furthermore I consider your excuse of Expense for not cauling in reply to my cable not worth considering.
- 2) The cinematograph camera was paid for by Mr. Osborne and also the films and in Montevideo in Dec. 1920 I received instructions that on account of this you had withdrawn all your conditions. When I produced that cable to your servants in order to claim my camera and films I was told that I might possibly have arranged for this false information to be sent to me from London. Furthermore I notice you omit to mention that you returned the Camera and films to London only when threatened with legal proceedings.
- 3) Regarding the film you will no doubt remember that I promised you one copy for your museum for historical and scientific purposes which promise I naturally purpose to keep, but it was given on the absolute understanding that no public exhibitions of any kind for monies should be made.- I hereby inform you that I have instructed my agents in London to take immediate proceedings against you at any time if you give or cause to be given, or at any time take part in, directly or indirectly the public exhibitions of these pictures for money or if you remove or damage any of the film.-
- 4) Concerning my broken promise x to you. The matter of sending you money from New-York was entirely stopped by circumstances over which I had no control and in the case of sending from Montevideo your own underhand and injurious cables prevented my giving you any assistance and as regards the arrangements formerly made being cancelled you have no legal power to cancel such an agreement and in view of the way you have behaved your moral right is very questionable.-
- 5) You say that the Norwegian whalers have in every way tried to assist me and my expedition and to that I reply that the whole of my daily log, which fully and truthfully records all that has taken place, my own private reports thereon supplemented by reports from the British Magistrate at Deception Island and from my men and the whole of the correspondence of every descrip^o

tion that had passed between you and London both before and after my departure and the reports of the interviews between Mr. Williams and yourself have been placed in the hands of those who direct the British Imperial Antarctic Expedition and they have decided to publish these matters with their considerations of them in full so that the treatment we have received may be set in record as a guide to others.-

Yours truly

(sign) John Cope,

Commander B.I.A.E.

R.A.

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1093/21
Sandefjord 5/10-1921

Commander Cope, Esq,

The British Imperial Antarctic Expedition,

p.t.Montevideo.

Dear Sir,

I beg to own receipt of your letter of 22/7, which letter astonished me, and I must most decidedly reject your insinuations.

Regarding this matter I beg to refer to the last passus in your letter of 30/6-20, as follows:

" " " My own arrangements here in this connection are progressing satisfactorily, but there are certain essential articles of equipment (of which I enclose a list) which it has proved absolutely impossible to obtain here, and I therefore propose trying to obtain these articles in Norway. As you will readily understand these articles must, in order to ensure success, be ordered personally, but as I should be a stranger in Norway I should like to arrange my visit to suit your convenience and thus have the benefit of your guidance " " " .

According to our agreement I ordered some equipment for your account, but as the equipment should be delivered and paid, you declined- in spite of several requests- to send remittance. I refer in this respect to our exchange of telegrams, which is repeated in my letters of 1/9 and 17/9, as follows:

Sent : " Please transfer telegraphically seven hundred pounds to pay Bill Claus Andersen Tromsø ".
Rcvd.: " Must have Claus Andersens Bill here I asked him send direct to me end of July ".
Sent: Strongly advise you to transfer money goods having been ready long ago and delivery postponed by sellers courtesy stop fear goods will be returned if Bill not promptly settled ".
Rcvd.: Your cable received and noted shall be Sandefjord in time and all accounts settled by end of next week stop leaving Newcastle twentyeight September arriving Bergen eight morning of thirtieth will this suit ".

When you came til Sandefjord you had- in spite of your promise- in the above telegram- unfortunately no money to pay the ordered equipment, and after your earnest request to me to lay out the money until you came to America, where you said you had

-3- Commander Cope-

as well as the film, which was taken of the whaling at South Shetland. I have sent the Camera to Mr. Vivian Osborne, London, as he has paid Mr. William the cost of it. The Whaling film is in my possession, and I do not under any circumstances wish to part with the same, before my money outlays for your equipments in Norway, as well as your Hotel expenses in Norfolk and the expenses with the return of the film ordered from Montevideo is paid.

These expenses for you are as follows:

Paid account from Claus Andersen of 21/8

& 30/8-20 ~~KRONYELAMSKYANNEKSKAN~~

1919

Aug. 18. 2 par herreskaller + porto
1920

Kr. 51,23

March 29.3 " " " "

" 76.08

March 29.5 25 stk. duntepper a 220/

" 5.500.-

3000 kg. senn-egræs a 1/80

" 5,400.-

July 27: 40 pair skaller & baand

" 1.000.- Kr. 12.027, 31

Paid account of 22/7 & 17/8-20 from J.N.

Bruun, Trondhjem, as follows:

17/8-20. 10 renskinds soveposer a 145.-

Kr. 1450.-

20 " " X a 18

" 360.-

Smøring av skind a poser

35.-

Kr. 1845.-

Emballage

" 10.- " 1.855.-

Account of 22/7:

I renskind sovepose

Kr. 145.-

freight to London

" 16,65

161.65

Paid Hotel account in Norfolk for Cope &

Williams \$ 44.08

328,59

Paid expenses in Montevideo return of film

ordered for Mr. Cope \$ 213,78

1.304,05

Outlays for telegrams

390.-

Guarantee Sætre Kjeksfabrik A/S 2.605.08

Together Kr.18,671.68

The Whaling film received I have developed and it is intention to send a copy of the same to Mr.Vivian Osborne, London ,and keep the originalfilm myself.If I do not in a near future receive remittance for my outlays- as specified above- it is my intention to lend out the film and thus get my expenses refunded.As soon as my expenses are covered,I will place the originalfilm to the disposal of Mr.Vivian Osborne,reserving myself to keep a copy of the same for Sandefjords Hvalfangst-museum.

Yours truly

(sign.) Lars Christensen.