

DEF/NCA/1#18

1397

1397

NAVAL OIL FUEL DEPOT, STANLEY.

Naval Fuelling Depot at Port Stanley - Falkland Islands.

FROM : The Commanding Officer, H.M.S. SUPERB.  
DATE : 28th February, 1951. No. 3086/160.  
TO : The Commander-in-Chief, America and West Indies Station.  
(Copy to: The Honourable, The Colonial Secretary,  
The Falkland Islands, PORT STANLEY.)

---

On Thursday 15th February, 1951, during the visit of H.M.S. SUPERB to Port Stanley, the Naval Fuelling Depot was visited by an Engineer Officer. The following deficiencies were observed:-

1. Window Frames.

The steel window frames in the Boiler House and Pump House are unsuitable for the temperature changes which occur, and the glass panes break frequently. It is recommended that these window frames should be constructed with teak or a material with a suitable coefficient of expansion, and endurance.

2. Wall Covering.

The interior walls of these two Buildings are covered with plaster-made salt water cement. As the cement dries salt is deposited, and the wind drives this deposit to the interior wall, where it is easily visible and can be removed by hand. This salt has a damaging effect upon the machinery, particularly the moving parts. A small area of the wall has been replastered with PUDDLE PLASTER and on this section there is no sign of any salt deposit. It is recommended that the entire walls should be plastered with PUDDLE PLASTER.

3. Oil Fuel Lighter.

The Oil Fuel Lighter in use at present has no wheelhouse. The wheel is exposed to the weather and moving parts frequently seize due to exposure. It is recommended that a wheelhouse be built to improve the life of the wheel and its associated machinery.

4. Telephone Communications when Oiling.

The barge, which holds approximately 450 tons of Oil Fuel, is itself fuelled at the jetty by gravity supply from the tanks, about 300 yards away. It is recommended that a telephone be installed for the wheelhouse mentioned in 3 above, which when connected to shore or ship would provide better communication when fuelling.

5. Official action taken.

It is understood that Admiralty authority to proceed with these recommendations has already been sought by the Falkland Islands Company who maintain this Naval Fuelling Depot.

It is confirmed that they are all most desirable.

W. J. YENDELL.

(W.J. YENDELL)  
CAPTAIN.

APP  
WJY  
24/51

Saving.

MED.296/140/01.

2

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Officer Administering the Government of FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Date 27 May, 1952.

1397

No. 108 Saving.



Admiralty Store Shed.

The Admiralty has received an offer from the Falkland Islands Company Ltd. of £155.10/- for the purchase of a large Store Shed at the Camber which is no longer required for Naval purposes.

2. In the absence of a local Naval Representative the Admiralty have been unable to trace any accurate information about the construction and cost of this shed (formerly known as the Slop Shop), and they would be grateful therefore for your advice as to the reasonableness of the Company's offer.

SECEP.

see 28

*acs. Pl refer to  
on PWD  
2/7*

*See 8*

*C.S. O/c PWD to advise.  
2/7*

*C.S. Draft at cover  
to advise  
3/7*

*O/c PWD.*

*Recalled 3/7.*

1st August,

52.

Sir,

I am directed to forward to you a copy of Savingram No. 108 from the Secretary of State for the Colonies and to suggest that it would be more appropriate if one of your officers could assist us in this valuation.

2. If you agree, the officer concerned should get in touch with Mr. Northwood, the Officer in Charge, Public Works Department, and they can arrange a mutually convenient time for inspecting the building.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) J. E. BRISCOE

ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The Captain,  
H.M.S. St. Austell Bay,  
STANLEY.

IRM.

Copy to O.i/c, P.W.D.

Reply at 4.

B.V. 12/8/52  
S.P.

CONFIDENTIAL

4

H.M.S. St. Austell Bay,  
at Port Stanley.

No. 01/3633.  
THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY,  
PORT STANLEY,  
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

7th August, 1952.

ADMIRALTY STORE SHED.

3

With reference to your letter number 1397 dated  
1st August, 1952, Lieutenant Commander (E) P.J. ARNOLD, Royal  
Navy, of H.M.S. ST. AUSTELL BAY, will assist in this valuation  
and will contact Mr. NORTHWOOD direct.

*Lamin*

(CAIRNS)  
CAPTAIN.

*Bu. 8/9/52*

*Dir P.W.S.  
To see from P.2*

*File*

*11/8*

CONFIDENTIAL

*30  
Bu. 26.8.52*

*H.E.S. noted.  
Dir P.W.S. A.R. 13/8/52.*

5

Record

0 1/2 (W.D.) saw Lt. Comdr. Arnold  
Yesterday.

27.8

66. 4/9.  
27.8

## MEMORANDUM.

It is requested that, in any reference to this memorandum the above number and the date may be quoted.

29th. August, 1952.

To/ The Honourable,

The Act. Col. Sec.

Stanley.

From/ O i/c Public Works.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

## SUBJECT :-

I have the honour to report on the F.I.C's offer for the naval Building on the Camber known as the " Slop Shop" as requested by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:-

In company with Lieutenant Commander Arnold of H.M.S. St. Austell Bay, I inspected the building concerned which proved to be timber framed building, externally lined with heavy gauge corrugated galvanized iron, and internally with plywood, & with a timber floor. The whole standing on wooden piles.

The building is 50' x 20' O.A. Measurements, with a pitched roof, and in a splendid state of preservation, the only signs of deterioration being the disintegration of a small panel of plywood beneath a window.

The cost of the corrugated galvanized iron at present prices would be £196 - 16 - 0 , allowing for 50% reduction as second-hand material, plus 10% for dismantling & transport, puts its value at not less than £80.

It can be seen from this item alone, that the sum offered (155 - 10 - 0 ) is not exactly reasonable, and my estimation of its minimum value is £250 , and Lieutenant Commander Arnold agreed with this figure.

*D. Wetherwood*

Officer-in-Charge,

Public Works Department.

*Register in file*  
29/8

7

G.D. To see 6. re 2.

Gaps report to S of S?

JB  
\*/9

C.S. This has been rather held up, so  
telegram & S/gram at cover to me.

SJ



DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE

Despatched: 5.9.52.      Time: 1400.      Received: ....      Time: .....

2      No 124.      Your Saving Telegram 108/52.      Admiralty Store  
Shed.

Government representative together with Engineer  
Officer of visiting warship consider minimum value of  
shed is £250.      Report follows.

OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

GTC  
SS

9

SAVING TELEGRAM.

From: The Officer Administering the Government of the Falkland Islands.

To: The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date: 6th September, 1952.

No. 199. COLONY.

2 v P

Your Saving Telegram No. 108 dated 27th May and my telegram No. 124 dated 5th September, 1952. Admiralty Store Shed.

10

I enclose an extract from a report by the Officer-in-Charge, Public Works Department on this shed.

See 17

OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

Report by Officer-in-Charge, Public Works Department  
on Admiralty Store Shed. (10)

In company with Lieutenant Commander Arnold of H.M.S. St. Austell Bay, I inspected the building concerned which proved to be a timber framed building, externally lined with heavy gauge corrugated galvanized iron, and internally with plywood, and with a timber floor. The whole standing on wooden piles.

The building is 50' x 20' O.A. measurements, with a pitched roof, and in a splendid state of preservation, the only signs of deterioration being the disintegration of a small panel of plywood beneath a window.

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It can be seen from this item alone, that the sum offered (£155. 10. 0d) is not exactly reasonable, and my estimation of its minimum value is £250, and Lieutenant Commander Arnold agreed with this figure.

- - - - -

104

11

Office of the Commander-in-Chief,  
America and West Indies Station.  
H.M.S. SHEFFIELD  
at Callao.

A.W.I. No. 320/11a.

22nd October, 1952.

6 DEC 1952

Sir,

According to Admiralty records, there is one 14 foot dinghy No. 248, belonging to the Admiralty, in the Falkland Islands, but to the best of my knowledge there are now no Admiralty owned boats there.

In order to clear up this point it would be appreciated if you would inform me whether you are aware of the existence of this boat, and if so, who is now in charge of it.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



LIEUTENANT COMMANDER (S)  
SECRETARY TO THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

The Colonial Secretary,  
Falkland Islands.

Reply at ~~14~~ 15.

2. I understand that there is a 16 foot motor boat on the beach by the oiling jetty which belongs to the Royal Navy. Have you any correspondence on why the boat is here and for what purpose?. If the ship is responsible for its upkeep I would be grateful for any information available.

Yours sincerely

*D. G. D. Hall*

*Mans for 11.*

(D. G. D. HALL - WRIGHT).  
COMMANDER - in - COMMAND.

C. Campbell, Esq.  
Government House,  
Falkland Islands.

*C.P. Above is an extract from a letter from Sr. Snipe - can you give the answer? probably a Company matter.*

*A.C.S. ?*  
*[Signature]*  
*14/12*

*See 11*

*14/12*

13

Mem.

11.12 - Have you any information?

H.E.S.

~~11/12~~  
16/12.

No said boat is on Camber ferry just West of Crane  
F.I.C. are Admiralty's agents for over Camber.  
John P. Oliver

Spoke Mem. - he thinks  
other boats are at the Banters, etc.

J  
17.11.

A H M 17/11/12

1397

~~144~~ 15

22nd December, 52.

Sir,

||

With reference to your letter A.W.I. No. 320/11a of the 22nd of October, 1952, I am directed to inform you that it is understood there is a dinghy at the Naval Oil Fuel Depot, Stanley, and I am to suggest you communicate with Messrs. The Falkland Islands Company, Limited, who are the Admiralty Agents in charge of the Depot.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) J.E. Briscoe

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Secretary,  
Commander-in-Chief,  
America & West Indies Station,  
BERMUDA.

*JES*  
12 - any action  
required, pl.?  
11/16

VP

16.

J.H.

para 2 of your report at 14  
H.M. thinks there are 2 boats.

J.P.B.  
17/1

cf  
N/PAN. co  
it is an AC. matter.  
will realize now that

J.P.B.



Saving.

MOD 296/140/01

1397

17

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Officer Administering the Government of FALKLAND ISLANDS

(COLONY)

Date 23 December, 1952.

No. 203 Saving.



9

Your savingram No. 199 Colony of 6th  
September.

Admiralty Store Shed.

Admiralty now ask whether any better offer than that made by Falkland Islands Company might be obtained from some other purchaser for the building in question. If so they would be good to consider it. Grateful if you could institute enquiries.

?

SECR.

*CS I spoke with S/W - he would like this shed for a petty warehouse for which he has provision. telegram at cover to advise*

*@ 7/22 acs*

*Reply at 18*

18

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE

Despatched: 9. 2. 53. Time: 11.39 Received: ..... Time: .....

17.

No. 32. Your Telegram No. 205/52 Saving.  
Admiralty Store Shed.

Government will offer £250 for the building.

OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

G.T.C.: VP

Bu  
15/3/53  
~~20/3/53~~

Reply at 19.

DECODE.

19

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched: 7.3.53 Time: 1130 Received: 9.3.53 Time: 0845

A

18 No.45. Your telegram 32. Admiralty Store Shed.

Your offer acceptable <sup>to</sup> Admiralty who are willing  
dispose shed accordingly.

SECEP.

See 20

P.u. on file pl.  
(Intld.)  
J.B.  
9.3.53

See 28

G.T.C.  
VP/CGG

S/w. B  
Spike HES. -

pl. average  
payment during the current financial year,  
i.e. before 21.3.53.  
S.173

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE

Despatched: 16.3.53      Time: 1120      Received: :.....      Time: ....

19 No.56. Your telegram No.45 of 1953.      Admiralty Store Shed.  
Crown Agents being instructed to pay £250 to Admiralty.

OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE  
GOVERNMENT.

see 28,

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From Colonial Secretary.....

To Crown Agents London.....

Despatched: 16th March, 19 53 Time: 1120

Received: ..... 19 .. Time: .....

Please pay Admiralty £250 being purchase price of Admiralty Store Shed at Stanley and debit Colony General Account. Purchase was negotiated by Secretary of State and his telegram No.45 of 1953 refers.

19

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

G.T.C.  
CGG

See 20  
acs 19 B. N  
a. n. n. p. l. ?  
✓  
18/18/53  
Da

1397

22

2nd September, 55.

URGENT

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that Government purchased from the Admiralty in March of this year the cancer building known as the "Slop Shop".

2. However, when the Superintendent of Works recently went to arrange for its dismantling and removal he found that it was still being used by you as a store.

3. It would appear that the Admiralty have failed to send the necessary notification to you or their local agents and though Government requires immediate vacant possession it is not desired in view of this probable misunderstanding to put you to any great inconvenience.

4. I am to enquire therefore if it would be possible for you to arrange alternative storage accommodation within one week.

I am,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) C. Campbell

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The Commanding Officer,  
H.M.S. Verran Bay.

Copy to: Superintendent of Works, Public Works  
Department.  
Colonial Manager, Falkland Islands  
Company, Limited.

24.9/9/55



23

H.M.S. VERYAN BAY,  
at Port Stanley.

3rd September 1953.

No. 830/12/A.

Sir,

Thank you for your letter No. 1397 dated 2nd September 1953, which was the first intimation I have received that the building known as the "Slop Shop" at the Camber was not in fact the property of the Admiralty.

The Admiralty Agents have no knowledge of the sale of this building, which is at present serving an essential purpose for the storing of naval equipment and stores.

I have accordingly informed both the Commander-in-Chief America and West Indies Station and the Admiralty by signal of your desire to take possession of this hut, pointing out the inconvenience and financial liability to the Royal Navy that such an evacuation would involve.

I must therefore request that any further action may be deferred until a reply to my signal is received.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*R.G.W. Hare*

(R.G.W. HARE)  
CAPTAIN

*See 26*

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY  
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(Copy to: The Colonial Manager,  
The Falkland Islands Company Limited.  
The Superintendent of Works,  
Public Works Department, STANLEY.)

*Reply at 24.*

5th September 53.

Sir,

23

I am directed to refer to your letter of the 3rd of September, 1953 (ref: 830/12/A) and to confirm that further action by Government will be deferred until you have received a reply to your signal.

2. In view, however, of the Government's urgent need to take possession of this building I am to reiterate the hope that the matter will be satisfactorily concluded within a week.

3. Though the "Flop Shop" is at present housing naval equipment and stores it is thought that there are sufficient empty Admiralty buildings at the Cumber to provide alternative accommodation.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) C. Campbell

Reply at 25

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The Commanding Officer,  
H.M.S. Veryan Bay.

Copies to: Manager, Falkland Islands Co., Ltd.  
Supt. of Works, Public Works Dept.





H.M.S. VERYAN BAY,  
at Port Stanley.

6th September 1953

No.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge your letter No. 1397 dated 5th September 1953, and I am grateful for the information contained in paragraph one.

2. I will continue to press the Admiralty for a reply but I am none too sanguine as to receiving an early ~~reply~~ <sup>reply</sup>. It appears to me that the Admiralty have been badly advised regarding the sale of this hut as the other buildings at the Camber are not watertight, and are, by Admiralty instructions, being allowed to dilapidate and are therefore not suitable stowages for perishable articles.

3. Since, however, I have no information whatever of events leading to the sale beyond that given by you to Lieutenant Commander BAIRD, I am pressing only for approval in principle to hire transport to and from the W/T station or to hire storage space from the Falkland Island Company, both of which will, of course, cost the Admiralty money. I wish if possible to avoid the alternative of re-embarking the articles now stored in the hut, as storage space onboard is very limited owing to the additional equipment needed to keep a ship self-supporting in the Falkland Islands.

4. The whole problem is not, therefore, so simple as it might first appear, and the period of one week which you mention is short under the circumstances.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*I am NOT prepared to wait indefinitely and have also informed Capt Hare that I am not prepared to go back on the arrangement. A sale is a sale.*

*See 26*

*R.G.W. HARE*

(R.G.W. HARE)  
CAPTAIN, ROYAL NAVY.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,  
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

*4th. See sec 22 (25) - if no reply by Monday I support we attach through Co. n.d. (17) - (2).*

*9/9*

*BU. 14/9*

*Res. Inc. 9/ix*

*SA*



~~451~~  
26

H.M.S. VERYAN BAY,  
at Port Stanley.

9th September, 1953.

No:- 833/12/A.

Sir,

23  
25

Further to my No.830/12/A of 3rd September and 831/12/A of 6th September, I have been ordered by the ~~Commander-in-Chief~~, America and West Indies Station to defer any action pending a reply from the Admiralty.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*R.G.W. Hare*

(R.G.W. HARE)

CAPTAIN, ROYAL NAVY.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,  
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

*Prof.*

*I am very unimpressed.  
me.*

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

28

URGENT.

From GOVERNOR to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Despatched : 14.9.53. Time : 1340. Received : ..... Time : .....

19 u 20

No. 168. CONFIDENTIAL. Your telegram No.45 and my telegram No.56. Admiralty Store Shed. Payment was made via Crown Agents in March and transaction closed but I had no occasion to take actual possession until 2nd September when circumstances demanded that I obtain immediate possession and contractor was ready to dismantle and move the building. As however local Admiralty agents (Falkland Islands Company who had made earlier inferior bid quoted in your Savingram 108 of 27th May, 1952) and Captain of visiting frigate had not been advised of transaction they have referred matter to C. in C./A.W.I. from whom no reply has yet been received. As I have immediate need of this building which Administration bought in good faith and has paid for and this shilly-shallying is causing me considerable inconvenience grateful if Admiralty be requested give instructions for its release forthwith.

2. I suspect that attempt being made persuade Admiralty rescind sale on grounds building required for essential stores, argument which I am not repeat not prepared accept as they have two larger buildings alongside which will serve their purpose equally well.

GOVERNOR.

Bu. 24.9.53

249

Reply at 29

DECODE.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched: 16.9.53. Time: 2110. Received: 17.9.53 Time: 0845

28 CONFIDENTIAL. No. 123. Your telegram 168. Store Shed.

Admiralty promise to take immediate action expedite release.

SECR.

HE advised. By 19/9

17/9

ACS Has this now been dismantled?

2/10

By 30/9

ACS.

P.W.D. report not dismantled as yet pl. 7

By 1 week - 3/10

10/2/19/53  
21x.

So, when will this building be  
erect ed? for the ~~cost~~ put in  
on the ~~site~~ <sup>for</sup> the ~~cost~~ erect in but  
the ~~cost~~ <sup>frill</sup> ~~cost~~ <sup>frill</sup>

Spoke So. - no ~~Asst~~ necessary  
warehouse to be constructed from

- both  
Head VIII 1017.

10/10

10/10

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

CONTRACT BETWEEN J.S. BARNES & P.W.D. 21/10/ 1953.

I contract to remove a building at the Camber and re-erect same on Government Jetty and to give the building two coats of paint.

The paint will be supplied by the Government.

The contractor will assist with loading at the Camber and discharging on this side.

It is also agreed that the Government will supply transport for the men to and from the Camber.

I am prepared to carry out the above work for the sum of £250 (Two Hundred & Fifty Pounds.)

The whole of the works to be carried out to the satisfaction of the Superintendent of Works or his representative.

*E. J. Dunstan P.P. J Barnes*  
..... Contractor.

*A. G. Gutterwood*  
..... Witness.

*A. G. Gutterwood*  
..... Signed on behalf of Government.

*A. G. Gutterwood*  
..... Witness.

B.  
File: 1 copy.  
& pass 1 to CT.  
*[Signature]*  
21/10

C.  
a.c.s.  
Action taken as at  
B pl.  
*[Signature]*  
3/11

*[Signature]*  
3/11

DECODE.

32.

TELEGRAM.

No. 11.

From Admiral Youngsfield, Cape Town.

To His Excellency the Governor.

Despatched : 2nd September, 19 57 Time : 11.30.

Received : 3rd September, 19 57 Time : 09.30.

Restricted. From Commander-in-Chief South Atlantic Station Ashore to Admiralty info. (repeated) Colonial Secretary Falkland Islands, Commander-in-Chief South Atlantic Station Afloat Warrior, Health (?) Buenos Aires. Warrior reports that repairs to the tanks at Port Stanley exceed capability of two welders referred to in Admiralty 190930 July.

2. Following additional ? are required:-

(a) two Shipwrights or boiler makers

(b) two labourers.

3. This labour is not available locally.

4. Both oxygen and acetylene are in short supply in the Falkland Islands. Warrior will land empty cylinders Montevideo 12th September for charging and return to Port Stanley by s.s. "Darwin".

5. Air letter being forwarded to C.E. ? C. Pinner.

6. Nothing ? available here concerning work intended Falkland Islands.

7. Request you inform Colonial Secretary Falkland Islands and this H.Q. of you intentions.

ADMIRAL YOUNGSFIELD  
020753.

Cypher-Navy Six.  
LJH.

Note.

I have passed a paraphrase of this message to Mr Stone of the F.I.C. today the 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 1957.

M.F.A. P.A. on file  
until a reply is received from Admiralty.

*[Signature]*

3.2.57.

TELEGRAM SENT.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR

Despatched : 3.9.57. Time 1050 Received : 4.9.57. Time : 1200

RESTRICTED. 104. Following telegram  
311737Z August from Commander-in-Chief, S.A.S.A.  
afloat addressed to Commander-in-Chief S.A.S.A.  
ashore repeated for information of Colonial  
Secretary, Falkland Islands, Warrior, begins:

Your 240705Z not to all. Welders  
arrived 22nd August to undertake repairs to  
Port Stanley tanks.

2. Examination of tanks by shipwright  
officer, H.M.S. Warrior shows to be beyond  
their capabilities.

3. Following additional men are required:

- (a) 2 shipwrights, <sup>or</sup> 2 boiler makers and
- (b) 2 labourers.

This labour not available locally.

4. There is shortage of oxygen and acetylene  
in Falkland Islands. Warrior will land empty  
cylinders at Montevideo for charging and return  
Port Stanley in s.s. "Darwin".

5. As you have background information not  
available to me, request you will report to  
Admiralty.

6. Letter with details follows by air. Will  
be copied to C. E. in C. Pinner, Admiralty is  
requested to re-encrypt and pass to Colonial  
Secretary. Ends.

*C. J. J.*  
*5.9.57.*

Cypher 'E': SJA/FC.

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*  
*30/2*