

C. S.

LEGAL (Miscellaneous)

POLICE & PRISONS
(Miscellaneous)

DEF/POL/2#36

1945.

No. 55/45.

Chief Constable.

SUBJECT.

19 45.

9th June.

File 30-6-45

Previous Paper.

POLICE REPORTS.

See also 0019 "Die in Gate Bushes"

MINUTES.

1. Minute from Chief Constable of 9. 6. 45. *pa.*
2. " from N.O.I.C. of 16. 6. 45.
3. " " Chief Constable of 5. 12. 45. *pa.*
4. " " Supr. of Education " 10. 12. 45. *pa.*
5. " " Chief Constable - 14. 12. 45. *pa.*
6. " " " " 22. 12. 45. *pa.*

*Pl. ask C. C. to arrange for signals
& refer hydrant question to both J. Gibbs
& Ex. Eng.*

AB 28/12/45

*Ch. Constable (8)
To you as in (7) pl.
D.H.P.
28/12/45*

*H.C.S. (9)
Noted, as per attached Minute*

*CC
31/12/45*

Subsequent Paper.

10. Minute from Chief Constable of 31/12/45

Ch. Constable

Your suggestions at (10) approved provided they are acceptable to the Supt. S.F.B.
Will you please arrange with E.E. and M.C.F.I.J.F.

An advertised trial alarm might be staged as a test

A.H. Jones
2/1/46

Act Col Sec.

The suggested signals at (10) are acceptable to the Supt. S.F.B.

Minute find to E.E. and M.C.F.I.J.F. with copy of (10) attached.

Trial alarm as above - listed.

Chappes
Chapman
3/1/46

B.W. 15/1/46
15/2/46

Minute from Chief Constable of	14. 1. 46.	13.
" " " " "	12. 4. 46	14. <u>PA</u>
" " " " "	15. 5. 46	15. <u>PA</u>
Minute from Chief Constable of	20. 5. 46.	15.

J.E.

may wish to see (15).

Abel
2/1/46

PA

Minute from Act. Ch. Constable of	4. 11. 46	17.
" " " " "	6. 11. 46	18. <u>PA</u>
" " " " "	15. 11. 46	19. <u>Abel</u> 7/11/46

Letter to Supt, S.V. Fire Brigade of 19.11.46 20.

Minute from Act. Chief Constable of 18.11.46 21.

(19) 57 When will the new sign be ready?

Abel
29/1/46

J.C.
I have spoken to S.C.T., who is going to test syren, and Mr. Mercer tells me that the delay in carrying out the test is due to unforeseen faults which have occurred in laying the new cable between the Lower House and G.H. & other buildings to the West, including the Control.

A.H.G.
19/11/46

R. report in a week time in (23).

B.M. 27/11/46
5/12/46

ABE
20/11/46

A.C.S.
S.C.T. informs me that he has carried out a preliminary test but on account of the high power of the syren the electric light engines could not provide current for it and light the town at the same time. He is going to discuss the matter with Supr. Stanley Fire Brigade.

A.H.G.
3.12.46

It is important that something simple & efficient shd. be available in the earliest moment. Mr. Spence. Please let me know the position in a week.

B.M. 13/12/46
16/12

ABE
6.12.46

A.C.S.
The new syren was tested in the vicinity of the Police Station at ground level with varying degrees of success. Arrangements are now being made to temporarily erect the syren on the F.I.D.F. Krill Hall for a further experimental test.

A.H.G.
13.12.46

Further report after new test etc.

BU 20/12/46

ABE
13.2

New Report
on WT Line

Minute from Acting Chief Constable of 19. 12. 46

29.

30

ME.

(29) It seems that the test was provided
was done by civilian assistance.

31.

ABE
23.12

Yes - quite a lapse of time between the report from the Chief Station at
6:30 and report from me 23/12
WT station at 6:54.
Not on pigon, though.

ABE
24.12

BU 20/12/46

Minute from A. B. the Governor of 5. XII. 46. 32.

Copy of Minute from A. B. Constable to H.O.E. of 9.1.47. 33.

34

Ch. Constable

(33) Thank you. There is reason to
believe that his may have been connected with
the fire in the garage in G.H. Paddock

2. What was state of ride at 10:30 pm.
on 2.1.46?

3. I believe N.O.I.C. explained why
you were not informed Ministry of breaking
entering these books? Yes, the report.

35.

ABE
13.1.47

Hon. Col. Sec.

Thank you. report sent in 15-1-47

36

Ch. Constable

Have you ever not at any time
officially informed by the N.O.P.C. of the
'breaking & entering' or of the theft
of the beer?

ABE

37

16.1.46

Hon Col. Sec.

No official report from N.O.P.C. but he apologized
to me on the road for not having done so, & takes it that
the report from the Canteen manager was by the N.O.P.C.
Command.

J Mag C.C.
17/1/47

38

Chie

(32) § 2.

When is the report?

I have seen it somewhere.

2. H.E. completed by Hammett
personally on 3.1.47.

ABE

18.1.47

A.B.S

39.

Pl. see 0019/1 atched.

MS
20/1/47

Memo from Ag Chief Constable of 31.3.47

41

This is an instance of the lack of
control of firearms here. See with
216/30 for ledger here. 3/6

ABE
3.4

PA ABE
15/1

PA ABE
20/1
40
31/4

PA
1/16. which
control of
arms etc

Memo. from Ag. C/constable of 12.5.47

42

43

Ag. C.C. ^{House} Re. add the fire at Gort & Padstow.

ABE
13.5

Hon. Col. Sec

44.

collected as requested thanking you

11/11/47
cc
13/3/47

45

JE

(42) for info re. JE may wish to mention this to Capt. Sheppard on his return.

2. (40) removed in JE's absence.

3. There are only 4 P.C.'s they cannot be everywhere. Some 1200 hours is enough of that, for sake of a better road, I might call C.I.D. mind's eye.

Agree - but

how some of them have had any training.

4. 1-45. Lower like to send the I consider Sgt. Morris has acted creditably as Ch. Constable. He is the only non-F. Islander.

Noted.

ABE
15.5

46

B.V. return of CC from leave.

MC. 17/4

Memo. from Police Constable of 6.6.47

47

Further Action in O352 'Vanning Papers' PA ABE
21.7

Bo. activities
ABE
21.7
16/6
31/6
12/7
19/6
31/6

48

Memo from Ag. Chief Constable of 25.9.47.

(49)

Y.E.

(48) Well & satisfactorily handled by all concerned

(Intld) A.B.M.

26.9.

(50)

✓
(Intld) M.C.

26/IX

51.

Memo from Ag. Chief Constable of 23.12.47.

52.

" " " " " " 18.1.48.

(53)

S.E.T.

(52)

I spoke about this today. Pl. give your comments and confirm that an arrangement satisfactory to the Supt. P.B. has now been made.

(Intld) A.B.M.

19.1.

(54)

Hon. Col. Sec.

The siren failed to work because it had not been turned for some months, and the oil had solidified in the bearings. This Dept. rectified this fault at 1.50 a.m. Sunday morning.

2. Siren will be tried daily in future to ensure that the motors are in order. Do you agree pl?

3. An extension bell from the Exchange Night alarm will be installed in the Ch. Constable's Bedroom and will be in working order by noon 20 Jan.

(Intld) A.M. S.E.T. 40 4 18

Record.

(now 19-22 in 137/45).
55-58 removed bodily to ~~209/46~~ - Reg
Night Telephone Service.

137/45

V.P. 22/1/48

memo. from Ag. Chief Constable of 28.1.48

60

PA
ABL
22/1

61

YE.

(60) N.O.T.C. has sent a copy to
C.O. H.T.C. 'Snipe' for. no action
is necessary.

ABL
30.1

62

MC 25/

PA
ABL
31.1

memo. from Chief Constable of 28.4.48

63

64

YE.

(63) shows that everything possible was done
- Ch. Constable his helpers were
ranked.

2. x 2 (63 A) to: Hardy was of course
not 'lent' to 'J.B.' At all times the
Ch. Constable was in charge of the search
arrangements. If YE agrees I will
show him (63) & ask about the statement
that the search had been 'inadequate'.
His part in the search was limited, I
gather, to taking upon himself the
duplication of direction for the 'J.B.'. He
didn't lead: those who did felt

Agree.
MC 1/

Just tell him the gist and say that Government is
fully satisfied that the Constable has done everything possible: we don't want to start bad blood between latter & Hardy.

that their energies were largely wasted because of the close search reported at ϕ B - f. But it was as well they went.

3. The suggestion that the search was 'inadequate' is quite untrue. All Berkeley Sound from Long Island to Men. gear: - Port Lillian from there to Spanish Cove, has been searched by that Friday when the suggestion was made (1) to me verbally, (2) in the paper at (63A) - as well as Lighthouse to York Bay twice. And Mr. Kitching had accounted for the western search (x or (63)).

4. The only areas not searched - except with glasses - were the islands (Cobon, Kidney - now - & Lillian) they were inaccessible owing to the weather.

5. If there was any boat to Loring nearby had reported it once something might have been done ((63) §3). There is too much talk, as usual, in this case.

Quite so.

As usual.

CS.
I am entirely satisfied that the Chief by
EJH
Commandant took all proper steps in this matter and that no more could have been done. I am obliged to him & his helpers.
MS. 30/IV

C2

Today would be another very good day for a further search by Philomel if there are any adjacent islands not yet visited.

MC $\frac{1}{V}$

Ch. Constable.

67

Adam seen by me to day only. But I had seen E.K. She informs me in 1.v. 48 that 'the come' was three weeks ago.

2. Re. report position

3. I have seen hi: Hadj who explains x a (63c) by saying that the country between Menqay - Mt. Low to the West Head has not been searched until the Sunday. He admits the coast was searched. I questioned the value of any other search but incline to accept his view that it was desirable* to hope for both to prove: was conciliatory. I hope you will agree that the matter may be rest.

4. Re see 64-65.

by
3.5

* from a practical point of view, with 40 men to 2-3 miles of coast, it was almost useless.

4 68

Hon. C. S.

This file reached me 4.v.48.

Fair comment.

2. Regarding your interview with Mr. Hardy (your para 3), I think it only right to point out that he did not at any time suggest a search of the country between the places mentioned and neither was it searched on the Saturday when the volunteers he had called for went ashore. Had this been the case, he would no more have agreed to 40 going ashore instead of 80 than I would. We were looking for wreckage and this would not be found half way up Mount Low. Much of the Camp was, in fact, covered, of course, by the original searchers in crossing and recrossing the camp and by the 40 put ashore again on the Saturday but there was no question of searching the camp in either case.

3. To date, there is nothing really useful to report. Searching has continued. It is interesting to note, perhaps, that a boat lost from the Alert last Wednesday, near the Camber, was picked up about a mile West of the Light House on Sunday afternoon and identified at 8.30 am yesterday 3rd May. I visited Johnson's Harbour yesterday in the Philomel and learned that Mr. Smith junior and his sister were still searching the area near Cow Bay. I expressed our appreciation of all the efforts they had already made in this case. We inspected Cochon Island closely on all sides but found nothing. We also inspected Kidney Island again without going ashore but in vain. I now feel that apart from an occasional search of coasts after heavy gales nothing more can be done.

4. I have no wish but to co-operate in every way with Mr. Hardy and am perfectly content to leave the matter in your hands provided that, as in this instance, I am given the opportunity of stating the facts.

5. 64-65 noted and I am grateful for your kind appreciation of our efforts.

A. Denton
 Chief Constable.
 4th May, 1948.

68

Y.E.

67, 68 fi. Let it rest at that?

h
 S.S.

Yes.
 me. 5

69 Memo. from Chief Constable of S.C. 48.

YE

(69) Having been there on the occasion of the fire, having examined the site in daylight, I agree with the suggestion that it was deliberately caused: the possibility of an accidental spark from Smith's house is there: but it seems v. unlikely. The wind (or rather an eddy) might have carried a spark from the conservatory fire here. But that seems even less likely, for the wind was N.W.

2. x1 of § 2 is v. disturbing & will require the reason.

by
S.B.

(I thank S.F.B. by telephone & letter, in belief of YE, on 2.6.48).

71.

Sean - This has happened on previous occasions (at least two) and is almost certainly the work of some corner-boy. A warning should issue as to the penalty for arson?

MC 5/VI

1
to Sean
P.H.L.
7/6/48
unless.

72. Public Notice of 9/6/48.
(Copy filed on 0019 - outbreak of fever in Gorse Bushes on G.H. Paddock).

73. Police Reports of 8/6/48.

74

7E.

(3) That is something. But can allow for his natural agitation at the time / Don't think Clark was v. bright (at x).

✓

75

by 11.6

If the notice at 72 has not issued, understand that this has happened on several occasions - the only thing that will do any good is a conviction.

mc. 12
vily

See report notice
has issued for 8/2/6.

PAK
12/6

CLOSED
See 1417

9th June, 45.

Naval Officer in Charge,

The Chief Constable,
Police Office,

Port Stanley,

Falkland Islands.

I have the honour to report on the following incident involving Leading Seaman A. Smith and Supply Assistant (?) R. Ruberry, as witnessed by Petty Officer J. Fisher, who was accompanied by another Petty Officer.

2. The facts were placed before me and I do hereon set them out as follows :-

3. At 0115 hours on the 9th of June '45, soon after the end of a private party in the Gymnasium where the Ratings in question had just come from, a group of five men were observed to be quarrelling on Ross Road in front of the Deanery and causing a minor disturbance one was seen lying on the ground.

4. Constable J. Norris who was on duty at the time and standing nearby the Police Station, immediately went to investigate and to take such action as seemed necessary. His action was to address the party as a whole all of whom were then standing, and to caution them as to the offence by continuing this brawl on the Public Highway.

5. Smith apparently was in an aggressive mood to all and sundry and amongst others who he attempted to strike with his fist was Constable J. Norris who immediately retaliated with his baton striking him on the shoulder, the blow being sufficient to (a) quieten and bring Smith to reason and (b) to break the baton in two, one half striking Smith on the head.

6. In accordance with Constable Norris's statement and after carefully considering all facts, it is presumed that Smith was unaware that he almost committed a grave offence by attempting to strike a Police Constable and it is considered that because of this, no prosecution will be made by the Police Force in this instance.

7. In conclusion I wish to record this incident and to state that it is in the interests of Good Order and Naval Discipline, as well as in the interests of the Good Order of the Community.



Chief Constable
Falkland Islands Police

Copies for information to:-

Col. Sec. (Chief of Police)
Magistrate.



1/12

(1)

Police Office,
Stanley.
9th June, '45.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

I have the honour to submit the attached on an ~~is~~ incident involving Naval Ratings and the action taken accordingly.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Sheppard". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Chief Constable,

(2)

Office of
The Naval Officer-in-Charge,
New Zealand.

16th June, 1945.

No. F 37.

The Chief Constable, Stanley.

copy: The Honourable The Colonial Secretary
The Magistrate.

Reference your Minute of the 9th June,
I have duly investigated the case and the necessary
disciplinary action has been taken.

Your co-operation in the interests of
Good Order and Naval Discipline is appreciated.

R. G. Gilbert

Commander, R.N.
Naval Officer-in-Charge

No.

MINUTE.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute the above Number and the date may be quoted.)

5th December, 1945.

To The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

From The Chief Constable,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Reference: Incedents involving damage to Government School Property.

I have the honour to report on incedents which ocured between 6.p.m. on Monday 3rd. and 8.30.a.m. on Tuesday 4th December, 1945.

2. Acting on a telephone report from Mr. Baker, Superintendent, I arrived at the School at about 9. 10. a.m. and interviewed Mr. Baker who explained briefly the incedents and, who at the same time produced a small stone alleged to have been found on the floor in the West-end Cloak-room about 3 ft. from a broken window pane, situated in the West wall of the main building.

3. On the way into the main building I was shewn the half window which was almost devoid of glass for about 5/7ths of its area and it was fastened by its latch. From appearances the glass had been sufficiently broken to allow a person to reach inside and unlatch this half window after which it would have been possible to have opened the other half and allow for entry into the building. A waste pipe and bracket to same nearby would possibly have had enabled a very agile person with a long reach to effect the entry, or possibly with the assistance of another person. No positive signs of recent making were evident, but I consider that the paint and wood dressing shew signs of some clambering around the immediate vicinity, which may have been done at any time after the last exterior decoration.

4. I next entered the building and was shewn the cross marked on the floor where the stone was found but unfortunately the glass had been cleared up and a few small pieces were in the wash basin under the window with the damaged pane. Here again I was unable to trace any recent marks or signs of a person having entered through the window.

5. I was then shewn the damaged piano which was blistered and charred around the facings on the front and sides, the plywood veneer seemed to have been scorched and blistered by the cover most of which was reduced to ash. However large pieces were unburnt a piece of which Mr. Baker and I set alight with a match, it burned freely. The complete top part of the cover i.e. that which was resting flat on the top of the piano, was untouched. A hymn book on top of the keyboard cover was also untouched except for a slight brown scorch mark. The back of the piano was not marked.

6. I concluded from the abovementioned discription that the cover smouldered and although it may have broken into flame it certainly did not start, with a flame. It must have started by some other heat agency such as a lighted cigarette end.

7. Nearby residents were questioned on the possibility, of some information being obtained on this theory of some person or persons forcing an entry into the building. Some passers-by were also questioned negative results were obtained in both cases. This applies to the damage to the piano and to the window. Mr. Baker has questioned a number of school children and declares that he has no suspicions regarding any of them.

8. In conclusion I beg to state that the incedent remains unsolved with the fallowing theories and of the causes thereof.

1. Piano.

- 1. Piano. Damaged to the extent of blistering and charring of of its surface by the cover which had smouldered, whilst covering the same.
Cause. Unknown, most likely by accident or carelessness
- 2. Window. Damaged to the extent of requiring a complete new pane of glass. Broken by a stone and the removal of fragments by hand.
Cause. Willfull damage by some person or persons unknown.

The piano and window damage may be connected with each other, or may be entirely seperate incidents. The mere fact of each being noticed almost at the same time, does not necessarily denote that they had any connection with each other, this therefor does not allow for a positive decision. It may be possible that the breaking of the window was intended to screen an act of carelessness. Further investigations will continue and, it is submitted that matters of relative importance will be forwarded as a supplementary to this Report.

C. Sheppard
Chief Constable.

Copy to: Magistrate (for information)

No.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above Number, and the date may be quoted.)



MINUTE.

10th. December, 19 45.

To Hon. Colonial Secretary,

STANLEY.

From Supt. of Education,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

I have the honour to report that on the night of Monday, 3rd. December, a certain amount of damage was done at the Government School. A casement window (forming one of a pair) was broken, the cloth cover on the new piano was burnt, and the piano itself was charred. The window had evidently been broken from the outside, and a stone was found inside among the broken glass. In addition to actual damage, two casement windows (the one alongside the broken window, and one on the opposite side of the school) were open when the caretaker came to school that morning. There were also fresh scratches on the wall beneath the broken window - scratches that could have been made by someone climbing in through the open window.

2. The damage was first discovered by the caretaker on Tuesday morning, when he came down to the school to light the fires. He met me on my way to school, and informed me of it. After inspecting it, I phoned the police, and kept the children away from the broken window and burnt piano until Capt. Shepherd had examined the damage.

3. Although it is possible that the piano cover was set alight accidentally, and that there is no connection between the burnt piano and the broken and open windows, it seems to me more likely that someone broke the window in order to open the one alongside it and to climb in, and then set fire to the piano-cover, with the intention either of damaging the piano or of destroying the school.

4. I have given Capt. Shepherd all the information that I had that might be of any use in his investigations. I have questioned some of the school boys, and Capt. Shepherd has made enquiries of some of the people who we learnt were in that neighbourhood on Monday night. Up till now, however, neither of us has learnt anything of any value about the damage, except that there seems to have been a little more rowdyism than usual in that neighbourhood on Monday night.

H. J. Baker,

Supt. of Education.

No.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute the above Number and the date may be quoted.)



MINUTE.

14th December, 1945.

From The Chief Constable,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

To The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley.

Ref; Fire incident - F.Is. Coy's East Jetty.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the above.

At approximately 1045 hrs. a telephone report was received at my house stating that there was a fire at the East Jetty. The duty Constable was on patrol and I was on business in the E. & T. Dept., however Mrs. S. phoned O'Sullivan who has a telephone in his house and, who promptly gave the alarm by the firing off of the maroons. This was at 1051 hrs.

2. On arrival at the scene of the fire, which was then giving off dense black smoke, I noticed that a trailer pump was in action and a good pressure was being directed at the fire. Cmdr. Cobbold suggested and then took steps to reinforce with the pump from the Camber. About 15 drums of parafin were removed from the outside hulk which had caught fire along the gunwales.

3. It was apparent within 10 minutes, that provided this one pump continued to supply the hoses, the fire would be localised to this smaller hulk, infact it was more or less under control some ten minutes later. At about 1115 hrs. a second pump was brought to and left on the roadway nearby, later the third pump arrived. There being no lack of water pressure and with many volunteers, the fire was almost subsided by 1140 hrs.

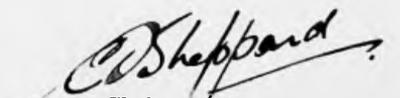
4. A further slight outbreak was promptly dealt with at about 1300 hrs. and, owing to the inflammable nature of the area as a whole, the pump was left standing by. Constables were instructed to keep frequent watch in addition. I would wish to record the prompt response on the part of all Constables, reporting for duties.

5. From investigations I am informed that one H. Stewart had been sent to draw 3 galls of varnish from a drum in the hulk and, who after having obtained same stopped at the door to light a cigarette with a match. The vapour ignited causing a minor explosion, burning him about the face. Stewart ran to the warehouse office giving the alarm to those around and was then taken to the hospital.

6. In connection with the aforementioned I would submit as follows; the following observations:

- (a) In the event of a temporary breakdown of the one working pump the fire would have spread almost beyond control if one consider the alarming rate of spread in this area.
- (b) Supplementary measures such buckets of water were used to douse small outbreaks on the half-submerged hulk inside of the burning one and on the jetty roadway (planks).
- (c) In both (a) and (b) it warranted I submit, the bringing into use another pump, which I strongly and repeatedly suggested but without effect. Subsequent events however did not justify possible interference by myself, although with the spread of the fire I would not have hesitated.
- (d) Chemical fire extinguishers were not used in the first instance, although there were some available. Their use may have doused the burning varnish and prevented the spread.

7. In conclusion may I add that it was the prompt an efficient manner on behalf of the F.Is. Coy's employees that prevented a serious outbreak which may have spread very rapidly in this area.


Chief Constable.

No.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute the above Number and the date may be quoted.)



MINUTE.

6

22nd December, 1945.

From The Chief Constable,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

To The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

Ref: Fire incident at No. 7 Fitzroy Road (Mr. G. Brechin).

I have the honour to submit the following report on the abovementioned incident.

2. At 1745 hrs. on Friday 21st December, a telephone message from the Tel. Ex. Operator was received, reporting a fire in a hut on Brechin's property. I phoned Brechin to determine the extent of the fire and concluded that it was serious enough to give the prescribed alarm by the firing of the two maroons, this was at 1748 hrs.

3. On reaching the scene of the fire I observed that a nissen hut to the rear of the house, close to the West boundary fence was well alight mostly at its West end. The adjoining house, although receiving a good deal of the smoke was untouched. Hoses were being connected to the hydrant corner of Fitzroy Road and Villiers Street and led through to the burning hut. The pressure of water at the fire end was low due probably to the height above the hydrant and the length of hose necessary.

4. On questioning Mr. Brechin as to the cause of the outbreak I am informed that he considered it due to a small slow combustion stove which was alight in the hut and being used for the smoking of a ham. Hot grease from the ham onto the hot stove or sparks from the wood burning inside may have been the actual cause. This hut I understand is used as a peat shed and for general purposes. All the wooden construction of the hut has been burnt as well as the other items which include a quantity of peat.

5. In making this report I feel that I beg to be allowed to comment on the possibilities had the building been a dwelling house or of a more inflammable nature, or even in such circumstances where valuable property is concerned. Some time after it was found that the hydrant pressure was insufficient, the trailer pump from the East-end was installed on the F.I.C. West Jetty. No water was delivered, there being a major fault with this pump. At about 1830 it was decided to get the West-end pump, which arrived some 15 minutes later, man-handed to the Jetty. This too had a major fault and no water was delivered. In the meantime attempts were made to clear the P.W.D. lorry from in front of the third pump but without success and in consequence the pump could not be brought into service. Fortunately the fire was doused by the water from the hydrants hoses backed up with a chain of buckets from a nearby tank.

6. Further attempts to deliver water from the pumps was abandoned and, it is the fact of the uncertainty of the service from these pumps I am quoting this, having in mind a demand on them and getting no response to the ultimate disaster it is only reasonable to foretell. In conclusion I beg to refer to para. 6 (a) and (b) of my report on the East Jetty fire. Its apparent that another few minutes would have put this pump out of action and a serious delay would have been inevitable. On the question of maroons: I am informed that there are only 7 left and in this connection may I be permitted to suggest alternative alarm measures, pending replacements.

C. Sheppard
Chief Constable.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute the above Number and the date may be quoted.)

31st December, 1945.

From The Chief Constable,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

To The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

Reference; 55/45 - Signals for Fire Alarms.

I have the honour to submit the following suggestions for Fire Alarm Signals as a temporary measure, pending replacements of maroons.

2. Mount and assemble one 3-pdr. Hotchkiss gun its original site and holdfast, i.e. immediately North of the flagstaff - Victory Green.

3. Fence in the same to within four feet from the mounting on its South, East and West sides, and to within ten feet of the muzzle on the North side. Muzzle will be permanently pointing North and the cradle clamped up.

4. To be maintained at the Police Station, 16 of the cylinders for blank cartridges at present in F.I.D.F. Stores and for these to be fitted with primers and blank cartridges. There are 100 such cartridges and primers at present in stock.

5. Two Very Pistols with a supply of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch cartridges, preferably Red (when used in daylight) also to be held at the Police Station, one to be fired by Chief Constable and one also by Duty Constable. The number to be fired to be up to ten each, before and after the 3-pdr. blank rounds.

6. Fire Alarm suggested to be as follows:-

- (a) Sounding of Sirens.
- (b) Firing of two rounds 3-pdr. blank cartridges.
- (c) Firing of up to ten each cartridges by two Very Pistols

Sheppard
Chief Constable,

No.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute the above Number and the date may be quoted.)



MINUTE.

14th February, 1946.

To The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

From The Chief Constable.

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Reference: Fire Incident - Gorse Bushes, near Battle Memorial.

I have the honour to report the following in connection with the abovementioned.

2. At 2310 hrs. on Monday 11th. February a telephone call was received from Mrs. Gibbs, reporting an outbreak of fire in the gorse bushes referred to. The prescribed fire alarm was immediately given as it was considered that the flames were dangerously close the Bungalows.

3. At 2320 the first fire pump was towed to the scene (Merryweather) and, hoses which were obtained from nearby fire-boxes were provided and connected. In the meantime the residents of the bungalows produced chemical extinguishers and, Dr. Gibbs connected the hose to the hydrant. At 2330 Hrs. water was delivered from the first pump, latter branch pipes were fitted, to complete the job.

4. The West-end (ex A.R.P.) pump was installed and in action by 2337 hrs. The East-end pump was latter brought to the fire but was not used and then returned. The Fire Brigade seemed well represented.

5. The Cause of the outbreak of fire is at present unknown. No one was seen nearby when Dr. Gibbs first noticed the fire and, the last persons known to have been in the vicinity were the occupants of the Naval truck (Ambulance) which passed at about 2220 hrs, going East. The driver of this vehicle together with the Petty Officer alongside, stated that they did not notice any signs of fire at that time, and all the occupants including four Ratings inside the vehicle declare that they did not throw out either matches or cigarette ends on this trip.

6. I have mentioned cigarettes as it is in my opinion the cause of this fire, there being so much dead wood around and despite the recent rainfall, it was in places quite dry and would burn freely.

7. The Duty Constable was, at 2250 hrs. on Reservoir Road looking towards the Battle Memorial and did not notice anything unusual. He then proceeded to the CS.O., thence to the Police Station. Some ten minutes later the report was received.

8. I have requested the Naval authorities to warn their personnel about the danger of throwing cigarette ends or matches near the gorse and will also ask the Editor to publish the same in the News Weekly, on behalf of the general public.

C Sheppard
Chief Constable.

(14)
12th April 46.

Naval Officer-in-Charge,

Chief Constable,

Stanley,

Falkland Islands.

Reference: Claim for damages to Stanley Gaol.

I have the honour to submit a report as follows on the damage which is directly attributive to Sidney Samuel Rogerson, D/MX 68157, who was detained in this gaol at your request from Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April, 1946. This rating has shown a marked destructive tendency during the whole of this period and the damages despite rigorous restraint have accumulated and are as detailed below.

Public Works Department. The Executive Engineer was asked for an estimate of the cost of the repairs etc., effected by that Department and which are as follows :-

Repairs to walls of the Cell, Day-room and passages, i.e. re-plastering and distemping - material & labour -	£. s. d. 5 0 0
Repairs to Cell window sash -	12 0
Repairs to Cell sliding bolt -	8 0
Cleaning & disinfecting Day-room & Cell, Two labourers for one day plus "dirt money"	1 5 0
Total Public Works Department -	<u>£7 5 0</u>

Electrical & Tel. Department. The Supervisor was asked also for an estimate of the damages and the cost of repairs to, effected by that Department, which are as follows :-

Repairs to electrical installation and replacement of switch covers and light bulbs.

Electrical, as per statement attached -	12 8.
---	-------

Police & Prisons Department. On behalf of this dept., I would suggest that replacements can be effected for the following and that the cost and/or responsibility for the same being Rogerson's. The items are enumerated as follows:-

One only Mattress (single bed size) polluted beyond use by saturation with urine and smearing with excreta.

Two pillows, wilfully torn to pieces and totally destroyed.

In consideration of Rogerson's possible draft to the U. K. in the near future, may, please, the abovementioned be confirmed in this man's presence to determine his liability.

Total for repairs & replacements, P.W.D. & P. & T. Depts.-	<u>£7 17 8</u>
--	----------------

A Sheppard
Chief Constable.

N.B. Suggest replacements for Police & Prisons Dept.

Mr. Col. Sec. For information please. CK. 12/4/46

No.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute the above Number and the date may be quoted.)



MINUTE.

15

20th May, 1946.

To The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

From The Chief Constable,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Reference: Fire Incident - Gorse Bushes, near Gymnasium.

I have the honour to report on the abovementioned incident which occasioned on Saturday 18th May '46.

2. At 1915 hrs. the duty Constable noted during his patrol, a reflection in the vicinity of the gymnasium. He then proceeded in that direction and concluded it to be a fire nearby the "Fish Hut". The prescribed alarm was given and reports made. The siren commenced sounding at 1920 hrs. and the maroons fired at about 1925 hrs.

3. On reaching the scene of the fire I observed that the gorse bushes close to this hut were well alight, due to the exceptionally dry state of the bushes and the dry dead wood around them. There were no persons seen at this time, the first to arrive were some minutes later.

4. The flames soon were scorching the South-East corner of the hut and I appealed to persons standing by to assist in rigging hoses to the nearest hydrant and to produce chemical extinguishers. This controlled the fire temporary until the arrival of the Fire Brigade. Actual times for the latter were not recorded, but I submit that water was delivered and the fire doused in a reasonable time.

5. The cause of the outbreak is at present unknown, I have made enquires and would venture to suggest that it may have been caused by a careless action on the part of someone, probably a lighted cigarette end was thrown among the bushes some time during the afternoon or evening of Saturday. This does not I submit, preclude the possibility of it being a wilful act, however, enquires will continue in order to determine the true cause.

Chief Constable.

N. B. FIRE ALARMS

The last two maroons having been expended in respect of the above, the approved alternative i.e. the firing of two rounds of 3-pdr. blank in addition to the siren, will be instituted forthwith.



(17)

4th, November, 1946.

The N.O.1/c,

Port Stanley,

Falkland Islands.

The Ag. Chief Constable.

Reference:- Incident involving R.N. Personnel.

Hereon is submitted, please, a report on an incident that occurred on the date and time mentioned below, in which R.N. personnel were involved.

At 02-30 ³rd November 1946 a telephone call was received by Const. O'Sullivan from the Matron K.E.M. Hospital, stating that a person was prowling round the Hospital premises, on arriving at the Hospital the Constable saw a Naval Rating who gave his name as Tel. James Mc.Lune and gave as his reason for being there, that he was waiting for L/stoker Spence.

The Matron, when confronted by Mc.Lune, said she thought he was the person she had seen by his build, when asked by the Constable if Spence was on the premises, replied, not that I am aware of, and in company of Const. O'Sullivan made investigations in the Hospital and the Maids quarters at Rock Cottage in the Hospital grounds.

Spence was not there, but L/Tel Kettle was in the room occupied by Mrs M. Davis, who was in bed, Kettle was dressing when the Matron & the Constable gained admittance to the room.

Both ratings left the premises when requested, and went in the direction of the W/T station.

L/stoker Spence does visit the premises, this being the case Tel. Mc.Lune's explanation may be genuine, with no proof of unlawful intent the Police are not taking proceedings against Tel. Mc.Lune's regarding L/stoker Kettle this matter rest with the S.N.C.

These facts I submit for you to deal with as you deem fit in the interest of good order and discipline.

Ag. Chief Constable,
Falkland Islands Police Force.

Hon. Col. Sec.

copy for your information please.



6th. November, 1946.

The A.O. 1/C,

Port Stanley,

Falkland Islands.

The Ag. Chief Constable.

Stanley.

Reference:- Incident at R.F.M. Hospital on 5rd November 1946.

Mr. Benjamin Davis, Husband of the woman mentioned in the report of the 4th. November, is not in Stanley, and has not been for a considerable time.

There was a telephone call put through to Church House before Mid-night, but not by the Matron or Nurse.

J Morris
Ag. Chief Constable.

copy:- To hon. col. Sec.

Rec 17

Further to my report 4th. November, 1946.

Can they find out if Davis is in the area? imp. info?
y/b. ABC
Operator, who is in camp or leave almost certainly

15th. November, 1946.

The,
Ag. Chief Constable.

The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

Reference:- Fire Incident - Gorse Bushes On the foreshore Between the
Government slipway and the Fish hut.

I have the honour to report on the above mentioned incident which
occured on 14th. November, 1946.

2. At 9-25 pm. I recieved a telephone call from the operator
that something was burning across the road, I immediately switched the
siren on and proceeded to fire two rounds of 3-pdr. blank, This took me
eight minutes owing to the cases jamming.

3. When I arrived at the scene of the fire it was nearly under control
Having been doused by water from a hose attached to a Fire Plug near the
West end Fire Engine shed. A hose had been run from the Merryweather
Engine and water was being Pumped from the dockyard Jetty at 9-40 pm. The
Bushes were burnt out except for the main branches, A section of the
fence was badly burnt.

4. The fire was reported to the pperator by Miss P. Hennah,,Who was
walking along RossRd. in an Easterly direction and when she arrived at
Barrack St. junction first saw the blaze, She had not noticed any sign of
fire before reaching the corner and did not see anyone about at the time.

5. Mr. A.J. Blyth who lives on Barrack St. directly South of the scene
of the fire, said that less than five minutes before the Siren sounded he
had looked out of an upstairs window to the Northard and he was sure there
was no sign of fire then.

6. Both 4. and 5. show how quickly the fire must have broken out, I
inspected the scene a little after 6 o'clock this morning and could see
no evidence that the bushes were intentionally set on fire, The out break
may have been caused by a spark from a chimney or a carelessly discarded
cigarette end.

7. I should like to mention again the difficulty^I had to fire the rounds
of blank and the time taken, and hope that the new siren will soon be in
operation.

J. Norris.
Ag. Chief Cons table.

I want a report on why the 3 pound
blanks did not go off. I think it was
surely due to jamming
2. Instruct the Fire Brigade to
Fire Brigade on prompt operation action.
(by official letter).
Able
16.11.46

19th November 46.

Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to inform you that His Excellency has been pleased to learn of the very prompt and effective manner in which the outbreak of fire in the gorse bushes on the night of the 14th November was dealt with by the Fire Brigade, and to convey to the Brigade His Excellency's congratulations.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.
(Sgd.) L. W. ALDRIDGE
for Colonial Secretary.

The Superintendent,
Stanley Volunteer Fire Brigade,
STANLEY.

18th. November, 1946. (21)

Th^sg. Chief Constable.

The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley.

Ref 19.
Reference:- Time taken to fire Gun for Fire Alarm, on 13th. November, 1946

I beg to submit below the reason concerning the above.

The blank shells used for the purpose of Fire Alarm, are kept in a locked box, in the Police Station, the key is kept in a locked cupboard also in the station.

These shells have all been fired and recharged many times, therefore they have become expanded, which makes them difficult to get into the breach of the gun.

On this occasion I took (3) shells out with me, the first (2) I could not get into the breach and had to extract them, the third one entered and was fired, I tried the first two again with no success, (3) more shells were taken out and tried, after getting them so far in the breach and extracting them a number of times the second one was fired, the time taken being (8) minutes.

All these cases were tried in the breach after they were charged, but it seems they cannot be relied upon, except for the time it takes to get them off, they seem to be effective.

J. Morris.
Ag. Chief Constable.

19th. Decemb

The

Ag. Chief Constable.

The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley.

Reference:- Fire- Naval W/T Station Moody Valley.

I beg to submit hereon a report on the above which occurred on this date.

2. I received a telephone message from the operator, that the O/C Wireless Station had reported a fire, the time being 6-54am. the Siren was sounded immediately and two blanks fired by 7-01am.

3. A Naval lorry stationed in Stanley picked up a number of hoses from the West end pump shed, these were run out by Fire brigade volunteers ready for when the pump arrived, which was at 7-25am. pumping commenced at 7-29am. The fire was under control at 7-45am.

4. Two small hoses belonging to the Navy had kept the fire in check, with the assistance of a bucket chain by Naval personnel.

5. The fire was in a Nissen hut fitted out as bath rooms and wash house, having a boiler inside from which the fire may have originated, possibly were the smoke stack went through the roof.

6. The ~~Comm~~ Control Station rang the W/T Station at 6-30am. asking what the smoke was up there.

J Morris
Ag. Chief Constable.

Mr. ABE
29/12

MC

Mr. [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]

My following letter on
Lafonia should be announced
on Sunday broadcast.

Mr. [unclear] should be
complimented for the prompt
and efficient action of the
Fire Brigade last evening, and
the police should investigate
and report upon its origin.

MC 3/XII

9th. January, 1947.

The Ag. Chief Constable.
Stanley.

Naval Officer-in-Charge,
Falkland Islands.

Reference:- Breaking and Entering of nissen huts on the foreshore at the East end of Ross rd. used as Naval store sheds.

This matter was first reported to me on 6th. January, by a civilian (Mr. E.V. Dixon) who lives close to the huts in question, He said he was gathering driftwood on the beach early Sunday morning 5th. January when he noticed that some boards had been taken of the North end of one of the huts, and what appeared to be a Dow Beer case lying outside.

When I arrived at the huts at 3-0pm. 6th. January the Naval Supply Staff were working in the huts, I asked them if they were aware that one of the huts had been broken into and that an empty beer case was lying outside, they said they did and they were shifting the rest of the beer into another hut, and that 8 or 9 cases were missing.

I found a sack lying by the empty case, which may show the means by which the beer was removed.

The Police have never considered these huts secure enough to store anything of value in and were unaware that beer was stored there.

J Morris
Ag. Chief Constable.

copy to,
Hon. Col. Sec. for information please.

Mr ABC
9.1

14th. January, 1947.

The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

The,
Ag, Chief Constable.

Reference:- Fire in G.H. paddock - breaking and entering R.N. huts.

The tide at 10-30pm. on 2-1-47. was 2hrs 10 mins. after low water, being neap tides there would not be much rise or fall, a boat would not be a great distance from these huts with any tide.

2. The official report was given to me and signed by Stotes P/O.T.G. Ford Ag. N.A.A.F.I. canteen manager. He states that the entry was first noticed by Mr. R.H. Rumbolds (Naval victualling store clerk) at 9-20am. on 6th. January 1947 and reported to Lt. (s) D.A. Marks R.N. by telephone. Ford and his staff at 1-45pm. on the 6th. investigated the damage and loss, removed the remaining beer to more secure stowage.

3. The report states it is impossible to say exactly what quantity was stolen owing to so many broached cases and the fact that so many cases had been left in various places in the hut.

4. In their opinion the entry was made through a hole about two foot square, the boards having been removed by some instrument.

J. Morris
Ag. Chief Constable.

31st. March, 1947. 140a

From. Ag. Chief Constable.

To. The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

Copy of letter received from O/C Wireless Station.

Reference:) Damage to R.N. Motor Transport.

I am instructed by The Naval Officer in Charge to report to you that a considerable amount of damage has been done to an R.N. Austin Ambulance and its garage by some very irresponsible person in possession of a firearm.

The garage is a Nissen Hut sited some distance to the West of the main Station buildings and prior to the discovery of the damage on Tuesday 25th. March, it had not been visited for some days.

The damage was principally inflicted with a .22 rifle. The windscreen had been repeatedly fired at and one of the headlamps shot away. Other damage included a slash in the canvas canopy, removal of certain interior fittings and the shooting out of all the hut windows.

The floor was littered with approximately 100 expended cases and a few live rounds. Examination of these cases would appear to indentify the rifle as a "Diana" (see pattern of case enclosed). Two such rifles are owned by ratings on the Station but a comparison of cases fired from these has established that neither of these weapons were responsible.

It is appreciated that the information is meagre and delayed but it is requested that any practicable investigation may be carried out and the result communicated in due course.

F. R. DORE.

Commissioned Telegraphist, R.N.

31st. March, 1947. 40

Ag, Chief Constable.

To The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.



Reference;- Damage to R.N. Motor Transport.

The Nissen hut ~~referred~~ to is accessible to any one as one end is completely out.

The time given to me in a report by telephone of the last visit before the discovery of the damage was three weeks.

I find that considerable numbers of this class of ammunition has been on sale in the town (ex Army) supplies.

40a. As the O/C Wireless asked if this report would be going any further than this office: I have the honour to pass it on for your perusal.

Memo
Ag. Chief Constable.

*Memo
✓ Ch. Constable
to speak
A.B.C.
1/4*



42

12th. May, 1947

The Ag. Chief Constable.

The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

35/45

Reference:- Breaking into Huts, Etc.

I have the honour to submit list concerning above as requested.

33

1. September, 28th. 1946 Hut, Snake Hill padlock broken, nothing taken as far as the P.W.D. knew.

2. January, 6th. 1947. Royal Naval Hut on the foreshore Ross Rd. East. a number of cases of beer taken.

3. February, 23rd. Huts (3) Snake Hill, three padlocks broken, nothing taken as far as P.W.D. & F.I.D.F. Caretaker knew.

4. March 25th P.W.D. workmans caravan, off Sapper Hill Rd.. All movable parts of stove taken, This van was entered on another occasion and Tools thrown outside and a Brace taken away.

40

5. March, 25th Hut, Wireless Station, damage to R.N. Ambulance.

6. March, 31st, Hut Snake Hill, Padlock unlocked, No entry made as battens were nailed across the door.

7. May, 3rd. Custom Shed, Padlock damaged, no entry.

Nos, 4. - 5. are out of the Town.

No. 6. The Constable considered this was a faulty padlock as on another occasion when trying the door it unlocked with him shaking it. There is at present a Padlock on the West Dockyard gate that acts the same.

[Signature]
Ag. Chief Constable.

Further to No. 2. A serious Gorse Fire at Government House paddock on the 2nd January, 1947 at 10 -20pm may have been the cover for this robbery

1 in 0019
(Fire in Gorse Bushes
in G.H. Paddock)

[Signature]
Ag. Chief Constable.

47

6th. June, 1947

The N.O.1/c.,

The Ag. Chief Constable.

Port Stanley,

Falklands Is.

Reference:- Disorderly Behaviour by R.N. Personnel.

At about 11-40pm on the night of the 5th. June P/O O'Connell reported to me that he had been struck by a Naval rating C.O. Jestico in the passage of the Gymnasium where a Dance was taking place, and asked for him to be removed. I rang P/O DEAN at W/T Station who said he would be down with a Jeep. Owing to a mishap to the Jeep a patrol of two ratings walked down, and Jestico was escorted to the Control Station after I had told him he would be reported for disorderly behaviour.

After Jestico was gone Ldg Tel Goodwin and a Naval Rating who had his name and rank was Ord. Seaman Wright but was indentified as Paston were having words with P/O O'Connell about the above affair, Paston was using indecent language and would not stop when requested, I asked him his name And rank which he gave as Ord Seaman Wright and told him I should report him. The indecent language was the word (F-----).

J. Morris
Ag. Chief Constable.

Hon. Col. Sec.

py 66 letter sent to N.O.1/C

Abel
6/6

LA
6/6

25th. September, 1947

48



The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley.

The Ag. Chief Constable.

55/45

Reference:- Fire at Mr. W. Hutchinsons Slaughter House.

I have the honour to submit hereon a report on the above incident.

2. The outbreak was first noticed by Mr L. Bonner and Mr. C. Cletheroe, P.W.D. Lorry driver and mate, They found the shed where grease is tried out was on fire, Two drums of grease which were on fire they manage to smother with sheep skins and roll outside. They gave the alarm.

3. Constable Goss received the alarm and put Siren off at 3 - 10pm.

4. Three pumps turned out, ~~and~~ the fire was under control, and the pumps back at their sheds at 4 - 0pm.

5. The damage is mainly structural, the rafters and roof iron being burnt and damaged by the heat.

6. It would appear that the fire originated from the Try works copper.

J. Morris
Ag. Chief Constable.

23rd. December, 1947.

23 DEC 1947

The Honourable,
The Colonial Secretary,
Stanley.

The Ag. Chief Constable.

Reference:- Persons - Lost - Missing.

I beg to submit hereon a report in connection with the above

On the 10th. July 1947 it was reported to the Police that, Hubert Hector Morrison had not been seen at his home since the evening of the 9th. July 1947. Inquiries were made, Broadcast appeals were made on the local Broadcast system for information, and organized search parties put in operation

2. At 8 -40pm on Sunday the 21st December 1947 two brothers, Leslie and Basil Barnes reported that they had found a body lying dead at the side of the Murrel Stream, After reporting to the Coroner I went to the scene in the company of Constables O'Sullivan Goss and the two youths. We arrived at 11 - 5pm and it being to dark to make any observations as to positions etc. I decided it was impossible to carry over the rough and marshy ground a stretcher laden with a corpse.

3. At 3 - 30am the next morning Constables Fleuret, O'Sullivan, Williams, Goss, Myself and the Barnes brothers returned to the scene, arriving there at 5 - 0am. The body was carried to the Two Sisters gate, the distance estimated to be about 3 mile, and conveyed to Stanley by lorry.

4. May I please Sir be permitted to say that the Constables and the Barnes brothers carried out this unpleasant task with willingness and fortitude.

J. Morrison
Ag. Chief Constable.

*PP ABC
19.12*

18th. January, 1948. 52

The

Ag. Chief Constable.

The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary,

Stanley.

SS/CS
Reference:- Fire - At Mr C. Rowlands house Ross Rd. East.

I beg to submit hereon a report on the above which occurred on this date.

2. At 4-10am on 18th January, 1948 Mr. M. Biggs reported that Mr. C. Rowlands house was on fire, he had received the report from his Sister by telephone, his phone being on the same line as his Fathers who lives on Ross Rd. East.

3. Constable O'Sullivan switched on the Siren which failed to work, The power house was asked to change to the big engine to see if that would make any difference.

4. Mr. M. Biggs being on the E & T staff worked the exchange, notifying Officials, ie Supt. and Members of the Fire Brigade who were on the telephone, He was unable to get a reply on your line.

5. Mr. A Mercer was called and asked to put a broadcast out, I was able to stop this as the fire was under control before he had started.

6. The small siren at the East end was sounded and 11 Fire Brigade members turned out.

7. A chimney being badly on fire was the cause of setting the woodwork alight at the ridge of the roof, The outbreak was first noticed by Mrs C. Rowlands who sent to neighbours for help, The fire was got under control with buckets of water passed up from the ground to the roof.

8. No serious damage was done, other than by the water that was used to extinguish the fire, a strong breeze and the building constructed of wood could have been the factors of a serious fire.

J. J. [Signature]
Ag. Chief Constable.

28th. January, 1948

60

The Ag Chief Constable.

The Naval Officer in Charge,

Port Stanley.

25/1/48

Port Stanley.

Reference:- Behavior - Personnel H .M.S. Snipe.

At approximately 7 - Opm on this date I received a telephone message from Mr W.H. Sedgwick that a Rating from H.M.S. Snipe was kicking another rating who was on the ground in the stomach. I proceeded to Philomel St. where I saw a Naval rating lying on the ground struggling. He was being held by a rating who was sitting on him, This rating who gave his name as Signalman Hughes, abused me when I was trying to find what was wrong with the man on the ground, whose name was given as Telegraphist Menzies, I had Dr Arthur called who examined the man on the ground and said he desired the man to be taken to Hospital, Signalman Hughes was a nuisance while the Doctor was making his examination and I had to pull away from Menzies, He continued to abuse me and the Force calling us a lot of B-----s also accused me of having done injury to Menzies. This incident was witnessed by a number of people whose names can be given. Menzies was detained in hospital for observation.

I should Be grateful Sir if you will kindly have the mans behaviour brought to the notice of the proper authorities on H.M.S. Snipe.

I am Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. Morris
 Ag Chief Constable.

Copy.

m. Col. Sec.

For Your information please.

J.M. cc. 29/1/48.

M. ABC

55745
To:- Hon. Colonial Secretary.

From:- Chief Constable.

Date:- 28th April, 1948.

M
63
Ref:- 11/2.

Missing Man and Boy.

On Monday 19th April, 1948, I was informed by a member of the public that a man named Fred Davies of 25, James Street, Stanley, had taken his young son James Davies, aged 9 years, out in his motor boat and pram on Friday 16th April, and suggested that as Davies was on a drinking bout and was subject to epileptic fits, it was not right for the boy to be kept away for so long.

2. I sent Constable Fleuret to 25 James Street, where he saw Mrs. Davies, the boy's mother. She ~~said~~ said she was not worried at all as her husband had told her he would be away for some days in order to get over his drinking bout and that he was going to Johnson's Harbour for geese and would collect tussac grass on Kidney Island on his way back. She said her husband had only taken a partly filled bottle of gin with him and that she had in fact watered this down unbeknown to him.

3. Further enquiries elicited the information that Davies had purchased a bottle of rum and a bottle of whisky before sailing; that he was more prone to fits when he was drinking and that the somewhat unusual behaviour of his boat when he left Stanley at about 10 am on the 16th April had attracted some attention and that this had again been noticed when the boat was in the outer harbour. I also gathered that sometime between 12 noon and 1 pm on the 16th April, the two lighthouse keepers had seen the motor boat with its pram in tow about half a mile off Memgeary Point passing to the westwards, i.e. into Port William. They had noticed too that the sail was not properly hoisted.

4. I was also told that Davies had on previous occasions absented himself from home by lying-up in some bay or cove outside Stanley during such drinking bouts and that he had "always turned up before".

5. In view of the fact that the boy was with him on this occasion, I decided that action to discover his whereabouts was nevertheless called for by the Police and to this end continued my enquiries and instituted a search. I should, perhaps, emphasise that the general opinion at this time was that Davies was safely tucked away in some cove and drinking.

6. These general enquiries continued into Tuesday the 20th April. Constable Goss also called to see Mrs. Davies but found her still unconcerned so that in the evening I sent Sergeant Norris to interview her once more. She then told Norris that her husband had taken the following food with him:- 4 loaves, 1½ pint bottle of milk, one tin condensed milk (with possibly 2 tins already on board), 1 cake, some butter, some cold boiled mutton, and that there might also have been some tinned food on board.

7. I learnt that Mr. Bert Ratcliffe who spent Monday night (19th April) in Sparrow Cove, was going ashore at dawn on Tuesday to look at Kidney Island, through binoculars, to see if Davies was there. Weather conditions by this time had become a serious factor with which to contend. As Mr. Ratcliffe did not return to Stanley in the morning, I decided to ask for the "Alert" to search what we could of the bays and coves in Port William. As the "Alert" was not available, I spoke to you, Sir, and Captain Roberts put the FIC launch at our disposal and in this, on Tuesday afternoon, I entered Port William. We saw Mr. Ratcliffe coming down from the Murrell River and he assured us that Davies was not in Port William as he had been searching it all day and he was not be seen at Kidney Island.

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In the meantime, P.C. Goss was searching York Bay.

8. By this time, too, we had learned that Davies had not put in an appearance at Johnson's Harbour up to 5 pm on Sunday 18th and there was now some talk that he might have gone to the Lagoon at Volunteer Point, as although he had been refused permission by Johnson's Harbour to enter the Lagoon, owing to the dangerous state of the bar, he had talked about going there and had asked other persons earlier in the week to go with him. There is no telephone to Johnson's Harbour but I had put a call through to Port Louis to pass on to them, asking that a search be made. A reply was received late that night to the effect that he had still not turned up and that they had searched the coast in vain.

9. On Wednesday 21st April, the Philomel should have been ready by 9.30 am and I was kept waiting nearly all day under the impression that she would be ready "at any moment". While waiting, however, I put through telephone calls again to Port Louis and Long Island requesting searches. I sent a message by radio at 12.30 pm to Johnson's Harbour asking them to search Volunteer Point North and South including the Lagoon as I thought they may not have included this area in their original searches. I also asked that shipping keep a sharp look out and that particular attention should also be paid to the area between Port Harriet and Speedwell. In response to this, Fitzroy (Mr. Clement) promised a careful search of their coastline. P.C. Goss again searched the South shores of Port William with the aid of the light house keepers. The gale from the North East continued.

10. On Thursday 22nd April, the "Philomel" was ready for sea but owing to the heavy seas running it was found impossible to land search parties except at Sparrow Cove. Assisted by Mr. McWhann, Mr. Aldridge and three other volunteers, P.C. O'Sullivan and myself combed all the shore from Sparrow Cove to Mengeary Point and to beyond Kidney Island on the south shore of Berkeley Sound. After returning, I was again in telephone touch with Long Island and they reported having searched eastwards in Berkeley Sound to Strike Off Point.

11. Friday 23rd April was another day of heavy seas and continuing North East wind. The Philomel was again out of action with defective gearbox. As it was possible that wreckage would have carried to the South Shore of Port William I decided to search this shore a second time and did so myself with P.C. O'Sullivan and Mr. Browning, from the Light House to the West of York Bay. Mr. Ernest Reive of Murrall River reported having searched the coast from Strike Off Point to Kidney Island as requested. This meant that the whole of Berkeley Sound had been searched except for the north sides of Kidney and Cochon Islands and that the whole of Port William had been searched minutely once on the north and twice on the south shores. Soon after my return that evening, Mr. Leslie Hardy called and asked if I had heard his broadcast. I told him I had not done so. He then said that there was a lot of talking in the town and that he as Chairman of the Town Council had approached Government and asked for the John Biscoe (which arrived in the previous night) to be used in the search. He then showed me a typewritten sheet of paper which I gathered he had produced to substantiate his claim for the John Biscoe to be used. On this sheet was typed something to the effect that the search for Davies had been so inadequate. I felt that Mr. Hardy should have approached me earlier if he or anyone was not satisfied and said that had he or anyone else come along to volunteer their aid or to enquire what was being done, they would have been told what the position was and their services used if possible. As I had acted throughout on the advice of local people and as weather conditions had hampered any large scale activities, I resented this suggestion of inadequate searching, particularly in view of what had actually been accomplished. I then showed Mr. Hardy on a large scale Chart /the area

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the area that had already been searched, i.e the whole of Berkeley Sound and Port William. I also mentioned the Radio appeals. Mr.Hardy then said that he had been promised the John Biscoe for 7 am the following morning and that in order to secure the volunteers, he had obtained a promise from employers that no man's wages would be stopped if he was away from work searching.

12. At 7 am on Saturday 24th April, I took Constable Williams with me to the John Biscoe. Later Mr.Hardy, who was accompanied by the Town Clerk, Mr.K.V.Lellman, reported that there were 97 volunteers aboard and said that in view of weather conditions we would only be able to land in Sparrow Cove. Mr.Ratcliffe was also present to advise the Captain. We dropped anchor in Sparrow Cove and Mr.Hardy proposed putting 80 men ashore - 40 to go north to Kidney and 40 to go Eastwards to Mungeary Point - the remainder to be kept aboard in case weather conditions improved enough to search the Tussac Islands. After some of the men were landed, including P.C.Williams, someone ashore suggested the numbers to go ashore should be halved and this was done. ~~the number~~ Mr.Hardy took it upon himself to radio Stanley

asking if a reply had been received from Johnson's Harbour - presumably to my radioed request of the 21st April. Later I was in radio contact myself with PC.O'Sullivan and he was able to pass on to me Johnson's Harbour's reply which had just that moment come in. This was invaluable as it would have saved us searching the Lagoon from the John Biscoe if the weather permitted. I suggested to Mr.Hardy that we put some of the 57 men waiting on the John Biscoe ashore to search to the West of Sparrow Cove and 9 of them were landed and picked up later on our way back to Stanley. This search too was fruitless.

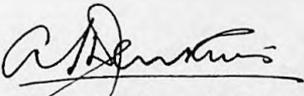
13. On Sunday 25th April, I was able to use the "Alert" but although we managed to get close in to the top Tussac Island in Port William, the swell was too great to allow of a safe landing.

14. On Monday 26th April, the "Alert" investigated a report I had received of something unusual floating in the Narrows and the same afternoon, she landed Sgt.Norris and a volunteer to search from the Narrows to the East meeting PC.Williams searching from the Lighthouse. She also succeeded in landing a party of men under O'Sullivan to search the top Tussac Island. The Philomel was still not ready for sea. Mr.Henry Curran reported he would be sailing to Kidney Island and would signal the result of his search to the Light House Keepers. This he did but the search was inconclusive.

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I arranged with Mr.Mercer for the transmission by radio of a message ("A" attached) twice a day for three days and of another ("B" attached) by Wireless Emergency Call to Ships and throughout the 27th April during the Listening Periods of Single Man Ships.

15. To date, I have found nothing to indicate the whereabouts of Davies or his boy or what has become of them.


Chief Constable.

MESSAGE "A".

63c

By Stanley Radio.

"A small sailing motor boat with pram in tow, carrying Fred Davies and his young son, was last seen on Friday 16th April at the entrance to Port William. He was bound for Johnson's Harbour.

A search of the whole of Berkeley Sound and Port William has revealed no trace of them.

It is requested that a sharp look out be kept on all coasts of these Islands for any sign of wreckage or anything to indicate what has become of the missing persons.

Where possible, a thorough search of beaches is requested.

Any information to Chief Constable, Stanley."

The above to be broadcast twice a day on 27th, 28th and 29th April, 1948.

63a

MESSAGE "B".

By Wireless Emergency Calls
to All Shipping and throughout
the day of 27th April during
Listening Periods of Single Man Ships.

"Missing since 16th April from Port Stanley,
small sailing motorboat with pram in tow,
carrying one man and young boy.

Possible that boat has drifted away from
Falklands

All Ships in this area requested keep
sharp look out."

To:- Hon. Colonial Secretary.

From:- Chief Constable.

5th June, 1948.

Ref: 25/1.

Fire at Government House Gardens
1st June, 1948.

Sir,

I have to report on an outbreak of fire in the gorse bushes growing in Government House gardens, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, as requested.

2. At 8.55 pm on 1st June, I was in my office when William Henry Stewart of 1, King Street, Stanley, reported to me by telephone that there was a fire in the gorse bushes at Government House. As all members of the Police Force were present (attending a lecture), I instructed P.C.O'Sullivan to go at once to the scene and make his approach from the South East in order to intercept anyone coming from the scene in that direction. I also sent Sgt.Norris and P.C.Williams to the fire along Ross Road and sent P.C.Fleuret to the Power House to ask them to stand by to give a boost for the siren. I entered the Charge Room, asked the operator to inform Mr. Hardy, Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, and on Fleuret's return, within seconds, had the alarm sounded. The small siren on the roof of my quarters sounded but the large siren on the Drill Hall did not function. Fleuret and I then proceeded to the fire separately.

3. I turned aside to the fire pump house near the Town Hall site and Mr.Hardy then pulled up in his car. He gave directions to the pump men and took me at once to Government House. We approached from the West end.

4. The only persons observed by the Police to be proceeding away from the direction of Government House were three women near the Secretariat who were identified by Sgt. Norris as members of the hospital staff. Later, statements were obtained from these persons and it was confirmed that one of them, Miss Mary Macrae, had been back to Miss Brigginshaw at Admiralty Cottage to report the fire by telephone. Miss Macrae and her companions were almost at the north end of Reservoir Road when they saw the fire.

5. A northerly gale had been blowing all day and the night was very dark. The wind was now in the north west and eased off to a calm later.

6. I went to the south side of the garden and saw that about 15 yards of the gorse immediately to the east of the greenhouse was ablaze. A hose line was being run out from the hydrant near the house and I saw two young lads operating a stirrup pump from the greenhouse. This helped to lessen the heat on the east end of the green house. I relieved them at this and handed over to P.C.O'Sullivan a few minutes later. Constable Williams then assisted Mr.Hardy in using the hydrant hose. (The boys operating the stirrup pump were Denton John Evans, aged 15 years, and a younger boy Peter McLeod. These lads were together talking at the east end of Allerdyce Street when they saw the fire. Evans ran to inform Mrs.Bernsten at Government House while McLeod who lives at 2, King Street, went to 1, King Street, and asked Mr.Stewart to phone me at the police station.) Very shortly afterwards a second hose was brought to bear from the pump which had followed us up and the blaze was soon under control. Police immediately commenced enquiries to ascertain the cause of the fire.

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7. By this time, a large number of people had arrived in the garden and I gave instructions that onlookers be asked to leave. This was to avoid unnecessary damage to the garden and hindering the fire brigade. Shortly afterwards the fire was extinguished.

8. The damage to property other than the gorse bushes appears to be mainly to the wooden fence bordering the garden on the south side and immediately flanking the bushes, and cracked glass in the east end of the greenhouse where heated panes of glass suddenly contracted when cold water was played on them. The fence, of upright boards quite close together, is badly scorched and charred for a distance of about 45 feet.

9. Mr. Hardy arranged to leave the hydrant hose connected and in position throughout the night for use in case of need by the gardener, Mr. Clarke, who was to remain up all night.

10. After reporting to Mrs. Clifford that the fire was out and that precautions were being taken to prevent a further outbreak during the night, I returned to the Police Station and directed further enquiries as to the cause of the outbreak.

11. I returned to the gardens about 11.30 pm with PC. Williams and made what search we could of the vicinity. I remained with Mr. Clarke and PC. Williams till nearly 1 am. Before I left, I decided it would be advisable to drench the bushes again and the hydrant was turned on for about five minutes. PC. Williams paid further visits during the night.

12. In view of the weather conditions and the time of the outbreak, my first thought was that the fire was not caused accidentally through a dropped light. I examined the possibility of a spark or sparks emerging from the chimney of the greenhouse fire or the cottages. I discounted the former possibility because the wind was still northerly without sufficient westing to carry sparks the length of the greenhouse as the chimney is on the extreme west of the structure. I examined the fire in the stokehold and found it freshly banked up with no evidence that any large sparks could have issued during the previous hour. The fire had been made up between 5.30pm and 6 pm by Williams the labourer and he banked it for the night immediately he arrived on the scene after hearing the alarm when he was in the Workman's Club. These are about the usual times for attending to the fire and it is to be assumed therefore that from 8 pm or 8.30pm onwards there was but a small fire in the boiler. As to the cottages, while the wind was in the right direction, I fail to see that sparks could have carried more than the width of the garden and I feel sure that this could not have been the cause.

13. I made a careful examination the following morning without finding any traces of incendiarism but as I fail to see how the fire could have been of accidental origin, I am of the opinion that it was started deliberately.

14. The gorse bushes cover an area approximately 120ft long by about 12 feet wide on a sloping bank. The fire was confined to about 45 feet of its west end. This part is sheltered by the end of the greenhouse and its base in front on the garden side, is sheltered to some extent by a series of glass frames separated from the bushes by a narrow path. The frames are about two and a half feet high. The end of the greenhouse is about 6 feet from the end of the bushes. The gorse then grows right up against the wooden fence already described. On the other side of this fence is a very rough and boggy piece of Government paddock. There was no sign that any one had attempted to fire the bushes from that side of the fence. On the contrary, it is my opinion that the

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fire started on the garden side of the bushes within a few feet of the greenhouse end of the patch as here the fire seems to have been most fierce and of longest duration. With the wind in the north to north west, the fire carried to the fence and was retained there so that while there was considerable burning on the garden edge of the patch and on the south side where the flames were held by the fence and so concentrated, the centre strip was hardly burned at all. This would indicate that the fire went with the wind from the garden to the fence rather than that it crept against it.

15. Everyone known by the Police to have been in the garden during the afternoon and evening has been questioned. Between 5pm and 6 pm, Goodwin the dairyman, Les Smith and Gene Williams were all in the garden at various times - Goodwin taking milk to the house, Smith passing through to the cowshed and back to his home again and Williams passing in and out to attend to the greenhouse fire. Williams passed very close to the gorse bushes at the greenhouse end at about 6 pm on his way home but is positive he was not smoking and had no cigarettes in his possession at that time. Goodwin, Binnie and J. Browning report leaving the cowshed about 6.15pm to 6.30pm. Alexander Bain, caretaker at the Army Camp who passed westwards along Ross Road about 7 pm states he met no one along the road. Guests leaving Mr. Baker's residence between 7.30pm and 8 pm were also unable to assist.

16. Although about twenty signed statements have been taken by the police and many more persons interviewed, I have not been able to discover anyone who might have entered the garden between 6.30pm and 9 pm. It would, of course, be an easy matter to enter the garden in the dark undetected, if one knew the general layout before hand.

17. There were no other incidents this evening and having regard to the weather conditions and certain other factors, the motive would not appear to have been a desire to destroy real property or commit arson but to cause worry and anxiety. Corroboration of this may possibly be evidenced by the fact that at about 7.45 pm the following evening June 2nd, Mr. Clarke, the gardener, received a phone call to the effect that the bushes were on fire again. Unfortunately he made no attempt then to trace the caller neither did he telephone the police but, naturally perhaps, he ran at once from his home up to Government House gardens. There he found everything in order and realised he had been hoaxed. The telephone operator was asked soon afterwards by Mrs. Evans at the gardener's cottage to say who the caller had been but the operator said she could not remember. Mr. Clarke reported this to the police at 8.15 pm and I was informed at about 9.30pm. In an attempt to trace the caller I saw Mr. Mercer and the operator concerned at the Exchange but despite our efforts to assist her, she was unable to remember who had asked for the connection. I then suggested to Mr. Mercer that instructions might be given for the operators to record any unusual calls and this I understand is now being done.

18. Since the fire, frequent police patrols are made of the Government House grounds during the evenings and throughout the night. Enquiries are continuing.

A. J. Davies
Chief Constable.

Copy filed in 0019 - Outbreak of fire in Gorse Bushes
in Govt. House Paddock.

P U B L I C N O T I C E .

A R S O N .

There is reason to suppose that the fire which broke out in the gorse bushes in Government House Gardens on the 1st of June, 1948, was deliberately caused.

Government takes a grave view of the incident: and the public are again reminded that the penalty for Arson, which is a felony, is imprisonment with or without hard labour for not more than two years, or penal servitude for not more than seven and not less than three years.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley.

9th June, 1948.

To:- Hon. Colonial Secretary.

From:- Chief Constable.

Date:- 8th June, 1948.

Ref:- 25/1.

Fire at Government House Gardens.

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Sir,

With reference to para.17 of my Report of the 5th June, I have now learnt that the telephone call to Mr. Clarke on the 2nd June was made by William Rieve.

2. The circumstances were as follows:- Rieve telephoned Clarke intending to ask permission to take a horse ^{through} the Government garden to avoid the mud in the adjoining paddock. They are both very friendly and he jocularly prefaced his request by remarking that the bushes were on fire again. Clarke did not wait to get the full message but rung off and went at once to the gardens. Rieve tried to get through again but failed. (Mr. Hennah who was in Clarke's house was using the phone to speak to the Power House to warn them of an imminent fire alarm - I had already traced this call). The following day Rieve saw Clarke's son and explained what had happened and asked him to tell his father and say that he Rieve would call to see the Chief Constable to express regret. Mr. Clarke receiving this message from his son thought Rieve had now informed me and did not contact me himself to say who the caller was.

3. I became aware of this on the evening of the 7th June and interviewed Rieve and Clarke. After questioning them I am satisfied that their explanations are correct and Clarke assures me that he is satisfied that Rieve would not intentionally mislead him in such a matter. Had Clarke not acted quite so hastily the matter would have been cleared up immediately of course and he now realises that he should have informed the Police in the first instance.

W. J. ...
Chief Constable.

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