

C.S.

Secret.

WAR/W2H/3#3

1939

No. 5/36/39

GOVERNOR

SUBJECT.

16

19 39

11th SEPBR

HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS - NOTIFICATION OF ARRIVAL AT PORT STANLEY DURING THE WAR FOR OIL FUEL AND OTHER PURPOSES.

Previous Paper.

N I L

MINUTES.

1. Tele: of 11/9/39 to Governor from H.M.S "Ajax" re 14.30 on 12/9/39 for fuel and to land 9 officers and 24 men from sunken German ship.

R.

Submitted.

Mett

C.

12.9.39.

Ajax arr. 1500 hrs 12.
left 1715 hrs 14.

~~15/9~~

2.

Telegram from S.W.O. Freetown 15.X.39.

H.M.S. "Hotspur" arrived 27th Septh 7 a.m.
Sailed. 30th " 7 h.m.

Subsequent Paper.

H. M. S. "Achilles"

Entered Port William
3 p.m. on 21. x. 39
Entered Stanley Harbour
at 6 a.m. 22. x. 39.
Sailed at noon on
Monday 23. x. 39.

H. M. S. "Eeter"

Arrived on 30th October
at 10 a.m. Left 4th
Nov^r 1939.

H. M. S. "Ajax"

Commodore Harwood R. N.

O.B.S.

Arrived 11 a.m.

on 27

Nov^r 1939

Sailed

2nd Dec^r

H. M. S. "Eeter"

Arrived on 29th Nov^r

Sailed on 7th Dec^r

Letter from Commodore of 1st Dec^r 3-5

Harbour Master.

To note.

MCH

cd

4. x. 39.

Honourable Colonel Secretary,

Now Thank you. C.S.A. had
already sent me copy.

MCH 4. x. 39.

Letter from Commodore 1st Dec^r 1939,
together with berthing plan. 6-7.

Harbour Master.

To note and show plan to
the Landland Is. Co. Ltd.

MCH

cd

5. x. 39.

Honourable Colonial Secretary.

Now thank you. I have made a tracing of berthing plan & sent to Capt. Roberts.

W.H. Master.

7. XII. 39.

- 8. Letter to Commodore H.H. Harwood, R.N., O.B.E., of 12/12/39.
- 9.

H.

Letters submitted for signature.

W.H. Master

13. XII. 39.

18/12

H.M.S. "Cumberland"	arrived	
	Sailed.	13 Dec ^{4th}
H.M.S. "Essex"	arrived	16 Dec ^{7th}
H.M.S. "Ajax"	arrived	21 Dec ^{11th}
	Sailed	22 Dec ^{12th}
"Achilles"	Sailed	21 Dec ^{11th}
		22 Dec ^{12th}

- 10 Minutes from H.H. the Governor 18. XII.
- 11 Letter from Captain Bell C.B. of H.M.S. "Essex" 16. XII.
- 12 Govt. Notice of 19. XII. 39.

H.M.S. "Ajax"	}	arrived	24 th Dec ^{ry}
"Achilles"			
"Cumberland"			
"Dorsetshire"			
"Cumberland"	}	sailed	28 th Dec ^{ry}
"Dorsetshire"			
"Ajax"	}	"	30 th "
"Achilles"			
"Achilles"	arrived	14 th July	1940
"	sailed	18 th "	"
"Dorsetshire"	}	arrived	18 th "
"Shropshire"			
"Exeter"	}	sailed	21 st "
"Shropshire"			
"Dorsetshire"			
"Achilles"	arrived	1 st July	
"	sailed	2 nd "	
"		for New Zealand.	
"Hawkins"	Rear Admiral Sir. H. Harwood arrived 8 th March 1940.		

Telegram from Deputy Governor, Sierra Leone.	10/5/40.	13.
Telegram to Governor, Sierra Leone.	11/5/40	14.
" from "	" " 12/5/40.	15

①

Time despatched. 1630. G.M.T. 11th September, 1939.

To. Governor, Falkland Islands,

From. H.M.S. Ajax.

Governor Falkland Islands from H.M.S. Ajax. Expect to arrive 1430 Tuesday September 12th.

Request oil fuel alongside immediately. Weather prevailing aircraft may be flown off before arrival.

Have nine officers and twenty-four men from sunken German steamer to land. They have no warm clothing.

Local,

—
Capt. Wain has been asked
to make arrangements for the
prisoners

~~tttt~~ 4/9/35

151

2

From S.O.(I).Free town

To Reporting Officer, Falkland Islands.

From S.O.(I).Freetown.

Following information should be treated as secret.

H.M.S. Achilles due to arrive Punta Arenas October 18th. or
October 19th. and Falkland Islands daybreak October 21st.

For use in
Cypher or
Coding Office
only.

CONFIDENTIAL

3

Originators Instructions:
(Indication of Priority,
Personal, NOTWT
For Exercise).

INTERCEPT GROUP.

TO: N.O. 1/2 Falkland Is.

FROM: Cinc
Potsmouth

Sailed British ship "BALTAVIA" with OA 40 & Convoy

for Falkland Islands leaving convoy in position $40^{\circ}N$ $12^{\circ}30'W$

Passing through position B. $36^{\circ}N$ $21^{\circ}W$

C. $17^{\circ}N$ $30^{\circ}W$

D. 0° $26^{\circ}W$

E. $22^{\circ}S$ $23^{\circ}W$

Speed $10\frac{1}{2}$ knots Expected Time of Arrival Port Stanley

24th December

T.O.O. 1315/24 Nov. 1939

Authenticated *[Signature]*

Book or Table to be used for

Cyphering or Coding.

Recyphering or Recoding.

Initials of Cypherer
or Coder.

Time of Receipt in
Cypher or Coding
Office

Date.

DEC 1939



4

H.M.S. "ARJAN",

1st December 1939.

No. 310.

Dear Sir,

The attached Memorandum gives the dates of arrival of Admiralty oilers at Port Stanley and details of the subsequent necessary transfer of fuel, both to the shore tanks at the Admiralty Oil Fuel Depot, and between the ships.

2. It is requested that you will be good enough to arrange for the following work to be completed by Tuesday 18th December 1939.

(1). A suitable bulk of timber to be alongside the piles of the Oil Fuel jetty to act as a catwalk.

(2). A hauling-off wire, secured to suitable anchors to be laid out so that Admiralty Oiler "SAR CASTO"'s stern can be hauled off when she starts bow East.

3. R.F.A. "OLYNTHUS" has a small quantity of stores to be landed and placed in the Admiralty sheds. If one of H.M. ships is present, the actual work and transport to the sheds will be done by naval personnel, but it is requested that you will provide supervision as regards the stowage of the stores in the sheds. If none of H.M. ships is present, it is requested that you will undertake the entire work of transporting these stores from "OLYNTHUS" to the sheds.

4. Oiler "CARULET" has some stores and spare gear for one of H.M. ships on board.

It is requested that if none of H.M. ships are present you will arrange to transport them and store them under the same conditions as the stores in "OLYNTHUS", but it is most necessary to keep "CARULET"'s stores clear of stores ex "OLYNTHUS".

5. It is requested that by Wednesday, 20th December you will be prepared at short notice to supply one of H.M. ships with fresh water.

6. An inspection of the store sheds shows that rain is blown in under the eaves and through the shutters in high winds, and it is also reported that the sheds are infested with rats.

It is therefore requested that stores which are liable to damage from moisture may be covered with tarpaulins, and stowed on timber battens, and that (if possible) small mesh wire may be used to protect these liable to attack by rodents.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT HARWOOD

COMMODORE COMMANDING
SOUTH AMERICA DIVISION.

The Colonial Manager,
Falkland Islands Co., Ltd., Port Stanley.

CONFIDENTIAL

5

H.M.S. "AJAX",
1st December 1939.

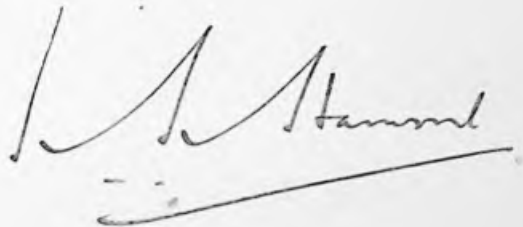
No. 310/2.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to forward the attached Memorandum giving information of the arrival of Admiralty oil-fuel tankers at Port Stanley and details of their subsequent movements.

2. It is requested that the departments concerned may be informed so that the necessary action may be taken.

I have the honour to be,
Your Excellency's obedient servant,



COMMODORE.

His Excellency,
the Governor of the Falkland Islands,
Government House,
PORT STANLEY.

MOST SECRET

(7)

H.M.S. "AJAX",

1st December 1939.

Your Excellency,

For your personal information I have the honour to inform you that His Majesty's Ships and Auxiliaries will arrive at Port Stanley on or about the following dates.

It is requested that the movements of His Majesty's Ships, which are only provisional, may be treated as MOST SECRET.

H.M.S. "EXETER" leaves Port Stanley Thursday 7th December and leaves the Falkland Islands area Saturday 9th December 1939.

H.M.S. "CUMBERLAND" arrives off the Falkland Islands Thursday 7th December, enters Port Stanley Saturday 9th December and remains until Saturday 16th December 1939.

R.F.A. "OLYNTHUS" arrives Port Stanley Sunday 10th December and leaves about Tuesday 26th December

Oiler "SAN CASTO" arrives Port Stanley Thursday 14th December and remains.

Oiler "CAPULET" arrives Port Stanley Thursday 14th December and leaves after disembarking cargo.

H.M.S. "ACHILLES" arrives Tuesday 19th December and leaves Tuesday 26th December 1939.

H.M.S. "SEVERN" arrives Saturday 23rd December and leaves early January 1940.

Store Ship "BALTAZIA" arrives Sunday 24th December and remains.

In the hope that it may be of assistance, I submit herewith a revised berthing plan of Port Stanley and Port William, and a list of the berths which I

suggest

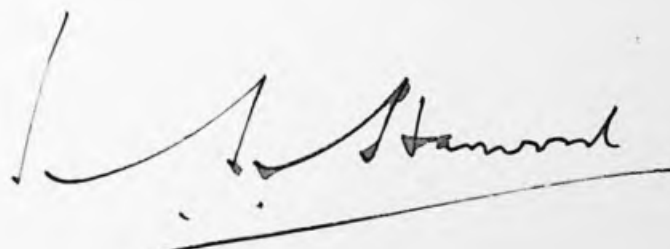
His Excellency the Governor
of the Falkland Islands.

(6)

suggest the various ships should occupy. Unfortunately it has not been possible to make any additional copies of the Plan and I request, therefore, that it may be issued to the Harbour Master and that he may be instructed to show it to the Manager of the Falkland Islands Company who will be concerned with the disembarkation of fuel and stores from the Oilers.

This berthing is of necessity different from the Admiralty Plan enclosed with the Falkland Islands Defence Scheme.

I have the honour to be,
Your Excellency's obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. A. Sturmond', written over a horizontal line.

COMMODORE.

8

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
STANLEY,
12th December, 1939.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.
M.P. No. 8/36/39.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential Letter No. 310/2 of the 1st of December, 1939, transmitting a Memorandum giving information of the arrival of Admiralty oil-fuel tankers at Port Stanley and details of their sunsequent movements.

2. Departments concerned have been informed.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Governor.

Commodore H. H. Harwood, R.N., O.B.E.,
H.M.S. "Ajax".

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
STANLEY,
12th December, 1939.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

M.P. No. S/36/39.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Most Secret letter of the 1st of December, 1939, informing me of the approximate dates of arrival at Port Stanley of H.M. Ships and Auxiliaries.

2. The revised berthing plan of Port Stanley and Port William has been passed to the Harbour Master who has prepared a copy for the guidance of the Manager, Falkland Islands Co., Ltd.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) H. Hemmick Heato

Governor.

Commodore H. H. Harwood, R.N., O.B.E.,
H.M.S. "Ajax".

From His Excellency the Governor

to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

10

Please have enclosed
published in the Church Hall News
with a note saying the ~~message~~ letter
was sent in reply to a message
from me conveying the deep appreciation
of the Colony for the gallant achievement
of H.M.S. Exeter and stating that
the whole resources of the town were
at his disposal

ttttt 10/12/39



11

H.M.S. "EXETER".

16th December 1939.

5A.

Your Excellency,

May I be permitted to say how much we appreciated your signal this morning. It was most encouraging to both the Ship's Company and to myself and officers. Many of us have "Homes from Home" in Port Stanley and home commendation is always the most welcome.

2. It must also be gratifying to you to know that we have two Falkland Islanders, Steward BERNISEN and Stoker CLEADELL, in our Ship's Company.

3. Your offers of assistance so wholeheartedly given are gratefully accepted.

4. Please convey to the Colony "EXETER"'s thanks for their thoughts for us and our appreciation of the help they so willingly offer.

5. No words can express our relief this morning on at last reaching this sanctuary where we were so sure of our welcome.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's,

most obedient servant

CAPTAIN.

His Excellency the Governor of the Falkland Islands,
Government House,
PORT STANLEY.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands,
19th December, 1939.

The following letter addressed to His Excellency the Governor by Captain F. S. Bell, C.B., R.N., of H.M.S. "Exeter" is published for general information :-

Your Excellency,

May I be permitted to say how much we appreciated your signal this morning. It was most encouraging to both the Ship's Company and to myself and officers. Many of us have "Homes from Home" in Port Stanley and home commendation is always the most welcome.

2. It must also be gratifying to you to know that we have two Falkland Islanders, Steward BERNISEN and Stoker CHEADELL, in our Ship's Company.

3. Your offers of assistance so wholeheartedly given are gratefully accepted.

4. Please convey to the Colony "EXETER" 's thanks for their thoughts for us and our appreciation of the help they so willingly offer.

5. No words can express our relief this morning on at last reaching this sanctuary where we were so sure of our welcome.

I have the honour to be,
Your Excellency's,
most obedient servant,

(Sgd.) F. S. Bell

CAPTAIN.

The letter was sent in reply to a message from His Excellency the Governor conveying the deep admiration of the Colony for the gallant achievement of H.M.S. "Exeter" and stating that the whole resources of the town were at the disposal of Captain Bell.

By Command,

(Sgd) M. G. Craigie-Hallett

Colonial Secretary.

DECODE.

(13)

TELEGRAM.

No. 72 From Deputy Governor, Sierra Leone,

To His Excellency the Governor, Falkland Islands.

Despatched: 10th May 19 40 Time: 14.38.

Received: 19 Time:

Following for Naval Officer in Charge. Begins. H.M.S. Hawkins flying flag of Commodore Commanding South American Division America and West Indies Squadron. will arrive Falkland Islands Tuesday May 14th and expects to be at point of arrival at 0900 zone plus 4 on that date. Acknowledge. Ends.

J. J. C. O.

Copy handed by me to N.O.I.C.
~~stitt~~ 11/5/40

DECODE.

TELEGRAM. SENT.

From His Excellency the Governor, Falkland Islands,

To Governor Sierra Leone.

Despatched: 11th May 19 40 Time:

Received: 19 Time:

From Governor Falkland Islands Your telegram of May 10th received.

Recd (13)

I.D.C.O.

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

(15)

No. 85 From Governor, Sierra Leone,

To His Excellency the Governor, Falkland Islands.

Despatched: 12th May 19 40 Time: 11.23.

Received: 19 Time:

Following for Naval Officer in Charge ^f ~~Port~~ Port Stanley from Rear Admiral South American Division Begins Visit of H.M.S. Hawkins postponed twenty four hours. Ends.

I. D. C. O.