

C.S.

SEALING

NAT/SEA/2 # 10

(Fur Seal
Protection)

1922

No. 250/22

Harbour Master

SUBJECT.

192 2

21st March

Previous Paper.

Reports establishment of Armed Guard
on Elephant Jason Island.

MINUTES.

Minute from Harbour Master, d 21st March 1922 - Encl ①

*J.B. Submitted that work done in
satisfactory*

11/11 20 to end 1922

*J.B.
28 March 1922*

ack and thank

Minute to Harbour Master, 30.3.22, Encl. ②

Subsequent Paper.



Harbour Master's Office,
Stanley.

25th March. 1922.

To the Hon. Col. Secretary,
Stanley.

Sir,

I beg to submit the attached report on the
the Establishment of an armed guard on the \bar{x}
Elephant Jason Island, in connection with the
Protection of the Fur Seal Rookeries of the
Falkland Islands.

The Guard was fully established on the
afternoon of the 18th, instant.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Colin E. Crockerly

Harbour Master

REPORT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ARMED GUARD ON THE ELEPHANT
JASON ISLAND, WEST FALKLAND.

In connection with the protection of the Fur Seal Rookeries of the Falkland Islands the H.M.C.S. "Afterglow" left Stanley on the 22nd, February for the Elephant Jason Island, the largest known Fur Seal rookery, to establish thereon an armed guard.

Owing to adverse weather conditions which were experienced a landing was not effected until the morning of the 27th, February upon which day the guard, all material for the erection of the Guard House etc together with firearms, ammunition and provisions were landed.

The landing was effected in a small bay on the N.E. extreme of the island. A rocky beach from which the land ran up to a height of 150 feet above sea level. This slope was covered by thick tussac (6/10 feet high) to a depth, from the beach, of 300 yards-(300) emerging on to clear camp ground.

A temporary camp was made on the foreshore of the landing place and on the following day, the 28th, February, a survey of the position having been made, a cutting through the tussac was commenced in order that material etc, might be transported from the foreshore to the site chosen for the erection of the Guard House, which site was a further 200 yards above the fringe of the tussac belt which surrounds the island.

Very great difficulty was experienced owing to the thickness of the tussac and the large dimensions of the bogs to be cut and moved to one side.

The cutting was completed on the evening of the 2nd of March.

On the following days the transport of material from the beach was proceeded with, assistance was rendered by the crew of the " Afterglow " when ever it was practicable. The carrying of the material was difficult owing to the steepness of the ascent and the nature of the ground.

The work of erection of the Guard House was completed on the afternoon of the 9th, March when the House was occupied.

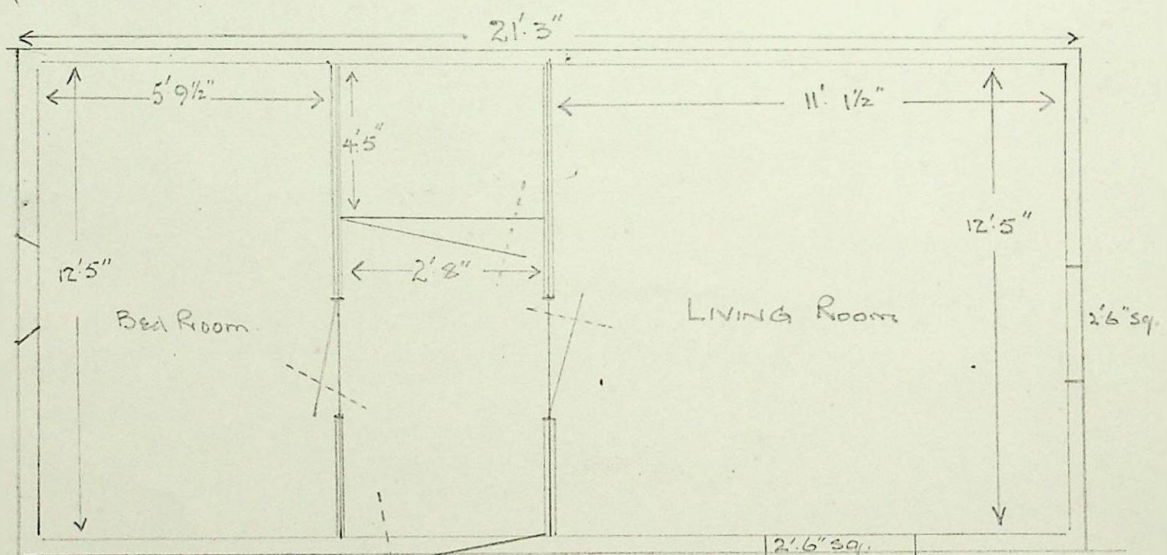
Adverse weather prevented the rendering of assistance by the "XXXXX" "Afterglow" (impracticable) until the morning of the 18th March.

During the period of awaiting the arrival of the Patrol Vessel the work of building ammunition houses and a W.C. was proceeded with.

On the arrival of assistance from the Patrol Vessel the 12 pdr Field gun was hauled up through the tussac, assembled and hauled across the island to a position on the S.W. side, in the vicinity of which a Flagstaff with yard has been erected.

Guard House.

Situated at the N.E. extreme of the Island on sloping ground. House is built facing North and is sheltered from S.W. through South to N.E. by very high rocky ground. The following is a plan of the house as erected and fitted.



Out buildings in vicinity of House.

- 1 Wood, iron roofed and fitted as a W.C..
- 1 Iron, wood lined, fitted as Ammunition Hut.

Cattle Paddock.

A paddock has been made - approx 40 yards square - and enclosed by a four wire fence.

DATE	TIME	REMARKS
Feb'y.		
22	6.15 am Noon/15	Left Stanley. Considered advisable owing to adverse weather to make Shag Is anchorage . Arrived & anchored Shag Is.
23	7*15 am 5.05 pm	Weighed and proceeded Heavy Sea Arrived Sanders Is.
24	9.00 am 1*10 pm	Weighed and Proceeded Arrived West Point Is Took on board lifeboat.
25	ALL DAY	Wind S.W. 5 Considerable S.W.ly sea Landing E. Jason impracticable. Constructed Fresh Water reservoir and dam and laid pipes to facilitate Patrol Vessel watering.
26	5.50 am 8.15 8.45 10.30 am	Weighed and proceeded to the E. Jason Arrived E. Jason Very considerable S.W.ly swell. Landing impracticable. Abandoned attempt to land material etc. Arrived West Point Is.
27	6.00 am	Weighed and proceeded to E. Jason Landed all materials, provisions, Firearms, Ammunition etc, E. Jason Guard, Govt Carpenter, and Harbour Master landed. "Afterglow" sailed with orders to carry out programme drawn out by the Govt Naturalist.
28	6.00 am Noon 2.00 pm	N.W. 3/4. Foggy. Commenced cutting passage through tussac S.E. 4 Foggy Fog cleared Proceeding with cutting.

DATE	TIME	REMARKS
March		
8	6.00 am	S.W. 2/3 bc fine weather proceeding with House
	Noon	S.W. 5/6 fine and clear
	4.00 pm	S.W. 6 fine hazy weather
	8.00	W.S.W. 6/7
9	6.00 am	W.N.W. 6 Light N.W. swell
	Noon	N.W. 6 haze increasing, proceeding with House
	4.00 pm	N.W. 7/8 Thick Fog Stove fixed in House, Fire lighted.
	8.00	W.N.W. 7/8 passing banks fog Shifted into xxxxx and occupied house. Guard House erection completed
10	6.00 am	W.S.W. 5/6 Foggy weather, drizzle
	Noon	Sly 4 Foggy weather. Heavy rain at times. Building W.C. and ammunition Hut
	4.00 pm	S'S'W' 4 cloudy. Weather clearing.
	8.00	S.S.W. 2 Hazy. Rain at times
11		Heavy rain during the night
	6.00 am	W.S.W. 2/3 slight haze, sea smooth.
	xxxxx	
	8.00	W,S,W, 5 Increasing S.W. swell, passing rain squalls.
	10.00	" Afterglow " arrived, Landing of assistance impracticable
	10,18	" Afterglow " sailed
	Noon	S.W.6 Considerable S.W. swell, passing rain squalls.
	4,00 pm	S.W. 4/5 Confused S.W. sea and Swell Erected Flagstaff with yard.
	8.00	S.W. 3 Sea smooth
12	6.00 am	S.W. 6 bc Threatening to Westward, considerable sea breaking on landing place. Landing impracticable.
	2/3 pm	4 wasted Steamer, Steering West, 10 miles off.
13/17		Weather conditions rendering landing impracticable Continuous gale from S.W./W.S.W. with very high S.W. sea, breaking on landing place in green seas. Lining boards, cement, rope etc placed ready to ship by " Afterglow " to Stanley, washed away.

DATE	TIME	REMARKS
March 18	8.00 am 9.30	W.S.W. 3/4 bc passing squalls to S'ard, Sea smooth, " Afterglow " arrived. Landed every available man.
	Noon	Hauled gun up to upper fringe of tussac belt W.S.W. 5 bc fine clear weather. Slight S.W. swell
	5.45 pm	Hauled gun across Island to position Guard being fully established, all with the except - ion of the Guard, embarked in the " Afterglow". " Afterglow " Sailed.
20	2.30 pm	Arrived Stanley

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No. 906/21.

MINUTE.

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

..... 30th March, 19 22.

To... Harbour Master,.....

..... Stanley.....

From

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

.....

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st March and to thank you for your report on the establishment of an armed guard on the Elephant Jason Island, for the protection of the Fur Seal Rookeries.

H. Henniker-Heaton,

Colonial Secretary.