

Confidential
No. C. 37.

1917

C.O. Wood, Sth Georgia

(SUBJECT).

1917

Sending report about conduct

15th Sept.

of Mr. E. B. Binnie, Magistrate, Sth Georgia.

Previous Papers.

M.P. 143/12 C. 3/14. M.P. 1077/17.

(MINUTES).

H. S. / I received the enclosed as a "Ship's letter" this morning. - Submitted

C.O.
/cs.
26.11.17.

Hon^{ble} Col Sec.

I enclose a draft letter to Mr Binnie which please send.

I think it well to have a second Justice of the Peace in South Georgia, and I appoint Mr Alexander Garden Simon to be a Justice of the Peace for South Georgia. The enclosed copy of form of oaths can be sent for Mr Simon to take the oaths before the Magistrate.

Transferred to
Open M.P. 1077/17

C.O.
/cs.
7.12.17.

Subsequent Papers.

Open M.P.

553/19

7.12.17

C.O.
/cs

Letter to Mr. Binnie - 7.12.17.

Copy sent to Sec of State in Decr 18-90

7 13^o Aug 1918.

16. 8. 18

W.
Cor

Letter from Mr. B. Binnie 29. 5. 18

Seen. No action called for at present,

13. 2. 19

W.
Cor

King Edward Cove
South Georgia.

15 September 1917.

Sir.

As a Special Constable in South Georgia I make the following statement.

On Wednesday the 5th of Sept, a Captain Stensholt, master of the sailing vessel "Derwent" reported to me, that on Sunday 2/9/17. he ordered Mr Binnie out of his Ship. I enclose a copy of a letter which will explain the Captain's action, and the original I have in my charge and I recognize Mr Binnie's hand-writing.

In conclusion, and in the interest of the service, I have reasons to believe that administration here in St' Georgia calls for Superior enquiry.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Humble and Obedient

Servant.

Ernest Wood
Special Constable

The Honourable,

South Georgia.

The Colonial Secretary

Falkland Islands.

Copy of Special Constable Wood's diary for Sunday 2-9-17.

At about 9-am I lighted the Magistrates fire.

During the forenoon before lunch the Magistrate went onboard the "Derwent" and came ashore soon after 1-pm and returned to Headquarters.

Shortly after he went into the Whaling Station ~~and~~ returned ^{ing} next day.

At about 9-pm Sunday 2/9/17 Captain Stensholt came to the Government Quarters at King Edward cove, and asked for Mr Binnie; I replied that Mr Binnie was not at home, but the Captain did not seem to believe me, so he walked in and looked into Mr Binnie's rooms.

When Captain Stensholt was going away he said that he was coming to see me tomorrow or the next day, concerning the behaviour of his Wife and Mr Binnie.

Ernest Wood

316/11,

Leith Harbour,

7th, September 1917.

Sir,

I have the honour to request that you will be good enough to go on board the s,s, "PERTH" at Stromness bay and supervise the landing of the cargo the s,s, HERCULES will probably leave Grytviken tomorrow morning, so that will be an opportunity .

I also take the opportunity of informing you that you will make the necessary arrangements for relieving Mr Simon from the Stromness bay division in order that he may return to Headqtrs by the first available opportunity after the cargo of s,s, "ALBUERA" is discharged.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Edw. B. Binning
Stipendiary Magistrate.

Mr E, Wood

King Edward Cove.

DRAFT.

Sent down by Governor 7.12.17
CSG

CONFIDENTIAL.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.
7th December, 1917.

Sir,

The Governor has received a report from South Georgia that on Sunday the 2nd September, 1917, Captain Stensholt, Master of the sailing vessel "Derwent", ordered you out of his ship in consequence of improper conduct on your part, deducted from a letter dated 2/9/17 written by you to his wife. A copy of the letter in question is annexed hereto.

2. Conduct of such a nature seriously reflects on the status of a responsible Government Officer holding the position you do in South Georgia and the Governor directs me to call on you for such explanation as you may have to offer in exculpation, should the facts be as alleged.

I am, etc.

Colonial Secretary.

Edw. B. Binnie, Esq.,
Magistrate,
South Georgia.

Above letter & copy of
enclosure sent in MS.
written by myself CSG
cs.
7.12.17.

apparently deduced/
(Governor approved
action by telephone)

CSG
7.12.17.

Approved by
Governor CSG
7.12.17

COPY.

Sunday Morning 2/9/17.

My own Sweetheart,

Thank you so much for your little note offering me your sympathy. but Dear one dont worry about me, I am accustomed even as you are in a sense to these occasional outbreaks of temper but rest assured this shall be the last I am missing a lot of things from the kitchen etc been over everything this morning. have not yet seen anyone, only W. has been down to light my fire. Darling I need you just as much as you need me so be quite sure I will not desert you more than is absolutely necessary, now I am coming onboard. God Bless you my Dear Girl.

Binnie.



The Magistrate's Office,

South Georgia, 28th June 1918.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter C.37/I7 of 7th December 1917 referring to a report received from South Georgia in which it is stated that on the 2nd. September 1917, I was ordered out of the ship "Derwent" by the Captain in consequence of improper conduct on my part.

1. This statement in the first place is erroneous as such a thing never happened to my knowledge; with the exception of small differences of opinion regarding his vessel, Captain Stensholt and I were quite good friends during his stay in South Georgia and until the day of his departure, this together with proof that I was never ordered out of the vessel can be produced if His Excellency deems necessary.

2. Regarding the letter alleged to have been written by me to Mrs Stensholt, this remains still a mystery to me, if as stated this letter was written by me, I can only say that such an epistle was never intended for the Captains wife, nor was it ever delivered to her to my knowledge, and from enquiries which I have made on my own behalf it is extremely doubtful if ever that lady had possession of it.

The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary,

Falkland Islands

2.

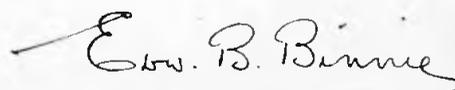
My deduction from the whole affair, and the idea is forced upon me that it is nothing but a trivial trumped up report attacking my position as Magistrate by certain individuals in South Georgia who probably think that the office would be better held by them as it follows in sequence other events which have happened.

I would like to mention the fact that although this letter was copied many times (by the person who was good enough to forward it to His Excellency) and distributed in South Georgia it has not in the least affected the prestige of the Government in the Dependency, as you had the opportunity of seeing during your visit here.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. B. Binne

Magistrate.